

the presence of many birds on Oberholser's list of 74 hypothetical species: examples include gadwall, ring-necked duck, semipalmated plover, least sandpiper, black tern, blue-headed vireo, bank swallow, American pipit, palm warbler, and northern waterthrush. These species, some of which we must feel any active birder would have observed, are listed as "hypothetical" because unconfirmed by specimens. In his day, only a specimen could verify a species' status, and Oberholser was a tireless collector and probably a good shot. Of the 723 Ohio specimens in the University of Michigan's bird collections, for example, fully 154 were donated by Oberholser between 1890 and 1894, and bear the famous "HCO" as well as Wayne county locations on their tags.

Oberholser's work in Wayne County must have soon led him to join the Bureau of Biological Survey as an ornithological clerk. While there he attained degrees through the doctoral level at George Washington University by 1916. This first work on birds attests to his scrupulous devotion to verifiable evidence as well as to his familiarity with the existing ornithological literature. Occasional anecdotes enliven the annotations, and the young observer seems unafraid to contradict his elders when he has supporting evidence. Only occasionally—as in his annotations to the nominate subspecies of horned lark—does his later interest in taxonomy emerge.

His account of Wayne County birdlife a hundred years ago sometimes surprises us with how much things have changed, and sometimes with how little. Oberholser regards turkey vultures as rare summer visitors, and the red-shouldered hawk as the most common raptor. He notes but a single nesting record for the mallard, and regards the black-billed cuckoo, Virginia rail, and sora as unverified as nesters. On the other hand, the house sparrow's more obnoxious nesting habits are noted, as is the common grackle's willingness to roost in larger towns. The work's more elaborate detail in some annotations—as in describing the nests of swallows and swifts—is lacking in others where it would have been at least as interesting. Oberholser's introductory chapter, "The Nature of the Land," presents a Wayne County largely recognizable today, and where certain natural features have regrettably since disappeared he often has noticed the first symptoms of their obliterations.

Overall the work is just old enough to charm in illuminating an earlier time, and recent enough to reflect our experience in the present day. Kline's checklist makes clear subsequent changes in the avifauna, as it underlines some of the inadequacies of the young ornithologist's version. The book lacks an index, but readers familiar with standard taxonomic order really won't need one. The back cover features an antique map of the county. As for errors, there are a couple in modern names for birds, so trifling that very few readers will even notice them. Birders in this region of Ohio will certainly want to have it, as will collectors of Ohio bird books and admirers of Oberholser's work. The book is well-produced and attractively priced, and will reward any student of Ohio birds. *Bill Whan*

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining for the public archival records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishing the official list of Ohio bird species. The OBRC relies vitally upon help from Ohio's field birders who send in details of their sightings of rare birds. The Committee establishes the Review List (see below), which includes all species encountered infrequently enough in Ohio as to require documentation (specimen, photo, sound recording, or full written description) for their inclusion in the official record. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as a journal of record, will not treat reports of Review List species as established until accepted by the OBRC, and hence will not usually publish reports of species not supported by documentation submitted to the OBRC.

The OBRC does not review sightings, of course, only documentations of sightings. The Committee cannot decide if a given species was seen, but only if documentation from those present at the sighting verifies, for the historical record, the species' occurrence at the time. All documentations, with Committee actions thereon, are archived for future researchers. All these records—with the exception of the identities of Committee members on vote sheets—are available to the public. We offer here, as a general rule, only brief summaries of OBRC actions, details of which are available from Jim McCormac, Secretary of the OBRC, upon request. We are grateful to him for supplying information for this report.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentations received from the observers specified for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

Western Grebe—Richland County, 15-18 January 1999, observers J. Herman, E.

Pierce, K. Metcalf

Ross's Goose—Ottawa County, 29 January 2000, observers R. Harlan, S. Wagner

Ross's Goose—Mercer County, 1 April 2000, observer D. Dister

Yellow Rail—Pickaway County, 11 April 2000, observer J. McCormac

Bohemian Waxwing—Cuyahoga County, 12 December 1999, observer K. Metcalf

Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 28-30 October 1998, observer S. Zadar

Le Conte's Sparrow—Erie County, 3 October 1999, observer S. Zadar

Harris's Sparrow—Holmes County, 9 January 2000, observer J. Beechy

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED: Documentations received for the following reports received fewer than six votes to accept, and were hence not accepted.

Parasitic Jaeger—Lake County, September 1999

Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, October 1999

Jaeger sp.—Clark County, December 1999

Glaucous-winged Gull—Cuyahoga County, February 1989

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Washington County, March 2000

Common Nighthawk—Hamilton County, February 2000

Black Rosy-Finch—Ashtabula County, April 1971 [accepted as rosy-finch sp.]

Two of these decisions (glaucous-winged gull and black rosy-finch) require some background information, at least in view of the unusual dates involved. The glaucous-winged gull record's documentation consisted entirely of two photographs taken in Cleveland in February of 1989. These photos are currently still posted on the Internet at <<http://www.aves.net/birds-of-ohio/xthayer1.jpg>> and <<http://www.aves.net/birds-of-ohio/xthayer3.jpg>> for readers to examine, courtesy of the photographer. He, understandably enough, could not offer additional written documentation more than ten years after the occasion, and had not considered the bird a possible glaucous-winged at the time. The photos were called to the Committee's attention, in fact, by a discussion of the images on the IDFrontiers discussion group on the Internet. A full set of recirculations, with additional discussions at the annual meeting of the OBRC in 2000, resulted in the non-acceptance of the record, the overall opinion being that while the images were certainly suggestive, certain unclear features, the possibility of hybrid origin, and the lack of accompanying written documentation presented insurmountable problems for a first state record.

The black rosy-finch documentation was based on sightings at a Conneaut backyard feeder on 5-6 April 1971, and has been preserved. At the time of the sightings, three *Leucosticte* finches were recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union: gray-crowned rosy-finch, black rosy-finch, and brown rosy-finch. The 6th Edition of *The AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1983), in what was later acknowledged as an error, lumped the three forms as *Leucosticte arctoa*, with the English name "rosy finch." Peterjohn in *The Birds of Ohio* (1989) treats the record as accepted, saying "Detailed descriptions...indicated that this individual was of the 'Black' race." In 1993 the AOU restored the three *Leucosticte* species, a decision based at least in part on part on the fact that no article justifying the 1983 lumping had appeared in a recognized scientific publication. In early 1996, therefore, the documentation was recirculated by the OBRC, this time as "black rosy-finch" *L. atrata*. Expert advice was sought and received, a recirculation was conducted, and the documentation was not accepted as verifying the species for circulations in 1996 and 1997, though the record was accepted as "rosy-finch species." Unfortunately, the archives did not contain complete voting records, so the record was circulated a final time in 2000, with the identical result.

THE OHIO REVIEW LIST: This is a list of bird species sufficiently rare as to require documentation (complete written details, diagnostic photo or sound recordings, or specimen) satisfactory to the OBRC in order to enter the official Ohio records. It includes: any species with no accepted record for Ohio; any recorded species for which the known frequency of occurrence is no greater than two individuals per year over the past ten years; and any recorded species for which the known frequency is greater than two, but less than three, records per year over the past ten years, as determined by a vote of the OBRC. This list is continually revised; while no species have been removed from the Review List since its last publication here, the common ground-dove has been added as a specified species based on an accepted record since that time.

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

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

Bill Whan