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Robert Harlan
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Parma Hts., OH 44130

or E-Mail address:
robert.harlan@nature.nshore.org

THE OHIO CARDINAL

Robert Harlan, Editor
Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: H. Thomas Bartlett, Secretary.
1833 S. Winfield Dr.
Tiffin, OH 44889

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Cover: Bobolink.
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A Royal Tern at Lorain— A New Species for Ohio by Tom LePage

I arrived at the Lorain Marina International docks (Lorain Co.) about mid-morning on July 8, 1995, hoping to find more shorebirds, as I had seen two Willets on the adjacent landfill mudflat on July 6. Few shorebirds were to be found, but there were about 50 gulls and two Caspian Terns. When I got abreast of the gulls and terns, I looked to see if I could find a Franklin's Gull among them. I noticed a bird that had black on its head resting partly behind a Ring-billed Gull. It had its head turned around with its bill against its back, so I could not see the bill's shape or color. I tried to see enough to determine whether it was a Franklin's or Bonaparte's gull; I easily ruled out Franklin's because the mantle color was much too light for that species, but I didn't feel that the bird had the right shape for a Bonaparte's either. However, it still would not raise its head.

I then continued on to the end of the pier and scoped the gulls on the breakwall beyond the small boat channel. Not finding anything of interest, I returned to take another look at the odd "gull". It was still resting as before. However, it soon turned its head forward, and I saw its sharp orange bill and the short black crest at the back of its head. I thought "This is a tern, but it's too small to be a Caspian." I looked at the two Caspian Terns that stood about 10 to 15 feet away. There was no doubt that my bird was a different species, as the Caspian's stood much taller and had much thicker bills. Also, the Caspian's bills were a darker reddish orange, not plain orange. I then realized that it was a Royal Tern.

I watched the Royal Tern for several minutes, just to be sure I was seeing it correctly. Now to alert other birders. A phone call to Lorain birder Norma Kraps got no answer. I then called Rob Harlan, who said that he would be there as soon as possible. Back to watching the tern. It was still settled on the mudflat, but had become alert and was doing some preening. After about 20 minutes it suddenly looked up and around, and then flew out over the impoundment wall and out of sight. It did not return, so I had to tell Rob the sad details when he arrived.

However, this story had a happy postscript. Twelve days later, on July 20, I again found the Royal Tern on the mudflat. It was also around on July 21, and many birders were able to view it on those two days.

Tom LePage
21585 Center Ridge Rd.
Rocky River, OH 44116

Further Observations of Summering Black-throated Green Warblers at Hinckley MP by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

Two nests of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) were discovered at Hinckley Metropark (Medina Co.) in the Spring and Summer of 1995; both were unsuccessful, with the first being apparently abandoned, and the second failing due to predation. While nests are often difficult to locate, the vocal performance of the male Black-throated Green can be readily appreciated, and is usually the first indication that the bird has returned to its summer haunts. Various writers (Nice and Nice p. 168; Pitelka p. 14; Morse 1989:148) have described two distinct song types, given in differing contexts. Both songs are easily recognized and provide the birder an opportunity to trace the travels of the male Black-throated Green Warbler across his grounds. Morse (1989:149) has pointed out that by listening to the bird's choice of song, one can predict its actions. By way of this method, I was able to use the male's singing as a guide to the location of the second nest.

Songs of the Black-throated Green Warbler

Nice and Nice (p. 168) have described the Black-throated Green Warbler songs as Type A and Type B, and Pitelka (p. 14) identified the Type A song as "zrrr- zrrr- zu- zu- zwoo" and Type B as "zee- zee- zee- zee- zu- zwoo". In effort to remain consistent with recent literature, Type A shall henceforth be referred to as Unaccented Ending Song, and Type B as Accented Ending Song, following the definition in Morse (1993:5). Unaccented Ending (UE) Songs are given from exposed perches while the bird remains stationary, and are typically sung from tree tops as a means of territorial defense (Morse 1967:68). Less often it is sung while foraging (Morse 1967:67). Accented Ending (AE) Songs are frequently sung when near the female and when foraging (Morse 1967:69).

I attempted to differentiate song patterns, and note wherever possible, the context in which each song type was sung. From April 21 through June 24, 1995, I spent 50 hours in the field, and counted 5,277 songs given by a single Black-throated Green. 2,877 songs were AE (55%) and 2,400 songs were UE (45%). In comparison, only 3.6%, or 508 of 14,005 songs recorded in Massachusetts by Nice and Nice (p. 170) were AE, while in Michigan, Pitelka (p. 14) found that AE Song was the most frequent of the two song types sung. The low percentage of AE Song given by the Black-throated Green Warbler observed by the Nices may be directly related to this males lack of assistance at the nest (Nice and Nice p. 170). Pitelka (p. 14) found that both sexes fed the young and that the male sang AE Songs before arriving at the nest with food.

For his part, the male Black-throated Green (BTG #1) that I watched was very attentive to his mate, closely following the female and singing softly rendered AE Songs. Male BTG #1's greatest single performance was 335 songs in one hour (9:42-10:42 a.m. on June 3), with 328 songs (98%) being AE. In two hours on May 31, a total of 452 songs were sung, of which only 166 (37%) were AE. On June 15, in 2.5 hours 812 songs were sung, a mere 20 (4%) of which were AE, while 592 (96%) were UE. Overall, 55% of BTG #1's vocal effort was AE. Morse (1989:149) explains that AE Songs predominate following migration when males and females establish pair bonds. After pairing, AE Songs decline and UE Songs increase. Later in the season, AE Songs again replace UE Songs (Morse 1989:151). Accordingly, I found that from

April 21 through May 25, 87% of all song was AE (1549 of 1789 songs). By May 21, UE Song began to rise. From that date through June 16, UE Song was sung 72% of the time (1875 of 2598 songs). Finally, from June 17 until BTG #1's rather premature departure sometime after June 24, 68% of all songs heard were AE (605 of 890 songs).

While the earliest male arrived at the study site on April 21 and the second male sometime between April 24-28, territories remained loosely defined as late as May 5, with both males freely traveling from one spruce stand to another. When territorial boundaries were finally established, male BTG #2 took up residence in Stand C and BTG #1 occupied Stand B (see description of the area in Kotesovec 1994a:79 and 1994b:117). A natural boundary was created by West Drive, which served to separate Stand C from Stands B and B2.

On June 3, BTG #2, singing from Stand C, sang 13 AE Songs beginning at 10:10 a.m. At 10:12 he abruptly switched to UE, singing 61 songs of this type until 10:24. Upon BTG #2's initiation of UE Song, male BTG #1 moved from within the depths of Stand B and situated himself at the uppermost branch of a Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) that bordered the "all purpose trail" which flanks West Drive. At this time, BTG #2 in Stand C repositioned himself directly opposite his competitor and the two birds countersang UE Songs. BTG #2 grew silent at 10:24, and at 10:28 BTG #1 retreated into the haunts of Stand B, still singing UE Songs. The "face-off" having ended, BTG #2 relinquished his stationary post and moved off, now singing AE Song. BTG #1 continued to sing UE Songs until 10:41 (a total of 157 songs), when he changed to AE Song, which was sung in the company of his mate. The above exchange of "border surveillance" UE Songs was often repeated throughout the study.

Nesting of the Black-throated Green Warbler

Male BTG #1 and his mate nested twice in Stand B. From the outset, the site selected for the first nest seemed a dismal choice. The location was a low-hanging branch of a Norway Spruce at a presumed height of 20 feet. The needles on the branch were somewhat sparse, and it was separated from a lower limb by approximately 10 feet and from an upper tier of branches by an estimated 6 feet. In between, limbs were either broken off or completely denuded. There was no cover for the proposed nest, which eventually rested midway out on the branch. The nesting tree itself was situated atop a slope overlooking a narrow band of deciduous wood directly opposite the road leading to the Hinckley Lake boathouse. Construction was barely underway when the female was spotted packing nesting material into the space created by the junction of a small branch and limb. 23 trips were made by the female in two hours on May 17, 33 trips in 2.5 hours on May 18, and 80 trips in four hours on May 19. Items used as nesting material included stripped fibers of grape vine bark, spider webs and cocoons, blades of grass, strands of hair, leaf litter, wood chips, and short spruce twigs, the latter being used to girdle the nest's exterior wall. The nest was completed by May 23-25. Although the female was found foraging in the deciduous trees alongside the spruce on these dates, she was not seen in the proximity of her nest.

In three hours on May 28, the female Black-throated Green spent a total of 23.5 minutes at the nest, apparently incubating-- although time spent away from the nest was considerable. Her manner of departure seemed to indicate that she had laid a clutch. She would slip from the nest,

drop straight down and fly off when very nearly reaching the ground. Between sittings, at 11:01 a.m., a female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) visited the nest. She gave an excited chip, quivered her wings and flew off, followed by her mate who had watched from the next tree. Although her initial approach had been cautious, her descent was quick. I think she already knew of the nests' existence, and was only seeking evidence of egg-laying. I did not return again until May 29, and observed no activity at the nest until June 1, when the female Black-throated Green was seen to gather spruce twigs and fly off in a direction away from the nest. I gave up my nest vigil and attempted to follow her, but without success. On a later date I climbed the tree and found the nest empty. I cannot make any claim as to the nests' original contents, or provide any definite explanation for its abandonment; however, the cowbird would seem a suitable scapegoat.

While the nest was under early construction, Male BTG #1 joined the female at the nest 18 times from May 17-19. On May 17, he was clearly seen bringing nesting material, which he offered to his mate. This action continued on May 18, and on May 19, the male was seen to silently approach the nest site, and while flicking his wings, sat atop the nest and appeared to try to shape it. He was displaced by the female, and withdrew. Again at 1:14 p.m., the female was joined at the nest by the male. The female departed, and the male climbed atop the nest, wriggled about, and sang five AE Songs until 1:18. Nolan (p. 145) observed seven male Prairie Warblers (*D. discolor*) enter the nest during the course of construction. Two males performed nest shaping motions and one bird sang from atop the nest. Nolan (p. 144) attributed such "pseudofemale behavior" to unfulfilled sexual motivation. There appears to be no previous documentation of this action from a male Black-throated Green Warbler (see Morse 1993:9).

Male BTG #1's close attention to the female while she gathered nesting material in mid-May was almost always accompanied by AE Song. Typically, the male lagged behind the female, watching and singing from two to three branches away. After the failure of the first nest, AE Song decreased. On June 16, a total of 321 songs were sung in 1.5 hours; only eight (2%) were AE. The eight AE Songs given were, nevertheless, sung in the presence of the female. It was the first I had seen of the female since June 3. Given the presence of AE Song and increased movement by the male, I thought these clues might be a hint that the female was off a new (second) nest. With careful scrutiny and an answered prayer, the female might be followed to it. On June 20, I put this to the test and relocated to that portion of Stand B where AE Song was commonly sung. By June 21, I was able to follow the female to within several yards of her nest. An examination of the tree tops disclosed her domicile, approximately 50 feet high in a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and midway out on a branch. Although Stand B, with its many spruces, was an estimated 75 feet uptrail, the female chose to build her nest in a tract of hardwoods, some 30 feet from Hinckley Lake.

I estimated that the age of the nestlings did not exceed five days, based on the female's length of brooding and on the male's increase of AE Song. This increase indicated that the male displayed less interest in territorial defense and an increased inclination to involve himself in nest activity. In two hours of observation, the female carried food to her young five times and brooded a total of 14 minutes. Twice, for a total of 42 minutes, the female shaded the nestlings by standing atop the rim of the nest and spreading her wings. BTG #1 made two trips to the nest with food and sang 148 AE Songs in its vicinity. However, on June 22,

a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) defiled the nest, thrusting its beak inside and pulling with such force that it uprooted its structure. Apparently the marauder found nothing-- for it flew away with an empty bill-- or perhaps a nestling had gripped the base of the nest so tightly with its feet that the jay was unable to remove its lifeless body.

With the destruction of her second nest, the female Black-throated Green deserted the study site. Despite the fact that BTG #2 sang 146 UE Songs from Stand C, BTG #1 never responded with countersong, but instead confined his wanderings to the wood surrounding his former nest. He repeatedly sang AE Song, perhaps in an effort to contact his mate. He was last seen on the study site on June 24. BTG #2 also inexplicably disappeared from Stand C, and was also not seen after this date.

Concluding remarks

Although trips were made to the study site through July 18, no Black-throated Green Warblers could be found there. Additional surveys were conducted along a bridle path off Hinckley Hills Road from June 20-August 29. A total of 36 hours were divided between sites. As many as seven singing male Black-throated Greens were found along the bridle path. Although territories were not mapped, each male was consistently found at the same spot. Only two females were noted. On August 4, a female Black-throated Green was seen feeding a nearly full-grown cowbird, yet it is questionable if the warbler was the foster parent, as the cowbird was also fed by an Acadian Flycatcher (*Tijuanacauda virens*). An immature Black-throated Green, possibly still on its natal grounds, was found in the company of two immature Magnolia Warblers (*D. fusca*) foraging along the bridle path August 24.

While my efforts would seem to simply reinforce the detailed findings of others (regarding the context of song), one observation may yet prove to be unique-- the aforementioned "pseudofemale behavior" of the male Black-throated Green Warbler at the nest. If that be so, I count it as a blessing!

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Norman J. Kolesovec, Jr.
8102 Thornton Drive
Parma, OH 44129

Feathered Flames on the Cuyahoga River by Dan Best and Andrew Fondrk

The Prothonotary Warbler, also appropriately known as the "Golden Swamp Warbler", is one of the most brilliantly colored Neotropical songbirds found in North America. Descriptions of its radiant yellow-orange plumage often include references to flames or torches, employing such adjectives as "luminous" or "glowing".

The Prothonotary Warbler is a bird of forested swamps with standing water. It is perhaps most numerous in southern cypress swamps and bayous. However, its breeding range extends northward to the southern Great Lakes states. Local populations, scattered throughout Ohio, occur on the wooded margins of reservoirs, lakes and ponds. They also occur in oxbow swamps and backwaters of large rivers and swampy floodplains along slow-moving stretches of stream.

The Prothonotary Warbler is one of two cavity nesting warblers in North America; Lucy's Warbler of the southwest being the only other. Prothonotary Warblers nest in tree cavities created by woodpeckers or decay. However, this bird is very adaptable and its affinity for artificial cavities is well documented. References include amazing, and often amusing accounts of nests in or on a variety of man-made structures, remarkably close to the commotions of human activity.

The Golden Birds of the Crooked River

The Cuyahoga is one of Ohio's major rivers in the Lake Erie drainage. The name "Cuyahoga" is the Anglicized version of the name given by Native Americans, traditionally meaning "Crooked River". Much of the river's upper section in Geauga County winds sluggishly through a broad valley filled with glacial deposits, its channel bordered by marsh and swamp forests of ash, elm, Silver Maple, Swamp White Oak, willow and Common Buttonbush.

In 1947, northeast Ohio naturalist Merit Skaggs studied the Upper Cuyahoga's population of Prothonotary Warblers. Skaggs put out several wooden nest boxes in 1948 and 1949, and was successful in attracting warblers to nest. Later, in the early-mid 1970's, Geauga Park District's first naturalist, Duane Ferris, put out bluebird boxes on the river and also had nesting Prothonotary Warblers.

Warblers in a Jar

In 1992, Geauga Park District naturalist Dan Best, encouraged by past success in attracting nesting Prothonotary Warblers, began putting out nest boxes on the Upper Cuyahoga River in the vicinity of Eldon Russell Park in Troy Township, Geauga County. Mounted on posts in or at the edge of the river, Best's nest boxes, built to Skaggs' dimensions of 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 7" deep, were readily used by nesting Prothonotary Warblers as well as Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds and House Wrens. As nest boxes were already providing plenty of nest sites for these other birds in Eldon Russell Park, further experimentation was undertaken to favor the warblers. By introducing plastic jars as nesting cavities, the slightly more confining quarters eliminated Tree Swallows as major competitors; however, as noted below, the wrens would remain a problem.

The plastic jars used were actually converted fiber supplement containers, mostly 23 oz. Metamucil jars, which are 3 1/2" in diameter and 7" deep, with a 1 1/4" entrance hole cut into them. Each jar was mounted on the end of a 5 foot length of 1 1/2" diameter schedule 40 PVC pipe. The jar and pipe were spray painted camouflage with an assortment of earth-tone colors. The color scheme helped these artificial nest "trees" blend more harmoniously into their surroundings, making these structures, if not more attractive to the warblers, at least more aesthetically acceptable to managing agencies, property owners and the public.

Prothonotary Warblers generally prefer to nest just a few feet above the water. To accommodate this habit, the nest jars attached to schedule 40 PVC were slipped over a 10 foot length of 1" diameter schedule 80 PVC pipe, which was pushed firmly into the river's muddy bottom. A set screw allowed the jars to be raised or lowered in response to water level changes, a definite advantage over low-level natural cavities, which are subject to flooding in stream habitats. The set screw also provided the means to lower the jars for monitoring from a canoe or boat. While a smooth slender post rising five or more feet straight out of the water has proven daunting to many predators, care must be taken not to place the nest post too close to overhanging branches, which could provide access from above for squirrels, raccoons and snakes. Although proximity to overhanging branches is an important consideration, tree cover is sought for nest placement, as Prothonotary Warblers prefer to nest in the shade of large trees overhanging the water. Furthermore, nests in unshaded jars are prone to egg and nesting mortality due to excessive heat.

Wrens

The disappearance of eggs from Prothonotary Warbler clutches compromised nesting success in 1993 and 1994. These disappearances have been attributed to House Wrens, aggressive competitors whose habit of destroying or removing eggs and taking over nest cavities is well known. Wrens have nested in boxes and jars unused by Prothonotary Warblers, in those vacated by bluebirds, swallows or warblers after fledging their young, in addition to boxes or jars in which they were successful in evicting warblers. Wrens didn't always take over the nest box or jar after removing eggs. When they did, they typically removed all previous nesting material before filling the jars with their characteristic stick nests. Although warblers re-nested in many cases, clutches tended to be smaller.

1995 Nesting Season Results

In late April, 12 nest jars were placed in tree-shaded areas along a 2-mile stretch of the Upper Cuyahoga River, again in the vicinity of Eldon Russell Park. Male Prothonotary Warblers returned, as usual, about the first of May. Upon their arrival, they began to establish territories and place moss, the principle nesting material, in potential nest cavities. Warblers placed varying amounts of moss in all 12 jars. With the arrival of the females, pairs were established and nests completed in seven of the 12 jars by mid-May, for a 58% occupancy rate.

Egg laying began in the latter part of May. A total of 42 eggs were deposited in eight clutches in seven nests (one jar housed a second brood in June/July). Clutch size ranged from 4-6 eggs.

Females generally laid one egg per day and began incubation after laying the last egg. Although cowbirds are known to parasitize Prothonotary Warbler nests, there was no evidence of such this year or in any previous year of this project. Perhaps the 1 1/4" entrance holes are an effective deterrent. Furthermore, no eggs were lost to predators or wrens during the 1995 nesting season. Eggs began hatching during the first week of June. In all, 15 eggs failed to hatch, for a disconcerting (considering the lack of wren interference) hatch rate of 64%.

The number of hatchlings per nest ranged from a low of 1 of 4 (25%) in one nest to 6 of 6 (100%) in two nests, while the remaining five clutches had hatching rates of only 50-60%. Except for a fatal head wound inflicted on one nestling by an unknown assailant (wren?), no young warblers were lost to predation. In addition to this casualty, another failed to fledge after tragically entangling its foot in fishing line used in the nest lining. Unless one is present when the event occurs, it is difficult to accurately state how many birds successfully fledged. Presumably, 25 of 27 young fledged in mid-June for a potential fledging rate of 92%, with an average of 3.2 fledglings produced per nest. The aggregate nesting period (from egg laying to fledging) ranged from 21 to 33 days, with an average of 28.5 days. 25 of 27 young were banded.

During this nesting season, the pair of warblers which were first to complete a nest and lay eggs went on to have a second brood. While two broods are common in the south, second nestings are apparently rare in the north. The second nest already had three eggs by mid-June. Although this pairs' reproductive success was particularly low (3 of 8 eggs resulting in fledglings), it was not for a lack of parental attention. On July 7, the pair was observed feeding two nestlings from the second nesting while also providing food for the single fledgling from the first nesting.

House Wrens eventually nested in the five jars left unoccupied by the warblers. A greater proportion of nest jars this year were placed in the deep shade of swamp forest (mainly Silver Maple) as opposed to semi-shady thickets of buttonbush and young willow. Hopefully, further experimentation with nest jar placement, in relation to the character of surrounding vegetation, will reveal subtle differences in nest site preferences, which can be capitalized on in the future to ease nest cavity competition between warblers and wrens. Despite a large volume of human traffic (canoeists and anglers) in a portion of our 2-mile study area, the warblers have shown little concern with human activity.

Conclusion

Prothonotary Warblers on the Upper Cuyahoga River have demonstrated a clear preference for artificial nest cavities over the natural cavities which occur in abundance along the river. Why the warblers find the artificial structures more appealing has yet to be determined. However, in so choosing, the warblers have opted for durable nest cavities, which have proven to provide better protection from weather, floods, predators, competition from Tree Swallows and cowbird parasitism. We have no doubt that we have increased the density of Prothonotary Warblers on this stretch of river.

The adaptability of Prothonotary Warblers to artificial nest cavities, combined with their beauty and lack of shyness, makes them an outstanding example of "watchable wildlife". Memorable encounters with the "Golden Swamp Warbler" and other wetland wildlife have a

great potential to foster greater appreciation for wetlands as biologically rich habitats worthy of preservation and protection. As a real "glamor" bird, the Prothonotary Warbler also serves as a fine avian ambassador for Neotropical songbird conservation.

For more information, including an extensive list of literature references regarding Prothonotary Warblers, contact:

Dan Best
130 Court St.
Chardon, OH 44024

Andrew Fondrk
13361 Lakewood Dr.
Chesterland, OH 44026



Prothonotary Warbler at artificial nesting structure along the upper Cuyahoga River (Geauga Co.).
Photo by Dan Best.

Northern Parula Nest Building in Cuyahoga County by Dwight Chasar

Last year, I reported the first confirmed nesting of the Northern Parula in Cuyahoga County (Chasar, p. 120-122). This nest was found in a Norway Spruce at the Plateau Picnic Area in the Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks. When the nest was found, we estimated that feeding of the young had just begun (July 10) and extrapolated back to when the eggs were laid (June 24-26). My last statement in the report was that "Luck favors the prepared mind", meaning that we would be prepared for the Parulas' return in 1995 and would be better able to determine exact dates for nest building and egg laying, facts that are not available for northern Ohio. They would not be returning to the same nest, as sometimes they do (Harrison, p. 85), as both the nest and limb used last year were now gone from the nesting tree.

Last year's first appearance of the Parula was on May 1. Thus, each morning starting May 1, 1995, as available, I stopped by the Plateau on my way to work to listen for a singing Parula to mark his return. After 4 weeks, I had given up hope, for I was given no indication that the Parulas had arrived. My attention turned to the Yellow-throated Warbler at the Brecksville river ford, just a short distance away, hoping that this bird would lead me to his nest.

At 7:50 a.m. on June 8, just as I was driving past the Plateau after my brief period with the Yellow-throated Warbler, I was jolted into reality by one song, and then another, of a Northern Parula. He was back. That evening, my wife Ann and I returned to the Plateau, and indeed he was still singing.

At about 11:00 a.m. on June 10, we visited the Plateau area to find the male Parula singing and making his rounds of the parking lot, like last year. Our best sighting had him low in a bare branch with a green larva in his beak, on the opposite side of the area from where he nested last year. In short order he flew across the parking lot to a stand of three spruce trees, about 40 feet north of the old nest tree. I rushed to the trees, looked around for a few minutes, and observed a female Parula. He must have fed her as part of the pair bonding. Both were back!

That evening we returned again to more thoroughly check out these three trees. After a few minutes, I decided that only one tree had the requisite hanging boughs for a Parula nest, and I would concentrate on those limbs which pointed northeast over the ravine, as did the limb used last year. Within minutes, I was rewarded with the appearance of the female Parula, on a northeast-pointing branch of the tree I had picked. It was fussing among its hanging boughs. The bird left and returned four times to the same hanging boughs of the branch, just 25-30 feet from the ground. It had selected a location to nest and seemed to have only begun, as no nesting material could be seen.

Nest building proceeded slowly over the next five days, as sometimes occurs (Pettingill, p. 268). The female Parula always returned to the same spot and seemed to be constructing the framework inside a few hanging spruce boughs, but little could be seen. We could not see her carrying nest material. Between visits to the limb, she foraged in nearby trees or perched for a short time. The male's occasional singing during this time seemed less than enthusiastic, but was still to be heard.

While Ann noticed nothing different about the nest on the morning of June 14, at 7:30 a.m. on June 15, I observed that a partial cup had been formed in the same hanging boughs, and in fact, the female visited with material at this time. She was using what appeared to be "cotton" from an Eastern Cottonwood tree for the cup. Cotton production was at its peak and deductions filled my head during the day. Little change occurred by evening although she was still working on the cup. After being away for four days, we visited the nest at 3:00-4:00 p.m. on June 19. More cotton was present at the cup and around the nest limb.

The morning of June 20 brought unbelievably bad news. The nest was gone! That evening Ann and I returned to the site and found the partially constructed nest in the ravine just below the nest limb. It had been a depressing day.

Visits to the site at 7:30 a.m. on June 21 and 22 did not reveal any Parula activity. However, I took lunch at the site at 12:10-22 p.m. on June 22. The female had begun building a new nest on the same branch just a foot away from the old site, further in toward the trunk and suspended closer to the branch; in my opinion, a much better location. She made five visits to the location in this time. From 4:25-37 p.m., the female made seven visits to the new nest site. She was creating a cotton ball in the hanging boughs, and from time to time, worked on stretching it among the spruce boughs. She always approached the nest from the top, but departed by dropping down from it. The male sang from the area, once from near the nest tree. Between 7:00-30 p.m., she came to the nest twice. On June 23, she visited the nest twice in 25 minutes starting at 7:20 a.m. From 12:05-20 p.m., she visited the nest eight times, each time departing to one or the other of two nearby cherry trees. Why cherry trees? While at the nest, she appeared to be stretching the cotton fluff onto the spruce boughs. My thoughts were that perhaps she was gathering spider silk (Bent, p. 140) from the cherry trees and was using it to help bond the cotton to the boughs. On June 24, about 2:30 p.m., the female made two visits while the male sang from near the ford.

The female did not visit the nest on June 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or from 6:50-8:00 p.m., but the male could be heard singing from along the ford area. I wondered whether the nest construction was completed and if she was ready to lay eggs. Passerines typically lay one egg each morning until the clutch is complete, entering the nest between the start of twilight and sunrise, spending about an hour in the nest (Pettingill, p. 268). On June 26, between 6:50-7:50 a.m. and on June 27, between 6:50-8:40 a.m., I never saw any activity at the nest. On June 28, I got to the nest at 5:50 a.m., while it was still fairly dark, and observed the nest limb until 7:35 a.m. At that time I finally realized that no nest was in the boughs! A brief examination of the ravine just below the nest limb revealed another ball of fluff, again made up of cotton and long rootlets. Another failure. I never found the female again, but the male continued to sing from July 6-12.

After examining the materials used in the two failed nests, one observation was significant. The female was using cotton from the cottonwood tree precisely when fruiting was at its peak. Does this mean that when usnea lichen is not available, Parula nest building commences when cottonwood cotton is available, and not before? This fits the data from last year as to when nest building had to have occurred (mid- to late-June). Is this the major substitute for usnea lichen in Ohio, and does this necessitate that both spruce and cottonwood trees be available

for nest building? The combined rootlets and some fine grasses seem to be standard material (Bent, p. 139-140; Chapman, p. 108). Sycamore seed down has been used (Bent, p. 140), but this was not yet well developed locally. Parula nests found in spruce trees in West Virginia consisted of fine grasses, hickory calkins, hair, fine rootlets and wool (Chapman, p. 108).

I began the spring hoping to answer some questions left over from last year's nesting and ended having more questions unanswered. Why the late arrival of the Parulas? Was she the nester from last year waiting for the arrival of a late male, thus explaining my not hearing a singing Parula earlier in the spring? If she had gained experience last year, why did two nesting attempts fail this year? Her first nesting attempt this year seemed nonchalant, yet the second seemed enthusiastic or critical. Were these real or false nests? False nests are typically made by males (Pettingill, p. 268). Did a third real nest exist elsewhere, perhaps near the river ford? Was there a second female? Is there a chance for the Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula to crossbreed here, producing the supremely rare "Sutton's Warbler"? So much to discover-- next year.

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Dwight W. Chasar
163 Sandy Hill Road
Northfield, OH 44067



Bell's Vireo. Claridon Prairie (Marion Co.), June 25, 1995.
Photo by William Shively.

A Preliminary Study of the Effects of Brown-headed Cowbird Parasitism on the Reproductive Success of Blue-winged Warblers in Northeastern Ohio

by Ronald A. Canterbury, Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr, and Barbara Catuzza

During the 1995 breeding season, populations of Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) in northeastern Ohio were monitored to analyze variation in habitat selection and reproductive success. Eleven sites in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and Cleveland Metroparks located in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties were surveyed for the presence of Blue-winged Warblers from April 17 through August 10, 1995. Two Cleveland suburban sites and two sites in Medina County were censused as well.

Blue-winged Warblers were found at 12 of the 15 sites censused. From 2-34 territorial males per site were found at these 12 areas. The largest number of birds was found at Horseshoe Pond, near Peninsula in the CVNRA, in a large tract of continuous old field. Blue-winged Warblers occupied many successional stages of habitat. Thirty-one males were found in early-, 39 in mid-, and 23 in late-successional old fields. The highest densities of Blue-winged Warblers were found in unfragmented, continuous tracts of old fields. Blue-winged Warblers tended to avoid areas of extensive urbanization such as single, isolated old fields surrounded by suburban developments.

During the study, six adult male, seven adult female, and 23 hatching-year Blue-winged Warblers were banded. All territorial males were captured in mist nets using the song-playback technique. Seventeen males reacted aggressively toward Type I song of Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) rather than toward their own conspecific song. A male "Brewster's" Warbler (*V. chrysoptera x pinus*) along Station Road in Brecksville, also responded strongly toward song-playback of the Golden-winged Warbler, but moved away from Type I song of the Blue-winged Warbler (compare Canterbury, 1994).

No evidence of nest depredation was found during the 1995 breeding season, however, the nesting success of Blue-winged Warblers appeared to be reduced greatly by Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism. Eight of 12 nests (67%) were parasitized, from which Blue-winged Warblers successfully fledged seven cowbirds and 15 of their own young. This may have reduced the fledging success of these Blue-winged Warblers by as much as 22 young warblers (assuming maximum clutch for Blue-winged Warblers of five eggs, and that Blue-winged Warbler eggs were punctured or evicted by female cowbirds). Three nests contained evidence of egg puncture. Young Blue-winged Warblers in parasitized nests fledged 1-3 days later than normal (on days 11-13 instead of 9-10). These findings contrast sharply with southern West Virginia, where nest predation is frequent, but cowbird parasitism is low. In 10 years of study, only one Blue-winged Warbler nest in 112 was found to contain a single cowbird egg (Canterbury, in review).

These preliminary results suggest that Brown-headed Cowbird brood parasitism is a significant factor affecting the demography of Blue-winged Warblers in northeastern Ohio. Additional data are needed, however, to assess population trends.

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Ronald A. Canterbury
Cleveland State University Science Bldg., Room 219
2399 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115



Blue-winged Warbler. Oak Hill, CVNRA (Summit Co.), June 14, 1995.
Photo by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

Summer 1995 Overview by Robert Harlan

Unlike any other season, the summer season offers us a unique glimpse into the private lives of our nesting birds. Given a cooperative subject and a substantial dose of patience, any observer can produce interesting findings, possibly significant even on a statewide (or larger) scale.

The nesting studies included in this issue should serve to illustrate just how difficult it can be for birds to reproduce successfully. For species maintaining a tenuous nesting presence in Ohio, these difficulties become even more magnified. This is not to say that all marginal species are in decline; on the contrary, many seem to be on the increase on a statewide scale. Our understanding of these populations can only benefit from additional studies of this sort.

But the summer months are not only for nesting. Many species (notably shorebirds) are already headed south (or at least have become free to wander) in July. The Snowy Plover at Metzger Marsh WA July 15+ and the Royal Tern at Lorain July 8+ (Ohio's first state record) are but the tip of the proverbial iceberg, indicating what may await the observer willing to brave an Ohio summer.

The "Reports" section is intended to be read in phylogenetic order. The specific county location of most sites is listed in the accounts the first time each site receives mention. County names are often abbreviated by using their first four letters-- "Fran" representing Franklin County, for instance. Other place name abbreviations found in this issue are: BIWA (Big Island Wildlife Area, Marion Co.); BuCr (Buck Creek State Park, a.k.a. C.J. Brown Reservoir, Clark Co.); CVNRA (Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Cuyahoga/Summit Cos.); GASBC (Greater Akron Summer Bird Count, Summit Co., as compiled by Carol Tvedstrom); HBSP (Headlands Beach State Park, Lake Co.); HHMP (Hells Hollow MP, Lake Co.); KPWA (Kildeer Plains WA, Wyandot Co.); Lksh (Lakeshore MP, Lake Co.); Magee (Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); MCMWA (Mallard Club Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); Metzger (Metzger Marsh WA, Lucas Co.); MWF (Miami-Whitewater Forest & marsh, Hamilton Co.); OkOp (Oak Openings MP and vicinity, mostly Lucas Co.); ONWR (Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa/Lucas Cos.); ONWRC (Ottawa NWR Count, Ottawa/Lucas Cos., as compiled by Ed Pierce); & SVWA (Spring Valley WA, Greene/Warren Cos.).



Royal Tern. Lorain (Lorain Co.), July 21, 1995.
Photo by Larry Roache.

THE REPORTS— SUMMER 1995 by Robert Harlan

Loons through ibis

Common Loon— Non-breeding laggards were as follows: 3 basic-plumaged birds at the Findlay Reservoirs (Hanc) 6/20, 2 on 7/11, and 1 on 7/25 (BH); 1 at Buck Creek SP [a.k.a. C.J. Brown Res., hereafter BuCr] (Ciar) 6/4 (DO); a breeding-plumaged bird at Paulding Res. (Paul) 6/14 (DMD); & a basic-plumaged bird, probably injured, at Bucyrus Res. (Craw) 7/12-31 (JH). A flyby at Headlands Beach SP [hereafter HBSP] (Lake) 7/8 was most odd (RHn, E. Back).

Pied-billed Grebe— Confirmed nesters include: an adult on a nest at Winous Point Shooting Club (Otta) 6/17 (Rhr, EP); an adult with 2 young at Mosquito Lk. (Trum) 7/12 (DJH); 4 adults and 16 young at Miami-Whitewater Forest [hereafter MWF] (Hami) 7/13 (PW); 3 adults and 4 young at Magee Marsh WA [hereafter Magee] (Otta/Luca) 7/15 (CH); a juvenile at Grand River WA (Trum) 7/18 (CH); and at least 6 successful pairs at Killdeer Plains WA [hereafter KPWA] (Wyan) (TB). Other reports include: 56 Magee 7/16 (HSH); 8 Big Island WA [hereafter BIWA] (Mar) 6/8 (KA); & 1 on the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summer Bird Count [hereafter GASBC] (Summ) in mid-June (fide CT).

Am. White Pelican— 2 very cooperative birds remained at a Willoughby (Lake) barrow pit 6/8-10 (F. Conley, m. obs.). Aother spent 7/13 at S. Bass Island (Otta) (SW).

Double-crested Cormorant— An estimated 1480 pairs nested at West Sister Island NWR (Otta), a very substantial increase over last year (BSBO). Noted in at least 7 inland counties during the period, including about 40 summering at L. Rockwell (Port) (LR, CH).

Am. Bittern— Only report was of a calling bird at Springville Marsh SNP (Sene) 6/7 & 21 (TB).

Least Bittern— All reports: 1-3 calling at Springville Marsh SNP 6/3-21 (TB);

1 at Hudson's Mud Lake for the GASBC in mid-June (LR); an unspecified number at Mentor's Veteran's Park (Lake) 6/16-7/30 (JP); 1-2 Spring Valley WA [hereafter SVWA] (Gree/Warr) 6/17-7/9 (D. Graham, LG); & a peak of 5 at MWF on 7/13 (PW).

Great Blue Heron— An estimated 1400 pairs nested at West Sister Island NWR, continuing a decline there (BSBO). Babyak counted 427 nests in 112 trees in Lordstown (Trum) 6/10. A few young remained in nests in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area [hereafter CVNRA] (Cuya/Summ) 7/30 (DAC). KPWA hosted 119 birds 6/19 and 135 birds 7/15 (KA).

Great Egret— Inland peaks include: up to 10 at BIWA 6/10-7/19 (AG, KA, JH); 9 Gilmore Ponds (Butt) 7/11 (PW); & 9 at the Duck Pond Wetlands along US0 in Lorain Co. 6/14 (N. Krap). On the increase at West Sister Island NWR, where an estimated 1120 pairs nested (BSBO).

Snowy Egret— 1 in a slough along the Scioto River near Chillicothe (Ross) 6/11-12 was very unusual (JM). Another bird was inland near L. Rockwell 6/11 (LR). Along L. Erie, Medusa Marsh (Erie) held birds throughout the period, with 9 being the high count (CH, Rhr, EP). The peak at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge [hereafter ONWR] (Otta/Luca) was 5 birds 7/24 (RJ). 3 were at Magee 6/18 (HSH), and 1 remained 7/28 (BC). Presumably, these lakefront birds were part of the estimated 10 nesting pairs at West Sister Island NWR (BSBO).

Little Blue Heron— 1 was at KPWA in July (fide JH).

Cattle Egret— Inland singles were at Burr Oak SP (Arne/Mord) 7/14 (LB) and at KPWA 7/15 (KA).

Green Heron— The GASBC tallied 44 birds in mid-June (fide CT).

Black-crowned Night-Heron— On the decline at West Sister Island NWR, where an estimated 560 pairs nested (BSBO). At Greenlawn Dam (Fran), an adult was seen 6/12, and up to 3 birds including a juvenile, were

present 7/10-31 (AG). No direct evidence of nesting was found there, however. 1 was found on the GASBC in mid-June (fide CT). 5 post-breeders were at KPWA 7/15 (KA), and 5 more were at Eastlake (Lake) 7/21 (KM).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron— 2 young fledged at Greenlawn Dam (AG). A single was at O'Shaughnessy Res. (Dola) 6/14 (KA).

Glossy Ibis— An adult was at Pickerel Creek WA (Sand) 6/3, remaining from the spring (VF).

Waterfowl

Mute Swan— Nested successfully at Medusa Marsh (CH, VF) and at Magadore Res. (Port) (LR).

Snow Goose— KA reported a blue-phase bird at Asherton Pond in Dublin (Fran) 7/16-31.

Canada Goose— Max. 1696 Magee 7/16 (HSH).

Wood Duck— Highs include 77 at Magee 7/16 (HSH) & 50 at Medusa Marsh 6/26 (CH). A female had her "hands" full with 14 young at Greenlawn Dam 6/3 (AG).

Green-winged Teal— Potential nesters include: 1 BIWA 6/9 & 26 (JH, KA); 3 on the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Count [hereafter ONWRC] (Otta/Luca) 6/4 and 4 there on 7/3; 7 at Mallard Club Marsh WA [hereafter MCMWA] (Luca) 6/17 (EP, FHR); 3 males and 1 female at Medusa Marsh 6/25+ (CH); & 3-5 at KPWA 6/19-7/11 (KA, JH). 2 in Paulding Co. 6/13 were presumably non-breeders (DMD).

Am. Black Duck— Max. 12 ONWRC 6/4. 1 was at Fostoria Res. (Hanc) 6/13 (BH).

Mallard— Max. 824 ONWRC 6/4.

N. Pintail— An adult male was at KPWA 7/1 (TB).

Blue-winged Teal— A nest was found at MWF 7/23 (PW). Potential nesters include: —4— Magee 6/18 (HSH); 23



Am. White Pelicans. Willoughby (Lake Co.), June 9, 1995.
Photo by Larry Rosche.

ONWRC 6/4; 5 MCMWA 6/17 (EP, RHR); 5-7 BIWA 6/9-7/19 (JH, KA); 2 Paulding Co. 6/9 (DMD); 1 Medusa Marsh 7/2 (CH); & 1 on the GASBC in mid-June (fide CT). 15 at KPWA 7/25 were presumably in passage (KA).

N. Shoveler-- 1 MCMWA 6/2 (JP); 4 KPWA 7/10 (KA).

Gadwall-- 2 ONWRC 6/4; 1-2 MCMWA 6/2-17 (JP, RHR, EP).

Am. Wigeon-- More plentiful than expected-- 26 Magee 6/18 (HSH); 7 ONWRC 6/4; a non-breeding pair at Castalia pond (Erle) through at least 6/17 (VF, RHR, EP); a male at Shaker Lakes (Cuya) 6/14 (P. Munson); a male at KPWA 6/17 (JH); and 1 on the GASBC in mid-June (fide CT).

Ring-necked Duck-- Also more than expected-- from 2-8 birds, including 2 non-breeding pairs at the Shalersville Twp. pond (Port) through 7/31 (CH, LR); a non-breeding pair at Castalia through 6/17 (VF, EP, RHR), and 2 males there 6/11 (TB); a female at MCMWA 6/17 (EP, RHR); & a pair at KPWA 6/19 (TB).

Lesser Scaup-- More non-breeders: a pair at Shalersville 6/11-7/31 (LR, CH); a pair at MCMWA through 6/17 (RHR, EP); & 1 at Mogadore Res. 6/25 (LR).

Hooded Merganser-- Confirmed nestings include: a female w/2 young at Venice (Erle) 6/11 (TB); 4 broods at the Ravenna Arsenal (Port) (LR); a brood at Magee 7/28 (TK); & a female w/3 young in the n. CVNRA 7/1 (DAC). Potential nesters include: a female at Blue Creek Wetland, near Whitehouse (Luca) 6/1-10 (ET); an unspecified number at Hidden Valley MP (Lake) (JP); 1 Medusa Marsh 6/25 (CH); 4 Twin Lakes (Delta) 6/20 (KA); a female at KPWA 6/5 (TB); a pair at Pickeral Creek WA 6/11 (TB); 4 ONWRC 6/4; & 1 MCMWA 6/17 (EP, RHR). Certainly seems to be increasing.

Red-breasted Merganser-- 2 basic-plumaged birds were on the KPWA reservoir 6/5, and 1 remained 6/19 (TB). 3 more in the same plumage were at S. Bass Island 7/6 (SW).

Vultures through Rails

Turkey Vulture-- 50 congregated at a meat packing plant in Trumbull Co. 7/23 (DJH). Yumm. 2 nests, both with 2 young were located in Geauga Co. (fide DB).

Osprey-- Ohio's first conclusively successful nesting in over 80 years took place along the Ohio River near Rayland (Jeff), with 2 young ready to fledge in August (Ohio Div. of Wildlife, BS ph., MA, KA). Since young were produced at a nest at Grand Lake-St. Mary's (Aug) in 1913, several unsuccessful nesting attempts have occurred in Ohio. Also, although no conclusive nesting details were ever published, a pair resided along the lower Scioto River near Coopersville (Pike) in at least 1928, 1929 and 1930 (and possibly through 1937), according to Lawrence E. Hicks ["Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Ohio", Ohio Biological Survey Bull. 32, 1935, p. 146; "Bird-Lore" 39(4):319, 1937]. Non-breeding singles this season were at Mosquito Lk. 6/12 (KM); at Barberton (Summ) 6/12 (fide CT); & at Fostoria Res. #4 on 6/20 (BH).

Bald Eagle-- An unbanded 1st-year bird was found dead in the waters of L. Erie off Bay Village (Cuya) 7/1 ("The Cleveland Plain Dealer"). Another unbanded 1st-year bird was found injured at Blue Ash (Hami) 6/2. Rehabilitation efforts by RAPTOR, Inc., were unsuccessful (fide NKE). An imm. flew over N. Chagrin MP (Cuya) 6/5 (KM). 3 adults and 9 imm. were tallied on the ONWRC of 7/3.

N. Harrier-- Are numbers increasing? LR cites probable nestings at W. Branch SP (Port), the Ravenna Arsenal, and in Hiram Twp. (Port). JP reports a nesting pair in Madison Twp. (Lake) 6/6-7/30. A pair was reported as "being very romantic" at KPWA 6/1 (AG), and a female w/3 young were found there 7/1 (TB). Singles were as follows: HBSP 6/17 (RHR); along Jefferson Co. Rd. 45 in July (MA); a male at BuCr 6/17 (DO); at 2 Paulding Co. sites 7/18 & 29 (DMD); Lorain (Lora) 7/23 (LR, J. Wert); a female at Mosquito Lk. 6/12-7/5 (KM, DJH); a female at MCMWA 6/17 (RHR, EP); & 1 Magee 6/18 (HSH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk— Reported from Adam, Geau, Hanc, Port, & Summ Cos.

Red-shouldered Hawk— TK noted 3 nesting pairs in the Oak Openings (~~near the Oak Op~~) of Lucas Co.

Peregrine Falcon— 2 sites in Cleveland (Cuya) had nests: the Terminal Tower pair raised 2 young, and the Lakewood nest produced an infertile egg (PL, S. Wright). An imm. female was at Greenlawn Dam 7/18-24 (AG). An adult male at Springville Marsh SNP 7/30 was a surprise (TB).

King Rail— A calling bird remained at Pickard Creek WA through 6/17 (RHR, EP).

Virginia Rail— Confirmed nestings: an adult with a chick at Sresboro Bog (Port) 6/23 (RR); an imm. at SVWA 6/17 (D. Graham); & 2 adults and 2 young at KPWA 6/19 (TB). Probable nesters include: 1-2 birds at 3 Mosquito Lk. sites in June (DJH); an unspecified number at Paradise Rd. wetland in Concord Twp. (Lake) (JP); 4 BIWA 6/20 (KA); & 1 Springville Marsh SNP 6/21 (TB).

Sora— Reports include: 2 Mosquito Lk. 6/1 (DJH); 1 Guilford Lk. SP (Cotu) 6/3 (NB); & 1 SVWA 6/24 (NKe et al.).

Common Moorhen— An adult and up to 9 imm. were found at SVWA 6/24-7/9 (NKe, LG). An adult w/3 juv. were at Sherango WA (Trum) 7/20 (DJH). Other likely nesters were found at Mosquito Lk., GASBC, Winous Point Shooting Club, BIWA, MWF, Springville Marsh SNP, Magee, and KPWA.

Am. Coot— 1 at Burr Oak SP 7/8 was most peculiar (LB). TB found a nesting pair at Springville Marsh SNP. Also found at Magee, ONWR, BIWA, & Medusa Marsh.

Sandhill Crane— A pair raised twins at Killbuck WA (Wayn/Holm). The young were first seen 6/17. Another pair was also thought to be present at this site. A pair at Funk Bottoms WA (Wayn) raised 1 young (K. Higgins, Ide MJK).

Shorebirds through Terns

Am. Golden-Plover— About 12 birds noisily flew over the Maumee River near Waterville (Luca) 7/24 (ET). An adult was at Metzger Marsh WA (hereafter Metzger) (Luca) 7/30 (CH).

Snowy Plover— A breeding-plumaged adult was discovered at Metzger 7/15 (CH*). It remained through at least 7/18 (RJ*, TLP). This bird represents Ohio's fourth record, all since 6/13/93.

Semipalmated Plover— 6 spring migrants remained through 6/4. 148 were at Magee 7/16 (HSH).

Killdeer— Max. 206 Magee 7/16 (HSH).

Am. Avocet— This attractive shorebird was noted as follows: 1 KPWA 7/15-18 (KA, BC); 1 Lorain 7/23 (BF, TLP, LR), with 2 there 7/29 (BF, PL); & 1 BuCr 7/30 (DO).

Greater Yellowlegs— A spring migrant remained for the ONWRC 6/4. Max. 15 Metzger 7/30 (CH).

Lesser Yellowlegs— 2 at KPWA 6/19 (KA) & 1 at Medusa Marsh 6/25 were most likely fall returnees (CH). Highs: 187 Magee 7/16 (HSH); 115 Metzger 7/30 (CH); & 85 KPWA 7/10 (KA).

Solitary Sandpiper— 10 each were at MWF 7/13 (PW) and in a Tuscarawas Co. marsh 7/22 (ES).

Willet— A single was at Lorain 6/16 (TLP), and 1-2 were there intermittently 7/6-24 (TLP, CH, PL). Another flew by Crane Creek SP (Luca) 7/28 (TK).

Spotted Sandpiper— Max. 39 ONWRC 7/3.

Upland Sandpiper— Seemed even scarcer than normal. Only reports were of 2 near Metzger 6/2 (JP) and 4 at the Mansfield Airport (Rich) 6/24 (JH).

Whimbrel— 1 was at Conneaut (Asht) 7/9 (CH).

Marbled Godwit— A Barn Swallow chased a calling godwit over a Mt.

Hope (Holm) farm pond 7/21 (AH et al.). Another single was at Winous Point 7/12 (JP).

Ruddy Turnstone- Max. 7 Conneaut 7/26 (CH).

Red Knot- 1-2 were at Lorain 7/23-31 (LR, TLP).

Sanderling- 25 adults stopped on their way south at Conneaut 7/26 (CH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper- 1 at Metzger 6/17 was presumably southbound (RHR; EP). The 675 there 7/23 provided the highest count by far (CH).

Western Sandpiper- Metzger hosted 2 birds 7/18 (BC) & 1 bird 7/30 (CH).

Least Sandpiper- June 25 was an appropriate date for the first 2 southbound arrivals at Medusa Marsh (CH). 88 were at Magee 7/16 (HSH) and 28 were at KPWA 7/25 (KA).

White-rumped Sandpiper- 1 was at Medusa Marsh 6/2 (JP).

Baird's Sandpiper- KPWA hosted a bird 7/25 (KA).

Pectoral Sandpiper- Inland reports include: 40 KPWA 7/25 (KA); 14 at a Tuscarawas Co. marsh 7/22 (ES); & 6 at a Berlin (Holm) pond 7/31 (RHe).

Dunlin- The ONWRC of 6/4 tallied 16 northbound migrants.

Stilt Sandpiper- Highs: 10 adults at KPWA 7/21 (AG) and 9 adults at Metzger 7/23 (CH).

Short-billed Dowitcher- Craig Holt, an indistinguishable shorebird counter, tallied 675 Short-billeds at Metzger 7/23 and 54 at two Ashtabula Co. sites 7/26. 24 were inland at KPWA 7/25 (KA).

Long-billed Dowitcher- An adult was picked out from the amongst the Short-billed Dowitchers at Metzger 7/23-30 (CH, TK).

Common Snipe- 2 were at BIWA 7/8 (AG).

Wilson's Phalarope- A female was

found with the 2 Am. White Pelicans in Willoughby 6/7, providing an interesting western flavor (J. & D. Hoffman). 1 was at Metzger 7/23 (ED et al.).

Laughing Gull- An adult was located at Lorain 6/27 (TLP).

Little Gull- A 1st-summer bird was an unseasonal find at Lorain 7/23 (LR, m. obs.).

Bonaparte's Gull- Although this species does not nest in Ohio, numbers often begin to build here by mid- to late-June. This season, 152 were at Magee (including the Turtle Creek Marsh sector) 6/18 (HSH), 200 were there 6/25 (CH), and 600 were there 7/2 (CH). 15 were inland at KPWA 7/8 (AG).

Ring-billed Gull- HBSP harbored 600+ birds by 7/31 (KM).

Herring Gull- An estimated 700 pairs nested on W. Sister Island this season (BSBO).

Great Black-backed Gull- Conneaut holds a special attraction for this species; 65 were there 7/9 (CH). 4 were at S. Bass Island the same day (SW).

Caspian Tern- The Lorain flock peaked at 41 birds in July (TLP). 6 were at Magee 6/18 (HSH).

Royal Tern- An adult at Lorain 7/8 provided Ohio's first record (TLP*). It could not be found again until 7/20-1 (RHR*, m. obs.). Perry F. Johnson found it again there 7/26.

Common Tern- 50 on the ONWRC 6/4 were presumably locals. 66 were at Magee 7/16 (HSH). 2 were inland at Paulding Res. on the unusual date of 6/14 (DMD).

Forster's Tern- Erie and Ottawa Cos. combined for 60 birds 7/23 (CH). Up to 21 were at Lorain in July (TLP). The only inland bird was at BuCr 7/29 (DO).

Black Tern- All reports: 1 Paulding Res. 6/8 (DMD); 1 KPWA 6/21 (JH); 1 Fostoria Res. #4 7/11 (BH); 1 Turtle Creek Marsh 7/18 (BC); & 1 Metzger 7/23 (CH).

Cuckoos through Shrikes

Black-billed Cuckoo— Thought to be up in many areas. JP found this species at 5 Lake Co. metroparks.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo— Like the previous species, generally thought to be present in above average numbers. Found at all 11 Lake Co. metroparks surveyed (JP). DAC found this species to be "all over" the CVNRA. 13 were tallied on the ONWRC 7/3; 10 were in Adams Co. 6/10 (EP et al.); & 6 were at Mosquito Lk. 6/25 (DJH). Strangely, TK felt numbers to be very low in the OkOp.

Barn Owl— 2 young were produced at a Richland Co. nest (JH).

Long-eared Owl— Found at 2 sites in Wyandot Co., including a calling bird at one site 6/6-7/5, and another apparently giving a distraction display 8/19 (TB).

N. Saw-whet Owl— How secretive is this species as a nester? Single recently fledged birds were picked up along Lakeshore Blvd. in Euclid (Cuya) 6/29 and at University Circle in Cleveland 7/18. Both were then taken to the Lake Co. Metroparks Rehabilitation Center for care (side JP).

Chuck-will's-widow— The singing bird along the Tuscarawas/Hufnagel Co. line remained through 7/10 (ES). 4 in Galia Co. 6/28 were unexpected, but have apparently been present there for some years (side JH).

Whip-poor-will— The GASBC tallied 7 birds in mid-June (side CT). A singing bird at Lksh 6/8-9 was apparently a migrant (JP). 3 were singing at Sugar Creek (Tusc) 6/4 (FHe).

Red-headed Woodpecker— 11 adults and 3 juv. were at 6 n. Trumbull Co. sites in June (DJH). 15 were found throughout Hancock Co. 7/11 (BH et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher— A spring migrant was at Lksh 6/2 (JP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher— 8 migrants remained at 4 sites through 6/6.

Alder Flycatcher— The following

counties reported 1-6 birds 6/10-7/29: Clar, Lake, Luca, Paul, Port, Sene, Summ, Trum & Wyan. Apparently becoming easier to find.

Least Flycatcher— Potential nesters were noted in: Geau, Lake, Luca, Port, Sene, Summ, Trum & Wyan. A bird at L. Isaac (Cuya) 7/19 was apparently a migrant, as none had been found there earlier in the season (RHR). A migrant was banded at Lksh 7/28 (JP). 3 in Hancock Co. 7/25 were also likely migrants (BH et al.).

E. Phoebe— Fall migrants are sometimes found in mid-July. 1 at S. Bass Island 7/13 may qualify (SW).

E. Kingbird— Max. 50 Mages 7/16 (HSH).

Tree Swallow— From 300 to 1000 congregated at KPWA 7/8-21 (AG, KA, JH). 545 were reported on the ONWRC of 7/3.

Bank Swallow— Corneaut and Walnut Beach in Ashtabula Co. held 350 migrants 7/9 (CH). 120 were at KPWA 7/10 (KA).

Cliff Swallow— 75 were noted at W. Branch Res. 6/27 (LRF). O'Shaughnessy Res. attracted 25 nesting pairs (KA). 2 pairs in Adams Co. 6/10 were at a new site (EP et al.).

Barn Swallow— 200+ frequented the phragmites jungle at Lorain 7/24-5 (PL, H. Bodary).

Am. Crow— Non-breeders visited S. Bass Is. 7/8-23 (SW).

Chickadee hybrid— A Black-capped x Carolina Chickadee hybrid was identified at Springville Marsh SNP 6/21, and 2 were there 6/25 (TB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch— A single was at OkOp MP 6/17 (TK).

Brown Creeper— Noted at 5 northeastern sites, including 2 successful nests at Mosquito Lk. (DJH).

Winter Wren— Singing males, representing probable nesters, were as follows: 1 N. Chagrin MP through

the period (KM); 2 Big Creek MP (Geau) through the period (DB); 1 Holden Arboretum (Lake) 6/21 (RF); & 3 Stabbins Gulch (Geau) and 1 Little Mountain (Lake) 8/24 (RHr, DAC et al.). A singing bird at Firestone MP (Summ) for the GASBC in mid-June (EP) and a bird at Mentor Marsh SNP (Lake) 6/6 were non-breeders (LA et al.).

Sedge Wren- A productive season. A nest was located at Mosquito Lk. 6/2, where up to 5 birds were singing 6/23-7/23 (DJH, NB). 3 males and a nest were found at KPWA 7/1 (TB). Up to 3 were still present there through 7/31 (BC, JH, KA). Single singing males were in Pittsfield Twp. (Lora) 6/3 (RHr); in the OkOp (Luca portion) 8/24 (TK); & at Arcola Creek (Lake) 7/8-30 (JP). 2 birds were reported at Magee 8/5 (BC).

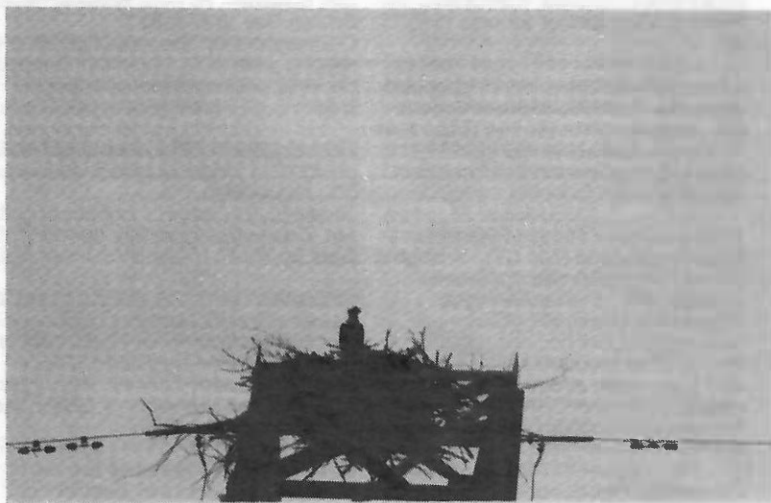
Marsh Wren- 3 adults were at MWF 7/13, and a nest was found 7/25 (PW). Probable nesters were reported from: BIWA, Geau, KPWA, Lake, Luca, Otta, Port, Seno, Summ, & SVWA. Highs include 26 on the GASBC in mid-June (fide CT) and 10 on the ONWRC 7/3.

Golden-crowned Kinglet- This species has certainly gained a nesting foothold in recent years. 2 young were produced at Hidden Valley MP, where birds were seen through 7/8 (JP). Also in Lake Co., 2-3 pair apparently nested at Chapin Forest MP, where the species was present through 7/19, and young were seen (J. Smallwood, fide JP). An apparent pair was at Hinckley MP (Med) 6/18 (RHr), and this species may have also nested at 2 other Hinckley MP sites (NKO). 1-2 were in the OkOp MP spruces 6/17-7/31, and presumably nested (TK).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet- A singing male at Highbanks MP (Dela) 6/4-6 was very unusual (ME, M. Van Schoyck, C. Johnston).

Veery- 8 at Bradley Woods MP (Cuya) 6/2 seems like a good local count (TLP).

Gray-cheeked Thrush- 3 spring taggards were banded at Lakeshore MP [hereafter Lish] (Lake) through 6/4 (JP).



Osprey nest. Rayland (Jefferson Co.), August 7, 1995.
Photo by Bruce Simpson.

Swainson's Thrush-- Spring migrants remained at 3 sites through 6/6.

Horned Thrush-- Mohican SP (Ash) is an excellent site for this rare nesting species. 4 singing males, plus an adult feeding a fledgling, were found there through 6/8 (LEY, JH). From 2-4 were in Hocking Co. 7/18-22 (LG, DO). Hell's Hollow MP [hereafter HHMP] (Lake) attracted a singing bird 6/10 (JP).

Vireos through Warblers

Bell's Vireo-- Always noteworthy, 3 sites hosted this rarity. The traditional BuCr site once again attracted 1-2 singing males through at least 6/11 (m. obs.). A singing male was unexpected at W. Carrollton (Mont) 6/4 (D. Styer, NKe, K. McDonald). Yet another singing male was photographed at Claridon Prairie (Mar) 6/24-5 (WS ph., E. Luq). It was apparently found about a week earlier by D. Johnson (fide WS).

Solitary Vireo-- A heavy concentration of 10 was located at Virginia Kendall MP (Summ) 7/16 (RHR). Present at 8 Lake Co. metroparks (JP). Also reported in Ash, Geau, Hock, & Medl.

Philadelphia Vireo-- A late migrant was banded at Lish 6/3 (JP).

"Brewster's" Warbler-- The Station Rd.-CVNRA bird remained at least through 6/3 (PL, BF). 1 was at Hogback Ridge MP (Lake) 6/1-10 (JP).

Tennessee Warbler-- 1 remained at Lish 6/1 (JP).

N. Parula-- 2 nestings failed at Brecksville MP (Cura) 6/6-26 (DAC). 1 was in the s. CVNRA for the GASBC in mid-June (fide GT). A male was at the Collier Scenic River (Sene) 6/7 (TB). An out-of-place bird was at Twin Lakes (Dela) 7/10 (KA).

Yellow Warbler-- Max. 112 ONWRC 6/4. 88 representatives of this early fall migrant were banded at Lish 7/3-30, including 23 on 7/23 alone (JP).

Chestnut-sided Warbler-- Reported from: Fran, Geau, Lake, Lora, Medl,

Port, Summ & Wyan.

Magnolia Warbler-- At least 4 males and 3 females were present at Hinckley MP this season (NKO, RHR). 1 at Horseshoe Pond in the s. CVNRA 6/6 was unexpected (NKO, RC). Also found at Hogback Ridge and HHMP in Lake Co. (JP).

Black-throated Blue Warbler-- One of the rarest of all Ohio summering warblers, a singing male was in suitable nesting habitat at Stebbins Gulch 6/24 (RHR, EP et al.).

Yellow-rumped Warbler-- A very late migrant was at Lish 6/3 (JP). More unusual was a singing "Myrtle", found at HBSP 6/19, and remaining into July (KM, m. obs.).

Black-throated Green Warbler-- NKO's careful search revealed 11 males and 3 females at 4 sites within Hinckley MP this season. 7 males were typical for Stebbins Gulch 6/24 (DAC, NKO et al.). Also reported from Ash, Hock, Lake, Luca, Scio, Sene & Summ.

Blackburnian Warbler-- A male and female were at the same Mohican SP site inhabited in 1992 & 1993 (LEY). A singing male was in potential nesting habitat at Stebbins Gulch 6/24 (RHR, NKO et al.).

Yellow-throated Warbler-- Continues to spread in the northeast, especially in the CVNRA (DAC, TMR, BF, PL). 4 were along the Sandusky River (TB), and 1 was at HHMP 7/27 (JP).

Pine Warbler-- At Holden Arboretum, at least 2 singing males were present through 7/7. A female and 2 imm. were also found there the same day (RR, RHR). A drab bird remained 7/29 (RR). A territorial male was at Hinckley MP through 6/24 (RHR). A pair inhabited Brecksville MP 6/3-7/25 (DAC, TMR). Apparently nested near Lish, as an adult female and a juv. were banded 7/4 & 7/15 (JP). Also present at HHMP and L. Flockevelt. Certainly on the increase in the northeast.

Prairie Warbler-- A pair remained at Oak Hill Day Use Area in the s. CVNRA 6/24 (DAC, NKO). A singing male along Riverview Rd. in the n. CVNRA 6/4 was at an unexpected

Prairie Warbler— A pair remained at Oak Hill Day Use Area in the s. CVNRA 6/24 (DAC, NKO). A singing male along Riverflow Rd. in the n. CVNRA 6/4 was at an unexpected site (MJK).

Bay-breasted Warbler— Magee hosted a late spring migrant 6/2 (JP).

Blackpoll Warbler— The last reported migrant was on the ONWRC 6/4.

Black-and-white Warbler— Conclusive nesting evidence remains elusive in the northeast, although the species was present at Eldon Russell Pk. (Geau) (AF) and HMMP (JP). In the northwest, 2 adults & 2 young were banded in Adams Twp. (Sene), suggesting local nesting there (J. Collins, vide TB). A tall migrant was at Huntington MP (Cuya) 7/30 (MJK). A singing male at Greenlawn Dam 7/19 may also have been headed south (AG).

Am. Redstart— 30 were banded at Lish 7/3-29 (JP).

Prothonotary Warbler— For a complete look at nesting along the upper Cuyahoga River, see the article elsewhere in this issue. Adults still fed young at 2 nests in the n. CVNRA heronry 7/18 (DAC). 2 nests were found near Ira Rd. in the s. CVNRA (MZ, TMR). At least 4 nests were located at Mosquito Lk. in June (DJH, CB, KM). Another pair nested at Twin Lakes in Delaware Co. (KA). 2 were good find at Rocky River MP (Cuya) 6/29 (TMR). Apparently unmated males were near Waterville through 6/15 (ET) & at Cowan Lk. (Cln) 6/2-8 (LG).

Warm-eating Warbler— Now quite uncommon in the southwest, an unexpected number was at Caesar Creek Gorge SNP (Warr/Cln) 6/17 (D. Graham).

Overbird— Bradley Woods MP held 14 birds 6/2 (TLP).

N. Waterthrush— An adult was seen carrying food about 1/2 mile south of Eldon Russell Pk. 7/3, and another adult was found about 1/2 mile north of the park 7/11 (AF). 1 at Magee 6/2 carried from the spring (JP).

Louisiana Waterthrush— Single pairs were discovered at Twin Lakes (Dela) in late June (KA) and along the Collier Scenic River (TB), both unexpected sites.

Kentucky Warbler— In the northeast, 2 males enumerated at Hinckley MP, where traditional (m. obs.). A male at Little Mountain 6/24 is also proving to be a regular there (DAC, EP et al.).

Connecticut Warbler— Single females were banded at Springville Marsh SNP 6/3 (VF) and 6/7 (TB).

Mourning Warbler— 8 migrants remained 6/1-5. A singing male in the Maumee SF (Luca) 6/13 may have been in residence (TK). A male was in residence near Bolanz Rd. in the s. CVNRA for the GASBC in mid-June (G. & S. Cull). A total of 3 young were banded at Lish 7/28 & 30 (JP).

Common Yellowthroat— Max. 80 Magee 7/16 (HSH).

Wilson's Warbler— 3 migrants remained 6/1-4.

Canada Warbler— Spring migration continued for 8 individuals at 4 sites through 6/6. 6 males sang from Stebbins Gulch 6/24 (RHR, EP et al.). Nesting was also possible at Mohican SP (LEY, JH) & at 3 Lake Co. metroparks (JP).

Yellow-breasted Chat— Seemed up in the northeast.

Tanagers through Finches

Summer Tanager— A male and female were found at different OkOp sites this season (TK).

Blue Grosbeak— 3 were in Adams Co. 6/10 (EP et al.).

Indigo Bunting— The ONWRC of 7/3 tallied 88 birds.

Dickcissel— Another banner year, with an amazing 100+ males reported in Seneca Co. alone, including 27 males in a 1-square mile block in Thompson Twp. (TB). Numbers at KPWA were also very impressive, with 51 singing males and 2 young found there 7/1 (TB). About 30 males were found in

approximately 1/4 mile of Paulding Co. (DMD), and 31 males were in Putnam Co. 7/6 (TK). Also reported from ONWR and Butl, Clar, Gree & Sand Cos.

Vesper Sparrow— 15 were counted at KPWA 7/10 (KA).

Lark Sparrow— A singing male at the Dunakin's place in Paulding Co. 6/6 provided a new species for their county lists (DMD). 4 adults and a juv. at KPWA 6/19 illustrated that nesting occurred there for the second consecutive year (TB). In the OkOp, 2 pairs were found along Ostrich Lane; although a combined 3 nesting attempts were made there, all failed. A female, which had been banded as a nestling along the Girdham Rd. area of the OkOp, was nest-nested at Ostrich Lane this year (BSBO).

Savannah Sparrow— A 1-square mile block of Thompson Twp. (Sene) held 100+ birds this season (TB). 27 were tallied in s. Lorain Co. and vicinity 6/3 (RHr).

Grasshopper Sparrow— An incredible 110+ were found in the Thompson Twp. square mile (TB). 32 were at KPWA 7/10 (KA). Also found in Adam, Clar, Geau, Gree, Haml, Hanc, Jeff, Lake, Lora, Luca, Marl, Oita, Paul, Putn, Summ & Wazyn Cos.

Henslow's Sparrow— TB discovered 2 small colonies in Seneca Co., the first sightings there in many decades. 11 were at KPWA 7/1 (TB). Jefferson Co. Rd. 46 produced at least 12 birds 7/22 (MA). 6 were at the Mansfield Airport 6/24 (JH). Scenic Vista Pk. in Columbiana Co. held 2 birds 6/3 (RE).

Lincoln's Sparrow— A laggard was banded at Springville Marsh SNP 6/7 (TB).

Swamp Sparrow— The 139 reported on the GASBC in mid-June indicates a very sizeable population there (fide CT). 2 were at Guilford Lk. SP 6/13 (NB).

White-throated Sparrow— A definite migrant was banded at Springville Marsh SNP 6/3 (TB), and a singing bird at Howland (Trum) 6/13 was also presumably slowly heading north

(CB). The same can be said for a bird found on the Middlefield (Geau) Breeding Bird Survey 6/4 (RM et al.). A bird at HBSP for much of July was certainly more enigmatic (E. Beck, RHn, LF).

White-crowned Sparrow— Singles at Lksh 6/1-10 (JP) and at HBSP 6/24 (E. Beck, RHn) were very unseasonal.

Dark-eyed Junco— An extremely late migrant was banded at Springville Marsh SNP 6/7 (TB). Not uncommon in the northeast, probable nesters include: 10-15 pair at HHMP, plus 4 more pair at 3 other Lake Co. metroparks (JP); 8 at Stebbins Gulch and 4 at Little Mountain 6/24 (NKO, DAC et al.); several pair at N. Chagrin MP through July, with 2 young seen (KM, RR); adults bringing young to the feeders at Big Creek MP into August (DB); a female on eggs in an old E-Phoebe nest (later abandoned) on a building at S. Chagrin MP (Cuya) 6/13-22 (KM); etc. A singing male at Brecksville MP 6/24 was a first for that area (DAC, RHr, NKO).

Bobolink— The Thompson Twp. square mile hosted 50+ males this season (TB).

E. Meadowlark— 45+ males inhabited the Thompson Twp. square mile (TB).

W. Meadowlark— The widely viewed pair near Magee remained along Darsch Rd. (Ota) through at least 6/4. Both members of this pair were established as Westerns, thus eliminating the possibility of a hybrid nesting (TB). Another pair was at Genoa (Ota) 6/11 (JP). A bird was in Fulton Co. 7/6 (TK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird— Medusa Marsh attracted a female 7/12 (JP).

Orchard Oriole— 10 were banded at Lksh 7/9-30 (JP). KA counted 16 at KPWA 6/26.

N. Oriole— 50 were banded at Lksh 7/3-30, including 12 on 7/15 (JP).

Purple Finch— The GASBC recorded 29 birds in mid-June (fide CT). A female accompanied by a juv. in Canfield (Maho) provided locally unusual nesting evidence 6/29 (NB).

House Finch- Lksh banding nets captured 526 birds 7/3-30, including 105 captured on 7/15 alone (JP).

CONTRIBUTORS & OBSERVERS

All individuals contributing bird reports to "The Ohio Cardinal" for the Summer 1995 season (June 1 to July 31, 1995) are listed below in CAPITAL LETTERS. In addition, many other observers submitted sightings to other birding-related publications. For this issue, reports from the following publications have been used: "The Cleveland Bird Calendar" (Kirtland Bird Club); "The Toledo Naturalists' Association Bulletin" and "Wingtips" (Black River Audubon Society). Those observers who received at least four citations in the Summer 1995 "The Reports" section are also included in the following list of Contributors: J. KIRK ALEXANDER (KA); MICHAEL J. ARABIA (MA); CAROLE L. BABYAK (CB); LYNN BARNHART (LB); H. THOMAS BARTLETT (TB); DAN BEST (DB) for the Geauga Co. Park District; BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY (BSBO); NANCY D. BRUNDAGE (NB); RONALD A. CANTERBURY (RC); DWIGHT & ANN CHASAR (DAC); BOB CONLON (BC); DOUG & MICKI DUNAKIN (DMD); ERIC DURBIN (ED); MARCUS C.

ENGLAND (ME); ROBERT ELLWAY (RE); VICTOR FAZIO (VF); BOB FINKELSTEIN (BF); ANDY FONDRK (AF); LARRY GARA (LG); ADAM GOLODA (AG); Ray Hannikman (RHn); BETTY HARDESTY (BH); ROBERT HARLAN (RH); JOHN HERMAN (JH); AARON HERSHBERGER (AH); ROBERT HERSHBERGER (RHe); HOWARD W. HINTZ (HH); HANK & SALLY HIRIS (HS); DAVID & JUDY HOCHADEL (DJH); CRAIG HOLT (CH); RICHARD JOHNSON (RJ); NED KELLER (NK); TOM KEMP (TK); NORMAN J. KOTESOVEC, JR. (NKo); MARIAN & JEFF KRAUS (MK); TOM LaPAGE (TLP); PAULA J. LOZANO (PL); C. ROBERT McCULLOUGH (RM); JOE McMAHON (JM); GARY MESZAROS (GM); KEVIN METCALF (KM); DOUG OVERACKER (DO); ED PIERCE (EP); JOHN POGACNIK (JP); RICHARD D.S. RICKARD (RR); TOM & MARY ANNE ROMITO (TMR); LARRY ROSCHE (LR); ED SCHLABACH (ES); WILLIAM SHIVELY (WS); BRUCE SIMPSON (BS); ELLIOT TRAMER (ET); CAROL TVEEKREM (CT); Paul Wharton (PW); STANLEY E. WULKOWICZ (SW); LEROY E. YODER (LEY); & MARIAN ZEHNDER (MZ). In addition, many other Observers are cited for 1 to 3 records within the species accounts. My thanks to all.

Ohio Bird Records Committee Report by H. Thomas Bartlett, Secretary

As noted in the OBRC report in *The Ohio Cardinal* 18(3):109, the following 2 records from Spring 1995 were Not Accepted by the 11-member OBRC, according to OBRC Bylaws section VI F(10)(b). These records, along with reasons for Non-Acceptance, are listed below:

Ross's Goose- OBRC 170-95-05: 1, L. White SP (Pike Co.), 3/4/95. Reasons for Non-Acceptance: 1) Snow Goose not ruled out. 2) Description of forehead/bill more like Snow Goose. 3) Hybrid not ruled out. 4) Size hard to judge from views obtained.

Swinson's Warbler- OBRC 38-95-02: 1, Salt Fork SP (Guernsey Co.), 5/17/95. Reasons for Non-Acceptance: 1) Incomplete description; lacking sufficient details of head plumage, bill shape, size of bird, lighting conditions and optics used. 2) Worm-eating Warbler not ruled out. 3) Description doesn't establish bird as a warbler. 4) Warbling Vireo not ruled out.

Final decisions on many other records should be available for the next issue.

The Grapevine

Morbid Curiosity in Shorebirds

Eliot Tramer, Chris Manzey, Sarah Karpany and I were looking at shorebirds at Metzger Marsh WA (Lucas Co.) on July 23, 1995, at about 10:00 a.m. A Snowy Plover, a bird seen only a few times in Ohio, had been discovered there the weekend before and had tarried through Tuesday of that week. The plover was not to be found, but many other waders were scattered over the extensive mudflats. We were pleased to find a Wilson's Phalarope and Silt Sandpiper. As we scanned with our spotting scopes, a Great Blue Heron, which had, in retrospect, surprisingly not fled at our close approach, toppled over and collapsed onto the mud. In obvious distress, it floundered on its breast, with spread wings flopping along side.

While I studied the heron through binoculars, I noticed a very tight flock of Short-billed Dowitchers, perhaps 20 birds, walking close by in the foreground of my view. We suddenly realized that there were many more shorebirds in front of us than just a few moments earlier. As the heron occasionally flopped on the mud, we watched shorebirds fly in from all over the mudflat to stand near the struggling bird. The gathering included some of all species present, mostly dowitchers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs, with Killdeers perhaps a little under-represented; totalling at least a couple of hundred individuals. Even the single phalarope joined the throng. Then, after only a couple of minutes, the spectator flock dispersed back across the mudflat. Like gawkers at a car wreck, they had taken a good look and returned, curiosity satisfied, to their own business. [Reprinted from the Toledo Naturalists' Association Bulletin, August 1995]. By Eric Durbin, 343 Shrewsbury St., Holland, OH 43528.

Counting the Great Blues

Our small group was on General Motors property in Lordstown (Trumbull Co.), on June 10, 1995, at 9:50 a.m. to count nesting Great Blue Herons. Before I turned off the car, I was greeted by a familiar smell and sound. The smell resembled dusty whitewash with overtones of fish. The sound was like that of the steam engine which pulled 25 carloads of Stonewall's Brigade up to Manassas. We were met by Bernie Todd, the G.M. official from whom we received permission to enter the property. Bernie had forgotten to wear a jacket, so I loaned him an extra. I gave the other members of our group small pieces of paper to be affixed to each tree after counting the nests found in the branches above.

Two parties began at the east and west ends of the colony, and then circled into the center. On the edge, the vegetation was lush, and leaves of Jack-in-the-Pulpit were knee high. My son Michael (age 13) and his friend helped in marking the trees, although at first the buzzing mosquitoes bothered them. They became more interested as they spotted fish bones and fish heads under the trees-- until they locked up to find young herons targeting us with fish-- from both ends. After his favorite baseball cap was hit, Michael unwisely removed it to survey the damage, and then took a direct hit on the head.

Since George John and I have counted nests here, their numbers have steadily increased, and this year we tallied 427 nests in 112 trees.

[Reprinted from The Heron, Newsletter of the Audubon Society of the Mahoning Valley, September/October 1995]. By Carole Babyak, 879 Howland-Wilson Rd., Warren, OH 44484.

Greater Akron (Summit Co.) Summer Bird Count

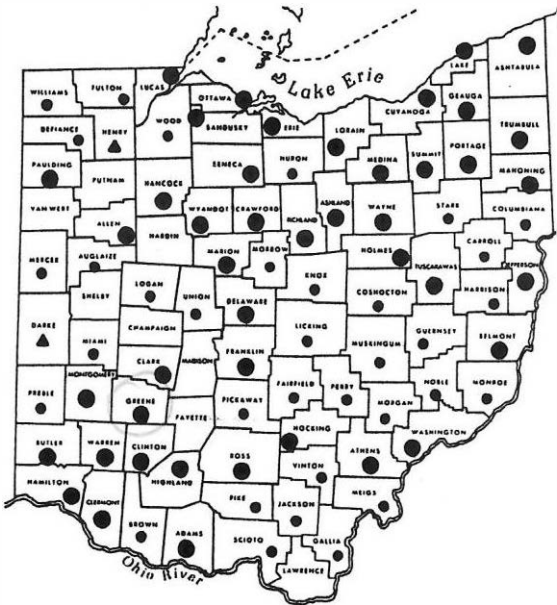
The 44 birders in 20 parties who participated in our 18th Summer Bird Count put in a record high 408 party hours, and found a new high 32,036 individuals of 126 species. Most of the count was done over the period of June 18-19, 1995, but some parties continued through the following weekend. This was our second highest number of species, which is remarkable considering we missed several expected species, notably Am. Black Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora and Ring-necked Pheasant. We saw only one Common Moorhen. We added two new species to the count- Cliff Swallow and Hooded Merganser. We set new high counts for many species, but especially for widespread common small birds, largely due to the increased party hours. We thank all those who braved the very hot and humid weather during the count. [Editor's note: space restrictions prevent us from publishing the complete count this season. These totals are available from the Editor or from Carol Tveekrem]. By Carol Tveekrem, 621 Surtside Dr., Akron, OH 44319.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Highbanks MP

While on a Project Tanager study site along the Overlook Trail at Highbanks Metropark (Delaware Co.) on June 4, 1995, I heard the distant vocalizations of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I attempted to bring it to the attention of my research partner, Manon Van Schoyck, but the bird (of course) sang no more.

The following day I returned to the site, a clearing surrounded by second-growth deciduous forest. An "island" of trees is situated in the center of the clearing. Upon entering the clearing at 8:58 a.m., I immediately heard the bird singing from the far side of the island. The song may be described as several ascending high-pitched "seets" followed by an explosion of fast-paced warbles ending with several up-and-down notes. As I have seen a gazillion of these amazingly loud mini-congsters in migration, and have heard as many vocalizations, identification was not difficult. Seeing the bird was another story. He sang at 9:06 and again at 9:10. I stayed in the field until approximately 9:45 a.m., at which time I called Tom Thomson. He did not have time to come out, but recommended that I find someone and try to see it, both fairly obvious points. He also told me that they respond well to taped calls and pishing. I later tried both, but to no avail. Any literature on the subject must surely be wrong. This bird was stubborn and refused to allow me to see it. A field full of Poison Ivy between me and the bird did not help.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., Manon Van Schoyck joined me on the scene. She heard the bird singing and concurred with the identification, but the bird did not like her either. Singing was rather infrequent, with 2-5 minute intervals between songs. The bird seemed to move back and forth in a north-south direction along the far edge of the woods. By 11:15 we gave up hope. Even so, on the following morning, Cece Johnston visited the site and saw the bird with ease. I have not heard of any other observations. A review of the literature reveals the importance of this exciting find, as there are few summer records for this species in Ohio. By Marcus C. England, 463 Columbian Ave., Columbus, OH 43223.



COUNTIES OF OHIO

County Coverage Map for Volume 18

- = Regular Seasonal Coverage
- = Light Coverage
- ▲ = CBC Coverage Only
- (No symbol indicates no coverage)

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
if this line is checked _____**

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**THE OHIO CARDINAL
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