

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

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

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

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (Jun.-Jul.) - August 25
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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: **Blue Grosbeak** - Crown City Wildlife Area, Lawrence Co., 17 July 2000. Photo by Bob Royse.

Summer 2000 Overview

by Bill Whan

O tell her, Swallow, that thy brood is flown,
Say to her, I do but wanton in the South,
But in the North long since my nest is made.

Tennyson, *The Princess* (1847)

Summer, our shortest season, spans only June and July, but nevertheless has time for migration as well as for nesting. Many local breeders, such as swallows, grow restless in July as young and old alike gather preparatory to moving south. Still more intriguing to summertime seekers of the unusual are the movements of shorebirds, mysterious creatures of the Arctic whose last northbound stragglers have no sooner passed through Ohio than the first forerunners show up on their way south. Shorebirds got short shrift here this season, as rains kept water levels in rivers and reservoirs high, and policies did likewise for manipulable levels in managed wetlands. The Magee Marsh census on the usually productive date of 16 July, for example, discovered but two migrant shorebirds, one solitary sandpiper and one white-rumped sandpiper. After the Crane Creek estuary's water rose early in June, only Conneaut Harbor provided consistent habitat for shorebirds through July. If references to Conneaut in this season's Reports start to sound monotonous, readers should remember that in the absence of the Ashtabula County shore habitats, six shorebird species (23%+) wouldn't have been reported *anywhere* in the state this summer.

After the warmest spring in a hundred years, June's temperatures moderated. Cleveland recorded no readings in the 90s, Columbus only two, and Cincinnati one. July was markedly cooler than normal, especially compared to July of 1999: in Columbus it averaged a full 8°F cooler than last year, the first July without temperatures in the 90s since 1992, and the first month in the last 14 with below-normal temperatures. As for precipitation, June was wetter than normal, in the central part of the state the sixth consecutive month with above-normal rains. July showed a slight shortfall, but by and large the summer made up the deficits of last year's drought.

The water level of Lake Erie, as measured in Cleveland, was 571.33 feet above sea level at the end of the period. On 1 Jan of this year it stood at 570.10 feet, on 1 Jan 1999 at 570.57 feet, and on 1 Jan 1998 at 572.67 feet. One way of looking at the summer Lake Erie levels is that by 1 Aug 2000 the Lake had regained nearly half the level lost since the end of 1997. On 16 August, Environment Canada reported that Lake Erie levels were only 5 cm below their long-term average, and that Lake Ontario levels were actually 20 cm above their long-term average.

Five Review Species were reported in June and July, two more than last year; reports of two of them—Mississippi kite and least tern—came in both summers. One species couldn't have been a repeat, as it was a new state record, our 407th, the long-awaited white-winged dove. Our last two additions to the state list have been doves, and an informative article on our next expected dove appears in this issue. Some remarkable breeding records were confirmed, especially among waterbirds, and our first Wilson's phalarope nest in twelve years was verified, the first away from Lake Erie. Birds were found in new areas: cliff swallows because of expanding colonizations,

Henslow's sparrows perhaps because of better birder coverage but certainly due to new habitats available, Dickcissels simply as part of their wandering ways, but what to make of all those sapsuckers is anybody's guess. No doubt in the cases of the swallow and the sparrow, human projects like bridge construction and strip-mining unintentionally assisted their expansions.

With truly wild land virtually eradicated in Ohio, divining the reasons for changes in bird populations must always start by assessing the effect of human behaviors on those of birds. Because of our alterations of the landscape, we may have more species of birds in Ohio than 300 years ago, even if we have fewer total numbers, and advances by species able to benefit from what some call development have come at the expense of others less able to do so. To some extent, we have short-circuited natural selection by imposing an artificial one of our own. Our intentional interventions in bird populations will become increasingly important as humans proliferate, as will the consequences of our mistakes in doing so. If our plans on behalf of wildlife come more and more to involve priorities resembling those of zookeepers or gamekeepers, the results may more and more come at the expense of the vitality and diversity of wild life. Certainly the more we can learn now, the less we will regret later.

New readers of the *Cardinal* may wonder at our seeming preoccupation with unusual records. The account herein of blue-headed vireo, for example, reads like a corrective to accepted knowledge about the breeding range of the species, rather than a validation of that knowledge. In part, the reason is that the usual can generally be found elsewhere; ongoing change and deviations from the norm—or even from orthodoxy—are newsworthy, even noteworthy, because they come at the borders of the known where learning often takes place. There is also some bias among our contributors, many of whom are recreational birders who relish the unusual, rather than researchers who are more often interested in establishing norms. The Reports offer highlighted data from which advances will be made in our understanding of birds through the contributions of careful amateurs who send in records of their observations. Because they help to define established knowledge, and sometimes even defy it, novelty and the significance of extremes will always be of interest to hobbyists and researchers alike.

A tradition recently too much neglected here has been the "short note." Several excellent examples appear in this issue, and we plan to run more of them in the future. A short note covers material inappropriate for a full-length article, material that may not be earthshaking but is nevertheless of distinct interest. Such notes usually briefly describe an important observation or series of observations, along with details of the circumstances involved, and often offer some historical perspective. They are one corrective to tendencies to concentrate too much on sensational news. Advancing our knowledge is not necessarily a matter of mind-boggling finds, painstaking research over many years, or conceptual lightning-bolts. Often we progress in learning by smaller steps, by collecting very local, very particular, uniquely interesting field observations, and we do it as a cooperative network of field observers, not always through ground-breaking work by major names. Interesting occurrences, new local nestings, early arrivals and late departures, first winter records, behavioral observations, unusual numbers of individuals, etc., are all grist for the mill, data whose greatest importance may not become clear for years to come. Please send us your short notes!

Effective 1 December 2000, subscriptions to *The Ohio Cardinal* must rise to \$20 per year (four issues). Current subscribers for whom the new rate is beyond their means may re-subscribe at the old \$15 rate, as we do not want to lose a single reader who cannot afford this increase. Other current subscribers looking for a bargain may renew or extend (for as many years as they wish) their subscriptions at the old \$15 rate with requests postmarked before 1 December.

This increase is necessary to ensure the good health of the *Cardinal* as an advertising-free, independent, non-profit periodical put together by volunteers—all without compromising the quality of the work we do. We hope readers of recent issues will agree that the magazine is worth this price, and we promise always to try to do even better.

Certain significant improvements—additional material, better reproduction of photographs, more generous formats, etc.—, however, will become possible mostly as we increase the number of our subscribers. We hope readers who appreciate it will recommend the *Cardinal* to others, or subscribe on their behalf.

The following reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998) and subsequent 42nd Supplement. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC's Review List; adequate documentation of such sightings is needed to add reports to official Ohio records. County names are supplied for certain localities, and appear *italicized*. Other abbreviations should be readily understood, with the following possible exceptions: BCSP=Buck Creek SP; BIWA=Big Island WA; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CVNRA=Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; EFSP=East Fork State Park; *fide*= "in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another observer; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP; GAASBC=Greater Akron Audubon Summer Bird Count, conducted 6/10-19, and reported by A. Chasar; GRWA=Grand River WA; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA; Magee=Magee Marsh WA; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWR=Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; ONWRC=monthly census results from ONWR, reported by E. Pierce; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA; ph=photograph; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigendum: Kindly assist in the cause of accuracy by adding in a "3" in front of the "0" given as Cleveland's low temperature in the second paragraph of the Overview in the Spring 2000 issue. We regret the error.

The Reports

Common Loon: Just a few. One was near SVWA on 2 June (K. Beal). On 2 July, G. Kovach found one on Silver Lk, Summit, and on the following day an odd-plumaged immature bird was in shallow water at BIWA (G. Stauffer, M. Mispilon). One in adult plumage along the Cleveland lakefront 26 June through at least 13 July (F. Greenland, *vide* P. Lozano) was clearly injured, and did not survive (S. Wright).

Pied-billed Grebe: A successful season for the species. One with young was noted at MWW on 2 June (P. Wharton), and four broods were found at Slate Run MP, Pickaway, between 9 June and 1 July (J. Watts). In more expected areas, 26 birds were at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio), four young birds were at GRWA on 22 July (D&J Hochadel), and C. Holt confirmed breeding at Medusa Marsh and in Ash-tabula. Most prolific were 6 pairs at Sandy Ridge Res'n, who had sported at least 35 young by July (S. Zadar).

Horned Grebe: An adult in alternate plumage at Cowan Lk, Clinton, was first noted on 29 May and persisted through 10 June (E. Roush, L. Gara) in apparent good health. There are only two accepted June Ohio records of the species, both well to the north.

Eared Grebe: Apparently loath to leave us, one tarried through 5 June at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

Double-crested Cormorant: ~2200 pairs were among nesters on West Sister Isl NWR, up 6% from last year (D. Brewer), and S. Wulkowicz found them "abundant" on S. Bass Isl. Up to 14 summered at Walnut Beach/Conneaut (C. Holt). Away from the Lake, small numbers of non-breeders were widely seen: one was at Deer Ck SP on 1 July (D. Brinkman), one to two throughout July at BCSP (D. Overacker), three to eight during the second half of the month at Findlay Res (B. Hardesty), one 26 July in Wayne (S. Snyder), and two at EFSP on 28 July (H. Armstrong).

American Bittern: One was noted at Magee 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two each on Magee censuses on 18 June and 16 July (H&S Hiris). Though up to five were seen in late May at Sandy Ridge Res'n, Lorain, it seems only one pair persisted through the period (S. Zadar).

Least Bittern: M. Shieldcastle reported "tremendous numbers" in the western Lk Erie marshes this year. Elsewhere, one was at Killbuck (V. Fazio, *vide* S. Snyder) on 4 June, two pair at Sandy Ridge through the period (S. Zadar), one in *Trumbull* on 1 July (J. Pogacnik), two at SVWA seen 10 July (R. Kolde), and at least one through the period at MWW (P. Wharton).

Great Blue Heron: ~1180 pairs nested at West Sister Isl NWR (D. Brewer). C. Babyak counted 321 nests at the Lordstown colony in *Trumbull* on 10 June. A post-breeding roost at Hoover Res, *Franklin*, numbered 97 on 1 July (R. Thorn).

Great Egret: As always numerous in the northwest: the Magee count of 18 June had 107 and that of 16 July 104 (H&S Hiris), and ~840 pairs were in the West Sister Isl colony (D. Brewer); C. Holt noted small numbers in the Turning Point Isl colony. Many inland reports included one at Cowan Lk on 10 June (L. Gara), two at Dillon Res, *Muskingum*, in late June (D. St. John), three on 11 June and 9 July then two on 15 July at Mosquito Lk WA (C. Holt), two at MWW on 30 June (F. Frick), 5 at Gilmore Ponds on 2 July (M. Busam), one in *Paulding* on 11 July (D&M Dunakin), eight at GRWA on 22 July (J&D Hochadel), two at Lake Isaac in *Cuyahoga* on 19 July (B&D Lane), and R. Thorn called the species "almost regular" in central Ohio, with six at Hoover Dam on 21 June and six at Galena on 23 July.

Snowy Egret: 14 pairs were estimated at the West Sister Isl colony, up from 13 last year (D. Brewer). Six were seen on the 18 June Magee census, and one on that of 16 July (H&S Hiris). One was found at Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula*, on 29 July (J. McConnor).

Little Blue Heron: None was noted among the nesters at West Sister Isl. Most interesting of very few reports was one of an adult at GRWA on 1 July (J. Pogacnik).

Cattle Egret: None noted at West Sister Isl, and counts at Turning Point Isl were difficult to make. A number of sightings in the Sandusky area as far west as PCWA (one 27 July, V. Fazio), the largest number seven on 23 July near Sandusky (K. Mock). Seemed down.

Tricolored Heron: The bird in the Sandusky Bay area was last seen on 1 June by J. Hammond and D. Sanders. Accepted by the OBRC.

Green Heron: Began bunching up in July, with six at Lake La Su An WA on the 2nd (B. McGuire), five in the CVNRA on the 3rd (T&M Romito), and six in *Tuscarawas* on the 22nd (E. Schlabach). High count 16 on 12 July at Killbuck (S. Snyder).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 453 pairs were estimated at the West Sister Isl colony, the first increase (from last year's 387) noted in ten years (D. Brewer). Several along Mill Ck in *Hamilton* on 5 June (T. Uhlman) and four in *Winton Wds* 4 July (J. Scott) were probably from the Mill Ck colony—see note this issue. An adult and 2 juv at Greenlawn Dam on 14 July continued the species' persistent presence there (R. Thorn). Thirteen were still at the Merwin St roost in Cleveland on 1 June (P. Lozano)—see note this issue. Three in *Sandusky* on 18 June (C. Holt) suggest their presence in the Turning Pt Isl colony, but the same observer's sightings of one at Sandy Ridge Res'n on the same date and another at Walnut Beach on 23 July elude such easy explanations of origin.



One of the five black-crowned night-heron nests along Mill Creek, Hamilton Co., this season. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The urban Columbus nest of the spring had 3 adults and two young on 4 June (T. Sica); local resident A. Paschall reported three young, which were as large as their parents by the last week of June; all were gone by 3 July.

Mute Swan: Continues to flourish, to what extent at the expense of other species has not been reported. Eleven were at Walborn Res, *Stark*, on 8 June (B&D Lane), and nine off S. Bass Isl on 6 July (S. Wulkowicz). The Medusa pair nested successfully again (C. Holt).

Wood Duck: Large aggregations included 44 in the CVNRA on 3 July (M&T Romito) and 75 at MWW on 21 July (J. Lehman).

Gadwall: 47 on the 16 July Magee census was an extremely healthy number (H&S Hiris).

American Wigeon: Very few detected. Unusual sightings included a male in eclipse plumage at Gordon Pk on 17 June (S. Zadar), and one at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio).

American Black Duck: One was at Magee on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner); inland, nesting was suspected following a 30 Jun sighting at BIWA (V. Fazio). One was at Gordon Pk on 26 July (S. Zadar).

Blue-winged Teal: Breeding away from the Lake included one near Circleville during the period (J. McCormac), several broods at BIWA (55 young on 30 Jun, 81 on 15 July—V. Fazio), a female with nine young at Slate Run MP on 3 July (J. Watts), and a hen with five young at MWW on 11 July (P. Wharton). J. Lehman's discovery of 25 young at the latter location on 21 July suggests more than one nest succeeded.

Northern Shoveler: A pair persisted from spring at MWW, and a hen with nine young was found on 11 July (P. Wharton) for what seems to be a first SW nesting record. To the north, one was at PCWA on 9 June (V. Fazio) and another at Pipe Ck WA on the 14th (M. Busam). R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five on 4 June at BIWA, where V. Fazio later confirmed two broods on 15 July.

Northern Pintail: Four were seen in the course of the 16 July Magee census (H&S Hiris).

Green-winged Teal: Ten were seen on 4 June at ONWR (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Away from Lake Erie, J. Grabmeier noted several at Lk Seneca, Williams, on 30 July, but the big news was a pair first seen 30 June, then six young on 15 July at BIWA for a rare inland nesting record (V. Fazio). Sixty-two adults were found at Ottawa on 2 July (E. Pierce).

Hooded Merganser: Nesting at MWW recurred, with a hen with four young noted on 2 Jun and two broods with a total of 14 young on the 14th (P. Wharton). A hen with seven chicks was seen on 17 June at PCWA (D. Overacker), and three broods with 14 young at Killdeer on 30 June (V. Fazio). C. Holt confirmed breeding at GRWA and possibly at Sandy Ridge Res'n during the period, and noted a juvenile bird at Conneaut on 23 July.

Red-breasted Merganser: J. Pogacnik had a lingering bird at Conneaut on 5 June. One at Walnut Beach on 23 July was an odd find (C. Holt).

Ruddy Duck: ~15 birds spent the period at the Paulding Sewage Lagoons (D&M Dupakin), to what end is uncertain, and at least one summered on Fostoria Res (B. Hardesty). An alternate-plumaged male was at ONWR on 14 June (S. Landes), and a bird was at BCSP on 16 July (D. Overacker). Two males noted by C. Holt at Sandy Ridge Res'n on 18 June may have had something (but of course not everything) to do with the several immature birds found in early July there by Lorain County Metro Parks personnel (fide S. Zadar).

Osprey: Many were of course seen at or near the ODOW's hacking sites. One at Killdeer on 19 June was interesting (B. Rinehart). Probable migrants were near Dayton on 26 July (J. McCormac) and at Farnsworth MP, Lucas, on 28 July (T. Kemp).

Mississippi Kite: A subadult was found at EFSP, Clermont, on 5 July by B. Stanley, and remained through the following day (H. Armstrong, m obs). The species is expanding its range, nesting having occurred not far away in southern Indiana for several years running, as well as in Illinois (Union) and Kentucky (Fulton), and nesting records were established along the eastern seaboard—as in N. Carolina—this year. Details are with the OBRC.

Bald Eagle: The nesting season produced 45 nests and 89 young. Summer sightings in counties where no known nests were established included an adult over Lake La Su An WA on 8 July (K. Overman, fide G. Links), an adult at EFSP on 24 July (D. Morse), and another over Hebron on the 27th (R. Thorn).

Northern Harrier: It seems only a matter of time before someone can confirm breeding. A pair was seen throughout the period at Woodbury WA (J. McCormac). H. Nagy found three, including an immature, at Tri-Valley WA on 13 June. J. Yochum had one in Williams on 18 June, perhaps involving one of several noted near Lake La Su An WA the following day by J. Grabmeier. One was near Antwerp, Paulding, on 6 July (M&D Dunakin), and a female at Slate Run MP on 11 July (J. Watts). C. Holt had three adults in different locations in *Ashtabula* during the period.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Interesting were two pairs in metropolitan Columbus (J. McCormac, B. Whan), and yet another calling there on 30 July (R. Thorn).

Broad-winged Hawk: As in the recent past, a pair was on territory in Oak Openings MP through June (E. Tramer). The same observer noted two immatures passing over Magee about ten minutes apart on 2 June, "apparently very late spring migrants."

American Kestrel: J. McCormac noted the species is doing very well in reclaimed strip-mine areas, but only where nest cavities exist; in these areas, such cavities are nearly always artificial ones supplied by land managers.

Ruffed Grouse: R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one, along with five northern bobwhites and a wild turkey, at the same roadside stop in Woodbury WA on 4 June.

King Rail: On 18 June J. Yochum found a pair at the same spot in Lake La Su An WA where he'd seen two on 16 May. H&S Hiris reported one at Magee on the 16 July census.

Sora: Five pairs were noted at the new wetlands at Sandy Ridge Res'n in Lorain during the period (S. Zadar).

Common Moorhen: ~12 were noted at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio), one at Sandy Ridge Res'n on 1 July (P. Lozano), and 18 at Magee on 16 July (H&S Hiris). A pair with four hatchlings was at Shenango WA, Trumbull, on 24 July (J&D Hochadel), and two adults with five chicks at Killbuck on the 28th (S. Snyder).

American Coot: One was at Conneaut on 11 June for C. Holt, who also found 10 at Sandy Ridge Res'n on the 18th; R. Harlan and S. Wagner had 15 there on 2 July. Adults accompanied young at Sandy Ridge on 1 July (P. Lozano *et al.*).

Sandhill Crane: A pair appeared at various spots in Wayne throughout the period (S. Snyder, m obs). Two were reported from PCWA on 7 June (D. Sanders, D. Burton). Singles were at Sandy Ridge on 10 June and 5 July (C. Grame).

Black-bellied Plover: A late bird was at Walnut Beach on 4 June (C. Holt), and an early one at Conneaut on 2 July (J. Pogacnik).

American Golden-Plover: The first returnees, and the only ones reported during the period, were two at Conneaut on 25 July (N. Brundage, C. Keppler).

Killdeer: This species began massing with 80 birds on 19 July in Holmes (E. Schlabach), 40 at BCSP on the 22nd (D. Overacker), ~80 at Conneaut also on the 22nd (B. Winger *et al.*), and 73 at The Wilds on the 29th (J. Larson).

American Avocet: First arrival was 2 July at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik). F. Frick had one at MWW on 19 July, M. Misplon one at Lk St Marys on 22 July, and J. McConnor two at Conneaut, where they grew almost common later, on 29 July.

Semipalmated Plover: Late departures were 15 on 4 June at Conneaut, then six on the 1st (C. Holt). J. Pogacnik had the first southbound birds, four on 13 July at Conneaut. July numbers peaked at 22 there on 29 July (Holt).

Greater Yellowlegs: P. Wharton saw one at MWW on 11 July, where on the 15th N. Cade and H. Armstrong had two more. On the latter date, C. Holt found three at Conneaut, and by the 30th D&J Hochadel found six at Mosquito Lk. For twenty years, Ken Brock has been collecting arrival dates for shorebirds, and this species has the greatest average interval between the arrival of adults and that of juveniles—55 days.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first returned 25 June to Conneaut (C. Holt), and 10+ were at BIWA by the 28th (V. Fazio), where he had the season high count of 21 on 15 July.

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was one on 29 June in Paulding (M&D Dunakin), with one on 2 July at GRWA (C. Holt) and another in Holmes on 5 July (E. Schlabach) right on its halluces. Six were at Mosquito Lk on 22 July (D&J Hochadel) for the high count.

Willet: All reports—one Conneaut 2 July (C. Holt), one Lk St Marys 22 July (M. Misplon), and one 25 July at Conneaut (N. Brundage, C. Keppler).

Spotted Sandpiper: Ten were at Walnut Beach on 4 June (C. Holt). 29 were tallied at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio), and 10 at Conneaut on 11 July were probably headed out (Holt).

Upland Sandpiper: The pair at Krause Rd near Ottawa was seen 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). V. Fazio reported three pairs at BIWA 30 June.

Whimbrel: Three were reported from Conneaut, the season's default location for shorebirds, one on 15 July (C. Holt) and two on 29 July (J. McConnor).

Ruddy Turnstone: Last out was one at Walnut Beach on 4 June, and first back were four at Conneaut on 29 July (both by C. Holt).

Red Knot: One hopes there will be more in the fall, as but one was reported during the period, a bird seen on 29 July (J. McConnor, C. Holt) and the following day (B. Winger *et al.*) at Conneaut.

Sanderling: Last departing was one on 5 June at—all of places—Conneaut (J. Pogacnik). Four hit the beach there southbound on 15 July (C. Holt), where their numbers reached ~50 on 30 July (B. Winger *et al.*). Elsewhere, one was at BCSP on 22, 23, and 30 July (D. Overacker), and four were at Mosquito Lk on 30 July (D&J Hochadel). The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences estimates this species has declined 80% in population over the past twenty years; let's hope all these July birds weren't failed breeders.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last out were three on 11 June at Conneaut (C. Holt), where the same observer found the first two back on 11 July. Holt found the high count as well, 135 birds on 29 July.

Least Sandpiper: One departed Conneaut on 5 June (J. Pogacnik), and three were the first to return there on 25 June, where their numbers reached a high of 65 by 11 July (C. Holt). The first juvenile seen was at Conneaut on 29 July (Holt).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Nine outgoing birds were reported during early June, the latest one on the 9th off the Cedar Point Chaussee (V. Fazio). No reports received of sightings of returning birds during the period, oddly enough.

Baird's Sandpiper: No reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: No June reports, with returnees numbering two at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik) and one on the 15th at MWW (N. Cade). High count was only four, inland at Cowan Lk SP on 28 July (L. Gara).

Dunlin: Ten were at the Crane Ck estuary on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and one the following day at Conneaut (J. Pogacnik).

Stilt Sandpiper: Barely made the summer reports, with five at Conneaut on 29 July (C. Holt) and three there on the 30th (B. Winger *et al.*).

Short-billed Dowitcher: With a dearth of traditional stopover spots in the northwest marshes, the species showed elsewhere around the state in July, with 12 at MWW on the 11th (P. Wharton) and the high count of 47 at BIWA on the 15th (V. Fazio). Two were at The Wilds on the 29th (J. Larson), when there was a Conneaut high of 31 present (C. Holt).

Common Snipe: Reports came from the species' northeastern strongholds, with 32 on 1 July in Trumbull (J. Pogacnik), and 20 on 2 July then 25 on 9 July at GRWA, which caused observer C. Holt to consider nesting probable.

Wilson's Phalarope: Ohio's first nest of this species in twelve years was confirmed just after the end of the period at BIWA with a juvenile noted (V. Fazio); he had first noticed an alternate-plumaged male at the site on 28 June. Elsewhere, one was at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik).

Laughing Gull: Three reports: an adult was at Conneaut and Walnut Beach from 2-11 July (C. Holt), a first-year bird at Conneaut on 13 July (J. Pogacnik), and a second-year bird at PCWA on 27 July (V. Fazio).

Franklin's Gull: One was at Caesar Ck SP on 7 June (L. Gara), and an individual in worn plumage at BCSP on 22-23 July (D. Overacker).

Bonaparte's Gull: Probable non-breeders were three on 11 June at Conneaut (C. Holt). Interesting was one at the Paulding sewage lagoons on 11 July (M&D Dunakin), and another at BCSP on 22-23 July (D. Overacker). A few had returned to the lakeside by the end of the month, with 20-30 at S. Bass Isl the high count on the 25th (S. Wulkowicz).

Ring-billed Gull: The first juveniles were noted at Conneaut on 2 July (C. Holt).

Herring Gull: The first juveniles were found at Conneaut on 15 July (C. Holt).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A first-summer bird spent 25 June-2 July at Conneaut (C. Holt). J. Pogacnik reported a fresh juvenile there on the 13th, and an adult and two immature birds elsewhere in *Ashtabula* the same day.

Great Black-backed Gull: To the west, two were along the Cedar Pt Chaussee on 9 June (V. Fazio), and to the east 27 were at Conneaut on 5 June (J. Pogacnik).

Common Tern: The Ottawa nesting colony numbered ~50 pairs, bringing off ~90 young; once again, the Pipe Creek colony lagged behind, with ~15 pairs and eight young (M. Shieldcastle). C. Holt had three late birds on 11 June at Walnut Beach, and two early migrants on 15 July at Conneaut. Inland, two were at Caesar Ck SP on 6 June (L. Gara) and one on 25 July at EFSP (H. Armstrong).

Caspian Tern: Five apparent non-breeders showed up at Killdeer on 30 June for V. Fazio. Migrants first appeared at Conneaut, with 18 on 17 July (C. Holt), where the high count of 39 was tallied on 30 July (B. Winger *et al.*). One was at EFSP on 25 July (H. Armstrong).

Forster's Tern: Three were at BCSP on 9 June and two on 16 July (D. Overacker). Three were at EFSP on 22 July (F. Renfrow). Four at Conneaut between 2 and 29 July (C. Holt) were in a more anticipated spot for migrants.

Least Tern: Details are with the OBRC of a report for 18 July in *Hancock*.

Black Tern: The Magee census yielded two on 18 June and three on 16 July (H&S Hiris), and M. Shieldcastle reported a few seen elsewhere in the western Lake Erie marshes, with breeding unconfirmed. B. Rinehart had one on 6 June at Killdeer. Puzzling, but presumably non-breeders, were one at Slate Run MP on 26 June (J. Watts) and another in Trumbull on 1 July (J. Pogacnik). Migrants were seen on 29 July at Conneaut (C. Holt) and the following day at Clark Lk (D. Overacker).

White-winged Dove: For a first confirmed Ohio record, one was seen and photographed in Bellefontaine, Logan, on 10 June (R. Rinehart, M. Misplon); see articles in this issue. Accepted by the OBRC. Nebraska (18 May), Colorado (10-11 May), and Wisconsin (16 May) recorded the species this year, also far from its normal range. One showed up in Vermont just as we went to press on 2 Sept (W. Scott).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Secretive birds, not many are reported. Nine were found on the GAASBC. In the far south, birds were detected 3 June in *Lawrence* (J. Hammond) and 10 June in the MWW (D. Graham).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: High count six at Ira Rd in the CVNRA on 5 June (T&M Romito). P. Yoder regarded their numbers in *Holmes* as above normal. The GAASBC tallied 53 birds.

Barn Owl: Most unusual was a nesting pair discovered on 26 July on S. Bass Isl by an OSU ornithology class (C. Stanton, J. Neubig); a previous record from the Island dates to 1950, amazingly enough from the same barn. Elsewhere, the DOW monitored 27 nests (down from 34 last year) in 12 counties, and likely will band 100+ owlets, as plentiful rain has meant plentiful meadow voles. One *Holmes* male was polygynous for the fourth consecutive year, tending to no fewer than three mates with broods this year; at least two of this bird's male progeny produced broods this year, one of them 26 mi away in *Tuscarawas*. Good genes.

Whip-poor-will: A brief survey of a square mile in Oak Openings MP yielded eight singing birds (E. Tramer).

Chuck-will's-widow: A bird continued to call in *Hocking* through 23 June (J. Fry). One summered in *Pike* (J. McCormac).

Red-headed Woodpecker: J. Berry found a pair copulating at Killbuck on 15 June. The *Hancock* survey totaled 18 on 25 July (fide B. Hardesty). D. Brinkman followed two nests at EFSP in *Clermont* during the period. R. Thorn had one in *Pickaway* on 27 July.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Nineteen, eight of them young of the year, were observed by P. Lozano, T. Leiden, et al. in *Trumbull*, *Ashtabula*, and *Geauga* on 2 and 9 July. One was at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Beyond this normal range are a number of remarkable, and frankly inexplicable, summer occurrences: two resident through the period in *Antwerp*, *Paulding* (D&M Dunakin); a female from late May to at least mid-June in the *Maumee SF* (T. Bartlett); a female coming to a feeder in *Hamilton* on 14 June (E. Heineke); one in the *Miami-Whitewater Forest* on 3 July (M. Busam, L. Peyton); and still another in *Hamilton* on 21 July (T. Uhlman).

Northern Flicker: Eight at Gordon Pk on 27 July (S. Zadar) were too early to be migrants.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Migrants lingered in expected ways, one till 5 June at *Lakeshore MP* (J. Pogacnik) and one till the following day in *Hancock* (D. Barker).

Acadian Flycatcher: Well-reported, with 78 on the GAASBC, and 23 on a day in *Hocking* (J. Berry). Three pairs during the period near *Antwerp*, *Paulding*, were nice finds (M&D Dunakin).

Alder Flycatcher: A territorial male was in *Columbus* through 4 June (J. McCormac). An *Empidonax* in *Tri-Valley WA* in *Muskingum* on 26 July was disconcertingly fluent in the songs of both alder and willow flycatchers (J. Hammond, B. Whan).

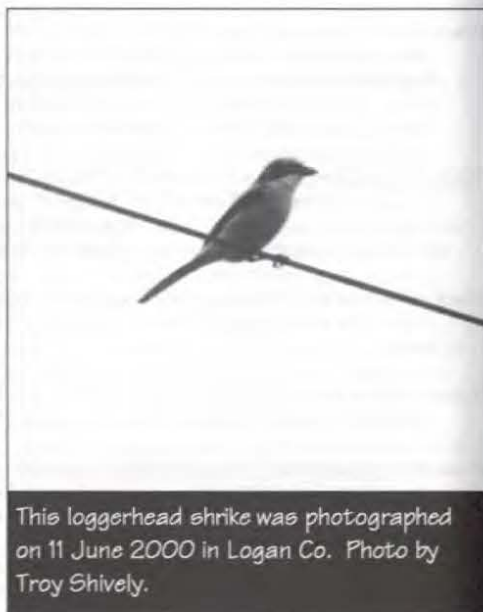
Least Flycatcher: Singing birds were near Lake La Su An WA on 1 July (E. Tramer) and 4 July (G. Links). Two were in *Magee* on 16 July (H&S Hiris), and one at *Nathan Hale Pk* in *Cuyahoga* on 17 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). One in *Woodbury WA* on 21 July (B. Master, fide J. McCormac) was in an area where a small breeding population may exist. C. Holt had singers in *Ashtabula* and at *GRWA* through the period.

Loggerhead Shrike: One was in *Seneca* on 4 June (T. Bartlett), and another in *Logan* on 11 June (T. Shively, ph) was refound by D. Sanders and D. Burton on 21 June.

White-eyed Vireo: One was a good find at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* 4 July (G. Links).

Bell's Vireo: First found on 1 June by J. Fry, a bird found a mate at BCSP by 9 June, but the resulting nest was abandoned by 18 June (D. Overacker).

Yellow-throated Vireo: A pair through the period near *Antwerp*, *Paulding*, was a noteworthy find (D&M Dunakin).



This loggerhead shrike was photographed on 11 June 2000 in Logan Co. Photo by Troy Shively.

Blue-headed Vireo: Five were in *Mohican SP* on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in *Pickaway* on 12 June (C. Toops et al.), one on 13 June in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty), nine in the *Maumee SF* by 15 June (T. Bartlett), three singing at *Cedar Falls SP* (J. Berry) on 16 June, 10 on the GAASBC, two during a BBS in *Clear Ck MP* (J. Watts), three in *Hinckley MP* in *Medina* on 2 July (Harlan, Wagner), five in *Stebbins Gulch*, *Geauga*, on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner), and one on 11 July in *Hancock* (B. Hardesty). Clearly doing well.

Horned Lark: Interesting was a juvenile found at *Conneaut Harbor* on 2 July (C. Holt).

Tree Swallow: A 1 July flock of 100 in *Butler* (M. Busam) was rather early, and 130+ at *Hebron* in *Licking* (R. Thorn) on 27 July was unusual as well.

Bank Swallow: C. Holt observed 75 nests at *Conneaut* on 25 June, then later ~700 staging at *Walnut Beach* on 15 July. At *BIWA*, 560 were found by V. Fazio on 26 July, and at *Conneaut P. Lozano et al.* found ~500 on the 30th.

Cliff Swallow: P. Yoder's final nest tally was 589 at his *Holmes* farm, slightly down from 1998's record 614, but thanks to temperate weather and good numbers of second broods, a record 2750-2850 young fledged, truly a tribute to his husbandry of these birds. Elsewhere, the species reclaimed many of last year's beachheads, and established new nesting areas. They arrived as early as 25 Mar this year, and very early were southbound birds seen in south Florida on 9 July this year (John Boyd).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: D. Sanders and B. Master discovered one at *Old Man's Cave* in *Hocking* on 10 June, where F. Renfrow later located a pair on 3 July. A bird was found for the third time in the last four years at *Atwood Lk*, *Tuscarawas*, on 2 July (J. Hammond), and another the same day at *Hinckley MP*, *Medina* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). Six were seen in the *Maumee SF* between late May and 15 June (T. Bartlett). A pair nested on *S. Bass Isl* during the period (S. Wulkowicz), as did another in a *Dayton suburb* (D. Nolin)—see note in this issue.

Brown Creeper: Four were found on the GAASBC. F. Renfrow found one on 3 July in *Conkle's Hollow* in *Hocking*.

Carolina Wren: Regaining some lost ground, as it nested on *S. Bass Isl* (S. Wulkowicz), and the *Dunakins* remarked that it "seems to be increasing again" in *Paulding*.

House Wren: 58 were tallied on an 18 July survey of *Hancock* (fide B. Hardesty), and 198 were counted in the GAASBC.

Winter Wren: One was found at *Mohican SP* on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), another at *Holden Arboretum* on 30 June (R. Rickard), and four at *Stebbin's Gulch* in *Geauga* on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner).

Sedge Wren: One theory holds that our second wave of this species consists of second-nesters and/or failed breeders from farther north in their range. Whatever the reason, July's wave was customarily higher than May's. Some of the interesting sites: three in *e. Licking* on 8 June (C. Dusthimer), 11 June in *Greene* (D. Overacker), 19 June *Lk La Su An WA* (J. Grabmeier) and one on 1 July just south of there (E. Tramer), 24 June in *Lorain* (C. Rieker) and two on 2 July in another *Lorain* spot (E. Harlan, S. Wagner), two in *Franklin* on 11 July (M. Albin), 15 July at *MWW* (N. Cade), and on 26 July at least eight singing males at *Carriage Hill MP* in *Montgomery* (D. Nolin).

Marsh Wren: Usually a good indicator of marsh health. Noted at *MWW* on 2 June (P. Wharton), 10 were at *PCWA* on 7 June (D. Sanders), five at *BCSP* on the 10th (D. Overacker), and 10+ at *Killbuck* on the 15th (J. Berry). S. Zadar censused six pairs at *Sandy Ridge Res'n* in the period. A weak showing at *Magee*, with three apiece on the June and July censuses (H&S Hiris).



This sedge wren was one of at least eight singing males at Carriage Hill MetroPark, Montgomery Co., during late July. Photo by David Nolin.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Only one reported, at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Intriguing was one found in *Hocking* on 30 July (D. Horn). There are no Ohio breeding records, but a singing male was found nearby in 1974 by Worth Randle. Horn also noted the arrival in *Hocking* of male gypsy moths.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: In the north, 61 were counted by the June GAASBC. J. Berry saw four fledged young in Brecksville on 14 June, on schedule for the north.

Eastern Bluebird: E. Tramer related that the species is increasing in the Oak Openings as trees are removed to create prairies, pointing out the trade-offs involved in diminished habitat for woodland birds. P. Yoder offered data for a trail on his 140-acre *Holmes* farm: 77 eggs, 62 hatched, 60 fledged.

Veery: Reports from some of the traditional spots didn't come in, but D. Overacker spotted one at BCSP on 2 July. Further north, D. Chasar found two nests in the CVNRA on 4 June (fide J. Berry), and C. Holt a bird in the Streetsboro Bog on 3 July.

Swainson's Thrush: Slowpokes included two on the Magee bird trail on 2 June and one in the Oak Openings the following day (E. Tramer); one in Wadsworth, *Medina*, on 9 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner) was even less than enthusiastic about the trip north.

Hermit Thrush: The GAASBC found two. F. Renfrow had four in Conkle's Hollow, *Hocking*, on 3 July, and J. Watts reported 15 elsewhere in the county, eight in a BBS in the Metro Parks and seven on 16 July visits to State Nature Preserves there.

Gray Catbird: Nest sites chosen unusually close to primates included one 19 July a foot from the wall of a Lancaster fast-food eatery (J. Fry) and a nest in a Parma Hts yard for the first time in 50 years (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). High count 10 in the Streetsboro Bog on 3 July (C. Holt).

Brown Thrasher: J&D Hochadel found the discovery of four in *Columbiana* on 4 June encouraging, as did E. Tramer that of four pairs southwest of Toledo.

European Starling: The species seems to be in decline in Europe; the British population fell 56% between 1973 and 1997, for reasons as yet unclear. Breeding Bird Survey data for the period 1966-1999 show a decline of 0.9% per year in North America, but only 0.4% in Ohio.

American Pipit: Pretty late was one at Walnut Beach on 4 June (C. Holt).

Blue-winged Warbler: R. Thorn reported it as nesting sparingly in the Columbus area.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

Hybrids of the above two species: *Brewster's*—an individual reported in spring at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site remained through June (S. Zadar); one was noted in Secor MP, *Lucas*, on 17 June by J. Sawvel and D. Hopson. *Lawrence's*—Lynda Andrews of the USFS had several nice finds, with a singing male in *Athens* on 6 June, then two singing males in *Hocking* on the 7th. One of the latter birds was refound by B. Master and D. Sanders on 10 June.

Tennessee Warbler: Tennessees seemed to be running late this year, and not only in Ohio; there was a Nebraska report on 11 June. J. McCormac had two singing in *Delaware* on 9 June, and J. Sawvel and D. Hopson one in view and in constant song at Secor MP very late on the 17th.

Northern Parula: Reassuring but unsurprising were four at Mohican SP on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and two in Clear Ck MP, *Hocking*, on 10 June (B. Whan), but many reports came from unaccustomed areas. E. Tramer had a singing male in Secor MP on 9 June, then J. Sawvel and D. Hopson one there on the 17th; B. Master noted a territorial male near Woodbury WA, *Coshocton*, on 9 June; M. Albin had four in *Franklin* on the 12th; both J. Grabmeier and J. Yochum found a bird in Lk La Su An WA on the 17th, and during June D. St. John found nine singing males in the Zaleski SF in *Vinton*.

Yellow Warbler: As befitted an early spring arrival, early departure was noted with a migrant at Brook Park on 6 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). More expected were two migrants on 15 July and five on 17 July in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach), and 20 passing through Walnut Beach on the 23rd (C. Holt).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Two were found 4 June in Mohican SP (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Magnolia Warbler: Late migrants included one at Lakeshore MP on 5 June (J. Pogacnik) and a male in *Delaware* 9 June (J. McCormac). Nesting took place as usual in *Hocking*, with a singing male noted at Cantwell Cliffs on 16 June (J. Berry), at Mohican SP with two on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and at Stebbin's Gulch, *Geauga*, on 8 July (Harlan, Wagner); a less traditional spot was Hinckley MP in *Medina*, where two were noted 2 July by Harlan and Wagner.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Nice was a singing bird in Stebbin's Gulch on 24 June (H. Petruschke).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A male in song on 17 June at Gordon Park, *Cuyahoga*, was very unusual; the bird was seen well and song and call heard by experienced observers (S. Zadar, T. Gilliland).

Black-throated Green Warbler: At the usual spots, R. Harlan and S. Wagner found five in Mohican SP on 4 June, five in Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 2 July, and five in Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July. A bird singing in the Oak Openings on 3 June (E. Tramer) was not later reported. D. St. John had six in a white pine stand during June in the Zaleski SF, *Vinton*.

Blackburnian Warbler: On 3 July F. Renfrow discovered a pair with young in the Hocking Hills, then one the following day at Cedar Falls. R. Harlan and S. Wagner had one at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July. B. Fate saw two locals on 16 July in *Vinton*.

Yellow-throated Warbler: North of the heaviest concentrations, one was singing on 3 June in the Oak Openings (E. Tramer), one was at Lk La Su An WA on the 17th (J. Grabmeier), and one was seen on the 20th in *Hancock* (K. Noblet). D. St. John remarked that the species has "dramatically increased the usage of ridge-tops" occupied by red or even white pines in the Zaleski SF—unusual for our "sycamore" warbler (see Dunn's *Warblers* p 327, or Chapman's *The Warblers of N. America* pp 180-185).

Pine Warbler: One was found 3 June in the Oak Openings (E. Tramer), then unreported.

Kirtland's Warbler: No reports here of course, but the Michigan DNR announced this summer's count in the state was 891 singing males, second only to 1999's 905; birds were found in 12 counties, including four in the UP, where the species has been located since 1996. No birds were reported in Wisconsin or Ontario this year.

Prairie Warbler: L. Gara found a new territory at Caesar Ck SP on 6 June. The species has been very successful in reclaimed stripmine areas, witness 30+ censused at Crown City WA in *Lawrence* (J. McCormac).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Last reported 5 June at Lakeshore MP (J. Pogacnik).

Blackpoll Warbler: E. Schlabach had a singing male in e. *Holmes* on 3 June, and J. Pogacnik two at Lakeshore MP on 5 June.

Cerulean Warbler: Two were in "the usual spot" at Secor MP on 3 June (E. Tramer). High count 10 on 1 July at Shawnee Lookout, *Hamilton* (N. Cade).

Black-and-white Warbler: R. Thorn had one in Columbus on 23 June, then an apparent migrant on the mildly surprising date of 1 July at Hoover Res. R. Harlan and S. Wagner noted a male on territory at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 2 July.

American Redstart: P. Yoder reported the first southbound bird on 23 July in *Holmes*.

Prothonotary Warbler: C. Babyak found two territories at Mosquito Lk WA on 11 June. J. Yochum found two feeding two nestlings at Lk La Su An WA on 18 June, where B. McGuire found another on 2 July. Two were found in the GAASBC, and C. Holt discovered one in the CVNRA on 4 July. At Hoover Res, 12+ pairs were using artificial nest boxes on 11 June (R. Thorn).

Northern Waterthrush: One was in *Ashtabula* on 25 June (C. Holt), and N. Barber discovered one along the Mosquito Trail at HBSP, Lake, on 30 July.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Ten were at Stebbin's Gulch, *Geauga*, on 24 June (H. Petruschke). An apparent migrant was detected at Hoover Res on the early date of 1 July (R. Thorn).

Kentucky Warbler: One was in *Medina* at Hinckley MP on 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Mourning Warbler: At Lakeshore MP, J. Pogacnik had two on 5 June. A vocal male in the Oak Openings sang through 11 June, then disappeared (E. Tramer). Six were counted on surveys during the period in *Hocking* parks, with a confirmed nest (3 July, M. Albin) in Clear Ck MP, where this summer 19 species of warblers nested or defended territories (J. Watts).

Common Yellowthroat: High count 15 at Streetsboro Bog 3 July (C. Holt).

Hooded Warbler: 86 were counted on the GAASBC in *Summit*.

Wilson's Warbler: One straggled through Lakeshore MP on 5 June (J. Pogacnik).

Canada Warbler: Massachusetts birder J. Berry was pleased to find a male at Cantwell Cliffs in *Hocking* on 16 June, particularly as it shared the glen with a Kentucky and a hooded. Seven were on the Clear Creek MP breeding bird survey (J. Watts). Three were found in Mohican SP on 4 June by R. Harlan and S. Wagner. Closer to Canada, the same observers located five at Stebbin's Gulch on 8 July.

Yellow-breasted Chat: G. Links had one at Lake La Su An WA on 4 July. One persisted at Riverbend in *Hancock* through the period (B. Hardesty). Reclaimed stripmines welcomed the species: 20+ males were at Crown City, and 15+ at Woodbury (J. McCormac).

Summer Tanager: This year's *Delaware* male ceased singing in May, then resumed the first week of July through the end of the period (J. Hammond). A bird was singing in Oak Openings MP on 4 and 9 June (E. Tramer). One or two males and a female were at Blendon Wds MP, *Franklin*, through the period (R. Thorn). A territorial male was at Mohican SP from late May through at least 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Scarlet Tanager: A migrant was noted as late as 17 June in *Medina* (R. Harlan, S. Wagner).

Vesper Sparrow: E. Tramer called the species "increasingly difficult to find" in the northwest, with only two pairs in southwest *Lucas* this year.

Lark Sparrow: Apparently successful in Oak Openings MP, with 10 young flying by mid-June; two fledglings were found on the relatively late date of 29 July (E. Tramer).

Lark Bunting: Details are with the OBRC for a report of several over four days in July in *Hancock*.



Another fine shot of a male blue grosbeak at Crown City Wildlife Area on 17 July 2000. Photo by Bob Royce.

Savannah Sparrow: Five or more were in MWW on 2 June (P. Wharton) and remained through the period. Fifteen were at BCSP on the following day (D. Overacker). Ten were in Holmes on 16 July (L. Deininger).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Quite common, where allowed to persist, as in some reclaimed strip-mine areas. High count 80+ at BIWA on 30 June (V. Fazio). A nice find was a bird in *Ashtabula* on 25 June (C. Holt).

Henslow's Sparrow: A species out-of-state birders often want to see, and we should have no trouble finding some for them. Abundant at reclaimed strip-mine grasslands. In *Williams*, about as far as you can get from its recorded haunts in the Breeding Bird Atlas, J. Grabmeier had as many as 6-8 pairs apiece at five locations in or near Lake La Su An WA during the period, where G. Links found small colonies at four locations on 22 July. Eleven were located in urban *Franklin* on 11 July (M. Albin). Eighteen were at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on 3 June (J. Watts). Three were in *Lorain* on 2 July (R. Harlan, S. Wagner). During early July, D. St. John had 30+ at a *Hocking* site and 50+ at another in *Vinton*.

Swamp Sparrow: 68 reported on the GAASBC during June in *Summit*. Ten were at some selected spots in mostly-dry Woodbury WA on 4 June (R. Harlan, S. Wagner), and another 10 at Streetsboro Bog on 3 July (C. Holt). A poor showing at Magee, with only three each on 18 June and 16 July (H&S Hiris).

White-crowned Sparrow: A laggard was in *Mahoning* on 2 June (B&D Lane).

Dark-eyed Junco: Two were in Monroe Twp in *Ashtabula* on 11 June (C. Holt). H. Petruschke found young at Stebbin's Gulch on 10 June. R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one territory at Mohican SP on 4 June, and five birds at Stebbin's Gulch and two at Little Mountain on 8 July.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The GAASBC had 127 in *Summit*. R. Harlan and S. Wagner reported a migrant in *Medina* as late as 23 June. A pair spent the period in Woodbury WA (J. McCormac). In more surprising locales, two were at Shawnee SF, *Scioto*, on 27 June (D. Sanders, D. Burton), and L. Andrews *et al.* found a territorial male in *Hocking* on 29 June.

Blue Grosbeak: Reported from nine counties in spring; three counties added in the summer. Abundant at Crown City WA, with as many as 18 territorial males; a male was found in *Jackson* on 20 June (J. McCormac). H. Nagy had two in Tri-Valley WA, *Muskingum*, on 13 June, and J. Pogacnik one singing near Castalia in *Erie* on 4 July.

Dickcissel: A good year for the species in the entire eastern US and Ontario. Reports were received for the following 28 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Butler, Clark, Coshoc-ton, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Lake, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Muskingum, Paulding, Pickaway, Preble, Sandusky, Seneca, Warren, Williams, and Wyandot. The influx began on 12 May, when S. MacGillis found two at Metzger. High counts included as many as 45 territorial males at Crown City WA during the period (B. Royce, J. McCormac), and 58 birds at BIWA (V. Fazio). Nesting was suspected or confirmed in many of the aforementioned areas.

Bobolink: No large numbers reported, the largest 20+ pairs near Guilford Lk SP on 20 June (B&D Lane). R. Rickard found none at Holden Arboretum for the first time in years. Early haying in a good growing season doubtless destroyed many nests. The first two migrants were reported in *Holmes* (E. Schlabach) on 15 July.



This singing male dickcissel was photographed at Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion Co., in July 2000. Photo by Bob Royce.

Eastern Meadowlark: High counts included 15 at Slate Run MP on 3 June (J. Watts) and 10 in *Ashtabula* on 9 July (C. Holt): nothing encouraging here.

Western Meadowlark: B. Hardesty reported one from rural *Hancock* on 27 June.

Common Grackle: A flock of 300 was at Walnut Beach on 9 July, more or less on schedule (C. Holt).

Orchard Oriole: The high count of eight on 22 July in *Tuscarawas* was probably made up of migrants (E. Schlabach).

Baltimore Oriole: The GAASBC counted 268 during a June week in *Summit*.

House Sparrow: The "English sparrow" has declined in Britain by 64% between 1972 and 1996, and is virtually extirpated from London and Glasgow; several recovery programs have been proposed. Here in North America, the Breeding Bird Survey data show declines of 2.5% a year in the species' numbers between 1966 and 1999.

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One of three dickcissel nests found in a fallow field in Lorain Co. this season. In the color original, the eggs were bright blue, the color very reminiscent of bluebird eggs. Photo by Scott Wright.

Further Afield by Rob Harlan

"A change would do you good"
Sheryl Crowe, 1996

"Or not"
Rob Harlan, 2000

Change can be frightening, unexpected, or tragic; change can be beneficial, welcome, or overdue. But no matter how one looks at it, change is inevitable. This is one reason we maintain a record of our history: to preserve the past, or establish a snapshot image of the present. Change and its history teach us that future researchers will benefit greatly from our birding discoveries today, if only to serve as a measuring-stick for findings in their version of the present. I like the old saying that we can see as far as we do today only because we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

A sage Ohio ornithologist has said: "This is a golden age for ornithological investigation. One wonders how the field workers of yesterday accomplished so much with so many handicaps to overcome. Good roads and auto transportation now enable one person to visit all the out-of-the-way corners of a whole state and make direct comparisons between contrasting locations. Communication is such that every ornithologist in the state can keep closely in touch with the work of all others and benefit by the exchange of ideas and the competition afforded." Since this quotation comes from Lawrence E. Hicks in 1935, we may safely assume that he wasn't speaking of interstate highways and the Internet. But one of us could have just as easily said the same thing earlier this morning. Change, it seems, can also be very relative.

So not only is change inevitable, it is good, bad, or indifferent, depending on our point of view. A prairie warbler might favor a southeastern Ohio clear-cut. A hooded warbler would probably frown on such a choice. It might be our instinct to side with the frowning hooded warbler, but my guess is that the prairie warbler wouldn't need or even ask for our compassion, because the change had given it a chance. And so we proceed, apologizing to John Milton, to Paradise Mislaid.

Change can make or break a birding site, and not just for one or two species. Habitat-wide alterations affect a wide range of birdlife. Many of us have heard of natural areas now obliterated, either entirely or essentially. The Great Black Swamp of northwestern Ohio and the Pymatuning Bog of northeastern Ohio come quickly to mind, both now mere shadows of their former glory. Neither is likely to spring back to full splendor anytime soon, so great have been the changes in their habitats and landscape. These paradises have been lost. But not all lost paradises need to stay lost forever. There is one spot in Ohio that has a great but little-known birding history; in fact, portions of the area are still preserved today, but only as a semblance of its past. We may have changed the face of the land, but not the landscape itself, not what made the area great in the first place. If we were to step back and let nature take its course, allowing it to regenerate and regrow its natural vegetation (with a little help, perhaps), I feel that over time this area might become the premier birding area in the entire state. But of course this is easier said than done.

Rather than simply naming the location up front, it might serve us better to review some of the changes that have occurred there. All the accounts that follow come from a series of six contemporaneous articles describing this locale, published for the his-