

THE CLEVELAND

BIRD CALENDAR



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Founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was and is published jointly by the Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 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. Readers of the Calendar are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help in the preservation of sensitive habitats that harbor beleaguered bird species. Migrant stopover points, grasslands and wetlands are dwindling at an alarming rate; and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* cannot overlook the importance of such lands and their influence on our local avifauna.

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

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly, and all reports are archived in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

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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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.

Inquiries about 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 subscription rate is \$7.50.

Changes of Address: Contact Susan Chase at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (216) 231-4600, ext. 286. E-mail schase@cmnh.org

Field reports, artwork, papers and photographs should be sent to Larry Rosche; 7473 Sylvan Drive; Kent, Ohio 44240.
e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

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SPRING 2002

by Dwight W. Chasar

March: The temperature averaged 37.4°, 0. 1° below normal. The highest temperature was 69° on the 8th; and lowest, 8° on the 4th. Lake Erie waters remained at 36° during the month. Sunshine prevailed 45% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 4.13 in., 1. 19 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .65 in. on the 26th. Snowfall totaled 15.9 in. with the greatest 24 hr. amount being 6.9 in. on the 25th. The greatest snow depth was 7 in. on the 17th.

APRIL: The temperature averaged 50.5°, 2.9° above normal. The highest temperature was 88° on the 16th; and the lowest, 26° on the 6th. Sunshine occurred

50% of the time possible.

Precipitation totaled 3.67 in., 0.30 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .63 in. on the 14-15th. Snow totaled 2.2 in. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 48° by the end of the month.

MAY: The temperature averaged 55.5°, 3. 0° below normal. The highest temperature was 85° on the 31st; and the lowest, 33° on the 21st. The lake temperature rose to 53°. Rain totaled 5.77 in., 2.27 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.22 in. on the 12-13th. This was the 9th wettest May on record. Sunshine prevailed only 53% of the time possible. □



Pileated Woodpecker at an infamous South Russell feeder
by Linda Gilbert©

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

The Cleveland Bird Calendar recently lost one of its greatest champions. Nancy Klamm passed away on July 22, 2002. Nancy, along with her late husband Bill, were among the most expert field reporters and lake watchers in the history of bird study in the Cleveland region. Words cannot express our sadness at her loss. No comment on the season seems appropriate at this time.



Thirty **Common Loons** were seen at Nimisila Reservoir on Mar. 27 (RHL, SW). The same day provide counts of 70 **Horned Grebes** at Nimisila, 300 at Springfield Lake and 40 at Summit Lake (RHL, SW, BM). On Apr. 6, LaDue Reservoir hosted 6 loons in breeding plumage (EE, TLP). Berlin Reservoir hosted 17 loons on Mar. 28 (BM). The Dike 14 area hosted 101 Horned Grebes on Mar. 27 (SZ). Rolik's inquisitiveness about Horned Grebe spring plumage patterns got the best of him. He researched Stephen Stedman's fine treatise of Horned Grebe in *The Birds of North America*. In the change to winter plumage, he notes 'female begins to molt on average one month earlier than the male..' Rolik queried that this may also apply to spring molts--a good question that awaits further study. **Pied-billed Grebes** were unspectacular. **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen widely in ghastrly numbers.

Great Blue Herons nest sites were bristling with activity. A **Great Egret** was seen at HBSP on Mar. 29 (NB). One was at Dike 14 the same day (SZ). Another early egret was in Lorain on Mar. 30 (SS). Numbers in April and May reflected a good migration. The earliest **Green Heron** was seen in Norton on Apr. 15 (KM). Another early bird was

seen at Hollenbeck Lake on Apr. 18 (GL). One was spied at Firestone MP on May 3 (TMR). Numbers were low in the CVNP (DAC). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were as expected at HBSP. The high count at Merwyn St. reached 56 (PL, BF, m.obs.). The high tally of **Turkey Vultures** was 200 at Dike 14 on Mar. 29 (GL).

Snow Geese and **Tundra Swans** went through unnoticed. **Mute Swans** continue to increase and are surely headed to the same confrontational status as the beloved Double-crested Cormorant. **Wood Ducks** seemed to be faring well. **Gadwall** numbers were somewhat below average. The 32 **American Wigeons** at Nimisila on Mar. 26 provided the only sizable report

(TBS). **American Black Ducks** were unremarkable. **Blue-winged Teal** continue to be found in depressed numbers. The 10 seen along the Upper Cuyahoga the last week of April was a rather measly high inland count (DB). On Mar. 26, Nimisila Reservoir hosted 48 **Northern Shovelers** (TBS). The high count of **Northern Pintails** was 21 at HBSP on Mar. 10 (RH).

The 48 **Canvasbacks** at Nimisila on Mar. 26 was a solid showing (TBS). As many as 2100 **Ring-necked Ducks** graced Mogadore in early March. Four **Surf Scoters** were seen at Wellington Reservoir in late March and early April (DCo, SS, BAT). Another pair visited Brady Lake Mar. 29-30 (LR, VW). A hen was seen off Dike 14 on Apr. 27



Bonaparte's Gull - March 27 - Cleveland
by Larry Rosche©

Mentor Marsh, Lake County. Wednesday, February 20, 2002.

Stopping to observe a Bald Eagle perched on the top of a dead snag southwest of the intersection of Ohio Route 44 and Headlands Road, I casually observed a group of birds flying above the marsh about 1/3 of a mile south of the intersection. The birds were in a loose "milling" flock, not unlike gulls in their "milling" behavior. When I trained my binoculars on the flock, I discovered they were Great Blue Herons. The group numbered about thirty birds with individuals joining and leaving the flock. They were in a loose group at various altitudes from 50 to 200 feet above the marsh. Although they were not kettling like hawks or vultures, there did seem to be cohesiveness to the spatial organization of the birds and a definite vertical stratification. (I was reminded of soaring Wood Storks in the South). The weather was not conducive to thermal formation; it was cool (45°F) and overcast with winds 25-30 mph out of the west. The horizontal integrity of the flock did not seem to be affected by the strong winds. The whole milling mass managed to maintain a continuous position over one segment of the marsh in spite of the strong winds. The flock seemed to slowly gain altitude. After observing the herons for about 5 minutes, I noted the birds highest in the flock began to drift across the Grand River and eastward along the Lake Erie shoreline. Not all the birds from the flock flew east; several dispersed into Mentor Marsh and others disappeared southeastward over the tree line.

I have occasionally seen individual Great Blue Herons soaring very high and sharing thermals with hawks. I am curious and intrigued. In the spring do great blue herons travel northward in flocks? Do they soar and kettle like hawks? Do they hesitate to traverse Lake Erie and migrate along the shoreline as do some raptors? Do they migrate at night?

Bob Faber

(GL). A drake **Long-tailed Duck** was at Fairport Harbor on Mar. 29 (NB). Five were at Nimisila on Mar. 26 (TBS). Twelve were at Berlin on Mar. 28 (BM). A breeding plumaged male was at Dike 14 on Mar. 19 (SZ). Four visited a pond in Shalersville Mar. 27-Apr. 3 (M.obs.). Long-taileds were at HBSP on Mar. 29 & 30 (RH). Another transitional-plumaged bird was at Dike 14 on Apr. 2 (GL, SZ). **Buffleheads** were numerous, but **Common Goldeneye** numbers continue to disappoint. Six **Hooded Mergansers** ducklings were observed on May 6 in the CVNP (PS). Migrant Hoodeds were

impressive along Lake Erie. The high tally was 40 at HBSP on Apr. 6 (RH). **Common Mergansers** left early. **Red-breasted Mergansers** remained common through April. **Ruddy Ducks** were fairly numerous along Lake Erie and typically abundant at inland reservoirs.

An **Osprey** was seen on Apr. 27 and again on May 6 in Kirtland (CK). Two were at the nest tower at Berlin on Mar. 28 (BM). They were seen at HBSP on Apr. 27 & 28, and May 5 (RH). Sandy Ridge hosted an early Osprey on Apr. 17 (CC). **Bald Eagles** were seen in fair numbers. One at Firestone MP on

May 3 was good for the site (TMR). An immature was seen over SR-2 in Lorain Co. on May 15 (NB). Eagles were seen at HBSP on Apr. 27 (2), May 4 & May 11 (RH). An adult was viewed at Sandy Ridge on Mar. 16 (GL). The nest at Snow Lake failed (DB). The nest at Lake Rockwell produced two young (CG). **Northern Harriers** were regularly seen along Lake Erie from late March through early May. A handsome male was at West Creek Preserve on Mar. 24 (GL). Reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Cooper's Hawks** indicated a widespread movement and many nesting areas for the latter species. **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested on a fire escape at Lake Erie College (AJF). Four were tallied on the May 19 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). On Apr. 16, about 80 **Broad-winged Hawks** passed over Edgewater CLFSP between 10 am and 12 pm (KB). One was over South Russell on Apr. 15 (LGi). Another was at West Creek Preserve the same day (GL). Another 30 were seen on Apr. 28 over Huntington Reservation (DK). One was seen on the May 12 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). **Red-tailed Hawks** were as expected. On Mar. 7, two light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were in Homerville (GE). After a decade of decline, **American Kestrels** seemed to be holding their own throughout the region.

Wild Turkey stories continue to surprise observers. Jim Heflich wrote, "Friends and neighbors 1/4 mile away on S. Belvoir had a Wild Turkey walk through their yard on Apr. 6. Then early this a.m. on the way west to meet Paula Lozano and Bob Finkelstein, a hen strolled across the usually very busy intersection of Cedar and Taylor!" On Apr. 7 Elinor Elder penned, "Tom LePage, Karin Tanquist and I had 7

Wild Turkeys (who were totally brazen and wouldn't leave us alone) along the tracks at Tinkers Creek." The first Dike 14 record was noted on Apr. 30 (SZ). No reports of **Northern Bobwhites** or **Ring-necked Pheasants** were received. Up to 3 **Soras** were found at the Ira Road beaver marsh (TMR, m.obs.). A Sora was seen on the May 12 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). **Virginia Rails** were sighted regularly at their usual nesting haunts. A **Common Moorhen** was spied at Sandy Ridge MP on Apr. 28 (JAE). Two were seen there on May 4 (GL). **American Coots** were abundant.

The 5 **Black-bellied Plovers** at HBSP on May 12 represented the high count (RH). The first record for the Ravenna TLS was of 9 birds on May 13 (LR, KLu, CB). **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen widely in typical numbers. Both **yellowlegs** species were as expected. The seven **Solitary Sandpipers** over Wadsworth at 11 pm on May 8 provided a unique report (RHL, SW). One was at Silver Lake on Apr. 26 (GB, JT). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at Lake Isaac on Apr. 14 was early (TMR).

Rocky River Summary Spring 2002

We had rain three of our six Sunday Morning Birdwalks. The total species for the series was 104, with 23 species of warblers. The 12th and the 19th were exceptionally good birding days. The movement of small birds, warblers, vireos, etc. was up at tree top level. Trees were well leafed out and made viewing very difficult. Birds were not evenly spaced. We referred to hot spots where there was a lot of activity.

In my opinion, it was a much better migration this year. I judge this on several trips I made to Sandy Ridge, Crane Creek and Sheldon's Marsh. There seemed to be a lot of birds around this spring

Michael Stasko

Ruddy Turnstones were found in fair numbers at HBSP. The six there on May 19 represented the high (RH). Three made for a good local report in Mantua Township on May 13 (LR). The 13 **Sanderlings** at HBSP on May 18 provided the high report (RH). Few **Least Sandpipers** were reported. Bear Swamp Road in Medina Co. hosted a flock of **Pectoral Sandpipers** on Mar. 16 (JW). A Dunlin was early at Dike 14 on Apr. 2 (SZ). The high tally there was 21 on May 9 (SZ). A dowitcher of unnamed species was at Sandy Ridge MP on Apr. 25 (JMc). This date leans toward the occurrence of Long-billed. Thirty **Short-billed**

Dowitchers fed in a flooded field in Fairport Harbor on May 12 (RH). One was at Sandy Ridge on May 17 (JMc). Fifty **Common Snipes** were counted at the Pioneer Trail wetlands on Apr. 10 (EE, TLP). Harlan noted a remarkable 53 **American Woodcocks**--yes, 53--lined up along the stone walls at Erie St. Cemetery in Cleveland on Apr. 8 before the opening day game at Jacobs Field. Three woodcocks were still being seen on walks around the northeast quadrant of Public Square on May 19 (TC).

Thousands of **Bonaparte's Gulls** remained in the Gordon Park area well into April. The high tally was 10,000 on Apr. 6 (GL, SZ). The flock at HBSP was estimated to be 7400 on Apr. 27 (RH). **Thayer's Gulls** remained in small numbers into April. **Iceland Gulls** were in fair supply through mid-March. One was at HBSP on Mar. 10 (RH). Typical of this spring's numbers, five **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (2 adults, 1 typical 2nd year, 1 3rd-winter, 1 2nd-year with 1st-year tail band) were seen in the Gordon Park on Mar. 16 (VF, TLP). One was at HBSP on Mar. 10 (RH). As many as three **Glaucous Gulls** could be found among the March horde of gulls in the Gordon Park

Headlands Beach Area Summary Spring 2002

Let's face it-- May was disappointing. It appears that most of the better days were weekdays when few observers were in the field. Cool, wet weather on crisp northeasterly winds seemed to push spring migrants from the HBSP/Fairport Harbor area. No large concentrations of warblers or sparrows were noted, and migrant Empidonax flycatchers quietly snuck through. The exception was a grounding of shorebirds at the old Diamond Shamrock property on rainy May 12. There were both yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers, Least and Solitary Sandpipers, and an Upland Sandpiper feeding in the flooded field (along with a noisy downing of 150+ Bobolinks). Rather noteworthy for the HBSP area were sightings of Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers, and a vocal Barred Owl in May. Better luck next year!

Ray Hannikman



Sandhill Crane
by Scott Wright©

area. One was at HBSP on Mar. 10 (RH). **Great Black-backed Gulls** remained numerous along Lake Erie well into April. The high tally of Caspian Terns was 40 at HBSP on Apr. 28 (RH, m.obs.). The high count of **Common Terns** was 20 at HBSP on May 12 (RH). Two **Forster's Terns** were at HBSP on Apr. 28 (RH).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were noted at Dike 14 on May 27 (SZ). A Black-billed was in Sagamore Hills on May 17 (DAC). Both cuckoo species were noted at Brecksville on May 27 (DAC). **Eastern Screech-Owls** put on quite a show at the Pinery Narrows area (DAC, PS, m.obs.). **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were doing well. A **Common Nighthawk** was spied at Tinker's Creek SNP on May 23 (GB, KL). The 17 nighthawks moving to the north over Lake County the same night was the high number reported (LP). The same night the first report for the CVNP was heard (PS). The earliest **Chimney Swifts** were seen in West Akron on Apr. 16 (JB).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were in excellent supply. Local nesting numbers seem to be much improved. Kriska found 6 nesting holes and at least 5 individuals at Huntington Res. A bird was at Firestone MP on May 4 (TMR, BAT). One was in Akron on May 8 (JHa). A daily log on bird occurrence in Pinery Narrows had at least 4 there by early April (PS). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** put in a prolonged March appearance at an Akron feeder (JHa). The high count was 15 at HBSP on Apr. 13 (RH). Sims Park/Villa Angela hosted 6 on Apr. 11 (TLP). **Northern Flickers** were numerous migrants and nesting in solid numbers by the end off the period. **Pileated Woodpeckers** continue to thrive.

Flycatchers were late in arriving, but numbers and variety were good. An **Olive-Sided Flycatcher** was observed at Blanche Katherine Novak Sanctuary on May 10 (BP). One was seen at Station Road (CVNP) on May 19 (DAC). One of the earliest **Eastern Wood-Pewees** ever for HBSP was near the Coast Guard Station on May 9 (RH). An

early **Alder Flycatcher** was at Dike 14 on May 15 (SZ). One was at Streetsboro Bog on May 26 (RR). Brightly colored **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at HBSP on May 27, 29 & 30 (RH, SI, RR). An early bird was at Station Road (CVNP) on May 12 (TMR). One was at Happy Days (CVNP) on May 17 (DAC). Baldwin Lake hosted one on May 21 (TMR). An **Eastern Kingbird** was considerably early at South Chagrin on Apr. 15 (LR).

Vireos put in a decent showing. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen on the Apr. 21 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). One was at Bacon Woods on May 4 (CC). The seven at Deep Lock on May 11 represented the high tally (TMR) A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was a good find Baldwin Lake on May 21 (TMR). **Philadelphias** seem to be the species most observers like to report. Baldwin Lake hosted one on May 9 (TMR). West Creek Preserve had 2 on May 18 and one on May 25 (GL). Two were seen at North Chagrin on May 19 (KM). One was at Shaker Lakes on May



Pileated Woodpecker
by Paula Lozano©

RAVENNA TRAINING AND LOGISTICS SITE MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEY TOTALS—SPRING 2002

SPECIES	5/13/02	5/23/02	Totals	SPECIES	5/13/02	5/23/02	Totals
GREAT BLUE HERON	8	2	10	VEERY	3	2	5
TURKEY VULTURE	7	14	21	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	1		1
CANADA GOOSE	7	3	10	WOOD THRUSH	8	7	15
WOOD DUCK	6	4	10	AMERICAN ROBIN	17	21	38
MALLARD	5	1	6	GRAY CATBIRD	11	15	26
RED-TAILED HAWK	2	4	6	BROWN THRASHER	2		2
WILD TURKEY	2		2	EUROPEAN STARLING	3	7	10
KILLDEER	3	8	11	CEDAR WAXWING		10	10
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	2		2	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	17	21	38
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	9		9	TENNESSEE WARBLER		2	2
ROCK DOVE		3	3	YELLOW WARBLER	23	23	46
MOURNING DOVE	5	9	14	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	10	5	15
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	2	1	3	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	4	2	6
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	1		1	YELLOW-RUMP WARBLER	8		8
BARRED OWL	3		3	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	2		2
CHIMNEY SWIFT	2	3	5	B&W WARBLER	1		1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	2	4	6	AMERICAN REDSTART	1	2	3
DOWNY WOODPECKER	1		1	OVENBIRD	4	1	5
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2		2	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH		1	1
NORTHERN FLICKER	4	4	8	LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	2		2
PILEATED WOODPECKER	2	1	3	C. YELLOWTHROAT	18	17	35
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE		6	6	HOODED WARBLER	1	2	3
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER		1	1	SCARLET TANAGER	5	7	12
ALDER FLYCATCHER		2	2	RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	20	14	34
WILLOW FLYCATCHER		1	1	CHIPPING SPARROW	1		1
EASTERN PHOEBE	4	7	11	FIELD SPARROW	13	16	29
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	5	8	13	SAVANNAH SPARROW	1		1
EASTERN KINGBIRD	3	6	9	SONG SPARROW	19	16	35
WHITE-EYED VIREO	3	2	5	SWAMP SPARROW	1	1	2
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	3	1	4	WHITE-THROAT SPARROW	5		5
BLUE-HEADED VIREO		1	1	NORTHERN CARDINAL	8	8	16
WARBLING VIREO	3	2	5	ROSE-BREAST. GROSBEAK	10	14	24
RED-EYED VIREO		12	12	INDIGO BUNTING	1	2	3
BLUE JAY	3	7	10	BOBOLINK	4		4
AMERICAN CROW	8	8	16	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	7	10	17
TREE SWALLOW	4	6	10	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	2	1	3
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	1	4	5	COMMON GRACKLE	3	11	14
BANK SWALLOW	1		1	BH COWBIRD	16	7	23
BARN SWALLOW	3	2	5	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	7	16	23
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	3	6	9	PURPLE FINCH		1	1
TUFTED TITMOUSE	3	11	14	HOUSE FINCH		2+	0
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	1		1	GOLDFINCH	11	10	21
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH		1	1	TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS	402	445	847
CAROLINA WREN		2	2	TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	74	71	90
HOUSE WREN	6	11	17				
RUBY- CROWNED KINGLET	2	1	3				
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER		3	3				
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	1	1	2				

Data provided by
Carole Babyak, Kim Ludt and Larry Rosche

13 (NB). Another was at Happy Days on May 20 (DAC). The first April **Red-eyed Vireo** at HBSP was found on Apr. 28 (RH).

Hannikman's **American Crow** totals for HBSP were 200 on Mar. 2, 400 on Mar. 9, 70 on Mar. 23, 250 on Mar. 31, and 125 on Apr. 7. A flock of 30± **Horned Larks** was in Lorain Co. on Mar. 10 (PP, m.obs.). A **Purple Martin** was early at HBSP on Apr. 2 (RH). **Tree Swallows** managed to usurp 5

Prothonotary nesting jars along he Upper Cuyahoga (DB). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen at Ira Road on the very early date of Apr. 1 (TMR, m.obs). Swallows had reached the lakefront by Apr. 6. **Cliff Swallows** were noted along the lakefront more widely than normal. Birds were at HBSP and Dike 14 on May 4 (KM). Another visited HBSP on May 12 (RH). A **Barn Swallow** was very early at Mogadore on Mar. 31 (LR).

Red-breasted Nuthatches remained to nest in more areas than expected. On May 1, two were at Mogadore Reservoir, at least a half-mile apart, on the west side of the reservoir (PD). **Brown Creepers** were well-reported. A pair was observed building a nest in the CVNP on May 26 (DAC). Creepers were common along the Prothonotary Trail in Geauga Co. (DB). Cooperative **Marsh Wrens** delighted many observers at Tinkers Creek SNP (GB, EE). The

high tally from along Lake Erie was 5 at Dike 14 on May 9 (SZ). **Winter Wrens** fared poorly. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was fairly early at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 8 (LD). Two more were at Ira Road the same day (TMR). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were numerous but brief in their passage.

Eastern Bluebirds were doing very well. A **Hermit Thrush** was an early migrant at HBSP on Mar. 9-10 (KM, RH). The high count was 10 at HBSP on May 4 (RH). One straggled in the northeast quadrant of Public Square in downtown on May 20 (TC). **American Robins** and **Gray Catbirds** were in very good numbers. **Northern Mockingbirds** have benefited from the recent mild winters; their numbers and distributions no longer surprise this editor. **Brown Thrashers** were common along the lakefront migrant traps. Sims Park/Villa Angela CLSP provided refuge for 3 on Apr. 11 (TLP). **Cedar Waxwings** were late in arriving, but in their usual abundance along the lake. The 120 **American Pipits** at Mantua Township on Apr. 3 were the high inland tally (LR). The 61 at Dike 14 on May 9 represented the high count along the lake (SZ).

Warblers received good marks for the semester. Leo Deininger wrote, "I thought that this was the best spring migration for warblers since 1977, and they were late in coming. May 23 was one of the best days for warblers at Shaker Lakes I have ever seen." Nick Barber remarked, "The rainy weather of May 11-15 stalled a lot of birds in northern Ohio, including impressive numbers of Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, and Palm Warblers, and American Redstarts." Metcalf echoed, "Warblers made an excellent showing on May 12 at North

Chagrin, with 25 species and well over 200 individuals seen, including 50+ Yellow-rumped, Tennessee (5), Blackburnian (3), Black-and-White (6), Chestnut-sided (4), Canada (4) and Mourning Warbler (1)."

On Apr. 19, an early **Blue-winged Warbler** was heard in Norton (KM). The same day, equally early Blue-wingeds were at West Creek Preserve (SZ) and Brecksville (DAC). Two were at HBSP on May 4 (RH). The high count (reflecting nesters) was 18 at Horseshoe Lake (CVNP) on May 27 (GL). A **Tennessee Warbler** was early at Hinckley on Apr. 27 (JW). Eight were seen on the May 12 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). A singing **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at HBSP, May 12 (NB, RH, EB). The May 5 Rocky River Birdwalk provided the early report (MS). One was spied at Dike 14 on May 15 (SZ). Another was at West Creek Preserve on May 8 (GL). Counts of **Northern Parulas** were very good. One was heard at Bacon Woods on May 4 (CC, GL). A male visited West Creek Preserve on May 10 (GL). Three were found on the May 12 Sunday Morning Birdwalk at Rocky River Nature Center (MS, m.obs.). A female was at Shaker Lakes on May 13, and a male was there on May 14 (NB). One was tallied on the May 19 Sunday Morning Birdwalk at Shaker (PP). Mill Hollow had one on May 4 (DK). Another was observed at Happy Days on May 10 (DAC). A Parula was at HBSP on May 18 (RH). A **Yellow Warbler** was early on the May 5 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). It was an excellent spring for **Cape May Warblers**. They were widespread in distribution and a high of 4 was seen on the May 12 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** received wide-

spread coverage. The high count was 8 at HBSP on May 12 (RH). A late bird was at the Valley Picnic Area (CVNP) on May 27 (GL). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were numerous at expected times, but certainly not in expected high numbers. The only substantial count was 125 at West Creek Preserve on May 8 (GL). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was early at North Chagrin on Apr. 14 (KM). An early **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen by many at Firestone MP on May 3 (TMR). A late female was at West Creek Preserve on May. 25 (GL). Two dawdled at HBSP on May 27 (RH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was on territory at Mill Hollow on May 4 (DK). One was heard at Bacon Woods on May 4 (CC). **Pine Warblers** were in good supply. Early birds reached the CVNP by Apr. 4 (DAC) and North Chagrin by Apr. 9 (KM). A Pine Warbler visited a thistle feeder at Brecksville for about a week in early April (DD). One was seen on the May 5 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS) Shaker Lakes hosted several at expected times (m.obs.). The high count of **Palm Warblers** was 36 at Dike 14 on May 9 (SZ). An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen along Red Lock Trail (CVNP) on May 9 (MR, m.obs.). The high count was 12 at HBSP on May 27 (RH). The high tally of Bay-breasted away from Lake Erie was 6 at Baldwin Lake on May 9 (TMR). The first reported **Cerulean Warbler** was seen in the CVNP on May 2 (DAC). North Chagrin's first arrival was tallied on May 5 (KM). Five were noted at Hinckley on May 5 (TMR). The sighting of a bird at HBSP on May 18 was exceptional (RH). Four were noted at Deep Lock on May 11 (TMR). Always a good find away from nesting areas, an exquisite male **Prothonotary Warbler** was found by Muggsi Hahn at HBSP on May

26 (RH). A female was there on May 27 (KM). One was at Ira Road on May 6 (TMR). An early bird was noted at Sandy Ridge MP on Apr. 25 (JMc). Best reported the Upper Cuyahoga gang had returned by Apr. 27. Interesting to note, birds did not reach traditional nesting areas in the CVNP (Lower Cuyahoga) until May 12 (DAC, PS). An **Ovenbird** put in an early appearance at Singer Lake Bog on Apr. 13 (LR, JS). Another was seen on the Rocky River birdwalk on May 5 (MS). **Northern Waterthrushes** were widespread. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** had returned to North Chagrin by Apr. 1 (LD). Another early arrival was at Meyer Center on Apr. 15 (DB). One was at West Creek Preserve on Apr. 30 (GL). A male **Mourning Warbler** at Tinkers Creek on May 19 was the first one reported from this site in many years (EE). One was at Dike 14 on May 27 (SZ). A female was at HBSP on May 29 (SI). Another male was at Streetsboro Bog on May 26 (RR). The high count was 4 at HBSP on May 27 (RH, RR). Baldwin Lake surprised birders with 4 Mournings on May 21 (TMR). Two **Hooded Warblers** provided a good local report on the May 19 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). **Wilson's Warblers** were fairly numerous. Counts of 4-8 were typical. A **Canada Warbler** graced Shaker Lakes on May 13 (NB). One was at Tinker's Creek SNP on May 23 (GB, KL). A territorial male remained at Happy Days through the period (DAC). Two were seen on the May 19 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). The high count was 4 at HBSP on May 27 (RH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen in the CVNP on May 11 (DAC).



American Tree Sparrow
by Scott Wright©

Seven **Scarlet Tanagers** added a splash of red to the May 12 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS).

Sparrows rarely elicit comments from observers. It was interesting to read a comment from Twinsburg naturalist Stanley Stine. On May 26, "I've been looking for an opportunity to walk the edge of that hayfield (Pondbrook site), quietly, to listen for some of those 'other' sparrows. Spent two hours tonight, more or less just standing out there in the shadows along the tree line. Kind of hoped that the harrier would swing by again. It was all very worthwhile, even without seeing the harrier. Got the opportunity to listen to a Grasshopper Sparrow for about an hour. Then the Savannahs began to sing as the sun went down. As I started back to the house, walking between the plowed field and edge of hayfield, two pairs of Savannahs came out at separate locations to run me off! I couldn't believe their pugnacious attitude!"

Eastern Towhees were numerous. Rich Huey identified an extremely late **American Tree Sparrow** at Mentor Lagoons on May 18 (JMc, RH). Five **Vesper Sparrows** were at North Chagrin on Apr. 14 (KM). One was in Kirtland on May 1 (CK). Two were at Spencer Lake SWA on Apr. 5 (ES). One was at

Chagrin River Park on Apr. 11 (JMc). West Creek Preserve hosted 16 on Apr. 9 (GL, SZ). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen at HBSP on May 4 (KM). A **Fox Sparrow** was early in South Euclid on Mar. 3 (JHe). The 100 **Song Sparrows** at HBSP on Mar. 9 reflected a solid northward push (RH). **Swamp Sparrows** were as expected. **White-throated Sparrows** were very numerous the last third of April. A nominant race **White-crowned Sparrow** was late at HBSP on May 27 (KM). Numbers of White-crowneds were good. The 143 tallied at Dike 14 on May 9 was the high (SZ). Birds were noted at Dike 14 on Apr. 24, May 9 and May 15 (SZ). **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at Dike 14 on Mar. 6 and Apr. 11 (3) (SZ). Three to four were seen in a mixed flock of **Snow Buntings** (30) and Horned Larks (100) in Parkman Township on Mar. 4 (DF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks received high marks. The 150+ **Bobolinks** at Fairport Harbor on May 12 far outpaced all other reports (RH). Tinker's Creek SNP provided hospice for 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** on Apr. 7 (EE, TLP). **Orchard Orioles** were seen in higher than expected numbers. One was seen on the May 5 Rocky River Birdwalk (MS). The five at Ira Road on May 6 were indicative (TMR). Two were along Red Lock Trail on May 23 (MR). One was in Kirtland on May 6 (CK). An adult and an immature were seen at Shaker Lakes on May 5 (PP, m.obs.). Two immature males were viewed at Holden Arboretum on May 29 (RR). A male **Purple Finches** graced an Akron feeder on Apr. 5 (JHa). Dike 14 had one on Apr. 2 (SZ). Reports from along lakefront migrant areas



March 11, 2002 – The third egg is laid – Peregrines –
by Scott Wright©

were fairly good. Indicative were the 7 observed at HBSP on Apr. 27 (RH). Three **Common Redpolls** were counted at Dike 14 on Mar. 13 (SZ). One was in North Royalton on Apr. 10 (TCT). **Pine Siskin** reports were widespread. Several siskins lingered through the period (m.obs.). They arrived at Brecksville Nature Center feeders Mar. 15 and remained through Apr. 17 (DD). Two **Evening Grosbeaks** stopped by Lakeshore MP on May 5 (JP). □



RED-THROATED LOON – An extremely late bird was seen off Rocky River Park on May 1 (Finkelstein, Lozano).

AMERICAN BITTERN – Sandy Ridge MP hosted 3 calling bitterns on May 4 (Caldwell, Kriska, Leidy). One was at North Chagrin May 8

and 12 (Metcalf). One was at Dike 14 on May 15 (Zadar).

GREAT EGRET – A record early bird was at Shipman Pond on Mar. 10 (Hannikman, Bacik). Another (“would be” record holder) was seen behind Munny Light on Mar. 11 (Rosche, Weingart).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – On Apr. 26 an adult flew over SR-2, just east of where the Grand River crosses under SR-2 (Pogacnik).

BLACK VULTURE – On Mar. 29 one flew by Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – An immature was seen on Mar. 28 along State Road just north of SR-162 in Medina Co. (Harlan, Wagner).

GOLDEN EAGLE – An immature passed directly over Pogacnik in Perry on May 5. “I could easily see the whitish bases of the innermost

primaries as well as white on the inner part of the tail. The head appeared tawny. As it passed, and was heading away I could see a slight dihedral in the wings.”

MERLIN – One was at Dike 14 on Apr. 11 (Zadar). Another was in Fairport Harbor on Mar. 17 (Pogacnik). Merlins were also seen at Headlands Mar. 16, 17 & 24 (Hannikman).

PEREGRINE FALCON – One coursed Dike 14 on Apr. 7 (Leidy). Nesting birds were successful at traditional sites (Wright).

RUFFED GROUSE – The only reports were from traditional strongholds in Geauga County. One was along the Glacier Trail at Burton Wetlands on Mar. 17 (Best). One was at the Rookery Park on Apr. 14 (*vide* Best).

SANDHILL CRANE – Two were observed in Burbank on Mar. 7. They were browsing through a



Northern Mockingbird- Cleveland
by Paula Lozano©

muddy field not more than 50 yards off the road (Emmert). This is the second time in 4 years that Emmert has found Sandhills in this location. On Apr. 6 one drifted by Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik). One soared effortlessly over Fairport Nursery Road on May 4 (Hannikman, Bacik, Kovalsky).

UPLAND SANDPIPER – The IBA field in Fairport Harbor hosted one on May 12 (Hannikman). Another was heard at Lakeshore MP in North Perry on Apr. 17 (Pogacnik).

POMARINE JAEGER – One was seen at the mouth of the Grand River off Fairport Harbor on Mar. 10 (Pogacnik, Rosche).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – On Apr. 6, an adult was in Lorain (Pogacnik).

LITTLE GULL – Three adults were off Lakeshore MP on Mar. 10 (Pogacnik). The same day 4 Little Gulls were noted at Fairport Harbor (Pogacnik). Up to three could be found in the early March gull horde at Gordon Park (m.obs.). An adult was in Lorain on Apr. 6 (Pogacnik).

BLACK-HEADED GULL – A basic-plumaged adult --without a hood--was noted on blustery Mar. 10 as it headed into a stiff westerly breeze just off shore from the Lake Metroparks shelter in Fairport Harbor (Hannikman, Bacik). The first of many reports from the Gordon Park area of an adult with was on Mar. 12 (Morrison). Up to two were there later. On Mar. 24, an adult flew by Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

CALIFORNIAN GULL – An adult visited Fairport Harbor on Mar. 11 (Harlan, Wagner).

WHIP-POOR-WILL – Birds were heard at Lakeshore MP on Apr. 17 & May 6 (Pogacnik).

SNOWY OWL – The last straggler from winter was seen at Burke Airport on Mar. 1 (Finkelstein, Lozano).

LONG-EARED OWL – One to two birds were at Headlands on Apr. 13–14. These birds were continually harassed by unknown photographers until they departed (m.obs.).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was seen at Lakeshore MP on Mar. 28 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – One was in Parma Mar. 11 (Rieker). Zadar noted the departure date from Dike 14 as Mar. 27. A Saw-whet was at River Road MP on Apr.15 (Pogacnik). One called briefly at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve on Apr. 20 (Metcalf, Bacik).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE – One was seen at Lakeshore MP on Apr. 6 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SHRIKE – One was seen just off Antioch Road in North Perry on Mar. 17 (Pogacnik).



Black-headed Gull – March 27– Cleveland
by Larry Rosche©



Little Gull – March 27– Cleveland
by Larry Rosche©

SEDGE WREN – Dike 14 hosted one on May 15 (Zadar).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – A female was at Shaker Lakes on May 14 (Barber). One was seen for a good ten minutes during a nice fallout of wood warblers in North Olmsted on May 19 (Colborn). On May 6 a Golden-winged was near the Indian Point Park upper parking lot (Pogacnik).

“BREWSTER’S WARBLER” – One was in Bay Village on May 2. (Kriska). Another was in Munson Township on May 5. One was at Shaker Lakes on May 8 (Deininger).

“LAWRENCE’S WARBLER” – Rickard located this rare backcross hybrid at Headlands Beach State Park on May 5.

PRAIRIE WARBLER – One was at Indian Point Park on May 6 (Pogacnik). Another was at Wetmore Road in the CVNP on May 11 (Chasar).

WORM-EATING WARBLER – One was at Brandywine Falls (CVNP) on Apr. 26 (Chasar). On May 16 a male was at Big Creek Reservation (Zadar).

KENTUCKY WARBLER – A singing migrant was at Holmesbrook Park on May 7 (Harlan, Wagner).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – One was at Firestone MP on May 21 (Harlan, Wagner).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – On May 10 one was at West Creek

Preserve (Leidy). Dike 14 hosted 4 individuals between May 3 and May 15 (Zadar).

HENSLOW’S SPARROW – On May 16 Linda Gilbert wrote, “My mother and I are taking the Birds and Breakfast Continuing Ed. session at CRWU’s farm property on Fairmount Blvd. This morning’s highlight was a singing Henslow’s Sparrow, which was perched atop a clump of grass in the field! We were able to get a close look at it, and we enjoyed its presence for about 10 minutes or so. It was only about 20 ft. away from us. Tim Matson from the CMNH is leading the walks, and he said that this is the first time he’s ever seen one on the property.”

ORCHARD ORIOLE – A singing male was record-early at Jackson



Male White-winged Crossbill-Seiberling Naturealm
by Dave Brumfield©

Field in South Chagrin Reservation on April 15 (Rosche).

RED CROSSBILL – On April 2 one was seen at Dike 14 (Zadar).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL – Rieker’s conservative estimate was 9 different individuals wintered near his Parma home beginning in November. The local story of the season was the group of up to four birds that lingered at the Seiberling Naturealm most of March (Stover, m.obs.). □



“Careful, Don’t Step on the Crossbills!”

by Woody Stover

“Careful, don’t step on the crossbills!” — It was difficult for many who were looking for the three White-winged Crossbills that were first seen on Wednesday, March 13, 2002, to believe; but they were really on the ground. The Seiberling Naturealm on Smith Road in Akron has a lot of different conifers on its 100 acre preserve, and this small group of crossbills found the food stores sufficient to spend many days foraging there.

White Pine cones that had fallen below the thirty year old pines provided their food; and there, just beside the entry walkway, they fed, oblivious to the crowds of visitors passing within a few feet of them. The flash of cameras, voices of folks talking, children running, vehicles passing and even machinery operation did not seem to phase these



Female White-winged Crossbill
Seiberling Naturealm
by Carl Johnson©

birds in their task of opening cones to devour the seeds within.

They would feed without stop or sound for half an hour and then depart, calling chet-chet-chet all together as they flew south toward a larger pine stand. Their departure was sometimes coincident with the hunting Cooper’s Hawk. However, they regularly returned to the stand of White Pines, cutting cones at the very top and eating there, too. Within a few days of searching, we found that they would feed in all the various conifers that were planted in this small arboretum. However, nearly half their feeding was done in the ornamental crabapple collection that was surrounded by conifers.

“I’ve seen them before, but not like this.” — So many who’ve seen crossbills before were treated to close encounters with these cooperative birds. An adult male, a female and an immature male were in the group; and observers could view their plumage and behavior without equipment and without craning their necks to the tops of dense forest trees. Photographers were

treated to excellent opportunities for shots without disruption of the birds or their habitat.

Each bird had an amount of yellow cast. However, the immature male had the most yellow to him. His upper wingbar was not as extensive as the mature male’s, and the dark patch on his head behind the eye was more visible; but his varied colors of yellows and reds prompted Pam Daub to remark, “He’s like a



Male White-winged Crossbill
Seiberling Naturealm
by Bob Finkelstein©

sunset." The female had a lemon yellow color to her breast that can be seen on close inspection. At a distance she appeared gray and white. All their wingbars and deeply forked tails made them easy to pick out in flight.

They dined on a remarkable number of seeds. Besides White Pine, they fed on Serbian Spruce, White Spruce, Blue Spruce, Douglas Dragons-eye Pine and Austrian Pine. The cones, the new buds swelling in spring, and buds from Sugar Maple and Sweet Gum were all part of the birds' diet. As they fed in the crabapples, they ate the inner seed portion, but not the outer.

The crossbills' upper bills almost always crossed left of the lower. When they ate, the crossbills would pick up a piece of food--cone or apple--and hold it most times with their right foot or both feet and deftly tear it apart, removing the seed within. The outer portion of the apple could be cast away while the seed was broken inside the bill and only the inner part of the seed eaten. The rest of a cone or pine seed would fall from the tree. These falling pieces could allow us to locate them if they were very high in a stand of conifers.

They ate nearly all day without much pause. We watched them stop to eat snow from branches and to drink from snow melt and rain pools on the ground. Other than to fly from one feeding area to another and to fly from a hunting hawk or cat, they rested little and ate a lot. The mature male would frequently take the initiative to change feeding areas and call to the others until they joined him. He also would occasionally feed the immature male. More often, when he observed the other two with some-

thing to feed upon that seemed highly desirable, he would take it away from them by force, sometimes jumping or flying onto their backs.

On a few occasions during rain and wet snow, they used the dense spruce to remain dry, huddling together near the trunk. At sunset and dark (6:00 to 6:30 pm), the birds would sleep in an Austrian Pine. They would feed in the taller pines and settle atop one or two of them, looking for all the world like a pine cone themselves. They awakened at sunrise (around 6:30 am), only to begin feeding immediately and without stopping all day.

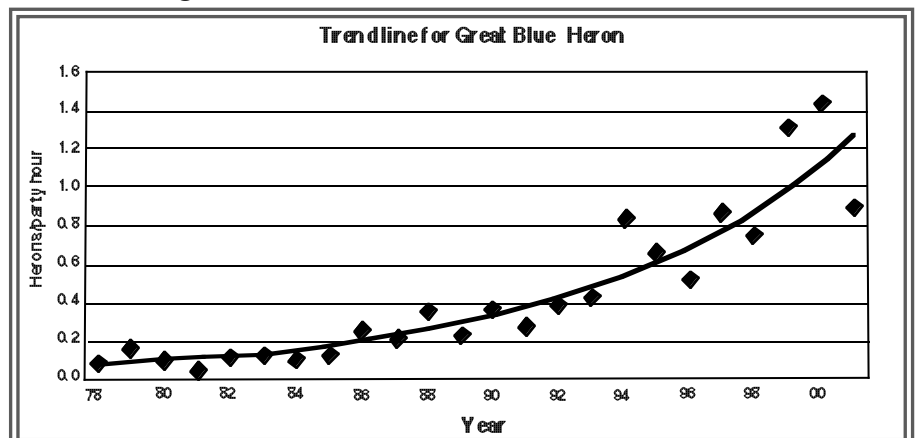
Heavy snow and icy rains covered the trees on March 25 and 26; and the crossbills were found eating "crabapple popsicles," cracking the rime-ice coating on the fruit with their bills with no difficulty. During the next week, warm weather caused another change in habit among the three. They ranged further each time they flew and were joined by another male, that sang a more melodious song. They ate in one place for less time and sampled more far-ranging conifers. Finally, on Palm Sunday they fed on the ground under the White Pines where we first found them and with the familiar chet-chet-chet call took flight ascending northward and out of sight.

Great Blue Heron in Northeast Ohio

by Dwight Chasar

Even the most casual Ohio birders recognize that there are more Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) today in Ohio than they have seen before. Many members of the Ardeidae family were reduced almost to extinction by plume-hunters in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the mid-20th century, persistent pesticides caused reproductive problems. Protective legislation for most birds and the ban on pesticides have allowed many of the Ardeids to rebound (Elphick, 2001).

In early 20th century Ohio, Dawson (1903) indicated that the well-known Great Blue heronries of former years were much reduced in numbers. He knew of no place in Ohio where above a dozen pairs bred together. In the mid-thirties, Hicks (1935) knew of no Great Blue Heron colonies in Cuyahoga, Summit and Portage Co. since 1918! But by 1950, Williams (1951) indicated that within the Cleveland region, nesting colonies of from 4-40 nests existed, including ones in Aurora, Mentor, Streetsboro and Hinckley. By 1987, the Great Blue Heron was considered a fairly common to abundant migrant and summer



resident, with breeding colonies scattered throughout the state (Peterjohn, 1987). Between 1965-94, the Great Blue Heron population increased 5.6% annually (Earnst, 1996). These increases were mostly inland, more eastern and more northern in Ohio. A census in Northeast Ohio in 1993 revealed at least 17 heron colonies of various sizes (Carlson, 1994).

The Greater Akron Audubon Society has conducted a June summer bird count in Summit Co. since 1978. A trend-line for Great Blue Herons vs. year is shown in the figure. It is clear that the population has been increasing and at an exponential rate. As long as habitat remains available for them, this trend in Great Blue Heron numbers should continue for some time.

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Field Notes on a Golden-Throated Red-winged Blackbird by Carrie Ryman

Dates sighted: On April 6, 8 and 9

Description: Same coloring as a Red winged Blackbird but with a golden throat (orangy yellow that is slightly paler yellow just around the edges). This yellow color travels in a thin line up and around the neck (not sure if it completely encircles the neck or not). Also has several white tail feathers in the center of tail. The red and yellow epaulets are large and set very high up on the tops of each shoulder. No other variations in coloring exist and no other white except on the tail.

Gender: Male

Size: Larger than the other males

Vocalization: Like other redwings

Behavior: He is a member of a redwing flock of approx. 20-30 others that I can see in the immediate area. He appears to have one mate (normal coloring) and is nesting near the water. He spreads his tail as he vocalizes from a high perch. Very aggressive to other encroaching males within his nesting area. He displays his wings while he perches and calls.

Additional daily log:

Saturday, April 6: Bright, beautiful day. First saw him or them; I really think there are TWO with this varied coloring. Both have obvious, bright and vivid yellow throat color. Both had white tail feathers that are easily seen, even when tail is folded. They flash open when he flies. The first one I saw, which I observed for some time, had a few



Gold-throated Red-winged Blackbird
by Carrie Ryman©

white tail bars on the outside right of the tail. Another I saw later (Monday) had them in the center and there was more white on this one! I did not see these birds together so can't be positive with-

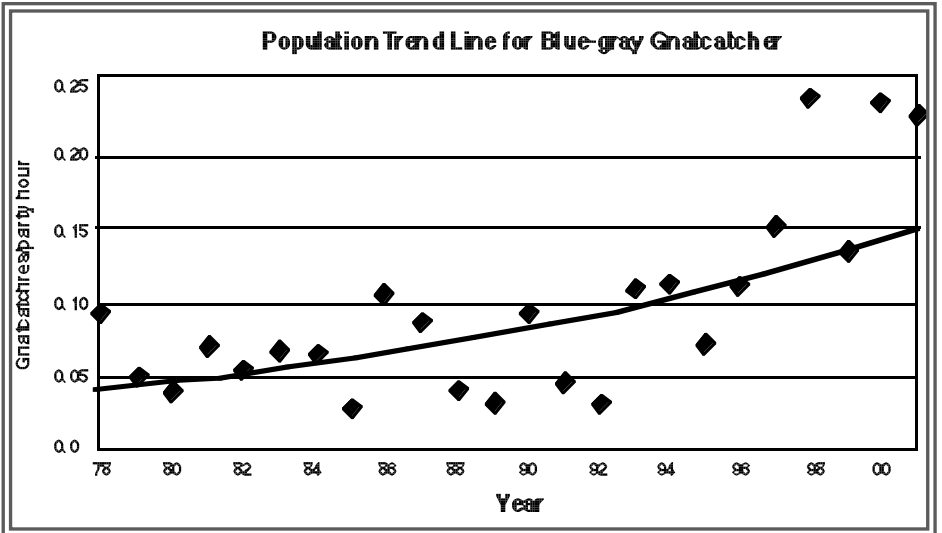


Gold-throated Red-winged Blackbird
by Carrie Ryman©

out seeing them each again. I had no camera with me today; did not expect to see such a wonder of a bird!

Monday, April 8 (6:15-7:00 PM): Ebbing light, cloudy skies. Saw only the one this time. White tail feathers centered (many). He stayed far away from me. But I can see how much larger he is than the other males. Very aggressive displays, warning calls to me if I get too close to "his territory." I got digital camcorder footage this time. Still kind of dark images, as I cannot get very close with this camera. But I can definitely see the contrast of the throat against the black. Will go back tomorrow with 35 mm.

Tuesday, April 9 (8:30-9:15 AM): Very misty this AM. More light, though. Saw the same one again (centered white tail feathers). Watched him for a long time again. He came a lot closer to me this time. I used both 35 mm and digital camcorder. Unfortunately, my zoom lens isn't very good--very grainy and dark. I may buy a much higher end lens just for this bird! I took about 3-5 minutes of video footage which is very vivid in color, but the bird is still very far away. He encircled me a lot, keeping his eye on me. Warning calls as I drew nearer what must be his nesting ground. Never left that area for more than a few seconds. Female is very active, also.



Status of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Summit County

by Dwight Chasar

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) is easy to take for granted. Being a small bird it can be difficult to see and with its tiniest of voice it may be difficult to hear for some. Therefore, it may be present but undetected or it could be absent and not recognized as such.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Dawson (1903) considered this "minikin of the woods" as an abundant summer resident but less common northerly in Ohio. In the mid 30s, Hicks (1935) considered this bird as general and uncommon to abundant in the southern two-thirds of Ohio but local and rare or even absent in much of the two northern tiers of counties. It was much more abundant in the unglaciated hill counties.

Then, in the early 50s, Williams (1950) felt the gnatcatcher to be a not uncommon migrant and not uncommon resident in the Cleveland region. By the mid 80s,

Peterjohn *et al.* (1987) considered the gnatcatcher a "summer resident, rare-uncommon" in northern counties but its numbers apparently increasing in the north, the expansion beginning in 1970 (Peterjohn, 1987). BBS data (Earnst and Andres, 1996) suggested that this bird was more abundant in the south than the north and its population increasing at 1.9% annually.

The graph above depicts data from the Summit Co. summer bird counts for the gnatcatcher. One can see that starting in 1978, this bird's population trendline shows a slow but steady increase over 24 years, fairly consistent with data from the BBS. Thus, this suggests that the gnatcatcher is doing as well as can be expected in Summit Co.

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Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Technical Editor:

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Editorial Assistant:

Dwight W. Chasar - Weather Summary

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Emil Bacik(EB)
Nick Barber (NB)
Dan Best (DB)
Black River Audubon (BR)
Kathleen Bradley (KB)
Dave and Jennifer Brumfield (JB)
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David Kriska (DK)
Gabe Leidy (GL)
Thomas LePage (TLP)
Karl Liske (KL)
Paula Lozano (PL)
Kim Ludt (KLu)
Jim McConnor (JMc)
Kevin Metcalf (KM)
Jim Minch (JM)
Ben Morrison (BM)
Linda Paine (LP)
Haans Petruschke (HP)
Barbara Philbrick (BP)
John Pogacnik (JP)
Craig Rieker (CR)
Mary Reinthal (MRe)
Richard Rickard (RR)
Drew Rolik (DR)
Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)
Carrie Ryman
Phyllis Schnell (PS)
Judy Semroc (JS)
Susan Snyder (SS)
Elaine Snively (ES).
Terry and Barb Sponseller (TBS)
Mike Stasko (MS)
Stanley Stine (SSi)
Woody Stover (WS)
Bertalan Szabo (BS)
Karin Tanquist(KT)
Tom and Cheri Tindira (TCT)
Judy Tisdale(JT)
Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)
Sandy Wagner (SW)
Bill Wahn (BWa)
Vernon Weingart (VW)
Jeff Wert (JW)
Ben Winger (BW)
Joe Wojnarowski (JWo)
Scott Wright (SW)
Sean Zadar (SZ)

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

