

1997 Peregrine Falcon Report
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Productive Sites

- *Commodore Perry Motor Inn*, Toledo, Lucas County. Peregrines have nested on this vacant building for 10 years: female [red 3C7] for the first 8 years and 3 year old Carmen [D/N] for the last 2 years. Carmen was paired again with her full brother, 4 year old male [C/U], his third year in Toledo, both wild-produced from the Firststar Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Access to the site has been restored at least temporarily after being prohibited for years. Four eggs were laid in late March or early April and hatched by 12 May. Two males and 2 females were banded by the end of June.

- *Terminal Tower*, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County. A 9-year old male [Szell 67Z] paired for the fifth time with 5-year old female Zenith [23W]. Between 13 March and 5 April, 4 eggs were laid, possibly by a different female. A partial band reading suggested that Zenith was present at this time. On April 16th, 7 eggs were seen and Zenith was identified on the nest. The eggs were candled and found not to be viable. The eggs were removed and by 19 May, a new clutch of four eggs were being incubated. Hatching began on June 19th and all 4 young were banded and fledged by 1 August. On August 4th, 1 of the young was found dead on a ledge near the nest site. The decomposing body was presumed dead for a day or two with death attributed to an unknown injury sustained after fledging. Despite the confusion surrounding the early nesting season, this pair had an outstanding performance this year.

- *LTV Steel*, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co. New Site. An unidentified pair of adults nested here in 1997 with unsubstantiated reports from workers that at least two young were produced in 1996 as well. The female has a black band. Three eggs were laid on an exposed beam on the side of an abandoned building near the Cuyahoga R. within this industrial complex. Hatching occurred around May 4th and a nest box was installed at banding. Two females and a male fledged 20 June.

- *Rhodes State Office Tower*, Columbus, Franklin County. A 6-year old female [Aurora red 4R0] returned for the fifth year, paired for the fourth year with an unbanded male [Bandit]. They produced 4 eggs by 7 April, hatched them beginning 9 May, and fledged 4 young (2 m., 2 f.) around 23 June. One was killed in a building collision shortly after fledging. The nest site camera was hooked up through the Internet and the banding was shown "live" over the Internet as well.

- *Lazarus Building*, Dayton, Montgomery County. A 4-year old female [Baltimore 7/D] paired again with 7-year old male Mercury [21X]. They produced 4 eggs in early April, hatched them beginning 13 May, and fledged 4 young (2 m., 2 f.) around 27 June.

Other Sites with Pairs

- *Case Western Reserve University*, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County. An unidentified pair of Peregrines, each banded was seen but no nesting was attempted. A nest box was placed in the area. A pair had been reported in 1996 but no young were observed.

- *Gold Coast*, Lakewood, Cuyahoga County. The 1996 pair, 3-year old female Athena [5V] and 4-year old male Buckeye [3/1], were territorial, aggressive, and displayed courtship behavior early in the nesting season but were unable to find a suitable nest site due to removal of the nest box and other steps taken to minimize conflicts between the pair and building tenants, maintenance personnel, and management staff. An unbanded male was seen in mid-May around the site and the pair have not been seen since late spring.

- *Akron*, Summit County. A pair was seen near the nest box. The female is J.P. [*G/3], fledged wild in 1996 from the New Center, Detroit, Michigan. The male is Bandit [3/*P], fledged wild in 1995 from the Book Building, also in Detroit. This pair did not nest but was seen regularly throughout the nesting season.

- *Elyria*, Lorain County. An unbanded adult female was paired with a juvenile male [*A/5], fledged in 1996 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. A nest box was installed in the area in early April, however, nesting did not occur this year.

- *PNC Building* (formerly Central Trust Tower), Cincinnati, Hamilton Co. Peregrines were seen around the 1996 nest site in March and April, however, neither bird was ever identified and few sightings were reported after the end of April. Courtship displays and scraping were noted early on but no eggs were laid.

- *Miami Fort Station*, Cincinnati Gas & Electric, Cleves, Hamilton County. An unidentified pair was seen in a nest box on a smokestack on 30 May. A second check of this site on 15 July revealed an aggressive pair around the nest box but no sign of any young or eggs. Presence of a third bird in the area was not confirmed.

**Notes on State Listed and Rare Nesting Birds
Found Within the Lake County Metroparks in 1997
by John Pogacnik**

Pied-billed Grebe: None were observed in 1997. A pair were found in 1996.

Least Bittern: A Least Bittern was heard calling from a cattail area at Arcola Creek in July; breeding was not confirmed. None were found in 1996.

Green Heron: Green Herons were found at AC, Chagrin River Park, Girdled Road, Hell Hollow (2), Riverview, Veteran's Park as probable breeders, and Blair Road, Chapin Forest, Helen Hazel Wyman, Penitentiary Glen, and Redmill Valley as possible breeders. They were found in seven locations in 1996 vs 11 in 1997.

American Black Duck: A female with four young was found at Veterans Park in Mentor. The bird nested in one of the Mallard nest tubes put out by the park during the 1996-97 winter.

Hooded Merganser: Females with young were found at Chagrin River Park and River Road. None were found in 1996.

Common Merganser: A female was seen on the Grand River at Blair Road in June, however no young or nesting evidence were found. A Common Merganser with young was found here in 1996. A male was seen on the river at Hidden Valley in June. A female was never seen. A Common Merganser nest box erected at Hidden Valley had the beginnings of a nest. Two pieces of pale gray down larger than a Wood Duck's, and consistent with Common Merganser were found.

[Ed. Note: Regarding the 1996 observation no physical evidence was submitted to the Ohio Bird Records Committee to support what would be a first breeding record for Ohio. However, the species nests in adjacent West Virginia and suitable habitat in northeast Ohio may occasionally host a nesting attempt.]

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Sharp-shinned Hawks were found at 3 locations: Chapin Forest, Hell Hollow, and Penitentiary Glen. No actual nests or young were found, but nesting was suspected at all three locations. Four locations were found in 1996.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Red-shouldered Hawks were found at Blair Road, Chapin Forest, Girdled Road, Hell Hollow, Hogback Ridge, Hidden Valley, and River Road; all traditional locations. A nest was found at Blair Road while young were seen at Chapin Forest. They were found in five locations in 1996.

American Coot: None were observed in 1997. A pair were found in 1996.

Barn Owl: A Barn Owl was seen and heard by Ranger Jennifer White at Hell Hollow along Leroy-Center Road in May. The observation was confirmed a week later by Ranger Sergeant Jim Smallwood. The bird could not be relocated in early June (this

location is considered possible). At Chapin Forest a young bird flushed from a deep hole on the cliff of the quarry to another hole on the cliff in late June. Another was heard in late July. This site is considered probable. None were found in 1996.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: None were observed in 1997. Young were found in 1996.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A single sapsucker was found at the northern end of Hell Hollow in early June. A female was not seen at that time and the site was never revisited. Sapsuckers were found at two locations in 1996.

Least Flycatcher: The only Least Flycatcher location was a confirmed nest at Lakeshore. They were found at three locations in 1996.

Alder Flycatcher: Confirmed nesting at Arcola Creek. Probable nest at Conley Road, Penitentiary Glen, River Road, and Riverview. Possible nesting at Chapin Forest. They were found at seven sites in 1996 (5 in 1997).

White-eyed Vireo: Probable nesting pairs were found at Chagrin River Park and River Road. There were four locations in 1996.

Bell's Vireo: A singing male was heard at Chagrin River Park near the powerline corridor in mid-June and across the river in early July. Nesting was considered possible since no female or young was found. A migrant Bell's Vireo was found in May near the same location [in 1995]. None were found in 1996.

Cliff Swallow: Cliff Swallows were probable nesters at Blair Road and Hidden Valley. At Blair one was observed going under the Grand River Bridge and at Hidden Valley one was observed flying under a shale overhang.

Purple Martin: Martins nested at Arcola Creek, Erie Shores Golf Course, Girdled Road, Hidden Valley, Willowick Lakefront Lodge, Penitentiary Glen, and Veterans Park. They were found at five locations in 1996. Boxes at Girdled Road and Penitentiary Glen were later abandoned before producing young.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: None were found in 1997. They were found at one location in 1996.

Brown Creeper: Creepers were found at Conley Road (probable), Hell Hollow (probable), and Penitentiary Glen (possible). Creepers were found at one location in 1996.

Winter Wren: The cool wet spring provided the incentive for Winter Wrens to nest in unprecedented numbers in the parks. They were found in Chapin Forest (1 confirmed), Hell Hollow (7 locations, 3 confirmed, 2 probable, and 2 possible), Hogback Ridge (1 probable), Indian Point (1 probable), Paine Falls (1 probable), and Penitentiary Glen (1 probable). In 1996, 12 birds were found at 7 locations (12 at 6 locations in 1997).

Marsh Wren: A single bird was heard at Arcola Creek in July. One was heard at the same location in 1996.

Hermit Thrush: A confirmed nesting took place at Hidden Valley and two singing birds were found at Hell Hollow, one (probable) at the same location as the last two years and another (possible) near the wooded farm pond.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Kinglets again nested at Chapin Forest. This year one pair was found in a forty year-old Colorado Blue Spruce planting. A single, recently fledged bird was found in early July at the same location.

Black and White Warbler: Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 singing male), Lake Farmpark (1 singing male), Girdled Road (1 pair), Hell Hollow (2; 1 singing male, 1 pair), Hidden Valley (1 pair), and River Road (1 pair). In 1996, Black and White Warblers were found at 8 locations in 8 parks (1997, 7 locations in 6 parks).

Prothonotary Warbler: A probable nesting was found at Conley Road. None were found 1996.

Golden-winged Warbler: None were found in 1997. A singing male was found in 1996.

Nashville Warbler: Birds were found at two locations at Hell Hollow. A pair was found near the site where they nested in 1996 (probable), and a singing male was heard and seen at the north end of the park (possible).

Northern Parula: Singing males were found at Hell Hollow and River Road (both probable). One was found at River Road in 1996.

Magnolia Warbler: The cool wet spring again seemed to attract good numbers of Magnolias. Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 probable), Girdled Road (1 probable), Hell Hollow (6; 2 confirmed, 2 probable, and 2 possible), and River Road (3; 1 confirmed and 2 probable). In 1996, there were 10 locations at 6 parks (11 locations at 4 parks in 1997).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A confirmed nesting took place at Hidden Valley. A pair were seen in the brush along the creek at the far end of the park in mid-June. In early July, three newly fledged young were found. In 1996, a singing bird was found at Hell Hollow.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Single singing males in non-breeding plumage were found at Lakeshore in late June in a small area of conifers, and above the quarry at Chapin Forest in June and July. Both of these birds were probably summering. A summering bird was found at Penitentiary Glen in 1996.

Blackburnian Warbler: Two singing birds were along Mill Creek at Hogback Ridge, both in the area of Hemlocks. One site was later abandoned and the other site fledged young. They were found at two locations in 1996.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Singing birds were found at Blair Road and Hidden Valley, both on the Grand River and one at Hell Hollow along Paine Creek (all probable). There were three locations in 1996.

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The Ohio Christmas Bird Counts 1997-98 by Ned Keller

This year's Christmas Count results include data from 58 circles located entirely or partially in Ohio, which equals last year's number. We present the data in the species order of the 7th A.O.U. Checklist. Although it was not published until the summer of 1998, after the counts, most birders are beginning to become familiar with the new order.

The number of individual birds was down considerably from last year, from 1,098,735 to 874,563. In large measure, this difference can be explained by the results from a single count: Firelands reported 13,070 Ring-billed Gulls and 20 Bonaparte's Gulls this year, but 168,710 and 56,136 last year. The total number of species reported this year was 153, of which 24 were represented by a single individual. Last year we recorded only 137 species, and the previous high total reported in the Ohio Cardinal was 149, on the 1994-1995 count. This may represent a new record total for Ohio.

However, this year we seemed to receive an unusually high number of extremely rare sightings without documentation. Christmas Counts are a unique blend of enjoyable birding and scientific data collection. If either is missing, much of the point of doing Christmas Counts is lacking. Compilers already put in a great deal of volunteer work to make Christmas Counts run smoothly. It's extra work to make sure that documentation forms are filled out; and it can get a bit touchy when you tell a respected birder - maybe someone better than you are - that their sighting isn't going to be reported without a documentation form. But without it, the credibility of the entire report, not just that one sighting, becomes suspect.

Be that as it may, we continue to report all sightings submitted to us in this report. In the charts, a single asterisk (*) means that we received documentation. Two asterisks (**) means that the documentation has been submitted to the Ohio Rare Birds Committee. Records accepted by the OBRC will appear within the body of the Winter 1997-98 seasonal summary (Vol. 21 No. 2). A plus sign (+) means that the bird was recorded outside Ohio. Finally, the number in parentheses following the name of the count refers to the numbered circle on the map which accompanies this report.