



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

Editor

Ray Hannikman

Assistant Editor

Elinor Elder

Editorial Assistants

Jean Hoffman

Ethel D. Surman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

CONTRIBUTORS

Emil R. Bacik
Howard R. Besser
Dave Corbin
Elinor Elder
Joe Emery
Ray Hannikman
Dick and Jean Hoffman
Tom Kellerman
William and Nancy Klamm
Walter Kremm

Tom LePage
Jack and Dorothy Miller
Perry K. Peskin
John Pogacnik
Richard Rickard
Larry Rosche
Gordon Spare
Ethel D. Surman
Jerry Talkington
Charles T. Yoder

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

Ray Hannikman
440 East 260th St.
Euclid, OH 44132

THE WEATHER
Fall, 1982

September - Measurable precipitation was poorly distributed on 10 days with 67% of the total 4.82 inches and 2.02 inches in excess of normal falling in the latter third of the month. Sunshine prevailed 45% of the time possible with temperatures averaging out to 62.7 degrees, 1.2 degrees cooler than normal.

October - Temperatures averaged 55.3 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. The month started out with 12 days in a sustained warm cycle, followed by 6 days of cooler than normal weather, and variations in shorter intervals thereafter. Lake Erie water temperature at 65 degrees on the 1st had dropped to 57 degrees by the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 46% of the time possible. Seven days of precipitation totalled 0.93 inches, 1.64 inches below normal.

November - Measurable precipitation on 17 days and trace precipitation on 6 days totalled 5.17 inches, 2.41 inches above normal. Snow was 2.2 inches, 0.8 inches on the 15th and 1.4 inches on the 26th. Sunshine prevailed 25% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature dropped another 10 degrees to 47 degrees. Temperatures averaged 45.4 degrees, 3.8 degrees above normal.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Unexpected rarities, expanding knowledge of a species' migration patterns, a full day in the field or a morning sitting at some lakefront vantage point waiting for that new year bird are some of the reasons that fall is the season to be birding. Given the above incentives and possessive of basic field skills, transportation, and a little luck, fall birding can turn out to be like the one which will emerge in a reading of the following pages of this report.

Common Loon, Whistling SwanA concerted, area-wide effort to observe the fall migration of Common Loons produced some new insights into the movements of this species. Largest numbers were as follows: 200 at various lakefront locations on November 14 (Elder), a fine west-side count of 100-plus on the water off Huntington Beach on November 14 (Hoffman), 125 heading north at East 55th Street on November 15 (Lepage), 95 over East 260th Street on November 25 (Hannikman), and 82 at East 55th Street on November 13 (Hoffman). As can be seen from the above, more faces covered more places in the effort to learn about these birds. Consistent with past observations of fall loon movement was the fact that the birds moved early (7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) and strong northwest/north winds produced the best movements. The counts and the coverage on the weekend of November 13 and 14 may have even been better except that several dedicated loon-watchers were out of town. Most interesting was the downtown Cleveland "mini" loon watch on the morning of November 15 — 11 loons moving southwest at 7:30 a.m. over East 9th Street (Hoffman) and 44 loons over East 12 Street between 7:35 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. (Hannikman). When winds were from the south, small (10-22 birds) flocks of loons were located on Lake Erie waters, and even though there was some overland movement on these type days, it was most probable that the loons were taking this opportunity of southerly winds to rest and feed before the winds moved around to the north. It is hoped that more of the same cooperative effort that produced the above data will occur in the fall of 1983.

Flights of Whistling Swans were relatively minor and were compressed into the November 13 to 15 period. Best reports were 181 birds at Huntington Beach on November 14 (Hoffman), 160 between Cleveland and Lorain on November 14 (LePage), and 125 at Lake Rockwell on November 4 (Rosche). Again, the correlation of loon movements and swan movements is obvious.

Waterfowl Closed-in areas near shore began to attract diving ducks in mid-October when small numbers of Scaup, Redheads, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Ducks appeared at the Gordon Park Impoundment (Klamm). Movements over Lake Erie were not evident until mid-November when very minor influxes of Scaup and Common Goldeneye occurred. Somewhat similar sentiments were echoed by a Lorain observer who stated that there were "lots" of diving ducks in October but almost none in November (Pogacnik). Perhaps the poor numbers of diving ducks reported for the last half of November are not because of a total lack of birds but because of the preeminence of Red-breasted Mergansers. After all, a thousand migrating Scaup tend to get lost when tens of thousands of mergansers are moving. Red-breasted Mergansers peaked on November 25 when 30,000 were at Lorain and 20,000 in Cleveland (Klamm). Again Hooded Mergansers were in good numbers at Lake Rockwell in November as 230 were noted there on November 24 (Rosche). Black Scoter, regarded as the rarest scoter in the Cleveland area, was regular in small numbers during the fall with most birds seen from Sims Park in Euclid. A lone Surf Scoter that lingered at Lorain from November 27 to 30 rounded out the scoter reports.

Hawks Certainly the three Bald Eagles were the raptor highlight of the season (see the Noteworthy Records sections for details). Other species were in poor evidence with even resident birds being hard to find. By season's end there was no apparent southward movement of Rough-legged Hawks developing as only two reports of this species had been received.

Shorebirds One of the most interesting aspects of the fall migration was the lingering of Semipalmated Plovers at the Gordon Park Landfill. Up to 13 birds were present there through October 11 and stragglers persisted until the very late date of November 2 (Klamm). Perhaps the constant southerly winds of October influenced the plovers to remain in the region. Golden Plovers, with one major exception, and Black-bellied Plovers were scarce during the season. To be sure Burke Airport attracted the birds, but highest count for Golden Plovers was 20 and 11 for Black-bellied Plovers. As mentioned above, there was one major exception -- a flock of 70 Golden Plovers in vee formation past Sims Park on September 12 (Hannikman). The birds were heading

northwest to southeast at **8:00** a.m. A single, migrating flock as large as this appears to be unprecedented in 20th century Cleveland area birding. Other interesting shore-birds were up to 3 Whimbrels at Burke Airport in September, a tardy Baird's Sandpiper at Lorain November 3 and 4, 1-2 Stilt Sandpipers at Gordon Park in September, and up to a dozen Western Sandpipers at Lorain in early September.

Gulls, Terns The earliest fall Glaucous Gull in CBC records was a second-winter individual at Lorain on November 11 (Hannikman). And Lorain continued to be the gulling hotspot throughout the fall. Truly spectacular has been the Lesser Black-backed Gull story in the Cleveland region. First recorded in January 1977, up to four birds (November 26) were present at Lorain during late November. Credit should be given to local gull watchers as birds in difficult first-winter and second-winter plumage have been identified. The Cleveland lakefront, particularly Lorain, is one of the best locations in the country to find and study this European species. It was a good fall for Little Gulls as up to 3 could be found off Sims Park in October while Lorain produced up to five in late November. One or two Franklin's Gulls persisted at Lorain during November. As for the commoner species, on three dates in November did counts of Ring-billed Gulls equal or exceed 30,000 along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm) while a gull count at Lorain on November 29 yielded 58,238 gulls — 24,000 Ring-billed Gulls, 34,000 Bonaparte's Gulls, plus the rarer species (Pogacnik). As will be seen later, the hordes of gulls persisted well into December.

Gordon Park attracted small numbers of Forster's Terns during the first twenty days of September. A truly outstanding movement of Common Terns was witnessed at Sims Park on September 26 as 2,500-plus birds, mostly moving west to east, were tallied between 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The movement was already well underway at 8:00 a.m. so the count of 2,500 was probably a conservative estimate of the numbers of terns moving that day (Hannikman).

Common Nighthawk 47 Common Nighthawks over East 260th Street on September 2 (Hannikman) and 100's in Kent on September 6 (Rosche) were the only major concentrations of this species. Latest bird was a very late October 5 over Kuhlman Woods. A noteworthy east-to-west lakefront movement of Chimney Swifts occurred on September 22 as 1,100+ birds were counted from Gordon Park to Lakewood Park (Klamm).

Wrens One, possibly two, Carolina Wrens in Kent from the beginning of October to the end of the period were the only ones reported. (Rosche). Other wrens of note were 4 Marsh Wrens and 4 Sedge Wrens during September and October and a steady movement of Winter Wrens from late September to late October.

Warblers Comments were elicited from contributors about the warbler migration and there was very little response. Bay-breasted, Magnolia, and, of course, Yellow-rumped Warblers dominated the reports, but some species, Blackburnian, Cape May, and Mourning Warbler, appeared not as abundant as usual. All in all, what best can be said is that the warblers were there but not in overwhelming abundance.

Winter Finches These birds really lived up to their name as none was found. Completely lacking was any mention of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, or either of the crossbills. Unless this trend is reversed, passerine birding in the winter may be non-existent.

Yearly Summary In the Bird Calendar year now ended (December 1, 1981 to November 30, 1982), 274 species of birds were recorded in the Cleveland area. Included in this total were such noteworthy birds as Ohio's first Painted Bunting, 15 species of gulls including Sabine's and Mew, Hoary Redpoll, Glossy Ibis, and Pine Grosbeak.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - One was spotted at Sims Park on October 26 and intensely scrutinized through a Questar (Corbin). This represents the first October record in CBC files.

Cattle Egret - Single birds were noted at Burke Airport on October 14 and at the Gordon Park Impoundment on November 1 (Klamm).

Brant - Two birds were found -- one at Mentor Headlands on November 9 and one at Lorain on November 11 (LePage, Pogacnik).

Harlequin Duck - A lone bird fed along the water's edge at the Gordon Park Impoundment on October 16 (Hoffman).

Bald Eagle - (1) Two adults were reported seen over University School's Hunting Valley campus on October 8 (fide Rickard). (2) A sub-adult was periodically observed at Lake Rockwell from November 6 to 24 (Rosche).

Peregrine Falcon - On September 22, a lone bird was at Mentor Headlands (LePage).

Red Knot - Lorain sightings were one bird on September 5 (Hannikman) and two birds on September 11 (Elder). One was found at Mentor Headlands on September 7 (LePage).

Purple Sandpiper - The only record in the CBC year was obtained when one bird appeared at Lorain on November 13 (Emery).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One was noted at Lorain on September 23 (LePage).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Maximum count at Burke Airport was 5 birds on September 16 (Hoffman). First fall arrival at Burke was a very late September 5, for this species is usually present there in late August. A lone individual was at Lorain on September 1 (LePage).

Red-necked Phalarope - Fall birds were encountered at Lorain on September 6 (Elder), at the Gordon Park Impoundment on September 8 (Hoffman), and at Sims Park on October 24 (Corbin).

Red Phalarope - Single birds lingered at Gordon Park from September 3 to 8 and November 8 through 21 (Klamm).

Parasitic Jaeger - An immature briefly appeared off Rocky River on September 27 (LePage). Specific identification was aided by the presence of a first-winter Herring Gull which followed the jaeger and whose heavier flight contrasted with the "light, graceful" flight of the jaeger.

Thayer's Gull - A first-winter bird was found at Lorain on November 29 (Pogacnik).

Black-headed Gull - An adult appeared at Lorain on September 2 (Pogacnik).

Black-legged Kittiwake - A first-winter bird was present late in the afternoon on November 20 at Lorain (LePage.)

Sabine's Gull - A bird in juvenile plumage was discovered in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at East 55th Street on October 15 (LePage). Of the five verified sightings of this gull in the Cleveland region, the 1967 and 1978 birds remained for many birders to see while the 1975, 1980, and 1982 birds were only seen by a single observer. All birds have been in juvenile plumage, and as far as can be determined, all Ohio records have been of birds in this plumage.

Black Tern - An extremely tardy individual was active around the East Breakwall of the Gordon Park Impoundment on October 31 (Rosche, Kellerman, Hannikman).

Great Crested Flycatcher - A new late fall date for this species was established with the sighting of a single bird at Mentor Headlands on October 23 (Hannikman, Hoffman, Corbin). Previous late fall date had been October 10, 1956. A relatively common species in season, nonetheless, all field marks had to be noted on this individual for such a late Myiarchus flycatcher could just as easily have been an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Field reports of this species along the east coast have increased in recent years, thus necessitating the caution (and excitement) in identifying this particular bird.

Mockingbird - Perhaps the same individual that was noted in the summer was again spotted at Gordon Park on October 24 (LePage).

Brown Thrasher - A tardy migrant was observed in the Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland on November 3 (Hannikman).

Loggerhead Shrike - Only the second November sighting in 25 years was an individual in Hudson on the seventh (Rosche). Oddly enough, the other November record was a bird in close-by Kent on November 9, 1958.

White-eyed Vireo - A new latest fall date for this species was established with an immature at Rocky River on November 17 (Klamm). Previous late date had been November 15, 1973.

Yellow-throated Warbler - A bird at Lake Rockwell on an active September 12 was a very rare fall sighting of this species in the Cleveland region (Rosche.). Last fall record was in 1956.

Palm Warbler - A late migrant was at Mentor Headlands on November 2 (Corbin).

Tanager (sp.) - An unidentified bird was briefly seen at Mentor Headlands on November 1 (Corbin). A positive identification could not be made but the observer tended toward a first-year male Scarlet Tanager. Caution in this sight record was proper as a Western Tanager appeared in late November in western Ohio.

Summer Tanager - 1982's only individual, a female, was discovered at Lake Rockwell on September 12 (Rosche).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - One was found at Lorain on October 5 (LePage).

FIELD NOTES

Whither this Common Redpoll? A Common Redpoll banded near Potter Marsh, Anchorage, Alaska, on February 8, 1981 was recovered by me near the mouth of the Chagrin River on March 25, 1982. The bird really did a lot of travelling in a little over one year's time. — JERRY TALKINGTON

Nesting Juncos We have had juncos with us over the summer for, conservatively, the past seven of eight years. Little attention had been paid to particular areas for song and activity until finding a nest this summer.

Our house is in an opening of an acre or so surrounded by rather heavy woods. These are on top of a hill and descend from oaks and hickories to the predominant beeches and maples. There are hemlocks edging a small ravine in front of the house and the very deep ravine immediately behind. The ravines run east-west and are parallel. The juncos favor both areas. One pair built its nest on the north side of the small ravine, just above a small spring-fed pond located in a sandstone cup. Ravine, pond, and heavy shade keep this area notably cooler than other parts of the woods.

In mid-June this year I was pruning on the steep, myrtle covered bank above the pond. I took another step and a junco flew out of the ground cover at my feet, perched in a nearby tree, and began a concerted chipping. Observing the site several times from a distance over the next ten days, we constantly saw one or two perched birds behaving as the first one did.

We took the first close look June 27. Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wallin, Charles Klaus, and I found the nest at the place where the bird had flushed. The nest was on the ground, woven into the myrtle. It contained one young which Mrs. Wallin thought was about half-way to leaving the nest. Two anxious adults observed the proceedings. Mr. Klaus recalls song from near the nest. Later the same evening, I heard prolonged song from the eastern woods, one of several areas from which we were to hear it frequently.

Over the next two weeks, observed activity in the nest area diminished. Sightings elsewhere were common, especially on what was a favorite song perch -- the antenna on the house and the adjacent gable. This perch was usually used late in the afternoon or early evening, occasionally very early in the morning.

On July 10, we found the nest empty and undisturbed. There had been no sightings of the fledgling. The nest was left untouched. Subsequently we did not see activity near the nest like that when the hatching occurred.

Through July and August we heard songs frequently. Except for one sighting on the antenna (seemingly used with decreasing frequency now), the four or five sightings in this period were all in or around the small ravine. This ravine is divided by a causeway for the drive, with stone walls on either side. This area would be used by two, three, sometimes four juncos rather like a play area for a little adult recreation after the season's parental work was done. The gaps between seeing and hearing the juncos began to lengthen in mid-August. We had not seen or heard one since August until this week (last week of September). Feeling now we could safely collect the nest, Mr. Klaus and I did so on October 2. Its condition was good, but its dampness and leaf matter in the cup could incline one to think that it had not been used since the time the baby was observed.

As we were chatting in the driveway, boxed nest in hand, two juncos flew past, one pausing very briefly on the roof gable above us. Without question we accepted this appearance as a reminder of omniscient nature's awareness of man's incursion. Whether in this instance the sign was given with approval or censure we were not astute enough to determine.
CHARLES T. YODER, GATES MILLS, OHIO.

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) 969-8186. 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 updated on Tuesdays. In the case of extreme rarities, e. g., Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, the tape should be called the day of the observation.

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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, OH 44106.

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Saw-whet Owls are being banded at Toronto and Long Point Canada. The birds will be marked with an orange-colored dye on the white feathers located on the face between the eyes. Anyone seeing a bird with this marking is requested to send the report to:

The Canadian Bird Banding Office
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1A 0E7