

THE **OHIO CARDINAL**

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 40, NO. 4, SUMMER 2017





Many of the visitors looking for the Blue Grosbeak at the SWACO landfill, **Franklin**, were treated to views of this beautiful leusistic Red-tailed Hawk. Tom Fishburn captured this photo of it on 03 Jul.

On the cover:

This male Eastern Bluebird was taking turns with its mate gathering as many insects as they could for their squealing nestlings at Siebenthaler Fen, **Greene**. They ignored Sean Hollowell as he captured this photo on 05 Jul. Sean felt it looked like the bird was sweating from all of the hard work.

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COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

June's temperatures (overall average, average minimum, and average maximum) were all a little above their long-term means, each ranking about number 70 with number 123 being the highest. July's overall average was similarly placed at number 69. However, the Jul range of temperatures was much smaller: The average maximum was cooler than usual at number 37, and the average minimum was warmer at number 98.

Rainfall was higher than usual during both months. June ranked at 90 out of 123. Much of the state received five or more inches with pockets exceeding 10 inches, numbers which are double to triple the norm. Paradoxically, a band across the far northern counties received as little as two inches. July was a drencher across most of the state, again excepting the northeast. Statewide, the rainfall ranked as the 10th most on record. The Columbus area and a band to the southwest from there were the hardest hit, with 10 to 15 inches, up to triple the norm.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>), the NOAA (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>), and the *Plain Dealer*.

As I warned in the spring *Cardinal*, this issue incorporates the significant changes to bird taxonomy announced in July by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society (NACC/AOS). The Yellow-breasted Chat is now in its own family, Icteridae, rather than being the tail-ender of the warbler (Parulidae) list. (Be careful to include the double ii to avoid confusion with our blackbirds and orioles, family Icteridae!) New World sparrows have been separated from Old World buntings in the new family Passerellidae. Some waterfowl have new genera, so keep an eye out for flying kitchen utensils—Garganey, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler are now *Spatula* species. The sequence of species within the waterfowl, shorebird, finch, and blackbird families has changed, and many families have also moved relative to each other. And the sparrow and thrasher which honor John Lawrence LeConte now properly spell his name by dropping the space between the e and the C.

This issue of the *Cardinal* contains reports of 249 species, passing 2014's 247 for the highest

count since I've been editor. The species accounts also include two hybrids and three reports at the genus level. This issue again includes data from every county; even under-birded *Putnam* contributed 38 species and *Van Wert* 21. Five species (Turkey Vulture, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle) were reported in all 88 counties. Six species were seen in 87 counties and 33 more were seen in at least 80.

Birders found a few unexpected individuals this summer in addition to the review species. A Canvasback, four (!) Redheads, a Common Goldeneye, Laughing and Franklin's gulls, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows all made appearances. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons popped up here and there, though the former nesting trees on Preston Road in eastern Columbus have been empty for a couple of years now. Merlins have apparently decided that they like it here in summer as well as winter. And as always, a few warblers lingered into Jun; these stragglers probably arrived too late on the nesting grounds to stake out territories.

Thirteen review species are among the 249 in this issue; their names are underlined. Four species' sightings generated formal reports to the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) and reports of another eight were posted to eBird or other media with photos which will allow review. Two of the four species with formal submissions also had reports from other locations without any supporting information, and the sole report of another was also bereft of documentation. The OBRC and this editor urge birders to formally report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. An easy-to-use on-line form is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

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

wald *et al.*, *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio* ("OBBA II", 2016).

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 58th Supplement (2017). These documents are published by the NACC and are available at <http://www.check-list.aou.org/>.

County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati (*Hamilton*), Cleveland (*Cuyahoga*), Columbus (*Franklin*), Dayton (*Montgomery*), and Toledo (*Lucas*) are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
 Audubon = the National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org>)
 Bayshore = a fishing access site near a power plant a bit east of Toledo
 BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
 Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), *Ma-honing* and *Portage*
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
 The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Har-ri-son* airport
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Otta-wa* (<http://www.bsbo.org>)
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*
 Burke Airport = Cleveland Burke Lakefront Air-port, *Cuyahoga*
 Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *War-ren*, unless the lake is specified; a bit of the lake is also in *Clinton*
 CBC = Audubon's Christmas Bird Count
 CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Otta-wa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee

Chapel Drive = a road off Ohio 83 south of Cum-berland in *Noble* which traverses grasslands
 Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the east-ern 2/3 is in *Hocking*, the rest in *Fairfield*
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* Section.
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
 CMM = the trio of Jon Cefus, Kent Miller, and Ben Morrison
 CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a non-govern-mental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in *Clermont*
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Con-neaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*
 CP = County Park
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Ref-uge, *Lucas*
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, almost entirely in *Franklin* but with bits in other counties as well
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in *Fayette*, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*
 East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa*
 Edge Preserve = The Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve, multiple parcels mostly in *Adams* and extending a bit into *Scioto*.
 Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*
 Englewood = Englewood MetroPark, *Montgomery*
 Fernald = Fernald Preserve, *Butler* and *Hamilton*
 Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*
 Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Ashland* and (mostly) *Wayne*
 Grand Lake = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, the state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in *Auglaize*. The rest of the lake is in *Mercer*.
 Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, *Montgomery*
 Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*
 Holden = Holden Arboretum, *Lake*, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in *Geauga*
 Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, *Delaware*

Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, the rest and the dam in **Franklin**
Huron = the harbor, breakwalls, and old dredge spoil impoundment in that **Erie** city, unless noted otherwise
Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, **Logan**
Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys Island, **Erie**
Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**
Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**
Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**
Kiwanis Park = Kiwanis Riverway Park, on the Scioto River in Dublin, **Franklin**
LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
Lake Erie Bluffs = a **Lake** Metroparks parcel overlooking the eponymous water body
Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**
Lake Loramie = Lake Loramie SP, **Shelby**
Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted
Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, **Hamilton**, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
m. obs. = multiple observers
Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in **Lucas**, the rest in **Ottawa**.
Mallard Club = Mallard Club Marsh WA, **Lucas**
Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, not to be confused with Metzger Reservoir, **Allen**
Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in **Mahoning**
Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both without distinction.
Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**
Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**
Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, **Trumbull**.
Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.
MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system

NC = Nature Center
NF = National Forest
NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, **Highland**
Old Woman Creek = Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, **Erie**
OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
ONWR Blausey, Boss, and Navarre = units of ONWR separate from the main area, all in **Ottawa**; of them only Boss is open to the public
ONWR WD = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive, the monthly opening of areas otherwise closed to vehicles, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
Painesville TP = Painesville Township Park, overlooking Lake Erie in **Lake**
Pearson MP = Pearson Metro Park, **Lucas**
Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**
Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, **Erie**
Pleasant Hill Lake = an impoundment straddling the **Ashland/Richland** line; most viewing is on the eastern, **Ashland**, end.
Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
Salt Fork = Salt Fork SP, **Guernsey**
Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**
Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (non-state) Park are in **Noble**, while the dam is in **Guernsey**
SF = State Forest
Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**
Sherod Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie in Vermilion, **Erie**
SNP = State Nature Preserve
SP = State Park
Springfield Lake = in Greater Akron, **Summit**
Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**
Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, almost entirely in **Greene** but extending into **Warren**

- Stillfork = The Nature Conservancy's Stillfork Swamp Preserve, **Carroll**
- Sunset Park = a city park overlooking Lake Erie in Willoughby, **Lake**
- SWA = State Wildlife Area
- TNC = The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org>)
- TP = Township Park
- Villa Angela = the Villa Angela unit of Cleveland's Lakefront Reservation
- WA = Wildlife Area
- Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Lake**
- Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, **Cuyahoga**
- Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, and adjoining farmland
- The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in **Muskingum**, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed strip mines
- Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, **Erie**
- Winous Horseshoe = a limited-access part of Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
- Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
- Wintergarden Woods = Wintergarden Woods and Saint Johns Nature Preserve, **Wood**
- Woodman Fen = a natural area, part of Dayton's Five Rivers MetroParks system, **Montgomery**
- Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

By Craig Caldwell

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

One last report came on 01 Jun of the well-photographed six which spent from late May in Holmes and Wayne, but still no one filed a formal report with the OBRC.

Canada Goose

Ed Pierce and crew counted 583 during the 04 Jun ONWR census (*fide* Douglas Vogus). Bob Lane noted 443 at Conneaut on 07 Jul and wrote, "The most ever, they were everywhere!" He also saw up to 380 there on other dates. The most away from Lake Erie were 325 at each of Big Island on 11 Jul (Ron Sempier) and Wilderness Road on 26 Jul (Dennis Mersky). (84 counties)

Mute Swan

The high count was six; Andrew Simon found his at Medusa on 05 Jul and Andrew O'Connor the others at Yoctangee Park, **Ross**, on 16 Jul. (22 counties)

Trumpeter Swan

Not surprisingly, the two highest counts came during ONWR censuses, 165 on 04 Jun and 105 on 02 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The Jun number included 23 cygnets. The most away from Lucas and Ottawa were two families and a solo adult totaling 11 birds which Irina Shulgina found at Killdeer on 23 Jul. (13 counties)

Wood Duck

The 04 Jun ONWR census tallied 166 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The next highest count of 50 was shared by Mark Tomecko at Chippewa Inlet Trail, **Medina**, on 23 Jun and Cory Gratz in Ackerman NP, **Knox**, on 24 Jun. Cory wrote, "Mostly females with a lot of young. Occasionally a male would appear." (76 counties)

Blue-winged Teal

A few were around all season. Various parts of Darby Creek held from eight to 14 between 27 and 31 Jul (m. obs.). The most elsewhere were Dawn Hanna's eight at Big Island on 18 Jul. (21 counties)

Northern Shoveler

One was at Mercer WA between 10 and 13 Jun (m. obs.); Dan Gesualdo saw two there on 12 Jun as did Eric Juterbock on 07 Jul. Irina Shulgina found one at Darby Creek on 13 Jun and Eric and Liz Schlapack saw it or another there on 04 Jul.

Gadwall

One was at the NASA Plum Brook Station, **Erie**, on 01 Jun (Morgan Pfeiffer) and two at ONWR on 04 Jun (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus)

American Wigeon

Several birders saw a straggler at the University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies, **Hamilton**, on 08 Jun. William L. Jones saw the first southbound birds, three at Mill Creek on 30 Jul.

Mallard

Mercer WA hosted about 300 on 12 Jun (m. obs.). Ed Pierce's census-takers found 139 at ONWR on 04 Jun (*fide* Douglas Vogus). (79 counties)

American Black Duck

One was at Cleveland's East 55th Street Marina on 24 Jun (Jen Brumfield) and two were off East Ninth Street on 30 Jul (John Koon). Sandy Ridge hosted three on 27 Jun (Steve Meredyk), nine on 24 Jul (Elizabeth McQuaid and Bev Walborn), six on 26 Jul (Bill Ohlsen), and two on 30 Jul (also Bill Ohlsen). Elizabeth and Bev suspect that their nine, a female with eight young, had some Mallard in them.

[Mallard x American Black Duck]

Lisle Merriman saw one off Wildwood, **Cuyahoga**, on 25 Jun; the same one might have stuck around until 30 Jun when Jen Brumfield saw one at Wendy Park.

Green-winged Teal

Duos were at Mill Creek on 29 Jul (Jeff Harvey) and Funk, also on 29 Jul (m. obs.)

Canvasback

Paul Jacyk noted the season's only one at Cullen Park, **Lucas**, on 10 Jun.

Redhead

The reports are:

One on the outskirts of Medina (city) on 11 Jun (Anthony Lazar)

One at Great Egret Marsh, **Ottawa**, on 05 Jul (R. Lee Reed)

An apparent pair at Mercer WA on 07 and 08 Jul (m. obs.)

Ring-necked Duck

The reports are:

One at Upper Sandusky Reservoir #2, **Wyandot**, on 01 Jun (Ron Sempier)

Two at Pipe Creek on 04 Jun (Dan Gesualdo) and one there on 06 Jun (Sarah Taylor)

One at Meadowbrook Preserve, **Ottawa**, on 04 Jun (R. Lee Reed)

One in the **Prebbe** section of Hueston Woods SP on 08 Jun (Margaret Bowman)

Lesser Scaup

Paul Jacyk saw this summer rarity off Cullen Park, **Lucas**, on 27 Jun and 02 Jul.

Common Goldeneye

A straggler was still at Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 02 Jun (m. obs.).

Hooded Merganser

Michelle Ward saw a female with 14 youngsters in the Hocking River outside Athens (city) on 06 Jun. (25 counties)



This female Hooded Merganser provided Brian Tinker with a rare opportunity in CVNP on 29 Jul. One doesn't often see these fantastic divers standing outside of the water.

Common Merganser

More of these are nesting, or being discovered at any rate, in Ohio:

A female and an immature in CVNP on 02 Jun (Douglas Vogus et al.) and single females there on 20 Jul (Doug Marcum) and 22 Jul (Ken Andrews)

One in South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 26 Jun (Cory Chiappone)

Three females and 11 ducklings at Conneaut on 30 Jun (Bob Lane) with more sightings there throughout Jul (m. obs.)

Ten ducklings along the Kokosing Gap Trail, **Knox**, on 04 Jul (Susan Brauning)

Red-breasted Merganser

One female was at Conneaut on 05 Jun (Craig Holt), 12 Jul (Bob Lane), and 14 Jul (Craig Holt). On bird, whose sex was not reported, was at Alum Creek on 13 and 23 Jul (Carl Winstead).

Common/Red-breasted Merganser

Michael Zampini saw a cryptic female with six young at Holden Arboretum on 04 Jun. Bill Deininger saw a single bird off CLNP on 04 Jul.

Ruddy Duck

Sightings were scattered throughout the period.

The high count was Inga Schmidt's eight at LaDuc on 27 Jun. (10 counties)

Northern Bobwhite

Karen Zeleznik said they were "calling all around us" at Springfield Bog, **Summit**, on 11 Jun; she counted 12 voices. Anne and David Wills saw eight at Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 09 Jul. (29 counties)



Springfield Bog, Summit, is a release area for Northern Bobwhites. On 16 Jun, Brian Tinker was lucky enough to photograph this bird calling on the boardwalk.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Two counts of 13 came from Charlie's Pond, **Pickaway**. Alex Eberts saw a male, two females, and 10 immatures on 11 Jun and a trio of birders saw three males, one female, and nine immatures the next day. Eric Juterbock's farm in **Logan** hosted a female and seven young on 05 Jul. (17 counties)

Ruffed Grouse

The reports, all of single birds, are:

Near Jefferson, **Ashtabula**, on 11 Jun (Susan Carpenter and Jamie Koller)

At Woodbury WA, **Coshocton**, on 24 Jun (m. obs.)

Along Coyle Road, **Noble**, on 01 Jul (Ben Morrison)

At Jockey Hollow WA, **Harrison**, on 24 Jul (Scott Pendleton)

Wild Turkey

Tim Birkeland found 23 at Flint Run Farm, **Washington**, on 30 Jul. (64 counties)

Pied-billed Grebe

Paul Jacyk provided the high count of 28, from the ONWR WD on 30 Jul. The most not in **Lucas** or **Ottawa** were Andrew Simon's 14 at Medusa on 05 Jul, and the inland high count was 12, by Ed and Sheila Bremer at Big Island on 31 Jul. (25 counties)

Rock Pigeon

Max Leibowitz found about 200 at Cedar Point, **Erie**, on 02 Jul. Robert Thorn's 180 at OSU Watterman Farm, **Franklin**, were a close second. The rest of the counts were of 95 or fewer. (79 counties)

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Fours were at Waverly Plaza, **Pike**, on 03 Jun (James Muller), in Mechanicsburg, **Champaign**, on 20 Jun (Gina Sheridan), and at Wilmington College, **Clinton**, on 19 Jul (Rick Asamoto). **Ashland, Clark, Erie, Hancock, Knox, Mercer,** and **Wayne** also produced sightings.

White-winged Dove

Postings from **Hancock** had photos.

Mourning Dove

Louis Hoying noted 170 ("mostly flyovers") at his **Auglaize** home on 27 Jul. Bill Grant found 135 at the Acacia Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 21 Jul. Only **Jackson** didn't produce a report.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The high count of six was shared; several folks saw that many at Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 02 Jun, as did Mark Whitacre at Fernald on 03 Jul. (74 counties)

Black-billed Cuckoo

Duos were seen or heard in at least 10 locations among the 37 counties with reports.



Brian Tinker found this shy Black-billed Cuckoo hiding out at the Beaver Marsh in CVNP on 11 Jul.

Common Nighthawk

Angela Adkins contributed the high count of eight, from her **Franklin** home on 18 Jun. Several groups of six were reported elsewhere. (46 counties)

Chuck-will's-widow

Birders heard (and some possibly saw) up to three at **Adams** sites throughout Jun and on to 09 Jul. Most of the reports were either from Waggoner Rifle Road or Hamilton Road.

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Matt Anderson found 10 in the early morning of 03 Jun at OOPMP Mizner Hollow, **Vinton**, hosted eight for James Muller on 17 Jun. **Vinton** also produced the latest report, two birds in Madison Township on 14 Jul (Douglass Flaggs). (14 counties)

Chimney Swift

Jen Brumfield saw 430 working over Burke Airport on 21 Jul. Corinna Honscheid and Beth Lenoble counted 232 at Bergamot Center, **Greene**, on 29 Jul. Only **Monroe** didn't have a sighting.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Janice Emrick's feeders in **Monroe** hosted 20 on 24 Jun and there were four counts of 10 elsewhere. (84 counties)



The true sign of summer for many bird lovers is the beautiful Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Sean Hollowell captured this bird in flight on 31 Jul at Huffman Prairie, **Greene**.

King Rail

Sightings were intermittent throughout the season. Valerie Giovannucci photographed an adult and five chicks along the Magee causeway on 11 Jun. Duos (pairs?) were heard along Force Road in Killbuck on several dates. **Erie, Franklin, Lucas,** and **Pickaway** contributed reports of single birds.

Virginia Rail

Leslie Sours counted 15 at Darby Creek on 29 Jun; see Field Notes for more. Others saw up to 13 there. Ian Lynch and Bill Deininger each found six at Wake Robin, on 03 and 04 Jun respectively. (17 counties)

Sora

Darby Creek also hosted the most Soras, six on four dates. Caine Kolinski noted five at Pearson MP, **Lucas**, on 16 Jun. (16 counties)

Common Gallinule

Mark Shieldcastle counted 34, including 18 immatures, at Metzger on 02 Jul; up to 27 were

seen there on other dates. The most elsewhere were two families totaling 12 in ONWR on 16 Jul (Jim Martin), and the inland high count was 11, at Killbuck on 06 Jul (Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder). (11 counties)

American Coot

The big flocks come in fall: Steve Jones found only 12 at Big Island on 06 Jul and Beth Lenoble four there on 09 Jul. There were a few triples at Big Island and elsewhere. (14 counties)

Sandhill Crane

The Wilderness Road/Funk area hosted 77 on 14 Jul (David L. Erb), 63 on 20 Jul (Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder), and up to 49 on other dates. The most elsewhere were seven on 02 Jul at each of ONWR (Donna Kuhn) and Killbuck (Junior Burkholder and Aaron Nisley). (23 counties)



Blending in well with their surroundings, this family of Sandhill Cranes was beautifully captured by Su Snyder at Funk Bottoms on 26 Jun.

Black-necked Stilt

Up to 14 birds including one or two families were seen in Mercer WA between 12 Jun and 12 Aug (m. obs.)



Black-necked Stilts were found nesting at Mercer WA this summer. Tyler Ficker was able to document this great record by capturing a photo of a pair on 07 Jul.

American Avocet

The first was one at Conneaut on 02 Jul (Bob Krajjeski), the last were two at a gravel pit in

Clark on 23 Jul (m. obs.), and the most were triples at Wilderness Road on 10 Jul (m. obs.) and *Medusa* on 17 Jul (Dan Gesualdo). *Cuyahoga* and *Marion* also produced sightings.

Semipalmated Plover

Lori Brumbaugh saw what might have been the last northbound birds, three at Funk on 08 Jun. Sue Evanoff and Su Snyder saw one at Wilderness Road on 15 Jun; was it a spring straggler or a fall pioneer? Kim Warner saw the earliest definitely southbound bird in *Lucas* on 04 Jul. Cam Lee provided the high count, 16, from Big Island on 31 Jul. (18 counties)

Piping Plover

The OBRC has a formal report and several photos of one at Nickel Plate Beach in Huron, *Erie*. See Field Notes for more.



On 29 Jul Nickel Plate Beach in Huron, Erie, was lucky to have this adorable Piping Plover stop by for photographs, this one is by Craig Caldwell.

Killdeer

Cam Lee found 722 at Big Island on 21 Jul and up to 565 were there on other dates. Gary Cowell saw the most elsewhere, 115 in a *Morrow* feed lot on 25 Jul. (84 counties)

Upland Sandpiper

Reports were steady through Jun and thin in Jul. Scott Pendleton provided the high count, nine in fields along Industrial Park Drive, *Harrison*, on 08 Jul. Dawn Hanna saw four at Big Island on 18 Jul. Additional sightings came from those counties and *Ashtabula*, *Greene*, and *Morgan*.

Stilt Sandpiper

There were no Jun sightings; the season's first was Cam Lee's at Big Island on 04 Jul. Big Island also held the most, eight on 31 Jul (m. obs.) and up to seven on other dates. Jacob Raber saw the most elsewhere, four along Wilderness Road, also on 31 Jul. *Ashtabula*, *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Lucas*, and *Mercer* also provided sightings.

Ruddy Turnstone

The last northbound birds were singles on 05 Jun at Conneaut (Craig Holt) and Wendy Park (Jen Brumfield) and two at Funk on 10 Jun (Cristy J. Miller *et al.*). Bob Krajieski saw the first arrival from the north, at Conneaut on 22 Jul. Duos were at Wendy Park on 29 Jul (Jen Brumfield), and both Maumee Bay and Metzger on 30 Jul (Paul Jacyk). *Delaware* also had sightings in late Jul.



While birding the Alum Creek beach on 31 Jul, Jenny Bozeman photographed this curious Ruddy Turnstone.

Sanderling

Bob Krajieski saw one bird at Conneaut on 10 Jun for the only report that month. Conneaut also hosted the first southbound birds, five which Craig Holt saw on 14 Jul. Debbie Parker counted 10 along the Lorain breakwall on 16 Jul. Reports also came from *Clark, Hamilton, Lake, Lucas, and Marion*.

Dunlin

The reports are:

One in a skypond along Stollacker Road, *Ashtabula*, on 01 Jun (Gautam and Sameer Apte)

One in a skypond along Solon Road, *Greene*, also on 01 Jun (Rick Luehrs)

Three at ONWR on 20 Jul (Claudia Souders)

Baird's Sandpiper

Several birders saw one early arrival at Big Island on 29 and 30 Jul, previewing quite a few Aug sightings.

Least Sandpiper

James Muller saw one by Solon Road, *Greene*, on 01 June during its trip north. Kari Warner Matsko's find, on Stollacker Road, *Ashtabula*, on 25 Jun was most likely headed south, and sightings came almost daily from 01 Jul. But what of the sightings in between: two at Wilderness Road on 14 Jun (Dennis Mersky) and one at Lost Bridge on 17 Jun (William Hutchinson and Bill

Stanley). Which direction were they going? The high count was about 100, seen by many at Big Island on 30 Jul. The most elsewhere were Dan Gesualdo's 45 at Medusa on 17 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper

The last date for northbound birds was 13 Jun. Jane Riker saw one at Lake Moser, *Hancock*, and Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder found two at Wilderness Road that day. Gabriel Amrhein saw the first southbound, two by William Lucas Road, *Madison*, on 24 Jul. The Solon Road skypond, *Greene*, held 12 on 01 Jun (Rick Luehrs). The most elsewhere were sextets by Shockley Road, *Clark*, on 01 Jun (Rick Luehrs) and Wilderness Road on 08 Jun (Lori Brumbaugh and Su Snyder). (12 counties)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One was reported at the Findlay Reservoirs on 25 Jul (*vide* Robert Sams).

Pectoral Sandpiper

The first sightings were on 04 Jul, two birds on private land in *Lucas* by Kim Warner and three at Pickerel Creek by Dan Gesualdo. Cam Lee counted 338 at Big Island on 31 Jul and up to 300 were there on other dates. The most elsewhere were a comparatively paltry 38 at Wilderness Road on 22 Jul (Aaron Nisley and Levi Schlach). (20 counties)

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Several birders saw seven at Wilderness Road on 20 Jun; were they coming or going? Jeff Harvey's two near Mill Creek on 02 Jul were surely southbound. Bob Krajieski and Mark Shaver saw about 150 at Conneaut on 04 Jun. Bob wrote, "This might be the biggest single group of shorebirds I've ever seen at Conneaut", where he's a regular visitor. Cam Lee found 51 at Big Island on 29 Jul for the second-highest number. (27 counties)

Western Sandpiper

Several birders saw one by Shockley Road, *Clark*, on 29 and 30 Jul, after which it departed. Another, seen by many at Big Island on the same dates, remained into Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher

The first was a single which Craig Holt saw at Conneaut on 03 Jul. Inga Schmidt counted 17 at ONWR Blausey on 23 Jul while Cam Lee found 13 at Big Island on 18 Jul. (Nine counties)

American Woodcock

Inga Schmidt's eight along Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*, on 03 Jun were the most. Next were five which Irina Shulgina found at Darby Creek on 24 Jun. (24 counties)

Wilson's Snipe

Mike Hatfield saw five at Big Island on 23 Jul; the next most were duos at several locations. Reports came from *Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Marion, and Ottawa*.

Spotted Sandpiper

The high count was 20; Carl and Karen Winstead found them at Big Island on 11 Jul. (55 counties)

Solitary Sandpiper

Chris Pierce saw two at Wake Robin on 02 Jun. The next, one which Susan Evanoff and Su Snyder found at Wilderness Road on 15 Jun, was probably also northbound. One or two at three sites on 02 Jul were the first which were surely headed south (m. obs.). Bob Lane's nine at Mill Creek on 30 Jul were the most. (31 counties)

Lesser Yellowlegs

Singles at the Ellis Lake wetlands, *Butler*, on 01 Jun (Glen Palmgren) and at Funk on 06 Jun (David Weaver) were north-bound. One at Wilderness Road on 14 Jun (Dennis Mersky) possibly was as well. The next, 10 which Eric and Liz Schlapack found at the Findlay Reservoirs on 01 Jul, were headed south. Big Island hosted up to 175, which several birders noted on 22 Jul. About 75 were at Lost Bridge on 06 Jul (*vide* Brian Wulker).

Willet

Bob Krajewski found one at Conneaut on 17 Jun and wrote, "I don't think I've ever seen a Willet in the month of June before. Don't know if this would be considered a late north bound migrant, a very early south bound migrant, or just a wanderer?" (I don't know either.) One at Conneaut on 30 Jun was surely headed south (Bob Lane) as were the nine passing Headlands on 06 Jul (Meghan and Patrick Blythe). *Cuyahoga, Delaware, Mahoning, and Marion* also provided sightings.

Greater Yellowlegs

One, probably a northbound straggler which wasn't destined to breed, hung around at Wilderness Road between 13 and 15 Jun (m. obs.). Eric and Liz Schlapack saw the first southbound arrival, at the Findlay Reservoirs on 01 Jul. Greg Cornett counted 40 at Big Island on 22 Jul and birders found up to 25 there on other dates. The most elsewhere were 14 at a *Lucas* property on 15 Jul (Lori Schutz and Kim Warner). (20 counties)

Wilson's Phalarope

A flooded sod farm near Darby Creek hosted the first, on 15 Jul (Ronnie Clark), and the Shockley Road skypond, *Clark*, the next on 21 Jul (m.

obs.). *Greene, Marion, and Mercer* also contributed sightings of single birds.

Red-necked Phalarope

Several birders saw two in the skypond by Solon Road, *Greene* on 01 and 02 Jun. Gabriel Amrhein's single at nearby Ellis Park on 03 Jun was probably one of them.

Bonaparte's Gull

Reports of one or two scattered through Jun became steady, and larger, early in Jul. Debbie Parker's 35 off Middle Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 17 Jul was the high count. Next-highest was Michael Curtis' six which he saw from the Miller Ferry, *Ottawa*, on 30 Jul. (18 counties as far south as *Clark* and *Montgomery*)

Laughing Gull

Matt Kemp and Carrie Lingle saw one at Maumee Bay on 02 and 03 Jun, respectively. It or another was there on 23 and 24 Jun (m. obs.) but there were no sightings between those two pairs of dates.

Franklin's Gull

One spent 01 and 02 Jun at Alum Creek (m. obs.) and one was briefly there on 18 Jul as well (Carl Winstead). Mosquito Lake hosted one on 01 and 02 Jul (m. obs.). Did a single bird wander the state all summer?

Ring-billed Gull

Carl Winstead estimated 940 were at Alum Creek on 27 Jul. Paul Jacyk saw about 600 from the Ottawa River Interpretive Trail, *Lucas*, on 07 Jul. (45 counties)

Herring Gull

About 200 were off Wendy Park on 01 Jul (Samer Apte). The most inland were Carl Winstead's 25 at Alum Creek on 26 Jul. (27 counties)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

These are unusual in summer, but were reported thusly:

Two at the Findlay Reservoirs on 04 Jun and four there on 08 Jun (Amy Downing and Jeff Loughman both dates)

One at Indian Lake SP, *Logan*, on 21 Jul (Troy Shively)

One at Conneaut on 27 Jul (Cynthia Norris)

Great Black-backed Gull

Jen Brumfield saw seven in Lorain (city) harbor on 01 Jun, 12 at Wendy Park on 01 Jul, and 14 at the latter site on 25 Jun for the three highest counts. *Ashtabula, Erie, Lake, Lucas, and Ottawa* also had sightings.

Least Tern

Several photos but no formal report came from *Mercer*.

Caspian Tern

Reports were scattered in Jun and frequent in Jul. The high count of 12 was shared by Inga Schmidt at LaDue on 26 Jul and Bill Grant at Wendy Park on 27 Jul. (23 counties of which *Pickaway* is the southernmost)

Black Tern

Sightings were thin throughout the season. Tristan Herwood saw the most, four along the ONWR WD on 08 Jul. Joseph Ford and Mia Jaeger saw two at Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage*, on 14 Jun. (11 counties)



Ethan Rising captured this great image of a beautiful Black Tern taking flight on 21 Jul at Mercer WA.

Common Tern

Sightings increased after a light early Jun. ONWR hosted 20 for Lori Brumbaugh on 08 Jul. Inga Schmidt saw 12 there on 21 Jul and Matt Kemp tied her at East Harbor on 26 Jul. The next-highest counts were threes at Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage* (Joseph Ford) and Mosquito Lake on 04 Jul (Lori Brumbaugh). (11 counties)

Forster's Tern

Ron Sempier saw the first of the season, eight at Big Island on 06 Jun. Andrew Simon beat his count by one, at Maumee Bay on 16 Jul. (13 counties)

Pacific Loon

One was well photographed, but not formally reported to the OBRC, at Alum Creek between 30 May and 13 Jun.

Common Loon

As usual, a few hang around for most of the summer. The last two sightings were of singles off Middle Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 05 Jul (Lisa

Brohl) and at Nimisila Reservoir, *Summit*, on 06 Jul (Susan Carpenter). Duos were seen at three locations on several dates. In addition to the two named counties, birds were seen in *Auglaize*, *Champaign*, *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Geauga*, and *Paulding*.

Wood Stork

Mark Shieldcastle forwarded a photo of one taken in late Jun by a property owner in *Ottawa*; the OBRC has it.



This Wood Stork spent 30 Jun and 01 Jul at an Ottawa home before (we assume) returning to its normal range in a southern state.

Double-crested Cormorant

James Tomco provided the high count, 300, from off Sandusky, *Erie*, on 24 Jun. The second-most were 270 off South Bass Island, *Ottawa*, on 09 Jun (Jen Brumfield). Big Island provided the inland high count of 160 on 05 Jul (Ron Sempier). (56 counties)

American White Pelican

Reports were scattered throughout the season. Chris Tonra saw eight birds at ONWR on 25 Jul and flocks of five were sighted three times. Pelicans were seen in *Erie*, *Lucas*, *Muskingum*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*.

Brown Pelican

The OBRC has a second-hand report from *Lucas*.

American Bittern

Sightings (or hearings!) were fairly frequent until mid-Jul and scarce thereafter. Irina Shulgina and Ronnie Clark both recorded six at Darby Creek, on 01 and 04 Jun respectively. Other dates yielded five there. The most elsewhere were duos at Mogadore Reservoir, *Portage*, on 03 Jun (Joseph Ford) and at Big Island on 11 Jul (Ron Sempier). Three *Lucas* sites and one in each of *Lorain*, *Pickaway*, and *Wayne* also contributed sightings.

Least Bittern

The high count was five; Adam and Marvin Yodler noted them along Force Road in Killbuck on 26

Jun. Conneaut and Wake Robin each hosted three on several dates. They were reported in 13 counties, almost twice as many as were American Bitterns.

Great Blue Heron

Ron Sempier counted 244 at Big Island on 31 Jul and up to 227 were there on other dates. The most elsewhere were the 134 which Ed Pierce *et al.* counted in ONWR on 02 Jul (*fide* Douglas Vogus). Only **Lawrence**, **Monroe**, and **Van Wert** didn't produce reports.

Green Heron

Karen Zeleznik counted 15 at the CVNP Ira Road beaver marsh on 26 Jul; up to 12 were seen there on other dates. The 04 Jun ONWR census produced 11 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). (72 counties)



While birding at Cinnamon Lake in **Ashland**, Su Snyder captured this Green Heron hunting for food on 04 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Chris Tonra counted 45 at the West Sister Island NWR rookery, **Lucas**, on 05 Jun. Second-most were 14 in ONWR on 02 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The most inland were Greg Smith's five at Big Island on 16 Jul. (11 counties)



Leslie Sours photographed this unusual visitor to OSU on 20 Jul. The University was fortunate to have a Black-crowned Night-heron show up for a few days to feed in the drained pond on the West Campus.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

One spent from 22 May to 13 Jun at the north end of Hoover, mostly in the NP (m. obs.). Bonnie Fish saw another, in Eldon Russell Park, **Geauga**, on 08 Jun. Matt Anderson photographed one in **Fulton** on 18 Jun and 08 Jul; see Field Notes for more.



This Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was an exciting find for Jeff Peters on his third attempt to see it. Before leaving the area on 11 Jun, he decided to check one last spot at Hoover NP. Success!

Great Egret

Dan Gesualdo saw 257 at Medusa on 17 Jul and up to 203 during other visits. The 02 Jul ONWR census tallied 243 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The most inland were Ron Sempier's 130 at Big Island on 25 Jul. (51 counties)

Snowy Egret

The scarce reports in the first half of Jun grew during the rest of the month and through Jul. Ed Pierce's census crew found 21 in ONWR on 02 Jul (*fide* Douglas Vogus) and Dan Gesualdo saw 17 at Medusa on 17 Jul. The only inland sightings were of singles at Beaver Dam Bay, **Harrison**, on 12 Jun (David Smith) and near Williams Reservoir, **Allen**, on 27 Jun (Matthew Bockey). The two inland counties and **Erie**, **Lucas**, and **Ottawa** provided all of the reports.

Cattle Egret

The reports are:

One at Englewood MP, **Montgomery**, on 10 Jun (Ron Bicknell)

Two to four along Homegardner Road, **Erie**, between 18 Jun and 08 Jul (m. obs.)

One at East Harbor SP, **Ottawa**, on 08 Jul (Alexander Clifford)

White Ibis

Photos of one in **Pickaway** were posted.

Glossy Ibis

Photos of a *Plegadis ibis* identified as a Glossy were posted from **Lucas**.

Black Vulture

At least 85 were in and above Mohican on 29 Jul (fide Andrew Yoder). Adam Mitchell counted 41 there on 24 Jun and Patricia Ritchie found 31 at Paint Creek SP, **Highland**, on 02 Jun. (39 counties all the way north to **Cuyahoga** and **Lucas**)

Turkey Vulture

Allen and Daniel Stutzman counted 105 near Trail, **Holmes**, on 09 Jul. Gary Cowell saw about 80 leaving a roost in Lexington's Bicentennial Park, **Richland**, on 29 Jul; Al Eibel tied him with 80 birds over Alliance, **Stark**, on 31 Jul. (All 88 counties)



On 12 Jun, Su Snyder photographed this pair of Turkey Vultures resting between meals on the train tracks near Killbuck.

Bald Eagle

As is often the case, the Conneaut east breakwall hosted the most: 55 of which 44 were immatures on 12 Jul (Bob Lane) and up to 42 on other dates. The most elsewhere were two adults and 13 immatures at Big Island on 31 Jul (Ron Sempier). (61 counties)

Northern Harrier

Five reports of two came from four sites; the rest were singles. (25 counties)

Sharp-shinned Hawk

The reports, from 23 counties, were all of single birds.

Cooper's Hawk

Shari Jackson saw an adult and four youngsters near her **Stark** home on 09 Jul. (61 counties)

Northern Goshawk

A report from **Lucas** had no description.

Red-shouldered Hawk

The high count of four was shared by Fred Losi

at Chickagami Park, **Geauga**, and Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty in Hudson, **Summit**. Both sightings were of families on 03 Jun. (63 counties)

Broad-winged Hawk

Triples soaring over Alum Creek on 03 Jun (Benjamin Miller) and CNC Rowe Woods on 08 Jul (m. obs.) were the largest counts. (36 counties)

Red-tailed Hawk

Irina Shulgina found 12 at Killdeer on 23 Jul; the next most were sixes at three locations. (83 counties)

Red-tailed Hawk (Kridler's)

The OBRC had a post from **Lucas** with a description of a possible *Buteo jamaicensis kridleri*.

Osprey

Carl Winsted counted seven adults and 11 immatures at and around four nests at the north end of Alum Creek on 02 Jul. Susan Carpenter saw seven adults and three immatures at Nimisila



An Osprey flyover is always a breathtaking moment. Tom Fishburn happened to be in the right place at the right time to capture this incredible bird at near Berlin Lake, **Stark**, on 10 Jun.

Reservoir, **Summit**, on 06 Jul. (50 counties)

Mississippi Kite

Up to four were still reported and photographed at the Junction Earthworks, **Ross**, into Jun, and at last one birder filed a formal OBRC report. A post from **Franklin** had a description.

Barn Owl

Gary Bush saw four at a Millersburg, **Holmes**, site on 02 Jun. Other **Holmes** locations and **Adams**, **Fairfield**, **Franklin**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Union** also produced reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Gabriel Amrhein saw a family of five at Glen Helen Preserve, **Greene**, on 29 Jun. (23 counties)

Great Horned Owl

The 04 Jun ONWR census tallied three (Ed

Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). So did Kirk Westendorf at Armleder Park on 25 Jul. (23 counties)

Barred Owl

The high count of four was achieved three times. Matt Anderson's were in OOPMP on 03 Jun, James Holsinger saw a family at Blendon Woods on 10 Jun, and Robert Thorn found his in Blacklick Woods MP, **Fairfield**, on 26 Jun. (39 counties)

Belted Kingfisher

The high count was seven, by Chris Zimmer at Harpersfield Covered Bridge MP, **Ashtabula**, on 18 Jul (73 counties)



Su Snyder photographed this Belted Kingfisher scanning for food at Killbuck on 12 Jul.



*Seeing a Mississippi Kite in Ohio is an exciting moment, let alone watching a nesting pair! On 24 Jul Alex Eberts managed to capture a photo of this bird flying back to its nest at Junction Earthworks, **Ross**.*

Red-headed Woodpecker

Matt Anderson counted 32 in "Tornado Alley", an area in and near OOPMP, on 11 Jun. Chris Tonra found 19 in OOPMP itself on 27 Jul. The most elsewhere were Nick Mrvelj's 10 in Mill Creek Park, **Mahoning**, on 26 Jun. (66 counties)

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Deborah Edwards-Onoro found 16 in CNC's Rowe Woods on 03 Jul. Counts of 13 came from CVNP on 16 Jun (Ann and Dwight Chasar) and Kiwanis Riverway Park, **Franklin**, on 14 Jul (Irina Shulgina). Every county except **Fayette**, **Pike**, and **Van Wert** produced reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Two sites in **Ashtabula** and four in **Geauga** each held one or two birds; all of the sightings were in Jun.

Downy Woodpecker

Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 23 in ONWR on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Dal Taylor found 12 around his **Union** home on 25 Jul. (84 counties)

Hairy Woodpecker

Deborah Edwards-Onoro counted 11 in CNC's Rowe Woods on 03 Jul. Ben Nickley found eight in the Brecksville Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 09 Jul. (71 counties)

Northern Flicker

ONWR held 14 when Ed Pierce *et al.* counted there on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). (83 counties)

Pileated Woodpecker

Counts of five came from the James H. Barrow Field Station, **Portage**, on 11 Jun (David Factor) and Lake La Su An WA, **Williams**, on 09 Jul (Brian McCaskey). (71 counties)

American Kestrel

Irina Shulgina and George Billman found 11 at Killdeer on 28 and 29 Jul respectively. (71 counties)

Merlin

Summer sightings are increasing – might we regain them as a regular nesting species soon? (OBBA II confirmed two nests during its study period.) Gary Cowell saw one and heard another from the OhioHealth Hospital garage in Mansfield, **Richland**, on 20 Jul. Singles were scattered throughout the season in **Athens**, **Delaware**, **Hancock**, **Knox**, and **Ross**.

Peregrine Falcon

The nest on the Ohio Statehouse held an adult and four young when Irina Shulgina scoped it on 15 Jun. (20 counties)

Olive-sided Flycatcher

The reports, all of single birds, are:

At Shaker Lakes NC, **Cuyahoga**, on 02 Jun (Gautam Apte)

At Deer Creek Reservoir, **Stark**, on 03 Jun (Ryan Gniewecki)

At Lake Loramie SP, **Shelby**, on 05 Jun (Louis Hoying)

At OOPMP on 08 Jun (Matt Anderson)

At Blendon Woods on 11 Jun (Bruce Simpson)

At CLNP on 16 Jun (Gautam Apte)

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Andy Jones canoed seven miles of the upper Cuyahoga River in **Geauga** on 02 Jun and counted 30 pewees along the way. Gautam Apte found 15 in South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 10 Jun. (81 counties)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Steve Valasek saw the last migrant, on 04 Jun at Pipe Creek. Paul Sherwood had seen two at the Denison University Biological Reserve, **Licking**, on 02 Jun. **Delaware** and **Tuscarawas** also had sightings.

Acadian Flycatcher

Cristy J. Miller *et al.* found 28 in Mohican on 10 Jun. Robert Thorn counted 20 “calling through-out forested ravines along trails” at Slate Run MP, **Pickaway**, on 06 Jun. (73 counties)

Alder Flycatcher

David Hochadel found three at McCoy Fen, **Ashtabula**, on 03 Jun, as did Elizabeth Stone at OOPMP on 17 Jun. (20 counties)

Willow Flycatcher

The 04 Jun ONWR census team tallied 27 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Irina Shulgina found 20 at Killdeer on 23 Jul. (73 counties)

Alder/Willow “Traill’s” Flycatcher

Indeterminate birds were reported from 23 counties.

Least Flycatcher

These were seen at least every four days until 05 Jul and from 14 Jul into fall, but not at all between those dates though surely they were here. Kelly Koslowski and Matthew Valencic found nine along three miles of the Cuyahoga River in **Geauga** on 01 Jun. George Billman provided the next-highest count, four at Killdeer on 19 Jul. (23 counties)

Eastern Phoebe

Ed Pierce’s team counted 13 in ONWR on 04 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Benjamin Miller found 12 while biking 36 miles of the Kokosing Gap Trail, **Knox**, on 11 Jun. (82 counties)

Great Crested Flycatcher

Four locations each hosted eight and many had six. (79 counties)

Eastern Kingbird

ONWR held 20 for Ed Pierce *et al.* on 04 Jun and 45 on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Irina Shulgina counted 18 at Killdeer on 23 Jul, the most elsewhere. (84 counties)



An Eastern Kingbird feasted on a Common Whitetail dragonfly at Killbuck on 29 Jun. Su Snyder was able to capture this photograph right after the bird returned to its perch.

Loggerhead Shrike

One which remained in **Wayne** from May generated many photos but no formal report for the OBR.

White-eyed Vireo

The high count of seven was shared. Anne and David Wills found them at Crown City WA, **Gallia**, on 09 Jul; Bill Stanley in Crooked Run NP, **Clermont**, on 15 Jul; and Margaret Bowman along Meigs Creek Road, **Morgan**, also on 15 Jul. (60 counties)

Bell’s Vireo

Amy Downing found three in the Darby Bend section of Prairie Oaks MP, **Franklin**, on 03 Jun and a few observers found two there and elsewhere. **Clark**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Union**, and **Wyandot** also had sightings.



A stunning Eastern Phoebe was caught by Craig Caldwell while it scanned for insects at the King Hollow Road bridge in Zaleski on 07 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Douglas Vogus *et al.* found eight along the CVNP towpath on 02 Jun. Counts of seven came from Shawnee SP on 20 Jun (Carl and Karen Winstead) and OOPMP on 15 Jul (Joseph Kurtz). (65 counties)

Blue-headed Vireo

Reports came from known nesting areas throughout the season. Susan Jones and Clyde Witt counted 10 along 3½ miles of Riding Run in CVNP on 25 Jun. A trio of monitors found four in Holden Arboretum's Stebbins Gulch on 11 Jun as did Gary Cowell at a private inholding within Mohican SF on 19 Jun. John Sloane saw the first southbound migrant, at Magee on 26 Jul. (12 counties)

Philadelphia Vireo

Irina Shulgina saw a northbound straggler at OSU Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, on 01 Jun.

Warbling Vireo

Not surprisingly, censuses produced the three highest counts: 43 at ONWR on 04 Jun, 33 there on 04 Jul (both Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus), and 22 in CVNP on 02 Jun (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). (72 counties)

Red-eyed Vireo

Andy Jones's canoe trip on the Cuyahoga River in **Geauga** on 02 Jun produced 75, "at least 10 per mile". Douglas Vogus *et al.* found 26 along the CVNP towpath the same day. (82 counties)

Blue Jay

Jeanne Hrenko counted 33 in the Kopf Family Reservation, **Lorain**, on 03 Jul, while Bill Grant found 26 in Acacia Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 21 Jul. Only **Fayette** didn't produce a sighting.

American Crow

Eli Hershberger estimated 340 were heading into a roost near his **Tuscarawas** home on 20 Jul. The next-highest number was Bob Lane's 85 at Elkton, **Columbiana**, on 28 Jul. **Putnam** and **Van Wert** had no reports.

Fish Crow

Some **Cuyahoga** postings had photos. Others from there and from **Highland** had no photos or descriptions.

Common Raven

Andra Anderson saw two at Friendship Park, **Jefferson**, on 30 Jul.

Horned Lark

Sameer Apte found a flock of 20 along Stollacker Road, **Ashtabula**, on 01 Jun. (53 counties)

Purple Martin

The Safari Golf Club, **Delaware**, hosted 165

on 27 Jun (Leslie Sours). Megan and Patrick Blythe saw about 100 at the ONWR Visitor Center grounds on 02 Jul. (72 counties)



Feeding a family can be hard work! This Purple Martin was photographed by Leslie Sours while it fed fledglings at the Safari Golf Club, **Delaware**, on 27 June.

Tree Swallow

About 800 were Big Island on 08 Jul (Ron Sempier). Ron wrote, "They were lined up on much of the stubble and dead branches throughout the pond plus flying all about." The 02 Jul ONWR census produced 506 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). (83 counties)



Janice Farrah photographed this coy Tree Swallow at Sandy Ridge on 25 Jul.



Anna Wittmer was fortunate to photograph this apparent pair of Fish Crows at Mercer Elementary School, **Cuyahoga**, on 25 Jul.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Tom Kemp saw about 65 at his Grand Rapids, *Lucas*, home on 19 Jul. (74 counties)

Bank Swallow

Bob Lane found about 280 at Conneaut on 12 Jul and 220 on 17 Jul. Dan Gesualdo's 165 at Pickerel Creek on 08 Jul was the third-highest number. (59 counties)

Cliff Swallow

Elliot Tramer noted at least 200 active nests under the I-75 bridge over the Maume River, *Lucas*, on 13 Jul. Debbie Parker saw about 80 occupied nests on the walls of Lorain City Hall on 02 Jun. (59 counties)

Barn Swallow

Jen Brumfield provided the three largest reports: 200 at Wendy Park on 18 Jul, 200 at Cleveland's Burke Airport on 14 Jul, and 210 at Burke on 18 Jul. Next were Helen and Ken Ostermiller with 150 at Wilderness Road on 30 Jul. *Jackson* and *Monroe* didn't produce sightings.

Carolina Chickadee

Robert Thorn counted 22 in Rush Creek Village, *Franklin*, on 27 Jun. (62 counties) Several years ago I noted that this was the one species endemic to the lower 48 states whose range included Ohio. Fish Crows, though not yet firmly established here, double that count.

Black-capped Chickadee

Kent Bog SNP, *Portage*, hosted 20 on 23 Jul for Brent Quiring. (28 counties)

Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee

Indeterminate birds were reported from 13 counties in the overlap zone, which roughly coincides with U.S. Route 30.

Tufted Titmouse

Two miles of hiking on the Hoover Park Connector Trail, *Stark*, produced 44 for Richard Kasikan. Douglas Vogus *et al.* counted 24 in CVNP during their 02 Jun towpath census. (84 counties)

Red-breasted Nuthatch

All of the reports came from *Cuyahoga*, *Geauga*, *Lake*, *Lucas*, and *Summit*. The high count was four; Lauren Wood and Peter Voudouris saw two adults and two young at a feeder in Pepper Pike, *Cuyahoga*, on 06 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Nick Mrvelj counted 14 in Mill Creek Park, *Mahoning*, on 21 Jun. (83 counties)

Brown Creeper

Andy Jones's 02 Jun canoe trip on the Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* produced seven. Other viewers found four and six in the same general area

around that time, and several viewers found duos elsewhere. (11 counties)

House Wren

Ed Pierce's ONWR census teams found 34 on 04 Jun and 49 on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). The most elsewhere were Carl Winstead's 19 at the Lobdell Preserve, *Licking*, on 24 Jun. *Gallia*, *Jackson*, and *Lawrence* didn't produce reports.

Winter Wren

Emily Ester saw one and heard another four at the CVNP Ledges on 02 Jun; birders found up to four there on other dates. The most elsewhere were two along the Lyons Falls Trail in Mohican SP, found by Craig Caldwell on 08 Jun and Steve Valasek the next day. Multiple reports came from *Ashland* and *Summit* and one from each of *Geauga* and *Holmes*.

Sedge Wren

Irina Shulgina found a total of four in three areas of Killdeer on 28 Jul. (15 counties)

Marsh Wren

Paul Jacyk counted 58 along the ONWR WD on 01 Jul. Mark Shieldcastle found 42 at nearby Metzger the next day. The most away from the northwestern marshes were 18 at Darby Creek on 20 Jul (Chris Lotz). (23 counties)

Carolina Wren

Kirk Westendorf found 16 throughout Ault Park, *Hamilton*, on 11 Jul. Five other locations each hosted 10. (81 counties)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Two and a half miles of walking in CVNP produced 19 for Ann and Dwight Chasar on 16 Jun. (74 counties)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Steven Hochstetler had one of these rare nesters visit his feeders in Loudonville, *Ashland*, between 18 and 21 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Chris Tonra saw one lingering on West Sister Island, *Lucas*, on 05 Jun.

Eastern Bluebird

Patrick Coy noted 22 in Bath NP, *Summit*, on 19 Jun. (81 counties)

Veery

Cristy J. Miller and friends found 16 in an all-day trip to Mohican on 10 Jun. Three birders each found eight: Benjamin Miller along Mohican SP's Lyons Falls Trail on 04 Jun, Gary Cowell on private land within Mohican SF on 19 Jun, and David Hochadel in Mosquito WA on 23 Jun. (25 counties)

Gray-checked Thrush

Ken Vinciguerra saw a straggler at Squire Valleeve Farm, *Cuyahoga*, on 03 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush

These were seen daily through 05 Jun, but one stayed around until 13 Jun when Ned DeLamatre saw it at Hampton Hills MP, *Summit*. Doubles were at Darby Creek on 01 Jun (Ronnie Clark) and Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*, the same day (George Billman). *Cuyahoga*, *Delaware*, *Lorain*, *Lucas*, and *Paulding* also produced reports.

Hermit Thrush

A trio of birders saw or heard a trio of birds from the Mohican SP Gorge Overlook on 17 Jul. The most, however, were the 11 which Cristy J. Miller *et al.* found throughout Mohican SP and SF on 10 Jun. Other reports came from *Cuyahoga*, *Hocking*, *Mahoning*, and *Summit*.

Wood Thrush

Bill Deininger counted 21 in CLNP on 04 Jul. (80 counties)

American Robin

Heather Luedecke and Angelika Nelson counted 207 along their BBS route in *Union* on 09 Jun. (All 88 counties)

Gray Catbird

The ONWR census of 02 Jul tallied 54 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). David Factor noted about 50 at the James H. Barrow Field Station, *Portage*, on 11 Jun, and wrote, "Loose flocks with adults and juveniles 10 or more birds. Feeding on honeysuckle berries, along with robins." Only *Jackson*, *Pike*, and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.

Brown Thrasher

Tyler McClain covered 30 miles of roads in Killdeer on 01 Jul and found 24 thrashers. The next most were eight at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, on 03 Jun (Monte VanDeusen) and also at Honey Run Highlands MP, *Knox*, on 26 Jun (Scott Albaugh). Curiously, heavily-birded *Holmes* was among the 12 counties with no reports.

Northern Mockingbird

Matt Anderson counted 22 on his travels through rural *Fulton* and *Henry* on 18 Jun. The Camp Dennison gravel pits, *Hamilton*, hosted 20 on 24 Jul (Andrew O'Connor) and up to 15 on other dates. (15 counties)

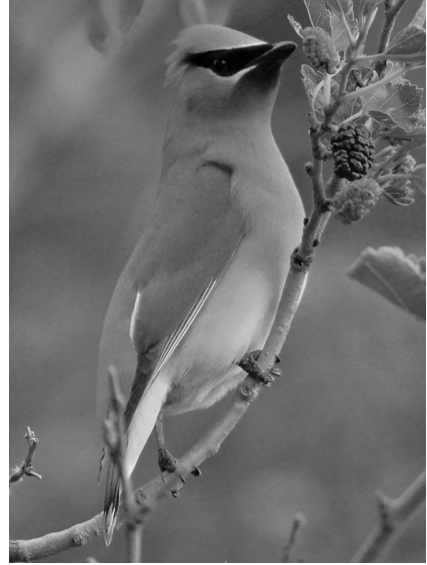
European Starling

Benjamin Miller estimated 2000 were at Darby Creek on 24 Jun, and up to 1300 were reported there on other dates. Gary Cowell and Ron Semper found about 700 at Big Island on 29 and 30

Jul, respectively. Only *Lawrence* didn't produce a report.

Cedar Waxwing

Megan and Patrick Blythe saw about 60 at Headlands on 06 Jul; many were feeding in mulberries. *Monroe*, *Putnam*, and *Van Wert* didn't have sightings.



The black mask of the Cedar Waxwing really stands out in this stunning photograph taken by Tom Fishburn on 03 Jun in Berea, Cuyahoga.

House Sparrow

Courtney Brennan found about 200 by Triskett Road, *Cuyahoga*, on 26 Jul. Heather Luedecke and Angelika Nelson's *Union* BBS route yielded 170 on 09 Jun. *Gallia*, *Jackson*, and *Lawrence* didn't produce reports.

House Finch

Donna Hocker saw 52 along the Maumee Bay boardwalk on 08 Jun. Irina Shulgina and Robert Thorn each saw about 30 at OSU Waterman Farm, on 14 Jun and 30 Jul respectively. (81 counties)

Purple Finch

Six visited Bob Lane's *Mahoning* feeders on 05 Jul. (14 counties)

Eastern Towhee

Brandon Brywezynski counted 20 in OOPMP on 15 Jun; Margaret Bowman found 16 in the AEP Recreation Lands, *Morgan*, on 07 Jun. (81 counties)

American Goldfinch

Jenny Bowman counted 111 in Barnes Preserve, **Wayne**, on 02 Jun. Henry Trimpe found 70 along the Summit Bike and Hike Trail on 17 Jun. (All 88 counties)



One of Ohio's favorite backyard visitors is the striking American Goldfinch. This handsome bird was photographed by Brian Tinker on 16 Jul at Springfield Bog, **Summit**.

Chipping Sparrow

Elliot Tramer flushed 150 to 200 from an old field in an outlying section of OOPMP, **Fulton**, on 06 Jul. Heather Luedecke and Angelika Nelson counted 207 along their BBS route in **Union** on 09 Jun. Only **Pike** and **Van Wert** didn't produce reports.

Field Sparrow

Irina Shulgina counted 35 throughout Killdeer on 12 Jul. (82 counties)



Sean Hollowell captured this photograph of an adorable Field Sparrow posing at Huffman Prairie, **Greene**, on 16 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow

Scott Pendleton saw or heard six near Cadiz, **Harrison**, on 04 Jul. (29 counties)

Lark Sparrow

David Boon found eight in OOPMP on 06 Jun and birders saw up to five there on other dates. The most elsewhere were three in Oakes Quarry Park, **Greene**, on 08 and 10 Jun (Sean Hollowell and Carl Winstead, respectively). **Lorain**, **Mari-on**, **Montgomery**, **Tuscarawas**, and **Wyandot** also had sightings.

Savannah Sparrow

Grasslands near Cadiz, **Harrison**, produced 25 for Scott Pendleton on 04 Jul and 30 on 26 Jul. The next most were Bryan Tinker's 21 at Akron-Canton Regional Airport, **Summit**, on 25 Jun. (59 counties)



A singing Savannah Sparrow posed along the fence line of the Akron-Canton Airport, **Summit**, on 25 Jun for Brian Tinker.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Scott Pendleton found about 125 near Cadiz, **Harrison**, on 04 Jul; see Field Notes for details. He found 60 there on 26 Jul. The most not in **Harrison** were 12 at the Junction Earthworks, **Ross**, on 24 Jun (Ben and Chris Bowers). (53 counties)



Tom Fishburn captured this image of a perched Grasshopper Sparrow while birding at Junction Earthworks, **Ross**, on 01 July.

Henslow's Sparrow

The grasslands near Cadiz, **Harrison**, produced 16 for Scott Pendleton on 26 Jul. (40 counties)



There is something special about a sparrow claiming its territory. Alex Eberts photographed this singing Henslow's Sparrow near Charlie's Pond, Pickaway, on 24 Jul.

Nelson's Sparrow

Cory Chiappone saw one at Wake Robin early on 02 Jun, Jacob Raber saw it at noon, and Ian Lynch found it again the next day.

Song Sparrow

Ed Pierce *et al.*'s ONWR censuses tallied 137 on 04 Jun and 95 on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). Douglas's team counted 80 along the Towpath Trail in CVNP on 01 Jul. Only **Jackson** lacked a sighting.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Michelle Moore found one in CVNP on 10 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow

The most were the 21 which Douglas Vogus *et al.* found along the CVNP Towpath Trail on 02 Jun. Counts of 14 came from three other locations on four dates. (40 counties)

White-throated Sparrow

Richard Domokos saw two at the **Stark** FedEx facility on 01 Jun, and another was singing for Ray Hannikman and Jamie Koller at Headlands on the highly unusual date of 08 Jul.

White-crowned Sparrow

Dan Gesualdo found one "Singing four times from the shrub line" at Volunteer Bay, **Erie**, on 29 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco

Holden Arboretum's Little Mountain, **Lake**, hosted 11 on 16 Jun (Haans Petruschke and Mike Watson). Gautam Apte found eight in South Chagrin Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 10 Jun, as did Haans and Mike in Holden's East Branch, **Geauga**, on 19 Jul. Other sites in those three counties, plus a few in **Summit**, also provided sightings.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Counts of 10 of this used-to-be-a-warbler came from Slate Run MP, **Pickaway**, on 03 Jun (Donna K. Owen) and Honey Run Highlands Park, **Knox**, on 26 Jun (Scott Albaugh). (61 counties)



This beautiful Yellow-breasted Chat popped up for a photo opportunity for Brian Tinker at Summit MP's Tallmadge Meadows on 06 Jul.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Anthony Marino found one at Metzger on 26 Jun.

Bobolink

The Cadiz grasslands, **Harrison**, yielded 125 for Scott Pendleton on 26 Jul. The next most were Kent Miller's 70 along Fargo Road, **Carroll**, on 21 Jul. (53 counties)

Eastern Meadowlark

Ron Sempier counted 30 at Big Island on 06 Jun (81 counties)

Western Meadowlark

One spent 20 May to 04 Jun along South Kansas Road, **Wayne** (m. obs.). Paul Jacyk and Kim Warner discovered another by York Street, **Lucas**, on 20 Jul and many saw it until 24 Jul.

Orchard Oriole

Ed Schlabach found 18 in the Sugarcreek/Ragersville area, **Tuscarawas**, on 04 Jul. Lori Brumbaugh counted 10 in **Carroll** on 29 Jun. (67 counties)

Baltimore Oriole

The 02 Jul ONWR census produced 30 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Paul Jacyk found 23 in Bay View Park, **Lucas**, on 24 Jun. (83 counties)

Red-winged Blackbird

Observers noted about 2000 at Darby Creek on three dates in late Jun and early Jul. Ron Sempier found the most elsewhere, about 400 at Big Island on 14 Jun. (All 88 counties)

Brown-headed Cowbird

Eric Elvert carefully counted 101 in a flooded field along Shockley Road, *Clark*, on 23 Jul. Gary Cowell saw about 80 in a cattle feedlot in *Morrow* on 12 Jul. All counties except *Jackson* and *Pike* had sightings.

Common Grackle

About 600 were at Darby Creek on 24 Jun (Benjamin Miller) and were still there on 03 Jul (Alex Eberts). Three other locations each held about 200. (All 88 counties)

Ovenbird

Cristy J. Miller and friends counted 38 in Mohican on 10 Jun. Ed Schlabach found 35 in his travels around southeastern *Tuscarawas* that same day. The third-highest number was James Muller's 12 in Mizner Hollow, *Vinton*, on 17 Jun. (52 counties)

Worm-eating Warbler

Jason Parrish found four in only 1½ miles of hiking within Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 17 Jun. (12 counties)

Louisiana Waterthrush

A trio of Holden Arboretum monitors counted eight in Stebbins Gulch on 17 Jun. (39 counties)

Northern Waterthrush

Matthew Valencic found a straggler singing at Eldon Russell Park, *Geauga*, on 09 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler

Ed Schlabach counted 17 while biking around southeastern *Tuscarawas* on 10 Jun. Brandon Brywczyński found six in OOPMP on 15 Jun. (40 counties)

[Golden-winged x Blue-winged "Lawrence's" Warbler]

Matt Anderson re-sighted one (first seen in May) apparently defending territory near OOPMP on 03 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler

The high count of five was shared three ways. Craig Caldwell found them along the Cemetery Ridge Trail in Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*, on 07 Jun; Jay Wright's were in Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest on 09 Jun; and Ed Schlabach wandered *Tuscarawas* on 10 Jun for his. (24 counties)

Prothonotary Warbler

The upper Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* has a string of nest "boxes". Kelly Kozłowski and Matthew Valencic saw 14 Prothonotaries along three miles of the river on 01 Jun and Andy Jones found 20 in seven miles the next day. (37 counties)

Tennessee Warbler

Richard Domokos saw one at a FedEx facility in *Stark* on 01 Jun.

Orange-crowned Warbler

The Clear Creek Trail, *Hocking*, still had one hanging around on 01 Jun (George Billman)

Nashville Warbler

Matt Anderson saw a late one singing at the Horse Rider Center in OOPMP on 03 Jun.

Mourning Warbler

Single birds were seen in *Cuyahoga*, *Greene*, *Huron*, *Lake*, and *Lucas* through 06 Jun, a typical last date. But Marc Hanneman photographed one singing by a clearcut in Wayne Woods, *Ashtabula*, on 20 Jun.

Kentucky Warbler

Ed Schlabach's peregrinations in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Jun produced 14. Julie Karlson and Doug Overacker found eight at East Fork, also on 10 Jun. (26 counties)

Common Yellowthroat

Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 57 in ONWR on 04 Jun and 46 on 02 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). The next most were Cory Gratz's 40 in Honey Run Highlands Park, *Knox*, on 01 Jul. All counties except *Huron*, *Monroe*, and *Van Wert* provided sightings.

Hooded Warbler

Ed Schlabach counted 36 throughout southeastern *Tuscarawas* on 10 Jun and Cristy J. Miller's group found 24 in Mohican the same day. (52 counties)

American Redstart

Counts of 15 came from southeastern *Tuscarawas* on 10 Jun (Ed Schlabach) and Cemetery Ridge in Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*, on 14 Jun (Matthew Janson and Jack Rogers). (54 counties)

Cape May Warbler

Bruce Simpson found one singing in Zaleski on 05 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler

Cristy J. Miller *et al.* found eight in Mohican on 10 Jun. Craig Caldwell heard six along the road through Clear Creek MP, *Hocking*, on 06 Jun; Mark Whitacre also found six, in Shawnee Look-out CP, *Hamilton*, on 03 Jul. (40 counties)

Northern Parula

Neill Cade found nine in three miles of hiking in John Bryan SP, *Greene*, on 04 Jul; three sites each hosted five. (45 counties)

Magnolia Warbler

The reports are:

One seen and heard along Farmers Drive in Columbus on 02 Jun (James Muller)

Two in Mohican, also on 02 Jun (Atlee Yoder)

One in Zaleski on 16 Jul (Bruce Simpson)

Bay-breasted Warbler

Paul Sherwood saw one at Sheldon Marsh on 03 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler

Birders saw singles in *Ashland* (two sites), *Geauga*, *Hocking*, and *Vinton* until 10 Jun, and then Gary Cowell discovered two on private land within Mohican SF on 19 Jun.

Yellow Warbler

The monthly ONWR censuses produced 236 on 04 Jun and 162 on 02 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Elizabeth McQuaid found 51 in CLNP on 11 Jun. (80 counties).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Matt Anderson counted eight in Maumee SE, *Fulton*, on 10 Jun. Matt Kemp had found five there on 06 Jun, and Hope Orr tied Matt along the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 23 Jun. (13 counties)

Blackpoll Warbler

Single birds were at Metzger on 01 Jun (Steve Meredyk) and Sheldon Marsh on 03 Jun (Paul Sherwood).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Possibly summering birds were duos at the CVNP ledges on 02 Jun (George Bagay) and along the CVNP Towpath Trail on 05 Jun (Doug Marcum).

Pine Warbler

The high count of six was provided by Matt Anderson from OOPMP on 03 Jun. Edie Parnum noted four around the cabins at Shawnee SP on 08 Jul. (16 counties)

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Brynne Bryan saw one at Magee on 01 Jun; it or another was there for Ashli Gorbet and Steve Valasek on 05 Jun.

Yellow-throated Warbler

James Muller counted seven in Mizner Hollow, *Vinton*, on 17 Jun. (44 counties)

Prairie Warbler

Counts of seven came from the Anderson Meadows section of Wayne NE, *Lawrence*, on 24 Jun (Cory Chiappone) and the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, *Adams*, on 30 Jun (Tyler Ficker and Maddie Varias). (33 counties)

Black-throated Green Warbler

Mohican SP and SF hosted 17 for Cristy J. Miller *et al.* on 10 Jun and 23 for Elias A. Raber on 13 Jun. The next highest count of five was achieved at three sites. (13 counties)

Canada Warbler

Cristy J. Miller and friends counted seven in Mohican SP and SF on 10 Jun. Mohican SP alone produced three for Carlton Schooley on 03 Jun and Cory Chiappone on 18 Jun. Many other birders found one or two in the area. The only sightings not in *Ashland* were singles in Clifton Gorge NP, *Greene*, on 01 Jun (Rick Luehrs) and 02 Jun (Sean Hollowell) and at Magee on 02 Jun (Rita Carratello and Don Robertson).

Wilson's Warbler

The reports are:

Two heard at Magee on 01 Jun (Brynne Bryan) and one seen there on 02 Jun (Rita Carratello and Don Robertson)

One at Knox Lake, *Knox*, on 02 Jun (Andrea and Brad Imhoff)

One in ONWR on 04 Jun (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus)

Summer Tanager

Matt Anderson found nine singing in OOPMP on 03 Jun. Counts of four came from there on 20 Jun (Edward Lewandowski) and 23 Jun (Brandon Brywczyński) and from Ash Cave in Hocking Hills SP on 12 Jun (David Rudemiller). (25 counties)



Tim Krynak captured this Prairie Warbler proudly singing at Judge's Lake in Hinckley Reservation, Medina, on 09 Jun.

Scarlet Tanager

Susan Tittermary saw 14 in CNC's Rowe Woods on 01 Jun. (68 counties)

Northern Cardinal

Bridget Brown canoed 2½ miles of Big Darby Creek, **Franklin**, on 02 Jun and counted 36. Douglas Vogus's census teams in CVNP beat her number; though, with 37 on 02 Jun and 43 on 01 Jul. Under-birded **Van Wert** didn't produce a report.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Several birders found 20 in the CVNP Coliseum Grasslands on 03 Jun. Nancy O'Bryan visited a powerline corridor in **Geauga** between 26 and 30 Jul and found up to 14 there. (67 counties)

Blue Grosbeak

Counts of four came from **Adams**, **Hamilton**, **Lawrence**, and **Tuscarawas**; 29 counties in all hosted them.



*This beautiful male Blue Grosbeak perched up for Adam Brandemihl at Heritage Park, **Franklin**, on 03 Jul, making a lucky encounter with a species that can be secretive in its preferred grassland habitat.*

Indigo Bunting

Brandon Brywczynski's travels in OOPMP on 15 Jun yielded 44. Andrew O'Connor found 30 in much smaller Armleder Park on 08 Jul. Only **Jackson**, **Monroe**, and **Van Wert** didn't produce sightings.

Dickcissel

John Herman counted 29 along 17 miles of Townline Road, **Richland**, on 12 Jun. (60 counties)



*The unique song of the Dickcissel can be heard along country roads throughout the state. This gorgeous photograph was captured by Adam Brandemihl on 03 Jul at Heritage Park, **Franklin**.*

CONTRIBUTORS

Here we list all the birders who sent reports directly to the *Cardinal* or the *Bobolink*, and those whose posts to eBird or the Ohio-birds listserv we specifically cited. We also list everyone who contributed photographs, even if we weren't able to publish them. We regret that the available space doesn't allow us to list everyone who contributed to one of the e-venues, though those sightings provide the bulk of the county counts. The editors thank all of you.

Angelika Adkins	Jen Brumfield	Reuben S. Erb	Donna Hocker
Scott Albaugh	Brynne Bryan	Jason Estep	Sean Hollowell
Gabriel Amrhein	Brandon Brywczyński	Emily Ester	James Holsinger
Andra Anderson	Junior Burkholder	Susan Evanoff	Craig Holt
Matt Anderson	Gary Bush	David Factor	Corinna Honscheid
Ken Andrews	Neill Cade	Tyler Ficker	Louis Hoying
Gautam Apte	Craig Caldwell	Bonnie Fish	Jeanne Hrenko
Sameer Apte	Rita Carratello	Douglas Flagg	William Hutchinson
Rick Asamoto	Susan Carpenter	Joseph Ford	Andrea Imhoff
Carole Babyak	Ann Chasar	Arthur P. Foreman Sr.	Brad Imhoff
George Bagay	Dwight Chasar	Renee Frederick	Shari Jackson
Ron Bicknell	Cory Chiappone	Dan Gesualdo	Matthew Janson
George Billman	Ronnie Clark	Valerie Giovannucci	Mia Jaeger
Tim Birkeland	Alexander Clifford	Ryan Gniewecki	Paul Jayck
Megan Blythe	Greg Cornett	Edie Gonzales	Andy Jones
Patrick Blythe	Gary Cowell	Ashli Gorbet	Steve Jones
Matthew Bocker	Patrick Coy	Bill Grant	Susan Jones
David Boon	Michael Curtis	Cory Gratz	William L. Jones
Ben Bowers	Bill Deininger	Dawn Hanna	Eric Juterbock
Chris Bowers	Ned DeLamatre	Marc Hanneman	Julie Karlson
Jenny Bowman	Richard Domokos	Ray Hannikman	Richard Kaskan
Margaret Bowman	Amy Downing	Jeff Harvey	Tom Kemp
Susan Brauning	Alex Eberts	Mike Hatfield	Matt Kemp
Ed Bremer	Deborah Edwards-Onoro	Troy Herrell	Caine Kolinski
Sheila Bremer	Al Eibel	Eli Hershberger	Jamie Koller
Courtney Brennan	Eric Elvert	John Herman	John Koon
Lisa Brohl	Janice Emrick	Tristan Herwood	Kelly Koslowski
Bridget Brown	David Erb	David Hochadel	Bob Krajeski
Lori Brumbaugh		Steven Hochstetler	Tim Krynak

The Ohio Cardinal, Summer 2017

Donna Kuhn	Nick Mrvelj	Eric Schlapack	Jesse Troyer
Joseph Kurtz	James Muller	Liz Schlapack	Steve Valasek
Bob Lane	Angelika Nelson	Inga Schmidt	Matthew Valensic
Anthony Lazar	Ben Nickley	Carleton Schooley	Monte VanDeusen
Cam Lee	Aaron Nisley	Lori Schultz	Maddie Varias
Beth Lenoble	Cynthia Norris	Ron Sempier	Ken Vinciguerra
Edward Lewandowski	Nancy O'Bryan	Mark Shaver	Peter Voudouris
Carrie Lingle	Andrew O'Connor	Gina Sheridan	Douglas Vogus
Chris Lotz	Bill Ohlsen	Paul Sherwood	Bev Walborn
Jeff Loughman	Hope Orr	Mark Shieldcastle	Michelle Ward
Heather Luedecke	Helen Ostermiller	Troy Shively	Kim Warner
Rick Luehrs	Ken Ostermiller	Irina Shulgina	Mike Watson
Michelle Leighty	Doug Overacker	Bruce Simpson	David Weaver
Rebecca Lewis	Donna K. Owen	Andrew Simon	Kirk Westendorf
Max Leibowitz	Glen Palmgren	John Sloane	Mark Whitacre
Fred Losi	Debbie Parker	David Smith	Anne Wills
Ian Lynch	Edie Parnum	Greg Smith	David Wills
Doug Marcum	Jason Parrish	Su Snyder	Carl Winstead
Anthony Marino	Scott Pendleton	Claudia Souders	Karen Winstead
Jim Martin	Haans Petruschke	Leslie Sours	Clyde Witt
Kari Warner Matsko	Chris Pierce	Bill Stanley	Lauren Wood
Brian McCaskey	Morgan Pfeiffer	Linda Stoller	Jay Wright
Tyler McClain	Ed Pierce	Elizabeth Stone	Brian Wulker
Elizabeth McQuaid	Brent Quiring	Allen Stutzman	Adam Yoder
Susan Meade	Elias A. Raber	Daniel Stutzman	Aden M. Yoder
Steve Meredyk	Jacob Raber	Wayne A. Stutzman	Atlee Yoder
Lisle Merriman	R. Lee Reed	Dal Taylor	Benjamin H. Yoder
Dennis Mersky	Patricia Ritchie	Sarah Taylor	Levi Yoder
Alvin E. Miller	Jane Riker	Robert Thorn	Marcus Yoder
Cristy J. Miller	Ethan Rising	Bryan Tinker	Marvin Yoder
Eli M. Miller	Don Robertson	Susan Tittermary	Michael Zampini
Jeffrey A. Miller	Jack Rogers	James Tomco	Karen Zeleznik
Kent Miller	Robert Royse	Mark Tomecko	Chris Zimmer
Adam Mitchell	David Rudemiller	Elliott Tramer	
Michelle Moore	Robert Sams	Henry Trimpe	
Ben Morrison	Ed Schlabach	Adam Troyer	

MOSQUITO LAKE'S PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS

By David M. Hochadel
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In the summer of 1989 I attended a class, Bird Population Studies, at the University of Maine at Machias. A major impetus behind my doing so was a desire to learn the best methods to assess what I believed to be a significant population of Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*) at Mosquito Lake in **Trumbull**. Other populations within the state have been well documented in recent years; for example, at Hoover Reservoir (Bombaci 2004) and along Killbuck Creek in **Wayne, Holmes, and Coshoc-ton** (Peterjohn 1989). Peterjohn also noted that *P. citrea* has benefited from the creation of reservoirs throughout the state. Completed in 1944, Mosquito Lake is the second largest lake in the state, encompassing 7,850 acres, and it has provided perfect habitat for the creation of one of Ohio's largest populations of nesting Prothonotary Warblers.

Why is Mosquito Lake so suitable for *P. citrea*? It has everything to do with the nature of the surrounding terrain following the last glacial retreat. Geology buffs might find it interesting that the dam and levees that impound the reservoir are built atop the Defiance Moraine (White 1982). But more importantly for the warblers, the bulk of the lake itself is situated on flat, poorly drained till and lake plains to the north of the dam. The flooding of the lake bed resulted in the creation of large areas of wooded swamp, particularly along northern sections of the lake shore. The seasonal flooding and drawing down of the water level by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers closely approximates that of natural wetlands along lowland streams and rivers, and has allowed for the growth of the wetland vegetation that provides ideal conditions for *P. citrea*.

Around much of the lake's shoreline, suitable habitat is limited to the immediate shoreline areas, so *P. citrea* territories are arranged in linear fashion, without adjacent territories inland. They are concentrated in the shallow bays formed from the numerous small inlet creeks. These bays are invariably lined with the willows that provide foraging and nesting sites. It is easy to see these bays and their vegetation using one of the popular satellite imagery programs available on the internet. An exception to this arrangement of territories is at the north end of the reservoir where extensive tracts of wooded swamp can be found, with ideal nesting habitat. It was there that I staked out a 30 acre study plot in 1990 to conduct a Breeding Bird Census (BBC), a standardized nesting survey whose results are published annually. BBC protocol requires at least eight visits to the site, which results in the ability to map

the territories of all breeding species accurately. Follow-up studies were conducted on the same plot in 1992, 1995, and 1996. The surveys determined that an average of five *P. citrea* territories were present each year, with an average territory size of six acres (Hochadel 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996). Subsequent visits to this plot confirm that Prothonotaries continue to occupy this site up to the present, and in similar numbers.

In Jun 1997, I conducted a survey by canoe along the western shoreline extending south from the BBC plot to the State Route 88 causeway. This stretch of shoreline held 20 *P. citrea* territories. Similar surveys have been conducted along the shoreline south of State Route 88. In May and Jun 2013, I hiked the western shoreline from the bridle path parking lot on Hoagland-Blackstub Road south to the dam and then north up the eastern shore to the cemetery north of Main Street in Cortland. This yielded a total of 22 territories. These locations were all checked a minimum of two times to verify that these birds were still present and occupying nesting territories. The second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed that they were present in every block which included part of Mosquito Lake (Rodewald *et al.* 2016). The continued presence of nesting *P. citrea* in all of the above locations has been verified on numerous occasions (DMH pers. obs.).

A compilation of all the data mentioned, in conjunction with a satellite imagery analysis of difficult to access areas, would support a conservative estimate of 110 pairs of *P. citrea* nesting at Mosquito Lake each year. Unlike some populations in the state which have benefited greatly from human assistance; i.e., nest box programs (Rodewald *et al.* 2016), Mosquito Lake's warblers have thrived without such assistance as there is an abundance of natural cavities within their preferred habitat. This is due in no small part to the abundance of Downy Woodpeckers in the same locations where *P. citrea* is found, as they are known to prefer Downy's holes as nest sites (Petit 1999). It would appear that all available habitat around the lake is occupied and only the lack of additional such habitat limits further expansion of their population.

There is a small nest box program managed by U.S. Army Corp of Engineers volunteer Loyd Marshall at the southeast end of the lake. As these boxes have been placed at locations where *P. citrea* has already nested for many years, they may not add to the overall existing population. However, they do provide educational opportunities, as some of these boxes are placed where they can be easily viewed by the public. It is worth noting that studies have shown that nest boxes may improve the species' reproductive success, and it may also increase the number of

nesting territories in a given area (Petit 1999).

In his 2004 *Ohio Cardinal* article, Charles Bombaci described Prothonotary Warbler migration and nesting chronology at Hoover Reservoir in great detail. (His article is readily available, archived on the OOS website.) Arrival and nesting dates are about a week later at Mosquito Lake than at Hoover due to its more northerly latitude.

Mosquito Lake's Prothonotary Warbler population seems secure for the time being. Nearly all of the shoreline is undeveloped and controlled by the Corp of Engineers. The Mosquito Lake SP campground on the southwest shore has been maintained in a natural state. Six or more active territories can be found within the campground every year.

These warblers can be easily observed at several locations around the lake. A nature trail at the southeast corner of the lake, in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakeview Recreation Area, leads to an observation platform which provides close up views of some of the nest boxes mentioned previously. The state park campground provides excellent viewing opportunities as well. Unless you have a campsite you must use the parking lot at the entrance gate and walk in. You can easily observe Prothonotaries along Hoagland-Blackstub Road on the west side of the lake. Shortly after you pass Mahan-Denman Road driving north, the lake will be on your right, very close to the road. When you reach the large culvert (known locally as "The Tubes") you are surrounded by *P. citrea* territories. Park at the culvert and walk north. There is wooded swamp on both sides with plenty of Prothonotary Warblers. While you're there, listen for the Cerulean Warblers and Brown Creepers that also nest there annually. Northern Waterthrushes have also been heard singing here in Jun in recent years.

An interesting feature of "The Tubes" is that this culvert serves as an emergency overflow when the lake reaches a certain level above flood stage. The water then reverses direction and flows out of the lake, entering a creek to the west that is part of the Grand River watershed. Mosquito Lake itself is normally part of the Mississippi River drainage system. This culvert has been identified as one of four sites in Ohio where Asian Carp could potentially invade the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River Watershed (ODNR-DOW 2014).

When I began compiling data on Prothonotary Warblers at Mosquito Lake, I hadn't begun to imagine the significance of this population in terms of its size. It has been known for decades that they nest here in good numbers, but the documented size of this population puts it among the largest in the state. Another *Trumbull* population is a few miles to the east along Pymatuning Creek in Shenango WA. About 15 miles of this creek flows through wooded swamp and hosts 30 or more pairs annually (DMH pers. obs.). Grand River WA to the west of Mosquito Lake hosts an additional 10 to 15 pairs. This

puts the total northern *Trumbull* population of *P. citrea* in the vicinity of 150 breeding pairs annually. Prothonotary Warbler has been listed as an ODNR "Species of Special Concern" for many years. These additional numbers, when combined with the gains noted elsewhere in recent years, should help provide a cushion of safety for this once uncommon Ohio breeding bird, and should be heartening to those who enjoy seeing and hearing this beautiful warbler in Ohio's wetlands.

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A POSSIBLE OHIO RECORD OF THE GREAT WHITE HERON (*ARDEA HERODIAS OCCIDENTALIS*)

By John P. Herman

On 11 May 1938, a Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*), a current subspecies of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was reportedly observed by the Pymatuning Lake refuge-keeper, Burt L. Oudette, as the heron was feeding along the shore of the sanctuary area (Trimble 1940). There was a sanctuary at the Pennsylvania side of Pymatuning Lake in 1938, but it is unknown if a sanctuary existed at the Ohio side. There were several wildlife refuges at the Ohio side of the reservoir in 1938. Borror (1950) lists the May 1938 Pymatuning Lake Great White Heron as "seen on the Ohio side of Lake Pymatuning." Borror lists the 1940 Trimble literature as the source for his statement that it was seen in Ohio. However, Trimble's 1940 literature does not confirm the presence of the heron as being in Ohio. On 14 May 1938 this heron was reportedly viewed by Vera Carrothers, Margarette E. Morse, and Marion and Merit Skaggs along the shore of the sanctuary (Skaggs 1944). They initially thought the bird was an American Egret (*Ardea alba*), but upon careful examination with a 35x telescope they observed the heron's yellowish legs, heavy bill, and size approximately that of a Great Blue Heron. This heron was collected on 14 May 1938 by Burt Oudette, near Linesville, Pennsylvania (Borror 1950) and the specimen was placed in the Ford Island museum at Pymatuning (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). W. E. Clyde Todd and Ruth Trimble compared the specimen of the 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Great White Heron with authentic examples of the Great White Heron and found the results somewhat puzzling. Its size was somewhat smaller than that of the average given for *Ardea occidentalis* but within the limits for the species as a whole (Trimble 1940). The feathers of the crest were similar to those characteristic of *A. occidentalis*, and the legs were bright yellow in color. Later, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, who in 1938 was connected with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, examined the specimen from Pymatuning Lake and confirmed the identification (Skaggs 1944). Dr. Harry C. Oberholser and J. August Beck, the taxidermist that preserved the 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake heron, confirmed that this Great White Heron was an adult female in breeding plumage (Christy 1938, Oberholser 1939, Todd 1940). This determination by Dr. Oberholser that the Pymatuning May 1938 heron was in breeding plumage is curious

since great white herons do breed year-round, but most begin between September and February (Powell 1983). This 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake record was considered by Dr. Oberholser as only the second record for the species north of Florida at that time (Oberholser 1939). Either he did not accept the 1895 California or the 1899 Arizona record, or was not aware of them (Hatch 1896, Willard 1910). A reported Great White Heron was killed and the body was later seen and measurements taken by H. H. Brimley and Dr. Gilbert Pearson near Durham, North Carolina on 8 Jul 1926 (Auk 1927).

Even more amazing than the Great White Heron collected on 14 May 1938 is a motion-picture record made on 21 Oct 1938 by C. Gordon Kriebel of an individual Great White Heron exactly like the May 1938 heron, and at the same locality (Trimble 1940). The movie, according to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, substantiates Mr. Kriebel's claim that the heron also had yellow legs characteristic of the southern species. Furthermore, Mr. Burt L. Oudette believes that a third Great White Heron was present in 1938 at Pymatuning Lake, Pennsylvania (Todd 1940). Another Pennsylvania record is of one seen at Pymatuning Lake, with a great egret, on 29 Jul 1961 (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). There is a possibility that one or both of the "great white herons" seen at Pymatuning Lake after May 1938 were leucistic great blue herons.

The Great White Heron is known to nest only in southern Florida, predominantly on islands in Biscayne Bay, throughout Florida Bay, the lower keys, and on the Marquesas Islands near Venezuela (Hancock and Kushlan 1984; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2003). One or two nests have been documented annually since 1981 in Cortez and Terra Ceia bays near Bradenton, and other nestings occurred on ABC Islands, Marco Island in 1976, 1979, and 1988. One nest was found at Hemp Key in Lee in 1969, but no additional nests are known from that area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2003). Its nesting at the Yucatan is vouched for by Allen (1962). White birds are said to account for 20 per cent of "great herons" nesting on the Los Roques islands, off the north coast of Venezuela, and the white-and-blue "Wurde-mann" type for another 20 per cent (Phelps and Phelps 1958). Where the dark and white forms of the great blue heron occur, intermediate birds known as "Wurde-mann's herons" can be found.

A. h. occidentalis also occurs in mainland Cuba, the Isle of Pines, the isles off Venezuela, St. Thomas, and Anegada, but is not known to nest at these areas (Vennesland 2011, Spendelow and Patton 1988). This heron formerly occurred at Jamaica (Spendelow and Patton 1988). Vagrants have occurred west to Texas and north to Maine (Mitra and Fritz 2002). Dr. Harry Oberholser considered the great white heron “a casual visitor to the Texas coast” (Oberholser 1974).

A Great White Heron was paired with a great blue heron at Palmetto, Florida (*Manatee*) on 17 Apr 2015 (Brothers 2016). On 12 Feb and 3 Mar 1968 a Great White Heron was at Pine Island Sound opposite Fort Myers, Florida, apparently mated with a Ward’s Great Blue Heron (*A. h. wardi*). This location is 120 miles north of any previously known breeding grounds of the Great White Heron. The pair was caring for one young that had the plumage of a young great blue, which lends evidence to the theory that differences between the great white and Ward’s Great Blue Herons are dichromatic rather than specific (Bancroft 1969).

There are a surprising number of vagrant records, given that the total breeding population of Great White Herons is under 1,000 pairs (Sibley 2007). Some of the 140+ records of vagrant Great White Herons in the last 120 years may actually be leucistic great blue herons. As expected, 69 % of the United States records of the Great White Heron outside Florida were in the Aug through Oct hurricane period. Thirteen percent of vagrant records were from Feb through Apr, and nine percent were from Nov through Jan. This author attempted to determine the number of Great White Heron records accepted by individual states’ bird record committees, but many committees do not review records of subspecies. The states and the number of great white heron records accepted by each records committee are as follows: Alabama (12) (Greg D. Jackson, pers. comm.), Delaware (2) (Frank Rohrbacher, pers. comm.), Kentucky (4) (Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2003), Louisiana (2) (Steven W. Cardiff, pers. comm.), Maryland (15) (Phil Davis, pers. comm.), Massachusetts (2) (Sean Williams, pers. comm.), Michigan (1) (Ryff 2000; Louie Dombroski, pers. comm.), Mississippi (1) (Terence Lee Schiefer, pers. comm.), New Jersey (2) (Laurie Larson, pers. comm.), North Carolina (17) (Ricky Davis, pers. comm.), Pennsylvania (6) (Andrew McGann, pers. comm.), Rhode Island (2) (Wayne Petersen, pers. comm.), South Carolina (12) (Ricky Davis, pers. comm.), Tennessee (12) (Somershoe and Sloan 2015), Texas (4) (Eric Carpenter, pers. comm.), and Virginia (8) (C. Mi-

chael Stinson, pers. comm.). In addition, unreviewed reports by a records committee are: four from Alabama, one from Delaware, three from Virginia, 26 from Georgia, four from Louisiana, six from New York, one from Rhode Island, six from Tennessee and 13 from Texas. Tennessee requires documentation of a Great White Heron. Nova Scotia does not have a bird records committee and has two reports, without details, that are considered not acceptable (Ian McLaren, pers. comm.). The District of Columbia has one report of a Great White Heron at the East Potomac Park, Hains Point, from 07 to 17 Sep 1935; the report is in C. S. Robbins’ regional archive files, and has not been reviewed by a records committee. (Phil Davis, pers. comm.). Arizona and California each have one report that is in literature (Howard 1899, Willard 1910). The California Bird Records Committee does not review records of subspecies or forms (Steve Rottenborn, pers. comm.). The California record is not in Grinell and Miller’s 1944 *The Distribution of the Birds of California*, the primary authority on California historical bird distribution. However, the record consists of a specimen. Ontario, Canada has an undocumented report of a Great White Heron that was not accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee, and Aug 2004 and Aug 2010 documented reports, neither of which were accepted by the records committee (Mike Burrell, Ron Ridout, pers. comm.). The New York state bird records committee has never reviewed a documentation of the Great White Heron (Gary Chapin, pers. comm.). Texas ceased requiring this heron subspecies to be documented after 2006. Georgia has 15 coastal records since 1962, 11 inland records since 1978, and currently does not review records of *A. h. occidentalis* (James F. Flynn, pers. comm.). The Alabama Bird Records Committee does not review records of subspecies or morphs (Greg D. Jackson, pers. comm.). It is curious that most of Virginia’s records are from the mountainous part of the state and none from the coastal area.

Probably reflecting the track of many hurricanes, it is interesting that Tennessee has at least 12 records, whereas Mississippi has a sole report. Inland records of the great white heron include the Michigan record, a western Kentucky record, three Pymatuning reservoir Pennsylvania records, a couple central Tennessee records, a west-central Maryland record, and an *Oxford*, Maine record, just east of New Hampshire’s White Mountains. With many state bird records committees not reviewing subspecies and the possibility that at least some of these herons might be leucistic Great Blue Herons, the veracity of unreviewed

Great White Heron records is suspect.

A great white heron at Clear Springs, Florida in Jun to Jul 1960 was over 45 miles from salt water, a mile from the Alabama state line, and was considered the only Florida record west of the Appalachicola river as of 1960 (Imhof 1960). Rare in the northern half of Florida, single great white herons were at Port Orange, *Volusia* on 07 Dec 2013, St. Augustine, *St. Johns* on 14 to 31 Dec 2013, and Myakka River SP, *Sarasota*, on 10 to 23 Jan 2014 (Anderson and Brothers 2014). Single great white herons were in northern Florida at Paynes Prairie Preserve SP from 14 Dec 2014 to 15 Mar 2015 and at Sweetwater Wetlands Park, (both *Alachua*) on 10 Oct 2017 (Brothers 2015; Brothers 2016; eBird).

It is curious, even with the increase in the number of birders, that 72 % of the vagrant records of *A. h. occidentalis* for the United States have occurred since 1990. Down-grading the status of *A. h. occidentalis* to a subspecies since the mid-1950s would supposedly result in fewer records. If factual, the 11 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake record of a Great White Heron at *Ashtabula* is probably the sole Ohio record. As of 19 October 2017, after Hurricane Irma's passage, no great white herons were reported to eBird north of Florida. However, a Great White Heron was in *Susquehanna*, Pennsylvania from at least 23 Jul until 02 Oct 2017 and another was in *Sullivan*, Tennessee, beginning in Aug 2017 (eBird).

The Great White Heron was considered a species until the mid 1950s (Mitra and Fritz 2002; Lowery, Jr. G. H. 1955). Currently it is considered a color morph of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), though some authorities suggest it is a distinct species. Up to ten subspecies of the Great Blue Heron have been recognized by past researchers, based on differences in plumage color and morphology (Spendelow and Patton 1988, Oberholser 1912). Researchers currently have mostly agreed that Florida's Great White Heron (*A. h. occidentalis*), the subspecies most distinctive in color, and the Pacific Great Blue Heron (*A. h. fannini*) are distinct subspecies.

An aerial survey of Great White Herons in the vicinity of Florida Bay in Nov 1959 resulted in an estimate of 1,200 individual herons (Stevenson 1960). For the *occidentalis* group of the Great Blue Heron, it was estimated in the 1970s and 1980s that 450 to 600 breeding adults and 1200 to 1400 individuals winter in Florida Bay, with another 1,500 elsewhere in Florida. The *occidentalis* population of Florida Bay in the mid-1980s was estimated to be about 2,500 adults (Hancock and Kushlan 1984).

The *A. h. occidentalis* group was decimated by

hunting for food and plumes in the late 1800s, but had rebounded by the 1930s and continued to increase into the 1970s (Powell *et al.* 1989), when it was thought to be stable or increasing (Ogden 1978). By 1940 there was believed to be a Great White Heron population of a few hundred (Todd 1940). Increasing from only a few individual herons in the mid-1930s, the population increased to a stable population of between 800 to 900 birds in summer and 1,200 to 1,400 herons in winter by the 1960s. (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2003). However, during that period, fluctuations occurred due to hurricane-related mortality. After hurricane Irma in September of 2017, massive sea grass die-off was spotted in Florida Bay (Florida Audubon 2017). Sea grass beds are the major foraging areas of the Great White Heron. In Florida Bay, between 450 and 600 nests were documented annually from 1987 to 1990. From aerial surveys in the late 1980s, covering about half of the lower Keys, 74 to 241 active nests have been observed during the peak Dec breeding period. The Florida Bay birds are thought to comprise about 60% of the total Florida Keys population. Powell *et al.* (1989) reported that current populations likely are not as large as they were before the impacts of the plume trade. Spaulding (1994) found that *occidentalis* group herons that died from multiple chronic diseases had higher mercury levels than birds that died from more acute causes and speculated that mercury may be a contributing factor to population declines in southern Florida.

The Great White Heron, with a very small global distribution mostly restricted to Florida Bay and the Florida Keys, has undergone a substantial decline. This is probably due to decreasing fish availability, in turn tied to large-scale losses of sea grass beds (Avian Research and Conservation Institute). Since 2007, dispersal and survival of juveniles, seasonal movements and survival of adult herons have been tracked by satellite/GPS and VHF telemetry. Foraging efficiency is higher in the lower Keys than in Florida Bay based on effort and the sizes of captured prey. Nesting success in the Keys also exceeds that of Florida Bay. Reproductive performance was lower in upper Florida Bay, where sea grass beds are more degraded (Avian Research and Conservation Institute).

This author attempted to locate the 1938 Pymatuning Lake Great White Heron specimen, including contacting the Smithsonian Institute, the Carnegie Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, multiple university ornithological collections, multiple nature centers, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. This specimen

was originally at the Ford Island museum at Pymatuning (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Dr. Harry C. Oberholser's bird specimen collection was purchased by the Peabody Museum of Yale University (Aldrich 1968). However, the 1938 Pymatuning Lake Great White Heron specimen is currently not at the Peabody Museum. This specimen may have been at the now closed Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center near Linesville, Pennsylvania. Two knowledgeable northeastern Ohio birders told me they saw a Great White Heron specimen within the last twenty years at a nature center/museum near Pymatuning reservoir. If the specimen was at the Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center, it is anyone's guess what happened to it when the facility closed. The Pennsylvania Game Commission reportedly has a specimen that does not have a tag (Daniel Brauning, pers. comm.). The likelihood that the specimen is the 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake heron is anyone's guess. It is possible that it is one of the other two reported Great White Herons at Pymatuning Lake during 1938. Also, ornithological collection curators frequently used to trade specimens.

The title of this article states "A possible record of the Great White Heron at Ohio." While doing research for this article and in communicating with individuals while attempting to locate the 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake specimen, I have come to the conclusion that few things are "written in stone." Information in literature sometimes is later proven to be in error. Some literature states that there are accidental records of the Great White Heron for Newfoundland, Greenland, Hawaii, and the Azores. I have seen the literature that this statement is based on, and in fact, the literature is referring to records of *Ardea herodias*, not *A. h. occidentalis*. Also, there is a statement in (Bull 1964) that the Great White Heron that was collected on May 14, 1938 at Pymatuning Lake was "preserved at Carnegie". Communication with the Carnegie Museum's ornithological collection curator proved that the 14 May 1938 Pymatuning Lake heron specimen is not now, and never has been at that museum. The Oberholser 1939 article also proves that the specimen was not preserved at the Carnegie Museum. Also, eBird records sometimes have location markers that are inaccurate, with a marker in one state, but the true record location is actually at an adjoining state (Sloan and Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2015; Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., pers. comm.). The eBird Indiana "record" is an error, with the location marker being where the observer was, not where the heron was. Also, occasionally, eBird records get reviewed and prov-

en in error. There was a record in eBird of an Oklahoma Great White Heron. Upon investigation, the record was found not approved by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee, and subsequently deleted from eBird (Joe Grzybowski, chairman Oklahoma Bird Records Committee, pers. comm.)

Proving 100 % that a Great White Heron, *Ardea herodias occidentalis*, was seen in Ohio almost eighty years ago is nearly impossible.

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- John was the founder and first editor of The Ohio Cardinal. His home patch is **Richland** and the adjoining counties.*

AN EASTERN BLUEBIRD CUP NEST

By Jason Estep

Between 24 May and 02 Jun 2017 I was able to watch an Eastern Bluebird using a cup nest instead of a cavity or nest box. The nest, in **Franklin**, was built on top of a light fixture under the canopy roof of a fuel storage facility. The bird was difficult to see due to the height above the ground and the angles from which the nest was visible. During the observation period, most of my observations were of a bluebird sitting tight and deep in the nest. The bird's behavior indicates to me that it was most likely incubating eggs. On 02 Jun I finally was able to capture an image of the female Eastern Bluebird standing beside the nest. She stood there for a few minutes and then settled back into the nest to resume probable incubation duties. Overall, I felt that the bird was more skittish than those that nest in nest boxes so I reserved my observations to brief periods a few times a day.

Field Notes:

24 May

I am 100% certain today that a male Eastern Bluebird flew in and landed on the cup nest that is visible above the light fixture in the canopy of a fuel storage facility. It appeared to be working on the nest. I have observed both

male and female Eastern Bluebirds together in the vicinity of this nest, but this is the first time I have been able to visually confirm what I suspected. As to whether they are going to lay eggs in this nest, I cannot say. It is just very odd that they are even working it

26 May

There is an Eastern Bluebird sitting tight on this nest today. It was there when I came out at 7:20 a.m. and has not left the nest as far as I have seen. It is sitting tight and appears to be incubating eggs. Temp this morning around 60 degrees. Temp now is 67, but cool in the shade.

30 May

Saw an adult Bluebird sitting on the nest again today. Also saw one fly to the nest. It is warm enough today (79) that the nest has been empty a couple times. This was the first I had actually seen the female come off the nest. There is no doubt that this female Eastern Bluebird is occupying this nest. I have also seen the male go to it. I will try to get some photos tomorrow. Based on behavior, I believe she is incubating eggs.

31 May

Captured several images of the female East-



ern Bluebird sitting tight and deep in the nest. In the afternoon, I was able to get a couple of poor photos that showed the nest at eye level. It was possible to see that there was some fresh grass lining the inside of the nest. One photo showed what I believed to be a hint of blue deep in the nest. It was possibly an egg, but the photo was poor and I cannot say 100% for certain that it was an egg. The nest is about 25 feet off the ground and only a few feet below the canopy roof so this was a very challenging endeavor and one that I was not willing to attempt again.

01 Jun

The nest was not occupied at 6:50 a.m. The temp was 55F. I could see a bluebird hunting bugs on the asphalt nearby. The nest was occupied when I checked again at 7:20 a.m.

02 Jun

Took photos of the female Eastern Bluebird standing beside the nest. After watching her for a few minutes, she stepped into the nest and settled down into a posture that indicates she is incubating eggs.

03 to 25 Jun

[During this period] I was travelling and unable to observe the nest.

26 Jun

I found the nest unattended during a brief observation at 6:50 a.m.

26 to 30 Jun

I made a second, brief, undocumented check of the nest between [26 and 30 Jun]. Again the nest was unattended.

06 Jul

I made a longer 10 minute observation of the nest on 06 Jul from 6:45 to 6:55 a.m. I could hear an Eastern Bluebird singing, but the nest was unattended. I did not see either bird in the vicinity of the nest. I did not hear any chicks begging for food.

Based on these last three observations, I believe that the nest has probably failed.

Anecdotal note – The small woodlot directly behind this fuel storage facility was clear cut during the summer last year (2016). I wonder if this is where this pair had nested in the past and now that the woodlot was gone, they nested in the closest available location.

Jason and his wife Suzie are both avid birders who enjoy birding the US and internationally on vacation and in conjunction with mission trips. (Jason first sighted Suzie on a birding trip in Panama.) To date they have birded in 40 states and 10 foreign countries. Jason was one of the many who contributed data to the OBBA 2. He also volunteered for five years as a Bald Eagle nest monitor with the Ohio Department of Wildlife.



ROBIN vs SNAKE

By Arthur Foreman, Sr.

It was one hour before church service on a bright sunny morning on 18 Jun, when I saw an American Robin at the edge of a vacant lot next door to my house.

Usually when I see a Robin, it is making or had just finished rendering an earthworm or and insect helpless. On this particular occasion the kill took longer than usual. In fact, what I saw was not an earthworm, but something greenish and rather long.

Immediately, I ran into the house and secured my camera. Because the action was so fast and fierce, I had to start snapping quicker than usual.

When I reviewed the pictures, I was amazed at what I saw. This bird, which was just an ordinary Robin, was doing something extraordinary. It had killed a snake. Of course, like most birders, I thought I could have gotten better pictures, but one can only accept the results.

Never before had I ever seen a Robin kill a snake, but then there is a first time for everything. Whether this is a normal occurrence, I do not know. What I do know is Robins do kill snakes. How do I know? I have the proof.

The last picture shows the snake secure in the Robin's beak. Afterward, the Robin took flight with the snake.

Arthur Foreman Sr. hails from Warren, Trumbull, where he keeps eye on his yard's many visitors with his camera close by.

*Birds of North America Online lists references to four papers noting instances of an American Robin taking a snake. (Vanderhoff, Natasha, Peter Pyle, Michael A. Patten, Rex Sallabanks and Frances C. James. 2016. American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), version 2.0. In The Birds of North America (P. G. Rodewald, editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.462>. Retrieved 11 Oct 2017)*



FIELD NOTES

From Matt Anderson:

Today [18 Jun], I covered areas south of Swanton, portions of the Maumee SE, and the countryside of southeastern Fulton and northeastern Henry. The species list from these sections is almost always more mundane than other areas covered in the Oak Openings region. Not today. A largish bird feeding in a sizable lawn at 3261 Fulton County Road F caught my attention as I zipped by around 6:45am. I flipped the car into reverse and had to do a double take when I realized it was beautiful adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. It could hardly have been in a more unexpected location, feeding in a large lawn like so many others in the area. I watched and photographed it (with my cell phone) for 15-20 minutes, nervous the whole time that the homeowner would confront me for sitting in my car halfway down his long driveway. A Cooper's Hawk eventually dive-bombed the heron and chased it into the tree line on the west side of the property. Wow.

[08 Jul] The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was back again – same spot, feeding as it was on 18 June from 6:30 until 7:45 when it flew off to the back of the property.

From Ann and Dwight Chasar:

Cliff Swallow. Nesting Colonies along the Cuyahoga River in CVNP (*Cuyahoga* and *Summit*)

The first *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* (1982-1986) indicated the absence of breeding Cliff Swallows in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; the second OBBA (2006-2011) showed a general increase in breeding in Ohio but still absent in *Summit*. In 2008 Mary Anne Romito reported this species nesting under at least seven bridges that spanned the Rocky River valley in western *Cuyahoga*, thus documenting the first nesting of this swallow in the Cleveland Metroparks (*Cleveland Bird Calendar*, Vol 104, No 3). During the 21 May 2016 CVNP annual spring bird census, Duane Kurapka and his team reported Cliff Swallows flying around

the Hillside Road bridge over the Cuyahoga River in Valley View in southern *Cuyahoga*. A few days later we confirmed nesting at that bridge as well as under the Fitzwater Road bridge south of Hillside.

Searching the Ohiobirds Listserv archives (07 Jun 2017), we found that Bob Lane suggested that the population of these swallows seemed to be booming in Ohio. This prompted us to examine other bridges over the Cuyahoga in the CVNP for Cliff Swallow nesting. We found nest building and, where observable, nests under five bridges over the Cuyahoga River in the CVNP during Jun 2017: from north to south, Rockside, Hillside, Pleasant Valley, and Fitzwater roads, and the old Station Road bridge, now a foot bridge spanning the river from Brecksville in *Cuyahoga* to Sagamore Hills in *Summit*. We also looked for nesting at the first bridge north of Rockside Road (Warner/Brookpark roads) and bridges south of Station Road (Highland/Vaughn, Boston Mills, Route 303, and Bolianz roads), all in the CVNP and *Summit*, but found no presence of Cliff Swallows, perhaps leaving something to do next year?

From Elliot Tramer:

Cliff Swallow — 30 years ago this was a rare summer resident in the Toledo area, reliably nesting in only a few spots, including the old interurban bridge over the Maumee at Farnsworth MP. Now they have established colonies on virtually every bridge over the river in Lucas. On 13 Jul, over 200 were on the I-75 bridge, and at least 100 more on the Maumee-Perrysburg bridge 21 Jul.

From Carole Babyak:

White-breasted Nuthatch, 14 June, approx. 7:30pm — seven Nuthatches in crab apple tree. six young circling the branches & trunk following the adult. One young constantly went in and out of a knot hole in the tree. Then the adult flew to the back feeder, all the young followed, circling the feeder post making a soft nuthatch like call.

From Bob Roysce:

Louisiana Waterthrush — A pair of adults were already escorting three fully fledged youngsters in the Scioto Trail SF (Ross) on 02 June.

Dickcissel — widely noted in nearby pastures in northern *Madison* and NE *Fayette* in late May, I didn't find any actually within the Deer Creek WA until 08 Jun when ~20 were found. All were in Fayette and none were noted in similar DCWA fields in *Pickaway*. They were still singing on 31 Jul, but none have been heard on many subsequent visits in Aug.

From Renee Frederick:

I observed a late [Eastern Bluebird] nest on my property in Hocking. I will be recording observations in NestWatch.

The bluebirds lost their three eggs to House Wrens in mid Jul. I did not clean box for about a week, thinking it was too late for another attempt. I checked box two days after cleaning and found a new nest!

Some pertinent dates and observations:

- 7/2 — two eggs. Installed wren guard.
- 7/24 — observed wren and bluebird interaction. House Wren landed on top of box but did not enter due to wren guard. Bluebird able to chase away wren.
- 7/25 — three eggs.
- 8/8 — chicks hatched. No longer House Wren activity. Supplemental feeding of mealworms.
- 8/12 — removed wren guard.
- 8/16- installed Styrofoam to roof. Temperatures in high 80s.
- 8/21 — Last look. All good.
- 8/26 — adults in vicinity but did not observe feeding.
- 8/27 — observed at 11 am. No adults present. Checked nest and chicks gone.

This was the latest nest I have observed. I wanted this pair to have a chance and truly believe the wren guard was instrumental. The mealworms and Styrofoam were probably not necessary, but sure relieved my stress! Result — I believe successful nest with three fledged bluebirds. I will hopefully see the family return to the area after a week or two.

From Jeffrey A. Miller:

Blue Grosbeak — One male seen and heard through the summer season [in Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*], also one female seen on 30 Jul. The highlight for me was on 04 Jul when the male was sitting in the lawn just a few feet from the house. It then flew to a maple tree that I had planted in the lawn this spring.

From Leslie Sours:

[Regarding her count of 15 Virginia Rails at Darby Creek on 29 Jun] This is a lot of rails! All were along the Teal Trail. When I arrived, one juv. was on path with a juv. Sora. They flushed to the east. Most birds were on west side of path. I stood in one spot waiting for Carl and Karen to arrive. At one time I saw seven at once and heard two more. We very carefully walked the loop and did a count. The east side of the loop had a female with two young. A short distance away was a female with three young (later joined by the one that had flushed east, so four for her). Another was spotted flying over path ahead, again to the east. Two additional birds, probably males, were deeper in and singing. Another was on the east side of the path grunting. We passed "the gap" and heard another singing deeper in. Rounding the corner on the north side, an adult began squeaking so we stood for ten minutes. It squeaked and paced constantly until we moved on. We had one nice look. Further around on the west side, the same thing happened. Two more were heard deeper in, doing the "Ki-dik". Final count of 15 is conservative, because I believe that the two squeaking birds may have been females with young. There could be even more near the large pond in the southeast corner, but this is not easily accessible now.

From Craig Caldwell:

Matt Kappler discovered a Piping Plover at Nickel Plate Beach in Huron, *Erie*, on the afternoon of 29 Jul and called Jen Brumfield. Jen was far south leading a group from Cleveland Metroparks; I was a participant. We got there within an hour and found the bird still foraging along the busy beach. The bird appeared totally unconcerned as it wandered the beach among the 200 or so people there. It came to within 20 feet of us and others. The

bird had an aluminum band and multiple colored bands. Jen contacted Alice Van Zoeren of the Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team, who wrote back, "This plover hatched in 2015 on North Manitou Island in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, MI. He returned to South Manitou Island (also in Sleeping Bear Dunes) this summer for his first nesting attempt and fledged two chicks." (The OBRC has not evaluated the report.)

From Scott Pendleton:

[From three miles of travel near Cadiz, *Harrison*, on 04 Jul] Lots of changes since last week! The Bobolink numbers dropped from 30s to one, Eastern Meadowlarks 80% drop in four days. Whereas the swallows are now flocking together and feeding over the grasslands. The Grasshopper Sparrows are beginning to creche, areas where singing birds heard now mostly silent. They have moved to their summer molting grounds and large numbers are seen in groups. They are mostly confined to a 3/4 mile section of mine road. Counts were arrived at counting number of birds in groups and estimating percentages of Savannahs vs Grasshoppers. Other species are actual counts. At least half of these birds are hatch year. It appears they are creching two weeks earlier than in previous years. As a caveat, I have not visited this area previously during July, but in my normal route creching has occurred later.

YEARS AGO

By Craig Caldwell

10 years ago, the Summer 2007 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 30 No. 4 (Bill Whan, Editor) contained these items:

The state's first modern nesting record of Mississippi Kite was recorded.

The season "finally marked the arrival in Ohio *en masse*" of Eurasian Collared-Dove, noting them at five locations and including at least four pairs.

"Thorough follow-up has yet to be done for brief sightings" of Common Ravens in an unnamed south-eastern county.

25 years ago, the Summer 1992 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (Rob Harlan, Editor) contained these items:

A report of a visit to West Sister Island, **Lucas**, noted about 100 Double-crested Cormorant nests, the first successful ones in the state since about 1880.

The date of discovery of the state's first Golden-crowned Kinglet nest was corrected to 1989; the site in **Columbiana** had a nest annually since then and a second was found in 1992.

35 years ago, the Summer 1982 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Ed Pierce, Editor) contained these items:

"The cool wet weather of May continued through most of June"; Jul was warm and exceptionally dry.

The first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas began data collection.

The state's only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest was found in Rocky River, **Cuyahoga**, and one bird was seen in **Montgomery**.

A very late Horned Lark nest was discovered at the Oxford, **Butler**, airport.

Eight Bald Eagles fledged, five Ospreys were seen, a Loggerhead Shrike pair nested in **Madison**, and a Bachman's Sparrow visited **Monroe**.

50 years ago, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* of Summer 1967, Vol. 62, No. 3 (Donald Newman, Editor), included these items:

"As early as July 8, a fair number and variety of shorebirds had arrived in the region."

Bald Eagles, "Two mature white-headed birds flying close together", were reported at Painesville, **Lake**, on 04 Jun.

Three locations held a total of at least six Sedge Wrens (then called Short-billed Marsh Wren).

Three Franklin's Gulls, two Whip-poor-wills, and one Northern Mockingbird were reported.

A pair of American Wigeons nested in Cleveland's Wade Park.

100 years ago, The *Cleveland Bird Calendar* did not publish an issue.

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The Counties of Ohio



While attempting to photograph a Great Blue Heron along the Magee causeway on 11 Jun, Valerie Giovannucci was thrilled to discover this King Rail and her adorable babies! Valerie got to see the entire rail family together, an unforgettable experience.

Instructions for Contributors

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

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

Craig Caldwell, 1270 W. Melrose Dr., Westlake, OH 44145

Cardinal@ohiobirds.org

Send digital photo files or links to Christopher Collins:

chris.collins@ohiobirds.org

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) - 21 March

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) - 21 June

Summer (Jun, Jul) - 21 August

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) - 21 December

Back cover:

*Christopher Collins was thankful for the privilege of visiting a private residence in **Hancock** to see this White-winged Dove on 11 Jul.*

THE OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society
PO Box 2432
Westerville, OH 43086

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