

## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife. To do so, it validates records, maintains for the public archives of records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishes the official list of Ohio's bird species. The OBRC depends on the help of field observers who supply complete details of their sightings of rare birds, i.e., those on the OBRC's Review List, which last appeared in *The Ohio Cardinal* in the Spring 2000 issue. Review List species require acceptable documentation (written details, photos, sound recordings, and/or specimens) to enter the official record. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as the bird journal of record for the state, will not treat reports of Review List rarities as established until accepted by the OBRC, and hence will not usually publish reports of these species unsupported by documentation submitted to the Committee.

The OBRC cannot review sightings, of course, only documentations of sightings. A rare bird might well be found, but if acceptable details of the observation are not submitted for the historical record, it will unfortunately remain in the realm of unsupported rumor. The Committee's task is not to decide if a given species was indeed seen, but only to decide if documentation from observers meets the criteria for inclusion in the historical record. All documentations, as well as the Committee votes and other actions thereon, are available to the public upon request to the Secretary, with the single exception of the identities of members voting. We offer here, as a general rule, only brief notations on OBRC actions, details of which are available from the Secretary. Current members and counties of residence are: Jim McCormac, Secretary (*Franklin*); Bob Conlon (*Franklin*), Dave Dister (*Montgomery*), Rob Harlan (*Cuyahoga*), Craig Holt (*Portage*), Tom Kemp (*Lucas*)\*, Bernard Master (*Franklin*), Kevin Metcalf (*Geauga*)\*, Larry Rosche (*Portage*), Jay Stenger (*Hamilton*)\*, and Bill Whan (*Franklin*)\*. An asterisk indicates a member whose term expires in March 2001; nominations for four new members to serve three-year terms beginning in March 2001 will be sent to all *Cardinal* subscribers. If other nominees are named according to the rules by subscribers, an election will be held.

**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.

Mississippi Kite—Clermont County, 5-6 July 2000, observers B. Stanley, H.

Armstrong, J. Lehman

Ruff—Ottawa County, 4 April 2000, observers Kent and Dolores Glauser

California Gull—Warren County, 13 May 2000, observer N. Keller

California Gull—Auglaize County, 12 November 2000, observer D. Dister

Rufous Hummingbird—Wayne County, 6-9 Sept 2000, observer S. Snyder

*Selasphorus* hummingbird—Ashtabula County, 5 October 2000, observer H.

Petruschke

Western Kingbird—Cuyahoga County, 8 September 2000, observer J. Mizanin

Townsend's Solitaire—Medina County, Nov 1994, observers L. Rosche, R. Harlan

Le Conte's Sparrow—Holmes County, 12-21 October 2000, observer E. Schlabach

Le Conte's Sparrow—Lake County, 28 October 2000, observer K. Metcalf

**RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION:** These records are being recirculated, the documentation for which having received between six and eight votes to accept.

Glossy Ibis—Hamilton County, 10 September 2000

Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 15 September 2000

Dovekie—Auglaize County, 31 October 2000

Western Tanager—Cuyahoga County, 3 October 2000

Hoary Redpoll—Cuyahoga County, 20-21 January and 16-18 February 2000

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

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Washington County, 26 March 2000

Magnificent Hummingbird—Hancock County, 11 September 2000

Lark Bunting—Hancock County, 18 July 2000

In addition, documentation has been or will be received for observations of the following species/genera/subspecies: several *Plegadis* ibises, "Harlan's" hawk in *Holmes*, long-tailed jaeger in *Lake*, adult black-legged kittiwake in *Clinton*, *Selasphorus* hummingbird in *Hamilton*, varied thrush in *Hancock*, varied thrush in *Lucas*, Le Conte's sparrow in *Cuyahoga*, and Harris's sparrow in *Wayne*. Bill Whan

## Fall Raptors Report

Most of the region's migrant raptors are less than enthusiastic about crossing large bodies of water. Consequently, Lake Erie is a major barrier to southbound raptors in the fall. The mass movement of hawks, falcons, and eagles out of Canada at this time is easy to visualize by looking at a map of the Great Lakes: raptors follow the narrowing landform of Ontario and are funneled into southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio as they disperse toward various southern destinations. This fanning-out happens quickly; torrents of birds along the western Lake Erie shore become streams both wider and shallower; while we can see good numbers of migrant raptors, we will never match the concentrations seen just a few dozen miles north of the border.

Thus it makes sense to turn to the numbers recorded by hawkwatchers of the Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research organization for a truer picture of the regional raptor numbers for this fall. Here, courtesy of SMRR Director Jeff Schultz, are the final totals for fall of 2000.

Turkey Vulture: 33,183\*

Osprey: 161

Bald Eagle: 110

Northern Harrier: 244

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9,265

Cooper's Hawk: 592

Northern Goshawk: 61\*

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1,098\*

Broad-winged Hawk: 110,195

Swainson's Hawk: 12

Red-tailed Hawk: 8,219

Rough-legged Hawk: 79

Golden Eagle: 252\*

American Kestrel: 1,087

Merlin: 58

Peregrine Falcon: 42

Unidentified: 44

Short-eared Owl: 2

Snowy Owl: 1

**Grand Total:** 164,705

**Total hours of observation:** 584.25

\* new season high for this species.