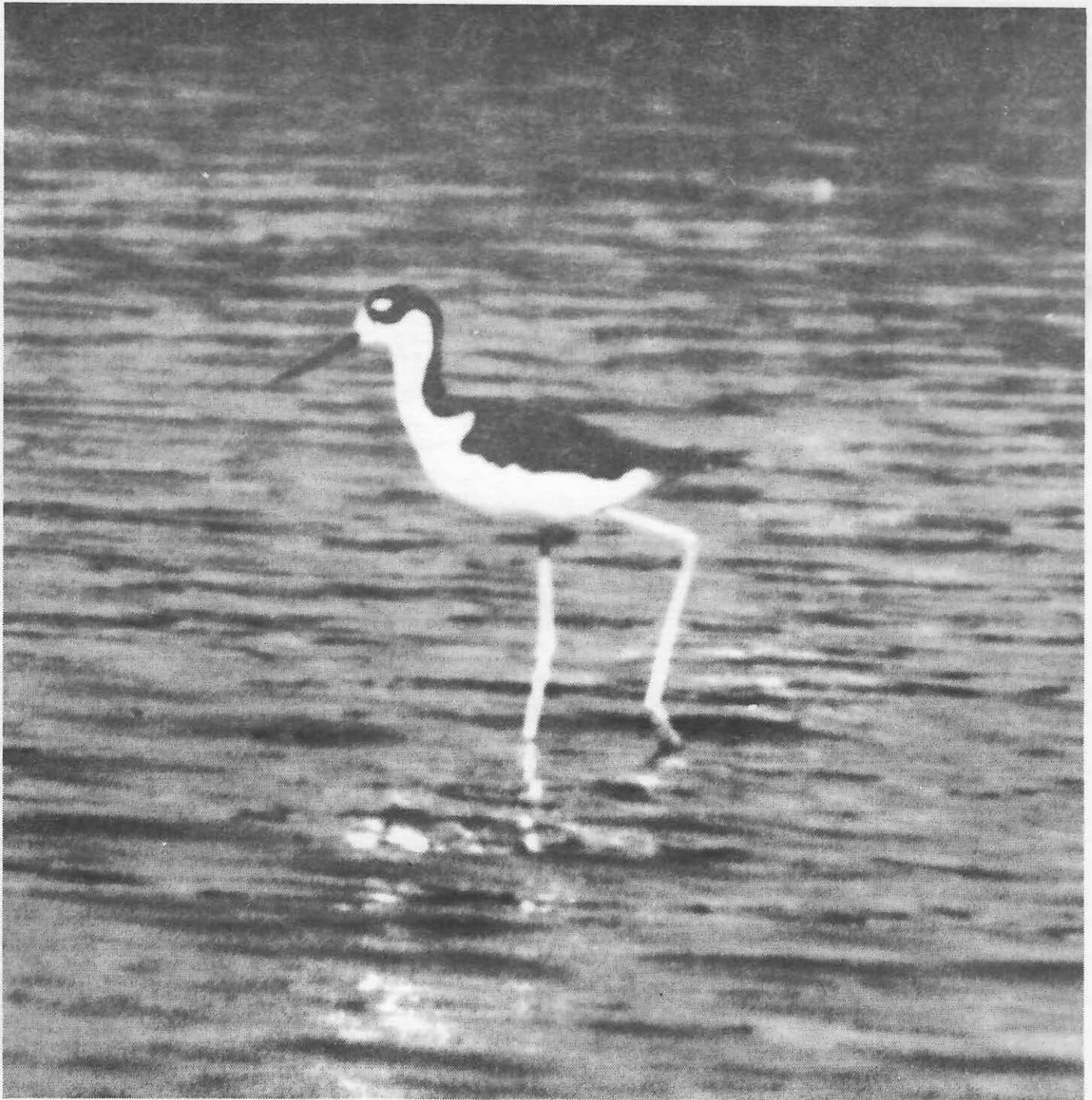


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*The Ohio*

# CARDINAL



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

Send seasonal reports according to the following schedule:

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

It is important that the reports be sent by the above dates if the journal is to be a timely publication. Late reports run the risk of not being accepted.

Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented and forms will be provided upon request.

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Cover: Black-necked Stilt, Crane Creek State Park. July 19 - August 10, 1989. Photograph by John Pogacnik. reproduction by Larry Rosche.

## THE SUMMER SEASON 1989

1 JUNE - 31 JULY

Matt Anderson and Tom Kemp

Summer 1989 offered a stark contrast to last summer's record-breaking heat and drought. Temperatures tended much more toward normal while precipitation was well above normal for most sections of the state.

As usual, there were mixed reports of declines or increases in particular species from various sections of the state. Whether any of the declines was at least partially attributable to last year's drought is difficult to discern.

All told, it appears that summer 1989 was a fairly routine breeding season. There were plenty of good sightings and nesting discoveries, but there were very few highly unusual occurrences. The return appearance of a Black-necked stilt topped the list while the Sabine's gull continued along the lakeshore through the end of the period. The following paragraphs summarize the highlights of the season.

A couple of Common loons were on the Findlay Reservoir July 19. This is one of the better spots in Ohio to look for out-of-season loons. American bitterns continue to be exceedingly scarce during the summer. The only one reported was at Cedar Point NWR on July 9. Least bitterns are faring a bit better - seven reports were received. Surprisingly, no reports were received of either Little Blue or Tricolored herons. One reporter noted an increase in Green-backed herons in northeast Ohio. One can only hope this indicates a reversal of a trend which has seen a decline in this species in Ohio.

Both Tundra and Mute swans were located this summer. A Tundra swan was reported at Killdeer Plains on June 12 and Mute swans were noted at Medusa Marsh and the Sandusky River. Numerous species of diving ducks were observed on unexpectedly late dates. Particularly noteworthy were the Canvasback on June 11 at Pickerington Pond, the adult male White-winged scoter present in downtown Toledo on the Maumee River from May 29 to June 3, the Red-breasted merganser on June 17 and Lesser scaup on July 1, both at Lorain. Additionally, Ring-necked ducks were tallied from three locales in June and at least three family groups of Hooded mergansers were noted.

What's to be made of the Osprey reports from Ashland County on June 22 and Spring Valley on June 29? This species was also seen at three localities in July. The Bald eagle in Dayton on July 11 was a pleasant surprise. Sharp-shinned hawks, which are rare in Ohio during the summer, were reported from four sites.

Twenty-one species of shorebirds were reported during the summer period. This is probably about average for the period as late spring and early fall migrants pump up the list. Outstanding was the Black-necked stilt at Magee Marsh in late July, the second Ohio stilt this year. Other noteworthy sightings include an Avocet at Buck Creek SP on July 15, a Willet at Winous Point on July 10, and Western and Baird's sandpipers at Newton Gravel Pits in Hamilton County in July.

A Laughing gull seen in Oregon on May 31 was not included in our spring report. Lorain was visited by a single Little gull in early July as was Mentor Headlands. The Sabine's gull which made birding news during both winter and spring continued to delight birders throughout the summer. The first summer plumaged gull was present along the lakeshore from Lorain to Mentor Headlands. Two Black tern nests with nine young were found at Winous Point on July 10.

Both cuckoo species continued in fairly low numbers, although there were a few more reports than in recent years. The only Barn owl reports were from Hancock County during the second half of June and Mosquito Creek on July 13. A concentration of 3000 Purple martins in Dayton on July 27 was impressive as were the 1000 Bank swallows at Winous Point. The 80 pairs of Cliff swallows in Lakeville and 125 pairs at Mount Hope, both in Holmes County, were by far the largest groups noted. Brown creepers were reported from three sites including three nesting pairs at Mosquito Lake. The only Red-breasted nuthatch report was from the Oak Openings on July 15.

Winter wrens were found during June and early July in three spots in northeast Ohio. Six Sedge wrens at Cj Brown Reservoir during July represented the maximum for that irregularly occurring species, but they were also reported from four other sites. There is a consensus in northwest Ohio at least that Brown thrasher numbers continue to plummet. They are becoming difficult to find. The Wood County Loggerhead shrikes were back again this year. Bell's vireo returned to Buck Creek SP for the only report of this species. A Philadelphia vireo in Parma on June 5 was late.

The only Golden-winged warbler found was at Oak Openings on June 30. The male that was present there for several years could not be found regularly this summer. Magnolia warblers were noted from five localities in June including an adult and juvenile in Geauga County on June 24. Interesting indeed was the singing male Yellow-rumped warbler at Oak Openings on June 20. The Blackpoll warbler singing in Huron on July 21 was surprising. Canada warblers were located in three places including four at Stebbins Gulch on July 6, one of which was an adult carrying food.

The Toledo area had its first record of breeding Summer tanagers in 28 years when a nest was discovered in the Oak Openings in June. Blue grosbeaks were found at four sites including a singing male in the Oak Openings from June 29 to July 15. This bird was just a few miles from the field where a pair nested in 1988. Dickcissels were scarce during the summer; only three reports were received. Henslow's sparrows were also found in three areas. A singing Fox sparrow in June in Summit County was a real surprise. A late White-throated sparrow (June 6) and White-crowned sparrow (June 1) were seen in Hancock and Cuyahoga Counties, respectively. Ten Dark-eyed juncos at Stebbins Gulch on July 6 and six on the same date at Little Mountain were noteworthy. Western meadowlarks were discovered at Killdeer Plains and in Hardin and Henry Counties. Finally, two Yellow-headed blackbird reports were topped by the four pairs at Winous Point on July 10.

In the following species accounts, unusual species are underlined and an asterisk following a sighting indicates a documentation accepted by the Records Committee. Commonly used abbreviations are ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count), CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area), CPNWR (Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Count), GLSM (Grand Lake St. Mary's), and MHSBP (Mentor Headlands State Beach Park). The monthly counts at ONWR and CPNWR are compiled by Ed Pierce and Joe Komorowski, respectively.

#### OBSERVERS

MATT ANDERSON (MA), BRAD ANDRES (BA), CAROLE BABYAK (CB), BRUCE & CATHY BACHELLER (BCB), BARNEY BAKER (BBk), DOROTHEA BARKER (DB), LYNN BARNHART (LB), ELAINE BARNUM (EB), TOM BARTLETT (TB), JOE BENS (JB), BETTY BERRY (BB), CHARLIE BERRY (CBc), NAOMI BROWN (NBc), PAUL BROWN (PB), NANCY BRUNDAGE (NB), DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC), HARRY CONNOR (HC), ROBERT CUTTER (RCu), DAVID DISTER (DD), VIC PAZIO (VP), ANDY FONDRE (AF), LARRY GARA (LG), BETTY HARDESTY (BH), ROB HARLAN (RH), RAY HANNIKMAN (RHc), JOHN & VICKI HERMAN (JVH), SCOTT HITES (SH), DAVID HOCHADEL (DH), GARY INWALD (GI), NED KELLER (NK), TOM KEMP (TK), JOE KOMOROWSKI (JK), LEN KOPKA (LK), ROY KROLL (RK), GALEN LENHERT (GL), TOM LEPAGE (TL), TONY LEUKERING (TLu), TIM LITTLE (TLi), BARBARA LUND (BL), CHARLOTTE MATHENA (CM), JEFF MAUGANS (JM), STEVE MCKEE (SM), JOANNE OLMAN (JO), DOUG OVERACKER (DO), ED & CHERYL PIERCE (ECP), WORTH RANDLE (WR), CHARLIE SAUNDERS (CS), ANNA SCARBROUGH (AS), JOHN SHRADER (JS), SANDY SHRADER (SS), BRUCE STEHLING (BS), JAY STENGER (JSt), DAVE STYER (DS), BOB THOBABEN (BT), ERDINE THOMPSON (ETH), ELLIOT TRAMER (ET), SUE UTTERBACK (SU), PAUL WHARTON (PWh), ART WISEMAN (AW).

## Loons through Herons

COMMON LOON-7/5 L. Pippin (Portage Co.) (ECP), 7/19 Findlay Res. (2) (BH). PIED-BILLED GREBE-6/4-7/7 Gilmore Ponds (Butler Co.) (4) (m.ob.), 6/11 CPNWR (4), 6/28 Grand River WA (Trumbull Co.) (RH), 7/2 ONWR (4 broods), 7/10 Winous Pt. (5 nests) (RK), 7/11 Oberlin Res. (ETH). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT-6/3 Knox Lake (6) (JVH), 9/7 Meander Res. (10-15) (NB, DH). AMERICAN BITTERN-7/9 CPNWR. LEAST BITTERN-6/3 Springville Marsh (Seneca Co.) (2) (TB), 6/8 Spencer Lk. (Medina Co.) (ETH), 6/11 CPNWR, 7/7 Spring Valley (4) (LG), 7/10 Hancock Co. (BH), 7/21 CVNRA (2) (LK), reported from Gilmore Ponds (June/July) (BT, CH, SU). GREAT BLUE HERON-7/2 ONWR (116), 7/8 Ottawa/Erle Cos. (240) (VF), 7/9 CPNWR (170). GREAT EGRET-7/2 ONWR (128), 7/8 Ottawa/Erle Cos. (300) (VF), 7/9 CPNWR (80). SNOWY EGRET-6/23-7/2 ONWR (RH, ECP). CATTLE EGRET-6/3 Erle Co. (5) (MA), 6/4-11 Gilmore Ponds (2) (NK, JSt, PW), 6/7 Oregon (4) (TB), 6/23 Erle Co. (15) (RH), 7/10 Sandusky (BA). GREEN-BACKED HERON-Increasing in NE (DAC), 7/7 Spring Valley (10) (LG), 7/22 Clark Co. (8) (DO). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-6/10 Big Island WA (BA), 6/16 Gilmore Ponds (20) (m.ob.), 7/2 ONWR (90), 7/9 CPNWR (9), 7/28 Winton Woods (Hamilton Co.) (HC). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON-6/11 Madison Co. (BA), 6/21 S. Chagrin Res. (Cuyahoga Co.) (2) (RH), reported at Glen Helen (BCB).

## Swans through Ducks

TUNDRA SWAN-6/12 Killdeer Plains (BA). MUTE SWAN-7/8-17 Medusa Marsh (2) (VF, ETH), 4 pairs on Sandusky R. (future problem?) (TB). CANADA GOOSE-Increasing statewide; becoming a nuisance? WOOD DUCK-7/29 Hancock Co. (37) (BH). GREEN-WINGED TEAL-6/4 ONWR (12), 6/11 CPNWR, 6/12 Killdeer Plains (pair) (BA), 7/7 Huron (3) (VF), 7/19 Spring Valley (PW, JB, TLI). AM. BLACK DUCK-6/4 ONWR (4), 6/11 CPNWR (25), 7/17 Medusa Marsh (4) (ETH). MALLARD-6/11 CPNWR (478). BLUE-WINGED TEAL-7/2 ONWR (81). NORTHERN SHOVELER-6/3 Gilmore Ponds (DS, JO, DD), 6/4 ONWR (10), 6/10 Big Island WA (BA), 7/2 ONWR. GADWALL-6/4 ONWR (5), 6/11 CPNWR (4), 6/23-7/8 Medusa Marsh (adult, 5 young) (RH, VF). AMERICAN WIGEON-6/4 ONWR (3), 6/18 Castalia (TB). REDHEAD-6/4 ONWR (4), 7/8 Medusa Marsh (VF). CANVASBACK-6/11 Pickerington Pond (BA). RING-NECKED DUCK-6/4-11 Gilmore Ponds (NK, JSt), 6/11 Ladue (Geauga Co.) (AF), 6/23 Medusa Marsh (pair) (RH). LESSER SCAUP-7/1 Lorain (RH). WHITE-WINGED SCOTER-Late: 6/3 Toledo (MA). HOODED MERGANSER-6/3 Mosquito Lk. (female, young) (DH), 6/3-16 Gilmore Ponds (m.ob.), 6/4 ONWR (16), 6/25 Brecksville (Cuyahoga Co.) (RH), 7/2 ONWR (female, young), 7/13 CVNRA (adult & young) (DAC). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER-6/4 ONWR, 6/17 Lorain (RH). RUDDY DUCK-6/4-16 Gilmore Ponds (m.ob.), 6/4 ONWR (4), 6/11 CPNWR (2), 6/23 ONWR (5) (RH), 7/2 ONWR (4), 7/8 Medusa Marsh (2 males) (VF).

## Vultures through Hawks

BLACK VULTURE-6/13 Shawnee Lookout (Hamilton Co.) (m.ob.), 6/20 Hocking SF (BA). OSPREY-6/22 Ashland Co. (ETH), 6/29 Spring Valley (2) (GI, BT) [late or early?-Ed.], 7/5 L. Rockwell (ECP), 7/13 Waterville (ET), 7/15 Washington Co. (2) (LB), 7/29 Spring Valley (2) (LG). BALD EAGLE-6/11 CPNWR, 6/19 Lorain Co. (imm.) (RH), 7/11 Dayton (ad.) (BB). NORTHERN HARRIER-6/4 Caesar Creek Lk. (TLI), 6/28 Caesar Creek Lk. (BT), 7/19 Mosquito Lk. (adults, 2 imm.) (DH), 7/29 Mahoning Co. (NB), Huffman Prairie in mid-June (DN). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK-6/20 Oak Openings (ET), 7/6 Akron (LK), 7/15 Hancock Co. (BH), 7/18 Lorain Co. (ETH). COOPER'S HAWK-10 reports. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK-six nests reported, 8 other reports. BROAD-WINGED HAWK-9 reports.

## Grouse through Rails

RING-NECKED PHEASANT-declining in Toledo area (ET). RUFFED GROUSE-6/24 CVNRA (LK), 6/28 Grand River WA (family) (RH). WILD TURKEY-6/7 Rocking Hills (LG). N. BOBWHITE-7 reports, increasing in Washington Co. (LB), increasing in SW Ohio (NK). KING RAIL-6/10 Big Island (BA), 7/10 Winous Pt. (BA), 7/17 Grand River WA (BA). VIRGINIA RAIL-6/27 Springville Marsh (4 young) (BA), 7/7 Spring Valley (LG). SORA-6/7 Spencer Lk. (ETH), 6/10 CVNRA (RH), 7/10 Winous Pt. (4) (BA),

7/25 Hancock Co. (BH), Spring Valley (July) (BT). COMMON MOORHEN-7/7 Spring Valley (2) (LG) (only report). AMERICAN COOT-6/4 Gilmore Ponds (100) (NK, JSt), 7/2 ONWRC (153).

### Shorebirds

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER-7/10 Winous Pt. (BA). SEMIPALMATED PLOVER-6/1 Gordon Park (8) (RH), 6/4 ONWRC (4). KILLDEER-7/2 ONWRC (39), 7/11 Maumee River (44) (TK), 7/31 Oak Openings (42) (MA). BLACK-NECKED STILT-7/19-31 Crane Creek (JP, m.ob., ph.) [about the 7th state record]. AMERICAN AVOCET-7/15 Buck Creek SP (DO). GREATER YELLOWLEGS-6/4 ONWRC (3), 6/30 Sheldon Marsh (BA), 7/10 Winous Pt. (200) (BA), 7/16 Baldwin Lk. (RH), 7/18 Hancock Co. (BH). LESSER YELLOWLEGS-7/2 ONWRC, 7/6 Huron (TL), 7/8 Maumee River (17) (TK), 7/10 Winous Pt. (100) (BA), 7/16 Baldwin Lk. (6) (RH). SOLITARY SANDPIPER-7/5 CVNRA (DAC), 7/16 Baldwin Lk. (RH), 7/28 Winton Woods (3) (HC), 7/31 Oak Openings (11) (MA). WILLET-7/10 Winous Pt. (BA). SPOTTED SANDPIPER-7/2 ONWRC (10), 7/8 Maumee River (18) (TK), 7/9 CPWRC (14), 7/29 Pindlay Res. (15) (BH). UPLAND SANDPIPER-7/8 Clark Co. (DO), reported from Middletown and Dayton Airports (TLI). RUDDY TURNSTONE-6/3 Medusa Marsh (3) (MA), 6/26 Metzger Marsh (BA). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER-6/1 Gordon Pk. (5) (RH), 6/3 Medusa Marsh (25) (MA), 7/11 Maumee River (TK), 7/28 L. Cowan (LG). WESTERN SANDPIPER-7/23 Newton Gravel Pits (Hamilton Co.) (WR). LEAST SANDPIPER-6/30 Baldwin Lk. (RH), 7/6 Huron (15) (TL), 7/11 Maumee River (9) (TK), 7/28 Winton Woods (HC). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER-6/12 Killdeer Plains (BA). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER-7/30 Newton (WR). PECTORAL SANDPIPER-7/18 Baldwin Lk. (RH), 7/28 Winton Woods (HC). DUNLIN-6/1 Gordon Pk. (RH). SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER-7/6 Huron (19) (TL). COMMON SNIBE-7/2 ONWRC, 7/18 Hancock Co. (BH).

### Gulls and Terns

LAUGHING GULL-5/31 Oregon (TB). LITTLE GULL-7/5-8 Lorain (2nd yr.) (VF), 7/20-23 MHSBP (Imm.) (TL). BONAPARTE'S GULL-6/9 Lorain (8) (ETH), 7/8 Maumee River (TK). SABINE'S GULL-throughout June and July in Lorain (m.ob.); last reported 7/22 MHSBP (RHa). CASPIAN TERN-6/23 Huron (3) (RH, TL), 7/16 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/17 Pymatuning Lk. (BA). COMMON TERN-6/10 Oak Openings (MA), 7/2 ONWRC (nests, but no young produced), 7/3 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/9 CPWRC (7). FORSTER'S TERN-6/23 Huron (30), 6/28 Lorain (50) (ETH), 7/9 CPWRC. BLACK TERN-6/16 Gilmore Ponds (2) (PW, JB, TLI), 7/10 Winous Pt. (2 nests, 9 birds) (RK), 7/23 Lorain (3) (ETH).

### Cuckoos through Woodpeckers

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO-6/1 Geauga Co. (AF), 6/10 Gilmore Ponds (PW), 6/11 CVNRA (RH), 6/20 Oak Openings (ET), 6/24 Lake Co. (AF), 7/17 Magee Marsh (ET). YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO-7/2 ONWRC (10), 12+ reports. BARN OWL-6/12-27 Hancock Co. (BH), 7/13 Mosquito Creek (BA). COMMON NIGHTHAWK-listed as declining in the Cincinnati area (HC), declining in NE (LK). CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW-6/28 Marietta (LB). WHIP-POOR-WILL-6/7 Hocking Hills (5), Oak Openings in June (MA, TK). BELTED KINGFISHER-7/22 Clark Co. (25) (DO). RED-HEADED WOODPECKER-11 reports. HAIRY WOODPECKER-increasing in Summit Co. (DAC).

### Flycatchers through Creepers

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE-6/10-11 CVNRA (23) (RH). ACADIAN FLYCATCHER-6/10-11 CVNRA (17) (RH). ALDER FLYCATCHER-6/1 Hamden Orchard WA (Gauga Co.) (AF), 6/3 Springville Marsh (TB), 6/5 L. Isaac (Cuyahoga Co.) (RH), 6/10-25 CVNRA (RH), 6/11 Ladue (AF), 7/13 Mosquito Creek WA (BA). LEAST FLYCATCHER-6/11 Mosquito Lk. (DH), 6/30 S. Bass Is. (BA), 7/7-8 CVNRA (JM, LK), 7/15 Waterville (ET). EASTERN KINGBIRD-7/2 ONWRC (30). HORNED LARK-6/11 Fulton Co. (80) (TK), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (51) (TK). PURPLE MARTIN-down in Washington Co. (LB), 7/27 Dayton (3000+) (SM). TREE SWALLOW-6/13 Hancock Co. (57) (BH), 7/2 ONWRC (154), 7/9 CPWRC (80). N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW-7/22 Clark Co. (40) (DO). BANK SWALLOW-7/10 Winous Point (1000) (BA). CLIFF SWALLOW-6/3 Lakeville (Holmes Co.) (80 prs.) (JVH), 6/19 Mt. Hope (Holmes Co.) (125 prs.) (JVH), 7/23 Buck Creek SP (DO).

BARN SWALLOW-7/9 CPNRC (72), 7/11 Henry Co. (51) (TK), 7/29 Hancock Co. (46) (BH). RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH-7/15 Oak Openings (MA). BROWN CREEPER-6/10 Mitchell Forest (Hamilton Co.) (CS), 7/6 Little Mt. (Lake Co.) (3) (RH, AF), 3 successful nests at Mosquito Lk. (DH).

### Virens through Vireos

HOUSE WREN-7/2 ONWRC (17), 7/18 Hancock Co. (35) (BH), 7/22 Clark Co. (25) (DO). WINTER WREN-6/17 CVNRA (JM), 6/21 N. Chagrin Res. (4) (RH), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch (Geauga Co.) (RH, AF, ECP), 7/6 Little Mt. (2) (ECP). MARSH WREN-6/10 Big Island WA (BA), 6/11 CPNRC (5), 6/25 CVNRA (3) (RH), 7/7 Spring Valley (7) (LG). SEDGE WREN-6/18 Yellow Springs (DO), CJ Brown Res. In July (6) (m.ob.), 7/10 Winous Pt. (RK), 7/25 Carriage Hill Res. (several) (DN), 7/26 Huffman Prairie (several) (DN). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER-6/10-11 CVNRA (10) (RH), 6/25 Glen Helen (8) (DO), very common at Mosquito Lk. (DH). EASTERN BLUEBIRD-72 young in Hancock Co. (BH). VEERY-6/1 Hamden Orchard WA (A.F), 6/17 CVNRA (JM), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH), 6/27 Irwin Prairie (4) (BA). HERMIT THRUSH-7/7 Hocking Hills (5) (LG), 7/8 Mohican SP (10) (SM). WOOD THRUSH-6/10-11 CVNRA (12) (RH). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD-Increasing in Greene Co. (DO). BROWN THRASHER-continued decrease in NW Ohio (TK, ET), 7/1 CVNRA (DAC), 13 reports. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE-6/19 Wood Co. (2) (RH). WHITE-EYED VIREO-6/13 Hancock Co. (BH), 6/14 CVNRA (LK). BELL'S VIREO-6/11-7/9 Buck Creek SP (DO). SOLITARY VIREO-6/4 Oak Openings (MA), 6/7 Hocking Hills (4) (LG), 6/17 CVNRA (JM), 6/21 N. Chagrin Res. (5) (RH), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch (6) (RH, AF, ECP), 7/6 Little Mt. (10) (PH, AF, ECP). YELLOW-THROATED VIREO-7/8 CVNRA (common) (JM). WARBLING VIREO-6/10-11 CVNRA (9) (RH), 7/22 Clark Co. (12) (DO). PHILADELPHIA VIREO-Late: 6/6 Parma Hts. (RH). RED-EYED VIREO-6/10-11 CVNRA (57) (RH), 7/1 Adams Co. (15) (DO).

### Warblers

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER-increasing in NE (LK). GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER-6/30 Oak Openings (TB) (only report). BREWSTER'S WARBLER-6/17 CVNRA (LK). NORTHERN PARULA-6/7 Hocking Hills (many) (LG), 6/11 L. Miami River (5) (TLI), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH). YELLOW WARBLER-6/11 CPNRC (11), 6/24 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO), 7/2 ONWRC (46). CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER-6/4 Oak Openings (MA), 6/18 CVNRA (LK), 6/23 Geauga Co. (AF), 6/30 S. Bass Is. (BA), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch/Little Mt. (3) (AF, ECP). MAGNOLIA WARBLER-6/2 CVNRA (JM), 6/4 Oak Openings (MA), 6/8 Hocking Hills (WR, JB), 6/22 Mohican SP (2 males) (JVH), 6/24 Geauga Co. (ad., juv.) (AF). YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER-Late: 6/4 ONWRC, 6/20 Oak Openings (in full song) (ET). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER-6/7 Hocking Hills (several) (LG), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH), 7/6 Little Mt. (15) (RH, AF, ECP), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch (8) (RH, AF, ECP). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER-Late: 6/2 Oak Openings (2) (TK). YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER-6/11 Brecksville (RH), 6/11 L. Miami River (6) (TLI). PINE WARBLER-6/4 Oak Openings (MA), 6/7 Hocking Hills (5) (LG), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH), 6/25 Brecksville (1st Cuyahoga Co. nesting record) (RH). PRAIRIE WARBLER-6/4 Oak Openings (MA), 6/23 Geauga Co. (AF), 6/24 CVNRA (JM, DAC), 7/1 Adams Co. (20) (DO). BLACKPOLL WARBLER-7/21 Huron (singing male) (TL). CERULEAN WARBLER-6/10-11 CVNRA (12) (RH). BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER-6/7 Hocking Hills (LG), 6/11 L. Miami River (2) (TLI), 6/18 Zaleski SP (BA), 7/18 L. Isaac (RH), 7/22 Clark Co. (DO). AMERICAN REDSTART-6/7 Hocking Hills (LG), 6/10-11 CVNRA (10) (RH), 6/18 L. Miami River (LG), 6/27 Hancock Co. (DB, AS), 3 nests at Mosquito Lk. (DH). PROTHONOTARY WARBLER-6/11 L. Miami River (10) (TLI), 6/22 CVNRA (DAC), 3 nests at Mosquito Lk. (DH). WORM-EATING WARBLER-6/7 Hocking Hills (LG), 6/25 L. Miami River (LG). LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH-numbers lower in Northeast (ECP). MOURNING WARBLER-6/10 Oak Openings (TK), 6/23 Geauga Co. (AF). HOODED WARBLER-6/10-11 CVNRA (24) (RH). CANADA WARBLER-6/7 Hocking Hills (3) (LG), 6/22 Mohican SP (JVH), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch (4, including adult carrying food) (RH, AF, ECP). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT-7/1 Adams Co. (10) (DO).

## Tanagers through Orioles

SUMMER TANAGER-6/20 Oak Openings (nest) (MA, ET). SCARLET TANAGER-6/10-11 CVNRA (13) (RH). ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK-6/10-11 CVNRA (9) (RH). BLUE GROSBEAK-6/4-13 Mt. Nebo (Hamilton Co.) (m.ob.), 6/29-7/15 Oak Openings (MA\*, TK), 7/1 Adams Co. (DO), 7/5-15 Hamilton Co. (PW). INDIGO BUNTING-6/10-11 CVNRA (25) (RH), 6/11 Fulton Co. (30), 7/1 Adams Co. (25) (DO), 7/2 ONWRC (46), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (34) (TK). DICKCISSEL-7/1 Butler Co. (NK, JS), 7/3 Buck Creek SP (DO), 7/11 Putnam Co. (9) (TK). VESPER SPARROW-6/11 Fulton Co. (37) (TK), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (42) (TK). LARK SPARROW-through period in Oak Openings (m.ob.). SAVANNAH SPARROW-6/11 Fulton Co. (28) (TK), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (19) (TK). GRASSHOPPER SPARROW-very common in w. Washington Co. (LB), 6/1 Oak Openings (4) (MA), 6/27-7/16 Strongsville (5) (RH), 7/2 Buck Creek SP (6) (DO), 7/11 Putnam Co. (10) (TK). HENSLow'S SPARROW-6/3-7/22 Washington Co. (LB), 7/3 Richland Co. (2) (JVH), 7/3-23 Buck Creek SP (3) (DO). FOX SPARROW-6/3-26 Firestone MP (Summit Co.) (ECP, LR). SONG SPARROW-6/10-11 CVNRA (43) (RH), 6/11 Fulton Co. (63), 6/18 Greene Co. (45) (DO), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (81) (TK). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW-Late: 6/6 Hancock Co. (m.ob.). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW-Late: 6/1 Cuyahoga Co. (RH). DARK-EYED JUNCO-6/27 Geauga Co. (AP), 7/6 Stebbins Gulch (10) (RH, AP, ECP), 7/6 Little Mountain (6) (RH, ECP). BOBOLINK-7/9 CPNWR (15), 7/11 Henry/Putnam Cos. (13) (TK), 7/23 Buck Creek SP (10) (DO). RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD-6/11 CPNWR (300). EASTERN MEADOWLARK-6/27 Hancock Co. (38) (BH), 7/16 Buck Creek SP (20) (DO). WESTERN MEADOWLARK-6/11 Hardin Co. (TB), 6/12 Killdeer Plains (2) (BA), 7/11 Henry Co. (TK). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD-6/11 CPNWR, 7/10 Winous Pt. (4 prs.) (RK). ORCHARD ORIOLE-7/2 ONWRC (6), increasing in NE and Toledo area (RH, LK, ET, ECP). NORTHERN ORIOLE-6/6 Hancock Co. (10) (BH), listed as "way down" in the Wilmington area (LG). PURPLE FINCH-6/24 CVNRA (pair) (DAC, LK), 6/25 Geauga Co. (AP), 7/6 Little Mt. (AP, ECP).



Male Blue Grosbeak. Oak Openings, Lucas County, June 29 - July 15, 1989. Photograph by Tom Anderson.

REPORT OF THE OHIO CARDINAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
SPRING AND SUMMER, 1989

The committee received 19 rare occurrence reports for spring. Twelve were accepted and were duly reported in the spring issue. One report, of a possible hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull, was referred back to the editor for publication as a separate article, since neither putative parent species is unusual in the state. Four of the remaining six reports could not be accepted based on the information submitted. We understand there may be further information available on the other two reports (Cinnamon Teal and Purple Gallinule) and are awaiting that information before rendering a decision. The reports not accepted are:

Mississippi Kite, May 4, Ottawa County. Although the field marks seem to fit this species, a majority of the committee felt more details should have been reported if the bird had truly been observed for 15 minutes and within 80-100 feet.

Pomarine Jaeger, March 18, ONWR. The description does not rule out any number of species of immature gulls.

Blue Grosbeak, May 16, Lima. Could be, but the description lacks details and is therefore not conclusive.

Smith's Longspur (8), May 5, Lucas County. The description does not rule out Horned Larks (in particular, beak shape is not mentioned). Were these fly-bys really within 20 feet?

Only one report was received for summer (Blue Grosbeak in the Oak Openings). It was accepted, and is reported in detail elsewhere in this issue.

P.S.-To avoid confusion, it is important that observers use the correct anatomical terms. Outer tail feathers are not "primaries"; that term refers only to the flight feathers beyond the bend (wrist) of the wing. Technically, tail feathers are "rectrices".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may have noticed that your address labels now include an expiration date for your subscription to The Ohio Cardinal. That date shows the last issue you will receive under your current subscription. You can help us by renewing promptly when your subscription expires. Thanks.

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The Ohio Cardinal is planning on running a feature on Ohio state bird lists. We would like to publish your state list totals in a future issue of The Ohio Cardinal. If you would like to participate in such an endeavor, send us a complete list of the birds you have observed in Ohio (a checklist would do). You need not be a subscriber to submit your list. Deadline for submissions is 31 January 1990.

Dave Henderson, wildlife artist, died August 5, 1989. He was 76 years old and a native of Columbus, Ohio. Dave helped The Ohio Cardinal get its start in 1978 by painting our first cover. He also provided illustrations for Jim Fry's nature column in the Columbus Dispatch.

Jim writes in the Dispatch that Dave had been a bird watcher for decades and his favorite birding area was the Ross-Pickaway County Line Road where each winter he looked for his favorite species, the short-eared owl.

Dave's artistry took him to 47 states in search of subjects to sketch. He submitted paintings for fish and duck stamps to numerous states. His work can be seen on the trail-side signs and self-guiding trail pamphlets of the Columbus Metro Parks.

We express our regrets.

# The CARDINAL



## SHORT NOTES

Dr. E. Bruce McLean of John Carroll University reports that he learned from the Ohio Division of Wildlife that there were 14 known Barn owl nests in Ohio in 1989. This is down from 17 in 1988. Fifty-three young were banded in 1989. Some nesting sites that had been used for the last 20 or 30 years were abandoned in 1989. Dr. McLean believes this may be an effect of the drought of 1988 on this owl's prey species. If so, perhaps these old sites will be used again in 1990. Only time will tell.

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Two name changes affecting bird species occurring in Ohio are included in the A.O.U.'s most recent supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds. Common Barn-Owl is shortened to Barn Owl and Water Pipit becomes American Pipit as a result of a taxonomic change within that species group. For other changes, see Auk 106: 532-538.

### MORE NOTES ON THE SPRING STILT

On Tuesday, May 23, 1989, I had decided to go birding at ONWR, mainly to check on shorebirds. While going through the second woods on the public trail (walking clockwise), I saw a few warblers including a Connecticut which was a life bird for me. Leaving the woods and following the dike heading north toward the eagle's nest, I stopped to look at a group of Dunlin feeding on the mud flats west of the dike. While watching them, I was startled by a very loud "kyip, kyip" directly overhead. Looking up, I was amazed to see a Black-necked stilt directly above me! The stilt landed on the west side of the dike no more than thirty yards away. For the next twenty minutes (10:30 to 10:50 a.m.), I was treated to a show as the stilt alternately fed, preened, rested, and watched me. Unfortunately, time constraints forced me to leave without anyone else coming along to share this rare Ohio sighting, but I found out later that the stilt had been seen by others. At the start of the day, I never would have guessed that I would see a lifer and have it overshadowed only fifteen minutes later.---Mike Crofts

During spring migration, I am in the habit of checking a flooded field of Baycreek Road, near Erie Marsh, Michigan, for shorebirds. This area has produced some good shorebirding over the years for Toledo birders.

On May 25th, 1989, after the evening meal, I decided to check this area. Carol, a friend, said she would tag along. This area is about ten minutes from my home. Upon arriving, I looked the area over with my binoculars and noticed no large or unusual shorebirds. Many Semipalmated sandpipers and Dunlins were present. Since I had plenty of time, I set up my Questar and looked the peeps over, hoping to spot something different. While looking at the peeps, this large black and white shorebird walked into the field of view. Instantly, I knew it was a Black-necked stilt. The same instant I had a slight sinking feeling. I have seen this bird many times in Florida. Why couldn't this be Ohio? I didn't have it on my Ohio list. Better luck next time.

Carol was in my van reading the Enquirer. I said, "Stop reading and have a look at this great bird." She had a look and agreed it was a great bird. Quickly, I was back at my scope looking at the stilt and saw it take off heading east. About sixty seconds elapsed from the first sighting to takeoff. I was glad it headed east, a possible opportunity to see it in Ohio.---John Santos

## THE CLEVELAND AREA BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Rob Harlan

The study of local breeding bird populations is becoming a subject of increasing importance to many people interested in environmental issues. Concerns such as tropical deforestation, urban expansion, habitat modification, and climate variation will all have an impact on our nesting species. Most of us are aware of avian population changes in a general way, but comparatively little statistical information exists to verify or contradict our assumptions. In an attempt to help rectify this situation, a cooperative effort to gather data concerning the breeding birds of the Cleveland Area was initiated in the summer of 1989.

Ornithologically speaking, the Cleveland Area is often described as ". . . an area inclusive of the following northern Ohio counties: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit. The region encompasses 2,938 square miles and five major watersheds: the Black, Chagrin, Cuyahoga, Grand and Rocky Rivers. Geologically it consists of three distinct land formations: the lake plain, quite narrow east of the Cuyahoga River but broader to the west; the glaciated plateau with rolling hills, ravines and river valleys to the east and south; and the till plain or central lowland to the southwest. Although the region is heavily urbanized, there remains a wide range of biotic communities, from cultivated fields on the till plains to the extensive tracts of woodland along the rivers in the plateau." (Rosche, 1989).

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey (CABBS) is patterned after the well-known U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey. (Robbins, et, al., 1986). The only major difference between the two is that the CABBS routes are 12 1/2 miles long, one-half the distance of the 25 mile federal surveys.

A brief description of survey procedures follows. A total of 12 routes were run in the seven county Cleveland Area over pre-plotted roadside routes. An attempt was made to plot each route through areas of productive but representative habitat throughout the region. Where possible, roads with light vehicular traffic were chosen. Each route was surveyed once, under favorable weather conditions, on any day from early- to mid-June. Starting time was to be one-half hour before sunrise. The routes were completed in an average of 2 hours, 31 minutes. On each survey, participants stopped at approximate one-half mile intervals along the routes and counted birds for a three minute period at each stop. Ten routes were conducted so that every bird seen or heard within 1/4 mile of the car was noted on prepared tally sheets. On the other two routes, only species, not individuals, were recorded at each stop. Only data from the 10 routes in which every individual was recorded is included in the statistics that follow. A total of 6431 individuals were encountered on these 10 routes, representing 96 different species. An additional four species (Blue-winged teal, American coot, Yellow-billed cuckoo, and Grasshopper sparrow) were recorded on the other two routes, situated in Lorain and Medina Counties. Table 1 pinpoints highs, lows, and averages for species and individuals recorded on the 10 routes under scrutiny. Table 3 lists the species recorded in order of abundance and also notes the number of individuals of each species encountered. Table 2 breaks down the findings into groups of similar species for comparison.

**TABLE 1**  
**High, Low, and Averages**

Highest species count--  
 Lake Rockwell Route (NW Portage Co.) . . . . . 73 sp.  
 Lowest species count--  
 Avon Route (NW Cuyahoga Co., NE Lorain Co.) . . . . . 40 sp.  
 Average number of species per route. . . . . 55.8 sp.

Highest individual count--  
 Lake Rockwell Route . . . . . 121 ind.  
 Lowest individual count--  
 Mill Stream Run Route (SW Cuyahoga Co.) . . . . . 326 ind.  
 Average number of individuals per route . . . . . 638.1 ind.

Four southern routes (Portage, Summit, and Medina Cos.) --  
 Averaged 65.3 species/route; 902 individuals/route  
 Six northern routes (Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, and Geauga Cos.) --  
 Averaged 49.5 species/route; 462 individuals/route

Four routes west of the Cuyahoga River --  
 Averaged 54.0 species/route; 535 individuals/route  
 Six routes east of the Cuyahoga River --  
 Averaged 57.0 species/route; 707 individuals/route

24 species were recorded on all 10 routes  
 32 species were recorded on 9 or 10 routes  
 11 species were recorded on only 1 route  
 26 species were recorded on only 1 or 2 routes

**TABLE 2**  
**Breakdown by Species Groupings**  
**Based on 6431 Individuals Recorded**

<u>Species Group</u>	<u># Ind.</u>	<u>% of Tot.</u>
Blackbirds & Orioles (7 sp.)	1240	19.3%
Rn. Pheasant, R. Dove, E. Starling, H. Finch, H. Sparrow	1083	16.8%
Finches & Sparrows (12 sp.)	1054	16.4%
Catbird, Thrasher, & Thrushes	535	8.3%
Vireos & Warblers (17 sp.)	473	7.4%
Bc. Chickadee, T. Titmouse, Wb. Nuthatch, & Wrens (5 sp.)	341	5.3%
Hérons, Waterfowl, & Gulls (6 sp.)	331	5.1%
Swallows & Swift (7 sp.)	284	4.4%
Flycatchers (7 sp.)	167	2.6%
Woodpeckers (6 sp.)	64	1.0%
Hawks, Am. Kestrel, & T. Vulture (5 sp.)	10	0.2%
Others (13 sp.)	<u>849</u>	<u>13.2%</u>
	6431	100.0%

**TABLE 3**  
Species and Individuals Recorded, in Order of Abundance

1. Red-winged Blackbird	736*	48. Acadian Flycatcher	18
2. European Starling	556*	Scarlet Tanager	18
3. American Robin	380*	Savannah Sparrow	18
4. House Sparrow	304*	51. N. Rough-winged Swallow	17
5. American Cow	295*	Blue-winged Warbler	17
6. Northern Cardinal	287*	53. Great Blue Heron	15
7. Common Grackle	282*	Rock Dove	15
8. Song Sparrow	250*	55. Wood Duck	14
9. Mourning Dove	229*	56. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13
10. House Finch	205*	Veery	13
11. Canada Goose	196	58. American Redstart	11
12. Common Yellowthroat	135*	59. Northern Flicker	10
13. Tufted Titmouse	125*	Eastern Kingbird	10
Indigo Bunting	125*	White-brstd. Nuthatch	10
15. Cedar Waxwing	120*	Brown Thrasher	10
American Goldfinch	120*	63. Eastern Phoebe	9
17. House Wren	116*	Cerulean Warbler	9
18. Blue Jay	108*	65. Northern Bobwhite	8
19. Red-eyed Vireo	104*	Hairy Woodpecker	8
20. Yellow Warbler	103	Eastern Bluebird	8
21. Chipping Sparrow	93*	Orchard Oriole	8
22. Gray Catbird	89*	69. Green-backed Heron	6
23. Black-capped Chickadee	85	Belted Kingfisher	6
24. Chimney Swift	80*	Alder Flycatcher	6
25. Brown-headed Cowbird	79*	72. Carolina Wren	5
26. Herring Gull	74	Vesper Sparrow	5
27. Barn Swallow	73	Purple Finch	5
Field Sparrow	73*	75. Horned Lark	4
29. Bank Swallow	67	Blk.-thtd. Grn. Warbler	4
30. Eastern Meadowlark	62	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
31. Eastern Wood-Pewee	48	78. Turkey Vulture	3
32. Willow Flycatcher	46	Red-tailed Hawk	3
33. Tree Swallow	45	Ring-necked Pheasant	3
34. Northern Oriole	44*	Ovenbird	3
35. Killdeer	42	82. American Kestrel	2
36. Wood Thrush	35	Spotted Sandpiper	2
37. Great Crested Flycatcher	30	Black-billed Cuckoo	2
Hooded Warbler	30	Ruby-thtd. Hummingbird	2
39. Bobolink	29	Pileated Woodpecker	2
40. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	27	Red-headed Woodpecker	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	27	88. Cooper's Hawk	1
42. Mallard	26	Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Swamp Sparrow	26	Cliff Swallow	1
44. Rufous-sided Towhee	25	Purple Martin	1
45. Downy Woodpecker	22	White-eyed Vireo	1
46. Warbling Vireo	21	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
47. Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
		Yellow-throated Warbler	1
		Mourning Warbler	1

\*--Denotes species found on all 10 routes

Some interesting finds for the Cleveland Area include Am. coot in Medina County, Cliff swallow in Portage and Lorain Counties, Yellow-throated warbler in Cuyahoga County, and Mourning warbler in Portage County. Brown thrasher and White-eyed vireo, two species which have elicited comments concerning their apparent local declines, did seem to be present in low numbers. Thrashers were found on only three routes, all in the southern part of the region, while only one White-eyed vireo was recorded in approximately 125 miles of driving along the various 10 routes. As recently as 1987, the White-eyed vireo was a fairly common nester in portions of the Cleveland Area. Cuckoos also made a poor showing. While most species were well represented, several groups of species, namely herons, waterfowl, hawks, and owls, were not adequately censused by this method. Also, a large proportion of individuals of certain species, such as Herring gull, Great Blue heron, and Turkey vulture, were most likely visitors and non-breeders rather than local nesters. All in all, though, most results should lend themselves nicely to future comparison.

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey is intended as an ongoing program, ideally with all routes run on an annual basis. This will hopefully generate a set of results that can be compared over a period of years. These comparisons may signal true avian population changes on a local level, and thus help us to become more aware of how well our nesting species are faring in a changing environment.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to all the following, who, in addition to the author, participated in this survey: Vic Fazio, Anders & Joyce Fjeldstat, Andy Fondrk & Robert McCullough, J. P. Harlan, William & Nancy Klamm, Tom LePage, and Larry Rosche.

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-----7072 Parma Park Blvd.  
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## GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Carol Tveekrem

The Greater Akron Audubon Society has annually since 1978 conducted a summer bird count. The count is organized in a manner similar to the Christmas Bird Count and uses many of the same observers. However, the area covered is different. The summer count boundaries are the Summit County lines. (However, that part of the county north of Route 303 is not covered.) At the inception of the count, we considered using the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Bird Count territory and doing the count in one day. However, we decided to use the county boundary and to conduct the count over a four consecutive day period for three reasons: much of the area within the CBC circle has become urban/suburban sprawl omitting some of the best habitat which lies either just south or north of the circle; choosing one day often means doing a count in less than optimum weather; and using a four day Friday through Monday period allows the birders to choose both the time for them and the best weather. Those who wish to bird more than one day may do so, as long as the territory is not duplicated.

Summit County provides a great diversity of habitat: hemlock-yellow birch woods, beech-maple bottomlands, dry oak-hickory woods, marshes, swamps and a shallow alkaline pond with an adjoining marsh and mudflat area. Our species count of 120, plus a hybrid, is our third highest in twelve years. We had 127 in 1988 and 122 in 1985. Most of the unusual birds are generally straggling migrants or southern overshoots. A few, like Brown creeper (third year), Winter wren (second year), Hermit thrush (twice, but not this year), Alder flycatcher (also not this year) and Least bittern have nested in the area. Although Black-crowned night-herons have been seen regularly on the Portage Lakes (southern Summit County) since 1985, a nest has yet to found. The same is true of the Black-throated green warbler, which has been seen rather regularly in small numbers.

New species to the count this year were Ruddy duck, Mute swan, and Fox sparrow. No nests or young of these species were seen. Captive Mute swans are found on several local lakes, but the two reported were free-flying birds, rather wary of people. The Ruddy duck was seen also last year (both male and female), but not during the count period. The Fox sparrow, apparently a singing male which had delayed its northward migration, was not seen after June 26th, perhaps because it stopped singing. We missed the Red-headed woodpecker for the first time this year. Another common bird missed was the Great horned owl, sometimes hard to find in June. It was a poor season for cuckoos. Only one Black-billed and no Yellow-billed cuckoos were found.

Over the years the total numbers of birds vary directly with the total number of party hours, but the total number of species generally remains about the same. The most numerous bird this year was the Starling, followed closely by House sparrow, Red-winged blackbird, American robin, Mallard, Common grackle, Mourning dove, Song sparrow, Canada goose and House finch. The top five have been the same species (not always in the same order) every year until this year when Mallard edged out Common grackle. Mallards were not even in the top ten until 1986, House Finches not until 1988, and Canada goose not until this year. Our state bird dropped from the top ten list for the first time. Numbers were lower than usual for all swallows, and several observers noted the lack of young birds. A dally rain here through most of May and June kept flying insect populations low.

This type of bird count does not give accurate density. There is very little urban area coverage. Our best coverage is near water and in parks (any well known "birdy" spots). Small woodland species are generally undercounted, while large, open country or aquatic species may occasionally be counted more than once. American crows, for example, do not out number Black-capped chickadees or Blue jays in the county, although almost as many or more are reported. However, we should note that eastern Summit County did have huge aggregations of American crows this summer.

We would like to compare the results of our bird counts with other parts of the state. Do other areas have the diversity of species that we enjoy? Please contact me if you are interested (621 Surfside Drive, Akron, OH 44319). The results of our 1978, 1979 and 1980 counts are reported

in The Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 3, No. 2, and the results of our 1981 and 1982 counts are reported in The Ohio Cardinal, Vol. 4, No. 2, Vol. 5, No. 2 (joint issue).

1989: June 16-19; approximately 135.3 party hours; 29 participants in seventeen parties; 60-85 deg. F. throughout, light rain showers on June 16th, otherwise dry throughout the period with no exceptionally strong winds; 120 species, 1 hybrid and 11,044 individuals.

-----621 Surside Drive  
Akron, OH 44319

3 Pied-billed Grebe	192 American Crow
2 American Bittern	141 Black-capped Chickadee
2 Least Bittern	116 Tufted Titmouse
32 Great Blue Heron	54 White-breasted Nuthatch
24 Green-backed Heron	1 Brown Creeper
1 Black-crowned Night-Heron	12 Carolina Wren
2 Mute Swan	113 House Wren
353 Canada Goose	1 Winter Wren
26 Wood Duck	25 Marsh Wren
15 Am. Black Duck	4 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
25 Blue-winged Teal	22 Eastern Bluebird
619 Mallard	12 Veery
1 Redhead	61 Wood Thrush
5 Ruddy Duck	785 American Robin
40 Turkey Vulture	141 Gray Catbird
2 Sharp-shinned Hawk	5 Brown Thrasher
3 Cooper's Hawk	65 Cedar Waxwing
8 Red-shouldered Hawk	1095 European Starling
4 Broad-winged Hawk	5 White-eyed Vireo
21 Red-tailed Hawk	4 Solitary Vireo
7 American Kestrel	9 Yellow-throated Vireo
7 Ring-necked Pheasant	43 Warbling Vireo
7 Northern Bobwhite	85 Red-eyed Vireo
5 Virginia Rail	71 Blue-winged Warbler
4 Sora	1 Brewster's Warbler*
7 Common Moorhen	1 Parula Warbler
20 American Coot	209 Yellow Warbler
112 Killdeer	1 Chestnut-sided Warbler
8 Spotted Sandpiper	3 Black-throated Green Warbler
2 American Woodcock	1 Prairie Warbler
17 Ring-billed Gull	5 Cerulean Warbler
2 Herring Gull	5 American Redstart
137 Rock Dove	9 Ovenbird
364 Mourning Dove	2 Louisiana Waterthrush
1 Black-billed Cuckoo	154 Common Yellowthroat
3 Eastern Screech-Owl	28 Hooded Warbler
3 Barred Owl	2 Yellow-breasted Chat
11 Common Nighthawk	24 Scarlet Tanager
4 Whip-poor-will	265 Northern Cardinal
140 Chimney Swift	39 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
16 Ruby-throated Hummingbird	78 Indigo Bunting
30 Belted Kingfisher	61 Rufous-sided Towhee
28 Red-bellied Woodpecker	110 Chipping Sparrow
41 Downy Woodpecker	111 Field Sparrow
15 Hairy Woodpecker	15 Savannah Sparrow
54 Northern Flicker	1 Grasshopper Sparrow
2 Pileated Woodpecker	1 Fox Sparrow
57 Eastern Wood-Pewee	362 Song Sparrow
19 Acadian Flycatcher	54 Swamp Sparrow
42 Willow Flycatcher	33 Bobolink
8 Least Flycatcher	854 Red-winged Blackbird
14 Eastern Phoebe	23 Eastern Meadowlark
33 Great Crested Flycatcher	594 Common Grackle
32 Eastern Kingbird	149 Brown-headed Cowbird
8 Horned Lark	5 Orchard Oriole
27 Purple Martin	65 Northern Oriole
145 Tree Swallow	5 Purple Finch
52 N. Rough-winged Swallow	294 House Finch
22 Bank Swallow	223 American Goldfinch
190 Barn Swallow	1086 House Sparrow
205 Blue Jay	

# Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

Jay Stenger

Killdeer Plains is a tremendous birding area, well worth a visit by the birder willing to travel a little further afield. This state owned area covers 8,632 acres of what once was a 30,000 acre wet prairie and marsh. The waxy and poorly drained soils here made farming difficult, and early attempts produced poor yields, enabling the state to acquire and manage the area for wildlife.

The two predominant habitats, open grassland and a 1,500 acre marsh, contribute the most to the ornithological interests. Other habitats include a 285 acre impoundment, second growth, woods and cropland. All the birds representative of Northern Ohio can be found here. In addition to the common birds of marsh and open country, regular summer residents here include Bobolink, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Vesper, and Savannah sparrows, Ring-necked pheasant, Bobwhite, Upland sandpiper, Woodcock, Dickcissel, Marsh and Sedge wrens, American bittern, Sora, four duck species, Red-shouldered hawk, and more rarely, Northern harrier. Killdeer Plains is one of the better places in Ohio to find wintering Horned larks, Snow buntings, Laplands longspurs and raptors. American kestrels, Accipiters, Red-tailed hawks, Northern harriers, and Short-eared Owls can all be common. Bald eagles and Snowy owls make occasional appearances. This is also one of the best places in Ohio to find wintering Long-eared owls. Look for evergreen "Islands" in the middle of open expanses of grasslands to find their roosting sites. Long-eared owls have also nested here. But remember human intrusion can be the cause of a failed nesting attempt. Remember to observe quietly from a reasonable distance and to make your visits brief. Large numbers of migrating waterfowl, waterbirds and shorebirds use the area in addition to many songbirds and raptors. In short, it is a great area to visit any time of the year, but is particularly good March to early June and September to November. The area is hunted in fall and early winter.

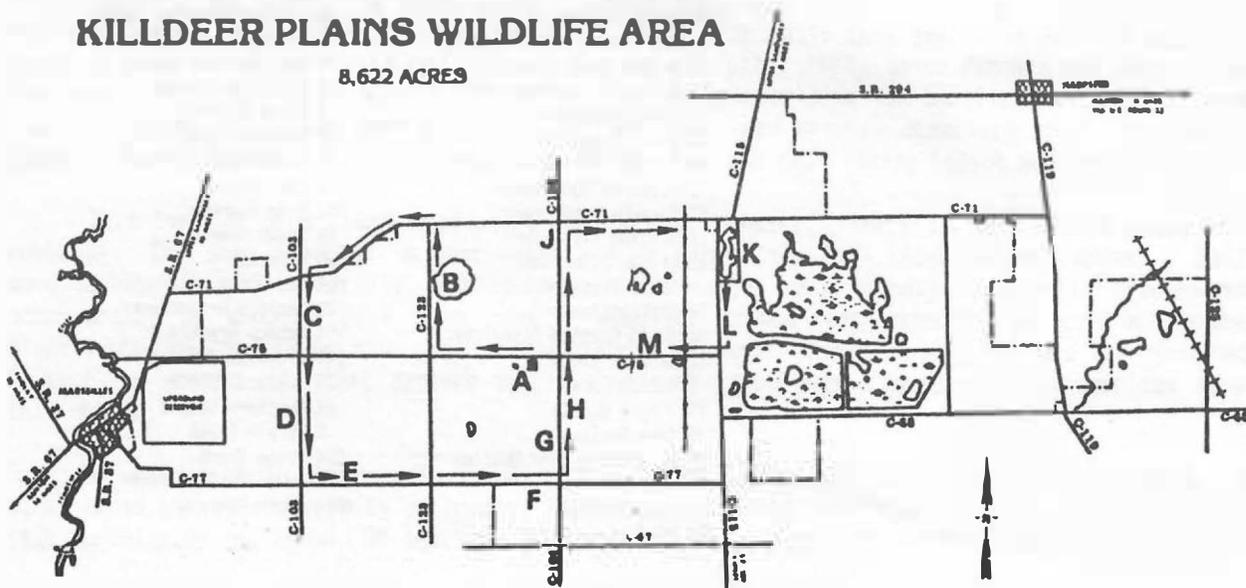
The gravel country roads that criss-cross the area make exploring easy, and the entire area is for the most part accessible. A fine self-guided tour brochure is available at the headquarters located on the grounds.

Killdeer Plains is located about 37 miles east of Lima or 43 miles northeast of Wapakoneta in southern Wyandot county. The area is bounded on the west by Ohio 67, just outside of Marseilles, and south of Ohio 294. Headquarters is about 3 miles east of Ohio 67 on county road C-75.

-----9761 Winton Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45321

## KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA

8,622 ACRES



## A PRESUMED HERRING X GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL HYBRID

Vic Fazio

While censusing waterfowl at the Avon power plant on March 19, 1989, my attention was drawn to a large gull in the water not more than 60 meters directly in front of me from shore. The bird remained on the water, working over a large fish, during the entire observation, gradually approaching to within 45 meters. Observations of plumage and structural characters were made at this time with a KOWA 40x77 mm spotting scope. The sun, occasionally occluded by high altitude clouds, was at my back. Wave conditions were comparatively calm and did not obstruct my view.

My immediate impression was of a Great Black-backed gull so large was the bill and head with a broadly sloping forehead characteristic of the species. However, just as quickly I noted the mantle color as far too light for a Great Black-backed gull. Having only a few minutes before discovered two adult Lesser Black-backed gulls on the ice 100 meters away, I thought perhaps I had found a third. Yet the head was massive, even so for a Herring gull. Further comparison of the mantles of this bird and the Lesser Black-backed led me to determine that the former's held a shade slightly lighter than the Lesser Black-backed gull. There was never any question in my mind that this shade was much darker than any of the 100 adult Herring gulls within 50 meters of this bird. Even so I wanted to further rule out Herring gull, and again looked closely at the bill, and overall size. Unfortunately, no Herring gull was ever immediately next to the bird in question, but many Red-breasted mergansers were, as they were also next to many a Herring gull. A comparison of ratios suggested to me that the best approximation of the size of this bird was at the uppermost extreme for Herring gull, although it also seemed to sit taller in the water, at rest. Wholly incongruous with being a Herring gull, however, was that indeed the bill and head were almost a perfect match for a Great Black-backed gull, adult and immatures of which were sitting on the ice 100 meters distant. The prominent gonydeal process, thickness of bill and long sloping forehead, I have never seen to this degree in a Herring gull. When the bird dipped forward, while working over the fish, the upper portion of the legs could be viewed. These were a very pale pink, flesh tones. The overall impression was of an adult dark-mantled gull intermediate in plumage and size between Herring gull and Great Black-backed gull, except for the bill and head, leaving the bird with a most odd 'big-headed' appearance. The white plumage was clean, no streaking, and the iris was straw-yellow.

### Similar Species:

Lesser Black-backed gull - This species was discounted because of leg color, mantle color, overall size and proportions did not match. Furthermore, a hybrid with this species seems unlikely in view of the enormity of some features, especially the bill.

Herring gull- While it may be plausible to view this bird as an especially dark, and remarkably huge individual I would guess even such an individual would not have a head and bill structurally matching that of Great Black-backed gull.

Great Black-backed gull - Overall size may have been close to an especially small Great Black-backed Gull but I would find it impossible to resolve the mantle shading which was not merely gray as opposed to black but paler than a Lesser Black-backed gull.

Western and Slaty-backed Gulls - From reading Foxall (1979) and the various identification guides I have to agree that the mantle is too light for a Western but is very close to a Slaty-backed gull. The darker legs and streaking about the head in the latter would seem to be inconsistent with the above description.

## Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull Hybrid

This hybrid has been described from several observations from "Ottawa of the lower Great Lakes" (Foxall, 1979). The mantle is described as neutral gray and to my astonishment, I read "the mantle color is somewhat paler than that of *L.f.graellsii*" (Foxall, 1979). In further reading of Andrie (1972, 1973), Jehl (1960), and Godfrey (1973) I note these comparisons. Jehl notes a mantle "extremely similar to that of California gull while Godfrey states "averaging perceptibly darker than that of the California gull". The Avon Lake bird fits Godfrey's description. Also Godfrey's Kingston specimen has a white head and neck, a closer match to the Avon Lake bird, and closer to that of a Great Black-backed gull than a Herring gull, whereas Andrie (1972) describes a bird closer to a Herring gull. The leg color is described as "whitish or very pale flesh" (Foxall, 1979), not inconsistent with the Avon Lake bird. Unfortunately I could make no observations concerning the pattern of mirrors in the wing but it is my belief that all other observations fit with a description of a Herring X Great Black-backed gull hybrid and cannot be ascribed to any similarly appearing species.

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Shaker Hts., OH 44120

## Thoughts on Potential New State Records

Tom Kemp

I am in the enviable position, as editor of this journal, of putting in print thoughts and ideas I may have from time to time. One such idea I have been mulling over was, "What will be the next new bird for the state of Ohio?" (This is hardly an original idea - see Birding, Vol. 20:353-363).

The most recent additions to Ohio's bird list (which is roughly 390 species) are Brambling and Northern wheatear, wanderers from Eurasia and Greenland (probably), respectively, and Gray flycatcher, a western vagrant. Although it is impossible to predict Ohio's next new bird species, it's certainly fun to try. The following list is based on the fact that most of these species have shown a pattern of dispersal that has brought them to other midwestern states and therefore are considered the most likely additions to Ohio's state list. I ranked the birds I thought most likely to occur from 1-10. The top two or three choices were fairly easy. The rest of the top ten was more difficult; several honorable mentions could easily have made the top ten. What is your favorite candidate?

- 1) Ross' Gull - It is only a matter of time before some diligent (and fortunate!) observer finds this species along the Lake Erie shore. When he does, I hope he calls me. The birds are apparently annual at Churchill, Manitoba, and have occurred in Illinois and Minnesota. Our next new state bird.
- 2) Mountain Bluebird - Most states/province surrounding Ohio have records of this western vagrant. This is a good candidate for our next state record. Look for it in late fall/early winter.
- 3) Fish Crow - I like the idea of this species occurring along the Ohio River. It is expanding northward up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and into Pennsylvania and could reach Ohio in the near future.
- 4) Ferruginous Hawk - There are at least two slight records for this Great Plains species in Ohio. A good photograph/specimen is needed for inclusion on the state list.
- 5) Golden-crowned Sparrow - There is a recent (December 1988) sight record of this species from the Wooster area. It is a frequent vagrant to the eastern United States and Canada and will eventually be documented from Ohio.
- 6) Say's Phoebe - A frequent vagrant to the midwest. A bonafide top ten bird.
- 7) Three-toed Woodpecker - There is a 1981 sight record for this species from eastern Ohio. We need a good irruption of this species plus a big burn somewhere in Ashtabula County.
- 8) Chestnut-collared Longspur - One Ohio sight record. It nests in western Minnesota so should occur here.
- 9) Ash-throated Flycatcher - There are many records of this southwestern vagrant for the eastern United States.
- 10) Garganey - Look for this Eurasian vagrant in the western Lake Erie marshes in spring. There are many records for the midwest for this species. Besides, I don't have it on my life list, so I would love to see it.

The following species earned honorable mention as potential new state records. They are listed in taxonomic order.

Yellow-billed loon - It has occurred in Minnesota and Illinois and the watchful observer may soon find it in Ohio.

Brown Pelican - There are two or three sight records for the state, but no photograph or specimen.

Black-shouldered Kite - Increasing in the south and west. Should be found in Ohio. A 1973 sight record.

Snowy Plover - There are several midwest records for this species. Could be a top ten bird.

Mountain Plover - A recent sight record lacked photographic evidence. Shorebirds do wander.

Little Stint - A meticulous description for this species was submitted in 1988 for Ohio. Photographs/specimens are needed.

Slaty-backed Gull - Two recent Mississippi River records suggest more midwest birds may be discovered. Difficulty separating from all of the Lake Erie Great Black-backed gulls is there.

Royal Tern - There are recent records from the midwest and an old Ohio sight record.

White-winged Tern - Annual on the east coast, an Ohio record is not out of the question.

Black Skimmer - A bit of a wanderer, and there are records for Indiana and Michigan.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher - Our best chance may have been Hugo, but it does wander and could appear.

Fieldfare - It has occurred in Ontario. It's not that much farther to Ohio!

Painted Bunting - The one previous Ohio record was considered a zoo escapee. It may occur again.

Cassin's Sparrow - There are Point Pelee and Indiana records.

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