

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

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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.

Swainson's warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii*: 20 May 2006, Lake Co.; H. Petruschke, m.obs.

Western tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*: 12 May 2006, Lucas Co.; P. Henry

Western tanager: 19 April 2006, Warren Co.; A. Arnold

Harris's sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*: 20 May 2006, Lucas Co.; M. Gallaway, C. Rieker, D. Yoo, B. Crow

Record Not Accepted:

White-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*: 21 May 2006. Franklin Co.

Committee members felt that for such a rare bird in Ohio, the description was insufficient. The brief description provided did not rule out certain plumages of rock pigeon.

Records Recirculated:

Short-tailed hawk *Buteo brachyurus*: Mentor Headlands, 17 May 2006

Lark bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*: Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, 20 May 2006

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining archives for researchers of Ohio records of occurrences of rare bird species, and establishing the official list of Ohio's bird species. The Committee relies on help from field birders who send in details of their sightings of birds on the Review List (<http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/OBRCList.pdf>), which includes all species encountered infrequently enough in the state as to require acceptable documentation (specimen, photo, sound recording, and full written description from witnesses) for inclusion in the scientific record. Helpful information on the Committee and on documentations can be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/aboutobrc.php>.

Current members of the seven-member Committee are: Tom Kemp, Secretary (Bowling Green), Dwight Chasar (Northfield), Rob Harlan (Norton), Tom Hissong (Dayton), Ned Keller (Cincinnati), Ben Morrison (Alliance), and Sue Tackett (Dayton). –Ed.



This breeding-plumaged long-billed dowitcher shows the diagnostic (but only briefly seen at our latitude) strong barring (vs. the spots of short-billed) on the sides of the upper breast. Great photo by Lana Hays, at Conneaut on 25 July



This breeding-plumaged-short-billed dowitcher (of our local *hendersoni* or "prairie" race) was photographed by Lana Hays at Conneaut 25 Jul. Note the spotting on the sides of the upper breast, the relatively wide white stripes on the upper tail, and the lack of molt on this bird.