



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 |
| Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| 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

Editor
Annette B. Flanigan

Editor (On leave)
Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary
William A. Klamm

Special Features
Donald A. Siebert

Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers
Adela Gaede
Muriel H. Sneller
Ethel D. Surman

CONTRIBUTORS

L. P. Barbour
Edna Black
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Vera Carrothers
Genevieve Chambers
James Coristine
Leo Deininger
Corinne F. Dolbear
Nathan Finck
Annette B. Flanigan
Adela Gaede
Wayne & Hilda Hammond
Russell F. Hansen
Doug & Neil Henderson
Perry F. Johnson
Faye B. King
Glenn Kitson
William & Nancy Klamm
Charles H. Knight
Walter P. Kremm
Sibyl Leach
Howard W. Martin

Robert J. Morse
Zigmond & Helena Nagy
Mary & Carl Newhous
Donald L. Newman
Perry K. Peskin
Marjorie Ramisch
Bertram C. Raynes
Robert Scheibe
William H. Schlesinger
Margaret H. Sherwin
Donald A. Siebert
Merit B. Skaggs
Muriel H. Sneller
Ethel Staley
Michael Stasko
Sue Storer
James S. Surman, Jr.
Bert L. Szabo
Thomas F. Ulrich
Harold E. Wallin
Clinton E. Ward
Barbara Webster

* * *

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to
Annette B. Flanigan
Smith Road, Waite Hill, Willoughby, Ohio 44094

March - A month of alternating cold and warm spells, some foggy days, and below normal precipitation that provided only limited ground snow cover while maintaining persistent ice cover on Lake Erie.

Temperatures averaged 2.5° above normal and precipitation accumulated 1.73 inches but was in deficit by 1.40 inches. Cold spells dominated during the 1st to 7th, 11th to 14th, and 21st to 24th with residual snow on the ground the first week and heavy snow fall again on the 22nd and 23rd. Warm spells dominated during the alternate days, the last 5 of which were exceptionally warm and unseasonable. Extremely dense fogs engulfed the lakefront and adjacent areas for 5 and more miles inland on the 17th and 18th.

Ice cover on Lake Erie was persistent as extensive shore ice much of the month. Initially ice extended from shore to horizon, gradually eroded in warm spells to about one-half mile limit with open water beyond, and regrowing on northerly winds with resolidification of holes and fissures that developed in the ice. Shore ice finally broke and moved out March 26 and the succeeding days.

April - A month of rather moderate weather conditions with temperatures averaging near normal and precipitation averaging only 2.25 inches resulting in a deficit of 1.16 inches for the month. Except for the last five days in which the winds were northerly, the winds shifted regularly during the month in an alternating northerly or southerly direction for every two or three day interval.

Lake Erie was open and ice free except for the first day when residual ice fields were visible well off-shore.

May - Generally cool and wet with numerous intervals of violent weather. Temperatures averaged 3.4° below normal and precipitation totaled 4.08 inches giving an excess of 0.56 inches for the month.

The northwest section of the area was particularly hard hit on May 15 resulting in severe flooding and vegetation damage from heavy hail and rain. Wind shifts during the month were frequent and produced only eleven days of southerly winds favorable to migration.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

While I do not believe this would qualify as a "silent spring", I do believe it would unquestionably qualify as a "quiet spring", caused presumably by the sustained cold weather and the scarcity of a southerly flow of wind, conditions which prevailed almost the entire first two months of the period. There were no peaks of migration, which could be the result of insufficient fluctuating weather to force the migrants down. Other possible contributing factors are the early foliation, coupled with the late arrival of the migrants, making a combination that tries the skill of the observer.

Swans and Geese. Whistling Swans were first reported on March 9, from Rocky River, with a flock of 37 (Stasko). Not until March 22 were they reported again in any numbers, when a flock of 27 came down on Sherwin's Pond in Waite Hill, and remained through the 25th (Sherwin). The largest count - 60 - was made at LaDue Reservoir on March 25 (Szabo) and our last sighting was of 24 at Mountain Glen Farm in Kirtland Hills the last week in March (Bole, Jr.).

It was not until March 7 that the "honk" of the Canada Goose was heard in Waite Hill, and the 17 that appeared on that date were forced to rest on the shore of an icebound pond.

Ducks. The dabbling ducks passed through swiftly, barely stopping, possibly being late in their schedule due to the continued ice cover on the ponds and lake, and they appeared in lesser numbers.

The Common Merganser was observed in a large flock of some 1200+ off Clifton Beach on March 2 (Klamm). 2,000 to 2,500 Red-breasted Mergansers were present on March 24 at the Municipal Pier at Lorain (Nagy and Ward), and there was a strong movement, numbering 520, moving northeast at Mentor on March 31, but few other ducks (Hammond).

Hawks. The movement of hawks was in full swing on March 19 when, following three days of fog, the sky cleared and between 11:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. more than 30 Red-tailed Hawks were sighted directly over the densely populated area of Lorain, with 14 being in view at one time early in the flight (Ward). There was hawk activity at Perkins Beach on the same day, but in small numbers (Surman, Jr.).

Not until April 12, 13 and 14 was any extensive movement noted, when from the Rocky River-Lakewood area the tally for the three days was 71 Accipiters (mostly Sharp-shinned), 29 Red-tailed, several Marsh Hawks and 32 Turkey Vultures (Coristine and Stasko). At Perkins Beach on April 14, between 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. a good flight was observed consisting of 24 Sharp-shinned, 9 Sparrow Hawks, 1 Cooper's, 2 Red-tailed,

6 Marsh Hawks, 1 Osprey and 8 unidentified Accipiters (Surman, Jr.).

The main flight of Broad-winged Hawks occurred on April 21 when "close to 200 hawks were counted before noon", in Rocky River near the lakefront, 161 being Broad-winged (Cristine and Stasko). Most of these birds flew in an easterly direction and this is significant when we note the report of observers in the North Chagrin Reservation of 12 Broad-winged Hawks between 11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on that date (Kitson and Scheibe). Perkins Beach was the site of hawk activity on April 29 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., with 6 Buteos, 3 Accipiters and 2 Turkey Vultures as well as a single adult Black-crowned Night Heron flying along the shore (Surman, Jr.). The migration continued at unusual length and was still in progress on May 30 when 6 Broad-winged Hawks were observed at Lakewood Park (Klamm).

Shorebirds. As is typical, shorebirds did not occur in any abundance. May 16 produced the greatest variety when 11 species were recorded at White City, the Least Sandpiper being the most numerous (Surman, Jr.).

Terns. Common Terns were not much in evidence this spring and the first mention of any number was of a concentration of 150 over the lake at Lorain on May 15 (Dolbear). On May 19 there was rain most of the morning in Mentor and the winds were gusty from the southwest, grounding a flock of 400 Common Terns at Headlands State Park (Hammond).

Caspian Terns were present in ones and twos with a few exceptions: (1) 20 at Lorain harbor on April 10 (Nagy); (2) 25 at Lorain harbor on April 23 (Ward); (3) an exceptionally large flock of 100 flying back and forth along the shoreline at Headlands State Park on May 19 (Newhous), and a very late bird was observed there on May 26 (fide Newhous). The Black Tern was reported only on May 19, at Mentor (Hammond).

Purple Martin. - "Martins and swallows had a hard time in late April--some Martin colonies of past years have no birds this year" (Skaggs).

Blue Jays. Apparently the customary protracted eastward passage of Blue Jays along the Lake Erie shoreline did not occur this spring, which is the first time in 11 years that no sizable movement has been noted. An observer in Bratenahi reported that on April 26 "Blue Jay migration started -- but not in normal numbers" (Raynes), and a regular observer at Lakewood Park and Perkins Beach, two principal vantage points in the line of flight commented that "Blue Jay movements were nearly absent when peak abundance was to be expected" (Klamm).

Warblers. There is almost universal agreement that the migration of warblers was uncommonly late and they were fewer in

number. From Mentor, "of 19 species seen, seven were not sighted until May 26 or later" (Hammond); from Lakewood, "a late migration of warblers on May 30, with 18 species on our list" (Siebert and Stasko); from Hudson, "warbler migration was concentrated toward the end of May" (Szabo); from Shaker Lakes, "there was an impressive late movement of warblers on May 30" (Newman); and from Lorain, "cold weather held the warblers back later than usual, with the Canadian at Point Pelee remarking on the late migration and few birds" (Nagy).

Icterids. The first blackbird movement of any size was reported on March 2 when "thousands and thousands made an influx from the south—and gatherings at roosts became enormous" (Klamm). A flock numbering more than a thousand flew over Waite Hill at 7:15 a.m. on March 11. A mass movement was observed on March 26 along the lake at Bratenahl (Raynes).

Sparrows. The White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows appeared in lesser numbers, as did the Slate-colored Junco. These three species were at the lowest ebb in 11 years of observation in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - At Gordon Park where one had been seen in the preceding period, one appeared on March 7 "surfacing directly in front of me and only 25 yards off shore—in perfect winter plumage" (Scheibe). This bird was observed by others through March 11 (Carrothers, Klamm and Surman, Jr.).

Double-crested Cormorant - A lone bird was observed in flight along the shoreline near Perkins Beach on April 14 (Klamm).

Cattle Egret - One on May 20-21 in Waite Hill (Sherwin) is the first report of this species from this locality since the spring of 1963. See the Field Notes section for a detailed account.

Blue Goose - One lingered on the lakefront at Lakewood Park from April 21 through May 11 (Klamm).

European Widgeon - (1) On Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum one was identified on March 31 (Hammond). (2) On April 8 an adult male was seen for about 15 minutes, with other ducks, not far offshore at Lorain (Dolbear).

Oldsquaw - The Lorain area furnished two quite late reports of single birds on April 6 and 7 and two males on the 9th (Dolbear and Ward).

Harlequin Duck - The immature male that spent much of the winter in Lorain harbor was recorded there on various dates in March and April and was last reported on April 21 (Ward *et al*). "Some observers thought they had a single Harlequin maturing; I caught two in sight at one time on March 5" (Ward).

White-winged Scoter - Rarely occurring after early March, two tardy birds were in the harbor at Lorain on April 7, and one was seen there on many dates through April (Dolbear, Nagy, and Ward).

Bald Eagle - An immature was moving in an easterly direction with a flight of hawks on April 21, near the lakefront in Rocky River (Coristine and Stasko). An adult with a white head and some white in the tail was seen at the Aurora Sanctuary on April 28 (Joe Bush and D. Henderson vide N. Henderson).

Yellow Rail - One was found alive and unhurt in Bay Village on April 17 (Black). See the Field Notes section for a detailed account.

Golden Plover - A flock of 30, in all stages of plumage, spent the day in a flooded field just west of Elyria on April 14, together with 120 Pectoral Sandpipers, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, and 2 Common Snipe (Morse). Counts of from 13 to 20 birds were made there on the 15th and 16th (Nagy and Ward). These are the first reports of this rare spring migrant since the spring of 1965.

Black-bellied Plover - Two were at White City on May 16 and one on the 20th, feeding with many other shorebirds (Surman, Jr.). On May 19 one was recorded at Mentor Park (Hammond).

Upland Plover - On April 14 at Holden Arboretum, where it had not been seen in many years, a flock of 16 was observed "flying overhead" (Bole, Jr. and Webster). Such a flight has rarely, if ever, been reported in the past 30 years.

Wilson's Phalarope - "A female in full breeding plumage was found in a flooded field near Grafton on May 23. The bird was studied leisurely and was seen by many observers. At the time I saw it, it was closely associated with 3 Lesser Yellowlegs and in the same field were 4 Dunlin, 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 3 Semipalmated Plovers, 1 Spotted Sandpiper and 2 Killdeer" (Morse). This rarest of the phalaropes in our region was last recorded in the spring in 1959, and the 1968 record is just the third spring record in all.

Iceland Gull - An adult at Gordon Park on March 13 constitutes the fourth record for March in our history (Surman, Jr.).

Great Black-backed Gull - This winter visitor, which rarely occurs after about February 10, lingered through March 8 at least, and on several dates one to four birds were reported from Gordon Park and Lorain harbor (Nagy, Surman, Jr., and Ward).

Black-headed Gull - One was studied at length on March 13 at Lorain harbor and was judged to be an adult (Hilda Lebold vide Ward and Dolbear). An adult was identified at Gordon Park on

March 29 (Edward Stokes fide Raynes and Surman, Jr.) and again on the 31st (Klamm and Carrothers). These are the first spring records for the region, and there are now four records in all.

Laughing Gull One was seen on the beach near Painesville with other species of gulls on April 28 (D. Strock fide Newhous).

Little Gull - An adult was observed at close range for extended periods at Lorain harbor on April 3, 7 and 8 (Ward).

Black-legged Kittiwake - At Lorain harbor, where one was identified on February 28, a single bird was seen on March 1, 8 and 9, and two immatures on March 3 (Ward, Stasko, Surman, Jr. and Dolbear). There were no reports from the Cleveland lakefront, but this species did occur there in fall and winter, being first observed on November 7, 1967 and last recorded on February 26, 1968, though there was a long period in December and all of January when it was not seen at all. Nevertheless, this is the first time that this Kittiwake has been recorded successively in fall, winter, and spring.

Snowy Owl - Single birds were reported from Gordon Park and Lorain harbor on March 1, 2 and 3. Our last report was for March 14, of one bird, at Gordon Park (Surman, Jr.).

Carolina Chickadee - Four were identified by song on April 12 at the Duck Pond in Carlisle Reservation of the Lorain County Metropolitan Park system, and one was heard at the Outdoor Education Center, also in the Carlisle Reservation, on May 25 (Johnson). The April record is the first for that month in the history of the region, and there have been only three prior records in all: two in May and one in August.

Mockingbird - A total of six birds in various localities is the second highest number reported in the spring in the past 10 years, being exceeded only by a total of eight in the spring of 1957. All reports were of single birds as follows: from April 4 through 10 at Waite Hill (Flanigan); in Rocky River, April 17 (Coristine); in Avon, April 21 (Klamm); Aurora Sanctuary, April 28 and May 26 (fide Henderson); Rocky River Reservation, May 5 (Siebert).

Sprague's Pipit - On March 24 this bird was studied at intervals between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. as it was feeding in the mucky, watery overflow from the Smith Road Pond in Waite Hill, where it associated with Robins, Blackbirds and Killdeer. During this period it was observed also by Marion and Merit Skaggs for a short time (Flanigan). This is the first March record for the region and is the third record in all.

Loggerhead Shrike - Just three separate individuals were reported, which indicates how rare this species is in the region: at Waite Hill early on the morning of March 28 (Flanigan); in Lakewood Park on April 21 (Klamm); near Amherst in Lorain County on May 7 (Johnson).

White-eyed Vireo - On May 2 in Waite Hill one was observed singing vigorously for more than 30 minutes (Flanigan); and on May 13 one, singing frequently, was studied at close range for some 20 minutes as it foraged low in the trees along Doan Brook in Shaker Heights (Knight).

Worm-eating Warbler - A total of three birds reported is noteworthy, indeed: (1) on April 28 at Lower Shaker Lake feeding with Myrtle Warblers (Peskin) and presumably the same bird there again on the 29th (Knight); (2) on May 10 in a wooded ravine in East Cleveland (Sneller); (3) on May 16 in Walton Hills, where it was singing and searching for food in a thornapple thicket (Staley).

Golden-winged Warbler - (1) Rarely is more than one seen at one time, but on May 12 at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls a group of three was feeding and singing in the treetops (Ulrich). (2) One at Holden Arboretum on May 26 constitutes a new latest date of occurrence (Louis Strum *fide* Bole, Jr.).

Brewster's Warbler - "A single bird was studied for five minutes on May 4 as it fed in the treetops at Spencer Wildlife Area. It sang the typical Blue-winged Warbler song but occasionally added a wheezy, inhaling buzz at the end which was only audible at close range. The next day I heard a Blue-winged singing the identical song" (Morse).

Orange-crowned Warbler - (1) A very early arrival was observed at Aurora Sanctuary on the April 21 birdwalk (Henderson); (2) on May 11 in Mentor, three birds feeding together in the early morning were studied for an extended period (Hammond); (3) one was seen at Waite Hill on May 11, 12 and 13 (Flanigan).

Prairie Warbler - One was reported from the Lorain area on May 8 (Ward).

Kentucky Warbler - (1) Two were feeding on May 16 in the undergrowth close to a wet-weather creek in a small ravine in Walton Hills (Staley); (2) one was observed at Headlands State Park on May 25 (Leach); (3) one was found at Upper Shaker Lake on May 30, which is a new latest occurrence date (Knight). A single report of this species is a rarity, and to have three reports totaling four birds is a great rarity.

Western Meadowlark - (1) In the fields at Warrensville Farms where this species has occurred in prior years, one was heard singing on seven dates from March 28 to May 30 (Knight). (2) At the grass farm in Avon, which has also been a previous occurrence site, one was noted on April 21 and May 12 (Klamm).

Orchard Oriole - A male, sometimes singing, remained on the grounds of a residence in Walton Hills for much of the day on May 12 (Staley); and an immature male occurred in Elyria on May 21 (Johnson).

Dickcissel - One was reported at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills on May 12, and was seen there several times in the following week (Bole, Jr.).

Evening Grosbeak - The seven "regulars" that wintered at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills remained until April 9. Only one was seen after that date, on April 14 (Bole, Jr.).

Oregon Junco - A most distinctly-marked individual -- the plumage of head and back sharply contrasted -- fed with Tree Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos in dried grasses bordering a marshy area in Waite Hill on April 3 (Flanigan).

Lapland Longspur - "A flock of about 20 was found near LaGrange on March 9 in the company of a large flock of Horned Larks which included many of the northern subspecies. They were in a soybean stubble field of perhaps 80-100 acres that provided excellent camouflage. I estimated that 200 birds were close enough to the road to be seen well and in this group were the 20 Longspurs. Sampling counts of small flocks in the 200 showed that somewhere between 50% and 60% of the larks were of the Northern subspecies" (Morse).

FIELD NOTES

Second Visit from a Cattle Egret. On May 20 a Cattle Egret was seen feeding in the grass near the upper pond on our farm in Waite Hill. It fed with several Canada Geese and their goslings and if the Egret came too close, they chased it into the next field where the sheep were grazing, or into a bare tree on the roadside. There, we had a very close view of its buffy-pink nuptial plumage. All that day and early the next morning it remained, but then disappeared. We were hosts to another Cattle Egret in 1963, from April 21 to 28, at which time it associated entirely with the cattle in the pasture, and was not in as markedly colorful plumage. - MARGARET SHERWIN.

Nestings of Canada Geese. With the arrival of eight adult Canada Geese on Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum on March 4 and a pair at Sunset Pond in the North Chagrin Reservation on March 6, the build-up began. By March 9 there were 50 adults at Corning Lake.

Nest building at the Arboretum was under way on March 31 and on April 6 at Sunset Pond. Five goslings left the North Chagrin Nest on May 13 (four have survived), and on May 25 there were, among 30 adults on Corning Lake, five pairs with broods of 8 - 7 - 5 - 5 - 3, all appearing to be two to three weeks old.

In addition, a pair with four goslings were observed on June 2 on one of the several ponds at Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley.

This is the most widespread and fruitful gosling productivity I have ever noted in the Cleveland region. - GLENN KITSON.

Nestings of Canada Geese. On April 4 there were seven pairs of Canada Geese (all sitting), on our farm in Waite Hill, with two nests being located on the upper pond and five nests on the lower pond. On April 27 there were two families present on the upper pond, one with five goslings and the other with seven. Unfortunately, I was away and did not observe the emergence of the young on the lower pond but from later observation I judged that all the nests were successful. This has been our most productive nesting season in recent years. - MARGARET SHERWIN.

Yellow Rail Captured. This elusive migrant made its last appearance in our region under unusual circumstances, being found alive inside the Mentor Mall shopping center in October 1966, and the present report is in the same vein.

It was first seen walking slowly about in a yard in Bay Village on April 17. Possibly frightened at being found in an open area, it froze in position, as is their habit, and the observer merely picked it up, thinking it was an injured bird, and took it to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center to have it checked and identified.

The bird was found to be in perfect condition, only tired, and was kept by Edna Black at her home until April 20, being viewed and photographed by many observers.

“It was released in Avon Lake, in a large area of grass fields and marsh-type land where Sora Rails are often seen and where the Yellow Rail has been heard, but never seen. It did not dart away into the tall grass as I had expected but immediately began examining the tufts of grass and darting under a clump to disappear for a second and reappear a short distance away. Some of the time it would be walking towards us and often came quite close, showing little fear of people. While in my care it fed on mealworms, earthworms and insects” (Black).

Concurrent Migration of Nighthawks in Lorain and Cleveland Heights. On May 15 between 6:30 and 7:00. p.m. 30 Nighthawks were seen flying abreast in a ragged line, and just ahead of a huge rain cloud, about one mile south of the lake shore in Lorain. They were flying at an altitude of approximately 500 feet and none were feeding, just flying straight eastward. - ZIGMOND AND HELENA NAGY.

Then, far to the east:

On May 15 at 7:25 p.m., following an early-evening down-pour, with the sky still dark and thunder in the distance, three Common Nighthawks came out the northwest, dipped low over the woods of Forest Hill Park, and moved on speedily in straight-line flight east-northeast along the Portage Escarpment. Then at 7:40 p.m. a single bird called and circled above the

apartment rooftops and by 8:00 p.m. had been joined by two others, all three of which seemed to be contesting for air rights as they engaged in hot pursuit over an area of about one block. Clearly this was arrival day for Nighthawks in my neighborhood in Cleveland Heights. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Nighthawks Sleeping. Since Nighthawks are described as usually sleeping during the brighter part of the day it would be expected there would be more reports of this habit. I observed this for the first time on May 22, when I spied one perched high on a horizontal limb of a dead tree in the deep woods in Waite Hill, but in the full sunlight. It awakened, as I watched, preened and opened its enormous mouth, which is as large as its neck, showing the pinky-orange lining, called twice but remained in the same spot. I walked around and stood directly beneath without it being disturbed. When I returned 5 hours later, in the late afternoon, it was in the same spot, only turned around and facing west, as formerly it had faced east (Flanigan).

A report was received from another observer who watched a Nighthawk at sleep on May 3, in a living tree, a well leafed sycamore about 40 to 50 feet in height, in a deeply wooded area in Hell's Hollow Park in Lake County. When first seen at 4:00 p.m., it was resting in a horizontal position on the limb and facing west with its head tucked under the wing. The bird did stir, preened the feathers a bit, and then returned to sleeping position (Sneller).

Cardinal Changes Residence. On May 12 we found a baby Cardinal on the drive at our home in Waite Hill. It had fallen from the nest in a hemlock hedge nearby, and the nest looked very disturbed and tipsy. There being no sign of any other nestling, we placed the Cardinal's nest, with the baby bird in it, into a wren house close by, leaving the cover in an open position. The parents immediately cared for the young one. We observed until May 15, at which time it was plump and ready to leave the nest, which it apparently did safely. - MARGARET SHERWIN

Bird Oasis. Erie Street Cemetery is a 7.5 acre oasis in a desert of brick and concrete in downtown Cleveland, separated from East 9th Street by an iron grille fence, the north and south boundaries marked by a ten foot stone wall, and the east boundary being East 14th Street. A gravel driveway, partly lined with small magnolia trees, runs through the center, and the whole area is sparsely sprinkled with shrubs and a few sizable maple and sycamore trees. The traffic is noisy and heavy on all sides and the entire vicinity is made up of business buildings and parking lots.

In this setting I was provided with some surprises on eleven visits made during a half-hour noontime walk between May 3 and 23. On only one occasion did I fail to observe a different species from the ones observed on the previous visit and that was on May 6, the day the temperature dropped to 26°.

On the first visit White-throated Sparrows covered one large area of ground, feeding with a few White-crowned. A week later the White-crowned predominated, and three still lingered on the 22nd. The thrushes were represented by a pair of Blue-birds, as many as six Veeries on a single day, two Hermit Thrushes on the first day and frequent single Swainson's. Among the woodpeckers, Flickers appeared on every visit, and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the Red-headed Woodpecker were observed on two days each. Six Brown Thrashers were present for four days, and on May 8 a Yellow-breasted Chat and a pair of Yellowthroats were seen. On May 16 three Ovenbirds walked close to the stone wall, and one was observed along the main drive the following day. I saw only two warblers in the tall trees, a Chestnut-silently in the top of the tallest tree on the 13th.

There were other species observed besides the resident Pigeons, Robins, Starling and House Sparrows, namely: Chimney Swifts, Common Crows, Catbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Baltimore Oriole, a Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbirds, a Scarlet Tanager, American Goldfinches, and Chipping, Field and Fox Sparrows. - SIBYL LEACH

SHAKER LAKES BIRD-WALKS

The Shaker Lakes are an endangered conservation area with a unique location in the city, providing habitat for both water and land birds, producing unusual records and acting as a valuable stopping place for birds in their migration. They serve as an outdoor classroom for school children, so needed today, and a place of interest for all our members. The planting and vegetation is of the type attractive to birds and situated to allow for good viewing, and the lower lake has been the scene of Sunday bird-walks for more than thirty years. Perry Peskin has been a leader of the walks for six years and his log of the 1958 walks, which follows, gives a picture of the spring migration.

April 21 - The waterfowl migration is almost over, some winter birds are still present, and the migration of the insect-eating birds is under way. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and the two species of Kinglets are abundant, but the prize of the morning is the American Bittern stalking on the north side of the lake.

April 28 Two Pine Warblers flushed from the larch trees and into the willows provide an unexpected sighting, and Barn Swallows and Green Herons are new arrivals. The sharp eyes of William Schlesinger spot a Sora Rail, which climbs a willow so that all can note the large feet and turned-up tail. There is an odd, pale-colored bird with black head stripes among the Myrtle Warblers, and, remembering similar birds seen in Arkansas six years ago, I shout "Worm-eating Warbler" This identification is not

verified by any other observer, and I am not substantiated until I learn that Charles H. Knight found a bird of that species at noon, and also the following day.

May 5 The Myrtle Warblers are at their height today, and we tally over one hundred. The swallows are all represented except for the Purple Martins, which have a house awaiting them in the marsh.

May 12 - A dull, cloudy day with two Solitary Sandpipers in the marsh, in former years the haunt of Yellowlegs and Killdeer, but no more, since the marsh is filling in with vegetation. The Palm Warblers are especially abundant, with a count of 25.

May 19 - The long-awaited height of the warbler season is here, and we greet it in the rain, which soon abates. After the walk we total an impressive list of 15 species of warblers. Shaker Lakes is still a magnet for a fantastic variety.

May 26 - The song of the Blackpoll is the usual signal that the warbler migration is at an end, but despite the late date, nine species are listed, and we have an unexpected bonus of a Philadelphia Vireo. - PERRY PESKIN

IT'S MAY COUNT-TIME - RAIN OR SHINE

If it were not for the warblers, birding would lose half its fun. This is a sentiment echoed by most people who enjoy nothing more than to spend a mid-May morning stalking these strikingly colorful creatures which, seemingly so quickly, pass through our area. Although tanagers, orioles, vireos and flycatchers make the long journey north with the wood warblers, the large concentrations of song birds which fill the woods and parks on a spring morning are referred to as "warbler waves". On such a day an enthusiastic birder in the Cleveland area can readily observe twenty or more species of warblers and twenty-five would not be uncommon, for of the fifty-four species found north of the Mexican border no less than forty-three varieties have been seen in our area throughout the years.

The Kirtland Bird Club for the last three spring seasons has conducted a "May Count" to determine how many species of birds could be recorded in a given two-day period. Although on May 10 and 11 of this year, the days selected for the count, the number of birds in the Cleveland area would not constitute a warbler wave, still twenty-eight species of the family parulidae were sighted. As was the case for the greatest part of the spring season, weather conditions were not favorable - rain and fog with fifty degree temperatures. The Club tallied 148 species, not at all up to par with the 1966 and 1967 counts. In 1966, 166 species were counted for the two-day period and in 1967, 161 species.

This year twelve varieties of shorebirds were seen, while many duck and hawk species, which are usually present, were absent, such as Black Duck, all three varieties of mergansers, Broad-winged and Sparrow Hawks.

Again, as has been the case in the past two years, a few rarities were sighted - a Blue Goose and a Western Meadowlark. The Olive-sided Flycatcher and both the Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoo also helped fill the list.

So, although summer holds its birding surprises in a variety of shorebirds which pass through Cleveland; fall, its gulls and waterfowl, and winter, its finches and boreal owls, I, for one, will be looking forward to next spring, its warbler waves and the May Count. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

THE PRECARIOUS LIVES OF THE BIRDS

The lives of birds are continually endangered by conditions created both by man and nature. Countless thousands of birds are lost each year when they fly into large picture windows, high buildings or transmitting towers, and from insecticides, polluted rivers, lakes and oceans.

On March 18, 1967, the 974 foot super-tanker, Torrey Canyon, was ripped open on the rocks of Seven Stones Reef, fifteen miles off the southwestern tip of England, spewing 117,000 tons of crude oil into the blue sea. At least 100,000 oil smeared sea birds died, for the oily tide struck in the middle of the breeding season. Members of the Auk family which breed along the coast suffered the most. Seventy-eight per cent of the unfortunate victims were Guillemots and nineteen per cent Razorbills. The other three per cent were Puffins, Cormorants and Kittiwakes.*

Accidents such as the Torrey Canyon disaster are inevitable but their unfortunate results can be cleared up in time. It is the slow deliberate pollution created by industrial wastes which cause the most harm by killing the underwater vegetation and marine life which the birds use as a food supply. Also, the birds, themselves, are destroyed by various forms of botulism and other causes directly linked to pollution.

On nature's side of the coin are tornadoes, hurricanes and other sudden storms which may directly endanger the lives of the birds. The real effect of a hurricane or other devastating storm on the birds is an indirect one, one which may not be felt until the following year because of the nests and young which are destroyed.

This spring in a -relatively small section on the west side of Cleveland a freak hailstorm which lasted approximately forty-five minutes deluged the area with tons of large hailstones, stripping leaves from the trees, clogging catch basins and

causing intensive flooding. When the water subsided, many Starlings were found in the two to four inch thick matting of debris which littered the sidewalks and streets. These birds had probably sought shelter in the heavy canopy of maple leaves, but when their protection was destroyed, they were knocked down from the trees by the force of the hail. During the course of the storm a Robin was seen trying to protect her two young fledglings trapped on a lawn, but when the hail became intolerable she fled and the young were destroyed.

Although this was an isolated storm and the number of birds destroyed was nominal, it was vivid example of the effect severe weather conditions can have on the birds and their young. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

*Illustrated London News - March 30, 1968

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

March 24 - After two days of ice, snow, and wind, with the trees weighed down dangerously and temperatures hovering in the mid-twenties, I spied an egg on the ground beneath the nest of the Mourning Dove. I had not seen her on the nest today, so, as I feared, the weather was too severe. Upon examining the nest, which was covered over with two inches of snow, I found another egg. Comparing their whiteness with the whiteness of the snow, I saw the eggs were of a slightly pinkish cast.

April 24 - Last night, during a severe thunderstorm, the Canada Goose nest atop an old muskrat mound met with disaster, when a dead tree fell directly across the nest. I could see broken eggs in the nest and bits of shell were floating in the water. There was no sign of the disrupted pair. This would have been the first nesting on the small pond near us in 12 years.

April 28 The plumage variations of the Purple Finch present an interesting challenge and I judge from observing the ones that visit the feeders here that we have three pair. Two pair having raspberry colored males of varied degree and one pair with a striped male, but with raspberry color seen on the rump when the wings are parted, and a wash of color on the crown that can be seen in good light. According to Forbush in BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES, "some males may always remain in plumage like female; bird banders and keepers of aviaries find that most males do not acquire highest plumage until 4 or 5 years of age."

May 2 - Today I began the supplemental feeding of the Bluebirds that have five nestlings. The adults soon anticipate the mealworms and grow excited as I approach the feeding spot, hovering in the air, fluttering their wings and making soft calls.

May 3 - A Red-shouldered Hawk was standing on the pond edge at 2:00 this afternoon, with its talons in the mucky substance. As I watched from a distance of about 40 feet, it walked along the margin and stabbed with its beak at something in the water, and then flew up to a limb about 5 or 8 feet over the water. After a short time it flew down over the water, its talons creating a splash as they struck the surface. Then it perched on a 5-foot snag standing in the water. The hawk went down again and I could not see the result, but I could see the green algae or "lemna" on its bill when it returned to the perch.

Twice the hawk was strafed by another bird while perched on the snag, and the strafing bird was so swift that it was just a blur in my binoculars but I believe it was a Blue Jay. The hawk's only reaction was to draw its head down into its shoulders. There was a "squawk", but I could not determine if it came from the hawk or the attacking bird. After a time it flew down to a log that was half submerged in the water and again made a try at something in the water. I did not see this last try too clearly but dared not move to a better vantage point.

On two recent occasions I have seen activity on the shore of the pond that I now realize must have been the hawk engaging in this "fishing". According to Forbush, some Red-shouldered Hawks feed on frogs and fish and will even go into the water for them.

May 7 - As I stopped to view the last inlet on the lower pond, an American Bittern flushed from the tall grass between the car and the chainlink fence and walked along the fence searching for a place to get through, several times sticking its head and neck through the small openings. After walking about 30 feet, with a harsh croak it flew up over a stand of pines and back-tracked to land at a spot not more than three feet away from a nesting Canada Goose, which immediately assumed an aggressive attitude and watched the bittern closely as it preened and groomed. After a short time the bittern walked to the edge of the pond, caught a "something" small, swallowed it with a gulp and then took a drink. The goose was upright on the nest and faced the bittern all the while it was near, but settled down on the nest when the bittern walked along the edge of the pond. There was no reaction when I started the motor and drove on, although I was within 40 feet.

May 8 - I observed a Canada Goose nest in the process of hatching this morning. I could see at least three goslings on the edge of the nest when the parent became alarmed and called loudly as a Crow flew around over the nest. The other parent came closer to the nest and the one on the nest covered all the goslings with its body when the Crow perched on a dead limb directly overhead. Blackbirds flew in and appeared to try to divert the Crow, and when it flew off, the goose stood up and the goslings again moved about.

May 11 - This morning I nearly dismissed as a Chipping Sparrow an Orange-crowned Warbler that was singing constantly as it fed deliberately in a crabapple tree. On the 12th it was seen again in the same tree, but singing less often. On the 13th it sang softly twice as it fed in a hawthorn tree in the same area, and the orange crown was seen for the first time. The bird appeared to display a "crest" slightly raised, and a rusty-orange cap could be seen. This was visible when the bird faced me as well as from the rear, and was a good sized spot. I watched the bird for 10 minutes and continued my walk, making a circle, encountering it in another hawthorn a short time later. Possibly the heavy fogs and misty rain of the 12th and 13th held this bird here.

May 15 - A Cooper's Hawk was drinking at a small water hole in the deep woods this morning. The hawk raised its head upright, taking a position much like the one in which a bittern often stands, and then swallowed. It also occasionally pressed or clamped its bill together repeatedly, as though savoring the taste. After five minutes it flew off silently.

May 22 - While pausing at one of my observation points about noon, I saw two dogs coming around the road at the lower pond, when from an unseen point a female Wood Duck crossed the road in front of the dogs, going through the fence and into the meadow, fluttering and dragging both wings as though injured. She then walked wildly through the grass in a haphazard fashion, and I realized she was trying to lead the dogs away, so I drove them off. She suddenly recovered and immediately flew across the road in front of me to the area from which she had first appeared and from where I had been hearing the rapidly repeated calls of the young all through this diversive action. She led them to the edge of the pond and into the water. I counted 12 ducklings, seemingly not more than two days old.

* * *

It is with pleasure we report the election of William A. Klamm, a veteran member of the Kirtland Bird Club and a member of the staff of the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR, to the office of Treasurer of the Wilson Ornithological Society, publishers of THE WILSON BULLETIN.