



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
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

Editor

Ray Hannikman

Editorial Assistants

Elinor Elder

Jean Hoffman

Ethel D. Surman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

CONTRIBUTORS

Emil R. Bacik
 Howard R. Besser
 Dave Corbin
 Ralph W. Dexter
 Elinor Elder
 Richard Frcho
 Ray Hannikman
 Neil Henderson
 Dick and Jean Hoffman
 Perry F. Johnson
 Tom Kellerman
 William and Nancy Klamm
 Charles H. Knight

Walter Kremm
 Christopher Lee
 Tom LePage
 Jack and Dorothy Miller
 Bill Osborne
 Perry K. Peskin
 John Pogacnik
 Larry Rosche
 Margaret Sherwin
 Gordon Spare
 Michael Stasko
 Bill Thompson

* * * * *

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to:

Ray Hannikman
 440 East 260th Street
 Euclid, OH 44132

THE WEATHER
Spring Migration
1 March - 31 May 1982

March - Snowfall totalled 17.6 inches and total precipitation was 3.77 inches, 0.72 inches above normal. Snow was particularly heavy on the 2nd (9.2 inches) and the 25th (4.2 inches). Lake Erie had extensive ice cover from the 1st to the 9th, a large fissure on the 10th, and from the 11th on had variable ice fields and diminishing shore ice through the 29th. Harbor and basin areas retained extensive ice until the 24th. Temperatures averaged out to 37.1 degrees, 1.0 degree above normal. Sunshine prevailed 48% of the time possible.

April - Lake Erie remained open and ice free all month but basins and some harbor areas acquired skim ice cover subject to partial decay through the 10th. Measurable precipitation occurred on 9 days with traces on another 8 days to total 1.62 inches, 1.87 inches below normal. Snowfall totalling 13.2 inches occurred on the 4th, 5th, and 6th. Temperatures averaged 44.6 degrees, 1.87 degrees below normal. Sunshine prevailed 67% of the time possible.

May - 9 days of precipitation totalled 2.65 inches, 0.84 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged out to 64.9 degrees or 6.6 degrees above normal except along the Lake Erie shoreline where lake effect reduced temperatures considerably. Sunshine prevailed 65% of the time possible.

Comment on the Season

Easy-going, non-harried, laid-back — all these characterized the spring migration in the Cleveland region. There were no really big wave days, there was really only one chase bird (Glossy Ibis), there were some exciting finds, and also some species that were either not reported or were actually absent from the region. Anticipation is always high for good spring birding, so when this anticipation is not entirely fulfilled with good birds, it takes a little extra effort to go out and beat the bushes, but the rewards of that extra effort may be the Cleveland area's first spring American Avocets.

Waterfowl An unusually intense snowstorm on April 6 downed significant numbers of Common Loons at LaDue Reservoir and Tinker's Creek. Counts at LaDue were as follows: April 9 (41), April 10 (53), April 11 (70+), April 12 (53), April 14 (23), and Tinker's Creek, 12 on April 10 and 11 (Elder). Shaker Lakes had 11 Common Loons on April 11 (Peskin). This fallout of Common Loons was confined to inland lakes as few birds were found on Lake Erie waters despite daily coverage. Also part of this April fallout were good counts of Horned Grebes. Maximum inland counts were 163 at Lake Rockwell on April 6 (Rosche), and 200 at LaDue Reservoir on April 11 (Elder, Hannikman). In contrast to the occurrence of Common Loons at inland sites almost exclusively during this period were counts of 177 Horned Grebes on April 9, 176 on April 12 (Klamm), and 200 on April 14 (Besser) along Lake Erie. Most loons were in fine nuptial plumage and this, in combination with courtship activities such as calling and aggressive behavior toward rival loons, made for a unique opportunity to study this fascinating species.

Among other interesting waterfowl reports were the following: 600 Ruddy Ducks and 4 White-winged Scoters at LaDue Reservoir on April 11, 1 Oldsquaw at Lorain on April 7, and 400 rather late Red-breasted Mergansers off Sims Park on May 1.

Hawks No major hawk flights developed during the season. Best days were April 16 when the following were tallied at Lakewood Park — 20 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 10 Red-tailed Hawks, the season's only Marsh Hawk, an Osprey, and 6 American Kestrels; and May 5, also at Lakewood Park, where 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks

and 21+ Broad-winged Hawks were encountered (Klamm). Red-shouldered Hawks were poorly noted and only one nest, in Kent, was located. Comments from contributors about this species' local abundance (or lack thereof) in both your own particular birding area or in the Cleveland area in general will be appreciated. One observer in downtown Cleveland noted Turkey Vultures and a kettle of about 15 unidentified hawks right over East 9th Street in April and another watch at the Chester Commons produced Turkey Vultures and about 8 unidentified raptors. These sightings occurred after 12:00 noon and were thought to be the aftermath of good hawk-watching days. Since even moderate hawk flights failed to develop, these downtown observations may just have been local gatherings of migrant hawks rather than any indicator of any large scale movement.

Shorebirds Finding shorebirds in the Cleveland area in spring is, to say the least, difficult. Some interesting reports were 18 Semipalmated Plovers at Lorain on May 11 (LePage), 13 Ruddy Turnstones along the Cleveland lakefront on May 20 (Klamm), and 49 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Kent on May 18 (Rosche). The count of Ruddy Turnstones is especially interesting since this species has been difficult to find in both the spring and fall during the last several years. On the negative side were reports of only 5 American Woodcocks and 4 Common Snipes.

Owls Only one Screech Owl, May 1 at Lake Rockwell, was noted, but indications are that this species is resident there. The same occurrence pattern holds true for the area's two other resident owls, Barred and Great Horned. These birds are undoubtedly present, even though there is a lack of sight records, but they are just escaping detection due to their nocturnal habits.

Flycatchers One everyday contributor labeled the flycatcher migration "poor" except for the Least Flycatcher and other reports proved him correct. Acadian and Willow Flycatcher numbers did not overwhelm birders and only three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, all in Rocky River on May 25, were noted (Klamm). At least two Alder Flycatchers had returned to the Streetsboro Bog by May 23 (Rosche). If accurate records had been kept of the flycatchers of this area and their songs, one could establish if Alder Flycatcher had been present for a long time or if it is just a recent emigre to the area. Nine

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported. This was quite in contrast to both the flycatcher occurrence of spring 1982 when most species were not numerous and to the occurrence of this species in the spring of 1981 when only a single Olive-sided Flycatcher was found.

Thrushes Two Mockingbirds were observed -- In Hudson on snowy April 6 (Henderson) and at Sims Park on May 9 (Hannikman). The freak April 6 snowstorm was responsible for somewhat unusual behavior from American Robins as the combination of six or more inches of snow plus no berries left from winter forced many Robins to feed literally on the road. This harsh weather appeared to have little effect on numbers of this species for summer populations were high. There were only eight reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush with six coming from Painesville. The Painesville birds began appearing May 14, somewhat earlier than this species usual late May arrival. It is hoped that the season's reports of only five Eastern Bluebirds reflected observers' preoccupation with other species and not an actual indication of this species' abundance locally.

Vireos, Warblers White-eyed Vireos continued their push into the Cleveland area with sightings at Sims Park, Rocky River, and a seemingly resident individual in Kent. As has been hinted at, warblers did not come through the area in one big push. If one had to pick "the" warbler day; it was May 16. Some highlights of the spring's warbler migration were 300 Yellow-rumped Warblers at Shaker Lakes on both May 2 and May 9, excellent counts of Palm Warblers during the first 10 days of May, and a huge influx of Tennessee Warblers between May 13 and May 17. On the negative side were just one record for Connecticut Warbler and Kentucky Warbler and the warbler list for Sims Park for May 9 -- a single Black-throated Blue Warbler!

Winter Finches Common Redpolls persisted well into April. Certainly fascinating was the report of more than 250 individual Common Redpolls banded in Lorain during the season (Pogacnik). A report like this makes one wonder about the actual abundance of this species during the spring as most reports were from feeders and were of less than 10 birds. Were these always the same birds at contributors' feeders or was there a continuous procession of Redpolls whose recorded numbers were constant but whose members constantly changed and/or were supplemented with newly arrived-on-the-scene Common Redpolls. Evening Gros-

beaks in numbers up to 24 frequented a Bath feeder until May 12 and up to 4 were observed in Chardon from May 4 to 6.

Addenda (Winter 1981-1982)

Lesser Black-backed Gull - The region's first first-year immature was identified at Lorain on January 18 (fide LePage). Among the other records for this species were probably two adults at Lorain during much of the period and an adult at East 72nd Street on January 16 (many observers).

Mew Gull - A single immature bird was noted at Lorain on January 16 and 17. Photographs were taken of this bird in the hopes that national gull experts could verify that the bird was, in fact, a Mew Gull. Four national experts were consulted and all agreed on the bird's identification as a Mew Gull but a racial identification could not be determined. The chief identifying marks on this bird were the very small and all dark bill and an all white rump. Further commentary on this bird will be presented in the Cleveland Bird Calendar as it may develop (Rosche, Hanikman).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - A single bird appeared at Avon Lake on March 10 (Pogacnik).

Eared Grebe - A nearly full-plumaged individual was contrasted with nearby Horned Grebes at the Gordon Impoundment on April 16 (Klamm).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Rocky River Metropark's pair arrived by May 8 and was seen throughout the rest of the season (Klamm).

Glossy Ibis - One was discovered May 16 in a field off Route 91 just south of Twinsburg (several observers). Positive identification as Glossy Ibis was made by those who saw this bird until May 21. This species was last recorded in spring in the area in 1973.

Harlequin Duck - One was noted at Avon Lake on March 8 (LePage).

Peregrine Falcon - An immature briefly appeared at Men-tor Marsh on May 2 (Hoffman).

Merlin - Three birds in a season were extraordinary: one on March 30 at the soon-to-be-gone Old Brooklyn Airport (Bacik) and two past Lakewood Park on April 16 (Klamm). The last single day, multiple sight record for Merlin in the Cleveland area was April 11, 1965, and by the same observers!

Willet - One remained at the Gordon Impoundment from May 16 to May 19 (Klamm).

White-rumped Sandpiper - At the impoundment at Lorain was a lone bird in summer plumage on May 12 (LePage).

American Avocet - Two birds at the Gordon Impoundment on April 26 constituted the initial spring record in CBC files. During the last 10 years this species has become an uncommon summer and fall visitant to the Cleveland area so a first spring sighting was not unexpected (LePage, Klamm).

Glaucous Gull - A very tardy wanderer, in nearly adult plumage, was observed at the Gordon Impoundment on May 15 (Klamm).

Laughing Gull - Again at the Gordon Impoundment a breeding plumage individual was conspicuous on May 17 (Klamm).

Forster's Tern - Continuing last spring's trend, three birds were encountered: April 4 at Walden in Aurora (Elder), April 18 at Sims Park (Hannikman), and April 26 at Lake Rockwell (Rosche).

Long-eared Owl - Records were from the Old Brooklyn Airport on March 26, 27, and 30 (Bacik) and Lake View Cemetery on March 14 (Hoffman).

Saw-whet Owl - Astonishingly, one was found in a small tree in front of a residence on East 174th Street on April 15 (Kellerman). During its two-day stopover the owl became a local celebrity as young and old observed the bird. On the evening of April 15 the bird was heard calling, a very rare occurrence in our area as this bird is normally silent during its migration here.

Worm-eating Warbler - One appeared on the May 9 Sunday Birdwalk at North Chagrin Metropark (Thompson).

Yellow-throated Warbler - Single birds were found at Sims Park on April 17 (Corbin), and Shaker Lakes on April 18 (Peskin, Besser).

Connecticut Warbler - The season's only individual was at Sims Park on May 15 (Kellerman).

Pine Grosbeak - A male graced a feeder in Akron on March 7 for 10 minutes (Osborne). This species last appeared in the Cleveland area in May, 1973.

Hoary Redpoll - The individual found at an Akron feeder February 11 continued to be seen until March 27 (Osborne).

White-winged Crossbill - (1) 8 birds were at Lakewood Park Cemetery on March 8 (LePage). (2) At least 3 males were reported from a residence in Rocky River (fide Stasko). (3) A female remained at a feeder in Painesville from March 26 to April 4 (Miller).

FIELD NOTES

Early April and Common Loons On April 9 I sighted my first loon of the season, probably not the first for the Cleveland area but certainly the first one on Walden's small lake. It was keeping company with 300+ Ring-necked and scaup ducks, a few Horned Grebes, Bufflehead, Ring-billed Gulls, and a Bonaparte's Gull. In the afternoon I checked LaDue Reservoir; there I counted a minimum of 41 loons, 20+ Horned Grebes, Canada Geese, Mallards, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, and a single Great Blue Heron.

The following day, April 10, was still windy and cold and I added Tinker's Creek State Park to my rounds. The very small lake there hosted 11 loons, some of them calling and displaying. Walden Lake's loon population had doubled to two; in the late afternoon I counted a minimum of 53 loons at LaDue, along with 40+ Horned Grebes, 2 Hooded Mergansers, and a general assortment of the usual waterfowl.

By Sunday, April 11, Walden's loon population had increased to four, Tinker's Creek had 12, and LaDue at least 70. Also there on that windy day was a huge raft of 600+ Ruddy Ducks in breeding plumage, 4 White-winged Scoters, and a Common Gallinule on nearby Bartholomew Road.

By Monday, though still cold, LaDue was much calmer and the count of loons was down to 53. There were 60 Horned Grebes, but only two Ruddy Ducks; the other 598 certainly did not stay long! At Tinker's Creek the 12 loons were still singing and calling as were the four at Walden.

By April 14 there were only 3 loons at Walden, 5 at Tinker's Creek, and 23 at LaDue. Thursday, the 15th, another loon had left Tinker's Creek and all had left Walden. Saturday, the 17th, LaDue had three loons; none was found at the other sites.

Because it is such a very small lake, I found the dozen loons at Tinker's Creek the most interesting. They sang and called frequently and swam around and around - quite at ease. Besides me, four Ring-necked Ducks and two Ruddy Ducks were their only companions. -- ELINOR ELDER

Nesting Hummingbirds On May 16, while trying to identify some warblers high in the tree tops, I sighted a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird starting to build her nest on the saddle of a small forked branch in a Maple tree about 50 feet over the creek. As she built up the sides, she tied the nest to the branch, bringing cobwebs under the branch and then weaving them to the sides. Lichens were put around the outside. She spent part of every day building (occasionally sitting in the nest for fit) until May 22 when she sat on the nest a good part of the day. We think that both eggs were inside the nest by May 24 because she sat higher than before. We can see her tail and bill sticking up. She has been on the nest most of every day since. -- DOROTHY MILLER

* * * * *

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, OH 44106.

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