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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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Bill Whan, Editor

Edwin C. Pierce, Publisher

Troy Shively, Design Manager

The Ohio Bird Records Committee:

Tom Kemp, Secretary

7032 Regents Park Blvd

Toledo, OH 43617

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On the Cover:

Gary Meszaro's photo of this young female Kirtland's warbler at HBSP was taken on 24 May. Note the prominent split eyering, narrow wingbars, and pale gray upperparts. Three or perhaps four other Kirtland's joined this one at Headlands this spring, an unprecedented showing.



Spring 2006 Overview and Reports

Bill Whan

223 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus OH 43202

billwhan@columbus.rr.com

The spring's many interesting bird finds were not accompanied by dramatic weather events. March was damper and cooler than normal in the central part of the state, with 20 days of below-normal temperatures. April's middle half averaged nearly ten degrees above normal, but was bracketed by cool spells. May by contrast started out mild, but gave us a chilly mid-month with winds from the north and west, then temperatures reaching the 90s by its end. May's flood of northbound passerines took advantage of breaks in the weather, spiking just before and after the cold spell, but were most noticeable right in the middle of it, when rain and chilly temperatures occurred daily between the 10th and the 19th. Favorable weather for migrants is not necessarily good for observing them, and fall-outs entertaining for observers can represent danger for birds, or at best delays.

Waterfowl numbers were in general not spectacular. Some pretty nice raptor numbers came to sharp-eyed observers who chose their times and places with care and were patient. Herons, at least in the NW marshes, seemed down a bit, but a second yellow-crowned night-heron nest site in the state was a joyous occasion, as was what looks to be a new sandhill crane nesting site. You could have seen 28 species of shorebirds this spring in Ohio, but you'd have had to be pretty quick about it, and lucky too, as there were few big numbers and few reliable spots season-long with the exception of the Hardin Co. wetlands, where fully 23 species were found in a small area that was corn and beans just like the neighbors' only two years ago. Some nice finds were made among passerines, though some really late arrivals, especially among the flycatchers, led to some alarm.

It was an excellent season for rarities, with a few even persisting long enough for extra witnesses to come see them. Fully 25 individuals of 18 review species were reported, and we hope each was well documented for the records committee: Ross's goose (two), cackling goose, glossy ibis (two), white-faced ibis, short-tailed hawk (possible first state record), prairie falcon, ruff, jaeger sp., black-headed gull, California gull, Eurasian collared-dove (two), white-winged dove, white-throated swift (possible first state record), loggerhead shrike, Kirtland's warbler (five or six), Swainson's warbler, lark bunting, and Harris's sparrow.

The most dramatic action undertaken by our species on behalf of birds this season in Ohio was the shooting of nearly 6000 nesting double-crested cormorants by wildlife officials. One of the most aggressive cormorant control programs in the country, the shooting was intended to protect vegetation on Green Island and heron and egret colonies on West Sister and Turning Point islands. This is the first occasion on which large-scale lethal control of native