

The Ohio Cardinal  
The Ohio Ornithological Society  
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# The OHIO CARDINAL

*Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife*





## The OHIO CARDINAL

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*The Ohio Cardinal* is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation of Ohio's birdlife.

### On the cover:

Northern Wheatears appear irregularly in eastern North America during their epic fall migration to sub-Saharan Africa. Ohio has hosted just a handful of records. This particular bird was first identified by Emory Yoder on his farm in Holmes County on 12 Sep, and it persisted at this site for another three days. During the visit, over 600 people came to enjoy this vagrant. Steve Landes photographed the bird on 13 Sep, and another of his photographs appears inside this issue.



*Nelson's Sparrow sightings have become routine along the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh in Lake County. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has been removing the invasive Phragmites along the boardwalk here, and the seed bank that persisted in the soil has reseeded the site with ideal plants for these fall migrants. Le Conte's Sparrows have been regularly seen here as well. Judy Semroc photographed this Nelson's Sparrow on 30 Sep.*

### Instructions for Contributors

*The Ohio Cardinal* would not exist without contributions from readers. We solicit contributions, including sightings, brief notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs, from all observers. All contributions must be directly related to Ohio and its birdlife.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested. Although individual season editors compile the reports, all reports should be submitted directly to the incoming editor-in-chief Dr. Jill Russell. She can be contacted by e-mail [jill\\_russell@mail.msj.edu](mailto:jill_russell@mail.msj.edu) and by postal mail:

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Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 25 March  
Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 25 June  
Summer (Jun, Jul) — 25 August  
Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 25 December

Please refer to previous issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* and to our website ([www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php)) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

### Back cover:

*These drab-looking Eastern Screech-Owls were photographed by Judy Semroc on 19 Feb near her home in Stark County. The plumage colors in this species were formerly called "phases," but because this term incorrectly implies that their color will change, "morph" is a more apt term. Both morphs can freely interbreed, and they can produce offspring that are gray, red, or intermediate; the genetics involved in these color variations are not yet well understood.*