

40th Year

Number 1

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Founded by Francis H. Herrick
of Western Reserve University in 1905

Published and Edited.
by

THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB

In Cooperation With
The Cleveland Bird Club Inc.

At
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

HISTORICAL NOTE

And An Invitation

History

With this issue, covering the months of December, 1943, and January-February, 1944, the Cleveland Bird Calendar begins its 40th year.

Founded by Dr. Francis E. Herrick, of the Department of Biology, of Western Reserve University in 1905, the Calendar was carried on largely through the personal efforts of Dr. Herrick and a few friends, particularly Professor W. H. Hulme and Professor C. M. Finrock, until 1931.

In 1931 the Calendar became the joint enterprise of the Department of Biology and the Cleveland Bird Club, Dr. S. C. Kendeigh of the Department of Biology being appointed editor by a committee representing both organizations. At this time a subscription price of 50 cents per annum was established.

When Dr. Kendeigh left Cleveland in 1938 to accept a position with the University of Illinois, Dr. John W. Aldrich, Curator of Ornithology of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, was chosen as editor by the Bird Calendar Committee of the Bird Club.

In 1941 Dr. Aldrich removed to Washington, D. C., to become ornithologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dr. Arthur B. Williams, Curator of Education of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, was appointed editor by the Bird Club Committee.

Up to 1943 the Bird Calendar had always been issued in mimeograph form to a small list of subscribers. In 1943, however, it became a part of **BIRD LIFE**, a new publication sponsored by the Cleveland Bird Club, and for the first three issues of this magazine the Bird Calendar was printed in its back pages. It was, however, omitted from its fourth and final issue. Thereupon the Bird Calendar resumed publication in mimeograph form.

Now, by an agreement reached between the Cleveland Bird Club Inc. and the Kirtland Bird Club (many of whose members are also members of the Cleveland Bird Club), the Cleveland Bird Calendar will be published and edited by the Kirtland Bird Club in cooperation with the Cleveland Bird Club Inc.

Invitation

The subscription price for the Calendar is still 50 cents per annum (4 numbers). As formerly, the Calendar will carry full seasonal reports on bird activities within the Cleveland region, with field notes, interpretation and comment.

It is now proposed again to build up a modest subscription list for the Calendar. An invitation is hereby extended to all who receive this issue, who care to receive the Calendar regularly, to send in their subscriptions to the editor and to enlist as many of their friends as may be interested in becoming subscribers also.

The date of issuance of this number of the Calendar is May 12, 1944. It has been unduly delayed pending decisions relative to the continuance of its publication.

Arthur B. Williams , Editor
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland 15, Ohio

BIRD CALENDAR

40th Year, No. 1

December 1943 - January, February 1944

With the December reports included in this issue of the Calendar another year closes, and it is of interest to check our records to see what new species have been added to our total list. In Vol. 38 (1942) No. 3 the Editor indicated what additions had been made since Ralph O'Reilly published his summary in Vol. 32 (1936) No. 1. At that time the total stood at 286 species listed since 1905.

During the last two years three more species have been added. These are:

287. October 4, 1942 - Sharp-tailed Sparrow. A single bird observed at edge of Corning Lake, Holden Arboretum, by Ruth Newcomer and W. Earl Godfrey.
288. April 17, 1943 - Carolina Chickadee. A single bird seen near Gordon Park, close to the Lake Erie shore, by Margarete L Morse, B. P. Bole, Jr., and W. Earl Godfrey. Identification made by call note, coloration and size.
289. May 16, 1943 - Long-eared Owl. A single bird seen near Pymatuning Reservoir in hemlock woods by Edith Dobbins and other members of the Kirtland Bird Club.

One wonders what the next may be! With each new record the possibilities of others become less. The Great White Heron seen first by Marion and Merit Skaggs, Vera Carrothers and Margarete Morse at Pymatuning is not included in this list, so the Editor has asked Mr. and Mrs. Skaggs to report it in a special paragraph for this issue of the Calendar. (See page 8 .) This brings the species list of birds reported in the Calendar to 290.

A record of a Yellow Rail, inadvertently omitted from the last issue of the Calendar, should be added to the 1943 list. This Bird

was brought in to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History alive, having been picked up on the street in Cleveland on September 19, 1943.

Christmas Bird Count - The fourth annual Christmas Bird Count, organized, and conducted by the Kirtland Bird Club on December 19, 1943, was centered, for reasons of gasoline economy, largely to the east of Cleveland. Eight groups spent most of the day in the field, reporting 46 species and 11,176 individual birds. The list was as follows:

Double-crested Cormorant 1, Mallard 5, Black Duck 27, Lesser Scaup 25, American Goldeneye 30, Bufflehead 2, White-winged Scoter 1, American Merganser 357, Red-breasted Merganser 461, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper Hawk 4, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 3, Sparrow Hawk 3, Bobwhite 13, Ring-necked Pheasant 7, Herring Gull 481, Ring-billed Gull 429, Bonaparte Gull 8075, Mourning Dove 6, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 4, Flicker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 11, Downy Woodpecker 40, Blue Jay 26, Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 75, Tufted Titmouse 47, White-breasted Nuthatch 59, Red-breasted Nuthatch 5, Brown Creeper 5, Robin 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 8, Starling 265, English Sparrow 172, Cardinal 34, Redpoll 7, Pine Siskin 66, Goldfinch 37, Slate-colored Junco 111, Tree Sparrow 252, Song Sparrow 11, Snow Bunting 1.

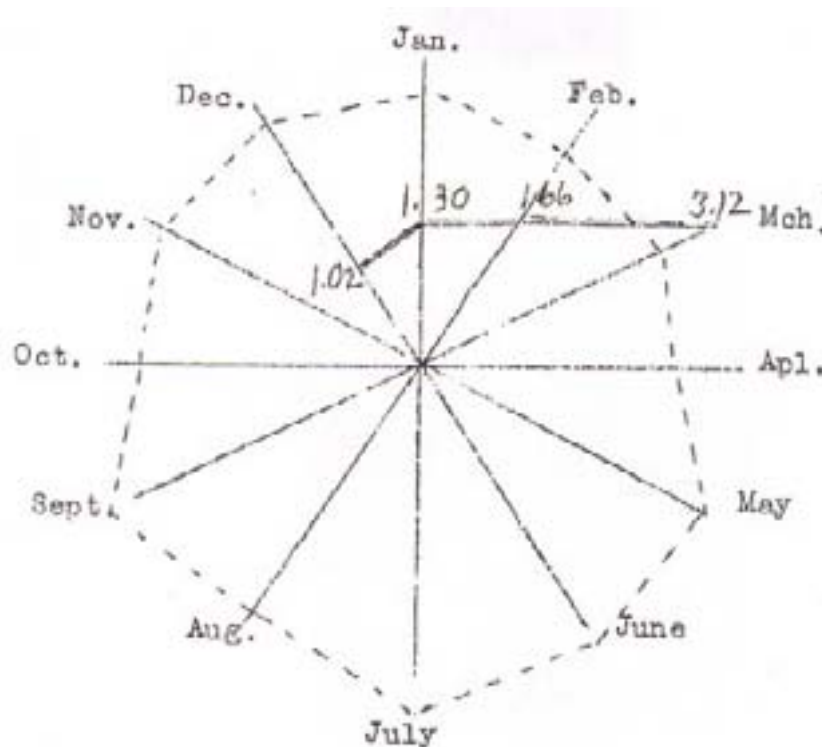
SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

The months of December 1943 and January 1944 were marked by numerous days of bright sunshine and delightfully mild temperatures. On January 26 the temperature was 64° and reports of a pilot blacksnake and a garter snake out of hibernation, enjoying the sun, were received. Real winter weather did not develop until February 11, when a snow-storm lasting through the 15th, with temperatures falling to zero on the 13th, and 2° on the 19th, seemed to indicate that the mild weather had departed for good. This was not to be the case, however, for on February 26 the official thermometer stood at 68° - the highest ever recorded for this date in the history of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Cleveland! On the 24th, 25th and 26th the telephone was busy with

calls reporting hawks, crows, robins, bluebirds, meadowlarks, killdeers and song sparrows. On the 26th our postman who delivers mail at the Museum gleefully announced a robin on the lawn. But the last day of the month - that extra 29th day - brought winter back again with a snow-storm. Precipitation during the December-January-February period has been abnormally low, as indicated by the chart below. This amounts to 3.55 inches below normal for the three months.

Precipitation Chart

Each spoke of the wheel, from center to circumference, represents 3 inches of water. The dotted line connects points which show the "normal" or average precipitation for these months. The solid line connects points showing actual precipitation for December 1943 and the first three months of 1944. Figures are from the records of the Cleveland Weather Bureau, located at the Cleveland Airport. Compare this chart with that shown in the last issue of the Calendar.



Contributors to this issue of the Calendar are:

Leta E. Adams	Frank D. Johnson	Mrs. Edward Roth
H. W. Baker	Lynds Jones	Mrs. Dirk Schregardus
Vera Carrothers	Rudolph Kula	Mrs. Francis Sherwin
Mrs. R. E. Clisby	John E. Lieftinck	C. M. Shipman
D. L. Davidson	Nadine M. Literaty	Mrs. Marion Skaggs
Owen Davies	Tom McHugh	Merit B. Skaggs
Edith Dobbins	J. O. McQuown	Mrs. E. J. Speh, Jr.
H. C. Dobbins	Margarette E. Morse	Dr. T. C. Surrarrer
Elsie Erickson	Donald L. Newman	Harold B. Wallin
James S. Findley	Mrs. Simon Olson	S. V. Wharram
Arthur B. Fuller	Alice Porter	Joseph Whelsky
J. W. Ebhart	Marjorie Ramisch	Mrs. Lida Whittier
W. Earl Godfrey	John F. Reed	Arthur B. Williams
Raymond W. Hill		Mrs. H. H. Yoder

INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS

Great Blue Heron - There were no December records, but one bird was reported seen January 30 at Summit Lake by J. E. Lieftinck, and two seen February 19 at Berea by T. C. Surrarrer.

Hawks - There were many reports of wintering hawks, the species being Sharp-shinned, Cooper, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawk. An American Rough-legged Hawk was reported seen over the North Chagrin Metropolitan Park December 12 by D. L. Davidson

Snowy Owl - Two birds seen January 7 at Olmsted by John F. Reed.

Saw-whet Owl - This species, seldom reported for the Cleveland region yet regarded as a permanent resident here, as recorded three times during the period covered by this issue of the Calendar. It was reported at Novelty on December 24 and January 9 by C. T. Downer, and a dead bird apparently hit by a car, was retorted from North Olmsted, January 7 by H. W. Baker.

Mockingbird - One bird reported December 25 north of Akron by J. E. Lieftinck.

Robin - Robins arrived early, being recorded in steadily increasing numbers daily from February 22 to February 26, when a total of 87 were reported.

Bluebird - Six individuals were reported by Mrs. Francis Sherwin as wintering at her home at Waite Hill, near Willoughby. Two were seen at North Akron December 5 by J. E. Lieftinck. There were records for February 19 and 22. The main migration wave arrived apparently February 26, which was also a great day for robins.

Evening Grosbeak - One bird reported from Wellington December 1 by Mrs. Edward Roth.

SPECIES LISTS

I.

Migrant Species

(Latest dates of these are extended into December or later)

Ruddy Duck - December 5(1), 18(4), February 19(45).

Bonaparte Gull - December 18(250), 19(8075).

Eastern Hermit Thrush - December 6(1), 7(1) 8(1).

Eastern Bluebird - December 5(2).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - December 4(1).

II.

Wintering Ducks and Gulls

Mallard - December 4(1) 5(6), 19(5), January 28(1), February 13 (1).

Black Duck - December 5(30), 11(1), 18(21), 19(27), January 28(5).

February 26(2).

Baldpate - January 28(50+).

Shoveler - January 28(6).

Redhead - January 16(2), 28(3), February 22(4).

Ring-necked Duck - January 30(4), February 27(8).

Canvasback - January 16(6).

Lesser Scaup - December 18(10), 19(25), January 16(110), 17(1), 24(160),
25(1), 30(2), February 4(50), 21(100), 22(30), 26(4).

American Goldeneye - Regularly reported December, January, February.

Bufflehead - December 18(1), 19(2), January 16(1), February 22(3).

White-winged Scoter - December 19(1), 21(1), 22(1), 23(1), January 17(1),
25(1), February 22(1).

Hooded Merganser - January 1(5), 16(7), 30(2), February 27(2).

American Merganser - December 19(357), January 1(7), 17(4), 25(2), 28(5).

Red-breasted Merganser - December 12(1), 19(461), February 4(2), 6(2),
22(6)

American Herring Gull - Regularly reported. December, January, February.

Ring-billed Gull - Regularly reported December, January, February.

III.

Wintering Stragglers

(Migrants present in small numbers)

Double-crested Cormorant - December 19(1).

Great Blue Heron - January 30(1), February 19(2).

Northern Bald Eagle - January 28(2).

Marsh Hawk - December 18(1), 19(3), 28(1), 31(1), January 7(1), 18(1),
22(1), February 14(1), 20(1), 21(2), 26(7), 27(3), 28(1).

American Coot - December 5(5), January 1(1), 30(1), February 27(7).

Killdeer - January 19(1).

Eastern Mourning Dove - December 19(6), January 28(3), February 20(1),
24(2), 26(6).

Eastern Belted Kingfisher - December 1(1), 25(1), January 2(1), 8(1),
16(1), 19(1), 26(2), February 20(1).

Wintering Stragglers (continued)

Northern Flicker - December 10(1), 19(1), January 2(1), 4(1), 14(1),
February 13(1), 19(1), 21(1), 24(2), 26(3), 27(1), 28(1).

Eastern Crow - Regularly reported in small numbers December, January,
February, increasing greatly after February 19.

Eastern Mockingbird - December 25(1).

Eastern Robin - December 3(1), 19(1), January 19(1), 26(2), 30(1),
February 2(1), 11(1).

Eastern Bluebird - 6 birds wintered at Waite Hill, Willoughby.

Cedar Waxwing - January 8(14), 15(70), February 15(1), 24(10).

Eastern Red-winged Blackbird - January 1(20).

Rusty Blackbird - February 12(1), 26(10).

Red-eyed Towhee - December 5(3), January 14(1), 24(1), February 5(1).

Mississippi Song Sparrow - Regularly reported in small numbers
December, January, February.

IV.

Winter Visitors

(Species of more northerly range wintering here)

American Rough-legged Hawk - January 2(1), February 11(1).

Snowy Owl - January 2(2).

Northern Horned Lark - January 28 - one in flock of Prairie Horned
Larks reported by Lynds Jones at Castalia.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - December 5(1), 19(5), January 10(1), 23(1),
28(1), February 8(1).

Brown Creeper - December 5(1), 15(2), 19(12), January 1(11), 11(1),
15(2), 16(1), 29(6), 30(1), February 8(1), 9(2), 13(2), 19(3),
20(1), 24(1), 26(1), 27(1).

Eastern Winter Wren - January 16(1), 21(2).

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet - Regularly reported. December, January,
February.

Eastern Evening Grosbeak - December 1(1).

Eastern Purple Finch - February 19(1), 20(3).

Common Redpoll - December 5(50+), 19(7), 23(30), January 9(4), 29(30),
30(50).

Pine Siskin - December 2(5), 18(15), 19(66), January 23(3), February 8
(2) 27(1).

Slate-colored Junco - Regularly reported December, January, February.

Eastern Tree Sparrow - Regularly reported December, January, February.

Snow Bunting - December 18(6), 19(4).

V.

Permanent Residents

Sharp-shinned Hawk - December 19(1), January 28(1), February 20(1), 26(1).

Cooper Hawk - December 18(1), 19(5), January 1(1), 23(3), 25(1), 30(2),
February 13(2), 20(2), 23(1), 26(5).

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk - December 1(2), 3(2), 5(2), 10(2), 19(1), 23(1),
January 9(2), 26(4), February 26(2).

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk - January 1(1), 16(2), 24(1), February 8(1),
20(1), 26(6), 28(1).

Permanent Residents (continued)

- Eastern Sparrow Hawk - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Appalachian Ruffed Grouse - December 24(4), January 9(5), 10(3), 23(1), 29(1), 30(1) February 19(1).
Eastern Bobwhite - December 1(1), 12(12), 18(8), 19(27), 23(1), January 15(8), 28(1), February 18(8), 20(6), 25(3).
Ring-necked Pheasant - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Rock Dove - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Eastern Screech Owl - January 30(1), February 11(1), 13(1), 20(1), 26(1).
Great Horned Owl - December 5(1), 12(1), 19(1), 24(1), 29(2), January 8(1), 15(1), 22(1), February 8(1), 10(1), 28(1).
Northern Barred Owl - December 5(1), 19(4), 29(1).
Saw-whet Owl - December 24(1), January 7(1), 9(1).
Northern Pileated Woodpecker - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Red-bellied Woodpecker - December 7(1), 11(1), 15(1), 17(1), 19(2), 24(1), January-2(3), 9(1), 15(1), 16(1), 19(1), 22(1), February 15(1), 26(1).
Eastern Hairy Woodpecker - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Northern Downy Woodpecker - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Prairie Horned Lark - December 11(3), 18(16), January 8(22), 10(4), 22(10), 28(11), February 12(40), 20(17), 22(11), 24(2), 25(2), 26(5).
Northern Blue Jay - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Northern Black-capped Chickadee - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Tufted Titmouse - Regularly reported. December, January, February.
White-breasted Nuthatch - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Carolina Wren - December 11(1), January 2(1).
Starling - Regularly reported December, January, February.
English Sparrow - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Eastern Cardinal - Regularly reported December, January, February.
Eastern Goldfinch - Regularly reported December, January, February.

VI.

The First Spring Migrants

- Common Canada Goose - February 27(3). North Chagrin, flying over. John Byrne.
Eastern Turkey Vulture - February 21(1)-Nadine Literaty, Columbia Station, Lorain County, 27(2).
Killdeer - February 23(1)-Marion Skaggs, 24(3), 26(7), 27(2).
Eastern Robin - February 22(2), 23(8), 24(2), 25(6), 26(145), 27(33), 27), 29(1).
Eastern Bluebird - February 19(1), 22(1), 26(26), 27(10), 28(3)
Eastern Meadowlark - February 23(1), 25(5), 26(1), 27(5), 29(8).
Eastern Red-winged Blackbird - February 24(2), 25(12), 26(43), 27(1), 28(18), 29(6).
Bronzed Grackle - February 26(33), 27(2).
Eastern Cowbird - February 27(5)-S. V. Wharram, Jefferson, 29(7).
Mississippi Song Sparrow - February 19(20), 20(3), 22(6), 24(3), 25(2), 26(12), 27(9), 28(1), 29(1).

FIELD NOTES

Great White Heron at Pymatuning Reservoir - On May 14, 1938 Vera Carrothers, Margarette E. Morse and Marion and Merit Skaggs observed a white heron, which they took to be an American Egret, feeding along the shore of the sanctuary part of Pymatuning Lake. In conversation with the refuge-keeper, Mr. B. L. Oudette, the question was raised as to the possibility of its being a Great White Heron. Later, more careful examination with a 35x telescope revealed yellowish legs instead of the black legs of the American Egret. Again, after shifting position, the bird was carefully examined at closer range, and the yellowish legs, heavy beak, and size approximately that of a Great Blue Heron, were noted.

After our party had left, this bird was collected by Mr. Oudette, mounted, and placed in the Pymatuning Museum. Here Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, then connected with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, examined the bird and officially identified it as a Great White Heron.

Normally limited in its range to the southern tip of Florida, this record of the Great White Heron in northwestern Pennsylvania is indeed astonishing. In fact, there are only two other records of the bird having been seen outside of Florida.

Merit B. Skaggs

White-winged Scoter on Fairmount Reservoir Keeping company with a flock of American Goldeneyes, a female White-winged Scoter spent most of the past winter on this small body of water within the city limits of Cleveland. Reported first as a part of our Christmas Bird Count by Jerry Brody and myself on December 19, 1943, it was later observed by several other members of the Kirtland Bird Club. It was last seen on the reservoir on February 22, 1944.

James S. Findley

The Kirtland Warbler in the Cleveland Region - At the request of the Editor, Mr. J. O. McQuown has reviewed his records of observations of the Kirtland Warbler and supplies the following notes - all from the north end of Rocky River Valley in the Metropolitan Park:

October 7, 1934 - Near Hilliard Bridge - Two birds seen in thicket near river edge.

September 2, 1935 - One bird seen in same location as October 7, 1934.

September 8, 1940 - One bird seen with a group of other warblers in thicket between Filtration Plant and Park Blvd.

October 5, 1941 - Two birds seen in small butternut tree in brush-grown area once used as a horse corral adjacent to barracks of "Battery B" - Birds so close that binoculars were of no help.

September 26, 1943 - One bird in same location as October 5, 1941.

Mr. McQuown concludes that Rocky River Valley may possibly lie within the regular fall migration route of the Kirtland Warbler. The fact that he has never found it during the time of the spring migration might indicate a different route for the spring flight.