



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
Fall, 1983

September - Temperatures averaged 65.1 degrees, 1.0 degree above normal. Sunshine prevailed 82% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature stood at 66 degrees on the 30th. Precipitation occurred on 3 days and totaled 2.87 inches, 0.05 inches below normal.

October - Temperatures averaged 53.4 degrees, 0.2 degrees above normal. Sunshine prevailed 45% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature declined from 66 degrees on the 1st to 57 degrees on the 31st. Measurable precipitation was scattered over 12 days and totaled 4.14 inches, 1.69 inches above normal.

November - 16 days of precipitation totaled 5.89 inches, 3.13 inches above normal. This included 7.1 inches of snow that came on the 11th and 15th. In all, it proved to be the 3rd wettest month on record. Sunshine prevailed 30% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged 43.9 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. Lake Erie water temperature declined to 46 degrees by the 30th.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

It is northwest winds roaring across a turbulent Lake Erie, it is a squall line of thunderstorms and a sudden temperature drop, it is that first snowfall of November -- these phenomena produce exciting fall birding and generally were lacking for the fall of 1983. Throughout the fall Cleveland Bird Calendar the out-of-season strays, the off-course waifs will be prominently featured and documented as to plumage, location, date observed, and abundance, and, to be sure, these birds make us chase the fall migration; but the warblers in our backyard, or the ducks that always return about October 15, or the Black-capped Chickadees that reappear at the window feeder at the first, cold snap -- they, too, are the fall migration that we all know will be there for us birders just in case we do not feel like chasing that vagrant that appeared yesterday 25 miles away.

Loons, Swans The following table highlights the fall loon migration in the Cleveland area:

| Date | Time | Wind Direction | Movement Direction | Count | Location |
|-------|------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 10/29 | 7:50-8:50 | NNW | Southerly | 16 | E.55th |
| 10/29 | 7:30-8:30 | NNW | S-SW | 26 | E. 260th Sims Park |
| 11/1 | - | On water | - | 51 | Lakewood |
| 11/5 | 7:30-8:30 | N | S-SW | 58 | E.260th Sims Park |
| 11/12 | 7:05-9:30 | N-NW | S-SW | 281 | E.55th |
| 11/12 | 7:30-8:45 | N-NW | S-SW-W | 185 | E.260th |
| 11/12 | 9:00-10:00 | N-NW | S-SW-W | 63 | Sims Park |
| 11/17 | 7:45-8:30 | NW | SW | 51 | E.55th |

November 12, with its gale force winds out of the northwest, was the loon day. It is likely that many of the loons noted from Sims Park and East 260th on that day were again tallied at East 55th since direction of movement was generally in a southwest-westerly corridor along the Lake Erie shoreline. The East 55th Street observers (Hoffman) also recorded the largest individual migrating loon flock --a circling kettle of 60, moving southward, at about 8:25 am on November 12. The observers most responsible for the above data were somewhat surprised that many of this year's migrants were noted

a little later in the morning than had been expected and this resulted in a less concentrated daily movement. For the next several years counts of Common Loons should be closely monitored in view of the extensive die-off of these birds that occurred in Florida from February to April 1983 (American Birds 37: 861).

Tundra Swans -- where were they or where did they go? With only two flocks of any size reported (20 at Sims Park on November 24 and 28 at LaDue on November 27) swan movements were virtually non-existent. Most curious was that November 12, the big loon day, did not produce any swan movement for the fall migrations of both species are highly correlated. In any case, swan numbers disappointed observers during the late fall.

Waterfowl Red-breasted Mergansers occurred in excellent numbers in November. Significant lakefront counts were as follows: 10,000 at Mentor Headlands on November 4 (fide Booth), 22,800 and 24,200 on November 7 and 12 respectively along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm). Watching the seemingly endless flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers can become monotonous but can yield other species mixed in with the mergansers. Such was the case with the observation of 50 Black Scoters on November 5 and 16 on November 6 at Sims Park. The scoters were moving with the long lines of mergansers. Sims Park has become the best place to find Black Scoter along the Cleveland lakefront.

Shorebirds The Gordon Park Impoundment continued to produce excellent shorebirding (witness 16 species of shorebirds there on October 1). Highlights included Willets, 2 on September 4 and 1 on September 24, the continued presence of Stilt Sandpipers throughout September and most of October, and 2 Western Sandpipers on September 6. What was described as "my biggest shorebird day inland" occurred on September 6 at West Branch State Park (Rosche). 14 species were present among which were a Golden Plover, 5 Stilt Sandpipers, and 2 Western Sandpipers.

Gulls, Terns Gull highlights included an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Lorain on November 17, an adult Thayer's Gull at Lorain on October 8, and a second-winter Thayer's Gull at Edgewater on November 12. Franklin's Gulls and Little Gulls put in only token appearances during the season. Only records of Franklin's Gulls were adults at Gordon Park on September 14, 28, and 29 while Little Gull was reported only at Mentor on October 1. These latter two species have

recently become easier to find than the few records of the past fall would indicate so their scarcity was noteworthy.

Upwards of 20 Forster's Terns could be found at the Gordon Park Impoundment until the middle of September. And the season's high count of 400 Common Terns came from Lorain on October 19. If any contributor can come up with a reason why Common Terns sometimes reach their fall peak in mid-to-late October he or she is welcome to submit that idea to this editor.

Owls The season's first Snowy Owl appeared at Lorain on November 18 and a single bird remained at Burke Airport from November 19 to the end of the period. Short-eared Owls were encountered three times at the Gordon Park Impoundment: a single bird on October 4 and two birds on October 22 and 23.

Common Nighthawk Excellent early September counts of common Nighthawk were recorded as follows:

| Date | Location | Number |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 9/1 | Kent | 264 |
| 9/3 | Rocky River | 245 |
| 9/4 | Rocky River | 78 |
| 9/4 | Near west side of Cleveland | 33 |
| 9/5 | Rocky River | 69 |
| 9/9 | Bedford | 48 |
| 9/10 | Warrensville | 40 |

This September movement ended abruptly as no Common Nighthawks were observed after September 10.

Flycatchers With one major exception, flycatchers drew little or no comment from contributors. Most Empidonax flycatchers went unreported as to species and Bedford Metropark produced the only Olive-sided Flycatcher on September 8 and 9. The glaring exception to the listless flycatcher migration (reporting) was the 62 Eastern Kingbirds at Lake Rockwell on September 3 (Rosche). Certainly no bumblebee was safe as it passed through this area that day. When contributors notice an extraordinary abundance of a certain species at a particular location notes should be taken as to the behavior of the birds, possible reasons should be offered to explain the appearance of the birds, and a following day visit to the area should be made to see if any of the birds remain. Reports of an abundance of a certain species and the possible causes therefore are as important to understanding the full picture of bird migration as are those reports of scarcities of certain species.

Wrens Carolina Wrens went unreported throughout the fall. None has been seen since February. Marsh Wrens were attracted to the Gordon Park Impoundment in late September and early October. The high count was nine on September 24. Rounding out the wren picture were two Sedge Wrens at Gordon Park in October

Warblers The fall warbler migration was difficult to assess. Several active birders were out of town, some concentrated on lakefront areas so the warblers had, as it were, to come to them, and many had no comment at all. An analysis is hard to do when there is little or no basis to do that analysis! What does emerge from contributors' reports was that the warbler movement was steady throughout most of September, with no spectacular fallouts, and that inland areas recorded more birds (or were better covered). Reports indicated a poor local movement of Canada Warblers and that Connecticut Warblers outnumbered Mourning Warblers 3 reports to 1. Certainly surprising was that no Yellow Warblers were reported for the entire period --and then one shows up on December 21! Details of this extraseasonal laggard will appear in the Winter Issue of the Cleveland Bird Calendar.

Winter Finches A minor influx of these transients occurred. Upwards of 30 Evening Grosbeaks were present in Chardon from October 18 through November 30 (Spare) with other notable flocks in Chesterland, 25 birds on November 7 (Klaus), and 26 on November 2 at University School in Hunting Valley (Rickard). Pine Siskins were reported only on four dates, two in late October and two in late November with a maximum of three birds. Finally, only a single Common Redpoll, on November 17 in Lorain, was observed.

Lapland Longspur Beginning in mid-October and lasting throughout November migrant flocks of Snow Buntings frequently occur, especially at lakefront areas. Oftentimes these flocks are spotted as they are moving far out over the lake and the Snow Buntings are readily identified even at relatively far distances. Some of these flocks were attracted to the Gordon Park Impoundment and with the Snow Buntings were more Lapland Longspurs than are usually noted here during the fall. With the exception of two longspurs on November 13, all birds occurred between October 15 and 31 with a maximum of 8 birds on October 23. The Gordon Park Impoundment has thus become an important stopover not only for shorebirds and waterfowl but also for passerines.

Yearly Summary In the Bird Calendar year now ended, 274 species of birds, same as last year, were recorded in the Cleveland area. Among the highlights were the Cleveland area's first California Gull and Gyrfalcon, Least Bittern, Least Tern, and King Rail. On the negative side, no Long-eared Owls were recorded for the first time in recent memory.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - One was viewed from the East 9th St. pier on November 12 (Klamm).

Least Bittern - Only record for the year was of a bird by the boardwalk at Shaker Lakes on October 23 (Rickard). Least Bittern was last recorded in the month of October in 1962.

Cattle Egret - One was at the Gordon Park Impoundment on September 30 (Hoffman).

Brant - Single birds were noted on November 13 both at Lorain and at Avon Lake (LePage). No determination was made as to whether there were two birds or whether there was only one bird observed at two different locations at two different times.

Bald Eagle - (1) A sub-adult that frequented Lake Rockwell from October 29 to the end of the period was joined by an immature from November 25 to the end of the period (Rosche, Elder). (2) An adult was observed in Lake County on October 15 (Miller).

Peregrine Falcon - (1) An immature appeared, as if wished in, at the Gordon Park Impoundment on October 6 and remained in this vicinity until October 10 (Corbin et al.). (2) Another immature was at Chardon on October 14 (Spare).

Gyrfalcon - The Cleveland area's first 'Gyr' was observed at Lorain just past noon on October 22 (Pogacnik, Rosche).

King Rail - A lone bird was seen and heard in a large cattail area of Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain on November 22 (Pogacnik). Last recorded in the Cleveland area on July 2, 1973, this sighting becomes the first November record in CBC files.

American Avocet - On September 7 a single bird was observed at the Gordon Park Impoundment (Klamm).

Hudsonian Godwit - One was noted at the Gordon Park impoundment on September 27 (Klamm) and two were found at Burke Airport on October 6 (fide Hoffman).

White-rumped Sandpiper - 12 birds on October 5 at the Gordon Park Impoundment was the largest number ever recorded in CBC files (Klamm). Up to two birds were regular there for most of September at least until October 21. An additional record came from Lorain on October 6 (LePage).

Pectoral Sandpiper - A new late fall date of occurrence was achieved when a tardy migrant was seen at the Gordon Park Impoundment on November 22 (Emery, Klamm).

Purple Sandpiper - At least one bird was at the Gordon Park Impoundment on November 12 (LePage et al.).

Stilt Sandpiper - Last observation of this species at Gordon Park was October 23, a new late fall date (Hannikman).

Long-billed Dowitcher - Easily compared and contrasted with present Short-billed Dowitchers was a lone bird at the Gordon Park Impoundment from September 24 to October 10 (many observers). One was also on the Lorain mudflat on October 6 (LePage).

Wilson's Phalarope - One occurred at the Gordon Park Impoundment from September 2 to 7 (Klamm).

Red-necked Phalarope - One, sometimes two, remained at the Gordon Park Impoundment from September 23 to October 4 (many observers).

Red Phalarope - Birds appeared as follows: 1 on September 23 and 24, 2 on October 31, and 1 on November 1 at the Gordon Park Impoundment (Klamm); 1 at Lorain on November 6 (Elder); and probably the same individual at Wildwood on November 26 and Northeast Yacht Club on November 27 (Kellerman).

Jaeger (sp.?) - Distance precluded a positive, specific identification of an immature jaeger at Lorain on October 8 (Pogacnik).

Laughing Gull - A bird in juvenile plumage was discovered at Lorain on September 18 (Hoffman). Birds of the year, as this individual was, are seldom noted in the Cleveland region.

Common Black-headed Gull - An adult was noted at the East 55th St. Marina on November 12 (LePage et al.).

Least Tern - This species was recorded for only the third time in CBC files when a lone bird was studied at Lorain on the morning of September 7 (Pogacnik).

Chimney Swift - The long-expected, first local November record for this species came on November 3 at Lorain (Pogacnik). Another record past the previous late fall date of October 26, 1979 was a lone bird at the Gordon Park Impoundment on October 30 (Klamm).

Wood Thrush - A late, rather sickly-looking individual was found at Sims Park on November 5 (Corbin).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Unprecedented in length and abundance was the migration of this species through our area. The excellent, weedy habitat of the Gordon Park Impoundment was responsible for up to four individuals on October 1 (many observers). Other records ranged from September 24 to October 6.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - Between 2 and 4 birds were noted at the Gordon Park Impoundment from September 19 to 24 (Klamm). Previous records of this species have only been of single birds. This was the first multiple-individual occurrence in CBC files.

FIELD NOTES

A Gourmet Kingfisher On September 26 I watched a Kingfisher dive into our pond for a frog and fly to a nearby maple with it. The kingfisher proceeded to swallow the medium-sized frog head first with the feet hanging out. With each effort to swallow the frog the kingfisher jerked his head violently to the side. After a dozen or more swallows and jerks the kingfisher finally gulped in the last of the protruding frog legs. --WALTER KREMM

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.

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 updated with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of extreme-rarities, e. g., Varied Thrush, Sabine's Gull, the tape should be called the day of the observation

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.