



CLEVELAND REGION

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

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

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



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor
Wayne A. Hammond

Editorial Advisor
Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary
William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistants
Vera Carrothers

CONTRIBUTORS

William and Mary Baum
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Floyd Brickel
Vera Carrothers
David Corbin
Henrietta D. Crofts
Mildred Daniels
Ralph W. Dexter
Jean G. Eakin
Annette B. Flanigan
Wayne and Hilda Hammond
Ray Hannikman
Mary Huey
Perry F. Johnson
Glenn Kitson
William and Nancy Klamm
Charles H. Knight

Walter P. Kremm
Sibyl Leach
Carl and Mary Newhous
Donald L. Newman
Gretta Pallister
Perry K. Peskin
Bette S. Proudfoot
Marjorie Ramisch
Genevieve Reutter
Richard .Rickard
Joseph P. Schirmer
Marjorie Sheldon
Margaret H. Sherwin
Gordon Spare
Michael Stasko
Bert L. Szabo
Clinton E. Ward

* * *

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to:

Wayne A. Hammond
6256 Brooks Blvd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060

THE WEATHER

September -Sunshine was moderately abundant and prevailed during 64 per cent of the time possible. Temperatures, in turn, averaged 2.1 degrees warmer than normal. Measurable precipitation fell on eight days. However, 72 per cent of the total of 2.69 inches occurred in the three-day period from the 27th through the 29th, leaving a deficit of 0.21 inches for the month.

October - The month was generally warm and wet, with temperatures averaging 4.3 degrees above, normal. Sunshine prevailed during 50 per cent of the time possible. Precipitation, occurred on 11 days but rather poorly distributed. Except for The 13th, all rainy days were, in the first seven and last four days of the month. Precipitation totaled 3.95, though, and was in excess by 1.53 inches.

November -Temperatures above and below normal alternated during the first 17 days and were consistently above thereafter; thus the month averaged 3.4 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation fell on 14 days, well distributed, and totaled 2.62, which was approximately normal. Snow flurries on the 9th and 10th were the first of the season but did not provide persistent cover on the ground.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The fall season did not appear spectacular to many birders in the Cleveland Region and was even rather disappointing to some. Nevertheless, the composite of reports received revealed that it was a very good season locally. With mild weather prevailing through most of the autumn, a wide variety of birds drifted in quite early and lingered late. Species after species was reported in a somewhat even distribution throughout the full extent of its established migration season, instead of being heavily concentrated on a few days. From the end of August to mid-October and even on into November the flow, particularly of passerines, continued. In the process, new latest dates were recorded for no less than seven species, and several others were sighted long after their normal departure dates.

A few species, including some which are primarily summer residents here and others which are more likely to appear in large numbers only in a season of unfavorable weather, went contrary to the trend. September 1 marked the virtual end of the Common Nighthawk migration, and the last report of a Purple Martin was of a single bird near White City on September 3 (Hannikman). Whistling Swans were seldom seen except for a week in early November, while diving ducks were low in numbers throughout the period. On the other hand, most species of thrushes, vireos and warblers were present in greater numbers than usual and over a longer season. Mourning Doves, Hermit Thrushes, and Blackpoll Warblers were only three of the varieties that observers found in extraordinary numbers.

Migration Climaxes on September 30. Notable exception to the uniform distribution of observations during the fall was the single date of September 30. After three days of rain a cold front passed through, and the weather cleared around noon. Since this meteorological circumstance coincided with a Sunday, the birders were in position to take full advantage of it. The result was a remarkable combination of records of delayed September migrants and early October ones. Highest totals of the season were recorded for no less than 1.0 species. For some, such as the Golden-crowned Kinglet (early) and Wilson's Warbler (late), the day's total was only a small fraction of the reports for the season. However, the 102 Common Flickers were more than a third of all that were recorded during the period. Other species which were at their peak of numbers on this date were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, White-crowned Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. Concentrations of birds seemed to be particularly heavy in the Mentor Marsh-Fairport Harbor area, where one contributor tallied 73 species in the single day (Hammond).

Many Waterfowl Species Limited in Number. Observed flights of Whistling Swans were confined almost entirely to the period of November 2-10, although one flock of 60 was seen on Lake Rockwell, November 15 (Dexter). A total of 396 in several flights, which were more than half of all tabulated, were observed in Waite Hill on November 8 (Sherwin).

Canada Geese, evidently, encouraged to remain by food supplies and augmented by a multiplying resident population, appeared to be present in normal numbers, except for Mallards, which showed a reduction, all of the dabbling ducks were also reported in normal or above-normal quantities. Of course, the Mallard is by far the most common of the family, making the over-all picture somewhat less satisfactory. As for the other ducks, only the Ruddy was recorded in anything approaching expected numbers. Birders were inclined to blame the army of shotgunners along the lakefront for the decline. However, the unseasonably mild weather must be admitted as a probable contributor.

Hawk Outlook Favorable. Sightings of Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were well above recent years and were also well distributed throughout the season. Numerical tallies of Red-shouldered Hawks indicated that the population was about normal. Notes accompanying contributors's reports, though, suggested that the recorded counts may have been lower than total sightings. Several other raptors were sighted, including a Bald Eagle, two Peregrine Falcons, and a notable seven ospreys. (See Noteworthy Records section for details.)

Early Shorebird Population "Unbelievable." Early season shorebird populations were described as "unbelievable" by one regular observer of the White City area (Hannikman). In addition to significant numbers of the usual migrants, there were sightings of several species which are rare in the Cleveland Region, (See Noteworthy Records.) Ruddy Turnstones were especially numerous. Black-bellied Plovers were present in normal numbers but somewhat ahead of schedule. One was still at White City, though, on the unusually late date of November 7. Sanderlings, too, were numerous quite early in the season, being reported almost daily from late July to October 2. By contrast, Dunlins, which generally are most prevalent in mid-October, were observed more consistently in the first part of November. The one shorebird that seemed abnormally low in numbers was the Killdeer, which may have suffered from flooding of nesting sites in farmlands early in the summer.

Gulls Terns Deviate from Norm. Great Black-backed Gulls which are usually very rare and irregular before December, were present in Lorain Harbor fairly regularly throughout November, six being seen there as early as the 6th (Ward).

Even earlier, an adult was resting with Ring-billed and Herring Gulls outside Fairport Harbor on October 27 (Hammond).

Terns, on the other hand, generally migrated through in the early part of the season. Common Terns were scarce after September 9, except for a sudden influx in the period of September 21-23. However, a few stragglers showed up in November, one as late as the 18th at Lorain (Ward). Caspian Terns followed a similar pattern, with a falling-off of reports fairly early but a single specimen on November 4, a new latest date (see Noteworthy Records). Black Terns, which had been plentiful in August, virtually disappeared after September 11, except for two sightings of a total of five., birds late in the month. Then on October 23 a solitary vagrant appeared at White City (Hannikman).

Presumably, the Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls were following their normal fall schedule. However, the very magnitude of their numbers and the lack of year-to-year consistency in observation reports make comparisons unrealistic, if not totally meaningless.

Nighthawk Migration Is One-Night Show. Migration of Common Nighthawks, although it had begun in the last week of August, took on the appearance of a one-night circus on September 1. First report received was of perhaps 20 circling and feeding at varying [varying] altitudes in late morning on that date over the west bank of the Chagrin River in Willoughby (Pallister). That evening an observer at Forest Hill Park watched what he took to be "in-gathering birds rather than birds on migration" (Newman). A half-dozen contributors from Elyria to Mentor, though, reported flocks of considerable size on the same evening. Largest flight was seen on S.O.M. Center Road near Eastgate Shopping Center. "At least 100 could be seen hawking insects in front of the high-rise apartment" at 7:00 p.m. (Flanigan). "After reaching the eighth floor of the building, I stepped out on the balcony and could see. . . another group milling about at treetop level about two blocks north near Wilson Mills Road. . . There must have been hundreds of birds involved in the second group." Except for 57 the following evening in Lakewood (Klamm), only 18 Common Nighthawks were reported thereafter.

Hermit Thrushes Abundant. One of the more pleasant features of the fall migration was the presence of unusually large numbers of Hermit Thrushes, which moved through steadily from late September to the middle of November. Generally, their migration is confined to October, except for a few stragglers. The total was not only greater than in any recent year but actually surpassed by more than a third the total number of Swainson's Thrushes reported. The Swainson's, normally the most prevalent of the migrant thrushes, was present in only moderate numbers this fall. The compar-

itively uncommon Gray-cheeked, on the other hand, was up considerably over other recent years. Reported totals for the three were as follows: Hermit, 315; Swainson's, 231; Gray-cheeked, 70

Eastern Bluebirds, too, showed population gains, with successful nestings reported from near Chesterland (Spare) and the Holden Arboretum. Bluebirds were sighted rather consistently throughout the fall period. The Arboretum's "Project Bluebird" reported 92 chicks banded during the breeding season, well above the total for any of the previous eight years of the project (Eakin).

Vireo Migration Protracted. Vireos were another group which seemingly found little cause for hurrying away this fall. Observations of all species usually seen here were at or above the normal level, and new latest dates of occurrence were set for both the White-eyed and Warbling. In addition, notably late dates were recorded for the Solitary and Red-eyed. Details of these are in the Noteworthy Records section. The Philadelphia Vireo was reported with somewhat greater frequency than in recent years.

Warblers Plentiful in Late September. Reports, primarily from the eastern part of the region, indicated that migrant warblers were generally more numerous than in the immediately preceding years. Peak period appeared to be in the last ten days of September, rather than in the middle of the month as is frequently the case. Several species were unusually numerous, including the Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, and Palm Warblers and the Ovenbird. The uncommon Mourning Warbler was listed a remarkable 26 times in 19 report entries. Predictably, quite a number of laggards were seen. New latest dates were recorded for the Cerulean Warbler and American Redstart and notably late dates for the Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. (See Noteworthy Records.)

Fringillid Migration Routine. For the most part the migration of sparrows and other fringillids could be described as normal. The most notable feature was the duration: like most of the passerines, the sparrows began arriving rather early in the season and continued to be in evidence to as late as could reasonably be expected. For the Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows one might say unreasonably, as both were reported frequently throughout October. Tree Sparrows, by contrast, were sighted intermittently from the beginning of October, making an unusually long overlap of seasons between them and the Chippies. Most disturbing feature of the season was the fact that only a single Vesper Sparrow was recorded, September 12 in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman). The question immediately arises whether this ground-nesting bird may have been victimized by spring flooding.

Yearly Summary. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1, 1972, to November 30, 1973, a total of 257 species were recorded, higher than the average of the past several years and well above the previous year's total of 249. The increase was achieved despite the changes in the A.O.U. Check-list, which now lists the former Blue Goose and Snow Goose as one species-Snow Goose, and the former Slate-colored Junco and Pink-sided Junco as subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco. All four of these were claimed by contributors. (The Blue form of the Snow Goose was absent from the 1972 tabulation, but both juncos were in it.) In addition to the species tabulated this year, the hybrid Brewster's Warbler was reported. One species new to the Cleveland Region, the Spruce Grouse, was recorded. No reports were received of the Snowy Owl, Western Meadowlark, and Lapland Longspur. The Monk Parakeet was found in the region, but its status remains uncertain. Until specimens are determined to be the product of natural breeding, rather than escapes or local releases, it is unlikely to be recognized on the CBC list.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - A group of five were on Lake Rockwell, October 23 (Szabo). Only other fall reports of the species were of single birds (presumably the same one both days) at White City, October 11 and 12 (Hannikman).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Two immatures were on a pond in Waite Hill on September 1, 2, 5, and 7 (Flanigan). These were the same specimens as were reported in the summer issue of CBC for August 31; the location, though, was incorrectly given then as Sherwin Pond.

Surf Scoter - An immature bird was riding water and diving close to shore off Lakewood Park, November 4 (Klamm),

Black Scoter - Gale winds on November 1 left a large pool of water far back on the beach at Headlands State Park. The following afternoon, November 2, a female Black Scoter was on the sand but fled into the water when disturbed; there it swam in small circles while being observed by telescope for some 15 minutes (Newhouse). A lone male was riding and diving through heavy waves off Lakewood Park, November 10 (Klamm).

Bald Eagle - An adult bird was seen along Ohio Route 44 south of LaDue Reservoir on September 2 (Daniels).

Osprey - A total of seven specimens in five sightings covering a wide area were reported during the fall. A single bird was fishing at White City on September 18 (Hannikman). Two were at Lake Rockwell on October 2 (Szabo). Two days

later another was observed at the same location (Corbin). On October 7 one was seen over Bank Street, Painesville (Booth), A pair were reported at Columbia Station, November 10 (Grilles, fide Johnson).

Peregrine Falcon - Two sightings two weeks apart on the lakefront conceivably could be of one specimen. An immature appeared at Burke Lakefront Airport on September 30 and landed along the edge of the taxi strip, causing shorebirds, Horned Larks, and other birds to scatter. It stood erect and surveyed the area for some time, then took wing again and wandered out to the breakwall, where it settled until forced away by harassment from gulls (Klamm). On October 13 an immature was on the ground at the lagoon at White City amid pigeons; when disturbed, it flew off effortlessly into a very strong south wind (Hannikman).

Sora - On September 20 one was on a small island in the south pond in Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery (Carrothers). Although an uncommon resident which is likely to be present through September, the Sora is seldom reported here in the fall.

Golden Plover - Two were seen along with Black-bellied Plovers, a Dowitcher, and Dunlins at Burke Lakefront Airport on the very late date of November 3 (Klamm).

Wimbrel [Whimbrel] - At Burke Lakefront Airport on September 30 a lone bird was feeding in the grass area along the runway. It took wing and resettled close to the marginal drive when the Peregrine Falcon, mentioned above, entered the area (Klamm).

Red Knot - One or more in winter plumage lingered at White City through most of September. First report was of a lone bird on September 3; latest was also of a lone specimen on September 23 (Klamm, et al.). Highest count was of five on September 5 (Hannikman). All reports after September 7 were of single birds.

Purple Sandpiper - Two birds, approaching winter plumage, were on the rocks near the breakwall at White City on November 11 and frequently thereafter until the end of the report period (Kitson, et al.).

Dowitcher - One was associating with the Golden Plovers and other shorebirds, as previously noted, at Burke Lakefront Airport on November 3 (Klamm). This is only the second November record for the species in the Cleveland Region.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - At White City one fed in the mud-flat with 30 to 40 Ruddy Turnstones during the early afternoon of September 4 (Hannikman, fide Corbin).

Northern Phalarope - One changing to winter plumage, but

with a tinge of chestnut still on its neck, was feeding in the lagoon at White City on October 21. It was seen by many observers up to as late as 5:00 p.m. the following day (Corbin, Hannikman, et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger - An immature bird was first sighted, September 30, on Lake Rockwell and was observed many times to at least October 3. "When gulls were present, it would spend a great deal of time chasing them, but most of the time was spent on the water or on shore eating fish. Most observations were made as it rested or fed on a small island about 200 yards from Rockwell Dam on the south side of the reservoir." The over-all size was "as large as or larger than the Herring Gulls it chased." The legs were described as unusually wide apart and black; over-all color dark brown, almost black; breast buffy or light in color with chestnut or rufous streaks spread wide apart. The projecting tail-feathers, characteristic of the adult bird, were lacking (Szabo).

Laughing Gull - An immature, possibly the same specimen as around the lagoon at White City in early evening, September 10 (Hannikman).

Franklin's Gull - Seven sightings, a total of eight species, were reported. Single birds were at White City on September 11, 15, 19, and 20 (Hannikman, Klamm), while two were at Edgewater Park on September 16 and one on the 23rd (Klamm). A rather late one was on the beach at White City, November 24 (Klamm).

Forster's Tern - A solitary bird in fall plumage, suspected of being the same specimen each time, was at White City on September 6, 9, and 21 (Hannikman).

Caspian Tern - A new latest fall date for the species was recorded when one was seen along the lakefront near Burke Lakefront Airport on November 4 (Klamm).

Barn Owl - One alighted on the edge of the loading platform of the Postal Service Building (Parcel Post Annex) at the foot of West 9th Street about 8:00 p.m. on November 21. It was observed from a distance of about 30 feet under good lighting conditions for several minutes before it flew off in the direction of the Cleveland Stadium (Knight).

Eastern Kingbird - One seen in the Metropolitan Park area in Lakewood October 21, represented a new latest date (by some 12 days) for the species (Stasko).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - One banded on October 9 was recaptured on October 10 and again on October 17; the last date is a new latest date of record in fall here (Flanigan).

Mockingbird - Persistence of reports of this species indicate that it is either increasing in the area or that birders are becoming more conscious of it, perhaps both. Three observations were recorded during the fall, although two may have been of the same bird. On October 10 one was heard singing near Hanna Road, Willoughby Hills, near where Mockingbirds have nested in previous years (Reutter). On November 30 one was seen little more than a mile away on Strawberry Lane, Willoughby, where it was believed to have been for at least three days (Proud foot). Another specimen was present at a feeding station in Elyria, October 21 (Emlich, fide Johnson).

Northern Shrike - In the top of a maple sapling by the driveway of University School, Hunting Valley, a single bird was perched for several minutes, November 25, about 3:30 p.m. In spite of poor visibility, identification was made by the hooked bill, face mask, and faintly barred underparts (Rickard).

White-eyed Vireo - One mist-netted and banded in Waite Hill, November 15, marked a new latest fall date for the species (Flanigan). Two others were recorded earlier in the season in Lorain County, one at French Creek Reservation, September 12 (Johnson), and the other in Elyria, October 12 (Kellogg, fide Johnson).

Solitary Vireo - On November 3, only two days short of the latest fall date of record, one was netted and banded in Waite Hill; others were netted at the same location on October 26, 29, and 30 (Flanigan). In addition, one was seen at Headlands State Park (Hammond) and another in the Rocky River Reservation (Stasko) on October 28. Migration of the species is usually terminated here by about October 10.

Red-eyed Vireo - One was observed at Shaker Lakes on October 25 (Hannikman), and the following day another was mistnetted and banded in Waite Hill (Flanigan). Although the latest fall date on record for this species is November 25, 1931, any observation after early October is unusual.

Warbling Vireo - Another latest date of occurrence was recorded when a Warbling Vireo was mist-netted and banded, October 15, in Waite Hill (Flanigan). This species is normally the earliest vireo in the fall migration.

Nashville Warbler - A late-lingering individual was at South Chagrin Reservation, October 30 (Knight).

Northern Parula - On October 14 one was observed for about five minutes as it searched for food in the shrubbery along the shore of Horseshoe Lake (Knight). An uncommonly late date for the species, this was the only fall report of it.

Cerulean Warbler - A male in winter plumage (incomplete breast band) as foraging alone in a willow at Horseshoe Lake, October 7, a new latest fall date of occurrence for the species (Knight). This summer resident is seldom observed here after mid-September.

Ovenbird - One in Waite Hill on November 4, while not a new fall record for tardiness, was nevertheless nearly a month behind the usual close of migration (Klamm).

Common Yellowthroat - An immature specimen was hunting food Along the edge of the Coast Guard Station Road near Headlands State Park, November 25, in the company of Dark-eyed Juncos, Tree Sparrows, and Song Sparrows (Hammond).

American Redstart - A young bird remained around a residence in Kirtland Hills during the last ten days of November and into early December, regularly seeking small insects on the sunny side of the house. "It was still picking things off the wall one day when it was in the middle 20's and snowing" (Bole). The last known date it was observed was December 8, a new latest date of occurrence; the previous recognized late date was November 14, 1970.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - Not previously recorded in CBC during September and only twice outside of the period from April to June, this bird of the western prairie marshes was twice seen along the lakeshore in early September. First report was of a male at Headlands State Park in association with about ten other blackbirds on September 10 (Newhous). On September 13 a male, which from the markings was judged to be a first-year bird, perched in trees alongside the lagoon at White City about 8:15 a.m.; it then flew down among the rocks on the north side of the lagoon and fed in the company of a Black-bellied Plover and a Red Knot for about ten minutes (Hannikman, *vide* Elinor Elder). Both sightings may very well have been of the same specimen. The only other fall reports in CBC records are from Cleveland on August 21, 1936, and from North Chagrin, October 24, 1971.

FIELD NOTES

Red-shouldered Hawks Meet With Misfortune. [ED. NOTE: The following two reports, received separately, deserve to be considered together. Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey make no mention of raccoons in the highly varied diet of this fascinating buteo, although they are reported to eat carrion. They are described as making "good pets" .]

On November 9 the Red-shouldered Hawk was first spotted in a tree about ten yards beyond the border of our yard. It caught something, took it back to the tree branch, and ate

it. Then it moved to a limb directly above the feeder. The birds at first were quiet, but soon the titmice and chickadees returned to the feeders while the hawk was perched on the branch.

We have a raccoon which sleeps in a house in a white pine tree. Robby is free to come and go as he pleases, but at this moment he was sleeping with his rear end out of the house. Possibly the hawk thought he was dead; at any rate, it flew to Robby's tree and tried to grab his rump. We couldn't see what went on because the hawk covered the entire box, but the hawk flew off very quickly.

I went out to console Robby, and the hawk was still in its tree but then flew off to the neighbors' yard. When I went out again about 15 minutes later, the hawk flew back into the woods. We still see it frequently and think that it nests on the other side of the creek, for we see Red-shoulders daily during the summer. But it has never, to our knowledge, come back to our yard. And now our raccoon seems to have found a home more to his liking, for we have not seen him for four days.

To me, it was fairly evident that the little birds were not too afraid of the Red-shouldered Hawk, as opposed to their actions when a Kestrel or Cooper's comes into the yard. When that happens, they scatter quickly and don't return for a half-hour or longer.

- MARJORIE SHELDON (Chagrin Falls)

Just before 5:00 p.m. on September 17 a Red-shouldered Hawk was caught in one of the mist nets. I quickly removed the apron which holds all of my banding equipment to wrap around the bird to prevent injury to its wings while I disentangled the one foot which was caught. In my agitation I neglected to watch out for the one foot that was free; the bird lashed out with it and stabbed me twice in the right forearm. The talons are like razor blades, and in addition to the cuts received, the force of the blow produced bruises that remained for two weeks. Despite this action, the bird was not judged aggressive or ill-tempered--it merely wanted to get free.

I tied the legs with a strip of soft cloth and rolled the hawk in a clean burlap bag so that the head was free. I did not have a leg band of sufficient size or proper type; so I called Dave Bittner of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to come and band the bird. It was an immature in splended [splendid] plumage, and we believed it to be a female. When it was released, it seemed to increase in size by double. It flew to a bare limb of a maple by the driveway entrance, where we were able to observe it briefly before it flew off. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN (Waite Hill)

Crows Adapt to City Life. One day in October as I was driving on heavily-traveled Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, I witnessed an extreme example of the Common Crow's adaptability to urban life and its aggressiveness in food gathering. Along this particular four-block section of Lee Road are a series of one- and two-story commercial buildings including a bakery and two grocery stores. About three-quarters of a mile to the south are the Shaker Lakes woods, where Common Crows occur during most of the year.

As I neared the Meadowbrook Boulevard intersection, I saw three Crows flying very slowly at a height of some 15 feet above the roadway. When I arrived at the intersection, I was stopped by the red traffic light. Two of the Crows had flown on, but the third was hovering over the street at a height of perhaps ten feet. The bird began to descend but was forced to rise momentarily when an automobile came around the corner. The Crow then resumed its gradual, halting descent until it was hovering on heavily-stroking wings no more than four feet above the road and about the same distance from me as I awaited the change of the traffic light. Suddenly the bird closed its wings and dropped to the pavement. Pausing just a few seconds, it sidestepped two paces toward the center of the street, snatched up a slice of white bread which was lying there, and with a powerful thrust of its wings took to the air only seconds before the flow of traffic resumed. The last I saw of the Crow, it was disappearing over the roof of the building at the corner of the block. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Windows Take Toll. [ED. NOTE: That many birds, particularly in migration, suffer death or injury as a result of crashing into windows is well known to birders. Three reports received during the fall season indicate something of the variety of species thus victimized]

On September 6, from 6:00 a.m. to shortly after daybreak, 6:45, the lisping notes of small passerines repeatedly sounded in the sky over my home in Cleveland Heights. One member of that migrating wave was a Connecticut Warbler which I found dead in downtown Cleveland that morning. Apparently a considerable number of small passerines were also migrating on the night of September 20 and the morning of the 21st, for on that morning I found these dead birds in downtown Cleveland: 2 Brown Creepers; 1 Dark-eyed Junco, and 2 White-throated Sparrows.

- DONALD L. NEWMAN

A Screech Owl banged into our picture window (County Line Road, Gates Mills) at 6:00 a.m. on November 15. It was evidently stunned, although it was standing up. It remained by the window until afternoon; then it apparently flew away. - WALTER P. KREMM

On November 19 we found two Cedar Waxwings dead below our large, newly-cleaned, south-facing window. The following day we found nine more, two of which recovered and flew off. Some of the dead had bush honeysuckle fruits between their bills. Later that day ten or so other Cedar Waxwings were flying around feeding. - Kay F. Booth (Painesville)

Winter Wrens Eat Donkeys Barley. Two Winter Wrens have taken residence in our donkey house in Kirtland Hills for the winter. They eat spilled barley below the feeders. On good days they forage through the vine tangles outside the building. More winters than not, Winter Wrens have been in the building since it was built in 1956. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Late Nestings Reported. [ED. NOTE: One feature of the fall season, which could not be firmly labeled a characteristic, was the number of reports received of late-season nestings. Johnson observed a pair of Red-eyed Vireos feeding young in French Creek Reservation on September 12. Two other reports are reprinted in detail below.]

At Lower Shaker Lake on September 9 and 10, I observed and photographed a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers which were nesting about 50 feet up in a dead tree behind the Nature Center. Since for photographic purposes the light on the tree was best from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., I visited the nesting area at that time. Both parents fed the almost full-grown, young, whose heads and shoulders were exposed as they extended their necks out of the nest hole. On both days the intervals between feedings were about ten minutes until 4:30 when the intervals began to shorten. By 6:00 they were reduced to five minutes. Although this is a very late nesting, it was surpassed by a nesting in 1963 at Upper Shaker Lake, where I discovered a nest with young on September 23. - FLOYD BRICKEL

I watched a Cardinal feeding a tailless [tailless] downy young on September 24. Also on the same date I observed a Song Sparrow carrying food to young that were just out of their nest. At the Rocky River Interpretive Center, Carolina Wrens brought off three broods, the last one in the third week in September. The Carolina Wren nests in holes, crevices, or in this case under the eaves of the Center. The Cardinal and Song Sparrow nest in more open situations, and a wet spring could have adverse effects on their nesting.- MICHAEL STASKO

Food of Common Birds: Summary Report. Between 1950 and 1972 a series of 17 reports were published in the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR on food of common birds in northeastern Ohio. These were based upon analyses of 939 stomachs from 137 species of local birds. In addition, several of the reports included analyses of several hundred owl pellets, especially

those of the Barn Owl. Reports 13-17 were co-authored with my colleague Dr. Clinton H. Hobbs, a botanist in the Kent State University Department of Biology, to whom I am indebted for the identification of most of the seeds encountered in this study

The references for these reports are as follows:

1. 46:1, p. 10 (1950)
2. 47:1, pp. 12-13 (1951)
3. 48:1, pp. 6-7 (1952)
4. 49:1, pp. 9-10 (1953)
5. 50:1, pp. 6-7 (1954)
6. 51:2, pp. 8-9 (1955)
7. 52:1, pp. 8-9 (1956)
8. 53:1, pp. 13-15 (1957)
9. 54:1, pp. 12-14 (1958)
10. 55:1, pp. 13-15 (1959)
11. 56:1, p. 11 (1960)
12. 58:1, pp. 7-11 (1962)
13. 60:3, pp. 29-33 (1964)
14. 62:1, pp. 9-12 (1966)
15. 64:1, pp. 12-15 (1968)
16. 66:1, pp. 15-18 (1970)
17. 63:1, pp. 12-14 (1972)

In addition, the CALENDAR also published three special notes on bird foods: Snowy Owl, 41:4, p. 11 (1945); Common Loon, 44:4, p. 11 (1948); Barn Owl, 45:1, p. 9 (1949). RALPH W, DEXTER (Dept. of Biological Sciences, Kent State University)

Addendum (Spring, 1973)

Purple Gallinule An adult specimen was observed in the southwest corner of Wingfoot Lake on four separate dates-May 21, 25, 26, and 28. The bird was "always near shore but generally in the wet areas." It was described as "very sluggish" and permitted approach to within 30-35 feet. It was "a striking iridescent [iridescent] color . . . somewhat more bluish than purple." The back was "on the greenish side," the bill red, tipped with yellow, and the legs yellow. "It lacked the white side stripe of the Common Gallinule, which we also observed on the same dates in other areas of Wingfoot Lake" (Joseph, Frances, Mark, and Rita Schirmer). This is only the third report of a Purple Gallinule in the history of the Cleveland Region and only the second of a presumably healthy bird under field conditions. One specimen was in Waite Hill from May 16 to June 25, 1962, and another was found alive in Mentor, May 10, 1963, but died soon afterward. Trautman's Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio (1968) describes the Purple Gallinule as accidental or

very rare in spring and accidental in summer in the state; one nesting record is reported, location not given.

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.

INQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE regarding subscriptions to THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106