

Past Sightings of Bell's Vireo
and Cinnamon Teal in Cincinnati

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Ed. Note: Mr. Randle's comments below are in reference to an article in The Ohio Cardinal Vol.III, No. 2, p. 7, concerning the Bell's Vireo that successfully nested in Lucas County, Ohio, in 1980. This Cincinnati record is the first state nesting record mentioned in that article. The comments concerning the teal are in reference to an article in the Cardinal, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 10, about a cinnamon teal sighting at Magee Marsh in 1980. This Cincinnati record was cited in that article. Incidentally, that article referred to the Magee Marsh sighting as a third state record. It has now been demoted to an eighth state record as Clark, C. F. and Sipe, J. P., Birds of the Lake St. Marys area, 1967 p. 16, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Columbus, Ohio, states:

"Clark reported three sight records from Lake St. Marys by years only: 1950, 1952 and 1953. The senior author found one of these rare birds on the Fish Farm on July 1, 1964; and Mr. & Mrs. Austil Chambers, Cincinnati, Ohio, observed one on the lake on August 29, 1964."

Bell's Vireo: June 4, 1968, while doing an official BBS count, a singing male of this species was found in Sharonville limits (just north of Cincinnati) in a thicket along the B & O railroad tracks. Sven Sjordahl was doing that count for us along with my partner who has done the driving and recording and timing for all counts for the 15 years the BBS has been in operation in this part of the U.S. Sven heard the Bell's singing during an intermission (caused by a rainy front which moved in during his count) in the census. He didn't recognize the song. He and Art Wiseman called me that evening after Sjordahl had listened to some birdsong records he had at home and told me the story and, of course, I went out the next day with Wiseman to check out the bird which they suspected might be a Bell's vireo. I was able to immediately confirm the bird when I heard it. I penetrated the thicket where it was singing and observed it for about 20 minutes. I felt sure from the behavior known to me that the bird had a mate on a nest. I called another local birder who travelled near the area to and from work every day. He agreed to take on the finding of the nest in an area I designated. He did the job and came up with the nest which was photographed by a professional wildlife photographer (movies & still) and recorded singing. (All done with many witnesses including, eventually, all the local birdwatchers.)

Cinnamon Teal: March 20, 1951. This bird stayed around (within limits of City of Cincinnati proper) for nearly two weeks and was seen by every birdwatcher in the southwestern Ohio area who could stand on two feet. I asked one of my students who worked with me in the field to build a blind for me on the edge of the tree-surrounded backwater (Ohio River) pond which the bird frequented, so that I could study this bird's interaction with other teal species. I spent over 24 hours so doing. Many photos were taken.

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