



CLEVELAND REGION

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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                    |
| 14 Perkins Beach             | 43 Mentor Headlands          |
| 15 Terminal Tower            | 44 Mentor Marsh              |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square   | 45 Black Brook               |
| 16 Cuyahoga River            | Headlands State Park         |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation   | 46 Fairport Harbor           |
| 18 Akron                     | 47 Painesville               |
| 18 Cuyahoga Falls            | 48 Grand River               |
| 19 Akron Lakes               | 49 Little Mountain           |
| 20 Gordon. Park              | Holden Arboretum             |
| 20 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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All records, observations, and field notes should be sent to:

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Weather  
Winter Season 1981-1982  
1 Dec. - 28 Feb.

December - Temperatures averaged out to 30.6 degrees, 0.3 degrees warmer than normal, even though sunshine prevailed only 24% of the time possible. Measurable precipitation occurred on 20 days to total 3.44 inches, 1.08 inches above normal. Snow, coming on 16 of the 20 days, totalled 27.1 inches. Ice formation on lagoons and basins was transient in the 16th to 19th period and extensive and firm by the 20th. Lake Erie remained open all month.

January - Measurable precipitation occurred on 24 days, including 20 with snowfall which totalled 28.1 inches. Total precipitation was 4.00 inches, 1.44 inches above normal. Temperatures averaged out to 19.8 degrees, 7.1 degrees colder than the average January norm. Lake Erie developed a skim ice cover by the 8th, reached a low temperature of 33 degrees on the 11th, and remained extensively ice covered thereafter with open fissures in the ice on the 23rd through 28th.

February - Temperatures averaging warmer than normal occurred only in the period from the 15th through the 23rd. Overall, temperatures averaged out to 25.2 degrees and 2.7 degrees below normal. Sunshine increased to 41% of the time possible. Precipitation occurred on 11 days and totalled 1.41 inches, 0.77 inches below normal. Snow, on 10 days, totalled 7.6 inches. Lake Erie retained extensive ice cover with open water fissures opening and re-freezing with shifting ice and winds.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

For the average birder, it is the weekends, those two days sandwiched between five working days, when one can get out to seek and enjoy the birds of the season. During the winter of 1981-1982, the worst weather always seemed to occur on weekends, but great birds were found — even though in a wind chill of 50 degrees below zero!! An extra bit of effort is needed when even the elements work against you, but the rewards of finding a good bird are reasons enough to make that effort. The rewards of those extra efforts by contributors are presented in following paragraphs.

Waterfowl Very late loon movement was detected over East 260th Street in Euclid. Counts were 126 on December 5 and 21 the following day. More than 100 Common Loons in December was unprecedented in CBC records. Also unseasonably late were migrant Whistling Swans in mid-December. 40 birds at Lake Rockwell on December 14 and 64 and 45 birds at Perkins Beach on December 15 and 16 highlighted this very late fall movement.

Shifting ice patterns determined counts of waterfowl species. Whenever northerly winds pushed ice against the shore, waterfowl concentration points such as Avon Lake could count on good numbers of Scaup ducks, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Canvasback, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers. When southerly winds opened up offshore fissures, waterfowl would disperse to offshore feeding points, thus reducing the numbers of birds observed. With this in mind, the most interesting waterfowl record was the flock of 43 Black Scoters that flew past Lakewood Park on December 6 (Stasko).

Gulls Glaucous Gulls peaked at nine at Lorain in early February (Pogacnik). Counts of Great Black-backed Gulls did not approach the numbers of the past several winters. One of the reasons for this is that this species has become such a regular and noticeable winter resident at favored lakefront sites that contributors tend not to pay as much attention to it as they had in the past.

Tremendous numbers of Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls appeared along the lakefront in December. Maximum counts were as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Lorain</u>
Ring-billed Gull	50,000 (12/23)	40,000 (12/19)
Bonaparte's Gull	33,000 (1/1)	50,000(12/19)

Largest total for Herring Gulls at Cleveland was 9,925 on December 19 while 10,000 on February 13 between Cleveland and Lorain was the largest number reported by one contributor during the winter (Klamm). Bonaparte's Gulls exited quickly after January 7 with a single individual remaining at Lorain until the end of the period. As usual there were small numbers of Little Gulls scattered in the hordes of Bonaparte's Gulls and the Noteworthy Records section is replete with sightings of uncommon, but becoming more commonly recognized, winter lands.

Snowy Owl Three different Snowy Owls were identified between Burke Airport and the Gordon Park Landfill until the last observation of this species on January 25 (Klamm). On January 13, one Snowy Owl, apparently injured in a collision with an aircraft, was picked up at Burke Airport by staff members of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for rehabilitation. This bird, however, can not ever be returned to the wild because of this injury. To the west a single Snowy Owl frequented Lorain Harbor from December 16 to January 4 (Pogacnik). Other raptors noted from the Burke Airport/Gordon Park Landfill area were two Short-eared Owls in February, several Rough-legged Hawks, and a Marsh Hawk.

Yellow-rumped warbler This species, normally a rare winter resident in small numbers, enjoyed somewhat of a population boom at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center in Akron. High winter counts of 13 on February 3 and 10 on February 9 (Rosche, Stover) were reported.

Winter Finches Common Redpolls began appearing in late January and remained at many locations (feeders) for the balance of the period. Though most flocks were of less than a dozen individuals, there were notable exceptions: 300 at a residence in Lorain from late January and all of February (Pogacnik), 100 at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center on February 18 (Stover), and 80 in North Olmsted (fide Johnson). Interestingly, several Rare Bird Alerts in the eastern half of the country started to mention Common Redpolls at about the same time the birds showed up locally indicating a wide-spread southerly movement of the species in mid-winter. Largest flock of Evening Grosbeaks, from 12 to 24 birds, spent January and February at a residence in Bath (fide Dexter). Elsewhere, small flocks, mainly transients, appeared.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Harlequin Duck - (1) A male was discovered at Mentor Headlands on December 18 (Corbin). (2) An immature male on December 3 and a near adult male on February 2 were the records from Avon Lake (Pogacnik).

King Eider - A female was reported from Avon Lake on December 14 (Pogacnik) and February 7 (Rosche).

Turkey Vulture - An early migrant was spotted in Aurora on February 28 (Elder).

Bald Eagle - Adults were reported in Willoughby on January 9 and over the Chagrin River in Willoughby on February 13 (Sherwin).

Red Phalarope - A single bird was noted at East 72nd Street January 1 through 3 (Several observers).

Iceland Gull - Recorded only at Lorain, maximum numbers were two birds on January 21, February 5 and 6 (many observers).

Thayer's Gull - Eastlake's first records were of first and second-year birds on December 13 (Rosche, Hannikman). Lorain Harbor had as many as four birds (all different ages) on January 16 (several observers) and a single bird was noted at Avon Lake on December 3 (Pogacnik).

Mew Gull - The bird found on November 29 was last recorded on December 27 (Hoffman, Pogacnik, et al.).

Black-headed Gull - Single birds were at Lorain on December 8 and 16 (Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake - An immature was found on December 13 at Lorain (Elder, Hannikman, Rosche).

Brown Thrasher - One remained at Lake Rockwell from January 11 through February 15 (Rosche).

Hermit Thrush - Another species attracted by the feeder at Lake Rockwell, a lone bird was noted from January 11 to 23 (Rosche).

Northern Shrike - An adult was discovered February 12 in Aurora on Route 82 and seen throughout the period (Rosche)

Hoary Redpoll - The second and third records of this species in the CBC files were of birds at an Akron feeder from at least February 11 to the end of the period (Elder, Hoffman, Rosche) and at a Lorain feeder from February 15 to 22 (Pogacnik).

White-winged Crossbill - (1) About 75 were found near Chestnut Hill Cemetery on February 21 (Elder, Rosche). This was the largest number reported since 1941. (2) 4 males and 4 females on February 25 and 28 and 4 females on February 27 were the season's totals from a residence in Painesville (Miller). (3) 5 were found in hemlocks at Warrensville Farms on February 12, 20, and 22 with 4 present there on February 25 and 27 (Knight).

FIELD NOTES

Migrating Common Crows Although we only became aware of the crow's migratory movements along Lake Erie two years ago, we now find it an annual event. We have yet to see really large numbers (as some have), but the movement is quite interesting. On the morning of February 27, there were 35 crows, looking more like (Greater) black-backed gulls, on the ice at the Lorain hot waters. Gradually they moved off to the east. On February 28, a flock of 30+ came in off the lake to head east along Route 6 in Sheffield Lake. It was quite a surprise to see them come out of the fog and go directly overhead. A little later, at the Lorain hot waters again, three flocks of 41, 23, and 33 moved in along the breakwall, landed on it, moved out onto the ice and gradually off to the east. As I was leaving Lorain, I saw another flock of 10 moving east slightly inland. Bent discusses long distance migration of crows in the Great Plains but states that such does not occur along the Atlantic coast, No mention is made of the area in between. Does anyone know the origin or eventual destination of the crows that move along the lake each year? JEAN HOFFMAN

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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



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, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

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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 area as well as other interesting observations should be called in to the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, . g, Mew Gull, Hoary Redpoll, the tape should be called the day of the observation.