



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

CONTRIBUTORS

B. P. Bole, Jr.

Kay F. Booth

Robert L. Capanna

Vera Carrothers

Naomi Clark

Mrs. R. A. Climes

Mrs. Virginia Conrad

David Corbin

Mrs. Arthur B. Crofts

Mildred Daniels

Owen Davies

Corinne Dolbear

Margaret A. Dosko

Mrs. C. B. Drushal

Marjorie S. English

F. W. & Marilyn Fais

Mrs. Paul J. Fiening

Nathan Finck

Annette B. Flanigan

Adela Gaede

Wayne & Hilda Hammond

Charles W. Hocevar

Mrs. Douglas Huey

Laurence G. Isard

Perry F. Johnson

Glenn Kitson

William & Nancy Klamm

Charles H. Knight

Walter P. Kremm

Sibyl Leach

Hilda A. Lebold

Bernard S. Mandle

Mrs. Susie Nelson

Donald L. Newman

Gretta Pallister

Perry K. Peskin

Donna Pickersgill

Don Prack

Marjorie S. Ramisch

Bertram C. Raynes

Genevieve Reutter

Jack Rouru

William E. Scheele

Robert A. Scheibe, Jr.

Albert H. Schumacher

Kent Scott

Margaret H. Sherwin

Donald A. Siebert

Ruth Silliman

M. B. Skaggs

Gordon Spare

Michael Stasko

James S. Surman, Jr.

Bert L. Szabo

Ruth Thompson

Thomas F. Ulrich

Clinton E. Ward

* * *

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

THE WEATHER

December - Lake Erie remained open all month with only minor shore ice after the 26th. Inland ponds and still waters had very transient icing until the last few days. Sunshine amounted to 34% of time possible. The month was free of persistent snow cover except for the last seven days, although transient flurries occurred from the 4th to 7th and wet snow fell and melted on the 13th. Total precipitation of 2.25 inches was 0.09 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 1.7 degrees warmer than normal.

January - On the first, extensive slush ice appeared on the lake and by the 9th the ice cover amounted to 90% of the shoreline. The month was fairly dry with a total precipitation of 1.35 inches which was 1.32 inches below normal. Sunshine increased to 42% of time possible. The month was quite cold with temperatures averaging 7.0 degrees below normal.

February - Ice cover on Lake Erie was quite variable. Snowfall measured 14.3 inches with 7.2 inches occurring on the 7th and 2.8 inches on the 13th. Total precipitation of 3.69 inches was 1.36 inches below normal. Below normal temperatures were dominant for the first half of the month and above normal temperatures were dominant the last half, resulting in a deficit of 0.6 degrees.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The winter season was flavored by the appearance of "oddities". Either they were present to a greater than usual extent, or they were reported more fully. In all probability the latter was the case, in response to articles which appeared in the Cleveland PRESS. A full account follows in this section.

A number of "rare" visitors, and several visitors made conspicuous by their "out-of-season" presence, added zest to the season: Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Brant, Snow Goose, King Eider, Common Scoter, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Short-eared Owl. These, and others, will be reported in the Noteworthy Records section.

Waterfowl Present in Extensive Variety. Common Loons lingered in the region through December and early January, with more reports than for many winters: Lorain lakefront (Dolbear); LaDue Reservoir (English); Cleveland lakefront (Carrothers et al). One lone Whistling Swan was observed at LaDue Reservoir on December 20 (English).

Dabbling ducks were reported with uncommon frequency but in relatively small numbers. Gadwall were present past their usual departure date, being reported on December 10 from Sherwin Pond, Waite Hill (Gaede) and Holden Arboretum (Bole, Jr.). Observations were made of Green-winged Teal in each of the winter months: (1) on December 26 and 27 and three February dates at Sunset Pond, North Chagrin Reservation (Finck, Kitson, Scheibe, Scott); (2) one tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Count on a pond that always remains open (Gale Wiley fide Szabo); (3) from our western area three January records of solitary birds (Stasko); (4) from Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery on February 28 (Corbin). Wood Ducks were also present through the entire winter; lone individuals except for eight birds on the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Count (Gale Wiley fide Szabo). Other sightings came from LaDue Reservoir (English); Baldwin Reservoir (Carrothers et al); Shaker Lakes (Corbin).

Diving Ducks were well represented, especially Oldsquaw, which was observed each month of the season. A male was observed as it was active at the Illuminating Company plant on December 12 for the first occurrence and the final sighting was of a female at the Municipal Light plant on February 27 (Klamm). Intervening records came from Lorain harbor (fide Ward et al); Cleveland lakefront (Carrothers et al); and two that remained on Summit Lake, Akron, for an extended period (Dr. Alexander Karlo fide Szabo).

Only one species of Scoter, the White-winged, was reported with any regularity. First appearance was at Edgewater Park on December 19 (Klamm), but no report came from the Lorain lakefront until January 21 (Lebold and Ward). See the Noteworthy Records section for appearances of the rarer Surf and Common Scoter.

Hawks a Winter Feature. Hawk reports are not generally a feature of the winter issue but opinions, "hawks appear to be a little more plentiful" (Hammond), and "observations of hawks better than usual" (Szabo), indicate that hawks were a feature. This is also exemplified by the number of Field Notes items detailing observations of their feeding habits.

Two Rough-legged Hawks appeared in the western portion of the region on December 26 (Dolbear). On January 5 one was sighted in Carlisle Township, Lorain County, then, on the 23rd they were observed in greater numbers than at anytime since the winter of 1964- 65. On that day: (1) two soaring with two Red-tailed Hawks near Avon; (2) one moving from Avon to North Ridgeville; (3) six seen near Grafton Prison Farm by two separate parties. On the following day a dark-phase individual flew over Black River Reservation as a guided hike was in progress. The final sighting took place on the 31st at Amherst (fide Johnson). Observations in the eastern section were all of single birds: a dark-phase at Eastlake on December 26, one at Mentor on January 4, one at Holden Arboretum on the 10th (Hammond); one at LaDue Reservoir on January 3 (English).

A Broad-winged Hawk appeared at West Park Cemetery on the very early date of January 27 (Siebert).

Killdeer Remain in Region. Although their normal departure date was past, sightings of Killdeer were still being made in late December. Seven birds were tallied on the East Side Count conducted on the 26th --an all-time high -- three coming from Waite Hill (Hocevar and Stasko); six birds were reported at Rocky River Reservation on the 27th (Corbin). January reports came from Headlands State Park, Rocky River Reservation, and Chardon; February sightings came from Chardon, Severence Hall, University Circle (Hammond, Spare, Stasko). Then, about February 25, Killdeer began to appear that were judged to be the arriving migrants.

Short-eared Owl Makes Dramatic Appearances. Not since Winter 1960-61 has this owl been sighted in any numbers, in fact there has been only four records since that time - all single birds, and all coming from the eastern section of the region. On December 31 the first sightings in the westerly suburbs were made --five Short-eared Owls, spotted along Island Road at the edge of Grafton Prison Farm grounds, Lorain County (Ed Bittner fide Johnson). This is an area of low-lying fields drained by a small stream which attracts migrating shore-birds, hence, is frequently checked. The most successful time to see these owls was about dusk and they were observed by many. Their flight was described by Perry F. Johnson as being "rather moth-like and quite close to the ground" There were two in view at first, when seen by him at 5:40 PM on January 25, then, after a drive of a short distance to turn around, he returned to find

six owls perched in a large tree, silhouetted against the sky. They continued to come and go as he watched, usually flying low over the fields. The owls were also reported on January 5, 7, 8, 17, 23, 24, and 25, in numbers ranging from three to seven birds. At that time the weather changed, worsened, remained so for three weeks, and the owls were not seen again (Johnson and Ward).

Far to the east, two Short-eared Owls appeared on February 18 at the Towmotor plant in Mentor, and were under surveillance until the 28th. They were spotted flying in the field area behind the plant by Jim. Campbell, General Foreman for Plant Engineering, and later he discovered they had taken up their abode in outdoor storage racks on the grounds. They were extensively photo-graphed and subsequently identified by Laurence Isard, the Staff Conservationist of The Natural Science Museum. The owls perched separately, seeming, to ignore each other, and were seen at all hours of the day, They permitted a close approach before they gracefully flew off. Calls were heard occasionally, when the birds were flying, and also when they were approached. It was their habit to feed late in the evening and apparently found mice and insects in the fields -- disdaining to accept bread which was left for them. Owls have been reported from a nearby woods-and-brush area and are presumed to be the same birds (Nelson, Isard, Kitson).

Crows Winter in Very Large Flocks. Crows were a daily occurrence during the winter and large flocks were reported consistently. An amazing total of 1,227 was tallied on the East Side Count -- an all-time high, and in startling contrast to the total of 18 Crows tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls Count. In West Geauga a few scattered individuals were seen daily, but on December 5, January 16 and 25, some 200 were congregated in a woods, their actions suggesting a rendezvous (Kremm). During late January large flocks were reported congregating in other locations: near the Great Lakes Mall at Mentor (Pallister); near Wickliffe High School (Mrs. Marie Swaffield fide Flanigan). On the 24th a flock of some 500 was seen in Chesterland and another of 100 birds in Willoughby Hills (Kitson). On February 2, a steady passage involving hundreds of birds, was observed at 5:15 PM as they flew in a westerly direction over Willoughby (Flanigan); on the 20th a passage of 350 was noted in the western suburbs.(Stasko).

Mockingbirds Remain in Residence in Two Localities. One bird remained on the Willoughby Hills territory, locale of the 1969 and 1970 nestings, and spent the winter alone. It was seen several times each week except during the most bitter cold. It sang often in early winter, ceasing at mid-winter, but frequently was heard scolding. On February 24 its song began again, although it was still companionless. In 1969 the first spring song was heard on March 20 and the mate observed on the following day. In 1970 the first spring song was heard on March 7,

the mate already being present, having arrived on the 1st (Reutter and Silliman).

The Mockingbird that appeared in Waite Hill on October 18 attached itself to a quite small territory, which it continued to guard and occupy through the entire winter. On December 21 its range was extended to include a small area across the road, although it continued to occupy the original territory. An early morning call is a typical habit of this bird where it is a common resident and this same habit was noted here. A daily record was kept of these calls, for example:

November	8 - 7:00 AM	November	12 - 7:17 AM
	9 - 7:05 AM		13 - 7:17 AM
	10 - 7:10 AM		14 - 7:17 AM
	11 - 7:10 AM		15 - 7:10 AM

With allowance made for light conditions in the morning, the timing suggests this call is made immediately on arousal in the morning. Another behavioral habit came to notice when Cardinals were being banded in the vicinity of the Mockingbird territory. The Cardinal is a vigorous complainer when handled and utters shrill calls -- invariably the Mockingbird approached the scene and scolded -- at times continuing to scold after the Cardinal had been banded and released (Flanigan).

Disparity in Cowbird Population in Winter. Winter Cowbird records are extremely scanty for the eastern portion of the region, while large flocks have become the normal pattern in the western portion in the past decade. This is well illustrated by the annual Christmas Counts: (1) only one bird reported on the Cleveland East Side Count (Huey); (2) 28 tallied on the Mentor Count (fide Fais); (3) none tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls Count (fide Szabo); (4) 998 reported on the Elyria Count (fide Johnson); (5) an amazing total of 1,430 on the Lakewood count -- a ten-year high (fide Davies). Up to 100 birds were daily visitors during December at one Lorain feeder (Dolbear); a count of 100 was reached at another Lorain station during late January and early February (Lebold); up to 250 visited an Elyria feeding station during December (Johnson).

Northern Finches Made Few Appearances. Contributors made many mentions of the absence of northern finches, undoubtedly made more apparent due to the remarkable records for finches of the previous two years. Evening Grosbeaks were present sporadically, either in single sightings, or in very small numbers. The two largest flocks contained only 12 and 13 birds respectively and occurred at feeding stations in Kirtland Hills (Daniels) and Painesville (fide Booth). The first grosbeak, a lone individual, appeared in the region on December 5 (Stasko). The only feeder to have a regular daily visitor was in Fairview Park where a male remained from January 9 to the end of the period (Pickersgill). Sporadic visits were made in Lorain County from

December 8 to 25, but never numbering more than six birds (fide Johnson) and at Chagrin Falls from January 31 to February 23 (Clark). Scattered reports came from other locations: Holden Arboretum (Bole, Jr. and Hammond); Stow (fide Szabo); Lakewood Park (Klamm); Chardon (Ramisch and fide Spare).

Other northern finches were almost totally absent. The only report of Common Redpolls came from Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, where three were occasional visitors between January 15 and February 10 (Bole, Jr.). Seventeen Pine Siskins were tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Count (Erica Stux fide Szabo) and one individual was observed at a Russell feeding station on February 25 (Mandle). The two species of Crossbills were unreported.

Albinistic and Melanistic Birds. Attention was focused on the seeming abundance of birds with abnormal plumage by two columns appearing in the Cleveland PRESS by William E. Scheele, director of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. We are indebted to Mr. Scheele for access to the gratifying response evoked by these two articles. With the inclusion of the response from our regular BIRD CALENDAR contributors we were able to summarize the phenomenon.

Albinism is brought about by the absence of degeneration or the pigment and a pure albino is snow-white, having no pigment whatsoever. Their eyes are pink or red -- caused by the blood showing through the iris. Brown pigment is the one which most commonly disappears and individuals with white feathers in unusual places are not infrequent in robins and sparrows. The American blackbird family (Icteridae) is particularly susceptible to various degrees of albinism. It has been suggested that food might cause these abnormalities, and it appears likely when one considers the birds most prone to albinism have feeding habits that could expose them to a greater amount of pesticides than some other species. The blackbirds have a penchant for feeding in grain fields, a place where pesticides are commonly used, and earthworms are a staple item in the diet of robins and are known to contain great amounts of chemicals.

Reports of aberrant Cardinals were surprising, both in number received and in description of plumage variations. Generally what happens in birds that have red or yellow in their plumage is that their color intensity greatly decreases - partial albinos being relatively uncommon. Our tabulations revealed two reports of Cardinals with over-all diminishing in coloration and at least four that showed other abnormalities. The plumage of one created the impression of being "pinkish" all over. This Cardinal was present all winter at a residence in Macedonia (Drushal). A very striking individual, with the body appearing a soft dove-gray at rest, but startling white when the underparts were displayed in flight, remained near a Willoughby Hills residence through most of the winter. A male Cardinal, with no black facial markings and showing white spot-

ting around the neck and on the tail, remained at this same location (Conrad and Carrothers). A partial albino female Cardinal was seen through the winter at Waite Hill, displaying white feathers on the entire head and neck, including the crest, giving the appearance of being in a snowstorm. The back was spotted with large white spots and the rump was partially white. Another female Cardinal, located several miles distant, showed a solid grayish-white on the entire head, except for the crest which was normal (Sherwin). A partial albino female was reported as an occasional visitor at a Macedonia residence (Climes).

A partial albino Slate-colored Junco was a regular visitor at a Euclid feeding station after December 6. The head and face were entirely white except for a black patch on the top and back of the head (Fiening).

A bird which was a partial albino appeared on January 31 at a residence adjacent to North Chagrin Reservation, feeding daily during the extreme cold weather, disappearing with a thaw. It always associated with Song Sparrows, usually three, and was the dominant bird. Its body was predominantly white, wings dark with a broad white bar. The tail, shaped like that of a Song Sparrow, was dark with rufous outer feathers. The legs were pink and rather thin. While this bird could not be positively identified as a partially albinistic Song Sparrow, this appears the most logical identification (Scheibe).

A Robin with abnormal white markings on its tail appeared on February 1 at a Cleveland residence (Schumacher). At Middleburg Heights two Common Grackles were observed with white feathers in their wing and tail plumage "as if speckled with white paint" (Dosko). House Sparrows showing varying degrees of white feathers were reported from Chagrin Falls and Cleveland (English, Rouru, Thompson). Telephone reports were made, without detailed descriptions being furnished, on Red-tailed Hawk, Robins, Starling, House Sparrows, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrows, and Song Sparrow.

A unique incidence of albinism was chronicled in Inland Bird Banding News 42:5:195. A female Yellow-shafted Flicker was banded on August 23, 1967, at St. Paul, Minnesota, by Mrs. Murray Olyphant. On May 14, 1970, the bird was retrapped, still in its normal plumage. Then, on September 11, 1970, when it had gone through at least four post-nuptial molts, this same bird was trapped again, but the plumage had undergone a remarkable change. The crown was partially white, the entire throat, chin part of the right cheek, and the entire nape of the neck region were also white. There were no red feathers on the nape at all. In separating and examining the white feathers, it was noted it was not just the tips that were white, but the entire feather to its base. The rest of the body plumage was normal.

The opposite of albinism is melanism. Melanin is the most common pigment and it produces brown or black in animals. In mid-January a strange goldfinch, identified as a melanistic American Goldfinch, appeared in the company of some 20 other goldfinch at a feeding station at Waite Hill. The bird looked as though it had been dipped in soot -- evenly all over -- the black on the wings was particularly black and glossy and the wing bars were almost unnoticeable. It was judged a male because a faint, though apparent, dark crown was present. The bird remained until mid-February (Flanigan).

Wintering Birds. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, each year certain birds remain in the area beyond their normal departure time, even through the entire winter, and this pattern continued this winter. A Myrtle Warbler was observed on December 15 at a residence on the Lorain lakefront (Dolbear) and on the 27th one was seen in Clague Park (Siebert). Three Rufous-Sided Towhees, one female and two males, that wintered at a Waite Hill feeding station were banded and observed daily (Flanigan). A pair of towhees remained at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, through December (Bole, Jr.), otherwise they were uncommon. Field Sparrows were reported in December and January from Black River Reservation, Lorain County (Johnson) and in December and early January from the eastern section of the region (vide Scheibe and Stasko). White-crowned Sparrows again wintered in Lorain County (vide Johnson), but only four reports in the eastern section of the region (Scheibe et al). Two Fox Sparrows appeared at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills in mid-February and stayed on (Bole, Jr.).

A Swamp Sparrow was present at Waite Hill in December (Flanigan, Hocesvar, Stasko). One appeared in Willoughby Hills on February 8 and remained until the 18th, being banded on the 11th. Later a banded individual frequented a feeding station only a short distance from the Willoughby Hills location, from the 21st to the 24th, and was presumed to be the same bird (Skaggs).

Synopsis of Winter and First Stirrings of Spring. "A winter to remember" in Kirtland Hills, Lake County, where weather conditions have been carefully recorded for many years, with more snow (154 inches as of March 5) than any winter since 1962-63 (Bole, Jr.). The blizzards produced events of interest at Hanging Rock Farm and are reported in the Field Notes section.

Opinions were expressed that the "hot water" at Lorain Municipal Pier has an adverse effect, not only by creating a vapor condition making observation of birds quite difficult at times, but by rendering the area less attractive to waterfowl as well (Dolbear and Lebold).

Cardinals were reported as unusually abundant in Kirtland Hills "40 being fed all winter" (Daniels); in Mentor "can count

35 Cardinals on nearly any brisk morning”, “unusually plentiful” (Fais and Hammond); “numbers higher at Chardon” (Ramisch). An all-time high of 390 Cardinals was tallied on the Elyria Count (fide Johnson); on the East Side Count -- 369 -- second-highest number in thirty-one years (fide Scheibe).

Singing by the Cardinal was heard in late January (Kitson) and Meadowlarks were first reported (Johnson) but it was mid-February before other signs of spring were apparent. Then, the Song Sparrow and Towhee were in full song and sizeable flocks of Robins appeared. On February 26 a limited migration, moving in an easterly direction, was observed along the lakefront. “Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles comprised the bulk of the flights, several containing 200 to 300 birds; a few Robins and Killdeer tagged along. Despite a strong wind on the morning of the 27th, small bands moved east at Lakewood Park; Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles were joined by Crows and a few Meadowlarks” (Stasko).

Christmas Count 1970. The Kirtland Bird Club conducted its thirty-first annual East Side Count on December 26, tallying 82 species -- 46,842 individuals. A record-breaking count was set for ten species: Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, American Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Killdeer, Common Crow, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and tying the record for Pied-billed Grebe (fide Scheibe).

Addendum (Autumn 1970):

Yearly Total. The total number of species for the year from December 1, 1969 to November 30, 1970, should be reported as 242 species and the hybrid Brewster’s Warbler. The change is due to the addition of the Violet-green Swallow as a new species for the region and the occurrence of the Long-eared Owl.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - (1) One at Lorain Municipal Pier on December 12 and 26 (Ward). (2) Two observed at rest, as well as on the wing, at Gordon Park on December 19; another in the same area on the 20th and 26th (Klamm).

Black-crowned Night Heron - One, perched on a log inside the breakwall at Lorain harbor on January 7 and 12 (Ward et al).

Brant - (1) An immature, discovered as it fed with ducks on the dike at Baldwin Reservoir on December 5, remaining until the 21st (Peskin et al). (2) A well-marked adult fed with Canada Geese and Mallards at Sunset Pond, North Chagrin Reservation at mid-day on January 20 (Scott et al). These are only the second winter records in the region.

Snow Goose - One fed with the Canada Geese at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, on December 3 (Bole, Jr.). This is the first December record.

King Eider - A female was sighted at Edgewater Park at daybreak on December 27 and observed for the following one and one-half hours. At first it was about 300 yards distant but later moved in to about 100 yards (Ward et al).

Surf Scoter - One at White City on December 26 and one at Gordon Park on January 1 (Klamm); either females or birds in immature plumage.

Common Scoter - Reported on various dates from December 5 to January 10 from Lakewood Park, Perkins Beach, White City, and Gordon Park; all were single individuals except for two birds present on December 3 (Klamm).

Turkey Vulture - (1) Two were observed near Brunswick as they circled high in the sky on February 27 (Mandle); (2) at Akron two were sighted at 4:45 PM of the same day as they soared high over a wooded area near the Seiberling Nature Center (Szabo). Not since 1959 have they been reported on such an early date.

Goshawk - One was observed on December 27 at Mogadore Reservoir in Portage County as it perched on a dead tree in a clearing surrounded by a dense stand of coniferous trees that line the shore. When approached the bird almost immediately sounded a cry of alarm and left its perch, but not before the prominent white stripe over the eye and the dark gray back were well seen. Several years previously another adult Goshawk was seen in the same area (Capanna).

Bald Eagle - One, in mature plumage, was present in Waite Hill for more than 15 minutes on December 18. When sighted it was perched on a low limb of a willow tree at the edge of Sherwin Pond and had created a commotion among the Canada Geese on the pond. It then flew across the pond and landed in another willow for a brief time before flying low into a nearby wooded area (Sherwin).

Pigeon Hawk - One was observed on December 7 near the Cleveland Illuminating plant as it hovered about 30 feet in the air and quite near the highway (Skaggs).

Glaucous Gull - (1) An adult was studied for 20 minutes as it rested at Harmon's Beach, Lorain on December 12 (Ward); on January 11 one was seen at Lorain Municipal Pier (Dolbear). (2) One, in second-year plumage, was present at Municipal Light plant on December 19; another remained at Gordon Park through February 14 and 15 (Klamm and Scheibe).

Iceland Gull - (1) Two immature birds were viewed at Lorain harbor on January 30 as they remained in close company (Stasko). (2) On February 21 one was seen at Gordon Park (Klamm).

Franklin's Gull - Two separate birds were observed on December

13 -- one at Municipal Light plant and the other at East 55th Street -- both second-year birds (Klamm).

Little Gull - An immature was present at Gordon Park on December 23 (Surman, Jr.).

Black-legged Kittiwake - An immature was studied for 15 minutes as it perched on a piling at Lorain harbor on January 3; on the 12th a bird with the same markings was observed in the same area (Ward).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - (1) A male was present at a Willoughby Hills residence on December 25 and again on January 1, at which time it fed on suet (Skaggs); (2) on February 28 one was observed at Brecksville Metropolitan Park (Knight).

Catbird - One fed actively in low growth bordering one of the Sherwin Ponds in Waite Hill on December 18 (Flanigan). One was observed in the thickets near Mogadore Reservoir, Portage County on December 27 (fide Szabo).

Brown Thrasher - On January 21 one was seen at Shaker and East Boulevard in Cleveland (Knight). A feeding station at a Euclid residence was visited by one on January 25 and 26 (Fiening). One remained at a feeder in Elyria through the winter (fide Ward).

Hermit Thrush - One that was found on the Cuyahoga Falls Count on December 27 (Prack) was observed from time to time during the winter as it fed in a ravine near running water (Szabo).

Northern Shrike - (1) On December 7 at Waite Hill and January 25 at Willoughby Hills one was caught in bird-banding traps (Flanigan and Skaggs). See the Field Notes section for the account. (2) Another, an immature, was seen in Willoughby Hills on February 21 (Skaggs). (3) One attempted to snatch a House Sparrow from underneath a feeder at a Strongsville residence on January 1. Upon failing, it perched just outside a window making a close scrutiny possible (Hocevar).

Shrike (sp.?) - On January 3 one sang in a frozen, swampy, area in Orange Village -- species not determined (Raynes). On February 15 one was viewed at Akron as it flew across ahead of a car and perched but identification was not positive (Ulrich).

Rusty Blackbird - (1) On January 1 a feeding station near Chardon was visited by one (Ramisch); (2) two appeared February 20 at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, and were still present at the end of the period (Bole, Jr.).

House Finch - Two males fed on crabapples in the orchard near Thayer Center at Holden Arboretum on January 10. They were at times with Purple Finches or near them; another was seen at the same location on February 8 (Hammond).

Savannah Sparrow - (1) A weedy area of the floodplain along the Black River at Lorain was frequented by one on December 26 (Charles Glasgow vide Johnson). (2) A feeding station at an Akron residence was visited by one on February 20 (Ulrich).

Oregon Junco (pink-sided race) - (1) One, and on two occasions two birds, were observed at a Mentor residence on five dates between December 1 and February 8; also, one was seen at Holden Arboretum on February 8 (Hammond). (2) A well-marked individual was recorded on five dates between December 5 and January 5 at a residence bordering North Chagrin Reservation (Scheibe). (3) From December 6 to January 30 one was an almost daily visitor at a Strongsville feeder (Hocevar).

FIELD NOTES

A Small Goose (species?). Sherwin's Pond, near Willoughby, is a favorite stopping place for Canada Geese. A small number nest and they are seen on the pond every month in the year. In both spring and fall the migrating flocks congregate and linger so it is not unusual to have from 200 to as many as 1500 geese present, feeding in the adjacent sheep pasture, as well as on the pond.

On December 19 attention was drawn to a group of five geese not more than 75 feet from the road. Four were fine, large birds but the fifth was much smaller, estimated to be about two-thirds the size of the other geese. It had the white cheek patch and did not appear to be any different in coloration from the larger geese.

There are several medium sized subspecies, formerly called "lesser Canada Goose" and it is impossible to be sure just which subspecies it was without having the bird in hand and compare it with authentically identified museum specimens. However in correspondence, both Mr. W. E. Godfrey of the National Museum of Canada and Dr. J. W. Aldrich of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Division of Wildlife Research, suggest we may have seen an Athabaska Canada Goose (Branta canadensis parvipes or B. c. taverni) The former, breeding westward from Hudson Bay, is the more likely, as the other breeds in the far northwest. In any event, a small goose was present that was different from the others. - MERIT and MARION Skaggs

Cooper's Hawk Displays Composure. A Cooper's Hawk, unperturbed by passing automobile traffic, pedestrians at close proximity, or a stalking photographer, fed upon a male Cardinal for more than half-an-hour on the morning of January 23. The hawk remained on the ground beneath the sheltering branches of a pine tree on the front lawn of a residence in Mentor during the entire time of observation. A. C. Bent reports in Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey that the Cooper's Hawk is "bold to the presence of man", which was substantiated by this individual. Not until approached boldly to within 25 feet did the

hawk take flight, when, after grabbing up the remains of the Cardinal, it departed. - WAYNE and HILDA HAMMOND

Another Cooper's Hawk Dines. A Cooper's Hawk was observed on February 14 at the Seiberling Nature Center in Summit County, as it carefully plucked a Starling before consuming it. This hawk, as the one in the previous report, was on the ground and under the shelter of an overhanging bush, where it remained until the Starling was consumed. - BERT SZABO

Sparrow Hawk Preys on Cardinal. I was alerted on January 28 by unusual behavior from the birds in the feeding area at my home in Chagrin Falls - none were in sight on the ground but were clustered in the trees. I scanned the trees and was able to count 60 Mourning Doves (48 in one tree) and then, perched at the top of a dead tree stub about 40 feet away, I found the answer. It was a male Sparrow Hawk that was feeding on something held in its talons. A male Cardinal began to buzz the hawk. After several passes by the Cardinal the hawk flew off, dropping his prey. Upon investigation, I found it to be a female Cardinal. - MARJORIE S. ENGLISH

More Grounded American Coots. The November 23 snowstorm, which was particularly violent in Kirtland Bills, stranded three Coots at Hanging Rock Farm. They were found floundering in the deep snow and taken into the shop hospital where they were cared for and released December 3. They chose to remain until December 23, when they were last seen. When liberated they ate at the goose-feeders for several days, partaking of chicken feed mix and whole corn. - B. P. BOLE, JR. [This is an addition to the six records of such coot groundings described in the Autumn issue of the CALENDAR. - Ed.]

Mourning Doves Unable to Survive Winter Blizzards. A band of 15 to 20 Mourning Doves endeavored to winter at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills, with tragic results. One was found floundering in the snow on November 23 during a severe storm. As it was very weak it was placed in a pen with a Black-Red Brahma rooster, to recuperate. Later the dove was found dead - spur wounds through its head - killed by the rooster.

The blasts of January and February brought below zero temperatures, winds of 65 to 75 miles per hour, 52 inches of snow in January and 41 inches in February, and snowdrifts that reached ten feet in depth. This proved unendurable for the Mourning Doves. On the morning of February 1, with the thermometer registering 8 degrees below zero, six doves were found that had perished in the snow - three more were found the following day. Scattered deaths had also occurred during earlier cold waves. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

A Shrike Saga. When I glanced into the 3-cell Potter type banding trap at 4:30 PM on December 7, I thought I had trapped the Mockingbird which had daily frequented the grounds of my home in Waite Hill since October 18 -- a second look disclosed it to be a shrike. Study with binoculars identified it as a Northern Shrike and revealed the presence of a second bird in the same cell. The shrike was striking this smaller bird repeatedly with its bill with a stabbing motion. When the shrike was removed and held in my hands to be banded, it struggled and was angry, uttering clacking and crackling calls the entire time, but made no attempt to bite. When banded (702-27606) and released, the bird continued to call as it perched on a limb only 15 feet away and preened its ruffled feathers. The small bird which had been attacked was a White-throated Sparrow -- it was dead. What had transpired in order for these two birds to be in a single cell of the trap at the same time is indeed puzzling, since it must have been a simultaneous entry due to the manner in which the trap operates. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Here is the sequel:

Shortly after noon on January 25, I looked out to see an American Goldfinch in one section of a 2-cell Potter type banding trap. The trap was resting on a flat-top garden seat about two feet above the ground at my Willoughby Hills home, and to my horror I saw that something was pecking at the imprisoned bird from the far side of the trap -- it was a Northern Shrike! Although I went out at once it was not soon enough to save the goldfinch -- it was dead. The shrike flew to a perch two feet from the ground and about 30 feet away and watched for a moment before flying off. Since the goldfinch was dead, I wondered if I could trap the shrike, using the dead bird as a lure. I set the trap and returned to the house. In less than two minutes the shrike returned and entered the trap. Using gloves, I removed the bird and took it into the house, intending to band, this, my first shrike in 30 years of banding. Examination revealed it was already wearing a band. You have probably guessed ---the band was 702-27606 -- the same one applied by Annette Flanigan who lives less than a mile away. After photographing the bird, I held it in one hand and offered the dead goldfinch with the other hand. The shrike seized the dead goldfinch and when I quickly relaxed my hold, flew away with its victim. MERIT B. SKAGGS

Another Shrike in Willoughby Hills. On February 21 a Northern Shrike was observed in the process of killing a goldfinch -- by standing on its victim and pecking savagely at its throat. After several blows, the shrike grasped the goldfinch in its bill and flew off. About 15 minutes later the shrike was spotted again, this time at the top of a very tall tree overlooking the feeding station, so it was decided to drive the bird away. As the shrike was approached it became apparent that it was singing a subdued song -- not unlike that of a robin. The song

continued for some minutes and in the intervening time the shrike even mimicked some whistled calls that were made to gain its attention. In another five minutes the shrike flew off. This bird was much darker than the visitor of January 25, with some brownish feathers.

According to A. C. Bent in Life Histories of North American Wagtails Shrikes Vireos and Their Allies, this species undergoes a partial molt in March or April, during which the young of the previous year lose the brownish areas that distinguish them from the adults in the fall. When shrikes enter a bird-bander's trap, they kill all the birds in the trap before starting to eat one or even to find a way to escape. - MARION and MERIT SKAGGS

Addendum (Autumn 1970):

Long-eared Owl in the Chicken House. A concrete-block and timber chicken house containing eight compartments in which chickens are raised for genetic research, is located on the grounds of a residence on Sperry Road in Mentor. Over the years many chickens have been lost to owls and to other predators -- including the Long-eared Owl. During the big snow of November 23, 1970, however, a "switch" took place -- it came about in the following manner. The central compartment, or "alley", of the chicken house opens by a large sliding door and is home to Freddy, an Easter chick that grew into a White Leghorn cock that had become too obstreperous to be kept at his former home. Indeed, he had formed the habit of attacking the mailman and milkman there to such an extent that deliveries were curtailed at five or six houses which he regarded as his territory. This compartment door was not locked at the usual time on this blizzardy day, and when approached at a much later time it was discovered that a Long-eared Owl had entered the "alley". The owl panicked, and in taking off stunned itself against the hard wire of one of the compartments, falling prone on the concrete floor. When the owl managed to stand upright it was promptly assaulted by Freddy. The owl, apparently a female, held out its wings and crouched in the proper position for mating. When released by Freddy, the owl flew out the big door and into the blizzard, - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Announcement: AUDUBON FIELD NOTES has a new format, a new and more meaningful name -- AMERICAN BIRDS -- and is expanding its coverage to fill a niche, now largely unoccupied, between the increasingly technical journals such as AUK, CONDOR, WILSON BULLETIN, and the regional periodicals -- such as our own BIRD CALENDAR. They must expand their subscription list in order to improve and expand the magazine. If you are not now a regular subscriber -- examine the first issue for February 1971 -- it is a welcome addition to our list of bird magazines. AUDUBON magazine, which formerly featured birds, now emphasizes a realm far wider than bird study -- conservation and environment -- leaving a need for a continent-wide journal for the serious bird student and hobbyist bird-watcher alike.