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*The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor populations densities of resident birds and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region.

The Cleveland Region consists of a seven county area including Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties.

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Due dates for field records from contributors are as follows:

- 15 March for the Winter season
- 15 June for the spring season
- 15 September for the summer season
- 15 December for the fall season

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# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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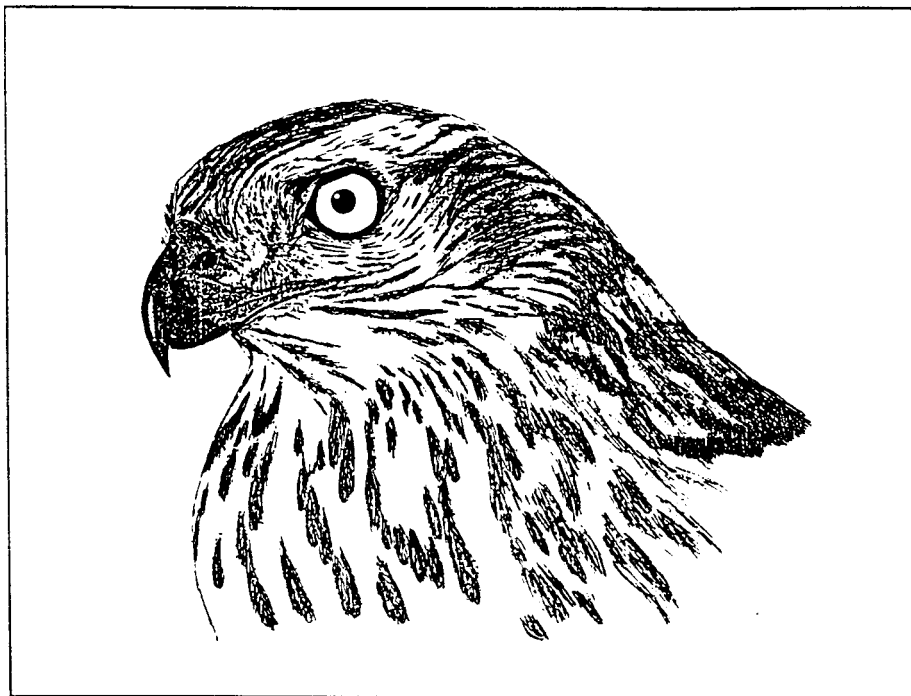
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## The Weather

### Fall 1989

by William A. Klamm

**September** - Temperatures averaged 0.1 degrees below normal at 64 degrees. The extremes reached a high of 88 on the 9th and a low of 37 on the 28th. Lake Erie water temperatures fell from 73 degrees on the 1st to 68 on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 54% of the time and rain came on 11 days to total 4.61 inches. This was 1.69 inches above normal.

**October** - Temperatures averaged 54.8 degrees, which was .8 degrees above normal. A high of 84 on the 14th and a low of 32 on the 9th provided the extremes. Lake Erie's temperature declined to 55 by the 31st. Precipitation totaled 4.5 inches on ten days, a whopping 2.05 inches above normal. Sunshine was changed slightly from September at 55%.

**November** - Temperatures averaged 41.0 degrees, .8 degrees cooler than normal. a high of 72 on the 13th and a low of 19 on the 19th and 24th were attained. Lake Erie's temperature dipped to 45 by the 30th. Sunshine slipped to only 30% of the time. Precipitation was distributed over 18 days. Rain and snow totaled 3.61 inches as water, 2.76 inches above normal. The snowfall totaled 9.1 inches with 5.9 of this occurring on the 22nd and 23rd.

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## Reflections

**Thirty Years Ago** - The first Summit County record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper was of two observed at Nimisila Reservoir on 7 September 1959 (Staiger). On the morning of 8

October 507 Black -capped Chickadees were counted as they migrated past Headlands Beach State Park (Newman). A Red -throated Loon was located in Lakewood on 28 November (Henderson, Klamm). A total of 244 species were reported for the year.

**Twenty Years Ago** -An immature Harris' Sparrow was present between 28 October and 4 November 1969 in Brecksville (Piskac). A Yellow-breasted Chat was very tardy in Lorain on 29 and 31 October (Dolbear). Four Dowitchers were at LaDue Reservoir on the late date of 4 November (Szabo). (Recent records for Ohio would indicate that these were most likely Long -billed Dowitchers) A Northern Gannet was an intermittent visitor to the CEI/ Gordon Park area (Hocevar, Klamm). A total of 254 species were reported for the year.

**Ten Years Ago** - The first fall record of Worm-eating Warbler was at Donald Gray Gardens on 9 September 1979 (Hoffman). A Eurasian Wigeon was at Lake Rockwell from 15 September through 26 October (Rosche, m.obs). A Yellow-headed Blackbird visited the feeders at the Seiberling Naturealm on 23 September (Stover, Szabo). An Indigo Bunting. was very late on 27 October at Wildwood Park (Corbin). Hannikman tallied 213 Common Loons over Kulhman Woods on 11 November. Thousands of Tundra Swans passed though the region the same day. A Yellow Rail allowed itself to be studied as it scurried into the water then disappeared in the short grass along LaDue Reservoir on the same date (Elder, Rosche, Stover). An obliging Snowy Owl roosted at Wildwood Park on 24 November (Kellerman). The Cleveland Bird Calendar received reports of 260 species for the year.

## Comment on the season

by Larry Rosche

Fall is an exciting time of the year for two basic reasons. First, autumn produces rarities like no other time of year. Secondly, returning passerines can be numerous at local migrant traps along Lake Erie and to a lesser extent inland. Observer ability in bird identification and knowledge of various stages of plumage has increased in recent years. Many observers no longer are intimidated by the "confusing fall warbler" stigma placed on an entire family by outdated field guides. Fall 1989 was very respectable in both categories.

Observers succeeded in locating an impressive 249 species during the season. Several species of shorebird and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were conspicuously absent. The Cleveland area is hardly known as a migration corridor for loons, grebes, and waterfowl. But, waterbirds, in general, seemed to have been very good locally. The numbers of regularly occurring anseriformes, except Blue-winged Teal, seemed up and the variety encountered bordered on the phenomenal. This season I found myself trying to remember not to project our relatively good sized flocks into being barometers for the nation. The latest Department of Wildlife totals for the past summer still paint a gloomy future for our native duck species. Observers are to be thanked for their constant monitoring of waterfowl along Lake Erie and on the inland lakes. All counties in the region were well represented in the waterbird tallies for the season.

For the the year, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* received reports of 279 species. This was one more than last year. If more suitable shorebird habitat had been found then this surely would have been a record setting year. Shorebirds missed for the entire year were: Piping Plover, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Long-eared Owl and Worm-eating Warbler were the only other expected birds not found in the 1988-1989 year.

A new decade is upon us and I can only look forward with anticipation to the reports that will be received. Heartfelt thanks goes out to all of the contributors and editorial assistants who willingly gave of their time to help during my first year as editor. A special thanks goes to Ray Hannikman for his guidance and expertise in record keeping. Good birding in the nineties.

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## Fall 1989

**Common Loon numbers** were exceptional along Lake Erie and fairly good inland. An early bird at Headlands Beach State Park (hereafter HBSP) on 24 Sep. served as a portent of things to come. Common Loons were found in higher than usual numbers in October but November tallies were really impressive. Hundreds could be observed on the water all along the lake. LePage noted 300 off Hunting Beach on 31 Oct. The Klamms saw 174 on the west side on 8 Nov. Fazio reported 48 at Shaker Lakes on 3 Nov. for a good inland count. Hannikman topped all reports with an impressive movement of 938 flying east to west over HBSP on 18 Nov. This number certainly was the highest single movement in the history of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. Pied-billed Grebes were at normal levels except in Lorain County

where they were felt to be high (Krapf). Horned Grebes were not nearly as impressive as loons with a high of only 100 on 8 Nov. along Lake Erie (LePage). Eared Grebes showed up in slightly less than usual numbers, with birds at HBSP on 28 Oct.- 19 Nov. (Hannikman, m.obs.), and Gordon Park area 19-30 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn, m.obs.). Double-crested Cormorants were in excellent local totals in October. A few were still being reported at the end of the period.

**Twelve Great Egrets** were at Baldwin Lake on 3 Sep. (Klamm). One lingered there through 1 Oct. Rosche found another at LaDue Reservoir on 2 Oct. Green-backed Herons were in modest numbers in September with a late bird at HBSP on 2 Oct. The most surprising heron was the Black-crowned Night-

Heron. Fazio had up to 15 at Shaker Lakes in September. The Klamms had similar numbers along the Rocky River and the lakefront. The Hoffmans saw 18 near Mundy Light on 1 Nov.

**Waterfowl** were represented by an incredible 40 species. Some in better than average numbers and a few noticeably lower. Six Tundra Swans were very early at Lake Rockwell on 19 Oct. (Rosche). Fazio reported 60 over Shaker Lakes on 8 Nov. Flocks totaled 100 over HBSP on 10 Nov. (Hoffman). Hannikman had 225 flying by HBSP and Stover saw 500 over the Seiberling Naturealm on 18 Nov. Elsewhere flocks of 50 or so could be found along Lake Erie in November by fortunate observers. Tundra Swans are usually a one day phenomena. Unique was a build-up at Lake Rockwell from four on 24 Nov. to 127

on the 29th. This contradicted all data ever garnered for this body of water in the fall (Rosche). Snow Geese put in a fair showing (for the region). An adult and an immature bird of the white phase were intermittent in late October through early November at Lake Rockwell. Two blue phase birds were at Shaker Lakes on 3 Nov. Other blue phase birds were located in Akron, Lake Medina, and Lake Rockwell. A flock of 12 over HBSP was a Thanksgiving Day (23 Nov.) surprise for Jim Heflich and Perry Peskin. Canada Geese arrived in spectacular numbers, even for this abundant species. Three reports of the Richardson's" race were received. Lake Rockwell had a bird return for the third straight year on 5 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Shaker Lakes hosted one on 22 Oct. (Fazio). Another was in association with 500 Canadas at Lake Medina on 26 Nov. (Rosche).

An unexpected total of 27 species of duck was verified in the region. Diligent waterfowl watchers found what seemed like very good local totals. Could these numbers (see table) be reflective of misplaced migrants due to poor breeding conditions elsewhere? Only time will tell if we are to continue on an upward trend or if this was a one time occurrence. Fazio reported Black X Mallard hybrids at Shaker Lakes and Kellerman reported a Green-winged Teal X Mallard hybrid at North Chagrin Reservation.

**Wood Ducks** seemed to have departed early. Green-winged Teal were widespread in their usual small numbers. Chasar found a Northern Pintail at Tinker's Creek State Park on 4 Nov. Five Blue-winged Teal were late in Geauga County on 16 Oct. (Fondrk). Fazio still had a single at Shaker Lakes on 25 Oct. Gadwall were in good numbers away from Lake Erie and American Wigeons at Lake Rockwell peaked at 310 on 28-29 October.

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## *Scoter reports were exceptionally high*

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A few Canvasbacks and Red-heads were sprinkled through the region by the period's end. Ring-necked Ducks staged impressively on the inland lakes and reservoirs. A high of 850 was reached at Lake Rockwell on 12 Nov. Along the eastern areas of Lake Erie, Lesser Scaup were thought to have arrived earlier than recent seasons. A high of 1000+ was off Mentor-On-The-Lake on 11 Nov. (Hannikman, Rosche). The Klamms felt that they were slightly later than usual in the western regions. Numbers reached only to 114 off Perkins Beach on 3 Nov. Nine Oldsquaws were reported which is fairly good for the fall season. An early bird was off Perry on 22 Oct. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Four were at HBSP on 9 Nov. (Fazio). Scoter reports were exceptionally high and widespread. Indeed, the first Black Scoters in recent Portage and Medina County histories were reported. Harlan and LePage found a female at Mogadore Reservoir on 22 Oct. Witt located a female on Lake Medina on 23-25 Nov. Fazio reported what was deemed as the first record from Shaker Lakes on 22-27 Oct. Fondrk located one at Walter Best Park in Chardon on 15 Nov. Along Lake Erie the numbers of this species were impressive. Starting on 21 Oct., when there were 20 at Perkins Beach, fairly sizeable flocks were observed in the water on the west side. A high of 68 was seen passing by Perry on 22 Oct. Black Scoters were resting off Perkins Beach through 7 Nov. with a high of 42

on 22 Oct. A rarely encountered adult male was videotaped there by the Klamms. Surf Scoters were almost as impressive numerically along Lake Erie. Three were early at HBSP on 7 Oct. and as many as 42 were observed along west side in late October (Klamm, Stasko). The only inland report was from Findley State Park on 10 Nov. (Harlan, LePage). White-winged Scoters were more normal with eight reports after mid-October and a high of 8 from Perkins Beach on 22 Oct. Bufflehead were in very good numbers throughout the region, with high in the 60-70 range on nearly every inland reservoir during November. Hooded Mergansers were widely distributed in small numbers. A high of only 75 at Lake Rockwell was considerably less than expected (Rosche). Common Mergansers were trickling into the region by late November. A bird at Wellington Reservoir on 12 Nov. was slightly early (Krap). The Klamms had 107,000 Red-breasted Mergansers from Huntington Beach to Perkins Beach on 12 Nov. Both Fazio and Stasko estimated numbers upwards to 50,000 along Lake Erie in Lorain County during mid-November. Ruddy Ducks were as usual inland but a one day influx of 357 off Perkins Beach on 17 Nov. was extraordinary for the location (Klamm).

**A Turkey Vulture** near Elyria on 5 Nov. was late (for the region) (Haddad). Up to 4 Ospreys were observed at Lake Rockwell through 21 Oct. Singles were found at the Barberton Holding Basin and in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Hereafter CVNRA) on 9 Sep. (Kopka). One was at HBSP on 30 Sep. (Hoffman, LePage). Two were reported from Spencer Lake on 23 Sep. Up to 3 Bald Eagles were observed at Lake

### Cleveland Region Waterbird Survey Fall 1989

LOCATION	LR	LR	CLF	LR	MOG	SL	HBSP	LAKE	CLF	LR	LAKE	LaD	LOR	MED	CLF
DATE	10/12	10/19	10/21	10/27	10/29	11/3	11/4	11/11	11/12	11/12	11/19	11/24	11/26	11/26	11/26
COMMON LOON	-	-	20	16	3	48	130	175	32	7	25	11	2	3	-
PIED-BILLED GREBE	4	2	-	10	12	3	1	-	-	7	10	8	-	2	-
HORNED GREBE	1	1	7	1	-	-	12	80	41	-	55	5	20	-	30
D-C. CORMORANT	15	4	39	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
GREAT BLUE HERON	7	10	-	10	2	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TUNDRA SWAN	-	6	1	-	-	60	-	-	-	3	11	2	-	-	-
CANADA GOOSE	200	220	-	350	13	308	-	140	-	600	220	400	40	550	18
WOOD DUCK	25	24	-	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GW. TEAL	8	2	-	15	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
A. BLACK DUCK	30	79	-	120	-	-	20	30	5	50	30	50	120	15	6
MALLARD	15	75	22	70	20	-	10	40	13	60	80	75	100	40	121
N. PINTAIL	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
N. SHOVELER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
GADWALL	34	30	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	60	-	2	-
A. WIGEON	78	125	-	310	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
RING-NECK. DUCK	8	25	-	300	6	-	-	-	-	350	5	-	-	-	-
LESSER SCAUP	-	10	38	62	-	1	-	1200	694	20	450	10	220	-	37
OLDSQUAW	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. GOLDENEYE	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	15	19	15	30	4	-	2	9
BUFFLEHEAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	35	140	65	53	35	10	4	19
HOODED MERG.	-	8	-	40	-	-	-	-	2	79	21	25	12	-	-
RB. MERGANSER	-	-	323	-	-	-	300	3500	100K	1	1100	-	700	-	12
RUDDY DUCK	-	-	28	9	414	-	-	4	-	3	260	14	-	-	4

CLF = Cleveland Lakefront; HBSP = Headlands Beach State Park; LAKE = Lake County Shoreline;

LaD = LaDue Reservoir; LOR = Lorain; LR = Lake Rockwell; MED = Lake Medina; MOG = Mogadore Reservoir.

Rockwell through the period. An interesting sighting was of two adults harassing a fish totting Osprey into giving up its meal on 19 Oct. Seventeen Northern Harriers were reported. Kraps felt that they were more common than usual in rural Lorain County. Up to four could be located hunting the Gordon Park Landfill in early November.

**Accipters** were widely reported with Cooper's Hawk felt to be increased in the counties bordering Lake Erie. Only two reports of Red-shouldered Hawk were received. One in Northfield 12 Oct. (Chasar) and one near Chardon on 19 Nov. (Rosche). A fairly impressive total of ten Rough-legged Hawks were tallied this season. Reports were received from all counties except Geauga and Summit.

**Rail reports were very sparse.** Only

one Sora at Lower Shaker Lake on 15 Sep. was reported in the entire region (Peskin). Common Moorhens remained at the 532 Swamp in Cuyahoga Falls through 16 Sep. American Coots arrived on time and in good numbers at their usual preferred inland locales. Highs were in hundreds at LaDue and Mogadore Reservoirs. Small numbers were seen along Lake Erie from mid-September.

Shorebirding, in general, was very disappointing. Numbers and rarities were far below those of Gordon Park in its glory days of the mid-eighties. Only observers lucky enough to be in the right palce at the right time found the uncommon species as they flew by a favored Lake Erie locale. Normally uncommon to fairly common species were encountered singly or not at all. A disappointing 28 species were reported. Thirty-five spe-

cies are expected when suitable habitat is to be found throughout the region.

**A high of only 11 Black-bellied Plovers** was reached at Burke Airport on 4 Oct. (Harlan). Several other reports were scattered along Lake Erie through 17 Oct. Two birds provided the late sighting was at HBSP on 12 Nov. (LePage). Lesser Golden-Plovers fared just as poorly with reports from only five days in the period. The inland high was only 7 at Barberton on 10 Sep. (Rosche). The high along the Lake Erie was 8 at Burke Airport on 9 Oct. (Klamm). Semipalmated Plovers were in small numbers at West Branch SP and Barberton during September. A late bird was at HBSP on 21 Oct. (Pierce). Killdeer were fairly numerous in the mud adjacent to Lake Rockwell, during October,

where they numbered nearly one hundred on several days. A Greater Yellowlegs was late at La-Due Reservoir on 13 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs were barely noticed after mid-September. Solitary Sandpipers were conspicuous at Shaker Lakes into October

(Fazio). A bird at Headlands BSP on 2 Oct. was late for the location (Rickard). A Spotted Sandpiper seemed out of place at Lake Rockwell on 22 Oct., especially, when you realize that observers were there to see the Red-throated Loon, Ross' Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys present at the location. Kellerman located the only **Whimbrel** of the season at Burke Airport on 23 Sep. This was only the second report for the entire year. Ruddy Turnstones were in low numbers along Lake Erie and not reported inland. The only Red Knots of the year were found at E. 55th St. on 7 & 10 Sep. (LePage) and at Barberton on 16 Sep. (Rosche). Sanderlings were common along Lake Erie with late birds at Headlands BSP on 1 Nov. (Kellerman). Two Western Sandpipers were studied at Headlands BSP on 10 Sep. (Hannikman). Least Sandpipers were few with a straggler at West Branch SP on 29 Oct. White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from Headlands BSP on 24 Sep. (Gustafson, Peterjohn, m.obs.) and from West Branch SP on 29 Oct. (3) and 30 Oct. (Rosche). Baird's Sandpipers were unusually rare with only six reports including late birds at Headlands BSP on 15 Oct. (Hannikman) and at West Branch SP on 30 Oct. (Rosche, Tisdale). The high tally of Baird's Sandpipers was only 3 at HBSP on 3 Sep. (Hoffman). For the most part, the usually very common Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin passed through undetected. A Stilt Sandpiper was at Baldwin Lake on 18 Sep. (Harlan). Common Snipe were regular at

Shaker Lakes and Lake Rockwell where the high reached 20 on 16 Oct. LePage reported the only American Woodcock sighting on 11 Nov. at Donald Gray Gardens. Up to three Wilson's Phalaropes were located at Barberton through 16 Sep. (Kopka, Rosche).

**A jaeger species** was reported from the breakwall behind Burke Airport on 4 Nov. (Kiwi). This family is very challenging to identify to exact species in immature plumages and Mr. Kiwi's reluctance to label this individual is understandable if not commendable. The only Franklin's Gull report for the year was from Lorain on 20 and 24 Nov. (Alexander). This species may have been adversely affected by the recurring drought conditions of the prairie states and provinces. It does not seem that long ago when they were regularly occurring in small, but expected, numbers. Little Gulls were widely reported, after 1 Oct. at Headlands BSP (Hannikman, Bartlett), in small numbers. Up to two were in Cleveland and Lorain through most of November (m.obs.). Bonaparte's Gull were numerous at the major river mouths as expected. Bill Klamm's high count for the west side was 9000 on 3 Nov. Thayer's Gulls were reported from Lorain on 10 Nov. (3rd year) (Fazio) and from Eastlake on 11(1st year) (m.obs.) and 19 Nov. (2nd year) (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be found with regularity. Twenty-

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**... no Black Terns  
were seen  
in the region...**

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two sightings from Lake to Lorain Counties were indicative of its continual (albeit uncommon) presence in the region. The only Glaucous Gulls noted were at HBSP and Eastlake on 26 Nov. (Hoffman). The first adult Great Black-backed Gull was at Headlands on 22 Sep. (Rickard). They were becoming numerous at the end of the period along Lake Erie. Lake Rockwell's fifth record (all adults) was there on 26 Nov. (Rosche).

**Caspian Terns** continued in fair numbers from the summer season. The last report was from Headlands BSP on 21 Oct. (Hannikman). Common Terns were easy to find along Lake Erie through mid-September. Inland, three at Lake Rockwell on 24 Sep. were the first fall records there in at least five years (Rosche). Late birds were in Cleveland on 12 Nov. (Hoffman) and Lorain on 18 Nov. (Hannikman, Rosche). Forster's Terns disappeared by September but a very tardy individual was in Lorain on 18 Nov. (Hannikman, Rosche). Other than one winter record in January of 1983 (LePage) this was the latest record ever for the region. Unbelievably, no Black Terns were seen in the region after August.

The only report of Black-billed Cuckoo was from Mogadore Reservoir on 27 Sep. (Rosche, Tisdale). Harlan reported a cuckoo species at the CVNRA on 29 Sep. No Yellow-billed reports were received from the region. The only migrant owl receiving mention was Short-eared. A bird flew over Shaker Lakes on 14 Oct. (Fazio, Rickard) and another was over Gordon Park on 14 Nov. (Fazio). Common Nighthawks disappeared abruptly after the 5th of September when 250+ were seen over Kent. An impressive 1360 Chimney Swifts were reported from Shaker Lakes 14-16 Oct.

(Fazio). A small flock of 8 over Fairport Harbor on 22 Oct. was late (Gustafson, Peterjohn). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird remained in Akron through 1 Oct. (Haley).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** had all but disappeared from the region by October. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were conspicuous along Lake Erie from the last third of September through early October. A high count was 15 on 1 Oct. at Headlands BSP. Northern Flickers were in their usual abundance throughout September and October. Resident woodpeckers were felt to be holding their own and a few Red-bellieds had moved into locations along Lake Erie by November. The most out of place Pileated Woodpecker was at Heflich's feeder in Cleveland Heights on 10 Nov.

**Seven Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports were about the norm for the species in the fall. Eastern Wood Pewees were common in September but a bird at Headlands on 22 Oct. was near the record late date (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Kiwi reported two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Shaker Lakes on 3 Sep. He saw another at Headlands BSP on 17 Sep. An Acadian Flycatcher at Headlands BSP on 9 Sep. was unexpected (Hannikman, Rosche). Willow Flycatchers lingered at Shaker Lakes through 24 Sep. (Fazio) and in Rocky River through 25 Sep. (Klamm). The last inland Least Flycatcher was 28 Sep. at the Seiberling Naturealm (Kopka). Paralleling this along the lakefront, the last report was 29 Sep. (Klamm). A very tardy, silent "empidonax" was at Gordon Park on 9 Oct. The bird was described meticulously. A bicolored bill that seemed more narrow than a Willow Flycatchers troubled the observers. The bird flew before positive identification could be made (Hoffman). Recent occur-

rences of "western empids" east of the Mississippi serve to alert all observers to the possibility of these species being found in the region. Eastern Phoebe migration was spread out from early September through mid-October. This was much unlike that of a year ago when they seemed to be everywhere for a brief period in October. Only one report of both Great-crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird was received.

**Other than Tree**, swallows were, for all intents and purposes, absent. No observations of any kind of swallow were received from the well-monitored Shaker Lakes. Small numbers of Purple Martins were seen at Headlands BSP and West Branch SP through 10 Sep. A huge congregation of 6000+ Tree Swallows was at Barberton from 2-10 Sep. (Rosche). Two at LaDue Reservoir on 4 Nov. were very late for the region (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Not to be outdone, Fazio reported two at Mentor Lagoons on 9 Nov. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were only seen three times. Oddly, Harlan had four on 2 Oct. at Baldwin Lake which was only the second time this species had ever been detected locally in October. Bank Swallows were numerous only at Barberton in early September. A Cliff Swallow was Headlands BSP on 4 Sep. (Hannikman) and one at Barberton on 10 Sep. was fairly late (Rosche).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** put in a fairly strong showing during September and October. Brown Creepers were conspicuous beginning in October throughout the region, but particularly away from Lake Erie. Wrens were as usual except for House Wrens which put in an excellent and prolonged showing along the lake. Two Marsh Wrens were detected at the Gordon Park Landfill on 15 Oct. for the only report of southward bound migrants (Harlan, Klamm).

Both kinglet species were well represented and fair numbers of Golden-crowned were still present at the period's end. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers fared poorly with only seven reports.

**Overall, thrush numbers** were fairly good. A Swainson's Thrush was very late at the Seiberling Naturealm on 26 Nov. (Stover). Hermit Thrushes seemed to be more widespread than last year. For the first time in several years migrant Wood Thrushes were noted in early September. Gray Catbirds lingered to mid-October along the lake. Kopka's last was in Akron on 29 Oct. The Northern Mockingbirds at Gordon Park

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### ***A Swainson's Thrush was very late at the Seiberling Naturealm...***

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were last noted on 28 Oct. (Klamm). Two to three American Pipits (formerly Water Pipit) were regular at HBSP from the early date of 9 Sep. through 8 Oct. (Hannikman, Rosche). The usual small numbers could be found at Lake Rockwell in late October. Late birds were noted at Wildwood Lakefront SP on 26 Oct. (Kellerman) and on 5 Nov. at Gordon Park (Hoffman).

**White-eyed Vireos** remained in full song at the Barberton Holding Basin through 23 Sep. (Rosche). One was located at the Carlisle Visitor Center in Lorain County on 19 Sep. (Kraps). The last report was 1 Oct. at HBSP (Bartlett, m.obs.). Solitary Vireos were common into late October but Yellow-throated Vireos were detected only twice. Warbling Vireos were typically conspicuous

### Shaker Lakes Common Migrant Survey - Fall 1989

SPECIES	9/4	9/11	9/15	9/24	9/30	10/4
EAST FLYCATCHER	3	1	1	1	•	•
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	10	13	6	13	9	3
HOUSE WREN	8	12	7	16	•	4
VEERY	1	11	2	3	•	•
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	•	6	•	9	•	1
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	•	125	27	28	2	2
HERMIT THRUSH	•	1	•	1	5	8
GRAY CATBIRD	38	48	41	40	5	2
SOLITARY VIREO	•	•	•	2	4	3
WARBLING VIREO	3	1	•	1	•	1
RED-EYED VIREO	9	35	1	10	•	•
TENNESSEE WARBLER	5	8	2	3	•	10
NASHVILLE WARBLER	10	4	•	4	8	4
CHESTNUT-SIDED W.	1	15	19	5	•	•
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	44	45	43	51	7	1
CAPE MAY WARBLER	57	30	3	9	1	•
BLACK-THROATED BLUE W.	8	1	•	1	3	2
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	•	1	•	27	295	125
BLACK-THROATED GREEN W.	13	34	19	15	3	5
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	7	1	•	13	•	•
PALM WARBLER	•	•	•	3	11	4
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	58	20	25	31	4	1
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	7	12	44	53	1	13
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	8	9	16	1	•	•
AMERICAN REDSTART	29	130	69	29	•	2
OVENBIRD	2	7	1	1	1	•
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	2	6	6	3	2	1
MOURNING WARBLER	3	2	1	•	•	•
C. YELLOWTHROAT	•	1	6	3	•	•
CANADA WARBLER	3	12	•	•	•	•
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBILL	7	16	9	12	2	•
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	•	4	•	73	130	160
DARK-EYED JUNCO	1	•	•	5	28	64

along Lake Erie through late September. The late report was a singing bird in Silver Lake 28 Oct. (Tisdale). Philadelphia Vireos were reported in totals difficult to believe in September. Let it suffice to say that it was a good fall for the species. A Red-eyed Vireo was late in Parma Heights on 25 Oct. (Harlan).

**Warblers received** their usual good

coverage. Fazio's continuing study at Shaker Lakes was very impressive. Tennessee Warblers were numerous and Orange-crowned Warblers were simply common. Reports from the eastern half of the region were very good. A high of eight Orange-crowned Warblers at HBSP on 22 Oct. was an excellent total (Gustafson, Peterjohn). A Northern Parula was at Lake

Rockwell on 18 Sep. and another at Firestone Metropark in Akron on 28 Sep. (Haddad). Chestnut-sided Warblers were common and Magnolia Warblers plentiful in September. A Cape May Warbler was late at Seiberling Naturealm on 23 Oct. (Kopka). Black-throated Blue Warblers were numerous with a high of 12 at HBSP on 7 Oct. (m.obs.). Don Busic reported a female to Charles Klaus on the very

late date of 27 Oct. behind National City Center. Klaus' list of downtown migrants over the years is really quite impressive. It seems that these birds get somewhat trapped by the large buildings and linger in the same small areas for several days. Yellow-rumped Warblers descended on the region by October and away from Lake Erie remained in fair numbers at the period's end. Twenty-one Black-throated Green Warblers in the Rocky River Valley on 25 Sep. was impressive (Klamm). Blackburnian Warbler totals were good when compared to recent autumns. A Pine Warbler was singing at Shaker Lakes on 11 Oct. (Fazio). Highs of 40 or more Palm Warblers along Lake Erie were commonplace in early October. Bay-breasted Warblers passed through in good totals but Blackpoll Warblers did not come close to last years totals.

**Black-and-White Warblers** were very conspicuous but only to mid-September. Excellent tallies of American Redstarts were received from all counties. A lingerer at HBSP on 22 Oct. was very late for our region (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Ovenbird totals were fair with the last being at Donald Gray Gardens on 17 Oct. (LePage) Northern Waterthrushes were above average with 31 individuals reported. Ten reports of Mourning Warblers were about average. The latest was in Kiwi's yard on 29 Sep. Hooded Warblers were last detected at Lake Rockwell on 25 Sep. The last Wilson's Warbler was in the Rocky River Valley on 25 Sep.

A Scarlet Tanager at HBSP on 16-17 Sep. seemed out of place. This species has not been found there in recent autumns. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks fared much better. An Indigo Bunting was an interesting find at HBSP on 8 Oct. It remained in the same general area through the late date of 21 Oct.

(Hannikman, Rosche). Another was very late (for the Cleveland region) in Granger Township on 19 Oct. (Gustafson, Peterjohn).

**The first American Tree sparrow** was in Akron on 30 Sep. (Kopka). They were common after the 10th of November. Up to two Chipping Sparrows lingered at HBSP through 28 Oct. (Hannikman, Rosche). Field Sparrows were generally unreported with a high of only 16 at Gordon Park on 15 Oct. (Klamm). Two Vesper Sparrows were reported from Cleveland on 9 Oct. (Klamm). Savannah Sparrow reports were very discouraging. Kraps noticed only two in Lorain County. No more than two were located together during the peak movement period of 14 - 16 Oct. Fox Sparrow reports were encouraging. The earliest was 24 Sep. in Cleveland and a high of six was reached at Shaker Lakes on 10 Oct. Klaus reported Lincoln's Sparrows to be more numerous than usual in downtown Cleveland and lingering longer. Elsewhere they were detected in fair numbers through late October. White-throated Sparrows were numerous everywhere in the region after late September. White-crowned Sparrows staged an impressive one day show of four to five hundred at the Gordon Park Landfill on 15 Oct. (Harlan, Klamm). Dark-eyed Juncos were as numerous as ever in recent years. The rare "Oregon Junco" form was reported from Seiberling Naturealm on 10 Nov. (Kopka).

**The first Lapland Longspur** noted was at HBSP (Rosche, mobs.) on 24 Sep. They were detected at Shaker Lakes on 14 Oct. (Fazio, Rickard) and several dates at Fairport Harbor with a high of six on 26 Nov. (Hoffman). Snow Buntings were numbering into the hundreds at Fairport Harbor from mid to late November (m.obs.). Few were seen elsewhere. A

Bobolink at HBSP on 1 Oct. was the only report (Hannikman, Rosche). A few Eastern Meadowlarks were reported in October. A flock of 100+ Rusty Blackbirds was at Tinkers Creek SP on 4 Nov. (Chasar).

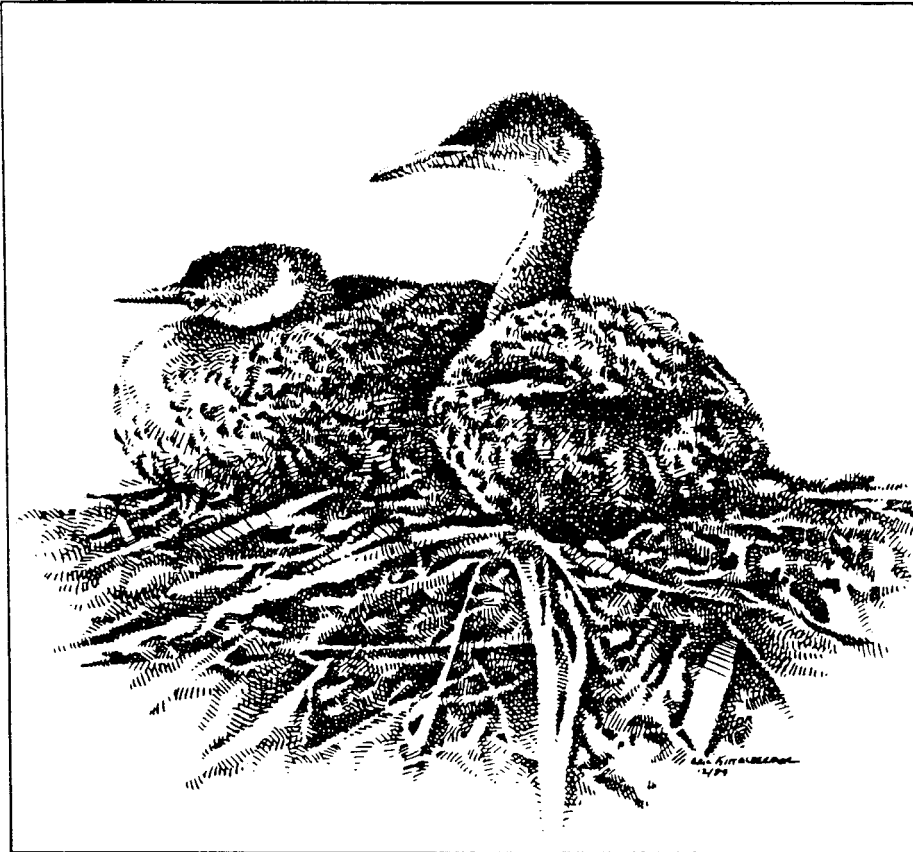
**Purple Finches** were inconspicuous except at Lake Rockwell. A Common Redpoll report from Perry on 22 Oct. (Gustafson, Peterjohn) gave hopes for an invasion that had yet to materialize by the end of the period. Pine Siskins were fairly common from early October but no major reports were received from feeding stations. A high of 40 on 29 Oct. was seen at Lake View Cemetery (Hoffman). A sprinkling of Evening Grosbeaks also instilled a false hope of a winter finch outbreak. Surely the old theories of odd versus even year irruptions no longer hold for our winter finches.

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## Noteworthy Reports

**Red-throated Loon** - Two birds were located on 22 Oct., one at Perry (Gustafson, Peterjohn) and one at Lake Rockwell (Rosche, m.obs.), marking the earliest fall date for this species ever recorded in the history of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. The Lake Rockwell bird was unique in that it remained until the 29th and allowed many to see this tough to find species. Hannikman had one fly by during his lake watch at Headlands Beach State Park on 4 Nov. and Fazio likewise, at the same location, on 8 Nov. The Hoffmans saw an individual on the water at Fairport Harbor 5 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe** -A veritable November invasion occurred.



Red-necked Grebes by  
Eric Kittelberger

Starting with an adult at the mouth of the Grand River from the 5th through the 24th (Rosche, m.obs.) birds were found at Painesville Township Park on the 8th (Fazio), at Eastlake on the 11th (Rosche, m.obs.), at Northeast Yacht Club on the 12th (Hoffman), at Avon Lake on the 15th (LePage), at Wellington Reservoir on the 20th (Kraps), and at E. 55th St. on the 24th (Gustafson, Peterjohn).

**Ross' Goose** - The first Cleveland area record was found at Lake Rockwell on 21 Oct. (Heflich, Peskin, Rosche). The bird proved to be hard to find for the masses of birders who showed up the next day to view it. Fortunately, Rosche relocated it on the 23rd

and many birders from across the state got to see it. It **was** last seen flying south early on the morning of 12 Nov. This constituted the second record for Ohio.

**Brant** - A flock of six helped rewrite the earliest fall arrival in the record book on 18 Oct. at E. 55th St. (LePage). One was there on the 19th and one was at Burke on the 23rd (LePage). The Klamms saw one at Perkins Beach on 26 Oct. and thought that the same bird was at Lakewood Park on 1 Nov. Inez Beck identified the first record for Summit County at the Portage Lakes SP for on 5 Nov. It was seen at least through the 18th. A single was at Headlands BSP on 13 Nov. (Hannikman, Kiwi).

**Eurasian Wigeon** - As if to celebrate a tenth year anniversary of Lake Rockwell's first autumn record a male was located by Rosche on 11 Oct. and remained through the 29th.

**Harlequin Duck** - Two immatures were resting on the breakwall at Headlands BSP on 13 Nov. (Hannikman, Kiwi).

**King Eider** - Our earliest record for this species was a female at Perry on 22 Oct. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). Four, including an two immature males, were documented from Avon Lake on 4 Nov. (Fazio). A female was reported in Lorain on 21 Nov. (Alexander).

**Merlin** - An adult male was observed at Headlands BSP as it flew into Mentor Marsh on 24 Sep. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). A female or immature was at Burke Airport on 1 Nov. (Hoffman).

**Peregrine Falcon** - Klaus and Rolik continued to observe the pair in the Cleveland Public Square area through the period. Gustafson and Peterjohn located one on the morning of 24 Sep. at Headlands BSP. Later, in the afternoon, another was seen flying over Fairport Harbor (Hannikman, Rosche). The Klamms and the Hoffmans described a dark immature at the Gordon Park Landfill on 28, 29 Sep. and 2, 17 Oct. Adults were noted at Burke Airport on 7 Oct. and 9 Nov. by the same observers. Kiwi reported a dead bird along North Marginal Road on 10 Oct. that was hacked at Thunder Bay, Ontario.

**Purple Sandpiper** - Pat Haddad found the first at Headlands BSP on 9 Nov. Up to five were found there later in the month and into winter (Hannikman, m.obs.). Fazio reported a single in Lorain on 11 Nov.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - Two flew over Headlands BSP on 3 Sep. (Hannikman, Rosche). One was at Burke Airport on 27 Sep. and 3 Oct. (Klamm).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - Kellerman found three at Wildwood Lakefront State Park on 24 Sep. He kindly contacted others and many were fortunate to find at least two of the birds through the remainder of the day.

**Red Phalarope** - Hannikman located a juvenile at Wildwood Lakefront State Park on 11 Nov. Kiwi found it at Euclid Beach State Park on 12 Nov. Another or possibly the same bird was there on 24 Nov. (Kellerman). A single bird was also observed at Eastlake on 19 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn).

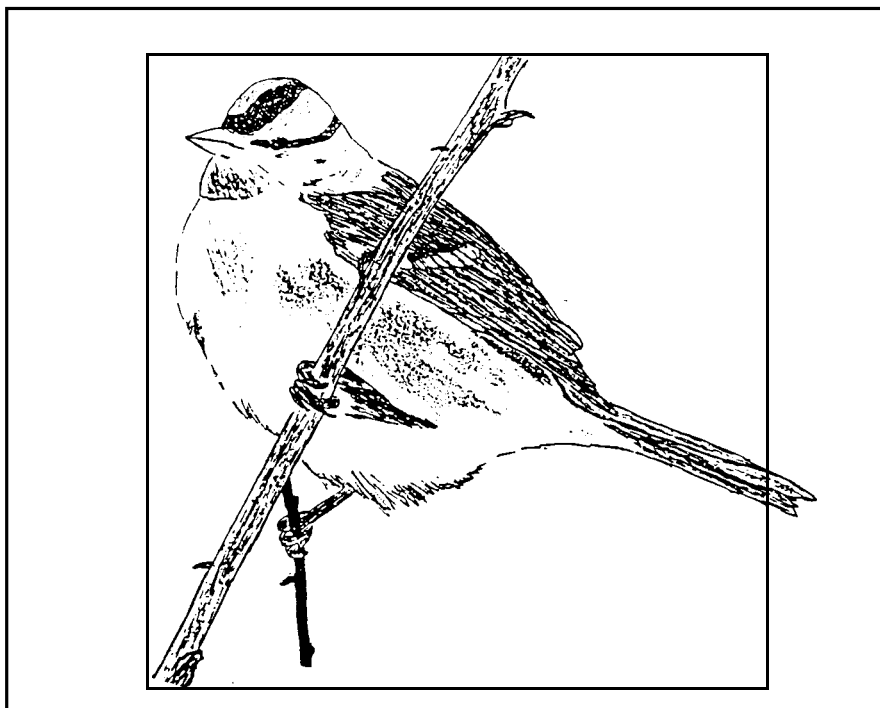
**Long-tailed Jaeger** - An immature was detailed meticulously by Hannikman (see field notes) at Headlands BSP on 23 Sep. This was the second record for the region, the first being in Parma on 13 Sep. 1960 (Bartel).

**Parasitic Jaeger** - This species put in a good showing with reports from: Perkins Beach on 1 Nov. (LePage), (Hannikman, m.obs.), Avon Lake on 21 Nov., Lorain on 21 and 28 November (Alexander).

**California Gull** - An adult was studied in Lorain on 3 and 28 Nov. (Alexander). A 3rd-year bird was there on 23 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn).

**Black-legged Kittiwake** - The only report was of an immature in Lorain on 17 Nov. (Alexander).

**Sabine's Gull** - The bird from summer was seen, off and on, through 27 Nov. (Klamm, m.obs.). Juveniles were located at Headlands BSP on 17 Sep. (Hannikman, Kiwi) and 23 Sep. (Hannikman).



White-crowned Sparrow  
by Victor Fazio III

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - The latest local report (only the third in October) of this species was in Bratenahl on 13 Oct. (Hoffman).

**Barn Swallow** - The latest report ever in the history of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* for this species was patrolling in the area of the destroyed fishing pier at Egdewater Park on 29 Oct. It was described as an adult and it was studied at length (Stasko).

**Sedge Wren** - Gustafson and Peterjohn located this increasingly rare species at Headlands BSP and it was viewed by many on 24 Sep.

**Northern Shrike** - A very early migrant was located at the Gordon Park Landfill on 15 Oct. and remained through the period. "The bird was often vocal with very audible calls and some but a slight whisper" (Klamm, m.obs.).

**Connecticut Warbler** - Always a good find, one was in Parma on 11 Sep. (Harlan) and on at Shaker Lakes the same day (Fazio). Sims Park harbored a bird on 17 Sep. (Hannikman).

**Dickcissel** - Hannikman observed and heard a single bird at Headlands BSP on 14 Oct., a day he referred to as "sparrow day 1989".

**Grasshopper Sparrow** - Fall records of this species are very few. A single bird was at the Gordon Park landfill 13 - 22 Oct. (Klamm, LePage). This also constituted one of our very latest fall reports for this species.

**Henslow's Sparrow** - Fondrk located this now extremely rare migrant in Geauga County on 16 Oct.

**Red Crossbill** - Fazio reported a single bird at Shaker Lakes on 3 Nov.

## Field Notes

### **A sight record of Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) from Headlands Beach State Park** by Raymond L. Hannikman.

As discussed below, gale-force winds, produced by a strong cold front, whipped Lake Erie into a fury on the morning of 23 September 1989. When I got to Headlands Beach State Park hundreds of gulls were resting on the beach. Throughout the entire morning Bonaparte's Gulls would move from the beach area to the mouth of the Grand River. As I was scanning the Bonaparte's Gulls at the river mouth, a juvenile Sabine's Gull flew in from the west and joined the feeding flock. The Sabine's Gull fed and rested with the Bonaparte's Gulls. At one point it was even chased by one of the Bonaparte's Gulls. This was the second juvenile Sabine's Gull I had seen there within a week, a juvenile was noted by Ivor Kiwi, Margaret Hahn, and me on 17 September, also a day with strong winds off the lake. I set up a lake watch on the breakwall and soon found a winter-plumaged adult Little Gull. After about an hour on the breakwall, I did a little land birding but returned to my lake watch. It was after about 45 minutes that I saw the Long-tailed Jaeger fly in from the west very low over the beach at the east end of the park. Following is my description of the sighting as it is to be submitted to the Ohio Records Committee. Weather and, of course, luck along with the requisite knowledge of what to look for in one of the most sought-after species in the state of Ohio.

TIME: 10:34 a.m. to 10:36 a.m. 23 September 1989

DISTANCE: 50 feet to 300 yards

WEATHER: Gale-force winds from the north and northwest off Lake Erie, heavy cloud layer with no sunshine early and throughout the morning until about 11:30 a.m. The previous day had seen up to two inches of rain fall in the Cleveland area. Previous experience with species: I have seen all three species of jaeger in Alaska and Canada. I have seen juvenile Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers in California and Ohio. This was my first juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger.

### **Description:**

**UPPER-TAIL COVERTS:** The upper-tail coverts were barred. A characteristic that was easily seen since I looked down at the bird. The barring extended from one side of the tail to the next, the color of the barring was a rather buffy, off white, and I noted at least three well-defined bars on the upper tail. **Central Tail Feathers:** The central tail feathers were not fanned for me but appeared somewhat pointed.

**UNDER-TAIL COVERTS:** This characteristic was not observed by me. **Wings and Body:** Since I was looking down at the bird I concentrated on the primary wing tip pattern. I could only observe two white shafts on the feathers of the primaries on the upper surface of the wing. The color of the underwing primaries was not a "flashy white, rather a duller, more subdued shade of white. Nevertheless, this white primary underwing color could be observed as the jaeger flew away from me and out toward the lake. The most prominent characteristic I observed was the barred axillaries. This white and dark barring was easily seen as the bird passed directly in front of me.

**MANNER OF FLIGHT:** Flight was leisurely with a few wing beats followed by gentle gliding. Though winds were of gale-force and may have affected the manner of flight of this particular bird on this day, no indication was ever given of the quick, falcon-like flight of Parasitic Jaeger.

**OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OBSERVED:** The breast band was uniform dark gray and the belly was lighter than the breast band. The throat was the same gray color of the breast band. The cap of the bird was dark brown and the upper hindneck and sides of the head below the cap were a lighter color. This contrasting head pattern was very noticeable. The bill was not very noticeable even though I did not have a chance to study for any length of time. It was small and not massive or thick.

**DISCUSSION:** Juvenal-plumaged jaegers of any of the three species present field identification problems. On the juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger I observed I feel that I have delineated three key field marks: 1) the

prominent white and black barring of the axillars  
2) the barred upper-tail coverts, and 3) the two white shafts of the upper surface of the primaries.

Pomarine Jaeger has prominent barred axillars and upper-tail coverts, but this species approaches the size and mass of a Herring Gull. The Headlands Long-tailed Jaeger was not a bulky bird, did not possess a massive bill, and did not fly with a heavy, ponderous flight. Other characteristics which eliminated Pomarine Jaeger were the two white primary shafts on the upper wing surface. Most Pomarine Jaegers show a double patch of white on the underwing which would have been visible at the distance I observed the Long-tailed Jaeger. Parasitic Jaeger was eliminated by the upper wing pattern of the primaries, its barring on the upper-tail coverts and axillars is less noticeable, its flight is swift and falcon-like, and a dark-capped effect is usually not shown. I feel that the jaeger I observed on 23 September 1989 at Headlands Beach State Park was a pale/medium (intermediate) juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger.

#### References:

Seabirds: An Identification Guide, Peter Harrison  
Field Identification of the Smaller Skuas, British Birds



Ross' Goose  
by Eric Kittelberger

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#### Field Notes on a Ross' Goose at Lake Rockwell on 21 October 1989 by Jim Heflich

While observing an Eurasian Wigeon in a mixed flock of puddle ducks and Canada Geese, three of us (Perry Peskin, Larry Rosche) spotted a small white goose, assumed to be a Snow Goose, at a distance of some 150 yards. Later, when the goose was less than 100 yards off, and our attention to the wigeon had lessened, Larry discovered the bird was indeed a Ross' Goose.

Field marks seen both through 8 power binoculars and 50 power spotting scope under ideal conditions (full sun, calm water, close range) were :

1. Small size, approximately 50-60% overall body length of nearby Canada Geese.
2. The base of the bill formed a distinct right angle with the lower mandible. The bill was a striking small triangle.

3. The bill was plain and lacked the grinning patch of the similarly colored Snow Goose.

4. At the base of the bill was a dark bluish triangular-shaped patch where the bill meets the head feathers. This was in sharp contrast to the rest of the bill which was pink.

5. The overall impression was one of a short, stubby triangular-shaped bill "stuck on" a round head. This seemed to match exactly with the NGSFG illustration of Ross' Goose in size, shape, and color.

Comment: This was the first Ross' Goose I've seen. Based on careful, unhurried observation under ideal conditions through excellent optics, I have no doubt about the identification. It will be interesting to see my first Snow Goose this fall, and compare it with the vivid mental image left by this Ross' Goose.

(Ed. note. The Ross' Goose was seen and photographed into November by many people throughout Ohio.)

## Notes on the Lake Rockwell Ross' Goose behavior by Larry Rosche

The Lake Rockwell bird was believed to be an adult based on the caruncles (warty protuberances) at the base of the bill. It associated with a flock of 30-40 Canada Geese at all times during its stay. The second time (23 Oct. 1989) I located the bird it was with a white phase Snow Goose. The Ross' Goose followed the Snow Goose everywhere it went. I was very surprised that when the Snow Goose departed on 25 Oct. that

the Ross' remained behind. On 5 November 1989 I saw the Ross' Goose in association with a juvenile Snow Goose. This time it was the young Snow Goose that tagged along with the Ross' Goose. By this time the large flock of 450+

Canada Geese was becoming more and more skitterish and unapproachable (at least by humans).

At this time I noticed a peculiar behavioral trait of the Ross' Goose. It seemed odd that when one of the adult Bald Eagles frequenting the lake would pass by only the Ross' Goose would take to the air like the ducks did. The Canada Geese paid the eagles no mind.

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## Notes on the downtown Cleveland Peregrine Falcons

by Drew Rolik

On Thursday 21 September 1989 I was up in the Greenbriar Suite of the Terminal Tower. This private suite, on the 12th floor, has leaded glass windows in front of the regular glass windows. I opened a leaded glass window to check the view of downtown and was totally surprised to see two Peregrine Falcons

sitting on the ledge of the building less than six feet away!

One was a typical adult, the other had a brownish cast, though not as brown as a typical immature. Both seemed quite unafraid, even though at one point three of us were observing them. Both at one point became very vocal. I walked around the corner and opened another window. By this time the adult was gone, but now I was looking directly at the other bird from no more than three feet (and it was looking at me). I watched for a few minutes then closed the window.

Incidentals from later observations of the Peregrines.

12 October: Observed adult in its usual place on the 12th floor ledge of the Terminal Tower.

13 October: One observed on the roof of Higbee's.

17 October: One observed landing on the 15th floor window-sill of the Terminal Tower.

27 October: Two falcons calling, swooping, and chasing pigeons around Public Square. The falcons appeared to be harassing the pigeons, as I did not see the falcons catch one.

10 November: The adult was on the 12th floor ledge as usual. I tried to photograph it, but because of the angle the picture did not turn out very well. I was, however, able to get within four feet of it, and it did not seem at all afraid. Of course, the glass was between us.

From other people who work in the Tower, I have learned that the falcons' favorite roosting places are on the 12th floor ledge, on the 36th floor ledge, and the roof of Higbees.

## REMEMBERING NOTES

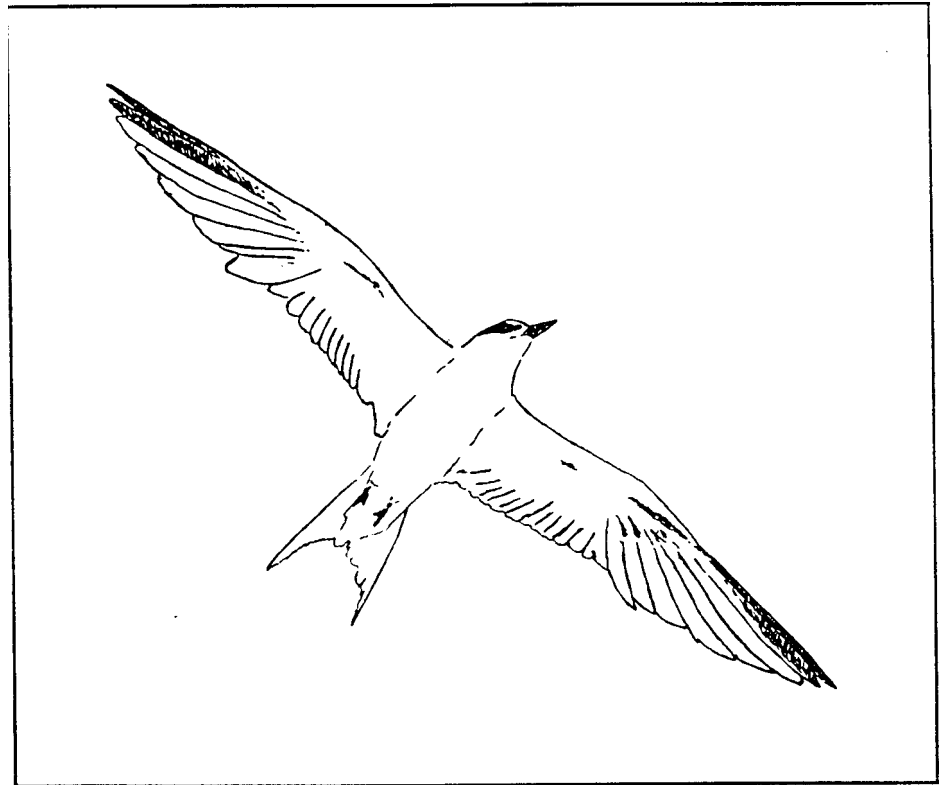
by Bob Ball

Ask any serious birder where he got his first Palm Warbler last spring and he will probably tell you precisely, to the surprise of the casual observer. But play back a recording of bird notes taped on a field trip and the birder will even surprise himself by recalling most of the circumstances of the day. However, while that is a convenient, interesting, and pleasurable way to relive a birding trip, recording one's excursions afield has many more serious advantages. Now that high quality microcassette recorders and equally high quality tapes are available, recording field data is relatively simple. These tiny recorders can provide one with a great tool for identification, verification, and lasting enjoyment of bird vocalizations. There are certain features and peripherals that should be considered to help lessen the frustrations of initial attempts at using such equipment.

In the first place, consider also buying an electronic microphone to use with your recorder. I have the "Bionic Ear" with booster, sold by several mail order companies. I still have my large and cumbersome Gibson parabola. This early model has no battery and was never as satisfactory as the smaller types. The "Bionic Ear" has a headset which is attached to the recorder by a patch cord. I conveniently wear it around my neck when I am not using the microphone. When I hear something I want to record or would like to have amplified, I place the headset on my ears. There is a volume control for each ear and with practice one can use binoculars and the microphone at the same time.

Now let me list some of the features, good and bad, to be aware of as well as the advantages of having your birds songs on tape. Presently I am using a Sony M-750V recorder, which I have had for several years. While it is a high quality product it does not have a built-in microphone as good as previous makes. However, the earlier models did not hold up as well. The most detestable feature is the voice activated feature, a tape saving device designed so that the tape will only run when someone is talking. If your recorder has this feature watch it carefully because the tiny on-off switch is rather easily moved when you put the recorder in your pocket. Keep it in the "off" position. Also these tape recorders have two speeds. For recording bird songs use the faster speed which reduces your recording to 30 minutes per side. This switch also can be rather easy to activate and should be checked often. The quality of the tape with the resulting recording is better than the tiny speaker in the recorder will sometimes convey. I retape my recordings via the patch cord at home to a full sized tape of high quality. When this is played on a good machine it will provide an excellent recording made originally with the convenience of the shirt-pocket sized recorder.

The "Bionic Ear" has some disadvantages too. Perhaps the manufacturer may have corrected the problem I have on my model but the on-off switch is far too easy to move and thus you risk draining your nine volt battery. Keep extra batteries on hand in the field as a precaution. Also, the sensitive microphone amplifies background sounds which our minds naturally tune out even when listening through a headset. Ever present aircraft, distant sirens,



Common Tern  
by Victor Fazio III

and monotonous traffic noise can spoil the best recordings, so be prepared.

Recording an unknown or rare song or call is another distinct advantage of the microcassette recorder. When one encounters an out season bird, a tape recording of its song will certainly enhance your chances of having the sighting accepted for publication. This is particularly true when no other serious birder is able to **see** the rarity. However, even when you have all the equipment along, it is sometimes impossible to turn on all the switches in time to record the sound you want to save. This can be very frustrating.

Returning to the circumstance noted at the beginning, after you have recorded your 1990 field trips on a full sized tape from your

smaller one, some months later play it back. You will be surprised at how quickly you will recall all of the circumstances of that particular day's excursion. If anyone would like additional information on where to purchase equipment or just want to discuss recording more thoroughly please feel free to contact me at 1689 Meadow Lane Dr. S. E. North Canton, Ohio 44709-1167.

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**The Cleveland Bird Calendar** is accepting articles and artwork for publication in volume 86. The work contributed is what makes the publication successful. Please send all artwork, comments, pertinent articles, observations, rarity **d o c u - m e n t a t i o n s**, and verification photographs to Larry Rosche 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.

*The Cleveland Bird Calendar* received a notice on wildlife species considered endangered, threatened, and of special concern from Clayton Lakes the Chief of the Division of Wildlife in Columbus. The list included mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, moths, beetles, crayfishes, isopods, and mollusks. A total of 41 birds species were in these above categories. An endangered species is defined as being threatened with extirpation from the state. The danger may result from one or more causes, such as habitat loss, pollution, predation, interspecific competition, or disease. A threatened species is defined as one whose survival in Ohio is not in immediate jeopardy, but a threat to the population exists. Continued or increased environmental stress will result in the species becoming endangered. Of special concern is one which may become threatened in Ohio under continued or increased environmental stress. Also a species or subspecies for which there is some indication of a threatened or endangered status. but for which available data are insufficient to permit an adequate evaluation.

Following is the list of the forty-one bird species and their current status. Calendar reporters are encouraged to keep these species in mind when they are afield and to detail all locations of observations.

### ENDANGERED

American Bittern  
Least Bittern  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Peregrine Falcon  
King Rail  
Sandhill Crane  
Piping Plover  
Common Tern  
Black Tern  
Barn Owl  
Bewick's Wren  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Golden-winged Warbler  
Kirtland's Warbler  
Bachman's Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow

### THREATENED

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
Upland Sandpiper

### SPECIAL CONCERN

Double-crested Cormorant  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Cattle Egret  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Long-eared Owl  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Willow Flycatcher  
Purple Martin

Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Dickcissel  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
Vesper Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Eastern Meadowlark

**The Ohio Rare Bird Records** is seeking information on the occurrence of Northern Hawk Owl in Ohio. Birds have been reported as having been collected in the Cleveland region. More recently, a Northern Hawk Owl spent several weeks in Lorain during January of 1968. If anyone has photographs or knows of persons having photographs of this individual please advise this editor.

**Invitation:** On the first Sunday of every month in 1990 a group of Kirtland Bird Club members will conduct a census at Headlands Beach State Park. The purpose is

study the long term occurrence patterns of migrant and resident birds in the eastern part of the Cleveland region. Interested parties should meet at Shipman Pond at 8:00 AM January - March and 7:30 April - December. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678-9408 or Ray Hanikman at 261-4047,

**Invitation:** The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August. Programs begin at 7:45 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors and their guests are always welcome.

**Rare Bird Hotline is (216) 289-2473** and is sponsored solely by the Kirtland Bird Club.

**Inquiries regarding subscription** to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to: Joan Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The subscription rate is \$4.00 annually.

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