

BIRD CALENDAR

of the

CLEVELAND BIRD CLUB

31st Year, Bulletin No. 1
January – March, 1935
Founded by Dr. Francis H. Herrick, 1905

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The weather during the first three months of 1935 has been comparatively mild with mean monthly temperatures above normal and precipitation fluctuating around the average of many years' records of the Cleveland Weather Bureau.

Month	Mean Temperature	Normal Temperature	Total Precipitation	Normal Precipitation
January	28.9°F	26.5°F	2.15 in.	2.51 in.
February	28.6	27.4	3.26	2.51
March	43.2	34.6	2.06	2.71

The following people contributed record to this calendar. The number of these contributors (16) is the largest that have [sic] responded thus far to any single bulletin. We would like to have other members of the Bird Club send in records of new birds seen in migration and lists of birds, with numbers, recorded on field trips.

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| John Aldrich | Lynds Jones |
| Robert L. Baird | Dale C. Kellogg |
| S. Prentiss Baldwin | S. Charles Kendeigh |
| B.T. Barnes | Margarette E. Morse |
| James Bruce | Ralph O'Reilly |
| C.M. Finfrock | Merit B. Skaggs |
| Francis Gilliland | M.B. Walters |
| E.C. Hoffman | A.B. Williams |

The following table gives the number of trips taken by these observers each month and also furnishes some idea as to the length of these trips, habitat covered, etc. The figures given for most of the items listed are to be considered only as rough approximations. Although they are based on information given by each reporter, for obvious reasons they are not rigidly exact.

Month	January	February	March
Number of trips	29	37	62
Observers per trip	1.3	1.6	1.3
Hours per trip	2.4	2.2	2.7
Miles on foot per trip	3.4	2.8	3.1
Miles per hour	1.4	1.3	1.1
Percentage of time in denser woods	58	66	47
“ “ “ “ open country	15	17	27
“ “ “ “ marshes	15	4	13
“ “ “ along lakes and streams	12	13	13

The total number of species recorded in this bulletin is ninety-three. This is five more species than were recorded in 1934 and seven more than in 1933.

Since rare or unusual species are of special interest, the following table of records are [sic] given of species most of which have an average index of abundance (see below) of less than 1.0.

Black-crowned Night Heron (J.A.) – Jan. 2 (1- Marblehead)
Whistling Swan (L.J.) – Mar. 11 (flock), 12 (flock), 24 (2000 – Marblehead), 31 (3)
Red-tailed Hawk (B.T.B, A.B.W, S.C.K.) – Jan. 7 (1), Feb. 20 (1), Mar. 2 (1), 20 (1), 30 (2)
Rough-legged Hawk (JA) – Jan. 2 (1)
Bald Eagle (LJ) – Mar. 15 (1)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (A.B.W., J.A., E.C.H.) – Jan. 2 (1), Mar. 15 (2), 18 (1)
Cooper Hawk (M.B.W., A.B.W., O'R.) – Mar. 11 (1), 20 (1), 24 (1)
Ruffed Grouse (B.T.B) – Mar. 30 (3)
Ring-necked Pheasant (D.C.K., J.B., J.A., S.C.K.) – Jan. 5 (1), Mar. 6 (1), 16 (1, 1), 23 (2)
Barn Owl (R.L.B.) – Mar. 16 (1)
Short-eared Owl (J.A.) – Jan. 9 (1)
Great Horned Owl (R.L.B.) – Mar. 16 (1)
Screech. Owl (E.C.H.) – Jan 27 (1), Feb. 17 (1), Mar. 4 (1), 15 (2), 22 (2), 23 (2)
Barred Owl (M.E.M, B.T.B, A.B.W.) – Jan. 7 (2), 12 (1), 28 (1), Feb. 4 (1), 11 (1), 25 (1), Mar. 5 (1), 16 (1), 17 (1), 18 (2), 25 (2)
Red-bellied Woodpecker (J.B., A.B.W.) – Jan. 14 (1), Feb. 18 (1), Mar. 11 (2), 18 (1), 20 (2, 2)
Red-headed Woodpecker (E.C.H.) – Jan. 27 (1), Feb. 17 (1), Mar. 4 (1), 15 (1), 22 (1), 23(1)
Northern Shrike (B.T.B) – Mar. 3 (1)
Winter Wren (A.B.W.) – Mar. 18 (1)
Carolina Wren (M.E.M, D.C.K., M.B.W.) – Feb. 13 (1), Mar. 16 (1), 24 (1)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (M.E.M, B.T.B, M.B.S., M.B.W., A.B.W., S.C.K.) – Jan. 21 (1), Feb. 16 (1), Mar. 5 (2), 23 (2), 30 (1, 2), 31 (5)
Brown Creeper (B.T.B, M.B.W., A.B.W.) – Jan. 22 (1), Feb. 18 (1), Mar. 30 (2)
Purple Finch (J.A.) – Mar. 23 (1)
Lapland Longspur (J.A.) – Mar. 9 (20), 16 (1)
Snow Bunting (J.A., D.C.K., S.C.K.) – Jan. 16 (1), Feb. 20 (100), 24 (50), Mar. 16 (35)

One species of special interest in the above list is the Whistling Swan. It appears that this species has increased considerably in numbers during the last few years. In addition to the above records, J. Paul Visscher reported seeing a flock of 37 near Portland, Michigan, on Mar. 19, and Robert L. Baird found an estimated 5000 at Bolles Harbor, Michigan, on Mar. 16.

There appears to have been a marked invasion of northern Ohio during the winter by Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. A larger number of these two species were seen this year than for many years back.

Merit B. Skaggs sends in two records from last year that are worth recording: "Last spring my wife and I saw a covey of bob-white feeding on the weed seeds along the car tracks that go out to the E. 9th St. piers. It seemed strange to see a covey so near the public square. - - -Last year in July

we found a pair of kill-deer with 3 half-grown young on the ball grounds at Nela Park on Noble Road. Without a doubt they nested nearby, perhaps on the edge of the parking lot.”

The following three tables are a summary of the records of the more common winter and early spring species. For those not familiar with our use of indices of abundance, we may explain that they are computed in this way. First, a figure is obtained representing the average number of individuals of that species seen on all trips for the month. Next, another figure is obtained representing the percentage of the total number of trips during the month on which the species was seen, regardless of the number of individuals recorded. Finally, these two figures are multiplied together to give the index. Thus the indices are an expression not only of the number of individuals but also of their distribution. Since different amounts of time are spent in different habitats it is better to compare relative abundance of species only within the same general habitat. Even here one must keep in mind the relative conspicuousness of the different species. Averages of the indices for the three months both for 1935 and 1934 are given to make possible some comparison of yearly status.

BIRDS OF THE DENSER WOODS

	Index of Abundance				
	January	February	March	Average: 1935	Average: 1934
Tufted Titmouse	125.4	124.4	120.6	123.4	225.3
Cardinal	91.1	55.1	166.6	104.3	155.2
Blue Jay	38.6	29.7	147.1	71.8	28.2
White-breasted Nuthatch	85.1	92.0	36.6	71.2	331.0
Downy Woodpecker	64.4	75.7	58.7	66.3	123.3
Black-capped Chickadee	40.3	128.5	27.4	65.4	290.8
Towhee	21.7	25.9	27.5	25.0	6.6
Hairy Woodpecker	9.6	21.6	5.8	12.3	18.1
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.0	0.0	7.7	2.6	0.6
Pileated Woodpecker	5.2	0.3	0.4	2.0	0.8

Of the ten species in this habitat with an index of abundance more than 1.0, six species are less abundant than during the corresponding months of 1934 and four species are more abundant. The Blue Jay is about 2.5 times as abundant as last year while the towhee is nearly four times, having wintered in fairly large numbers. The average index for all ten species in 1935 is 54.4 while in 1934 it was 118.0, indicating that the abundance of forest birds this year is possibly less than half that of 1934. Lynds Jones reports that the Black-capped Chickadee has been quite scarce around Oberlin and along the lake for the last five to ten years.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY
(Open woods, shrubby fields, farmland, cities)

<u>Permanent Residents</u>	January	February	March	Average: 1935	Average: 1934
Starling	954.2	108.0	1555.7	872.6	1843.4
Crow	2.8	27.0	1450.7	493.5	291.5
Robin	3.4	4.9	1144.5	384.2	166.9
Slate-colored Junco	29.2	55.9	556.6	213.9	49.2
Song Sparrow	1.4	8.6	508.2	172.7	122.4
English Sparrow	91.6	121.0	248.7	153.8	??
Tree Sparrow	226.3	38.9	92.9	119.4	138.1
Horned Lark (mostly Prairie)	172.5	116.6	25.8	105.0	7.4
Meadowlark	0.7	0.1	75.4	25.4	few
Flicker	2.1	1.6	33.9	12.5	few
Bob-white	10.3	10.8	4.9	8.7	11.7
Snow Bunting	0.1	22.1	1.0	7.7	none
Sparrow Hawk	3.4	1.1	6.3	3.6	5.2
Goldfinch	5.2	0.3	1.0	2.2	2.5
Marsh Hawk	1.0	0.1	1.9	1.0	0.7

Migrant Species

Bronzed Grackle	--	--	1124.1		
Bluebird	--	--	92.0	(Feb. 28 (3), S.P. Baldwin)	
Killdeer	--	--	58.7		
Cedar Waxwing	--	--	53.1	(Feb. 25 (1))	
Mourning Dove	--	--	39.2	(Jan 31 (1), Feb. 28 (1))	

Except for the Starling and possibly the Tree Sparrow, most species in this habitat remained about the same in abundance as during 1934 or were more abundant. The average of the indices for permanent residents for 1935 is 216.0, for 1934, 239.9. If the starling were excluded the index for 1935 would be higher than during 1934. The average index for January and February excluding March, is 94.9 for 1935 and 82.7 for 1934 when the starling is included, or 29.0 for 1935 and 15.8 for 1934 when the starling is excluded. March is better excluded in comparing averages for these two years because the earlier migration of 1935 unduly increased the indices of abundance. It would appear that open country birds were somewhat more abundant this year than last.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN LAKE, LAKE SHORE, AND STREAM

<u>Permanent Residents</u>	Index of Abundance			Average: 1935	Average: 1934
	January	February	March		
Herring Gull	762.4	121.5	342.4	408.8	432.7
Ring-billed Gull	176.6	0.0	0.05	58.9	44.7
Black Duck	5.8	1.4	134.2	47.1	129.6

<u>Winter Residents</u>	Index of Abundance				
	January	February	March	Average: 1935	Average: 1934
Scaup Duck (mostly Lesser)	29.9	100.2	42.0	57.4	635.3
American Merganser	84.4	32.4	4.8	40.5	357.2
American Golden-eye	1.0	6.8	4.3	4.0	63.5
Red-breasted Merganser	6.2	1.1	0.1	2.5	150.1
Bonaparte Gull	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0

There was no marked change in the abundance of the three species of gulls between last year and this. All five species of winter ducks were less abundant this year than in 1934, averaging this year, 30.3, last year, 267.1. An estimation of the relative abundance of migrant and summer resident species of ducks will be delayed until the next bulletin. We should note at this time, however, an observation of Robert L. Baird who reports 10,000 unidentified ducks far out on the bay, north side of Marblehead and west of Lakeside on March 24. A year ago, on April 8, 1934, he estimated 50,000 ducks at the same place. This represents a considerable decrease this year but the earlier date of observation this year must be taken into account. The height of the duck migration is usually reached during the first two weeks in April.

The spring migration thus far has been very interesting. The picking out of definite migration "waves" is a little difficult since there was, this year, some scattering of first records. The very earliest species to arrive did not come exactly together, as they frequently do, but an early "wave" from Feb. 10-13 may be indicated. A second wave is also indicated for Feb. 28 - Mar. 2. The third and most pronounced wave came on the two warm days of Mar. 15-16. A fourth wave came toward the end of the month, Mar. 23-26 and was less well defined. A comparison of the migration this year with other years makes it appear that at the end of March the migration was about a week ahead of schedule.

Not only is the migration of all species frequently in the form of waves, but this is often true when consideration is of individuals within the same species. The crow is an example, as indicated in the records of Williams, Hoffman, and Kendeigh. This species, and the same is true also with robins, starlings, blackbirds, and others, migrate overland from the south until they reach the Lake Erie shore. Then, instead of continuing directly across, they turn either to the west or east and circle around the ends of the lake. Because of this, it is quite common to see large numbers of these species moving along the lake shore on favorable days. In the case of the crow these lake shore movements were noted this year on Feb. 24, Mar. 4 and 5, Mar. 10, Mar. 15 and 16, and again on Mar. 22. The largest movement came on Mar. 15-16 when 958 birds were recorded by two observers. In the vicinity of Cleveland all of these flocks, with only one exception, were moving east. This direction of movement held true on Mar. 16 even as far west as Sandusky.

The migration wave of Mar. 15-16 is of interest also as it involved several other species. Flocks of starlings were noted flying east over Cleveland in the evening of the 15th. The next morning (16th) this movement continued, diminished in extent during the middle of the day as the birds stopped to feed, but accelerated again in the evening to even larger size.

One observer counted 1600 birds, and very probably a much larger number of birds was involved. Between Cleveland and Lorain, all the flocks were moving east, between Lorain and Huron in the morning about half the flocks were moving east and half west, west of Huron all flocks were moving west. In the evening all flocks noted west of Lorain were moving in a westerly direction. Other species involved in the evening movement, but not in the morning, were Bronzed Grackle (1000 birds), Red-winged Blackbird (500), Cowbird and Rusty Blackbird (100 each). It is of interest that except for the Crow, the main movement of all species west of Lorain was westerly, east of Lorain it was easterly. In other years we have thought that the dividing point came at Huron but it is possible that the exact point may shift from year to year. If one examines a map, he will note that these two cities are located near the southernmost bend in the contour of Lake Erie but are situated considerably west of the middle point in the south shore of the lake. On this same date it is worthy of mention that an unusually large migratory flight of Red-shouldered Hawks (28 individuals counted) took place, the largest that we have recorded of this species in several years.

SPRING MIGRATION

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Record</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Crow	Feb. 10 (common)	Here in small numbers over winter.
Meadowlark	Feb. 10	Also Jan. 2 (7)
Robin	Feb. 12 (3)	Here in small numbers over winter.
Song Sparrow	Feb. 13 (1)	“ “ “ “ “ “
Bluebird	Feb. 28 (3)	
Mourning Dove	Feb. 28 (1)	Also Jan. 31 (1)
Killdeer	Mar. 1 (1)	
Ring-necked Duck	Mar. 1 (1)	
Red-winged Blackbird	Mar. 2 (10)	
Slate-colored Junco	Mar. 2 (20)	Beginning of marked influx in numbers.
Flicker	Mar. 2 (3)	“ “ “ “ “ “
Bronzed Grackle	Mar. 2 (8)	
Horned Grebe	Mar. 2 (1)	Collected – J.A.
Cedar Waxwing	Mar. 3 (25)	Also Feb. 25 (1)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Mar. 5 (1)	
Rusty Blackbird	Mar. 6 (3)	
Cowbird	Mar. 9 (18)	
Mallard	Mar. 11 (2)	
Canada Goose	Mar. 11 (83)	Also Jan. 28 (12) flying south – A.B.W.
Whistling Swan	Mar. 11 (flock)	
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 15 (1)	
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 15 (1)	
Marsh Hawk	Mar 15 (1)	Here in small numbers over winter.
Baldpate	Mar. 15 (6)	
Black Duck	Mar. 15 (4)	Also Jan. 2 (50), Feb. 3 (20)
Starling	Mar. 15 (30)	Pronounced migration on Mar. 15 & 16
Migrant Shrike	Mar. 16 (1)	
Phoebe	Mar. 16 (1, 1)	
Belted Kingfisher	Mar. 16 (1)	
Wilson Snipe	Mar. 16 (1)	

Species (continued)	First Record	
Hooded Merganser	Mar. 16 (7)	
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 16 (6)	
Pintail	Mar. 16 (2, 210)	
Gadwall	Mar. 16 (6)	
Great Blue Heron	Mar. 16 (2)	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 16 (28)	Pronounced migration wave.
Canvas-back	Mar. 16 (500)	Also Feb. 3 (2)
Blue-winged Teal	Mar. 18 (3)	
Shoveler	Mar. 18 (6)	
Bufflehead	Mar. 21 (2)	
Brown Thrasher	Mar. 21 (1)	
Field Sparrow	Mar. 23 (1)	
Swamp Sparrow	Mar. 23 (2)	
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 24 (6)	
Chipping Sparrow	Mar. 26 (2)	
Vesper Sparrow	Mar. 26 (1)	
Coot	Mar. 26 (17)	Also Feb. 3 (1), Pymatuning Swamp, M.B.S.
Hermit Thrush	Mar. 30 (1, 1)	