

Bulletin No. 1, 1905.
BIRD CALENDAR

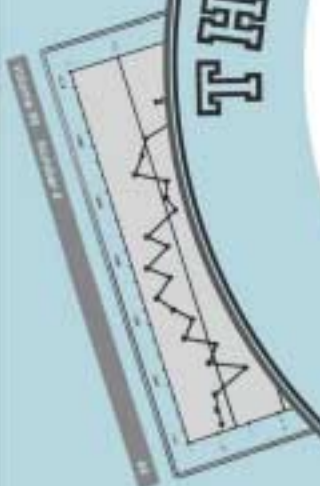
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THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

100th Anniversary



Continued from the Cleveland Bird Calendar
Dr. M. C. Oberholser
Staff Artist: Ray Hunt

Founded by Francis H. Herrick in 1905 for the recording of Bird Activities
Edited by John W. Aldrich, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
April - 1940
CLEVELAND, OHIO



WEATHER
SPRING 1993
by William A. Korman
March: This was the 3rd warmest March on record. Temperature averaged 33.6°, 3.7° below normal. The high

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

Founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was and is published jointly by the Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor population densities of resident birds, and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region. Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help in the preservation of sensitive habitats that harbor beleaguered bird species. Migrant stopover points, grasslands and wetlands are dwindling at an alarming rate; and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* cannot overlook the importance of such lands and their influence on our local avifauna.

The Cleveland region includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 10	Winter Season
June 10	Spring Season
September 10	Summer Season
December 10	Autumn Season

Seasonal report forms available at:

<http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm>

Click to download a Quarterly Reporting Form (PDF or Excel form)

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Notice: All reports to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* are archived in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 556-0700. This number was updated in 2003. The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities, (i.e., Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris's Sparrow, etc.), please alert the editors or Web site as soon as possible.

Invitation: The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month, except July and August, at 7:30 P.M. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Inquiries regarding subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* should be addressed to Carole Camillo, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; 1 Wade Oval; University Circle; Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The subscription rate is \$12.00.

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September, October, November 200
Volume 100 Number 4

The Cleveland Bird Calendar



Sean Zadar©



Dave Riffle©



Chuck Kegley©

ON THE INSIDE:

The Weather

by Dwight Chasar

Seasonal Report Noteworthy Records

by Larry Rosche

Field Notes

DOCUMENTATION OF SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*)

by Sean T. Zadar

HERMIT THRUSH NEST

by Dwight Chasar

FEMALE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER, KIRTLAND SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

by Haans Petruschke

FIFTY YEARS OF SPRING MIGRATION IN LORAIN COUNTY -LYNDS JONES'S NOTES 1896-1945

by Bill Whan

OWL RESCUE

by Judy Semroc

FALL CVNP CENSUS SUMMARY

by Dwight Chasar

Next Issue: Winter 2004-2005

FALL 2004 WEATHER

by Dwight Chasar

SEPTEMBER: Temperatures averaged 65.8°, 2.5° above normal. The high was 85° on the 5th and the low, 45° on the 20th. Lake Erie was 71° on the 1st and eased down to 67° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 5% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 11 days and totalled 3.22 in., .55 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.82 in. on the 8-9th.

OCTOBER: Temperatures averaged 53.5°, 1.3° above normal. The highest was 76° on the 30th and the lowest, 34° on the 18th. Sunshine occurred only 7% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 14 days and totalled 2.34 in., a departure of .39 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .54 in. on the 13th. Lake Erie water cooled to 57° by the 31st.

NOVEMBER: Temperatures averaged 44.5°, 2.7° above normal. The highest was 64° on the 2nd and the lowest, 24° on the 26th. Sunshine occurred a meager 8% of the time possible. Occurring over 13 days, rain totalled 3.24 in., .14 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .78 in. on the 24th. There was .9 in. of snow on the 25th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 48° by the end of the month. □

THE SEASON

Waterfowl movements were not spectacular. The reports indicate many species were located; however, the numbers were very low for most species. Shaker Lakes birder Leo Deiningner wrote, "The duck variety and numbers seemed way down this autumn. I only saw one Pied-billed Grebe at Shaker Lakes, and that only for a few days--least I've seen in all my years birding at Shaker Lakes."

A **Snow Goose** was record early at The Ira Road beaver pond in the CVNP Sep 19 (RRo). **Tundra Swans** left lasting impressions on the region this fall. The early flocks started showing up in mid-November. A group of 32 was at LaDue Nov. 13 (DJH). Another vanguard group of 146 was detected at Oberlin Reservoir Nov. 13 (CRi). Flocks totalling 70 birds flew west to east past Edgewater CLSP Nov. 15 (PL). On Nov. 21, 34 were watched as they formed a "perfect V" over Thompson (BB). Another 50 passed over Lakewood the same day (JM). These groups were precursors of the stellar movement to come the following days. A large wave of swans came Nov. 22-23 when hundreds upon hundreds of birds were reported. Groups totalling 250 birds passed by HBSP that Day. Lake Rockwell hosted birds coming and going all day with a maximum count of 800 there in the afternoon. The Lake



Say's Phoebe October 24, 2004 - Dike 14
Sean Zadar©

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

It was a long time ago that Ray Hannikman handed the reins of this august journal to me. It is now time for me to pass them on to Kevin Metcalf. Kevin is a marvelous birder, naturalist and an accomplished artist. His knowledge of local bird distribution and the respect he has from the birding community make him an exceptional candidate for editorship of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. I cannot express enough gratitude to all of you who have turned in field reports to me over the past 16 or so years. Special mention should go to Bert Szabo for introducing me to all the great Cleveland area birders so many years ago. It is particularly gratifying to see that many of the contributors to my final issue are the same ones that reported in my first issue. Thanks to Ray for standing by me all these years. Also to Dwight and Ann Chasar who have penned so many articles and who have been devoted to their ongoing studies in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The *Bird Calendar* has Garnet Byrne to thank for its organization and structure. Garnet has labored with my inadequate grammar skills for too many years to count. I will dearly miss working with her.

The *Bird Calendar* year ended with 289 species. (This tied the second highest total in my tenure.) The region's first Say's Phoebe added to Cuyahoga County's illustrious list of birds. A Glossy Ibis added one to the Lorain County bird list. Medina County added the region's first Painted Bunting (Spring) and its first Varied Thrush. Portage County's list grew with the addition of Hudsonian Godwit and Laughing Gull.

The fall season was highlighted by good birds all of September. Storms brought migrating shorebirds and jaegers close enough to shore to be identified. A spectacular influx of flycatchers, thrushes and warblers was noted well into October along Lake Erie. Hannikman's daily studies at the Headlands Beach State Park and Mentor Lagoons areas reinforced the adage--the more time in the field, the better the birding. However, the waterfowl and sparrow reports were disappointing. Good birding.

Rockwell groups were composed almost entirely of adults. Some of these were surely birds that had been heard as they passed over Aurora (EE). Adding to the big swan day, a V of about 125 was seen overhead at E. 55th & Lake Erie (JHe). LaDue held another 140 Nov. 23 (BBo). As has become the norm, numbers of dabbling ducks were not well represented. **Wood Duck** reports were sparse. The high was a measly 24 at HBSP Oct. 21 (LR). The high count of **Gadwall** was 10 at Lake George Nov. 4 (LR). **American Wigeon** were scarce. The latest **Blue-winged Teal** was at BSP Oct. 2 (RH). The 28 **Northern Shovelers** at Sandy Ridge Nov. 13 was a good count (FL). Six **Northern Pintails** were at Sandy Ridge Sep. 26 (TMA). Two were at Lake Rockwell Oct. 22 (LR). The only encouraging report of **Green-winged Teals** was Oct. 15 at Sandy Ridge when

"many" were reported (SBC). Another 8-10 birds were at Station Road (CVNP) Nov. 6 (DAC). One was in Kirtland Nov. 13 (CK).

A **Canvasback** in Beechwood Oct. 27 was unexpected (SW). The 50 **Redheads** at Wellington represented the only substantial count (HKO). **Ring-necked Duck** numbers were well below the norm. The high count was 360 at Lake George Nov. 11 (LR). The first **Greater Scaup** was

off Rocky River Park Oct. 20 (PL). One was at E. 55th St. Nov. 29 (RR). **Lesser Scaups** were nearly absent. Pogacnik's Lakeshore Reservation surveys yielded a scant high of 23 Nov. 13. Scoters are usually the local stars of the waterfowl group in fall. This year was somewhat disappointing in comparison to recent autumns. No inland reports of scoters were received. **Surf Scoters** far outpaced the other species in distribution. The first sighting was Oct 17 off Lakeshore (JP). As many as 8 were found during Lakeshore surveys in November. Eight were also found off Bradstreet Landing and nearby areas in late November (m.obs.). **White-winged Scoters** were seen at HBSP Nov. 2, 5 & 13 (RH). Birds were seen off Lakeshore Nov. 9 & 16 (JP). The high count of **Black Scoters** on the West Side was 5 Nov. 22 at Bradstreet Landing (PL).

Common Mergansers were



Cackling Goose--Canada Goose size comparison
Mike Busam©

beginning to make their presence felt at the end of the period. **Hooded Merganser** numbers were below average and probably reflected the mild November. The 21 at Calvary Cemetery Nov. 13 was unexpected (LGa). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were numerous most of November. The first large numbers (5,000+) were at Eastlake Nov. 15 (NA). Except for the 1000 at Wellington Reservoir Nov. 13 (CRi), the high counts of **Ruddy Ducks** were lower than expected. Mogadore Reservoir's high was only 365 Nov. 20 (GBe). The best tally from Lake Rockwell was 100 Nov. 20 (VW). Oberlin City Reservoir's best count was 300 Nov. 21 (CPr).

Four **Ring-necked Pheasants** provided a splash of color to Columbia Reservation Nov. 16 (TMR). A flock of 10 **Northern Bobwhites** in Sagamore Hills Oct. 3 was what may be the most encouraging report of this species in the past decade (*fide* DAC).

Common Loons were widespread in fair numbers, but no large flights

were noted along the lake. The high inland count was 25 at LaDue Nov. 21 (VW). The 28 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Nimisila Reservoir Nov. 14 was the high (GBe). The high count of **Horned Grebes** was 78 along the West Side Nov. 17 (PL). The inland highs were a mere 8 at Portage Lakes Nov. 14 (GBe) and Ladue Nov. 23 (BFi). **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers continue to get out of control. The 140 at little North Reservoir in Summit County Oct. 17 was testament to their local abundance (GBe). **Great Egrets** were found in their usual numbers at wetlands away from Lake Erie. A bird lingered at LaDue well beyond the usual October departure (BFi, BMc, m.obs). The last sighting there was Nov. 21 (LR). Late **Green Herons** were seen in Akron Oct. 10 (GBe), Lake Rockwell Oct. 22 (LR) and Sandy Ridge Oct. 30 (TF). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** lingered at Shaker Lakes though Oct. 22



Immature Cooper's Hawk - Streetsboro
Vernon Weingart©

(LD). Three adults were seen by the police dock on North Marginal Road Oct. 22 (DIJ). Up to 8 night-herons enjoyed the fishing at the CEI discharge channel between E. 55th and E. 72nd St. in October and November (BDL). One was seen at Sandy Ridge Sep. 16 (TF). Two more Black-crowneds were seen at Avon Power Plant Nov 14 (CC). **Turkey Vultures** lingered through the period in fair numbers away from Lake Erie. A bird at E. 55th St. Nov. 29 was extraordinary for the site (RR).

Included in the many reports of **Ospreys** was a bird seen flying out over the lake from Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 26. This sighting broke a record for tardiness that had stood for nearly 20 years. **Bald Eagle** reports continue to increase. Two eagles were seen along the Boston Trail Nov. 11 (MRe, m.obs.). Other birds were seen throughout the CVNP along the Cuyahoga River corridor. Three-five birds could be found at LaDue (EE, LGi, JHe, TLP, BMc, m.obs.). Similar numbers of eagles could be found at Lake Rockwell, Mogadore Reservoir and West Branch SP. A **Northern Harrier** was seen near North Chagrin Oct. 5 (FL). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were well-reported. A migrant **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted over Norton Sep. 16 (RSH). Immature **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen on road-side wires near Best Sand and

Comments on the 2004 Fall Season at Headlands Beach State Park Areas

Fall 2004 migration at Headlands Beach State Park was terrific. September started off with a count of 10 Blackburnian Warblers on the 7th followed immediately by 11 species of shorebirds, brought in by the storms, rain and high winds of September 8 and 9 to temporary pools along the beach. The weather proved no obstacle to the shorebirds and I eagerly studied juvenal plumages of the species present. Early Dunlins, at this time, are particularly striking. Warblers were numerous. I remember arriving at Mentor Lagoons a little after 8 AM on September 23 with Larry Rosche and finding the trees along the marsh teeming with warblers. All totalled, 24 species of warblers were found in September. October started off with a bang on the 3rd with American Avocet, Purple Martin (very late) and Laughing Gull. Daily coverage by Jerry Talkington, Suzanne Wagner and me yielded an excellent count of 143 species for the month of October. November's very mild weather produced easy birding, but no sizable movements of Common Loons or waterfowl (except for the ever-present Red-breasted Mergansers). Two hundred and fifty Tundra Swans on November 22 coincided well with this species movement that day throughout the Cleveland area. A very memorable fall for the HBSP birding crew ended with four Purple Sandpipers on November 28.

Ray Hannikman

Gravel in Munson Township Sep. 10 and Sep. 13 (DB). It was thought they were looking for snakes, voles or grasshoppers before making their mid-September exodus for the Amazon region. Late Broad-winged were seen along the Boston Trail Sep. 23 (MRe, m.obs.) and at Lake Rockwell Sep. 26 (LR). A fox squirrel was the main course meal of a young **Red-tailed Hawk** in Brecksville Nov. 19 (BAT). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was early over North Chagrin Oct. 15 (KM). Two were east of Middlefield Nov. 13 (SI). One was seen at SR-303 and I-271 Nov. 18 (VF). Another was along West Road, Lorain Co. Nov. 21 (LRi). The low number of **American Kestrel** reports continue to disturb this editor. Chasar wrote, "Can't find them in old places of previous years."

The only **Soras** away from Sandy Ridge were at HBSP Oct. 9 (RH, KM) and Arcola Creek Oct. 6 (JP). The only report of **Common Moorhens** was of two immatures at Herrick Preserve Oct. 5 (GB, m.obs.). **American Coot** numbers were low, but this may have been a weather-related issue. The only sites with any numbers were the Portage Lakes where 500+ were tallied Nov. 14 (GBe).

Berlin Reservoir provided some outstanding shorebird reports this fall. Other sites providing reports were simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time. One can only fantasize what is happening at the landfill behind Burke Airport. Information on the waders there is difficult to extract from biologists; perhaps their reluctance to share is due to the pressure the birding community would most likely put on them to allow access to birders to this prime shorebirding site.



Red Phalarope October 24, 2004 – Headlands Beach State Park
Sally Isaaco©

On Oct. 22 Jean Hoffman wrote, "A touch of old times found shorebirds along the runways of Burke Lakefront Airport in downtown Cleveland. There were just a few, but great to see: about 25 Killdeer, 5 Black-bellied Plovers and 2 American Golden-Plovers, one of which was a molting adult." The high tally of **Black-bellied Plovers** was 14 at Berlin Reservoir Oct 20 (KM, BMo). One was at Huntington Beach Oct. 3 (TKr, m.obs.). There were 4 Black-bellieds at Burke Airport Nov. 6 (PL, m.obs.). The only **American Golden-Plovers** reported were those seen by the Hoffmans at Burke Airport. The high count of **Semipalmated Plovers** was 15 on the blustery morning of Sep. 9 at HBSP (RH). Large gatherings of **Killdeer** were noted by several reporters. A fallow field in Pittsfield Township contained 250± Oct. 13 (CPr, LR). The high tally at Berlin reached 275 Oct. 20 (BMo, KM). West Branch SP chipped in with 115 Oct. 31 (VW). The last **Greater Yellowlegs** was at LaDue Oct. 24 (BAT). **Lesser Yellowlegs** numbers were as expected given the shortage of prime shorebird habitat. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was remarkably late at LaDue Oct. 7 (RR) and again Oct. 24 (BAT). **Sanderlings** were numerous at HBSP, with a high count of 60 on Sep. 9. The last sighting there was Nov. 1 (RH). The 6

Sanderlings at Berlin Oct. 20 may have been a record inland count (KM, BMo). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was viewed at BSP Sep. 9 (RH). The 18 at Berlin Oct. 20 was exceptional (KM, BMo). **Baird's Sandpipers** were as expected. Two were at HBSP Sep. 29 (RH). A total of 4 was seen at West Branch SP Oct. 10 (LR, VW). Another foursome was at Berlin Oct. 20 (KM, BMo). A tardy bird was seen on the Coast Guard beach at HBSP Nov. 11 (LR). The last **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at HBSP Nov. 6 (RH). The high count of this normally abundant migrant was a mere 12 at Berlin Oct. 20 (KM, BMo). The 850 **Dunlins** at Berlin Oct. 20 were exceptional (KM, BMo). The high count for West Branch SP was 61 Oct. 31 (VW). A calling nocturnal migrant over Columbia Woods Park, Norton Oct. 29 was quite unexpected (RSH). No **Short-billed Dowitcher** report was received. The only reports of **American Woodcocks** were from Sandy Ridge (TF), Willoughby Oct. 2 (JT) and Akron Oct. 10 (GB). Eight **Wilson's Snipes** were seen at Jaite Oct. 17 (DAC). Two were at Herrick Preserve Oct. 20 (LR). Another pair was at LaDue Nov. 15 (RR).

Bonaparte's Gulls gathered in large numbers some days but other days the same sites held few. High counts were 2,000 at Edgewater Nov. 15 (BDL) and 20,000 in Lorain Nov. 27 (LR, JW). Inland reports of Bonys were nothing short of spectacular. Up to 200 could be seen at LaDue through the period (SJo, CW, m.obs.). West Branch SP and Lake Rockwell hosted 100+ at the same time (LR, VW). A flock of 20 flyovers at Station Road provided another unusual sighting (DAC). The only **Thayer's Gull** report was from Oberlin City Reservoir Nov. 21 (LRi). This species is not known to stray from Lake Erie, but if there is a

Common Nighthawk Reports and Comments Fall 2004

Gregory Bennett: 106, Sep. 3 Cascade Valley MP
 19, Sep. 10 Cascade Valley MP
 7, Sep. 14 Cascade Valley MP
 4, Sep. 25 Cascade Valley MP

Garnet Byrne and Christa Glatter: 3, Sep. 5 Stow

Jennifer Brumfield: 4, Oct. 10 (very late date) Merriman Valley in Akron

Craig Caldwell: 11, Sep. 3 Rocky River
 2, Sep 12 S. Melrose & Horseshoe

Dwight and Ann Chasar: 70, Sep. 5 CVNP
 11, Sep. 6 CVNP
 7, Sep. 6 CVNP

Patrick Coy: 238+, Sep. 6 along Furnace Run, CVNP

Tim Fairweather: 1, Oct. 15 Sheffield Lake

Ray Hannikman: 1, Sep. 22 Mentor Lagoons

Roger and Celeste Lau *vide Marian Kraus:* 1, Oct. 2 French Creek Reservation

Jim McConnor: 6, Sep. 2 Mentor

Phyllis Schnell: 3, Sep. 3: Brecksville

Karin Tanquist: 20, Sep. 6 over the meadows just south of Kendall Lake, CVNP

Bill and Ann Toneff: 20+, Sep. 5 Brecksville

site that would host it, it is Oberlin City Reservoir. The first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** report was from Oberlin Reservoir Oct. 13 (CPr, LR). This is the only inland site where this species occurs with any regularity. Two Lessers were there Nov. 21 (LRi). Birds were seen off Lakeshore Reservation Oct. 17 and Nov. 8 & 28 (JP). A juvenile was seen in Fairport Harbor Nov. 28 (JP). An adult joined in the feeding frenzy at Eastlake the same day (JP). Two were at E. 72nd St. Nov. 5 (BDL). **Herring Gulls** arrived on time (Nov. 1) with the yearly movement of gizzard shad into the Cuyahoga River Valley (DAC). **Caspian Tern** numbers were low. The last bird was seen at HBSP Oct. 2 (RH). The high count of **Common Terns** was 52 at HBSP Sep. 11 (RH). Up to 50 were seen feeding off Rocky River Park Oct. 27 (DJH). One was at E. 55th Nov. 29 (RR). **Forster's Terns** were as expected at

HBSP with a late bird there Nov. 3 (RH).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at Cascade Valley MP Sep. 28 (GBe). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Shaker Lakes Sep. 3 (LGo.). One was reported from Sandy Ridge Sep. 14 (TF). On Sep. 18, one was at Elmwood Park (PL, JRa).

The last **Chimney Swifts** were reported on Oct. 11. Nearly all **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** had left the region by October. The latest was an immature female in Grafton Oct. 3 (CPr). On Sep. 18, Scott Wright penned the following, attesting to the tenacity of these little dynamos. "Larry, sometimes you have to see this stuff to believe it. The other morning, as I was getting ready to head for the day job, I heard the incessant calling of a Red-shouldered Hawk. I looked in the direction of the sound and saw the bird headed right at me, about 50 feet away and 5 feet above the road. He was under attack by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird! The hawk zipped past me, the hummer jabbing away at the hawk's tail. The hawk went into a steep climb with the hummingbird right behind. I lost sight of them and can only imagine what the reason for the attack and the outcome might be."

Five **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at Sandy Ridge Sep. 26 (TMR). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widespread. At HBSP, 3-7 were seen daily from Sep. 26 through Oct. 2 (RH). Elsewhere there were small numbers and many lingerers that



Ring-billed Gull
 Lou Gardella©



Black-throated Green Warbler September 19, 2004 - Whiskey Island
Craig Rieker©

indicated they may be overwintering in higher numbers than is usually thought. Along Lake Erie, **Northern Flicker** migration was fair, but no tallies reached the century mark.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were in excellent supply. South Chagrin hosted 1-2 birds Sep. 2-3 (BR). Another was at HBSP Sep. 2 (RH). Two were at Shaker Lakes Sep. 3 (LGo). Another was found there Sep. 9 (SBC) and again on Sep. 10 (RR). One was spied at Euclid Beach Sep. 4 (GBe). One was seen at Mentor Lagoons Sep. 11 (JMc). Two were seen there Sep. 14 (JT). Another was at Shaker Lakes Sep. 18 (JMK). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** left early. The last reports were Sep. 26 at Sandy Ridge (CC) and Sep. 28 at HBSP (RH, m.obs.). From Sep. 3-22, as many as 5 **Yellow-bellied**



Rescued Magnolia Warbler in hand
Scott Wright©

Flycatchers could be found at HBSP (RH, JT, SW). A bird was at Elmwood Park Sep. 18 (PL, JRa). One was in Kirtland Sep. 25 (HP). A **Traill's Flycatcher** was at HBSP Sep. 18-27 (RH, JT, LR).

Eastern Phoebes moved south in fair numbers during late October. The last **Great Crested Flycatcher** had departed HBSP by Sep.

15 (RH). Once again, no late **Eastern Kingbirds** were reported.

White-eyed Vireos lingered into late October at HBSP. **Blue-headed Vireo** numbers were on par. Late birds were seen at Shaker Lakes Oct. 22 (CJo), and at HBSP Oct. 28 & 30, and Nov. 5 & 6 (RH, JT, SW).

Philadelphia Vireos were seen at HBSP each week of September with a high count of 3 Sep. 24 (RH). A bird was in Sagamore Hills Sep. 6 (DAC). Two were at Elmwood Park Sep. 18 (PL, JRa). The latest **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Mentor Lagoons Oct. 9 (KM).

The last **Purple Martin** was seen at Mentor Lagoons Oct. 3 (RH, m.obs.).

A **Tree Swallow** at Mentor Lagoons Nov. 21 was exceptionally tardy for this northerly locale (RH, JT, SW). The last **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at HBSP Oct. 5 (RH). A juvenile **Bank Swallow** dawdled at Mentor Lagoons through Oct. 7 (LR, m.obs.). A **Cliff Swallow** was spied at Mentor Lagoons Sep. 5 (RH).

American Crows have made a considerable comeback in many parts of the region. On Oct. 23, over a hundred were in a flock at Szalay's farm in the CVNP (BS). **Tufted Titmice** are gradually resurfacing in areas where they had been decimated by West Nile virus. One came to the feeder in South Euclid Oct. 12 for the first time in at least 2 years (JHe).

Observers in all regional counties were pleased with the abundance of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this fall. These irruptive invaders show a definite preference for feeding stations with ample supplies of nearby conifers. **Brown Creepers** were in solid numbers. The last **House Wren**



Northern Parula September 18, 2004 - Dike 14
Craig Rieker©

report was Oct. 28 in Kirtland (CK). **Winter Wrens** were very numerous along the lake. The high count at HBSP was 35 Oct. 21 (LR, VW). **Marsh Wrens** were seen at Sandy Ridge Sep. 26 (CC) and North Chagrin Sep. 30 (KM). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were numerous throughout the region. The high count was 40 at HBSP Oct. 26 (RH). A high of 125 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was tallied at HBSP Oct. 21 (LR). They lingered in Grafton until Nov. 2 and at HBSP until Nov. 3. The only report of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** came from Sandy Ridge during September (TF).



Black-and-white Warbler – Erie St. Cemetery
Scott Wright©

Reports of warbler migration ranged from so-so to outstanding. The outstanding came from observers who were able to venture into the field daily. Apparently, the more coverage the better the results. Sound familiar? Numbers are difficult to assess

Thrush migration was fairly typical. **Veeries** moved out in early September. **Hermit Thrushes** were widespread. The first arrival noted was Sep. 30 at HBSP. Many birds lingered through the period. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were notably sparse at HBSP from Sep. 13 through Oct. 3 (RH, JT, SW). Two were at Erie St. Cemetery Sep. 23 (GL). **Swainson's** moved in fair numbers and lingered through early October. The last **Wood Thrush** was at HBSP Oct. 5 (RH, SW). The 24 **Gray Catbirds** at HBSP Sep. 3 (RH) and the 17 at Rocky River Nature Sep. 4 indicated a sizeable influx from the north (KG, m.obs.). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be reported widely in Cuyahoga County. Their reports have increased markedly in Geauga County as well. Birds were noted at Burton Wetlands Nov. 20 (SDH, BFi). Another was a surprise yard bird in Fowler's Mill (KM). **Brown Thrasher** reports were as expected. **American Pipits** were scattered about the region. On Oct. 13, a group of 50+ birds was scouring a soy bean field in Pittsfield Township (CPr, LR). A tally of 25 was made at HBSP Oct. 29 (RH). Two were at LaDue Nov. 6 (RR). **Cedar Waxwings** were very numerous. The 250 along the Ira Road Trail Nov. 11 were indicative (TMR, m.obs.).

because most modern-day observers simply report the species without comments. Fortunately, Scott Wright provided anecdotal comments and field observations of his forays to the Downtown Cleveland green spots. Reports indicate that Sep. 10-24 was a period of intense southward movements of migrants along the Lake Erie shore. On Sep. 18 Scott wrote, "An incredible number of warblers moved last night. Erie Street Cemetery had up to 3 Tennessees in one tree alone."

Hannikman was surprised by two migrant **Blue-winged Warblers** at HBSP. One was seen Sep. 7 and the other was quite late on Sep. 22. These were the only fall reports. **Tennessee Warblers** were very numerous along Lake Erie. Highs reached to 15 at HBSP. The high inland count was 7 at Mogadore Sep 18 (GBe). The 5 immature Tennessees at Kent Bog Oct. 7-8 were in habitat very similar to sites where they would have been hatched and fledged (GBe, LR). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were exceptionally widespread and in relative abundance. The first migrant was noted Sep. 20 at HBSP. The last was Oct. 24. at Dike 14. As many as 3 birds were seen at Dike 14 (SZ). Other birds were noted at Cascade Valley MP, CVNP, HBSP, Kirtland and North Chagrin. **Nashville Warblers** were typically numerous. Up to 50 were tallied at HBSP in late Sep. (JT, m.obs.). The 6 gleaning

branches for insects in South Russell Sep. 22 was a good number for the site (LGi). A Nashville groveling for sustenance under a thistle feeder in Richmond Heights Oct. 18 was unique (NA). The 4 at Rocky River Nature Center Oct. 23 provided an excellent tally for the late date (KG, m.obs.). **Northern Parulas** were above average. A bird was observed along the Ira Road Trail Sep. 6 (TMR, m.obs.). "Several" were at Erie St. Cemetery Sep. 18, with one male singing (SWr). Two were at HBSP Sep. 22 (JT). Three were seen at Rocky River Reservation Oct. 6 (RSH). **Yellow Warblers** were seen at HBSP though Sep. 27 (RH, m.obs.). A bird at Rocky River Reservation Oct. 6 was the latest individual reported (RSH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** put in an excellent showing at HBSP As many as 6 were there on Sep. 18 (RH, m.obs.). "Many" were at Erie St. Cemetery Sep. 18 (SWr). **Magnolia Warblers** migration was off the charts all of September and well into October at HBSP. A high count of 35 was made there Sep. 23 (m.obs.). Tiny Elmwood Park held 4 Maggies Sep. 18 (PL, JRa). **Cape May Warblers** were in their usual autumn abundance. Three were counted at Erie St. Cemetery Sep. 23 (GL). Another 3 were at North Chagrin Sep. 24 (KM). As many as 11 were counted at HBSP Oct. 1 (RH, m.obs.). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** did not disappoint. As many as 10 were tallied at HBSP Sep. 19 (m.obs.). A late bird was at Sandy Ridge Sep. 26 (TMA). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** numbers reached 300 at HBSP Oct. 7 (m.obs.). Numbers reached 50 at Sanitation Road (CVNP) Oct. 10 (DAC). Another 30 were at Rocky River Nature Center Oct. 23 (KG, m.obs.). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread and in better than expected numbers. On Sep. 18, it was deemed the most numerous warbler at Shaker Lakes and one youngster was even seen begging for food from an adult (JMK). The



Bay-breasted Warbler – Erie St. Cemetery
Scott Wright©

13 at Mogadore Sep. 26 was an equally exceptional tally (GBE). **Blackburnian Warbler** totals were as good as they get at HBSP. Multiple sightings were made there from Sep. 5 through Sep. 22. The high count was 10 Sep. 7 (RH, m.obs.). One was spotted at Sandy Ridge Sep. 18 (TF). Two were at Cascade Valley MP Sep. 21 (GBE). A **Pine Warbler** was at Mentor Lagoons Sep. 11 (JMc). "Several" were at the Eastman Reading Garden in Downtown Cleveland Sep. 18 (SWr). **Bay-breasted Warblers** put in a better than average showing at HBSP. Birds were seen there daily from Sep. 4 through Sep. 28 (m.obs.). Mogadore Reservoir hosted 5 Sep. 11 (GBE). Downtown Cleveland numbers were average. A bird seen along the Ira Road Trail Oct. 18 was extremely tardy (TMR, m.obs.). **Blackpoll Warblers** were as expected with counts reaching 20+ in late September. One stopped by Summit Lake Oct. 7 (GBE). The only **Cerulean Warblers** reported were at Mentor Lagoons Sep. 14-15 (JMc). Five **Black-and-white Warblers** were in Richmond Heights Sep. 23 (NA). One was very tardy at Chapin Forest Nov. 1 (JP). **American Redstart** numbers were solid. Highs reached 30 at HBSP Sep. 19 (m.obs.). On Sep. 11, two were observed at the Eastman Reading Garden as they ganged up on a Wilson's

Warbler. The Wilson's had caught an insect and the redstarts attempted to pirate the insect away (SWr). A late **Ovenbird** was observed along a sidewalk in Cleveland Public Square Oct. 25 (DR). **Northern Waterthrushes** were in Downtown Cleveland Sep. 10 & 11 (SWr). One posed for a portrait at Dike 14 Sep. 18 (CRi). Birds were at HBSP on five

September dates (RH). One was watched along the Ira Road Trail Oct. 9 (TMR, m.obs.). Another was in Akron Oct. 10 (GBE). **Mourning Warblers** put in an excellent showing in Downtown Cleveland. On Sep. 10, "several" were there (SWr). A male was being "very coy" at Public Square Sep. 11 (SWr). Another was at E. 12th St. and St. Clair Sep. 15. The only Mourning reports from HBSP were Sep. 15 (RH) and Sep. 23 (LR). Two **Hooded Warblers** were near the National City Bank in Downtown Cleveland Sep. 15 (SWr). Late birds were at HBSP Sep. 30 (RH) and Jaite Oct. 1 (DAC). **Wilson's Warblers** were plentiful at HBSP all of September. Elsewhere, counts ranged in the 1-2 category. A late male Wilson's was detected at North Chagrin Oct. 21 (KM). **Canada Warblers** maxed out at 4 at HBSP and Mentor Lagoons Sep. 4 (RH, m.obs.).

Sparrow migration was not documented very well in the region this fall. Few reports from Dike 14 were received and the reports from HBSP were far fewer than expected. Two **Eastern Towhees** lingered along the Ira Road Trail Nov. 29 (TMR, m.obs.). **American Tree Sparrows** were late in arriving and were very slow to reach inland wintering areas. Indeed, none had been reported from Portage County by the end of

the period. The **Field Sparrow** near the picnic grounds at North Chagrin Oct. 8 seemed out of place to the observer (PP). The high count was 25 at HBSP Oct. 21 (LR, VW). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at North Chagrin Oct 15 (KM). Several were seen at Dike 14 during the brief stay of the Say's Phoebe in late Oct. (m.obs.). Few **Savannah Sparrows** were reported. No **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports were submitted. **Fox Sparrows** were in fair numbers. The high report was 3 at HBSP Oct. 26 (RH) and along the Ira Road Trail Nov. 29 (TMR, m.obs.). **White-throated Sparrow** counts were as expected inland. Tallies along the lake fell well short of the expected. Zadar's high count of **White-crowned Sparrows** at Dike 14 was 300 on Oct. 17. This seemed very low compared to past autumns there. Numbers of **Dark-eyed Juncos** had descended on the region away from Lake Erie by mid-Oct. Seven **Lapland Longspurs** frequented the dunes at HBSP Oct. 12-18 (LR, m.obs.). A **Snow Bunting** at the Coliseum site (CVNP) Oct. 19 was noteworthy (BR).

The last **Indigo Bunting** was seen Oct. 10 at Sanitation Pond (DAC). The only report of **Bobolinks** was of 5 nocturnal migrants heard over Columbia Woods Park Sep. 9 (RSH). **Orchard Orioles** lingered into September at Sandy Ridge (TF). The sole **Baltimore Oriole** reported for the season was at Rocky River Nature Center Sep. 4 (KG, m.obs.).

Of winter finches, Pogacnik wrote, "**Pine Siskins** began showing up in September in small numbers and peaked with 200+ birds on Nov. 14. A count of over 1,000 **American Goldfinches** was also made on this date. **Purple Finches** appeared in average numbers with a high count of 6 birds." Small flocks of Pine Siskins were widespread. Birds were reported from Bay Village (CC), Brecksville (PS), Euclid (LCh), Fowler's Mill (KM), Grafton (CPr),

Hinckley Reservation (RSH), Mentor Lagoons (RH), Lakewood (PL), North Perry (JP), Norton (RSH), Sandy Ridge (FL), South Russell (LGi), Twin Lakes (LR) and Valley City (FG). A female Purple Finch was in Grafton Sep. 16 (CPr). Rieker saw 7 at Findley SP Nov. 13. As expected, a few were seen at various CVNP sites. No other reports of this species were received. American Goldfinch abundance prompted Harlan to write, "I don't think I've ever seen so many goldfinches for so long a period as this season. They were everywhere, and commonly so." Seven **Evening Grosbeaks** stopped by Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 11 (JP). □

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

CAACKLING GOOSE – This recently split species was compared to Canada Geese at E. 72nd St. Oct. 19 (Lane).

BRANT – It was a good fall for Brant in the region. The fate of the five birds at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 23 was quickly determined after they suddenly took flight and flew directly over the gunners there. (Rosche). As many as 11 Brant lounged at Lakewood Park Oct. 23–30 (Edwards, Lozano, Caldwell, m.obs.).



Brant October 27, 2004 – Lakewood Park
Bob Finkelstein©



Least Bittern September 8, 2004 – Burke Airport
Randolph White©

COMMON MERGANSER – A hen, seen lounging on the breakwall near the lighthouse at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 11, broke the previous early fall report that had stood since 1943 (Hannikman).

RED-THROATED LOON – A very pale bird was viewed off Avon Lake in early November (Fazio). Red-throateds were seen off Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 7, 14, 26 & 27 (Pogacnik). One was at LaDue Reservoir Nov. 11–13 (Rosche, Hoffman, Weingart). One was seen

heading east off Rocky River Park Nov. 13 (Brumfield).

AMERICAN BITTERN – A bird was viewed at Sandy Ridge Sep. 20 (Edwards). At least one bird lingered there well into October (Fairweather).

LEAST BITTERN – A bird was photographed at Burke Airport Sep. 8 (Minch, White).

SNOWY EGRET – A bird at Sandy Ridge Reservation Oct. 29 broke a record that had stood since 1936 (Fairweather).

CATTLE EGRET – On Nov. 3, one was seen in the yard of Cork and Winnie Weingart near a large horse farm in Streetsboro (*fide* Vernon Weingart).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A very late bird was a startling discovery at the former nesting haunt near Jackson Field at South Chagrin Nov. 23 (Wagner).



Glossy Ibis – Columbia Reservation
Marian Kraus©

GLOSSY IBIS – An immature bird was studied well at Columbia Reservation and provided a Lorain County first Nov. 15 (LeGallee, m.obs.). It remained there through Nov. 24 (*fide* Priebe). As always, immature dark ibises are challenging identifications, but observers were familiar with the species' differences.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – An adult was observed flying over S.R. 306, just north of Eagle Road in Kirtland Nov. 11 (Petruschke).

MERLIN – Merlin numbers were as expected. Birds were noted at Headland Beach SP Sep. 14, 19 & 30 (Hannikman, Rickard, m.obs.). Gardella's survey of Calvary Cemetery found the first wintering arrivals Sep. 29. Up to 4 birds could be found there in Nov. A Merlin was in Perry Nov. (Pogacnik).

PEREGRINE FALCON – This editor does not mean to slight the presence of the local birds, but it is often difficult to sort out the migrant from the residents in the reports. Our nesters fared well last summer and some of the following reports may reflect migrants or birds that were out stretching their wings, so to speak. A bird was at Sandy Ridge Sep. 25 (Grame *fide* Fairweather). One was seen near the Cleveland



Glossy Ibis – Columbia Reservation
Marian Kraus©

Clinic Oct. 3 (Martincic). Peregrines were seen at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 2 & 5 (Hannikman). An immature brought a Bonaparte's Gull into the beach there for a large gathering of onlookers Oct. 16 (KBC Field Trip). One hurtled by E. 156th St. and Lakeshore Boulevard Oct. 10 (Chasar). A bird in Akron Oct 10 & 14 was probably a local (Bennett). A Peregrine was at Berlin Reservoir Oct. 20 (Morrison). Another passed over Dike 14 Oct. 23 (Leidy, Zadar).

SANDHILL CRANE – Best, Gilbert and McCullough reported up to 6 birds in the Burton area. Three cranes were spotted rising from a field on Claridon-Troy Rd. just north of Butternut in Geauga County Sep. 18 (Meere). Cranes lingered at Sandy Ridge and LaDue well into November (m.obs.). Two birds along Clay Road in eastern Geauga County Nov. 13 were a pleasant surprise (Isacco).

AMERICAN AVOCET – A late female was spotted by Wagner at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 3 (m.obs.).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT – The first record of this species

for Portage County was at Berlin Reservoir Oct. 12 (Morrison).

RED KNOT – Birds were at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 8 (2) and Sep. 9 (Hannikman).

PURPLE SANDPIPER – Four birds were spotted along the breakwalls at Headlands Beach SP Nov. 28 (Hannikman, m.obs.).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – One was scoped at Berlin Reservoir Oct. 14 (Rosche, Weingart).

RED PHALAROPE – Headlands Beach SP hosted unprecedented numbers of this species. Three flew past a crowd of birders there on Oct. 16 (Rosche, Wagner, m.obs.). Isacco, Kiplinger and McConnor found two birds there Oct. 24. As many as five were seen there near the lighthouse through November 1 (Bacik, m.obs.). One was off Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 6 (Pogacnik).



Peregrine Falcon
Scott Wright©

POMARINE JAEGER – A juvenile was studied thoroughly at Avon Lake Power Plant Nov. 13 (Brumfield). An immature, dark morph bird was seen from Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 28 (Pogacnik).

PARASITIC JAEGER – Two birds flew by the shore at Headlands Beach SP in close proximity to each other Sep. 9 (Hannikman). An immature, light morph bird was seen from Lakeshore Reservation Oct. 17 (Pogacnik).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER – A bird was observed as it maneuvered over the water amid the hundreds of gulls gathered on the lake off Painesville Township Park Sep. 9 (Hannikman).

LAUGHING GULL – A juvenile was seen along the beach at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 3 (Hannikman, Wagner). The first Portage County record was a winter-plumaged adult lingering on the mud flats at Berlin Reservoir Oct. 12–26 (Morrison, Miller, m.obs.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – The only report was Oct. 23 at Lakeshore Reservation (Pogacnik).

LITTLE GULL – The only reports were from E. 55th St. Nov. 6 (Leidy) and at Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 26 (imm.) and Nov. 28 (adult) (Pogacnik).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Always noteworthy inland (at least away from Oberlin Reservoir), an apparent 2nd-winter bird was among the flock of gulls on the northern shore of Springfield Lake Nov. 24 (Miller).

SABINE'S GULL – An immature was off Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 26 (Pogacnik).



Say's Phoebe October 24, 2004 – Dike 14
Dwight Chasar©

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – A kittiwake was seen flying west off Lakeshore Reservation Nov. 6 (Pogacnik).

BLACK TERN – This rare species was seen only at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 9 (Hannikman).

SHORT-EARED OWL – An owl provided a photo opportunity at Dike 14 Oct. 17 (Zadar, Leidy). One was flushed at Headlands Beach SP Nov. 10 (Hannikman).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – The only report of this tiny owl was from Headlands Beach SP Oct. 26 (Talkington, Hannikman, Wagner).

WHIP-POOR-WILL – On Sep 18, Spagnoli flushed a very cooperative Whip-poor-will that landed in view



Short-eared Owl October 17, 2004– Dike 14
Sean Zadar©

on a horizontal branch at Erie Street Cemetery.

SAY'S PHOEBE – The first Say's Phoebe for the region was found at Dike 14 Oct. 23 by Zadar and Leidy. This bird remained to be photographed by many birders the next day. Zadar's diligent studies at Dike 14 have provided a wealth of information to the *Bird Calendar* over the past decade.

NORTHERN SHRIKE – Shrikes were seen at Station Road, CVNP Oct. 24 (Chasar); Headlands Beach SP Oct 24–25 (Isacco, McConnor, Fjeldstad); Stanford, CVNP Nov. 13 (Meszaros); and Jaite, CVNP Nov. 14 (Chasar).

SEDGE WREN – This sporty wren was seen at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 23 & 25 (Hannikman).

VARIED THRUSH – A male visited a feeding station in Homerville, Medina County Nov. 26–Dec. 1 This was a new county record (Riffle).

PRAIRIE WARBLER – Two fall reports of this rare warbler are good news for the Cleveland region. A bird was seen in Madison Township Sep. 1 (Pogacnik). Another was in Strongsville Sep. 26 (Adkins).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – Downtown Cleveland's ability to attract this highly sought-after migrant was greatly appreciated by several out-of-towners. Wright's diligent persistence found several of these skulkers starting Sep. 2. The last report there was Sep. 20 (Brumbaugh, Gardella). Rieker provided a lasting image of this skulker at Dike 14 Sep. 18. The Harlans saw one at Rocky River Reservation Sep. 22. One cooperated for the crew at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 22 (Hannikman, Talkington,

Wagner).
Another was glimpsed at Shaker Lakes Sep. 26 (Johnson). The last bird was at Lakeshore Reservation Oct. 2 (Pogacnik).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – One was found at Penitentiary Glen Oct. 4 (Pogacnik). Another was reported to Chasar by Audubon biologist Greg Butcher at the Ira Road (CVNP) beaver marsh Sep. 8.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW – Arcola Creek Reservation hosted 3 birds Oct. 6 (Pogacnik).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – One was seen at Arcola Creek Oct. 6 (Pogacnik). Another was viewed at Dike 14 Oct. 24 (Harlan, Zadar).

DICKCISSEL – One was seen with sparrows at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 23 (Rosche).

□



Varied Thrush – Homerville
Dave Riffle©

CORRECTIONS:

All page numbers in Volume 100 Number 3 were incorrect. They should have started with page 35 and ended with page 53. On page 34 (correct page 53) of Volume 100, Number 3 CBC (summer issue), at the bottom of the page, credit was given to Dwight Chasar, CVNP Volunteer, for the GAAS count and summary. It should have been given to Doug Vogus and Ann Chasar.

FIELD NOTES

Documentation of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)
by Sean T. Zadar

AGE/SEX: First-year/unknown
LOCATION: Dike 14, U.S Army Corps of Engineers Confined Dredge Disposal Facility (CDF), Cleveland, Ohio
COUNTY: Cuyahoga
DATE: 23-24 October 2004
OBSERVERS: Gabe L. Leidy and Sean T. Zadar

DESCRIPTION

Structure: A typical flycatcher slightly larger than an eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), with a flat, blackish bill (triangular when viewed from above), small head, slender body, relatively long tail and blackish legs and feet.

Plumage: The head was medium gray in coloration, including the crown, forehead, auriculars, sides of neck and nape. The lores were much darker than the rest of the head. The eyes were jet black. Under certain light conditions and different angles, a fairly distinct, dark eyeline was present. The back and scapulars were a few shades lighter than the head. The throat, chin and upper breast were pale gray, being lighter than the back. The lower breast, belly, flanks, sides and undertail coverts were washed with a pale rufous coloration. In flight, the primaries were pale gray in coloration, as seen from above (See included photograph). The greater and median coverts were darkish gray with distinct whitish wingbars tinged with rufous. The tips of the blackish rectrices showed relatively noticeable, whitish edges. These last two field characteristics, pale rufous wingbars and whitish tipped tail, indicate that this flycatcher is a first-year bird. The tertials had whitish



Connecticut Warbler September 18, 2004 – Dike 14
Craig Rieker©

edges. The dark tail stood out prominently against the much lighter, pale gray uppertail coverts and back.

Description of any vocalizations heard: none heard

Description of behavior: The observed flycatcher was seen perched on an eight-foot high, barbed-wire fence, as it would gracefully fly out and skillfully catch insects on the wing, and also on the ground. It would spend only enough time on the ground to secure a commanding grip on its prey. While foraging, the observed flycatcher did not stay still for long, and it would typically work its way along the top of the fence along the north-south section. It was repeatedly seen bobbing its tail while perched, which is a characteristic shared with eastern phoebe. Intermittently, it would spend time preening, scratching and yawning. It displayed no signs of physical or mental abnormalities indicative of poor health. It was energetic, kinetic, and at times, seemed curious of visiting birders. When a belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) twice came and perched on the furthest west fence post next to the Gordon Park Boat Basin, the phoebe would swoop down upon the "intruder," and the kingfisher would acquiesce to the

aggressive request of the flycatcher, and take flight.

Habitat description: Located along the southern coastline of Lake Erie, Dike 14 is an important stopover and staging location for migratory birds. Because of its physical location along the Lake, and its geographical position within two major migration pathways (Atlantic and Mississippi), Dike 14 has become a classic migrant trap, as birds rest, refuel and seek shelter from predators and adverse weather conditions, before continuing onward. A chain-link fence separates the Dike 14 property (U.S.A.C.E) from neighboring Gordon State Park (Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Ohio Department of Natural Resources). The park property is characterized by manicured lawn with sporadic tree and pine plantings, a boat trailer parking lot and picnic tables. On the other side of the fence, early successional fields dominate the landscape, with floral species like goldenrods (*Solidago*), asters (*Aster* spp.) and non-native teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*). A steep rocky slope, immediately north of the fence, rises twenty-eight (28) feet in height to the top of the impoundment.

Circumstances of observation: On 23 October 2004, Gabe Leidy and I were about to leave Dike 14 when I spotted a bird atop the barbed wire. I could only see the head because of my position to the bird. I immediately recognized it as something different based on its head plumage characteristics, and so I frantically yelled over to Gabe who was walking atop

a large-diameter dredge pipe. He had a higher vantage point. He took a few moments to find the bird and yelled out, "Say's phoebe." The flycatcher took flight, and I noticed the pale rufous underparts, and then knew that Gabe was correct in his identification. It was about 1:00 P.M. when we first observed the bird. We got within 40 feet of it, and I was able to obtain some digital photographs of the flycatcher. After satisfying views, we left the area at 2:00 P.M. It was partly cloudy and warm with the sun in front of us at first, but later to our sides. I used quality Leitz 10X25 compact binoculars on the first day. The following day, I observed incredible looks using a Swarovski HD spotting scope equipped with a 20-60X zoom lens. I digiscoped the included images with a pair of Pentax Digibino DB100.

Previous experience with this species: I observed the 1997-98 Say's phoebe at Kokosing Reservoir in Knox County. That is the only experience I have with this species.

Elimination of similar species: An adult female vermilion flycatcher has a short tail with white edges along its length, a whitish supercilium, relatively distinct ear patch, short bill and streaking on its breast. The observed flycatcher had a long tail with whitish tips, no distinct facial markings (except eyeline, at times), longer bill and no streaking on its breast. All *Myiarchus* flycatchers have rufous coloration in their primaries, and the observed bird did not have this characteristic. Both gray kingbird and eastern kingbird have white breasts and undertail coverts, unlike the observed flycatcher. Both fork-tailed and scissor-tailed flycatchers have very long, exaggerated forked tails. All other *Tyrannus* flycatchers have pale yellow coloration in their underwing coverts, while photographs of the observed flycatcher show pure white. The closest possibility to



Say's Phoebe October 24, 2004 - Dike 14
Sean Zadar©

The Kirtland's Warbler was first observed at about 7:20 am. Looking out the windows of the upper level of my house, binoculars in hand, I noticed a Black-throated Green, then a Nashville, then a Blue-headed Vireo. Soon there were more birds. I saw what I first thought was a Magnolia because it had yellow underparts. The bird was at eye level in a sugar maple. Unlike the other warblers, this one was cooperative and stayed reasonably still. The first thing that struck me was the interrupted eye ring and then the lightness of the yellow underparts. Then I noticed the brownish streaked upperparts and the large size of the bird. It took a few seconds to realize I was not looking at a Magnolia Warbler.

The bird was observed in great detail for 40 to 50 seconds before it moved and I could not relocate it. It was observed from about 15 feet at eye level through northerly exposed windows of a room with no lights on. Lighting was excellent and diffuse through high, broken overcast. The bird was observed through Zeiss 10X40 BAK binoculars I keep on the desk in this room. Notes were done immediately afterward.

Description of the Bird:

Overall: A large warbler 13 to 15 cm in length. Bill, small, straight and pointed about 1/3 to 1/2 the length of the head.

Upperparts: Head, brownish gray with a distinctly broken eye-ring. No eye-line or contrast in the lores were observed. Back, brownish with dark streaks. Wings, brownish with dark feather edges, no distinct wing bars. Uppertail coverts, brownish. Uppertail, dark and long, about 1/2 the length of the body.

Underparts: Overall a pale yellow with darker spots along the sides. I did not specifically observe the extent of the spots onto the throat or

across the breast. Throat, pale yellow. The undertail coverts, undertail area, legs and feet were not observed.

Behavior: Slower moving than the other warblers in the area. Cooperative, in that it stayed in the same location for 5 or 10 seconds at a time while the neighboring Nashvilles and Tennessees moved about every 2 seconds. Tail wagging or flicking was *not* observed.

Similar Species:

Magnolia Warbler: Smaller, shorter tail, would have a grayer head and show a green back and yellowish uppertail area. Underparts would have been brighter yellow. (Over the course of the day many, perhaps 30, Magnolias of all plumage variations were observed).

Prairie Warbler: Smaller, would show greenish upperparts and yellowish on the face. Eye-line would have been noticeable.

Palm Warbler: Smaller, distinct supercilium, brown streaking, not spots on underparts. Distinct brown cap.

Previous Experience with this Species:

My personal experience with Kirtland's Warbler includes observation on the breeding grounds in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan and at Crane Creek S.P. Magee Marsh W.A. in May of 1997.

As a lifelong resident of Kirtland, I believe the symmetry of finding a Kirtland's Warbler in Kirtland, Ohio, is a point that cannot be ignored. While this species had been banded many years ago by Margaret Sherwin, less than 3 miles away in Waite Hill, the rarity of this species left me feeling my chances of observing it in my hometown were more than I could ever reasonably

expect. Finding a Kirtland's Warbler in fall migration is extraordinary in and of itself, but to quote Pasteur: "Chance favors the prepared mind." And I was favored by chance that early fall morning! However exciting finding a rarity may be, as I reflect on the experience, I cannot help being impressed by the huge number of other birds I saw that day. It was as if the Magee Marsh bird trail had been transplanted to my back yard and a week's worth of birds came through in a single day. I was mesmerized, astounded and overjoyed at the privilege of witnessing this spectacle. Such a large migration would have been an exceptional occurrence anywhere. But this was my back yard. I will never forget it.

Fifty Years of Spring Migration in Lorain County

**Lynds Jones's Notes
1896-1945**

by Bill Whan

Lynds Jones (1865-1951) is among Ohio's eminent ornithologists. He founded the *Wilson Bulletin*, one of North America's leading ornithological journals, in 1888. At Oberlin College seven years later he became the first university instructor in ornithology in the United States. He later served as curator of Oberlin's zoological museum. Along with hundreds of articles about birds, he published in 1903 *The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue*, which he described as a revision of Wheaton's 1882 *Report on the Birds of Ohio*. Jones's catalogue formed the basis for *The Birds of Ohio*, a popular work published the same year by his student and colleague William Leon Dawson. To the latter work Jones contributed the introduction and an analytical key to the identification of Ohio's bird species. Jones and Dawson were tireless field observers, and started the first systematic "big days," traveling Lorain

OWL RESCUE

by Judy Semroc

On Monday, November 29th, Stanley Stine (Twinsburg City Naturalist) and Jack Williams (Twinsburg Animal Warden) had been called about an owl that had supposedly flown into a goose pen on a Twinsburg area property. They retrieved the Great Horned Owl



Great Horned Owl - the cleanup
Judy Semroc©

from a very muddy area adjacent to a waterfowl enclosure and transported it back to the stone house in an animal carrier. Stanley kept it on a darkened porch and maintained warmth, using a space heater. The owl was wet and covered in mud from mid-chest down but it was difficult to tell what type of damage it may have incurred. As it didn't seem to be able to fly from the waterfowl enclosure, Stanley and Jack assumed the bird had some wing damage. Stanley placed a call to Laura Jordan, director of the Medina Raptor Center, and the wheels were set in motion for the bird to receive Laura's evaluation and care. As Laura made the necessary preparations at the Raptor Center's hospital, connections were made to have the owl transported to Medina. My husband Sid and I

drove from the Canton area to Twinsburg and with Stanley's assistance, transferred the owl to a larger animal carrier and began the 45-minute drive to the Raptor Center. Upon arrival, Laura guided us to the hospital area where we watched her assess the owl's condition, clean the wound, administer much-needed fluids and take the pertinent information about the rescue of this magnificent creature.

It turns out SHE is a young great horned, likely born in March of '04. Laura thinks she was probably hunting when, as a result of her young age, she did not strike the prey in the optimal area for a quick dispatch, and the animal turned back and bit her on the foot. This caused a laceration and subsequent infection, resulting in a condition known as "bumblefoot." The infected wound made it quite difficult for her to use her foot, especially for hunting. Malnourished as a result of her inability to capture wild prey, she was likely trying to capture a slower domestic duck or goose. Too weak to fly, she had clung to life, standing in the cold, muddy surroundings outside the waterfowl enclosure.

Her initial check-up did not reveal any wing damage. She was, however, very dehydrated and thin.



The attitude - Medina Raptor Center
Judy Semroc©



The weigh-in
Judy Semroc©

After cleaning the wound and giving her antibiotics for the infection, Laura placed her in a larger cage in the hospital area for constant supervision and warmth.

In the days ahead, the owl will be examined by a veterinarian to determine whether surgery is needed. If all goes well, the infection will be successfully treated with antibiotics and at the proper time, she could be released back into the wild. Laura said that if the residents had not sought help for the bird and rescuers hadn't acted as quickly as they did, the owl would certainly have died that day from the complications associated with that wound. Congratulations to all that worked so hard to save this beautiful bird!

The importance of the work done at the Medina Raptor Center cannot be stressed enough. This is one of the few qualified raptor rehab centers in northeast Ohio, and as such, is the last hope for these injured birds.

Those that cannot be released back to the wild because of the severity of their injuries often become program birds to help educate the public. Those creatures that can be released because of the Center's unflagging dedication and care, are given another chance at living in the wild where they belong. I would like to urge everyone to take a moment and log on to the Medina Raptor Center's website (www.medinaraptorcenter.org) and choose a method of support for this vital work. From donations of household products to monetary assistance, any help would be greatly appreciated.

2004 CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK FALL BIRD CENSUS

Canada Goose	319	Willow Flycatcher	1	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Wood Duck	81	Least Flycatcher	1	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Mallard	105	E. Phoebe	63	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Blue-winged Teal	2	E. Kingbird	4	Blackpoll Warbler	2
Wild Turkey	2	White-eyed Vireo	3	Black-and-White Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	3	American Restart	10
Great Blue Heron	39	Warbling Vireo	21	Common Yellowthroat	40
Green Heron	11	Red-eyed Vireo	19	Hooded Warbler	11
Turkey Vulture	44	Blue Jay	340	Wilson's Warbler	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	American Crow	392	Scarlet Tanager	11
Cooper's Hawk	3	N. Rough-winged Swallow	59	Eastern Towhee	20
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	Barn Swallow	2	Chipping Sparrow	5
Broad-winged Hawk	3	Black-capped Chickadee	240	Field Sparrow	17
Red-tailed Hawk	17	Tufted Titmouse	76	Savannah Sparrow	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Song Sparrow	104
Killdeer	34	White-breasted Nuthatch	88	Northern Cardinal	132
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Carolina Wren	32	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Rock Pigeon	4	House Wren	8	Indigo Bunting	9
Mourning Dove	85	Winter Wren	1	Bobolink	7
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	69	Red-winged Blackbird	112
Barred Owl	2	Wood Thrush	1	Eastern Meadowlark	1
Common Nighthawk	2	American Robin	262	Common Grackle	775
Chimney Swift	392	Gray Catbird	105	Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	European Starling	574	House Finch	29
Belted Kingfisher	7	Cedar Waxwing	671	American Goldfinch	372
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Tennessee Warbler	1	House Sparrow	31
Red-bellied Woodpecker	71	Nashville Warbler	9		
Downy Woodpecker	66	Northern Parula	1		
Hairy Woodpecker	15	Yellow Warbler	1		
Northern Flicker	67	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1		
Pileated Woodpecker	18	Magnolia Warbler	7		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17	Black-throated Blue Warbler	3		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3		
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Black-throated Green Warb.	6		

FALL CVNP CENSUS SUMMARY

It was a great day for birding but migrants were hard to find. Maybe the fact that this was the earliest fall census we have had may have been a factor. We had 45 participants out in 14 groups. We found 95 species (18 species of warblers), which was the 5th highest to 103 in 2000.

Firsts for a fall census: Northern Parula and Rough-winged Swallow First: Blue-winged Teal since 1999, Peregrine Falcon since 1986, Eastern Meadowlark since 1998

First miss since: Philadelphia Vireo since 1997, Swamp Sparrow since 1996, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher since 1999, Swainson's Thrush since 1988.

Noteworthy numbers: only one Red-headed Woodpecker, Double-crested Cormorants higher (seven groups had one or more), Cedar Waxwings were nearly double the normal number, American Crow numbers increased substantially since a drop in 2000-2003.

Dwight Chasar



Northern Waterthrush September 18, 2004 – Dike 14
Craig Rieker©



The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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