



CLEVELAND REGION

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

*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                    |
| Perkins Beach                | 43 Mentor Headlands          |
| 15 Terminal Tower            | 44 Mentor Marsh              |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square   | 45 Black Brook               |
| Cuyahoga River               | Headlands State Park         |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation   | 46 Fairport Harbor           |
| 18 Akron                     | 47 Painesville               |
| Cuyahoga Falls               | 48 Grand River               |
| 19 Akron Lakes               | 49 Little Mountain           |
| 20 Gordon. Park              | Holden Arboretum             |
| 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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WEATHER  
Spring 1978

- March - Lake Erie retained extensive ice cover until the 17th, started breaking the 18th, and was extensively open with floes and variable shore ice on the 19th. Harbors remained ice covered until the 24th. New snowfalls came on the 3rd and 17th. Measurable precipitation occurred on 14 days to provide 2.17 inches as water, but was in deficit of normal by 0.88 inches. Temperatures averaged out to 32.4 degrees which was 3.7 degrees cooler than normal. Sunshine prevailed 41 percent of the time possible.
- April - Sunshine prevailed 61 percent of the time possible as precipitation was distributed on only 13 days to provide 3.02 inches as water which was again in deficit of normal by 0.47 inches. Temperatures reached a maximum of 83 degrees on the 10th and a minimum of 26 degrees on the 16th. Overall, temperatures averaged out to 47.0 degrees and 1.3 degrees below normal.
- May - Temperatures averaged out to 59.5 degrees to be 1.2 degrees warmer than normal for the month. Below normal temperatures prevailed during the 1st through 7th. From the 8th through the 25th, temperatures cycled moderately above and below normal, and were consistently warmer from the 26th through the 31st. Precipitation was distributed on 15 days that totaled 3.01 inches and was 0.48 inches in deficit of normal. Sunshine prevailed 48.0 percent of the time possible.

Donald L. Newman

When I first started birding in 1970, one of the first things I did to familiarize myself with the species of birds that occur in the Cleveland Region was to obtain a copy of A Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region by Donald L. Newman. His untimely death at age 60 on June 22, 1978 ended a life of dedication to the birds of Greater Cleveland. Back in 1970, I could not imagine myself as the editor of the Cleveland Bird Calendar. Now I write this altogether inadequate tribute to a man under whose 14 years of editorship the standard of excellence for the Cleveland Bird Calendar evolved for me and future editors to emulate. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him as a friend and a fellow birder.

The Editor

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Spring 1978 was slow in arriving, and consequently bird migration also poked along. With cool weather prevailing for most of April and the first part of May, the early influx of migrants expected at this time failed to materialize. There were, however, noted exceptions. Then, with favorable weather prevailing after May 3, the pace of migration quickened to reach a climax during the weekend of May 12, 13 and 14. Discussion of the season's major migratory trends follows, with the Noteworthy Records section detailing the occurrences of such notable Cleveland area birds as Eared Grebe, Laughing Gull, Bewick's Wren, and Yellow-throated Warbler among others. Spring is always an exciting birding season, Spring 1978 was no exception.

Waterfowl All reports of Common Loons were of single birds. Dates ranged from the April 8 sighting of a solitary migrant over Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman) to the observation of a tardy individual at Lorain Harbor on May 16 and 18 (Dolbear). Excellent counts of Horned Grebes were made along the Cleveland lakefront in late March and early April. About 40 birds alone were tallied off the East 9th Street Pier on March 26 (Hoffman). Highest numbers along the lakefront were recorded on April 1 and 4 with 152 and 106 birds respectively (Klamm). Last significant count of Horned Grebes was 44 on April 14 (Klamm). To the west at Lorain Harbor Horned Grebes reached a maximum on April 11 when 60 were reported in the area of a new dredging impoundment settling basin (Ward).

Numbers of bay ducks did not approach the remarkable numbers that occurred during the spring of 1977. Maximum count for Scaup ducks was 5,700 along the Cleveland lakefront March 24 (Klamm). Common Goldeneye, very numerous at open water areas during the winter, remained in good numbers in March with 2,000 birds reported from the Cleveland lakefront March 5 (Klamm).

White-winged Scoters and Oldsquaws were recorded with more than the usual frequency during the spring. Nine White-winged Scoters at East 72nd on March 12 (Stasko) and eight individuals at Lorain Harbor on March 15 (Dolbear) were the best spring counts. Oldsquaw were only reported from Lorain Harbor. Seven birds on March 5 (Stasko) were the most recorded. A lone, tardy Oldsquaw was last seen at Lorain Harbor on April 12 (Dolbear).

Large concentrations of Red-breasted Mergansers were lacking during this species' usual late March early April peak per-

iod of abundance. Two thousand five hundred at East 72nd street on March 5 (Stasko) were the greatest number recorded. A count of 300 Ruddy Ducks on April 13 (Ward) was called the largest concentration of this species ever in the Lorain Harbor area. One hundred ninety-eight Ruddy Ducks along the Cleveland lake-front on April 14 (Klamm) indicate a good movement of this tiny duck during mid-April.

Hawks There were no significant hawk migration days during the spring. What were very minor movements at best occurred on April 19 and May 11. Three Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, and 3 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied on April 19 at Lakeview Cemetery (Hoffman) while 12 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 2 Cooper's Hawks were noted on Cleveland's west side on May 11 (Klamm). There were ten reports of Osprey with dates ranging from April 7 at LaDue Reservoir (Elder) to May 17 at Mentor Headlands (Hammond). All sightings were of single birds except for two birds on May 15 at Mentor Headlands (Hoffman). See the Noteworthy Records Section for the details of the sightings of Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle.

Shorebirds The best of the spring's shorebird migration was to be found at the landfill behind the Cleveland Municipal Light Plant. This area, along with adjacent Burke Airport, has become the best habitat in the Cleveland area to find shorebirds now that the mudflat at White City is but a remnant of its former self. On May 14 there were an estimated 50 Semipalmated Plovers, 100 Dunlin, 50 Dowitchers, and 50-100 unidentified 'peeps' at the landfill (Hoffman). This count of 50 Dowitchers represents the largest flock ever noted here during the spring.

Among other shorebird reports were: (1) two somewhat early Black-bellied Plovers at Mentor Headlands on May 4 (Hammond). Other Black-bellied Plovers were reported at the Muny Landfill with a single bird on May 14 and six birds on May 21 (Hoffman). (2) 5 Ruddy Turnstones on May 10 and 2 on May 17 at Mentor Headlands (Hammond) with another 3 along the Cleveland lakefront on May 10 (Klamm). This species was unreported during the spring of 1977 and remained unusually scarce during the summer and fall. On the negative side, no reports were received of Upland Sandpiper, a successful breeder during 1977.

Terns Both Common Terns and Caspian Terns appeared in good numbers at Lorain Harbor and along the Cleveland lakefront. Sixty Common Terns along the Cleveland lakefront on May 4 were more than 4 times the number recorded during the entire spring of 1977 (Klamm). Highest count of Caspian Terns was 85 at the Muny Landfill on April 24 (Hoffman) while "good numbers" were reported from Lorain Harbor (Dolbear). Black Terns were entirely absent from spring reports. This species was last recorded in the Cleveland Region in the spring in 1974.

Swifts, Nighthawks Two early Chimney Swifts were observed over East 140th Street on April 13 (Hannikman). At Kent State University swifts arrived on April 20 but because of the cool, rainy spring weather numbers were low. Only 31 birds had been tallied by May 31. There were, however, eight nests under construction by the end of the period (Dexter). The Common Nighthawk was first noted at Warrensville Farms on May 7 (Knight) and was present throughout the region afterwards. Rare in the spring, a daytime flight of 15 Nighthawks was witnessed at Hanging Rock Farm on May 25 (Bole, Jr.). Of the season's five Whip-poor-wills, one was a bird that was observed by many at Sims Park in Euclid on May 9 (Hoffman, et al).

Carolina Wren Only two Carolina Wrens were reported for the entire spring: single birds on March 18 at Lorain (Stasko) and March 30 at the old Brooklyn Airport (Bacik). Even a slow recovery has not begun for this species that has been decimated for the last two winters.

Mockingbird, Thrushes Observers noted three Mockingbirds: the first near Hopkins International Airport on April 16 (Stasko), a second sighting at the old Brooklyn Airport on April 24 (Bacik), and the final sighting of a bird at Lakewood Park on May 13 (Klamm). The first noticeable wave of migrant thrushes appeared on May 9 when Swainson's, Hermit, Gray-cheeked, and Wood Thrushes, as well as the Veery were present at Donald Gray Garden (Hoffman). With the exception of the Hermit Thrush, last observed on May 14, thrush reports were concentrated between May 9 and May 23. After May 23, non-summer resident Wood Thrushes and Veeries had moved on and observers were probably noting individuals of these species that were going to remain to breed in our area. Even though the majority of reports of Swainson's Thrushes coincided with the May 9 to May 23 dates, small numbers of this species were still being observed at the end of the period. Tardy Swainson's Thrushes can usually be seen into early June in our area.

Cedar Waxwing Cedar Waxwings were regular in Kirtland Hills during the spring (Bole, Jr.). Up to 75 were encountered in a single flock. In late May what appeared to be a wandering flock appeared on several dates in the Rocky River Metropark area (Klamm, Stasko). Eighty-two birds on May 21 was the highest count for this particular flock.

Warblers Two factors aided birders in their enjoyment of the mid-May migration of passerines in general and warblers in particular. Due to a cool April and early May, foliage was not in an advanced stage when the peak of the migration occurred.

Early springs, with advanced foliage, had made for less than ideal observation conditions the last several years. This year birders did not have to strain too much in trying to identify the bird singing at the top of the tree. The cool weather also forced insects to remain relatively close to the ground. Several observers commented that they had rarely seen warblers, as well as orioles and tanagers, feed so actively so near the ground or on the ground itself. For those who wished to study the beautiful spring plumages of many of the spring migrants, this was an excellent spring to do it, if one could keep the rain out of one's binoculars.

The warbler migration of Spring 1978 was a different story from Spring 1977, when meager numbers of warblers and no days of heavy warbler concentrations characterized the season. None-the-less, birders were wondering if the poor migration of 1977 would be repeated in 1978 as warblers were in small numbers prior to May 8. With a change in weather at this time came the first warbler wave. No less than 11 species of warblers arrived with this initial wave of May 8 and 9 and as more birders were in the field the weekend of May 13 and 14 the spring warbler migration was at its height. Particularly noteworthy were multiple sightings of the more-southerly nesting species of Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. Details of these sightings appear in the Noteworthy Record section.

Winter Finches Evening Grosbeaks lingered well into May. Among the highlights were: (1) a flock, present from March 26 to May 21 in Kirtland Hills, that numbered 20 birds on May 13 (Bole, Jr.); (2) Forty birds on May 9 at two feeders in Bath. (Ibsen), and 25 birds at another feeder also in Bath on May 9 (Ramisch); (3) a flock present from March 12 to May 9 in Chagrin Falls (Sheldon). Highest count for this flock was 18 birds on May 3. (4) Twenty birds at a feeder in Brecksville on May 10 (Wallin). Twenty-four Grosbeaks were also reported from a Brecksville feeder on March 8 (fide Dexter). Smaller numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were also reported from other locations in the region.

Common Redpolls were present in impressive numbers in March and early April. These northern visitors just did not seem to want to leave the feeding stations to which they had grown accustomed during the long, harsh winter of 1977-78. Feeders in Lorain, Mentor, Akron, and Painesville all hosted flocks of more than 20 Common Redpolls throughout March. The Mentor flock grew to 32 birds on April 9 and 24 birds remained on April 10. After April 10 the Redpolls quickly departed with the last report being a lone bird on April 15 (Hammond). Another flock of 30 Red-

polls appeared at a feeder in Shaker Heights on April 3 (Dale). These rather large flocks of Redpolls in early and mid-April are most unusual. Perhaps the cool weather of March and early April induced these wanderers from the Arctic to remain past their customary mid-March departure dates.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - (1) Two birds remained at Summit Lake in Akron from March 1 to 24 (Tveekrem). (2) The bird first recorded in February at Lorain Harbor lingered until March 18 (Ward, Dolbear).

Eared Grebe - Last recorded in the Cleveland area in March, 1972, and also at Lorain Harbor, one was studied there from March 17 to 26. By March 26 the grebe was "far along in its summer plumage" (Ward, Dolbear).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Adult was noted on the evening of May 11 in Rocky River Metro Park (Klamm).

Whistling Swan - One flew past the observer's home near Lorain Harbor on May 29 (Dolbear). This sighting ties the late spring date for the species.

Ring-necked Duck - Last straggler was noted on May 14 at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.). Up to four birds had been seen at Walden Pond in Aurora in early May (Elder).

Common Goldeneye - Another laggard, an individual was observed at the East 55th Street Marina on May 9, 10, and 11 (Klamm). Harlequin Duck - Two males were at Lorain Harbor from March 12 to 17 (Ward, Dolbear).

Surf Scoter - All observations of this sea duck, rare in the spring in our area, were at Lorain Harbor: a female or immature on March 24 (LePage, Ward), and an adult female on the very late dates of April 13 and 14 (Ward).

Goshawk - What may have been the bird that wintered in Akron was seen on April 28 (Tveekrem). This marks a new late spring date for this species.

Bald Eagle - An immature was seen soaring overhead at Hanging Rock Farm on May 24 (Bole, Jr.).

Peregrine Falcon - An immature was observed in Lorain on March 19 (Pogacnik). The falcon was initially found at a residence next to Lake Erie. It was later located at the Westgate Shopping Center in Lorain. During the 15-20 minutes of observation the falcon was observed to hover, dive with its wings swept back, and then to hover again.

Common Snipe - On May 7, a single snipe was flushed from a nest that contained four eggs in the Carlisle Reservation of Lorain Metroparks (Johnson). The observer noted that nesting of Common Snipe had been suspected at his location for the last two or three years, but this was the first nest that had been found. Last nesting record for this species in the Cleveland area was June 1966 in Summit County.

Dunlin - A migrating flock of 35 birds flew past Clifton Beach on April 1 (Stasko). This marks a new early spring date of arrival for this species.

Iceland Gull - (1) An immature was reported from Summit Lake in Akron on March 12 (Tveekrem). (2) Two individuals, one a first year bird in buffy plumage and the other an all-white second year bird, were feeding on fish at the East 55th Street Marina on March 26 (Hoffman). The March 26 date is the latest this gull has been recorded here in the spring.

Laughing Gull - An adult in summer plumage was observed at the Muny Landfill on the afternoon of May 21 (Hoffman). After about 15 minutes of observation, the gull took off toward the west. Barn Owl - Single birds were noted on April 5 and 6 at the old Brooklyn Airport (Bacik).

Snowy Owl - One appeared regularly at sunset at Lorain Harbor from March 2 to March 9 (Dolbear, Ward).

Short-eared Owl - Lone report for the spring was an individual at the old Brooklyn Airport on April 1 (Bacik). The owl was so well camouflaged that the observer almost walked on top of the owl before it took off.

Saw-whet Owl - One was located in a thick tangle in Kuhlman Woods on March 19 (Hannikman). The bird was banded and photographed. While the owl was sitting on an exposed branch, it suddenly became wide-eyed, and then took off. The reason for this behavior was the passing of a large raptor just over the treetops in Bratenahl.

Bewick's Wren - One appeared in the backyard of a residence in Cleveland Heights early in the evening of May 16. The wren quickly disappeared through a stone wall and was not further observed (Newman).

Loggerhead Shrike - One was closely studied with a scope about mid-morning on April 17 at the east end of Headlands State Park (Hammond). Clear breast, black bill, and a full mask were the characteristics noted as this bird moved from perch to perch during the time it was under observation. The Loggerhead Shrike has become a rare transient in the Cleveland area and is not seen annually.

Worm-eating Warbler - (1) One was discovered near the remains of the boathouse at Lower Shaker Lakes on May 3 (Knight). (2) Another single bird was located in the woods near the parking lot of Highland View Hospital on May 15 (Knight). (3) Deep Lock Quarry hosted at least two Worm-eating Warblers from May 13 to at least May 28 (Ibsen, Tveekrem). Two birds were seen on May 20 and two also may have been present on May 24.

Lawrence's Warbler - A male was first spotted as it bathed in a puddle in Deep Lock quarry of the Akron Metroparks on May 19. From the puddle the bird flew to a tangle where it dried itself off (Ibsen).

Yellow-throated Warbler - From April 30 to the end of the period as many as four individuals were observed in Brecksville Metropark (Wallin et al). Birders from all over the Cleveland area traveled to Brecksville Metropark to see these birds and, it is good to report, most were able to find and see the birds.

Kentucky Warbler - (1) One was found on the Daffodil Trail of Akron Metroparks on May 9 (Wallin). (2) A single bird remained May 10 and 11 in Deep Lock Quarry (Ibsen). (3) Very tame and approachable was a bird that was noted May 12 and 13 at Donald Gray Gardens (Corbin, Klamm).

Wilson's Warbler - A new early spring date for this species was established when one was seen in Elmwood Park in Lakewood (Klamm, Stasko). Previous early spring date was April 24, 1948.

Orchard Oriole - (1) One was singing at a residence in Lorain on April 1 (Ward). This is a new early spring date. The previous early date was April 24, 1944. (2) One was noted in Akron on May 9 (Tveekrem). (3) A first-year male was observed in the early evening on May 9 and 10 in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman). (4) Another first-year male was feeding in a maple along the creek at Wildwood Park on May 14 (Corbin).

Summer Tanager - (1) A single bird in "green and red" plumage was observed at Perkins Beach at mid-morning on May 10 (Klamm). This particular tanager was noted hawking insects on the ground with Palm and Nashville Warblers and it also liked to sit on the pavement of the parking lot. The bird would occasionally call as it sat on the parking lot. (2) A male in splendid summer plumage was at Sims Park on the evening of May 11 (Quinlivan fide Corbin). (3) A female was seen at Lakeview Cemetery on May 18 (Leach).

Common Redpoll - First May record in the files of the Cleveland Bird Calendar was of two birds at a feeder in Concord Township on the extremely late date of May 13 (fide Booth). Thus Common Redpolls, birds of the late fall and winter seasons, were still present in our area when the spring warblers were at their peak!

Hoary Redpoll - The individual that was reported from a feeder in Akron at the end of February was seen on March 19 (Hannikman, Tveekrem) and was last reported on March 25 (LePage).

#### FIELD NOTES

NESTING JUNCOS The following is a chronology of two pairs of nesting Dark-eyed Juncos in Painesville:

- April 14 - Pair bringing twigs to nest in hole in bank about five feet above creek.
  - April 19 - Another junco making a nest about one-eighth of a mile down the creek.
  - May 20 - Pair feeding one fledgling. Brown, streaked breast, very short tail, beak dark with white sides. Five days later tail was half-grown.
  - May 26 - Second pair feeding one young. Last spring and this spring each nest produced only one young, perhaps due to the cold and wet spring.
- JACK AND DOROTHY MILLER

AN UNUSUAL HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER GUEST We first saw a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at the hummingbird feeder as we were eating breakfast on May 9. The speed with which he availed himself makes me think the bird may have seen a feeder like ours before. During the next six days the warbler fed at intervals of from five minutes to almost an hour. - LOIS WALLIN

LET'S GO OWLING The old Brooklyn Airport is located between Ridge Road, Biddulph Road, and the railroad tracks before Brookpark Road in Brooklyn, Ohio. It is an area of varying habitats. There are two large orchard areas of hawthorn and sweet crab apple trees almost exclusively. These two areas are surrounded by wild rose brambles and clumps of red osier dogwood. These, in turn, give way to various species of grasses, sedges, and weeds. The area where the Long-eared Owls were observed was one of the two small wooded areas. This area is behind some industrial buildings and has some extensive wild grape tangles that are attractive to this retiring species.

On the dates of April 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 29 a total of 14 Long-eared Owls was observed. On April 5 and 6 a Barn Owl appeared, and a red-phase Screech Owl was noted on April 4 after having been unsuccessful in trying to find these birds since March 1. Three of the owls on this evening were sitting within 15 feet of each other. Only on two other occasions did we see more than one Long-eared Owl together: two on April 5 and three on April 13.

The following behavioral traits and characteristics were noted during our observations of the Long-eared Owls:

Posture - Usually upright or at a slight incline. The owl usually perches on a horizontal branch within a foot or two of the tree trunk. Height above ground is about 3 to 15 feet. Being so close to the trunk an owl can often be mistaken for part of the tree trunk. The bird also has the ability to make itself look tall and thin or short and stocky.

Flight - The owl will allow an approach to within about 10 feet. At this distance, it will become increasingly alert and when you take your eyes off of it the owl will take off and fly a short distance. If pursued, the bird gets very frustrated and acquires a startled or bewildered look upon its face. Actual flight is very graceful. The bird flaps its wings a few times, tilting from side to side, and it can glide long distances. The owl is thoroughly apprehensive about flying more than a few feet above the ground and will even ram into many branches on an escape flight to avoid having to fly over an obstacle.

Aggression - Discovered while sleeping, one Long-eared Owl snapped its beak repeatedly until the observer retreated.

Miscellaneous - On two occasions an owl landed on the ground after discovery: on April 9 apparently while seeking food, and on April 29 when an owl alighted on a grass-covered ledge beyond the railroad tracks to avoid the observer and his Blue Jay companions. EMIL AND PRISCILLA BACIK

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

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Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Attention Helen Yenkevich, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.