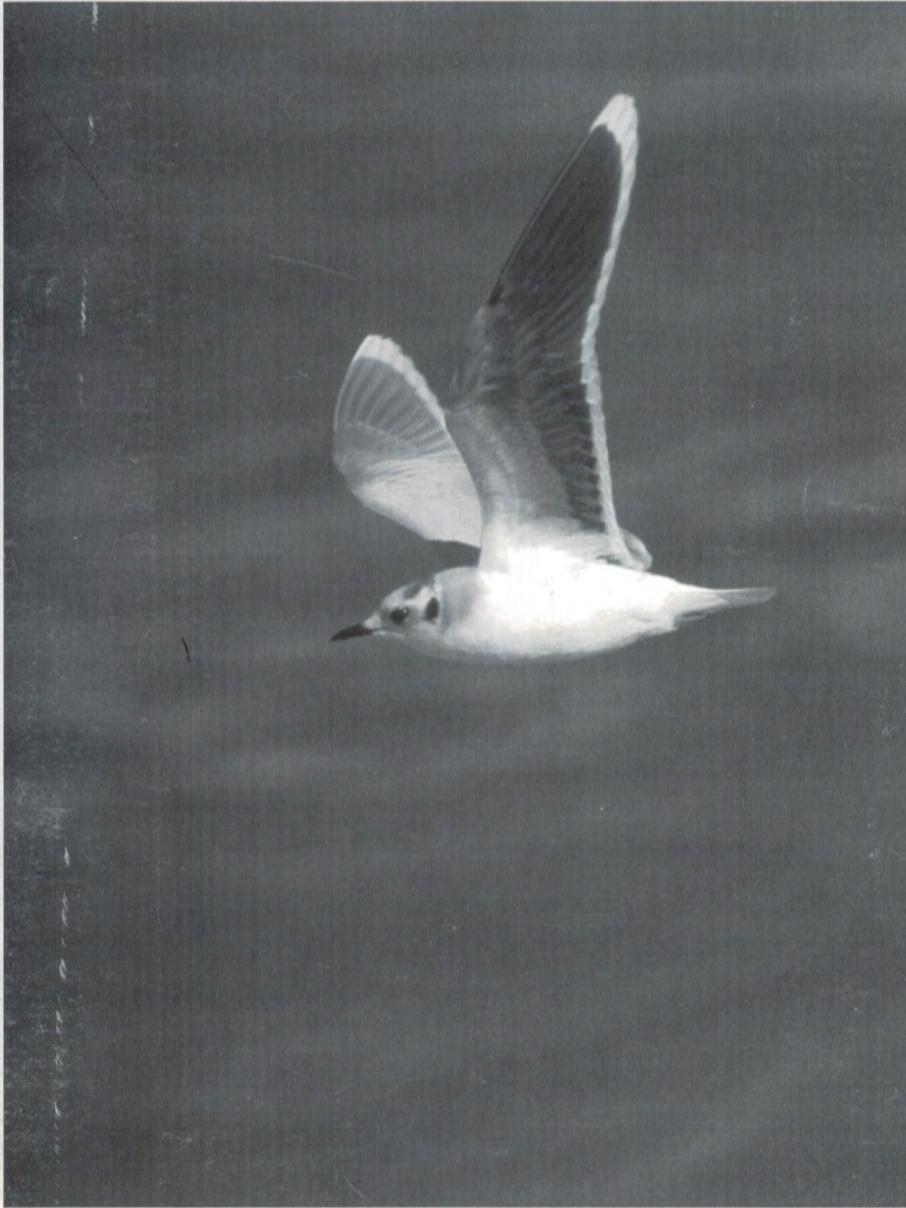


The Ohio



CARDINAL™

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

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 of the state. Report forms are not a necessity but will be supplied upon request. Unusual species should be documented, and forms to do so are available upon request from the Editor, Publisher, and Records Committee Secretary.

Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25
Summer (June-July) - August 25
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25

Please send all reports to:

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On the Cover: This adult little gull was photographed at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, on 23 March 2002 by Bob Roysse.

Spring 2002 Overview

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Going by the numbers, it was an average spring, though averaged from higher highs and lower lows than usual. We saw a lot of some of our birds, and few of others. In March, it dipped to 7°F on the 4th, then hit the month's high of 60°F just four days later. Four documented reports of Kirtland's warblers was an all-time record, but only one sighting of white-rumped sandpiper was a record of a different kind for recent years.

The weather featured lots of seesawing. March's major event was a storm on the 25th and 26th that brought most of spring's snow, followed by SW winds. Many peak numbers of loons, grebes, and ducks showed up over the next few days. April came out much warmer than average, but mostly because of a heat wave from the 11th to the 19th; southwest winds during this period aided early first arrivals of many breeders, as well as overflights in the northern counties. Averaged or not, May was chilly, and wet—it rained on 21 days. This made for some welcome fallouts of migrants in the usual locations, but killed others when insectivores couldn't find food during the double-digit below-normal temperatures and below-freezing wind chills of 18-22 May.

Fully 14 individuals of 10 Review Species were reported this spring, including one potentially new to the state list. The latter, a garganey, did what every first state record should do—a male in alternate plumage, it stuck around for seven days in a predictable location. Loons and grebes in big numbers were easy to find at the right times. Waterfowl more or less continued the trends of winter, with few hardy diving ducks, and a precipitous rush of the rest that left us mostly with the usual lingering wounded, lost, or committed celibates through the end of the period. Raptors overall continued recent trends, if in fits and starts due to the unstable weather. Shorebirds were hampered by 160% of normal rain in May, and sightings consisted of relatively small numbers either gathered at selected sky ponds on agricultural lands, or circling in frustration over traditional areas looking for a parking place. A commendable effort by Ottawa NWR to draw down an impoundment for spring shorebirds was unfortunately not a great success this time. Good numbers and varieties of gulls continued from winter. It was a memorable year for the migrant neotropical passerines, as the weather tended to interrupt their flight often enough to satisfy observers statewide.

Rob Harlan's column "Further Afield" will not appear in this issue, but will be back for the Summer 2002 number. We hope the feature on Smith's longspur will persuade readers to undertake concentrated searches for this species in Ohio next spring, and that following the advice of experts in finding these hard-to-find birds will pay off.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1998), including the 42nd Supplement (July 2000).