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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: Bill Whan 223 E. Tulane Road Columbus, OH 43202 billwhan@columbus.rr.com
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On the Cover: This alternate-plumaged purple sandpiper, a very rare spring migrant in Ohio, was photographed 12 May on the Crane Creek SP beach by Jeff Moore.

Spring 2005 Overview and Reports

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A cold spring followed a warm winter. Eager northbound waterfowl, as usual, punched through wherever there was open water in March, and this spring very few lingered; a look at the reports will show the heyday (of observations, at least—it was a warm Saturday) as the 26th. Most passerines showed up on time in southern Ohio—in fact three record early arrival dates were set by warblers—but up north many seemed late. Many flycatchers came a week later than average; a few showed up on time, but only as isolated single birds, as if overshooting. Even the familiar eastern wood-pewee seemed sparser than usual; first reported 7 May this spring; last year several of their *nests* were reported by 11 May, and several observers mentioned hearing them less often later this spring. Other birds devoted to flying insects, like swifts, lagged behind in the north. Warbler movements were sluggish in starting up near Lake Erie, with diminished numbers into the first week of May. These delays may have been more than local, as many species that nest to our north stayed late with us. Spring migrants make slower progress in the face of northern winds, with fewer overflights and early arrivals in the north, and prevailing wind directions provide one possible explanation: on 35 of the 45 days from 12 March through 24 April winds were from the north, as they were on 18 of 21 days following 11 May; in between, from 25 April through 10 May, they relented, only five of those 16 days having northerly winds. Chilly temperatures were the norm from 10 April through the end of the period, during which interval temperatures averaged a substantial 4.78 degrees F below normal in the middle of the state. There were relatively few overshoots or early arrivals among migrants in the north.

A substantial snowfall on 24 April marked winter's final blow, and images from that day of black terns and hundreds of chimney swifts gamely seeking insects in mid-storm, and squadrons of golden-plovers and dunlins in alternate plumage standing as if patiently belly-deep in snow, are likely to remain with observers. As one might expect, a fair amount of mortality was noted among scouting species such as purple martins. Shorebirds of upland habitats—pectorals, golden-plovers, killdeers—fared well enough on grasslands and other open country. The more numerous species preferring mudflats found precious little habitat in Ohio this spring, but among those few able to adapt to sharing chilly spring beaches with humans were found a couple of endangered piping plovers and a locally extremely rare breeding-plumaged purple sandpiper. More than a few observers felt that many thrushes, flycatchers, vireos (especially our common red-eyed), and some of the commoner warblers like magnolia and yellow-rumped were somewhat late and seemed noticeably down in numbers.

Perhaps straining to locate tardy migrants made us more alert, but for whatever reason it was a good season for rarities, with 14 review species reported. They included fulvous whistling-duck (9), cackling goose (2), tricolored heron, glossy and white-faced ibises (an unprecedented 40 *Plegadis* ibises in total), Mississippi kite, yellow rail (2), black rail, piping plover (2), Eurasian collared-dove, red-naped sapsucker, black-throated gray warbler, Kirtland's warbler (3), and Swainson's warbler. A couple of other reported review species went undocumented, hence