

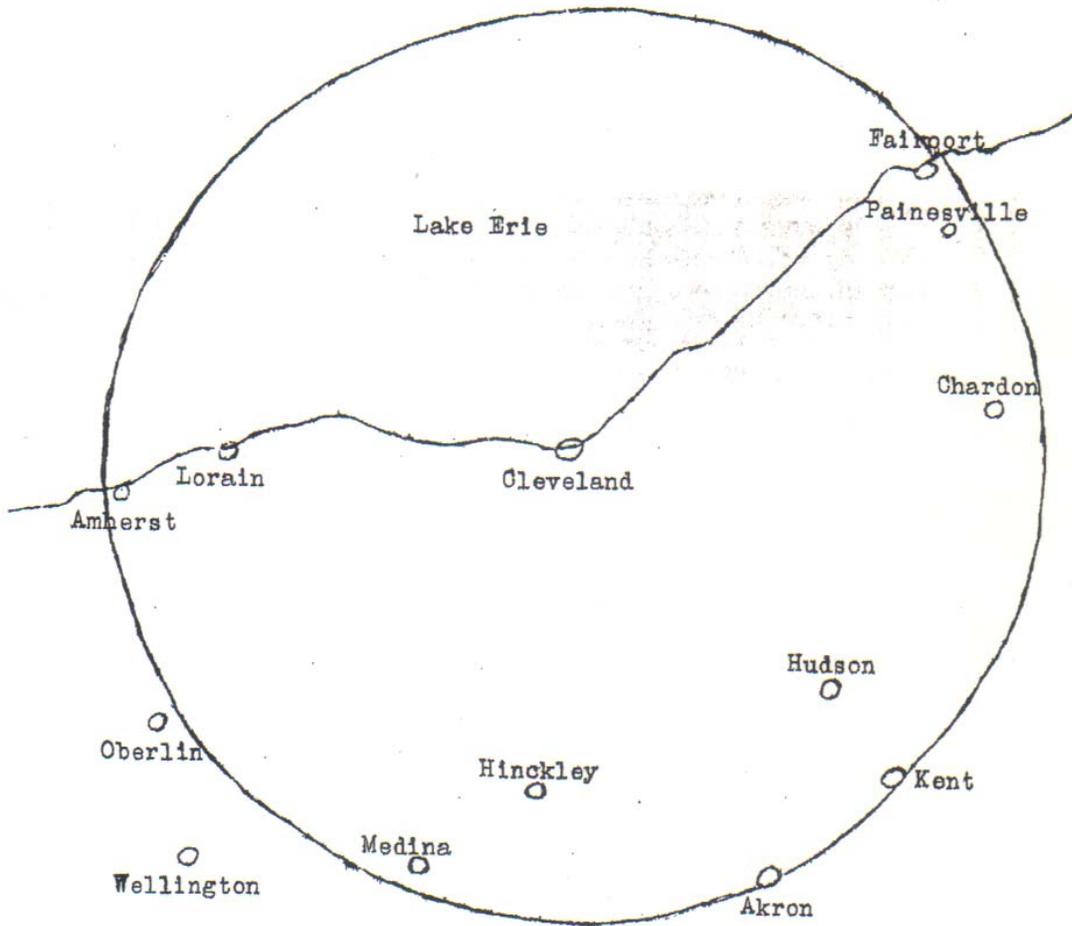
THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Founded by Francis H. Herrick
of Western Reserve University in 1905

Published and Edited
by
THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB

In Cooperation With
The Cleveland Bird Club Inc.

The Cleveland Region
(For Bird Calendar Records)
The circle has a thirty mile radius



At
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Winter Bird Population Number

Issued March 21, 1945

Edited by Arthur B. Williams

With December, 1944, another calendar year is completed, and it is of interest to check back through the issues of Volume 40 of the Calendar and note that four new species of birds have been added to our total list. These are:

- No. 291: Bachman Sparrow – Reported May 2, 1944, at Shaker Lake by W. Earl Godfrey.
- No. 292: Gambel Sparrow – Reported May 20, 1944, at South Euclid by Merit B. Skaggs, who trapped and banded the bird, making identification certain by examination in hand.
- No. 293 Laughing Gull – Reported August 29 and 30, 1944, at “White City” and November 28 and 29, 1944, at lake shore and East 54th Street, by Gordon Spare. Probably one bird only.
- No. 294 Atlantic Kittiwake – Reported November 23, 1944, at “White City” by Gordon Spare.

A report received too late for inclusion in the last number of the Calendar was that of two Northern Phalaropes, seen by Edith Dobbins at Edgewater Park, October 13, 1944, swimming inside the breakwater. “They stayed together while swimming, and even when flying were always within a foot of each other. I approached within 15 feet before they flew,” she reports.

Now Bird Calendar begins its 41st year. The number of species recorded for the period covered by this issue is 86, which is a little better than usual for the winter season.

CHANGE IN DEFINITION OF “CLEVELAND REGION”

Beginning with this number we shall re-define the “Cleveland region”, for Bird Calendar purposes, as that territory lying in any direction within approximately 30 miles of the Cleveland Public Square. This is the definition already adopted by the Kirtland Bird Club as determining the territory to be covered in its Check List of Birds of the Cleveland Region, which is now in course of preparation. This will include within our territory Fairport Harbor, Chardon, Burton, most of the headwaters of the Cuyahoga River, Hudson, Kent, Cuyahoga Falls, the northern suburbs of Akron, Medina, Grafton, Elyria and Lorain. See map on front cover.

Because of the interest of many of our Cleveland bird students in the Sandusky marshes, the Pymatuning Reservoir, Austinburg, Wellington, Oberlin, and other nearby places just beyond this arbitrary thirty-mile limit, we shall continue to report records from these localities, but they will be indicated as such. This will make possible comparisons between the more strictly Cleveland region and its outlying environs.

CALENDAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

If a red pencil mark appears in the square at the right, it indicates that the renewal of your subscription to the Calendar for the current year has not yet been received. As it will not be our policy to send further numbers after the subscription has expired, we hope you will make sure that your fifty cents (for one year), or \$1.00 (for two years) reaches the Editor soon, so that you may not miss the next issue, which will contain the spring migration reports.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The fifth annual Christmas Bird Count of the Kirtland Bird Club was held on December 31, 1944. Seven parties were in the field most of the day, dividing up the territory between them. Although visibility was very poor owing to rain and mist, and a fairly deep snow was on the ground, 45 species were reported, as follows:

Lesser Loon 1, Mallard 2, Redhead 1, Canvasback 1, Lesser Scaup 100, Goldeneye 40, Bufflehead 1, Ruddy Duck 2, American Merganser 91, Red-breasted Merganser 87, Cooper Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Ruffed Grouse 1, Bobwhite 12, Pheasant 9, Coot 1, Herring Gull 58, Ring-billed Gull 41, Bonaparte Gull 23, Rock Dove 40, Mourning Dove 22, Barred Owl 1, Flicker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 8, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 10, Downy Woodpecker 51, Blue Jay 66, Crow 3, Black-capped Chickadee 74, Tufted Titmouse 60, White-breasted Nuthatch 48, Brown Creeper 1, Catbird (at feeding station) 1, Robin 15, Golden-crowned Kinglet 19, Cedar Waxwing 43, Starling 102, English Sparrow 360, Cardinal 75, Goldfinch 1, Red-eyed Towhee 10, Slate-colored Junco 140, Tree Sparrow 61, Song Sparrow 15.

In the past 5 years the species lists of these bird counts has varied from 40 (1942) to 52 (1940). One wonders how many different kinds of birds it might be possible to see about Cleveland at Christmas time. A partial answer is given by combining the lists of the last 5 years. They show that 74 different species have already been recorded, even in that brief space of time.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

The winter of 1944-1945 will long be remembered by Clevelanders for its snow, ice, drifts, traffic jams and battles to get the car in or out of the garage, or downtown and back home again. The snow really began in late November (Thanksgiving Day), and some of us who live in Cleveland Heights did not again see the street pavement in front of our homes until the first of March. Snowfall through December and January was practically continuous, and temperatures were consistently below normal. There were no "January thaws". In February there were a few days of thawing and cold rains, and a little sunshine.

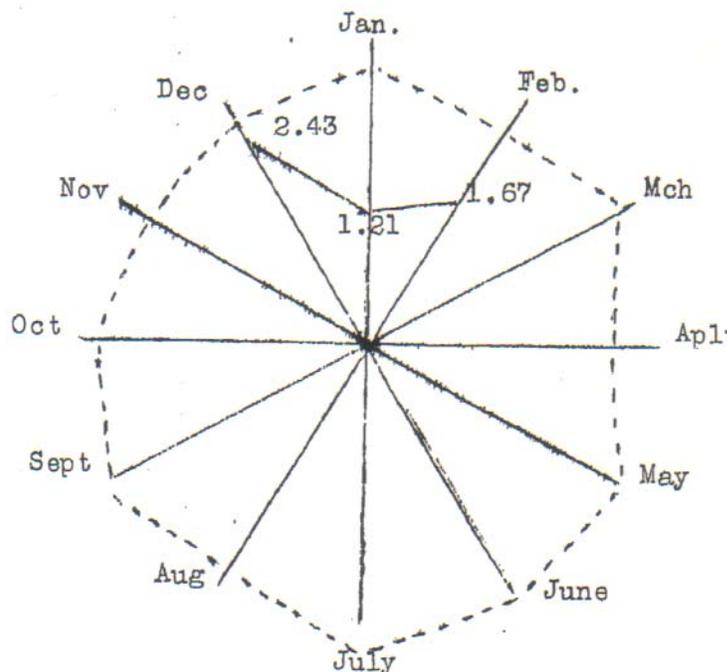
SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS (continued)

Snowfall at the U.S. Weather Bureau station at the Cleveland Airport for the three months' period was given as 56.2 inches, but Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, measuring carefully the daily fall of snow in his yard in Cleveland Heights, computed a total fall of 81.25 inches (6 feet, 9 inches) for the three months. This difference is quite in accord with the usual experience. There is consistently more precipitation (either as snow or rain) on the plateau to the east, than elsewhere in the Cleveland region.

Out of a possible 883.6 hours of sunshine for the period, the Weather Bureau reports that we actually received only 216.6 hours of sunshine (24.5 per cent of possible). This is also in accord with usual experience.

Being so thoroughly impressed with the amount of snow we have experienced, it is somewhat of a let-down to find the Weather Bureau reporting a deficiency in precipitation since January 1 of 2.14 inches below normal. We are quite prepared, however, for the report that there was an accumulated deficiency of 92° of temperature below normal since January 1. If you want to enjoy the contrast between this winter and that of a year ago, read the paragraph about weather conditions on page 2 of Vol. 40, No. 1 of the Calendar.

The details of monthly precipitation are shown graphically in the chart below. Each spoke of the wheel, from center to circumference, represents 3 inches of water. The dotted line connects the points which show the "normal" or average precipitation from December, 1944, and January, February, 1945. Figures are from the Cleveland Weather Bureau reports.



EFFECT OF 1944-1945 WINTER ON BIRD LIFE

From the foregoing, one would be tempted to predict a high mortality for birds as a result of an unusually severe winter for this locality. But birds are resourceful creatures, and with the possible exception of the Bobwhite, they do not seem to have suffered any noticeable diminution in numbers, according to the reports of our observers.

Apparently Juncos, Tree Sparrows and Prairie Horned Larks were not present in their usual numbers, but this might readily be explained as due to the fact that their supplies of weed seeds were pretty well covered by snow, and therefore better feeding grounds were sought elsewhere.

Ring-necked Pheasants were reported in usual numbers, but Bobwhites practically disappeared. Henry Merkle notes also the disappearance of three Ruffed Grouse last seen in November, but is not sure that they may not have been shot by hunters.

Wintering Mourning Doves, Towhees and Song Sparrows were reported in more than usual numbers.

Natural foods which were mentioned as having been used by the birds were seeds of tall weeds, berries of sumac and mountain ash, frozen apples still hanging on the trees, and spider eggs.

John E. Lieftinck has summed up the situation well by saying that in his experience the severe winter weather did not materially affect the wintering birds. "In fact," he says, "I found conditions close to normal. The birds seemed to maintain themselves exceptionally well, although several species were forced to hug the residential sections during the severest spells. It should be remembered that we had no sustained subzero periods, that the vegetation seldom had a coating of ice (period of greatest danger), and that the soil was not frozen solidly beneath the snow."

Species mentioned by eight correspondents as frequenting feeding stations this winter were: Bobwhite, Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Junco, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

ANOTHER RECORD BROKEN!

The following list of 62 contributors of reports to this issue of the Calendar the Editor is quite sure constitutes the largest number of reporters for a single number of the Calendar in all its 40 years of history. The previous high record was 55. Considering the fact that no less than 19 of our regular observers are absent in war service, this is something of a record. It is the kind of cooperation that not only increases the scientific value of the record, but also makes editing it a pleasure.

Due to the unusual weather conditions trips were limited both as to number and distance from home.

CONTRIBUTORS

Fred J. Ackermann	Arthur B. Fuller	Margery Ramisch
George Ansley	James W. Gebhart	E. Rockliffe
H. W. Baker	Winifred Goodsell	Mrs. Dirk Schregardus
Mrs. H. W. Baker	Raymond W. Hill	F. N. Shankland
Llewellyn P. Barbour	Frank D. Johnson	Brian Sherwin
Mrs. H. W. Basil	Lynds Jones	Mrs. Margaret Sherwin
J. F. Brick	Florence Kater	C. M. Shipman
Vera Carrothers	John E. Lieftinck	Merit B. Skaggs
Mrs. R. E. Clisby	Mrs. Arthur E. Luedy	Mrs. Marion Skaggs
Grace Curry	Tom McHugh	Gordon Spare
Ben Daniels	J. O. McQuown	Henry C. Stevens
D. L. Davidson	Henry M. Mayer	Ted Stevens
Mrs. D. L. Davidson	Henry B. Merkle	T. C. Surrarer
Owen Davies	Margarette E. Morse	Dorothy Trunk
Ralph W. Dexter	Norman Negus	M. B. Walters
Edith Dobbins	Bruce W. Nelson	S. V. Wharram
H. C. Dobbins	Donald L. Newman	Mrs. Lida Whittier
C. T. Downer	H. C. Oberholser	Arthur B. Williams
James S. Findley	Mrs. Gladys E. Olson	Edythe G. Williams
Bob Foley	Margaret E. Perner	Mrs. C. O. Witzel
Mrs. R. A. Fox		George Yanos

INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS

Horned Grebe – January 7 – “Found under a hay wagon in a field” – Wickliffe Heights – The bird was alive and apparently in good condition, but died later – D. L. Davidson. This is in accord with previous records of similar circumstances – See BIRD_LIFE, May, 1943 (Bird Calendar, Vol. 39, No. 1), p. 60, “Grebes in Trouble”.

American Bittern – December 5 – A bird picked up by a 13 year old boy at West 47th Street and Clark Avenue, Cleveland, and taken to Cleveland Zoo. We are glad to include the name of George Yanos (the boy) in our list of contributors, for all records are not substantiated with such good evidence as is his.

Canada Goose – January 14 – Bird met by Bruce Nelson walking on the ice. See Field Notes, p. 11.

Oldsquaw – This rather rare species here was noted several times along the lakefront, and one female apparently spent most of early February on Fairmount Reservoir where there is always a small area of open water. This bird, according to James Findley, was “under water most of the time.”

White-winged Scoter – December 23, 24, January 1, February 24 – “White City” – Single birds (or possibly, bird) seen by Vera Carrothers and Gordon Spare.

Pigeon Hawk – January 18 – One reported seen about Court House at Painesville – L. P. Barbour.

INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS (continued)

Glaucous Gull- January 20, 26 – Lakefront – James Findley, Gordon Spare.

Great Black-backed Gull – There seems to have been quite an invasion of the region by these large gulls of the north this winter. The records of the Calendar hold nothing like it for previous seasons. During the latter half of January and the first week of February (the coldest part of the winter) individuals and small groups of these birds were reported seen along the lakefront from East 53rd Street to “White City”. Groups numbering 2, 3, 6 and 21 birds were seen by James Findley, Gordon Spare, Margarett Morse, Ted Stevens and Bob Foley. These gulls breed in Iceland, Central Greenland and south to Nova Scotia, the northern British Isles, Scandinavia and northern Russia. In winter they sometimes come as far south as the Great Lakes and Delaware Bay. For detailed record see p. 8.

Long-eared Owl – December 19 – On grounds of Cleveland Museum of Natural History in downtown Cleveland – See Field Notes, p. 12.

Catbird – December 31 – At feeding station, Waite Hill, Willoughby.

Brown Thrasher – January 5 - Reported at feeding station in Bedford by Mrs. Arthur E. Luedy, Frank D. Johnson, of Parma, also reports that Mrs. Maurer of Parma tells him that she had a Brown Thrasher at her feeding station “several times in January”.

Hermit Thrush – December 10 – Two reported in Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery near mountain ash trees and berry-bearing shrubs by Margarett E. Morse.

Meadowlark – December 24 – One seen in a tree near road one mile north of North Chagrin Metropolitan Park by J. E. Lieftinck. Also 2 reported frequenting a feeding station at Wickliffe “throughout the winter” – D. L. Davidson.

Field Sparrow – December 4 – Three birds reported seen Novelty on this late date by C. T. Downer.

SPECIES LISTS

(All records within 30 miles of Cleveland Public Square)

Late Migrant Species

Lesser Loon – December 24(1), 31(1), February 11(1).

Horned Grebe – January 20(1), 21(2).

Pied-billed Grebe – December 22(11).

Great Blue Heron – January 8(1).

American Bittern – December 5(1).

Canada Goose – January 14(1), 26(9).

Baldpate – December 9(2).

Northern Bald Eagle - January 24(1).

Bonaparte Gull – Regularly recorded in numbers to December 31. Then January 2(3), 7(6), 16(1).

Northern Flicker – Single birds recorded through December. Then January 29(1).

Eastern Hermit Thrush – December 10(2).

Eastern Red-winged Blackbird – December 2(1).

Bronzed Grackle – December 15(1).

SPECIES LISTS

Wintering Ducks and Gulls

- Common Mallard – Regularly recorded December, January, February in small numbers.
- Black Duck – Regularly recorded December, January – (no February records).
- Shoveler – February 25(7).
- Redhead – December 24(3), 31(2), February 25(1).
- Canvasback – January 1(1), 28(1).
- Lesser Scaup – Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers.
- American Goldeneye – Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers (less than Scaup).
- Bufflehead – Regularly recorded December, January, February in more than usual numbers.
- Oldsquaw – January 3(1), 29(1), February 3(1), 4(1), 11(1), 15(2), 22(1), 24(1) – See p. 5.
- White-winged Scoter – December 23(1), 24(1), January 1(1).
- Ruddy Duck – Regularly recorded December, January, February in small numbers.
- Hooded Merganser – December 9(9), January 27(2), 28(3), February 4(1), 11(2).
- American Merganser – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January to February 6; then decreasing to February 25(2).
- Red-breasted Merganser – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January to February 4; then decreasing to February 19(2).
- American Coot – December 31(1) – Single birds regularly recorded January 21 to February 25.
- American Herring Gull – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
- Ring-billed Gull – Regularly recorded in numbers December, decreasing in January. Then February 3(23), 4(10), 16(2), 25(2).

Winter Visitors

- American Rough-legged Hawk – February 11(1).
- Long-eared Owl – December 19(1).
- Brown Creeper – December 4(1), 7(1), 24(1), 31(1), January 13(1), 21(1), February 19(1).
- Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet – Regularly recorded December, January 1(4), 7(1), 14(3), 21(1), 28(1), 30(5), February 5(1), 11(1), 15(1), 25(1).
- American Pipit – January 28(1).
- Eastern Purple Finch – February 5(14).
- Common Redpoll – December 3(1), January 1(4).
- Slate-colored Junco – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
- Eastern Tree Sparrow – Regularly recorded in less than usual numbers December, January, February.
- Lapland Longspur – January 1(2).
- Eastern Snow Bunting – December 3(1), 20(60), January 1(4), 7(25), 10(2), 17(1).

SPECIES LISTS

Wintering Stragglers and Delayed Migrants

- Double-crested Cormorant – January 19(1), 21(2).
Eastern Pigeon Hawk – January 18(1).
Glaucous Gull – January 20(1), 26(1).
Great Black-backed Gull – December 29(1), January 3(1), 16(2), 17(1), 18(1), 19(1), 21(1), 26(21), 27(6), 29(3), 30(3), 31(3), February 1(2), 2(1), 3(3), 4(2), 11(1).
Eastern Mourning Dove – December 31(22), January 15(1), 16(31), 17(1), 18(1), 19(1), 20(3).
Eastern Belted Kingfisher – January 8(1), 13(1).
Eastern Crow – December 1(5), 9(2), 11(6), 24(3), 30(4), 31(3), January 3(5), 8(3), 13(6), 14(3), 20(2), 21(1), February 4(3), 10(1), 14(1).
Catbird – December 31(1).
Eastern Brown Thrasher – January 5(2) – (one at Bedford, one at Parma).
Eastern Robin – December 3(1), 24(5), 31(15), January 1(1), 5(1), 7(1), 28(2), February 2(1), 4(1), 8(2).
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet – January 1(2), 30(1).
Eastern Meadowlark – December 24(1), 28(2), February 15(1), 25(3).
Red-eyed Towhee – December 3(2), 11(3), 24(6), 31(10).
Eastern Field Sparrow – December 4(3).
Mississippi Song Sparrow – Regularly recorded through December, January, February in small numbers.

Permanent Resident Species

- Sharp-shinned Hawk – January 3(1), February 3(1), 24(1).
Cooper Hawk – December 3(1), 24(3), 31(3), January 13(1), 14(1), 23(1), 26(1), 28(3), 30(1), February 5(2), 8(2), 10(1), 11(1), 21(1), 34(6), 25(2).
Eastern Red-tailed Hawk – December 31(1), February 4(1).
Northern Red-shouldered Hawk – December 24(1), January 14(2), 28(2), February 4(2), 5(1), 10(2), 16(1), 22(1), 25(1).
Marsh Hawk – December 13(2), February 5(1), 24(2).
Eastern Sparrow Hawk – Regularly recorded in small numbers December, January, February.
Appalachian Ruffed Grouse – December 9(1), 31(1), February 22(2).
Eastern Bobwhite – December 31(12 – total of Christmas Bird Count), January 1(7), 12(12), 14(1).
Ring-necked Pheasant – December 2(4), 4(1), 26(1), 30(2), 31(10), January 1(13), 24(7), February 6(1).
Rock Dove – Regularly recorded December, January, February.
Eastern Screech Owl – January 1(1), 7(1), 18(1).
Great Horned Owl – December 23(2), January 10(1), 21(2), February 8(1).
Northern Barred Owl – December 24(2), 30(1), 31(1), January 14(1), February 5(1), 9(1), 24(1).
Northern Pileated Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in small numbers December, January, February.
Red-bellied Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in small numbers December, January, February.
Eastern Hairy Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in small numbers December, January, February.
Northern Downy Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in usual numbers December, January, February.

SPECIES LISTS

Permanent Resident Species (continued)

- Prairie Horned Lark – February 20(1), 22(3), 24(6), 25(12).
Northern Blue Jay – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
Northern Black-capped Chickadee – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
Tufted Titmouse – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
Cedar Waxwing – December 31(45), January 1(1), 4(31), 22(4), 30(9), February 5(110), 8(68), 10(68), 13(5), 22(75), 24(15), 25(32).
Starling – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
English Sparrow – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
Eastern Cardinal – Regularly recorded in numbers December, January, February.
Eastern Goldfinch – December 3(2), 31(1), January 1(10), February 11(1), 24(1).

Early Spring Migrants

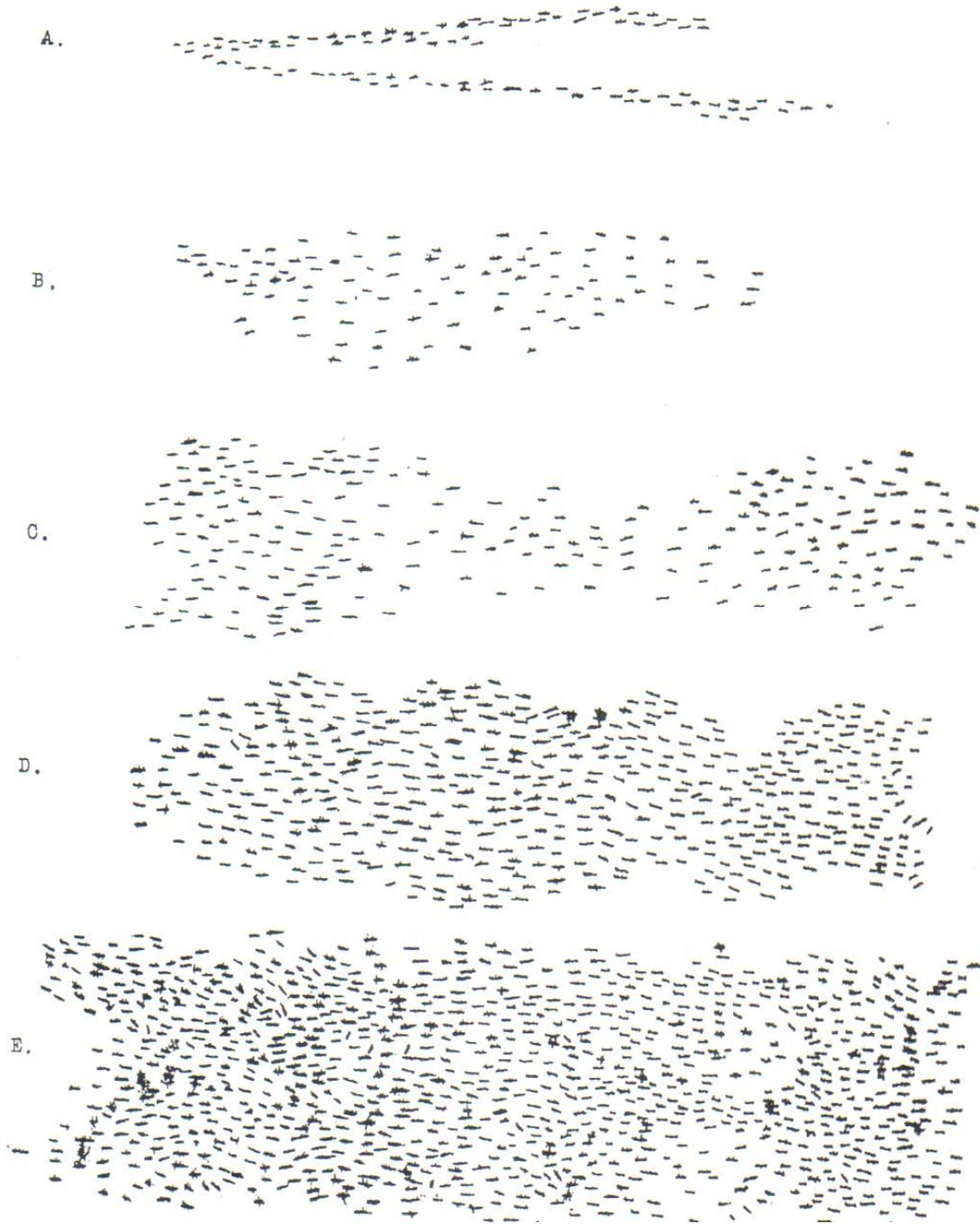
- Killdeer – February 21(1), 22(2), 25(5), 26(2).
Eastern Crow – February 15(2), 16(7), 17(3), 18(5), 19(5), 20(2), 21(1), 22(49), 23(1), 24(40), 25(45), 26(20), 27(2).
Eastern Robin – February 13(4), 14(1), 15(3), 16(4), 17(2), 18(7), 20(1), 22(9), 24(10), 25(121), 26(22), 27(1), 28(1).
Eastern Bluebird – February 22(7), 23(2), 24(3), 25(21).
Eastern Red-winged Blackbird – February 23(1), 24(1), 25(19), 26(4).
Bronzed Grackle – February 22(1).

Interesting Records from Neighboring Localities

- Records from Castalia and Oberlin by Lynds Jones; from Mechanicsville by James Findley; from Jefferson by S. V. Wharram; from south Akron lakes by J. E. Liefertinck; from Wellington by Mrs. R. E. Clisby.
Whistling Swan – December 10(18) – Jefferson.
Common Mallard, Black, Gadwall, Baldpate, American Pintail, Shoveler “wintering” at Castalia.
Common Mallard (2), Black Duck (6), Gadwall (2), Baldpate (2), American Goldeneye (1), Hooded Merganser (9) – December 9 – Summit Lake and Long Lake, Akron.
Wood Duck – December 8(4) – Jefferson.
Eastern Goshawk – January 13(1), – Jefferson.
Sharp-shinned Hawk – December 7(1), 27(1) – Jefferson. “Occasionally” – Oberlin.
Killdeer – February 22(1) – Oberlin.
Eastern Mourning Dove – December 12(2), 25(2), January 14(1), 30(2), February 14(2), 22(1) – Jefferson. (2) “occasionally” – Wellington. “Common at feeding stations all winter” – Oberlin.
Eastern Crow – “Heard calling about every day all winter” – Oberlin.
Carolina Wren – December 1(1), 2(1) – Wellington.
Eastern Robin – February 8-March 1 – two feeding on berries of mountain ash – Wellington, February 22(1) – Oberlin. February 25(7) – Jefferson.
Eastern Bluebird – February 22(1) – Wellington. February 22(1) – Oberlin. February 25(3) – Jefferson.
Eastern Purple Finch – December 29(1) – Mechanicsville.
Common Redpoll – December 13(40), 18(20), January 2(10), 20(10), Feb. 8(15) – Jefferson
Red-eyed Towhee – December 26, 27, 28, 29 – One bird seen on each of these dates on Grand River near Mechanicsville, Ashtabula County.

HOW MANY BIRDS IN A FLOCK? AN OBJECT LESSON

By Gordon Spare



A = 100; B = 100; C = 250; D = 500; E = 1000

FIELD NOTES

Nuthatch Antics – C. M. Shipman, of Willoughby, writing under date of January 10, 1945, says: “The weather has made birds ‘tame’ so they will come to the hand for food. Mr. Ingalls goes out and a nuthatch will come down and feed, then stuff a sunflower seed into his coat collar, in his ear, in sleeve, and – I laughed – in his nose – and gave it an extra push!”

“A Blue Jay grabs all the sunflower seeds he can get first thing in the morning and carries them up and dumps his throatful into a web-caterpillar nest – then he goes up there and eats on the sly all day. I can see him from where I write this.”

Battle-front Christmas Bird Count – Donald Newman mentions a friend in the 141st Infantry in eastern France who writes of making a Christmas bird count on December 25, 1944, listing 13 species and 104 individuals in the limited time that he had. Donald’s comment follows:

“Somehow I can’t help but feel that there is something symbolic in the taking of a bird census on Christmas Day right on the very battle-front; possibly it bespeaks the inherent goodness of most of mankind. Certainly, at the least, it demonstrates how absolutely compelling an interest in birds can be.”

Snow Buntings at Nela Park – “A flock of about sixty Snow Buntings, Plectrophenax nivalis, visited Nela Park, East Cleveland, on December 20, 1944. The birds spent most of the day on the ball diamond, which is located at the southeast corner of the Nela Park grounds. Time after time during the day the birds would fly about the field, but usually they would alight on a small, windswept area of the ball field that was nearly bare of snow. It is well known that this species is very gregarious, and this was certainly well illustrated by the fact that this flock not only fed together but also flew about in a compact group. In this respect they resembled shorebirds. When upon the ground, the bunting’s brownish backs made them appear dark against the snowy background, but once they took to the air the white under-parts and large, white wing patches transformed them into snowbirds. They are sometimes known by the name of Snowflakes, and in flight the term is very fitting.”

Merit B. Skaggs

Boy Meets Goose – On January 14, Bruce Nelson, walking on the ice of Rocky River, met a Canada Goose also walking on the ice. The tip of the right wing of the bird had evidently been shot away, and the bird was unable to fly. It bore one of Jack Miner’s bands, dated in the spring of 1932, which makes this goose over 13 years of age, at least. Although an attempt was made to keep the bird alive, it died two days later.

Bewick Wren Nesting Within Thirty Miles of Cleveland – “On May 16, 1944, the writer identified a pair of Bewick Wrens nesting in a yard adjacent to a woodlot in Kent (Portage County), Ohio. Miss Patricia Beacom had noticed the birds and called them to my attention. Two other bird students, Fred E. Smith and Charles F. Mountz, were called to confirm the identification. The pair was first noticed

FIELD NOTES

(Bewick Wren Nesting Within Thirty Miles of Cleveland)

during the first week of May. The nest was constructed on a broad ledge under the eaves of a well-house. It was placed in a corner, and the margin of the nest not abutting against the walls, was extended into a sloping platform of twigs, string, and trash some tended into a sloping platform of twigs, string, and trash some 5 x 8 inches in area, which covered much of the shelf on which it was built. Three eggs were laid, two of which hatched. The young birds left the nest on June 3. On June 4, the four of us observed the parents feeding the young birds in the brush and second growth of the adjacent woodlot.”

Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology,
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Long-eared Owl at 2717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland – “On one of the snowy mornings shortly before Christmas (December 19), I was walking toward the Museum Auditorium when I noticed something on top of a two-foot iron post by the door. It certainly resembled an owl, but not believing an owl would choose such an excellent spot for the benefit of Museum observers, I felt my eyes were deceiving me or some practical joker, like Bruce Nelson, had placed a mounted specimen there.”

“Upon getting closer, it turned out to be very real, and blinked its big eyes. The long tufts of feathers suggested the Long-eared Owl, so I hurried in the Museum for expert opinion. This was furnished by Dr. Oberholser, Dr. Williams, Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Whittier and Rudolph Kula. Never was a bird more accommodating, or more completely identified, for it sat there for fully fifteen minutes before it was frightened away. It flew to a nearby tree in the ‘sunken garden’. Here it was discovered by a pair of Sparrow Hawks who raised quite an outcry, flying about over the owl. The last the six of us saw of it, it was perched on the door lamp of the brick building in the Cleveland Automobile Club yard.”

Grace Curry