

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

Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$20.00. Please send all subscription requests to:

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

Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

The Ohio Cardinal

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ISSN 1534-1666

On the Cover: This Bell's vireo was photographed along the Heritage Rail-Trail adjacent to The Homestead Park in Franklin County on 21 May 2003 by Bob Roysce.

Spring 2003 Overview

Bill Whan

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This spring's weather played a part in several widely-noticed events. The cold winter hemmed in some remarkable assemblages of waterfowl at inland sites (especially along major rivers), and of larger gulls along the Lake Erie shore during a chilly first half of March. Most memorable among water birds were red-necked grebes, whose numbers set records statewide from the beginning of the period through early May. Later, turbulent weather to our south, with record numbers of tornadoes (562 in May, versus 399 for the previous record high, and weather conditions on 12 of the first 15 days of May characterized as "severe" by meteorologists), bottled up migrants until they exploded 10-12 May in concentrations that had even veterans' jaws dropping. A chilly and rainy latter half of May—reminiscent of last year's—slowed things down noticeably, delaying some Neotropical migrants (20 warbler species still at Magee on 28 May is pretty unusual), as well as causing some mortality among nesting birds.

As for other species, American white pelicans and golden eagles continued their recent regional increases. Though 29 species were reported, a dearth of suitable mudflats kept most shorebird numbers low. "Grasspipers" like golden-plovers and pectoral sandpipers, however, had a field day, with some enormous numbers reported. Our first confirmed loggerhead shrike nest since 1999 was found. Woodland thrushes seemed eerily hard to find this spring.

Ten review species were reported, all documented for the records committee: tricolored heron (2), glossy and white-faced ibises, Ross's goose (3), piping plover (2), western gull, least tern, loggerhead shrike (2), Townsend's solitaire, and Smith's longspur. If accepted, the gull would be a first state record, and the longspur the first in a dozen years.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (1998), including the 42nd (July 2000) and 43rd (July 2002) Supplements. 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; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CPNWRC=monthly CPNWR census; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=Gordon Park impoundment in *Cleveland*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; eop=end of the period, in this case 31 May 2003; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GLSM=Grand Lake St. Marys in *Auglaize* and *Mercer*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*;

HDSNP=Headlands Dunes SNP; HWSP=Hueston Woods SP in *Preble* and *Butler*; Killbuck=Killbuck Marsh WA in *Wayne*; KPWA=Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot*; LSR=Lakeshore Reservation in *Lake*; Magee=Magee Marsh WA in *Ottawa* and *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* and *Lucas*; ONWRC=monthly ONWR census; PCWA=Pickerel Creek WA in *Sandusky*; PP=power plant; Res=Reservoir; Resn=Reservation; SF=State Forest; SNP=State Nature Preserve; SP=State Park; SVWA=Spring Valley WA in *Greene* and *Warren*; WA=Wildlife Area; ~≈approximately.

Corrigendum

The 29 Dec 2002 Lincoln's sparrow in Cincinnati was found by **D. Brinkman**.

For the Record

Here are noteworthy reports from earlier dates that for one reason or another escaped our notice:

Red-throated Loon: One barely made it into last winter's season, at Eastlake PP 28 Feb 2003 (C. Holt).

Brown Thrasher: One apparently over-wintered at Mentor Marsh SNP (E. Bacik et al.).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Very unusual was one resorting to a *Logan* feeder 25 Jan-1 Feb 2003 (ph. T. Shively).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One was repeatedly seen at a feeder at Wolfcreek Environmental Center in *Medina* 29 Nov 2002 through 23 Feb 2003 (D. Bertsch of the WEC staff). 



This red-headed woodpecker represented one of four different species of woodpeckers seen on the morning of 11 March 2003 at North Chagrin Reservation in Cuyahoga County. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

Spring 2003 Reports

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Red-throated Loon: Perhaps a single bird was involved at Eastlake 28 Feb and 2 Mar (C. Holt) through 22 Mar (K. Metcalf, m obs). J. Fry saw one at Lk Logan, Hocking 21 Mar, and S. Zadar another at E. 72nd St in Cleveland 14 Apr.

Common Loon: One cruised Newell's Run in *Washington* as early as 1 Mar (B. Placier). An astonishing 611 flew by LSR 5 Apr (J. Pogacnik), an all-time spring record. At least seven persisted into May, with birds in alternate plumage 17 May at Hoover Res (C. Bombaci) and 26 May at Lake La Su An WA in *Williams* (J. Grabmeier).

Pied-billed Grebe: One was at Lk Rockwell 1 Mar (B. Bolton), seven in the Great Miami R in *Butler* 2 Mar (M. Busam), and 20 at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* 16 Mar (B. Foppe). P. Lozano noted a female with three downy young 27 May at Sandy Ridge MP.

Horned Grebe: Present from 1 Mar (Avon Lake, J. Brumfield) through 15 May (near Wooster, S. Snyder). An unusually high count was 50 at BCSP 23 Mar (D. Overacker).

Red-necked Grebe: The past winter's only red-necked grebe staged a remarkable stay at Camp Dennison in *Hamilton* 4-12 Jan. During the first week of the spring season, however, it became clear we were to witness a major influx reminiscent of the spring of 1994's. Rob Harlan treated that event in these pages (17(3):75-79) in detail, estimating 100+ individual birds statewide during the period 1 Feb-9 May 1994, based on reports from 24 counties. The high count of 28 birds came from Newell's Run in *Washington* on 14 Feb 1994.

This spring, an estimated 190+ individuals were reported, from at least 38 Ohio counties (*Allen* [1 bird], *Athens* [3], *Auglaize* [1], *Butler* [1], *Clark* [1], *Clermont* [1], *Cuyahoga* [5+], *Delaware* [1], *Erie* [1], *Fulton* [1], *Geauga* [1], *Greene* [3+], *Guernsey* [1], *Hamilton* [4+], *Hocking* [1], *Huron* [2], *Jefferson* [10+], *Lake* [89+], *Licking* [2], *Lorain* [18+], *Lucas* [5], *Monroe* [2], *Montgomery* [1], *Morrow* [2], *Muskingum* [1], *Ottawa* [1], *Pickaway* [2+], *Portage* [3], *Preble* [1], *Richland* [9], *Ross* [1], *Scioto* [1], *Stark* [2], *Summit* [2+], *Trumbull* [1], *Washington* [4], *Wayne* [4], and *Wyandot* [1]). The birds started showing up on the very first day of the season, with one in Newell's Run in *Washington* (B. Placier) and 18 at Avon Lk PP (J. Brumfield). The high count was 61 birds (L. Rosche, T. Beal), nr Eastlake PP 12 Mar. Later, the ONWRC had four breeding-plumaged birds 4 May, and S. Edinger the last two, one advanced in molt, in Athens 8 May.

In 2003 more observers were afield, and communications easier (60+ observers contributed to our 90+ reports), so comparisons as to the magnitudes of the incursions are difficult. In his summary, Harlan compared 1994's 100+ birds with only ~250 recorded in the entire previous history of Ohio ornithology, suggesting the 1994 phenomenon might have been unique at the time.



This red-throated loon posed for photographs at Eastlake Power Plant in Lake County on 16 March 2003. Photo by Gary Meszaros.