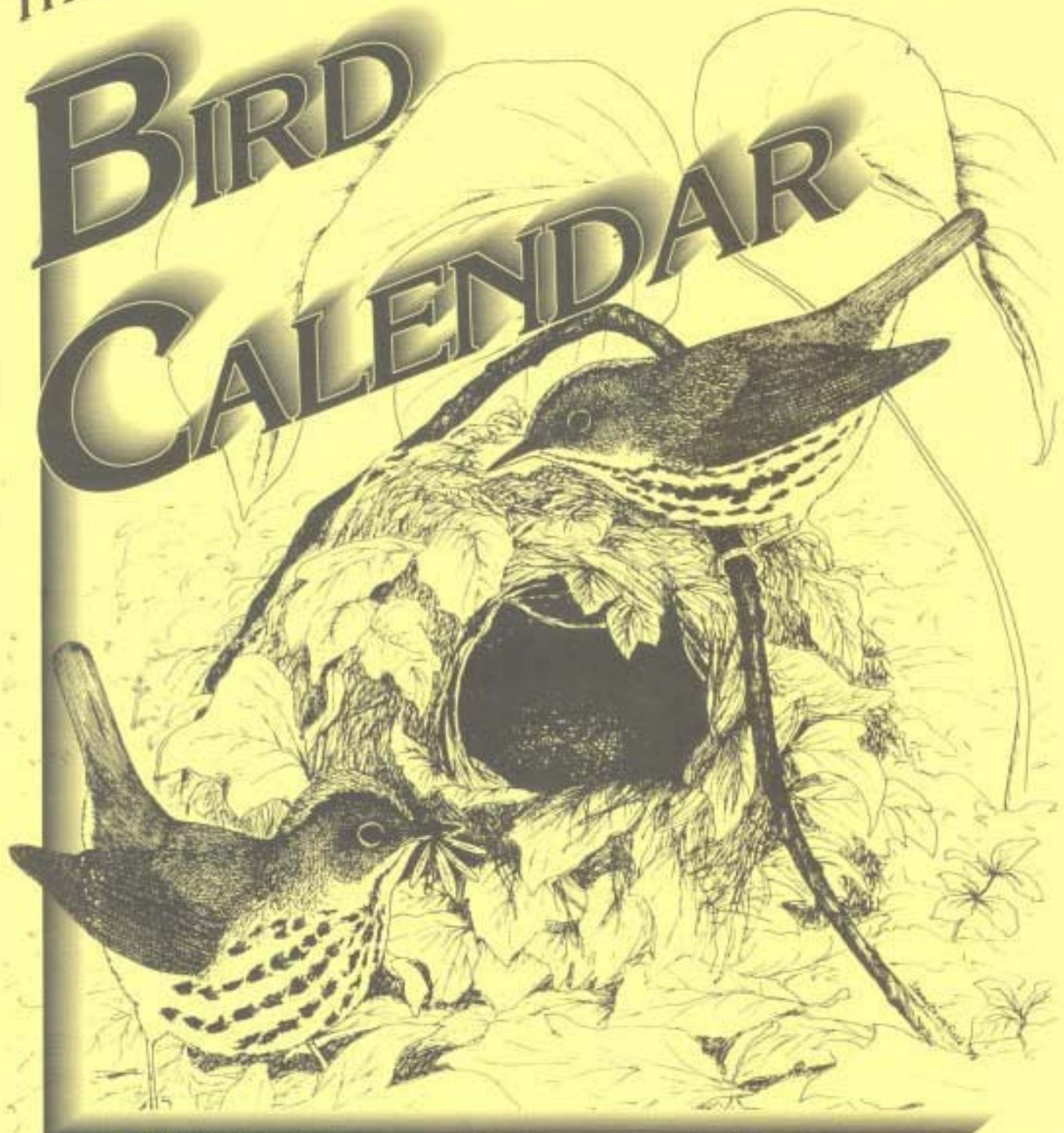


THE CLEVELAND

June, July, and August 1999
Volume 9 Number 3

BIRD CALENDAR



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and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

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.

Suggested due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 5 - Winter Season

June 5 - Spring Season

September 5 - Summer Season

December 5 - Autumn Season

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by Jennifer Brumfield, 1998.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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Vernon Weingart (VW)

Jeff Wert (JW)

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Summer 1999

by Dwight Chasar

June: Temperatures averaged 70.1°, 2.5° above normal. The high was 92° on the 10th, and the low was 43° on the 18th. Lake Erie was 58° on June 1st and rose to 66° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 11 days and totaled 1.43 in., 2.27 in. below normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period was 0.45 in. on the 14th.

July: Temperatures averaged 76.2°, 4.3° above normal. The high was 95° on the 31st and the low was 50° on the 11th. Rain occurred on 24 days, totaling 4.66 in., 1.14 in. above normal.

The most rain in a 24 hr. period fell on the 6th and amounted to 1.54 in. Sunshine prevailed 76% of the time possible. Lake Erie had risen to 77° by the 31st.

August: Temperatures averaged 69.1°, 1.3° below normal. The high was 88° on the 17th and the low was 51° on the 31st. Sunshine occurred 64% of the time possible. Rain fell on 17 days, totaling 1.80 in., 1.60 in. below normal. The most in a 24 hr. period was .41 in. on the 7th. Lake Erie waters dropped to 73° by the end of the month. ✪



Hilliard Bridge Peregrine Falcon Chicks--
by Paula Lozano



by Larry Rosche

I always enjoy writing about the nesting season. Summer 1999 proved to be an exceptional year for most locally nesting birds. I encourage many of you to pick up a Breeding Bird Survey route or start a study a local park. Keep data from year to year and develop a feel for how changes in the environment and weather affect the birds in your study area. Certainly the variety of habitat possessed by the large many parks in Geauga and Lake Counties could use help in tallying and corroborating data. Many thanks to Carol Tveekrem for once again organizing and tabulating The Greater Summer Bird Count. Her ongoing study will be missed. These yearly studies provided a wealth of data and give future researchers a barometer of comparison. I hope someone will pick up the baton and continue this study in her absence. Ed Pierce's yearly treks to Little Mountain and Stebbins Gulch continue to provide up-to-date information on these relic areas. The ongoing study by the Smithsonian's Dr. Lisa Petit on the effects of White-tailed Deer on neotropical migrants continues to produce remarkable data on the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Of course, this summer the infestation of gypsy moths and the emergence of 17-year cicadas affected the study quite adversely. The impact study at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site for the Ohio National Guard, under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves, again proved what a boon 23,000 acres of uninhabited land can be to Neotropical migrants and wildlife in general.

I had to do some difficult editing this season. Trusted observers turned in reports, which could not be accepted. The Bird Calendar has nearly a century's worth of data. Occurrences which defy what has been the norm need verification and supporting details. It is not my intent to sound omnipotent, but I really believe we all make mistakes in identification at one time or another. Lastly, the White-winged Dove at CMNH biologist Bob Segedi's house could not be corroborated by secondary observers or photographs. We will have to keep our eyes peeled for this one in the future. I know Bob will.



Pied-billed Grebes summered at Frame Bog and Lake George (LR). At least 4 were raised at the latter site. At least 2 summered at Mogadore (GB). One was at Firestone MP on July 7 (EP). **Great Egrets** put in an excellent inland showing. One or two could be found at Jaite all summer (DAC, m.obs.). Up to 3 visited the vast mudflat at West Branch SP (LR, VW). Two were at Mill Stream Run Wildlife Preserve on Aug. 9 (SZ). Nesting **Green Herons** received fair reviews. A pair successfully raised 4 young at Lake George in Portage Co. (LR). Five sectors of the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (hereafter Ravenna) provided confirmed nesting of Green Herons (LR). Ten were tallied at the Ira Road beaver pond on July 19 (TMR). Four were at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 17 (BW). An

immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a surprise at Pinery Narrows on Aug. 8 (DAC). As usual, several adults and young birds were found at Shaker Lakes in August (LD, PP, BW). Birds were seen at HBSP on June 5, Aug. 7 & 8 (RH).

Wood Ducks were very successful at the Ira Road beaver pond (GB). Two **American Wigeons** were at Veterans Park on Aug. 14 (RH). One arrived at Lower Shaker Lake on Aug. 23 (LD). Eight **Blue-winged Teals** were in Grand River on Aug. 28 (NB, RH). A **Green-winged Teal** was in Grand River on Aug. 28 (NB, RH). **Hooded Mergansers** nested in the CVNRA (DAC), Twin Lakes (LR), River Road (JP), and Ravenna (LR). One dallied with Mallards at Lower Shaker Lake in early June (LR, BP). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was off East 55th St. Marina from late July through the period (FG).

Ospreys were widely reported. One was a flyover in the CVNRA on July 24. A bird frequented the Upper Cuyahoga above Lake Rockwell most of Aug. (LR). Ospreys visited HBSP on at least 5 occasions in July and Aug. (RH). **Bald Eagles** were successful at the Geauga Co. nest site. Up to five summered in and around Portage Co. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** nested at Ravenna. An adult was at HBSP on Aug. 20 (NB). Two injured **Cooper's Hawks** were taken to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History within a week of each other. Both died, one from an eye infection and the other from apparent neurological damage (BW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** in Medina (CW) and Valley City (FG) were indications of a southwesterly expansion for the species. **Broad-winged Hawks** continued in their traditional nesting areas. None were found at Ravenna.

Ruffed Grouse continue to be left off most observers' reports. The only reported birds were in Ravenna. **Northern Bobwhites** have all but disappeared from their usual Portage Co. haunts. In a definite opposite trend to bobwhites, **Wild Turkeys** are appearing in all 7 counties of the region. Five were along Wheatley Road on Aug. 2 (TMR). At Ravenna, birds (mostly poults) numbered into the hundreds. Lake Rockwell boasted its first successful nest. One crossed Lakeshore Boulevard near the Mentor Wastewater Treatment Plant to vault Hannikman into sole possession of first place in the Headlands area bird listing group. Two **Virginia Rails** persisted at Ira Road most of the summer (TMR, TLP). **Common Moorhens** nested at the Hidden Valley Center Wetland (JP).



Red-breasted Nuthatch
by Scott Wright

Shorebirds were difficult to find, and most birders went out of the region to find these long distance-migrants. A **Black-bellied Plover** was seen at Burke Airport on Aug. 18 (FG). Two **American Golden-Plovers** flew by HBSP on Aug. 29 (RH). **Semi-palmated Plovers** were seen in small numbers at HBSP and West Branch SP. It is hard to say if a **Greater Yellowlegs** at Jaito on June 13 was northbound or southbound (BAT). One was at Lake Rockwell on July 1 (VW). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in small numbers. The only **Ruddy Turnstones** reported were from HBSP on Aug. 14 & 21 (RH). It appears no **Red Knots** will be tallied this year in the region. The high count of **Sanderlings** at HBSP was 40 on Aug. 14 (RH). No **Western Sandpipers** were reported. A flock of 25 **Least Sandpipers** was in the CVNRA on July 13 (DAC). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at HBSP on Aug. 31 (RH). The only report of **Short-billed Dowitchers** was a flock of 20 birds at Lower Shaker Lake on July 18-25 (LD). Elsewhere, singles were noted flying over or landing briefly and departing.

Common Snipes did not make any reporters' lists.

Bonaparte's Gulls were slow in arriving. A **Caspian Tern** was at Lower Shaker Lake on Aug. 27 (LD). Along the lake, they were found in small numbers. **Common and Forster's Tern** numbers were low.

The Chasars felt there was a good population of **Black-billed Cuckoos** in the CVNRA. One was at Ira Road on July 19 (TMR). The Chasars found one nest. LePage found this species at Spencer Lake, Carlisle MP, Brecksville MP, Bacon Woods MP, Bedford MP, and Streetsboro Bog. One was at Hinckley MP on June 5 (BP, LR). An estimated 10 territories were found at Ravenna. The CVNRA hosted numerous **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**. This was due mostly to the dreaded Gypsy Moth infestation there. One was at Firestone MP on July 14 (EP). Elsewhere they were very vocal and widespread. Ravenna held an estimated 52 territorial males.

On July 23, an Eastern Screech-Owl was an urban surprise at the Werts in Akron. Two were in the

CVNRA on Aug. 31 (DAC).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were as numerous as I can recall in late July through August. An estimated 125 birds summered at Ravenna. **Common Nighthawks** were moving by the last third of August. A flock of 25 passed over Valley City on Aug. 19 (FG). On Aug. 23, 200⁺ were seen over West Akron (JW). Another 26 passed over Lakewood High Stadium on Aug. 27 (PL).

Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared to be expanding in the CVNRA (DAC). A juvenile was seen at Station Road on Aug. 8 (GB). Elsewhere they were successful at West Branch SP (LR), and Sims Park (PL). Two adults were found in the CVNRA near Bath Road. This was a new locality for the species (RHL, SW).

The first migrant **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Horseshoe Lake on Aug. 27 (BF, BW). One was seen at Villa Angela on Aug. 28 (TLP). Another was at Lakeshore MP on Aug. 8 (JP). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Millstream Run on Aug. 9 (SZ). They were found in small numbers at HBSP all through the



Veery Nest with Cowbird Egg
by Dwight Chasar

The bluebird season started off on March 28, when I checked the boxes. The initial nesting took place the first week of May. The final check was made on September 6, 1999.

In Total:

84 Bluebird eggs were laid with 68 birds fledged,
8 were lost to raccoon predation
6 House Wren eggs were laid with 5 birds fledging.
0 eggs were laid by the Chickadees.

In conclusion, 1999 was the year for the Eastern Bluebirds. They fledged almost 20 more birds than my previous best year. They also renested at 2 boxes twice and made an attempt at a third nest in another box. The reason for this good season could be associated with the abundance of food, that being the Gypsy Moth invasion and the dry spring, which gave them a head start on the year. The replacement of five new boxes that had been lost during construction work at the golf course also contributed to the increase over past seasons.

Lou Gardella

last half of Aug. (RH) **Acadian Flycatchers** were very numerous throughout the region. An estimated 198 birds were found at Ravenna. They nested for the first time at Firestone MP (EP). Barber noted "Acadian Flycatchers are great mothers. They stick on their eggs and young even when gypsy moths eat every leaf in a quarter-mile radius." **Alder Flycatchers** were widespread. One was at Aquilla Lake on July 20 (KM). An estimated 60 individuals were found

at Ravenna. They were fairly common at Ravenna. They continue a small existence at Streetsboro Bog (RR). They were found at 3 Lake Co. MP sites (JP). **Least Flycatchers** may have summered at Holden Arboretum (RR). At Ravenna, the 30 territories found were far above the expected. Six were found on Lake Co. MP surveys (JP). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were widespread and doing well in most woodlots where suitable habitat could be found. **Eastern Kingbirds** nested for the first time in recent memory at Firestone MP (EP). They were moving in good numbers the last half of Aug.

An estimated 95 **White-eyed Vireos** were found at Ravenna. **Blue-headed Vireos** were widespread. Five were noted at Stebbins Gulch and Little Mountain on July 10 (EP). Ravenna hosted at least 8 territories (LR). Lake Rockwell continues to have 2 territories (LR). They were very noticeable in the CVNRA (NB, LR, RR) and Hinckley (RHL, LR, SW). A total of 27 was found on Lake Co. MP



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at sap well
by Bob Finkelstein

surveys (JP). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were fairly common. **Philadelphia Vireos** were located at HBSP on Aug. 15, 21, & 29 (RH). **Warbling** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were found in expected totals.

Swallows seemed to have benefitted from the dry conditions. Their departed rather abruptly in early August. **Purple Martins** put in a fairly strong showing inland. Southerly migration was well documented at Ravenna in mid-July (LR). **Tree Swallows** nested for the first time at Firestone MP (EP). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** irrupted in fine fashion. A female was present through the period at North Chagrin (KM). Birds were heard at Brecksville Metropark in June and July (DAC). Hinckley hosted at least one pair (NK). By the end of the period, many had moved into the region. This caused a flush of excitement for those who had never experienced

a major irruption of this irruptive species. Two **Brown Creepers** were seen at Station Road on June 16 (PP). An adult was seen carrying food to a nest in Rocky River MP on June 8 (TLP). Four were found on Lake Co. MP surveys (JP). **Carolina Wrens** continue to amaze this editor with their widespread occurrence. A feeder in Medina had as many as 6 visiting it in Aug. (CW). **House**

Wrens, Marsh Wrens were regular at HBSP through July (RH). At least 10 were found at Ravenna (LR). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** received good grades for the Summer term.

Nesting thrush numbers were well reported. At Ravenna, an estimated 350 **Veeries** and 350 **Wood Thrushes** were counted. **Swainson's Thrushes** were on the move to their wintering grounds by mid-Aug. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at HBSP on Aug. 22 (RH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were widespread and in previously mentioned locales. The **Brown Thrasher** population at Ravenna is maintaining quite well. **Cedar Waxwings** numbered into the thousands by mid-Aug. at Ravenna.

Relic populations of northern warbler species seem to be in good shape. Summer studies being done in the CVNRA

and Hinckley MP indicate a solid population of **Black-throated Green Warblers** locally. Nesting **Magnolia Warblers** were found there and at Hinckley MP. **Canada Warblers** were seen feeding young at Happy Days. The two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** mentioned on the Greater Akron Summer Bird Count were most certainly an incorrect identification. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are not known to nest in Ohio. August 22 brought the first noticeable wave of southbound migrants to Headlands Beach SP when 15 species were recorded there.

Blue-winged Warblers were well-represented on all local breeding bird surveys. **Tennessee Warblers** were on their southward march by mid-Aug. at HBSP (RH, BW). No confirmed nesting **Northern Parulas** were found; a migrant was detected in Rocky River on the early date of Aug. 23 (PL, BF). **Yellow Warblers** were moving south by late July at HBSP (RH). They all but disappeared from Ravenna at the same time (LR). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** are doing well at Ravenna, with an estimated 60 territories there. Elsewhere, they were found in the CVNRA (DAC), Lake Rockwell (LR), and Hinckley (RHL, SW). The earliest Fall **Magnolia Warbler** was at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 16 (BW). They were common at HBSP after Aug. 15 (RH). **Cape May Warblers** started, what will be considered a strong Fall showing on Aug. 28, at HBSP when 2 were tallied (RH). Winger noted one in Cleveland Heights. on Aug. 23. The earliest returning **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Ira Road on Aug. 8 (TMR). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were regularly found on the Deer Study in the CVNRA (DAC, LR). Firestone MP

seemed an odd place for one on July 14 (EP). Kotesovec's studies in Hinckley Hills and Judge's Lake yielded 14 and 5 territories respectively. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Jackson Field on Aug. 18 (BW). Nine **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found on Lake Co. MP surveys (JP). No word was received on their status in the Cuyahoga River Valley. **Pine Warblers** nested at Lake Rockwell (LR), and at Brecksville MP (DAC). They may have nested at Chapin Forest (JP). **Blackpoll Warblers** lingered in expected numbers. The latest straggler was at HBSP on June 20 (RH). **Cerulean Warblers** were not reported in very good numbers. They were regularly found at Hinckley, Station Road, and Happy Days (DAC, TLP, GB, RR). Bacon Woods hosted at least one pair (TLP). A total of 40 was found on Lake Co. MP surveys (JP). **Black-and-white Warblers** were found on 4 territories at Ravenna (LR). Eight were found on Lake Co. MP surveys (JP). One was at Firestone MP on July 14 (EP). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were seen at Station Road regularly in June (PP, RR). **Ovenbirds** were numerous in Bradley Woods (TLP) and along the Riding Run bridle trail (LR). A **Northern Waterthrush** was spied at Horseshoe Lake on Aug 10 (BW). One was at HBSP on Aug. 22 (RH). **Louisiana Water-thrushes** were much more numerous than expected at Ravenna (LR). On July 14, one put in an oddball occurrence in Twin Lakes. It allowed close videotape to be taken and was totally out of habitat (LR, VW). Summering **Kentucky Warblers** were found in Hinckley (RHL, SW,), Hell Hollow (JP), and at Ravenna (TB, LR). The first southbound **Mourning Warbler** detected was at HBSP on Aug. 22 (RH). Another was at

Sims Park on Aug. 29 (BF, PL). Nick Barber wrote "**Hooded Warblers** are not great mothers. They abandon if you sneeze within a quarter-mile radius!" **Wilson's Warblers** reappeared in the region by Aug. 15. A **Canada Warbler** lingered at Firestone MP on June 2 (EP). One at Ira Road on Aug. 23 was most assuredly a southbound migrant (TMR). One-two were found at HBSP from Aug. 14 through the period (RH). Observations of **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Spencer Lake, Bacon Woods (TLP), and Parkman (JA) provided additional data on chat distribution .

Vesper Sparrows were found only in eastern Portage Co. (LR). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were about average. One was along Bean Road in Geauga Co. on July 25 (KM). One was on territory at Ravenna until the field was mowed. A **White-throated Sparrow** was at HBSP on June 6 (RH). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was a surprise at HBSP on Aug. 22 & 29 (RH, RR). Nesting **Dark-eyed Juncos** were well-represented at Stebbins Gulch (7) and Little Mountain (10) (EP). The 51 found on Lake Co. MP surveys was good news (JP).

Bobolinks were numerous in expected locales. An immature male **Common Grackle** was seen mimicking a Rusty Blackbird in Twin Lakes on July 24. Only after further inspection, did it prove to be a grackle, not a rusty (LR). Comments on **Orchard Orioles** were very positive. A pair was at South Chagrin on July 11 (KM). LePage noted he saw more this summer than in previous years. A **Purple Finch** was in Brecksville on June 8 (BAT). ✨



AMERICAN BITTERN - A bird was flushed from the dunes at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 29 (Hannikman, Rosche).

LEAST BITTERN - A bird was on territory at Big Cobb's Pond at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site through July (Rosche, Haley, Gardella).

OSPREY - The Berlin Reservoir nest produced 2 young. Ohio Edison lineman, Lee Shaefer provided us with a dynamic photo from high above Portage County.

MISSISSIPPI KITE -. The first report of this long awaited species was thoroughly documented by Tom LePage on July 4 near Jaite Trailhead in the CVNRA.

NORTHERN HARRIER - A female was seen over Chesterland on June 20 (Petuschke). A pair failed in their attempt to nest at Ravenna (Rosche). Birds were seen intermittently throughout the period at Fairport Harbor (Hannikman).



American Bittern at HBSP
by Larry Rosche



Lee Shaefer at the Berlin Reservoir Osprey Nest

PEREGRINE FALCON - The Hilliard Road pair brought off 3 chicks (Lozano, m.obs.).

SANDHILL CRANE - Two birds were reported at the Lorain County Airport most of the summer (Black River Audubon, m.obs.).

AMERICAN AVOCET - An adult female graced the beach at Headlands Beach SP on July 17 (Hannikman).

WILLET - One passed by Huntington Beach in July (fide Metcalf). One was at Headlands Beach SP on July 31 (Hannikman).

WHIMBREL - Four were spotted by Hannikman as they flew eastward past Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 14. On Aug. 24, a flock of 20 flew low over Ravenna (Rosche).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - One was reported from the Girdled Road Wetland on Aug. 17 (Pogacnik).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - Tom Leiden continued his yeoman's study on this species. He visited 10 territories in Northeast Ohio sporting nesting sapsuckers. Of these, 4 were in the Cleveland region. They included: a nest

found by James Hooper at Children's Schoolhouse in Lake Co., a nest and 2 juveniles at Jackson Field in Cuyahoga Co. with Gary Meszaros, both adult male and female with 3 juvenile along Clark Road in Geauga Co., and a female drumming at Bass Lake in Geauga Co.

WINTER WREN - A bird was seen carrying food at Ravenna on July 9. This was the first nesting ever recorded in Portage Co. (Rosche). Four were found in Stebbins Gulch on July 10 (Pierce). A total of 11 was found on Lake Co. Metroparks surveys (Pogacnik).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET Males were observed at two sites in Hinckley MP (Harlan, Wagner). Birds may have nested at Chapin Forest (Pogacnik).

HERMIT THRUSH - The Chasars succeeded in finding an active nest with 4 young at Happy Days in the CVNRA. Up to 3 birds summered in Brecksville Metropark, and another twosome could be found along the Riding Run bridal path (Rosche). A pair was found at Hidden Valley MP (Pogacnik).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A territorial male was first seen on June 7 and last seen on June 28 at Ravenna (Rosche). One was paired with a Blue-winged Warbler at Indian Point (Pogacnik).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER - A male summered at Ravenna. It sang a mostly Golden-winged song well into July (Rosche). One was at Girdled Road through mid-June (Pogacnik).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - The Chasars found a male in the same location at Virginia Kendall Ledges as in 1998. Eleven were found on Lake Co. Metroparks surveys (Pogacnik). Norm Kotesovec wrote a lengthy treatise on his 36 hour vigil watching a "Maggie" nest in Hinckley Reservation. During his study he noted many remarkable behaviors. These included both parents attending the young and recording 1372 various Magnolia Warbler songs. Unfortunately, The Cleveland Bird Calendar does not have room to print it, nor did I have the heart to disassemble this well written paper in order for it to fit into our format.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - One was heard at Stebbins Gulch on July 10 (Pierce). A probable nesting was noted at Girdled Road (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH Birds were found regularly throughout the summer nesting season along the Upper Cuyahoga in Shalersville Township (Rosche, Gardella). One spent most of June in a remote wetland at Ravenna (Rosche).

CANADA WARBLER - The Chasars found adults feeding young at Kendall Ledges on June 27. A male was seen carrying food at Stebbins Gulch on July 10 (Pierce). Four were found on Lake Co. Metroparks surveys (Pogacnik).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Four birds were on territory at Ravenna until mowing took precedence over threatened species (Dr. C. Willis, Bartlett, Rosche).

BLUE GROSBEAK - A male was singing in a black locust grove at

Ravenna on June 21. The site became off-limits and no further visits were made (Rosche).

RED CROSSBILL - A bird was seen and heard as it flew down the Grand River in Fairport Harbor on Aug. 1 (Hannikman, Rosche). While this record may seem extraordinary, it is not without precedent in Ohio at this time of year. ✨

Corrigenda

After peer review, by the members of the Ohio Birds Records Committee, these previously reported sightings were deemed to have less than adequate documentation for acceptance to the state data bank. They include Northern Gannet in Lorain on Nov. 27, 1998; Yellow Rail in Lake County on Sep. 22, 1998; and California Gull in Lorain on Nov. 27, 1998. Please delete references to these in Volume 94, Number 4. Please add Common Raven. A bird was photographed at Lakeshore Metropark on March 27, 1998 (Pogacnik). ✨



Confirmed Nest of Hermit Thrush in Summit County by Dwight Chasar

Confirmed nesting of Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) in Ohio is indeed rare. Only a few confirmed nestings were reported during the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project of 1982-87 (Peterjohn). Interestingly, one of these was at Kendall Ledges in the CVNRA in Summit Co. It was reported that Hermit Thrushes were there all 5 years of the study; and in several of those years, adults were seen feeding recently fledged young. Williams does not indicate any earlier confirmed nesting in Summit Co.

Data from the 1979-98 Summit Co summer bird censuses in June (Tveekrem) show the presence of Hermit Thrush in the county in 83, 84, 97, and 98. It



Hermit Thrush Nest
by Dwight Chasar

appears that these sightings were in the Kendall Ledges sector of the census area. Our personal records indicate that Hermit Thrushes were present at Kendall Ledges in June of 98. On April 17, 1999, we counted at least 8 Hermit Thrushes around the Ledges during migration. At least one was present on May 8th during the spring CVNRA bird census (Chasar, 1999). The Ledges have hosted breeding Canada and Magnolia Warblers (Chasar, 1998), Winter Wren (Chasar, 1991), and have been the summer residence of Black-throated Green Warblers for many years (personal records). Obviously, the Ledges provide a favorable cool Hemlock-forested micro-habitat conducive to the more commonly northern nesters. Thus, if one were interested in finding a nest of the Hermit Thrush, Kendall Ledges would provide a high probability.

I led a CVNRA walk for the public at the Ledges on June 5. We had already found nests of 7 different species of birds along the trail. Near the top of the ledges, I spied one, then two, Hermit Thrushes, each foraging for and carrying food. Clearly, this was a good sign that a nest was nearby; but with the presence of such a large conspicuous group of bird watchers, the thrushes were hesitant to lead us to a nest. After the walk, Marianne Nolan, Ann Chasar, and I returned to look for the nest. After several hours of watching, we narrowed down the area for the nest; but the birds were extremely wary, which they are apt to be (Bent), and refused to reveal the nest location. By this time, it was early afternoon and the birds became less active.

The next morning Ann and I returned to the ledges at 7:15

am, figuring that feeding would be vigorous. Within 5 minutes, the adults led us directly to the nest and 4 nestlings, all thrushes and no cowbirds. Parasitism is infrequent (Bent). The nest was on the ground at the base of a Dryopteris woodfern (*vide* Mary Reinthal) on the very edge of a rock out-cropping which extended about 30 inches beyond the under-face of the ledge. This ledge, facing ENE, is part of a large walk-through crevasse of Sharon conglomerate about 25 feet wide at this location and with sizable entrances at both ends. The ledge is about 17 feet above the bottom and about 14 feet below the top of the crevasse. The trees in the crevasse and immediate surroundings are Hemlock. The adults used several of these trees to survey the area before approaching the nest.

The nest appeared to be a fairly deep cup made of small twigs held against the base of the fern by a larger stick, which seemed to support the nest from falling away from the ledge. The ledge was relatively open, being covered only with dried leaves and 7-8 fern clumps and was well shaded by the surrounding tree canopy. The young thrushes were nearly fully feathered and capable of vigorous wing flapping, especially when an adult arrived with food. The adults were still removing fecal sacs after some of the feedings. I watched the nest the next day between 8:30-10:30 am, from both the bottom and top of the crevasse. It became clear that the birds were close to fledging. At 7:15 am on the 8th, I found an empty nest. I spotted two separate adults later in the morning.

Breeding chronology of the Hermit Thrush in Ohio is not well

documented. Recently fledged young were reported as early as June 22nd at Kendall Ledges (Rosche). Bent indicates that one egg is laid each day, incubation starts the day after the last is laid, and that both incubation and fledging take 12 days each. If one assumes that the birds fledged on June 8, then hatching occurred on May 27, and the four eggs were laid on May 11-14. Nest construction, which probably occurred in early May, has been noted as early as April 30th in Hocking Co. (Peterjohn).

It was shown in New York State that Hermit Thrushes mostly nest in areas where the mean July temperature is less than 70 F. This could well be the situation within Kendall Ledges.

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Population Trends of the Red-headed Woodpecker in the CVNRA

by Dwight & Ann Chasar

It is not often in these days of rapid land development that a birder has the chance to observe upward bird population trends in a geographic area. Regularly birding the Cuyahoga Valley

National Recreational Area (CVNRA) for nearly 20 years, keeping a record of sightings, and having access to others' past bird sighting documentation, like the Cleveland Bird Calendar and the Summit Co Summer Bird Count (SCSBC) records, have provided us this opportunity.

While Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) are widely distributed summer residents in Ohio (Peterjohn), their population has declined severely at 4.7% annually during 1966-1994 (Earnst). We believe that the Red-headed Woodpecker population in the CVNRA is now in a demonstrated growth mode. The SCSBC indicated that 2 woodpeckers were reported at both Hale Farm and Deep Lock Quarry in 1978 and one at Deep Lock in 1980. We noted the successful nesting of a pair at Virginia Kendall Lake in 1982. This species remained as scarce, if not more so, in the CVNRA during the remainder of the decade.

In 1991-6, at least one pair nested successfully each year in Pinery Narrows north of Station Road with at least two pairs in '94. In 1996, one pair attempted to nest in the Jaite marsh, north of Vaughn Road. In 1997 and '98, two pairs nested north and in '98 three pairs south in the marshes at Station Road. This year we found 10 pairs of these woodpeckers: 2 pairs north and 5 pairs (5 nests found) south of Station Road, one nest north of Redlock and two pairs south of Highland Road along the Cuyahoga River. In addition, other observers have noted individual birds both north and south of Boston along the river/tow-path/canal. In a few years Red-headed Woodpeckers may

appear again at Deep Lock and Hale Farm.

What might be the implications of this population growth?

Obviously, suitable habitat must be present. Red-headed need edge habitat, an open canopy, and isolated dead trees for nesting. The beaver has helped in this direction and this is where these birds are being found in the CVNRA. These woodpeckers are also very aggressive and instigate many of the interactions with starlings, often taking over their nest cavities. This aggressiveness bodes poorly, however, for other cavity nesters, like Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Eastern Bluebird (Bent).

Thanks to George Cull, Wilbur McQueen, Mary Reinthal, and Howard Zehnder for sharing their observations and Carol Tveekrem for providing the SCSBC records.

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Some Ramblings on Birders, Bird Records, and Biologists

by *Larry Rosche*

Working for The Smithsonian on the White-tailed Deer Study in the CVNRA and The Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves at The Ravenna Training and Logistics Site provided me with an unfair advantage over most reporters. While on these projects, I was privileged to work closely with top-notch biologists of other fields of study.

These included Dan Rice (fish and general zoology), Roger Williams and Diane Hartzell (beetles), Ralph Phingston (herps), Dan Riggs (odes), Mike Williams (leps), and Dr. Lisa Petit, Tom Bartlett, and Bruce Peterjohn (birds). These biologists know and are really devoted to their fields. I was impressed with the trust shown by the other biologists for the data given them. As an editor for many years, I must confess to not having such blind faith in bird observations. As the only field ornithologist at Ravenna working the entire area, I felt the need to have some of my data corroborated. It pleased me greatly when Tom came over and walked some transects. I chose sectors with identical habitats for us to compare our tallies. We found nearly identical numbers of birds, species, and numbers of each species in the transects. In November, when I have completed my project, I will try to summarize my study on this remarkable piece of wildlife habitat. It will be no easy task.

When a birder finds a really rare bird, it must pass the scrutiny of the Ohio Rare Birds Records Committee. This is a peer review panel which oversees rarity documentation. Such was the case of the White-winged Dove in Strongsville. I believe the observer completely, but will the documentation be enough? I doubt it. A peer review panel cannot accept first state records on observer credibility alone. The same could be said about the Common Raven reported from Lake County in March 1998. After over a year of recirculation it was accepted on basis of the photo below being diagnostic. While I still have problems with this bird, because it was accepted by the committee, it now joins the

Greater Akron Audubon Summer Bird Count compiled by Carol Tveekrem

Pied-billed Grebe	2	Northern Flicker	108	Northern Parula Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	10	Pileated Woodpecker	16	Yellow Warbler	273
Great Blue Heron	343	Eastern Wood Pewee	81	Chestnut-sided Warbler	11
Green Heron	35	Acadian Flycatcher	44	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Turkey Vulture	6	Alder Flycatcher	5	Black-throated Green W.	6
Mute Swan	6	Willow Flycatcher	81	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Canada Goose	674	Least Flycatcher	3	Cerulean Warbler	24
Wood Duck	84	Eastern Phoebe	66	American Redstart	15
Mallard	480	Great Crested Flycatcher	52	Ovenbird	18
Bald Eagle	1	Eastern Kingbird	49	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Northern Harrier	0	White-eyed Vireo	11	Mourning Warbler	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Blue-headed Vireo	5	Common Yellowthroat	218
Cooper's Hawk	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	28	Hooded Warbler	72
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Warbling Vireo	53	Canada Warbler	1
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Red-eyed Vireo	166	Yellow-breasted Chat	6
Red-tailed Hawk	37	Blue Jay	371	Scarlet Tanager	91
American Kestrel	7	American Crow	707	Eastern Towhee	108
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Horned Lark	4	Chipping Sparrow	182
Wild Turkey	26	Purple Martin	4	Field Sparrow	106
Virginia Rail	4	Tree Swallow	115	Savannah Sparrow	20
Sora	2	N. Rough-winged Swallow	68	Grasshopper Sparrow	5
Killdeer	108	Bank Swallow	391	Song Sparrow	553
Spotted Sandpiper	11	Barn Swallow	152	Swamp Sparrow	57
American Woodcock	1	Black-capped Chickadee	417	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Ring-billed Gull	132	Tufted Titmouse	247	Northern Cardinal	552
Herring Gull	17	White-breasted Nuthatch	127	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	101
Rock Dove	211	Brown Creeper	5	Indigo Bunting	225
Mourning Dove	470	Carolina Wren	46	Bobolink	35
Black-billed Cuckoo	16	House Wren	221	Red-winged Blackbird	898
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	56	Winter Wren	1	Eastern Meadowlark	16
Eastern Screech Owl	1	Marsh Wren	11	Common Grackle	1164
Great Horned Owl	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34	Brown-headed Cowbird	308
Barred Owl	12	Eastern Bluebird	53	Orchard Oriole	13
Common Nighthawk	8	Veery	51	Baltimore Oriole	200
Whip-poor-will	1	Hermit Thrush	1	Purple Finch	11
Chimney Swift	259	Wood Thrush	101	House Finch	260
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	47	American Robin	1181	American Goldfinch	662
Belted Kingfisher	30	Gray Catbird	342	House Sparrow	583
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Mockingbird	2		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	94	Brown Thrasher	32	Total Species	123
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	European Starling	1436	Total Birds	17700
Downy Woodpecker	169	Cedar Waxwing	414	Party Hours	258.75
Hairy Woodpecker	40	Blue-winged Warbler	68	Participants	38

Cleveland region checklist just after American Crow.

I think birders should be very thankful for the credit they are given by those in ornithology. I doubt if a 14 year-old could get a paper published in a journal of lepidoptera or odonata. Rare birds are something birders relish. I find

that most biologists simply think of rare creatures as misplaced individuals which serve no purpose to the local gene pool. When a birder says he saw something great, many of us dash to see it. If it is there, then credibility is established. Also, there is quite a difference in how data is reported in the other biological fields. In

the study of insects, voucher specimens are the norm. For example, no odonate is in the state database unless it has been caught, given a long bath in acetone, and finally sent to one of two people in the entire state for proper identification. I don't think too many birders would like to do that with their backyard migrants.



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

RARE BIRD HOTLINE: (216) 526-2473 (BIRD) 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 (330) 678-9408 or Ray Hannikman at (216) 261-9552.

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.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Contact Shannon Spyker at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, (216) 231-4600 ext. 309

FIELD REPORTS, ARTWORK, PAPERS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS should be sent to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.
e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES



1. Lorain Harbor
 2. Findley State Park & Wellington Reservoir
 3. Portage Lakes
 4. Mogadore Reservoir
 5. West Branch State Park
 6. Lake Rockwell*
 7. LaDue Reservoir*
 8. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
 9. Bedford Reservation
 10. Brecksville Reservation
 11. West Creek Preserve
 12. Rocky River Reservation
 13. Avon Lake Power Plant
 14. Edgewater Park & Perkins Beach (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
 15. Burke Airport
 16. East 72nd St. Marina & Gordon Park (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
 17. Villa Angela & Wildwood Yacht Basin (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
 18. Sims Park
 19. Eastlake Power Plant
 20. Mentor Marsh and Lagoons
 21. Headlands Beach State Park
 22. Lakeshore Metropark
 23. Headwaters Park
 24. Lake Medina
 25. North Chagrin Reservation
 26. Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve
 27. Hinckley Reservation
 28. Mill Stream Run Reservation
 29. Shaker Lakes
 30. Lakeview Cemetery
 31. Berlin Reservoir
 32. Happy Days (CVNP)
 33. Big Creek Metropark
 34. Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area
 35. Oberlin Reservoir
 36. Rocky River Park
 37. Seiberling Naturealm
 38. Sandy Ridge Reservation
 39. Wolf Creek Environmental Center
 40. Holden Arboretum*
- *Restricted/limited access

