



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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THE WEATHER
Summer, 1983

June -Temperatures averaged out to 69.0 degrees, 1.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation totalled 3.45 inches, 0.04 inches below normal. 2.65 inches of rain fell on the 27th, 28th, and 30th. Sunshine prevailed 69% of the time possible

July -Temperatures averaged 75.2 degrees, 3.6 degrees above normal. Precipitation was 4.16 inches with 1.55 inches falling on the 1st and 2nd and was 0.79 inches more than normal. Sunshine prevailed 77% of the time possible.

August -Warm again with temperatures averaging 73.7 degrees, 3.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation totalled 3.15 inches, 0.23 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 75% of the time possible.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

By Cleveland Bird Calendar reckoning, the time was summer, early June, but spring migration was still underway. Several species of thrushes and warblers lingered in good numbers throughout early June and the lateness of the spring probably was the reason for some surprising summer records. Details of the above and the usual summertime fare of shorebirds, nighthawks, and terns appear in the following paragraphs.

Waterfowl This is certainly an interesting caption for the summer Bird Calendar. The Gordon Park Impoundment proved to be a magnet for attracting and keeping waterfowl of several species that just did not make it north. Among these were up to 2 Gadwall in late June, a female Northern Pintail July 9 to 11, Green-winged Teal in late June and July, 3 American Wigeon on July 9, 5 Redheads on August 24 with 2 thereafter, a summering Lesser Scaup, and Hooded Merganser on June 24 and 25.

Shorebirds The Gordon Park Impoundment produced two months of excellent shorebirding in July and August. Certainly the key to the local abundance of shorebirds is habitat availability and Gordon Park provides this to migrating shorebirds. Stilt Sandpipers proved to be a major surprise for beginning in late July the species became an everyday visitor there. A record Cleveland area count for Stilt Sandpipers occurred on rainy and stormy July 31 when 30+ were recorded and good numbers in all sorts of plumages remained throughout the period. Other uncommon species noted at Gordon Park included Whimbrels on July 26, August 4, 6, and 7 and Baird's Sandpipers and Western Sandpipers in late August. Local shorebirders, both novice and veteran, spent many hours studying the various shorebirds and their many plumages during July and August.

Among the more interesting reports from inland areas were three Stilt Sandpipers on August 8 and a very early Sanderling on August 25 at West Branch State Park (Rosche).

On the negative side, it appears that as long as the Budweiser "500" is staged at Burke Airport Upland Sandpipers will not nest there as no reports of this species were received from this location. What warrants future investigation concerns two reports of Upland Sandpipers at Hopkins International Airport with two birds on July 30 (Rosche) and five birds on September 2 (Hannikman). Whether these

birds were just migrants or whether they are summer residents/breeders at Hopkins remains to be determined but any birders who travel through this airport should be aware of the possibility of seeing these birds.

Terns Another all-time Cleveland area high count for Forster's Terns was established when 48 were counted at Gordon Park on August 3 (Klamm). Up to 18 were recorded there regularly for the rest of August. Caspian Terns were also in good numbers as a count of 192 on August 23 indicates. Small numbers of Caspian Terns summered locally as there were several mid-June reports. And, as usual, Black Terns peaked in mid-August with a high count of 325 on August 11.

Common Nighthawk No large gatherings of Common Nighthawks materialized in late August. Best counts were 35 in Euclid on August 25 (Hannikman) and 35 at Bedford Metropark on August 27 (Knight). Even though numbers were small, the behavior of the migrating nighthawks, at least some of those noted in Euclid, caught the attention of one observer and his observations appear in the field notes sections.

Alder Flycatcher Another new location for Alder Flycatcher was discovered just south of Solon near the junction of Aurora and Liberty Roads. The first Alder was heard on June 1 and three were still singing on July 25. Two interesting facts that were commented upon by the observer of this area were that it was his belief that Alder Flycatcher may not arrive on its breeding territories in northern Ohio until after June 1 and that both Alder Flycatchers and Willow Flycatchers were apparently nesting in close proximity to each other at this location (Corbin). Further observations regarding this species in the coming years promise to reveal even more about its breeding habits.

Warblers The lateness of the spring resulted in a number of tardy species. Laggards included Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers at Wildwood Park on June 5 (Kellerman) and several Mourning and Wilson's Warblers at Sims Park between June 1 and 8 (Corbin).

Surveys for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas are really expanding current knowledge on the abundance of locally nesting warblers. Just witness counts of 24 Hooded Warblers at Virginia Kendall on June 18, 29 Yellow Warblers and 16 Common Yellowthroats in Kent on June 19, 14 Black-throated Green Warblers and 20 Louisiana Waterthrushes in Stebbins Gulch on July 8 (Rosche). And the status of Chestnut-sided Warbler in the Cleveland region has been changed by recent

field work to that of uncommon summer resident and birds were again reported from Kent, Chardon, and Munson Township. Only comment on the Ovenbird, a species that has been watched in recent years, was "a good year for them" (LePage). Hopefully this will become a trend for the future.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - Two in summer plumage and one in winter plumage were off Sims Park on the evening of June 3 (Hannikman). This is the largest number ever recorded in June in CBC records.

Horned Grebe - Early individuals were found at Lorain on August 22 (fide Johnson) and Sims Park on August 30 (LePage).

Cattle Egret - Four briefly appeared at Gordon Park on July 24 (Klamm).

Bufflehead - A female remained at Gordon Park from August 12 through 26 (Klamm et al.) This seemingly is the first August record of this species in CBC files.

American Avocet - (1) First record from Mentor was of four birds flying past Mentor Headlands beach on July 2 (Bacik). (2) Gordon Park sightings were single birds on July 5 (LePage, Corbin) and August 15 (LePage) and two birds on July 31 (Hannikman).

Marbled Godwit - (1) Lone birds were noted at Gordon Park on August 10 and 16 (Klamm). (2) A single bird was discovered among 11 Willets on the morning of July 4 at Gordon Park. Later on that same day this bird literally called in 15 additional Marbled Godwits that were in passage past Gordon Park. (Hoffman, Emery fide Hannikman). Needless to say, 16 Marbled Godwits at one location is a sighting unique in this century in CBC records and probably becomes the high count for Ohio also. It is this editor's opinion that this observation will be remembered as one of the birding highlights of the 1980's when a review of the decade is made.

Red Knot- Single birds were recorded at Gordon Park on July 30, August 28 and 29, and four on August 18 (Klamm et al.).

White-rumped Sandpiper - A summer-plumaged individual dawdled at Gordon Park from June 16 to 20 (Klamm et al.).

Dunlin - Probably an unsuccessful northbound migrant occurred at Gordon Park on July 7, 9, and 10 (Klamm et al.).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Records from Gordon Park were as follows: August 20 (2) 25 (1), 26 (2), 27 (1), and 28 (3) (Klamm et al.).

Wilson's Phalarope - Lone birds were found at Gordon Park on July 4 (many observers) and August 29 (Klamm).

Laughing Gull - An adult was resting with other gulls on the concrete outfall at Gordon Park on June 5 (Hannikman et al.).

Herring Gull - Successful nesting occurred at Gordon Park as a young bird was noted in July (many observers).

Sedge Wren - One was discovered in Tallmadge on July 2 (Rosche).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Amazing was an apparently summering male heard singing in Painesville on June 2,4, 27, 29 and July 24 (Miller). A summering bird is unprecedented in CBC files.

Swainson's Thrush - A very tardy bird was noted at Bedford Metropark on June 11 (Knight).

Hermit Thrush - See the field notes section for the details of the first known nesting of this species in the Cleveland area.

Northern Parula - A female was discovered at Chester Commons in downtown Cleveland on the morning of June 7 (Hannikman).

Pine Warbler - A singing bird was seen at Lake Rockwell on June 28, July 2 and 10 (Rosche).

Bay-breasted Warbler - A late migrant was at Horseshoe Lake on June 10 (Knight).

Black-and-white Warbler - A singing individual was noted in Bradley Woods from June 23 to July 4 (LePage). A female or nest could never be located.

Kentucky Warbler -A lone bird was located on June 12 and 26 on Little Mountain (Rickard).

Mourning Warbler -Very unusual summer records were received from Little Mountain on June 12 and 26 (Rickard) and Stebbins Gulch on July 8 (Rosche). This latter individual was singing and acted very territorial, but nesting could not be confirmed as no subsequent observations were made at this site. With the successful nesting of Hermit Thrushes locally and the very suggestive records of Mourning Warbler detailed above, it may be that species, late in moving north because of a cool spring, are compelled to attempt nesting where they find themselves in early June. This is one explanation for the above records.

FIELD NOTES

Nesting Hermit Thrushes On June 18, while censusing birds at Virginia Kendall for the Greater Akron Audubon Society, I heard a "chuk" note which I immediately recognized as a Hermit Thrush. I stopped and saw an adult Hermit Thrush carrying a grub-like worm and vigorously pumping its rufous tail. The bird and I began to stare each other down but more important matters soon took over and the bird flew off. I then began hearing at least two singing males in the opposite direction. All in all, I figure I saw at least four adult Hermit Thrushes that day.

I returned with Ed Pierce early on June 22 and we found the birds very easy to approach in the hemlock areas above the ledges. The birds kept skulking about the same area and upon further investigation I flushed a small, tailless bird which was desperately trying to keep up with a very concerned parent. The young bird was much more spotted than the adult. Ed Pierce found another young bird with a tail. This bird was very small but was already exhibiting the characteristic tail-pump of Hermit Thrushes.

I feel that this constitutes one of the first, if not the first, known nesting records for the Calendar area. It is quite possible that the mild winter and cool spring helped influence the birds to nest. Perhaps more diligent field work in hemlock type areas will reveal that Hermit Thrushes are present year round. LARRY ROSCHE

Migrating Common Nighthawks -I noticed different behavior in migrating Common Nighthawks this year than I had previously observed. In late August nighthawks would suddenly appear, barely above the treetops. This sudden arrival was even more enhanced by the fact that the birds approached silently --they were suddenly above the treetops, and were

just as quickly, and quietly gone. Even at this low level the birds appeared to be hawking insects. Usually night-hawks are seen fairly high overhead as they assemble into migrating flocks, so it was interesting to observe this year's migration because it added to my knowledge of the habits of this species. RAY HANNIKMAN

Nesting Acadian Flycatchers --

6/21 - Just back from vacation to find a pair very active near our house, with much calling and flying back and forth over a nearby pond. Female calling "peet peet" whenever we came near. This caused the bird to fly from the Rhododendrum bush to some young hemlock trees near the pond.

6/26 - At last we found their nest, on a low branch overlooking the pond. One egg was noted.

6/28 -A second egg found.

6/29 thru 7/5 (2 P.M.) - Female sitting on nest most of the day. Male singing not far away.

7/5 (6 P.M.) - Eggs gone, nest intact. This is the first time they have nested so close to our house. We think it was because we were away and there was nothing to disturb them while building the nest. DOROTHY MILLER

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Correction -Please note that the count for Blackburnian Warblers on page 15, Vol. 79, No. 2 should read 20, not 200.

Deletion -Per the initial observer's request, please delete the Mew Gull from the Winter, 1982-1983 issue.

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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, Attention: Helen Yenkevich.

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 into the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, e.g., Sabine's Gull, Varied Thrush, the tape should be called the day of the observation.