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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:

Forsaking eelgrass for crabgrass, a brant spent the second half of November at Cleveland's Edgewater Park, where John Pogacnik got this photo on the 25th.

Fall 2006 Overview and Reports

by **Bill Whan**

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August was warmer and drier, and September and October contrastingly cooler and wetter than normal, by good margins. November was dry overall, and started out with a cold snap, turning unusually warm thereafter. Extra rain in the middle of the period reportedly made some traditional migrant shorebird spots unproductive this year, but the dampness and increased warmth later encouraged certain insectivorous birds to linger, while of course delaying arrival of various Arctic species, particularly those accompanying concentrations of Lake Erie ice.

Recent events have taught us to pay closer attention to the remnants of tropical storms that appear in Ohio, as they can produce unique perturbations of the atmosphere with unusual records of birds. This fall, the nation was spared the predicted ruinous hurricane season, but even less destructive storms can be worth following when tropical depressions spin over warm western Lake Erie waters, and internet resources have made this easy to do with considerable accuracy. A wrath of Hurricane Ernesto passed unnoticed by Ohio forecasters on 2 September, but in far NE Ohio produced violent storms. Craig Holt set out to witness them and the birds they brought to Conneaut harbor that day. He saw some good shorebirds—admittedly no big news at this date—but here's his report about what else he found:

Black-legged kittiwake: a basic ad put in a brief appearance at Conneaut 9/2. "Ernesto" strikes again. This storm was intense up in the NE corner of Ohio, but even here in Mahoning Co. the reaction was "what storm?" Evidently it was mostly felt east of Ohio at our latitude. I realize adults are very rarely observed in Ohio. I also realize there are no records even close to this early date in Ohio. But the bird came in and landed <25 ft. away for a couple minutes, providing a stunning view. I looked from bill to head to (darker) mantle/wings to wingtips down to those black legs. No doubt on ID as it flew off.

With little incentive to depart northern resorts, waterfowl overall did not put on a great show, but for some reason scoters (looking at a map of their breeding range, one wonders why we see any black scoters at all!) exceeded normal numbers in Nov, noticed not only in Ohio but as far south as Florida. Joining scoters in unexpectedly high numbers—perhaps because they share wintering destinations in saltwater on the Atlantic coast—were loons and red-necked grebes. Migrant raptors produced few surprises except reduced numbers from usual, perhaps because of diminished prey. Except for those tiny areas for waders still affected by natural Lake Erie levels, such as the CCE and some Sandusky Bay sites, shorebirds were not much in evidence in the northwest; instead, Conneaut—with its unimpeded shallow-water fluctuations (i.e., an actual shore) and 31 species this season—and some newly-constructed or restored wetlands and shallow-ended reservoirs in central Ohio, hosted the