

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Statewide, average temperature and rainfall were below normal in August. One record high temperature and four record lows were set. However, a broad swath across the middle of the state had as little as 25% of its normal rainfall, and the Toledo area and the far southeast had up to triple their norms. September temperatures and precipitation were about average, though 33 new daily high temperatures were recorded. Most of them were northwest of I-71 and were increases of one or two degrees. Cleveland recorded its hottest day of the year on 09 Oct when the thermometer hit 96 degrees. Two previous lows were tied and no new record lows set. Scattered areas had up to 150% of average rainfall while others had as little as 25% of average. Fifty new daily records were set; the greatest increase was 1.26 inches.

October's average temperature was somewhat above normal, but only one new record high and one record low were recorded. Precipitation was above average. Stations in a band from Cincinnati to Cleveland had up to three times their normal monthly rain, and 67 daily rainfall records were established. All of them were in the western half of the state and the largest increase, three inches, hit Cincinnati on 08 Oct. Four daily record snowfalls were also recorded. November's average temperature was considerably below normal but only six record lows occurred and six more previous records were tied. Most of the East and lower Midwest shared this chill. Average precipitation was somewhat above normal. Though no areas exceeded 150% of their long-term averages, 64 daily precipitation records (54 of them snowfall) were set. Record snow depths up to seven inches more than previous daily values were set at 45 stations.

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/>).

As usual we had a mix of early, late, and on-time arrivals and departures of migrants. There did seem to be more stragglers this year

than most, though no pattern was apparent. Perhaps the mild October played a role. Red-necked Grebes staged an invasion of sorts, with larger than usual numbers and appearances in 14 counties. Several gulls appeared in larger than usual numbers, and a couple showed up far from their usual Lake Erie haunts. Most passerines were reported in typical numbers and locations. However, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve hosted extraordinary numbers of sparrows of several species on 25 Oct. Winter finches by and large stayed north where cone and other seed sources provided much more food than a year ago.

This issue includes the results of the Fall Census conducted in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Because it is an effort by many groups covering a large area, its counts are not included as the high numbers cited in the Species Accounts; those are limited to numbers by single individuals or parties. Most CVNP access was not affected by the "sequester shutdown" though the visitor centers, rest rooms, and other facilities were closed. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was closed, which meant that Ed Pierce and company couldn't do their usual monthly census there in October.

This *Cardinal* issue contains reports for 310 species, the second highest for the season since I became Editor. Three hybrids are also included as are 11 entries at the genus or "undetermined species" level. Twenty-three review species are listed (also my second highest fall count); 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. Individuals whose documentation supports their reports will be named in a future issue of the *Cardinal*. However, 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 included as usual but it is not part of 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 Mississippi Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven are especially important to thoroughly chronicle these species' apparent 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 listserv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>), rarebird.org (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), and the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log (<http://cincinnatiabirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>).

Data from one usual source, *The Bobolink*, were not available at press time, so an addendum in the next *Cardinal* will include any necessary additions. All of our 88 counties are represented in the sources, though *Putnam* provided only a *Selasphorus* hummingbird sighting. *Henry* produced reports of two species, *Jackson* and *Pike* three each, and *Meigs* seven.

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/checklist/north/print.php>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and 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 = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*
 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 = Cleveland 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 Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir; most birding is done in the 2/3 of it which is in *Richland*. The rest is in *Morrow*.
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
 CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, *Clermont*
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*
 CP = County Park
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, *Franklin*
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in Fayette, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly *Pickaway*
 East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa*
 Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*
 Englewood = Englewood Metropark, *Montgomery*
 eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, found at National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and some other locations
 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*
 Honda Wetlands = a unit of Glacier Ridge MetroPark, *Union*
 Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, *Delaware*
 Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in *Delaware*, but the dam is in *Franklin*
 Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, *Erie*

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2013

Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**

LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**

Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown in the city and county of the same name, 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

m. obs. = Multiple Observers

Magee = the boardwalk and immediate 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**.

Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted

Meadowbrook = Meadowbrook Marsh, a preserve in Danbury Township, **Ottawa**

Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View

Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**

Miami Whitewater = Miami Whitewater Forest County Park, **Hamilton**

Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in **Mahoning**

Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both.

Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**

Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) **Ashland** and (slightly) **Richland**

Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, **Trumbull**. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.

MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system

NC = Nature Center

NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee

OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve Metro-Park, **Lucas**

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**.

Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, outside Sandusky in **Erie**

Pleasant Hill Lake = Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland** and **Richland**; the dam is in **Ashland**

Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**

Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**

Sims Park = a lakefront park in Euclid, **Cuyahoga**

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SF = State Forest

SP = State Park

Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**

Sunset Park = Sunset Park, **Lake**. An Eric-side park in Mentor-on-the-Lake, not to be confused with the Sunset Park in North Kingsville, **Ashtabula**.

SWA = State Wildlife Area

WA = Wildlife Area

Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Lake**

Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, **Cuyahoga**

Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, and adjoining farmland

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

Winous Horseshoe = a unit of Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

Woodlawn = Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, **Lucas**