

COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

By Craig Caldwell

We experienced typical weather during the fall of 2010 – that is to say, it varied greatly and followed no discernible pattern. Storms in mid-Aug set daily rainfall records from Dayton to Steubenville and south of that line. A storm which moved south off Lake Erie on 25 Oct had the second lowest barometric reading for the area since 1900; few daily records were set but that month's rainfall near the lake was almost double the average. Storms in late Nov set many daily records. Despite these individual events, rainfall was below average for most of the state in Aug, Sep, and Oct, with the southwest being especially dry in Sep.

The Cincinnati area had record high daily temperatures in early Aug and late Sep. Record highs were widespread on 09 and 10 Oct and 11 to 14 Nov. Though most of the new records were only a degree or two higher than the previous values, several in Oct were five to seven degrees above old values which dated back to 1949. Ironically, a record low of 24 was set in Paulding on 06 Oct and several record lows were set in the Cincinnati area during the first week of Nov.

Most species' migrations followed their usual timing though as always a few individuals were pioneers or stragglers. Several warblers, however, seemed to have both late arrivals and departures. Warblers and other neotropical migrants were plentiful; Ray Hannikman noted that he had his best Sep ever at Headlands SNP, a long-time migrant "trap". In the opposite corner of the state, the rather new Fernald Preserve in *Hamilton* and *Butler* is appearing in many reports, especially as a location for grassland species. A few water birds, among them Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, and Horned Grebe, were seen in dramatically high numbers on Lake Erie during an apparent push on 18 Nov. The Crane Creek estuary, Conneaut, Funk Bottoms, Pickerington Ponds, Hoover Reservoir, Pipe Creek, and Caesar's Creek retain their appeal to shorebirds and shorebird-watchers.

Sightings were reported in 83 of Ohio's 88 counties. Many of them were represented only in eBird, where over 70,000 entries were made during the season. The prize for wide distribution goes to American Crows, which were reported in 73 counties; runners-up were Blue Jays in 72 and Turkey Vultures in 71. Despite the large

number of data points in eBird, the editor highly values the reports submitted directly to The Cardinal. Many of those reporters do not use eBird, and the details which observers include help to enliven what could otherwise be a rather dry presentation.

Ohio's "core list" of regularly occurring species has about 300 members; 10 of them had no reported sightings this season. This compares to eight "misses" in 2008 and 12 in 2009.

Review species are found less than annually, or their annual occurrence has only been for a few recent years. The Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) maintains the core and review lists and is the repository of the documentation supporting them. This season 17 review species and one review genus were reported, with multiple sightings of several of them. Unfortunately seven of them, and some of the reports of the other 10, remain undocumented for the OBRC. The Committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Trumpeter Swan is a review species though it is not included in the count above. Despite the fact that they breed in the state, there are as yet no documented occurrences of truly wild birds in Ohio since introduction efforts began in the midwestern states. Another species which has been documented to breed in several locations in the state, but which is still a review species, is Eurasian Collared-Dove. The OBRC especially urges all observers to document sightings of it so that the spread of this recent arrival can be studied.

Review species' names are underlined in the species accounts. Reports whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously.

The editors are indebted to Robert Hershberger, editor and publisher of *The Bobolink*, for providing his journal to us. Many of his contributors' careful observations in the region which *The Bobolink* covers would not otherwise be readily available to us. *Cardinal* readers who want a more detailed look at the 12-county area

centered around Sugarcreek than we, with our state-wide mandate, can provide, are urged to subscribe. Contact Robert at 6954 C.R. 77, Millersburg, OH, 44654 for information.

The Kirtland Bird Club publishes a similar regional journal, the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, which covers seven counties in the northeast. Information is available at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 51st Supplement (2010). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. Weather data are from www.weather.gov/precip, www.extremeweatherrecords.com, and the *Plain Dealer* of 31 Dec 2010. In the species accounts, "normal" early and late dates are from Harlan and Whan, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Breeding ranges and isolated locations are from Harlan and Whan and OBBA II submissions. **County names** are in bold italics. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**

BRAS = Black River Audubon Society

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park,

Warren

CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir, **Morrow** and **Richland**

Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**

Crane Creek estuary = The northernmost part of ONWR, **Lucas**

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Summit** and **Cuyahoga**

Deer Creek = Deer Creek State Park, **Fayette** and **Pickaway**

East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**

Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Hamilton**

Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**

Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods State Park

including Acton Lake, **Butler** and **Preble**

Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, **Erie**

Killbuck Marsh = Killbuck Marsh State Wildlife Area, **Wayne** and **Holmes**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

m. obs. = Multiple Observers

Magee Marsh = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Ottawa** and **Lucas**

Medusa Marsh = the privately owned wetland along Barrett Rd. east of Bay View, **Erie**

Miami Whitewater = Miami Whitewater Forest County Park, **Hamilton**

Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, **Mahoning**

Navarre = Navarre Marsh Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Ottawa**

NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP

Oak Openings = Oak Openings Preserve

Metropark, **Lucas**

OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

OWNR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge,

Lucas and **Ottawa**

OWU = Ohio Wesleyan University, **Delaware**

Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek State Wildlife Area, **Erie**

Pleasant Hill Lake = Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland** and **Richland**

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

SWA = State Wildlife Area

Wellington Reservoir = Wellington Upground Reservoir, **Lorain**

Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**