

about nor'easters. Go to your favorite weather websites (there are many) and look for low-pressure areas in the Gulf of Mexico or off the east coast of Florida. If pressure millibars for an area register lower than 1005, you might want to keep a casual eye on it. If the pressure is below 1000mb, then by all means stay glued to this system.

Watch to see which direction it is moving and whether the pressure is going up or down. If it continues to fall, the storm will intensify. The closer the isobars (the lines measuring the pressure around the storm) are to one another, the more organized the storm cell is, and the greater the potential for strong winds. Is a high-pressure area approaching from the north or west? Will it collide or get close to the storm? Is the high-pressure area above 1030mb? If yes to all of the above, it will increase the power of the storm dramatically.

Finally, birders should consider what birds are in greatest numbers along the coast at the time of the storm. This would certainly be a major factor in what one might see with the storm passage. In the case of the gannets, we had two really good storms at a really good time for gannet migration peaking along the east coast. Together they made up an Ohio birder's "Perfect Storm." 🐦



Mid- to late November usually marks the arrival of purple sandpipers in Ohio. This individual was seen and photographed at Conneaut Harbor in Ashtabula County on 18 November 2002. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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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.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*—Cuyahoga County, 16 November 2002. Observers: Ed Schlabach, Kevin Metcalf; photographed. 13th record since 1980.

Northern Gannet *M. bassanus*—Ashland County, 4 December 2002. Found injured by Nick Thomas, later expired. Documentation and photographs supplied by Tim Leslie. 14th record since 1980.

Northern Gannet *M. bassanus*—Seneca County, 4 December 2002. Found injured, bird soon expired. Information and photos supplied by Mona Rutger and Vic Fazio. 15th record since 1980.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—Lucas County, 22 August 2002. A nebulous record, in that exact dates of stay are not known, and to our knowledge the bird was never seen by experienced birders. All scattered reports, of at least one pelican from the Western Basin of Lake Erie throughout summer and fall, originated from boaters and fisherman. Fortunately, a boater took a photo of the bird on the Toledo lighthouse that clearly showed it to be a juvenile Brown Pelican. Ohio's fourth record.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*—Highland County, 20 July – 20 October 2002. Observers: Joe Hammond et al.; photographed. Ohio's second record. See article elsewhere in this issue for details.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*—Lake County, 27 November – at least mid-December 2002. Observer: Nick Barber; videotaped, photographed. About the 27th record in the last two decades.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*—Lake County, 3 November – at least 31 December 2002 (still present at the time of this writing). Observer: Haans Petruschke; later photographed. Ohio's second record.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Franklin County, 2 May 2002. Accepted after second round of circulation. Observer: Jim McCormac. Approximately the 12th Ohio record.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*—Clark County, 16 August 2002. Observers: Doug Overacker, Troy Shively; photographed. At least the 44th record since 1980.

California Gull *Larus californicus*—Lake County, 3 November 2002. Observer: Larry Rosche. At least the 30th record.

Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope*—Ross County, 28 October – 1 November 2002. Observer: Allen Chartier; photographed. FIRST STATE RECORD, species #412 on the state list. See detailed account elsewhere in this issue.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*—Logan County, 26 September – at least 31 December 2002 (still present at the time of this writing). Observers: Donna and Tim Daniel, Allen Chartier; photographed. This bird was captured, banded, and documented. Ohio's 15th record.

Rufous Hummingbird *S. rufus*—Franklin County, 27 October – 6 December 2002. Observers: Sandra and John Langendorfer, Allen Chartier; photographed. Bird was captured and documented. It already was banded, having been caught on 20 November 2001 in South Carolina as a hatch-year bird. Ohio's 16th record.

Rufous Hummingbird *S. rufus*—Wayne County, September – at least 31 December 2002 (still present at the time of this writing). Observers: Ruth Vandersall, Su Snyder, Bruce Glick, Allen Chartier; photographed. This bird was captured, banded, and documented. Ohio's 17th record.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Wyandot County, 9 August 2002. Observers: Charlie and Linda Bombaci; photographed. At least the 16th record since 1980.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*—Wyandot County, 26 October 2002. Observer: Ronald Sempier; photographed.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*—Fairfield County, 20-26 November 2002. Observers: Debbie Bradley, Joe Hammond; photographed. At least the 17th record in the last two decades.

Records Not Accepted

Documentations received for the following reports received fewer than six votes to accept, and were hence not accepted.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*—Sandusky County, 31 July 2002. There has been only one prior record of this species in Ohio, on 21 July 1962. The overarching general concern nearly all members expressed regarded the conditions under which the bird was seen. Both observers who documented this bird noted that they were looking into the sun, and heat waves were at times oppressive and obscured the bird, which was about 50 yards distant. Only one observer had firsthand field experience with red-necked stint. Some details were not described, such as wing length, primary extension, and tail length. Much was made of the coloration—this being an adult in alternate plumage—yet there were some inconsistencies in the two descriptions, and some features such as the chin coloration were not correctly described. It was also felt by many that little stint *Calidris minuta*—even though more unlikely—could not be ruled out.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*—Cuyahoga County, 11 November 2002. None of the members questioned that a jaeger was seen, but most had problems with a specific identification and felt that the bird could be accepted only as jaeger sp. Some specific concerns included the following: no description of wingbeat style or undertail pattern; no mention of relative size in relation to nearby gulls; and upperwing description does not definitively eliminate pomarine jaeger *S. pomarinus*.

Records in Recirculation

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

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

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*—Wayne County, late October – at least 31 December 2002 (still present at the time of this writing).

Rufous Hummingbird *S. rufus*—Clermont County, early November – 28 December 2002. 🐦



The only Harris's sparrow of the season appeared at a Fairfield County feeder in late November. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond on 21 November 2002.



Present from 20 July - 20 October 2002, four immature roseate spoonbills at Rocky Fork State Park in Highland County provided Ohio with its second record. These cooperative birds were viewed and photographed by many birders during a record-breaking stay. Photo credits, clockwise from top: Lana Hays (14 September 2002), Bill Hull (26 August 2002), Lana Hays (14 September 2002), Dave Russell (31 August 2002).