

THE CLEVELAND

BIRD

CALENDAR



September, October, November 2001
Volume 97 Number 4

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.

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 10 - Winter Season
June 10 - Spring Season
September 10 - Summer Season
December 10 - Autumn Season

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by Jennifer Brumfield, 2000.

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

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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.

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FALL 2001



Fall 2001 by Dwight Chasar

SEPTEMBER: Temperatures averaged 61.4°, 2.51° below normal. The high was 87° on the 9th; and the low, 39° on the 30th. Lake Erie was 73° on the 1st and eased down to 62° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 67% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 11 days and totalled 3.90 in., .46 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.47 in. on the 24-25th.

OCTOBER: Temperatures averaged 54.4°, 1.6° above normal. The highest was 80° on the 3rd; and the lowest, 32° on the 8th. Sunshine occurred about 55% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 14 days and totalled 5.56 in., a departure of 3.02 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was 1.25 in. on the 5-6th. Lake Erie water cooled to 53° by the 31st.

NOVEMBER: Temperatures averaged 48.8°, 6.2° above normal. The highest was 69° on the 8th; and the lowest, 28° on the 12th. Sunshine occurred 52% of the time. Occurring over 10 days, rain totalled 2.62 in., .55 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .59 in. on the 28-29th. There was no snow accumulation. Lake Erie temperature dropped to only 50° by the end of the month. This was one of the mildest Novembers on record.

□

Common Loons were very slow to arrive and high tallies did not even reach double digits. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were seen in low numbers. The 44 Horned Grebes off Rocky River Park on Nov. 2 were the exception (PL). **Double-crested Cormorants** were abundant along the lakefront and at the larger inland reservoirs. Indeed, this species is apt to show up most anywhere there is ample water. A **Great Egret** was at Holden Arboretum on Sep. 7 (LD). One remained at Shaker Lakes from Sep. 1-9 (LD, RR). **Green Heron** numbers seemed improved. Fair numbers were reported throughout the region in September. A late bird was at Ira Road (CVNP) on Oct. 8 (TMR). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** lingered at Shaker Lakes through Sep. 9 (LD, RR). Three were at the Lakeside Yacht Club on Oct. 25 (TLP). A first-year bird was at Dike 14 on Oct. 30 (SZ).

Waterfowl were not much to write home about. As Deininger put it, "This autumn's duck migration was



Brown-headed Nuthatch - South Russell, Ohio-November 21, 2001
by Warren Gilbert©

the worst I've seen at Shaker Lakes in the many years I've birded there. I saw only one pair of Hooded Mergs and few Gadwalls." **Tundra Swans** were slow in arriving. The high counts were unusually late; and nearly all fell on Nov. 20. That day: a flock of 72 was at Springfield Lake (BM), 84 flew over Fairport Harbor (LR), another 15 were seen over Fowler's Mill (KM), LaDue was a stopover site for 110-130 (AFo, DF), and a flock of 120+ was seen in the skies over Maple Heights (DR). Seven **Snow Geese** were seen over Rocky River on Oct. 30 (TG). Two were at Headwaters Park on Nov. 3 (AFo). Twenty Snows were observed flying west off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 10 (JP). The same flock was seen continuing westward about an hour later (RH). One was spied at Wellington Reservoir on Nov. 18 (SS). A single was with Canadas in Burton on Nov. 30 (DF). On Sep. 16, about 150 migrant Interior race **Canada Geese** from Hudson/James Bay area arrived at North Chagrin (KM).

Judging from early September numbers, **Wood Ducks** had a very



Snowy Owl at Lake Metroparks Rehab Center
by Scott Wright©

Comments on the Calendar Year 2000-2001

The Cleveland Bird Calendar year ended with a respectable 275 species. Given that no appreciable shorebird habitat exists along Lake Erie, it seems it will be quite some time before we get back to the 290 species range. Among the highlights for the year were the cooperative Townsend's Solitaire at Holden Arboretum; the unbelievable Brown-headed Nuthatch in South Russell; and at Herrick Fen Preserve, the first documented occurrence of Wood Stork in the region since 1914.

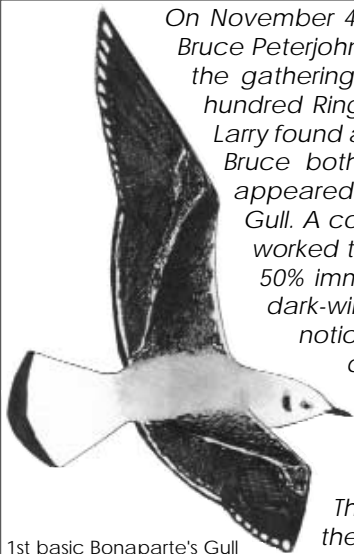
The field observers who report to the *Bird Calendar* are really appreciated. As I drove around Northeast Ohio this fall, I couldn't help noticing how many bird feeders there are. I would guess tens of thousands of folks feed the birds. Of those, I assume thousands know what birds are coming to their feeders. However, reporting bird occurrence patterns and seasonal distributions is shouldered by very few bird watchers. More sighting reports and more reporters would enrich us all. How many more great birds must slip through the region unnoticed? Good birding in 2002!

LR

good nesting season. The 144 Gadwalls at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 24 were welcome news (LR). **American Black Ducks** arrived in timely fashion and in expected numbers. The 500 **Mallards** tallied at Sandy Ridge MP on Nov. 4 provided noisy commentary to a very good census. **Blue-winged Teals** were very scarce. The largest flock reported was 3 at HBSP on Sep. 26 (RH). The high count of **Northern Shovelers** was 10 at Sandy Ridge on Nov. 4 (TMR). The 25 **Green-winged Teals** at Sandy Ridge on Nov. 4 provided the high count (TMR). Four were in Bay Village on Nov. 9 (TG, PL). Wellington hosted small numbers of **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads** in Nov. (RHL, SW, SS). These birds represented the only reports. **Ring-necked Duck** counts seemed low. The high tally was a mere 605 in the Lake Rockwell area on Nov. 24 (LR). A group of 350 was seen at Fowler's Mill Golf Course (AFo). A tidy flock of 15 **Surf Scoters** added to the events of Oct 27 at HBSP (KM, EB). The only **White-winged Scoter** was seen on Nov. 15 off Rocky River Park (TG). On Nov. 2, four **Black Scoters** were found in Fairport Harbor (LR). This foursome remained and increased

to as many as 17 through Nov. 22 (m.obs.). Three were seen off Bradstreet Landing on Nov 3. This group grew to 5 by Nov. 9 (BF, TG, GL, PL). **Hooded Mergansers** were slow in arriving. The only substantial gathering was 100 at Restful Lake on Nov. 11 (DF). **Common Mergansers** had yet to be reported from along the shores of Lake Erie by the end of November. Inland reports of Commons were received from Lake Rockwell and LaDue. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were numerous, but not in the expected numbers at the end of the period. An impressive 1300 **Ruddy Ducks** were counted at Mogadore Reservoir on Oct. 29 (LR). Wellington held 400 Ruddies on Nov. 23 (SS).

Ospreys were seen in fair numbers. A total of six birds were seen at HBSP from Sep. 1 through Sep. 16 (RH). One was at LaDue on Sep. 3 (RR). Ospreys visited Dike 14 on Sep. 16, 23, and Oct. 15 (SZ, BF). Another was viewed at Villa Angela SP on Sep. 17 (TLP). Two were at Granger Lake on Oct. 6 (JW). Two very late Ospreys were seen in a thermal with a Bald Eagle over LaDue on



1st basic Bonaparte's Gull
by Jennifer Brumfield©

On November 4, 2001, at about 12:00 a.m., Larry Rosche, Bruce Peterjohn and I stopped at Eastlake to look through the gathering of large gulls on the breakwalls. Several hundred Ring-billeds and Herrings were in attendance. Larry found a first basic Lesser Black-back and Larry and Bruce both were on to a "white-winged gull" that appeared to be none-other than a first basic Thayer's Gull. A congregation of nearly 100 Bonaparte's Gulls worked the east end of Eastlake. Within the flock of 50% immature, 50% adult Bonys was an extremely dark-winged first basic Bonaparte's Gull. It was very noticeable in the flock, and even at fairly great distances, the dark-winged Bony appeared nearly black-winged. Basically the opposite effect one would get from a Little Gull at a distance.

The Bony's upperwing was exaggerated on the "M" pattern, and the overall pigmentation of the wing was darker than usual. The bird had scattered, but congruent lighter markings on each wing. The trailing edge of the wing, on the primaries, had a "string of pearls" effect, which, when studied closely, gave it striking individuality. No other first basic Bonaparte's Gull in the flock came close to this bird's markings. Some first basic Bonys can have darker "M" patterns as thick as or nearly as thick as a first basic Little Gull. However, this individual exceeded the darkest first basic Bony I've ever seen. Larry tried to obtain video, and because this bird was so remarkable, it would be well-worth holding onto the film if it turns out. One more interesting mark on the bird was the darkness of the underwing. A typical Bonaparte's Gull has a very pale underwing...frosty white, like the upperwing of an adult Forster's Tern. This bird's wings were dark on the trailing edge. It was very noticeable, especially when in the company of 20 or so other birds at a time.

Jennifer Brumfield

Nov.11 (DF). Two **Bald Eagles** were seen in Shalersville Township on Oct. 21 (JH). An adult was at Sandy Ridge on Oct. 15 (RHL, SW). Individuals were reported from Dike 14 on Oct. 7, 17 and 20. Fair numbers of eagles remained near their local nest sites through the period. **Northern Harriers** were in short supply. The only two reports from HBSP were on Sep. 7 & 9 (RH). One was along the Munroe Falls Bike Trail on Nov. 3 (GB). The only bird reported from Dike 14 was on Nov. 2 (SZ). One was seen over Avon Lake on Nov. 3 (BF, TG, GL, PL). **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to spill into residential areas. One was in South Euclid on Nov. 13 (JH). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** report was from Dike 14 on

Sep. 5 (SZ). **Red-tailed Hawks** were as expected. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Fairport Harbor on Nov. 13 (RH). Another was seen in Geauga Co. on Nov. 24 (DF). **American Kestrel** numbers seemed vastly improved over their numbers in the 1990s.

A tardy **Common Moorhen** was observed at Sandy Ridge MP on Oct. 15 (RHL, SW). The only substantial count of **American Coots** was 450 at Sandy Ridge MP on Nov. 4 (TMR). **Black-bellied Plovers** were scattered about in small numbers. An **American Golden-Plover** was at West Branch SP on Sep. 17 (LR). Headwaters Park played host to 105 **Killdeer** on Sep. 6 (AFo). Three late **Greater Yellowlegs** were

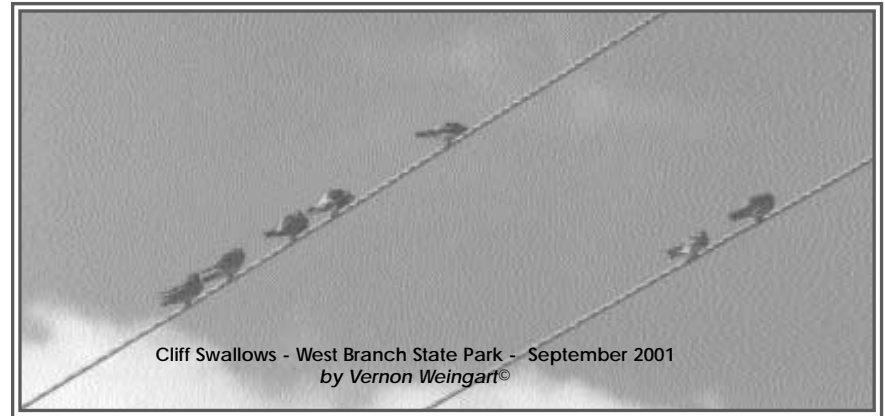
among the frantic birds heading away from the wrath of the first wintry blast at HBSP on Oct. 26 (JB). The high count of **Ruddy Turnstones** was 4 at HBSP on Sep. 26 (RH). **Sanderlings** were reported only along lakefront sites. Thirteen were seen scurrying for cover at Fairport Harbor on Oct. 26 (JB). The only **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen at HBSP on Sep. 1 (RH). Five **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at West Branch SP on Oct. 4 (CH). One was seen at HBSP on Oct. 27 (KM). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at HBSP on Sep. 11 (RH). Six were tallied at Sandy Ridge MP on Sep. 15 (BF, PL). Eight rested at LaDue on Oct. 12 (RR). A late "Pect" was seen on Oct. 22 in Painesville Township (LR, VW). No **Stilt Sandpipers** or **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported during the season. **Common Snipes** were seen in expected numbers at the drawn down inland reservoirs. Snipes frequented the Superfund field at Fairport Harbor into early November (JB, BP, LR). On Nov. 26, tardy **American Woodcocks** were found at Riverview and River Road Parks (JP).

Bonaparte's Gulls were in fair numbers. A flock of 115 **Herring Gulls** was along the Cuyahoga River at Station Rd. in the CVNP on Nov. 22 (RHL, SW). This seemed odd for such a large number in an area where the Ring-billed Gull would be the expected larid. First-winter **Thayer's** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Eastlake on Nov. 4 (JB, BP, LR). Two **Caspian Terns** were at LaDue on Sep. 3 (RR). The high tally for the region was a meager 3 at HBSP on Sep. 3 (RH). Late **Common Terns** were seen at Fairport Harbor on Oct. 26 (JB), and at the Lorain Hotwaters on Nov. 8 (TG, SZ). **Forster's Terns** went unreported.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was a rewarding sighting at Huntington MP on Sep. 5 (SWr). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Ira Road on Sep. 3 (TMR). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was a lucky find in Rocky River on Oct. 11-13 (TG). **Common Nighthawks** were seen in small numbers. Four were seen the evening of Sep. 6 at the Station Road parking lot in the CVN, and then 15 to 20 over Parma the next evening (FCD). Extraordinary numbers of **Chimney Swifts** turned observers' heads. An estimated, 2,000 were seen over Dike 14 on Oct. 5 (SZ). In Burton, a flock of 1800 was regularly observed descending into a chimney in early October (RM). Over 500 could be seen circling over HBSP on Oct. 7 (RH). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen Sep. 23 at HBSP (RH). A hummingbird species was reported on Oct. 15 in Chardon (*vide* CK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to thrive in Euclid (RH). Four were seen at Station Road on Sep. 6 (FCD). One flew near Lantern Court on Sep. 14 (CK). Birds were seen at Punderson and Little Punderson Lakes on Nov. 28 (AFo). Two adults were viewed at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 23 (BW). One in Granger Township on Oct. 3 was a total surprise (JW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** migration was average. A tardy bird was at HBSP on Oct. 27 (BW). The only sizeable number of migrant **Northern Flickers** was 60+ at Dike 14 on Sep. 15 (SZ).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 1 & 4 (RR, LD). Birds were viewed on Sep. 3, 15 & 24 at Ira Road (TMR). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at HBSP on Sep. 1, 7, & 8 (RH). One was at Lower Shaker Lake on Sep. 23 (BF, PL). A tardy bird was viewed at Whiskey Island Marina



on Oct. 13 (BF, TG, PL). Four **Acadian Flycatchers** were still singing on territory at Happy Days on Sep. 15 (LR, LG). The Acadian at Dike 14 on Oct. 7 was very tardy (SZ, GL). A late immature **White-eyed Vireo** stopped by Dike 14 on Oct. 18 (SZ). **Blue-headed Vireos** were in fair numbers. Late birds were at Villa Angela CLFSP on Oct. 28 (BF, TK, GL, BW). Another was at West Creek Preserve on Nov. 1 (BF, GL, PL). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 18 (RR). One was seen at Elmwood Park on Sep. 28 (BF, PL). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** (10) were tardy at HBSP on Oct. 6 (RH). **Cliff Swallows** remained faithful to West Branch SP until mid-September (LR, VW). One was at HBSP on Sep. 26 (RH).

The 338 **American Crows** at Ira Road on Oct. 15 were a bit of a surprise (TMR). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived in good numbers and were seen widely from Westlake (CC) to East Branch Reservoir (LR). **Carolina Wren** numbers were deemed at a cyclical high along Lake Erie in NE Ohio (BP). Ten were counted from Boston to Lock 33 on Sep. 21 (MRe). A House Wren dawdled at Lower Shaker Lake on Oct. 28 (BF, PL). **Winter Wrens** moved nicely along the lake. One was at Ira Road on Nov. 12 (TMR). **Marsh Wrens** were seen in small numbers along the

lake. One was at Edgewater SP on Oct. 8 (TLP). Two were at Dike 14 on Oct. 10 (SZ). An estimated 350 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen at Dike 14 on Oct. 18 (SZ). The high count from HBSP was 70 on Sep. 30 (RH). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in good numbers. The high tally for HBSP was 75 on Oct. 22 (LR).

Eastern Bluebird numbers have ballooned in eastern Portage and Geauga Counties. The same can be said for the CVNP. The 20+ seen at North Chagrin on Oct. 10 were indicative of their abundance (RR). The Reinthal party tallied 65 from Boston to Lock 33 on Oct. 18. The 8 seen at HBSP on Oct. 6 provided data on the migration patterns of Eastern Bluebirds (RH). Late **Veeries** were seen at Boston on Oct. 18 (MRe), and at Red Lock on Oct. 20 (TMR). **Swainson's Thrushes** were in below average totals. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 18 (RR). Two were at Elmwood Park on Sep. 25 (TG). One was at Dike 14 on Oct. 2 (BF). From Sep. 3 through Sep. 30, up to 3 Gray-cheekeds could be found at HBSP (RH). **Hermit Thrushes** were found in average numbers. The two at Happy Days were thought to be nesting birds (LR, LG). It is always interesting to hear what migrants frequent downtown Cleveland. On Nov. 9 & 16, a Hermit Thrush was at Public

Square (DR). **Wood Thrush** migration was unimpressive. A tardy **Gray Catbird** was at Riverview Park on Nov. 26 (JP). A **Northern Mockingbird** was at the Mayfield Country Club in South Euclid on Oct. 23 (JH). One was a pleasant surprise at Shaker Lakes on Nov. 26 (LD). Another was regularly seen on the near West Side on Scranton (DR). As many as 11 **American**

Pipits could be found at HBSP from mid-September through October. The mudflats at the west end of LaDue hosted several pipits well into October (m.obs.).

Blue-winged Warblers were good finds at Sagamore hills on Sep. 7 (DAC) and at HBSP on Sep. 8 (RH). Late **Tennessee Warblers** were at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 11 (GL) and at Dike 14 on

Oct. 15 (BF). **Orange-crowned Warblers** did not disappoint. Zadar had 12 sightings from Sep. 23 through Oct. 27 at Dike 14. Rieker reported 16 there on Oct. 20. Other Orange-crowns were noted at Elmwood Park, HBSP, Lake George, Shaker Lakes, West Creek Preserve, and Whiskey Island. **Nashville Warblers** were in excellent supply throughout Sep. **Northern Parulas** put in a fairly good showing. A singing male was heard at Rocky River MP Sep. 12 (RHL, SW). One to three could be found at Big Creek MP Sep 18-22 (GL). HBSP held one or two parulas throughout September (RH, LR). Elmwood Park hosted three on Oct. 9 (PL). Nearly all **Yellow Warblers**

were gone by the first week of September. The two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at HBSP on Sep. 30 were particularly noteworthy (RH). **Magnolia Warblers** were numerous until the last third of September. The 28 **Cape May Warblers** at HBSP on Sep. 22 were an exceptional tally (RH, KM). Late Cape Mays were at North Chagrin on Oct. 18 (KM) and at HBSP on Oct. 22 (LR). The 10 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at HBSP on Sep. 15 represented the local high count (RH). Eight birds at HBSP (LR) and one in the CVNP on Oct. 6 were the late reports (DAC). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** descended on the region with a vengeance in late September. Counts routinely passed 100 birds at many lakefront locales. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were seen in expected September numbers. Three **Blackburnian Warblers** were at HBSP on Sep. 16 (RH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** lingered at Jaite on Sep. 22 (DAC). **Pine Warblers** remained vocal at North Chagrin (KM) and at Lake Rockwell through the first week of October (LR). **Palm Warblers** were found in average numbers along the lake. The 14 at Holden Arboretum on Sep. 16 made for a good local tally (RR). Birds at Hampton Hills (GB) and at CVNP on Oct. 21 provided the late reports (DAC). A late **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at HBSP on Sep. 30 (RH). **Blackpoll Warblers** was very numerous at HBSP. On Sep. 22, 55+ were tallied there (RH, KM). The same day, 31 were seen at Big Creek MP (GL). **American Redstarts** were seen in fair numbers throughout September at HBSP. Five **Black-and-white Warblers** were tallied at HBSP on Sep. 11-15 (RH). **Ovenbirds** were found at Herrick Preserve on Sep. 11 (LR), at the CVNP on Sep. 15 (DAC, LR), at HBSP on Sep. 16 (RH), at Whiskey Island on Oct. 2 (FG, PL), and at Elmwood Park on Oct. 9 (PL). Few

Indigo Buntings are a favored species of this editor. Because few are reported in this season, their fall migration patterns seem somewhat cloudy locally. Observers made concerned efforts to tally Indigo Buntings this fall and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

Zadar wrote, "Regarding Indigo Bunting migration at Dike 14, it is problematic to assess both the spatial and temporal movement of buntings at the site based solely on overt observation due to the difficulty in determining whether or not those individuals are stopover migrants, local breeders and/or local hatch-years. Undoubtedly, their status remains unclear. The use of constant effort mist netting during both migration and the breeding period, i.e., the implementation of a MAPS station, would help to tease apart migrants from locals, and thus, help us to gain a better understanding of their fall movements along the lakefront. There appears to be a peak movement of buntings on September 30. From the observational data, one could speculate that there were two movements of buntings. The first involved 6 birds from 9/11-23, and the second involved 7 or more on 9/30."

| Number | Date |
|--------|--|
| | Dike 14 |
| 1 | 9/5 |
| 4 | 9/11 |
| 6 | 9/15 |
| 5 | 9/23 |
| 1 | 9/28 |
| 8 | 9/30 |
| 4 | 10/2 |
| 1 | 10/15 |
| | CVNP |
| 3 | 9/18 (adults feeding one young) Chasar |
| 1 | 9/22 CVNP Chasar |
| 1 | 9/23 CVNP Chasar |
| 1 | 9/23 CVNP Chasar |
| 1 | 10/1 CVNP Chasar |
| 1 | 10/15 CVNP Chasar |
| | Sugar Bush Knolls |
| 1 | 9/30 Blacklow |
| | Elmwood Park |
| 1 | 10/9 Lozano |
| | North Chagrin Reservation |
| 1 | 10/17 (last date) Metcalf |

Northern Waterthrushes were noticed. A **Mourning Warbler** was at Dike 14 on Sep. 11 (SZ). One was at Rocky River MP on Sep. 12 (RHL, SW). Another was at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 26 (GL). **Hooded Warblers** remained vocal though mid-September. A few **Wilson's Warblers** lingered through September at HBSP (m.obs.). **Canada Warblers** at Dike 14 on Sept. 22 (BF, TG, SZ) and at HBSP on Sep. 23 were among our latest ever (RH).

No reports of **Scarlet Tanager** were received from any of the lakefront migrant watches.

Sparrow migration was late, but nonetheless spectacular and more widespread than usual. Comments from Deininger and Metcalf indicated sparrows were vastly more numerous than expected at Shaker Lakes and North Chagrin. Metcalf wrote: "Oct. 23 there was a fallout of sparrows at North Chagrin - in a couple of hours I visited a few meadows and saw 10 species and about 350 individuals. I guesstimated that the entire reservation held well over 900 sparrows. Of the birds I saw, Song was the most common (90+) followed by Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos (60+ each), White-throated (50+), Swamp (45) and White-crowned (30). On the 24th, many were still present, and I saw an additional 3 species, including 6 Fox, 2 Lincolns, and an Eastern Towhee." On Oct. 18, ten sparrow species could be found in the area adjacent to the parking lot at Mentor Lagoons Park (LR). Dike 14 held nearly 2000 sparrows the same day (SZ).

Eastern Towhees were seen in expected numbers. An estimated 35-40 **Chipping Sparrows** were at HBSP on Oct. 18 (LR). Zadar counted 45 at Dike 14 on Oct. 19. A

late bird was at Carlisle MP on Oct. 31 (RHL, SW). **Field Sparrows** were fairly numerous and widespread. Three **Vesper Sparrows** were at Mentor Lagoons on Oct. 18 (LR). One was at Dike 14 on Oct. 19 (SZ). Another was among the mix at HBSP during the storm of Oct. 26 (JB). No **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported during the period. A **Fox Sparrow** was a good find at Wolf Creek Metropark on Oct. 20 (DJB). At Dike 14, 13 Fox Sparrows were tallied on Oct. 18 (SZ). Birds were noted at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 23 and Nov. 15 (LD). One was at O'Neil Woods on Nov. 1 (JW). The 25 seen in the Jaite area on Nov. 7 were indicative of a strong influx (DAC). **Song Sparrows** moved nicely in mid to late October. The top count came from Dike 14 on Oct. 24 when 203 were tallied (SZ). Lincoln's Sparrows were fairly numerous. On Oct. 22, 4 were counted at Dike 14 (BF). **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** roared into the region in mid-October in large numbers. On Oct. 22-24, an estimated 1000+ White-throateds were in the Shaker Lakes area (LD). On Oct. 18, at Dike 14 an estimated 1000 White-throateds were seen (SZ). The same day an estimated 550 White-crowned were there (SZ). The high count of **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Dike 14 was 446 on Oct. 19 (SZ). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at Dike 14 on Oct. 19 (SZ). **Snow Buntings** were typically numerous along the lakefront. On Nov. 3, nine were seen at Oberlin Reservoir (BF, TG, GL, PL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made little mention by reporters. Harlan wrote, "One at Holmesbrook Park on Sep. 25 had the absolutely typical body/wing plumage of an adult male, but the head of an imm/fem, with no sign of adult male head plumage. This was unusual. Your

guess is as good as mine." The female Rose-breasted at Holden Arboretum on the extremely late date of Nov. 4 was very surprising (RR). A **Bobolink** was at Whiskey Island on Oct. 4 (FG, PL). A late bird was seen at HBSP on Oct. 22 (LR, VW). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** lingered at the Coliseum site (CVNP) on Oct. 21 (DAC). I am sure it is an unwanted distinction, but the CVNP appears to be one of the region's top strongholds for **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. On Oct. 27, 100 were tallied at Ira Road (TMR). The last **Baltimore Oriole** was at HBSP on Sep. 1 (RH).

Reports of **Purple Finches** were very scant. A male was seen at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 23 (BW). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were reported throughout the region. A flock of 13 graced Chesterland on Nov. 10 (AFo). Up to 12 siskins visited a Sweet Gum tree in Sagamore Hills Nov. 16-28 (DAC). Seven **Evening Grosbeaks** were Halloween visitors at a feeder in Valley City (FG). A female was seen at the Carlisle Wildlife Observation Area the same day (SO, SWR). Ten were seen in Chesterland on Nov. 2 (AFo). Four were counted at Dike 14 on on Nov. 6 (SZ, TG). A flock of 12 was seen in Fairport Harbor on Nov. 7 (HP). □



EARED GREBE — Two were off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 18 (Pogacnik).

AMERICAN BITTERN — One was studied closely at Sandy Ridge MP on Nov. 8 (Pogacnik).

LEAST BITTERN — One was seen at LaDue on Sep. 16 (Ferris).

LITTLE BLUE HERON — The report of a Little Blue at LaDue on Sep. 16 eclipsed a late date that had stood since 1947 (Ferris).

MERLIN — Many Merlins were seen, but this editor feels it still belongs in the Noteworthy section because an upswing trend of a certain species is usually followed by a downswing. Let's be glad to have so many to report for the time being. An immature was at LaDue on Sep. 17 (Rosche). Metcalf saw birds at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 22, 27 and Oct. 20. A Merlin was seen in Parma on Sep. 26 (Leidy). Two were viewed at North Chagrin on Oct. 10 (Rickard). A male was at Wolf Creek Metropark on Oct. 20 (Brumfield). One was in Grand River on Nov. 24 (Rosche). One was at Dike 14 on Oct. 20 (Zadar). Another was seen in Parma on Nov. 29 (Leidy).

PEREGRINE FALCON — A juvenile was seen at Sandy Ridge MP on Sep. 5 (Wright). One was in Rocky River on Sep. 9 (Gilliland). Birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 22 & 26 (Hannikman). One at West Branch SP on Oct. 20 provided a rare Portage County report (Holt). Two immatures were in Fairport Harbor Nov. 24 (Hannikman, Rosche).

SANDHILL CRANE — Up to six were seen at LaDue from Sep. 3 through the period (Elder, Ferris, Fondrk, Hendrickson, LePage). They were regularly seen in the early morning hours at a farm field north of Burton (McCullough). The two imprinted birds remained at Sandy Ridge MP through the period (m.obs.).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER — A tardy bird was at Sims Park on Nov. 3

(Hannikman). This individual represented our fourth latest occurrence for the species.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT — Lucky Tribe fans saw one fly past the right field upper deck at Jacobs Field on Sep. 30 (Harlan, Wagner).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER — Our second latest ever was at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 27 (Metcalf, Bacik).

RED PHALAROPE — Three were seen at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 27 (Metcalf, Bacik). Two were in Fairport Harbor on Oct. 29 (Meszaros, Morrison). One lingered at Rocky River Park on Nov. 3-5 (Leidy, Gilliland).

POMARINE JAEGER — One was seen off Lakeshore Park on Nov. 22 (Pogacnik). A juvenile was seen at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 24 (Hannikman, Rosche). Two immatures were seen off Rocky River Park on Nov. 25 (Leidy). They remained through the period (Gilliland).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER — This rarity was seen at close range on the remarkable movement day of Oct. 27 at Headlands Beach SP (Metcalf, Bacik).

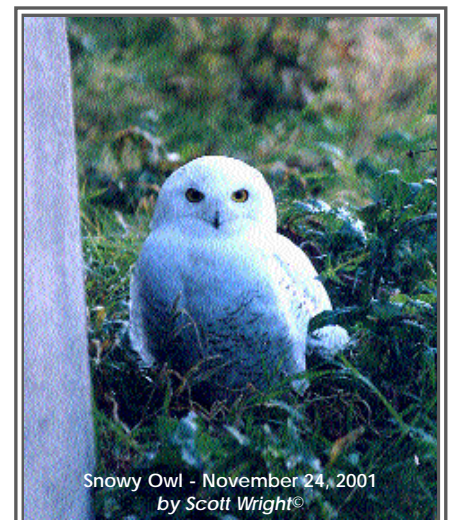
SABINE'S GULL — A juvenile was seen on Lake Erie off Lakeshore Park in North Perry on Sep. 27 (Pogacnik). Another was seen during a fierce storm on Oct. 26 at Fairport Harbor (Brumfield). It was seen again at the mouth of the Grand River the next day (Metcalf, Winger, Bacik).

SNOWY OWL — An immature female was at Lorain on Nov. 17-18



White-winged Crossbill
by Craig Rieker©

(Zadar, Finkelstein, Gilliland, Lozano). One was reported from the beach at Avon Lake Power Plant Nov. 17-18 by a security officer (*vide* Zadar). A fairly white bird rested on the breakwall off Fairport Harbor Nov. 25 (Hannikman, Bacik, Kovalsky). One was at the Hot Waters in Lorain on Nov. 25 (Zadar). On Nov. 26, Scott Wright wrote: "Was informed of a Snowy on the ground near East 55th and the shoreway. When I arrived I noticed that the bird had trouble walking and did not fly away. I watched it from a safe distance before approaching. I approached it with MUCH caution, as it was less than 10 feet from the shoreway and rush hour was in progress. I watched it for some time before it started to walk/hobble and fall up the hill



Snowy Owl - November 24, 2001
by Scott Wright©

toward South Marginal Road and East 55th St. I made a wide circle to give it room and not to spook it. I was trying to keep it from walking onto East 55th St. or the exit to East 55th from the shoreway. Just then (and I was standing a safe distance away), it flew (if you can call it a flight). It only extended one wing fully and one wing less than a third. It crashed; it was then I knew I had to catch it and get it to a vet. I accomplished the capture with no struggle and only slight vocalizing.”

“My next mission was where to take it? Lake Erie Science and Nature Center was my first choice. But to reach it I had to take Clifton or I-90 via the innerbelt. Stop and go traffic with a Snowy Owl on my car seat in rush hour was not an option. So off to Kirtland and Lake County Metro Parks I did go. The only time it raised its head or made any movement was when I hit two bumps. Then it raised its head. Otherwise, it rested without panting or vocalizing until it was examined at Lake Metroparks. This bird had spent considerable time on the ground. Its feet were brown, and wing tips and tail were very dirty. It was covered in mites, lots and lots of mites. Lake Metro Parks tube fed him water and were going to place a mice or two in the enclosure he was placed in. I was told he is underweight and dehydrated. He had no sign of broken bones or head injury.”

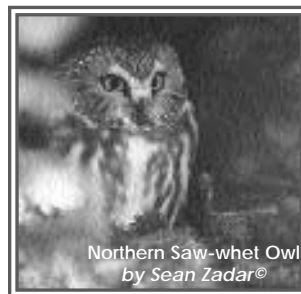


Long-eared Owl
by Gabe Leidy©

LONG-EARED OWL — A bird was posed nicely for a portrait at Lake Isaac on Nov. 23 (Leidy).

SHORT-EARED OWL — Nine or ten individuals were counted at Dike 14 from Oct. 15 through Nov. 3 (Zadar, Gilliland, Leidy). Two were flushed at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 31 (Rosche).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL Seven or more individuals from Oct. 27 through Nov. 30 were seen at Dike 14. The high count was three on Nov. 4. The peak migration was



Northern Saw-whet Owl
by Sean Zadar©

noted between Oct. 27 and Nov. 7. One was killed on Nov. 21 by either a stopover Red-tailed Hawk or Cooper’s Hawk (Zadar, Gilliland).

NIGHTHAWK SPECIES — A remarkably tardy nighthawk was reported from West Creek Reserve on Nov. 1 This bird was first noted resting on the ground and flew very close to very well-respected observers. A record this late of a *Chordeiles* nighthawk raises the possibility of a Lesser Nighthawk as well as a Common Nighthawk (Finkelstein, Leidy, Lozano).

WHIP-POOR-WILL — The only fall report was from Elmwood Park on Sep. 25 (Gilliland).

CHIMNEY SWIFT — A November swift is extremely noteworthy. The one seen flying over the Jaite area on Nov. 1 missed breaking the late date record by two days (Reinthal).

NORTHERN SHRIKE — An adult was seen in Fairport Harbor Nov. 24 (Hannikman, Rosche). Another was seen retrieving prey at Best Lake the same day (Hendrickson).

WARBLING VIREO — On Nov. 9, this species was identified at Huntington Reservation. This date exceeded our previous late benchmark by nine days (Gilliland, Lozano).

SEDGE WREN — Dike 14 provided five sightings from Sep. 15 through Oct. 20 (Zadar, Gilliland, m.obs.). One was at Sandy Ridge MP on Oct. 15 (Harlan, Wagner). Another stopped briefly at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 18 (Rosche).

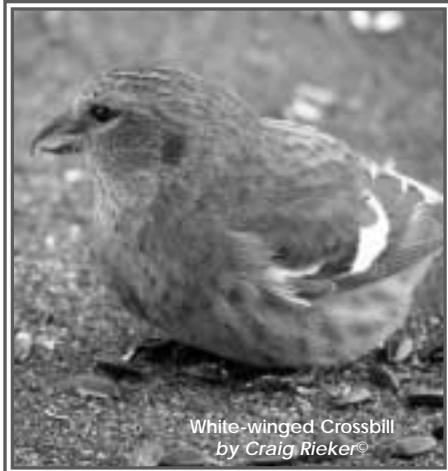
PRAIRIE WARBLER — One was cooperative at North Chagrin on Oct. 14 (Metcalf).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER — An immature was a window kill in North Royalton on Sep. 1. The specimen was deposited at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Tindira). Elmwood Park hosted two on Sep 9, one on Sep. 10 (Gilliland), and another on Sep. 20 (Finkelstein, Lozano). One was seen at Lakeshore MP on Sep. 30 (Pogacnik).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW — One was seen at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 11 (Leidy). Another



Dickcissel - HBSP- Oct. 22, 2001
by Vernon Weingart©



White-winged Crossbill
by Craig Rieker

spent Oct. 18 & 19 at Dike 14 (Zadar). A tardy immature was seen with a large group of sparrows feeding in a sunflower planting at Girdled Road Reservation on Oct. 24 (Pogacnik).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW — Two individuals were seen at Dike 14--one on Oct. 18 (a juvenile) and a bird in first-winter or adult plumage on Oct. 24 (Zadar).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW — This tough-to-find species was identified at Whiskey Island on Oct. 11 (Tindira). Another posed nicely at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 22 (Rosche, Weingart).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SP. A bird was seen at Dike 14 on Oct. 17 (Zadar). Another was spied there on Oct. 20 (Rieker). Another was seen as it skulked in the natural area at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 18 (Rosche).

"OREGON" JUNCO — One was seen at North Chagrin on Oct. 23 (Metcalf). Another was at Sims Park on Oct. 28 (Finkelstein, Lozano, Winger).

DICKCISSEL — One was at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 22 (Rosche, Weingart).

RED CROSSBILL — Dike 14 was host to this crossbill on Nov. 6 (Zadar, Leidy).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL — On Oct. 15, a pair was videotaped in Willoughby. Reminiscent of the birds at Shaker Lakes in 1957, these were among the earliest ever reported in the region. These birds remained through Oct. 21 and disappeared after a Barred Owl took up a roost near the feeder (Beuck). One was seen at Dike 14 on Nov. 2 (Zadar, Leidy). Two were at Dan Seman's feeder in Leroy on Nov. 6 (*vide* Petruschke). Another twosome arrived on Nov. 19 and stayed through the period in Parma (Rieker). Two immatures were seen at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 23 (Barber, Bacik). A male was at North Chagrin on Nov. 25 (Metcalf). □

Corrections: The **American Avocet** reported from Sandy Ridge MP on July 5 was seen in Lorain (LeGallee). The **Stilt Sandpiper** reported from HBSP on Aug. 18 should have read Veterans Park (Hannikman). A **Short-eared Owl** report was inadvertently omitted in the summer issue. One was seen over Westgate Mall on August 26 (Lozano). The only other August record for the region was from 1975 by Bill and Nancy Klamm. □



A SOUTHERN VISITOR

by Linda Gilbert

In life, there are surprises, and then, there are surprises. The unexpected surprise that my family experienced this past November came in a very innocent and unassuming

way; it showed up at our bird feeder Wednesday, November 21, the day before Thanksgiving. My mother and I were eating breakfast at the kitchen table. Our bird feeder is about two feet away from the window, so seeing birds is very easy. Out of the bush next to the bird feeder, a small bird with a brown cap darted up to the feeder. Alarm bells began going off in my head. Since bird experts were saying that this year would be an irruptive year for birds, we should keep our eyes open for some of those more northern species, which occasionally invade our area. Could this little bird be one of those irruptive species, a Boreal Chickadee, perhaps? The body shape of this bird, however, was not like a Chickadee. My mother said, "It's acting like a nuthatch." We watched it inspect the seeds in the feeder. Then, it climbed down the side of the feeder, headfirst, and jumped onto the hanging suet basket. It spent a few minutes upside down eating suet. It discovered the peanut feeder, too. I said, "Well, there is a bird called a Brown-headed Nuthatch." Out came the Peterson™ field guide. There it was --a chocolate brown cap, whitish splotch on back of neck, blue-gray back, small like the Red-breasted Nuthatch (maybe a tad smaller). We thought, wow, this is nice to see a new bird. The next step was to check its range. Oops, it is WAY out of its range! Well, okay, sometimes birds are found out of their ranges, but maybe it should be reported to the Ohio rare bird alert. So, I called and left a message. We enjoyed watching our Southern visitor the entire day. It came to the feeder quite frequently, enjoying black oil sunflower seed and peanuts. It particularly liked the suet cake. Occasionally, it would place a seed in one of the crevices on the feeder and pound on it, or fly up in to one

of the White Oak trees and eat it there. My brother was even able to get some pictures of it with his digital camera, but it was very difficult, because the little bird didn't sit still for very long. It did not seem to be intimidated by other birds. In fact, it was quite brazen when it lunged at a House Finch and chased a Chickadee off the feeder.

Later Wednesday evening, I received a call from Fred Dinklebach of the Kirtland Bird Club. He wanted to know more about the bird--size, color, behavior, etc. After explaining everything and telling him that there were a couple of not-so-great (we thought) digital photos, he asked if I would e-mail the pictures. Apparently, the Brown-headed Nuthatch had not been seen in Ohio recently, if ever. It could be a state record if it were confirmed!

Thursday, November 22. Thanksgiving morning, there is an e-mail from Fred on the computer saying, "Thanks for the pictures. I forwarded them to Larry Rosche. If the bird shows up, please call me and don't even worry about interrupting our Thanksgiving." He left his home phone number, and the phone number of the home where he would be in the afternoon. Around 9:15 am, the nuthatch showed up again at the feeder. I called Fred. "Sure, we would be happy to have him stop by and have a look at it." Later in the afternoon, Fred and his wife were standing in our kitchen waiting to see the nuthatch. Half an hour went by, and they had to leave without seeing it. Rats! It didn't appear the rest of the day.

Friday, November 23. The phone rang around 9:30 am. It was Larry Rosche (member of the Ohio Bird Records Committee) calling from

his car. He had seen my brother's pictures of the bird, and he wanted to stop by. "Would it be okay?" Yes, we'd be happy to have him stop by and have a look at it. Larry pulled in the driveway a few moments later. He informed us that this bird hadn't been seen in Ohio since the 1830's. Supposedly, there was a record about someone (Dr. Jared Kirtland) shooting one and making a study skin. However, no one knows where the specimen is or even if it existed at all. Therefore, this sighting could be a state record. Wow! Forty-five minutes of interesting conversation went by when suddenly, the Brown-headed Nuthatch landed on the feeder, right in front of Larry. He turned into a real excited guy, to put it mildly. As he watched it, he was calling out the field marks--brown cap, pale patch! He asked me if I thought the brown cap became darker at the level of the bird's eye. Yes it did. We got out the field guides to compare the bird with a picture of the Pygmy Nuthatch. Larry thought that the brown cap of our visitor was not the olive-brown shade of the Pygmy Nuthatch's cap. This was, indeed, a Brown-headed Nuthatch! He asked my brother to try to get more pictures. Would it be okay if he posted something on the birding website? "Sure." Then, he had to make some phone calls. A little while later, the phone started ringing, and the magnitude of what we had seen slowly began to dawn upon us. Some folks from Columbus wanted to come to see the bird. "Sure, that would be fine if you want to come and have a look at it. How long will it take you? Three hours? Okay, we'll be here, but we haven't seen the bird since this morning." The Columbus bunch arrived and sat around our kitchen table expectantly waiting. Alas, no nuthatch. It didn't appear the rest of the day. More phone

calls. Someone called from Michigan. "Yes, it would be fine if you want to come tomorrow morning."

Saturday, November 24. They began arriving around 7:30 am from far and near, toting spotting scopes, binoculars, and cameras. By 10 am, there were probably 15 or 20 birders. We had people sign a guest book so we could keep track of how many and from whence they had come. It was a thoroughly enjoyable time, talking to all these people standing off to the side of our house, all eagerly anticipating the arrival of "the bird." The weather was delightful. The temperature was in the 50's and the sun was shining. The birds were plentiful. Red-breasted Nuthatches, White-breasted Nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, House Finches, Goldfinches, but no Brown-headed Nuthatch! AARRRGH!!! This was so frustrating! Part of the joy of bird watching is being able to share sightings with other birders. All those people went home without being able to put a check mark on their bird lists. I was really bummed! At the end of the day, the guest list totaled 35 signatures. Sunday, November 25. There were only a few people who showed up today. The nuthatch was still absent.

Monday, November 26. We decided to have the birders view our feeders from inside the house. Maybe the large group that stood in the yard on Saturday was too intimidating for this bird. I was gone most of the day but checked in with my mother in the afternoon. She said that a few people had come and gone during the morning; but before noon, the two birders who were in our kitchen got to see the nuthatch when it suddenly appeared again at

the feeder. I was not there, of course, to enjoy their reaction--blast it! My mother found the phone number of one of the Columbus people and reported that the bird had appeared. A posting was put on the web page immediately. A few hours later, the Columbus bunch was sitting at the kitchen table. Unfortunately, the nuthatch did not show up again the rest of the day, but at least two people got to see it!

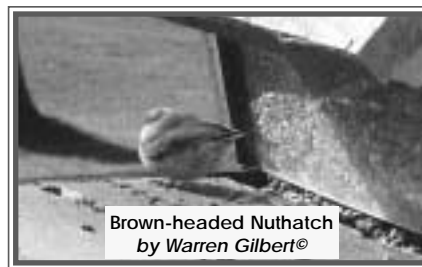
Tuesday, November 27. There were more birders again this morning. Hopes were high, but no luck.

Wednesday, November 28. Between ten and fifteen people held a "vigil" in the kitchen all morning. There was a lot of interesting conversation about birds. Some people were appreciating the difference in size between the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, which is very noticeable at such close range. Also, it was possible to see black bars on the underside of the Downy's tail as opposed to the totally white underside of the Hairy's tail. The Red-breasted Nuthatches were spending time on the peanut feeder. Nobody saw the Brown-headed Nuthatch. The "vigil" ended after 12:30 pm. Another exercise in frustration!

November 29 through December 2. A few die-hard birders stopped by. We haven't seen the bird for a whole week. Maybe it's gone.

Addendum. The Brown-headed Nuthatch reappeared on December 3rd. As I was doing some work in the back yard, the unfamiliar call note of some bird was emanating from somewhere. I saw a small bird fly from one of the oak trees. It was singing a squeaky song as it flew. Some of the song was reminiscent of chickadee phrases, and there

were some call notes interspersed with the squeaky parts. I was certain after hearing it that it was the nuthatch. A few minutes later, it appeared at the feeder. I made a phone call, and its reappearance was posted again on the Internet. One person got to see it the following day--the 300th bird on his list. On December 5th, there were about fourteen people who were rewarded for their patience by getting a good look at the little bugger ---FINALLY!! Ah, the joy of it all.



Brown-headed Nuthatch
by Warren Gilbert©

After looking back over the craziness of the past weeks, questions still remain. Why is this bird here? Where does it stay when it's not in the back yard? Will it stay the whole winter? Will it survive the winter? The saga continues....

A WOOD STORK VISITS HERRICK FEN PRESERVE

by Brad Stemen

On Sept. 9, Jennifer Hillmer and I were botanizing at the new boardwalk at the Herrick Fen in Streetsboro Township. The grand re-opening of the preserve was scheduled for the 16th, and Jennifer and I were to do the plant interpretation for the public and local officials. While we were keying out some marl-loving forb, I looked up at the horizon and noticed a large soaring bird. "A GBH," I said to myself and went back to *The Flora of Michigan*. "No, not a heron," my brain said back; and I peered at the "heron" again.

The time was 10:30-11:00, sunny, and pretty haze free; we were facing south/southwest. The bird in question was soaring above the tree line (by sight, not physically) south of us heading west. I can only guess at its flying height, maybe 150-200 feet and a distance from us of 1000 feet to a quarter mile at most. It didn't look right, large and slow with its neck outstretched, not folded. Dig the binos out of the backpack and have a closer look. Still soaring, white body and underside forewings, dark head and neck, trailing legs. I said aloud this time "That's an ibis!" and Jenn looked up and replied "Where?" I didn't answer; I just asked for (Jenn claims demanded) her binos, (which are these really sweet Zeiss 8x30s I covet). Procuring Jenn's binos I had another look. Much sharper image and no again, not a White Ibis but a Wood Stork. I relayed this realization to Jenn in so many words, and then she wanted her glasses back.

The stork mostly soared (gliding slowly, straight really) westward, flapping only a few times as I recall. But it did catch and ride two or three thermals briefly. Between the few wing beats and the turns in the thermals, I was able to catch sight of the white and black of the upper wing surfaces. Also, when I got a second good look through Jenn's binos the darkness of the neck and head were really quite obvious (we were probably too far away for me to say the head and neck were naked, but it sure looked so). We watched until the stork got small enough that we could no longer make out any identifying features (about three minutes) and then dug out our Peterson's to make sure of what we had just witnessed. Ibis? No, it was much larger, longer neck and legs, head and neck very dark. White Pelican? No, its neck was outstretched in its flight (the most

obvious difference). The possibility of its being an immature White Ibis was ruled out when we returned home and rekeyed it in Sibley's. The upper surface of the wings were black and white not all dark.

I called Eric Faber that night to tell him, as he was the only person I knew who would know how to pass on information of this sighting. He gave me the number of the Kirtland Bird Club's Hotline, and I called it. I'm not a great birder, but a pretty good one and I know a Wood Stork when I see one. I spent two years working for The Nature Conservancy in central Florida and did a good deal of birding there (including south, north, both coasts), usually with my boss (and very good friend), Steve Morrison. Steve is an excellent birder; having grown up with a father (Ken Morrison) who in the late 50's was the editor of Audubon magazine and later started a number of Audubon chapters in Florida. Steve and I (and occasionally a couple of other hearty birdwatchers) did a year long, once a month, 24 hour bird survey on a 3000 acre tract of Lake Arbuckle State Forest (now called by another name). I saw a lot of White Ibis, a good number of White Pelican on the coasts, and a fair number of Wood Stork (not many but enough) while in Florida to say that Jenn and I saw a Wood Stork that Sunday morning.

(Editor's Note: Unknown to the observers, Wood Storks were found in nearby Pennsylvania, New York and Point Pelee near the same time as this report.)

STATUS OF DIKE 14

by Bob Finkelstein

The future use of Dike 14 is undecided, but a brief discussion of what

is going on regarding the dike's fate may be of interest. As I am sure everyone knows, Dike 14 was known in the past as The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Impoundment. There are a number of local and perhaps state organizations such as The Audubon Society, The Sierra Club, the Cleveland League of Women Voters and maybe others that would like to see Dike 14 designated as a nature preserve with public access that might also include use as an outdoor classroom for Cleveland schools. There are also organizations with different ideas. For example, there is a group that advocates extending the sculpture garden in Rockefeller Park into Dike 14. This group would designate some part of the land as a nature preserve. Then among possible others, there is the Cleveland Port Authority (Port).

At present the Port wants to dump additional dredge spoils on the dike until an agreement can be reached between the City of Cleveland and the USACE for non-federal dredge disposal in the new Dike 10-B. The Port would like to dump an additional 75-100,000 cubic yards of non-federal dredge materials in Dike 14. To accommodate the additional material, the Port proposes to build a dike of about 15 acres on the western end of Dike 14. In September of this year, the Port wrote County Commissioner Tim McCormack stating the need for the additional disposal capacity. To date there have been two meetings with Commissioner McCormack, the Port and the Cleveland League of Women Voters about this issue. As I understand, Mr. McCormack has expressed concern and a willingness to intercede with the USACE for access to Dike 10-B, but I don't know if the issue is any closer to resolution. Meanwhile, the Port is moving in another direction

to secure access to Dike 14. To digress briefly, according to a doctrine called the "Public Trust Doctrine," Lake Erie waters beyond the natural shoreline and the lands beneath are held in trust by the State of Ohio for the benefit of its citizens. However, a public or private entity can enter into a legal agreement with the state for the use of a portion of the Public Trust for a rental fee. The legal agreement is called a "Submerged Land Lease," and the Port is reported to be petitioning the state for such a lease, which apparently applies because part of what is now Dike 14 was initially submerged. The lease would enable the Port to dump a specified volume of dredge spoils in Dike 14. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) prepares the lease, which is executed by the Governor. According to what I've been told, ODNR has agreed to a Public Meeting on the lease at some point after Mayor-elect Jane Campbell takes office. Incidentally, a Public Meeting is a less formal procedure than a Public Hearing.

The last piece of this puzzle that I know anything about is an executed or pending contract between ODNR and Genevieve Ray to conduct a "Public Planning Process" to secure and organize public views on the use of Dike 14. The Public's views on the use of Dike 14 will be solicited during several public meetings and interviews with groups and individuals who have an interest in the outcome. A landscape architect may then be consulted to develop a plan for Dike 14, consistent, if possible, with public comments. A final report including any plan that comes out of the process and recommendations will be submitted to the State.

EFFECT OF GYPSY MOTH DEFOLIATION ON SELECT AVIAN POPULATIONS

by Dwight Chasar

Recent articles discussed the impact of the latest gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) infestation in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) on nesting Red-eyed Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (A. Chasar, 1999) and on population fluctuation of both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos (Chasar, 2000, 2001). Clearly, gypsy moths can affect birds in two primary ways: 1) by altering the structure and composition of avian habitats and 2) as a direct source of food or by altering the composition of the arthropod communities upon which birds depend for food. In the first instance, the vegetation around the bird nests was completely stripped and the nesting birds responded in different ways, either by abandoning the nest or proceeding normally. In the second, the gypsy moths served as a source of food for the cuckoos and when that source increased or decreased so did the cuckoo population accordingly.

Over the longer term, however, avian populations can be affected by three changes in vegetation by gypsy moths: 1) change in canopy, with a decrease in high and increase in low 2) shift from live to dead trees 3) increase in shrub cover due to increased light (Thurber, 1992). In order to determine a population effect at all, there must be base line data, however crude it may be, for the area that eventually is affected by the gypsy moth. This is often not available.

My wife and I regularly bird at the Ritchie Ledges near the Happy Day

visitor center in the CVNP because of our interest the last few years in the nesting Hermit Thrush (D. Chasar, 1999, 2000, 2001). This area of the CVNP was severely infested by gypsy moths in 1999-2000 (see photograph in A. Chasar, 1999) but had subsided by 2001. We have thus made some salient observations for a few of the nesting avian species in that habitat.

The Black-throated Green Warbler is a good example. This warbler has been a summer resident, and presumably a nester, at this location for a number of years. Our personal records record this bird as far back as 1994, with at least 2-3 pairs in the later years. This year it appeared to be non-existent in all our visits here. Meanwhile the GAAS summer bird count data suggested that there has been no change in their numbers overall in Summit Co. The Black-throated Green forages high in the canopy and a significant quantity of this disappeared around the ledges. This is consistent with that which was observed in a more detailed study in West Virginia (Thurber) where no Black-throated Greens were found one year after the infestation ceased. Contrarily, we did get the sense that the Hooded Warbler has fared well in this location. Shrub cover has increased dramatically, and this is what the Hooded prefers for nesting. In the last two years we observed much Cowbird parasitism of Hooded Warbler nests. This year we saw Hoodeds feeding their own kind, and the number of singing males seemed higher. Again, this is consistent with that observed in WV. The Acadian Flycatcher is an interesting case. In the WV study, its numbers decreased after the gypsy moth infestation because its preferred nesting habitat there is high, dense canopy. Many of the flycatcher nests that we found around the

ledges over the years have been in low-level limbs of hemlocks. The hemlocks were spared the defoliation because this is not one of the caterpillars' preferred foraging trees. Our observations support the flycatcher population as unaffected.

The next population change should be with the woodpeckers and the Brown Creeper, both of which nest around the ledges. Woodpeckers prefer dead trees for cavities while the Brown Creeper likes to nest under the loose bark of trees. At this time there are plenty of dead oaks waiting for these birds. The WV study supports this anticipation.

- Chasar, A. 1999. Gypsy moths in the CVNRA. *Ohio Birds and Natural History*. 1: 3-0.
- Chasar, D. 1999. Confirmed nest of Hermit Thrush in Summit County. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 95:30.
- Chasar, D. 2000. Cuckoo population changes in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties. Ohio. *Birds and Natural History*. 2:40.
- Chasar, D. 2000. Hermit Thrush nest: a sequel to 1999. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* 96:21.
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THE ORIGINS OF THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB AND THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

by Dwight Chasar

Some of the new members of the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC) and newer readers of the *Calendar* may not be aware of the early origins of either of these. Historical reviews for both are best addressed in Williams' *Birds of Cleveland* (1950), Mearns' Audubon to Xantus (1992), and the CMNH archives. Some members of the KBC are also aware

that the KBC origins are not without its problems.

To appreciate the origins of the KBC requires understanding some of the earlier organized bird groups in Cleveland. Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland (1793-1877), originally from Connecticut but who had been living in both Poland (OH) and then Cincinnati, arrived in what is now Lakewood, OH, in 1840 and lived there the rest of his life. While Kirtland was trained as a physician, he was extremely interested and versed in the natural sciences, including ornithology. Around 1837 he began interacting with the "Arkites," a group of young men in Cleveland who were interested in local natural history. Out of the members of this group was organized in 1845 the Cleveland Academy of Natural Sciences of which Kirtland was the first and only president. The members reorganized the academy as the Kirtland Society of Natural Sciences in 1869. This group, which became somewhat inactive towards the end of the century, merged with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in 1927. The CMNH also has its origins with the "Arkites" and was established in 1920.

In 1940 the Kirtland Society was organized within the CMNH for the members to promote amateur research; and the first active division out of this was the Division of Ornithology of the Kirtland Society, which shortened its name to the Kirtland Bird Club. The first president was Merit B. Skaggs. The KBC placed emphasis on fieldwork, and that tradition continues uninterrupted to the present. For example, the KBC has conducted the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count since 1940 and has provided numerous records of seasonal observations on birds for *The*

Cleveland Bird Calendar (CBC). In 1954, for an apparent number of reasons, including the proposed move of the CMNH from its downtown Euclid Avenue to University Circle location, the KBC formally requested a discontinuation of museum sponsorship. The Kirtland Society itself eventually dissolved entirely.

Now for the problematical issue that I alluded to earlier in this article. On page 5 of *The Birds of Cleveland*, Williams states, "This (quantitative information of local birds) has been made possible because of the painstaking field work which certain members and friends of the Kirtland Bird Club have been carrying on since 1931." Does this suggest that the KBC existed as early as 1931? Two alternative possibilities might clarify this. Did Williams really mean 1941, (seeing that the club was formed in 1940 and would have become active in 1941)? Thus, a typographical error escaped the proofreaders. Alternatively, Williams might have been saying that certain members of the 1940 organized KBC and had been doing fieldwork since 1931 even before there was a KBC. This seems reasonable, for these people were very involved in bird fieldwork for many years. Hence, I would conclude that the anniversary date of the KBC is indeed 1940; but surely the KBC had its seeds firmly planted as far back as 1869 and in this we members should take pride.

As an aside, for those of you who might be asking yourself, the Kirtland's Warbler was indeed named in honor of Jared Kirtland by Spencer Fullerton Baird, then Assistant Secretary (director) of the Smithsonian. Kirtland's son-in-law Charles Pease collected (shot) the bird on Kirtland's farm in

Lakewood (then Rockport) in 1851 and gave it to Kirtland, who subsequently gave the skin to Baird on one of his visits through Ohio. Kirtland also prepared the first list of Ohio birds totaling 222 species (of which two-thirds were new records). Kirtland is buried in Lake View Cemetery.

Now for a brief history of the origins of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* (CBC) and how the KBC got involved with it. It was started in 1905 by Professor Francis Herrick of the Department of Biology of Western Reserve University and was continued until 1931 by him and his friends. Then the *Calendar* became a joint project of the University and the Cleveland Bird Club. This latter club was formed in 1928 out of another organization, incorporated in 1941, became affiliated with the National Audubon Society and is now the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (and from which the Western Cuyahoga Audubon was subdivided in later years). In 1938, the CMNH replaced WRU as a sponsor for the CBC and jointly published it with the Cleveland Bird Club until 1943. At this time, the Kirtland Bird Club accepted responsibility for editorship in cooperation with the Cleveland Bird Club and with sponsorship by the CMNH. As an historical aside, the *Calendar* in 1943 was printed as a part of *Bird-life*, a magazine of the Cleveland Bird Club, instead of in its stand-alone format, in order to save paper during the war. From about 1951 to 1954, only the KBC published the *Calendar* with museum sponsorship. Then in 1954, due to the severing of ties with the CMNH, the KBC published the *Calendar* alone, only to re-partner with the Cleveland Audubon Society from 1955-60 by using the Cleveland Audubon Society Bulletin as the CBC's venue.

CVNP Bird Census Totals for September 15, 2001

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------|------|
| Double-crested Cormorant | 1 | Willow Flycatcher | 1 | Black-throated Green Warbler | 12 |
| Great Blue Heron | 13 | Eastern Phoebe | 25 | Blackburnian Warbler | 2 |
| Green Heron | 4 | Warbling Vireo | 2 | Palm Warbler | 2 |
| Turkey Vulture | 24 | Philadelphia Vireo | 3 | Black & White Warbler | 3 |
| Canada Goose | 258 | Red-eyed Vireo | 12 | American Redstart | 5 |
| Wood Duck | 27 | Blue Jay | 366 | Ovenbird | 3 |
| Black Duck | 2 | American Crow | 203 | Common Yellowthroat | 43 |
| Mallard | 81 | Black-capped Chickadee | 391 | Hooded Warbler | 10 |
| Osprey | 1 | Tufted Titmouse | 69 | Wilson's Warbler | 2 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 93 | Scarlet Tanager | 7 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 3 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 36 | Eastern Towhee | 24 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 11 | Brown Creeper | 1 | Chipping Sparrow | 26 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 9 | Carolina Wren | 26 | Field Sparrow | 29 |
| American Kestrel | 1 | House Wren | 9 | Song Sparrow | 56 |
| Killdeer | 44 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 2 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 3 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 42 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 3 | Swamp Sparrow | 4 |
| Herring Gull | 56 | Eastern Bluebird | 113 | White-throated sparrow | 6 |
| Rock Dove | 53 | Veery | 1 | Dark-eyed Junco | 1 |
| Mourning Dove | 102 | Swainson's Thrush | 5 | Northern Cardinal | 132 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | 2 | Hermit Thrush | 2 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 18 |
| Eastern Screech Owl | 1 | Wood Thrush | 9 | Indigo Bunting | 10 |
| Chimney Swift | 274 | American Robin | 644 | Red-winged Blackbird | 185 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 4 | Gray Catbird | 120 | Common Grackle | 6004 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 14 | Northern Mockingbird | 1 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 3 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 14 | Brown Thrasher | 2 | Purple Finch | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 78 | Cedar Waxwing | 329 | House Finch | 49 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 80 | European Starling | 429 | American Goldfinch | 295 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 26 | Blue-winged Warbler | 1 | House Sparrow | 108 |
| Northern Flicker | 106 | Nashville Warbler | 6 | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 28 | Yellow Warbler | 2 | Total Species | 94 |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | 1 | Chestnut-sided Warbler | 2 | | |
| Eastern Wood Pewee | 13 | Magnolia Warbler | 19 | Data by D. & A. Chasar | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 4 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 1 | | |

Then the KBC took full responsibility for the *Calendar* again with the sponsorship of the museum. This is how it continues to operate today. The funds for printing the *Calendar* come from the members' dues, the museum, and donors. Many club members, as well as some non-members, provide the field reports and articles for the *Calendar*, which itself is archived in the museum library. The original individual reports (where they exist) are filed in the museum archives.

I trust that this brief review instills in you some pride in having such a genealogical connection to Dr. Kirtland and his successors. Meanwhile, each club member should feel the immense responsibility for continuing the fine tradition of bird fieldwork in Northeast Ohio while supporting the *Calendar* with timely field reports.

CVNP FALL BIRD CENSUS SEPTEMBER 15, 2001 by Dwight Chasar

What a beautiful day it was to have a bird census, as sun prevailed much of the time. Most of the 41 participants, greatest number ever on a fall census, did not have to struggle with identifying the confusing fall warblers because these warblers were not where we were. However, 15 kinds, added to all the other birds, gave us 94 species, tied for the third highest for a fall count. Wayne Crouse won the free lunch.

The only first (Whoa! except for the run away horse I captured on the Wetmore Trail) for a fall census was a mockingbird found at the Christmas Tree farm on Major Road by the Kotesovec group. We have only kept quantitative data for the last four years for fall censuses (seven for the spring) but, in gen-

eral, the numbers for this census are in line with those from the previous three years. Exceptions do exist.

We must have caught migrating waves of Common Grackle (10-20 times higher than average), as some of us counted up to a 1000 in flocks. I also experienced large flocks of robins that increased their numbers to twice what we ever counted before. Bluebird numbers were high, suggesting that some must have been migrants. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was not to be outdone, as 10 times the normal numbers were counted. Both the Wood Pewee and Red-headed Woodpecker must be dallying because their numbers were very good, compared to previous counts. Pileated Woodpecker numbers outdid those of the Hairy Woodpecker, a first.

The spring census will be on May 11, 2002. Mark your calendars and save that day. □

Behind the Bird Calendar

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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 Recreation Area
9. Bedford Reservation
10. Brecksville Reservation
11. Lake Isaac & Mill Stream Run
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 (CVNRA)
 33. Big Creek Metropark
 34. Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area
 35. Oberlin Reservoir
 36. Rocky River Park
 37. Seiberling Naturealm
 38. Sandy Ridge Metropark
 39. Holden Arboretum*
 40. Streetsboro Bog-Gott Fen*
- *Restricted access

