

Ohio Cardinal

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The purpose of the Ohio Cardinal is to provide a permanent record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species within the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

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

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

Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented; documentation forms are available from the editors.

The Ohio Cardinal Staff:

Thomas Kemp, Co-Editor
Edwin C. Pierce, Co-Editor
Matthew Anderson, Seasonal Editor
Dorothea Barker, Mailing and Subscriptions
Peter Montion, Publications

Cover: White Ibis by Chuck Anderson.

Ohio's Second White Ibis

by James Ramsey

In the United States the White ibis, Eudocimus albus, occurs in and near marshes in the extreme southeastern portion of the country (Florida westward to Louisiana and Texas, as well as along the eastern seaboard as far north as North Carolina). In summer it may disperse a little farther north within these same states. Although encountering this species in Ohio would indeed constitute a rare event, two sightings of it as an accidental are on record, the second of which was quite recent (July 14, 1990) and it prompted the writing of this report.

At the Spring Valley marsh near the Greene-Warren County line (about 1.5 miles from my home), a botanist friend, Denis Conover, and I sighted an immature White ibis at very close range (about 25 feet) along the northwest corner of the marsh at about 7 p.m. on July 14. It was standing on one leg on a dead branch of a small green ash tree amidst a patch of button bush growing in the extremely shallow water. The long down-curved beak as well as neck and leg characteristics immediately brought an ibis to mind. Moreover, the brownish coloration of the wings and back, as well as the indistinct light brown streaking on the neck, clearly indicated that it was an immature form.

The bird did not appear the least bit wary, permitting us to continue examining it for quite a few minutes, after which the flexed leg descended and the bird finally proceeded to leisurely fly in a northward direction above a fringe of small ash and walnut trees. In flight the neck was outstretched and the white rump clearly visible. Visitation to the marsh on the following two days revealed no further sign of it.

The first recorded sighting of a White ibis in Ohio (also an immature form) occurred on August 20, 1964, at the Englewood Dam just north of Dayton. It was first identified by the late Ben Elincoe, a competent ornithologist. However, unlike the recent occurrence, this bird remained in the area for several days, enabling several others, including this writer, to observe

it. In fact, it was photographed.

There is reference in the old (but valuable) book, "Birds of America", that in late summer immature White ibises tend to wander, similar in this habit to the young of some species of herons. Perhaps this may explain these two occurrences of the White ibis in Ohio.

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---Dept. of Biology
Univ. of Dayton
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-2320

First Evidence of Golden-crowned Kinglets Breeding in Ohio

by Tom Kemp

On 6 July 1990, while conducting a bicycle bird census in Oak Openings Park, Lucas County, I heard the unmistakable "see-see-see" call notes of a Golden-crowned kinglet. Leaping from my bike, I immediately tried to locate the kinglet and after a few moments did, foraging in a jack pine about 25 feet up. This bird was soon joined by another and I watched them for about five minutes before they disappeared. I looked for crown patches on the birds but saw none, indicating they were probably young birds (see Godfrey 1966). However, with the short duration of the observation and the brief glimpses of the crown on the kinglets, I wasn't absolutely certain these birds were young of the year. I returned on 9 July and found one kinglet about 150 yards from the first sighting. Despite watching this bird for at least 20 minutes, I still could not determine age. This kinglet was constantly directly overhead and it was impossible to get a look at its upperparts.

After being out of the state for the remainder of July, I returned to the area on 2 August to look for the kinglets. A brief search found five Golden-crowned kinglets and a close leisurely look indicated four were young of the year (no crown patch) and one was an adult female. A family group (sans the male) of Golden-crowned kinglets! The next day the family was again located in the same area. For the record, Matt Anderson found at least five kinglets here on 5 August.

This is the first evidence of Golden-crowned kinglets breeding in Ohio. Although no nest was found and no young were seen being fed, there is little question that the kinglets bred in this area. (The young are easily told from the adults [with a good view] by the lack of any crown patch and overall more drab plumage). There are two previous summer records for Ohio, but there was no evidence of breeding in either case (Peterjohn 1989).

The habitat in this sector of the Oak Openings is dominated by conifers. Pines (jack, white, red) are mixed with spruce and fir. The few deciduous trees mixed in are primarily oak, cherry, and aspen. To my eye, this habitat looks remarkably like north central Michigan, the area nearest northwest Ohio where Golden-crowned kinglets regularly nest (Payne 1983, pers. obs.). In fact, while watching the kinglets on 3 August, a Red-breasted nuthatch flew in to join the flock. It must look like Michigan (or Canada) to the birds as well.

Sightings of probable young kinglets in early July and definite young birds in early August possibly suggest two broods of kinglets in this area in the summer of 1990. It is unfortunate that this section of the park was not investigated more thoroughly earlier in the season. Questions concerning numbers of broods would almost certainly have been answered and the nest(s) may have been found.

Observers in areas where conifers are prevalent should be on the lookout for further breeding evidence of these tiny birds. Their occurrence during summer in Ohio may not be as rare as this one record indicates.

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The Summer Season, 1990

by Matt Anderson and Tom Kemp

Summer 1990 contained relatively few surprises. On the whole, the weather was fairly normal with few extremes in terms of precipitation or temperature. Few noteworthy late spring or early fall migrants were reported and species found in the nesting season were generally those to be expected.

As always, there were exceptions. The immature **White ibis** at Spring Valley WA on July 14 was certainly a surprise and provided a second record for Ohio. The family group of **Golden-crowned kinglets** in the Oak Openings in July/early August provided evidence of Ohio's first breeding record for this species. Details appear in this issue.

Results from breeding bird censuses conducted in the Cleveland area (CABBS) in June and in the Oak Openings in mid-June to early July are very interesting. This type of work certainly goes a long way in demonstrating abundance of local species. We have been birding the Oak Openings for years, but even so the census results provided some surprises. For example, nesting **Brown creepers** and **Golden-crowned kinglets** were not expected, and although we knew **Indigo buntings** were very common, the final tally of 326 singing males impressed both of us. Rob Harlan suggests similar censuses be run in other selected areas of the state. See his article for details of the Cleveland area counts. The following paragraphs summarize other highlights of the 1990 summer season.

In addition to the three birds that summered at Buck Creek SP, **Common loons** appeared at three other locales within the state. **Pied-billed grebes** were reported from a handful of sites; a maximum count of 25 came from Ottawa and Cedar Point NWRs on July 21. An **American White pelican** observed in flight on July 21 over Cedar Point NWR was a good find. The fifty or so **Double-crested cormorants** that spent the summer at Meander Reservoir were noteworthy. Both species of **bitterns** were reported with **Least bitterns** being fairly well represented

including a count of 7 at Winous Point on June 15. An **American bittern**, a rare summering bird in Ohio now, was found at Gilmore Ponds in Butler County on July 3

Up to a half dozen **Snowy egrets** were recorded at ONWR from mid-June to late July. **Cattle egret** and **Little Blue heron** were represented by one report each. These two species seem to be occurring less frequently in recent years. **Yellow-crowned night-herons** were reported from three localities.

Waterfowl were represented by 17 species. Cedar Point NWR was host to an impressive array of species during the summer including **Green-winged** and **Blue-winged teal**, **Gadwall**, **American wigeon**, **Canvasback (!)**, **Redhead**, **Greater (!)** and **Lesser scaup**, **Hooded** and **Red-breasted mergansers**, and **Ruddy duck**. A family group of **Northern pintails** at Englewood Reserve in July was unusual as was the **Ring-necked duck** at Lime Lakes on July 15.

Ospreys made brief appearances at three sites, but birders at Gilmore Ponds were treated to one (?) that spent more than a month. **Bald eagles** continue to do well in the state; inland nesting pairs at Mosquito Lake and Shenango WA provide evidence of the species success. A **Sharp-shinned hawk** in Hancock County on July 30 was unexpected. **King rails** were recorded only from Resthaven on June 12 and CPNWR on June 22.

Twenty-two species of shorebirds were reported, the most unusual coming from the Cleveland region. Up to four **American avocets** were present at Gordon Park in mid-July. A **Willet** was noted there on July 28. **Upland sandpipers** were well represented with records from 9+ localities. **Whimbrels** were in the Cleveland area July 14. The only **White-rumped sandpiper** record was of three birds at Gordon Park on June 3 while the lone **Baird's sandpiper** report came from Hancock County on July 31. Interesting gull records from Headlands Beach SP included a **Laughing gull** on July 1, a

Franklin's gull on June 16-17, and two Little gulls in July. The paucity of Common tern reports indicates the dire breeding status of this species in the state.

Both cuckoo species appeared to be down again, although Yellow-billed reports outnumbered Black-billed 4 to 1. The only nesting Barn owl report came from Richland County. The Yellow-bellied sapsucker at Mosquito Creek on July 2 was the only account of this species received and was slightly south of where this species may be expected in summer. Observers taking part in the Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey tallied five Alder flycatchers; elsewhere, only single birds were reported. Holmes County was host to an estimated 200 pairs of Cliff swallows. Red-breasted nuthatches were found in Lake County and in the Oak Openings of Lucas County.

Northwest Ohio's first breeding record for Brown creepers in about a decade was established when a pair was observed feeding young on June 14 in the Oak Openings. This species was also present in northeast Ohio. A couple of Winter wrens were noted from Stebbins Gulch, one of Ohio's most reliable spots for this species in the summer. Sedge wrens were reported from only two sites. A Gray-cheeked thrush in Hancock County on June 5 was unusually late. More than one observer commented on the scarcity of Brown thrashers. This species seems to be experiencing a steady decline in the Toledo area. Loggerhead shrikes were found in Crawford, Madison, and Seneca Counties but apparently did not return to the Wood County site where they had nested for the past several years. Bell's vireo has become regular at Buck Creek SP where two were found in early July; a singing male was also at Secor Park in Lucas County on June 16.

The Brewster's warbler in the Oak Openings on June 26 was the only one reported. No reports of Golden-winged warblers were received; this species has apparently disappeared from the state as a breeder. Singing Tennessee warblers surprised observers in Boston Heights June 17-22 and the Oak Openings June 27-30. The 14 Northern parulas in mid-June at Hocking Hills were not

unexpected, but the bird on Kelley's Island June 17 was. Three Magnolia warblers were found at Stebbins Gulch/Little Mountain on July 10. A Blackburnian warbler was discovered in the Mohican State Forest June 30 and Mourning warblers were seen at Strongsville on June 3 and in the Oak Openings on June 11. A Connecticut warbler was still in Cleveland on June 1. Canada warbler records came from Hocking Hills and Stebbins Gulch. Twenty-six species of warblers were reported for the period.

A pair of Summer tanagers spent June in the Oak Openings where the species now occurs annually. Blue grosbeaks were discovered in Hamilton, Adams, and Lucas (Oak Openings) Counties. The Oak Openings sighting constituted a third consecutive summer record of this species. Dickcissels were reported from four widely scattered counties. The 45 Vesper sparrows in Henry County on July 10 was an impressive count. The only Lark sparrow report came from the Oak Openings. Henslow's sparrows were found at four sites during the summer. Dark-eyed juncos were noted at the traditional Little Mountain/Stebbins Gulch sites. Three female Yellow-headed blackbirds with at least one nest were turned up at Winous Point on June 10. Purple finches were noted from at least five sites and Pine siskins lingered into June in both Trumbull and Hamilton Counties.

In the following species accounts, underlined species are considered unusual and an asterisk means documentation was submitted and accepted by the Records Committee. Commonly used abbreviations include ONWRC (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count), CPNWRC (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Count), CBC (Cleveland Bird Calendar), GLSM (Grand Lake St. Mary's), CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area), and CABBS (Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey). The CPNWR monthly counts are compiled by Joe Komorowski, the CABBS by Rob Harlan, and the Oak Openings counts by Tom Kemp and Matt Anderson. We thank Larry Rosche and his staff of The Cleveland Bird Calendar for use of their data. We would also like to acknowledge the Foundation for Life for use of their computer programs.

Loons through Ducks

COMMON LOON-6/9-16 Clearfork Res. (2) (JVH), 6/11 Muskingum Co. (BA), 7/22 Newtown (WR, BL), 2 summered Buck Creek SP (DO).
PIED-BILLED GREBE-6/1 Richland Co. (4) (JVH), 6/14 Winous Pt. (16) (BA), 7/8 CPNWRC (14), 7/15 Gilmore Ponds (6) (PW, JS), 7/21 ONWR (25) (CA). AM. WHITE PELICAN-7/21 CPNWR (CA). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT-6/8-10 Gibraltar Is. (25+) (TB), 50+ summered at Meander Res. (DH, NB), reported from Clearfork Res. and Knox Lk. (JVH). AMERICAN BITTERN-7/3 Gilmore Ponds (PW, JB). LEAST BITTERN-6/1-7/7 Spring Valley (max 5) (SU, LG), 6/3 Springville Marsh (TB), 6/10 CPNWRC (2), 6/15 Winous Pt. (7) (BA), 6/22 CPNWR (2) (BA), 6/25-7/15 Gilmore Ponds (m.ob.). GREAT BLUE HERON-June CABBS (20), 6/9 Knox Lk. (92) (JVH), 7/8 CPNWRC (60), 7/15 Darby Marsh (25) (KM, JR). GREAT EGRET-6/10 CPNWRC (64), 7/15 Darby Marsh (20) (KM, JR). SNOWY EGRET-6/20-7/27 ONWR (max 6) (m.ob.), 7/8 Metzger Marsh (RH), 7/14 Erie Co. (2) (KM). LITTLE BLUE HERON-7/21 ONWR (CA). CATTLE EGRET-7/29 Erie Co. (KM). GREEN-BACKED HERON-June CABBS (11), 17 additional reports. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-6/17 Darby Marsh (30) (KM, JR), 7/8 CPNWRC (37), 7/10 Gilmore Ponds (40) (FR), 7/13 Winton Woods (20) (JD). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-Mid June in Dayton (5) (DM), 6/18 Spring Valley (WR, BL), 7/28 Cleveland (TL). WHITE IBIS-7/14 Spring Valley (JRa)* (2nd state record; see article this issue). MUTE SWAN-6/14 Sandusky Co. (BA), 7/6-25 Warren (CB). WOOD DUCK-6/10 CPNWRC (55), 6/12 Hancock Co. (23) (BH), 6/17 Darby Marsh (30) (KM, JR). GREEN-WINGED TEAL-6/10 CPNWRC (3), 6/20 ONWR (BA). AM. BLACK DUCK-6/4-7/17 L. Isaac (RH), 6/15 Winous Pt. (BA), 2 reports. NORTHERN PINTAIL-July at Englewood Res. (pair with young) (NG, CBe). BLUE-WINGED TEAL-6/3 Clark Co. (DO), 6/10 CPNWRC (6), 7/6 Gilmore Ponds (6) (m.ob.). NORTHERN SHOVELER-6/15 Winous Pt. (2) (BA). GADWALL-6/10 CPNWRC. AMERICAN WIGEON-CPNWR (BA). CANVASBACK-6/10 CPNWRC (2). REDHEAD-6/10 CPNWRC (7), 6/20 Metzger Marsh (BA), 7/6 GLSM (BA). RING-NECKED DUCK-7/15 Lime Lakes (LK). GREATER SCAUP-6/10 CPNWRC. LESSER SCAUP-6/10-7/8 CPNWRC (1-2), 6/21 ONWR (BA). HOODED

MERGANSER-6/10 CPNWRC, 6/19 Little Portage WA (brood of 8) (BA). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER-6/10 CPNWRC, 6/17 Kelly's Is. (3) (BA), 6/30-7/21 GLSM (DD, m.ob.). RUDDY DUCK-6/10 CPNWRC (5), 6/14 Winous Pt. (pair) (BA), 6/25-7/29 Gilmore Ponds (1-2) (m.ob.).

Vultures through Rails

BLACK VULTURE-7/23 Adams Co. (10+) (TB). TURKEY VULTURE-June CABBS (84), 7/24 Hancock Co. (36) (BH). OSPREY-6/25-7/29 Gilmore Ponds (m.ob.), 6/30 Meander Res. (NB), 7/28 CJ Brown Res. (m.ob.), 7/31 L. Cowan (LG). BALD EAGLE-Mosquito Lake pair raised one young (CB), nested Shenango WA (DH), adult summered near Ft. Seneca (TB). NORTHERN HARRIER-6/14 Mosquito Lk. (pair) (CB), 7/28 Springfield (CBe, BB). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK-7/30 Hancock Co. (BH). COOPER'S HAWK-12 reports, 6 active nests in Lucas Co. (TK). RED-SHOULDERED HAWK-8 reports. BROAD-WINGED HAWK-7 reports. AMERICAN KESTREL-6/12 Hancock Co. (11) (BH). PEREGRINE FALCON-7/9 Gordon Pk. (LK), Toledo birds raised at least one young (ED), Cleveland pair sporadic (CBC). RING-NECKED PHEASANT-8 reports. RUFFED GROUSE-6/10 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/23 Adams Co. (TB). WILD TURKEY-Nested Columbiana Co. (DH, NB), 6/23 Adams Co. (TB). NORTHERN BOBWHITE-18 reports, 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (22). KING RAIL-6/12 Resthaven (BA), 6/22 CPNWR (BA). VIRGINIA RAIL-6/16 Wayne Co. (4) (JVH). SORA-6/10 Spring Valley (m.ob.), 7/6 Gilmore Ponds (PW), 7/29 Big Island WA (EL). COMMON MOORHEN-6/10 CPNWRC, 6/10-7/7 Spring Valley (4 ad., 12 young) (m.ob.), 6/15 Winous Pt. (BA), 6/20 Cuyahoga Falls (LK), 7/1 ONWR (TB), 7/6 Gilmore Ponds (PW), 7/15 Darby Marsh (KM), summered in Richland Co. (JVH). AMERICAN COOT-Summered in Richland Co. (JVH), 7/8 CPNWRC (100), 7/15 Gilmore Ponds (20) (PW, JS).

Shorebirds through Terns

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER-7/31 Lorain (CBC). SEMIPALMATED PLOVER-7/23 Huron (5) (TL). KILLDEER-June CABBS (47), 7/8 CPNWRC (40), 7/30 Oak Openings (30) (MA), 7/31 Hancock Co. (41) (BH). AMERICAN AVOCET-7/7-17 Gordon Pk. (1-4) (CBC).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS-6/20 ONWR (BA)
 [Late or early?-Ed.] 7/23 ONWR (15) (TL), 7/29
 Big Island WA (EL). LESSER
 YELLOWLEGS-Late: 6/10 CPNWRC, 7/4 Gordon
 Pk. (15) (LK), 7/21 Richland Co. (18) (KMe), 7/23
 ONWR (40) (TL). SOLITARY SANDPIPER-7/15
 Gilmore Ponds (4) (PW, JS), 7/21-25 Richland
 Co. (34) (JVH, KMe), 7/30 Big Island WA (20)
 (BA). WILLET-7/28 Gordon Pk. (CBC).
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER-7/8 CPNWRC (10), 7/31
 Hancock Co. (8) (BH). UPLAND SANDPIPER-6/2
 Clark Co. (DO), 6/5 Wright Patterson AFB (5)
 (CM, SU), 7/8 Ashland Co. (TB), 7/10 Henry Co.
 (5) (TK), 7/28 Dayton Int. Airport (6) (m.ob.), 7/31
 Mansfield Airport (5, nested) (JVH), 3 migrant
 reports. WHIMBREL-7/14 Headlands Beach SP
 (CBC), 7/14 Gordon Pk. (2) (CBC).
 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER-Late: 6/15
 Winous Pt. (BA), 7/6 GLSM (7) (BA), 7/21 Gordon
 Pk. (25) (TL), 7/29 Big Island WA (EL). LEAST
 SANDPIPER-Late: 6/15 Winous Pt. (BA), 7/7
 Clark Co. (8) (DO), 7/21 Richland Co. (KMe), 7/27
 ONWR (15) (TL), 7/29 Big Island WA (EL).
 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER-6/3 Gordon Pk.
 (CBC). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER-7/31 Hancock Co.
 (BH). PECTORAL SANDPIPER-7/18-21 Gordon
 Pk. (max 18) (TL), 7/21 Richland Co. (KMe), 7/29
 Big Island WA (EL). DUNLIN-Late: 6/15 Winous
 Pt. (BA), 7/27 ONWR (TL). STILT
 SANDPIPER-7/10 Gordon Pk. (TL), 7/30 Big
 Island WA (7) (BA). SHORT-BILLED
 DOWITCHER-7/2 Grand River WA (BA), 7/4
 Gordon Pk. (20) (LK), 7/18 Gordon Pk. (80) (TL),
 7/20 Huron (56) (TL). COMMON SNIBE-6/16
 Irwin Prairie (MA), 7/15 Gilmore Ponds (JD),
 7/23 ONWR (RH). WILSON'S PHALAROPE-7/1
 ONWR (TB), 7/25 Gordon Pk. (TL). LAUGHING
 GULL-7/1 Headlands Beach SP (CBC).
 FRANKLIN'S GULL-6/16-17 Headlands Beach
 SP (CBC). LITTLE GULL-7/3 Headlands Beach
 SP (imm.) (TL), 7/17 Headlands Beach SP (ad.)
 (TL). BONAPARTE'S GULL-6/21 CPNWR (BA),
 7/31 Findlay Res. (BH). GREAT
 BLACK-BACKED GULL-7/8 Headlands Beach
 SP (6) (CBC). CASPIAN TERN-6/10-7/8
 CPNWRC, 6/15 Winous Pt. (2) (BA), 7/27 Huron
 (5) (TL). COMMON TERN-6/10 CPNWRC (4),
 6/14 Metzger Marsh (5) (BA), 7/8 CPNWRC (4).
 FORSTER'S TERN-6/22 CPNWR (2), (BA), 7/17
 GLSM (2) (DD). BLACK TERN-6/15 Winous Pt.
 (BA), 6/30 Sheldon's Marsh (2) (KM), 7/8
 CPNWRC (2), 7/8 Crane Creek (DH), 7/12
 Gilmore Ponds (2) (FR), 7/20 Huron (4) (TL),
 7/17-21 GLSM (max 6) (m.ob.).

Doves through Nuthatches

MOURNING DOVE-June CABBS (249).
 BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO-5 reports.
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO-7/8 CPNWRC (8),
 19+ additional reports. BARN OWL-Nested in
 Richland Co. (3 young) (JVH).
 CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW-6/22 Adams Co. (6+)
 (TB). WHIP-POOR-WILL-Reported from
 Hocking Co. (JF), Oak Openings (MA, TK),
 Germantown Res. (CM, SU), 6/22 Adams Co.
 (12+) (TB). CHIMNEY SWIFT-June CABBS
 (139). RUBY-THROATED
 HUMMINGBIRD-June CABBS (10), large
 numbers at Mosquito Lk. (CB). RED-HEADED
 WOODPECKER-19 reports, 6/11-7/6 Oak
 Openings (12). YELLOW-BELLIED
 SAPSUCKER-7/2 Mosquito Creek (BA) [no
 details-Ed.]. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER-6/2
 Sims Pk. (CBC). EASTERN
 WOOD-PEWEE-June CABBS (51), 6/3 Clark Co.
 (10) (DO), 6/5 Hancock Co. (12) (BH), 6/11-7/6 Oak
 Openings (77). YELLOW-BELLIED
 FLYCATCHER-6/3 Headlands Beach SP (3)
 (CBC). ACADIAN FLYCATCHER-June CABBS
 (17), 6/2 Glen Helen (18) (DO), 6/11-7/6 Oak
 Openings (24). ALDER FLYCATCHER-June
 CABBS (5), 6/10 Hinckley (RH), 6/11 Muskingum
 Co. (BA), 6/16 Irwin Prairie (MA). WILLOW
 FLYCATCHER-June CABBS (45), 6/11-7/6 Oak
 Openings (34), 7/4 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO).
 LEAST FLYCATCHER-8 reports. EASTERN
 PHOEBE-June CABBS (14). GREAT CRESTED
 FLYCATCHER-June CABBS (44), 6/5 Hancock
 Co. (14) (BH), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (35).
 EASTERN KINGBIRD-June CABBS (21), 6/11-7/6
 Oak Openings (23), 7/8 CPNWRC (20). HORNED
 LARK-6/28 Fulton Co. (34) (TK), 7/10 Henry Co.
 (49) (TK), 7/24 Hancock Co. (32) (BH). PURPLE
 MARTIN-6/5 Hancock Co. (45) (BH), 7/15 Darby
 Marsh (25) (KM, JR). TREE SWALLOW-June
 CABBS (29), 6/10 CPNWRC (90), 6/19 Hancock
 Co. (48) (BH), 7/15 Darby Marsh (60) (KM, JR).
 N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW-June CABBS
 (29), 6/3 Clark Co. (25) (DO), 7/26 L. Cowan (50)
 (LG). BANK SWALLOW-Colony of 200 in Oak
 Openings (MA), June CABBS (53). CLIFF
 SWALLOW-6/9 Holmes Co. (200 pairs) (JVH),
 June CABBS (9), 7/26 L. Cowan (LG). BARN
 SWALLOW-June CABBS (88), 6/11-7/6 Oak

Openings (66), 7/8 CPNWRC (50), 7/31 Hancock Co. (49) (BH). AMERICAN CROW-June CABBS (313). RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH-6/15-8/3 Oak Openings (TK, MA).

Creepers through Vireos

BROWN CREEPER-6/14 Oak Openings (pair feeding young) (TK), Mosquito Lk. through period (DH). HOUSE WREN-June CABBS (107), 6/5 Hancock Co. (72) (BH), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (97), 7/8 CPNWRC (15). WINTER WREN-7/10 Stebbins Gulch (2) (RH). SEDGE WREN-7/30 Possum Creek Res. (2) (TL), 6/16 Clark Co. (DO). MARSH WREN-7/8 CPNWRC (10), 7/21 ONWR (12) (CA). GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET-7/6-8/5 Oak Openings (family group) (TK) [1st state breeding record; see article this issue]. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER-6/2 Glen Helen (15) (DO), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (21), June CABBS (9). VEERY-6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (51). GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH-Late: 6/5 Hancock Co. (BH). WOOD THRUSH-June CABBS (41), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (34). AMERICAN ROBIN-June CABBS (386), 6/12 Hancock Co. (267) (BH). GRAY CATBIRD-June CABBS (102), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (166), 6/12 Hancock Co. (23) (BH), 7/8 CPNWRC (20). BROWN THRASHER-June CABBS (11), 6/5 Hancock Co. (12) (BH), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (9), 8 additional reports; listed as scarce in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana Cos. (DH). CEDAR WAXWING-June CABBS (128), 6/5 Hancock Co. (67) (BH), 6/10 CPNWRC (20), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (88). LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE-Reported from Madison Co. (JF), 6/12 Seneca Co. (BA), 7/7-14 Crawford Co. (2) (JVH). WHITE-EYED VIREO-June CABBS (6), 6/10 Columbiana Co. (NB), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (10), 6/29 Spring Valley (4) (LG). BELL'S VIREO-6/16 Secor Pk. (MA)*, 7/4 Buck Creek SP (2) (DO). SOLITARY VIREO-6/11 Hocking Hills (5) (LG), 7/10 Stebbins Gulch/Little Mt. (7) (RH), reported from Oak Openings (MA, TK). YELLOW-THROATED VIREO-June CABBS (18), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (24). WARBLING VIREO-June CABBS (30), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (24). RED-EYED VIREO-6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (121), June CABBS (109).

Warblers

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER-June CABBS (19), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (30). BREWSTER'S WARBLER-6/26 Oak Openings (TK). TENNESSEE WARBLER-6/17-22 Boston Heights (CBC), 6/27-30 Oak Openings (MA, TK). NORTHERN PARULA-6/11 Hocking Hills (14) (LG), 6/17 Kelly's Is. (BA). YELLOW WARBLER-June CABBS (106), 6/3 Clark Co. (12) (DO), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (19), 6/12 Hancock Co. (27) (BH), 6/17 Darby Marsh (12) (KM, JR), 7/8 CPNWRC (14). CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER-Reported from Columbiana, Erie, Hancock, Fulton, Lucas, and Trumbull Cos. MAGNOLIA WARBLER-7/10 Stebbins Gulch/Little Mt. (3) (RH). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER-6/3 Clark Co. (DO), 6/11 Hocking Hills (13) (LG), 7/10 Stebbins Gulch/Little Mt. (12) (RH). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER-6/30-7/2 Mohican SF (SM). YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER-6/11 Hocking Hills (5) (LG), 6/22 Brecksville Res. (RH). PINE WARBLER-5 singing males in Oak Openings (TK, MA). PRAIRIE WARBLER-6/10 Sheldon's Marsh (BA), 4 additional reports. CERULEAN WARBLER-June CABBS (9), 6/2 Glen Helen (10) (DO). BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER-6/8 Upper Sandusky (TB), 6/12 Hocking Hills (8) (LG), 6/15 CVNRA (LK), 6/25 Columbiana Co. (DH), 7/17 Mosquito Creek (CB). AMERICAN REDSTART-June CABBS (17), reported from Lucas, Clark, Greene, Trumbull, Warren, and Hamilton Cos. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER-3+ reports. WORM-EATING WARBLER-6/11 Hocking Hills (9) (LG). OVENBIRD-6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (91), 6/11 Hocking Hills (20) (LG). NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH-Reported along the Cuyahoga River (CBC). LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH-6/12 Hocking Hills (6) (LG), 7/10 Stebbins Gulch (10) (RH). KENTUCKY WARBLER-In north, reported from Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Henry, and Geauga Cos. CONNECTICUT WARBLER-Late: 6/1 Cleveland (TL). MOURNING WARBLER-6/3 Strongsville (RH), 6/11 Oak Openings (Fulton Co.) (TK). COMMON YELLOWTHROAT-June CABBS (122), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (140), 7/8 CPNWRC (13).

HOODED WARBLER-June CABBS (30), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (8), 6/12 Hocking Hills (8) (LG). CANADA WARBLER-6/11 Hocking Hills (4) (LG), 7/10 Stebbins Gulch (RH). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT-6/10 Columbiana Co. (4+) (NB), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (10).

Tanagers through Finches

SUMMER TANAGER-Pair through June in Oak Openings (MA, TK). SCARLET TANAGER-June CABBS (30), 6/10 Columbiana Co. (10+) (NB), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (41), 6/11 Hocking Hills (9) (LG). NORTHERN CARDINAL-June CABBS (228). ROSE-BREASTED GROSEBEAK-June CABBS (29), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (14). BLUE GROSEBEAK-6/10-7/29 Hamilton Co. (PW), 6/23 Adams Co. (TB), 7/6 Oak Openings (TK). INDIGO BUNTING-June CABBS (118), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (326), 7/8 CPNWRC (30). DICKCISSEL-6/17 Montgomery Co. (6+) (CM, SU), 7/10 Putnam Co. (10+) (TK), reported from Madison Co. (JF), 10+ summered in Seneca Co. (TB). RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE-June CABBS (27), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (56). CHIPPING SPARROW-June CABBS (133), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (199). FIELD SPARROW-June CABBS (83), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (127). VESPER SPARROW-6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (31), 7/10 Henry Co. (45) (TK). LARK SPARROW-6/14 Oak Openings (TK). SAVANNAH SPARROW-June CABBS (22), 6/17 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 6/18 Summit Co. (10) (LK), 6/28 Fulton Co. (21) (TK), 6/30 Toledo Airport (25) (MA), 7/10 Henry/Putnam Cos. (29) (TK). GRASSHOPPER SPARROW-6/2-7/1 Clark/Greene Cos. (14) (DO), 6/30 Toledo Airport (19) (MA). HENSLOW'S SPARROW-6/4 Salt Fork SP (3) (TL), 6/20 Knox Co. (2) (JVH), 7/8 WPAFB (m.ob.), reported from Hocking Co. (JF). SONG SPARROW-June CABBS (275), 6/5 Hancock Co. (48) (BH), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (172), 6/28 Fulton Co. (60) (TK), 7/10 Henry/Putnam Cos. (83) (TK). SWAMP SPARROW-June CABBS (20), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (11). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW-Late: 6/3 Clermont Co. (MM), 6/24-7/14 Headlands Beach SP (CBC). DARK-EYED JUNCO-7/10 Little Mt./Stebbins Gulch (12) (RH). BOBOLINK-June CABBS (24), 6/14 Mahoning Co. (40+) (NB), 6/18 Summit Co. (10) (LK), 7/10 Henry/Putnam Cos. (19) (TK).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD-6/10 CPNWRC (500), June CABBS (621). EASTERN MEADOWLARK-June CABBS (78), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (17), 6/12 Hancock Co. (17) (BH). WESTERN MEADOWLARK-6/5 Streetsboro (RH), 6/19 Erie Co. (TB), 6/20 Maumee Bay SP (BA), 6/28 Fulton Co. (TK), 7/8 Medina Co. (TB). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD-6/10 Winous Pt. (3 females, nest) (RK). COMMON GRACKLE-June CABBS (460), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (206), 6/12 Hancock Co. (156) (BH). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD-June CABBS (70), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (98), 7/31 Hancock Co. (40) (BH). ORCHARD ORIOLE-14+ reports. NORTHERN ORIOLE-June CABBS (38), 6/3 Clark Co. (20) (DO), 6/11-7/6 Oak Openings (53), 6/19 Hancock Co. (11) (BH). PURPLE FINCH-June CABBS (5), 6/1 Akron (LK), 6/10 Columbiana Co. (pair) (DH, NB), 6/20-7/17 Hocking Co. (nested) (JF), 6/30 Meander Res. (pair) (NB). PINE SISKIN-First week of June in Trumbull Co. (DH), 6/7-23 Hamilton Co. (DMo, GB). AMERICAN GOLDFINCH-June CABBS (227).

Exotics

EGYPTIAN GOOSE-7/26 L. Cowan (LG).

Addendum

Add the following American bittern record to Vol. 13, No. 3: 4/21-26 Richland Co. (JVH).

Observers

CHUCK ANDERSON (CA), MATT ANDERSON (MA), BRAD ANDRES (BA), CAROLE BABYAK (CB), TOM BARTLETT (TB), JOE BENS (JB), BETTY BERRY (BB), CHARLIE BERRY (CBe), NANCY BRUNDAGE (NB), CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR (CBC), DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC), HARRY CONNOR (HC), ROBERT CUTTER (RCu), JIM DECKER (JD), DAVID DISTER (DD), PAUL ELLSWORTH (PE), JIM FRY (JF), LARRY GARA (LG), NAN GROVES (NG), BETTY HARDESTY (BH), ROB HARLAN (RH), JOHN & VICKI HERMAN (JVH), JIM HILL (JHi), DAVID

HOCHADEL (DH), JUDY HOCHADEL (JH), NED KELLER (NK), TOM KEMP (TK), EVERETT KITCHEN (EK), IVOR KIWI (IK), JOE KOMOROWSKI (JK), LEN KOPKA (LK), ROY KROLL (RK), BILL LEHMAN (BL), TOM LEPAGE (TL), TIM LITTLE (TLi), ED LUX (EL), CHARLOTTE MATHENA (CM), MILLIE MCCARTY (MM), BILL MCGILL (BMc), STEVE MCKEE (SM), KATHY MOCK (KMo), DAVID MORING (DMo), DANE MUTTER (DM), MAYNARD NEAL (MN), DOUG OVERACKER (DO), JAMES RAMSEY (JRa), WORTH RANDLE (WR), JOHN REDMAN (JR), FRANK RENFRO (FR), JIM RETTIG (JRe), LARRY ROSCHE (LR), CHARLIE SAUNDERS (CS), JOHN SHRADER (JS), KAREN SHRADER (KS), BILL STANLEY (BS), JAY STENGER (JSte), SUE UTTERBACK (SU), ALAN WALLS (AW), KAREN WALSH (KW), PAUL WHARTON (PWh).

Report of the Records Committee, Summer 1990

Only four rare bird sightings were referred to the committee for Summer, 1990, and one of these (Tricolored heron) was actually observed on August 14, in the fall reporting season. The committee voted not to accept one of these four sightings, that of a possible Harris' sparrow on June 7 near Springfield, due to the brief duration of the observation and the lack of details on head, nape, back, and tail pattern. The other records appear elsewhere in this issue.

Short Notes

Oak Openings Bird Survey

In June and July 1990, we conducted a bird census of what we considered the most productive areas of the Oak Openings of northwest Ohio. Prime areas covered included Oak Openings Park, Secor Park, Irwin Prairie, and Maumee State Forest. Our census techniques differed slightly from the norm as

we counted birds along roadsides while riding our bikes. We felt this method allowed a greater number of birds to be discovered and was less limiting than a car.

Our censuses, on varying dates from 11 June through 6 July, found 103 species of birds plus one hybrid. In addition, three more species were noted along our routes on other than census days. They were Black-billed cuckoo, Barred owl, and Blue grosbeak. Certainly the most unexpected find was Golden-crowned kinglets, providing the first evidence of breeding for this species in Ohio. Another rarity turned up was Bell's vireo. Brown creepers feeding young were unusual for northwest Ohio and at least two Summer tanagers were on territory in the area this summer. Mourning warbler, Tennessee warbler (way out of range), and Red-breasted nuthatch round out the list of unusual birds found.

Numbers of some species deserve comment. Only two Yellow-billed cuckoos were found. Both cuckoo species continue to be difficult to find. Eastern Wood-pewees numbered 77, which we thought was a fairly healthy total. Fifty-one Veeries were noted but only 34 Wood thrushes were found. Gray catbirds totaled 166. Only 9 Brown thrashers were tallied in almost 30 hours of censusing. Six vireo species and 13 species of warblers were found; Red-eyed vireos (121), Ovenbirds (91), and Common yellowthroats (140) were by far the most common in those groups. Forty-one Scarlet tanagers were counted, a good total in our minds. Finally, Indigo buntings numbered 326, an indication of their abundance as breeders in the Oak Openings.

A complete list of species and totals will be published in the 1990 Toledo Naturalists' Association Yearbook.----Tom Kemp and Matt Anderson.

Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area

by Carole Jonson-Babjak and Thomas L. Passons

For many years a large area of land in the northwest section of Trumbull County has been set aside for the use and enjoyment of citizens wishing to hunt and fish. Many readers of THE OHIO CARDINAL already know about the excellent birding sites at this location. This is a brief report about MCWA and the birds that may be seen there throughout the year.

Today this wildlife area consists of over 8,500 acres of land which are dedicated to waterfowl management. Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area is located between SR 87 on the north, SR 88 on the south, SR45 on the west, and SR 46 on the east. The property is extremely flat and mostly drains into Mosquito Reservoir. Most birding is conducted from roadways in the wildlife area. MCWA contains second growth hardwoods and open fields which are planted with corn and buckwheat.

The Mosquito Creek Reservoir Project was started in 1938 to prevent flooding and provide a source of water for the Warren-Cortland area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a dam near Cortland to form the Mosquito Reservoir. This project, completed in 1944, is still operated by the Pittsburg District of the Corps of Engineers. The lake provides flood control, water supply, recreation, and a good environment for waterfowl. The lake and MCWA serve as a good resting place for migrating birds during the spring and fall seasons.

In 1956 six pairs of captive Canada geese were the initial stock for the current resident flock. In 1956 a game refuge was created at the north section of Mosquito Reservoir. Six years later this goose refuge was expanded to include all state land west of county road 203. Farming methods were changed to encourage waterfowl and other wildlife. Today the resident Canada goose census shows about 3,000 birds. During the fall the migrant Canada geese may total 7,000 birds as they fly from Canada to the Atlantic eastern shore.

Mosquito Lake and Canada geese are almost synonymous but the wet lands paddled by the geese provide a unique habitat for many other birds. Hoagland-Blackstub road runs north off of state route 88 on the lake's west side. The north end is surrounded by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (O.D.N.R.) land. At several points you can see eastward into the lake. During the early spring migrating swans sometimes can be seen on the ice. In May and June this area is home for Prothonotary warblers. In fact, the rest of the road northward should be driven slowly so you can see and hear the Redstarts diving across the road. Yellow-throated and Warbling vireos, Veerys, Cerulean warblers and Brown creepers call these wet woods their Ohio summer home. Least flycatchers can be heard in spring and summer months before the woods break into fields on the west side. These wet woods near the northern end of Hoagland-Blackstub road may also contain Barred owls. The Mosquito Lake area has a regular population of Eastern bluebirds year around. The open fields to the north have had Northern shrikes. Short-eared owls and Rough-legged hawks in the winter and early spring. Marsh hawks can be seen year around while Bobolinks and Savannah sparrows are often found in the summer. Chats like the shrubby areas and Ovenbirds sing in the woods. Henslow's and Sharp-tailed sparrows have been found in the old fields and along the lakeshore respectively. Peregrine falcons may cruise the north end of the lake during migration.

The intersection at the southern boundary of O.D.N.R. land on Hoagland-Blackstub connects with Mahan-Denman Road which runs east and west. The east end stops at the lake while the west end of this road goes by two man-made impoundments. The eastern impoundment had a Herring gull incubating eggs in a Canada goose tub one year. The fields to the north of this road could have geese, ducks, or gliding hawks. The western impoundment is located north of a sharp curve. This lake is worth careful scrutiny with a telescope. Snow geese can often be seen here along with a variety of ducks and swans during the spring and fall migrating seasons.

A right turn after passing this western impoundment puts a visitor northbound on Park Avenue Extension where a variety of birds may be found. The next road to the left (west) is worth exploring. North on Park Avenue Extension is the beaver pond, which flanks both sides of the road. In this pond, among the reeds and cattails, Common moorhens and Virginia rails raise their young. Red-bellied, Red-headed and Pileated woodpeckers may also be seen here. The fields northward towards the O.D.N.R. Headquarters complex have had Marsh, Rough-legged and the ever present Red-tailed hawks. Bobolinks find these fields in the spring and stay until July. During May and June many Yellow warblers are seen along the road in the small bushes north of the beaver pond. In the summer this area has roadside Canada lilies; watch them as they are favored by the Ruby-throated hummingbird.

For several years a pair of Bald eagles have selected this area for their home. They wisely picked a nest site on state protected property. While most of the Ohio eagles are located near Lake Erie in northwest Ohio, this pair chose the Mosquito Lake area. These may be the only adult eagles in this sector of the state. One should look high in the sky over the north section of the lake for soaring eagles.

Back to Mosquito Lake and a short distance south from O.D.N.R. property, a visitor may find the causeway to be an important stop especially during the early spring. During March great numbers of grebes and migrating ducks may be found. There is an advantage if the lake has a partial ice cover. The ducks concentrate in the open water around the causeway bridge located on state route 88. This rocky causeway often shelters a lone Snow bunting or Horned lark in the winter. Snowy owls have visited this area.

The dam and state park at the south end of Mosquito Lake can be interesting during the spring, fall and winter months. This area has a group of pan-handling Canada geese. One year in late fall a Laughing gull stood out from a flock of Ring-billed gulls. Oldsquaw have been seen at this site as well as near the causeway. Different species of mergansers may be seen during migration. Bald eagles are occasionally seen on the ice in winter as they feed on frozen fish.

With more evidence of writing about the decline of birds because of habitat destruction, it is a marvel that this wet land is here along the flyway providing a stopover for migrating species and a summer habitat to so many other birds. It is an area to be appreciated and respected. There is NO TRESSPASSING on O.D.N.R. land. These roads in Trumbull County are windows to some of the best birding in northeast Ohio.

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey

by Rob Harlan

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey (CABBS) is a cooperative effort conducted by members of the Kirtland Bird Club to gather data concerning the breeding birds of northeastern Ohio. As described in the Ohio Cardinal Vol. 12, No. 4 and the Cleveland Bird Calendar Vol. 85, No. 3, the CABBS is patterned after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey. The only major difference between the two is that CABBS routes are 12 1/2 miles in length (25 stops), while the federal routes are 25 miles long (50 stops).

Data for the second summer of the CABBS were collected during June 1990. As in 1989, 12 widely scattered roadside routes were run in the seven county (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Portage) Cleveland area. On all 12 surveys, observers stopped approximately every 1/2 mile along the routes and counted all birds seen or heard within a 3 minute time period at each stop. This is a slight variation from 1989, when 2 out of the 12 routes were conducted so that only species, not individuals, were recorded. Data from all 12 routes are included in the statistics that follow.

A total of 7217 individual birds were recorded in 1990, an average of 601.4 individuals per route. An average of 643.1 individuals per route were encountered in 1989. The number of species recorded rose slightly in 1990, 103 as compared to 100 in 1989. Interestingly, 8 species (Blue-winged teal, Red-shouldered hawk, Ring-necked pheasant, Am. coot, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Purple martin, Yellow-throated warbler, and Louisiana waterthrush) were encountered in 1989 but not in 1990, while 11 species (Double-crested cormorant, Broad-winged hawk, Virginia rail, Sora, Ring-billed gull, E. Screech-owl, Barred owl, Common nighthawk, Least flycatcher, Marsh wren, and Solitary vireo) were discovered in 1990 but not in 1989. The basic core of species remains the same, however, as shown in the tables that follow. Table 1 offers comparisons of species groupings while Table 2 lists the most common species recorded in order of abundance. 1989 data is

also included in the table for comparison.

With only two years of data available, making valid comparisons is risky at best. However, some general assumptions can be made. Since the methods, routes, stops, and observers are essentially the same from year to year, the data collected should be comparable. This method has been used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 25 years and has proven to be the most effective method available in long-term studies of this nature. Also, the types of birds most accurately censused will tend to have certain characteristics. Generally, these species will be:

- 1) present in large numbers
- 2) found in habitats readily censused from roadsides
- 3) persistent vocalizers
- 4) non-flocking
- 5) diurnal

Therefore, generally speaking, species such as Indigo bunting, Common yellowthroat, and Song sparrow would seem to lend themselves better to comparison than:

- 1) species present only in small numbers, where the sample size is not large enough for valid comparison
- 2) species found only in deep woods, wetlands, etc.
- 3) less vocal, reclusive species, such as cuckoos
- 4) flocking species, which by their very nature may be found in large numbers one year and in much smaller numbers the next (due to nesting success, "early" or "late" nesting years, flock movement, etc.)
- 5) nocturnal species, such as owls

Examination of 1990 CABBS data indicates that 19 out of the top 25 species and 34 out of the top 50 species averaged a lower number of individuals per route than in 1989. These results warrant further investigation. Regardless of the causes, only time will tell if these results represent true avian population changes. 1991 may give us a clearer picture.

The totals of several species deserve

TABLE 1
Breakdown by Species Groupings

Species Group	# Ind.	% '90 total	% '89 total	Change/route
R. Dove, Starling, H. Finch, H. Sparrow	1529	21.19	16.8	+17.6%
Blackbirds & Orioles (7 species)	1293	17.92	19.3	-13.1%
Finches & Sparrows (13 species)	1173	16.25	16.4	-7.2%
Catbird, Thrasher, & Thrushes (6 species)	576	7.98	8.3	-10.3%
Vireos & Warblers (16 species)	477	6.61	7.4	-15.9%
Swallows & Swift (6 species)	347	4.81	4.4	+1.8%
Chickadee, Titmouse, Nuthatch, & Wrens (6 species)	328	4.54	5.3	-19.9%
Flycatchers (8 species)	200	2.77	2.6	no change
Hérons, Waterfowl, & Gulls (7 species)	176	2.44	5.1	-55.6%
Raptors (7 species)	109	1.51	0.2	+810.0%
Woodpeckers (6 species)	90	1.25	1.0	+17.2%
Others (17 species)	919	12.73	13.2	-9.8%

additional comment. The top three species, European starling, Red-winged blackbird, and Common grackle, all showed major changes in 1990 as compared to 1989. I suspect that these changes may be the result of flocking rather than true increases or decreases. One observer noted fairly large flocks of Red-winged blackbirds in 1989 but not in 1990, another observed flocks of starlings in 1990 but not in 1989, etc. Earlier nesting successes for starlings in 1990, for instance, could account for results such as these. A major Turkey vulture

roost was discovered in 1990, thus accounting for an apparent huge increase in this species. Brown thrashers were essentially unchanged in terms of average per route, but were located on 5 routes in 1990 as compared to 3 in 1989. However, none were found on any of the 7 routes north of the Ohio Turnpike. As in 1989, only one cuckoo was observed, this time a Black-billed. One cuckoo in 150 miles of driving through productive habitats seems very low. It will be interesting to note any increases in cuckoo numbers as the Gypsy

TABLE 2
Most Abundant Species Encountered

Species	Total Ind.	'90 Avg/Rte.	'89 Avg/Rte.	Change
E. Starling *	934	77.83	55.60	+40.0%
RW Blackbird *	621	51.75	73.60	-29.7%
Com. Grackle *	460	38.33	28.20	+35.9%
Am. Robin *	386	32.17	38.00	-15.3%
Am Crow *	313	26.08	29.50	-11.6%
House Sparrow *	313	26.08	30.40	-14.2%
Song Sparrow *	275	22.92	25.00	-8.3%
Mourning Dove *	249	20.75	22.90	-9.4%
N Cardinal *	228	19.00	28.70	-33.8%
Am Goldfinch *	227	18.92	12.00	+57.7%
House Finch *	212	17.67	20.50	-13.8%
Chimney Swift *	139	11.58	8.00	+44.8%
Chip. Sparrow *	133	11.08	9.30	+19.1%
Cedar Waxwing	128	10.67	12.00	-11.1%
C Yellowthroat *	122	10.17	13.50	-24.7%
Ind. Bunting *	118	9.83	12.50	-21.4%
Blue Jay *	112	9.33	10.80	-13.6%
RE Vireo *	109	9.08	10.40	-12.7%
House Wren *	107	8.92	11.60	-23.1%
Yellow Warbler	106	8.83	10.30	-14.3%
Gray Catbird *	102	8.50	8.90	-4.5%
Canada Goose	93	7.75	19.60	-60.5%
BC Chickadee	91	7.58	8.50	-10.8%
Barn Swallow	88	7.33	7.30	+0.4%
T. Titmouse	87	7.25	12.50	-42.0%

*denotes species found on all routes (a complete list of species is available from the author)

moth invades our area.

It would be very enlightening to compare results from northeastern Ohio to other areas around the state. Ideally, surveys could be undertaken in the areas surrounding Toledo, Cleveland, Lima, Millersburg, Youngstown, Columbus, Dayton, Marietta, Cincinnati, and Portsmouth. A statewide effort would undoubtedly provide us with a wealth of

valuable information regarding Ohio's breeding birds.

I am grateful to all of the following, who, in addition to the author, participated in this survey: Anders Fjeldstat, Andy Fondrk, Robert McCullough, J. P. Harlan, Ivor Kiwi, Mugsie Hahn, William and Nancy Klamm, Tom LePage, and Larry Rosche.

--7072 Parma Park Blvd., Parma Hts., OH 44130

A Brief History of the CVNRA Heronry

by Dwight Chasar

To a serious Ohio birder, another Great Blue heron rookery would not be a big deal. But my wife Ann and I have had the opportunity to observe the development of one rookery from the first nest, spanning six years of mosquito bites and dodging poison ivy. While we will never be considered equal to Audubon, Wilson, Peterson or Williams, this experience has given us a chance to become "experts" in our own birding niche, learning more about herons, as well as many other birds.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Recreational Area (CVNRA) spans some 32,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River valley between Cleveland and Akron. A small swamp lies on the west side of the river about one half mile north of the high level SR 82 bridge, which connects Sagamore Hills Township in northern Summit County with the City of Brecksville in southern Cuyahoga County. The "easy" approach to this swamp is to walk on the old B & O Railroad tracks north from the Station Road parking lot in Brecksville. To actually "study" the rookery though, one must do so from the back of the swamp.

While Great Blue herons have been seen in the valley for years, it wasn't until late in the spring of 1985 that we observed a heron landing on what appeared to be a nest in the swamp. The nearly full foliage prevented us from confirming a nest, eggs, or fledglings for that summer, but the thought of a new heron rookery gave us the motivation to prepare for the next season.

In March of 1986, before the herons had returned from migration, we walked back into the frozen swamp. We found one heron nest. By early April, a pair of herons was at this nest. A few days later, we observed three more nests being built. By mid April there were two more nests, and by the first of May we counted eight heron nests total, most of which continued to show heron activity.

On June 14 we observed "our" first young

heron. It could not yet stand but was able to look over the nest's edge. By early July most of the young birds were standing on the edge of the nests or nearby branches, which made counting nestlings easier. By the end of July, fledging was complete. In 1986 the herons built eight nests, fledging at least eleven young from six active nests.

During the next four years this became the general pattern. Herons returned in mid to late March, nests were added to, repaired, or built throughout April (and eggs were presumably being laid through this time), young birds were seen in early June (hatched during May) and fledging completed in July. Each succeeding winter we walked the frozen swamp counting the old nests, marking trees, and mapping out nest locations in preparation for the following spring.

In 1987, eighteen nests were partially or fully constructed, thirteen nests were actively used and at least thirty-one young birds fledged.

1988 looked like it was going to be a banner year. Herons had partially or fully constructed twenty-six nests, and at least half of these showed good activity through mid-April. This, however, was the year of the drought. The water level in the swamp dropped about 3-5 feet. The mudflats, about 1.5 miles south of the rookery and which served as a good feeding area for the herons in previous years, essentially dried up. By the end of June only three active nests with a total of nine young herons persisted. The swamp was so dry that we were able to walk back under the nests in July.

In 1989 the weather brought different troubles. Heavy rains in late May caused the Cuyahoga River to overflow its banks, flooding the mudflats and cutting a channel through them, draining the flats right back into the river again. Consequently, the mudflats were pretty dry throughout the rest of the summer. Additionally, the SR 82 bridge was under major reconstruction throughout the year and may have been a major annoyance to the herons. By

late June, of nine existing nests, only four were home to twelve young birds. Between 1988 and 1989 many nests fell into disrepair and were destroyed over the winter.

We weren't sure what to expect for 1990, but by May first at least twenty-four partially or fully constructed nests existed. By mid June we were ecstatic to find at least seventeen nests containing a minimum of forty young herons! The herons had made an outstanding recovery.

During the six nesting seasons, we made some general observations concerning the rookery. The density of nests has shifted toward the north of the swamp. One tree had as many as eight nests at one time. Successful nests had one to four young in them, but only twice did we observe as many as four. Half the nests generally had three young. Young herons can be distinguished from the elder ones by the lack of a plume and totally dark (vs white for adult) feathers on the head. On a hot afternoon or evening in June, listening to herons in a rookery can only conjure up thoughts of prehistoric sounds.

The swamp has also provided nesting habitats for other birds. The 1987 nesting of Hooded mergansers in this swamp is only the second confirmed nesting of these birds in Cuyahoga County. They also nested there in 1988 and 1989. Prothonotary warblers have no doubt nested there for many years but in 1987 we were fortunate to find them at their nest. An unsuccessful attempt to nest by a Brown creeper was observed a number of years ago. We observed a Great Crested flycatcher nesting in 1987. Wood ducks, Canada geese, woodpeckers and many other "common" birds have nested here over the years and all of these have made our mosquito bites and the poison ivy worth the itching.

163 Sandy Hill Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067

Forty-seven counties received coverage for the summer season.

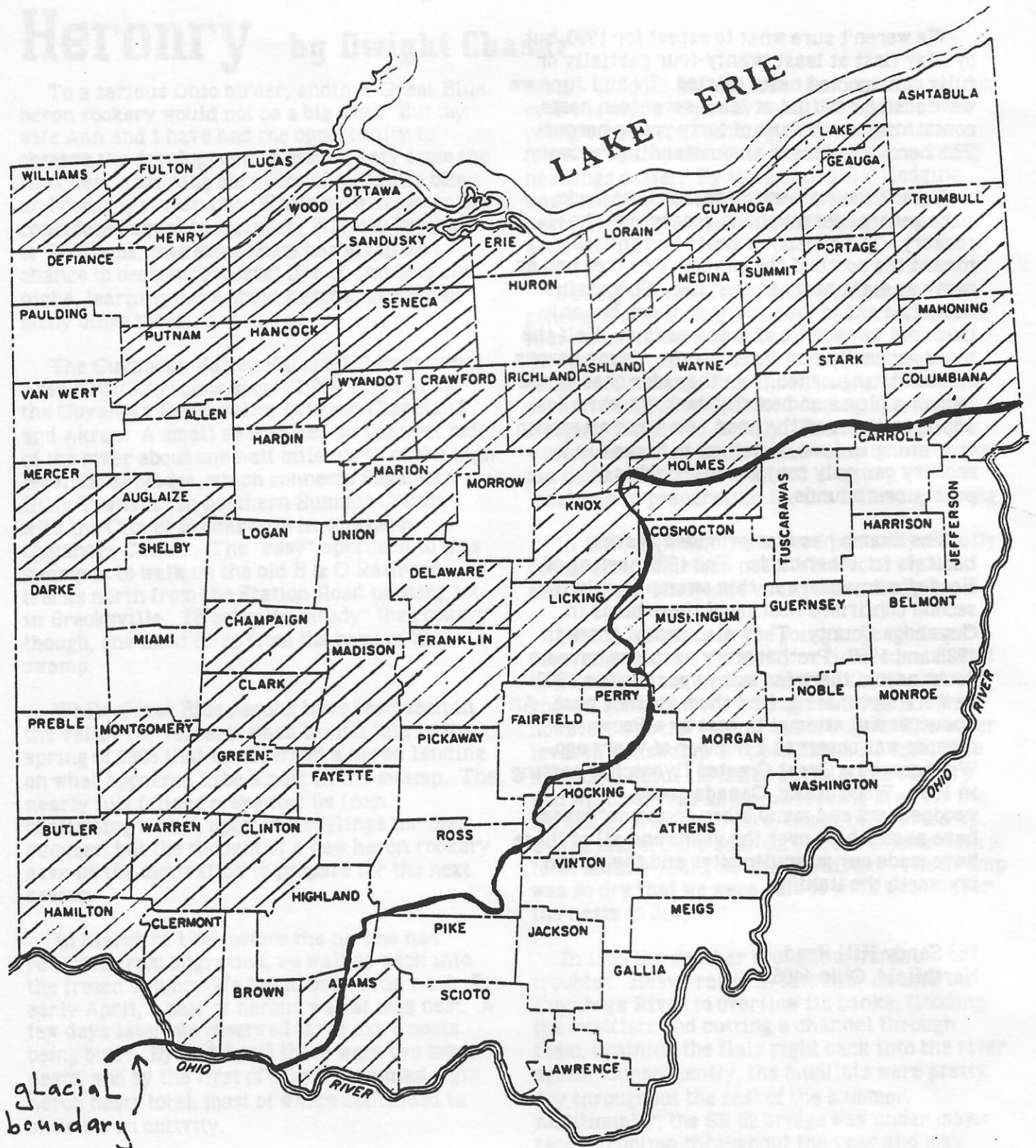


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