

The Ohio
CARDINAL



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

The 46 pages in the Autumn 1980 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* (Vol. 3, No. 3) contained the autumn reports, no less than eight rare bird documentations, two identification aids, and anecdotal tributes to the 1980 birding year. As a result, there is only one statement that can be made about the Autumn 1980 birding season—it was fantastic!

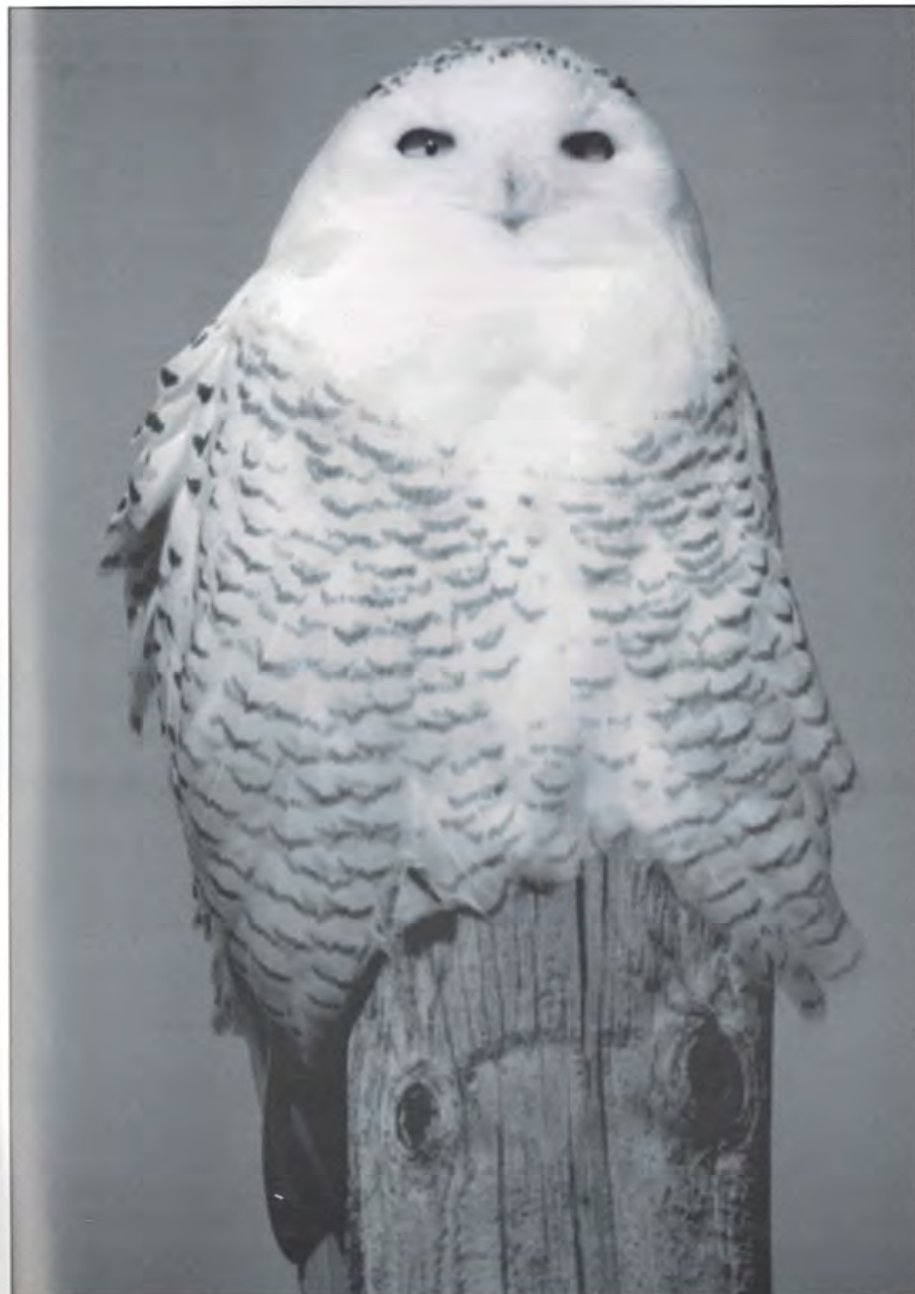
To shed some light on why the Autumn 1980 season was so birder-friendly, let us first examine the eight documentations provided in this issue. The magazine's cover immediately draws attention. Yes, that is a puffin.

This bird, Ohio's first and only Atlantic puffin, was found alive by Henry Kohler in his Oregon, Ohio driveway on 17 November. Lou Campbell was immediately called and was able to obtain photographs the following day. The ill puffin was then taken to the Toledo Zoo where it unfortunately died on 22 November. Ohio's third groove-billed ani was discovered by Bruce Peterjohn on 10 August along Alum Creek Reservoir and was well described in the documentary note. A Smith's longspur, now only a memory in Ohio, was discovered on 12 October at Little Cedar Point by Jack Ross and the same observer documented a pair of common eiders flying past the same location on 8 November. Adding fuel to the autumn fire was a well described adult male Kirtland's warbler found on 12 September near Waterford by Lynn Barnhart. In addition, three different least terns were discovered in or very near to Ohio. The first was on 6 August at the Oxbow (SE Indiana) by David & Myra Styer and Abdallah Lyzzaik, the second on 20 August at Huron by Tom LePage (ph.), and the third was found on 23 September at Alum Creek Reservoir by Bruce Peterjohn. A little less rare, but noteworthy nonetheless, were documentations for an eared grebe at Lorain on 9 November (Bruce Peterjohn) and a glossy ibis in Franklin Co. from 1-5 November found by Marjory & Lynn Thomas.

Other species which stand out while reading the Autumn 1980 reports include one red-throated loon, seven red-necked grebes, a second eared grebe, two more glossy ibises, two brant, one greater white-fronted goose, a cinnamon teal that was shot by a hunter on 5 November at Magee Marsh, one Eurasian wigeon, eight long-tailed ducks, one harlequin duck, two king eiders, two piping plovers, 15 whimbrels, a 19 October purple sandpiper, 22 American avocets, one pomarine jaeger, five parasitic jaegers, eight black-legged kittiwakes, one Sabine's gull, a ringed turtle-dove (escapee), two monk parakeets at a Cincinnati nest, 20 snowy owls, and a western kingbird. Please feel free to take a breath now; that was quite a list.

Continuing the tradition of printing identification aids, the Autumn 1980 issue contained one written by Ray Hannikman on Thayer's gulls and one written by Bruce Peterjohn on loggerhead vs. northern shrikes. Both of these contain very useful information and remain excellent resources today.

Finally, we come to the final piece of the *Cardinal* puzzle—the anecdotal tribute to 1980 entitled "Highs and Lows of 1980." Here readers submitted their most exciting and most disappointing birding tales of the year. Nine people's adventures were outlined here and they all told of two inevitable birding occurrences—getting really lucky and just missing birds. Oh how I can relate. *Joseph W. Hammond*



Drawing much attention was this snowy owl first discovered in mid-November 2000 near Wilmington, Clinton Co. It remained well into the winter season and was viewed by hundreds during its stay. Photo by David Russell on 23 November.

A friendly reminder...

It's time to renew your subscription if this box is checked.

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2338 HARRINGTON RD.
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