

Sir,

I was glad to see that the Ohio Cardinal is back on line. There is a place for what it can provide to those interested in the avian fauna. A reasonable effort appears to be made to insure credibility and accuracy in bird reports and sightings. However, this credibility seems to be lacking when it comes to recognizing where sightings are made and reflects a lack of professionalism. A publication has the responsibility to correctly inform its subscribers. The Ohio Cardinal holds a unique niche for Ohio birders in that it can inform of what, where, and when, but also has the ability to produce material that can assist birders in how their favorite haunts became available to them and what they can do to insure their future availability. Anything less is a breach of service to the subscribers and a sign of serious lack of concern and professionalism of the staff. I was greatly disappointed in that lack of professionalism in the last issue, Vol. 10, #1. From the inaccurate caption for the cover to the neglect of accurate record reporting in your article at the end, serious question is placed on the accuracy and concern of the editorial staff for providing an accurate, comprehensive, and useful publication. If the staff had been naive concerning this subject it would not have reflected on their professionalism to as great a degree, but they were not. I don't know if this is an isolated incident or an overall indication of the quality of the publication.

I have been closely involved with the Magee Trail for a long time now. I know who has worked on it and who has not. I know who have been misinformed complainers and who has been a pain. I know how close birders came to losing the area they did not support. Some stumbling blocks are now gone. Money may now be available for improvements but if those that use the area refuse to acknowledge it, is there any purpose? The article I have written and enclosed is for the next Ohio Cardinal if you agree with the points I have tried to make above and you see fit for its publication. It has not been my purpose to step on any toes, but I just question the extreme amount of time and effort that has been and can be put into the bird trail if those that it was developed to serve are not concerned enough with its existence to acknowledge it.

Mark Shieldcastle  
Oak Harbor, Ohio

Editor: The Ohio Cardinal welcomes suggestions and comments from its readers. Mr. Shieldcastle did include an article further explaining his views on the Bird Trail. Due to space limitations, it will be published in a subsequent issue.

Sir,

I am writing in regards to the spring issue of the "Ohio Cardinal", particularly the report of the red-necked grebe on Summit Lake.

I was the first to see and "call" this bird on Sat., March 7. I called the Greater Akron Audubon Society [Pat Haddad], who then called Larry Rosche, who called Ed Pierce.

Being new to the reporting aspect of birding, I was not aware of the form I needed to record it. Since this was a special event for me, I would like credit for seeing the grebe first - "everyone" in Akron [and many elsewhere!] knows I did. Thank you.

Kathy L. Mock  
Akron, Ohio

Editor: Subscribers are reminded that report forms are available from the editors. All readers are encouraged to report their sightings.

Sir,

Thanks for the first issue of the new series of THE OHIO CARDINAL.

Naturally I had a special interest in the several mentions of the Kirtland's Warbler. In the first line of Ed Pierce's account on p. 37, he missed Gene Sattler's record of May 11, 1984, in Swan Creek Park, which was reported in the Toledo Naturalists' Association 1984 Yearbook. Gene was leading a tour group, as I recall it, and showed the bird to a number of people who were with him.

Also, Ed Pierce's mention of the "recently discovered wintering grounds" is a bit puzzling. The wintering grounds of the Kirtland's Warbler were discovered long before the nesting grounds, and a number of specimens were taken as evidence in the Bahama Islands in the last century.

Harold Mayfield  
Toledo, Ohio

Editor: We stand corrected and thank Mr. Mayfield for his comments.