

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining for the public archival records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishing the official state list of species. The OBRC relies vitally upon the help of the birding community in sending in details of their sightings of rare birds. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as a journal of record, will not treat reports of OBRC Review Species as established until accepted by the Committee, and hence will not usually publish reports of rarities not supported by documentation submitted to the OBRC. The Review List, which includes all species sufficiently infrequent in Ohio as to require documentation (specimen, photograph, tape recording, full written description) for their inclusion in the official record, was last published in this journal last spring, in Vol 22, No 33, p 99.

In examining records, the OBRC does not judge sightings, but documentations of sightings. The issue at stake is not whether the bird in question was present—the Committee cannot say, as its members were not there at the time of the sighting—but whether the details received describing the bird will verify it as to species when consulted by others in the future. It sometimes happens, for example, that members of the Committee feel sure that a given rarity was seen, but regretfully must vote against accepting the record because the documentation available does not suffice to verify the sighting for the record. All documentation is archived for future researchers by the OBRC, and arrangements are currently being made to deposit materials routinely with the OSU Museum of Biological Diversity in Columbus. Copies of materials in these archives are available to the public on request to the Secretary, with the exception of the identities of authors of vote sheets. Thanks to OBRC Secretary Jim McCormac for supplying information for this report.

ACCEPTED RECORDS: Documentation received from the observers specified for the following species on the indicated dates and places was judged sufficient to verify the record by at least nine members of the Committee:

Ross's Goose—Fayette County, 19 January 2000, observer D. Sanders
Mississippi Kite—Summit County, 4 July 1999, observer T. LePage
Yellow Rail—Marion County, 15 August 1999, observer J. Grabmeier
Piping Plover—Erie County, 15 September 1999, observer V. Fazio
Pomarine Jaeger—Coshocton County, 22 June 1999, observer H. H. Troyer
Common Ground-Dove—Cuyahoga County, 6 November 1999, observer J. Mizanin; a new Ohio record.
Harris's Sparrow—Holmes County, 22 December 1998, observers I. Miller, G. Miller

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED: Documentation received for the following reports received fewer than six votes to accept, and were not accepted.

Gyr Falcon—Lucas County, April 1998
Western Kingbird—Muskingum County, August 1999
Vermivora/Oporornis warbler—Stark County, January 1999 (not accepted as either *V. celata* or *O. tolmiei*)
Pine Grosbeak—Paulding County, October 1999

RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION: The following records are currently being recirculated, the documentation for which having received between six and eight votes to accept.

Parasitic Jaeger—Lake County, September 1999
Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, October 1999
Glaucous-winged Gull—Cuyahoga County, February 1989

Scheduled for first circulations are the following: western grebe, Richland County, 17 December 1999; Ross's goose, Ottawa County 19 January 2000; Ross's goose, Mercer County, 1 April 2000; jaeger sp., Clark County, 19 December 1999; black-headed gull, Ashtabula County, 22 March 2000; Eurasian collared-dove, Washington County, 26 March 2000 (if accepted, a first state record); Bohemian waxwing, Cuyahoga County, 12 December 2000; Harris's sparrow, Holmes County, 9 January 2000.

Actions taken at the 19 March 2000 Annual Meeting, in addition to those above, include the following affecting bird records:

Trumpeter Swan: Existing evidence offered for the wild breeding status of this species was briefly reviewed, in order to establish the precise status of this species on the official list. It was agreed that no definite evidence has yet come to light to verify the breeding status of this species in the wild in Ohio. More research was recommended, and an article outlining results was suggested.

Bicknell's Thrush: An Ohio specimen labeled as this species is at OSUM, and photos and measurements were taken. Because the measurements are not definitive, the Committee asked for expert opinion and/or DNA analysis before undertaking a review of the record.

Baird's Sparrow: This is now the only species on the official list documented solely by a sight record from a single observer. Known documentation consists of a brief account in the *Auk* 73:275-276. De facto acceptance was made some years ago with its inclusion in the OBRC publication *Abundance and Distribution of the Birds of Ohio*, but a search will be made in recently-available material for documentation sufficient to re-open consideration of the record.

Black Rosy-Finch: The record is apparently incomplete—i.e., some vote sheets are missing for a 1997 review after rosy finch was split by the AOU—for a sighting documented in 1971. A recirculation will be conducted. *Bill Whan*



This pomarine jaeger spent the day of 22 June 1999 lounging in a Coshocton Co. yard, providing a very unusual summer record. Photo by Henry H. Troyer.