

*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.

#### Seasonal Report Due Dates

Winter (Dec.-Feb.)-March 25

Spring (Mar.-May)-June 25

Summer (June-July)-August 25

Autumn (Aug.-Nov.)-December 25

### Subscriptions

The subscription rate for one year (four issues) is \$25 including membership in the Ohio Ornithological Society.

Because it is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this magazine to a new address. Please notify the Publisher promptly if you move.

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**Bill Whan**, *Editor*

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On the Cover: Juvenal Sabine's gulls making their first trip south show up yearly in Ohio. This bird reliably haunted Huron Harbor 22-30 Nov. Brian Zwiebel's photo may show a touch of first-winter plumage in the head and lesser coverts markings. See Rosche & Hannikman, *Birding* 21(5):241-246.

### A personal statement from the editor

It seems this issue will be my last as editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Ed Pierce, who as publisher for nearly thirty years has ably and selflessly ensured the *Cardinal* worked on behalf of Ohio's birding community, can no longer do so, and has acted on plans to turn the journal over to the Ohio Ornithological Society. The current leadership of the OOS has not equally valued the *Cardinal* in the past, and now, having control of it, no longer wants my services. I thank our readers who for so many years have believed in the *Cardinal* and sent reports and notes and articles that served to enlarge our knowledge of Ohio's birdlife. I hope that eventually circumstances will again permit a journal like this one to serve Ohio's birders. In the meantime I look forward to continuing my work with birds and my friendships in our community, and will try to help readers in any other way I can. Because the future of this journal remains uncertain, I would appreciate it if regular contributors of records, etc., would continue sending copies to me as usual until matters are resolved. --Bill Whan

### Fall 2007 Overview and Reports

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No brief account of Ohio's weather serves to describe the fall season of 2007. Record droughts in the southeastern US, and record rains in south-central areas, may have influenced the occurrences of birds here. Overall warmer temperatures delayed the migrations of some more northerly breeders. The Cincinnati area, for example, experienced 25 days of 90°+ and five days of 100°+ temperatures during a record-hot August, which was additionally the fourth driest locally, and the lower 48's second warmest in recorded history (NOAA). Cleveland experienced its wettest recorded August, and Cleveland and Mansfield their third-warmest Octobers ever, Youngstown its second-warmest. Increasingly late average stays by regular Ohio species have followed recent warming trends. This season we set or tied a surprising five late Ohio record stays by migratory species.

Widespread failures of fruit/seed crops in Ontario compelled desperate boreal birds to arrive at our latitudes in unusual numbers. Red-breasted nuthatches appeared statewide quite early, and with time unusually widespread reports of siskins, common redpolls, and purple finches attracted attention. Later, species we haven't seen or even expected here in years---evening and pine grosbeaks and Bohemian waxwings---appeared in the northern tier of counties,