

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Temperatures were close to average for the entire season; only two stations set record highs, both in Jul. Seventeen record lows, all but one in Jul, were also set. The biggest changes were both on 25 Jul: Dayton Airport's low of 52° and Celina's of 49° were four degrees below their previous records for that date.

Rainfall was another story. Statewide, Jun was the ninth wettest and Jul the fourth wettest of the 119 years with data. Widely scattered stations set up to 67 daily records in Jun (sources differ). The eastern half of the state had more than 1.5 times its usual rainfall. At least 10 inches fell in a narrow swath through the east-central part, which value is up to triple the norm. The western half's rain was mostly between 75% and 125% of normal. July produced up to 79 new rainfall records, again scattered throughout the state. Only the western edge of the state and the *Fayette/Pickaway/Ross* area had below-normal rain. A broad swath from the northwest to the southeast had two to three times its usual rain and the area around *Wyandot* was drenched with four times its average.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>).

Summer means nesting. The second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA II, in publication) has records for more than 200 species, though only about 175 of them can be considered "regular" breeders. Some of them are scarce, such as Winter Wren, which nests here in scattered gorges and other dark cool areas. Another is Common Merganser, known to nest only along a couple of streams which flow into the upper Ohio River and strangely enough on Conneaut Creek in *Ashtabula*. Nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Bell's Vireos, and a couple of other species are known from only one or two sites. In this issue three contributing authors discuss some of our breeding birds.

Summer also means both the end of "spring" and the beginning of "fall" shorebird migration. The excessive rainfall resulted in even less inland habitat than usual for the southbound arrivals. Doug and Micki Dunakin reported "virtually no shorebird habitat here, no mudflats" in *Paulding*. Ron Sempier noted that roads in and around Big Island WA, *Marion*, and the WA itself were flooded in Jul. The "sky ponds" on the *Sandusky/Seneca* line west of Bellevue were full and didn't begin to withdraw until August. However, several areas south and west of Ottawa NWR did provide shorebird sightings, as did the Little Miami River at Lost Bridge. East Harbor SP, especially Middle Harbor, was also a reliable site.

This *Cardinal* issue contains reports for 244 species, a typical summer count. One hybrid is also included as are two entries at the genus level. Fourteen review species are listed; their names are underlined. At least one sighting of each was well documented, either directly

to the Ohio Bird Records Committee or indirectly to it through an internet posting. Those whose documentation supports the sighting will be reported and attributed in a future issue of the *Cardinal*. Unfortunately, many reports contained no supporting information and will not be published. An account for Trumpeter Swan (an introduced species with no truly wild birds ever documented here) is also provided but is not included in the above number of Review List species.

The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>. Detailed reports for Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven are especially important to thoroughly chronicle these species' range expansions into Ohio.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>), the Ohio-birds list-serv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>), *rarebird.org* (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), *The Bobolink* (provided courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger), and the *Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log* (<http://cincinnati-birds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>). I have been remiss in not acknowledging the last of these until now though I have mined it for at least the last four seasons. Most of our 88 counties are represented in the sources. *Henry*, however, produced sightings of only four species, and *Monroe* produced six. No reports came from *Morgan*, *Putnam*, or *Shelby*.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 54th Supplement (2013). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/check-list/north/print.php>. In the species accounts, "normal" early and late dates are from Harlan *et al.*, *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Breeding ranges and isolated locations are from Harlan *et al.* and from Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II submissions.

County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example the city of Ashtabula or Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Abbreviations:

- Alum Creek = Alum Creek State Park, *Delaware*, unless noted otherwise
- Armleder Park = Otto Armleder Memorial Park, a Cincinnati east side hotspot, *Hamilton*
- BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
- Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
- Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
- The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Harrison* airport
- BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
- BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory
- Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*
- Burke = Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*
- Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, *Warren*
- CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
- Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park, *Fairfield* and *Hocking*
- CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
- Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*, unless otherwise noted
- CMNH-NAS = Cleveland Museum of Natural History Natural Areas Staff
- CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*
- CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*
- Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, *Franklin*
- East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*
- East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa*
- Edgewater = Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront State Park, *Cuyahoga*
- Englewood = Englewood Metropark, *Montgomery*
- eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, usually at National Wildlife Refuges
- Fernald = Fernald Preserve, *Butler* and *Hamilton*
- Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*
- Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Ashland* and (mostly) *Wayne*
- Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*
- Holden = Holden Arboretum, *Lake* (except its Stebbins Gulch unit which is in *Geauga*)
- Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, *Delaware*
- Hoover Reservoir = (mostly) *Delaware*, but the dam is in *Franklin*
- Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, *Holmes* and *Wayne*
- Killdeer = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, *Marion* (a tiny bit) and *Wyandot*
- LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, *Geauga*
- Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown, *Lorain*, unless otherwise noted
- Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, *Hamilton*, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
- Magee = the boardwalk and vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted. The northern 1/3 of the causeway is also in *Lucas*, the rest in *Ottawa*.
- Malek Park = a nearly lakeside park west of Conneaut, *Ashtabula*
- Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted
- Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*
- Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in *Mahoning*
- m. obs. = multiple observers
- Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, almost entirely in *Ashland* with a bit in *Richland*
- Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, *Ashland*
- MP = Metro Park or MetroPark, depending on jurisdiction
- NF = National Forest
- NP = Nature Preserve (except as part of CVNP)
- OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
- ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*
- ONWR Blausey and Navarre = Units of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which are separate from the refuge's main body. Both are in *Ottawa*.
- OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, *Lucas*
- Pickrel Creek = Pickrel Creek Wildlife Area, *Sandusky*
- Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, *Fairfield* and *Franklin*
- RBA = Rare Bird Alert
- Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, *Highland*
- Scioto Audubon = Scioto Audubon Metro Park, *Franklin*, so named because it's on the Scioto River and includes the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- SF = State Forest
- Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, *Scioto*, unless otherwise noted
- Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, *Hamilton*
- SNP = State Nature Preserve
- South Creek = the mouth of the creek at Muddy Creek Bay, *Sandusky*, unless otherwise noted
- SP = State Park
- Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, *Greene* and *Warren*
- Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Seneca*
- WA = Wildlife Area
- Wendy Park = a lakeside Cleveland city park, *Cuyahoga*
- Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, *Ottawa*
- Winous Horseshoe = a unit of Winous Point Shooting Club, *Ottawa*