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THE OHIO CARDINAL
2338 HARRINGTON RD.
AKRON, OH 44319

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 487
AKRON, OHIO

The  *Ohio*
CARDINAL Vol. 28, No. 4
Summer 2005



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.

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| 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: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com |
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Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$25 including membership in the Ohio Ornithological Society. Please send all subscription requests to:

The Ohio Cardinal
c/o Edwin C. Pierce
2338 Harrington Road
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.

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ISSN 1534-1666

On the Cover:

William Hull captured the best photos of Ohio's first sooty tern, including this one showing the diagnostic underwings and facial markings, on 15 July at East Fork Lake in Clermont County.

Summer 2005 Overview and Reports

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Unusually hot and dry, the summer produced predictable effects on birds and bird sightings. Cleveland got few cool Lake Erie breezes, with temperatures ranging far above average, by 6.2°F in June and 3.3° in July. Having started out ahead of average rainfall, the Columbus area had fallen behind by 4.22 inches by summer's end, and all areas of the state ended well in deficit for the year to date, with the north-central counties (from Lucas to Lorain and one tier to the south) suffering least. Water levels at municipal reservoirs, the first among them Hoover in Delaware county, fell enough by summer's end to expose mudflats for migrant shorebirds. Lake Erie levels declined a bit below long-term means by 1 July, exposing a few foraging areas and roosts for larids and shorebirds along natural shorelines in the western basin. The passage of the remnants of Hurricane Dennis in mid-July finally brought Ohio at least one storm-driven southern pelagic species.

We had fewer than usual waterfowl reports, and certainly the number of odd species hanging around diminished. Some waterbird trends seem interrupted, at least temporarily: cormorants, for example, seemed down in numbers. Shorebird numbers would have been far more meager without the habitat contributions of ONWR and beleaguered spots like Conneaut Harbor; their total of 28 species for the summer was the highest since 1999. What in spring was perceived as a dearth of hummingbirds became hordes as wild nectar supplies diminished. Spring's trend of late arrivals and departures of passerines continued, with many flycatchers, warblers, etc. passing through well into June. Recent trends in which species once far more common in the south—summer tanager, blue grosbeak, northern mockingbird, for example—have become routine farther north, and a tendency for a few more northern species to be reported south of their normal ranges—alder flycatcher, for example, or blue-headed vireo—seemed accentuated this summer; it seems the former are widespread and caused by recent climate change, but the latter more sporadic changes may perhaps represent better coverage by more observers.

Nine reports of review species were well above average for a short summer season: glossy ibis, four separate white ibis sightings (as many as we'd accumulated in the previous 25 years), a parasitic jaeger, a first state-record sooty tern, and two sightings of scissor-tailed flycatchers. In other news, the Division of Wildlife declared victory and halted its trumpeter swan introduction project, having achieved 17 confirmed nests this year, one more than the 16 targeted in 1996. No more swans remain in the pipeline, and only monitoring of the existing population will be carried out from now on. A third of the 100+ trumpeters in the project no longer wear neck collars, and existing collars will continue falling off without replacement. Releases of swans have been most successful in the western Lake Erie marshes; other populations have diminished, or even been extirpated, such as at Killbuck Marsh WA.

We're considering regularly dedicating a paragraph of the Overview to victories and defeats for bird habitats in Ohio, and invite well-documented submissions from readers. This time, for example, we might mention on the plus side Governor Taft's veto of provisions that would have allowed developers to circumvent current