

THE

# OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE • VOL. 38, NO. 1, FALL 2014





*Birders flocked to Headlands for a glimpse of this rare Northern Wheatear, whose image was skillfully captured by Cory “Chia” Chiappone on 09 Sep.*

**On the cover:**

*This Swallow-tailed Kite delighted all as it gracefully soared over the fields of **Highland**, swooped to snatch insects, and then fed on the wing. This stunning image was taken by Roger Hickey on 16 Aug.*

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## COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

### By Craig Caldwell

The monthly average temperatures in Aug, Sep, and Oct were in the middle third of their historical ranges. Nov, however, was among the coldest 10% of the 120 years with data. (Every state east of the Mississippi, in fact, had below average temperatures that month.) Aug was wetter than usual; a band across the central third of the state received three to four times its usual rainfall and the northeast about 1.5 times its average. Precipitation in Sep and Nov was below average, at about the 25th percentile both months. Oct rainfall for the state as a whole was about average, though a band from Mercer to Cuyahoga received up to triple its normal amount and the area from Columbus to its south had only about a quarter of its norm.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>).

This season presented like most other recent autumns, with many species adhering to their historical first-arrival and last-departure dates but a significant number staying later than in previous years. Naturally, a few buck the overall trend, with last sightings earlier than usual. Several waterfowl arrived early, and several of their species' numbers were higher than usual. Shorebird arrival dates were typical (most start showing up in Jul), but there were a few late departures. Upland Sandpiper and Whimbrel counts were higher than normal, to the delight of viewers. Many shorebird sightings came from newly-publicized Celotex Marsh, and the Hardin Wetlands reappeared in the listings after a hiatus.

Gull timing was similar to that of most other years, but numbers of many of the sought-after fall and winter visitors were significantly higher than usual. In contrast, numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls were much lower than usual at every banding station except Kelleys Island. Rufous Hummingbirds were scarce. Several swallow and warbler species had stragglers remain for weeks after we usually see their last. A nice selection of winter finches began arriving, but in very small numbers consistent with predictions of a "non-invasion" winter.

This issue, like that of a year ago, includes the results of the Fall Census conducted in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Because it is an effort by many groups covering a large area, its counts are usually not included as the high numbers cited in the Species Accounts; those are limited to numbers by single individuals or parties.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>), the Ohio-birds listserv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH/>), rarebird.org (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), *The Bobolink* (courtesy of its editor, Robert Hershberger, and his contributors), and the Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log (<http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>). All but *Meigs* of our 88 counties are represented in the sources, though contributions were scarce from *Coshocton*, *Morgan*, *Van Wert*, and *Williams*. European Starlings were reported in every county but *Meigs*; four species were seen in 86 counties, and 15 more were seen in 80 to 85.

This *Cardinal* issue contains reports for 313 species, the second highest for the season since I became Editor. (I re-

ported on 317 in fall 2012.) Entries for eight hybrids are also included as are 11 entries at the genus or family level. Both numbers are unusually high, the latter because I choose to include more of them now than I or my predecessors used to. I attribute the increase in hybrid reports to greater consciousness of them among birders.

Twenty review species are listed; their names are underlined. At least one sighting was documented for all of them but King Eider and Mississippi Kite, either directly to the Ohio Bird Records Committee or indirectly to it through an internet posting (A post that you saw a rare bird without including a description or photo is not documentation.) Five of this season's review species are among those whose documentation was accepted by the OBRC, and the reporters are named in the accounts. Reviews of Arctic Loon, Townsend's Solitaire, Harris's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting documentation are in process. However, many internet reports of review species contained no supporting information and will not be published. An account for Trumpeter Swan is included as usual but it is not part of the above number of Review List species, nor is the account of a non-Yellow Rail.

The Records Committee and this editor urge 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>. Detailed reports for Mississippi Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven are especially important to thoroughly chronicle these species' apparent range expansions into Ohio.

As an aside, late in 2014 the American Birding Association changed its rules for "countability" of reintroduced native species. Those which have produced young in the wild, regardless of whether the new population is growing or sustainable, may now be counted for ABA-list purposes. Trumpeter Swan may or may not be in this category. In my opinion the evidence that it was a breeding species in the past in Ohio is exceedingly thin, so their "reintroduction" to my mind is an *introduction* and I don't count them. But the issue isn't settled (and may never be) and birders are welcome to count by any criteria they choose for all purposes except reporting to the ABA. That being said, I urge all of us to follow the ABA Code of Ethics, found at <http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>, regardless of how we count for our lists. If you don't have internet access, drop me a line by postal mail and I'll send you a copy of the Code.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 55th Supplement (2014). 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>. County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example Ashtabula (city) and Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described as in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. 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.

**Abbreviations:**

Alum Creek = Alum Creek Reservoir, *Delaware*, unless otherwise noted  
 Armleder Park = a Cincinnati city park on the Little Miami River, *Hamilton*  
 Avon Power = the generating station in Avon Lake, *Lorain*, whose hot-water discharge is viewed from Miller Park.  
 Berlin Lake = Berlin Lake (or Reservoir), *Mahoning* and *Portage*.  
 Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, *Marion*  
 Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, *Franklin*  
 The Bowl = a limited-access area near the *Harrison* airport.  
 BRAS = Black River Audubon Society  
 BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
 Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, *Clark*  
 Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, mostly *Warren* and a bit in *Clinton*  
 CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee  
 Cedar Point Chausee = the section of Cedar Point Road which crosses the eastern end of Sandusky Bay in *Erie*. Not to be confused with the Cedar Point Causeway (Cedar Point Drive), the main access route to the amusement park.  
 Celotex Marsh = a wetland on East Lockwood Road near Port Clinton, *Ottawa*  
 Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir (or Lake), partly in *Morrow* but most of the birding is done in the larger *Richland* Section.  
 CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), *Cuyahoga*  
 Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, *Ashtabula*  
 CP = County Park  
 CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas*  
 CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, *Cuyahoga* and (mostly) *Summit*  
 Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, *Franklin*  
 Deer Creek = the State Park is in *Pickaway*, the Wildlife Area is in *Fayette*, and Deer Creek Lake is in both but mostly in *Pickaway*  
 East Fork = East Fork State Park, *Clermont*  
 East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, *Ottawa*  
 Edgewater = the Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront Metroparks, *Cuyahoga*  
 Fernald = Fernald Preserve, *Butler* and *Hamilton*  
 Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in *Hancock*  
 Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Ashland* and (mostly) *Wayne*  
 Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, *Lake*  
 Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, several non-contiguous areas around the north end of Hoover Reservoir, *Delaware*  
 Hoover Reservoir = the northern 80% is in *Delaware*, but the dam is in *Franklin*  
 Kelleys Island = the island and adjoining waters, *Erie*  
 Killbuck = Killbuck State Wildlife Area, *Holmes* and *Wayne*  
 Killdeer = Killdeer Plains State Wildlife Area; a bit is in *Marion* but it's mostly in *Wyandot*  
 LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, *Geauga*  
 Lake Erie Bluffs = Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark, *Lake*  
 Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown

in the city and county of the same name, unless otherwise noted  
 m. obs. = Multiple Observers  
 Magee = the boardwalk and immediate vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted. The northern third of the causeway is also in *Lucas*, the rest in *Ottawa*.  
 Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, *Lucas*, unless otherwise noted  
 Medusa = Medusa Marsh, *Erie*, an informally named and privately owned area between Sandusky and Bay View  
 Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas*  
 Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in *Mahoning*  
 Mohican = Mohican State Forest and State Park. Many trails cross the boundaries so some reports include sightings from both.  
 Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, *Ashland*  
 Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, (mostly) *Ashland* and (slightly) *Richland*  
 Mosquito Lake = Mosquito Creek Lake, also called Mosquito Creek Reservoir, *Trumbull*. Mosquito (Creek) Wildlife Area adjoins it.  
 MP = Metro Park, MetroPark, or Metropark depending on the system  
 NC = Nature Center  
 NP = Nature Preserve, except as part of CVNP  
 OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee  
 OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, *Lucas*  
 ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*  
 ONWR Darby = a unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which is separate from the refuge's main body, in *Ottawa*.  
 Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, *Sandusky*  
 Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, *Fairfield* and *Franklin*  
 Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, *Erie*  
 RBA = Rare Bird Alert  
 Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, *Highland*  
 Sandy Ridge = Sandy Ridge Reservation, *Lorain*  
 Shaker Lakes = the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and the lakes themselves, in Shaker Heights, *Cuyahoga*  
 Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, *Scioto*, unless otherwise noted  
 Sheldon's Marsh = Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Erie*  
 Sherod Park = a lakefront park in Vermilion, *Erie*  
 SF = State Forest  
 SNP = State Nature Preserve  
 SP = State Park  
 Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Seneca*  
 SWA = State Wildlife Area  
 WA = Wildlife Area  
 Wake Robin = a trail and boardwalk in Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, *Lake*  
 Wellington Reservoir = Wellington Upground Reservoir, *Lorain*  
 Wendy Park = a lakeshore Cleveland park, *Cuyahoga*  
 Wilderness Road = a road which traverses Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, *Wayne*, and adjoining farmland  
 The Wilds = a limited-access big-mammal breeding and research facility in *Muskingum*, also used generically to include the surrounding reclaimed Ohio Power strip mines  
 Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife Area, *Erie*  
 Winous Horseshoe = A unit of the Winous Point Shooting Club, *Ottawa*