



Retrospective: 20 Years Ago in the Cardinal

The Spring 1981 *Cardinal* was not an average, ordinary issue. In addition to the usual articles, notes, reprints, and reports, the magazine ushered in a new era of birding for the state with the formation of the first Ohio Bird Records Committee. Following a reprint of a long-eared owl article by Robert Finch and a request for information regarding color-banded common terns, a notice on page 7 describes the new committee, explaining why it was formed and providing a synopsis of the process by which it was to review records. Five Ohioans were selected as

charter members: Ray Hannikman, Jean Hoffman, Bruce Peterjohn, Worth Randle, and Elliot Tramer. Following the notice are biographical sketches and photos of each member. Little did they know that this initial effort would expand into today's 11-member team. Congratulations on a great idea and happy 20th anniversary.

Along with the above, the Spring 1981 issue contained a report on the migration at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area by Mark Shieldcastle, two big day narratives, two reports on the discovery of Ohio's second burrowing owl by Sandra L. Zenser and Laurel Van Camp, a reprint of Homer F. Price's note describing Ohio's first burrowing owl in 1944, a note describing a "Lawrence's" warbler banded in Akron on 3 May, and seasonal sightings reports by Editor John Herman.

Mark Shieldcastle's view on the spring migration was double-edged. He described the shorebird migration as "disastrous," migrant waterfowl numbers as "less than expected," but characterized the hawk and passerine migrations as "fantastic." The big passerine day was 9 May, and it was on that date that Tom Bartlett, Bruce Peterjohn, Don Tumblin, and Ed Pierce set a new Ohio big day record of 179 species; their adventure was chronicled in this issue. Working a later date, Jerry Cairo, Chuck Hocevar, Dave Corbin, and Howard Besser tallied 167 species on 15 May.

In all, 81 contributors reported a total of 276 species, and this was the first issue in which every documented bird report was reviewed by the new records committee. There were a number of quality birds reported between March and May, including an eared grebe at Blacklick Woods Metro Park from 19-20 May. Photographed by Don Tumblin, it appeared on the cover of this issue. The best bird of the season was, of course, the burrowing owl discovered on 5 April by Sandra L. Zenser and Gilbert Gyde along Darsch Road in Ottawa County. The bird remained until the next day and provided Ohio with its second record. Three Smith's longspurs appeared at Ottawa NWR on 9 March, the Heermann's gull from the winter season stuck it out until 12 March at Lorain, a Le Conte's sparrow was banded at Sims Park in Euclid on 28 April, and a tricolored heron spent two days at Pickerington Ponds near Columbus in late April. Twenty-six shorebird species were reported, including one piping plover, 14 whimbrels, 19 red knots, 10 Wilson's phalaropes, and five red-necked phalaropes. There were so many black terns that only early dates, late dates, and maxima were reported—the largest flock was of 35. Finally, eight Connecticut and 27 golden-winged warblers were found, and northern mockingbird numbers were said to be "improving in central and southern Ohio." *Joseph W. Hammond*



Lesser black-backed gulls were reported 18 times during the Spring 2001 season. This individual was photographed at Mentor Lagoons Park, Lake Co., on 2 March 2001. Photo by Gary Meszaros.



Spring willets are always a treat in Ohio. This one posed for a photograph on 7 May 2001 at Ashtabula Harbor, Ashtabula Co. Photo by Gary Meszaros.