



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek | 30 Lake Rockwell |
| 2 North Amherst | 31 White City |
| 3 Lorain | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation |
| 4 Black River | 33 Chagrin River |
| 5 Elyria | 34 Willoughby |
| 6 LaGrange | Waite Hill |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake | 35 Sherwin Pond |
| 8 Clague Park | 36 Gildersleeve |
| 9 Clifton Park | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River | 38 Gates Mills |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina | 40 Aurora Lake |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation | 41 Aurora Sanctuary |
| 14 Edgewater Park | 42 Mantua |
| 14 Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| 16 Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| 18 Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| 20 Illuminating Co. plant | 50 Corning Lake |
| 21 Doan Brook | |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | |
| Wade Park | |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 52 Chardon |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 53 Burton |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | 55 Fern Lake |
| 28 Hudson | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 29 Kent | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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Fall 1972

THE WEATHER

- September - Temperatures averaged 0.4 degrees cooler than normal even though Northerly winds prevailed on only nine days. Precipitation fell on 15 days in all with occurrence at fairly regular intervals during the first 22 days but was nearly continuous thereafter with rain falling on seven of the last eight days. The accumulation totaled 4.91 inches and was in excess by 2.01 inches.
- October - The first snowfall of the season came on the 18th and 19th but failed to persist. Overall, the month was colder and drier than normal. Temperatures above normal occurred only during the period from the 3rd to the 6th and on three other scattered days later in the month so the month averaged out a cold 4.3 degrees below normal. Precipitation was well distributed on nine days that totaled 1.64 inches and was in deficit by 0.78 inches. Sunshine managed to prevail during 41% of the time possible.
- November - The persistent gloom of cloudy skies characterized the month and the intervals of sunshine, barely 13% of time possible, were few and far between even though precipitation fell on only 17 days (10 in the form of snow) that accumulated to 4.58 inches and provided an excess of 1.97 inches. Above normal temperatures occurred on nine days and the month averaged out 1.5 degrees cooler than normal. Shallow waters were subject to transient icing in the last half of the month.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Judging from the composite of reports received, the 1972 fall birding season in the Cleveland Region was fairly routine, despite the highly unusual nature of the weather. The main body of the exclusively summer residents appeared to have departed somewhat more precipitately than is customary, but the Fall migrations generally followed the established patterns. Nevertheless, there were a fairly large number of individual stragglers of a wide variety of species. Only two species, however, were reported that had not already been sighted during the 1972 BIRD CALENDAR year - the Snow Goose and Wilson's Phalarope. (See Noteworthy Records.)

Fluctuations in migrating populations were noted, with some species apparently more abundant than usual and others much reduced. No firm conclusions should be drawn from these data, though, as the changes could well be due to chance factors such as weather conditions on the dates when observers were in the field. Tabulation of the migration, for instance, gave the impression that it proceeded in waves that peaked on Sundays; of course, that was in fact only the result of more observers being active on weekends. Likewise, there seemed to be a decline in reports for most species during the last few days of September, when the weather was particularly discouraging for birding.

Loons and Grebes Fairly Numerous. Lakefront observers reported Common Loons in good numbers, with individual contributors reporting counts of nine birds as early as October 4 (Dolbear) and as late as November 12 (Stasko). Horned Grebes were plentiful all along the lakefront in late October and early November, 200 being tabulated by a single observer on October 28 (Ward). Scattered sightings of Pied-billed Grebes were made throughout the entire period.

Cormorants Sighted, Most Herons Absent. Double-crested Cormorants were reported twice during the season, both times from Lake Erie. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) Great Blue Herons were observed in many localities during the fall, the total number of reports being up to expectations. Green Herons, though, evidently departed early, only one being seen after October 3; that lone specimen was in Painesville on October 31 (Booth). Except for a Black-crowned Night Heron at South Chagrin Reservation on October 15 (Knight), no other members of the heron family were reported.

Whistling Swan Migration Concentrated. Whistling Swans in impressive numbers moved through the region during a six-day period, November 12-17, with most observations being made in the eastern areas. No less than three observers reported flocks ranging from 21 to more than 200 on each day during this time span. "Most spectacular flights . . . ever seen here in 16 years," one stated (Flanigan). Some of the flocks rested overnight on ponds in Waite Hill (Sherwin). One Mute Swan seen in company with a flock of 50 Whistlers on Hinckley Lake, November 15, may have been a feral bird, rather than a vagrant from a park, although it lingered after the migrants moved on (Wallin). An unpleasant aspect of the swan reports were accounts of no less than three birds that were found dead or dying from gunshot wounds.

Goose, Duck Populations Irregular. Although the main group of wintering Canada Geese (which numbered about 800 at the Holden Arboretum alone) apparently did not arrive until after the close of the Fall period, geese were reported from mid-September on. At least three Snow Geese, the only ones for the CALENDAR year, were present in November. (See Noteworthy Records.) However, no reports were filed of the Blue Goose; in fact, a single specimen in December, 1971, was the only report in the entire year (December, 1971, to November, 1972).

As usual, the Red-breasted Merganser dominated the duck migration. Observers spoke of "massive rafts." A report from Lorain stated, "On November 16 a raft of estimated 8,000 swam near shore, nearly all females with a few Common Merganser females" (Ward). The same observer estimated that 100,000 "passed in large flocks to noon, low over the water, flying east to west, near and far" on October 30. Another reported a raft "in excess of 2,500" off White City, November 5 (Klamm).

Dabblers seemed somewhat erratic in numbers. Only six reports, a total of 23 specimens, of Blue-winged Teals were filed; conversely, there were 20 observations of 105 specimens of the generally less-common Green-winged. A total of 13 separate reports covering almost the entire period listed Gadwalls, classed as an uncommon migrant; on the other hand, a single bird on September 2 (Klamm) and three on two dates in November (Hocevar) were the only Pintails.

The Ruddy Duck was reported throughout November, one tally showing 573 along the lakefront on November 18 (Klamm). "Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and others

appeared in more modest numbers, but interference from watercraft and hunters made any assessment of numbers somewhat marginal” (Klamm). Sea duck reports were limited to two male Oldsquaws on Berlin Reservoir on November 25 (Leach, Peskin) and a total of 17 Common Scoters. (See Noteworthy Records for details.)

Few Hawks Reported. Except for the Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks, both of which were sighted with a fair degree of frequency, few hawks were included in the fall reports. Only other sightings were four Cooper’s, six Red-shouldered, and two Broad-winged; in each case only one member of a species was seen by an observer on a given day. A total of nine Turkey Vultures were reported, including five at the Holden Arboretum on September 16 (Hammond).

Shorebirds Leave Early. Shorebirds tended to depart from the region rather early in comparison to their customary migration schedules. Spotted and Least Sandpipers, for example, were not observed after September 10. What effect the unusually heavy fall rains had is not known. Perhaps the birds were forced out of their usual feeding areas, where observers expected to find them, or perhaps the birders were simply unable to reach them because of high water (certainly a problem in the Mentor Marsh). In any case, most of the limited reports of shorebirds came from the lakefront. Nevertheless, there were sightings of some uncommon to rare species. These included the Knot and Northern and Wilson’s Phalaropes. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) The only sighting of a Common Snipe was at White City, October 10 (Hannikman). A Ruddy Turnstone was reported at Burke Lakefront Airport on October 3 (Stasko) and one on the same date at White City (Hannikman); conceivably, both reports were of the same individual. Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeers, Dunlins, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Sanderlings were reported with something approaching normal frequency.

Gulls, Terns Extend Season. In contrast to the shorebirds, gulls and terns seemed to find the region quite attractive during the fall. Great Black-backed Gulls appeared at Lorain as early as October 17 and were seen there almost daily to the end of the season (Ward). At the other extreme, Common Terns were seen frequently in November, with two observers each reporting one on November 25 (Klamm, Peskin). A Caspian Tern seen near the mouth of Rocky River on October 29 represented a new latest date for that species (Stasko); another had

been spotted two days earlier off White City (Hannikman). Franklin's Gulls were identified on at least nine different dates during September and October. A Little Gull seen October 1 at White City may be the first October record ever for this species in the Cleveland Region (Klamm). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were both abundant during the season. A Lorain observer noted, "Herring Gulls seem now to outnumber Ring-billed Gulls. Increased in number at end of period to 12 or 15,000" (Ward). Tabulations along the Cleveland waterfront from Edgewater Park to White City, though, indicated that the Ring-billed predominated there.

Nighthawks, Swifts, Woodpeckers. The Nighthawk migration seemed to be somewhat less than normal and to terminate early, the last sizeable flock being one of 40-50 on September 11 in Gates Mills (Flanigan). Chimney Swifts were reported irregularly in fair numbers through early October, about the normal season for the species. Migratory woodpeckers likewise followed a conventional pattern: Yellow-shafted Flickers were numerous during most of the period, tapering off in November; Red-headed Woodpeckers were fairly common into early October; Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reached their peak on October 1, with one observer reporting 25 along the Cleveland lakefront on that date (Klamm).

Reports on the Red-bellied Woodpecker, regarded as a permanent resident, show a variance that is not readily explainable. Just two specimens were recorded in the entire month of October, the only month of the year in which there were not at least a half-dozen reports of the species. Likewise only two were reported for the last 20 days of September. One possibility, of course, is that observers tended to ignore a bird which they had been seeing almost daily. But another possibility is that two separate populations of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, one summer resident and the other winter resident, inhabit the region; a similar situation has been described with Robins. Occurrence of two separate populations would perhaps also explain the apparent increase in the Red-bellied population in late April and May, when the winter and summer populations might overlap here.

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, perhaps because birders have a special affection for it and therefore are especially careful to note its occurrence, appeared to be present in considerable numbers, being reported on 49 of the 91 days in the

fall season. (By way of comparison, Song Sparrows were recorded on 57 dates, Common Crows on 54, and Robins on 52). Brown Creepers, too, seemed to be numerous and widely distributed, being observed almost daily throughout October.

“Unusual concentrations” of Winter Wrens were found in lakefront areas on October 1. “The strong offshore winds were helpful in inducing concentrations in favorable haunts along shoreline areas affording wind protection. Ten or more birds were flushed from very limited lengths of protected shoreline bank on this day” (Klamm). In all, 51 were tallied by the one observer and nine more listed in four other reports for that date.

The Carolina Wren, another species which seems to receive special attention, was also well represented during the period. Although the total of 67 individuals in 48 reports was well below the 92 individuals in 73 reports recorded in 1969, it was far above the totals for each of the five years preceding 1969. (See CBC, Autumn 1989, for a survey of reports of the Carolina Wren.)

Vireo Population Low. Possibly because of early migration, reported populations of most species of vireos were lower than would be expected. Only three Yellow-throated and four Philadelphia Vireos were recorded; except for a Philadelphia near Rocky River on October 1 (Stasko), all were sighted in September. A Red-eyed Vireo trapped and banded in Waite Hill, October 25, was the latest observation of any member of the family (Flanigan).

Warblers Linger. Although the main warbler migration moved through the region on schedule in September, the season was notable for the number of individuals which were delayed in migrating. New latest dates were recorded for the Magnolia Warbler (November 19) and Wilson”[’]s Warbler (October 29). Both were observed in the same wooded area south of the Lakeland Freeway near East 140th Street. Other late-lingering warblers included the. Black and White, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, and Cape May. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) Parula Warblers were reported from the western suburbs on September 10 (two specimens) and October 1 (Stasko) and near East 140th Street on October 6 (Hannikman). Only report of a Pine Warbler was from Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery, September 7 (Corbin).

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Snow Goose - One was observed in formation with a flight of Whistling Swans near the mouth of Rocky River on November 12 (Stasko). An immature specimen was on Bass Lake, November 14 through 16, and two immatures were there on November 17 (Spare).

Common Scoter - Alone female was observed at White City on three dates--October 8, November 4, and November 6 (Klamm, Hannikman). At Perkins Beach, November 11, a flight of 14 mixed male and female Common Scoters that had been riding the waves took flight to the northwest (Klamm).

Virginia Rail - One which appeared to be immature flew up from a wet area along Richmond Road near Harvard in Warrensville, October 1 (Peskin).

Knot - A single bird which had been observed during late August lingered at White City and was photographed, September 2 (Klamm). The lone bird was also observed on September 1 and 3 and a flock of six, possibly not including the single, were seen on September 2 (Hannikman).

Wilson's Phalarope - A male in fall plumage was observed feeding in company with Dunlins in the lagoon near the White City pier on October 1-3; it was also observed swimming briefly on the 2nd. "The lack of wingstripe, which the other two phalaropes do have, the white rump, the white strip through the eye, the long needlelike beak, the general gray coloration, and the size convince me that the bird was a Wilson's Phalarope" (Hannikman).

Northern Phalarope - One was sighted on October 1 at Burke Lakefront Airport (Raynes). Near the eastern end of Headlands State Park another was observed on November 10, swimming in a pool formed by high waves flooding onto the back part of the beach (Leach fide Leona Hollander).

Little Gull - On October 1 an adult bird was fishing along the seawall with other gulls and terns at White City. "The dark underwing and small size made the bird easy to follow as it plied back and forth in its fishing activities" (Klamm).

Caspian Tern - Two late observations of Caspian Terns were reported, both past the previously-recognized latest date of October 24. One was observed for about 15 minutes feeding with gulls in the lagoon area at

White City on October 27 (Hannikman). Two days later another was observed near the mouth of Rocky River (Stasko). Thus, October 29 is now the latest fall date for this species.

Chimney Swift - One was observed near a residence on Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, on October 23 (Baum). The following day a lone bird was flying about 11/2 miles away over Monticello and Forest Hills Boulevards in the same city (Kitson). The October 24 observation extends by one day the latest fall date.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - On October 3 one was mist-netted and banded at a residence in Waite Hill. Identification was made by "wing-chord, wing-tip and nostril measurements" (Flanigan). This marks a new latest fall date. One was also banded at the same location on September 29, which coincided with the previous latest fall date.

Tree Swallow - A single bird was observed at Lake Rockwell, November 20, flying back and forth low over the water of the marshy area north of the Route 14 bridge. "It seemed . . . to lack a bit of the swallow's customary pep" on a day when the high temperature recorded was 42 degrees (Leach vide Leona Hollander). This is a new latest fall date for Tree Swallows, the previous being October 20.

Winter Wren - In Tinker's Creek Gorge one was observed "from a distance of 10 feet" on September 2, the second earliest fall date ever recorded for the species in the region (Knight).

Brown Thrasher - On two successive days in November, lone birds were observed in western suburbs by the same contributor. On November 18 one was found near Webb Road in Lakewood, and the following day another was some two miles away in a weedy area near the Rocky River City Hall (Klamm).

Hermit Thrush - One was observed at a residence in Waite Hill on November 28 (Flanigan).

Black and White Warbler - One was feeding in shrubbery beside the sanctuary a Lower Shaker Lake on November 14 (Corbin).

Orange-crowned-Warbler - . What appeared to be the same specimen was observed on November 17 and 25 in Kuhlman Woods, a wooded area south of the Lakeland Freeway near East 140th Street. Each time it was seen “rummaging about some dead logs near a small puddle” about 10:30 a.m. (Hannikman). Orange-crowned Warblers were sighted rather frequently in the Cleveland Region during the first three weeks of October.

Nashville Warbler -Two were identified on the Cleveland East Side in late October, one at Wildwood Park on the 22nd (Peskin) and the other on the 29th in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman).

Magnolia Warbler - Another late-stayer in Kuhlman Woods, a Magnolia Warbler was observed in shrubbery there on November 19. “All fall characteristics were seen” (Hannikman). This marks a new latest fall date.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - One was mist-netted and banded at a residence in Waite Hill on October 15 (Flanigan).

Wilson’s Warbler - A male was observed feeding among tall weeds and grasses in the company of the Nashville Warbler noted above in Kuhlman Woods, October 29. “If I did not know it was October, I would have sworn that the bird was in full spring plumage” (Hannikman). This is a new latest fall date, six days later than the previous latest report.

Baltimore Oriole - A male fed daily on suet at a private residence just east of Chardon from November 9 through November 28 (Robert Faber fide Spare).

Red Crossbill - A flock of 30 were observed in pines at Aurora Sanctuary on October 8, a new earliest fall date. “Most of the flock consisted of the yellowish-brownish immatures or females, but one dark red male with black wings was obliging enough to linger near the top of the tree” and continued feeding on the cones (Leach fide Ramisch).

White-crowned Sparrow - One was reported from the lakefront on September 16, a relatively early date (Klamm).

Snow Bunting - Only good-sized flock of Snow Buntings were reported by several observers at Headlands State Park. Numbers varied from an estimated 125 on November 4 (Hammond) to 32 on November 10 (Leach). A band of eight were seen at Lorain Harbor on November 6 (Ward), nine at Gordon Park on November 13, and four at White City on November 25 (Hannikman).

FIELD NOTES

Communal Roosting in Cranberry. I have observed many species of birds going to roost during my years in Waite Hill, including Cedar Waxwings, Common Redpolls, White-crowned Sparrows, Cardinals, Robins, Yellow-shafted Flickers, and one Mockingbird. But not until 4:10 p.m. on November 16, 1972, did I first witness an instance of communal roosting. The desired roost was a Highbush Cranberry which still retained its leaves. As the leaves are large and the shrub was heavily covered, it was indeed a desirable shelter. As I watched, I was able to identify American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Cedar Waxwings, and Slate-colored Juncos. However, there could have been other species involved, as many birds were present at the feeders in the immediate area, and small birds were observed going to roost in several evergreens nearby. There was such a flying back-and-forth and in-and out that at times the bush appeared to sway with the weight of birds. - ANNETTE FLANIGAN

A Roosting Flock of Chimney Swifts. When I returned to the campus of Kent State University on September 19, '72, I found a flock of 59 Chimney Swifts in air shaft E1 on the roof of Kent Hall. (See Ohio Jour. Sci 69:193-213, 1969, for details of swift trapping and banding on the campus.) Of the total flock 15 were already banded, and their status for that season was as follows: one had nested in shaft E1 that season and served as host to the roosting birds, although its mate was not present on September 19; however, both mates of nesting pairs from shaft J1, K7, and M1 were included. Also, the female which nested in shaft N9, a visitor from shaft Q2, one from N9, and a visitor from both N9 and S1 were present; a swift which occupied shaft B1 but failed to nest there was also a "repeat." There were three "returns," not captured earlier in 1972. One of them had formerly nested in shaft U1 on the roof of Merrill Hall, but since that shaft was closed off in 1971, it had not nested on the campus. Possibly it nested off-campus and was

visiting its former haunts when captured on September 19. The other two “returns” were probably immature, since they were banded during the previous year and Chimney Swifts do not breed until two years of age. The other 44 birds were newly banded at that time. Some were undoubtedly juveniles raised in the campus colony that year (12 pairs nested successfully on the campus), while others may have been migrants on their way south. (The largest roosting flock which has been captured on the campus numbered 305, taken in 1956.) - RALPH W. DEXTER

Two Albinos Reported. Two reports were received of albino birds during the fall season. A Ring-necked Pheasant was seen near Newell Street in Painesville, September 4 (Mary Brassington vide Booth). On November 5 a Golden-crowned Kinglet was observed for several minutes in the Mentor Marsh parking lot near Shipman Pond; mostly pale olive and light yellow in color with no marks except a yellow stripe in the crown, it looked “like something made of candle wax” (Hammond).

Pileated Woodpecker Feeds on Wild Fruit. Early in the morning of October 1, a Pileated Woodpecker was feeding on the berries of a pepperidge (sour gum) tree near the fence dividing our yard from the Dale R. Rice School playground in Mentor. The big woodpecker was hanging from small twigs in order to pick the fruit, at times swinging almost upside-down in the manner of a chickadee. - WAYNE A. HAMMOND

Grosbeaks React to Red-tailed Hawk. On November 12 at Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery, a flock of 20 (estimated) Evening Grosbeaks were observed feeding on sugar maple keys. As I observed these birds, I noticed a hawk soaring high above the tree. This raptor [raptor], which proved to be a Red-tail, was soaring in tight circles and was obviously watching the grosbeaks. The flock of grosbeaks noticed the hawk and started calling in unison; about 30 seconds later they flew off in an easterly direction. - DAVID CORBIN

Lincoln’s Sparrow Lingers on Public Square. In about the second week of October (regrettably I did not record the exact date), I discovered a Lincoln’s Sparrow at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Cleveland’s Public Square, and I observed it there on many days the rest of the month. Almost always it was on

the west side of the monument, feeding in the low plantings, in the beds of giant cannas, or in the narrow rim of earth at the base of several catalpa trees.

During November I saw this sparrow on the 9th. Then the next day the custodian began to remove the plantings of annuals, but the work progressed slowly. I found the birds again, for the final time, at 8:10 a.m. on the 22nd, when it was scampering along the concrete gutter which borders the monument grounds. By then all of the flower beds had been stripped of vegetation, though there was still a sparse growth of flowers and weeds at the base of the catalpa trees. There was probably not sufficient insect life and seeds to sustain the bird, however. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Addenda (Summer 1972):

Winter Wren. A singing male was first observed on May 31, 1972 on Chardon in and around a one-acre tract of trees--part of a beech-maple forest--which had been felled by the violent storm of July 4, 1969. The wren sang almost daily through July 20, often from the top of a broken 20-foot maple stub. The singing followed a regular pattern: six seconds of song, then four seconds of silence (Gordon Spare fide Ramisch).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. In the same storm-damaged portion of beech-maple forest near Chardon where a singing male was seen during the first 11 days of July, 1971, two males sang daily through July 27, 1972, and were hear fide Ramisch).

AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.