

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Founded by Francis H. Herrick



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by

The Kirtland Bird Club

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

From U. S. Weather Bureau Reports (Cleveland Hopkins Airport)

- September - Warm spells during the opening and closing weeks developed a temperature average which was above normal for the month. The maximum temperature of 99 degrees on the 5th set a new record for that date and equalled the highest temperature for the year so far. Rainfall and sunshine amounts were below normal.
- October - This month saw several new records established for amounts of precipitation. It was the wettest October on record and the second wettest for any month since records began in 1871. A new maximum 24-hour precipitation amount for October was set during a steady rain which began on the 14th and continued through the 15th as Hurricane "Hazel" passed east of this area. Maximum monthly and 24 hour snowfall amounts were exceeded in a local heavy snow at the end of the month. The 6.1 inches of snow on the 30th and 31st was the greatest amount of snowfall ever recorded so early in the season.
- November - Temperature averaged near normal this month. The maximum, 72 degrees on the 17th, tied the record for that date and the 71 degrees was the highest ever recorded on the 18th. The lowest temperature, 25 degrees on the first, set a new low for that date. The first killing freeze of the autumn came on the first. Except for a dry period between the 6th and 20th precipitation occurred every day. Measurable snowfall occurred only on the 27th and melted quickly.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE

From all indications this fall's migration was a normal one or even subnormal in regard to waterfowl and warblers. A possible exception to the former might be the local press accounts of a large flight of geese that passed mostly over the eastern part of the city and extending easterly to Painesville. The influx of finches from the north is the bright spot of the period and holds much promise for more exciting records for the winter and spring months.

NEW EARLY AND LATE DATES

Northern Shrike - October 7 (1) Strongsville (Smith)
Redpoll - November 11 (16) Shaker Lakes (Hamann)
Black-throated Blue Warbler - October 29 (1) Strongsville (Akers)
Yellow-crowned Night Heron - October 21 (1) Rocky River (Ackerman)

OTHER RECORDS OF INTEREST

American Egret - September 5 (2) Mogadore (Harty)
Yellow-crowned Night Heron - September 9 (3) September 15, 25 (2) October 13, 21
 (1) Rocky River Reservation (Ackerman) : September 9 (1)
 October 3 (1) Rocky River Reservation (Davies)
Greater Scaup - November 12 (10) Lakefront Airport (Akers)
Rough-legged Hawk - October 17 (1) Punderson (Booth)
Bald Eagle - October 5 (2) Mogadore (Harty)
Osprey - September 4 (1) Marsh on Route 87 near 44 (Carrothers, Gaede) October
 5 (1) Mogadore (Harty)
Black-bellied Plover - November 18 (1) Cleveland Harbor breakwall (Akers)
Purple Sandpiper - November 12 (1) Fairport (Harty)
Ring-billed Gull - November 13 (5000) Gordon Park (Carrothers, Literaty, Gaede)
Barn Owl - November 21 (1) Cleveland Stadium (Akers)
Chimney Swift - September 18 (500) Berea (Akers)
Short-billed Marsh Wren - September 25 (1) Mentor (Booth)
Orange-crowned Warbler - October 2, 3 (1) Willoughby (Skaggs - banded) October
 13 (2) Rocky River Reservation (Ackerman)
Black-throated Green Warbler - September 29 (1) spring plumage-Coventry Road
 Sanctuary (Hill)
Pine Warbler - October 8 (1) Rocky River Reservation (Ackermann)
Connecticut Warbler - September 10 (1) Lorain (Lebold) September 26 (1)
 Aurora Lake (Hamann)
Redwing and Cowbird - Flock - October 10 (6000) Akron (Harty)
Evening Grosbeak - November 22 (11), 25 (10) North Chagrin (Carrothers, Perner)
 November 26 (15) North Chagrin (Carrothers, Perner, Gaede) Pine
Grosbeak - November 11 (1) Willoughby (Sherwin)
Redpoll - November 12 (16) Shaker Lakes (Hamann)
Pine Siskin - November 28 (8) Shaker Lakes (Newman)
White-winged Crossbill - November 25 (2) Rocky River (Kula)
Sharp-tailed Sparrow - October 15-23 (1) Lansinger's feeding station (Carrothers,
 Davies, Gaede, Grey, Hill)
Slate-colored Junco - October 17 (200) Lakeview Cemetery (Harty)
Chipping Sparrow - October 17 (100) Lakeview Cemetery (Harty)
White-throated Sparrow - October 17 (100) Lakeview Cemetery (Harty)

RECORDS OUTSIDE OUR REGION

Least Bittern - September 12 (1) Old Woman's Creek (Davies)

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - September 12 (5) Old Woman's Creek (Davies)

Barn Swallow - October 17 (2) Castalia (Davies)

Bobolink - October 17 (15) Resthaven (Davies)

Oregon Junco - October 17 (1) East Harbor (Davies)

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Birds in Passage Through Downtown Cleveland. On many days throughout the month of October flights of Brown Creepers, Kinglets, and Chickadees filtered through downtown Cleveland, where their wiry, lisping notes could sometimes be heard above the roar of traffic.

On October 8, I gathered from the sidewalk in Eastman Park a male Golden-crowned Kinglet, alive and seemingly uninjured yet unable to fly. Depositing this tiny puff of feathers in a leafy bush, I waited a few moments until the Kinglet secured a tight grasp on a stout twig after which was compelled to hasten on to keep an appointment. Once during the latter part of the month I heard 2 Chickadees in the plane trees on the Mall, while on October 27, I found a dead Chickadee on Short Vincent, a street more commonly the habitat of railbirds and jailbirds rather than of the feathered variety. These scattered observations together with reports of other observers both here and in the East would seem to indicate a considerable autumnal movement of Chickadees.

On the Brewer's Blackbird. In the summer, 1954 issue of the Bird Calendar, Vol 50, No. 3 , James Akers reported seeing a Brewer's Blackbird at East Harbor on August 16, 1954. This report, which was from an area outside our Cleveland region, awakened a long dormant memory of a bird observation many years ago which I had with some uncertainty identified as that species. Searching through my journals I found an entry dated October 16, 1938 describing as follows this member of the Icteridae which had perplexed me: "Its plumage was a velvety black with the exception of the top of the head which was an iridescent green and the shoulder portion of the wings which were an iridescent green and purple. The bird was about 10 inches long and had a slightly rounded tail."

This Blackbird was perched in a clump of bushes in the chicken yard behind the caretaker's house in the Rockefeller Estate (now Forest Hill Park), Cleveland Heights. The day was warm and sunny, and the bird, which I watched for many minutes at close range, was resting and preening at mid-day. There were no other Blackbirds present.

While it would be foolish at this late date to offer this questionable identification of the Brewer's Blackbird as an addition to the record of the birds of Cleveland, we should be aware of the possibility of the occurrence of this prairie bird in our region so that perhaps a positive identification may be made should one be seen again.

Donald L. Newman

BIRD BANDING

The following data from general observation and from my banding activity may be of interest. Last Catbird on October 3. Late House Wren on October 14. Orioles and Catbirds seemed much less numerous around Willoughby than in the last two years. Only 5 Lincoln Sparrows were banded by me, 1 September 27, 3 on October 3, and 1 on October 2. I banded a fine plumaged male Hooded Warbler on September 18, my first of this species banded. On October 2 and 3, I banded two Orange-crowned Warblers. The last Field Sparrow banded was on October 16. The flight of both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows was poor compared to numbers for the two previous years. On September 25, I had an unusual opportunity to compare the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes as I had one of each in a banding-trap at the same time.

M. B. Skaggs

FEEDING STATION RECORDS

Mr. and Mrs. Lansinger of East Cleveland have been feeding birds for some fifteen years in the rear of their home on Oak Hill Road. Through the years this generous feeding on the ground (about 6000 pounds of seed a year) has made their yard a sanctuary. During this fall period, in addition to the birds commonly seen, a flock of Mourning Doves, a male Pileated Woodpecker, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow were observed. This rare sparrow was the 98th species of bird to be recorded by the Lansinger's in their yard. Certainly this sparrow is the most noteworthy record for the fall period, and all the more astounding since it occurred in such an alien habitat, substituting, as it were, wooded hills in a residential neighborhood for the usual marshy pond or sand dune. Hill, Gaede, Carrothers, Davies and Gray must consider themselves fortunate, indeed, that this rare bird arrived each day from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and some days from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. to reward them for their vigilance.

Editor

The dates and numbers of these birds were reported by Mrs. Lansinger to Vera Carrothers. Mourning Doves, November 1 (34), 2 (38), 3 (37), 4 (34), 18 (2); Pileated Woodpecker, October 28, (1); Sharp-tailed Sparrow, October 15 to 23, (1).

BIRDS OF THE SANDUSKY REGION

Our October 17th trip to Sandusky and Marblehead peninsula was more amazing than a Century Dash run in May. The wind was blowing strongly off Lake Erie except on the sheltered side of the sandspit beach at East Harbor. The thermometer was in the low forties most of the day, yet the birding party, (Davies, Davies, Gray and Ackermann) observed 82 species, including 8 species of warblers. Between Huron and Castalia, 2 Barn Swallows were sweeping low over a weed-filled field. (Compare with latest Cleveland region record, Oct. 4, 1941.) There were many small birds at Resthaven, where some 2 dozen White-crowned Sparrows were feeding along the roadside, while along the back road to Sandusky Bay there were a flock of 15 Bobolinks. This record of the Bobolink is 8 days later than the latest record for the Cleveland region, Oct. 9, 1948. The Oregon Junco was seen feeding along the causeway at East Harbor and was watched by the group through 7 x 35 binoculars and a 20 X spotting scope. The black hood and pink sides and pinkish back were evident. The bird was first noticed in flight and identified at that time.

M. Owen Davies

CENSUS OF SHOREBIRDS AND OTHER WATERFOWL ON BALDWIN AND WALLACE LAKES, BEREA, O.

By James F. Akers

	July				August					September				
	23	24	26	27	10	14	26	30	31	1	2	4	13	17
Great Blue Heron			1				1	1	1					
Green Heron	2	1	1		1		1	1		1				
American Bittern							1	1						
Black Duck										1				
Wood Duck														6
Semipalmated Plover					3	2								
Killdeer	75	25	25	75	50	10	6	3	2	5	6	25	35	15
Woodcock									1					
Spotted Sandpiper	6	8	2	2										
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	2				1			1+			1+	
American Knot									1					
Pectoral Sandpiper					1							2		
Least Sandpiper	8	10		2										
Semipalmated Sandpiper		12			5	2								
Sanderling													1	
Total Individuals	92	57	31	79	60	14	10	6	5	9	6	27	37	21
Total Species	5	6	5	3	5	3	5	4	4	5	1	2	3	2

Remarks: The Solitary Sandpiper of September 1st and 13th was an individual found in Middleburg Heights with a broken wing and placed on the mud flat by the writer.

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