

diminished numbers, compared with former days; and many species, formerly very common, are no longer seen.

Still greater changes, if possible, have occurred with the finny tribes. The Sturgeon has nearly forsaken this shore of the Lake; the Muskallonge has become scarce, and no longer seeks the mouth of the rivers to deposit its spawn. All the migratory species have been excluded from the Mahoning river by the construction of dams on the Big Beaver. Many smaller species have increased in all our waters since the larger and more voracious have been reduced in numbers. The slaughter houses about the rivers, afford them large supplies of food, and contribute to their increase. Artificial slack waters, canals and basins have also in many localities effected similar results.

No one will probably regret that the venomous reptiles have been so nearly exterminated. A sufficient number remains. Only two years since *seven* Copper Heads were taken near the mouth of Rocky river, in Rockport, and no less than forty were killed in one day, a few years since, by some Irishmen engaged in excavating the Mahoning canal, north of Lowell, in Mahoning county.

With equal pleasure we should greet the disappearance of many of the annoying insects.

All the species of Land Snails in this country are harmless, as are also the Mollusca inhabiting the fresh water shells. Most of them are rapidly disappearing. Swine, Turkeys, Ducks and Hens destroy the Land Snails, and during low stages of water in our streams, swine prey on the muscles.

Our canals and reservoirs form favorable localities for the increase of these muscles, and may perhaps preserve some species from total extermination.

Other changes are also occurring in our vegetable and animal kingdoms. New species are constantly finding their way among us—some proving to be useful and valuable, others noxious and nuisances.



Perhaps our most beautiful migrant sparrow, Lincoln's is common for only a few days every spring. This one was at the Magee bird trail 14 May. Photo by Jason Estep.

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

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After a hiatus of several months, the Ohio Bird Records Committee returned to action this spring, sporting four new members: Dwight Chasar (Northfield); Tom Hissong (Dayton); Tom Kemp (Whitehouse); and Ben Morrison (Alliance). They join current members Rob Harlan (Norton), Ned Keller (Clevs), and Sue Tackett (Dayton).

Since no rare bird documentations from late 2003 or 2004 had been reviewed, the OBRC had the task of reviewing 55 new documentations from 2003/2004 and four records still in circulation. Of these 59 records, 45 were accepted by the committee, four were not accepted, and 10 remain in circulation.

Accepted Records

- Ross's goose - Stark Co., 24-26 Nov. 2003; observers
C. Greenfield, J. Estep, P. Gardner, C. Caldwell, K. Metcalf.
- Ross's goose - Summit Co., 10 Jan 2003; observer F. Losi.
- Ross's goose - Medina Co., 29 Mar 2004; observer J. Perchalski.
- Ross's goose - Portage Co., 10-18 Dec 2004; observer L. Rosche.
- Cackling goose - Clark Co., 13 Nov 2004; observer B. Whan.
- Cackling goose - Preble Co., 5 Dec 2004; observer J. Stenger.
- Western grebe - Warren Co., 8 Nov 2004; observer F. Frick.
- American white pelican - Mahoning Co., 6 Jun 2004; observer L. Hartman.
- Tricolored heron - Erie Co., 30 May 2004; observer C. Caldwell.
- Glossy ibis - Erie Co., 30 Aug 2004; observer J. Lehman
- White-faced ibis - Marion Co., 1 May 2004; observers B. Sparks, P. Gardner
- White-faced ibis - Wood Co., 9 May 2004; observer P. Chad
- Mississippi kite - Lucas Co., 12 May 2004; observer G. Klug
- Prairie falcon - Muskingum Co., 15 & 25 Feb 2004; observers R. Rogers,
K. Davis, D. Linzell, A. Ryff
- Piping plover - Highland Co., 25 Apr 2004; observer T. Shively
- Piping plover - Gallia Co., 10 Oct 2004; observer H. Slack
- Black-necked stilt - Preble Co., 8 May 2004; observer J. Jaskula
- Black-necked stilt - Sandusky Co., 12 Jul 2004; observer S. Zadar
- Black-necked stilt - Ottawa Co., 6 Jun 2004; observer E. Pierce
- Black-necked stilt - Ottawa Co., 17 Oct 2004; observer S. Snyder
- Black-necked Stilt - Marion Co., 7 Jun 2004; observer B. Whan
- Baird's sandpiper - Scioto Co., 17 Apr 2004; observers B. Sparks, P. Gardner
- Ruff - Marion Co., 16 May 2004; observer D. Overacker
- Long-tailed jaeger - Franklin Co., 8 Oct 2003; observer J. Sauter
- California gull - Lorain Co., 3 Jan 2004; observer K. Miller

Least tern - Hamilton Co., 25 Aug 2004; observer F. Frick
 Rufous hummingbird - Butler Co., 21 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Darke Co., 15 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Lucas Co., 16 Dec 2003; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Summit Co., late Sep to 4 Dec 2003; observer L. Rosche
 Rufous hummingbird - Muskingum Co., 20 Nov 2003; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Franklin Co., 14 Nov 2003; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Hamilton Co., 17 Oct 2003 to 20 Mar 2004; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Ross Co., 3 Nov 2004; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Muskingum Co., 3 Nov 2004; observer A. Chartier
 Rufous hummingbird - Knox Co., 8 Oct 2004; observer A. Chartier
 Say's phoebe - Holmes Co., 20-27 Oct 2004; observer S. Snyder
 Say's phoebe - Cuyahoga Co., 23 Oct 2004; observer S. Zadar
 Loggerhead shrike - Adams Co., 9 May 2004; observer L. Brumbaugh
 Varied thrush - Medina Co., 26 & 28 Nov 2004; observer D. Riffle
 "Audubon's" warbler - Cuyahoga Co., 19 & 24 Jan 2004; observer S. Zadar
 Kirtland's warbler - Cuyahoga Co., 16 May 2004; observer R. Nicholls
 Kirtland's warbler - Knox Co., 8 May 2004; observers E. & R. Hochstetler
 Kirtland's warbler - Lake Co., 25 Sep 2004; observer H. Petruschke
 Painted bunting - Medina Co., 9 May 2004; observer B. Toneff

Records Not Accepted

Western gull - Cuyahoga Co., 11 Mar 2003. This was a tough call, but after recirculations and consulting observers familiar with *Larus occidentalis*, the consensus was that this gull was most likely a herring X great black-backed gull. Specifically, the head and bill shape were different from what a pure Western gull should have and were more suggestive of a gull with at least some great black-backed lineage. The committee felt it prudent to be cautious in this case. Gulls are notorious for hybridization and the likelihood of this bird being a hybrid is far greater than being a pure western gull.

Eurasian collared-dove - Clinton Co. 7 Jul 2004. The committee felt that a more complete description of the bird was in order. Although the observer writes that the bird was heard, no description of the vocalization was included in the documentation.

Loggerhead shrike - Wyandot Co., 9 Nov 2003. Although this bird was apparently seen quite well, the description of the plumage and of the song fell short of distinguishing this species from northern shrike. Specifically, details concerning the extent of black in the mask and bill shape and color were lacking.

Hybrid warbler - Marion Co., 2 May 2004. Although most committee members thought this bird was probably a hybrid of some type, the parentage could not be determined. It was also suggested that perhaps the bird was an adult male orchard oriole, given the amount of chestnut (red-orange) described on this bird.

Records in Recirculation

Brown pelican - Lorain Co., 19 Sep 2003
Plegadis ibis - Erie Co., 25 Oct 2004
 Swainson's hawk - Lake Co., 20 Nov 2003
 Yellow rail - Hamilton Co., 15 Sep 2004
 Curlew sandpiper - Wayne Co., 16 Sep 2003
 Ruff - Wyandot Co., 18 Jul 2003
 Arctic tern - Sandusky Co., 18 Aug. 2004
 White-winged dove - Portage Co., 16, 17, & 19 Aug 2004
 Rufous Hummingbird - Lorain Co., 31 Oct & 21 Nov 2003
 Bohemian Waxwing - Cuyahoga Valley NP, 6 Mar 2004

New Circulations

Fulvous whistling-duck - Mercer Co., 9-12 May 2005
 Tricolored heron - Lucas Co., 21 May 2005
 Glossy ibis - Ottawa NWR, 14-24 May 2005
 White-faced ibis - Ottawa NWR, 14-24 May 2005
 Mississippi kite - Scioto Co., 1 May 2005
 Gyrfalcon - Guernsey/Noble Cos., 25 Jan 2005.
 Yellow rail - Lucas Co., 5-19 May 2005
 Piping plover - Scioto Co., 30 Apr 2005; Caesar Creek SP, 29 April-4 May 2005
 Red-naped sapsucker - Holmes Co., 4 Apr 2005
 Black-throated gray warbler - Kelley's Island, 9 May 2005
 Kirtland's Warbler - Adams Co., 30 Apr 2005; Magee Marsh 16 & 25 May 2005
 Swainson's warbler - Mohican SP, 21 May 2005

The Status of Cackling Goose in Ohio - We Need Your Help!

I cannot claim to be an expert on the identification of the newly-split cackling goose *Branta hutchinsii*. I have seen just one such bird in almost 40 years of birding in Ohio. In fact, an informal poll of OBRC members at their March 2005 meeting suggested that, collectively, we had seen fewer than 10 individual cackling geese in Ohio. This was one reason we voted to place the cackling goose on Ohio's review list of bird species. In addition, by carefully documenting its occurrence in the state, we hope to gain a better understanding of its status and perhaps some better ways to distinguish it from other small forms of Canada geese. The taxonomy of this group is far from clear, but with careful observation we may be able to shed additional light on its status in Ohio.