

The Ohio



CARDINAL™

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The Ohio Cardinal

... is devoted to the study of and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.
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Cover Photo, An Ohio nesting Peregrine Falcon by Gary Meszaros summer 1998

The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on the identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio. We invite readers to submit articles illuminating these topics.

Seasonal Reports are due by the following dates:

Winter - 25 March
Spring - 25 June
Summer - 25 August
Autumn - 25 December

Please send all reports to :
Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Rd.
Akron, OH 44319

The Summer 1997 Season

by Victor W. Fazio III

In its short two months, the summer season encompasses the end of the spring migration, the height of the breeding season, and the beginning of fall migration. This year was particularly busy for all three. The generally cool wet spring continued into June and had a discernible impact on both migrant and nesting birds. No less than 19 species of native waterfowl were found lingering into the period. Exceptional for summer were reports of Canvasback, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, and Common Merganser. Horned Grebe also falls into this crowd of lingering waterbirds. While Common Loon always linger into the season with a few spending the summer, this year was exceptional with 19 birds found between 10 June and 20 July across the state. The spring passerine migration peaked for many species during the last couple of days in May so the plethora of observations well into June was not unexpected. So late were the observations that likely spring migrants were meeting fall migrants along the shores of Lake Erie. Shorebirds are the principal fall migrants of interest and this season offered good variety and quantity, if a little late in starting southward. The disturbing news is the degree to which shorebird habitat has disappeared in Ohio. Were it not for a single site, the dredge impoundment at Lorain Harbor, the migration picture painted herein would be very different.

Ever since the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Ohio birders have discovered the excitement of revealing the local nesting scene. These efforts were particularly rewarding in the Canadian zone habitats of the state as the cool summer gave impetus for northern breeding species to nest in substantial numbers in known localities and others to find themselves in new territories. The Lake County and Franklin County Metropark surveys are detailed in this issue. Among the species likely responding to the cooler season were high numbers of Winter Wren in Lake County, while the nesting of White-throated Sparrow and Black-throated Blue Warbler were the first successful nestings since 1931 and 1932 respectively. During the Atlas some evidence suggested Chestnut-sided Warblers were expanding their range slowly to the southwest within Ohio. This year first successful nestings in the Dayton and Columbus Metroparks area continue that trend. Pied-billed Grebes have responded to newly created wetlands. The species now regularly nests in the Columbus area and has recently taken up summer residence near Cincinnati. Shifting populations, both in the short term and long term, continue to provide for future discoveries. Species to watch



The Great Horned Owl nest at Crane Creek S.P., Lucas Co. in its 4th year
Photo : Vic Fazio III