

A friendly reminder...

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The Ohio Cardinal is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in 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 and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
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Summer (Jun.-Jul.) - August 25
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On the Cover: Blue Grosbeak - Crown City Wildlife Area, Lawrence Co., 17 July 2000. Photo by Bob Roysse.

Summer 2000 Overview

by Bill Whan

O tell her, Swallow, that thy brood is flown,
Say to her, I do but wanton in the South,
But in the North long since my nest is made.

Tennyson, *The Princess* (1847)

Summer, our shortest season, spans only June and July, but nevertheless has time for migration as well as for nesting. Many local breeders, such as swallows, grow restless in July as young and old alike gather preparatory to moving south. Still more intriguing to summertime seekers of the unusual are the movements of shorebirds, mysterious creatures of the Arctic whose last northbound stragglers have no sooner passed through Ohio than the first forerunners show up on their way south. Shorebirds got short shrift here this season, as rains kept water levels in rivers and reservoirs high, and policies did likewise for manipulable levels in managed wetlands. The Magee Marsh census on the usually productive date of 16 July, for example, discovered but two migrant shorebirds, one solitary sandpiper and one white-rumped sandpiper. After the Crane Creek estuary's water rose early in June, only Conneaut Harbor provided consistent habitat for shorebirds through July. If references to Conneaut in this season's Reports start to sound monotonous, readers should remember that in the absence of the Ashtabula County shore habitats, six shorebird species (23%+) wouldn't have been reported *anywhere* in the state this summer.

After the warmest spring in a hundred years, June's temperatures moderated. Cleveland recorded no readings in the 90s, Columbus only two, and Cincinnati one. July was markedly cooler than normal, especially compared to July of 1999: in Columbus it averaged a full 8°F cooler than last year, the first July without temperatures in the 90s since 1992, and the first month in the last 14 with below-normal temperatures. As for precipitation, June was wetter than normal, in the central part of the state the sixth consecutive month with above-normal rains. July showed a slight shortfall, but by and large the summer made up the deficits of last year's drought.

The water level of Lake Erie, as measured in Cleveland, was 571.33 feet above sea level at the end of the period. On 1 Jan of this year it stood at 570.10 feet, on 1 Jan 1999 at 570.57 feet, and on 1 Jan 1998 at 572.67 feet. One way of looking at the summer Lake Erie levels is that by 1 Aug 2000 the Lake had regained nearly half the level lost since the end of 1997. On 16 August, Environment Canada reported that Lake Erie levels were only 5 cm below their long-term average, and that Lake Ontario levels were actually 20 cm above their long-term average.

Five Review Species were reported in June and July, two more than last year; reports of two of them—Mississippi kite and least tern—came in both summers. One species couldn't have been a repeat, as it was a new state record, our 407th, the long-awaited white-winged dove. Our last two additions to the state list have been doves, and an informative article on our next expected dove appears in this issue. Some remarkable breeding records were confirmed, especially among waterbirds, and our first Wilson's phalarope nest in twelve years was verified, the first away from Lake Erie. Birds were found in new areas: cliff swallows because of expanding colonizations,

Henslow's sparrows perhaps because of better birder coverage but certainly due to new habitats available, Dickcissels simply as part of their wandering ways, but what to make of all those sapsuckers is anybody's guess. No doubt in the cases of the swallow and the sparrow, human projects like bridge construction and strip-mining unintentionally assisted their expansions.

With truly wild land virtually eradicated in Ohio, divining the reasons for changes in bird populations must always start by assessing the effect of human behaviors on those of birds. Because of our alterations of the landscape, we may have more species of birds in Ohio than 300 years ago, even if we have fewer total numbers, and advances by species able to benefit from what some call development have come at the expense of others less able to do so. To some extent, we have short-circuited natural selection by imposing an artificial one of our own. Our intentional interventions in bird populations will become increasingly important as humans proliferate, as will the consequences of our mistakes in doing so. If our plans on behalf of wildlife come more and more to involve priorities resembling those of zookeepers or gamekeepers, the results may more and more come at the expense of the vitality and diversity of wild life. Certainly the more we can learn now, the less we will regret later.

New readers of the *Cardinal* may wonder at our seeming preoccupation with unusual records. The account herein of blue-headed vireo, for example, reads like a corrective to accepted knowledge about the breeding range of the species, rather than a validation of that knowledge. In part, the reason is that the usual can generally be found elsewhere; ongoing change and deviations from the norm—or even from orthodoxy—are newsworthy, even noteworthy, because they come at the borders of the known where learning often takes place. There is also some bias among our contributors, many of whom are recreational birders who relish the unusual, rather than researchers who are more often interested in establishing norms. The Reports offer highlighted data from which advances will be made in our understanding of birds through the contributions of careful amateurs who send in records of their observations. Because they help to define established knowledge, and sometimes even defy it, novelty and the significance of extremes will always be of interest to hobbyists and researchers alike.

A tradition recently too much neglected here has been the "short note." Several excellent examples appear in this issue, and we plan to run more of them in the future. A short note covers material inappropriate for a full-length article, material that may not be earthshaking but is nevertheless of distinct interest. Such notes usually briefly describe an important observation or series of observations, along with details of the circumstances involved, and often offer some historical perspective. They are one corrective to tendencies to concentrate too much on sensational news. Advancing our knowledge is not necessarily a matter of mind-boggling finds, painstaking research over many years, or conceptual lightning-bolts. Often we progress in learning by smaller steps, by collecting very local, very particular, uniquely interesting field observations, and we do it as a cooperative network of field observers, not always through ground-breaking work by major names. Interesting occurrences, new local nestings, early arrivals and late departures, first winter records, behavioral observations, unusual numbers of individuals, etc., are all grist for the mill, data whose greatest importance may not become clear for years to come. Please send us your short notes!

Effective 1 December 2000, subscriptions to *The Ohio Cardinal* must rise to \$20 per year (four issues). Current subscribers for whom the new rate is beyond their means may re-subscribe at the old \$15 rate, as we do not want to lose a single reader who cannot afford this increase. Other current subscribers looking for a bargain may renew or extend (for as many years as they wish) their subscriptions at the old \$15 rate with requests postmarked before 1 December.

This increase is necessary to ensure the good health of the *Cardinal* as an advertising-free, independent, non-profit periodical put together by volunteers—all without compromising the quality of the work we do. We hope readers of recent issues will agree that the magazine is worth this price, and we promise always to try to do even better.

Certain significant improvements—additional material, better reproduction of photographs, more generous formats, etc.—, however, will become possible mostly as we increase the number of our subscribers. We hope readers who appreciate it will recommend the *Cardinal* to others, or subscribe on their behalf.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998) and subsequent 42nd Supplement. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC's Review List; adequate documentation of such sightings is needed to add reports to official Ohio records. County names are supplied for certain localities, and appear *italicized*. Other abbreviations should be readily understood, with the following possible exceptions: BCSP=Buck Creek SP; BIWA=Big Island WA; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; EFSP=East Fork State Park; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another observer; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP; GAASBC=Greater Akron Audubon Summer Bird Count, conducted 6/10-19, and reported by A. Chasar; GRWA=Grand River WA; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA; Magee=Magee Marsh WA; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWR=Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; ONWRC=monthly census results from ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA; ph=photograph; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigendum: Kindly assist in the cause of accuracy by adding in a "3" in front of the "0" given as Cleveland's low temperature in the second paragraph of the Overview in the Spring 2000 issue. We regret the error.

The Reports

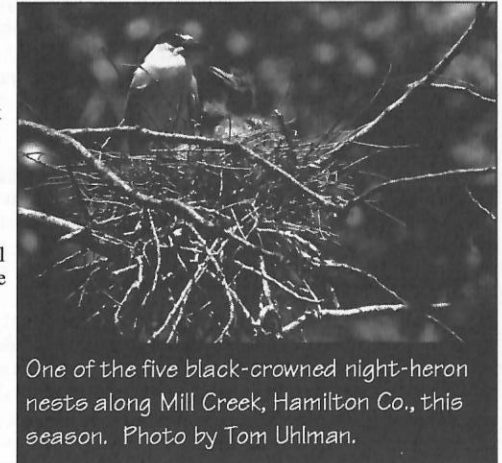
- Common Loon:** Just a few. One was near SVWA on 2 June (K. Beal). On 2 July, G. Kovach found one on Silver Lk, Summit, and on the following day an oddly-plumaged immature bird was in shallow water at BIWA (G. Stauffer, M. Mispion). One in adult plumage along the Cleveland lakefront 26 June through at least 13 July (F. Greenland, *fide* P. Lozano) was clearly injured, and did not survive (S. Wright).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** A successful season for the species. One with young was noted at MWW on 2 June (P. Wharton), and four broods were found at Slate Run MP, Pickaway, between 9 June and 1 July (J. Watts). In more expected areas, 26 birds were at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio), four young birds were at GRWA on 22 July (D&J Hochadel), and C. Holt confirmed breeding at Medusa Marsh and in *Ash-tabula*. Most prolific were 6 pairs at Sandy Ridge Res'n, who had sported at least 35 young by July (S. Zadar).
- Horned Grebe:** An adult in alternate plumage at Cowan Lk, Clinton, was first noted on 29 May and persisted through 10 June (E. Roush, L. Gara) in apparent good health. There are only two accepted June Ohio records of the species, both well to the north.
- Eared Grebe:** Apparently loath to leave us, one tarried through 5 June at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** ~2200 pairs were among nesters on West Sister Isl NWR, up 6% from last year (D. Brewer), and S. Wulkowicz found them "abundant" on S. Bass Isl. Up to 14 summered at Walnut Beach/Conneaut (C. Holt). Away from the Lake, small numbers of non-breeders were widely seen: one was at Deer Ck SP on 1 July (D. Brinkman), one to two throughout July at BCSP (D. Overacker), three to eight during the second half of the month at Findlay Res (B. Hardesty), one 26 July in Wayne (S. Snyder), and two at EFSP on 28 July (H. Armstrong).
- American Bittern:** One was noted at Magee 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two each on Magee censuses on 18 June and 16 July (H&S Hiris). Though up to five were seen in late May at Sandy Ridge Res'n, Lorain, it seems only one pair persisted through the period (S. Zadar).
- Least Bittern:** M. Shieldcastle reported "tremendous numbers" in the western Lk Erie marshes this year. Elsewhere, one was at Killbuck (V. Fazio, *fide* S. Snyder) on 4 June, two pair at Sandy Ridge through the period (S. Zadar), one in Trumbull on 1 July (J. Pogacnik), two at SVWA seen 10 July (R. Kolde), and at least one through the period at MWW (P. Wharton).
- Great Blue Heron:** ~1180 pairs nested at West Sister Isl NWR (D. Brewer). C. Babyak counted 321 nests at the Lordstown colony in Trumbull on 10 June. A post-breeding roost at Hoover Res, Franklin, numbered 97 on 1 July (R. Thorn).
- Great Egret:** As always numerous in the northwest: the Magee count of 18 June had 107 and that of 16 July 104 (H&S Hiris), and ~840 pairs were in the West Sister Isl colony (D. Brewer); C. Holt noted small numbers in the Turning Point Isl colony. Many inland reports included one at Cowan Lk on 10 June (L. Gara), two at Dillon Res, Muskingum, in late June (D. St. John), three on 11 June and 9 July then two on 15 July at Mosquito Lk WA (C. Holt), two at MWW on 30 June (F. Frick), 5 at Gilmore Ponds on 2 July (M. Busam), one in Paulding on 11 July (D&M Dunakin), eight at GRWA on 22 July (J&D Hochadel), two at Lake Isaac in Cuyahoga on 19 July (B&D Lane), and R. Thorn called the species "almost regular" in central Ohio, with six at Hoover Dam on 21 June and six at Galena on 23 July.
- Snowy Egret:** 14 pairs were estimated at the West Sister Isl colony, up from 13 last year (D. Brewer). Six were seen on the 18 June Magee census, and one on that of 16 July (H&S Hiris). One was found at Walnut Beach, *Ash-tabula*, on 29 July (J. McConnor).
- Little Blue Heron:** None was noted among the nesters at West Sister Isl. Most interesting of very few reports was one of an adult at GRWA on 1 July (J. Pogacnik).

Cattle Egret: None noted at West Sister Isl, and counts at Turning Point Isl were difficult to make. A number of sightings in the Sandusky area as far west as PCWA (one 27 July, V. Fazio), the largest number seven on 23 July near Sandusky (K. Mock). Seemed down.

Tricolored Heron: The bird in the Sandusky Bay area was last seen on 1 June by J. Hammond and D. Sanders. Accepted by the OBRC.

Green Heron: Began bunching up in July, with six at Lake La Su An WA on the 2nd (B. McGuire), five in the CVNRA on the 3rd (T&M Romito), and six in *Tuscarawas* on the 22nd (E. Schlabach). High count 16 on 12 July at Killbuck (S. Snyder).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 453 pairs were estimated at the West Sister Isl colony, the first increase (from last year's 387) noted in ten years (D. Brewer). Several along Mill Ck in Hamilton on 5 June (T. Uhlman) and four in Winton Wds 4 July (J. Scott) were probably from the Mill Ck colony—see note this issue. An adult and 2 juv at Greenlawn Dam on 14 July continued the species' persistent presence there (R. Thorn). Thirteen were still at the Merwin St roost in Cleveland on 1 June (P. Lozano)—see note this issue. Three in Sandusky on 18 June (C. Holt) suggest their presence in the Turning Pt Isl colony, but the same observer's sightings of one at Sandy Ridge Res'n on the same date and another at Walnut Beach on 23 July elude such easy explanations of origin.



One of the five black-crowned night-heron nests along Mill Creek, Hamilton Co., this season. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The urban Columbus nest of the spring had 3 adults and two young on 4 June (T. Sica); local resident A. Paschall reported three young, which were as large as their parents by the last week of June; all were gone by 3 July.

Mute Swan: Continues to flourish, to what extent at the expense of other species has not been reported. Eleven were at Walborn Res, Stark, on 8 June (B&D Lane), and nine off S. Bass Isl on 6 July (S. Wulkowicz). The Medusa pair nested successfully again (C. Holt).

Wood Duck: Large aggregations included 44 in the CVNRA on 3 July (M&T Romito) and 75 at MWW on 21 July (J. Lehman).

Gadwall: 47 on the 16 July Magee census was an extremely healthy number (H&S Hiris).

American Wigeon: Very few detected. Unusual sightings included a male in eclipse plumage at Gordon Pk on 17 June (S. Zadar), and one at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio).

American Black Duck: One was at Magee on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner); inland, nesting was suspected following a 30 Jun sighting at BIWA (V. Fazio). One was at Gordon Pk on 26 July (S. Zadar).

Blue-winged Teal: Breeding away from the Lake included one near Circleville during the period (J. McCormac), several broods at BIWA (55 young on 30 Jun, 81 on 15 July—V. Fazio), a female with nine young at Slate Run MP on 3 July (J. Watts), and a hen with five young at MWW on 11 July (P. Wharton). J. Lehman's discovery of 25 young at the latter location on 21 July suggests more than one nest succeeded.

Northern Shoveler: A pair persisted from spring at MWW, and a hen with nine young was found on 11 July (P. Wharton) for what seems to be a first SW nesting record. To the north, one was at PCWA on 9 June (V. Fazio) and another at Pipe Ck WA on the 14th (M. Busam). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five on 4 June at BIWA, where V. Fazio later confirmed two broods on 15 July.

Northern Pintail: Four were seen in the course of the 16 July Magee census (**H&S Hiris**).

Green-winged Teal: Ten were seen on 4 June at ONWR (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Away from Lake Erie, **J. Grabmeier** noted several at Lk Seneca, *Williams*, on 30 July, but the big news was a pair first seen 30 June, then six young on 15 July at BIWA for a rare inland nesting record (**V. Fazio**). Sixty-two adults were found at Ottawa on 2 July (**E. Pierce**).

Hooded Merganser: Nesting at MWW recurred, with a hen with four young noted on 2 Jun and two broods with a total of 14 young on the 14th (**P. Wharton**). A hen with seven chicks was seen on 17 June at PCWA (**D. Overacker**), and three broods with 14 young at Killdeer on 30 June (**V. Fazio**). **C. Holt** confirmed breeding at GRWA and possibly at Sandy Ridge Res'n during the period, and noted a juvenile bird at Conneaut on 23 July.

Red-breasted Merganser: **J. Pogacnik** had a lingering bird at Conneaut on 5 June. One at Walnut Beach on 23 July was an odd find (**C. Holt**).

Ruddy Duck: ~15 birds spent the period at the Paulding Sewage Lagoons (**D&M Dunakin**), to what end is uncertain, and at least one summered on Fostoria Res (**B. Hardesty**). An alternate-plumaged male was at ONWR on 14 June (**S. Landes**), and a bird was at BCSP on 16 July (**D. Overacker**). Two males noted by **C. Holt** at Sandy Ridge Res'n on 18 June may have had something (but of course not everything) to do with the several immature birds found in early July there by Lorain County Metro Parks personnel (*vide S. Zadar*).

Osprey: Many were of course seen at or near the ODOW's hacking sites. One at Killdeer on 19 June was interesting (**B. Rinehart**). Probable migrants were near Dayton on 26 July (**J. McCormac**) and at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, on 28 July (**T. Kemp**).

Mississippi Kite: A subadult was found at EFSP, *Clermont*, on 5 July by **B. Stanley**, and remained through the following day (**H. Armstrong**, m obs). The species is expanding its range, nesting having occurred not far away in southern Indiana for several years running, as well as in Illinois (*Union*) and Kentucky (*Fulton*), and nesting records were established along the eastern seaboard—as in N. Carolina—this year. Details are with the OBRC.

Bald Eagle: The nesting season produced 45 nests and 89 young. Summer sightings in counties where no known nests were established included an adult over Lake La Su An WA on 8 July (**K. Overman**, *vide G. Links*), an adult at EFSP on 24 July (**D. Morse**), and another over Hebron on the 27th (**R. Thorn**).

Northern Harrier: It seems only a matter of time before someone can confirm breeding. A pair was seen throughout the period at Woodbury WA (**J. McCormac**). **H. Nagy** found three, including an immature, at Tri-Valley WA on 13 June. **J. Yochum** had one in *Williams* on 18 June, perhaps involving one of several noted near Lake La Su An WA the following day by **J. Grabmeier**. One was near Antwerp, *Paulding*, on 6 July (**M&D Dunakin**), and a female at Slate Run MP on 11 July (**J. Watts**). **C. Holt** had three adults in different locations in *Ashtabula* during the period.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Interesting were two pairs in metropolitan Columbus (**J. McCormac, B. Whan**), and yet another calling there on 30 July (**R. Thorn**).

Broad-winged Hawk: As in the recent past, a pair was on territory in Oak Openings MP through June (**E. Tramer**). The same observer noted two immatures passing over Magee about ten minutes apart on 2 June, "apparently very late spring migrants."

American Kestrel: **J. McCormac** noted the species is doing very well in reclaimed strip-mine areas, but only where nest cavities exist; in these areas, such cavities are nearly always artificial ones supplied by land managers.

Ruffed Grouse: **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found one, along with five northern bobwhites and a wild turkey, at the same roadside stop in Woodbury WA on 4 June.

King Rail: On 18 June **J. Yochum** found a pair at the same spot in Lake La Su An WA where he'd seen two on 16 May. **H&S Hiris** reported one at Magee on the 16 July census.

Sora: Five pairs were noted at the new wetlands at Sandy Ridge Res'n in *Lorain* during the period (**S. Zadar**).

Common Moorhen: ~12 were noted at BIWA on 30 June (**V. Fazio**), one at Sandy Ridge Res'n on 1 July (**P. Lozano**), and 18 at Magee on 16 July (**H&S Hiris**). A pair with four hatchlings was at Shenango WA, *Trumbull*, on 24 July (**J&D Hochadel**), and two adults with five chicks at Killbuck on the 28th (**S. Snyder**).

American Coot: One was at Conneaut on 11 June for **C. Holt**, who also found 10 at Sandy Ridge Res'n on the 18th; **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** had 15 there on 2 July. Adults accompanied young at Sandy Ridge on 1 July (**P. Lozano et al.**).

Sandhill Crane: A pair appeared at various spots in *Wayne* throughout the period (**S. Snyder**, m obs). Two were reported from PCWA on 7 June (**D. Sanders, D. Burton**). Singles were at Sandy Ridge on 10 June and 5 July (**C. Grame**).

Black-bellied Plover: A late bird was at Walnut Beach on 4 June (**C. Holt**), and an early one at Conneaut on 2 July (**J. Pogacnik**).

American Golden-Plover: The first returnees, and the only ones reported during the period, were two at Conneaut on 25 July (**N. Brundage, C. Keppler**).

Killdeer: This species began massing with 80 birds on 19 July in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**), 40 at BCSP on the 22nd (**D. Overacker**), ~80 at Conneaut also on the 22nd (**B. Winger et al.**), and 73 at The Wilds on the 29th (**J. Larson**).

American Avocet: First arrival was 2 July at Conneaut (**J. Pogacnik**). **F. Frick** had one at MWW on 19 July, **M. Misplon** one at Lk St Marys on 22 July, and **J. McConnor** two at Conneaut, where they grew almost common later, on 29 July.

Semipalmated Plover: Late departures were 15 on 4 June at Conneaut, then six on the 1st (**C. Holt**). **J. Pogacnik** had the first southbound birds, four on 13 July at Conneaut. July numbers peaked at 22 there on 29 July (**Holt**).

Greater Yellowlegs: **P. Wharton** saw one at MWW on 11 July, where on the 15th **N. Cade** and **H. Armstrong** had two more. On the latter date, **C. Holt** found three at Conneaut, and by the 30th **D&J Hochadel** found six at Mosquito Lk. For twenty years, **Ken Brock** has been collecting arrival dates for shorebirds, and this species has the greatest average interval between the arrival of adults and that of juveniles—55 days.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first returned 25 June to Conneaut (**C. Holt**), and 10+ were at BIWA by the 28th (**V. Fazio**), where he had the season high count of 21 on 15 July.

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was one on 29 June in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**), with one on 2 July at GRWA (**C. Holt**) and another in *Holmes* on 5 July (**E. Schlabach**) right on its hallucs. Six were at Mosquito Lk on 22 July (**D&J Hochadel**) for the high count.

Willet: All reports—one Conneaut 2 July (**C. Holt**), one Lk St Marys 22 July (**M. Misplon**), and one 25 July at Conneaut (**N. Brundage, C. Keppler**).

Spotted Sandpiper: Ten were at Walnut Beach on 4 June (**C. Holt**). 29 were tallied at BIWA on 30 June (**V. Fazio**), and 10 at Conneaut on 11 July were probably headed out (**Holt**).

Upland Sandpiper: The pair at Krause Rd near Ottawa was seen 4 June (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **V. Fazio** reported three pairs at BIWA 30 June.

Whimbrel: Three were reported from Conneaut, the season's default location for shorebirds, one on 15 July (C. Holt) and two on 29 July (J. McConnor).

Ruddy Turnstone: Last out was one at Walnut Beach on 4 June, and first back were four at Conneaut on 29 July (both by C. Holt).

Red Knot: One hopes there will be more in the fall, as but one was reported during the period, a bird seen on 29 July (J. McConnor, C. Holt) and the following day (B. Winger *et al.*) at Conneaut.

Sanderling: Last departing was one on 5 June at—of all places—Conneaut (J. Pogacnik). Four hit the beach there southbound on 15 July (C. Holt), where their numbers reached ~50 on 30 July (B. Winger *et al.*). Elsewhere, one was at BCSP on 22, 23, and 30 July (D. Overacker), and four were at Mosquito Lk on 30 July (D&J Hochadel). The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences estimates this species has declined 80% in population over the past twenty years; let's hope all these July birds weren't failed breeders.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last out were three on 11 June at Conneaut (C. Holt), where the same observer found the first two back on 11 July. Holt found the high count as well, 135 birds on 29 July.

Least Sandpiper: One departed Conneaut on 5 June (J. Pogacnik), and three were the first to return there on 25 June, where their numbers reached a high of 65 by 11 July (C. Holt). The first juvenile seen was at Conneaut on 29 July (Holt).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Nine outgoing birds were reported during early June, the latest one on the 9th off the Cedar Point Chaussee (V. Fazio). No reports received of sightings of returning birds during the period, oddly enough.

Baird's Sandpiper: No reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: No June reports, with returnees numbering two at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik) and one on the 15th at MWW (N. Cade). High count was only four, inland at Cowan Lk SP on 28 July (L. Gara).

Dunlin: Ten were at the Crane Ck estuary on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and one the following day at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

Stilt Sandpiper: Barely made the summer reports, with five at Conneaut on 29 July (C. Holt) and three there on the 30th (B. Winger *et al.*).

Short-billed Dowitcher: With a dearth of traditional stopover spots in the northwest marshes, the species showed elsewhere around the state in July, with 12 at MWW on the 11th (P. Wharton) and the high count of 47 at BIWA on the 15th (V. Fazio). Two were at The Wilds on the 29th (J. Larson), when there was a Conneaut high of 31 present (C. Holt).

Common Snipe: Reports came from the species' northeastern strongholds, with 32 on 1 July in Trumbull (J. Pogacnik), and 20 on 2 July then 25 on 9 July at GRWA, which caused observer C. Holt to consider nesting probable.

Wilson's Phalarope: Ohio's first nest of this species in twelve years was confirmed just after the end of the period at BIWA with a juvenile noted (V. Fazio); he had first noticed an alternate-plumaged male at the site on 28 June. Elsewhere, one was at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik).

Laughing Gull: Three reports: an adult was at Conneaut and Walnut Beach from 2-11 July (C. Holt), a first-year bird at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik), and a second-year bird at PCWA on 27 July (V. Fazio).

Franklin's Gull: One was at Caesar Ck SP on 7 June (L. Gara), and an individual in worn plumage at BCSP on 22-23 July (D. Overacker).

Bonaparte's Gull: Probable non-breeders were three on 11 June at Conneaut (C. Holt). Interesting was one at the Paulding sewage lagoons on 11 July (M&D Dunakin), and another at BCSP on 22-23 July (D. Overacker). A few had returned to the lakeside by the end of the month, with 20-30 at S. Bass Isl the high count on the 25th (S. Wulkowicz).

Ring-billed Gull: The first juveniles were noted at Conneaut on 2 July (C. Holt).

Herring Gull: The first juveniles were found at Conneaut on 15 July (C. Holt).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A first-summer bird spent 25 June-2 July at Conneaut (C. Holt). J. Pogacnik reported a fresh juvenile there on the 13th, and an adult and two immature birds elsewhere in *Ashtabula* the same day.

Great Black-backed Gull: To the west, two were along the Cedar Pt Chaussee on 9 June (V. Fazio), and to the east 27 were at Conneaut on 5 June (J. Pogacnik).

Common Tern: The Ottawa nesting colony numbered ~50 pairs, bringing off ~90 young; once again, the Pipe Creek colony lagged behind, with ~15 pairs and eight young (M. Shieldcastle). C. Holt had three late birds on 11 June at Walnut Beach, and two early migrants on 15 July at Conneaut. Inland, two were at Caesar Ck SP on 6 June (L. Gara) and one on 25 July at EFSP (H. Armstrong).

Caspian Tern: Five apparent non-breeders showed up at Killdeer on 30 June for V. Fazio. Migrants first appeared at Conneaut, with 18 on 17 July (C. Holt), where the high count of 39 was tallied on 30 July (B. Winger *et al.*). One was at EFSP on 25 July (H. Armstrong).

Forster's Tern: Three were at BCSP on 9 June and two on 16 July (D. Overacker). Three were at EFSP on 22 July (F. Renfrow). Four at Conneaut between 2 and 29 July (C. Holt) were in a more anticipated spot for migrants.

Least Tern: Details are with the OBRC of a report for 18 July in *Hancock*.

Black Tern: The Magee census yielded two on 18 June and three on 16 July (H&S Hiris), and M. Shieldcastle reported a few seen elsewhere in the western Lake Erie marshes, with breeding unconfirmed. B. Rinehart had one on 6 June at Killdeer. Puzzling, but presumably non-breeders, were one at Slate Run MP on 26 June (J. Watts) and another in *Trumbull* on 1 July (J. Pogacnik). Migrants were seen on 29 July at Conneaut (C. Holt) and the following day at Clark Lk (D. Overacker).

White-winged Dove: For a first confirmed Ohio record, one was seen and photographed in Bellefontaine, Logan, on 10 June (R. Rinehart, M. Misplon); see articles in this issue. Accepted by the OBRC. Nebraska (18 May), Colorado (10-11 May), and Wisconsin (16 May) recorded the species this year, also far from its normal range. One showed up in Vermont just as we went to press on 2 Sept (W. Scott).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Secretive birds, not many are reported. Nine were found on the GAASBC. In the far south, birds were detected 3 June in *Lawrence* (J. Hammond) and 10 June in the MWW (D. Graham).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: High count six at Ira Rd in the CVNRA on 5 June (T&M Romito). P. Yoder regarded their numbers in *Holmes* as above normal. The GAASBC tallied 53 birds.

Barn Owl: Most unusual was a nesting pair discovered on 26 July on S. Bass Isl by an OSU ornithology class (C. Stanton, J. Neubig); a previous record from the Island dates to 1950, amazingly enough from the same barn. Elsewhere, the DOW monitored 27 nests (down from 34 last year) in 12 counties, and likely will band 100+ owlets, as plentiful rain has meant plentiful meadow voles. One *Holmes* male was polygynous for the fourth consecutive year, tending to no fewer than three mates with broods this year; at least two of this bird's male progeny produced broods this year, one of them 26 mi away in *Tuscarawas*. Good genes.

Whip-poor-will: A brief survey of a square mile in Oak Openings MP yielded eight singing birds (E. Tramer).

Chuck-will's-widow: A bird continued to call in *Hocking* through 23 June (J. Fry). One summered in *Pike* (J. McCormac).

Red-headed Woodpecker: J. Berry found a pair copulating at Killbuck on 15 June. The *Hancock* survey totaled 18 on 25 July (fide B. Hardesty). D. Brinkman followed two nests at EFSP in *Clermont* during the period. R. Thorn had one in *Pickaway* on 27 July.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Nineteen, eight of them young of the year, were observed by P. Lozano, T. Leiden, et al. in *Trumbull*, *Ashtabula*, and *Geauga* on 2 and 9 July. One was at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Beyond this normal range are a number of remarkable, and frankly inexplicable, summer occurrences: two resident through the period in Antwerp, *Paulding* (D&M Dunakin); a female from late May to at least mid-June in the Maumee SF (T. Bartlett); a female coming to a feeder in *Hamilton* on 14 June (E. Heineke); one in the Miami-Whitewater Forest on 3 July (M. Busam, L. Peyton); and still another in *Hamilton* on 21 July (T. Uhlman).

Northern Flicker: Eight at Gordon Pk on 27 July (S. Zadar) were too early to be migrants.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Migrants lingered in expected ways, one till 5 June at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik) and one till the following day in *Hancock* (D. Barker).

Acadian Flycatcher: Well-reported, with 78 on the GAASBC, and 23 on a day in *Hocking* (J. Berry). Three pairs during the period near Antwerp, *Paulding*, were nice finds (M&D Dunakin).

Alder Flycatcher: A territorial male was in Columbus through 4 June (J. McCormac). An *Empidonax* in Tri-Valley WA in *Muskingum* on 26 July was disconcertingly fluent in the songs of both alder and willow flycatchers (J. Hammond, B. Whan).

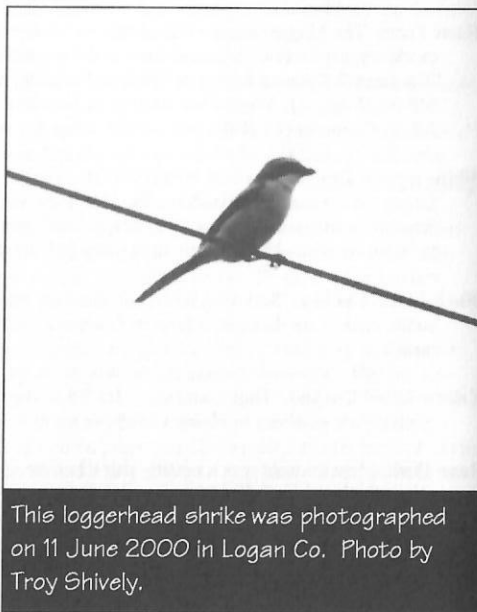
Least Flycatcher: Singing birds were near Lake La Su An WA on 1 July (E. Tramer) and 4 July (G. Links). Two were in Magee on 16 July (H&S Hiris), and one at Nathan Hale Pk in *Cuyahoga* on 17 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). One in Woodbury WA on 21 July (B. Master, fide J. McCormac) was in an area where a small breeding population may exist. C. Holt had singers in *Ashtabula* and at GRWA through the period.

Loggerhead Shrike: One was in *Seneca* on 4 June (T. Bartlett), and another in *Logan* on 11 June (T. Shively, ph) was refound by D. Sanders and D. Burton on 21 June.

White-eyed Vireo: One was a good find at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* 4 July (G. Links).

Bell's Vireo: First found on 1 June by J. Fry, a bird found a mate at BCSP by 9 June, but the resulting nest was abandoned by 18 June (D. Overacker).

Yellow-throated Vireo: A pair through the period near Antwerp, *Paulding*, was a noteworthy find (D&M Dunakin).



This loggerhead shrike was photographed on 11 June 2000 in Logan Co. Photo by Troy Shively.

Blue-headed Vireo: Five were in Mohican SP on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in *Pickaway* on 12 June (C. Toops et al.), one on 13 June in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty), nine in the Maumee SF by 15 June (T. Bartlett), three singing at Cedar Falls SP (J. Berry) on 16 June, 10 on the GAASBC, two during a BBS in Clear Ck MP (J. Watts), three in Hinckley MP in *Medina* on 2 July (Harlan, Wagner), five in Stebbins Gulch, *Geauga*, on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner), and one on 11 July in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty). Clearly doing well.

Horned Lark: Interesting was a juvenile found at Conneaut Harbor on 2 July (C. Holt).

Tree Swallow: A 1 July flock of 100 in *Butler* (M. Busam) was rather early, and 130+ at Hebron in *Licking* (R. Thorn) on 27 July was unusual as well.

Bank Swallow: C. Holt observed 75 nests at Conneaut on 25 June, then later ~700 staging at Walnut Beach on 15 July. At BIWA, 560 were found by V. Fazio on 26 July, and at Conneaut P. Lozano et al. found ~500 on the 30th.

Cliff Swallow: P. Yoder's final nest tally was 589 at his *Holmes* farm, slightly down from 1998's record 614, but thanks to temperate weather and good numbers of second broods, a record 2750-2850 young fledged, truly a tribute to his husbandry of these birds. Elsewhere, the species reclaimed many of last year's beachheads, and established new nesting areas. They arrived as early as 25 Mar this year, and very early were southbound birds seen in south Florida on 9 July this year (John Boyd).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: D. Sanders and B. Master discovered one at Old Man's Cave in *Hocking* on 10 June, where F. Renfrow later located a pair on 3 July. A bird was found for the third time in the last four years at Atwood Lk, *Tuscarawas*, on 2 July (J. Hammond), and another the same day at Hinckley MP, *Medina* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Six were seen in the Maumee SF between late May and 15 June (T. Bartlett). A pair nested on S. Bass Isl during the period (S. Wulkowicz), as did another in a Dayton suburb (D. Nolin)—see note in this issue.

Brown Creeper: Four were found on the GAASBC. F. Renfrow found one on 3 July in Conkle's Hollow in *Hocking*.

Carolina Wren: Regaining some lost ground, as it nested on S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz), and the Dunakins remarked that it "seems to be increasing again" in *Paulding*.

House Wren: 58 were tallied on an 18 July survey of *Hancock* (fide B. Hardesty), and 198 were counted in the GAASBC.

Winter Wren: One was found at Mohican SP on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), another at Holden Arboretum on 30 June (R. Rickard), and four at Stebbin's Gulch in *Geauga* on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner).

Sedge Wren: One theory holds that our second wave of this species consists of second-nesters and/or failed breeders from farther north in their range. Whatever the reason, July's wave was customarily higher than May's. Some of the interesting sites: three in e. *Licking* on 8 June (C. Dusthimer), 11 June in *Greene* (D. Overacker), 19 June Lk La Su An WA (J. Grabmeier) and one on 1 July just south of there (E. Tramer), 24 June in *Lorain* (C. Rieker) and two on 2 July in another *Lorain* spot (E. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in *Franklin* on 11 July (M. Albin), 15 July at MWW (N. Cade), and on 26 July at least eight singing males at Carriage Hill MP in *Montgomery* (D. Nolin).

Marsh Wren: Usually a good indicator of marsh health. Noted at MWW on 2 June (P. Wharton), 10 were at PCWA on 7 June (D. Sanders), five at BCSP on the 10th (D. Overacker), and 10+ at Killbuck on the 15th (J. Berry). S. Zadar censused six pairs at Sandy Ridge Res'n in the period. A weak showing at Magee, with three apiece on the June and July censuses (H&S Hiris).



This sedge wren was one of at least eight singing males at Carriage Hill MetroPark, Montgomery Co., during late July. Photo by David Nolin.

- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Only one reported, at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Intriguing was one found in *Hocking* on 30 July (D. Horn). There are no Ohio breeding records, but a singing male was found nearby in 1974 by Worth Randle. Horn also noted the arrival in *Hocking* of male gypsy moths.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** In the north, 61 were counted by the June GAASBC. J. Berry saw four fledged young in Brecksville on 14 June, on schedule for the north.
- Eastern Bluebird:** E. Tramer related that the species is increasing in the Oak Openings as trees are removed to create prairies, pointing out the trade-offs involved in diminished habitat for woodland birds. P. Yoder offered data for a trail on his 140-acre *Holmes* farm: 77 eggs, 62 hatched, 60 fledged.
- Veery:** Reports from some of the traditional spots didn't come in, but D. Overacker spotted one at BCSP on 2 July. Further north, D. Chasar found two nests in the CVNRA on 4 June (fide J. Berry), and C. Holt a bird in the Streetsboro Bog on 3 July.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Slowpokes included two on the Magee bird trail on 2 June and one in the Oak Openings the following day (E. Tramer); one in Wadsworth, *Medina*, on 9 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) was even less than enthusiastic about the trip north.
- Hermit Thrush:** The GAASBC found two. F. Renfrow had four in Conkle's Hollow, *Hocking*, on 3 July, and J. Watts reported 15 elsewhere in the county, eight in a BBS in the Metro Parks and seven on 16 July visits to State Nature Preserves there.
- Gray Catbird:** Nest sites chosen unusually close to primates included one 19 July a foot from the wall of a Lancaster fast-food eatery (J. Fry) and a nest in a Parma Hts yard for the first time in 50 years (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). High count 10 in the Streetsboro Bog on 3 July (C. Holt).
- Brown Thrasher:** J&D Hochadel found the discovery of four in *Columbiana* on 4 June encouraging, as did E. Tramer that of four pairs southwest of Toledo.
- European Starling:** The species seems to be in decline in Europe; the British population fell 56% between 1973 and 1997, for reasons as yet unclear. Breeding Bird Survey data for the period 1966-1999 show a decline of 0.9% per year in North America, but only 0.4% in Ohio.
- American Pipit:** Pretty late was one at Walnut Beach on 4 June (C. Holt).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** R. Thorn reported it as nesting sparingly in the Columbus area.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** no reports.
- Hybrids of the above two species:** Brewster's—an individual reported in spring at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site remained through June (S. Zadar); one was noted in Secor MP, *Lucas*, on 17 June by J. Sawvel and D. Hopson. Lawrence's—Lynda Andrews of the USFS had several nice finds, with a singing male in *Athens* on 6 June, then two singing males in *Hocking* on the 7th. One of the latter birds was refound by B. Master and D. Sanders on 10 June.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Tennessees seemed to be running late this year, and not only in Ohio; there was a Nebraska report on 11 June. J. McCormac had two singing in *Delaware* on 9 June, and J. Sawvel and D. Hopson one in view and in constant song at Secor MP very late on the 17th.
- Northern Parula:** Reassuring but unsurprising were four at Mohican SP on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two in Clear Ck MP, *Hocking*, on 10 June (B. Whan), but many reports came from unaccustomed areas. E. Tramer had a singing male in Secor MP on 9 June, then J. Sawvel and D. Hopson one there on the 17th; B. Master noted a territorial male near Woodbury WA, *Coshocton*, on 9 June; M. Albin had four in *Franklin* on the 12th; both J. Grabmeier and J. Yochum found a bird in Lk La Su An WA on the 17th, and during June D. St. John found nine singing males in the Zaleski SF in *Vinton*.

- Yellow Warbler:** As befitted an early spring arrival, early departure was noted with a migrant at Brook Park on 6 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). More expected were two migrants on 15 July and five on 17 July in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach), and 20 passing through Walnut Beach on the 23rd (C. Holt).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Two were found 4 June in Mohican SP (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).
- Magnolia Warbler:** Late migrants included one at Lakeshore MP on 5 June (J. Pogacnik) and a male in *Delaware* 9 June (J. McCormac). Nesting took place as usual in *Hocking*, with a singing male noted at Cantwell Cliffs on 16 June (J. Berry), at Mohican SP with two on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and at Stebbin's Gulch, *Geauga*, on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner); a less traditional spot was Hinckley MP in *Medina*, where two were noted 2 July by Harlan and Wagner.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Nice was a singing bird in Stebbin's Gulch on 24 June (H. Petruschke).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A male in song on 17 June at Gordon Park, *Cuyahoga*, was very unusual; the bird was seen well and song and call heard by experienced observers (S. Zadar, T. Gilliland).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** At the usual spots, R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five in Mohican SP on 4 June, five in Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 2 July, and five in Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July. A bird singing in the Oak Openings on 3 June (E. Tramer) was not later reported. D. St. John had six in a white pine stand during June in the Zaleski SF, *Vinton*.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** On 3 July F. Renfrow discovered a pair with young in the Hocking Hills, then one the following day at Cedar Falls. R. Harlan and S. Wagner had one at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July. B. Fate saw two locals on 16 July in *Vinton*.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** North of the heaviest concentrations, one was singing on 3 June in the Oak Openings (E. Tramer), one was at Lk La Su An WA on the 17th (J. Grabmeier), and one was seen on the 20th in *Hancock* (K. Noblet). D. St. John remarked that the species has "dramatically increased the usage of ridge-tops" occupied by red or even white pines in the Zaleski SF—unusual for our "sycamore" warbler (see Dunn's *Warblers* p 327, or Chapman's *The Warblers of N. America* pp 180-185).
- Pine Warbler:** One was found 3 June in the Oak Openings (E. Tramer), then unreported.
- Kirtland's Warbler:** No reports here of course, but the Michigan DNR announced this summer's count in the state was 891 singing males, second only to 1999's 905; birds were found in 12 counties, including four in the UP, where the species has been located since 1996. No birds were reported in Wisconsin or Ontario this year.
- Prairie Warbler:** L. Gara found a new territory at Caesar Ck SP on 6 June. The species has been very successful in reclaimed stripmine areas, witness 30+ censused at Crown City WA in *Lawrence* (J. McCormac).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Last reported 5 June at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** E. Schlabach had a singing male in e. *Holmes* on 3 June, and J. Pogacnik two at Lakeshore MP on 5 June.
- Cerulean Warbler:** Two were in "the usual spot" at Secor MP on 3 June (E. Tramer). High count 10 on 1 July at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton* (N. Cade).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** R. Thorn had one in Columbus on 23 June, then an apparent migrant on the mildly surprising date of 1 July at Hoover Res. R. Harlan and S. Wagner noted a male on territory at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 2 July.
- American Redstart:** P. Yoder reported the first southbound bird on 23 July in *Holmes*.

Prothonotary Warbler: C. Babyak found two territories at Mosquito Lk WA on 11 June. J. Yochum found two feeding two nestlings at Lk La Su An WA on 18 June, where B. McGuire found another on 2 July. Two were found in the GAASBC, and C. Holt discovered one in the CVNRA on 4 July. At Hoover Res, 12+ pairs were using artificial nest boxes on 11 June (R. Thorn).

Northern Waterthrush: One was in *Ashtabula* on 25 June (C. Holt), and N. Barber discovered one along the Mosquito Trail at HBSP, Lake, on 30 July.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Ten were at Stebbin's Gulch, *Geauga*, on 24 June (H. Petruschke). An apparent migrant was detected at Hoover Res on the early date of 1 July (R. Thorn).

Kentucky Warbler: One was in *Medina* at Hinckley MP on 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Mourning Warbler: At Lakeshore MP, J. Pogacnik had two on 5 June. A vocal male in the Oak Openings sang through 11 June, then disappeared (E. Tramer). Six were counted on surveys during the period in *Hocking* parks, with a confirmed nest (3 July, M. Albin) in Clear Ck MP, where this summer 19 species of warblers nested or defended territories (J. Watts).

Common Yellowthroat: High count 15 at Streetsboro Bog 3 July (C. Holt).

Hooded Warbler: 86 were counted on the GAASBC in *Summit*.

Wilson's Warbler: One straggled through Lakeshore MP on 5 June (J. Pogacnik).

Canada Warbler: Massachusetts birder J. Berry was pleased to find a male at Cantwell Cliffs in *Hocking* on 16 June, particularly as it shared the glen with a Kentucky and a hooded. Seven were on the Clear Creek MP breeding bird survey (J. Watts). Three were found in Mohican SP on 4 June by R. Harlan and S. Wagner. Closer to Canada, the same observers located five at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July.

Yellow-breasted Chat: G. Links had one at Lake La Su An WA on 4 July. One persisted at Riverbend in *Hancock* through the period (B. Hardesty). Reclaimed stripmines welcomed the species: 20+ males were at Crown City, and 15+ at Woodbury (J. McCormac).

Summer Tanager: This year's *Delaware* male ceased singing in May, then resumed the first week of July through the end of the period (J. Hammond). A bird was singing in Oak Openings MP on 4 and 9 June (E. Tramer). One or two males and a female were at Blendon Wds MP, *Franklin*, through the period (R. Thorn). A territorial male was at Mohican SP from late May through at least 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Scarlet Tanager: A migrant was noted as late as 17 June in *Medina* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Vesper Sparrow: E. Tramer called the species "increasingly difficult to find" in the northwest, with only two pairs in southwest *Lucas* this year.

Lark Sparrow: Apparently successful in Oak Openings MP, with 10 young flying by mid-June; two fledglings were found on the relatively late date of 29 July (E. Tramer).

Lark Bunting: Details are with the OBRC for a report of several over four days in July in *Hancock*.



Another fine shot of a male blue grosbeak at Crown City Wildlife Area on 17 July 2000. Photo by Bob Royce.

Savannah Sparrow: Five or more were in MWW on 2 June (P. Wharton) and remained through the period. Fifteen were at BCSP on the following day (D. Overacker). Ten were in Holmes on 16 July (L. Deininger).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Quite common, where allowed to persist, as in some reclaimed strip-mine areas. High count 80+ at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio). A nice find was a bird in *Ashtabula* on 25 June (C. Holt).

Henslow's Sparrow: A species out-of-state birders often want to see, and we should have no trouble finding some for them. Abundant at reclaimed strip-mine grasslands. In *Williams*, about as far as you can get from its recorded haunts in the Breeding Bird Atlas, J. Grabmeier had as many as 6-8 pairs apiece at five locations in or near Lake La Su An WA during the period, where G. Links found small colonies at four locations on 22 July. Eleven were located in urban *Franklin* on 11 July (M. Albin). Eighteen were at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on 3 June (J. Watts). Three were in *Lorain* on 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). During early July, D. St. John had 30+ at a *Hocking* site and 50+ at another in *Vinton*.

Swamp Sparrow: 68 reported on the GAASBC during June in *Summit*. Ten were at some selected spots in mostly-dry Woodbury WA on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and another 10 at Streetsboro Bog on 3 July (C. Holt). A poor showing at Magee, with only three each on 18 June and 16 July (H&S Hiris).

White-crowned Sparrow: A laggard was in *Mahoning* on 2 June (B&D Lane).

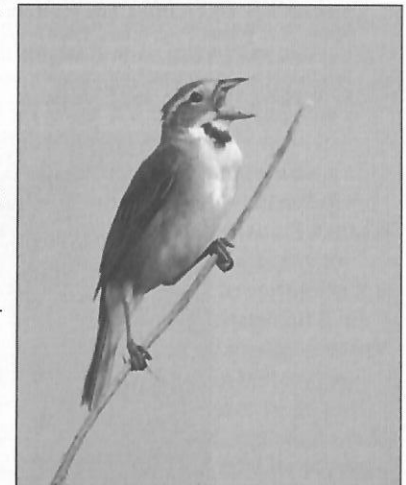
Dark-eyed Junco: Two were in Monroe Twp in *Ashtabula* on 11 June (C. Holt). H. Petruschke found young at Stebbin's Gulch on 10 June. R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one territory at Mohican SP on 4 June, and five birds at Stebbin's Gulch and two at Little Mountain on 8 July.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The GAASBC had 127 in *Summit*. R. Harlan and S. Wagner reported a migrant in *Medina* as late as 23 June. A pair spent the period in Woodbury WA (J. McCormac). In more surprising locales, two were at Shawnee SF, *Scioto*, on 27 June (D. Sanders, D. Burton), and L. Andrews *et al.* found a territorial male in *Hocking* on 29 June.

Blue Grosbeak: Reported from nine counties in spring; three counties added in the summer. Abundant at Crown City WA, with as many as 18 territorial males; a male was found in *Jackson* on 20 June (J. McCormac). H. Nagy had two in Tri-Valley WA, *Muskingum*, on 13 June, and J. Pogacnik one singing near Castalia in *Erie* on 4 July.

Dickcissel: A good year for the species in the entire eastern US and Ontario. Reports were received for the following 28 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Butler, Clark, Coshoc-ton, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Lake, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Muskingum, Paulding, Pickaway, Preble, Sandusky, Seneca, Warren, Williams, and Wyandot. The influx began on 12 May, when S. MacGillis found two at Metzger. High counts included as many as 45 territorial males at Crown City WA during the period (B. Royce, J. McCormac), and 58 birds at BIWA (V. Fazio). Nesting was suspected or confirmed in many of the aforementioned areas.

Bobolink: No large numbers reported, the largest 20+ pairs near Guilford Lk SP on 20 June (B&D Lane). R. Rickard found none at Holden Arboretum for the first time in years. Early haying in a good growing season doubtless destroyed many nests. The first two migrants were reported in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach) on 15 July.



This singing male dickcissel was photographed at Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion Co., in July 2000. Photo by Bob Royce.

Eastern Meadowlark: High counts included 15 at Slate Run MP on 3 June (J. Watts) and 10 in *Ashtabula* on 9 July (C. Holt): nothing encouraging here.

Western Meadowlark: B. Hardesty reported one from rural *Hancock* on 27 June.

Common Grackle: A flock of 300 was at Walnut Beach on 9 July, more or less on schedule (C. Holt).

Orchard Oriole: The high count of eight on 22 July in *Tuscarawas* was probably made up of migrants (E. Schlabach).

Baltimore Oriole: The GAASBC counted 268 during a June week in *Summit*.

House Sparrow: The "English sparrow" has declined in Britain by 64% between 1972 and 1996, and is virtually extirpated from London and Glasgow; several recovery programs have been proposed. Here in North America, the Breeding Bird Survey data show declines of 2.5% a year in the species' numbers between 1966 and 1999.

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One of three dickcissel nests found in a fallow field in Lorain Co. this season. In the color original, the eggs were bright blue, the color very reminiscent of bluebird eggs. Photo by Scott Wright.

Further Afield by Rob Harlan

"A change would do you good"

Sheryl Crowe, 1996

"Or not"

Rob Harlan, 2000

Change can be frightening, unexpected, or tragic; change can be beneficial, welcome, or overdue. But no matter how one looks at it, change is inevitable. This is one reason we maintain a record of our history: to preserve the past, or establish a snapshot image of the present. Change and its history teach us that future researchers will benefit greatly from our birding discoveries today, if only to serve as a measuring-stick for findings in their version of the present. I like the old saying that we can see as far as we do today only because we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

A sage Ohio ornithologist has said: "This is a golden age for ornithological investigation. One wonders how the field workers of yesterday accomplished so much with so many handicaps to overcome. Good roads and auto transportation now enable one person to visit all the out-of-the-way corners of a whole state and make direct comparisons between contrasting locations. Communication is such that every ornithologist in the state can keep closely in touch with the work of all others and benefit by the exchange of ideas and the competition afforded." Since this quotation comes from Lawrence E. Hicks in 1935, we may safely assume that he wasn't speaking of interstate highways and the Internet. But one of us could have just as easily said the same thing earlier this morning. Change, it seems, can also be very relative.

So not only is change inevitable, it is good, bad, or indifferent, depending on our point of view. A prairie warbler might favor a southeastern Ohio clear-cut. A hooded warbler would probably frown on such a choice. It might be our instinct to side with the frowning hooded warbler, but my guess is that the prairie warbler wouldn't need or even ask for our compassion, because the change had given it a chance. And so we proceed, apologizing to John Milton, to Paradise Misland.

Change can make or break a birding site, and not just for one or two species. Habitat-wide alterations affect a wide range of birdlife. Many of us have heard of natural areas now obliterated, either entirely or essentially. The Great Black Swamp of northwestern Ohio and the Pymatuning Bog of northeastern Ohio come quickly to mind, both now mere shadows of their former glory. Neither is likely to spring back to full splendor anytime soon, so great have been the changes in their habitats and landscape. These paradises have been lost. But not all lost paradises need to stay lost forever. There is one spot in Ohio that has a great but little-known birding history; in fact, portions of the area are still preserved today, but only as a semblance of its past. We may have changed the face of the land, but not the landscape itself, not what made the area great in the first place. If we were to step back and let nature take its course, allowing it to regenerate and regrow its natural vegetation (with a little help, perhaps), I feel that over time this area might become the premier birding area in the entire state. But of course this is easier said than done.

Rather than simply naming the location up front, it might serve us better to review some of the changes that have occurred there. All the accounts that follow come from a series of six contemporaneous articles describing this locale, published for the his-

torical record. The articles come from one of Ohio's foremost ornithologists and present his insights into one of his favorite birding areas. It is now your assignment to ascertain the location and the decade about which the articles were written. Clues are aplenty. I have selected the following accounts both to show evidence of the changes that have since taken place, and also simply because they capture the essence of the era. Some clues may directly point to the area, and others may seem red herrings, but they all are historically valid. Have at it.

"A common breeder in the marshes...among the rankest vegetation where human progress is made next to impossible by the depth of the muck and the denseness of the brakes and cattails. During courting season the air is often palpitant with the peculiar mate call." *American bittern*

"Regular, but hardly common, from about March 20 to October 20. Most records are of single birds seen flying...There must be a small nesting place somewhere near...but it has never been discovered to my knowledge." *Great blue heron*

"A fairly regular migrant, but hardly common. Flocks ranging up to sixty individuals are still seen occasionally in both migrations...occasionally one is fortunate enough to find a flock resting on the beach..." *Canada goose*

"During the three years mentioned none were seen. In 19-2 four were seen; none in 19-3; but since then it has been of regular occurrence." *Wood duck*

"This is the commonest of the larger ducks, if, indeed it is not the commonest of all ducks." *American black duck*

They "reach the marshes...about the first of March...are common during the most of March, thinning out decidedly with the approach of warm weather and all but stragglers are gone by the middle of April. Individuals are occasionally seen in June and July, but if any breed, there is no other evidence than such irregular occurrence gives." *Mallard*

"Our commonest larger hawk..." *Red-shouldered hawk*

"On April 29, 19-7...the numbers were too great to be counted. These...were near the ground when first seen, but rapidly ascended in spirals, all the while moving nearly parallel to the lake shore in an easterly direction." *Broad-winged hawk*

"Formerly common over the whole area, but has been extinct for at least forty years." *Wild turkey*

"During the migrations single individuals may be found practically anywhere out of the woods. I have met them along roadsides, in barn yards, about small field ponds, in the marshes, and along the sand spit. Away from the wet places the single birds are usually no more wary than a hen." *King rail*

"Several pairs were found breeding...in 19-3..." *Piping plover*

"In straightaway flight the actions of a flock somewhat resemble pigeons in flight. In fact, more than once I have had an elderly man who had been familiar with the Passenger Pigeons in their palmy days remark, upon seeing a considerable flock of these birds, 'There goes a flock of Pigeons.'" *Killdeer*

"The presence of this gull...has been suspected, but it has not been until the more recent intensive studies...that positive proof of its regular occurrence has been obtained. It is clearly much less common than the Herring Gull. None have been observed in winter, and none during June and July." *Ring-billed gull*

"In the sense that it is present at all times of the year it is a resident if the proviso is added that it does not breed in the region. The birds found in summer are clearly not breeding birds." *Herring gull*

"In favorable summers I have counted upwards of twenty pairs...The birds are courageous in the defense of their eggs and young, even striking the head of the intruder." *Black tern*

"Accounts which I have been able to gather seem to agree substantially that most of the flights were in a northerly and southerly direction, which would indicate that the birds crossed the lake. It would hardly seem possible that so vast a company could turn abruptly in either direction upon reaching the lake without influencing the direction of flight of those as far inland as twelve miles." *Passenger pigeon*

"On April 29 and May 13, 19-7, [they] were in such numbers on the sand spit that an accurate count was impossible." *Whip-poor-will*

On "...May 13, 19-7...upwards of thirty were counted along the middle reaches of the sand spit...Four specimens were collected, all of which were exceedingly fat." *Olive-sided flycatcher*

"Nests are regularly destroyed by men and boys, on the plea that the birds kill chickens, and even young pigs and lambs, and that they are witches!" *Loggerhead shrike*

On "...March 7, 19-3, the birds were moving eastward parallel to the lake shore over an area more than half a mile in width and from a few feet above the ground to a height of 300 feet. The migration stream was almost continuous from 9 a.m., when I arrived...and was still in progress unabated when I left at 4:20 p.m. ...A number of counts...were made at widely different times, which resulted in an average of 130 birds passing per minute. There were thus over 50,000 passing during the period of my stay." *American crow*

"On but two occasions have I seen anything like a great migration wave, and then in the middle of March after two weeks of unfavorable weather. Then the woods near the lake shore were filled with [them, and they] seemed to be moving eastward along the lake in bands of several hundred each." *Eastern bluebird*

"On May 13, 19-7, when the greatest migration of small birds that I have ever witnessed was in full swing, this warbler literally swarmed over the...sand spit from one end to the other. There was no estimating the numbers." *Chestnut-sided warbler*

"On the days of heavy migration...this warbler seems to start up from every bunch of grass all along the five miles or more of open beach." *Palm warbler*

"A bird...was listened to and seen at close range on May 14 and 17, 19-9, on the sand spit at the eastern end of the telephone line. The bird was first seen on the wires where it was singing lustily...I made determined efforts to secure the specimen on both occasions, but its good angel intervened." *Bachman's sparrow*

By now, it's hoped most of you have at least narrowed the location down to a Lake Erie site, and so it is. In fact, you may still bird portions of it today—it is the Cedar Point sand spit, in Erie County. The author was Prof. Lynds Jones of Oberlin College, and the articles appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin* in 1909 and 1910, representing Jones's and his colleagues' findings for the area mostly during the decade 1900-1909.

To say the area has changed would be an understatement, and all in a span of less than a hundred years. Although the peninsula is still more than seven miles in length, the habitats on the sand spit have been changed radically, and the extensive cattail marshes that once stretched for half the distance between the spit and the mainland are now mostly a memory. When we bird Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve today, we are birding at the former eastern end of the sand spit known to Prof. Jones.

During this period, Jones divided the spit into three areas: the Bar, the Dunes, and the Ridge. The narrow Bar section ran some 4.75 miles from the mainland, and was covered with "straggling individual trees, none of any considerable size." However, along the entire length of the marsh border was a growth of bushes, mostly willow and buttonbush, which served as a natural corridor for migrating birds. Heading west out the spit for the next two miles was the Dune section, covered with larger trees (mostly cottonwoods), underbrush, and a variable width of grass-covered dunes, the highest of which, according to Francis and Francis's *Cedar Point—The Queen of American Watering Places* (1988), reached 27 feet. The furthest mile of the spit was known as the Ridge, and expanded to one-half mile in width, covered in a dense deciduous and cedar forest. The Ridge section's distance from the mainland, combined with the thick vegetation, made a natural migrant trap of outstanding character. According to Jones, the spit's "great length as compared with its width causes a crowding of birds all along the western half during the great days of migration, such a crowding, in fact, that every species is found in normally impossible places." Sounds good to me.

But of course the Cedar Point peninsula has seen some development since the days of Prof. Jones. Actually, a modest beer-garden resort had already existed on a small portion of the Ridge section as early as the 1870s. The Cedar Point Pleasure Resort, situated a mile east of the tip, attracted more free-spenders in the late 1880s. The Grand Pavilion was built in 1888, and although the first semblance of a roller-coaster was installed in 1892, rides and amusement attractions did not become an area attraction until the period from 1905 to 1920. Instead, the resort was best known for its bathing beaches, dining, and various stage productions. With a daily attendance sometimes reaching 10,000 by the early 1900s, expansion was inevitable. The lagoons were dug into the Ridge section west of the Pavilion in 1904, expanding into previously undeveloped natural areas. In 1905, the famous Breakers Hotel opened, hosting celebrities ranging from several US Presidents to John Philip Sousa, John D. Rockefeller, and Annie Oakley. But keep in mind that everyone visiting the resort arrived by water—Henry Ford hadn't introduced his Model-T until 1908. With the advent of the auto, resort owners soon recognized the need for a permanent roadway serving the area. Thus, in 1914 the "Chaussee" was opened, stretching from the mainland to nearly three-fourths the distance of the entire peninsula. This, of course, paved the way for development of the rest of the area, and although substantial development of the Bar section did not occur until the 1950s, the damage had been done.

One more quote from Prof. Jones: "There seems little reasonable doubt that a continuous study of the birds [of the Point]... would result in the discovery of species which have hitherto eluded observation, and would discover movements as yet hardly suspected." Based on the developments he must have witnessed, I suspect Prof. Jones had more than an inkling of what was to become of his precious birding haven, and his determination to establish its grandeur in the historical record speaks for itself. Crusader for a cause or not, his articles speak eloquently of what was and what might again be, if given the chance. I'm not holding my breath, but it seems a lot can happen in a hundred years. *A Paradise Mislaid. I'm sure we must have put it somewhere for safekeeping—if we could only remember where...*

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Eurasian Collared-Dove: The Next New Ohio Species?

by Joseph W. Hammond

Paralleling the American Birding Association's recent forecasts of new bird species for North America, Ohio birders have speculated which species were most likely to be discovered next in our state. In a recent debate on one of Ohio's Internet discussion groups, several active and knowledgeable birders shared opinions on the Buckeye State's next additions to the official checklist. Many species were mentioned, and none of the forecasts was without merit. Although predicting bird occurrences is like trying to gauge the outside weather from within a cave, a clear trend emerged—Columbids were very popular candidates for imminent arrival. Eurasian collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, white-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*, and common ground-dove *Columbina passerina* appeared on many lists, mainly due to the family's tendency for wandering and recent records in nearby states and provinces. Often, Eurasian collared-dove topped the list of anticipated arrivals. Ohio birders still have to wait for one dove species, but the other two foreseen have become realities. On 5 November 1999, Jared Mizanin discovered the first new addition to the official checklist since the online tarot reading in the form of a common ground-dove in Cuyahoga County (Mizanin 2000). Then, Rosalyn Rinehart discovered the next new Ohio species by finding a white-winged dove in Logan County on 10 June 2000 (see related article in this issue). To date, the only species added to the Ohio checklist since these predictions have been doves—Columbids expected by Ohio birders. This leaves us with only one—the Eurasian collared-dove.

Eurasian Collared-Doves, Past and Present

The Eurasian collared-dove is a recent invader into North America. Native to the Indian subcontinent, this species at first expanded its range fairly slowly over the course of several hundred years until it began to blitzkrieg Europe in the 1930s (Smith 1987, Youth 1998). There, the birds began a rapid expansion, taking the continent by storm. By 1952 they had reached Great Britain, and began to nest there just three years later (Smith 1987, Youth 1998). They reached Iceland by 1971, and by the early 1980s the population in West Germany exceeded a million (Cramp and Simmons 1985, as cited in Smith 1987). Although the population in northwestern Europe seems to be at equilibrium, Eurasian collared-doves are still expanding their range northeast into the former Soviet republics and to the southwest (Smith 1987).

Eurasian collared-dove dispersal tends to occur in the spring and generally moves in a westward direction; however, there are differing opinions as to whether the dispersers are adults looking for nest sites away from an already saturated area (Smith 1987) or year-old birds looking to establish new territories (Youth 1998). At any rate, dispersing individuals tend to establish new colonies several hundred miles away from their originating points. As time goes by, other dispersing individuals fill in the range gap created by the original wanderers.

In the early 1970s, a bird breeder in Nassau, Bahamas received a delivery of doves supposed to be domestic (ringed) turtle-doves *Streptopelia 'risoria'*. Instead, the breeder received Eurasian collared-doves. In December 1974, several teenagers broke into the breeder's aviary looking for parakeets, and in the process released some of the Eurasian collared-doves. This discouraged the breeder and caused him to release the

remaining doves, bringing the total number of escaped prisoners to approximately 50 (Smith 1987). These 50 doves quickly bred and expanded their range in the Bahamas, and at some point during the late 1970s spread their wings, pointed themselves west, and headed to the Sunshine State.

It is unknown when Eurasian collared -doves first occurred in Florida because of the confusion between this species and the commonly -kept ringed turtle-dove (domestic strain of the African collared-dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*). No pre-1990 North American field guides illustrated the Eurasian collared -dove, instead illustrating the ringed turtle-dove, then considered established near St. Petersburg, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Because of this oversight, immigrant Eurasian collared-doves were at first passed off as ringed turtle-doves. It is certain, though, that Eurasian collared-doves were nesting near Homestead, Florida by 1982 (Smith and Kale 1986). Throughout the 1980s they spread across peninsular Florida, reaching outposts as far away as Tampa by 1986.

Dispersing Eurasian collared-doves continued their march north and west in the 1990s, crossing state lines and putting hundreds of miles between them and their source population. In 1992, the American Birding Association removed ringed turtle-dove from its official checklist, having determined there were "no self-sustaining populations of this 'species' ... anywhere in North America" (DeBenedictis 1994). Essentially, ringed-turtle dove populations once considered established were declining (due in Florida to competition from expanding Eurasian collared-doves), were highly dependent on feeding by humans, and needed bolstering from additional releases to sustain themselves. With the ringed turtle-dove's removal from the checklist, a new species, the Eurasian collared-dove, took its place among North American's avifauna with a vote of 7-0 (DeBenedictis 1994).

Eurasian collared-doves are now common to abundant in Florida, Louisiana, east Texas, and Montgomery, Alabama (Youth 1998). The species has been reported and/or recorded in at least 32 states and three Canadian provinces thus far, and—closer to Ohio—is on the official state lists of Illinois, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. It has also been reported in New York, and sightings from 1999 and 2000 are currently under review by the Indiana and Kentucky bird records committees. In effect, there is a donut of Eurasian collared-dove records around Ohio and we are the left-over hole. In fact, Eurasian collared-doves are nesting as close as Kentucky and Illinois. As of 20 July 2000, four "established" colonies were present in Kentucky—seven birds in Graves County, five birds in Todd County, and an unknown number of birds in both Ballard and Fulton Counties (Kentucky Bird Line, 20 July 2000). In Joliet, Illinois, there is a sizeable colony of Eurasian collared-doves, ringed turtle-doves, and their hybrids (Youth 1998). The Illinois population could be the source for future establishments in states to its north and west; however, the Kentucky population may well be that from which Ohio adds its first Eurasian collared-dove to the official state checklist.

Identifying Eurasian Collared-Doves

With the burgeoning population of Eurasian collared-doves in North America, Ohio birders need to be aware of their imminent occurrence and what to look for. First, observers should concentrate on the general aspects of the species in order to determine if there is the possibility of Eurasian collared-dove. Eurasian collared-doves

are light-colored with larger, fuller bodies than mourning doves *Zenaida macroura* and have slightly shorter, squared-off tails. They are also smaller and slimmer than rock doves *Columba livia*, but have proportionately longer tails. If a bird matching this general description is observed, it may well pay off to investigate it further.

Given a decent look, collared doves are easily distinguishable from mourning and rock doves. (Unhyphenated, "collared dove" indicates a dove with a collar as opposed to an individual species of "collared-dove".) The confusion lies in separating Eurasian collared-dove and ringed turtle-dove. Both species have light-colored bodies and a dark crescent (the collar) on the nape. There are strains of ringed turtle-dove, however, which lack dark collars. In addition, there are various color -morphs ranging from snow white to tangerine (Smith 1987). In this discussion we will focus on the more common, original (fawn) phenotype of ringed turtle-dove. Ringed turtle-doves are smaller and slimmer than the robust Eurasian collared-doves, with body proportions akin to a mourning dove, except that they have shorter tails. Ringed turtle-doves tend to be creamy-white in color with a hint of tan, whereas a Eurasian collared-dove is "pale sandy brown with [a] buffy gray neck, head, [and] underparts" (Smith 1987). These characteristics are somewhat subjective in nature in the field and if a lone bird is observed, it might be difficult to ascertain size and relative color.

There are, however, other characteristics defining Eurasian collared-doves and these require seeing the bird's wings and undertail. When perched, a Eurasian collared-dove's primaries will appear very dark brown to almost black, contrasting strongly with the sandy-colored wing coverts (Photo 1). A ringed turtle-dove's primaries will appear to be not much darker, but more silvery than the wing coverts (Photo 2). In flight or while stretching, a Eurasian collared-dove will exhibit a three-toned wing pattern on the upper surface. Its sandy shoulder area is separated from the dark primaries by a silvery patch at the wrist (greater and lesser primary coverts) (Blackshaw 1988). On the other hand, a ringed turtle-dove shows a uniformly-colored or slightly two-toned pattern to the upper wing because the primaries are only slightly darker than the secondaries and wing coverts (Photo 3).

The undertail coverts of the species differ markedly. On a Eurasian collared-dove, this area will appear grayish, similar to the rest of the bird's underparts (Photo 1). A ringed turtle-dove's undertail coverts are white, sometimes contrasting with the rest of the bird's underparts (Photo 4). Both species have dark portions to the undersides of the tail feathers extending out from the body. On a Eurasian collared-dove, this dark area reaches approximately to the tip of the undertail coverts (Photo 1). On a ringed turtle-dove, this area tends to not even approach the tip of the undertail coverts (Photo 4). In addition, the outer webs of the outer tail feathers are diagnostic. This area is mostly dark on a Eurasian collared-dove (Photo 1) and mostly white on a ringed turtle-dove (Photo 4).

The white border surrounding the black collar on Eurasian collared-doves is variable in thickness, often difficult to observe in the field, and varies in appearance depending on viewing conditions. Although the presence of a prominent white border is sometimes mentioned as a field characteristic of Eurasian collared-dove (e.g., the 1987 National Geographic Society *Field Guide to North American Birds*), it should not be used as a basis for identification. In fact, the ringed turtle -dove photographed for this article had a fairly noticeable white border around its black collar.

Another distinguishing trait of the Eurasian collared-dove is its call/song, which is given while perched. Smith (1987) described it as a series of unrolled "kuk-koouooooo-kook"s with brief pauses between the individual phrases. The ringed turtle-dove's call/



Photo 1. This Eurasian collared-dove furnished Missouri with its first record. Note the dark primaries, gray undertail coverts, dark undertail area reaching the tip of the undertail coverts, and dark outer webs of the outer tail feathers. Photo by Paul Johnson, St. Louis, MO.



Photo 2. When perched, a ringed turtle-dove's primaries will appear to be only slightly darker than the wing coverts. They sometimes have a silvery cast. Photo by Joe Hammond.



Photo 3. During flight or while stretching, a ringed turtle-dove's upperwings will appear one-colored or slightly two-toned (like the above). This is in contrast to the Eurasian collared-dove's three-toned wing pattern. Photo by Joe Hammond.

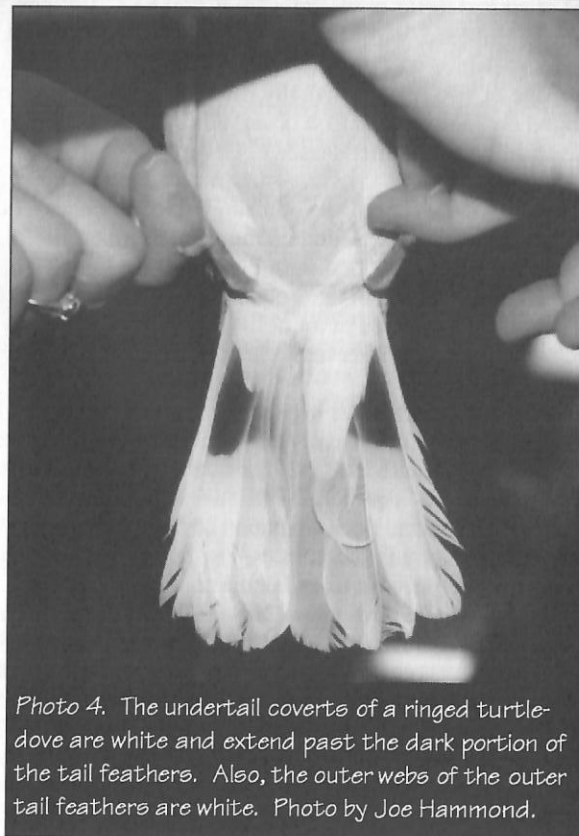


Photo 4. The undertail coverts of a ringed turtle-dove are white and extend past the dark portion of the tail feathers. Also, the outer webs of the outer tail feathers are white. Photo by Joe Hammond.

song was described as a rolled “kooeek-krrrrroooooo(aw)” with longer pauses between phrases (Smith 1987). The call/song of the Eurasian collared-dove can be heard on the Internet at <<http://www2.birdersworld.com/birders/birdaudio/collareddove/collareddove.html>>. Additionally, the call notes of these species differ. Although ringed turtle-doves give their call notes while perched, Eurasian collared-doves do this only while in flight and while landing. The Eurasian collared-dove’s call note is a harsh one-note scream which sounds somewhat like a loud gray catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*. The ringed turtle-dove’s call notes are soft, repeated laughing sounds.

Behavior can also be a clue toward identifying collared doves. If the bird allows a close approach, it is probably a ringed turtle-dove. If the bird seems wary and flies away at the slightest sign that someone is getting close, it is probably a Eurasian collared-dove. Again, these characteristics are just clues. One cannot base an identification solely on the approachability of the bird in question.

Recent Collared Dove Reports in Ohio

Because ringed turtle-doves are commonly kept in captivity and occasionally escape from or are released by their owners, collared dove reports are not new to Ohio birders. Prior to the advance of the Eurasian collared-dove in the United States, these reports were almost always known to involve ringed turtle-doves. The first well-known Ohio record of ringed turtle-dove came from Wayne County on 3-6 September 1965. The observer, L. Hubbard, was able to obtain a photo of this bird. Ten years later, another ringed turtle-dove was documented in Cleveland on 11 August 1975 by O. Davies. In 1980, one of two reports actually involved an attempted nesting in the Dayton area. A ringed turtle-dove was first observed on 11 March and remained in the area throughout the spring and summer seasons. Unfortunately for the turtle-dove, its chosen nest companion was a genus-crossing mourning dove and no eggs or young were produced. The other 1980 report was of a single bird in Lucas County on 15 August. Three ringed turtle-doves were tallied on the 19 December 1982 Lakewood Christmas Bird Count, furnishing the first multiple report for Ohio. This record did not last, however, as six birds nested in the Toledo area in 1984 before leaving in December. Finally, a single bird lingered at a Lucas County feeder from 6 January-1 October 1985 and another single was observed in Lorain County from early August-September 1990.

Recently, collared dove reports have piqued the interests of many Ohio birders due to the fact that a new species could be involved. To date, however, none of these recent reports have conclusively confirmed that Eurasian collared-doves have ever occurred in Ohio. This is not to say this species has never been found here, but that factors involved in the observation and documentation of these doves have lent themselves to ambiguous interpretations. Oftentimes, key features are poorly seen or not seen at all, resulting in dove observations indeterminable as to species. In June 1998, Ella Perkins photographed an odd bird at her Carroll County feeder. This photograph was posted to the “Birding News Around Ohio” website managed by Vic Fazio, and several people offered opinions on the identity of the bird. Based on color, shape, and proportions relative to the adjacent mourning dove, it was determined that this sighting involved a ringed turtle-dove. It was much too white for a Eurasian collared-dove and did not appear any larger than the mourning dove. In addition, its shape seemed about the same as the mourning dove. These features rule out the larger, stockier, and browner Eurasian collared-dove.

In July 1999, a collared dove appeared at a dairy farm in Adams County and stayed for approximately seven days. This bird was originally identified as a ringed turtle-dove by the property owners and they eventually notified ODNR’s Martin McAllister. He was able to view the bird several times and, based on field marks and call, identified it as a Eurasian collared-dove. Although McAllister had no previous experience with either species, it was a cooperative bird and allowed excellent looks, permitting him to make a most-likely correct identification. By the time McAllister was able to take another observer to the location and ask if the property owners would agree to having this sighting spread throughout the birding community, the bird had disappeared. Unfortunately, this sighting was not documented for the Ohio Bird Records Committee, and therefore the species was not added to the official state list.

Another collared dove photograph was posted to the “Birding News Around Ohio” website on 30 December 1999, and once again opinions were offered. This bird, found by Blayne Hoerner and Paul Murray, visited a yard just west of downtown Cleveland for two days in November 1999 and a photograph was taken. Unfortunately, the photograph was inconclusive as to which species was involved. In a subsequent interview, the observers stated that the bird was no larger than a mourning dove (“Birding News Around Ohio” website, December 1999).

The most recent collared dove report, which was submitted to the Ohio Bird Records Committee, involved a bird in Washington County. There, Julie Zickefoose described a single light-colored collared dove flying past her on 26 March 2000. Unfortunately, the conditions and brevity of the sighting prevented the observer from noting the distinctive undertail pattern and produced several ambiguities. Although no mourning doves were flying with the collared dove to provide a direct size comparison, the collared dove appeared 1/3 larger than this experienced observer’s mental image of a mourning dove. Several mourning doves flew past once the collared dove had gone and she stated that the mourning doves appeared smaller than the just-seen collared dove. This size reference would seem to indicate Eurasian collared-dove. On the other hand, plumage characteristics of the upperparts did not seem consistent with Eurasian collared-dove. According to the observer, the upperparts were a “pale bluish-gray” color fading to “pinkish-buff below.” In addition, the primaries and secondaries were described as only “slightly slatier” than the remainder of the upperparts. These characteristics are more indicative of ringed turtle-dove. Lighting could have been a factor in judging color tones of this bird and a brief sighting such as this limits one’s ability to study thoroughly the bird’s details. So, this could very well have been a Eurasian collared-dove, but circumstances prevented it from being conclusively identified. With these reasons in mind, the Ohio Bird Records Committee did not accept this sighting as Ohio’s first Eurasian collared-dove.

Conclusion

Although Eurasian collared-dove reports remain enigmatic in Ohio, birders throughout the state should be aware of their imminent arrival and be ready to do what needs to be done to add this species to the official Ohio checklist. Now that Eurasian collared-doves have been in North America for at least 20 years and have been spreading with all the vigor exhibited in Europe during the 1930s, the chances of a collared dove seen in Ohio being a Eurasian collared-dove are much greater than those for ringed turtle-dove. Any collared dove seen in Ohio should be documented and submit-

ted to the Ohio Bird Records Committee for review with the following points in mind: 1) A picture is worth a thousand words. Photographs showing the bird's upperparts and wingtips while perched, the outstretched wing showing the color patterns, and the underparts showing the undertail coverts and rectrices would provide necessary details for species identification; 2) A recording of the bird's call/song or call note is worth a whole lot more than the picture; 3) Both pictures and recordings at the same time would be priceless. (With the increasing affordability of video cameras, rare bird documentation can be taken to new levels. A video camera allows a better zoom, especially held up to the eyepiece of a spotting scope, provides evidence of behavior, and can capture any sound the bird might make. All the operator has to do is push the record button.) Many readers are probably uttering foul words at this point. Do not fret. If a birder has a collared dove in view and no camera or tape recorder available, detailed notes and sketches will suffice. The key factors involved in separating Eurasian collared-doves from ringed turtle-doves are size, shape, overall color, primary color, wing pattern, undertail covert color, undertail pattern, and call. Noting these will go a long way toward identifying the bird and adding a new species to the Ohio list.

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The Breeding Birds of Sandy Ridge Reservation

by Sean T. Zadar and Ted Gilliland

Sandy Ridge Reservation (SRR) is a mitigated wetland located in the northeast corner of Lorain County, and part of the Lorain County Metro Parks. Opened to the public in Fall 1999, the approximately 310-acre wildlife preserve offers habitat for a variety of forest and wetland avifauna. To the north, a gravel path guides visitors southward through a seasonally flooded oak/maple forest that attracts several breeding species from the neotropics, including Acadian flycatcher, great crested flycatcher, yellow-throated vireo, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, ovenbird, and rose-breasted grosbeak (see Table for complete list). Further south, the forest gives way to a diked wetland of over 100 acres. Here a trail atop the dikes grants access to the wetland, and a centrally located observation mound provides a panoramic view of the surroundings.



At Sandy Ridge, the wetland is the center of avian activity. Throughout migration an assortment of waterfowl frequents the area, on occasion arriving on the scene in good numbers. Eight northern shovelers, for example, were reported here for spring of 2000 (*The Cleveland Bird Calendar* 96:2). Other waterfowl using SRR as a stopover site include wood duck, American black duck, mallard, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, American wigeon, ring-necked duck, hooded merganser, ruddy duck, and American coot. Shorebird movements in the area, on the other hand, have been rather unremarkable, with only a smattering of sightings, mostly of greater and lesser yellowlegs, killdeer, and spotted sandpipers.

During a breeding bird survey between 7 June and 19 July 2000, 64 avian species were recorded in the forest and wetland regions. The survey was conducted along the main trails and restricted-access trail with permission (Table). Standard point counts were conducted during seven scheduled weekly visits involving 22.8 hours and 14 foot miles. As a supplement, spot mapping was implemented to plot out the approximate territories of selected species such as least bittern, American bittern, Virginia rail, sora, and marsh wren. The census discovered two summering ruddy duck males and two nesting pairs. Peterjohn in *The Birds of Ohio* (1989) calls this species a rare but regular summer resident along west-



Table. Results of the 2000 breeding bird census at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain County, Ohio. Data were collected on a weekly basis between 7 June and 19 July. Numbers indicate singing males or mated pairs.

Pied-billed Grebe	6	Great Crested Flycatcher	3
Least Bittern	2	Yellow-throated Vireo	2
American Bittern	1	Red-eyed Vireo	5
Green Heron	2	Warbling Vireo	4
Canada Goose	7	Blue Jay	4
Wood Duck	2	Tree Swallow	3
Mallard	8	N. Rough-winged Swallow	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	Barn Swallow	2
Hooded Merganser	1	Tufted Titmouse	3
Ruddy Duck	2	Black-capped Chickadee	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	House Wren	2
Virginia Rail	2	Marsh Wren	6
Sora	5	Eastern Bluebird	2
Common Moorhen	2	Wood Thrush	3
American Coot	6	American Robin	4
Killdeer	2	Gray Catbird	3
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Brown Thrasher	1
Mourning Dove	1	European Starling	1
Great Horned Owl ^a	1	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Yellow Warbler	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Ovenbird	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	Common Yellowthroat	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Scarlet Tanager	2
Northern Flicker	1	Eastern Towhee	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	Song Sparrow	10
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Swamp Sparrow	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Northern Cardinal	3
Willow Flycatcher	2	Indigo Bunting	1
Eastern Phoebe	1	Red-winged Blackbird	10
Eastern Kingbird	2	Baltimore Oriole	4

^aActive nest observed prior to breeding bird census during April.

ern Lake Erie, and an accidental to casual summer visitor within other glaciated counties. In early July, park personnel observed immature ruddy ducks on the property. Another wetland specialty, pied-billed grebes were consistently observed, for Sandy Ridge offers suitable habitat in the form of scattered open water and rich emergent vegetation, predominantly cattails and sedges. Six pairs of pied-billed grebes produced at least 35 young, and during July their presence was ubiquitous.

Least bitterns and American bitterns were a major attraction for birdwatchers at Sandy Ridge during the period. Two pairs of least bitterns were seen in June and July, with a pair occupying a cattail fragment west of the observation mound, and another pair along the eastern perimeter within emergent vegetation. During late May, five American bitterns had been observed, but in June excessive rain inundated a section of principal habitat, which may account for the numerical reduction in this species through June and July, in which only one pair remained.



In early June, park personnel noted the presence of Cerulean warblers and American redstarts near a river that snakes through a secluded western section of the forest. This area did not fall within the range of the census and it is unclear if these species were summer residents or late migrants. A brief search to ascertain their status in early July was unsuccessful. Another possible breeder, a male prothonotary warbler, sang vigorously in late May and early June, prior to the commencement of the census. Subsequent scheduled visits yielded no prothonotary, and it is assumed the male was unable to attract a mate and consequently moved out of the area.

Sandy Ridge Reservation is located in the city of North Ridgeville, in Lorain County. From I-90, exit to SR 83 (exit 153) and head south. Turn west onto SR 254, then south onto Case Rd. Turn east onto Otten Rd, and the entrance to SRR will be found on the left side of the road. From northbound SR 83, turn west onto US 20; turn north onto Case Rd, then east on Otten Rd.

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All photographs appearing in this article were taken at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co., by Sean T. Zadar.

The New AOU Changes: A Report

Every two years, the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union issues Supplements to the AOU's *Check-list of North American Birds*. These reports often include official announcements of name changes (both English and scientific), additions and occasional deletions of species in the Check-list, and, revisions in the phylogenetic order of birds and other taxonomical matters, among them some dear to birders, such as lumps and splits. The American Birding Association's Checklist Committee, among other deliberative bodies, more or less routinely follows the AOU's lead in such changes to our understanding of the avifauna of the continent, as does this publication.

These Supplements appear in the Union's journal *The Auk*, most recently in the July 2000 issue. Having studied this 42nd Supplement to the *Check-list*, we offer here in brief form some of the news most significant to Ohio birders. The supplement in all its detail appears on pp 847-859 of the July 2000 issue of *The Auk*, which for non-subscribers is probably most easily seen at your nearest university library. The list itself is widely available on the Internet, as at <<http://pica.wru.umt.edu/AOU/birdlist.html>>. The AOU concerns itself with the 2023 species of North America, but here we will cover only significant changes directly involving species now on the much smaller (918) checklist of the ABA.

In its own summary, the 42nd Supplement states that three species are added to the main list because verified as occurring in the AOU Area (two of them in the ABA Area), that 11 species are added as a result of splits (in the ABA Area three), that four species are changed in name and one added by splits from now extralimital forms (two in the ABA Area), four scientific names are changed by generic reallocation (two are ABA birds), one scientific name (of an ABA bird) is changed for nomenclatural reasons, five scientific names are changed in spelling for grammatical reasons (three of them ABA birds), one English name is changed (of an ABA species), one is changed by removing an unwanted modifier, five are changed as a result of splits (two of them birds of the ABA Area), and seven species are added to the Appendix (three as a result of ABA-Area occurrences). Here then are the promised pieces of news for ABA-Area species:

- ✓ Chinese pond-heron *Ardeola bacchus* is added based on its occurrence 4-9 Aug 1996 in Alaska. Insert before the genus *Butorides* in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ Yellow-throated bunting *Emberiza elegans* is added based on its occurrence 25 May 1998 in Alaska. Insert after *E. rustica* in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ Nazca booby *Sula granti* is split from masked booby *S. dactylatra*; some old sight records of the latter in the western US may pertain to the former. Insert after *S. dactylatra* in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ Gunnison sage-grouse *Centrocercus minimus* is split from "sage grouse," the nominate species becoming greater sage-grouse *C. urophasianus*. Insert *C. minimus* after *C. urophasianus* in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ Arizona woodpecker *Picoides arizonae*, the familiar but newly renamed form of SE Arizona, is split from the extralimital Strickland's woodpecker *P. stricklandi*. Insert Arizona woodpecker before Strickland's in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ "Stripe-headed tanager" *Spindalis zena* is split into four species; the only one of them confirmed as having occurred in the ABA Area is nominate *S. zena*, with the new English name western spindalis.

- ✓ Crested caracara *Caracara plancus* is split into three species. Only one occurs in the ABA Area; it retains the English name crested caracara, but as *C. plancus* is reserved for a now-extralimital form, the split species found in the ABA Area takes the new scientific name *C. cheriway*.
- ✓ Black-billed magpie is split from the Eurasian magpie *Pica pica*, and takes the new scientific name *P. hudsonia*, while retaining its English name.
- ✓ The genus *Catharacta* (skuas) is merged into *Stercorarius* (jaegers), so the ABA species great skua becomes *Stercorarius skua*, and south polar skua becomes *S. maccormacki*.
- ✓ The scientific name of juniper titmouse is changed to *Baeolophus ridgwayi*.
- ✓ The scientific names of three chickadees are changed: black-capped becomes *Poecile atricapilla*, gray-headed becomes *P. cincta*, and boreal becomes *P. hudsonica*.
- ✓ The English name of *Clangula hyemalis* is changed from oldsquaw to long-tailed duck*.
- ✓ Three species thought possibly to have occurred in the ABA Area are added to the Appendix: Swinhoe's storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis*, marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, and silver gull *Larus novaehollandiae*.
- ✓ Bullock's oriole *Icterus bullockii* is moved to follow *I. pustulatus* in the *Check-list*.
- ✓ An occurrence of Cuban martin *Progne cryptoleuca* is recognized for 9 May 1895 in Florida, thus in the ABA Area.

In addition, it is reported that the Committee continues consideration of certain actions: splitting herald petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana*, splitting Townsend's shearwater *Puffinus auricularis*, splitting whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, splitting northern pygmy-owl *Glaucidium gnoma*, subsuming winter wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* into the genus *Nannus*, splitting Brewer's sparrow *Spizella breweri*, and splitting white-winged crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*. This is apparently only a partial list of actions under consideration.

In the end, none of the changes announced adds to or subtracts from Ohio's checklist. Only three name changes, two in Latin and one in English, affect Ohio birds at all, but we have quite a few to make note of in our ABA Area lists.

* *Ed. Note:* The Committee justifies its choice of a new name here at least in part by asserting that "long-tailed duck" is the "[English] name used for the species outside of North America," and the "[English] name that is use in much of the world." Notions of its alleged offensiveness aside, however, "oldsquaw" has a unique and memorable tang that "long-tailed duck" conspicuously lacks, and the change continues a trend of abandoning distinctive names for mass-produced ones.

If the AOU had merely wanted to dump "oldsquaw," it had a wide range of colorful vernacular English names from which to choose. Here's a list from a personal collection of such names for *C. hyemalis*: callow, old-wife, quandy, swallowtail duck, coween, old injun, calloo, cockawee, callithumpian duck, ha-ha-way, John Connelly, longtail, old Billy, old Molly, scoldenore, scolder, hell's chicken, jack-owly, uncle Huldy, south-southerly, candlelight, bag, barrel tit, barrel Tom, bellringer, boom-barrel, mammy-duck, bottlebird, bottle jug, bottle tit, bottle Tom, hound, bush-oven, caley tit, canbottle, copper longtail, churn, creak-mouse, old granny, organ duck, singing duck, dogtail, featherbed, featherpoke, fuffit, huck-muck, jack-in-a-bottle, Jackie-

bopeep, juffit, owl-omelet, kitty longtail, teet, winter duck, least titmouse, long-pod, long-tailed capon, long-tailed cheffin, mommy, longtailed chittering, longtailed creeper, longtailed farmer, longtailed kitten, longtailed mag, longtailed muffin, long-tailed pie, longtailed hareld, noisy duck, mealy miller'sthumb, mum-ruffin, nimble tailor, oven-bird, oven-builder, oven's nest, huck-muck, poke bag, pike pudding, pud-den-poke, pudding bag, creamy-ass, rose muffin, swing-tree, tree huck-muck, two-fingered tit, butterfly coot. Now there are some *names*.

LATE NOTE: In August, the British Ornithologists' Union issued a parallel report in their publication *The Ibis*. A summary is available on their website at <<http://www.bou.org.uk/recnews.html>>. Very briefly put, changes of interest to birders in North America include the long-anticipated split of green-winged teal, and reaffirmation of splits among certain shearwaters and *Pterodroma* petrels. These actions by the BOU give us reason to wonder if the AOU may adopt similar changes in times to come. *Bill Whan*

Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches in Dayton Suburb

In the winter of 1999/2000 I observed red-breasted nuthatches several times around my suburban home in Greene County. It is an older neighborhood with many evergreens 40 or more years old. Having heard that it was an invasion year, I didn't think their presence remarkable, but seeing them around did remind me of birding trips to the north. Around Memorial Day I noted a pair frequenting my feeder to get oil sunflower seeds, and figured they were just late migrants. On 19 June, however, I was getting into my car to go to work when I saw five birds on a scotch pine trunk about 15 feet away: three were fledglings giving food-begging cries, and two adult red-breasted nuthatches were feeding them. After watching the birds for some minutes, I ended up being late for a staff meeting.

I saw and heard the nuthatches several times after that, but never at such close range. Sometimes only one bird was present. They frequented the evergreens, and perhaps these afforded them a large foraging area in the neighborhood, as generally I saw them only every third day or so. My last observation was in late July, when I heard one in a large spruce tree in the area.

I consulted "The Birds of Dayton" (Dayton Audubon Society, 1984), which reported that an individual red-breasted nuthatch summered at the Bruckner Nature Center near Troy (Miami County) in 1980, and a pair came to a feeder in Dayton up to 2 June 1984. The species was regarded as a "rare to uncommon migrant and winter resident."

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Ohio's First White-winged Dove: Two Accounts

Little did I know of the excitement that was to be when I saw this unusual dove. On 10 June 2000, about 6 pm, I walked past the dining-room window and gave my customary glance out to the fly-through feeder, and was puzzled to see a dove inside. It was not our regular mourning dove. The white along the lower part of the wing, with a smaller "rim" of black below, was too different to ignore! On a second glance I saw it had a very distinctive dark mark on the lower cheek. Even though the bird was close by, about 12-15 feet away, I grabbed my binoculars and saw the bird's red eye, dark pink feet and larger dark bill. These observations then demanded I grab the bird book and look up doves, where I found an illustration and description of a white-winged dove, just like my dove. This cannot be, I thought: the map shows these doves are found only in lower Florida, New Mexico, Arizona, lower Texas, and Mexico. The next thing to grab was the telephone, to call Mary Mispion, one of the two most knowledgeable birders I know in Logan County, Rita Goeke being the other. After our phone conversation, I snapped two pictures of the dove in the locust tree about 15 feet from the feeder and just behind our sun porch. One photo did not have enough light, but the silhouette of a dove shows a tail not as pointed as that of a mourning dove. The second picture captured the white on the wing with dark below, but the head is not clear, nor does the white on the tail show.

Soon after the Mispions left, the phone started ringing—"I hear you have an unusual dove; is it still there?" and "Call me if it returns." I was sorry to have to say it had disappeared, heading west into a wooded area, never to be seen here again. My husband Charlie and I tried to entice it with a mixture of seeds and grain thrown in the feeder and on the ground, but only the regular mourning doves came to enjoy it. I thought we would see The Dove at least another day, but this was not to be.

Rosalyn Rinehart
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As much as I would have liked to take credit for discovering this bird, I did not. It was Rosalyn Rinehart who found the dove in her yard, identified it, took two photographs, and then called me. I ended up as the intermediary, the person who notified other bird people, and none too hopefully either. Unfortunately, my long-time birding partner Rita Goeke and I may have set the all-time record for repeatedly arriving just a few minutes too late at the scene of the best birding sighting of the year, and when Rosalyn called and said she had a strange bird in her yard with the mourning doves and she'd looked it up and was sure it was a white-winged dove, a pessimistic streak almost convinced me not to go to check it out.

It was close to seven o'clock on a Saturday night when the call came, and my daughter-in-law Kristin and my five-year old grandson Moses were waiting for my husband to come home from Mass so we could all go out to eat. Moses was quite hungry, and lest us know it. But when my husband arrived, he and the others, all of them birders mostly by osmosis—having taken me or gone birding with me various times—decided that in this case food could wait a bit, and off we went to Rosalyn's house.

Wise decision. The bird was actually still there. Rosalyn and her husband Charlie have a wonderful yard for bird-watching, with trees along its borders and scattered throughout. The yard itself is crowded with feeders, birdhouses, and breeding and feeding birds. A sunroom at the back of the house projects into the back yard, and it was from this room that we watched the dove. Rosalyn told us that when she'd first seen it the bird was in a fly-through feeder filled with black oil sunflower seeds, a feeder at eye level only twelve feet away and with an unobstructed view from the sunroom. The white in the bird's wings had been quite obvious at that distance, whereupon she'd checked her bird books for field marks, then taken photos. Finally sure of the ID, she'd called me.

When the four of us arrived the dove was not too high up in a locust tree close to the sunroom. From below the dove showed a square tail bordered with a wide white band. After flying from branch to branch in the locust, the dove flew to the top of the fly-through feeder and stood there long enough for us to get a really good look. We saw its red eye surrounded by bare blue skin, and especially the wide white band at the bottom of the folded wing, bordered narrowly with black on its lower edge. The bird had rosy-pink legs, and the normal bumped-on-the-end pigeon's beak. It looked as if it were posing. Kristina had Peterson's field guide and checked off the field marks as Rosalyn and I called them out to her. When the bird flew from the feeder, its back was toward us and the big white patches in the dark wings showed plainly. In flight the upper tail had dark central feathers, the shorter feathers tipped in white on either side giving the tail a fan shape. During the time we watched the dove made no sound, nor had Rosalyn heard any earlier. Its flight from the feeder into the trees at the edge of the yard was our last sight of the dove.

We all agreed we'd seen a white-winged dove, even though Ohio is far from its normal range, and we felt sure we should notify someone. None of us knew exactly whom. And there was the pressing problem of my ever-hungrier grandson. When the dove didn't reappear we came home, had dinner, and I called Doug Overacker in Springfield, but just got his answering machine. I had no idea of the status of the species in Ohio. I checked Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio*, my old, old Trautman, and the current Ohio checklist. None of them listed the dove. The next morning, with a little trepidation, I e-mailed Bill Whan, the editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*. There was a complication: only two weeks earlier I had sent him a letter reporting Rita and I had found a Hudsonian godwit at the St. Marys fish hatchery in May. Without the foggiest idea whether Rita and I were given to finding fabulous birds, he asked for and got a more precise description and was satisfied that even though this godwit is not a regular spring migrant in Ohio, in this case we had actually seen one. Now, I found myself about to e-mail him that Rosalyn has found not a bird merely out of its migratory path, but one totally out of its normal range for any season. Happily, his reaction was that I should buy a lottery ticket, not that I had found a supply of hallucinogens, and sent instructions for reporting the find to the Ohio Bird Records Committee and for alerting the state if the bird showed up again. We learned this would be the first official sighting of the white-winged dove in Ohio if the Committee accepted the documentation. Rosalyn filled out the necessary forms and had her photographs developed. Although neither is a close-up, one of the photographs, once enlarged, does show the white wing-patch.

There wasn't another definite sighting of the dove. Rosalyn and Charlie watched for it, and asked their neighbors to keep an eye out as well. Rita and I drove the roads in the vicinity, and talked to a nearby farmer, asking him to watch for the dove. Although the dove's appearance was brief, the bird was cooperative in staying close to the house and not flitting (do doves flit?) about so we all had a good look at it, including my grandson Moses, who, once fed, was quite pleased to have had a part in the whole thing.

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This species, whose normal range extends narrowly across the southernmost tier of US states, is a notorious wanderer, and has been on nearly everyone's list of the new species most likely to show up in Ohio. This year on 20 June it established a first record for Newfoundland, about 1500 miles from the nearest portion of its customary range (B. Dalzell), but this didn't amaze the locals, as there are already two confirmed records from still-more-distant Labrador! Closer to home, white-winged doves have been accepted on the official lists of Ontario, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois. —Ed.



The discovery of this white-winged dove in a Bellefontaine, Logan Co., yard on 10 June 2000 furnished Ohio with its first record. The diagnostic white wing patch can be seen in the center of this photo. Photo by Rosalyn Rinehart.

Black-crowned Night-Herons on Mill Creek

Black-crowned night-herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* (BCNH) have long been associated with the Mill Creek Valley in Cincinnati, Ohio. Many nestling BCNH were banded in the 1940s and 1950s at a large (approximately 200 pairs) historic colony on the West Fork of Mill Creek (Kemsies and Randle 1953, G. R. Austing, pers. comm.). This colony had disappeared by 1963, while another small colony of BCNH was present at Gilmore Ponds in Butler County in 1989 (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). The current Mill Creek colony is located 100 meters north of the Gest Street Bridge over Mill Creek, only 4 km from downtown Cincinnati. This is one of only three known colonies in the state of Ohio. The other two are located on Lake Erie on West Sister Island NWR and on a small island in Sandusky Bay. The closest established colony to that in Mill Creek is in Louisville, Kentucky.

Although lower Mill Creek flows through primarily industrial properties, there is a 2-km stretch of the creek bordered on the north by the Western Hills viaduct and on the south by 8th Street that contains some natural vegetation. In this section, 15 m along either side of the creek is wooded with small trees, predominantly cottonwood and silver maple. Beyond 15 m, the land is commercially developed. All the nests described below were located within a 50-m subsection at the southern end of this wooded area. Most nests were located 10-15 m high in cottonwood trees, either close to or hanging over the creek. This land is owned by the City of Cincinnati, and is near the Metropolitan Sewer District wastewater treatment plant.

BCNH usually return from their wintering grounds in early April to nest. Chicks normally hatch between late May and early June. By mid- to late July most chicks have fledged and there is little activity around the rookery. For this report, we defined an active nest as one with an incubating bird or young present.

1996—On 25 June, 21 active nests were seen.

1997—From 19 June to 16 July, a total of nine active nests were counted. In seven nests in which we were able to count young, there were an average of 2.3 bandable young per nest.

1998—On 22 April, six new or improved nests were counted. On 7 May, there were at least nine BCNH incubating at the site; however, by the end of May all the nests had been abandoned. On 23 June, fourteen adult BCNH and four active nests were discovered at Gilmore Ponds in Butler County, Ohio, 27 km north of the Mill Creek site; it seemed likely the Mill Creek colony had relocated there. During the spring and summer of 1998 the water levels at Gilmore Ponds were relatively high. Here in addition to the BCNH were 8-10 great egrets, three cattle egrets, and numerous great blue herons and green herons. On 26 June, a closer look at Gilmore Ponds revealed 18 active nests and 30 adult BCNH. Within the area of the BCNH colony were also two great egret nests that later failed. On 15 July, there were 10 BCNH nest with small chicks, and four other nests with incubating adults. Unfortunately, by 29 July the entire colony had failed due to predation on the chicks and a major windstorm that destroyed several nests and trees.

1999—No nests were detected at either Mill Creek or Gilmore Ponds, although there were several sightings of adult BCNH near the former location.

2000—On 10 April there were 13 birds and four new nests on the Mill Creek site. A re-check on 21 April after a spring windstorm found only one adult standing on the single remaining nest. On 25 May there were five active nests, and by 13 June all five had at least one chick.

The colony has existed at the Mill Creek site since at least 1986 (per Metropolitan Sewer District employees), and probably earlier than that. Although the period under consideration is relatively brief, it appears there may have been a decrease in the number of nesting pairs in recent years. Although it is possible that BCNH could be nesting somewhere else on Mill Creek, or at other sites such as Oxbow Lake in Indiana, no other colonies have been reported. Due to the urban nature of the area, this is certainly a very isolated and unique colony of night-herons. Because of the apparent decrease in nesting pairs, the next few years may be critical in determining the future of BCNH at this location.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

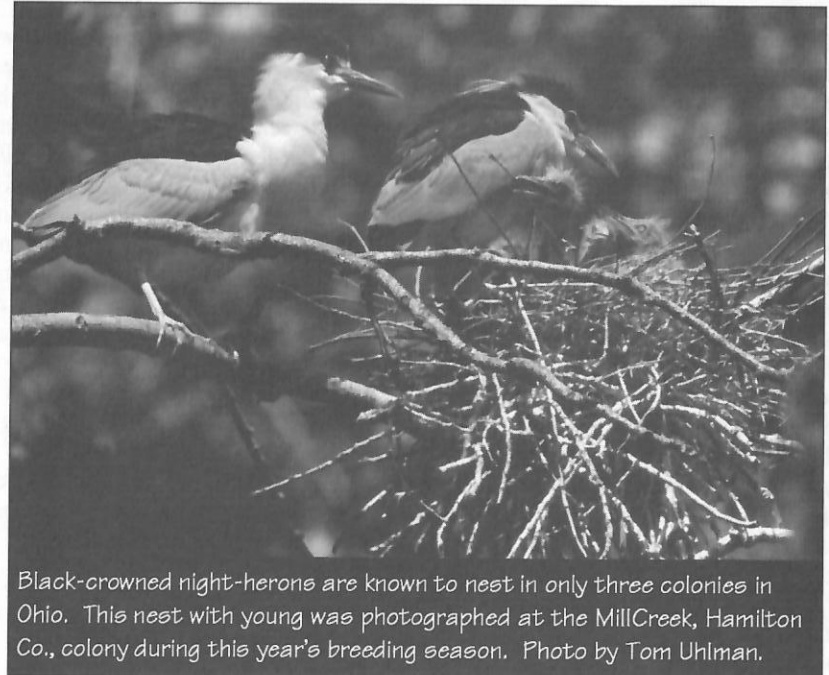
The authors are grateful to Dale Oppenheimer and the staff at the Metropolitan Sewer District for their interest and cooperation over the years.

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Black-crowned night-herons are known to nest in only three colonies in Ohio. This nest with young was photographed at the Mill Creek, Hamilton Co., colony during this year's breeding season. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Black-crowned Night-Herons at Merwin Street

One of the best places in northeastern Ohio to see Black-crowned night-herons (BCNH) is in the Flats area of Cleveland along the west bank of the Cuyahoga River between the Center St. and Columbus Rd. bridges. From a vantage point along Merwin St. on the opposite bank, you can scan up and down the river. Contrary to Peter-john's findings in *The Birds of Ohio* (1989) that only small groups of BCNH are seen in spring and fall migrations along central Lake Erie, this area often hosts double-digit numbers in April-May and again in September-November. In fact, I have counted 30-50 BCNH on numerous occasions in both seasons, with a high count of 100 on 8 April 1994.

Why do BCNH use this bend of the Cuyahoga as a staging area? I assume the reasons include an assured supply of food and the presence of habitat necessary for roosting birds. In addition, BCNH may have been using the banks of the river for a long time. Reports suggest that when General Moses Cleaveland arrived in 1796 he found swamps lining both sides of the river. Accounts written by early settlers describe clear water and abundant fish and wildlife. It seems logical that BCNH were here at that time, and likely long before the arrival of the settlers of the Western Reserve.

Today, from the Merwin St. vantage point on the east bank, you see across the river a hillside covered with vegetation from W. 25th St. down to the river's edge. You may have difficulty imagining that in the mid- to late 1800s a maze of 22 streets known as Irishtown Bend, the home of immigrants who worked nearby, covered this same area. Since the 1950s, as far back as I can remember, there hasn't been any permanent housing here. This situation will not last much longer, however, as development encroaches from the north. A sign advertising new condos for sale sits at the corner of Center and Riverbend Sts., only a stone's throw from Irishtown Bend.

The best time to see the Merwin St. night-herons is early in the morning, before they disappear into the thick cover on the west bank. Keep your eyes open, because you never know what else might put in an appearance, like the yellow-crowned night-heron of May 2000! This and nearby spots seem attractive to other interesting species, too, especially in winter: there are recent records of black-legged kittiwake, Iceland/California/lesser black-backed gulls, red-necked grebe in the immediate area, and five pomarine jaegers spent part of the spring of 1997 near the harbor entrance. You can access the Flats and Merwin St. in several ways. Here is one from Cleveland's Memorial Shoreway (Rtes 2/6/20): exit at West 3rd St. (from the west) or West 6th St. (from the east) and continue south to St. Clair Ave. Turn right (west) on St. Clair, which descends into the Flats after it crosses W. 9th. Turn left (south) on Old River Rd. and at the second stop sign turn right (west) on Center St. (some maps call this Columbus Rd., but it is signed Center St.). Continue to a stop sign at the corner of Center and Merwin Sts. (landmarks at this corner are the Flat Iron Café, Crooked River Brewery, State Fish Co. and the Center St. bridge). Turn left (south) on Merwin St., going slowly through this congested area during business hours. After crossing a rough set of railroad tracks by Cereal Food Processors, continue to the end of the street and park under the mulberry tree next to the *Salvage Chief*, the vessel usually moored there.

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Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining for the public archival records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishing the official list of Ohio bird species. The OBRC depends on the help of birders in the field who supply details of their sightings of rare birds. Birds considered rare comprise the Review List, which last appeared in the Spring 2000 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*; these species require acceptable documentation (written details, photo, sound recording, and/or specimen) to enter the official record. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as the journal of record for the state, will not treat reports of Review List species as established until accepted by the OBRC, and hence will not usually publish reports of these species unsupported by documentation submitted to the Committee.

The OBRC does not review sightings, of course, only documentations of sightings. The Committee cannot decide if a given species was seen, but only if the documentation from those present at the sighting verifies, for the historical record, the species' occurrence. All documentations, with Committee actions thereon, are archived for researchers, and all its records—with the exception of the identities of voters on vote-sheets—are available to the public. We offer here, as a general rule, only very brief summaries of OBRC actions, details of which are available from Jim McCormac, Secretary of the OBRC, upon request. We are grateful to him for supplying information for this report. Current voting members, in addition to the Secretary, are: Bob Conlon, Dave Dister, Rob Harlan, Craig Holt, Tom Kemp, Bernard Master, Kevin Metcalf, Larry Rosche, Jay Stenger, and Bill Whan.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentations received from the observers specified for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

Tricolored Heron—Sandusky County, 31 May-1 June 2000, observers Adam Blank, Joe Hammond

White-faced Ibis—Guernsey County, 12 May 2000, observer Amy Lavy

Swallow-tailed Kite—Hamilton County, 5 May 2000, observer Bruce Stehling

Purple Gallinule—Hocking County, 30 April 2000, observers Connie Wolcott, Janet Holzworth

Black-necked Stilt—Van Wert County, 22-24 May 2000, observer John Perchalski

Black-headed Gull—Ashtabula County, 18-22 March 2000, observers Ed Schlabach, Jonathan Kline, Jim McCormac

White-winged Dove—Logan County, 10 June 2000, observers Rosalyn Rinehart, Mary Mispion; a new Ohio record—see article in this issue.

Spotted Towhee—Cuyahoga County, 22-29 October 1998, observer Larry Rosche

Painted Bunting—Ottawa County, 13 May 2000, observers Doreene Linzell, Connie Wolcott, Gretchen Fluke, Janet Holzworth, Bill Whan

RECORD IN RECIRCULATION: This record is currently in recirculation, the documentation for which having received between six and eight votes to accept.

Townsend's Solitaire—Medina County, November 1994

In addition, documentation has been received for sightings of Mississippi kite; documentation is being sought from observers for reports of spotted towhee, Kirtland's warbler (two sightings), and ruff. *Bill Whan*

Audubon's Important Bird Areas in Ohio

The National Audubon Society has taken the initiative to identify Important Bird Areas in states throughout the nation. The goal of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is to identify and establish a network of sites to be protected or managed for the conservation of birds. IBAs are identified using standardized criteria in accordance with BirdLife International-sponsored programs in the U.S. and other parts of the world, primarily Africa and Europe. Audubon Ohio is coordinating the program in Ohio.

IBAs are irreplaceable sources of avian abundance and diversity. Sites designated as IBAs hold large concentrations or exceptional diversity of birds, harbor rare and/or endangered species, contain unique or threatened habitat supporting a representative suite of birds, or have a history of avian research supported by published data. IBAs include sites on both private and public lands and vary in size from a few to thousands of acres, but are usually distinguishable from the surrounding landscape. The conservation of these sites must be a high priority if we are to maintain healthy avian resources and reverse the decline of many bird species.

The IBA effort in Ohio is well underway. Dr. Edward Burtt, Jr. of Ohio Wesleyan University chairs an Ohio IBA Technical Committee composed of members among those most knowledgeable about birds in the state. Representatives from ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and Division of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, park districts, natural history museums, several universities, and nature centers all have contributed to the IBA program. This committee has determined Ohio criteria for establishing IBAs based on scientific data concerning endangered species and bird population parameters. It has formulated the nomination process that will result in the designation of a suite of 80-100 IBA's throughout Ohio.

In the fall of 2000, the IBA Technical Committee will reach determinations on the first nominations submitted this past summer. Some sites will undoubtedly have been left out. IBA nomination forms are available for anyone interested in nominating an area based on the criteria outlined in the IBA selection guidelines. At the end of the identification process, we will prepare a detailed list of IBAs. This list will include location, type of habitat, significance to bird populations, and additional information obtained through the scientific evaluation process. We will distribute this information to state, county, and municipal planning commissions, local land trusts, Audubon chapters, and other habitat conservation groups, enabling them to add these sites to their local conservation agendas. Audubon Ohio will work with partner groups and volunteers to identify and implement conservation strategies according to the size, location, ownership, and type of areas listed. For information, contact John Ritzenthaler, Director of Habitat Conservation at Audubon Ohio, at 614-224-3303 or <jritzenthaler@audubon.org>.

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This eerie turkey vulture picture was taken at Cowan Lake, Clinton Co., on 16 July 2000. Photo by Larry Gara.



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

With the summer issue of 1980 (Vol. 3, No. 2) *The Ohio Cardinal* continued to grow. Tom Bartlett and Ed Pierce continued as editors and provided readers with 41 pages of timely information. They added "Ohio" to the journal's title with this issue, establishing a name that remains familiar. Beyond the summer reports, this issue presented three documentations, an identification aid, four summer census reports, three big day reports, a fall trip description, and a reprint from *The Wheaton Club Bulletin*.

The first documentation, by Mark Shieldcastle, described Ohio's first nesting record of Wilson's phalarope, at Ottawa NWR. Two young were banded, and their photograph appeared on the cover of the issue. As readers will find elsewhere in the current issue, Wilson's phalaropes successfully nested again in Ohio after twenty years in the summer of 2000 at Big Island WA, with at least one young observed. (Ohio's second nesting record was at Ottawa NWR in 1988 but was unsuccessful.) Returning to the summer of 1980, Bruce Peterjohn and Don Tumblin documented Ohio's first arctic tern, complete with photographs, on 17 July at the dredge spoil basin at Huron Harbor. Finally, Dick and Jean Hoffman documented Ohio's second nesting record of Bell's vireo at Irwin Prairie in Lucas County.

As in the previous issue, Bruce Peterjohn provided an identification aid, this one entitled "Mourning vs. Connecticut Warblers", and commented on a related identification problem—MacGillivray's warblers in the east. Summer censuses were described in this issue for four areas: Summit County (1978-80) by Carol Tveekrem, Matt Anderson's farm in Lucas County during 1980, the Clear Creek Valley in Hocking and Fairfield Counties (1978-80) by Jerry Cairo, and Seneca County during 1980 by Tom Bartlett. Three big day accounts appeared in this issue, all of whose counts exceeded 150 species. The first was conducted on 12 May 1980 by Tom Kemp, Matt Anderson, Eric Durbin, and Pete Montion, when they set a new record of 166. (The previous Ohio record of 173 species by Tom Thomson was retroactively disqualified by the ABA because he was alone at the time.) Jerry Cairo and Chuck Hocevar tallied 153 species on 16 May and Tom Bartlett, Bruce Peterjohn, Don Tumblin, and Ed Pierce counted 155 species on 17 May. The fall trip description in this issue outlined the Lake Rockwell area where a Eurasian wigeon had been seen during September of both 1979 and 1980. Milton Trautman and James Fry's article entitled "Possible Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal Hybrid in Ohio in 1974" was reprinted from *The Wheaton Club Bulletin* to provide additional information in light of a cinnamon teal sighting during the spring of 1980.

In addition to those treated in the documentations mentioned above, interesting birds seen during the summer of 1980 included three little blue herons, five snowy egrets, and a yellow-crowned night-heron nest with three young at Lake Logan. Waterfowl were successful, with nesting gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, redhead, and ruddy duck. A black rail was heard and seen from 15-20 June at Irwin Prairie, four Franklin's gulls and three laughing gulls put in appearances during the period, and black terns nested at Magee Marsh and possibly Cedar Point NWR. The Dayton ringed turtle-dove continued its nesting attempt with a mourning dove, red-breasted nuthatches nested at Findlay SP, and a pair of Bewick's wrens fledged at least one young in Brown County. Five western meadowlarks were counted during the season and dark-eyed juncos nested at Little Mountain. *Joseph W. Hammond*



East Fork State Park, Clermont Co., once again played host to another Ohio rarity. This Mississippi kite (both photos) was discovered on 5 July 2000 and remained through the following day. These photographs reveal the bird to be a subadult due to its adult-like gray body color but juvenile-like tail bands. Top photo by Frank Renfrow; bottom photo by Jay Lehman.

