

## EDITOR'S NOTE



HELLO! AND WELCOME TO THIS BOOK, which is a reset, retitled, updated-in-parts-via-footnotes edition of *Some Ohio Birds*, a 1912 report published by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, in which the authors, Harry A. Gossard and Scott G. Harry, detail the economic and ecological impacts (thus the figurative “Green Bird” of the new title) of common Ohio birds (including, of course, the state bird — the “Red Bird,” also known as the Northern Cardinal). Some of these details are downright *detailed*, wonderfully so, and will be of practical interest, it is hoped, to both birdwatchers and farmers/gardeners, especially organic ones.

Consider the diet of the Eastern Bluebird: “Seventy-six percent consists of insects and other small animal forms; twenty-four percent is of vegetable substances, taken mostly in winter. Of the whole food, beetles constitute twenty-eight percent, grasshoppers twenty-two percent, and caterpillars eleven percent. Its only offense is the eating of a few beneficial beetles, amounting to eight percent of its food for the entire year.”

The species accounts — “Birds in Ohio in 1912,” pp. 19–81 — are given in the authors’ original taxonomic order, which is very different from the current (or past, for that matter) order of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU). I’ve chosen to let the original order stand so as to present the information in its unassuming 1912 funkitude. The common and scientific names in the species accounts are updated in footnotes and keep with the AOU. By no means do the species accounts represent every bird found in Ohio, then or now. The “Some” in the original title is fitting.

In some places, details about a bird's abundance are updated via footnotes, too, but this is limited to certain cases, such as a bird then common now being rare, or a bird once thought extirpated or very close to it now being common or at least thankfully not extirpated. For up-to-date, thorough details about the abundance, migration periods, etc., of Ohio birds (all of them, including, this one time, a puffin in Toledo), read *The Birds of Ohio* by Bruce G. Peterjohn (637 pp., 2001, \$21.95, The Wooster Book Company, <http://www.woosterbook.com>).

Any footnote or typesetting errors are mine. Corrections or suggestions from readers would be appreciated. Send them to me at CommTech, OSU/OARDC, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44611; [ct-oardc@osu.edu](mailto:ct-oardc@osu.edu).

— *Kurt Knebusch, January 2009*