

*The Ohio Cardinal* is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

*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 identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

*The Ohio Cardinal* invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

<b>Seasonal Report Due Dates</b>	<b>Please send all reports to:</b>
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Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (June-July) - August 25
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

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### Subscriptions

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c/o Edwin C. Pierce  
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Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

### The Ohio Cardinal

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*On the Cover:* A winter scene dominated by canvasbacks on Sandusky Bay. Photo by Gary Meszaros on 30 January 1998.

### A Note from the Editor

A whole flock of *Cardinals* ago, we published a promise to restore missing reports on Ohio's birds. In 1997 and 1998, a rocky period in our twenty-three years as the state birding magazine caused us to fail to publish five issues of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Since then we have determined to repair the resulting damage to our continuous series of data on Ohio birds. Now at last we make good on that promise, even if not on the optimistic schedule projected earlier.

Readers will recall the first restoration of missing data, in the form of last year's omnibus issue covering Autumn of 1998 and Winter of 1998-99, ably compiled by guest editor Bob Conlon. Here we present at last the reports for the three seasons preceding that period—Winter 1997-98, Spring 1998, and Summer 1998—in a similar format. The gap in Ohio's bird records is now filled. We include herein few photographs and no articles, having inherited none, but we have made the fullest possible use of the salvaged records of our contributors. As a result, this make-up issue completes the missing picture of Ohio's birdlife in a way fully comparable with our regular issues since that time.

As grateful as we are to Bob Conlon for having compiled the reports for the rest of the hiatus, and to Su Snyder for her invaluable help in compiling many records for this publication, we owe most to our contributors. These birders, who maintained careful records of their observations and sent them to us for publication, and who persisted in sending them even when the magazine was faltering, are the real motivators of this restoration. Their dedication to keeping records, and their faith in the magazine that publishes them, is what inspired the work that put this issue together. We hope you will find it informative, and also that you will derive from reading it an appreciation for the network of skilled and generous field observers who made it possible.

*Bill Whan*



This lark sparrow was found on the Ragersville, Holmes Co., CBC on 30 December 1997 and remained into the Spring 1998 season. Photo by Bruce Glick on 3 January 1998.