

THE CLEVELAND

BIRD

CALENDAR



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and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

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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September 5 - Summer Season

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# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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## THE WEATHER

### SUMMER 1997

by Dwight Chasar

**JUNE:** Temperatures averaged 68.2°, .6° above normal. The high was 92° on the 25th, and the low was 43° on the 15th. Lake Erie was 56° on June 1st and rose to 68° by June 30th. Sunshine occurred 75% of the time possible. Rain occurred on 12 days and totaled 3.34 in., .36 in. below normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period was 1.04 in. on the 1st.

**JULY:** Temperatures averaged 70.6°, 1.3° below normal. The high was 90° on the 16th, and the low was 50° on the 10th. Rain occurred on 9 days, totaling 1.51 in., 2.01 in. below normal. The most rain fell on the 8-9th and amounted to .45 in. Sunshine prevailed 80% of the time possible. Lake Erie rose to 76° by the 31st.

**AUGUST:** This was a cool, wet month with 5.26 in. of rain, 1.86 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was 1.58 in. on the 16-17th. Temperatures averaged 67.5°, 2.9° below normal. The high was 89° on the 16th, and the low was 45° on the 6th. Sunshine occurred only 61% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature cooled to 71° by the end of the month.



## REFLECTIONS

**THIRTY YEARS AGO:** Two **Least Bittern** nests were studied closely in a marsh near Burton during the summer of 1967 (Sneller). A **Common Snipe** with a young in tow was in Avon on June 17 (Stasko). **Common Moorhens** nested at Lake Abrams (Stasko). Five or six singing **Sedge Wrens** were found in an abandoned field in Avon on July 16 (Klamm). A **Western Meadowlark**



was also in Avon on several dates that summer (Klamm). A **Piping Plover** was at Headlands Beach SP on Aug 30 (Snider).

**TWENTY YEARS AGO:** A very tardy **Connecticut Warbler** was at the old Brooklyn Airport on June 3, 1977 (Bacik). **Upland Sandpipers** nested at Burke Airport (Hoffman, Klamm). Five breeding plumaged **American Avocets** were at White City on July 8 (Hoffman, m.obs.). A **Western Sandpiper** was scrutinized carefully at White City on July 16 (Hannikman). An early fall **Connecticut Warbler** was at Sims Park on Aug. 13 (Corbin). The first summer record of **Hudsonian Godwit** for the region was at Burke Airport Aug. 20-24 (Hoffman, m.obs.). Nine **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** graced Burke Airport on Aug. 27 (Besser).

**TEN YEARS AGO:** In a portent of seasons to come, a **Northern Parula** was noted at Furnace Run Metropark on June 24, 1987 (Maugans). **Hooded Mergansers** nested successfully in Brecksville (Chasar). Three **Marbled Godwits** were in Lorain on July 1 (Kellerman). A **Least Tern** delighted many at Gordon Park on July 11 (Hannikman). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Baldwin Lake July 18-20 (Klamm). A female **Ruddy Duck** was seen at Gordon Park most of June (Klamm). The first nesting for the region of this species was established when a female with a brood of ducklings was noted on Lake Erie west of 72nd St. on Aug. 1 (Gustafson, Peterjohn). A **Tricolored Heron** was seen on the beach at Headlands on Aug. 9 (Kellerman, Gustafson). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen on the telephone wires at Gordon Park on Aug. 30 (Harlan, Hannikman).

## COMMENT on the SEASON

by Larry Rosche

I must confess to having become a summer bird census mercenary. I seek grants and contracts to do nesting projects. This summer I received a grant to work with Dr. Lisa Petit and her brother-in-law Dr. Ken Petit. We worked in the CVNRA and at the Hinckley Bridal Trail. I did point counts for the project while others did nest finding and nest studies. After watching Ken study a Hooded Warbler nest for 45 minutes, I developed a sense of admiration for those patient enough to sit and find out what the nestlings are being fed. In this instance, the warbler was feeding a cowbird. Ugh! I just wanted to remove the bird, but Ken advised that in the whole picture it was senseless to think that the removal of one cowbird would make a significant difference. At Hinckley Metropark I observed first hand what Norman Kotesovec has known for some time. The area is an absolute haven for Neotropical species. I can't help sharing in the enthusiasm of Norman and Sean Zadar, Dwight and [Ann] Chasar, and Dan Best. Reading their breeding bird reports remind me of how much I enjoyed working on the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas project. Norm has included a very interesting and enlightening article on the abundance of Black-throated Green Warblers in the Hinckley area. The other single most spectacular breeding bird this summer had to be Yellow-billed Cuckoo. I cannot remember seeing so many as I did in the CVNRA. It seemed that I had them on almost every point count. Chasar and Tveekrem echoed my sentiments in their reports. The Chasars' study of the Brecksville area is detailed and enjoyable reading. Dan Best continued his Prothonotary Warbler project and discovered Geauga County's first colony of Pine Warblers. My thanks to Carol Tveekrem for her continued study in Summit County. Indeed, this ongoing project presents a solid barometer for gauging population densities for many species over the years. Her project found record highs for several species I have expressed deep concern for in recent years. These included Green Heron, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Brown Thrasher.

Lakefront birders were treated to spectacular shorebirding in Lorain. When you put Tom LePage in the same birding location for many hours, outstanding and verified sightings are bound to occur. Multiple sightings of American Avocets, both Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Willets, and Whimbrels were among the outstanding sightings. Most of these were seen by many observers. One of Ohio's rarest birds, a Least Tern, graced the mudflat there for several hours.

On a different note, being an editor, I sometimes have to make discretionary decisions that may not please some parties. Please don't expect me to print every anonymous sighting that makes the Rare Bird Tape. Along the same vein, I have stopped writing the HTMLs that enable us to be on The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Web Site. The reason is that so many of our sightings are unverified. I am not an "I don't see 'em; I just report 'em" type of editor like some of the birding forums on the Web. I also receive reports on "confirmed nestings" that are unverified. A confirmed sighting is one in which photographs are obtained, or multiple parties see the bird. This editor does not want the responsibility of accepting first state nesting records on the basis of one observer.

Good birding.

**T**he only **Pied-billed Grebes** reported were on Greater Akron Audubon Summer Bird Count (GAASBC) (CT) and at Walborn Reservoir on June 28 (BDL). **Double-crested Cormorants** and **Great Blue Herons** were in outstanding totals. One would have to assume that it will only be a matter of time before thinning of the cormorant flocks will take place. **Great Egrets** were fairly numerous. On Aug. 18, 3 were along Station Road (DAC) and 5 were at LaDue (LR). **Green Herons** were found in fair numbers. A total of 7 was at Ira Road in the CVNRA on July 7 (TMR). Another 7 were at Pinery Narrows on Aug. 17 (DAC). Nine were at the Weaver Road Marsh in Shalersville on July 25 (LR). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at HBSP on June 15 (RH).

Two **Green-winged Teals** were in Lorain on June 18-20 (TLP, RHL, SW, RR). Two were there on June 20. An **American Black Duck** was in Lorain the same day. Another was at HBSP on Aug. 10 (EB). Three **Northern Pintails** were in Lorain on July 27 (RHL, SW). A **Northern Shoveler** was in Lorain June 22 (CH). A southbound pair reached Berlin on Aug. 3 (BDL). A Gadwall was a surprise in Lorain on June 29 (CH). Two **American Wigeons** at Lorain on Aug. 6 were early (TLP). A molting **Lesser Scaup** was in Lorain on July 30 (DJB). Three female **Hooded Mergansers**, each with a brood, were seen in Pinery Narrows, CVNRA (DAC). An immature was in Lorain on Aug. 9 (BF, PL). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen intermittently throughout the period at HBSP (RH). A **Ruddy Duck** was seen in Lorain after late July (TLP, PP). A

female was at LaDue on on Aug. 31 (CH). **Ospreys** showed up in unusually small numbers. One was in Lorain on Aug. 1 (TLP). One spent August along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor (EB). A **Bald Eagle** was at Station Road on Aug. 17 (DAC). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found in Chardon on July 29 (DB) and at Lake Rockwell on July 10 (CH). **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to increase throughout most of the region. It is not unusual to find them soaring over any river valley in the region. Nesting **Broad-winged Hawks** were fewer than expected. Young birds in Geauga Co. on Aug. 17 (LR, VW) and in Edinburg on Aug. 26 (VW) indicated dispersal was right on time. The numerous sightings of juvenile **Red-tailed Hawks**, show that they are doing rather well. **American Kestrels** fledged two young in Streetsboro (Holt). This was the only report of young kestrels. Augustine's trips in rural Geauga Co. produced no kestrel sightings until Aug. 18.

**Ring-necked Pheasants** were unreported away from eastern Portage Co. **Wild Turkeys** have become more common than any other game bird in the region. One of the more reliable spots is Deep Lock Quarry where 2 were seen on June 21 (TMR). Two **Northern Bobwhites** were near Rochester (Lorain Co.) on June 21 (RHL, SW). **Common Moorhens** again successfully raised young in Shalersville. As many as 12 chicks were seen on Aug. 8 (VW, LR). A single moorhen was noted in Lorain throughout July and August.

**S**horebirds were diligently tallied in Lorain (see table). **Black-bellied Plovers** were in the usual small summer numbers. Most of these were strikingly handsome in plumage. An **American Golden-Plover** was at West Branch SP on Aug. 13 (CH). One was in Lorain on Aug. 30 (DAC). **Semipalmated Plovers** passed through in fair numbers in Lorain. **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**

#### Aug 13, 1997 - Lorain Still Exciting

This afternoon from 4:15 to 5:30 we visited Lorain along with Rob Harlan in the beginning and Norma Kraps at the end. As reported yesterday, one Hudsonian Godwit remained. There was also one Willet, 5 American Avocets, 8 Black-bellied Plovers, a few Sanderlings and a White-rumped Sandpiper along with Semipalmated Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers and Short-billed Dowitchers. The Black-bellied Plovers were calling frequently and at some point all took off to the east. It was strange to see no Killdeer or Spotted Sandpipers on the flat. It was overcast, humid, but chilly with north wind and an exciting feel to the air. Just when we intended to leave, a Peregrine Falcon arrived and caught a bird before we even knew it was there. With its catch, it nearly hovered, circled the landfill and went west to perch and eat on the water tower on top of the power plant. The shorebirds and even gulls and terns were restless after that and many of them left. When we saw the godwit fly higher and higher into the sky we knew it was a bad sign and soon it too disappeared into the east.

*Dick and Jean Hoffman.....*

**SELECTED TALLIES OF MIGRANT SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS FOR LORAIN SUMMER 1997**

| SPECIES                | 6/1 | 6/18 | 7/15 | 7/17 | 7/26 | 7/28 | 8/8 | 8/10 | 8/17 | 8/24 | 8/28 | 8/31 |
|------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Black-bellied Plover   | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | 2    | 1   | 2    | 6    | •    | •    | 1    |
| Semipalmated Plover    | •   | 2    | 2    | 2    | 4    | 19   | 8   | 12   | 11   | 10   | 11   | 20   |
| American Avocet        | •   | •    | 6    | 2    | •    | 1    | 2   | 2    | 2    | •    | 5    | •    |
| Greater Yellowlegs     | •   | 1    | 2    | •    | •    | 1    | •   | •    | 1    | 2    | 4    | 2    |
| Lesser Yellowlegs      | •   | •    | 7    | 17   | 7    | 2    | 3   | 13   | 8    | 24   | 2    | 17   |
| Solitary Sandpiper     | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | 1    | •    | •    | •    |
| Willet                 | •   | •    | •    | •    | 9    | •    | 12  | 9    | 2    | •    | •    | 1    |
| Whimbrel               | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | 3    | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | 1    |
| Hudsonian Godwit       | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | 17   | 1    | •    | •    | •    |
| Marbled Godwit         | •   | •    | 1    | •    | •    | •    | 1   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Ruddy Turnstone        | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | 1    | •    | •    | 1    |
| Red Knot               | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | 2    | •    | •    | •    |
| Sanderling             | 3   | •    | •    | v    | 6    | 2    | •   | •    | 11   | 3    | •    | 1    |
| Semipalmated Sp.       | 35  | 1    | 15   | 30   | 35   | 35   | 10  | 20   | 50   | 60   | •    | 45   |
| Western Sandpiper      | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | 1    | 3    | •    | •    | •    |
| Least Sandpiper        | •   | •    | 35   | 25   | 20   | 20   | 10  | 3    | 20   | 4    | •    | 5    |
| White-rumped Sp.       | •   | 1    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Baird's Sandpiper      | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | 1    | 1    | •    | •    |
| Pectoral Sandpiper     | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | 2    | •   | 3    | 3    | 1    | •    | •    |
| Dunlin                 | 7   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Stilt Sandpiper        | •   | •    | •    | 2    | 7    | •    | •   | 3    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | •   | •    | 10   | 10   | 26   | 12   | 2   | 5    | 5    | 11   | 17   | 17   |
| Wilson' Phalarope      | •   | 1    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    |
| Red-necked Phal.       | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | 1    | •    | •    |
| Caspian Tern           | •   | 10   | 45   | 26   | 62   | 92   | •   | •    | 6    | •    | 7    | 5    |
| Common Tern            | 5   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | 6   | •    | •    | 10   | 146  | 10   |
| Forster's Tern         | •   | 1    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | 10   | •    | •    |
| Black Tern             | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | •    | •   | •    | •    | •    | •    | 1    |

Data provided by Tom LePage and Craig Holt

were in small numbers. Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Lake Rockwell on July 11 (CH). **Spotted Sandpipers** nested in expected numbers. **Ruddy Turnstones** were seen in small numbers at Lorain and HBSP. **Sanderlings** were as expected, with a high of 11 at Lorain on Aug. 17 (CH). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were numerous in Lorain. An adult **Western Sandpiper** was in Lorain on Aug. 10 (CH). Three juveniles were there on Aug. 17 (CH, LR). **Least Sandpipers** were widespread as expected. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was early in Lorain on July 30 (DJH). Juveniles were noted by many observers in Lorain the last half of August. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found in Lorain on June 18, 22, &

25 (TLP, DJH, RR). A single was on the beach at HBSP on Aug. 17 (LR, VW). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were poorly distributed. The only **Stilt Sandpiper** found outside of Lorain was at Berlin on June 26 (BDL). Away from Lorain, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen at HBSP, West Branch SP, and Berlin. An **American Woodcock** was an unusual find at HBSP on June 15 and July 4 (RH). A **Common Snipe** was at Berlin on July 26 (BDL).

**Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** nested in fair numbers. A juvenile Ring-billed Gull, with its fresh, brownish plumage stood out from the other other gulls in Lorain on a rather early date of June 25 (DJH). An estimated 800 **Bonaparte's**

**Gulls** were in Lorain by early August. A juvenile-plumaged **Great Black-backed Gull** was at HBSP in early July (EB, RH, AM, LR). Once again, the question of how close does this species nest to the Cleveland region popped up. About 20 Great Black-backed summered in Lorain (CH, TLP).

**Caspian Terns** peaked at 108 in Lorain on July 31 (TLP). The 20 Common Terns at Lake Rockwell on Aug. 17 were unexpected (LR). The high from HBSP was only 20 on Aug. 31 (RH). The high at Lorain was 146 on Aug. 28 (TLP). Even this tally seemed lower than expected. Three **Forster's Terns** were at HBSP on June 1 (EB, RH, AM).

POINT COUNT SURVEYS FOR HINCKLEY AND CVNRA

| SELECTED SPECIES AT SITE     | Riding Run | Stanford | Riverview | Hinckley |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| BROAD-WINGED HAWK            | •          | 1        | •         | •        |
| BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO          | •          | •        | •         | •        |
| YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO         | 1          | 7        | 15        | 7        |
| RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD    | 1          | 1        | 2         | 2        |
| RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER       | 3          | 12       | 7         | 7        |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER             | •          | 6        | •         | 1        |
| HAIRY WOODPECKER             | 5          | 3        | 5         | 2        |
| NORTHERN FLICKER             | •          | 2        | 1         | •        |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER          | 2          | 2        | 5         | 2        |
| EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE           | 4          | 10       | 6         | 12       |
| ACADIAN FLYCATCHER           | 10         | 16       | 17        | 17       |
| EASTERN PHOEBE               | 3          | 1        | 1         | 2        |
| GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER     | 2          | •        | 2         | 4        |
| EASTERN KINGBIRD             | •          | 6        | •         | •        |
| BROWN CREEPER                | 1          | •        | 3         | •        |
| CAROLINA WREN                | 2          | 1        | •         | •        |
| HOUSE WREN                   | •          | 3        | •         | •        |
| BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER        | •          | •        | 1         | •        |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD             | 2          | 2        | •         | •        |
| VEERY                        | 18         | 3        | 9         | 19       |
| WOOD THRUSH                  | 6          | •        | 9         | 18       |
| AMERICAN ROBIN               | 20         | 24       | 20        | 32       |
| GRAY CATBIRD                 | 1          | 1        | 1         | •        |
| YELLOW-THROATED VIREO        | 7          | 8        | 7         | •        |
| WARBLING VIREO               | •          | •        | •         | 1        |
| RED-EYED VIREO               | 27         | 27       | 27        | 15       |
| BLUE-WINGED WARBLER          | •          | 1        | •         | •        |
| YELLOW WARBLER               | •          | 1        | •         | •        |
| BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER | 3          | •        | •         | •        |
| CERULEAN WARBLER             | 4          | 3        | 13        | 7        |
| BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER      | 1          | •        | •         | •        |
| AMERICAN REDSTART            | 6          | •        | •         | 19       |
| OVENBIRD                     | 13         | •        | 8         | 3        |
| LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH        | 1          | •        | 1         | 2        |
| COMMON YELLOWTHROAT          | 1          | 4        | •         | •        |
| HOODED WARBLER               | 18         | 5        | 16        | 16       |
| SCARLET TANAGER              | 14         | 8        | 7         | 7        |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL            | 24         | 24       | 21        | 23       |
| ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK        | 4          | •        | 2         | 2        |
| INDIGO BUNTING               | 3          | 3        | 3         | •        |
| CHIPPING SPARROW             | 1          | •        | 1         | 4        |
| FIELD SPARROW                | •          | 2        | •         | •        |
| SONG SPARROW                 | 1          | 3        | 1         | •        |
| BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD         | 2          | •        | •         | •        |
| ORCHARD ORIOLE               | •          | 1        | •         | •        |
| BALTIMORE ORIOLE             | 2          | 1        | •         | •        |
| PURPLE FINCH                 | •          | •        | 1         | •        |

Data provided by Larry Rosche

Nesting passerines received excellent coverage. We obtained reports from all counties, and apparently a good breeding season was had. It was particularly good to hear from the rural areas of Lorain and Medina Counties.

Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at Horseshoe Pond on Aug. 9 (GB, JT). One was in north Chagrin on Aug. 30 (RR). A bird was along the Upper

Cuyahoga in late June (DB). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were far and away more numerous than any year in my tenure as editor. This was especially encouraging in that it is a species that is monitored closely by the U.S. Fish & wildlife Department. As Dwight Chasar put it, “many all over the CVNRA.”

Three **Barred Owls** were at Hudson Springs Park on Aug. 23 (GB). **Common Nighthawks** were widespread

during late August. As usual, Wert noted the large numbers in Summit Co. in late August. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested at Pinery Narrows (DAC), North Chagrin (RR), Berlin (BDL), and Bacon Woods (TMR). There were 4 reports from Geauga Co. (DB). **Pileated Woodpeckers** totals reflected a population that is increasing.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was along Station Road in the CVNRA on Aug. 31(DAC). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** nested commonly. Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** lingered at HBSP until June 8 (RH). One was at Cleveland Lakefront SP/Villa Angela on Aug. 24 (BF, PL). **Acadian Flycatchers** were abundant in the CVNRA. A total of 5 **Willow Flycatchers** was at Spencer Lake on June 11 (TLP). An **Alder Flycatcher** was unusual at Ira Road on Aug. 4 (TMR). Rickard found them at Streetsboro Bog on June 4 and July 25. A **Least Fly-catcher** was a good find at Bacon Woods on June 29 (TMR). One was at Ira Road on July 7 (TMR). **Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbirds** seemed to be in average totals throughout the region.

Over 1500 **Purple Martins** gathered in Lorain on Aug. 29 (TLP). **Cliff Swallows** are flourishing at West Branch SP and Berlin Reservoir. One in the CVNRA on June 22 was a surprise (RHL, SW). Probable nesting **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted at Hinckley (NK) and at Headwaters Park (DB). By late August, many migrants were beginning to flow into the region. At least 3 **Brown Creepers** summered in the vicinity of Russell Park (DB). On June 28, 3 were heard in Hinckley MP (RHL, SW). **Carolina Wrens** made almost everyone’s list of reports.



## 1997 AKRON AUDUBON SUMMER BIRD COUNT

|                           |      |                          |      |                                 |       |
|---------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Common Loon               | 1    | Downy Woodpecker         | 152  | Blue-winged Warbler             | 71    |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | 1    | Hairy Woodpecker         | 54   | Yellow Warbler                  | 504   |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | 41   | Northern Flicker         | 103  | Chestnut-sided Warbler          | 5     |
| Great Egret               | 1    | Pileated Woodpecker      | 15   | Northern Parula Warbler         | 1     |
| Great Blue Heron          | 292  | Eastern Wood Pewee       | 130  | Black-throated Green Warb.      | 6     |
| Green Heron               | 50   | Acadian Flycatcher       | 104  | Yellow-throated Warbler         | 1     |
| Mute Swan                 | 5    | Alder Flycatcher         | 6    | Prairie Warbler                 | 1     |
| Canada Goose              | 1278 | Willow Flycatcher        | 114  | Cerulean Warbler                | 19    |
| Wood Duck                 | 127  | Least Flycatcher         | 8    | Black & White Warbler           | 1     |
| American Black Duck       | 1    | Eastern Phoebe           | 55   | American Redstart               | 28    |
| Mallard                   | 823  | Great Crested Flycatcher | 82   | Ovenbird                        | 17    |
| Blue-winged Teal          | 1    | Eastern Kingbird         | 65   | Louisiana Waterthrush           | 6     |
| Ruddy Duck                | 1    | Homed Lark               | 29   | Mourning Warbler                | 1     |
| Turkey Vulture            | 137  | Purple Martin            | 35   | Common Yellowthroat             | 361   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | 2    | Tree Swallow             | 244  | Hooded Warbler                  | 105   |
| Cooper's Hawk             | 16   | N. Rough-winged Swallow  | 129  | Yellow-breasted Chat            | 7     |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | 14   | Bank Swallow             | 403  | Scarlet Tanager                 | 96    |
| Broad-winged Hawk         | 7    | Cliff Swallow            | 1    | Northern Cardinal               | 809   |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | 57   | Barn Swallow             | 318  | Rose-breasted Grosbeak          | 121   |
| American Kestrel          | 9    | Blue Jay                 | 515  | Indigo Bunting                  | 314   |
| Wild Turkey               | 19   | American Crow            | 545  | Eastern Towhee                  | 112   |
| Virginia Rail             | 3    | Black-capped Chickadee   | 390  | Chipping Sparrow                | 400   |
| Sora                      | 3    | Tufted Titmouse          | 449  | Field Sparrow                   | 158   |
| American Coot             | 1    | White-breasted Nuthatch  | 143  | Savannah Sparrow                | 66    |
| Killdeer                  | 255  | Brown Creeper            | 6    | Grasshopper Sparrow             | 9     |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | 22   | Carolina Wren            | 69   | Song Sparrow                    | 861   |
| American Woodcock         | 4    | House Wren               | 404  | Swamp Sparrow                   | 121   |
| Ring-billed Gull          | 156  | Winter Wren              | 1    | Bobolink                        | 101   |
| Herring Gull              | 9    | Marsh Wren               | 12   | Red-winged Blackbird            | 1323  |
| Caspian Tern              | 1    | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | 50   | Eastern Meadowlark              | 54    |
| Black Tern                | 2    | Eastern Bluebird         | 60   | Common Grackle                  | 1258  |
| Rock Dove                 | 501  | Veery                    | 65   | Brown-headed Cowbird            | 358   |
| Mourning Dove             | 849  | Hermit Thrush            | 1    | Orchard Oriole                  | 17    |
| Black-billed Cuckoo       | 10   | Wood Thrush              | 116  | Baltimore Oriole                | 255   |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | 27   | American Robin           | 1953 | Purple Finch                    | 18    |
| Eastern Screech Owl       | 11   | Gray Catbird             | 456  | House Finch                     | 584   |
| Great Horned Owl          | 4    | Mockingbird              | 2    | American Goldfinch              | 745   |
| Barred Owl                | 10   | Brown Thrasher           | 30   | House Sparrow                   | 1289  |
| Common Nighthawk          | 20   | Cedar Waxwing            | 400  |                                 |       |
| Whip-poor-will            | 1    | European Starling        | 1966 | Total Birds                     | 25930 |
| Chimney Swift             | 516  | White-eyed Vireo         | 8    | Total Species                   | 128   |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 63   | Blue-headed Vireo        | 7    | Party Hours                     | 333.5 |
| Belted Kingfisher         | 43   | Yellow-throated Vireo    | 50   | Participants                    | 44    |
| Red-headed Woodpecker     | 1    | Warbling Vireo           | 117  |                                 |       |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker    | 158  | Red-eyed Vireo           | 312  | Data provided by Carol Tveekrem |       |

They must have enjoyed a banner breeding season. **House Wrens** were common. **Marsh Wrens** were reported in expected numbers. The high was 12 at Walborn on June 28 (BDL). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Bacon Woods on June 30 represented one of the very few reports

other than the Tveekrem study (TMR). The high count of gnatcatchers was 4 at Holden Arboretum on Aug. 19 (RR).

Thirty **Eastern Bluebirds** fledged at the South Chagrin bluebird study area.(BFR, JK). **Veeries** and **Wood**

**Thrushes** were very common in the CVNRA, especially along Riding Run. At Hinckley they were abundant. **Gray Catbirds** are flourishing. A **Northern Mockingbird** was a good find at HBSP on June 21 (RH). A bird at

Lakeshore MP on June 6 was equally surprising (JP). **Brown Thrashers** are trying to maintain their uncommon existence.

**White-eyed Vireos** suffered a major setback to their recent advancement into the region. Very few were noted when compared to last year. A late White-eyed was at Nathan Hale Park on June 3 (RHL). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Headwaters Park on June 28 (DB). One was at Holden Arboretum on June 25 (RR). Four were noted at Hinckley MP on June 28 (RHL, SW). Three migrants were at HBSP on Aug. 29 (NK, SZ). Two tardy **Philadelphia Vireos** were at HBSP on June 2 (RH). Two early 'Phillies' were at HBSP on Aug. 29 (NK, SZ).

Once again, many warblers were noted well into June along the lake. On June 1, Hannikman found 14 warbler species at Headlands Beach State Park. Carol Tveekrem's table illustrates a good notion as to which warbler species is the most abundant nester in the region. The final few days of August brought the first big push of southbound migrants.

It was hard to tell if a June 20 **Blue-winged Warbler** at Lakeshore MP was north or southbound (JP). At Berlin, 6 could be found near the Osprey nesting site (BDL). **Yellow Warblers** were abundant. In Geauga Co., **Chestnut-sided Warblers** summered at Big Creek and Headwaters Parks. Four territorial male **Magnolia Warblers** were found at Hinckley (NK). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was an exceptional find at Hinckley on June 14 (NK). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in Medina on June 21 was surely mixed up as to

which direction it was going (CW). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widely reported and in solid totals. Five were tallied at Happy Days Ledges on June 29 (DAC). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Bacon Woods on June 29 was from a new local site (TMR). One was at Ira Road on June 22 (RHL, SW). **Pine Warblers** nested in their usual haunts. They stopped singing by July 20 at Brecksville (DAC). Dan Best and Eric Faber found 4-5 males singing at Headwaters Park in June. This is the first Geauga Co. location for the species. News on **Cerulean Warblers** was encouraging. Five were at Spencer Lake on June 11 and another 5 were at Bacon Woods on June 14 (TLP). Solid numbers were



reported on breeding bird surveys at Hinckley MP and the the CVNRA. **American Redstarts** remain one of our most abundant woodland nesters. I was surprised as to how tame they are around a nest site. The **Prothonotary Warbler** nest box program along the Upper Cuyahoga produced fewer young than hoped for. This was due in part to flooding and tenacious House Wrens. This caused the warblers to resort to using natural cavities. Thus, they were subjected to cowbird parasitism (DB). Three pairs of Prothonotaries nested in Pinery Narrows (DAC). **Ovenbirds** were surprisingly abun-


dant in the areas Rosche surveyed along Brandywine Creek. The tally of 8 at Bradley Woods was also encouraging (TLP). **Louisiana Water-thrushes** are rarely noted away from nesting sites. A bird outside the Meyer Center at Big Creek Park on Aug 22 was unique (DB). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Hinckley on June 17 (LR). A **Mourning Warbler** was late at HBSP on June 15 (RH). The only nesting report was from Lake Co. (JP). A tally of 30 Wilson's Warblers at HBSP on Aug. 29 was impressive (NK, SZ). **Canada Warblers** nested at Hell Hollow (JP). A migrant was noted at HBSP on Aug. 31 (RR). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Spencer Lake on June 11 (TLP). Four were among the findings at Bacon Woods on June 29 (TMR). A single was in Parkman on July 4-5 (JA).

Reflecting the lateness of Spring migration, a total of 25+ **Scarlet Tanagers** was reported from Lakeshore MP on June 4 (JP). Generally speaking, sparrow numbers were as expected. **Vesper Sparrows** were in their traditional Portage County areas in expected numbers. Other than on the GAASBC, **Grasshopper Sparrows** went unreported. Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were in Orange Village on July 7 (RR). They were found at 54 sites in 13 Lake Co. Parks (JP). Four were at North Chagrin on Aug. 6 (BF, PL).

**Eastern Meadowlarks** summered as well as can be expected. Six **Orchard Orioles** along Ira Road in the CVNRA on July 28 was a good count (TMR). **Baltimore Orioles** were common. A **Purple Finch** was along Ira Road in the CVNRA on June 23 (TMR). They were felt to be scarce elsewhere.



# PEREGRINE UPDATE



Of the 12 sites in Ohio reporting pairs of Peregrine Falcons, 6 are in the Cleveland region. The

following is excerpted from a FAX sent to Paula Lozano from Ohio Division of Wildlife official, Mary Jean Peters.

Terminal Tower, Cleveland. Sara Jean Peters and Dave Scott, Ohio Division of Wildlife, report that 9-year-old male Szell 67Z paired for the fifth time with 5-year old female Zenith 23W. Between March 13 and April 5, 4 eggs were laid, possibly by a different female. A partial band reading suggested that Zenith was present at this time. On April 16, 7 eggs were seen and Zenith was identified on the nest. The eggs were candled and found not to be viable. The eggs were removed and by May 19, a new clutch of 4 eggs was being incubated. Hatching began on June 19 and all 4 young were banded and fledged by August 1. On August 4, 1 of the young was found dead on a ledge near the nest site. The decomposing body was presumed dead for a day or two with death attributed to an unknown injury sustained after fledging. Despite the confusion surrounding the early nesting season, this pair had an outstanding performance this year.

LTV Steel, Cleveland. New ste. An unidentified pair of adults nested here in 1997 with unsubstantiated reports from workers that at least 2 young were produced in 1996 as well. The female has a black band. Three eggs were laid on an exposed beam on the side of an abandoned building near the Cuyahoga River within this industrial complex. Hatching occurred around May 4 and a nest box was installed at banding. Two females and a male fledged June 20,.

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, An unidentified pair of peregrines, each banded, was seen but no nesting was attempted. A nest box was placed in the area. Division of Wildlife staff were told that a pair was also seen in 1996, but no young were observed.

Gold Coast, Lakewood. Dave Scott reports that the 1996 pair 3-year-old female Athena 5/V and 4-year-old male Buckeye 3/1, were territorial, aggressive, and displayed courtship behavior early in the nesting season, but were unable to find a suitable nest site due to removal of the nest box and other steps taken to minimize conflicts between the pair and building tenants, maintenance personnel, and management staff. An unbanded bird was seen in mid-May around the site and the pair have not been seen since late spring.

Akron. A pair of peregrines was seen near the nest box. The female is J.P. \*G/3, fledged wild in 1996 from the New Center, Detroit, Michigan; the male is Bandit 3/\*P, fledged wild in 1995 from the Book Building, also in Detroit. This pair did not nest but was seen regularly throughout the nesting season according to Sarah Jean Peters and Dave Scott.

Elyria. Dave Scott reports that an unbanded adult female was paired with a juvenile male \*A/5, fledged in 1996 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A nest box was installed in the area in early April; however nesting did not occur this year.



**COMMON LOON** - A breeding plumaged loon was noted at Headlands Beach SP on June 8, 14, 15, and July 6 (Hannikman, Bacik, Missig). One was seen by Jim Reyda at Springfield Lake on the Akron Summer Bird Count (fide Tveekrem).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** - This hard to detect species was seen along the Cuyahoga River near Shalersville on Aug. 13 (Rosche).

**LEAST BITTERN** - At least one bird was seen at Shipman's Pond through mid-August (Hannikman, Bacik, Missig).

**SNOWY EGRET** - A bird was seen along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor on July 12 (Bacik).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** - An adult was reported from Painesville on June 13 (Pogacnik). Lane found an immature at Walborn Reservoir on Aug. 22. It was seen there later by Hartville birder, Kent Miller.

**CATTLE EGRET** - A single bird was at Burke Airport on June 1 (Holt).

**OSPREY** - The Berlin Reservoir nest site produced two young. By Aug. 3 they were gone from the nest (Lane).

**BALD EAGLE** - The Lake Rockwell nest (found by Vernon Weingart) produced 3 young, one of which, was dropped by wildlife officials and narrowly escaped death. I don't mean to be controversial, but why is it necessary to distress such a magnificent species at the nest when they are no longer endangered?

**NORTHERN HARRIER** - One was at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 2 (Hannikman). One was seen in the Burton Wetlands on Aug. 19 (fide Best).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** - An adult was seen at I-271 and Rockside Road on June 27 (Lane). One was in Lorain on Aug. 13 (Hoffman). An immature was at Burke Airport on Aug. 21. It or another was at Edgewater Park the next day (Barber). Lozano

reported that the Terminal Tower nest produced 4 young. One of the terrels crashed and died on its first flight. The only female was found injured in Sandusky. It subsequently died at a rehab center.

**SANDHILL CRANE** - Best re-reported that a pair of Sandhill Cranes was seen on July 3 along the Upper Cuyahoga River, just downstream from Bridge Creek confluence. This was the first sighting (as far as he knew) since mid-May. Speculation that the cranes may have nested in the wetlands along the Cuyahoga River, but would have suffered from the severe flooding with heavy rains at end of May/first of June. Another possible/very plausible sighting (in flight) was made on 7/8 on Upper Cuyahoga River between Russell Park and Rt. 422 by Gene Wright, ODNR Preserve Manager (file Best).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** - This summer provided excellent opportunities

to see this species in Lorain. As many as 14 could be found there (July 15 - Harlan and Wagner). Given the amount of diligent coverage, totals surely added up to over 30 individuals (LePage, Holt, Hoffman, m.obs.).

**WILLET** - While not usually a species found in this column, this summer Willet numbers were so exceptional I decided to include them here. In Lorain Holt and LePage saw them on 13 dates. Several observers had sightings of 13 birds. The high count was 16 on Aug. 10 (Hoffman). Elsewhere, Bacik had a flock of 7 at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 15. There must have been 40 or so Willets in the region this summer.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** - A family group was noted in Fairport Harbor on June 22. (Hannikman). This is probably the only known regular nesting area in the region.

**WHIMBREL**- Birds were seen in Lorain on 3 dates. Three were there on July 28 (LePage). Singles were there on Aug. 7 (LePage) and on Aug. 31 (Holt). One was reported from Burke Airport on July 30 (Pogacnik).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** - This stylish wader put in a nearly unprecedented showing. A flock of 17 adults landed on the mudflat at Lorain at about 7:30 A.M. on Aug. 17 (Holt, Weingart, m.obs.). A single bird remained there through Aug. 18 (LePage, m.obs.). LePage reported that an observer from Columbus said he saw 34 there on an unnamed date in August. I did not receive further incidentals on this unverified report.

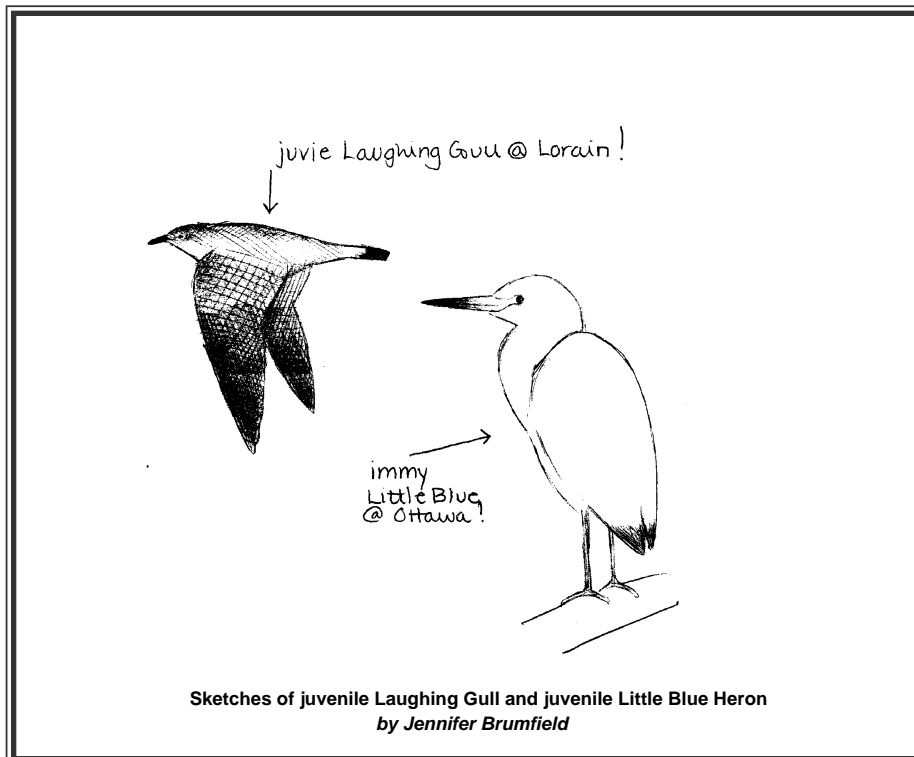
**MARBLED GODWIT** - Of the two godwits known to the region, this is the more expected. LePage found singles in Lorain on June 25, July 15, and Aug. 8. Holt saw two there on July 17.

**RED KNOT** - As many as 2 juveniles graced the Lorain mudflat in mid-August (LePage, Holt, m.obs.).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - A male was in Lorain from June 18 through June 25 (LePage, Hoffman, Romito, m.obs.).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** - Our first report for the period was on Aug. 23-24 in Lorain (Hoffman, Holt). A second was at Lakeside Yacht Club on Aug. 28 (Greenland, Lozano).

**LAUGHING GULL** - LePage saw 2 adults in Lorain on June 28 and a single on July 1-3. An adult was at Headlands Beach SP on July 3 (Bacik). Peskin found one adult in Lorain on July 19. It or another was there on July 20



(Harlan, Wagner, Lozano, Finkelstein). A juvenile was studied and sketched there on Aug. 9 (Brumfield, Finkelstein, Hoffman, Lozano).

**LITTLE GULL** - An adult graced the mudflat in Lorain briefly in Lorain on Aug. 3 (LePage) and on Aug. 17 (Holt).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** - An adult was out-of-season in Lorain on June 14 (LePage).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** A second-year bird was studied closely in Lorain on June 29 (Holt).

**LEAST TERN** - An adult was documented at Lorain on June 18 (Harlan, Wagner). It was verified by LePage, Finkelstein, and Lozano that evening. This editor appreciates the verification of rarities of this magnitude

**BLACK TERN** - Two were seen by Jim Reyda at Springfield Lake on the Akron Summer Bird Count (fide Tveekrem). One was in Lorain on Aug. 31 (Holt).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** - The only report was from the Greater Akron Audubon Summer Bird Count (Tveekrem).

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** - A believable, but unverified report was received from Lakeshore MP on June 10 (Pogacnik). This sighting



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)  
August 17, 1997 Lorain  
by Larry Rosche

awaits acceptance from the Ohio Rare Birds Records Committee.

**WINTER WREN** - One was at Holden Arboretum on June 25 (Rickard). A single bird was seen at Happy Days Ledges on June 29 (Chasar). A bird that was singing at Hinckley MP on June 1 could not be relocated (fide Harlan).



American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*)  
August 1997 Lorain  
by Vernon Weingart

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** -

A nest was located at Hinckley MP on June 19. It was 50-60 feet up in a Norway Spruce. From 8:40-9:40 A.M. adults made 22 trips to the nest site. At least two young were visible at the nest. On July 2, seven kinglets were seen and several were petitioning immatures (Kotesovec). A pair nested at Chapin Forest (JP).

**BELL'S VIREO** - A bird was documented at Chagrin River Park on June 16 (Pogacnik).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** - A singing male was extremely late in Twin Lakes on June 27 (Rosche). Late birds, such as this, are usually found only along Lake Erie.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** - A singing male was observed at Hinckley MP on June 28. Because he was acting very furtive, a nearby nest was suspected (Harlan and Wagner). Two singing males were reported from Hell Hollow (JP).

**NORTHERN PARULA** - The Chasars watched a nest in Brecksville where two young fledged on July 3 (See Field Notes). A bird was reported on the Greater Akron Summer Bird Count (Tveekrem). Two singing males were reported in Lake Co. (JP).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** - A bird was

in Hinckley MP on June 28 (Harlan, Wagner). Two singing males were reported at Hogback Ridge (JP).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** - A singing male was at Hinckley Metropark on June 28 (Harlan, Wagner).

**PALM WARBLER** - A single observer sighting on the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 10 provided a new early fall arrival date for the species (Bacik).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER**  
A male was singing vehemently along the Riding Run Bridal Trail in June (Rosche). A female raised suspicion of breeding along the Zimmerman Trail on June 28 (Hannikman).

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** - The only report of this species nesting was from Lake Rockwell (Weingart).



Turkey Vultures, an adult Osprey, and a Cooper's Hawk.  
An hour later, farther up the lake, the Osprey flew past us, occasionally hovering to fish. Then it reappeared overhead, flying due north with a large fish in its talons. A few minutes later the Osprey came back toward us, still grasping the fish and calling loudly, but with an adult Bald Eagle in seemingly lazy pursuit.

The Bald Eagle did not seem to be flying unusually fast, but with its larger, stronger wings it quickly closed the gap to the Osprey, still burdened with its heavy prey, until, nearly directly overhead the kayak, it rose upside down, thrusting its talons toward the Osprey, but not quite making contact.

The Osprey dropped the fish, which was almost instantly caught by the Bald Eagle in midair. The eagle then took off with its stolen meal with the Osprey following in half-hearted pursuit for a few minutes, before giving up.

We purchased the kayak with inland birding in mind, but this spectacular aerial drama was the highlight of our first birding season afloat.

summer of 1997--18 singing males, along the bridle path off Hinckley

Hills Road and 7 singing males, along the bridle path behind Judge's Lake east to Harter Road (the two singing males near Harter Road technically reside in Summit County, although the bridle path is apparently still part of the Hinckley Reservation). While 25 singing males were noted, the actual number of Black-throated Green males that remained on territory throughout the season may be somewhat less. The greatest single count in one day was 17 singing males. Eleven singing males were censused on at least five dates over a minimum of 20 days, while five birds were censused on eight to ten dates over a 41-93 day period. All said, I can account for 16 singing males that persistently held territory at the Hinckley Hills Road site during all, or portions of, the 1997 breeding season, which, in the case of the Black-throated Green Warbler, began during the last week in April and ended after the first week of August. Disappointingly, however, was the lack of any single territorial Black-throated Green in the Norway Spruce stand along West Drive where I documented nesting activities in 1994 and 1995 (Kotesovec, *The Ohio Cardinal* 17:3, 1994; 18:4, 1995) and where Black-throated Greens have been noted from at least 1992 through 1996 (Rob Harlan, pers. comm.; Kotesovec, pers. obser.). This is somewhat ironic since a large wave of approximately 50 Black-throated Greens, noted by Sean Zadar and me on May 9, 1997, passed through this site. Perhaps any territorial male present was discouraged by the encroachment of so many conspecifics and moved on!

## Birding by Kayak, or the Case of the Purloined Fish

by Jim Heflich & Patty Kellner

On Labor Day (September 1, 1997), Patty and I were kayaking on East Branch Reservoir in eastern Geauga County. Right after putting in, we were treated to a swirling kettle of sixteen

## The Status of Black-throated Green Warblers (*Dendroica virens*) in Hinckley, Ohio

by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr. and Sean Zadar

As many as 25 singing males were found on territory in Hinckley Metropark (Medina Co.) in the



Black-throated Green Warbler and fledgling  
 July, 1997 Hinckley  
 by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

As many as four female Black-throated Green Warblers were found at the Hinckley Hills Road site from June 24 through August 6. A female was observed on June 24 collecting nest material, which included pine needles and spider silk. On June 28 a pair of Black-throated Greens were seen copulating upon the branch of a Black Walnut; and on July 14 an additional pair of Black-throated Green Warblers were both found in attendance to a single fledgling just days out of the nest and unable to fly. Lastly, a female was observed on August 6, foraging low in a Black Cherry, where it was attacked twice and finally driven off by a Blue-winged Warbler!

While the Hinckley Hills Road site was censused thoroughly, the Judge's Lake area was visited too infrequently to ascertain whether the Black-throated Greens present remained on territory the entire season, although 18-20 males may not be an unrealistic number for the whole of Hinckley. Whether this 1997 count is unusually high is uncertain. Rob

Harlan tallied 10-15 pairs in 1992 and attributed an increase in "northern" nesters to "cool weather during late May and June" that "induced northern species to set up house-keeping far south of their expected range" (The Ohio Cardinal 15:4, 1992). Temperatures in May had averaged 52.9 degrees, 5.1 degrees below normal with rainfall totaling 4.21 inches, .72 inches above normal (fide The Cleveland Bird Calendar 93:2, 1997). Given these weather conditions, the 1997 count of Black-throated Greens at Hinckley Metropark may be merely a product of cool temperatures and may not reflect an increase in number, although one might argue for greater vigilance as a causal factor as well (this was the first year that I included the bridle path behind Judge's Lake in my census). Continued and greater censusing in 1998 (and beyond) will be needed at all locations before determining any trends.

Be that as it may, the emphasis of my 1997 study had been on the collection of dawn song data (to

supplement dusk song data recorded in 1996) and the position of the Black-throated Green in the dawn chorus. Song was first heard on April 29 (the date that the first Black-throated Green was found on territory) and was last noted on August 6.

## Notes on Nesting Birds (1997) in Pinery Narrows and Brecksville Reservation

by Dwight & Ann Chasar

The Pinery Narrows in the CVNRA and the nearby Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, are rich in various habitats and, therefore, in bird diversity. Some of the nesting bird diversity merits documentation for base-line data, if for no other reason.

The swamp north on the railroad tracks from the Station Road parking lot in the Pinery Narrows is the site of a heron colony, with at least 80 nests this year, many nests with three or more young. In this same swamp, three pairs of Prothonotary Warblers nested, their nests in a line paralleling the adjacent railroad tracks. The end nests were 565 and 523 feet from the center nest, maybe indicative of territory requirements. Two pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers also nested, and these nests were about 300 yards apart. Three female Hooded Mergansers were found with 7, 6 and 2 young, all within one hour time span. In addition, Brown Creeper, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Northern Flicker, Baltimore Oriole, Cedar

Waxwing, Wood Ducks, and many other common bird nests were discovered here. For the second time in three years, across the river from the swamp, we found the Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest, which was subsequently abandoned. Louisiana Waterthrush is a probable nester along the canal in this location.

*... we again  
found nesting  
Northern Parulas  
in a  
Norway Spruce ...*

Cooper's Hawks' nests found this summer during the survey. It is difficult to decide when the birds "fledge," since the young move out to branches around the nest and return to the nest, fly to nearby trees, and fly back. Also, as a note, early mornings are not good observation times because the young stay low in the nest and all nests are very high.

A Yellow-throated Warbler pair nested (see article in this issue) just off the Station Road parking lot. A probable second nesting (nest building completed about July 11) of Cerulean Warbler, just across the historic iron bridge in a Sycamore 30 feet above the towpath trail, was found. Two fledged broods of Ceruleans were seen being fed in the same vicinity a few days earlier.

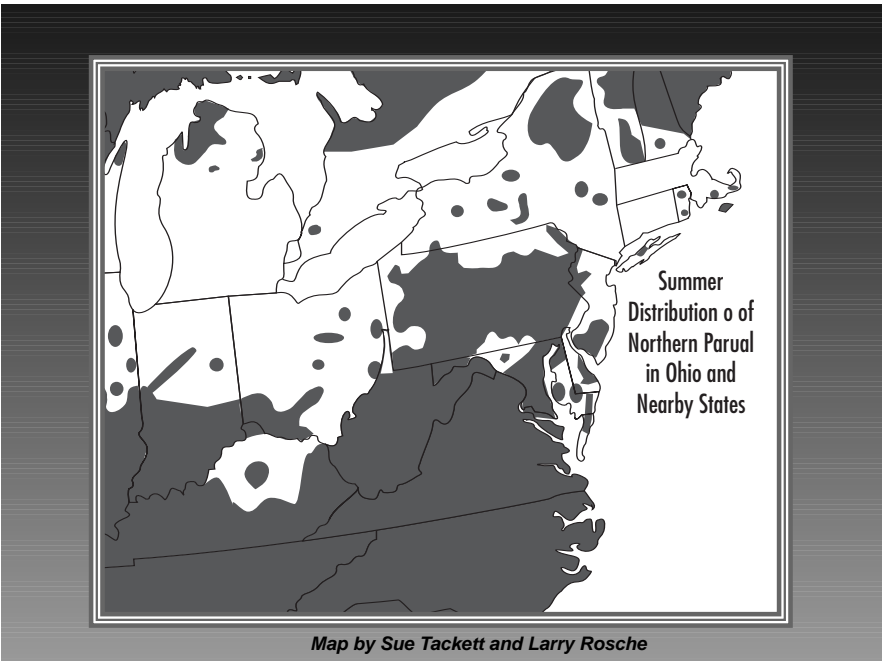
In the Plateau area of the Brecksville Reservation, we again found nesting Northern Parula in a Norway Spruce 19 feet distant from the spruce used in 1994 (and 56 feet from the tree where nesting was attempted in 1995) and just 11 3/4 feet above the parking lot. When we found the nest on June 27, young were already being fed. Two birds fledged on July 3rd and were refound on the 4th, with parents attending them.

During the Ohio breeding bird survey from 1982-87, no Broad-winged, Cooper's, or Red-shouldered Hawks were confirmed as nesters in this area. We found three Cooper's Hawks' nests, one at the Plateau picnic area (3 young), one on Meadows Drive (5 young) and one

near Brecksville Road (2 young) at the maintenance center entrance. The Broad-winged Hawk, which nested (3 fledged) in 1995 near Oak Grove picnic area, nested at My Mountain this year and fledged three young. One Red-shouldered Hawk near the stables fledged three young. Dark-eyed Junco was a possible nester here (nest confirmed in 1996).

Brecksville Metropark is in the second year of a continuing raptor survey. Here are comparisons of four

One pair used an old nest (previous occupant unknown) in a deciduous tree. I (Ann) first saw an adult standing on the nest on June 21; it was seen earlier than that date by another volunteer. Two young were first visible on July 13. They seemed to develop very slowly. They never walked around the edge of the nest nor out on the limbs. On July 27 there was no activity at the nest, and I feel that these young were



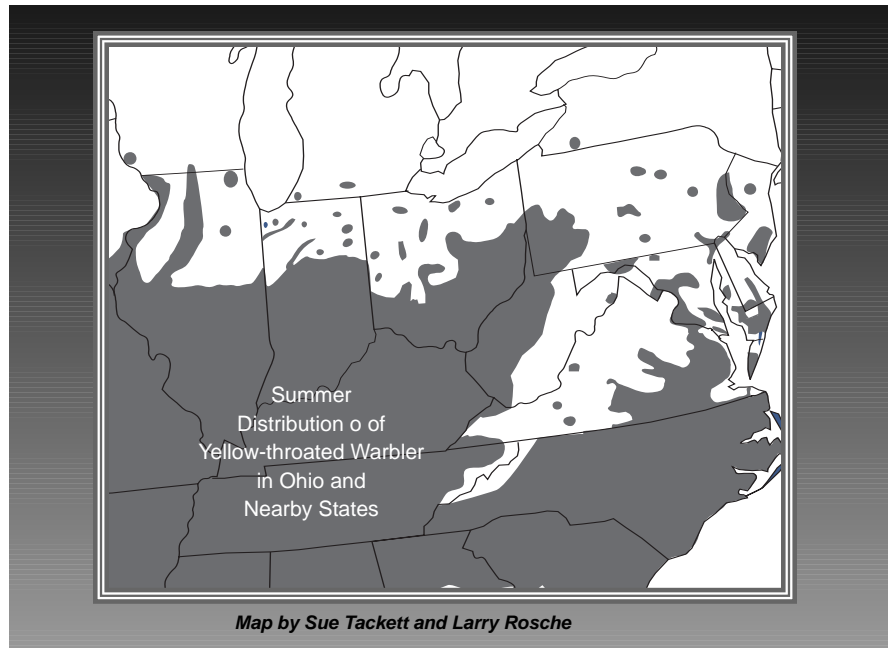


either predated or died from lack of care.

Another pair built a nest in a Norway spruce, overlooking two roads, a parking lot, and a picnic area! This is an area where I bird frequently, but the adults were very quiet and secretive. I had no idea they were nesting until I walked directly under the tree on June 25 and a disturbed adult gave its agitated call; I easily located the nest, with one young visible. On June 28 three young were visible, one of which was hopping around. In the next week all were climbing out on limbs. The nest was empty by July 8, but young could still be heard in the area on July 16.

A third pair built their nest in a secluded white pine area. I found an adult sitting on the nest on June 18. She was always sensitive to my presence, flying from the nest, chasing me with kek-kek-kek calls whenever I came nearby. A turkey vulture, flying overhead, was also chased away. Two young, one standing, were visible by June 29. They were actively moving about on July 4; by July 16 the nest was empty.

The fourth nest, also in a white pine, was the earliest discovered and easily visible from a road 50 feet away. I first saw the adult fly in and sit on the nest on May 10. On June 10 she was standing on the nest, but no young were visible. On June 21 two or three young were visible. This adult never seemed to mind people. She never gave an alarm call nor flew off, and she readily fed her young that were in my view. On June 25 one young was walking around the edge of the nest. On June 28 one young was out of the nest



being fed by an adult. By July 9 the nest had fallen apart, but the young were in nearby trees. They stayed in the immediate vicinity for about two weeks, giving excellent views of feeding behavior--at one time I had four young on one horizontal log. I never saw all five young, but two other volunteers indicated the presence of five young, both before and after fledging.

An up-to-date and complete review of the Cooper's Hawk by Rosenfield and Bielefeldt is in The Birds of North America, Bulletin #75, published by The American Ornithologists' Union and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. They cite a study by Meng of a Cooper's Hawk nest in New York, where an average of 66 medium-sized prey items were required to raise a young bird to age 6 weeks. Perhaps this is not the time to do a bird census in Brecksville Metropark!

## CONFIRMED NESTING OF YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*) IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY by Dwight Chasar

The Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) has returned to the Chippewa Creek ford area in the Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, since before 1980 (Flynn) as a summer resident. Typically one singing territorial male was found. In the last four years there have been sporadic summer reports from other nearby sites, ie, Jaite and Peninsula in Summit County. In the last two years singing males have expanded along the Chippewa Creek toward the Cuyahoga River and north along the river on both the east (Summit Co.) and west side (Cuyahoga Co.). This area is known as the Pinery Narrows.

There were at least 5 males in the summer of 1997.

There has never been confirmed nesting of the Yellow-throated Warbler in Cuyahoga Co or generally in northern Ohio (Peterjohn and Rice). It was anecdotally reported, however, to have nested at Deep Lock Quarry (Summit Co.) in 1980 (Flynn). My wife Ann and I have been in search of this confirmation for several years (Chasar). Part of the difficulty was in our not understanding the Yellow-throated Warbler breeding chronology in NE Ohio, as it is poorly documented in Ohio in general. The Yellow-throated Warbler returns to the Brecksville reservation around the middle of April each year (Chasar) and sings into August. Nests are generally found very high in Sycamore trees, of which there are numerous ones in this vicinity. On July 1, 1995, we found (Chasar) a singing male and chipping female together at the heron colony swamp (Cuyahoga Co) in Pinery Narrows, our first encouragement that both sexes existed. Then, on July 9, 1997, Wilbur McQueen, Ann and I found a Yellow-throated Warbler feeding a fledged Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) along the towpath in Pinery Narrows on the Summit Co side. There have been only two other recorded observations of this behavior (Hall). This not only provided us with the first real evidence of nesting, but more importantly gave us the first suggestion of breeding chronology in NE Ohio. Now was the time to be searching diligently for nests, if it were not already too late.

On July 11, at 6:30 am, I observed a singing male Yellow-throated Warbler in a 100 ft. tall Sycamore tree at the southwest corner, where Station

Road crosses the railroad tracks near the Station Road parking lot of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreational Area. When I returned to that tree at 8:00 am, I found both the singing male and chipping female foraging all over that tree, slowly working their way up to the top. The two birds converged to a dark spot hidden among the leaves. I lost track of the birds. About 10 minutes later, the singing male returned to the tree with a green larva in its beak and over 1-2 minutes moved up the tree to the same dark spot. I really had found the nest site! I returned with my scope at 9:10 am and after about 10 minutes found a non-singing Yellow-throated Warbler approaching from below, what proved to be, the bottom of a nest; and then it disappeared behind the leaves above. This was it.

Later that evening, Ann and I returned to search for the nest from the west (opposite) side of the tree, thus having the evening light to our backs. We viewed the nest with the scope and were rewarded with a tail and beak extending beyond the nest. An adult Yellow-throated Warbler, minutes later, exited from, and perched in front of the nest. Confirmation extraordinaire! On the evening of July 12 from the same perspective, I watched an adult Yellow-throated Warbler enter the nest and remain several minutes.

Many Yellow-throated Warbler nests in Sycamore trees are saddled over a horizontal branch between 10 to 120 ft. high far out from the trunk (Harrison). This nest was about 80 ft. high, but was more suspended from small limbs and leaning against a somewhat vertical branch toward the center of the tree. It resembled a hanging

nest that a Yellow-throated Warbler builds in Spanish moss in the South.

On the evening of July 13, something was amiss, as the nest bottom was hanging loosely. A Yellow-throated Warbler came to the nest with a beak of nest material, pecked at the bottom of the nest, and flew east across the river. By July 16 the nest had totally disappeared. Winnie Kennedy told me that she saw a Yellow-throated Warbler removing material from the nest on the 15th. The nest either failed from poor construction or was predated. This nest may have already been in trouble when I first found it, as it was not a typically-built nest.

Ann and I found an adult Yellow-throated Warbler feeding a well-developed fledgling on the Summit Co. side of the river, not far from the failed nest site on multiple visits between August 18-25th. This could have been the same Yellow-throated Warbler whose nest had failed. Nevertheless, I think we confirmed the nesting of the Yellow-throated Warbler in both Cuyahoga and Summit Counties.

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# CLEVELAND REGION BIRD CHECKLIST

Red-throated Loon  
Pacific Loon  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
Western Grebe  
Northern Gannet  
American White Pelican  
Brown Pelican  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American Bittern  
Least Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Cattle Egret  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned NH  
Yellow-crowned NH  
White Ibis  
Glossy Ibis  
White-faced Ibis  
Wood Stork  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Fulvous Whistling Duck  
G. White-fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Ross's Goose  
Brant  
Canada Goose  
Mute Swan  
Trumpeter Swan  
Tundra Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Tufted Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
King Eider  
Common Eider  
Harlequin Duck  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Black Scoter  
Oldsquaw  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Osprey

Swallow-tailed Kite  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Golden Eagle  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Gyr Falcon  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Ruffed Grouse  
Wild Turkey  
Northern Bobwhite  
Yellow Rail  
Black Rail  
King Rail  
Virginia Rail  
Sora  
Purple Gallinule  
Common Moorhen  
American Coot  
American Golden Plover  
American Golden Plover  
Snowy Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
American Avocet  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Tattler  
Willet  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Upland Sandpiper  
Eskimo Curlew  
Whimbrel  
Long-billed Curlew  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Marbled Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot  
Sanderling  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Purple Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Sant Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Ruff  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Common Snipe  
Eurasian Woodcock  
American Woodcock  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Red Phalarope  
Pomarine Skua  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Long-tailed Jaeger

Laughing Gull  
Franklin's Gull  
Little Gull  
Black-headed Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Heermann's Gull  
Mew Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
California Gull  
Herring Gull  
Thayer's Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Sabine's Gull  
Ivory Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Royal Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Least Tern  
Black Tern  
Thick-billed Murre  
Black Guillemot  
Rock Dove  
Pouter Dove  
Rock Pigeon  
Carolina Parakeet  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Smooth-billed Ani  
Barn Owl  
American Screech-Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Snowy Owl  
Northern Hawk Owl  
Barred Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Short-eared Owl  
Boreal Owl  
Whip-poor-will  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Black-backed Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher  
Willow Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Western Kingbird  
Eastern Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Northern Shrike  
Loggerhead Shrike  
European Starling  
White-eyed Vireo  
Bell's Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Boreal Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Rock Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Bewick's Wren  
House Wren  
Winter Wren  
Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Townsend's Solitaire  
Veery  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Varied Thrush  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Town Thrasher  
Nighthawk (sp.)  
American Pipit  
Sprague's Pipit  
Bohemian Waxwing  
Cedar Waxwing  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-winged Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warb.  
Black-throated Green Warb.  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Kirtland's Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler

Swainson's Warbler  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Kentucky Warbler  
Connecticut Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Hooded Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
Painted Redstart  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Western Tanager  
Green-backed Towhee  
Eastern Towhee  
Spotted Towhee  
Bachman's Sparrow  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow  
Black-throated Sparrow  
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Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Henslow's Sparrow  
LeConte's Sparrow  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Harris's Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Lapland Longspur  
Smith's Longspur  
Snow Bunting  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Black-headed Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Dickcissel  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Western Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Rusty Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Bullock's Oriole  
Brambling  
Pine Grosbeak  
Purple Finch  
House Finch  
Red Crossbill  
White-winged Crossbill  
Common Redpoll  
Hoary Redpoll  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
Evening Grosbeak  
House Sparrow

**LAKE ERIE**

**LAKE**

**GEAUGA**

**CUYAHOGA**

**LORAIN**

**PORTAGE**

**MEDINA**

**SUMMIT**