

*The Ohio*



# CARDINAL™

Vol. 22, No. 4  
Summer 1999



*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:

Bill Whan  
223 E. Tulane Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43202  
danielel@iwaynet.net

## Subscriptions

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

*The Ohio Cardinal*  
c/o Edwin C. Pierce  
2338 Harrington Rd.  
Akron, OH 44319

## The Ohio Cardinal

Bill Whan, Editor  
Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher  
Joseph W. Hammond, Design Manager  
The Ohio Bird Records Committee: Jim McCormac, Secretary  
Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
1889 Fountain Square, Bldg. F-1  
Columbus, OH 43224

Cover: **Henslow's Sparrow** - Woodbury WA, Coshocton Co., 9 June 1999. Photo by Laura Gooch, Kingston Photography, Copyright © 1999.

## Summer 1999 Overview

by Bill Whan

The summer was memorably hot and dry, especially away from the northern counties. Few of us will have forgotten the discomforts of the season, but for the record here are the National Weather Service's numbers. In the columns of the following table, the first records deviations in degrees Fahrenheit from the average daily high temperatures for the month, the second deviation from the average monthly precipitation in inches, and the third the number of days in each month in which the high temperature exceeded 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

	Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (in.)	Nineties
<b>CLEVELAND</b>			
June	+2.5	-2.27	4
July	+4.3	+1.14	10
<b>COLUMBUS</b>			
June	+5.3	-3.39	12
July	+7.0	-1.29	20
<b>CINCINNATI</b>			
June	+2.0	-0.68	5
July	+3.9	-1.08	17

Human complaining aside, southern-style weather seems not to have discouraged northern birds. Red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, hermit thrushes, dark-eyed juncos, and golden-crowned kinglets, as well as warblers such as Blackburnian, magnolia, and Canada were, if not confirmed as nesters, at least repeatedly detected during the period. It is too easy for a pampered and chronically malcontent species such as our own to assume such a hot dry summer will greatly alter the lives of wildlife. We, for example, were all too ready to assume the drought had devastated insect prey for birds, but a talk with OSU entomologist and birder Dave Horn was customarily enlightening; he told us that in parched areas of southern Ohio, flying insects (parasitic wasps and flies, etc.) and crawling soil-surface arthropods (beetles, crickets, spiders, etc.) were down perhaps 5% for the former and about 10% for the latter. Such variations may or may not be due to drought, but in any case they are, he said, well within normal annual variation. If there were to be any major impact on birds, he predicted, it would be delayed; if plants were to dry up, caterpillars (and subsequent moths and parasites) would be depressed in population, consequently reducing forage for foliage-gleaning birds such as warblers, tanagers, etc., and that as streams dried up, there would be fewer midges, caddisflies, etc., with some impact on flycatchers. He didn't anticipate any reduction in bird populations, but some species might have to work harder next summer.

Lingering waterbirds were scarce, befitting their hasty departure in the spring, but as always a few individuals of species breeding to the north were discovered after mid-June. The widespread emergence of seventeen-year cicadas raised hopes for Missis-