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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: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover:

Many photos were taken of the Anna's hummingbird, but this beauty from Chris Wood (4 Dec 2005 in Butler Co.) was part of the accepted documentation.

Winter 2005-2006 Overview and Reports

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We had a topsy-turvy season, as if December's weather had been swapped for January's. In the central part of the state through 22 December, five weeks of abnormal cold reigned, the first three weeks of the month having averaged nearly 10 degrees below normal. The last week of December and all of January were extraordinarily mild; January had 15 days with highs above 50°, and a low temperature of only 21°. February continued with normal temperatures and precipitation. On average, snow and ice cover were well below average, allowing half-hardy wintering landbirds—phoebes, catbirds, hermit thrushes, sapsuckers, etc. to do quite well, even though it seemed many had left in November, and returned in the mild days of January (tree swallows were a prominent example). Some water-loving birds—cranes, geese, night-herons, small gulls, and swans—all stayed beyond their normal times, but icing of reservoirs seemingly discouraged season-long stays by ducks, and their presence on Lake Erie, which froze only locally, was governed by the usual complex factors. We had a small incursion of snowy owls after several years of dearth. Rarer gulls put in a good show beginning during our mild January, showing that iced-in warm-water outflows are not necessary to concentrate them. Gannet reports came in into mid-February. Boreal raptors were sparse, especially during Dec, perhaps because of a low cycle in prey populations in grasslands. By the end of the season they were somewhat more numerous.

Review list species reported numbered ten: Ross's goose (eight), cackling goose (17), northern gannet (two, perhaps three), prairie falcon (two), jaeger sp (four), mew gull (two), California gull (three or four), Anna's hummingbird, rufous hummingbird (two, plus one *Selasphorus* sp.), and common raven (one or two).

For decades Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* has served as the ready reference for the normal seasonal occurrences of our birds. Has global warming advanced so quickly, even since the work's latest edition in 2001, that many of its statements, carefully derived from many decades of records, no longer apply? The season just past produced dozens of records that would have been exceptional, at least in the aggregate, only a few years ago. Many records fell into the categories of "casual" ("not observed annually"), "accidental" ("single records or a very small number of records"), or even unprecedented during this season alone. The warm waters at Castalia, famous for attracting numerous waterfowl in winter, were dull as dishwater this season. Tree swallows, black-and-white warbler, Baltimore oriole, summer tanager, hummingbirds, woodcocks—all in January? We had them.

Climate change cannot of course responsibly be invoked to explain a single season's anomalies. Still, of the world's twenty warmest years since data