

Lucas; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly census at Ottawa NWR, reported by **E. Pierce**; Res=reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigenda

The number of great blue herons at Magee Marsh WA on 19 May 2002 should be 39. Delete the 28 Apr 2002 record of gray-cheeked thrush. The 38 black-crowned night-herons in Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl were seen on 10 Mar 2002.

For the Record

Here are noteworthy reports from the previous period that for one reason or another escaped our notice for publication in the Spring 2002 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*:

Horned Grebe: One in alt plumage was at ONWR 26 May (**B. Zwiebel**) and seen the following day there (**S. Cummings** *vide* **Zwiebel**).

Snowy Egret: One was near Wilmot in *Stark* 3 Apr (**P. Soehnen**).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 300 at Killbuck 8 Apr (**M. Keim**).

Green-winged Teal: The 7 Apr ONWRC found 356 of this species.

Northern Pintail: On 7 Apr, 833 were tallied by the ONWRC.

Hooded Merganser: At Pleasant Hill Lk, 205 was a fine number on 2 Mar (**J. Herman**).

Sanderling: An inland sighting came from N of Shreve in *Wayne* 2 May (**B. Glick**).

Wilson's Snipe: The ONWRC of 3 Mar found two.

Sedge Wren: **G. Troyer** saw two in Berlin, *Holmes*, on 8 May, then heard two there a week later.

Lark Sparrow: **E. Tramer** remarked that the Oak Openings colony may be expanding; on 27 May he flushed a male from a field ½ mile E of the park, two miles from the nearest known nest sites. Unfortunately, the field was plowed and put into soybeans a few days later.

Lapland Longspur: One remained at ONWR as late as 5 May (ONWRC). Of the four previous published May records of this species, by far the most spectacular was a "crude estimate" of 10,000 near Toledo on 1 May 1949 by **Harold Mayfield**.

White-winged Crossbill: A pair persisted from late Dec as late as 3 May at a Massillon feeder (**T. Ross**). 

Summer 2002 Reports

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Common Loon: Several basic-plumaged birds sat out the season on the sidelines at Ohio reservoirs. **P. Haskins** reported one on Seneca Lk, *Guernsey/Noble*, on 10 Jun. **B. Cullen** noted a first-summer bird in *Wood* 16 Jun through at least 28 Jul. One at KPWA, first reported by **G. Miller** on 28 Jun, remained through the period, and a vocal duo summered near Findlay (**B. Hardesty**).

Pied-billed Grebe: The ONWRC tallied nine on 2 Jun, and the Magee census 22 on 21 Jul (**H&S Hiris**). At least one brood was at MWW, with reports of a hen with four chicks on 8 Jun (**F. Frick**), one with six on 14 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**), then one with five on 20 Jun (**Frick**). Two hens with 12 young were seen at GRWA 12 Jun by **G. Leidy**, who found another with six young at Mill Stream Run Res'n 7-29 Jul. Fifteen birds including chicks were at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**), and a pair spent the season at a *Muskingum* wetland this year (**J. McCormac**).

Horned Grebe: Exceedingly rare in summer. **M. Crofts** (*vide* **E. Pierce**) found one in breeding plumage at ONWR in Jun (this may have been that seen twice in late May there: see "For the Record"); stranger still was another in alternate plumage at KPWA's upground reservoir on 6 Jul (**R. Sempier**, ph), seen by several other observers in the week before and after.

American White Pelican: **J. Pogacnik** spotted two over Sandusky Bay on 22 Jun for the only summer report.



This alternate-plumaged horned grebe graced Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area's upground reservoir in Wyandot County for several days in July. It was photographed there on 6 July 2002 by Ron Sempier.

Double-crested Cormorant: The ODOW survey at W. Sister Isl estimated 2787 pairs, up 6.9% from last year; their increase there has been steady since 1997 when 1380 pairs were estimated. Non-breeders were noted in many inland bodies of water, with an early two at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Jun (**W. Hull**) and four at Hoover Res on 4 Jul (**R. Thorn**). Three or four summered on the Fostoria reservoirs (**B. Hardesty**).

American Bittern: Sparsely reported, but this is not news. One was found on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and **E. Tramer** had one 29 Jun at CPNWR. A possible nester was at Arcola Ck, *Lake*, in early Jun (**J. Pogacnik**). Interesting were two heard at MWW on 11 Jul (**G. Carey**).

Least Bittern: The 2 Jun ONWRC found but one. Two were calling at Mallard Club Marsh WA on 9 Jun (**B. Whan**), and another on 16 Jun at MWW (**L. Brumbaugh**). At CPNWR, **E. Tramer** noted four on 9 Jun, three on 13 Jul, and one on 27 Jul. A nest with three eggs was discovered at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, in Jun (**J. Watts**).

Great Blue Heron: ODOW estimated 1007 pairs on W. Sister Isl this season, up from 906 last year, but well below the recent high of 2444 in 1992. The Lordstown colony in *Trumbull* featured 375 nests in 88 trees this year (**C. Babyak**), up a single nest from last year's count. By 30 Jul, 40+ post-breeders had gathered at Hoover Res (**R. Thorn**).

Great Egret: Pairs estimated at W. Sister Isl were 733, up 14.5% from last summer; in recent years the high was 1120 pairs in 1995. Onshore, while 203 were accounted for in the 2 Jun ONWRC and 343 on 21 Jul's Magee count (**H&S Hiris**), a few apparently summered to the south, with one near Wooster 1-2 Jun and two at Funk WA 8-9 Jun (both **S. Snyder**), two at Gilmore Ponds on 15 Jun (**W. Hull**), one in *Hancock* on 18 Jun (**B. Hardesty**), and one along the Little Miami River on 22 Jun (**N. Keller**). **B&D Lane** noted two at Chillicothe through the period. One was at Cowan Lk SP on 24 Jul (**L. Gara**) and two were at BIWA 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**).

Snowy Egret: Thirteen pairs were estimated at W. Sister Isl this season (ODOW), a remarkably stable population: estimates for 1997-2001 were 13, 10, 13, 14, and 13 respectively. Thirteen birds were at Magee 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**). A new record number for the state was 37 found at ONWR by an OSU ornithology class 2 Jul (**J. Condit et al.**), while 30 were reported by **R. Hinkle** there on 20 Jul.

Little Blue Heron: Wanderers included an adult at ONWR on 3 Jun (**M. Gallaway**), an imm in Chillicothe 5 Jun (**B&D Lane**), an adult in alt plumage in *Hamilton* on 12 Jun (**J. Cade**), one at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* 10 Jul (**J. Watts**), and one along the Little Miami R in *Montgomery* on 20 Jul (**E&B Neubauer** *vide* **J. Arnold**).

Cattle Egret: Various reports emerged from just south of Sandusky's Turning Pt Isl colony, with the largest number reported nine seen there on 22 Jul by **V. Fazio**. The last time this species bred further west at W. Sister Isl was in 1999—a single nest—according to ODOW survey data.

Green Heron: **J. Pogacnik** located them in 19 locations in the *Lake* MP system this summer. In *Summit*, the Audubon census this summer counted 44. This solitary species seems not to gather in groups larger than families until late Jul, exemplified by 12+ found at Slate Run MP, *Pickaway*, on the 28th by **J. Hammond**.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Rough estimates in 1934 were made of 5000 to 10,000 nests on W. Sister Isl, and by 1991 there were still 1113 pairs. This year's estimate of 393, while down from last year's 427, still exceeds the nadir of 1999, when 387 were estimated (ODOW); selective clearing of trees on the site is intended to increase nesting success for this species (**M. Shieldcastle**). Fourteen on the 2 Jun ONWRC and 10 at Magee on 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**) were probably from the aforementioned colony; four seen in *Hamilton* on 15 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**) from the Mill Creek colony; 12 at Sheldon Marsh SNP on 14 Jun (**M. Busam**) and 17 at Pickerel Ck WA on 13 Jul (**B. Whan et al.**) were more likely from the Turning Pt Isl colony. At Shaker Lks, 1-8 seen through Jul (**L. Deininger**) were of more indeterminable provenance.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The Columbus "colony," which consisted of but one successful nest this spring, persisted in the form of three of the four fledged young through 5 Jul (**B. Beitzel**), with no sightings reported thereafter, surprisingly enough.

Black Vulture: Departures from the norm included one seen in *Pickaway* on 14 Jun (**D. Overacker**), two over MWW on 16 Jun (**L. Brumbaugh**), and a nest (for the second year in a row) with two young in an abandoned house in *Coshocton* (**J. Miller**).

Turkey Vulture: A normal season, though a roost of 160 in *Holmes* 5 Jun was worthy of mention (**E. Schlabach**).

Snow Goose: Apparently only the second Jun record for Ohio, one lingered at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 4-6 Jun (**J. Yochum**).

Canada Goose: **K. Metcalf** noted that the flightless period of this species in *Geauga* lasted from 18 Jun-18 Jul this year.

Brant: As far as we can tell Ohio's first Jun record was one that touched down on the Conneaut Harbor mudflats on the 2nd (**J. Pogacnik**).

Mute Swan: A flock of 24—with no young birds present—at EHSP on 4 Jun was remarkable (**N. Bixler**). The first Ohio nesting attempt by feral mute swans occurred only 15 years ago. The first nest at Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, was noted in 1999; this year, Medusa hosted five successful nests, and by 25 Jul there were 25 swans present (**J. Hildreth**). Another swan species not native to Ohio as a breeder, the trumpeter swan, hatched a record 46 cygnets this year (vs. 31 last year) as part of the ODOW's introduction project. The project's goal of 15 breeding pairs by 2006 seems likely to be met well ahead of schedule; how many extra swans might constitute an impact comparable to that of the mute swan remains in the eyes of beholders for the moment.

Wood Duck: Post-breeding gatherings of neglectful alt males were typified by 86 on the 7 Jul ONWRC.

Gadwall: Only lingerers were noted: two on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and one 7 Jun at Conneaut (**J. Sedransk**).

American Black Duck: Apparently continues its decline. **G. Leidy** noted two flyovers in Strongsville, *Cuyahoga*, on 1 Jul, and **G. Miller** one at ONWR on 26 Jul, when **C. Holt** reported one at Conneaut (*vide* **V. Fazio**).

Blue-winged Teal: Widely noted in the unglaciated counties, and as far south as MWW on 16 Jun (**N. Keller**).

Northern Shoveler: Persisted through 2 Jun, with seven individuals for the ONWRC, another at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* (**J. Yochum**), and two at Walnut Beach in *Ashabula* (**J. Spindelov**). Another story was told by a molting adult male in Parma 16 Jun (**G. Leidy**) and another bird at BIWA on 28 Jun (**G. Miller**).

Northern Pintail: Typical, with one straggler on the ONWRC of 2 Jun, and another at CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**).

Green-winged Teal: Interesting were one in Fostoria 4 Jun (**B. Hardesty**), three at BIWA on 22 Jun (**T. Shively**), and one at Kendall Lk in the CVNP 5 Jul (**G. Leidy, S. Zadar**); more to be expected were nine, including 2 alt drakes, for the ONWRC of 7 Jul.

Redhead: A drake on the 7 Jul ONWRC was of interest.

Ring-necked Duck: Tardy were a drake remaining from May through 3 Jun near Wooster (**S. Snyder**) and another in *Paulding* through 8 Jun (**J. Yochum**). Still more unusual was one estivating through 28 Jun at KPWA (**G. Miller**).

Lesser Scaup: Two were still to be found at ONWR for the census of 2 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: Nested successfully across northern Ohio, and apparently broods are already old hat in *Hamilton*, where a hen with three young was noted 16 Jun (N. Keller).

Red-breasted Merganser: Lingerers included two at Conneaut on 2 Jun (J. Pogacnik) and three at a Findlay reservoir on 4 Jun (fide B. Hardesty).

Ruddy Duck: An extraordinary season for this species. Peterjohn states that most ruddies depart the state by 10 May, and calls them "rare summer residents along western Lake Erie" and "accidental to casual summer visitors within other glaciated counties." During Jun and Jul 156 birds were reported, only 15 of them found along western Lk Erie. Reports of singletons to groups of 20 or more, including many alternate-plumaged drakes, came from *Ashland, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Lucas, Marion, Montgomery, Paulding, Pickaway, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot*. Breeding was confirmed in *Hamilton* at MWW, where H. Armstrong noted courtship displays on 9 Jun, and F. Frick a hen with eight chicks on 21 Jul. This species also bred at BIWA where a hen and three chicks were discovered in early Aug (J. Fuller). Birders elsewhere in the region, and as far away as New England, remarked on the unusual local persistence of this species during the summer.

Osprey: ODOU reported 19 nests this season, up from 15 in 2001, with 32 chicks hatched, up from 23 in 2001. Some aspects of this species' local phenology seem to have changed with re-introductions (witness the arrival of one at the nest site on the very early date of 9 Mar this year). Notable reports include one over Winton Wds, *Hamilton*, on 17 Jun (R. Kolde), a pair the same day at GRWA (J. Pogacnik), one at ONWR on 22 Jun (B. Zwiebel), and one over a Findlay Res on 2 Jul (fide B. Hardesty). Late Jul reports that may pertain to migrants included birds on the 26th in *Wood* and *Lucas* (G. Miller), two in *Wood* on the 28th (B. Cullen), and on the 30th one over LaDue Res (S. Zadar) and another at a Findlay Res (fide Hardesty). Do locally re-introduced birds depart early, just as they apparently arrive early? More research, as they always say, needs to be done.

Mississippi Kite: An imm seen over *Sylvania, Lucas*, on 3 Jun (G. Links) was not refund; accepted by the OBRC. This species staged some extraordinary incursions into new territory this summer; a Cape Cod, Massachusetts hawk watch reported an amazing nine birds, including a group of four, on 1 Jun (T. Carrolan).

Bald Eagle: ODOU reported 78 nesting pairs, and a total of 105 eaglets surviving four weeks of life, for the state. New pairs were noted in *Crawford, Hancock, Holmes, Sandusky, and Trumbull*. J. Fry reported an adult over *Hocking* on 11 Jun for an out-of-the-way record.

Northern Harrier: We see quite a few harriers during the breeding season in Ohio, but too seldom is nesting confirmed. One was at ONWR on 3 Jun (M. Gallaway). The first of several KPWA sightings was of a female on 9 Jun (B. Conlon). An imm bird spent the period near the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* (M&D Dunakin). One was in *Williams* on 16 Jun (J. Grabmeier), and another east of BCSP on 5 Jul (D. Overacker). Three were found on 13 Jul in two locations in *Marion* (B. Whan et al.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: R. Harlan and S. Wagner found one in Norton, *Summit*, on 16 Jun and 16 Jul, as well as an imm occupying the same Wadsworth, *Medina*, tree 17 and 24 Jul. J. Pogacnik found the species at six locations in the *Lake* MPs, with at least two probably harboring nesting.

Cooper's Hawk: In healthy numbers. R. Thorn reported 18-19 nests in a season-long survey of urban *Franklin/Delaware* this season.

Red-shouldered Hawk: E. Schlabach contributed two interesting reports, of an adult at Beach City dam, *Tuscarawas*, probably a local nester, on 13 Jul, and a juv further south in *Ragersville* on 27 Jul.

Broad-winged Hawk: Reports from *Cuyahoga* included sightings at the Ledges in the CVNP on 5 Jul and Royalview Picnic Area 8 Jul (both G. Leidy), as well as a CVNP nest at Brandywine Falls and another at Brecksville Res'n, where young probably fledged between 8 and 11 Jul (D. Chasar).

American Kestrel: D. Chasar found two adults and four young at a CVNP nest on 1 Jun; the young fledged the nest over several days.

Peregrine Falcon: What must have been an early migrant imm showed up in *Paulding* on 28 (J. Yochum) and 29 Jul (D&M Dunakin). As with ospreys, it is worth studying whether migration schedules of this species have changed in Ohio since the days before manipulated populations.

Northern Bobwhite: While D. Chasar was able to find one roaming about in the city of Hudson on 16 Jun, E. Tramer reported hearing one at CPNWR on 27 Jul, then remarked that "this can only be described as a disaster species in the Toledo area."

King Rail: Interestingly, two were seen at KPWA on 1 Jun (B. Barchus et al.), with one relocated at the same spot on 8 Jun (B. Morrison).

Common Moorhen: The Ottawa complex has been good for this uncommon species in recent years, and H&S Hiris counted 10 at Magee Marsh on 16 Jun, with nine on 21 Jul. Over at ONWR, the census team found five on 2 Jun, then six, including four downy young, on 7 Jul. Elsewhere, S. Zadar reported one at GRWA on 12 Jun, J. McCormac at least one pair at a *Muskingum* wetland through the period, and G. Leidy another at Herrick Fen, *Portage*, on 17 Jul. J. Pogacnik had a pair with young during the period in a wetland in *Lake*.

American Coot: Western Lk Erie marshes were again occupied, witness 78 on the 2 Jun ONWRC and 142 tallied in Magee Marsh on 16 Jun (H&S Hiris). S. Snyder reported four near Wooster on 2 Jun, then one 7-8 Jun at Killbuck Marsh. Two were at a Findlay Res on 4 Jun (fide B. Hardesty), and one at Gilmore Ponds on 24 Jun (J. Seymour). The *Summit* Audubon census tallied 14. One was at Slate Run MP in *Pickaway* during Jun (J. Watts). F. Frick saw a hen with four young at MWW on 20 Jun, and J. Hammond 24 including young at BIWA on 28 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: S. Snyder had two adults at Funk Bottoms WA on 9 Jun; ODOU reported that two young had hatched at Funk, but none at Killbuck WA after nest failure probably due to flooding. Overall they confirmed seven nesting attempts: four at Killbuck, two at Funk, and one at Lake La Su An WA. J. Grabmeier saw two in *Williams* near the same site as last year's nesting, but could not confirm a repeat performance. G. Miller had a flyover crane just west of Lima on 17 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: The ONWRC found six on 2 Jun, then two on 7 Jul. All dressed up for breeding, but with apparently nowhere to go, was one at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 21 (J. Yochum) through 24 Jun (M&D Dunakin); this is one of fewer than 10 mid-Jun Ohio records.

American Golden-Plover: Earlyish was a molting adult at Pickerel Creek WA on 13 Jul (T. Shively et al.).

Semipalmated Plover: Late departures were at *Paulding's* Thomas wetlands with ~25 on 1 Jun (J. Yochum), one on 3 Jun (D. Sanders), then 30 on 6 Jun (Yochum). The 2 Jun ONWRC counted 43. Two exceptionally late on 12 Jun in *Hamilton* (J. Cade) were hard to figure. One at Conneaut 30 Jun was probably returning early (J. Pogacnik), and by 28 Jul ~30 were to be found in *Fulton* (Yochum).

American Avocet: The first was one in high breeding plumage at Pipe Ck WA on 13 Jul (T. Shively et al.), and on 23 Jul one was at the *Paulding* sewage lagoons (J. Haw), and 10 alternate-plumaged birds at *Fostoria Res #4* (B. Hardesty) the same day.

Greater Yellowlegs: The ONWRC found two on 7 Jul, S. Snyder two near Wooster on 13 Jul, and V. Fazio 14 at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: A single arrival at Conneaut on 30 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**) was apparently there on 4 Jul (**J. Spindelov**). Six were inland at BIWA on 6 Jul (**P. Gardner**), and by 19 Jul, 173 were tallied at CPNWR (**E. Tramer**).

Solitary Sandpiper: On schedule, the least solitary group of this species was 13 near Wooster on 23 Jul (**S. Snyder**).

Willet: Scarce. One was at Conneaut Harbor as early as 30 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**).

Upland Sandpiper: Beyond known populations, one was seen in *Williams* on 8 Jun (**B. Whan**). A family of four at the Dayton airport (**S. Lucas**) may be the last nesting there, in view of plans to "control" wildlife at the site.

Hudsonian Godwit: **G. Leidy** and **S. Zadar** found a female in alt plumage at Pipe Creek WA on 14 Jul; there are fewer than 10 Jul records of this species for Ohio.

Marbled Godwit: One was at the CCE on 25 Jul (**J. Hildreth** *vide* **J. Yochum**).

Ruddy Turnstone: Northward bound were six on the 2 Jun ONWRC, one at Conneaut on 7 Jun (**J. Spindelov**), and one at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* on 8 Jun (**J. Grabmeier**). Southbounders were one at Englewood MP in Dayton 20 Jul (**E&B Neubauer**), and birds at Bowling Green on 28 Jul (**B. Cullen**) and Conneaut 30 Jul (**J. Sedransk**).

Sanderling: Three stragglers departed 7 Jun from Walnut Beach, *Ashtabula* (**J. Sedransk**). Early to return was one at Conneaut 16 Jul (**G. Leidy**), where many other Jul birds were reported, with a high count of five on the 30th (**Sedransk**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: **John Yochum**'s observations of this species in *Paulding*—~150 on 6 Jun, then one on 12 Jun and three as late as 16 Jun—suggest a delayed migration, especially since returning migrants are usually expected late in Jun or early in Jul. This summer, the first reports of southbound semipalmateds were of two near Wooster on 22 Jul (**S. Snyder**) and one at Cowan Lk SP (**E. Roush**) on 24 Jul. Good numbers of this normally common species had to wait till 29 Jul, when 20 were at KPWA (**J. Hammond**) and 615 at Pickerel Ck WA (**V. Fazio**).

Western Sandpiper: The only summer report came from the drought-influenced habitat in the Maumee River at Farnsworth MP: a single bird on 27 Jul (**G. Miller**).

Red-necked Stint: Three of four observers documented for the OBRC a sighting of an alt adult at Pickerel Ck WA on 31 Jul; it could not be relocated by m obs, even later the same day. Elsewhere in the US, four alternate-plumaged stints of this species were reported within a few days—and not earlier or later—of this sighting, in Missouri (7/29-31), Massachusetts (two on 8/1-2), and Virginia (7/31).

Least Sandpiper: With no Jun reports, the earliest were nine at Conneaut on 4 Jul (**J. Spindelov**). The high count came from the 7 Jul ONWRC: 88 birds.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Reports of this species resembled those for semipalmated sandpiper—departing late, returning late. Reports from Conneaut persisted through 6 Jun, with six birds (**J. Sedransk**); in *Paulding*, after a flock of 28 on 8 Jun (**B. Whan** et al.), six persisted through 17 Jun (**J. Yochum**). The species was not reported again until **V. Fazio** had nine at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul.

Baird's Sandpiper: Unusually early was one, a rare adult in Ohio, at Kelleys Isl on 20 Jul (**V. Fazio**, **T. Bartlett**).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Arriving first were three at BIWA on 6 Jul (**P. Gardner**) and one for the 7 Jul ONWRC. Inland numbers were best: near Wooster 35 were noted on 22-23 Jul (**S. Snyder**), 170 were at the *Paulding* sewage lagoons on 25 Jul (**D&M Dunakin**), and ~75 were in *Fulton* on 28 Jul (**J. Yochum**).

Dunlin: Delaying departure were 60 on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and three in *Paulding* on 3 Jun (**D. Sanders**). North American dunlins normally undergo their prebasic molt before leaving the Arctic, so an alt bird at ONWR on the early date of 27 Jul (**J. Sedransk**) was of interest.

Stilt Sandpiper: The first reported bird came from the 7 Jul ONWRC. Numbers increased to 19 at Farnsworth MP, *Lucas*, on 18 Jul (**T. Kemp** *vide* **G. Links**), until 92 adults were counted at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**) for the seasonal high count.

Ruff: Apparently Ohio's second published Jul record, a good-sized female was faithful to Pickerel Ck WA from 25 Jul (**C. Holt** *vide* **V. Fazio**) through the end of the period (m obs), and accepted by the OBRC. The earlier record was of three alt males at ONWR on 7 Jul 1974, from **Lou Campbell**.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Very few have lingered into Jun, none so late as one reported by **J. Yochum** on 12 Jun in *Paulding*, but this follows a pattern of remarkably late migration among certain species this spring and summer. The first returning adult was at Conneaut on 4 Jul (**J. Spindelov**), and numbers grew to ~250 adults by 13 Jul at ONWR (**B. Whan** et al.). Lack of habitat prevented their gathering in numbers elsewhere until 103 were found at Pickerel Ck WA on 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Three adults had arrived at Pickerel Ck WA as early as 29 Jul (**V. Fazio**).

Wilson's Snipe: Apparent migrants were two at ONWR on 23 Jul (**G. Miller**) and two at BIWA on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**).

Wilson's Phalarope: **J. Yochum** monitored their presence at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding*: three males 2 Jun, two females and a male 6 Jun, and a female 12 Jun. Two were tallied on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and on the same date **J. Hildreth** (*vide* **Yochum**) had one in *Fulton*; collectively, a noteworthy showing for the month. **T. Shively** observed a male in apparent distraction display at BIWA—where the species nested two years ago, and an alt male first noted on 28 Jun—on 1 Jul; the bird was flirting with high-speed auto traffic, and was not refound. An apparent returning migrant was at ONWR on 23 Jul (**G. Miller**).

Red-necked Phalarope: A female was at the Thomas wetlands in *Paulding* 1-2 Jun (**J. Yochum**), and one at Pipe Ck WA on 28 and 31 Jul (**G. Leidy**, **S. Zadar**).

Bonaparte's Gull: Late birds included six in basic plumage in *Paulding* on 6 Jun (**J. Yochum**) and one in Conneaut on the 7th (**J. Spindelov**). Apparently opting out of breeding were one in *Fulton* on 10 Jul (**Yochum**), 11 in Sandusky Bay 13 Jul (**T. Shively**), and one on the 16th at Conneaut (**G. Leidy**). The Conneaut reports were the only ones from the Central Basin, and 323 on 29 Jul at Pt Clinton (**V. Fazio**) was an excellent number for the Western Basin.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A third-year bird at Conneaut on 23 Jul (**C. Holt**) was refound by **J. Sedransk** on 30 Jul.

Great Black-backed Gull: Few reported. Unusual was a first-year bird at MBSP on 9 Jun (**B. Whan**).

Caspian Tern: Noteworthy were seven at Caesar Ck SP on 2-3 Jun (**L. Gara**, **E. Roush**). The first migrants reported were two in Sandusky Bay on 13 Jul (**T. Shively** et al.).

Common Tern: The ONWRC counts of 28 on 2 Jun and 52 on 7 Jul were undoubtedly augmented by the local assisted breeders. Surveys of the ONWR colony showed 50 pairs yielded 54 chicks (last year 55 produced 103); at the Pipe Ck WA colony, 25 pairs produced 49 young (where last year 17 produced 16). The first year for two new platforms at Navarre Marsh attracted a pair, which produced two chicks; two more sets of nesting platforms are envisioned for the ODOW project, tentatively in Sandusky Bay and off CPNWR (**M. Shieldcastle**). A pair attempted an unassisted nest on an island at Pipe Ck WA this year, but it was soon found by predators (**Shieldcastle**).

Forster's Tern: A basic bird at ONWR for the 7 Jul census was perhaps a nonbreeder. Two alt adults in Sandusky Bay 13 Jul (**T. Shively**) were summer visitors, and migrants were one at KPWA on 28 Jul (**J. Hammond**) and 17 on 29 Jul at Pt Clinton (**V. Fazio**).

Black Tern: Peterjohn calls black terns accidental summer visitors to the interior counties, but accidents do happen. **S. Snyder** had one, probably the same that had been there since 25 May, near Wooster on 1 Jun, **J. Yochum** found two in *Paulding* on 12 Jun, and **G. Miller** witnessed the final reported appearance of a KPWA bird on 28 Jun. One hopes that local breeders were involved in a 5 Jul sighting at Mallard Club Marsh WA (**R. Rogers**), and at adjacent CPNWR, with two on 3 Jun (**M. Galloway**) and four feeding over a marsh on 29 Jun, then three on 13 Jul (both **E. Tramer**). Two alt adults in Grand Rapids, *Wood*, on 7 Jul were harder to explain (**T. Manley**). One at Pt Clinton on 29 Jul marked the beginning of fall migration (**V. Fazio**).

Black-billed Cuckoo: **E. Tramer** regarded them as scarcer than usual in the Toledo area, with one a piece on 19 Jun at Oak Openings MP and 13 Jul at CPNWR.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Late, appearing in good numbers only in mid-Jun. High count eight at EFSP on 7 Jul (**H. Armstrong**), and **J. McCormac** had seven in *Gallia* on 23 Jul.

Barn Owl: Two to three were at Chilo Lock #23 in *Clermont* 11-19 Jul (**C. Clingman**).

Chuck-will's-widow: As expected in more southern realms, but the *Hocking* bird(s) of the previous five years were not heard this year (**J. Fry**).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: High count 10 at MWW on 16 Jun (**N. Keller**). **C. Babyak** was disappointed at having no nesters this summer in her location in *Trumbull*, but found 26 Jul an early date for feeder devotees—probably a result of prolonged dry weather.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: **K. Metcalf** reported one at the Grand River Terraces in *Ashtabula* on 11 Jul, presumably nesting locally. **J. Pogacnik** found probable nesters at Paine Falls, and possible nesters at Girdled Rd and Hell Hollow in the *Lake* MPs.

Pileated Woodpecker: **E. Tramer** reported one at Oak Openings MP on 26 Jun; earlier on 12 Jun he, **T. Kemp**, and **M. Anderson** excitedly called one another to find each had had what was probably the same pileated calling in his yard; **Tramer** remarks that "the state of our forest cover is so pathetic that any pileated in the Toledo area is noteworthy."

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last northbound bird straggled through LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Also passing through LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**), another was the only migrant found at the Magee bird trail on 9 Jun (**B. Whan** et al.), as late as this species gets.

Acadian Flycatcher: High count was 11 at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). In the NW, one was in the Oak Openings on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), and two pairs nested in Marie De Larme Woods in *Paulding* through the period (**M&D Dunakin**). **R. Thorn** noted the species was nesting in surprisingly small woodlots in *Franklin*.

Alder Flycatcher: **E. Tramer** noted two singing at CPNWR on 9 Jun, and **S. Zadar** and **G. Leidy** counted five at GRWA on 12 Jun. **D. Chasar** had one at Oakhill in the CVNP on 19 Jun. **J. Pogacnik** found birds as at least possible nesters in seven sites in the *Lake* MPs. **G. Links** called them "more common than ever before," citing sightings sited in *Sandusky*, *Erie*, and *Williams*, as well as *Lucas* this season.

Willow Flycatcher: **S. Zadar** had 17 on Dike 14 in *Cuyahoga* on 1 Jun, and the ONWRC 31 on 2 Jun. One was unexpected at Station Rd in the CVNP 10 Jun (**D. Chasar**).

Least Flycatcher: Jun records included one at LMP on the 2nd (**J. Pogacnik**), one in Burton Twp, *Geauga*, on the 21st (**K. Metcalf**), and one at Killbuck on the 29th (**G. Leidy**). **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Lakeshore Res'n, probable nesting at Hell Hollow and Indian Pt, and possible nesting at Girdled Rd and Mason's Landing in the *Lake* MPs during the period.

Western Kingbird: **T. Schroeder** discovered one in rural *Butler* on 1 Jul; this apparently territorial male was fairly regularly refound through 20 Jul (**J. Lehman**). Record accepted by the OBRC. Of Ohio's ~50 records, our only other Jul occurrence involved a nesting pair found in *Lucas* 29 Jul 1933 by **Lou Campbell**.

White-eyed Vireo: The high count was 11 at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). In the north, a territorial male was at Station Rd in the CVNP on 13 Jun (**D. Chasar**), and three in Irwin Prairie SNP through the period (**E. Tramer**); **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Indian Pt in the *Lake* MP system.

Bell's Vireo: One singing male was near N. Baltimore, *Wood*, on 1 Jun (**C. Anderson**), but not refound. At least one singing male returned to BCSP 8 Jun (**D. Overacker**), as did one on 16 Jun (**S. Bobonick**) then two later that day (**L. Brumbaugh**) to MWW.

Blue-headed Vireo: Reported throughout the period in good numbers in strongholds in *Hocking* and the NE. **J. Pogacnik** noted 30 birds during the period in *Lake* MP hemlock ravines. A male was singing at a new site in Austintown, *Mahoning*, on 21 Jun (**D. Hochadel**), and in *Columbiana* two were noted 6 Jul (**B&D Lane**).



By taking up residence in Butler County for approximately three weeks in July, this western kingbird provided wonderful viewing opportunities for many birders. It also posed for Joe Hammond's digiscoping set-up on 16 July 2002.

Tree Swallow: Flocks accumulated at traditional areas such as KPWA by mid-Jul, with 1300 estimated by **Z. Baker** there by 14 Jul; numbers gradually diminished, to be replaced by the following species in Aug.

Bank Swallow: **D. Chasar** regarded them as harder to find in the CVNP for some reason.

Cliff Swallow: **R. Thorn** quantified their colonization of new areas at Hoover Res, *Franklin/Delaware*, remarking that they now nest beneath every bridge there: 100+ nests at the dam, 12 at the Sunbury bridge, 8-10 at the Galena bridge, 20 at Twin Bridges, and 10 at the Duncan Glen bridge. In Chillicothe, 80+ pairs nested—where else?—on Bridge St through the season (**B&D Lane**).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The ONWRC of 2 Jun reported one. Elsewhere in the north, one was in *Medina's* Hinckley Res'n on 17 Jul (**G. Leidy**). A pair nested at a traditional spot in Hocking Hills SP, observed 14 Jun (**J. Tetzloff**). An adult was seen feeding young west of Ash Cave in *Hocking* on 24 Jun (**D. Horn**). At Lakeshore Res'n in *Lake*, **J. Pogacnik** confirmed a nest with two young.

Brown Creeper: **D. Chasar** reported good numbers in the CVNP, and **G. Leidy** had two at Hinckley MP, *Medina*, on 9 Jun and two singing males at Royalview Picnic Area in *Cuyahoga* during Jul. One was in Oak Openings MP in Toledo on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**). In the *Lake* MPs, **J. Pogacnik** located probable nesters at Girdled Rd and possibles at Hell Hollow and River Rd.

Winter Wren: At the CVNP finds included the following: two-four including three singing males 24 Jun-5 Jul at Happy Days (**G. Leidy**), and two territorial males through the period at Ritchie Ledges, with a nest found 14 Jul (**D. Chasar**). **H. Petruschke** located two at Stebbin's Gulch on 6 Jul. Twenty-one birds were found in nine locations in the *Lake* MPs during the period (**J. Pogacnik**).



This winter wren nest was discovered at Ritchie Ledges in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit County, on 14 July 2002. It was photographed by Dwight Chasar on 18 July 2002 and the young successfully fledged some time later.

Sedge Wren: The traditionally smaller vanguard was represented by two singing at Mosquito Ck WA on 1 Jun (**D. Hochadel**), where they have been "surprisingly regular for several years," and another singing at the north end of Chippewa Lk in *Medina* the following day (**R. Harlan, S. Wagner**). **T. Shively** heard one at BIWA on 22 Jun, and at the VOA property in *Butler*, **J. Mulki** et al. found one, which grew to 11 on 24 Jul, then 17 on 28 Jul (both **M. Busam**). One found at KPWA on 28 Jun (**G. Miller**) grew to ~15 singing males by 13 Jul (**L. Powick**). **M. Anderson** noted three near the Toledo airport on 6 Jul. **E. Tramer** reported that one at Kitty Todd Preserve, *Lucas*, on 3 Aug was said by manager **G. Haase** to have been present for two weeks.

Marsh Wren: Numbers were as expected at the usual spots: eight at Killbuck on 7 Jun (**S. Snyder**), 16 on the 2 Jun and 14 on the 7 Jul ONWRCs, 10 at Magee on 16 Jun (**H&S Hiris**), and two at Jaite in the CVNP (**D. Chasar**) through the period. Two pairs were at Arcola Ck, *Lake*, during the period, with nesting confirmed for one (**J. Pogacnik**).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: **J. Pogacnik** reported an adult and a juv in Norway spruce at Chapin Forest, *Lake*, this year.

Veery: Nestings were reported across the north—47 birds counted by the Audubon breeding bird census in *Summit*, for example—and as far south as Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* on 16 Jun (**R. Thorn**), with four censused by MP staff there during the month (**J. Watts**).

Swainson's Thrush: Lingered through 2 Jun at LMP (**J. Pogacnik**) and at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* (**G. Leidy**).

Hermit Thrush: The hemlock gorges in *Hocking* harbored several pairs during the period, with two at Conkle's Hollow (**L. Gara**), six in Clear Ck MP (**J. Watts**), and in three other gorges in the county (**J. McCormac**). **R. Rickard** found an adult on a nest at the CVNP's Ledges on 9 Jun with an egg and a hatchling; **G. Leidy** reported two abandoned nests at the Park on 5 Jul. Four pairs, one confirmed and three possible as breeders, were located in the *Lake* MPs during the season (**J. Pogacnik**).



The Ritchie Ledges portion of Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Summit County also provided nesting habitat for hermit thrushes. This nest was photographed there on 28 July 2002 by Dwight Chasar.

- Northern Mockingbird:** High count was 14 at EFSP on 7 Jul (**H. Armstrong**), and mockers continued to increase in the north according to many reporters; nine were tallied on a 25 Jun survey in *Hancock* (*fide B. Hardesty*), and breeding was confirmed at Chagrin River Pk in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**).
- Brown Thrasher:** Increasing recently in the northwest, where three were on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and seven on that of 7 Jul.
- Cedar Waxwing:** High count by far was 148 at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* on 2 Jun (**G. Leidy**), though the *Summit* breeding bird census 14-23 Jun tallied 579 in all.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** A mixed picture: **E. Tramer** found only four in Jun at the Oak Openings, and called their numbers "way down," but **D. Chasar** counted 23 along a single trail in a Christmas tree farm in the CVNP on 19 Jun.
- Hybrids of the above:** A "Brewster's" from the previous period was relocated in *Williams* on 8 Jun (**B. Conlon**).
- Tennessee Warbler:** An adult male was near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 20 Jul (**E. Schlabach**); there are only about a dozen published Jul records for Ohio, and this probably represents an early fall migrant.
- Northern Parula:** Summering somewhat north of the usual range were a singing male in *Medina* on 9 Jun (**G. Leidy**), another at Highbanks MP in *Delaware* on 19 Jun and 24 Jul (**J. Hammond**), one at Killbuck WA on 6 Jul (**S. Snyder**), and one in *Pickaway* on 11 Jul (**M. England**). **J. Pogacnik** found one singing at River Rd in *Lake*, where the species has been found in the summer in the past. During the period **R. Thorn** noted six in the Columbus area, and **J. McCormac** detected the species in *Mercer*, *Franklin*, and *Lawrence*.
- Yellow Warbler:** Good counts included 124 on the 2 Jun ONWRC, and 21 on 7 Jun at Killbuck (**S. Snyder**). By 15 and 20 Jul, probable migrants were in *Holmes* (**E. Schlabach**).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** A late first-spring male was found by the 2 Jun ONWRC. **D. Overacker** had one in the Oak Openings 15 Jun, and **J. Grabmeier** another in western *Williams* 16 Jun. **D. Chasar** estimated three to four nests at Wetmore in the CVNP 8 Jun, and the *Summit* breeding bird census of 14-23 Jun ended up with 12.
- Magnolia Warbler:** A late migrant was at LMP on 2 Jun (**J. Pogacnik**). The species was observed at Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* 16 Jun (**R. Thorn**) and 4 Jul (**T. Shively**), with four counted in Jun by MP staff (**J. Watts**). **G. Leidy** detected a female at W. Ck Preserve in *Cuyahoga* 2 Jun and another at Clear Fork Gorge in *Ashland* 29 Jun. **J. Pogacnik** reported 32 birds at 19 locations during the summer in the *Lake* MPs.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** Reported from its usual haunts statewide, with a high count of 10 singing males in Clear Fork Gorge, *Ashland*, on 29 Jun (**G. Leidy**). Quite unexpected was one in song at Magee on 18 Jun (**P. Rodewald**).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** **H. Petruschke** found two in Stebbins Gulch on 6 Jul.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** One was singing in Brecksville Res'n on 16 Jun (**J. Sedransk**), and one as late as 13 Jul in *Tuscarawas* (**E. Schlabach**). Common in Columbus, where **R. Thorn** found them at 10 city parks.
- Pine Warbler:** Found in the usual outposts beyond the unglaciated counties, such as Oak Openings MP in *Lucas* (9 Jun, **T. Shively**), but two territories were also at Brecksville Res'n during the period (**D. Chasar**), and a quite noteworthy find was four singing males at Indian Hill in *Hamilton* on 16 Jun, with one feeding a week-old brown-headed cowbird chick (**F. Renfrow**).

- Blackpoll Warbler:** One was still in *Holmes* on 6 Jun (**E. Schlabach**); good and late was one on 12 Jun in N. Chagrin Res'n in *Cuyahoga* (**K. Metcalf**).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Several reporters wondered if it was down in numbers. **J. McCormac**, while having found it in some new sites, remarked it had apparently disappeared from others, and **R. Thorn** detected it at only three Columbus area parks. **J. Pogacnik** discovered 38 birds at 14 *Lake* MPs this season, down slightly from recent years.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** **P. Rodewald** noted two odd occurrences: a male on S. Bass Isl on 18 Jun, and a female in Columbus on 23 Jun. One was seen out of the way in *Hancock* on 25 Jun and 9 and 30 Jul (*fide B. Hardesty*).
- American Redstart:** One lingered for the 1 Jun ONWRC. A male summered in *Hancock* (*fide B. Hardesty*).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** **S. Zadar** had a singer at GRWA on 12 Jun. Eight were at EFSP on 30 Jun (**B. Stanley**). As many as three nests were in Pinery Narrows in the CVNP during the period (**D. Chasar**), when there were 14-16 pairs at Hoover Res, one pair near Greenlawn Dam, and two pairs in Dublin, all in the Columbus area (**R. Thorn**).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Somewhat out of the way was one in *Knox* on 11 Jul (**L. Deininger**).
- Ovenbird:** **D. Bollin** was a bit surprised to net one at MBSP on 8 Jul.
- Northern Waterthrush:** **J. Pogacnik** located probable breeders in Hidden Valley and at River Rd, and possible breeders at Hell Hollow during the period, all in the *Lake* MPs.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Its northern contingent was well-represented, with one in the Oak Openings on 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), eight at Stebbins Gulch on 6 Jul (**H. Petruschke**), and "good numbers" in Brecksville Res'n through the period (**D. Chasar**).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Outliers included two in *Stark* on 5 Jun (**E. Snively**), two pairs in *Darke* on 30 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.), a singer in the CVNP on 5 Jul (**G. Leidy**), and one in *Cuyahoga* on 7 Jul (**Leidy**). Closer to home for this species, however, **R. Thorn** found them at but two Columbus parks.
- Mourning Warbler:** Fashionably late were one at Magee on 4 Jun (**N. Bixler**) and another in Cowan Lk SP the following day (**E. Roush**), but a female banded at MBSP on 18 Jun, still not in breeding condition, was lagging way behind (**D. Bollin**). **J. Pogacnik** found two pairs at Erie Shores in *Lake*, one probable and the other possible breeders.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Late to depart were one at Magee on 4 Jun (**N. Bixler**) and a male at CPNWR on 9 Jun (**E. Tramer**).
- Canada Warbler:** Found in Clear Fork Gorge (29 Jun, **G. Leidy**), Stebbins Gulch (6 Jul, **H. Petruschke**), and Ritchie Ledges in the CVNP (13 Jul, **S. Zadar**). Six were detected during Jun surveys of Clear Ck MP in *Hocking* (**J. Watts**). In the *Lake* MPs **J. Pogacnik** located four probable and two possible breeders during the season.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** In areas where they are less common, birds were at Wetmore (8 Jun) and Oakhill (19 Jun) in the CVNP (both **D. Chasar**), a pair at Erie Shores in *Lake* (**J. Pogacnik**), and three in *Darke* on 28 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.).
- Summer Tanager:** The *Delaware* pair of the past few years apparently returned for the period (**J. Hammond**); six were found in *Franklin* on 7 Jun, with three later at other locations in the county (**R. Thorn**). In the Oak Openings, four singing males were found 22 Jun (**M. Anderson**), and a pair was in *Darke* on 28 Jun (**R. Schieltz** et al.).

Eastern Towhee: Locally quite common as always, with 18 along a single trail in the CVNP 19 Jun (D. Chasar) and 25 at EFSP on 30 Jun (B. Stanley).

Savannah Sparrow: One was singing east of Xenia on 3 Jun (K. Beal). Approximately 15 were at the old Coliseum site in Summit on 19 Jun (D. Chasar), and 19 at the VOA site in Butler had become 10 by 28 Jul (M. Busam).

Grasshopper Sparrow: An adult and fledgling were at Austintown in Mahoning on 21 Jun (D. Hochadel). The 7 Jul ONWRC counted 12. D. Chasar reckoned the grass may have been too high for the species at Summit's Coliseum site through the period. The largest counts came from reclaimed strip mine areas, with 50+ at Crown City WA 4 Jul and similar numbers at Woodbury WA during the second week of Jul (both B. Royse).

Henslow's Sparrow: Small numbers were found across the state, with eight in a Williams field on 8 Jun (J. Grabmeier), one in the Oak Openings 26 Jun (E. Tramer), one at BIWA on 28 Jun (G. Miller), seven at the VOA site on 7 Jul (E. Roush), and four on the old Ravenna Arsenal in Portage on 17 Jul (G. Leidy). B. Royse reported larger numbers on old strip mine sites: 12 at Crown City WA on 4 Jul, ~25 at Tri-Valley WA on 10 Jul, and ~100 at Woodbury WA the second week of Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: Numbers for the ONWRC of 2 Jun (six) and 7 Jul (10) were far from impressive considering those at much smaller locations, such as four at Ira Rd in the CVNP 17 Jun (T&M Romito) and five during Jul at Mill Stream Run Res'n in Cuyahoga (G. Leidy).

White-throated Sparrow: One remained at Camp Berry, Hancock, through 4 Jun (D. Barker fide B. Hardesty).

White-crowned Sparrow: Two accompanied their congener above at Camp Berry on the same schedule (D. Barker fide B. Hardesty).

Dark-eyed Junco: An excellent year in the NE. K. Metcalf estimated 8-10 territories in North Chagrin Res'n, with additional pairs in South Chagrin Res'n through the period. H. Petruschke tallied 30+ in Stebbins Gulch 6 Jul. In Mohican SF, G. Leidy had another on 29 Jun. J. Pogacnik tallied birds at 76 sites in 15 Lake MPs during the period.



It turned out to be a good summer for dickcissels in Ohio. This male was digiscoped in Montgomery County on 24 July 2002 by Bill Hull.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The Audubon breeding bird census tallied a healthy 150 in Summit 14-23 Jun. R. Schieltz et al. had one in Darke on 28 Jun. It seems more reports come from the southern counties each year, with the following this summer: E. Roush had one in Clinton 7 Jun, F. Kidd two in Clermont 20 Jun, and J. McCormac one way down in Lawrence 20 Jun and another in Butler 25 Jun.

Blue Grosbeak: The nest of the Holmes pair of several years' standing failed, apparently because of cowbird parasitism (E. Yoder fide S. Snyder). J. McCormac counted eight territorial males at Crown City WA in Gallia on 3 Jul, and another in Pike on 16 Jul.

Dickcissel: The first of the year were "many" adjacent to the Thomas wetlands in Paulding on 6 Jun (J. Yochum). The high count was ~15 at Crown City WA deep in unglaciated Ohio on 4 Jul (B. Royse). Birds were reported from Clark, Darke, Defiance, Franklin, Gallia, Hancock, Lawrence, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Paulding, Union, and Wyandot, and doubtless went unnoticed or at least unreported in many more.

Bobolink: High reported count of summering birds was 54 at the VOA site on 26 Jun (M. Busam), with 20 remaining on 28 Jul. The Summit breeding bird census recorded 126 Jun 14-23, largely at the old Coliseum site. Migrants had begun to move by 15 Jul (when E. Schlabach noted one in Holmes), with many appearing along the Lakefront by the end of the month, and 100+ at a site in Trumbull on 25 Jul (D. Hochadel).

Eastern Meadowlark: Numbers have recently been good at the grasslands of Butler's VOA site, and this summer 30 were counted on 19 Jun, 22 on 26 Jun, and six on 28 Jul (M. Busam); the decline does not indicate nesting success.

Western Meadowlark: Seems destined for Review Species status, with only one lonely songster reported for the state, first discovered during the previous period, on 8 Jun in Williams (J. Grabmeier).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Small numbers apparently summered as usual in NW marshes, as indicated by two males at CPNWR on 9 and 29 Jun and a female 13 Jul (E. Tramer). M. L. Johnston had one in Darke 1-2 Jun, and another was in SW Hancock on 25 Jun (B. Hardesty).



Southwest Williams County saw this season's only report of western meadowlark. This bird, a male in song, was photographed on 8 June 2002 by Troy Shively.

Orchard Oriole: One was in the S. Chagrin Res'n on 6 Jul (**K. Metcalf**). Multiple birds were seen at Killbuck (six on 9 Jul, **S. Snyder**), ONWR (four on the ONWRC of 7 Jul, one carrying food), and *Tuscarawas* (four migrants on 27 Jul, **E. Schlabach**).

Purple Finch: **R. Rickard** had two at Streetsboro Bog, *Portage*, 10 Jul. High count was ~12 present daily at feeders in Damascus, *Mahoning*, during the period (**B&D Lane**).

Pine Siskin: **J. Pogacnik** confirmed breeding at Lakeshore Res'n in *Lake*, a nest with three young, during the period.

Contributors

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This male yellow-headed blackbird appeared at a Greenville, Darke County, feeder on 1-2 June 2002. Photo by Mary Louise Johnston.

Further Afield

Rob Harlan

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Back in the mid-1980s, a hit-list was hatched. After 10 or so years of fairly active, but local, birding, I finally acquired a vehicle to call my own. It got eight miles to the gallon, but who's counting, and, come to think of it, would have been a highly-ranked entry into the local demolition derby. Nonetheless, I suddenly felt the urge to broaden my birding horizons statewide. All of Ohio beckoned, and many Ohio birds, heretofore unseen and unlisted by me, seemed within my reach. I knew I wanted to see 300 species in Ohio; many birders had advised me to establish that mark as a workable and meaningful goal. So I dutifully added up my list, kept up to that point by marking the little boxes that appeared next to the species' names in the index of the first edition of Chandler Robbins's old Golden Guide. But no matter how many times I tallied, my list simply wouldn't rise above 263 species for Ohio. Two hundred sixty-three was not good enough.

So my hit-list came to life. It consisted of 37 species not yet seen by me that seemed most likely candidates for tracking down somewhere in Ohio. I recall listing many shorebirds and gulls, also a goodly number of scarcer waterfowl, along with a few odds and ends tacked on to reach the tantalizing 300 mark. Up to that point, my efforts had been rather hit-and-miss, but gratefully once a plan was concocted the new birds came rather quickly. This was due in large part to a network of friends, who would "call" me on a device known as a "telephone." Perhaps some of you will remember a device such as this; it was commonly used to disseminate birding information before the advent of the Internet. For my part, whenever I turned up a rare bird of interest to my friends, I would return the favor. We actually spoke to one another on these telephonic devices! As archaic as this technology might seem today, it certainly paid large dividends for my Ohio list.

It seems ironic to me now, after almost 20 years of concentrated effort, that I don't even recall what my 300th Ohio species ultimately turned out to be. The achievement of my goal became less important than the chase itself, and so the chase continues for me today, even though my original goal was reached 15 years ago. Of course as the list grows, so does the difficulty in adding to it, but this only makes the rewards sweeter. Sweet is good.

And in case anyone was wondering, only one bird remains to be crossed off my original hit-list of 37. Thankfully, my first western kingbird—the next to last—was finally observed this July, with the cooperative Butler County bird putting on a show for us on what turned out to be the last evening it was found. No, I did not collect it and place it on my mantle. I do not have a mantle. This leaves the elusive yellow rail as the only remaining species yet unseen on my original hit-list of 37. Keep in mind that I offer a handsome finders' fee...