

THE

OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 38, NO. 4, SUMMER 2015





*Shane Egleson beautifully documented this Lark Sparrow carrying food for her nestlings near Mound Road, **Montgomery**, on 06 Jun.*

On the cover:

OOPMP provides healthy oak savanna habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers, and there photographer Allan Claybon recorded this stunner on 08 Jun.

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife

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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Jun was the rainiest on record. We were not alone in our misery—it was also Illinois' and Indiana's wettest. States from Virginia to New Hampshire were within their top five rainiest, and precipitation in the country as a whole ranked in the top 10% of the 121 years with data. No Ohio station recorded less than four inches of rain. Most stations received six to 10 inches, some in the west central region 10 to 15, and a few endured more than 15 inches. The month's average temperature was only a little above normal, but the average maximum was lower than usual and the average minimum was well above normal.

The rains continued into Jul, though the month ranked "only" in the wettest quartile. Most of the eastern half of the state received two to five inches though pockets were above or below that range. Most of the western half received five to six inches. **Brown** and **Clermont** were drenched with 10 to 15 inches as neighboring Kentucky set a new monthly record. Jul average temperature was below normal, ranking only 26th out of the 121. The low average maximum, at number 13, was the major influence; the average minimum was near normal. Ironically, the global average for the month was the highest ever, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>), the NOAA (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>), and the *Plain Dealer*.

The heavy rains caused flooding in some areas, both along rivers and in agricultural lands. Standing water in "sky ponds" had begun to recede by the time some shorebirds arrived from the Arctic, but stopover habitat for them remains scarce. Nevertheless, observers managed to find all of the regularly-occurring species, and the timing of their last departures and first arrivals was as usual.

Scott Pendleton has paid special attention to grassland birds in his home patch of **Harrison**. He wrote, "An interesting thing, at least to me, is occurring with the [Upland Sandpipers]. They have been putting in pipelines and when they do, they fence out the 100' right of way to keep the cows out. The birds have used these new perching posts and the ungrazed high grass to expand their nesting territories! A remarkable develop-

ment considering how adversely the woodland birds are hurt by fragmentation from pipelines. I would estimate 16–20 pairs found in five different areas, two of which are newly colonized or I overlooked them before."

As usual, a few straggling northbound vireos and warblers were seen in Jun, but read the accounts of Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged and Mourning warblers, and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows for sightings at unusual times or places.

This issue of the Cardinal includes accounts of birds singing the song of another species—see the accounts of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers, Tennessee Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco. This is not uncommon, because most of our songbirds learn their vocalizations although even learned song has some genetic foundation. Andy Jones told me that "...many or most birds that learn their songs [do so] from the community around them, which includes their social father (who may not be their genetic father), but a lot of species do not rely so heavily on just the father as their 'tutor'." This isn't mimicry in the classic sense as practiced by mockingbirds, starlings, and some corvids. It might even be disadvantageous to the individual because he's probably not going to attract a mate while using the "wrong" song.

I'd like to get more reports of other extra-specific song, regardless of when you observed it. I'll prime the pump with an example from my own experience: I once watched an Eastern Towhee sing a very credible imitation of a Northern Cardinal, then switch to its usual song. Of course some species' songs are very similar to another's, such as those of the closely-related Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers. And I've had a Dark-eyed Junco come to a Pine Warbler recording.

This issue contains accounts of 243 species, about the recent average for summer. Four additional accounts are at the family or genus level and one hybrid is included. Seven Review Species, birds whose occurrences (generally speaking) are rare and unpredictable, were reported. Three were formally documented for the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBR). Another three were informally documented through postings to various internet venues, but one of the postings had no photo or other details. The seventh is included only by way of a second-hand report with no details.

The names heading Review Species accounts are underlined. No observers' names are mentioned unless the OBRC has voted on the documentation, and only accepted records are attributed. The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to formally report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Three other species' names are underlined as well but not included in the six mentioned above. Sightings of Trumpeter Swan are attributed to the reporters because the species is apparently established as a result of introductions by the Department of Natural Resources. It is a Review Species in the hope, though not the expectation, that a truly wild-origin bird might show up in the state. The other two underlined names, Chukar and European Goldfinch, belong to birds which were surely released or escaped. I include them because they're fun to find, though they're not countable by American Birding Association rules. (As I've noted before, ABA counting rules apply only to lists reported to the ABA—birders are welcome to include everything they identify in their personal lists.)

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to *The Cardinal* and *The Bobolink*, the latter courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger; eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>); the Ohio-birds listserv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>); rarebird.org (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>); and the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log (<http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>).

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *CheckList of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 56th Supplement (2015). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
 Bayshore = a fishing access point by the eponymous power plant, *Lucas*
 BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
 Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), *Ma-honing* and *Portage*
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
 The Bowl = a limited access area near the *Harrison* airport
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa* (<http://www.bsbo.org>)
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*
 Burke Airport = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*
 Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *Warren*
 CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
 Cedar Point = the peninsula which contains the amusement park, *Erie*
 Chapel Drive = a road off Ohio 83 south of Cumberland in *Noble* which traverses grasslands
 Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the eastern 2/3 is in *Hocking*, the rest in *Fairfield*
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* Section.
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
 CMM = the trio of Jon Cefus, Greg Miller, and Ben Morrison
 CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a nongovernmental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in *Clermont*
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*
 CP = County Park
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, *Franklin*
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in *Fayette*, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*

- East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**
East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**
Eastlake Power = the Lake Erie viewpoint east of the First Energy plant in Eastlake, **Lake**
Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, **Cuyahoga**
Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in **Hancock**
Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**
GLSM = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in **Auglaize**. The rest of the lake is in **Mercer**.
Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, **Montgomery**
Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**
Holden = Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in **Geauga**
Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**
Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, the rest and the dam are in **Franklin**
Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, **Logan**
Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys Island, **Erie**
Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**
Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**
Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**
LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
Lake Erie Bluffs = a **Lake** Metroparks parcel whose popularity among birders is blooming.
Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**
Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted
Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, **Hamilton**, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
m. obs. = multiple observers
Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in Lucas, the rest in **Ottawa**.
Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**
Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited access area in **Mahoning**
Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction.
Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**
Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**
Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, **Trumbull**. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.
MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system
NC = Nature Center
NF = National Forest
NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, **Highland**
OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
ONWR Navarre = A nonpublic separate unit in **Ottawa** east of the main ONWR
Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**
Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, **Erie**
Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**
Scranton Flats = a section of the Towpath Trail in Cleveland on the left bank of the Cuyahoga River
Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (non-state) Park are in **Noble**, while the dam is in **Guernsey**
SF = State Forest
Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**
SNP = State Nature Preserve
SP = State Park

Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Seneca*

SWA = State Wildlife Area

Tar Hollow = Tar Hollow State Park and surrounding State Forest, mostly in *Ross* but with small portions in each of *Hocking* and *Vinton*

TNC = The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org>)

WA = Wildlife Area

Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Lake*

Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, *Cuyahoga*

Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Wayne*, and adjoining farmland

The Wilds = a limited access big mammal breeding and research facility in *Muskingum*, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed strip mines

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, *Ottawa*

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, *Vinton*

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Canada Goose

Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski found more than 600 at Old Highland Stone on 10 July. Ed Pierce's ONWR census crew counted 358 on 07 Jun (*fide* Douglas Vogus). (72 counties)

Mute Swan

Observers noted six or seven at Schneider Park, **Stark**, throughout the period. (21 counties)

Trumpeter Swan

Not surprisingly, ONWR censuses provided the two highest counts, 21 on 07 Jun and 20 on 05 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). James Shelton counted 18 offshore in Maumee Bay on 16 Jun. (13 counties)

Wood Duck

The high count of 65 was shared. Chris Pierce found them in ONWR on 19 Jul along the auto tour route; Irina Shulgina tied him at Killdeer on 31 Jul. (63 counties)



This Wood Duck family portrait was obtained by photographer Allan Claybon on 14 Jun at Cowan Lake, **Clinton**.

Gadwall

The reports are:

One at Mill Creek on 24 Jun (Jeff Harvey) and again on 11 and 15 Jul (John Petruzzi)

Four at Metzger on 26 Jun (Kenn Kaufman)

One at Fernald on 09 and 27 Jul (Brian Wulker).

Brian noted that "One bird summered at this same location last year."

Five at Conneaut on 31 Jul (Kim Pierce)

One at Burke Airport on 31 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

American Wigeon

The reports are:

Three at Metzger on 14 Jun (Leslie Sours) and two on 22 Jun (Tom Kemp)

Two at ONWR on 18 Jul (Gary Cowell)

One at Lorain on 22 Jul (Patty McKelvey)

American Black Duck

Victor Fazio III saw one at Pickerel Creek on 19 Jun for that month's only report. The high-

est number in the several Jul reports was Dana Mulder's four at Metzger on 31 Jul. **Lake, Lorain, Ottawa, and Trumbull** also produced sightings.

Mallard

Elizabeth McQuaid found about 400 at ONWR on 21 Jun and Donna Kuhn counted 318 there on 05 Jul. The highest count away from Lake Erie was 84; Stephen Fettig and Terry Hodapp noted them in Winton Woods CP, **Hamilton**, on 05 Jul. (70 counties)

[American Black Duck x Mallard]

The reports are:

Three at Buckeye Lake SP, **Fairfield**, on 01 Jun (Jeffrey Roth)

One at Lake Milton SP, **Mahoning**, on 12 Jun (Victor Fazio III)

One at Wake Robin on 12 Jul (Tom Frankel)

Blue-winged Teal

Sightings were scattered throughout the period. Patrick Riley saw eight in **Hamilton** on 23 Jul. Ronnie Clark found six at Darby Creek on 24 Jun as did Louis Hoying at a **Shelby** farm on 14 Jul. (13 counties)

Northern Shoveler

Helen and Ken Ostermiller saw four at Funk on 26 Jul. Other reports came from **Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Marion, and Ottawa**.

Northern Pintail

Regina Schieltz found one in **Darke** on 24 Jun; Jeff Harvey and Bob Krajleski separately reported one at Conneaut on 26 Jul.

Green-winged Teal

The reports are:

Six (a pair and four young) at Mennonite South, **Portage**, on 06 Jun (Terri Martincic)

Two pairs along Wilderness Road on 17 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison) and again on 21 Jul (Su Snyder), and then a single bird there on 22 Jul (Aden A. Yoder)

One at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on 19 Jul (Scott Huge)

Canvasback

Robert Batterson found one in Delaware WA on 08 and 10 Jun. Ed Wransky saw another at Lorain on 26 Jul.

Redhead

The reports are:

One at The Slough, **Logan**, on 03 Jun (Troy Shively)

One at Lorain on 05 Jun (Victor Fazio III), two there on 03 Jul (Elizabeth McQuaid), and again one on 22, 25, and 28 Jul (m. obs.)
 One in Delaware WA on 08 and 10 Jun (Robert Batterson)

Ring-necked Duck

The only sighting was Robert Batterson's; the bird was hanging out with the above Canvasback and Redhead in Delaware WA on 08 and 10 Jun.

Greater Scaup

Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison found one at Metzger on 03 Jul. Another, or possibly the same bird, was at ONWR on 05 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus).

Lesser Scaup

The reports are:

One at Howe Pond, **Fairfield**, on 01 Jun and several Jul dates (m. obs.)
 One at the GLSM hatchery on 08, 14, and 18 Jun (m. obs.)
 One at Russell's Point, **Logan**, on 26 Jun (Troy Shively)
 One at ONWR on 05 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus)
 One at East Harbor on 09 Jul (Ryan Gniewiecki)

Scaup sp.

Two at GLSM on 14 Jun were too distant for Ethan Rising to identify to species.

Common Goldeneye

Jen Brumfield saw one at Edgewater on 01 Jun. Another spent much of Jun at the GLSM hatchery (m. obs.)

Hooded Merganser

Pat Coy and Karin Tanquist counted 18 along the Wetmore Trails in CVNP on 07 Jun. Jeff Harvey saw 12 at Mill Creek on 05 Jul. (21 counties)

Common Merganser

Chris Swan found a female with 11 youngsters at Indian Point Park, **Lake**, on 05 Jun. That's up the Grand River from Conneaut, where observers saw families (up to 23 birds total) on several dates from late Jun into Jul.



Bob Lane photographed this Common Merganser family as it navigated the waters at Conneaut on 02 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser

The reports are:

One off Kelleys Island on 02 Jun (Ben Warner and Anna Wittmer)
 One on the Olentangy River in Columbus on 03 Jun (Emily Keeler)
 One at Conneaut on 03 Jul (Lynne and Nic Shayko) and 09 Jul (Craig Holt)

Ruddy Duck

The high count was Ed Wransky's six at Lorain on 21 Jul. Several birders saw three near the Findlay Reservoirs on 19 Jun. (13 counties)

Northern Bobwhite

These were seen throughout the season, though reports were few in the second half of Jul. Dean Clifton found 24 in Twin Creek MP, **Montgomery**, on 18 Jun. The second-highest number was 11, shared by John Moore at the Great Miami WMB on 04 Jun and Josh Stapleton in Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 06 Jun. As always, it's difficult to know how many sightings are of "natural" versus released birds. (18 counties)



*A visit to Springfield Bog, **Summit**, on 18 Jul earned Tom Fishburn this image of a pair of Northern Bobwhites.*

Chukar

Margaret Bowman is sure that the two she saw in the Mingo Grasslands, **Jefferson**, on 04 Jun were from a nearby hunt club.

Ring-necked Pheasant

The high count was three, found at three locations in **Franklin** and one in each of **Pickaway** and **Union**. The same unknowns about origins noted in the bobwhite account apply here (18 counties)

Ruffed Grouse

The reports are:

Four immatures along Atkinson Ridge Road in Zaleski on 05 Jun (Bruce Simpson)
 One at Novak Audubon Sanctuary, **Portage**, on 06 Jun (Dave Chase)
 One in Shawnee on 13 Jun (Andrea Anderson)
 One along Township Road 15, **Noble**, on 19 Jun (Margaret Bowman and Susan Nash)
 One in the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, **Adams**, on 20 Jun (Marty Calabrese) and again on 12 Jul (Donna Kuhn and James Muller)

Wild Turkey

Bill Stanley counted 20 poults with their mother at his home spread in **Clermont** on 13 Jun. Holly Lynn saw seven adults and 11 youngsters

at her home in Burton, **Geauga**, on 14 Jul. (55 counties)

Common Loon

Apple Valley Lake, **Knox**, hosted two on 01 Jun (m. obs.) Sightings of solo birds elsewhere continued until 05 Jun and then paused until 27 Jun when they resumed and continued through the end of the season. **Ashtabula, Columbi-ana, Erie, Franklin, Hancock, Montgomery, Richland, Summit**, and **Union** contributed the other reports. A small number of loons summer in Ohio almost every year; were they absent or just unseen during that gap?

Pied-billed Grebe

Dona Kuhn counted 52 at Big Island on 11 Jul, and birders saw up to 50 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 12 at ONWR on 21 Jun (Elizabeth McQuaid). (22 counties)

Horned Grebe

Ben Warner and Anna Wittmer contributed the only sighting, one off Kelleys Island on 01 Jun.

Double-crested Cormorant

Chris Tonra estimated 500 were on and near Turning Point Island, **Erie**, on 05 Jun. Sheldon Marsh hosted about 300 on 02 Jun for Charles Crawford. James Muller provided the inland high count of 184, at a rookery in Campbell Memorial Park, **Franklin**, on 15 Jul. (53 counties from Lake Erie to the Ohio River)

American White Pelican

Birders found up to 18 at or near Metzger between 11 and 17 Jun, and up to eight had been seen at East Harbor between 02 and 10 Jun — were they the same birds? Linda Osterhage found the only bird away from Lake Erie; it was all the way south at Lost Bridge on 30 Jun. **Erie**, other **Lucas** sites, and **Ottawa** provided the rest of the sightings.



Su Snyder found an American White Pelican posing coyly along the ONWR auto tour route on 18 Jul.

American Bittern

Carl Winstead saw three and heard another at Darby Creek on 04 Jun; birders found up to three there into Jul. The most elsewhere were duos on 04 Jun at CPNWR (Tom Kemp) and at Big Island (John Games and Ron Sempier). **Hamilton** and **Lorain** also provided reports.

Least Bittern

The high count was three, shared by two parties. Jeremy Dominguez and Sarah Lucas saw them at Mallard Club Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 18 Jul. Mary Anne Romito *et al.* found theirs in the Ira Road marsh of CVNP on 27 Jul. Other reports came from **Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Lake, Lorain, Marion, Ottawa**, and **Wyandot**.



Leslie Sours sharply focused on this Least Bittern at Big Island on 16 Jul.

Great Blue Heron

Carole Babyak counted 163 nests in the General Motors colony, **Trumbull**, on 26 Jun. John Games and Ron Sempier found about 100 birds at Big Island on both 02 and 04 Jun. ONWR hosted 78 birds on 07 Jun (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). (81 counties)

Great Egret

The wetlands along Coonrod Road, **Sandusky**, hosted 386 on 19 Jun (Victor Fazio III). Tom Kemp counted 210 at Metzger on 22 Jun, and the inland high count was James Muller's 48 at Campbell Memorial Park, **Franklin**, on 15 Jul. (37 counties)

Snowy Egret

Kenn Kaufman found 13 at Metzger on 26 Jun; up to 11 were seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Kim Warner's six at Mallard Club Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 19 Jun. **Erie** and **Ottawa** also provided sightings.

Little Blue Heron

Jen Brumfield saw one alight at Burke Airport on 25 Jul.

Tricolored Heron

The OBRC has internet reports with no details from two **Lucas** sites.

Cattle Egret

The reports are:

One near Overton, **Wayne**, on 01 Jun (Willis Brubaker)

One at East Harbor on 08 Jun (R. Lee Reed)

One at Medusa on 03 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison)

One at the Cedar Point lighthouse, **Erie**, on 23 Jul (Eric Liebold)

One (probably the lighthouse bird) at the Breakers Express pier, **Erie**, on 26 Jul (Clair Cogar and Mark Rozmarnowycz)

Two at Magee on 26 Jul (Robert Menck)

Green Heron

The high count was nine, by Mary Anne Romito *et al.* at the CVNP Ira Road marsh on 20 Jul. (67 counties)

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 16 in ONWR during their 07 Jun census (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Counts to 15 were made at other coastal sites. The inland high count was the seven which James Muller found at Campbell Memorial Park, **Franklin**, on 05 Jun. (16 counties)

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Jerry Strosnider found one in Wolfe Park, **Franklin**, on 08 Jun; that site is near the former Preston Road colony.

White-faced Ibis

The OBRC has reports from **Wayne**.



Su Snyder well documented this White-faced Ibis near Funk on 26 Jun.

Black Vulture

Stefan Gleissberg noted 17 along the Hockhocking-Adena Bikeway, **Athens**, on 02 Jul. Three locations each hosted the second-highest count of 12. A single bird over Irwin Prairie SNP, **Lucas**, on 10 Jun (the Ostermillers) and two passing West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 04 Jul (m. obs.) were well outside their core range. (34 counties)

Turkey Vulture

Paul Sherwood counted 78 perched on a powerline tower in **Erie** on 21 Jul. Every county except **Clinton**, **Meigs**, and **Van Wert** produced a sighting.

Osprey

The high count was eight. Charles Bombaci saw that many at Hoover NP's Area N on 01 Jul, as did Ed Wransky at Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit**, two days later. (49 counties)



Allan Claybon captured this pair of nesting Ospreys in Morrow, Warren, on 02 Jun

Mississippi Kite

The OBRC has a second-hand report with no details from **Ashland**.

Swallow-tailed Kite

A report from **Tuscarawas** has been forwarded to the OBRC.

Bald Eagle

The ONWR auto tour route produced 20 for Marjorie Weaver on 10 Jun. The second-highest count of 14 was achieved at Conneaut on 19 Jul (Jeff Harvey) and Pickerel Creek on 25 Jul (Greg Pasek). (50 counties)

Northern Harrier

The only multiple sighting was of two by Grace McCutchen at her **Gallia** farm on 27 Jun. Reports also came from **Greene**, **Highland**, **Jefferson**, **Lawrence**, **Ottawa**, **Paulding**, and **Shelby**.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

All of the reports were of single birds, and they were spread among 17 counties.

Cooper's Hawk

Matt Orebach saw a family of five at its nest in **Franklin** on 29 Jun, then again nearby on 08 Jul. Several observers reported groups of three elsewhere. (52 counties)

Red-shouldered Hawk

Evan Schwartz noted five (a family?) near his **Mahoning** home on 30 Jun. (46 counties)

Broad-winged Hawk

Christopher Collins provided the high count of three, at his home in **Greene** on 16 Jul, and there were many reports of two birds. (35 counties)

Red-tailed Hawk

Douglas Vogus' CVNP Towpath Trail census on 11 Jul produced nine. Brendan Baptiste counted seven in CVNP near the Ohio Turnpike bridge on 15 Jul and Irina Shulgina tied him at Killdeer on 26 Jul. (79 counties)

King Rail

Deb Tefft *et al.* saw one in CPNWR on 12 Jul.

Virginia Rail

Tom Kemp's four in CPNWR on 04 Jun was the high count; there were several triples elsewhere. (15 counties)

Sora

Tom Kemp also found three Soras in CPNWR on 04 Jun. (15 counties)

Common Gallinule

Donna Kuhn counted 47 at Big Island on 11 Jul; others found up to 45 there on different dates. The most elsewhere were 12 at Delaware WA on 27 Jul (Robert Batterson). **Erie, Geauga, Lucas, Ottawa, Wayne, and Wyandot** also contributed sightings.

American Coot

Ron Sempier counted five hatchlings, 23 older immature birds, and 22 adults at Big Island on 15 Jul. The most elsewhere were Donna Kuhn's six at ONWR on 07 Jun. (14 counties)

Sandhill Crane

Funk and nearby areas hosted many; the Ostermiller's counted 74 there on 22 Jul. Denise Lesko and Cynthia Norris found the most for any other location, 19 which paused at Metzger on 15 Jun. Reports of young colts or other evidence of nesting came from **Fulton, Geauga, Logan, Marion, Wayne, Williams, and Wyandot**. (20 counties)

Black-necked Stilt

The reports are:

Two at Killdeer on 12 Jun (Ron Sempier)

Three (and maybe more) at Winous Point on 25 Jun (John Simpson)

Two at Metzger on 28 Jun (*vide* Jen Brumfield) and one still there on 29 Jun (Kim Warner)



John Simpson shared this Black-necked Stilt image taken at Winous Point on 25 Jun.

American Avocet

The only Jun report was of a single at Alum Creek on 29 Jun (Jordan Parrott). Four pleased birders at Funk on 15 Jul as did the same number at Euclid Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 19 Jul (both m. obs.). The other Jul sightings were in **Ashtabula, Delaware, Lorain, Lucas, Sandusky, Stark, and Trumbull**.



This lovely American Avocet was photographed by Leslie Sours on 13 Jul at Alum Creek.

American Golden-Plover

Perry Hershberger saw the first of the southbound migrants at Dutch Valley, **Tuscarawas**, on 24 Jul; it was still there the next day for Ed Schlabach.

Semipalmated Plover

The last of spring's northbound migrants were two at Headlands on 14 Jun (Dave Chase) and one at Conneaut on 20 Jun (Bob Krajewski). Bob also saw the first southbound bird, on 11 Jul also at Conneaut. The next were two at Conneaut (Donna Kuhn) and one near Meinke Marina, **Lucas** (Gary Cowell), all on 18 Jul. Conneaut also hosted the high count, 15 on 30 Jul (Donna K. Owen). **Cuyahoga, Geauga, Hamilton, Logan, Montgomery, Ottawa, Trumbull, and Wayne** also provided sightings.

Killdeer

The trio of Jon Cefus, Kent Miller, and Ben Morrison (hereafter CMM) counted 385 along Wilderness Road on 31 Jul; on other dates up to 185 were seen there. The most elsewhere were Gary Cowell's 110 at Big Island on 19 Jul. (78 counties)

Solitary Sandpiper

Mary Anne Romito saw one at the CVNP Ira Road marsh on 15 Jun, the only sighting that month. Was it the last spring migrant or the first of fall? Ronnie Clark noted one along Hall Road, **Franklin**, on 06 Jul. Scott Hugel provided the high count of 56, from Auburn Marsh WA, **Geauga**, on 31 Jul; up to 38 were seen there on other days. The most elsewhere were 14 at

Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, also on 31 Jul (Dick Hoopes). (21 counties)

Spotted Sandpiper

Donna K. Owen saw 28 along the Cleveland harbor breakwall on 24 Jul. (47 counties)



Leslie Sours found this Spotted Sandpiper on a sturdy perch for this shot at Darby Creek on 22 Jun.

Greater Yellowlegs

There were no Jun reports. Su Snyder found the first southbound bird, near Funk on 01 Jul, and the Ostermillers saw another at Funk on 08 Jul. At least four birders counted 19 along Wilderness Road on 31 Jul; Edward Ingold saw the second-highest number, eight, along Township Road 76, **Hancock**, on 19 Jul. (11 counties)

Willet

The reports are:

One at Headlands on 12 Jun (*vide* Jerry Talkington)

One at Metzger on 21 Jun (Cynthia Norris, Su Snyder)

Three flocks totaling 20 birds at Conneaut on 09 Jul (Craig Holt) and singles there on 10 Jul (Bob Krajieski) and 30 Jul (Dave Chase and Donna K. Owen)

One at Euclid Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 19 Jul (m. obs.)

One in Westlake, **Cuyahoga**, on 24 Jul (Elizabeth McQuaid)

One at Lorain, also on 24 Jul (Patty McKelvey, Ed Wransky)

One at Mill Creek on 28 Jul (William L. Jones)

Lesser Yellowlegs

Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison saw five at Funk on 28 Jun; they were probably the first "fall" migrants. Sightings were frequent from 01 Jul on. Funk also hosted the high count, 40 on 19 Jul (Benjamin Miller) and up to 25 on other dates. Leslie Sours found the most elsewhere, 17 in a sky pond in **Logan** on 31 Jul. (19 counties)

Upland Sandpiper

Scott Pendleton counted 22 at the **Harrison** airport on 05 Jul; see also his note in "Comments on the Season". Margaret Bowman and Scott saw

up to 10 at other **Harrison** locations as well on other dates. Several birders found three at the OSU airport, **Franklin**, on 18 Jun. Eric Elvert tied that non-**Harrison** high on 19 Jul when he heard three at the Dayton airport from a vantage point on Dog Leg Road. Other reports came from **Clark**, **Cuyahoga**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa**.

Whimbrel

Kim Warner saw four at Mallard Club Marsh WA, **Lucas**, on 19 Jun. Andy Avram found two mid-morning at Conneaut on 22 Jul, Sally Isacco saw one there later that day, and Tom Frankel and Bob Krajieski each saw one there on 25 Jul. Bob noted that his stayed for less than two minutes.

Ruddy Turnstone

The reports are:

One at Bay Point, **Ottawa**, on 06 Jun (Jeremy Dominguez)

One on the Cedar Point breakwall, **Erie**, seen from a boat on 29 Jul (Bill Ohlsen)

Three at Conneaut on 30 Jul (Dave Chase)

Red Knot

Jeremy Dominguez saw one at Bay Point, **Ottawa**, on 06 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper

There were no Jun reports. Ronnie Clark's single along Hall Road, **Franklin**, on 12 Jul was the first bird. The next were Troy Shively's duo at The Slough, **Logan**, on 24 Jul. Two other sites also hosted two birds apiece. **Clark**, **Cuyahoga**, and **Wayne** also contributed sightings.

Sanderling

Eddie Hicks made the last northbound sighting, at Cedar Point on 04 Jun. Daisy Asmus saw the first southbound birds, two at Conneaut on 14 Jul. Jen Brumfield's 12 at Euclid Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 16 Jul was the high count; the second highest was eight, by Dave Chase at Conneaut on 19 Jul. **Lake** also had one sighting.

Dunlin

"Spring" migration lasted until 13 Jun. On that date, Rebecca Marshall saw four at Headlands and John Pogacnik one at Metzger. The Ostermillers counted 11 at Killdeer on 09 Jun, the high number. Troy Shively came in second with five at the GLSM hatchery on 08 Jun. Reports also came from **Erie** and **Ottawa**.

Least Sandpiper

East Harbor hosted the last northbound bird, on 09 Jun (R. Lee Reed) and Conneaut the first southbound one, on 01 Jul (Craig Holt). Su Snyder saw the next, 20 at Wilderness Road on 03 Jul, and CMM (see Killdeer) counted 25 there

on 31 Jul. Jen Brumfield also saw 20, at Burke Airport on 25 Jul. (19 counties)

White-rumped Sandpiper

The reports are:

Two at Conneaut on 07 Jun (John Pogacnik)

One at Killdeer on 09 Jun (Charles Bombaci and Leslie Sours) and on 11 Jun (Carl and Karen Winstead)

One at a sod farm near Darby Creek on 17 Jun (Ronnie Clark)

One at East Harbor on 20 Jul (R. Lee Reed)

Pectoral Sandpiper

There were no Jun reports. The Ostermillers saw the first of the season, at Funk on 08 Jul. On 31 Jul Shreve Lake, *Wayne*, hosted 21 (CMM) and Wilderness Road another 28 (m. obs.). The most in another county were seven at a *Logan* sky pond on 31 Jul (Leslie Sours). (10 counties)

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Kenn Kaufman saw 21 in an *Ottawa* field on 10 Jun, the last of the month but for three which John Pogacnik found at Metzger on 13 Jun. Scott Pendleton saw the first southbound bird, at the *Harrison* airport on 05 Jul. Troy Shively made the high count of 26, at the GLSM hatchery on 08 Jun. (19 counties)

Short-billed Dowitcher

The first of the season were six at Funk on 08 Jul (the Ostermillers) and sightings were fairly frequent from then on. Burke Airport hosted the high count, 16 on 25 Jul (Jen Brumfield). Jeremy Dominguez and Sarah Lucas found nine near Meinke Marina, *Lucas*, on 18 Jul. *Ashtabula*, *Erie*, *Hancock*, *Logan*, *Ottawa*, *Trumbull*, and *Tuscarawas* also provided sightings.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Jeremy Dominguez and Sarah Lucas well described the one they saw near Meinke Marina, *Lucas*, on 18 Jul.

Wilson's Snipe

Carl Winstead saw one at Darby Creek on 04 Jun. More than two weeks passed before the next sighting, three by Kurt Grenig at the CVNP Coliseum site on 20 Jun, after which there were intermittent sightings through the end of the period. The high count was seven, by Dick Hoopes at Grand River WA, *Trumbull*, on 31 Jul. (12 counties)

American Woodcock

Linda Houshower's five at Huss Farm, *Allen*, on 16 Jun were the most. (20 counties)

Red-necked Phalarope

Two were reported to the Bobolink Area Rare Bird Alert at Seneca Lake, *Guernsey*, on 03

Jun, a little later than the typical last sighting of spring.

Bonaparte's Gull

Tom Kemp estimated 600 were at Metzger on 22 Jun and Kenn Kaufmann noted 630 there on 26 Jun. Usually the large flocks are gone by then, and Tom said, "I am perplexed as to why so many of these birds are here in late June." Perhaps Kenn's note that "Essentially all of them were one-year-old immatures" was a factor. The inland high count was the four which the Ostermillers found at Funk on 15 Jul. *Ashtabula*, *Auglaize*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, *Lorain*, *Ottawa*, *Trumbull*, and *Warren* also had sightings; note that four of those counties are inland.

Laughing Gull

Josh King and Ethan Rising saw one at the GLSM hatchery on 13 Jun. Craig Caldwell noted one hanging out with Ring-billed Gulls on Howard Road, *Lucas*, on 20 Jun. Kenn Kaufman saw what was probably the Howard Road bird at nearby Metzger on 26 Jun.

Franklin's Gull

Allan Claybon found one at Lost Bridge on 01 Jun.

Ring-billed Gull

Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 1449 on and around Kelleys Island on 20 Jul. Aidan Rominger provided the second-highest number, about 750 at Cleveland harbor on 29 Jul. The inland high count was Carl Winstead's 540 at Alum Creek on 16 Jul. (37 counties south to *Clermont* and *Hamilton*)

Herring Gull

Turning Point Island, *Erie*, hosted about 900 on 05 Jun (Chris Tonra). Eddie Hicks had seen about 500 at nearby Cedar Point the day before. The most inland were 10 at the GLSM hatchery on 20 Jul (Jaden King) and 25 Jul (Ethan Rising). (25 counties, of which the southernmost is *Warren*)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Kenn Kaufman saw one at Metzger on 26 Jun.

Great Black-backed Gull

Donna K. Owen saw the most, 15 on the Cleveland harbor breakwall on 16 Jun and eight there on 24 Jul. The most elsewhere were two at Cedar Point on 04 Jun (Eddie Hicks). Every county with Lake Erie shoreline except *Ottawa* provided sightings.

Caspian Tern

Some were present all season, though Jul reports substantially outnumbered those from Jun. The high count, however, was on 26 Jun, Kenn

Kaufman's 45 at Metzger. The inland high number was Jordan Parrott's 29 at Alum Creek on 08 Jul. (29 counties)

Black Tern

The reports are:

On or two at Metzger on 14 and 15 Jun (m. obs.) and three on 03 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison)

One at Maumee Bay on 16 Jun (James Shelton)

Two at ONWR on 05 Jul (Donna Kuhn)

Common Tern

Tom Bartlett provided the high count, 750 at Middle Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 16 Jul. The second-highest number was 200, by Carrie and Scott Myers at Metzger on 15 Jun. The inland high was Susie Short's 10 at Buck Creek on 17 Jul. (12 counties)

Forster's Tern

Kenn Kaufman found 30 at Metzger on 26 Jun, and other coastal sites had up to the 14 which James Shelton saw at Maumee Bay on 16 Jun. Loren Hintz produced the inland high count, 10 at Funk on 09 Jul. (12 counties)

Rock Pigeon

Amanda Lawson and R. Lee Reed counted 143 at the Great Miami WMB on 02 Jul; Amanda had seen 124 there on 21 Jun. The third highest count was of 79, at Darby Creek on 27 Jul (Loren Hintz). Though only 65 counties produced reports, surely these pests are statewide.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Waverly, *Pike*, hosted five on 12 Jul when Donna Kuhn and James Muller visited. Other sightings came from *Ashland*, *Auglaize*, *Clark*, *Hamilton*, *Mercer*, and *Wayne*.

White-winged Dove

The OBRC has internet reports with some descriptive information and photos from *Stark* and *Wayne*.



This White-winged Dove was nicely captured by Su Snyder near Dalton, *Wayne*, on 19 Jun.

Mourning Dove

Bill Stanley found about 150 at Old Highland Stone on 03 Jul; Robert Foppe and Jennifer

Smolenski counted 161 there on 10 Jul. Brian Wulker found 100 at Fernald on 27 Jul. Only *Clinton*, *Paulding*, and *Van Wert* did not produce reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Cory and Howard Gratz found 13 along a 25-mile BBS route in *Lawrence* on 07 Jun. (70 counties)

Black-billed Cuckoo

The high count of four was shared by the Gratzes along their BBS route in *Lawrence* on 07 Jun and Hope Orr in CVNP on 11 Jun. (41 counties)

Barn Owl

Participants in the 05 and 06 Jun "Optics Fling" in *Holmes* saw up to nine. Irina Shulgina found one at Killdeer on 05 Jul and Alex Eberts two at Big Island on 16 Jul.



Alex Eberts snapped this image of a Barn Owl as it peeked from its lofty perch in *Marion* on 16 Jul.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Duos were found in four locations among the 23 counties with sightings.

Great Horned Owl

Nine sites each hosted two birds. (29 counties)

Barred Owl

Greg Pasek found a family of four in Huntington Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 04 Jun. So did Kelly Kozlowski near her *Geauga* home on 28 Jun. (38 counties)

Common Nighthawk

Victor Fazio III and William Hull each saw seven. Victor's were in Tiffin, *Seneca*, on 17 Jun and William's at his Cincinnati home on 12 Jul. (38 counties)



A well camouflaged Common Nighthawk with her eggs captured the attention of Shane Egleston on 06 Jun along Mound Road, *Montgomery*.

Chuck-will's-widow

Observers found one or two at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, *Adams*, on several dates.

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Matt Anderson usually finds the summer's top count—this year he heard 11 during his travels in OOPMP on 07 Jun. The second-most were five which the Gratzes found along their *Lawrence* BBS route, also on 07 Jun. Other reports came from *Adams*, *Fulton*, *Montgomery*, *Ottawa*, *Scioto*, and *Vinton*.

Chimney Swift

Ron Sempier estimated 450 were swirling over Big Island on 02 Jun. (80 counties)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Allan Chartier hosted a public banding demonstration at Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 11 Jul. He banded 14 birds and had one returnee from last year. Elsewhere in the Park and surrounding Zaleski he upped his day's total to 40. Ryan Stander counted 18 at the Villas at Little Turtle apartments, *Franklin*, on 18 Jul. (79 counties)

Belted Kingfisher

Charles Bombaci counted seven along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 13 Jun. (65 counties)

Red-headed Woodpecker

Killdeer hosted 19 for Irina Shulgina on 26 Jul. It's a reliable place every year for this handsome species, as is OOPMP, where counts peaked at 18 this season (Debbie Carr-Taylor, on 08 Jun). (62 counties)

Red-bellied Woodpecker

The high count was 13. Ann and Dwight Chasar found that many along three miles of the *Summit* Bike and Hike Trail on 14 Jun, and Bill Stanley tied them at Indian Creek WA, *Brown*, on 03 Jul. (82 counties)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

The reports are:

One at Center Cemetery and two in Tote Road Park, both *Ashland*, on 04 Jun (Victor Fazio III)

One at East Branch Reservoir, *Geauga*, on 07 Jun (Dana Bjorklund and Linda Coulter)

Two drumming in his *Portage* yard on 05 Jul (Scott Huge)

Downy Woodpecker

Tom Bartlett *et al.* banded nine, recaptured two banded in earlier years, and saw another 19 at Springville Marsh on 13 Jun. The team had encountered 20 there on 06 Jun. Two other locations each hosted 14. (80 counties)

Hairy Woodpecker

Gary Cowell found 11 in Cool Springs Conservation Park, *Ashland*, on 17 Jul. Ken Andrews provided the second-highest count, seven, from Big Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Jul. (62 counties)

Northern Flicker

The high count was Hope Orr's 16 in Rising Valley Park, *Summit*, on 19 Jun. (78 counties)

Pileated Woodpecker

Holden's limited-access Stebbins Gulch held seven for a trio of volunteer census-takers on 20 Jun. (63 counties)

American Kestrel

Three sites each hosted six: Great Miami WMB on 01 Jul (Noah Haupt and Jacob Roalef), Killdeer on 26 Jul (Irina Shulgina), and Burke Airport on 31 Jul (Jen Brumfield). (60 counties)

Merlin

Bill Whan passed on a report, which he considered reliable, of a nesting bird seen on 24 Jul in Columbus, and noted that the OBBA II recorded only three nesting records of the species during its five years of data collection. That same week, a moribund bird found in Zanesville, *Muskingum*, did not survive rehab (*vide* Manon Van Schroyck). Merlins are fairly common wintering birds here, especially in cemeteries, so it might pay to check their favorite locations during the summer as well.

Peregrine Falcon

Elizabeth McQuaid, Gerry Wesley, *et al.* counted seven from Cleveland's Scranton Flats vantage point on 05 Jul. Burke Airport hosted the second-highest number, three, on 25 Jul (Jen Brumfield). *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, *Summit*, and *Wood* also produced sightings.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

The reports, all of single birds, are from Darby Creek on 01 Jun (Ronnie Clark), OOPMP also on 01 Jun (Debbie Carr-Taylor), and CLNP on 20 Jun (Elizabeth McQuaid).

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Andy Jones counted 25 while canoeing seven miles of the Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* on 18 Jul. Douglas Vogus *et al.* found 18 along the CVNP Towpath Trail on 06 Jun. (81 counties)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

The reports are:

Two at Edison Woods, *Erie*, on 01 Jun (Paul Sherwood)

One at Blendon Woods on 01 Jun (Carl and Karen Winstead)

Two at Springville Marsh on 06 Jun (Tom Bartlett *et al.*)
 One at the Sardis-Fielding Wetlands, **Jackson**, on 07 Jun (the Gratzes)
 One in Grand Rapids, **Lucas**, on 07 Jun (Tom Kemp)

Acadian Flycatcher

Benjamin Miller found 30 along the Lyons Falls Trail in Mohican SP on 06 Jul. Pat Coy found the second-highest number, 17, in Hampton Hills MP, **Summit**, on 20 Jun. (66 counties)

Alder Flycatcher

Marsha Gilger found three along the Towpath Trail, **Summit**, on 04 Jun; Ben Warner and Anna Wittmer tied her count in the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, **Richland**, on 23 Jun. (20 counties)



Tom Fishburn found this Alder Flycatcher on 06 Jun at Letha House Park, **Medina**.

Willow Flycatcher

Elizabeth McQuaid found 24 in CLNP on 19 Jul. Ed Pierce's census team counted 18 in ONWR on 07 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus). (69 counties)

Alder/Willow "Traill's" Flycatcher

One or two were reported throughout the season at sites in 15 counties.

Least Flycatcher

Sightings were fairly steady until 15 Jun and then also from 05 Jul on, but absent between those dates. Three birders each found two: Joshua Eastlake in Ault Park, **Hamilton**, on 02 Jun, John Moore in Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 02 Jun, and Ryan Gniewiecki at Huston Brumbaugh NC, **Stark**, on 13 Jul. (17 counties)

Eastern Phoebe

Scott Huges found nine at Grand River WA, **Trumbull**, on 17 Jul, and there were three reports of seven at other locations. (74 counties)

Great Crested Flycatcher

Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted eight of these showy birds in CVNP on 06 Jun. Regina Schieltz also found eight, at Hartmagles Farm, **Darke**, on 13 Jun. (69 counties)

Western Kingbird

The OBRC has an internet report from **Noble**.

Eastern Kingbird

The 05 Jul ONWR census netted 39 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 36 on Kelleys Island on 20 Jul. (78 counties)

White-eyed Vireo

The Gratzes counted 12 along their BBS route in **Lawrence** on 07 Jun. (60 counties)

Bell's Vireo

Three parties each found two: Melanie Shuter in Deer Creek SP on 03 Jun, multiple observers along the Heritage Trail, **Franklin**, on 21 and 22 Jun, and Carrie and Scott Myers along Needles Road, **Wood**, on 24 Jun. **Clark**, **Delaware**, **Hamilton**, and **Marion** also produced reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Andy Jones found 12 while canoeing seven miles of the Cuyahoga River in **Geauga** on 18 Jul. Scott Huges had found seven along 1½ miles of it on 05 Jul. Up to six were seen elsewhere. (55 counties)

Blue-headed Vireo

The high count was five; Aden A. Yoder found them during a long day in Mohican on 13 Jun. Haans Petruschke and Mike Watson found four at Holden on 07 Jun. Smaller numbers were present in their few other regular breeding sites, which include OOPMP, Clear Creek, and Mohican. Interesting finds at unexpected locations include two in Shawnee on 13 Jun (Chris Zacharias), one at the **Huron** Land Lab on 24 Jun (Paul Sherwood), and one at Augusta-Anne Olsen SNP, **Huron**, on 03 Jul (Victor Fazio III). **Columbiana**, **Geauga**, **Richland**, and **Summit** also had sightings.

Warbling Vireo

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 22 at Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. The most elsewhere were 18 in CVNP on 06 Jun (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). (67 counties)



Jeff Stone added Great Crested Flycatcher to his **Warren** yard list on 25 Jul.

Philadelphia Vireo

Debbie Carr-Taylor found one at OOPMP on 01 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo

Ten miles of travel at Clear Creek yielded 30 for Marcus England on 17 Jun. (78 counties)

Blue Jay

Mary Anne Romito counted 19 starting at Ira Road in CVNP on 27 Jul. **Clinton, Jackson, Paulding, Pike, Putnam,** and **Van Wert** did not provide reports.

American Crow

Howard Gratz counted 59 in **Knox** during a BBS on 14 Jun. Zachary Allen saw 38 in a newly-mown hayfield near Lucasville, **Scioto**, on 30 Jul. No sightings came from **Auglaize, Clinton, Fayette, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam,** or **Van Wert**.



Bob Lane captured this interaction between a juvenile Bald Eagle and an American Crow at Conneaut on 02 Jul.

Fish Crow

The OBRC has one formal and one internet report from different **Cuyahoga** locations and an internet report from **Franklin**.

Common Raven

Dick Hoopes saw one at Industrial Park Drive, **Harrison**, on 26 Jun. Craig Caldwell saw another near Steubenville, **Jefferson**, on 29 Jun.

Horned Lark

The high count was 12. Margaret Bowman saw them along Old Springfield Road, **Montgomery**, on 23 Jul, and Charles Bombaci tied her at Killdeer on 31 Jul. (45 counties)

Purple Martin

Patty McKelvey saw about 400 at Lorain on 26 Jul. Tom Bartlett *et al.* counted 174 at Kelleys Island on 20 Jul. (65 counties)

Tree Swallow

River Drive, **Pickaway**, hosted about 500 on 03 Jul for Gene Stauffer. Ron Sempier found almost 400 at Big Island on 02 Jun. (81 counties)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Brian Wulker saw about 200 at Fernald on 13 Jul and up to 100 were reported there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Chris Pierce's 50 at Pickerel Creek on 19 Jul. (73 counties)

Bank Swallow

Craig Holt counted 140 nest holes in a sand pile at Conneaut on 01 Jul, and Denise Lesko and Cynthia Norris saw about 500 birds there on 20 Jul. (45 counties)

Cliff Swallow

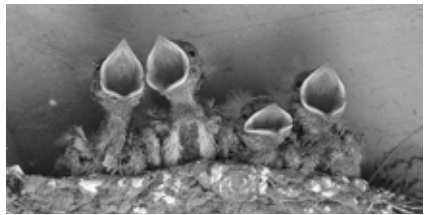
Victor Fazio III estimated 180 were around the Route 2 bridge over the Huron River, **Erie**, on 17 Jul. (41 counties)



Irina Shulgina found this engaging Cliff Swallow at Hoover Dam on 01 Jul.

Barn Swallow

Ned DeLamatre saw about 350 at Silver Creek MP, **Summit**, on 24 Jul. (80 counties)



These hungry Barn Swallow nestlings were recorded by Leslie Sours on 07 Jun at Glacier Ridge MP, **Union**.

Swallow sp.

Elizabeth McQuaid noted a mixed flock of about 500 at Lorain on 03 Jul.

Carolina Chickadee

Elizabeth Ames and Jay Wright found 16 in Hoover NP on 02 Jul. (59 counties)

Black-capped Chickadee

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 36 at Kelleys Island on 18 Jun and noted it was a new high number for the month there. (27 counties)

Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee

Thirteen "border" counties hosted indeterminate birds.

Tufted Titmouse

Deep Lock Quarry MP, **Summit**, hosted 40 on 10 Jul (John Wyman). The second-highest count was 16, found at two locations in **Cuyahoga** and another in **Summit**. (79 counties)

Red-breasted Nuthatch

The reports are:

At different sites within OOPMP, one on 02 Jun (Brandon Brywczyński), two on 07 Jul (Matt Anderson), and one on 14 Jul (also Matt Anderson)

One in Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 13 Jun (Mary Anne Romito *et al.*)

Two near Ira Road in CVNP on 13 Jun (Dave Chase)

One at Crown Point Ecological Center, **Summit**, on 14 Jun (Mary Anne Romito)

One on 16 and 22 Jun in Sagamore Hills, **Summit** (Susan Jones)

One at Mill Creek on 17 Jun (William L. Jones)

One on 26 Jun and 27 Jul at home in **Mahoning** (Leslie Warren)

Two in Woodbury WA, **Coshocton**, on 04 Jul (James E. Yoder)

White-breasted Nuthatch

Matt Kemp counted 14 in the Ten Mile Creek area, **Lucas**, on 17 Jun. (80 counties)

Brown Creeper

Scott Huger saw four while canoeing the upper Cuyahoga River in **Geauga** on 05 Jul. Additional sightings of up to three birds came from **Ashland**, **Butler**, **Cuyahoga**, **Harrison**, **Lucas**, **Portage**, **Summit**, and **Wayne**.

House Wren

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III found 47 throughout Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. Victor wrote that it was a “new high count for June; remarkable as all but one was a bird in song” and that no family parties were included. The second-highest count was 21, shared by Matt Kemp along Ten Mile Creek, **Lucas**, on 17 Jun and Daniel DeLapp at Gilmore Pond Preserve MP, **Butler**, on 24 Jul. Every county except **Clinton**, **Jackson**, **Lawrence**, **Meigs**, **Pike**, and **Van Wert** produced a sighting.

Winter Wren

The reports are:

One singing at the CVNP ledges on 09 Jun (Craig Caldwell) and one (the same bird?) there on 08 Jul (Karin Tanquist)

Three found during a breeding survey in Holden’s Stebbins Gulch on 20 Jun (Haans Petruschke *et al.*)

One near the Mohican SP covered bridge on 15 Jul (Stephen H. Vessey)

An adult and two immatures in the North Kings-

ville Sand Barrens, **Ashtabula**, on 25 Jul (Elizabeth McQuaid and Mary Birdsong)

One along the Mohican SP Hemlock Gorge Trail on 27 Jul (Angelika Nelson)

Sedge Wren

The high count was five; Chris Zacharias found them in the Great Miami WMB on 05 Jul. **Ashland**, **Fayette**, **Franklin**, **Hardin**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, **Pickaway**, and **Sandusky** also contributed reports.



A cooperative Sedge Wren posed prettily for Leslie Sours on 22 Jun at Darby Creek.

Marsh Wren

Elizabeth McQuaid estimated 50 were along the ONWR auto tour route on 21 Jun. Birders found up to 29 at ONWR on other dates. The most elsewhere were 15 at Metzger on 03 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison), and Jon also provided the inland high count of 12, at Killbuck on 03 Jun. (26 counties)

Carolina Wren

Two parties shared the high count of 10. Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker’s were throughout **Adams** on 27 Jun, and Charles Bombaci found his along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 04 Jul. Elliot Tramer wrote from **Lucas**, “Two successive tough winters...have knocked their numbers down.” (75 counties)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Josh King counted 20 in Tawawa Park, **Shelby**, on 26 Jun (74 counties)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

The Chasars heard and saw one near Horseshoe Pond in CVNP, an occasional breeding location, on 20 Jun. Matt Anderson passed on a report of one seen on 11 Jul in Maumee SF, **Lucas**, and followed with his own sighting of a family of four there on the next day.

Veery

We had sightings all season, though few of them were after mid-Jul. Ben Warner and Anna Wittmer found 12 around the Mohican SP Gorge Overlook on 23 Jun. (25 counties)

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Victor Fazio III found a singing bird at Hidden Lake MP, **Lake**, on 04 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush

The three stragglers are:

One at Sandy Ridge on 02 Jun (Rob Campbell and Michelle Pesho)

One at his *Auglaize* home on 04 and 05 Jun (Louis Hoying)

One at Holden on 07 Jun (Haans Petruschke and Mike Watson)

Hermit Thrush

Doubles in Hocking Hills SP on 08 Jul (Rob Fowler) and 09 Jul (Diane Boswell) were the only multiple sightings. Elizabeth McQuaid found one at CLNP on 19 Jul; perhaps it was a failed breeder who left the northland early. Other sightings came from *Ashtabula, Fairfield, Lake, Lucas, Portage, and Summit*.

Wood Thrush

The Gantzes' BBS route in Dean SE, *Lawrence*, yielded 37 on 07 Jun. Marcus England counted 20 at Clear Creek on 17 Jun. (77 counties)

Eastern Bluebird

Jim McConnor's 20 in Orchard Hill Park, *Geauga*, on 26 Jul was the high count. (76 counties)



This Eastern Bluebird was caught by Allan Claybon as it brought food to its nest box at East Fork on 02 Jun.

American Robin

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 155 at Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. Amanda Lawson tallied 143 in the Great Miami WMB on 14 Jun. Only *Clinton* and *Van Wert* did not provide a sighting.

Gray Catbird

Nola Miller-Brasure and Nolan Miller found about 50 at Canalway Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Jul. Tom Bartlett tied them at Springville Marsh on 18 and 26 Jul. *Clinton, Hardin, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, and Van Wert* did not have sightings.

Brown Thrasher

Kent Miller and Ben Morrison counted 12 along Chapel Drive on 11 Jun. (72 counties)

Northern Mockingbird

Two and a half miles of Fargo Road in *Carroll* produced 11 for Andrea Anderson on 16 Jul. (57 counties)

European Starling

Lorain held about 400 on 21 Jul (Ed Wransky) and the *Harrison* airport came close with 350 on 05 Jul (Scott Pendleton). Every county but *Champagne, Clinton, Meigs, Morgan, and Van Wert* produced sightings.

Cedar Waxwing

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 126 at Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. The second-highest number was Irina Shulgina's 100 in Kiwanis Riverway Park, *Franklin*, on 03 Jun. (74 counties)

Ovenbird

The Gratzes' 25-mile BBS route in *Lawrence* produced 21 on 07 Jun, but Craig Caldwell edged them with 25 along 17 miles of Shawnee roads on 01 Jul. (37 counties)

Worm-eating Warbler

Aden A. Yoder's eight in Mohican on 13 Jun was the high count. Bruce Simpson found four in Zaleski on 05 Jun as did Rob Thorn at Clear Creek on 16 Jun. Several parties found three. (14 counties)

Louisiana Waterthrush

Kenn Kaufmann found seven in the vicinity of the Mohican SP covered bridge on 05 Jun. (30 counties)

Northern Waterthrush

The reports are:

One near Shreve, *Wayne*, on 09 Jun (Isaac Troyer)

Two at Headlands on 14 Jun (Tom Frankel), one there on 15 Jun (Dave Chase), and one there on 17 Jun (Cory Chiappone)

One, a female with a brood patch, at Grand River Terraces, *Ashtabula*, on 02 Jul (Andy Jones)

Golden-winged Warbler

Alex Eberts reported one in Zaleski on 02 Jun. Mark Hainen photographed one in OOPMP on 29 May and reported on 06 Jun that another birder had re-found the bird. Dennis McNeill saw probably the same one on 09 Jun. Matt Anderson found one in *Fulton* on 07 Jun and watched as it sang Blue-winged songs. Rob and Sandy Harlan saw and heard the staked-out *Ful-*



Tom Fishburn found this Brown Thrasher taking a dust bath on Thunder Road in Carroll on 04 Jul.

ton bird on 10 Jun; that day it was singing both Golden-winged and Blue-winged songs.

Blue-winged Warbler

The Gratzes' *Lawrence* BBS route yielded eight on 07 Jun, and there were at least three reports of six birds elsewhere. One of the six which Matt Anderson saw in OOPMP on 07 Jun is another cautionary tale; it was singing a Golden-winged's song. (37 counties)

Black-and-white Warbler

The Big Darby Wetlands of Wayne NE, *Athens*, produced five on 14 Jun (Janet Duerr and Nicole Freshour). (23 counties)

Prothonotary Warbler

Charles Bombaci monitors nest boxes in Hoover NP and found 30 birds there on 22 Jun. He also counted 20 along Old Sunbury Road, *Delaware*, on 04 Jun. The most in another county was Linda Coulter's 12 along the upper Cuyahoga River, *Geauga*, on 05 Jul; that's another site with a network of boxes. (31 counties)

Tennessee Warbler

Paul Sherwood saw two stragglers at Castalia Quarry, *Erie*, on 02 Jun. One was reported as heard singing at Conneaut on 12 Jun, but Haans Petruschke cautioned the reporter and the rest of us: Many of the Dark-eyed Juncos which breed in *Ashtabula*, *Geauga*, and *Lake* sing a song very like that of Tennessee and Nashville warblers. He provided a YouTube link to one of them at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0Fe9AR0ywE>.

Mourning Warbler

Lester Payton saw what was probably a north-bound straggler in Graytown, *Ottawa*, on 06 Jun. Scott Huges made a remarkable find of a female in Claridon Township, *Geauga*, on 21 Jun; its agitated behavior was a clue to a possible nearby nest. The next day, he and Matthew Valencic saw a male there carry a caterpillar into brush and emerge without it. Nesting in Ohio is rare but not unknown; the OBBA II map of data from 2006 to 2011 shows a probable nesting record in *Lucas* and one confirmed and several probable records in *Lake*.

Kentucky Warbler

Olivia DaRugna did a point-count survey in *Noble* on 10 Jun and found six; she also found six in Blue Rock SF, *Muskingum*, on 11 Jun. (28 counties)

Common Yellowthroat

Ed Pierce *et al.* tallied 37 in ONWR on 07 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Twelve miles of travel through Killdeer yielded 35 for Irina Shulgina

on 05 Jul. Only *Clinton*, *Jackson*, *Pike*, and *Van Wert* did not have sightings.

Hooded Warbler

The BBS in Dean SF, *Lawrence*, produced 22 on 07 Jun (the Gratzes). Clear Creek hosted 16 on 17 Jun (Marcus England). (52 counties)

American Redstart

Tom Frankel counted 11 at Lake Erie Bluffs on 07 Jun. (47 counties)

Cerulean Warbler

Shawnee Lookout provided the high count of eight, for Timothy Fennell on 02 Jun. Aden A. Yoder found six in Mohican on 13 Jun and three other locations each held five at various dates. (32 counties)

Northern Parula

Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker found eight at East Fork on 06 Jun. (41 counties)

Magnolia Warbler

Mary Anne Romito saw one in Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 13 Jun, where "Second Saturday birders have one every summer." Bruce Simpson saw a young bird in Zaleski on several Jun and Jul dates. Mohican is another hot spot; observers found at least one in a minimum of five different sites in the SF and SP during the season.

Blackburnian Warbler

The reports are:

One along Lake Road, Cleveland, on 04 Jun (Jen Brumfield)

One at the Mohican SP Gorge Overlook on 06 Jun (Eli M. Miller)

Three in the Mohican SF Discovery Forest on 07 Jun (Eli M. Miller) and one there on 23 Jun (Ben Warner and Anna Wittmer)

Six throughout Mohican on 13 Jun (Aden A. Yoder)

Yellow Warbler

ONWR hosted 195 for Ed Pierce's census team on 07 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 137 throughout Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. Mark Shieldcastle banded 40 of the 75 his team encountered at ONWR Navarre on 15 Jul. *Clinton*, *Defiance*, *Jackson*, *Morgan*, *Pike*, *Putnam*, *Van Wert*, and *Washington* did not produce reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Pat Coy and Karin Tanquist found six along the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 03 Jul. (16 counties)

Blackpoll Warbler

Sightings were fairly steady to the last, which was of one bird at Jason Parrish's home in *Franklin* on 19 and 20 Jun. The high count was three, achieved by Jen Brumfield on Cleveland's Lake

Road on 04 Jun and Tom Frankel at Lake Erie Bluffs on 07 Jun. **Lorain** and **Lucas** also contributed reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Laurie Mauro saw one in the **Holmes** section of Killbuck on 06 Jun. Peter Keefe and Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. separately saw one at Headlands on 23 Jun.

Pine Warbler

Kyle Brooks found 12 along three miles of trails in Wayne NE, **Athens**, on 14 Jun. The next-highest counts came on 13 Jun, when Atlee Coblenz found five in the Clendenning Lake area, **Harrison**, and Atlee A. Yoder noted four in Mohican. (23 counties)

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Matt Anderson saw a male in OOPMP on 07 Jun.

Yellow-throated Warbler

Craig Caldwell counted seven along the nine miles of Pond Lick Road in Shawnee on 01 Jul. (45 counties)

Prairie Warbler

The Anderson Meadows section of Wayne NE, **Lawrence**, held 15 on 06 Jun (m. obs.). Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker found 10 scattered around **Adams** on 27 Jun. (28 counties)



This well-timed image of a Prairie Warbler was taken by Allan Claybon on 06 Jun at East Fork.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Marcus England's hike in Clear Creek on 17 Jun produced eight. Sightings also came from **Ashland**, **Ashtabula**, **Geauga**, **Lake**, **Summit**, and **Vinton**.

Canada Warbler

Fred Dinkelbach *et al.* saw and heard one and heard another three in Conkles Hollow SNP, **Hocking**, on 05 Jun. Various Mohican sites held one or two throughout Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Three parties shared the high count of 10. The Ostermillers saw them in Tri-Valley WA, **Muskingum**, on 03 Jun. Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker's were in **Adams** on 27 Jun. Zaleski hosted them for Bruce Simpson on 29 Jun. (55 counties)

Eastern Towhee

Nicole Freshour counted 33 along the Wildcat Hollow Trail in Wayne NE, **Morgan**, on 25 Jul. Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker found 25 at East Fork on 06 Jun. (78 counties)

Chipping Sparrow

Kelleys Island hosted 23 for Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III on 18 Jun. Every county but **Clinton**, **Jackson**, **Meigs**, and **Van Wert** produced sightings.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Sameer Apte discovered one in Beachwood City Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 01 Jun, and it was still there, "singing lustily", on 03 Jun (Victor Fazio III).

Field Sparrow

Irina Shulgina found about 30 in Walnut Woods MP, **Franklin**, on 13 Jun and again in Glacier Ridge MP, **Union**, the next day. (79 counties)

Vesper Sparrow

Martha Burrows found seven at Sandy Ridge on 22 Jul. Scott Pendleton found three at The Bowl on 13 Jun and six there on each of 06 Jun and 22 Jul. The other sightings, in 21 counties overall, were of one or two birds.

Lark Sparrow

Greg Pasek counted five in OOPMP on 06 Jun; so did Brandon Brywczynski on 19 Jun. The most elsewhere were a pair with two youngsters at Leighley Hill, **Tuscarawas**, on 04 Jul (Ed Schlabach). Other reports came from another **Lucas** site and **Clark**, **Fayette**, **Greene**, **Hamilton**, **Lorain**, and **Montgomery**.

Savannah Sparrow

Scott Pendleton and Sandie Myers counted 35 at The Bowl on 22 Jul. Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison found 27 along Chapel Drive on 11 Jul and noted that both adults and newly-fledged young were present. (46 counties)



This Savannah Sparrow perched nicely for Su Snyder near Dalton, **Wayne**, on 09 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow

The Bowl also hosted 85 Grasshoppers for Scott Pendleton and Sandie Myers on 22 Jul. Robert Royse found at least 50 on several dates in Deer Creek WA. (48 counties)

Henslow's Sparrow

About 2½ miles of gravel road in the Mingo Grasslands, **Jefferson**, yielded 17 for Craig Caldwell on 29 Jun. The second-highest count was 12, which CMM found along Chapel Drive on 11 Jun, and which Richard Guthrie equaled along Fargo Road, **Carroll**, on 27 Jul. (32 counties)



Allan Claybon had a wonderful view of this Henslow's Sparrow on 09 Jun at OOPMP.

Song Sparrow

Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 49 along the CVNP Towpath Trail on 11 Jul. Reports came from every county except **Clinton**, **Jackson**, **Meigs**, **Morgan**, and **Van Wert**.

Swamp Sparrow

Tom Bartlett's crews found 25 at Springville Marsh on both 06 Jun and 18 Jul. (37 counties)

White-throated Sparrow

The reports, all of single birds, are:

At Lake La Su An WA, **Williams**, on 04 Jun (m. obs.)

In the Pearl King Savanna, **Madison**, on 21 Jun (Irina Shulgina)

One near Tiverton, **Coshocton**, on 26 Jun (LeRoy E. Yoder)

At Headlands on 10 Jul (Tom Frankel)

White-crowned Sparrow

The reports are:

Two along Whetstone Creek, **Morrow**, on 02 Jun (C.K. Walls)

One by Bodi Road, **Ottawa**, on 03 Jun (Mark Shieldcastle)



This Grasshopper Sparrow posed beautifully for Allan Claybon on 09 Jun at OOPMP.

One at her **Delaware** home on 10 Jul (Maria Losey)

One at Headlands on 13 Jul (Theodore Garver)

Dark-eyed Junco

All but one of the sightings were in the known nesting counties of **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, **Lake**, and **Summit**. The outlier was a single bird which made a brief appearance at the BSBO office feeders, **Ottawa**, on 30 Jun (BSBO staff). The high count was eight. Haans Petruschke and Mike Watson saw that many both in Holden's Stebbins Gulch on 21 Jun and at Holden's Little Mountain, **Lake**, on 11 Jul. As noted in the Tennessee Warbler account, many of the juncos which Haans and Mike encountered were singing an unusual song.

Summer Tanager

Bruce Simpson saw four in Zaleski on 05 Jun; Margaret Bowman tied him in Horn Hills Park, **Licking**, on 03 Jul. However, Matt Anderson had already edged them for the high count prize with five in OOPMP on 07 Jun. (22 counties, of which only **Lucas** and **Tuscarawas** are north of **Delaware**)

Scarlet Tanager

The high count of 10 was shared. The Gratzes counted them along their **Lawrence** BBS route on 07 Jun, and Carole Winslow found hers in Buzzards Roost NP, **Ross**, on 05 Jul. (70 counties)

Northern Cardinal

Howard Gratz counted 45 along his **Knox** BBS route on 14 Jun. Douglas Vogus *et al.* found 37 in CVNP on 06 Jun. Sigh—**Clinton**, **Pike**, and **Van Wert** came up cardinal-less.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

The CVNP Towpath Trail produced 10 for Douglas Vogus *et al.* on 06 Jun. (50 counties)

Blue Grosbeak

Bob Holmes counted six at Fernald on 19 Jun and Brian Wulker found five there on both 22 and 27 Jul. Three other locations each hosted four. Of the 25 counties with sightings, only **Lucas** is north of U.S. 30, and most are south of I-70 or are cut by it.

Indigo Bunting

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III counted 52 across Kelleys Island on 18 Jun, and Victor found 36 there on 20 Jul. The most elsewhere were 35 along the Gratzes' **Lawrence** BBS route on 07 Jun. **Clinton**, **Jackson**, **Meigs**, **Morgan**, and **Van Wert** did not have sightings.

Dickcissel

Orris Yoder counted 18 near Maysville, **Wayne**,

on 23 Jun. Fernald hosted 16 on 09 Jun (J.W. Rettig) as did Pickerel Creek on 19 Jun (Victor Fazio III). (29 counties)

Bobolink

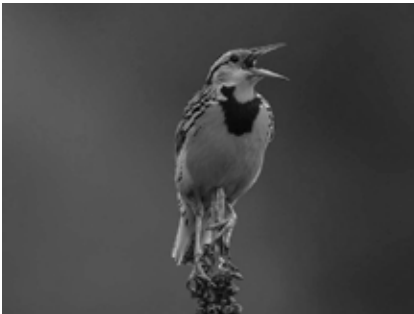
Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison found about 200 in the grasslands of Chapel Drive on 11 Jul. Scott Pendleton and Margaret Bowman each saw about 80 at The Bowl, on 06 Jun and 13 Jun respectively. (43 counties)

Red-winged Blackbird

Steve Mulhall noted at least 800 leaving the Killbuck marshes at dawn on 28 Jun. James Muller found about 600 at Darby Creek on 21 Jul. Only **Clinton** and **Van Wert** did not produce reports.

Eastern Meadowlark

Chapel Drive again provided a high count, 250 meadowlarks on 11 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison). The CMM trio had found 75 there on 19 Jun, while the most elsewhere were 57 at the **Harrison** airport on 05 Jul (Scott Pendleton). (69 counties)



Allan Clayton captured this Eastern Meadowlark mid-song at OOPMP on 09 Jun.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Ericia Howard reported twice seeing one near Blendon Woods on 05 Jul.

Common Grackle

James Muller estimated 4500 were throughout Darby Creek on 21 Jul. Tom Bartlett *et al.* noted 2100 at Springville Marsh on 18 Jul and 3400 there on 26 Jul. The next highest count was also by Tom Bartlett, 286 at Kelleys Island on 20 Jul. (81 counties)

Brown-headed Cowbird

Kurt Grenig counted 26 in West Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 17 Jul. (80 counties)

Orchard Oriole

Scott Pendleton provided the high count of 14, from The Bowl on 06 Jun. Four locations each hosted eight. (58 counties)

Baltimore Oriole

Tom Bartlett and Victor Fazio III found 90 at Kelleys Island on 18 Jun. Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 43 in ONWR on 07 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus). (75 counties)

House Finch

Paige Nugent's **Hamilton** feeders hosted 37 on 10 Jul. The next highest count, 25, came from Dal Taylor's home in **Union** on 05 Jul and also from CNC's Rowe Woods on 18 Jul (Bill and René McGill). (76 counties)

Purple Finch

Ben Morrison's yard in **Stark** hosted a pair all season, and they fledged two young. Jeff Harvey and Matthew Valencic each found three, Jeff at his **Mahoning** home on 14 Jun and Matthew in South Russell Village Park, **Geauga**, on 27 Jun. Reports also came from **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Jefferson**, **Lake**, **Lorain**, **Stark**, **Summit**, and **Trumbull**.

Pine Siskin

The reports, all from feeders unless noted otherwise, are:

One on 07 and 08 Jun in **Wayne** (Gabe Hostetler)
One between 07 and 13 Jun at East Harbor, an injured bird which did not survive (Sheryl Young)

One in **Geauga** on 14 Jun (Barbara Partington)
One in **Lucas** on 25 Jun (Karen Leow)

One in **Henry** on 03 Jul (Linda Kurth)
One flyby at Wiregrass Lake MP, **Lucas**, on 05 Jul (Rob and Sandy Harlan)

Two immatures near Oak Harbor, **Ottawa**, on 12 Jul (Kenn Kaufman)

One south of Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 16 Jul (Robert Hershberger)

American Goldfinch

Elizabeth McQuaid found 50 at NASA's Plum Brook Station, **Erie**, on 26 Jul. The Great Miami WMB hosted 40 on 26 Jun for Daniel DeLapp. Reports came from every county except **Clinton**, **Jackson**, and **Pike**.



Ron Sempier focused on this well posed Orchard Oriole at Rayl Cemetery in **Marion** on 27 Jun.

European Goldfinch

The three fugitives which came to Debra Payne's *Cuyahoga* feeder twice during Apr also made a visit on 21 Jun.

House Sparrow

Eddie Hicks saw about 150 at Cedar Point on 04 Jun. So did Robert Guth at his home in *Franklin* on 06 Jun. The Ostermillers estimated that 100 were along Wilderness Road on 15 Jul. *Clinton, Gallia, Hocking, Lawrence, Meigs,* and *Morgan* did not produce reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Species Accounts could not be written without the data provided by these contributors either directly to the Editor or by posting to an on-line venue. We thank you.

Zachary Allen	Allan Chartier	Victor Fazio III	Dick Hoffman
Elizabeth Ames	Ann Chasar	Timothy Fennell	Jean Hoffman
Andrea Anderson	Dwight Chasar	Stephen Fettig	Bob Holmes
Matt Anderson	Dave Chase	Tom Fishburn	Craig Holt
Ken Andrews	Cory Chiappone	Robert Foppe	Dick Hoopes
Sameer Apte	Ronnie Clark	Rob Fowler	Gabe Hostetler
Daisy Asmus	Allan Claybon	Tom Frankel	Linda Houshower
Andy Avram	Dean Clifton	Darlene Freidman	Ericia Howard
Carole Babyak	Atlee Coblentz	Nicole Freshour	Louis Hoying
Brendan Baptiste	Christopher Collins	John Games	Scott Huge
Mose Barkman	Clair Cogar	Theodore Garver	William Hull
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Diane Boswell	Fred Dinkelbach	Richard Guthrie	Peter Keefe
Margaret Bowman	Jeremy Dominguez	Mark Hainan	Emily Keeler
Kyle Brooks	Janet Duerr	Rob Harlan	Ned Keller
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Kent Miller	Chris Pierce	Leslie Sours	Kurt Wray
Nolan Miller	Ed Pierce	Ryan Stander	Jay Wright
Nola Miller-Brasure	Kim Pierce	Bill Stanley	Brian Wulker
Stefan Minnig	John Pogacnik	Josh Stapleton	Jules Wyman
John Moore	R. Lee Reed	Gene Stauffer	Aden A. Yoder
Ben Morrison	Patrick Riley	Jeff Stone	Dennis Yoder
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Steve Mulhall	Jacob Roalef	Chris Swan	Leroy E. Yoder
James Muller	Aiden Rominger	Jerry Talkington	Orris Yoder
Carrie Myers	Mary Anne Romito	Karin Tanquist	Sheryl Young
Sandie Myers	Jeffrey Roth	Dal Taylor	Chris Zacharias
Scott Myers	Robert Royse	Deb Tefft	
Susan Nash	Mark	Rob Thorn	
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Cynthia Norris	Dan Sanders	Elliot Tramer	
Paige Nugent	Regina Schieltz	Adam Troyer	

ADDENDA

By Craig Caldwell

I belatedly received additional observations from the winter of 2014-15 and the spring of 2015. The changes and additions are listed below.

WINTER 2014-15

Mute Swan

Add one county for a total of 47.

Ruffed Grouse

Add a report of one near Wooster, *Wayne*, on 08 Dec (Su Snyder).

Great Egret

The individual reported near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, on 24 Dec was present from Nov to 26 Dec (m. obs.).

Black Vulture

Add one county for a total of 35.

Sandhill Crane

Seventy-six birds coming to an evening roost on County Line Road, *Wayne*, on 09 Feb provide a third report for that month (Robert Hershberger).

Great Black-backed Gull

Add *Holmes* to the previous map for a total of 29 counties.

Long-eared Owl

Add one county for a total of 15.

Eastern Phoebe

Add one county for a total of 17.

Winter Wren

Add one county for a total of 42.

Marsh Wren

To the list of reports, add one bird at Killbuck on 27 Dec (Andy R. Troyer).

Gray Catbird

James F. Yoder saw one on 15 Feb near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, for the only bird in that month. Was it a previously undiscovered wintering bird or an early arrival?

Brown Thrasher

Add one county for a total of 11.

American Pipit

The high count was 30, by Adam, Andrew, and Marvin Yoder in Fredericksburg, *Wayne*, on 26 Dec.

Palm Warbler

The season's only sighting was by Isaac Troyer west of Holmesville, *Holmes*, on 01 Dec.

Fox Sparrow

Add one county for a total of 31.

Contributors

Add these individuals to the list of contributors: Reuben S. Erb, Anthony Fry, Eli Hershberger, Michael Hershberger, Robert Hershberger, Jack Hickson, Sandi Hickson, Doreene Linzell, Alvin E. Miller, Greg Miller, Brad Perkins, Dan Sanders, Leroy Schlabach, Terry Sponseller, Andy A. Troyer, Andy R. Troyer, Isaac Troyer, Levi Troyer, Martha E. Troyer, Adam Yoder, Andrew Yoder, James F. Yoder, and Marvin Yoder.

SPRING 2015

Greater White-fronted Goose

Add one county for a total of 17.

Ross's Goose

Add *Richland* to the counties which had sightings.

Surf Scoter

The six which John Herman discovered at Clear Fork on 06 Apr were seen again on 11 Apr by Albert and Sarah Troyer. Also, add one county for a total of 19.

White-winged Scoter

Add two counties for a total of 30.

Black Scoter

The Seneca Lake, *Guernsey*, bird seen by many on 30 Apr remained at least to 05 May (Ben Morrison).

Long-tailed Duck

Add one county for a total of 17.

Northern Bobwhite

Add one county for a total of 21.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Add one county for a total of 34.

Ruffed Grouse

Add *Tuscarawas* to the list of counties with sightings.

Red-throated Loon

The first of the season was a single bird at Pleasant Hill Lake on 23 Mar (Atlee A. Yoder). In addition, add two counties for a total of 15.

American Bittern

Add two counties for a total of 30.

Snowy Egret

Add *Wayne* to the list of counties with sightings.

Golden Eagle

Add Wayne to the list of counties with sightings.

King Rail

Add Killbuck to the list of locations with sightings.

Upland Sandpiper

Add *Wayne* to the list of counties with sightings.

Whimbrel

To the list of sightings, add six at Shreve Lake, *Wayne*, on 30 May (Eli Hershberger).

White-rumped Sandpiper

The last of the season was one at Shreve Lake, *Wayne*, on 25 May (Atlee A. Yoder).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Robert Hershberger added a report of two near Funk on 16 May.

Thayer's Gull

Add the sighting of one near Dover, *Tuscarawas*, on 02 Mar (Ed Schlabach).

Iceland Gull

The reported high count of five in *Stark* was tied by Michael Hershberger at Dover, *Tuscarawas*, on 07 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

The second-highest count was of seven at Pleasant Hill Lake on 28 Mar (Aaron Miller).

Long-eared Owl

The last sighting was David Weaver's; he found one bird near Kidron, *Wayne*, on 11 Apr.

Eastern Whip-poor-will

The high count was 12, heard calling near Spring Mountain, *Coshocton*, on 16 May (Robert Hershberger).

Peregrine Falcon

Add one county for a total of 30.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Add two counties for a total of 19.

Alder Flycatcher

Add two counties for a total of 36.

Common Raven

Add *Knox* to the list of counties with sightings.

Snow Bunting

The high count, by a wide margin, was a flock of 280 near Farmerstown, *Holmes*, on 01 Mar (Eli Hershberger).

Golden-winged Warbler

Add two counties for a total of 15.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Add one county for a total of 26.

Kirtland's Warbler

One was reported as seen and photographed in *Holmes*.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Add *Tuscarawas* to the list of counties with single sightings.

Summer Tanager

Add one county for a total of 30.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Add *Wayne* to the list of counties with sightings.

Contributors

Add these individuals to the list of contributors: George Benesh, David L. Erb, Eli Hershberger, Michael Hershberger, Robert Hershberger, Aaron Miller, Cristy J. Miller, Greg Miller, Jeffrey A. Miller, Marvin Mullet, Ed Schlabach, Dave Smith, Albert Troyer, Andy R. Troyer, Sarah Troyer, David Weaver, Martha Weaver, Adam Yoder, Alfred Yoder, Andrew Yoder, Atlee A. Yoder, Leroy E. Yoder, Levi A. Yoder, Marvin Yoder, and Milan H. Yoder.

BIRDING WITH MY BOY

By Andrew Pegman

My son, Andrew, was only two weeks old when he had his first birding experience. On New Year's Day, 2015, I poured myself a hot cup of coffee and put my son on my lap as we started our first birding adventure together on that cold Ohio morning.

I pointed out juncos, woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches and a few other feathered, cold-weather companions as he slept quietly in my arms. The hearty little birds were regular winter visitors to our feeders and suet blocks, but we saw them all through the glass of our warm living room.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of taking my now eight-month-old son to the North Chagrin Reservation [*Cuyahoga*] for an outdoor birding excursion. As we strolled around Sanctuary Marsh together, we felt the warm early morning August sunshine on our faces as we spotted finches, ducks, herons, swallows, thrushes, and geese.

The vibrant and lush sights of nature left my son wide-eyed, seemingly in awe of the intense color and spectacle of the natural world around us. He rode along in his stroller, making soft noises and looking up at the bright sky and across the shimmering water.

I don't know if my son will love nature as much as my wife and I do, but it is important to us that he experiences the world that exists outside of screens, and I don't mean window screens. He and I hiked the same path that I hiked with my father and grandfather. I saw my twelve-year-old self, crouched low by the edge of the water, trying to get a better look at a majestic Great Blue Heron.

As I walked along with my son, I thought about the mornings that he and I could spend spotting birds and returning home with our socks soaked with morning dew and big smiles on our faces. The best days of my youth and the fondest memories of my childhood all occurred outdoors. It served as the stage for a great many childhood adventures, and although no photographs exist, those days are painted in my memory as idyllically as though they were drawn by Norman Rockwell.

Like most parents, I wonder what the future will hold for my son and the generation of children that grows up with him. I am thankful that I grew up in a time before cell phones and social

media stole so much of our precious free time and attention.

After walking a few more laps lost in nostalgia, my mind turned back to what I had been missing. Instinctively, I pulled my smartphone out of my pocket and turned it off. Then I looked up at the blue sky and then down at my son. At that moment, a tiny goldfinch alit right in front of us, its bold, bright plumage striking, and I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I knelt down next to my son and held his small hand, so we could look at it together.

Andrew J. Pegman (Andrewjpeyman@gmail.com) is an Assistant Professor of English and District Director of Leadership, Enrichment, and Development at Cuyahoga Community College. His work has appeared in The Plain Dealer, SUN Newspapers, Ohio Outdoor News, The Ohio Cardinal, Pedestal Magazine, Community College Week, and other publications. He enjoys reading, writing, fishing, hiking, and birding. He lives in Mayfield Heights, OH with his wife Amy and son Andrew.

DOCUMENTATION FOR RARE BIRD RECORDS

By Bill Whan

Rare strays are more than merely the spice of recreational birding; for enthusiasts they often provide its greatest rewards. Probably nothing pleases the listing crowd more than the discovery of a species genuinely rare—or best of all, previously unknown—showing up in their territory. Scientists, on the other hand, tend to be less intrigued with birds that for obscure reasons show up far out of range. Such unlikely events are usually regarded as “accidentals,” and of minor biological importance. As an example, here are a couple of informal communications (some typos corrected) which Milton Trautman, curator of the bird collection at the OSU Museum, sent to his friend Karl Maslowski, the distinguished Cincinnati naturalist, in the spring of 1969. Maslowski had invited Dr. Trautman to drive down to Cincinnati to observe a Black-headed Grosbeak present near the former’s home, a record Peterjohn [2001, p. 524] was later to call “indisputable” based on Maslowski’s photos. Trautman wrote:

Thank you for notifying me of the Black-headed Grosbeak at Milford, Ohio. The record will be placed in the rapidly expanding “fictional” list.

I will not take time to see it because it cannot be established as a factual record without collecting and I have seen many Black-headed Grosbeaks in the west. Accidentals actually mean very little; their real scientific interest lies in why or how they reached Ohio, by being wind-blown or through directional loss; in other words by either physical or mental deficiencies or both. There is little doubt in my mind that during the past 12,000 years every species of eastern North American birds and most western North American species have been present and unobserved in Ohio at some time.

My not accepting photographic proof is because even the actual specimen that is collected can be misidentified. A good example is the frequently published record of the Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*), collected 19 February 1909 in Ashtabula County. This was accepted by the AOU and everyone else as the only authentic Ohio record until the Oberlin collection, which housed it for almost

60 years, was incorporated in the Ohio State collections. Then we discovered it is a Red-throated Loon...The excellent photograph of the Rufous-necked Sandpiper (*Erolia ruficollis*) [now called Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*] seen in September in Ashtabula County is a fine photograph of a spring plumaged (in fall!) Rufous-necked. I have seen several Rufous-neckeds in Ohio stained with oil or iron oxide. By July in Alaska a third of the Rufous-necks which I saw had lost their rufous coloration and looked like Least Sandpipers; what would they have looked like in September! I was given a beautiful photograph of a Long-billed Dowitcher which I collected immediately after the picture was taken. The skin is unquestionably a Long-bill, the picture unquestionably a Short-bill because of the slight angle at which the head was taken...The life of a scientist or a Curator is not a popular or a happy one.

Such were the off-the-cuff comments of Ohio’s most prominent ornithologist of the time. (It seems Trautman erred, as the Red-necked Stint was photographed not in Sep, but on 21 Jul 1962, so its plumage in the photo was appropriate.) Maslowski must have continued the conversation, as Trautman was to write to him again ten days later on 01 May 1969:

I agree with you that a group of ornithologists may decide that your picture is of a Black-headed Grosbeak, although the winter plumaged or female Rose-breasted Grosbeak is so similar to each other, and to your picture, that we have had a Rose-breasted, collected in 1882 and labelled as a Black-headed in our collection until I recently worked over specimens and caught the mistake. Xanthism is strong in both species and I have some female Rose-breasted as yellowish as are some Black-headed.

Because of the marked similarity of the winter birds, and the birder’s concept of a rose-breasted bird, we get sight records of Black-headed Grosbeaks in Ohio almost annually. Your record would be at least the second published sight record for Ohio (possibly as much as much as the 5th). One that comes to mind is in

Louis Campbell's 1968 *Birds of the Toledo Area* (*The Blade*, p. 278). I quote: "An immature male (?) Black-headed Grosbeak was seen in Sylvania, Ohio, on March 3 and 15, 1965, at a feeding station operated by Mr. and Mrs. William Wood... Both observers examined it at a distance of 10 feet as it fed upon cracked corn. The Woods are acquainted with Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks."

Suppose we accept Wood's record as the first Black-headed record for Ohio (I'm sure I could find others published previously) or yours on the strength of the photo, where do we stop? Do we accept everyone's identification? Suppose I sent a picture of a bird to 33 ornithologists, 17 of whom believed it to be a species "new" for Ohio and 16 did not, should we take a flier and accept the majority vote? That is not factual science.

I have taken up a new and unscientific hobby, a "fictional" list of sight records of "new" species seen in Ohio. All sight records are accepted which have been published in newspapers, local and state lists, etc. It's just started and contains some beauties but has only 61 species listed so far. I can get over a hundred easily and if the "records" keep coming in at the present rate it won't be many years before the "fictional" surpasses our "factual". Any you hear of, please let me know.

Undeterred, Maslowski—who himself was hardly averse to collecting bird specimens, and might have still have assumed Trautman might want to see a live bird rather than a dead one—called Trautman again eight months later, inviting him to come see a Green-tailed Towhee in his neighborhood. On 01 May Trautman wrote to say he might come by, and bring a photographer. He mentioned a male Green-tailed Towhee that seven years earlier had come to a feeder within half a mile of his home, staying nearly five months. If it was ever photographed or carefully described, Peterjohn (2001:480) was unable to find the evidence. Trautman felt the only explanation for its appearance was a "lack of directional sense," and went on to explain why he and his wife had not included it in their respected *Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio* published just the year before, now online at https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/1811/5415/V68N05_257.pdf?sequence=1 because it had not been collected and curated in an accredited museum, asserting (p. 238) that "if one sight re-

cord is accepted then in justice all sight records must be accepted," without explaining this curious assertion. He asked Maslowski, in the event the bird died, to send him the specimen, saying in a joshing way it was "about time" that Cincinnati provided a new species for the official Ohio list. OSUM has ten specimens of this species, none from Ohio.

Trautman's assertions seem all the more doctrinaire today, given the number and excellence of modern photographic records, growth in the numbers of careful observers, and the contributions of bird banders (who are able to take critical data from living birds; several species have been added to the Ohio list in this way). DNA and other analytical evidence can pinpoint identifications without collecting specimens. Consider Ohio's first occurrence of the increasingly wide-roaming and unmistakable Crested Caracara, well verified by camera-toting tourists last year. In view of his statements about the misidentified specimen of the "Arctic Loon" from 1909, even Trautman might have been intrigued by the decisive evidence provided for the unprecedented occurrence of a genuine Arctic Loon, seen by many and fortuitously well photographed by a few, in central Ohio in late Oct of 2014. Still, his remarks on these occurrences, if he were around today, are likely to have been as skeptical as those he conveyed to Maslowski for the Cincinnati rarities. Both birds could easily have been collected as voucher specimens, but how much will our knowledge suffer as a result since they were not? Of course, the bird could have been an escaped captive, but a specimen may not have had evidence of this.

Of course museum specimens help to confirm knowledge about bird occurrences in years gone by, as well as providing important biological data. It is true that a teaching collection would benefit from unusual specimens. Most of the state's museums have done an excellent job in curating specimens, but the records of their holdings are not always easy for the public to consult. In the nineteenth century many species were more numerous, but strays reported—even by experts of the time—are difficult to confirm without specimen evidence, especially given the primitive conditions of photography and field optics during those days, not to mention a disinclination to describe carefully their features in the field. Observers relied on illustrations by Wilson and Audubon, but to confirm identifications they often referred to detailed diagnostic measurements supplied in resources such as Coues's *Key to North American Birds* (first edition in 1872). This of course required a corpse for the purpose. The

last edition of the *Key* in 1903 ran to two quarto volumes and 1152 pages, and weighed nearly ten pounds, demanding that birds be brought to it, rather than vice versa.

Unfortunately, too many of Ohio's interesting old specimens reported to have been collected cannot now be located, and descriptions of these birds from long ago are seldom more than scanty. It is frustrating that the older Ohio observers repeatedly reported seeing—and collecting—rare species such as Gull-billed and Roseate terns here, but offered very little by way of description, and as the specimens they reported are lost, these terns cannot be recognized as having occurred in Ohio. As for the far more common Caspian Tern, Wheaton's lengthy work on Ohio birds does not even mention it for Ohio, and OSU has no nineteenth-century specimen from the state. Jones 1903 (p. 17) calls it "a summer straggler" and "probably a wanderer from the south" (though it breeds to our north); Peterjohn (2001:242) attributes such low estimations to the depredations of the feather trade. Trautman offers a useful brief overview of Ohio's terns in his *Birds of Western Lake Erie* (2006:177-8).

All the skilled illustrators of field guides have spent many hours among the millions of study specimens available in museums; their having done so has made it easier for observers to identify and understand birds accurately without killing their first. And even observers who lack familiarity with unusual birds may nonetheless provide valuable first-hand information—photographs are only one obvious example—to help validate identifications. We may wonder if Trautman risked diminishing our collective knowledge about Ohio's birds by insisting that specimens alone verify their presence here, as consulting museum collections was easy for him, but quite a task for the average person.

Trautman really did keep "fictional" and "factual" lists of birds reported in Ohio; he maintained files of both in his office, and they rigidly guided his choice of species for his *Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio*. He had, for example, twice published having seen a long-billed curlew with other observers in *Delaware* in Trautman (1940:241), without collecting it or adding it to his published Ohio species lists. Some of his friends tested his principles in 1960, when they played a prank on him. Here follows an account Tom Thomson wrote about it, courtesy of Columbus's *Short North Gazette*, in the issue for April 2004:

From time to time, his bird collecting activities proved to be a sore point among many of his associates and birders. This

was especially true when a really rare bird just upped and disappeared before many people had a chance to see it. This happened a lot, and as people became more environmentally aware, a lot of rare bird sightings were never widely reported for fear they would fall prey to Milt's shotgun.

I can't resist telling this one story about Milt. Back in 1960, several of his birding buddies were on their way home from a trip to the Rocky Mountains when they stopped to examine a black-billed magpie that had been killed by a car.

The specimen was in good condition, so they kept it. Not many miles down the road they stopped in a small town where they were able to purchase a supply of dry ice. They put the magpie in a paper sack with the dry ice and continued on their merry way. Somewhere between eastern Colorado and Ohio, they hatched a nefarious plot, which I have always called the Great Magpie Caper.

Hours before arriving home they took the dead magpie out of the sack so it would thaw. Then, they drove quietly by Milt's house, tossed the dead bird in his driveway and sped away, barely able to contain their mirth.

You can guess what happened next. Milt found the bird, considered it a legitimate stray that had accidentally wandered into Ohio, skinned it, attached a label to it, deposited it in the state collection and included the record in his and Mary's *Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio*. You can find it there today under "Accidentals or Very Irregular Visitors." Very irregular, I would say.

Mary passed away in 1986; Milt died in 1991. I don't think he ever knew the truth about the magpie. But if he had, I can almost hear his high-pitched scratchy voice excitedly declaring "Well, that's one of the dumbest things I ever heard!"

True to his principles, Trautman later saw a live magpie in northwest Ohio in 1964 while in the distinguished company of Irv Kassoy and Lou Campbell (*Toledo Naturalists' Association Yearbook*, Vol. 20), but never mentioned this living bird in his *Annotated Checklist* of 1968 (p. 316). As for the prank magpie specimen he recorded in Columbus, the tag attached to OSUM #12523 reads: "Found by M.B.T. at 6:30 am, run over in front of his driveway. Was not there at dark the previous evening. Found at 6:30 am. Blood of

bird and bird stuck to street. Dew on feathers.” Some have speculated that Thomson may have been among the anonymous birding buddies he mentions, but this seems unlikely. For one thing, he wrote that “the specimen was in good condition,” but an in-hand look at the bird shows it had been flattened and torn, and Trautman had laboriously sewn the skin together to restore it. Besides, everyone knew Tom had the better sense of humor.

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- Peterjohn, B. 2001. *The Birds of Ohio*. Wooster Book Co., Wooster, Ohio.
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- Trautman, M. 2006. *Birds of Western Lake Erie: Documented Observations and Notes, 1850-1980*. RLS Creations, Columbus, Ohio.

Columbus birder and former Cardinal editor Bill Whan adds another chapter to his ongoing accounts of Ohio's avian history.

YEARS AGO

By Craig Caldwell

10 years ago, the Summer 2005 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 28 No. 4 (Bill Whan, Editor) contained these items:

The cover photo was of Ohio's first documented Sooty Tern, which spent 13 to 19 Jul at East Fork.

The Division of Wildlife announced the end of its Trumpeter Swan (re)introductions, with future efforts to be limited to monitoring.

Four White Ibis sightings were listed, with the note that photographs showed that at least two different birds were represented.

Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported.

25 years ago, the Summer 1990 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 13 No. 4 (Ed Pierce and Tom Kemp, Co-Editors), was the last of the 8½" x 11" issues, and contained these items:

Ohio's second White Ibis visited Spring Valley WA, **GreenelWarren**, on 14 Jul.

Five Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in Dayton, one at Spring Valley WA, and one in Cleveland.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet pair fledged young at OOPMP for Ohio's first breeding record of the species. Reports came from 47 counties.

35 years ago, the Summer 1980 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Ed Pierce and Tom Bartlett, Co-Editors) included these items:

ONWR hosted the state's first documented Wilson's Phalarope nest and Irwin Prairie SNP, **Lucas**, the second for Bell's Vireo.

An Arctic Tern which visited Huron, **Erie**, provided our first photographic record of the species.

A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron pair fledged three young at Lake Logan and single birds were seen in **Cuyahoga** and **Franklin**.

The Bald Eagle "Sandusky Co. nest fledged 2 young (one a transplant from Patuxent) and [the] Lucas Co. nest at ONWR fledged 2 young".

A pair of Bewick's Wrens fledged at least one youngster in **Brown**.

House finches were "increasing and expanding".

50 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* of Summer 1965, Vol. 61, No. 3 (Donald Newman, Editor) included these items:

A Double-crested Cormorant seen by the **Lorain** shore on 31 Jul was the "first summer record since July 1949".

One Little Blue Heron was seen in Rocky River, **Cuyahoga**, and two at Nimisilla Reservoir, **Summit**.

The Cleveland area's first Black Rail was seen on 21 Jul.

An Iceland Gull was recorded in **Lorain** on 03 Jul.

A female House Finch in **Geauga** on 18 Jul was the first summer record of the species in the Cleveland area.

100 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* did not publish a Summer 1915 issue.

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The Counties of Ohio



*Kurt Wray discovered and photographed this Red Knot in lovely breeding plumage during a stop in its northern migration at the Bay Point sandbar, **Ottawa**, on 03 Jun.*

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife. Please refer to our website (www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested and should be submitted directly, by email or postal mail to:

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145

craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Send digital photo files or links to Laura Keene:

laurakeene@cinci.rr.com

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

Back cover:

*The Dickcissel is a perennial favorite in Ohio grasslands, and Darlene Friedman captured the action in **Lucas** on 18 Jun.*

OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
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Contents

Comments on the Season

By Craig Caldwell 158

Species Accounts

By Craig Caldwell 162

Contributors 180

Addenda

By Craig Caldwell 182

Birding with My Boy

By Andrew Pegman 185

Documentation for Rare Bird Records

By Bill Whan 186

Years Ago

By Craig Caldwell 190

