

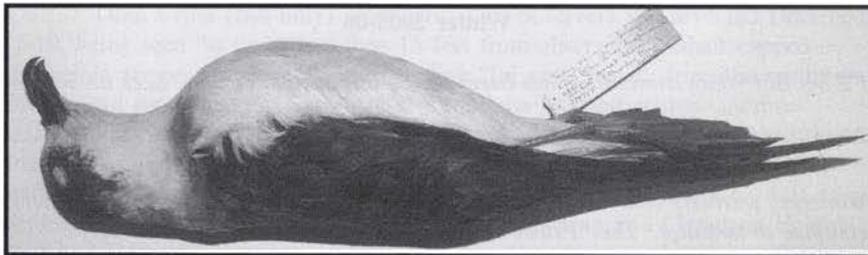
Short Note: Ohio's Black-capped Petrel Records

by Robert Foppe
5476 Mt. Zion Road, Milford OH 45150
fopsinc@aol.com

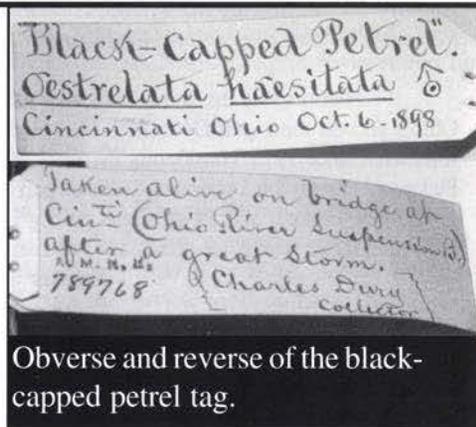
As recently as three years ago there was an effort to uncover some of the mysteries behind the appearance of black-capped petrels in the Cincinnati area after a hurricane passage in October 1898. You can read Bill Whan's article in the *Ohio Cardinal* Vol. 26 (2):71-76.

The article makes it clear some questions remain about the occurrence of the petrels. First, exactly how many birds were involved? Second, were the birds ever actually in Ohio? Third, are there any specimens still in existence other than the one housed at the Cincinnati Museum Center?

While I wish I could answer the first two questions, I do not have any relevant new information. As to the third, I have come across another specimen. The specimen was found in the ornithology collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Thanks to Tom Trombone of AMNH, we know the specimen was in the collection of Dr. Leonard C. Sanford and the tag reveals it was a male collected by Charles Dury on the suspension bridge in Cincinnati on 10/5/1898. Given this information, it seems this is the specimen dug up from the manure heap at the Cincinnati Zoo by Dury. There were reports that Dury had sold this specimen, but no one was positive as to who bought it, where it went, and where the specimen is today. From the information provided by the AMNH, skin #749105 appears to be that missing Dury specimen. Dr. Sanford (1868-1950), of New Haven, CT, was an enthusiastic collector. As an AMNH trustee, he was a very significant benefactor to its collections.



Lateral view of the Ohio black-capped petrel skin discovered at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.



Obverse and reverse of the black-capped petrel tag.

The 2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

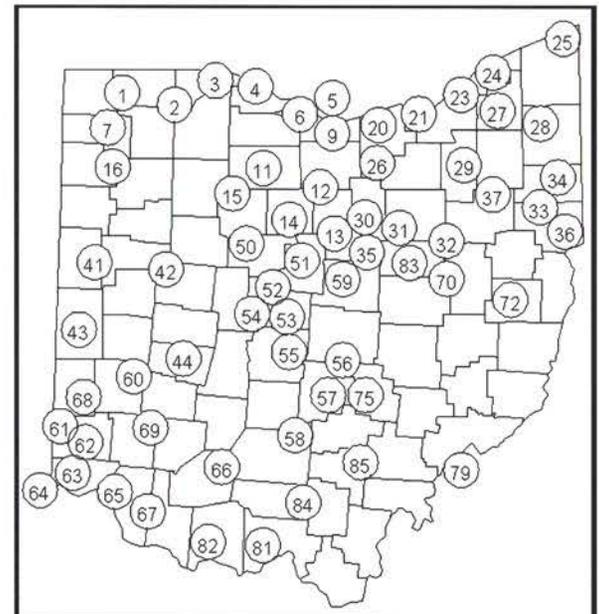
Ned Keller
7899 Bridgetown Rd., Cleves, OH 45002
keller@one.net

The following tables present results from 64 CBC circles, including a new one, Caesar Creek/Spring Valley, whose 88 species were the state's second highest. Millersburg took high species count honors with 95. Other high circles were Cincinnati (87 species); Cuyahoga Falls (85); Adams Co., Brown Family Educational Center, Ottawa N.W.R., and Toledo (all with 84); and Hamilton-Fairfield (84). We found a total of 155 species statewide this year, up from last year's 150, plus three additional species count week.

The list includes fully 23 species found in only a single circle. One species not listed is northern saw-whet owl. A few years ago, I wouldn't have been too surprised that none of this notoriously secretive species were found, though we have in fact found at least one in each of the past ten years. But recent banding studies show they are far more common than we thought. The Lake Monroe, Indiana counters found nine this year by playing tapes. Ohio counters should take that number as a challenge for next year.

In an invasion year for red-breasted nuthatches, we found 869, on 60 of the 64 counts. Over the past ten years, we managed to find them on no more than 50 counts. Other species normally quite scarce were easier to find this year, for example gray catbird and chipping sparrow. Both species are the subject of regular misidentifications, but these numbers are far too high to be explained by errors. Still, the only rare warblers found this year were the semi-expected pine warbler, palm warbler and common yellowthroat.

As in past years, I have attempted to report the results as I received them, without editorial comment on doubtful records. Anyone wishing to use these data for serious purposes should verify them with the individual count compilers.



Map numbers correspond to count numbers in the following reports.