

THE CARDINAL TURNS 35

By Craig Caldwell

(With contributions from previous editors)

The Spring, 2013, issue marked the beginning of *The Ohio Cardinal's* 36th year, so it's time to look back at the first 35. This piece was intended for that issue, but I somehow entirely missed including it.

John Herman created the journal in 1978 and started with about 100 subscribers. That first issue, Volume 1 Number 1, was on 8 ½ x 11 inch 20-lb. bond paper and contained 28 double-space typed pages. (Remember typewriters?) It included accounts of 251 species. The cover was on the same paper stock as the contents and featured a Wood Duck illustration by David Henderson.

Ed Pierce took over as Publisher and Editor with Vol. 3 No. 1, which covered Spring 1980. He was Editor until 1991 with Tom Kemp as co-Editor during the last four years of that period. (Tom remarked to me, perhaps wistfully, that all of the sighting reports came by postal mail, and that they eventually printed their volumes on a dot-matrix machine.) Ed remained as Publisher until he transferred ownership to the Ohio Ornithological Society in 2007.

Some milestones relating to the *Cardinal's* appearance are:

- First colored card-stock front cover: Vol. 3 No. 3 (Fall 1980)
- First card-stock "wraparound" cover, enclosing a body printed on 11 x 17" paper and folded: Vol. 10 No. 1 (Spring 1987)
- Transition to the current "Fall First" numbering system: Vol. 11 No. 1 (Fall 1987), which meant that Vol. 10 Nos. 3 and 4 don't exist.
- First issue in digest format (5 ½ x 8 ½"): Vol. 14 No. 1 (Fall 1990)
- First four-color covers: Vol. 31 No. 2 (Winter 2007-08), the first issue published by OOS

There have been gaps and delays in publication. The seasons from Fall 1981 through Fall 1984 were not covered except for the summer of 1982, and Fall 1985 through Winter 1986-87 issues were also not published. Winter 1997-98, Spring 1998, and Summer 1998 were combined in a single omnibus issue, as were Fall 1998 and Winter 1998-99. Spring plus Summer 2009 and Winter 2009-10 plus Spring 2010 were also double issues.

Rob Harlan (1991-96), Victor Fazio III (1996-97), and Bill Whan (1997-2008) in turn followed Ed and Tom as Editors. Ed Pierce and Bill Whan each served for 12 years, but Bill's term had no gaps — he put out 37 numbers. When I asked him about his time as Editor he quickly paid honor to Joe Hammond, Jim Glover, and Troy Shively, who "magically organized my disorderly raw materials into coherent summaries and articles and photos, maps, and illustrations." He noted that they required him to learn how to use a computer. Unfortunately, Bill and the OOS could not come to agreement when the *Cardinal* ownership changed, and his direct involvement ended. Andy Jones and Jill Russell then presided over an ever-changing cast of seasonal editors for the next four years.

Which brings us to the present. During my time as a seasonal editor, and now as Editor-in-Chief, I have reached out to most of my predecessors. All whom I asked have helped me, as authors, fact checkers, proofreaders, sounding boards, and institutional memory. Without them, then and now, we would not have *The Ohio Cardinal*.

What will the next 35 years hold? The Spring 2013 issue of the *Cardinal* was the first to be distributed primarily as an e-journal. Print copies of future issues will be still be available for those without computer access and for those (like me) who are connected but prefer to turn their pages manually. A project is underway to make back issues available as electronic downloads. Of course I hope that my eventual successor will be able to write about years 36 through 70.

Long ago I was told that the first duty of anyone who accepts a responsible position is to identify and begin training his or her successor. I have shirked that task because I plan to remain as Editor for quite a while. But I'll be happy to interview candidates!

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