The Least Tern is a protected and endangered species in the Great Lakes region. This phenomenal photo from Kurt Wray was taken on 03 Jun at Sandusky Harbor Marina, Erie.

On the cover:
This stunning Bobolink, photographed by Dan Enders on 01 Jul, prefers tall grass prairies like those found at the Huffman Prairie in Greene.
COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

This summer was among our hottest. The overall average temperatures of both months were within the upper fifth of the 122 years with data. The average daily maximum and minimum temperatures in Jun were in the upper quartile. Curiously, while the average Jul daily maximum barely reached the upper 30%, the average daily minimum was the tenth highest ever. Hot nights, indeed!

Precipitation numbers went the opposite direction. Jun rainfall ranked number 43, not quite among our one-third driest. The Lake Erie shore received less than half of its usual amount and most of the rest of the state ranged from 25 to about 90% of the norm. Columbus and the upper Ohio River valley, however, were hammered with up to triple their long-term average rainfall.

Jul was even drier; it came in at number 26 of the 122 years. Though Cincinnati and scattered pockets in Pike and Scioto received up to triple their norm, most of the rest of the state got less than 90%, and as little as 25%, of its usual amount. Pockets in the far northwest received even less than a quarter of their usual rain.


This issue broke a string of seasons which had reports from every county. Putnam generated no reports, Van Wert produced only a single Canada Goose sighting, and Monroe gave us a single eBird checklist of four species. Turkey Vultures and Mourning Doves were seen in the other 85 counties, and 20 other species were seen in at least 80.

I warned you in the spring issue that big changes in taxonomic sequence had been announced in Jul. The North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists’ Union (NACC/AOU) evaluated the most recent genetic data and significantly shuffled the previous sequence of orders and families. The block of pigeons and doves, nightjars, swifts, hummingbirds, rails, cranes, shorebirds, gulls and terns, and loons is now between grebes and storks. (Note that loons now follow gulls and terns.) Owls now follow hawks and eagles. And Old World sparrows, pipits, and finches now follow waxwings and precede longspurs. In addition, the sequence of genera and species within family Scolopacidae (sandpipers and allies) was changed.

Of necessity, taxonomic sequence is usually presented linearly, though a far better visual presentation resembles a tree. In fact, such a tree, called a cladogram or more narrowly as a phylogeny, enable researchers to show the relationships among species. We used to think of a linear taxonomic sequence as progressing from the most primitive form to the most advanced. (For decades, the sequence of North American species went from “primitive” loons to “sophisticated” Old World sparrows.) However, the linear sequence actually reflects the time of divergence of a given line from other lines. For instance, Columbidae (pigeons and doves) are now known to have gone their own way, as it were, earlier than nightjars, swifts, and the other families which follow it linearly, and the division doesn’t reflect “advances” or lack of them within either line.

This issue of the Cardinal contains reports of 236 species, the lowest summer count since I’ve been Editor. Two hybrids and two reports at the genus or family level are also included. The Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) gleaned reports of seven review species or forms; two of them also have other sightings whose posts have no supporting information. No review species were formally reported though an out-of-season Bay-Breasted Warbler was. For the first time, there were no review species represented only by postings to eBird, Ohio-birds, Facebook, or other on-line venues.

As always, the OBRC and this editor urge birders to formally report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. An easy-to-use on-line form is available at http://www.ohio-birds.org/records/documentation.php.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to The Cardinal and The Bobolink, the latter courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger; eBird (http://ebird.org/content/ebird); and the Ohio-birds listserv (http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH). In the species accounts, “normal” arrival dates are from Harlan et al., Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio, 2008.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow
the Check-List of North American Birds, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 57th Supplement (2016). This document is published by the NACC/AOU and is available at http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati (Hamilton), Cleveland (Cuyahoga), Columbus (Franklin), Dayton (Montgomery), and Toledo (Lucas) are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term “fide” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

A/R Corner = fields at the corner of Angola and Raab Roads, Lucas
Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, Delaware, unless otherwise noted
Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, Hamilton
Audubon = the National Audubon Society (http://www.audubon.org)
BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), Mahoning and Portage
Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion
Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, Franklin
The Bowl = a limited-access area near the Harrison airport
BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ottawa (http://www.bsbo.org)
Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, Clark
Burke Airport = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport, Cuyahoga
Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, Warren, unless the lake is specified; a bit of the lake is also in Clinton
CBC = Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count
CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, Lucas and Ottawa, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
Chapel Drive = a road off Ohio 83 south of Cumberland in Noble which traverses grasslands
Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the eastern 2/3 is in Hocking, the rest in Fairfield
Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in Morrow but most of the birding is done in the larger Richland Section
CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), Cuyahoga
CMM = the trio of Jon Cefus, Greg Miller, and Ben Morrison
CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a non-governmental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in Clermont
Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula
CP = County Park
CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, Lucas
CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cuyahoga and (mostly) Summit
Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, almost entirely in Franklin but with bits in other counties as well
Deer Creek = the State Park is in Pickaway, the Wildlife Area is in Fayette, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly Pickaway
East Fork = East Fork State Park, Clermont
East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, Ottawa
Edge Preserve = The Nature Conservancy’s Edge of Appalachia Preserve, multiple parcels mostly in Adams and extending a bit into Scioto.
Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, Cuyahoga
Englewood = Englewood MetroPark, Montgomery
Fernald = Fernald Preserve, Butler and Hamilton
Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in Hancock
Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Ashland and (mostly) Wayne
Grand Lake = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, the state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in Auglaize. The rest of the lake is in Mercer.
Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Montgomery
Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, Lake
Holden = Holden Arboretum, Lake, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in Geauga
Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, Delaware
Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in Delaware, the rest and the dam in Franklin
Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, Logan
Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys Island, 
Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, 
Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, 
Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in Marion but it's mostly in Wyandot 
LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, 
Lake Erie Bluffs = a Lake Metroparks parcel whose popularity among birders is blooming. 
Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, 
Lake Loramie = Lake Loramie SP, 
Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted. 
Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, Hamilton, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903 
m. obs. = multiple observers 
Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Lucas, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in Lucas, the rest in Ottawa. 
Mallard Club = Mallard Club Marsh WA, Lucas 
Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, Lucas, unless otherwise noted 
Medusa = Medusa Marsh, Erie, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View 
Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, Lucas, not to be confused with Metzger Reservoir, Allen 
Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in Mahoning 
Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction. 
Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, Ashland 
Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) Ashland and (slightly) Richland 
Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, Trumbull. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it. 
MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system 
NC = Nature Center 
NF = National Forest 
NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP 
OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas 
OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee 
Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, Highland 
Old Woman Creek = Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, Erie 
OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, Lucas 
ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Lucas and Ottawa 
ONWR Boss and Navarre = units of ONWR separate from the main area, both Ottawa 
Pearson MP = Pearson Metro Park, Lucas 
Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, Sandusky 
Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, Fairfield and Franklin 
Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, Erie 
Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, Highland 
Salt Fork = Salt Fork SP, Guernsey 
Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain 
Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (non-state) Park are in Noble, while the dam is in Guernsey 
SF = State Forest 
Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, Scioto, unless otherwise noted 
Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, Hamilton 
Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, Erie 
SNP = State Nature Preserve 
SP = State Park 
Springfield Lake = in Greater Akron, Summit 
Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, Seneca 
Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, almost entirely in Greene but extending into Warren 
SWA = State Wildlife Area 
TNC = The Nature Conservancy (http://www.nature.org) 
Villa Angela = the Villa Angela unit of Cleveland's Lakefront Reservation 
WA = Wildlife Area 
Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, Lake 
Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, Cuyahoga 
Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Wayne, and adjoining farmland 
The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in Muskingum, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed strip mines 
Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, Erie
Winous Horseshoe = a limited-access part of
Winous Point Shooting Club, Ottawa

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club,
Ottawa

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, Vinton
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
The OBRC has eBird reports, some with photos, from Champaign.

Canada Goose
The high count of 300 was shared by Cam Lee at Big Island on 05 Jun and Kent Miller at Walborn Reservoir, Stark, on 29 Jul. (75 counties)

Mute Swan
Dale Castor found eight at Clear Fork on 19 Jun. (20 counties)

Trumpeter Swan
Ed Pierce’s ONWR census team counted 69 on 03 Jul (fide Douglas Vogus). Others found up to 65 there on other dates. The inland high count was Cam Lee’s 12 at Killdeer on 26 Jun. (12 counties)

Wood Duck
Ron Sempier found 95 at Big Island on 29 Jun. (73 counties)

Gadwall
Elizabeth McQuaid noted one along the ONWR Wildlife Drive route (hereafter ONWR WD) on 18 Jun. The Huron, Erie, dredge spoil impoundment hosted three on 23 Jul for Philip Steiner.

American Black Duck
Nola Miller-Brashure’s eight at Sandy Ridge on 29 Jul the highest count. Reports also came from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, and Lucas.

Mallard
The 03 Jul ONWR census produced 232 (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). Up to 210 were seen in ONWR on other dates. The most at an inland site were 120 at Big Island on 08 Jul (Ron Sempier). (69 counties)

Blue-winged Teal
John Moore found six at Englewood on 08 Jun, and there were reports of up to five elsewhere scattered throughout the season. (18 counties)

Northern Shoveler
Mike Edgington found three in CVNP near Station Road on 28 Jul. One or two were also seen in Erie, Lucas, and Wayne.

Northern Pintail
Barry McEwen’s duo in CPNWR on 24 Jun was the only sighting.

Green-winged Teal
The reports are:
One in the Crook Street wetlands, Lorain, on 17 Jun (Ed Wransky)
One or two seen intermittently at Big Island from 19 Jun to 28 Jul (m. obs.)
One at Sandy Ridge on 07 Jul (Fred Hileman)
One at Sandy Ridge on 18 Jul and three there on 24 Jul (both Chris Pierce)

Redhead
Cam Lee saw one at Killdeer on 04 Jun and Ron Sempier saw it again on 01 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck
Jonathan Frodge saw the only one of the season, in the Miami Whitewater Forest wetlands, Hamilton, on 18 Jun.

Lesser Scaup
The reports are:
One off Cullen Park, Lucas, on 03 Jun, and three there on 05 and 20 Jun (Paul Jacyk, Joe Baldwin)
One at CPNWR on 04 Jun (Matt and Tom Kemp)
Two in Cleveland harbor on 09 Jul (Daniel and Kevin Parsons)
One at Rocky Fork Lake, Highland, on 24 Jul (Leslie Sours)

Bufflehead
Brad Imhoff noted that the bird he saw at Knox Lake, Knox, on 11 Jun was apparently injured and had been there for quite a while.

Hooded Merganser
Alan Green saw a female with 10 youngsters at Dawes Arboretum, Licking, on 08 Jun. Jennifer Kuehn saw a family of eight at Highbanks MP, Delaware, on 13 Jun. (27 counties)

Common Merganser
Bob and Denise Lane delighted in finding a female with 15 nearly-grown kids on Little Beaver Creek,

Red-breasted Merganser
The reports are:
Two at the Wellington Uppground Reservoir, Lorain, on 05 Jun with one remaining until 19 Jun (Tim Krynak)
One at various sites along the Olentangy River in Columbus between 10 Jun and 25 Jul (m. obs.)
One off Headlands on 15 Jun (Cory Chiappone)
One a bit west of Lorain (city) on 04 Jul (Greg Pasek)

Ruddy Duck
These were reported every three or four days throughout the season. Paul Jacyk saw 25 off Cullen Park, Lucas, on 01 Jun and up to 15 there and at nearby Bay View Park on other dates. The most elsewhere were four, at Sandy Ridge on 05 Jun (Karen and Rich Kassouf) and at Big Island on 23 Jul (Jeremy Dominguez and James Muller). Erie, Logan, Paulding, and Wyandot also contributed reports.

Northern Bobwhite
Zachary Allen found seven in the Anderson Meadows section of Wayne NF, Lawrence, on 16 Jun. (28 counties)

Ring-necked Pheasant
Heather Luedecke and Angelica Nelson counted six along their New Dover BBS route, Union, on 04 Jun. (13 counties)

Wild Turkey
Jeffrey Roth saw 30 in a plowed field along Ohio Route 124 in Meigs on 31 Jul. The second-highest count was 25, by Eli Miller along Stingy Lane, Tuscarawas. (55 counties)

This Wild Turkey was photographed by Patty McKelvey on 04 Jun while it strutted along the bank in Lorain.

Ruffed Grouse
The reports are:
One at Shawnee on 08 Jun (Craig Caldwell)
One at the Edge Preserve on 14 Jun (Tyler Ficker)
One in Harrison SF, also on 14 Jun (Scott Pendleton)

Black-billed Cuckoo
Helen and Ken Osterniller saw four in Gallagherer Fen NP, Clark, on 09 Jun, as did Lori Brum-
baugh in Carrollton, **Carroll**, on 04 Jul. (46 counties)

**Rock Pigeon**
Margaret Bowman saw about 100 along Blacksnake Road, **Licking**, on 14 Jul. (64 counties)

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**
Sightings were scattered throughout the season. The high count of three was shared by Benjamin Miller in Perrysville Union Cemetery, **Ashland**, on 01 Jul and Eli Miller at the intersection of County Roads 59 and 600, **Holmes**, on 04 Jul. **Champaign, Clark, Coshocton, Fulton, Knox, Mercer, Montgomery, Pike, and Wayne** also produced sightings.

**Mourning Dove**
Brian Wulker counted 133 at Fernald on 05 Jul. Sharon Jordan tallied 93 at Pickerington Ponds MP, **Fairfield**, on 30 Jul for the second-highest number. Only **Monroe, Putnam, and Van Wert** did not have sightings.

**Common Nighthawk**
Jacob Myers watched 10 hunting near his **Fulton** home on 31 Jul. (31 counties)

**Chuck-will’s-widow**
Bruce Simpson heard one in Zaleski early on 02 Jun. Tyler Ficker noted three in the Edge Preserve on 13 Jun. Others found single birds there and at additional **Adams** sites in Jun.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will**
Once these stop calling, they’re very hard to find. Tom Frankel’s at the Edge Preserve on 09 Jul was the last of the season. Alex Eberts found nine in a mile of travel in Vinton Furnace EF on 13 Jun, and Matt Anderson tallied eight in OOPMP on 19 Jun. Other reports came from **Athens, Harrison, Hocking, Morgan, Noble, Pike, and Summit**.

**Chimney Swift**
Jen Brumfield watched about 360 working Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Jul. (77 counties)

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**
Allen Chartier held a banding workshop in Frazeysburg, **Muskingum**, on 10 Jul. He banded 28, recaptured two previously banded birds, and saw an additional eight that day. Ginny Fantetti had nine visit her Sugartree, **Clermont**, feeders on both 10 and 18 Jun. (74 counties)

**King Rail**
Many birders both saw and heard one in a small slough along River Road, **Pickaway**, or at nearby Charlie’s Pond between 13 May and 16 Jun.

**Virginia Rail**
The Wake Robin Trail provided views of an adult and two youngsters on many dates between 11 Jun and the end of the season (m. obs.). Eric and Liz Shlapack also saw three birds, at Darby Creek on 23 Jul. Ones and twos were seen at those locations and in 12 other counties.

**Sora**
Kim Warner found three at Mallard Club on 18 Jun. Other sites in **Lucas** plus some in **Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Lorain, Marion, Ottawa, Union, and Wood** hosted one or two.

**Common Gallinule**
Ron Sempier counted 19 at Big Island on 29 Jun and others found numbers to 18 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were eight at Killbuck on 16 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison). (12 counties)

**American Coot**
Steve Jones saw 12 at Big Island on both 13 Jun and 16 Jul. (14 counties)
**Sandhill Crane**
The high count was 20; Jacob Raber saw them along Wilderness Road on 31 Jul and others saw up to 18 there starting on 18 Jun. The most elsewhere were Irina Shulgina’s nine at Killdeer on 22 Jul. (21 counties)

![Image of Sandhill Crane]

*Normally a reliable spot to see Sandhill Cranes, ONWR did not disappoint Scott Zimmermann during his visit on 17 Jul.*

**American Avocet**
The reports are:
- Two at the Ashtabula River mouth on 30 Jun (Paul Fuhrmann)
- Twelve at Conneaut on 13 Jul (Marc Hanneman) and one there the next day (Gustino Lanese)
- Nine at Alum Creek on 14 Jul (m. obs.)
- Three at The Wilderness Center, Stark, on 19 Jul (Su Snyder, Atlee Yoder)
- Three at the Findlay Reservoirs on 24 Jul (Robert Sams)

![Image of American Avocet]

*These three American Avocets were patrolling a shoreline in Stark on 19 Jul when Su Snyder captured this lovely photograph.*

**Black-bellied Plover**
The reports are:
- One at Wilderness Road on 13 Jun (Joseph Boros) and 14 Jun (Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder)
- Two near Cedar Point, Erie, on 23 Jun (Eddie Hicks)
- One to three at Big Island between 09 and 23 Jul (m. obs.)

One at Maumee Bay on 20 Jul (Kim Warner)

**American Golden-Plover**
One spent from 10 to 23 Jul at Big Island (m. obs.)

**Semipalmated Plover**
The two which Su Snyder found at Wilderness Road on 19 Jun were the last of up to five which had been there since 10 Jun. They were probably the last northbound birds. Kim Warner’s find of three at Maumee Bay on 01 Jul were probably the first “fall” arrivals. Ed Wransky contributed the high count of 10, from Sandy Ridge on 31 Jul. (18 counties)

**Killdeer**
Ron Sempier counted by 20s at Big Island on 12 Jul and came up with 780; numbers almost that large were there on other dates. Rick Asamoto made an “Actual count scanning the area from one location” at Englewood on 16 Jul to tally 408. (78 counties)

**Upland Sandpiper**
Scott Pendleton counted nine at The Bowl on 03 Jul and saw up to four at other Harrison sites. Lots of folks saw the one which spent at least 17 to 29 Jun at the OSU Airport, Franklin. Another Franklin site and one in each of Delaware and Greene also contributed sightings.

![Image of Upland Sandpiper]

*This graceful Upland Sandpiper was photographed by Bruce Sara as it took flight over a prairie in Cadiz, Harrison on 11 Jun.*

**Whimbrel**
Dan Gesualdo saw one during its brief 31 Jul visit to Volunteer Bay, Erie.

**Marbled Godwit**
Regina Schieltz found one in the Woods Road wetlands, Darke, on 08 Jun. Another, this one southbound, briefly stopped at Big Island on 25 Jul (fide Doreene Linzell).

**Ruddy Turnstone**
The reports are:
One at Wilderness Road on 03 Jun (Steven Hochstetler)
Three at CPNWR on 04 Jun (Matt and Tom Kemp)
Two at Metzger on 13 Jul (Greg Cornett)
At Conneaut, three on 13 Jul (Anthony Bruno and Margaret Higbee), four on 22 Jul (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison), one on 23 Jul (Alex Shepherd), and six on 30 Jul (Bob Krajeski)
One at Maumee Bay on 26 Jul (Ryan Jacob) and 28 Jul (Paul Jacyk)

Stilt Sandpiper
There were no Jun sightings. Cam Lee saw the first, at Big Island on 10 Jul. Big Island also hosted the high count, 14 on 14 Jul (Ron Sempier). The most elsewhere were Craig Holt’s six at Conneaut on 20 Jul. (12 counties)

Sanderling
Jeff Harvey, Bob Krajeski, and Mark Shaver weren’t together, but they all saw the season’s first, at Conneaut on 17 Jul. The high count was three, by Robert Bochenek and Karl Overman at Maumee Bay on 29 Jul. Clark, Lorain, Marion, and Wyandot also had sightings.

Dunlin
The last northbound birds were one at ONWR on 05 Jun (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus) and two at Big Island on 13 Jun (Steve Jones). The first seen southbound was at Pearson MP, Lucas, on 18 Jul (Kim Warner). Another Lucas site and one in Lorain also produced sightings.

Baird’s Sandpiper
Kim Warner found one at Maumee Bay on 20 Jul. It or another showed up at Big Island on 27 Jul for Ron Sempier and Dave Smith.

Least Sandpiper
Ron Sempier saw one, surely northbound, at Killdeer on 01 Jun. The next, two at Big Island on 13 Jun (Steve Jones) and one at Wilderness Road on 14 Jun (Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder) were probably also on their way to Canada. Kim Warner’s three at Maumee Bay on 28 Jun started the southbound sightings. Ed Pierce et al. counted 60 during the 03 Jul ONWR census (fide Douglas Vogus). Rick Asamoto contributed the inland high count, 53 at Englewood on 22 Jul. (33 counties)

White-rumped Sandpiper
The reports are:
Two in the Woods Road wetlands, Darke, on 08 Jun (Chris Zacharias)
Six at Wilderness Road on 09 Jun (Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder)
One at the Findlay Reservoirs on 12 Jun (Amy Downing)

Pectoral Sandpiper
Su Snyder found one on 19 Jun at Wilderness Road for the only sighting that month. The next were the 66 tallied by the ONWR census crew on 03 Jul (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). Donna Kuhn and Andy Sewell counted 220 at Big Island on 23 Jul and noted that they and other shorebirds were “concentrated here due to lack of habitat pretty much anywhere else in the state right now.” (25 counties)

Semipalmated Sandpiper
Daily scattered sightings preceded the Su Snyder’s 10 Jun sighting at Wilderness Road, the last northbound bird. Kim Warner reported the first arrivals, two at Maumee Bay on 28 Jun. Big Island hosted about 75 for Donna Kuhn and Andy Sewell on 23 Jul, and they found another 50 at a Sandusky sky pond later that same day. (24 counties)

Western Sandpiper
Regina Schieltz found six among the other peeps at Englewood on 17 Jul.

Spotted Sandpiper
The high count was Dave Smith’s 36 in Clinton NP, Seneca, on 16 Jul. (54 counties)

Wilson’s Snipe
Tim Jasinski’s at Sandy Ridge on 13 Jun was the first of the season, though of course they’re in Ohio year round. The high count was three, seen at Big Island on several dates by Cam Lee or Ron Sempier. (11 counties)

American Woodcock
Irina Shulgina found five at the Honda Wetlands, Union, on 12 Jul for the high count, and there were several fours elsewhere. (24 counties)
Solitary Sandpiper
The first of the season, and the only sighting of the month, was at Sandy Ridge on 30 Jun (BRAS). On 29 Jul Kent Miller counted 64 in the Stark section of Walborn Reservoir and another 22 on the Portage side. (35 counties)

Short-billed Dowitcher
Ron Sempier saw the last of “spring” at Killdeer on 01 Jun and Patty McKelvey the first of “fall” at Sandy Ridge on 22 Jun. The next southbound sighting was Sean Hollowell’s at Oakes Quarry Park, Greene, on 30 Jun. Paul Jacyk found 30 along the ONWR WD on 17 Jul. Sandy Ridge hosted 20 on 03 Jul for the most which weren’t right on Lake Erie (Paula Lozano), and groups of nine in Clark, Marion, and Montgomery were the largest counts far away from the lake. (19 counties)

Greater Yellowlegs
The last northbound bird was at Sandy Ridge on 08 Jun (BRAS) and 09 Jun (Gustino Lanese). Kevin Topping saw the first southbound one, on 27 Jun in Slate Run MP, Pickaway. Donna Kuhn and Andy Sewell counted 45 at Big Island on 23 Jul. The second-highest number was the 24 which the ONWR census crew tallied on 26 Jul (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). (25 counties)

Willet
One was at Conneaut on 03 Jul (Craig Holt, Bob Krajeski); 11 were there on 13 Jul (Marc Hanneman) and eight on 14 Jul (Gustino Lanese). Tom Frankel saw five at Euclid Park, Cuyahoga, on 12 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs
Ron Sempier found one at Big Island on 26 Jun, no doubt southbound. Cam Lee counted 147 at Big Island on 10 Jul, the highest of several triple-digit numbers there. The most elsewhere were Paul Jacyk’s 62 along the ONWR WD on 17 Jul. (28 counties)

Wilson’s Phalarope
One was seen at Wilderness Road on each of 10 Jun (Michelle Skolmutch, Su Snyder), 11 Jun (David Weaver), 12 Jun (Su Snyder), and 04 Jul (Ed Schlabach). Another was at Conneaut on 18 Jul (Anthony Bruno and Margaret Higbee).

Red-necked Phalarope
Kent Miller found one at Walborn Reservoir, Stark, on the morning of 24 Jul and Ben Morrison and Adam Zorn saw it later in the day.

Bonaparte’s Gull
Sightings were sparse in Jun and gradually increased during Jul. Paul Pratt provided the high count of 95, from Big Chicken Island, Ottawa, on 23 Jul. Kim Warner’s 24 at Maumee Bay on 17 Jun was the second-highest count. Additional double-digit sightings came from Ashtabula, Erie, and Lake. The inland counties of Delaware, Logan, Montgomery, and Wyandot had only single birds.

Laughing Gull
Jen Brumfield saw one pass Edgewater westbound on 07 Jun and Dan Gesualdo saw what might have been the same bird at Volunteer Bay, Erie, about eight hours later.

Franklin’s Gull
The reports are:
One at Indian Lake SP, Logan, on 06 and 08 Jun (Troy Shively)
One at Maumee Bay on 17 Jun (Kim Warner)
One at Big Island on 29 Jun (Ron Sempier)

Ring-billed Gull
Warren Leow estimated that about 1000 were off Cullen Park, Lucas, on 23 Jul. The next highest number was 600; Barry McEwen saw them at CPNWR on 24 Jun. The most not in a Lake Erie county were Carl Winstead’s 350 at Alum Creek on 17 Jul. (45 counties)

Herring Gull
Eddie Hicks found about 300 at Cedar Point, Erie, on 23 Jun; Paul Pratt saw about 200 at Big Chicken Island, Ottawa, on 23 Jul for the second-highest number. Regina Schieltz provided the inland high count of 110 from the Mercer end of GLSM on 25 Jun. (27 counties south to Montgomery)

Great Black-backed Gull
Kim Warner’s sighting at Maumee Bay on 17 Jun was the season’s first. Sightings along the Lake Erie shore continued every three or four days until the last of the season, which was also
Least Tern

The OBRC has posted reports with descriptions or photos from Erie.

Caspian Tern

The high count was Matthew Valencic’s 14 at LaDue on 20 Jul. (21 counties)

Black Tern

The season’s first sighting was at Knox Lake, Knox, on 11 Jun (Brad Imhoff); the last was at Big Island on 24 Jul (Ron Sempier) and all other sightings were of single birds. In addition to the named sites, three locations in Lucas and one in Wyandot also hosted birds.

Common Tern

Matt and Tom Kemp saw the first of the season on 04 Jun, 15 at CPNWR and two at Metzger. Ryan Jacob saw about 200 at Maumee Bay on 26 Jul. The most elsewhere were Matt Kemp’s 60 at CPNWR on 24 Jun and the most away from Lake Erie were three which Josh King found at GLSM on 18 Jul. (10 counties)

Forster’s Tern

Ron Sempier and Cam Lee separately saw the season’s first, at Big Island on 12 Jun, and there were only a few more sightings anywhere that month. Maumee Bay hosted 170 on 29 Jul (Robert Bocheneck and Karl Overman). The inland high was Irina Shulgina’s 10 at Killdeer on 22 Jul. Other reports came from Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Columbiana, Ottawa, and Richland.

Common Loon

Clear Fork hosted up to five from early Jun to 16 Jul (m. obs.). The most seen elsewhere were three at Apple Valley Lake, Knox, on 07 and 19 Jul (both Benjamin Miller). Carroll, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Hancock, and Trumbull also had sightings.

Double-crested Cormorant

ONWR held about 500 when Eddie Hicks was there on 23 Jun. Charles Bombaci found about 200 at Hoover Reservoir on 05 Jun and Cam Lee matched him at Big Chicken Island, Ottawa, on 23 Jul. (51 counties)

American White Pelican

Dave Smith watched 26 pass Pickerel Creek on 23 Jun. Counts of four to 15 came from several Erie and Lucas sites as well.

American Bittern

Matt Orebaugh found three at Darby Creek on 24 Jul. Birders found two there on other dates, as did Kim Warner at Mallard Club on 18 Jun. Delaware, Erie, Geauga, Marion, Ottawa, and Ross also contributed reports.

Least Bittern

One at Magee on 02 Jul (John Whitehead) and one at Big Island on 08 Jul (Ron Sempier) were the only reports that month. Except for two birds at CPNWR on 04 Jun (Matt and Tom Kemp), all Jun sightings were singles. Those birds were in Ashtabula, Franklin, Lake, Lucas, Summit, and Trumbull.

Great Blue Heron

Ron Sempier estimated 275 were in three ponds at Big Island on 08 Jul; other dates produced counts up to 185. The most elsewhere were 184 at ONWR on 03 Jul (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). (79 counties)

Great Egret

Ed Pierce et al. counted 406 during the 03 Jul ONWR census (fide Douglas Vogus). The most elsewhere were Paul Sherwood’s 114 at Medusa on 07 Jul and the highest count south of the Lake Erie counties was Ron Bicknell’s 52 at Englewood on 16 Jul. (41 counties)
**Snowy Egret**
The many ONWR sightings peaked at 23 on 17 Jul (Paul Jacyk). The most elsewhere were four at Magee on 25 Jul (Deb Eiger). All of the sightings were in *Erie*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa*.

![Snowy Egret](image)

*Scott Zimmermann captured this Snowy Egret having a bad hair day at ONWR on 17 Jul*

**Little Blue Heron**
The reports, all of single birds, are:
Along the Little Miami Scenic Trail, *Warren*, on 10 Jul (Teresa Moorman)
At Rocky Fork Lake, *Highland*, from 16 to 23 Jul (m. obs.)
At Medusa on 29 Jul (Paul Sherwood)

**Cattle Egret**
Susie Shetterly found the only one, along the ONWR walking trail on 12 Jun.

**Green Heron**
The high count was 16; Jeff Harvey saw them at Mill Creek on 23 Jul. (65 counties)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**
Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 11 in ONWR on 05 Jun (fide Douglas Vogus) as did Paul Jacyk there on 16 Jul. The most elsewhere were fives at three other locations near Lake Erie. Several inland locations hosted duos. (13 counties)

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**
Steve Landes was driving along Olentangy River Road, *Delaware*, on 27 Jun when he spotted one in flight. He stopped, lifted his bins, and “noticed the trailing yellow legs, dark body, black face with a white spot, and thick dark bill.” Perhaps it was part of, or scouting for, a new nesting colony?

**Glossy Ibis**
The OBRC has an eBird report with a photo from ONWR.

**Black Vulture**
David Weaver counted a kettle of 42 near Loudonville, *Ashland*, on 04 Jul. Three sites each hosted 30. (39 counties)

**Turkey Vulture**
Levi Parker found about 50 in the beach area of East Fork on 19 Jun. Every county but *Monroe*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert* had at least one sighting.

**Mississippi Kite**
The OBRC has eBird reports from *Ross* with some description and from *Clermont*, *Hamilton*, and *Seneca* with none.

**Bald Eagle**
Conneaut remains an excellent place to see ea-
Osprey
Greg Cornett counted 12 at Alum Creek on 28 Jun. Joe Laszlo found six in Hoover NP on 22 Jun. (47 counties)

Northern Harrier
The only duos were along Fairport Nursery Road, Lake, on 13 Jun (Cory Chiappone), “recently fledged” at The Bowl on 08 Jul (Scott Pendleton), and at the Second Reclaim Unit, Harrison, on 11 Jul (m. obs.). Singles were noted in Ashland, Carroll, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Holmes, Jefferson, and Richland.

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Scott Pendleton found two in a Harrison pine plantation on 03 Jul. Singles were also seen in that county and 13 others.

Cooper’s Hawk
The high count of four was shared three ways. Jack Leow saw his on both 14 and 25 Jun at Wintergarten Woods, Wood; Kent Miller his on 11 Jul at Camp Luz, Wayne; and Christopher Collins his at his home in Greene. (58 counties)

Red-shouldered Hawk
These also had a shared high count of four, a pair with two young in the Oberlin Arboretum, Lorain, on 01 Jun (Diana Steele), another pair with two young near home in Franklin on 02 Jun (Carl Winstead), and one adult with three young in Batavia, Clermont, also on 02 Jun (Andrea Kroner). (55 counties)

Broad-winged Hawk
Andrew Hoffman saw five at Vinton Furnace EF on 14 Jun; Ann and Dwight Chasar saw two nests with that same total count in the Brecksville Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 30 Jun. (34 counties)

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Barred Owl
The high count of four was achieved at four locations. (39 counties)

This secretive Barred Owl was located on 03 Jul at Blacklick Woods MP, Franklin, by Scott Zimmermann.

Belted Kingfisher
Mike Edgington saw 15 within a mile of the CVNP Station Road parking lot in 28 Jul. Greg Pasek saw the most elsewhere, eight while kayaking the Black River in Lorain on 02 Jul. (71 counties)

Red-headed Woodpecker
Chris Tonra counted 18 in OOPMP on 28 Jul. (57 counties)

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Massasauga Rattlesnake Ranch, Trumbull, hosted 11 on 15 Jun (David Hochadel). (79 counties)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
The migrants had left by Jun; all of the sightings were in the nesting areas of Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Trumbull, and Vinton. Duos were reported at four sites.

Downy Woodpecker
The high count was 15. Josh King found his at the PVM Camp and Conference Center, Preble, on 17 Jun, and the 03 Jul ONWR team matched him (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). (77 counties)

Hairy Woodpecker
David A. Brinkman found seven in and around Loveland, Clermont, on 23 Jun. (67 counties)

Northern Flicker
Mike Wielgopolski’s 12 in Woodlawn Cemetery, Lucas, on 04 Jul was the high count. (80 counties)

Pileated Woodpecker
The high count was 15. Josh King found his at the PVM Camp and Conference Center, Preble, hosted seven on 17 Jun (Josh King). (65 counties)

American Kestrel
Reuben S. Erb counted 15 near Walnut Creek, Holmes, on 17 Jul. Cam Lee found 10 at Killdeer on 24 Jul. (57 counties)

Merlin
Brad Imhoff had the only sighting, one bird in Foundation Park, Knox, on 18 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon
Joseph Boros saw “Bolt” and two chicks in downtown Cleveland on 14 Jul. Brian O’Connor and James Muller also saw triples, respectively at the Ohio Statehouse on 12 Jun and Scioto Mile Park on 25 Jun. (Both of these sites are in Franklin) At least 10 locations in seven counties hosted doubles. (12 counties)

Eastern Wood-Pewee
Benjamin Miller counted 14 during a 32 mile bike ride along the Kokosing Gap Trail, Knox, on 02 Jul. (79 counties)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
The reports, all of single birds, are:
At his Summit home on 01 Jun (Gregory Bennett)
At Millersburg, Holmes, on 04 Jun (Jeff Boughton)
In Triangle Lake Bog SNP, Portage, “singing up a storm” on 06 Jun (Rob Harlan)
At her Paulding home on 08 Jun (Micki Dunakin)

Acadian Flycatcher
Alvin and Wayne Miller counted 34 during a day in Mohican on 11 Jun. The next highest number was Craig Caldwell’s 20, found along nine miles of Pond Lick Road in Shawnee on 08 Jun. (71 counties)

Alder Flycatcher
Four locations each hosted three birds. (22 counties)

Willow Flycatcher
Andy Sewell found 31 in the Progress Park Development, Pickaway, on 09 Jun. Eric and Liz Shlapack counted 20 at Darby Creek on 23 Jul. (70 counties)

Alder/Willow (Traill’s) Flycatcher
Tom Bartlett noted six indeterminate birds at Springville Marsh SNP, Seneca, on 04 Jun. (14 counties)

Least Flycatcher
The CVNP ledges hosted four on 06 Jul (Amy Downing and Elizabeth McQuaid). (24 counties)

Eastern Phoebe
Zachary Allen found 10 in the Anderson Meadows part of Wayne NF, Lawrence, on 16 Jun. (75 counties)

Great Crested Flycatcher
The high count of 12 was shared by Charles Bombaci along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 19 Jun and Willard Moore along Messner Road in Killbuck on 27 Jun. (71 counties)

Eastern Kingbird
Victor Fazio III found 42 on Kelleys Island on 19 Jul. Ed Pierce’s team counted 24 during the 05 Jun ONWR census (fide Douglas Vogus). (77 counties)

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
The OBRC has an eBird report with a brief description from Franklin.

White-eyed Vireo
Irina Shulgina found eight along Shea Road in Zaleski on 03 Jul. (58 counties)

Bell’s Vireo
Shane Myers and Robert Sams found three in Oakwoods NP, Hancock, on both 19 and 21 Jun. Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, Logan, Union, and Wood also provided sightings.

Yellow-throated Vireo
Atlee A. Yoder saw 10 in Mohican on 11 Jun. Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty equaled his count on 23 Jul while canoeing seven miles of the Cuyahoga River in Geauga. Four locations each held five birds. (61 counties)

Blue-headed Vireo
Frank Buck, Mike Watson, and Haans Petruschke counted five in Holden Arboretum’s Stebbins Gulch on 25 Jun and up to three there on other dates. The most elsewhere were two, at sites in Carroll, Cuyahoga, and Hocking. Ashland, Columbiana, Lake, Lucas, and Summit also contributed reports.

Philadelphia Vireo
Dennis Mersky saw a straggler at Magee on 01 Jun.

Warbling Vireo
Douglas Vogus et al. counted 27 along the CVNP Towpath Trail during their 04 Jun census. A day later, Ed Pierce’s crew found 20 in ONWR (fide Douglas Vogus). (67 counties)

Red-eyed Vireo
Benjamin Miller’s 32 miles of biking along the Kokosing Gap Trail, Knox, on 02 Jul produced 58. Alvin and Wayne Miller found 33 in Mohican on 11 Jun. (79 counties)

Blue Jay
Killdeer hosted 34 when Charles Bombaci visited on 29 Jun. Four locations each produced counts of 25. Only Monroe, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert did not have sightings.

American Crow
Wes Hatch was able to count 156 in a flock at Junction Earthworks, Ross, on 31 Jul. Brian Wulker noted about 60 at Lost Bridge on 25 Jul. (82 counties)

Fish Crow
The OBRC has gleaned posts with descriptions from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, and Jefferson and one from Ashtabula with none.
Common Raven
Craig Caldwell heard one in Fernwood SF, Jefferson, on 05 Jun, and Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison saw one there on 10 Jun. Paul Sherwood saw one flying over Route 644, Columbiana, on 22 Jul.

Horned Lark
Heather Luedecke and Angelika Nelson counted 16 in Union during their New Dover BBS on 04 Jun. (44 counties)

Purple Martin
Patty McKelvey saw about 500 at Lorain on 30 Jul. Victor Fazio III counted 123 at Kelleys Island on 19 Jul. (68 counties)

Tree Swallow
About 900 were working Medusa on 30 Jul (Dan Gesualdo) and Big Island hosted 500 on 12 Jul (Ron Sempier). (79 counties)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Steven Nelson saw about 85 at the Acton Lake (Hueston Wood SP) dam, Butler, on 12 Jul. (74 counties)

Bank Swallow
Gene Stauffer found about 500 along River Drive, Pickaway, on 17 Jul and 600 there on 29 Jul. The most elsewhere were Mark Shaver’s 400 at Conneaut on 17 Jul. (53 counties)

Cliff Swallow
Charles Bombaci saw about 200 along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 12 Jun. (50 counties)

Barn Swallow
Medusa hosted about 300 on 30 Jul (Dan Gesualdo) and CLNP about 200 on 24 Jul (Carolyn Straiker). Only Clinton, Monroe, Putnam, and Van Wert had no sightings.

[Cliff x Barn Swallow]
Jeff Boughton saw a nest with young attended by a female Cliff and a male Barn Swallow in Millersburg, Holmes, on 04 Jun.

Carolina Chickadee
Rob Thorn found 21 in each of Antrim Park and Olentangy Park, both Franklin, on 05 Jun. (55 counties)

Black-capped Chickadee
Victor Fazio III counted 31 at Kelleys Island on 19 Jul (27 counties)

Chickadee sp.
Wise birders didn’t want to declare a species in 10 counties where the two overlap.

Tufted Titmouse
The 08 Jul CVNP census produced 22 (Douglas Vogus et al.). (80 counties)

Red-breasted Nuthatch
Dick Hoopes and Kelly Kozlowski found three on the Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin campus, Geauga, on 30 Jul. Another Geauga location plus Coshocton, Huron, Lake, Lucas (three sites), Mahoning, and Summit (four sites) also produced reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch
The Chasars counted 11 at CVNP’s Hunt Farm on 15 Jun. (82 counties)

Brown Creeper
Reports were sparse and the last of the season came from OOPMP, two birds on 14 Jul (Karen Bonnell and Brandon Brywczynski). Jay Wright found a group of five and three singles in Hoover NP’s Area L on 23 Jun. Five sites produced the next highest number of two. (11 counties)

House Wren
Benjamin Miller’s Kokosing Gap Trail ride, Knox, on 02 Jul produced 25. (78 counties)

Winter Wren
The most, and last of the season, were two adults feeding three young at Fosters Run in the North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 20 Jul (fide Tim Krynak). Alvin and Wayne Miller found four in Mohican on 11 Jun and there were several duos seen elsewhere. Sue Tackett heard two full songs along the Caesar Creek Loop Trail on 16 Jun for a record far from their usual summer haunts. Geauga, Lake, and Summit (counties where they regularly nest) also had sightings.

Sedge Wren
Adriana Losey saw three and heard another four at Darby Creek on 19 Jul, and up to five were found there on other dates. The most elsewhere were Billy Kozuh’s five at Gilmore MP, Butler, on 31 Jul. (17 counties)
Marsh Wren
The 03 Jul ONWR census produced 43 (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus) and up to 25 were noted there on other dates. The most elsewhere were nine, a count achieved at several locations. (22 counties)

Carolina Wren
The high count of 11 was shared by Bill Stanley at East Fork on 02 Jul and Douglas Vogus et al. in CVNP on 08 Jul. (76 counties)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Survey volunteers counted 23 in CLNP on 17 Jul. Andrew Hoffman contributed the next highest count, 18, from Vinton Furnace EF on 14 Jun. (72 counties)

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Matt Anderson made a rare summer find by Manore Road, Lucas, on 02 Jul.

Eastern Bluebird
Bath NP, Summit, hosted 18, including five immature birds, for Brian Tinker on 26 Jun. (76 counties)

Veery
Reports were thin after mid-Jul when song has nearly ceased. Alvin and Wayne Miller found 34 throughout Mohican on 11 Jun and birders recorded up to 23 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were sets of six at three locations. (20 counties)

Swainson’s Thrush
The reports of this scarce straggler or summer resident are:
One (probable a late migrant) in CLNP on 06 Jun (Nathan Michael)
One (probably also a migrant) in Chagrin River Park, Lake, on 07 Jun (Cory Chiappone)
A possible nester in Hocking Hills SP on 26 Jun (Zachary Allen)

Hermit Thrush
Shane Brown found eight in Conkles Hollow SNP, Hocking, on 23 Jul. Shannon Thompson saw five in Hocking Hills SP on 05 Jun. The most in another county were two which George Novosel found near Hudson, Summit, on 18 Jun. Singles were also seen in Ashland, Cuyahoga, and Lucas.

Wood Thrush
Benjamin Miller tallied another highest number, 16, along the Kokosing Gap Trail, Knox, on 02 Jul. (80 counties)

American Robin
Eli Hershberger saw about 1300 flying to a roost near Farmerstown, Holmes, on 27 Jul. Matt Courtman’s 225 was the next-highest number; he found them along two miles of the Hoover Park Connector Trail, Stark, on 24 Jul. Nobody reported robins from Gallia, Monroe, Paulding, Putnam, or Van Wert.

Gray Catbird
Magee held about 40 on 12 Jun (Dan Highby). (81 counties)

Brown Thrasher
Jack Leow counted 14 along the Slippery Elm Trail, Wood, on 08 Jul. (67 counties)

Northern Mockingbird
I remember when these were rare north of Columbus, but no more: Carolyn Straiker found 10 in Cleveland’s Gordon Park on 24 Jul. They remain more numerous in the south; Brandt Schurenberg counted 13 at CNC’s Long Branch Farm on 26 Jul. (55 counties)

European Starling
Greg Pasek saw about 2000 at Lorain on 09 Jul and Benjamin Miller more than 1000 at Apple Valley Lake, Knox, on 27 Jul. (82 counties)

Cedar Waxwing
Terri Martincic enjoyed watching about 200 feasting on cicadas in Mill Stream Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 01 Jun. Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison saw about 50 “flycatching over shallow mudflats” at the Beach City Dam, Tuscarawas, on 16 Jul. (77 counties)
House Sparrow
Eddie Hicks saw about 250 at Cedar Point, Erie, on 23 Jun. Heather Lueddecke and Angelika Nelson’s BBS route in Union produced 102 on 30 Jun. (71 counties)

Scaly-breasted Munia
Or Nutmeg Mannikin, or Spice Finch, or whatever. Su Snyder found one in ONWR on 16 Jul. Someone lost a pet?

House Finch
Union Cemetery, Franklin, hosted 50 on 14 Jul (Jason Parrish). The second-most were 31 at Indian Village Camp, Franklin, on 29 Jul (Jenny Bowman). (74 counties)

Purple Finch
Five visited Ben Morrison’s feeders in Stark on 18 Jun. (15 counties)

Pine Siskin
A few of these hang around to nest most summers. Dan Gesualdo saw the last of the season at Volunteer Bay, Erie, on 08 Jul. The second-last sighting was Su Snyder’s home visitor in Wayne on 19 Jun. Joyce Callahan’s feeders in South Russell, Geauga, attracted five on 09 Jun. Darke, Lake, and Seneca also had sightings.

American Goldfinch
Joan Scharf saw about 100 at Lake Erie Bluffs on 28 Jul. VOA Park, Butler, hosted 63 for Jim Crumpler on 30 Jun. Only Guernsey, Monroe, Putnam, and Van Wert didn’t have sightings.

Ovenbird
Sightings were fairly frequent until the last week of Jul. The two highest counts came from Mohican, 38 by Atlee A. Yoder on 11 Jun and 22 by Reuben S. Erb on 24 Jun. Craig Caldwell found 21 along Pond Lick Road in Shawnee on 08 Jun. (42 counties)

Worm-eating Warbler
Mohican and Atlee A. Yoder again posted the highest number, nine on 11 Jun. Zachary Allen’s eight in Wayne NF, Lawrence, on 01 Jun was the next highest. (13 counties)

Louisiana Waterthrush
Atlee A. Yoder had a high count trifecta – he found 16 at Mohican on 11 Jun. The most elsewhere were nine in Holden Arboretum’s Stebbins Gulch on 04 Jul (Mike Watson and Haans Petruschke). (34 counties)

Northern Waterthrush
The reports, all of single birds, are:
Singing in his Grand Rapids yard, Lucas, on 05 Jun (Tom Kemp)
In the Sawdust Preserve, Ashtabula, on 10 Jun (m. obs.)
In a buttonbush wetland in Brecksville Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 14 and 16 Jun (Tim Krynak)
Near Lyons Falls in Mohican SP on 15 Jul (Greg Cornett)

Golden-winged Warbler
Joe Miller saw one at The Wilderness Center, Stark, on 01 Jun. Matt Kemp saw and heard one in Maumee SF, Fulton, on 05 Jun, and Matt Anderson found it again on 11 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler
Zachary Allen counted nine in Wayne NF, Lawrence, on 14 Jun. (38 counties)

[Golden-winged x Blue-winged “Lawrence’s” Warbler]
Jeff Harvey discovered one in Sheepskin Hollow SNP, Columbiana, on 19 Jun, and many other birders enjoyed it until 01 Jul. Dennis Mersky saw (presumably) another along the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 15 Jul.

Black-and-white Warbler
Craig Caldwell’s nine mile drive along Pond Lick Road in Shawnee on 08 Jun produced five. (32 counties)

Prothonotary Warbler
Charles Bombaci counted 26 in Hoover NP’s Area N on 18 Jun and 37 along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir the next day. Greg Cornett’s 15 at Alum Creek were the most elsewhere. (36 counties)

Kentucky Warbler
The high count of five was shared three ways. Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker saw them at East Fork on 11 Jun and the same number near Lynx, Adams, on 25 Jun. Ginny Fantetti also found hers at East Fork, on 16 Jul. (26 counties)

Common Yellowthroat
The ONWR census crew counted 51 on 03 Jul (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). The next
The highest number was David A. Brinkman’s 35 in Miami Whitewater Forest, Hamilton, on 11 Jul. (82 counties)

**Hooded Warbler**

Atlee A. Yoder’s day in Mohican, 11 Jun, produced 41. Allen and Daniel Stutzman found 28 there exactly a week later. The most elsewhere were 18 in Beaver Creek SP, Columbiana, on 29 Jun (Cynthia Norris and Elizabeth Sneider). (51 counties)

**American Redstart**

Atlee A. Yoder found 11 in Mohican on 11 Jun as did Tony Gazso in the Lakeshore Reservation, Lake, on 17 Jun. (46 counties)

**Cerulean Warbler**

Alvin and Wayne Miller counted 11 in Mohican on 11 Jun; numbers to nine were found there on other dates. Craig Caldwell tallied eight along five and a half miles of Shawnee roads north of Route 125 on 08 Jun. (28 counties)

**Northern Parula**

Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker saw or heard 12 near Lynx, Adams, on 25 Jun. (40 counties)

**Magnolia Warbler**

The reports are:
One at Hocking Hills SP Cedar Falls on 05 Jun (Shannon Thompson)
Two in Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, on 11 Jun (Kaley Bartosik and Jason Sullivan) and one there on 24 Jun (Bethany Gray)
One along the Little Beaver Creek Greenway Trail, Columbiana, on 15 Jun (Bob and Denise Lane)
One in Mohican SP on 30 Jun (Justin Martin)
Two in Zaleski on 02 Jul (Bruce Simpson)

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

The OBRC has a formal report from Summit.

**Blackburnian Warbler**

The reports are:
One in the Hocking Hills SP campground on 05 Jun (Shannon Thompson)
Two in Mohican on 11 Jun (Alvin and Wayne Miller) and eight there the same day (Atlee A. Yoder)
One in Clear Creek MP, Hocking, on 26 Jun (Joe Brehm)

**Yellow Warbler**

The 05 Jun ONWR census produced 109 and that of 03 Jul, 77 (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). Deb Eiger found 37 in CLNP on 18 Jun. (74 counties)

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Six locations each provided counts of three. (14 counties)

**Blackpoll Warbler**

All three reports were of stragglers seen on 01 Jun: one along the Magee boardwalk (Kern Kaufman), one near the Magee Migratory Bird Center (Sheryl McNair), and two at Wendy Park (Michelle Pesho).

**Pine Warbler**

Mohican produced nine for Atlee A. Yoder on 11 Jun and six for Reuben S. Erb on 29 Jun. Three was the next highest count; Zachary Allen achieved it at Wayne NF’s Anderson Meadows, Lawrence, on 16 Jun as did George Novosel in the Kendall area of CVNP. (23 counties)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Jeff Boughton saw a leftover from spring migration near Millersburg, Holmes, on 04 Jun.

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

Benjamin Miller saw 14 along the Kokosing Gap Trail, Knox, on 02 Jul. Tyler McClain counted eight in O’Shaughnessy NP, Delaware, on 04 Jun, as did Atlee A. Yoder in Mohican on 11 Jun. (50 counties)

**Prairie Warbler**

Wayne NF’s Anderson Meadows, Lawrence, hosted 16 on 16 Jun (Zachary Allen). Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker found 10 near Lynx, Adams, on 25 Jun. (24 counties)

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

Atlee A. Yoder counted 33 during his long day in Mohican on 11 Jun. Parties saw 11, the second-highest number, there on other dates. The most elsewhere were eight at Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, also on 11 Jun (Kaley Bartosik and Jason Sullivan). (14 counties)

**Canada Warbler**

The reports are:
Up to 10 in Mohican on various dates (m. obs.)
Two along the Valley Bridle Trail in CVNP on 02 Jun (Patrick Coy and Karin Tanquist)
One at Mentor Lagoons NP, Lake, on 03 Jun (Dave Chase)
One in Conkle’s Hollow SNP, Hocking, on 11 Jun (Kaley Bartosik and Jason Sullivan)

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

Craig Moore spotted 12 at Darby Creek on 18 Jun; Chris Pierce tied him in Tri-Valley WA, Muskingum, on 29 Jun. (27 counties)

**Eastern Towhee**

Jeffrey Peters counted 28 along six miles of trails at Lake Snowden, Athens, on 17 Jul. Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison needed eight miles of Smith Road, Morgan, to tally 20 on 03 Jul. (78 counties)

171
Chipping Sparrow
Heather Luedecke and Angelika Nelson counted 43 along their New Dover BBS route, Union, on 04 Jun. Three other locations each hosted 20. (80 counties)

Field Sparrow
A couple miles of wandering in Harrison yielded 45 for Scott Pendleton on 01 Jun. Irina Shulgina counted 35 at Killdeer on 10 Jul. (80 counties)

Vesper Sparrow
The Bowl hosted six for Scott Pendleton et al. on 11 Jun. The second most were three which Rick Luehrs found in Siebenthaler Fen, Greene, on 04 Jun. (26 counties)

Lark Sparrow
Rick Luehrs found eight in Oakes Quarry Park, Greene, on 17 Jun. Sightings also came from Carroll, Lorain, Lucas, Montgomery, and Tuscarawas.

Savannah Sparrow
Leigh McBride saw about 30 in unmowed parts of the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course grounds, Morrow, on 02 Jun. Scott Pendleton et al. found 18 near Cadiz, Harrison, on 11 Jul. (51 counties)

Grasshopper Sparrow
Scott Pendleton counted 45 along only a mile and a half of road near Cadiz, Harrison, on both 11 Jun and 11 Jul. He and friends also found 35 in the Second Reclaim District, Harrison, on 11 Jul. The most elsewhere were 20 in the Mingo Grasslands, Jefferson, on 10 Jun (Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison).

Henslow’s Sparrow
In addition to their Grasshopper Sparrow finds noted above, Jon Cefus and Ben Morrison also tallied 16 Henslow’s in the Mingo Grasslands. (35 counties)

Birds of the prairies and grasslands tend to hide in their preferred habitat. Adam Brandemihl managed to capture a photograph of this beautiful Henslow’s Sparrow at Glacier Ridge MP, Union, on 29 Jun.

Fox Sparrow
Matt Orebaugh discovered and well described one of this summer rarity at Blendon Woods on 11 Jul.

Song Sparrow
The high count of 61 came from the 04 Jun CVNP census (Douglas Vogus et al.), and the next highest, 58, during the 03 Jul ONWR census (Ed Pierce et al., fide Douglas Vogus). The most which one individual found were Jack Leow’s 42 along the Slippery Elm Trail, Wood, on 11 Jul. Only Lawrence, Monroe, Putnam, and Van Wert didn’t have sightings.

Savannah Sparrow
Some often linger well into Jun but Jul sightings are very rare. The reports are: One in Glen Helen Preserve, Greene, on 08 Jun (Gabriel Amrhein) One at Wendy Park on 21 Jun (Jen Brumfield) One heard at home in Lake on 22 Jun (Ian Lynch) One giving “three full songs” at Station Road in CVNP on 22 Jul (the Chasars) “An anomalous bird” singing in Innis Park, Delaware, on 27 Jul (Rob Thorn)

White-throated Sparrow
Vol. 39 No. 4
**White-crowned Sparrow**
The reports follow. A few early Jun sightings aren’t unusual, but one in midsummer is very rare. One at Magee on 01 Jun (Kenn Kaufman) One in Millersburg on 04 Jun (Jeff Boughton) One seen and heard near Saltillo, **Holmes**, several times between 30 Jun and 06 Jul (Elias A. Raber)

**Dark-eyed Junco**
A trio of Holden Arboretum volunteers found 10 in Stebbins Gulch on 25 Jun. Four sites each held six. Most of the sightings were in the nesting counties of **Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake**, and **Summit** but singles visited feeders in **Hardin** and **Knox**.

**Summer Tanager**
Reuben S. Erb saw four in Mohican on 24 Jun. Sites in **Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lucas**, and **Warren** each produced three. (28 counties)

**Scarlet Tanager**
Atlee A. Yoder found 28 in Mohican on 11 Jun and Ryan Steiner found 12 there on 17 Jun. Josh King reported 10 in each of the PVM Camp and Conference Center, **Preble**, on 17 Jun and Englewood on 20 Jul. (68 counties)

**Northern Cardinal**
Douglas Vogus et al. counted 56 along the CVNP Towpath Trail on 04 Jun. Kelleys Island hosted 38 for Victor Fazio III on 19 Jul. Every county but **Monroe, Paulding, Putnam**, and **Van Wert** provided reports.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**
The 04 Jun CVNP census provided another high count, 13 (Douglas Vogus et al.). (61 counties)

**Blue Grosbeak**
Brian Walker counted six at Fernald on 17 Jul. (21 counties)

**Indigo Bunting**
Victor Fazio III found 62 on Kelleys Island on 19 Jul. Irina Shulgina’s 30 at Killdeer on 21 Jun was the second-highest count. **Henry, Monroe, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert** didn’t have sightings.

**Dickcissel**
Fernald hosted 18 for Brian Walker on 17 Jul. (38 counties)

The distinctive song of this Dickcissel led Mark Hsu to its perch at Fernald on 18 Jun.

**Bobolink**
James Gore saw about 50 at The Wilds on 18 Jun. (41 counties)

This proud female Bobolink, photographed by Adam Brandemihl, made an appearance on 26 Jun to scout her surroundings at Glacier Ridge MP, Union.
Red-winged Blackbird
Benjamin Miller sat by Apple Valley Lake, Knox, and counted almost 900 birds from that spot. Jackson, Monroe, Putnam, and Van Wert did not have sightings.

Eastern Meadowlark
Scott Pendleton and Carlton Schooley found 40 in The Bowl on 11 Jun. (74 counties)

Western Meadowlark
One which John Herman found in Butler Township, Richland, on 16 Jun stayed until 20 Jun for m. obs. One which Stefan Minnig discovered by Moorefield Road, Clark, on 22 Jun stayed until 03 Jul. One at Darby Creek on 08 Jul (Gene Stauffer) wasn’t refound.

Yellow-headed Blackbird
The reports are:
One at Metzger on 04 Jun (Matt and Tom Kemp)
One in the Ottawa section of Magee on 12 Jun (Susie Shetterly)
One along the ONWR WD on 18 Jun (Dave Smith)

Common Grackle
Tom Bartlett made a “conservative estimate [4450] leaving marsh area at dawn” at Springville Marsh SNP, Seneca, on 16 Jul. He found only about 1000 there on 23 Jul. Gates Dupont saw about 800 in West Unity, Williams, on 16 Jul. (83 counties)

Brown-headed Cowbird
Eric and Liz Shlapack saw about 100 at the northern section of Glacier Ridge MP, Union, on 16 Jul. (77 counties)

Orchard Oriole
“Several family groups” totaled 15 birds in Jockey Hollow WA, Harrison, on 16 Jul (Scott Pendleton). Ten in Carrollton, Carroll, on 04 Jul were the second-highest number (Lori Brumbaugh). (62 counties)

Baltimore Oriole
Brian Brywczynski found 20 in OOPMP on 09 Jun. (72 counties)

Addenda
Three spring reports arrived too late for publication in that issue. The OBRC received a report of an Apr sighting of a Western Tanager in Lucas. John Herman saw a Glaucous Gull on 05 Mar and a Long-tailed Duck on 11 Mar, both at the Richland end of Clear Fork. John also noted that the spring Richland Clay-colored Sparrow was a first county record.

Erratum
Margaret Bowman pointed out that her 382 Chimney Swifts reported in the spring issue were in Licking, not Delaware.
CONTRIBUTORS

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

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CONFIRMED NESTING OF BLACK VULTURE IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY

By Dwight Chasar and Ann Chasar

The first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Peterjohn and Rice 1991) showed that Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus) had spread no further north than about Fairfield in Ohio. The second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Rodewald et al. 2016) found that Black Vulture was a “probable” nester no further north than Holmes from 2006–2011. We have now confirmed nesting of this species in Cuyahoga.

Two Black Vultures resided in Brecksville (Cuyahoga) from about 02 Jan to 12 Feb, 2016 (Caldwell 2016), significant this far north in winter. They were easily seen in early morning on the chimney of the United Methodist Church in the town square. Later in the morning they would join a flock of 25–30 Turkey Vultures (Cathartes aura). Two were seen again on March 18 at the same location (Brumfield and Schroder). They appeared to have slipped further notice in the area (no eBird or Ohiobirds reports) until we spotted one landing on an abandoned damaged building in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, about 3.7 miles (as the vulture flies) from the Methodist Church, on the morning of June 1st. This section of the park is in southern Cuyahoga. Upon returning to this location on June 8 in the early morning, we found the bird perched on the building. It eventually flew off and was joined in the air by a second vulture, a sign of possible nesting. We made a number of visits in the morning and afternoon during the next two weeks, sometimes finding a vulture present. But on June 25 we saw two Black Vultures exit the building in the early afternoon. Of the 10 confirmed nests of Black Vulture reported in the second Ohio Atlas (Rodewald et al. 2016), nine were in barns or abandoned houses.

On June 26 in the late morning, we found both an adult on the roof and a fluffy chick on the second floor edge of the damaged building. July 2 we saw both adults on the roof and they immediately flew away; however, we spotted two fluffy chicks. On July 4 we found two adults, one on the roof and the second exiting the damaged room where the chicks were seen on the 2nd. Our visits were made and photos and videos taken throughout July and into August. Anytime an adult was with the chicks upon our visits, the adult left immediately for the nearby trees or sky but the chicks seemed unconcerned. By August 3, the young were very mobile and flexed their wings strongly. By the 7th, one young was able to flap up to the roof edge by following its parent which rapidly flew away and was shortly joined by a second adult exiting from the building. The other young bird was content to remain on the floor. On August 12 all four birds were present and as usual the adults immediately flew into the trees when we arrived. Minutes later the two young, which were sitting on the roof edge, flew to the chimney and then into the trees to join their parents. None of the vultures were present on August 16 and we assume fledging was indeed completed during those last four days.

Based upon published photos of Black Vulture chicks vs. age (McHargue 1981), we estimate that our chicks were about 7 weeks old on July 2. This age corresponds very closely to when brooding ceased in one detailed study (Stewart 1974). Working backwards knowing that incubation is about 37-41 days long, we estimate that the eggs were laid in the last week of March. This might explain the absence of Black Vultures in Brecksville after the March 18 sighting (vide supra).

Black Vultures are monogamous, maintain long-term pair bonds, and associate year round; if nesting is successful at a site, they are known to use that site for many years (Buckley 1999). This behooves us to remain vigilant in future years for sightings of pairs and possible breeding.

References


*All photos taken by Dwight Chasar*
Numerous “Purple Martin capitals”, typically towns or counties officially designated so by their states, dot the great migratory flyways in the eastern half of the North America. But few have been as successful as the Portage Lakes of northern Ohio. Officially begun in 2000, the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association (PLPMA) then had just two sites, and one pair of Purple Martins that fledged five offspring. By 2014, the PLPMA had over 400 nesting gourds on poles among 16 sites, resulting in 144 nesting pairs and 649 babies fledged. A few of the PLPMA are true birders. However, most are local homeowners who got involved for other reasons, some associating Purple Martins with control of bothersome insects, and others concerned with conservation in the Portage Lakes, an area of 2,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs with 40 miles of shoreline, including a 411-acre state park.

Managing a Purple Martin association

As one PLPMAer exclaimed, “This was a humongous challenge!” These birds come back to Ohio in late March to early April after overwintering in the Amazon basin of South America. In inclement spring weather, Boy Scout troops and other volunteers help feed the Purple Martins. To prevent starvation of the breeding pairs, the volunteers flip bits of scrambled eggs, seasoned with finely-ground eggshell, into the air. The birds swoop for these protein-packed chunks just as they would for flying insects. Says Kay Lukac, one of the original PLPMA members, “If we were in crisis because it was bitter cold, raining for days on end, I go into scrambling mode preparing a dozen eggs a day for her colony, to feed 11 pairs and their three to five babies. With 16 sites, the PLPMA has a “coordinator of flippers” who makes sure volunteers supply every site with food every day, for a month or so, until a natural insect supply builds up. Even so, in some years Mother Nature takes a large toll; a week of rain in spring 2015 resulted in loss of 105 nestlings.

In late June, the PLPMA hosts the Buckeye MartinFest, drawing birders and non-birders alike from around the state intrigued with demonstrations, such as how to census the nests and band the nestlings. Meghan Doran, an Interpreative Naturalist for Summit Metro Parks, notes that PLPMA takes “great care in giving people guidelines for what to do, how to handle the nestlings.” And the attendees can experiment with flipping egg bits to the Martin adults. Although elsewhere people have trained the swallows to take food from platforms, here tossing the egg bits skyward -- resulting in marvelous aerial displays by the Martins, as they dart for the food -- is much more entertaining.

Every night in August, passengers in the PLPMA pontoon boat watch the spectacular massing of thousands of Purple Martins at sunset at their cattail roosting sites at Nimisila Reservoir. Communal roosting in the cattail beds in the middle of Nimisila, more than a quarter mile from shoreline, provides protection for the Purple Martins from predators and storms. So popular is the Nimisila boat trip that the tickets are sold out months in advance. And now many folks show up in their own in kayaks and canoes, as we did.

While the PLPMA is enthusiastic about all the attention the Purple Martins are getting, it does worry that naïve boaters may disturb the birds. Because Nimisila Reservoir is restricted to human-powered and electric motor watercraft, years ago there was little activity on the water at dusk. But now, with kayak rentals and people hearing about the Purple Martin show, typically at sunset there are 40 or more kayakers and canoers paddling around the cattail beds in anticipation of the Purple Martins swarming. We saw one inexperienced kayaker dump himself into the four-foot deep water at the cattail edge and then spend thirty minutes, with help of folks in a row-boat, getting himself back in his kayak, all of which created considerable commotion. That kind of disturbance may explain why the roosting site chosen that evening by the Purple Martins was not the usual cattail bed, but rather a smaller cattail area without people surrounding it. On another occasion, in an effort to get the Purple Martins to re-start their aerial display of massing at the cattail roost site, some boaters rammed the cattail bed. Says Larry Hunter, founder of the PLPMA, “People just don’t understand -- this isn’t a TV show”; these birds will abandon an area if they feel threatened. So in addition to the process of local education about the Purple Martins, the Summit Metro Parks at the request of the PLPMA blocked access to the cattail beds, by rope and buoys strung around them.

As Purple Martin populations have declined dramatically in North America over the last
century, people here and there along the migratory flyways have assumed the role of landlord, which at the very least means setting up gourds on poles. However, often that isn't enough. “We were losing so many birds early on,” says Kay Lukac. By reading all the things posted about what to do and what not to do, gaining hands-on experience, some experimenting, and sharing what was learned, the PLPMA folks figured out how to maintain thriving Purple Martins colonies. An open area that doesn’t impede the birds’ flight or sight is chosen for the nest location. While elsewhere typically Purple Martin houses are set up on private land, most of the PLPMA sites are on public property because it wanted the public to have access, so people could watch the birds and participate in their conservation.

The entrance and interior size of the nest gourd should be suitable for the swallows, but less so for European Starlings and House Sparrows, both species deliberately introduced to North America that outcompete with these swallows for natural cavity nest sites. In contrast to real gourds, commercial plastic gourds last longer, are easier to clean, and are white to keep nests from overheating. After the Purple Martins migrate south for the winter, the PLPMA with the help of Boy Scout troops gather the gourds for cleaning and sterilizing with bleach to rid the gourds of nest parasites. Then in mid-March the PLPMA remount the gourds on poles to attract these colonial nesters. They even provide clean pine needles for insulation inside the gourds.

Role of insecticides in decline

Although various factors have contributed to the Purple Martin decline nation-wide, the widespread use of insecticides presumed to be harmful only to target insects is the most insidious. Although reputedly controlling mosquitoes, Purple Martins forage during the daytime, not when mosquitoes are active, but the birds do take a wide variety of flying insects. So application of insecticides to control mosquitoes and to agricultural areas to control crop pests may reduce the food supply for the Purple Martins and may also affect them by direct exposure to those toxins. In particular, neonicotinoid insecticides have been linked to the demise of insectivorous birds, including swallows.

Sustaining Purple Martin landlord associations

So for various reasons — competing non-native cavity-nesters, habitat destruction, and insecticides -- Purple Martin colonies do come and go, which is why stewardship is necessary. In “Why people lose their Purple Martins”, James R. Hill states, “A curious thing happens when the person who manages a colony site dies - if no one else takes over the responsibility, the colony invariably goes into decline...colony sites must be actively managed to persist. This is analogous to a garden needing to be weeded, watered, and fertilized in order to produce a healthy and abundant crop.” By cultivating long-term conservation interests of local communities, Purple Martin landlord associations can create extended stewardship.

Although the success of the Portage Lakes PMA may in part reflect a large extended community of conservation-minded people living along the lakes, that alone isn’t enough. This Purple Martin association cleverly linked to broader interests and access to resources with an eye on sustainability. The PLPMA accomplished that by its variety of educational outreach activities with schools, including an eighth-grade essay contest about “Why the Portage Lakes should be the Purple Martin Capital of Ohio”. At the State Mill site, PLPMA hosted four bus-loads of school children, allowing them to peek inside nests and flip eggs to the flying adults. Larry Hunter notes, “Everybody has fun with these birds,” although “there were more eggs in the children’s hair than for the Martins.” Meghan Doran of Summit Metro Parks explains that PLPMA organizes the specific educational events about Purple Martins, and the park system assists whenever it can. To answer people’s questions, naturalists are on hand at MartinFest and often on the PLPMA boat trips. Says Doran, “It is a great conservation story; we are grateful partners with them.” In fact, PLPMA obtained endorsement by many key supporters, especially the Portage Lakes Advisory Council, Summit Metro Parks, Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Greater Akron Audubon Society, and the Purple Martin Conservation Association. The local Kiwanis handles the lease for the barn that stores the PLPMA equipment. Work with legislators led to official designation in 2014 of Portage Lakes as the Purple Martin Capital of Ohio.

PLPMA also excels at fund-raising, obtaining grants and donations up to a few thousand dollars. As Kay Lukac, the coordinator for fund-raising, explains, “One of the biggest ways we have to raise money” is the PLPMA pontoon boat trip to the August roost site, generating more than $4,000 per year to cover supplies for plastic gourds, metal poles, repair costs of the barn in which nests are stored over winter, and other expenses. Each 12-gourd pole setup costs more
than $800. And she refers to the boat trips as “the glue that holds us together” because to buy tickets people have to do that in advance. In that way, PLPMA obtains their names and addresses for the newsletter mailing list, now with about 700 names.

Summing up the success of PLPMA, Meghan Doran says it starts with the volunteers, an extremely dedicated group nurturing these colonies and creating wonderful programs to engage the public. She explains this “gives people a connection with the birds. Until they hold a nestling in their hands, they don’t understand how amazing these birds are, that by the end of the summer, these birds will begin flight all the way to South America.” And with luck, fly back again next spring.

References


National Purple Martin Association https://www.purplemartin.org/


Nancy Stamp is a freelance science writer and biologist at Binghamton University-State University of New York, who has studied breeding birds along rivers in the Sonoran desert of Arizona.

Lew Stamp is a newspaper and freelance photographer in Akron, Ohio.
FIELD NOTE: A WOODPECKER CONDOMINIUM

By Allan Walter
[Editor’s note: Allan Walter, of Harrison, provided these items, which I have lightly edited to conform to the Cardinal’s style sheet.]

I was surprised today [25 May] to discover that I have three species of woodpecker simultaneously nesting in the same tree! It’s about a 16-inch diameter aspen snag that was snapped off about 40 feet off the ground in last summer’s microburst. The top was blown out so that all that is left is a trunk with no limbs. About 20 feet off the ground there’s a Pileated Woodpecker nesting in a hole on the N side, three feet higher than that there’s a Northern Flicker in a hole facing E, and three feet higher than that a Red-headed Woodpecker is nearly ready to nest -- it was still excavating this afternoon but was so deep in that it would completely disappear, turn around and come out with a mouth full of chips.

I certainly hope that the numerous holes don’t weaken the tree so much that all the nests fail! The birds are reluctant co-dwellers, I’d say. There’s a lot of jockeying and eyeing each other. Although clear views are available of each hole from various sites, they are positioned such that a photograph of all three in one frame is not possible from any vantage point.

I have a pair of Pileateds nest nearly every year on my property and find it about half the years. This is the first time I’ve ever had a Pileated nest in full sun.

[On 17 Jul Allan updated the account.]

Every species raised at least one young successfully. The Pileated was first with just one as far as I could tell, Flicker was next with two and the Red-headeds were still feeding at least one baby early this week…Kelly Benish got a good photo of a flicker in flight from its hole while the Redhead was excavating its hole…She’s the one who also spotted a Red-bellied nesting just up the hill. So it was possible to sit in one place and watch activity of four woodpecker species at once.

This is the second year in a row that the Red-headeds and Flickers have shared a tree. Last year it was an elm. I got the impression that last year the Red-headed was first and then the Flicker moved in. This year it was vice versa.

There literally were 20 trees to choose from within a half-acre area because I had a microburst flatten or snap off about an acre of trees last July. Why everyone wanted the same snag, I do not know! It probably was because it was an aspen that had been badly damaged in the 2012 derecho that hit southern Ohio very hard and just barely clipped my farm. So it was a lot punkier than the trees killed last year.

I was quite surprised that the Pileated was willing to nest out in the open. The microburst damage caused a weird confluence of species with Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbird and Pileated Woodpecker all sharing the same one acre.
A NUGGET OF OHIO ORNITHOLOGY

by Bill Whan

Bill, our resident sleuth, found this report, which was read before the Cleveland Academy of Natural Sciences in November 1857. — ed.

A Rare Bird

A few days since, Messrs. Wright and Williams, residing near the mouth of the Rocky River, observed a large bird attacking a flock of hens and chickens. These gentlemen secured the depradator without injury, and to their politeness I am indebted for the specimen in a living state. It proves to belong to the gull family, and probably the

Lestris Richardsonii, or Richardson’s Jager [sic]. There is, however, some doubt as to its species. In most particulars it resembles the young of that species as figured by Audubon. I have it now in confinement, and hope to keep it until its more mature moultings shall disclose with certainty its true specific character. [Richardson’s Jaeger is now known as Parasitic Jaeger, Stercorarius parasiticus.]

This is the first instance in which I had decisive evidence that any of the Jagers visited Ohio, though I had occasionally observed large active birds, that I supposed to be of this genus, flying over the lake, and generally pursuing the several species of gulls common here in the spring and autumn.

According the Nuttall, the Jagers are bold and predacious birds, inhabiting the antarctic as well as the arctic seas, and migrating only short distances toward warmer climates at the approach of winter.

YEARS AGO

By Craig Caldwell

10 years ago, the Summer 2006 Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 29 No. 4 (Bill Whan, Editor) contained these items:
   Reported rarities included an Anhinga, two Swallow-tailed Kites, a Mississippi Kite, two Piping Plovers,
   a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and a Loggerhead Shrike.
   31 warbler species were recorded.
   Rob Harlan wrote an article about the launch of data collection for the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas.

25 years ago, the Summer 1991 Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 14 No. 4 (Rob Harlan, Editor) contained these items:
   Tom Kemp discovered the state’s first Golden-crowned Kinglet nest, in Lucas, and Mary Reinthal the
   second, in Richland.
   Both an American White Pelican and a Brown Pelican were present on 02 Jun, though in different
   locations.
   Other rarities included a Surf Scoter, a Long-tailed Jaeger, and a Black-headed Gull.
   The Ohio Cardinal Records Committee formalized itself as the Ohio Bird Records Committee and
   published its newly-created bylaws.

35 years ago, the Summer 1981 Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Ed Pierce, Editor) was a dual issue with Sum-
mer 1982; no issues were published between those dates. It included these items:
   Ohio’s first Black-necked Stilt in over 40 years (and fourth overall) was documented.
   Up to nine Snowy Egrets spent the summer in the ONWR/Magee area and a pair with young were seen
   on West Sister Island.
   18 warbler species were recorded.
   It was noted that Blue Grosbeaks “can no longer be considered rare in southern Ohio”.

50 years ago, The Cleveland Bird Calendar of Summer 1966, Vol. 62, No. 3 (Donald Newman, Editor) in-
cluded these items:
   Two colonies of Sedge Wrens were found in Geauga; the first had five nests and the other 12 to 15 indi-
vidual birds. (They were called Short-billed Marsh Wrens then.)
   The Calendar area’s first Jun Double-crested Cormorant was seen off Lorain.
   An Osprey was seen flying over Geauga.
   A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes nested on the southern edge of Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

100 years ago, The Cleveland Bird Calendar did not publish an issue.
Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the largest statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio’s bird habitats.

We encourage and support important research on birds. We provide educational resources to members, the public, and the news media. We unite individuals and constituencies interested in birds, and provide means and reasons for them to cooperate. Our activities are not conducted independently, but in concert with local organizations whenever possible, and when mutually beneficial.

If your membership has lapsed, we hope that you will renew your membership and be a part of this dynamic organization.

Please note: To receive printed publications, please add an additional $20.00 to the Student, Individual and Family membership fees as listed above. Otherwise, all members will receive electronic versions of the Cerulean and the Ohio Cardinal.

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Renew online at: http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/membership.php
The Counties of Ohio
Though Bell’s Vireos are uncommon in Ohio, Mark Hsu had no trouble locating and photographing this beauty at VOA Park, Butler, on 03 Jun.

Instructions for Contributors

The Ohio Cardinal would not exist without contributions from Ohio birders. We solicit sightings, notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, essays, artwork, and photographs related to Ohio and its birdlife.

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

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145
craig_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Send digital photo files or links to Christopher Collins:
Ccollins0325@yahoo.com

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March
Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June
Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August
Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

Back cover:
Barn Swallows seem to enjoy hanging out on the fence at Huffman Prairie, Greene. Sarah Lucas captured this one preparing to take flight on 03 Jun.
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