

## RECENT ACTIONS OF THE OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, MAY 2012 – APRIL 2013

### By Ned Keller

This report includes all records which have been resolved by the Ohio Bird Records Committee since the last report published in The Ohio Cardinal. All common and scientific names, and the taxonomic order in which records are presented, are based on the Fifty-third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds.

We resolved 33 records, resulting in 29 accepted records of 20 species plus one other form, and another four records which were not accepted. In order for a record to be accepted, the documentation must be approved (sometimes after multiple reviews) by at least eight of the nine committee members. Therefore, some non-accepted records, though none of the four in this report, can show a majority voting in favor of acceptance.

A current list of those species which should be documented can always be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/review.php>. There were many more than the 95 documented occurrences of review list species during this period. If readers wonder why a bird which they saw is not included in this report, it is simply because they did not submit documentation. There is an easy-to-use form online, at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/rarebird-submission.php>. Reporting a sighting on the Ohio Ornithological Society's email list, or on Facebook, or on any of the myriad other internet sites, will quickly get lost in the digital flood of information. The Committee encourages readers to take the additional step of submitting formal documentation of

sightings of rarities. These documentations are archived at the Museum of Biological Diversity of The Ohio State University. We hope to have a searchable database of accepted documentations online in the coming year.

The Committee has also added an additional species, Northern Goshawk, to the review list. The threshold for inclusion in the review list is between 20 and 30 accepted records in the past ten years. Species with fewer than 20 records are automatically on the list, species with more than 30 records are not on the list, and species with between 20 and 30 records are considered on a case-by-case basis. The only species which currently falls into the last category is Kirtland's Warbler, which we have left on the list because of its endangered status. The status of Northern Goshawk is simply unclear. This species is certainly rare, and immature birds in particular are difficult to identify. We have added Northern Goshawk to the review list in order to encourage careful observation and reporting of this species.

I would like to thank the Committee members who donated their time and expertise to researching and reviewing records over the past two years: Matt Anderson, Jen Brumfield, Mike Busam, Rob Harlan, Gabe Leidy, Ed Pierce, Su Snyder, Jay Stenger, Sue Tackett and Bill Whan. When you see those folks in the field, please thank them for performing this important but thankless task. This will be my last report as Secretary of the Committee, as I am surrendering the post to the very capable hands of Greg Miller.

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*):** one individual, Hancock County; 21 May through 28 May 2012, documentation by Robert Sams; 25 May, documentation by Eric Mullholand; vote 9-0.

**Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*):** one individual, *Tuscarawas* County; 17 May 2012, documentation by Martha and Samuel Troyer; vote 9-0.

**Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*):** five records accepted:

- one individual, *Licking* County; 21 August 2012, documentation by William Bentley; vote 9-0.
- one individual, *Carroll* County; 24 August through 29 August 2012, documentation by internet sources; 28 August 2012, documentation by Su Snyder and Scott Pendleton; vote 9-0.
- one individual, *Lucas* County; 3 September 2012, documentation by Mark Rozmarynowycz; vote 9-0.
- one individual, *Cuyahoga* County; 3 September 2012, documentation by Erik Bruder; vote 9-0.
- one individual, *Ottawa* County; 8 October 2012, documentation by Adrian Smith; vote 9-0.

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*):** two records accepted:

- three individuals, *Wayne* County; 2 May 2012, documentation by Su Snyder; present through 7 May per internet sources; vote 9-0.
- one individual, *Franklin* County; 15 July 2012, documentation by Dave Slager; present through 17 July per internet sources; vote 8-1. Two additional individuals were submitted and unanimously accepted as *Plegadis* sp.

***Plegadis* Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.):** two individuals, *Franklin* County; 27 August 2012, documentation by Bernard F. Master; vote 9-0.

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*):** one individual, *Holmes* County; 6 August 2012, documentation by Su Snyder; first reported but not documented by another observer 2 August; vote 9-0.

- Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*):** one individual, **Hancock** County; 5 May 2012, documentation by Robert Sams; vote 9-0.
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*):** one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 20 August 2012, documentation by Jeff Harvey; vote 9-0.
- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*):** one individual, **Wayne** County; 3 May 2012, documentation by Tom and Jackie Bain; vote 9-0.
- Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*):** one individual, **Lucas** County; 16 May 2012, documentation by Sherrie Duris; present through 24 May per internet sources; vote 9-0.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*):** at least five individuals, **Clinton** County; 16 June 2012, documentation by internet sources; 23 June 2012, documentation by Kathi Hutton; vote 9-0.
- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*):** one individual, **Erie** County; 3 May 2012, documentation by Dave Clark; vote 9-0.
- Common Raven (*Corvus corax*):** two records accepted:
- one individual, **Coshocton** County; 18 May 2012, documentation by Andy Sewell; vote 8-1.
  - three individuals, **Harrison** County; 12 August 2012, documentation by Scott Pendleton; vote 9-0.
- Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*):** three individuals, **Cuyahoga** County; 3 December 2012, documentation by Michael Egar; vote 9-0.
- Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*):** one individual, **Erie** County; 10 December 2012 through 22 January 2013, documentation by H. Thomas Bartlett; vote 9-0.
- Variied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*):** one individual, Cuyahoga County; 17 and 18 February 2013, documentation by Rich Kassouf; vote 9-0.
- Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous*):** eleven individuals, **Lucas** County; 1 December 2012, documentation by Andy Sewell; vote 9-0.
- Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*):** one individual, **Erie** County; 12 May 2012, documentation by Jann and Ross Gowans; vote 9-0.
- Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*):** one individual, **Lucas** County; 8 September 2012, documentation by Josh Haughawout; vote 9-0.
- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*):** one individual, **Tuscarawas** County; 5 November 2012, documentation by Craig Caldwell; vote 9-0.
- Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*):** three records accepted:
- one individual, **Wood** County; 11 and 12 October 2012, documentation by Tom Kemp; vote 9-0.
  - one individual, **Ashland** County; 1 December through 8 December 2012, documentation by Gary Cowell Jr., vote 9-0.
  - one individual, **Franklin** County; 1 January 2013, documentation by internet sources; 20 January 2013, documentation by Paul Hurtado; 22 January 2013, documentation by Paul Gardner; 9 February 2013, documentation by Kathi Hutton; continued through at least 18 April 2013 per internet sources; vote 9-0.

#### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*):** one individual, **Franklin** County; 20 May 2012; vote 3-6. This was a very detailed description, but it did not conclusively eliminate all other species.
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*):** one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 6 July 2012; vote 0-9. The documentation did not eliminate other species.
- Common Raven (*Corvus corax*):** one individual, **Franklin** County; 4 July 2012; vote 3-6. Although quite possibly a correct identification, the bird was seen under difficult conditions.
- Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*):** two individuals, **Lucas** County; 11 December 2012; vote 2-7. The documentation suggested Smith's Longspur, but the details provided were not sufficient.