



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  
Spring 1980

March - Lake Erie retained extensive ice cover with some open holes and fissures appearing periodically through the 16th after which date shore ice and offshore ice fields diminished quite rapidly. Temperatures averaged 33.6 degrees, 2.5 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.66 inches, 0.61 inches more than normal. Sunshine prevailed 33% of the time possible.

April - Precipitation was poorly distributed on 11 days. Except for rain on the 27th, all the rest came on the 16th and other preceding days. 2.65 inches of rain fell, 0.84 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 46.1 degrees, 2.2 degrees below normal. Sunshine increased to 43% of the time possible.

May - Temperatures averaged out to 53.5 degrees, 0.20 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation fell on 10 days, most coming on days in the period between the 5th and 18th and again on the 30th and 31st. Precipitation totaled 3.13 inches, 0.36 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 53% of the time possible.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Satisfaction guaranteed - Spring 1980 was just that. Trees full of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, warblers flitting about in good numbers, the surprise of startling a Whip-poor-will from its perch -- these and much more were part of the spring birding picture in the Cleveland region. Devotees of the rare and unusual certainly could not be disappointed by the Cleveland area's first Tufted Duck and Alder Flycatcher, as well as additional sightings of last winter's Heermann's Gull. So take your mind off of what or who is worrying you (at least temporarily) and read about the birds (you saw them), the birders (you were one of them), and the birding (what this publication is all about) of the first spring of the 1980's.

Waterfowl Waterfowl migration along the Cleveland lakefront and at the Akron Lakes was routine. As is typical for any spring small numbers of Common Loons, in scattered "flocks" of ones and twos, appeared both along the lakefront and at the larger Akron Lakes during April. The peak of April's Horned Grebe numbers was reached on the 13th when 34 birds were tallied along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm). Largest flocks of Whistling Swans were noted as follows: March 12 - 19 Lake Rockwell and 35 LaDue Reservoir (Elder); March 18 - 89 Sherwin Pond (Sherwin) and 78 LaDue Reservoir (Elder); 45 Chardon (Ross); March 22 - 50 Holden Arboretum (Faber). Decidedly late were four Whistling Swans over Mentor Headlands on April 19 (several observers).

Bay ducks peaked at Lorain Harbor as follows: March 1 - Redhead (175) and Greater Scaup (2,200), March 2 Common Goldeneye (1,250), March 9 - Canvasback (300), March 31 - Lesser Scaup (4,800). There were 3,000 Common Mergansers at Lorain on March 2 and 12,000 Red-breasted Mergansers on April 4. Both White-winged Scoter and Black Scoter were noted at Lorain during March and April with a very late Black Scoter present on May 3 (all Lorain Harbor waterfowl observations cited above were by Stasko and Pogacnik).

Hawks A nearly daily hawk watch in Lorain produced an incredible amount of data on spring hawk migration for that particular location. The table on the following page

SPECIES / DATE	3/10	3/15	3/16	3/27	4/2	4/4	4/5	4/11	4/13	4/24	4/26	5/5	5/10	5/13
Turkey Vulture				16	121	21	97	86	40	5	29	27	23	17
Sh.shin. Hawk			1		6			36	14	72	109	52	38	28
Cooper's Hawk		1		1	2			1			3			
Red-tailed Hawk	67	17	38	14	68	3	17	112	91	5	12	3	31	14
Red-shld, Hawk		9	29	5	1		2	4	1					
Broad-wngd Hawk					1					335	292	234	272	103
Rough-lgged Hawk	1			1	3			1						
Golden Eagle							1							
Marsh Hawk	4				10		1	9			1			
Osprey								1		1			3	
Peregrine Falcon				1										
Merlin	1				1									
Am. Kestrel	4	2	10	1	31	1	8	5	1	2		2	2	1

Grand Totals: 13 Species, Total Numbers: 3,048 (Not all dates of observation are recorded above)

reveals several interesting facts about the raptor migration at Lorain during the Season: (1) Quite curious was the duration of the Broad-winged Hawk migration for it lasted until mid-May. Spring Broad-winged Hawk numbers in the hundreds for early and mid-May are most unusual. (2) Red-tailed Hawks dominated early while Broad-winged Hawks became the predominant migrant raptor in late April and the first half of May. Analysis of past data on hawk migration reveals that this is the usual pattern of spring migration for these two species. (3) Encouraging were the observations of Peregrine Falcon, a species absent in 1979, Merlin, and Osprey. No Bald Eagles were recorded, quite in contrast to the three observed at Lorain during the spring of 1979.

Hawk flights in Cleveland paled when compared to Lorain's. Days of any significant movement were April 9, 19, 22, and 26. Species and numbers were as follows: April 9 21 Turkey Vultures, 39 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 26 Red-tailed Hawks at Rocky River (Klamm), April 19 - 24 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Mentor Marsh (Hannikman), April 22 - 16 Turkey Vultures, 107 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 257 Broad-winged Hawks in Lakewood (Klamm), and 125 Broad-winged Hawks in downtown Cleveland (Hannikman), and April 26 - 33 Broad-winged Hawks in Rocky River and 70 Broad-winged Hawks at Shaker Lakes (LePage). Unlike the Lorain hawk migration which was good from late March through mid-May, the Cleveland hawk flights were compacted into a two-week period, and even in this two-week period there were really only three days of significant movement.

Shorebirds Finding shorebirds in greater Cleveland in spring has always been difficult. Spring 1930 was no exception. Lake Abraham[Abram], a newly discovered area to observe shorebirds, attracted seven species during the season including three Short-billed Dowitchers on May 14 (LePage). Shorebird highlights from the Cleveland lakefront included 125 Lesser Yellowlegs on April 22 (Klamm), a vee of 60 migrating Short-billed Dowitchers past the East 156 Street Bluff on May 11 (Hannikman, Kellerman), and Black-bellied Plovers at Munny Light on May 11, a single bird (Hoffman), and five there on May 14 (LePage). No Ruddy Turnstones were reported anywhere in the region. Most significant observations from Lake Rockwell were 6 Semipalmated Plovers on May 10 (Elder), and 10 Lesser Yellowlegs and 20 Pectoral Sandpipers on April 28 (Rosche). From Lorain Common Snipe were still present at Carlisle Metropark at the close of May (Pogacnik).

Terns Common Terns showed well for a spring. Most impressive was the count of 500 at Muny Light on May 14 (LePage). Other notable tallies were 180 and 250 from the Cleveland lakefront on May 11 and 21 (Klamm) and 165 at Lorain on May 17 (Pogacnik). Black Terns made rare spring appearances with lone birds at Lake Abraham[Abram] on May 6 and at Muny Light on May 14 (LePage).

Carolina Wren A pair of Carolina Wrens was reported to be nesting at the Brooklyn Airport (Bacik). Other sightings of this species were in Kent, at Donald Gray Gardens, and at Rocky River. Any report of this species must be considered important as birders monitor the recovery of this species from several recent killer winters.

Vireos, Warblers Quite unusual was the fact that more White-eyed Vireos were observed during the spring than Philadelphia Vireos. Three pairs of White-eyed Vireos, including one pair at Hastings Road Metropark where this species bred in the summer of 1979, were present throughout May in Lorain. Several White-eyed Vireos were found at various locations in Rocky River Metropark in May and scattered individuals turned up at other locations. Philadelphia Vireos, not a common spring migrant here anytime, were only noted on four dates in May with single birds present on each date. Philadelphia Vireos are usually late May migrants and just may have overshot the area directly to their more northerly breeding grounds.

About the only complaint about the spring warbler migration was that it was virtually over by May 22. Few migrant warblers appeared before May 3 after which date the pace of migration quickened to peak between May 11 and 21. Particularly noteworthy were counts of Black-and-white Warbler within this 10-day period. Twenty-five noted between Kuhlman Woods and Wildwood Park on May 11 and there were four other days in this period when more than a dozen of these birds were seen. On May 21 a Prothonotary Warbler nest with three eggs in it was discovered along the Cuyahoga River (Faber), the first local nesting of this species in several years. Migrant Ovenbirds were in excellent numbers between May 11 and 18 but it remains to be seen how many will breed locally. Kentucky Warblers "invaded" the region with an amazing seven birds reported as follows: May 6 at Rocky River (Klamm), May 13 at Ridgehill Cemetery in Lorain (Pogacnik), May 17 in Hunting Valley (Bacik),



May 18 at Shaker Lakes (Besser), May 18 at Sims Park (Talkington fide Hannikman), May 23 in Chardon (Spare), and a single bird in late May at Chapin State Forest (Corbin fide Hannikman).

After May 22 very few migrant warblers, with the exception of the late May-migrating Mourning Warbler, were observed. Most unusual was the fact that only one Blackpoll Warbler, on May 28, was noted after May 22. In fact, only 10 Blackpoll Warblers were reported between May 18 and 22. Late May usually produces the majority of a spring's reports of this species, but perhaps, as was the case with Philadelphia Vireos, the Blackpoll Warblers that would have normally been passing through the region during the last third of May just bypassed the area for more northerly stopping spots.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - A bird in changing plumage was at the south end of Lake Rockwell on April 3 (Elder, Rosche).

Red-necked Grebe - On March 11 a winter plumaged individual appeared at Lorain (Pogacnik).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - A "finely plumaged" bird returned to Rocky River Metropark on May 18 and was noted on several dates thereafter (Klamm).

Tufted Duck - First record of this common old world species for Ohio occurred at Lorain Harbor when a solitary male was identified among the many Scaup ducks present on March 3 (LePage, Pogacnik). Field characteristics noted were the tuft streaming from the back of the bird's head, blackish appearing head, black chest and back, white sides, and blue-gray bill with a black tip. Most fortunate was the fact that the observer who initially identified the Tufted Duck was already familiar with the species. The bird was last seen on March 9.

Harlequin Duck - A female was found at Lorain Harbor on the unusually late date of May 2 (Pogacnik).

Goshawk - The bird that wintered in Lorain was last reported-on March 16 (Pogacnik).

Golden Eagle - An adult was part of the April 5 hawk flight at Lorain (Pogacnik). Golden Eagle was last recorded in the Cleveland region in July, 1965.

Peregrine Falcon - Two birds were noted: an adult seen flying past the lakeshore at Lorain on March 27 (Pogacnik), and an immature at Bass Lake in Chardon on May 5 (Faber).

Merlin - Three birds in one season were most unusual: an adult on March 10 and an immature on April 2 at Lorain (Pogacnik), and a bird at the Brooklyn Airport on April 4 (Bacik).

Black Rail - Frustratingly elusive to get good looks at, but nonetheless positively identified, a Black Rail was glimpsed three times at Lake Rockwell on April 4 (Rosche). This sighting is only the second occurrence of Black Rail in CBC records. The first was at Mentor Marsh, July 21, 1965. See the Field Notes section for the observer's own account of his encounter with Black Rail.

Purple Gallinule - Two were amazingly found in Lorain on April 13. One was a healthy bird, the other was found injured and picked up by police (Pogacnik).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One appeared at Lake Abraham [Abram] on May 14 (LePage). It is interesting to note that all reported sightings of this sandpiper in the 1970's were spring migrants (early May to mid-June) whereas the majority of reports from the 1960's were of fall birds (August to late September).

Wilson's Phalarope - One was observed at Muny Light on May 24 (Hoffman).

Iceland Gull - Two second-year birds were noted: on March 3 at Lorain Harbor (Pogacnik) and at East 9th Street on March 9 (Klamm).

Laughing Gull - (1) A single adult appeared at Lorain Harbor on April 14 (Pogacnik). (2) Two birds were at Muny Light on May 24 (LePage).

Heermann's Gull - This lost wanderer reappeared at Lorain Harbor between March 3 and 9 (LePage, Stasko).

Forster's Tern - Two birds at Lorain Harbor May 16 and 17 represented the first reported spring sightings for this species since 1941 (Pogacnik).

Caspian Tern - One observed at Gordon Park on April 2 established a new early spring date for this species. Circumstances of the observation were somewhat unusual as the observer saw the bird as he was riding home on the Number 39 Shoreway bus (Hannikman)!

Long-eared Owl - (1) Single birds were at the Brooklyn Airport on March 20 and April 9 (Bacik). (2) Two birds, with one bird seen, were calling back and forth to each other in a hemlock: ravine near Wisner Road in Chardon on the evening of May 6. One was again heard the following night and the roost was found. One pellet contained the remains of a crayfish (Faber). (3) One was at Carlisle Metropark in Lorain on March 30 (Pogacnik).

Chimney Swift - One was observed at Lorain on April 5, a new early spring date (Pogacnik). Previous early spring date had been April 6, 1946.

Alder Flycatcher - On May 25 a small Empidonax flycatcher singing the "fee-bee-o" song identical to the song on Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs" was noted in Munson Township. Song and habitat (wet clearing near a woods adjacent to a branch of the Chagrin River) led the observers to the conclusion that they were observing an Alder Flycatcher, a species that nests in more northerly boreal forests from Alaska across Canada.

This sighting becomes the first record of this species for the Cleveland region since the former Traill's Flycatcher was split into Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher. The observers also noted that a small, unidentified Empidonax flycatcher at this same location in June 1975 may have been an Alder Flycatcher and they suggested that the species may nest in this area (Hoffman).

Worm-eating Warbler - (1) One was heard at Hunting Valley on May 10 (Bacik). (2) Another was sighted at Sims Park on May 22 (LePage).

Lawrence's Warbler - One was located in the Rocky River Valley south of the Mastick picnic area on May 7 (Klamm).

Brewster's Warbler - (1) A bird with white wing bars was observed at Chapin State Forest on May 10 (Hannikman). (2) A single bird was noted near the Mastick picnic area in Rocky River Metropark on May 15 (Klamm). (3) A third individual occurred at Donald Gray Gardens on May 19 (Besser).

Black-throated Gray Warbler - On the morning of April 20 a male of this species was studied at a residence in Lorain for several minutes (Pogacnik). Characteristics noted were as follows: (1) Size - slightly smaller than a Yellow-rumped Warbler, (2) Head - solid black cap extending to the back of the neck, black cheek patch and throat, (3) Back - gray with black streaks, the streaks were not heavy, (4) Wings - gray with two white wing bars, (5) Belly - sides were streaked with black, otherwise the undersides were white, (6) Tail - white outer tail feathers with the remainder of the tail dark above and white below. (7) Song - a buzzing "zee-zee, zee-zee, zee-zee, zee-zee," rising in pitch at the end. This is the first record of this western warbler since April, 1967,

Yellow-throated Warbler - (1) Two were observed at Brecksville Metropark on May 8 (LePage). (2) In late May a nest of this species was discovered at Deep Lock Quarry in Akron (Rosche). This is the first nesting record of Yellow-throated Warbler in the 20th century.

Orchard Oriole - A male was at Shaker Lakes on May 4 (Corbin fide Hannikman).

Summer Tanager - An immature male, in unusual changing plumage, was present at Donald Gray Gardens on May 19 (Klamm, Besser). This particular bird had an all red tail with the rest of the body a dingy red-green without wing bars. The typical first year male Summer Tanager's body parts appear more blotchy with brighter colors.

Red Crossbill - A single bird was noted near Peninsula on May 3 (Rosche).

#### FIELD NOTES

NESTING HOUSE FINCHES Several pairs of House Finches which had come to our feeders during the winter continued feeding into the spring. On April 16 my husband and I first noticed that one of these pairs was constructing a nest on our front porch. Both birds were involved in the building of the nest, the outside of which was built of pieces of honeysuckle vine. The nest was just under the overhang of the porch and was attached to the honeysuckle vine. On April 12th we found the female sitting on the nest. On April 26 Dick and Jean Hoffman saw the nest and female on it. The male remained in the area but was never

seen on the nest. On May 9 we first heard the young in the nest. The morning of May 13 there was a wind storm which caused the nest to begin slipping down the vines. The nest was also tilted, and finally one of the young fell out. We kept it warm while we used twine to secure the nest again and then restored the baby bird to the nest which contained two other young. The female resumed feeding and the young fledged by May 22 when the nest was empty. This family and other pairs still remain in the neighborhood. Inspection of the nest by Jean and Dick revealed that the lining was probably upholstery and was thick and very insulated. - HELEN HOFFMAN

NESTING AMERICAN REDSTARTS - On May 19 we observed more than 20 American Redstarts in the yard. From May 26 to 29 one Redstart was heard singing - looked like a female but was probably a first year male. On May 30 we saw two Redstarts and one of them started to build a nest in the fork of a slender maple tree not far from the creek. When the nest platform was built the female brought fine material and then, sitting in the shallow cup, lowered herself over the edge. With a continuous bobbing motion she wove in the materials, pulling the materials up with her throat as the nest took shape. On May 31 the nest with edges evenly rounded was complete. A short twig with three maple leaves on it seems to have been deliberately woven in near the edge of the nest so that the leaves could act as a protective canopy. JACK AND DOROTHY MILLER

TO SEE A BLACK RAIL - The Black Rail was observed three times, each time very briefly. After the initial glimpse I heard a splash and saw the rail almost directly under me. The last time I saw the bird was when it darted across the same area where it was first seen.

Field characteristics were difficult to discern on such an elusive elfin. It was approximately 1/3 the size of a Virginia Rail and was all black with no noticeable light coloring. The legs did not appear as yellow as the field guides illustrate (I was later told that Black Rails do not have yellow legs). The bird was darker above than below. The bird was not "furry" as the young of all rails and gallinules are, so confusion with other species was not possible. LARRY ROSCHE

Correction (Winter 1979-1980)

The Red-necked Grebe reported for January 1 was seen in Chardon, not Kirtland Hills.

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

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

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The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 696-8186. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland area as well as other interesting observations should be called in to the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced with current sightings every Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, e. g., Sabine's Gull, Heermann's Gull, Varied Thrush, the tape should be called the day of the observation.