

## A Summary of 1980 Ohio

### Christmas Bird Counts

Finally the results. This huge effort needs an editor for this year's counts. Please let me know if you wish the job.

The format below is different than American Birds. It combines the 51 Ohio counts together to provide a statewide picture of bird populations in Ohio for the period December 20 through January 4. Forty-seven compilers responded to our request for count results. Our thanks to them. No results were received from Firelands, New Lexington, VanWert and Zanesville compilers despite letters and a phone call. Perhaps next year.

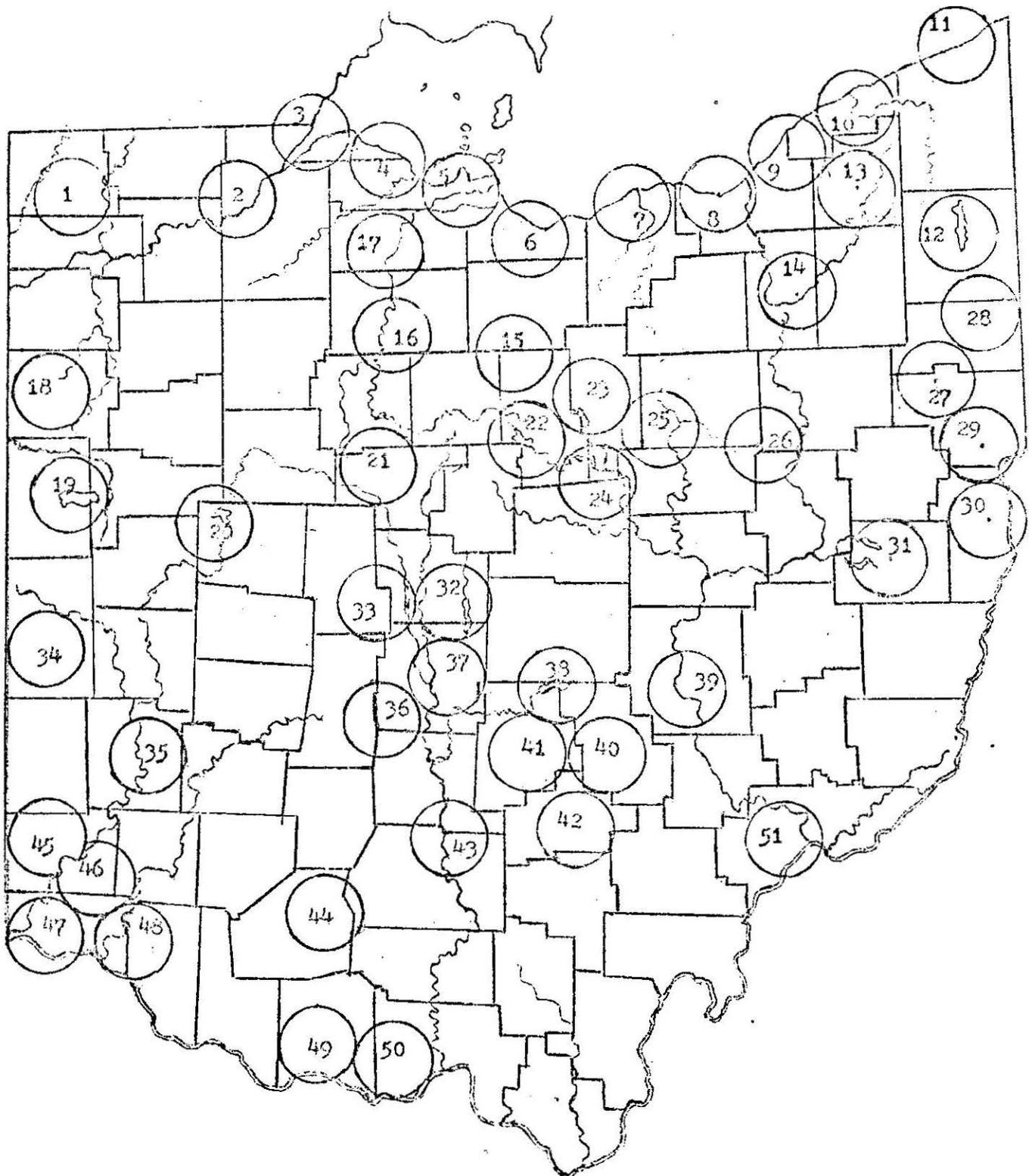
The first chart below lists alphabetically the name of each count as it appears in American Birds. It provides some basic information on each count such as the day of the count, number of species, races and forms seen and number of observers. Some compilers did not provide all of this information. Thus the blanks. The second chart combines all of the count results on a species basis. It provides the number of counts reporting at least one of the species, the first two initials of the name (three initials if the first two are the same for two counts) of the count recording the highest number of that species and its total and the total number of that species seen on all counts. There were 140 species, two exotics, one form, two races and 973,501 individual birds reported. The two exotics were mute swans (Toledo 5 and Elyria-Lorain 1) and a ruddy shelduck (Salem, 1). The form was a snow goose-blue form (Ottawa NWR, 1). The three races were Oregon junco (Ashtabula, Burton, Columbus, Gypsum, Hoover Reservoir, Wooster and Youngstown, 1 each), Richardson's goose (O'Shaughnessy Reservoir and Salem, 1 each) and northern horned lark. Horned larks were generally not differentiated except for Burton, Goll Woods and Toledo which specified 38, 116 and 10 northern horned larks, respectively, and Darbydale which stated "both races" 570. An additional four species were reported during the count week: northern oriole, Burton, Cadiz and Toledo, one each; pomarine jaeger and lesser black-backed gull, Elyria-Lorain, one each; white-winged crossbill, Toledo.

All 47 counts reported red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, rock dove, mourning dove, common flicker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, starling, house sparrow, cardinal, dark-eyed junco, tree sparrow and song sparrow.

Common crow, tufted titmouse, American robin and American goldfinch were reported on 46 counts. At least forty counts tallied mallard (43), Cooper's hawk (40), belted kingfisher (43), red-bellied woodpecker (44), hairy woodpecker (45), brown creeper (43) and white-throated sparrow (41). At least thirty counts included great blue heron (31), Canada goose (33), black duck (36), rough-legged hawk (30), northern harrier (35), great horned owl (36), pileated woodpecker (30), red-headed woodpecker (30), horned lark (37), black-capped chickadee (34), red-breasted nuthatch (38), eastern bluebird (30), golden-crowned kinglet (39), cedar waxwing (37), red-winged blackbird (32), common grackle (33), brown-headed cowbird (31), rufous-sided towhee (34), field sparrow (36), white crown sparrow (32) and swamp sparrow (33). The remaining species were reported on less than thirty counts.

Hoover Reservoir had the greatest number of species, 87. Also in

<u>Count Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Map No.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>No. Obs.</u>	<u>Total Party Hours</u>	<u>No. Sp.</u>	<u>No. Ra.</u>	<u>No. Fo.</u>	<u>Total number individuals</u>
Adams County	Adams	(49)	21			59			4,654
Ashland	Ashland	(23)				54			3,434
Ashtabula	Ashtabula	(11)	3		70	69			13,572
Beaver Creek	Columbiana	(29)	22	31	61	51			4,955
Buckeye Lake	Licking	(38)	20	28	124	84			12,147
Burton	Geauga	(13)	1			41	1		3,701
Cadiz	Harrison	(31)	29	9	26	40			1,334
Cincinnati	Hamilton	(48)	28	151	292	73			25,936
Cleveland	Cuyahoga	(9)	20	63		78	1		73,935
Columbus	Franklin	(37)	27	69	122	70	1		22,274
Cuyahoga Falls	Summit	(14)	21	116	224	78			34,028
Darbydale	Franklin	(36)	3	12	43	53	1		7,286
Dayton	Montgomery	(35)	21	79	85	71			340,508
Elyria-Lorain	Lorain	(7)		50	140	76			76,222
Firelands	Erie	(6)							
Fremont	Sandusky	(17)	27	17	30	48			8,090
Goll Woods	Fulton	(1)	20	16		36			4,044
G L St. Mary's	Mercer	(19)	21	15		46			9,131
GR-Waterville	Wood	(2)	20	26	35	52			4,350
Greenville	Darke	(34)	4	18	37	43			5,960
Gypsum	Erie	(5)	4	8	27	56	1		6,922
Hamilton-Fair.	Butler	(46)	20	14		56			3,875
Hoover Res.	Delaware	(32)	21	17	56	87	1		18,660
Indian Lake	Logan	(20)	22	2	9	24			542
Killdeer Plains	Marion	(21)	28	13	47	47			13,487
Kingston	Ross	(43)	28	11	49	60			11,791
Lakewood	Cuyahoga	(8)	21	28		68			43,380
Lancaster	Fairfield	(41)	28	29	82	64			6,407
Logan	Hocking	(42)				69			4,281
Mansfield	Richland	(22)	20	36	46	49			14,654
Mentor	Lake	(10)	27	23		53			7,847
Mohican SF	Ashland	(24)	28	10	48	54			6,453
New Lexington	Perry	(40)							
O'Shaughnessy Res.	Union	(33)	24	2	9	48	1		2,664
Ottawa NWR	Ottawa	(4)	4	5	15	48		1	8,274
Oxford	Butler	(45)	20	19		63			5,300
Paint Creek	Highland	(44)				50			2,686
Plymouth	Huron	(15)	29			37			2,443
Portsmouth	Scioto	(50)				70			6,952
Salem	Columbiana	(27)	21			58	1		2,723
Steubenville	Jefferson	(30)	27	18	43	50			3,890
Tiffin	Seneca	(16)	20	24	43	58			8,165
Toledo	Lucas	(3)	21		48	86			53,162
Trumbull	Trumbull	(12)				47			14,618
VanWert	VanWert	(18)							
Washington	Washington	(51)	28	23	268	58			4,324
W. Hamilton	Hamilton	(47)	21	59	147	56			17,195
Wilmot	Stark	(26)	3	49	137	64			9,930
Wooster	Wayne	(25)	20	15	36	59	1		6,412
Youngstown	Mahoning	(28)	20	22		57	1		30,903
Zanesville	Muskingum	(39)							



Map designed and drawn by James M. Bruce, Wooster, Ohio

SUMMARY OF SPECIES REPORTED

Key to columns: A - Number of counts reporting  
 B - High number, count reporting  
 C - Total individuals

	A	B	C
C. Loon	2	2 Ho	3
H. Grebe	6	2 Cl	7
Pb Grebe	14	6 Cu	32
GB Heron	31	41 Fr	146
BCN Heron	1	55 To	55
M Swan	2	5 To	6
W Swan	3	2 Ot, Ho	5
C Goose	33	9500 Wa	28,963
WF Goose	1	1 Gl	1
S Goose	3	2 Ot	4
R Sheldk	1	1 Sa	1
Mallard	43	20,330 To	53,034
B Duck	36	2,099 To	11,539
Gadwall	13	38 To	110
Pintail	7	400 Ki	415
Gw Teal	7	11 Po	20
A Wigeon	14	1240 Gy	1477
N Shvler	3	3 To, Co	7
Wd Duck	8	50 Ki	66
Redhead	7	368 Cl	553
Rnk Duck	8	4 Bu	16
Cnvsbk	12	8,220 To	8,442
G Scaup	5	1,500 Me	3,197
L Scaup	11	602 La	1,201
C Gdneye	21	229 Cl	628
Bflhd	11	58 El	179
Rdy Dk	10	72 To	103
H Mrgnsr	9	38 Ho	58
C Mrgnsr	13	11 Ast, To	58
RB Mrgnsr	7	22 El	39
T Vultur	2	5 Ho	6
B Vultur	2	3 La	5
Goshawk	2	1 Cu, La	2
Ss Hawk	23	9 Ci	55
Cp Hawk	40	13 Kin	115
Rt Hawk	47	82 Ci	1,076
Rs Hawk	16	10 Ci	34
Bw Hawk	1	1 Me	1
Rl Hawk	30	36 Kin	126
Fer Hawk	1	1 Gl	1
B Eagle	5	2 El, Ot, Fr	8
N Harrier	35	30 Kin	242
Merlin	1	1 Cu	1
A Kestrel	47	120 Ci	1,028
Accipter Sp.	1	4 Ma	4
R Grouse	14	11 Be	49
Bobwht	12	92 Ci	269
Rn Phsnt	23	58 To	182
Turkey	1	12 Ho	12
V. Rail	1	1 To	1

	A	B	C
A Coot	12	75 Po	163
Kildeer	20	47 Ci	152
C Snipe	14	26 Wi	59
R Phalrp	1	2 Cl	2
Gla Gull	3	4 Cl	9
CBb Gull	6	43 Ast	93
H Gull	14	20,019 El	43,064
Tha Gull	1	1 El	1
Rb Gull	14	44,030 Cl	128,064
Bhd Gull	1	1 El	1
Frk Gull	1	1 El	1
Bon Gull	6	6,014 El	14,250
Lit Gull	1	3 El	3
Her Gull	1	1 El	1
Bl Kitwk	1	1 El	1
R Dove	47	1,937 Cu	15,549
M Dove	47	2,186 Co	18,808
Barn Owl	1	3 Ki	3
Scre Owl	28	80 Gr	191
GH Owl	36	16 Ci	191
Sno Owl	1	2 To	2
Bar Owl	19	11 Ci	42
Le Owl	2	2 Day, Ti	4
Se Owl	11	15 To	55
Sw Owl	1	2 To	2
B Kgfsr	43	39 Ci	382
C Flicker	47	154 Ci	975
Pi Wdpr	30	24 Ci	180
Rb Wdpr	44	399 Ci	1,345
Rh Wdpr	30	38 Wi	196
Yb Spsr	29	28 Ha	128
H Wdpr	45	55 Cu	675
D Wdpr	47	652 Ci	4,550
E Phoebe	3	4 Po	6
H Lark	37	1,291 Wi	5,651
B Jay	47	1,031 Cu	8,023
C Crow	46	5,000 Ma	16,376
Bc Ckde	34	1,677 Cu	5,078
Car Ckde	26	2,636 Ci	6,035
Ckde Sp.	3	160 Ma	408
T Titms	46	921 Ci	4,454
Wb Nut	47	333 Cu	2,886
Rb Nut	38	37 Co	296
B Crepr	43	87 Co	756
W Wren	16	2 Be,Ci,Day,La,Lo,To	22
C Wren	17	103 Ci	204
Lbm Wren	1	2 To	2
Mkgbrd	26	252 Ci	525
G Catbird	7	1 Bu,Co,Cu,El,Pa,Pl,Po	7
B Thrshr	15	4 Day, Po	23
A Robin	46	1,997 Ci	9,836
H Thrush	8	4 Cu	12
S Thrush	3	1 Cl,Cu,Me	3
E Blubrd	30	141 Wi	872
Gc Kgl	39	135 To	810
Rc Kgl	19	14 Wi	49
W Pipit	1	1 Ho	1
C Waxwg	37	727 Cu	2,625

N Shrike	3	1 Bu, Cu, Ti	3
L Shrike	3	2 Ad	4
Shrike Sp.	1	1 Ma	1
Strlg	47	170, 190 Day	258,883
Yr Wrblr	26	47 Ci	257
Ovenbrd	1	1 Ci	1
C Yelotr	4	1 Cl, Fr, Ho, To	4
H Sparo	47	4,871 Cu	42,940
E Mdolrk	24	63 Kin	366
Rw Blkbd	32	318 Bu	1,628
R Blkbd	12	77 Co	115
B Blkbd	1	1 Da	1
C Grkle	33	83,293 Day	93,676
Bh Cowbd	31	80,098 Day	83,323
Cardnal	47	2,881 Ci	16,004
E Grosbk	21	331 Po	1,322
P Finch	26	104 Po	536
H Finch	18	128 ST	960
P Grosbk	1	1 Sa	1
C Redpol	5	59 Cu	98
P Siskin	28	178 To	763
A Gldfch	46	1,205 Cu	7,669
Rs Towhe	34	214 Ci	562
Sav Sparo	3	5 Kin	8
Ves Sparo	3	1 As, Da, Ki	3
De Junco	18	1,412 Ci	9,097
Slate Jun	29	1,012 Ha	10,063
Ore Jun	7	1 Ast, Bu, Co, Gy, Ho, Wo, Yo	7
Tre Sparo	47	1,300 Cu	10,450
Chp Sparo	4	6 Wi	13
Fie Sparo	36	108 Ci	548
Wc Sparo	32	158 Pa	746
Wt Sparo	41	1,315 Ci	3,944
Fox Sparo	17	7 Ox	37
Lin Sparo	1	3 Kin	3
Swp Sparo	33	69 Kin	529
Sg Sparo	47	1,665 Ci	8,625
L Lgspr	5	51 Fr	89
Lgspr Sp.	2	27 P1	37
Sno Btg	14	1,100 P1	2,837

the eighties were Toledo (86), and Buckeye Lake (84).

In terms of distribution, ruffed grouse and bobwhite were absent on the northern counts (except for Ashtabula which reported two ruffed grouse) while ring-necked pheasant was unreported in the southern counts (Adams, Hamilton-Fairfield, Oxford, Cincinnati, Western Hamilton, Paint Creek and Portsmouth). Only one killdeer was in the north (Toledo), small numbers on central counts (1-10) and larger numbers in the south (13-47). Gulls were found only in the north except for Hoover Reservoir. Pileated woodpeckers were spotty in the north (5 of 15 counts reporting) with all other counts reporting this species except for three of four counts in the west (Greenville, G. L. St. Mary's and Indian Lake). The Carolina chickadee was not found on counts above a line drawn across the state by joining the G. L. St. Mary's, Delaware and Salem counts except for 26 birds at Wilmot and 4 birds at Wooster. However, black-capped chickadees were reported in all areas except the south (Oxford and Portsmouth with three each were the exceptions) and the west (G. L. St. Mary's with eight was the exception) with Dayton, Greenville and Indian Lake not reporting this species.

The only areas unanimously reporting the Carolina wren were in the south: Adams, 4; Hamilton-Fairfield, 1; Oxford, 2; Cincinnati, 103; Western Hamilton, 43; Paint Creek, 2; and Portsmouth, 20. The Cincinnati total was reported as low. Cuyahoga Falls, Lancaster, Logan, Kingston, Salem and Dayton each reported two birds. The only other counts reporting Carolina wrens were Toledo, 1, Columbus, 3, and Washington, 12.

Eastern bluebirds were spotty in the north but present elsewhere. The house finch is now present in all areas but the west (Ashtabula 67, Cleveland 106, Lakewood 83, Elyria-Lorain 92, Cuyahoga Falls 82, Mohican SF 1, Mansfield 35, Wooster 40, Hoover Reservoir 28, Columbus 61, Logan 17, Buckeye Lake 14, Salem 27, Beaver Creek 24, Cadiz 22, Steubenville 128, Youngstown 47, Washington 86.). The swamp sparrow was unreported only in the west (G. L. St. Mary's was the exception with two birds).

The remaining species which were reported in sufficient numbers to discern any trends were reported statewide or as in the case of ducks where open water existed.

There were no details given on the ruddy shelduck and the goshawks. The ferruginous hawk was well observed and three written documentations were received. However, this is not to imply what decision the newly formed Ohio Records Committee (see next issue for details on this committee) will arrive at for this record as it would be a first state record. The broad-winged hawk was not documented. The bald eagles were all adults. Trumbull and Gypsum counts had one each while Toledo, ONWR and Fremont reported two each. The merlin was an adult male and accepted by American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 3). The high of 92 bobwhite at Cincinnati was reported as a low number for that count. Elyria-Lorain had a phenomenal eleven species of gulls including Thayer's, black-headed, Franklin's, little, Heermann's and black-legged kittiwake. As if this wasn't enough, a lesser black-backed gull was seen along with a pomarine jaeger during the count week at Elyria-Lorain. All of these birds except for the Franklin's gull and the pomarine jaeger are mentioned in American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 3). The travels of this Heermann's gull is detailed elsewhere in this issue. There is a documentation on file for the pomarine jaeger and the Franklin's gull was seen by others in Lorain during December.

The mourning doves outnumbered the rock doves. A crow roost was

reported at Mansfield (5,000 birds). Dayton reported a large roost of starlings (170,190), common grackles (83,293) and brown-headed cowbirds (80,098). The ovenbird reported at Cincinnati may be the same bird that over-wintered the previous year at the same location. Evening grosbeaks were spread over the state except for the western counts. House finches (960) outnumbered purple finches (536). Redpolls were scarce and only in the north (Ashtabula 2, Cleveland 30, Elyria-Lorain 6, Cuyahoga Falls 59, Columbus 1). Pine siskins were statewide. Darbydale was the farthest south for lapland longspurs. Snow buntings were concentrated in the northern counts although one bird was seen at Dayton and 248 at Darbydale.

Cuyahoga Falls with 116 observers and Cincinnati with 151 observers were much higher in this category than other counts. Thus they counted more numbers of birds in the commoner species such as American kestrel, rock dove, belted kingfisher, common flicker, downy woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, cedar waxwing, blue jay, house sparrow, cardinal, American goldfinch, dark-eyed junco, tree sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow and song sparrow.

This type of summary should permit comparison with next year in terms of numbers of birds present within a species revealing increases or declines. Such a comparison could be made with past counts should anyone wish to do the work to combine them.

Finally, many of the records included in this Christmas count report are not found in Tom Bartlett's winter reports section in this issue as there are many more Christmas counters than report contributors to the Ohio Cardinal. For example, we report 22 sharp-shinned hawks this winter while the Christmas counters tallied 55. However, some of the birds reported here are duplicated in that section.

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This issue is the last in Volume 3. For many of you it's also the fourth issue you've received since the change of editors. If so, it's time to renew your subscription for another four issues. Just send in \$ 6.50 to keep the issues coming. Regardless of when your subscription started, you are entitled to four issues. Once you have received them, it's time to renew. Please don't let the recent time lapse between issues discourage you from renewing. We need your support and I think you like the content of the magazine. We will become current as in the past.

We now have 120 subscribers to the magazine. As you renew your subscription, you'll automatically become a member of the Ohio Birding Association which we hope someday will be a statewide organization for Ohio birders with the Ohio Cardinal as its magazine. You'll receive a membership card. The Spring issue features the Columbus eared grebe in summer plumage, the newly formed Ohio records committee and its members, Norm Walker's long-eared owl, a trip through a long-eared owl roost, the Ottawa County burrowing owl, the new "Big Day" record of 179 species and other articles. Summer will include the nesting birds of Mohican State Forest, the Ottawa County black-necked stilt, the 192 nesting cliff swallows at a Wayne County barn, an update on Ohio's nesting bald eagles including the new nest at Mosquito Reservoir, broad-winged hawks nesting at Oak Openings and others.

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