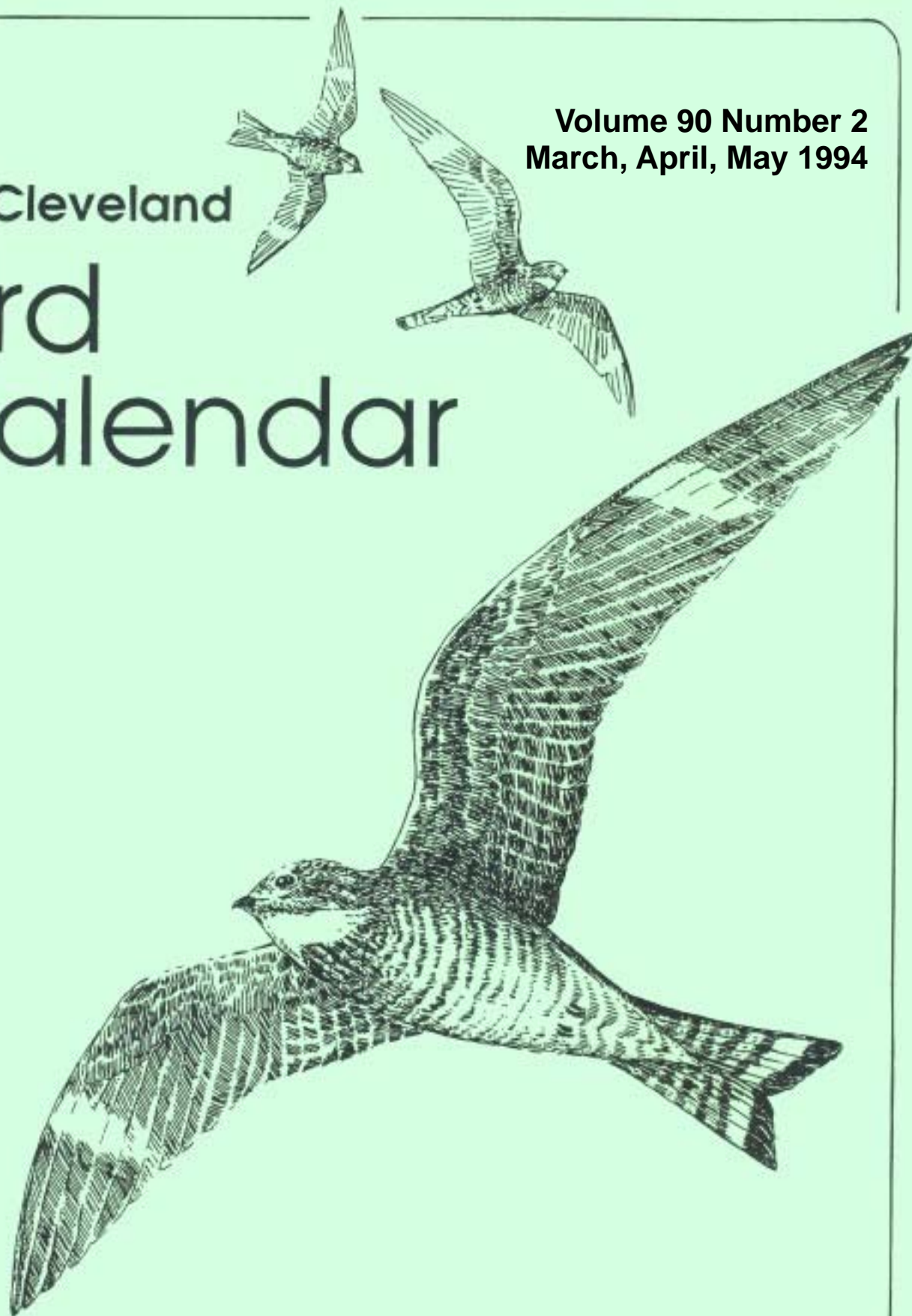


The Cleveland

Bird Calendar

Volume 90 Number 2
March, April, May 1994



Published by
The Kirtland Bird Club and
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

MM/94

The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor population densities of resident birds, and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region.

The Cleveland region includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

5 March - Winter Season

5 June - Spring Season

5 September - Summer Season

5 December - Autumn Season

Cover design: Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*)
by Margret Krister, 1993.

March, April, May 1994
Volume 90 Number 2

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor:

Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Technical Editor

Janice V. McLean, Ph. D.

Editorial Assistants:

William A. Klamm - Weather Summary

Judy Tisdale (JT)- Keyboarding

Wendy Wasman - Research

Contributors:

John Augustine (JA)

Emil Bacik (EB)

Dan Best (DB)

Black River Audubon Society (BR)

Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)

Fred Dinkelbach (FD)

Elinor Elder (EE)

Bob Finkelstein (BF)

Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad (AJF)

Robert Harlan (RHL)

Craig Holt (CH)

William and Nancy Klamm (WNK)

Charles Klaus (CK)

Len Kopka (LK)

Norma Kraps (NK)

Muggsi Krister (MK)

Bob and Denise Lane (BDL)

Thomas LePage (TLP)

Paula Lozano(PL)

Bill Osborne (BO)

Perry Peskin (PP)

Jim Reyda (JR)

Richard Rickard (RR)

Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)

Woody Stover (WS)

Bert Szabo (BS)

Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)

Jeff and Missy Wert (JMW)

Courtney Willis (CW)

Clyde Witt (CW)

On The Inside:**The Weather**

William A. Klamm

Reflections**Comment on the Season**

Larry Rosche

Spring 1994

Larry Rosche

Noteworthy Records

Larry Rosche

Field Notes

**An out of place chickadee
at Headlands Beach**

Larry Rosche

Next Issue:

Summer 1994

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: A Boreal Chickadee visited a suet feeder in Columbia Township from 7 Mar. -- 2 Apr. 1964 (Stelter). The first spring record of Piping Plover since 1951 was at White City on 17 Apr. (Carrothers, Raynes). Three Cattle Egrets were seen at a farm in Munson Township on 18 Apr. (Ramisch). The second spring record of Laughing Gull was at White City on 24 May (Newman). A Bewick's Wren was at Shaker Lakes on 9 May (Tramer).

Twenty Years Ago: A Worm-eating Warbler was studied at length at Shaker Lakes on 25 Apr. 1974 (Elder). A Piping Plover was at Headlands Beach SP on 3 May (Newhouse). On 18 May the Hoffmans photographed one of the most outstanding finds ever at Headlands Beach SP, a Hudsonian Godwit. They also found a Wilson's Phalarope there on 25 May. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at South Chagrin Reservation on 26 May (Bicknell). The first May records of Red Knot were at White City on 26 & 28 May (Scheibe, Hannikman).

Ten Years Ago: A Golden Eagle soared over the Rocky River Valley on 25 Apr. 1984 (Klamm). An exquisite male Smith's Longspur was at Gordon Park on 6 May (Talkington). A subadult Cattle Egret appeared at Shaker Lakes on 22 May (Fazio). Four Red Knots were at Headlands Beach SP on 20 May (LePage). The first Bell's Vireo for the region was found at Headlands Beach SP on 27 May (Peterjohn, Rosche).



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) 20 April 1994 -- Headlands Beach State Park
by Melinda Greenland

WEATHER SPRING 1994

by William A. Klamm

March - A record low of 27° on the 23rd tied the old record set in 1986. Overall temperatures averaged 36.3°, 1 ° below normal. The high was 73° on the 23rd and the low was 15° on the 11th. Lake Erie rose from 34° on the 1st to 36° on the 31st. Ice cover on open waters was very variable but often stable and persistent on sheltered areas. The sun shined 52% of the time. Precipitation was distributed on 16 days and totaled 1.30 in., 1.61 in. below normal. The greatest amount in any 24 hour period was 0.41 on 21-22. Snowfall totaled 7.0 in. with the most in any 24 hour period measuring 4.7 in. on the 9-10. The greatest depth was 4 in. on the 11th.

April - Temperatures averaged 50.5°, 2.9°, warmer than normal.

The highest temperature was 84° on the 25th and the lowest was 23°, on the 8th. Lake Erie was at 36° on the 1st but spurted to 39° on the 2nd, then slowly rose to 46° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 56% of the time. Precipitation on 16 days totaled 3.70 in., 0.56 above normal. The most in any 24 hours was 0.92 on the 12-13th. Snowfall totaled 3.6 in. with the greatest depth in 24 hours measuring 3 in. on the 6-7th.

May - The month was quite cool. On the 14th we tied the record low set in 1943 with a low of 33°. Temperatures averaged 54.7°, 3.3° below normal. The high was 85° on the 30th & 31st and the low 31° on the 2nd. Lake Erie was at 46° on the 1st and rose to 57° on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 58% of the time possible. Rain fell on 9 days to total only 1.67 in., 1.82 in. below normal. The greatest in a 24 hour period was 0.38 in. on the 31st.

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

Reading the many seasonal reports reinforces the belief that most birders find Spring is their favorite season for being afield. Scanning the data makes me think the region had more than the expected number of southern overshoots. We may have had a better passerine migration than the Western Basin region. Rarities included American White Pelican, Piping Plover, and Kirtland's Warbler. It goes without saying, that increased data can make for editor nightmares. A total of 262 species was turned in this spring (not all published), with one reporter turning in over 250 species alone!

I never thought I would ever see over 30 Red-necked Grebes in a single season locally. Ice cover lasted longer on the inland lakes than usual and data were skewed from recent springs with respect to most early arriving duck species. Puddle ducks are still rather poorly represented but the divers seemed to be doing well enough. Walborn Reservoir provided much shorebird data. Holt and Lane spent many hours there but page restrictions and abundant passerine data limit my ability to present the patterns of movements of the common shorebirds there. Read on to find out about the splendid passerine migration of 1994. I wish that I could share all the warbler reports but it's impossible. The best of good birds.

Spring 1994

The first **Common Loon** was found at Summit Lake on 18 Mar. (JR). They were relatively scarce along Lake Erie and about average inland. Akron's high count of **Pied-billed Grebes** was 9 on 27 Mar. (CH). The high tally for Shaker Lakes was 6 on 11 Apr. (RR). On 29 May 3 grebes were at Silver Creek MP (nesting?) (BDL) **Horned Grebes** put in a good inland showing with a high of 69 at the Akron Lakes on 27 Mar. (CH). Double-crested Cormorants continue their impressive showings in the spring. As many as 275 were counted at Lake Rockwell on 20 Apr. (CH). Along the lake, the highs were 166 at the East Breakwater in Cleveland on 12 Apr. (PL) and 300 at HBSP on 16 Apr. (RH). **Great Blue Herons** are thriving locally. If only all species could learn their strategy for success. Two **Great Egrets** rested at Shipman Pond at HBSP on 1 Apr. (LR, JVP). Two were along the Cuyahoga

River near Merwin St. on 3 Apr. (BF, PL). The same day 4 were at Walborn Reservoir (BDL). One was off Euclid Beach SP on 5 Apr. (TLP). A bird lingered in Ravenna 7-10 May (CH). One was at the Jaite marsh in the CVNRA 30 May (BAT). **Green Herons** arrived at HBSP by 24 Apr. They were felt to be doing well in the CVNRA. Daily totals of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** grew to an eye-popping 100 along the Cuyahoga River near Merwin St. on the morning of 8 Apr. (PL), Four were counted at Shaker Lakes on 24 Apr. (PP), A bird at the Ira Road beaver marsh on 8- 10 May was exceptional for the site (LK, BS). A bird at Firestone MP on 13 was equally noteworthy (BS).

A flock of 18 **Tundra Swans** was at Lake Medina on 13 Mar. (CW), Six were over Avon Lake on 19 Mar. (AJF), A group 23 passed over Big Creek Park on 15 Mar. (DB). The high count (70) flew over Lakeshore MP on 22 Mar. (JP). The high count at LaDue Reservoir was 17 on 25

Mar. (CH). Lane saw 14 in Sharon Center on 27 Mar.

Wood Duck numbers were fair. **Green-winged Teals** were in poor numbers. **Northern Pintails** were as expected. **Blue-winged Teal** tallies were alarming. Perhaps I've overlooked a report, but the high counts were under 10 for any location. Northern Shovelers were more widespread than expected, but in small numbers. **Gadwall** populations seem to be stable. Inland reports of **American Wigeons** were average (BDL). **Canvasbacks** were in unusually good inland totals. On 27 Mar. Holt found 77 in Akron, and 20 at Lake Rockwell. As many as 4 were at Shaker Lakes and 2 were tallied on the 10 April Sunday Birdwalk. Peskin noted that he had never seen one in all his years of birding there. As with Canvasbacks, **Redheads** were in better than average inland numbers. Late winter ice kept **Ring-necked Ducks** from building up to their usual numbers at Mogadore. Instead they were forced to

use the open lakes in Akron as a resting place. These lakes have much more human disturbance and therefore the ducks lingered only for a short period. The combined high tally was 1100 at Mogadore and Wingfoot Lake on 26 Mar. (LR). This was considerably lower than the expected count. A drake was late at Silver Creek MP on 29 May (BDL).

Greater Scaups migrated through inland lakes in better than expected totals. The Lanes found 12 at North Reservoir on 6 Mar. Harlan's found his first ever at Lake Isaac on 30 Mar. **Lesser Scaups** numbered 700 at HBSP on 4 Apr. (PH, LR). A count of 100+ was made at Wellington Reservoir on 6 Apr. (BAT). An **Oldsquaw** was near the Westerly Waste Water Treatment Plant on 19 Mar. (BF, PL). Inland, 'squaws' put in another fine spring showing. On 27 Mar. 11 were counted at West Branch SP (LR, CH), 11 more were at Nimisila Reservoir, and 4 were at Lake Rockwell (CH). A bird lingered at Lake Rockwell though 4 Apr. Eastlake hosted 2 **Black Scoters** and one each of **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** on 19 Mar. (RR). Two Surfs were off Sims Park on 10 Apr. (TK). As many as 3, including a handsome male, graced Mogadore Reservoir from late April through 7 May (M.ob). The only inland White-winged report was from Mogadore on 23 Apr. (CH).

Common Goldeneyes remain in below normal numbers. Inland, in the words of Bob Lane, **Buffleheads** were "too numerous to list." Two **Hooded Mergansers** in the "Flats" 20 Mar. provided a positive sign for the once dead Cuyahoga River (CH). They were in fair numbers in Geauga Co. (DB). **Common Mergansers** and **Red-breasted**

Mergansers were as expected. **Ruddy Ducks** remained somewhat of an enigma. They appear in large numbers at some lakes but are nearly absent in nearby waters of the same apparent water constitution.

Turkey Vultures were numerous. **Ospreys** were widely reported in expected springtime totals. Sightings ranged from Spencer Lake to Tinker's Creek SNP. A bird flying over the Whiskey Island Dock was of interest (PL). Late birds were at Lake Isaac on 25 May (RHL) and the CVNRA on 29 May (JMW). Reports of **Bald Eagles** were good. LePage saw a third year bird in the CVNRA on 12 May. Immatures were seen on 3 dates at HBSP. An immature was seen over E. 9th St. on 4 May (PL). Two young hatched at Lake Rockwell on 7 Apr. No word was received on the success of the Geauga Co. nest. A daring pair of **Cooper's Hawks** nested successfully in the west picnic area at HBSP. A **Northern Harrier** drifted by Jacob's Field on 2 Apr. (LR, WS, JW). They were regularly encountered at HBSP. A bird was at Swine Creek Reservation on 19 Apr. (DB). An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a welcome surprise at Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). Five **Broad-winged Hawks** flew by Perkins Beach on 15 Apr. (RHL). They were in usual summer Geauga Co. locales (DB). One was seen at Shaker Lakes on 8 May (PP). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Lodi on 12 Mar. (FD).

*... Northern Harrier
drifted by Jacob's
Field...*

A **Wild Turkey** was in the CVNRA on 21 May (FD). A **Virginia Rail** at the Roxy Cafe on 17 Apr. provided an amusing report (PL, BF). Two were seen at Shaker Lakes on 24 Apr. (PP). Szabo counted 3 at the Ira Road beaver marsh on 4 May. A **Sora** was a good find at Firestone MP on 13 May (BS). Another was located in Barberton on 29 May (BDL). The only reports of **Common Moorhens** came from Sanctuary Pond at North Chagrin (TMR) and Shipman Pond (AJF). The flock of **American Coots** grew to 320 at Mogadore by 15 Apr.

Shorebirding improved over recent springs, at least at Walborn Reservoir. A total of 20 **Black-bellied Plovers** visited Walborn (CH, BDL). Along the lake, they were in typical small totals. Up to 95 **Semi-palmated Plovers** were found at Walborn on 15 May (BDL). On 21 Apr. 15 **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen over Lorain Co. (NK). **Lesser Yellowlegs** totals were fairly good. Of the many reports, 7 at Shaker Lakes on 1 May seemed to be the most unexpected (PP). **Solitary Sandpiper** numbers were as expected, with arrivals at Firestone MP (JR) and Lower Shaker Lakes (PL) on 29 Apr. Up to 10 were seen along the Upper Cuyahoga in mid-May (DB). Two **Willetts** at Walborn on 6 May provided our only spring report (BDL). Flocks totaling to 70 **Spotted Sandpipers** migrated by HBSP on 15 May (RH). A flock of 6 **Ruddy Turnstones** at Walborn on 16 May was a good inland tally (CH, BDL). The high at HBSP was 5 on 22 May (RH). A high of 115 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was at Walborn on 25-28 May (CH, BDL, LR). **Least Sandpipers** were also numerous at Walborn. Up to

250 were seen on 15 May (BDL). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Walborn on 16 May (CH). Three breeding plumaged birds were at HBSP on 30 May (RH, KM). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were early at HBSP on 2 Apr. (EB, RH). Three were in Lorain Co. on 17 Apr. (NK). Up to 31 **Dunlins** were counted at Walborn. One was at Burke Airport on 16 Apr. (DR). Except for the 45 at Walborn on 10 May. **Short-billed Dowitchers** (CH, BDL) were in poor numbers. A **Common Snipe** was in Mantua Center on 20 Mar. (CH). This species has declined to a point where it may become a Noteworthy Record. Five **American Woodcocks** were at Lake Isaac on 22 Mar. (RHL).

The high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 1000 off Edgewater SP on 9 Apr. (RHL). Inland, they were relatively common. LePage had 20 sightings of Glaucous Gulls between 1 & 17 Mar. Up to 4 were in Lorain in early March (FMG, M.ob). A late bird was at HBSP on 4 Apr. (RH). Two **Caspian Terns** were early at HBSP on 9 Apr. (RH). Up to 75 gathered at Dock 22 on 12 Apr. (PL). A flock of 45 **Common Terns** was at Lorain on 6 May (TLP). The earliest **Forster's Tern** date was 7 Apr. at Lake Rockwell (LR, CH). The early lakefront bird was at HBSP on 9 Apr. (PH). A solid gathering of 65 was seen at Lorain on 6 May (TLP).

Black-billed Cuckoos were felt to be more widespread than normal and greatly outnumbered its counterpart cuckoo. The first was reported from Lakeshore MP on 26 Apr. (JP).

Three were seen at HBSP on 14 May (EB, RH, MK, LR). Another was in Parkman on 15 May (JA). One was at Firestone MP on 19 May (JR). A bird was at Walborn on 22 May (BDL). Silver Creek MP had 1 on 29 May (BDL). One was in the Jaite area on 31 May (TLP). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Firestone MP on 12 May (JR). Two were in the Jaite area on 30 May (TLP) and Lakeshore MP (JP). A **Barred Owl** was extremely out of place at Euclid Beach SP on 10 May (MP). The first **Common Nighthawk** was in Stongsville on 8 May (EB). The first for Jacobs Field was on 9 May (FMG). The earliest report from Lorain Co. was 14 May (NK). The earliest **Chimney Swift** was at Shaker Lakes on 17 Apr. (PP). A swift in Kent on 22 Apr. (CH) was, according to the late Dr. Ralph Dexter, the average date of arrival for swifts to Kent.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were in expected lakefront locales by the expected time (WNK). A bird was at Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had

reached HBSP by 2 Apr. (EB, RH). A late bird was there on 14 May (M.ob). A sapsucker in Brecksville on 10 Apr. was an unexpected surprise (BAT). **Northern Flickers** moved by Perkins Beach in good numbers on (RHL).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Chagrin River Park on 15 May (RHL). Another brace was at Lakeshore MP on 16 May. The only Summit Co. report was in the CVNRA on 21 May (JMW). The first **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were found on 14 May at several locales. The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HBSP on 15 May (M.ob). A bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on 22 May (TLP). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was singing along the Zimmerman Trail on 22 May (RH, MK). They were in good numbers in the CVNRA (DAC). The first **Alder Flycatcher** was at Lake Isaac on 25 May (RHL). The first report of **Willow Flycatchers** was 16 May at Walborn (CH). The first **Least Flycatcher** report came from Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). The first clutch of **Eastern**

A grand season at Headlands!

From the 150 Ring-necked Ducks and Red-necked Grebe on 26 March 1994 to the 3 Connecticut Warblers of 22 May and the 3 White-rumped Sandpipers on 30 May, spring was filled with good birding. Unexpected birds showed up -- Piping Plover, American Avocet, Carolina Chickadee, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler as well as tremendous wave days on 14 & 15 May and 21 & 22 May.

As far as I am concerned, the Zimmerman Trail was never so filled with bird song as this spring. Song started with singing Winter Wrens on 9 Apr. and continued with Acadian Flycatchers, Connecticut Warblers, and a Hooded Warbler in late May. I enjoyed birding this spring at Headlands Beach State Park with Larry, Emil, and (resurrected from the dead) Muggsi Krister

by Ray Hannikman

Lakeshore MP Banding Report

Selected Species - Spring 1994 -	Total
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	7
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	4
LEAST FLYCATCHER	8
E. WOOD-PEWEE	4
BROWN CREEPER	10
HOUSE WREN	24
WINTER WREN	12
GRAY CATBIRD	143
WOOD THRUSH	11
HERMIT THRUSH	23
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	50
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	6
VEERY	26
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	16
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	41
WHITE-EYED VIREO	3
SOLITARY VIREO	1
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	1
RED-EYED VIREO	8
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	5
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	1
NASHVILLE WARBLER	4
YELLOW WARBLER	30
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	4
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	46
CAPE MAY WARBLER	1
BLACK-THROATED BLUE W.	14
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	6
BLACK-THROATED GREEN W.	3
PRAIRIE WARBLER	1
PALM WARBLER	8
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	5
AMERICAN REDSTART	40
OVENBIRD	14
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	3
MOURNING WARBLER	46
CONNECTICUT WARBLER	5
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	64
HOODED WARBLER	2
WILSON'S WARBLER	15
CANADA WARBLER	45
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	1
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	34
RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	25
CHIPPING SPARROW	46
FIELD SPARROW	31
SONG SPARROW	178
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	72
SWAMP SPARROW	82
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	445
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	64
DARK-EYED JUNCO	382
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	8
NORTHERN ORIOLE	5
PURPLE FINCH	56
HOUSE FINCH	443
PINE SISKIN	43
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	364

BY JOHN V. POGACNIK

Phoebes in John Augustine's barn in Parkman was found dead. He surmised that it was from the cold weather. Undaunted, the adults were busy incubating a second

clutch at the period's end. The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Lakeshore MP on 24 Apr. (JP). **Eastern Kingbirds** were in good numbers and aggressively defending territories by late May.

Up to 20 **Horned Larks** were regularly found near Lodi throughout the season (FD). **Purple Martins** remain in dire straits. The high count at HBSP was a measly 6 on 19 May. **Tree Swallows** were numerous, as expected. **Bank Swallows** were flourishing at sand and gravel operations everywhere. A record early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was documented at Nesmith Lake in Akron on 27 Mar. (CH). The first **Cliff Swallows** had returned to their West Branch SP on 21 Apr. (LR). The first ever reported to this desk from the CVNRA was on 7 May (DAC). Singles were found at HBSP and Walborn. The early **Barn Swallow** was 10 Apr. in Streetsboro (CH).

Red-breasted Nuthatches moved well on 14 May, when 10 were tallied at HBSP. **Brown Creepers** were scarce. **Carolina Wrens** received mixed reviews. Along the lake they were noticeably down in numbers, but inland they are still in good shape. **Winter Wrens** moved well and were singing ardently at many lake-front sites. **Marsh Wrens** were widely reported. One at Sims Park on 22 May was excellent for the site (TK). A bird at North Chagrin on 31 May was interesting (KM). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were as expected. A

fine tally of 50 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was made at Shaker Lakes on 17 Apr. (PP). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were as numerous as ever in recent memory. Birders commented on how conspicuous they were in late April to mid-May. A count of 50 was conservative at HBSP on 23 Apr.

An **Eastern Bluebird** provided a first at Lower Shaker Lake for Peskin on 17 Apr. The Chasars felt that they were doing well in natural cavities in the CVNRA. Veery migration in Lake County was better than expected. A high of 12 on 21 May at HBSP was exceptional (RH, LR). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at HBSP was on 21-22 May (RH, MK, LR). Attesting to the late May pattern of thrush migration, (other than Hermit) only 1 **Swainson's Thrush** was found on the Shaker Lakes Bird Walks. It was on 15 May (PP). Swainson's Thrushes were still present at Lakeshore MP on 31 May (JP). An early **Hermit Thrush** was found on the first spring bird-walk at Shaker Lakes on 10 April (PP). The high tally of along the lake was 10 at HBSP on 16 Apr. The last was at Lakeshore MP on 14 May (JP). As a Neotropical migrant of national concern, it was felt that **Wood Thrushes** were in above average totals in most areas. At least 4 pairs were still present at HBSP at the end of the period. This was unprecedented in the past decade. The only negative comments on this species came from Geauga Co. (DB). **Gray Catbirds** were

abundant. Observers at Sims Park were surprised by a **Northern Mockingbird** on 21 May (TK). A bird was at Gordon Park on 17 Apr. (CH). **Brown Thrasher** reports were encouraging. A pair was possibly nesting at Lower Shaker Lake (PP). Late **American Pipits** were migrating over HBSP on 15 May. **Cedar Waxwings** were abundant throughout the region the last third of May.

White-eyed Vireos continue to impress with their numbers. The earliest arrival was at Firestone MP on 15 Apr. (JR). As many as 3 could be found there afterward. They arrived in the CVNRA by 24 Apr. (DAC). Lake Isaac provided refuge for 2 on 27 Apr. (RHL). On 11 May 3 White-eyed were at Donald Gray Gardens (FMG). The earliest **Solitary Vireo** was at Firestone MP on 11 Apr. (LR, JW). Three were at Shaker Lakes on 17 Apr. (PP). Three more were at Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). A bird was reported from Towner's Woods in Kent on 14 May (BS, JT). **Yellow-throated Vireos** arrived in the CVNRA by 30 Apr (DAC). A male at HBSP on 14 May was the first there in 3 years (EB, MK, LR). **Philadelphia Vireos** were at Firestone MP on 11 May (JR) and 16 May (BS). Another was at HBSP on 14 May (RH). **Warbling Vireos** arrived at Lake Rockwell by 22 Apr. (LR) and in the CVNRA by 24 Apr. (DAC). **Red-eyed Vireos** were common after the first third of May.

Warbler migration was impressive on the east side. Hannikman and Kellerman both wrote of outstanding days on the weekend

of 22 May. Lake Isaac was particularly good on 27 Apr. Szabo had 16 species at Firestone MP on 16 May.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was early at Lake Medina on 16 Apr. (CW). As many as 7 were at Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). **Tennessee Warblers** were numerous. Reports from Portage and Summit Counties were higher than any time since the early 80s. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Lakeshore MP on 15 Apr. (BAT). The earliest bird at HBSP was 23 Apr. (M.ob). One was there on 28 Apr. (KM) and 3 there on 14 May (one banded) (M.ob). A bird was at Sims Park on 14 May (TK). Also on the 14th, one was seen at Lower Shaker Lake (PP). **Nashville Warblers** were as numerous as in any recent spring. A bird was early at Firestone MP on 24 Apr. (JR). Two **Northern Parulas** could be found in Parma Heights from 29 Apr.- 18 May (RHL). A male was at HBSP on 7 May (LR, EB, RH). Two were in Brecksville on 5-31 May (DAC, FD, RHL). Another was at Firestone MP on 8 May (JR). **Yellow Warblers** arrived in the CVNRA by 24 Apr. (DAC). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were fairly numerous. The high tally was 14 at HBSP on 22 May (RH, MK). **Magnolia Warblers** were typically numerous along Lake Erie. **Cape May Warblers** were in fair tallies along the lake but uncommon inland. Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were early at Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (RHL). Up to 8 could be found at HBSP in mid-May in a day. One was at Carlisle MP on 22 May (JT). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was exceptionally early 10 Apr.

at HBSP (RH). The question of possible nesting was raised by a singing bird in Bedford Reservation on 23 May (RHL). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was early in Parma Heights on 29 Apr. (RHL). Another was in Towner's Woods on 14 May (JT). The high tally for HBSP was 4 on the same date. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Shaker Lakes on 24 Apr. (PP). The Brecksville birds had returned by 23 Apr. (M.ob). Two were in the CVNRA heronry on 23 May (RHL). A male **Pine Warbler** was at HBSP on 9 Apr. (EB, RH). Two were at Shaker Lakes on 11 Apr. (RR). Another was there on 17-18 Apr. (PP, BF). One spent 17-23 Apr. at Spencer Lake SWA (NK). Two were in Brecksville on the late date of 23 May (RHL). A walk around Mogadore Reservoir on 30 Apr. found 150± **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (LR, JW). As expected, they were equally impressive at Shaker Lakes and HBSP. **Palm Warbler** totals were not as high as in recent springs. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were numerous in mid-May. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was exceptionally early at Lake Isaac on 26-27 Apr. (RHL). **Cerulean Warblers** were late in returning to favored nesting sites. They were noticeably scarce in Geauga Co. (DB). A Cerulean at Sims Park on 28 May was outstanding (TK). **Black-and-white Warblers** continued their recent spring pattern of solid abundance. A tally of 12 was made HBSP on 7 May. One was early at Lower Shaker Lake on 9 Apr. (PP). **American Redstarts** were abundant. Counts ranged to 20 at HBSP. An early **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Lakeshore MP on 15

Apr. (BAT). They had returned to the Upper Cuyahoga by 27 Apr. At least 4 pairs were found in the Russell Park area (DB). The only one at HBSP was on 7 May (RH). One was at Firestone MP on 10- 12 May (JR, BS). Two were at Lake Medina on 12 May (CW). At least 2 pairs of Prothonotaries were nesting at the Ira Road beaver marsh 30 Apr.-31 May (LK, BS, JMW). They could also be found near the heronry and near Jaite) (DAC, FD, RHL). One at North Chagrin on 31 May was exceptional (KM). **Ovenbirds** were more numerous than expected throughout the region. For example, 11 were found at various Cuyahoga Co. lakefront locales by Greenland. As many as 6 were counted in a single day at HBSP. Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were at Euclid Beach SP on 29 Apr. (FMG). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were apparently nesting in Sagamore hills as of 28 Apr. (FID). The first report came from Brecksville on 18 Apr. (DAC). Migrants were detected at Baldwin Lake on 28 Apr. (RHL) and at Firestone MP on 30 Apr. (BDL) and 19 May (JR). **Kentucky Warblers** were reported in Hambden Township and at Lakeshore MP on 25 Apr. (JP) and at Firestone MP on 12-13 May (JR). **Mourning Warblers** were common along the lake. For example, 4 were counted at HBSP on 22 May (RH). For those who find Mourning Warblers hard to find, try this, Pogacnik reported that he banded more Mournings than Yellow Warblers (32 to 30) at Lakeshore MP. Two Mournings were at Hinckley MP (where they are rarely reported) on 19 May (CW). The only report from

Firestone MP was on 20 May (JR). A bird was late and possibly on territory at Brecksville MP on 31 May (BAT). **Wilson's Warblers** peaked at 15 at Lakeshore MP on 24 May. **Canada Warblers** were in above average numbers. A peak of 35 was reported at Lakeshore MP on 22 May (JP). What is probably the northernmost territorial **Hooded Warbler** in the region was easy to find along the Zimmerman Trail after 21 May (RH). A male spent 26 April - 4 May at Lake Isaac (RHL). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Sims Park on 22 May (TK). Another was at a more expected location, Jaite, on 23 May (RHL). A bird was on territory along the Metropark Bike Trail in Walton Hills (DAC).

Scarlet Tanagers arrived during the first week of May and were thought to be in exceptional numbers throughout the Rocky River Valley (WNK) and the eastern sectors of the region (LR). For those of us who have tried to save a bird in peril comes a heart-warming report from Lakewood. Friends picked up a bird (thought to be dead) off the road in Trumbull Co. and brought it to Paula Lozano on 29 May. On the advice of wildlife biologist Sarah Jean Peters, Paula gave it some Gatorade by using a straw and rubbing it across its beak. Lo and behold, the bird revived. She was able to release it the next morning. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was very early at Firestone MP on 20 Apr. (EP). A total of 20 at HBSP on 7 May was high for the locale (RH). **Indigo Buntings** reached HBSP by 1 May (RH). Inland, particularly Lake Rockwell, they

did not start singing at their traditional nest sites until late May.

The first **Chipping Sparrows** arrived in Valley City (FMG) and Twin Lakes (LR) on 3 Apr. **Vesper Sparrows** returned to their traditional haunts later than expected. **Grasshopper Sparrows** went unreported before June. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was reported from Concord Township on 21 May (JP). Fox Sparrows were early at Firestone MP on 24 Mar. (JR) and at HBSP on 27 Mar. (RH). A total of 15 was counted at Donald Gray on 9 Apr. (DAC). Elsewhere they were in good supply. The 4 at Carlisle MP on 11 Apr. was indicative (NK). Three Song Sparrows were feeding in right field at Jacobs Field through the first 6 innings of the Indians and Pirates exhibition game on 2 Apr. (LR, WS, JW). The high count was 75 at Donald Gray on 9 Apr. (RHL). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in expected numbers. **White-throated Sparrows** were typically numerous. Many observers echoed that White-crowned Sparrows were more numerous than in recent springs. For example, 25 were at Witt's backyard in Medina on 29 Apr. An "**Oregon**" **Dark-eyed Junco** was banded at Lakeshore MP on 5 Apr. (JP). A flock of 49 **Snow Buntings** was observed at Burke Airport on 6 Mar. (TLP). Several were at the Akron Municipal Airport on 19 Mar. (JR). Hundreds of **Bobolinks** were moving along the lake on 14-15 May. Inland, they were finding new nesting locations (DAC). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was unusual at Lake Isaac on 25 May (RHL).

An **Orchard Oriole** was at Lower Shaker Lake on 28 Apr. (RR). One was at Firestone MP on 29 Apr. (JR). One was singing in Parkman on 2 May (JA). A bird was in Eastlake on 3 May (KM). Three were noted at Lake Medina on 18 May (CW). They were regularly found at the Ira Road beaver marsh. An immature male and a female were at HBSP on 14-31 May (EB, RH, MK, LR). A pair was at Chagrin River Park on 15-17 May (RH, TLP). A female was noted at Lower Shaker Lake on 14 May (PP). A bird was in the CVNRA on 29 May (TLP). By mid-May **Northern Orioles** were numerous throughout the region. A count of 12 at Lake Medina on 8 May was typical (CW). A few **Common Redpolls** lingered into early Apr. **Purple Finches** put in a fair showing in April. A total of 30 was reported from Lakeshore MP on 27 Apr. A **Pine Siskin** was a surprise feeder bird on 9 Apr. in Twin Lakes (LR). Several visited a feeder in Northfield on 22 Apr. through 19 May (DAC, FD). One lingered to 6 May in Lorain Co. (NK). The latest **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Carlisle MP on 17 May (NK) and at HBSP on 14 May (EB, RH, MK, LR).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

RED-THROATED LOON - A winter plumaged bird was West Branch SP on 27 Mar. (Rosche, Holt). Another was at Nimisila Reservoir on 7 Apr. (Lane).

RED-NECKED GREBE - Birds continued from the winter and more were recorded this spring than at any time in our 90 year history of record keeping.



Incredibly, this highly sought after species was found in each of the 7 counties in the region. These birds exhibited various plumages and could be identified as they came and left a particular site. A bird was at Avon Lake through 12 Mar. (LePage, Rickard). Holt, Kopka, and Lane kept tallies at Summit Lake where up to 7 were seen in March. A bird was in the "Flats" on 17 Mar. (Harlan). One was at LaDue Reservoir on 25 Mar. (Holt). A bird was in the mouth of the Grand River on 26 Mar. (Hannikman, Rosche). On 27 Mar. more grebes pushed into the region. A bird was at West Branch SP, 4 at Springfield Lake, 3 at Long Lake, and one at Nimisila Reservoir to go along with those already in the area (Rosche, Holt, Lane). At Nimisila the number grew to 4 by 1 Apr. (Lane, Toneff). Wellington Reservoir hosted one on 30 Mar. (LePage). Lake Medina had 3 on 3 Apr. (Dinkelbach). Lake Rockwell highest tally ever (4)

was made there on 4 Apr. (Rosche, Holt). A different immature was there on 7 Apr. (Rosche). The latest was off Edgewater on 9 Apr. (Harlan).

EARED GREBE - One was at Oberlin Reservoir on 30 Mar. (LePage). A winter-plumaged bird was reported from Fairport Harbor on 25 Mar. (Pogacnik). Another was off the Coast Guard Station beach on 10 Apr. (Bacik, Hannikman). An adult bird was seen in Fairport Harbor 14 & 15 Apr. (Pogacnik).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Anne Bugeda spotted 4 at Headlands Beach SP on 12 Apr. ([fide Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)) They remained until the next morning (Fjeldstad). This sighting provided the first regional spring record for this species.

AMERICAN BITTERN - A bird was located at Firestone MP on 19 Apr. (Pierce, Reyda). A bird was

in the CVNRA on 23 Apr. (Chasar, Dinkelbach, Elder, Harlan). One was at Headlands Beach SP on 26 Apr. (Fjeldstad). One was in Munson Township on 28 Apr. (*fide* Best).

LEAST BITTERN - A bird was in the weeds along the Coast Guard Station Road at Headlands Beach SP on 30 May (Bacik).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - The only report for the season came from Lake Isaac on 27 Apr. (Harlan).

MERLIN - Birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on 4 occasions. Metcalf had sightings on 15, 19, & 26 Apr. Bacik and Hannikman watched one there as it came in off Lake Erie on 23 Apr. They found it later in a tree feeding on an ill-fated Hermit Thrush.

PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird was in Eastlake on 14 Mar. (Metcalf). The downtown pair made frequent passes over Jacobs Field on 2 Apr. (Rosche, Stover, Wert). A falcon with a red leg band was feeding on a bird in Lakewood on 10 Apr. (Finkelstein, Lozano).

SANDHILL CRANE - The only reports came from Concord Township on 6 Mar. and Middlefield on 1 May (Pogacnik).

PIPING PLOVER - A single bird was found on the shore at Headlands Beach SP on 20 Apr. (Metcalf, M.ob). While it disappointed many observers on the next morning, it was seen there again on the following evening (Hannikman, Rosche). It or

another was there on 25 Apr. (Fjeldstad).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A flock of 13 flew by Headlands Beach SP on 16 Apr. (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche). Two more flew by the same location on 17 Apr. (Fjeldstad).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - The only report came from Fairport Harbor on 5 May (Pogacnik).

WHIMBREL - On 25 May 5 were seen in the Portage County sector of Walborn Reservoir (Lane, Rosche).

SANDERLING - Extremely noteworthy at this season, birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on 16 - 18 May (Hannikman, Metcalf).

RED KNOT - A bird spent the morning of 27 May at Firestone Reservoir (Pierce, Reyda).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - An alternate-plumaged bird was at Walborn Reservoir on 25 May (Rosche).

STILT SANDPIPER - Two were seen at Walborn Reservoir on 10 May (Holt, Lane).

BLACK TERN - Nine were early at Spencer Lake on 8 May (Kraps). On 21 May 2 were at Wellington Reservoir (Kraps). One flew by Lakeshore MP on 22 May (Pogacnik).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - One was off Sims Park on 12 Apr. (Toneff).

LITTLE GULL - A bird was in Lorain on 14 May (LePage).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - A bird was near the Great Lakes Towing office on 9 Mar. (Lozano). A winter-plumaged adult was at Headlands Beach SP on 3 Apr. (Hannikman).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - An immature was seen along the Cuyahoga River on 7 Mar.- 3 Apr. (Finkelstein, Lozano).

LONG-EARED OWL - Three were tallied at Caley Woods Park through 14 Mar. Kraps, LePage, Stover). A bird was reported from Girdled Road Park on 2 Apr. (Pogacnik).

SHORT-EARED OWL - A bird was in Leroy Township on 18 Mar. (Pogacnik). Another was at Burke Airport on 24 Mar. (Pogacnik). One flew past Headlands Beach SP on 2 Apr. (Hannikman). Another was along Fairport Nursery Road on 16 Apr. (Hannikman, Rosche).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Three were in Lake County during a 6 Mar. to 25 Apr. time span (Pogacnik).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Birds were at Donald Gray Gardens on 19-21 Apr. (Lozano, Romito) and on 28 Apr. (Greenland). A bird was singing in Mentor on 12 May (Fjeldstad). Drew Rolik reported that a male got trapped inside the old Arcade Building in Cleveland on 14 May. Birds were at Lakeshore MP from 26 Apr. through 24 May (Pogacnik).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE - A bird in excellent plumage was at Headlands Beach SP on 14 May (see Field Notes). (Rosche, Hannikman, Bacik, Krister).

SEDGE WREN - A bird was in Madison Township on 21 May (Pogacnik). A bird was at Lake Medina on 12 May (Witt).

BELL'S VIREO - The third regional record of this species was at Chagrin River Park on 15 - 17 May found this species there (Harlan, Fjeldstad, Pogacnik).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - A male was in Brecksville Reservation on 1 May (Dinkelbach). One was along the Metropark Bike Trail in Walton Hills on 3 May (Chasar). Another was in Aurora on 10 May (Elder). One was at Firestone MP on 12 May (Reyda). Three were reported from Lakeshore MP and one on 31 May at Indian Point Park (Pogacnik).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER - This hybrid was in the Pinery Narrows area of the CVNRA on 5 & 6 May (Romito). Another was in the Jaite area of the CVNRA on 8 & 9 May (Harlan).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - An exceptionally early bird rode the strong southerly breezes of mid-April and landed at Donald Gray Gardens on 12 Apr. (Greenland). One on 26 Apr. and then 2 on 27 Apr. at Lake Isaac provided local excitement (Harlan). A bird was at Firestone MP on 6 May (Reyda). A male was at Shaker Lakes on 14 May (Peskin). A female was foraging along the Zimmerman Trail on 14 May (Bacik, Hannikman, M.ob).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER - A female was seen at Chagrin River Park on a 15 May Sunday Morning birdwalk. While the



Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) - Mosquito Creek SWA - 27 May 1994
by Shari Fischer

principal observers did not feel compelled to report this extraordinary sighting to this desk. Pogacnik and Harlan did, and we thank them. This is the first report since 1977.

WORM-EATING WARBLER - A bird was feeding in a wet area along the Shipman Pond Trail on 16-17 Apr. It was studied for long periods of time as it gleaned insects from the foliage. It often was observed in an upside clown position and seemed oblivious to the observers (Hannikman, Krister, M.ob). One was at Firestone MP on 27 Apr. (Reyda). Birds were reported from Lakeshore MP on 18 Apr. and from Girdled Rood Park on 5 May (Pogacnik).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Three were along the Zimmerman Trail on 22 May (Hannikman, Krister). On 24 May LePage found one at Euclid Beach SP. Five were reported to

have

been banded at Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

SUMMER TANAGER - A male put in its yearly appearance at Lakeshore MP on 11 May (Pogacnik).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - A bird was reported from Lakeshore MP on the early date of 24 Apr. (Pogacnik). Another, at a more expected date, was reported from Lake Medina on 11 May (Witt).

HOARY REDPOLL - A bird was found by Craig Rieker in Parma on 12 Mar. It was viewed by many. Another was photographed at Pogacnik's at Lakeshore MP on 16 Mar. The editors felt that because these birds had supporting verifications we could publish them without the approval of the Ohio Rare Bird Records Committee.



Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemannii*) - Lakeshore Metropark - 16 March 1994
by John V. Pogacnik

FIELD NOTES

An out of place chickadee at Headlands Beach

by Larry Rosche

While the Headlands Gang (Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik, Muggsi Krister, and me) was walking along the breakwall at Headlands Beach State Park on 14 May 1994. I noticed a chickadee foraging in the cottonwoods at about 7:00 A.M. It seemed disoriented and was making garbled noises. Since chickadees are entirely out of place at Headlands Beach, they get looked at. This bird was in fresh plumage and I immediately encouraged the others to take a long look at it. The bib was neatly cut across the bottom. The greater coverts were entirely gray. The underparts were uniformly whitish-gray, with no hint of buff. The voice was a high-pitched dee, dee, dee plus the garbled

sounds. From all appearances this was a Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*). Now this is a big statement for this part of Ohio. The only accepted records for this species in the region come from specimens collected near Hudson, Lorain, and Solon Bog. Interestingly, they were collected at about the same time frame. We saw Black-capped later along the Zimmerman Trail. They too, were in fresh plumage. Each showed a ragged bib, buffy undersides, and much white in the wing coverts. We agreed, that based on what we knew, this was a Carolina Chickadee.

Since the sighting, I have searched references and found nothing to dispute our sighting. Apparently very little is known about the movements of Carolina Chickadees in and from their range of known occurrence. In my studies at the Ravenna Arsenal in

1993 I discovered a family Carolina Chickadees but, without supporting video or other knowledgeable observers, I did not turn them in. This spring it seemed that many southern birds overshot their normal ranges. I feel that it is entirely possible that the southern chickadees may also have moved northward. I am convinced that the Headlands Gang did not err in their identification of this individual, especially after watching many Carolina Chickadees east of Canton this June.

I know that this report will be met with a great deal of skepticism by some. I would be the first to raise an eyebrow at this report if it were not for the acumen of the observers. The purpose of my reporting this sighting is not to rewrite known science, but to alert observers to check out chickadees in odd places in migration.

Interestingly enough, Joyce Fjeldstad told me that a man had seen what he thought was a Carolina Chickadee on the last Sunday Bird Walk in April at Headlands. I distinctly remember her disappointment when I said that the only records of this species accepted were of collected birds in the mid-thirties.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar did publish reports from Nimisila Reservoir in 1963 and Carlisle Metropark in 1968. These records are believable to those of us who live in the southern counties of the region but most of the northern observers write them off as misidentifications. I alert all readers that this species is relatively easy to find in Stark County.

Notice: All reports to The Cleveland Bird Calendar are archived in the library of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

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 7:45 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- 9552.

Acknowledgement: Special thanks are given to William and Nancy Klamm, Anthony Hess, Richard and Jean Hoffman, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leiden for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 90.

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.