

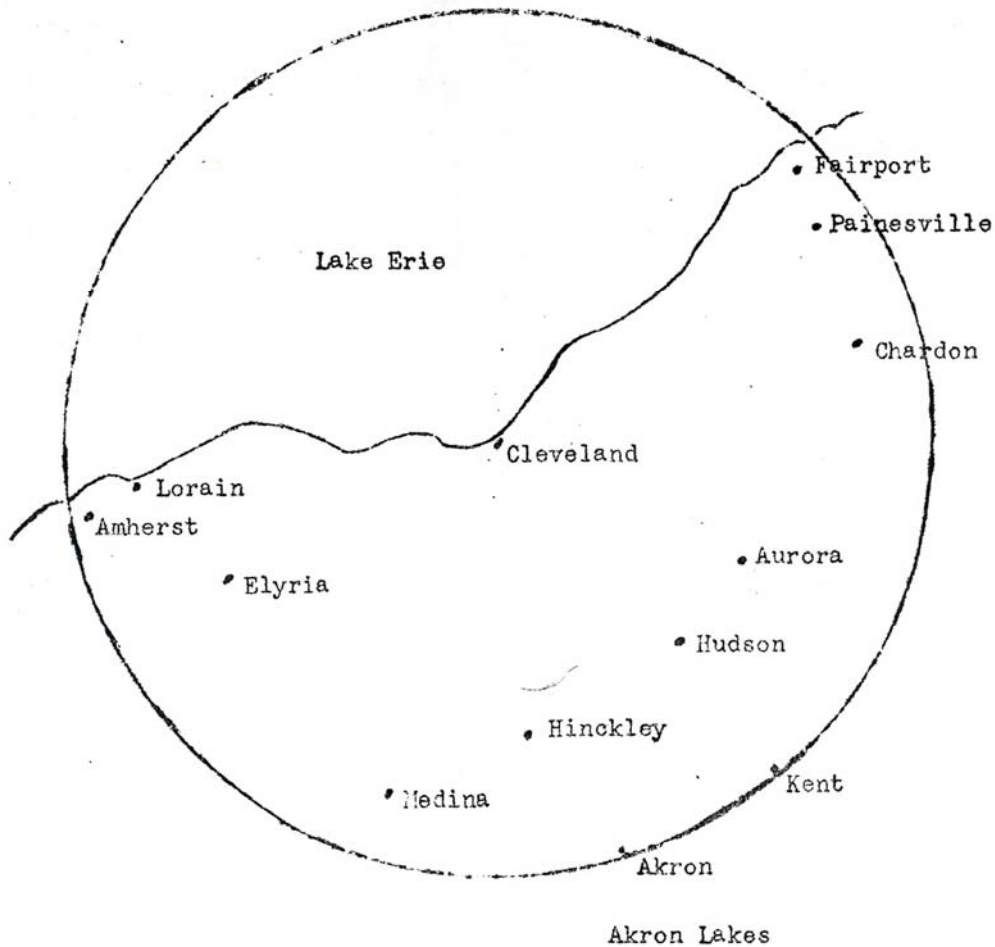
# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Founded by Frances 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 15, Ohio

## CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Winter Bird Population Number

Issued April 1, 1949

Edited by Arthur B. Williams

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count conducted by the Kirtland Bird Club was held on January 2, 1949. The same 15 mile diameter area east of Cleveland which has been used in previous years was covered this year. Thirty-two people participated, divided into 17 groups. When the day was over, and the group gathered at the home of Dick and Isabelle Klein on Jackson Road overlooking the Chagrin Valley for check up and a buffet super, it appeared that they had recorded 59 species of birds, including 5178 individuals. The list was as follows:

Horned Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Mallard 3, Black Duck 18, Redhead 13, Canvasback 11, Lesser Scaup 219, Goldeneye 183, Oldsquaw 1, White-winged Scoter 8, Ruddy Duck 1, American Merganser 142, Red-breasted Merganser 30, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 4, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Rough-legged Hawk 7, Marsh Hawk 10, Sparrow Hawk 5, Ruffed Grouse 2, Bobwhite 39 (3 coveys), Ring-billed Gull 648, Bonaparte's Gull 877, Rock Dove 1, Mourning Dove 14, Screech Owl 1, Barred Owl 1, Flicker 4, Pileated Woodpecker 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 3, Hairy Woodpecker 15, Downy Woodpecker 90, Blue Jay 82, Crow 15, Black-capped Chickadee 209, Tufted Titmouse 42, White-breasted Nuthatch 52, Brown Creeper 5, Winter Wren 1, Robin 4, Golden-crowned Kinglet 2, Cedar Waxwing 1, Starling 239, English Sparrow 392, Meadowlark 2, Bronzed Grackle 1, Cardinal 159, Pine Grosbeak 2, Pine Siskin 11, Goldfinch 2, Slate-colored Junco 335, Tree Sparrow 245, White-throated Sparrow 1, Swamp Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 33.

## A CORRECTION

The 5 blue geese reported by Vera Carrothers November 25, 1948, as having been seen at Cleveland, were in reality seen at Huron, just beyond our 30 mile limit on the west.

## PUBLICATION FUND

Two additional contributions to the Check List publication fund have brought the total amount now in hand to \$140.

## NESTING RECORDS

As spring approaches, the opportunity to make more complete records of the nesting habits of the birds of our region again confronts us. The ideal report, of course, is a day by day account of what happens, with dates, showing when mating activities begin, when nest construction starts, when the nest is finished, what it is made of, whether both birds take part in this activity or not, when the first egg and succeeding eggs are laid, when incubation starts, when the eggs hatch, whether both parents feed the young,

when the young leave the nest, whether other broods are raised, and other observations of interest.

Lacking the opportunity for daily observations, as complete records as possible are desirable. It is really astonishing how few complete local records of nesting birds we have. Even such common species as the Purple Martin and the English Sparrow seem to have entirely escaped attention.

#### SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

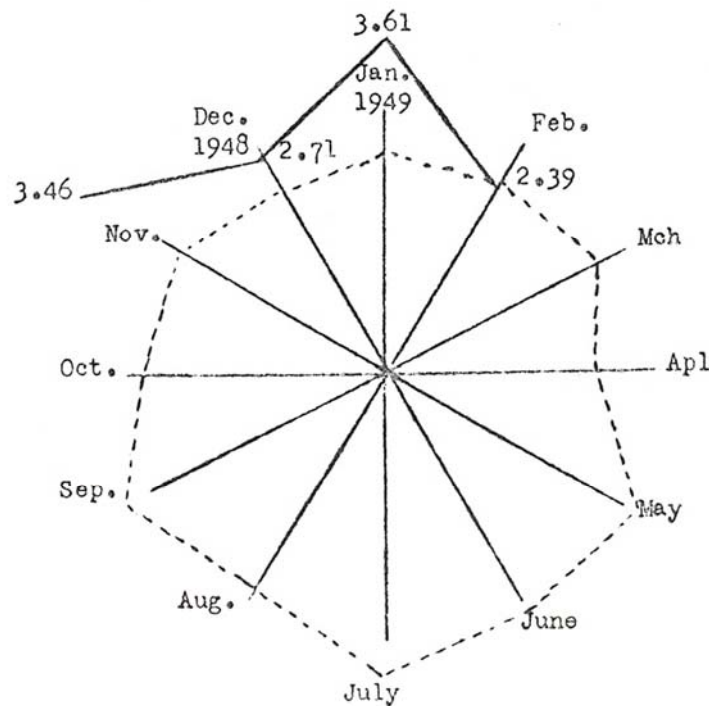
December 1948 - The year 1948 closed with a precipitation record of 40.96 inches - an excess of 7.07 above normal. The warm weather which began on October 26 continued through November and up to December 23. After four days, when the temperature fell to 15°, warmer weather again developed, continuing into January.

January 1949 - Unseasonably warm weather continued till January 29. A three day cold spell marked the end of the month, the temperature dropping to zero on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

February 1949 - A month of unseasonably high temperatures and a marked deficiency of snowfall. Precipitation mostly in form of rain.

Altogether the three months covered by this report will long be remembered as one of the mildest winters in the experience of most of us. While there was practically no snow, there was much cold rain. In strange contrast, it was one of the most severe winters which the western part of the United States had ever known.

Again we start a rain chart for a new year. Note in the figures below that precipitation for December, January and February is in excess of normal. Each spoke of the wheel, from center to circumference, represents 3 inches of water. The dotted line connects the points which show "normal" or average precipitation for each month. The solid line connects points showing the actual precipitation for months of 1948-9 indicated. Figures are records of U. S. Weather Bureau located at the Cleveland Airport.



## CONTRIBUTORS

James F. Akers	Adela Gaede	Ronald Marvin
Tom Armor	Jams W. Gebhart	Donald L. Newman
Walter Baggaley	C. F. Gibbs	Margaret E. Perner
Llewellyn P. Barbour	Al Gutta	Frank M. Phelps
Mrs. Lawrence Barrett	Carl F. Hamann	Jerry Piskac
B. P. Bole, Jr.	Mrs. Emma L. Hanna	Marjorie Ramisch
John Bole	Mrs. L. E. Harpster	William E. Scheele
Walter Booth	Roland O. Hartman	Frank N. Shankland
J. H. Byrne	Raymond W. Hill	Mrs. Francis Sherwin
Harold Cantlin	William Kasprk	Raymond Smiley
Vera Carrothers	George King	Walter Smith
Ben S. Daniels	Alice Kingman	Ted Stevens
Owen Davies, Jr.	Charles H. Knight	Mildred Stewart
Mrs. A. E. DeWitz	Rudolph J. Kula	Clark Tefft
Ralph W. Dexter	Mrs. Arthur Larson	Thomas I. Van Natta
Edith Dobbins	John E. Lieftinck	Harold E. Wallin
Maude Doolittle	Mrs. A. L. Margach	Lida H. Whittier
Dr. C. T. Downer	Charles B. Margach	Arthur B. Williams
Mrs. L. R. Fulmer	Mrs. Charles B. Margach	Edythe G. Williams

## INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS

Holboell's Grebe - One seen December 22 at Edgewater Park. "You could see the yellow bill plainly with glasses, and the telescope put it right in your lap." R. W. Hill.

Black-crowned Night Heron - One seen January 31 and February 1 near the Illuminating Company plant at Avon-on-the-Lake. In flight, one leg dangled, indicating an injury. James F. Akers.

Wood Duck - A male bird of this species spent the winter in a small lagoon along the Lake Erie shore just east of Edgewater Park. Seen and identified by numerous observers in December and January.

King Eider - One reported seen January 8 and 9 at "white city" by Jerry Piskac, Vera Carrothers and George King. One seen January 15, 16, 22 near the Cleveland breakwater by R. W. Hill. Two seen January 22 on the Cleveland lakefront by Vera Carrothers and Adela Gaede.

Scoters - The White-winged Scoter was reported so frequently it seemed almost common. The Surf Scoter was reported twice in January, and the rare American Scoter (for this locality) once in December, 5 times in January and once in February.

Rough-legged Hawk - Single individuals, and one group of 4, reported quite regularly through December. The fact that 7 were reported January 2 on the Christmas Bird Count, and 6 on December 4 at Sandusky would indicate a real visitation of these big hawks.

American Coot - Apparently these birds wintered here in more than usual numbers.

Purple Sandpiper - Single birds, or occasionally 2, were reported seen at "White City" December 22, January 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 16 by numerous observers. R. W. Hill remarks that they were "quite tame".

Iceland Gull - A single bird reported from Cleveland lakefront February 5, 6, 12 by R. W. Hill, J. E. Lieftinck, Jerry Piskac.

Great Black-backed Gull - Reported regularly in January (one group of 5) and on February 26 (1).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) - A single bird of this European species, rarely reported this side of the Atlantic, was observed January 31 at Avon-on-the-Lake by James F. Akers. The next day, February 1, he returned accompanied by Frank M. Phelps and Tom Armor, and again saw the bird (see Field Notes, p. 10). The only other record of the Little Gull in our region is that of one reported by E. A. Doolittle December 29, 1923, probably at Fairport Harbor.

Mourning Dove - Regularly reported present throughout the winter in more than usual numbers. Two flocks of about 20 each were reported by Mrs. Lawrence Barrett as wintering at Brecksville.

Prairie Marsh Wren - One seen at Pymatuning (outside our area) on the unusually late date of December 3 by James F. Akers.

Mockingbird - One reported seen February 19 at Brecksville (Snowville Road) by C. F. Gibbs, who says he traveled this route twice daily throughout the winter, but saw this bird only once.

Pine Grosbeak - Two birds seen on the Christmas Bird Count January 2 by Jerry Piskac and Ray Smiley in swampy area north of Willoughby.

SPECIES LISTS  
(within 30 miles of Cleveland Public Square)

I.

Late Fall Migrants

Loon - December 4(1), 5(1).

Whistling Swan - December 11(200), 26(4).

Canada Goose - December 6(50), 9(64).

II.

Wintering Grebes, Ducks, Gulls

Holboell's Grebe - December 22(1).

Horned Grebe - December 4(41), 5(3), 8(2), 11(1), 19(3), 24(1), 28(7) to January 22(1).

Canada Goose - January 2(16).

Mallard - Regularly recorded December (21 to 100), January (2 to 50), February (2 to 100).

Black Duck - Regularly recorded December (6 to 100, more common than mallard), January (1 to 75), February (10 to 132).

- Gadwall - December 1(2), January 9(2).  
Baldpate - December 1(5), 11(3), 18(8), January 6(4), 22(5), February 17(3), 27(4), 28(7).  
American Pintail - January 15(1), February 27(5), 28(12).  
Green-winged Teal - January 9(1).  
Shoveler - February 27(3)  
Wood Duck - A single male in lagoon near Edgewater Park December 8 to January 16.  
Redhead - Regularly recorded December (2 to 300), January (2 to 48), February (1 to 175), last February 28(150).  
Ring-necked Duck - December 9(2), January 9(7), 22(9), February 17(13), 20(6), 27(16).  
Canvasback - December 8(25), 23(20), 26(200), January (1 to 13), February (1 to 90), February 28(56).  
Greater Scaup - December 19(2), January 8(2), February 6(2), 12(80).  
Lesser Scaup - Regularly recorded December (35 to 3000), January (flocks 2000-3000), February (flocks 100-1500), last February 26(200).  
American Goldeneye - Regularly recorded December (2 to 100), January (10 to 200), February (2 to 75), last February 28(10).  
Bufflehead - Regularly recorded December (2 to 9) January (1 to 50), February (1 to 27), last February 28(10).  
Oldsquaw - December 12(1), 18(3), 19(3), 21(2), 22(1), 23(2), 27(1), 29(2), January (1 to 12), February (1 to 6), last February 26(3).  
King Eider - January 9(1), 9(1), 15(1), 16(1), 22(1-2).  
White-winged Scoter - December 23(1), 28(3), January 2(8), 9(5), 22(2), February 5(24), 6(22), 12(3).  
Surf Scoter - January 1(1), 15(1).  
American Scoter - December 4(1), January 8(1), 15(1), 16(1), 22(1), 27(1), February 12(1).  
Ruddy Duck - Regularly recorded December (1 to 100), January (1 to 77), February 6(4), 12(2), 17(12).  
Hooded Merganser - December 3(5), 5(2), 22(1), 24(1), January 2(1), 9(3), 22(3), 29(1), February 2(2), 12(1), 14(1), 24(1).  
American Merganser - December 1(2), 5(57), 19(20), 24(1), 29(1), January (1 to 142), February (1 to 100), last February 28(5).  
Red-breasted Merganser - December 5(20), 29(50), January (1 to 31), February (2 to 200), last February 29(10).  
American Herring Gull - Regularly recorded December (1 to 2000), January (8 to 1600), February (10 to 1500).  
Ring-billed Gull - Regularly recorded December (10 to 200), January (10 to 2250), February (40 to 1025).  
Bonaparte's Gull - Regularly recorded December (50 to 3000-December 26), January (3 to 1000), February (6 to 500).

### III.

#### Wintering Stragglers and Delayed Migrants

- Pied-billed Grebe - December 23(1), 24(1), 29(1), January 2(6), February 26(1).  
Great Blue Heron - February 27(1).  
Black-crowned Night Heron - January 31(1), February 1(1).  
American Coot - December 1(1), 3(42), 17(36), 24(30), January 2(9), 22(20), 30(1), February 4(2), 14(2), 27(2).  
Northern Bald Eagle - January 9(1), February 5(1), 27(1).  
Iceland Gull - February 5(1), 6(1), 12(1).  
Great Black-backed Gull - January 3(1), 8(1), 11(5), 30(1), 31(1), February 26(1).

Little Gull - January 31(1), February 1(1). (See Field Notes, p. 10).

Mourning Dove - December 19(35), 28(2), 29(21), January 2(25), 11(1), 14(2), 22(1), 31(1), February 4(2), 19(2), 27(2), 28(5), 30(40, see p. 4).

Belted Kingfisher - January 9(1), 21(1), February 27(1).

Flicker - December 4(2), January 2(7), 7(1), 9(2), February 6(1), 21(1), 27(1).

Red-headed Woodpecker - December 19(1), 26(1), January 2(1), 9(1), 21(1), February 6(3).

Crow - December 4(4), 16(2), 22(5), January (1 to 1000), February (1 to 40) (See p. 7).

Mockingbird - February 19(1). (See p. 4).

Robin - December 7(1), 21(1), 23(3), 28(1), January 1(1), 2(4), 16(1), 21(1), 23(3), 26(1), February 2(1), 12(2), February 13(12), 14(3), 15(6), 16(20), 18(1). (See p. 7).

Bluebird - December 29(1), January 14(1), February 13(2). (See p. 7).

Meadowlark - December 11(1), January 2(2), 14(1), February 14(2), 17(1), 27(2), 28(1).

Bronzed Grackle - January 2(1), 6(1).

Canadian Pine Grosbeak - January 2(2). (See p. 4).

Red-eyed Towhee - January 2(1), February 5(1).

White-throated Sparrow - January 2(1).

Fox Sparrow - December 21(1), February 27(1).

Swamp Sparrow - January 2(1).

Song Sparrow - Regularly recorded December (1 to 4), January 91 to 35), February (1 to 8). (See p. 7).

#### IV.

#### Winter Visitors

Double-crested Cormorant - Regularly recorded January 1 to February 26, February 17(23).

American Rough-legged Hawk - December 4(5), 5(1), 11(1), 19(1), 24(1), 26(1), January 2(7), 11(1), 25(1), February 2(1).

Purple Sandpiper - December 22(1), January 2(2), 3(2), 4(1), 8(1), 9(1), 16(2).

Short-eared Owl - February 4(1). (Found dead, Bedford).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - February 19(1) "all winter". Also 1 at Kent since mid-October.

Brown Creeper - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 13).

Winter Wren - December 5(1), 11(1), 19(1), January 2(1).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - December 5(2), January 2(2), February 20(2).

American Pipit - January 3(2).

Purple Finch - December 4(19), January 2(1), February 5(6).

Common Redpoll - January 30(3), February 5(20), 6(20), 8(100), 11(10), 27(11).

Pine Siskin - January 2(11), 9(5), 30(5).

Slate-colored Junco - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 267), last February 28(210).

Eastern Tree Sparrow - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 273), last February 28(56).

Eastern Snow Bunting - December 28(25), January 3(18), 9(1), February 6(2).

## V.

Permanent Residents

Sharp-shinned Hawk - January 2(1).

Cooper's Hawk - December 4(1), 11(1), 19(1), January 2(6), 7(1), 9(1), 22(1), February 16(1), 19(2), 21(1), 23(1), 27(1).

Red-tailed Hawk - December 4(1), 19(1), 29(1), January (1 to 6), February (1 to 4).

Red-shouldered Hawk - Regularly recorded December, single individuals; January 2(4), 7(1), February 6(2), 19(4), 27(5).

Marsh Hawk - December 11(6), January 2(10), 22(2), February 10(2), 14(2), 16(2), 19(2), 24(2), 27(1).

Sparrow Hawk - Regularly recorded December (1 to 2), January (1 to 7), February (1 to 3).

Appalachian Ruffed Grouse - December 5(1), January 2(2), 22(1), February 13(1), 19(2), 20(1).

Bobwhite - December 12(10), January 2(39), 16(12), February 6(12), 19(18).

Ring-necked Pheasant - January 2(4), February 5(12), 19(1), 27(1).

Rock Dove - January 1(10), 3(300), 8(100), 9(200), February 6(50).

American Barn Owl - January 4(1), February 5(1).

Screech Owl - December 13(2), January 2(2), February 9(1).

Great Horned Owl - January 8(1), February 19(1), 20(1).

Barred Owl - January 2(1), 28(1), February 24(1).

Pileated Woodpecker - January 2(4), February 10(1), 16(1), 20(1).

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Regularly recorded December (1), January (1 to 3), February (1).

Hairy Woodpecker - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 19).

Downy Woodpecker - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 113).

Prairie Horned Lark - January 18(2), February (1 to 12).

Blue Jay - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 92).

Black-capped Chickadee - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 235).

Tufted Titmouse - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 77).

White-breasted Nuthatch - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 77).

Carolina Wren - December 11(1), January 9(1).

Cedar Waxwing - January 2(1), February 19(29).

Starling - Regularly recorded December, January, February (2 to 120).

English Sparrow - Regularly recorded December, January, February (10 to 392).

Eastern Cardinal - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 174).

Eastern Goldfinch - Regularly recorded December, January, February (1 to 25).

## VI.

Early Spring Migrants

Canada Goose - February 22(15).

Blue-winged Teal - February 24(2).

Killdeer - February 14(1), 16(1), 19(10), 21(4), 22(4), 23(1), 24(2), 27(4), 28(6).

Crow - February 27(60) (Probably first migrants in numbers).

Robin - February 13(1), 19(117), 20(61), 27(73), 28(48).

Bluebird - February 19(21), 27(13).

Eastern Red-winged Blackbird - February 13(1), 14(26), 19(111), 22(2), 27(119).

Bronzed Grackle - February 13(1), 19(2), 21(1), 23(6), 26(2), 27(2).

Song Sparrow - February 27(21).



## NEIGHBORING LOCALITIES

Pymatuning

December 3 - Loon 19, Whistling Swan 1, Canada Goose 500, Mallard 300, Black Duck 25, Gadwall 40, Baldpate 15, Pintail 4, Green-winged Teal 2, Goldeneye 1, bufflehead 3, Hooded Merganser 27, Bald Eagle 3, Marsh Hawk 1, Ruffed Grouse 1, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Ring-billed gull 75, Downy Woodpecker 3, Prairie Horned Lark 1, Blue Jay 6, Crow 3, chickadee 10, Tufted Titmouse 2, Prairie Marsh Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 3, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Cardinal 5, Purple Finch 2, goldfinch 8, Junco 5, Tree Sparrow 40 - James F. Akers.

February 27 - Canada Goose 500 (probably wintered), Ruddy duck 100, Canvasback 150 - Walter Booth.

Sandusky

	December	January		
	4	9	15	23
Pied-billed Grebe	1			
Whistling Swan		2		
Mute Swan		4		
Mallard	500	6	105	24
Black Duck	400	2	400	10
Gadwall	20	12	60	25
Baldpate	240	8	120	150
Pintail	200	6	100	75
Green-winged Teal	100			5
Blue-winged Teal			1	
Shoveler	12	3	5	20
Redhead	60	2	1	
Ring-necked Duck	1			
Canvasback	12	4	300	
Lesser Scaup	4	4		
Goldeneye		4	60	7
Bufflehead	6			
Ruddy Duck	1			
Hooded Merganser	12			
Red-breasted Merganser		1		
Cooper's Hawk	1			
Red-tailed Hawk	1			
Rough-legged Hawk	6			
Bald Eagle		*1	1	
Marsh Hawk		1	3	
Sparrow Hawk	1	2	1	1
Coot			3	
Herring Gull		100		10
Mourning Dove		4	2	
Great Horned Owl		1		
Flicker			1	
Prairie Horned Lark				1
Crow	5	3		
Brown Creeper			4	
Starling		400	1500	
Red-winged Blackbird	25			
Junco				16
Tree Sparrow		4	5	5
Song Sparrow	4		2	2

\* An adult bird perched on last year's nest at Huron.

Vera Carrothers, Owen Davies, R. W. Hill, Margaret E. Perner

Ashtabula

December 26 - Double-crested Cormorant 5, White-winged Scoter 1, Great Black-backed Gull 2 - J. E. Lieftinck.

## COMMENT

Due probably to the unusually mild and open winter the usual concentrations of waterfowl along the Lake Erie shore at certain ice-free places were not a feature of the season. Dr. George Stober reports that whistling swans wintered in the bay at Presque Isle (Erie, Pa.) to the number of 100 or more.

For the same reason, no doubt, the number of wintering mourning doves, crows, robins, bluebirds, meadowlarks and song sparrows was greater than usual. Red-headed woodpeckers and towhees were also added to the winter bird population, and the white-throated sparrow, fox sparrow and swamp sparrow reported served to emphasize further the open character of the winter. Red-breasted nuthatches, kinglets and waxwings were conspicuously absent except for a few scattering records.

## FIELD NOTES

Robin "Anting" - "On September 28 I saw a robin on Fairlawn golf course which was going through peculiar antics and contortions. It was a young bird and it was so preoccupied that I could approach quite closely. Then I noticed that the grass was alive with long-winged black ants. The robin would pick up an ant and rub it against the abdomen or against the wing linings near the axilla, almost toppling over in the process. After two or three strokes it would swallow the ant and pick up another one. It did this repeatedly (other nearby robins were not similarly engaged)" - John E. Lieftinck.

Identification Note - "The Philadelphia vireo, Tennessee warbler and orange-crowned warbler in fall plumage are rather similar and difficult to identify. On September 30 I was fortunate to find all three species in one flock. The Philadelphia vireo was definitely vireo-like in contour and behaviour. The Tennessee was olive colored and white undertail coverts and rather pronounced superciliary stripes. The orange-crowns (2) were a darker olive, the undertail coverts were the same color as the belly, the breasts were faintly streaked and the superciliary lines were less pronounced" - J. E. Lieftinck.

Winter Predation of a Barn Owl - "Seven fresh pellets of the Barn Owl (Tyto alto) were collected by Mr. Martin Smith in a barn at Meadowbrook Lake near Stow, Ohio, on February 5, 1949. They ranged in size from 1.5 to 2.25 inches (aver. 1.9) in length. Dissection of these by students in ecology at Kent State University disclosed the following information concerning winter food of this predator. Each pellet contained from one to four skeletons of the Common Meadow or Field Mouse, Microtus pennsylvanicus. A total of 14 was recovered. Three pellets contained in addition the skeleton of a shrew, each one a different species as follows - the Short-tailed Shrew, Blarina brevicauda; the Smoky Shrew, Sorex fumeus; and the Canada Shrew, Sorex cinereus" - Ralph W. Dexter.

Little Gull (Larus minutus) – “As I approached a group of about 75 Bonaparte Gulls feeding over a stream of warm water caused by the discharge from a large concrete main on the grounds of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company plant in Avon-on-the-Lake, Ohio, one bird in particular stood out from the rest because the under side of its wings appeared quite black as the bird wheeled, dove, and fluttered.

From a vantage point atop the concrete main and looking down at the feeding birds at a 30 degree angle and with the sun to my back, I was able to study the bird under almost ideal lighting conditions with 8 x 30 binoculars at an average distance of 25 yards and occasionally as close as 25 feet.

The mantle was light even gray, and lacking any black on the primaries. The rear edge of the wing was bordered with white. Tail entirely white. Under parts of the body clear white, contrasting with the blackish under surface of the wings. The black on the head extended from immediately behind the eye around the back of the head leaving the forehead white, the spot behind the eye appearing black while the rest was grayer. Bill black. Feet and legs redder than those of the Bonapartes.

The bird in flight appeared slightly smaller with chunkier and more rounded wing tips. The feeding habits were very similar to the Bonaparte's. When alighting on the water and momentarily holding wings aloft it showed the blackish under surface of the wings to beautiful advantage.

After observing the bird for about 15 minutes it disappeared, and I assumed it had joined the scattered groups of some 500 Bonaparte Gulls resting on the ice beyond a nearby breakwall.

A quick check of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds verified this is the Little Gull, a 'rare straggler from Europe'.

This was on the afternoon of January 31, 1949, just two days after a near zero cold wave which froze Lake Erie extensively for the first time this winter and caused a large concentration of ducks and gulls in the vicinity of the few open spots of water kept open by the hot water from the illuminating plant.

On the following morning, accompanied by Frank Phelps and Tom Armor, the Little Gull was again seen in the same place and the identification was corroborated. As I believe there has been no specimen collected in the State I notified Dr. Arthur B. Williams of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. A collecting expedition the following day (February 2) was unsuccessful since by that time rising temperature and an off shore wind had dissipated the ice and with it the concentration of gulls. The Little Gull was gone. Another check on February 4 failed to disclose its presence” - James F. Akers.

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“There probably isn't anything I can add to your report from Jim Akers on the Little Gull. I went down with him on the morning of February 1. A large number of Bonaparte Gulls were milling back and forth over the warm water and as they came in toward us the white under-wing pattern was very evident. We soon spotted the Little Gull among them, and after seeing him once it was a simple matter to pick him out afterward. No glass was necessary as the gulls came within 50 to 60 feet of us right along. He was present in the feeding group for more than an hour. The smaller size was evident, but decidedly a secondary means of identification, and might easily pass unnoticed if attention were not first drawn by the dark under-wings” - Frank M. Phelps.