

# Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

## Jim McCormac

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This report was submitted by the Secretary on behalf of the Ohio Bird Records Committee, whose current members are Dave Dister (Germantown), Micki Dunakin (Paulding), Ned Keller (Cleves), Cal Keppler (Youngstown), Jay Lehman (Cincinnati), Greg Links (Temperance, Michigan), Bernie Master (Worthington), Jim McCormac (Columbus), Kevin Metcalf (Chardon), Larry Rosche (Kent), and Sean Zadar (Cleveland).

## Accepted Records

In order to be accepted, records require a minimum of nine accept votes from the 11-member committee.

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*—Butler County, 7 May 2002. Discovered and videotaped by Ohio Division of Wildlife photographer Skip Trask. The bird was an adult in alternate plumage; non-breeders and immatures often cannot be identified to species, muddying our knowledge of Ohio *Plegadis* ibises. This is only about the 11<sup>th</sup> record.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*—Lucas County, 19-25 May 2002. Observers: Bill Murphy et al. FIRST STATE RECORD. This bird was discovered by Indiana birders Bill Murphy and Larry Peavler, and was seen by many over the next seven days, although it was quite secretive and often difficult to detect. The garganey was also well photographed. Its addition to the Ohio avifauna brings the state list to 411 species. The only doubts cast on this bird by OBRC members were, not surprisingly, related to its origins, and two members did cast non-accept votes. However, garganey has one of the best-documented vagrancy patterns of Eurasian waterfowl that stray to North America, and the circumstances of this sighting fit the pattern perfectly.

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Lucas County, 3 June 2002. Observer: Greg Links. Approximately the 12<sup>th</sup> record, and the first since 2000. There was a strong flight of Mississippi kites to the Midwest, and beyond, this spring.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*—Sandusky County, 31 July – 3 August 2002. Observers: Charles Spagnoli, Joe Hammond, et al. Apparently this bird was discovered as early as 25 July, but no documentation was received to support that. This bird was photographed and even videotaped. It's about the 30<sup>th</sup> record since 1980; we normally get about two reports annually of late.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*—Cuyahoga County, 15 March 2002. Observer: Sean Zadar. There have been over 30 records in the last two decades, and this species may soon qualify for removal from the list of review species.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*—Butler County, 1-20 July 2002. Discovered by Tommy Schroeder, and documented by Joe Hammond, David Russell, and Jim McCormac; seen by many observers and photographed. This was an outstanding find, as it provided Ohio birders with the chance to see a species that normally does not linger. Further, it appeared to be territorial, and western kingbird is a species that may be found nesting in the state eventually (there was nesting in 1933). This is about the 15<sup>th</sup> record since 1980.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Dendroica nigrescens*—Licking County, 17 April 2002. Discovered by Scott Albaugh, and documented by Jim McCormac and Mike Williams. Our first record since 1994, and only about the 9<sup>th</sup> Ohio record. Unfortunately this bird stayed but one day, and only a fortunate few were able to see it.

**Kirtland's Warbler** *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Lucas County, 6 May 2002. Observer: Greg Links. An apparent good year for Kirtland's in Ohio, with two others being reported, but as of yet undocumented. Normally, there is about one record a year.

**Kirtland's Warbler** *Dendroica kirtlandii*—Erie County, 14 May 2002. Observer: Kevin Metcalf. This bird was also well photographed.

**Harris's Sparrow** *Zonotrichia querula*—Greene County, 6 April 2002. Observer: Dave St. John. This species is now detected almost annually, and we have had about 20 records in the last two decades.

## Records in Recirculation

Having received between six and eight votes to accept, the following records are being recirculated.

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Franklin County, 2 May 2002.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*—Sandusky County, 31 July 2002. There has only been one prior record, 21 July 1962 in Ashtabula County.

**Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli*—Ottawa County, 28 October 2001. This record has passed through three circulations without a decision. Pursuant to OBRC bylaws it must now be deliberated on and a decision reached at our annual meeting, which will be in March 2003. If accepted this would be a first state record.

## Records Pending Review

The committee is currently reviewing some of the following reports and awaiting details on the remainder.

**Plegadis ibis sp.**—Wyandot County, 29 August 2002.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*—Highland County, 20 July – at least 18 September 2002 (still present at time of this report).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*—Franklin County, 31 August 2002.

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*—Clark County, 16 August 2002.

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*—Wyandot County, 26 August 2002.

**Least Tern** *Sterna antillarum*—Ashtabula County, 19 August 2002.

**Least Tern** *Sterna antillarum*—Erie County, 29 August 2002.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*—Wyandot County, 9 August 2002. 🐦