

CLEVELAND REGION

Published by

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History a n d

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 35 Sherwin Pond
7 Avon-on-the-Lake	36 Gildersleeve
8 Clague Park	37 North Chagrin Reservation
9 Clifton Park	38 Gates Mills
10 Rocky River	39 South Chagrin Reservation
11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport	40 Aurora Lake
12 Medina	41 Aurora Sanctuary
13 Hinckley Reservation	42 Mantua
14 Edgewater Park Perkins Beach	43 Mentor Headlands
15 Terminal Tower	44 Mentor Marsh
16 Cleveland Public Square Cuyahoga River	45 Black Brook Headlands State Park
17 Brecksville Reservation	46 Fairport Harbor
18 Akron Cuyahoga Falls	47 Painesville
19 Akron Lakes	48 Grand River
Gordon. Park Illuminating Co. plant	49 Little Mountain
21 Doan Brook	Holden Arboretum Corning Lake
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

Editor Annette B. Flanigan Editorial Advisor
Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary
William A. Klamm

Special Features
Donald A. Siebert

## **Editorial Assistants**

Vera Carrothers Adela Gaede Elizabeth Rose

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Arlene Aronson
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Vera Carrothers
Genevieve Chambers
Robert L. Cook
David Corbin

Mrs. Arthur B. Crofts Mildred Daniels Ralph W. Dexter Marjorie S. English Walter Ermer

Mrs. Paul J. Fiening Annette B. Flanigan Adela Gaede

Wayne & Hilda Hammond

Perry F. Johnson Faye B. King

Glenn & Wilma Kitson William & Nancy Klamm

Charles H. Knight Sibyl Leach

Zigmond & Helena Nagy

Donald L. Newman Thomas C. Offutt Gretta Pallister J. P. Perkins Perry K. Peskin Donna Pickersgill

Bertram & Margaret Raynes

Genevieve Reutter Robert A. Scheibe, Jr. Margaret H. Sherwin Donald A. Siebert Ruth Silliman Merit B. Skaggs Gordon Spare Michael Stasko L. N. & Sue Storer W. F. Streeter

James S. Surman, Jr.

Bert L. Szabo Elliot Tramer Thomas F. Ulrich Harold E. Wallin Clinton E. Ward

\* \* \*

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to Annette B. Flanigan Smith Road, Waite Hill, Willoughby, Ohio 44094 - 18 - Vol. 67, No. 2

## THE WEATHER

March - A month of nearly continuous below normal temperatures with little in the way of extremes. Warm spells occurred during the 13th to 15th, on the 27th and after. Temperatures averaged 3.7 degrees below normal. Snow and rain were quite variable in occurrence, with precipitation totaling 2.01 inches, which was in deficit by 1.12 inches.

Lake Erie remained open the first-third of the month, and attained 95% ice cover on the 13th. Ice fields began moving offshore on the 14th, and open water was extensive thereafter.

April - The month was very cool and quite dry, with temperatures averaging 3.8 degrees below normal. Precipitation measured 1.24 inches and was in deficit by 2.17 inches. Above normal temperatures occurred on six days with the only sustained warm interval occurring on the 11th to the 13th. Snow fall was measurable on only three days, with measurable rain occurring on seven days. Southerly winds were dominant on ten days, mostly in the first half of the month. Sunshine prevailed 61% of the time possible.

Lake Erie was open and ice free the entire month.

May - A cool month with temperatures averaging 1.3 degrees below normal. Warmer than normal intervals occurred on the 5th and 6th, 8th through the 11th, and 14th through the 20th. Precipitation was well distributed on eleven days and totaled 3.29 inches, which was in deficit by 0.23 inches. However, 2.63 inches of the total came on only two days, the 6th and 25th, when 1.08 and 1.55 inches were recorded, respectively. Wind shifts occurred at regular intervals, being sustained from a given direction for two or three days in the early part of the month and for three to five days in the latter part of the month. Southerly winds were dominant on sixteen days.

#### COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Spring marched in on reluctant feet, nevertheless the northbound migrants appeared. Indeed, some were ahead of schedule (Common Egret, Whistling Swan, Chipping Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow); perversely, others appeared with such lateness as to set records. This latter group consisted mainly of breeding birds in certain specific locations (Chimney Swifts at Kent State University, Traill's Flycatcher at Waite Hill, House Wren at Chagrin Falls and Waite Hill). Spectacular sightings were made (Little Blue Heron, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Short-eared Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Swainson's Warbler, Harris' Sparrow).

Mention must be made of the remarkable reports of two hitherto unreported species; while not in our Cleveland region, they came from areas adjacent to our region -- Louisiana Heron and Black Rosy Finch -- details appear following Noteworthy Records. Altogether this spring proved to exhilirate [exhilarate] the observer, which is heartening in view of the almost universally dismal prognosis that is currently voiced.

<u>Hawk Migration</u>. Weather conditions were apparently favorable for hawk migration on March 28, with winds from the south, and a watch was made at Perkins Beach from 9:15 AM to 12:00. All hawks were moving west-to-east along the shore, except for one adult male Marsh Hawk that moved to the west (Surman, Jr.). A timelog of this movement, totaling 141 birds, and still in progress at time of departure, follows:

	Turkey	Sharp-		Red-	Red-		Sparrow
<u>Time</u>	<u>Vulture</u>	Shinned	Cooper's	<u>tailed</u>	<u>sh'd.</u>	Marsh Hawk	
9:15/10:00	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
10:00/11:00	-	1	2	11	13	1	5
11:00/12:00	10	2		54	33	3	3
	10	3		65	46	5	10

Simultaneous observations were made at Rocky River where 91 hawks and vultures were tallied. Included were 12 Turkey Vultures, 6 Sharp-shinned, 3 Cooper's, 15 Red-tailed, 2 Red-shouldered, 8 Broadwinged, 1 Marsh Hawk, and 43 unidentified. An immature Bald Eagle, showing a few white feathers in its tail, was moving along with the hawks, flying at a moderate height and circling overhead. It remained in view for about five minutes (Stasko).

On April 3 a survey was underway at 9:00 AM at Elmwood Park, Rocky River, and despite a strong west-southwest wind there was a passage of 44 hawks and vultures in the next hour. The weather worsened and by 10:00 AM there were scattered snow flurries and the hawks ceased to move, so the watch was abandoned. The tally for the hour was: 18 Turkey Vultures, 1 Goshawk (immature), 16 Redtailed, 5 Red-shouldered, 1 Marsh, 2 Sparrow Hawks, and 1 unidentified Accipiter (Surman, Jr.). On this same day 15 Turkey Vultures were watched in a western suburb as they were migrating

- 20 - Vol. 67, No. 2

in an afternoon snow squall with the temperature reading 36 degrees (Stasko).

"About noon of April 8, a clear and sunny day when the temperature had warmed into the 60's from a chilly morning, four Buteos were seen sailing down the Chagrin River valley at River Street, Willoughby. They were moving to the north, quite high, with their wings set on a steady course with no flapping whatever, evidently riding a thermal current. Within five minutes they were followed by two more Buteos, and then another; then at short intervals six more appeared, but only one bird, a Turkey Vulture, could be positively identified. Thinking perhaps Headlands Beach might offer a better vantage point a trip was made there only to find plainly local birds. On returning to River Street at 4:00 PM, nine more hawks were seen, though it was thought some higher birds were missed as several seen were just within sight range. The birds were moving from southwest to northeast later in the day and several almost due west. The last few birds were not on a dead course but circled for altitude then took off high to the northeast. I have never seen a similar migration here" (Pallister).

April 9 was another favorable day, clear and sunny with a breeze, and a west side survey resulted in a count of 200 hawks and vultures, 171 of which were identified. Included were 20 Turkey Vultures, 50 Sharp-shinned, 15 Cooper's, 72 Red-tailed, 2 Rough-legged, 2 Marsh, 10 Sparrow Hawks (Stasko). One Red-tailed, 4 Marsh Hawks and 1 unidentified hawk were spotted from River Street, Willoughby, on the same day (Pallister).

Between 9:30 AM and 1:00 PM on April 30, 86 hawks and 2 Osprey were tabulated as they passed over Waite Hill in a narrow path. The passage, to the northeast, was continuous with very few intervals when a migrant was not in view, and included 1 Cooper's, 5 Red-shouldered, 12 Broad-winged, 43 unidentified Buteos and 25 unidentified Accipiters (Flanigan).

Observations were made at infrequent intervals at East 25th Street and Payne Avenue in downtown Cleveland, on May 11, 18, and 19, with the time-span of observation varying from five minutes to half-an-hour. A tally of 32 Broad-winged Hawks and 2 Turkey Vultures was made (Surman, Jr.).

Shorebird Migration. The spring shorebird migration in the region is not typified by numbers or variety, but on May 25 a flock of 50 or more was present at White City, brought in by the violent rain of the preceding night which was accompanied by gusty south winds. Present were 20 Semipalmated Plovers, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 2 Spotted Sandpipers, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Dunlin, and 33 Semipalmated Sandpipers. Almost as many birds were present the following day and included some species not before present: Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and 2 Sanderlings (rare in spring); four Sanderlings were present on the 27th (Carrothers).

Nighthawk Migration. A Common Nighthawk appeared at Shaker Lakes on May 9 for the first spring report (Corbin), and a spring flight, which is a rare event, was observed at Waite Hill on the 23rd. About 8:30 in the evening Nighthawks began to appear from the east and from the south, making a random joining overhead and continuing on together, then flying to the north-northwest. A total of 27 birds was counted in less than twenty minutes as the birds were flying fairly fast and fairly close together (Flanigan and Sherwin). Nighthawks were moving generally northward in small, irregular groups in the early evening of May 28 at Mentor, and 50 birds passed in less than an hour. A few had been observed flying in the same direction on the previous evening (Hammond).

Blue Jay Migration. The customary eastward movement of Blue Jays was evidenced with more than the usual number of inland flights which are uncommon; substantiated by the comment of a veteran bander "1 banded four times as many Jays as usual" (Skaggs).

The first report of any significant number was for May 2 from Lakewood Park. "At 7:30 AM, with temperatures in the low 40's, groups of Jays numbering in the hundreds, were moving in an easterly direction and quite close to the lake shore. Many bands were very high and would have gone unnoticed except for binoculars. Other spring migrants were moving also but the Jays monopolized the show by sheer numbers, until 10:30 AM when flights tapered off. Only a partial count was made but an estimated 5,000 passed" (Stasko).

An inland flight of 10 Jays was observed moving northeast at Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery in the early morning of the 6th (Kitson). Forty-one Jays were counted during the regular mid-day trip to the Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland on May 7; flight was to the east and slightly above treetop level (Leach). An early morning tabulation at Lakewood Park on the 9th, which ran for three hours, resulted in a count of 2,850 birds (Stasko).

On the 13th, three groups, totaling more than 50 birds, moved eastward at Bay Village during the final hour before dusk. Early the following morning two groups, totaling approximately the same number, were noted (Cook). [Early evening flights are very seldom reported.]

On the 15th a small inland flight of Jays was sighted at Cuyahoga County Airport, and a similar flight was seen at North Chagrin Reservation the following day, totaling about 35 birds in all (Kitson and Skaggs).

There was a definite Blue Jay movement northeast along the lakeshore on the 16th, particularly over Headlands Beach, but also a mile or so away from the lake. One flock of 150 was counted and several other flocks, numbering a few birds to more than one hundred (Hammond).

- 22 - Vol. 67, No. 2

On a mild and sunny May 21, between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, scattered bands of Jays migrating eastward passed over Headlands State Park. At least 47 birds were counted but more undoubtedly passed as observation was not concentrated on Blue Jays (Newman).

Many small inland flights were noted at Waite Hill, beginning on May 5 with one band of 20 and another of 11, and additional single birds that passed throughout the morning. On the 11th they moved northeast at intervals all through the day -- single birds, up to groups of six. Single birds, up to groups of three, passed through on the morning of the 15th and again on the 18th. On the 19th the groups ranged up to six birds and were seen until mid-day. The last movement was noted on the 25th (Flanigan).

Morning surveys of Blue Jay movements were made by two regular observers and the passage of birds per hour was tabulated. At Perkins Beach, where initial flights were observed on May 2, the Jays passed at the rate of about 75 birds per hour all morning. The movements were stronger on the 8th, and at Lakewood Park Jays were passing at the rate of 370 birds per hour. By the 22nd it had increased still more and 1,000 birds were passing each hour. The peak was reached on the 23rd and the exceptionally big flights that were moving through Lakewood Park were tabulated at 1,500 birds per hour. Inland flights, at treetop level, were also recorded by these two observers during the same period. The bands generally ranged from 8 to 20 birds each, but some were as large as 20 to 50 birds(Klamm).

There was still evidence of migration on the 31st, as between 300 and 350 Jays were counted in late afternoon at Lakewood Park. The last group, six birds, went by at 6:45 PM (Stasko).

Warbler Migration. Glowing reports were received in describing the warbler migration: "the best in years" (Bole, Jr.); "such numbers I have not seen at Mentor Headlands for many years, if ever" (Booth); "more Cape May Warblers than seen in previous years" (Corbin); "twenty-one species observed on the 15th -- but their silence was the foremost characteristic of the season" (Kitson and Skaggs); "the first year in which I had tasted so deeply of the spring warbler migration" (Spare); "18th was the best warbler day" (Stasko); "my list better than other years, but it was a fight all the way because many did not announce their presence with their song" (Szabo); "slow to appear, but once they started the flow was heavy through Firestone Park in Akron" (Ulrich); "on the 27th at Waite Hill, a cloudy, dull morning, a light rain began at 9:30 AM and suddenly there was a burst of song from dozens of warblers as they dropped down into the trees and shrubs all around -- for the first time ever, I abandoned keeping a running tally of birds and from then on they were estimated. Never have I observed Bay-breasted in the spring in such numbers -- an abundant fall migrant here but scanty in spring. By noon I had identified more than one hundred warblers and many

were in the treetops making it impossible to do more than say they were warblers" (Flanigan); "warblers still being heard in East Cleveland on 31st" (King).

The Orange-crowned Warbler abounded, appearing on many observers private grounds and providing an addition to the "life" list of at least two contributors. Nine different observers reported the bird with 14 sightings, eight of which were multiple sightings.

The Parula Warbler (unreported last spring) appeared in the region on May 12 at two locations and seven subsequent reports of later sightings were received.

Almost universal satisfaction was expressed with this spring warbler migration.

Status of Mockingbird. The resident bird at Willoughby Hills was joined by a mate on March 14, but nest building was not underway until April 6. The same thick hedgerow was used where all the previous first nestings had occurred. The young birds could be heard in the nest on May 8 and two young were ultimately fledged. The second nest was under construction while the two young were still traveling with the parents and learning to obtain their own food. Other sightings of Mockingbirds were such to lead to the belief that young from the 1969 and 1970 nestings have remained in the surrounding area (Reutter and Silliman).

The bird that wintered at Waite Hill was not seen after April 15 and it is believed to have been a female since the expected vocal display was never evidenced. One was present on May 10 but by its actions it was judged a transient (Flanigan). On May 23 one was present at Headlands Park beach (Hammond).

Evidence of their movement is supported by reports from the midday survey at Erie Street Cemetery, which lists one Mockingbird on April 23, one on May 27, and two birds present on the following day (Leach).

White-eyed Vireo a Frequent Sight. Somewhat late in appearing (May 9 at Shaker Lake and Lorain County) (Corbin, Peskin, fide Johnson) it soon was observed almost daily until the end of the month. One bird was seen on May 18 in Rocky River Reservation in the same area in which one summered in 1970. Then on the 23rd, two birds were calling in this area, some 500 feet apart and from opposite sides of a thicket. Only one is now present and even though it calls constantly no nesting attempt has been observed to date (Stasko and Siebert). Other White-eyed Vireo sightings were made at South Chagrin Reservation, Waite Hill, Bratenahl (Knight, Flanigan, Raynes).

<u>Finches and Sparrows</u>. Purple Finches were exceedingly abundant and appeared on almost every report. A flock of 10 appeared at Waite Hill on April 13 (Flanigan); 10 were present at Hanging

- 24 - Vol. 67, No. 2

Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills on May 2 and 9 (Bole, Jr.); a group of 22 was found on May 2 at Cascade Park, Elyria, where they are "to us, always a rarity" (Nagy); the largest flock, 25 birds, was reported at Elywoods, Lorain County, On May 5 (Johnson); 10 were observed in a pine woods at Rocky River Reservation on the 30th (Siebert).

The only record for Common Redpolls came from Painesville, of four birds on March 16 (fide Booth).

Not even one Henslow's Sparrow was reported in the region this spring. A very early arrival, on March 21-- two weeks before the next arrival -- was made by a Chipping Sparrow at Rocky River Reservation (Stasko).

White-crowned Sparrows came into the region in full force on May 5: "a heavy movement through the grounds of the Natural History Museum" (Kitson); more than 25 birds appeared at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.); 11 present at a Waite Hill feeding station (Flanigan). There was a heavy influx of White-throated Sparrows on the same day: more than 100 tallied at Erie Street Cemetery (Leach); 36 observed at Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Fox Sparrows were unusually well represented, being reported daily from March 6 until April 22. A very early arriving Lincoln's Sparrow appeared at a feeding station at Mentor on April 3 (Hammond) -- three weeks before the next arrival. Song Sparrows were more common than usual and reporting was heavy, with many reports numbering 50 birds.

Miscellany. A partially albinistic male Red-winged Blackbird appeared at a Waite Hill feeder on April 23, in normal plumage except for the two longest tail feathers which were pure white (Sherwin). A photograph was received showing the white feathers in cowbirds frequenting a feeding station in Cleveland (Ermer). [These birds had been present during the winter season] As of this writing, calls are still being made to report the presence of albinistic birds -- mostly blackbirds.

A heavy movement of Brown Creepers, numbering about 60, was observed in the area opposite the Shipman Refuge at Mentor Marsh at 1:00 PM on April 19 (Szabo).

A tremendous wave of Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted at and near Holden Arboretum during the period of April 18 to 25 -- thousands of birds were recorded (Bole, Jr.).

Rusty Blackbirds lingered quite late in the region. One, observed on May 23 on the Blackbrook walk, marks a new latest spring date (Jennifer Newhous fide Booth).

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

<u>Little Blue Heron</u> - An adult bird frequented several ponds at Waite Hill from April 15 through the 26th. It was quite shy and would fly up into the trees at any approach (Flanigan and Sherwin).

Common Egret - (1) On the very early date of April 1, two birds were flying to the west at Perkins Beach (Raynes); (2) on the 3rd one flew low over the water and into the wind at Rocky River, appearing to have great difficulty in making headway (Stasko); (3) on the 16th one was observed at Rocky River Reservation (Siebert); (4) on May 16 one was found in the Becker Drive area of Mentor Marsh (Hammond).

<u>Black-crowned Night Heron</u> - About 5:30 PM on April 3, one was discovered perched in a tree near Euclid Creek Reservation, remaining almost immobile until 7:15 PM. When it stirred and flew off it was joined by two others which had been in concealment. They circled once and headed north (Fiening).

<u>Yellow-crowned Night Heron</u> - This rare spring visitor appeared in high breeding plumage at the Strawberry Lane Pond, North Chagrin Reservation on the morning of May 5 (Kitson et al).

<u>Whistling Swan</u> - On March 1, which is a new earliest date of occurrence, one came down on Sherwin Pond, Waite Hill, and remained until a snowy blizzard on the 23rd brought in more than 70 swans, and departed with them the following day (Sherwin).

<u>Blue Goose</u> - One was viewed as it rested on the water at Corning Lake, Holden Arboretum on April 7 (Aronson).

<u>Gadwall</u> - Three quite tardy birds were present on Sherwin Pond on May 9 (Sherwin).

<u>Surf Scoter</u> - Three individuals were first noted resting offshore at Gordon Park on March 26, soon taking off in an easterly direction (Scheibe), for the third March record.

<u>Ruddy Duck</u> - One lingered until May 23 on a pond near Boston Heights (Knight).

<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u> - A female at White City on May 27, quite a late date (Carrothers).

Goshawk - Among a group of migrating hawks and vultures at Elmwood Park, Rocky River on April 3 was an immature of this species. The size, shape, and manner of flight was distinctive (Surman, Jr.).

Rough-legged Hawk - Two late migrants of this species were identified on April 9 with several hundred other hawks which were on the move at Rocky River (Stasko).

- 26 - Vol. 67,No.2

Bald Eagle - This season produced some ideally suited weather fronts for migration observation in the Cleveland region -- perhaps the unprecedented number of reports is a resultant bonus. (1) One on March 28, an immature moving along with hawks at Rocky River (Stasko), details appear in discussion of the Hawk Migration. (2) An adult bird with a pure white head was watched on April 18 as it moved to the north, appearing to be following the Chagrin River in Waite Hill (Aronson). On that same day three white-headed Eagles were viewed by three observers, as they circled very low over the pond at Mentor Marsh (Maynard Allen, Sr. fide Booth). (3) One glided over at about 200 feet, as observers watched from the lawn of a residence south of Painesville on May 31 (Booth).

Peregrine Falcon - An immature of this species sat in the blazing sunshine on a bare branch of a big maple tree on the morning of May 9, and was viewed by a spellbound group on the morning walk at Holden Arboretum. A pair of Purple Finches approached close enough to be in the same field of view before the falcon took off northwards. The speed and wingspread were impressive (Bole, Jr.). In the early afternoon of the same day, while hiking in Geauga County only four miles east of Holden Arboretum, a hawk was seen perched about 25 yards ahead. It was in view for another 25 yards as it took off and disappeared, and was judged by its size, long tapered wings and manner of flight, in addition to the coloring, to be the same bird as seen at the Arboretum in the morning (Offutt). [This is a rare event]

<u>Virginia Rail</u> - One was found on May 5 with a broken neck, apparently as a result of hitting the window of the postoffice at Beechwood (Knight). [The only record for this species for the entire preceding yearwas of a bird that was stranded in a snow storm last November 24 in Cleveland Heights.]

<u>Black-bellied Plover</u> - One, in splendid plumage, fed with other shorebirds at White City on May 17; four were present the following morning and single birds were observed on the 19th, 22nd, 24th and 25th (Carrothers, Gaede, Klamm).

Glaucous Gull - One, in second-year plumage, was present at Gordon on March 27 (Klamm). This is the first March record since 1965.

<u>Long-eared Owl</u> - This occasional visitor in the chicken yards at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, returned on March 31 (Bole, Jr.).

<u>Short-eared Owl</u> - On March 28 one was viewed at very close range at Headlands Park beach (Hammond).

<u>Cliff Swallow</u> - (1) On the very early date of April 29, one was seen at Willoughby Hills (Skaggs); (2) one individual was found among the many swallows at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills on

May 2 (Bole, Jr.); (3) one was identified at North Chagrin Reservation on May 16 (Scheibe).

<u>Brown Thrasher</u> - One, observed in Willoughby Hills on March 10 (Skaggs) was undoubtedly a wintering bird.

Sprague's Pipit - On April 9, at the edge of the baseball field near Squire's Castle, North Chagrin Reservation, one was studied at eye level. It then dropped to the ground and was joined by another, and as they moved away in the short grass they were joined by others until there were 10 birds in all. They fed in close company all afternoon and were viewed by other observers (Carrothers and King). [The first record for the Cleveland region was made by the latter contributor in April 1961 -- this is the fourth record.] The following morning only one bird remained at 9:30 AM (Skaggs).

Northern Shrike - (1) At Waite Hill an adult was present on March 3; another bird appeared on the 24th which still retained some brownish feathers (Flanigan); (2) an immature was seen at a Willoughby Hills residence on March 12 (Skaggs).

Loggerhead Shrike - (1) At early morning of March 22 one flew at a Robin perched near a residence which adjoins North Chagrin Reservation, driving the Robin away. The shrike then began to sing, and allowed sufficient time to check the identifying marks before flying off (Scheibe); (2) one was observed about 2:15 PM on April 7 at Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery (Streeter); (3) one perched motionlessly for fifteen minutes on a topmost branch of a maple tree in Holy Cross Cemetery, Brookpark on April 10 (Knight). [There were no reports for the Loggerhead Shrike in the entire preceding year.]

<u>Shrike</u> (sp.?) - One, not positively identified, visited a feeding station at a river-edge property south of Painesville for five or six days in early March (<u>fide</u> Booth).

<u>Swainson's Warbler</u> - With the morning sun at the observers back one was studied as it hopped about deliberately in low growth at the edge of a woods near Chardon on May 18 (Spare). [This is the second record for the Cleveland region -- the first was in May 1963.]

Golden-winged Warbler - One at Shaker Lakes on May 9 (Corbin), and another individual at Bratenahl on the same day (Raynes).

<u>Prairie Warbler</u> - (1) One was viewed for 10 minutes as it sang high in a leafless tree at Gates Mills on May & (Tramer). (2) One was observed at Shaker Lakes on May 12 and 13. Several observations were made of singing males on the 15th, suggesting the possibility of two being present on that day (Corbin, Kitson, Leach, Skaggs).

Kentucky Warbler - A male visited a waterfall and pool at a

- 28 - Vol. 67, No. 2

Lyndhurst residence at mid-day on May 31 and was viewed as it perched on a spruce bough to preen (Kitson).

<u>Connecticut Warbler</u> - One appeared at a Pepper Pike residence on May 10 (Raynes).

<u>Western Meadowlark</u> - After a break for the 1970 breeding season, in a long-standing record of appearances (1958-1969), this western species was noted singing on May 12 at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Rt. 254 and Ohio 2 in Lorain County, and remained there through the month (Johnson).

Orchard Oriole - (1) An adult male which often sang was a regular visitor at a Willoughby Hills residence May 5 through 18 (Skaggs). (2) A full-plumaged male sang lustily from a treetop in North Chagrin Reservation on May 15 despite the presence of a massive Boy Scout encampment just below (Scheibe). (3) A first-year male called often as it fed in a blossoming cherry tree at Waite Hill on the 15th (Flanigan). (4) A male was seen sporadically near a Berea residence during the last two weeks in May, and on one day during the period a bird that appeared to be a female Orchard Oriole was seen (Chambers). (5) Appearances were reported from Lorain County on May 9 through 19, and included two individuals present on two different dates and three birds on another date (fide Johnson).

<u>Harris' Sparrow</u> - As a newly-tilled garden in Avon Lake was being scanned for Horned Larks on May 9, up popped an adult male of this species in splendid plumage, and movie footage was obtained (Klamm).

## From Adjoining Localities:

Louisiana Heron - One was observed standing all alone in a pool in the Sandusky Bay marsh between Bayridge and Venice on May 30. The water level in the marsh was extremely low and the bird stood broadside so the contrasting white belly was plain to see, as well as the blue of the bill. "This heron is no stranger, having observed it many times in Florida" (Hammond). [As far as can be determined this is the second record for Ohio. One being recorded in 1954 from Ashtabula County. - Ed]

Black Rosy Finch - "Birds have wings and birds fly, yet generally they tend to stay within their range; nevertheless individual birds do appear in areas where least expected and far from their normal habitat." Such was the case at Conneaut, Ohio, on April 5, 1971, at the Hazen residence. An unusual bird was noticed at the feeding station at the noon-hour but stayed so briefly a close study was not possible. Fortunately the bird returned in early evening and was carefully studied by three people. By the process of elimination and use of illustrations in Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun and Zim, it was decided the bird resembled the female Black Rosy Finch, except for the color of

the bill and lack of color at the bend of the wing (later study, including Bent's <u>Life Histories</u>, Bulletin 237, Part 1, revealed some variations in plumage).

At mid-morning of the following day this same bird was observed for some minutes, as it perched within ten feet, by one of the three observers of the day before. By a strange coincidence this took place at a residence some distance from the first observance. Soon after noon the bird appeared at the first location again and was studied by J. P. Perkins as it fed upon the ground, within 20 feet. The sun was almost directly overhead, so cast no shadows over the bird, and it was viewed from the front and side. The flanks and rump were a rosy-lilac color, being much brighter on the rump; the wings appeared black with two slate-gray patches with one patch located as a wide wingbar and the other as a elongated patch along the secondaries.

What was the bird? "I concur with the Hazens -- this was a female Black Rosy Finch -- a sighting very rare indeed" (Perkins).

#### FIELD NOTES

<u>Nesting Canada Geese</u>. For the first time since Canada Geese began nesting at sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation in 1949, there was more than one successful nesting. An account follows:

Nest #1 - The nest was first noted on March 26 and incubation was underway on the 30th. Due to the location of the nest a count of the eggs was never obtained. By April 29 all indications pointed to the abandonment of the nest, although one goose continued to be observed in the vicinity of the nest for several days but was never seen on the nest again.

Nest #2 - Construction activity was observed taking place on April 4. Hatching was taking place on the evening of May 6 and two goslings were reported. On the following morning the parents were on the water with five new goslings.

Nest #3 - Nest construction was noted on April 4. Five goslings were reported on May 11.

## - fide GLENN KITSON

<u>Vultures over Shaker Lakes</u>. In 34 years of birding in the Shaker Lakes I had never observed the Turkey Vulture until noon on May 15, when two birds appeared in the vicinity of the Upper Lake. I almost immediately lost sight of the one bird as I concentrated my binoculars on the other, which was obviously riding an updraft; for it sailed in a small circle, gaining altitude all the while until finally it glided off to the northeast and out of sight. Since that we know that a fair number of buteos and some accipiters move east in spring following the line of the Portage

- 30 - Vol. 67, No. 2

escarpment on the northeast side of Cleveland, I believe these vultures were following that flightline, too, but had drifted south of the escarpment and were correcting their course of flight when I chanced to observe them. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Observations on Birds of Prey. On May 27 observations were made of a nesting Red-tailed Hawk at Ghent in Bath Township. The nest was located in a very high tree growing from the bottom of a ravine and from the top of this ravine one could look down into the nest. On this day it contained one young hawk and the remnants of past and future meals. Occasionally the adult birds are seen from another Red-tailed Hawk's nest which is located in the general area between Akron-Peninsula and Riverview Road.

A very large Red-tailed Hawk's nest is located near Old Mill and Hudson Road and has been in use for many years. In 1970 everything went well and a successful nesting appeared likely but for some unknown reason one adult disappeared. The other bird was around for a month and would occasionally perch on the edge of the nest. This year the nest was occupied early and enough time elapsed for the eggs to hatch but I have not seen any young, possibly because the trees are now in leaf. I hesitate to approach the area.

The Maintenance Superintendent at Sand Run Metropolitan Park has reported two Broad-winged Hawks carrying material to a tree near the parkway; but I have been unable to find the nest since the trees are leafed out (May 15). Two of these hawks are still seen wheeling around in the area.

A nest of a Great Horned Owl was found in southern Summit County in a shagbark hickory tree about 40 feet from the ground. Upon being approached the owl left the nest and immediately a Red-tailed Hawk flew to a branch about 20 feet from the nest. (We had retreated to allow the owl to return to the nest.). The appearance of the hawk caused the owl to return to the nest with muffled hoots of warning. The hawk readily understood and retreated. I had not seen any young by April 14 but Don Prack, Assistant Naturalist, returned the following Saturday and photographed one young bird in the nest. I returned to the nest on May 13 to check the nest and saw the owl in the area but the nest was destroyed -- scattered on the ground.

About 150 yards to the northwest of the nest of the Great Horned Owl was located a Red-tailed Hawk's nest. It was a large nest that dwarfed the scrawny wild cherry tree in which it was located. At time of observation the tree was not in leaf and one hawk was seen on the nest and the other perched nearby. I returned on May 13 and observed no young, although one adult bird flew around and appeared to be protecting the nesting area.

A Great Horned Owl's nest was visited on May 8 which was located in a climax beech woodlot in Bath Township. The nest

site was in a hollow where the tree had broken off, about 25 feet from the ground. The nest contained two young birds, partially feathered except around the eyes which were completely feathered. They left the nest successfully about two weeks later. - BERT L. SZABO

Four Great Horned Owls were heard calling at Lake Lucerne on the night of May 6. One bird was right beside the house, another was on the other side of the house and two were calling from the nearby woods. They continued to call back and forth for about 10 minutes before they moved on. Presumably the adult birds were initiating the young birds in the art of hunting and were keeping in touch by their calls. - MARJORIE S. ENGLISH

<u>Late Return of Chimney Swifts at Kent State University</u>. Between 1945 and 1970 Chimney Swifts returned to the campus of Kent State University during the period of April 17 to 28. Following are the return dates for each year:

April 17: 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968 April 23: 1947, 1961, 1970 April 24: 1946 April 18: 1963 April 19: 1958, 1965 April 25: 1948, 1951, 1953 April 20: 1952, 1957, 1959 April 26: 1949, 1950, 1956 April 21: 1954, 1955, 1960 April 27: 1969 April 22: 1945 April 28: 1962

The median date was April 21. Apparently because of the unusually cold spring in 1971, the swifts did not return until May 5 -- the latest date in 27 years. Nine were present for the first night, which is a larger than usual number for a first night, and roosted in the air shafts on the campus. Numbers increased to 21 birds over the following week. Cool weather again delayed arrivals until May 14, when there were 26 swifts roosting on the campus. By the end of May the highest count for a single night was 28 birds, Thirty-one banded swifts have been recovered to date, but not all have remained here. At the end of May only three swifts had been newly banded. - RALPH W. DEXTER

Chronology of a Nesting Hole. A noisy disturbance was heard on the afternoon of May 6 in a dead elm located on the lawn of a residence near Painesville in which a Red-bellied Woodpecker had only recently made a nest hole. On investigation it was found that four House Sparrows had ganged together to harass the woodpecker and drive him from the nesting hole. Some action then took place -- but so quickly it could not easily be followed; it appeared that the Red-bellied Woodpecker grabbed a sparrow with its claws and dropped downward with its with wings enclosed. Anyway, both birds went down together until just before hitting the ground, then the sparrow was released and both birds flew upward in order to stop the fall -- both flying off unharmed. This was observed again and again -- at least five or six times. The Red-bellied would fly to another tree after each foray, and in the meantime the other sparrows would enter the nest hole.

- 32 - Vol. 67, No. 2

There they remained until the woodpecker returned and reasserted his ownership. Occasionally the woodpecker would leave the hole for a short period and then fighting broke out in a new quarter -- all four sparrows wanted the nesting site, so they battled among themselves to see who would be the new owner. This continued until the woodpecker returned, then the sparrows closed ranks in a common cause and again continued to try to dispossess the woodpecker.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker was not seen at the nest hole any more that day, in fact it was not seen in the area again, so the sparrows were victorious. Their ownership was of short duration. The following morning, May 7, two Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared on the scene and after examining the hole, took possession. Perhaps the sparrows were overawed by the more aggressive and noisy behavior of the Red-headed Woodpeckers, at any rate they gave up the nest hole. The Red-headed Woodpeckers remained in possession for several days -- then along came the Starlings. They showed interest in the nest hole and would stand and wait until the woodpecker left and then would enter the hole. Finally one Starling entered the hole and remained while three others stood guard within a distance of about four feet. When the Redheaded Woodpecker returned it was unable to dislodge them. Thus, "finis" to the contest. - L. N. STORER [I have never seen another species win a battle with a Starling -- Yellow-shafted Flickers, Crested Flycatchers and Bluebirds have all tried. - Ed.]

Eastern Kingbirds Feed on Bees. During the week of May 24, two Kingbirds were observed daily as they caught and ate honeybees which had taken up residence behind the siding on a house located near the Natural History Museum.- SARA JEAN PETERS fide KITSON

Brown Creeper Feeds on Ground. For several days in late April a Brown Creeper was observed as it fed among the leaves and wood chips scattered under the shrubbery near a Lyndhurst residence. The bird "worked" the tree trunks with regularity but much of the time could be seen on the ground, feeding in a manner much like the Chipping Sparrow. - GLENN and WILMA KITSON

<u>Unknown Mishap at Nest of Carolina Wren</u>. A successful hatching of three young Carolina Wrens was reported by a Mayfield Village resident and on May 14 they were thriving. On the morning of the 16th all three nestlings were found dead -- two still in the nest and one on the floor of the small tool shed in which their nest was built. There was no readily apparent cause of their death. - MRS. J. R. COTTON <u>fide</u> KITSON

Nest Building of Rose-breasted Grosbeak Disrupted. A pair of Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks engaged in nest building all through the day on May 28 in a maple tree located on the lawn of a Bay Village residence. Thin twigs were carried in by both birds and carefully placed in a crotch of the tree about 30 to 35 feet from the ground. On the following morning no activity was noted although the nest was only partially completed; still showing

gaps and openings. Then, in mid-afternoon, the female resumed construction, carrying twigs and placing them and then shaping the nest with her body. On this day the male was neither seen nor heard. Progress in nest construction was not noted again until June 3, at which time the nest appeared completed when viewed in the early morning. Sometime later, about 9:30 AM, a Blue Jay carrying catkins flew into the maple and settled into the nest. As the material was being pressed into the sides of the nest another Blue Jay joined the first one at the nest. In the next moment a Common Grackle entered the maple tree and was instantly challenged by one of the Jays and both birds zigzagged through the trees and out of the yard. On the morning of the 4th one Blue Jay sat in a state of repose on the nest and another preened its feathers on a nearby perch -- their ownership appeared complete. - ROBERT L. COOK

Continuing Report on Bird Oasis in Downtown Cleveland. In this, the fourth spring, 49 noontime trips of about half-hour duration were made to the downtown Erie Street Cemetery. As always, new passerines were added to the list of observations -- this year a Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Indigo Bunting -- making a total number of 87 species.

This seven and one-half acre expanse continues to be a haven for early migrants and was the site of first-observation dates for the following: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4/1; Phoebe 4/1; Catbird 5/7; Field Sparrow 3/18; Fox Sparrow 3/15.

Certain species were represented in spectacular numbers, especially when considering the exceedingly brief time of coverage. Six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were observed on April 30; 12 Catbirds on May 12; 15 Brown Thrashers on May 5; 55 Robins on April 1 and 50 on the following day; 18 Hermit Thrushes on April 28; 10 Swainson's Thrushes on May 19; 50 Slate-colored Juncoes on April 13; 20 Chipping Sparrows on May 6 and 7; 25 White-crowned Sparrows on May 5 and 11; 100+ White-throated Sparrows on May 5 and 75 on the 6th; 7 Fox Sparrows on April 16; 2 Mockingbirds on May 28. - SIBYL LEACH

## THE GULLS OF LAKE ERIE

I wonder how many take for granted our Lake Erie shoreline and the wealth of bird life that it attracts to our Northern Ohio region. At all seasons of the year, but particularly fall and winter, members of the Gull family (Laridae) congregate by the thousands in and around the harbors and shoreline where a food supply is readily available. Their presence offers the patient observer a chance to seek out and find some of the more uncommon and rare members of this family of long-distance flyers. They come to us from various areas of the continent, such as remote sections of the Arctic, prairie sloughs and marshes of the Great Plains, sand beaches of the southern states, and occasionally a visitor from the European side of the Atlantic.

- 34 - Vol. 67, No. 2

There are close to fifty members of this family in the world. Twenty-three species have been recorded from North America and twelve have been observed along the Lake Erie Shoreline, which means that approximately one-quarter of all the gull species in the world have been recorded in our area. These species are: Glaucous, Iceland, Great Blackbacked, Herring, Ring-billed, Black-headed, Laughing, Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Little, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's. Through the diligent efforts of many of our "birders" and the editor and compilers of the BIRD CALENDAR, these records have been recorded for all to perceive.

The Laughing Gull was first observed in our area in May of 1951 and has only been seen on rare occasions since that time. The Black-headed Gull was first seen in December 1965, and the March 1968 sightings of this European species were the first spring records. A September 1967 find of the Sabine's Gull was the first acceptable record of this species in our region. In approximately the past ten years the Franklin's and Little Gulls have been recorded with increasing regularity, and with summer records of the Franklin's. The Glaucous, Iceland, and Great Black-backed Gulls come down frequently during the cold months from their Arctic habitat and seek out open water.

All gulls have webbed feet and the necessary oil glands to enable them to remain afloat indefinitely. They are markedly gregarious, even more so during breeding season when several species may congregate in one area; the only exception being the Great Black-backed Gull which seems to prefer solitude and isolation.

Most gulls share the distasteful habit of nest robbing; but there are many marked differences in their behavior and feeding habits. Several species, such as the Glaucous and Great Black-backed Gulls, are purely birds of prey. The Glaucous has been known to capture Auks and Plovers on the wing, and the Great Black-backed to feed on the young of the Eiders. The Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls have the beneficial feeding habit of being largely insectivorous; the Ring-billed also consumes its share of insects in some areas and acts as a scavenger in others. The Herring Gull, being a true scavenger, renders a great service to man by keeping harbors and beaches clean. The Black-legged Kittiwake, the most pelagic of all the gulls, feeds mainly on marine life and scraps from fishing boats. It has been known to swim under water in pursuit of food and to prefer drinking salt water to fresh.

Gulls nest from the rocky crags of Greenland and the Arctic tundra to the sand islands of the Gulf coast, Bonaparte's nest in spruce trees in northwestern Canada and the Laughing Gull is the only North American member to nest south of Massachusetts. The Franklin's has the unique habit of building a semi-floating nest in marshy regions of the northern prairie and a breeding colony of these gulls is a beautiful and interesting sight. Not only are they highly gregarious but are sociable toward other

species which share their nesting area. The Franklin's Gull is the only member of the family that migrates completely from its nesting grounds and is rarely found along the Atlantic or Pacific coasts.

Gulls range in size from the Great Black-backed which attain a wing span of almost six feet in some northern European individuals and resemble a Bald Eagle in flight, to Bonaparte's and Sabine's which are more tern-like on the wing, down to the Little Gull which is close to a Robin in size.

Besides being highly beneficial to man, these birds offer much aesthetic value, for their grace and beauty in flight is hard to exceed in the avian world. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

#### Literature Cited

The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Shackleton & Stokes - Birds of the Atlantic Ocean
Bent, A. C. - Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns
Wetmore, Alexander - Water, Prey & Game Birds of North America
Chapman - Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America

## FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

March 3 - A Northern Shrike was hopping about outside a banding trap vainly jabbing at a Tree Sparrow inside one of the cells. Being unable to make any contact the shrike perched alongside and the Tree Sparrow crowded into the farthermost corner. Very soon the shrike flew down at birds feeding underneath an evergreen but failed to make a catch, and when last seen had taken up a perch high in an apple tree which overlooks the feeders.

March 14 - The Mockingbird which wintered here occupied a perch in the apple tree by the back terrace at 5:30 PM. It had become evident this was a customary perching place before going to a roost. The bird remained for ten minutes in a rather quiet manner before flying into a blue spruce (roosting tree #1) just alongside the back walk and a few feet from the house. On the 23rd and 24th the bird went to roost at 6:25 and 6:12 PM respectively, always flying into the same section of the same spruce. Then, on the following three nights the bird perched in the same apple tree, but after the habitual quiet pause of five or ten minutes it flew into a Norway spruce (roosting tree #2) just ten feet away.

Robins began to gather about 6:35 PM on the 29th and fly into the blue spruce (roosting tree #1). When at least six Robins had entered the tree and several more were waiting on adjacent perches the Mockingbird suddenly flew in and landed on the outer reaches of one of the branches. When it began flirting its tail and turning about, two of the Robins left the tree, but stopped nearby. Several minutes passed and the Mockingbird finally left its position in the spruce and flew to its loafing place in the

- 36 - Vol. 67, No. 2

apple tree. At once the two Robins returned to the inner portion of the spruce and several others that had been waiting on the sidelines entered also. After five minutes the Mockingbird entered the current roosting tree (#2). On the following evening the Robins appeared shortly before seven o'clock and soon entered the blue spruce as before, although I had not seen them in the area during the day.

A different blue spruce (roosting tree #3) was utilized by the Mockingbird on the night of April 1. Not until the 5th did I observe again, at which time it was using tree #2 and continuing to use the loafing perch in the apple tree. This continued until mid-April. The Mockingbird apparently considered this Norway spruce (#2) its own private domain as several times it was seen driving other birds from the tree during the daytime -- one time a foraging Myrtle Warbler.

March 15 - An immature White-crowned Sparrow entered one of the banding traps -- allowing a close examination of the crown -- was banded and released. Subsequently this same bird entered the traps on April 3, 8, 22, and May 4. When examined on the latter date the crown had reached adult stage and was all white and black, although the feathering appeared "ragged". When trapped and examined on the 7th the crown was found to be smooth and fully adult.

March 20 - A severe snowstorm created a hazard for birds on the move and Killdeer and Robins were found in concentrated numbers feeding on the roadways and other places where bare ground was to be found. In a one-mile stretch of road here 15 Killdeer were counted, along with countless Robins. A neighbor reported a downed bird seeking shelter at the side of a large building in an industrial area and from the description it was either a Snipe or a Woodcock. A Barn Owl flew into an open window of an industrial building on Cleveland's east side and was unable to find a way out. From the observers' angle these storms often produce notable events.

March 29 - About 7:00 PM a Woodcock was heard calling from an area behind the barn. The following evening it began to call at the same time and I was able to see the aerial performance two times before the light diminished, although it was continuing to call as I departed. On the third evening the distinctive "beep" came from the same area and it was light enough to see the bird as it ascended into the sky. As I watched, five more flights were made with the bird going quite high and disappearing from sight. It was raining on the fourth evening, nevertheless I put on rain gear and as I reached the stage two birds were seen rising together. From a viewing spot about 30 feet away five flights were observed.

I will endeavor to describe these performances as seen in the deepening twilight. The "peent" sound is heard on the

ground, and as the bird spirals up in circles, rising higher and higher, there is a whirring, whistling sound that is a musical, quavering warble. As the bird comes zigzagging down it makes a series of short chipping sounds before it returns to earth -- these are clean-cut and brief -- almost crisp sounding. As the bird comes circling down there is a fluttering twitter, but I could not determine if it was vocal or if it was a "wing sound". It greatly resembles the rare song produced by the Acadian Flycatcher as it makes a short flight from one perch to another on its nesting territory.

April 13 - Finches dominated the feeding stations today and at least 10 birds could be counted at one time. In the course of observing and banding it was noted that striping was present on the flanks which reached to the rump. On some birds the striping was rosy colored as was the breast; on other birds this rosy color changed to brown before, it reached the rump. This was puzzling., Only one authority could be found describing such striping in the text, as well as picturing the birds being so striped (Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States by Forbush); but after examining skins of finches at the Natural History Museum I was satisfied to classify the finches I had banded as Purple finches (Carpodacus purpureus)

April 25 - One lone Evening Grosbeak, a very nervous and restless female, called from several perches in late afternoon and appeared on a feeding tray early the following morning. Late afternoon observations, which are uncommon, were made at 4:15 PM and for the following 10 minutes. On the 28th the bird was present almost the entire day and remained even later than the previous day -- until 5:15 PM. By the 30th it had become quite tame and allowed close approach and it could be seen on close scruitny [scrutiny] that the bill was a delicate pale green which is typical of the female in spring.

April 27 - Eighteen Cedar Waxwings were settling in a sumac thicket at 7:30 PM, with most birds perching alongside sumac seed heads remaining on the stalk. It was amazing to see the similarity between the seed heads and the birds, both in size and coloration. The quietly perching birds could not be differentiated without binoculars.

April 30 - A call of a hawk alerted me at 9:30 AM to see seven accipiters and 11 buteos in sight at one time. They were flying northeast and moving rather swiftly but were too high for identification. By 1:00 PM, after almost uninterrupted observation, I had a tally of 86 hawks and 2 Osprey (additional detail appears in Hawk Migration). This was only the second experience of hawk migration in 14 years here -- I stood in almost exactly the same spot as when I witnessed a flight of 127 hawks on April 22, 1970. I am inclined to believe such flights have occurred without being observed by me, as I doubt I would have seen this flight had it not been for that first call.

- 38 - Vol. 67, No. 2

May 7 - One downy head peeked from beneath the wing of the Canada Goose at mid-morning as she sat on her nest atop a muskrat mound at the marshy end of the pond The gosling was fluffy and quite dry. I checked again at 4:30 PM without seeing any apparent change -- the male was cruising around and staying close. At 9:00 PM the situation was still unchanged. The following morning she was still on the nest. Finally, at 2:00 PM, both parents were parading with 5 goslings.

May 10 - A singing Orange-crowned Warbler appeared this morning -- the first of eleven individuals to be seen this spring. The crown patch was plainly seen several times on one of the two birds observed on the 14th.

May 17 - The nest of a Wood Thrush which I had observed being built was now completed and occupied and I examined the contents to find one thrush egg and one cowbird egg. I did not disturb the nest, but after pondering I decided to remove the cowbird egg the following day. When I returned to the nest I found it empty but with no sign of disarray. Had I interposed the day before I would have charged myself with the abandonment of the nest.

May 18 - We have found bird eggs in peculiar places with no obvious explanation as to how they came to be there and once again it took place. When weeding close to the trunk of a dogwood tree a pheasant egg was found deeply buried in the mulch -- the egg was intact and I replaced it. We have found goose eggs buried deep in the sawdust pile and Mourning Dove eggs hidden in the short grasses beneath the shrubbery.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.