



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek | 30 Lake Rockwell |
| 2 North Amherst | 31 White City |
| 3 Lorain | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation |
| 4 Black River | 33 Chagrin River |
| 5 Elyria | 34 Willoughby |
| 6 LaGrange | Waite Hill |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake | 35 Sherwin Pond |
| 8 Clague Park | 36 Gildersleeve |
| 9 Clifton Park | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River | 38 Gates Mills |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina | 40 Aurora Lake |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation | 41 Aurora Sanctuary |
| 14 Edgewater Park | 42 Mantua |
| 14 Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| 16 Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| 18 Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| 20 Illuminating Co. plant | 50 Corning Lake |
| 21 Doan Brook | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | 52 Chardon |
| Wade Park | 53 Burton |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 55 Fern Lake |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | |
| 28 Hudson | |
| 29 Kent | |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- September - Warm days and cool nights during the first 21 days, then quite cool the final nine days. Excepting light rain on the 9th, all rainfall (also light) occurred on nine of the last 11 days.
- October - Moderate temperatures prevailed, though tending on the cool side. First sub-freezing reading -- 29° -- was on the 22nd. Light rain occurred often after the 7th.
- November - Cloudy and moderately cold most of the month, averaging 38.6°. On the 15th, 2.4 inches of snow fell but remained only a day or two, so that the ground was otherwise free of snow except for the northeastern portion of the region where heavy snow occurred on the 28th.

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to Donald L. Newman, 14174 Superior Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Indisputably the single outstanding feature of this autumn was the great variety of rare gulls on the Cleveland Lakefront at either the Gordon Park area or at White City. Never before have the Glaucous, Franklin's, Little, and Sabine's Gulls and the Black-legged Kittiwake all been recorded in a single season. Excepting the Little Gull, these were not one-time occurrences but were birds which remained over an extended period.

Migrating Loons. Although the Common Loon is often seen in small numbers in November on Lake Erie and the larger inland ponds, only rarely have migrating flocks been observed. Of particular significance, then, is the account of a contributor who visited White City on 18 days in November between the 1st and the 30th, often before 8:00 a.m., for the purpose of observing waterfowl migration. He reported some Loons in migration almost daily beginning with three on the 4th and concluding with four on the 16th. "All of the Loons moved from east to west along the lake shore or from north over the lake to south over land. The birds traveled in loose flocks, most of them very high, and they moved very swiftly. On November 15, the largest number and the extremes in flock size were observed. At 7:30 a.m. that day, 61 birds in one flock were going west over the lake just after it stopped snowing. In the next 30 minutes the following groups were seen: 16, 2, 13, 1, 9, 10, 1, and 36. This last flock was an exception in that it came over the lake from the northwest, began milling around overhead, and then continued on to the south" (Surman, Jr.).

Other Waterfowl on the Move. If we use the number of Canada Geese at the Sherwin Pond in Waite Hill as a basis for judgment, then we must conclude that this goose began to migrate in the third week of September. For the population of Canada Geese at the Pond grew from about 150 on September 19 to an estimated 400 on the 23rd, then 600-700 on October 1, and finally some 1,000 on October 15 (Sherwin). Yet the first Canada Geese in transit were not reported until October 8, when, coincident with the passage of a cold front from west northwest, "two large flocks flying west to east appeared over Willoughby just before daylight" (Barbour).

Northwest winds again prevailed on October 17-18; and on the latter date a band of 14 Canada Geese was seen flying over the Shaker Lakes (Knight), while during the night of the 18th a few Whistling Swans were heard over Waite Hill (Sherwin). Also on the 18th, at White City before 8:00 a.m., "there was a large movement of ducks from west to east along the Lake Erie shore. The species that predominated were Mallard, Black, Pintail, American Widgeon, and Scaup" (Surman, Jr.).

The great bulk of migrating waterfowl arrived in or passed through the region from November 4 through 9, in which period snow or snow flurries occurred in the Plains states, south central Canada, and in the Great Lakes region. An observer at White City on the 4th reported the largest movement of ducks along the Lake Erie shore that he had ever witnessed. "Thousands of ducks were moving in groups of from two to about 150 birds. However, most of the flocks were between ten and 50

birds. From sunrise, 7:02, until about 7:50 a.m., there was not one time that a flock could not be seen moving. All of the birds moved from west to east. There were as many flocks high over land as there were high and low over water" (Surman, Jr.). Few of these birds could be identified specifically because they were so far distant. But on the next day, the 5th, the Cleveland lakefront waters were occupied by at least 21 species of ducks (Klamm), including, among the dabblers, some Gadwall and American Widgeon, and, among the divers, numerous Ring-necked Duck, Scaup, and Bufflehead, a small quantity of Ruddy Duck and Red-breasted Merganser as well as 24 Hooded Merganser, and both the Surf and Common Scoter (See Noteworthy Records section for an account of the Scoters).

Whistling Swans were also in transit from November 4 through 9, though the peak occurred on the 7th and 8th. At White City before 8:00 a.m. on November 4, three flocks -- 26, 11, and 23 birds -- moved from west to east. Again at White City, on the 7th, 20 Swans were resting on the lake at sunrise. At about 7:35 a.m. another group of 19 flew in from the west, whereupon the birds on the water rose to join them. The entire flock followed the lake shore for about three-quarters of a mile, then turned east over land (Surman, Jr.). On the 7th, too, these other flights were noted: an estimated 500 moving from northwest to southeast over Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.); at 5:25 p.m. several hundred passing high and toward the southeast over Euclid (Pallister); some 500 stopping at the Sherwin Pond in Waite Hill, with only 150 there the next day (Sherwin). Also on the 7th, 57 Canada Geese were heard and seen flying southeast at about 8:00 a.m. in the vicinity of Bass Lake (Ramisch).

Before 8:00 a.m. on November 8, three groups of Whistling Swans -- 35, 59, and 30 birds -- traveled east along the Cleveland lakefront, while at noon at Gordon Park a flock of 28 "was seen taking off far out beyond the Federal breakwall where apparently they had been resting" (Surman, Jr.). On the night of the 8th, Swans were heard over Waite Hill (Sherwin).

No other movements of Swans and Canada Geese were reported until November 19, when at 10:30 a.m. an estimated 300 Canadas, "in vee formation and honking", moved south over Timberlake, which is located on the Lake Erie shore (Martin). Also on the 19th, some 400-500 Whistling Swans were at LaDue Reservoir, from which three bands of about 80, 60, and 30 birds took off toward the south (Barbour).

Abundance of Franklin's Gull. Never before were as many Franklin's Gulls reported as in each month of this autumn. All of them were seen at either White City or nearby Gordon Park. In the first half of September the highest count was three on the 10th, but in the last half the maximum was 13 or more on the 30th (Klamm). The population apparently remained at about this level during October and the first third of November, the two highest counts being 15 on October 12 (Surman, Jr.) and 11 on November 11 (Klamm). As late as November 26, three were still present (Klamm). Most, perhaps all, of these gulls were immatures, for a contributor who carefully studied 13 of them at White City on October 9

found that ten were first-year and three were second-year birds (Surman, Jr.).

Nighthawk Migration Prolonged. The main body of Common Nighthawks migrated through the region on the final three days of August, as was reported in the Summer issue of the BIRD CALENDAR. But small numbers continued to move through until almost mid-September. In a period of 30 minutes after 7:30 p.m. on the 7th, 142 were counted over north Akron -- "all going in a southerly direction, most flying high, with a few apparently feeding" (Staiger). At about 7:00 p.m. on the 8th, 150-200 birds were circling over Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland as a storm was moving east to northeast over Lake Erie. And ten minutes later a few miles to the southeast a group of 50 was moving north-northwest, the storm over the lake having moved farther east (Kitson). Then between 7:20 and 7:45 p.m. on the 13th, 77 were counted "flying high" over north Akron, and on the next day between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., 99 were tallied as they, too, moved south "quite high" (Staiger).

Stray Nighthawks were even observed in October: one at about 7:00 p.m. on the 1st, "feeding and drifting eastward" over Lakewood (Klamm); and one at 6:00 p.m. on the 4th, feeding quite low over Timberlake (Martin).

Passerine Migration Protracted. Typical of the autumn, the migration of passerine species extended over the first two months and into early November, with a considerable number of tardy stragglers among the thrushes, vireos, warblers, and sparrows. Probably the best measure of the magnitude of migration in September is found in the report of a contributor in Waite Hill (Flanigan) who made almost daily observations through the 24th of that month. Some of her comments follow:

"September 8 - big migration of Swainson's Thrushes. Excellent migration of warblers - 13 species, the Tennessee, Bay-breasted, American Redstart especially plentiful.

"September 9 - activity all day without letup.

"September 10 - cloudy; many warblers in treetops unidentifiable; very good movement.

"September 11 - best migration to date, both in species and numbers; 14 species of warblers. Cape May Warblers, in all stages of plumage, in numbers not observed here before.

"September 15 - peak date; Swainson's Thrush abundant; 17 species of warblers, including many Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian, Blackpoll.

"September 17 - 15 species of warblers."

A cold front passed through the region on the night of September 21, and in the following three days a good variety of vireos, chiefly the Red-eyed, and of warblers, principally the Nashville, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart, were reported. At that time, too, the

first Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and the first White-throated Sparrows were observed -- both in considerable numbers -- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets became abundant.

In October a cold front from north northeast entered the region on the evening of the 5th. Seemingly this front initiated a migratory movement in advance of it, for on the 3rd in Bratenahl a great host of migrants was observed, including many Golden-crowned Kinglets, Catbirds, six species of warblers, Slate-colored Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows (Raynes). In Kirtland Hills from the 3rd through the 5th, large flights of Golden-crowned Kinglets occurred (Bole, Jr.).

On October 11 and 12, which were cold, cloudy days-with light rain on the 11th, the migration of small birds was impressive. On the Mall in downtown Cleveland on the 11th, there were numerous Golden-crowned Kinglets and White-throated Sparrows as well as several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (Newman), while on that day in University Heights many Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets were passing through (Flanigan). On the 12th in Bratenahl, Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, Myrtle Warblers, and Slate-colored Juncos were abundant (Raynes). During the rest of October and into the first week of November, good, though not extraordinary, numbers of Hermit Thrushes, both species of Kinglets, Myrtle Warblers, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were reported.

Yearly Total. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1, 1966 to November 30, 1967, 253 species were recorded, which is one less than in the preceding year. In addition, the hybrid Lawrence's Warbler was observed.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - Early in the afternoon of October 28, an immature was flying west offshore at Lorain, then circled in close to the shoreline as though intending to alight on the water, but moved west again upon the approach of a boat (Dolbear).

Snow Goose - On the exceptionally early date of October 9, one was recorded at Nimisila Reservoir, where a dozen or more Canada Geese were present, too (Hjelmquist).

Blue Goose - (1) An immature was seen at Lakewood Park on November 5 (Stasko), and this or another immature lingered at Clague Park, where it was recorded on four dates from November 11 to 26 (Klamm and Stasko). (2) Three birds remained at the Sherwin Pond in Waite Hill from November 9 to 15 (Sherwin).

Surf Scoter - The Cleveland lakefront produced three November occurrence dates: a record high count of 19 on the 5th, including a group of 16 at Perkins Beach in the company of many Scaup and Redheads; six "riding together" offshore on the 11th; and one on the 26th at Perkins Beach among more than 1,000 Scaup (Klamm).

Common Scoter - The first October records in the history of the region are of a flight of 28 which "passed to the east close to shore" at White

City on the 29th, and on that same day a lone female "resting with the Black Ducks" at Clague Pond. Ten were among the many hundreds of ducks on the water off Perkins Peach on November 5, and one, with a small group of Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead, was "riding and diving tight to shore" off Summit Avenue in Lakewood on November 12 (Klamm).

Broad-winged Hawk - Exceedingly rare after about mid-September, one was observed flying low over Forest Hill Park, East Cleveland, on October 22 (King).

Piping Plover - At White City on September 19 and 21, one bird, "its underparts soaked with oil," was feeding on the beach and along the edge of the lagoon (Surman, Jr.). This is just the fifth September record in the history of the region.

Whimbrel - In a company of 12 Pectoral Sandpipers, 26 Dunlin, 18 Sanderling, and some "peeps" at Burke Lakefront Airport on September 30, this much larger shorebird often served as the "focal point for relanding" when these other birds made short local flights (Klamm).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One on September 30 at Burke Lakefront Airport constitutes the only record for the year (Klamm).

Stilt Sandpiper - On September 19 and 21, one was at White City but was not found there on the intervening day (Surman, Jr.).

Western Sandpiper - Sharing the company of six Least and 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers, one was feeding at White City on September 1 (Surman, Jr.), and one was there also on September 17 and 20 (Carrothers).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - At Burke Lakefront Airport on September 16, one was feeding in the grass together with three Golden and one Black-bellied Plover; and it was there again on the 17th (Klamm).

Glaucous Gull - An adult, which had "a few distinct buffy spots on its head", was identified on November 14, 16, 21, and 22 at Gordon Park, where several thousand Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls were assembled (Surman, Jr.). This is the first November record for the region.

Little Gull - (1) An adult was among a group of Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls at White City on September 30 (Klamm). (2) An immature was in a large gathering of gulls in the Gordon Park area on November 12 (Klamm).

Black-legged Kittiwake - A single immature was sighted at White City on three dates in November: early on the morning of the 7th as "it was flying from east to west over the water with the other gulls"; on the 13th at 7:30 a.m. and again at 8:30 a.m. when it was sitting with other gulls on a sludge bed in the lagoon; and at 7:20 a.m. on the 14th flying from east to west over the water close to the breakwall (Surman, Jr.). Two immatures were found on November 11 and 12 in a "heavy gull concentration" in the Gordon Park area, and one was there on November 19 (Klamm). This is the first report of the protracted occurrence of this species,

which has been recorded only thrice before in this century; and it is the first time more than one bird has been reported.

Sabine's Gull - At White City a well-marked immature was identified on these dates; September 30, when, together with Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls, it was "active on wing and on the water" (Klamm); October 1, as it "rode the water off the sewage discharge pipe" (Klamm); October 9, 10, 11, also at the discharge pipe in association with the other gulls (Surman, Jr.). Then in November, presumably the same bird was seen on the 5th, 11th, 12, and 18th in the Gordon Park area, always with the other gulls and sometimes engaged in "fishing" (Klamm). This is the first acceptable record of occurrence in the entire history of the region.

Forster's Tern - One was among several hundred gulls and many Common, Black, and Caspian Terns occupying the beach at White City on September 15 and 18 (Surman, Jr.).

Snowy Owl - Undisturbed by the excitement it created among the children of a nearby elementary school on the East Side of Lorain, this bird, which was quite heavily marked on the underparts, wings, and crown, remained for some time on November 30 on the crossarm of a telephone pole, where it was photographed by a photographer for the Lorain JOURNAL (fide Lebold).

Saw-whet Owl - Following its discovery on the grounds of the Natural Science Museum on October 31 by staff member David Robinson, this adult bird was seen there on November 1 and 3. On all three dates it was in a clump of small Scotch pines and Canada hemlocks, perching in different trees but always near the trunk and about six feet from the ground. Once when an attempt was made to capture the bird, it flew about 100 feet to a large willow and then to a small maple tree; never was it more than 20 feet from the ground while in flight (Hansen).

Whip-poor-will - Rare after midsummer and extremely rare in the autumn, one was heard calling three times between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. on September 18 at Upper Shaker Lake (Deininger).

Mockingbird - Adding to the meager records of this species in September is the report of one on the 24th in a thicketed area at Avon, where it was perched in the open, preening and utterly silent (Klamm).

White-eyed Vireo - Late in the morning of September 14 at a residence in Lorain overlooking Lake Erie, one was feeding in a birch tree "along with two Black-throated Green and several other warblers" (Dolbear). This is the only September record in the past 14 years.

Prothonotary Warbler - (1) In a brushy area at Headlands State Park a male was observed for several minutes on September 2 (Booth). (2) A male was also observed in the bird sanctuary at Lower Shaker Lake on September 17, which is an especially late date (Peskin and Rickard).

Prairie Warbler - An adult, probably a female, unaccompanied by other warblers, fed for several minutes on the morning of September 8 in a

Norway maple tree at a residence in Lorain overlooking Lake Erie (Dolbear).

Northern Waterthrush - Observed on November 13 and again on the 15th at a residence in Willoughby, this bird found shelter in a log pile near the cellar chute windows where insects were available in the unfrozen ground under and near the logs (Pallister). This is a new latest occurrence date.

Yellow-breasted Chat - On the exceedingly late date of October 3, one was with other warblers in an open wooded area in Bratenahl (Raynes).

Dickcissel - One was among a flock of migrating White-crowned, White-throated, and Song Sparrows at Mentor Park beach early on the morning of October 29 (W. Hammond). This is the first October record in the history of the region.

Red Crossbill - A group of ten or more was feeding in the tops of the pine trees on the shoreline of the Sherwin Pond in Waite Hill on November 19 (Flanigan and Klamm).

FIELD NOTES

Snipe Grounded in Snowstorm. On the night of November 5 at our Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland hills, a heavy snow fell during a bonfire party my son was holding for his friends. When we switched on the floodlight on the terrace, five birds attracted by the light came fluttering out of the storm and fell into the snow: a male Robin, two Starlings, a female Rusty Blackbird, and a Common Snipe. I caught the Snipe, which was a young of the year, and put it in a 30-square foot fish tank in the cellar. This tank, in which the water was 15 inches deep, contained a rock island and a sandstone ledge on which potted plants stood. The Snipe sometimes flew into the tank or, more often, was put into it. Always it left by way of the overflow -- a rusted-out depression in one corner that led to the adjoining flower room.

For five days this bird lived in the cellar, during which we learned the following: (1) they swim easily and gracefully, like phalaropes; (2) they eat amphipod shrimplets that swarm in old fish tanks; (3) they also eat baby swordtail fish and sowbugs. This Snipe, which never could fathom walls, sometimes probed in my wife's flower pots in the adjacent room. The bird soon learned to tolerate human hands and became tame enough to walk away upon release instead of exploding in flight as it had done at the start. It was liberated during the thaw of November 10, when it towered into the sky, then took off northward. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Flicker Returns Nightly to Roosting Tree. For several weeks during the latter part of September and the early part of October, a Yellow-shafted Flicker came nightly at dusk to roost in a small (six-inch diameter) ash tree in the backyard of our home in Lyndhurst. Its roosting position was vertical and hood up on the northeast side of the tree in a clump of small, leafy, trunk-hugging branches about 20 feet from the ground. As far as I could determine, the bird never moved once it was

in position. It occupied the same spot on the tree every night I observed it, and was in the same position and location when I observed it on several mornings between 7:00 and 7:20. At no time did I hear the Flicker utter even a single call note upon its arrival at the roost tree at dusk though it called from the tree occasionally at daybreak in September. - GLENN KITSON

Wind Disturbs Crow Roost. On the night of November 19, an estimated 300 Common Crows settled in two large silver maple trees at our home in Timberlake, about 500 feet from the Lake Erie shoreline. Some of the Crows were on the wing almost all night because of the high winds off the lake. They would be blown off, hover, and alight again. The weight of the birds and the force of the wind caused branches to break, and thus there was "Crow talk" throughout the night. But by six o'clock the next morning all the birds had left, and they did not return. -HOWARD MARTIN

Starlings Ant with Insects Uncovered by Flickers. For about five minutes on September 16 at our home south of Painesville, I watched eight Starlings trailing two Yellow-shafted Flickers which were eating ants in the yard. The frenzied running and wing fluttering of the Starlings attracted my attention. When I trained my binoculars on them, I observed that as the Flickers uncovered ants, the Starlings evidently seized some of them and were anting vigorously, rubbing them under the wings and body feathers. Although I did not actually see ants in the Starlings' bills, I am sure that is what they were using since they were following the Flickers, moving along right behind and enjoying the "crumbs". - SUE STORER

Wintering Tree Sparrows Return to Same Locality. If you are not a bird bander and if you wonder whether the Tree Sparrows at your feeder are the same ones that were there last winter, there is a good chance this is so, as is indicated by the following data selected from records of Tree Sparrows I have banded.

| <u>Banded</u> | <u>Interim Returns</u> | <u>Last Return</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb. 10, '40 | 3 | Jan. 16, '43 |
| Mar. 22, '40 | 3 | Apr. 19, '44 |
| Feb. 26, '41 | 1 | Jan. 9, '44 |
| Mar. 12, '41 | 1 | Dec. 27, '44 |
| Jan. 29, '49 | 4 | Jan. 15, '55 |
| Mar. 12, '49 | 2 | Feb. 17, '52 |
| Feb. 7, '54 | 3 | Feb. 8, '58 |
| Feb. 13, '55 | 1 | Feb. 1, '59 |
| Mar. 27, '55 | 1 | Feb. 27, '60 |
| Mar. 26, '60 | 0 | Feb. 27, '66 * |
| Dec. 15, '62 | 2 | Dec. 31, '66 |

* Found dead by Annette B. Flanigan in Waite Hill, about one mile from place of banding.

The records for the years 1940 through 1944 are of Tree Sparrows banded at our home in South Euclid and subsequently retrapped there. Records for the year 1949 and thereafter are of birds trapped at our present home in Willoughby Hills where they were later recaptured. The figure in the column headed "Interim Returns" represents the number of years the bird was retrapped between the date of banding and the last return date. In addition to the returns listed, each covering a minimum period of three years, I have a good many returns after one or two years. - MERIT B. SKAGGS