Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

With the summer issue of 1980 (Vol. 3, No. 2) The Ohio Cardinal continued to grow. Tom Bartlett and Ed Pierce continued as editors and provided readers with 41 pages of timely information. They added “Ohio” to the journal’s title with this issue, establishing a name that remains familiar. Beyond the summer reports, this issue presented three documents, an identification aid, four summer census reports, three big day reports, a fall trip description, and a reprint from The Wheaton Club Bulletin.

The first documentation, by Mark Shieldcastle, described Ohio’s first nesting record of Wilson’s phalarope, at Ottawa NWR. Two young were banded, and their photograph appeared on the cover of the issue. As readers will find elsewhere in the current issue, Wilson’s phalaropes successfully nested again in Ohio after twenty years in the summer of 2000 at Big Island WA, with at least one young observed. (Ohio’s second nesting record was at Ottawa NWR in 1988 but was unsuccessful.) Returning to the summer of 1980, Bruce Peterjohn and Don Tumblin documented Ohio’s first Arctic tern, complete with photographs, on 17 July at the dredge spoil basin at Huron Harbor. Finally, Dick and Jean Hoffman documented Ohio’s second nesting record of Bell’s vireo at Irwin Prairie in Lucas County.

As in the previous issue, Bruce Peterjohn provided an identification aid, this one entitled “Mourning vs. Connecticut Warblers”, and commented on a related identification problem—MacGillivray’s warblers in the east. Summer censuses were described in this issue for four areas: Summit County (1978-80) by Carol Tveekrem, Matt Anderson’s farm in Lucas County during 1980, the Clear Creek Valley in Hocking and Fairfield Counties (1978-80) by Jerry Cairo, and Seneca County during 1980 by Tom Bartlett. Three big day accounts appeared in this issue, all of whose counts exceeded 150 species. The first was conducted on 12 May 1980 by Tom Kemp, Matt Anderson, Eric Durbin, and Pete Montien, when they set a new record of 166. (The previous Ohio record of 173 species by Tom Thomson was retroactively disqualified by the ABA because he was alone at the time.) Jerry Cairo and Chuck Hocevar tallied 153 species on 16 May and Tom Bartlett, Bruce Peterjohn, Don Tumblin, and Ed Pierce counted 155 species on 17 May. The fall trip description in this issue outlined the Lake Rockwell area where a Eurasian wigeon had been seen during September of both 1979 and 1980. Milton Trautman and James Fry’s article entitled “Possible Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal Hybrid in Ohio in 1974” was reprinted from The Wheaton Club Bulletin to provide additional information in light of a cinnamon teal sighting during the spring of 1980.

In addition to those treated in the documentations mentioned above, interesting birds seen during the summer of 1980 included three little blue herons, five snowy egrets, and a yellow-crowned night-heron nest with three young at Lake Logan. Waterfowl were successful, with nesting gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, redhead, and ruddy duck. A black rail was heard and seen from 15-20 June at Irwin Prairie, four Franklin’s gulls and three laughing gulls put in appearances during the period, and black terns nested at Magee Marsh and possibly Cedar Point NWR. The Dayton ringed turtle-dove continued its nesting attempt with a mourning dove, red-breasted nuthatches nested at Findlay SP, and a pair of Bewick’s wrens fledged at least one young in Brown County. Five western meadowlarks were counted during the season and dark-eyed juncos nested at Little Mountain. Joseph W. Hammond
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On the inside...

Summer 2000 Overview and Reports
by Bill Whan.................................................................145

Further Afield
by Rob Harlan...............................................................161

Eurasian Collared-Dove: The Next New Ohio Species?
by Joseph W. Hammond...................................................165

The Breeding Birds of Sandy Ridge Reservation
by Sean T. Zadar and Ted Gilliland......................................173

The New AOU Changes: A Report..........................................176

Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches in Dayton Suburb ..................178

Ohio's First White-winged Dove: Two Accounts.........................179

Black-crowned Night-Herons on Mill Creek..............................182

Black-crowned Night-Herons at Merwin Street..........................184

Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee...................185

Audubon's Important Bird Areas in Ohio................................186

Index to The Ohio Cardinal, 1978-2000..................................187

Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal..............................196

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