

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.

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (Jun.-Jul.) - August 25
Fall (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

Please send all reports to:

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Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$15.00. Please send all subscription requests to:

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The Ohio Cardinal

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Cover: **Snowy Egret**, Magee Marsh WA, Ottawa Co., 7 May 1999. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A Note from the New Editor

We owe much to our subscribers and contributors for having kept faith with *The Ohio Cardinal* as we fell behind our regular publication schedule over the past several years. We intend to restore an unbroken chain of data, importantly through Vic Fazio's ongoing work to publish missing issues through Summer 1998. We also intend, contemporaneous with efforts to fill in the gaps, to return *The Ohio Cardinal* to prompt and regular publication with this issue. The magazine you hold covers the Spring of 1999, and we plan issues just as punctual from now on.

One of the primary reasons for the founding of this publication in 1978 was the need to open up communications among Ohio birders. No quarterly magazine can compete with instantaneous news, electronic or word-of-mouth, about important bird sightings, but we can make it easier to find interesting birds and learn more about them by providing a coherent permanent record of occurrences, identification articles, details on remarkable records, and useful guides to birdfinding around the state. In all these efforts, information gathered by field observers is our most valuable resource, and the more widely it is promulgated the more valuable it becomes—valuable not in the narrow proprietary sense, but useful and enlightening to the greatest possible number of us. Because open communication remains as important as ever to us, we have made arrangements with other compilers of this sort of information—*The Bobolink*, *North American Birds*, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, and the projected *Ohio Birds and Natural History*—to share freely and mutually all raw data of bird sightings. Our contributors are of course free to opt out of this arrangement as individuals, and have only to notify us if that is their choice, but we believe the fullest possible sharing of information can only benefit Ohio birders.

A lot of new projects for *The Ohio Cardinal*, fondly considered over recent years, have had to await a return to regular and timely publication. They will have to wait a bit longer, since one on-time issue is hardly enough to re-establish good habits. At the same time, while the heart of this publication will remain the seasonal reports, we intend immediately to tap more fully the resources of birders in Ohio and elsewhere to make the magazine of deeper interest to our readers. We plan more articles on birdfinding in the state, guides to field identification, and more field studies and reports. With this issue we also inaugurate "Further Afield," a regular column by Rob Harlan, of which we expect to be especially proud; for this issue, so well-matched was his topic to our own that we feel obliged to confess it was a happy coincidence rather than the result of thoughtful coordination. We invite your opinions, and, as always, we depend vitally upon your contributions.

Bill Whan