

Brit (*mumbling, but allowing himself to be overheard*): Nice little problem.

Yank: Eh? What's that?

Brit (*half-reluctantly allowing himself to be drawn out*): Oh...well, the tertials.

Yank: The tertials? What about them?

Brit: Yes, well...what looked liked notching...I suppose it's just wear, this time of year...But it was a bit of a surprise.

Yank (*recognizing where this was leading, and that his little stint could be turning into something much less exciting*): Say, I noticed your scope—it's one of those new-fangled crystal-sort of things, isn't it? Not real glass, right?"

Brit (*a trifle guarded now*): Yes, the fluorite.

Yank: I suppose it does make it easier.

Brit (*half-sensing a veiled accusation that he's cheating somehow, but rallying*): Yes, well, rather...I must say my wife was not pleased at having to put off getting new furniture for the parlour, but it was worth every one of the extra two hundred pounds. Care to have a peek?

Yank: Oh, that's all right, thanks. A couple of my buddies have them. Touchy, aren't they, though? One guy had to send his back twice before it was re-aligned right. Anyway, I still like the old ones better—there's something warmer and more real about the image, I think.

Brit: More real?

Yank: Yeah, more analogue...more holistic—know what I mean?

Brit: Sorry? Afraid I'm not with you, old chap. Do you mean the colour correction?

Yank: No, it's...more direct somehow, less like a display...

Brit, against his better judgement, eventually grew a bit huffy. Several hallmarks of the more confrontational American style are apparent here, including the abrupt change of topic, and the use, almost diagnostic of this approach, of the boldly inscrutable. Brit's constitutional unwillingness to seem impolite is turned to a disadvantage as Yank runs roughshod over him. Birdsmen must decide which style is to their liking in a given situation, but while it is handy to be skilled in both, it is seldom advisable to mix them. I must add that my countryman rallied in this particular case, withdrawing an ebony case containing watercolours and brushes, then spending twenty minutes on a field sketch. A pity that no other onlookers witnessed this exemplary struggle!

I have, in these brief and inadequate remarks, enlisted many anecdotes and illustrative examples in the cause of clarifying some of the fundamental principles of birdsmanship. Doubtless, the beginner will always profit most from careful observation of the accomplished birdman *in the field*, rather than in the lecture room. No bare elucidation of abstract principles, no reading of the essential texts, will substitute for close study of the supple manoeuvres of skilled practitioners—and I should add that Ohio, based on my regrettably brief experiences there, has several of estimable rank, not the least of them the redoubtable Gordon Parks---at work against a well-matched opponent. Nonetheless, I hope that this rather more systematic treatment of the art's theoretical underpinnings has been of some help, to the uninitiated and the would-be birdsmen alike.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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This report covers the spring 2005 migration period, a couple of new records from 2004, and recirculations from 2003-2004. Twenty-six records were reviewed, including 14 from Spring 2005, with one of these (Red-naped Sapsucker) a new state record. Half of these records were accepted by the committee, three were not accepted, and ten remain in circulation.

Accepted records

- Fulvous whistling-duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*
16 May 2005, Grand Lake St. Marys (Mercer Co.); J. Bowers
- Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
15 May 2005, Ottawa NWR (Lucas & Ottawa Cos.); J. Morlan, m.obs.
- White-faced ibis *Plegadis chihi*
15 May 2005, Ottawa NWR (Lucas & Ottawa Cos.); J. Morlan, m.obs.
- Yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*
5-6 May 2005, Irwin Prairie SNP (Lucas Co.); T. Kemp, m.obs.
- Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*
30 April 2005, Shawnee SF (Scioto Co.); R. Rogers, m.obs.
- Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*
29 April - 4 May 2005, Caesar Creek SP (Warren Co.); L. Gara, m.obs.
- Red-naped sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
4-8 April 2005, Holmes Co.; many observers
- Bohemian waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
6 March 2004, Cuyahoga Valley NP; J. Brumfeld
- Black-throated gray warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*
9 May 2005, Kelleys Island (Erie Co.); T. Krynak, S. & L. Roberts
- Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*
16 May 2005, Metzger Marsh (Lucas Co.); J. & A. Edwards
- Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*
25 May 2005, Magee Marsh (Lucas Co.); A. Boone, m.obs.
- Swainson's warbler *Limnithlypis swainsonii*
21 May 2005, Mohican SF (Ashland Co.); S. Snyder, G. Cowell, T. & T. Leslie

Records not accepted

Ross's goose *Chen rossii* 30 November 2003, Hamilton Co.

The distance to this bird was apparently very great and the observer himself was unsure of the identification. For these reasons, the committee voted not to accept this record.

Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* 18 August 2004, Erie Co.

The committee felt that several important identification points were excluded from the documentation. These included no details of translucent primaries, an important feature of Arctic tern; overall more details on wing coloration, especially when compared to common and Forster's terns, were desirable. The body shape, typically plumper in Arctic tern, was not mentioned. Although this was a well-written documentation, the lack of the above details did not allow the committee to accept as Arctic tern.

Rufous hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* 31 October - 21 November, Lorain Co.

Although the committee felt that this bird was probably a rufous, individual feathers are difficult to see except in the hand, and although degree of probability suggests rufous is more likely than Allen's, there is not enough to confirm the identification as a rufous.

Recirculated records

Brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* 19 September 2003

Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 25 October 2004, Medusa Marsh

Tricolored heron *Egretta tricolor* 21 May 2005, Ottawa NWR

Mississippi kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* 1 May 2005, Shawnee SF

Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni* 20 November 2003, Lake Co.

Gyr falcon *Falco rusticolus* 25 January 2005, The Wilds

Yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* 15 September 2004, Hamilton Co.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 18 July 2003, Wyandot Co.

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 6 September 2003, Wayne Co.

White-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica* 16-19 August 2004, Portage Co.

Length of Migration Stopover of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Ohio

by **Brian Zwiebel**

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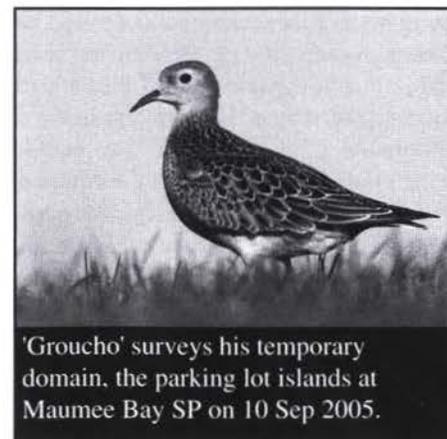
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On 27 August 2005 I was fortunate enough to attend a shorebird symposium presented by the Ohio Ornithological Society, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Toledo Naturalists' Association, at Maumee Bay State Park in Lucas County, Ohio. The keynote speaker, Robert Russell, gave a presentation on "Mysteries of Great Lakes Shorebirds." Russell, a wetlands biologist, is currently the Midwest Shorebird Coordinator in the USFWS's Region 3. In his talk, he mentioned that buff-breasted sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* are thought to have short migrational stopovers, generally ranging from several hours to two or three days. According to Russell, this estimate is based upon incidental notes of observations in Minnesota. He further states that he knows of no formal stopover studies for buff-breasted sandpipers.

The US Shorebird Conservation Plan (2001), the full text of which is available at

<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird/downloads/USShorebirdPlan2Ed.pdf>, reports on p. 55 the estimated population of this species at 15,000 birds. The 2005 update of the USSCP increases that estimate to 20,000, based in part upon the belief that the species has very short migration stopovers, and hence that observations of birds at a given site represent cohorts of migrants passing through in quicker successions than many other shorebird species.

Based on my own observations and those of several other observers during a three-week period at Maumee Bay State Park (MBSP) I hope to demonstrate that the stopover duration for buff-breasted sandpipers as currently understood should be re-evaluated, and that consequently their population may be overestimated in the latest edition of the USSCP. The USSCP states the confidence level of the population estimates for this species to be "low," because data are obtained from broad-scale surveys and estimates. If our



'Groucho' surveys his temporary domain, the parking lot islands at Maumee Bay SP on 10 Sep 2005.