

*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	Please send all reports to:
Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25	Bill Whan
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25	223 E. Tulane Rd.
Summer (June-July) - August 25	Columbus, OH 43202
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	danielel@iwaynet.net

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### The Ohio Cardinal

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**On the Cover:** Louisiana Waterthrush - Idlewood Park, Summit County, 29 December 2001. Photo by Judy Semroc.

## Winter 2001-02 Overview

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What we used to call the grip of winter has recently become a warm clasp more like a handshake. This time the variables most affecting birds—snow-cover and air temperatures (at least insofar as they produce ice or diminish food supplies)—seemed less wintry than ever. The nation's average November-January temperature has increased at a rate of 1.2°F per decade since 1976. In mid-state at Columbus, 8.4 inches of snow fell, compared to the historical average of 27.6 inches. The first three weeks of December here averaged an impressive 11.7°F above normal, and after the following two cold weeks averaged 5.1°F below, the next fifty days of winter averaged 8.0°F above normal.

Birds that winter south of the US can seldom take advantage of such mild conditions, but some who pass the season in the southern states, and more of those who do so even closer, showed marked increases both in numbers and in the length of time they spent farther north. Winter's nine reported rarities subject to review by the OBRC were northern gannet, Ross's goose, parasitic jaeger, two black-headed gulls, glaucous-winged gull (a first state record if accepted), California gull, *Selasphorus* hummingbird, vermilion flycatcher, and brown-headed nuthatch. Of these, perhaps the stays of the hummer and the flycatcher were prolonged by mild weather, but these are hardy birds in any event. The cumulative effect of recent clement winters led this time to record tallies of northern mockingbirds and Carolina wrens in northern counties. Higher temperatures this season must have been involved in a dearth of cold-weather ducks and a surplus of tenderer ones, no fewer than seven warbler and 12 shorebird species (for most of the latter, vital habitat was available only at the Crane Creek estuary) statewide, plus unusual numbers of sandhill cranes, snow geese, tundra swans, and pomarine jaegers. Add to these two Baltimore orioles, a Swainson's thrush, and an amazing summer tanager, and you get the picture of a mild winter that favored adaptable species, especially among those normally wintering not too far away. Perhaps most newsworthy of all was the addition of two southern species to the official Ohio list—brown-headed nuthatch and Eurasian collared-dove—bringing it to 410 species.

Turkey vultures clearly benefited from the weather, seen throughout the period in some unusual places and in excellent numbers. Among waterfowl, open water to our north kept concentrations of hardy diving ducks on Lake Erie down, but open water inland induced higher than normal numbers of puddle ducks and other divers to pass the winter here. Indeed, this winter one got the strong impression that these birds are perennially in a hurry; attaining nuptial plumage in fall, courting in the snow, they go not an inch further south than they have to, and restlessly await a chance to head north at the earliest possible moment. At sleepy Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland it seemed there were often more snowy owls than planes in flight, but another arctic species with similar food habits, the rough-legged hawk, seemed down somewhat in numbers around the state. Despite a shortage of the ice



that often concentrates them, white-winged gulls made a surprisingly good showing along the entire Lakefront, where lots of Bonaparte's gulls uncharacteristically spent the entire winter.

Autumn's promise of a winter finch irruption went unfulfilled. Evening grosbeaks, having touched down in good numbers during eight days in early November, utterly vanished thereafter. Common redpolls made a few brief appearances, nearly all in the northern tier of counties, but were faithless as to location, and went unreported in February. No red crossbills were reported, and only a handful of white-winged showed up, mostly singles at feeders. Pine grosbeaks? Merely a rumor. Only pine siskins spanned the entire period, with shrinking numbers of birds fairly devoted to scattered locations statewide.

We are pleased to present once again our comprehensive summary of Ohio's 60 Christmas Bird Counts, as ably compiled by Ned Keller. Because all its data are here for readers to study, we make relatively few references to the CBCs in the Reports, mentioning only the most interesting findings relevant to other sightings in the state.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Supplement (July 2000) to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 in *italics*. 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 Ck SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; CBC=Christmas Bird Count; CCE=Crane Creek estuary in *Ottawa NWR*; CPNWR=Cedar Pt NWR in *Lucas*; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; *fide*="in trust of," said of information conveyed on behalf of another; GRWA=Grand River WA in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killdeer=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LMP=Lakeshore MP in *Lake*; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ODOW=Ohio Division of Wildlife; ONWRC=monthly census at *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 WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

### Corrigenda

In our Summer 2001 issue, Vol. 24(4), p. 205, the scientific name of mallard should read *Anas platyrhynchos*.

In our Autumn 2001 issue, Vol. 25(1), p. 47, the hoary redpoll record accepted by the OBRC dates from the year 2000.

In the same issue, the lower photo on p. 48 should be credited to Jim McCormac.

On p. 17 of the same issue, the Franklin's gull records should date the Clear Fork Res bird on 17-18 Oct, and place the 26 Oct bird at Pleasant Hill Lk.

### For the Record

Significant records, from Autumn 2001 unless otherwise specified, that for one reason or another have not been published here previously appear below (here, **ES** means *fide* **E. Schlabach**).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** One sizeable inland movement occurred on 27 Oct in *Holmes*, with 1100+ in 40 min (**M. Hershberger**) and 805 over *Tuscarawas* (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

**Tundra Swan:** Our earliest were three in *Tuscarawas* on 26 Oct (**J.P. Miller**). Also involved in the big movement of 20 Nov were 160 in *Wayne* (**J.E. Miller**) (**ES**).

**Golden Eagle:** An adult was in *Walnut Creek, Holmes*, on 27 Oct (**L. Miller**) (**ES**), and one over *Hocking* on 21 Nov (**J. Fry**).

**Peregrine Falcon:** A young bird of the *tundrius* race was found injured in the *Holmes* yard of **M. Weaver** on 28 Sept, and taken to a rehabilitation facility (**ES**).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Quite belated was one at *Sims Pk, Euclid*, 3 Nov (**R. Hannikman**).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Add to reports one in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Sept (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** **J.P. Miller** saw one in *Tuscarawas* on 20 Aug (**ES**).

**Red Phalarope:** **G. Meszaros** reported two at *Fairport Hbr* on 29 Oct.

**Snowy Owl:** One spent 16 Nov near *Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas* (**M&L Beachy**) (**ES**).

**Cliff Swallow:** One was late on 26 Sept at *HBSP* (**R. Hannikman**).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** **L. Brumbaugh** thought she'd stepped into an enchanted forest on 30 Nov in a *Carroll* pine grove when ~50 birds came to her calls.

**Sedge Wren:** **M.A. Weaver** reported one from *Holmes* on 7 Oct (**ES**).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Up to three were at *HBSP* 3-30 Sept (**R. Hannikman**).

**Wood Thrush:** **J. Beechy** found autumn's last in *Holmes* on 15 Oct (**ES**).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A male was at **P. Yoder's** farm in *Holmes* on 22 Sept (**ES**).

**Tennessee Warbler:** One in *Franklin* 3 Nov was closely observed by **P&A Rodewald**.

**Nashville Warbler:** The latest was in *Tuscarawas* on 10 Nov (**J.P. Miller**) (**ES**).

**Yellow Warbler:** Well-described was one from 19 Nov through the period at the home of **A.A. Troyer** near *Fredericksburg, Wayne* (m obs, **ES**).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** **J. Beechy** had one as late as 15 Oct in *Holmes* (**ES**).

**Kentucky Warbler:** **P. Yoder** found the latest on 17 Sept in *Holmes* (**ES**).

**Mourning Warbler:** The first was found 22 Aug in *Knox* (**J. Nisley**) (**ES**).

**Hooded Warbler:** The latest came from *Holmes* on 30 Sept (**J. Beechy**) (**ES**).

**Canada Warbler:** One at *HBSP* on 23 Sept was late (**R. Hannikman**).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** First to arrive was one on 26 Sept in *Knox* (**J. Nisley**) (**ES**).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Late was one in *Tuscarawas* on 14 Oct (**E. Schlabach**).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Very early were two in *Willoughby* 15-21 Oct (**R. Beuck**, ph).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Add to the 48 birds reported between 30 Oct and 5 Nov the following: a flock of 20 at **B. Jackson's** feeders in *Tuscarawas* 31 Oct (**ES**), and one in *Hocking* 4 Nov (**J. Fry**). 