

now without the tints of early morning light, clearly revealed the duller greenish-yellow of western grebe, not the orange-yellow of Clark's. The back and flanks were blackish-gray, as were the wings. Our bird was in late basic plumage.

With so many birders around, something else good was bound to turn up. First was an oldsquaw. The 50+ horned grebes and 40+ pied-billed grebes on the lake were themselves very unusual for this time of year. The sightings were posted on the internet that day, and more birders visited the lake the next day, among them Vic Fazio, who while watching the grebe heard a call which he recognized as a little gull's. Soon we found a first-year little gull feeding with several Bonaparte's gulls. Both the grebe and the gull were firsts for the area, and the gull was a lifer for me. During the grebe's unprecedented ten-week stay, several hundred tri-state birders came to have a look at this rarity, and the gull was an extra treat.

At times all three species of grebe and the little gull were in a single field of vision through my scope; now, that is something to experience! The following week a Harris's sparrow was discovered just over the state line in Indiana not more than forty miles from the lake. What a way to start the year's birding!

During the next few weeks the western grebe was never seen in flight. Most of the time it fed in the company of several horned and pied-billed grebes. As the weeks passed, the grebe did a lot of preening, and began to spend more time away from the cove, feeding further out in the lake. After the other grebes had all left the lake, the western grebe was seen resting and diving for food in the company of a common loon. They favored a new area near the saddle dam, a construction of large rocks further to the west. As the weeks turned into months, the bird became more elusive. The boating traffic increased from virtually none to constant activity throughout the day. Still, no one ever saw the bird take flight. The only time it was heard calling was when Frank Renfrow was observing it from the road above the saddle dam on 22 March.

One of the most interesting observations I made during the first week or so was the interaction between the gulls and the grebes. Each morning shortly after daylight, the gulls began to congregate in the cove where the majority of the grebes chose to feed. They coursed back and forth until a grebe surfaced, then descended on it to try to steal its catch. The little gull was often seen resting on the water among the grebes, where it was quite adept at picking morsels from the surface. On occasion it hovered overhead before diving on a grebe, and at other times it landed on the lake and picked peacefully at the surface for food. When during their feeding episodes all the gulls cried out, the little gull could be heard calling a soft "kek-kek." Its call was not loud or strong, and among hungry ring-billeds it was tough to pick it out with my old ears!

The little gull was last seen on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the most accommodating western grebe was last sighted on 21 April 1999.

#### REFERENCES

- Eckert, K. 1993. Identification of Western and Clark's Grebes. *Birding* 25: 304-310.  
Eckert, K. 1995. Western and Clark's Grebes. *Birding* 27: 54-55.

#### Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The eleven-member Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating bird records, maintaining for the public archives of bird occurrences, and establishing the official state list of bird species. Like *The Ohio Cardinal*, it relies vitally upon the voluntary participation of the birding public in submitting records. Jim McCormac, the OBRC's Secretary, furnished us with the following information on actions taken by the OBRC during his tenure.

**ACCEPTED RECORDS:** Documentation received for the following species was judged sufficient to verify the record by at least nine members of the Committee:

Western Grebe—Clermont County, Jan 1999	Black-headed Gull—Cuyahoga County, Mar 1998
Northern Gannet—Lake County, Dec 1998	Black-headed Gull—Ashtabula County, Mar 1998
Magnificent Frigatebird—Ottawa County, Oct 1998	Mew Gull—Lake County, Jan 1998
White Ibis I—Wyandot County, July 1998	California Gull—Lorain County, Dec 1997
White Ibis II—Wyandot County, July 1998	Ross's Gull—Ashtabula County, Dec 1997
Glossy Ibis—Erie County, Jun 1997	Ross's Gull—Lake County, Nov 1998
Glossy Ibis—Brown County, Oct 1997	Rufous Hummingbird—Lake County, Jun 1997
Glossy Ibis—Lake County, Oct 1998	Rufous Hummingbird—Lake County, Nov 1998
Ross's Goose—Wyandot County, Nov 1998	Say's Phoebe—Knox County, Dec 1997
Ross's Goose—Ashtabula County, Nov 1998	Western Kingbird—Wyandot County, Jun 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Ottawa County, Apr 1998	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Ottawa County, May 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Erie County, Apr 1998	Common Raven—Lake County, Mar 1998
Eurasian Wigeon—Wayne County, Apr 1998	Bewick's Wren—Pike County, Apr 1998
King Eider—Lake County, Mar 1998	Northern Wheatear—Marion County, Nov 1998
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lucas County, May 1997	Swainson's Warbler—Ottawa County, Apr 1998
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, Sep 1998	Le Conte's Sparrow—Lorain County, Oct 1997

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:** Documentation in hand for the following species received fewer than six votes to accept; such votes, it is important to note, do not reflect upon the sighting itself, but on the adequacy of the documentation to validate it for the permanent record.

Northern Gannet—Lorain County, Nov 1998	Parasitic Jaeger—Lake County, Jan 1997
Tufted Duck—Wayne County, Mar 1998	Black-headed Gull—Lake County, Jan 1997
Ferruginous Hawk—Darke County, Dec 1997	California Gull—Ashtabula County, Nov 1998
Gyr Falcon—Lake County, Feb 1997	California Gull—Lorain County, Nov 1998
Yellow Rail—Lake County, Sep 1998	California Gull—Lorain County, Nov 1998
Northern Lapwing—Ashtabula County, Mar 1997	Least Tern—Lucas County, Jun 1998
Spotted Redshank—Hamilton County, Aug 1996	Townsend's Solitaire—Wyandot County, Feb 1997
American Oystercatcher—Lake County, Sep 1996	Virginia's Warbler—Cuyahoga County, May 1997

**RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION:** Three records are currently being recirculated, the first two by virtue of having received from 6 to 8 votes to accept, and the third by request of a Committee member. A fourth report, having completed recirculation without a final decision, will be considered at the next annual meeting in Mar 2000.

Common Raven—Trumbull County, Apr 1999	Glaucous-winged Gull—Cuyahoga County, Jan 1989
MacGillivray's Warbler—Stark County, Jan 1999	Gyr Falcon—Lucas County, Apr 1998

In pending actions, eight sets of documentation are undergoing their initial review: violet-green swallow, ruff, long-billed curlew, "Eurasian" teal, Le Conte's sparrow, least tern, purple gallinule, and spotted towhee. The review process is now caught up with records in arrears, and is proceeding in timely fashion.

In other actions, the Committee decided at the annual meeting in March 1999 not to accept for the public record, consequent to a Committee member's request to recirculate, a report of a slaty-backed gull from December of 1992 to February of 1993, in Lake and Lorain counties. A decision was also made to remove Eurasian wigeon from the Review List, the frequency of its reports no longer supporting its inclusion.

**DOCUMENTATION:** The Ohio Bird Records Committee, on behalf of the birders of the state, eagerly solicits details—written accounts, photographs, sound recordings—on sightings of Review List species in Ohio. All of us owe a great debt to observers of days gone by who took the time to record and send in documentation of unusual species. No reliable checklist or field guide can be developed without an extensive background of documentary evidence from field observers. Careful observation, good record-keeping and field notes, photographs, sketches, audio and video tapes, together with sound standards applied to verification, go together to build a complete and accurate picture of our avifauna for all of us. The collecting of specimens on the part of amateurs is forbidden for nearly all species these days, and scientists do far less collecting than formerly, so the expansion and refinement of our knowledge about our birdlife increasingly depends upon verifiable reports from field observers. Lacking a specimen in a museum tray, we have to make sure that the more ephemeral observations we make are suitable for a permanent record, and solid enough for everyone to rely upon long after we are gone.

In a more personal sense, preparing documentation on a sighting helps us all become more careful and observant while we're out in the field. Painstaking scrutiny and note-taking in an organized system used for documentation of a rare bird help develop lifelong habits that will serve us well. And birders are always eager to share their discoveries—what better way to do so than to fully document our encounter with something extraordinary? Knowing what is extraordinary involves a familiarity with the Review List.

**THE REVIEW LIST:** *The Ohio Cardinal* periodically publishes the Review List, a list of bird species sufficiently rare in Ohio as to require documentation (written details, photos, recordings, or physical evidence) satisfactory to the OBRC in order to enter the official Ohio bird records. Specifically, it includes:

- any species with no accepted record for the state.
- any recorded species for which the known frequency is no greater than 2 individuals per year over the past ten years.
- any species for which the known frequency is greater than 2, but less than 3 records per year over the past ten years, as determined by vote of the OBRC.

The Review List is continually revised by the OBRC; over the past several years, species removed from the List, other than Eurasian wigeon, have included pomarine jaeger, Sabine's gull, and clay-colored sparrow; species added have included Ross's gull and boreal owl.

To keep both the Review List and Ohio's official state list up to date and accurate, the OBRC urges observers of these species to send in documentation of sightings to OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac, ODNR/DNAP, 1889 Fountain Sq, Bldg F-1, Columbus, OH 43224 or via email at [jmccormac@gcfn.org](mailto:jmccormac@gcfn.org). A copy of a form useful for this purpose is available from the OBRC at that address or from *The Ohio Cardinal*.

The Review List consists of the following species, plus any species not yet recorded in Ohio:

Pacific Loon	Long-billed Curlew	Black-billed Magpie
Western Grebe	Red-necked Stint	Common Raven
Black-capped Petrel	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Violet-green Swallow
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Curlew Sandpiper	Boreal Chickadee
Northern Gannet	Ruff	Rock Wren
Brown Pelican	Eurasian Woodcock	Bewick's Wren
Anhinga	Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Wheatear
Magnificent Frigatebird	Long-tailed Jaeger	Mountain Bluebird
Tricolored Heron	Black-headed Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
White Ibis	Heermann's Gull	Varied Thrush
Glossy Ibis	Mew Gull	Sprague's Pipit
White-faced Ibis	California Gull	Bohemian Waxwing
Roseate Spoonbill	Ross's Gull	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Wood Stork	Ivory Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Royal Tern	Kirtland's Warbler
Ross's Goose	Arctic Tern	Swainson's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Least Tern	Painted Redstart
Tufted Duck	Large-billed Tern	Western Tanager
King Eider	Thick-billed Murre	Green-tailed Towhee
Common Eider	Black Guillemot	Spotted Towhee
Barrow's Goldeneye	Long-billed Murrelet	Bachman's Sparrow
Swallow-tailed Kite	Ancient Murrelet	Black-throated Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Atlantic Puffin	Lark Bunting
Harris's Hawk	Smooth-billed Ani	Baird's Sparrow
Swainson's Hawk	Groove-billed Ani	Le Conte's Sparrow
Gyr Falcon	Northern Hawk Owl	Harris's Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Burrowing Owl	Smith's Longspur
Yellow Rail	Great Gray Owl	Black-headed Grosbeak
Black Rail	Boreal Owl	Painted Bunting
Purple Gallinule	Rufous Hummingbird	Great-tailed Grackle
Northern Lapwing	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Bullock's Oriole
Snowy Plover	Black-backed Woodpecker	Brambling
Wilson's Plover	Gray Flycatcher	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Piping Plover	Say's Phoebe	Pine Grosbeak
Black-necked Stilt	Vermilion Flycatcher	Hoary Redpoll
Spotted Redshank	Western Kingbird	
Esquimo Curlew	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	