

The Cleveland

BIRD

June, July, August 1990

Volume 86 Number 3

CALENDAR



Published by
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
And The Kirtland Bird Club

The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor population densities of resident birds, and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region.

The Cleveland region includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Kirtland Bird Club. A generous contribution from the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society aided in the purchase of editorial hardware.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

15 March - winter season

15 June - spring season

15 September - summer season

15 December - autumn season

Cover design by Thomas Kellerman, 1991.

June, July, August 1990
Volume 86 Number 4

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Editor:

Larry Rosche

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman

Editorial Assistants:

William and Jackie Haley - Proofreading
William A. Klamm - Weather Summary
Judy Tisdale - Tally Assistant

Contributors:

Emil Bacik
Vic Fazio
Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad
Andrew Fondrk
Mary Gustafson
Robert Harlan
Dick and Jean Hoffman
Craig Holt
Larry Kittle
Ivor Kiwi
William and Nancy Klamm
Charles Knight
Len Kopka
Norma Kraps
Thomas LePage
Bruce Peterjohn
Ed and Cheryl Pierce
Richard Rickard
Drew Rolik
Ed Schlabach
Woody Stover
Carol Tveekrem
John Vanderpoel
Harvey Webster
Jeff Wert
Clyde Wilt

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THE WEATHER

Summer 1990

by William Klamm

June - Temperatures averaged 67.6° which was normal. The extremes reached a high of 90° on the 17th and a low of 38° on the 5th. Lake Erie temperature stood at 57° on the 1st and rose to 66° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 46% of the time possible. Precipitation came on 10 days to total 1.72 inches, 1.77 below normal.

July - Rain was distributed on 14 days to total 5.62 inches, 2.25 above normal. Temperatures averaged 71.2°, 0.4° below normal. The high was 98° on the 4th and the low was 49° on the 7th. Lake Erie temperature rose to 71° on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 51% of the time possible.

August - Temperatures averaged 69.8°, 0.6° cooler than normal. The high temperature was 91° on the 28th and the low was 51° on the 1st. Lake Erie temperatures rose slowly from 71° to 73° on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 48% of the time possible.

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: On 30 August 1960 four adult Northern Gannets were observed over Lorain (LeBold). Blue-winged Teals nested at the Route 532 Marsh in Cuyahoga Falls (Staiger). The first summer records since 1945 of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were Burke Lakefront Airport in August (Carrothers). A Long-eared Owl

was frequently heard in Gates Mills (Tramer). Four Whip-poor-wills were regularly heard near Sand Run Metropark in Akron (DeSante). The first undisputed nesting of Western Meadowlark in the region was confirmed at Burke Lakefront Airport on 3 July (Klamm). Black Terns nested successfully for the third year in a row next to Burke Airport (Klamm). A Lark Sparrow in full song was observed there on 28 August (Klamm).

Twenty Years Ago: In 1970 the first June record of Little Blue Heron was in Waite Hill on the 17th (Flanigan). An immature Bald Eagle was seen soaring over Kirtland Hills on 2 Aug. (Booth). Common Moorhens nested near LaDue Reservoir (English). A Mourning Warbler was at Forest Hill Park on 7 June (Corbin). Red Crossbills were suggestive of nesting at Rocky River Reservation (Stasko).

Ten Years Ago: In 1980 the first June record of a Ring-necked Duck was at White City on 15 June (Hannikman, Kellerman). Eight American Avocets provided another regional June "first" on the 29th at Munny Light (LePage). Barn Owls nested in Parma (Colvin, McLean). An estimated 200 Common Nighthawks were watched as they migrated up the Rocky River Valley (Combs). Two Northern Parulas were in Stebbins Gulch on 27 June (Peterjohn). The first documented regional nesting of Kentucky Warblers was at the Seiberling Naturealm (Stover).

Comment on the season

by Larry Rosche

The summer season is the time I like to explore new areas. This summer afforded me the opportunity to float the Cuyahoga River from Burton to Lake Rockwell. This was done as part of an Ohio Scenic River Bird Survey. The birds encountered were fairly impressive. It is nice to know that Prothonotary Warblers are locally plentiful. I found that Northern Waterthrushes are still maintaining their meager existence as a local breeder. In total, I encountered 83 species in my survey. These totals could have been higher because my efforts were severely hampered by inclement weather (not to mention the ever industrious beaver). Elsewhere, my forays into Boston Ledges yielded some interesting species while at the same time indicating that the birds of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA) were managing as well as in recent summers. Harlan, and Pierce once again ventured into Stebbins Gulch and Little Mountain. Their studies provide much information on our relic populations of breeding birds. Bruce Peterjohn's trips down the Grand River yielded more interesting data. Although he, too, encountered dreadful weather and floating conditions,

Observers found 197 species for the season, including twenty-four species of warblers in June and July. This ought to make those observers who enjoy this family so much want to remain in the field after May. Those who chose not to monitor breeding species and wait for returning shorebirds were sorely disappointed. Habitat for waders returning from the tundra of Canada was in short supply in the region. Still, the Gordon Park Impoundment did produce numbers of common shorebird species in early July. Baldwin Lake was disappointing in that the apparent availability of suitable habitat is there but shorebirds are not attracted to it in any numbers. The only August movement was noted on the 19th by an assiduous band of birders who regularly frequent Headlands Beach State Park on the weekends.

As always, I thank those people who diligently take time to report their field data. Some contributors have turned in reports for many years and their work does not go unnoticed. I especially want to recognize Charles Knight for his coverage of Bedford Metropark and the Warrensville Farms over the years. His reports now span seven decades. Good birding.

SUMMER 1990

The only reported summering Pied-billed Grebes were from Barberton (Kopka, Rosche). An early migrant was detected at Headlands Beach State Park (hereafter Headlands BSP). Small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were seen daily along Lake Erie and at Lake Rockwell. Fondrk saw one at LaDue Reservoir on 12 June. A late Great Egret was at Gordon Park on 16 June (Hannikman). A bird was noted at Frame Bog on 5 July (Garnet Byrne). Increased observer attention to Green-backed Herons found that they were fairly numerous in northern Summit County in June. Thirty were tallied in Boston Township, Stow, and Cuyahoga Falls in June (Rosche). Eleven were

found on the Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey (CABBS). They were especially common at the Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve (Holt, Tisdale). Norma Kraps echoed that they were more evident in Lorain and Medina Counties. Black-crowned Night-Herons were thought to have nested near Scenic Park along the Rocky River (Klamm). He counted at least 8 different individuals of various ages.

Once again, a hen Green-winged Teal was seen through the summer at the Barberton Holding Basin (hereafter Barberton). Four were at Baldwin Lake in late August (Harlan, Klamm). One to two American Black Ducks summered at Lake Isaac. Blue-winged Teal possibly nested at Tinkers Creek SNP (Holt). Migrants were moving southward

by early August. Summering oddities included a male American Wigeon at Lake Rockwell, a male Ring-necked Duck in Barberton, and a Lesser Scaup at Mogadore Reservoir. Two Hooded Mergansers were encountered in the Grand River in Lake County on 16 June (Peterjohn). Three were in the CVNRA on 26 June (Kiwi). A flock of up to 21 Red-breasted Mergansers was seen near the breakwall at Gordon Park in June. Six Ruddy Ducks spent most of the summer in Barberton. A single was at Holden Arboretum on 30 June (Rickard).

Forty-five Turkey Vultures at Wellington Reservoir on 11 Aug. was an excellent total (Kraps). Lake Rockwell's first fall Osprey was on time 7 Aug. (Holt). One appeared at Lake Isaac on 22

Aug. (Harlan). An early Northern Harrier was at Headlands BSP on 18 Aug. (mobs.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Shaker Lakes on 3 July (Kiwi). Naturalist /photographer Gary Meszaros reported this species nesting at Triangle Lake Bog in Portage County.

Red-shouldered Hawks were the most common raptors noted along the Upper Cuyahoga River. One was in the CVNRA on 23 June (Tisdale). Another was in Nelson Township 3 Aug. (Kittle). Two at Lake Isaac were good for the location on 7 Aug. (Harlan). An adult bird was seen at Jaycox and Chester on 8 Aug. (Klamm). Rickard saw one at Shaker Lakes on 26 Aug. Kraps reported two from Spencer Lake in August. Broad-winged Hawks were successful in Bath. Two incessantly begging fledglings were somewhat of a nuisance at Ed Gleim's residence as they perched on his television antenna in early August. A migrant was at Lake Isaac on 22 Aug. Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were widely reported in July and August. Bill Klamm noted that even though his west side "hawk route" is being urbanized at a furious pace, these two species are still in evidence at selected locations.

Ring-necked Pheasants were reported only from Barberton (Wert) and Medina County (Kraps). The Medina total of 11 on 28 June was the highest count reported to this desk in several years. A Wild Turkey was seen along the Cuyahoga River north of Hiram Rapids on 24 June, Three Northern Bobwhites were at West Branch SP on 9 June. Another bobwhite was out of place as it strolled through the

backyards along E. 260th St. in Euclid on 20 July (Hannikman). A Virginia Rail was at Punderson Lake on 1 June and another was in Geauga County on 12 June (Fondrk). Common Moorhens raised 21 chicks at the Route 532 Marsh in Cuyahoga Falls (Kopka, Rosche). Adults were also noted at Barberton and Mogadore.

Shorebirds were found in fair numbers at the Gordon Park Impoundment (hereafter Gordon) in early July. As soon as the dredging operation ceased the landfill quickly dried out and the waders became scarce. On the rainy Sunday of 19 August many shorebirds passed overhead and along the shore at Headlands Beach SP. They traveled east to west just as they had on a similar day in May.

The first Black-bellied Plover reported was in Lorain on 31 July (Klamm). Five Lesser Golden-Plovers were flying with Whimbrels at Headlands BSP on 19 Aug. (m.obs.). Semipalmated Plovers were fairly widespread in small numbers. Yellowlegs totals were unimpressive. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen on the record late date of 5 June at Gordon (Hannikman). Returning migrants were early at Walborn Reservoir on 4 July (Holt) and in Berea on 7 July (Klamm). A Willet was an early morning fly-by at Gordon on 28 July (Schlabach).

Two were at Headlands BSP on 5 Aug (Fjeldstad, mobs.). The first Whimbrel was detected at Headlands BSP on 14 July (Hannikman, Rosche). Two were at Gordon later the same day (Hannikman, Holt). An excellent tally of 44 passed over the same location on 19 Aug. (m.obs.). Another was there on 30 Aug. (Hahn, Kiwi). Three Ruddy Turnstones were in Lorain on 11 Aug. (Klamm). A high count of 15 was at Headlands BSP on 19 Aug. Three Red Knots were also there on 19 Aug. (Bacik, Fjeldstad, Hannikman, Rosche). Sanderlings were relatively abundant at Headlands BSP from mid-July. LePage and Klamm encountered them at Edgewater and Wildwood Lakefront State Parks. Peeps were in low numbers at both Gordon and Baldwin Lake. The earliest Least Sandpipers were at Gordon on 4 July (Holt). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were at Gordon on 3 June. The only Baird's Sandpiper was with 20 Pectorals in the Portage County section of Walborn Reservoir on 29 Aug. (Rosche). The early Pectoral Sandpiper was on 7 July at Gordon (Hannikman). The high tally there was 18 on 21 July. The first Stilt Sandpipers, still in breeding plumage, were at Gordon on 10 July (LePage). Two were at Baldwin Lake on 18 July (Klamm). Short-billed Dowitchers were common at Gordon in July. A high of 112 was there on 23 July (Klamm). Six were at Baldwin Lake on 4 July (Harlan). A bird was in Rootstown on 11 July (Holt). An American Woodcock was a regular at Headlands BSP in June and July (Hannikman). One was at Lake Isaac on 25 June (Harlan). A

***Broad-winged
Hawks were
successful in
Bath.***

Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Gordon on 25 July (LePage) and 5 Aug. (Holt, Bacik).

A large buildup of Bonaparte's Gulls was noted at Headlands BSP. Up to 4000 were there on 19 Aug. A sizeable influx of Ring-billed Gulls was indicated by the 3 100 counted in Cleveland on 19 Aug. (Klamm). Six Great Black-backed Gulls was an unusual total at Headlands BSP on 8 July. All were immature, with the oldest being a bird in third summer plumage. Five were in Lorain on 23 Aug.

Caspian Terns were observed in reduced numbers along Lake Erie. This was especially evident in Lorain, where a high tally was a paltry 14 on 14 Aug. Two birds at Baldwin Lake and two at Shaker Lakes provided the only inland reports. Common Terns were abundant in Lorain and at Headlands BSP in August. At the beginning of August at Headlands BSP, both Common and Forster's Terns were in the same small numbers. As the month wore on, a remarkable buildup of Commons was staged. A total of 500 was estimated on 25 Aug. Klamm counted 120 in Lorain on 27 Aug. A first-summer plumaged Forster's Tern was unique at Headlands BSP on 8 July (Hannikman, Rosche). Unique because individuals of this age reportedly do not leave their wintering grounds. Up to 18 Forster's Terns were reported from Lorain in July. Another 16 were in Rocky River. Two Black Terns seemed out of place at West Branch SP on 17 July (Wert). Small numbers were appearing along Lake Erie by mid-August.



Laughing Gull, 1 July 1990 Headlands Beach SP
by Larry Rosche

A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Brecksville Reservation on 9 June (Harlan). Watershed Superintendent Ed Maynard reported one at Lake Rockwell 9 July. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Lake Isaac (Harlan) and Bath (Kopka) on 18 June. Two were in Stow on 19 June. One at Gordon on 15 July was unusual (Hannikman). Common Nighthawks were late in their southward movement. Flocks of note were: 120 in Peninsula on 25 Aug. (Kiwi), 40 at Bedford Metropark on 26 Aug. (Knight) and 300 in Akron on 30 Aug. (Wert). A Whip-poor-will was reported at its usual location in the CVNRA in June (George Cull). One was in Barberton on 5 July (Pierce, Rosche). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were moving on time in late August. Belted Kingfishers were surprisingly scarce along the Grand and Cuyahoga Rivers (Peterjohn, Rosche).

Red-headed Woodpeckers nested successfully at several lakefront locations. They were thought to be more numerous in southern Lorain County (Krapf). One flying over the barren campus of Stow High School on 22 June was conspicuously out of place (Rosche). Witt saw one at Lake Medina on 1 June. Hairy Woodpeckers were met with the same frequency as Alder Flycatchers on the CABBS. This does not speak very well for the woodpecker. Pileated Woodpeckers were common near Mantua along the Cuyahoga River. Holt saw 3 at Hinckley Metropark and 2 at West Branch SP.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was tardy at Sims Park on 2 June (Hannikman). This species was at Tinkers Creek SNP on 25 Aug. (Holt). Eastern Wood Pewees were clearly our most numerous flycatchers. Three

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers lingered at Headlands BSP on 3 June (m.obs). The earliest fall Yellow-bellied was at Shaker Lakes on 28 Aug. (Kiwi). Any Acadian Flycatcher along Lake Erie is worthy of mention, and one was singing emphatically at Headlands BSP on 2 June (Hannikman). Kiwi saw one there on 24 Aug. Alder Flycatchers continue their uncommon existence. Two territorial birds in Boston Heights for the second straight year indicated a small Summit County breeding population. A bird at Hinckley Reservation on 10 June was possibly the first report for the location (Harlan). A migrant was at Headlands BSP on 3 June (Hannikman). Willow Flycatchers were very common in most of the region. Three Least Flycatchers were reported on the CABBS. Others were in Akron. Headlands BSP. Spencer Lake, and along the Grand River. Eastern Phoebes were plentiful along the Upper Cuyahoga River. Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds were numerous in their preferred habitats. Thirty kingbirds at Lake Isaac on 22 Aug. indicated a southward movement (Harlan).

Very few Purple Martins were noted moving in August. Their nesting success was not thought to have been good. Northern Rough-winged Swallows had another poor summer in Lorain County (Kraps). Bank Swallows were in high numbers near the many sand and gravel operations in Portage county. The Klamms saw 110 on 5 June in Cuyahoga County. Young Cliff Swallows were at West Branch SP on 8 July.

Three Brown Creepers were along the Upper Cuyahoga...

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found only in Lake County on 7 June (Fondrk). Migrants were in the CVNRA on 11 Aug. (Tisdale). They were also noted at Shaker Lakes (Rickard) and at Lake Isaac on 29 Aug. (Harlan). Three Brown Creepers were along the Upper Cuyahoga River on 24 July (Rosche, Stover, Wert). One at Lake Medina on 23 June was a good find (Witt). Carolina Wrens have returned to a fairly common status. A bird at Punderson Lake on 1 June was from a previously unreported area. House Wrens were common to abundant. Marsh Wrens were locally numerous. One was observed at Gordon on 16 July. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in good supply along the Cuyahoga River. Peterjohn noted an impressive 17-24 each day of his Grand River float trip. Kopka felt they were increasing in Summit County as well.

Eastern Bluebirds are now common in all counties, including parts of Cuyahoga. Veeries summered well in their traditional haunts. The study along the Grand River produced none. This was indicative of this species preference for the habitat associated with the

Upper Cuyahoga. A Veery at Spencer Wildlife Area on 28 June represented a good record for Medina County (Kraps). Swainson's Thrushes were very early at Lake Isaac on 7 Aug. (Harlan) and at Bedford Metropark on 10 Aug. (Knight). A count of 10 in the Rocky River Valley on 29 Aug. marked a strong movement at the end of the period. An early Hermit Thrush was at Headlands BSP on 26 Aug. (Kiwi). Wood Thrushes were conspicuous along the Upper Cuyahoga and the Grand Rivers. Northern Mockingbirds were again successful at Gordon Park. Another was seen at Shaker Lakes on 11 Aug. (Rickard). A Brown Thrasher was at the Old Strongsville Airport on 22 June (Harlan). European Starlings were first reported in the Cleveland area in 1920. It is apparent that, 70 years later, they are the most numerous species in the area.

White-eyed Vireos were reported from Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties. Solitary Vireos were noted at traditional breeding areas like Holden Arboretum, Little Mountain, Stebbins Gulch, and Virginia Kendall Ledges. Yellow-throated Vireos were fairly common along the Upper Cuyahoga but poorly distributed elsewhere. Kopka felt that Warbling Vireos were greatly reduced in abundance in Summit County. Numbers in the Rocky River were average (Klamm). A Philadelphia Vireo was reported from Headlands BSP on 25 and 30 Aug. (Kiwi).

Warblers were represented by

30 species. Some were noteworthy because of their June tardiness, some because of their rare nesting status, and others because of their early fall arrivals. Fall migrants were becoming numerous at the periods end.

Nine Tennessee Warblers were tallied at Headlands BSP on 30 Aug. (Hahn, Kiwi). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in a previously unreported nesting location in Lake County on 7 June (Fondrk). A bird was at Lake Isaac on 4 June (Harlan). Two were located along the Grand River on 16-17 June (Peterjohn). Two at Headlands BSP on 5 Aug. were early (Fjeldstad, LePage). A Magnolia Warbler was in proper nesting habitat on 7 June in Lake County. Another was at Stebbins Gulch and two were at Little Mountain on 10 July (Harlan, Heflich, Pierce). Up to 8 Cape May Warblers had reached Headlands BSP by the end of August. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was late at Headlands BSP 2 June. Black-throated Green Warblers were as expected in Geauga and Lake Counties. A southward bound Blackburnian Warbler arrived at Holden Arboretum by 9 Aug. (Rickard). Three were in Bedford Metropark on 10 Aug. (Knight). Only two Pine Warblers were on territory at Lake Rockwell. Prairie Warblers have become extremely rare and probably no longer nest in the region. Kopka and Holt found only one at the usual location in Peninsula. This bird was not reported after 16 June. The first Bay-breasted Warbler returnee was at Shaker Lakes 28 Aug. (Kiwi, Rickard).

Cerulean Warblers were very common along the Grand River and West Branch SP. Kraps found them easily in Lorain County as well. Black-and-white Warblers were possibly nesting in the region. Birds in the CVNRA on 15 June (Kopka), at Hell Hollow on 26 June (Kiwi, Rosche), and at Bedford Metropark on 21 July (Knight) were in suitable habitat. No nest or females were seen. It seems just a matter of time until an ardent field observer finds a nesting pair. A male at Headlands BSP on 15 July was an early returnee (Hannikman, Kiwi). American Redstarts were thought to have rivaled Hooded Warblers as our most common woodland warbler. The first migrant was at Lake Isaac on 7 Aug. (Harlan). Prothonotary Warblers were locally common along the Cuyahoga River above Lake Rockwell. A bird at Headlands on 3 June was a welcome sight to many on the First Sunday Census. Three pairs in the CVNRA on 26 June. were expected (Kiwi). Three Ovenbirds were in Lake County on 7 June (Fondrk). Four summered at Bedford Metropark (Knight). Two Northern Waterthrushes were found along the Upper Cuyahoga River (Rosche). This is the only watershed in the region where this species is reported in the summer. Louisiana Waterthrushes were thought to have been more successful than last year. A report from Rocky River was welcomed news. Ten were in Stebbins Gulch on 10 July. Kentucky Warblers were reported from Brecksville (Harold and Lois Wallin), Stebbins Gulch (feeding young) (Harlan,

Pierce), and Hinckley (Harlan, Kiwi). A late **Mourning Warbler** was at Headlands BSP through 3 June. LePage reported three or four at Gordon Park in late August. A single was in Bratenahl (Hoffman). Wilson's Warblers were as expected in late August. A Canada Warbler was indicative of the many species that lingered at Headlands 3 June. Only one was found on the Stebbins Gulch survey. Yellow-breasted Chats were at West Branch SP on 9 June and Brecksville Reservation 17 June.

Indigo Buntings were abundant and still singing into mid-August. Fifty were noted on a study at Holden Arboretum (Hahn, Kiwi). Rufous-sided Towhees were very common throughout the region. Field Sparrows are not a well reported species but, apparently, they were in reduced numbers. Contrary to this, Vesper Sparrows were expanding in Portage County. Kittle added Freedom Township to the known nesting sites. They were as expected in Lorain County (Kraps). Grasshopper Sparrows were only reported from Strongsville (Harlan, mobs.) and Holden Arboretum (Hahn, Kiwi). A family of Dark-eyed Juncos was located in Hell Hollow 25 June (Gustafson, Peterjohn). They were in their usual summer numbers at Stebbins Gulch and Little Mountain.

Bobolinks were fairly common throughout the region in June. Forty-two southbound migrants passed over the Kent State Golf Course on the evening of 30 Aug. While Eastern Meadowlarks are not faring well in

Portage and Lorain Counties, numbers in rural Lake County were fairly good (Fondrk).

Orchard Orioles were noted in the usual Portage and Summit County locations. Reports from Lake Medina on 1 June (Witt), Hinckley on 10 June (Harlan), along the Grand River on 16 June, and Hiram Rapids on 24 June were from new locations. Northern Orioles were common throughout the region. A male **Purple Finch** at Brecksville Reservation on 2 July was good for the location. Hahn and Kiwi located only 8 in their field study at Holden Arboretum. Young were noted in Twin Lakes on 26 July (Rosche).



Franklin's Gull, 16 June 1990 Headlands Beach State Park
by Mary Gustafson

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Brown Pelican - Two birds were described to Harvey Webster by an observer familiar with this species. They were seen flying west behind Euclid-Meridia Hospital on 16 Aug. (Gary Girard). This marks the second report this year. A Brown Pelican was also seen in Indiana along Lake Michigan in June.

Least Bittern - Hannikman flushed one at Gordon on 16 June. Barberton hosted one on 16 Aug. (Holt).

Little Blue Heron - An immature flew over Headlands Beach SP on 19 Aug. (Hannikman, mobs.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - Tom LePage found an immature at E. 55th St. on 28 July.

Bald Eagle - Craig Holt saw an immature at Lake Rockwell on 16

June. Ray Hannikman and his sister Janet, observed two immatures as they drifted over his home in Euclid on 8 July.

Peregrine Falcon - Drew Rolik reported that the pair at the Terminal Tower was seen only three times this summer. Len Kopka reported a bird at Gordon Park on 9 July. Anders Fjeldstad enjoyed close viewing of an immature harassing gulls in Lorain on 19 Aug.

American Avocet - A bird was at Gordon Park on 7 July (Hannikman, Kiwi). Four were there on 17 July (Klamm).

Upland Sandpiper - The Hoffmans heard two birds overhead at Edgewater Lakefront Park on 4 Aug. They drove to Burke Lakefront Airport and found six feeding along the runways. Three were there on 19 Aug. (LePage).

Laughing Gull - An adult was at Headlands BSP on 1 July (Hannikman, Rosche). Another was there on 26 Aug. (Hannikman, Kiwi). A first winter bird was in Lorain on 30 July (Klamm).

Franklin's Gull - A first summer plumaged bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 16, 17 June (Gustafson, Hannikman). A juvenile was there on 12-31 Aug. (Hannikman, m.obs.). A first winter plumaged bird was in Lorain on 22 Aug. (Klamm).

Little Gull - A bird was observed at Headlands Beach SP on 17 July though the period (LePage, m.obs.).

Royal Tern - A winter plumaged bird was studied through a scope for 15-20 minutes at Lake Rockwell on 17 June (Rosche). While this species does arrive in New England at this time, it is unprecedented in Ohio. Details will be published

if this hypothetical record is accepted by the Ohio Rarities Committee.

Winter Wren - Two were at Boston Ledges on 15-20 June (Cull, Rosche). Two were in Stebbins Gulch on 10 July (Harlan, Pierce).

Tennessee Warbler - A male was observed in Boston Heights on 17-22 June (Rosche).

Yellow-throated Warbler - The Brecksville Reservation bird was cooperative in June-July (Harlan, m.obs.). The first summer record for Lake County was a male in Painesville on 16 June (Peterjohn).

Mourning Warbler - A male summered at Lake Rockwell for the third straight year (Rosche).

White-throated Sparrow - One was found 24 June and lingered at Headlands Beach SP until 14 July (Gustafson, Hannikman, Peterjohn).

Western Meadowlark - The bird found in Streetsboro during the spring remained through 1 July (Holt, Rosche). This was the first territorial bird in the region since 1971.

Pine Siskin - A bird was noted flying over the Grand River in Lake County on 16 June (Peterjohn),

Addendum: Please add **American Avocet** to the Volume 85 Number 3. A bird was in Lorain on 5 Aug. 1989 (Schlabach), The 281 species reported in 1988-89 tied the record for the most species in a single year.

FIELD NOTES

The Cleveland area breeding bird survey 1990

by Robert Harlan

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey (CABBS) is a cooperative effort conducted by members of the Kirtland Bird Club to gather data concerning the breeding birds of northeastern Ohio. As described in The Cleveland Bird Calendar Vol. 85 No. 3, and the Ohio Cardinal Vol. 12 No. 4, the CABBS is patterned after the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services Breeding Bird Survey. The only major difference between the two is that CABBS routes are 12.5 miles long (25 stops), while the federal routes are 25 miles long (50 stops).

Data for the second summer of the Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey were collected during June 1990. As in 1989, a total of twelve surveys were run in the seven county Cleveland region. A total of 7217 individual birds was recorded in 1990, an average of 601.4 per route. An average of 643.1 ind./route was encountered in 1989. The number of species rose slightly in 1990, 103 as compared to 100 in 1989.

Interestingly, 8 species (Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Purple Martin, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush) were encountered in 1989 but not in 1990. Eleven species (Double-crested Cormorant, Broad-winged Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Ring-billed Gull, E. Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, C. Nighthawk, Least Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, and Solitary Vireo) were newly discovered in 1990.

With only two years of data available, making valid comparisons is risky at best. However, some general assumptions can be made. Since the methods of data collection are essentially the same year to year the data collected should be comparable. This method has been used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 25 years and has proven to be the most effective method available in long-term studies of this nature. Also, the types of birds most accurately censused will tend to have certain characteristics. Generally, these species will be: 1) present in large numbers

Table 1 Highs, Lows and Averages

Highest species count - Lake Rockwell	74
Lowest species count - Avon	37
Average number of species per route	58.0
Highest individual count - West Branch	1057
Lowest Individual count - Mill Stream Run	341
Average number of individuals per route	601.41

22 species were recorded on all 12 routes
28 species were recorded on 11 or 12 routes
14 species were recorded on only 1 route
26 species were recorded on only 1 or 2 routes

Table 2 Breakdown by species groupings

Group	Ind.	% total	Avg. change per route
Blackbirds & orioles (7 species)	1529	21.19	+17.6%
P. Dove, E. Starling, H. Finch, H. Sparrow	1293	17.92	-13.1%
Finches and sparrows (13 species)	1173	16.25	-7.2%
Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, & thrushes (6 species)	576	7.98	-10.3%
Vireos and warblers (16 species)	477	6.61	-15.9%
Bc. Chickadee, T. Titmouse, Wb. Nuthatch, & wrens (5 species)	328	4.54	-19.9%
Hérons, waterfowl, and gulls (7 species)	176	2.44	-55.6%
Swallows and swifts (6 species)	347	4.81	+1.8%
Flycatchers (8 species)	200	2.77	no change
Woodpeckers (6 species)	90	1.25	+17.2%
Vultures, hawks & owls (7 species)	109	1.51	+810%
Others (17 species)	<u>919</u>	<u>12.78</u>	-9.8%
	7217	100	

another comparison was made between the original 10 routes used in 1989 to the same 10 routes in 1990. This assumption proved to be incorrect, however, as again 19 out of the top 25 species showed a decline. Regardless of causes, only time will tell if these results represent true avian population changes.

The totals of several species deserve additional comment. The top three species, E. Starling, R-w Blackbird, and C. Grackle, all showed major changes in 1990 as compared to 1989. I suspect that these changes may be the result of flocking rather than true increases or decreases. One observer noted fairly large flocks of R-w Blackbirds in 1989 but not in 1990, another

- 2) readily censused from roadsides
- 3) persistent vocalizers
- 4) non-flocking
- 5) diurnal

affected the overall results in such a manner to cause this apparently negative situation,

Therefore, species such as Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat, and Song Sparrow would seem to lend themselves better to comparisons than:

- 1) species present only in small numbers
- 2) species found only in specialized habitats
- 3) less vocal, reclusive species (i.e. cuckoos)
- 4) flocking species, which cause great fluctuation year to year in totals
- 5) nocturnal species

Examination of 1990 CABBS data indicates that 19 out of the top 25 species and 34 of the top 50 species averaged a lower number of individuals per route than in 1989. The totals of 12 routes were compared to the ten routes of 1989. Under the assumption that this difference may have

Selected Species Comparisons

	1990	1989
Red-winged Blackbird	736*	621*
European Starling	556*	934*
American Robin	380*	386*
House Sparrow	304*	313*
American Crow	295*	313*
Northern Cardinal	287*	228*
Common Grackle	282*	460*
Song Sparrow	250*	275*
Mourning Dove	229*	249*
House Finch	205*	212*
Canada Goose	196	93
Common Yellowthroat	135*	122*
Tufted Titmouse	125*	87
Indigo Bunting	125*	118*
Cedar Waxwing	120*	128
American Goldfinch	120*	227*
House Wren	116*	107*
Blue Jay	108*	112*
Red-eyed Vireo	104*	109*
Yellow Warbler	103*	106*
Chipping Sparrow	93*	133*
Gray Catbird	89*	102*
B-c Chickadee	85	91
Chimney Swift	80*	139*
B-h Cowbird	79*	70*
Field Sparrow	73*	83
Scarlet Tanager	18	30*
Northern Oriole	44*	38*

*Denotes species found on all routes

observed flocks of E. Starlings in 1990 but not in 1989, etc. Earlier nesting successes for E. Starlings could account for results such as these. A major Turkey Vulture roost was discovered in 1990, thus accounting for an apparent huge increase for this species. Brown Thrashers were essentially unchanged in terms of average per route, but were located on 5 routes in 1990 as compared to 3 routes in 1989. However, none were found north of the Ohio Turn-pike. As in 1989, only one cuckoo was observed, this time a Black-billed. One cuckoo in 150 miles of driving through productive habitats seems very low. It will be interesting to note changes in cuckoo numbers as Gypsy Moths invade our area.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to all of the following who, in addition to the author, participated in the survey: Anders Fjeldstad, Andy Fondrk and Robert McCullough, J. P. Harlan, Ivor Kiwi and Muggsi Hahn, William and Nancy Klamm, Tom LePage, and Larry Rosche.

Robert Harlan 7072 Parma Park Blvd. Parma Hts., Ohio 44130

The pipits, waxwings, and shrikes of the Cleveland region *by Larry Rosche*

This group consists of six species - American and Sprague's Pipits, Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings, and the Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes. Only the American Pipit and the Cedar Waxwing occur in any numbers. Due to an overlap

in occurrence the shrikes can present identification problems. Another problem in this group is that published records for Sprague's Pipit are so sketchy that very few reports are verified in Ohio (let alone the Cleveland region). The waxwings should present few problems in identification.

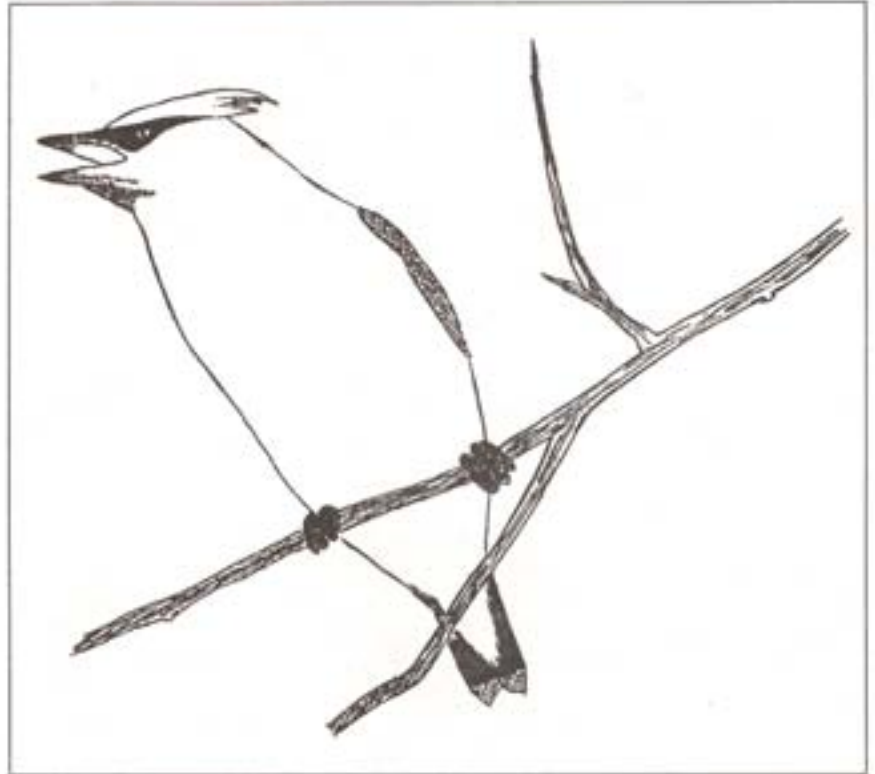
American Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) - This species was formerly called Water Pipit and is a common to abundant migrant both in spring and fall. In spring large flocks have been observed at various locations in the region. This is as true now as it was formerly. Our earliest date in spring is 8 March 1942 and our latest spring departure date is 28 May 1937. Our earliest published fall report is 4 September 1948 and the late date for a lingering fall bird is 20 December 1938. (A. B. Williams reports that there were 3 January records but no dates were given.) Large flocks are most likely to occur in April and early May though, they may be fairly common into the last third of May. A recently tilled or open pasture may be literally covered with pipits for a short time. If seems that when these large flocks are found that the birds will not be reported widely. Contrary to this, the fall migration is normally widespread and in much smaller flocks. The only large flock I have encountered in the fall was along the Lorain-Medina County line in 1985. These particular areas certainly have the proper habitat and it is likely that, with more reporters in these counties, our concept of local occurrence for this species could be altered.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) - This bird is classified as casual and it is difficult to assess its actual occurrence in the region. Knowledgeable observers have reported this pipit on six occasions in the region. Problems occurred when it was found that field books available prior to the recent ones contained pictures that poorly depicted this species. Sprague's Pipits are birds of the open short grass prairie. The first published record of 4-6 was at Forest Hill Park from 23 to 26 April 1961. Conversation with some of the principal observers indicated that they felt very sure of the identification. Verification forms are on file at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History for a report from White City on 26 October 1965. A bird was reported from Waite Hill on 24 March 1968. Ten at North Chagrin Reservation on 9 April 1971 certainly raise doubts as does the report of three from Erie Street Cemetery on 25 May 1972. Our most recent sighting was scrutinized and documented at Gordon Park on 31 October 1974. Any future report should be equally documented and hopefully substantiated by a photograph to be published in *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombicilia garrulus*) - This casually occurring species used to be considered a rare and irregular visitor. The last time the region hosted a number of these northerly vagrants was in 1944. It appears that from Kirtland's time to our most recent report, March is the month this species is most likely to occur. This

should alert observers to glean through any flock of Cedar Waxwings at this time of year seeking a larger bird with a bright orange crissum. Since 1944, three March dates have been published. Birds were reported from The Holden Arboretum on 3 and 18 March 1962 and from Waite Hill on 27 March 1966. In all likelihood, the ornamental plantings of metropolitan areas of southern Canada offer enough food so that these birds need not retreat as far south as Ohio. This bird may never be seen in the Cleveland region again.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombicilla cedorem*) - This is a common to abundant migrant and breeder in the region. In spring large numbers can be found almost anywhere the cottonwoods are flowering. This indicates a mid to late May passage unlike that of the Bohemian Waxwing. In summer they occupy nearly every niche in the seven county area. They nest commonly and often into late summer. Small fledglings in September are not out of the question. Fall flocks can be numerous as well as sporadic in distribution. Reports of 1000 or more birds together have been received. In recent winters their numbers have been higher than in the decades before Williams. Again, the many ornamental plantings certainly help keep these smoothly plumed birds in the region. Reports in late winter and early spring are erratic (Peterjohn) and they seem to be least abundant at the time when Bohemian Waxwings formerly occurred.



Cedar Waxwing
by Victor Fazio III

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) - Throughout the ornithological history of the region this shrike has been considered a rare but regularly occurring species. Reports have been received almost yearly of small numbers wintering locally. In the winter of 1988-1989 up to five individuals were present in the Greater Cleveland area. Our earliest fall record is 7 October 1954 in Strongsville. The latest published spring report was 14 April 1979 in Mentor. While there are identification problems between our two shrikes, a winter bird is almost certain to be a Northern, whereas a summer shrike would most assuredly be a Loggerhead. Standard field guides address identification well and, with experience, one can learn the subtle plumage differences between the two.

Differences in behavior also help pinpoint the proper identification. The Northern Shrike prefers to swoop down on its prey from a lofty perch, whereas the Loggerhead Shrike prefers a direct attack from a more inconspicuous perch.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) - This is a casual to rare migrant and summer visitor. It formerly was considered to be an uncommon migrant and breeder, although it was felt to be in decline as far back as 1950 (Williams). Pesticide usage and removal of fencerows by local farmers certainly are factors to be considered when trying to explain such a rapid decline. There has been no confirmed breeding in the region since 1966 at Hopkins International Airport. Loggerhead Shrikes are no

longer reported annually in the Cleveland region. All reports should be documented as to time and location. This will help wildlife biologists keep tabs on a species which is in serious population trouble. Formerly called the "Migrant Shrike" our earliest report was 2 March 1964 and our latest fall report was 9 November 1958.

Literature: Birds of the Cleveland Region A. B. Williams 1950
The Birds of Ohio B. G. Peterjohn 1989
Early and Late Dates for the Birds of the Cleveland Region A. B. Flanigan 1968
A Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region L. O. Rosche 1988.

SITE GUIDE:

Shaker Lakes Part II: Horseshoe and Lower Lakes *by Victor Fazio III*

Horseshoe Lake is open along the west and rimmed along the east with tall mixed deciduous/conifer stands. On summer weekends, the woods see little pedestrian traffic compared to Lower Lake. Much of my time covering Horseshoe Lake is spent in the area of the feeder streams looking for migrant flocks of warblers. The edges of Horseshoe Lake are easy to walk through, and the south side of both streams gives the birder an elevated view of the area. The tall oak trees of the picnic area may be active during a wave day with dozens of birds. The 75-ft. canopy generally precludes satisfactory observation. The point projecting into Horseshoe Lake is easy to



Mourning Doves
by Victor Fazio III

investigate despite its dense population of trees. Masses of kinglets and maybe a Pine Warbler can be found in the forsythias and conifers that flourish here. In the picnic area, the birder should watch for woodpeckers and Olive-sided Flycatchers (in migration) on top of the dead trees. Farther along Park Drive, at the junction with North Pork Boulevard, it is possible to follow the stream east to Eaton Road, I normally do so on a wave day, because migrants seem to collect here. Formerly, an extensive feeder system nearby provided interesting winter birding. Much of the bushy thicket in this area was bulldozed a few years ago to make way for telephone poles, leaving the feeder system mostly inactive. The area is recovering and may harbor some migrants, especially vireos and warblers, Continuing

along the northern edge of Horseshoe Lake, one finds a section of the Shaker Lakes that is usually quiet, except on a wave day. There is an elevated lookout at the base of a fallen tree which provides the observer with good views of the Wood Ducks in the summer.

Larchmere Bridge is a logical starting point for a survey of Lower Lake. The birder can look down the length of the lake for a quick impression of waterfowl activity. The bridge also provides an excellent spot for viewing diurnal migration. Moving clockwise about the lake, one walks past a birch and tamarack dominated wood margin. This area is referred to locally as the birches. This sector is both excellent for migrants and, in the winter,

provides one of the most consistent locales for Common Redpolls in the Cleveland region. Just beyond this point is one of the park's more mature stands of conifers. Attracting more of the boreal species (Red-breasted Nuthatches have nested here), these trees can be loaded with warblers on a wave day. The remaining distance to Coventry Road is usually the least active around the lake, but don't ignore the waters edge or the canopy overhead. At the northwestern end of the lake, you have reached "Lovers Lane" which is now blocked to through traffic. The entire length of the street can be fantastic on a wave day and all too many birders fail to give the area the coverage it warrants. Immediately adjacent is an obscure woodlot depression referred to as "the wild-flower sanctuary". This was the local rarity trap where Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Connecticut Warblers were almost expected to appear each May. Unfortunately, the bulk of the depression was filled in by the city to shore up the earthen dam for Lower Lake.

North Park Boulevard is another quiet stretch until the trail moves away from the road into a mixed woods. Apart from a grackle colony, the pines here are ornithologically dull. In contrast, another excellent migrant gathering point is along the woody margins of the peninsula that juts into the lake. The view of the lake is comprehensive from here, and is one of the better spots to watch swallows. The final leg of the circuit requires close exami-



American Coots
by Victor Fazio III

nation of the best section of ground cover to be found around the lake.

You now have read something of the diversity of the main park area. The impression of Shaker Lakes I would like to leave you with is that of a migrant trap where the bulk of bird activity involves transients. The park almost seems designed for their viewing.

Victor Fazio III Dept of Zoological and Medical Sciences, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 289-2473 The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Ruff, Kirtland's Warbler, Varied Thrush, etc.) please contact the editors as soon as possible.

Invitation: The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7:45 P.M. at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors are welcome.

Field Trip: On the first Sunday of every month a bird census is conducted at Headlands Beach State Park. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678-9408, or Ray Hannikman at 261-4047.

Inquiries regarding subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* should be addressed to: Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Annual subscriptions are \$7.50.

Autumn field reports, artwork, papers, and comments should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240 by 15 December 1990.