

Notices

Ohio Checklist: The Ohio Bird Records Committee and ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves recently collaborated on a new publication, the "Birds of Ohio Field Checklist." This pocket-sized five-fold checklist on heavy stock includes all the species on the official Ohio list in the latest taxonomic order, annotated as to breeding status, nature of documentation of records, native or introduced status, and highlighting Review List species with the last year of their accepted records. More than a checklist, it can also serve as a compact reference to Ohio's avifauna that users will find themselves referring to frequently, thus deserving places both in the pocket and on the desk. Thanks to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the checklist is available free of charge by mail at ODNR/DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square, Building F-1, Columbus, OH 43224-1331 or by telephone at (614) 265-6453.

Birds Online: Chase-happy twitchers will no doubt find the news about good birds in this magazine a bit stale. Birders with Internet connections—and no one with a good public library nearby is denied them—are increasingly relying on electronic updates. Several of the Ohio phone-in rare bird alerts are now transcribed for the Internet, and the very latest news is available on ohio-birds, a listserv. To subscribe, send an e-mail message addressed to listproc@envirolink.org with the subject line left blank, and a message consisting simply of the words: subscribe ohio-birds; follow these words with your name. To unsubscribe, do exactly the same thing, substituting unsubscribe for subscribe in the message. You can preview ohio-birds and dozens of other listservs from all over the world by going to <http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/homepage.html> and choosing Birdmail. Our recommended website of the season is <http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/>, a huge site full of useful information on birds.

Wildlife Area Maps: Maps of wildlife areas administered by the Division of Wildlife of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, along with many other publications—ask for a list of them—are available from the ODNR's Public Information Center, 1889 Fountain Square, Building C-1, Columbus, OH 43224, phone number (614) 265-6791. Maps and some other items are free of charge in quantities of 5 or fewer; each ten items or less requires \$1 for postage. Maps can also be downloaded from ODNR's website at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us> and printed off.

North American Birds: Many readers of this publication send their bird reports each season to *The Ohio Cardinal*, and also to local publications like *The Bobolink* and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. There is of course a national publication that relies on bird reports of continental significance, *North American Birds*, recently titled *Field Notes* and earlier *American Birds*. The subregional editor for the Middlewestern Prairie Region for this publication, Rob Harlan, welcomes reports of significance to that region (unusual species, unusual numbers or early or late occurrences of any species, photos of same, etc) within 15 days of the end of the standard reporting periods, i.e., 15 Aug, 15 Dec, 15 Mar, and 15 Jun to him at 7072 Parma Park Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44130. The major birding publications in Ohio freely share their sightings information so that everyone benefits from field observers' discoveries, but make sure your data get to all the right places because their schedules of publication differ.



The above image is a reproduction of David Henderson's artwork which graced the cover of *The Ohio Cardinal* Vol. 1, No. 1. As you can see, a lot has changed in the last 21 years. *The Ohio Cardinal* was started in 1978 and the first issue covered the Spring season of that year. For the history buffs out there, here are some interesting facts about the first issue:

- The first issue was 28 pages in length and contained the seasonal reports plus two articles: "Pine Siskins Nesting in Toledo" by Tom Kemp and "Documentation of Extraordinary Sight Records" by Jim Fry.
- Thirteen species reported during this season required documentation (numbers in parentheses equal the number of reports): Red-necked grebe (3), little blue heron (1; did not nest in Ohio until 1983), snowy egret (1; did not nest in Ohio until 1983), northern goshawk (2), sandhill crane (1), stilt sandpiper (2), Hudsonian godwit (1), Iceland gull (1), laughing gull (1), Bohemian waxwing (1 on 12 Mar at Pearson Park, Lucas), western meadowlark (1), house finch (only 2 reports!), and white-winged crossbill (1).
- Wild turkeys were scarce with only two reports. Northern bobwhites were equally uncommon with only four reports...remember the winter of 1977-78?
- Dowitchers could only be identified to genus in 1978 because field separation of the two species was as yet unclear.
- Twenty-six birders contributed to the first issue, whereas 235 birders contributed to this issue (Vol. 22, No. 3).

It is our goal to continue a long tradition of excellence started by those who pioneered this first issue in 1978. We hope you enjoy!