



CLEVELAND REGION

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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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 |
| 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)

September, October, November 1988

Volume 84

Number 4

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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THE WEATHER - FALL 1988

by William Klamm

SEPTEMBER- Temperatures averaged 64.0 degrees. 0.1 degrees below normal. The extremes reached a high of 84 degrees on the 18th and a low of 43 degrees on the 25th. Lake Erie water temperature at 73 degrees on the 1st dropped to 67 on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 58% of the time possible. Precipitation on 7 days totaled 1.77, inches, 1.25 inches below normal.

OCTOBER - Precipitation distributed on 18 days totaled 2.51 inches, 0.06 inches above normal. Fleeting snow traces appeared on the 5th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 24th, Sunshine prevailed 38% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged 47.1 degrees, 6.1 degrees below normal. The extremes reached a high of 83 degrees on the 1st and a low of 19 on the 31st. Lake Erie water temperature of 67 on the 1st declined to 57 degrees.

NOVEMBER- Temperature averaged 43.8 degrees. 2.0 degrees above normal. Lake Erie water temperature at 51 on the 1st dropped to 46 on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 30% of the time possible. Precipitation came on 19 days and totaled to 4.63 inches as water 1.87 inches in excess of the normal. This included snow as a trace on the 2nd, 0.5 inches on the 6th, 0.4 inches on the 7th, 0.2 inches on the 28th and 0.6 inches on the 30th for a total of 1.7 inches as snow.

REFLECTIONS

THIRTY YEARS AGO: The fourth regional record of brant was located off Gordon Park 15 Nov. (Klamm). Only one Canada goose was reported from Lake Rockwell for the entire month of November. The rarity of the season was a

female black-backed woodpecker that frequented the dead elms in Waite Hill 13-25 Nov. (Flanigan).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: A western grebe was studied by a Cuyahoga Falls Bird Club field trip 3 Nov. at LaDue Reservoir (Hjelmquist). On 27 Sep, approximately 1800 chimney swifts were observed entering a chimney in Hudson (Szabo). The first October record of prothonotary warbler was in Waite Hill 15 Oct. (Flanigan).

TEN YEARS AGO: A spectacular incursion of common loons was noted the lost ten days of November (Hannikman). The only Ohio record of common eider was observed and photographed between White City and the Munny Landfill (Hoffman, LePage, Klamm). From 6-12 November on immature pomarine jaeger frequented the runways at Burke Airport (Hoffman) and was observed by many. The third occurrence of Sabine's gull this century was discovered at White City (Klamm).

FALL 1988

Common loons were plentiful along Lake Erie during November. Loons on the water 3 Nov. numbered 158 from Perkins Beach west to Lorain (Klamm, LePage). The largest flights occurred over Euclid 11 Nov. (85) and over

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

Where does one begin to describe the fall season of 1988? As new editor, the task of sifting through the reports was more than enjoyable. It was exciting. The reader will have to draw his/her own conclusions on the numbers and the rarities reported. For the observer it was a season to remember.

Expectations of a poor fall migration due to dry summer conditions proved to be unfounded in most cases. The numbers of common migrants were high, even away from the traditional havens along Lake Erie. How can 100,000 red-breasted mergansers be described to those who did not see them? What about the Bonaparte's and ring-billed gulls that blanketed the lakefront? LePage wrote that "they were in numbers as high as I had ever seen." Who can forget the high numbers of thrushes, blackpoll warblers or yellow-rumped warblers?

The high number of migrants brought great variety as well. Henderson wrote that in twenty-five years he had never seen hooded or black-throated blue warblers in his yard. Rarities were documented with greater frequency than in most seasons. The ensuing pages will hopefully satisfy the quantitative as well as the qualitative bird enthusiast,

E. 55th St. 21 Nov. (250). Horned grebes were numerous along Lake Erie but uncommon inland. Pied-billed grebes were generally scarce. Tundra swans were heard by several contributors overhead the night of 30 Oct. if this was the main passage of swans, it was a week or so early. High counts of resting swans were 104 of Lake Rockwell 30

Ducks, in general, need to be monitored closely. If U.S. Wildlife Officials are correct in their estimates, this family is in serious decline. Wood ducks were well reported away from Lake Erie. Gatherings at Lake Isaac (123) 12 Sep. and Tallmadge (100+) 30 Oct. were representative. Both teal species, northern pintail and northern shoveler were encountered in small numbers. American wigeon and gadwall were well reported but in slightly lower than normal numbers.

mergansers at Edgewater Beach 22 Nov. and 275 at Lake Rockwell 29 Nov. The enormous flock of 100,000 red-breasted mergansers along the Cleveland Lakefront was not out of character for the species. These large flocks have been documented at various (out of the region) Lake Erie locations for several years. Oldsquaws and all three scoter species were encountered at the regular times along Lake Erie in small numbers. A flock of 12 black scoters at LaDue Reservoir 12 Nov. was unexpected (Ferris),

DUCKS, IN GENERAL NEED TO BE MONITORED CLOSELY

Oct. (Rosche) and 95 at LaDue Reservoir 17 Nov. (Fondrk). An intermediate phase snow goose was at North Chagrin Reservation 15 Oct. (Kellerman),

The diving ducks which are usually plentiful before December were tallied in fair numbers. Examples include: 720 ring-necked ducks at Lake Rockwell 30 Oct.; 700 ruddy ducks at Mogadore Reservoir 30 Oct. and 165 at Oberlin Reservoir 20 Nov.; 165 hooded

Sixty turkey vultures were reported from Hinckley 10 Sep. (Harlan). The last osprey was in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (hereafter CVNRA) 7 Oct. (Chaser). Northern harriers were fairly widespread with 10 reports.

Selected Waterfowl Greater Cleveland Oct. Nov. 1988

Date	Oct13	19	23	29	30	Nov 6	14.	25	29	29
Location	LR	MOG	MOG	HBSP	LR	MOG	LR	LaD	MOG	LR
Canada Goose	200	75	100	30	100	20	350	•	10	350
Wood Duck	65	25	14	4	2		0	•	•	•
Green-winged Teal	4	•	4	•	•	•	22	•	•	1
A. Black Duck	30	4	10	6	26	1	130	70	4	60
Mallard	30	30	100	40	20	20	297	925	20	100
Gadwall	9	2	8	10	4	a	2	•	•	•
American Wigeon	104	40	15	1	80.	•	•	•	•	1
Ring-necked Duck	245	30	4		720	150	180	25	•	6
Scoupp Duck (sp)	•	•	10	•	10	•	110		4	
C. Goldeneye	•	•	•		3	5	a	a	4	3
Buttiehead	•	•	•	6	6	30	8	0	25	65
Hooded Merganser	•	•	•	3	•	4	36	•	•	275
Ruddy Duck	5	260	21)5	1	17	660	6	0	164	•

LR = Lake Rockwell; MOG = Mogadore Re., HBSP = Headlands Park; LaD = Ladue Res.

Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were well distributed in the region, Active feeding stations at the Seiberling Naturealm made for daily occurrences of these two species from mid-October. Red-shouldered hawk reports were meager except for a regular bird in Gates. Mills (Kremm). Rough-legged hawks were reported from Cuyahoga. Geauga and Summit Counties.

A northern bobwhite was a roadkill near the Medina - Summit County line (Wert). A ruffed grouse surprised observers at Headlands Beach State Park (hereafter Headlands BSP) 15 Oct. (Hoffman), Rails went through the region unnoticed except for one sora in Cleveland 1 Oct.

Although twenty-four species of shorebirds were noted, suitable habitat was greatly reduced. Compared to recent years, numbers were decidedly lower. An exception was a flock of 58 lesser golden-overs near Lake Rockwell 5 Sep. (Rosche, Stover). Unique was a flock of 13 common snipe in a wet Kent lawn from mid-October through mid-November. Pectoral sandpipers and dunlins were the only other shorebirds noted in any numbers. The ubiquitous killdeer lingered into November.

Jaeger reports brought excitement to those who seek the unusual, Never in Bird Calendar history had so many pomarine jaegers been reported. (See Noteworthy Records and R.L. Hannikman's Field Notes)

Gulls were in numbers too large to count with twelve species being identified. It has become routine to find lesser black-backed gulls. Up to four were in Lorain (m.obs.). A single was observed in Rocky River 3 Oct. (Klamm) and one to two in Eastlake throughout November (m.obs.). LePage

SHOREBIRD NUMBERS WERE NOTICEABLY LOWER.

found singles at Headlands BSP 8 Oct. and at Huntington Beach 19 Nov. Three different Franklin's gulls were reported from Lorain, another frequented Headlands BSP in late September. Little gulls were encountered in singles at various Lake Erie locales throughout the period. All four regularly occurring tern species

were reported but numbers were unimpressive. Only caspian terns received mention away from Lake Erie. Common terns often linger into late fall and this year's straggler was at Eastlake 27 Nov. (Hoffman, Rosche).

A black-billed cuckoo was at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve 3Sep. (LePage). Six yellow-billed cuckoos were reported. Eastern screech-owls were distributed well. Short-eared owls were noted along Lake Erie on at least three occasions. Three migrating over the Seiberling Naturealm Nov. was more unusual (Stover).

Common nighthawks were still in small numbers the first week of September. It is interesting to note that in the sixties this species regularly lingered into mid-October. Chimney swifts were common through the first third of October. Ruby-throated hummingbirds were well reported through the first half of September.

Red-headed woodpeckers all but disappeared by October. The only piciformes receiving mention from the majority of contributors was yellow-bellied sapsucker. They moved along Lake Erie from late-September through early October in small numbers. Sapsuckers also received mention from several inland locations.

Olive-sided flycatchers were

reported from Big Creek Park and Sims Park. Eastern wood-pewees remained common through the first two-thirds of September. A tardy eastern wood-pewee at Headlands BSP 22 Oct. had the presence of mind to give it's call note (Hannikman, Rosche). Empidonax flycatchers were well reported in September. A total of eight yellow-bellieds were identified in that period. An Acadian flycatcher was banded at the Seiberling Naturealm 5 Sep. (Szabo). This was one of only a few fall reports in recent years. Eastern phoebes moved nicely in October. Reports throughout the region were encouraging.

Swallows abruptly disappeared by September except for a few barn swallows which lingered to mid-month. Red-breasted nuthatch reports were unspectacular but brown creepers moved into the region in fair numbers. White-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice and black-capped chickadees were flourishing as usual.

Carolina wrens continue their comeback from the late seventies. An exponential leap in population seems imminent with the increase in breeding stock. Winter wrens were very common along Lake Erie from late September through late October. Marsh wrens were encountered on five occasions, with a high count of 3 at Gordon Park Landfill 29 Sep. (LePage). Both kinglet

species were tallied in the hundreds of several Lake Erie locations in early October. On a less positive note blue-gray gnatcatchers were barely noticed.

Eastern bluebirds were doing well in Portage and Geauga Counties. Thrushes were felt to have been represented very well this autumn. Seven veery reports is above the norm for this species in the fall. A late veery of Headlands BSP 8 Oct. called (Rosche). Gray-cheeked thrushes were "briefly abundant" in the Rocky River Valley 23-25 Sep. (Klamm). Gray-cheeked thrushes were widely reported inland as well.

CAROLINA WRENS CONTINUE THEIR COMEBACK FROM THE LATE SEVENTIES

There are seasons when this species goes undetected away from the usual Lake Erie migrant traps. Swainson's thrushes were conspicuous throughout the region during September. A high count of 35 was noted by Harlan in the Rocky River Volley on 9 Sep. Hermit thrushes were exceptional, as well, during the last half of October. Several observers counted 30-40 at Headlands BSP 15 Oct. This species was well represented inland for the first time in several years.

Warbler Occurrence Sampling for Cleveland Region Sep. - Oct. 1988

Date	Sep	6	11	12	12	18	23	25	29	Oct8
Location	C-RR	IR	HBSP	LI	C-IR	SP	C-RR	LR	HBSP	HBSP
Tennessee	•	3	6	•	3	2	7	6	1	1
Orange-crowned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	3
Nashville	1	2	10	2	a	19	1	2	1	4
N. Parula	•	1	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	1
Yellow	2	•	•	2	•	1	•	•	•	•
Chestnut-sided	8	2	8	1	6	3	1	2	•	•
Magnolia	9	1	25	2	7	13	10	2	4	2
Cape May	17	32	12	5	5	3	3	10	•	1
Black-throated Blue	3		2	•	1	1	4		1	2
Yellow-rumped	•	6	10	1	1	8	3	10	30	300
Black-throat. Green	•	1	2	1	3	4	6	1	1	1
Blackburnian	3	•	3	•	•	9	•	1	•	•
Palm	•	•	4	•	•	8	7	•	•	11
Bay-breasted	16	1	2	1	6	3	9	2		•
Blackpoll	1	•	75	6	23	50	9	15	12	•
Black-and-white	1	•	2	2	3	3	3	•	•	•
A. Redstart	9	1	25	•	9	7	12	2	2	•
Ovenbird	1	1	1	•	•	1	•	•	•	•
N. Waterthrush	•	•	•	1	•	1	•	•	•	•
Mourning	•	•	1	•	1	•	•	•	•	•
C. Yellowthroat	1	2	8	2	6	4	3	•	•	•
Wilson's	4	•	12	2	5	6	1	2	2	•

C-RR - Cleveland lakefront to Rocky River; LR - Lake Rockwell; LI - Lake Isaac; SP- Sims Park; HBSP - Headlands Park

Up to six northern mockingbirds were noted in the Gordon Park vicinity. Singles were found in Barberton 30 Oct. and Lake Rockwell 23 Nov. Brown thrasher were well reported in September. This was encouraging clue to previous concern over recent, declines in nesting reports.

Vireos were widely distributed in September. Only red-eyed was reported in October. Twelve reports of Philadelphia vireo indicated a fairly good passage for this species.

Perhaps the story of the fall was the remarkable and prolonged warbler migration. Not only were 31 species reported, the numbers of common species satisfied even the most veteran of observers. Along Lake Erie and inland warblers were counted in above normal numbers. The tallies from the region just on 18 September collectively read: Tennessee (19). Orange-crowned (2). Nashville (14). Northern Parula (2). Yellow (3), Chestnut-sided (7). Magnolia (77), Cape May (42), Black-

throated Blue (6). Yellow-rumped (75), Black-throated Green (17), Blackburnian (10). Palm (85). Bay-breasted (23), Blackpoll (179). Black-and-

...REMARKABLE AND PROLONGED WARBLER MIGRATION.

White (10), American Redstart (44). Ovenbird (1), Northern Waterthrush (1). Connecticut (2). Mourning (2), Common

Yellowthroat (19), Hooded (1) and Wilson's (51). These one day totals reflect a very strong passage of parulinae through the region 15-22 Sep. Comments on yellow-rumped warblers were: "a conservative estimate of 300+" at Headlands BSP 8 Oct. (Rosche), "Infinite in the CVNRA" 7 Oct. (Chaser), "almost unbelievably numerous" 7-8 Oct. (Klamm). Stragglers of note were a block-throated green at Shaker Lakes 4 Nov. (Fazio) and a palm of North Chagrin Reservation 6 Nov. (Kellerman).

Scarlet tanagers, northern orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks and indigo buntings passed through largely unnoticed. Rufous-sided towhees were more conspicuous and felt to be in good numbers away from Lake Erie. Song sparrows, white-crowned sparrows and juncoes moved east to west along various lakefront locations in "massive flocks" 19 Oct. (Klamm). Fox, Lincoln's and swamp sparrows were widespread in fairly good numbers. Unique for the season was the absence of rarer sparrows. Lingers included a vesper sparrow at North Chagrin Reservation 29 Oct. and fox sparrows through the period at the Seiberling Naturealm, Savannah sparrows received little mention and probably suffered a poor reproductive season as was the case with other grassland species. Bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks were barely reported. On a



Black-throated sparrow by Pamela Suzanne Jones

more positive note snow buntings moved along Lake Erie nicely the first half of November (LePage). Twelve lapland longspurs were found at the Gordon Park Landfill 12 Nov. (Klamm).

Common grackles were found going to roost in an area away from Lake County. Henderson counted 8200 near Hudson 11 Oct. Winter finch incursions failed to materialize by the periods end.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

RED-THROATED LOON - An adult was found 24 Nov. swimming at the mouth of the Grand River (Rosche). It

remained through the period and was viewed by many. Unique to this loon was a partial breeding plumaged head and neck,

EARED GREBE - This species has become regular in the past few autumns. Reports come from Edgewater Park 30 Oct. (Harlan), Headlands BSP 20-30 (Hannikman, m.obs.), Lorain 20-27 Nov. (Klamm, LePage).

IBIS (plegadis species) - An unidentified dark Ibis flew over observers 25 Sep. at Headlands BSP (Hannikman). This constituted the fifth record of on ibis in the region.

BRANT- Three to four brant were encountered along Lake Erie. Single birds were observed 5, 6, 18 Nov. at Headlands BSP (Hannikman, Rosche), Two were seen at

observed on immature take a sanderling at Headlands BSP 22 Oct.

WHIMBREL - The largest flock in the Cleveland Bird Calendar history (30) was noted by Hannikman 5 Sep. at Headlands BSP by Hannikman. Singles were observed there 3 Sep and 18 Sep. (Fjeldstad).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT- The only report was from the "Hot Waters" in Lorain 28 Oct. (Pogacnik).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - One to two birds frequented the breakwalls and shoreline at Headlands BSP 19-27 Nov. (Hannikman, Hoffman).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - The only foil sighting was at the Gordon Pock Landfill 10 Sep. (Hannikman).

Edgewater Park 6 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn).

KING EIDER - A lone report came from Lakeview Park in Lorain 11 Nov. (Pogacnik).

BALD EAGLE - An adult and one shaggy immature were seen intermittently through the period at Lake Rockwell. Dark immatures were observed 15 Sept and 2 Nov. at the same locations.

MERLIN- Eight reports from two locations represented an excellent total. The Gordon Park Landfill reports were: 8 Sep. (female or immature) (Hoffman), 1, 10, 13 Oct. (LePage). 20 Oct. (adult) (Hoffman). Reports from Headlands BSP were: 11 Sep., 24 Sep. (2), 9 Oct. (Hannikman, Rosche).

PEREGRINE FALCON - LePage reported birds on 2 Oct. at Headlands BSP and at Burke Airport. He saw another 30 Oct. at Edgewater Park. Hannikman and Rosche

RED PHALAROPE - One to two were at E. 72nd St. and the Gordon Park Boat Basin 4-18 Nov. (Klamm, LePage m. obs.).

PARASITIC JAEGER - Two reports were tallied. 18 Nov. at Headlands BSP (Hannikman) and 26 Nov. at Avon Lake (Pogacnik).

LAUGHING GULL - Singles were noted in Lorain 10 Oct. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). 26 Oct. and 6 Nov. (Pogacnik). Another graced Eastlake 27 Nov. (Hannikman).

CALIFORNIA GULL - Excellent documentations were received on two different individuals. A first winter bird was of Headlands BSP 30 Oct. and again at East lake 6 Nov. (Gustafson, Hannikman, Peterjohn). A second winter

POMARINE JAEGER - A veritable Invasion occurred this fall. Starting with November 6 In Lorain (Gustafson, Peterjohn) and lasting through the period, birds were observed regularly at various Lake Erie sights. Avon Lake: 26 Nov. (2), 29 Nov. (LePage). Cleveland: 24 Nov. (3), 26 Nov. (2). 27 Nov. (Hannikman, m. obs.). Eastlake: 27 Nov. (Hannikman), 30 Nov. (LePage). Headlands BSP: 18 Nov., 26 Nov. (Hannikman, Rosche). Lorain: 6 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). 11 Nov. (Harlan, LePage). 26 Nov. (3) (Pogacnik).

bird was detailed by the Hoffmans 11 Nov. at the E. 55th St. Marina.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - An immature was a "first" for Headlands BSP 12 Nov. (Fjeldstad. Gustafson. PeterJohn). Another was found by Jean Hoffman 30 Nov. at Eastlake.

SABINE'S GULL - An immature allowed close study at E. 72nd St. 4-10 Nov. (Harlan. Klamm, LePage). This marked the first time in The Cleveland Bird Calendar history that this species appeared two consecutive years.

COMMON BARN-OWL This species was identified by comparing feathers found at the Gordon Park Landfill 8 Oct. to specimen feathers (Bacik).

LONG-EARED OWL -A bird was flushed from the Nature Preserve Area at Headlands BSP 7 Oct. (Hall),

NORTHERN SAW- WHET OWL - Kinglets harassing a sleeping owl helped locate a bird in the tangles behind the service shed at Headlands BSP 7 Oct. (Hall). Chickadees drew attention to another of these pint-sized predators at the Seiberling Naturealm 23 Nov. (Stover. Szabo). This bird was seen intermittently through the period.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - The only report was from Kent 21 Sep. (Rosche).

CHIMNEY SWIFT- A straggler in Lorain 1 Nov. was very late (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - A bird was found at the Gordon Park Landfill 14 Nov. (Klamm) and was seen through the period.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER- One of the very few reports in recent fall seasons was at Horseshoe Lake 5 Sep. (Peskin),

YELLOW WARBLER - Four stragglers were tallied by the Klamms 9 Nov. in Cleveland. As if that was not enough they found another 12 Nov.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - The only fall report was from Headlands BSP 8 Oct. (Hannikman).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - The only report for the year was from Headlands BSP 7 Sep. (Fjeldstad). This is only the second fall record for this species in the history of The Cleveland Bird Calendar.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - This species put in a good showing with reports from Strongsville 9 Sep. (Harlan). Cleveland 18 ,25 Sep. (Klamm), and Headlands BSP 10-18 Sep. (m. obs.).

KENTUCKY WARBLER - One of the very few fall Cleveland Bird Calendar records was at Sims Park 1 Sep. (Harlan, LePage).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - An immature or female was spotted at the Gordon Park Landfill 1 Sep. (Hoffman).

YEARLY SUMMARY

For the year 278 species were tallied, one more than 1987. New for the region was the Geauga County black-throated sparrow. Casual species noted were northern gannet, plegadis ibis species. Barrows goldeneye, sandhill crane, California gull, Sabine's gull and blue grosbeak. Species breeding or at least attempting to breed numbered 140. Red-necked phalarope, sedge wren and Henslow's sparrow went unreported.

SITE GUIDE

FINDLEY STATE PARK AND WELLINGTON RESERVOIR

by Larry Rosche

People of Lorain County discovered that birding in the rural sectors of their county proves rewarding many years ago. The areas near Wellington can provide a welcome respite from the winter birding doldrums. Findley State Park came to statewide prominence in 1979 when a varied thrush visited a feeder for a prolonged period. Since that time the area has become a regular stopping point for many observers, especially in the winter. The large tracts of conifers harbor

(con't on page 41)

FIELD NOTES

NORTHERN GANNET ON LAKE ERIE

by Jean Hoffman

The table below represents all of the Hoffman records. While these are not numerous sightings. I am still always impressed with the mere fact that Northern Gannets even appear on Lake Erie. Very strange is the fact that some occurrences are of birds that linger in one location, sometimes even more than one individual being present. While it seems reasonable to assume that birds arrive following the St. Lawrence Seaway into the Great Lakes, I wonder where they ultimately go, how long they stay. It is telling that our records are only of first winter birds. I especially wonder about the fly-bys that are seen by a lucky few and wonder how many more observations there could be and why these birds are not repeatedly observed. How curious that our only Cleveland records are of fly-bys (or nearly) seen. only by us and on the same date eleven years apart.

Date	Location	Observers
5 Dec. 76	Edgewater Park	Jim, Dick and Jean Hoffman
19 Nov. 78	Huron Lighthouse	Jim Hoffman, Jim Fry, Bruce Peterjohn
8 Dec. 82	Lorain Harbor	Jean Hoffman, Ethel Surman, m.obs.
12 Dec. 82	Lorain Harbor	Dick and Jean Hoffman
9 Jan. 83	Avon Lake	Dick and Jean Hoffman - up to 2
27 Nov. 86	Lorain Harbor	Dick and Jean Hoffman
5 Dec. 87	E. 72nd St.	Dick and Jean Hoffman

FIELD NOTES

POMARINE JAEGER INVADERS INVADE CLEVELAND

by Ray Hannikman

November 18 was just the beginning of a very unique opportunity for Cleveland Area birders as Pomarine Jaegers virtually invaded the lakefront. On this date I saw both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers at Mentor Headlands. On Thanksgiving stopped off at Burke Airport and found a Pomarine Jaeger chasing and getting up the gulls behind the airport. The bird twice landed on the runways (quite similar to the Pomarine Jaeger that frequented Burke Airport in 1978) and I had Questar views of the bird. I next went to the Gordon Park impoundment and saw another 'Pom' out over the lake so I took up a position at one of the openings in the Impoundment facade. Gulls, mostly Bonaparte's, kept constantly arising from the water as two Pomarine Jaegers hunted' the lakefront. I observed the birds for one and one-half hours. I saw the birds near each other several times. All previous records of Pomarine Jaeger had been single birds - within 3 hours I had probably seen 3 birds! On November 26 Larry Rosche spotted a Pomarine Jaeger at Mentor Headlands and we saw two birds at Burke Airport. One of these birds was constantly airborne for over an hour.

November 27 I saw one bird again at Burke Airport and one at Eastlake. The afternoon Pomarine at Eastlake came in from the west, got the gulls up, and started chasing them. The gulls were no match for the aerial dexterity of this bird as it performed its mid-air tip-flops, U-turns and somersaults.

All birds noted were immatures. Characteristics noted were much white in the underwings, powerful, determined flight, and several birds really showed tighter rumps. On birds that close enough or on birds that could be scoped the small white crescent of the underwing could be seen. On the Burke Airport bird that I viewed through my Questar the stout bill and heavier chested appearance could be studied.

At the end of November and in early December these powerful pelagic pirates were being reported from Avon Lake (2-4 birds), Gordon Park (4-5 birds), and Eastlake (1-2 birds). Larry and I are hoping for one on the Christmas Count, and who knows, the Cleveland Area may vie for nationwide high count for the species.

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an interesting array of avifauna. It is usual to find red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, golden-crowned kinglets and yellow-rumped warblers in loose flocks foraging for whatever food they can find. Evening grosbeaks have been seen there in good numbers during years when they are in the Cleveland Region. Both crossbill species have been noted there as well. A walk through the pines may yield excellent views of a barred owl or fleeting glimpses of a Cooper's or a red-shouldered hawk,

Wellington Reservoir is noted for its fine assortment of diving ducks. In late fall or early spring one can get excellent views of resting loons, grebes and most regularly occurring diving ducks and mergansers. All three scoter species have regularly been reported from this area. The reservoir is also a fine spot for migrating ospreys.

Driving the county roads near these two locations can be as rewarding as any in the Cleveland Region for hawks, northern shrikes, snow buntings or longspurs. To reach Findley State Park simply drive three

miles south of Wellington on State Route 58. The entrance is on the east side of the road. To reach Wellington Reservoir go north from Findley State Park to Jones Road. Turn west for about one mile, the reservoir for duck watching has a parking area on the north side of Jones Road.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A woodcock census of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties will be conducted the first two weeks of April 1989. Contributors should note dates, locations and totals. Please send your input to:

Robert Harlan
7072 Park Park Drive
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is accepting article submissions artwork for Volume 85. No 1. Please send all sightings, articles, artwork or comments to:

Larry Rosche
7473 Sylvan Drive
Kent, Co 44240

Deadline is March 15, 1989

INVITATION:

The Kirtland Bird club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7:45 PM. at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors are always welcome,

A Special Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 289-2473

This weekly rare bird alert is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club

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