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CARDINAL



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Cover: Cattle egret nestling at West Sister Island, Lucas County, Ohio, July 2, 1982, photographed by Ed Pierce.

The drawings in this issue were sketched by Norman Walker, 707 Cranford Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45240.

West Sister Island
Home of the Herons

The increasing incidence and numbers of certain herons in the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife area complex in the last four years peaked my interest last summer in West Sister Island.

Snowy egrets and cattle egrets plus ibis, little blue herons and Louisiana herons were all suspected of breeding on this island. (See table of occurrence in appendix A.)

Of course there are 22 islands in western Lake Erie some of which have reported heron populations but West Sister Island is the closest (14km) to this marsh complex. For example, cattle egrets were first reported nesting on Pelee Island on July 11, 1975 (15 to 20 nests)¹. Great blue herons, black-crowned night herons and great egrets have been reported nesting on East Sister and double-crested cormorants on Big Chicken^{2A}. However, 95% of the heron flight lines from the marsh complex go to West Sister Island^{2B}.

I made two trips to West Sister Island in 1982: June 26, and July 2. I was totally unprepared for what I found on the first trip. I had never before been in a heron colony. Some kind soul had told me to wear a hat as the young night herons had a habit of regurgitating on those passing under but they didn't tell me of the awful fish smell when struck on the hat or back with these missiles.

Five of us had planned this trip and acquired the necessary permission but the waves were 2 to 3 feet on the big day so only two of us boated the 8½ miles to the island. The nauseating and body jarring chop of the waves should have been sufficient warning to me (as it must have been to those with more experience who stayed home).

The island is best described by Scharf³:

"West Sister Island is an island of approximately 34 ha in Lake Erie, 14.5 kilometers from the Ohio shoreline and is composed of glacial fill on top of a limestone shelf. The limestone shelf protrudes along the edges of the island, and in one case forms a crumbled rock beach. The soil contains a great amount of clay and loam. West Sister Island is in the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and has also received protection as a Wilderness Area. Tall hackberry trees are the predominant vegetation on the northern and western parts of the island. In these hackberry trees (nest the great blue herons and great egrets). Rarely, other species of trees, including elm and oak, are found among the hackberry trees. The understory vegetation includes Canada rye along the perimeter of the island, along with jack-in-the-pulpit, burdock, and poison ivy. Intermixed are some false solomon seal, some very small (shrub-size) Kentucky coffee bean trees, a few small chokecherries, and some extremely large jewelweed and figwort. Fleabane, catnip, wild lettuce, mullein, nightshade, chickweed, herb robert, curled dock, "nettle," and bedstraw were also found in the understory. Toward the nesting area of the great blue herons and great egrets, a great deal more of the polkweed is evident, growing to great heights of 2 m, along with stalks of poison ivy over 3 m tall. There are also some small areas of blue grass and other small openings with sumac, Virginia creeper, and

milkweed closing in, apparently through normal plant succession, at a rapid rate.

Toward the south and east of the island toward the lighthouse, a change in vegetation is apparent, and it is in this one-third of the island where smaller hackberry trees are found, as well as a large number of mature but short plum trees. This area was completely open when the lighthouse keeper had rabbits here. . . . black-crowned night herons are found nesting here. The understory of the black-crowned night heronry is particularly devoid of vegetation because of the thickness of the overstory and perhaps because of droppings from the birds. Historically, the island was nearly cleared of vegetation by former agricultural practices. After the farmers left the island, the lighthouse keeper had rabbits which kept at least the southern and eastern one-third of the island relatively free of woody vegetation. The rabbits persisted even after the lighthouse keeper left the island prior to World War II. When the island first became accessible after the war, after its use as an artillery range, the nesting herons and egrets were noted by Laurel Van Camp. It is important to realize that there is continued ecological succession of plants occurring on this island and that as the succession moves to taller trees, the black-crowned night herons area will be diminished. Also occurring at the same time is a loss of openings important as staging areas for herons and egrets."

Jack Ross and I landed on the island at the crumbled rock beach. We saw many herring gulls and their young around the limestone shelf edges of this part of the island. (Estimate, method unknown, of Parris^{4A} in 1978 was 299 pairs.) Upon stepping onto the shore any part of our bodies not covered was set upon by swarms of black biting flies. They actually covered the backs of our hands and circled our faces much as a beekeeper must experience. They also bit through single layers of clothing. We immediately climbed to the top of the lighthouse to avoid them. It helped some and gave us a view over the tops of the smaller hackberry and plum trees. We saw little heron or egret activity in the air and could not see through the canopy. This was not surprising as it was about 11:00 a.m. and in general herons and egrets are more active during early morning and evening surveys (6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)^{2C}. However, flights in July are the highest of the season^{2D}. (Conversley less time is spent in the colony during this month by the adults than any other time during the breeding season ^{4B}.)

Jack remained at the top of the lighthouse to observe flights while I explored generally the island under the canopy.

Once under the canopy the flies became tolerable. The island was as described above. The black-crowned night heron colony was in the smaller hackberry and plum trees in the one-third of the island nearest the lighthouse. I found no openings of any size remaining in this vegetation. As I walked northward across the island under the canopy I came to the tall hackberry trees. As I passed through an area of intergradation of vegetation where the taller hackberry existed with the smaller tree I found great egret nests but no great blue heron nests. The great egret nests began at or in the edges of the night heron colony. Some great egret nests were low in the smaller hackberry but once in the intergradation

zone them seem to prefer the higher mature trees. This zone gave way to all mature trees which also included great blue heron nests. The majority of the great egret nests were in this area. Uprooted trees in this area made passage more difficult and the vegetation under the trees was thicker than the smaller hackberry. Apparently, a severe northeast storm on May 25, 1979 uprooted about 5% the trees in this area^{2E}. Here in the major great egret - great blue heron colony I saw my first adult cattle egrets. There were approximately two or three adults in breeding plumage sitting singly on the uprooted trees. I tried to follow them thinking that their nesting colony was in this area (it wasn't) but they were wary to my approach and flew to other parts of the forest. Later, on my return through the night heron colony I found a small colony of cattle egret nests. You can't see up through the canopy in the night heron area, but there was a small open area immediately before the cattle egret area which allowed me to see several adult cattle egrets roosting above the canopy very near to where I found my first white young in the low nests usually occupied by the brown young of the night heron. I was excited but my time was running out. I hadn't seen Jack in four hours and he was my transportation. I took the remaining two pictures on my roll and made a straight line from this area directly to shoreline to mark the location. Once inside the canopy, it is difficult to keep any bearing of direction due to the sameness of the vegetation.

The flies again greeted me and I made a beeline (flyline?) to the top of the lighthouse where I ate lunch. I was wondering where Jack was when his boat pulled up. The flies had driven him to walleye fishing off shore. He pointed to an area where he had seen an adult snowy egret enter the canopy. It seemed to be the same area where I had seen the nest with the white young. I made plans to return.

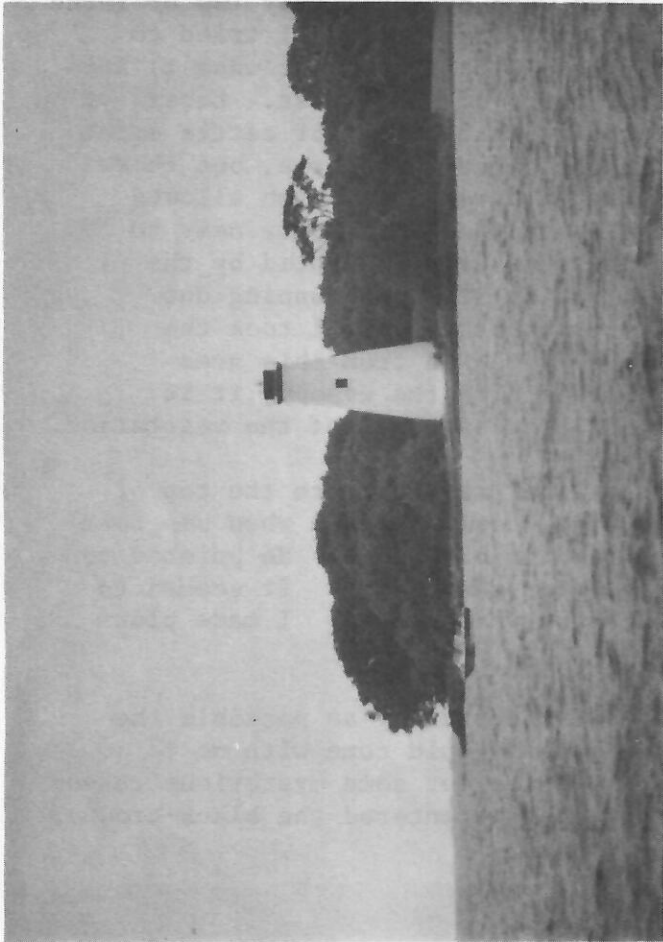
On July 2, I returned alone prepared to census accurately as possible the black-crowned night heron colony. I had hoped others could come with me to help with the job but no one was available. The flies for some mysterious reason had subsided. I arrived at 8:00 a.m. on the island and entered the black-crowned night heron colony.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

Inside the canopy all but a few of the young birds were out of the nest and "clambering among the branches"⁵. It was near the end of the breeding season as young night herons first fly at about six weeks^{6A} and only 208 live young remained in 1300 nests. Of these nests only 17 of them had young actually in the nest. The remainder of the young birds were out on branches near the top of the canopy. Not once did I see an adult night heron.

Night herons are not big on nest sanitation. Most of the defecation occurs on part of the nest, the branches of the nest tree and the ground beneath. The canopy was thick enough to exclude most direct light. The height of the canopy seemed about twenty feet and the nests ranged from six feet from the ground to the canopy. I made no direct measurements. Predators such as racoons, foxes and muskrats are not a problem, as they are not common on the island since it lacks their suitable habitat⁷. Many trees and shrubs had multiple nests but

West Sister Island lighthouse (right) on June 26, 1982 & the view from the top of that lighthouse (below). The black crowned night heron colony is in the shorter hackberry trees in the foreground. The great egret - great blue heron colony is in the taller hackberry trees in the background. The darker-green taller group of trees in the center of the black-crowned night heron area are the chokecherry trees containing the cattle egret nests.



I did not note an average number per tree. Although there was noise inside the colony from the young there was not the deafening sounds noted by some authors^{8A}. The most noise I recall occurred at the approach of one of the young and resembled a harsh, coarse sound like chuck, chuck-a-chuck, chuck, chuck. Some young as you passed underneath them hidden in the canopy did regurgitate their meal onto you. Most missed. The limb clambering ability of some had lead to their deaths as evidenced by their bodies hung in the fork of a branch. I counted 21 dead birds hung in various trees. Other fatalities obvious were 16 dead young in various nests and 11 dead young on the ground. Very few live birds were on the ground. Surprising for so much climbing around. Including the dead I counted 256 young.

I assumed this was the last of the summer young. Black-crowned night herons copulated on the average of nineteen days after their average arrival date on Long Island and then laid their first eggs an average of 3.3 days later^{9A}. The average clutch size is 3-5 eggs^{10A}. Incubation begins with the first egg and lasts for 24-26 days^{8B}. Lou Campbell puts the average arrival date in the Toledo area at March 25⁵. This aged most of the young in the West Sister colony at about 7 weeks during my census. Yet Palmer^{6A} stated that young night herons first fly at about six weeks and these young I saw did not fly but they must have been close. There was no evidence on Long Island of second broods^{9B}.

I had brought with me two spray cans of paint: blue and silver. I also carried a note tablet ruled for seven columns with twenty-five rows per page. As I encountered a tree with a nest I marked a box on my tablet page with an appropriate code and then marked the tree with a small silver dot to show me that I had counted the nests in that tree. There is real difficulty with losing your direction and sometimes a sense of time inside the canopy. I simply kept working over the night heron area of the island marking my tablet and tree spotting at random until I started to come upon trees I had previously spotted. This occurred about the same time that my time ran out (8 hours) but by that time I was convinced it was going to be difficult to find unspotted trees. The total results: 1300 black-crowned night heron nests and 16 great egret nests were counted in this black-crowned night heron area. This means that 2600 black-crowned night herons were present on the island in 1982 assuming that each nest was occupied. The chance of some nests being last years nests not used in the present year seems remote due to the appearance of fresh whitewash on most nests and the fact that most night herons frequently tear apart old nests and use the remains to construct new ones each year in the same tree or a site not far remote^{8C}.

While censusing the night heron colony I found a small cattle egret colony.

CATTLE EGRET

I believe this was the same colony I had seen the week before as it was in the same general location but the growth of the young in one week seemed remarkable. (Later when I saw a picture ^{11A} of the size difference between 5,7 and 9 day old cattle egret chicks, it was not remarkable). These were the only white young other than great egrets that I had seen during the census. However, young great egret bills are yellow whereas these were black-billed.

Eight nests were found in one group in closer proximity to each other than the night heron nests. The nests were, in general, also lower in the vegetation, each nest being about 6 to 8 feet from the ground. The vegetation also changed in this area to a stand of chokecherry trees rather than the small hackberry trees surrounding it. The height of the canopy appeared the same (later the pictures showed the chokecherry trees were taller) but the chokecherry trees were more numerous in stems and the diameters of the stems were smaller and more forked. There may have been more nests in this colony but if so they were empty and therefore, unidentifiable. Six of the eight nests had one young each. One nest had six eggs and one nest was empty except for a dead young hung in a forked branch near the nest.

One of the eggs was measured with dial calipers: 47.9 mm in length and 33 mm in width. These dimensions are close to the average given by Harrison^{16A} for cattle egret eggs: 47.5 X 33.7, but still within one of the extremes given by Bent^{10B} for snowy egret eggs. The best statement is that this egg was large for a snowy egret egg (average: 43.0 X 32.4^{16B}). The eggs were bluish white rather than bluish green (admittedly subjective) and oval. (Black-crowned night heron eggs average larger: 51.5 X 37.0 mm, are pale greenish-blue in color and oval to long oval in shape^{16C}.)

These young were aged at about five weeks based on the yellow rather than steel gray color of the iris of their eyes^{11B}, their size (very near adult) and their lack of flight (fly short distances at 40 days and reasonably well at 50 days^{6B}). This age coincides well with the reported arrival date (April 14) for this species in 1982 at the OWR-Magee complex (see table of reported arrival dates of the cattle egret for this complex since 1977 in appendix B). This is based on 3 days for pair formation, 7 days for nest building, 7 days for the laying of the first egg after copulation and 24 days for incubation^{6C 11C}. A cumulative total of 41 days to birth assuming the pair forms immediately upon arrival. Since single eggs are laid at one to two day intervals¹², ^{11D} in a clutch size of 4-5 eggs with a range of 3 to 9 eggs¹², there could be some additional days added to this total. However, generally only two young maximum survive due to the asynchronous pattern of egg-laying and hatching giving a decided advantage to the first chick^{11E}. I saw only one young per nest. (Perhaps the first young, if there was one, in each nest had flown.) Normally, the species has only one brood but two and three have been reported¹³. Interspecific competition for nest sites between cattle egrets and other herons (black-crowned night heron not reported) was minimal in Lake County, Florida colonies^{11F}. Cattle egrets nest much closer together than other herons and egrets so they don't crowd out other species in the rookery. They also eat upland food sources such as insects so they don't compete in the marshes for food with other species. Notice that the average arrival date in the Toledo area for black-crowned night herons (March 25) is at least thirteen days before the first reported arrival date for cattle egrets since 1977 (April 6).

There was a ninth nest separate from the others but still in the immediate area. It contained two cattle egret young that I aged at about 5 days old by a picture I later saw^{11G}. The first eggs in the Florida colony were seen April 21, and eggs were still present July 18. This period, the author believes, protects against loss of all the year's young from a single catastrophe^{11H}. Perhaps this explains the disparity in ages that I saw.

At first I hoped I had found the snowy egret colony. The large increase in snowy egrets, the last two summers in the marsh complex (nine in 1981 & seventeen in 1982) made for such speculation. Although some have said that you can't tell a snowy from a cattle egret nestling without collecting the yellow tip of the bill, the bill shape and the lack of any color difference between the tarsi and the toes are diagnostic of the birds I saw as cattle egrets¹¹¹, 13. One author states: "The snowy egret chick cannot be confused with any other 'white' heron nestling - common egret, cattle egret, and little blue heron. From age one day to fledging, the tarsi of the snowy egret are always darker than the toes"¹³.

The black bill may be confusing since the adult's bill is yellow, however:

"The light yellowish beaks, legs, and irises at hatching darken during the first 3 weeks of life. These early beak color changes from yellow to black were also noted by Blaker (1969) and Siegfried (1972). At 3 weeks of age the iris has lost much of its pale yellow color and is light and gray. Only the tip of the beak remains a light yellow"^{11J}.

In conclusion I didn't find the snowy egret colony nor any evidence of nesting ibis, little blue heron or Louisiana heron. Perhaps I was too late in the season. The end of April would probably be the best time to visit to find these species as the adults would be in the colony incubating and the nest locations could be marked for future study. But I did find adventure, a previously undocumented nesting species and a good deal of information that gave me a lot to read and think about during the winter. It also occurred to me that the West Sister heron colonies should be censused each year. Just try to get some consistent information on heron numbers there in the last ten years (see appendix C)! Each nest tree could be marked with a metal numbered tag and each nest in each tree with a separate numbered tag. Just an accurate nest count alone would be valuable and probably represent accurately any yearly fluctuations in colony size. This could be done in two days at the end of the breeding season to minimize the impact on the colony. Once the trees and nests are numbered the time for resurvey each year would probably take one day. This would also provide information on whether the nests are rebuilt each year as thought or simply improved each season (assuming they aren't destroyed over the winter). Sufficient information exists on the breeding biology of black-crowned night heron to extrapolate a good deal of information from such a nest survey. An additional one day search could be made in late April to locate and document unusual nesting herons. Since the success of a wildlife species is generally related to the quality of their environment such surveys would be useful as a yearly environmental quality indicator.

FOOTNOTES

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(30 April to 25 August 1976). U.S. Fish Wildlife Service Official Biological Service. FWS/OBS - 77/2, pg. D-28.

4. Parris, R.W. 1979. Aspects of great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) foraging ecology in southwestern Lake Erie. M.S. Thesis. Ohio State University. (A) pg. 10, (B) pg. 40-41.
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7. Lafferty, M.B. 1979. Ohio's Natural Heritage. The Ohio Academy of Science. (A) pg. 231. (B) Pg. 248.
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10. Bent, A.C. 1926, *Life Histories of North American Marsh birds*. Dover, New York (A) pg. 203 (B) pg. 150.
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14. Hoffman, R.D. 1974. Mercury in herons, egrets and their nesting environment M.S. Thesis. Ohio State University. pg. 9.
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APPENDIX A

Summer Occurance of Herons and Ibis in OWR - Magee Complex From Ohio Cardinal.

	Snowy Egret	Little Blue Heron	Louisiana Heron	Ibis (Sp)
1979	1	1	1	---
1980	3	1	---	---
1981	9	1	1	---
1982	17 (9 adult 8 im.)	3	1	1

Table above gives maximum number of birds seen at any one time.

See Appendix B for cattle egrets. Parris^{4A} found one pair of little blue herons & one pair of Louisiana herons on West Sister Island in 1978 but did not report any nests of these species.



Immature black-crowned night heron, West Sister Island July 2, 1982.

APPENDIX B

Cattle Egret Reports From Ohio Cardinal

1978 - 1982

	<u>Spring</u>		<u>Summer</u>		<u>Fall</u>	
	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Max. No. Bird</u>	<u>Max. No. Bird</u>	<u>No. Nests</u>	<u>Max. No. Birds</u>	<u>Date</u>
1978	4/22 (1)	8	14	20(A)	14 48	9/3/78 9/19/78-10/6/78
1979	4/6 (7)	7	7	13(B)	7	8/21/79
1980	4/27 (1)	34	28		29	8/10/80
1981	4/12	32	15		53 11	8/7/81 9/5/81
1982	4/14 (1)	3	12	9(C)	Max. No. not reported	

(A) Reported by Parris^{4A} as number of pairs or nests by "visual estimate", method unknown and no other details given.

(B) Reported by Meeks and Hoffman^{2A} as number of nests in June, method unknown and no other details given.

(C) Reported in this article as number of nests by actual count July 2.

This chart is puzzling to me. Each year that there are nest figures, the maximum number of birds seen in the summer is much lower than indicated by the number of nests e.g. 1978: 14 birds vs. 20 nests (40 birds). Also note that in the fall each year approximately the same number of birds that were seen in the summer are seen again except for two notable flocks in 1978 and 1981. The only conclusion I can draw is that there are birds nesting on West Sister which do not forage in the OWR - Magee complex. Also the only immature birds that I have heard reported were in August 1980 by Fry & Van Camp (dark legs). Where do all the immature birds of the year go? Palmer^{6D} states: ". . . very pronounced postbreeding dispersal (July - early Sept.), birds going in any compass direction."

APPENDIX C

West Sister Heron Reports

	<u>Great Blue Heron</u>	<u>Great Egret</u>	<u>Black-crowned Night Heron</u>
1972 (A)	Total nests for all three species: 3,000		
1976 (B)	1,600	200	3,000
1976 (C)	600	600	3,000
1977 (D)	1,158	100	600-1000
1978 (D)	1,167	100	600-1000
1979 (E)	950	50	1,000
1982 (F)			1,300

(A) Hoffman¹⁴, estimate based on author's presence on Island in July. Not an actual nest count.

(B) Scharf¹⁵, method unknown.

(C) Campbell^{7B} & Toledo Naturalist's Association estimated these numbers of nests based on their presence on island.

(D) Parris^{4A}, estimate based on actual nest count from ground for great blue heron and great egret and by "visual estimate" of number of pairs on nests for black-crowned night heron. "Visual estimate" method unknown and no details given.

(E) Meeks and Hoffman^{2A} as number of nests in June, method unknown and no other details given.

(F) Reported in this article based on a direct count of nests on July 2.



West Sister Island, Lake Erie.

The Bald Eagle
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Its Nesting Success in Ohio
In 1981 & 1982

Laurel Van Camp

This article updates my article in the Ohio Cardinal, Volume 3, No. 1 on the Ohio bald eagle. It's prompted by the unusual success of this species in Ohio in 1981 and 1982. Specifically, two new pairs appeared in 1981, nine young were fledged (3 implants) in 1981 and eight young (1 implant) in 1982. This means that 1981 and 1982 were the most successful years in terms of number of young fledged since 1959. It also means that the number of pairs present have increased (from 5 to 7) for the first time since 1973 when seven pairs were present and two young were fledged.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Lucas County

This nest was built in the spring of 1978 in a cottonwood tree and was not successful that year. One young was raised in 1979 and two in 1980. Young were observed in the nest on April 14, 1981, and on May 25, 1981, three young were reported. On June 4, 1981, Jack Holt banded them. Refuge personnel reported them still in the nest June 19, 1981. One bird was in the nest and one on a limb as of June 30, 1981. All had fledged on July 5, 1981. This is the first time three young were fledged from a nest in this region since 1968. However, this nest was in a bad situation as the cottonwood tree supporting it was almost dead. The nest blew down March 31, 1982. By this time it had been abandoned by the birds who had built a new nest near the old site in the fall of 1981 and winter of 1982. In 1982 this new nest was the site of one fledged eaglet which was banded by Holt on June 7, 1982. This pair has been the most successful pair in the region with 12 young fledged (seven in the last four years) despite the facts that two new nests were built and a new mate obtained by the female.

One of the young from this site banded May 28, 1975, was captured and released by an eagle bander January 7, 1976, at Swan Lake NWR, Missouri.

Carroll Township, Ottawa County

This nest was first used in the spring of 1978 and one young fledged. One young was fledged in 1979. In 1980 nesting activity was observed but no egg-laying or incubation was observed. The female was incubating on April 4, 1981. One young bird from Patuxent Research Refuge was implanted on May 7, 1981, and an addled egg was collected for analysis. This bird was six weeks old on May 30, 1981. The foster parents accepted the young implant and the bird was banded by Jack Holt on June 4, 1981. The parents were very attentive. On June 22, 1981, the young bird appeared to be ready to fledge and was out of the nest on July 7, 1981. In 1982 this pair again fledged one eaglet which was banded by Holt on June 7, 1982. This nest has been built up over the years and has attained a huge size. This is not good as it will not withstand a strong wind (it is located in a cottonwood tree).

Ottawa Shooting Club, Sandusky County

This new nest was used for the first time in 1980 although this site has been used since 1969 by this "pair." One natural young and one implant were banded in 1980. Two young were in the nest on April 16, 1981, and were six weeks old on May 18, 1981. They were banded by Jack Holt on June 4, 1981, and

were out by June 19, 1981. In 1982 two eaglets were fledged from this nest. One was a transplant from Patuxent which was fostered into the nest on April 29, 1982. Both were banded by Holt on June 7, 1982. This nest is also in a cottonwood tree.

Rest Haven, Sandusky County

This pair did not return to either of the two nests they had built at this site but instead usurped the nest at White's Landing (see below). Thus, this site was unused in 1981 and 1982.

White's Landing, Sandusky County

The nest at this site had been inactive since 1978 when one of this pair was killed by hitting wires during flight. In 1981 the Rest Haven pair (see above) moved into this site. This area is adjacent to both of the old nests used by them at the Rest Haven site. One addled egg was collected and one young from the Cincinnati Zoo implanted on April 23, 1981. A second young from the Cincinnati Zoo was implanted on April 30, 1981. The parents accepted both of these implants. These birds were six weeks old on May 16, 1981. The male of this pair has a distorted call. This is the first record, for me, of one pair usurping another pair's nest. These implants were banded by Jack Holt on June 4, 1981. This pair was very attentive to their foster young, and by June 19, 1981, the young had fledged. In 1982 one natural eaglet was fledged by this pair and banded by Holt on June 7, 1982. One addled egg was also recovered for analysis.

Winous Point, Ottawa County

No active nest has existed on this site since 1977. However, a pair was observed during the winter of 1980-1981, by Robert Meeks, manager of Winous Point. There was no nesting activity during 1981 or 1982. No pair has nested successfully at this site since 1970. Two nests were started since then but no eggs were laid and no incubation was recorded, unless this is the pair that nested on the ground (predators destroyed the eggs) in Sandusky County in 1976. The ground nesting area was adjacent to this site.

Little Cedar Point Refuge, Lucas County

This nest was built in 1980 in a dead cottonwood. The female was an adult and the male was an immature. The nest was checked on May 7, 1981, to place an implant in it. Two natural young and one addled egg were in the nest at this time. The addled egg was taken in for analysis. These young would have been six weeks old on May 26, 1981, but the nest was blown out May 10, (Mother's Day), killing both young. In the fall of 1981 and winter of 1982 a new nest was built very near the old site. In 1982 three eaglets fledged and were banded by Holt on June 7.

Mosquito Creek, Trumbull County

To my knowledge, this is the first authentic record away from the Lake Erie region in over two decades. The nest was built in 1980 in a hard maple. One young was hatched on April 29, 1981, and will be six weeks old on June 8, 1981. It was banded by Denis Case on June 9, 1981. In 1982 this pair abandoned this nest after a severe storm in April. Two Canada goose eggs were placed into the nest on April 10 in an attempt to return the pair to incubating but the attempt failed.

Pickereel Creek, Sandusky County

This "pair" has been observed in this area from 1954 through 1974. There was occasional incubation during this period but no young were observed. In 1969 the female was shot from the nest. The male remated. There has been no activity around the nest since 1973. A new nest was built in 1980. Possibly, at least one of the adults were from the pair that used this area for many years. (Probably this pair built the nest in the White's Landing area in 1975 as they appeared in White's Landing area at the same time the Pickereel Creek area was abandoned, used the White's Landing site until 1978 when one of the pair was killed by hitting wires and then remated and returned to this site in 1980. This area is adjacent to the White's Landing area.) No nesting activity was observed in this new nest in 1981. On February 23, 1982, this pair was seen copulating in this nest. The nest was also being relined. But by late February the nest was abandoned. The cause of the abandonment was thought to be firewood cutting activity by the local residents in the woodlot.

Final Notes

Two new nests were built in 1982 (Ottawa NWR and Cedar Point division of Ottawa NWR). These two nests produced one-half of the young fledged in 1982. This is unusual in that quite often new eagle nests do not produce young the first year (the birds' "energies" have been dissipated by the nest building). For example, see the Ottawa pair in 1978.

Suitable tree nesting sites may become the critical problem of the future for Lake Erie eagles especially with an increase in pairs if it continues. I think we can provide bases for nests and that eagles can be encouraged to use them. At the least we should provide bases for pairs that have bad nesting sites and as alternate sites for other pairs. The fact that a pair nested on the ground in 1976 and that one pair used the old nest of another pair in 1981 is persuasive. Bases were constructed at both the Ottawa and Cedar Point sites but neither were selected. Since the birds instead chose sites near the old nest sites, perhaps the bases should have also been closer.

Acknowledgments

My thanks to Denis Case, Non-game Biologist for Endangered Species, Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Case was responsible for most of the encounters mentioned in this article, along with all the implanting and collecting of addled eggs, which has to be timed properly, and the banding of the young bird in Mosquito Creek nest; Sean T. Kelly, United States Fish & Wildlife Service; Patuxent Research Refuge, who provided one implant and the addled egg analysis; Cincinnati Zoo, who provided two implants; Jack Holt, who has banded the Ohio eagles since 1965; Ottawa Wildlife Refuge personnel; Landowners and other individuals who have participated in the eagle program.

Note: New Number
Toledo Rare Bird Alert
1-419-867-9765

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS
NESTING IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO

John J. Stophlet

On May 1, 1981, I found a nest of this species (Buteo platypterus) in Oak Openings Park, Lucas County. A hawk was brooding on its nest; the mate was in a tree nearby. The nest was near Evergreen Lake, and up about 50-55 ft. in a black oak and within a few feet of a horse trail. It was situated in dry woods of black and white oaks, with an understory of sassafras and a scattering of red maples and with a ground cover of bracken and blueberry bushes.

Oak Openings Metro Park is a sandy area of nearly 3700 acres covered principally with various oaks and pine plantations. Red-shouldered hawks (Buteo lineatus) were once common breeding birds in the park, but now have been largely replaced by broad-wings. The first nest reported for the park was in the early 1970s. Family groups have been observed during the nesting season since then, but no nests of broad-wings were found until this year.

On June 1, an adult was brooding on the nest. On the 11th, no young were seen, but on June 17, an adult was there and one small young was observed stretching its wings above the rim of the nest. I was sitting on the ground within full view, when an adult came to the nest, and immediately dove straight at me through the trees above my head. The bird uttered its plaintive whistle as long as I remained nearby. On July 17, the nest was empty.

On June 17, I found a second nest containing two small young about 30 feet up in an oak near the edge of upland woods. A large swamp woods was adjacent to the nest site. Coming back through the woods, I flushed one of the pair from the ground near the nest. Was it hunting insects? This nest was about a mile and one half north of the first one. On July 17, the young were fully fledged. One was on the nest, the other on a limb above; they both flew as I approached them.

Hicks (1935) lists only Williams County as breeding range for the broad-wing in northwestern Ohio. He found nesting records for ten counties of southeastern and seven northeastern counties. Dawson (1903) lists the hawk even then as "not common summer resident."

Bent (1937) quotes Frank L. Burnes (1911) as to nesting habitat. "In Pennsylvania it haunts the wild rocky wooded ravines above the small streams and close to small ponds and swamps. While it is not unknown to the large grove, it loves the continuous woods over which it can pass undisturbed and unseen from one feeding ground to another; shunning the cultivated area altogether or traversing it only to visit some nearby swamp or pond."

Literature Cited

- Bent, Arthur Cleveland, 1937. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey.
U. S. National Museum Bulletin 167, pp. 237 (Part 1).
Dawson, L. William, 1903. The Birds of Ohio. Columbus, pp. 409.
Hicks, E. Lawrence, 1935. Distribution of The Breeding Birds of Ohio.
Ohio Biological Survey, Bulletin 32, pp. 145.

WESTING IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO

John L. Stephenson

On May 1, 1901, I found a nest of this bird in a tree near the water. The nest was made of mud and lined with feathers. It was situated in a black oak and within a few feet of a hole in the trunk. The nest was of black and white oaks, with an abundance of grass and a scattering of red maple and with a ground cover of grass and clover.

Oak Springs State Park is a sandy area of about 1700 acres covered principally with various oaks and pine plantations. (Junco lineatus) were once common breeding birds in the park, but now have been largely replaced by broad-wings. The nest was observed during the nesting season in the early 1910s. Early groups of birds were observed during the nesting season since then, but no nests of this bird were found until this year.

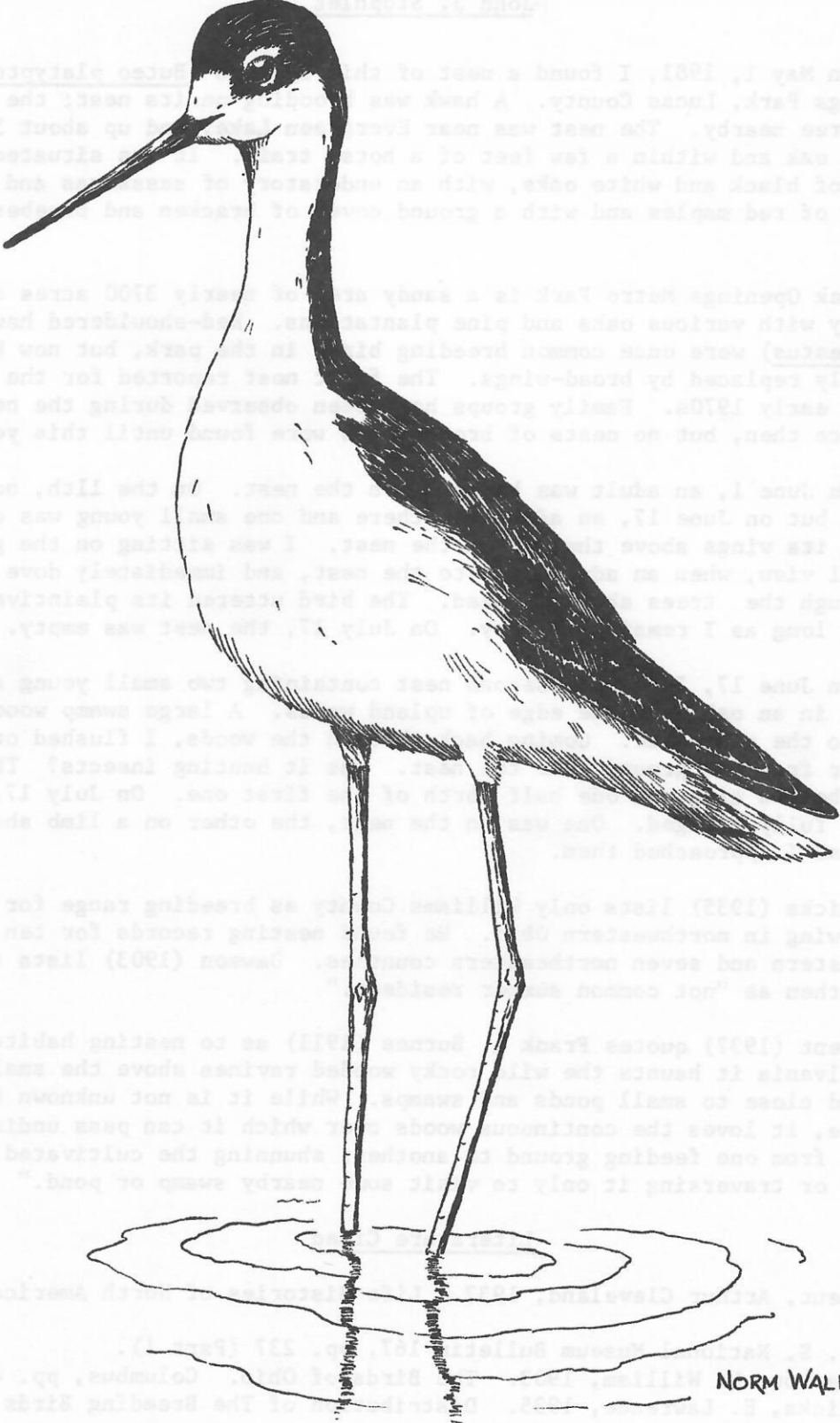
On June 1, an adult was seen. The nest, the bird, or young were seen, but on June 17, when one male and one female were observed stretching its wings above the nest. I was sitting on the ground within full view, when an adult male and female bird came to the nest as though the nest was empty. The nest was empty.

On June 17, two small young about 30 feet up in a tree. A large swampy woods was adjacent to the park. I finished one of the pairs. The nest was empty. On July 17, the nest was empty. The other on a high above; the nest was empty.

Rich (1917) lists only the broad-wing in northwestern Ohio as nesting records for ten counties of southwestern and seven counties of northwestern Ohio. Rich (1903) lists the broad-wing as "not common and nesting records for ten counties."

Rich (1907) quotes Frank (1907) as to nesting habits: "In Pennsylvania it breeds the wide-winged ravines above the small streams and close to small ponds and swamps. While it is not known to the large grove, it loves the continuous woods in which it can pass undisturbed and unseen from one feeding ground to another, swamping the cultivated area and altogether or traversing it only to reach a swampy or pond."

Rich (1907) lists only the broad-wing in northwestern Ohio as nesting records for ten counties of southwestern and seven counties of northwestern Ohio. Rich (1903) lists the broad-wing as "not common and nesting records for ten counties."



NORM WALKER

Black-Necked Stilt
Documentation Fourth State Record
(First occurrence in forty years.)

Charles W. Hocevar

On July 18, 1981 at approximately 8:50 a.m. EDT, this writer was birding in the company of Bruce Peterjohn at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Crane Creek State Park), Lucas County, Ohio when I observed a black-necked stilt feeding in a shallow pool of water about 600 feet west of the causeway.

Within minutes of its discovery the stilt was pointed out to Karl Overman & Joe Kleinam of Detroit, Michigan and about a half hour later to Dick & Jean Hoffman of Cleveland, Ohio. John Pogacnik, Park Ranger, also observed the stilt prior to our departure at 10:30 a.m. The stilt was last observed, to my knowledge, between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m. EDT, at which time Bruce and I returned with Laurel Van Camp.

The black-necked stilt was observed in excellent light and spent most of its time feeding and preening. This particular area in the marsh had recently been "drawn down" and still had a number of pools of water which had attracted many other shorebirds notably yellowlegs and dowitchers.

Significant notes were taken at the time of observation and form the basis for this summary. In addition, the bird was photographed with a Nikon 500 mm. lens and also with the aforementioned lens and 2x extender. The slides provide identification but are not sufficiently close for reproduction.

The black-necked stilt was the largest shore bird present, noticeably larger than the lesser yellowlegs. The stilt was observed in its typical black and white plumage pattern with long and thin rose-pink legs and the long thin black bill which are unique to this species. The stilt was also seen several times in flight as it would move from one end of the pool to another.

While the stilt's long legs made it larger than the other shorebirds, its body was proportionately small. Its plumage was a contrast of black and white with white on the forehead and a conspicuous white patch over the eye. The nape, wings and upper back were black, with a noticeable brownish-black tinge to the upper back. The remainder of the bird was white including the rump and lower back which appeared "dowitcher like". The stilt was not heard to call.

Editor

There are three probable prior records of the black-necked stilt in Ohio, other than general historical references:

1. F. W. Langdon in A Revised History of Cincinnati Birds published in the Journal of (the) Cincinnati Society of Natural History (1878) states at page 182:

"181 Himantopus nigricollis, Vieillof - Black-necked Stilt - One specimen noted by Mr. Dury."

Langdon earlier referred to Dury as: "... Mr. Charles Dury, of Avondale, whose extensive ornithological collection contains many of our rarer species, ..." (pg. 167).

Langdon based his list on: "The collections and observations ... made at two or three points, in the territory lying between the Great and Little Miami Rivers, and within ten or twelve miles of the Ohio". (p. 167).

Arthur Wiseman (in personal communication) states that the Charles Dury collection at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History presently has no record of *Himantopus mexicanus* from Ohio. There is one old skin with no information but it seems likely that this specimen was collected after 1878 and some old mounts that may have been from Ohio on which no data was maintained.

2. Lynds Jones reports in 1904 in *Additional Records of Ohio Birds*, the *Ohio Naturalist*, Volume IV, No. 5 at page 112:

" Mr. (A) Hall (of Lakewood) furnished me with the following additional records: *Himantopus mexicanus*, Black-necked Stilt, one shot at Berea, October 24, 1881."

3. A. B. Williams states in 1950 in *Birds of Cleveland Region* at page 64:

"A dead bird, reported to be of this species, was noted by Oscar E. Mueller, August 15, 1941, on the pavement of North Park Boulevard near the Lower Shaker Lake, Cleveland Heights. Unfortunately this specimen was not preserved."

This record is also reported in Walker C.F. 1941. *Audubon Magazine* 43:570.

General historical references to the occurrence of this bird are found in J. M. Wheaton in 1882 in his *Report on Birds of Ohio*. (Report of the geographical survey of Ohio. Volume IV, Part I, Section 2: page 463):

"The stilt has been repeatedly taken on Lake Erie, as I am informed by (R.K. Winslow of Cleveland, Ohio)."

and C.F. Clark in 1966 in *Birds of the Lake St. Mary's Area*. (with J.P. Sipe; Ohio Department Natural Resources Publication 350: pg. 31):

"115. Black-necked stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus* Muller.

During the senior authors contacts with "old timers" of the area, Messrs. Fred Magill, Guy Heap and William Sherman described this bird. Magill stated that prior to 1900 one or two were seen every year."

Correction: Great Egret in Volume 4, No. 1 at page 15 reads; 5/28 Gilmore (Tuscarawas Co.). It should read; 5/28 Gilmore Ponds (Butler Co.).

The Reports

Summer Nesting
1 June - 31 July 1981
Tom Bartlett

This report begins a new form of reporting for the Summer Nesting Season. The late Spring and early Fall migrants have been reported separately from the summering and nesting species. Also, though the 169 species nesting and the 13 species summering in Ohio in 1981 have been listed only certain noteworthy species among them have been separately discussed. Finally, there is also a list of those species thought to be increasing by range expansion or numbers in Ohio during this Summer period, those declining and those where the evidence is inconclusive. We hope you like this new method. Please comment.

Again in this issue every submitted documentation has been reviewed by the Ohio Records Committee. Those reports noted with an asterisk have a written documentation or photo on file which has been accepted by the Ohio Records Committee. Those reports which were not accepted by a majority (three) of the Committee are reviewed in their report, also in this issue. The symbol (D) after the species name designates those birds the Ohio Records Committee suggests be documented.

In the Special Reports section of this report, the number of each species sighted is included unless only one bird was seen and then no number is designated. The location of the sighting is given with as much preciseness as possible to enable the reader to know where certain birds can be found. The county containing the location is identified for each location only at the first instance the location is mentioned. However, a cross-reference chart showing each location mentioned and its county appears at the end of the report.

This report follows the AOU taxonomy, common names and arrangement of taxa but doesn't include the changes made in July 1982.

"Weather for the period was atypical. The first half of June was quite wet with widespread flooding. While little rain fell during the latter half of the month, it ended with more than 2 inches above normal precipitation and the period April-June was the wettest on record for Columbus. The first half of July was rather dry but heavy showers during the latter half of the month produced near normal precipitation in central Ohio. During both months, temperatures were well below normal. July ended with temperatures typical of September (upper 40's - low 70's). The hot and muggy weather characteristic of any Ohio summer (didn't arrive).

In spite of the relatively cool and wet weather, this breeding season appeared to be fairly productive for most species. A few species were adversely affected by the June floods; most successfully raised young in normal numbers. A succession of strong cold fronts during the latter half of July were accompanied by the normal numbers of migrant shorebirds and other species expected at this time of the year."(B.P.)

In the northwest (Crane Creek State Park):

"Marsh breeding habitat continues to improve in the four county marsh region. Good breeding populations of Coots, Gallinules, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and Black Terns are present where habitat occurs. Short-billed Marsh Wrens responded well to an increase in habitat on Magee. Heron breeding population seem to be stable with a definite increase in Snowy Egrets on West Sister. Herring Gulls were normal but a major disaster which I feel was disease, hit the Ring-bill colony at the Bay Shore Power Plant." (M.S.)

Summering or Breeding Birds During 1981

The following list is of 182 species of nesting or summering birds in Ohio during 1981. Those species marked with an asterisk (*) were not thought to have nested. Those that are underlined are of note and are discussed later.

Pied-billed Grebe	Herring Gull
Great Blue Heron	Ring-billed Gull
Green Heron	Bonaparte's Gull*
<u>Little Blue Heron*</u>	<u>Common Tern</u>
<u>Cattle Egret</u>	Caspian Tern*
Great Egret	Black Tern
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	Rock Dove
<u>Louisiana Heron*</u>	Mourning Dove
Black-crowned Night Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
<u>Yellow-crowned Night Heron</u>	Black-billed Cuckoo
Least Bittern	<u>Barn Owl</u>
<u>American Bittern*</u>	<u>Screech Owl</u>
Canada Goose	Great Horned Owl
Mallard	Barred Owl
Black Duck	<u>Chuck-will's-widow</u>
Gadwall	Whip-poor-will
Pintail	Common Nighthawk
<u>Green-winged Teal</u>	Chimney Swift
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Wigeon	Belted Kingfisher
Northern Shoveler	Common Flicker
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker
Redhead	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Ruddy Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>	<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*</u>
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker
<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u>	Eastern Kingbird
Cooper's Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Phoebe
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	Acadian Flycatcher
Broad-winged Hawk	Willow Flycatcher
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	<u>Alder Flycatcher</u>
Northern Harrier*	<u>Least Flycatcher</u>
American Kestrel	Eastern Pewee
Ruffed Grouse	Horned Lark
Bobwhite	Tree Swallow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Bank Swallow
Turkey	Rough-winged Swallow
King Rail	Barn Swallow
Virginia Rail	<u>Cliff Swallow</u>
Sora	<u>Purple Martin</u>
<u>Common Gallinule</u>	Blue Jay
<u>American Coot</u>	Common Crow
Killdeer	Black-capped Chickadee
American Woodcock	Tufted Titmouse
Common Snipe	White-breasted Nuthatch
Upland Sandpiper	<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch</u>
Spotted Sandpiper	<u>Brown Creeper</u>
Wilson's Phalarope*	House Wren
<u>Great Black-backed Gull*</u>	<u>Winter Wren</u>
	Carolina Chickadee

Carolina Wren
 Marsh Wren
Sedge Wren
 Mockingbird
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 American Robin
 Wood Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Veery
 Eastern Bluebird
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Cedar Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike*
 Starling
 White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo*
 Yellow-throated Vireo
Solitary Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Worm-eating Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler and Hybrid
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush

Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler
 American Redstart
 House Sparrow
 Bobolink
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark*
 Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-headed Blackbird*
 Orchard Oriole
 Northern Oriole
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Scarlet Tanager
 Summer Tanager
 Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel*
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
Pine Siskin*
 American Goldfinch
 Rufous-sided Towhee
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Henslow's Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow

Special Notes on Breeding Birds 1981

The following list is of those species that a majority of observers felt were increasing, expanding their range, or up in numbers. Also see the section on special reports for more detailed account of those that are underlined.

Cattle Egret
 Least Bittern
Canada Goose
Green-winged Teal
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Bobwhite
 Ring-necked Pheasant
Common Gallinule
American Coot

Killdeer
Upland Sandpiper
Black Tern
 Common Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Willow Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher

Tree Swallow
Common Crow
Carolina Wren
Mockingbird
American Robin
Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler

Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler
House Sparrow
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Common Grackle
Cardinal
House Finch
American Goldfinch

The following list of species that a majority of observers felt were declining, or down in numbers.

Green Heron
American Bittern
Wood Duck
Northern Harrier
King Rail
Barn Owl
Common Nighthawk

House Wren
Wood Thrush
Loggerhead Strike
Ovenbird
American Redstart
Summer Tanager
Dickcissel

The following list is of those species which received conflicting reports from the various observers statewide. The species on this list and the above list should be watched carefully in the future.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Whip-poor-will
Red-headed Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay
Marsh Wren
Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Warbler .

SPECIAL REPORTS

The following are notes and observations of birds during the breeding season. They consist of unusual records, changes in populations, and other important notes.

Pied-billed Grebe

Inland records: breeding in Butler, Champaign, and Pickaway Counties with possible record in Wayne County.

Little Blue Heron

Summered at Crane Creek SP (Ottawa-Lucas County) (JP, MS).

Cattle Egret

6/29 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge entrance (Ottawa Co) (LVC); "Sight records about any day during June and July. This indicated (15 birds in breeding plumage) the breeding colony on West Sister Island (Lucas Co) is thriving." (LVC).

Snowy Egret (D: Inland only)

Up to nine individuals summered at Crane Creek, 7/13; 2 + pair were observed on West Sister Island with 5 young (MS); "Seeing this many birds is positive proof those birds are nesting on West Sister Island, This is the same situation as when the common egrets started nesting on West Sister during World War II. The first colony was found in 1946." (LVC).

Louisiana Heron (D)

An adult summered at Crane Creek (JP*, MS*).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Two adults summered at Rocky River (WNK); 6/9 (Cuyahoga Co)(Lorain Co)(JP); 6/17-21 Butler Co. (adult)(FR); 6/21-7/8 Dayton area (Montgomery Co)(adult)(DBO, m.ob.).

Least Bittern

Inland records: Butler Co. (2 pair nested)(FR); several possibly nested in the Dayton area (TH, BP, m.ob.).

American Bittern

Only records: 6/1 Crane Creek (AT); 6/3 Winous Pt. (Ottawa Co.)(JP); 6/6 Wayne Co. (JB); 6/7 Trumbull Co (LR); 7/20 Chardon (Geauga Co.)(EF).

Canada Goose

Estimate by Dept. of Natural Resources: 4000 + fledged in Ohio (1400 + at Crane Creek)(MS).

Green-winged Teal

Bred in Franklin Co. (BP).

Blue-winged Teal

Inland records: bred in Pickaway, Seneca, and Wayne Co. (BP)(TB)(JB).

Hooded Merganser

Two pairs nested at Killbuck WA (Wayne Co.)(See article in this issue)(JS); "Nest with 10 eggs located in rocket type nesting box on May 7, 1981, Toussaint Creek (Ottawa Co.). On June 1, 1981, all eggs hatched. Species reported almost every year since first nest reported in 1955." (LVC).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Increased reports statewide: June, Chardon (nest, 3 young)(EF); 6/7 Jackson Co. (carrying food)(BP); 6/11 Seneca Co. (carrying food)(TB); 7/11 Columbus (Franklin Co.)(JF); 7/31 Mohican S.F. (Ashland Co)(family unit)(SM).

Cooper's Hawk

Increasing (?): reports from 14 counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Increasing and expanding (?): reports from 12 counties.

Broad-winged Hawk

Two nests, 3 young, Oak opening (Lucas Co)(JSt). See article in this issue for more details.

Northern Harrier

No nesting reported; irregularly observed along Lake Erie; 6/11 Seneca Co (TB); 6/29 Funk (Wayne Co.)(VDK).

Bald Eagle

Banner Year for Ohio Eagles!!! 8 young hatched in the wild and 6 fledged; 3 young transplanted and fledged; Total: 9 eagles fledged. (See article in this issue for more details.) 6/28 Putnam Co. (immature)(BP).

Bobwhite

Increasing in southern and central areas but still down in the north.

King Rail

Only record: 6/7 Toussaint WA (Ottawa Co.)(TB).

Common Gallinule

Increasing statewide; inland breeding attempts: Akron area (Summit Co.), Dayton area, Holmes, Wayne, and Seneca Counties.

American Coot

Increasing statewide; several inland nesting attempts; 300 + fledged at Crane Creek (MS).

Upland Sandpiper

Breeding numbers increasing; 11 sites reported statewide.

Great Black-backed Gull (D: Away from Lake Erie)

Increased summer observations but no nesting record.

Ring-billed Gull

Poor nesting success; banding records for the Oregon colony (Lucas Co) down; 1980: 1200+, 1981: 72, disease seemed to be the cause.

Common Tern

"6/24 Maumee Bay (dredge impoundment area, Lucas Co) 25 pairs defending territory and a few nests. Still about 25 pairs defending territory 7/24 but no nests located. No birds banded this year compared to 147 banded in 1980. Evidence of ground predators and increase of gull colonies caused decline of nesting success in this colony." (LVC)

Black Tern

Increased breeding population along Lake Erie.

Barn Owl

Nesting success down at Killbuck WA due to wet weather (JS); bred at Kingston (Ross Co) (JC) and Ottawa Co. (MS).

Screech Owl

"Had a good season at Crane Creek. In 1981, 21 nests were located in checking 80 nest boxes compared to 12 nests located in checking 50 nest boxes in 1980. Very mild weather in March with very little rainfall, caused the birds to nest early. Thus the reason for 5 broods to fledge in April before the boxes were checked. Three nests were abandoned during the egg laying and incubating period. One nest was abandoned while young were in nest. In twelve nests 45 young were banded: three broods of five young, five broods of four young, three broods of three young and one brood of one young. It is possible that some of the young had fledged from the nest with only one in the brood." (LVC).

Chuck-will's-widow (D: Central and Northern)

6/7 Adams Co. (21)(BP); 6/4 early July, Dayton area, (1)(m.ob.).

Pileated Woodpecker

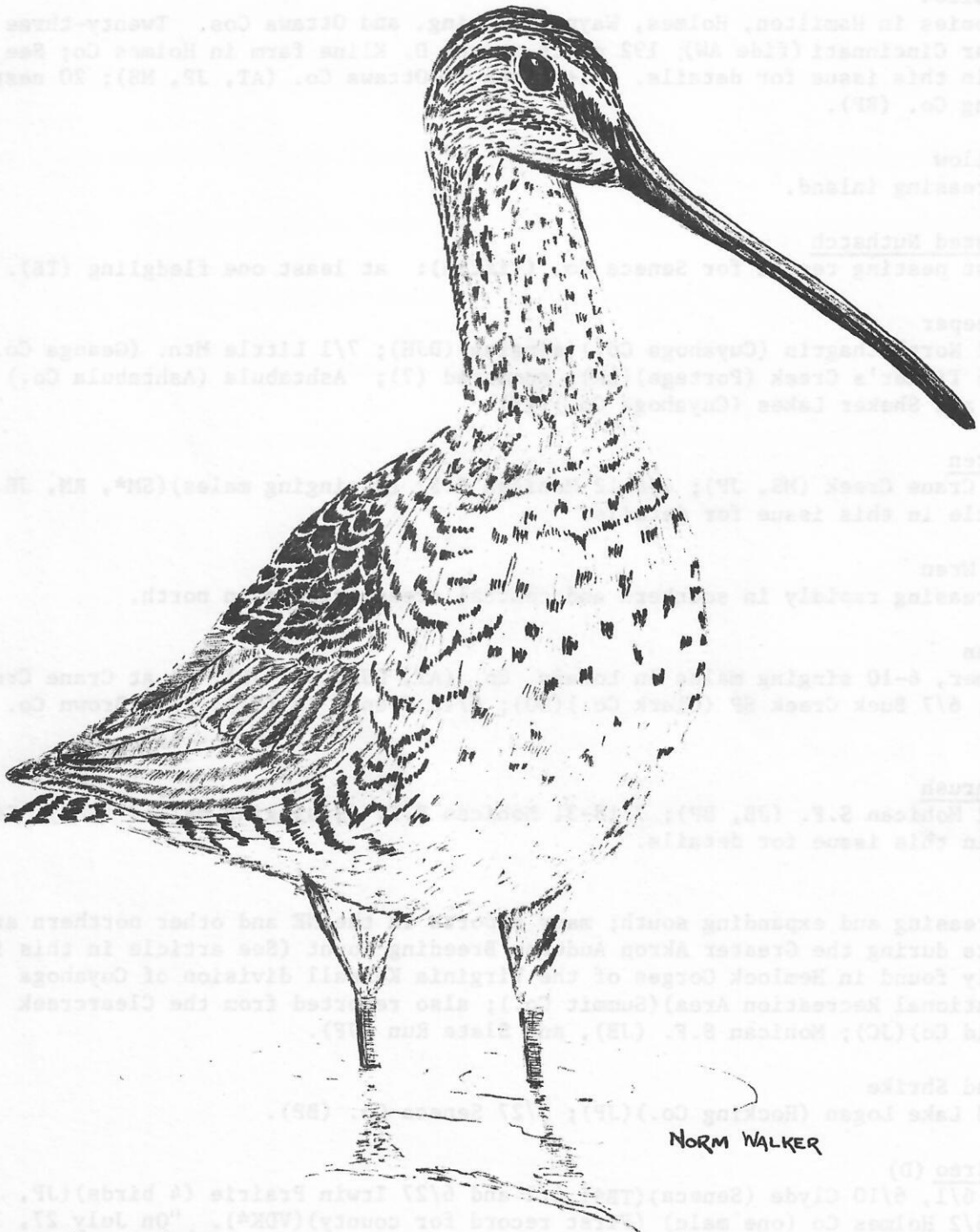
Increasing and expanding statewide.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Expanding northeastward.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

6/30 Lancaster (Fairfield Co.)(HK); 7/5 Rocky River (Michael Stasko).



NORM WALKER

Long-billed Dowitcher

Faded, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page is visible throughout the document, including phrases like "Long-billed Dowitcher", "Norm Walker", and various dates and locations.

Alder Flycatcher

Excellent breeding season; 6/1-11 Crane Creek (2)(JP); 6/6 Irwin Prairie (Lucas Co)(JP); 7/22 Stark Co. (AT); June, Seneca Co. (4)(TB); 8/1 Streetsboro (Portage Co)(10-15 birds with 10 singing)(LR).

Least Flycatcher

Good breeding season; observed in Ashland, Cuyahoga, Guernsey, Holmes, Lorain, Ottawa, Portage, Seneca, Summit and Wayne Cos.

Cliff Swallow

Colonies in Hamilton, Holmes, Wayne, Hocking, and Ottawa Cos. Twenty-three nests near Cincinnati (fide AW); 192 nests at the D. Kline farm in Holmes Co; See article in this issue for details. 12+ nests in Ottawa Co. (AT, JP, MS); 20 nests in Hocking Co. (BP).

Tree Swallow

Increasing inland.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

First nesting record for Seneca Co. (Tiffin): at least one fledgling (TB).

Brown Creeper

6/11 North Chagrin (Cuyahoga Co.)(singing)(DJH); 7/1 Little Mtn. (Geauga Co.)(EF); 7/6 Tinker's Creek (Portage)(LR); summered (?); Ashtabula (Ashtabula Co.)(LR, BP) and Shaker Lakes (Cuyahoga Co.)(VF).

Winter Wren

6/6 Crane Creek (MS, JP); 6/6-12 Mohican S.F. (2 singing males)(SM*, RN, JB, BP). See article in this issue for details.

Carolina Wren

Increasing rapidly in southern and central areas; slower in north.

Sedge Wren

Summer, 6-10 singing males in Lorain Co. (AT, DJH, JF, JP); 4+ at Crane Creek (JP, MS); 6/7 Buck Creek SP (Clark Co.)(DO); 6/12 Greene Co (JI); 7/15 Brown Co. (BP).

Hermit Thrush

6/12 Mohican S.F. (JB, BP); 7/18-31 Mohican S.F. (3 singing males) (SM*). See article in this issue for details.

Veery

Increasing and expanding south; many reports in the NE and other northern areas; 24 reports during the Greater Akron Audubon Breeding Count (See article in this issue) (generally found in Hemlock Gorges of the Virginia Kendall division of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area)(Summit Co.); also reported from the Clearcreek (Fairfield Co)(JC); Mohican S.F. (JB), and Slate Run (JF).

Loggerhead Shrike

6/23 Lake Logan (Hocking Co.)(JP); 7/27 Seneca Co. (BP).

Bell's Vireo (D)

6/1, 6/10 Clyde (Seneca)(TB*), 6/2 and 6/27 Irwin Prairie (4 birds)(JP, JC*) 6/1 and 6/2 Holmes Co (one male) (First record for county)(VDK*). "On July 27, 1981, there was one pair along Irwin Road near the boardwalk. No young were seen or suspected from this pair. An additional two singing males were heard walking east along the boardwalk from Irwin Road. I suspect these were last year's young. I don't know if they were paired." (JC).

Solitary Vireo

Increasing, but more so in eastern and northeastern areas; observed in Ashland, Columbiana, Geauga, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lake, Portage, Scioto, and Summit.

Worm-eating Warbler

Appears to be expanding northward.

Golden-winged Warbler

Noted at Oak Openings (Lucas Co.)(ET) and Lorain Co. (JP).

"Brewster's Warbler"

6/1-22 Clearcreek; (JC,JP) 6/9 Lorain (JP) 6/27 Oak Openings (JC); June, Akron area.

"Lawrence's Warbler"

6/9 Lorain Co. (JP); June-July, Clearcreek (JC); 7/6 Tinker's Creek (LR, BP, EE).

Magnolia Warbler

6/7 Mohican S.F. (SM*) (See article in this issue); 6/4 Crane Creek (JP); 6/11 Hocking Co. (JC); 6/23 - 7/24 Mohican S.F. (JB); 6/30 Stebbins Gulch (Geauga Co.) (3)(LR); 7/1 Little Mtn. (EF); June, Fairfield Co. (JC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

6/6-12 Mohican S.F. (2)(SM*) (See article in this issue.)

Black-throated Green Warbler

6/5 Crane Creek (JP, AT); 6/11 North Chagrin (2)(DJH); 6/11 Holmes Co. (1 singing male)(VDK); 6/30 Stebbins Gulch (8)(LR); June, Mohican S.F. (9)(JB,SM); June, Clearcreek; (JC); (See article in this issue); June, Jackson Co. (BP).

Blackburnian Warbler

6/26 Mohican S.F. (JB); 7/1 Little Mtn. (3 males)(EF).

Yellow-throated Warbler

Appears to be expanding northward.

Northern Waterthrush

7/6 Geauga Co. (LR, BP); 7/30 Shaker Lakes (VF).

Kentucky Warbler

Appears to be expanding northward.

Hooded Warbler

Appears to be expanding northward.

Canada Warbler

Appears to be more common than previously thought; many were found in appropriate habitat, especially in eastern and northeastern areas.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (D: Away from Lake Erie)

Up to three summered at Crane Creek.

Orchard Oriole

Appears to be expanding and increasing statewide.

Blue Grosbeak (D: Central and Northern)

Increasing or just being discovered in southern areas; observed in Adams, Hocking, Lawrence, and Meigs Co.; can no longer be considered rare in southern Ohio.

Dickcissel

Numbers way down; only reports: 6/30 ONWR (1)(JP, BP); 7/4 Butler Co. (1)(JC, BP).

House Finch

Continuing to expand and increase statewide; moving into the NW with reports from Hancock, Hardin, Seneca and Ottawa Co.

Pine Siskin

6/4 Crane Creek (7)(JP); 7/20 Lorain (1)(JP); June, Lancaster (1-6)(JC); Meigs Co. (late migrant?)(BP).

Henslow's Sparrow

Colonies found in Holmes, Lorain, Summit, Lake, Franklin, Portage, Hocking, Butler, Montgomery, Brown, Ross, Washington and Delaware Cos.; 25+ singing males were observed at Paint Creek Lake area (Highland and Ross Cos.).

Lark Sparrow

Only reports: 6/2 Oak Openings (JP); 6/13 Adams Co. (JC, BP).

Dark-eyed Junco

Only reports: 6/30 Stebbin's Gulch (10)(LR); 7/1 Little Mtn (6+ singing males)(EF).

Late Spring Migrants

The following list is a record of those species that were observed during the breeding season but are thought to be late spring migrants. Unusual records are underlined.

Horned Grebe

6/1 Sandusky Bay (Erie and Ottawa Cos) (4)(JP).

Double-crested Cormorant

6/4 Crane Creek (13)(JP, MS); 6/2 Lake St. Mary's (Mercer-Auglaize Cos.)(2)(BP).

Canvasback

6/13 Oregon (MS); 6/3 Winous Pt. (JP).

Lesser Scaup

6/7 ONWR (2 pr.)(TB); 6/3 Winous Pt. (JP).

Broad-winged Hawk

6/15 Crane Creek (MS).

Semipalmated Plover

6/12 Crane Creek (JP); 6/7 Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.)(DJH).

Black-bellied Plover

6/17 Crane Creek (MS, JP); 6/15 Huron (Erie) (TL).

Ruddy Turnstone

6/17 Oregon (JP).

Willet

6/7-11 Crane Creek (TB, JP, MS).

Lesser Yellowlegs

6/17 Crane Creek (JP)

White-rumped Sandpiper

6/11 Huron (2)(TL); 6/7 ONWR (8+)(TB).

Dunlin

6/15 Huron (TL); 6/11 Crane Creek (JP); 6/4 Cleveland (DJH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper

6/7 ONWR (TB).

Laughing Gull (D: 6/2 Oregon (JP)).

Franklin's Gull

6/7 Buck Creek SP (DO) and ONWR(TB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

6/6 Erie Co. (AT); 6/4 Crane Creek (JP).

Olive-sided Flycatcher

6/6 Mohican SP (SM*); 6/4 Crane Creek (JP).

Swainson's Thrush

6/4 Crane Creek (JP).

Gray-cheeked Thrush

6/4 Crane Creek (JP).

Tennessee Warbler

6/6 Crane Creek (JP, AT).

Nashville Warbler

6/3 Crane Creek (JP).

Blackpoll Warbler

6/21 Cleveland (singing)(RH); 6/1 Crane Creek SP (JP)

Mourning Warbler

6/4 Crane Creek (JP); 6/2 Clark Lake (Clark Co.)(VF).

Wilson's Warbler

6/4 Crane Creek (JP).

Evening Grosbeak

6/2 Toledo (Lucas Co.)(3)(JP).

White-winged Crossbill

6/1-9 Lorain (2 immature males)(JP). One of these birds appeared on the cover of The Ohio Cardinal, Volume 3, No. 4,. See lead story in that issue for details.

White-crowned Sparrow

6/6 Crane Creek (JP).

White-throated Sparrow

6/6 Crane Creek (JP) 6/18-19 Lakewood, (Cuyahoga Co.)(Michael Stasko).

Early Fall Migrants 1981

The following list is of early fall migrants observed during the breeding season of 1981. Unusual records are underlined.

Common Loon

7/30 Killdeer Plains WA (Marion Co.)(MS).

Double-crested Cormorant

7/17 Crane Creek (JP).

Rough-legged Hawk

7/25 One injured bird (successfully rehabilitated) Cincinnati (Hamilton Co.) (B.Mo.)

Semipalmated Plover

7/5 Cleveland (DJH); 7/10 Crane Creek (JP); 7/26 Funk (VDK).

Piping Plover

7/29 Cleveland (WNK*).

Lesser Golden Plover

7/30 Oregon (2)(JP).

Black-bellied Plover

7/18 Crane Creek (DJH, BP).

Ruddy Turnstone

7/18 Huron (2)(BP); 7/27 Cleveland (TL).

Common Snipe

7/6 Funk (JB); 7/11 Portage Co. (LR, BP).

Whimbrel

7/22-29 Cleveland (1-5)(m.ob.); 7/23-28 Huron (1-2)(TL, JP); 7/26-27 Funk (VDK, JR).

Solitary Sandpiper

7/6 Funk (VDK); Crane Creek (MS).

Willet

7/4-5 Crane Creek (JP, MS); 7/17 Huron (TL); 7/21 Cleveland (TL).

Greater Yellowlegs

7/2 Crane Creek (JP)

Lesser Yellowlegs

7/6 Funk (JB); Crane Creek (JP).

Red Knot

7/18 Crane Creek (breeding plumage)(TB); Huron (3)(TL); 7/23 Crane Creek (JP); 7/30 Crane Creek (40+)(MS).

Pectoral Sandpiper

7/2 Crane Creek (MS).

White-rumped Sandpiper

7/21 Oregon (JP); 7/22 Crane Creek (MS).

Baird's Sandpiper (D: Spring Only)

7/28 Crane Creek (MS)

Least Sandpiper

7/5 Crane Creek (JP)

Dunlin

7/8 Crane Creek (MS); 7/19 Crane Creek (TB).

Short-billed Dowitcher

7/1 Crane Creek (JP).

Stilt Sandpiper

7/8 Crane Creek (JP); 7/10 Oregon (70)(ET, et al); 7/19 ONWR (25+)(TB); 7/23 Funk (8)(VDK); 7/27 Franklin Co. (JF).

Semipalmated Sandpiper

7/5 Crane Creek (JP); 7/27 Oregon (500+)(BP).

Western Sandpiper (D: Spring Only)

7/5-11 Crane Creek (TB*, JP, MS); 7/25-27 Huron (1-4) (TL, ET); 7/28 Lorain (JP)

Hudsonian Godwit

7/27 ONWR (BP, CHO),

Marbled Godwit

7/25-31 ONWR (1-4)(JP).

Sanderling

7/18 Crane Creek (VF); 7/21 Cleveland (7)(TL); 7/23 Huron (LR); 7/29 Lorain (AT).

American Avocet

7/5 Huron (FR); 7/10-14 Funk (1st Wayne Co. record)(JB); 7/27 Oregon (BP).

Black-necked Stilt (D)

7/18 Crane Creek (BP*, DJH, CHO)(See article in this issue.)

Wilson's Phalarope

7/29 ONWR (10)(JP).

Northern Phalarope

7/25-30 Crane Creek (JP).

Laughing Gull (D)

7/12 Cleveland (DJH*); 7/22 Huron (TL*).

Franklin's Gull

7/3 Ottawa Co. (JP); 7/11 Cleveland (TL).

Forester's Tern

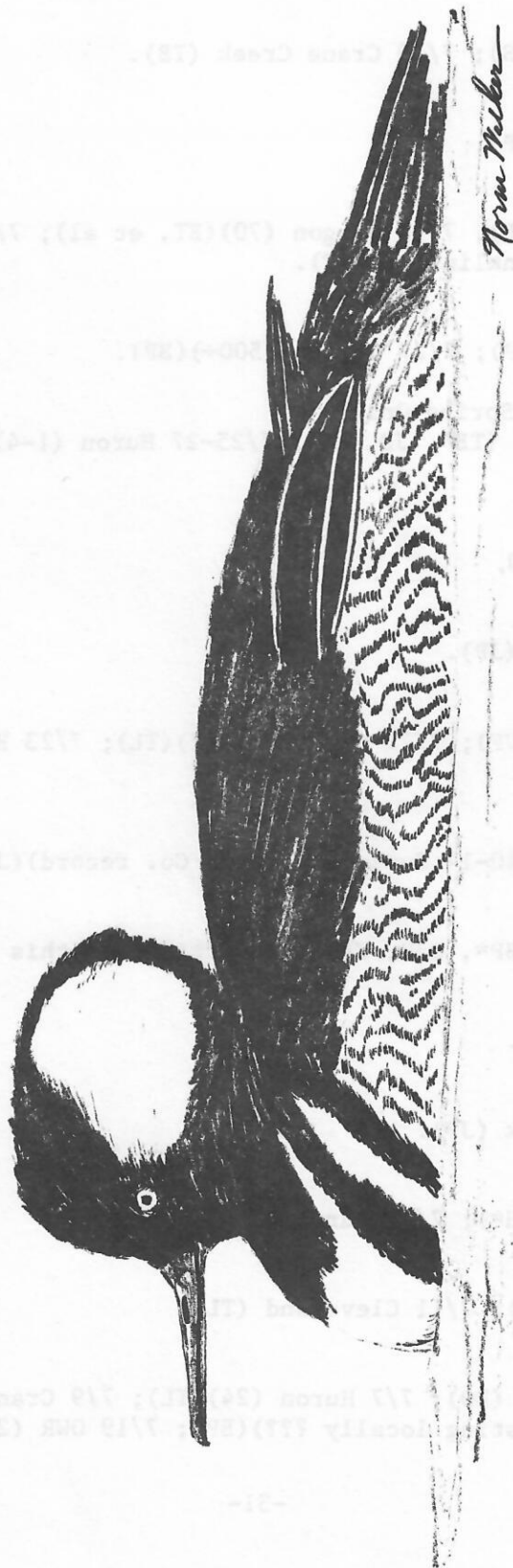
6/28 Buck Creek SP (DO); 7/7 Huron (24)(TL); 7/9 Crane Creek (DJH); 7/18 Huron (50+, many immature, nesting locally ???)(BP); 7/19 OWR (200)(TB).

Caspian Tern

7/10 Cleveland (DJH, WNK); 7/19 ONWR (12+)(TB).

Cape May Warbler

7/20 Crane Creek (JP).



Norm Miller

Hooded Merganser

9/23/80

Hooded Mergansers Nesting in Wayne County

John E. Staab

On April 30, 1981, while checking woodduck nesting structures at Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, I captured a banded (775-84055) a female hooded merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*) incubating 10 eggs.

On June 5, 1981, I rechecked the box and all ten eggs had hatched.

This is a 20 acre unit with about 10% in flooded timber, 15% in buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentales*), 30% in spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), 30% in arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp.), 10% in smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.) and 5% in open water.

On May 5, 1981, my wife Marquita and I observed another female with 12 young less than one week old (Southwick) in another unit about one mile away.

This is a 50 acre unit with about 10% in flooded timber, 15% in buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentales*), 5% in spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), 10% in cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and rushes (*Scirpus* sp.) and 60% in open water.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first recorded nesting of a hooded merganser for Wayne County, Ohio. Kline, Oberholser and Schaffter do not mention them as breeding birds.

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Report of the Ohio Records Committee

The following is a summary of those documentations received and reviewed by the committee for Summer 1981, which were not accepted by the majority (3) of the committee. Please recall that the committee only decides the sufficiency of the description received and not whether the bird was actually seen. It is entirely possible that the bird was seen but not described adequately.

The committee with regret accepted the resignation of Worth S. Randle. The time requirements of a new job prevent him from devoting the necessary time to reviewing documentations. We thank him for his efforts and opinions and wish him well in his new position. He did not participate in the reviews of the Summer 1982 documentations. The committee is currently seeking a new member from southwestern Ohio.

Cinnamon Teal. One OWR, Ottawa Co., 18 July 1981. Description given of adult male in breeding plumage but in mid-July it would be quite unusual for a male duck of any species to be in full breeding plumage. Most male ducks have entered into eclipse plumage during June and do not attain their breeding plumage again until autumn. This species generally does not return to breeding plumage until late autumn. Although some "rusty" feathers may start appearing in August or September. Even if the bird were the rare one (1/20,000) that does not undergo a normal molt pattern the description given has details that are inconsistent with this species: bill: "dark or bluish all over" (this species does not have a bluish bill); eye: "dark" (should be red); back: "brown/gray (should be brown without any gray). Although there is a July record for this species for Ohio (Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 2, No. 4, Pg. 43). This description has insufficient details for such a rare, in such unusual plumage to permit verification.

Merlin. One, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, 17 July 1981. This description of an immature bird does not eliminate a female kestrel. Many female kestrels are not very reddish dorsally and often appear just plain brown. Unprecedented for date at least in modern times. Size description to vague. (Should have been compared to shore birds in area.) Body shape (much more bulky than a kestrel) and flight pattern not described. Insufficient details to permit verification.

The following is a summary of those documentations received and reviewed by the committee for Summer 1982, which were not accepted by the majority (3) of the committee.

Western Kingbird. One, northern Wood Co., 6 July 1982. This observation of eight seconds at a distance of seventy-five yards and without binoculars, while driving forty miles per hour is not sufficient for verification of such an unusual bird. It is certainly entirely possible that this bird was present in this area but unfortunately regardless of the skill of the observer the observation circumstances were not good.

Blue Grosbeak. One, Oak Openings Metro Park, Lucas Co., 26 July 1982. This description of a female does not mention the brown wingbars and describes the bird as "about robin size". In the field, the species appears noticeably smaller than a robin. Peterson, R.T., 1980, in A Field Guide to the Birds states that the range of blue grosbeak body length is 6-7½ " while that of a robin is 9-11 ". The observer had not seen this species before this time and the observation lasted five seconds. Under these circumstances without a description of the wingbars this record cannot be verified.

THE CLIFF SWALLOWS

David Kline

It was a good year for the cliff swallows at our farm. There were 192 nests along the eaves of the barn and a small shed. Approximately three-fourths of the swallows raised two broods of at least four young, making a total of 1344 young swallows fledged.

The cliff swallows first started nesting on the small shed during the 1940's. My father encouraged them by nailing wooden cleats along the eaves on which they could attach their mud nests. The colony stayed around 35 to 45 nests through the 1950's and 60's. Mainly because of limited space the colony didn't increase in size until around 1970 when some of the birds started nesting along the eaves of the barn where there was adequate room for them to expand. Another factor which might have kept the colony from increasing more rapidly was the presence of parasites. I became aware of this in 1976. There were around 50 pair nesting. It was about time for the first young to fledge when quite a few of them dropped to the ground before they were able to fly. I noticed they were ridden with lice. Then, following the fledging of the first brood, all the adult birds departed. When I knocked down the nests in the fall, they were loaded with lice. We then sprayed the nesting ledges with an insecticide. From then on, the colony has steadily increased.

In 1977, there were 59 nests. In 1978, they increased to 99 and in 1979 to 140. But during June of 1979, we had five days of cool, rainy weather in which the swallows couldn't find insects and as a result, quite a few adults perished. In the fall, we checked the nests and one contained 11 dead adult birds along with four eggs. Evidently they crowded into one nest for warmth.

In 1980 there were again 140 nests, a number we were well pleased with considering the devastation they suffered in 1979. Then of course this year, 192 pair. Next year 250 pair? We hope.

Following are a few entries from my journal during this past spring and summer:

April 17th: The first cliff swallows arrived today and promptly started building their gourd-shaped nests. We put up a lot more shelves for them to nest on this year.

April 28th: The cliff swallows are arriving in swarms. Nine completed nests now.

April 29th: Twenty-three nests today.

April 30th: Today there are already 41 completed nests. The weather has been ideal the last three days---sunny and warm. The pigs keep the mud stirred and the swallows are building complete nests in a little over two days. Fascinating birds, but the problem is I've got corn ground to get ready instead of watching birds. Hope to get the corn planted before the warbler migration.

May 22nd: The first cliff swallows are hatching. Egg shells on the ground below the nests this morning. More swallows still coming in. For some unknown reason, the house sparrows are no problem yet.

June 17th: The swallows are busy feeding young and it was quite evident today as I was mowing hay. Scores of cliff swallows along with barn swallows and purple martins were vying for the insects stirred up by

the mower and team

June 23rd: The late arrivals are almost finished with their nests. According to our latest count, there are 192 nests. Not quite the 200 pair I was hoping for, but still more than a 35% increase over last year. The first young have fledged.

July 1st: In the mornings, hundreds of young swallows perch on the spouting above the nests. Evidently the young return to their nests for the first few nights. Maybe until the female lays her second clutch?

August 2nd: The purple martins are gone. Surely it's not for lack of insects that the martins leave this early.

August 17th: The cliff swallows have all departed except a few pair still feeding young.

August 20th: The last cliff swallows have also left. If it were not for the cicadas, crickets and katydids life would be too quiet around here.

To us, the arrival and departure of the cliff swallows are special events. And the spring and summer wouldn't be complete without these beautiful and beneficial birds.

Editor's Note: This article was written by Mr. Kline in 1981 prior to an article which he wrote for National Wildlife Magazine (August-September 1982 issue). This article in National Wildlife is well worth reading. It contains many photos of the Kline farm, children and swallows.

In 1982 the cliff swallow nests increased to 209.



Snowy egret at OWR June 3, 1982, photographed by John Pogacnik.

BREEDING BIRDS OF MOHICAN, 1981

Reed F. Noss and Steven M. McKee

Mohican State Park and Forest in Ashland County, Ohio, has been a favorite haunt of naturalists for many years. The Clearfork Gorge in particular has been noted to contain a variety of flora and fauna rare elsewhere in the state. The biological uniqueness of Clearfork Gorge is based on the striking geomorphology. The gorge, just downstream from the glacial boundary, is unusually steep-sided and positioned on an east-west axis. The microclimate of the south-facing slope is obviously different from the north-facing slope, and the plant communities respond accordingly. Floral elements typical of certain Michigan and Ontario habitats dominate the north-facing slope, while the south-facing slope is vegetated by species more usual in north-central Ohio or more southerly. There is considerable interdigitation of vegetational types on both slopes.

Birds and other animals are attracted to habitats to which they are adapted. Breeding individuals of a species select sites of an appropriate vegetational configuration for survival and reproductive success. Thus bird communities often "track" plant communities in geographic distribution within a region. It can be expected that a mingling of northern and southern habitat types in an area will attract an amalgamation of both northern and southern birds.

Mohican State Park was, therefore, considered an ideal location for the first Breeding Birds Workshop sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation. Several birders have previously reported summer occurrence and possible breeding of unusual birds here, including accidentals. The purpose of this workshop, held June 5-7, 1981, was to familiarize participants with the techniques used in censusing bird communities and to accurately census the breeding avifauna in a large portion of the Clearfork Gorge. We furthermore hoped to document the occurrence of those rare species reported from the area. Workshop leaders, all competent birders who confirmed each observation, were Reed Noss and John Means of O.D.N.R., Division of Parks and Recreation, Steve McKee and Merrill Tawse of the Richland County Park District, Dave Waller of Kent State University and Paul Knoop of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm.

The study area included much of the Clearfork Gorge, both north and south slopes, although actual acreage was not determined. We also censused the vicinity of the Mohican State Park Lodge, immediately upstream from the dam and gorge. We used an auditory/visual open strip technique, counting all adult birds seen or heard from the transect path. Species-specific differences in conspicuousness and detectability undoubtedly bias our relative abundance figures, but the open strip method was judged most suitable in terms of completeness for a two-day census (approximately 12 field hours) of this large area. No attempt was made to determine absolute abundances or densities. Two important transects were censused twice, by separate groups, and the number of individuals contributed to the total was the larger of the two figures reported from the area for each species. The following is the list of 75 species observed, in order of relative abundance; the number after each species represents the total number of individuals observed in the overall census area.

Those species outside of normal range here (according to Peterson, 1980 or Trautman and Trautman, 1968) are marked with an asterisk.

Red-eyed Vireo	54	Great Blue Heron	6
Acadian Flycatcher	48	Belted Kingfisher	6
Eastern Wood Pewee	28	*Magnolia Warbler	6
Indigo Bunting	26	Song Sparrow	6
Turkey Vulture	25	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5
Common Crow	21	Barred Owl	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	21	Carolina Chickadee	5
Hooded Warbler	20	*Pine Warbler	5
Tufted Titmouse	20	Catbird	4
American Robin	19	Cedar Waxwing	4
Cerulean Warbler	19	Yellowthroat	4
Scarlet Tanager	16	Rufous-sided Towhee	4
Cardinal	16	Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Chipping Sparrow	16	Pileated Woodpecker	3
Louisiana Waterthrush	15	Least Flycatcher	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15	Rough-winged Swallow	3
*Yellow-throated Warbler	14	White-breasted Nuthatch	3
American Redstart	13	Mourning Dove	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	11	Eastern Phoebe	2
Blue Jay	11	Barn Swallow	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10	House Wren	2
Red Bellied Woodpecker	10	*Winter Wren	2
Kentucky Warbler	10	*Black-throated Blue Warbler	2
House Sparrow	10	Cooper's Hawk	1
*Veery	9	Red-tailed Hawk	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	Broad-winged Hawk	1
Black-and-White Warbler	9	Ruffed Grouse	1
*Black-throated Green Warbler	9	Whip-poor-will	1
Ovenbird	9	Common Flicker	1
Common Grackle	9	Hairy Woodpecker	1
American Goldfinch	9	Eastern Kingbird	1
Wood Duck	8	*Olive-sided Flycatcher	1
Chimney Swift	8	White-eyed Vireo	1
Downy Woodpecker	8	Warbling Vireo	1
Wood Thrush	8	Red-winged Blackbird	1
*Worm-eating Warbler	7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
*Canada Warbler	7	Field Sparrow	1
Northern Oriole	7		

The Ohio birder will readily note that the above list contains several rarities. These are species of very restricted distribution in Ohio, birds north of their usual ranges and birds south of their usual ranges. At least two species don't normally occur at all during the breeding season in Ohio.

A general assumption of breeding bird surveys like this one is that all species observed in the study area during the designated period are actually breeding there. Census methods are designed to assure reliability within somewhat hazy probability limits. The discovery of an active nest, of course, confirms breeding by a species, but this is not a tractable census method in large areas. Nest-finding invariably yields an incomplete sample of the species actually breeding in the area. Auditory/visual census, on the other

hand, are samples which may include species in reality represented only by transient or vagrant individuals within the study area. The list of supposedly breeding birds may thus be unrealistically inflated.

It is our opinion that censuses of the type reported here yield a list that corresponds to "probable" nesters. In particular cases, however, knowledge of the individual species involved allows further discrimination of the data. We believe that at least three of the species on our list were probably not breeding in the study area. The two winter wrens we observed were both males which roamed large streamside parcels and sang repeatedly. It is possible that both birds were defending unusually large, linear territories with nesting females (winter wrens are commonly polygynous), but it is most prudent to conclude that the males were unmated and still advertising their availability. Our observations failed to yield any females.

The one olive-sided flycatcher on the list was probably a late transient and to our knowledge was not seen later in the summer. The six great blue herons were most likely individuals foraging from a rookery a couple miles away. At least some of the turkey vultures probably nested on the more inaccessible slopes of the gorge. Chimney swifts nest in man-made structures within the general study area, as do barn swallows. The two black-throated blue warblers we observed were males but their apparently fixed territories suggest they had mates. Documentation of nesting by the unusual species we observed awaits patient, careful study which does not endanger nesting success.

As mentioned in the introduction, the north and south slope aspects of the Clearfork Gorge support biotic elements from northern and southern climes. Birds north of their normal ranges here are the yellow-throated warbler and worm-eating warbler. The Carolina chickadee, white-eyed vireo and Kentucky warbler are near the northern edge of their usual ranges. The winter wren, veery, black-throated green warbler, Canada warbler, magnolia warbler and black-throated blue warbler are south of their normal ranges (or west of the Appalachian extension of the range). The least flycatcher and rose-breasted grosbeak are near the southern edge of their ranges. The pine warbler, although it breeds both north and south of this area, is a notable occurrence here.

We have not documented any first or accidental nesting records for Ohio with this study. We have, however, uncovered an unusual assemblage of breeding birds with several species outside of their normal ranges, both north and south. With about 71 species assumed to be nesting, it is obviously a diverse assemblage. The unique physiographic and physiognomic character of the Mohican area attracts an avifauna that is not predictable by looking at general range maps (Peterson, 1980) or annotated lists (Trautman and Trautman, 1968).

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- Trautman, M. B. and M. A. Trautman. 1968. Annotated list of the birds of Ohio. Ohio J. Sci. 68: 257-332.

Addendum: Later in the summer four additional species were observed in Mohican State Forest including: Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), Northern Parula, Hermit Thrush (3), and an apparent family unit of three Sharp-shinned Hawks.

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Red-breasted nuthatches
Nesting in Cincinnati

Frank Renfrow

On the morning of May 30, 1982, while at Spring Grove Cemetary in Cincinnati, I observed a male red-breasted nuthatch repeatedly visit a hole in a dead limb, some 35-40 feet up in an ash tree.

With further examination, I found that it was apparently feeding a female, the head of which I could see in the hole. The male was feeding (or possibly collecting sap) in nearby hemlock and spruce trees, returning to the hole at roughly five minute intervals. After about a half an hour had elapsed, the female flew out of the hole and into a hemlock, where it stayed for a few minutes. It then flew straight back into the hole, without pausing at the edge.

I returned on the first of June and noticed that the edge of the hole was gleaming in the sunlight, apparently having been smeared with sap. I could still see the female in the hole, but noted no activity during the twenty minutes of observation.

On June the third I found one male feeding in a nearby spruce tree, it then flew onto a branch of the ash, some twenty feet from the nest hole. It rested in that spot until I left fifteen minutes later. From this visit on, I could no longer see any bird sitting on the hole.

I returned to the spot several times within the next week, but with no result. Then on the eleventh of June, I saw 2 red-breasted nuthatches feeding in spruces some 80 yards distant from the nest tree. They both appeared to be males, though of this I was not certain.

I have come back several times weekly since this time and have had no further sightings of this species. As of this writing, the edges of the hole can still be seen to gleam with sap when the sun shines upon it.

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