

## COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Jun was wetter than average, with a rainfall total in the top 20 of the 120 years with records. Only the south-central counties' rains were near normal. The central counties and a few small pockets elsewhere received up to triple their usual amounts and the rest of the state had up to double its average. Average and maximum temperatures were also above normal, though not so dramatically. They ranked at numbers 94 and 74 of the 120, respectively.

Jul was a complete reversal. Statewide, the rainfall amount was near the bottom quartile. Parts of the northeast did have up to triple their usual rain, and a narrow band from Dayton to Columbus received up to double its average, but the rest of the state had as little as 10% of normal rainfall. Both the average and maximum temperatures were the third lowest on record. (Neighboring Indiana experienced its coldest Jul ever.) The minimum temperature was the 11th lowest.

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>). (This citation was omitted in the spring *Ohio Cardinal*.)

This summer was the first in which the results of the emerald ash borer invasion were really apparent. Bare or nearly bare areas were widespread. Many cities and individual homeowners cut dead and dying trees, leaving empty yards. Will the uncut snags in larger parks and forests prove a bonanza for woodpeckers as native boring insects take up residence? If so, secondary cavity nesters should also benefit, though that's at best a very thin silver lining on an otherwise very dark cloud.

Scott Pendleton provided this from *Harrison*: "Also, a short grassland report. The uppies appear to be expanding their breeding area as I found them in two places they were not seen before. Vespers were way down this year, everything else is holding steady. No dickissels after having them for two years. The grasslands area is changing rapidly as four wells have been drilled and four more are slated to be drilled and they are strip-mining about a square mile of it. None of this activity affects the main breeding area."

Elliot Tramer conducts point count surveys in OOP-MP and wrote me, "Veery, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird and Hooded Warbler in Oak Openings Metropark — these neotropical migrants seem to be declining in the park, possibly due to a combination of adverse management activities there (e.g., clearing undergrowth from sections of mature forest) and an overabundance of deer — a browse line is very apparent in many areas of the park."

I welcome contributions like these from readers who have intimate knowledge of a local patch. Please tell me about trends in yours!

This issue of the *Cardinal* has accounts of 247 species and two hybrids, plus eight entries at the genus or family level. The first two numbers are typical for their categories. I've been slowly increasing the number of more general entries compared to previous issues. Ac-

counts of 10 review species and one review genus are included. Reports of three of them (Western Grebe, Fish Crow, and Common Raven) had insufficient data for evaluation and so will not be part of the formal record. Mississippi Kite, Piping Plover, and Eurasian Colared-Dove had both documented and undocumented reports. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Plegadis* sp. Ibis, Black Rail, Purple Gallinule, and Western Kingbird sightings were all well documented. The Records Committee and I are grateful to the observers who provided documentation.

Documenting a rarity is easy: Just go to <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>. Internet postings, even with photographs, can only supplement formal reports, not replace them.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the Cardinal, reports submitted to *The Bobolink*, 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://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.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.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 55th Supplement (2014). 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 or 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:

- Armler Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, **Hamilton**
- BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake, **Mahoning** and **Portage**
- 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
- Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**
- Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, mostly **Warren** and a bit in **Clinton**
- CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**,

- viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
- CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), **Cuyahoga**
- Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**
- CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, **Clermont**
- 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**
- Ellis Lake = the semi-official name of ponds, wetland, and woods in **Butler**, not to be confused with the reservoir of the same name in **Wyandot**
- Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
- Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in **Hancock**
- Frohning Meadows = Frohning Meadows, **Geauga**
- Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**
- Gilmore Ponds = Gilmore MetroPark (formerly Gilmore Ponds Preserve), **Butler**
- Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank, **Montgomery**
- 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, several non-contiguous areas around the north end of Hoover Reservoir, **Delaware**
- Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**
- Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve on Long Point, Kelley's Island, **Erie**
- Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**
- Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**
- Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in **Marion** but it's mostly in **Wyandot**
- LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
- Lake Erie Bluffs = Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark, **Lake**
- Lake Hope/Zaleski = Lake Hope State Park and surrounding Zaleski State Forest, **Vinton**
- 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 third of the causeway is also in **Lucas**, the rest in **Ottawa**.
- Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
- Medusa = Medusa Marsh, **Erie**, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View
- Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**
- 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
- Nimisila = Nimisila Reservoir, **Summit**
- NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
- OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
- OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
- ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
- ONWR Blausey = a unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which is separate from the refuge's main body, in **Ottawa**.
- Pickrel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**
- Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
- Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, **Erie**
- RBA = Rare Bird Alert
- Riverside NA = Riverside Natural Area, a preserve along the Great Miami River in **Hamilton**, **Butler**, which includes some upland as well
- Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
- Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**
- Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
- Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
- Sheldon's Marsh = Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**
- SNP = State Nature Preserve
- SF = State Forest
- SP = State Park
- Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**
- SWA = State Wildlife Area
- WA = Wildlife Area
- Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, **Cuyahoga**
- Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, and adjoining farmland
- The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in **Muskingum**, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed Ohio Power strip mines
- Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, **Erie**
- Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**