

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Jill M Russell, PhD

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Greetings, Ohio Birders!

You will probably notice some changes to *The Ohio Cardinal* in this issue. We have undergone a minor “face-lift” and reorganized the journal in order to make it more readable. Our new logo was designed by the immensely talented Julie Zickafoose, and, together with Debbie Griffith, our extraordinary assistant editor, we have updated the layout of the text inside. I have come onboard as the new editor of the *Cardinal*, with experience as: a birder, the spouse of a birder, a bird bander, a research scientist, a college professor, an editor and publisher of a newspaper, an executive director of a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving and protecting avian populations, a mom, a fiber artist, and a sometime-jogger. Oh, and did I mention that I like birds? My goal as editor of the *Cardinal* is to keep the journal true to its original purpose by continuing to publish the species

counts, while bringing back more diversity of content.

The *Cardinal* began as and remains a collaboration among Ohio birders, with hundreds sharing in each issue’s sightings reports, photographs, artwork, articles, and field notes. That’s where you, our Ohio Birders come in. I need your help.

Do you like to write? Do you have a funny birding story you’d like to share? I mean, really, birders are pretty funny (quirky?) people. I know; I’m married to one! How about some information on your favorite birding spot? Many of us have been watching the birds that come to our backyard birdfeeders for years. What trends are you seeing? Is your Northern Cardinal coming back every winter? Do you have a photograph you’d like to share? Those of you who are experienced birders, how about sharing some tips on field identification? We have amazing birding/nature centers in Ohio

that provide a wealth of services and information to the public. How about providing some history of birding in your area? For the academics in the group, how about encouraging your students to submit manuscripts on their research projects to the *Cardinal*? This journal is a great platform for getting peer-reviewed articles out to the public and like-minded individuals.

You will see that we will be “tweaking” *The Ohio Cardinal* in the next few issues, as we include more information from bird-banding stations around the state, photographs, and stories from our readers. So, please consider submitting your bird-related stories to the *Cardinal*. Send your submissions to:

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We thank you for your continued patience as Andy Jones and I diligently work on the completion of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 issues of the *Cardinal*. Please note that page numbers for this issue begin on page 150. This will allow us to use page numbers 1-149 for the Fall & Winter 2010 issues, which will be coming out within the next six months. It is our goal to be caught up with the publication of all issues of the *Cardinal* in 2012.



New *Cardinal* Editor Jill Russell holding a family of Boreal Owl chicks at her research site in Alaska.