

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 (June-July) - August 25
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

Please send all reports to:

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The Ohio Cardinal

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On the Cover: Brown-headed Nuthatch - South Russell, Geauga County, 21 November 2001. Photo by Warren Gilbert.

Autumn 2001 Overview

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The scents of flowers mingle with that of burning leaves, and a few of summer's birds share the skies with waterfowl arriving from the Arctic. Butterflies and juncos, warblers and morning hoarfrost, chanting crickets and snowy owls, all the oddest couples of autumn, seemed particularly evident this year...in December. It is becoming tedious to recite such announcements, but here they are: October was the warmest on record worldwide, November was the second-warmest ever in the U.S., and 2001 seems likely to rate second only to 1998 as the warmest worldwide since records have been kept.

It is tempting to over-estimate the effect of temperatures on bird abundance and distribution. Boreal birds, however, do not come to Ohio because it is too cold up north, any more than southern birds come our way for a break from the heat. But weather warm enough to sustain a food source can delay departure for certain southbound species. Open water in the north and unusually late flushes of insects may prolong migrations. We had a flycatcher—a vermilion one—right into December, a virtual absence of several hardy waterfowl species through November, and August arrivals of forerunner species like red-breasted nuthatches and pine siskins that raised hopes for a winter finch irruption.

We picked chiles out of the editorial garden until the first local hard frost on 12 December. The season's only measurable snow in Cleveland—an inch—fell on 26 October, where November was a hefty 6.2°F above normal—with only four days with temperatures below freezing—and the winds blew from the north on only seven days. Perhaps the most significant event of the season's weather involved high winds, which dominated the scene in the latter half of October. Nearly all the season's negligible snow fell at this time, and strong westerlies may have influenced the period's arrivals of western birds like Franklin's and Sabine's gulls, our only Eurasian wigeon, and big fallouts of migrant sparrows, of which fully 13 species were found at Headlands Beach State Park on the 21st. The weather grew much calmer and warmer after that. As a likely consequence, waterfowl were late and low in numbers this fall. Shorebirds lingered remarkably long in the few habitats allowed to exist; the Crane Creek estuary and Sheldon Marsh, two areas still open to natural fluctuations in the Lake Erie water levels, hosted most of them, and both areas are threatened—the former by government land managers, the latter by a private developer. Although there were some notably early arrivals, passerines from the north seemed to do their passing on a leisurely schedule.

An excellent nine Review Species were documented this fall, among them an astounding three potential first Ohio records. Two other Review Species were widely rumored, but could not be refound, and without documentation to back them up are not included in the Reports. One additional species that would be new to the state list remains in recirculation in the Records Committee. By and large we prefer to spend the money on additional content rather than on color photos, but excellent flycatcher images contributed by Sharon Cummings tempted us to include a vermilion crayon with each copy of *The Ohio Cardinal* so readers could kick it up a notch.

As the ornithological journal of record for Ohio, we inaugurate here *For the Record*, a regular brief listing of significant bird records not covered in previous issues. Gleaned from tardy reports, omissions, publication elsewhere, etc., they are intended to more nearly complete the published record, and appear for the first time below. We trust the delayed publication of a few records will be more acceptable to readers than delayed publication of *The Ohio Cardinal* until all such reports become available.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42nd Supplement (July 2000) to the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998). Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; acceptable documentation is needed to add reports of such species to official state records. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used should be readily understood, with the possible exception of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CCE=Crane Creek estuary in Ottawa NWR; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; CVNPC=the 15 September census at CVNP, reported by **D. Chasar**; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*="in trust of," said of information conveyed on behalf of another person; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark or Metro Park; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWRC=monthly census of Ottawa NWR, reported by **E. Pierce**; Ottawa=Ottawa NWR in *Lucas* and *Ottawa*; ph=photograph; Res= reservoir; Res'n=reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley Wildlife Area in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigenda

H. Slack's report of double-crested cormorants in the previous issue should read "four in *Lawrence* on 26 July." In "Early Works on Ohio Birds by J. P. Kirtland," the scientific name of mourning dove should be *Zenaida macroura* (p. 201).

For the Record

American White Pelican: **J. McConnor** saw one in *Cuyahoga* on 5 July 2001.

Northern Harrier: Last summer at Woodbury WA, **J. Beechy** observed one on 30 June 2001. **R. Schlabach** noted a juvenile in *Tuscarawas* on 26 July 2001.

Piping Plover: The US F&WS (2 Oct 2001, **J. Dingledine**) reported that the Great Lakes population actually increased from 30 nesting pairs in 2000 to 32 in 2001. These pairs fledged 71 chicks in 2001.

Willet: One was observed 23 July 2001 at HBSP (**R. Hannikman**).

Jaeger sp.: **F. Downs** saw a jaeger in Leesville Lk, *Carroll*, while fishing on 4 June 2001. Details diagnostic of species were not available.

Laughing Gull: A bird in first-summer plumage was observed on 16 June 2001 at Fairport Harbor by **R. Hannikman**.

Common Tern: **T. LePage** noted three at Lorain on 17 July 2001.

Forster's Tern: One was at Tappan Lk, *Harrison*, on 4 June 2001 (**L. Miller**).

Barn Owl: *The Bobolink* reported 17 nests in *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas* in summer 2001.

Alder Flycatcher: **L. Rosche** counted 28 on BBS routes in the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTLS) in *Portage* during summer 2001.

Least Flycatcher: Two were singing on 30 June 2001 at Woodbury WA, with breeding unconfirmed (**J. Beechy**).

Cliff Swallow: **A. Troyer's** farm in *Holmes* hosted 545 pairs in summer 2001.

Veery: **L. Rosche** counted 76 on BBS routes in the RTLS in *Portage* during summer 2001.

Tennessee Warbler: **B. Glick** had a singing male in *Coshocton* on 9 June 2001.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: **L. Rosche's** 2001 BBS routes at the RTLS found 25.

Prairie Warbler: Odd indeed was one at Mentor Lagoons, *Lake*, on 22 July 2001 (**R. Hannikman**).

White-throated Sparrow: **J. E. Miller** observed one on 1-2 July 2001 in *Wayne*.

Dark-eyed Junco: As in four of the past five years, **J. Beechy** found a male singing at Mohican SF on 30 June 2001.

Pine Siskin: **T. Shrock** had one at his *Holmes* feeder on 10-12 June 2001. 🐦



White-winged crossbills appeared across Ohio during late October and early November. This male was one of two coming to a Franklin County feeder on 7 November 2001. Digiscoped photo by Joe Hammond.