The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Summer 2007
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Editor: Fred Dinkelbach
Contributors: Dwight Chasar
Editorial Consultants: Andrew Jones
                     Larry Rosche
                     Bill Whan
                     Ray Hannikman

The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
The purpose of the Calendar is:
To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region.
To monitor population densities of resident birds.
To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.
Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help preserve sensitive habitats and migrant stopover points.

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Contributions
We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.
For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: bird_location_date_photographer.jpg. Seasonal report forms are available at: www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm. All submissions are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
Due dates for seasonal field reports are:
Winter - March 10
Spring - June 10
Summer - September 10
Autumn - December 10

Front Cover. King Rail at Turkeyfoot Lake (Summit Co.), 7/18/07, photographed by Sandy Brown.
Back Cover. Sanderlings at Port Clinton, 8/4/07, photographed by David Lewis.
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of this and all quarterly issues are possible.

If you would also like to be a contributor to this important records journal,
please contact the Kirtland Bird Club at 216-556-0700.

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The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August,
at 7:30 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Or, join a field trip to one of the many fine local birding locations.
See the Web site for the up-coming meetings, programs and trips:  www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.
Overview of the Season

Fred Dinkelbach

Each season brings its special moments and the summer of 2007 was no exception. A King Rail was repeatedly located and photographed in Portage Lakes by Sandy Brown. Summit County offered additional highlights: a Worm-eating Warbler was found in the same location for the second consecutive summer and Dickcissels were found in two separate locations. A Bobwhite (remember them?) made an appearance in the CVNP. Eileen Zimlich waited years to see her first Grasshopper Sparrow; this year she found them as well as Meadowlarks and Bobolinks in her own neighborhood near Brecksville. In their report, the Chasars had their best showing ever for Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos, saw increased nesting of Juncos, their highest number for Least Flycatcher territories, good numbers of Prothonotary Warblers, Brown Creeper, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Blue-headed Vireo and Willow and Acadian Flycatchers; but saw fewer numbers of CVNP Red-headed Woodpeckers, no Brecksville Reservation Redstarts, and no Nighthawk nests in Summit County.

In this issue Ruth Thompson talks about city birding with an article about Nighthawks in Shaker Heights. Gabe Leidy shares his birding highlights and experiences in Parma’s West Creek Preserve, one of the newer of Cleveland Metroparks’ green islands in an urban sea. Contributions like these are always welcome – they allow us to share in the experiences of our friends in the field, provide interesting anecdotes and increase our birding knowledge.

Weather Report, Summer 2007

Dwight W. Chasar

JUNE: Temperatures averaged 69.6°, 2.1° above normal. The high was 94° on the 18th and the low was 47° on the 10th. Lake Erie was 60° on June 1st and rose to 68° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 8 days and totaled only 1.66 inches, 2.23 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period was 0.66 inches on the 4-5th.

JULY: Temperatures averaged 70.9°, 1.0° below normal. The high was 94° on the 9th and the low was 51° on the 21st. Rain occurred over 10 days, totaling 2.57 inches, 0.95 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period fell on the 26-27th and amounted to 0.81 inches. Lake Erie was at 72° at the end of the month.

AUGUST: Temperatures averaged 72.8°, 2.6° above normal. The high was 91° on the 2nd and 24th and the low was 55° on the 14th. Rain fell on 11 days, totaling 9.03 inches, 5.34 inches above normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 7.0 inches on the 7th. Lake Erie water ended the month at 74°.

Peregrine Falcons, Adults and Immature, I-480 Bridge, 2007

Chad & Chris Saladin
Sightings Location Key

CVNP. Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit and Cuyahoga Co.).
HCPA. Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, located off Button Road in Bedford Reservation, just east of Dunham Road near the Overlook (Walton Hills, Cuyahoga Co.).
HBSP/Headlands. Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve west to Shipman Pond and Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (Lake Co.).
Ira Road. In the CVNP north of Riverview and Ira Roads, this large beaver marsh is bisected by the towpath boardwalk.
Jaite. The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Highland and Riverview Roads in the CVNP (Brecksville-Peninsula).
KBSNP. Kent Bog State Nature Preserve (Portage Co.).
Sandy Ridge. A large artificial wetland in North Ridgeville. Known for easily seen waterfowl, rails, moorhens and cranes (Lorain Co.).
Sanitation Pond. Wetland area near the northern end of the CVNP and east of Riverview Road & Greenhaven Parkway. Also know as Fawn Pond. (Brecksville, Cuyahoga Co.).
Station Road. CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Rt. 82 at Riverview Road (Brecksville, Cuyahoga Co.).
TCSNP. Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve (Portage Co.).
WBSP. West Branch State Park (Portage Co.).

Least Bittern, Mentor Headlands, 7/25/07

Jerry Talkington

Sightings Highlights

Canada Goose. Headlands had 250 on 7/12 (RH).
Mute Swan. Six to eight were present at HBSP throughout the summer with as many as nine on 7/13 (RH).
Wood Duck. The Ira Road boardwalk is the place to see big families at close range. On 7/2 there were 38 including six adults (TMR). Wildwood Park had a hen and ten ducklings on 6/11 (NA).
American Black Duck. Six were counted at Ira Road on 8/13 (TMR).
Mallard. Highest number reported was 50 at HBSP on 6/25 (RH).
Blue-winged Teal. Appearing in late August, Headlands had up to nine on 8/24 (RH).
Green-winged Teal. Singles were seen at HBSP in August, with two seen on 8/21 (RH).
Red-breasted Merganser. HBSP had three on 6/2 (RH).
Wild Turkey. Twelve to fifteen were seen at WBSP on 8/18 (GC). On 6/10 in the Brecksville Reservation, two broods were seen, one with 10 to 12 and the other with 4 to 6 (DAC).
**Northern Bobwhite.** One was observed at Ira Road on 7/23 (fide TMR).

**Common Loon.** One loon in basic plumage was found at Nimisila Reservoir on 6/4 (RSH). An immature was seen at WBSP near Rock Spring Road in Portage County on 6/2 (GBe).

**Double-crested Cormorant.** Sixty were seen at HBSP on 8/28 (RH).

**Least Bittern.** Jerry Talkington found one bird at Mentor Lagoons near the bridge on 7/22 (JT fide RH), and one adult female and one juvenile were seen at least through 8/2 by various observers (RH).

**Great Blue Heron.** Shaker Lakes had 15 on 7/3 (LD). Headlands had 14 on 6/13 (RH).

**Great Egret.** Two were at North Reservoir (Summit Co.) on 8/16-19 (GBe). Shaker Lakes had two on 8/12 (BF). One was seen throughout June at HBSP (RH).

**Green Heron.** Ten were seen at the Station Road heron rookery on 8/13 (DAC). WBSP had eight on 8/18 (GC). Ira Road had six on 7/30 (TMR). Six were at HBSP on 7/18 (RH).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron.** Leo Deininger remarked that numbers were down at Shaker Lakes this summer: “For many years from mid-July to mid-August on any given day, I would see from two to a dozen.” This summer he only had three sightings: one on 6/22, one on 8/18 and five on 8/30 (LD).

**Turkey Vulture.** Thirty were seen at Headlands on 8/30 (RH).

**Osprey.** One was seen on four occasions in August at HBSP (RH).

**Bald Eagle.** Many reported sightings throughout the summer near their known nesting sites or along the lakefront. Sandy Ridge had two on 7/11 (CC). The CVNP Station Road nest, where an immature was seen on 8/13, fledged one young in early July (DAC).

**Northern Harrier.** One was seen flying north over TCSNP on 6/13 (FL). Burke Lakefront Airport had one on 8/5 (PL).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.** One active nest was found in Brecksville Reservation but had failed by June 16 (DAC).

**Cooper's Hawk.** Two, an adult and a juvenile, were seen in Lakewood on 8/15 (PL, LS). One was seen at HBSP on seven different days through the summer (RH).

**Red-shouldered Hawk.** There were few reports. Two were seen throughout the summer from the CVNP towpath at Boston (HO). Two were seen on 8/4 at HCPA (FL).

**Broad-winged Hawk.** Three successful nests were monitored in the Brecksville Reservation this summer (DAC). All other reports were single birds. Leo Deininger had one in Brecksville MP on 6/22, one at Chapin Forest Reservation in Kirtland on 8/3
and one at South Chagrin MP on 8/10 (LD).

Red-tailed Hawk. Most reports had at least one or two. Two were seen at Euclid Creek Reservation on 6/17 (NA). One adult with two immatures were seen on 7/20 at Shaker Lakes Nature Center (LGh, JW).

American Kestrel. Burke Lakefront Airport hosted six on 8/5, either perched near runways, in the air or eating prey (PL). HBSP had three on 8/11 (RH). One was discovered in a Macedonia neighborhood on 7/4 (FCD) and the CVNP had one on a utility wire along Canal Road on 7/25 (SJ).

Merlin. One adult male was observed at Mentor Lagoons on 8/24 (RH) and 8/27 (JT, RH).

Peregrine Falcon. Single birds were noted over the Dunes Nature Preserve on 8/15 (RH) and 8/30 (JT). Burke Lakefront Airport had one on 8/5 (PL). On 8/15 near the Valley View/I-480 nest, one was seen diving at a flying Great Blue Heron, which successfully dodged out of the way; later that evening two juveniles were seen there (CW). The well-documented urban locations did well this summer (see inset).

King Rail. Turkeyfoot Lake in southern Summit Co. had one seen on 6/18 and again on 6/28 (SB).

King Rail, Turkeyfoot Lake (Summit Co.), 7/18/07

Virginia Rail. The CVNP Ira Road beaver marsh had one adult with three black young on 7/15 (DAC). Four reports from HBSP, most in June (RH).

Sora. One was observed at HBSP on 7/28 (RH).

Common Moorhen. Portage County delivered this summer with one near Rootstown on 6/15 (GBe) and two at Herrick Fen on 7/1 (GB).

American Coot. Two birds total at Headlands, both in June (RH).

Sandhill Crane. On 6/28, Judy Semroc and Larry Rosche saw and photographed two adults and two young in Burton (JS, LR). One of the young was nearly run over by an SUV as it crossed the road. Two adults were found at Sandy Ridge on 7/11 (CC).

Black-bellied Plover. WBSP had one on 8/7 (GC). HBSP had one on 7/28, followed by two on 8/29 (RH).

Semipalmated Plover. Six were at the WBSP on 8/7 (GC). One to four were found at Headlands from 7/10 to the end of August (RH).

Killdeer. Sandy Ridge had 100 on 7/11 (CC). WBSP also had just as many on 8/7 (GC). Burke Lakefront Airport had 56 on 8/5 (PL). Forty were found at a wetland in Mill Stream Run Reservation on 7/21 (GL).

Spotted Sandpiper. Ten, including two immatures, were at Sandy Ridge on 7/11 (CC). Nine were counted at HBSP on 7/29 (RH).

Solitary Sandpiper. Five were at a wetland in Mill Stream Run Reservation on 7/21 (GL). Four were observed at Shaker Lakes on 8/30 (LD). The CVNP Pleasant Valley Road marsh had three on 7/15 (DAC).

Greater Yellowlegs. HBSP had one on 7/20 and one on 7/22 (RH). One was at a wetland in Mill Stream Run Reservation on 7/21 (GL). Sandy Ridge had one on 7/11 (CC). On 8/5, landing aircraft flushed a flock of 40 shorebirds at Burke Lakefront Airport; most of the birds identified were Greaters along with unidentified dowitches (PL).
Lesser Yellowlegs. Twelve were at the WBSP mudflats on 8/18 and four on 8/7 (GC). Three were at a wetland in Mill Stream Run Reservation on 7/21 (GL). Found at Headlands the latter half of July with two on 7/16 (RH).

Whimbrel. WBSP had a cooperative bird on the evening of 7/24 (CH).

Marbled Godwit. One bird flew by three surprised observers at Mentor Lagoons on 6/16, heading east in a rapid and determined flight (RH, JT, SW).

Ruddy Turnstone. Eighteen were found at HBSP on 8/19 (RH).

Sanderling. Found throughout August at Headlands with a maximum of eight on 8/26 (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Two were found at HBSP on 7/30 and two again on 8/29 (RH).

Least Sandpiper. Return migration started on 6/30 with five seen at a wetland next to the Key Bank building on I-480 (GL). Headlands had 15 on 7/28 (RH). The CVNP Pleasant Valley Road marsh had 8 to 10 on 7/15 (DAC). At WBSP reservoir mudflats over 40 were counted on 8/7 (GC).

Pectoral Sandpiper. HBSP had two on 7/25 (RH). Three were at WBSP on 8/18 (GC).

Stilt Sandpiper. The WBSP mudflats had one on 8/7 (GC).

Short-billed Dowitcher. Sandy Ridge had 30 early fall migrants on 7/11 (CC).

American Woodcock. A single bird was found at Headlands on 6/11 and on 6/26 (RH). Holden Arboretum had one on 7/12 (LD). One was found at Jaite on 8/5 (DAC).

Bonaparte's Gull. With only singles and pairs in the last half of the summer, Headlands ended the season with 200 on 8/28 and 250 on 8/29 (RH). On 8/26 forty were seen at Lorain Harbor (GBe).

Ring-billed Gull. Numbers at Headlands climbed through the summer and peaked at 1500 on 8/15 (RH). Inland, ~30 appeared after a rain feeding in a Sagamore Hills field, with about as many crows, on 6/3 (DAC).

Herring Gull. There was the same trend at HBSP as with the Ring-billed, but with a peak count of 60 on 8/15 (RH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. What appeared to be a third-summer bird was on the HBSP west beach early on 8/23 (RH).

Great Black-backed Gull. Two were found at HBSP on 6/3 (RH).

Caspian Tern. At Headlands one or two were seen through the summer (RH). Burke Lakefront Airport had one on 8/5 (PL).

Black Tern. Sandy Ridge had two in molting plumage coursing back and forth in the east pond on 8/7 (JE).

Common Tern. Five were found at HBSP on 8/23 (RH).

Forster's Tern. HBSP had one on 7/19 and one on 8/16 (RH).

Rock Pigeon. No reports (See remarks under European Starling).

Mourning Dove. Headlands had counts between 10 and 40 all summer (RH). Nineteen were seen at Ira Road on 7/23 (TMR). Eighteen were seen on 8/23 from the CVNP towpath at Boston (HO).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Five were counted in the CVNP towpath at Boston on 6/7 (HO). Dwight Chasar noted the highest numbers in the CVNP since the 1999 gypsy moth infestation (DAC). Two were seen at TCSNP on 6/21 (FL). Single birds were observed at HBSP throughout June and July (RH). Ira Road had a similar record throughout the summer (TMR).

Black-billed Cuckoo. HBSP had two on 6/16 and one on 8/12 (RH). CVNP’s Wetmore Trails had one on 7/1 (FL). Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley had one on 7/14 (TMR).
Summer birding in the Headlands Beach State Park area involves observations of nesting species, searches for migrant warblers, thrushes and flycatchers, both during the first ten days of June and the last ten days of August, walks along the beach in hopes (mainly in vain in 2007) of finding a shorebird or two, and constant amazement at just where all those Tree and Bank Swallows come from. A new wrinkle was added to my birding regimen this summer – frequent walks on the Wake Robin Trail. Here I encountered Swamp Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, Virginia Rail, and numbers of Song Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats. Observations at Wake Robin in early August prompted Jerry Talkington to remark that the hummers must be using the corridors through the marsh as a migration route, a highway through the reeds, if you will. Without having visited this habitat in summer before I had not been aware of this phenomenon. And finally there are those observations that will last – telephone wires crammed with gathering Tree and Bank Swallows, a Virginia Rail slithering through newly emerged marsh vegetation, and that female Least Bittern, her offspring nearby, fishing for and catching minnows. All of these made the early morning starts worthwhile.

**Eastern Screech-Owl.** At Red Lock in the CVNP a fledged family of three or four was seen on 6/13 (DAC). HBSP had a pair on 6/6 and then afterwards a single bird seen through the summer (RH). One was heard the evening of 8/15 in Lakewood (PL).

**Great Horned Owl.** A vocal pair were found at Sandy Ridge on 7/11 (CC).

**Barred Owl.** Headlands had one on 7/18 (RH). One was observed at North Chagrin MP on 7/8 and one at Shaker Lakes on 7/25 (LD).

**Common Nighthawk.** While many observers remarked on how few they’ve seen, if any, others had a bounty. On 8/29, twelve were observed flying over the Station Road area at 7 PM; at 7:30 PM six were seen at nearby Rt. 82 and Boyden Road; followed by four at Valley View Road and Rt. 8 (FL). A flock of 12-15 was seen in Claridon Township (Geauga Co.) on 8/29 (DBe). At Rocky River Reservation 17 were seen on 8/22 (PL). Four were seen over Hudson on 8/28 (GBe).

**Chimney Swift.** Highest count was ~150 at Rocky River Reservation on 8/26 and then that many again on 8/29 (PL, BF). Eighty were seen at HBSP on 6/5 (RH). Ira Road had 60 on 8/6 (TMR).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird.** Numbers rose at summer’s end. Ira Road had eight on 8/20 (TMR). Headlands had six on 8/26 (RH).

**Rufous Hummingbird.** A North Perry feeder hosted a male on 8/12, followed two days later by a female on 8/14 (JP).

**Belted Kingfisher.** Six were found at HBSP on 7/20 (RH). Five were at Ira Road on 8/27 (TMR).

**Woodpecker.** The CVNP numbers were down compared to a few years ago – Station Road had 8-10 on 8/13 (DAC). Four, two adults and two juveniles, were seen at Oakwood Park in Lorain on 8/15 (PL). One was seen delivering food at a nest hole at Sandy Ridge on 7/11 (CC). Throughout the summer one to three were seen at HBSP (RH).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker.** Seven was the highest count at Ira Road on 7/16 (TMR). Twinsburg Center Valley bike path had six on 6/16 (FL). Headlands had one to three seen throughout the summer (RH).

**Downy Woodpecker.** Twinsburg Center Valley bike path had 11 on 6/16 (FL). Ira Road had ten on 6/11 (TMR). HBSP’s highest count was seven on 8/26 (RH).

**Hairy Woodpecker.** Macedonia’s Longwood Park had six on 6/15 (FL). Twinsburg’s Pond Brook Metropark had three on 6/17 (FL). One bird was counted on several dates in June and July at Ira Road (TMR).

**Northern Flicker.** On 8/30 six were found from the CVNP towpath at Boston (HO). Five was the highest at HBSP, counted on 7/12 (RH).

**Pileated Woodpecker.** The CVNP had two on 8/16 from the towpath at Boston (HO). Single birds were seen at Ira Road in July (TMR) and at HBSP (RH) throughout the season.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher.** One late spring migrant was seen in North Perry on 6/5 (JP). A fall migrant was found sallying from a tall tree at the HBSP Wake Robin Trail on 8/22 (JT).
Could there be a birding “hot spot” on Van Aken Boulevard? Does it seem unlikely? Well, that depends on how “hot spot” is defined. If standing on the 6th floor roof of an apartment building at dusk and watching Chimney Swifts and Common Nighthawks display their acrobatic aerial flights catches one’s imagination, then Van Aken qualifies.

Moving to a 5th floor apartment offered me sights and sounds of Chimney Swifts that lived during the summer in the chimney of a next-door apartment building. My interest increased as Common Nighthawks joined the swifts in mid-June 2006. My apartment windows, which look across a small grassy court, offered me entertaining views of both bird species in the evenings. I began to leave lights in the windows hoping to attract insects, which might bring the nighthawks closer for better viewing.

My interested quickened when I learned from Paul Leverington in June 2006 that he had found a Common Nighthawk chick while he was working on the roof of the apartment building next door. Paul conscientiously monitored the nighthawk chick until it fledged.

Now we come to June 2007. Paul returned with an assignment to reroof the building, and found a nest containing two eggs. One of the eggs hatched in late June, and Paul began his careful watch of the chick. During his work, Paul had to move the nest a few times, but he felt the nighthawk parents tolerated his presence. Once, the half-grown chick disappeared; Paul searched the grounds around the building and found the chick huddled against the building in a pile of debris that effectively camouflaged it. Weighing roof-top vulnerability against ground dangers, Paul decided to return the chick to the roof. A parent quickly flew in to inspect it.

On July 4th, residents of my building were given access to our flat roof. What a wonderful place to view fireworks, swifts and nighthawks! I’ve enjoyed the show with friends on several evenings. It starts about 8:45 pm with the call and high flight of a single nighthawk; two or even four others may join the bird, all demonstrating their flying skills. However, the nighthawks seem to focus on the roof top next door. As the sky gets darker, we can only guess at their activity. Sometimes the nighthawks roost on the wall surrounding the roof. As the sky grows even darker, the nighthawks fly toward us, approaching quite closely. The birds seem to be inspecting us. I think the nighthawks are looking to see if Paul is in our group.

Finally, darkness closes the visual show, but the calls continue for an hour or more.

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**Eastern Wood-Pewee.** Twinsburg Center Valley bike path had 11 on 6/16 (FL). TCSNP had nine on 6/21 (FL). Whipp’s Ledges had ten on 7/14 (TMR). Brecksville Reservation had nine on 6/10 (DAC). Twinsburg Pond Brook Metropark had eight on 6/17 (FL).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.** There was likely nesting at Holden Arboretum with an adult and an immature seen on 6/28 (RT).

**Acadian Flycatcher.** Doing well in their appropriate habitat, 16 were counted in Brecksville Reservation on 6/10 (DAC). Six were counted at the CVNP Wetmore trails on 7/1 (FL).

Four were at Macedonia’s Longwood Park on 6/15 (FL).

**Alder Flycatcher.** CVNP’s Oak Hill area had one on 6/2 (CC). A single bird was heard on the railroad tracks northwest of TCSNP on 6/21 (FL).

**Willow Flycatcher.** In and around the CVNP and Summit County, Willows
were seen even in the smallest habitat (DAC). Seven were at Ira Road on 6/4 (TMR). One to four were present at HBSP all summer (RH).

**Least Flycatcher.** The Chasars noted three territories found in the CVNP and Summit County, the most they’d ever seen there (DAC). Three were found at HBSP on 8/9 (RH).

**Eastern Phoebe.** Seven were found at Ira Road on 8/27 (TMR). Headlands had one to three all summer (RH).

**Great Crested Flycatcher.** Seven were at Twinsburg Center Valley bike path on 6/16 (FL). Seven was the highest count at HBSP on 6/1 (RH). What looked like a family group of four was seen on 7/20 at Shaker Lakes Nature Center (L Gh, JW).

**Eastern Kingbird.** Seven were counted at Ira Road on 7/16 (TMR). HBSP had six on 7/26 (RH). Six were seen at Jaite on 7/17 (DAC).

**White-eyed Vireo.** Best showing in the CVNP in many years (DAC). Three were observed at Ira Road on 7/23 (TMR). The CVNP Horseshoe Pond had one on 6/2 (CC). One was heard and presented great looks at Twinsburg’s Pond Brook on 6/17 (FL).

**Yellow-throated Vireo.** Best showing in the CVNP, maybe ever (DAC). Three were found along the trail from Hale Farm to Indigo Lake on 7/9 (TMR). Station Road had one singing individual on 8/25 (DAC).

**Blue-headed Vireo.** The CVNP Kendall Ledges had one on 6/2 (CC).

**Warbling Vireo.** HBSP had eleven on 6/4 (RH). Ten were counted from the CVNP towpath at Boston on 6/7 (HO). Ira Road had nine on 6/4 (TMR).

**Red-eyed Vireo.** Twelve were counted at HBSP on 6/4 (RH). Twinsburg’s Center Valley bike path had 11 on 6/16 (FL). Twinsburg’s Stone House trails had 11 on 6/22 (FL). Macedonia’s Longwood Park had nine on 6/15 (FL).

**Blue Jay.** Ira Road had 17 on 8/6 (TMR). Fifteen were counted from the CVNP towpath at Boston on 8/2 (HO). Headlands had counts as high as 12 several times through the season (RH).

**American Crow.** Approximately 30 were in a Sagamore Hills field on 6/3 (DAC). The highest HBSP count was 16 on 8/27 (RH).

**Purple Martin.** Over 1800 were seen at Nisimilus Reservoir on 8/7 (GBe). At HBSP, with dozens seen in June, the numbers rose to 400 on 7/28 and 800 on 8/9 (RH).

**Tree Swallow.** Headlands peaked at 1200 on 7/24 with numbers in the hundreds July and August (RH). Forty were counted at Ira Road on 7/2 (TMR).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow.** The high count for Hope Orr’s group was 38 in the CVNP from the towpath at Boston on 7/19 (HO). HBSP’s highest count was 30 on 7/19 (RH). Fourteen were counted at Wildwood Park in Cleveland on 7/7 (NA).

**Bank Swallow.** Headlands had days with numbers in the hundreds during July and August; often numbering in the thousands. With 20-40 seen in June, July started out with 1300 on 7/10, 1900 on 7/12, 2000 on both 7/17 and 7/21, and 1400 on 8/8 (RH). Not so numerous inland, with two at Ira Road on 6/25 (TMR).

**Cliff Swallow.** Bacon Woods Metropark had one on 7/11 (CC).

**Tufted Titmouse.** HBSP had twelve on 8/10 (RH). Eleven were counted in the CVNP at Boston on 7/12 (HO).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** Present in most reports, usually in the latter half of August. On 6/23 and on 6/25 four or five were found at Major Road in the CVNP (DAC). The CVNP Ledges area had one on 6/24 (CC). One stayed for well over a month at a Strongsville feeder in June and July (fide CP).

**White-breasted Nuthatch.** On 6/17 there were twelve at Twinsburg’s Pond Brook Metropark (FL). Ten were counted at Ira Road on 6/25 (TMR).

**Brown Creeper.** They did well in the CVNP this season (DAC). Three individuals were heard along the railroad tracks in TCSNP on 6/21 (FL).

**Carolina Wren.** Noteworthy were low numbers. Fred Losi reported no birds “during the months of May and June of this year. During the same period in 2005, 13 observations were recorded. In 2006, 31 observations were recorded.” (FL). Fred later reported three at HCPA on 8/4 (FL). Six were in CVNP at Boston on 7/12 (HO). Ira Road had one to three in July and August (TMR). HBSP had reports through the season of single birds (RH).

**House Wren.** Nine were counted in the CVNP on 6/14 (HO). On 6/16 there were eight at Twinsburg’s Center Valley bike path (FL). HBSP had five on 6/19 (RH).

**Winter Wren.** Brecksville Metroparks had two territories for the summer (DAC). One was heard singing at the CVNP Kendall Ledges on 8/7 and on 8/11 (DAC). On 7/1 on the CVNP Wetmore hiking trails a single individual was seen and heard (FL).

**Sedge Wren.** One was seen on 7/12 in the CVNP from the towpath north of Boston (HO).

**Marsh Wren.** Headlands had between one and four throughout the season (RH). Jaite had two on 7/17 (DAC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet. The CVNP Horseshoe Pond had three territories found on 6/23 (DAC). One was seen at Hinckley’s Whipp’s Ledges on 7/14 (TMR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Six were seen at HBSP on 8/9 (RH). Pond Brook Metropark in Twinsburg had five on 6/17 (FL).

Eastern Bluebird. Station Road had eight on 8/12 (DAC). Eight were in the CVNP at Boston on 6/26 (HO).

Veery. Four were observed at the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 7/1 (FL). At Akron Metropark’s Furnace Run on 6/23, four total were counted including a pair of adults feeding a cowbird chick (FCD). Twinsburg’s Pond Brook Metropark had three on 6/17 (FL). Two were at Ira Road on 6/2 (CC).


Swainson’s Thrush. Headlands had one on 6/1 (RH). One was seen at North Perry on 6/5 (JP).

Hermit Thrush. What may have been Headlands’ first ever August Hermit Thrush was at Mentor Lagoons on 8/28 (RH). A nest with at least three young was found at the CVNP’s Kendall Ledges on 6/6 (DAC); two individuals were heard there on 7/9 (FL). One was heard and observed at Longwood Park in Macedonia on 6/15 (FL).

Wood Thrush. HBSP had five on 6/22 (RH). Four were counted at Twinsburg’s Pond Brook Metropark on 6/17 (FL). The Sandy Ridge woods had four on 7/11 (CC).

American Robin. One hundred on 7/14 was the highest count at HBSP (RH). Twinsburg’s Crown Hill Cemetery had 56 on 6/24 (FL).

Gray Catbird. On 6/16 there were 24 at Twinsburg’s Center Valley bike path (FL). HBSP had 20 on 6/4 and counts as high as twelve through the summer (RH). Ira Road had 20 on 8/27 (TMR).

Northern Mockingbird. There was one seen occasionally at HBSP during the summer (RH). Other non-urban sightings were one in Sagamore Hills on 6/5 and a single bird at the CVNP Pleasant Valley Road marsh on both 7/15 and 8/26 (DAC). Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley had one on 7/14 (TMR).

Brown Thrasher. Seven was the season’s high count at HBSP on 6/4 (RH). Kendall Ledges in the CVNP had one on 6/2 (DAC).

European Starling. Rarely included in most reports, likely for lack of interest rather than a reflection of its numbers. The CVNP towpath at Boston had 95 on 6/14 (HO).

Cedar Waxwing. There were 44 at Ira Road on 8/27 (TMR). Thirty were counted in the CVNP from the towpath north of Boston on 8/30 (HO). Thirty were also counted at Furnace Run (Akron MP) on 6/23 (FCD).

Blue-winged Warbler. Three were at the CVNP Wetmore trails on 7/1 (FL); two there on 8/4 (DAC). Three were at Ira Road on 6/4 (TMR). Two were found at TCSNP on 6/21 (FL). Verifed nesting birds were one adult with a mostly-feathered youngster at Oak Hill in the CVNP and an adult with an immature at the CVNP Horseshoe Pond area, all on 6/24 (CC). At Bacon Woods Metropark one was heard singing its alternate song on 7/11 (CC).

Golden-winged Warbler. One was seen at Ira Road on 6/2 (CC).

Yellow Warbler. Fourteen were counted at Ira Road on 6/11 (TMR). Fourteen were seen at HBSP on 8/21 (RH). Twelve were also counted from the Twinsburg Center Valley bike path on 6/16 (FL).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Five were counted at Elmwood Park in Rocky River on 8/26 (PL, BF). The CVNP’s Howe Meadow had one on 7/14 (DAC). One was at Headlands on 8/16 and two were found there 8/26 (RH).

Magnolia Warbler. All reports were from late August. Highest daily tally was six at HBSP on 8/29 (RH).

Cape May Warbler. Single birds passed through HBSP on 8/16 and 8/26 (RH). Ira Road had one on 8/27 (TMR).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. HBSP had one on 8/26 (RH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Three appeared at Headlands on 8/29 (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Reliable nesters at Kendall Ledges in the CVNP, three were observed there on 6/2 (DAC), one on 6/9 (NA), three again on 7/9 (FL), and one on 8/11 (DAC).

Blackburnian Warbler. At HBSP one was spotted on 8/10, another on 8/21 (RH).

Yellow-throated Warbler. On 7/2 an adult was found at Station Road feeding two fledglings (DAC).

Pine Warbler. Six males were seen at Nimisila Reservoir on 6/4 (RSH). A pair was found with a Cowbird chick on 6/20 at Lake Hodgson, Ravenna (GBe).

Bay-breasted Warbler. Early was one at North Perry on 8/11 (JP). Two were seen at HBSP on 8/29 (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler. Wildwood Park had one on 6/10 (NA). Ira Road had one on 8/20 (TMR).
Cerulean Warbler. Numbers were as expected in the CVNP with one still singing on 8/18 at Station Road (DAC). Two were at WBSP on 6/2 (GBe). Jaite had two on 6/18 (FL).

Black-and-white Warbler. One was seen on 7/20 at Southerly Park in Shaker Heights (LGh, JW). Seen throughout August at HBSP with the most on 8/10 with five and on 8/26 with six (RH). Wetmore Trails in the CVNP had one on 8/4 (DAC).

American Redstart. Three were counted at Elmwood Park in Rocky River on 8/26 (PL, BF). Ones and twos were found at HBSP throughout the summer after a peak count of nine on 6/5 (RH). Two were at Towners Woods (Portage Co.) on 6/14 (GB). One was in the ledges area of the CVNP on 6/24 (CC). Two were at Mentor Lagoons on 8/18 (NA).

Prothonotary Warbler. Doing well as always in the Station Road area, two were seen there as late as 8/18 (DAC). Ira Road had one on 7/23 (TMR).

Worm-eating Warbler. Found for the second summer in the same area, one bird was singing on 6/26 in the CVNP where Lange’s Run Trail crosses Wetmore Road (DV), and observed again on 6/30 (DAC). It was also counted on the Greater Akron Audubon Society summer census (see article in this issue).

Ovenbird. The CVNP seems to have the most Ovenbird habitat in our area with five at the CVNP Wetmore trails area on 7/1 (FL).

Northern Waterthrush. Two sightings at HBSP: one on 8/17 and another on 8/21 (RH).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Two were observed at HCPA on 6/2 (FL). Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley had one on 7/14 (TMR).

Kentucky Warbler. The CVNP Ledges had one on 6/2 (DAC).

Mourning Warbler. Two migrants were found at HBSP, one on 6/2 and one on 6/3 (RH).

Wilson’s Warbler. Headlands had six on 8/29 (RH). One was at Elmwood Park in Rocky River on 8/26 (PL, BF).

Canada Warbler. On 6/14 at HBSP a late spring migrant was singing along Zimmerman Trail and a rather early juvenile female was at Mentor Lagoons on 8/6 (RH). A Lakewood residence had an immature foraging in lilac and quince bushes on 8/15 (PL). One was at Mentor Lagoons on 8/18 (NA).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Two were still singing on their territory at Jaite by 7/17 (DAC).

Scarlet Tanager. On 6/21 six were counted at TCSPN (FL). Two were at HBSP on 6/3 (RH). Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley had two on 7/14 (TMR).

Eastern Towhee. Seven were counted from Hudson Road (Kent) on 7/5 (GB). KBSNP had four on 8/16 (GB). Ira Road had four on 7/30 (TMR).

Chipping Sparrow. Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg had 30 counted on 6/24 (FL). Hope Orr’s group had six on 7/19 from the CVNP towpath at Boston (HO). Also in the CVNP five were counted between Hale Farm and Indigo Lake on 7/9 (TMR).

Common Yellowthroat. Highest report was 24 on 7/19 from the CVNP towpath north of Boston (HO). Fourteen were seen at Twinsburg Pond Brook MP on 6/17 (FL). Twelve were at HBSP on 7/21 (RH).

Hooded Warbler. Six were counted from Hudson Road (Kent) on 7/5 (GB). Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley had five on 7/14 (TMR). Four were at Macedonia’s Longwood Park on 6/15 (FL). Four were seen and heard at Furnace Run on 6/23 (FCD). Three were found at Kendall Ledges in the CVNP on 6/9 (NA).

Field Sparrow. Fred Losi reported many: five at the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 7/1, three at Twinsburg’s Stone House trails on 6/22, and two at Twinsburg’s Pond Brook MetroPark on 6/17 (FL). Bath Nature Preserve had one on 6/2 and Bacon Woods Metropark had one on 7/11 (CC).

Savannah Sparrow. The Richfield Coliseum property had ten on 6/24.
Three were at HBSP on 6/20 and on 6/25 (RH). Two were found at Bath Nature Preserve on 6/2 (CC).

**Grasshopper Sparrow.** Five were counted at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/16 (FCD) and two on 7/1 (GL). On 6/4 one was found at a radio tower field in Broadview Heights and three were found at a closed landfill between Brecksville and Broadview Heights (EZ). Two individuals were seen and heard in a private field in Twinsburg on 6/23 (FL). One was observed in a Brecksville field on 7/13 (DAC).

**Henslow’s Sparrow.** The Richfield Coliseum property had no less than 10 singing males in a 1.5 hour period on 7/1 (GL). Four were counted there on 6/16 (FCD) and two on 6/12 (DAC).

**Song Sparrow.** HBSP’s highest count was 30 on 8/23 (RH). Twinsburg’s Pond Brook Metropark had 13 on 6/17 (FL). Twelve were counted at Ira Road on 7/16 (TMR).

**Swamp Sparrow.** Fifteen were counted from the CVNP towpath at Boston on 7/5 (HO). Ira Road had six on 7/23 (TMR).

**Dark-eyed Junco.** The summer breeding population is growing with four to five territories counted in Brecksville Reservation and two to three territories at the CVNP Kendall Ledges (DAC). An active nest was found at a Bainbridge residence in a patio plant basket on 8/4 and with non-fledged young still being fed on 8/14 (CS). Two individuals were seen and heard at Kendall Ledges in CVNP on 7/9 (FL). A pair was observed at Sugarbush Park in Macedonia on 6/18 (FL). Hinckley’s Whipp’s ledges had one on 7/14 (TMR).

**Northern Cardinal.** Twenty were seen from Twinsburg’s Center Valley bike path on 6/16 (FL). HBSP had counts as high as 20 several times during the summer (RH). Ira Road had six to nine seen all summer, and twelve on 8/27 (TMR).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** Eight were tallied in the CVNP between Hale Farm and Indigo Lake on 7/9 (TMR). Three were seen in the CVNP on 7/13 (HO). Singles or pairs were in almost all complete reports.

**Indigo Bunting.** Ten were found in the CVNP on 6/28 (HO). Ten were counted at Bacon Woods Metropark on 7/11 (CC).

**Dickcissel.** Summit County had reports from two locations on the GAAS census (see article in this issue). In the June 15-24 period, two were found at the Hardy Road landfill in Cuyahoga Falls (MN fide DAC) and two at the PPG lime lakes in Barberton (DV fide DAC).

**Bobolink.** At the Richfield Coliseum property 80 were counted on 6/16 (FCD) and at least 30 on 6/24 (CC). Bath Nature Preserve had six on 6/2 (CC). In the CVNP at Sagamore Hills five were found at a new location on 6/9 (DAC). Two were found at a radio tower field in Broadview Heights on 6/4 (EZ).

**Red-winged Blackbird.** The CVNP had 81 at Boston on 7/19 (HO). Tinkers Creek SNP had 65 on 6/13 (FL). Fifty were seen at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/16 (FCD).

**Eastern Meadowlark.** Thirty were seen at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/16 (FCD) and at least twenty on 6/24 (CC). Two were found at a closed landfill between Brecksville and Broadview Heights and three were found at a radio tower field in Broadview Heights on 6/4 (EZ). Burke Lakefront Airport had two on 8/50 (PL). Headlands had two on 6/19 (RH).

**Common Grackle.** Forty-three were observed in Macedonia on 6/19 (FL). At Ira Road 26 were counted on 7/23 (TMR).
**Brown-headed Cowbird.** Twelve were found from the Twinsburg Center Valley bike path on 6/16 (FL). Eleven were counted in the CVNP north of Boston on 6/7 (HO). Three reports of chicks fed by foster parents: one fed by a pair of Pine Warblers at Lake Hodgson, Ravenna on 6/20 (GBe), one at Furnace Run fed by Veeries on 6/23 (FCD) and one in Westlake by Chipping Sparrow parents on 7/14 (CC).

**Orchard Oriole.** Nine were observed on a walk between Hale Farm and Indigo Lake in the CVNP 7/9 (TMR). The Richfield Coliseum property had one on 7/1 (GL). HBSP had one on 6/19 (RH).

**Baltimore Oriole.** Highest count was 14 at HBSP on 6/1 (RH). Ira Road had twelve on 6/4 (TMR).

**Purple Finch.** The CVNP Horseshoe Pond trail had two on 6/23 (DAC). Two were at Ira Road on 7/23 (TMR).

**House Finch.** Sanitation Pond had 20 on 8/18 (DAC). HBSP had five to seven throughout the season (RH). Five were at Ira Road on 6/4 (TMR).

**American Goldfinch.** Fifty were counted at HBSP on 8/17 (RH). The Twinsburg Stone House trails had 47 on 6/22 (FL).

**House Sparrow.** At Ira Road 33 were counted on 7/2 (TMR). Twenty-two were seen in the CVNP from the towpath at Boston on 7/12 (HO).

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**West Creek Reservation**

*By Gabe Leidy*

In 2004, West Creek Reservation (formerly West Creek Preserve) became the Cleveland Metropark’s 16th reservation. This was the end result of years of hard-fought conservation battles, with the West Creek Preservation Committee (WCPC) and other environmental groups rising to the defense. West Creek truly is a special area, and its varied habitats and geographic location make it quite valuable to a number of bird species. At over 500 acres, it is by far the largest plot of undeveloped land in the highly urbanized suburb of Parma. I spent about five years censusing birds in this area, at first for WCPC, and later on for my own enjoyment. While interesting at all seasons, it definitely reaches peak activity during spring and fall migrations. I will attempt to divide the reservation up into a few good birding areas, differing mostly by habitat.

The first is the woodland/wetland complex south and west of the parking lot. The small woodlot bordering the parking lot is often filled with warblers during migration, foraging at eye-level in the low bushes and trees. This might be the best place in the park to see concentrated numbers of warblers and other migrants, and it is not uncommon to see 12+ species of warblers here within minutes of entering the woods. The small wetland was created a few years ago, thanks to some hard work by Tri-C and its biology department, and has spruced the habitat up quite a bit. It pulls in the odd waterbird every so often, along with Solitary Sandpipers in migration. Interesting birds seen in this first area have included “Lawrence’s,” Worm-eating, and Cerulean Warblers, and Least Sandpiper.

Moving south, the next major habitat group is the former Parma landfill, now a reclaimed grassland. All of the regularly occurring Ohio sparrows with the exception of Henslow’s have been recorded here and during the peak periods of March/April and October, this whole area is a haven for migrant sparrows. Clay-coloreds have shown themselves to be surprisingly regular visitors with five records over three years (2 spring, 3 fall). Vesper Sparrows are fairly numerous migrants, with a high count of 16 on April 9, 2003. October 2003 was a banner month with both Nelson’s Sharp-tailed and LeConte’s Sparrows showing up on the landfill, and stunning looks at both. When covering this area, you never know just what you’ll kick up - snipe, Bobolinks, and pipits are regular migrants, as well.

*(Continued)*
West Creek itself must be crossed to reach the remaining birding areas. South of the landfill lies an area of brushy successional habitats and young woodlots bordering the river. This area is usually quite lively with a variety of migrants. It is a remarkably reliable spot for Olive-sided Flycatchers from about the last week of August, through the first three weeks of September. Look for them perched atop the tall dead trees in the area, and even fly-catching from the power lines supporting the WUAB tower. Other uncommon species sighted in the area include Golden-winged (twice), “Brewster’s,” and Mourning Warblers (several times), Whip-poor-will, and Clay-colored Sparrow. Weather-permitting it is a good vantage for migrant birds of prey funneling through the valley, including Harriers, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys. Eastern Screech-Owls may be seen sitting at the entrances to their nest boxes.

The area that I have named the Ridge Trail follows the top of a long, narrow ridge, bisecting a fairly steep valley. This is one of the highest points in Cuyahoga County and one of the most maturely wooded areas at West Creek. Because of these factors, the Ridge Trail offers a great vantage for birds foraging at treetop level and this includes flocks of warblers and Purple Finches during migration (flocks of up to 20 birds are present in this area every April). In addition to being a great area for songbird migration, especially large numbers of thrushes, warblers, and others, it also makes for some interesting breeding bird atlassing. The mature forests provide a home for healthy numbers of Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Hooded Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers, and Wood Thrushes. Rarities sighted here include Whip-poor-will, Wild Turkey, and Pine Warbler.

West Creek Reservation is located on West Ridgewood Drive, between State and Broadview Roads in Parma, OH (Cuyahoga Co.).
Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Census
June 15-24th, 2007…30 years!
Doug Vogus & Ann Chasar, coordinators

1978…fast forward to 2007. Most species recorded in the first GAAS Breeding Bird Survey are still present and more are found as volunteers provide better coverage. From 30 years of data we can say a bit about bird populations in Summit County: Whip-poor-wills and Northern Bobwhites are ghosts of the past. Common Moorhens and Common Nighthawks aren't common anymore. Cooper's, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks all seem to be increasing. While Ring-necked Pheasants decreased through the 1980-90s, the spread of Canada Goose, Mute Swan and House Finch became evident. Double-crested Cormorant, Wild Turkey, Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers have all been regularly reported only since the early 1990s. Strong increases in Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird and Yellow Warbler have made these species wonderfully common. Grassland birds can still be found in appropriate habitat in small numbers matching the early years. Song and Chipping Sparrows are abundant, while Field Sparrows seem to be declining. Veery, Wood Thrush and Hooded Warbler, neotropical migrants, seem to be holding their own. Other species continue to surprise us. The King Rail found at Turkeyfoot Lake brought the total number of species recorded during the thirty years to 183! Summit County's varied habitats have hosted a good number of species. But the comments on data sheets turned in by volunteers stress one theme: Habitat is disappearing fast! What will the next 30 years show?

MANY THANKS to the following for their dedication and expertise: Peg Bobel, Steve Borgis, Sandy Brown, Virginia Buerki, Garnet Byrne, John Cameron, Robert Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Sue Chester, Wayne Crouse, George & Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach, Susan Dupstadt, Paul Ellsworth, Dave Ford, Chriss Fulton, Marty & Ann Gulbransen, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Nancy Ibsen, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Hedy Jones, Marilyn & Steve Kaminsky, Linda Kelliar, Winnie Kennedy, Andrea Klein, Judy Kolo-Rose, Gene & Linda Kovach, Frank Lehner, Karl Liske, Fred Losi, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Marianne Nolan, Marc Nolls, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Jane Oswald, Wolfgang & Joyce Pelz, Mary Reithal, Jim Reyda, Mary Anne Romito, Hugh Rose, Ronda Russell, Linda & George Sangrik, Bert Szabo, Doug Vogus, Jim Vogus, Janet Wertz, Bradley Wilkinson, Clyde Witt.

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(Detailed counts on next page)
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</table>
Contributors

Nancy Anderson (NA)         Bob Finkelstein (BF)         John Pogacnik (JP) *
Gregory Bennett (GBe)      Tami Gingrich (TG)         Cathy Priebe (CP)
Dan Best (DBe)             Laura Gooch (LGh) *    Tom and Mary Anne Romito (TMR)
Steve Borgis (HO)          Ray Hannikman (RH)      Larry Rosche (LR)
Sandy Brown (SB)           Rob and Sandy Harlan (RSH)
Garnet Byrne (GB)          Craig Holt (CH)        Judy Semroc (JS)
Craig Caldwell (CC)        Hedy Jones (HO)        Cathy Shambaugh (CS)
John Cameron (HO)          Susan Jones (SJ)       Lisa Sierk (LS)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC) Winnie Kennedy (HO)      Jerry Talianko (JT)
Sue Chester (HO)           Gabe Leidy (GL)        Rebecca Thompson (BT)
Wayne Crouse (HO)          Dave Lewis (DL)        Doug Vogus (DV) *
Greg Cudworth (GC) *       Fred Losi (FL)         Suzanne Wagner (SW)
Leo Deininger (LD)         Paula Lozano (PL)    Annette Webb (HO)
Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD) Wilber McQueen (HO)  Julie West (JW) *
Lois Eckard (HO)           Mark Nolls (MN)       Bill Whan (BW)
John Edwards (JE)          Hope Orr (HO)         Clyde Witt (CW)
                         * Sightings gathered from birdingonthe.net/mailinglists/ohio.html

Note: Some submissions are received indirectly through forwarded correspondence (fide = “in trust of”).