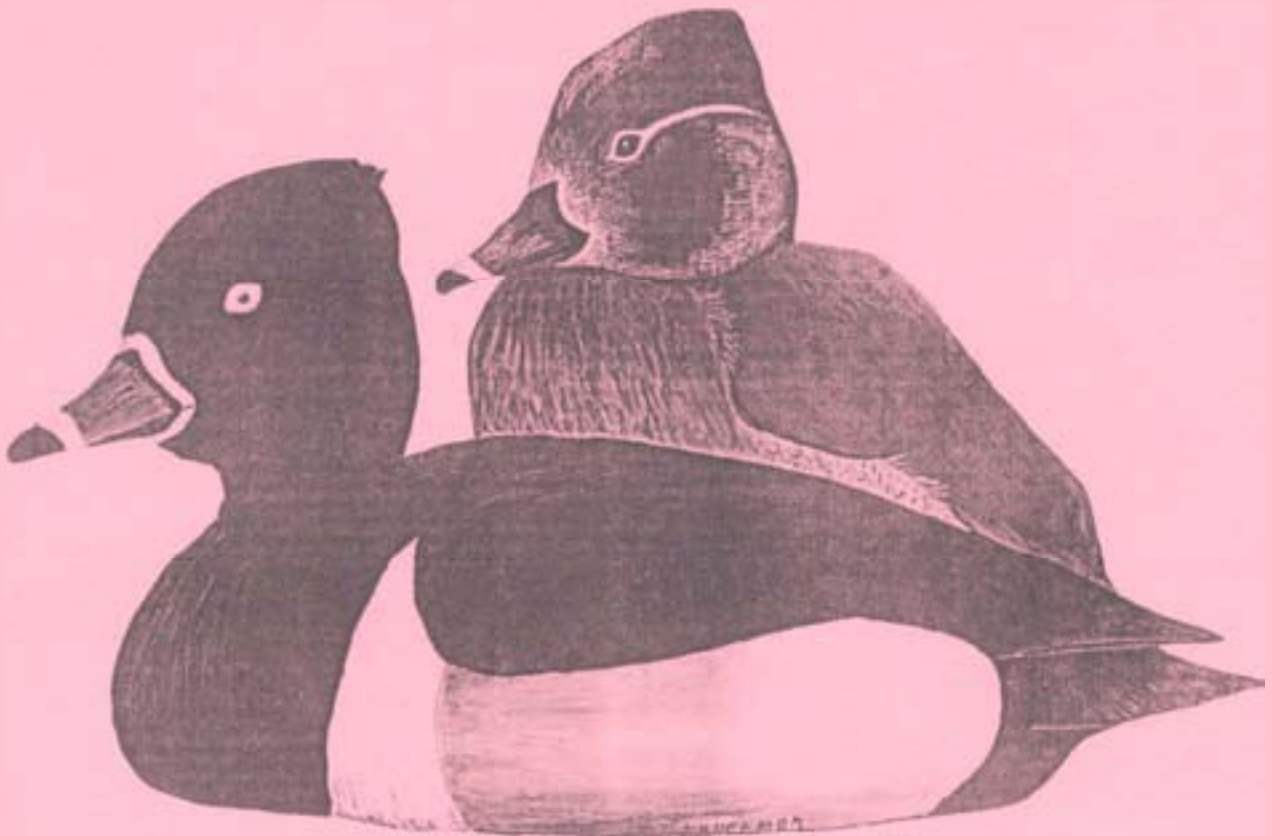


The Cleveland

September, October,  
November 1991  
Volume 87 Number 4

# BIRD CALENDAR



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**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.

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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.

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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## THE WEATHER

**Fall 1991** by William Klamm

**September** - Temperatures averaged 64.5°, .4° above normal. A record high of 93° was reached on the 15th and a record tying high, also 93°, was reached the 16th. The low for the month was 36° on the 28th. Lake Erie temperature rose to 75° on the 12th and diminished to 70° by the 30th. Rain fell on 13 days and totaled 3.4 in., .48 in. above normal. The maximum rainfall in any 24 hour period was 1.38 in. on the 3rd and 4th. Sunshine prevailed 74% of the time.

**October** - A bit warmer and gloomier than expected. Temperatures averaged 55.7°, 2.5° warmer than normal. The extremes were a high of 81° on the 4th and a low of 31° on the 16th and 20th. Lake Erie temperature steadily declined to 59° on the 31st. Precipitation occurred on 12 days to total 2.65 in., .20 in. above normal. The maximum

fall in any 24 hour period was .82 in. on the 4th. Sunshine prevailed 54% of the time.

**November** - Somewhat more wintry. Temperatures averaged 40.2°, 1.6° cooler than normal. The extremes were a high of 69° on the 1st and a low of 16° on the 4th and 5th. These were record-breaking and record-tying lows for the dates. Lake Erie temperatures slipped to 46° on the 30th. Precipitation fell on 15 days and totaled 2.92 in., .16 in. above normal. The maximum 24 hour total was .69 in. on the 11th. As snow, the total measured 3.5 in. from accumulations over 3 days with a maximum of 1.5 in. on the 7th. Sunshine prevailed only 22% of the time.

## REFLECTIONS

**Thirty Years Ago:** The Cleveland Bird Calendar species total for 1960-61 was

250. In the period 2-4 Sep. more than 1,500 Common Terns and 950 Black Terns were found between White City and Lakewood Park (Klamm). Our 3rd record of Marbled Godwit was at Nimisila Reservoir 4 Sep. through 21 Sep. (Wiley). A Red-throated Loon graced Lake Rockwell with its presence on 5 Nov. (Staiger). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in Elyria on 12 Nov. (Johnson). A Northern Shrike put in a brief appearance in the Rocky River Reservation on 26 Nov. (Stasko).

**Twenty Years Ago:** Chuck Hocevar took over as editor from Annette Flanigan for the fall 1971 season. Bert Szabo reported on his experiments with Barred Owl imitations at Aurora Sanctuary, Seiberling Naturealm, Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve, and Virginia Kendall Park. Rare birds for the season included a Yellow-headed Blackbird at North Chagrin Reservation on 24 Oct. (Scheibe), a Sandhill Crane near LaDue Reservoir on 31 Oct. (English), and a tardy Black Tern observed by members of the Kirtland Bird Club at Headlands Beach State Park on 24 Nov. (Kitson). A total of 247 species was reported for the 1970-71 Bird Calendar year.

**Ten Years Ago:** 1981 ended with a total of 271 species for the Bird Calendar year. A whopping 91 Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen at Burke Airport 1 Oct. (Klamm). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Burke Airport 6&7 Oct. (Klamm, Hoffman). Six White-winged Crossbills were at Shaker Lakes on 26 Oct. (Rickard). Ohio's first mew Gull was identified in Lorain on 29 Nov. (Peterjohn, Rosche, Elder, Hannikman).

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

It seems that each fall I write that it was another incredible autumn. This year was no different. I feel sorry for those who bird only in the spring. They sure miss out on the most exciting time of the year. As Hannikman predicted, the dry summer served as a portent of a fine fall migration. Thrushes, kinglets, warblers, and sparrows were numerous along the lake. Even puddle ducks, which have been beleaguered in recent years, showed up in fair numbers. If there was a disappointing group it was gulls and terns. The first Cleveland region record of White-faced Ibis was at Spencer Lake. Another Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Headlands Beach State Park. After a 20 year absence, a Harris Sparrow was located. First a bird in Lakewood, then another at the Carlisle Visitor Center in Lorain County. All 3 phalaropes were reported for the first time in several years. Snowy Owls seemed to be in higher numbers along Lake Erie than I remember. Of course, living in Portage County doesn't allow me the opportunity to find many on my own (no known records in the county). Sparrow migration was very impressive. I particularly like the predictability of this group. It seems that every year the second weekend of October produces a large movement of sparrows. Last, but not least, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were found at various locales. Could this be the year that we have an invasion northern finches? When was the last time we had to spend a lot of money on thistle seed?

For the Bird Calendar year we tallied 278 species. Missing were Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Piping Plover, American Avocet, both godwits, Red Knot, Common Black-headed Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Good birding and thanks for a great fall.

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### Fall 1991

The first Common Loon was seen in Cleveland on 18 Oct. (WNK). Sixty-one were counted at Headlands Beach State Park (hereafter HBSP) on 3 Nov. (EB, RH, LR, JV). A strong flight of 465 passed over Perry on 25 Nov. (JP). Kellerman saw 300 between Rocky River and Avon Lake on 26 Nov. The Klamms counted 345 from Perkins Beach to Huntington Reservation on 28 Nov. In this total, 312 were off Maple Cliff. Pied-billed Grebes moved in November. The high count was 25 at Summit Lake on 30 Nov. (LK). Horned Grebes were numerous during November along Lake Erie. A total of 262 was seen from Edgewater Park to Lorain on 9 Nov. (WNK). Kellerman saw the only Eared Grebe on 10 Nov. at Wildwood Lakefront SP. Double-crested Cormorants were plentiful and lingered through the period. The handful of Great Egrets reported indicated a decrease. The latest Green-backed Heron was in the CVNRA on 25 Sep. (DAC). Three

Black-crowned Night-Herons were recorded at Barberton into early October (CH, JV). Up to 6 were at Rocky River Metropark through 21 Sep. (WNK).

Waterfowl migration was fairly noteworthy. Numbers of most common species seemed up. The only exception was Blue-winged Teal, which continue to have great difficulty overcoming the effects of the drought conditions of the late eighties. The usual gang of HBSP birders experienced a red letter day of movement on 3 Nov. when they saw 23 species of waterfowl in the region.

No great flocks of Tundra Swans were detected. A one night gathering of 45 at Lake Rockwell on 12 Nov. was the high count (LR). The high for HBSP was 36 on 2 Nov. (KM). Mute Swan numbers were increasing and one has to wonder about their origins. Three were seen at LaDue Reservoir from 20 Oct. to 14 Nov.(RR). At the same time, 3 were at Lake Rockwell and 5 at Mogadore Reservoir. A Snow Goose was at

Holden Arboretum on 24 Oct. (RR). An adult blue phase bird was at HBSP on 3 Nov. (m.ob.).

Wood Ducks were in excellent totals through mid-October. Several could be heard calling from Mentor Marsh on 24 Nov. (EB, RH, LR). Green-winged Teal were in exceptional numbers at Lake Rockwell. A high tally of 198 was reached on 12 Oct. (LR). Vanderpoel saw 125 at Barberton on 5 Oct. Northern Pintails were in their usual small numbers. Bob Finkelstein found 3 Northern Shovelers on Lower Shaker Lake on 10 Nov. Up to 14 remained at LaDue Reservoir through November (CH, RR). The maximum count of Gadwalls at Lake Rockwell was 66 on 30 Oct. The high for American Wigeon there was 175 on the same date (CH). The high count along Lake Erie was 44 on 2 Nov. (WNK).

A male Canvasback remained at E. 55th St. Marina through the period. Two were at Best Preserve on 17-19 Nov. (DB).

Redheads were early at Lake Rockwell on 8 Nov. (CH). Ring-necked Duck totals on inland lakes were high. It seems safe to assume that 1 000s of this species use the region as a stopping off point on their southward journeys. While scaup numbers were unimpressive inland, a flock of up to 1600 could be found along the west side shoreline in November (WNK). A King Elder was found outside the region in Conneaut on 27 Nov. (JP). A few Oldsquaws were seen at expected times along Lake Erie. A bird at Oberlin Reservoir on 10 Oct. was noteworthy (TL, SU). A Black Scoter was at Avon Lake on 30 Oct. (TK). The Klamms noted them on 7 occasions, with a high of 19 on 9 Nov. Two were near Gordon Park on 3 Nov. (JV,

**Customary large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls failed to materialize.**

m.ob.). Nine Surf Scoters were there the same day. A group of 4 was seen on Oberlin Reservoir on 18 Nov. (KA). A flock of 8 White-winged Scoters winged by HBSP on 19 Oct. (EBB, RH). Holt tallied a nice inland count of 40 Bufflehead at LaDue on 23 Nov. On 9 Nov. an unusually high total of 225 Hooded Mergansers was at HBSP (EBB, RH, LR). The Klamms counted 27,000 Red-breasted Mergansers from Perkins Beach on 20 Nov. Ruddy Ducks were numerous along the lake and inland. An incredible tally of 800± was made at Mogadore Reservoir on 21 Nov. (LR). Up to 100 were counted at Summit Lake (LK). Another 260 were at Oberlin Reservoir (TL, NK, KM). Along the lake, a high of 94 was reached on 3 Nov. (WNK). Late Turkey Vultures were seen on 12 Nov. in the CVNRA (LK) and in

Bay Village on 29 Nov. (LR, WJH). **Ospreys** were as expected on the large inland reservoirs. A bird at Silver Creek Metropark in Summit Co. was from a new location (BS). Along Lake Erie, birds were seen in Lorain through 15 Sep. (WNK), at Euclid Beach SP on 30 Sep., and Gordon Park on 15 Oct. (FL). A late bird was at Lake Rockwell on 1 Nov. (CH, LR). A Northern Harrier was early at Lake Isaac on 10 Sep. (RHL). A male was seen in Hinckley on 22 Oct. (RHI). Five Red-shouldered Hawks were counted in the CVNRA on 2 Sep. (DAC). A Broad-winged Hawk was seen along S.R. 44 in Lake County on 7 Sep. (LR). A Rough-legged Hawk was in Shalersville on 23 Nov. (CH). Several frequented the Gordon Park (m.ob) and usual Lorain Co. (NK) areas throughout October and November. American Kestrels were fairly common throughout the region.

Dan Best observed 2 Ruffed Grouse in full battle on 19 Sep. at Big Creek Park. The Leidens reported a Wild Turkey in the backyards of Strongsville from 18 Oct. A flock of 8 was seen in Valley City on 30 Nov. (FG). Who would have ever thought that turkey reports would outnumber pheasant reports. Common Moorhens were last seen at Barberton on 24 Sep. (CH).

Shorebird reports were more widespread than in recent years due to low water levels at most lakes. Many birds lingered at Lake Rockwell after the summer. West Branch SP, LaDue Reservoir, and Shaker Lakes had more than their usual supply of shorebirds.

A Black-bellied Plover was a good find in Wadsworth on 1 Sep. (LK). A bird on 10 Nov. at Lake Rockwell was the latest ever for the location (LR). Lesser

Golden-Plovers were in expected small numbers, along the lake and inland. The high count was 16 at Burke Airport on 15 Sep. (WNK, TL). Two Semipalmated Plovers were in Wadsworth on 1 Sep. (LK). A Greater Yellowlegs lingered at Spencer Lake until 5 Nov. (NK). A Lesser Yellowlegs was in Lorain Co. on 5 Nov. (BRA). A single **Whimbrel** on 21 Sep. at HBSP was the only report (RH). This was vastly different from a year ago when good numbers were seen there. Both godwit species, known to pass through our area, were found just outside of it. Holt found a Marbled in Conneaut on 15 Sep. and a Hudsonian there on 29 Sep. Ruddy Turnstones showed up in small numbers along Lake Erie. Sanderlings were as we have come to expect. A Western Sandpiper was in Conneaut 21 Sep. (CH). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were at Barberton 22-24 Sep. (JV, CH). A bird was at HBSP on 14 Oct. (RH). Up to 7 Baird's Sandpipers remained at Lake Rockwell into mid-September. Several were noted at Burke Airport, HBSP, and Barberton (m.ob.). Many Pectoral Sandpipers remained at Lake Rockwell from the summer. On 12 Oct., 16 were at HBSP (RH). Shaker Lakes hosted 4 on 26 Oct. (RR). Dunlins were reported in expected numbers. Six Stilt Sandpipers were at Barberton on 22 Sep. (JV). Common Snipe reports were scarce. A late American Woodcock was at HBSP on 3 Nov. (RH, LR). A truly tardy bird was in the CVNRA on 24 Nov. (LK).

Two jaegers were left unidentified at Eastlake on 13 Nov. (FL). A Franklin's Gull was at HBSP on 23 Sep. (AF, RH). Another was videotaped at the E. 55th St. parking lot on 12 Oct. (WNK). One was in Perry on 17 Nov. (JP).

Holt's Shorebird Census for Fall 1991

LOCATION Date	LR 9/4	LR 9/13	CON 9/15	CON 9/21	BHB 9/24	LR 9/27	CON 9/29	CON 10/6	LR 10/6	CON 10/19	WNB 10/19	LAD 11/10
BLACK-BELL PLOVER	•	•	1	2	•	•	4	3	•	4	•	•
L GOLDEN PLOVER	•	•	1	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SEMIPALM PLOVER	12	9	5	7	•	•	5	8	•	5	•	•
G YELLOWLEGS	1	•	3	2	8	2	1	1	•	•	1	•
LS. YELLOWLEGS	18	6	•	•	2	4	1	•	2	•	•	•
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SANDERLING	•	•	4	8	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•
SEMIPALM SANDPIPER	16	1	9	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LEAST SANDPIPER	7	•	1	•	•	3	•	•	2	•	•	•
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	2	1	•	•	•	•	1	1	•	2	•	•
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	33	16	•	1	3	29	3	10	55	4	1	2
DUNLIN	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	1	•	17	23	8
STILT SANDPIPER	•	•	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SHORT-BILLED DOW.	•	•	4	2	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•
COMMON SNIPE	•	2	1	•	1	5	3	•	2	•	2	5

LR LAKE ROCKWELL- BHB = BARBERTON HOLDING BASIN; CON = CONNEAUT;  
WNB = WALNUT BEACH; LAD = LADUE RESERVOIR

A Little Gull was seen irregularly at HBSP during the first half of September (RH, m.ob.). An adult was in Perry on 24 Nov. (JP). The customary large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls failed to materialize. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at Avon Lake (2) on 29-30 Oct. (TK, WNK), at E. 72nd on 9 Nov. (TK, CH), at Eastlake on 16 Nov. (RH), on 2, 3, 21, & 29 Nov. at E. 55th St. (FL, WNK), and at Edgewater SP on 29 Nov. (LR). A first winter plumaged bird was at Eastlake on 10 Nov. (RH). The only Glaucous Gull was at E. 9th St. on 24 Nov. (FK). Caspian Terns were in below average numbers. As expected. Common Terns lingered into late November along the lakefront (m.ob.). The latest was 1 Dec. in Lorain (JLD, SU). A Forster's Tern at Lake Rockwell on 9 Nov. was the latest ever in Portage County (LR). Six birds were in Lorain on the late date of 4 Nov. (WNK). No Black Terns were noted during the period.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in

Sand Run Metropark on 8 Sep. (LK). Another was seen at Spencer Lake on 12 Sep. (NK). A bird was at the Gordon Park Impoundment on 13 Sep. (WNK). Tardy birds were in the CVNRA on 6 Oct. (DAC) and at Gordon Park on 13 Oct. (FL). The only Short-eared Owl was seen as it approached Lakewood Park before a storm (WNK). The last Common Nighthawk was on 11 Sep. (RH). Chimney Swifts were gone by mid-October. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were quick to leave after summer and only a handful of reports was received for September. A juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker was noted at HBSP on 22 Sep. (RF). A few lingered through the period at several lakefront locations. Sapsuckers were fairly common along the lakefront but scarce inland.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Sims Park on 10 Sep. (FL). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were fairly common along the lake. A bird noted in Geauga

Co. on 15 Sep. was a good find (DAC). The latest Trail's Flycatcher was in Cuyahoga Co. on 2 Oct. (WNK). A Least Flycatcher was exceptionally tardy at HBSP 18 Oct. (m.ob.). It or another was there on 20 Oct. (RHL). An unidentified late empidonax was in Perry on 30 Oct. (JP). Eastern Phoebes were very conspicuous from late September into mid-October. A bird in Perry on 18 Nov. was very late (JP). The latest Eastern Kingbird was at HBSP on 16 Sep. (RH). A late report of Northern Rough-winged Swallow was of 3 at HBSP on 15 Oct. (RH). A Bank Swallow at HBSP on 28 Sep. was one of the latest ever noted (RH, LR).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Kopka noted that Carolina Wrens were everywhere he birded. Winter Wrens were numerous along the lakefront locales. Migrant Marsh Wrens were barely noted. One was at Lake Isaac on 24 Sep. (RHL). Indeed, reports of the rare Sedge Wren outnumbered

those of Marsh Wren. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were plentiful throughout the region in October. Blue-gray Gnat catchers were scarce but the latest report was a record-setting 29 Nov. in Perry (JP).

Klaus reported many Eastern Bluebirds at Holden Arboretum. Most thrushes were very conspicuous along the lake at their usual times, with the exception being Veery. The Klamms saw only one on their 12 Sep. survey. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were relatively common at HBSP. Many Swainson's Thrushes could be found throughout September. Hermit Thrushes were in good totals regionwide. The Klamms counted 26 in Cleveland on 7 Oct. A late Wood Thrush was at Sims Park on 13 Oct. (RH). Another lingered at HBSP on 18 Oct. (LR). A new site for Northern Mockingbird was in Geauga Co. on 16 Nov. (AF). Brown Thrashers were at many locations (TI). American Pipits were plentiful throughout October at Lake Rockwell and West Branch SP (CH, LR). Krap's also noted many in Lorain County. In the summer issue we commented on early nesting Cedar Waxwings. This season brought two reports of late breeding efforts for the species. The Chasars found a nest with 2 young on 1 Sep. in the CVNRA. Fondrk found a newly fledged youngster on 13 Sep. in Geauga Co.

Vireos, in general, were in less than expected totals. A White-eyed Vireo was at Lake Isaac on 3 Sep. (RHL). Two were in the CVNRA on 8 Sep. (LK). Solitary Vireo reports were down from last year and none provided a noteworthy late date. Philadelphia Vireos were scarce. A Red-eyed

**...200 Chipping Sparrows at Gordon Park on 12 Oct. was a remarkable tally.**

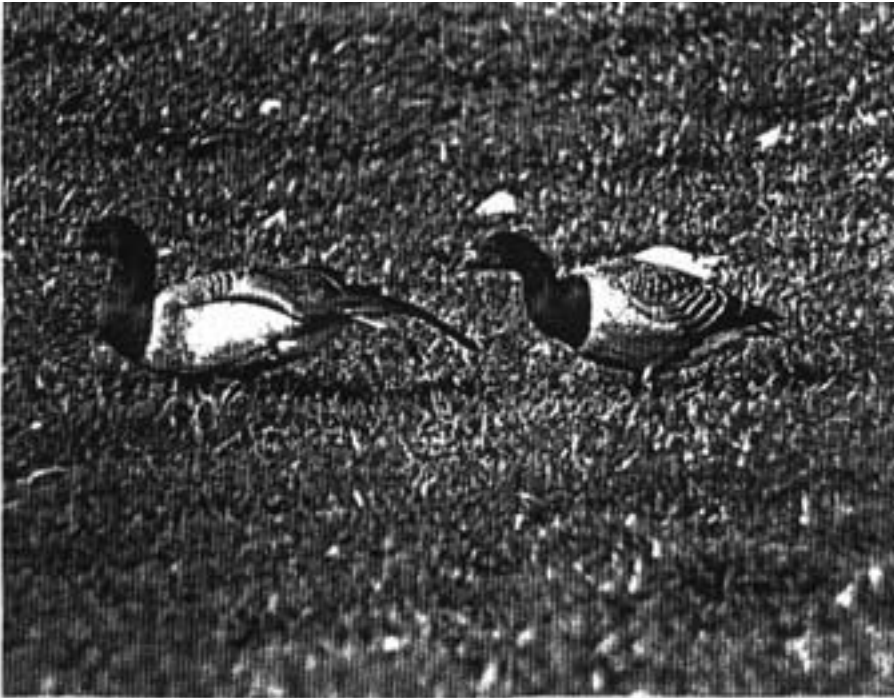
Vireo was late at HBSP on 18 Oct. Warblers were represented by 28 species, most in good numbers. Bill Klamm wrote that they were in good supply from 12 Sep. to 25 Sep. Charles Klaus found many birds that had the misfortune to collide with the large buildings in downtown Cleveland. These included 9 species of warblers. Harvey Webster of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History indicated that there had been a considerable number of window kills there. A total of 12 Orange-crowned Warblers indicated that they were in good supply, especially when one considers that this is generally regarded as an uncommon species. A fairly late Nashville Warbler was at Lakewood City Park on 26 Oct. (RHL). Four Northern Parulas were at HBSP on 29 Sep. (RH, LR, JV). Highs of 10 Chestnut-sided Warblers were reached at HBSP on 10 Sep. (RH) and 18 Sep. (RHL). On 3 Sep. a total of 16 Cape May Warblers was counted in Cleveland (WNK). LePage encountered 9 Black-throated Blues on 25 Sep. Black-throated Green, Palm, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers were common. Blackburnian Warblers were widespread but in small numbers. A Pine Warbler put in a rare appearance at HBSP on 7 Sep. (LR, JV). A bird showed up at Pogacnik's feeder in Perry on 22 Nov. and stayed through the period. The 18 Black-and-white Warblers counted at HBSP on 29 Sep. was an excellent tally (RH, LR, JV). American Redstarts

were numerous. Ovenbirds were in above average totals. Late birds were found at Sims Park on 27 Oct. (RH), and 1 Nov. in Cleveland (WNK). Klaus found dead Mourning Warblers on 9 Sep. and 4 Oct. near the Justice Center. On the average, they were in short supply when compared to recent fall seasons. Two at Lake Isaac on 8 Oct. was the only multiple report (RHL). A Hooded Warbler at Euclid Beach SP on 7 Sep. was definitely a migrant (TL1). A bird at the Carlisle Visitor Center on 5 Sep. may have been a local summer bird (NK). Common Yellowthroats were conspicuous in early October at HBSP. Wilson's Warblers were common at most areas that are birded regularly (m.ob.). Canada Warblers were gone by mid-September. A Yellow-breasted Chat was late on 30 Oct. in Perry (JP).

Rickard saw 10-20 immature Rose-breasted Grosbeaks near the Shaker Lakes Nature Center on 22 & 27 Sep. They were also found in small numbers in the Rocky River Valley at the same time (WNK). Indigo Buntings were typically scarce along Lake Erie.

Sparrow migration was impressive, both from a numerical and a variety viewpoint. American Tree Sparrows were abundant in weedy fields by mid November. Hannikman's total of 200 Chipping Sparrows at Gordon Park on 12 Oct. was a remarkable tally. A flock of 75 Field Sparrows was at HBSP on the afternoon 12 Oct. (LR, JW). Vesper Sparrows could be found in small numbers with the mixed flocks of spizellas, melospizas, and zonotrichias. A high of 10 was counted at HBSP on 11 Oct. (LR). On 13 Oct., 2 Lincoln's Sparrows were





Immature Brant - Edgewater Park  
9 October 1991 by Larry Rosche

in the CVNRA (LK). They were fairly common in the downtown area (CK). Fox Sparrows were locally common in the Cascade Valley Metropark from mid-October through the period (JW). Four were in the CVNRA on 7 Oct. (BAT). One was reported at Shaker Lakes on 26 Oct. (PR). White-crowned Sparrows were briefly abundant during the span of 10-17 Oct. Many White-throated Sparrows were found in the CVNRA on 7 Oct. (BAT). They also were in excellent numbers at their usual West Branch SP wintering grounds. On a negative side, they were reported in reduced numbers in Lorain Co. (NK). Dark-eyed Juncos descended upon the region in numbers much higher than recent autumns. Not only were there large migrant flocks along Lake Erie, but they were remaining at feeding stations in excellent totals throughout the region. Snow Buntings were conspicuous at HBSP on 3 Nov., where several

flocks passed overhead totaling 250 birds. Inland, a flock of 15 Snow Buntings was in Lorain Co. on the 7th (NK). Elsewhere along the lake flocks of 30-50 were regularly seen in Nov. (m.ob.). An early Lapland Longspur was at Gordon Park on 14 Oct. (RHL). A few were moving through the region at the end of the period. Bobolinks were barley noticed on the southward journeys. Eastern Meadowlarks were in their usual small numbers along Lake Erie. The Toneff's counted 50+ Rusty Blackbirds in the CVNRA on 2 Nov. Ibsen saw 2000 Common Grackles at Furnace Run Metropark on 2 Oct.

Common Redpolls made their first fall appearance in several years. Two were in Perry on 30 Oct. (JP) and another one frequented the alders at LaDue Reservoir from 10-18 Nov. (RR, LR). A flock of 7 was at Huntington Reservation on 26 Nov. (WNK, TL). Pine Siskins

were scattered throughout the region in small numbers. A recently fledged American Goldfinch was seen begging food from an adult on the late date of 1 Oct. in Chesterland (AF). Two Evening Grosbeaks were in Perry on 30 Oct. (JP).

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**Red-throated Loon** - Two were in Lorain (Anders Fjeldstad) and one in Cleveland (Bacik) on 10 Nov. A bird was seen in flight at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Nov. (Hannikman, Holt). Birds were in Perry on 24 & 25 Nov. (Pogacnik).

**Red-necked Grebe** - An exceptionally early bird was seen at Headlands Beach SP on 18 Sep. (Harlan, James Heflich). A bird was in Lorain on 16 Nov. (Harlan, Miller). LePage saw one at Rocky River Park on 22 Nov. Pogacnik saw one from his yard in Perry on 3 & 17 Nov.

**American Bittern** - Hannikman flushed one at Gordon Park on 12, 19, & 29 Sep.

**Cattle Egret** - Two birds were seen at Edgewater Park on 11 Oct. (Rolik).

**White-faced Ibis** - The first [2nd] record in the history of The Cleveland Bird Calendar was first found at the Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area on 10 Oct. (Kraps). It was not reported until the 13th by John and Elaine Snively. Thanks to their presence of mind many local birders were able to see this rarity. The lack of a blue facial outline and reddish tint to the eye were the determining factors in ruling out the similar Glossy Ibis.

**Brant** - Two immatures were easily found at Edgewater Park from 29 Oct.-17 Nov. (LePage, m.ob.). An adult joined them on 18 Nov. and remained through the period. Two were in Lorain on 29 Oct. (Kellerman). An adult was discovered by Dr. Carlin Gibbs at Crystal Lake in Silver Lake on 4 Nov. It stayed through the 12th (Szabo).

**Harlequin Duck** - The male reported in the summer remained in and around the North Marginal harbor areas through 17 Nov. (Klamm, m.ob.). An immature male was in Perry on 25 Nov. (Pogacnik). Two were at Huntington Res. on 27 Nov. (Klamm).

**Bald Eagle** - Four individuals were identified based on age characteristics at Lake Rockwell (Holt, Rosche). Two remained at the period's end. A bird was at Euclid Beach SP on 12 Sep. (LePage).

**Northern Goshawk** - A adult was reported from Lorain on 29 Nov. (Alexander).

**Merlin** - An unexpected visitor to Lake Isaac was found on 20 Sep. (RHL).

**Peregrine Falcon** - The downtown pair was seen with increasing regularity at Burke Airport (m.ob.). A bird was seen at Headlands Beach SP on 6 Oct. (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche, Vanderpoel). A bird flew by Lakewood City Park on 27 Oct. (Holt). Tom Bartlett saw an immature in Lorain on 23 Nov. Norma Kraps saw what may have been the same bird there on the 25th.

**Sandhill Crane** - A flock of 12 birds was seen as they passed by Perkins Beach on 10 Oct. (Klamm). This date represents the earliest fall report in our files.



Harris Sparrow - Lakewood City Park  
26 October 1991 by Larry Rosche

**Upland Sandpiper** - LePage saw one at Gordon Park on 6 Sep.

**Purple Sandpiper** - Up to 3 were at Headlands Beach SP 8-30 Nov. (Gary Meszaros, m.ob.).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - Two birds were at Headlands Beach SP on 7 Sep. (Rosche, m.ob.). Two birds were at Burke Lakefront Airport 14 Sep. -2 Oct. (LePage, Hannikman, Klamm, Kellerman). Another fed leisurely only 10 feet from Hannikman and LePage at Headlands Beach SP on 15 Sep.

**Wilson's Phalarope** - Two were at Barberton on 22 Sep. (Vanderpoel).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - An immature was at Lake Rockwell 5 Sep. (Rosche). Holt located a bird at the same location on 26-27 Sep. Another was at HBSP on 21 Sep. (Hannikman).

**Red Phalarope** - Kevin Metcalf reported the first bird at Headlands Beach SP on 2 Nov. Bacik and Hannikman found one near the lighthouse at the end of the breakwall there on 10 Nov. Another was in Perry on 17 Nov. (Pogacnik).

**Long-tailed Jaeger** - An adult was scrutinized at Headlands Beach SP on 20 Sep. (Hannikman).

**Pomarine Jaeger** - A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 3 Nov. (Hannikman, m.ob.). Another was seen at Perry on 8 Nov. (Pogacnik).

**Parasitic Jaeger** - Ervin Miller saw an immature at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Nov.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** - Cece Johnston (*vide* Hannikman) observed an immature at E. 72nd St. on 16 Nov.

**Sabine's Gull** - An immature

was in Lorain on 8 Nov.  
(Pogacnik).

**Snowy Owl** - A young bird was videotaped by Channel 8 newsmen as it was being harassed by a Peregrine Falcon at Burke Lakefront Airport on 1 Nov. (Klamm, m.ob). This bird signaled the beginning of a small invasion. A bird flew in from Lake Erie and landed on the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP on 17 Nov. (Hannikman, Bacik, Holt). It was seen there through the 19th. By the end of November as many as 4 birds were in Lake Co. and another 4 in Cleveland (m.ob.). Kraps and Alexander reported as many as 2 in Lorain during the same time frame.

**Long-eared Owl** - A bird was reported from Perry on 29 Oct. (Pogacnik).

**Whip-poor-will** - A bird was at Euclid Beach SP on 30 Sep. (LePage). The second latest record of this species ever reported to The Cleveland Bird Calendar was seen hawking insects at Goodyear Heights Metro Park in Akron on 15 Oct (Szabo).

**Northern Shrike** - An immature found at Gordon Park on 2 Nov. remained into the winter season (Hannikman, Klamm, m.ob). Another bird was in the CVNRA on 18 Nov. (Reinthal).

**Connecticut Warbler** - A male was at Headlands Beach SP on 7 Sep. (Rosche, Hannikman, Vanderpoel). Another was in Parma on 12 Sep. (Harlan). A third was banded at Swine Creek Reservation on 14 Sep. (Best).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - An immature was feeding in a large mixed flock of spizella sparrows at



Harris Sparrow - Carlisle Visitor Center  
7 November 1991 - by Roy Hartman

Headlands Beach SP on 11 Oct. (Rosche). Harlan found a bird of the same age at Gordon Park on 14. Oct.

**Henslow's Sparrow** - A bird was with Savannah and Vesper Sparrows in the dunes at Headlands Beach SP on the major movement day of 11 Oct. (Rosche).

**Le Conte's Sparrow** - LePage found this elusive species at Gordon Park on 11 Oct.

**Harris's Sparrow** - After a 20 year absence, two birds were located in the region. Both of these birds were (more or less) cooperative for the many people who sought them. An adult was found at Lakewood City Park on 26-28 Oct. (Klamm, m.ob.). Another was at the Carlisle Visitor Center in Lorain County, from 9-11 Nov. (Roy Hartman, Kraps, m.ob).

**White-winged Crossbill** - Two visited Pogacnik's feeder in Perry on 16 Nov. His good luck

continued as 3 more fed there on 27 Nov.

**Addendum:** A report of a Golden-crowned Sparrow was received. Detailed sketches and descriptions of an immature bird at Headlands Beach State Park on 14 Oct. were turned in by Judy Hochadel. No photographs or videos were obtained. This record, if accepted by the Ohio Rare Birds Record Committee and the Middlewestern Prairie Regional editor of American Birds would be a first for Ohio. The Cleveland Bird Calendar will comply with the decisions of the above.

**Exotics:** Bob Segedi, of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, reported a White-cheeked Pintail that was seen and photographed at Clague Road Park on 9 Sep. by Kelly Croyle. Although the bird was not banded nor the hallux removed, the editors feel that this species was surely an escape.

## FIELD NOTES

### Notes on a plegadis ibis from Spencer Lake

by John and Elaine Snively

John and I sighted an ibis on the northwestern side of Spencer Lake in Medina County at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 13, 1991. At first glance, because of complete cloud cover and light rain, the ibis appeared to be a deep purplish color. On closer inspection, with binoculars and spotting scope, the ibis' body plumage was a chestnut brown mixed with a dull metallic green. Each feather appeared to have both colors in varied amounts. There was no apparent sheen to the feathers in brief sunlight.

However, on October 16, in bright sunlight, the feathers did appear to have a dull sheen.

The crown of the head was a mottled brownish-cream color, and light streaking extended down the back of the neck. The neck was mottled about halfway down getting darker as it neared the body. There was a darker area through the eye. The eye had a dark pupil with a reddish-brown iris. This reddish color was especially noticeable when the sun was shining and when the ibis was turned its head while preening. The legs were a dark gray color. Upper leg feathers were dark brown blending to tan where they met the leg. The bird had an injured right foot

that it held up much of the time while feeding, preening, and hopping from place to place.

The bill was long, slender and decurved, gray in color, darker at the base. The bird seemed to be eating at least some mollusks as it fed in 2" - 8" water.

The bird gave a loud guttural "ka-bonk" just once while flying a short distance across the water. On Monday and Wednesday, late in the afternoon, it gave a two-note call sounding like "ga-duh", "ga-duh". "ga-duh", as it flew.

We were approximately 30'-40' from the bird at all times. Moving in for camera shots to the edge of the water did not disturb it. On the 13th the weather was heavily overcast with occasional sun. The rain had stopped. It was around 50 degrees with no wind. The lake water was basically clear with some duckweed or wolfia at the shallowest spots.

We hesitated to identify this bird to species because field identification of *Plegadis* is difficult. We hoped, however, that close-up photographs would reveal some characteristics that we were unable to detect.

(Editors note: Photographs by Bruce Glick clarified that this was a White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) They clearly showed the red in the eye and the absence of the bluish facial outline characteristic of a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinella*). This established the first [2nd] record of the White-faced Ibis in the Cleveland region.



White-faced Ibis - Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area  
13 October 1991 - by Larry Rosche

**Another Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) from Headland Beach State Park with a discussion of past occurrences of this species from Ohio and speculation about future sightings.**

by Ray Hannikman

Species: Long-tailed Jaeger (one adult)

Date: 20 September 1991

Location: Headlands Beach State Park, Mentor, Ohio

Times of Observation: 7:25 a.m. to 7:40 a.m., 7:50 a.m. to 7:55 a.m.

Optical Equipment: 7 x 42 Zeiss Binoculars

Weather: Gusty northwest winds between 15 and 25 mph off the lake, temperature about 55 degrees.

Previous Experience with this Species: I have observed many Long-tailed Jaegers in Alaska; I also have seen this species in California and in Ohio (one juvenile in 1989 and one adult in 1990, both at Headlands Beach State Park).

Detailed Description (typed from notes which were written about four hours after the bird was observed).

Flight: Flight was graceful and effortless, usually several wing beats followed by a low glide over the surface of the water. Much wing flapping was observed as the bird fought both the brisk winds and the attacks of Herring and Ring-billed gulls, and as it dipped to lake level as if to feed.



Snowy Owl and Bufflehead - E. 55th St.  
24 November 1991 by Melinda Greenland

Behavior: The jaeger was often attacked by gulls, but easily escaped. Otherwise, it would just glide and fly about the area between the west and north breakwalls of Fairport Harbor.

Body Size: Much smaller than Herring Gull and smaller than Ring-billed Gull. These size differences were evident when the two larger species of gulls would attack the jaeger.

Upper Wing: Upper wing color was a dark brown with one bright, white outer primary shaft easily noted along with one much duller one.

Upper Tail: The upper tail coverts were barred with a series of about four rows of whitish barring. The barred upper tail coverts and the white outer primary shafts were seen well because I was standing on the west breakwall

and could look down on the Jaeger as it flew within 50-70 yards of me during my second observation time.

Body color: The dark cap was accented by an extensive and obvious gray colored area behind it. The breast band was brown and the chin was white. The brown breast band (present in molting, fall Long-tailed Jaeger adults but absent in breeding plumaged birds) was not solidly brown but had lighter colored feathers throughout. The belly of the bird was white and easily seen and contrasted well with the brown breast band.

Underwing Color: Underwing color seemed a lighter brown but this feature was difficult to observe since the bird quickly flapped its wings as it flew under my line of sight at its closest approach. Most attacks by gulls occurred

from about 200 to 300 yards from the breakwall. Combined with the jaegers aerial acrobatics, this did not present me with a good opportunity to observe this characteristic.

Tail: No long central tail feathers were observed. I judged this to be an adult in heavy molt as evidenced by the lack of tail feathers and the gray area behind the cap.

Identification Discussion: Why was this bird a Long-tailed Jaeger? The 2 white outer primary shafts alone clinched the identification as Long-tailed Jaeger. Body size quickly eliminated Pomarine Jaeger, a bulky hunk of a sea pirate. Flight characteristics eliminated Parasitic Jaeger whose flight is dashing and quick with less tendency to glide. Parasitic Jaegers also are characterized as 'sneak attackers' that approach a victim low over the water and from the rear. The Long-tailed Jaeger exhibited none of these flight mannerisms but rather "mixed it up" with the gulls only to outfly them when they got too close.

### **Current Status of Long-tailed Jaeger in Ohio:**

September is the month to search for Long-tailed Jaeger in Ohio. My three sightings were: 23 Sep. 1989, 2 Sep. 1990, and 20 Sep. 1991. Moreover, two of Ohio's three specimens were collected on. 5 Sep. 1928 and 13 Sep. 1960. A jaeger was observed in Waite Hill, Ohio on 22 Sep. 1966 and described as "slate gray all over." It was reported in the Cleveland Bird Calendar as 'jaeger' (sp?) but it fits the description of a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger. I now

believe that my 21 Sep. 1986 sighting of a dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger at Gordon Park Impoundment was instead a juvenile, dark-phase Long-tailed Jaeger. It is curious that four observations of Long-tailed Jaeger in Ohio fell from September 20 through 23 in different years.

My 23 Sep. 1989 and 20 Sep. 1991 records of Long-tailed Jaeger both occurred upon an abrupt change to colder weather accompanied by strong winds off the lake. Winds were between 30 and 40 miles per hour from the north/northwest for my first sighting, while wind speeds were between 15 and 25 miles per hour, also from the north and northwest, for my second observation. Cold fronts were the weather catalysts for two of my three sightings. The remnants of Hurricane Hugo were felt in the Great Lakes area in late September 1989. I mention this because severe thunderstorms and Hurricane Donna were mentioned in connection with the 13 Sep. 1960 Parma, Ohio, Long-tailed Jaeger sighting. Strong winds from the north and northwest may push migrating Long-tailed Jaegers on Lake Erie closer to shore. It should be noted, however, that calm wind conditions existed when the probable Long-tailed Jaeger on 21 Sep. 1986 was observed.

Another key to Long-tailed Jaeger identification in Ohio is knowledge about the latest in jaeger field identification techniques, and the weather conditions that may produce jaegers on Lake Erie. Since jaegers are not regularly seen in Ohio, birders must seek the three species where they occur at sea or near

their breeding grounds. Parasitic Jaegers are found at Churchill, Manitoba from early June through summer. Long-tailed Jaegers may be encountered in early June at Churchill, but early July at can produce sightings of dozens over a span of a few days. Western Alaska (Nome, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island) produces excellent numbers of all three jaeger species of (and usually all color phases), but visiting these birding hotspots may be beyond the means of many birders. And usually only breeding plumaged jaegers will be seen. Studying juvenile jaegers usually means finding them here on Lake Erie or taking pelagic trips off of either coast. The drawback to pelagic birding is that most of the jaegers will dart past your boat very quickly before you can study the birds. So, if Alaska or pelagic birding is not for you, and you are along the Lake Erie shore in the fall, be hopeful that you will encounter a cold front with strong winds from the north. As stated above, September is the month to be on the lookout for Long-tailed Jaeger with October, November and early December the times to seek Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. And if jaegers should "invade" Lake Erie, as Pomarine Jaegers did during the fall and winter of 1988/1989, go to the lakefront and look for them. Peter Harrison's Seabirds An Identification Guide and Kenn Kaufman's Advanced Birding are excellent in the intricacies and difficulties of jaeger identification. When all is said and done, bird the lakefront in the fall and with the proper weather conditions you might see a jaeger or meet someone who has ....

**Notice:** All reports to The Cleveland Bird Calendar are archived in the library of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 321- 7245** The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris Sparrow, 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. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Field Study:** On the first Sunday of each month a census is conducted at Headlands Beach State Park. The purpose is to study the long term occurrence patterns of migrant and resident birds of the Grand River and Fairport Harbor section of the region. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678- 9408 or Ray Hannikman at 261- 4047.

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**Inquiries** regarding subscription to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The annual subscription rate is \$7.50.

**Field reports**, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.