

The Ohio
CARDINAL



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

The issue for the winter of 1980-81 was a meaty one, with many articles, the magazine's first summary of statewide CBC results, and some very interesting reports. The cover photo of a white-winged crossbill was taken by John Pogacnik in his yard in Lorain, where two birds spent January through early June.

Articles included one on common names of birds by Lou Campbell, a recapitulation of red-cockaded woodpecker records in Ohio by Edward S. Thomas, a look at the vexing Thayer's/Iceland gull problem by Tom Kemp, a

review of Ohio records of yellow-headed blackbirds by John Herman, and a treatment of Bell's vireo and cinnamon teal records in Cincinnati by Worth Randle.

Especially interesting upon looking back into Ohio's birding past was an unsigned report on the "Crane Creek" (more accurately, the Magee Marsh) Bird Trail, consisting largely of letters from officials concerned about habitat destruction at the site. The story of the preservation of this unique area had yet to play out, but by 1980 it was clear that birders and others were by overuse threatening the habitat that made the area attractive to birds. Various solutions—signage, fences of various kinds, closure of the area to all but guided tours, etc.—were proposed. Not long before publication of the piece, Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station Supervisor Karl Bednarik, John Pogacnik, and Mark Shieldcastle had laboriously hauled in gravel in wheelbarrows and buckets to line the trail, put up signs, and install log benches, all in an effort to control the behavior of visitors to the site. In his opening remarks, Bednarik was attempting to reach Ohio birders through the *Cardinal*, in order to let them know the more or less drastic measures being considered. This is but one chapter in a long story that deserves to be told in full.

As for the season's birding, wintry weather started early, and continued quite cold and dry before ending ahead of schedule. Fifty-eight birders totaled 164 species in their reports, including some very good ones. A northern gannet and a gyrfalcon were seen, and Virginia rails were found in December and January. A 22 Dec sanderling was recorded, as were no fewer than six red phalaropes. Both pomarine and parasitic jaegers were observed in December. A glaucous gull was found in Akron, and two black-headed and two Franklin's gulls were reported. Four kittiwakes appeared, one of them in Dayton. The larid star was a Heermann's gull, which showed up—apparently for the second winter in a row—from 20 Dec to 23 Feb.

Snowy owls were numerous, 20 or more of them staying on from autumn arrivals. Two varied thrushes were discovered, marking Ohio's fourth and fifth records. A vesper sparrow wintered in Richland County, and a Harris's sparrow made the list. A pine grosbeak and a hoary redpoll were reported. No fewer than 192 evening grosbeaks were tallied for the season.

All in all, 120 subscribers were paying \$6.50 for a year's subscription back in 1980. Apropos of that, the interesting contents of the issue described above prompt us to remind readers that back issues—in this particular case in photocopy form—are available at reasonable prices from the Publisher upon request. It is an occasion for some pride to be able to recommend material from twenty years ago that remains of considerable interest and usefulness. *Bill Whan*



Originally discovered on 17 January 2001, Ohio's fourth Townsend's solitaire lingered at Holden Arboretum, Lake Co., until 21 February, delighting hundreds of onlookers. Photo by Gabe Leidy on 28 January 2001.