

Published by The Kirtland Bird Club 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.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 5 - Winter Season
June 5 - Spring Season
September 5 - Summer Season
December 5 - Autumn Season

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# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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### On The Inside:

### The Weather

Dwight A. Chasar

## Reflections Comment on the Season **Spring 1998 Noteworthy Records**

by Larry Rosche

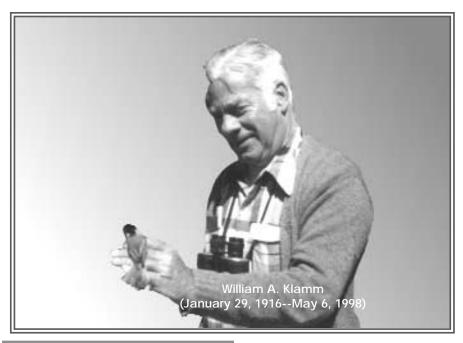
### Field Notes

**Early Nesting Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Hinckley Metropark by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

**Confirmed Nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatch in Brecksville Reservation** by Dwight & Ann Chasar

### **Next Issue:**

**Summer 1998** 





Spring 1998 by Dwight W. Chasar

MARCH: The temperature averaged 41.2°, 3.9° above normal. The highest temperature was 81° on the 30th; the lowest 17°, on 11-13th. Lake Erie remained at 41° throughout the period. Sunshine was scarce at 25% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 3.25 in. over 18 days, 0.34 in. above normal The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.16 in. on the 20-21st. Snowfall totaled 9.5 in., with the greatest amount being 3.7 in. on the 10th. Snow depth never exceeded 3 in. on the ground.

APRIL: The temperature averaged 49.3°, 1.8° above normal. The highest temperature was 74° on the 1st; the lowest, 26° on the 11th. Sunshine prevailed 54% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 6.07 in., 2.93 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.62 in. on the 25-

26th. No snow fell. Lake Erie water temperature rose to 52°.

MAY: The temperature averaged 64.4°, 6.4° above normal. The highest temperature was 88° on the 29th; the lowest, 47° on the 24th. Sunshine occurred only 25% of the time possible. Lake Eric rose to 64°. Rain totaled 1. 91 in., 1.58 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.01 in. on the 31st. Leafing of vegetation was about 2 weeks advanced.



THIRTY YEARS AGO: Spring 1968 was one of the most remarkable in the history of The Cleveland Bird Calendar. A total of 39 species were deemed "Noteworthy." They included a Eurasian Wigeon at Corning Lake on Mar. 31 (Hammond), a Yellow Rail found alive in Bay Village on Apr. 17 (Black), a Wilson's Phalarope near Grafton on May 23 (Morse), the first Spring records of Black-headed Gull for

the region at Gordon Park in late March (Surman, Klamm), a Carolina Chickadee identified by song at Carlisle Reservation on Apr. 12 (Johnson), a Sprague's Pipit in Waite Hill on Mar. 24 (Flanigan), 3 Worm-eating Warblers, including one at Lower Shaker Lake on Apr. 28 (Peskin), and Western Meadowlarks at Warrensville Farms (Knight) and Avon (Klamm).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: Spring 1978 produced many rarities, but not nearly as many as in 1968. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in Rocky River Metropark on May 1 (Klamm). A Common Snipe was flushed from its nest at Carlisle Reservation on May 7 (Johnson). An adult Laughing Gull was at the Muny Landfill on May 21 (Hoffman). A Barn Owl was at the old Brooklyn Airport on Apr. 5-6 (Bacik). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in Kuhlman Woods on Mar. 19 (Hannikman). A Bewick's Wren put in a brief visit to Cleveland Heights on May 16 (Newman).

TEN YEARS AGO: For several reasons, the Noteworthy Records section had shrunk to 22 by 1988. A Sandhill Crane flew by Perkins Beach on Mar. 26 (Klamm). Our earliest Northern Parula was found on Apr. 2 at Sims Park (Hannikman). A Blue Grosbeak was at Headlands Beach SP on May 21 (Rosche, m.obs.). On May 29, the PPG holding basin in Barberton hosted a Little Blue **Heron** and a Cattle Egret (Rosche, Stover). In a far cry from what is expected today, only 3 Bald Eagles were seen: one at Lake Isaac on Mar. 2 (Harlan), one in the CVNRA on Apr. 24 (Chasar), and one at Headlands Beach SP on May 15 (Hannikman).

## COMMENT on the SEASON

by Larry Rosche

With the passing of Bill Klamm, I am left with an incredible feeling of emptiness. The words for this column are coming very tediously. William was a giant of a bird watcher. His detailed notes, record keeping, and constant vigilance along the Lake Erie shore has given a wealth of information to the status and distribution of Ohio's avifauna. I cannot express enough condolences to his wonderful wife, Nancy. I wish that I could find the right words to express the great admiration and respect I have for Bill. Bill and Nancy's continual monitoring of movements along the lake are legendary and, in all likelihood, will never be duplicated. It was only fitting that this Spring be remembered as the one in which the birds stayed away.

Hannikman commented, "In general, Spring was below par at HBSP. Numbers of all types of birds--ducks, flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows, warblers--were way down. Warm, clear weather must have let the birds bypass HBSP and fly directly to the nesting grounds. There were no days which downed significant numbers of migrants..."

Peskin wrote, "From my limited number of sightings, mainly at Lower Shaker Lake, I would say the migration during April seemed to include many early migrants plus a remarkable number of resident birds like Carolina Wren. In May, however, most of the warblers were 1-3 weeks late, and some of the commoner migrants I didn't see at all. These included Eastern Wood-Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, and of the warblers, Wilson's, Canada, Cape May, Blackburnian, and Blackpoll. The majority of these may have flown through the Lower Shaker Lake area without stopping."

I guess the Season was summed up best by Rob Harlan. "Overall, it was pretty slow numbers and slow rarity wise, but still fun." Of interest were several early and late date records. Why some of these individuals show up when they do is anyone's guess. Unverified reports of rarities of great magnitude will be left up to state records committees. Good birding.

ommon Loons were regularly seen from late March through the period. No great northward tallies were noted. A Horned Grebe was very tardy in the CVNRA on May 16 (JW). Double-crested Cormorants continue to invade all areas in record numbers. Great Egrets were about average. The high count was 6 at Hinckley on May 13 (TMR). Green Herons remain a species that needs close monitoring. Very few were noted at HBSP and other lakefront locales.

Two Black-crowned Night-Herons were in Lorain on May 25 (RHL, SW). They were noted at HBSP on 3 dates (RH, EB). The earliest Turkey Vulture was seen Mar. 1 in Akron (CH).

Waterfowl migration along Lake Erie was unspectacular, to say the least. The 25 **Snow Geese** that passed over HBSP on Mar. 28 represented an outstanding tally (RH). A high count of **Tundra Swans** was 11 over HBSP on Mar. 15. This was indica-

tive of their paucity (RH). Wood **Ducks** were abnormally common. Few Gadwalls were seen. A lingering female at Shipman pond through the period was an odd occurrence (RH, LR, m.ob.). An American Wigeon was at Frame Bog on Mar. 2 (GB, JT). A flock of 6 Northern **Shovelers** was at Wellington Reservoir on Apr. 12 (CH). Shovelers were far more widespread in occurrence at HBSP than expected. Northern Pintails were extremely scarce. The largest gathering of Greenwinged Teals (13) was at Lake Rockwell on Mar. 26 (VW). Canvasbacks and Redheads

were nearly absent, with only a few left over from winter. The high for **Redheads** was 32 at Best Lake Mar. 15 (DB). **Ring-necked Ducks** were common. Lesser Scaups peaked at 275 at at Wellington Reservoir on Mar. 22

(CH). A flock of 120 at Holden Arboretum on Mar. 24 was representative (RR). A flock of 15 Oldsquaws flew past HBSP on Apr. 5 (RH, EB). On Mar. 22, a Black Scoter flew by Fairport Harbor (HP). Two Surf Scoters were at HBSP on Apr. 5 (RH). A pair lingered on Lake Pippen from May 4-12 (LR, m.obs.). Hooded Mergansers dawdled at suitable nesting sites throughout the period. Broods were noted in the CVNRA at the end of the period (DAC). Red-breasted **Mergansers** were as expected. Ruddy Ducks were in solid numbers. Summit Lake hosted 48 on Apr. 16. This was unusually high for the site (BS). The high count was (400) at Wellington on Apr. 12 (CH).

**Ospreys** were seen on 3 dates at Lake Medina (CW). Another bird

fished Wildwood Lakes Campground on Apr. 22-23 (GE). Two were at Holden Arboretum on Apr. 11 (HP). The nesting pair at Berlin Reservoir were doing well at the end of the period (BDL). Bald Eagles continue to be found in many sectors and in good numbers. Nests were active in Portage and Geauga Co. Two adults were at Sunny Lake in Aurora on Mar. 7 (CH). One was at Walborn Reservoir on Apr. 5 (BDL). A sub-adult soared over the CVNRA on May 10 (DAC). Birds were noted in each month at HBSP (RH, m.obs.). Two immatures flew by Lakeshore MP on Mar. 30 (JP). Northern

Bald Eagles continue to be found in many sectors ...

Harriers were as expected. A bird was late at HBSP on May 31 (RH). No strong movement of Sharp-shinned Hawks was reported. Red-shouldered Hawks are doing very well in Portage and Summit Co. Broad-winged Hawks had returned to Brecksville by Apr. 20 (DAC). Rough-legged Hawks were not

seen in the region this Spring.

A Ring-necked Pheasant was at West Branch SP on Apr. 7 (BDL). Ruffed Grouse were seen along Auburn Road on Mar. 7 (LR, VW) and at Holden Arboretum on May 17 (HP). Wild Turkeys continue to explode upon the region. One visited a feeder in Streetsboro on Apr. 30 (VW). A small flock was seen off and on in Mentor Marsh (AJF). Northern Bobwhites continued to frequent a Geauga Co. feeder (JA).

**Virginia Rails** were found regularly in the CVNRA (BS, m.obs.). Two were at Firestone MP (an

area where little data is received anymore) on May 2 (RHL, SW). A Sora was early at HBSP on Apr. 12 (RH). One was a surprise at Shalersville on May 25 (LR). The only Common Moorhen reported was at HBSP on Apr. 30. It

was hit by a car the next day (RH, KM). The high tally for **American Coots** was 550 at Wellington Reservoir on Apr. 12 (CH).

Shorebirds gave few observers a chance to share in their appearance. They were (for the most part) absent from Headlands. A

On May 22, 1998, I found an immature Sora. It had light green feet. The back was yellow-orange. It was very friendly. I found the bird on the way to school. It was in front of St. James School in Lakewood, Ohio. I picked up the bird and put it in a bush. I decided if it was in the bush after school I would take it home and put in my old bird cage. I wasn't sure if the bird would survive. I fed the bird seed, slugs, worms, and potato bugs. The bird was very friendly. I took it to the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center. They put it on display and eventually released it in Medusa Marsh in June.

Stacie Ballweber--age 10



few Black-bellied Plovers graced Lorain in May. The high count of Semi-palmated Plovers was 18 in Lorain on May 24 (CH). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs passed through in lower than expected totals. Virtually no Solitary Sandpipers were found along the Upper Cuyahoga, where a10<sup>+</sup> are expected during May (DB). Elsewhere, they could be found in very small numbers. Ruddy **Turnstones** were scarce along the lake. The high count was 7 at Lorain on May 19 (TLP). One lingered there on May 31 (RR). Sanderlings were expectedly scarce. Singles were noted only on May 17-18 at HBSP (RH), and at Lorain on May 28 (TLP). Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers were very scarce, considering their relative abundance. A few White-rumped Sandpipers could be found in Lorain from May 17-27 (CH, TLP). One was at HBSP on May 31 (EB). Pectoral Sandpipers put in a very weak showing. The high count of **Dunlins** was 60 in Lorain on May 28 (TLP). At HBSP, a paltry high of 11 was reached on May 23 (RH). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were

not reported. **Common Snipes** were in reduced totals, when compared to the last two Springs. **American Woodcocks** were early and in average numbers.

The high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** reached 6,000 at E. 55th St. in March (m.obs.). A **Thayer's Gull** was at HBSP on Mar. 15 (RH, NB). Singles were noted off Lakeshore MP on 3 dates in March (JP). An adult

Iceland Gull was seen off Lakeshore MP on Mar. 10 (JP). A first-winter bird was there on Mar. 22. One was tardy there on Apr. 15 (JP). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Eastlake on Mar. 13 (NB). Two were at HBSP on Mar. 21 (RH, NB). Two were in Lorain on Mar. 22 (CH). Adults were seen on 6 days in March off Lakeshore MP (JP). One there on May 14 was very unusual (JP). Glaucous Gulls could be found regularly at HBSP through Apr. Two were off Lakeshore MP on Mar. 10 (JP). Caspian Terns built up to 101 on Apr. 29 in Lorain (TLP). Common Terns were scarce. As an indication as to how scarce, none were tallied at HBSP A count of 97 Forster's Terns was made on May 1 in Lorain (TLP).

Black-billed Cuckoos were fairly rare. A bird was in Parkman on May 10 (JA), One was in the CVNRA on May 14 (DAC). Byrne and the Saxes had one at Silver Lake the same day. One was at Villa Angela SP on May 19 (TLP). Best heard another in Chardon Village on May 26.



Augustine, Chasar, and Wert referred to Yellow-billed Cuckoos as numerous in their birding areas. High tallies were 6 on May 19, (GB, JT) and 4 on May 26 (TMR) at the Station Road area of Brecksville. Common Nighthawks were very late and scarce. To quote LePage, "None were seen or heard." A well-seen bird in Stow on Apr. 17 was extraordinarily early (BS). One in Akron on May 17 was late by 10 days (JW).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was a special treat at Hinckley MP on May 15 (CW). Six were in Columbia Station on May 23 (JT). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers moved through in fair numbers at expected times. Northern Flickers were in outstanding numbers at HBSP. A total of 80 there on Mar. 29 seemed a low estimate (RH, LR). Pileated Woodpeckers are doing well throughout the region.

LePage echoed many by saying, "Flycatcher migration was poor, but birds appeared at usual nesting areas at about usual dates." An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in Mentor on May 18 (AJF). Another was reported from Sims Park on May 27 (RH). Eastern Wood-Pewees arrived late, but in expected numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted at HBSP on May 27 and 31 (RH). Acadian

Flycatchers were abundant inland and territorial along the Mentor Lagoons' Marsh Rim Trail. Two Alder Flycatchers seemed right on time at Rocky River Equestrian area on May 22 (TLP). One caused a sigh of relief at HBSP on May 31 (RH). Willow Flycatchers were a tad late, but as with the other empids, in their usual numbers. Eastern Phoebes put in a solid March showing.

A White-eyed Vireo was singing at Chagrin River Park on Apr. 25 (CK). Three Blue-headed Vireos were at Holden Arboretum on May 16 (HP). Yellow-throated Vireos were late, but on nesting territories in good numbers by the end of May. Philadelphia Vireos were not reported. This is the first Spring in my tenure where this species was not reported. Warbling Vireos were plentiful.

Three **Cliff Swallows** were at Veterans Park on Apr. 23 (LR, VW). **Brown Creepers** seemed to be abundant in the CVNRA (DAC). They put in a fair showing along the lake. Several were noted along Best's Prothonotary Warbler study area in Geauga Co. were thought to be local nesters. Carolina Wrens are thriving because the winter was not severe. Winter Wrens moved well. Marsh Wren were noted in expected locales at expected times. Golden-crowned and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved early. The high tally for Rubycrowneds was on 30 at HBSP on

May 2 (RH). Blue-gray
Gnatcatchers were very
numerous in the CVNRA
(DAC). One was nearly
record-breaking early at
North Chagrin on Apr. 2
(KM). A whopping 72 were
tallied in the CVNRA on May

9 (DAC). A count of 20 was

made at Holden Arboretum on May 10 (HP).

Thrush migration was particularly poor inland. No **Hermit**, Swainson's or Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found in Geauga Co. (DB). Only along the lake did **Hermit Thrushes** appear in decent totals. The only Gray**cheekeds** reported were from Silver Creek MP on May 23 (DJB) and Twin Lakes on May 24 (LR). Contrary to these reports, Veeries and Wood Thrushes were found in good numbers away from Lake Erie. A **Gray Catbird** was either very early on Mar. 9 or or had overwintered at the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA (TMR). Northern Mockingbirds were as expected along the lake. One at Alger's Farm in Mantua on Mar. 15 was a surprise (VW). Brown **Thrasher** numbers peaked at 6 on May 3 at HBSP. American **Pipits** put in a widely scattered

ance, with 20 at HBSP on the largest number noted . As per usual, Cedar rwings gathered in ridicubers along the

arbler movement along the lake was universally **V** described as sparse. On May 9, 42 Blue-winged Warblers were tallied in the CVNRA (DAC). The high tally of **Tennessee Warblers** was 14 at Lake Isaac on May 15 (NK). No reports of Orange-crowned Warblers were received. Nashville Warblers were in small numbers. A Northern Parula was at South Chagrin on May 2-9 (KM). In Geauga Co., birds were seen at Russell Park on May 3 and at the Meyer Center on May 8 (DB).One was at Mill Stream Reservation on May 23 (JT). Chestnut-sided Warblers were widespread in

small numbers. Magnolia Warblers peaked at 20 at HBSP on May 16 (RH). This is well below the expected total for the species. Cape May Warblers were few and far between. Blackthroated Blue Warblers were very disappointing along the lake. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** left early and were in greatly reduced numbers. The first Blackthroated Green Warbler was at Hinckley Hills on Apr. 21 (NK). By May 15, a total of 15 could be found there. On May 18, 12 were found in one tree in Mentor (AJF). Blackburnian Warblers were hard to come by. Yellowthroated Warblers are now expected along various stretches of the Cuyahoga River. (Chasar counted 12 territorial males in the Brecksville area). The 3 at Lake Baldwin and Lake Isaac on May 15 represented a wider than expected occurrence (TMR). A bird was observed singing at Royal Crest Golf Course in Cuyahoga Co. on Apr. 22 "Unfortunately, this was the only noteworthy birdie" (CR). Pine Warblers were only slightly earlier than expected. One appeared at North Chagrin on Apr. 8 (KM). Birds were at Holden Arboretum on Apr. 11-12 (HP). Two were in North Royalton on Apr. 18 (JT). One was at HBSP on May 16 (NB). Palm Warblers disappointed everyone. Bay-breasted **Warblers** were relatively scarce. The 14 Blackpoll Warblers at HBSP on May 25 was a very good Spring tally (RH). Cerulean Warblers were in solid numbers at nesting locations. Along the lake, where they are rarely seen, a first-spring Male was at HBSP on May 21 (KM). One was singing at Mentor Lagoons on May 31 (NB). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Silver Lake on May 5 (GB, JT). Attesting to the latest of migration, only 1 American Redstart was seen on

the May 9 survey of the CVNRA (DAC).The maximum for redstarts at HBSP was only 14 on May 27 (RH).

Prothonotary
Warblers were
found more regularly than
expected. One
was cooperative at
HBSP on May 3
(AJF, m.obs.). A
nest was found in
Silver Lake on
May 14 (GB).
Traditional areas

along the Cuyahoga River hosted expected numbers. Ovenbirds were found on only two dates at HBSP. Inland populations appeared to be doing well enough. Our earliest Louisiana Waterthrush was at Lantern Court on Apr. 5 (CK). Kentucky Warblers have become so rare they are now included in the Noteworthy Reports section. Mourning Warblers were relatively scarce. One was at HBSP on May 14 (RR). Another was seen there on May 27 (RH). The first Hooded Warbler to hit the lakefront was at HBSP on May 5 (KM). Inland, they were found in excellent numbers. As expected Wilson's Warblers reached their peak in late May. Counts approached double digits at HBSP. Canada Warblers peaked at 6 on May 23 at HBSP (RH, LR). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were banded at HBSP on May (fide DB).

Scarlet Tanagers average 5-10 days late in arriving on their nesting areas. A Vesper Sparrow was reported from HBSP on Apr. 13 (LR). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Holden Arboretum on Apr. 19 (HP). One was at HBSP on May 3 (LR). Fox Sparrows fared



rather well. In the Fairport Harbor/HBSP area on Mar. 28 a total of 12 was noted (LR). Five were noted at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 5 (TMR). Lincoln's **Sparrows** were fairly common. A high of 10 was reached at HBSP on May 16 (RH). Swamp Sparrows were common. On May 5, at Streetsboro Bog, 17 were counted (RR). White-crowned **Sparrows** were unspectacular. **Dark-eyed Juncos** disappeared quietly. A flock of 12 Lapland **Longspurs** was seen at HBSP on Mar. 8 (RH). A late Snow Bunting was at HBSP on Mar. 28 (RH).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were common albeit late. Indigo **Buntings** arrived late in expected totals. Unlike the last two Springs, no feeder reports of Grosbeaks and buntings were received. Bobolinks moved fairly well. The latest Rusty Blackbird was on May 19 along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB). Orchard Orioles continue to increase in numbers and in a wider occurrence pattern than ever before in the region. Baltimore Orioles were as expected. A total of 109 in the CVNRA on May 9 was impressive (DAC).

Purple Finches were seen regu-

larly in small numbers. A tardy **Pine Siskin** was at HBSP on May 31 (KM). The latest **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Shaker Lakes on May 11 (RHL, SW).



RED-THROATED LOON - A winter-plumaged bird was found entangled in fishing line off Fairport Harbor on Mar. 22 (Metcalf, Hannikman, Bacik, Missig).

**HORNED GREBE** - An injured or sick bird **was** record-breaking late in Lorain on May 31 (LePage).

RED-NECKED GREBE - A breeding-plumaged bird was at LaFarge Lake in Shalersville from May 12- 17 (Rosche, m.obs.).

EARED GREBE - An adult was at LaDue Reservoir on Mar. 6 & 14 (Kotesovec). One was discovered a Holden Arboretum on Apr. 11 and remained at least through Apr. 19 (Petruschke, m.obs.).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** - A bird was seen by many at Lower Shaker Lakes on Apr. 27-28 (Finkelstein, Peskin). One was in CVNRA on May 8 & May 17 (Chasar). Pat Haddad wrote. "On Feb. 15, 1998, I saw an American Bittern, along with 5 other total strangers, on the Beaver Pond/Bike Trail just south of the dam itself. The bird emerged from the reeds very close to the boardwalk, came into full view, then hid among the reeds for some time. I never did get another full view of the bird, and eventually it disappeared." This report constitutes the only mid-winter record of this species in the region.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - An adult in high breeding plumage was seen by many at North Chagrin Reservation on May 26 (Metcalf).

**KING EIDER** - An adult male was reported from Fairport Harbor on Mar. 12 (Pogacnik).

MERLIN - Birds were seen at Headlands Beach on Apr. 12, 13, & 19 (Hannikman, Rosche). One graced St. Ignatius High on May 12 (Barber).

PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 12 (Bacik, Hannikman). The downtown Akron and Cleveland birds were seen by many. Paula Lozano discovered a pair nesting under the Hilliard Road Bridge.

SANDHILL CRANE - Two birds frequented a field in Geauga Co. in late March (Best, Romito). Two were seen and heard in Homerville during the same time frame (Emmert). Four flew over the Ira Road Beaver Marsh on Apr. 6 (Brumfield).

WILLET - Six were in Lorain on Apr. 29 (LePage). A flock of 11 was seen standing on the shore at Headlands Beach SP on May 11 (Metcalf). Three were spied drifting on a log in the fog at Headlands Beach SP on May 3 (Hannikman, Bacik).

**WHIMBREL** - Our only report was of a bird found dead by Aaron Shaikh in Lakewood in late May (Barber).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - One was in Fairport Harbor on May 2. (Rosche, m.obs.). Another was at Burke Airport on May 3 (Holt). HUDSONIAN GODWIT - A single bird was found at Lorain by Craig Holt on May 17. It was verified there later in the day by

Hannikman. This constituted only the second local record ever for this species.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - A pair was in Lorain on May 31 (Harlan, Wagner, LePage).

POMARINE JAEGER - The two birds from February remain off and on at Fairport Harbor into early April (Hannikman, m.obs.) March 5,1998

Today we arrived at Fairport Harbor just after noon to once again look for the Pomarine Jaegers. We searched for 30-45 minutes without success and think during that time they were resting on the water outside the harbor as when we finally saw them the adult and then the 2nd year bird came flying in from the mouth of the harbor past the lighthouse.

Ring-billed Gulls were feeding along the mouth of the river and the jaegers began to harass them. We never had the adult in the scope and so don't have as detailed a description of it. but it was a typical plumage from what we did see though it did have ragged primaries reminiscent of last April's 1st year birds in Cleveland. The younger bird has a very dark brown back and upper wings with the normal white primary flash and also, perhaps due to molt, a variable amount of white at the base of the secondaries creating a white wing stripe. The head has a dark cap with buffy golden tones extending through the neck, palest at the back of the head. The bill is pale (blue-gray in one light) with a dark tip. The underparts are pale with brown barring partially creating a breast band. The underwings appear very pale brown, barred and with some hint of the striping of the upper wings. The undertail is white with narrow dark barring which is shared by the rump/base of tail. The tail is dark and appeared to be missing the central rectrices, but they may just have been short. We were able to follow this bird in the scope watching its acrobatic flight and evasion of harassment by Herring gulls and also when it was resting on the water.



The adult went outside the breakwalls before coming down on the water. We watched them for about 30 minutes.

We were also the subject of a "watcher" and were photographed by Plain Dealer, Lake Co. Bureau photographer, Pete Conlon, so we need to look out for that! Dick & Jean Hoffman

**LAUGHING GULL** - An adult was found at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 27 (Hannikman). Another was reported from Fairport Harbor on May 31 (Bacik).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** - An adult was in Lorain on May 31 (Harlan, Wagner).

LITTLE GULL - Up to 6 (including 2 immatures) could be found in and around the E. 55th St. Marina in late March (Hoffman, LePage, m.obs.). As many as 3 adults were found at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 22 (Hannikman). One was at Fairport Harbor on Apr. 5 (Rosche, m.obs.).

BLACK-HEADED GULL - An adult was in Cleveland on Mar. 14 (Dunn). "I spotted this bird at the Coast Guard facility in downtown Cleveland. It was with thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls. I saw it initially on the water when the wings were

raised, and I immediately noticed the blackish underside to the primaries. When the wing closed, it looked essentially like a Bonaparte's, but was clearly larger with paler upperparts. About ten seconds later, the bird jumped up and

flew to the west. I had good looks of it again in flight; but after about ten seconds, it disappeared behind a boat (a big one) and the wharf. At that point I went to get the rest of the group. When we returned we searched for the bird among the 1000's of Bonaparte's. After some ten minutes, I spotted the bird again. It was flying east. I lost sight of it over the west end of the airstrip. The time was about 3:30 p.m. This was a rather small gull, but was clearly larger than the Bonaparte's. I noted this in flight and also when it was on the water surrounded by Bonaparte Gulls. The mantle was distinctly paler. I could tell that the bill was longer and a little stouter (at 50-75 yards away) when on the water but couldn't tell bill color. The bird was just beginning to develop a hood. In flight there was a large triangular white patch on the outer primaries (tipped with black), about like a Bonaparte's; but from below, except for 1-2 outer primaries which were white, there was a large black or blackish patch on the primaries. This was extremely obvious when the bird was in flight. The upper surface to the wings were otherwise pale gray. The underparts and tail were pure white." (Jon L. Dunn)

MEW GULL - A first-winter bird was found at Fairport Harbor on Mar. 6. It remained to be studied, photographed, and videoed by many through Mar. 17 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -On March 1, Terry and Barbara Sponseller found a Northern Saw-Whet Owl at the Campground at Nimisila Reservoir in Summit County. We found it on Mar. 7 (Snively).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Our earliest 'whip' was at Nathan Hale Park on May 1 (Harlan, Wagner). A bird was heard in downtown Kirtland on May 3 (Petruschke). One was singing at at Headlands Beach SP on May 9 (Tami Locher fide Best). Another was there on May 16 (Hannikman, Rosche).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** - The earliest record ever for the region was at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 29 (Hannikman, Barber, Bacik, Rosche).

### GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -

A male was seen by Carol Tveekrem at Firestone MP on May 4 (fide Haddad). Another was located by Ed & Judy Folts at South Chagrin on May 9 (fide Best). One was at the Rookery in Geauga Co. on May 11 (Duane Ferris fide Best).

"LAWRENCE'S WARBLER" - On Friday, May 15, Dr. Courtenay Willis found a Lawrence's Warbler at the Ravenna Arsenal. The bird was observed while Dr.Willis was conducting a nest survey (fide Rosche).

KENTUCKY WARBLER - The only sightings of this increasingly rare migrant were a female at Headlands Beach SP on May 15 (Hannikman) and a male at River Styx Park on May 16 (Witt).

**SUMMER TANAGER** - A molting male was viewed by many at Headlands Beach SP on May 17 (Bacik, m.obs.).

**CHIPPING SPARROW** - The earliest record ever in our annals was in Wadsworth on Mar. 9 (Harlan, Wagner).

### **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -**

Individuals were noted at Headlands Beach SP on May 9 & 16 (Bacik, Missig).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - A bird was noted at the Burton Wetlands on Apr. 19 (Best). Two were seen and heard at Holden Arboretum on May 2 (Petruschke).

### WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL -

Our first verified reports of this species in several years were at Lantern Court on Apr. 4 & 5. As many as 15 were counted foraging on the ground and in the hemlocks (Petruschke, Klaus).

### ADDENDUM:

A Chukar was photographed at the home of Andrew and Leigh Fabens in Cleveland Heights on Mar. 19. Where this Old World partridge came from is anyone's guess (Johnson).





### Early Nesting Goldencrowned Kinglets at Hinckley Metropark by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.

Because of the mild spring weather, reports of early nesting success have already been circulating--some reports days ahead of previous records. To these accounts, I add the Goldencrowned Kinglet (Regulus

satrapa), having encountered two adults and a fledgling on May 29, 1998 at Hinckley Metropark (Medina Co.). Kinglets have been found annually in Hinckley since 1992 (Harlan 1994), and nesting has been confirmed since 1993 (Kotesovec 1993, Harlan 1993). To my knowledge, have been no reports of adults with fledged young, either at Hinckley or elsewhere in Ohio, earlier than June 13, (Reinthal 1991).

The fledged Golden-crowned Kinglet was found in a stand of mature Norway Spruces (Picea abies) off West Drive, at the same location that has hosted breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches (Sitta canadensis), Black-throated Green (Dendroica virens), Magnolia (D. magnolia), and Blackburnian Warblers (D. fusca) (Kotesovec 1993, 1994). My attention had been drawn to the constant calling of the tiny kinglets. When found, the adults were both busy collecting insect prey. At a glance, I was able to observe one bird secure prey on the wing, while the other concentrated on the hanging vines that dangle from the spruces. I thought that the kinglets were sating themselves when one adult dropped to the base of the spruce and, in the shrub layer, targeted a fledgling, which was hastily fed at approximately 11:14.

This tiny bit of fledged "fluff" was situated in a shrub at about two feet from the ground. The sprite preened incessantly, directing stabbing glances neath and above both wings, raising them but never fully unfurling them. The upper breast in the area of the clavicle was not ignored, nor was the region between both legs missed. Raising itself up on both legs in a full stretch best negotiated the latter spot. Balance was

not yet perfected, for the young kinglet nearly toppled from its perch, but clung and spun about upon its already strengthened legs, assisted by frenzied flapping of wings. Preening was followed with stretching, the fledgling raising itself on its left leg, as the right was fully extended. These activities were accompanied by soft "tsip" calls. Once, the youngster snapped readily at a flying insect that chanced across its way, but failed to secure it.

At 11:26 both adults came forward to feed, but whether this was accomplished is uncertain for the fledgling was capable of short flight and, in answer to the calls of the parents, flew in an upward direction so that I lost sight of the youngster behind the trunk of the Norway Spruce. Although I stood a distance off, the adults were apparently concerned with my presence and were hesitant to feed. At 11:28 one adult approached its offspring to within inches, but it again failed to feed. The fledgling had, by now gained height and was some ten feet high in the spruce, flying from one branch to the next, finally fluttering an approximately 12 feet to a neighboring tree.

At 11:33 the fledgling, in nuthatch-like fashion, literally scaled up the bark of a Norway Spruce, crawling tenaciously, to a height of 20 feet, then lost grip and slid backward some ten inches. The young kinglet finally took rest on a branch where it was joined briefly by an adult, who had dropped to a perch below. At this point, the youngster cast itself from the spruce branch and flew up into the canopy of a nearby maple (Acer sp.), where both adults converged. Although hidden by the leafy foliage, the adults, I pre-

sume, finally attended to their offspring at 11:36. As my observations seemed to be of great annoyance to the adults (they were given to frequent calling and were seen to raise the feathers on their crowns) and appeared to frustrate feeding attempts, I took my leave at 11: 40.

In appearance, the young Golden-crowned Kinglet was patterned as such: the breast was a light-colored off-white; the back, an olive-green; the head was completely gray and a faint, but visible, white supercilium bordered by a dark streak was present; wingbars were noticeable, as was the gold edging along the primaries; the tail was perhaps 0.50 to 0.75 inches in length.

Most young kinglets leave the nest 16 to 19 days after hatching and only on the first day out of the nest will the female continue to feed the fledglings of a first brood; thereafter, she confines her attentions to the incubation of a second brood, although she may be found foraging nearby (Galati 1991, Ingold and Galati 1997). Given this information and the appearance and behavior of the fledgling, one may safely judge its age at 19 days.

Allowing four days for nest construction (range 4-6, Ingold and Galati 1997), five days for egglaying (While 8-9 eggs are usually laid, incubation often begins near the end of egg laying, Ingold and Galati 1997), 15 days for incubation and 19 days of nest-life, one might calculate that nesting activity commenced about April 17 and incubation around April 25. I had observed a pair of kinglets at this site on

April 12 and a singing male on May 6.

Golden-crowned Kinglets have been confirmed breeders in Ohio since 1989 (Hochadel 1992) with nests documented in Columbiana (Hochadel 1992), Lucas (Kemp 1991), Summit (Reinthal 1991), and Medina Counties (Harlan 1994). On June 19, 1997, I located a nest of kinglets along the bridle path off of Hinckley Hills Road and later found fledglings on July 2, 1997 (Rosche 1997). Given the early date of fledging reported herein, I am uncertain whether the 1997 nesting qualifies as a first or second brood. To my knowledge, no proof that kinglets are double-brooded in Ohio has been documented, although evidence of this sort would be difficult to obtain without banding. Still, an adult male kinglet seen feeding a fledgling while frequenting an active nest might prove to be persuasive.

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### Confirmed Nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatch in Brecksville Reservation by Dwight Chasar

Incidences of nesting Redbreasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis) in northern Ohio have recently been summarized by Kotesovec (1996). Suffice it to say that confirmed nesting has been observed in Lake, Medina, Summit, Portage, and Cuyahoga Counties. Nesting chronology in these areas is, however, still not well understood. During the 1997-98 winter, the United States experienced a winter finch invasion, including Red-breasted Nuthatches of monumental proportions (Wells, 1998). Thus, the spring of '98 demanded that close attention be paid to lingering Red-breasteds, especially in Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, as this park over the years has been host to a number of birds whose nesting is relatively unusual to northern Ohio (Chasar, 1997; 1996;1995;1994).

The northerly end of Meadows Drive in the Brecksville Reservation was host to calling Red-breasteds on my visits of March 18, 23, and April 3, the latter visit providing me views of at least three individuals. On April 5th. I entered the woods, which consisted mainly of deciduous trees peppered with red pine, from which I heard one bird calling. As I stood listening, I heard a tapping just above me. To my excitement, a Redbreasted was excavating a hole in a white ash snag just 15 inches in circumference (less that 5 inch diameter) at breast

height. The cavity, about 30 feet above ground and five feet from the tree top, was no larger than the head of the nuthatch itself. By the morning of April 12, the hole was deep enough so that all but the last portion of the tail of the nuthatch fit into it during excavation. The female was doing all the work and now she could enter the cavity, turn around in it, and look out. When I returned in the afternoon, a pair of chickadees were exploring the tree and cavity, which, from time to time, they worked at excavating. When the female Redbreasted returned, a defense of the cavity ensued, with the original occupant being the victor. During this defense, the nuthatch called louder and faster than normal, spread her tail and flitted her wings while enjoining the chickadees, and intermittently returning to the cavity to continue the excavation, as if to send a message of ownership.

By the 19th, the cavity was deep enough such that the nuthatch excavated from inside, and from time to time, would throw out successive beakfuls of debris. and then would continue excavating. The same observations were made on the 21st. I was off on vacation the next 8 days. On the evening of the 29th and the mid-morning of May 2nd, for periods of one-half hour each, I noticed no activity at the nest. She was now on eggs, I figured. On May 3rd, at 2:20 pm, the female entered the cavity, turned around inside, looked out the entrance, and sank back in.

By May 9th, I could see a lot of pine pitch distributed around the cavity entrance. Because of the pitch, the nuthatch would never perch at the entrance hole, but would shoot straight out of the tree and would enter directly, sometimes fluttering in front of the entrance momentarily. Visits on the 11th and 15th in the evening revealed the nuthatch leaving and entering the nest once in each of the half hours I watched.

When I again visited on the 20th, both adults were bringing food to the nest. A Norway Spruce, some 125 ft. from the nest tree and in a clearing outside the wood, appeared to be a favorite foraging spot. Sometimes, one adult stayed in the nest and the other passed off food to it. Sometimes each took turns flying into the cavity with food. Other times both adults were simultaneously in the cavity. By May 23rd, both adults were entering the nest, feeding the young and removing fecal sacs. This behavior did not change until the 29th, when the adults more often passed food into the cavity from the outside, entering occasionally to remove fecal sacs. From the 30th, the male routinely fed the nestlings from an upside-down position above the cavity while the female fed from an upright position at the cavity level. Beaks and then heads could be seen taking the morsels. The young began to call with a throaty imitation of the adults. Both adults reached in to retrieve fecal sacs. Also on this day, a Red-bellied Woodpecker alighted on the nest tree and was immediately accosted by one nuthatch. A standoff ensued for several minutes until the second nuthatch joined its mate, at which time the woodpecker retreated to a distant tree.



A typical Red-breasted Nuthatch clutch consists of 5-6 eggs. I had the privilege of watching 5 nestlings fledge from the nest on June 5th at 6:45. 7:26, 7:30, 7:36 and 7:37 am. Wilbur McQueen videotaped the event,

Kotesovec concluded that nest excavation by his Red-breasteds in Hinckley was completed around April 22-26th, although he did not indicate how far along the excavation was when he first found the cavity on April 15. Nevertheless, his dates compare favorably with those discussed above for nest preparation. The fact that the Hinckley nest was not used for nesting, yet another nest in the same reservation fledged young on June 15th (Kotesovec), suggests that the Brecksville nesting chronology for Red-breasted Nuthatch might well be the most complete for an early date in northern Ohio.

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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 (330) 678-9408 or Ray Hannikman at (216) 261-9552.

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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 Duc G. White-fronted Goose Snow Goose Ross's Goose Brant Canada Goose Mute Swan Trumpeter Swan Tundra Swan Wood Duck Gadwall n Ingeon an Wigeon Furasian<sub>4</sub>

rican Black Duck Mallard Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Canvash Cornel Canvash 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 Merganse
Red-breasted Merganse
Common Merganse
Ruddy Duck

Ruddy Duck

Ospréy

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 Gyrfălcon Ring-necked Pheasant Ruffed Grouse Wild Turkey Northern Bobwhite Yellow Rail Black Rail King Rail Virginia Rail Purple Gallinule Common Moorhen American Coot

Semipalmated Plover Piping Plover American Avocet Greater Yellowleg Vowlegs Solitary : and Spotted andpiper Upland andpiper Eskimo Gurlew Whimbre
Long-billed Curlew
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit

Ruddy Ternstone
Red Kno
Sanderling
Samipalmated Samipiper
Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper Pectora Sandpiper Sharp-talled Sandpiper Purple Sandpiper Dunlin Curlew sandpiper Buff-breasted Sandpipe

Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher Common Snipe Eurasian Woodcock American Woodcock Wilson' Phalarope Red-necked Phalarop Red F

Pom MEDIN A 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

N pi mig Dove P st Piger Pigeon Carolina Parakeet Black-billed Cuckoo Yellow-billed Cuckoo Smooth-billed Ani Barn Owl Eastern Screech-C Great Home Snowy Owl

Barred Owl Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl

CUNA-HOGAown Thrasher Whip-poor-will American Pipit Chimney Swift Sprague S FIPM Ruby-throated Hummingbird Bohemian Waxwin Belted Kingfisher Red-headed Woodpecke Red-bellied Woodpecke Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Downy Woodpecke

Black-backed Woodpecke Yellow Warbler Northern Flicker Pileated Wood becker Olive-sided Fly catcher Eastern Wood Pewee Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Acadian Flycatcher Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested-Flycatche
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird Eastern Kingo u Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Northern Shrik Loggerhead Sarike uropean Staring White-eyed Vieo

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 Nutha **Brown Creepe** Rock Wren Carolina Wren Bewick's Wre House Wrg Winter V Sedae ren Vren Bly - g. ay Gnatcatcher Golder-crowned Kingle Ruby- rowned Kingler Eastern Breekling Townsend's Solitair

Gray-cheeked Thr Swainson's Thrush

Hermit Thrush

Wood Thrush

American Robin Varied Thrush Gray Catbird
Northern Mocking ord Blue-winged Warbler Golden-winged Warbler Tennessee Warbler Tennessee Warpier
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Wabler Magnolia Warbler Cape May Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler Black-throated Gray Warb. Black-throated Green Warb. Blackburnian Wark er Yellow-throated Warbler Pine Warbler Kirtland's Warbler Prairie Warbler Palm Warbler Bay-breasted Warl er Blackpoll Warbler Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart

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 Char Summer Tanage Scarlet Tanag Western Tan tern Towhee

Spotted Towhee Bachman's Sparrow American Tree Sparr Chipping Sparrow Clay-colored Sparro Field Sparrow

Lark Sparrow Black-throated Sparrow Lark Bunting Savannah Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow LeConte's Sparrow Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Fox Space EAUGA Song SGEAUGA Lincoln's Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrov 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

Plya Crashaak Indigo Bunting Dickcissel Bobolink Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Western Meadowlark Yellow-headed Blackbird Rusty Blackbird

Brever Space Composition RITAGE
Brown-headed Cowoid GE 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

American Redsta Prothonotary War