

previously unexplored records, many interesting discoveries will be made.

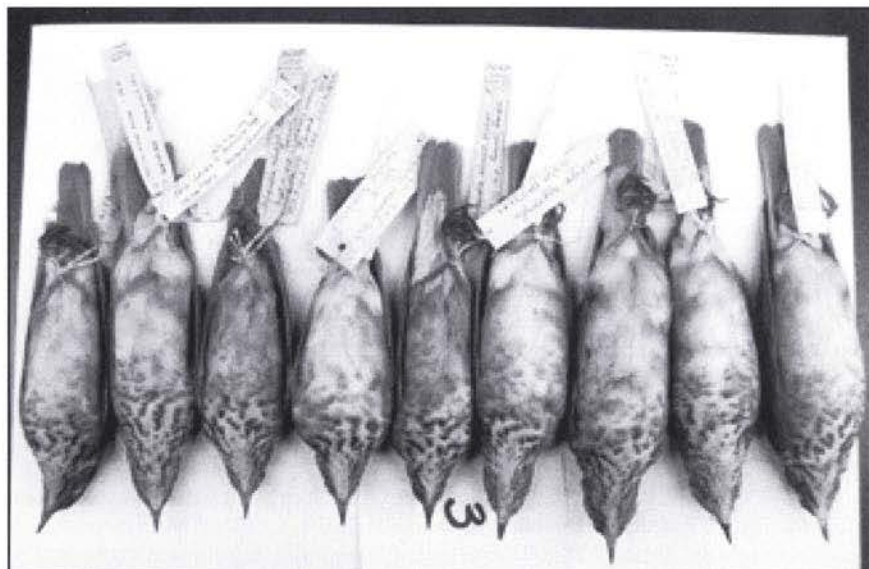
Foppe will compile an Ohio Bird Specimens Database from these and other collections, and when projects among the major collections are complete it will be made available to scholars on the OOS web site. There could be as many as 100,000 sets of data available, derived from Ohio material found around the world: species, locations, dates, name of collector at a minimum, and in many cases complete tag data. We plan to publish an article summarizing new finds, discoveries that will alter the historical and record and in some cases improve the current understanding of Ohio's birdlife. We also commend similar projects to researchers in other states and provinces, so that a still more accurate picture of our bird life will emerge, as well as an enormous continent-wide database of specimen records available to all.

Acknowledgment

We owe a great debt to curators of over a hundred bird collections who were kind enough to supply us with Ohio records among their holdings, as well as to answer further questions. We are also grateful to Andy Jones, head of the Department of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who supplied valuable comments on a draft of this paper.

Literature Cited

Peterjohn, B. 2001. *The Birds of Ohio*. The Wooster Book Co, Wooster, OH.



Nine thrushes from the OSU collection laid out for comparison. Several are misidentified, but the enduring nature of specimens makes this and possible future reassessments possible.

Short Notes: Inland Nests of Great Egrets

by Leslie Warren

1915 Walker Mill Rd., Poland, OH 44514

birder957@yahoo.com

and Marcia Brehmer

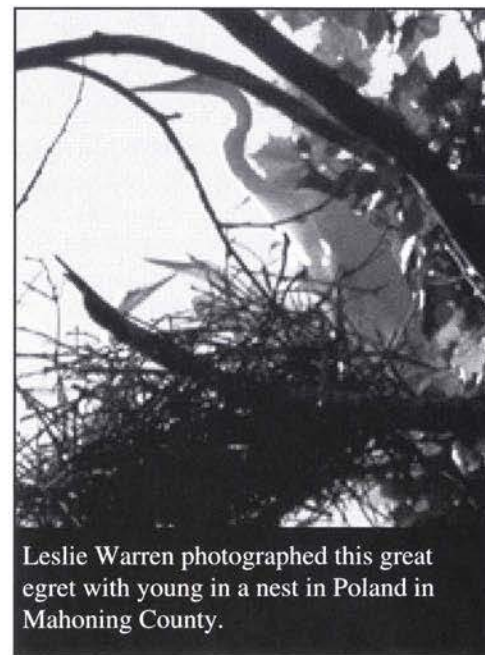
2047 Charmingfare Street, Columbus, OH 43228

mbrehmer@columbus.rr.com

J. P. Kirtland (1838) reported that the great egret had been "taken repeatedly in Ohio," and there are reports of nests at Grand Lake St Marys in the 1880s. After a dip in numbers corresponding to the legal slaughter of birds for the feather trade later in the century, they rebounded after 1930, staging some major post-breeding incursions into Ohio. In 1940 the first nests in the state were confirmed on the edge of Sandusky Bay, a few pairs nested at Grand Lake St Marys 1942-1944, and in 1946 the West Sister Island colony was discovered, and has flourished thereafter. No other breeding sites were confirmed away from the western Lake Erie marshes until 1996, when a nesting pair was discovered in Pickaway Co. -Ed.

MAHONING COUNTY: On July 16, 2006, I found a nest with four young great egrets, in the midst of a great blue heron rookery in Boardman Township, Mahoning County. The egrets looked almost like adults, but had a few feathers sticking up on their heads and grayish legs. The nest was in a sycamore tree, at least 50 feet high, and was much smaller than the great blue heron nests near it. There were still some herons nesting, but most had already left the rookery.

The egrets seemed to spend most of their time preening. They made no noise except when an adult flew in to give them food. Then all four began squawking loudly. On July 20, shortly after the young egrets had been squabbling over food, I heard the same noise coming from a different part of the rookery. Following the sound, I located a second great egret nest, about 200 feet away. It was also in a sycamore and about the same



Leslie Warren photographed this great egret with young in a nest in Poland in Mahoning County.

height. I was able to see three great egrets in the nest. They appeared to be younger than those in the first nest, having more spiky feathers on their heads.

I checked both nests regularly. The egrets at the first site were soon climbing out on limbs quite a distance from the nest, and taking short flights from branch to branch. It became harder to find them, and July 26 was the last date I saw all four young. August 4 was the last time I saw an egret at the first site. I believe there is a good chance they were all successful in fledging and leaving the tree.

The egrets at the second nest may not have been as fortunate. On July 30, I found small piles of white feathers on the ground beneath their nest, and did not see more than two egrets after that. Soon, I was seeing only one young egret, and after August 10, I was not able to find any egrets on or near the nest. Could the fact that all the great blue herons had left the rookery a week previously have affected the success of this nest? Do the herons provide some protection to the egrets? I have these and other questions to ponder as I anticipate the egrets return in the spring. ---Leslie Warren.

FRANKLIN COUNTY: A quarry in my Atlas block (Franklin Co.) has an island surrounded by water. A great blue heron rookery was on the island; I counted at least 12 heron nests. There may have been more, because I could not find a good spot to observe the opposite side of the island from Shrum Mound, my observation post. While looking at the rookery on 4 Jun 2006, I saw one great egret fly up to a nest. It was on the opposite side of the island from many of the great blue heron nests. With a spotting scope, I could see most of the nest through the trees, though some of the nest was obscured by trees. I did not see any other egret or egret nest. I returned at least four times to observe the rookery and the egret nest, the last time 15 July, when I found all the nests vacated. Until then, I saw an egret on the nest every time, but did not see any young ones. That doesn't mean there weren't any, of course. I didn't realize how unusual the great egret's nest was! I'm sorry about that, or I would have watched it more constantly and would have made arrangements to take photos. I might be able to pick out the nest even though it is now vacant. I hope egrets will nest there again next year so that I can take greater care to document whether the nest is successful. Although I have been birding (somewhat casually) for over 20 years, I am learning a lot by participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas. ---Marcia Brehmer

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Tom Kemp, Secretary
7032 Regents Park Blvd, Toledo, OH 43617
andigena@aol.com

The Ohio Bird Records Committee reviewed 22 records in August 2006. Nineteen records were accepted by the committee, one was not accepted, and two (short-tailed hawk and lark bunting) will be recirculated. The accepted reports include a first state record, black-bellied whistling-duck. The Committee's decisions follow:

Records Accepted:

Black-bellied whistling-duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: 30 May 2004, Hamilton Co.; J. & H. Schlotman

Ross's goose *Chen rossii*: 19 March 2006, Pickaway Co.; R. Rogers

Ross's goose: 7 March 2006. Paulding Co.; D & M Dunakin, J. Yochum

Northern gannet *Morus bassanus*: 18 December 2005, Lake Co.; M. Gallaway, C. Rieker

Northern gannet: 3 January 2006; Cuyahoga Co.; B. Morrison

Brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: 4 May 2004; Greene Co., m. obs.

Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 1 May 2006, Pickaway Co.; G. Stauffer, S. Richards, B. Powell

Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*: 18 May 2005, Wood Co.; J. Phillips

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 19 April 2006, Lorain Co.; m. obs

California gull *Larus californicus*: 31 March 2006, Ashtabula Co.; C. Holt

Scissor-tailed flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*: 10 July 2006, Franklin Co.; A. Boone

Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*: 15 June 2006, Highland Co.; P. Gardner

Common raven *Corvus corax*: 28 January 2006, Jefferson Co.; S. Albaugh

Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*: 21 May 2006, Lucas Co.; R. Harlan

Kirtland's warbler: 10 May 2006. Lake Co.; J. Pogacnik, m.obs.