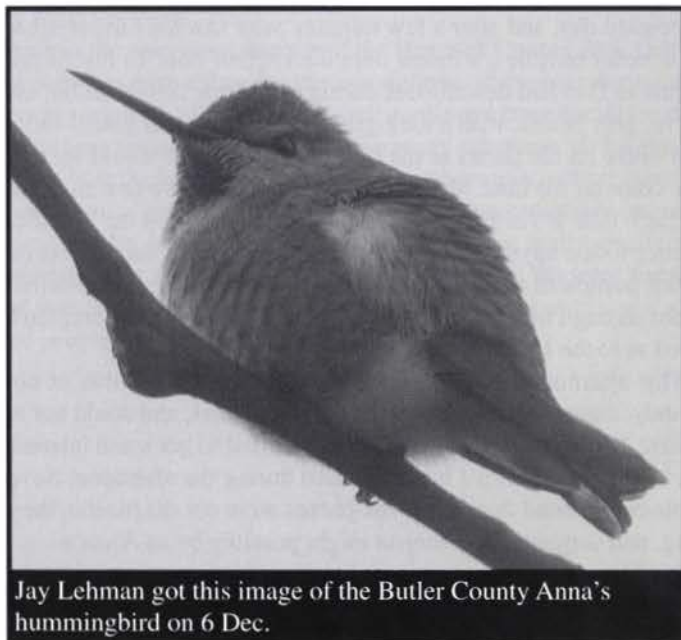


Jon Dunn and Chris Wood, who happened to be in Ohio that week, were asked if they would be interested in visiting the Schmitz residence to see if they could confirm the identity of the hummingbird. On Sunday 4 December, Dunn, Wood, Charlotte Mathena, Sue Tackett, Ned Keller, and I visited the Schmitz 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

7032 Regents Park Blvd., Toledo, OH 43617
andigena@aol.com

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

- Mew gull *Larus canus*: 15 Jan 2006: Erie Co.; S. Zadar
- California gull *Larus californicus*: 26 Jan 2006: Lorain Co.; S. Zadar
- Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*: 13-19 July 2005: Clermont Co.: D. Morse,
B. Whan, R. Rogers
- White-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*: 16-19 August 2004: Portage Co.; S.
Frank
- White-winged dove: 17 September 2005: Ottawa NWR; G. Miller, m.obs.
- Green violet-ear *Colibri thalassinus*: 15-16 Aug 2005: Holmes Co.; A. Miller,
G. Hostetler, others
- Anna's hummingbird *Calypte anna*: 4-11 December 2005; Butler Co.; C.
Wood, R. Epstein, m obs.
- Rufous hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*: 6-19 Nov 2005; Logan Co.; S. Ervin
- Rufous hummingbird: 19-25 Aug 2005; Union Co.; A. Chartier
- Rufous hummingbird: 9 Oct to 6 Nov 2005; Medina Co I; A. Chartier
- Rufous hummingbird: 2-16 Nov 2005; Fairfield Co.; A Chartier
- Rufous hummingbird: 29 Oct to 18 Nov 2005; Carroll Co.; A. Chartier
- Rufous hummingbird: 3-20 Nov 2005; Medina Co. II; A. Chartier
- Rufous hummingbird: late Aug to 13 Dec 2005; Lawrence Co.; A. Chartier
- Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*: 18 Sep 2005; Lake Co.; J. Talkington,
L. Rosche, R. Hannikman
- Black-billed magpie *Pica hudsonia*: 1-2 Oct 2005; Columbiana Co.;
B. Whan, R. Rogers, B. Lane
- Cave swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*: 5 Nov 2005: Lake Co.; K. Metcalf,
J. Pogacnik, m.obs.
- Black-throated gray warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*: 22 Oct 2005; Summit Co.;
E. Pierce, J. Reyda

Records Not Accepted

- Tricolored heron *Egretta tricolor*: 21 May 2005, Ottawa NWR
The committee felt that the short duration of the observation, the fact that the bird was only partially visible, and the bird's traits described (yellow lores and chestnut neck would be highly unusual at

this time of year and this age class is probably unlikely in Ohio) were not enough evidence to accept this record.

Mississippi kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*: 1 May 2005, Shawnee SF
The circumstances of this observation (50 mph on the highway, no optics) were the two primary reasons cited for not accepting this record.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*: 25 January 2005, The Wilds
The majority of committee members felt that the description offered did not eliminate the more likely Northern harrier or Northern goshawk. The documentation indicated a brief sighting of a gliding bird and the above mentioned species could not be ruled based on the information provided.

Yellow rail: 5 October 2005, Tuscarawas Co.
This bird was seen for just a few seconds as it flushed from a field. Although the secondaries were described as white, few other plumage details were included. Due to the short duration of the observation, and the difficulty in distinguishing this species from Sora in such a short time span, the committee voted not to accept.

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 6 September 2003, Wayne Co.
This was a difficult one circulated three times within the committee. In the end, members felt that this age class (juvenile) was extremely unlikely in Ohio and that the tail pattern and head coloration did not quite fit the species being described.

Rufous hummingbird: 17 November 2005, Mahoning Co.
The photographs and description provided did not allow committee members to determine what species of hummingbird this might have been.

The Ohio Bird Records Committee exists to increase knowledge of Ohio's birdlife by validating records, maintaining archives for researchers of Ohio records of occurrences of rare bird species, and establishing the official list of Ohio's bird species. The Committee relies on help from field birders who send in details of their sightings of birds on the Review List (see <http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/OBRClist.pdf>), which includes all species encountered infrequently enough in the state as to require acceptable documentation (specimen, photo, sound recording, and full written description from witnesses) for inclusion in the scientific record. Helpful information on the Committee and on documentations can be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/aboutobrc.php>.

Current members of the seven-member Committee are: Tom Kemp, Secretary (Toledo), Dwight Chasar (Northfield), Rob Harlan (Norton), Tom Hissong (Dayton), Ned Keller (Cincinnati), Ben Morrison (Alliance), and Sue Tackett (Dayton). –Ed.