

# SEASON OVERVIEW

## SUMMER 2010 SNAPSHOT

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Following our erratic spring, it is no surprise that June and July were also inconsistent. The southern and central part of the state, including Cincinnati and Columbus, had four or five days in June in the 70s, 23 or 24 days in the 80s, and only two or three days with 90 degree readings. The northern areas of the state, including Cleveland, had at least two days with highs in the 60s; another 12 days in the 70s, and 13 days in the 80s with a similar three-day hot spell in the 90s. Rain was frequently encountered over much of the state in June, with the south and central portions recording rainfall on about 50% of the days and the northern tier recording 11 of 30 days with precipitation. In contrast, July in the south was hot and wet with Cincinnati recording 16 days over 90 degrees and 17 days with precipitation. The central and northern areas were cooler and dryer, with less than 10 days over 90 degrees and under 9 days with precipitation.

Five review species were reported during our summer period. One of them will probably be leaving the list soon - the Eurasian Collared-Dove, which is now a nesting, year-round resident in the west-central counties particularly in areas around Celina. There were three sightings of White-winged Doves from **Hamilton** and **Franklin**; the numerous sightings of Purple Gallinule in spring led to Ohio's second known nesting record with fledged young noted in early July in **Richland**; a Black Rail was reported one day in mid-July from the Ottawa NWR in **Ottawa**; and what was probably the bird of the season and our cover image, a Vermilion Flycatcher appeared for

one day in **Holmes** in mid-June. Trumpeter Swan, though “established”, remains a review species because no truly wild birds have been documented.

Efforts surrounding the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II* produced thousands of observations over the period and offered valuable insight into the current status of breeding birds in Ohio. In the second to last year of this effort (2006-2011), 2010 produced some unusual findings. Merlins again nested in **Knox**; with 25 nests and 36 fledged young, Sandhill Crane numbers increased of over 40 percent from last year’s totals; Bell’s Vireos were located in four survey blocks; Lark Sparrows were in six blocks in the western third of the state, from **Lucas** to **Hamilton** and a species that has taken the state’s gravel pits by storm in the past few years - Blue Grosbeaks - were reported in 77 survey blocks as far north **Lucas** and east as **Holmes**.



Dave Russell with Puff, the youngest Boreal Owl fledgling at the Boreal Owl Project research site in Interior Alaska.