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**BILL
SCHEELE**

Calendar is Excellent

The people who read, "The Cleveland Bird Calendar," a quarterly publication, are not great in number, but they are the most exacting group of bird observers in this entire region. For 63 years, a group of amateur and professional observers have combined their records to put together one of this country's best reports of this kind.

The Calendar is issued by the Natural Science Museum, with Donald L. Newman being Editor for the past 13 years. Don is an intensely dedicated man whose labor of love is reflected in research papers and many other serious opinions about birds and related matters are often based upon his edited work.

In recently announcing a year's leave of absence from the Calendar. Don is leaving matters in the hands of another outstanding birder, Annette B. Flanigan of Waite Hill, Willoughby.

The Calendar editor is usually able to report observations from 25 to 45 individuals during each report period. But weeding out suppositions and wishful thinking in the submitted material is something else. Few areas of scientific observing develop more intense challenges from doubters.

The ground covered by the Calendar is a circle with a radius of 30 miles from the Cleveland Public Square. This region has

changed over the years, but that is just one good reason why it is important to stick with it. Changes are worth noting wherever they occur. Those reflecting conditions near a big city carry tremendous implications in terms of habitat loss, pollution, and similar disturbing matters.

An uninitiated reader of a bird calendar might well be surprised to learn of the tremendous number of birds seen in a highly urbanized region. The presence of loons, swans, cormorant, dickcissek[1], whimbrel, kittiwake, and many other seldom seen species help make up a list of 253 bird species observed in this region during the year.

This total is a good one, based upon uncounted hours of field work by men and women who would be the first to shrug off the notion that they were doing something great. But in their own way, in this field, the observers are setting an example that more people ought to follow, for selfish reason, if for no other cause.

Serious bird watchers get out regularly and are anything but irrational in their approach to seeking factual records. Calendar contributions help fill a gap in making scientific records of lasting value.

Anyone interested in this project should contact Mrs. Flanigan through the Natural Science Museum.

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