



A friendly reminder...

It's time to renew your subscription if this box is checked.

On the inside...

Summer 2002 Overview
by Bill Whan 161

Summer 2002 Reports
by Bill Whan 165

Further Afield
by Rob Harlan 181

Hocking Hills 2001 - A Pine Woods Odyssey: Red-breasted Nuthatch
Fledging Details and Other Records
by Frank Renfrow 186

Media Review
by Ben Fambrough 191

A Disastrous Trip
by W. F. Henninger 195

Five Days Among the Islands of Lake Erie
by Lynds Jones 197

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee
by Jim McCormac 198

AOU Announces Recent Actions 200

THE OHIO CARDINAL
2338 HARRINGTON RD.
AKRON, OH 44319

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 487
AKRON, OHIO

The Ohio



CARDINAL™

Vol. 25, No. 4
Summer 2002



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

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

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

| Seasonal Report Due Dates | Please send all reports to: |
|--|--|
| Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25 Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25 Summer (June-July) - August 25 Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25 | Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Rd. Columbus, OH 43202 danielel@iwaynet.net |

Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$20.00. Please send all subscription requests to:

The Ohio Cardinal
c/o Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Rd.
Akron, OH 44319

Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

The Ohio Cardinal

Bill Whan, Editor
Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher
Joseph W. Hammond, Design Manager
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: Jim McCormac, Secretary
ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
1889 Fountain Square Court
Columbus, OH 43224
ISSN 1534-1666

On the Cover: This western kingbird was digiscoped in Butler County's St. Clair Township on 15 July 2002 by Dave Russell.

Summer 2002 Overview

Bill Whan

223 East Tulane Road, Columbus, OH 43202
danielel@iwaynet.net

For most of the year, birds use their adaptive skills freely. If an autumn storm drives them far afield, they can usually manage. Extraordinarily warm or cold winters may affect their food sources enough to induce them to spend the season at widely different latitudes. The breeding season, however, is different. Then birds become quite conservative in their habitat choices, sticking tight in all but the most extreme conditions. Thus, variations in weather may be less important in assessing our summer birdlife than at other times, simply because, except for migrants still on their way to or from breeding grounds to our north, or the occasional non-breeding wanderer, it is dominated by nesting birds. So we can simply say that both June and July were considerably warmer and drier than normal. As for illustrative data, three-quarters of Columbus's July rain fell on the 23rd; in Cleveland during the same month, on fully 10 days the temperature rose above 90°F.

We should not, however, downplay the almighty atmosphere's larger effects. It was probably the weather elsewhere—specifically in the Southeast, ravaged by drought of long duration—that affected the variety of our region's summer birds. As the season came to a close, unusual numbers of southeastern breeders dispersed more widely than usual into the Northeast and Midwest, presumably due at least in part to the drought's depletion of food sources. Extraordinary numbers of kites—Mississippi and swallow-tailed—were seen, and ibises, storks, odd herons showed up far afield in good numbers. Perhaps the heat kept Ohio observers indoors, for we had less than our share of reports of these rarities. Just next door, Indiana birders had, besides rarities from the west, white ibis, both whistling-ducks, and both kites. Our only southern stray this summer was a flyby Mississippi kite. Having complained about that, let's note that our count of four Review Species reported—adding to the kite a ruff, an extraordinary red-necked stint, and a western kingbird—was about average for the season, and there was much of interest beyond just rare birds.

And probably it was the unstable weather of spring, which made for such good fallout of neotropical passerines this year in Ohio, that caused individuals of many species to trickle through unusually late into June. Tardiness was a theme for shorebirds, for example. June short-billed dowitchers tend to be failed breeders headed south early, usually near the end of the month, but one on 12 June probably represents a record late northbound migrant. There are very few records later than 16 June for semipalmated sandpipers still apparently northbound. White-rumped sandpipers have been recorded in small numbers during the second week of June, but flocks of 28 on the 8th then six on the 17th are quite remarkable. And as for Wilson's phalarope, we see them often in May and July, but all our published June records can be counted on one hand; this June alone we had as many as 10 Wilson's. Most were inland too, while historically ~80% of our 500+ recorded birds come from close to Lake Erie.

It is worth noticing how many of these unusual shorebird records came from the new Thomas Wetlands in Paulding County during June. In June, reservoirs had few mudflats, and wetlands managers elsewhere seemed—as usual—to ignore the needs of migrant shorebirds. Nor did prevailing winds open up habitat on the unmanaged Lakeshore spots like the Crane Creek estuary and Sheldon Marsh. Improbably enough, this brand-new wetland project in usually corn-and-beans Paulding County became, by default perhaps, Ohio's best spot for migrant shorebirds. It had to share the title at times with another spot in the same county, the sewage lagoons in the town of Paulding, which produced excellent numbers of shorebirds during routine dredging operations. Overall, shorebirds seem to be matching their late departures with late arrivals, and it will be interesting to see if the warblers, thrushes, vireos, etc., do so as well. For example, as of this writing, banders to our north are reporting *Catharus* thrushes arriving a week or more later than in recent years.

This summer 25 species of warblers were recorded; numbers in the 20s are routine—after all, 27 warbler species have bred in Ohio at one time or another—but this was the lowest summer number in these pages over the past 10 years. In 1993, late departures by most species, and the occurrence of a Swainson's warbler in Jefferson Co., brought that summer's total to a hard-to-beat 32. This season's shorebird total of 31 species, by contrast, is the highest since 1993 as well, when 32 were present (this was back when piping plovers were regularly, if sparingly, found in Ohio). Only seven shorebird species are confirmed as ever having bred here, so most of our reports were of migrants, this summer decidedly mostly late rather than early. Shorebirds seem to touch down, lay eggs, and desert their nestlings in a great hurry, but then they must travel distances far greater on average than those traversed by warblers. Even among the waterfowl some strange late records emerged: our second June snow goose, our first June brant, and a veritable invasion of summering ruddy ducks.

We hope our readers have noticed improvements in *The Ohio Cardinal* recently. Over the past year, for example, we have been able to afford to publish and mail more pages—212—than ever before, all free of advertising, wasted space, or fillers. We have greatly improved the reproduction of photographs by using more expensive paper stock. We accompanied our last issue with a copy of the new OBRC Checklist of the Birds of Ohio. Over the past year, we've offered five essays on the status of Smith's longspur in Ohio and how to find it, a paper on interpreting radar images of bird migration, another on albinism in birds, two reprintings of lengthy seminal works on Ohio birds by J. P. Kirtland, and notes on an old record of wood storks in Hancock County, a leucistic rough-legged hawk in Scioto County, the brown-headed nuthatch in Geauga County, pomarine jaegers in Cuyahoga County, shorebird population estimates, nesting hermit thrushes in Hocking County, grassland birds in Butler County, and Toledo-area sightings from before 1940. In addition, each issue featured an extensive interpretive seasonal summary of bird reports from around the state, "Further Afield"—a regular column from Rob Harlan—and quarterly updates on actions of the Records Committee. Upon request, we can furnish an index to all issues back to 1978, and copies/photocopies of back issues are available from the Publisher.

If you have enjoyed and learned from any feature in our recent issues, we encourage you to renew your subscription promptly when we remind you that the time to do so has come. The number of regular subscribers who apparently forget our repeated reminders is sometimes alarming. If yearly renewals seem too easy to overlook, consider subscribing for several years at a time.

Because we are considering no increase in the subscription rate, only having more subscribers will enable us to further improve the publication. Please recommend *The Ohio Cardinal* to your birding friends; send us their names and addresses and we'll mail them a sample issue. We promise to give you everything we can afford, and to further improve as our list of subscribers grows. Expanding this list will also increase the number of our contributors; articles, field notes, photographs and drawings, and seasonal sightings reports are the very heart of *The Ohio Cardinal*, and we eagerly solicit them from readers. An open and active community of birders statewide, communicating freely their experiences, expertise, and research, is our highest goal.

In *The Wilson Bulletin* in 1894, then sustained so much by Ohio ornithologists, the Secretary of the governing body issued the following appeal: "Do not complain because there is not more information under 'Notes.' You are to blame for the lack of those information-giving items. The officers cannot do all. We can only publish what you send us. Please remember this and try and give us something for our next Bulletin. A society cannot accomplish much unless each and every member takes an active working interest. There is work and plenty of it for each of us, so let us get at it and devote a little more of our time to the chapter... Fellow members, I appeal to you to 'do as you would be done by,' do not wait for others to send in their notes but send in yours, and let us see if we cannot make our next Bulletin an interesting one. Yours truly, William B. Caulk." Amen.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order and nomenclature of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 42nd (July 2000) and 43rd (July 2002) Supplements. Underlined names indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed reports herein. 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 State SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE=Crane Creek estuary in Ottawa NWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park impoundment (Dike 14) in Cleveland; GRWA=Grand River WA in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LMP=Lakeshore Metropark in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in

Lucas; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly census at Ottawa NWR, reported by **E. Pierce**; 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

The number of great blue herons at Magee Marsh WA on 19 May 2002 should be 39. Delete the 28 Apr 2002 record of gray-cheeked thrush. The 38 black-crowned night-herons in Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl were seen on 10 Mar 2002.

For the Record

Here are noteworthy reports from the previous period that for one reason or another escaped our notice for publication in the Spring 2002 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*:

Horned Grebe: One in alt plumage was at ONWR 26 May (**B. Zwiebel**) and seen the following day there (**S. Cummings** *fide* **Zwiebel**).

Snowy Egret: One was near Wilmot in *Stark* 3 Apr (**P. Soehrlen**).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 300 at Killbuck 8 Apr (**M. Keim**).

Green-winged Teal: The 7 Apr ONWRC found 356 of this species.

Northern Pintail: On 7 Apr, 833 were tallied by the ONWRC.

Hooded Merganser: At Pleasant Hill Lk, 205 was a fine number on 2 Mar (**J. Herman**).


Sanderling: An inland sighting came from N of Shreve in *Wayne* 2 May (**B. Glick**).

Wilson's Snipe: The ONWRC of 3 Mar found two.

Sedge Wren: **G. Troyer** saw two in Berlin, *Holmes*, on 8 May, then heard two there a week later.

Lark Sparrow: **E. Tramer** remarked that the Oak Openings colony may be expanding; on 27 May he flushed a male from a field ½ mile E of the park, two miles from the nearest known nest sites. Unfortunately, the field was plowed and put into soybeans a few days later.

Lapland Longspur: One remained at ONWR as late as 5 May (ONWRC). Of the four previous published May records of this species, by far the most spectacular was a "crude estimate" of 10,000 near Toledo on 1 May 1949 by **Harold Mayfield**.

White-winged Crossbill: A pair persisted from late Dec as late as 3 May at a Massillon feeder (**T. Ross**). 

Summer 2002 Reports

Bill Whan

223 East Tulane Road, Columbus, OH 43202

danielel@iwaynet.net

Common Loon: Several basic-plumaged birds sat out the season on the sidelines at Ohio reservoirs. **P. Haskins** reported one on Seneca Lk, *Guernsey/Noble*, on 10 Jun. **B. Cullen** noted a first-summer bird in *Wood* 16 Jun through at least 28 Jul. One at KPWA, first reported by **G. Miller** on 28 Jun, remained through the period, and a vocal duo summered near Findlay (**B. Hardesty**).

Pied-billed Grebe: The ONWRC tallied nine on 2 Jun, and the Magee census 22 on 21 Jul (**H&S Hiris**). At least one brood was at MWW, with reports of a hen with four chicks on 8 Jun (**F. Frick**), one with six on 14 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**), then one with five on 20 Jun (**Frick**). Two hens with 12 young were seen at GRWA 12 Jun by **G. Leidy**, who found another with six young at Mill Stream Run Res'n 7-29 Jul. Fifteen birds including chicks were at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**), and a pair spent the season at a *Muskingum* wetland this year (**J. McCormac**).

Horned Grebe: Exceedingly rare in summer. **M. Crofts** (*fide* **E. Pierce**) found one in breeding plumage at ONWR in Jun (this may have been that seen twice in late May there: see "For the Record"); stranger still was another in alternate plumage at KPWA's upground reservoir on 6 Jul (**R. Sempier**, ph), seen by several other observers in the week before and after.

American White Pelican: **J. Pogacnik** spotted two over Sandusky Bay on 22 Jun for the only summer report.



This alternate-plumaged horned grebe graced Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area's upground reservoir in Wyandot County for several days in July. It was photographed there on 6 July 2002 by Ron Sempier.

Double-crested Cormorant: The ODOW survey at W. Sister Isl estimated 2787 pairs, up 6.9% from last year; their increase there has been steady since 1997 when 1380 pairs were estimated. Non-breeders were noted in many inland bodies of water, with an early two at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Jun (**W. Hull**) and four at Hoover Res on 4 Jul (**R. Thorn**). Three or four summered on the Fostoria reservoirs (**B. Hardesty**).

American Bittern: Sparsely reported, but this is not news. One was found on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and **E. Tramer** had one 29 Jun at CPNWR. A possible nester was at Arcola Ck, *Lake*, in early Jun (**J. Pogacnik**). Interesting were two heard at MWW on 11 Jul (**G. Carey**).

Least Bittern: The 2 Jun ONWRC found but one. Two were calling at Mallard Club Marsh WA on 9 Jun (**B. Whan**), and another on 16 Jun at MWW (**L. Brumbaugh**). At CPNWR, **E. Tramer** noted four on 9 Jun, three on 13 Jul, and one on 27 Jul. A nest with three eggs was discovered at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, in Jun (**J. Watts**).

Great Blue Heron: ODOW estimated 1007 pairs on W. Sister Isl this season, up from 906 last year, but well below the recent high of 2444 in 1992. The Lordstown colony in *Trumbull* featured 375 nests in 88 trees this year (**C. Babyak**), up a single nest from last year's count. By 30 Jul, 40+ post-breeders had gathered at Hoover Res (**R. Thorn**).

Great Egret: Pairs estimated at W. Sister Isl were 733, up 14.5% from last summer; in recent years the high was 1120 pairs in 1995. Onshore, while 203 were accounted for in the 2 Jun ONWRC and 343 on 21 Jul's Magee count (**H&S Hiris**), a few apparently summered to the south, with one near Wooster 1-2 Jun and two at Funk WA 8-9 Jun (both **S. Snyder**), two at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Jun (**W. Hull**), one in *Hancock* on 18 Jun (**B. Hardesty**), and one along the Little Miami River on 22 Jun (**N. Keller**). **B&D Lane** noted two at Chillicothe through the period. One was at Cowan Lk SP on 24 Jul (**L. Gara**) and two were at BIWA 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**).

Snowy Egret: Thirteen pairs were estimated at W. Sister Isl this season (ODOW), a remarkably stable population: estimates for 1997-2001 were 13, 10, 13, 14, and 13 respectively. Thirteen birds were at Magee 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**). A new record number for the state was 37 found at ONWR by an OSU ornithology class 2 Jul (**J. Condit** et al.), while 30 were reported by **R. Hinkle** there on 20 Jul.

Little Blue Heron: Wanderers included an adult at ONWR on 3 Jun (**M. Gallaway**), an imm in Chillicothe 5 Jun (**B&D Lane**), an adult in alt plumage in *Hamilton* on 12 Jun (**J. Cade**), one at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* 10 Jul (**J. Watts**), and one along the Little Miami R in *Montgomery* on 20 Jul (**E&B Neubauer** *vide* **J. Arnold**).

Cattle Egret: Various reports emerged from just south of Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl colony, with the largest number reported nine seen there on 22 Jul by **V. Fazio**. The last time this species bred further west at W. Sister Isl was in 1999—a single nest—according to ODOW survey data.

Green Heron: **J. Pogacnik** located them in 19 locations in the *Lake* MP system this summer. In *Summit*, the Audubon census this summer counted 44. This solitary species seems not to gather in groups larger than families until late Jul, exemplified by 12+ found at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on the 28th by **J. Hammond**.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Rough estimates in 1934 were made of 5000 to 10,000 nests on W. Sister Isl, and by 1991 there were still 1113 pairs. This year's estimate of 393, while down from last year's 427, still exceeds the nadir of 1999, when 387 were estimated (ODOW); selective clearing of trees on the site is intended to increase nesting success for this species (**M. Shieldcastle**). Fourteen on the 2 Jun ONWRC and 10 at Magee on 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**) were probably from the aforementioned colony; four seen in *Hamilton* on 15 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**) from the Mill Creek colony; 12 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 14 Jun (**M. Busam**) and 17 at Pickers Ck WA on 13 Jul (**B. Whan** et al.) were more likely from the Turning Pt Isl colony. At Shaker Lks, 1-8 seen through Jul (**L. Deininger**) were of more indeterminable provenance.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The Columbus "colony," which consisted of but one successful nest this spring, persisted in the form of three of the four fledged young through 5 Jul (**B. Beitzel**), with no sightings reported thereafter, surprisingly enough.

Black Vulture: Departures from the norm included one seen in *Pickaway* on 14 Jun (**D. Overacker**), two over MWW on 16 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**), and a nest (for the second year in a row) with two young in an abandoned house in *Coshocton* (**J. Miller**).

Turkey Vulture: A normal season, though a roost of 160 in *Holmes* 5 Jun was worthy of mention (**E. Schlabach**).

Snow Goose: Apparently only the second Jun record for Ohio, one lingered at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 4-6 Jun (**J. Yochum**).

Canada Goose: **K. Metcalf** noted that the flightless period of this species in *Geauga* lasted from 18 Jun-18 Jul this year.

Brant: As far as we can tell Ohio's first Jun record was one that touched down on the Conneaut Harbor mudflats on the 2nd (**J. Pogacnik**).

Mute Swan: A flock of 24—with no young birds present—at EHSP on 4 Jun was remarkable (**N. Bixler**). The first Ohio nesting attempt by feral mute swans occurred only 15 years ago. The first nest at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, was noted in 1999; this year, Medusa hosted five successful nests, and by 25 Jul there were 25 swans present (**J. Hildreth**). Another swan species not native to Ohio as a breeder, the trumpeter swan, hatched a record 46 cygnets this year (vs. 31 last year) as part of the ODOW's introduction project. The project's goal of 15 breeding pairs by 2006 seems likely to be met well ahead of schedule; how many extra swans might constitute an impact comparable to that of the mute swan remains in the eyes of beholders for the moment.

Wood Duck: Post-breeding gatherings of neglectful alt males were typified by 86 on the 7 Jul ONWRC.

Gadwall: Only lingerers were noted: two on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and one 7 Jun at Conneaut (**J. Sedransk**).

American Black Duck: Apparently continues its decline. **G. Leidy** noted two flyovers in Strongsville, *Cuyahoga*, on 1 Jul, and **G. Miller** one at ONWR on 26 Jul, when **C. Holt** reported one at Conneaut (*vide* **V. Fazio**).

Blue-winged Teal: Widely noted in the unglaciated counties, and as far south as MWW on 16 Jun (**N. Keller**).

Northern Shoveler: Persisted through 2 Jun, with seven individuals for the ONWRC, another at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* (**J. Yochum**), and two at Walnut Beach in *Ashtabula* (**J. Spendelow**). Another story was told by a molting adult male in Parma 16 Jun (**G. Leidy**) and another bird at BIWA on 28 Jun (**G. Miller**).

Northern Pintail: Typical, with one straggler on the ONWRC of 2 Jun, and another at CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**).

Green-winged Teal: Interesting were one in Fostoria 4 Jun (**B. Hardesty**), three at BIWA on 22 Jun (**T. Shively**), and one at Kendall Lk in the CVNP 5 Jul (**G. Leidy**, **S. Zadar**); more to be expected were nine, including 2 alt drakes, for the ONWRC of 7 Jul.

Redhead: A drake on the 7 Jul ONWRC was of interest.

Ring-necked Duck: Tardy were a drake remaining from May through 3 Jun near Wooster (**S. Snyder**) and another in *Paulding* through 8 Jun (**J. Yochum**). Still more unusual was one estivating through 28 Jun at KPWA (**G. Miller**).

Lesser Scaup: Two were still to be found at ONWR for the census of 2 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: Nested successfully across northern Ohio, and apparently broods are already old hat in *Hamilton*, where a hen with three young was noted 16 Jun (N. Keller).

Red-breasted Merganser: Lingerers included two at Conneaut on 2 Jun (J. Pogacnik) and three at a Findlay reservoir on 4 Jun (fide B. Hardesty).

Ruddy Duck: An extraordinary season for this species. Peterjohn states that most ruddies depart the state by 10 May, and calls them "rare summer residents along western Lake Erie" and "accidental to casual summer visitors within other glaciated counties." During Jun and Jul 156 birds were reported, only 15 of them found along western Lk Erie. Reports of singletons to groups of 20 or more, including many alternate-plumaged drakes, came from *Ashland, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Lucas, Marion, Montgomery, Paulding, Pickaway, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot*. Breeding was confirmed in *Hamilton* at MWW, where H. Armstrong noted courtship displays on 9 Jun, and F. Frick a hen with eight chicks on 21 Jul. This species also bred at BIWA where a hen and three chicks were discovered in early Aug (J. Fuller). Birders elsewhere in the region, and as far away as New England, remarked on the unusual local persistence of this species during the summer.

Osprey: ODOW reported 19 nests this season, up from 15 in 2001, with 32 chicks hatched, up from 23 in 2001. Some aspects of this species' local phenology seem to have changed with re-introductions (witness the arrival of one at the nest site on the very early date of 9 Mar this year). Notable reports include one over Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 17 Jun (R. Kolde), a pair the same day at GRWA (J. Pogacnik), one at ONWR on 22 Jun (B. Zwiebel), and one over a Findlay Res on 2 Jul (fide B. Hardesty). Late Jul reports that may pertain to migrants included birds on the 26th in *Wood* and *Lucas* (G. Miller), two in *Wood* on the 28th (B. Cullen), and on the 30th one over LaDue Res (S. Zadar) and another at a Findlay Res (fide Hardesty). Do locally re-introduced birds depart early, just as they apparently arrive early? More research, as they always say, needs to be done.

Mississippi Kite: An imm seen over Sylvania, *Lucas*, on 3 Jun (G. Links) was not refound; accepted by the OBRC. This species staged some extraordinary incursions into new territory this summer; a Cape Cod, Massachusetts hawk watch reported an amazing nine birds, including a group of four, on 1 Jun (T. Carrolan).

Bald Eagle: ODOW reported 78 nesting pairs, and a total of 105 eaglets surviving four weeks of life, for the state. New pairs were noted in *Crawford, Hancock, Holmes, Sandusky, and Trumbull*. J. Fry reported an adult over *Hocking* on 11 Jun for an out-of-the-way record.

Northern Harrier: We see quite a few harriers during the breeding season in Ohio, but too seldom is nesting confirmed. One was at ONWR on 3 Jun (M. Gallaway). The first of several KPWA sightings was of a female on 9 Jun (B. Conlon). An imm bird spent the period near the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin). One was in *Williams* on 16 Jun (J. Grabmeier), and another east of BCSP on 5 Jul (D. Overacker). Three were found on 13 Jul in two locations in *Marion* (B. Whan et al.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one in Norton, *Summit*, on 16 Jun and 16 Jul, as well as an imm occupying the same Wadsworth, *Medina*, tree 17 and 24 Jul. J. Pogacnik found the species at six locations in the *Lake* MPs, with at least two probably harboring nesting.

Cooper's Hawk: In healthy numbers. R. Thorn reported 18-19 nests in a season-long survey of urban *Franklin/Delaware* this season.

Red-shouldered Hawk: E. Schlabach contributed two interesting reports, of an adult at Beach City dam, *Tuscarawas*, probably a local nester, on 13 Jul, and a juv further south in *Ragersville* on 27 Jul.

Broad-winged Hawk: Reports from *Cuyahoga* included sightings at the Ledges in the CVNP on 5 Jul and Royalview Picnic Area 8 Jul (both G. Leidy), as well as a CVNP nest at Brandywine Falls and another at Brecksville Res'n, where young probably fledged between 8 and 11 Jul (D. Chasar).

American Kestrel: D. Chasar found two adults and four young at a CVNP nest on 1 Jun; the young fledged the nest over several days.

Peregrine Falcon: What must have been an early migrant imm showed up in *Paulding* on 28 (J. Yochum) and 29 Jul (D&M Dunakin). As with ospreys, it is worth studying whether migration schedules of this species have changed in Ohio since the days before manipulated populations.

Northern Bobwhite: While D. Chasar was able to find one roaming about in the city of Hudson on 16 Jun, E. Tramer reported hearing one at CPNWR on 27 Jul, then remarked that "this can only be described as a disaster species in the Toledo area."

King Rail: Interestingly, two were seen at KPWA on 1 Jun (B. Barchus et al.), with one relocated at the same spot on 8 Jun (B. Morrison).

Common Moorhen: The Ottawa complex has been good for this uncommon species in recent years, and H&S Hiris counted 10 at Magee Marsh on 16 Jun, with nine on 21 Jul. Over at ONWR, the census team found five on 2 Jun, then six, including four downy young, on 7 Jul. Elsewhere, S. Zadar reported one at GRWA on 12 Jun, J. McCormac at least one pair at a *Muskingum* wetland through the period, and G. Leidy another at Herrick Fen, *Portage*, on 17 Jul. J. Pogacnik had a pair with young during the period in a wetland in *Lake*.

American Coot: Western Lk Erie marshes were again occupied, witness 78 on the 2 Jun ONWRC and 142 tallied in Magee Marsh on 16 Jun (H&S Hiris). S. Snyder reported four near Wooster on 2 Jun, then one 7-8 Jun at Killbuck Marsh. Two were at a Findlay Res on 4 Jun (fide B. Hardesty), and one at Gilmore Ponds on 24 Jun (J. Seymour). The *Summit* Audubon census tallied 14. One was at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* during Jun (J. Watts). F. Frick saw a hen with four young at MWW on 20 Jun, and J. Hammond 24 including young at BIWA on 28 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: S. Snyder had two adults at Funk Bottoms WA on 9 Jun; ODOW reported that two young had hatched at Funk, but none at Killbuck WA after nest failure probably due to flooding. Overall they confirmed seven nesting attempts: four at Killbuck, two at Funk, and one at Lake La Su An WA. J. Grabmeier saw two in *Williams* near the same site as last year's nesting, but could not confirm a repeat performance. G. Miller had a flyover crane just west of Lima on 17 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: The ONWRC found six on 2 Jun, then two on 7 Jul. All dressed up for breeding, but with apparently nowhere to go, was one at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 21 (J. Yochum) through 24 Jun (M&D Dunakin); this is one of fewer than 10 mid-Jun Ohio records.

American Golden-Plover: Earlyish was a molting adult at Pickerel Creek WA on 13 Jul (T. Shively et al.).

Semipalmated Plover: Late departures were at *Paulding's* Thomas wetlands with ~25 on 1 Jun (J. Yochum), one on 3 Jun (D. Sanders), then 30 on 6 Jun (Yochum). The 2 Jun ONWRC counted 43. Two exceptionally late on 12 Jun in *Hamilton* (J. Cade) were hard to figure. One at Conneaut 30 Jun was probably returning early (J. Pogacnik), and by 28 Jul ~30 were to be found in *Fulton* (Yochum).

American Avocet: The first was one in high breeding plumage at Pipe Ck WA on 13 Jul (T. Shively et al.), and on 23 Jul one was at the Paulding sewage lagoons (J. Haw), and 10 alternate-plumaged birds at Fostoria Res #4 (B. Hardesty) the same day.

Greater Yellowlegs: The ONWRC found two on 7 Jul, S. Snyder two near Wooster on 13 Jul, and V. Fazio 14 at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: A single arrival at Conneaut on 30 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**) was apparently there on 4 Jul (**J. Spendelow**). Six were inland at BIWA on 6 Jul (**P. Gardner**), and by 19 Jul, 173 were tallied at CPNWR (**E. Tramer**).

Solitary Sandpiper: On schedule, the least solitary group of this species was 13 near Wooster on 23 Jul (**S. Snyder**).

Willet: Scarce. One was at Conneaut Harbor as early as 30 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**).

Upland Sandpiper: Beyond known populations, one was seen in *Williams* on 8 Jun (**B. Whan**). A family of four at the Dayton airport (**S. Lucas**) may be the last nesting there, in view of plans to "control" wildlife at the site.

Hudsonian Godwit: **G. Leidy** and **S. Zadar** found a female in alt plumage at Pipe Creek WA on 14 Jul; there are fewer than 10 Jul records of this species for Ohio.

Marbled Godwit: One was at the CCE on 25 Jul (**J. Hildreth fide J. Yochum**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Northward bound were six on the 2 Jun ONWRC, one at Conneaut on 7 Jun (**J. Spendelow**), and one at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* on 8 Jun (**J. Grabmeier**). Southbounders were one at Englewood MP in Dayton 20 Jul (**E&B Neubauer**), and birds at Bowling Green on 28 Jul (**B. Cullen**) and Conneaut 30 Jul (**J. Sedransk**).

Sanderling: Three stragglers departed 7 Jun from Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula* (**J. Sedransk**). Early to return was one at Conneaut 16 Jul (**G. Leidy**), where many other Jul birds were reported, with a high count of five on the 30th (**Sedransk**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: **John Yochum**'s observations of this species in *Paulding*—~150 on 6 Jun, then one on 12 Jun and three as late as 16 Jun—suggest a delayed migration, especially since returning migrants are usually expected late in Jun or early in Jul. This summer, the first reports of southbound semipalmateds were of two near Wooster on 22 Jul (**S. Snyder**) and one at Cowan Lk SP (**E. Roush**) on 24 Jul. Good numbers of this normally common species had to wait till 29 Jul, when 20 were at KPWA (**J. Hammond**) and 615 at Pickerel Ck WA (**V. Fazio**).

Western Sandpiper: The only summer report came from the drought-influenced habitat in the Maumee River at Farnsworth MP: a single bird on 27 Jul (**G. Miller**).

Red-necked Stint: Three of four observers documented for the OBRC a sighting of an alt adult at Pickerel Ck WA on 31 Jul; it could not be relocated by m obs, even later the same day. Elsewhere in the US, four alternate-plumaged stints of this species were reported within a few days—and not earlier or later—of this sighting, in Missouri (7/29-31), Massachusetts (two on 8/1-2), and Virginia (7/31).

Least Sandpiper: With no Jun reports, the earliest were nine at Conneaut on 4 Jul (**J. Spendelow**). The high count came from the 7 Jul ONWRC: 88 birds.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Reports of this species resembled those for semipalmated sandpiper—departing late, returning late. Reports from Conneaut persisted through 6 Jun, with six birds (**J. Sedransk**); in *Paulding*, after a flock of 28 on 8 Jun (**B. Whan et al.**), six persisted through 17 Jun (**J. Yochum**). The species was not reported again until **V. Fazio** had nine at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul.

Baird's Sandpiper: Unusually early was one, a rare adult in Ohio, at Kelleys Isl on 20 Jul (**V. Fazio, T. Bartlett**).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Arriving first were three at BIWA on 6 Jul (**P. Gardner**) and one for the 7 Jul ONWRC. Inland numbers were best: near Wooster 35 were noted on 22-23 Jul (**S. Snyder**), 170 were at the *Paulding* sewage lagoons on 25 Jul (**D&M Dunakin**), and ~75 were in *Fulton* on 28 Jul (**J. Yochum**).

Dunlin: Delaying departure were 60 on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and three in *Paulding* on 3 Jun (**D. Sanders**). North American dunlins normally undergo their prebasic molt before leaving the Arctic, so an alt bird at ONWR on the early date of 27 Jul (**J. Sedransk**) was of interest.

Stilt Sandpiper: The first reported bird came from the 7 Jul ONWRC. Numbers increased to 19 at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, on 18 Jul (**T. Kemp fide G. Links**), until 92 adults were counted at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**) for the seasonal high count.

Ruff: Apparently Ohio's second published Jul record, a good-sized female was faithful to Pickerel Ck WA from 25 Jul (**C. Holt fide V. Fazio**) through the end of the period (m obs), and accepted by the OBRC. The earlier record was of three alt males at ONWR on 7 Jul 1974, from **Lou Campbell**.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Very few have lingered into Jun, none so late as one reported by **J. Yochum** on 12 Jun in *Paulding*, but this follows a pattern of remarkably late migration among certain species this spring and summer. The first returning adult was at Conneaut on 4 Jul (**J. Spendelow**), and numbers grew to ~250 adults by 13 Jul at ONWR (**B. Whan et al.**). Lack of habitat prevented their gathering in numbers elsewhere until 103 were found at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Three adults had arrived at Pickerel Ck WA as early as 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**).

Wilson's Snipe: Apparent migrants were two at ONWR on 23 Jul (**G. Miller**) and two at BIWA on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**).

Wilson's Phalarope: **J. Yochum** monitored their presence at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding*: three males 2 Jun, two females and a male 6 Jun, and a female 12 Jun. Two were tallied on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and on the same date **J. Hildreth (fide Yochum)** had one in *Fulton*; collectively, a noteworthy showing for the month. **T. Shively** observed a male in apparent distraction display at BIWA—where the species nested two years ago, and an alt male first noted on 28 Jun—on 1 Jul; the bird was flirting with high-speed auto traffic, and was not refound. An apparent returning migrant was at ONWR on 23 Jul (**G. Miller**).

Red-necked Phalarope: A female was at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 1-2 Jun (**J. Yochum**), and one at Pipe Ck WA on 28 and 31 Jul (**G. Leidy, S. Zadar**).

Bonaparte's Gull: Late birds included six in basic plumage in *Paulding* on 6 Jun (**J. Yochum**) and one in Conneaut on the 7th (**J. Spendelow**). Apparently opting out of breeding were one in *Fulton* on 10 Jul (**Yochum**), 11 in Sandusky Bay 13 Jul (**T. Shively**), and one on the 16th at Conneaut (**G. Leidy**). The Conneaut reports were the only ones from the Central Basin, and 323 on 29 Jul at Pt Clinton (**V. Fazio**) was an excellent number for the Western Basin.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A third-year bird at Conneaut on 23 Jul (**C. Holt**) was refound by **J. Sedransk** on 30 Jul.

Great Black-backed Gull: Few reported. Unusual was a first-year bird at MBSP on 9 Jun (**B. Whan**).

Caspian Tern: Noteworthy were seven at Caesar Ck SP on 2-3 Jun (**L. Gara, E. Roush**). The first migrants reported were two in Sandusky Bay on 13 Jul (**T. Shively et al.**).

Common Tern: The ONWRC counts of 28 on 2 Jun and 52 on 7 Jul were undoubtedly augmented by the local assisted breeders. Surveys of the ONWR colony showed 50 pairs yielded 54 chicks (last year 55 produced 103); at the Pipe Ck WA colony, 25 pairs produced 49 young (where last year 17 produced 16). The first year for two new platforms at Navarre Marsh attracted a pair, which produced two chicks; two more sets of nesting platforms are envisioned for the ODOW project, tentatively in Sandusky Bay and off CPNWR (**M. Shieldcastle**). A pair attempted an unassisted nest on an island at Pipe Ck WA this year, but it was soon found by predators (**Shieldcastle**).

Forster's Tern: A basic bird at ONWR for the 7 Jul census was perhaps a nonbreeder. Two alt adults in Sandusky Bay 13 Jul (**T. Shively**) were summer visitors, and migrants were one at KPWA on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**) and 17 on 29 Jul at Pt Clinton (**V. Fazio**).

Black Tern: Peterjohn calls black terns accidental summer visitors to the interior counties, but accidents do happen. **S. Snyder** had one, probably the same that had been there since 25 May, near Wooster on 1 Jun, **J. Yochum** found two in *Paulding* on 12 Jun, and **G. Miller** witnessed the final reported appearance of a KPWA bird on 28 Jun. One hopes that local breeders were involved in a 5 Jul sighting at Mallard Club Marsh WA (**R. Rogers**), and at adjacent CPNWR, with two on 3 Jun (**M. Gallaway**) and four feeding over a marsh on 29 Jun, then three on 13 Jul (both **E. Tramer**). Two alt adults in Grand Rapids, *Wood*, on 7 Jul were harder to explain (**T. Manley**). One at Pt Clinton on 29 Jul marked the beginning of fall migration (**V. Fazio**).

Black-billed Cuckoo: **E. Tramer** regarded them as scarcer than usual in the Toledo area, with one apiece on 19 Jun at Oak Openings MP and 13 Jul at CPNWR.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Late, appearing in good numbers only in mid-Jun. High count eight at EFSP on 7 Jul (**H. Armstrong**), and **J. McCormac** had seven in *Gallia* on 23 Jul.

Barn Owl: Two to three were at Chilo Lock #23 in *Clermont* 11-19 Jul (**C. Clingman**).

Chuck-will's-widow: As expected in more southern realms, but the *Hocking* bird(s) of the previous five years were not heard this year (**J. Fry**).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: High count 10 at MWW on 16 Jun (**N. Keller**). **C. Babyak** was disappointed at having no nesters this summer in her location in *Trumbull*, but found 26 Jul an early date for feeder devotees—probably a result of prolonged dry weather.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: **K. Metcalf** reported one at the Grand River Terraces in *Ashtabula* on 11 Jul, presumably nesting locally. **J. Pogacnik** found probable nesters at Paine Falls, and possible nesters at Girdled Rd and Hell Hollow in the *Lake* MPs.

Pileated Woodpecker: **E. Tramer** reported one at Oak Openings MP on 26 Jun; earlier on 12 Jun he, **T. Kemp**, and **M. Anderson** excitedly called one another to find each had had what was probably the same pileated calling in his yard; **Tramer** remarks that “the state of our forest cover is so pathetic that any pileated in the Toledo area is noteworthy.”

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last northbound bird straggled through LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Also passing through LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**), another was the only migrant found at the Magee bird trail on 9 Jun (**B. Whan** et al.), as late as this species gets.

Acadian Flycatcher: High count was 11 at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). In the NW, one was in the Oak Openings on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), and two pairs nested in Marie De Larme Woods in *Paulding* through the period (**M&D Dunakin**). **R. Thorn** noted the species was nesting in surprisingly small woodlots in *Franklin*.

Alder Flycatcher: **E. Tramer** noted two singing at CPNWR on 9 Jun, and **S. Zadar** and **G. Leidy** counted five at GRWA on 12 Jun. **D. Chasar** had one at Oakhill in the CVNP on 19 Jun. **J. Pogacnik** found birds as at least possible nesters in seven sites in the *Lake* MPs. **G. Links** called them “more common than ever before,” citing sightings sited in *Sandusky*, *Erie*, and *Williams*, as well as *Lucas* this season.

Willow Flycatcher: **S. Zadar** had 17 on Dike 14 in *Cuyahoga* on 1 Jun, and the ONWRC 31 on 2 Jun. One was unexpected at Station Rd in the CVNP 10 Jun (**D. Chasar**).

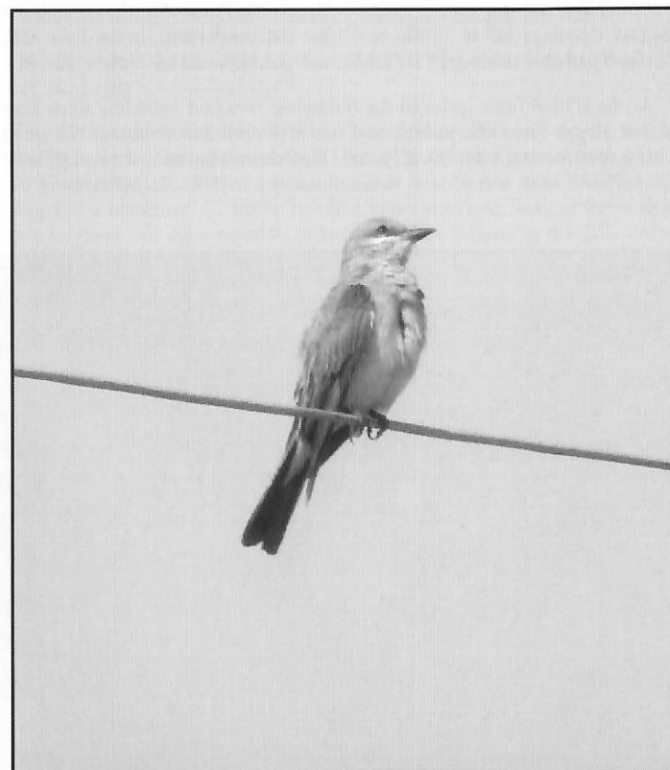
Least Flycatcher: Jun records included one at LMP on the 2nd (**J. Pogacnik**), one in Burton Twp, *Geauga*, on the 21st (**K. Metcalf**), and one at Killbuck on the 29th (**G. Leidy**). **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Lakeshore Res'n, probable nesting at Hell Hollow and Indian Pt, and possible nesting at Girdled Rd and Mason's Landing in the *Lake* MPs during the period.

Western Kingbird: **T. Schroeder** discovered one in rural *Butler* on 1 Jul; this apparently territorial male was fairly regularly refound through 20 Jul (**J. Lehman**). Record accepted by the OBRC. Of Ohio's ~50 records, our only other Jul occurrence involved a nesting pair found in *Lucas* 29 Jul 1933 by **Lou Campbell**.

White-eyed Vireo: The high count was 11 at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). In the north, a territorial male was at Station Rd in the CVNP on 13 Jun (**D. Chasar**), and three in Irwin Prairie SNP through the period (**E. Tramer**); **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Indian Pt in the *Lake* MP system.

Bell's Vireo: One singing male was near N. Baltimore, *Wood*, on 1 Jun (**C. Anderson**), but not refound. At least one singing male returned to BCSP 8 Jun (**D. Overacker**), as did one on 16 Jun (**S. Bobonick**) then two later that day (**L. Brumbaugh**) to MWW.

Blue-headed Vireo: Reported throughout the period in good numbers in strongholds in *Hocking* and the NE. **J. Pogacnik** noted 30 birds during the period in *Lake* MP hemlock ravines. A male was singing at a new site in Austintown, *Mahoning*, on 21 Jun (**D. Hochadel**), and in *Columbiana* two were noted 6 Jul (**B&D Lane**).



By taking up residence in Butler County for approximately three weeks in July, this western kingbird provided wonderful viewing opportunities for many birders. It also posed for Joe Hammond's digiscoping set-up on 16 July 2002.

Tree Swallow: Flocks accumulated at traditional areas such as KPWA by mid-Jul, with 1300 estimated by **Z. Baker** there by 14 Jul; numbers gradually diminished, to be replaced by the following species in Aug.

Bank Swallow: **D. Chasar** regarded them as harder to find in the CVNP for some reason.

Cliff Swallow: **R. Thorn** quantified their colonization of new areas at Hoover Res, *Franklin/Delaware*, remarking that they now nest beneath every bridge there: 100+ nests at the dam, 12 at the Sunbury bridge, 8-10 at the Galena bridge, 20 at Twin Bridges, and 10 at the Duncan Glen bridge. In Chillicothe, 80+ pairs nested—where else?—on Bridge St through the season (**B&D Lane**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The ONWRC of 2 Jun reported one. Elsewhere in the north, one was in *Medina's* Hinckley Res'n on 17 Jul (**G. Leidy**). A pair nested at a traditional spot in Hocking Hills SP, observed 14 Jun (**J. Tetzloff**). An adult was seen feeding young west of Ash Cave in *Hocking* on 24 Jun (**D. Horn**). At Lakeshore Res'n in *Lake*, **J. Pogacnik** confirmed a nest with two young.

Brown Creeper: **D. Chasar** reported good numbers in the CVNP, and **G. Leidy** had two at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 9 Jun and two singing males at Royalview Picnic Area in *Cuyahoga* during Jul. One was in Oak Openings MP in Toledo on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**). In the *Lake* MPs, **J. Pogacnik** located probable nesters at Girdled Rd and possibles at Hell Hollow and River Rd.

Winter Wren: At the CVNP finds included the following: two-four including three singing males 24 Jun-5 Jul at Happy Days (**G. Leidy**), and two territorial males through the period at Ritchie Ledges, with a nest found 14 Jul (**D. Chasar**). **H. Petruschke** located two at Stebbin's Gulch on 6 Jul. Twenty-one birds were found in nine locations in the *Lake* MPs during the period (**J. Pogacnik**).



This winter wren nest was discovered at Ritchie Ledges in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit County, on 14 July 2002. It was photographed by Dwight Chasar on 18 July 2002 and the young successfully fledged some time later.

Sedge Wren: The traditionally smaller vanguard was represented by two singing at Mosquito Ck WA on 1 Jun (**D. Hochadel**), where they have been "surprisingly regular for several years," and another singing at the north end of Chippewa Lk in *Medina* the following day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **T. Shively** heard one at BIWA on 22 Jun, and at the VOA property in *Butler*, **J. Mulki** et al. found one, which grew to 11 on 24 Jul, then 17 on 28 Jul (both **M. Busam**). One found at KPWA on 28 Jun (**G. Miller**) grew to ~15 singing males by 13 Jul (**L. Powlick**). **M. Anderson** noted three near the Toledo airport on 6 Jul. **E. Tramer** reported that one at Kitty Todd Preserve, *Lucas*, on 3 Aug was said by manager **G. Haase** to have been present for two weeks.

Marsh Wren: Numbers were as expected at the usual spots: eight at Killbuck on 7 Jun (**S. Snyder**), 16 on the 2 Jun and 14 on the 7 Jul ONWRCs, 10 at Magee on 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**), and two at Jaitte in the CVNP (**D. Chasar**) through the period. Two pairs were at Arcola Ck, *Lake*, during the period, with nesting confirmed for one (**J. Pogacnik**).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: **J. Pogacnik** reported an adult and a juv in Norway spruce at Chapin Forest, *Lake*, this year.

Veery: Nestings were reported across the north—47 birds counted by the Audubon breeding bird census in *Summit*, for example—and as far south as Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* on 16 Jun (**R. Thorn**), with four censused by MP staff there during the month (**J. Watts**).

Swainson's Thrush: Lingered through 2 Jun at LMP (**J. Pogacnik**) and at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* (**G. Leidy**).

Hermit Thrush: The hemlock gorges in *Hocking* harbored several pairs during the period, with two at Conkle's Hollow (**L. Gara**), six in Clear Ck MP (**J. Watts**), and in three other gorges in the county (**J. McCormac**). **R. Rickard** found an adult on a nest at the CVNP's Ledges on 9 Jun with an egg and a hatchling; **G. Leidy** reported two abandoned nests at the Park on 5 Jul. Four pairs, one confirmed and three possible as breeders, were located in the *Lake* MPs during the season (**J. Pogacnik**).



The Ritchie Ledges portion of Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Summit County also provided nesting habitat for hermit thrushes. This nest was photographed there on 28 July 2002 by Dwight Chasar.

- Northern Mockingbird:** High count was 14 at EFSP on 7 Jul (**H. Armstrong**), and mockers continued to increase in the north according to many reporters; nine were tallied on a 25 Jun survey in *Hancock* (fide **B. Hardesty**), and breeding was confirmed at Chagrin River Pk in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Brown Thrasher:** Increasing recently in the northwest, where three were on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and seven on that of 7 Jul.
- Cedar Waxwing:** High count by far was 148 at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* on 2 Jun (**G. Leidy**), though the *Summit* breeding bird census 14-23 Jun tallied 579 in all.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** A mixed picture: **E. Tramer** found only four in Jun at the Oak Openings, and called their numbers "way down," but **D. Chasar** counted 23 along a single trail in a Christmas tree farm in the CVNP on 19 Jun.
- Hybrids of the above:** A "Brewster's" from the previous period was relocated in *Williams* on 8 Jun (**B. Conlon**).
- Tennessee Warbler:** An adult male was near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 20 Jul (**E. Schlabach**); there are only about a dozen published Jul records for Ohio, and this probably represents an early fall migrant.
- Northern Parula:** Summering somewhat north of the usual range were a singing male in *Medina* on 9 Jun (**G. Leidy**), another at Highbanks MP in *Delaware* on 19 Jun and 24 Jul (**J. Hammond**), one at Killbuck WA on 6 Jul (**S. Snyder**), and one in *Pickaway* on 11 Jul (**M. England**). **J. Pogacnik** found one singing at River Rd in *Lake*, where the species has been found in the summer in the past. During the period **R. Thorn** noted six in the Columbus area, and **J. McCormac** detected the species in *Mercer*, *Franklin*, and *Lawrence*.
- Yellow Warbler:** Good counts included 124 on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and 21 on 7 Jun at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**). By 15 and 20 Jul, probable migrants were in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** A late first-spring male was found by the 2 Jun ONWRC. **D. Overacker** had one in the Oak Openings 15 Jun, and **J. Grabmeier** another in western *Williams* 16 Jun. **D. Chasar** estimated three to four nests at Wetmore in the CVNP 8 Jun, and the *Summit* breeding bird census of 14-23 Jun ended up with 12.
- Magnolia Warbler:** A late migrant was at LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**). The species was observed at Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* 16 Jun (**R. Thorn**) and 4 Jul (**T. Shively**), with four counted in Jun by MP staff (**J. Watts**). **G. Leidy** detected a female at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* 2 Jun and another at Clear Fork Gorge in *Ashland* 29 Jun. **J. Pogacnik** reported 32 birds at 19 locations during the summer in the *Lake* MPs.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** Reported from its usual haunts statewide, with a high count of 10 singing males in Clear Fork Gorge, *Ashland*, on 29 Jun (**G. Leidy**). Quite unexpected was one in song at Magee on 18 Jun (**P. Rodewald**).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** **H. Petruschke** found two in Stebbins Gulch on 6 Jul.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** One was singing in Brecksville Res'n on 16 Jun (**J. Sedransk**), and one as late as 13 Jul in *Tuscarawas* (**E. Schlabach**). Common in Columbus, where **R. Thorn** found them at 10 city parks.
- Pine Warbler:** Found in the usual outposts beyond the unglaciated counties, such as Oak Openings MP in *Lucas* (9 Jun, **T. Shively**), but two territories were also at Brecksville Res'n during the period (**D. Chasar**), and a quite noteworthy find was four singing males at Indian Hill in *Hamilton* on 16 Jun, with one feeding a week-old brown-headed cowbird chick (**F. Renfrow**).

- Blackpoll Warbler:** One was still in *Holmes* on 6 Jun (**E. Schlabach**); good and late was one on 12 Jun in N. Chagrin Res'n in *Cuyahoga* (**K. Metcalf**).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Several reporters wondered if it was down in numbers. **J. McCormac**, while having found it in some new sites, remarked it had apparently disappeared from others, and **R. Thorn** detected it at only three Columbus area parks. **J. Pogacnik** discovered 38 birds at 14 *Lake* MPs this season, down slightly from recent years.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** **P. Rodewald** noted two odd occurrences: a male on S. Bass Isl on 18 Jun, and a female in Columbus on 23 Jun. One was seen out of the way in *Hancock* on 25 Jun and 9 and 30 Jul (fide **B. Hardesty**).
- American Redstart:** One lingered for the 1 Jun ONWRC. A male summered in *Hancock* (fide **B. Hardesty**).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** **S. Zadar** had a singer at GRWA on 12 Jun. Eight were at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). As many as three nests were in Pinery Narrows in the CVNP during the period (**D. Chasar**), when there were 14-16 pairs at Hoover Res, one pair near Greenlawn Dam, and two pairs in Dublin, all in the Columbus area (**R. Thorn**).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Somewhat out of the way was one in *Knox* on 11 Jul (**L. Deininger**).
- Ovenbird:** **D. Bollin** was a bit surprised to net one at MBSP on 8 Jul.
- Northern Waterthrush:** **J. Pogacnik** located probable breeders in Hidden Valley and at River Rd, and possible breeders at Hell Hollow during the period, all in the *Lake* MPs.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Its northern contingent was well-represented, with one in the Oak Openings on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), eight at Stebbins Gulch on 6 Jul (**H. Petruschke**), and "good numbers" in Brecksville Res'n through the period (**D. Chasar**).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Outliers included two in *Stark* on 5 Jun (**E. Snively**), two pairs in *Darke* on 30 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.), a singer in the CVNP on 5 Jul (**G. Leidy**), and one in *Cuyahoga* on 7 Jul (**Leidy**). Closer to home for this species, however, **R. Thorn** found them at but two Columbus parks.
- Mourning Warbler:** Fashionably late were one at Magee on 4 Jun (**N. Bixler**) and another in Cowan Lk SP the following day (**E. Roush**), but a female banded at MBSP on 18 Jun, still not in breeding condition, was lagging way behind (**D. Bollin**). **J. Pogacnik** found two pairs at Erie Shores in *Lake*, one probable and the other possible breeders.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Late to depart were one at Magee on 4 Jun (**N. Bixler**) and a male at CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**).
- Canada Warbler:** Found in Clear Fork Gorge (29 Jun, **G. Leidy**), Stebbins Gulch (6 Jul, **H. Petruschke**), and Ritchie Ledges in the CVNP (13 Jul, **S. Zadar**). Six were detected during Jun surveys of Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* (**J. Watts**). In the *Lake* MPs **J. Pogacnik** located four probable and two possible breeders during the season.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** In areas where they are less common, birds were at Wetmore (8 Jun) and Oakhill (19 Jun) in the CVNP (both **D. Chasar**), a pair at Erie Shores in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and three in *Darke* on 28 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.).
- Summer Tanager:** The *Delaware* pair of the past few years apparently returned for the period (**J. Hammond**); six were found in *Franklin* on 7 Jun, with three later at other locations in the county (**R. Thorn**). In the Oak Openings, four singing males were found 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), and a pair was in *Darke* on 28 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.).

Eastern Towhee: Locally quite common as always, with 18 along a single trail in the CVNP 19 Jun (D. Chasar) and 25 at EFSP on 30 Jun (B. Stanley).

Savannah Sparrow: One was singing east of Xenia on 3 Jun (K. Beal). Approximately 15 were at the old Coliseum site in Summit on 19 Jun (D. Chasar), and 19 at the VOA site in Butler had become 10 by 28 Jul (M. Busam).

Grasshopper Sparrow: An adult and fledgling were at Austintown in Mahoning on 21 Jun (D. Hochadel). The 7 Jul ONWRC counted 12. D. Chasar reckoned the grass may have been too high for the species at Summit's Coliseum site through the period. The largest counts came from reclaimed strip mine areas, with 50+ at Crown City WA 4 Jul and similar numbers at Woodbury WA during the second week of Jul (both B. Royse).

Henslow's Sparrow: Small numbers were found across the state, with eight in a Williams field on 8 Jun (J. Grabmeier), one in the Oak Openings 26 Jun (E. Tramer), one at BIWA on 28 Jun (G. Miller), seven at the VOA site on 7 Jul (E. Roush), and four on the old Ravenna Arsenal in Portage on 17 Jul (G. Leidy). B. Royse reported larger numbers on old strip mine sites: 12 at Crown City WA on 4 Jul, ~25 at Tri-Valley WA on 10 Jul, and ~100 at Woodbury WA the second week of Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: Numbers for the ONWRC of 2 Jun (six) and 7 Jul (10) were far from impressive considering those at much smaller locations, such as four at Ira Rd in the CVNP 17 Jun (T&M Romito) and five during Jul at Mill Stream Run Res'n in Cuyahoga (G. Leidy).

White-throated Sparrow: One remained at Camp Berry, Hancock, through 4 Jun (D. Barker fide B. Hardesty).

White-crowned Sparrow: Two accompanied their congener above at Camp Berry on the same schedule (D. Barker fide B. Hardesty).

Dark-eyed Junco: An excellent year in the NE. K. Metcalf estimated 8-10 territories in North Chagrin Res'n, with additional pairs in South Chagrin Res'n through the period. H. Petruschke tallied 30+ in Stebbins Gulch 6 Jul. In Mohican SF, G. Leidy had another on 29 Jun. J. Pogacnik tallied birds at 76 sites in 15 Lake MPs during the period.



It turned out to be a good summer for dickcissels in Ohio. This male was digiscoped in Montgomery County on 24 July 2002 by Bill Hull.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The Audubon breeding bird census tallied a healthy 150 in Summit 14-23 Jun. R. Schieltz et al. had one in Darke on 28 Jun. It seems more reports come from the southern counties each year, with the following this summer: E. Roush had one in Clinton 7 Jun, F. Kidd two in Clermont 20 Jun, and J. McCormac one way down in Lawrence 20 Jun and another in Butler 25 Jun.

Blue Grosbeak: The nest of the Holmes pair of several years' standing failed, apparently because of cowbird parasitism (E. Yoder fide S. Snyder). J. McCormac counted eight territorial males at Crown City WA in Gallia on 3 Jul, and another in Pike on 16 Jul.

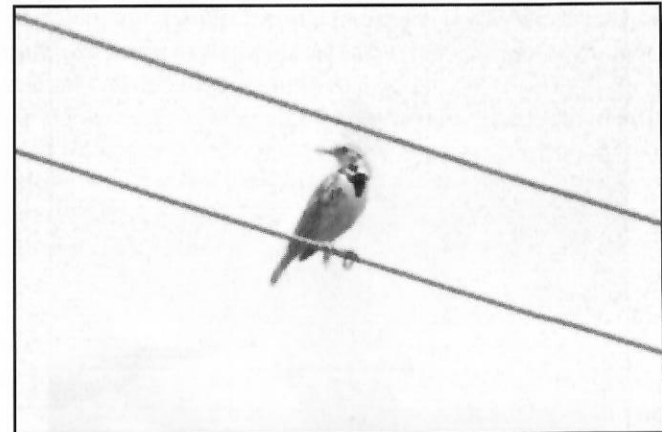
Dickcissel: The first of the year were "many" adjacent to the Thomas wetlands in Paulding on 6 Jun (J. Yochum). The high count was ~15 at Crown City WA deep in unglaciated Ohio on 4 Jul (B. Royse). Birds were reported from Clark, Darke, Defiance, Franklin, Gallia, Hancock, Lawrence, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Paulding, Union, and Wyandot, and doubtless went unnoticed or at least unreported in many more.

Bobolink: High reported count of summering birds was 54 at the VOA site on 26 Jun (M. Busam), with 20 remaining on 28 Jul. The Summit breeding bird census recorded 126 Jun 14-23, largely at the old Coliseum site. Migrants had begun to move by 15 Jul (when E. Schlabach noted one in Holmes), with many appearing along the Lakefront by the end of the month, and 100+ at a site in Trumbull on 25 Jul (D. Hochadel).

Eastern Meadowlark: Numbers have recently been good at the grasslands of Butler's VOA site, and this summer 30 were counted on 19 Jun, 22 on 26 Jun, and six on 28 Jul (M. Busam); the decline does not indicate nesting success.

Western Meadowlark: Seems destined for Review Species status, with only one lonely songster reported for the state, first discovered during the previous period, on 8 Jun in Williams (J. Grabmeier).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Small numbers apparently summered as usual in NW marshes, as indicated by two males at CPNWR on 9 and 29 Jun and a female 13 Jul (E. Tramer). M. L. Johnston had one in Darke 1-2 Jun, and another was in SW Hancock on 25 Jun (B. Hardesty).



Southwest Williams County saw this season's only report of western meadowlark. This bird, a male in song, was photographed on 8 June 2002 by Troy Shively.

Orchard Oriole: One was in the S. Chagrin Res'n on 6 Jul (**K. Metcalf**). Multiple birds were seen at Killbuck (six on 9 Jul, **S. Snyder**), ONWR (four on the ONWRC of 7 Jul, one carrying food), and *Tuscarawas* (four migrants on 27 Jul, **E. Schlabach**).

Purple Finch: **R. Rickard** had two at Streetsboro Bog, *Portage*, 10 Jul. High count was ~12 present daily at feeders in Damascus, *Mahoning*, during the period (**B&D Lane**).

Pine Siskin: **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Lakeshore Res'n in *Lake*, a nest with three young, during the period.

Contributors

We are very grateful to the following observers who made their sightings reports available: Chuck Anderson, Matt Anderson, Hank Armstrong, Jim Arnold, Carole Babyak, Zac Baker, Brian Barchus, Dorothea Barker, Tom Bartlett, Kathy Beal, Bob Beitzel, Ned Bixler, Steve Bobonick, Dana Bollin, Margaret Bowman, Lori Brumbaugh, Mike Busam, Jason Cade, Neill Cade, Granville Carey, Tom Carrolan, Ann Chasar, Dwight Chasar, Chris Clingman, John Condit, Bob Conlon, Mike Crofts, Becky Cullen, Sharon Cummings, Leo Deininger, Dave Dister, Doug Dunakin, Micki Dunakin, Marcus England, Vic Fazio, Duane Ferris, Frank Frick, Jayme Fuller, Mike Gallaway, Larry Gara, Paul Gardner, Peg Gatch, Bruce Glick, Jeff Grabmeier, Joe Hammond, Betty Hardesty, Rob Harlan, Paul Haskins, Andrea Haslage, Jim Haw, John Herman, Craig Holt, Joe Hildreth, Rebecca Hinkle, Hank Hiris, Sally Hiris, Dave Hochadel, Dave Horn, William Hull, Mary Louise Johnston, Milan Keim, Tom Kemp, Fran Kidd, Ron Kolde, Bob Lane, Denise Lane, Gabe Leidy, Tim Leslie, Greg Links, Sean Lucas, Trevor Manley, Jim McCormac, Kevin Metcalf, Greg Miller, Joseph Miller, Ben Morrison, Bev Neubauer, Ed Neubauer, Doug Overacker, Anne Paschall, Haans Petruschke, Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik, Nancy Powlick, Len Powlick, Frank Renfrow, Richard Rickard, Craig Rieker, Randel Rogers, Paul Rodewald, Mary Anne Romito, Sue Ross, Thomas Ross, Ed Roush, Bob Royle, Dan Sanders, Regina Schieltz, Ed Schlabach, Tommy Schroeder, Joe Sedransk, Ron Sempier, Jon Seymour, Mark Shieldcastle, Troy Shively, Elaine Snively, Su Snyder, Pat Soehnen, Brad Sparks, Jacob Spendelow, Bill Stanley, Lee Sterrenburg, John Switzer, John Tetzloff, Laurel Theriault, Rob Thorn, Elliot Tramer, Gary Troyer, Doug Vogus, Sandy Wagner, John Watts, Wayne Wauligman, Bill Whan, John Yochum, Emery Yoder, Leroy Yoder, Sean Zadar, Bill Zimmerman, Brian Zwiebel. We also owe a debt to internet services managed by Chuck Anderson, Vic Fazio, Ned Keller, and Gene Storer, as well as to the editors of *The Bobolink*. 🐦



This male yellow-headed blackbird appeared at a Greenville, Darke County, feeder on 1-2 June 2002. Photo by Mary Louise Johnston.

Further Afield

Rob Harlan

3361 Columbia Woods Drive, Apt. F, Norton, OH 44203-5778
kiskadee96@hotmail.com

Back in the mid-1980s, a hit-list was hatched. After 10 or so years of fairly active, but local, birding, I finally acquired a vehicle to call my own. It got eight miles to the gallon, but who's counting, and, come to think of it, would have been a highly-ranked entry into the local demolition derby. Nonetheless, I suddenly felt the urge to broaden my birding horizons statewide. All of Ohio beckoned, and many Ohio birds, heretofore unseen and unlisted by me, seemed within my reach. I knew I wanted to see 300 species in Ohio; many birders had advised me to establish that mark as a workable and meaningful goal. So I dutifully added up my list, kept up to that point by marking the little boxes that appeared next to the species' names in the index of the first edition of Chandler Robbins's old Golden Guide. But no matter how many times I tallied, my list simply wouldn't rise above 263 species for Ohio. Two hundred sixty-three was not good enough.

So my hit-list came to life. It consisted of 37 species not yet seen by me that seemed most likely candidates for tracking down somewhere in Ohio. I recall listing many shorebirds and gulls, also a goodly number of scarcer waterfowl, along with a few odds and ends tacked on to reach the tantalizing 300 mark. Up to that point, my efforts had been rather hit-and-miss, but gratefully once a plan was concocted the new birds came rather quickly. This was due in large part to a network of friends, who would "call" me on a device known as a "telephone." Perhaps some of you will remember a device such as this; it was commonly used to disseminate birding information before the advent of the Internet. For my part, whenever I turned up a rare bird of interest to my friends, I would return the favor. We actually spoke to one another on these telephonic devices! As archaic as this technology might seem today, it certainly paid large dividends for my Ohio list.

It seems ironic to me now, after almost 20 years of concentrated effort, that I don't even recall what my 300th Ohio species ultimately turned out to be. The achievement of my goal became less important than the chase itself, and so the chase continues for me today, even though my original goal was reached 15 years ago. Of course as the list grows, so does the difficulty in adding to it, but this only makes the rewards sweeter. Sweet is good.

And in case anyone was wondering, only one bird remains to be crossed off my original hit-list of 37. Thankfully, my first western kingbird—the next to last—was finally observed this July, with the cooperative Butler County bird putting on a show for us on what turned out to be the last evening it was found. No, I did not collect it and place it on my mantle. I do not have a mantle. This leaves the elusive yellow rail as the only remaining species yet unseen on my original hit-list of 37. Keep in mind that I offer a handsome finders' fee...

Now, I'm not sure what any of the above has to do with introducing a series of pieces on finding the rare birds of Ohio, as promised in my most recent column. Perhaps it will serve to illustrate that with a plan of attack, long-term goals may be accomplished over time. Perhaps it will serve only as a desperate plea for someone to find a yellow rail, call me on the phone, and sit on it till I can get there. Whatever the case, with this column we initiate a series of short treatments of Ohio's rare birds. I envision this series appearing irregularly, whenever I can't think of anything else to write about. The birds to be dealt with are those species treated only as "Rare" in the new *Ohio Bird Records Committee Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, a copy of which all *Ohio Cardinal* subscribers should have received as a complimentary insertion in the most recent issue, Spring 2002. These "Rare" birds are the species that beef up a standard Ohio list into a substantial one, birds which are more difficult to find than the "Uncommon" ones, which will be stumbled upon sooner or later, which are easier to find than the "Casual" or "Accidental" species, documentation of which requires OBRC acceptance to become published as part of the permanent historical record. For any of these latter species, game plans become tenuous: patterns of occurrence may form over long periods of time, but then again they may not. If you learn of a casual or accidental species hanging out at your friendly local sewage lagoons, no complex plan is necessary—just go. But for the "Rare" birds, a bit of forethought just might come in handy. And so here, in digestible bite-sized chunks, we begin our series with...

Red-throated Loon

An interesting case: probably overlooked to some degree, but I also suspect small common loons might be mistakenly identified as red-throateds. Only recently have we begun to identify red-throateds as part of the fall Lakefront common loon movements, and considerable size variation within common loon populations might cause some smaller commons to be identified, based on size alone, as red-throateds. In a similar vein, how do we know that distant small, rapidly-flying loons, which might be called red-throateds, are not in fact similarly-sized Pacific loons? This is not to say that observers should simply identify all flying loons as commons, or even use the dreaded designation "loon sp."; experience is crucial towards gaining an acceptable comfort level when identifying flying loons. Come to think of it, why don't we ever hear of an *inland* flyby red-throated? Plenty of flyby commons are seen inland every year, but virtually never a red-throated. To be on the safe side, I feel the potential first-time red-throated loon seeker would be best served to look on one of our large inland reservoirs, where direct stationary comparisons with common loons are sometimes possible. Inland reservoirs worth an especially careful look include C. J. Brown Reservoir (Clark County), Caesar Creek Reservoir (Warren County), Hoover Reservoir (Franklin/Delaware Counties), and any of the larger Akron-area lakes (Summit/Portage Counties). Despite my personal preference for identification on inland lakes, don't overlook Lake Erie, as inland vs. lakefront reports run nearly 50/50; keep in mind though that many, if not most, lakefront records represent flybys. So, when to look? Spring migrants are very rare, but most

are encountered during the last quarter of March and the first quarter of April. Fall migrants are somewhat more numerous, but are still rare. Peak time during the fall is the first three quarters of November. On the water, look for the red-throated's daintier size and demeanor, thin upturned bill, cleaner neck, and often spotted back, in comparison to common loon.

Red-necked Grebe

Fairly weak on the wing, grebes are particularly prone to weather-related fallouts, when hostile conditions can force large numbers of birds down onto whatever water is handy, and unfortunately sometimes onto wholly inappropriate habitats as well. As part of the unprecedented red-necked grebe fallout of February-May 1994, when 100+ birds were found scattered across Ohio due to the cruelly frigid conditions which froze over Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan, and forced any dawdling northern Great Lakes grebes down our way, wayward unfortunates were found here in such unlikely situations as a Hardin County farm field and the parking lot of Summit Mall in Akron. Considering that only about 250 red-neckeds had ever been reported in Ohio prior to this fallout, one can readily see why 100+ in a few months-worth of 1994 was considered rather unusual at the time. Well, it's still pretty dangd unusual. Most observers are fortunate to find one bird a year, and most of those are discovered in the fall, when peak movements occur in the middle two quarters of November, but especially 16-23 November. Lesser numbers are found in the spring, but the peak (if you can call it that) is longer and more gradual, extending from about 16 March – 23 April. This species seems to be about equally likely inland as along Lake Erie; just head for the big water and look for a big grebe. If this is not successful, visit Summit Mall.

Eared Grebe

Throughout most of the 1980s, a late fall trip to C. J. Brown Reservoir near Springfield would have been the prescription for finding an eared grebe in Ohio, as up to five birds at a time returned year after year to this productive body of water. Although this species can still be found there irregularly, it can no longer be counted on at this location. Fear not, however, as eared grebe is still to be found somewhere in the state, averaging about five birds per annum. The odds are moderately greater to locate one inland vs. on Lake Erie, but certainly not great enough to spend an inordinate amount of time inland at the expense of the Lake. Any large body of water will do, although far fewer are found in the southeastern quadrant of the state, as is true for most waterbirds. As a general rule, don't head to southeastern Ohio if you're looking for aquatic avian rarities. In the spring, eareds may be expected the last half of March through April, with a definite peak during the last quarter of March. As for the fall, the first three quarters of November are most productive, but if my list depended on it, I'd be looking most actively during the second week of the month. As a caveat, here is another species that can cause some ID headaches, especially in the spring when both eared and horned grebe plumages move from basic to alternate. Almost any plumage variation seems possible during this period; however, the more domed head and thinner, slightly upturned bill of the eared, as well as the somewhat thinner, more graceful neck, should settle the matter.

American White Pelican

If there's a more accommodating rare Ohio species, I don't know what it might be. Once this bird finds a spot to its liking, odds favor an extended stay, sometimes lasting several weeks or more. Small flocks are quite possible. The western Lake Erie marshes produce the most sightings, but any large, fishy inland body of water, especially in the western half of the state, can also do the trick. "Spring" sightings tend to fall between the second quarter of April and the second quarter of June, although the last three quarters of May seem to have the edge. Fall sightings are most typically expected between the last two quarters of September through November, but without a discernible peak. Identification should hopefully not be a problem with the species, as it prefers easily-scanned open areas. It is also white, huge, and has a big honking beak. Please do not misidentify this species. Thank you.

Little Blue Heron

If I were writing this column prior to the 1900s, there would be no need to include this species, as no "official" state record had yet been accepted. However, if I were writing in the 1930s, it wouldn't have been included either, this time because little blue herons would have been far too common for inclusion in a column on rare birds. How do 1185 birds in 40 counties from late July to early September 1930 grab you? This tally would prove to be the little blue's high-water mark in Ohio, but large numbers appeared as late summer irruptives from the south throughout the 30s and into the 40s, dwindling to a trickle in the 50s. Despite their ups and downs, in recent years little blues have proven consistently rare, with no concentrations of any consequence reported. Nonetheless, the timing of fall arrivals remains today as it did in the past, with birds expected about the first of August and later through mid-September. Contrary to older invasions, now we may also expect a spring migration, lasting from the last quarter of April through May, with the last quarter of May the least productive. Heck, this species has even nested in the West Sister Island (Lucas County) heronry in the 1980s and early 1990s, albeit with only a pair or two each year. Although it might seem slightly illogical, more little blues are found inland than along Lake Erie; in recent years, roughly a 10/7 inland/lakefront ratio has proven to be the case. I suspect the southwestern Ohio wetlands now offer the best bet, with locations such as Miami-Whitewater Wetlands (Hamilton County) and Gilmore Ponds (Butler County) coming to mind. Potentially, however, any marshy/mudflatty areas around the state could attract this species, although again I would spend less time looking in southeastern Ohio than elsewhere. Also keep in mind that all age classes can be found here. Adults should pose no identification pitfalls, and calico young should produce only momentary mental gymnastics. All-white juveniles could certainly be overlooked, however, as a snowy egret, or even conceivably a great egret, at least by the frighteningly unobservant.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Of all the rare species to be covered in this series, this one has proven to be one of the most consistent, at least in the past several years. Here has been the formula for success. Drive down residential Preston Road in east Columbus near the border

of Bexley; stop when you come to the big white splats in the middle of the road; look up, but carefully. Up to three nests per year have been located in this attractive area for about six years now, with some nests even placed directly over the road. Why this species would be willing to nest so close to human disturbance in highly urbanized areas such as this one, and also in a rather unkempt Dayton neighborhood (at least through the mid-1990s) is certainly a curiosity, since they will also nest in very remote streamside locations across the state. Nearby shallow, rocky streams overflowing with crayfish seem to be their most essential requirement, but just the same, huge expanses of seemingly suitable habitat go unoccupied every year. It seems quite likely that many individuals and nestings simply go unnoticed due to this species' nocturnal habits and unpredictability away from a few established sites. Even these established sites may be occupied for only a few years; if a nest site is readily viewable, my advice would be to go immediately and readily view it, before the species again fades into obscurity. Any sighting of a yellow-crowned away from an established site is a red-letter event, but even this does not always indicate nesting, as pure migrants may appear in April and May and again in the fall, although in tiny numbers, generally in mid- to late August. Migrants may also appear in the western Lake Erie marshes, as well as in the more expected streamside habitats statewide. First-year birds may be the most overlooked age class, being quite similar to first-year black-crowned night-herons. Any first-year night-heron demands close scrutiny, especially one along a rocky stream. Wherever you are, look for the solid black bill and small white spots on the upper surface of the yellow-crowned, and largely yellow bill and larger white upper-surface spots on the black-crowned.

In the next installment of this series, we hope to cover many of our rare waterfowl—greater white-fronted goose, brant, Eurasian wigeon, harlequin duck, etc. Between now and then, you should have some time to track down some of the rare species just covered. Ready?...begin. 🦢



Butler County's Voice of America property hosted numerous sedge wrens this summer. This one was digiscoped there on 15 July 2002 by Bill Hull.

Hocking Hills 2001 - A Pine Woods Odyssey: Red-breasted Nuthatch Fledging Details and Other Records

Frank Renfrow

611 South O'Fallon Avenue, Bellevue, KY 41073
frankrenfrow@aol.com

Old Man's Cave, Conkle's Hollow, Cedar Falls—to many Ohioans these names conjure up images of cool gorges of eastern hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*, bubbling waterfalls, and spectacular rock formations. The Ohio bird enthusiast visits these areas to find such hemlock cove dwellers as the blue-headed vireo *Vireo solitarius*, black-throated green warbler *Dendroica virens*, and hermit thrush *Catharus guttatus* (Randle 1989, Renfrow 1998).

But there is another habitat of avian significance unique to this area. The Hocking Hills area contains a remarkable variety of trees of the genus *Pinus*. Native Virginia *P. virginiana* and pitch pines *P. rigida* are scattered through the upper slopes and ridges. During the 1930s, plantations of white *P. strobus* and red pines *P. resinosa* were begun, and after 70 years of growth they now impose a significant presence on the Hocking Hills landscape. There are also some stands of planted shortleaf pine *P. echinata*, and this stately southern yellow pine is indigenous to Hocking County as well (Braun 1961). Some of the pitch pines may also be of Forest Service origin (Vannorsdall 1958).



White (foreground) and red pines at the Hocking Hills State Park cabin area in Hocking County. Photo by Frank Renfrow.

A pair of red-breasted nuthatches *Sitta canadensis* nested in a red pine in front of one of the state park cabins near Old Man's Cave in 1999 (Renfrow 1999). Upon arriving at the cabins on 30 May 2001, my wife Veronica and I found a pair nesting in the very same nest hole. We promptly reserved the cabin, and after several days of observation fledging was at hand.

I was out of the cabin at 6:00 a.m. on 4 June, 13 minutes before sunrise, but not early enough to catch the red-breasted nuthatches sleeping. The dutiful parents were already flying back and forth to the nest hole with choice bits of food for the rapidly growing nestlings. Just nine hours previous, I had watched the female return to the hole precisely at sunset—8:55 p.m.—to roost with her brood. This was after a full 15-hour day of coming and going with food at average intervals of 2 minutes, in alternation with the male. The young were now to the point of sticking their heads out of the hole, and noisily communicating in the mysterious language of the female nuthatch (more on this later).

Suddenly a blue jay *Cyanocitta cristata* landed on an adjacent pine. The male nuthatch gave a loud tremolo alarm call. The jay quickly departed. A nestling now took up the call from inside the hole. A loud, resonant “nya, nya, nya” began. A white-breasted nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* picked up on the agitation, and called in the distance “ra, ra, ra.” The female red-breasted approached, calling out “pit-a-pit, pit, pit...pit-a-pit, pit.” An incredible variety of nuthatch sounds filled the air, then all became calm.

At 7:33 a.m., a nestling stuck its head out of the hole. After several days of cool temperatures and rain, the sun was finally shining bright in a clear blue sky. The nestling seemed emboldened by the change of weather. Soon it was halfway out,



Shortleaf pines at the Hocking Hills State Park cabin area in Hocking County. Photo by Frank Renfrow.

turning its head from side to side. A few seconds later it was off, fluttering awkwardly to a red pine some 20 feet distant. Soon three more nestlings followed suit, losing altitude on their first flight, but quickly climbing up the flaky bark to regain position on the safety of a higher branch.

The blue jay returned, this time with its mate. The red-breasted nuthatch pair quickly took up the alarm and, soon joined by a pine warbler *Dendroica pinus*, they drove the jays away. But one of the jays dropped a bit of white fluff on the pine needle-covered earth. Veronica has joined in watching the drama. "Is it a feather from one of the fledglings?" she asked with alarm. I examine the fluff, and find it to be just one of the many tent caterpillar *Malacosoma americanum* cocoons I had previously noticed clinging to the furrowed trunks of the red pines.



Red-breasted nuthatch nestling in red pine nest hole at Hocking Hills State Park, Hocking County. This photo was taken on 3 June 2001, one day prior to fledging. Photo by Frank Renfrow.

All four fledglings were soon heard in the tops of the shortleaf pines behind the cabins. They began a monotonous tree frog-like chant, "wok, wok, wok, wok," a four-noted begging call which continued off and on through the next several hours. Within a half-hour after the fledging, the young were flying across the road, now maintaining their height at treetop level. The fledglings seemed to have a strong instinctive sense of caution, frequently fleeing to another branch as an adult approached with food. The parent bird dutifully followed its skittish offspring, who would eagerly accept the food on the second try. By midday the activity had subsided. We left to survey some other parts of the Hocking Hills.

Just the day before the fledging of the nuthatches, I had checked behind the Old Man's Cave picnic shelter for the pine siskin *Carduelis pinus* I had seen on 31 May feeding a fledgling brown-headed cowbird *Molothrus ater*. Sure enough, there was the cowbird still in the very same hemlock by the edge of the gorge. After a half-hour vigil watching the resting fledgling, the pair of siskins suddenly flew down and fed their oversized ward.

Now I gave thought to the origins of the siskin nesting, which probably took place in one of the seven (!) species of pines, just across the road in the Old Man's Cave picnic area. Austrian *Pinus nigra*, Scots *P. sylvestris*, pitch, shortleaf, Virginia, white, and red pines grace this very special parcel of Hocking Hills soil. No wonder a red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis* chose to tarry here back in 1975.

Red-breasted nuthatches, pine, Blackburnian *Dendroica fusca* and yellow-throated warblers *D. dominica* are no strangers to these hallowed grounds. Surely a pair of pine siskins might also find this very special pinewoods to their liking.

The next morning I heard the male red-breasted nuthatch calling from the cluster of large white pines near the far end of the cabin area. At least two or three fledglings were chanting in their begging monotone. The male crossed the road and began calling from a dead snag. A pine warbler quickly chased him off his perch, but the nuthatch was soon back on the snag and calling again. He seemed to be urging the young nuthatches back to the red pines near the nest tree, and soon they followed him back across the road.

Later I found two fledglings in an area of young second-growth pine and deciduous trees, the realm of a singing prairie warbler *Dendroica discolor*. The fledglings appeared fresh and bright in the sparse foliage of a tent caterpillar-ravaged black cherry *Prunus serotina*. The adult male also appeared brighter; gone was the dirty tinge he had acquired from going in and out of the sap-encrusted nest hole. The family was all brightness and cheer, basking in the midmorning sun, and I realized that both of these fledglings were males, with bold black crowns.

I then heard the piping voice of the red-breasted female. Following the sound, I found the female back in the red pines, with a female fledgling also pitter-pattering in soft conversational tones. While watching the nest during the four days prior to fledging, I noticed that only the female partook in these piping vocalizations, which sounded strikingly similar to the some of the calls of the brown-headed nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*. "Pipa, wicky, pip, pip-a-wick-a-wick" is how I had noted the female's call just a few days before.

It had been on June the third, just a day prior to fledging, that I noticed answering "pip-a-wicks" coming from at least one of the nestlings. Is this a "language" that only the female red-breasted nuthatches learn? If so, does the family split into two gender-distinct groups after fledging? This certainly seemed to be the case in this instance. As I became engrossed in contemplating these issues, the voices of the nuthatches faded as they moved deeper into the pines.



Red-breasted nuthatch fledgling at Hocking Hills State Park, Hocking County. This photo was taken on 5 June 2001, one day after fledging. Photo by Frank Renfrow.

I soon found the nuthatches back in the white pines. As I was watching the male red-breasted nuthatch in the top of a pine, a female Blackburnian warbler boldly chased him out of the tree. She soon returned, and promptly settled into a compact cup-shaped nest located just a few feet from where the nuthatch had been feeding. The nest was 58 feet up, about 3 feet from the end of a 10-foot horizontal branch of a large white pine, located directly in front of one of the cabins. I had been hearing the male Blackburnian singing nearby for the past couple of days, and he was singing now, just a few white pines away. The female sat on the nest for 20-30 minute intervals, leaving to feed nearby for 5-10 minutes at a time.

The next morning I observed the male Blackburnian standing over the female in the nest, apparently feeding her. That day we spent that afternoon at Clear Creek, but not before finding another male Blackburnian warbler singing from the tall white pines along the rim at Conkle's Hollow.

Upon our return to the cabin area at dusk, we heard the male red-breasted nuthatch calling repeatedly from the dead snag tree. I followed him into the dense pines behind the cabins. Veronica stayed by the road, and it was lucky that she did. As I was peering up into the pine needles, she followed the male, who in turn was followed by a fledgling, right back to the red pine nest tree. They both fluttered around the nest hole, and then the male perched in a nearby shortleaf pine and called out with an incessant "wah-wah-wah-wah" for a full five minutes, as if calling the family home. At exactly 8:58 p.m. he disappeared behind a red pine adjacent to the nest tree; it contained several large cavities, and I suspect this was where he retired for the night.

This was our last night at the cabin. The next morning the female Blackburnian was still upon the nest as her mate sang his insect-like song nearby. I could still hear the four-noted begging calls of the fledgling nuthatches as we packed our things and locked up the cabin.

We bid adieu to Hocking Hills,
And all its fragrant pines.
White and red, shortleaf, and pitch,
Each differing in design.
Bark and cone and needle thin,
Here's to the pines of Hocking Hills
And the birds that nest therein.

References

- Braun, E. L. 1961. *The Woody Plants of Ohio*. Ohio State University Press, Columbus.
- Randle, W. 1989. A Guide to Summer Birding in Hocking Hills State Parks. *The Ohio Cardinal* 12:16-17.
- Renfrow, F. 1998. Another Look at the Birds of Hocking Hills. *The Ohio Cardinal* 22:44-46.
- Renfrow, F. 1999. Red-breasted Nuthatches Nesting at Hocking Hills: The First Records for Southeastern Ohio. *The Ohio Cardinal* 22:131-133.
- Vannorsdall, H. H. 1958. *Trees of Ohio*. Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor. 🌲

Media Review

Ben Fambrough

3180 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
fambrough@rmrc.net

Flight Calls of Migratory Birds: Eastern North American Land Birds.

William R. Evans and Michael O'Brien. 2002. Old Bird Inc. Multimedia CD-ROM. Audio recordings, spectrographic portrayals, and text information throughout. Slim, folding cardboard CD case. \$35, plus \$5 shipping from Old Bird, 605 W. State St. Ithaca, NY 14850. Online ordering is available at <www.oldbird.org> or contact <admin@oldbird.org> for more information.

Knowledge of flight calls separates many excellent birders from a smaller set of elite birders. While many a fine birder can distinguish the nocturnal calls of migrating *Catharus* thrushes, fewer can decipher the zeep complexes attributed to sparrows and wood-warblers. But who has time to stake out each species and learn to recognize seldom-heard flight calls? Michael O'Brien and Bill Evans, two among the elite set, had time. In fact, they have made it their business to record and describe these calls. Their long-anticipated release, a multimedia CD-ROM reference guide, breaks new ground in what promises to be an ever-expanding availability of information. It describes the flight calls (diurnal and nocturnal) of 211 species of landbirds that migrate through the eastern United States. Most of them ply the night skies over Ohio every spring and fall.

The CD-ROM is currently available in an html version that requires navigation using one's Internet browser and works on the widest variety of operating systems. The true CD-ROM version, due for release later this year, will cost the same and be slightly more user friendly, requiring only that one insert the CD and wait for an interactive menu to open. Researchers may be more interested in the html version, which allows access to the .wav files and the ability to create spectrograms. Minimum system requirements are an Internet browser (Netscape or Explorer), 32 MB RAM and a CD drive. Yes, that's all. Just about anyone with a computer should be able to enjoy this version. The graphics are minimal; backgrounds are pleasant, transparent "wallpapers" of O'Brien's creation.

The instructions for use are simple and clear. One should begin by referring to the Read Me file. This file explains how to open and run the CD-ROM. The authors make a few good suggestions here. Although the browsers have a default media player, they recommend PC users download Winamp, and Mac users the most recent version of Quick Time. Have the player open before accessing the sound files; otherwise the browser will open and close the player each time one selects a file, which slows down playback and browsing. Another useful suggestion is to run the player in the background (invisibly), accomplished by right clicking the player and selecting the proper visualization modes. It took me just a little time to figure out how to do this with Winamp. It was time well spent.

Enough computer talk? Sure, on to the meat of it. Using the CD-ROM is exactly like surfing the web. There are pages and links. One uses the links and the browser's back and forwards buttons to navigate. The Home Page (start page) has a list of links, the first of which (appropriately, because it will be most used) is the Species Index set in bold, followed by a set of links in smaller font. I strongly recommend beginning by selecting and reading the text of these smaller links sequentially. The links are as follows: an introduction to the purpose and history of the project; a definition and explanation of "flight call;" How To Use This Guide, which outlines the sections of each species page; Learning Flight Calls, a really good primer with excellent advice on how to listen to a flight call (and when and where to listen); a section on the general aspects of the audio recordings, which credits recordists and has links to two institutional sound archives; a section on spectrograms with detailed information on how the parameters are set and how to interpret them; a short history of nocturnal flight call monitoring; a glossary; a short section on phonetic representations; a references list; a species list of background animal noises; and, finally, acknowledgments.

The first four sections, Introduction through Learning Flight Calls, will be particularly interesting to those who have not journeyed into the world of flight calls and nocturnal migration. The Introduction describes the evolution of the authors' efforts, remarking that as their vision progressed, a treatment of nocturnal flight calls of thrushes, warblers, and sparrows expanded to include diurnal migrants known to occasionally migrate and vocalize at night. As the work progressed and the authors struggled to decide which species merited inclusion, it became apparent that a full treatment of flight calls, diurnal and nocturnal, was in order. They comment, "Specifically, we aimed to provide an archive of diurnal *flight calls* where the birds were visually identified in order to help confirm our recordings and tentative identifications of *flight calls* from unseen nocturnal migrants."

It is important to note, as the authors do in the next page "What is a Flight Call?" that the terminology is a matter of convenience. "The so-called *flight call* is given under a wide variety of circumstances," for example, while foraging or interacting with young. It remains, however, the primary call for flight; therefore, the convenience. Furthermore, it should be noted that many species give other vocalization during diurnal and nocturnal migration. Some species "are even prone to give short bursts of song during nocturnal migration."

In the Learning Flight Calls section one gets the first taste of the sound files. There are four sample files of nocturnal flight calls. Following the authors' recommendation, I was listening with headphones instead of my cheap computer speakers. Using headphones significantly improved the sound quality. Studio speakers would be even better. I listened to the first three calls (yellow warbler, palm warbler, and white-throated sparrow, fine examples of different, but related sounds) then was nearly deafened by the fourth (the much louder "pwee" of Swainson's thrush). This prompted me to be very careful with volume levels of the files on the species pages. Two other sections, the glossary and the section on spectrograms, become important as one begins to explore the species pages.

Delving into the species pages proves to be a lot of fun. From the Home Page, the Species Index links to a list of bird groups in taxonomic order. Select any one group and a species list (also in taxonomic order) appears. From any single page there are links to the Home Page and the Glossary, making for quick reference. A typical page begins with the bird's common and scientific name, and a brief description of the flight call. For example, the description for golden-crowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa* reads "A high, finely trilled 'seee' or a series of two to four 'see' notes all on one pitch. Also, a high, descending 'tsu'." Example spectrograms for each type follow. All spectrograms in the guide are "clickable," so one can hear what it looks like (vs. "see" what it sounds like). Herein lies one of the beauties of the guide. Associating visual and audio is a fantastic learning and memory device. For example, the spectrogram for Canada warbler nocturnal flight call shows a dramatic descent and ascent. It looks like a "V." Listening to the associated sound files, one can actually discern this fluctuation (which takes place in about 1/20th of a second). After the spectrograms of flight calls, each page continues with a series of diurnal calling sequences or a link to diurnal sequences. There are four for golden-crowned kinglet. The actual text of the link itself names the state or province, month, day, and year the recording was made, and ends with the recordist's initials in parenthesis. Normal text follows each link describing the circumstances of the vocalization (i.e., whether the bird was perched, foraging, or in flight). These four sequences range from 3 seconds to 20 seconds, typical for the guide. Break out those headphones. The first two diurnal sequences for the kinglet exemplify files with tremendous background noise. The high-pitched kinglet flight calls nearly disappear in the white noise of wind, microphone handling, and distant traffic. People with hearing loss (of high frequencies) will be challenged to discern these calls. While playing these files I experienced the only program bug I encountered during my sessions. When switching back from an open word document (this review) to the kinglet page and clicking the link for the first diurnal sequence, the flight calls folder and program closed while Winamp played the file. I could reliably reproduce this glitch by spending a few minutes in another program then returning to the CD-ROM. This happened at no other time during my sessions and only under these circumstances.

The species page for golden-crowned kinglet continues with a description of, and links to, similar species followed by notes on migration behavior. Those notes read, "Nocturnal migrant but engages in redetermined migration. Gives both call types in redetermined migration flight and in short diurnal flights. Only known to give the 'see' calls in night migration." Turning to the glossary from the link at the top of the page, I found a concise and referenced definition for redetermined migration. Fascinating. Next to the diurnal sequences, each species page has a link to nocturnal sequences. This link opens a page with "clickable" spectrograms. When the species is not known to give calls during nocturnal migration, this is noted in the Behavior section (as is the case with ruby-crowned kinglets).

Descriptions of individual sound files, both diurnal and nocturnal, include, when appropriate, notes on background noises. For example, the diurnal sequence for black-billed cuckoo notes song sparrow, Baltimore oriole, and "gypsy moth

larvae droppings striking leaves." One of the four series files for nocturnal flight calls of black-billed cuckoo reads, "Stereo cut with presumed ovenbird nocturnal flight call and distant chorus of green frogs."

There are a few species for which no known flight calls exist. Both loggerhead and northern shrikes each have a page of their own, but have no links and no information except a behavioral note that each is presumed to migrate primarily at night. It is not clear to me why these and other species not known to give flight calls merited inclusion in a reference guide for flight calls. The answer may lie in the fact that the authors freely acknowledge the novelty and incomplete nature of the available information. Or it may be that they found it best not to interrupt the taxonomic flow of all migratory landbirds of eastern North America by creating a separate list of these supposedly silent travelers. In some of these cases they have added discussion text. For example, the mourning dove page recognizes no known flight call, notes that the species migrates by day and night, and continues: "Although no vocalizations are given in flight, a distinctive wing whistle is often heard in flight during the day and has been heard from birds in nocturnal migration." For nine owl species, only two have sound files, barn owl and northern saw-whet owl, only one of which (barn owl) has a flight call. Another free admission of lack of confirming evidence lies in the extensive use of the word "presumed." It is a reminder that this guide is no definitive reference. The authors' two-fold intent, as stated in the introduction, is to provide not only a utility for advanced birders to increase their knowledge and enjoyment, but also to provide a "preliminary foundation" for further study of migration and bird populations.

For the advanced birder, the real challenge lies in applying this information this release provides in the field. When confronted with a suite of calls each between 50 and 100 milliseconds, only practice, patience, and familiarity will yield knowledge and enjoyment. This guide certainly provides the tools necessary to begin to untangle the web of seeps and zeeps, whistles and peeps that rain on a listener from the night sky. Whether this CD will be widely used as a research tool remains to be seen. Certainly any body of information is better and more stimulating than none at all. The body/focus of this work is truly unique. The authors deserve heaps of praise for their dedication, time and energy that culminated in this project. It is one of a kind and I suggest anyone interested in flight calls and nocturnal migration invest the 40 dollars before next migration. 🐦

A Disastrous Trip

W. F. Henninger

We reprint here a note from Rev. Henninger, a well-known birdman of the day, which appeared in The Wilson Bulletin (16:21-22) in 1904. Frank W. Langdon was a respected Cincinnati ornithologist, and W. Leon Dawson the author of The Birds of Ohio (1903). —Ed.

For several years it had been the desire of the writer to visit the famous Port Clinton (Ottawa County, O.) marshes to explore the bird world at the same place where Langdon had been so fortunate in 1880*. The afternoon of June 1st found me at Port Clinton, in a terrible rain and wind storm. Early the next morning found me out on the Portage River exploring the marshes for miles, then in the afternoon out on the Lake Erie waters. June 3rd, and 4th, on which day I was joined by Rev. W. Leon Dawson of Columbus, found me on Sandusky Bay, on the grounds of the Portage Gun Club and the Wynous Point Shooting Club. It was the same scene everywhere. The storm had carried the water higher inland than for the last eighteen years, and everything had been flooded. The only birds that had escaped destruction of their nests were the Red-winged Blackbird and the Long-billed Marsh Wren. All our searching was in vain. Not a Grebe, not a Least Bittern were seen, but few Coots and Gallinules heard. On Friday, Brother Dawson ascended the dizzy height of the water works tower at Sandusky, but as far as the eye could see, the waters spread over the Sandusky marshes. Under these condition [*sic*] it was a wonder that any birds had escaped, and our record of sixty-six species noted during our three days' stay will still compare favorably with Langdon's ninety, as seen in 1880.

Of interest were only a troop of five Bonaparte Gulls and four Semi-palmated Sandpipers on June 3rd, several Black Terns and sixteen Turnstones, seen on June 4th on Sandusky Bay. The Turnstones were found on a newly planted cornfield, and it was a pretty sight to watch them turning over the clods and catching their prey. It was in the club house of the Wynous Point Shooting Club that we found the most interesting things, stored away in the collection of birds, and enabling Brother Dawson and myself to bring home at least a few noteworthy records from this disastrous trip.

The first was a specimen (sex unknown) of *Chen hyperborea nivalis*, shot in the fall of 1886.

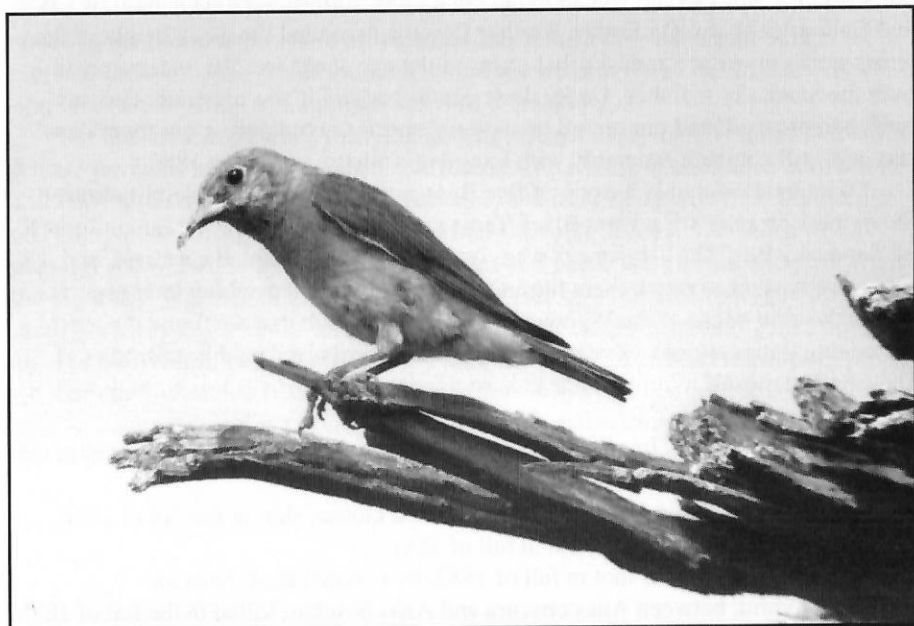
2. Trumpeter Swan 1877 and White-fronted Goose, shot in the fall of 1868.
3. White-winged Scoter, shot in fall of 1881.
4. Peregrine Falcon, shot in fall of 1882, by Colonel E. A. Scoville.
5. A hybrid, between *Anas obscura* and *Anas boschas*, killed in the fall of 1878, by Judge E. B. Sadler.
6. A pure Albino Redhead, killed in fall of 1880.
7. A partial Albino Coot, and
8. A partial Albino Wilson's Snipe, both killed in the fall of 1881, by C. J. Clark.

The Coot has many white feathers on the head and neck, also smaller white feathers on various parts of the body. The Wilson's Snipe has the upper part of both wings almost entirely white.

9. A Snowy Owl, shot in fall of 1881.

All of the Ohio Ducks were represented in this collection, among them the rare Gadwall in several specimens.

* *Ed. Note: Langdon's account "Summer Birds of a Northern Ohio Marsh" appeared in the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History (1880, 3:220-232). Wheaton calls it "A list of 95 species, for the most part briefly annotated or not, of Birds observed 'on the grounds of the Wynous' Point Shooting Club, near Port Clinton, Ottawa County, Ohio, during the week ending July 4, 1880.' Especially valuable for full notes of the nesting of Ardetta exilis, Gallinula galeata, Hydrochelidon lariformis, Podiceps cornutus (?), and Podilymbus podiceps" (1882, Report on the Birds of Ohio). Wheaton questioned Langdon's report of nesting horned grebes in part because his tentative identification was based on examination only of eggs and downy young. ↗*



This eastern bluebird was photographed carrying food on its way to a nest site in Wyandot County's Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Photo by Ron Sempier in July 2002.

Five Days Among the Islands of Lake Erie

Lynds Jones

The following notes appeared in The Wilson Bulletin of 1901, Vol 13:70-71, of which Jones was editor at the time. His The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue appeared in 1903, the same year in which Dawson's The Birds of Ohio was published, incorporating an introduction and analytical keys from Jones. —Ed.

Five days, from August 5th to the 9th, spent among the islands near the western end of Lake Erie yielded surprising results. We two insatiable bird cranks, Rev. W. L. Dawson and the writer, left Oberlin on the noon train and left Sandusky on the 3:30 boat and were landed on the wharf of Middle Bass Island at 6 o'clock. The work of recording the resident birds began at once. A large pond near the middle of the island was swarming with shore birds of eight species, not to mention a half dozen Great Blue Herons, nine King Rails, many Green Herons, a Bittern and a flock of fourteen Black Ducks. Swallows skimmed the water's surface and Common Terns winged across the island. A solitary Kingfisher sprung his rattle on us. This was a most propitious beginning. Yellow Warblers were apparently in full song.

I shall not take the time to go into detail now, but rather summarize the work done.

From Middle Bass we secured a row boat, and in it visited nine islands, involving about 30 miles of rowing, some of it in rough seas. Upon four of the islands Common Terns were still nesting in considerable numbers, while perhaps half of the birds flying about were in young plumage. On one island the Purple Martins formed a roost of nearly 2000 individuals. The best of evidence pointed to a considerable roost of blackbirds on one other island.

It is interesting to note that Carolina Wrens and Cardinals were seen and heard singing on East Sister Island, well into the Canadian boundary, while in Lorain county they are not at all numerous. Indeed, the Carolina Wren is a rare find at any time of year. On the other hand, Yellow Warblers were not recorded north of Middle Bass, where they were in full song. The physical conditions were apparently as favorable on East Sister as on Middle Bass, and certainly no less so on North Bass. Here, too, on these most northern islands the Red-winged Blackbirds were building in considerable numbers, although there was no suggestion of swampiness along the stony beach. True, the nests were placed low down in the brush.

The din of screaming Terns, calling Blackbirds and warbling Wrens was something to be remembered. Indeed, for hours after leaving the vicinity the same sounds mingled with the southing wind and roaring surf. The Terns were nowhere [*sic*] so numerous that they obscured the sky, but their numbers were uncountable on four of the smaller islands. Black Terns mingled freely with the Common Terns, but were evidently not breeding anywhere in the vicinity. Likewise the American Herring Gulls, few in numbers, were merely roosting out of harms way.

In all 58 species were recorded. The largest number, 42, were found on Middle Bass. On one rock reef but four species were present.

One cannot resist the conclusion that this chain of islands is a natural highway for the birds on their annual migrations. ↗

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Jim McCormac

ODNR-DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Columbus, OH 43224
jim.mccormac@dnr.state.oh.us

This report was submitted by the Secretary on behalf of the Ohio Bird Records Committee, whose current members are Dave Dister (Germantown), Micki Dunakin (Paulding), Ned Keller (Cleves), Cal Keppler (Youngstown), Jay Lehman (Cincinnati), Greg Links (Temperance, Michigan), Bernie Master (Worthington), Jim McCormac (Columbus), Kevin Metcalf (Chardon), Larry Rosche (Kent), and Sean Zadar (Cleveland).

Accepted Records

In order to be accepted, records require a minimum of nine accept votes from the 11-member committee.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Butler County, 7 May 2002. Discovered and videotaped by Ohio Division of Wildlife photographer Skip Trask. The bird was an adult in alternate plumage; non-breeders and immatures often cannot be identified to species, muddying our knowledge of Ohio *Plegadis* ibises. This is only about the 11th record.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*—Lucas County, 19-25 May 2002. Observers: Bill Murphy et al. FIRST STATE RECORD. This bird was discovered by Indiana birders Bill Murphy and Larry Peavler, and was seen by many over the next seven days, although it was quite secretive and often difficult to detect. The garganey was also well photographed. Its addition to the Ohio avifauna brings the state list to 411 species. The only doubts cast on this bird by OBRC members were, not surprisingly, related to its origins, and two members did cast non-accept votes. However, garganey has one of the best-documented vagrancy patterns of Eurasian waterfowl that stray to North America, and the circumstances of this sighting fit the pattern perfectly.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Lucas County, 3 June 2002. Observer: Greg Links. Approximately the 12th record, and the first since 2000. There was a strong flight of Mississippi kites to the Midwest, and beyond, this spring.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*—Sandusky County, 31 July – 3 August 2002. Observers: Charles Spagnoli, Joe Hammond, et al. Apparently this bird was discovered as early as 25 July, but no documentation was received to support that. This bird was photographed and even videotaped. It's about the 30th record since 1980; we normally get about two reports annually of late.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*—Cuyahoga County, 15 March 2002. Observer: Sean Zadar. There have been over 30 records in the last two decades, and this species may soon qualify for removal from the list of review species.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Butler County, 1-20 July 2002. Discovered by Tommy Schroeder, and documented by Joe Hammond, David Russell, and Jim McCormac; seen by many observers and photographed. This was an outstanding find, as it provided Ohio birders with the chance to see a species that normally does not linger. Further, it appeared to be territorial, and western kingbird is a species that may be found nesting in the state eventually (there was nesting in 1933). This is about the 15th record since 1980.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*—Licking County, 17 April 2002. Discovered by Scott Albaugh, and documented by Jim McCormac and Mike Williams. Our first record since 1994, and only about the 9th Ohio record. Unfortunately this bird stayed but one day, and only a fortunate few were able to see it.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Lucas County, 6 May 2002. Observer: Greg Links. An apparent good year for Kirtland's in Ohio, with two others being reported, but as of yet undocumented. Normally, there is about one record a year.

Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Erie County, 14 May 2002. Observer: Kevin Metcalf. This bird was also well photographed.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*—Greene County, 6 April 2002. Observer: Dave St. John. This species is now detected almost annually, and we have had about 20 records in the last two decades.

Records in Recirculation

Having received between six and eight votes to accept, the following records are being recirculated.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Franklin County, 2 May 2002.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*—Sandusky County, 31 July 2002. There has only been one prior record, 21 July 1962 in Ashtabula County.

Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli*—Ottawa County, 28 October 2001. This record has passed through three circulations without a decision. Pursuant to OBRC bylaws it must now be deliberated on and a decision reached at our annual meeting, which will be in March 2003. If accepted this would be a first state record.

Records Pending Review

The committee is currently reviewing some of the following reports and awaiting details on the remainder.

Plegadis ibis sp.—Wyandot County, 29 August 2002.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—Highland County, 20 July – at least 18 September 2002 (still present at time of this report).

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—Franklin County, 31 August 2002.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*—Clark County, 16 August 2002.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*—Wyandot County, 26 August 2002.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*—Ashtabula County, 19 August 2002.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*—Erie County, 29 August 2002.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Wyandot County, 9 August 2002. 🐦


AOU Announces Recent Actions

The American Ornithologists' Union, through the recently published biennial report of its Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, has announced some changes within the official list of North American birds. We very briefly summarize here its most significant announcements concerning bird species occurring north of Mexico. For the full report, consult the July 2002 issue (Vol. 119, No. 3) of *The Auk*.

- Black-crested titmouse *Baelophus atricristatus* is reinstated as a full species, after having been lumped into tufted titmouse *B. bicolor* since 1983. Its range extends along the Atlantic Slope of Mexico from northern Veracruz into parts of Texas and SW Oklahoma in the United States.
- Wilson's snipe *Gallinago delicata* of North America is split from common snipe *G. gallinago* of Eurasia based on differences in morphology and vocalizations. There are North American records of the latter, mostly from the Pribilofs and St. Lawrence Island in Alaska.
- Hawaiian petrel *Pterodroma sandwichensis* is split from *P. phaeopygia*, now called Galapagos petrel, based on differences in vocalizations and morphology.
- Gray-hooded gull *Larus cirrocephalus* is added to the list, based on a 1998 record in Florida. This species had been in the Appendix.
- Kelp gull *Larus dominicanus* is added to the list, based in part on a record 1998-2002 in Maryland. This species had been in the Appendix.
- Mitred parakeet *Aratinga mitrata* is added to the list, based on establishment of a population in southern California.
- Yellow-browed warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* is added to the list, based on a 1999 record from Alaska.
- The scientific name for roseate spoonbill is changed to *Platalea ajaja*.
- The scientific name for purple gallinule is changed to *Porphyrio martinica*.
- The scientific name for red phalarope is changed to *Phalaropus fulicarius*.
- The scientific name for blue grosbeak is changed to *Passerina cerulea*.
- The English name for *Euptilotis neoxenus* is changed from eared trogon to eared quetzal.
- Change the taxonomic order of the *Passerina* buntings to the following: blue grosbeak *P. caerulea*, lazuli bunting *P. amoena*, indigo bunting *P. cyanea*, varied bunting *P. versicolor*, painted bunting *P. ciris*.
- The southern California population of red-crowned parrot *Amazona viridigenalis* is regarded as established.
- The Phoenix-area (Arizona) population of peach-faced lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* is regarded as established.

The Committee continues to consider proposals for the following splits:

- Splitting *Calonectris borealis* from *C. diomedea* (Cory's shearwater).
- Splitting *Anas carolinensis* (green-winged teal) from *A. crecca* (Eurasian or common teal).
- Splitting *Petrochelidon pallida* (cave swallow) from *P. fulva* (cinnamon-throated swallow).
- Splitting *Toxostoma palmeri* from *T. curvirostre* (curve-billed thrasher).

The Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association (ABA) follows the American Ornithologists' Union in all matters concerning taxonomy and nomenclature, but must deliberate and vote on records of new species not resulting from taxonomic changes (e.g., gray-hooded gull) in order to add them to the official ABA Checklist. In addition, the ABA Checklist Committee must make their own decision on whether a population of an introduced/escaped species (e.g., mitred parakeet, peach-faced lovebird) is actually established before adding that species to the ABA Checklist. —Ed. 



The Dayton Airport in Montgomery County proved to be a fine place to look for and photograph grassland nesters this season. For example, this grasshopper sparrow was digiscoped there on 24 July 2002 by Bill Hull.