

Era quadrangle shows a homestead 1/10 of a mile north of the highway, just 3/10 of a mile west of where the highway crosses the creek. A sign for "Seven Oaks Farm" marks the spot today. Just half a mile north of the homestead a smaller creek merges with Lick Run, and this wet area might well be the site of the collection of these eggs.

Evidently Bales, after measuring the eggs and consulting references and feeling unsure of his initial identification, sought expert advice, and eventually corrected the name in his catalog. The error, however, was perpetuated in the catalog card placed in the specimen box. The three eggs in question, when compared with black rail eggs in the collection, differed in being smaller, with a decidedly buff ground color rather than off-white. They represent the only known existing specimen evidence for Ohio nesting of the yellow rail.

This evidence is published here for the first time. Peterjohn (2001) writes that the "only nest was collected in Pickaway County in 1909 (Hicks 1935a)." The reference is to *Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Ohio*, where Hicks mentions a set of eggs collected near Circleville, Pickaway by B. R. Bales in 1909, citing *Wilson Bulletin* 26:196, 1914. Actually this article, by W.F. Henninger, provides correction to the existing bird list for Ohio by saying a set of eggs collected by Bales had been "identified in 1909 at the Smithsonian Institution. (Apologies due Dr. Bales)." It seems likely these specimens—collected in 1907 and later sent to USNM for identification—have at last been located, and serve to verify Dr. Jones's view of the status of the yellow rail in Pickaway County. They also correct the date of collection.

[A searchable electronic database of the OSU Museum's bird egg collection is currently being developed, and may well provide new specimen evidence of the Ohio breeding status of other species. It and the Museum's collection of bird skins—data from both of which will be available via databases soon to be available on the Web—may be consulted by members of the public conducting research by making an appointment with the curator, John Condit, at [condit1@osu.edu](mailto:condit1@osu.edu) or (614) 292-0543 weekday mornings.]

#### Acknowledgments

John Condit, curator of higher vertebrates at the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity, provided access to its holdings and library resources for the preparation of this paper. Marcia Brehmer provided original research into Pickaway County locations involved in the record.

#### Bibliography

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## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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The Ohio Bird Records Committee reviewed a total of 49 records in September and December 2007. Of these, 37 were accepted by the committee, 10 were not accepted, and two remain in circulation. Most of the records come from 2007, but some are from prior years. Remember, bird records can be submitted to the committee from previous seasons and even previous years. A complete and accurate record of Ohio's birdlife is what all in the state's birding community should strive for. To those of you who submitted records after mid-December 2007, they will be voted on in the next round, likely in late January or February. Finally, the OBRC welcomes Jay Stenger from Cincinnati as its newest member. Jay replaces Kevin Metcalf who resigned his position when he moved out of state.

#### Accepted Records

- Ross's goose *Chen rossii*; 10-12 Nov 2007; Paulding Co.; S. Myers, M. & D. Dunakin
- Cackling goose *Branta hutchinsii*; 18 March 2007; Auglaize Co.; R. Asamoto  
7 April 2007; Montgomery Co.; S. Egleston & R. Asamoto  
13 Nov 2007; Lake Co.; J. Pogacnik  
24 Nov 2007; Lucas Co.; J. Hammond  
25 Nov 2007; Wood Co.; T. Kemp
- Tricolored heron *Egretta tricolor*; 21 April 2007; Preble Co.; F. Frick  
8 July 2007; Erie Co.; C. Caldwell
- White ibis *Eudocimus albus*; 2 Sep 2007; Holmes Co.; S. Snyder
- Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*; 10 May 2007; Wayne Co.; S. Weaver  
18 May 2007; Greene Co.; F. Frick, L. Gara  
4 Sep 2007; Morgan Co.; N. Sudnick
- White-faced ibis *Plegadis chihi*; 10 May 2007; Wayne Co.; S. Weaver
- Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*; 6 July 2006; Mahoning Co.; B. Jones
- Mississippi kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*; 21 June 2007; Hocking Co.; B. Whan, m.obs. 19 Sep 2007; Vinton Co.; B. Crow
- Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*; 23 April 2007; Ashtabula Co.; E. Schlabach, S. Weaver 23 April 2007; Ashtabula Co.; E. & R. Schlabach, S. Weaver, L. Hochstetter
- Prairie falcon *Falco mexicanus*; 27 Nov 2007; Lucas Co.; D. Sparks-Jackson, M. Yawney
- Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*; 28 April 2007; Lucas Co.; S. Duris, m.obs.
- Black-necked stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*; 18 April 2007; Preble Co.; C. Hurley, D. Gross, m.obs.

25 May 2007; Hamilton Co.; F. Frick  
 Eurasian collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*; 22 July 2007; Mercer Co.; T. Kemp; 19-20 June 2007; Darke Co.; C. Ploch  
 White-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*; 28 April 2007; Delaware Co.; J. Habig, T. Shively, D. Collopy  
 Rufous hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*; 30 Nov 2007; Hamilton Co.; T. Tolford  
 13 August 2007; Lake Co.; J. Pogacnik  
 25 Oct-2 Dec 2007; Allen Co.; L. Houshower, A. Chartier  
*Selasphorus*, sp. 26 Aug 2007; Jefferson Co.; G. Hostetler  
 3 Oct-23 Nov 2007; Logan Co.; J. Estep  
 18 Oct 2007; Licking Co.; M. VanSchoyck, H. Nagy  
 Scissor-tailed flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*; 8 June 2007; Hardin Co.; C. & M. Hoagstrom; 15 July 2007; Lucas Co.; R. Nirschl  
 Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*; 19-26 March; Adams Co.; P. Whan  
 Cave swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*; 24 Nov 2007; Erie Co.; B. Morrison  
 26 November 2007; Lake Co.; T. Bartlett  
 Pine grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*; 21 Nov-2 Dec 2007; Lucas Co.; M. Anderson, m.obs.

#### Records Not Accepted

Common pochard *Aythya ferina*; 6 March 2007; Erie Co.  
 Details submitted on this sighting did not exclude the far more likely possibilities of canvasback and redhead.

White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*; 13 Sep 2007; Summit Co.  
 The observers submitted a detailed account of this sighting. However, no optics were used in the observation and the observers lacked any experience with this species. The committee felt a more complete description and photographs would be desirable to add this species to the state list.

Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*; 27 April 2007; Ottawa Co.  
 A majority of committee members felt that this bird lacked sufficient detail to be accepted. In particular, there was no mention of flight style, an important field mark for this species. Nor was the tail mentioned. The overall pattern suggests this species, but distance to the bird and lack of the above characters in the description did not positively eliminate other Buteo species.

Whooping crane *Grus americana*; 12 May 2007; Lorain Co.  
 This bird was surely a whooping crane, but likely coming from an introduced population in the upper Great Lakes. Therefore, it was not added to the state list.

Black-tailed gull *Larus crassirostris*; 8 June 2003; Ottawa Co.  
 The description provided for this bird did not eliminate any number of other far more likely species.

Ivory gull *Pagophila eburnea*; "probably" Feb 2006; Lucas Co.  
 Details provided did not eliminate other more likely gull species. In addition, the observer was unsure of the date of the sighting.

Eurasian collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*; 11 March 2007; Williams Co.  
 Photographs and written documentation provided were not diagnostic for this species. Although found within a stone's throw of U.S. 127, the corridor providing a spate of collared-dove records in 2007, the documentation submitted did not unequivocally eliminate African collared-dove (ringed turtle-dove).

Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*; 22 May 2007; Wayne Co.  
 Although detailed, the documentation provided did not positively rule out magnolia warbler.

possible hybrid tanager *Piranga* sp.; 15 May 2007; Lucas Co.  
 This bird was extensively photographed, but the committee found no reason to invoke hybrid in this case. It was deemed a slightly aberrant scarlet tanager.

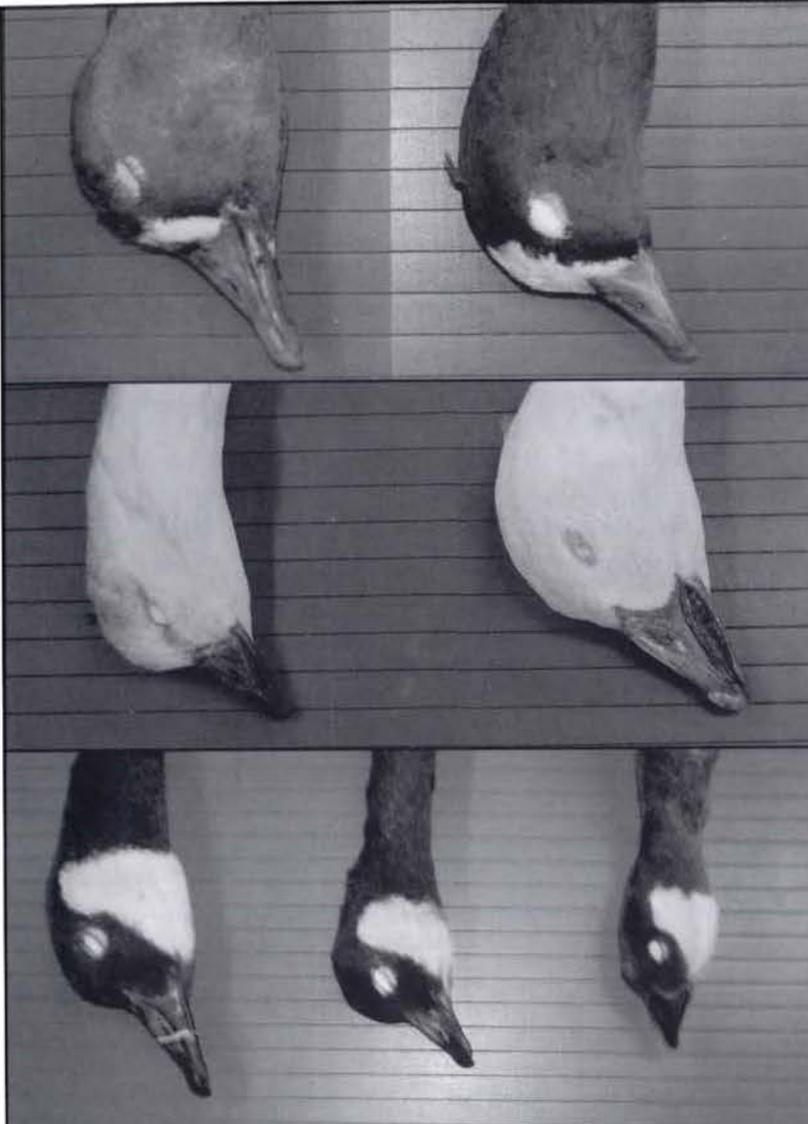
Black-headed grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*; 27 Aug 2007; Trumbull Co.  
 The details submitted to the committee were insufficient to distinguish this species from the far more likely immature rose-breasted grosbeak.

#### Records Still in Circulation

Ross's goose *Chen rossii*; 18 November 2007; Auglaize Co.  
 Ferruginous hawk *Buteo regalis*; 29 November 1964; Montgomery Co.



Pen and ink by Bill Shively



Interesting are the comparisons between closely-related species of geese. There are many parallels in morphology. Above are in #1 a greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, and a lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The latter species is globally endangered, but the specimen is nonetheless from Ohio. In #2 are a Ross's goose *Chen rossii* and a snow goose *Chen caerulescens*. In #3 are on the left a typical *Branta canadensis maxima*, the large local nonmigratory giant Canada goose; in the middle *Branta canadensis parvipes*, the lesser Canada goose; and on the right, *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*, the subspecies of cackling goose that occurs in Ohio.



Bob Lane contributed three photos documenting the perils to birds at Conneaut harbor. Top: a young ring-billed gull; Middle: auto antics, this one organized, on 6 Sept; Bottom: discarded tires at low water on 25 Oct