

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

*A Quarterly Journal of Bird Sightings from the Cleveland Region
Since 1905*



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region.

To monitor population densities of resident birds.

To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help preserve sensitive habitats and migrant stopover points.

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Issues more than two years old are available as searchable PDF files at www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com.

Contributions

We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: `bird_location_date_photographer.jpg`. Seasonal report forms are available at: www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm. All submissions are archived at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are:

Winter - March 10

Spring - June 10

Summer - September 10

Autumn - December 10

Front Cover Nelson's Sparrow, Headlands Wake Robin Trail, 9/30/2009, photographed by Judy Semroc.

Back Cover Red-necked Phalarope, Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, 10/3/2009, photographed by Andy Jones.

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The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its meetings held the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 PM at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, as well as joining one of the many scheduled field trips. For upcoming meetings, programs and trips, visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org. To become a member, call (216) 741-2352 or visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join. A Cleveland Bird Calendar subscription is included in membership.



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In This Issue

Fred Dinkelbach

How do I report on a rarity presented by knowledgeable birders, but not accepted by a reputable organization? The experience of the birders involved comes to mind, as well as the quality of viewing provided to the observers. Picture this: a calm November morning when a hundred or so Common Loons and twice as many Horned Grebes were being observed from the shore at Rocky River Park. While counting the birds, Bob Finkelstein, Paula Lozano and Antonio Salvadori discovered a puzzling loon that stood out from the rest. After devoting an hour trying to determine what they had found, all three came to the conclusion that a Pacific Loon had given them their “bird of the day”. On page 67 you will see a detailed account of their efforts to achieve an accurate observation. However, the loon was not accepted by the Ohio Ornithological Society’s Ohio Bird Records Committee, by a narrow vote of four to three.

I'm including this article not because I believe the observers are correct, and that the OBRC was not, nor because I am asking the readers to decide for themselves, regardless of a thorough peer review's evaluation. No, the reason is because I enjoy a good account of patiently sleuthing through the evidence, examining the reference materials at hand, and debating the educated guesses. And even if an extraordinary claim lacks extraordinary evidence, it should at least have had extraordinary effort in acquiring that evidence. I believe the CBC needs to balance the accounting and cataloging of sightings with the adventures and excitement that lie behind the numbers. And I'd like to coax all contributors into sharing their journeys that lead to the destinations reported here.

Correction:

For the Summer 2009 issue (volume 105 number 3), Nancy Anderson forwarded a correction that the Hermit Thrush reported from Wildwood Park on 8/2 should have been Wood Thrush.

Weather Report, Fall 2009

Dwight Chasar

September: Temperatures averaged 65.4°, 2.1° above normal. The high was 81° on the 14th and 20th and the low 41° on the 30th. Lake Erie was 71° on the 1st and eased down to 68° by the 30th. Rain occurred over 10 days and totaled 3.84 inches, 0.07 inches above normal. The greatest 24 hour rainfall was 0.96 inches on the 29-30th.

October: Temperatures averaged 52.3°, 0.1° above normal. The highest was 76° on the 30th and the lowest 35° on the 18th. Rain occurred over 13 days and totaled 0.91 inches, a departure of 0.93 inches above normal. The greatest 24 hour fall was 0.91 inches on the 2nd. Lake Erie water cooled to 52° by the 31st.

November: Temperatures averaged 47.7°, 5.9° above normal. The highest was 71° on the 8th and the lowest 29° on the 6th. Occurring over 7 days, precipitation totaled 1.45 inches, 1.93 inches below normal. The greatest 24 hour fall was 0.57 inches on the 27th. There were 1.2 inches of solid precipitation on the 27th. Lake Erie temperature ended the month at 54°.

Sightings Location Key

- Boston.** CVNP Towpath near Boston Mills Road and Boston Store, 1/10 of a mile east of Riverview Road (Summit County).
- CVNP.** Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit-Cuyahoga Counties).
- Erie Street Cemetery.** Downtown Cleveland, East 9th Street at Progressive Field.
- HBSP/Headlands.** Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve in the east to Shipman Pond, Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (also known as Mentor Lagoons) (Lake County).
- Ira Road.** CVNP towpath and beaver marsh boardwalk north of Ira Road (Summit County).
- Jaite.** The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Vaughn and Riverview Roads in the CVNP (Brecksville-Peninsula, Cuyahoga-Summit Counties).
- Lakes Rockwell-Pippen.** Reservoirs, Kent (Portage County).
- Lake View Cemetery.** East of University Circle, Cleveland.
- Lakeshore Reservation.** North Perry (Lake County).
- Nesmith Lake.** Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.
- Perry Park.** Perry Township Park, Perry (Lake County).
- Rocky River Park.** Rocky River (Cuyahoga County).
- Silver Creek MP.** Adjacent to southern CVNP, Akron.
- Sims Park.** Euclid, Cuyahoga County.
- Springfield Lake.** Southeast of Akron in Summit County.
- Station Road.** CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Rt. 82 at Riverview Road, including the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (Brecksville, Cuyahoga County).
- Villa Angela/Wildwood Park (VAWW).** Cleveland Lakefront State Park System, adjacent parks covering 69.6 acres divided by Euclid Creek between Euclid Beach and Neff Road (Cuyahoga County).
- West Creek Reservation.** Cleveland Metroparks, Parma.
- Wellington Reservoir.** Also known as Wellington Upground Reservoir (Lorain County).
- Wilbeth Road.** An urban migrant trap south of Akron where the Ohio Canal runs along the un-restored towpath; wetlands to the east and a landfill to the west (Summit County).

Sightings Highlights

Sequence follows the 2011 AOU list. Species not seen annually during the reporting season, or those with noteworthy dates and/or counts, are underlined.

Greater White-fronted Goose.

Wellington Reservoir had one on 10/25 (SJ, CW). On 11/4 approximately 25 headed southeast over Valley City, Medina County (GL).

Snow Goose. On the late afternoon of 10/20 at Wellington Reservoir one white-morph stood out in the presence of hundreds of Canada Geese (GL). On 11/5 at HBSP, 45 birds, with only 4 or 5 white-morph individuals, flew west past the Headlands Road overlook and then abruptly reversed course and headed back to the east (JT *vide* RH). Three were seen flying among a large group of Canada Geese on 11/15 (JP). A blue morph visited Springfield Lake on 11/27 (GB).

Brant. More than the usual number reported, all from Lake County. On 10/17 a group of eight moved west along the lake at Lakeshore Reservation; the next morning four more passed by (JP). Five birds were noted at Headlands Beach on both 10/23 and 10/25 (RH, JT). On 11/28, four flew along the lake from Sunset Park in Willoughby (GL) and eight more flew east from nearby Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Canada Goose. 518 were counted at Ira Road on 11/23 (TMR).

Mute Swan. A pair spent the entire season at Headlands (RH). At

Wellington Reservoir one was found on 10/25 (SJ, CW) and again on 11/1 (SS).

Tundra Swan. Headlands' first flock numbered 22 on 11/3; larger flights continued there throughout November with as many as 50 on 11/19 (RH). Six, three adults and three young, visited Wellington Reservoir on 11/16 (SS). A flock of 17 passed Willowick Lakefront Park on 11/22 (NA). On 11/27 as many as 75 passed over Wadsworth (RSH); also that day there were more than 20 over Mogadore Reservoir (Portage County), 15 over Nesmith Lake, one at Springfield Lake and three at West Branch SP (GB).

Wood Duck. On 10/6 the Station Road area wetlands had a total of 50 (DAC). At Shaker Lakes 52 were counted on 10/17 (LD).

Gadwall. High counts included 40 counted at Sandy Ridge on 11/21 (FCD) and at Lakes Rockwell\Pippen, 28 on both 11/26 and 11/27 (PC, KT).

American Wigeon. Eight were tallied at HBSP on 9/27 (RH). On 11/21 Sandy Ridge hosted 25 (FCD).

American Black Duck. All reports: 1 on 10/5 at Ira Road (TMR). 8 on 10/10 at Rocky R. Park (JB). 2 on 10/15 at HBSP (RH). 1 on 10/17 at VAWW (NA). 2 on 10/18 at Lakeshore Resn. (JP). 3 on 10/19 at Ira Road (TMR). 2 on 11/1 at Wellington Reservoir (SS). 3 on 11/1 at Lakeshore Resn. (JP). 4 on 11/2 at Ira Road (TMR). 3 on 11/4 at HBSP (RH). 4 on 11/9 at Ira Road (TMR). 20 on 11/12 at HBSP (RH). 2 on 11/14 at Lakeshore Resn. (JP). 2 on 11/18 at Ira Road (TMR). 1 on 11/20 at HBSP (RH). 2 on 11/20 at Lakeshore Resn. (JP). 10 on 11/21 at Sims Park (NA). 2 on 11/23 at Ira Road (TMR). 1 on 11/23 at Station Road (DAC).

12 on 11/26 at Lakes Rockwell\Pippen (PC, KT). 30 on 11/29 at Lake Rockwell (DAC). 2 on 11/29 at HBSP (JB). 3 on 11/29 at Lakeshore Resn. (JP). 4 on 11/30 at Ira Road (TMR).

Mallard. Typical high counts for the season; 100 at HBSP on 9/30 (RH) and 56 (38 male, 18 female) in Silver Creek MP, Summit County on 10/24 (DV).

Blue-winged Teal. Highlights included 11 at Headlands on 9/27 (RH), 36 on 9/28 at Springfield Lake (GB), Sims Park with three on 10/24 (NA) and two late birds found on 11/26 at Wilbeth Road (GB).

Northern Shoveler. As many as 30 visited Sandy Ridge on 11/21 (FCD). On 11/26 Wilbeth Road had 23 (GB).

Northern Pintail. Four populated HBSP on 9/27 (RH). On 10/10, 42 were scoped at the Rocky River lakefront (JB). Not common in the CVNP, one stopped at Ira Road on 10/26 (TMR). On 11/21 Sandy Ridge hosted twelve (FCD).

Green-winged Teal. A noteworthy 125 birds made for a good showing at Sandy Ridge MP on 9/20 (RSH). The

Headlands area had a peak count of 20 on 10/23 (RH). Ten males were counted at a Rt. 303-Rt. 8 marsh in Hudson on 11/29 (DAC).

Canvasback. This species and the Redhead had few reports for the season. Three found on 11/1 at Wellington Reservoir was the earliest report (SS); the highest count reached 204 at Lakeshore Reservation on 11/28 (JP).

Redhead. Wellington Reservoir had three on 10/20 and ten on 11/7 (GL).

Ring-necked Duck. One was seen from 9/12 to 9/16 at Shaker Lakes (LD). Wellington Reservoir had 250 on 11/7 (GL). On 11/27 at Lakes Rockwell and Pippen (Portage County), 85 were counted (PC, KT).

Greater Scaup. An early individual was seen at HBSP on 9/27 (RH).

Lesser Scaup. Earlier and much more numerous than Greater Scaups. At Lakeshore Reservation 134 were counted on 11/28 (JP).

Harlequin Duck. Single birds were observed from the Headlands Road lookout on 11/1, 11/3 and 11/5 (JT *vide* RH).



Loons and Gulls, Rocky River City Park (continued opposite)

Surf Scoter. The earliest sighting was two at Lakeshore Reservation on 10/10 (JP). The season had several dozen reports of one to ten birds, the majority from the last week of November.

White-winged Scoter. All reports were in November, most on 11/28 and 11/29. Headlands had a high count of 15 on 11/4 (RH).

Black Scoter. Many reports, all in November; the highest counts, at Euclid's Sims Park lakefront, were 18 on 11/21 and 13 on 11/28 (NA).

Long-tailed Duck. Headlands had reports of one on 11/7, two on 11/10 and one on 11/12 (RH). On 11/14 a male and female presented themselves at Sims Park (NA). Lakeshore Reservation had three found on 11/27 (JP). Most notable were four spotted along the lake from Sunset Park in Willoughby on 11/28 by Gabe Leidy (Lake County).

Bufflehead. Small numbers could be found beginning mid-October; then area migrants hit their stride in late November. Earliest report was on 10/17 with four at Lakeshore Reservation (JP). On 11/16 approximately 40 were found at

Wellington Reservoir (SS). At West Branch SP the count totaled 84 on 11/27 (GB).

Common Goldeneye. Almost all reports came from late November. Early arrivals were two on 11/4 seen at Nesmith Lake (GB) and 20 at Headlands on 11/11 (RH).

Hooded Merganser. Except for eight at HBSP on 9/28 (RH), most reports were from the final half of the season. An impressive 94 were counted at Lakeshore Reservation on 11/28 (JP); on 11/29 six visited a Hudson wetland (DAC) and Lake Rockwell had 21 on 11/29 (DAC).

Common Merganser. At Lake Rockwell 55 were seen on 11/29 (DAC).

Red-breasted Merganser. Inland, Wellington Reservoir had sightings of one on both 11/1 and 11/16 (SS). Many Lake Erie counts were in the thousands in November; representative were 1500 on 11/14 and 5000 on 11/27 at Sims Park (NA).

Ruddy Duck. Wellington Reservoir hosted good numbers in November, notably 500 on 11/1 (SS), 1200 on 11/7

(GL) and 800 on 11/16 (SS).

Wild Turkey. 14 were seen on 9/30 in the CVNP (SJ, CW).

Red-throated Loon. More numerous than usual. At Headlands, single birds could be observed from an overlook along Headlands Road on 11/1, 11/12 and 11/13 and two on 11/23 (JT *vide* RH). Lakeshore Reservation had an adult fly by on 11/10 (JP). On 11/19 at least two were seen from Rocky River Park (PL, RF, AS). On 11/27 one adult appeared near Eastlake PP (GL).

Pacific Loon. See the article in this issue on one documented at Rocky River City Park, Rocky River, Cuyahoga County on 11/19 (RF).

Note: This was not accepted by the Ohio Ornithological Society's Ohio Bird Records Committee by a close vote of 4 to 3.

Common Loon. Earliest reports came from HBSP with one on 10/12; peak numbers there totaled 25 on 10/16, 25 on 11/4 and a high of 106 on 11/12 (RH). As expected most occurrences fell mid-November onwards. At least fifty had been counted on 11/19 at Rocky River Park (PL, RF, AS) and as many as 91 again on 11/24 (PL);



11/22/2009 Paula Lozano



Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cleveland, 1/13/2008

David Lewis

nearby at Rocky River's Rose Point Overlook on 11/25, 142 were tallied in one east-west sweep of the lake (PL).

Pied-billed Grebe. Seen at Wellington Reservoir were 37 on 10/25 (SJ, CW) and 22 on 11/1 (SS). At Ira Road two were observed on 11/18 (TMR).

Horned Grebe. On 11/20 there were 250 tallied at Wellington Reservoir (SJ, CW). This topped the numbers seen along Lake Erie, all in November: 210 on 11/8 and 198 on 11/14 at Lakeshore Reservation (JP) and at least 200 at Rocky River Park on 11/19 (PL, RF, AS).

Aechmophorus Grebe. On 11/26 Karin Tanquist and Pat Coy were treated to lengthy views in good light at 200-300 yards on Lake Rockwell of a likely Western Grebe, although they "could not make out color of bill, nor be absolutely certain about color surrounding the eye". The Ohio Bird Records Committee accepted this report at the genus level (PC, KT).

Double-crested Cormorant. Lake Erie flights numbered 150 on 10/24 at Cleveland Lakefront SP (FL) and 900 on 10/25 at Sims Park (NA). Inland, five were found on 11/29 at Lake Rockwell (DAC).

American Bittern. Two birds were reported from the HBSP area; one at Mentor Lagoons on 9/2 (RH, JT) and one at Wake Robin Trail on the late date of 10/27 (JT, SW *vide* RH). On 9/28 one flushed from a partially mowed dry field of goldenrod and buckthorn in Geauga County (IS).

Great Blue Heron. Common throughout the area and the season.

Great Egret. One was seen at the Pleasant Valley Marsh (Independence, Cuyahoga County) on 9/12 and 9/14 (DAC).

Snowy Egret. At Sandy Ridge one flew overhead on the evening of 11/9 (TF *fide* LR).

Cattle Egret. One flew past the HBSP Nature Preserve beach on 10/22 (RH, EB).

Green Heron. Latest report was two at HBSP on 9/22 (RH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. Seen regularly at VAWW with two to three seen most of October along the Euclid Creek section and five spotted on 10/10 (NA). Headlands had three September single-bird sightings (RH) and the Cuyahoga River at Cleveland's Merwin Street had two birds on 10/17 (PL, RF) and five on 11/15 (JP).

Turkey Vulture. On 9/30 Headlands had a highest daily count of 200 (RH). Last report for the season was on 11/17 with one seen in northern Summit County (SJ, CW).

Osprey. The only reports were single birds seen throughout early September at HBSP (RH) and one spotted at Wellington Reservoir on 10/25 (SJ, CW).

Bald Eagle. No decline in sightings; nearly as many immature individuals as adults were reported.

Northern Harrier. Headlands had several single birds sighted in September; two were seen on 9/16 (RH). A male appeared on 11/7 at Perry Park in Lake County (CC).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Aside from the 9/12 CVNP fall census, the only reports were three early fall sightings in the CVNP (HO) and one on 11/4 at Rocky River's Bradstreet Landing (PL).

Cooper's Hawk. One to four could be commonly seen at Headlands in September and October (RH) with a similar pattern in other complete reports. Two were present at Station Road on 9/7 (DAC). An immature bird was observed repeatedly breaking and

carrying sticks to the same location at Mentor Headlands on 9/18 (DAC).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Most complete reports covering the CVNP and surrounding area showed them nearly as numerous as Red-tailed; Dwight Chasar noted they had a huge presence there for the season.

Red-tailed Hawk. Common.

Rough-legged Hawk. On 11/7 one provided a lucky sighting at the Richfield Coliseum grasslands (DAC).

American Kestrel. All reports:
2 on 10/4 at Wendy Park/Whiskey Island (CC).
1 on 10/18 at the Coliseum property (Richfield) (PC, KT).
1 on 10/25 at Wellington Reservoir (SJ, CW).
1 on 11/4 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 11/27 at Boston (CVNP) (HO).

Merlin. One occurred on four September dates at HBSP (RH). At a Geauga County residence on 9/16 one chased, or was chased by, eight Blue Jays and two Cooper's Hawks (IS). On 9/21 two appeared at Ira Road (TMR). Calvary Cemetery's (Garfield Heights) perennial winter residents appeared on 10/7 when two were seen (LGa). One could be seen at Station Road on 10/21 (SJ, CW) and 11/23 (DAC); with another sighted nearby on the Summit County Bike and Hike Trail on 11/17 (SJ, CW).

Peregrine Falcon. One provided sightings at Peninsula in the CVNP several times during the season (DAC, HO). There were half a dozen sightings along the lakefront mid-October to mid-November.

Rail species. Rob and Sandy Harlan noted: "We attended a Cleveland Indians game at Progressive Field (Cuyahoga County) on the evening of 9/30. We were sitting in the upper deck behind home plate, and I noticed an unusual bird flying low over the field from left field to right field. It continued flying and ultimately seemed

to disappear down one of the aisles in the right field corner. We got binoculars on it in flight, and we both agreed that it was a rail of some sort."

Virginia Rail. The only reports were from the Headlands area with single-bird observations on 10/21 and 10/30 (RH) and likewise at Ira Road on 10/26 and 11/2 (TMR).

Sora. One turned up at HBSP from 9/23 to 10/23 (RH).

Common Gallinule. Ira Road had two on 10/26 (TMR), the only report.

American Coot. Approximate counts from Wellington Reservoir were 100 on 11/1 and 1200 on 11/16 (SS).

Sandhill Crane. On 9/25 one was seen at Sandy Ridge (AM).

Black-bellied Plover. The only sightings originated out of Headlands where single birds had been seen on 9/19, 9/28 and 10/15 and two on 10/16 (RH).

American Golden-Plover. The only area reports came from Headlands with one on both 9/20 and 9/21 followed by four on 9/24 (RH).

Semipalmated Plover. At HBSP these birds appeared daily through 9/16, when three were seen (RH).

Killdeer. On 9/10 28 could be counted at Portage County's Herrick Fen (FL).

American Avocet. Lakeshore Reservation had a late migrant on 10/26 (JP).

Spotted Sandpiper. The latest sighting of the season came from Ira Road with one bird on 9/21 (TMR).

Solitary Sandpiper. One on 9/21 at Ira Road (TMR) and one at HBSP on 9/30 (RH) comprised the latest season's sightings.

Greater Yellowlegs. The CVNP marsh at Pleasant Valley Road had five

on 9/12 and one on 9/14 (DAC). On 9/28 one was recorded from HBSP (RH). Wellington Reservoir had one flyover on 10/20 (GL).

Lesser Yellowlegs. On the morning of 10/26 Lakeshore Reservation had three migrants observed (JP).

Upland Sandpiper. On 9/17 Gabe Leidy heard and then found this local rarity in Valley City, Medina County, foraging on a grassy lawn that had been mowed the previous day.

Sanderling. Headlands had the only reports, mainly in September with as many as ten on 9/16 and a straggler appearing on 11/6 (RH).

Least Sandpiper. The CVNP Pleasant Valley Road marsh had five on 9/12 and four on 9/14 (DAC). On 10/15 eight visited HBSP (RH). Two appeared on 11/27 on the snow-covered flats at the south end of Lake Rockwell (GL).

Pectoral Sandpiper. The only report came from Headlands where one stopped by on 10/6 (RH).

Purple Sandpiper. A single bird fed along the Cleveland Harbor outer breakwall on 11/15 (JP).

Dunlin. Throughout October Headlands had a constant presence with a peak of 150 on 10/26 (RH); that same day nine flocks totaling well over 600 birds flew past Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. At the edge of the CBC area, one visited a Berlin Reservoir mudflat on 9/6 near Price Road (GL).

Wilson's Snipe. Six on 10/18 (PC, KT) and four to five birds on 11/7 (DAC) again made the Richfield Coliseum site a reliable fall location for snipe. Single birds presented themselves almost daily at Headlands in October (RH). On 11/12 eight could be spotted at Aberdeen Business Park, Highland Heights (Cuyahoga County)

(PL). On 11/27 there were 31 on the snow-covered mud flats at the south end of Lake Rockwell (GL).

American Woodcock. On 9/4 one was found on the Buckeye Trail in northern Summit County (SJ, CW). Headlands had one observed on 10/14 (RH). Erie Street Cemetery had one observed on 10/17 (PL, RF).

Red-necked Phalarope. Lake View Cemetery hosted one on 10/3 through 10/12 (DJH, AJ).

Red Phalarope. Most unusual, a lone Red Phalarope turned up on the small pond at the Wake Robin bird trail on 10/8 at HBSP (JT, RH, SW). There were flybys at Headlands Beach on 10/7 (EB) and 11/6 (JT).

Black-legged Kittiwake. One turned up at Lakeshore Reservation on 11/20 (JP).

Bonaparte's Gull. Rarer inland; two were witnessed at Springfield Lake on 9/1 (GB). Hundreds could be found at Headlands in October with a high of 4000 on both 11/11 and 11/28 (RH).

Little Gull. A single adult, on 11/11, made the only showing for this species during the fall at HBSP (RH). Two immature birds were seen along the Lake County lakefront on 11/28 (GL) and one adult on 11/29 (JP).

Ring-billed Gull. Common.

Herring Gull. Counts in the double-digits had been tallied at HBSP in September and again in November (RH). Inland, 80 were seen at Springfield Lake on 11/29 (GB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Nearly as many reported as Great Black-backed. The only September sightings consisted of one each on 9/21 and 9/26 at Headlands (RH). Three were found on 11/21 at Avon Lake PP (CC).

Great Black-backed Gull. On 11/21 five were counted at Avon Lake PP (CC). Single birds at Headlands on

11/23 and 11/29 provided the only other reports (RH).

Caspian Tern. One to two could regularly be found at Headlands the first half of the season (RH). Shaker Lakes had a sighting of one bird on 9/12 (LD).

Black Tern. Five birds were observed early on the morning of 9/29 over the waters of Fairport Harbor (RH, JT, SW, EB).

Common Tern. A day's count of 100 at HBSP on 9/29 provided the season's only report (RH).

Forster's Tern. A single bird was spotted on 9/29 at Headlands (RH).

Pomerine Jaeger. A Lake Erie pelagic birding trip on 11/15 discovered this bird north of Euclid (JP).

Parasitic Jaeger. On 11/8 an easily seen bird was chasing gulls during a Lake Erie pelagic birding trip (JP). One bird harassed Bonaparte's Gulls over the lake on 11/23 at Headlands (RH).

Rock Pigeon. Common, when reported.

Mourning Dove. The highest daily count at Headlands was 30 on 10/30 (RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The only reports were one found at Headlands on 9/9 and 9/10 (RH) and two during the fall CVNP census on 9/12.

Eastern Screech-Owl. A regular at HBSP in September with as many as three found there on 9/24 (RH). Shaker Lakes had a sighting on both 9/10 and 9/15 (LD). On 10/21 one was observed at Station Road (SJ, CW).

Great Horned Owl. Only three birds were observed in the reporting area during the season.

Barred Owl. The CVNP provided the only area observations with one on 10/18 and two on 10/24 (DV).

Common Nighthawk. All reports: 12 on 9/3 in the CVNP at Valley View (DAC). 4 on 9/4 in the CVNP (DV). 80 on 9/5 in Norton (JW *fide* LR). 15 to 20 on 9/5 in the CVNP at Rockside Road (DAC). 1 on 9/20 at HBSP (RH).

Chimney Swift. On 9/15, none were found at a chimney in Bedford where 200 had been counted on the same date the previous year (DAC). Cleveland's lakefront parks had many late-October sightings. At Summit County's Munroe Falls MP one stayed until 10/25 (DV).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. One lingered at Jaite in the CVNP on 9/24 (DAC).

Belted Kingfisher. Expected numbers.

Red-headed Woodpecker. One to two could be seen at Headlands in September (RH). The residents at the Station Road marsh in the CVNP totaled eight on 9/10 and three on 11/23 (DAC). Five were sighted on 11/12 at Boston in the CVNP (HO).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. During a seven-hour hike in the CVNP 18 were counted on 11/7 (DV).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Most reports were clustered at the end of September. Headlands had many daily sightings beginning 9/24 with peaks of 11 on 9/27, 12 on 9/28 and eight on 10/12 (RH). Latest sighting was one on 10/25 at Wellington Reservoir (SJ, CW).

Downy Woodpecker. In one seven-hour hike in the CVNP on 11/7, 25 (ten male, eight female, two undetermined and five heard) were counted (DV).

Hairy Woodpecker. On 9/10 there were two at Station Road (DAC). A five hour morning hike in the CVNP



Albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bainbridge, 9/7/2009

Linda Gilbert

yielded 12 (two male, four female, one undetermined, and five heard) on 11/7 (DV).

Northern Flicker. Fifty were counted at Erie Street Cemetery on 9/24 (AM); also that day 13 could be found at Elmwood Park in Lorain (PL).

Pileated Woodpecker. On 10/6 five were seen at Station Road (DAC).

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Two were found on 9/3 at HBSP (RH). The next day in the CVNP one bird was spotted (DV). On 9/28 one lingered at West Creek Reservation (GL).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Late-season sightings were three on 10/17 and one on 10/18 at VAWW (NA) along with one at Ira Road on 10/19 (TMR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. A strong presence at HBSP throughout September began with a high count of 12 on 9/2; the latest season report occurred there with one on 9/28 (RH). Another was spotted at Rocky River MP on 9/13 (RSH).

Acadian Flycatcher. The only sightings were a single bird on 9/3 along northern Summit County's Buckeye Trail (SJ, CW) and two from the CVNP fall census on 9/12.

Willow Flycatcher. Two reports: Ira Road had one on 9/14 (TMR) and a single bird was seen on 9/26 at VAWW (NA).

Least Flycatcher. Many were found at Headlands through 10/3; the highest

day's count numbered seven on 9/6 (RH). A singing bird drew attention on 9/5 at Lorain Impoundment (GL).

Eastern Phoebe. In the CVNP 22 were counted on 9/12 (SJ, CW). Late-season sightings included two found at Erie Street Cemetery on 10/21 (PL, AM).

Vermilion Flycatcher. One of Ohio's rarest birds graced Headlands on 10/2, seen by many.

Great-crested Flycatcher. The only sightings were at Headlands, where one was seen daily until 9/11 (RH), and two on the fall CVNP census on 9/12.

Eastern Kingbird. The only reports were two on 9/12 during the CVNP's fall census.

Northern Shrike. One visited private property near Homerville (Medina County) on 11/16 (*vide* SS).

White-eyed Vireo. There were sporadic sightings from the first half of the season; highest count was three seen on 9/10 at Station Road (DAC).

Yellow-throated Vireo. The season's last report was a bird found on 9/24 in the CVNP (HO).

Blue-headed Vireo. A continuous migrant at Headlands with one to five birds seen almost daily beginning 9/16; a tardy individual at Veterans Park provided the last sighting on 11/5 (JT, RH, SW). Villa Angela had one on 9/26 and another on 10/18 (NA).

Warbling Vireo. One bird at HBSP on 10/10 was the last reported sighting for the season (RH).

Philadelphia Vireo. Unsurprisingly, Headlands had the largest numbers; at least one appeared on most dates through 10/11; the count reached 12 on 9/15 (RH). The only other reports were one on 9/12 during the CVNP fall census and one seen at Villa Angela on both 9/13 and 10/10 (NA).

Red-eyed Vireo. On 10/27 at HBSP a single bird became the latest sighting of the year (RH).

Blue Jay. Twenty made for the highest count at Headlands on 9/30 (RH). On 10/27 numbers reached 45 along the northern Summit County Hike and Bike Trail (SJ, CW). No obvious area-wide migration days had been observed although counts dropped by November.

American Crow. The season's highest count reached 210 on 9/29 at Hunt Farm in the CVNP (DAC).

Horned Lark. The CVNP had a flyover spotted on 11/7 (DV). On 10/26 a single bird turned up at HBSP (RH).

Purple Martin. The only reports came from Headlands with 12 on 9/1 and six on 9/2 (RH).

Tree Swallow. Only three area sightings were reported for the season, all of single birds and all the first week of September.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. The only reports came from HBSP, where it was common, with a high of 50 on 9/17; the last sighting was 20 on 10/11 (RH).

Cliff Swallow. One sighting at HBSP on 9/17 (RH) and a late bird spotted on 10/12 at Oberlin Reservoir in Lorain County (BW) provided the only reports.

Barn Swallow. Two found at Ira Road on 9/7 were among the few reports (TMR). Along the lake, numbers reached 20 at HBSP on 9/2 with the last seen being one on 9/30 (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee. On the morning of 11/7 there were 56 counted in the CVNP (DV).

Tufted Titmouse. On a seven-hour hike in the CVNP the count reached 25 on 11/7 (DV).

Red-breasted Nuthatch. One was observed at Rocky River MP on 9/13 (RSH). On 10/8 five were found at Villa Angela Park (NA). Headlands had two on 10/12 (RH).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Thirteen were counted at Boston Trailhead in the CVNP on 10/8 (HO).

Brown Creeper. Numbers peaked in October, including ten found at VAWW on 10/4 (NA) and 40 seen on 10/18 at HBSP (RH).

Carolina Wren. The CVNP's counts included five on 11/5 (HO) and three on 11/14 (DAC).

House Wren. Ten were tallied on 9/12 in the CVNP (SJ, CW). Headlands had a late sighting of one on 11/4 (RH).

Winter Wren. A common fall migrant. Many turned up at HBSP from late September well into October; the earliest was seven on 9/24 and numbers peaked at 25 on both 9/27 and 10/4 (RH). At VAWW 12 to 15 were counted on 10/3 (NA). Ira Road had one on 9/28 and then later one on 11/23 (TMR). On 10/26 one visited the Shaker Lakes area (LD).

Sedge Wren. Diligent daily coverage of Wake Robin Trail at Headlands gave continual observations of one to three individuals from 9/13 to 11/1 (JT, SW).

Marsh Wren. At Headlands one to two were reliably observed until 11/1 (RH). On 10/12 one appeared at West Creek Reservation (GL). In the CVNP near Boston Trailhead one could be observed on 9/3 and on the late date of 11/5 (HO).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The latest report consisted of one on 9/30 at HBSP (RH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regionally only small numbers were reported, mainly one or two birds starting in October, unless Headlands was taken into account: 150 on 10/11, 120 on

10/12 and an impressive 400 on 10/18 became the season's highest counts there (RH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Headlands had numbers from 60 to 90 in mid-October (RH). At VAWW 25 were observed on 10/17 and over 15 on 10/22 (NA).

Eastern Bluebird. In the Boston area of the CVNP, counts numbered in the 50's mid-October to mid-November (HO).

Veery. The only reports were one observed on 9/6 at VAWW (NA), one during the 9/12 CVNP fall census and three single-bird reports in early September at HBSP (RH).

Gray-checked Thrush. Headlands had sightings almost daily from 9/8 to 10/1 with a high of four on 9/22 (RH). Fifteen migrants were counted over Columbia Woods Park (Norton, Summit County) on the evening of 9/23 (RSH). On 9/24 one was spotted along the Buckeye Trail in Northern Summit County (SJ, CW).

Swainson's Thrush. A constant September migrant at HBSP; the count rose to 12 on 9/22 (RH). Elsewhere, VAWW had up to seven on 9/13 (NA), Parma's West Creek Reservation had nine on 9/17 (GL) and three were found at Station Road on 10/4 (DAC). The latest report came from VAWW, where one was seen on 10/25 (NA).

Hermit Thrush. Most reports occurred in October, as expected. The highest count was 14 on 10/18 at HBSP (RH). VAWW had ten on 10/18 and five to six on 11/1, the latest area observation (NA).

Wood Thrush. Few reports. The last sighting for the season belonged to one bird on 9/27 at VAWW (NA).

American Robin. The season provided two notable reports of large numbers: on 10/3 Fred Losi counted 150 in a one-hour period, remarking "Great movement of robins observed with almost every view of open sky... Groups of 5-15 were seen passing over.". According to Scott VanValkenberg, "On 11/7 at the Westlake Recreation Center Park (Cuyahoga County) at dusk, a good number were moving from East to West when I got out of my car to walk; after 15 minutes the stream became larger then started to decline, but as I left they were still coming in smaller numbers; 360 is a quite conservative estimate!". The season included several other reports of flocks of 75-100 from mid-October.

Gray Catbird. At Ira Road 16 were counted on 9/14 (TMR). The latest report was of one on 10/27 at HBSP (RH).

Northern Mockingbird. Up to three could be reliably seen in a Sagamore Hills neighborhood throughout

October and November (SJ, CW). Nearby in the CVNP one appeared at the Pleasant Valley Road marsh on 11/14 and one at Jaite on 11/15 (DAC).

Brown Thrasher. Headlands had sightings throughout September; the highest count being six on 9/6 (RH). Jaite had a single bird seen on 9/6 (DAC) and 9/11 (FL). Four were found at VAWW on 9/26 (NA). A backyard bird on 11/8 in Geauga County gave the season its latest sighting (SDI).

European Starling. Over 150 were tallied on 10/16 at VAWW (NA).

American Pipit. A single bird turned up on 9/12 at the Pleasant Valley Road marsh in the CVNP (DAC). Ten visited on both 10/14 and 10/17 at HBSP (RH). On 11/9 two could be spotted at Ira Road (TMR).

Cedar Waxwing. The CVNP had its typical high counts: 70 on 9/3 and 71 on 10/22 at Boston (HO), up to 75 at Station Road on 10/6 (DAC) and Ira Road had 101 on 10/26 and 250 on 11/2 (TMR).

Lapland Longspur. At Headlands a single bird visited on 10/30 (RH).

Snow Bunting. From 10/26 through season's end, HBSP had near-daily occurrences; the highest count totaled 120 on 11/17 and 100 on 11/18 (RH). Ten were seen in two flocks at Perry Park, Lake County, on 11/7 (CC).

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Fall 2009

Ray Hannikman

It was a leisurely, if not particularly birdy, fall 2009 in the Headlands Beach State Park area. Easy, casual walks, from Headlands Beach to both Wake Robin Trail and Mentor Lagoons, were the rule rather than the exception in September as no major fallouts of warblers were encountered. I usually designate the month of October as "sparrow" month but only the continuous presence of Nelson's Sparrows and Le Conte's Sparrows along Wake Robin Trail compensated birders for rather paltry numbers of White-throated Sparrows and dismal counts of White-crowned Sparrows. And the rush of waterfowl in November? Virtually nonexistent despite Jerry Talkington's efforts at lake-watching from a newly "discovered" vantage point at the end of Headlands Road. Three birds do stand out as jewels of the season – a cooperative Lark Sparrow, Headlands' first since 1965, near the park's east end picnic area on September 4, an adorable immature female Vermilion Flycatcher, Headlands' and the Cleveland area's first ever as well as Ohio's fourth, on October 2, and a Clay-colored Sparrow, whose colors radiated, as if gleaned from the pages of the latest field guide, along the boardwalk at Wake Robin Trail on October 8. I am grateful to my fellow Headlands birders, who oftentimes visited woods and beach two and three times a day, for their efforts to observe both the common and rare birds of Headlands Beach State Park.

Blue-winged Warbler. One bird seen at HBSP on 9/6 provided the only report (RH).

Tennessee Warbler. Very few reported; most sightings were along the lakefront. Headlands had mainly single birds on five dates through 10/8 (RH). One turned up on three dates in September at Ira Road (TMR). VAWW had one on 9/27 and a late individual on 10/24 (NA).

Orange-crowned Warbler. A rare fall migrant found mainly along the lakefront. Headlands had three on 9/26 and its last sighting on 10/14 (RH). VAWW had late September through mid-October reports ending with two birds seen on 11/1. West Creek Reservation had one on 10/12 (GL).

Nashville Warbler. Headlands' highest count climbed to 14 on 10/4 (RH); the same day 10 to 12 were counted at VAWW (NA). A straggler remained on 10/25 at Wilbeth Road (GB).

Northern Parula. Common at Headlands; one could be found from 9/11 to 10/8 with three on 9/23 (RH). Villa Angela had one on 10/4 and on 10/8 (NA). One could still be found on 10/12 at West Creek Reservation (GL).

Yellow Warbler. Late occurrences included one at Wendy Park (Cleveland) on 9/20 (RSH) and one at Headlands on 10/8 (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Near-daily sightings occurred at Headlands until 10/4; the highest count numbered seven on 9/14 (RH). The only other reports were six viewed at VAWW on 9/5 (NA) and six during the CVNP fall census on 9/12.

Magnolia Warbler. A common migrant. Headlands had 20 to 25 on several dates in September (RH). The latest report belonged to two birds seen on 10/8 at VAWW (NA).

Cape May Warbler. Lakefront locations had the only observations.



**Tennessee Warbler,
Villa Angela State Park,
10/24/2009**
Nancy Anderson



**Prairie Warbler,
Villa Angela State Park,
9/27/2009**
Nancy Anderson

Three to four were counted at Villa Angela on 9/15 (NA); the same day Headlands had its peak of five (RH). The latest sighting was one seen on 10/11 at Headlands (RH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Common at Headlands, where the last reports numbered four on 10/3 and 10/4 (RH). Latest sighting at Villa Angela were two on 10/8 (NA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. On 10/6 at least 75 were counted at Station Road (DAC). At HBSP counts reached 160 on 10/11 and 180 on 10/12; latest report there was one on 11/12 (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Headlands had high single-digit counts throughout September; the last was a bird seen 10/12 (RH). At Silver Creek MP in Summit County, a female visited on 10/24 (DV).

Blackburnian Warbler. Headlands had reliable sightings until 10/4; the most for one day being five on 9/26 (RH). Latest sightings were one on 10/8 at West Creek Reservation (GL) and one on 10/10 at Villa Angela (NA).

Yellow-throated Warbler. A late bird turned up on 9/9 at Station Road (DAC).

Pine Warbler. The only report was one spotted on 9/28 at Ira Road (TMR).

Prairie Warbler. Villa Angela provided the only reports with one seen on 9/27 and one on 10/4 (NA).

Palm Warbler. Erie Street Cemetery had approximately 30 on 9/24 (AM). The season's last sighting consisted of a bird on 10/18 at Villa Angela (NA).

Bay-breasted Warbler. Six were seen on 9/12 in the CVNP (FL) and one at Villa Angela on 10/4 (NA). Most sightings occurred at Headlands, where daily counts peaked at seven on 9/27 and the latest sighting was one on 10/4 (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler. A common fall migrant. HBSP had 14 on 9/27 (RH). Summit County's Deep Lock Quarry MP had one on 10/31 (FL), one day short of the area late record of 11/1 in 1997. Tying the 11/1 record, a late bird stopped by Villa Angela (NA).

Black-and-white Warbler. Common at Headlands through 10/10, when the season's last individual appeared (RH).

American Redstart. Common at Headlands; the count reached 13 on 9/9 and the last sighting was one on 10/8 (RH). Four were seen at Terra Vista in the CVNP on 9/12 (FL). On 10/4 at VAWW the highest daily count reached seven (NA).

Ovenbird. Six dates in September at Headlands had one to three birds; the season finished there with one on 10/1 (RH). Villa Angela's last sighting was one bird on 10/10 (NA).

Northern Waterthrush. Two were spotted on 9/9 at Headlands (RH).

Connecticut Warbler. One bird at Mentor Lagoons on 11/22 managed to elude two of the three observers present (JT *fide* RH).

Mourning Warbler. One was observed at HBSP on both 9/3 and 9/26 (RH). On 9/5 one appeared at the Lorain Impoundment (GL). Erie Street Cemetery had a bird spotted on 9/20 (RSH).

Common Yellowthroat. A late individual lingered at Jaite on 11/15 (DAC).

Hooded Warbler. Few reports, the latest was one at Villa Angela on 10/24 (NA).

Wilson's Warbler. Easily found at HBSP until the end of September; a high of eight were counted on 9/15 (RH). Several other area reports, including the season's latest of one on 10/5 at Ira Road (TMR) and one at VAWW on 10/16 (NA).



**Hooded Warbler,
Villa Angela State Park,
10/24/2009**

Nancy Anderson



**Lark Sparrow,
Villa Angela State Park,
9/5/2009**

Nancy Anderson

Canada Warbler. On 9/5 one could be observed at Vila Angela (NA). One seen on 9/23 was the last of three sightings at HBSP (RH).

Eastern Towhee. Expected numbers. At Headlands four were observed on 9/27 and 10/8 (RH).

American Tree Sparrow. The earliest report was one on 10/17 at the CVNP's Armington Pond (PC, KT).

Chipping Sparrow. On 10/21 eight were spotted at the Erie Street Cemetery (PL, RF), the latest area report.

Clay-colored Sparrow. A beautifully marked adult stunned observers at Wake Robin Trail on 10/8 (SW, JT *fide* RH).

Field Sparrow. Eight were tallied in the CVNP on 9/12 (SJ, CW). Found in our area throughout the season with most sightings in October.

Vesper Sparrow. One was seen at HBSP on 10/3 (RH) and one on 10/12 at West Creek Reservation (GL).

Lark Sparrow. Nancy Anderson spotted this rarity on 9/5 at Villa Angela (NA).

Savannah Sparrow. The Richfield Coliseum property hosted one on 9/25 (DAC). Otherwise the only reports were four during the 9/12 CVNP fall census and single birds at HBSP on five dates mid-September to mid-October (RH).

Le Conte's Sparrow. One or two individuals were present at the Wake Robin Trail at Headlands from 9/29 through 11/5 (JT, SW *fide* RH).

Nelson's Sparrow. Beginning with five birds on 9/29 this denizen of the swamps was regular at Headlands' Wake Robin Trail through 10/30 (JT, SW, many obs.).

Fox Sparrow. Four to five were seen at Villa Angela on 10/31 (NA). Few reports otherwise; the highest count totaled nine on 11/7 in the CVNP (DV).

Song Sparrow. On 10/12 an impressive 95 were counted in Parma's West Creek Reservation (GL). A total of 28 were tallied in the CVNP's Boston Trailhead region on 10/29 (HO).

Lincoln's Sparrow. Headlands had its first sighting on 9/15 and high counts

of ten on 9/23, 9/27 and 9/30 (RH). In the CVNP, one of these hard-to-find birds could be seen at Jaite on 9/24 (DAC) and another at Boston Trailhead on 10/15 (HO). Most all other area reports were of single birds during the first week of October. West Creek Reservation had four on 10/8 (GL).

Swamp Sparrow. Except for 20 to 30 found from 9/30 to 10/29 at Headlands (RH), all reports of this year-round resident limited themselves to October. Jaite had five on 10/8 (DAC). On 10/12, 36 were counted in West Creek Reservation (GL). On 10/19 Ira Road's count was eight (TMR).

White-throated Sparrow. The earliest report, two birds on 9/14, came from HBSP; as many as 90 were found there on 10/14 (RH).

White-crowned Sparrow. One on 9/30 at HBSP provided the earliest area appearance (RH). One immature bird arrived at Jaite on 10/8 (DAC). At VAWW on 10/16 Nancy Anderson counted at least 16.

Dark-eyed Junco. The CVNP Buckeye Trail had early observations on 9/3 and 9/4 (SJ, CW) as well as Station Road on 9/5 (FL).

Scarlet Tanager. The CVNP's latest reported sighting belonged to one bird on 10/3 viewed at Redlock (DAC). A

female appeared at a Geauga County feeder on 10/10 (SDI).

Northern Cardinal. Common, HBSP often had daily counts in the 20's (RH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. One remained on 10/8 at Parma's West Creek Reservation (GL). A very late female on 11/5 provided good views at a Cleveland Heights backyard bird bath and shrubs (SC).

Indigo Bunting. A straggler remained at Jaite on 10/4 (DAC) and HBSP's latest record was one on 10/8 (RH).

Dickcissel. HBSP had one bird recorded at Wake Robin Trail on 9/13 (JT).

Red-winged Blackbird. High counts included 207 at Ira Road on 11/2 (TMR).

Eastern Meadowlark. Two visited Villa Angela on 10/11 (NA). The Richfield Coliseum property still hosted three on 10/18 (PC, KT). On 10/24 two were found at Summit County's Silver Creek MP (DV).

Rusty Blackbird. All reports: 1 on 10/12 at HBSP (RH). 15 on 10/26 at Ira Road (TMR). 68 on 11/2 at Ira Road (TMR). 2 on 11/23 at Ira Road (TMR).

Common Grackle. Over 2300 were seen on 9/11 at Jaite (FL). Doug Vogus's meticulous observations on his 10/24 CVNP hike yielded 1,962 (DV).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Very few reports. The CVNP had five on 10/22 (HO) and four on 11/2 (TMR).

Baltimore Oriole. The only occurrences were one on the CVNP fall census on 9/12 and single birds sighted on 9/5 and 9/27 at Headlands (RH).

Purple Finch. Two seen on 9/28 and one on 10/5 at Ira Road (TMR) and one spotted on 11/8 at a Geauga County backyard (SDI) were the only season's sightings.

House Finch. Common.

Common Redpoll. On 10/21 a small group was found at a downtown Cleveland parking lot (AM).

Pine Siskin. On 9/13 one flew over Portage Country Club in Akron (GB).

American Goldfinch. Common.

House Sparrow. A 19 km Boy Scout hike on 10/24 from Cleveland's North Collinwood area to Public Square resulted in a count of 250 birds (FL)

Expected birds for the season but not reported were Broad-winged Hawk; Whimbrel; Semipalmated, Western, White-rumped, Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers; Ruddy Turnstone; Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers; Black-billed Cuckoo; Grasshopper Sparrow; Bobolink.

A Pacific Loon Observation at Rocky River Park

Bob Finkelstein, Paula Lozano, Antonio Salvadori

Observation: Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

Location: Rocky River City Park, Rocky River, Cuyahoga County

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2009, 9:45-11:00 a.m.

Observers: Robert Finkelstein (RF), Paula Lozano (PL), Antonio Salvadori (AS)

Equipment: B\RF: Celestron Ranger 8 x 42 binoculars, Kowa 20-60 scope; PL: Leica 10 x 40 binoculars, Kowa 20-60 scope; AS: Zeiss 10 x 40 binoculars, Swarovski 20-60 scope.

We arrived at the lake at approximately 9:45. Coming from north of the lake AS felt that the lake was unusually calm. There were no white caps of any type and the waves were barely discernible. The air was calm with no wind blowing. The lake was dotted to the horizon with birds, mainly Common Loons *Gavia immer* and Horned Grebes *Podiceps auritus*.

Since AS had never seen such a large number of grebes before he decided to count them with the scope. Approximately 200-250 were counted. An exact count was impossible as many grebes were continuously diving. At the same time RF was counting Common Loons. Approximately 50-100 were counted. PL was looking around to see if anything unusual was around. As she scanned she did notice several 'different' loons namely Red-throated Loons *Gavia stellata* which she pointed out to RF and AS. We were all happy at their identification and we figured that there were 2 or 3 among the Commons.

We then all began to scan and study the loons to see if we could find anything else. We all scanned independently backward and forwards, and an unusually dark loon was spotted about 200 – 300 meters from shore. It does not matter who spotted it first or second, the crux of the matter was that the 'interesting' loon was repeatedly spotted independently by all. Since we are all, with humility, relatively experienced we did not carry a book so as to check our observation. This was fortuitous as it did not bias our observations in any way.

The first impressions were of a very dark and smaller bird, much darker and smaller than the surrounding Common Loons which passed by it every now and again. It was larger than the Horned Grebes that again passed by it. It was swimming around but did not seem to dive during our observation period of approximately 30 minutes. The bill was thin. AS immediately ruled out a Red-throated, as he had just come back from Ireland where he had seen and studied several Red-throated Loons at close range. The bill was not big and yellow so Yellow-billed was ruled out. Maybe it could be an Arctic. AS's last sighting of an Arctic was in January 1999 in Belgium in winter plumage. Somehow he felt the jizz was not right – the bird was too dark. Could it be a Pacific? The crown was totally dark; as were the nape sides and flanks. There was no contrast in coloration. The Red-throated has a distinct greyish tone and much more white on sides. Another feature that we noticed was that there was no white showing at the waterline. It was concluded that it could only be a Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*.

It was time to go to the cars and get our field guides. We had 'The Sibley Guide to Birds' and the National Geographic guide.

Absolutely no mistake. The bird was identical to the sitting adult non-breeding in Sibley's guide. PL tried to digiscope it but unfortunately the photo did not turn out.

We spent more time studying the bird with the field guides in hand and were 100% happy at our identification. It was AS 12th observation of the species having seen it before in California (both in winter and summer), Washington state and British Columbia (last one in 2007).

PL returned in the afternoon to see if she could find the bird again. Unfortunately the weather had changed and the lake had white caps which made observation difficult. One observer claims to have seen 'a very dark' loon later on in the day.

Summary Results of the September 12, 2009 CVNP Census

Dwight Chasar, Volunteer, Cuyahoga Valley National Park

It was another nice day of weather for this census. We had 40 people out in 16 teams, identifying 103 species, including 16 species of warblers. The fall census started in 1983 but we have been keeping numbers of individual bird species only since 1998. As well since 1998, the census has varied in date from September 10th to the 23rd. Our species tally was 5th highest since the first year.

High counts since 1998 in this census were for Double-crested Cormorant, White-eyed Vireo, and Nashville, Magnolia, and Bay-breasted Warblers. Lows were for Carolina Wren (severe February snow depth) and Song Sparrow. Firsts for a fall census were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and American Pipit. Habitat at Virginia Kendall Lake and at the Pleasant Valley marsh was good for these. We didn't have any first time misses. Numbers of other species fell within the historic variation.

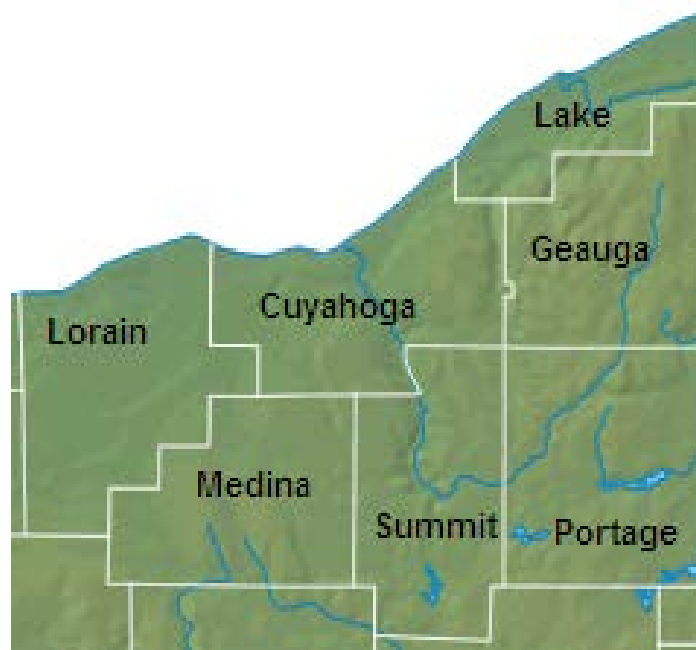
231	Canada Goose	2	Acadian Flycatcher	2	Blackburnian Warbler
90	Wood Duck	66	Eastern Phoebe	9	Bay-breasted Warbler
76	Mallard	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	3	Blackpoll Warbler
9	Wild Turkey	2	Eastern Kingbird	5	Black-and-White Warbler
51	Double-crested Cormorant	12	White-eyed Vireo	12	American Redstart
22	Great Blue Heron	15	Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Connecticut Warbler
3	Great Egret	2	Blue-headed Vireo	36	Common Yellowthroat
2	Green Heron	26	Warbling Vireo	9	Hooded Warbler
54	Turkey Vulture	1	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Wilson's Warbler
1	Osprey	32	Red-eyed Vireo	6	Scarlet Tanager
2	Bald Eagle	356	Blue Jay	23	Eastern Towhee
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	102	American Crow	37	Chipping Sparrow
6	Cooper's Hawk	5	Barn Swallow	34	Field Sparrow
9	Red-shouldered Hawk	379	Black-capped Chickadee	4	Savannah Sparrow
20	Red-tailed Hawk	107	Tufted Titmouse	38	Song Sparrow
2	Peregrine Falcon	12	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Swamp Sparrow
42	Killdeer	132	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Dark-eyed Junco
5	Greater Yellowlegs	5	Brown Creeper	113	Northern Cardinal
1	Lesser Yellowlegs	16	Carolina Wren	9	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
5	Spotted Sandpiper	23	House Wren	8	Indigo Bunting
8	Least Sandpiper	1	Winter Wren	104	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Ring-billed Gull	86	Eastern Bluebird	157	Common Grackle
5	Rock Pigeon	1	Veery	10	Brown-headed Cowbird
123	Mourning Dove	2	Hermit Thrush	1	Baltimore Oriole
2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Wood Thrush	35	House Finch
2	Eastern Screech-Owl	537	American Robin	271	American Goldfinch
51	Chimney Swift	124	Gray Catbird	150	House Sparrow
9	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	Brown Thrasher		
17	Belted Kingfisher	544	European Starling		
15	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	American Pipit		
108	Red-bellied Woodpecker	726	Cedar Waxwing		
113	Downy Woodpecker	1	Tennessee Warbler		
21	Hairy Woodpecker	24	Nashville Warbler		
116	Northern Flicker	4	Yellow Warbler		
23	Pileated Woodpecker	6	Chestnut-sided Warbler		
1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	56	Magnolia Warbler		
16	Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	Black-throated Blue Warbler		
1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	14	Black-throated Green W.		

Contributors

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* Sightings gathered from birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/ohio.html

Some submissions are received indirectly through forwarded correspondence (*fide* = "in trust of").



Cleveland Bird Calendar 7-County Area

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