

RECENT ACTIONS OF THE OHIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, May 2013–June 2014

By Paul Gardner

[*Editor's note: Though the actions described in this report were taken in spring 2014, I am printing them in this winter issue to speed their dissemination.*]

The period since the last Ohio Bird Records Committee report in Spring 2013 (The Ohio Cardinal 36:120-121) has been one of transition. Ned Keller stepped down as Secretary of the committee after a five-year tenure. He was succeeded by Greg Miller, who in turn stepped down due to the press of other commitments. I came on board as Secretary at the end of May 2014. Productivity has suffered, but we hope that routines and procedures are once again established and that we will begin to move through our backlog of reports at an effective pace. The current membership of the committee is Mike Busam, Paul Gardner (Secretary), Rob Harlan, Rick Nirschl, Ed Pierce, Jay Stenger, Sue Tackett, Doug Vogus and Bill Whan.

The role of the committee is to review reports of sightings of review-list species and potential first state records. The review list can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/review.php>. Reports of sightings of rare birds can be documented online using a handy form at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/committee/rarebird-submission.php>. Alternatively, information can be emailed to the secretary at psg0708@gmail.com or mailed to him at 295 Acton Road, Columbus, OH, 43214. While the committee endeavors to glean reports of sightings of rarities from the numerous and seemingly ever-expanding corpus of internet sources, many reports never come to the committee's attention. Direct submission of reports is the only sure way to see that a sighting becomes part of Ohio's official ornithological record.

All common and scientific names, and the taxonomic order in which the records are presented, follow the Fifty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds.

Since the last published summary, the committee has resolved eight reports, all but one being accepted. Acceptance of a record requires approval by at least eight of the committee members. Records receiving five to seven votes for acceptance are recirculated to the committee for up to three rounds of voting. Records receiving less than five votes to accept are not accepted.

Records Accepted

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): One individual, **Geauga**, 04 April 2013, documentation by Wes Hatch, photograph by Matt Valencic; vote 9-0.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*): One individual, **Ottawa**, 29-30 April 2013, documentation by Dave Slager; vote 9-0.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): One individual, **Ottawa**, 04 May 2013, documentation by Dave Slager; vote 9-0.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*): One individual, **Ashtabula**, 24 May 2013, documentation by Robert Lane; vote 9-0.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*): One individual, **Hamilton**, 02 June 2013, documentation by Alan Claybon and Laura Keene; vote 9-0.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*): One individual, **Lucas**, 15 May 2013, documentation by Dave Slager; vote 9-0. (Additional documentation by Craig Caldwell)

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): One individual, **Paulding**, 06 August 2012, documentation by Doug and Micki Dunakin; vote 9-0.

Record Not Accepted

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*): One individual, **Franklin**, 26 January 2013; vote 0-9. The documentation did not eliminate other species.

Paul Gardner has been a resident of Columbus for the past 23 years. He is a native of North Carolina, where he took a PhD in anthropology from the University of North Carolina specializing in the archaeology of the eastern United States. He has been a serious birder since 2002, when he discovered the Columbus Avids. From April 2007 through October 2008, he compiled a weekly Rare Bird Alert for Ohio, and in 2007 joined with Greg Miller, Dan Sanders, Bill Whan and Joe Hammond to develop an Ohio Checklist with Difficulty Codes (http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/checklist/field/4Column_Codes.pdf).