

western plains was seen by dozens of competent birders from around the state during this period. All were rewarded for their efforts. Groups assembled in the main room of the cottage, where the west window looked out over the bird feeding area. We moved furniture around so as to permit easy viewing and picture-taking through the open window with the screen removed. It was a great birding time for us all.

While many photos were taken by visiting birders, I could find only one in the Sheldon's Folly archives. On the reverse side of the photo is the notation (again in my handwriting): "Feb 1972, Sheldon's Folly." The name "Harris Sparrow" was written in by someone else—probably Tim Brugeman who worked with us at the Folly for many years. Tim is well known as the long-time director of the Hancock County Park District. I just cannot come up with a date for the last sighting of the bird during the winter or early spring of 1973. I am certain it continued there for all (or the better part) of that winter season. It is not unlike so many other rare bird sightings, i.e. the excitement is at the beginning. Eager birdwatchers join in their frenzy to see the rarity and then...."poof," suddenly the object of our collective interest vanishes, never to be seen again at that location. What is really gratifying is to know, for certain, that this was a truly rare happenstance. We were fortunate to be a part of that phenomenon. It was all fun and, during those times, it made an awful lot of people happy.



This photo, taken during Feb 1972 at Sheldon's Folly, documents the appearance of the Harris's sparrow there (photo courtesy of Dean Sheldon)

## Short Note: Ohio's First Confirmed Anna's Hummingbird

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Ohio's first-record Anna's hummingbird *Calypte anna* spent more than a month, from 12 November 2005 through 24 December 2005, at the Dan and Wanda Schmitz residence in West Chester Township, Butler County. Dan Schmitz noticed on 12 November a hummingbird coming to a feeder he had forgotten to take down. The bird continued to visit the feeder, and after a few days Schmitz contacted the Cincinnati Zoo and the Hamilton County Parks District for advice.

Both the zoo and the park district recommended that Schmitz keep the feeder up, and assured him the hummingbird would eventually leave on its own. Jerry Lippert, a naturalist with Hamilton County Parks, suggested Schmitz post a note about the sighting on the Birding in Cincinnati web site ([www.cincinnatibirds.com](http://www.cincinnatibirds.com)).

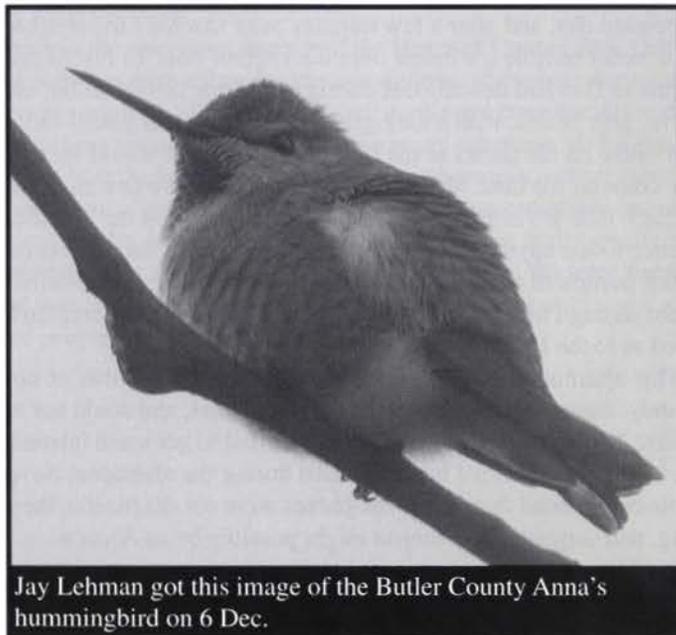
On 1 December Schmitz left a brief a note there, announcing that a ruby-throated hummingbird was frequenting his backyard feeder. I called him and arranged to visit his home on Friday 2 December to see what I assumed would be a hatch-year *Selasphorus* hummingbird—most likely a rufous hummingbird, which I considered more likely than a ruby-throated at this time of year.

My two-year-old daughter Grace and I visited the Schmitz residence on the appointed day, and after a few minutes' wait saw the hummingbird appear at a feeder outside a window over the kitchen sink. To my surprise, the bird was just as Dan had described it during our phone conversation: mostly green above, gray below, with a dark-gray, triangular throat patch—no signs of rufous anywhere on the flanks or the tail. I had assumed I would see at least a little more color on the bird. My views that afternoon were few and short in duration. Each time it visited the feeder, it chose a perch on the far side, giving me no chance to see anything other than the bird's flanks, some of its back, and the posterior portion of the side of its head. I took a few less-than-satisfactory photographs through the window, and left after an hour or so, completely confounded as to the identity of the hummingbird.

That afternoon I forwarded the photographs to a number of birders. Unfortunately, many were out of town for the weekend, and could not reply immediately. However, that evening I was gratified to get some interesting responses to the poor photos I had circulated during the afternoon. Several respondents commented that, while the photos were not diagnostic, they were compelling, and suggested the subject might possibly be an Anna's hummingbird.

Jon Dunn and Chris Wood, who happened to be in Ohio that week, were asked if they would be interested in visiting the Schmitz residence to see if they could confirm the identity of the hummingbird. On Sunday 4 December, Dunn, Wood, Charlotte Mathena, Sue Tackett, Ned Keller, and I visited the Schmitz house. The hummingbird spent quite a bit of time perched on a bush in the Schmitz's backyard, as well as making regular feeding forays to the feeder by the kitchen window. Dunn almost immediately identified the bird as an Anna's hummingbird, and had it in the view of his scope within minutes of arriving at the Schmitz residence. Wood obtained diagnostic photographs, proving that the unusual visitor at the Schmitz feeder was, indeed a first state record for Ohio.

Dan and Wanda Schmitz were exemplary and patient hosts, and thanks to them over 145 people from nine different states were able to see the Anna's hummingbird between 4 December and 24 December 2005. Everyone who arranged to visit saw the bird, and many sent photos to Dan Schmitz for a scrapbook he put together, documenting its stay. The Schmitzes always kept an extra filled hummingbird feeder on a hot-air register, using it to replace the outside feeder when empty or frozen. After making it through some rather intensely cold and snowy periods—temperatures as low as 13° F and snow as deep as five inches—the Anna's hummingbird departed sometime during the afternoon of Christmas Eve, shortly before the onset of another period of cold weather. During its stay in West Chester, the bird seemed in excellent health. It showed no physical signs of distress; its plumage always looked well-cared for, etc. There's every reason to believe it simply decided to move on to another locale.



Jay Lehman got this image of the Butler County Anna's hummingbird on 6 Dec.

## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

### Tom Kemp, Secretary

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Forty-two records were reviewed in February and March 2006 by the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Most of the reports were from the last half of 2005, but a few were recirculations from prior years and three were from early 2006. Thirty-four of the records were accepted by the Committee, six were not accepted, and two remain in circulation. Among the accepted records are three state firsts: sooty tern, green violet-ear, and Anna's hummingbird.

### Accepted Records

Ross's goose *Chen rossii*: 9 Jan 2006: Cuyahoga Co.; C. Caldwell

Ross's goose: 21 Dec 05 to 5 Jan 2006: Clinton Co.; E. Mitchell

Ross's goose: 12 Nov 2005: Auglaize Co.; R. Rogers, B. Whan

Ross's goose: 28 Jan 2006: Lorain Co.; L. Hershberger, S. Snyder, m.obs.

Cackling goose *Branta hutchinsii*: 18 Dec 2004: Butler Co.; M. Busam

Cackling goose: 31 Oct 2005: Summit Co.; R. & S. Harlan

Cackling goose: 23 Oct 2004: Summit Co.; R. Rogers

Cackling goose: 12 Nov 2005: Auglaize Co.; R. Rogers, B. Whan

Brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: 19 September 2003: Lorain Co.;

W. Reid

White ibis *Eudocimus albus*: 5 July 2005: Cuyahoga Valley NP; K. Rado

White ibis: 24 July 2005: Franklin Co.; A. Sasson

Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 24 Sep 2005: Trumbull Co.; B. Whan

Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*: 20 November 2003: Fairport Harbor;

L. Rosche, R. Hannikman.

Yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*: 15 September 2004: Miami-

Whitewater Park; R. Rogers.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*; 18 July 2003: Wyandot Co.; R. Counts

Ruff; 2 Oct 2005: Ottawa NWR; R. Johnson