

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

Jun was the rainiest on record. We were not alone in our misery—it was also Illinois' and Indiana's wettest. States from Virginia to New Hampshire were within their top five rainiest, and precipitation in the country as a whole ranked in the top 10% of the 121 years with data. No Ohio station recorded less than four inches of rain. Most stations received six to 10 inches, some in the west central region 10 to 15, and a few endured more than 15 inches. The month's average temperature was only a little above normal, but the average maximum was lower than usual and the average minimum was well above normal.

The rains continued into Jul, though the month ranked "only" in the wettest quartile. Most of the eastern half of the state received two to five inches though pockets were above or below that range. Most of the western half received five to six inches. **Brown** and **Clermont** were drenched with 10 to 15 inches as neighboring Kentucky set a new monthly record. Jul average temperature was below normal, ranking only 26th out of the 121. The low average maximum, at number 13, was the major influence; the average minimum was near normal. Ironically, the global average for the month was the highest ever, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>), the NOAA (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>), and the *Plain Dealer*.

The heavy rains caused flooding in some areas, both along rivers and in agricultural lands. Standing water in "sky ponds" had begun to recede by the time some shorebirds arrived from the Arctic, but stopover habitat for them remains scarce. Nevertheless, observers managed to find all of the regularly-occurring species, and the timing of their last departures and first arrivals was as usual.

Scott Pendleton has paid special attention to grassland birds in his home patch of **Harrison**. He wrote, "An interesting thing, at least to me, is occurring with the [Upland Sandpipers]. They have been putting in pipelines and when they do, they fence out the 100' right of way to keep the cows out. The birds have used these new perching posts and the ungrazed high grass to expand their nesting territories! A remarkable develop-

ment considering how adversely the woodland birds are hurt by fragmentation from pipelines. I would estimate 16–20 pairs found in five different areas, two of which are newly colonized or I overlooked them before."

As usual, a few straggling northbound vireos and warblers were seen in Jun, but read the accounts of Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged and Mourning warblers, and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows for sightings at unusual times or places.

This issue of the Cardinal includes accounts of birds singing the song of another species—see the accounts of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers, Tennessee Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco. This is not uncommon, because most of our songbirds learn their vocalizations although even learned song has some genetic foundation. Andy Jones told me that "...many or most birds that learn their songs [do so] from the community around them, which includes their social father (who may not be their genetic father), but a lot of species do not rely so heavily on just the father as their 'tutor'." This isn't mimicry in the classic sense as practiced by mockingbirds, starlings, and some corvids. It might even be disadvantageous to the individual because he's probably not going to attract a mate while using the "wrong" song.

I'd like to get more reports of other extra-specific song, regardless of when you observed it. I'll prime the pump with an example from my own experience: I once watched an Eastern Towhee sing a very credible imitation of a Northern Cardinal, then switch to its usual song. Of course some species' songs are very similar to another's, such as those of the closely-related Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers. And I've had a Dark-eyed Junco come to a Pine Warbler recording.

This issue contains accounts of 243 species, about the recent average for summer. Four additional accounts are at the family or genus level and one hybrid is included. Seven Review Species, birds whose occurrences (generally speaking) are rare and unpredictable, were reported. Three were formally documented for the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBR). Another three were informally documented through postings to various internet venues, but one of the postings had no photo or other details. The seventh is included only by way of a second-hand report with no details.

The names heading Review Species accounts are underlined. No observers' names are mentioned unless the OBRC has voted on the documentation, and only accepted records are attributed. The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to formally 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>.

Three other species' names are underlined as well but not included in the six mentioned above. Sightings of Trumpeter Swan are attributed to the reporters because the species is apparently established as a result of introductions by the Department of Natural Resources. It is a Review Species in the hope, though not the expectation, that a truly wild-origin bird might show up in the state. The other two underlined names, Chukar and European Goldfinch, belong to birds which were surely released or escaped. I include them because they're fun to find, though they're not countable by American Birding Association rules. (As I've noted before, ABA counting rules apply only to lists reported to the ABA—birders are welcome to include everything they identify in their personal lists.)

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to *The Cardinal* and *The Bobolink*, the latter courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger; 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>).

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *CheckList of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 56th Supplement (2015). 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, Columbus, and Dayton 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 Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*
 Bayshore = a fishing access point by the eponymous power plant, *Lucas*
 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 (or Reservoir), *Ma-honing* 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
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa* (<http://www.bsbo.org>)
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*
 Burke Airport = 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
 Cedar Point = the peninsula which contains the amusement park, *Erie*
 Chapel Drive = a road off Ohio 83 south of Cumberland in *Noble* which traverses grasslands
 Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park; the eastern 2/3 is in *Hocking*, the rest in *Fairfield*
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* Section.
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*
 CMM = the trio of Jon Cefus, Greg Miller, and Ben Morrison
 CNC = Cincinnati Nature Center, a nongovernmental entity whose Long Branch Farm and Rowe Woods units are in *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**
Eastlake Power = the Lake Erie viewpoint east of the First Energy plant in Eastlake, **Lake**
Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, **Cuyahoga**
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**
GLSM = Grand Lake St. Marys. The State Park, state fish hatchery, and the eastern 20% of the lake itself are in **Auglaize**. The rest of the lake is in **Mercer**.
Great Miami WMB = Great Miami Wetlands Mitigation Bank, **Montgomery**
Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**
Holden = Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, except for its Stebbins Gulch unit in **Geauga**
Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**
Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in **Delaware**, the rest and the dam are in **Franklin**
Indian Lake = Indian Lake State Park, **Logan**
Jones Preserve = Jones Preserve at Long Point, on Kelleys 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 = a **Lake** Metroparks parcel whose popularity among birders is blooming.
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 without distinction.
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
NF = National Forest
NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP
OBBA II = the second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
Old Highland Stone = that company's water-filled gravel pits, **Highland**
OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
ONWR Navarre = A nonpublic separate unit in **Ottawa** east of the main ONWR
Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**
Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, in the city of Sandusky, **Erie**
Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**
Scranton Flats = a section of the Towpath Trail in Cleveland on the left bank of the Cuyahoga River
Seneca Lake = most of the lake and the (non-state) Park are in **Noble**, while the dam is in **Guernsey**
SF = State Forest
Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
Sheldon Marsh = Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Erie**
SNP = State Nature Preserve
SP = State Park

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

SWA = State Wildlife Area

Tar Hollow = Tar Hollow State Park and surrounding State Forest, mostly in *Ross* but with small portions in each of *Hocking* and *Vinton*

TNC = The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org>)

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

The Wilds = a limited access big mammal breeding and research facility in *Muskingum*, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed strip mines

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, *Ottawa*

Zaleski = Zaleski State Forest, *Vinton*