

## Short Note: The Geauga County Cranes

The sandhill crane saga continues with Autumn 2000 episodes, of which there are two:

- 1) Concerning the "Claridon Pair," the Geauga Park District's spring and summer reports related sightings of these two from Claridon-Troy Road in northern Burton Twp to Aquilla Lake in Claridon Twp from mid-May through July. The last sighting of these birds was in the field across the road from (not in) Aquilla Lake State Wildlife Area on Labor Day weekend (Grace Butcher et al.; Duane Ferris confirmed on 9/1), and 9/10 (Helen Hendrickson). Nothing since. [Ed. note: see the Reports for a sighting in the township of two birds on 4 Nov]
- 2) The "Troy Trio" lingers. A group of cranes, invariably together, consisting of two adults and a possible immature bird (little or no red on the head, gray vs. brownish in color) produced a consistent run of sightings throughout the Fall 2000 season after an absence (per lack of reports) throughout much of 2000 except for the 1 Jan Christmas Count and 3/16 sightings by Duane Ferris at LaDue and a sole summer sighting of three cranes flying overhead at Eldon Russell Park on 7/22 by Cleveland Metroparks naturalists on a canoe outing. This fall, three cranes were sighted along Pekin Road on 9/14 by GPD Volunteer Naturalist Roy Podogil and again in a wetland near Judy Bradt-Barnhart's home off Pekin Road on 10/6. These three cranes are suspected of being the "Troy Trio." Regular sightings of the Trio reported from the island(s) in the vicinity of the LaDue Reservoir marina (north of Rt. 422, Auburn Twp) commenced again in Autumn 2000: 9/25 (per City of Akron personnel—"see them all the time," as related to Duane Ferris), throughout October and November (Duane Ferris), and on 11/15 here by GPD's John Oros. Since October (per Sandy Buckles to Duane Ferris) the three cranes were frequently sighted in corn stubble in fields in the Jug Street and Patch Road vicinity in Troy Twp, due east of LaDue Reservoir. Sightings here continued through November (Molly Bartlett, Bob and Eric Faber) into December—12/3 and 12/9 (Dan Best)—indicating LaDue Reservoir and the Jug Street field as the two major areas for the "Troy Trio."

So the question remains: where do these cranes disappear to in the summer, and are they breeding somewhere in the wetlands of the Cuyahoga River? We are pretty sure, however, that the "Claridon Pair" and the "Troy Trio" are separate groups of cranes.

Dan Best  
Gauga Park District  
9160 Robinson Rd.  
Chardon, OH 44024-9148

## Upcoming Events

The first annual *Bird Watching Weekend*, jointly sponsored by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and the Longaberger Company, will take place Friday 27 April through Sunday 29 April 2001 in Newark, Ohio and a number of nearby birding spots. Featured speakers will be Julie Zickefoose of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Danny Ingold of Muskingum College, John Watts of the Franklin County Metroparks, Darlene Sillick of the North American Bluebird Society, Jim McCormac of ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Bill Thompson, III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and Steve Maslowski of Maslowski Wildlife Productions. Presentations cover grassland bird research, prairie restoration, Ohio birding hotspots, "bird watching for dummies," bluebird conservation, the spring birds of the region, landscaping for birdlife on residential properties, and more. Among field trip destinations will be Baughman Park, Black Hand Gorge SNP, Dillon WA, Hebron State Fish Hatchery, Dawes Arboretum, and The Wilds. The fee for participation in the weekend's activities is \$99 per person. For information and registration, persons interested should call the Longaberger Guest Relations office at 740-322-5588.

An *Ohio Sparrow Ecology and ID Seminar* will be held on Saturday, 30 June 2001 at the West Union Vocational School in West Union, OH (Adams County). Speakers will include Jim Rising of the University of Toronto (author of *A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada*, 1996), Danny Ingold of Muskingum College, Scott Hull of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Pete Whan of The Nature Conservancy. Presentations will feature the ecology and natural history of sparrows, field identification of sparrows, and aspects of sparrow research in Ohio. A field trip will seek these and other species. The seminar is sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449, with whom reservations must be made to attend this event; the fee for attendance is \$25 for BSBO members, and \$30 for others.



This juvenile red knot lingered at Hoover Reservoir, Delaware Co., from 26 August-3 September 2000. Photo by Bob Royse, by permission from his website at <http://www.geocities.com/roysephotos>.