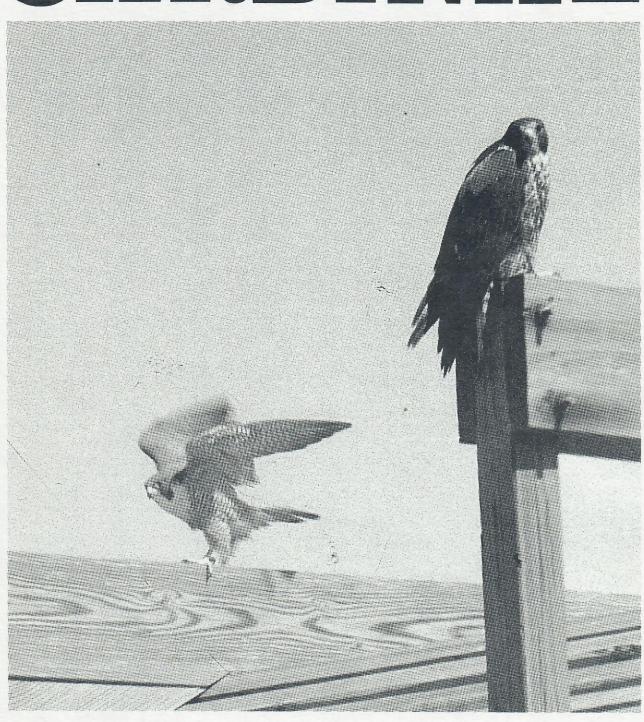
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# 7he Ohio CARDINAL



The Ohio Cardinal is published quarterly each year, under the sponsorship of The Toledo Naturalists' Association, in January, April, July, and September. The subscription rate for four issues is \$10.00.

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The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports are welcome from any area in the state. They should be sent to: Tom Kemp, 7021 Manore Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571. Send seasonal reports according to the following schedule:

Winter, March 10 Spring, June 10 Summer, August 10 Autumn. December 10

It is important that the reports be sent by the above dates if the journal is to be a timely publication. Late reports run the risk of not being accepted.

Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented and forms will be provided upon request.

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Cover: Peregrine Falcons on top of the Commodore Perry building, downtown Toledo, Ohio, June 1988. Photograph by Steve Pollick, courtesy The Blade.

### OHIO'S FIRST RECORD OF BREEDING PEREGRINE FALCONS

### Matt Anderson

As probably every birder in Ohio already knows, downtown Toledo's Peregrine falcons provided Ohio with its first ever recorded breeding record during the spring and summer of 1988.

Events leading up to this nesting have been covered in considerable detail in previous issues. A chronology of noteworthy happenings of the Toledo Peregrines is presented below:

November, 1986 - immature female Peregrine is seen in downtown Toledo for the first time March, 1987 - adult male Peregrine joins the female

January, 1988 - female Peregrine (unbanded) found dead on a downtown Toledo street February, 1988 - a second immature female Peregrine joined the adult male

May, 1988 - nest discovered with two chicks on top of Commodore Perry building July, 1988 - two young fledged from nest

A successful nesting of Peregrine falcons in Ohio is certainly a significant ornithological event. Research by Dennis Case, a non-game biologist in the Ohio Division of Wildlife, indicates that the Commodore Perry building nest represents only the the third known nesting for the U.S. between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. One of the previous nestings was in Tennessee and the other along the Mississippi River, each in the 19th century.

During recent years, Peregrine falcons have been introduced to a variety of U.S. cities. The Toledo situation is somewhat unique in that both the male and female found Toledo on their own. Each of the birds was banded; however, not much is known about the male bird as the band apparently was never able to be read. On the other hand, the bands on the female painted a fairly clear picture. The female Peregrine (dubbed "Nellie McClung" by the falcon handler who released her) was hatched on June 13, 1987 in Wainwright, Alberta and was then moved to a research station in Ontario. She was released in Font Hill, Ontario in July 1987 and is the only one of eight Peregrines released that day known to still be alive. Nesting by a subadult is apparently quite unusual, but not unprecedented.

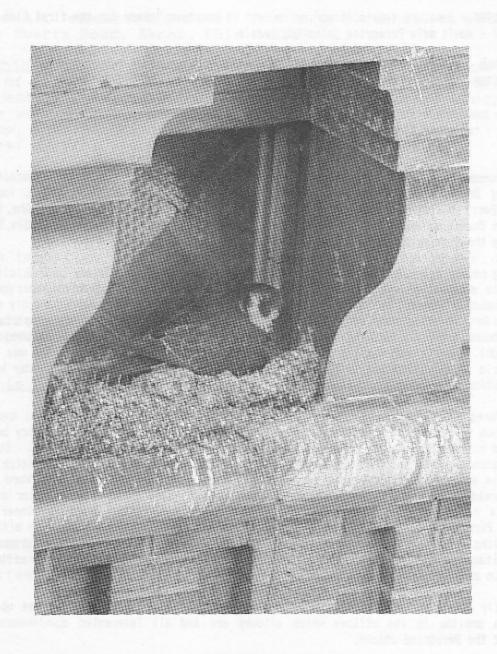
The Peregrine falcons were observed by many each day in their downtown haunts, and it was becoming quite obvious in the spring that the birds were taking a liking to the Commodore Perry building which had been closed since 1986. On May 25, the nest was discovered by maintenance workers. It already had one recently hatched chick and possibly a second along with an egg (which never did hatch). The eggs had been laid in an old pigeon nest on a narrow ledge near the top of the building. Word of the Peregrine nesting spread quickly. The Blade ran a couple of front page articles with color pictures and even sponsored a name the falcon contest for the male Peregrine. (The eventual winner happened to be "Commodore Perrygrine".) Fortunately, a decision was made by building management to minimize disturbance of the nesting site. Only a few people were allowed access to the building top, and many felt that even this constituted excessive disturbance. Thankfully, a suggestion by one wildlife official to move the nest site to safer environs was not pursued.

Shortly after the nest was discovered, the local public TV station (WGTE) set up a camera on the nest and a monitor in its offices which allowed any and all interested downtowners to witness the progress of the Peregrine chicks.

In early July, about 40 days after hatching, the Peregrine young attempted their first flights. The Fourth of July weekend and the next several days were a bit harrowing for the young Peregrines as they encountered many of the hazards of downtown life. Each of the chicks was rescued from sidewalks and other predicaments by a group of volunteers who patrolled the downtown area to enhance the falcons' chances of survival.

The young and adults continued to be observed on and around the Commodore Perry building for a couple of weeks. As far as I know, there have not been any sightings of the young birds since. With any luck, they both survived and moved on. The only way we will know for sure of the young falcons' fate is through banding information returns. The adults are still being seen at least erratically in and around downtown Toledo. It appears that since breeding duties were completed, they are wandering away from the city (and probably along the shores of Lake Erie and the Maumee River) regularly.

It will be interesting to see if they try again next year.



Peregrine falcon on nest, downtown Toledo, Ohio, June 1988. Photograph by Steve Pollick, courtesy  $\underline{\text{The Blade}}$ .

### Ohio's Second Black-throated Sparrow

### Andy Fondrk

It was 7:20 A.M. on June 4, 1988 and the traffic on State Route 608 in Hambden Township had become so heavy that we were having difficulty listening for birds. Three of us were conducting the annual Breeding Bird Census. We were at stop number 16 which in the past had always been conspicious for its absence of birds. John Austine and I were on the road while Bob McCullough was in the car keeping time.

I noticed a small bird that had landed on an electric wire across the road. Through my binoculars I could see a triangular-shape black patch on its breast, a white stripe above and below the eye and a dark tail. We discounted its being a Dickcissel since it showed no yellow on the breast. I casually mentioned Black-throated sparrow as a possibility although at the time I could not have given a definite description of the bird. I had seen the bird twice before, once in Arizona and again at Big Bend in Texas. At this point a car came along and frightened the bird off the wire. Then it disappeared. Our time for this stop had expired, so we had to move on.

After completing the survey we returned to the spot but did not see any sign of the bird. At home I checked the field guides and felt more certain than ever that I had actually seen a Black-throated sparrow. I debated calling anyone for fear of being ridiculed, but my excitement overruled my caution. Finally with some trepidation I contacted two fellow members of the Kirtland Bird Club, Larry Rosche and Rob Harlan. They were both supportive of my discovery. Larry said he would meet me at the site the next morning.

When I arrived at about 7:15 A.M. the bird was on the wire. At this point I was positive it was a Black-throated sparrow. About an hour later Larry arrived and confirmed the identity of the bird. It remained in this area until at least July 29 and was seen by scores of birders.

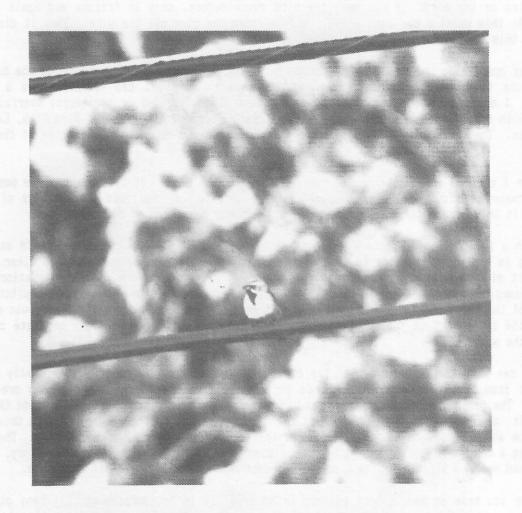
With a parabolic microphone I recorded three different vocalizations - two calls and a song. The main song is similar in cadence to that of a Song sparrow. It starts out with two clear notes followed by a short slurred note and ends with a rapid trill. The two calls seem to be variations of the song. The one used most often when the bird is in dense shrubbery, sounds like a higher-pitched, speeded-up version of the trill part of the song. The other call that I recorded while the bird was on the wire was clearly the trill part of the song. Perhaps this cannot even be considered a separate call but only a part of the song.

To say that the bird is out of its range is a gross understatement. It normally resides in the southwest from Texas to California and as far north as Utah and Nevada inhabiting creosote and sage regions. The general size of the trees would be the only similarity between its present Ohio habitat and the one it inhabits in the desert. Most of the area frequented by the sparrow here in Ohio is made up of low shrubs and trees, such as ash and cherry, that are in the process of succession. The closest thing resembling a desert in the area is a 51 acre almost bare field adjacent to the territory. A landscaping company had skimmed off the top soil and the present owner is selling it off into lots.

When you have so many expert birders in an area, it is not surprising that many other species of birds "turn up". I compiled a list of 42 birds seen or heard near the Black-throated sparrow site including three Red crossbills, a Mourning warbler, a chat, a White-eyed vireo, a redstart, an Alder flycatcher and a Black-billed cuckoo.

It is interesting to speculate as to how the bird arrived in Northeastern Ohio. Was it blown here by some storm or perhaps a series of storms? Did it make its trip in one year, two years, or longer? Perhaps it joined a flock of migrating birds in Texas and ended up in Ohio. Why did it decide to stop in this particular spot? The only other state record was at a residence in Ashtabula County in 1961. So, why have the only two Black-throated sparrows found in Ohio been located in the Northeastern part of the state?

Finding the unexpected is one of the many joys of birding. It fuels one's enthusiasm to look for more.



Black-throated sparrow in Geauga County, Ohio, June 4 - July 29, 1988. Photograph by Andy Fondrk.

# THE 1988 SUMMER SEASON 1 JUNE - JULY 31

### Matt Anderson and Tom Kemp

Whew! Ohio, the midwest, and much of the United States and Canada experienced one of the hottest (if not the hottest) summer in at least fifty years. Never has Ohio seen so many days where temperatures exceeded 90 degrees. As an example, Toledo, which normally experiences about one dozen days over 90 degrees for the year, had well over 40 in 1988. Temperatures in excess of 100 degrees even became somewhat old hat. Atypical for Ohio, the unusually high temperatures were accompanied by unusually low humidity through at least most of June.

As bad as the heat was though, the dry was actually much more newsworthy. Many areas had virtually no rain from Easter through mid-July. Farmers suffered miserably. There is little doubt that many birds did not fair well either. Waterbirds, insect-eating birds, and species that feed on worms were all stressed as marshes, ponds, and creekbeds dried up (thereby greatly diminishing suitable insect-breeding habitat) and the ground became rock hard. Many plants withered and died before they were able to produce flowers and seeds. Sparrows and other species will find the going a bit tougher this fall and winter. It will be difficult to quantify the adverse effects of the drought on local bird populations. Needless to say, we can only hope that we do not have another repeat of such miserable weather.

A total of 214 species was reported for the summer period. Thirty-five species or so were late spring or early fall migrants. Were the White-rumped sandpipers at the Maumee River Rapids on June 26 heading north or south? It's speculation at best, but did the widespread drought have anything to do with the appearance of two western birds: a Black-throated sparrow at Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area (see seperate article) or a Black-headed grosbeak in Whitehouse, Ohio? Likewise, did dry conditions push southern species north in search of suitable breeding conditions? The Oak Openings had as many as three male Summer tanagers, three Kentucky warblers, probably its first-ever summer Yellow-throated warbler, and most surprisingly, a breeding pair of Blue grosbeaks (see seperate article).

Downtown Toledo's Peregrine falcons came through in a big way. They raised two young on the Commodore Perry Building for Ohio's first recorded breeding record. This event is covered in detail elsewhere in this issue.

The following is a synopsis of the highlights of the summer season.

### Loons through Ruddy Duck

The only Common loon report was of a single bird on June 7 at Caesar Creek. Double-crested cormorants were noted at three locations; however, no mention was made of any nesting attempts at Ottawa Wildlife Refuge as occurred in 1987. An American bittern at Gordon Park on July 23 was noteworthy as was the scarcity of Least bitterns - only one was reported. Snowy amd Cattle egrets and Little Blue herons were all present in lower-than-normal numbers. Drought conditions may have contributed to the decline. Three Yellow-crowned night-herons were seen in Dayton and two were at South Chagrin Reservation July 20. Waterfowl reports were unimpressive in general. Noteworthy, though, was a family group of Hooded mergansers at Brecksville Reserve and nesting Ruddy ducks at Barberton.

### Vultures through Terns

Northern harriers were seen in Ashtabula County in June and Columbiana County in July. Very few Red-shouldered hawks were reported: the only mention of nesting was from the Oak Openings. As mentioned earlier, the Peregrine falcons raised two young in downtown Toledo. Twenty-six species of shorebirds were reported during June and July. Most unusual was the old world race Whimbrel on the Maumee River in mid-July (see seperate article). Upland sandpipers were reported from five counties. A couple of American avocets in Wayne County July 20-21 were a pleasant surprise. Gordon Park in Cleveland hosted an American avocet, Marbled godwit, Willet and Whimbrel at various times over the summer. A Laughing gull was documented along the Scioto River on July 20 and a Franklin's gull was on the Maumee River rapids on July 16.

### Doves through Swallows

Black-billed cuckoos continued to be scarce - only 4 were reported. Yellow-billed cuckoos appeared to be more widespread. Very encouraging were nesting records of Common barn-owls from Coshocton, Wayne, and Lucas Counties. A Short-eared owl was present at Huron during the last half of July. Alder flycatchers, always uncommon, were seen in four locations as were Least flycatchers.

### Blue Jay through Warblers

A family group of Red-breasted nuthatches was found in the Maumee State Forest in mid-June, and two were seen at Mohican State Forest in late June. A Winter wren was at Mohican State Forest July 7 and the only Sedge wren report came from the Oak Openings on July 31. Loggerhead shrikes raised young again near Bowling Green. The season's only Bell's vireo report was from Buck Creek State Park. Solitary vireos have become regular in summer at Oak Openings. Noteworthy warbler reports include Golden-winged warblers at Brecksville Reserve and Oak Openings, single Magnolia and Canada warblers in mid-June in Hocking County, a Yellow-throated warbler in the Oak Openings on June 4, and what must have been an extremely early Wilson's warbler at Spring Valley on July 18. An early Tennessee warbler was at Buck Creek State Park on July 23.

### Tanagers through House Sparrow

A male Black-headed grosbeak made a brief appearance in the Oak Openings on June 23, while just a few miles away a pair of Blue grosbeaks were establishing the first northern Ohio breeding record. A Black-throated sparrow at Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area represented the second record for the state and was still present at the end of the period. This sighting is covered elsewhere in this issue. Reports of a White-throated sparrow at Firestone Metropark, a Dark-eyed junco at South Chagrin Reserve, and three Red Crossbills at Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area were all of Interest. A couple of pairs of Pine siskins lingered in the Oak Openings until June 4.

In the following species accounts, unusual species are underlined and an asterisk following a sighting indicates a documentation accepted by the records committee. A 'D' indicates species which should be documented. Common abbreviations used are ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), CPNWR (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge), GLSM (Grand Lake St. Mary's), and CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area). Monthly counts at ONWR and CPNWR are compiled by Ed Pierce and Joe Komorowski, respectively.

### LATE SPRING MIGRANTS/SUMMER VISITORS

Common Loon 96/7 Caesar Creek (SL) Osprey 6/5 ONWRC Black-bellied Plover 6/11 ONWRC, 6/12 CPNWR Semipalmated Plover 6/8 Huron (TL) Marbled Godwit 6/1 Gordon Park (RH) Ruddy Turnstone 6/5 ONWRC (4) Semipalmated Sandpiper 6/4 Barberton (30) (RH), 6/4 Clark Lake (22) (DO), 6/8 Huron (24) (TL) Least Sandpiper 6/12 CPNWR (15) White-rumped Sandpiper 6/8 Huron (2) (TL), 6/26 Maumee R. Rapids (3) (TK) [going north or south?-Ed.] Dunlin 6/8 Huron (TL) Wilson's Phalarope 6/12 CPNWR Caspian Tern 6/10 Caesar Creek (SL) Forster's Tern 6/13 Huron (6) (TL) Olive-sided Flycatcher 6/4 Oak Openings (MA)

Northern Waterthrush

6/5 ONWRC

Mourning Warbler

6/4 Oak Openings (MA)

### EARLY FALL MIGRANTS/SUMMER VISITORS

Osprey

7/16 Maumee River Rapids (2) (MA), 7/26 Caesar Creek (DM)

Lesser Golden-Plover

7/4 Maumee R. Rapids (TK)

Semipalmated Plover

7/23 Gordon Park (TL), 7/23 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 7/26 Gordon Park (12) (TL, RH), 7/29 Huron (3) (BG), 7/30 GLSM (CLC)

American Avocet

7/11 Gordon Park (RH, TL), 7/20-21 Wayne Co. (2) (BG)

Greater Yellowlegs

6/29 Maumee R. Rapids (5) (TK), 7/3 ONWRC (36), 7/9 Gordon Park (TL), 7/12 Spring Valley (LG), 7/16 Buck Creek SP (DO)

Lesser Yellowlegs

6/26 Maumee R. Rapids (5) (TK), 6/28 Gordon Park (13) (RH), 7/3 ONWRC (37), 7/9 Spring Valley (LG), 7/10 CPNWR (8), 7/17 Darby Marsh (35) (KM), 7/28 Gordon Park (88) (TL),

Willet

6/20-7/16 Gordon Park (RH, BG, TL), 7/20 Hancock Co. (6) (BH, AS)

Solitary Sandpiper

6/29 Baldwin Lake (RH), 7/3 ONWRC, 7/10 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 7/21 Spring Valley (3) (LG), 7/26 Hancock Co. (10) (BH, AS)

Whimbrel

7/10-18 Maumee River Rapids (Old World race: see article this issue) (MA, TK, ED), 7/11 Gordon Park (TL, RH), 7/23-25 Burke Airport (TL), 7/30 Huron (ECP)

Ruddy Turnstone

7/29 Huron (3) (BG), 7/31 Gordon Park (TL)

Sanderling

7/14 Huron (2) (TL), 7/19 Gordon Park (8) (RH), 7/31 Buck Creek SP (DO)

Semipalmated Sandpiper

7/3 ONWRC (70), 7/16 Gordon Park (10-15) (TL, BG), 7/23 Gordon Park (50) (TL, RH), 7/23 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/26 Huron (40) (TL)

Western Sandpiper

7/16 Gordon Park (BG), 7/29 Huron (BG)

Least Sandpiper

6/24 Baldwin Lake (RH), 6/29 Maumee R. Rapids (8) (TK), 7/3 ONWRC (27), 7/4 Huron (TL), 7/10 Maumee R. Rapids (23) (MA), 7/10 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/12 Spring Valley (8) (LG), 7/26 Hancock Co. (15) (BH, AS)

Baird's Sandpiper

7/19 Hancock Co. (BH, AS), 7/26 Hancock Co. (2) (BH, AS)

Pectoral Sandpiper

7/3 ONWRC, 7/10 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/12 Huron (TL), 7/15 Maumee R. Rapids (10) (TK), 7/16 Spring Valley (LG), 7/19 Maumee R. Rapids (65) (TK), 7/28 Gordon Park (86) (TL)

Dunlin

7/3 ONWRC

Stilt Sandpiper

6/26 Maumee R. Rapids (TK), 7/9 Gordon Park (TL), 7/26 Huron (6) (TL)

Short-billed Dowltcher

6/27 Huron (TL), 6/28 Gordon Park (RH), 7/3 ONWRC (182), 7/10 Maumee R. Rapids (3) (MA), 7/12 Spring Valley (6) (LG), 7/17 Darby Marsh (30) (KM), 7/19 Gordon Park (140) (RH), 7/20 Hancock Co. (BH, AS)

Laughing Gull

7/20 Scioto River (KM\*)

Franklin's Gull

7/16 Maumee R. Rapids (TK, MA, ED)

Bonaparte's Gull

7/1 Maumee R. Rapids (TK), 7/3 ONWRC (5)

Great Black-backed Gull

7/3 ONWRC

Caspian Tern

6/27 Huron (TL), 7/3 ONWRC (4), 7/5 Gordon Park (TL), 7/10 CPNWR, 7/30 Huron (15) (ECP)

Forster's Tern

6/27 Huron (TL), 7/3 ONWRC (7), 7/10 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/10 CPNWR, 7/14 Huron (65) (TL), 7/30 GLSM (3) (CLC)

Short-eared Owl

7/14-30 Huron (TL, ECP)

Tennessee Warbler

7/23 Buck Creek SP (DO)

Wilson's Warbler

7/18 Spring Valley (banded) (BT)

### SUMMER RESIDENTS

Pied-billed Grebe

6/4-11 Barberton (20) (RH, ECP), 7/19 Hancock Co. (BH, AS), 7/21 ONWR (BG)

<u>Double-crested Cormorant</u>

6/5 ONWRC (3), 6/6 CJ Brown (DO), 7/21 ONWR (4) (BG), 7/30 Meander Res. (6) (NB) [presumed to be non-breeders-Ed.]

American Bittern

7/23 Gordon Park (RH) [early migrant?-Ed.]

Least Bittern

6/4 Spring Valley (SL)

Great Blue Heron

6/12 CPNWR (1078), 7/3 ONWRC (430), 7/10 CPNWR (529), 7/17 Darby Marsh (80) (KM), 7/19 Findlay Res. (21) (BH, AS), 7/21 ONWR (30+) (BG), very low in SW Ohio (AW).

Great Egret

6/11 DNWR (158) (ECP), 6/12 CPNWR (44), 7/17 Darby Marsh (45) (KM), 7/21 ONWR (50+) (BG)

Snowy Egret

6/5 ONWRC (3), 7/21 ONWR (2) (BG)

Little Blue Heron

7/21 ONWR (BG)

Cattle Egret

6/26 Erie Co. (KM)

Green-backed Heron

6/5 ONWRC (6), 6/12 Clark Co. (7) (DO), 7/8 Adams Co. (3) (BL), 7/17 Darby Marsh (5) (KM), 7/21 Spring Valley (10) (LG), 7/26 Findlay Res. (BH, AS), listed as "way down" in Hocking and Hamilton Cos. (WR, AW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

6/12 CPNWR (96), 7/3 ONWRC (65), 7/10 CPNWR (66), 7/12 Spring Valley (LG), 7/12 Cuyahoga Co. (RH), 7/16 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/17 Darby Marsh (50) (KM), 7/21 ONWR (BG), nested in Hamilton Co. (NK).

Yellow-growned Night-Heron

7/4 Dayton (3) (NBa). 7/20 South Chagrin Res. (2) (RH)

Canada Goose

6/26 Darby Marsh (50) (KM), 7/3 DNWRC (335), 7/26 Findlay Res. (90) (BH, AS)

Wood Duck

6/5 ONWRC (85), 6/12 CPNWR (114), 7/17 Darby Marsh (40) (KM), 7/19 Hancock Co. (24) (BH, AS), 7/21 Spring Valley (30) (LG).

Green-winged Teal

6/12 CPNWR, 7/3 ONWRC (8), 7:24 Gordon Park (2)

American Black Duck

6/7 Cuyahoga Co. (RH). 6/12 CPNWR (6). 7/17 Darby Marsh (6) (KM)

Mallard

6.5 ONWPC (363), 6 12 CPNWR (521)

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Northern Pintail
     7/3 ONWRC
Blue-winged Teal
     6/5 ONWRC (3), 6/12 CPNWR (7), 6/26 Darby Marsh (15), 7/10 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/21 ONWR (4) (BG)
Northern Shoveler
     6/4 Barberton (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (3)
Gadwall
     6/12 CPNWR (4)
scaup, sp.
     6/5 ONWRC
Hooded Merganser
     6/18 Brecksville Res. (female, 5 young) (RH), 7/3 ONWRC (3)
Ruddy Duck
     6/4 Barberton (nested) (RH), 6/12 CPNWR
Black Vulture
     6/25 Adams Co. (nested) (ECP), 7/27 Adams Co. (BL)
     6/12 CPNWR, 6/1-7/31 ONWR (m.ob.)
Northern Harrier
     6/12 Ashtabula Co. (3) (RH), 7/26 Columbiana Co. (NL)
Sharp-shinned Hawk
     6/23 CVNRA (RH)
Cooper's Hawk
     6/10 Caesar Creek (SL), 6/14 Hancock Co. (2 ad., 4 young) (KN), 7/19 Canfield (NB), nested in the
Oak Openings (TK).
Red-shouldered Hawk
     6/3 CVNRA (2) (RH), 7/12 Sugarcreek Res. (2) (MN), nested in the Oak Openings (TK).
Broad-winged Hawk
     6/3 CVNRA (RH), nested in the Oak Openings (MA, TK).
Peregrine Falcon
     Pair nested and fledged two young in downtown Toledo; see article and photos this issue. 7/10 CPNWR
(JKo)*.
     7/13 Mohican SF (TK), nested in Holmes Co. (fide BG), reported from Washington Co. (LB).
King Rail
     7/19 Hancock Co. (BH, AS) (よ)
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6/4 Washington Co. (LB), 6/12 Plymouth Marsh (RH), 7/4 Firestone MP (ECP), 7/22 Metzger Marsh (BG)

Virginia Rail

Sora

6/12 Plymouth Marsh (5) (RH)

Common Moorhen

6/1-7/31 Barberton (nested) (ECP), 7/22 Metzger Marsh (3-4) (BG), 7/30 Spring Valley (2) (LG)

American Coot

6/4-11 Barberton (32 including adult on nest) (RH, ECP), 6/12 CPNWR

Killdeer

7/3 ONWRC (300), 7/16 ONWR (325+) (KM), 7/17 Darby Marsh (150) (KM)

Spotted Sandpiper

6/5 ONWRC (18), 7/10 CPNWR (14), 7/17 Darby Marsh (12) (KM), 7/19 Findlay Res. (24) (BH, AS)

Upland Sandpiper

6/13 Fulton Co. (TK), 6/16-27 Mansfield Airport (JVH, SM), 6/26 Wright Patterson AFB (3) (fide JS), 6/30 Henry Co. (TK), 7/23-30 Burke Airport (2) (RH, TL)

American Woodcock

7/10 CPNWR

Ring-billed Gull

7/30 GLSM (250) (CLC)

Common Tern

6/12 CPNWR, 6/13 Huron (7) (TL), 7/3 ONWRC (9), 7/17 Darby Marsh (KM), 7/26 Huron (75) (TL) [presumed non-breeders-Ed.]

Black Tern

6/29 Spring Valley (2) (WW, PH), 7/1 Maumee R. Rapids (TK), 7/16 ONWR (3) (KM), 7/17 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/30 Gordon Park (13) (TL) [presumed non-breeders-Ed.]

Black-billed Cuckoo

6/3 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/5 ONWRC, 6/1 Holmes Co. (BG), 6/12 CPNWR

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

6/4 Clark Lake (DO), 6/7 Hancock Co. (5) (m.ob.), 6/9 Fort Ancient (LG), 6/12 CPNWR (4), 6/18 Scioto Trails SP (8) (ECP), 6/19 Adams Co. (2) (BL), 6/26 Darby Marsh (2) (KM), 6/26 Huffman Prairie (m.ob.)

Common Barn-Owl

Nested Coshocton Co. (6 young) (JVH), Tuscarawas Co. (m.ob.), Lucas Co. (6 young) (LVC)

Eastern Screech-Owl

Forty-one young banded in 19 boxes in Lucas/Ottawa Cos. (LVC).

Chuck-will's-widow

6/25 Adams Co. (3) (ECP), 7/9 Ohio Brush Creek (13) (TK)

Whip-poor-will

6/10 Caesar Creek (SL), 6/25 Adams Co. (4) (ECP), way down in Hocking Co. (WR).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

6/8 CVNRA (4) (RH), 6/12 Clark Co. (DO), 7/4 Canfield (4) (NB), 7/31 Cak Openings (10) (MA), listed as down in the Wilmington area (LG).

Belted Kingfisher

6/12 Clark Co. (20) (DO)

Red-headed Woodpecker

6/4 Clark Co. (DO), 7/19 Hancock Co. (BH, AS)

Pileated Woodpecker

6/2 Clark Co. (DO), 6/5 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/15 CVNRA (RH), 97/15 Englewood Res. (5) (fide JS)

Eastern Wood-Pewee

6/3-15 CVNRA (49) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (10), 6/7 Hancock Co. (10) (m.ob.), 6/12 Clark Co. (10) (DO), 6/12 CPNWR, 7/17 Darby Marsh (10) (KM)

Acadian Flycatcher

6/3-15 CVNRA (36) (RH)

Alder Flycatcher

6/3 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/12 Plymouth Marsh (RH), 6/18 Maumee SF (MA, TK), 6/20 Hambden Orchard WA (ECP)

Willow Flycatcher

6/7 Hancock Co. (m.ob.), 6/12 CPNWR (4), 6/22 Noble Co. (LB), 7/3 ONWRC (12), 7/23 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 7/24 Spring Valley (LG, SU)

Least Flycatcher

6/11 Barberton (ECP), 6/11 Buck Creek SP (DO), 6/15 Mill Creek Pk. (NB), 7/10 CPNWR

Great Crested Flycatcher

6/3-15 CVNRA (11) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (6)

Eastern Kingbird

6/7 Hancock Co. (9) (m.ob.), 7/3 ONWRC (27), 7/16 Adams Co. (3)

Horned Lark

6/14 Fulton Co. (52) (TK), 6/30 Henry/Putnam Cos. (69) (TK)

Purple Martin

6/5 ONWRC (24), 7/10 CPNWR (9), 7/17 Darby Marsh (65) (KM), 7/19 Hancock Co. (19) (BH, AS)

Tree Swallow

6/26 Darby Marsh (75) (KM), 7/3 ONWRC (150), 7/10 CPNWR (231)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

6/3 CVNRA (RH), 6/3 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/7 Hancock Co. (m.ob.), 6/10 Caesar Creek (colony) (SL), 6/12 Clark Co. (20) (DO), 7/17 Darby Marsh (8) (KM)

Bank Swallow

7/23 Clinton Co. (350) (LG), 7/27 Buck Creek SP (300) (DO)

Cliff Swallow

6/10 Richiand Co. (6 prs.) (JVH), 7/17 Maumee R. Rapids (3 nests) (MA), 7/27 Buck Creek SP (DO), nested at Magee Marsh (m.ob.), 7/30 GLSM (CLC)

Barn Swallow

7/10 CPNWR (28), 7/17 Darby Marsh (125) (KM), 7/19 Findlay Res. (77) (BH, AS)

Black-capped Chickadee

6/3-15 CVNRA (42) (RH)

Tufted Titmouse

6/3-15 CVNRA (62) (RH)

Red-breasted Nuthatch

6/18 Maumee SF (family group of 6) (TK), 6/20-28 Mohican SF (2) (JVH)

House Wren

6/5 ONWRC (21), 6/7 Hancock Co. (28) (m.ob.), 6/12 Clark Co. (15) (DO), 7/17 Darby Marsh (20) (KM)

Winter Wren

7/7 Mohican SF (SM)

Sedge Wren

7/31 Oak Openings (MA)

Marsh Wren

6/4-11 Barberton (6) (ECP, RH), 6/5 ONWRC (7), 6/18 CJ Brown (6) (LG), 7/9 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 7/10 CPNWR (10)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

6/12 Clark Co. (12) (DO), numbers down in Columbiana Co. (NL).

Veery

6/4 Spring Valley (NK), 6/5 ONWRC, 26/15 Hocking Co. (WR), 6/20 Mohican SF (JVH)

Hermit Thrush

96/15 Hocking Co. (12) (WR), 7/13 Mohican SF (nest, 3 eggs) (TK)

Wood Thrush

6/3-15 CVNRA (18) (RH); populations low in Columbiana Co. (NL).

Gray Catbird

6/7 Hancock Co. (35) (m.ob.), 6/26 Darby Marsh (12) (KM), 7/2 Firestone MP (20) (ECP)

Brown Thrasher

Low numbers in Clinton Co. (LG).

Cedar Waxwing

6/7 Hancock Co. (18) (m.ob.), 7/10 CPNWR (8)

Loggerhead Shrike

6/11-25 Wood Co. (incubating) (ECP, RH), 7/31 Burke Airport (RH)

White-eyed Vireo

Increasing in Columbiana Co. (NL)

Bell's Vireo

6/6-7/9 Buck Creek SP (DO)

Solitary Vireo

6/7 Hancock Co. (m.ob.). 6/15-7/13 Brecksville Res. (3 males, one active nest) (RH), 96/15 Hocking Co. (WR), 7/22 Rocky River Res. (RH). 96/15 Oak Openings (2) (MA), 7/24 Firestone MP (ECP)

Yellow-throated Vireo

6/3-15 CVNRA (16), 6/9 Fort Ancient (LG), 6/12 Clark Co. (3) (DO), 26/15 Oak Openings (6) (MA)

Warbling Vireo

6/5 ONWRC (9), 6/8 CVNRA (5) (RH), 6/12 CPNWR (5), 6/12 Clark Co. (15) (DO), 7/24 Spring Valley (SU, LG)

Red-eyed Vireo

6/3-15 CVNRA (95) (RH)

Blue-winged Warbler

6/3-15 CVNRA (18) (RH), 7/3 Columbiana Co. (NL), 7/23 Spring Valley (LG)

Golden-winged Warbler

6/8-18 Brecksville Res. (RH), 96/15 Oak Openings (m.ob.)

"Brewster's Warbler"

6/18 Maumee SF (TK, MA)

Northern Parula

7/3 Columbiana Co. (NL), 7/6 L. Miami River (3) (LG), 7/10 Hocking Co. (4) (TK)

Yellow Warbler

6/5 ONWRC (54), 6/7 Hancock Co. (9) (m.ob.), 6/12 Clark Co. (8) (DO), 6/12 CPNWR (7), 6/26 Darby Marsh (10) (KM), 7/24 Gordon Park (30) (RH)

Chestnut-sided Warbler

6/12 Ashtabula Co. (3) (RH)

Magnolia Warbler

96/15 Hocking Co. (WR)

Black-throated Green. Warbler

7/3 Colmbiana Co. (NL), 7/9 Hocking Co. (common) (TK), 6/20-7/12 Mohican SF (12) (JVH, TK)

Yellow-throated Warbler

6/4 Oak Openings (very rare in NW Ohio) (MA, TK, ED), 6/8-18 Brecksville Res. (RH), 7/9 Shawnee SP (3) (TK); increasing in Columbiana Co. (NL).

Pine Warbler

6/11 Germantown Res. (CDB), 36/15 Oak Openings (2) (MA, TK), 6/20 Mohican SF (JVH), 7/9 Shawnee SP (TK), 7/12 Howland (CB)

Prairie Warbler

6/5 Columbiana Co. (4-6) (NB), 96/15 Oak Openings (pair) (MA), 6/18 CVNRA (2) (RH), 6/28 Richland Co. (JVH), 7/31 Adams Co. (3) (BL)

Cerulean Warbler

6/3-15 CVNRA (24) (RH), 6/5 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/15 Mosquito Creek (CB), 7/9 Shawnee SP (3) (TK), 7/2 Fort Ancient (LG)

Black-and-white Warbler

7/9 Shawnee SP (TK), 7/12 Sugarcreek Res. (MN), 7/13 Spring Valley (KD), 7/26 L. Isaac (RH)

American Redstart

6/3-15 CVNRA (15) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (2), 6/9 L. Miami River (LG), 6/12 CPNWR, 6/19 Firestone MP (ECP), 6/20 Sugarcreek Res. (CM), 7/12 Mohican SF (TK)

Prothonotary Warbler

6/10 Caesar Creek (3) (SL), 6/12 Clark Co. (DO), 6/18 Brecksville Res. (2) (RH), 7/3 ONWRC (2)

Worm-eating Warbler

96/15 Hocking Co. (30) (WR), 6/23 Fort Ancient (LG), 7/13 Mohican SF (feeding young) (TK)

Ovenbird

6/3-15 CVNRA (15) (RH)

Louisiana Waterthrush

6/3-15 CVNRA (4) (RH), 96/15 Oak Openings (3 pairs) (MA, TK)

Kentucky Warbler

Q6/15 Oak Openings (3) (MA, TK), 6/18 Scioto Trails SP (10) (ECP), 7/13 Mohican SF (3 families) (TK), 7/28 Adams Co. (4) (BL), down in Columbiana Co. (NL).

Mourning Warbler

6/12 Ashtabula Co. (RH), 6/16-18 Geauga Co. (RH, ECP)

Common Yellowthroat

6/3-15 CVNRA (16) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (21), 7/10 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 7/10 CPNWR (12), 7/17 Darby Marsh (10) (KM), 7/19 Hancock Co. (10) (BH, AS)

Hooded Warbler

6/3-15 CVNRA (65) (RH), 96/15 Oak Openings (6) (MA)

Canada Warbler

6/13 Hocking Co. (WR, LG)

Yellow-breasted Chat

6/4 Spring Valley (TLi), 6/7 Hancock Co. (m.ob.), 6/11 Cowan Creek (LG), 6/11 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO), 6/15 Adams Co. (2) (BL), 96/15 Oak Openings (MA)

Summer Tanager

96/15 Oak Openings (MA), 6/23 Fort Ancient (LG), 7/18 Adams Co. (3) (BL), 7/31 L. Cowan (LG)

Scarlet Tanager

6/3-15 CVNRA (34) (RH)

Northern Cardinal

6/3-15 CVNRA (78) (RH)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

6/3-15 CVNRA (15) (RH), 6/12 Clark Co. (4) (DO), 6/19 Spring Valley (LG)

Black-headed Grosbeak

6/23 Oak Openings (MA)\*

Blue Grosbeak

6/18-7/5 Oak Openings (TK\*, m.ob.) (Nested for the first northern Ohio breeding record. See article this issue.); 6/25 Adams Co. (ECP), 7/9 Ohio Brush Creek (4) (TK), 7/31 Adams Co. (3) (BL).

Indigo Bunting

6/3-15 CVNRA (61) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (40), 6/7 Hancock Co. (26) (m.ob.), 6/12 Clark Co. (15) (DO), 6/14 Fulton Co. (30) (TK), 6/28 Allen/Putnam Cos. (36) (TK), 7/17 Darby Marsh (20) (KM)

Dickcissel

6/9-14 Mahoning Co. (NB), 6/12-26 Washington Co. (pair) (LB), 7/3 ONWRC (4), nested Holmes Co. (BG), widespread in W. Lucas Co. (TK, MA).

Rufous-sided Towhee

6/3-15 CVNRA (RH)

Chipping Sparrow

6/14 Fulton Co. (33) (TK)

Vesper Sparrow

6/14 Fulton Co. (24) (TK), 6/30 Henry/Putnam Cos. (30) (TK)

Lark Sparrow

7/24 Adams Co. (BL): at least 2 pairs in the Oak Openings (m.ob.), nested in Hamilton Co. (PG).

Black-throated Sparrow

6/4-7/31 Hambden Orchard WA (AF. m.ob.): second state record; see article this issue.

Savannah Sparrow

6/14 Fulton Co. (17) (TK), 6/30 Henry/Putnam Cos. (28) (TK)

Grasshopper Sparrow

6/4 Clark Co. (DO), 6/9-14 Mahoning Co. (NB), 6/10 CJ Brown (DO), 6/18 Oak Openings (MA, TK), 6/18 CJ Brown (LG), 6/25 Adams Co. (ECP), 6/26 Huffman Prairie (m.ob.), 96/30 Greene Co. (MT)

Henslow's Sparrow

6/9-14 Mahoning Co. (NB), 6/20-7/31 Richland Co. (2) (JVH), 6/26 Washington Co. (LB), 7/9 Ohio Brush Creek (7) (TK), 7/13 Hocking Co. (TK)

Song Sparrow

6/12 Clark Co. (20) (DO), 6/14 Fulton Co. (42) (TK), 6/28 Allen/Putnam Cos. (60) (TK), 6/30 Henry/Putnam Cos. (89) (TK), 7/19 Hancock Co. (28) (BH. AS)

Swamp Sparrow

6/3 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/18 Maumee SF (MA, TK)

White-throated Sparrow

7/2 Firestone MP (ECP)

Dark-eyed Junco

36/15 South Chagrin Res. (RH)

Bobolink

6/4 Clark Co. (8) (DO), 6/9-14 Mahoning Co. (6-8 prs.) (NB), 7/3 ONWRC (25), 7/10 CPNWR (34), several pairs at Toledo Airport (MA).

Red-winged Blackbird

7/10 CPNWR (5400)

Common Grackle

7/10 CPNWR (102), 7/24 Hancock Co. (1400+) (BH, AS)

Brown-headed Cowbird

6/7 Hancock Co. (30) (m.ob.)

Orchard Oriole

Increasing in Columbiana Co. (NL).

Northern Oriole

6/3-15 CVNRA (23) (RH), 6/5 ONWRC (10), 6/12 Clark Co. (25) (DO)

Purple Finch

6/30 E. Liverpool (NL)

Red Crossbill

6/5 Hambden Orchard WA (3) (PH, RH)

Pine Siskin

6/4 Oak Openings (2 pairs) (MA)

American Goldfinch

6/7 Hancock Co. (45) (m.ob.)

The following species are fairly widespread breeders (or locally common) in Ohio and elicited few, if any, comments from reporters.

Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Northern Bobwhite
Herring Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl

Barred Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Field Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
House Finch
House Sparrow

### CORRIGENDUM

In Vol. 11 (3), Clinton County should be added to the coverage map. In Vol. 11 (1):9, delete the Black Rail.

### <del>\*</del>

Several birds of note were reported during the 1988 fall season. A Gray Flycatcher (Empidonax wrightii) was reported from the Crane Creek Bird Trail in August. Unfortunately, the observers who found this bird did not publicize its appearance and few birders saw the bird. A Long-toed Stint (Calidris subminuta) was reported by an experienced observer at Gordon Park in Cleveland in August. THE OHIO CARDINAL has received few details of these two sightings. If legitimate, they would constitute new state records. A Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus buccinator) was photographed at Metzger Marsh in late September. This bird was unbanded and free-flying. More details will be forthcoming in the next issue of THE OHIO CARDINAL.

### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

THE OHIO CARDINAL staff is considering printing the location cross-reference section in only one issue per year to save space. If you are strongly opposed to such a move, we would like to hear from you. If you have other comments about the format of the journal, please drop us a note.

### OCCURRENCE OF AN OLD WORLD RACE OF WHIMBREL ON THE MAUMEE RIVER

### Matt Anderson and Tom Kemp

The Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus) is a shorebird with a virtual cosmopolitan distribution. Four races are recognized: nominate phaeopus of western USSR and Iceland, variegatus of eastern USSR, alboaxillaris of central USSR, and hudsonicus, the North American race. Hudsonicus typically shows a dark back and rump; the Old World races exhibit varying amounts of white on the rump and lower back (Hayman, et. a). 1986).

On July 10, 1988, while scanning a variety of shorebirds, gulls, and terns on the Maumee river near Farnsworth Park near Waterville, Ohio, Anderson was surprised to observe a Whimbrel in the distance. It was the first Whimbrel he has seen on the Maumee River and apparently one of few records of this species for the river.

He was able to approach within 75 feet of the bird equipped with binoculars and a 22 power wide-angle spotting scope. The long, decurved bill, streaked crown and large size left no doubt that the bird was indeed a Whimbrel. However, first impressions of this bird indicated it was a bit different. Instead of the warm buffy brown observed in other Whimbrels of the expected <u>hudsonicus</u> race, this bird was a very uniform dark grayish- brown over its entire body. More noteworthy, though, was the white triangle extending up the bird's lower back which was very reminiscent of similar markings on dowitchers. This streak was most evident when the Whimbrel was in flight. This field mark was observed a couple of times as the Whimbrel flew short distances from one shallow to another.

As is often the case with birding, Anderson had other commitments and was not able to remain long enough to observe the Whimbrel as thoroughly as he wished. Additionally, he was without a field guide and thus, at the point, knew nothing of the different races of Whimbrel. Although mental notes were kept on this sighting, preoccupation with other duties kept Anderson from any additional research until the following weekend.

On July 16, we, along with Eric Durbin, relocated the Whimbrel. Kemp and Durbin agreed with the initial impressions described above. The white streak extending from just above the tail to the back and flecked only lightly with dark spots was once again obvious in flight.

It had become fairly evident that this Whimbrel was not of the North American <u>hudsonicus</u> race, but rather of either the <u>phaeopus</u> race or the <u>variegatus</u> race. We noted that the underwings seemed to be intermediate in color between the <u>phaeopus</u> and <u>variegatus</u> races as pictured and described in Hayman, et. al. (1986). <u>Phaeopus</u>, according to the guide, is supposed to show extensive white underwings contrasting quite sharply with the upperwing whereas the <u>variegatus</u> race is pictured with a much darker underwing, comparable in coloration to the upperwing. This bird's underwing seemed to be a fairly uniform lighter brown than the upperwing, tending to be lightest in color toward the lesser underwing coverts.

A subsequent scrutiny of <u>phaeopus</u> and <u>variegatus</u> specimens in the University of Michigan's collection by Kemp did not rule out either of the two paleartic races. There was considerable overlap in rump and lower back color and underwing color of the two races.

The short of the matter is that we may never know which race this particular Whimbrel represented. Having the bird in hand may have been the only way to definitively determine race. At the very least, however, it appears almost certain the Whimbrel was of either the phaeopus or variegatus race. Phaeopus is a rare vagrant to the east coast and variegatus is a regular migrant through western Alaska and apparently has been seen a few times on the west coast south of Alaska. Correspondence received from Paul Lehman, a prominent California birder, indicated that an inland sighting of either the phaeopus or variegatus race is highly unusual if not unprecedented in the United States.

We thank the University of Michigan Zoology Museum for use of their specimens and Paul Lehman for his comments on our field notes.

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### OHIO CARDINAL RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

We evaluated a total of 14 reports this season. Eight were late submissions of observations made in spring, 1988. Thus, only six rare occurrence documentations were submitted for this summer. Two of these summer documentations were for the same birds (the Blue Grosbeaks in Lucas County). All sightings were accepted by the committee save two, both for spring:

Spring 1988. We were unable to accept:

Western Sandpiper (1), May 19, Buck Creek - rusty scapulars and relative size are mentioned, but description is otherwise incomplete. No mention of bill size and shape, or how other species (e.g., White-rumped) were ruled out.

Least Tern (2-3?), May 20, Ohio River near Parkersburg, WVa. - First, there is considerable doubt that these birds were in Ohio. Second, although the size suggests a Least Tern, nothing else is provided in the description to rule out other species of smallish terns (Common, Forster's, Black) in winter plumage.

### RECENT SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER RECORDS FROM OHIO

Two Scissor-tailed flycatchers in one year might appropriately be called an invasion in Ohio where there are only four prior records. The most recent record was a specimen collected in Adams County, June 16, 1970.

Here are the reports (adapted by the editors from their documentations) of the two observers who in the last year were there when the bird was.

### Wayne County, August 16, 1987 Clayton Hofstetter

While driving on Zuercher Road in Sugar Creek Township about 8:00 AM I saw a bird sitting on a power line along the road with a tail which was considerably longer than its main body. Fortunately the bird allowed me to pull the car within about 15-20 yards. I had never seen a Scissor-tailed flycatcher before but the bird's appearance left no doubt. As I studied the bird with my binoculars I could see that the wings of the bird were mainly black, the back was grayish and the breast was creamy-gray with a pink wash. This was too good to enjoy for myself, so I left to call Frances and Brian Gerber, my sister and nephew, who are both experienced birders. They arrived about ten minutes later. They remarked about the red along the edge of the breast where it meets the wing. But the most remarkable feature was the bird's tail. It was almost twice the length of its body and forked visibly in flight. It was black with white edgings. The bird uttered no sound and flew once several hundred feet again landing on the power line along with some Mourning doves. We spent about an hour with the bird. The weather was perfect with a clear, sunny sky.

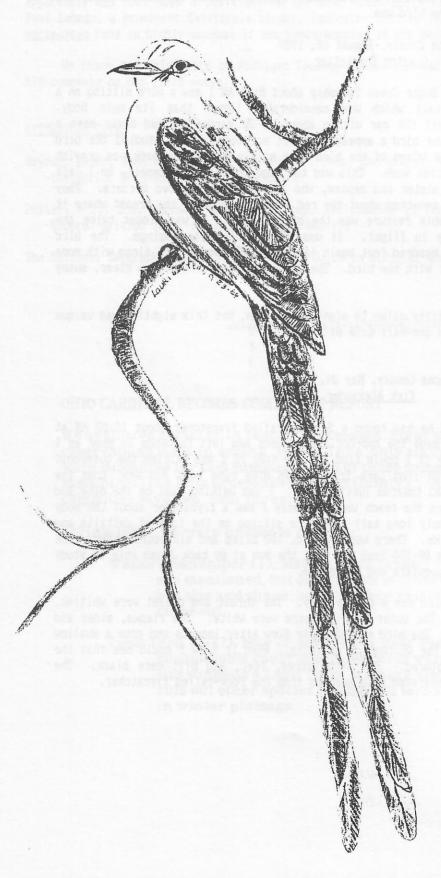
I have often travelled thirty to fifty miles to sight rare birds, but this sighting was unique in that this beautiful bird came within one-half mile of home.

### Lucas County, May 24, 1988 Kirk Alexander

John Pogacnik called me and said he had found a Scissor-tailed flycatcher about 10:00 AM at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. I quickly made the appropriate excuses and left Columbus as soon as I could. This would be a new bird for me if I could find it. By 4:00 PM I was walking the outermost dike of Magee which separates the marsh from Lake Erie. This dike runs east and west from the northern most point of the causeway road towards Turtle Creek. I was walking east on the dike and was approaching some tall cottonwoods on the beach when suddenly I saw a flycatcher about the body size of an Olive-sided but with extremely long tail streamers sitting on the tops of cattails and small willows directly south of the dike. There was my bird, 100 miles and six hours later. The bird allowed me to approach as close as 80-100 feet and with the sun at my back I was able to study the bird for twenty minutes with my binoculars and 40x scope.

The head, nape and back of the bird was a pearly gray. The throat and breast were whitish. The wings, rump and tail were black. The outer tail feathers were white. The flanks, sides and under tail coverts were a salmon pink. The bird occasionally flew after insects and once a swallow returning each time to its perch atop the willows or cattails. When it flew I could see that the underwing linings were also salmon colored. The birds lores, feet, and bill were black. The salmon underparts and pale gray head separated this species from the Fork-tailed flycatcher.

I might add that a Mississippl kite was present at Magee at the same time. The occurrence of these two southern/western species together seems significant. Later at home while still reminiscing about this spectacular bird I checked some recent southern Ontario records of this species. I found four recent reports: 5/7/82 NW Hillman Marsh and later departing south from tip of Point Pelee; 5/25/83 north end of loop woods at Point Pelee; 5/19/84 sparrow field at Point Pelee; 6/5/85 tip of Long Point. The "work" of one bird (including Magee) - I wonder.



### The First Blue Grosbeak Nest for Northern Ohio

Tom Kemp, Harold Mayfleld, and Eric Durbin

The breeding range of the Blue grosbeak (<u>Guiraca caerulea</u>) in Ohio is apparently restricted to counties bordering the Ohio River east to Melgs County (Peterjohn, et. al. 1987). Occasionally, unmated birds are found north of this area in the summer. Occurrences in the northern third of the state are rare and most often a function of spring migration overshoot.

The discovery of a pair of Blue grosbeaks and subsequent nest in the Oak Openings of Lucas County is therefore quite significant. Kemp found the pair on 17 June 1988. On 19 June, Mayfield and Durbin saw the female carrying grass to the unfinished nest. It was placed in a thistle about fifteen inches from the ground. On 24 June, the nest contained three eggs. The female was still incubating on 26 June. The nest was found abandoned on 30 June, but the pair remained in the area until at least 5 July. They were not found after this date.

The nest was located in a ten-acre fallow field roughly fifty feet from any woody plant. Vegetation in the field was dominated by rye grass and goldenrod with lesser amounts of thistle and mullein. The field was bordered by a small brush-lined stream and the mixed oak forest and pine plantation of the Maumee State Forest. According to the literature, this area had all the habitat components preferred by Blue grosbeaks. Blue grosbeaks typically nest 2-14 feet from the ground in a small shrub or tree (Terres 1980) but may nest as close to the ground as 6 inches (Bent 1968). Thus, while the location of the nest initially surprised us, its location was not really out of the ordinary.

This nest implies a breeding range extension of Blue grosbeaks in Ohio some 150-200 miles north. This species has apparently been extending its range northward in recent years, but this Lucas County nest was totally unexpected.

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### Laurel VanCamp

- Out of forty-three years of studying screech-owls, the year 1988 was the most unusual breeding season I have ever observed. I found a large number of unusual occurrences in the nesting boxes. For the year 1988, I observed 19 nesting boxes. This is what I found:
- NEST NO. 1 This screech-owl box was checked April 22, 1988. This was an old female which was banded in 1980 with Band No. 715-47657. She was sitting on six eggs and had been dead for some time. Some vandals had shot through the box, killing her. Out of this female, I banded five young gray on May 16, 1980, five on May 4, 1981, five on May 13, 1982, five on April 30, 1983, six on May 15, 1986 and six on May 2, 1987. I did not band any birds in 1984-1985 due to illness. Steve Pollick, a writer for the Toledo Blade, was with me in 1986. During the 1987 banding, I was also able to band the male which was also in the box. Imagine my disappointment when I found the female dead in the nest this year. She was at least 1 year old in 1980 when banded and nine years old when I found her dead. This female raised thirty-two young in six years. What a disappointment.
- NEST NO. 2 This nest was checked on April 22, 1988. In the screech-owl box was a gray female incubating three eggs. This female was banded in 1987 in the same box with Band No. 726-28880. On May 14, 1988, I banded three young from this box. There also were Dark-eyed juncos in the box for food.
- NEST NO. 3 On April 25, 1988, I checked this VanCamp box. The female was incubating eggs. She was banded on May 14, 1988, and there were four young in the nest. I banded the young on May 23, 1988. At the time, the female was in the nest, but there was no food with the young.
- NEST NO. 4 On April 26, 1988, a female was in this screech-owl box with Band No. 726-28828 and she was brooding four small young. I banded these young, which were all new grays, on May 9, 1988. At that time, the female was in the box with no food.
- NEST NO. 5 In this screech-owl box with a female, which I banded in 1987 with Band No. 745-59230, were three young. I banded the young May 9, 1988. At the time, the female was in the box with the young and there was no food.
- NEST NO. 6 I checked this screech-owl box on April 26, 1988. The female was incubating three or more eggs. This was checked on May 9, 1988, May 17, 1988, and June 1, 1988, and the female was still incubating each time. Since the incubation period is twenty-five to twenty-seven days, I checked this female frequently because she was considerably past the hatching period. She had been banded on May 1, 1982, and her Band No. 715-47769 was attached. I considered this box unsuccessful.
- <u>NEST NO. 7</u> On April 22, 1988, the female in this screech-owl box was incubating three or more eggs. By May 11, 1988, this gray female had hatched five young. I banded them and the female. The female had a brood patch created by plucking her breast feathers to give the young extra warmth. There was no food in the box when I banded them.
- NEST NO. 8 This screech-owl box was checked on May 12, 1988. At that time, the nest had small young and eggs. I again checked it on May 26, 1988, and found three small young and a red male with Band No. 745-59288 in the box. Subsequently, I checked the box and the female was present with two young large enough to band. One was a gray and one was a red. Neither parent was in the box. There was no food in the box. I suspect that the missing young was a case of cannibalism as a predator would have surely taken all of the young. I suspect that cannibalism also occurred in Nest No. 19, making this year the third time in forty-three years that I have observed three young disappearing in one year.
- <u>NEST NO. 9</u> This was a Wood duck rocket box which contained five eggs which were cold and no female was in the box. I listed this nest as unsuccessful.
- NEST NO. 10 Again, this was a Wood duck rocket box which I checked on May 3, 1988. The bottom of the box had fallen out, dumping the nest on the ground. There was one dead young and two eggs ready to hatch in the nest. I did not notice an adult female leave the area. I listed this nest as unsuccessful. As with Nest No.1, it was certainly not natural causes.

- NEST NO. 11 This screech-owl box was first checked on May 5, 1988, and in the box was a gray female with Band No. 745-59274 and three medium young. There was also a meadow mouse in the nest for food. I banded two of the young, which were grays, with Band No. 745-59286 and No. 745-59287. I checked the box again on May 17, 1988, and the male was not in the box, but the female was and there was one egg added to the nest. All the young were present at this time, but when I checked the nest again on May 26, 1988, one of the young had disappeared. It must be cannibalism. This was the second time that young had disappeared from a nest this year.
- NEST NO. 12 This screech-owl box was located at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. I checked it on May 5, 1988, and found two dead young in the nest, but I was able to band three additional gray young with No. 745-59250, 745-59252, and 745-459252. This is the first time that a female was not with the young when they were banded in over seven hundred nests found during this study. It occured to me that the adults may have been destroyed by Great-horned owls that nested adjacent to the wood lot where this box was erected. This is the first time I have ever found dead young in a nest. I did not check the box later.
- NEST NO. 13 On May 5, 1988, this Wood duck rocket box had four eggs. They were not incubated and cold. There were no adults in the nest. Something must have happened to the female as I believe this nest was abandoned.
- NEST NO. 14 This was the same situation as Nest No. 13. I checked the screech-owl box on May 9, 1988, and found four eggs in the nest, but they were not incubated and cold. The female was not in the box.
- NEST NO. 15 In this Wood duck rocket box was a female with band No. 745-59218 attached and three young which I banded with bands 745-59249, 745-59260 and 745-69262. The male was not in the box and there was no food in the box. The female had been banded in this box in 1986.
- NEST NO. 16 In this Wood duck rocket box was a male and a female gray brooding four small young. The female had Band No. 726-28881 attached and the male had Band No. 726-28835 attached. Both had been banded in 1987 in nearby boxes. A robin was in the nest for food.
- NEST NO. 17 In this screech-owl box was a female with four young grays. I banded them with Band Nos. 745-59268, 745-59269, 745-59270 and 745-49271. The female was first banded in the same box on May 20, 1987, and was wearing Band No. 745-28872.
- NEST NO. 18 In this VanCamp box, I found an incubating female with a male. I banded the female on April 22, 1988, and the male on May 16, 1988, with Band No. 745-59273. Neither adult had a brood patch nor was there a nest. On June 1, 1988, I found the box empty with no signs of predators. I don't know the cause of this desertion.
- NEST NO. 19 In this screech-owl box on a bracket, I found five young grays and a female gray. Four of the young grays were old enough to be banded and I banded them using Band Nos. 745-59244, 745-59246, 745-59247, and 745-59248. Band No. 745-59245 was destroyed. One of the young was too small to band so I came back to band this one on May 10, 1988, and it was not in the box. This is the third case of cannibalism this year. I also banded the female on May 3, 1988, with Band No. 745-59243.

This data is this year's part of the screech-owl study that I began in 1944. I have collected the field data each year since, except for the years of 1984-1985 which I missed due to illness. The first thirty years of the study are summarized in The Screech Owl: Its Life History and Population Ecology in Northern Ohio. Laurel F. VanCamp and Charles J. Henny, 1975, North American Fauna No. 71, United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

This year (1988) I banded a total of 41 birds in 19 nests. This calculates to about 2.2 young fledged per nesting attempt which is comparable to the thirty year study rate of about 2.5 to 2.6. Also, the twelve successful attempts out of nineteen nests found or 63.15 percent, compares with the thirty year study rate of 69.2 percent in successful nesting attempts for this species. Since the screech-owl uses only about 13 percent of the boxes checked each year, I checked approximately one hundred thirty boxes to find these nineteen nests.

I wanted to publish this year's results because it has been one of the most, if not the most, unusual year of this study. Three things stand out in my 1988 screech-owl studies. One is the three cases of presumed cannibalism, recorded for only the third time in 43 years of banding. The second is the prolific female shot in the nest box by vandals. Finally, young being banded without the female in the nest was unprecedented in over 700 nests studied.



Laurel VanCamp with the mother of the 4000th Eastern screech-owl he has banded. This female was banded on May 4, 1983.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

In the <u>Ohio Cardinal</u> [11 (2)] you included a summary of sightings from all of Ohio's Christmas Counts, and heartily pat yourselves on the back that all were "submitted" to the <u>Cardinal</u>. In fact, not all counts were "submitted" by the compilers but seem to have been collected for publication, in some cases without the compiler's knowledge or consent.

Due to this bypassing of the CBC compilers, many sightings that were documented and photographed in an appropriate manner and the documentation and photographs sent to <u>American Birds</u> were listed as "Undocumented Reports" in the <u>Cardinal</u>. In fact, the observers were also unaware that their sightings were going to be included in the article by Montion and Kemp on Ohio's CBCs because documentations were not requested from the observers. No effort was made by the <u>Cardinal</u> to substantiate or disprove these observations. To make matters worse, these observations were included again in the <u>Ohio Cardinal's</u> records committee report, again as undocumented records. In at least one case, the Lake Eric Islands CBC King Eider, the bird was listed at the wrong location in the summary of count sightings by Montion and Kemp, and the correct location in the seasonal summary. <u>Cardinal</u> readers should be warned of the potential for errors and unedited nature of these Christmas Bird Count totals. <u>American Birds</u> has its own editors of Christmas Bird Counts, and edited Christmas Bird Counts will appear in print in finalized form as an issue of <u>American Birds</u> in the future.

In response to Tramer's article on why records were not accepted, I feel that far and away the most frequent reason that a record is not accepted by the <u>Cardinal</u> is that is was never submitted. The <u>Cardinal</u> records committee has not established itself as a viable force in Ohio birding. The committee's judgements on documentations and records are inconsistent at best, accepting poorly documented or misidentified birds while rejecting conclusively photographed birds. Many Ohio birders will continue to decline to submit records to the <u>Cardinal</u>. Their sightings can still be seen in <u>American Birds</u> after appropriate review.

Mary Gustafson Columbus, Ohio

### Ed Pierce responds:

I respect Mary's obvious close affiliation with <u>American Birds</u>, but I hope her zeal does not distort her mind into believing that somehow we are rival magazines. We are not. It is to the benefit of both magazines that we work together. After all, we rely upon the same birds and observers for the core of our information.

I subscsribe to American Birds and enjoy it. But our [OHIO CARDINAL] number of subscribers indicates to me that many people do not want that degree of technicality or wish to supplement it. So, I see the bulk of our subscribers as more interested in the informational pages and photographs rather than the reports section or the Records Committee reports. They, in my opinion, prefer the sight guides, photographs of uncommon Ohio birds, discovery articles such as Rufous hummingbird, Brambling, Wheatear, etc., and in general, timely information on what is going on in bird watching around Ohio. Simply put, we are a medium for the exchange of information among Ohio birders. I know I enjoy the magazine because it allows me to stay up to date on what people are seeing and also to get more information about unusual sightings.

In American Birds, Ohio is simply one-sixth of a regional area. By necessity, the information printed there must be condensed and technical. Simply because the OHIO CARDINAL is soley concerned with Ohio birds, we have the space to expand upon that information, many times using the same observers. Also, because we do not have to print reports from the entire United States, we are able to report birds quickly. An example is the Ohio Christmas counts.

I personally collected the results of the fifty-nine Christmas counts this past year. I did it by writing to subscribers and friends and requesting their results. These people were not necessarily the compilers of the counts, but approximately forty of them were. I did not ask them for copies of their documentations, as I felt it was a burden enough on them to supply me with the results. Also, I found in the past (1980) when we first printed the Christmas counts, many of the documentations had been sent to American Birds and copies did not exist. Almost to a person, everyone gladly cooperated and sent in their results. Some were newspaper accounts with the species listing. It was truly a great cooperative effort to share birding information around the state and every person participating is to be congratulated. This is not an unusual procedure as other state publications in Colorado and Wisconsin do the same as I suspect does almost every other state publication nationwide.

However, it was our error to point out that certain species were undocumented when we had not solicited the documentation and the count participant had been so kind as to send us what he had available. I apologize to those observers which I believe must include Mary, whose sightings were treated in such an inappropriate manner. Most of us are hobbyists who find recreation and enjoyment in birdwatching and have fun trying very hard to put out a good magazine. We do make mistakes, but we try very hard to avoid them.

When the OHIO CARDINAL resumed publication, I contacted all four of the original members of the Ohio Records Committee and asked them to serve again. Only Dr. Tramer was able to do so. I then found three other birders and together with Dr. Tramer, they agreed to serve as members of the newly formed Ohio Cardinal Records Committee. The difference in names was meant to signify that this committee was to aid the editors of the OHIO CARDINAL only and had no function concerning the state list. I attempted to make the representation regional and for example, selected the Cincinnati representative based on the recommendations of prominent birders in the area. I know each of them as respected, honest men serving at an obviously thankless job. They are trying to do the best job they possibly can with the written documentation in front of them. Obviously, you have different opinions than some of them on certain birds. That alone, of course, does not make you right. Records committees all over the United States regularly register dissenting or split votes. Experts have been known to disagree.

My offer to you, Mary, is this: Rather than the negative approach of withholding your observations, why not accept this invitation to join our Records Committee and help us in this positive manner.

Sir,

I wish to correct some of the misinformation in Ed Pierce's article on Ohio's first Northern Wheatear. His assertion that the bird was an adult male is inacurrate. In fact, the only age and sex class positively eliminated by the bird's plumage is adult male. In basic (winter) plumage, adult male Northern wheatears have a pure white superciliary and sharply defined pure black ear coverts. Color photographs of this wheatear clearly show a buffy superciliary and dusky gray-black ear coverts typical of females or immature males in basic plumage. Since the bird's measurements were ambiguous and mouth color was not noted, the age and sex of this wheatear will never be conclusively established.

Secondly, racial determination of Northern wheatears has never been based of the color of upperparts and ear coverts. In fact, their racial identification is a complex matter and may only be completely resolved through comparison with a series of specimens. While the Greenland race tends to be larger with more brightly colored underparts, there is much overlap between this and the nominate race. Photgraphs of the Ohio wheatear have been sent to several European experts for their comments. The comments received to date have been far more cautious than Mr. Pierce's wishful thinking. The Ohio wheatear may exhibit some characteristics of the Greenland race but the photos and measurements appear to be inadequate to positively establish the race of this individual.

Finally, this article gives the impression that separation of Northern wheatears from other similar wheatears is only based on measurements obtained in the hand. In fact, all wheatears can be positively identified in the field, given careful study under favorable conditions. For observers interested in learning more about the identification of this challenging group, I recommend the excellent articles by Peter Clements in <u>British Birds</u> (1987: 8014]: 137-157 and 80[5]: 187-238).

Bruce Peterjohn Westerville, Ohio

### Ed Pierce responds:

As I sit here looking at a copy of the photograph of the Northern wheatear that appeared on the cover of Vol. 1, No. 2, my untrained eye still sees a white superciliary that is every bit as white as the white feathers in the tail of the bird. There may be some brown or grey to the tip of the superciliary as it extends into the nape of the bird, but that part of it which is directly above the eye is certainly pure white. Again, looking at the photograph, the ear coverts directly behind the eye are black. There are also some black radiating lines directly beneath the eye of the bird. At the end of these black ear coverts, I see small areas of brown before the over all light grey of the nape begins. To me, these areas can be seen on the cover of the magazine. On the cover directly behind the eye is the black area and directly below the eye are the black radiating lines. Directly behind these black areas is a lighter colored dark area which appears to me to be brown in the photograph. I agree that the ear coverts are not "sharply defined pure black" but they are not "dusky grey-black" either.

As I stated in my article, I used Witherby's (The Handbook of British Birds, H.F. Witherby, Vol. 2, Witherby Ltd., London, Pgs. 145-150, 1943) plumage descriptions to identify age and sex. He states that the adult male in winter plumage has black ear coverts tipped in brown and the adult female in winter plumage has brown ear coverts and both sexes in juvenile plumage have buff ear coverts edged and tipped in brown. As for the superciliary stripe, Witherby states that the adult male in winter plumage is white and the adult female in winter plumage is pale cream and in both sexes in the juvenile plumage there is a slight indication of a creamy eye stripe. In addition, Witherby states that the adult female in winter plumage and both sexes in juvenile plumage have tail feathers, wing feathers, and greater coverts that are dark brown and not black. As I look at the photograph in front of me of the Northern wheatear in question, these feathers certainly look black.

These plumage descriptions led me to only one conclusion and that was that this bird was an adult male in winter plumage. As I clearly stated in my article, this was a "guess" on my part. I am not an ornithologist and this is the only wheatear I have ever seen. My article was not intended to be the last word on this subject.

As to racial determination, again, Witherby states that the Greenland race is "like adult male of typical form" (Yukon or European race) "but rather browner and less grey upper parts, ear coverts usually browner, less black, throat and breast sometimes deeper buff, but this is variable." To me, this means that plumage characteristics are important in racial determination and I gather that even the European experts say that the Ohio wheatear may exhibit some such characteristics of the Greenland race. I think it would be interesting for our subscribers to read the comments of these European experts. I hope Bruce will send them to the magazine so that we can print them in their entirety.

# LOCATION CROSS-REFERENCE

Barberton	Portage
Brecksville	Cuyahoga
Buck Creek SP	Clark
Burke Airport	Cuyahoga
Caesar's Creek	Montgomery
Canfleld	Mahoning
Cedar Point NWR	Lucas
CJ Brown Res.	Clark
Clark Lake	Clark
Cowan Creek	Clinton
Crane Creek SP	Lucas
Cuyahoga Valley NRA	Cuyahoga/Summit
Darby Marsh	Ottawa
Englewood Reserve	Montgomery
Firestone Metropark	Summit
Fort Ancient	Warren
Funk	Wayne
Germantown Reserve	Montgomery
Gordon Park	Cuyahoga
Grand Lake St. Mary's	Auglaize/Mercer
Great Miami River	Hamilton
Hambden Orchard WA	Geauga
Hinckley Lake	Medina
Huffman Prairie	Montgomery
Huntington Beach	Cuyahoga
Huron	Erie
Irwin Prairie	Lucas
John Bryan SP	Greene
Knox Lake	Knox
Lake Isaac	Cuyahoga
Mad River	Clark

Magee Marsh	Ottawa
Maumee Bay SP	Lucas
Maumee River Rapids	Lucas/Wood
Maumee State Forest	Fulton/Henry/Lucas
Meander Res.	Mahoning/Trumbull
Mentor Headlands SP	Lake
Mentor Marsh	Lake
Metzger Marsh	Lucas
Mill Creek Pk.	Mahoning
Mohican SF	Ashland
Mosquito Creek	Trumbuli
Navarre Marsh	Ottawa
Newton gravel pits	Hamilton .
Niles	Mahoning
North Chagrin Res.	Cuyahoga
Northfield	Cuyahoga
Oak Openings Park	Lucas
Ottawa NWR	Ottawa/Lucas
Plymouth Marsh	Ashtabula
Rocky River Valley	Cuyahoga
Saint Mary's FH	Mercer
Salem	Columbiana
Scioto Trails SF	Ross
Shawnee SF	Adams/Scioto
South Chagrin Res.	Cuyahoga
Spring Valley SWA	Greene
Springville Marsh	Seneca
Sugarcreek Reserve	Greene
Waterville	Lucas
Wright-Patterson AFB	Montgomery

## OBSERVERS

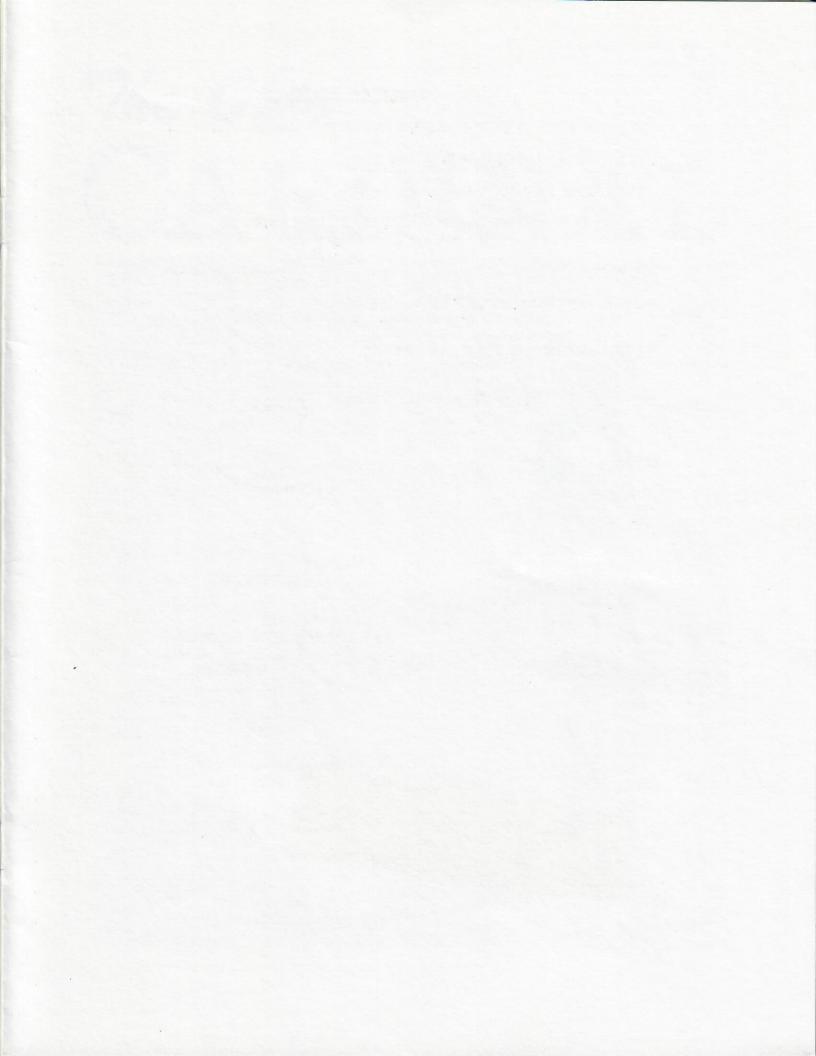
Matt	Anderson	MA
Carole	Babyak	CB
Nancy	Bain	NBa
Lynn	Barnhart	LB
Chet/Dixie	Bowsher	СВо
Nancy	Brundage	NB
Cliff	Cathers	CC
Laurle	Cathers	LC
Kathleen	Duchak	KD
Larry	Gara	LG
Peg	Gatch	PG
Bruce	Glick	BG
Pat	Haddad	PH
Polly	Hall	РоН
Betty	Hardesty	BH
Robert	Harlan	RH
John/Vicki	Herman	JVH
Jim	H111	JHi
Ned	Keller	NK
Tom	Kemp	TK
Kathy	Knoblet	KK
Joe	Komorowski	JK
Nevada	Laitsch	NL

Tom	LePage	TL
Tim	Little	TLi
Barbara	Lund	BL
Charlotte	Mathena	CM
Steve	Mckee	SM
Kent	Miller	KM
Kathy	Mock	KMo
Pete	Montion	PM
Dane	Mutter	DM
Maynard	Neal	MN
Doug	Overacker	DO
Ed/Cheryl	Pierce	ECP
Worth	Randle	WR
Ann	Scarborough	AS
John	Shrader	JS
Ed	Stapleton	ES
Bob	Thobaban	BT
Elliot	Tramer	ET
Mike	Triplett	MT
Sue	Utterback	SU
Laurel	VanCamp	LVC
Winnie	Wagner	WW
Paul	Wharton	PW



Pileated woodpecker at nest along the Little Miami River, Warren County, Ohio, May 1988. Photograph by Larry Gara.





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