



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 | |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | |
| Wade Park | |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 52 Chardon |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 53 Burton |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | 55 Fern Lake |
| 28 Hudson | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 29 Kent | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor
Annette B. Flanigan

Editorial Advisor
Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary
William A. Klamm

Special Features
Donald A. Siebert

Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers
Adela Gaede
Elizabeth Rose
Muriel H. Sneller

CONTRIBUTORS

Martha L. Anderson
L. P. Barbour
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Joe Bush
Vera Carrothers
Genevieve Chambers
Robert L. Cook
David Corbin
Henrietta D. Crofts
Mildred Daniels
Leo A. Deininger
Corinne F. Dolbear
Marjorie S. English
Doris de Fasselle
Mildred Fiening
Nathan Finck
Annette B. Flanigan
Adela Gaede
Wayne & Hilda Hammond
Lillian Hansel
Doug & Neil Henderson
Charles W. Hocevar
Perry F. Johnson
Faye B. King
Glenn Kitson
William & Nancy Klamm

Mrs. Edward Klee
Charles H. Knight
Walter P. Kremm
Sibyl Leach
Hilda A. Lebold
Bernard S. Mandle
Howard W. Martin
Zigmond & Helena Nagy
Donald L. Newman
C. W. Eliot Paine
Gretta Pallister
Perry K. Peskin
Jerry Piskac
Marjorie Ramisch
Bertram C. Raynes
Genevieve Reutter
Margaret H. Sherwin
Donald A. Siebert
Ruth Silliman
Gordon Spare
Michael Stasko
Geraldine Sterle
Don C. Strock
James S. Surman, Jr.
Bert Szabo
Harold E. Wallin
Clinton E. Ward

* * *

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

THE WEATHER

March - The month was cooler than normal on an average by 1.42 degrees with either rain or snow being distributed fairly evenly on 13 days of the period. Precipitation measured 2.32 inches and was in deficit by 0.81 inches.

Ice cover on Lake Erie remained heavy through the 17th with ice fields shifting only moderately in the early days of the month and quite radically in the latter days.

April - Of the 12 days that averaged below normal in temperature, eight of these passed in the first 11 day interval. With a warming trend becoming dominant in the remainder of the month, temperatures averaged 3.2 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation was well scattered and totaled 2.64 inches which was only .07 inches in deficit.

The shoreline areas of Lake Erie remained open and ice free this year with offshore residual ice fields completely disappearing early in the month.

May - Overall, the month was warm and dry. Temperatures averaged 4.8 degrees above normal and precipitation totaling 2.95 inches was in deficit by .57 inches. Warm spells and weather shifts were respectively long and infrequent as frontal systems were relatively static for lengthy periods.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

As the CALENDAR marks its sixty-sixth year of uninterrupted publication, which began with the Winter 1969-70 issue, the Cleveland region experienced a spring season studded with noteworthy occurrences which spanned the avian roster. Among them were Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, House Finch, Oregon Junco, and three species of the winter finches that were present in a vast coverage. These records will be described in the ensuing paragraphs. Despite these remarkable observations there is present an underlying note of concern at the seeming scarcity in numbers in many of the species, especially in the warblers that passed on their way to their more northern breeding grounds.

Horned Grebe Present in Outstanding Numbers. Unusual numbers were observed along the lakefront during the first twelve days in April with a tally of 200 on the 2nd (Gaede) and 486 on the 4th (Klamm).

Whistling Swans. On March 7, a very early date, two were sighted at Rocky River (Stasko). A flock of 50 was observed in Waite Hill in the early morning of the 10th (Sherwin) and a flock, numbering more than 60 Swans, was seen on the 11th, flying in the early morning mist at Avon Lake (Ward). In mid-March migrating Swans were reported over all of northeast Ohio, and reported in small numbers in the Cleveland region for the remainder of the month and early April. On April 25 one was observed on Shipman Pond, Mentor Marsh (Peskin).

Hawks. Hawk flights were almost nonexistent. In the opinion of one experienced observer the weather conditions were poor for hawk migration with no flights of note (Klamm). Another described the hawk migration as "disappointing and although on the alert on days when the birds should have been moving, I searched in vain. A tally of 8 Broad-winged and 1 Coopers Hawk on May 3 was the best" (Stasko). A comment of "no hawks" on dates in late March and early April came from one who observes the lakefront in Bratenahl (Raynes), and from another observer "no discernable Broad-winged migration this year" (Kitson).

A migration took place between 11:15 and 11:45 AM on April 22 in Waite Hill. The hawks flew from southwest to northeast in a regular and quite narrow path with the weather vane on the barn indicating the wind was directly from the west. A Broad-winged Hawk appeared first, flying quite low, and almost at once the parade began. Several large kettles, one of 26 and one of 15, wheeling and interthreading in complete harmony drifted along -- then they appeared three, four, five, and six abreast for a time before they began to appear at a higher level and in larger groups -- several of 16 or

more birds -- until a total count had been made of 127 hawks. The first 88 hawks counted were mostly Broad-winged, then it could be seen there were size differences and some birds with long tails, and one extremely large bird that moved along on flat wings. The only other positive identification, in addition to the Broad-winged, was of one Red-tailed Hawk. The first birds were not too far above the tree tops and the markings could be clearly seen but the last birds were so high they could barely be seen with the naked eye (Flanigan).

A Buteo flight, with more than 75 birds counted, was observed in Bay Village between 10:30 AM and 12:00 on April 30. The movement was west to east and was comprised of several groups, each rather spread out with one group passing out of sight to the east before single birds, followed by others, appeared in the west (Cook). On May 1 a report was made of 20 Broad-winged Hawks observed at Rocky River Reservation (Siebert).

A count was made between 9:20 and 10:00 AM at Perkins Beach on May 9 of 1 Sharp-shinned and 12 Broad-winged Hawks and 11 unidentified hawks (probably Broad-winged). As the hawks were half a mile or more inland it is probable that many were missed. Between 10:20 and 11:15 AM of the same day at Elmwood Park, Rocky River, where the birds were also passing very high overhead, a tally of 28 Broad-winged Hawks, 1 Osprey, and 2 unidentified hawks was made (Surman, Jr.).

Swifts and Swallows. A large flock of Chimney Swifts was observed entering the chimney of Willoughby Junior High School, Willoughby, at 9:30 PM on May 23, estimated at least one thousand birds (Hammond).

Among the swallows which were flying in an east to west direction at Perkins Beach on May 9 two Cliff Swallows were identified as they busily fed by sweeping the grass (Klamm). On May 31 three Cliff Swallows were observed at Punderson Lake (Knight).

Blue Jays and Goldfinch in Migration. The eastward movement of blue jays was noted as early as March 29 at Bratenahl (Raynes). During the entire month of April, the first week of May and intermittently for a few days longer, they moved eastward daily at Bay Village -- in spread-out singles to groups of 10 and 12 - generally in the morning but occasionally in the early evening (Cook). [Early evening flights are a rarity and seldom reported. - ED.]

A survey was made at Lakewood Park on April 26 (a clear, calm, day) between 8:00 and 9:30 AM. The Blue Jay migration was already in progress and they were passing in groups of 40, 50, and 70 birds, plus stragglers, all flying eastward at a fairly high level. An aggregate count of 740 Blue Jays was

made, in addition, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows passed, as well as Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles in as great number. Eight Meadowlarks, one Savannah Sparrow, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and one Brown Thrasher also were intermingled in this passage (Stasko).

Mentor Marsh was active with a continuous movement of Blue Jays in groups ranging from four to 12 birds when surveyed between 10:15 AM and 1:15 PM on May 1. A like flight was observed on the 8th and 19th, and as before, this continuous flight took place just above the tree tops, was from west to east, and was a silent passage in all cases (Martin). On May 1 an eastward movement was noted along the lakefront at Lakewood and 180 Jays were counted in a 45 minute period (Siebert).

May 9 appears a peak day of migration and at 8:30 AM a Blue Jay movement was noted at Mentor Park as a flock of 19 headed north-east high with the wind. There was a mixed movement of birds on this sunny and mild morning that was unusually varied although the species tended to separate into small bands and follow a pattern observed several times in previous springs. With a strong wind parallel to the shoreline, those birds whose migration path is into the wind tend to fly low, using trees, brush, and other obstructions to break the wind - those birds moving in the opposite direction ride the wind high, creating a two-level transit. This mass movement was composed of Spotted Sandpipers, Caspian Terns, Rock Doves, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Swallows, Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Baltimore Orioles, Goldfinch (being the most numerous), and others not identified. Most of the birds moved swiftly through, not stopping to feed or rest. On the following day, May 10, large numbers of Goldfinches were observed moving southwesterly at Crane Creek State Park as if they were part of the same movement observed the day before at Mentor Park (Hammond). On May 9 at Lorain harbor a Goldfinch migration was observed in progress and 150 were tallied. On May 10 at Lakewood Park 200 were counted (Stasko).

A skywatch at Perkins Beach between 9:20 and 1000 AM on May 9 resulted in a count of 1,130 Blue Jays in typical eastward movement and at least several hundred Goldfinch moving west (Surman, Jr.).

A time-log of the migration of Blue Jays at Lakewood Park and Perkins Beach on May 9, in progress at time of arrival, follows:

8:45 to 9:00 - 923	9:45 to 10:00 - 537
9:00 to 9:15 - 521	10:00 to 10:15 - 599
9:15 to 9:30 - 805	10:15 to 10:30 - 39
9:30 to 9:45 - 471	

(a time lapse of perhaps five minutes when observation was moved to Perkins Beach)

10:35 to 10:45 - 329	11:15 to 11:30 -89
10:45 to 11:00 - 124	11:30 to 11:45 - 8
11:00 to 11:15 -. 194	11:45 to 12:00 - 52

A count of 3,895 at Lakewood Park, with a count of 796 at Perkins Beach, produced a total count of 4,691 Blue Jays for the morning survey (Klamm).

A massive wave of Goldfinch was observed moving through Bratenahl on May 11, concurrently with innumerable Cedar Waxwings (Raynes). On the 12th an extensive movement of Goldfinch was observed along the Lorain lakefront (Dolbear).

Inland passage of Blue Jays, which is seldom recorded, was noted at Shaker Lakes on May 17 as a small group moved to the north (Peskin). On the 25th at Bedford Reservation small groups ranging from four to 18 birds moved northeast, producing a count of 68 Blue Jays and 246 Cedar Waxwings between 9:35 and 10:20 AM (Knight). Small bands of Blue Jays, never numbering more than eight birds, were observed at Waite Hill on six dates between April 27 and May 18, flying east or northeast and all passing before 10:30 AM (Flanigan).

A detailed account of a lakeline migration on April 26 at Perkins Beach appears in the Field Notes section.

Mockingbird. The presence of the Mockingbird in Willoughby Hills continued and two birds were first seen together on March 1. Singing began on March 7 and nesting activity was noted on April 1. They subsequently nested successfully for the second season. The nest this year was located where it could not be easily observed and a detailed record was not possible. On May 15 two fledglings were being fed by both parents. By May 27 it was apparent only one fledgling remained. The birds continue to be present and indications of a second nesting have been noted (Carrothers, Gaede, Reutter, Silliman).

A single individual was seen in Waite Hill on March 12, 13, and 14 (Flanigan and Sherwin). One hopped about in a grassy portion of the parking area at Headlands State Park on the May 17 Sunday walk (Strock et al).

Evening Grosbeak Reported Through Another Season. Evening Grosbeaks were reported through March and April and on three dates in May. The last date was the 10th and came from Chagrin Falls where their numbers had ranged up to 40 birds during the latter part of April (English). At a feeding station near Chardon they were present daily until May 8 (Spare), As many as 25 birds were observed in West Geauga from March 4

to April 29 (Kremm). A small band was present at frequent intervals in Kirtland Hills until April 19 (Daniels). Sporadic visits were reported through March and April from other locations: Willoughby (Barbour); Brecksville (Piskac); Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.); North Chagrin Reservation (Corbin and Deininger); Gates Mills (de Fasselle); Mentor (Klee); Strongsville (Hocevar); Kirtland (fide Flanigan).

Common Redpoll. Reports of their presence into spring in substantial numbers was one of the dominant aspects of the season, in sharp contrast with the 1969 spring record of two reports.

(1) At a Mentor feeding station, where they arrived in early fall and remained through the winter, they reached a peak number of about 80 birds during the latter part of March and dwindled to about 10 birds by April 10 (Sterle).

(2) Another Mentor location, more than five miles distant, was frequented by Redpolls, 24 birds being present on March 1. On the same day 40 were tallied at the lagoon near Mentor Park. They remained at the feeding station until April 4 but their numbers decreased to two or more birds (Hammond).

(3) On March 27 a peak number of 100 Redpolls was reached at Chagrin Falls and were last recorded on April 8 with only a few birds (English).

(4) In Waite Hill they were tallied on various dates between March 7 and April 15 with 20 birds the highest count. On April 15 three of the birds were heard in song (Sherwin and Flanigan). Thirty Redpolls remained at another Waite Hill location through the winter and the greater part of the spring (Mrs. Reuben Hitchcock fide Sherwin).

(5) Reports from Shaker Lakes ranged on dates from March 8 to April 5 and varied in number from two to 30 birds (Leach, Newman, Peskin).

Limited appearances were made during March and April at other locations, numbering from one bird to 90: Cleveland Heights (Anderson) (fide King); Willoughby (Barbour) (Tom Campbell fide Sherwin) (O. J. Melbourne fide Pallister); Painesville (Booth); Gordon Park (Carrothers); Kirtland Hills (Daniels); Lyndhurst (Kitson); LaDue Reservoir (Deininger); Chesterland (Hansel); Brecksville (Piskac); Lorain (Dolbear); Strongsville (Hocevar).

Pine Siskins. After a winter season of unusual abundance Pine Siskins were reported frequently during the spring. A tally that was termed "fantastic" was made at Donald Gray Gardens in downtown Cleveland -- on May 9 of 54 Siskins - more than 41 birds on the 16th - 36 on the 17th (Klamm).

Siskins were present at Waite Hill from late March until May 17 with a high count of 36 birds on May 13 (Sherwin and Flanigan).

Reports of sporadic visits and/or lesser numbers came from other locations: Chardon (Spare); West Geauga (Kremm); Chagrin Falls (English); Shaker Lake (Newman); Lorain (Lebold and Dolbear); Berea (Chambers); Kirtland Hills (Daniels); Rocky River Reservation (Corbin, Siebert, Stasko); Holden Arboretum (Bole, Jr. and Henderson); Bratenahl (Raynes); Black River Reservation, Elyria (Johnson); Berea Lakes (Hocevar); Mentor (Hammond).

Red Crossbills. This winter finch was conspicuous through the spring season, being reported with uncommon frequency. (1) A flock of 13 that wintered at Berea was still present on March 29 (Mary Chester fide Chambers). (2) A small band was observed on various March dates and two dates in May in Geauga County (Kremm). (3) A feeding station at Brecksville, which was visited by 17 Crossbills at irregular times during the winter, still had seven birds present on March 8 (Piskac). (4) Six birds frequented feeders at Chesterland during April and one was present on May 10 (Dr. Robert Stockton fide Sherwin). (5) A flock that numbered 25 birds at the peak was observed through the spring at Rocky River Reservation, being viewed by many (Stasko, Klamm, Siebert). On May 23 nine Crossbills were encountered as they drank at the edge of a small stream in Rocky River Reservation, showing no concern at the close proximity of observers (Siebert).

Observations of lesser numbers came from Kirtland Hills (Daniels); Chardon (Spare); Navrtils Lake, Medina (Hocevar).

Miscellany. Thrushes were reported in scanty numbers, with the Gray-cheeked conspicuous in its decline, being reported on only five dates this season. Contributors, in general, were of the opinion that warbler numbers were down, with the exception of the Myrtle Warbler which had an extended migration as well as appearing in good numbers. May 15 was singled out as the date of greatest warbler movement in widely separated areas: Lakewood (Siebert); Seiberling Nature Center, Akron (Szabo); North Chagrin Reservation (Kitson). White-crowned Sparrows had a very limited migration, both in number of individuals reported, as well as time spanned. Lincoln's Sparrows appeared very briefly being reported on only five dates.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Cattle Egret - Four fed in the grass near a pond in Waite Hill all of May 19. Their breeding plumage was plainly visible (Sherwin et al). This is the largest number ever reported in the region.

White-winged Scoter - One tardy bird appeared on the Lorain lakefront on April 7 (Dolbear).

Ruddy Duck - Two individuals lingered in the region: (1) one at Holden Arboretum on May 23 (Bole, Jr.); (2) one at Mentor Marsh on May 24 (Hammond).

Bald Eagle - On April 7 an immature endeavored to feed at the edge of Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum but was prevented by the hundred or so "patrolling" Canada Geese that forced the Eagle back onto the land. At each rebuff the wings of the Eagle were raised high so the markings could be plainly seen. As it moved about in the short grass several inches of yellow "leg" was conspicuous. It was viewed by many observers after attention was called by Paul H. Martin, Arboretum superintendent at 7:30 AM. The Eagle was last reported at 10:10 AM perched in a nearby tree (Paine, Strock et al).

Peregrine Falcon - An immature of this rare species was observed on May 7 at Hudson as it flew northwest carrying something about the size of a Starling was close enough that the facial pattern could be seen (Henderson).

Black-bellied Plover - Two, in full breeding plumage, fed with other shorebirds at White City on May 23 (Klamm).

Upland Plover - On the early date of April 18 three birds landed in a newly ploughed field in Geauga County and were photographed as they foraged (Mandle).

Dowitcher - (1) One was flushed several times on the Sunday Morning Bird Walk in Bratenahl on April 12 (fide Bush). This is a new early date of occurrence. (2) One was present at White City on May 23 (Klamm).

Sanderling - Rare in spring, two were active on the sandspit at White City on May 2 (Klamm).

Franklin's Gull - Two rested on the beach at White City with a few Ring-billed Gulls on May 16. They were adult birds in plumage that suggested they could be a pair (Klamm). This is the second May record in the region.

Barn Owl - Awakened by the clamor of birds at 6:20 AM on April 14 a search disclosed a Barn Owl perched high in a Norway spruce close by a Waite Hill residence. When a car passed beneath the tree at 8:15 AM the only reaction was a stirring, fluffing of feathers which doubled the normal size, and a lowering of its head to stare as the car passed. At 10:00 AM the Owl was apparently disturbed by activity in the driveway and was not seen again until 2:00 PM when it was spotted in a tall hemlock across the road. It remained in the same position until 6:30 PM when it was last observed. Owl pellets were collected from beneath both trees in which it perched (Flanigan).

Saw-whet Owl - One was discovered on April 19 perched in a pine tree in a yard in Lorain (Dolbear).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - (1) One was observed in Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland on May 28 (Leach). (2) One was reported from Holden Arboretum on May 31 (Bole, Jr.). This marks a new late date of occurrence,

Hermit Thrush - Reports of quite late individuals were received from Donald Gray Gardens in downtown Cleveland on May 22 and Navrtils Lake, Media, on May 26 (Hocevar).

Veery - One was tallied on the Bratenahl Bird Walk on April 19, an exceptionally early date (fide Bush).

White-eyed Vireo - (1) One was present near Elyria on May 3 (Johnson); (2) one was observed at Furnace Run, Akron Metropolitan Park on the 17th (Szabo); (3) one appeared at Rocky River Reservation on the 24th (Klamm); (4) another observer, heard one singing in Rocky River Reservation on the 24th and viewed one on the 30th (Siebert); (5) one was observed several times as it sang at Warrensville Farms on the 30th (Knight).

Prothonotary Warbler - (1) One appeared on quite an early date, May 1, at Waite Hill (Flanigan). (2) A singing male was present at Black River Reservation, Elyria, where it is seldom observed, on May 13 and 23 (Johnson).

Worm-eating Warbler - One was present at Holden Arboretum on May 31 and viewed as it sang (Kitson and Henderson).

Golden-winged Warbler - (1) A singing male was observed at Waite Hill on May 8 (Flanigan). (2) One was reported from Holden Arboretum on May 10 (Bole, Jr.).

Yellow-throated Warbler - One was discovered on April 26 as it sang at Aurora Sanctuary and was studied for several minutes under ideal conditions as it moved slowly about in a tree not yet in leaf (Henderson et al). This warbler has not been reported in the Cleveland region since 1964 and this date is a new early occurrence record.

Prairie Warbler - (1) A male that sang constantly as it fed close to the ground was observed at Waite Hill at 10:00 AM on April 28 and still sang in the same area at 12:30 (Flanigan and Carrothers). (2) One was observed at Upper Shaker Lake on May 3 in a clump of bushes together with a Chestnut-sided Warbler (Newman).

Kentucky Warbler -.A male sang loudly as it fed low to the ground in Waite Hill at 8:15 AM on May 10 (Flanigan).

Orchard Oriole - One was singing in Donald Gray Gardens in downtown Cleveland on May 9 (Klamm).

Summer Tanager - A full plumaged male was located by his song at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, on April 30 and remained several days thereafter (Bole, Jr.). This is the second April record in the region.

House Finch - Two males were present at a Waite Hill feeder on April 26, 27, and 30, and identified as the Carpodacus frontalis hybrid by the rosy striping on the sides (Flanigan).

Pine Grosbeak - One was reported at Deep Lock Quarry, Peninsula on April 26 (Szabo), quite a late date.

White-winged Crossbill - Two were observed at Rocky River Reservation on April 26 (Klamm). This marks a new late date of occurrence,

Oregon Junco - (1) An individual of the pink-sided race of the Oregon Junco was observed and photographed as it fed with Slate-colored Juncos, Tree Sparrows, and Common Redpolls on March 15 at Mentor (Hammond). (2) One frequented the area about a feeding station in Euclid on March 24 and 25 although the Slate-colored Juncos persisted in driving it away. This bird was also photographed (Fiening).

FIELD NOTES

Nesting Canada Geese. A nest was partially constructed at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation on March 30. Four eggs were visible on April 12 when the female changed position on the nest. On the night of April 28 two young were observed as the female moved to accommodate the activity beneath her. The following evening the nest was empty and the adults had moved to the back of the pond where five goslings were seen. By May 31 the goslings were developing well and beginning to show traces of cheek patch and black "stocking". As in 1969 the nesting pair tolerated the presence of other adults. Two other pair evidenced nesting inclinations but no progress was noted.
- GLENN KITSON

At a small pond in Waite Hill a nest was active on April 6. It was located in a small clump of willows completely surrounded by water with just enough space at the base to accommodate the nest. No other Canada Geese were tolerated on this pond during the nesting and a noisy chase ensued if another made a landing. Although a daily check was made the nest was never found unoccupied so no count could be made of the eggs. At 7:30 AM on May 10 four goslings, not yet completely dry, were seen with the parents. By May 21 only one gosling remained. This is the first successful nesting on this pond. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Woodcock Migrating in Mid-April. On April 17 at 8:15 AM, I found a dead American Woodcock on the grounds of the Board of Education building in downtown Cleveland. It had evidently been killed during the night when it broke its neck by flying into one of the many large windows in the building. Since the bird was undoubtedly a transient, its occurrence in mid-April is significant because it seems to indicate that some members of this species are migrating through the Cleveland region while others have already established nesting territories here for nests with eggs have been found in the region as early as March 27. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Jays and Other Lakeline Migrants. Between 8:40 and 11:00 AM on April 26, from a vantage point on the high bluff at Perkins Beach overlooking Lake Erie, I tallied the birds which were migrating along the lakeline. The day was sunny, warm, and windless.

The west-to-east passage of Blue Jays was apparently already underway when I arrived at the bluff, for I immediately began to record small bands of migrants ranging from two to 20 birds. During the first hour while a mist hung over the lake, the Jays flew in a narrow pathway over land but within 100 feet or so of the lakeline, their altitude ranging from 150 to perhaps 500 feet. By 9:30 the mist had begun to dissipate, and the Jays began to move on a broader course, some of them flying over the lake.

As the morning advanced, more and more of the flights were over the lake and at an increasing altitude, probably nearing 1,000 feet. Occasionally, however, a small band would pass by not much above the treetops, and one group of nine actually perched for about a minute in the top of a tall red oak before moving on. As is customary, all of the birds throughout the morning were silent.

During the two hours and 20 minutes of observation, I recorded an even 700 Jays, though this number is less than the true figure since several flights were so high and widespread I could not count them in their entirety. The largest movement occurred from 9:30 to 9:45 when I tallied 272 birds. In the final half hour I counted only 19.

Other migrants, though in very small numbers, were also passing from west to east along the lakeline. Separate bands of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds -- singles to as many as nine -- moved intermittently throughout the morning, the Grackles being the most numerous. In passage, too, were a few Mourning Doves, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 11 Yellow-shafted Flickers, mostly singles though once three together; 1 Red-headed Woodpecker; a band of 5, then later 2 Black-capped Chickadees; and at 11:00 AM an Eastern Kingbird flying quite high and at great speed.

In addition to the west-to-east movement, there was a scattered passage from east to west consisting of a few Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Barn Swallows, and brown-backed swallows (presumably the Rough-winged) which were too far out over the lake to be identified. - DONALD L, NEWMAN

Common Grackle Forms a Guard. At mid-day on May 22 I came upon a young Grackle perched unsteadily in a small tree not far from its nest 40 feet high in a conifer in the woods garden at the Natural Science Museum. The adult birds became alarmed as I approached and without the slightest warning or voice at least 12 other mature Grackles swooped into the area and set up an exceedingly vigorous flight cover and din over and around the young bird coming quite close to my head at times. My curiosity impelled me to give the small tree a shake. With this the young bird flew to another tree and the "guards" followed into surrounding trees and became quiet. - GLENN KITSON

Fifteen Years of Birding in Forest Hill Park. Forest Hill Park, formerly a part of the John D. Rockefeller estate, is located astride the boundary between the city of East Cleveland and the city of Cleveland Heights. It contains 267 acres, of which 184 are in East Cleveland and 83 in Cleveland Heights. These notes are taken from my record sheets and cover a span of 15 years of observation. On many of the walks I was joined by Helen Nanovic and Harry and Ruth Taylor and they assisted in much of the observation and identification.

Three Whistling Swans on the pond near Forest Hills Boulevard on March 13, 1970, added one more species to the Park records and made a total number of 160 species recorded. Over the years other uncommon visitors to the pond include a Common Loon in April 1961; an Osprey in April 1964; and two Caspian terns in August 1967. At times of low water level, shorebirds have appeared on sandbars at one end of the pond: Solitary Sandpiper 9/26/62; Pectoral Sandpiper 8/21/65; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs 9/19/65.

The stream, a pond outlet with a miniature cascade, attracts many birds, notably a Winter Wren in April 1965 and October 1968, and Common Redpolls in November 1965. Warblers in good number and variety tarry a few days in the Park each spring, usually near the stream. They can also be found in a stretch of woods extending to the north of the pond. The early sixties were especially productive warbler years, reaching a peak in 1963 when 20 species were tallied between May 3 and 27. Four more warbler species are on the list and include an Orange-crowned in April 1961 and a Mourning Warbler on May and June dates of the same year, making a total count of 24 warbler species observed in the Park.

To the north, the stream cuts through a narrow ravine

before going underground and the vegetation on the hillside is heavy, making it a favorite place for the thrushes. It was here a Woodcock made an appearance in April 1968,

To the east much land is given to picnic areas, baseball diamonds, practice fields, and tennis courts. Vesper and Savannah Sparrows find these fields to their liking, especially in the fall. On April 23 and 24, 1961, Sprague's Pipits were found feeding in this area and proved to be the first sighting of this species in the Cleveland region.

To the west, a high, gracefully-arched footbridge spans Forest Hills Boulevard connecting the two main sections of the Park. Stone used in the construction of this bridge was quarried on the property before Monticello Boulevard was cut through. The quarry now lies deeply buried underneath. Beyond the bridge there is a wide meadow in which a few Moses Cleveland trees still stand. In a smaller tree in this meadow, hollow at the top, a pair of Great Horned Owls nested in 1963 and successfully reared two young. The four Owls were seen near the nesting tree on May 8 of that year.

Moving in a southerly direction, past more baseball diamonds and picnic tables, we come to deeper ravines, steeper hills and more rugged terrain, and a stream with a sizable waterfall. Field, Song, and Chipping Sparrows are common summer residents, and Fox, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows are yearly migrants. A few Tree Sparrows winter here. This area has produced the unexpected from time to time: Pine Grosbeaks were found feeding in a tall pine tree in November 1965, and Snow Buntings were observed in November 1966. Two Immature Red-headed Woodpeckers spent the winter of 1966-67 in a nearby woods. They were checked often from October 30 until the following May and by mid-February the change to adult plumage had been completed.

The following made only one appearance in the records: Orchard Oriole 5/4/61; Bobolink 5/1/62; Evening Grosbeak 5/4/62; Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/22/66; Horned Lark 10/29/67. All were seen in open meadows.

As the habitat has changed in order to make way for highrise apartments, by the destruction of hundreds of trees and changing the contour of the land, a decline in bird population appears to have taken place. - FAY B. KING

Report from Downtown Cleveland. The regular mid-day observations that have been made at Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland for the past three springs have resulted in a total of 83 species. Three species were added this spring -- Purple Finch, Philadelphia Vireo, and Henslow's Sparrow. The Cemetery was the site of first-observation dates for three species this spring: Savannah Sparrow 3/30; Henslow's Sparrow 3/27; Field Sparrow 4/1. - SIBYL LEACH

May Count 1970. The fifth "May Count" by the Kirtland Bird Club was made on May 16-17 with the western portion of the region in the sun and the eastern portion deluged with rain or overcast. A tally of 142 species was made and included Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue Goose, Upland Plover, Franklin's Gull, Mockingbird, White-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, 25 species of warblers, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill. - GLENN KITSON

TEETERERS AND TAIL BOBBERS

Coloration, silhouette, habitat and behavior are significant aids in determining the species of a bird, yet few traits are more helpful in field identification than tailbobbing and teetering; remarkable behavior characteristics that sometimes give the appearance of observing a mechanical toy. A thrush that cocks its tail at an angle and then drops it slowly can be readily identified from the others of its species as a Hermit Thrush. The birder who can spot a Winter Wren before the bird sees him can observe it bobbing up and down and cocking its tail overhead. The Prairie Warbler flicks its tail nervously as it moves through the shrubbery in search of insects. The Palm Warbler, living and feeding even closer to the ground than the Prairie, bobs its tail incessantly. The tilting or waving of the tail up and down as it feeds is the characteristic that attracts the observer to the bird and because of this trait it is sometimes called the wag-tail warbler.

Other members of the warbler family that teeter or bob are the Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes. They look like a thrush and bob incessantly as they walk along the edge of the water, as does the Spotted Sandpiper who nearly always teeters and when alarmed has the nervous habit of constantly tilting its body. It tips up and down between steps as if having difficulty trying to balance on its slim legs. The Solitary Sandpiper has the same habit of nodding and bowing its head, but it is not a body tipper as is the Spotted Sandpiper.

Pipits and Wagtails, when feeding, run rapidly on the ground very much like sandpipers, tilting and flirting their tails. The Sprague's Pipit scours the short-grass prairies and blends so well with its surroundings that often only the flick of white as the tail twitches gives it away.

The champion bobbers are the wren-like Dippers of the mountain cascades. There is only one member of this family in the United States and it lives near rushing streams in the Rocky Mountains and the mountains of California. This Dipper bobs vigorously some 40 to 60 times a minute.

Although sparrows are primarily ground feeders, they are not considered tail-bobbers. Yet certain varieties such as

the Song Sparrow can be identified by the nervous twitch in the tail as they hop along the ground feeding.

These, then for the most part are the birds which can be identified by the seemingly nervous habit of tail-bobbing or teetering. They represent members of the thrush, wren, warbler, and sandpiper families, plus pipits and ouzels. In addition to their physical gyrations, the one trait they all seem to share is that they are primarily ground feeders or dwellers.

Although many explanations of these behavior characteristics have been put forth, the reasons are not too convincing. Perhaps the most reasonable theory is that when a bird teeters it helps in seeing the irregularities of the ground and seeing objects from two different points helps to determine distance and therefore aids in locating food. By head bobbing the eyes can detect otherwise obscure prey. Another theory is that birds on the ground are more vulnerable to predators as any bird on the open ground can be threatened from above. In observing the actions of Spotted Sandpipers, I find that after dropping into a new feeding area they seem to bob more rapidly than after they begin to feed, as though they are priming themselves in case a fast take-off is necessary. Teetering simulates flight so that in the vastness of a field the birds are ready to leave the earth with each downward swing to the tail and each lift of the body.

The pipits, wagtails, sandpipers, ouzels, and waterthrushes all share a similarity in that they are walkers. Hoppers do not generally teeter. Size might play a role in why these smaller walkers share this habit as larger walkers such as waders and gallinaceous birds do not teeter. But there are inconsistencies in these theories -- the Ovenbird, although a walker and closely associated with the waterthrushes, does not share the habit.

Other species of sandpipers and shorebirds living in the same environment as the Spotted and Solitary Sandpiper are quite content just to run or walk along the shore. Other prairie and open field feeders such as the Horned Lark, Dickcissel, and longspurs can find food and be alert against danger without any body movements. So why nature has endowed certain species of various families of birds with these unusual physical maneuvers may never be completely understood. These traits do give a distinct quality to the bird which leaves an indelible mark on the mind of the observer. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

Literature Cited

- Bent, A. C. 1929 LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORE BIRDS.
Bent, A, C. 1953 LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN WARBLERS.
National Geographic Society 1964. SONG AND GARDEN BIRDS.