

toward the car. Looking in the rearview mirror to see a furious bird aiming himself at you through a storm of gravel dust is an unforgettable experience. Sometimes he would halt only just before colliding with the car, then resume the onslaught.

On several occasions his hormones got the upper hand and he made contact. He rammed the sides of more than one car. Once he bashed the window of a local contractor's pickup. "He came straight at me like a rocket," the driver told us later. "He hit the front window and feathers went everywhere. He bounced over the top of my truck. I thought that was the end of him. I saw him when I left that day and amazingly he was okay." No miscalculations, these were intentional assaults on perceived trespassers. One day after another violent encounter with my wife's car, Eli dubbed the bird "the roughest of ruffed grouse." By then a familiar neighbor, the grouse never ceased to amaze and amuse over its two-month tenure at the gate.



We saw another grouse with him only once. Another male was on the scene when we reached the gate one day, but it fled upon our arrival and our grouse quickly turned his attention to us. It's safe to assume our bird was on territory and simply defending his turf from all comers. We always made it a practice to back off from every encounter, feigning defeat to satisfy the determined guardian. We know of only one human who captured the curious creature in hand. The grouse appeared to be in molt at the time, as feathers exploded in the tussle. When released, the bird ambled into the woods with ruff extended and tail at full mast. The bird appeared a few times after that encounter, then vanished into the Appalachian forest. Only a handful of Ohio birders witnessed this unusual spectacle. The grouse had his wings full dealing with the daily trespasses of locals. We can only hope that he mated successfully, perhaps passing on his uniquely assertive gene!

*Chris, Suzanne, and Elijah Bird Bedel  
Edge of Appalachia Preserve  
19 Abner Hollow Rd.  
Lynx, OH 45650*

## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

Here is a summary of actions taken by the Ohio Bird Records Committee since our last report:

**ACCEPTED RECORDS:** Documentations received from the observers specified for the following records were judged sufficient to verify them by at least nine of the eleven members of the Committee.

- Tricolored Heron—Erie County, 17 May 2001, observer B. Whan
- Glossy Ibis—Hamilton County, 6-10 September 2000, observers F. Renfrow, J. Lehman, N. Keller
- Glossy Ibis—Summit County, 5-11 November 2000, observers D. & A. Chasar, H. Petruschke, G. Leidy, E. Pierce
- White-faced Ibis—Ottawa County, 12 May 2001, observers J. Lesser, B. Whan
- Ross's Goose—Lorain County, 10 March 2001, observer V. Fazio
- Ruff—Marion County, 10 April 2001, observer B. Whan
- Townsend's Solitaire—Lake County, 17 January-21 February 2001, observers J. Pogacnik, J. McCormac, B. Whan
- Townsend's Solitaire—Wyandot County, 1&14 February 1998, observers S. Richards, J. Peacock
- Varied Thrush—Hancock County, 12 December 2000-9 April 2001, observers A. Wymer, B. Hardesty, J. McCormac, B. Whan
- Varied Thrush—Lucas County, 14-21 December 2000, observers T. Kemp, G. Links
- Kirtland's Warbler—Paulding County, 5-6 May 2001, observers M. Dunakin, J. Yochum
- Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 23 September 2000, observers S. Zadar, T. Gilliland
- Le Conte's Sparrow—Holmes County 12-21 October 2000, observer E. Yoder
- Le Conte's Sparrow—Cuyahoga County, 13-16 October 2000, observer S. Zadar
- Le Conte's Sparrow—Wyandot County, 10 April 2001, observer P. Weber
- Harris's Sparrow—Marion County, 27 December 2000, observer T. Romine
- Harris's Sparrow—Wayne County, 1 January-7 May 2001, observers J. McCormac, B. Whan

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

- Tricolored Heron—Athens County, 10 April 2001
- Ross's Goose—Delaware County, 2 February 2001
- Gyr Falcon—Ottawa County, 22 February 2001
- Dovekie—Auglaize County, 30 October 2000
- Eurasian Collared-Dove—Lucas County, 14 April 2001
- Northern Hawk Owl—Wyandot County, 17 January 2001
- Western Tanager—Cuyahoga County, 3 October 2000

**RECORDS IN RECIRCULATION:** Having received between six and eight votes to accept, the following reports are currently being recirculated in the Committee.

- Glossy Ibis—Wyandot County, 13 April 2001
- "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk—Holmes County, 18 November 2000
- Long-tailed Jaeger—Lake County, 15 September 2001
- Black-legged Kittiwake—Warren County, 2 December 2000
- Chestnut-collared Longspur—Marion County, 10 April 2001
- Shiny Cowbird—Lucas County, 5 May 2001
- Hoary Redpoll—Cuyahoga County, 20-21 January and 16-18 February 2000

The 1998 record of Townsend's solitaire, Ohio's fourth record of this species, was finally accepted based on late submission of notes from a second observer of this bird, which was reportedly seen—but not documented—by several others during an apparent two-week stay at Killdeer Plains WA.

Each spring, we rehearse the Review List in these pages. It is published so birders will know which species occur rarely enough in Ohio that it's necessary to be sure of each occurrence for the historical record. Acceptable documentation—written, photographic, tape-recorded, or specimen data—is the only way to verify such occurrences for publication and other historical purposes, and the Ohio Bird Records Committee exists in part to solicit, examine, verify, and archive this information.

These data have many uses. The taxonomy of birds changes, records committees will make mistakes, specimens may be lost, etc.; cataloging and storing these documentations will enable future researchers to use the primary evidence—written descriptions, photographs or tape recordings, comments by experts, etc.—to assess these records. Shooting a bird and preserving its remains in a museum was once necessary and acceptable as a way to document an occurrence. Complete documentations of such occurrences—absent a specimen—play an analogous role in the maintenance of modern bird records.

Inclusion on the Review List is usually governed by quantifiable data, specifically the number of verified yearly reports of a species over a ten-year period. Twenty years ago surf scoters and lesser black-backed gulls were on Ohio's Review List, but since that time increases in their abundance—measured by acceptable documentations from birders, as vetted and accumulated by the OBRC—demonstrate that these species are no longer rare but only uncommon visitors to Ohio.

The "invisible" species on the Review List are those species (over nine thousand of them, as a matter of fact) never verified as having occurred in the state. Many of us are aware of odd and half-remembered old reports, or much-disputed recent ones, of very unusual species. Some of them come from very reputable persons. Lou Campbell, for instance, reported a sooty shearwater from the western Lake Erie marshes, Bruce Peterjohn a slaty-backed gull from the northeast, and more than a century and a half ago the eminent ornithologist Jared Kirtland published a report of a specimen of brown-headed nuthatch he'd collected in Ohio; none of these is on the current official Ohio list. More recently, stories heard of other species that would have been new to Ohio—smew, acorn woodpecker, yellow-billed loon, great skua, neotropic cormorant, etc.—have subsided into the shadowy realm of rumor and hearsay because undocumented, unreviewed by the OBRC, and unpublished. Just since our last issue, two species reported (and documented) for Ohio—dovekie and Eurasian collared-dove—have failed to make the list, but these records, and the votes of Committee members, are on file and available upon request. To prevent a state of anarchy as to what is an accepted species or sighting for an area, in US states and many foreign countries bird records committees have emerged to conduct and organize peer-reviewed decisions about the species on official area lists and occurrences of rarities. Nearly all of them rely on review lists, which alert observers to which species require special efforts to add to the official lists and historical records.

Here is the current Ohio Review List, substantially unchanged (as it should be, being a conservative document) from last year's. As always, the List includes all those rarities from the official state list below, as well any species never acceptably documented for the state:

Pacific Loon	Long-billed Curlew	Western Kingbird
Western Grebe	Red-necked Stint	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Black-capped Petrel	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-billed Magpie
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Curlew Sandpiper	Common Raven
Northern Gannet	Ruff	Violet-green Swallow
Brown Pelican	Eurasian Woodcock	Boreal Chickadee
Anhinga	Parasitic Jaeger	Rock Wren
Magnificent Frigatebird	Long-tailed Jaeger	Bewick's Wren
Tricolored Heron	Black-headed Gull	Northern Wheatear
White Ibis	Heermann's Gull	Mountain Bluebird
Glossy Ibis	Mew Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
White-faced Ibis	California Gull	Varied Thrush
Roseate Spoonbill	Ross's Gull	Sprague's Pipit
Wood Stork	Ivory Gull	Bohemian Waxwing
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Royal Tern	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Ross's Goose	Arctic Tern	Townsend's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Least Tern	Kirtland's Warbler
Tufted Duck	Large-billed Tern	Swainson's Warbler
King Eider	Thick-billed Murre	Painted Redstart
Common Eider	Black Guillemot	Western Tanager
Barrow's Goldeneye	Long-billed Murrelet	Green-tailed Towhee
Swallow-tailed Kite	Ancient Murrelet	Spotted Towhee
Mississippi Kite	Atlantic Puffin	Bachman's Sparrow
Harris's Hawk	White-winged Dove	Black-throated Sparrow
Swainson's Hawk	Common Ground-Dove	Lark Bunting
Gyr Falcon	Smooth-billed Ani	Baird's Sparrow
Prairie Falcon	Groove-billed Ani	Le Conte's Sparrow
Yellow Rail	Northern Hawk Owl	Harris's Sparrow
Black Rail	Burrowing Owl	Smith's Longspur
Purple Gallinule	Great Gray Owl	Black-headed Grosbeak
Northern Lapwing	Boreal Owl	Painted Bunting
Snowy Plover	Rufous Hummingbird	Great-tailed Grackle
Wilson's Plover	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Bullock's Oriole
Piping Plover	Black-backed Woodpecker	Brambling
Black-necked Stilt	Gray Flycatcher	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Spotted Redshank	Say's Phoebe	Pine Grosbeak
Eskimo Curlew	Vermilion Flycatcher	Hoary Redpoll

*Bill Whan*