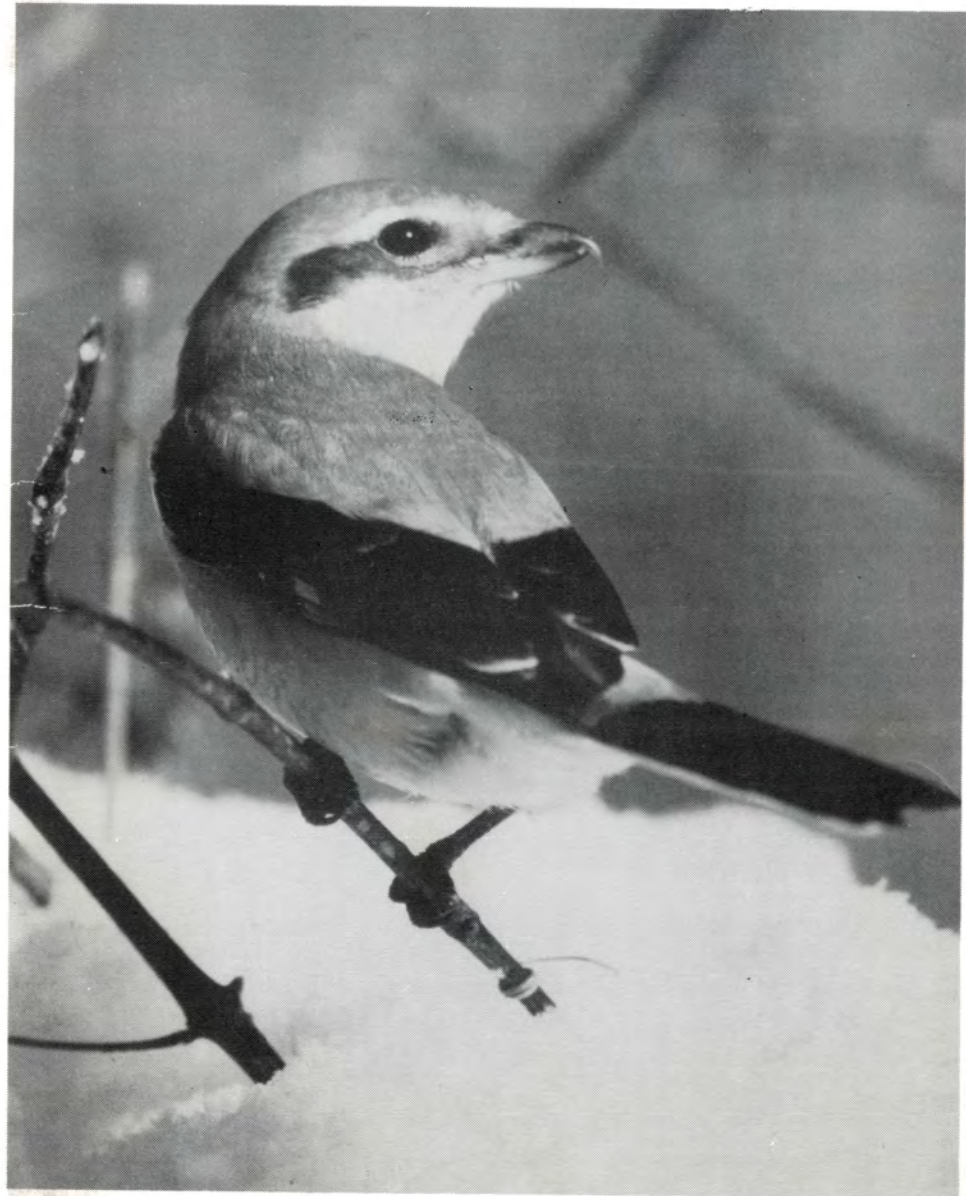


The Ohio



CARDINAL™

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

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The Ohio Cardinal exists to provide a permanent and timely record of the abundance and distribution of birds in Ohio; to help document the occurrence of rare species in the state; to provide information on identification of birds; and to provide information on birding areas within Ohio.

The Ohio Cardinal invites readers to submit articles on unusual occurrences of birds, bird distribution within the state, birding areas in Ohio, identification tips, and other aspects of ornithology. Bird reports and photographs are welcome from any area in the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied on request. Unusual species should be documented--documentation forms are also available on request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

In order to keep The Ohio Cardinal timely, seasonal reports are due by the following dates:

Winter--March 10
Spring--June 10
Summer--August 10
Autumn--December 10

Please send all reports to:

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7072 Parma Park Blvd.
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Cover: Northern Shrike, CVNRA (Summit Co.), 11/8/96.
Photo by Gary Meszaros.

A Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) in Ohio by Victor W. Fazio III and Dan Webb

Dan Webb, a Heidelberg College student in biological sciences, undertook a survey of waterbird usage at the local Seneca County upground reservoir (variously known as Clyde Reservoir or Beaver Creek Reservoir) during the autumn migration of 1996. In the course of his survey he recognized an alcid, likely a murrelet, around noon on November 12. He contacted Fazio shortly after and we subsequently observed the bird from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. under worsening weather conditions, but allowing the identification of a "Marbled Murrelet". Discrepancies in field characters compared with those depicted in the available field guides were immediately evident, such that further literature study that evening suggested the "Asian" race *perdix*, subsequently elevated to species status, and now known as the Long-billed Murrelet (Friesen et al. 1996). The bird cooperated in further study by staying through the evening of November 18, entertaining more than 300 observers from Ohio and surrounding states. Over the ensuing days, diagnostic photos and behavioral notes were obtained by the principal observers (the authors and H. Thomas Bartlett), combining for approximately 60 field hours.

Identification

The murrelet presented itself as a small, buoyant waterbird less than half the length of the Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) available for direct comparison. The distant black and white pattern and short-necked silhouette gave the quick impression of a short-necked Horned Grebe



Long-billed Murrelet, Beaver Creek Res. (Seneca Co.), 11/13/96.
Photo by Victor Fazio.