

RECENT ACTIONS OF THE OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, JULY–AUGUST 2014

By Paul Gardner, OBRC Secretary

The Ohio Bird Records Committee contributes to the ornithological record of Ohio by reviewing reports of the sightings of Review List species and potential first state records. The Review List can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/review.php>.

Since the actions published in the winter 2013-14 *Ohio Cardinal*, the committee has resolved 27 reports of 21 species. Twenty-four reports were accepted and two were not accepted. One report was accepted at the genus level. Two species previously undocumented in the state, Neotropic Cormorant and Crested Caracara, were accepted as first state records. Acceptance of a report requires approval by at least eight of the committee members. Reports receiving five to seven votes for acceptance are recirculated to the committee for up to three rounds of voting. Reports receiving less than five “yes” votes are not accepted.

Reports of sightings of rare birds can be documented online using a handy form at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/rarebird-submission.php>. Alternatively, information can be emailed to the secretary at psg0708@gmail.com. While the committee endeavors to glean reports of sightings of rarities from internet sources, many reports never come to the committee’s attention, and many reports found on the internet lack sufficient details to enable review. Direct submission of reports is the only sure way to see that a sighting becomes part of Ohio’s official ornithological record.

The current membership of the committee is Mike Busam, Paul Gardner (Secretary), Rob Harlan, Rick Nirschl, Ed Pierce, Jay Stenger, Sue Tackett, Doug Vogus, and Bill Whan. Craig Caldwell serves as an alternate.

All common and scientific names, and the taxonomic order in which the records are presented, follow the Fifty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists’ Union *Check-List of North American Birds*.

Records Accepted

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): One individual, Little Portage River Wildlife Area, **Ottawa**, 06 to 07 Apr 2014. Documentation by Andy Sewell and internet sources; Vote 9-0. This is Ohio’s second record of the species.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): One individual, Sulphur Brook (Pipe Creek) Estuary, **Erie**, 29 Apr to 10 May 2014. Documentation by Kathi Hutton and internet sources. Vote 9-0. This is the first state record of the species.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): One individual, Chagrin River Park, **Lake**, 23 Jun 2013. Documentation by Briane Vagner; Vote 9-0.

Plegadis Ibis: Voice of America Park, **Butler**, 20 Apr 2013. Documentation by Steven Reynolds; Vote 9-0.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): Three reports accepted:

Two individuals, Pearson Metropark, **Lucas**, 06 May 2013. Documentation by Lee Adams; Vote 9-0.

One individual, Hampton Hills Metropark, **Summit**, 22 May 2013. Documentation by Craig Caldwell; Vote 9-0.

One individual, Lever Park, Loveland, **Hamilton**, 03 Jun 2013. Documentation by Laura Keene; Vote 9-0.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*): One individual, Cincinnati, 26 Apr 2013. Documentation by Brandy Willis; Vote 9-0.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*): Two reports accepted:

One individual, Deer Creek Wildlife Area, **Pickaway**, 29 Apr 2012. Documentation by Kyle Brooks; Vote 8-1.

One individual, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**, 07 May 2013. Documentation by Shane Myers; Vote 8-1.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One individual, Fresno, **Coshocton**, 07 to 13 Jun 2014. Documentation by Su Snyder and internet sources; Vote 9-0.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*): One individual, Big Island Wildlife Area, **Marion**. 05 May 2014, documentation by Bill Heck and Steve Landes; Vote 9-0. 03 Jun 2014, documentation by Ron Sempier; Vote 8-1.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*): One individual, Decoy Marsh, **Sandusky**, 12 to 21 Apr 2013. Documentation by Su Snyder and Craig Caldwell; Vote 9-0.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): One individual, Shreve, *Wayne*, 01 to 06 Apr 2013. Documentation by Su Snyder and Dave Slager; Vote 9-0.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Three reports accepted:

Six individuals, South Charleston, *Clark*, 29 Jun 2014. Documentation by Paul Gardner; Vote 9-0.

Five individuals, Celina, *Mercer*, 15 Jul 2014. Documentation by Troy Shively; Vote 8-1.

Two individuals, Kidron, *Wayne*, 26 Jul 2014. Documentation by Donna Kuhn; photo by James Muller; Vote 8-1.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): One individual, New Carlisle, *Clark*, 26 and 29 May 2007. Documentation by Harold Shelly; Vote 9-0. This is the state's fifth record of the species. [See the separate article about this bird – Ed.]

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*): One individual, Kelleys Island, *Erie*, 21 May, 2014. Documentation by Terry Fout; Vote 9-0. This is the first record of the species in Ohio.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*): One individual, Glacier Ridge Metropark, *Union*, 08 to 09 Jun 2014. Documentation by Steve Landes and internet sources. Vote 9-0.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*): One individual, College Hill Road, *Knox*, 03 Apr 2013. Documentation by Dave Slager; Vote 9-0.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*): One individual, Mount Hope, *Holmes*, 29 Apr to 08 May 2014. Documentation by Michael Hershberger, 29 Apr to 07 May 2014; Su Snyder, 30 Apr 2014; Vote 9-0. Addition documentation by Craig Caldwell, 03 May 2014, Laura Keene, 05 May 2014, and internet sources. This is the second state record of the species.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous*): One individual, Harrison State Forest, *Harrison*, 25 Oct 2012. Documentation by Scott Pendleton; Vote 9-0.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): One individual, Frankfort, *Ross*, 24 Apr 2013. Documentation by Ashley Thompson; Vote 9-0.

Records Not Accepted

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyananthus latirostris*): One individual, *Ottawa*, 14 Sep 2012; Vote 1-8. If accepted, this report would

have been the first state record of the species, and the bar for acceptance of first state records is very high. Unfortunately the committee received documentation from only one observer, and no photograph was available. The committee felt that the written description, while carefully done, did not incontrovertibly eliminate other possible identifications, especially White-eared Hummingbird.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*): Three individuals, *Shelby*, 05 Jul 2013; Vote 2-7. Although this report is apparently not a simple misidentification of Indigo Buntings, the majority of the committee felt that the identification of Mountain Bluebird was not sufficiently supported to warrant accepting it as the state's second record of the species.

Paul Gardner has been a resident of Columbus for the past 23 years. He is a native of North Carolina, where he took a PhD in anthropology from the University of North Carolina specializing in the archaeology of the eastern United States. He has been a serious birder since 2002, when he discovered the Columbus Avids. From April 2007 through October 2008, he compiled a weekly Rare Bird Alert for Ohio, and in 2007 joined with Greg Miller, Dan Sanders, Bill Whan and Joe Hammond to develop an Ohio Checklist with Difficulty Codes (http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/checklist/field/4Column_Codes.pdf).