



## Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

Twenty years ago, Robert Crundwell illustrated the cover of Vol. 2, No. 2 of *The Ohio Cardinal* with his rendition of a white-breasted nuthatch, and founder John Herman continued as editor. This Summer 1979 issue was brief, consisting of the seasonal report and an article by Jean Hoffman entitled "Guide to the Cleveland Lakefront." Her guide described sites near downtown Cleveland: Wildwood Park, Gordon Park, the East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Marina, Edgewater Park, and others. Some of these sites remain as birding hotspots, while others have lost some of their importance with the passage of time.

The seasonal report was impressive, tallying 210 species. Of these, 28 species were shorebirds and 32 warblers. Ten species which required documentation were reported during the season. A tricolored (then Louisiana) heron was found on 22 July at Ottawa NWR and two snowy egrets were reported—one at Port Clinton on 9 July and another at East Harbor on 13 July. Two whimbrels were reported, representing fall migrants—one in Cleveland on 20 July and one in Erie Co. on 22-23 July. Another fall migrant shorebird, an American avocet, was found on 24 July in Cleveland. Very unusual was a sub-adult glaucous gull at Conneaut Harbor on 18 July. Another gull species, Franklin's gull, made a decent showing with three reports—one second-year bird at Little Cedar Point on 3 June, one adult at Neilson's Marsh (now known as Medusa Marsh) on 16 June-6 July, and one adult at Neilson's Marsh on 30 July. An alder flycatcher was at Magee Marsh on 1 June. A pair of blue-headed (then solitary) vireos were observed feeding three young on 28 July at Hinckley Ledges (Medina Co.) and a single individual was noted on 27 June at Mohican SP. Two male yellow-headed blackbirds were found at Little Cedar Point on 3 June and a clay-colored sparrow was at Magee Marsh WA on 1 June.

Among species not on the Review List, several put on good showings during the summer of 1979, while others were notably scarce. Common loons summered in Ohio and were represented by six birds. Late horned grebes were noted at Little Cedar Point and Wellington Reservoir in June. Yellow-crowned night-herons nested in Franklin Co. and raised at least five young. Only four least bitterns and three American bitterns were reported, reflecting these species' secretive behavior and perhaps lack of suitable nesting habitat.

Lingering waterfowl provided summer listers with some quarry in June with American black ducks, northern pintails, blue-winged teal, and northern shovelers nesting in the state. Bald eagles began showing their resilience in 1979 when three nests produced young, a number unmatched since 1968 in Ohio. Notable shorebird species (aside from those mentioned above) were black-bellied plover, ruddy turnstone, willet, red knot, white-rumped sandpiper, stilt sandpiper, western sandpiper, marbled godwit, sanderling, and Wilson's and red-necked phalaropes. Black terns were much more common than now, with 79 individuals reported in the summer of 1979. A brown creeper summered at Shaker Lakes. There was only one report of Carolina wren. Purple finches nested in Lorain and Richland Counties, and house finches continued their proliferation with reports from six counties and confirmed nesting. Finally, a pine siskin was in Kent on 1-4 June. *Joseph W. Hammond*



Grasshopper Sparrow - Woodbury WA, Coshocton Co., 16 June 1999. Photo by Laura Gooch, Kingston Photography, Copyright © 1999.