



CLEVELAND REGION

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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

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THE WEATHER

- March - The first 16 days were unusually warm and springlike, averaging 20 degrees above normal. But the weather turned adverse with heavy snows falling on the 17th and 18th. The 8.5-inch snow accumulation provided ground cover for better than seven days, and a warming trend continued in the last seven days. Overall, the month averaged out 11.1 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation on 13 days provided 3.48 inches of water and was 0.35 inches in excess. Lake Erie was open all month, but extensive residual shore ice and ice fields lingered through the 11th.
- April - Temperatures averaged out 3.2 degrees warmer than normal for the month with cooler than normal days being scattered during the first 11 days and again from the 24th to the 29th. Precipitation totaled 3.40 inches and was only 0.01 inches in deficit. Snowfall was significant only on the 10th with rainfall well distributed on 15 days. Sunshine occurred 48 per cent of the time possible, and winds prevailed from southerly directions on 17 days.
- May - The month was cool, wet, and soggy with measurable precipitation falling on 23 days, accumulating to 4.89 inches and providing 1.47 inches in excess. Cooler than normal spells occurred in period from the 3rd to the 6th and from the 12th to the 24th, so that temperatures averaged out to 1.0 degrees below normal. Prevailing winds shifted frequently, and violent thundershowers caused local flooding fairly often.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The spring birding season in 1973 in the Cleveland Region was one of contrasts. Just as the weather shifted from one extreme to another, seemingly so did the bird population. Some of these fluctuations were evidently related directly to the weather, while others may have been associated with the food supply and other conditions. Some shifts cannot be easily related to any known factors.

Migration of the small passerines, commonly expected to peak in mid-May was split, presumably as a result of the weather. With much of April warm and sunny, a wide variety of birds moved in. One observer termed April 22 "the most exciting and memorable birding day for me of the entire spring" (Corbin). Another commented, "Up to about April 20, it looked as if the spring migrants were coming in early, but then the cold weather arrived" (Peskin). Coinciding with that cold weather in the last days of April and the chill rains of early May, the flycatchers, vireos, and warblers all but disappeared from the scene. Then two or more waves of migrants flooded in. A report from the Akron Metropolitan Parks stated, "Heavy migration took place during the day on May 11" (Szabo). Unfortunately, May 11 was a Friday, and most birders could not get into the field during the day. Contributors did have rather good success on the two succeeding days, however, even though the trees were far advanced in foliation.

The really big wave of passerines hit, though, during the week of May 20, when normally the main migration would have been past. A Lorain contributor recalled, "On May 23, 24, 25, and 26 there was the greatest concentration of migrating birds in my yard and trees that I have ever experienced." Included in that concentration were a Mockingbird, Worm-eating arid Prothonotary Warblers, a Blue Grosbeak, and a Lark Sparrow (Dolbear). Meanwhile, some 45 miles away an observer in Willoughby noted that May 25 "was quite a day in our yard" (Huey). Nearby in Waite Hill a bander reported that "waves began to move through the pine woods" on May 20 after morning rain ended at noon. The action there continued until May 23, with May 26 described as "the" day--"I was hard pressed to keep the nets clear of birds" (Flanigan). Mingled with the migrating flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and finches observed by these, and other contributors were a substantial number of birds which would have been expected to have departed earlier--Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, and Pine Siskins, among others.

Over-all, the season was marked by some species being reported with much more than the usual frequency and a few being quite scarce. Most of the more common varieties were

seen in what could be described as normal numbers, even though the observations might have occurred somewhat earlier or later than in other years. Among those species which appeared to be more numerous than in recent years were the Barred Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Carolina Wren, as well as some which will be discussed individually in more detail elsewhere in these pages. Notably absent were the Common Redpoll, unreported since April 1972, and the Vesper Sparrow, reported on only three dates in April--a total of eight birds.

Great Blue Herons Nesting. A few herons were reported to have arrived at the Heath Road rookery on March 7 and many more a week later. By the 22nd the population was up to 24. A total of 50 were counted on April 5, with "one standing on almost every nest." The observer was unable to determine if the birds were incubating yet, though (Carrothers).

Mentor Marsh Hosts Common Egrets, Least Bitterns. As many as five and possibly seven Common Egrets were observed in the Mentor Marsh intermittently from early April until May 16. First identification was made from a private residence overlooking the marina at the western end of the marsh on April 13. Five birds, at least part of them in breeding plumage, were feeding at the edge of the waterway in early evening before going to roost in a fallen tree. The homeowner said he had been "noticing them for four or five days" (Ed Chimney, *fide* Hammond). From two to five egrets were sighted, usually in the eastern part of the marsh, during the next month. Seven were reported by the Blackbrook spring bird walk on May 13 (Newhous). The birds were last seen roosting near the south end of Shipman Pond on the evening of May 16; three were definitely in breeding plumage at that time (Hammond). During the spring Common Egrets were also seen at Holden Arboretum (Bole), Lorain (Ward, Dolbear), and Sherwin Pond (Flanigan).

Also found in Mentor Marsh in somewhat greater numbers than usual were Least Bitterns. A total of four were flushed from the cattails along the south edge in the Becker Avenue-Wilson Drive area in the morning of May 13 (Hammond). A total of seven were scared up from the same section on five later dates to May 27 (Hammond, Szabo). Only four Least Bitterns had been reported to the BIRD CALENDAR during the previous three years.

Waterfowl Migration Routine. "Not outstanding" was the laconic summary one observer gave of the spring waterfowl migration (Klamm). Dominated as usual by Red-breasted Mergansers, the migration appeared to consist of three main movements. During the first ten days of March the most common species were Canvasbacks, Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads. On March 24 and 25 various observers from Lorain to Fairport

Harbor reported flights of Red-breasted Mergansers moving eastward. Total numbers counted on each of the two days were 2,000 or more. The third wave was in early April. A report from Lorain stated, "on April 9 -there were probably many thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers flying in from the west" (Dolbear).

Individuals or small groups of both dabblers and diving ducks were seen in the region well past their customary departure time. Also reported were some of the sea ducks normally seen here only as winter visitors. These included all three scoters, an Oldsquaw, and a Harlequin. Details of these sightings are in the Noteworthy Records section.

Hawk Migration in April. Although sightings of most species of hawks were at or below the normal level, three sizeable migration flight periods were noted by correspondents. On April 1 there was a movement of 33 Turkey Vultures and 7 Sharp-shinned, 18 Red-tailed, and 5 Broad-winged Hawks, as well as an immature Bald Eagle and 20 other hawks of various species, observed at Elmwood Park in Rocky River (Stasko, Surman). At the same location on April 15 one observer counted 13 Turkey Vultures, 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 13 Red-tailed Hawks, and 6 other hawks (Stasko).

Heaviest flights seen were on April 30. In 45 minutes at Perkins Beach an observer counted 400 Broad-winged Hawks, with "about 150 overhead at one time." There was "a pretty good" south wind at the time, and the birds, going from west to east, "seemed to go inland a little" (Shaper). On the same date another 200 Broad-wings, 6 Sharp-shinned, and an Osprey were seen at Elmwood Park (Stasko).

An easterly movement of 3 Turkey Vultures, 6 Red-tailed Hawks, 7 Red-shouldered Hawks, a Marsh Hawk, and a few unidentified buteos was seen along the north side of Mentor Marsh on the rather late date of May 27. By estimating the distance from the point of observation, it was concluded that they were close to the lake shoreline (Hammond).

The table at the top of Page 6 gives a summary of observations of hawks on seven significant dates of the spring. Daily tallies shown are the totals reported by all contributors for the date. The only other date during the season when the hawk total compared with these was May 1, when 72 Broad-wings were counted at Elmwood Park (Stasko). The last column shows totals of the named species reported during the entire three months. It can be readily seen that nearly all specimens reported of some species were on these few dates. Principal exceptions are the Red-shouldered and Sparrow Hawks. Omitted from the summary is an eagle seen April 22 at Holden Arboretum but not positively identified as to species.

Species	Date							Total
	3/30	4/1	4/8	4/15	4/21	4/30	5/27	
Turkey Vulture	31	36	45	24	0	0	5	216
Sharp-sh. Hawk	0	7	0	37	1	6	0	59
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	13
Red-tailed Hawk	2	20	1	22	1	2	9	83
Red-sh. Hawk	0	3	1	6	2	0	7	54
Broad-w. Hawk	0	5	0	0	47	600	2	753
Marsh Hawk	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	9
Osprey	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
Sparrow Hawk	1	8	4	5	1	0	0	50
Total	34	95	51	102	55	611	251	258^a

^aIncludes Bald Eagle, 5 accipiters, 6 buteos, and 2 not classified.

Shorebird Observations Turn up Rarities. “Shorebird migration was weak,” according to one contributor who “made numerous trips down to White City,” a familiar haunt of shorebirds (Hannikman). Nevertheless, those shorebirds that were identified were in several instances uncommon to rare species for spring migration in the Cleveland Region. At White City were Black-bellied Plovers, a White-rumped Sandpiper, and Wilson’s Phalaropes. Headlands State Park had Dowitchers, Willets, and Sanderlings. Ruddy Turnstones were present at both locations. Details of these are in the Noteworthy Records section.

Terns Not Common. One lakefront veteran reported, “Terns were in poor evidence” (Klamm). Most flocks of Caspian Terns observed were at Lorain during the last 10 days of April. The only flock of Common Terns (11 birds) was there also, May 4; the contributor mentioned that the “usual roosting pier was mostly submerged” (Ward). Only report of Black Terns was at Lake LaDue on May 18 (Kitson).

Common Nighthawks Return Late. A Kent State University contributor reported, “The Common Nighthawk returned to the campus May 15,...which is the latest previous date” (Dexter). He noted that they usually return between May 1 and 15. Actually, except for a lone migrant at Upper Shaker Lake on May 6 (see Field Notes section) the arrival at Kent was earlier than at any other observation point in the region. In Birds of the Cleveland Region A. B. Williams states that They are “generally present in some numbers after about May 7.” This year, though, most contributors did not see any until May 23 or later.

Woodpeckers Inconsistent. Yellow-shafted Flickers started arriving early this spring, with scattered reports throughout March. (Average date of earliest arrival is March 16, according to A.B. Williams;) At the other extreme, the first Red-headed Woodpecker, expected by March 26, was not seen until April 18, and only single specimens were seen until the 29th. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a little slow in arriving, only one being reported before April 1. But one female stayed in Kuhlman Woods, near East 140th Street, until May 31 (Hannikman), equaling the latest spring date on record. It should be added that the total sightings of all three species this spring compared favorably with the past three years.

A Pileated Woodpecker was observed feeding young at its nest tree, "clearly visible to our group" of bird walk leaders on the Towpath Trail near Ohio Route 82 on May 27 (Stasko). A pair also was reported from Kirtland Hills with enough regularity during the season to suggest that they, too, were nesting. (Daniels).

Flycatchers Peak in Late May. Phoebes seemed more plentiful than usual, particularly in April. However, other species of flycatchers were, as one observer put it, "generally laggards" (Klamm). Only three Eastern Kingbirds, a like number of Great Crested Flycatchers, and two Eastern Wood Pewees were recorded before May 11. But two of the Crested Flycatchers were singing in early April, two weeks before the earliest previous record of occurrence in the region. (See Noteworthy Records.) Empidonax flycatchers, too, were quite scarce in early May. All of these species, though, made up for their tardiness during the last eight days of the spring season. At Lorain one observer counted 75 Eastern Kingbirds on May 23 and double that number on May 25, feasting on the swarms of midges (Dolbear). On May 27 a total of 20 Wood Pewees were reported by five contributors and 16 Crested Flycatchers by the same number of birders.

Swallows Follow Shoreline. Most significant swallow migration occurred over the edge of Lake Erie at Lorain on May 2. "They flew from east to west practically all morning. I estimated from 750 to 1,000 each half hour. Among them were Purple Martins and Bank, Barn, Rough-winged, and Tree [Tree] Swallows" (Dolbear). At the opposite end of the district, mixed flights of swallows in substantial numbers were observed traveling eastward at Headlands State Park on May 6 and 13 (Hammond).. At least seven Cliff Swallows were seen during. May, including no less than three in the company of other swallows at Lower Shaker Lake, May 20 (Peskin, Corbin).

Brown Creepers and Long-billed Marsh Wrens Nesting? Indications are that two species not generally found here in the breeding season are both nesting in the region this year.

Brown Creepers, which were reported from many localities throughout May, were heard singing in the Heath Road area in March and April (Carrothers). The Hinckley Reservation spring bird walk reported this species there on six successive Sundays, four birds being counted on May 13 and 20 (fide Wallin). On May 27 two were observed singing near the Towpath Trail near Ohio Route 82. (Stasko,

A Long-billed Marsh Wren was singing in a clump of dry pampas grass amid cattails in Mentor Marsh on the record early date of March 25. (See Noteworthy Records.) One or more were observed in the same approximate location by the Sewer Line Trail on several dates thereafter (Hammond, Szabo). More recently they have been heard in the vicinity of Becker Pond in the marsh. Few Long-billed Marsh Wrens have been reported here in recent years even in migration.

Cedar Waxwings Finally Wander In. Those gypsies of the local bird scene, Cedar Waxwings, were unaccountably scarce from early March until late April, only occasional lone birds or small bands being seen. One Lakewood writer remarked, "There was a noticeable absence . . . in our area, all of March and April. Then they appeared in good numbers in the last ten days of May" (Stasko). As many as 100 were seen in Lorain during that period, where they joined the Kingbirds and thrushes in feeding on the hordes of midges. "For several days the air seemed filled with both Kingbirds and Cedar Waxwings The tops of the trees all thru the neighborhood were full of both species" (Dolbear).

Warbler Migration Surprises. Nowhere was the spring pattern of unusually early sightings in April, followed by a slack period in early May, and then an explosive influx in late May more evident than in the warbler migration. In spite of dense foliage when the birds were most numerous, the total number of species identified--35 plus the hybrid Brewster's--is as great as in any recent spring. Likewise, the total number of birds compared favorably with the immediately preceding years, even though delayed migration is generally regarded as meaning that many will pass through to their nesting grounds without stopping. Comments from the contributors tell the story:

From Lorain--"Warblers seemed to start early, level off low, and peak spectacularly the week ending May 26. I think early heat started leaves early, which continued; but cool weather was unfavorable to insects. So song bird migration was slower than foliation. Case in point: practically no mosquitoes in woods during May. Usually they hit about mid-May" (Ward) .

From Shaker Lakes--"We were certain that the migration would be early this spring and taper off about the 15th of

May. An unusually early wave of warblers was present at Shaker Lakes on the April 22nd Sunday morning bird walk During the first ten days-of May, when one normally expects a gradual buildup of both numbers and species of warblers? birders were dismayed to find only four or five species of warblers in the Shaker Lakes area a day, and on a few days we were lucky to find four or five warblers--period.... The peak dates at Shaker Lakes were the 19th and 20th of May” (Corbin).

From the eastern section--“In general warblers were one to two weeks late and in limited numbers except for Myrtles in North Chagrin and Yellows at Mentor Marsh” (Kitson). That appraisal was disputed from the central area--“Canada, Wilson’s, and Cape May Warblers seemed to be in great abundance” (Peskin). Also from Shaker Lakes--“Warblers heavy and varied April 22, then only early warblers until May 13. Canada and Wilson’s not seen until May 19” (Rickard). From the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center--“Heavy migration took place during the day on May 11” (Szabo). From the Cleveland East Side--“Heaviest, warbler migration between the 20th and 28th of May” Hannikman), From the western suburbs--“Warbler movement in Rocky River Reservation was quite steady from May 13 until the end of the month” (Siebert).

Two contributors who have made a daily survey in May during several recent years on their 10-acre plot near Painesville saw during the first eight days of May only a single Redstart, as compared. to four to 15 varieties in past years. May 9-16 they saw fewer varieties than in any previous year except 1968, For the next eight days they saw more than usual, and in the final week of the month they saw double the number seen in the past. Eight species were seen on May 31 (Newhouse).

Blackbirds Migrate East and West. Amid the enthusiasm for more attractive songbirds in the spring, many birders tend to ignore blackbird migrations as merely a raucous commonplace. Several significant flights were reported this spring, though, and they again illustrate that some blackbirds and their traveling companions migrate easterly along the lakeshore, while others proceed in the opposite direction. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles “arrived in large numbers” at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center on March 2 (Szabo). The following day west-to-east movements were observed near Lake Erie; these became “very heavy” on March 15 (Klamm). Early on March 6 “many groups of Red-winged Blackbirds and of Common Grackles, as well as numerous Starlings, were migrating almost due east just south of the ridgeline of the Portage Escarpment in Cleveland Heights.” The following morning bands of Common Grackles-- “from a few birds to as many as 150”--were following the same route “against a fierce south-southeast wind” (Newman).

Two months later, May 10, an east-to-west flight was noted on the lakefront at Lorain: "several thousands" of Red-winged Blackbirds, Starlings, Common Grackles, Robins, and others passed "in about two hours," ending "rather abruptly at 8 a.m." (Dolbear).

Ultimate route of another large mixed flock was not determined. For several evenings in mid-April they gathered at dusk to roost in the cattails and pampas grass in the western part of Mentor Marsh. On April 15 they numbered "several thousand," with Red-winged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds and Common Grackles in somewhat equal proportions. No estimate could be made of the total, as they streamed in from several directions, dived out of sight, and repeatedly took to the air on one pretext or another (Hammond). Later in April Red-winged Blackbirds predominated in the roosting population at the site.

Northern Finches Delay Departure. The northern finches, present in only modest numbers during the winter, appeared during the spring in small flocks at many locations. Evening Grosbeaks were present in fair-sized flocks well into May. They were "noted daily at various locations in the Chardon area, occasionally in concentrations of 100 or more birds, until May 15" (Spare). A group of 25 was still visiting a feeding station in the West Geauga area on the 9th (Kremm). Another numbered 30 at Lake Lucerne on May 2, with a female lingering until at least June 1, a new latest date (Sheldon). Smaller numbers were seen at several other locations. Pine Grosbeaks, too, were present in early March and in April, and one flock was observed on May 14 (Spare--see Noteworthy Records). Pine Siskins were common and widely distributed until mid-May, a few remaining until the end of the season. There were several reports of Red Crossbills and one of White-winged; details of these are in the Noteworthy Records section. Common Redpolls were again unreported, though, just as in the winter period.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - An immature appeared at Lorain Harbor on March 21, following a severe snowstorm (Ward).

Glossy Ibis - Five were observed flying in straight-line formation at low altitude from east to west near the Lake Erie shoreline at Burke Lakefront Airport at 11 a.m. on May 14, a bright, sunny day. "Recognition was instant with their distinctive decurved bills and dark glossy plumage" (Klamm)

Green-winged Teal - A group of four in the company of Mallards were flushed from Becker Pond in Mentor Marsh on the unusually late date of May 27 (Hammond).

Shoveler - A pair was observed at Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery on May 21, the only spring record after early March (Baum).

Oldsquaw -, A male in winter plumage was in the lagoon at White City, March 21-25 (Carrothers, Hannikman, Klamm).

Harlequin Duck - A female was swimming alone in the outer harbor at Fairport Harbor on the afternoon of March 25, identification was made in part by the characteristic upturned tail, dark color except for white facial patches, and size in relation to nearby Horned Grebes (Hammond).

White-winged Scoter - Four or more individuals were present in Lorain Harbor in early March. They included a pair on March 1; two adults, March 2; two adult males, March 3; and an adult male and immature female, March 5 (Ward, Dolbear). Two birds, sex not reported were in the same area on April 9 (Dolbear).

Surf Scoter - Two immature females were in Lorain Harbor on March 2 (Ward).

Common Scoter - An adult was present at Lorain Harbor on March 1 (Ward).

Red-breasted Merganser - A female was observed on Lower Shaker Lake, May 20 (Peskin). Four birds were near Lorain Harbors May 23 (Dolbear). This species normally departs by late April.

Bald Eagle - An immature--"no white in the tail or on the head"--was in a migration of hawks which passed Elmwood Park in Rocky River, April 1 (Stasko, Surman). This is the first confirmed report of a Bald Eagle in the Cleveland Region in almost two years.

Sharp-tailed Grouse - A lone bird appeared along a driveway near a wooded area in West Geauga late in the afternoon of April 20, permitting unlimited observation from an automobile for several minutes as it poked about among leaves and weeds. "The Grouse was remarkably tame and did not fly or run off even though we drove our auto slowly by it" (Kremm). [This species has not been previously recorded in the Cleveland Region, and it normally does not range closer than northern Wisconsin and central Ontario. However, some subspecies are described in the AOU Checklist of North American Birds, Fifth Edition as partially migratory. Also, Louis W. Campbell states in Birds of Lucas County (1940) that the species had been introduced into Lucas County, Ohio, in 1939 with uncertain results. The evidence available does not suggest that the specimen reported here was either one that had escaped from confinement or been deliberately released after being pen-raised. The tameness, it should be noted,

does coincide with descriptions of wild birds in their normal habitat. Therefore, at this time the specimen is being accepted as representing - species of native birds new to the Cleveland Region.--ED]

Black-bellied Plover - Two birds, "one in perfect breeding plumage and the other like fall," were seen, May 17, at White City, the only report of this rare spring migrant in the region (Carrothers).

Willet - At Headlands State Park, May 6, a group of four were working along the shoreline during the morning, allowing observers to approach fairly close (Newhous, fide Hammond)

White-rumped Sandpiper - One in summer plumage was observed for 40 minutes at White City lagoon on the afternoon of May 9. After the bird was observed at rest by telescope, it was flushed in order that additional field marks (white rump, wing stripes) could be seen. It was also heard giving its migration call (Hannikman, fide Carrothers). This is the first report of this species in five years and the first May sighting since 1951.

Dowitcher - Rare in spring even in small numbers, a flock of 23 were seen feeding, May 13, in a muddy pool at the eastern end of Headlands State Park beach (Newhous, et al.).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - Three were observed at close range by several birders on the April 29 bird walk at Headlands State Park (Newhous, fide Strock,,...Maynard Allen). This marks a new earliest spring date for the species.

Sanderling - This rare spring migrant was seen at Headlands State Park on three successive Sundays in May. Each time the birds exhibited a mixture of winter and summer plumage. Five were along the shore on May 6, three on May 13, and six on May 20 (Newhous, fide Hammond).

Wilson's Phalarope - On the afternoon of May 26 a pair in spring plumage flew in toward White City from the northwest, circled the lagoon once, and headed west out over the lake (Hannikman). This is the fourth spring report of this species, all in late May, in the CBC records.

Glaucous Gull - A second-year bird was observed in flight with Herring Gulls at Lorain Harbor, March 11 (Hocevar).

Common Tern - One was observed along the Lake Erie shoreline near Lorain on April 3, the second earliest spring date on record here (Dolbear). Another sighting at the same location on April 9 was the only other April report received this spring.

Saw-whet Owl - One perched in a tree on the grounds of the General Electric Building at 1001 Lakeside Avenue, April 2-4. (A Cleveland newspaper published a picture of this specimen, April 4, but incorrectly identified it as a Barn Owl).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - A female frequented an apple tree in Kuhlman Woods, near East 140th Street, until at least May 31 (Hannikman). This species has been recorded on this late date only once previously in the Cleveland Region.

Great Crested Flycatcher - On April 1, a new earliest date, one was seen and heard singing on the top of a tree at the field office of the Sand Run Metropolitan Park, Akron. Two days later one was again heard singing in the same park (Don Prack, fide Szabo). The earliest previous record of the species-in-the Cleveland Region was April 17, 1938.

Winter Wren - Two observations in May suggest that this species might be nesting in the region. One bird was seen in Cleveland Heights on May 18 (Baum), and two were near the Towpath Trail near Ohio Route 82, May 27 (Stasko). These were the only reports of the species after April 30.

Short-billed Marsh Wren - One was singing at the edge of a pond in Lorain on April 15 (Dolbear). Although the Short-billed Marsh Wren is classed as an "uncommon migrant" by A. B. Williams, this is the first spring record in at least four years.

Mockingbird - Although one bird was heard and seen almost daily in Willoughby Hills in the general vicinity of nestings in the past few years, no proof has been established that nesting did take place this spring (Reutter). However, other individuals were sighted in at least four widely separated locations in the region during the season: near Aurora Sanctuary, April 17 (Szabo); Mentor Marsh near Headlands State Park, May 6 (Newhous); Mentor Marsh Sewer Line Trail, May 13 (Hammond); Lorain, May 25 (Dolbear); and Holden Arboretum, May 26 (Hammond).

Swainson's Thrush - In North Chagrin Reservation, April 15, two birds with "pronounced eye rings" were observed on a roadside bank "with the morning sun directly on them" (Kitson). Another was identified in the eastern part of Mentor Marsh on the, same sunny morning (Strock, fide Maynard Allen).

Gray-cheeked Thrush - Several experienced observers studied one at-rather close range in the eastern part of Mentor Marsh, April, 15 (Strock, fide Maynard Allen). Earliest recorded date for this species in the region is April 12, 1933; normally the first arrivals are not sighted until after May 1.

Loggerhead Shrike - One perched on a fence at Burke Lakefront Airport, May 1, where it was observed at close range for several minutes (Hocevar).

White-eyed Vireo - Six individuals of this normally rare migrant were seen in scattered locations in the eastern part of the region in late April and early May. Reports were from Horseshoe Lake and from Headlands State Park, April 22 (Corbin); Upper Shaker Lake, April 22 (Newman); under the Cuyahoga River bridge on Route 82, April 30 (Knight); Euclid City Park, May 3 (Corbin); and Kuhlman Woods, May 12 (Hannikman). In every instance the bird was in a wooded or brushy location near water, appeared to be feeding, and was reported as being silent during the observation period.

Worm-eating Warbler - During a massive warbler migration observed at Lorain, May 23, one was seen preening itself in a rain shower (Dolbear).

Brewster's Warbler - At French Creek Reservation near Elyria one was seen by several persons in the period from May 6 to 9. On May 7 it was about 20 feet up in a dead tree, singing the Golden-winged Warbler song (Ward, *fide* Johnson). Both Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers were also seen at French Creek during the same time period (Johnson).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - A lone male was seen at close range in the eastern end of Mentor Marsh on the busy April 22 morning (Hammond). This is the second earliest spring date on record. No others were reported this year until May 7.

Blackburnian Warbler - On the very early date of April 22, individual birds were observed at three separate locations: Lower Shaker Lake (Corbin), Warrensville Heights (Knight), and Rocky River (Stasko). Except for one on April 30, no other Blackburnians were reported until May 7.

Prairie Warbler - Two specimens of this rare migrant were found singing in the Rocky River Reservation, April 22, the first April record since 1961 (Don Altemus, *fide* Wallin). One was also feeding by the bridge opposite the Lower Shaker Lake sanctuary on May 13 (Corbin) and on May 14 (Knight).

Kentucky Warbler - On May 10 a singing male was observed in French Creek Reservation (Johnson, *fide* Ward). One was also reportedly seen and heard "a day or two later" in the same location (*fide* Ward). A singing male was first heard on May 13 on the University School campus, SOM Center Road, and was subsequently seen and heard, May 20 (Corbin), 21, 22, and 20 (Rickard). Two singing males had been identified in the same locality in 1972.

Brewer's Blackbird - Two males visited a feeding station near Lake Aquilla on May 22, 23, and 24. The birds were in the company of Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds at a distance of 12-15 feet (Toni Hamilton, fide Spare). This species has been recorded only seven times previously in the Cleveland Region, most recently in March, 1964.

Summer Tanager - On April 23 a lone male in full red plumage was encountered just inside the wooded area of the Mastick Picnic Grounds in Rocky River, where it fed at low level during much of the morning (Klamm). This is the third April report of Summer Tanagers.

Blue Grosbeak - A female was "studied for some time" at very close range on May 24 during the late May migration in Lorain (Dolbear, fide Ward).

Pine Grosbeak - A flock of 18, predominantly males, were feeding on the cones of a small scotch pine in Whitehaven Cemetery, April 17 (Carrothers). A single specimen was seen near Chardon, April 22, and a male and three females were observed in the same locality on May 14, more than two weeks later than the previous latest spring date (Spare). May 14 thus becomes the latest spring date of record.

Red Crossbill - After a winter which produced only a single report of six birds, Red Crossbills showed up with considerable frequency from mid-April on, more than half of the reports coming from the Chardon area. Peak day was May 27, when groups of 8, 10, and 6 were sighted (Spare). The only observation prior to April 14 was of two, apparently immatures, at Holden Arboretum on March 25 (Hammond). Reports from other sectors listed a lone male in the Mastick Picnic Area, April 15 (Klamm); a poorly-marked male at Lower Shaker Lake, April 2 (Peskin); a flock of 4 at the Aurora Sanctuary, April 30 (Szabo); 2 males and a female in Waite Hill, May 1 (Flanigan); and-3 in the Wildlife Management Area of Rocky River, May 12 (Klamm).

White-winged Crossbill - Three males and two females were observed feeding on cones in Oberlin on the rather late date of April 15 (D, Dufik, fide Ward).

Lark Sparrow - The face pattern was "very evident" on an individual which was sitting in a dying white birch in Lorain, May 23 (Dolbear).

Oregon Junco - A mature specimen was observed in Strongsville, March 17 (Hocevar).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow - Two representatives of this western race were trapped and banded in Waite Hill during May. The first was originally seen with two typical White-

crowns on May 4, was banded the following day, and remained in the area until the 7th. The second was caught on May 12 (Flanigan).

FIELD NOTES

Common Nighthawks Display Deviant Behavior. [ED. NOTE: In a season when Common Nighthawks were notably late in arriving, reports from two correspondents seem to deserve special attention.]

On May 20 about 5:30 p.m. a Common Nighthawk was flying over Horseshoe Lake acting exactly like the Purple Martins and Rough-winged Swallows there. It flew so low over the water that every now and then its wingtips touched. Incidentally, late as the date, this was the first nighthawk I had seen this spring.

- SIBYL LEACH

We commonly see migrating Common Nighthawks in late summer and early fall but rarely in the spring. Thus the lone bird which passed over Upper Shaker Lake at about 2:00 p.m. on May 6 was a noteworthy occurrence. It appeared out of the clear, cloudless north-west sky at a height of perhaps 500 feet, inscribed a large circle over the wooded area, then flew on a direct line toward the north-east, and did not reappear. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Possible Mallard/Black Duck Cross. At North Chagrin Reservation on May 22 a female Black Duck with four young was observed; a male Mallard was following her. I can't remember ever seeing young Black Ducks there before. I haven't seen them again, but I'm anxious to see their plumage change to see who their father was.

- VERA CARROTHERS

Monk Parakeet Residing Here. The Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*), an introduced species now wild and breeding in eastern portions of the country, is not known to have occurred in the Cleveland area before. It was reported to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Glenn Kitson) that such a specimen, though, had probably wintered here. From the directions provided, the bird was located at a home on West 191st near Puritas, where it often went to roost or frequented regularly. The bird was observed, studied, and documented on 16 mm movies on April 2.9 and May 6.

The initial features of recognition were provided by the distinctive morphology, which include the rather large head and parrot-shaped bill, long pointed tail, and general appearance in flight and landed movements or postures that were easily discernible. The bird was about 10-12 inches in length, generally green above and gray below. Except for the details of coloration, similarity with the three subspecies of Caribbean Parakeet occurring each on Curacao, Aruba,

and Bonaire (the only locations where such birds have been observed in the wild by these observers) is quite remarkable. The forehead is gray; cheeks, throat, and breast whitish gray to gray; crown, nape, back, and wings green; and tail darker to bluish green. Remiges were blue, steelblue, or black depending on the light. While the breast is clear, a horizontally barred appearance is evident at times from the manner of light ruffling of the feathers on the gray underparts. Flashes of yellowish coloration near the flanks and rear underparts were less evident and were dependent on feather exposure. Only the description provided in A Guide to the Birds of South America by Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee which fit very well was at hand on the initial observation, April 29. That description was further supported on the second observation, May 6, by the illustrations and text of the article by Wayne Trimm in The Conservationist June-July, 1972.

A brief conversation with a gentleman residing at the residence of interest reaffirmed the claim that the Monk Parakeet wintered there successfully and was evident to him regularly since last November. The bird was a regular customer at a feeder in the winter months. Portions of the house were in need of repair so that missing shingles here and there as well as damaged stucco provided entrances for House Sparrows and Starlings which were nesting in several available locations. These were of considerable interest to the Parakeet, who was too large to gain entrance but engaged in rearranging, removing, or poking any sticks, twigs, or grass exposed to its reach. House Sparrows remained a short distance away while the Parakeet was at an entrance.

The Parakeet was observed feeding on buds of shrubbery, and in a few instances it deftly pruned small branches or budding stalks and carried them to a wide ledge over some windows, where the buds were eaten off the pruned branch at will. Foraging excursions away from the house involved flights of considerable distance and removed the bird from view. On one occasion the bird was located on the ground feeding on dandelions.

Whether the bird originated from an expanding Eastern population or is a local escapee cannot be ascertained. Obviously, though, it is a feral bird, capable of survival in our region, - WILLIAM KLAMM

[Because of the uncertain origin of this specimen and the rather indefinite status of the bird, which has been establishing residence in the Northeast, it is not at this time being listed as a new species in the Cleveland Region. Conceivably, it could be so listed, however, if additional data are received. There is a more recent report of a pair in Painesville, - ED.]

Barred Owl at Mist Nets. The installation of mist nets at the back of our tract and their frequent coverage (about once each hour when the nets are open) led to glimpses of the habits of the resident Barred Owl. Almost daily during April and May the owl was heard making its call. There did not appear to be any favorite time--as early as 6:45 a.m. or at any hour throughout the daylight hours, as well as at night, when it would frequent the trees near the house.

On April 24 at 7:15 p.m. the Barred Owl and a fox squirrel had an encounter high in one of the trees bordering the pond. The owl made three unsuccessful passes at the squirrel and then perched on a limb nearby for a short time before giving up and flying off. As soon as the owl departed, the squirrel, which had been all hunched up into a small ball during the attack, scampered down the tree and disappeared.

On May 11 when I checked the nets at 4:15 p.m., I found the owl standing on the ground at the back net and feeding on a Common Grackle caught in a lower shelf of the net. At my appearance the owl flew into a wild cherry tree overhanging the net and perched on a limb about 12 feet from the ground. From there it watched as I removed and banded a Cardinal which had been caught also. I decided to leave the grackle in the net, as the owl appeared to be waiting to return and feed. On my next check I found the net empty with only a few small feathers marking the spot where the grackle had been. The net was only slightly damaged with three small holes that could easily be mended.

This owl became so accustomed to my presence that it began almost to ignore me and would resume its sleeping or searching the woodland floor or its other occupation of the moment. On May 12, in particular, it remained perched near me on a dead stub standing in a casual water pool in the woods. It seemed to be intent on studying the water below, but whether on the lookout for food or merely studying its own reflection in the water is not known. After a time the owl tilted its head backward until it rested against the tree stub and seemed to bask in the sunshine and then to rub its head against the rough bark of the stub. This action was repeated a number of times. It came time to check the nets, 10:45 a.m., and I had to leave. The owl had closed its eyes in the meantime and appeared to be sleeping and remained so as long as I could observe. It should be noted that along with this observation of the Barred Owl, never more than 30 feet away, I was also observing the passage of warblers in the surrounding trees and hawthorn shrubs, my primary objective.

On May 24 the owl was calling repeatedly' with half or partial calls interspersed with the regular call, as though

two or more birds were taking part. A difference in timbre could be detected. Perhaps the young birds were practicing. On the following morning the same vocalizations were heard.

- ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Gulls Attack Bird Over Lake. On April 15 five or six Ring-billed Gulls were observed attacking what appeared to be a Starling or Red-winged Blackbird some distance offshore at Headlands State Park about 10:15 a.m. Because of the distance and circumstances identity of the victim could not be determined. Much as Redwings harass a Crow, the gulls kept diving one at a time at the small bird, which was attempting to fly perhaps 30 feet above the lake surface. Finally it dropped or was knocked into the water. Then two or three of the gulls tried unsuccessfully to pick it up in their beaks. After that they all settled down on the water nearby and ignored it.

- WAYNE A. HAMMOND

Kentucky Warbler Tricks Observers. During the summer of 1972 Jim Shifflet observed two singing male Kentucky Warblers in a damp beech-maple woodland at University School. This spring a lone male returned, and Jim and I first heard the bird on the 13th and finally saw it about 7:30 p.m. on the 20th of May. This individual sings persistently from a branch about 20 to 30 feet from the ground and at intervals descends to the forest floor to feed. This warbler is adept at darting through the undergrowth and thoroughly outfoxing the birder, who one minute hears the song nearby and patiently waits for the Kentucky to appear, only to hear a minute later the bird singing some distance away.

- DAVID CORBIN

Addendum (Winter 1972-73):

Wood Thrush The specimen observed by Elmer S. Newman on December 14, 1972, should have been identified as a new latest date of occurrence,

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AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

The first step in the compilation of the BIRD CALENDAR is the transcribing onto master sheets of the species occurrence records submitted by contributors. For many years Adela Gaede, whose death at the age of 90 occurred on June 20, 1973, was one of a two-member team who performed this tedious but most necessary task. The dedication she displayed and the accuracy of her work gave confidence to the editor that he could rely upon the correctness of the transcribed records in preparing the content of each issue. Thus she played an important part in the production of almost 17 volumes of the BIRD CALENDAR. And these volumes, identifying her as "Editorial Assistant" on the title page, will be an enduring memorial to the little-known but invaluable service rendered by Adela Gaede in helping to enlarge our knowledge of the birds of the Cleveland Region.

- D. L. N.