



CLEVELAND REGION

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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek | 30 Lake Rockwell |
| 2 North Amherst | 31 White City |
| 3 Lorain | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation |
| 4 Black River | 33 Chagrin River |
| 5 Elyria | 34 Willoughby |
| 6 LaGrange | Waite Hill |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake | 35 Sherwin Pond |
| 8 Clague Park | 36 Gildersleeve |
| 9 Clifton Park | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River | 38 Gates Mills |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina | 40 Aurora Lake |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation | 41 Aurora Sanctuary |
| 14 Edgewater Park | 42 Mantua |
| Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| Illuminating Co. plant | 50 Corning Lake |
| 21 Doan Brook | |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | |
| Wade Park | |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 52 Chardon |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 53 Burton |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | 55 Fern Lake |
| 28 Hudson | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 29 Kent | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Lakefront activity during December and January was termed "dull" or "dismal". It was described by two indefatigable observers as being the least productive in their years of coverage (Klamm). At Lorain harbor it changed somewhat in February with the appearance of the Glaucous and Iceland Gull. Two significant phenomena prevailed during the winter period: a scarcity of Blue Jays that was unique in our records, and the widespread incursion of Evening Grosbeaks. These are reported below in detail.

Waterfowl. All species of waterfowl were in scant supply on the Cleveland lakefront and present in greatly lessened numbers on the Lorain lakefront. The Common Loon was unreported and Grebes were not plentiful. In contrast to previous years, there was no massive concentration of gulls at Lorain harbor in December (Nagy). The appearance of the Great Black-backed Gull was, with the exception of lone individuals, mostly limited to a period of about ten days in mid-February, with never more than a dozen reported and all occurrences were at Lorain harbor.

Snowy Owl an Absentee. The autumn and winter season passed with no report of a Snowy Owl in our region for the first time since 1957-58.

Scarcity of the Blue Jay. The decline in the population of the Blue Jay was the most widely recognized phenomenon of the winter season, apparent to even the most casual observer. In our letter to contributors we requested comment on the status of the Jay, and the following are some of the enlightening replies from various localities.

"The most spectacular record from Kirtland Hills is a negative one -- one Blue Jay on January 2. A winter with only one Blue Jay is clearly a disaster year, In the total absence of nuts in the woods the Blue Jays moved out (south). They are reported to be unusually dense in southern Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The nut failure was due to the freeze of May 1 and 2, 1968, hitting all trees in bloom" (Bole, Jr.).

"Only one observation at the Trailside Museum feeder in North Chagrin Reservation -- a single individual on December 5 -- previous winter it was a common bird" (Finck).

"Some common species seemed substantially reduced in Mentor, notably Blue Jays and House Sparrows. As a result I have been using no more than one-fifth as much feed as in some past winters. I saw probably as many Blue Jays on February 22 and 23 in the Oscoda, Michigan area as I have seen all winter here. One flock there numbered about 50. Vern Barnes of Barnes Seed Supply in Willoughby reports sales have been down all winter on bird seed with many regular customers reporting a lack of birds. I have found no evidence of birds being

killed by severe weather but am inclined to attribute it to lack of natural food causing the birds to move elsewhere” (Hammond).

“No Blue Jays observed all winter in my coverage of Shaker Lakes, Brecksville and North Chagrin Reservations” (Deininger).

“.. fewer Jays than at any time I can remember. Our oak tree in Willoughby Hills had virtually no acorns -- could this be the deciding factor?” (Skaggs).

Concurring opinions were received from Mentor (Fais); Euclid (Fiening); Waite Hill (Sherwin and Flanigan); Lyndhurst (Kitson); Chardon (Ramisch); West Geauga (Kremm); Chagrin Falls (Clark and English); Lakewood (Siebert); Elyria (Johnson).

Christmas Count records of the Elyria Audubon Society and the Kirtland Bird Club also reveal a notable scarcity of Jays this year.

Only two dissenting reports-were submitted: in the Summit County Metropolitan Parks there was “no shortage of Blue Jays” (Szabo); and in Berea “Blue Jays were normal in our area” (Chambers).

Continuing Occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks. The incursion of Evening Grosbeaks, first observed on October 27, continued through the winter. A contributor who regularly prepares a summary of the occurrence of this species for the Inland Bird Banding News states that “possibly this will prove to be one of the largest incursions to date, if not the greatest of all” (Dexter). Flocks were reported from throughout the region.

Counts in the fifties and sixties were made frequently throughout the period at the feeding station of a residence near Painesville where they first appeared October 29. The males appeared to be in the majority in this flock (Storer).

A flock of 20 to 25 regularly visited feeders at a Mentor residence (Hammond).

Early in January a flock of 25 to 30 began to visit the neighborhood feeders near Heath Road in Chesterland and continued through the winter season (Al Hanson fide Flanigan).

Evening Grosbeaks were heard calling in a woods near Chardon early in the winter, finding the feeders on December 15 and remaining. They numbered 20 birds each day, diminishing toward the end of the season (Spare).

A flock in Chagrin Falls first appeared on November 10, reached a high of 42 birds on January 20, and remained at about that level. Most of them were females. On January 24, one bird was seen at the feeder at 3:50 p.m., which is the latest

hour anyone reported a bird feeding (English). Nearly all feeding station sightings were made before noon.

The most massive concentration of Evening Grosbeaks was at the feeding station of Dr. R. C. McKay in Brecksville, the location of large flocks in former years. They arrived on November 29 and reached a total of about 200 birds feeding simultaneously (fide Dexter). Evening Grosbeaks, believed to be a separate band, occurred at another feeder in Brecksville during the winter. The high count was 110 birds on December 22 (Jerry Piskac fide Carrothers).

In Peninsula, Evening Grosbeaks made their first appearance on November 11 and quickly built up to 77 or more. Seventy-five daily counts were made of this flock during the winter. Numbers of males and females varied from day to day. On one day only 15% of the birds were males, which was the lowest percentage, while on four days 45% were males, which was the highest percentage. In general, the males comprised from one-fourth to one-third of the flock. The size of the flock fluctuated greatly, ranging from a high of 62 birds on January 3 (16 males, 46 females) to a low of six on February 27 (1 male, 5 females). On 65 of the 75 days, the tally was 25 birds or less. Beginning in mid-December a Cooper's Hawk harassed the Grosbeaks from time to time, and it was seen daily after February 5, its presence possibly causing departure of the greater part of the flock (Jeanne Reister fide Hjelmquist).

A band of 20 Grosbeaks was present at Bath on December 4, increased to 48 individuals by the 21st, reached a high of 65 birds on the 29th and remained near this level through the period. The Grosbeaks habitually appeared at the feeders just after daybreak, 7:30 am. at first but 6:40 a.m. at the end of the period (Marcella Glassner fide Hjelmquist).

Evening Grosbeaks were first reported in Lorain County on December 5 and by mid-January one flock had built up to 50 birds, continuing to increase until February when it numbered 100 birds (fide Johnson).

Reports were received of sporadic visits and/or lesser numbers of birds from other locations: North Chagrin Reservation (Finck); Geauga County (Kremm, Leach); Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr., Daniels); Burton (Ramisch); Gates Mills (Mrs. Harding fide Sherwin); Warrensville Farms (Knight); Painesville (Booth).

Other Winter Finches Make Brief Appearances in Small Numbers.

Pine Grosbeak (1) a flock of more than 20 in Moreland Hills on December 8 (Shaper); (2) three at Virginia Kendall Park on December 28 and 29 (Szabo, Hjelmquist); (3) three fed on seed pods of white ash in Clague Park on December 29 (Stasko); (4) five were observed in a pine planting at Bass

Lake in Geauga County in the late afternoon of January 1 (Leach, Ramisch); (5) two males rested briefly in a tree at a residence near Chardon on January 9 (Spare).

Common Redpoll: (1) observed on eleven dates between December 8 and February 17 at the Shaker Lakes in numbers varying from four to 30 birds (Carrothers *et al*); (2) several birds were observed at Firestone Metropolitan Park on January 14 and 16 (Hjelmquist); (3) eight fed briefly in a garden gone to seed in Mentor on February 6 (Fais); (4) ten birds were reported from Carlisle in Lorain County on February 27 (Johnson).

Pine Siskin: made very fleeting appearances, of three birds or less each sighting, in the eastern and western portion of the region from mid-December to mid-February, with the exception of December 13 when 20 birds were observed at a residence in Elyria (Johnson).

Red Crossbill: one report of eight in Waite Hill on December 21 (Flanigan).

Hardy Wintering Birds. A Great Blue Heron appeared in the Chagrin River valley during December and January, leaving tracks in the snow near a creek leading to the river on January 12 (Denny, Flanigan, Walter Halle *vide* Sherwin).

American Widgeon wintered on Baldwin Reservoir and Shaker Lake. The high count was 19 on January 24 (Deiningner, Gaede, Peskin).

A male Wood Duck wintered on Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum, associating freely with the Canada Geese and Mallards (Hammond).

Two Virginia Rails wintered at Firestone Metropolitan Park. (For an account of this rare occurrence see the Noteworthy Records section.)

A feature of the eastern and western portion of the region was the daily observance of White-crowned Sparrows. (1) One adult bird and three immatures (two banded) frequented the feeders daily throughout the winter at a residence in Waite Hill (Flanigan); (2) two adult birds and two immatures were observed almost every day through the period at a feeder in Berea (Chambers); (3) two immature birds fed beneath the feeders at a residence in Euclid on February 6 and 20 and one was present on February 21, 23, and 26 (Fiening); (4) a single bird was at Hanging Rock Farm adjoining Holden Arboretum on December 30 (Bole, Jr.); (5) an immature was observed on February 2 in the Rocky River Reservation (Stasko).

On December 14 a Fox Sparrow was banded in Willoughby Hills (Skaggs); one visited a feeder in Shaker Heights almost

daily, being absent on some warm days, from January 4 to the end of the period (Feher); one was-present on January 21 along Doan Creek north of Lower Shaker Lake (Knight).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - (1) On the morning of December 21 an adult was swimming and diving at Gordon Park; (2) in the late afternoon of January 19 one rested on the shore at the Municipal Light Plant until disturbed, then associated with the ducks on the open water (Klamm).

Oldsquaw - Single birds were at Lorain harbor on December 8, 12, and 13 (Ward) and at Gordon Park on December 21 (Klamm), February 9, 19, and 20 (Gaede, Kitson, Leach, Surman, Jr.).

White-winged Scoter - (1) One at Lorain harbor on December 18 (Ward); (2) one at Headlands State Park on December 30 (Fais).

Surf Scoter - An immature bird at Gordon Park on December 21 (Klamm).

Common Scoter - (1) One at Lorain harbor on December 5 (Ward); (2) a male resting and riding on the water at Lakewood Park on December 7 (Klamm); (3) a flock of 14 was observed resting on the water at Headlands State Park on December 30. After several minutes observation, some diving and swimming, they flew off in a straight line, keeping low over the water (Fais).

Virginia Rail - Perhaps the most unexpected sighting of the winter season was two Virginia Rails at Firestone Metropolitan Park on Christmas Day. They were first seen probing for feed near the outlet from a pond that seldom freezes. Apparently all conditions were favorable and they remained, being viewed on various dates to the end of the period (Don Prack fide Szabo, Hjelmquist et al).

Glaucous Gull - (1) One was identified at Gordon Park on December 6 (Shaper); (2) one or two were reported from Lorain harbor on several dates between February 13 and 24 (Gaede, Johnson, Siebert, Ward), and on the 16th an observer saw two at Avon, then drove to Lorain harbor to find two that had been under observation there during his stop in Avon (Ward).

Iceland Gull - An immature was, carefully studied at Lorain February 20 to 24 (Gaede, Johnson, Klamm, Nagy, Ward).

Franklin's Gull - An uncommon number, three, were at White City on December 7 (Skaggs).

Black-legged Kittiwake - One was observed feeding at Lorain harbor on February 21, being forced to evade a larger gull but managing to retain its morsel of food (Ward).

Common Tern - Six present at White City on December 4, an uncommonly late date (Carrothers).

Mockingbird - Three occurrences were reported: one bird in Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls, from November 24 through the end of February (Hjelmquist); three in Peninsula on December 23 and 28 (Hjelmquist); one seen infrequently in Waite Hill. between January 22 and February 6 (Sherwin and Flanigan).

Catbird - (1) One was observed at Willoughby on December 30 (L. Barbour vide Fais); (2).one was near the main gate at the Holden Arboretum on January 12 (Hammond).

Brown Thrasher - One fed by scratching through a thin covering of snow on the grounds at University School in Shaker Heights at mid-day on December 17 (Rickard).

Northern Shrike - (1) At mid-morning on December 8 an adult bird came from behind a fallen log in Mentor Marsh, perched on a stick not far from the ground, then flew to a nearby treetop (Hammond); (2) one perched high in a -tree near South Chagrin Reservation on January 19 (Raynes); (3) an adult sang for 15 to 20 minutes atop a 20 foot tree in Solon just after sunrise on February 8 (Surman, Jr.).

Baltimore Oriole - The immature male that frequented a feeder in Chagrin Falls beginning on November 16, continued to be seen daily until December 1, then on irregular dates until January 1. Seemingly able to survive four-degree above zero weather, it disappeared when the weather became more mild (Clark).

Oregon Junco - A will-marked bird was. observed at the Trailside Museum feeder in North Chagrin Reservation On February 1 (Surman, Jr.).

Field Sparrow - (1) One at Tinker [Tinker's] Creek Farm in Geauga County on December 22 (Ramisch); (2) one observed at a feeding station in Chardon on January 13 (Spare); (3) one fed on the ground with Juncos and Tree Sparrows in Willoughby Hills on February 9, 15, and 16 (Skaggs).

Lincoln's Sparrow - On December 8 two were flitting about in the brush and grass near Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh, associating with Tree and Song Sparrows (Hammond).

Addendum:

Mute Swan - One fed in a small area in lee of the breakwall at Fairport during a high wind and snow squalls on December 24 (Booth).

NEW BIRD BOOK PUBLISHED

A Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region

by Donald L. Newman has just been published by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This pocket-sized handbook contains a series of graphs showing the magnitude of occurrence and the duration of occurrence of 251 species, together with an annotated list of noteworthy records involving 64 species. It also contains a map of the region and considerable instructive comment on the bird life of the region.

The Handbook sells for \$1.50 and is available at the Natural Science Museum Sales Counter. Mail orders will be filled; add 25¢ per book for sales tax and mailing. Address requests to: Sales Counter, Natural Science Museum, 10600 East Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

A NESTING OF THE EASTERN WOOD PEWEE

Carl F. Hamann

[Some time before his death in November 1964, Carl F. Hamann, who was a valued contributor to the BIRD CALENDAR for many years, submitted a carefully written account of a nesting of the Eastern Wood Pewee he had observed. Though it had obvious merit and deserved publication, it did require some little editing to conform to the style of the BIRD CALENDAR. Unfortunately, we did not have time to do the necessary editing and so, regretfully, his paper was put aside until now (January 1969) when time did become available to us. In addition to its intrinsic worth as a nesting account, this posthumous publication is a deserved tribute to the author, a modest and scholarly man whose intensive field work in the Aurora area provided us with the first nesting record for the Brown Creeper and the first detailed accounts of nestings of the Northern Waterthrush. - DLN]

In Aurora, Ohio, the Eastern Wood Pewee has been a regular summer resident for the past 32 years, nesting in the tall elm trees at the end of our street. Typically, the nests have been placed high in the trees and thus close observation has not been possible. In 1960, however, I finally had occasion to observe a pair closely when they nested in my yard.

Nest Site and Nest Building

On June 19 I discovered the partially-constructed nest on the branch of a black locust tree about 15 feet above the lawn and about the same distance from the tree trunk. Another black locust was in the immediate vicinity, together with an elm and a black walnut. To the north of the nest tree was a row of Canada hemlocks. The area within 150 feet of the nest site was also the territory of Mourning Doves, Purple Martins, House Sparrows (joint occupants of the Martin house), and a pair of Starlings which were raising a family in a nestbox intended for a Yellow-shafted Flicker. I first observed the nest from a point on the lawn about 60 feet away, but later I found I could obtain a less obstructed view from my library window which was about 15 feet closer. With 7 x 35 binoculars and a spotting telescope with 20- and 30-power eyepieces, I had a ringside seat.

When I first observed the nest, I could see the sky through the bottom and was able to see the female weaving materials into the nest, shaping it with her body. Using the telescope I saw that the foundation, composed of grasslike pieces of material, had already been built. In the following three days the female finished construction.

First, of course, she completed the superstructure. She then built up the rim with finer materials, and finished by decorating the sides with bits of lichen so that the nest looked as although it were a part of the branch itself. The nest was shielded by leaves which were above it and on its west side.

The Eggs

From June 21 to 28 I was away. When I returned, I examined the nest with a rear view auto mirror attached to the end of a long bamboo pole. The nest contained one egg, which was white with dark spotting around the larger end. I did not examine the nest again until about a week later because I did not wish to take the chance of disturbing the female and so cause her to desert. By the time I made my second observation with the mirror, there were two eggs. Both were still there when I made my third observation on July 12, the day before hatching.

Incubation

During the incubation I observed the nest at various times in the day for periods averaging approximately 15 minutes. Often during this time I heard the male singing in the distance. I never saw him near the nest, however, and the female alone incubated the eggs. Her approach to the nest, which was very quick and without intermediate stops, was made from either the north or the south. When she landed on the rim, she would generally settle down immediately, adjusting her ventral feathers. Occasionally she would stand on the rim and poke her bill into the nest as if arranging the position of the eggs. At times she also seemed to arrange the eggs with her feet, rising slightly in the nest to do so.

Once on the nest, the female did not stay in a fixed position but shifted frequently, generally by moving in a clockwise direction keeping her face toward the sun. She sat erect in the nest, alert, warily turning her head from side to side. When it rained she spent more time on the nest. On two occasions -- once during a rainstorm and again when a strong wind was blowing -- she crouched motionless in the nest, holding her head low.

When absent from the nest, the female spent her time hawking insects. Usually she was gone for only five or ten minutes although on two occasions (once while it was raining) she was away for half an hour. In the middle of the afternoon, when the sun shone directly on her, she generally sat with her bill open. Occasionally she opened and closed it in a slow rhythm. Her tail also moved up and down in a regular rhythm; this rhythm was somewhat

faster than a human heart beat, perhaps keeping time with her own pulse beat or her rate of respiration.

Hatching

When I examined the nest on July 12, it still contained the two eggs. The next day I noticed that when the female returned from hawking insects, she dropped her bill into the nest as if feeding, which led me to assume that the first egg had hatched.

On July 14 the female left the nest seven times within one hour, dipped her bill into the nest five times, and twice settled to brood. When I walked under the nest, I was greeted by her twittering notes and her usual "pee-eet" call. Several times I also heard a faint "dee-dee-dee" which I presumed came from the young. Upon examining the nest with the mirror, I observed one young bird covered with white down. The second egg did not hatch. After the nestling had left, I examined the nest again and found the second egg was missing.

Behavior of the Male

The first time I witnessed the male near the nest was July 14, the day following the hatching of the egg. After perching on the electric wires about 25 feet from the nest, he flew to the supporting branch, perched about two feet from the nest for a few seconds, then flew away without any attempt at feeding. On July 16 he came to the nest twice. Once he fed the nestling, but the next time he was chased by his mate with a snapping of her bill. He approached from the east and landed on the branch before flying to the nest. As time went on he seemed to learn his way, eventually landing directly at the nest but not on the rim as did the female. Three times I saw both adults at the nest simultaneously; the male once passed food to the female who fed it to the nestling.

Using the 35-power lens of the telescope to get a good view of the male, I found he was somewhat different in appearance from the female. He seemed to be sleeker, his bill was a trifle longer, and the hairs at the base of the bill were longer. As might be expected, his lower breast and abdominal feathers were not parted in the middle as the female's were because of brooding. His manner of approach to the nest distinguished him as well, for he was more cautious and circumspect than the female. In addition, when he called he gave the "pee-a-wee" note whereas the female uttered a distinguishable "pee-eet", the "t" muted and just vaguely suggested.

Care of the Nestling

From July 13 to 27, inclusive, I watched the nesting activities a total of sixteen and three-quarter hours. Out of the 169 feedings I witnessed in this time, I was able to identify the food-bringing parent in all but 14 instances; in each of these the bird's back was turned toward me. Of the 155 identifiable feedings, the female provided 101 (65%), the male 54 (35%). The number of feedings ranged from two to 17 per hour. In coming to the nest, the female flew to it directly as she did during incubation. Only twice did I see her stop en route. Both times she perched in the adjacent elm tree, then flew directly and quickly to the nest.

When feeding, the female held the food crosswise in her bill and, perched on the rim of the nest, thrust it down the throat of the nestling. In general, the food appeared to be derived from insects, but most feedings were too small for me to identify. I did observe the feeding of a large moth, a black beetle, and a transparent-winged insect of considerable size. These larger insects she reduced to edible size by crunching them in her bill. Once when she was offering a large black insect, she had to extract it and work it in her bill a second time before the feeding was a success. On three occasions I noticed a silvery object leave her bill and enter the open mouth of the nestling. Watery-white and translucent, it looked like saliva, but since these observations were made at different times of the day when light reflection probably would have changed the appearance of saliva, I took it to be the bird's tongue forcing food down the nestling's throat.

During the first eight days she brooded 10-36 minutes per hour. After this time brooding practically ceased, and the most time she spent on the nest was about five minutes of each hour. When the sun shone directly on the nest, as it did in the afternoon, the female often stood on the west rim shielding the nestling with half open wings.

I could not tell for certain when nest sanitation began. The first fecal sac I saw was removed on July 20, a week after hatching. Four days later the nestling itself moved to a position as if voiding over the rim. The following day a fecal sac lodged on the outside of the nest and was later removed by one of the adults. I also found several others on the ground near the nest.

On July 21, I first noted dark feathers on the capital tract of the nestling, and the next day the sheaths on the spinal tract and wings were evident.

Frequently thereafter the female perched on the nest as if to assist in freeing the feathers from the sheaths.

I did not observe any predators come into the nest tree. However, when a Robin landed on a nearby branch, it was attacked by the female with a snapping of her bill. I also watched her chase a House Sparrow in the same manner. A Common Grackle, which landed on the ground near the nest tree was also quickly assaulted and drive away, but she paid no attention to such birds as the Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Tufted Titmouse when they came near the nest.

The Fledgling

I first saw the fledgling on the evening of July 27, fourteen days after hatching. The next morning, after considerable search, I found it sitting ten inches from the ground on a branch of a spirea bush, where it was being fed by the adults. A Catbird coming near was chased by the female with the customary snapping of her bill. That afternoon I found the fledgling had flown to a sugar maple tree and was perched ten feet from the ground. Here it was being fed.

In the first ten days after leaving the nest, the fledgling perched in the surrounding trees at heights of 25 to 50 feet, never venturing more than 200 yards from the nest tree. Because the adults moved so rapidly through the treetops that it was practically impossible to follow them to the fledgling, it often took me as long as one hour to locate the fledgling.

At times the fledgling had perched in one place for an hour while being fed. On August 1, however, I saw it take four short flights. By then it seemed well developed except for the stubby tail. On August 3, when I saw the female perch within two feet of the fledgling, their tails were of almost comparable length. The young bird's call, first heard on August 5, sounded like "pee-ut", the "u" accented as if it had an umlaut. It gave this call numerous times.

On August 6, I found the female and young one perched side by side on a branch of a tree. She did not feed the fledgling as usual, but instead made short flights from the branch and back again. On the evening of August 7, I found the fledgling perched on a dead branch of a locust tree from which it made several short and one long sally for insects. In the early post-nesting period (July 27 to August 7), the fledgling moved infrequently while I watched. Between feedings it would preen and often doze, or sleep with its head under its wing.

Although I had heard the birds daily, I failed to find the fledgling, again until August 13, six days later, when I spotted all three some 300 feet from the nest site in a group of willow trees. That day I saw the fledgling both morning and afternoon. It was hawking insects on its own, but its efforts were still being supplemented with occasional feedings by the adults. The next morning the female and the fledgling were both hawking for insects from the same branch. The fledgling was now full grown.

I was unable to make a fair count of the number of feedings made by the adults during the fledgling period because their movements were very rapid and obscured by the foliage. Usually, however, the male was at a distance singing, and so I had the impression that the female did about 90% of the feeding. In one instance she fed the fledgling while it was on the wing.

Towards dusk on August 16, I saw all three birds moving through the treetops. They were calling, and the notes of the female and fledgling, which were alike, could be distinguished clearly from the call of the male. On each of the next four days I heard the birds but made no search for the fledgling. Finally, on the evening of August 21, I last observed two of them in the walnut tree about 85 feet from the nest site. The female called, the other was silent.

THE WEATHER

December - The month featured unusual dreariness and passed in nearly perpetual gloom. There were only three days on which trace or measurable precipitation did not occur. The 24.1 hours of sunshine out of a possible 286.5 hours provided only a scant 8.4% of the sunshine available. Temperatures averaged slightly cooler than normal by 0.5 degrees. Precipitation totaling 3.94 inches was in excess by 1.60 inches. Snowfall was appreciable on the 8th, 9th, 24th, and 28th.

Lake Erie remained open throughout the month but appreciable shore ice developed in the last few days. Inland waters were subject to transient ice cover at times.

January - A cold month with temperatures averaging 3 degrees below normal that provided some off-beat conditions. The first 16 days were well below normal in temperatures and were dominated by winds from a southerly direction. Precipitation totaled 2.84 inches giving a slight excess of 0.17 inches for the month. Snowfall was heavy on the 6th, 7th, and 26th.

Lake Erie remained open with only moderate and variable shore ice. Extensive ice cover developed overnight on a wind shift from SW to NW on the 25/26th that was to become persistent thereafter. Inland waters continued to be subject to transient ice cover of increasing severity and persistence.

February - The month passed in a state of near normal dormancy. Temperatures were regularly cyclic above and below normal, but averaged out 0.6 degrees low. Precipitation was very moderate and accumulated to only 0.75 inches, giving a deficit of 1.58 inches. Sunshine occurred during 45% of possible available time. Snowfall was appreciable only on the 3rd, 8th, and 12th.

Lake Erie was extensively ice covered throughout the month with only occasional fissures or other open water occurring near shore. Inland waters maintained extensive and persistent ice cover.