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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.

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### The Ohio Cardinal

Bill Whan, Editor  
Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher  
Joseph W. Hammond, Design Manager  
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: Jim McCormac, Secretary  
Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
1889 Fountain Square, Bldg. F-1  
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*On the Cover:* **Hermit Thrush** with young - Clear Creek Metro Park, Hocking Co., 23 June 2001. Photo by John Watts.

### Summer 2001 Overview

by Bill Whan

The summer's weather, if not mild, was not exceptional. The bird sightings were, if not bland, then pretty much routine. The most important weather news was probably drought in the state's northeastern quarter, and in bird news there were, on average, fewer departures from normal than is normal. Only one review species was reported in Ohio, a Bewick's wren—but a significant one, as many ornithologists regard our eastern race as near extinction. We did have some fairly interesting nesting records, at least in the aggregate, but nothing to crow about, and there were few notable late departures or early arrivals, or numbers of birds either alarmingly small or stunningly large.

If the above summary sounds wishy-washy, blame it on the summer of 2001. Having declared it an uneventful, even dull, summer from the overview's high-altitude perspective, it's worth taking a closer look. The numbers and diversity of wading birds seemed down somewhat. Their odd persistence at Pipe Creek WA in Sandusky gave us an unusually large total of duck species for the season, though numbers elsewhere seemed pretty much within normal limits. There were some raptor reports of interest, but overall they seemed as expected in numbers and distribution.

Migrant shorebirds return early, so birders look forward to them in July. Inland reservoirs lacked the requisite water levels, and diked wetlands were just as inhospitable, though a few places open to natural Lake Erie levels—such as Conneaut Harbor, the Crane Creek estuary at Ottawa NWR, the upper Huron river, and the Cedar Point Chaussee side of Sheldon Marsh—naturally attracted birds. As usual, there were several places this year—Paulding County's sewage lagoons, Medusa Marsh, and Pipe Creek WA—where construction or maintenance activities provided temporary accidental habitat for these birds.

A number of nesting passerines showed up beyond—but not outrageously so, given their distribution in recent years—their published range maps, exploiting islands of habitat in remoter areas. It's always worth comparing today's nesting records with the Breeding Bird Atlas maps of fifteen or more years ago; fifteen years is a blink of an eye in the natural history of birds, but can be quite significant in the history of human observations. One sad part of that history is that we so seldom bother to verify nesting status; we had at least 16 summering harriers for example, but aren't sure if any nested this year. Some erratic species—dickcissels for example—were less evident this summer, while others—sedge wrens, and Bell's vireos—seemed more easily found than usual. Loggerhead shrikes continued their sad decline.

Some possible trends, admittedly only dimly discernible now, seem to involve Ohio's western Lake Erie shore, especially the marshes that dominate the landscape there. Are we seeing fewer of the scarcer waders there—little blue herons, cattle egrets, snowy egrets—than we used to? Are certain tern species, such as blacks and Caspians, being seen more often farther inland? Shouldn't we have been surprised to find three of four of this summer's laughing gulls and six of eight of this spring's far from the Lake, as well as seven of 10 of this and last year's spring Franklin's gulls? Years of efforts by the BSBO resulted recently in designation of the marshes as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, but now that Metzger and

Lorain seem out of the picture, and Sheldon Marsh has, and the Crane Creek estuary may, come under siege, where will migrant shorebirds go? Some such discrepancies call for sorting out issues of changing observer numbers and compiler biases from genuine bird abundances and distributions before we draw any conclusions about the state of habitats along Lake Erie, and others call for reform of governmental agencies' policies and practices.

This issue features hard-to-find writings of Jared P. Kirtland, a contemporary of Audubon's, on Ohio's birdlife; we hope readers will find them enlightening. Many thanks are due to Rob Harlan and Joe Hammond for assistance with thorny problems in these old texts, though any errors herein remain entirely the editor's. While we will never shortchange readers on recent news, we intend to make available from time to time scarce but fundamental texts describing Ohio's birds in times gone by, confident they will enrich our understanding of the present.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Supplement (July 2000) to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; acceptable documentation is needed to add reports of such species to official state records. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GAAS=Greater Akron Audubon Summit County Summer Bird Count of 15-24 June, reported herein by **A. Chasar**; GMAS=Greater Mohican Audubon Society Summer Bird Count, *Ashland*, of 7-21 Jun, reported herein by **T. Leslie**; GPI=Gordon Pk Impoundment (Dike 14) in Cleveland; GRWA=Grand River WA in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck WA in *Wayne*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark or Metro Park; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=monthly Ottawa NWR census, reported herein by **E. Pierce**; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; RTLS=Ravenna Training & Logistics Site in *Portage*; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

**Corrigenda:** Readers are asked to correct in copies of the Spring issue the following errors. The Sandusky Bay common loon was seen 26 May, the glossy ibis at Killdeer was reported 8 Apr, the 48 hooded warblers at Shawnee SF were reported 22 Apr, and the Le Conte's sparrow at Killdeer was found 10 Apr. The last date on which the harlequin duck was found in the Maumee River was 6 Mar, and the black tern of 5 May was seen at BIWA. Finally, sightings of red-throated and common loons at Shreve Lake should be identified as coming from Wayne Co., as should the first sighting of western meadowlark. We apologize for these errors. We ask readers to notify us when errors are found, and promise they will be corrected.

## The Reports

**Common Loon:** Loons were scarce even in late May, and the only summer reports came from *Hancock* reservoirs, with three on 5 Jun near Findlay and two on 26 Jun near Fostoria (both **B. Hardesty**).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Expected in the Lake Erie marshes, 15 were on the 3 Jun ONWRC, and 11 on that of 1 Jul; **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** came across five at Mallard Club Marsh on 4 Jun. Inland reports included a probable pair at Woodbury WA on 9 Jun (**J. Brumfield**), a pair with young during the season in *Delaware* (**J. Hammond**), an adult with four young from 28 May (**A. Haslage**) through at least 25 Jun (**Hammond**) in *Pickaway*, four family groups, with nine adults and 10 young, at GRWA on 7 Jul (**D. Hochadel**), a family of five at BIWA on 11 Jul (**D. Sanders**), three adults and nine young at Sandy Ridge MP in *Lorain* on 29 Jul (**P. Lozano**), and one on the Scioto River in *Ross* on 31 Jul (**B&D Lane**).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** An imm was at the Shaker Lks on 2 Jun (**R. Rickard**). A hundred were at the Turning Pt Isl nesting colonies in Sandusky on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Away from Lk Erie, 12 were on Fostoria Res on 5 Jun, then smaller numbers through the period (**B. Hardesty**), nine at Killdeer on 18 Jun (**Harlan, Wagner**), three on the GAAS, 19 on the GMAS, 26 in *Lawrence* on 4 Jul (**H. Slack**), one at BCSP on 14 and 22 Jul (**D. Overacker**), and three at Walborn Res on 15 Jul (**B&D Lane**). A juv was in Walnut Ck, *Holmes*, on 5 Jul (**J. Miller**). The first report at Hoover Res was from 24 Jul (**R. Thorn**), with one at Paulding Res on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**M&D Dunakin**) and one at Shreve Lk in *Wayne* on the 29<sup>th</sup> (**S. Snyder**).

**American Bittern:** Mallard Club Marsh had a bird on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and Magee another on 17 Jun (**H&S Hiris**). The GAAS recorded one. Intriguing was an apparent juvenile bird on 10 Jul at SVWA (**K. Beal**).

**Least Bittern:** One persisted at Sandy Ridge MP, *Lorain*, from at least 2 (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) to 18 Jun (**J. McConnor**), and another season-long at Herrick Fen in *Portage* (**L. Rosche**). The ONWRC had one on both 3 Jun and 1 Jul, **Harlan** and **Wagner** one at Mallard Club Marsh on 4 Jun, **E. Tramer** one at CPNWR on 9 Jun, and **H&S Hiris** one at Magee on 17 Jun. **B&D Lane** found two at Walborn Res on 15 Jul, where the species has summered before.

**Great Blue Heron:** The ONWRC tallied 212 on 3 Jun. **C. Babyak** counted 374 nests in 81 trees at the Lordstown colony in *Trumbull* on 18 Jun. The Johnstown colony in *Licking* had 40+ nests during Jun (**R. Thorn**), and BIWA 52 on 11 Jul (**D. Sanders**).

**Great Egret:** Numerous at its Lk Erie strongholds, with 140 on 3 Jun and 120 on 1 Jul for the ONWRC. **M. Warren** estimated 100+ at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, on 30 Jul. Singleton non-breeders in the southwest were at MWW on 3 Jul (**F. Frick**) and at Gilmore Ponds on 7 Jul (**M. Busam**). Elsewhere, eight were at BIWA on 11 Jul (**D. Sanders**) and eight at Walborn Res on 29 Jul (**B. Morrison**).



The new Slate Run Metro Park wetland in Pickaway Co. played host to this adult little blue heron from 5-20 June 2001. Photo by Andrea Haslage on 14 June 2001.



REPORTS

**Snowy Egret:** The high count of 12 at Magee on 15 Jul (**H&S Hiris**) may have comprised most of the adults.

**Little Blue Heron:** All reports were of single adult birds, and came from inland sites. One was at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, from 5 Jun (**C. Toops**) through 20 Jun (**A. Haslage**), another at Sandy Ridge MP, *Lorain*, on 18 Jun (**J. McConnor**), and a third at Cowan Lk SP on 6-7 Jul (**L. Gara**).

**Cattle Egret:** Probable non-breeders were one in *Wayne* on 3 Jun (**L. Stoller** *vide* **S. Snyder**) and another on the GMAS count in *Ashland*. Near the Turning Pt Isl colony, birds demonstrated their affinity for bovines, with small numbers reliable near Bogart Rd livestock farms in *Erie* during late Jul (**S. Young**), and for grassy margins of freeways, with six along Rte 2 there on 29 Jul (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Green Heron:** Seven showed up for the 3 Jun ONWRC. **J. Miller** saw seven in *Tuscarawas* on 24 Jun, and six were seen at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on 25 Jun (**J. Hammond**). **R. Kolde** reported six more from *Brown* on 14 Jul. **L. Rosche** regarded their numbers as much improved in the northeast.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The largest numbers came from along the Lake, with ONWRC counts of 11 on 3 Jun and 44 on 1 Jul, and at Magee of 47 on 17 Jun and 25 on 15 Jul (**H&S Hiris**). Nine along Mill Creek in *Cincinnati* on 9 Jun were likely from the local colony, as was an imm there on 10 Jul (**T. Uhlman**). One was at the Shaker Lks on 7 Jul (**R. Rickard**), two at BIWA on 11 Jul, and a juvenile at Pickerel Ck WA on 13 Jul (both **D. Sanders**).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The Columbus colony produced a sighting of three imm and two adults at one nest, and two adults at a nearby empty nest on 8 Jun (**A. Paschall**); by 24 Jun the former nest was discovered to contain 5 imm (**D. Sanders**), the maximum normal number of nestlings for the species.

**Black Vulture:** Interesting were two at the Lk Buckhorn roost in *Holmes* on 16 Jun (**E. Schlabach**).

**Turkey Vulture:** Large roosts included 30 at Cowan Lk SP on 12 Jun (**L. Gara**), 110 in *Holmes* on 17 Jun (**J. Miller**), and 38 in *Ashtabula* on 27 Jul (**C. Holt**).

**Canada Goose:** In *Cuyahoga*, **K. Metcalf** observed the molt of primaries on 4 Jun, with first flight on 15 Jul; most remained flightless till 20-25 Jul.

**Mute Swan:** High count was 10 birds at S. Bass Isl on 27 Jun (**S. Wulkowicz**).

**Wood Duck:** On the ONWRC, 67 were found on 3 Jun, and 68 on 1 Jul. Later flocks of 87 birds were at BIWA on 11 Jul (**D. Sanders**) and at Walborn on 29 Jul (**B. Morrison**).

**Gadwall:** Three males and one female remained at Pipe Ck WA on 1 Jun (**C. Holt**), and a drake remained on 11 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Six appeared on the 3 Jun ONWRC. **J. Pogacnik** found a pair in *Mentor* on 30 Jul.

**American Black Duck:** Sixty were found on the 3 Jun ONWRC. Four were on a *Hancock* pond on 8-9 Jul (**B&S Bowman** *vide* **B. Hardesty**).

**Blue-winged Teal:** A bird was at Pipe Ck WA on 1 Jun (**C. Holt**), 20 on the 3 Jun ONWRC, one at Gilmore Ponds on 9 Jun (**M. Busam**), and one on a Fostoria Res on 12 Jun (**B. Hardesty**). They nested at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* (**J. Watts**). Six were at BIWA on 18 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and a female at GRWA on 24 Jun (**D. Hochadel**). Magee numbers of 29 on 15 Jul probably included migrants (**H&S Hiris**).

**Northern Shoveler:** Four remained at Pipe Ck WA on 1 Jun (**C. Holt**). One was on Fostoria Res on 12 Jun (**B. Hardesty**), and two drakes were at BIWA on 18 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

REPORTS

**Northern Pintail:** Interesting were eclipse males seen on 28 Jul at Medusa Marsh and at Pipe Ck WA (**K. Johnson** et al.).

**Green-winged Teal:** Five on the 3 Jun ONWRC grew to 27 on 1 Jul. Two drakes and a hen were at BIWA on 18 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Six were at Magee on 15 Jul (**H&S Hiris**). A family group of five was at Medusa Marsh on 25 Jul (**J. Hammond** et al.).

**Redhead:** The 3 Jun ONWRC found a male and a female.

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake at Sandy Ridge MP remained from 2 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) through at least 18 Jun (**J. McConnor**).

**Greater Scaup:** Highly unusual were one at Paulding Res on 1 Jun (**D&M Dunakin**) and a very carefully observed female at Pipe Ck WA on 11 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**Lesser Scaup:** A drake near Wooster from 16 May through the end of the summer season may have been injured (**S. Snyder**). Another drake spent the period at the Shaker Lks (**L. Deininger**, m obs). A first Jul record for *Paulding* was present 7-10 Jul (**M&D Dunakin**).

**Hooded Merganser:** Nested widely. Two females were at Sandy Ridge MP on 2 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**); the same observers found 8 young at Medusa Marsh on 4 Jun. A female with 12 young was at Chestnut Ridge MP, *Fairfield*, in early Jun (park staff *vide* **J. Watts**). A female was at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* on 12 Jun (**P. Rodewald**). An adult with three young was counted for the GAAS in *Summit*. Three families were at GRWA on 24 Jun (**D. Hochadel**). One was tallied on the 1 Jul ONWRC. A female and young were at Mosquito WA on 7 Jul (**Hochadel**). Three young birds were at Killbuck on 11 Jul (**S. Snyder**), seven young birds at Pickerel Ck WA on 13 Jul (**D. Sanders**), and a family group of six at Medusa Marsh on 22 Jul (**C. Holt**). Nesting was also noted at the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**) and at new sites at Mogadore Res and Lk Rockwell, *Portage* (**L. Rosche**).

**Ruddy Duck:** Four pairs were at Sandy Ridge MP on 2 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and at least one there on 18 Jun (**J. McConnor**). A male was at Killdeer on 18 Jun (**Harlan, Wagner**), at *Lorain* on 4-9 Jul (**C. Holt**), and in *Paulding* on 28-29 Jul (**D&M Dunakin**).

**Osprey:** The Division of Wildlife reported 14 nests, up from 10 last year. A population explosion at Berlin Res led to a total of 11 birds from two successful nests, with three and four juveniles by 20 Jul (**B&D Lane**). A first nest for *Trumbull* fledged two at Mosquito WA (**D. Hochadel**). Birds fairly distant from known sites were one at Clear Ck MP, *Hocking*, on 16 Jun (**J. Watts**), one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 22 Jul (**J. Hammond**), and another near Celeryville in *Crawford* on 29 Jul (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**Bald Eagle:** High counts: the 3 Jun ONWRC counted 2 adults and 14 imm; **C. Holt** had nine at Pickerel Ck WA on 20 Jul. Interesting sightings to the south included an adult over Cowan Lk on 1 Jun (**D. Unger**) and an imm in *Adams* on 3 Jun (**P. Rodewald**).

**Northern Harrier:** A male and two females were over Ottawa on 3 Jun (ONWRC). An adult male at Woodbury WA on 9 Jun (**J. Brumfield**) shared the area with a female or imm on 30 Jun (**G. Hostetler**). A pair was at the *Ashtabula* Airport on 10 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Two were seen for the GAAS in *Summit*. A female was counted for the 1 Jul ONWRC. One was at Lake La Su An WA on 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**). In *Columbiana*, **B&D Lane** found a female at one location on 13 Jul, and a male and a female at another on 22 Jul, where a female was also seen on 29 Jul. **C. Holt** had one a Mosquito WA on 27 Jul, and **P. Gottschling** one at Killdeer on 28 Jul.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Interesting was one in Olmsted Falls, *Cuyahoga*, on 11 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).



**Cooper's Hawk:** Exemplifying this species' adaptability were reports of nesting in sixteen public parks in the Columbus area (**R. Thorn**).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Also adapting to urban settings, it was reported thrice from Columbus: a pair nested once again in Clintonville (**B. Whan**), one was at Green Lawn Cemetery on 24 Jun (**J. McCormac**), and another in the northeast on 27 Jun (**R. Thorn**). **B&D Lane** saw one in Cambridge, *Guernsey*, for an out-of-the-way record on 9 Jul.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Reports from unusual locations: **E. Tramer** found one on 7 Jun in the Oak Openings, then two adults at Stranahan Arboretum in Toledo on 11, 25, and 29 Jun. **J. Yochum** noted one in *Defiance* on 15 Jul, and **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** one in *Medina* on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Nesting was confirmed near Granville, *Licking*, during the period (**T. Schultz** *fide* **R. Thorn**), and **D&A Chasar** found a nest with two branching young in Brecksville Res'n on 3 Jul. **B. Finkelstein** et al. saw one over Sandy Ridge MP, *Lorain*, on 29 Jul. A pair was calling in *Delaware* on 31 Jul (**Thorn**).

**American Kestrel:** A total of 18 birds at Funk WA on 29 Jul was impressive (**S. Snyder**).

**Merlin:** A bird at Conneaut on 29 Jul (**K. Metcalf**) was a great find and a great mystery.

**Peregrine Falcon:** One in *Pickaway* on 25 Jun (**B. Whan**) was intriguing till it became clear it was only 15 falcon's miles from the Columbus nest. Jun and Jul birds here are almost certainly introduced, their ancestry deriving from hacked birds among seven subspecies (including those native to South America, Eurasia, the Mediterranean, and Australia, as well as two North American subspecies not native to our region). There is no evidence peregrines were ever native to Ohio.

**Ruffed Grouse:** High count was a hen with 10 young at Pike Lk SP on 9 Jun (**R. Kolde**).

**Wild Turkey:** Becoming common enough that only the occasional odd occurrence or behavior is of general interest, such as one that flushed from the margin of busy Interstate 90 in urban *Cuyahoga* at 6:45 pm on 22 Jun (**P. Lozano**).

**Northern Bobwhite:** **B. Morrison** had ~20 calling in n. *Stark* during Jun. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found a bird on 22 and 30 Jul in *Huron* grasslands, and four near *Medina* on 26 Jul.

**King Rail:** Remarkable was one at Killdeer on 8 Jun (**T. Shively** et al.), refound on 16 Jun by **S. Landes** et al.

**Virginia Rail:** In the expected places. One was at Sandy Ridge MP on 2 Jun, and another at Mallard Club Marsh on the 4<sup>th</sup> (both **R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**). Two were on the 3 Jun ONWRC, and **S. Snyder** had another at Killbuck on 16 Jun. The GAAS reported two for *Summit*. **J. Pogacnik** had one at GRWA on 14 Jul, and **M&T Romito** observed 1-2 through the period in the CVNP.

**Sora:** One was at Sandy Ridge MP on 2 Jun (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and three on the ONWRC of the following day. The GAAS tallied one, and another circled the **Lanes'** canoe on Walborn Res on 15 Jul.

**Common Moorhen:** Found on 2 Jun at Sandy Ridge by **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**, who had three at Mallard Club Marsh on 4 Jun. The high count was 11 at Ottawa on 3 Jun (ONWRC), with six next door at Magee on 17 Jun (**H&S Hiris**), while at least seven were on the other side at CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**). One was found at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on 8 Jun (**J. Watts**). A pair with young inhabited Hidden Valley in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**). Three paddled wetlands at BIWA on 11 Jul (**D. Sanders**), one at GRWA on 14 Jul (**Pogacnik**), one at Walborn Res on 15 Jul (**D&B Lane**), and another at Killbuck on 21 Jul (**S. Snyder**).

**American Coot:** Two remained at Pipe Ck WA on 1 Jun (**C. Holt**). An adult at Sandy Ridge MP on 2 Jun (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**) may have been related to a juv **P. Lozano** found there on 30 Jul. The ONWRC tallied 10 on 3 Jun, then 25—including five downy young—on the 1 Jul count. One was at Slate Run MP on 8 Jun (**J. Watts**). **Holt** found one in the Cuyahoga River in Kent on 18 Jul.

**Sandhill Crane:** A pair was in a *Tuscarawas* marsh on 2 Jun (**E. Schlabach**) and 15 Jul (**J. Miller**), and a family group of two adults and two juveniles was in *Williams* on 30 Jun (**J. Grabmeier**) through at least 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**). **S. Snyder** found four at Killbuck on 7 Jul; she relayed that ODOW staff reported one chick hatched at Funk and two at Killbuck this season.

**Black-bellied Plover:** The tardiest northbound bird was reported from near Ottawa on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and the first headed the other way appeared at Conneaut for **C. Holt** on 1 Jul, a personal—and close to a state—early date.

**American Golden-Plover:** Very loath to depart was a bird in basic plumage carefully observed by **C. Holt** at Pipe Ck WA on 1 Jun. Still more oddly, this was the season's only report of this species.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Two lingered for the 3 Jun ONWRC. On the rebound they didn't hurry either, with one arriving at GRWA on 14 Jul (**J. Pogacnik**), and four the following day at Walborn Res (**B&D Lane**), and their numbers continued stingy, with a tie for a high count of only seven—at Walnut Beach on 27 Jul (**C. Holt**), and at Berlin Res on the 29<sup>th</sup> (**B. Morrison**).

**American Avocet:** One showed up at *Lorain* on 5 Jul (**D. Le Gallee**). One at *Medusa Marsh* on 19 Jul (**M. Warren**) became five by 30 Jul (**G. Miller**). Three graced *Paulding* 24-31 Jul for the **Dunakins'** second county record. Two touched down at Walnut Beach on 24 Jul for **J. McConnor**.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Early to return were three seen in *Huron* on 24 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**). By 22 Jul, the high count of 45 was made by **J. Hammond** at *Medusa Marsh*.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Twenty-plus joined the above at *Huron* on 24 Jun for **J. Pogacnik**. By 1 Jul, 120 were at Ottawa for the monthly census. The high count of 175 was made on 22 Jul at *Medusa Marsh* (**J. Hammond**). The first juveniles appeared on 27 Jul at several sites (**C. Holt**).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Lest we take this species for granted: the Canadian Wildlife Service estimates its global population at only 25,000; this compares with 63,000 avocets, 57,000 whimbrels, and 2.5 million red-necked phalaropes for North America. One tarried in *Parma* as late as 4 Jun (**R. Harlan**, **S. Wagner**), and the first to come back was reported on 2 Jul in *Ross* (**D&B Lane**). The high count was a decidedly unsolitary 32 at Berlin Res on 31 Jul (**B. Morrison**).

**Willet:** Two adults appeared on 4 Jul in *Allen* (**D. Dister**), two at Conneaut on 22 Jul (**J. Pogacnik**), one at Walnut Beach on 24 Jul (**L. Rosche**), and another at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 28 Jul (**B. Conlon**).



This whimbrel probed the temporary mudflats at *Medusa Marsh*, Erie Co., from 22-30 July 2001. Photo by Bill Whan on 22 July 2001.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Fourteen were at Conneaut early on 2 Jun before human hordes appeared (C. Holt), and 11 were found by the ONWRC of the following day. The high count of 21 at Berlin Res on 29 Jul (B. Morrison) was probably augmented by migrants. Are the females of this polyandrous species the first adults to head south?

**Upland Sandpiper:** R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one in *Ashtabula* on 10 Jun. An adult and at least four young were seen at BIWA on 11 Jul (D. Sanders).

**Whimbrel:** One was discovered at Medusa Marsh on 22 Jul (J. Hammond), and last reported on 30 Jul (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Two showed up briefly in Conneaut on 24 Jul (J. McConnor).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Eight were seen on the 3 Jun ONWRC; a remarkable four found there by the census team on 1 Jul must have been non-breeders. Only three others were reported, singles at Medusa on 25 Jul (D. Linzell), and Walnut Beach on 27 Jul and Pipe Ck WA on 30 Jul (both C. Holt).

**Sanderling:** C. Holt had one at Walnut Beach on 2 Jun, and the ONWRC another the following day. On 15 Jul, two were at Conneaut (Holt) and one at Magee (H&S Hiris). Inland, six were found: a third *Paulding* record on 24 Jul (M&D Dunakin), a molting adult in s. *Wayne* 26-30 Jul (P. Yoder et al.), two at East Fork SP, *Clermont*, on 29 Jul (D. Brinkman), one at Caesar Ck SP on 30 Jul (L. Gara), and one at Walborn Res 29-31 Jul (B. Morrison).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Good numbers were still passing through on 1 Jun, with 11 at BCSP (D. Overacker), and 115 at Pipe Ck WA and 65 at Sheldon Marsh SNP (both C. Holt). J. Pogacnik found two returned to Huron on 24 Jun, but their numbers remained unspectacular overall, with V. Fazio's 210 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 30 Jul the only triple-figure count.

**Western Sandpiper:** Two reported, one at Medusa on 20 Jul (C. Holt) and another at GRWA on the 29<sup>th</sup> (D. Hochadel).

**Least Sandpiper:** R. Harlan and S. Wagner found stragglers at Conneaut as late as 10 Jun, and five birds at Pipe Ck WA on the 11<sup>th</sup>. By 24 Jun three showed up at Huron (J. Pogacnik), and on 1 Jul seven at the *Van Wert* sewage ponds (Harlan, Wagner). That latter day, 155 were tallied by the ONWRC, also the high count. Juveniles were widespread by 27 Jul (C. Holt).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Always a late spring migrant, one was at Conneaut on 10 Jun (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and another in *Williams* on 17 Jun (J. Grabmeier). The season's only returnee report came from *Paulding* 28-29 Jul (J. Yochum et al.).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** An adult at Mosquito WA on the 27<sup>th</sup> was a first Jul inland record for C. Holt, and likely the same bird found there by D. Hochadel on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Few this season, with a high count of only 40, at Berlin Res on 27 Jul (C. Holt). Holt also found the first arrivals, three at Huron and one at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 15 Jul.



This juvenile least sandpiper, and its reflection, were photographed on 28 July 2001 at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, Erie Co., by Bill Whan.

**Dunlin:** The latest reported were a hefty 131 at Ottawa on 3 Jun (ONWRC).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Arrived 15 Jul at Sheldon Marsh SNP (C. Holt). Pretty numerous in the second half of Jul, with a high count of 35 molting adults at Pipe Ck WA on 28 Jul (B. Whan). One inland report: two at Mosquito WA on 29 Jul (D. Hochadel).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Six were among the Huron arrivals on 24 Jun for J. Pogacnik. High counts came on 22 Jul, with 193 at Pickerel Ck WA and 339 at Sheldon Marsh SNP (B. Whan). A few appeared inland: one at MWW on 3 Jul (F. Frick), one at Berlin and one at Mosquito WA on 27 Jul (C. Holt), three at Walborn Res on 29 Jul (B. Morrison), and two at Cowan Lk 30-31 Jul (L. Gara, E. Roush).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** One report, an adult at Conneaut on 22 Jul (J. Pogacnik).

**Common Snipe:** Earliest were 22 on 14 Jul at GRWA (J. Pogacnik).

**American Woodcock:** Seven were still doing their thing at Irwin Prairie SNP on 3 Jun (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** At Medusa Marsh, D. Sanders found one on 23 Jul, B. Whan two basic adults on 28 Jul, and J. Pogacnik one on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two adults were at Pickerel Ck WA on 27 Jul (P. Gottschling *vide* P. Lozano).

**Laughing Gull:** Three of four found were at reservoirs, equaling the total Peterjohn (*The Birds of Ohio*) accepts for all inland Ohio summer records. From 3-5 Jun an adult was at Caesar Ck SP (L. Gara et al., ph). A second-summer bird was at Conneaut on 1 Jul (C. Holt). An adult visited BCSP, *Clark*, on 6 Jul (D. Overacker), and another Hoover Res on the 14<sup>th</sup> (R. Thorn).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** An alternate-plumaged bird was at BCSP on 14 Jul (D. Overacker), 21 at Conneaut the following day (P. Lozano), 250+ at S. Bass Isl on the 17<sup>th</sup> (S. Wulkowicz), and one in basic plumage at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 22 Jul (J. Hammond).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The first juvenile reported came from Conneaut on 1 Jul (C. Holt); 60 birds were at BCSP on 6 Jul (D. Overacker), and 200+ at Berlin Res on 20 Jul (B&D Lane).

**Herring Gull:** The first report of a juvenile came from Conneaut on 15 Jul (C. Holt).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** At Conneaut on 27 Jul, C. Holt closely observed a bird molting from first-summer to second-winter feathers.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Ten were still—or already—at Conneaut on 10 Jun (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). An adult was at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 25 Jul (J. Hammond).



Laughing gulls made the news this season with three found at inland reservoirs. This one was photographed at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., on 5 June 2001. Photo by Troy Shively.

**Caspian Tern:** A bird at Conneaut was unusual on 10 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), but still odder was an intermittent presence throughout the period at Caesar Ck SP in *Warren*: two on 5 Jun (**T. Shively**, ph), one on 7 Jun (**L. Gara**), and two on 10 Jul (**Gara**). Three were at Ottawa on 1 Jul (ONWRC). Later, more expected groups of migrants arrived, such as 29 at Medusa Marsh on 25 Jul (**D. Linzell**) and 15 on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Walborn Res (**B. Morrison**).

**Common Tern:** Forty-eight on the 3 Jun ONWRC, and 55 on that for 1 Jul, likely came from the supported colony there; 16 at Pipe Ck WA on 11 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) were undoubtedly nesting locally. **P. Rodewald**'s lone bird in *Pickaway* on 17 Jun could have been an odd non-breeder, but what to make of the flock of 15 **S. Tackett** witnessed at Grand Lk St Marys the following day? Migrants began staging by 22 Jul, with eight at S. Bass Isl (**S. Wulkowicz**).

**Forster's Tern:** A straggler was at Conneaut on 2 Jun (**C. Holt**), where the same observer found a likely non-breeder in basic plumage on 1 Jul. Five were seen at Ottawa on the latter date (ONWRC). By 22 Jul seasonal migrants were staging, with 80 at Medusa Marsh (**J. Hammond**).

**Black Tern:** Jun sightings included six at BCSP on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (**D. Overacker**), one at Ottawa on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (ONWRC), and one at CPNWR on the 9<sup>th</sup> (**E. Tramer**). What was an immature bird doing at Grand Lk St Marys on 18 Jun (**S. Tackett**)? The beginning of the fall movement was most widely noted during Medusa Marsh's brief period of activity, with an immature bird on 16 Jul (**D. Sanders**), an adult on the 29<sup>th</sup> (**P. Gottschling**), and a bird on the 30<sup>th</sup> (**G. Miller**). For years, 400-500 have reportedly roosted by day on a sandbar off Kingsville, Ontario, close to Pt Pelee, from mid-Jul to early Aug (**C. Weseloh**); Canadian Wildlife officials are offering a cash award to anyone who can locate their night roost. A deeper mystery is what 66 black terns were doing 50+ miles off the Georgia coast on 28 May of this year, far from their breeding grounds, in the company of bridled and sooty terns (**G. Beaton**).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Observers from the northeast agreed both cuckoos were harder to find in areas where gypsy moth larvae had been reduced in numbers. The effect of an enormous outbreak of tent caterpillars in the south cannot be discounted either, where this species was detected (15 Jul by **G. Rankin** et al.) at Crown City WA, about as far south as you can go in Ohio.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Always more numerous than the preceding, similar temporary changes in its distribution were noticed this season.

**Barn Owl:** *Fide S. Snyder*, ODOV researchers banded young at six nests in *Holmes* and three in *Wayne*, including two at Killbuck WA.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** The northernmost bird, in *Hocking* for the fourth consecutive year, was last heard calling on 17 Jun (**J. Fry**).

**Short-eared Owl:** **J. Yochum** repeatedly saw at least one in a field in *Defiance* 7-29 Jul. Nested again in NE *Seneca*, where on 5 Jun an adult and two fledglings were noted (**T. Bartlett**).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** High count in a natural setting was seven feeding on milkweed in *Scioto* on 7 Jul (**D. Overacker**). An increased dependence on feeders was noted in drought-stricken NE Ohio in Jul.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** During Jun, **P. Lozano** et al. surveyed eight nest sites located this spring in *Lake* and *Geauga*, finding 25+ birds, including 17+ nestlings. On 15 Jul they discovered a male and a juvenile in *Ashtabula*. On 6 Jul, **B. Finkelstein** found a female at another *Ashtabula* locale. **L. Rosche** found a nest at Grand River Terraces.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** One up in *Williams* on 10 Jul was of interest (**E. Tramer**).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** A couple of birds were in southern Ohio on 3 Jun: one at MWW (**N. Cade**) and another in *Adams* (**P. Rodewald**). A very early migrant, and perhaps less than successful nester, was carefully observed at Hoover Res, *Delaware*, by **J. McCormac** and **D. Linzell** on 18 Jul.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Jun reports included one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Columbus (**J. McCormac**), one on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Magee (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), one on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Killdeer (**T. Shively**), and one on the 16<sup>th</sup> in *Williams* (**G. Links**).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Scarcest in the NW, where the following were reported: *Williams* 30 Jun (**E. Durbin**) and 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**); two in *Van Wert* 2 Jul (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**); summer resident in Marie De Larme Woods in *Paulding* (**D&M Dunakin**).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Late migrants included singing birds at BCSP on 1 Jun (**D. Overacker**), and one at MWW on 3 Jun (**N. Cade**). Three were at Magee on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and one in *Lake* on 7 Jun, where three pairs were later confirmed as nesters in the MP system (**J. Pogacnik**). The ONWRC found two on 3 Jun and one on 1 Jul at Ottawa. **E. Tramer** had two at Irwin Prairie SNP on 11 Jun, and **G. Links** discovered one in *Williams* on 22 Jun.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Well-reported statewide. In the south, 12 were at BCSP on 3 Jun (**D. Overacker**) and 10 at MWW on 10 Jun (**M. Busam**). The ONWRC found 35 on 3 Jun, but oddly only three on 1 Jul.

**Least Flycatcher:** Likely breeders included birds in *Coshocton* on 9 Jun (**J. Brumfield, E. Schlabach**), one there on 30 Jun (**G. Leidy**), and one in Van Buren SP in *Hancock* on 5 Jun and 10 and 24 Jul (**B. Hardesty**). A bird in *Williams* on 16 Jun (**G. Links**) apparently remained on 30 Jun (**E. Durbin**). **D. Hochadel** reported it as "more common than usual" in n. *Trumbull*, with six territorial males through mid-Jul.

**Eastern Phoebe:** The high count was eight, in *Adams* on 30 Jun (**D. Overacker**). **R. Royse** was surprised to find many in the dry open grasslands at Crown City WA, *Lawrence/Gallia*, on 2-3 Jul.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** In general, good numbers in migration persisted. A pair lasted into Jun in Parma for the first time in 20 years for **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**. Eight were calling on 2 Jun at small Antrim Pk woodlands in Columbus (**B. Whan**).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Twenty-five were counted on the 1 Jul ONWRC. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** added the species to their Jacobs Field list on 6 Jul.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A report of an apparent nesting pair in *Adams* on 28 Jun could not subsequently be confirmed (**P. Whan**).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Scarcer in the north, a pair was confirmed nesting in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and a male sang at Irwin Prairie SNP in *Lucas* on 27 Jun (**E. Tramer**).



Numerous yellow-bellied sapsucker nests were noted this season in the northeastern corner of the state. This one was photographed in *Geauga* Co. on 9 June 2001 by Paula Lozano.



**Bell's Vireo:** Ten birds made a remarkable year for this rarity. The singing male from the spring continued at Gilmore Ponds through 9 Jun (**M. Busam**), and the other spring bird, at the traditional BCSP spot, was last reported on 1 Jun, with no female seen (**D. Overacker**). **N. Cade** found a pair at MWW on 3 Jun, then a fledgling on 13 Jul, last reporting the family on 20 Jul. **T. Bartlett** heard one on Plum Brook NASA property in *Erie* on 7 Jun. **S. Tackett** discovered a pair s. of Brookville in *Montgomery* on 16 Jun, and observed them through the 30<sup>th</sup>; they were not noted in Jul. On 18 Jun **D. Helm** found a singing male near Lunken Airport in *Hamilton*, where **F. Renfrow** observed a pair on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** High count was 15+ at Lake Hope SP on 16 Jun (**G. Leidy**). Eight territories were found in the GRWA 4-24 Jun (**Hochadel**). Scarcest in the NW, but **E. Durbin** reported one from *Williams* on 30 Jun, and **D&M Dunakin** their seasonal presence in the Marie De Larme Woods in *Paulding*.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Scattered pairs were noted in their usual haunts. In the *Hocking* hills, **F. Renfrow** found two on 6 Jun, **C. Rieker** and **M. Gallaway** one on 17 Jun, and **G. Leidy** another on 21 Jun. At Mohican SF, **L. Yoder** found two on 16 Jun and **Leidy** one on the 30<sup>th</sup>. **H. Petruschke** located a bird in Stebbins Gulch on 21 Jun. **E. Tramer** had a singing male in the Oak Openings on 11 Jun. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found three in the CVNP on 9 Jun. A seasonal survey of hemlock ravines in the *Lake* MPs yielded 30 probable or confirmed nest sites (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Tree Swallow:** Post-breeding flocks gathered by 8 Jul, with ~100 at Funk WA and 125 two days later at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**). **H. Slack** confirmed second broods among numerous nesters in s. *Lawrence* during the period.

**Bank Swallow:** **D. Chasar** reported the species harder to find in the CVNP than in recent years. **C. Holt** reported the first big flock, 500 at Conneaut on 7 Jul, where ~2000 could be found by the 15<sup>th</sup> (**P. Lozano**).

**Cliff Swallow:** The Farnsworth Pk colony in *Lucas* started with 32 birds on 3 Jun, but dwindled to 20 by the 8<sup>th</sup>, then to four—in two active nests—by 13 Jun (**E. Tramer**). A pair nested again at BCSP by 3 Jun (**D. Overacker**). Hoover Res birds had 135 nests at three spots (**R. Thorn**). New were nests in downtown Piqua, *Miami* (fide **R. Schieltz**). Dwarfing these occurrences was the final count of nests at **P. Yoder's** farm in *Holmes*: 579, for another fine year. **C. Holt** reported the first migrant, on 7 Jul at Conneaut.

**Barn Swallow:** By 29 Jul, flocks as large as 75 had developed, as at Wooster (**S. Snyder**). **B. Morrison** noted an albino on the same day at Walborn Res—pure white except for a yellow underbody.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Four young fledged on 4 Jun from a nest in *Hocking* watched by **F. Renfrow**. Two fledged in a nest observed by **C. Babyak** in *Trumbull* on 28 Jun. At least one bird was repeatedly seen in Poland, *Mahoning*, after 24 Jun (**L. Warren**). An early migrant apparently, one was at a feeder in Findlay on 31 Jul (**J. Gillen** fide **B. Hardesty**), at about the time many early birds were being noted in Minnesota, an event said there to presage a major incursion.

**Brown Creeper:** On 16 Jun, **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found one in Brecksville Res'n—where **A&D Chasar** regarded the species as doing well, as well as in the CVNP—and **L. Yoder** one in the Mohican SF. **L. Warren** observed one in Poland, *Mahoning*, on 14 Jul. Three were reported for the GAAS count

**Winter Wren:** One was in N. Chagrin MP in *Cuyahoga* on 10 Jun (**K. Metcalf**), one in the CVNP on 16 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and another on 19 and 21 Jun in Stebbins Gulch (**H. Petruschke**).

**Sedge Wren:** Two were heard and seen on the 3 Jun ONWRC. **T. Bartlett** had three on the Plum Brook NASA property in *Erie* on 6 Jun. **P. Yoder** found a singing bird in his hayfield in *Holmes* on 13 Jun, then a second bird and a cock-nest the following day. **G. Links** reported several in *Williams* on 22 Jun, and **E. Tramer** at least two singing near Lake La Sun An WA there on 10 Jul. In *Franklin*, **J. Watts** noted a singing bird in Battelle-Darby Ck MP on 10 Jul, and **T. Taylor** three there on 21 Jul, with five in the next period. First noted on 25 Jul on the VOA property in *Butler* by **M. Busam**, numbers of the species grew to five by 30 Jul, and eight early in the fall period.

**Marsh Wren:** Reported from *Trumbull, Lorain, Lucas, Wayne, Summit, Stark, Columbiana*, and *Pickaway*. Four in one marsh, apparently territorial on 8 Jul, in the CVNP was a good find for **D&A Chasar**. The high count was 25+ at Walborn Res on 15 Jul (**B&D Lane**). The ONWRC found only five at Ottawa on 3 Jun, but by 1 Jul they tallied 16.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Hinkley MP in *Medina* again furnished a record, with three birds seen on 9 Jun by **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**. Possible nesting was reported at Chapin Forest MP in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Veery:** One at BCSP on 7 Jun (**D. Overacker**) was likely headed north, where expected numbers occurred. **L. Yoder** found nine at Mohican 15-16 Jun, and the GAAS reported 45 in *Summit*. **J. Watts** found eight in Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* during the period.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Lagging behind was one at Magee on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**Swainson's Thrush:** **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found stragglers at Magee on 4 Jun and at the CVNP on 9 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** Present in good numbers at traditional spots. **L. Yoder** found seven at Mohican SP on 16 Jun. **F. Renfrow** found a few in *Hocking*: eight along a road near Old Man's Cave on 3 Jun, two on Clear Ck Rd on 6 Jun, and three at Conkles Hollow on 7 Jun. **J. Watts** counted six, including one confirmed nesting, at Clear Ck MP. One was tallied by the GAAS in *Summit*, and **T&M Romito** found one in the CVNP on 9 Jun. Later at the CVNP, **A&D Chasar** reported two fledglings on 15 Jun at Happy Days, then another three on 26 Jul (probably a second brood) of the foregoing; Dwight found seven at once at one point. Seven pairs were probable or confirmed nesters in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Northern Mockingbird:** The usual list follows of selected reports from outside the old BB Atlas map's range of the eighties: birds with young in *Defiance* 19 Jun (**J. Yochum**), one in *Van Wert* on 1 Jul (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and one in *Williams* on 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**). **M&D Dunakin** report nests in four locations in *Paulding*, and **J. Pogacnik** two nests in Chagrin River Pk in *Lake*.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** **J. Yochum** monitored a nesting pair of this species beyond its traditional haunts in *Defiance* 8 May-15 Jul. **L. Rosche** found them abundant at the RTLS.

**Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrids:** **G. Links** reported one Brewster's on 16 Jun, then two on 22 Jun, in *Williams*. These sightings may or may not have included one found there on 20 Jun by **D. Sanders**, who reported it sported white wing-bars, an unusual plumage.

**Tennessee Warbler:** One was seen on the 3 Jun ONWRC.

**Northern Parula:** Nine were counted in Clear Ck MP on 13 Jun (**J. Watts**). Six in *Franklin* were less routine on 21-22 Jun (**M. Albin** fide **Watts**), as were at least two singing season-long in *Delaware* (**J. Hammond**). Still further north, one sang in *Coshocton* from May through at least 9 Jun (**E. Schlabach**), and one was in *Summit* for the GAAS. **E. Tramer** found one in song at the Oak Openings on 11 Jun, **H. Petruschke** one in Stebbins Gulch on 19 Jun, and **J. McCormac** one the same day in *Lake*.

**Yellow Warbler:** Ninety-two showed up for the 3 Jun ONWRC, and 65 for that of 1 Jul. Early migrants were found in *Holmes* on 10 Jul (**E. Schlabach**) and 15 Jul at Walnut Beach (**C. Holt**).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** One singing in Columbus on 2 Jun (**J. McCormac**), one at Magee on 4 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and two on the 3 Jun ONWRC were probably tardy migrants. Five at Mohican 16 Jun (**L. Yoder**) were there for the long haul, as were seven in *Summit* for the GAAS and one at Irwin Prairie SNP on 28 Jun (**R. Nirschl**). **D. Le Gallee** reported a singer in Shaker Hts. on 3 Jul. Two on 22 Jul in *Ashtabula* were quite possibly nesters as well (**P. Lozano**). **L. Rosche** called them a common nester on the RTLS in *Portage*.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Two on the 3 Jun ONWRC and one at Magee the following day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**) were late heading north. In *Hocking*, **F. Renfrow** had one at Old Man's Cave on 4 Jun, **G. Leidy** one in Clear Ck MP on 21 Jun, and **J. Watts** et al. three there on the 28<sup>th</sup>. One at Hinckley MP on 9 Jun was in a known nesting area (**Harlan, Wagner**). The *Lake* MPs survey yielded 15 probable or confirmed nests (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** One was found on the 3 Jun ONWRC.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** A late migrant was in Cleveland on 9 Jun (**G. Leidy**). In *Hocking*, **J. Watts** et al. found five at Clear Ck MP during the period, and **M. England** called them "abundant" at Conkles Hollow on 15 Jun. **L. Yoder** counted 23 in Mohican 15-16 Jun, and **L. Deininger** had three singing males through the period in NW *Coshocton*. Hinckley MP hosted five+ on 9 Jun for **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner**. On 21 Jun **H. Petruschke** found four at Stebbins Gulch.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** A nest was located at Old Man's Cave in *Hocking* on 5 Jun by **F. Renfrow**, who also found a male nearby at Conkles Hollow the following day, later relocated on 15 Jun by **M. England**. At Mohican, **L. Yoder** had two on 16 Jun, and **G. Leidy** one on 30 Jun. A territorial male in N. Chagrin MP greeted **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** on 6 Jun. One was at Stebbins Gulch on 21 Jun, and two on 30 Jun (**H. Petruschke**).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Two outposts at least seemed established in the northern tier of counties. As in last summer, one was found in *Williams*, this time on 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**), and five pairs were probable or confirmed as nesters in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Pine Warbler:** Occupied traditional northerly outposts such as *Hocking*, where **M. England** found at least six at Conkles Hollow on 15 Jun, Mohican, where **L. Yoder** had five on 16 Jun, and the Oak Openings, where it was present on 3 Jun (**G. Links**). Three singing males and a juvenile (the adults apparently present since Mar) were in a *Hamilton* park (**F. Renfrow**) on 16 Jun. A territorial male at Hinckley MP was present 9 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **T&M Romito** had one in the CVNP the same day, where **D. Chasar** regards the species as slowly increasing. A territorial male was at Meander Res, *Trumbull*, on 13, 19, and 24 Jun (**C. Babyak**). **L. Rosche** noted summering birds at new sites, Kendall Lk and Mogadore Res, *Portage*. A territorial male persisted through the season at N. Chagrin MP (**K. Metcalf**). Finally, a nest was confirmed at one site and nesting considered possible at two other sites in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Laggards were at Conneaut on 2 Jun (**C. Holt**) and in *Huron* on 3 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**Cerulean Warbler:** More northerly records included one in *Williams* on 22 Jun (**G. Links**), two singing at GRWA on 24 Jun (**D. Hochadel**), and 18 on the GAAS in *Summit*. Twenty-four nests were probable or confirmed in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**). On 20 Jul, **D&A Chasar** observed a female feeding a young bird in the CVNP.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Three were found in Mohican on 16 Jun (**L. Yoder**). One was singing in Dublin, *Franklin*, on 22 Jun (**J. Hammond**). Four nests were probable or confirmed in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**). Single birds in *Lucas* on 29 Jul (**T. Kemp**) and in *Holmes* on 30 Jul (**L. Yoder**) were likely migrants.

**American Redstart:** The high count was 15 birds in *Lake* on 10 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Seven were found in Clear Ck MP on 13 Jun (**J. Watts** et al.), and four in Mohican on the 15<sup>th</sup> (**L. Yoder**).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Unusual was a nesting pair at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* on 16 Jun (**G. Links**). A territorial male sang at Berlin Res on 25 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**), and two at Meander Res in *Trumbull* through the period (**C. Babyak**). At the Hoover Res colony in *Delaware*, 37 pairs were present (**C. Bombaci** *vide* **J. Fry**).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** **L. Yoder** found three in the Mohican SF on 16 Jun.

**Ovenbird:** Common in dense woods, as evidenced by a count of 28 at Mohican on 16 Jun (**L. Yoder**), and through the period at the Marie De Larme Woods in *Paulding* (**M&D Dunakin**).

**Northern Waterthrush:** **J. Pogacnik** reported two probable nestings in *Lake*, at Hell Hollow and Hidden Valley MPs. One summered at Lk George (**L. Rosche**).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Three reports fell outside its generally-understood breeding range: five adults with young were in G.R. Clark Pk in *Clark* on 9 Jun (**D. Overacker**); breeding was reported at Lake La Su An WA, *Williams*, on 16 Jun (**G. Links**); and one was heard in the Wildwood Preserve in Toledo on 18 Jun (**E. Tramer**).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Six were in Mohican SF on 16 Jun (**L. Yoder**). At the fringes of its range, three were in a Columbus park on 6 Jun (**J. Hammond**), and one sang in Hell Hollow Pk, *Lake*, during the period (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Connecticut Warbler:** **T. Bartlett** witnessed one in the act of straggling in *Erie* on 6 Jun.

**Mourning Warbler:** Late birds were in Columbus 2 Jun (**J. McCormac**), Ottawa on 3 Jun (ONWRC), and CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**). **J. Pogacnik** noted two late migrants in *Lake* on 7 Jun, and later reported two probable nests in the *Lake* MPs during the season.

**Common Yellowthroat:** The Ottawa census of 3 Jun found 45, and that of 1 Jul 28.

**Hooded Warbler:** Mohican held 22 for **L. Yoder** on 16 Jun. The GAAS recorded 96, the third most numerous of 16 warbler spp after yellow warbler and common yellowthroat. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found a pair in Nathan Hale Pk in Parma on 25 Jun.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Late migrants straggled through Blendon Wds, *Franklin*, on 3 Jun (**R. Thorn**), and Magee the following day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**Canada Warbler:** Found nesting in *Cuyahoga*, *Geauga*, *Lake*, *Hocking*, and *Ashland*, as usual. High counts were eight at Mohican 15-16 Jun (**L. Yoder**), six (including one feeding young) at Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* during Jun (**J. Watts**), and six probable or confirmed nestings in the *Lake* MPs (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Highest count in the north was four in the Irwin Prairie SNP (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). A fairly common nester on the RTLS, *Portage* (**L. Rosche**).

**Summer Tanager:** Outside its generally-understood breeding range were the following: in *Lucas*, a bird from the previous season continued through 17 Jun (**E. Durbin**), with two males and a female reported there on 12 Jul (**R. Nirschl**), and another was at Kitty Todd Preserve on 27 Jun (**E. Tramer**); one was in *Williams* on 17 (**J. Grabmeier**) and 22 Jun (**G. Links**); in *Franklin*, Columbus parks harbored five to seven birds (**R. Thorn**); in *Delaware*, the Highbanks MP pair persisted through the season (**J. Hammond**); a singing male in *Darke* on 23 Jun (**P. McCarthy**) was only part of a pair there on 28 Jun (**R. Schieltz et al.**).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** In two apparent cases of unrequited love, the *Holmes* male from the spring persisted through 8 Jun (**M. Weaver**), and the singer at the Oak Openings was last reported from 11 Jun (**E. Tramer**).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Young birds reported 1 Jun at the VOA site in *Butler* would be an early record (**L. Brumbaugh**), where birds numbered 26 on 13 Jun (**M. Busam**). The GAAS total of 37 benefited from new habitat at the old Coliseum site.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** **R. Royse** estimated 50 singing males at Woodbury WA on 25 Jun and 100+ at Crown City WA, *Lawrence/Gallia*, on 2-3 Jul. **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found five in grasslands in *Huron* during the period. The 97 counted by the GAAS came largely from the old Coliseum site. **R. Thorn** commented from urban *Franklin* that "ominously, they seem to prefer the weedy states that fallow fields reach just before they are bulldozed for development."

**Henslow's Sparrow:** **R. Royse** estimated 100 singing males at Woodbury WA on 25 Jun, and ~50 at Crown City WA on 2-3 Jul. Eighteen were in *Pickaway* at Slate Run MP on 8 Jun (**J. Watts**). Several were near Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* on 16 Jun (**G. Links**), through at least 10 Jul (**E. Tramer**). **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found their first for Killdeer on 18 Jun. One was found on the 1 Jul census of Ottawa.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Seven on the 3 Jun ONWRC dwindled to one on that of 1 Jul. More encouragingly, **B&D Lane** estimated 20+ at Walborn Res on 15 Jul, and **D. Hochadel** called them "downright abundant" at Mosquito and Grand River WAs this season.

**White-throated Sparrow:** A late migrant was in Rocky River on 10 Jun (**G. Leidy**), but only status as a wandering minstrel can explain one singing in *Holmes* on 1 Jul (**J. Miller fide P. Yoder**), and one in Mentor on 30 Jul (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** At N. Chagrin MP in *Cuyahoga*, **R. Harlan** and **S. Wagner** found eight males on 6 Jun, and **K. Metcalf** at least 12-14 territorial birds during the whole of the month. One was reported for the GAAS, and **H. Petruschke** another in Stebbins Gulch on 19 Jun. In the species' *Lake* stronghold, a MP survey found 83 locations, with 51 probable or confirmed nestings (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** One on 1 Jun in *Athens* (**J. McCormac**) was likely a late migrant, but there are mid-summer records for nearby *Hocking*. Two were found in Battelle-Darby Ck MP, *Franklin*, on 21 Jun (**M. Albin fide J. Watts**).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reported from nine counties, including the by now usual nesting pair in *Holmes* (9 Jun, **E. Schlabach**), a bird continuing from spring at the Oak Openings through 3 Jun (**G. Links**), and another in *Williams* (20 Jun, **D. Sanders**). Found as always in *Adams*, the species' highest concentration came again from Crown City WA, *Lawrence/Gallia*, with a minimum of seven territories (26 Jun, **J. McCormac**). Grosbeaks were noted at BCSP on 3, 7, and 22 Jul (**D. Overacker**), and **J. Fry** found a pair with young in *Meigs* on 21 Jul.

**Dickcissel:** Reported from only 10 counties this summer, the first bird was seen on 2 Jun in *Adams* (**P. Rodewald**), the easternmost in *Sandusky* on 23 Jun (**D. Overacker**). The high count came from western *Franklin*, where **J. Watts** found 11 males and two females on 27 Jun.

**Bobolink:** The high counts were of 60+ near Elkton in *Columbiana* on 22 Jul (**B&D Lane**) and 59 in *Butler* on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Jul at the VOA site (**M. Busam**). Mortality from early haying is a serious threat to this species in Ohio.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** The high count was a nice 53, including at least one fledgling, on 13 Jun at the VOA site in *Butler* (**M. Busam**).

**Western Meadowlark:** **J. Grabmeier** found a singing bird in *Williams* on 17 Jun, relocated by m obs, including **G. Links** on 22 Jun.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** At least 10 were in cattails in the CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**).

**Orchard Oriole:** Nineteen were on the 3 Jun ONWRC, and five on that for 1 Jul. A nest was found in *Darke* on 23 Jun (**R. Schieltz**), and a pair was at Shenango WA in *Trumbull* on 25 Jun (**D. Hochadel**). Likely migrants were two in *Tuscarawas* on 28 Jul (**E. Schlabach**).

**Purple Finch:** One was in *Lorain* on 3 Jun (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). Three nests were probable or confirmed in the *Lake* MP system during the season (**J. Pogacnik**).

**Pine Siskin:** Two birds were reported on 17 Jun, one at a feeder in Sandusky (**S. Young**), and another in the city of Medina (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**).

**CONTRIBUTORS:** We thank all the Ohio birders who made their summer sightings available. A list of their names follows: Mac Albin, Lynne Aldrich, Thomas Archdeacon, Hank Armstrong, Carole Babyak, Tom Bartlett, Kathy Beal, Giff Beaton, Charlie Bombaci, Bob Bowman, Sue Bowman, David A. Brinkman, Lori Brumbaugh, Jen Brumfield, Mike Busam, Neill Cade, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Bob Conlon, Becky Cullen, Leo Deininger, Harry DiCarlo, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Eric Durbin, Mike Egar, Marcus England, Vic Fazio, Bob Finkelstein, Frank Frick, Jim Fry, Mike Gallaway, Larry Gara, Jerry Gillen, Ted Gilliland, Peter Gottschling, Jeff Grabmeier, Darlena Graham, Joe Hammond, Rob Harlan, Betty Hardesty, Andrea Haslage, Dave Helm, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Charlie Hoffman, Chuck Holliday, Craig Holt, Dave Horn, Gabe Hostetler, Keith Johnson, Ned Keller, Tom Kemp, Ron Kolde, Steve Landes, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, David Le Gallee, Gabe Leidy, Jay Lehman, Tom Leiden, Trent Leslie, Greg Links, Doreene Linzell, Paula Lozano, Bernie Master, Pat McCarthy, Jim McConnor, Jim McCormac, Kevin Metcalf, Greg Miller, Jeffrey A. Miller, Jonas E. Miller, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Rick Nirschl, Doug Overacker, Anne Paschall, Ed Pierce, Haans Petruschke, John Pogacnik, Gary Rankin, Scott Reeves, Frank Renfrow, Richard Rickard, Craig Rieker, Paul Rodewald, Mary Ann Romito, Tom Romito, Larry Rosche, Ed Roush, Linda Roush, Bob Royse, Dan Sanders, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Tom Schultz, Troy Shively, Harry Slack, Su Snyder, Linda Stoller, Gene Storer, Mark Swelstad, John Switzer, Tim Taylor, Chris Toops, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Andy Troyer, Dick Unger, Doug Vogus, Sandy Wagner, Leslie Warren, Mary Warren, John Watts, Monroe Weaver, Chip Weseloh, Bill Whan, Pete Whan, Ben Winger, Stan Wulkowicz, John Yochum, Leroy E. Yoder, Perry Yoder, Sheryl Young, Sean Zadar. We are also indebted to online services administered by Chuck Anderson, Vic Fazio, and Ned Keller, and the editors of *The Bobolink*.



## Further Afield by Rob Harlan

The question was innocent enough. I don't know why it had such a big effect on me; but it did, and I'm glad. Although I don't recall the year, I must have been in my mid- to late teens, spending a September morning then, as I do now, scrutinizing the warbler flocks near the Nature Center of the Rocky River Metropark just west of Cleveland. The warblers seem to funnel through this area each fall, a fact which had provided me with plenty of opportunities over the years to study the "confusing fall warblers" even as a young birder. I had just finished sifting through a flock when an older gentleman, binoculars around his neck, came up to me. "Can you sort those out?" he asked hopefully. "I've never been any good with the fall warblers—give me spring plumage any day." I eagerly pointed out a few species to him, including the hooded skulking in the background, and took great care to separate the lone bay-breast from the little troupe of blackpolls and the Wilson's from the yellow. I may have even identified some correctly. Regardless, he seemed genuinely appreciative, and like any young person given the opportunity to help out an elder, I puffed up with pride. But then came the implied question: "I bet you can tell them all apart by their songs, too!" Instant deflation. I had reached the limit of my knowledge. I had to say "No."

But for some reason this question struck a chord in me. I now wanted to know the songs, something I'd never really considered before. I now *needed* to know the songs. With cold weather on the way, and with active birding ready to settle down to a long winter's nap, I knew what needed to be done. I can still recall the hours I spent, earphones seemingly permanently affixed to my head, as Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America* spun over and over on my trusty old turntable. I wanted to be ready for the next spring, and if I had to memorize every song on that record, so be it.

A May trip to the Magee Marsh Bird Trail would be the true test of my learning. On a good day at the Trail, sensory overload can really kick in, but I held my ground, attempting to identify as much as I could by sound rather than by sight. Some species came easily, while others proved only studies in frustration. Then, from well down the Trail, one song grabbed my attention, a song that cut through the chaos and spoke to me with crystal clarity. Simple but distinctive, it went "beeee bzz bzz bzz." During the winter, this had been one I'd paid particular attention to, as it represented a species yet to make its way onto my life list. It was a golden-winged warbler, and I knew it! I *knew* it. And I also knew, from then on, that I was hooked.

When I think back over the twenty or so years that have passed, I can't help but appreciate how significant these events became for me. At the time I wanted only to prove to myself that I could learn the songs, and also, I must admit somewhat impishly, that I could identify the birds before others did (so sue me, I was a kid). I don't recall even once thinking about how learning bird songs could benefit summer birding. After all, birding was supposed to be done in the spring and in the fall, and, occasionally, in the winter. But summer birding? Nobody did *that* anymore.

Of course I was wrong. Many intrepid individuals had built up a wealth of summer birding data, but somehow I had managed to relegate this whole body of knowledge as something undertaken only by the names of the past, names in the historical record. Surely, science had already firmly established typical nesting patterns; migrations were where the real action was to be found. But a funny thing happened once I had learned the songs of the birds that pass through, or stay, in our area. June and July were no longer months to lie low, waiting for the fall warblers to reappear. Whereas the increasing foliage of spring had once hindered my attempts to see the late spring migrants, now I could appreciate how the foliage *protected* the birds, allowing them to sing their songs and get on with their responsibilities in relative safety. True, seeing them didn't get any easier, but even so I could identify them, only now by sound alone. A whole new world opened before me, one in which the birds were now *telling* me what they were. An amazingly beautiful and intricate realm of sound now permeated my birding experience. I liked what I heard.

Summer now took on new imperatives in my travels around the state. I learned what was to be expected and where, and, taking habitat into account, why. Birds I once thought rare now became almost expected, after their habitat requirements were deciphered and their distinctive vocalizations betrayed their theretofore hidden presence. I'm happy to say that summer birding remains a high priority for me to this day. And fortunately Ohio is particularly blessed with a wide variety of habitats, a prerequisite for attracting a similar variety of nesting species. While some habitats are present in abundance, others are as highly localized as the birds that utilize them. We may have to search them out, but the rarities are out there, and in the summer, when they are at their most vocal, they'll be waiting to tell us where they are. But only if we listen.

And so this summer, Sandy Wagner and I decided to search them out in earnest. We devised a plan to try to track down 200 species of birds within Ohio's borders in the 31-day period beginning with the Memorial Day weekend of May 26<sup>th</sup> (a traditional summer kickoff, if not the official start of the season) and ending on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Why 200 species? For one thing, it provided the proverbial nice round number. Second, it would give some indication of just how rich a month's worth of Ohio's summer birdlife could be; after all, to find 250 species in the state over an entire year is no easy task. To find 200 species in one-twelfth that time, especially in a season when birding is often thought to be at its slowest, was a very tempting challenge. We fine-tuned our ears, and were on our way.

I don't want to bore you with a lengthy travelogue here, but I will anyway. We decided to start out along Lake Erie on May 26<sup>th</sup>, hitting hotspots such as Lorain Harbor, Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, primarily in hopes of picking up any lingering passerine and shorebird migrants. Birds that only pass through en route to northerly nesting areas would necessarily have to be found now; also, if we could find any scarce Ohio nesters now, during migration, it would save us the time needed to track them down later in the month. We focused on our goal by listing a common loon that flew over our van on the Sandusky Bay Bridge, a nice assortment of late waterfowl and

shorebirds at the recently-drained Pipe Creek, and a worthwhile selection of warblers and thrushes that sang and chipped on cue at Lorain and the Magee Bird Trail. Although they may not have been as visible as earlier in the month, many migrants remained, and we were happy to list them all. With optics and ears, we ended the first day with 102 species; a respectable total although at the time it seemed hardly earth-shattering. As it turned out, it was a better start than we thought, as many species were found only on this first day.

We kept on the run the next day, having scheduled the Oak Openings, the Findlay reservoirs, Big Island Wildlife Area, Buck Creek State Park, Columbus, and a taste of Hocking County on our itinerary. In the Oak Openings, we tracked down the local lark sparrows, the previously reported blue grosbeak, and the dementedly vociferous clay-colored sparrow, plus very unexpectedly turning up a calling king rail. Heading south, a Franklin's gull was waiting for us near Findlay, and the cantankerous Buck Creek Bell's vireo was augmented by a surprise sanderling lounging on the swimming beach. The Columbus yellow-crowned night-heron nest was a mandatory stop on our way to the Hocking County hills, where an apparent migrant western meadowlark sang five or six times from a grassy field just before darkness set in. After dark, the now annual chuck-will's-widow along Buena Vista Road announced its presence, saving us a trip to Adams County, a well-known "chuck" hangout, but too far south to fit our tight schedule.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> we focused on Hocking County's Clear Creek Valley, while setting aside enough time to tack on a few other brief stops on our way back to Cleveland. At Clear Creek, the joy of birding comes not with seeing the birds, but with hearing the voices of north and south blend together in delightful surroundings. We added many warblers there, plus hermit thrush, black vulture, and even a drumming ruffed grouse. At the end of our first three-day weekend, our total stood a 163 species. So far, so good.

The weekend of June 2-4 again saw us leaning west. On the morning of June 3<sup>rd</sup> we ran our Pittsfield Federal Breeding Bird Survey route through rural Lorain, Huron, and Ashland counties. The BBS forms the backbone of the US Fish & Wildlife Service's summer avian monitoring programs, and is worthy of everyone's attention. Although these routes aren't usually particularly productive for rarities, I still vividly recall the summer day in 1988 when route-runner Andy Fondrk called to tell me his crew had just discovered, of all things, a territorial black-throated sparrow in Geauga County! This was undoubtedly one of Ohio's all-time greatest rarities. On our route this time, we settled for an out-of-place purple finch. Upon finishing, we headed westward over to Ottawa NWR to assist in the afternoon session of the monthly bird census. This decision netted us American black duck, black tern, and sedge wren, among others.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we mopped up at Mallard Club Marsh, where American bittern and yellow-headed blackbird "ungk-a-chunked" and rasped their way, respectively, onto our list. By now, the phenomenon of diminishing returns was really setting in. Each trip could hope to produce only a few new species as our want-list slowly dwindled. A Blackburnian warbler at North Chagrin Metropark, golden-crowned kinglets and a

red-breasted nuthatch at Hinckley Metropark, a yellow-bellied sapsucker nest in Lake County (courtesy of "Sapsucker King" Tom Leiden), the trustworthy upland sandpiper along Stollaker Road in Ashtabula County, and a winter wren at Kendall Ledges in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (courtesy of "Kendall Ledges King" Dwight Chasar) all were added to the list one by one as the month progressed. A female greater scaup, my first ever in summer in Ohio, was cautiously identified (not by sound) at Pipe Creek on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A pine siskin was a serendipitous fly-by in Medina on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and provided a species we had not dared to hope for. But we counted it anyway.

By June 17<sup>th</sup>, our total stood at 199, just one species shy of our goal. We pored over our short list of needed species, and dickcissel seemed like a safe bet. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, three dickcissels at Big Island came through in the clutch, and so after 24 days of crisscrossing the state—and paying through the nose for gas in the process—we had finally reached 200. We slept the rest of the month.

But we still had some unfinished business to attend to this summer. As I have said before, if you want to truly appreciate the best that something has to offer, then you must also experience the worst. And when we speak of the worst, of course we can be referring only to Van Wert County, the county that has somehow managed to misspell its own name since 1820 (see <http://rickohio.com/mag/articles/vanwert.htm> for details). If you read my column in the Winter 2000-01 issue, you will recall that the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* determined that Van Wert County held the fewest probable and confirmed nesting species (76) of any Ohio county during the *Atlas* years of 1982-87. We wanted to find out why. We found out.

*Ah, Van Wert County*

*The county too painful to bird*

*Where all the streams are channelized*

*Where no good field goes unplanted*

*And where vanished voices can no longer be heard*

Habitat means everything in the summer. The better the quality and variety of habitats, the better the birding. Somewhere along the line, Van Wert County forgot this basic fact. Situated along the Ohio-Indiana border about two-fifths of the way down the state, Van Wert County is fortunately located quite a distance away from most other Ohio counties. But it is not only distant as the crow flies (if there were any crows to fly, that is), it also seems to fall a distant 88<sup>th</sup> in the availability of bird habitat. For birders, and probably for the birds, it's actually quite sobering.

We visited the area on July 1-2, and spent those two days traversing as many roads across the county as time would allow, investigating every likely habitat for birds we could find. The *Breeding Bird Atlas* reports 76 probable or confirmed nesters within the Van Wert County *Atlas* blocks, but we thought perhaps we might be able to reach 80—haughtily, even 90—species in the county, as we were unconstrained by the boundaries of the relatively small *Atlas* blocks. We found 68. Of these, we felt only 18 species (18 species!) were plentiful enough to be termed



common. Never fear, though, as we did have a few interesting species, including red-headed woodpecker, northern mockingbird, and dickcissel. Oh, and on July 2, I should mention that we had two American crows. Exactly two.

What sticks in my mind most vividly about our experience is the frustrating and alarming lack of variety of habitat. The landscape is as flat as a steamrolled pancake. Fallow fields and early successional habitats seem practically nonexistent, replaced (this year, at least) almost entirely with fields of soybeans, corn, and wheat. In some portions of the county's northwestern corner, trees are lacking, and you have an unobstructed view all the way to the horizon. Farming is *intensive* here. Virtually every stream we encountered was meticulously channelized, and wetlands appear a long-forgotten novelty. Even most woodlots are too small to be productive, although I'm happy to report that we did find a gem of a woodlot, complete with big timber, in the county's southwestern corner. Also in this corner, the St. Marys River provides some productive riparian habitat before escaping into Indiana, although even this refuge is now being degraded by all-terrain vehicles. What we saw was grim indeed.

Now I'm sure we missed some interesting tidbits of habitat, and no doubt we overlooked several bird species as well. But what could not be overlooked was how very depressing, how zealously manipulated, and how clinically antiseptic the treatment of the natural world felt to us here. Nature has been dominated, with everything laid out just so, and all the dusty corners swept scrupulously clean, as in one of those "Twilight Zone" episodes where everything in the quaint little town seems so very nice, perhaps surreally nice. Maybe things aren't as they seem, but the results of this manipulation are here for all to see. And they should be seen. I recommend a visit, if only to help us each appreciate more how good we have it elsewhere. My hat is off to the stout-hearted handful of Van Wert County environmentalists. I hope they can continue to fight the good fight, because it looks like it'll be a long one. Oh, and by the way, if you stop at the local diner during your visit, be sure to order the soy burger on wheat, with a side of corn chips. It'll be fresh.

In sum, I encourage everyone to sample Ohio's summer birding fare as often as possible. After all, such unlikely species as purple gallinule, laughing gull, and western kingbird have nested here in the past, believe it or not. I don't know what new species to expect next, or where it will be found, but at least I have a hunch where it *won't* be found.

*The earth must've been knocked off its axis  
To inspire yours truly to verse  
Or maybe too much Van Wert County  
Is to blame as these verses get worse.*

7072 Parma Park Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44130

## Confirmed Nesting Record of a Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* at Clear Creek Metro Park, Hocking County, Ohio

by John Watts, Resource Manager  
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

Hermit thrushes are regular spring and fall migrants in Ohio, and occasional winter residents, particularly in the southern part of the state (Peterjohn 2001). During the Breeding Bird Atlas years of 1982-1987, hermit thrushes were recorded from five blocks, with nesting confirmed only at two sites in northeastern Ohio. Based on the numbers recorded during the Atlas years, the statewide breeding population was thought to total no more than eight to 12 pairs (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). Metro Parks initiated annual Breeding Birds Surveys at Clear Creek Metro Park in 1994. Since that time, hermit thrushes have been noted nearly annually with between one and eight singing birds present.

On 22 June 2001, while observing an eastern phoebe nest, the author observed an adult hermit thrush on a log carrying food. After approximately 5-10 minutes of observation the nest was located. The habitat was a hemlock ravine with small sandstone cliffs characteristic of Hocking County, Ohio. Closer observation revealed a squarish nest composed almost entirely of moss, placed in the center of a wood fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* with one edge located on a cliff edge approximately 15 feet above the ground. The nest contained two nestlings estimated to be 10 days or so old. Each possessed well-developed primaries and scattered spots on the back and upper shoulder region. The distinctive rusty-brown rump patch was already noticeable.

The nest was observed and photographed on 23 June 2001. During this time, both adults regularly fed the nestlings. Food consisted largely of various adult and larval moths, and at least one large adult crane fly. Several times during this period, the nestlings stood on the edge of the nest and stretched their wings. A recheck of the nest on 24 June 2001 revealed the nestlings had fledged; two unhatched eggs remained in the nest.

Vocalizations among the adults were minimal, as only calls of one or two notes were made between the male and female. While other hermit thrushes were recorded singing in Clear Creek Valley this spring, several visits to the general nesting area of this pair had not revealed their presence until the adult with food was observed. During observations of the pair, another hermit thrush could be heard singing elsewhere in this same ravine.

A total of five hermit thrushes were located by Metro Parks staff within the Clear Creek Valley during the 2001 breeding season. On 12 July 2001, an immature hermit thrush was observed feeding along the Hemlock Trail. It would appear this represented another breeding pair, the male of which had been recorded singing during the spring. This site is in a ravine located approximately three miles from the documented nest site.

The occurrence of hermit thrushes as summer residents in the Hocking County region appears to be on the rise. In 1998, the author located a nearly-completed



hermit thrush nest on the east rim of Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve on 24 April. During the 2000 breeding season, the author recorded the presence of seven singing birds between Little Rocky and Sheick Hollow State Nature Preserves. They are also noted annually in the Crane Hollow Preserve (Jeff Johnson, pers. comm.). During 1998, Frank Renfrow (pers. comm.) noted at least 30 singing males from the State Forest, State Parks, and State Nature Preserves in Hocking County. Only time will tell if this is a cyclic pattern or if the forests of this region have reached a stage of maturity better adapted for these and other northern species.

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1069 W. Main St.  
Westerville, OH 43081



Hermit thrushes were confirmed nesters at Clear Creek Metro Park, Hocking Co., this year. Like many other species, hermit thrushes keep their nests tidy by removing fecal sacs. Photo by John Watts on 23 June 2001.

#### Early Works on Ohio Birds by J. P. Kirtland

*Ed. Note: Because they are both rare and valuable, we present here Jared P. Kirtland's two most important works on the birds of Ohio: his 1838 list of the state's birds, plus annotations, and an ornithological report of 1840.*

*The first presentation consists of Kirtland's list, and annotations to many of the species therein, derived from pp 161-166 and pp 177-187 respectively of his "Report on the Zoology of Ohio"; to these are added marginal notes Kirtland inscribed in his personal copy of Nuttall's Manual of Ornithology (1832-1834) over the succeeding three decades. Published in 1936 by Christy, the marginalia supply new information from the author of the 1838 list, and add species (indicated here by three asterisks) as well. As informal personal notes, they were of course not intended for publication; nevertheless, they add considerably to our knowledge. Here Kirtland's marginalia are enclosed in [brackets], and we add for those species new to the 1838 list the Latin and English names as given and ordered by Nuttall in his Manual, as the names by which Kirtland knew them. We have supplied modern equivalents, when they differ, of both Latin and English names for each entry; except for these and editorial matter indicating errors in the printed text and adding modern nomenclature—each here enclosed in {braces}, plus a few explanatory footnotes—all the words are Kirtland's. Retained are inconsistent spellings and punctuations in the original publications.*

*The second work presented is his report of bird observations, mostly from the northeastern part of the state, published three years after the first. It, too, first appeared in a source now difficult to find, though Wheaton rescued it from obscurity by reprinting it in his Report (1882, pp 216-220). It is reproduced as it appeared there, again within {braces} modern equivalents of names for some of the species treated, as well as a few explanatory footnotes. We are indebted to Harold Mayfield, Ohio's eminent ornithologist and authority on Kirtland and the warbler that bears his name, for some introductory remarks.*

#### Introducing Jared Potter Kirtland

by Harold F. Mayfield

Ornithology in Ohio is fortunate to have inherited a solid foundation left by Jared Potter Kirtland (1793-1877), who prepared the first checklist of the birds of the state in 1838. Dr. Kirtland was a man of many talents who illuminated everything he touched. He was a physician (medical consultant), teacher, and legislator. He is famous as the father of prison reform in Ohio.

He studied birds before prism binoculars were invented and most birds were identified down the barrel of a shotgun. In those days many ornithologists were physicians. Most of them visited patients in their homes, traveling many miles each day, often on country roads by horse and buggy. Many of them were alert to the wild creatures they saw in the woods and fields they passed. At home they had books and dissecting instruments for preparing specimens, and so they left evidence of their findings.

Dr. Kirtland visited many parts of the state and corresponded with naturalists across the land. He was regarded as an authority on all of the animals of the region, particularly the birds and fishes. He made fundamental discoveries about the mussels.

When a strange warbler visited his orchard near Cleveland on 13 May 1851, he sent it to Spencer F. Baird at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, who published a formal description, naming it the Kirtland's Warbler in his honor.

## I

From A Catalogue of the Mammalia, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Testacea, and Crustacea in Ohio, by Jared P. Kirtland, M.D. Assistant Geologist, and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati.

1. *Cathartes aura* Illiger. {Turkey vulture *Cathartes aura*} The turkey buzzard is common during the summer, but does not continue in the northern parts of our State during the winter. It formerly nested in considerable numbers on the banks of the Big Beaver, near the line of Pennsylvania and Ohio, within the limits of the former State. Its numbers have greatly diminished within a few years. [Occasional. In 1810 were very common in large flocks. Hundreds. 1863 saw several at White Sulphur Springs, Delaware Co. Not seen now at Cleveland.]
2. *Falco fulvus* Lin. {Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*} The golden eagle occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie, and perhaps the Ohio River. Mr. Dorfeuille has seen a specimen taken within the limits of this State.
3. *Falco leucocephalus* Lin. {Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*} White-headed Eagle. The bald eagle is both a summer and winter resident.
4. *Falco Washingtonianus* Audubon. Washington's hawk.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ward informs me that he once saw a well marked specimen of the Washington eagle on the hills adjacent to the Ohio river. Audubon discovered a pair on Green river in Kentucky. If it be a true species, we probably are entitled to its admission into the list of Ohio birds. [Occasional in Ohio. Common on the upper Lakes. Saw one on beach at Cleveland in 1842.]
5. *Falco haliaetus* Lin. {Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*} Fish-hawk. [In 1823 common at Poland. Now rare, occasional.]
6. *Falco peregrinus* Gmel. {Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*} The great-footed hawk. I once shot a specimen of this beautiful hawk hovering over my orchard in pursuit of a flock of hens. It is the only one I have ever met with. [Once killed a specimen at Poland and one at Cleveland. Latter in Mr. Winslow's cabinet.]
7. *Falco sparverius* Lin. {American kestrel *Falco sparverius*} The sparrow-hawk. This handsome and harmless bird spends only the summer with us, during which it destroys large numbers of snakes, mice and reptiles, but never, I believe, makes any intrusion on our poultry yards. [Common. Winters at Cincinnati. Occasionally winters at Rockport.]

<sup>1</sup> Now regarded as a mistaken assessment of immature forms of the bald eagle.

8. *Falco Columbarius* Lin. {Merlin *Falco columbarius*} The pigeon-hawk. The true pigeon-hawk is rare, but may be seen early in autumn following the flocks of birds that are gathering for their migrations. [Occasionally seen at Cleveland. 1843 killed a young male. Probably nest on Kidney farm. Is seen during winter.]
9. *Falco palumbarius* Lin. {Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*} I have never met with the goose-hawk, but insert it on the authority of Audubon, who says that "it is found in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and at the Falls of Niagara," of course in Ohio. [Occasional. Mr. Case has one. Prof. Darby has a specimen killed here 1869.]
10. *Falco Pennsylvanicus* Wilson. {Broad-winged hawk *Buteo platypterus*} The broad-winged hawk is common, and breeds in the northern sections of the State. It is the mildest and most gentle in its manners of any of the hawk family. [Common. A few seen every season, 1869.]
11. *Falco velox* Wilson. {Sharp-shinned hawk *Accipiter striatus*} The sharp shinned hawk is equally common with the preceding species, and is the greatest plunderer of the flocks of hens and young turkeys that is to be met with among the predaceous birds.
12. *Falco furcatus* Lin. {Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*} A few years since the swallow-tailed hawk was to be seen, during the summer, in considerable numbers in Portage and Stark counties. From some unknown cause it has, of late, ceased to visit those localities. They were probably the northernmost verge of its summer migrations, and the late cold and wet seasons have driven it back into warmer climates. [Formerly common in Portage Co. Still common on the prairies. 1863. One killed near Bucyrus, Crawford Co. None in Ohio in 1869. Nested near Portsmouth in 1850.]
13. *Falco Sancti-Johannes* Gmel. {Rough-legged hawk *Buteo lagopus*} The black hawk is a rare visitor. I have seen only one specimen. [Once saw them passing over in the spring by thousands. A few seen every winter 1864. A second flight seen in 1866 in the spring, thousands.]
14. *Falco borealis* Gmel. {Red-tailed hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*} The red-tailed hawk. This beautiful hawk spends the whole year with us, and may be easily distinguished from any other species both by its plumage and its horrid and unearthly scream. It is comparatively rare. [Nests occasionally on my farm in Rockport—becoming rare 1864. None in 1869.]
15. *Falco hyemalis* Gmel. {Red-shouldered hawk *Buteo lineatus*} The red-shouldered hawk is also a permanent resident with us, and much more common than the red-tailed. [Common at Poland in 1835—nesting. C. Pease, Jr. killed one in Rockport 1863.]
16. *Falco cyaneus* Lin. {Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*} Marsh hawk. I have never met with this species, but am informed by Dr. Sager, assistant geologist of the Michigan geological board, that he has taken them on the Maumee river. [Formerly plenty, rare in 1864, in Rockport. None in 1869.]



17. *Falco buteoides* Nuttall {sic}. {Red-shouldered hawk *Buteo lineatus*} The short winged hawk. It is a matter of surprise that this species should have escaped the attention of naturalists until it was discovered by Nuttall {sic}, as it is the largest and one of the most common of the hawks in the northern part of Ohio. [Common, is the young of the Red-tailed.<sup>2</sup>]
18. *Falco Cooperii* Aud. {Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*} Cooper's hawk. I killed a pair of this delicate looking hawk in Trumbull County in the autumn of 1837, the only specimens I have ever seen. There seems to be considerable perplexity among naturalists in arranging the several members of this family. It can be easily obviated by attention to their habits, notes and plumage at different ages and stages of moulting. Their specific characters are distinct and well marked.
19. *Strix nyctea* Lin. {Snowy owl *Nyctea scandiaca*} Snow owl. The large white owl sometimes visits this State during severe and long continued cold weather. [A few seen every winter 1864.]
20. *Strix Asio* Lin. {Eastern screech-owl *Otus asio*} Mottled owl.
21. *Strix Virginiana* Gmel. {Great horned owl *Bubo virginianus*} Great horned owl. The great horned owl evidently has increased among us within a few years, probably deriving increased means of support from our domestic fowls. It is a bold depredator, but can be easily entrapped. [1864. Still common in my woods.]
- [\*\*\* *Strix otus* Lin. {Long-eared owl *Asio otus*} Long-eared owl. Occasional.]
22. *Strix brachyotos* Gmel. {Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*} During the past winter, which was severe and continued, the short-eared owl frequently visited the orchards and barn yards, and was easily taken. A flock located themselves in the immediate vicinity of Warren, Trumbull county. [1864. Common at Cleveland.]
23. *Strix nebulosa* Lin. {Barred owl *Strix varia*} Barred or round-headed owl. [1864. Still common.]
24. *Strix Acadica* Gmel. {Northern saw-whet owl *Aegolius acadicus*} Little screech owl. Both this species and the *S. asio* exist among us, but they are commonly blended together as one under the name of *Screech Owl*.
25. *Psittacus Carolinensis* Lin. {Carolina parakeet *Conuropsis carolinensis*} The Parakeets do not usually extend their visits further north than the Scioto, though I am informed on perhaps doubtful authority, that thirty years since flocks of them were sometimes seen on the Ohio at the mouth of Big Beaver, thirty miles below Pittsburgh. [Were very common at Cincinnati at its first settlement. A few were found at Portsmouth as late as 1830.]
26. *Coccyzus Americanus* Bonaparte. {Yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*} Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
27. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* Bonaparte. {Black-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*} Black-billed Cuckoo.

<sup>2</sup> In Nuttall (1832) and elsewhere, the immature red-shouldered hawk was regarded as a separate species, the "winter buzzard." Later the truth of the matter was recognized, but Kirtland here apparently compounds the error in correcting Nuttall's text. He would no doubt have caught this apparent slip of the pen had the statement been intended for publication.

28. *Picus auratus* Lin. {Northern flicker *Colaptes auratus*} Golden-winged Woodpecker.
29. *Picus pileatus* Lin. {Pileated woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*} Pileated Woodpecker. [Very common in Ohio in 1823. Have seen only 3 about Cleveland.]
30. *Picus erythrocephalus* Lin. {Red-headed woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*} Red-headed Woodpecker. [Growing scarce {sic} in Ohio in 1864.]
31. *Picus varius* Lin. {Yellow-bellied sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*} The yellow-bellied and the red-headed woodpecker are the only species of this genus that forsake us during winter—all the others are permanent residents. [Has evidently increased of late years. 1864.]
32. *Picus Carolinus* Lin. {Red-bellied woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*} Red-bellied woodpecker. [Still common at Cleveland 1864.]
33. *Picus villosus* Lin. {Hairy woodpecker *Picoides villosus*} Hairy Woodpecker.
34. *Picus pubescens* Lin. {Downy woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*}. The sapsucker. This small bird is one of the most destructive enemies of our orchards. While they are visited by the other species to capture innumerable small insects and worms that infest and injure the trees, this bird appears to be intent on destroying the trees themselves, which it is sure to accomplish in the course of a year or two by encircling their bodies by a series of punctures through the bark. I am inclined to believe with the popular opinion that it does it for the sake of sucking the juices of the trees. It has long been known to people of observation that it always selects those trees in a sugar or maple grove that furnishes the sweetest sugar water, and it has its favorite trees in our orchards, and appears to select them without reference to age, thriftiness or any evident circumstance, but most likely according as they afford palatable food. While the visits of all the other species should be encouraged, even though they should occasionally mutilate or purloin a little fruit, it becomes the farmer and horticulturalist to carry on a war of extermination against the sap-sucker.
35. *Picus medianus* Swainson. Little woodpecker. The small woodpecker.<sup>3</sup> I have long been familiar with this small species, and considered it a non-descript, till I recently found it noticed in the appendix to Nuttall's {sic} Ornithology at the close of the 2d vol.
36. *Alcedo alcyon* Lin. {Belted kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*} King-fisher.
37. *Sturnus Ludovicianus* Lin. {Eastern meadowlark *Sturnella magna*} Meadow Lark.
38. *Icterus Baltimore* Daudin. {Baltimore oriole *Icterus galbula*} Baltimore Oriole.
39. *Icterus spurius* Bonap. {Orchard oriole *Icterus spurius*} Spurious Oriole. [1864 Has become common, was formerly very rare.]
40. *Icterus Phœniceus* Daud. {Red-winged blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*} Red-winged Blackbird.
- [\*\*\* *Icterus icterocephalus*, Bonap. {Yellow-headed blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*} Yellow-headed Troopial. [One killed at Cincinnati.]

<sup>3</sup> Nuttall had abandoned this "species," and included it as a form of downy woodpecker, as early as the second edition (1840) of his *Manual*.



41. *Icterus pectoris* Temmick {sic}. {Brown-headed cowbird *Molothrus ater*} The cow-bunting is admitted into our catalogue on rather doubtful authority. [1864. Abundant, formerly rare.]
42. *Icterus agripennis* Bonap. {Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*} Rice-bunting. [Common at Rockport.]
43. *Quiscalus versicolor* Viellot. {Common grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*} Crow Black-bird. The black bird is one of the species against which the efforts not only of idle boys, but of our farmers are directed on account of its habits of attacking the Indian corn at the time it is sprouting from the ground. It is somewhat vexatious, to be sure, to have this injury done to our corn crops; but before the farmer engages in the warfare against these birds, he should take into consideration the fact that they save ten times the amount of corn they destroy. They pick up thousands of insects that would do far greater damage.
- There are only two short periods while the black birds remain with us that they eat vegetable food: in the spring when the corn is sprouting from the ground, and in autumn when it is mature. The remainder of their summer's sojourning is spent in rendering us the most essential aid. On opening the stomachs of these and many other insectivorous birds, they will be found to contain great numbers of worms, bugs, and small reptiles; sometimes as many as fifty or sixty may be discovered in the stomach of one individual.
- The farmer should recollect that in destroying even one of these birds he is committing a direct injury on his own property as well as injuring community at large. This cause, if no other, should induce parents and guardians who have the charge of idle boys to restrain them from waton {sic} destruction of the feathered tribes. [1864. Rapidly decreasing.]
44. *Quiscalus ferrugineus* Bonap. {Rusty blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*} Rusty Grackle. [A few killed every spring.]
45. *Corvus corax* Lin. {Common raven *Corvus corax*} The raven sometimes spends the winter as far north as the south shore of Lake Erie. [Occasional. 1864 becoming very rare.]
46. *Corvus corone* Lin. {American crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*} From careful attention to the habits of the crow for many years, I am fully convinced that, like most of the smaller species of birds, it does the farmer far more service by destroying various insects, than injury by its depredations on the corn fields. [Common. 1864 rapidly increasing.]
47. *Corvus cristatus* Lin. {Blue jay *Cyanocitta cristata*} Blue Jay.
- \*\*\* *Bombycilla garrula* Viell. {Bohemian waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*} Waxen chattering. Once saw a flock at Cleveland. Common in 1844-5 during winter. 1864 Numerous at Rockport in Jany. Jan'y & Feb. 1864 Large flocks on mountain ash trees, East Rockport. Killed and mounted 2 dozen.]
48. *Bombycilla Carolinensis* Briss. {Cedar waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*} Cedar-bird
49. *Caprimulgus vociferus* Wil. {Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferus*} The whip-poor-will was formerly common in the northern counties of the State during summer, but for the last three years its notes are rarely if ever heard. The coldness of the weather has probably prevented its reaching so high a latitude.

50. *Caprimulgus Virginianus* Briss. {Common nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*} Nighthawk.
51. *Cypselus pelasgius* Tem. {Chimney swift *Chaetura pelagica*} Chimney Swallow.
52. *Hirundo purpurea* Lin. {Purple martin *Progne subis*} Martin. [In 1823 common in Ohio. 1864 rarely seen about Cleveland.]
53. *Hirundo rufa* Gmel. {Barn swallow *Hirundo rustica*} Barn Swallow.
54. *Hirundo fulva* Viell. {Cliff swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*} Congregations of the cliff or republican swallow are now common at the west. In the spring of 1815 a few were first seen by Audubon at Henderson in Kentucky. Four years after, a colony located on the United States buildings at Newport, opposite Cincinnati, and have more recently extended their settlements to several buildings in the west part of the latter city. During the present summer they have built their nests on a barn in the north part of Columbiana county. [1864 becoming common.]
55. *Hirundo bicolor* Viell. {Tree swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*}. White-bellied Swallow.
56. *Hirundo riparia* Lin. {Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*} Sand Swallow.
- \*\*\* *Hirundo serripennis* Aud. {Northern rough-winged swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*} Rough-winged swallow. A few seen every summer at the mouth of Rocky River.]
57. *Muscicapa tyrannus* Briss. {Eastern kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*} King-bird.
58. *Muscicapa crinita* Lin. {Great crested flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*} Crested Fly-catcher.
59. *Muscicapa fusca* Gmel. {Eastern phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*} Phoebe.
60. *Muscicapa virens* Lin. {Eastern wood-pewee *Contopus virens*} Wood Pewee.
61. *Muscicapa acadica* Gmel. {Acadian flycatcher *Empidonax virens*} Small Fly-catcher.
62. *Muscicapa ruticilla* Lin. {American redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*} Red-start.
63. *Icteria viridis* Bonap. {Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*} Yellow-breasted Chat.
64. *Vireo flavifrons* Viell. {Yellow-throated vireo *Vireo flavifrons*} Yellow-throated Fly-catcher.
65. *Vireo noveboracensis* Bonap. {White-eyed vireo *Vireo griseus*} White-eyed Vireo.
66. *Vireo gilvus* Bonap. {Warbling vireo *Vireo gilvus*} The warbling vireo, from its small size and retiring habits, escapes the observation of most people, yet it is one of the sweetest of the feathered songsters. Contrary to the usual custom of these birds, a pair once took up their summer residence in an apple tree a few rods from my house, where they nested and reared their young. The male would place himself on the topmost bough of the tree, and from the earliest dawn till the close of day, would pour forth a continued strain of the most melting notes.
67. *Vireo olivaceus* Bonap. {Red-eyed vireo *Vireo olivaceus*} Red-eyed Vireo.
68. *Lanius septentrionalis* Gmel. {Northern shrike *Lanius excubitor*} The butcher bird. Curing the long continuance of the cold in the northern part of our State, this depredator is an occasional visitor, much to the annoyance of the smaller species of birds, which it destroys out of mere wantonness, and leave their bodies hanging upon the boughs of trees. [Common in winter.]

69. *Turdus polyglottus* Lin. {Northern mockingbird *Mimus polyglottus*} The mocking bird frequently visits the Miami valley, but is never seen in the northern counties of the State.
70. *Turdus felivox* Viell. {Gray catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*} Cat-bird.
71. *Turdus migratorius* Lin. {American robin *Turdus migratorius*} Robin.
72. *Turdus rufus* Lin. {Brown thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*} Brown thrush.
73. *Turdus mustelinus* Gmel. {Wood thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*} Wood Thrush.
74. *Turdus minor* Gmel. {Hermit thrush *Catharus guttatus*} Hermit Thrush.
75. *Turdus Wilsonii* Bonap. {Veery *Catharus fuscescens*} Wilson's Thrush.
76. *Sylvia aurocapilla* Bonap. {Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*} Golden crowned Thrush.
77. *Sylvia coronata* Latham. {Yellow-rumped warbler *Dendroica coronata*} The yellow-rump warbler. I have watched with much care for several years the numerous family of small birds comprised in the genus *Sylvia*, and am happy to be able, by my own observations, to lay before the public so complete a list of its species. Not one is admitted on doubtful authority. I have prepared specimens of all that are enumerated.
- A majority of them remain with us only a few days during spring, on their way to the north, where they rear their young. On their return in autumn they do not often stop. A few species, however, spend the summer in this State and retire to the south early in autumn. The yellow-rumped warbler is of the former character. It is one of the most numerous in the spring, but soon disappears.
78. *Sylvia maculosa* Latham. {Magnolia warbler *Dendroica magnolia*} The black and yellow warbler is very rare; it is sometimes seen in company with the preceding species. It soon retires to the north. [Very common at Cleveland.]
79. *Sylvia maritima* {sic} Wilson. {Cape May warbler *Dendroica tigrina*} The Cape May warbler, Nuttall {sic} says, has "only been seen near the swamps of Cape May, in New Jersey, and near Philadelphia." I have succeeded in securing three specimens. Its habits are similar to those of the other transitory warblers. I discovered it picking insects from the cherry blossoms.
80. *Sylvia paridalina* Bonap. {Canada warbler *Wilsonia Canadensis*} The Canada flycatcher was rather common about a cranberry marsh in Trumbull county, during most of the month of May of the present year.
81. *Sylvia virens* Lath. {Black-throated green warbler *Dendroica virens*} The black-throated green warbler is a rare visitor during a few days each spring. It may generally be discovered searching for insects at the opening buds of the sugar trees.
82. *Sylvia Blackburniae* Lath. {Blackburnian warbler *Dendroica fusca*} The Blackburnian warbler. Few of this family equal this bird in the beauty of its plumage. Its stay with us is short, but it often appears in considerable numbers.
83. *Sylvia Nove Boracensis* Lath. {Waterthrush sp *Seiurus* sp<sup>4</sup>} The water thrush appears about our small streams early in the spring, and a few continue during the whole of the summer, though most of this species pass on to the north.

<sup>4</sup> Little notice was taken at the time of the difference between northern and Louisiana waterthrushes, and it seems best to regard this as waterthrush sp.

84. *Sylvia icterocephala* Lath. {Chestnut-sided warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*} The chestnut-sided warbler which Audubon met with only in one instance, was rather common in Trumbull county during the last spring. I am inclined to believe it nested in our cranberry marshes, as I saw it on the first of June busily engaged in catching small insects and warbling its mild and soft notes.
85. *Sylvia castanea* Wil. {bay-breasted warbler *Dendroica castanea*} The bay-breasted warbler. This is esteemed one of the rarest of the *Sylvias*. I have however succeeded in taking great numbers during their short visits. They are generally found among the highest limits of our forest trees, early in May.
86. *Sylvia striata* Lath. {Blackpoll warbler *Dendroica striata*} The black-poll warbler is rather common about the orchards while the apple trees are in flower. It however remains but a few days.
- [\*\*\* *Sylvicola pinus*, Jard. {Pine warbler *Dendroica pinus*} Pine warbler. Common in Oct 1843 near Cleveland.]
87. *Sylvia varia*. {Black-and-white warbler *Mniotilta varia*} The black and white creeper spends the summer with us, and is common.
88. *Sylvia æstiva* Lath. {Yellow warbler *Dendroica petechia*} The yellow warbler is another summer resident. It may often be seen weaving its thready nest on the extreme limbs of fruit trees.
89. *Sylvia Americana* Lath. {Northern parula *Parula americana*} The delicate, parti-colored warbler in some instances, spends the summer with us. I have repeatedly seen them feeding their young in the month of July.
90. *Sylvia Canadensis* Lath. {Black-throated blue warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*} The black-throated blue warbler. This comely looking *Sylvia* is tolerably plenty for a few days in the spring. Its common resort at that time, is the retired forest, particularly the shadowy evergreens.
91. *Sylvia agilis* Wil. {Connecticut warbler *Oporornis agilis*} I have taken only a solitary specimen of the Connecticut warbler, and am not familiar with its habits.
92. *Sylvia trichas* Lath. {Common yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*} The Maryland yellow-throat breeds in bushy marshes, and its notes are to be heard almost incessantly, in such situations, during the summer.
93. *Sylvia azurea* Stephens. {Cerulean warbler *Dendroica cerulea*} The cerulean warbler must be rare, as I have never met with it except in one instance.
94. *Sylvia cærulea* Lath. {Blue-gray gnatcatcher *Polioptila cærulea*} Blue-gray Flycatcher.
95. *Sylvia Wilsonii* Bonap. {Wilson's warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*} The black-capt warbler. This bird, with Audubon has classed with the muscicapa or flycatchers, partakes more of the *Sylvias*. I have therefore adopted Bonaparte's arrangement of it. It was common, during the last spring, about the cranberry marshes, where it continued till the middle of May.
96. *Sylvia vermivora* Lath. {Worm-eating warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*} The worm-eating warbler. This species may be seen, during the spring, engaged in seeking food in wet marshes and on the borders of small streams.



97. *Sylvia solitaria* Lath. {Blue-winged warbler *Vermivora pinus*} The blue-winged yellow warbler. I have obtained only one specimen of this delicate warbler, and remain ignorant of its habits. [May 11<sup>th</sup> 1843. Killed one, in north woods.]
98. *Sylvia petechia* Lath. {Palm warbler *Dendroica palmarum*} Yellow-red-poll Warbler.
99. *Sylvia chrysoptera* Lath. {Golden-winged warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*} The golden-winged warbler is one of the most delicate and showy of the genus, as well as among the most rare. I captured a few in May last, on the verge of a cranberry marsh. It is only a transitory visitor in Ohio.
100. *Sylvia peregrina* Wil. {Tennessee warbler *Vermivora peregrina*} The plain Tennessee warbler was common for two or three days in our orchards while in bloom during the last spring, but its visit was not prolonged beyond that time.
101. *Sylvia rubracapilla* {sic} Wil. {Nashville warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*} I took a solitary specimen of the Nashville warbler in my garden during the last spring, the only one I have ever seen. It was engaged, like most of the members of this family, in catching insects.
- [\*\*\* *Vermivora celata*, Jard. {Orange-crowned warbler *Vermivora celata*} Orange-crowned vermivora. Taken by Mr. Winslow at Cleveland, autumn of 1841.]
102. *Saxicola sialis* Bonap. {Eastern bluebird *Sialia sialis*} Blue Bird.
103. *Anthus spinoletta* Bonap. {American pipit *Anthus rubescens*} Though the brown lark is probably abundant, at times, in Ohio, I have taken only one specimen. It stops with us while on its way to the north, and on its return.
104. *Regulus calendula* Step. {Ruby-crowned kinglet *Regulus calendula*} Ruby-crowned Wren. I have repeatedly taken this and the two succeeding species of wrens, but I consider it questionable whether they are more than varieties. If they be specifically distinct, there is still another species not described, in which the crown is destitute of the colored feathers. I have taken several with this plain character.
105. *Regulus cristatus* Viell. {Golden-crowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa*} Golden-crested Wren.<sup>5</sup>
106. *Regulus tricolor* Nuttall {sic}. {Golden-crowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa*} Three-colored Wren.
107. *Troglodytes ludovicianus* Bonap. {Carolina wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*} The great Carolina wren was common at Cincinnati during the last winter. I have not seen it north of that city.
108. *Troglodytes palustris* Bonap. {Marsh wren *Cistothorus palustris*} Marsh Wren.
109. *Troglodytes europæus* Leach. {Winter wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*} Winter Wren.
110. *Certhia familiaris* Lin. {Brown creeper *Certhia americana*} Brown Creeper
111. *Sitta carolinensis* Briss. {White-breasted nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*} White-breasted blk. Capt Nuthatch.
112. *Sitta canadensis* Lin. {Red-breasted nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*} Red-bellied Nuthatch.

<sup>5</sup> This and the following are recognized today as the female and the male, respectively, of the golden-crowned kinglet.

113. *Sitta pusilla* Lath. {Brown-headed nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*} The brown headed nuthatch. I once killed a specimen<sup>6</sup> in the northern part of Ohio, though it is usually not seen north of Virginia.
114. *Trochilus colubris* Lin. {Ruby-throated hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*} Humming Bird.
115. *Parus bicolor* Lin. {Tufted titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*} Tom-Tit.
116. *Parus atricapillus* Lin. {Black-capped chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*} Black-capt Titmouse.
117. *Alauda alpestris* Lin. {Horned lark *Eremophila alpestris*} The shore lark is frequently seen late in autumn on the shore of Lake Erie, in the vicinity of Cleveland, and in once instance I met with it in Trumbull county during winter.
118. *Emberiza nivalis* Lin. {Snow bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*} The snow bunting visits us only during the most intense cold weather, when it is compelled to leave its northern haunts in search of food. It may then be seen gathering scattered seeds by the road side or about our barns and gardens. A late voyager gives an account of his having examined a burial crib containing the body of a dead infant, deposited according to the customs of some of the northern Indians. A white snow bird had constructed her nest on the neck of the corpse, and was quietly sitting on her eggs. No one who has read that account can see this delicate looking bird shivering in our winter blasts, without bringing the impressive incident to mind. [Saw one at Rockport Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1845.]
119. *Tanagra rubra* Lin. {Scarlet tanager *Piranga olivacea*} Scarlet Tanager.
120. *Tanagra aestiva* Gmel. {Summer tanager *Piranga rubra*} The summer red bird is occasionally seen in the southern parts of Ohio, and I have in one instance met with it as far north as Trumbull county.
121. *Fringilla cyanea* Wil. {Indigo bunting *Passerina cyanea*} The indigo bird is a summer resident in all parts of the State, and enlivens our gardens by its constant chatterings.
122. *Fringilla americana* Bonap. {Dickcissel *Spiza americana*} The black-throated bunting. My authority for admitting this species into our catalogue is perhaps not sufficient. I however believe it to be an occasional visitor of this State.
123. *Fringilla leucophrys* Tem. {White-crowned sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*} and *F. pennsylvanica* so closely resemble each other, they they are often considered the same species. By a little attention they can be distinguished from each other. They are both common for a few days in the spring, but neither remain during summer.
124. *Fringilla pennsylvanica* Lath. {White-throated sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*} White-throated Sparrow.
125. *Fringilla graminea* Gmel. {Vesper sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*} Bay-winged Bunting.

<sup>6</sup> This specimen has not been located. Wheaton (1882), Dawson (1903), and Jones (1903) accept the report; Peterjohn et al. (1987) do not, saying it is "without sufficient details" (p. 31). Nor is the species on the official state list (OBRC, 2000). Barrows (1912), in discussing a Michigan report, cites this Ohio report in support, but also mentions confusable plumages of *S. canadensis*.

126. *Fringilla melodia* Wil. {Song sparrow *Melospiza melodia*} Song Sparrow.
127. *Fringilla hyemalis* Lin. {Dark-eyed junco *Junco hyemalis*} Snow Bird. The lead-colored snow bird which is seen in such numbers during the winter, does not forsake the State entirely during summer. It breeds in great numbers in the dark beech woods of the Connecticut Western Reserve, and with the approach of cold weather gathers about yards and gardens.
128. *Fringilla passerina* Wil. {Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*} Yellow-shouldered Finch.
129. *Fringilla Canadensis*. Lath. {American tree sparrow *Spizella arborea*} Tree Sparrow.
130. *Fringilla socialis* Wil. {Chipping sparrow *Spizella passerina*} Chipping Sparrow.
131. *Fringilla pusilla* Wil. {Field sparrow *Spizella pusilla*} Field Sparrow.
132. *Fringilla palustris* Wil. {Swamp sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*} Swamp Sparrow.
133. *Fringilla tristis* Lin. {American goldfinch *Carduelis tristis*}. Yellow bird.
134. *Fringilla linaria* Lin. {Common redpoll *Carduelis flammea*} The lesser red poll. Two winters since a large flock of this very rare bird continued in my garden and the adjacent fields for nearly three months, and finally disappeared at the approach of mild weather. I have never met with the species at any other time. Some of the males were as richly tinged with carmine, as the most showy of the purple finches.
135. *Fringilla iliaca* Merrem. {Fox sparrow *Passerella iliaca*} Fox-colored Sparrow.
136. *Fringilla erythroptalma* {sic} Lin. {Eastern towhee *Pipilo erythroptalmus*} Towhee Bunting.
137. *Fringilla cardinalis* Bonap. {Northern cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*} The cardinal gross-beak. This handsome bird was hardly known on the Western Reserve until within the last three or four years. It has now become common and is a winter resident there.
- [\*\*\* *Coccothraustes vespertinus* Cooper. {Evening grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*} Evening grosbeak. I killed at Rockport by C. Pease jr., in March. Is now in my collection 1864. I saw a flock there.]
138. *Fringilla Ludoviciana* Bonap. {Rose-breasted grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*} The rose-breasted gross-beak is not only a showy and splendid bird, but one of the most animated songsters. During the spring and early summer months, the vicinities of the cranberry marshes are constantly serenaded by it. We have no bird that sings with so much hilarity. Its notes are not as various as those of the mocking bird, but far surpass them in animation. It sings at all hours of the night as well as during the day. If it were a native of Europe, I am confident its reputation would stand much higher than the nightingale, as it combines so much beauty of plumage with its musical talents.
- In the south part of Ohio it is rarely seen, but is a common bird on the shores of Lake Erie and in the adjoining counties.

139. *Fringilla purpurea* Gmel. {Purple finch *Carpodacus purpureus*} The purple finch. I presume this high-colored finch must occasionally breed in Ohio, as I saw several at Kinsman on the last of June of the present year. [Breeds at Kinsman O. Occasionally visits Rockport in winter and spring.]
- [\*\*\* *Corythus enucleator*, Bonap. {Pine grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*} Pine Finch. Several were killed in Feb 1843 in the vicinity of Cleveland. A few since.]
140. *Loxia curvirostra* Lin. {Red crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*} Common Crossbill. I have not succeeded in obtaining a specimen of the cross-bill, but I believe it is sometimes seen in the county of Ashtabula. [1864 Jany. C. Pease killed a male, apparently mated with a female, with a white-winged female (vid specimens).]
- [\*\*\* *Loxia leucoptera* Gmel. {White-winged crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*} White-winged crossbill. Saw a male at Rocky River. C. Pease killed a female Jany 1864.]
141. *Columba Carolinensis* Lin. {Mourning dove *Zenaida asiatica*} Mourning Dove.
142. *Columba migratoria* Lin. {Passenger pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius*} Passenger Pigeon.
143. *Meleagris gallopavo* Lin. {Wild turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*} Wild Turkey. [A few remaining at Rockport. For sale daily in Cleveland.]
144. *Perdix virginiana* Lath. {Northern bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*} Quail or Partridge {sic}. [Rare at Rockport for several years. Common again 1863.]
145. *Tetrao umbellus* Lin. {Ruffed grouse *Bonasa umbellus*} Ruffed Grouse. [A few left in 1864.]
146. *Tetrao cupido* Lin. {Greater prairie-chicken *Tympanuchus cupido*} Prairie-Hen {sic}. The prairie hen is found in considerable numbers in the northwestern parts of our State. [A few about Sandusky Bay in 1847.]
147. *Tetrao Canadensis* Lin. {Spruce grouse *Falcipennis canadensis*} Spotted Grouse. I have been informed that a bird<sup>7</sup> answering the description of the Canada grouse {sic} has been killed on the shores of Lake Erie, but have not been able to obtain a specimen, or even any very authentic account of it.
- [\*\*\* *Charadrius arenaria* Illiger. {Sanderling *Calidris alba*} Sanderling plover. Very common at Cleveland Sept 1829. Also is occasionally seen flocks upon the sand-beach in the spring.]
148. *Charadrius semi-palmatus* Bonap. {Semipalmated plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*} The ringed plover is occasionally seen in the vicinity of Lake Erie and sometimes in the interior of the State. [Common at Cleveland early in Sept 1839.—Still more common in 1840, both in the spring, and fall.]
149. *Charadrius vociferus* Lin. {Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*} Killdeer.
150. *Charadrius pluvialis* Lin. {American golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica*} The golden plover frequently visits us both in its northern and southern migrations. [Common at Cleveland Sept 1839. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Sept 1840 immense flocks passed over the City, going to the South. A few visited the beach for several days afterwards.]

<sup>7</sup> Wheaton (1882) mentions this report, only to discount it (p. 445).



- [\*\*\* *Charadrius melodus* Ord. {Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*} Piping ringed plover. Killed one on the beach at Cleved. Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1839.—also another in the spring of 1840. Very rare.]
151. *Charadrius helveticus* Bonap. {Black-bellied plover *Pluvialis squatarola*} Black-bellied Plover. This bird is called the black-bellied killdeer, and is sometimes seen in company with the common species. [Killed one at Cleveland Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1839 in company with some Golden Plovers. Distinguished by its general form and 4<sup>th</sup> toe. Visited Cleveland 10 Sept 1840 in considerable numbers, with the Golden Plover.]
152. *Streptilas interpres* Ill. {Ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres*} Turnstone. Dr. Sager informs me that the turnstone visits the shores of Lake Erie, and I once saw a specimen taken at the west, but I believe not in the limits of Ohio. [Very common at Cleveland Sept 1839. Occasionally seen in Sept 1840.]
153. *Grus Americana* Tem. {Sandhill crane *Grus canadensis*} Hooping or Sand-hill Crane. The sand-hill or whooping crane, the adjutant bird, occasionally visits Ohio. Dr. Ward informs me that two were killed near Roscoe, in Coshocton county in 1837, and the Hon. Calvin Pease also informs me that he once saw a flock of them in Fairfield county in this State<sup>8</sup>.
154. *Ardea Herodias* Lin. {Great blue heron *Ardea herodias*} Great Heron. [Common. Nests in Boardman on the Yellow Creek. Plumage varies with age and season.]
155. *Ardea egretta* Gmel. {Great egret *Ardea alba*} or great white heron, has been repeatedly taken in Ohio. Dr. Ward has seen it in the vicinity of Chillicothe, and Dr. Hildreth has furnished me with a specimen taken near Marietta. [One was killed in Marietta in 1838 and the skin sent to me by Dr. Hildreth.]
- [\*\*\* *Ardea candidissima* Wils. {Snowy egret *Egretta thula*} Snowy Heron. One was killed at Montgomery {Montgomery's?—Christy's gloss}].
156. *Ardea discors* Wil. {Black-crowned night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*} The night heron. Dr. Ward informs me that a fine specimen was taken on the Scioto a few years since.
157. *Ardea minor* Wil. {American bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*} American Bittern. The brown bittern seems not to be well known at the west; I have, however, specimens of both the old and young, and conclude it breeds on the lake shore, as I saw a number of the half grown young in a marsh at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July of the present year.
158. *Ardea virescens* Lin. {Green heron *Butorides virescens*} Green Heron.
159. *Ardea exilis* Wil. Least Bittern. [Common at Cleveland. Breeds in the marsh in Ohio City.]
160. *Numenius longirostris* Wil. {Long-billed curlew *Numenius americanus*} The long-billed curlew is an occasional visitor. [A flock visited Cleveland in August 1840.]

<sup>8</sup> Ornithologists of the time, including Audubon, routinely regarded immature and adult forms of cranes as separate species. Most likely Kirtland speaks here of the sandhill crane *Grus canadensis*.

161. *Numenius Hudsonicus* Lath. {Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*} Esquimaux curlew.<sup>9</sup> A specimen of the Esquimaux {sic} curlew, taken in the vicinity of Cincinnati, is contained in Dorfeuille's {sic} museum. I have one in my own collection presented me by Mr. Hayden from Cleveland. [Mr. Hayden furnished me with a specimen killed at Cleveland in the spring of 1838.]
162. *Tringa semipalmata* Wil. {Semipalmated sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*} Semipalmated Sand-piper.
- [\*\*\* *Pisobia fuscicollis* {sic} {White-rumped sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*} [I have one specimen from Boardman and a second killed in Ohio City.]
163. *Tringa Schinzii* Brehm. {Dunlin *Calidris alpina*} Schinz's Sand-piper.<sup>10</sup> I succeeded in taking two specimens of this rare sand piper in Poland, in September, 1837.
- [\*\*\* *Tringa subarquata* Temm. {Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*} Cape Curlew. I killed a solitary specimen near Vinton's Distillery, in Ohio City in the fall of 1839. It was in company with Dunlin's.]
164. *Tringa rufescens* Viell. {Buff-breasted sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*} Buff-breasted Sand-piper. [Killed 3 or 4 at Cleveland Sept 1829. A flock was also seen in Sept 1840 in Ohio City.]
165. *Tringa Wilsonii* Nutt. {Least sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*} Wilson's Sand-piper.
166. *Tringa semi-palmatus* Tem. {Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*} Audubon considers the willet as exclusively confined to the sea coast, notwithstanding Say saw it in Missouri. On the first day of July of the present year, a flock of more than twenty were seen at Cleveland on the shore of Lake Erie, and continued their visits for several subsequent days. I succeeded in taking one, and have no hesitation in classing it among our Ohio birds. [Not uncommon at Cleveland in the spring, and the young appear here as early as the 3d of July (1840).]
167. *Totanus melanoleucus* Viell. {Greater yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*} Great Yellow-shanks.
168. *Totanus flavipes* Viell. {Lesser yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*} Lesser Yellow-shanks.
169. *Totanus Bartramius* Tem. {Upland sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*} Bartram's tattler. I am informed by Dr. Ward that it is sometimes seen in the Scioto valley.
170. *Totanus chloropygius* Viell. {Solitary sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*} Solitary Tattler. [Common. Breeds in Trumbull Co.]<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Wheaton presumes the whimbrel is meant here. Audubon (1840-44) stated in his account for "Hudsonian Curlew" that it had "until a few years ago always been confounded with Esquimaux Curlew." *N. hudsonicus* he reserved for the former, at the time considered distinct from the European whimbrel *N. phaeopus*. Nuttall, Kirtland's customary source, called *N. hudsonicus* the Esquimaux Curlew.

<sup>10</sup> The dunlin was treated in 1838 as a species separate from the common "red-backed sandpiper." Currently races of *C. alpina* include *hudsonia* and *pacifica* in the New World, and *schinzii*, among others, in the Old. See the 1841 text below, where Kirtland notes "large flocks" only two years later.

<sup>11</sup> Not now considered an Ohio breeder, though its late departures and early arrivals, both during June, persuaded ornithologists of Kirtland's day that it nested here.

171. *Totanus macularius* Tem. {Spotted sandpiper *Actitis macularia*} Spotted Sandpiper.
172. *Limosa fedoa* Viell. {Marbled godwit *Limosa fedoa*} A fine specimen of the marbled godwit was shot at Youngstown in 1837, which I have prepared in my cabinet. This is the only one I have met with in Ohio.
173. *Limosa Hudsonica* Swain. {Hudsonian godwit *Limosa haemastica*} Specimens of the Hudson godwit have been taken near Cincinnati, and one is now in the possession of Mr. Dorfeuille.
174. *Scolopax grisea* Gmel. {Short-billed dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*} Red-breasted snipe. [In Sept 1840 a large flock were seen by me in Cleveland. I shot 5 out of seven.]
175. *Scolopax Wilsonii* Tem. {Common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*} Snipe.
176. *Scolopax minor* Gmel. {American woodcock *Scolopax minor*} Woodcock.
177. *Rallus Virginianus* Lin. {Virginia rail *Rallus limicola*} Virginia Rail. This species of rail breeds in our marshes.
178. *Rallus Carolinus* Lin. {Sora *Porzana carolina*} Carolina Rail. One was taken near Fairport, in the county of Geauga, during the spring of 1837.
179. *Rallus nove boracensis* Bonap. {Yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*} The yellow-breasted rail, Mr. Robert Buchanan informs me, has been occasionally seen in the vicinity of Cincinnati.
180. *Gallinula chloropus* Lath. {Common moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*} The gallinule, though considered a southern bird, sometimes extends its visits as far north as Trumbull county, in Ohio. One was taken during the last spring at Warren, and is so nearly domesticated that it associated with the poultry in a barn yard. Dr. Ward informs me that it has been taken in Coshocton county, and Dr. Sager that it visits Michigan.
- [\*\*\* *Fulica americana*, Gmel. {American coot *Fulica americana*} Cinereous coot. Common, probably breeds in the marsh in Ohio City.]
- [\*\*\* *Phalaropus hyperboreus* Lath. {Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*} Hyperborean phalarope. Homer Blake killed one on the Lake near the pier in 1839. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840 I shot one on the south end of Vinton's Distillery in Ohio city. Both were young birds.]
181. *Phalaropus Wilsonii* Sabine. {Wilson's phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*} Wilson's phalarope. I once met with a flock of this rare bird on Mill creek, in the township of Boardman, in Trumbull county.
182. *Recurvirostra Americana* Lin. {American avocet *Recurvirostra americana*} The avocet. This unique bird has been killed by sportsmen in the vicinity of Cincinnati.
183. *Sterna aranea* Wil. {Gull-billed tern *Sterna nilotica*}<sup>12</sup> Marsh Tern. I am indebted principally to Audubon and Nuttal {sic} for my authority in classing this and the other species of Teras {sic} and gulls among our Ohio birds. Further investigation will probably add some other species of these genera to our list. [I killed one at Cleveland on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840.]

<sup>12</sup> Kirtland admitted to personal difficulties in distinguishing among the Laridae (Christy 1936, p. 86). Based on this admission, and what we know of the distribution of certain species, his inclusion of gull-billed, Arctic, and roseate terns in his catalog deserves skepticism. Wheaton (1882) omits all three, as well as the jaeger.

184. *Sterna hirundo* Lin. {Common tern *Sterna hirundo*} Great Tern.
185. *Sterna nigra* Lin. {Black tern *Chlidonias niger*} Black Tern.
186. *Sterna arctica* Temm. {Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*} Arctic Tern. [Killed two at Cleveland in the spring of 1840.]
187. *Sterna Dougallii* Montfort. {Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*} Roseate Tern.
188. *Larus capistriatus* {sic} Temm. {Bonaparte's gull *Larus philadelphia*} Brown masked Gull.
189. *Larus atricilla* Lin. {Laughing gull *Larus atricilla*} Black-headed Gull. [Occasionally seen. Two killed at Poland.]
190. *Larus argentatus* Brunrick. {Herring gull *Larus argentatus*} Herring Gull.
191. *Larus marinus* Lin. {Great black-backed gull *Larus maritima*} Black-backed Gull.
192. *Larus zonorhynchus* Swain. {Ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis*} Ring-billed Mew Gull.
- [\*\*\* *Lestris parasitica* Temm. {Parasitic jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*} Arctic jaeger. A specimen of Richardson's Jaeger was taken by Williams & Wright, attacking Wright's hens at Rockport. Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1857. It was a young bird.]
194. *Anser hyperboreus* Pallas. {Snow goose *Chen caerulescens*} Snow-goose. The snow goose occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie in its migrations. [One was killed at Sandusky—in possession of Mr. Case.]
195. *Anser albifrons* Bechst. {Greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*} The white-fronted goose I insert on the implied authority of Audubon.
196. *Anser Canadensis* Viell. {Canada goose *Branta canadensis*} Canada Goose. I learn from Dr. Ward that the wild goose frequently spends the winter in the Scioto valley, and becomes so tame as to visit the corn fields in pursuit of food.
197. *Anser bernicla* Bonap. {Brant *Branta bernicla*} The Brant goose is not unfrequently seen passing over us in the spring of the year, and it is frequently seen on the lake shore during a few days in the spring.
198. *Anas clypeata* Lin. {Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata*} The shoveler duck receives its name from the form of its bill. It occasionally stops for a few days in our waters during spring, while on its way to the remote northern regions.
199. *Anas strepera* Lin. {Gadwall *Anas strepera*} The Gadwall is one of the rarest of the migratory ducks that visits this State. It is sometimes seen about the small lakes in the northern parts of Ohio. [I killed two at Cleveland in 1839.]
200. *Anas acuta* Lin. {Northern pintail *Anas acuta*} The Pintail is an equally rare and still more shy species that sometimes visits our streams and lakes.
201. *Anas boschas* Lin. {Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*} This beautiful species is the stock from whence was derived our domesticated variety of ducks. It is known as the mallard or green-head. In its native condition it is one of the wildest of the duck family, and its powers of vision are more acute than in any bird with which I am acquainted. It sometimes remains in this State during the whole year.
202. *Anas Americana* Gmel. {American wigeon *Anas americana*} The American Widgeon is an elegant bird, and one of the species that should be domesticated, to enlarge our stock of poultry. It visits our streams in considerable numbers on its way to the north.



203. *Anas obscura* Gmel. {American black duck *Anas rupripes*} The dusky or black duck is one of the largest of this family of water birds. Its flesh is delicate and much esteemed for eating. I have no doubt it might be profitably domesticated. It is frequently seen in this State both in spring and autumn.
204. *Anas sponsa* Lin. {Wood duck *Aix sponsa*} The bride, summer or wood duck, is a resident in every part of the State during most of the year. The male exceeds in delicacy, brilliancy and beauty of plumage, any other Ohio bird. This species is naturally tame and is easily domesticated. Its flesh is esteemed for food.
205. *Anas discors* Lin. {Blue-winged teal *Anas discors*} The blue-winged teal sometimes visits our streams in great numbers. Its flesh is excellent for the table, but its size is too small to make it of much importance.
206. *Anas crecca* Lin. {Green-winged teal *Anas crecca*} The American or green-winged teal is much more rare than the blue-winged. It is equally esteemed as an eatable bird.
207. *Fuligula rubida* Bonap. {Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*} The ruddy duck is only an occasional visitor of this State. I have seen only too {sic} specimens of it. The flesh is said to be highly valued for the table.
208. *Fuligula vallisneria* Steph. {Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*} Canvassed-backed Duck. The noted canvass-back duck has been seen in a few instances in this State, about the lakes and streams in which the wild rice abounds. I know no reason why it might not be advantageously domesticated.
209. *Fuligula ferina* Steph. {Redhead *Aythya americana*} Red-headed Duck. The pochard, or red-head, is so nearly allied in color to the canvass-back that they are often mistaken, one for the other. It is a more frequent visitor of our borders, and is highly valued for the table.
210. *Fuligula marilla* Steph. {Scaup sp *Aythya marila/affinis*} The blue-bill<sup>13</sup> is often seen in the spring and autumn, and is the most tame of any of this family. Its flesh is not very palatable, but would, without doubt, improve, if reared among our domestic poultry.
211. *Fuligula rufitorques* Bonap. {Ring-necked duck *Aythya collaris*} Ring-necked Duck. The ring-neck is a visitor early in the spring. Its flesh is hardly eatable.
212. *Fuligula clangula* Bonap. {Common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*} Golden-eyed Duck. The golden-eye is an extremely rare species.
213. *Fuligula albeola* Bonap. {Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*} Butter-ball. This harmless and neat little species is very abundant during the fall and spring, and though of no value for eating, is killed in great numbers by boys and idle gunners merely because it can be easily approached.
214. *Mergus merganser* Lin. {Common merganser *Mergus merganser*} The goosander is the largest of the duck family that visits our waters. It frequently remains even in the southern parts of the State during the whole of winter, and I believe occasionally breeds there, as I once observed an old one with her young on the shore of Lake Erie in the month of January 1810. There is so great a difference in the appearance of the male and female, that they are often taken for different species.

<sup>13</sup> As ornithologists of the day did not routinely distinguish between greater and lesser scaups, it seems wise to regard this entry as scaup sp.

215. *Mergus cucullatus* Lin. {Hooded merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*} The hooded merganser is one of the earliest visitors that approaches us from the south with the first appearance of spring. Its plumage is showy and handsome.
216. *Mergus serrator* Lin. {Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*} Red-breasted merganser. This species of merganser is more beautiful. It is the last of the migratory species of duck to visit us in spring, and makes but a short tarry. Like the other species of merganser, its flesh is not eatable.
217. *Cygnus musicus* Besch. {Tundra swan *Cygnus columbianus*} Swan.<sup>14</sup> The swan is not unfrequently seen both on the Ohio and the shores of Lake Erie during spring and fall.
218. *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Lin. {American white pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*} The pelican is an occasional visitor.
219. *Podiceps cristatus* Lath. Crested Grebe.<sup>15</sup> I have seen within our limits all the species of this family enumerated in this catalogue.
220. *Podiceps rubricollis* Lath. {Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena*} Red-necked Grebe. [Occasionally visits our waters.]
221. *Podiceps cornutus* Lath. {Horned grebe *Podiceps auritus*} Horned Grebe. [A large flock visited the Mahoning River in the spring of 1938. I killed several specimens.]
222. *Podiceps carolinensis*. {Pied-billed grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*} Pied Grebe.
223. *Colymbus glacialis* Lin. {Common loon *Gavia immer*} The loon, or great northern diver, frequently visits our rivers during the spring. It seems to rise with great difficulty when it attempts its flights from the water, but when on land its efforts are entirely unsuccessful. I have known several instances during the last fifteen years when they have been picked up on land a short time after a heavy storm, having probably been driven either from the Ohio river or the lake by the violence of the wind.

## II

Am. Journ. Sci. and Arts, XL, 1841, 19-24. Art. II. Fragments of Natural History, by J. P. Kirtland, M.D., Prof. Theo. and Prac. Phys., Medical College of Ohio.

"I write that which I have seen."—LE BAUM

## No. II—ORNITHOLOGY

The feathered tribes of our country have been so thoroughly investigated by Wilson, Bonaparte, Nuttall, Audubon, and Townsend, that the young ornithologist can hardly expect to meet with a new species, unless it be some straggler or accidental visitor from other parts of the world. An ample field, is however, furnished him in which he may successfully employ his talents. The habits of some of our most interesting birds are but very imperfectly understood. If we take for instance the

<sup>14</sup> Probably the tundra swan, though trumpeter swans occurred in Ohio as rare migrants at the time.

<sup>15</sup> It is puzzling that Kirtland, and Nuttall and Audubon before him, could have included this Old World species in the American avifauna. Neither Nuttall nor Audubon includes the western/Clark's grebe complex in American lists, yet both offer diagnostic illustrations of *P. cristatus*.

Migratory *Sylvias*, we can obtain but little more than their names and scientific characters from these authors—and in regard to their habits, less than we have been able to discover by our own observations.

On investigating the subject, it may perhaps be discovered that in some instances, errors have been imbibed and perpetuated by mistaken accidental movement of individual birds under unusual circumstances, for the common habits of the whole species.

The term of life of no one person is of sufficient duration to allow him to complete a full history, even of our American species, from his own researches and observations; such a work must be the production of the joint labor of several ages and many individuals. Many facts remain to be supplied before it can be successfully completed. The opportunities for observing the movements, and obtaining a correct history of the habits and characters of the rare birds, are only occasional and fortuitous, and are as likely to fall in the way of one who knows not how to improve them, as of one who possesses the talent for correct observation that distinguishes the author of the "Birds of America."

It is not to be expected that the public generally will ever turn aside from their usual pursuits to make observations on matters relating to natural science. The energies of some idle gunner may, perhaps, be aroused sufficiently by the appearance of a new or rare bird to induce him to destroy its life; the carcass will be gazed upon with a momentary curiosity and then cast underfoot.

In every community their {sic} are, however, some individuals who have a natural taste for matters of this kind. If they would improve the opportunities as they occur for making themselves familiar with the rare birds, and would communicate the results of their observation to the public through the medium of some suitable publication, any deficiency in the history of our American birds would soon be supplied. Entertaining this view, I am induced to offer for the pages of the Journal of Science, the following extracts from my notes and memorandums, made during the last three years.

A flock of Bohemian wax-chatterers (*Bombycilla garrula*.) consisting of fifty or sixty individuals, was frequently seen in a marsh at the old mouth of the Cuyahoga river, near the city of Cleveland during the month of March of the present year. They were usually engaged in feeding on the pulps and seeds of the swamp rose, and as they were mistaken by the sportsmen for the common cherry bird (*B. carolinensis*) they were permitted to pursue their occupation without interruption.

I procured a fine specimen which is preserved in my cabinet; another is in the cabinet of Prof. Ackley of this city.

We believe this to be the first instance in which this bird has been taken within the United States, or has been known to visit us in any considerable numbers; though we learn from the appendix to Nuttall's Ornithology, and also from Peabody's Report on the Birds of Massachusetts, that the younger Audubon once pursued an individual of this species in that State.

Nuttall says, "the wax-chatterer, hitherto in America, seen only in the vicinity of the Athabasca river, near the region of the Rocky mountains in the month of March,

is of common occurrence {sic} as a passenger throughout the colder regions of the whole northern hemisphere. In spring and late in autumn they visit Northern Asia or Siberia and Eastern Europe in vast numbers, but elsewhere are only uncertain stragglers {"}.

Their size, markings, and habits readily distinguish them from the cherry or cedar bird. Justice is by no means done to their colors and beauty of form, in the figure given of the species by Bonaparte, in the third volume of his American Ornithology.

An hyperborean phalarope (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*) {red-necked phalarope *P. lobatus*} was shot on Lake Erie, near the pier of Cleveland harbor, last November, by a young man in my employment, while pursuing a wounded gull.

The phalarope was a young bird in winter plumage. It is preserved in my cabinet. Little could be learned of its habits. It was a solitary individual, and when first discovered was resting on the water, where it seemed to be as much at home as any of the gulls with which it was associating.<sup>16</sup>

The yellow throated gray warbler (*Sylvia pensilis*) {yellow-throated warbler *Dendroica dominica*} must be considered not a rare annual visitor, even to the northern parts of Ohio, though Mr. Audubon informs his readers that "they confine themselves to the southern States, seldom moving further towards the middle district than North Carolina," and "do not ascend the Mississippi further than the Walnut Hills;" and Mr. Nuttall says, that they "very rarely venture as far north as Pennsylvania." I have in my possession a specimen that I shot on the banks of the Mahoning river, in Trumbull county, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 1839; and during the last week in April of the present year, I killed three near the Cuyahoga river, three miles from Lake Erie. Early in July I saw an old one feeding her young on the banks of the Mahoning. They were two-thirds of their full size, and were perched on a small bush over the water. A full-grown individual was seen on the first of August on the shore of the Lake within the limits of the city. In every instance in which I have met with them, they seemed to have a strong predilection to the vicinity of water, and were generally engaged in capturing insects.

The *Sylvia rara*<sup>17</sup> {cerulean warbler *Dendroica cerulea*} is common in the woods about the banks of the Cuyahoga, during spring and summer. Its habits are accurately described by Audubon.

The same locality is a favorite resort and breeding place for the purple breasted gross-beak (*Fringilla ludoviciana*) {rose-breasted grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*}.

A flock of unusual birds, which I suppose to be the willow wrens (*Sylvia trochilus*)<sup>18</sup> was discovered in September, 1839, on the shore of the Lake, near this city. They made only a momentary stop, for on firing at one of their number as they were settling down upon a bunch of thistles, the remainder suddenly darted away

<sup>16</sup> The date suggests this may have been a red phalarope *P. fulicaria*.

<sup>17</sup> *S. rara* was the name given to the female cerulean warbler by Wilson, in error.

<sup>18</sup> It is uncertain to what species Kirtland refers here. The willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* of the Old World has never been recorded in the United States.



over the Lake and disappeared. The characters of the specimen taken, agree with the description of the Willow Wren. They are said to be far more common in Europe than in the United States.

The Florida gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) {common moorhen *G. chloropus*} is not described by ornithologists as a western bird. Mr. Audubon says, "none are to be seen in the western country." Bonaparte informs his readers that "in the middle and southern United States it appears to be quite accidental; for, although a few well authenticated instances are known of its having been seen and shot even as far north as Albany, in the State of New York, it has escaped the researches of Wilson, as well as my own."

Mr. Nuttall gives us to understand that "in the middle and northern States, it appears to be quite accidental." Notwithstanding this weight of authority to the contrary, I am disposed to consider this bird as one of our annual visitors, and not as a mere straggler in these parts.

I have the best authority for saying that several pairs reared their young in a marsh not more than a mile from this city, during the last summer, and I know of at least half a dozen specimens that were shot there during the last spring. Broods of the young have been repeatedly seen during the summer.

A mature male and female were recently sent me from Fairport, Geauga county, by the Hon. Ralph Granger, and I am assured by a gentleman that one has been taken alive in the vicinity of Buffalo, in the State of New York. Another was taken at Warren, in Trumbull County, two years since, and became so far domesticated as to run about the barnyard in company with the fowls during the summer, but at the approach of autumn suddenly disappeared.

The late Dr. Ward informed me that he had occasionally met with them in Roscoe, Coshocton County, and Dr. Sager assures me that they visit Michigan. I have repeatedly heard of them in other sections of the western States.

In their habits they are so retiring and secluded that they may escape even the most active and sagacious observer.

The buff-breasted sandpiper (*Tringa rufescens*), which seems to be a rare species in most parts of our country, was seen in the vicinity of this city in three different instances during the last autumn. I secured two specimens, one of which I presented to the New York Lyceum of Natural History; the other is retained in my own collection. This bird was unknown to Wilson and Bonaparte, and also to Mr. Audubon, until he received a specimen from England. It seems to be extremely shy and wary in its habits, and when watched by a gunner, will skulk behind some little hillock or tufts of grass. The individuals seen by myself were on a sandy flat, not immediately contiguous to water. In one instance Dr. Terry met with it in the public highway near this city.

The dunlin, ox-bird, or purre (*Tringa alpina*), visited us in large flocks during three or four weeks last autumn, and it has again appeared in a few instances the present spring. I have specimens preserved both in the summer and winter plumage.

Mr. Audubon informs his readers that he has never found one far inland.

The Cape May warbler (*Sylvia maritima*) visits the northern parts of Ohio in

small numbers every spring. A solitary individual may be seen here and there, busily employed in catching insects about the cherry and apple trees at the time they put forth their blossoms.

According to Mr. Nuttall, it "has only been seen near the swamps of Cape May, in New Jersey, and near Philadelphia."

The chestnut-sided warbler (*Sylvia icterocephala*) is not uncommon with us for a few days in spring, and in one instance I saw a pair in a cranberry marsh in Boardman, Trumbull county, on the first day of June. The male was warbling its soft notes from the top of a young maple, and the female skipping about in the bushes below. I am convinced they were preparing for nesting in that vicinity. Its note is rather loud, but soft and pleasant to the ear. Mr. Audubon seems to have met with it only in one instance.

The bay-breasted warbler (*Sylvia castanea*), is still more common with us in the spring, and in some seasons protracts its visit for two or three weeks. Its favorite resort is the tops of the highest beech trees, at the time the buds are bursting into leaves.

The willet (*Totanus semipalmatus*), Mr. Audubon says, "are very seldom met with far inland," and "I have very little doubt that those seen by Mr. Say on the banks of the Missouri, had accidentally visited that country."

This bird is a common visitor to the shores of Lake Erie, both in the spring and autumn. On the 3d of July, 1838, I shot an old specimen from a flock of more than twenty individuals, that were in the habit of visiting the marsh in Ohio City, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga, for a number of days in succession.

The young birds appeared here on the first of July of the present year, and considerable numbers have been shot by the sportsmen.

A few years since, they remained here during the whole of the summer, and probably reared their young in the neighborhood. They are very abundant about some of the upper lakes.

The marbled goodwit (*Limosa fedoa*) occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie and the Ohio river. The Hon. Mr. Granger has furnished me with a beautiful pair, killed near his residence at Fairport. Several young specimens were shot in this vicinity about the first of August of the present season. They were associating with a flock of long-billed curlews (*Numenius longirostris*).

The Hudson curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) {whimbrel *N. phaeopus*} has been taken in a few instances in Ohio. I have a specimen in my cabinet that alighted in the garden of Mr. A. Hayden, of this city, and was shot by him three years since. Another was taken in the vicinity of Cincinnati.

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) I have seen in two instances on the shore of Lake Erie, and have specimens in my cabinet both in their winter and summer plumage.

Mr. Audubon informs his readers that they never proceed any distance inland, even {"}along the sandy margins of our largest rivers."

CLEVELAND, OHIO, June 4, 1840.

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Caspian terns normally do not spend the summer within the boundaries of Ohio. These two (right), however, were seen intermittently at Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., throughout the season. Photo by Troy Shively on 5 June 2001.

## Further Readings on the Birds of Ohio from Sixty or More Years Ago

Readers who have enjoyed Kirtland's writings republished in this issue may be interested in the following seminal works in Ohio ornithology from generations past.

- Langdon, F. 1879. A Revised List of Cincinnati Birds. Cincinnati Society of Natural History Bulletin 1:167-193.** Enlarged from an 1877 catalogue to treatments of 282 species of the Cincinnati area, with brief annotations. The best source of the day for the region. Published in a periodical, thus available mostly in library collections today.
- Wheaton, J. 1882. Report on the Birds of Ohio. Ohio Geological Survey Bulletin 4:187-628.** First published in a small edition in Columbus in 1879, an extensive and informative work with lengthy annotations for each species, recognized or unrecognized. A useful 19-page bibliography chronicles species as they were added to the Ohio list; it includes 22 references to works by Kirtland. Some copies of this important work are currently available in used bookstores at favorable prices of \$20-\$40.
- Dawson, W. 1903. The Birds of Ohio. Wheaton Publishing Company, Columbus. Two vol, 671 pp.** Copiously illustrated, more popular than scientific in approach but still informative, with much local natural history detail, it includes introduction and analytical keys by Lynds Jones. Pricey because of illustrations, runs \$50-200 these days.
- Jones, L. 1903. The Birds of Ohio. Ohio State Academy of Science Special Papers No. 6. 241 pp.** Presented as a revision of Wheaton (1882), with less extensive updated notes on status and distribution. Hard to find in bookstores.
- Hicks, L. 1935. Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Ohio. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin No. 32. 65 pp.** An annotated checklist of 181 species confirmed as breeders in the state. 65 pp. Priced from \$2-\$10 these days in used book stores.
- Campbell, L. 1940. Birds of Lucas County. Toledo Museum Scientific Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 1: 1-225.** A fine well-annotated list of birds of the region, precursor to his *Birds of the Toledo Area* (1968). \$20-\$40 currently in the used book trade, the 1968 work less costly.
- Trautman, M. 1940. The Birds of Buckeye Lake, Ohio. Miscellaneous Publications of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, No. 44. 466 pp.** Superb work, from the era in which Buckeye Lake was wilder and birdier than today, with far wider applications in Ohio. Fairly easy to find in the used book trade, at prices from \$25-\$75.

A note for bibliophiles: perhaps the rarest and most valuable book on Ohio birds is Jones, G., and E. Shulze. 1878. *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio*, with text. Circleville, OH. Sold originally for \$5 in a single printing of 90 copies, one is currently for sale for over \$9000, and this copy lacks the hand-coloring of the 24 life-sized prints present in other examples.

Some words of advice on nomenclature. In studying ornithological works of a hundred or more years past, making sure exactly which species one is reading about is sometimes no easy task. Remember that English names are often more stable than scientific ones, and for the latter generic names are more likely to have changed than specific ones. Examine internal evidence, and look for similar names in old works such as those of Wilson, Bonaparte, and Audubon. An internet search of the problematic older name is often helpful in finding a modern equivalent. —Ed.



## Breeding Bobolinks and the Voice Of America Park in Butler County

The Voice of America (VOA) is a 625-acre tract of land located in West Chester Township (Butler County), Ohio. From 1943 until 1994 the U.S. government transmitted radio broadcasts throughout the world from this location. In the late 1990s, roughly 525 acres of grassland were turned over to West Chester Township and Butler County MetroParks (BCMP). West Chester will turn the majority of its VOA land into athletic fields to meet community recreational needs. BCMP has not decided how it will use its parcel.

On 20 May 2001 Charles Holliday found a willet on a flooded softball diamond, as well as more than two dozen bobolinks and a number of savannah sparrows in the adjoining fields. West Chester was planning to mow the undeveloped portions of their property during late-May and June, but once they learned of the possibility of nesting birds, they decided to hold off mowing until late summer. A group of birders organized, and on 6 June began a weekly survey of the VOA, concentrating on the areas of the property that seemed to hold the majority of bobolinks. The goal of the survey was to ascertain if bobolinks and other grassland birds were breeding at the VOA.

The survey confirmed breeding bobolinks on 4 July when a single juvenile was observed begging for food and being fed by adult birds. On 11 July, two juveniles were observed. One was missing a primary or two, and both were seen begging for food from adults. No efforts were made to find nests, and the standards used to separate juveniles from adult females were conservative. This probably accounts for the low number of juveniles recorded from June through July, though on average 31 bobolinks were tallied each week.

From 6 June through 27 June, the surveyors saw on average 7 females and 34 males per trip. On 4 July, when the first juvenile was found, the number of females rose to 36 out of 59 total birds. Given the difficulty of separating juveniles from females in the field during the breeding season, the dramatic increase of "female" bobolinks on 4 July could result from fledglings leaving the nest and joining the adult birds; it could also be a result of busy females taking care of young nestlings, or possibly both. By 18 July the bobolinks were deeply into molt and the surveyors ceased trying to separate males from females, adults from juveniles. Every male had either buffy-yellow spots on the sides, or solidly buffy sides, which contrasted with the rest of their black underparts. A few had one buffy side, the other basic black. At least one female (assumedly) was dull white on one side of the breast, and buffy-yellow on the other side.

The VOA fields are comprised largely of cool-season grasses such as meadow fescue *Festuca elatior*, orchard grass *Dactylis glomerata*, and timothy *Phleum pratense*. There are a number of forbs, as well, plus the expected invasives (Rick Dage, pers. comm.). Because most of the VOA will eventually be developed, no long-term management plan, other than mowing, exists. It is possible, however, that between West Chester and BCMP there could be a 200+ acre grassland, the majority belonging to BCMP, when development is completed. BCMP is considering a

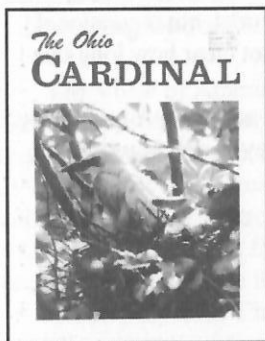
management plan that would keep their acreage in grass and forbs, but recreational development of BCMP's 200 acres is still a possibility. It's not clear how long this habitat will be available.

Surveyors were pleasantly surprised to find sedge wrens at the VOA on 25 July. There were as many as 8 sedge wrens by 4 August. The survey is still in progress.

Mike Busam  
7577 Whitehall Circle West  
West Chester, OH 45069  
mjb@schaffer.cc



In addition to nesting bobolinks, sedge wrens became late summer features at the Voice of America Park in Butler Co. These photos were obtained on 5 August 2001 by holding a digital camera up to the eyepiece of a spotting scope. Photos by Mike Busam.



## Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

The summer 1981 season was covered in a monstrous 74-page omnibus issue containing Vol. 4, No. 2 (Summer 1981) and Vol. 5, No. 2 (Summer 1982). Issues for the intervening seasons were never published. The subject of the cover photograph, a cattle egret nestling taken by Ed Pierce, reflected the content of his lead article, "West Sister Island: Home of the Herons." Among other topics covered in this issue was the dramatic success of bald eagle nesting in 1981 and 1982. Laurel Van Camp described these two years as "the most successful...since 1959" following the fledging of nine young in 1981 and eight in 1982. He went on to describe nine sites where there was significant bald eagle activity during those two years. Following the raptor theme, John J. Stophlet contributed a short article documenting two 1981 broad-winged hawk nests in Oak Openings Park—the first there since the early 1970s.

Elsewhere, documentation of a rare bird by Chuck Hocevar described the fourth-ever occurrence of black-necked stilt in Ohio. In addition, hooded mergansers were confirmed as nesters in Wayne County during the summer of 1981 in notes from John E. Staab. Other notes pertaining to the summer 1981 season included a report by David Kline on cliff swallows nesting on structures at his family's farm (192 pairs) and a report by Reed F. Noss and Steven M. McKee on the summering birds of Mohican State Park and Forest (75 species). A summary of summer censuses conducted in both 1981 and 1982 included results for Summit, Hocking, Fairfield, and Trumbull counties.

Chuck Hocevar broke new ground in 1981 with a record-breaking Ohio big year, and described it in the latter pages of this omnibus issue. His introduction describes how he began the big year, what others had accomplished in the past, and methods for reaching a record total, concluding that "I would not recommend that most birders attempt a big year. Most do not have the temperament, the endurance, or desire. In 1981 I drove over 30,000 miles on birding trips. I visited 72 counties, spent over \$2500.00 on gasoline, and spent every available day (except four) in the field, and I drove to Lake Erie no less than 47 times." Keep in mind that 1981 gas prices were around \$1.40 per gallon. That's \$2.74 per gallon in 2001 dollars, folks.

Hocevar finished the big year with 292 species, and stated "the number is no big deal" and "I believe anyone with the motivation and unlimited time could reach 310+ in a good year." That would have to be a darned good year. Anything in the 290s is a fantastic number and he deserved applause for getting there, especially since he reached his total during a time when sophisticated communication networks like Internet listservs did not exist. There were also fewer birders scouring the state then as well.

Like the summer of 2001, the summer 1981 season was a little light on rare birds. The highlights included a tricolored heron summering at Magee Marsh, a piping plover on 29 July in Cleveland, a black-necked stilt on 18 July at Magee Marsh, and two white-winged crossbills in Lorain from 1-9 June. Other articles from this omnibus issue will be covered in a future retrospective. *Joseph W. Hammond*



Reclaimed strip-mines provide suitable nesting areas for many species of grassland birds. The Henslow's sparrow shown above and below found Woodbury Wildlife Area, Coshocton Co., much to its liking. Photos by Bob Royse on 25 June 2001.

