



CLEVELAND REGION

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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

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WEATHER
Fall Season
1 September -30 November, 1980

September - Sunshine prevailed 74% of the time possible. Rain was fairly well scattered on only nine days and totaled 3.11 inches, 0.31 inches more than normal. Temperatures averaged out to 64.7 degrees, 0.8 degrees above normal.

October - Temperatures averaged cooler than normal on 25 days so the month's temperature averaged 47.9 degrees, 5.9 degrees below normal. Sunshine was again better than usual prevailing 65% of the time possible. Precipitation came on 16 days to total 2.38 inches, 0.19 inches below normal.

November - Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days with trace precipitation on another 5 days to total 1.29 inches, 1.47 inches below normal. Included are five snow days after the 17th. Snow totaled 5.4 inches. Far less dismal than usual, sunshine prevailed 42% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged out to 39.4 degrees, 2.2 degrees below normal.

COMMENT OF THE SEASON

What a fall! What a year! What more can be said! Fall 1980 had all the ingredients for a spectacular season: (1) the rarities (Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Eared Grebe, White-winged Crossbill, to name just a few), (2) the irruptive species (Common Redpolls, and a drive-in Snowy Owl), and (3) the expected migration phenomena (warblers, swans, loons). And you did not have to go chase some of the good birds for species like White-winged Crossbill and Clay-colored Sparrow appeared in contributors' backyards! In a season so noteworthy it is the difficult task of the editor to impart to the readers of the Cleveland Bird Calendar a "sense" of the season just passed. This is what the following pages of commentary, noteworthy records, and field notes will try to accomplish.

Common Loon In the past few years, flights of Common Loons, both overland and over Lake Erie, and both often-times spectacular, have been noted in November. No large flights materialized in the fall of 1980. Forty-six Common Loons over East 260th Street in Euclid from 7:40 am. to 8:45 a.m. on November 11 made up the most significant overland passage (Hannikman). Kuhlman Woods, an important point for observing migrating Common Loons, was not visited during the fall. This undoubtedly affected the fall tallies of loons. In the past upwards of 400+ Common Loons have been observed over Kuhlman Woods on a major "flight" morning and this has usually been the only point from which such numbers have been observed. One can now wonder whether, with even this minor flight of loons over East 260th Street, just a few miles to the east of Kuhlman Woods, these birds migrate over a broader area than had been previously suspected and whether the numbers involved are actually many times those that have been heretofore reported. Only further loon watching can verify these assumptions.

Whistling Swan Fall migration of Whistling Swans was again concentrated within a period of a few days as the following table shows:

| Date | Number | Location | Observer |
|-------|--------|--------------------------|----------|
| 11/17 | 61 | LaDue | Elder |
| 11/17 | 62 | Cleve. Lakefront | Klamm |
| 11/18 | 770 | Lake Rockwell | Rosche |
| 11/18 | 1,000 | Seiberling Nature Center | Stover |
| 11/18 | 100 | North Chagrin | Corbin |
| 11/18 | 118 | Cleve. Lakefront | Klamm |
| 11/25 | 300 | Seiberling Nature Center | Stover |

Even though the above table, enumerates just the most significant numbers of swans, the majority of the smaller numbers reported for the season also occurred during and around the period from November 17 to 25.

Waterfowl Akron's Lake Rockwell hosted good numbers of Ring-necked Ducks from mid-October to early November. Maximum counts were 2,100 on October 29 and 2,500 on November 3 (Rosche). Outside of Lake Rockwell few Ring-necked Ducks were noted. As usual small numbers of all three species of scoters occurred along lakefront areas. The exception to this was the 55 White-winged Scoters migrating past Huntington Beach on November 8 (Hoffman). This total represents the second highest count of this species in CBC files. Only 100 White-winged Scoters on, March 7, 1953 off Perkins Beach exceeded the November 8 tally. See the Field Notes Section for the details of the scoter migration for that day. Massive numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers did not appear in November. Best single-day count was 2,000 birds along the Cleveland lakefront on November 10 (Klamm).

Peregrine Falcon From September 29 to October 18, single Peregrine Falcons were recorded on seven occasions: Burke Airport/Donald Gray Garden sightings--September 29, October 5, 16, and 17 (all birds reported as immatures except the October 5 individual whose age was not reported), Lakewood Park, October 2 (a single immature) and Wildwood Park on October 11 and 18 (a single immature). Seven sightings in a single season is truly extraordinary when one considers that there are some years when this endangered species is not recorded at all. Just how many individual Peregrines actually were involved in these sightings is a matter for speculation but it seems unlikely that just one individual occurred. Peregrine Falcon has not historically been a species to linger for any length of time in the Cleveland region. Irregardless of the question of how many birds were here, birding along the Cleveland lakefront in late September and October with the possibility of seeing a Peregrine Falcon was exciting.

Shorebirds Unexpectedly missing from fall reports were Whimbrels. This species had become a regular September visitor to Burke Airport the past few autumns. None, however, was seen in 1980. The season also produced disappointing counts of Golden Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers as maximum Burke Airport tallies were 18 and 9 respectively.

Snowy Owl At least four different Snowy Owls (three around Cleveland and one at Lorain) were observed in No-

vember. Burke Airport, East 55th Street, and Wildwood Park were Cleveland locales frequented by the owls. The Wildwood Park bird became quite a local celebrity and provided birders with a delightful study of Snowy Owl behavior. The owl could be closely observed after dark as it hunted around the lighted areas of the Wildwood parking lot, baithouse, and dock areas. Two incidents involving this particular bird evoked comment from observers. One night the owl caught a rat and the observers heard the rat's last squeals as the owl carried it off and the other incident was when the owl was observed to dip its beak (drinking?, washing?) into a puddle on the parking lot and then into the water at the edge of the lagoon. Birders took full advantage of this owl's tameness to study its behavior.

Kinglets High counts of 84 Golden-crowned Kinglets on October 7 (Klamm) and 100+ Ruby-crowned Kinglets on October 5 (Denbow) were received. Even though one can not judge these species' recovery from recent bitter winters just by their abundance during the past fall, contributors' reports and comments do seem to indicate a partial recovery in numbers for these species.

Warblers It was an uninspiring fall warbler migration. Greatest numbers and variety fell between September 13 and 19. Though it may just be a false impression one species which seem to have enjoyed a particularly good year locally was the Black-and-white Warbler. There were days during the fall when counts for this species exceeded a dozen individuals. These good fall totals followed excellent spring tallies.

Winter Finches The major, somewhat limited reports of Evening Grosbeaks were as follows: 18 in Chagrin Falls on November 8 (Sheldon), 50 and 14 at Rocky River on November 9 and 13 (Klamm), and 15 at North Chagrin on November 13 (Corbin). Most of the larger flocks of Pine Siskins were noted from areas near the lakeshore. One hundred & ten at East 260th Street on October 19 was the largest flock. Other shoreline areas to produce small (10-50 birds) numbers of siskins were Lakewood Park, Cahoon Park and Wildwood Park. All of the larger flocks of this species were within the period from October 17 to November 9.

What probably could be termed the redpoll invasion of the 20th Century occurred in Willoughby on November 8. An estimated 1,000 Common Redpolls passed near, around and

through a residence there during the day. (Talkington). Upwards of 300 birds remained the following day (Corbin). Since no other reports of Common Redpolls approaching these numbers were received, it must be assumed that these birds dispersed into much smaller flocks after this initial massing and then left the area. Smaller flocks of redpolls periodically were observed at Lorain, Lakewood Park and Shaker Lakes.

Yearly Summary In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended (December 1, 1979 to November 30, 1980), a record-setting total of 281 species was recorded. This is three more than 1977-1978. New species added to the Cleveland area list were a gull of the west coast, the Heermann's Gull, a widespread Eurasian duck, the Tufted Duck, and the Alder Flycatcher. The birding decade of the 1980's has really started out with a bang.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - A single bird was off Perkins Beach on November 22 (Klamm).

Red-necked Grebe - One was discovered at Huntington Beach on November 1 (Pogacnik).

Eared Grebe - A lone bird in winter plumage was painstakingly scrutinized at the Lorain Disposal Site from November 9 to 11 (Peterjohn et al.). This report becomes the first verified sighting of Eared Grebe in the fall for CBC records. See the Field notes section for the observer's excellent description of fall field characteristics of this species. Other reports of Eared Grebe at various points along the lakefront in November may possibly indicate this species is more common than the paucity of fall records would indicate.

Cattle Egret - Two birds were noted: one near Lake Rockwell on September 18 (Rosche), and another at Cahoon Park on November 6 (LePage).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - A immature remained at Rocky River from September 8 to 19 (Klamm).

Brant - One was at Huntington Beach from October 31 to November 9 (Corbin, LePage et al.).

European Wigeon - What was probably the same bird observed during the fall of 1979 was found on September 14 at Lake Rockwell and remained until October 22 (Rosche).

Harlequin Duck - A female appeared at Avon on November 3 (Pogacnik).

King Eider - A female was at Lorain on November 10 (LePage, Pogacnik:).

Golden Eagle - A sub-adult individual was soaring over the Ohio Turnpike about one mile west of the Lorain County/Cuyahoga County line on September 20 (Pogacnik). Golden Eagles outnumbered Bald Eagles 2 to 1 in 1980

Bald Eagle - The year's only reported Bald Eagle was an immature bird at Barberton Reservoir September 16, 18 and 20 (fide Stover).

Merlin - (1) An adult male was observed near Squire's Castle, North Chagrin Metropark, on October 21 (Corbin). (2) At Cahoon Park in Bay Village a single bird was active along the shoreline on October 27 (Klamm).

Purple Sandpiper - A very early fall migrant was at Century Park in Lorain on October 27 (Klamm).

[Purple Sandpiper - A very early fall migrant was at Century Park in Lorain on October 27 (Klamm).]

White-rumped Sandpiper - One was found at Lake Rockwell on October 15 (Rosche, Elder).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Ten birds on September 24 was the fall's best count. Seven on October 9 established a new fall late date for this species (Klamm). Previous late fall date had been October 3, 1964.

Red Phalarope - Single birds were noted as follows: Edgewater Park on October 31 (Corbin), East 55th on October 3]. (Corbin), East 72nd Street November 2 and 3 (Klamm), and Lorain on November 10 (Pogacnik).

Wilson's Phalarope - One was observed on a casual water-pond at Burke Airport on September 2 (Klamm).

Pomarine Jaeger - An immature "Pom" was discovered at Lorain on November 20 (Hoffman). This active individual was last noted November 28 at Lorain.

Parasitic Jaeger - A sub-adult bird, possibly a second-year individual, was observed off Huntington Beach on November 6 (Peterjohn, LePage). Field characteristics noted were the white belly which contrasted with dark head, neck, and upper breast. The pointed central tail feathers were not seen. The Jaeger was chasing Ring-billed Gulls and the observer noted that having this species present to compare its body size and build and manner of flight with that of the jaeger's, plus recent field experience with both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers off the California coast, aided in the identification of this bird as a Parasitic Jaeger.

Jaeger (sp.) - An unidentified, immature jaeger was present at Lorain on October 25 (Pogacnik).

Iceland Gull - A nearly adult individual of the "Kumlien's" race was scrutinized at Lakeview Park on November 8 (Pogacnik). Iceland Gull was last recorded in the month of November in the Cleveland region in 1952.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Up to two adults were found around the Lorain area during the last third of November (many observers). These sightings are the first November observations or this species in CBC files.

Thayer's Gull - Another first November record, a first-year immature was studied late in the afternoon on November 30 at Lorain (Hannikman, Elder, Rosche, Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake - Individual immature birds were observed at Edgewater on November 5 (Corbin), and Lorain November 15, 17 and 25 (LePage, Pogacnik, Corbin).

Sabine's Gull - An immature appeared at Edgewater on October 20 (LePage). This represents the first sighting of this beautiful Arctic gull in the Cleveland area west of the Cuyahoga River as previous occurrences were at East 72nd Street, Wildwood Park and White City.

Short-billed Marsh Wren - One frequented Donald Gray Garden from October 1 to 6 (many observers).

Solitary Vireo - A new late fall late date was established with the observation of a single bird at Horseshoe Lake on November 17 (Corbin). Previous late date was November 11, 1979.

Prairie Warbler - A lone bird was studied for several minutes at Mentor Marsh on October 30 (LePage). This marks another new late fall date. Previous late fall date was October 10, 1969.

Kentucky Warbler - A rare fall sighting of this increasingly common spring (and now a nester) migrant occurred when one was observed near the Rocky River Interpretive Center on September 7 (Stasko).

Dickcissel -A lone bird was observed at Burke Airport on September 29 (Talkington).

White-winged Crossbill -(1) About 10 spent most of the afternoon at a residence in Willoughby (Talkington). (2) A male, a female, and an immature male were discovered in hemlocks at Virginia Kendall Metropark on November 30 (Stover).

Clay-colored Sparrow -One appeared at a residence in Kent on the evening of September 14. The bird was intensely studied for 20 minutes (Rosche).

Le Conte's Sparrow - A close encounter (5 feet) with this elusive species occurred at the East 55 Street Marina on October 22 (Hoffman).

FIELD NOTES

Scoters Scoot by On November 8 there was heavy overcast with strong E-NE winds. At noon we visited Huntington Metropark. and observed the westward movement of numerous small flocks of scoters. Most of the birds were well offshore. We could not identify the all dark scoters under these conditions, and unfortunately, we did not count them either. However, three flocks of White-winged Scoters totaling about 55 birds went by. One of these flocks was a string of 30 scoters first seen coming just above the water in perfect scoter style. The numbers of dark scoters were similar or greater, so at least 100 scoters passed Huntington during the half hour. We were very excited by this observation which was unique for us on Lake Erie and was reminiscent of similar movements noted along the New Jersey coast. In addition, we subsequently went to Perkins Beach where six Black Scoters flew in and landed among the goldeneye. We saw no more scoters farther east along the lake that day. --DICK AND JEAN HOFFMAN

Eared Grebe at Lorain Description In direct comparison, the bird was similar in size to a Horned Grebe. However, its shape was noticeably different. Its forehead was much more abrupt: the peak of the crown was almost directly above the eye. On the Horned Grebe, the forehead was more slanting, with the peak well behind the eye. The head also appeared to be relatively smaller on the Eared Grebe. The neck appeared to be shorter and was distinctly slimmer on the Eared Grebe. When swimming, the posterior portion of the body appeared to ride noticeably higher on the water on the Eared Grebe.

There were also noticeable differences in bill size and shape between the two species. The bill of the Eared Grebe was much smaller and slimmer than the Horned Grebe. At a distance, the Eared Grebe hardly appeared to have a bill at all. On the Eared Grebe, the upper mandible was virtually straight from its base to its tip while the upper mandible of the Horned Grebe was noticeably curved. The lower mandible of the Eared Grebe was also straight except for the upturned tip while on the Horned Grebe this mandible was noticeably curved. For both species, the bill was uniformly dark.

On the Eared Grebe, the crown was blackish. On the side of the face, a dusky gray patch extended from the crown down below the eye with a narrow dusky line continuing behind the eye down to the neck. This vertical dusky line separated two grayish-white patches, one on the cheek immediately below the eye, the other on the back of the head and extended from the base of the neck to slightly above eye level. The nape was blackish while the throat was uniformly dusky gray. The breast and sides were a similar dusky gray. The upperparts were uniformly blackish-gray (darker than sides). The eye was red

Elimination of similar species Separation from the Horned Grebe is quite tricky. While this bird was quite dusky and its plumage was similar to Eared Grebe pictured in field guides, Horned Grebes can also be quite dusky and have similar plumages. Hence, plumage alone does not eliminate Horned Grebe.

Horned Grebes were eliminated on the basis of shape characteristics. In particular, head shape differences, the shorter and slimmer neck, slimmer bill and differences in bill shape were used to eliminate the Horned Grebe. Of these, differences in bill size and shape were the determining field marks although there were distinct differ-

ences with regards to all of these characteristics. -
BRUCE PETERJOHN

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ERROR The Short-billed Marsh Wren listed for Lake Rockwell
on July 16 should read Long-billed Marsh Wren

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AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m.
on the first Wednesday of each month except July and August
at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, Uni-
versity Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

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Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions
to the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to The
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Attention: Helen Yenkevich,
Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at
(216) 696-8186. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland
region as well as other interesting observations should be
called into the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced
with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of ex-
treme rarities, e. g., Sabine's Gull, Varied Thrush,
Parasitic Jaeger, the tape should be called the day of the
Observation.