

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: This adult little gull was photographed at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, on 23 March 2002 by Bob Roysse.

Spring 2002 Overview

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Going by the numbers, it was an average spring, though averaged from higher highs and lower lows than usual. We saw a lot of some of our birds, and few of others. In March, it dipped to 7°F on the 4th, then hit the month's high of 60°F just four days later. Four documented reports of Kirtland's warblers was an all-time record, but only one sighting of white-rumped sandpiper was a record of a different kind for recent years.

The weather featured lots of seesawing. March's major event was a storm on the 25th and 26th that brought most of spring's snow, followed by SW winds. Many peak numbers of loons, grebes, and ducks showed up over the next few days. April came out much warmer than average, but mostly because of a heat wave from the 11th to the 19th; southwest winds during this period aided early first arrivals of many breeders, as well as overflights in the northern counties. Averaged or not, May was chilly, and wet—it rained on 21 days. This made for some welcome fallouts of migrants in the usual locations, but killed others when insectivores couldn't find food during the double-digit below-normal temperatures and below-freezing wind chills of 18-22 May.

Fully 14 individuals of 10 Review Species were reported this spring, including one potentially new to the state list. The latter, a garganey, did what every first state record should do—a male in alternate plumage, it stuck around for seven days in a predictable location. Loons and grebes in big numbers were easy to find at the right times. Waterfowl more or less continued the trends of winter, with few hardy diving ducks, and a precipitous rush of the rest that left us mostly with the usual lingering wounded, lost, or committed celibates through the end of the period. Raptors overall continued recent trends, if in fits and starts due to the unstable weather. Shorebirds were hampered by 160% of normal rain in May, and sightings consisted of relatively small numbers either gathered at selected sky ponds on agricultural lands, or circling in frustration over traditional areas looking for a parking place. A commendable effort by Ottawa NWR to draw down an impoundment for spring shorebirds was unfortunately not a great success this time. Good numbers and varieties of gulls continued from winter. It was a memorable year for the migrant neotropical passerines, as the weather tended to interrupt their flight often enough to satisfy observers statewide.

Rob Harlan's column "Further Afield" will not appear in this issue, but will be back for the Summer 2002 number. We hope the feature on Smith's longspur will persuade readers to undertake concentrated searches for this species in Ohio next spring, and that following the advice of experts in finding these hard-to-find birds will pay off.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 42nd Supplement (July 2000).

Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed records herein. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions 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*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GPI=Gordon Park impoundment (Dike 14) in *Cleveland*; GRWA=Grand River Wildlife Area in *Trumbull*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LMP=Lakeshore Metropark in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa/Lucas*; MBSP=Maumee Bay SP in *Lucas*; Metzger=Metzger Marsh WA in *Lucas*; MP=Metropark; m obs=many observers; MWW=Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in *Hamilton*; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; OBRC=Ohio Bird Records Committee; ONWR=Ottawa NWR in *Ottawa/Lucas*; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA in *Sandusky*; Res=Reservoir; Res'n=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene/Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigenda

We regret having made two serious errors in the previous issue, and urge subscribers to correct these on paper in their copies of the Winter 2001-02 issue. First, on p. 84, the name of the Hancock County naturalist who authored the wood stork record is Richard Stuart Phillips. Second, the record of the Swainson's thrush on p. 68 is even more significant than our erroneous date indicated; the bird was found on 24 January.

For the Record

Here are a few noteworthy reports that for one reason or another escaped our notice until recently:

Tundra Swan: 34 were at S. Bass Isl 9 Jan 2002 (S. Wulkowicz).

Long-tailed Duck: Four were off HBSP on 8 Dec 2001 (R. Hannikman).

Bufflehead: 893 off S. Bass Isl 14 Dec 2001 (S. Wulkowicz).

Common Goldeneye: 426 off S. Bass Isl 14 Dec 2001 (S. Wulkowicz).

Northern Harrier: H. Devine observed a pair in *Highland* 11 May to 7 Jul 2001, when apparently delivering food; not seen thereafter, and nest possibly destroyed by mowing.

Northern Goshawk: One was in Strongsville, *Cuyahoga*, 29 Jan 2002 (C. Caldwell).

American Coot: One seen seven times through 22 Jan 2002, S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz).

Common Snipe: As many as nine at a spring (E. Yoder, m obs), and five in a ditch (A. Raber m obs), in *Holmes* apparently spent the Winter 2001-02 period.

Purple Sandpiper: One on 1 Dec 2001 on S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz).

Brown Creeper: Max of eight through Winter 2001-02 on S. Bass Isl (S. Wulkowicz).

Savannah Sparrow: ~30 reported wintering (2001-02) in *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas* (fide *The Bobolink*).

Eastern Meadowlark: Rare was one in Fairport Hbr on 15 Jan 2002 (R. Hannikman).

Evening Grosbeak: One was in Mohican SP on 17 Jan 2002 (L.A. Yoder). 🐦

New State Checklist

The OBRC has completed a new and more detailed checklist of Ohio's birds. This 36-page booklet covers all 410 species on the official Ohio list as of 1 May 2002. In addition to all information included in the previous checklist, it features bar-graphs indicating the abundances of non-Review species at optimal locations in Ohio throughout the year, brief annotations, the most dramatic changes in status for breeders according to the Breeding Bird Survey, and graphs of occurrences of Review Species since 1980. Limited numbers of this booklet are available free, thanks to a grant from the Master Family Fund, through Jim McCormac, OBRC Secretary, at <jim.mccormac@dnr.state.oh.us>, at (614) 265-6440, or at ODNR-DNAP, 1889 Fountain Square Ct., Columbus, OH 43224-1388.



Dawes Arboretum in Licking County was the site of Ohio's first black-throated gray warbler record since 1994. Unfortunately, the bird stayed for only a small number of observers on 17 April 2002. Photo by Mike Williams/ODNR.