

Wetland Breeding Bird Survey - 1991

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EFFORT

The 1991 Wetland Breeding Bird Survey was conducted between May 18 and June 11. Wetland routes were surveyed between 0500 and 1000 hours. Approximately 45 observers participated in this initial survey year. Observers covered 30 wetland areas across the state (Figure 1) and sampled a total of 416 stops (Table 2). Completed surveys in 1991 represented about 75% of targeted areas. Unfortunately, several productive wetlands went unsurveyed in 1991 (Table 2). Dominant habitat types recorded at stops were emergent cattail marshes (70%) and shrub/scrub wetlands (14%).

RESULTS

Observers recorded a total of 1429 individuals of 25 species. One additional species, the northern pintail, was recorded between stops in Mentor Marsh. Tree swallows were the most common species encountered, followed by great blue herons, willow flycatchers and swamp sparrows (Table 1). Average density (all species) among wetlands ranged from 0.44 to 8.14 birds/stop. Diversity of wetland areas ranged from 4 to 16 species. As could be expected, wetlands along Lake Erie (with the exception of Killbuck Wildlife Management Area) had the greatest diversity. Three of 4 common species were also the most common species encountered on surveys I conducted in 1990.

Several species (pied-billed grebes, least bitterns, soras and marsh wrens) were conspicuously less prevalent in 1991 than in 1990. Warm temperatures and low water levels in 1991 might be responsible for these differences. Additionally, 6 of 11 wetlands that went unsurveyed in 1991 but were surveyed in 1990 had relatively high densities of the aforementioned species. Drier conditions in 1991 might have caused an early nest initiation of many wetland species. Recorded numbers of soras, Virginia rails, willow flycatchers and swamp sparrows (but not marsh wrens) appeared to be lower in early June than in late May in 1991 (Figure 2,3).

1992 SEASON

I have made adjustments to stop locations and sequences that were submitted by participants in 1991. I will not personally be able to oversee the survey in 1992. I am, however, enclosing all adjusted maps, data forms and survey procedures to expedite preparation for the 92 season. I am suggesting that all surveys be conducted between May 15 and June 1. Hopefully, this will increase the detection of several species. Because of input from observers and further consideration on my part, I have added (or stressed) several points for 92:

1. remember to plot new stop locations on the map and submit a copy,
2. record the name and address of all observers (just for the records and distribution of materials),
3. record all individuals that flush from the arc upon approach,
4. proof data forms for times, date and marsh types.

I am checking into the problem with the tapes that some participants encountered last year and should have a good copy available for those who need one. At this time, I am not sure who will be coordinating the survey but I trust you will be hearing from someone in the very near future. Good luck in the upcoming season and thanks for your participation.

Table 1. Date, stop number and average number of birds/stop for species detected during the 1991 wetland breeding bird survey. High counts (species >0.01) are highlighted.

Wetland Surveyed	Date	Stop#	PBGR	DCCO	AMBI	LEBI	GTBH
Arcola Creek	5/30	3					0.33
Athens Area	6/02	13					0.08
Buckeye Lake	6/07	9					0.33
Clark County	6/01	9	0.11				0.44
Columbiana County	6/08	27					0.26
Cuyahoga NRA	5/19	5				0.20	0.60
Darby Unit (Ottawa NWR)	6/01	12	0.08			0.17	0.58
Delaware WMA	5/22	7					0.86
Funk Bottoms	6/02	7					0.29
Gilmore Ponds	6/03	14	0.07				0.57
Grand River WMA	6/10	15	0.07				0.47
Jackson County	6/08	11					0.55
Killbuck Creek (South)	5/18	17					0.53
Killbuck WMA	6/08	17	0.12				0.35
Lexington Area	6/06	12					0.17
Little Cedar Point NWR	5/25	25	0.52	0.12			1.64
Little Portage WMA	6/08	19					4.47
Magee Marsh WMA	6/02	27	0.07				0.41
Mahoning County	6/10	10					0.90
Mentor Marsh	6/01	24					0.04
Mosquito Creek WMA	5/27	16					0.63
Ohio Power Lands	5/24	14					0.07
Ottawa NWR (West)	5/27	14	1.00		0.14		1.57
Perry County	5/30	10					
Pickerington Pond MP	6/11	12					1.00
Resthaven WMA	6/09	16					
Shenango WMA	6/06	8					0.13
Spring Valley WMA	6/07	13					
Tinker's Creek NP	5/26	16					0.75
Toussaint WMA	5/27	14					0.21
TOTAL		416	0.08	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.67

Table 1 (cont.).

Area Surveyed	GREG	GNBH	BCNH	BWTE	ABDU	HOME
Arcola Creek		0.33				
Athens Area		0.23				
Buckeye Lake						0.11
Clark County						
Columbiana County		0.33				
Cuyahoga NRA		0.40				
Darby Unit (Ottawa NWR)			0.17			
Delaware WMA				0.71		
Funk Bottoms		0.29				
Gilmore Ponds		0.79	0.43	0.14		
Grand River WMA		0.20				
Jackson County		0.73				
Killbuck Creek (South)		0.35				
Killbuck WMA		0.18		0.06		
Lexington Area		0.25				
Little Cedar Point NWR	0.40	0.04	0.64	0.04		
Little Portage WMA	0.47	0.05	0.37			
Magee Marsh WMA	0.22		0.04			
Mahoning County						
Mentor Marsh		0.04	0.04			
Mosquito Creek WMA				0.06		
Ohio Power Lands		0.14				
Ottawa NWR (West)	0.71		0.14	0.36	0.21	
Perry County	0.10	0.10				
Pickerington Pond MP		0.08				
Resthaven WMA	0.06	0.06				
Shenango WMA				0.13		
Spring Valley WMA		0.15				
Tinker's Creek NP		0.19		0.19		
Toussaint WMA	0.14	0.07	0.21			
TOTAL	0.09	0.16	0.09	0.05	<0.01	<0.01

Table 1 (cont.).

Area Surveyed	KIRA	VIRA	SORA	AMMO	SPSA	RBGU	HEGU
Arcola Creek							
Athens Area							
Buckeye Lake							
Clark County						0.22	
Columbiana County		0.19	0.19	0.07			
Cuyahoga NRA		0.60					
Darby Unit (Ottawa NWR)							
Delaware WMA		0.43			0.29	1.86	
Funk Bottoms	0.14	0.14	0.43				
Gilmore Ponds				1.43			
Grand River WMA		0.07		0.07	0.07		
Jackson County		0.09					
Killbuck Creek (South)		0.06	0.18				
Killbuck WMA			0.24	0.12			
Lexington Area		0.58					
Little Cedar Point NWR		0.08		0.44	0.20	0.04	0.04
Little Portage WMA						0.05	0.05
Magee Marsh WMA		0.15	0.07	0.07			
Mahoning County							
Mentor Marsh		0.13	0.08	0.33			
Mosquito Creek WMA		0.19	0.06	0.13	0.06		
Ohio Power Lands			0.21			0.50	
Ottawa NWR (West)			0.14	0.21			
Perry County			0.10				
Pickerington Pond MP							
Resthaven WMA							
Shenango WMA		0.13					
Spring Valley WMA							
Tinker's Creek NP				0.06		0.13	
Toussaint WMA		0.14					
TOTAL	<0.01	0.09	0.06	0.13	0.02	0.06	<0.01

Table 1 (cont.).

Area Surveyed	ALFL	WIFL	TRSW	SEWR	MAWR	PROW	SWSP
Arcola Creek		1.33					
Athens Area			0.15				
Buckeye Lake							
Clark County		1.00					
Columbiana County		0.59	0.19		0.41		1.19
Cuyahoga NRA		1.00	2.60			0.20	0.40
Darby Unit (Ottawa NWR)					0.33		
Delaware WMA		2.00	1.86				0.14
Funk Bottoms		1.57	0.43		0.57		1.71
Gilmore Ponds		0.29	0.36			0.14	
Grand River WMA	0.13				0.07		0.27
Jackson County		1.00	0.45			0.09	
Killbuck Creek (South)	0.12	0.76	1.47			0.47	0.71
Killbuck WMA	0.12	0.06	2.29		0.18	0.06	0.06
Lexington Area		0.58	0.92		0.67		0.42
Little Cedar Point NWR		0.08	1.72	0.08	0.16		
Little Portage WMA		0.32	1.32				
Magee Marsh WMA		0.07	0.04		0.07		0.56
Mahoning County		0.20	0.60		0.10		1.10
Mentor Marsh		0.13	1.25		0.17	0.04	0.29
Mosquito Creek WMA		0.56	2.19		0.19	0.13	0.50
Ohio Power Lands		0.79	0.29		0.07		0.21
Ottawa NWR (West)		0.21	1.00		0.50		
Perry County			0.20	0.10			0.80
Pickerington Pond MP		0.75	1.83				
Resthaven WMA			0.50				0.06
Shenango WMA		0.25	0.25				0.75
Spring Valley WMA		0.15	0.08		0.23		
Tinker's Creek NP	0.06		0.19		0.06		0.06
Toussaint WMA		0.36	0.07				0.07
TOTAL	0.02	0.36	0.76	<0.01	0.14	0.06	0.29

Table 2. Wetland areas mapped in 1991 but not surveyed.

Wetland Area	No. of Stops
Big Island WMA	18
Circleville	11
Indian Lake	6
Irwin Prairie	5
Killdeer Plains WMA	10
Mogadore Reservoir	6
Ottawa NWR (East)	28
Pickrel Creek WMA	12
Springville Marsh NP	10
Willow Point WMA	11
Winous Point SC	50
Total Stops	167

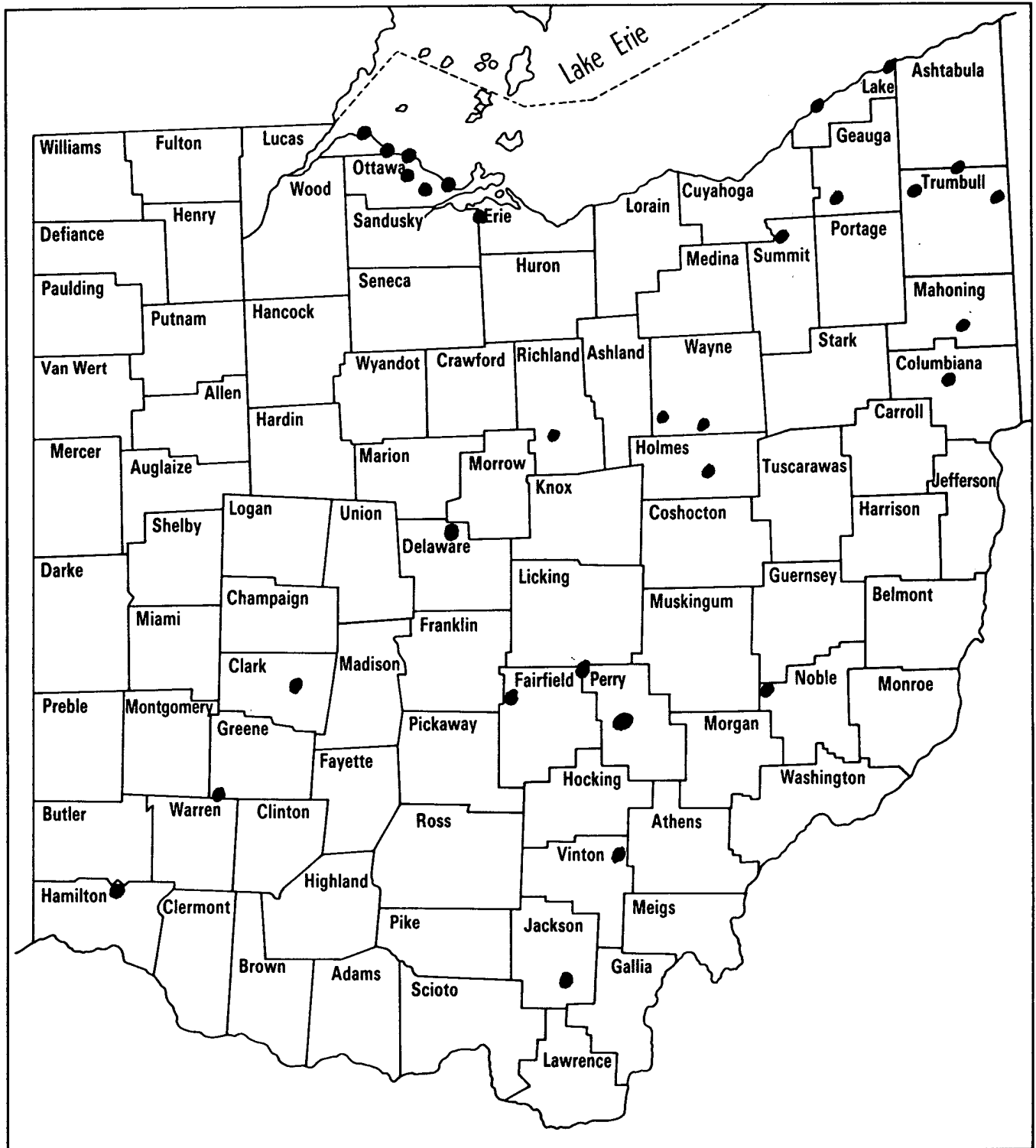


Figure 1. Location of surveyed wetlands - 1991.

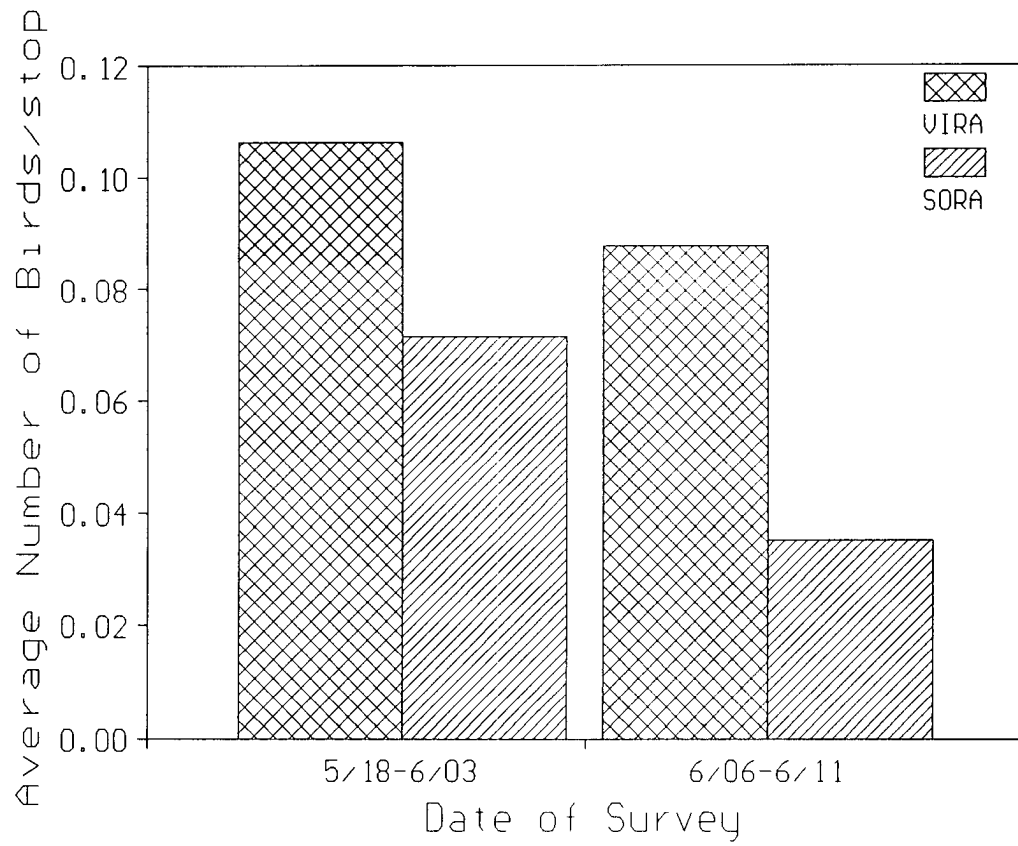


Figure 2. Effect of survey date on the number of rails recorded.

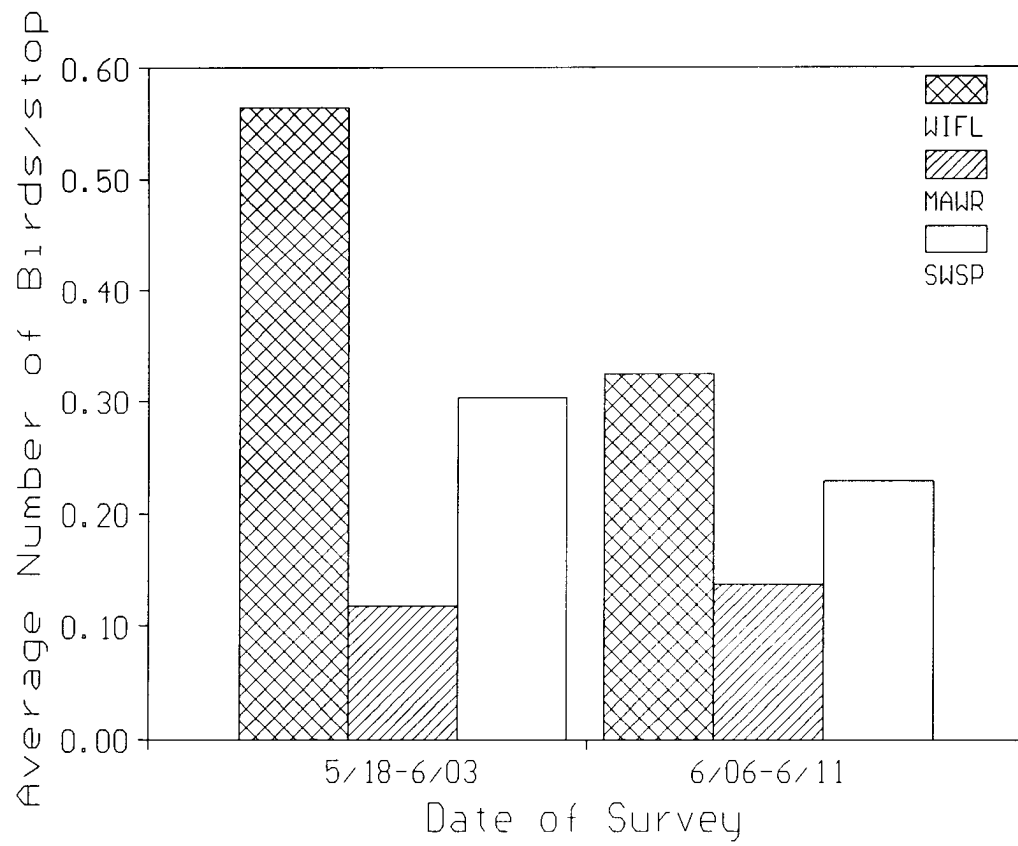


Figure 3. Effect of survey date on the number of passerines recorded.