

DECEMBER – JANUARY – FEBRUARY  
1939-40

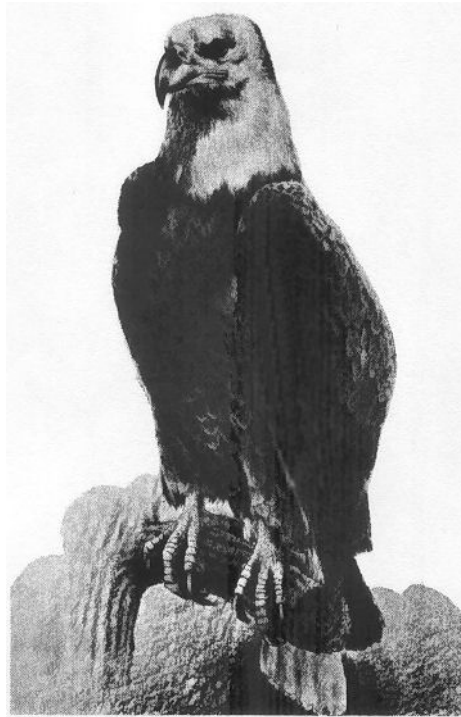
# BIRD CALENDAR

*of the*

Cleveland Bird Club

36th year

No.1



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



Bird Calendar

Dec., Jan., Feb., 1939-40  
Issued - April, 1940

36th Year, No. 1

CONTRIBUTORS

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(for Cleveland Museum  
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Charles H. Knight  
Rudolf J. Kula

J. O. McQuown  
Margarette E. Morse  
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Thomas Sandera  
Marion Skaggs  
Merit B. Skaggs  
Margaret H. Sherwin  
Harold Wallin  
S. V. Wharram  
Arthur B. Williams

This is the largest number of contributors ever to submit records for the Bird Calendar.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE

Horned Grebe - Dec. 10 (1), 24 (5), 31 (4)

\*American Egret.- 1 seen Jan. 14, near Peninsula by Lawrence Hicks.<sup>1</sup>

\*Whistling Swan.- 1 seen Jan. 15, on Cuyahoga River near Hathaway Road by A. B. Williams.

Mallard - (Many winter records).

Black Duck - (Many winter records).

\*Gadwall.- 1 seen Jan. 15 on Cuyahoga River near Hathaway Road by A. B. Williams;  
4 seen Jan. 18, 7 on Feb. 12, and 5 on Feb. 22, at Castalia by Lynds Jones.

\*Baldpate.- 150 seen Jan. 1, 200 on Jan. 15, 100 Feb. 12 and 94 Feb. 22 at Castalia by  
Lynds Jones.

\*Pintail.- 1 seen Dec. 22 at Ashtabula Harbor, by L. E. Hicks; 200 on Jan. 1, 200 on Jan. 18,  
125 on Feb. 12 and 275 on Feb. 22 at Castalia by Lynds Jones.

\*Green-winged Teal.- 4 seen Jan. 1, 6 on Jan. 18, and 8 on Feb. 12 at Castalia by Lynds  
Jones.

\*Shoveller.- 1 seen Jan. 1, 4 on Jan. 18, 18 on Feb. 12, and 19 on Feb. 22 at Castalia by  
Lynds Jones.

\*Redhead.- 1 seen Jan. 7, 2 on Jan. 14, 1 on Jan. 21 and 1 on Jan. 27 by the Herrick  
Ornithological Society. On Jan. 27 Merit Skaggs also saw the bird.

Ring-necked Duck - Dec. 22 (6)

Canvasback - Jan. 13 (1)

\*Greater Scaup.- 1 seen Jan. 22 on Cleveland lake front by Margarette Morse, 1 on Jan. 21  
and 1 on Feb. 18 on Cleveland lake front by Herrick Ornithological Society.

Lesser Scaup - (Many winter records)

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\*Unusual records

1-Walker, Bird Lore, March-April 1940 (supplement) P. 217

American Goldeneye - (Many winter records)

Bufflehead - Dec. 4 (1), 10 (8), 22 (2), 24 (1), Jan. 2 (4), 7 (2), 10 (3), 13 (1), 14 (8), Feb. 2 (3), 4 (2), 22 (1), 25 (1).

Old Squaw - Dec. 17 (1), 22 (14), 24 (1), Jan. 10 (6), 13 (1), 21 (1), 27 (1), 28 (1).

\*King Eider.- 8 seen (1 collected for Museum) December 5 at Winous Point in Sandusky Bay, by Chester K. Brooks.

White-winged Scoter - Dec. 22 (1), Jan. 7 (1), 10 (4).

\*American Scoter.- 4 seen Dec. 22 at Ashtabula by Lawrence Hicks.

Ruddy Duck - Dec. 10 (10), 22 (1), 24 (2).

\*Hooded Merganser.- 2 seen Dec. 17 on Cleveland lake front by J. O. McQuown and 4 were seen at the same place Jan. 13 by Lawrence E. Hicks.

American Merganser (Many winter records)

Red-breasted Merganser (Many winter records)

Sharp-shinned Hawk - Jan. 5 (1), Feb. 12 (1), 16 (1), 22 (1).

Cooper Hawk - Dec. 22 (1), 23 (1), Jan. 4 (1), 27 (1), Feb. 1 (1), 4 (2).

Red-tailed Hawk - Jan. 17 (1), 27 (2), Feb. 4 (1), 29 (2).

Red-shouldered Hawk - Jan. 6 (1), 7 (1), 19 (1).

Rough-legged Hawk - Jan. 7 (1), 20 (1).

Bald Eagle - Jan. 1 (1).

Marsh Hawk - Jan. 1 (1), 13 (1), Feb. 12 (1).

Sparrow Hawk - (Many winter records)

Ruffed Grouse - (Many winter records)

Bob-white - (Many winter records)

Ring-necked Pheasant - (Many winter records)

Coot - Dec. 22 (1), Jan. 10 (2), 13 (3).

\*Red-backed Sandpiper.- 1 seen Jan. 13 at Ashtabula Harbor by Lawrence Hicks.

\*Black-backed Gull.- 1 seen, Jan. 22 at Ashtabula by Lawrence Hicks; 2 seen Jan. 7 along Cleveland lake front by Herrick Ornithological Society.

Herring Gull - (Many winter records).

Ring-billed Gull - (Many winter records).

Bonaparte Gull - (Many winter records).

\*Franklin Gull.- 1 seen Dec. 10, along Cleveland lake front by Herrick Ornithological Society.

Mourning Dove - Dec. 23 (3), Jan. 1 (3), 18 (6), Feb. 8 (9), 22 (1), 8 wintered at Kirtland Hills according to B. P. Bole Jr.

Barn Owl - Feb. 22 (1)

Screech Owl - Dec. 24 (1), Jan. 1 (1), Feb. 22 (1), 25 (1).

Horned Owl - Dec. 23 (4), Feb. 22 (1)

Barred Owl - Jan. 28 (1), Feb. 22 (2).

\*Short-eared Owl.- seen Feb. 25 by Merit and Marion Skaggs, Margarete Morse and Vera Carrothers and on several other occasions during February by Margaret Sherwin, always roosting in the same small pine tree on Lost Nation Road Golf Course near Willoughby.

Kingfisher - Dec. 4 (2), 24 (1), 31 (2), Jan. 1 (1), 7 (1), 14 (3), Feb. 4 (1), 16 (1).

Pileated Woodpecker - Dec. 17 (1), 22 (1), 23 (3).

\*Red-bellied Woodpecker.- The unusual experience of having one of these woodpeckers as a regular guest at a feeding station was enjoyed this winter by both Ruth Newcomer at Gates Mills and the attendants at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland Hills.

\*Red-headed Woodpecker.- 16 seen Dec. 23, at Wellington by R. E. Clisby; 1 was seen on Dec. 23 at Willoughby by Merit Skaggs, Marion Skaggs and Vera Carrothers.

Hairy Woodpecker - (Many winter records)

Downy Woodpecker - (Many winter records)

Horned Lark - Dec. 23 (8), 29 (9), Jan. 1 (2), 6 (6), 7 (2), 18 (6), 21 (6), 25 (1), Feb. 4 (4), 12 (29), 18 (7), 22 (11).

Blue Jay - (Many winter records)

Crow - Dec. 23 (2), Jan. 5 (1), 7 (3), 13 (1), 17 (3), 18 (5), Feb. 1 (9), 12 (2), 16 (8), 17 (2), 18 (2), 19 (6), 21 (1), 22 (21), 25 (6), 26 (1), 28 (4), 29 (1).

Chickadee - (Many winter records)

Tufted Titmouse - (Many winter records)

White-breasted Nuthatch - (Many winter records)

Red-breasted Nuthatch - (Many winter records)

Brown Creeper - (Many winter records)

Winter Wren - Dec. 23 (1)

Carolina Wren - Dec. 24 (2), 31 (2)

\*Mockingbird.- 1 seen Dec. 23 in Shaker Heights by Charles Knight; 1 seen daily from Dec. 1 to the end of January at Waite Hill by Margaret Sherwin; 1 seen all winter at Oberlin by Lynds Jones.

Robin - Dec. 12 (2), 17 (2), 23 (1), Jan. 7 (1), 8 (1), 18 (4), 23 (1), 27 (1), Feb. 1 (3), 19 (3).

Bluebird - Dec. 24 (12), 30 (3).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - Dec. 22 (16), 23 (4), Jan. 18 (1), Feb. 15 (1), 19 (2).

\*Ruby-crowned Kinglet. - 1 seen daily from the middle of November through the first week in January at Waite Hill by Margaret Sherwin who banded the bird on Jan. 3.

Cedar Waxwing - (Many winter records)

\*Northern Shrike.- seen Jan. 1 at South Euclid, by Merit and Marion Skaggs.

Starling - (Many winter records)

English Sparrow - (Many winter records)

Red-winged Blackbird - Feb. 22 (4)

Cardinal - (Many winter records)

Purple Finch - Dec. 23 (18), Jan. 27 (15), 30 (15), Feb. 4 (1), 15 (2), 22 (20), 25 (19).

\*Pine Grosbeak.- 2 seen Feb. 14 in Bratenahl by Mrs. J. E. Ferris.

\*Redpoll.- 15 seen in Rocky River Valley near Hilliard road, Dec. 14 by Omar Ranney; 12 at Chesterland Feb. 14 by B. P. Bole Jr.; and 1 at Mentor Feb. 6 by A. B. Fuller.

\*Pine Siskin - 3 seen Jan. 16 at a feeding station in Chagrin Falls by Louise Aldrich, 3 on Feb. 11 at Forest Hills [Hill] Park in Cleveland Heights by Donald Newman.

Goldfinch - Dec. 17 (3), 23 (22), Jan. 5 (5), 6 (1), 13 (2), Feb. 1 (6), 15 (2), 18 (1), 19 (1), 20 (1), 21 (1), 25 (3), 29 (1).

\*White-winged Crossbill.- 18 seen at North Chagrin Reservation, Jan. 8 by M. B. Walters

Towhee - Dec. 23 (18), Jan. 4 (1), 11 (2), 13 (5), Feb. 1 (2), 14 (1).

Junco - (Many winter records)

Tree Sparrow - (Many winter records)

\*Swamp Sparrow.- 2 seen Jan. 5, in Cuyahoga Valley south of Cleveland by Charles Knight.

Song Sparrow - (Many winter records)

\*Lapland Longspur.- 14 seen Jan. 23 at Lost Nation Airport near Willoughby by John Aldrich and David Nutt. At the same place on Jan. 6, 75 were seen by Marion and Merit Skaggs.

Snow Bunting - Dec. 31 (3), Jan. 6 (20), 7 (8), Feb. 4 (6), 25 (3).

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\*Unusual records

SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS  
Taken from Cleveland Weather Bureau Reports

Month	Mean Temp.	Normal Temp.	Total Precip.	Normal Precip.	% of Possible Sunshine	Normal Sunshine	Relative Humidity
Dec.	35.9°	31.2°	1.17" (snow 3.9)	2.44" (snow 9.2)	20%	24%	*78%
Jan.	19.6	26.5	1.35 (snow 17.1)	2.51 (snow 10.5)	19	30	*82
Feb.	28.5	27.4	3.24 (snow 14.9)	2.58 (snow 9.7)	33	36	*83
De- parture from normal	-1.1		-1.77 (snow +6.5)		-18%		

\* Based on an average of the monthly mean relative humidities for 1:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

The records of the Cleveland Weather Bureau show a slight deficiency in heat and total precipitation during the winter and a very marked deficiency in amount of sunshine. Although the temperature was very low (about 7° below normal) in January, the other two months showed higher than normal temperatures so that the total averaged only a little over 1° below normal. The severe freeze up in January, however, had a profound effect on the bird life particularly on the wintering water fowl.

Although there was a slight deficiency in total precipitation there was an excess of snowfall of 6.5 inches which was undoubtedly detrimental to the survival of winter birds, particularly ground feeders such as the quail and some of the sparrow tribe. The excess of cloudy weather very likely added to the injurious effect of the snow and cold by shortening the periods of daylight when birds could find food. Those who are familiar with the investigations of our former bird club member, Dr. Kendeigh, realize that this combination of weather factors was potentially bad for our winter bird population.

WINTER BIRD POPULATIONS OF THE CLEVELAND REGION, 1939 - 1940.

Following are the results of our second annual winter bird population studies. Of particular importance is the study of the wintering water fowl on the Cleveland lake front conducted by members of the Herrick Ornithological Society of Western Reserve University reported on by Ralph A. O'Reilly Jr.

Open Water of Lake Erie

The Herrick Ornithological Society made weekly surveys of the water fowl between Rocky River and East 140th Street along Lake Erie from the first of November 1939 through the month of March 1940. The purpose of the study was to analyze the winter duck population at Cleveland both as to species and as to numbers. The census extends beyond the dates of this calendar, for it was thought desirable to observe enough fall and spring migration to determine their effects on the wintering population.

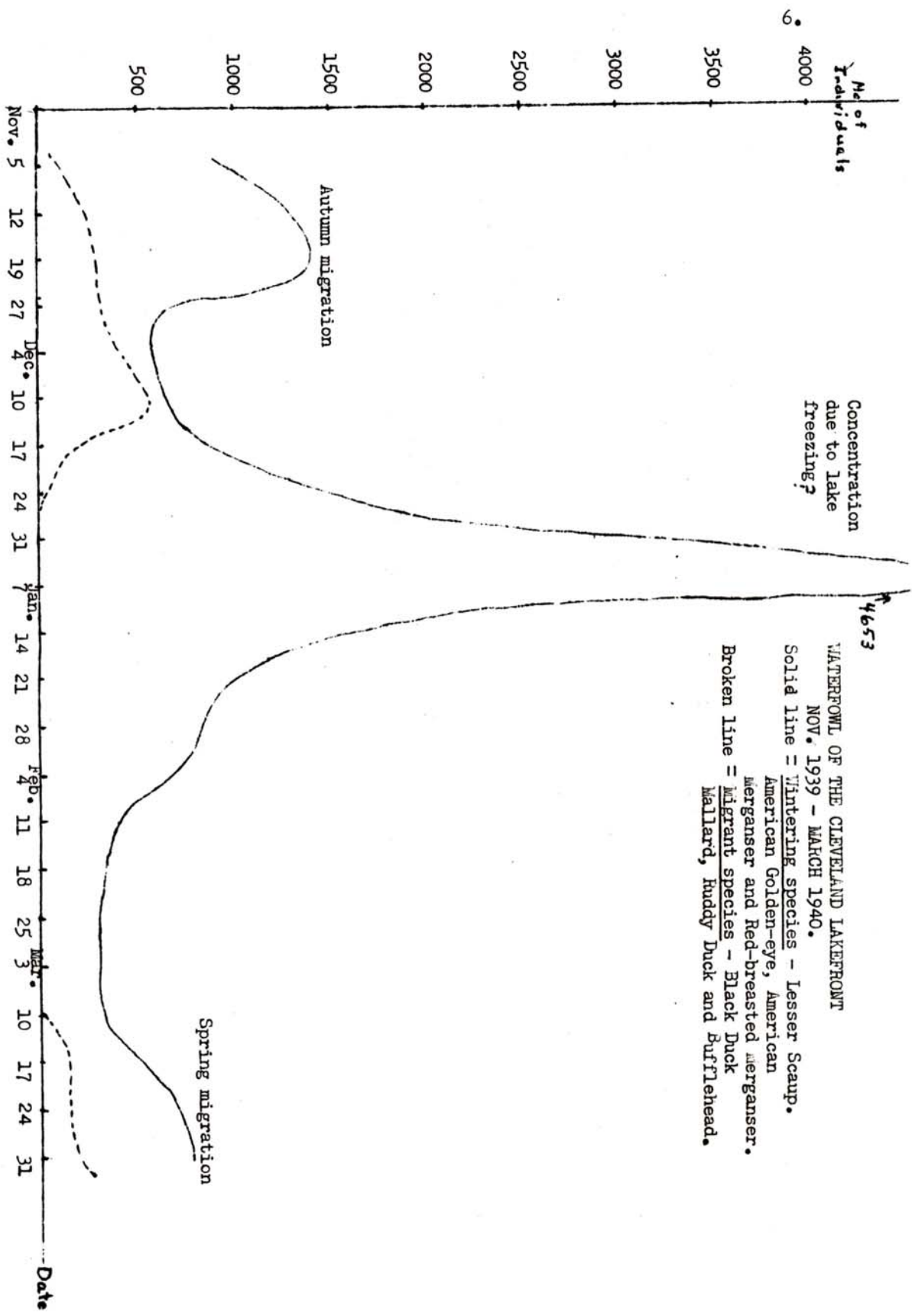
The waterfowl recorded fall into two classes: "wintering species" including the Lesser Scaup, American Goldeneye, American Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser, and "migrant species", including the Black Duck, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, and Bufflehead. The species of the latter group comprise only 8% of all ducks seen. Their migration, however, did not coincide with that of the wintering species, as is shown on the accompanying graph.

The peak of abundance for migrant species occurred on December 10, when their numbers (626) equaled 48% of the ducks seen on that day. Their numbers dropped off immediately, and from December 17 on they ceased to be of importance until spring migration. This course, in view of the favorable weather of December, seems normal even if slightly late.

Wintering species increased in abundance in late December, reaching a sharp peak (4,653) on January 7. This coincided exactly with the freezing of the lake, and may have resulted from it. On this date 1,500 American Mergansers were counted as they streamed by the coast guard station at the mouth of the Cuyahoga in an easterly migration. The numbers declined steadily as the available open water froze, until February 11 when all areas viable were frozen, except the usual small areas at East 140th Street, Gordon Park, and East 49th Street, where warm water is pumped into the lake. Here a population of from 150 to 350 was maintained. From March 17 on, enough of Lake Erie was open to accommodate the influx of already over-due migrants.

For 23,790 ducks observed, the percentages by species were: Lesser Scaup 60.2%, American Merganser 20.1%, Black Duck 7.6%, Red-breasted Merganser 5.6%, American Goldeneye 2.7%, all others (nine species) 3.8%.

No particular conclusions can be drawn from this study which are not self-evident in the preceding data, until we are able to compare it with identical studies made in future years. Then it may be possible to find the effect of different ice conditions on the lake, whether or not our figures represent an average condition, and other facts.- Ralph A. O'Reilly Jr.



In addition to ducks, gulls were seen in the following numbers: Bonaparte, 4,701; Herring, 2,871; Ring-billed, 876; Franklin, 10; Great Black-backed, 2.

Clevelanders have a fine opportunity to study water birds at their very doorstep. The lakefront is now highly accessible and the entire area of this study can be leisurely covered in from two to three hours.

Grassland Habitat - 40 acres.

Location: Sulgrave Road, Shaker Heights.

Census by: Charles H. Knight

Coverage: December 23, 29, January 6, 20.

Winter resident bird population: 1 individual (3 per 100 acres) Sparrow Hawk - 1.

Migrants and Wanderers: Rough-legged hawk, 1 (Jan. 20), Tree Sparrow 10 (Jan. 6), 8 (Jan. 20).

Mixed Woods with evergreen plantings and grassy openings - 40 acres.

Location: Forest Hills Park, Cleveland Heights.

Census by: Donald L. Newman.

Coverage: Dec. 5, 17, 31, Jan. 6, 7, 13, 19, 21, 27, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

Total time - 28 hours.

Winter resident bird population: 16 individuals (40 per 100 acres)

Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Tufted Titmouse	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	Junco	4
Chickadee	3		

Migrants and Wanderers: Blue Jay, 2 (Feb. 4); Crow, 1 (Jan. 13), 2 (Feb. 16); Pine Siskin, 3 (Feb. 11); Goldfinch, 3 (Dec. 17); Junco 5 (Dec. 5), 2 (Dec. 17), 1 (Jan. 6), 2 (Jan. 21).

Beech Maple Forest (ravine) - 25.5 acres.

Location: East Branch of Euclid Creek, Euclid Metropolitan Park.

Census by: Joseph Corbe.

Coverage: Jan. 7, 14 and 21.

Winter bird population: 16 individuals (63 per 100 acres).

Downy Woodpecker	2	Junco	3
Chickadee	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	4
Cardinal	4		

Migrants and Wanderers: Bob-white, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, English Sparrow, Tree Sparrow.

Estate (managed as a bird sanctuary) - 22 acres.

Location: Waite Hill, near Willoughby.

Habitats: Ponds (1 acre), lowland and swamp (5 acres), open field with few small pines and shrubs (2 acres), house and landscaped planting (6 acres), wooded hillside (8 acres).

Census by: Margaret H. Sherwin.

Coverage: 9 trips in January.



Winter bird population: 151 individuals (686 per 100 acres).

Bob-white	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 (banded)
Downy woodpecker	4	Cedar Waxwing	55
Blue Jay	4	Cardinal	3
Chickadee	14	Purple Finch	15
Tufted Titmouse	2	Junco	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	Tree Sparrow	18
Mockingbird	1	Song Sparrow	4
Robin	1		

Migrants and wanderers: Mallard and Black Duck, 150 (daily), Red-tailed Hawk, 1 (Jan. 17); Marsh Hawk, 1 (Jan. 13); Hairy Woodpecker, 1 (Jan. 30); Bluebird 3, (Dec. 31).

Again is very graphically demonstrated the fact that in the winter, as well as in the nesting season, areas such as Mrs. Sherwin's, that are managed even in part as bird sanctuaries have a much higher total bird population than any combination of natural habitats. Mrs. Sherwin's census is also notable in the large number of unusual winter residents such as robin, bluebird, mockingbird, and particularly the ruby-crowned kinglet which was trapped and banded and, therefore, positively identified.

#### FIELD NOTES

##### Greater Scaup\* -

During observations of the birds at East 70th Street and the Lake front on February 22 a scaup with a very green head was seen. It was conspicuous because of this shiny, green head and this fact caused us to look at it more carefully. As it swam about Miss Carrothers and I had ample opportunity to study it with and without 8x binoculars. In the perfect light of bright sunshine behind us the green head stood out in contrast to the duller purplish heads of the other scaups swimming beside it. The flanks of this green-headed bird were also whiter in contrast to the gray sides of the others. After these observations and the consulting of authorities on birds we decided this must be a greater scaup. - Margarette E. Morse.

#### NEWS ITEMS

##### Ruffed Grouse Again a Game Bird in Ohio

After some years of complete protection in Ohio an open season was declared on ruffed grouse again last fall. Although most northeastern Ohio observers consider the ruffed grouse a rather uncommon species the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources apparently considered that it had increased sufficiently recently to declare an open season for 1939. That there were some grouse killed in the Cleveland region is indicated by

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\*This bird was seen again by other good observers and there can be little doubt that it was the larger of the 2 scaups Fulix marila, apparently a rare bird in the Cleveland region.

the report of Mr. Frank W. Braund that 28 of these birds were taken during November by members of a sportsmans club from one 680 acre woodland tract at East Claridon in Geauga County.

Short-eared Owl Pellets Collected.

Mrs. Francis M. Sherwin started a new project for Cleveland Bird Clubbers this past winter when she began collecting disgorged pellets from under the roosting tree of a short-eared owl at Lost National Road Golf Course near Willoughby. Besides Mrs. Sherwin, Miss Margarett E. Morse, Miss Ruth Newcomer, and Mr. Merit B. Skaggs have added to the collection of undigested remains of banquets enjoyed by this same short-eared owl.

A study of these pellets is being made by the departments of ornithology and mammalogy at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and when this is completed a report will appear in the Bird Calendar on what the Lost Nation Road short-eared owl had for breakfast, dinner, and supper since the middle of February.

REPORT OF FIELD WORK COMMITTEE

One of the first recommendations of our 8 months old Field Work Committee that a request be inserted in a regular club notice for the loan of waste land to be developed by the bird club as a managed bird sanctuary has not only born fruit but the result is proving to be one of the most stimulating and popular projects that the club has ever attempted. When the bird club accepted the use of the 75 acres of land in Middleburg Heights, offered as a loan by Mr. Frank D. Johnson, the Field Work Committee immediately added 4 members, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Williams, Mr. Green and Mr. Mayer, to the original 10, and proceeded to plan the development of the area.

Through cooperation with the Cleveland Council of the Boy Scouts bird houses are now being made for erection on the sanctuary. Mr. Gabriel Simon, Cuyahoga County 4H Club agent, has agreed to make it a project of that agency to carry through the direction of the plowing, fitting, and planting of several plots of grain and the setting out of shrubs on the sanctuary. A breeding bird census of the area is already under way and will be of considerable interest for comparison with populations in future years after development is completed.

The Field Work Committee has formulated a list of suggestions for leaders of bird club field trips to make these trips more enjoyable and beneficial to participants.

The committee has decided to take as a special research project a comparative life history study of the Ohio black-capped and Carolina chickadees.

John W. Aldrich, Chairman