

The CARDINAL



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

With little to report from the twelve-page Winter 1979-80 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*, we omitted a retrospective in our previous issue (Vol. 23, No. 2). Here we review a few highlights from that season and then carry on with the Spring issue for 1980 (Vol. 3, No. 1).

The Winter 1979-80 season, mundane overall, was nevertheless blessed with a few good birds, one of them a first state record. Two king eiders and a gyrfalcon were found in December, as were additional rewards for lakewatchers: six Iceland, 28+ glaucous, three lesser black-backed, and no fewer than four black-headed gulls during the period. The bird of the season put in an appearance at Lorain from 12-18 February in the form of Ohio's first Heermann's gull. Further inland, the second and third state records of varied thrush were excellent winter finds at Findley SP and in Mansfield.

The issue for Spring of 1980 was considerably more generous than its predecessor. Tom Bartlett and Ed Pierce shared the editorial duties, fifty reporters contributed data, and two articles, a birdfinding guide to two sites, a spring hawk flight report, and two reproduced documentations were included in its 32 pages.

Bruce Peterjohn provided "Identification Aid: Short-billed vs. Long-billed Dowitcher", with advice especially needed at the time, and Laurel Van Camp chronicled bald eagle nesting success in Ohio from 1975-1980. Looking ahead to the upcoming season, Larry Rosche and Tom Bartlett described Adams County and Irwin Prairie as summer trip destinations, complete with maps. John Pogacnik's spring hawk flight report detailed the numbers of species and individuals recorded each day at Lorain and Crane Creek sites: while nothing rare was noticed, a respectable 4074 individuals of 14 species were recorded.

Spring of 1980 was a very good season for rarities. Several pages would be necessary to recount them all, so only the outstanding finds of the period are reported here. Two *Plegadis* ibises were observed at Crane Creek for a week during May, but unfortunately "no one could get close enough to identify them..." Vic Fazio and Kyle Jones documented Ohio's third cinnamon teal from 11 May at Magee Marsh for the magazine. Another first state record was observed by many at Lorain from 3-14 March. Details from John Pogacnik on this male tufted duck, still Ohio's only accepted record, were reproduced in this issue. Running a little late, a king eider dropped into Bay View on 6 April, and a female harlequin duck did likewise on 2 May at Lorain.

Rallids made a remarkable showing, with two yellow rails (one staying for several days at Irwin Prairie), two black rails, and two purple gallinules. Larids were fairly impressive as well, with lingering glaucous and Iceland gulls, two laughing gulls, two Franklin's gulls, two little gulls, scads of black terns, and the return of the Heermann's gull to Lorain on 3-12 March. The two varied thrushes mentioned above remained until 12 March in Mansfield and 22 March at Findley SP. A black-throated gray warbler was reported in Lorain on 20 April, and a female Kirtland's warbler was captured and banded on 21 May at Crane Creek (see report from this spring earlier in this issue, the first banding of the species since 1980). A Le Conte's sparrow, unusual in spring, was reported on 11 May at Ottawa NWR. Finally, on the exotic side, a ringed turtle-dove took up nesting with a mourning dove in the Dayton area from 11 March through the end of the period. *Joseph W. Hammond*

A Bonanza of Gulls!



Laughing Gull - Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., 15 May 2000. Photo by Tom Uhlman.

Franklin's Gull - Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., 15 May 2000. Photo by Bob Royse.



Little Gull - Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., March 2000. Photo by Haans Petruschke.

Black-headed Gull - Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula Co., March 2000. Photo by Haans Petruschke.



California Gull - Caesar Creek State Park, Warren Co., 15 May 2000. Photo by Tom Uhlman.