



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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THE WEATHER

MARCH

The first nine days emerged in a spring-like manner, averaging 19 degrees above normal. Except for the 21st, 23rd, and 24th, which were very cold with heavy snow, deviations from normal were quite modest. While some snowfall occurred as late as the 16th, it produced only light ground cover of little persistence. Over-all, the month averaged 3.8 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation fell on 16 days and totaled 3.88 inches, which provided an excess of 0.83 inches. Lake Erie remained open all month as scattered ice fields and floes disappeared in the first three days. Some bays, shallows, and inland waters retained residual ice for longer periods and remained subject to transient icing.

APRIL

Temperatures averaged 3.3 degrees warmer than normal for the month. Below normal temperatures occurred on 12 days which included two sustained cool spells, one from the 5th through the 10th and another from the 23rd through the 25th. Frost was not uncommon in the earlier cool period. Precipitation fell on 16 days, mostly in the first half and totaled 3.50 inches, which provided a mere 0.07 inches excess. Winds from southerly directions were dominant in the latter half, and vegetation leafed rapidly.

MAY

Northerly winds and cooler than normal temperatures were dominant during the first 10 days while a sustained flow of southerly winds prevailed from the 15th through the 22nd. Cyclic shifts of lesser duration passed at other intervals. Over-all, temperatures averaged 1.58 degrees cooler than normal. Rainfall on 14 days was fairly well distributed in the month and amounted to 4.54 inches, which was in excess by 1.05 inches.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Migration flights of birds are dependent on weather, particularly wind direction and velocity, and the time of year, sometimes almost to the precise date. Human observations of such migrations, though, are influenced by weather, the emphasis being on dryness and other comfort factors, and the day of the week, the preference being for Sunday morning. When these two sets of conditions happen to coincide, the results can be spectacular from the human viewpoint. Such a happy coincidence occurred in the Cleveland Region this spring, not only once but at least twice, and left contributors to the BIRD CALENDAR groping for superlatives to describe the experience. The cold weather from April 23 to 25 was followed by warm south winds just in time for the weekend birders to witness a wave of passerines on the 27th and 28th. Then the cool northerly winds during early May shifted to a flow from the south during the middle of the month, precisely at the time when the heaviest spring migration would normally be taking place. May 11 and 12 (Saturday and Sunday) provided excellent birding, despite rain on the latter day. But the influx on the following weekend was little short of phenomenal.

Actually, the individual birder could scarcely grasp the full impact. Covering only a limited area on selected days, he was inclined to see the migration as remarkable for only certain species or groups. A comparison with the reports of the past four years, though, disclosed that almost every species was present during the season in at least normal numbers, and a remarkably large number were reported in vastly greater quantities. Principal exceptions were the Horned Grebe, Common Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, Fox Sparrow, and Scarlet Tanager. All of these except the last, it will be noted, are comparatively early migrants, arriving as early as March. Three species which are essentially winter residents but which may linger into spring--the Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Nuthatch--apparently departed early as spring arrived ahead of schedule.

Along with the heavy influx of common species were an unusually large number of Noteworthy Records--early dates of occurrence, late dates, rare species, accidentals, and some remarkably high totals for generally uncommon to rare ones. Perhaps the most surprising were the observations of White-winged Crossbills at three locations in May and another in mid-April; This rare species had never previously been recorded here after April 30 and only a few times after March.

Divers Arrive Early. Evidently influenced by the early thawing of lakes, Common Loons and Horned and Pied-billed Grebes tended to move through the area rather early. Almost

half of all Horned Grebes sighted (which, as noted, were fewer than usual) were in March, although the peak of migration is normally about April 10. Most Pied-billed Grebes were also seen here before April 8, but unlike their more lake bound cousins, their numbers far exceeded recent years. A flock of 19 Pied-bills were reported from Summit Lake on the very early date of March 3 (Schirmer), and 15 or more were seen at three different locations on March 31. Stragglers were reported, though. A Common Loon was at Lorain as late as May 15 (Corrine Dolbear, fide Johnson) and a Horned Grebe in Rocky River on May 14 (Klamm), only a day earlier than the latest recorded date for the species. Pied-billed Grebes continued to be sighted in predictable numbers to the end of the period.

Hérons Widely Reported. All species of herons expected in the region were present in normal or above normal numbers. A Lorain observer described the flight of Great Blue Herons there as the "largest movement west I ever observed," with 18 birds in a short time on March 23 (Ward). Another observer counted 21 moving easterly over the north side of Mentor Marsh in early evening, May 11 (Hammond). Reports from the Heath Road rookery indicated that the local residents were also doing well; so apparently were the Green Herons in the region. Great Egrets were reported earlier than ever before and also from more locations, indicating an actual increase in specimens and not merely in sightings. The expected number of reports were received, principally, from Mentor Marsh, of Black-crowned Night Herons, Least Bitterns, and American Bitterns. In addition there were unexpected observations of Cattle Egrets and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (see Noteworthy Records).

Mild Weather Affects Waterfowl Migrations. Early arrival of spring weather apparently influenced the movements of waterfowl substantially. All observed flights of Whistling Swans of notable size passed over the area between March 6 and 12. More than half of all specimens were recorded in a few hours on March 9. Sightings on that date included flights of 7, 17, 47, and 100 in Waite Hill (Sherwin); 100 in Willoughby (Ethel Ricks, fide Pallister); a vee of 60 headed north over Lyndhurst (Kitson); and one of 80 headed northwest in the northern part of Mentor (Hammond). The following morning three more flocks, a total of more than 100 birds, flew northwest over Chesterland (Carrothers).

Migration of Canada Geese was difficult to pinpoint because of the presence of large numbers of wintering birds. The breeding population, though, appears to be on the increase. Besides the expected nesting reports from such locations as Holden Arboretum, Sherwin Pond, and North Chagrin Reservation, eight unfledged young were seen with four adults in the western end of Mentor Marsh, May 27 (Hammond),

the first recent record of successful nesting at that spot. More remarkable, on May 1 a newly-hatched gosling was with 11 adults in a pond at the north end of the Euclid Spur section of 1-90 (Scheibe). Snow Geese were observed somewhat more frequently and generally earlier than usual; details are in the Noteworthy Records section.

Dabbling ducks were, on the whole, present in what may be termed normal numbers and approximately on the usual migration schedule; American Wigeons, though, were somewhat early in arriving and departing. Except for the previously-mentioned Canvasbacks and Common Goldeneyes, all diving ducks were also at or above normal population levels. Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks, however, were earlier than usual and more numerous; they are, of course, commonly among the latest of the divers in the spring and are often found on small ponds. Deviating from the prevailing pattern, Red-breasted Mergansers stayed quite late, as many as 150 still being at Lorain Harbor on May 15 (Ward).

Raptor Observations Routine. Among the less remarkable features of the spring sea-son were the sightings of Turkey Vultures, hawks, and owls. Generally speaking, all species normally present here in spring were recorded in satisfactory numbers. Most major flights of migrating hawks were seen in the Lakewood-Rocky River area. A flight of 31 birds on March 3 there included 24 Red-tailed Hawks (Stasko). On March 30 observers recorded 49 Turkey Vultures, 45 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 3 Marsh Hawks, and 82 American Kestrels (Klamm, Stasko). An April 13 movement in the same sector included 11 Turkey Vultures, 33 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 31 Red-tailed Hawks, and 10 Broad-winged Hawks in a total of 98 raptors (Stasko). The April 27 tally was 13 Turkey Vultures, 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 17 Red-tailed Hawks, 7 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 123 Broad-winged Hawks (Klamm, Stasko). A substantial number of Turkey Vultures remained in the Holden Arboretum area to the end of the season, 19 being counted on May 25 (Bole).

A pair of Red-tailed Hawks were observed nesting in Waite Hill, April 1, and on May 11 at least one nestling was visible in the nest (Sherwin, Flanigan). For at least the second year a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nested in Fred Fuller Park in Kent, though no information has been received on the degree of success (Dexter). A Great Horned Owl nest in Kirtland Hills produced two young, which were banded (Daniels). A family of four Screech Owls, two adults and two immatures, were seen at Lower Shaker Lake on April 29 and thereafter, the first indication of nesting there in many years. Later, one immature was found dead (Peskin). Another Screech Owl family nested in a Wood Duck box in Kirtland Hills, still being in residence there at least to the end of the spring season (Bole).

Gallinules Show Increase. Observations of both Common Gallinules and American Coots were greater than usual for the spring season. Around Becker Pond (Mentor Marsh) 14 Common Gallinules were counted in early evening, May 7 (Hammond). Largest concentrations of American Coots were in the Akron Lakes, where 170 were observed on Summit Lake on March 3 (Schirmer).

Shorebird Migration Features Rarities. Several rare species and accidentals turned up in the spring migration of shorebirds. These included the Piping Plover, Willet, Red Knot, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, and Wilson's Phalarope. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) As with other groups, the more common shorebirds tended to be reported with greater frequency than in past years. Little significance should be attached to this fact, though, as it may well have only reflected changes in the activity of the contributors.

Nighthawks, Swifts Delayed. Both Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts were slow to make an appearance this spring. Nighthawks returned to the Kent State University campus on May 15, "the latest of the expected dates" (Dexter); they usually arrive between May 1 and May 15, never later. A few were recorded at other locations on May 14 but none earlier than that. Chimney Swifts returned to their nesting sites on the Kent campus on April 28, matching the latest previous recorded date there (Dexter). Only scattered individuals were seen elsewhere in the region before April 27, and the reported flocks were generally small until May 5. Except for two which were calling in Lakewood on the night of April 29 (Klamm), no Whip-poor-wills were reported until May 12.

Swallows Up, Concentrated. Tabulations of all species of swallows showed gains over previous years. All, including the uncommon Cliff Swallow were reported in largest numbers during the brief period from May 11 to 19, somewhat late for migrations of Tree Swallows and Purple Martins but fairly early for Bank Swallows.

Long-billed Marsh Wrens Colonize. A thriving colony of Long-billed Marsh Wrens was evidently established during May along the Mentor Marsh Sewer Line Trail. Several observers counted up to seven singing birds in a fairly small section of cattails and reeds. A smaller number of them had been in the same location in 1973. House Wrens, Winter Wrens, and Carolina Wrens were seen more often in May than in the past few years.

As mentioned previously, both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were down in numbers. In fact, only 13 nuthatches were recorded on a total of nine dates, most of them in May. Most creepers were seen before the middle of April, about when the heaviest migration should have been

starting. However, a few sightings in late May suggested the possibility of local nesting.

Mimics, Thrushes Join Big May Flight. The mimic thrushes, and thrushes were well represented in the mass migrations of May 11-19. Principal exception was the Brown Thrasher, most plentiful during the late April migration wave. American Robins were abundant throughout the season after first appearing in force in early March. Reports of Mockingbirds are proving to be increasingly frequent and widespread, raising a question as to whether this species should continue to be classed as "rare" in the Cleveland Region.

The Hermit Thrush was one early-migrating passerine which did not show a decline in reported frequency. Tabulation of it was about average, well distributed throughout the season, and with the peak in late April. Swainson's Thrushes were unusually plentiful, particularly on the weekend of May 18-19. Tallies of Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries were above those of recent spring seasons. Eastern Bluebirds recorded an increase in May.

Kinglets Are Both Early and Late. Again presumably because of weather conditions, the kinglets appeared in substantial numbers at times other than their usual migration period. Most Golden-crowned-Kinglets were observed during the first part of April, just ahead of the usual peak period, although stragglers continued to be sighted until the latter part of May. Ruby-crowned were reported in sizeable numbers from April 7 to May 19, longer than they commonly are present. Earliest sighting was near East 140th Street on April 3 (Hannikman) and the latest at South Chagrin Reservation on May 26 (Bicknell). Both kinglets were recorded in larger numbers than usual.

Warbler Migration Termed "Outstanding." Contributors in all parts of the Cleveland Region used such adjectives as "excellent" and "outstanding" in describing the spring warbler migration. Two features were emphasized: the large number, both in species and in total specimens, which arrived early; and the remarkable concentration during May 12-19, particularly the weekend of May 18-19. Every warbler which can be reasonably expected in the region was present with at least the customary frequency, and many were far more abundant than usual. On April 20 the Spring Bird Walk party at Shaker Lakes, identified at least 11 species, including the Prairie, Orange-crowned, and Blackburnian (Corbin). One contributor tallied 30 species plus the hybrid Brewster's during the season in Waite Hill (Flanigan). Yellow-rumped Warblers were so abundant that contributors recorded more than 100 on each of five Sundays in a row from April 21 on. Looking at some of the more conspicuous tallies, Black

and White Warblers were unusually common during the mid-May wave, although observations of them extended over more than five weeks. Tennessee Warblers were absent until May 12, then more than made up for the delay. Yellow Warblers started arriving ahead of schedule (See Noteworthy Records) and were plentiful to the end of May. Magnolia Warblers were unreported until May 11, almost a week late, but were abundant for the next three weekends. Observations of Cape Mays came very close to both the record earliest and latest dates; in between were a large number of reports, concentrated in May 18 and 19. Black-throated Greens were recorded from April 21 to May 31 and well over 300 times in between. Customarily, fewer than 10 observations of Pine Warblers are listed by contributors; this season there were more than 40. Palm Warblers, apparently somewhat delayed by the cold weather in early May, continued to be numerous through May 19. One observer tallied a total of 14 Northern Waterthrushes on 11 separate dates and in five locations (Leach). Common Yellowthroats, Hooded Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, and American Redstarts were all up in numbers but heavily concentrated in the remarkable May 18-19 weekend.

No Shortage of Blackbirds. Blackbirds migrated in considerable number along The Lake Erie shoreline, starting early in March. Significant movements of Eastern Meadowlarks were observed on March 3 and 30 (Klamm, Stasko). Large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and others established a temporary roost in Mentor Marsh during March before moving on (Hammond). A report of the blackbird roost in Lorain County, mentioned in the winter issue of CBC, is to be found in the Field Notes section. Other records included a Western Meadowlark, an unusual number of Orchard Orioles, and a Brewer's Blackbird, as well as two abnormally late observations of Rusty Blackbirds. (See Noteworthy Records.)

Winter Finches Make Late Appearance. Some of the northern finches disregarded the migration schedule and arrived in the region after they should have been gone to their summer homes. Not only were the White-winged Crossbills quite tardy, as mentioned previously, but the only two reports of Red Crossbills so far in the CALENDAR year were on the late date of May 26. Pine Siskins, which customarily show an increase during May, were common almost to the level of abundance during that month. Purple Finches, somewhat reduced in recorded numbers, were entirely absent from reports in March and early April. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce and Pine Grosbeaks not reported. Common Redpolls continued to be elusive, as they have been for the past two years, with one flock of 70 (March 3 at the mouth of Rocky River--Stasko), a pair, and three individuals seen.

Other finches tended to be at or above customary levels. A few Indigo Buntings made a surprisingly early appearance

in late April, though most were seen on or after May 18. A Savannah Sparrow showed up at a feeding station in Painesville on March 24 (Booth), and a Fox Sparrow lingered at Euclid Park until May 14 (Corbin). American Goldfinches were particularly abundant during the big May migration. Song Sparrows, conversely, were well distributed through the entire season; individual contributors tallied 20 or more on 14 separate dates from March 23 to May 26.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - Only report was of an adult which flew past-White City beach about noon on May 5 (Hannikman).

Cattle Egret - Two groups, the first here since 1970, were sighted during April. Near Chardon 10 were observed in a field on Auburn Road south of U.S. 322 about 6:30 p.m. on April 13 (Robert Faber, fide Spare). Near Route 34 west of Painesville seven were feeding on frogs in a wet meadow on the evening of April 21 (Maynard Allen, fide Booth). The second site is approximately 12.5 miles north of the first.

Great Egret - Among a rather high number of observations from several locations was a now early spring date of record. On March 23 a single bird was perched on the east breakwall at Lorain harbor in early morning; four more were observed in flight headed west later in the same day (Ward). Individuals were also seen in flight but moving easterly at White City on March 26 and 29 (Hannikman). The only previous observation in March was at LaDue Reservoir, March 25, 1964. Great Egrets were also reported this spring from Shaker Lakes, Mentor Marsh, Waite Hill, and Rocky River.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - A mature adult was standing in a tree at South Chagrin Reservation late in the morning of May 26 (Bicknell, et al.).

Snow Goose - Even allowing for the fact that what was formerly known as the Blue Goose is now included with this species, a greater number than usual were reported. A white phase was on Sherwin Pond, March 1-4 (Sherwin). A blue specimen was near Beach Cliff Park, March 10 (Stasko). A blue type (possibly the same one) was again in the Rocky-River area on March 17 (Klamm). A blue phase pair stopped on a pond in Solon on April 3 but were driven off by a pair of Canada Geese which have nested there since 1962 (Gibson). Three white birds were at Lorain harbor, March 30 (Dolbear).

White-winged Scoter - Only spring report was of two on the lake-front on March 2 (Klamm).

Surf Scoter - A female was with about 350 Scaups in the outer harbor at Fairport Harbor early on April 7 (Hammond).

Bald Eagle - on May 25 one in full adult plumage flew over Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, in bright evening sunshine, causing poultry to flee for cover and Canada Geese to sound the alarm (Bole).

Sandhill Crane - At Perkins Beach, May 11, one flew along the lake shoreline from east to west about the time that five Great Blue Herons were passing in the opposite direction. It circled overhead at various elevations "as if looking for a landing site" but then continued west (Klamm).

Virginia Rail - A dark specimen which gave the impression that it was in partial juvenile plumage was observed at close range as it stood in a small opening in the cattails beside the Sewer Line Trail in Mentor Marsh on the early date of April 7 (Hammond).

Piping Plover - A single specimen was observed at a distance of about 25 feet at Headlands State Park, May 3. Identification was made by the single but complete narrow neck band and the pale plumage on the back (Newhous).

Willet - On April 21 three birds were standing on the rocks at the south end of the breakwall at White City, while the wind whipped waves about their feet. On April 28 two were on the beach and one on the breakwall there (both observations Hannikman, fide Corbin).

Red Knot - A summer-plumage bird was observed for about five minutes as it stood in the edge of the water at White City about 5:15 p.m. on May 16 (Scheibe). Two days later, also in late afternoon, what was evidently the same bird fed on the mudflat at White City and aggressively chased Killdeers from its feeding area (Hannikman). These are the first May reports of the species since institution of the present CBC record-keeping system. There has been one early June record.

Hudsonian Godwit - One stopped to feed at a pool at the east end of Headlands State Park beach, May 18, and then flew off to the west, the direction from which it had come. Identification was made by comparing the size to nearby Killdeers and Ruddy Turnstones; by the long, slightly upturned bill, orange-red with a black tip; the somewhat Willet-like wing pattern; barred tail; reddish breast; and grayish head. It was photographed while on the beach (Hoffman). The only previous records of this rare migrant are in September of 1951 and 1958 and in October, 1964. A strong flyer, it is believed to migrate to its arctic breeding grounds without stopping. Normally, migration occurs earlier than this observation. (See Stout, The Shorebirds of North America.)

Sanderling - At Headlands State Park beach three were seen during the May 26 Spring Bird Walk (Booth, fide Newhous).

Wilson's Phalarope - A pair in breeding plumage fed along the edge of a mudflat at the east end of Horseshoe Lake on the afternoon of May 6 (Leach, fide Corbin, Peskin). A male was photographed as it fed at the edges of a mudflat pool at the east end of Headlands State Park on May 25 (Hoffman). There are only four previous spring records--three single birds and one pair--for the Cleveland Region. [ED. NOTE: The increase in spring reports of shorebirds from Headlands State Park may be attributed in part to the decision of the park management to leave the overflow area at the eastern end of the beach undisturbed for the benefit of migrating shorebirds this year.]

Glaucous Gull - At Perkins Beach a bird in second-year plumage passed in transit from east to west on April 6. "The all-white plumage was immediately conspicuous and drew attention for more than casual observation" (Klamm).

Caspian Tern - One at Lorain, April 7, marked the second earliest (by two days) sighting on record here (Ward).

Saw-whet Owl - On April 7 one was discovered in a stand of small pines in the Wildlife Management Area, Rocky River Reservation Interpretive Center (Stasko).

Cliff Swallow - At least seven were included in a large migration of swallows in the Becker Pond section of Mentor Marsh on the morning of May 18. The migration, proceeding easterly on a broad front over and south of the marsh, included every eastern species of swallow (Hammond). Four other Cliff Swallows were recorded in the region in May.

Brown Creeper - Three unusually late reports suggest possible local nesting. On May 24 one was observed in the Great Gorge of Bedford Metropolitan Park (Knight). The May 26 Spring Bird Walks reported specimens at Aurora Sanctuary and on the Towpath Trail (fide Wallin).

Short-billed Marsh Wren - Only report was of one singing near Durkee Road, Eaton Township, on May 31 (Johnson).

Gray Catbird - One appeared at a residence in Painesville on the early date of April 14 (Booth).

Swainson's Thrush - At North Chagrin an early arrival was singing softly about 11:00 a.m. on April 19 (Kitson).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - On a new earliest spring date for the species, one was seen at Shaker Lake, April 6 (Leach).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - One was banded in Waite Hill, May 16 (Flanigan). Another was at Lakeview Cemetery on May 19 (Hoffman). Normally, stragglers have departed by May 10.

Loggerhead Shrike - On April 22, one was identified in the parking lot at Highland View Hospital (Knight).

White-eyed Vireo - This rare species was reported in unprecedented numbers during the season. Earliest was at F. A. Seiberling Nature Center on April 29 (Szabo). The following day one was singing in French Creek Reservation (Johnson). The May 5 Spring Bird Walks tallied 1 at Mentor Marsh (Newhouse), 2 at South Chagrin (Bicknell), and 3 at Hinckley Reservation (vide Wallin). On May 11 one was feeding in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman). On May 14 a silent individual was feeding in Euclid Park (Corbin). A feeding bird was at Lower Shaker Lake, May 18 (Corbin, et al.). On May 19 one was around the Mastick Picnic Area (Klamm, Siebert).

Solitary Vireo - On the uncommonly early date of April 21 single specimens were reported from five separate locations: Upper Shaker Lake (Newman), Lower Shaker Lake (Knight), North Chagrin Reservation (Kitson, Scheibe), Mentor Marsh (Booth), and Akron Metropolitan Parks (Szabo).

Prothonotary Warbler During the major influx of passerines on April 28, one was sighted at Shaker Lakes (Vavrek). Only in 1969 has the species been reported earlier.

Worm-eating Warbler - Two specimens were reported of this southern warbler, always rare in the Cleveland Region. At Shaker Lakes one was pecking at shale on the creek bank by the Coventry Road bridge for 10 minutes or more about noon on April 25 (Elder). A second was seen at Holden Arboretum on April 28 (Bole).

Blue-winged Warbler - One at F. A. Seiberling Nature Center on April 18 was only one day later than the earliest date for the species (Szabo).

Brewster's Warbler - A specimen of this hybrid was netted and banded in Waite Hill, May 14; it was described as "the typical form--breast with yellow, back gray, and wing-bars yellow" (Flanigan).

Cape May Warbler - Four were at Highland Park Cemetery on April 26 (Knight). A single bird was in Rocky River Reservation, May 27 (Stasko). Earliest and latest recorded dates for the species are April 24, 1955, and May 28, 1960.

Cerulean Warbler - On April 24 one was observed at Shaker Lake (Leach). In previous years this species has twice been reported on April 22, the only earlier observations.

Yellow-throated Warbler - Reported in the region only 12 times (13 specimens) in the past 25 years, this southern and Mississippi valley warbler was identified three times this

spring. One specimen, identifiable as the Sycamore (Mississippi valley) race, was mist-netted and banded in Waite Hill on April 14, the earliest spring record for the species (Flanigan). On May 13 an unbanded bird was observed foraging on a bare limb in the same locality (Flanigan). The third one was watched for 25 minutes at Shaker Lakes, April 23, as it moved about between the boathouse and bridge, never more than about 12 feet off the ground. The observer had become well acquainted with the species in Indiana, southern Ohio, and Florida (Surman).

Prairie Warbler - Another rare migrant, this species was observed at four separate locations with evidently a minimum of five birds involved. Most of the reports were from Shaker Lakes, as follows: 1 on April 28, 1 on April 29, 2 on May 1, 2 on May 5, and 1 each on May 9, 12, 13, and 18 (Corbin, Peskin, Scheibe). These observations may have been all of only two individuals but quite likely included more, considering the time span. At Lakeview Cemetery a single bird (sex not indicated) was seen on April 20 and a male there on May 10 (Hoffman). A male was mist-netted and banded in Waite Hill, April 29 (Flanigan). A male was singing at a residence near Chardon on May 4 (Spare).

Kentucky Warbler - On May 14 a singing male was banded at University School, Hunting Valley, the same location where the bird has been seen the past two years. This specimen did not appear to be in good health when banded and was seen on only the one date (Rickard).

Western Meadowlark - One "sang intermittently all afternoon from a perch high on an elm tree" in North Chagrin Reservation, May 12 (Scheibe).

Orchard Oriole - Another uncommon species which was reported with unusual frequency, two pairs may possibly have been in residence. An adult male and female were observed on at least five dates between May 18 and May 31 near a residence on Tinker's Creek Road, Valley View; the male frequently fought with his reflection in a picture window (Knight). An immature male and a female were by Parkview Drive, Brecksville Metropolitan Park, on May 30 and 31 (Knight). A singing adult male was seen in Waite Hill on May 1, and an adult male was netted and banded there, May 20 (Flanigan).

Rusty Blackbird - A single bird was in Kuhlman Woods on May 11 (Hannikman). The following day 16 were counted in the Mastick Picnic Area of Rocky River Reservation (Klamm). All previous reports after May 9 have been of one or two birds.

Brewer's Blackbird - ~One was observed feeding with Common Grackles for "at least 10 minutes," March 6, in a backyard in Mayfield. Readily noted were differences between it

and the companion birds in length, tail, body configuration, and beak size. Ultimately, the contrasting iridescence of the head and back was also observed (Scheibe).

Summer Tanager - A female was seen at the east end of the Headlands State Park parking lot on May 18 (Pallister, fide Maurice Broun).

Blue Grosbeak - A male was observed at close range while it was feeding on the ground at a residence on Conley Road, southeast of Painesville, May 15 (Mrs. R. B. Freeborn, fide Booth).

Indigo Bunting - Several were seen well in advance of the normal arrival date. Earliest reports were on April 28; a male in Mentor Marsh (Hammond) and one in Bedford Reservation (R. E. Smiley, fide Wallin).

House Finch - A male bearing a plastic leg band visited a feeding station in Waite Hill on April 28 and 30 and May 5. Identification was made in part by the song and by the behavior of feeding on the ground (Flanigan).

White-winged Crossbill - Latest previous recorded date of occurrence in spring was April 30, 1972. This year specimens appeared at three locations during May, the last sighting on the 27th (Surman). A pair, the male "rather drab" in color, were rather regular visitors to a feeding station on Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, from May 14 to May 27 (Gary Nelson, fide Corbin, Surman). A lone female visited a feeding station some three miles away near Lake Lucerne on May 11, 13, 15, and 19 (Sheldon). Also on May 15 a male and two immatures were at a residence on SOM Center Road, Moreland Hills, where White-winged Crossbills had been present regularly in early April (Bicknell). A group that varied from five to eight birds were frequently seen from March 23 to April 16 at a residence in Chardon, where they fed on Scotch pine cones and occasionally on sunflower seeds (Spare).

Snow Bunting - A single bird was at Beach Cliff Park on March 3 (Stasko). A very late male in winter plumage was feeding with Song Sparrows in Kuhlman Woods, about a half-mile from White City, on April 3 (Hannikman).

FIELD NOTES

Birds in Downtown Cleveland. St. John's Cathedral and St. John's College together occupy an entire city block in downtown Cleveland between East 9th and East 12th Streets and Superior and Rockwell Avenues. Although much of the block consists of the large cathedral, the college, and administration buildings, the well-maintained borders contain plantings of shrubs and bushy hawthornes as well as scat-

tered trees, including some 40- to 50-foot honey locusts and sweetgum and one fairly large gingko. Between this city block and the Lake Erie shoreline about one-third mile distant, there is no such vegetation in which a bird could find food or shelter. To the south directly across Superior Avenue and literally overshadowing the St. John's complex are the 17-story Diamond Shamrock Building and the 21-story East Ohio Gas Company Building.

Thus St. John's is a green sanctuary which has become a stopping place for northbound travelers before they venture across Lake Erie or proceed along the lakeline. This spring the first migrant observed there was a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on April 16. Presumably it was the same male which remained through April 24, for it was always seen feeding or resting on any one of three sweetgum trees which stand in a row about 20 feet apart on busy Superior Avenue. On April 25 a male and a female Sapsucker were present, and on the quite late date of May 7 a female was drinking from wells in the sweetgums, whose trunks are scarred with countless square holes drilled by Sapsuckers over many years.

A Rufous-sided Towhee called from the cathedral grounds on April 23, and at about 8:10 on the misty morning of April 29 two Brown Thrashers shifted about among the clumps of shrubbery. White-throated Sparrows--sometimes singing--were observed from April 23 to May 17.

From May 16 to 23 the number and variety of visitors increased greatly. Among them were the Gray Catbird, Veery, and these warblers: Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart. At 8:20 a.m. on the 16th a lone Blue Jay, presumably strayed from an eastward-moving flock, was perched at the top of a 50-foot magnolia tree, the bird's raucous call sounding over the roar of traffic at the intersection of East 9th and Superior. When the Jay flew off, it headed east,

But the most surprising occurrence was a male Scarlet Tanager, found at 2:45 and again at 3:45 p.m. on May 21 perched in the broad crown of a near fully-leafed honey locust tree. The bird was resting, not feeding, and seemed totally heedless, or unaware, of the noisy stream of traffic just 40 feet away. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Estimate Made of Blackbird Roost Population. [ED. NOTE: A mention was made in the previous issue of the CALENDAR of a huge blackbird roost near Lorain. Following is a description of it as it looked in March. The location was at Root Road and Route 611, Sheffield Lake, just east of Lorain.]

I became activated to check this roost on March 19, at about the time of the news reports of the millions of black-

birds in Maryland. I checked daily at dawn and before dusk on the 20th, 21st, and 22nd to determine the best time and position for observation. I determined that the birds drifted in over a longer period in the evening, but in the morning just as the sky began to lighten, they arose in incredible numbers squawking, wheeling, dipping over the trees and thorn thicket before streaming away in clouds. The activity was not constant; rather, it was spasmodic, like giant puffs of an Indian smoke signal. Each group, after rising and circling a few times, would depart in some apparently predetermined direction.

West, over the city and parallel to the lake, numbers were relatively light; the same applied due east away from the city. (This cannot be determined with certainty by one person observing.) There seemed to be two large flyways: to the southwest, which would pass over the heart of the city, and southeast, which would not. Earliest activity on a clear day was around 7:10 a.m. or a little before. By about 7:40 little activity remained.

Although I agreed on a figure of 1.25 million total, I personally believe this is a low estimate. A breakdown by Owen Davies and Michael Stasko was as follows: Red-winged Blackbirds, 50 per cent; Common Grackles, 35 per cent; Brown-headed Cowbirds, 10 per cent; and Starlings, 5 per cent. - CLINTON E. WARD

Blue Jay Migration Strong. Lakefront movement of Blue Jays was strong on several dates in late April and May. At Lakewood Park and also at Perkins Beach on April 27, they moved eastward at a rate of 720 per hour most of the morning but then dropped to 130 per hour between noon and 1:00 p.m. and to a trickle thereafter. On April 28 the rate was 580 per hour until 11:00 a.m., 490 in the next hour, and irregular after that. On May 11 the flow was 700 per hour.

On May 12 Blue Jays were passing at 500 per hour prior to 2:10 p.m., when a storm intervened. The storm, which included hail, cleared at 2:35, and a single mass of approximately 700 birds moved through. - WILLIAM KLAMM

Mixed Flight Moves Along the Lake. Between 9:25 and 11:30 a.m. on May 20, I watched the sky over Lakewood Park on the Lake Erie shoreline for migrating birds. The day was clear but cool, with an easterly breeze on land and a fairly brisk--20 to 25 knots--east-northeast wind over the water, causing the lake to be choppy. During those two hours I tallied 418 Blue Jays, 99 American Goldfinches, 31 Chimney Swifts, 13 Tree Swallows, 7 Cedar Waxwings, 6 Barn Swallows, 2 Purple Martins, and 1 Eastern Kingbird. As is typical, all of the birds were moving east.

The bulk of the Jays--some 300--passed in the first hour in groups of a few to as many as 48. The total for the two hours was small, which was understandable because of the unfavorable headwinds. On other occasions when the wind was from the south or west quarter, the movement was much larger, with many flights passing over the water several hundred yards offshore. On May 20, however, all of the Jays and the other migrants, too, passed over land from about 100 to 400 feet back of the high bluff overlooking the lake. In all likelihood the unfavorable winds also accounted for the absence of migrating hawks.

Although the Tree and Barn Swallows sometimes passed by at the same time, synchronous movement was lacking among the various species, each of which kept to its own pace and flight pattern.

In addition to the American Goldfinches which were migrating along the lake in small bands of up to 15 birds, a group of at least 50 had gathered to feed on the fruiting dandelions growing in an extensive patch at one side of the park. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Warbling Vireo Displays Aggressiveness. A Philadelphia Vireo was captured in the mist-net on May 14, being found side-by-side in the net with a Warbling Vireo, allowing for detailed comparison. The Warbling Vireo was quite aggressive with the other bird and pecked at it often. Almost never in my experience in banding have I found two birds touching in the nets. I wonder if the Warbling Vireo pursued the Philadelphia into the net. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Twilight Search for Woodcock Pays Dividends. Anyone who is acquainted with descriptions of the American Woodcock in the guidebooks and other literature is also at least slightly aware of their peculiar courtship ritual. But birders who are accustomed to doing their field work on sunny Sunday mornings may wonder about the classification of this species as "common" in the Cleveland Region. Just how common is it?

Partly to answer that question for myself, I joined an evening Woodcock-hunting party at Holden Arboretum on April 23 under the leadership of Doug Yates, Arboretum naturalist. With his expert guidance to locate the "singing ground" and to identify the peent call, the group of about 20 had no difficulty in observing two males strutting and in hearing at least four more, despite a steady drizzle of rain. The courting ground was only a short walk east of Corning Lake.

Four nights later my wife and I found it a simple matter (now that we know the procedure) to locate five birds in the same general area as before without a guide. On May 14, I finished an evening of birding in Mentor Marsh by checking

the brushy fields on both sides of Becker Avenue just south of the marsh; listening for the telltale peent, I readily located two male woodcocks. Further visits to the Becker Avenue area on the evenings of May 18 and May 24 yielded similar results.

American Woodcocks may not be courting in every suitable brushy field in the entire Cleveland Region in the spring, but five successes in five tries certainly suggests that they aren't scarce. - WAYNE A. HAMMOND

Blue Jay Feeds on Dead Bird. Blue Jays built a nest this spring in a rhododendron bush near our front door and conveniently close to the platform sunflower feeders. Most of the time the Blue Jays haven't bothered us, but on one occasion one dived at me, just missing my head, and on another day one did strike the top of my wife's head. On May 24 a thrush, probably a Wood Thrush, killed itself on our picture window. I forgot to remove it, and it was gone the next morning. A bit later I found one of the Blue Jays eating the thrush under a hemlock tree about 50 feet from where the thrush was killed. - WALTER P. KREMM

AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.