

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife. To do so it validates records, maintains public archives of records of occurrences of rare birds in the state, and establishes the official list of Ohio's bird species. The Committee relies on the help of field observers who supply details of their sightings of birds rare enough to appear on the OBRC's Review List (this list appears in each Spring issue of the *Cardinal*). Occurrences of these species require acceptable documentation—complete written description, specimen, photos, and/or sound recordings—to enter the official record. *The Ohio Cardinal*, as the journal of record for Ohio birds, will not treat reports of these species as established until accepted by the OBRC, nor will it usually publish such reports at all unless they are supported by details sent to the Committee.

The OBRC does not of course review sightings, only documentations submitted from those who were present at sightings of rare birds. If a rare bird is found, but not well enough documented for acceptance by the Committee, it is likely to remain in the realm of rumor and will soon be lost to history. All Committee records—documentations received, supplementary opinions, records of Committee actions, and comments and votes by members, are available to the public upon request to the Secretary; the only data unavailable are the names of voters writing individual opinions.

RECORDS IN CIRCULATION: No final decisions on bird records have been rendered by the OBRC since the last issue, but a packet of new documentations has been sent out for votes, including the following species: glossy ibis, two Ross's geese, "Harlan's" red-tailed hawk, gyrfalcon, black-legged kittiwake, northern hawk owl, Townsend's solitaire, varied thrush, two Le Conte's sparrows, and Harris's sparrow. In addition, documentations for the following additional species, having received between six and eight votes to accept, are being recirculated: glossy ibis, long-tailed jaeger, dovekie, Townsend's solitaire, western tanager, and hoary redpoll. The solitaire report comes from November 1998 in the pine grove at Killdeer Plains WA; initially not accepted, it is being recirculated because supporting details from another observer have emerged; readers who might have information to add are urged to contact the Secretary. Black-legged kittiwake is not a Review Species, but details were requested because it was in adult plumage, much rarer in Ohio than juvenal, though perhaps not so rare as Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* might lead one to suppose.

ANNUAL MEETING: At the OBRC's annual meeting on 24 March, Secretary Jim McCormac reported that during the previous year 61 records had been reviewed, with 39 accepted, 18 not accepted, and four pending. He thanked retiring members Tom Kemp, Jay Stenger, Bill Whan, and Kevin Metcalf for their service. After discussions about Ross's goose, pomarine jaeger, and Le Conte's sparrow, it was decided that no changes would be made to the Review List at this time. Subsequent to the annual meeting, the withdrawal of a candidate having avoided the necessity

for an election, the four new members of the Committee are Ned Keller, Cal Keppler, Jay Lehman, and Greg Links. They will serve three-year terms.

SPECIES ADDED TO STATE LIST: Based on research conducted by Rob Harlan, the Committee at the annual meeting voted to add gray partridge *Perdix perdix* to the official state list, bringing the current total to 408 species. Conclusive evidence was presented (readers of "Further Afield" in the last issue will be familiar with some of it) that gray partridge, while an introduced exotic species, had established a healthy breeding population in the state independent of subsequent introductions, and its extirpation came as a result of hunting and habitat change. Insert in first position under Gallinaceous Birds in the checklist, above ring-necked pheasant, as follows: "*Gray Partridge* {E}*+1" (italics indicate non-native species, E=extirpated, *=breeding confirmed, +=intentionally introduced, 1= voucher specimen exists).

Bill Whan



Members present at the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Bird Records Committee, 24 March 2001. Left to right, back row: Rob Harlan, Dave Dister, Kevin Metcalf, Bob Conlon, Tom Kemp, and Bernard Master; front row: Jim McCormac and Bill Whan. Absent: Craig Holt, Larry Rosche, and Jay Stenger. Photo by Joe Hammond.