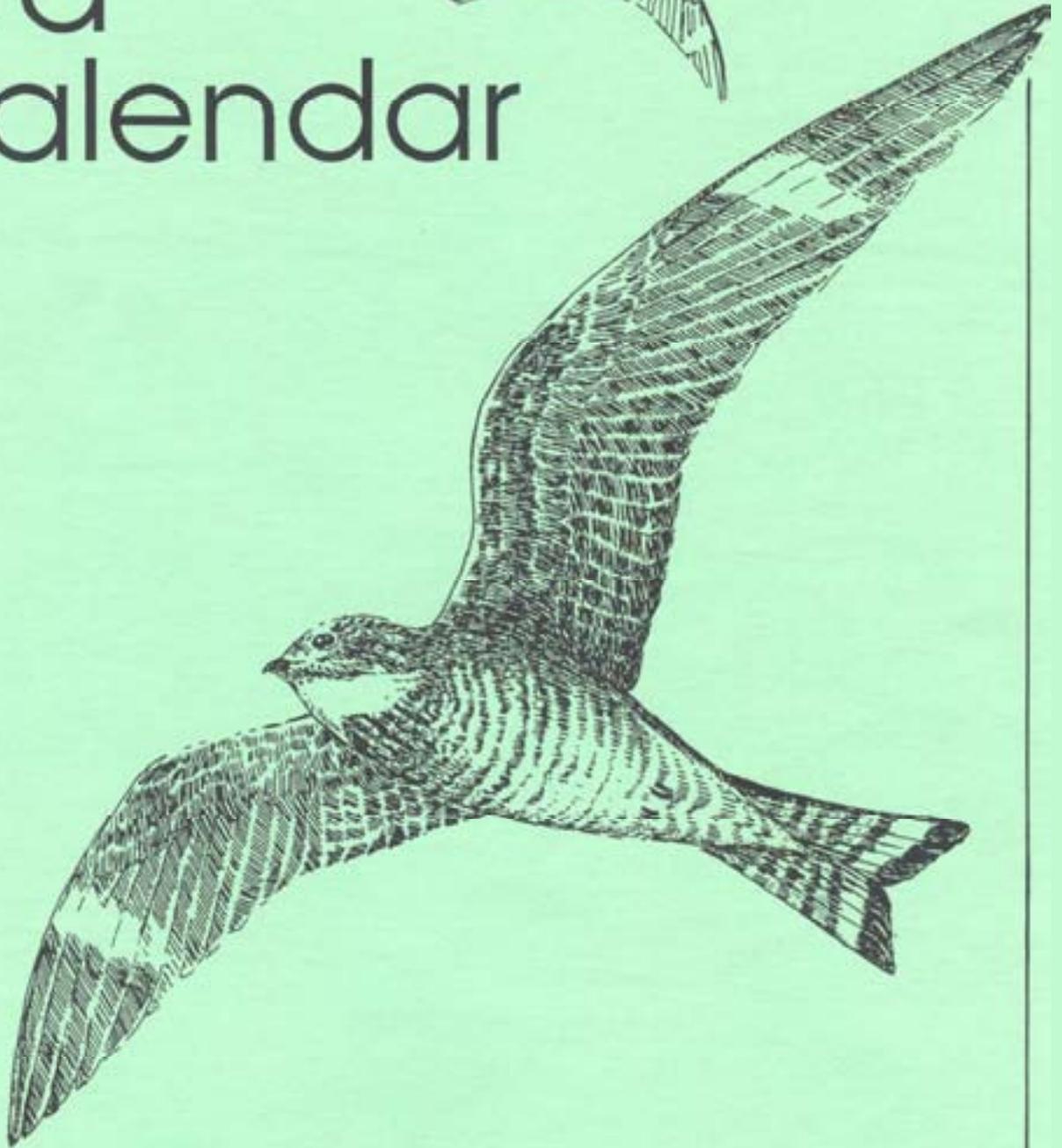


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March, April, May 1993

The Cleveland

# Bird Calendar



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# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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**On The Inside:****The Weather**

*William A. Klamm*

**Reflections****Comment on the Season**

*Larry Rosche*

**Spring 1993****Noteworthy Records****Field Notes****Snowy Plover -New for Ohio and  
Headlands Beach State Park**

*by Ray Hannikman*

**Next Issue:**

**Summer 1993**

**Breeding Birds  
of the Grand River****Nesting Peregrine Falcons****White Ibis in the Rocky River Valley**



Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) - 13 May 1993 Headland Beach State Park  
by Larry Rosche

## WEATHER SPRING 1993

by William A. Klamm

**March-** This was the 3rd snowiest March on record. Temperature averaged 33.6° 3.7° below normal. The high was 72° on the 31st, with a record low of 3° on the 15th. Lake Erie stood at 33° all month. Extensive ice cover and open fissures to expanded open water areas with variable shore ice were prevalent on the lake all month. Sunshine prevailed 33% of the time. Precipitation came on 18 days and totaled 3.85 in., 0.94 in. above normal. The most in any 24 hour period was 1.14 in. on the 4-5th. Snowfall totaled 25.4 in. with the most in any 24 hour period measuring 8.9 in. on 13-14th. The greatest depth was 11 in. on the 14th.

**April -** Temperatures averaged 47.6°. This was normal.

The high was 79° on the 15th and the low 29° on the 11th and 27th. Lake Erie was 35° on the first and reached 42° by the 30th. Offshore ice fields, and extensive to dwindling shore ice were prevalent through mid-month and fading thereafter. Sunshine prevailed 35% of the time. Precipitation came on 15 days and totaled 3.16 in., 0.02 in. above normal. The most in any 24 hours was 0.77 in. on the 9-10th. Snowfall totaled 1.1 in. with the most in any 24 hours being 1.0 in. on the 2-3rd. The greatest depth was 1.0 in. on the 3rd.

**May-** The month was notably dry. It rained on only 8 days and totaled 1.56 in., 1.74 in. below normal for May and 1.93 in. in deficit for the year. Sunshine prevailed 70% of the time. Temperatures averaged 59.2°, 1.2° above normal. The high was 84° on the 28th and the low 38° on the 17th. Lake Erie rose to 57° on the 31st.

## REFLECTIONS

**Thirty Years Ago:** A male Eurasian Wigeon was studied in Northampton Township on 9 March 1963 (Hjelmquist). A Sandhill Crane was seen over West Richfield on 30 Mar. (Schaedel). A moribund Purple Gallinule was found in Mentor on 10 May (Booth). The hybrid "Sutton's Warbler" was studied well at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls on 9 May (Hjelmquist, Glassner). A Swainson's Warbler was at Huntington Beach Park on 12 May (Rea, Schuele).

**Twenty Years Ago:** A flock of 18 Pine Grosbeaks was at Whitehaven Cemetery on 17 April 1973 (Carrothers). Red Crossbills were widespread from mid-April through late May. A male Summer Tanager was at the Mastick Picnic Grounds on 23 Apr. (Klamm). A Loggerhead Shrike was at Burke Airport on 1 May (Hocevar). Five Glossy Ibises were seen flying west at Burke Airport on 14 May (Klamm). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes was seen at White City on 26 May (Hannikman). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered through 31 May at Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman).

**Ten Years Ago:** A Northern Goshawk was at Sims Park on 20 March 1983 (Corbin). Two Merlins were at the Old Brooklyn Airport on 1 Apr. (Bacik). A Purple Gallinule was turned in to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on 17 Apr. (Gustafson). A Loggerhead Shrike was at Gordon Park on 24 Apr (Klamm).

## Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

From all appearances it seemed that a good spring was had by most observers. Unfortunately, data from the Sunday Morning Bird Walks was not made available. Noteworthy records were impressive. The lakefront counties provided the highlights in this season's rarity department. Ohio's first Snowy Plover was found by Ray Hannikman at Headlands Beach State Park and 6 Connecticut Warblers were banded at Lakeshore Park in North Perry in one day!. This location is becoming the top migrant trap in the region. In Cuyahoga County, Euclid Beach is becoming the latest hot spot, although it was good to get some top reports from Sims Park again. Reports indicated that the first good weekend was 8-9 May. They also show that migration was still going strong through the last third of the month .

At a recent Kirtland Bird Club meeting I was asked what I like and how reports should be made to The Cleveland Bird Calendar. This is not easy to predict, in that I try to vary year to year -what gets printed. Let's start by being neat and using proper phylogenetic order. Forms are available upon request. It grates on me when people put robins ahead of mallards or when a list is received in chronological order of sighting. I also don't have much affection for introduced species (even pheasants). Many reporters know that common residents are important to monitor but receive little ink unless a disaster takes place. Regardless, all records are archived in the CMNH and are important for future researchers. In reports to any publication, Neotropical migrants are emphasized and more newsworthy to readers. In general, the first date, high count, and last date are helpful to editors. The best of good birds.

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### Spring 1993

**C**ommon Loons were widespread in fair numbers. Several birds were reported to have wrecked in fog and bad weather in late March in Lorain Co. One bird was rescued from Island Road on 26 Mar. It was released at Wellington Reservoir (NK). A bird was noted over MetroHealth Medical Center on 3 Apr. (RF, PL). Nimisila Reservoir hosted 12 on 4 Apr. (BDL). On 7 Apr. 7 were at Lake Medina (CW). The high tallies of **Pied-billed Grebes** were 20 at Summit Lake on 12 Mar. (LK) and 10 at Wellington Reservoir on 21 Apr. (TLP). Summit Lake provided safe haven for 30-39 **Horned Grebes** 12-14 Mar. (LK, BDL). Another double digit tally (18) was made from Lake Medina on 4 Apr. (CW). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase numerically. The high count was 450

on 15 Apr. off Mentor Beach (LR, JVP). A group of 200 was seen off West 9th St. on 28 Apr. (PL). Over 200 visited Lake Rockwell during the season. The nest count at the **Great Blue Heron** rookery at Tinker's Creek SNP was close to 80 (LR, JT). Three **Great Egrets** were seen roosting in the Long Lake rookery on 17 Apr. (BDL). There were 22 sightings totaling 47 birds reported. The high was 18 on 16 Apr. along the lakeshore (WNK). **Green-backed Herons** were in expected low numbers. Less than 10 were noted along the lake. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a good find at Best Lake on 6 Apr. (*fide* DB). The 50 near the

foot of Merwin St. along the Cuyahoga River on 2 Apr. was our high count (PL, TLN).

**Tundra Swans** were widespread and fairly numerous. A flock of 45 was over Auburn Township on 11 Mar. Another 39 were at Punderson Lake (*fide* DB). On 14 Mar. 84 were on Lake Medina (CW). Metcalf counted 20 in Summit Co. on 20 Mar. A group of 28 stopped over at Lake Rockwell on the same date. A flock of 37 flew over Lorain Co. on 27 Mar. (NK). **Mute Swans** are establishing themselves as local breeders in Portage and Summit Counties. Pairs were noted at Wingfoot Lake and Mogadore Reservoir (BDL).

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***The puddle  
duck picture  
remains cloudy.***

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The puddle duck picture remains cloudy. Migrants along Lake Erie seem to be particularly scarce. The Klamms' surveys found only 3 pintails, 2 shovelers, 3 teal, and no gad-

**Turkey Vulture and hawk flights passing Perkins Beach Spring 1993**

Date	3/31	4/8	4/15	4/29	5/3
Turkey Vulture	3	23	68	29	22
Northern Harrier	2	•	1	•	•
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	11	<b>168</b>	3	11
Cooper's Hawk	•	1	1	•	•
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	1	•	1
Broad-winged Hawk	•	•	•	82	3
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	13	5	1
American Kestrel	4	2	<b>52</b>	•	•

Data collected by William and Nancy Klamm

walls or wigeons in all of March and April! Diving ducks are faring better. Increased inland lake coverage is producing high tallies of scaup, buffleheads, and mergansers.

The first young Wood Ducks were in Parkman on 17 May (JA).

**Green-winged Teal** were alarmingly scarce. Along the lake the high was a paltry 6 at HBSP on 28 Mar. (RH). Inland, it was worse. The high was a measly 5 in Summit Co. on 28 Mar. (BDL). **Northern Pintails** were noted on 11 occasions in small flocks. **Blue-winged Teal** tallies received from the Portage Lakes indicate that this species has become very scarce. All reporters are urged to monitor this species closely.

**Northern Shovelers** were noted 8 times in small numbers. The most noteworthy sighting was on 4 Apr. at HBSP where they are not annual (RH). The only flock of **Gadwalls** of any size (55+) was at Mogadore Reservoir on 1-4 Apr. (LR). The high inland counts of **American Wigeons** were a mere 35 at Nimisila on 14 Mar. (BDL) and 62 at Mogadore on 1 Apr. (LR).

The 50 **Canvasbacks** at Wingfoot Lake on 4 Apr. was high tally for the region (CH). **Redheads** were in good numbers on Akron Lakes. The Lanes saw 35 pairs at North Reservoir on 14

Mar. **Lesser Scaup** peaked at 525 on 3 Apr. (WNK). Inland, a high of 310 was noted at Mogadore on 4 Apr. (LR). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in expected totals away from Lake Erie. The highest count was 2500 at Mogadore Reservoir on 8 Apr. **Oldsquaws** put in a very good showing, particularly inland. Two were in Eastlake on 2 Mar. (EE). A bird was in Lorain on 6 Mar. (DJH, WNK). Two were in Akron on 25 Mar. (LR). Another pair was at Silver Creek MP on 26 Mar. (JW). A flock of 4 was on Lake Medina on 27 Mar. (CW). A handsome drake graced Mogadore on 11 Apr. (LR). Four **Surf Scoters** were tallied in Lorain on 6 Mar. (DJH, NK). Another was at Eastlake on 1 Mar. (KM). A bird at Spencer Lake SWA on 13 Apr. was an outstanding find (NK). **White-winged Scoters** were seen at Lorain and Eastlake at expected times (m.ob.). A late bird was at Oberlin Reservoir on 4 May (NK). **Common Goldeneyes** remained in good numbers until 3 Apr. (WNK). The latest bird was off the traditional Sims Park wintering area on 24 Apr. (RHL).

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**Unprecedented was a female Common Merganser on the Rocky River....**

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**Buffleheads** were numerous with up to 112 along the lake on 4 Apr. and 90 at Mogadore. A count of 36 pairs of **Hooded Mergansers** was made on Mud Lake on 14 Mar. (BDL). Unprecedented was a female **Common Merganser** on the Rocky River through 29 May (WNK). This established a new Into spring date. The large flocks from the winter had virtually disappeared by mid-March. A flock of 30 at Lake Rockwell on 4 Apr was good for the location (CH). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were numerous inland and along Lake Erie. The high count was 2757 on 16 Apr. along Lake Erie (WNK). **Ruddy Ducks** remained faithful to their preferred spring locations. Hundreds were at Mogadore, Oberlin, and Wellington Reservoirs in April.

The earliest **Turkey Vultures** were over Avon on 7 Mar. (TLP). Sightings of **Ospreys** ranged from early April through the period. The early report come from Lake Medina on 4 Apr. (CW). A bird was over North Ridgeville on 10 Apr. (BR). Birds passed by Perkins Beach on 16 & 19 Apr. (WNK, TLP). One was at Spencer Lake on 22 Apr. (NK). Two were seen at North Chagrin on 25 Apr. (KM). One was in the CVNRA the same day (RHL). A bird was at Best Lake on 29 Apr. (*vide* DB). A bird flew over Russell Park on 2 May (DB). One soared over Euclid on 6 May (PL). Up to 8 passed through Lake Rockwell with a late bird seen on 25 May (CH). Reports of **Bald Eagles** were good. An immature was in Avon on 6 Mar. (RH). An adult was at HBSP on 13 & 21 Mar. (RH). A subadult was seen over Brecksville on 18 Apr. (DAC).

Once again the nest failed at Lake Rockwell. On a brighter side, the nest at Snow Lake was successful. Harlan saw 2 adults with 2 young there on 21 May. A **Northern Harrier** was a good find in Akron on 6 Apr. (BDL). Sightings of migrants along the lake were as expected (m.ob.). A pair was actively courting during May at the Ravenna Arsenal. **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to flourish east of the CVNRA. Three reports from Lorain Co were encouraging (NK). The earliest **Broad-winged Hawk** was 10 Apr at Bacon Woods (BR). A bird was seen with nesting material on 2 May at Big Creek Park (JA, DB). A dark **Rough-legged Hawk** lingered in Lorain Co. through 31 Mar. (NK). **Merlin** reports were as we have come to expect in recent times. A bird flew close by the break-wall at HBSP on 11 Apr. (EB, RH, LR). A bird was at Euclid Beach SP on 22 Apr. (TLP). A bird was rather late at HBSP on 19 May (RH).

Where **Ring-necked Pheasants** come from is not clear. A female was flushed at Donald Gray Gardens on 7 Apr. (PL, TLN). A pair in Lorain Co. on 2 May was unique (NK). A **Wild Turkey** exhibited disoriented behavior in the CVNRA on 13 May (BAT). **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were relatively scarce. The high count was only 2 at several sites (m.ob.). **Common Moorhens** were found at the Jaite area of the CVNRA on 23 Apr. (DAC) and at Gordon Park on 29 Apr. (RHL).

**S**horebirding is rapidly becoming a thing of the past in the region, unless you like counting Killdeer. **Black-**

**bellied Plovers** were noted only twice. **Semipalmated Plovers** were better with highs of 8 at HBSP and 14 at Lake Rockwell. **Solitary Sandpiper** numbers were unimpressive. The first Summit Co. arrival was a rather late 4 May in Hudson (EE). The largest gathering was 5 in the CVNRA on 13 May (BAT). **Spotted Sandpipers** were as expected. The high count of 7 **Ruddy Turnstones** was noted on 23 May at Lake Rockwell, of all places. A flock of 35 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was found at Lake Rockwell on 24 May (LR). A nice flock of 100+ whizzed by HBSP on 31 May (RH). **Least Sandpipers** were relatively scarce. No White-rumped Sandpipers were seen! The 3 Pectoral Sandpipers at Burke Airport on 27 Mar. provided our high count (DJH). Very few **Dunlins** were noted. No **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found! A **Common Snipe** was a good find in Aurora on 27 Mar. (EE). A dead bird was found at E. 55th and St. Clair on 1 Apr. (TLN) (no fooling). One was in Akron on 5 Apr. (BDL). A bird visited Carlisle Metropark on 25

Apr. (BR). **American Woodcocks** were displaying in 6" of snow in Medina Co. on 3 Mar. (CW). Donald Gray Gardens and Sims Park harbored a few late March migrants.

The high count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 600 along the lake on 15 Apr. (WNK). Inland, they were common but by no means anywhere close to the lakefront number. A first year **Iceland Gull** was at Avon Lake on 2 Mar. (RHL) A subadult was found in Lorain on 6 Mar. (DJH, m.ob.). An adult was at HBSP on 4 Apr. (RH). Three **Glaucous Gulls** were in Lorain on 18 Mar. (TLP). A first year bird was at Avon Lake on 7 Mar. (CH). A bird was late at E. 55th St. on 17 Apr. (BF, PL). **Caspian Terns** moved through the region in good numbers. The first report was from HBSP on 4 Apr. (RH). A high count of 133 was made off West 9th St. on 16 Apr. (PL). The high at Lorain was 86 on 14 Apr. (TLP). Over 50 visited Lake Rockwell during the period. On 17 Apr. 8 were at the Firestone

#### **Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - A new bird for Lake View Cemetery**

While standing by the lower pond on 27 March 1993 we heard and saw a male American Kestrel fly up to another in a fall tree beyond the chapel. Those two disappeared and a little later a small falcon was seen and eventually heard harassing crows and jays. It did this repeatedly for maybe 5 minutes before moving off. We had a variety of views of the bird, but often just silhouettes. We easily saw the heavy streaking on the breast and the generally dark coloration coupled with the aggressive, behavior and bullet-like flight. We also got small looks at the heavily checkered appearance of the underwings and the tail. Vocalization was quite different from the kestrel, seeming more, continuous and "hawk-like". This was our first encounter with this well-described aggressive behavior in a migrant Merlin and we were quite impressed.

*Dick and Jean Hoffman*

## Lakeshore Park Banding Report Spring 1993

Selected Species	Total
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	12
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	4
LEAST FLYCATCHER	10
E. WOOD-PEWEE	6
BROWN CREEPER	31
HOUSE WREN	25
WINTER WREN	3
GRAY CATBIRD	133
WOOD THRUSH	10
HERMIT THRUSH	28
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	37
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	4
VEERY	11
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	19
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	10
WHITE-EYED VIREO	2
SOLITARY VIREO	1
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	2
RED-EYED VIREO	14
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	1
TENNESSEE WARBLER	1
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	1
NASHVILLE WARBLER	3
YELLOW WARBLER	23
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	4
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	23
CAPE MAY WARBLER	1
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	4
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	8
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	1
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	2
PINE WARBLER	2
PRAIRIE WARBLER	1
PALM WARBLER	10
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	3
AMERICAN REDSTART	27
OVENBIRD	8
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	1
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	1
MOURNING WARBLER	26
CONNECTICUT WARBLER	8
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	22
HOODED WARBLER	2
WILSON'S WARBLER	10
CANADA WARBLER	16
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	1
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	9
RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	27
CHIPPING SPARROW	71
FIELD SPARROW	16
SAVANNAH SPARROW	1
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	1
SONG SPARROW	403
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	42
SWAMP SPARROW	39
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	424
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	34
DARK-EYED JUNCO	505
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	26
NORTHERN ORIOLE	15
ORCHARD ORIOLE	1
PURPLE FINCH	47
HOUSE FINCH	484
PINE SISKIN	1
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	451

ALL DATA COLLECTED BY JOHN V. POGACNIK

Country Club (BDL). Twelve were at Walborn Reservoir on 25 Apr (BDL). A pair was at Snow Lake on 23 & 26 Apr. (DB). Two **Common Terns** were at Lake Rockwell on 21 May (CH). There were few other reports. The earliest **Forster's Tern** was 17 Apr. at HBSP (RH). A basic plumaged bird was at Lake Rockwell on 21 May (CH). They were scattered along the lake at expected times.

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were in much better totals than **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**. Two Black-billeds were at Lower Shaker Lakes on 9 May (PP). Szabo noted one at Cascade Valley MP on 12 May and at Firestone MP on 13 May. Another visited Sims Park on 18 May (TLP). One was along the Carriage Trail in the CVNRA on 22 May (BDL). A bird was at the Ravenna Arsenal on 8 May (LR, JW). The first **Common Nighthawk** in Cleveland was 16 May (WNK). This species warrants further scrutiny. Numbers seem to be very low. The earliest **Chimney Swift** was at Gordon Park on 15 Apr. (DJH). The majority of the population was a week to 10 days later than usual.

Resident owls and woodpeckers were well reported. The only **Short-eared Owls** were seen in Lake Co. on 6 & 21 Mar. and 12 Apr. (JP). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Cascade Valley MP on 4 May (BS). They were in their usual haunt in the CVNRA rookery (DAC) with daily occurrences along the lake (WNK). **Yellow-bellied**

**Sapsucker** migration was fair. A high count of 15 was made at HBSP on 15 Apr. (RH). A pair lingered well into May at the Ravenna Arsenal (LR, JW). Northern Flicker migration was as expected along the lakeshore (m.ob.). Five **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen at North Chagrin on 23 Apr. (KM).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was early at Lower Shaker Lake on 9 May (PP). The first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was 9 May in the Rocky River Valley (WNK). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HBSP on 22 May (RH). Two were at Donald Gray Gardens on 24 May. Another was at Euclid Beach SP on 26 May (TLP). A bird was singing at Sims Park on the same date (DJH). Another was in Parma Heights on 27 May (RHL).

**Acadian Flycatchers** were in good supply. A bird singing along the fence at Gordon Park was surprising for the location (DJH). **Alder Flycatchers** were common at the Ravenna Arsenal at the end of the period. One was in Parma Heights on 27 May (RHL). **Willow Flycatchers** received little mention. The first report of **Least Flycatcher** came from HBSP on 25 Apr. (RH).

**Eastern Phoebes** arrived in good numbers in the last third of March. **Great Crested Flycatchers** arrived later than normal but in fairly good numbers. As usual, **Eastern Kingbirds** were well reported along Lake Erie. A total of 8 at Euclid Beach SP on 29 May seemed late for the site (TLP).

**Purple Martins** had returned to traditional nest sites near

Garrettsville by 15 Apr. (JA). They were very scarce at former gathering spots along the lake. The high was only 28 on 29 May (WNK). **Tree Swallows** were numerous on cold days at Lake Rockwell. A total of 300 was there on 4 Apr. (CH). At least 175 **Bank Swallows** were attempting to nest at Cascade Valley MP (BS). Another 150± were trying to nest at the concrete plant adjacent to HBSP. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were late in arriving at Lake Rockwell on 14 Apr. (CH). A tally of 60 at HBSP on 2 May was good for the site (RH). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at Oberlin Reservoir on 26 Apr. (NK). The early **Barn Swallow** was 8 Apr. at North Chagrin (KM). On the morning of 29 Apr. the rate of passage of **Blue Jays** by Perkins Beach was 1200/hour (WNK).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were, for all intents and purposes, absent. **Brown Creepers** were conspicuous at HBSP on 10 Apr. when 20 were counted (RH). They were assumed to be nesting at Russell Park (DB). A brood of 5 Carolina wrens hatched in Medina Co. on 18 May (NK). **Winter Wrens** were thought to be nesting at the Happy Days area of the CVNRA (DAC). The only **Marsh Wren** reported along the lake was on 24 May at HBSP (RH). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** migration was very noticeable along the lake during expected times. No nesting report of Golden-crowneds was received. Usually a relatively early migrant, an odd late May movement of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was noted

throughout the region. A bird in Parma Heights on 25 May was certainly a migrant (RHL).

**T**hrushes fared well with the exception being **Gray-cheeked**. Veeries were in especially good totals along the lake east of Cleveland. **Eastern Bluebirds** are doing well in almost every sector of the region. For example, at the Ravenna Arsenal counts numbers close to 70 (LR, m.ob.). A **Veery** provided a pleasant surprise in residential Stow on 18 May (JT). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Sims Park on 24 May (TLP). **Swainson's Thrushes** were widespread in fair numbers. The high tally of Hermit Thrushes along the lake was 14 on 20 Apr. (WNK). The last was at Euclid Beach SP on 16 May (TLP). **Wood Thrushes** are flourishing in some areas and absent in many others. As habitats change so too do the nesting preferences of our woodland species. A **Gray Catbird** was slightly early on 27 Apr. at Donald Gray Gardens (PL, TLN). While very much in evidence in and around Gordon Park, **Northern Mockingbirds** were seen in higher than normal numbers elsewhere. A bird was in Euclid on 23 Mar. (PL). Up to 4 were seen at Edgewater SP in mid-Apr. (PL, TLN, BF). **Brown Thrashers** continue to be rare at Shaker Lakes (PP). They are thriving at the Ravenna Arsenal and West Branch SP. Two **American Pipits** were moving along the lakefront on 26 Mar. (WNK). Late birds were at HBSP on 2 & 8 May (CH). Another was in Lorain Co. on 19 May (NK).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was exceptionally early at Tinkers Creek SP on 7 Apr. (EE). There were only 3 reports from along the lake. The earliest **Solitary Vireo** was at Lower Shaker Lake on 20 Apr. (PL). Five were at Lake Isaac on 30 Apr (RHL). No **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported from along the lake. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was early at Firestone MP on 29 Apr (BS). One was at Lake Isaac on 12 May (RH). A bird was at Sims Park on 22 May (RH). **Warbling** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were abundant.

**W**arbler migration was slightly late but lasted into June along the lake. Inland, Szabo's and Rickard's reports indicated a very good movement. **Blue-winged Warblers** were widely reported and felt to be doing well in traditional nesting locales. The only lakefront report came from HBSP on 8 May (RH). **Tennessee Warblers** were quick to move through, with 5 at Lake Isaac on 12 May being the high count (RHL). The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at the Jaite Area in the CVNRA on 8 May (RHL). **Nashville Warblers** moved as expected from late April through mid-May. The **Northern Parula** at Lower Shaker Lake on 22 Apr. was the only Cuyahoga Co. report (PP). A conservative estimate of 80 **Yellow Warblers** was at HBSP on 9 May. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were numerous along the lake. The number of territorial birds at the Ravenna Arsenal was mind-boggling. **Magnolia Warblers** were numerous at HBSP. **Cape May Warblers** put in a better than normal showing locally.(m.ob.).

Migrant **Black-throated Blue Warblers** came through in timely fashion but in small groups. No tally received was over 3. Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at Holden Arboretum on 18 Apr. (CK) and at Shaker Lakes on 24 Apr. (RR). A flock of 14 in one tree at the Munroe Falls MP on 2 May was impressive (BS). **Blackburnian Warblers** were well reported at HBSP. A count of 4 on 22 May was conservative. **Yellow-throated Warblers** have become fairly common along the Towpath Trail in the CVNRA. The first record of this species for Lake View Cemetery was a brilliant male feeding on the ground on the chilly morning of 22 Apr. (DJH). Reports of **Pine Warblers** indicate an increase as a local migrant. Up to 8 were seen along the Towpath Trail in the CVNRA in late April (LK, JT, JW). Birds were seen at Shaker Lakes on 18, 20 & 29 Apr. (DJH, RHL, PL). One was at Spencer Lake SWA on 19 Apr. (NK). Three were at North Chagrin on 25 Apr. (KM). Lake Isaac hosted one on 30 Apr. (RHL). A bird was in Brecksville on 2 May (BAT). A possible nesting was indicated by a bird on 26 May at Holden (RR). **Palm Warblers** were generally abundant along the lake. A high tally of 30 was at Lower Shaker Lake on 9 May (PP). **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll Warblers** were average along the lakefront. No **Cerulean Warblers** were found along the lakefront "hotspots" but they were doing well in preferred woodland habitats. A migrant was at Shaker Lakes on 8 May (TLP). **Black-and-white Warblers** were well reported. Ten at Shaker

Lakes on 8 May was representative (TLP). An early bird was seen at Lake View Cemetery on 15 Apr. (DJH). A late male (for the location) was at Sims Park on 26 May (DJH). The passage of **American Redstarts** was excellent at HBSP. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found in the CVNRA in May (TLP, BAT). Reports of **Ovenbirds** indicate a better than average movement along the lake-front parks throughout most of May. A **Northern Waterthrush** was in the CVNRA on 2 May (DAC). LePage noted them in good numbers along the lakefront parks throughout most of May. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at HBSP on 9 Apr. (LR). This was the first report from there since the mid-seventies. One was at North Chagrin the same day (KM). Another early arrival was at Holden Arboretum on 18. Apr. (CK). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was along the Carriage Trail on 16 May (BDL). **Mourning Warblers** were common along the lake. Hannikman and LePage found them on nearly every excursion after 18 May. Two in Medina on 29 Apr. were early and noteworthy (CW). For many years I have felt that this species is overvalued as a rare migrant, but a report of 24 at Lakeshore Park on 25 May even raised my jaded eyebrows (JP). Up to 12 **Wilson's Warblers** visited HBSP on 22 May (RH). A **Canada Warbler** was at Lake Isaac on 12 May (RHL). They were in fair numbers along the lake the last third of May (RH, TLP). **Hooded Warblers** were as expected inland. None were reported from along Lake Erie, A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Lake

Isaac on 12 May (RHL). They were in double figures at the Ravenna Arsenal. Another was in Sagamore Hills on 21 May (DAC).

Scarlet Tanagers were easier to find at HBSP than normal. A tally of 60+ **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was made at HBSP on 9 May (EB, RH, LR).

**Indigo Buntings** received little mention. The first **Chipping Sparrows** arrived on 8 Apr. (WNK, TLP). **Vesper Sparrows** were scarcer than expected along the lake. They did however return to traditional nesting sites in Medina and Portage Counties. A singing bird in Strongsville was unusual (TLN). As always, **Grasshopper Sparrows** are good finds. One was banded at Lakeshore Park on 8 May (JP) and one was at HBSP on 9 May (RH). **Fox Sparrows** put in a decent showing the first half of April. The last report was 22 Apr. at Cleveland Lakefront SP (TLP). The first **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at Donald Gray on 29 Apr. (RHL). The high count was 6 at HBSP on 22 May (RH). In Cuyahoga Co. the high count of **White-throated Sparrows**, was 50 at Donald Gray on 29 Apr. (RHL). Over 400 were banded at Lakeshore Park during the period (JP). **White-crowned Sparrows** were unimpressive with a high count of a measly 19 along the lake on 5 May (WNK). A female **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered at HBSP through 31 May (RH, MK, LR). The high tally for the species was 150 at Gordon Park on 8 Apr. (RHL). **Bobolinks** were moving well on 9 May when 100 were counted at HBSP (EB, RH, LR). Movement of **Eastern**



A misty morning Willet (*Catalophorus semipalmatus*)  
by E. William Haley

**Meadowlarks** along the lake was sustained from late March through the first two-thirds of Apr. Counts ranged from 9-10 at various locales from HBSP to Perkins Beach.

A male **Orchard Oriole** was at North Chagrin on 1 May (KM). An immature was at Lakewood Park on 5 May (WNK). A male was in Sharon Center on 6 May (BDL). Headlands Beach SP recorded one on 8 May (RH). One was in Concord Township on 9 May (JP). A bird was in Medina on 12 May (CW). A pair was at Firestone MP on 13 May (PH). **Northern Orioles** were in abundance from 1 May. On the strong movement day of 9 May, 70+ were counted at HBSP. **Purple Finches** continue their strong showing in their traditional areas in the CVNRA. Their migration along the Lake Co. shoreline was better than the past few springs. A **Pine Siskin** was at Brecksville MP on 10 Apr. (RHL).

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**Eared Grebe** - An alternate plumaged bird was in the company of 800 Red-breasted Mergansers at Lake Rockwell on the evening of 25 April. A dense morning fog hampered searching the next morning. By afternoon the bird had disappeared with the mergansers.

**American Bittern** - It was a banner season for this beleaguered species. The first sightings were at Wake Robin Trail (Hoffman) and the Ravenna Arsenal (Mary Gustafson, Dan Rice) on 13 Apr. A bird was at Gordon Park on 20 Apr. (LePage). Another bird was at this location on 9 May (Hannikman). Shaker Lakes hosted one on 9-10 May (Peskin, Harlan). A bird was seen as it passed by Perkins Beach on the rather late date of 24 May (Klamm).

**Least Bittern** - The only report was from Gordon Park on 12 May (LePage).

**Little Blue Heron** - An adult was an outstanding find at Gordon Park on 20 Apr. (LePage).

**Cattle Egret** - LePage's daily scrutiny of the lakefront enabled him to once again find this species at Burke Airport on 25 Apr.

**Golden Eagle** - A single observation was of an adult over Brimfield Township on 17 May (Rosche).

**Northern Goshawk** - Adults or near adults were seen at Lake Isaac on 26 & 31 Mar. and in Parma on 13 Apr. (Harlan). Bacik, Hannikman, and Rosche observed an adult at Headlands Beach SP for well over a half-hour at Headlands Beach SP on 11 April. An adult was in North Perry on 13 Apr. (Pogacnik).

**Peregrine Falcon** - Lozano, Leiden, Finkelstein and many others felt that there were now 2 pairs in the downtown area. A pair was seen frequenting the Metro General Health Center area as well as the Terminal Tower birds. A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 25 Apr. (Hannikman, Rosche).

**Sandhill Crane** - A bird was seen flying over the CVNRA in Brecksville on 2 May (Chasar). A bird flew 15 feet over Bob Faber's canoe party on the Cuyahoga River in Geauga Co. on 23 May (*fide* DB).

**Snowy Plover** - Ohio's first sighting of this species was at

Headlands Beach SP on 13 May (Hannikman).

**American Avocet** - Rosche, Wert, and Krister were privy to an adult female as it flew directly over their heads on 26 Apr. at Headlands Beach SP.

**Upland Sandpiper** - A bird was flushed from the former nesting area in Fairport Harbor on 18 Apr (Rosche, Hannikman, Bacik, Vanderpoel). Two were in Leroy Township on 27 Apr. and another in Fairport Harbor on 2 May (Pogacnik).

**Whimbrel** - Five passed over Headland Beach SP on 19 May (Hannikman). Three flew by Lakeshore Park on 23 May (Pogacnik).

**Western Sandpiper** - An alternate plumaged bird was attracted to the exposed mud at Lake Rockwell on 24 May (Rosche).

**Black Tern** - A bird was at the Spencer Lake SWA on 2 May (Kraps). Two were at Lake Rockwell on 18 May (Rosche).

**Barn Owl** - A bird was reported from Lakeshore Metropark on 16 Apr. (Pogacnik).

**Long-eared Owl** - Three were last seen at Caley Metropark in Lorain County on 3 Mar. (Kraps). A bird spent 18 Mar. at the Erie Street Cemetery (Bacik, Hannikman). Another was at Lakeshore Park on 31 Mar. - 1 April (Pogacnik).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** - Up to 2 birds were at Lakeshore Park on 21 Mar. - 7 Apr. (Pogacnik).

**Whip-poor-will** - LePage reported birds at Euclid Beach State Park on 20 Apr. and one at Donald Gray Gardens on 25 Apr. Another bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on 20 Apr. (Klamm, Leiden, LePage, Lozano). Birds were at Lakeshore Park on 27 Apr. and 7 May (Pogacnik).

**Sedge Wren** - A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 9 May (Bacik, Hannikman).

**Bewick's Wren** - Our first documented report since 1978 was of a bird flitting about the breakwall of Headlands Beach SP on Audubon Count Day 15 May (Bacik).

**Northern Shrike** - A bird was at Fairport Harbor on 10 Mar. (Rosche). Mary Gustafson saw another at the Ravenna Arsenal in mid-March.

**Loggerhead Shrike** - A bird flew by a single observer at Perkins Beach on 4 May (Leiden).

**Golden-winged Warbler** - A female was at Headlands Beach SP on 8 May (Hannikman, Holt). A male was at Shaker Lakes on 10 May (Harlan). Pat Haddad saw a male at Firestone Metropark on 14 May.

**Brewster's Warbler** - A bird was in Parma Heights on 25 May (Harlan). A territorial bird was in the CVNRA at the Station Road Parking Area from 5 May (Chasar).

**Prairie Warbler** - A male was at Edgewater State Park on 29 Apr. (Lozano, m.ob). Females were at North Chagrin on 30

Apr. (Metcalf) and at Lower Shaker Lake (Peskin) on 9 May. Harlan's diligent fieldwork paid off with the first record of this species at Lake Isaac on 30 Apr. A male was at Headlands Beach SP on 3 May (Metcalf).

**Connecticut Warbler** - A report came from Geauga County at Eldon Russell Park on the 16 May Sunday Morning Bird Walk (Augustine, m.ob.). A male was at Headlands Beach SP on 23 May (Rosche). The highest tally in the history of the region was made when Pogacnik banded 6 at Lakeshore Park on 29 May.

**Summer Tanager** - Once again a report was made in late May. This year the report came from Lakeshore Park on 25 May (Pogacnik).

**Dickcissel** - A bird was at Lakeshore Park on 7 May (Pogacnik). A bird was cooperative at Craig Rieker's feeder in Parma on 25 May (Harlan, LePage, Lozano).

**Green-tailed Towhee** - The birding highlight from last winter remained a Wendy Akin's feeder in Amherst Township through April (Kraps).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - Gordon Park provided yet another outstanding rarity on 29 Apr. (Harlan).

**Henslow's Sparrow** - A bird was reported from along Dewey Road in Geauga Co. on 23 Apr. (Pogacnik). Gordon Park once again provided us with this outstanding sparrow on 29 Apr. (Harlan). Lastly, a bird was at Lakeshore Park on 25 May (Pogacnik).

## FIELD NOTES

### **Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) - New for Ohio and Headlands, Beach State Park by Ray Hannikman**

I discovered Ohio's first Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) at about 6:20 a.m. on May 13, 1993 at Headlands Beach State Park. In my haste and joy over getting a new bird on my Headlands Beach State Park list, I called the bird a Piping Plover (after all, it was early in the morning and I only briefly glanced at this light-mantled plover as it scooted into the rising sun!). I called Larry Rosche, he had left for work so I talked with his wife Sherry, and also Muggsi Hahn to tell them about the bird. Then it was back to the beach to relocate the plover. As I was walking along the shore of the Natural Area toward the east break-wall, I saw the plover fly west-ward and land. Something odd about this bird - it did not have a lot of white around the rump. When I refound the bird, I studied it - dark bill, about one inch long, incomplete breastband, dark patches behind each eye, darkish legs - a classic Snowy Plover!! I raced back to my car, confirmed the identification, and realized I had to get people here to document this new species for Ohio. I tried to reach Muggsi but could not get her, but I succeeded in getting Rob

Harlan who said he would get to Headlands as soon as possible. I got Larry and told him that the bird was a Snowy Plover and not a Piping Plover. Needless to say, Larry was excited. The chase was on, but I was still the only one to have seen the bird,

After I had finished talking with Larry, I returned to my car. I saw Andy Fondrk and told him, "I got a new bird for Ohio, a Snowy Plover, on the beach!" We raced to where I had left the bird but it was gone. Andy and I started to walk west along the beach and I got to the extreme west end without seeing the bird. We then started the long walk to the east breakwall and I was beginning to think the Snowy Plover was gone. I found the bird back along the beach of the Natural Area and Andy and I both watched the plover scoot along the beach and run in the beach debris. It was about 8:40 a.m. and I had to get to the parking lot because Muggsi said she would get there at 9:00 a.m. She was already in the parking lot and I told her the bird was a Snowy Plover, not a Piping Plover. I told Muggsi to get something to draw with so she could sketch the bird just in case no photographs could be taken. Rob Harlan was next to arrive and I showed him the bird whose movements were being watched by Andy and Muggsi. Rob then informed the Ohio Bird Hotline about the Snowy Plover and used my telephone credit card to do it! But I did not mind because this was the



Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) - 13 May 1993 Headlands Beach State Park  
by Larry Rosche

first time in my 20 plus years of birding that I had found a new bird for the state and my only thought was to get as many people to Headlands Beach State Park as quickly as possible to see it. Late in the morning John Pogacnik and Bill and Nancy Klamm photographed the bird so that after proper review, the Snowy Plover would be officially accepted onto the Ohio bird checklist.

Snowy Plover was not an unexpected species for Ohio. Larry Rosche, Emil Bacik (who predicted earlier in the spring a Snowy Plover would occur at Headlands this spring) and I seriously began to think about this species after we had found out that one was found in interior Illinois on May 7, 1986 with another sighting (same bird?) at Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania on May 17, 1986. Ohio was right between these two sightings - so why wouldn't a Snowy

Plover find its way to Headlands Beach State Park? Between 1987 and 1992, American Birds lists seven Snowy Plover sightings from nearby Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Dates on four of the sightings range from May 4 to May 12 so our Ohio bird occurred at about the expected time.

Since I spent the most time observing the Snowy Plover, I can comment best about its behavior during its one day visit to Headlands Beach State Park. The bird fed actively, darting about quickly and snatching up emerging sandflies. Occasionally a dead insect was picked up. The plover scooted quickly along the beach and would get several hundred yards away with several quick bursts of energetic movements. What I will remember most about the plover's visit occurred after

Larry Rosche had left and before Tom LePage arrived. The Snowy Plover just sat in a footprint in the sand with only the top of its head showing. It was just the Snowy Plover and me - a great way to begin my spring birding vacation. I left the plover at 4:45 p.m. Edwin Pierce of Akron was the last to see the bird at 8:05 p.m. as it departed Headlands Beach State Park and headed north out over the Lake.

As I look back at the sighting several fortunate things kept the Snowy Plover at Headlands Beach State Park on May 13. All day the wind was moderately strong out of the northeast and the weather was cool - these helped keep the bird there and the beachcombers to a minimum. Very few people wandering about the beach was the biggest factor in keeping the bird at Headlands for the entire day. Also, the plover was finding enough food to satisfy its needs so it did not have to leave to find food. Ed Pierce told me the plover was actively feeding before its departure, as if to refuel itself for further wanderings about the Great Plains.

My only regret was that the Snowy Plover stayed only one day. I wish more non-local birders had been able to see it, but those fortunate enough to be off on May 13, or have good bosses who let them take a few hours of vacation, were treated to a new Ohio bird - and a shorebird at that.

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**Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 321- 7245** The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris Sparrow, etc.) please contact the editors as soon as possible.

**Invitation:** The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7A5 P.M. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Field Study:** On the first Sunday of each month a census is conducted at Headlands Beach State Park. The purpose is to study the long term occurrence patterns of migrant and resident birds of the Grand River and Fairport Harbor section of the region. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678- 9408 or Ray Hannikman at 261- 4047.

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**Inquiries** regarding subscription to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The annual subscription rate is \$7.50.

**Field reports**, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.