

The Ohio



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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	Please send all reports to:
Winter (Dec.-Feb.) - March 25	Bill Whan
Spring (Mar.-May) - June 25	223 E. Tulane Rd.
Summer (June-July) - August 25	Columbus, OH 43202
Autumn (Aug.-Nov.) - December 25	danielel@iwaynet.net

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On the Cover: This Bell's vireo was photographed along the Heritage Rail-Trail adjacent to The Homestead Park in Franklin County on 21 May 2003 by Bob Roysce.

Spring 2003 Overview

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This spring's weather played a part in several widely-noticed events. The cold winter hemmed in some remarkable assemblages of waterfowl at inland sites (especially along major rivers), and of larger gulls along the Lake Erie shore during a chilly first half of March. Most memorable among water birds were red-necked grebes, whose numbers set records statewide from the beginning of the period through early May. Later, turbulent weather to our south, with record numbers of tornadoes (562 in May, versus 399 for the previous record high, and weather conditions on 12 of the first 15 days of May characterized as "severe" by meteorologists), bottled up migrants until they exploded 10-12 May in concentrations that had even veterans' jaws dropping. A chilly and rainy latter half of May—reminiscent of last year's—slowed things down noticeably, delaying some Neotropical migrants (20 warbler species still at Magee on 28 May is pretty unusual), as well as causing some mortality among nesting birds.

As for other species, American white pelicans and golden eagles continued their recent regional increases. Though 29 species were reported, a dearth of suitable mudflats kept most shorebird numbers low. "Grasspipers" like golden-plovers and pectoral sandpipers, however, had a field day, with some enormous numbers reported. Our first confirmed loggerhead shrike nest since 1999 was found. Woodland thrushes seemed eerily hard to find this spring.

Ten review species were reported, all documented for the records committee: tricolored heron (2), glossy and white-faced ibises, Ross's goose (3), piping plover (2), western gull, least tern, loggerhead shrike (2), Townsend's solitaire, and Smith's longspur. If accepted, the gull would be a first state record, and the longspur the first in a dozen years.

The Reports follow the taxonomic order of the 7th edition of the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (1998), including the 42nd (July 2000) and 43rd (July 2002) Supplements. Underlined names of species indicate those on the OBRC Review List; documentation is needed to add reports of these species to official state records, or to attributed records herein. When supplied, county names appear *italicized*. Unless numbers are specified, sightings refer to single birds. Abbreviations, conventions, and symbols used in the Reports should be readily understood, with the possible exceptions of the following: BCSP=Buck Creek SP in *Clark*; BIWA=Big Island WA in *Marion*; BSBO=Black Swamp Bird Observatory; CPNWR=Cedar Point NWR in *Lucas*; CPNWRC=monthly CPNWR census; CVNP=Cuyahoga Valley National Park in *Cuyahoga* and *Summit*; Dike 14=Gordon Park impoundment in *Cleveland*; EFSP=East Fork SP in *Clermont*; EHSP=East Harbor SP in *Ottawa*; eop=end of the period, in this case 31 May 2003; fide="in trust of," said of data conveyed on behalf of another person; GLSM=Grand Lake St. Marys in *Auglaize* and *Mercer*; HBSP=Headlands Beach SP in *Lake*;