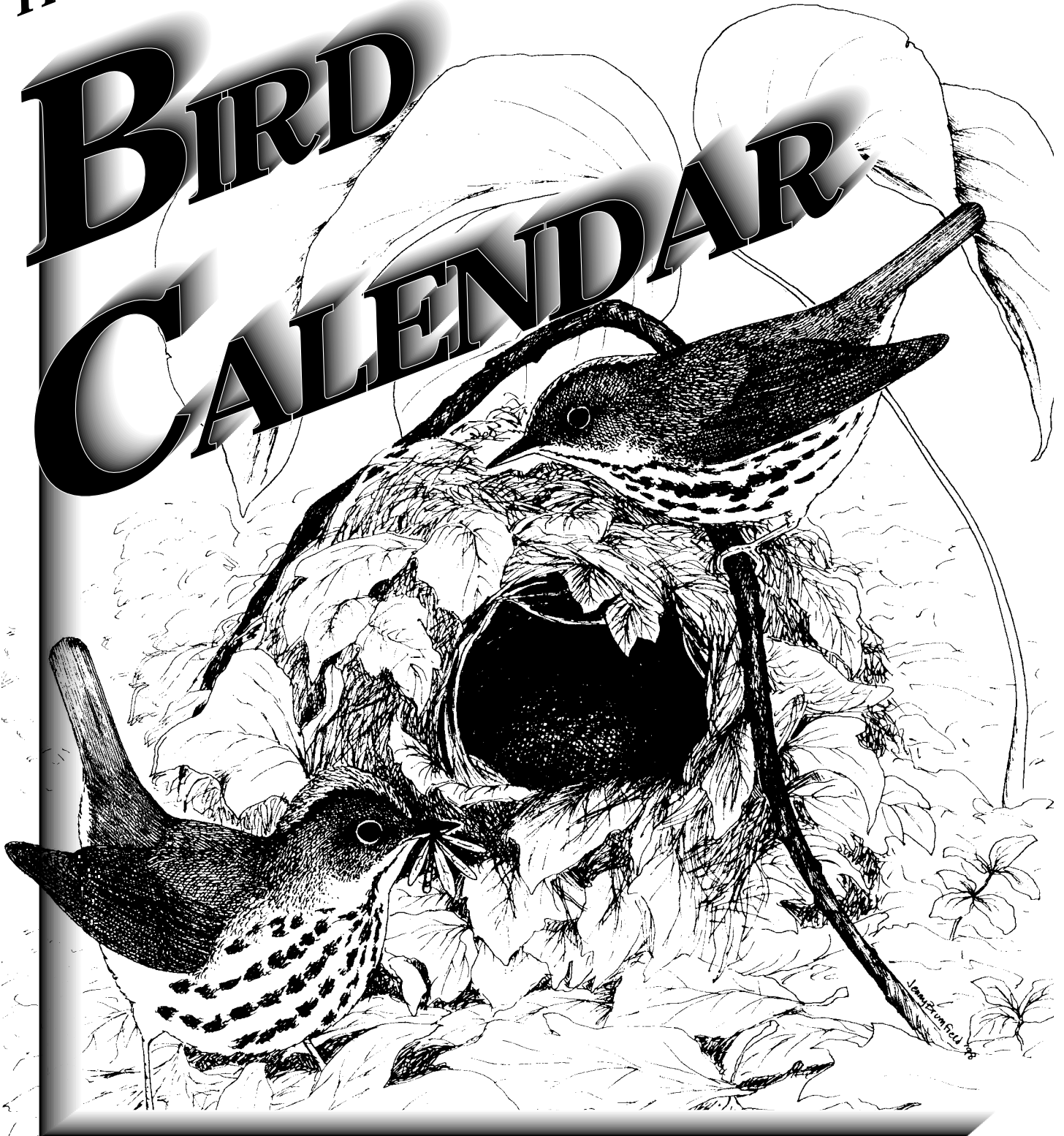


THE CLEVELAND

**December 1999, January, February 2000
Volume 96**

Number 1

BIRD CALENDAR



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.

Suggested 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

Cover design: Ovenbirds (Seiurus aurocapillus)

by Jennifer Brumfield, 1998.

December 1999, January, February 2000
Volume 96 Number 1

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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DECEMBER: Temperatures averaged 33.8°, 2.9° above normal. The high was 61° on the 4th and the low was 9° on the 28th. Lake Erie water stood at 48° on the 1st and fell to 36° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 26 days, totaling 2.70 in., .39 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .60 in. on the 10th. Snowfall totaled 10.3 in., and the greatest depth was 5 in. on the 5th.

JANUARY: Temperatures averaged 26.2°, 1.4° above normal. The high was 62° on the 2nd; and the low, -3° on the 28th. Precipitation was distributed over 28 days to total 2.63 in., .59 in. above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .81 in. on the 2-3rd. Snowfall totaled 24.7 in. while the greatest depth on the ground was 12 in. on the 27th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 33° by the 25th where it stayed for the remainder of the month.

February: Temperatures averaged 34.3°, 7.1° above normal. The high was 74° on the 26th; and the low, 8° on the 8th. Lake Erie rose to

34° by the end of the month. Precipitation was 2.05 in., .14 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .32 in. on the 18th. Snowfall totaled 13.9 in., with the greatest depth 8 in. on the 6th. *



Common Loons lingered into January. On Dec. 11, 79 were tallied at HBSP (RH, KM). A bird was at Edgewater SP on Dec. 26-30 (BF, PL, TLP, BW). **Pied-billed Grebes** wintered in small numbers on open inland waterways. **Horned Grebes** remained to be tallied on most CBCs. On Jan. 9 three were seen at Gordon Park (TLP). **Double-crested Cormorants** were conspicuously absent. A bird was at Eastlake Feb. 20 (HP). The high count of **Great Blue Herons** was 40 at Shipman Pond on Dec. 30 (NB, BW). **Turkey Vultures** lingered late enough to be tallied on the Dec. 19 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (JMK). The Chasars saw them in each month, except January, in the CVNRA. Vultures were moving back to the region by late February. On Feb. 26, 14 drifted by Edgewater SP (TLP), while at the same time another 8 were wafting over Wellington Reservoir (PL, BF).

Best Wildlife Preserve hosted 18 **Snow Geese** on Dec. 21 (fide DB). A white morph was at Wellington on Jan. 16 (CH). Two more were at Summit Lake on Jan. 17 (RHL, SW). **Mute Swans** continue to flourish locally. Munroe Falls provided a new reporting site when a pair was seen along the Cuyahoga River on Feb. 16 (GB, KL). The two at Firestone MP on Jan. 12 provided only the second record for the site (EP). A single Mute Swan was seen at the west end of

Christmas Bird Count Comments

by *Larry Rosche*

Compilers and field participants did their best to locate all lingering and wintering species for this year's Christmas Bird Counts. A solid 112 species were reliably reported. Looking through the tallies, I see some interesting species counts.

Common Loons were seen on two lakefront counts. A Turkey Vulture was seen on the Cuyahoga Falls Count. The 25 species of waterfowl certainly holds its own against former count totals. The fact that Northern Pintails outnumbered American Wigeon 16 to 1 was indicative of how wigeons have declined locally. It seems Ruddy Ducks linger in higher numbers each year. The lion's share of the 1215 reported on the Cuyahoga Falls Count most assuredly came from Mogadore Reservoir.

Ten species of falconiformes were reported. Unfortunately, Turkey Vulture no longer fits into this category. The 9 Merlins reported surely were a record for the regional counts. Six Peregrine Falcons were not too shabby. The 90 American Kestrels tallied provided a ray of hope for their continued recent improvement. Only the Lakewood Count failed to have a kestrel. Gamebirds were found in very poor numbers. Only 4 Ring-necked Pheasants and a single Ruffed Grouse were located. No bobwhites were found and probably will not be found until a productive reintroduction program is implemented.

Reporters to The Cleveland Bird Calendar are among the most knowledgeable woodpecker experts in the state. The family was well-reported and long-term trends continue to be established using our data. As expected, the Lakewood Count led the way with 8 Red-headed Woodpeckers. The 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were mildly surprising--surprising because they were found on the Burton and Wellington counts, our most rural and least participated in censuses. The 89 Northern Flickers indicated they are much more widespread and numerous than what is usually perceived. The ten Northern Shrikes were represented on all but the very urban Lakewood Count. The Marsh Wren and the American Pipit found on the Elyria Count were very noteworthy. Fox Sparrows were noted only on the Cuyahoga Falls Count. Eastern Towhees were tallied only on the Wellington and Cuyahoga Falls Counts. Four Eastern Meadowlarks were cited on the Burton Count. Common Redpolls appeared on all counts but Burton.

Gordon Park on Feb. 24 (DR). **Tundra Swans** lingered or moved at their leisure in December. Forty-five cruised over Claridon Township on Dec. 11 (fide DB). On Dec. 18, 24 drifted over Euclid Beach SP (PL, m.obs.). A flock of 27 passed over HBSP on Dec. 26 (RH). The twosome on the Cuyahoga River in Munroe Falls on Feb. 7 were probably moving northward (GB, KL). The 6 over Eastlake on Feb. 20 were definitely heading north (HP). A hen **Wood Duck** was out of place at Wellington Reservoir on Jan. 1 (RHL, SW). A pair in Munroe Falls on Feb. 7 seemed very early (GB, KL). **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeons** were found in expected numbers. Fifteen Gadwalls were at Wellington on Dec. 19 (CH). Wigeons have certainly decreased in the past 20 years locally. The 20 at HBSP on Feb. 27 was the only double digit report (RH, HP). The 50 **American Black Ducks** at Wellington Reservoir on Jan. 2 & 16 represented the high inland tally (FG, CH). Along the lake, the high was 75 at Eastlake on

Jan. 23 (CH). The 400-500 **Mallards** at Wellington Jan. 2-16 was indicative of their local abundance (FG). Four **Blue-winged Teal** surprised observers at HBSP on the early, but abnormally warm date of Feb. 26 (RH, HP). **Northern Shovelers** fared better on local CBCs than wigeons. Eight shovelers were tallied in Akron on Dec. 26 (CH). Four **Northern Pintails** enlivened the Cuyahoga Falls CBC on Dec. 19 (DAC). Equally as exciting was one near Edgewater SP on the Lakewood CBC (PL, BF, BW). One was at Wellington on Jan. 8 & 16 (DJB, CH). A drake was seen in Lorain on Jan. 23 (SZ). Sandy Ridge MP hosted a remarkable 50 northbound migrants on Feb. 26 (CR). An early returnee was at Lake Rockwell on Feb. 7 (GB, KL). A midwinter **Green-winged Teal** was unusual so far north in the region at Veteran's Park on Jan. 9 (RH, HP). Two were in Hudson on Dec. 24 (CH). Two were noted at Ira Road on Jan. 31 (TMR).

Twenty **Canvasbacks** dallied at Wellington on Jan. 8 (DJB). A flock of 600 was noted in Lorain on Jan. 29 (SZ). At Eastlake, a flock of 132 was seen on Feb. 19 (NB). Two were in Hudson on Dec. 24 (DJB). A pair was noted off Gordon Park on Feb 24 (DR). The high tally of **Redheads** was 400 at Avon Lake on Jan. 29 (SZ). The best Eastlake count was a paltry 40 on Jan. 23 (CH). The 170 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Wellington on Jan 1 was a remarkable tally for the time of year (RHL, SW). They lingered there in fair numbers until Jan. 16. On Jan. 23, 12 were found at Eastlake (DJB). This supported the trend of increased presence of this species along the lake in past few years. A **Greater Scaup** was a good find at Silver Creek MP on Jan. 3 (RHL, SW). A flock of 100 was at Avon Lake on Jan. 29 (SZ). HBSP hosted 80 on Jan. 15 (RH). On Jan. 29, **Lesser Scaups** outnumbered Greaters at Avon Lake by an 8:1 margin. Two **Surf Scoters** were in Fairport Harbor on Dec. 5 (RH). A pair was in Bay Village on Jan. 2 (PL, BF). A female was at Eastlake on Jan. 23 (NB, CH). One was at Avon Lake on Feb. 6-12 (CH, TLP, PP). **White-winged Scoters** went unreported. A **Black Scoter** was in Bay Village on Jan. 2 (PL, BF). One was at Avon Lake on Jan. 29 (RHL, SW). Few **Oldsquaws** were seen. A female was at HBSP on Dec. 12 (RH). One in Hudson on Dec. 19 helped add to the Cuyahoga Falls CBC species total (DAC). A drake was at E. 55th St. on Dec. 22 (FG). One blew past HBSP on Jan. 1 (LR). A hen was in Lorain on Feb. 29 (SZ). **Buffleheads** wintered in usual numbers. Up to 35 **Common Goldeneyes** provided interesting study in Munroe Falls on Feb. 6. "Goldeneye displaying

Ken and Sandy Hoover and I spent the afternoon of February 26 checking out the relatively new "Sandy Ridge Metropark" in Lorain County. Waterfowl highlight included 50 or so Northern Pintails, 15 Ring-necked Ducks, 4 Northern Shovelers, 4 Ruddy Ducks, 2 Wood Ducks, and 2 Pied-billed Grebes. The real highlight of the day was the hawk flight that developed. Totals included 35 Red-tailed Hawks, and no doubt many more missed. They flew overhead in a broad front for several hours. Others were 8 Turkey Vultures, 3 Northern Harriers, 2 American Kestrels, and 1 Bald Eagle.

Craig Rieker

courtship behavior. Males rearing heads up and then backwards, tails flapping and then evoking a sound like a nighthawk. What a sight!" (GB, KL). Along Lake Erie, concern needs to be shown for the continued decline of wintering birds. Numbers of goldeneyes need to be monitored closely by all reporters. The 400 off Rocky River Park on Jan. 23 represented the only substantial lakefront count (SZ). **Hooded Mergansers** were found in all winter months at HBSP. The 100 at LaDue on Dec. 21 was an expected number for the lake (SZ, DK, BW). **Red-breasted Mergansers** remained in abundance into early Dec. A total of 160 at Eastlake on Jan. 23 was high for the time of year (DJB). **Common Mergansers** put in a solid inland showing. A flock of 15-20 was in the Cuyahoga River near Station Road on Feb. 19 & 26 (FCD). Along the lake, the high counts were 250 at HBSP on Dec. 24 (RH) and 225 at Eastlake on Jan. 23 (CH). **Ruddy Ducks** lingered in large numbers in the Akron and Wellington areas.

Avon Lake Power Plant hosted a **Bald Eagle** on Dec. 27 and Jan. 16 (SZ, DJB). An adult was over I-271 and Tinker's Creek on Jan. 1 (JHe). One was at Oberlin Reservoir on Jan. 16 (DJB). Two were at Tinker's Creek on Feb. 27 (CH). One was at East Branch Reservoir on Jan. 2 (fide DB). Another adult was observed along Canal Road in Valley View on Jan. 4 (CW). A 2nd /3rd year bird was at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 9 (NB). Two immatures drifted over HBSP on Feb. 29 (DJH). **Northern Harriers** put in a respectable showing. The 16 birds reported on the Wellington Count represented a much higher than expected total. One-two birds were seen off and on in Fairport Harbor and HBSP most of the winter (RH, TK, HP,



Red-shouldered Hawk - Aurora
by Vernon Weingart

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM LOCAL 1999 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA	LAKEWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTON
PIED-BILLED GREBE	•	1	8	5	•	1	1
HORNED GREBE	•	7	2	1	4	1	1
GREAT BLUE HERON	6	32	31	5	•	3	1
CANADA GOOSE	3159	1763	1962	1475	1376	284	967
TUNDRA SWAN	8	124	8	45	•	41	•
MUTE SWAN	•	•	11	•	3	1	•
WOOD DUCK	1	•	2	10	2	•	•
GADWALL	2	10	11	26	•	6	•
AMERICAN WIGEON	•	1	•	•	8	•	•
NORTHERN SHOVELER	1	•	4	10	•	•	•
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	5	27	21	44	86	65	7
MALLARD	203	542	1964	1162	1360	84	62
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	•	•	2	•	•	•	•
RING-NECKED DUCK	2	•	6	•	•	•	28
SCAUP (SP)	•	63	3	22	124	36	4
BUFFLEHEAD	•	46	79	27	27	32	4
COMMON GOLDENEYE	•	34	•	4	72	24	•
HOODED MERGANSER	6	12	29	17	2	6	5
COMMON MERGANSER	1	17	•	6	18	950	•
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	•	13,036	4	26,492	253	76	2
RUDDY DUCK	1	29	1215	4	7	6	3
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	2	1	8	158	5	•	1
COOPER'S HAWK	8	11	21	6	8	3	2
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	23	4	9	1	•	2	•
RED-TAILED HAWK	41	26	87	26	19	5	28
AMERICAN KESTREL	5	4	12	21	•	2	46
WILD TURKEY	•	•	8	•	•	24	•
AMERICAN COOT	•	1	479	29	6	6	280
KILLDEER	•	•	1	2	•	•	•
RING-BILLED GULL	81	3087	1267	53,246	8556	3980	2
HERRING GULL	15	680	50	1208	58	645	•
MOURNING DOVE	374	301	816	165	179	84	431
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	1	1	7	1	•	2	•
GREAT HORNED OWL	2	•	11	3	1	•	1
BARRED OWL	•	2	8	•	•	•	4
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	6	26	7	5	1	•
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	31	72	167	40	31	10	39
DOWNY WOODPECKER	50	123	301	75	39	25	56
HAIRY WOODPECKER	25	18	77	9	7	6	8
NORTHERN FLICKER	5	11	46	15	2	1	9
PILEATED WOODPECKER	6	5	14	1	4	2	1
HORNED LARK	•	•	•	32	•	•	478
BLUE JAY	209	358	683	238	119	64	90
AMERICAN CROW	547	1217	1166	269	486	109	117
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	341	365	947	211	113	157	206
TUFTED TITMOUSE	113	229	417	134	48	54	45
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	6	9	14	7	3	1	•
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	93	139	267	58	48	33	57
BROWN CREEPER	2	1	14	2	2	•	2
CAROLINA WREN	1	16	52	20	7	2	•
WINTER WREN	•	2	•	•	1	•	•
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	•	4	16	•	3	•	•
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	138	76	114	80	4	3	29
AMERICAN ROBIN	72	314	224	119	302	153	3
CEDAR WAXWING	20	106	501	81	3	116	61
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	•	14	10	•	•	•	•
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	194	137	713	309	6	232	197
SONG SPARROW	21	35	229	59	14	8	23
SWAMP SPARROW	•	10	21	12	•	•	•
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	1	13	99	31	3	9	1
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	•	•	14	2	•	1	17
DARK-EYED JUNCO	154	331	608	338	114	220	166
NORTHERN CARDINAL	214	115	802	167	100	90	180
SNOW BUNTING	•	9	•	•	•	•	18
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	•	17	7	2500	•	1	•
COMMON GRACKLE	3	•	57	3	•	1	•
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	•	1	2	400	•	20	•
PURPLE FINCH	•	•	11	2	•	•	•
HOUSE FINCH	60	340	910	426	276	215	25
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	184	305	1043	235	162	83	102
HOUSE SPARROW	467	908	1982	666	647	499	376
TOTAL SPECIES	59	74	82	84	68	78	58

Feb. 21, 2000 - Merlins still in Lake View

We finally got around to checking Lake View Cemetery again this afternoon and found not one, but TWO Merlins perched where we could see both. It is just amazing about Merlins here, so many wintering when they used to be a rarity just in migration.

With a Cooper's Hawk also around, it wasn't surprising we didn't see much else, but there were 40+ robins chowing down on crab apples, especially the ones on the ground that the snow melt was uncovering.

The biggest surprise though may have been a big zero count of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Maybe just the time of day, but we could hardly turn around without seeing them on the Christmas Bird Count.

Jean Hoffman

m.obs.). One was at Caley SWA on Jan. 8 (DJB). Three were seen in southern Lorain Co. on Feb. 21 (TLP). One was in Valley City on Feb. 19 (FG). A bird drifted over Granger Township Dec. 27 (JW). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** allowed close viewing as it harassed 'dickie' birds at feeding stations in Firestone MP on Dec. 29 (EP). **Red-shouldered Hawks** have become remarkably common during the past decade. The Burton CBC tallied 23! Away from their usual eastern sector strongholds, one was a Christmas Day visitor to Shaker Lakes (LD). A New Year's Day bird was in Montrose (DJB). One was in Lorain on Jan. 8 (DJB). Bath hosted one on Jan. 17 (DJB). Another was in Strongsville on Jan. 18 (JHe). One was unusual,

but not unprecedented, along Route 58 in Lorain County in late February (RHL, SW). Three in a Kent neighborhood on Feb. 24 reflected local abundance (GB). Two were in the traditional areas of North Chagrin on Feb. 26 (RR). As in the past few winters, a white **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported south of Chardon (AJF). Observers commented they had never given any thought to calling this buteo a Gyrfalcon. Both dark and light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted by many observers. One was at Gordon Park on Dec. 15 (SZ). Another was seen at LaDue on Dec. 21 (SZ). The Hayes road wintering population fluctuated from 1-7 birds. The 7 were noted on Jan. 15 (BF, BW). A bird was at Burke Airport on Jan. 16

(FG). In Lorain County, a bird was seen along Jones Road on Feb. 6 (TLP). One was near Aurora on Feb. 7 (LR). A Rough-legged was noted in Medina Co. on Feb. 10 (NI). One was in the Chagrin Valley on Feb. 11 (KM). A bird wintered in Fairport Harbor (RH, HP). **American Kestrels** were

thought to be doing well in Medina County (FG, JW). Increased observations were also noted in Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Portage Counties.

The **Ring-necked Pheasants** found in Grafton, Spencer Lake SWA, and Valley City were all felt to be released birds (FG). A flock of 91 **Wild Turkeys** paraded across Swine Creek Road in Geauga Co. on Jan. 6 (fide DB). Another 24 provided entertainment for observers in Burton on Feb. 19 (AJF). One was in Medina Township on Dec. 7 (FG). **American Coots** lingered in fair numbers along the lake. LePage noted 51 at E. 55th St. on Jan. 1. The 479 tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC demonstrated how common they are in the Akron area. Greenland counted 100 at Wellington on Jan. 2. Returning **Killdeer** arrived in good numbers after Feb. 22 (PL, m.obs.). **Common Snipes** were found on the East Side CBC on Dec. 18 (BF, JHe, PL) and on the Burton CBC on Jan. 1 (fide DB). **American Woodcocks** were early returnees this year. Birds were courting in Claridon on Feb. 23 (fide DB). Two were displaying in Sagamore Hills on Feb. 26 (FCD). Jaite hosted 3-4 on the same day (DAC). Tinker's Creek hosted several timber-doodles the same night (CH).

TTrue to form, **Bonaparte's Gulls** all but disappeared in mid-January. The best example of this departure was on Jan. 16, when 70 were counted at HBSP. On Jan. 17, only 2 could be located (RH). **Ring-billed Gulls** were the only noticeable gull on most lakefront birding forays. An adult **Thayer's Gull** was at Eastlake on Dec. 23-27 (CH, BF, BW). An adult and a first-winter bird were there on

Purple Sandpiper - Headlands Beach SP
by Haans Petruschke



Jan. 23 (DJB). The only report from Lorain was on Jan. 16 (DJB). The only **Iceland Gull** reported was a first-year at Eastlake on Jan. 23 (NB) and Feb. 9 (CH). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** seemed to be the only “good” gull found with any regularity. Birds were at their usual haunts in Avon Lake, Eastlake, and Lorain (m.obs.). Three (2 adults and a 3rd-year) were observed at Avon Lake on Dec. 23 (SZ). Two adults were at Eastlake on Jan. 15 (NB, BW). An adult was at Whiskey Island on Dec. 9 (SZ). An adult **Glaucous Gull** was at Eastlake on Dec. 30 (NB, BW). A first-winter bird was in Lorain on Jan. 23 (SZ). Birds were seen at HBSP on Dec. 26 and Feb. 6 (RH, HP). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were rather disappointing to the gull enthusiasts. No counts broke the century mark. Three at Oberlin Reservoir on Dec. 24 were unusual (DJB).

A red morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found roosting in an apple tree near Big Creek Park (DB). Two gray morph birds were intermittently seen in Valley City (FG). Another gray bird spent most of January roosting in a Streetsboro yard (CH). February nesting **Great Horned Owls** were causing a stir in the CVNRA and at HBSP. **Belted Kingfishers** were in expected totals. Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in Troy Township on Jan. 7 (fide DB). One was in Avon Lake on Jan. 23 (SZ). Birds were noted intermittently in Bay Village and Lakewood (PL, BF). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Streetsboro on Jan. 19 was very unexpected (CH). Equally unexpected was a sapsucker in Parma Heights on Feb. 4 (RHL, SW). CBC data indicated **Northern Flickers** were

Cedar Waxwings lingered in remarkable numbers.

widespread and found in above average numbers. A bird feeding on suet in Parma Heights Dec.22-Jan. 30 was unusual (CR). One-two wintered in Valley City (FG). A Brecksville feeder hosted one on Feb. 1 & 6 (BAT). Three were regularly found at Ira Road (TMR). As usual, **Pileated Woodpeckers** received good coverage. Two were in North Chagrin on Feb. 26 (RR). A pair provided daily observations at the Toneffs’ feeder in Brecksville throughout the period.

Horned Larks were numerous on manure-laden fields in rural sectors. The high count (500) came from near Findley SP on Feb. 10 (CR). Barber located 150+ in Geauga Co. on Jan. 17. Another 200 were in their usual wintering area in Mantua on Jan. 28 (CH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued in above-average totals through the winter. A **Brown Creeper** was in Brecksville in Jan. and Feb. (BAT). Non CBC birds were noted at Lake George (LR), Streetsboro (CH), Valley City (FG), and the CVNRA (DAC) throughout the period. **Carolina Wrens** successfully overwintered at Shaker Lakes (PP). One was doing well in Cleveland Heights until snows of mid-January, but has not been seen since (DJH). The **Winter Wren** found at Shaker Lakes on

Dec. 18 and again on Feb. 3 was our only report for the winter (LD). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in their usual small numbers on local CBCs.

Eastern Bluebirds have apparently benefited from the continuing era of mild winters. Seven were at North Chagrin on Dec. 3 (RR). They were deemed numerous in Valley City all winter (FG). A **Hermit Thrush** was tallied on the Elyria CBC on Dec.18 (fide BRA). One was at Virginia Kendall on Jan. 17 (DJB). Reporters from all seven counties felt **American Robins** were in record abundance. More than 1000 robins were at HBSP on Jan. 27 (RH, LR). **Northern Mockingbirds** were widespread. Birds were found in the usual Cleveland spots all winter (BF, PL, DR, m.obs.). One was at the Ravenna TLS on Dec. 2 (LR). A bird was seen intermittently near the greenhouse at the Cleveland Zoo in January (MK, TMR). One was in Lorain on Jan. 9 (RHL, SW). On Jan. 24, a mockingbird graced the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District shrubs in Cleveland (RH). Wildwood SP provided refuge for one on Feb. 20 (TK). A bird frequented multi-flora rose hedges near Wingfoot Lake throughout the winter (LR). One was south of Granger Township on Feb. 7 (JW). **Cedar Waxwings** lingered in remarkable numbers. Hundreds could be found at Lake Rockwell, North Chagrin, and the CVNRA through mid-January. Numbers in February were reduced, but still higher than normal. The 38 waxwings at HBSP on Feb. 8 were very unusual (RH, HP). The 100 noted at Ira Road on Feb. 21 were very impressive for so late in the season (TMR).

The only **Yellow-rumped Warblers** reported after CBCs were in the CVNRA Dec. 28, Jan. 8, and Jan. 28 (DAC), Findley SP on Jan. 1 (RHL, SW), and at Firestone MP on Feb. 9 (EP).

Short distance migrant sparrows are interesting for many reasons. They seem to take the lead from ducks in their movement patterns. For example, Field and Swamp Sparrows appear to linger at the northern edges of their wintering range until the really cold weather set in. This season there were unexplained occurrences of both Vesper and Savannah Sparrows locally.

An **Eastern Towhee** was a good find at Bath Road in the CVNRA on Dec. 19 (JMK). One was at Lake View Cemetery the same day (JBe, BW). Two were noted at Ira Road on Feb. 13 (TMR). **Field Sparrows** were detected after CBCs at Silver Creek MP (RHL, SW), and at Lake George, and in Shalersville (LR). The mid-January freeze chased them from Valley City (FG). A **Fox Sparrow** was in Sagamore Hills on Dec. 18 (DAC). One in the CVNRA on Dec. 19 was an outstanding find for the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (JMK). An early arrival reached HBSP by Feb. 29 (DJH). Two **Swamp Sparrows** successfully overwintered in Gordon Park (NB, BW). This is quite uncommon along the Cleveland lakefront. The 3 at Firestone MP most of the winter were not unexpected (EP). Seven **White-crowned Sparrows** were in Lorain on Dec. 15 (SZ). Ten were at Wellington on Jan. 9 (FG). **Snow Buntings** were locally common in rural areas. A flock of 250 was seen near Findley SP on Feb. 10 (CR). Alger's dairy farm in Mantua hosted hundreds of Snow

Buntings on various dates in January and February (m.obs.). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were seen in Geauga Co. on Jan. 15 (BF, BW). On Jan. 17, 10 were seen in the same area (NB). Six **Red-winged Blackbirds** were unexpected visitors to the feeders at Shaker Lakes most of the winter (LD). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported on the Burton CBC (*vide* DB). While it is somewhat expected to see meadowlarks moving along the lakefront in late February, or in rural sectors like the birds in Valley City on Feb. 26 (FG) and in Mogadore on Feb. 27 (CH), a bird in Northfield on Feb. 26 was unusual (DAC). A **Rusty Blackbird** dawdled in Tallmadge on Dec. 19 (DJB). One of the few **Purple Finches** reported vis-

Snow Buntings were locally common in rural areas.

ited a feeder in Brecksville on Feb. 6 (BAT). Another was at Big Creek Park on Dec. 29 and Jan. 19 (*vide* DB). **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** were widespread. Redpolls outnumbered siskins at about a 10:1 ratio (m.obs.). High counts of Redpolls were 50 at Lakeshore MP on Dec. 8 (SZ, DK), and 40 at HBSP on Dec. 12 (JBe, RH, HP, BW). The highest number of Siskins was 21 at Knollwood Cemetery (NB).*



GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - A bird was documented thoroughly in Mayfield Heights on Feb. 5 (Barber).

GOLDEN EAGLE - The first photograph of this species ever taken in the region was made of an immature on Dec. 1 in Kirtland (Petruschke). On Dec. 15, what was probably the same bird was seen in Waite Hill (Harlan, Wagner). Remarkably, another immature was seen by Bob Faber at LaDue on Dec. 16 (*vide* Best). At South Chagrin, another was photographed in February by Adam Duff (*vide* Metcalf).

MERLIN - This species is approaching uncommon winter status. At Fairport Harbor, birds were noted from Dec. 5 through Jan. 8. On Dec. 11, 2 were along Fairport Nursery Road (Berger, Hannikman, Petruschke, Winger). One flew by the Hoffman's home in Cleveland Heights on Dec. 12. A Merlin was in Bath on Dec. 15 (Brumfield). Birds were noted at Lake View Cemetery on Dec. 18, Jan. 8 and Feb. 21 (2 birds) (Hoffman). Shaker Lakes hosted one of the East Side CBC birds on Dec. 18 (Caldwell). One was at Villa Angela SP the same day on the same count (Hannikman, Petruschke, Rosche, Winger). Another count day Merlin was tallied at Gordon Park (Heflich). Delores Cole, Anna Kozlenko, and Paula Lozano found another East Side CBC bird at Forest Hills Park on Dec. 18. A second Summit County Merlin roost has been discovered. This one was at the J. Edward Goodpark Golf Course (Pierce, Reyda). One was over

Randall Park Mall on Dec. 26 (Deiningner). The same day, Rieker saw one at Cuyahoga Community College.

PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird was seen many times near the Lorain "Hot Waters" area feasting on the ample supply of gulls (m.obs.). One was seen at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Feb. 21 (Krejci). Holt noticed one near Randall Park in late Dec. Lozano and Finkelstein reported falcons intermittently from the Hilliard Bridge site, Winton Place in Lakewood, and at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River.

SANDHILL CRANE - Two were tallied on the Burton CBC on Jan. 1 (AJF).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Two were on the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP on Dec. 5 (Hannikman, Petruschke). Another was there on Dec. 31 (Hannikman).

POMARINE JAEGER - Kellerman noted birds in Lorain on Dec. 1 and at Wildwood SP on Dec. 3. LePage saw one at Edgewater on Jan. 9.

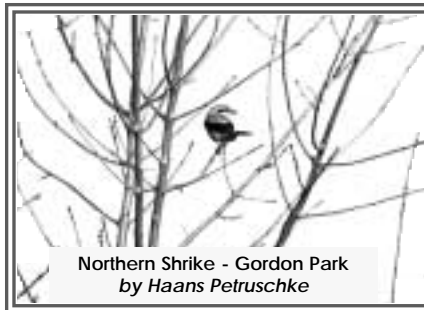
LAUGHING GULL - A first-winter bird was observed from above at Painesville Township Park on Dec. 8. this multiple observer bird provided a new late date for this species (Kriska, Zadar).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Any inland report of this species is noteworthy. An adult flew over Best Preserve during the Burton CBC on Jan. 1 (Best, Metcalf). One was at Oberlin Reservoir on Jan. 16 (Holt).

SHORT-EARED OWL - The only report was one on the Elyria CBC on Dec.18 (fide Black River Audubon).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Zadar found fresh remains at Gordon Park in early December. Sean felt these were different from the previous unfortunate occurrences for this species. A Saw-whet put in a one day appearance at the Seiberling Naturealm on Dec. 13 (Stover). One was at Caley SWA on Dec. 24 (Brumfield).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - More shrikes than usual were reported. The CBCs probably set a record. While many reports were turned in without individual observers name attached, it was assumed the reports were accurate. The Chasars located a bird in



Northern Shrike - Gordon Park
by Haans Petruschke

Sagamore hills on Dec. 18. Another shrike was near the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA on Dec. 19. (Kraus). One was in Kent the same day (Rosche, Stover). This bird was seen the next day by Holt. A bird remained at Gordon Park throughout the period (Zadar, m.obs.). Immatures were in North Perry and Concord Township on Dec. 26 (Rosche). A bird in Troy township on Jan. 1 was one of two found on the Burton CBC (Best, Metcalf). One was identified along I-90 in Sheffield on Jan. 1 (Caldwell). On Jan. 9, a shrike was at the same Rockhaven Road site in Geauga Co as last year (Heflich). A youngster was tallied on the winter bird survey at Lake George on Jan. 9. This was the first report ever received from the immediate

Lake Rockwell area in our history (Rosche). Rosche found another shrike at the Auburn SWA on Jan. 16 and a well-fed bird in Shalersville on Feb. 21.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING - One was singled out among Cedar Waxwings at North Chagrin Reservation on Dec. 12 (Metcalf).

MARSH WREN - One was found on the Elyria CBC on Dec.18 (fide Black River Audubon).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - A late bird was at Headland Beach SP on Dec. 11 (Hannikman, Metcalf). One was tallied on the Lakewood CBC (fide Lozano).

BROWN THRASHER - A tardy bird was a surprise in Eastlake on the East Side CBC on Dec. 18 (Rosche, Hannikman, Winger, Petruschke). A bird was an intermittent visitor in late January and February to a Cleveland feeder (Ignasiak).

AMERICAN PIPIT - One was tallied on the Elyria CBC on Dec.18 (fide Black River Aud.).

SAVANNAH SPARROW - A rare winter visitor, birds were seen in Lorain on Jan.16 (Brumfield) and Wadsworth on Feb. 2 & 4 (Wert).

DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO A male of this western race was an exciting find at a Strongsville feeder. The bird was first seen on Dec. 28 and was intermittently observed into Jan. (Kriska, Marnie Urso, Zadar).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - On Dec.12 one was in Mentor at a feeder for a few minutes. It was scared off by starlings and did not return (Fjeldstad). Seven were studied at Lakewood Park Cemetery on Dec. 29 (LePage). *



Ohio's First Common Ground-Dove

by Jared Mizanin

It was early November, and I hadn't been to the local park in several days; thus, I missed the usual woodland denizens and small surprises which frequently appear. After a few Cave Swallows arrived unexpectedly at Point Pelee, I decided to venture to the nearby marshes to see if something atypical were stirring. At the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area during any season, surprises may arise in the varied habitats. Hemlock-lined rocky ledges may reveal summering Blue-headed Vireos and Black-throated Green Warblers, while the wetland may harbor migrant bitterns, raptors, or an occasional Dickcissel.

I headed out for my favorite hotspot near the Jaite headquarters. It was a warm day; however, a few days before, there had been



Common Ground-Dove Jaite Area of CVNRA
by Jared Mizanin

a heavy snowfall. As a result, the trail that was so dry in summer was again a marshy meadow. I had to park in a small pull-off on the opposite side of the wetlands. I hadn't known it at the time, but I was very fortunate for this change in my usual routine.

As I pulled into the parking space, my attention was abruptly directed towards a sparrow-sized bird, which unveiled a reddish flash in the wings, not unlike the Red-shafted Flickers and Inca Doves I had witnessed in the West only a few weeks before. However, this sighting was very brief, and although the possibility of Common Ground-Dove flashed in my mind, I ignored this potential and didn't give it a second thought. A mistake.

I continued onwards, beholding large flocks of Rusty Blackbirds, which I scrutinized for the similar Brewer's, without any such luck. The reservation was quite tranquil; the Cuyahoga River marshlands were carefully surveyed for any migrant swallows. None were present. It seemed my chances for a Southern vagrant were slim. After unintentionally slipping knee-deep in icy water, I was

eager to get home to warm up. Arriving at the parking area, I leaped into my car and had just begun to drive off when I noticed a bundle of feathers with a reddish flash descend nearby on a wooden fence. I came to a halt and took a quick glance.

A Common Ground-Dove! I spent a few short-lived moments observing the bird feeding around the grassy area abutting the fence. Occasionally, the little bird would rise up in alarm and take refuge in the neighboring saplings or in one sizeable spruce a few yards away. I cannot even begin to explain my delight about this first state record!

I hurried home to retrieve my camera and to inform my father about the bird I had seen. I grabbed a field guide to understand the straying tendencies of this species. I read various accounts of the bird's habits, and they seemed to match that of the dove I had seen. Also, I was able to label "my" bird as a male, because of its overall pinkish hue and bluish nape, as opposed to a female's more uniform coloration.

I returned to the location with an hour of sunlight remaining. This time, my cousin accompanied me; and the bird was quickly relocated. A few low-quality photographs were shot with a 200mm lens. Too bad I could not take photographs from the binoculars! Such field marks as the scaly breast, slaty-blue nape, and bicolored bill aren't nearly as apparent with the photographs. Furthermore, I failed to get even a poor shot of the chestnut wings.

The next morning my father joined me. Now, though, the brushy fields surrounding the wooden fence seemed abandoned. Perhaps the dove's appearance was postponed until after the departure of the accipiter on the outskirts of the adjacent woodland. I began to believe the dove would become a one-day wonder, but it soon appeared at the expected location. Once again, the miniature dove afforded

great views through the binoculars. Several more photographs were taken; none were of momentous value. I couldn't linger, however, for I soon had to leave to go to work. The dove fluttered off to the brushy field where it descended into the grass. Little did I know that this would be the last time the bird would be seen.

That night, hoping more people could share my joy, I contacted others over the Internet. When I arrived Sunday morning, other birding enthusiasts awaited the dove's appearance. However, it was all in vain, as the bird never did appear.

Although it may seem odd for such a southern bird to have strayed off to Ohio, many birders may have anticipated the sighting. This diminutive bird, merely 6-7 inches, is known for its erratic wanderings. A distribution map will show you a range consisting of portions within a dozen southern states, but over thirty states have had the fortune of recording at least one. Among them are Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts; and such Ohio-adjacent states as Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Michigan have accepted records. And, two Canadian provinces, Ontario and Nova Scotia, include Columbina passerina on their provincial lists.

I truly regret not contacting other birders sooner. It was a deep disappointment that the bird did not make another appearance. I have assured myself that I will not disregard any bird because "it couldn't have been that." It seems every year new surprises unfold in Ohio, and we must be prepared for them. Keep your eyes open...

Documentation of a Bohemian Waxwing at North Chagrin Metropark by Kevin Metcalf

On December 12, 1999, from about 9:07-9:15 am, I observed a Bohemian Waxwing perched in a red maple tree near the Nature Education Building of North Chagrin Reservation. The bird was with a flock of 20-30 Cedar Waxwings and as close as 45-50 ft. I noticed and heard a flock of waxwings fly up from some low, fruiting shrubs, including crabapple trees. From an initial distance of about 80 feet, I saw the bird land in the taller maple trees with the Cedar Waxwings and noticed its larger size with my naked eye. I (thinking I was deluding myself) immediately put my binoculars on the larger bird and saw that it had the very dark undertail coverts of a Bohemian. It was easy to see the pale, yellowish undertail coverts of the nearby Cedar Waxwings. The bird was high in the tree (maybe 40 feet). The sky was overcast, somewhat bright. I had time to move part way around the bird to get closer looks and views at different angles. At one point I stood almost directly under the bird.

Size and Structure

The overall size appeared about 20-25% larger than the Cedar Waxwing that sat immediately next to it. The bird's crest appeared relatively longer than the Cedar Waxwings, and the Bohemian appeared more bulky and top heavy than the Cedar (appearing larger-headed, shorter tailed). Otherwise it was very similar to the shape of a Cedar Waxwing.

Plumage, Color

The color was overall darker and grayer than the Cedar Waxwings, lacking any of the pale yellowish tones underneath (Color could be seen well through binoculars). The bill was blackish/dark gray; the eye appeared black; and it had the black waxwing mask and black throat. The feet appeared dark gray. The back was brownish gray. The head appeared more brownish than the mantle and the underparts. The chest and belly appeared dark to medium gray, palest on the belly between the legs. The undertail coverts were a distinctly dark chestnut color, contrasting with the belly. The tail showed a bright yellow terminal band, and the rest of the exposed undertail appeared blackish. The undertail coverts appeared longer and covered more of the tail than on the nearby Cedar Waxwings. The flanks were somewhat fluffed up, so I had to walk around to the side and behind the bird to see the wing pattern. The folded wing had an obvious white patch visible near the middle of the lower edge of the wing, where the wing disappeared under the flank feathers. Further down the wing were some red wax tips to the secondaries. The tips of the secondaries looked whitish. I could not see the rump area. A yellow line extended down the top of the primaries to the tip of the primary projection. I could not tell if it were yellow all the way to the tips, but at least most of it was yellow. Some of the feather details of the wing pattern, useful for aging Bohemians, were somewhat hard to see because of distance, lighting, and the fact that I was looking up at the bird.

Voice

The bird called several times, and had a distinctly lower-pitched,

shorter, more rattling trill than the Cedar Waxwings'. The call slurred down in pitch.

Elimination of Other Species

In any flock of birds, there will be individual variation. Some individuals will be bigger or smaller, some darker or lighter. With good views, the dark chestnut undertail would be difficult to misinterpret, (the first, easiest thing to look for, in my opinion). The wing pattern was different, with Cedars not having a yellow stripe down the primaries of the folded wing. Cedars can show whitish on the inner edge of the tertials and whitish edging on the primaries, but not an obvious white patch where I described. The size was also obviously bigger, and it had no pale yellowish tones to the underparts. Luckily, the bird gave me a good, long look.

Documentation of a Golden Eagle in Kirtland

by Haans Petruschke

There was an immature Golden Eagle in Kirtland Hills, at the intersection of Chillicothe Road, Center Street, and Baldwin Road at 3:30 pm December 1, 1999.

I first saw the bird while headed NE on Chillicothe. My first impression was to ask what a Turkey Vulture was doing here this



late? After a few seconds I realized it was a Golden Eagle. Quickly pulling off the road, I got my camera out of the trunk. I observed the bird for about 4 minutes from distances of 500 yards to 120 feet as it soared and flew to the west. Skies were generally clear and the sun was over my right shoulder. Lighting was basically perfect. I observed the bird through the naked eye; and through a Tamron 500mm mirror lens, I took about 5 pictures.

Identification: The bird was huge and was being harassed by several crows, which seemed very small by comparison. The wings were broad with just a hint of dihedral. The head projected proportionally about one third the length of the tail. Trailing edge of the wing had a convex curve through the secondaries. Wing beats were slow, deliberate and powerful--slower than the cadence of a Great Blue Heron.

Overall the bird appeared dark at a distance (leading to my initial impression for Turkey Vulture) At about 400 yards it was apparent that the head, nape, and mantle were golden brown. The tail was buffy white with a wide black terminal band. The wing linings and secondaries were dark brown. The primaries were white from their proximal end to about halfway from the tip, the tips were black. This resulted in a dentated semi-circular white patch where the primaries meet the wing lining.

Similar species: A Turkey Vulture would have shown a much stronger dihedral and proportionally smaller head and longer tail. The head would have been devoid of feathers and pink. The nape and mantle would have been black; the secondaries would have been gray. Bald Eagles at all ages

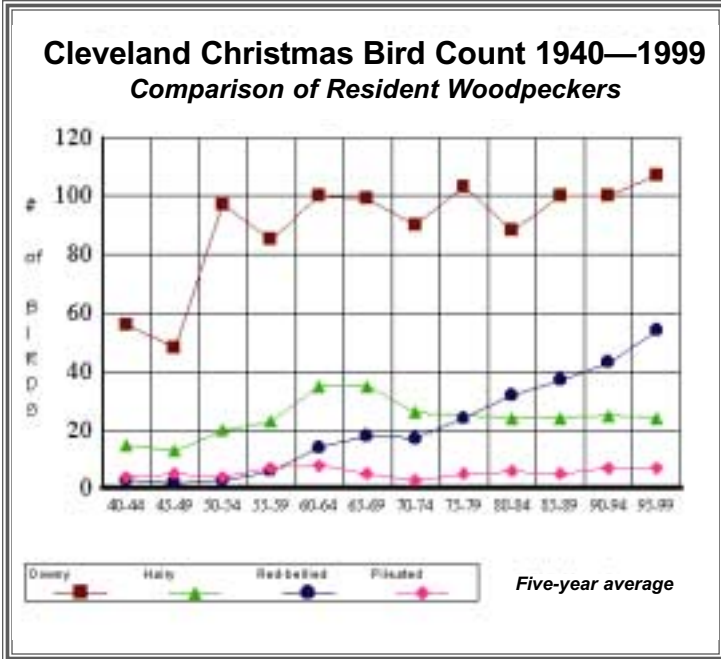
would have a head which projected to the front nearly as far as the tail projects to the rear. The wings would not have shown any dihedral, and the trailing edge of the wing would have been straight. A mature bird would have had a white head and tail with uniform dark brown body and wings. The distal ends of the primaries sometimes do show a bit of dull gray but this is seldom visible. Immature birds would have very distinctive white or lighter areas in their wing linings, secondaries, primaries, tail, and belly. These lighter areas show considerable variation from bird to bird and from fledging to maturity.

Red-bellied Woodpecker Increasing

Jean M. Hoffman

Though the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) was common in other parts of the Cleveland region, Dick and Jim Hoffman and I first found one in Lake View Cemetery on November 21, 1976. The cemetery is at the junction of the cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and East Cleveland and could easily have supported this woodpecker before that time. A female Red-bellied Woodpecker joined that first male the next April, but Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) ousted them from their nest hole in 1977. By 1983 at least one pair was firmly established in Lake View; and in 1995 at least two different pairs had successful nests there.

I have participated in the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Lake View Cemetery since 1975 when there were still no Red-bellied Woodpeckers present. The increase of their numbers on the count has been grad-



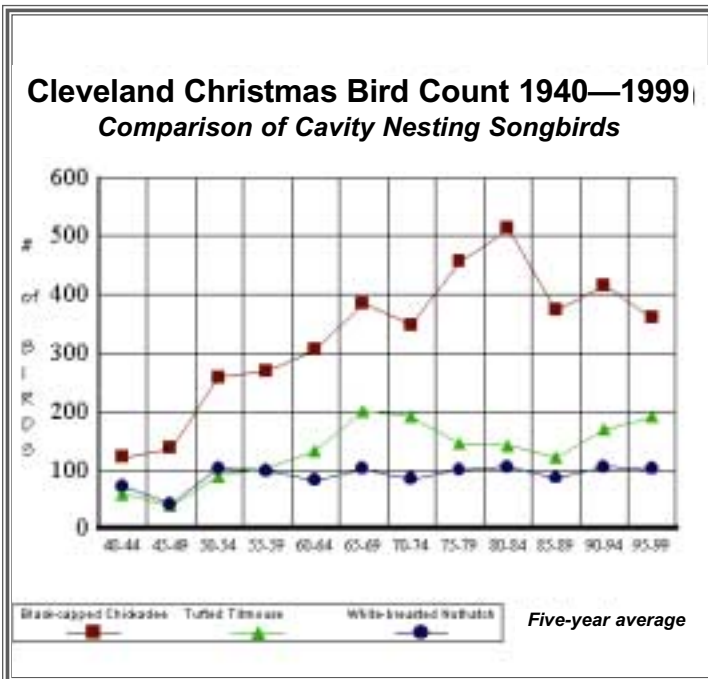
There has been no particular increase in the number of participants nor party hours to account for these increases.

Five years ago I created a few comparative graphs for selected species in the Cleveland

ual; but in 1999, my team's tally of fifteen, just in Lake View, seemed amazing. I was not surprised to learn that the Cleveland CBC had reached a new high of

72 Red-bellied Woodpeckers. In the 1990's the record high has grown from 50 in 1991, 55 in 1992, and 57 in 1994, before making a major jump this year.

CBC, using five-year averages for clarity. One was for resident woodpeckers; I wanted to see how the graph had changed in another five years. In the accompanying graph, you can see that for the last thirty years Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) and Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) have remained virtually unchanged.



Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) has been more variable with the current five-year period slightly increased, but there is not a significant trend. Red-bellied Woodpecker, however, has made a steady climb during the last thirty years.

I do not believe habitat change is responsible, as there has been a decrease in woodland in the count area and the cemetery as well. As further evidence of this, I created another graph for resident cavity-nesting songbirds: Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) and White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). Changes for the chickadee and titmouse have only brought them back to levels of the early 1970s and the nuthatch has had little variation.

Christmas Bird Count data cannot address changes to migrant species and any competition they might present. There has been speculation that the increase in Red-bellied Woodpecker might be at the expense of Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), but I have seen no data to support this as yet. In Lake View, at least, Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to nest successfully even when Red-bellied Woodpeckers nest nearby.

Thus, it would appear that the current increase in the population of Red-bellied Woodpeckers is a continuation of their northward expansion that has been in progress for over a century. According to Peterjohn (*Birds of Ohio*: 1989), by the mid-1930s they were still rare and local in northeastern Ohio. Other species which have expanded north during the same period are Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) and Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), the latter also reaching a new record high on the 1999 Cleveland CBC. *

The Birds of the 1990s by Ray Hannikman

It is time again for my once-every-ten-years summary of what I feel were the best birds of the past decade from the Cleveland region. I feel fortunate to have seen some of the birds that follow; and I am hoping that as I look back at all the great birds that occurred that I can spur the birders in our area to find more good birds during the next ten years.

First Records for Ohio

Brown Pelican - April 29, 1990 at Huntington Beach Metropark.

Snowy Plover

A bird remained all day on the beach at Headlands Beach State Park on May 13, 1993.



Royal Tern

A somewhat elusive individual was at Lorain Harbor July 8, 20, and 21, 1995.



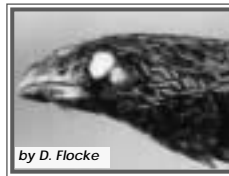
Black Guillemot

Gordon Park Yacht Club Basin, November 8 to 11, 1990. The bird later died and was preserved as a museum specimen.

Common Ground-Dove
Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, November 5-6, 1999. This bird was photographed and accepted by the Ohio Rare Birds Records Committee.

Smooth-billed Ani

Remains were found by a cat in Westlake on Thanksgiving Day, November 1993. The specimen was critically examined by local experts and experts at The Louisiana State University. This is one of the few extralimital occurrences of this species north of Florida and the southeast United States.



Boreal Owl

April 5, 1997, Concord Township. The bird hit a picture window and was released after rehabilitation.



Wagtail (sp?) - An unidentified species of wagtail flew over a keen observer at Headlands Beach State Park on September 9, 1996.

First Records for the Cleveland Region

White Ibis

An immature was photographed at Rockcliff Spring, Cleveland Metroparks, on July 19, 1993.



White-faced Ibis

A well-studied individual at Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area, October 10-13, 1991.

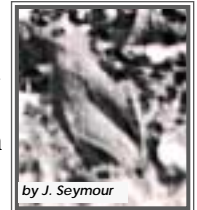
Mississippi Kite - Jaite Trailhead, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, July 4, 1999. An unusual mid-summer sighting of this species which is mainly noted in spring from Ohio.

Ruff - A gaudy black and orange male remained at the Gordon Park Impoundment from May 16 through May 20, 1990.

Ross's Gull - A second winter/adult for a few hours at Headlands Beach State Park on November 15, 1998.

Townsend's Solitaire

A long-awaited first area record was of a bird photographed in Medina County on Nov. 14, 1994.



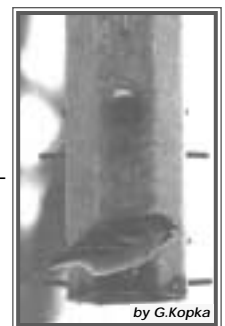
Green-tailed Towhee - This first Cleveland area sighting was from Lorain County from January 10, through April 1992. The bird was enjoyed by 400 or more birders.

Spotted Towhee

An individual remained at a feeder in Lakewood from October 22 to October 29, 1998 and was photographed and also viewed by several well-qualified observers.

Bullock's Oriole

First documented occurrence in the Cleveland region of this species which until recently, had been lumped with Baltimore Oriole. This individual visited an Akron feeder from December 1990 to mid-March 1991.



In ten years I again hope to review the decade's special birds from the Cleveland region and I am looking forward to the surprises which lie ahead. *

ID CORNER

Mourning Dove vs. Common Ground-Dove

by Jenny Brumfield

To Ohio birders, the Mourning Dove (MODO) is not a tough bird to identify. It is abundant in most habitats and falls in the category of the easy-to-see "backyard birds." However, the Mourning Dove's southern relative, the Common Ground-Dove, is far from being common anywhere in Ohio, let alone much of the Midwest. The Common Ground-Dove (CGDO) is a southwestern and southeastern species, ranging from southern California to Florida and north to southern South Carolina. Usually not thought of as much of a wandering species, the Common Ground-Dove does casually wander as far north as Oregon and New York in fall and winter. On the rare occasion that an Ohio birder may see a stray CGDO, it is wise to take into consideration all of the field marks that would differentiate it from Mourning Dove, before making a quick, unsupported ID. This article will review the identification of Common Ground-Dove while simultaneously over-viewing Mourning Dove ID.

The most important aspects to consider when dealing with a possible CGDO sighting include the possibility of a tail-less or young MODO. However, one can come to a conclusion fairly easily if all field marks have been considered. Let us begin by reviewing both CGDO and

MODO field marks.

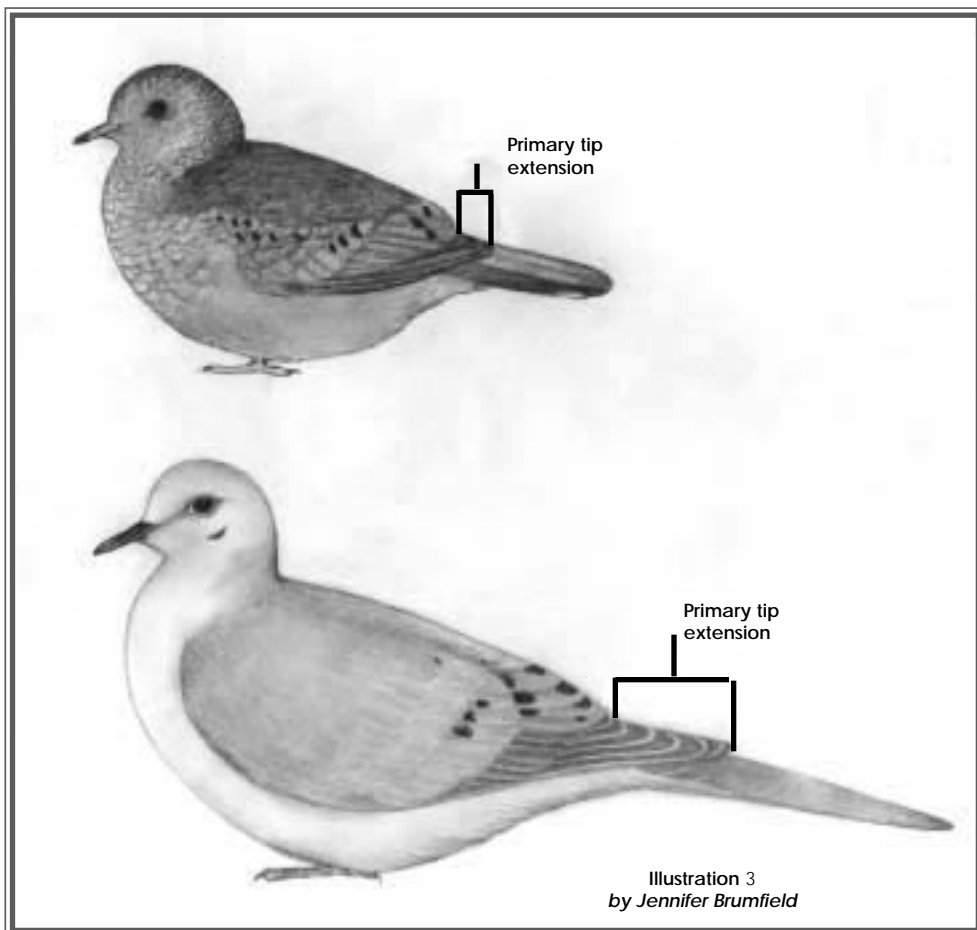
Shape and Size

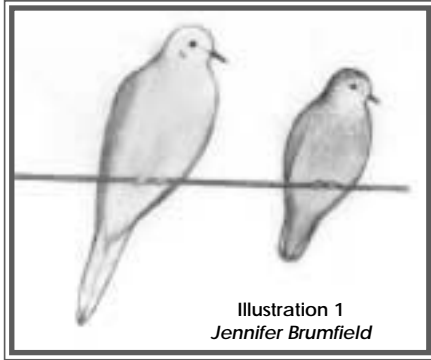
The CGDO is a small, sparrow-sized dove with a short, rounded tail and short, broad wings. It often appears to be virtually neckless, with a rounded and proportionately large head. The CGDO's primary extension (from the tertials and secondaries) is very short (Ill. 3). Contrastingly, the MODO is nearly two times the length of a CGDO, and has a long, pointed tail and long, pointed wings. Proportionately, its head appears small against its very plump body and long tapered tail. The primary extension on a MODO is very long compared to CGDO (Ill. 3). In the case of a tail-less MODO, an observer should rely on body proportions, plumage (to be dis-

cussed), and especially, differences in primary extension. The marks discussed above apply for both species when they are perched vertically (Ill. 1). In flight the tail and wing shape of each species is very evident. The CGDO's shape, in flight, is small and compact, while the MODO appears more lanky, with wings swept back and head held farther forward (Ill. 2).

Plumage

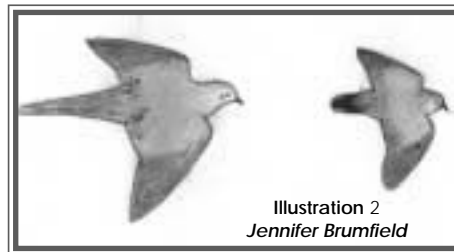
First, we'll discuss the ID of the adult male CGDO vs. the adult MODO (sexes are very similar). The adult male CGDO has a grayish brown back, rump, and wings. The wings are speckled with many scattered dark violet markings, especially on the secondaries, greater coverts, and median coverts. When perched,





the primaries appear to be dark brown. However, only the remiges of the primary feathers are dark, and in flight a rufous flash across the outer wing is striking. The face and underparts are pinkish. The crown and hindneck are bluish-gray. Grayish scaling on the crown, neck and chest often gives the bird a mottled look. The central tail feather is dark-brown and outer tail feathers blackish, but narrowly tipped white. Compared to the male, female CGDOs are paler overall. The face, neck, and underparts are a buffy gray. The crown and nape are a darkish brown color. The face, neck, and underparts are scaled. The upperparts are paler and grayer. The adult MODO is brownish above and pale sand-brown below. The wings are speckled with bold black spots on the scapulars, tertials, and innerwing coverts. The face is marked with a black streak on the lower auriculars. The nape is bluish-gray and beside it, on the neck, is an iridescent pink patch. The primaries are dark gray and the inner wing coverts are dark brown. The central tail feathers are dark brown and outer tail feathers gray with a black subterminal band. The outer tail feathers are tipped a pale gray to white. When folded, the tail appears to be solidly dark brown. The female MODO resembles the male, but is duller and grayer overall, lacks the bluish-gray nape, and her iridescent pink patch is smaller. Note that juvenile MODOs look

very scaly and barred overall. They are darker brown above and sandy-brown below, lightly barred on the neck and breast, with dusky scaling on the back and wing coverts. Take into consideration the juvenile MODO's lack of scaling on the head, differences in bill size and coloration (to be discussed), overall size, and overall coloration. Though, at first glance a juvenile MODO may resemble a CGDO, it is important to rule out the contrasting field marks that were just listed above. In the case of a tail-less MODO, the same rules would apply. A tail-less MODO in flight is an awkward sight, with its long, tapered wings and head held forward, yet seemingly unbalanced because of the lack of the tail. A tail-less MODO would certainly look smaller because of the absence of its



lengthy appendage. However, the field marks on the rest of the bird would still hold true.

Bare Parts

The bill of the CGDO is short and fairly thin. It is orange or flesh-colored at the base with a dark tip. The MODO's bill is dark black and slightly thicker, especially at the base. The eyes of both the male and the female CGDO are dark red. The eyes of both the male and female MODO are dark brown. The orbital ring (fleshy ring around eye) on the MODO is a grayish-blue color on the male; pale gray on the female. The orbital ring of the CGDO is thinner and less apparent, from a pale gray to a pinkish color. The feet of

the CGDO are yellowish or pink. The feet of the MODO are a pinkish-red to an orangish color.

Calls

Most birders are familiar with the mournful "oowoo-hoo-woo-woo-woo" call of the MODO and the whir of its wings in flight. However, the call of the CGDO is probably a mystery to most of us. Its call is a soft, repeated, ascending "wha-up" or "whoo-o."

Habitat

Mourning Doves are common in many habitats, from cities and towns to open woods, roadsides, and grasslands. It prefers habitats from open to semi-open areas, favoring areas with hedges, brush, and scattered trees. MODOs are often found singly, in pairs, or in small flocks. The Common Ground-Dove forages on brushy range-land in the west and more open land in the East. It prefers drier habitats, from open to semi-open areas, favoring urban areas, brushy woodland and edge.

Though most Ohio birders will have to visit Florida, Texas, Arizona, or California for their life Common Ground-Dove, there is always a small chance that a stray CGDO may end up in Ohio for a few lucky birders to observe. This article was written in an attempt to make more birders known of the possibility of such a stray, and to help prevent confusion of CGDO with our common doves. Keep an eye in the sky, and one on the ground, and get out into the field! Good birding!

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Acknowledgment: Special thanks are given to Nancy Klamm, Anthony Hess, Richard and Jean Hoffman, Jacquelyn Haley, Thomas Leiden, Bertalan Szabo, and William and Ann Toneff for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 96.

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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.

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Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be sent to Larry Rosche; 7473 Sylvan Drive; Kent, Ohio 44240. e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

A Checklist of the Birds of the Cleveland Region

Red-throated Loon	Northern Goshawk	Mew Gull	Blue Jay	Northern Waterthrush
Pacific Loon	Red-shouldered Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Loon	Broad-winged Hawk	California Gull	Common Raven	Kentucky Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Herring Gull	Horned Lark	Connecticut Warbler
Horned Grebe	Rough-legged Hawk	Thayer's Gull	Purple Martin	Mourning Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Golden Eagle	Iceland Gull	Tree Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Eared Grebe	American Kestrel	Lesser Black-backed Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Hooded Warbler
Western Grebe	Merlin	Glaucous Gull	Bank Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Northern Gannet	Gyr Falcon	Great Black-backed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Canada Warbler
American White Pelican	Peregrine Falcon	Sabine's Gull	Barn Swallow	Painted Redstart
Brown Pelican	Ring-necked Pheasant	Black-legged Kittiwake	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-breasted Chat
DC Cormorant	Ruffed Grouse	Ross's Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
American Bittern	Wild Turkey	Ivory Gull	Boreal Chickadee	Scarlet Tanager
Least Bittern	Northern Bobwhite	Caspian Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Western Tanager
Great Blue Heron	Yellow Rail	Royal Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Green-tailed Towhee
Great Egret	Black Rail	Common Tern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee
Snowy Egret	King Rail	Forster's Tern	Brown Creeper	Spotted Towhee
Little Blue Heron	Virginia Rail	Least Tern	Rock Wren	Bachman's Sparrow
Tricolored Heron	Sora	Black Tern	Carolina Wren	American Tree Sparrow
Cattle Egret	Purple Gallinule	Thick-billed Murre	Bewick's Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Green Heron	Common Moorhen	Black Guillemot	House Wren	Clay-colored Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	American Coot	Rock Dove	Winter Wren	Field Sparrow
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Sandhill Crane	Mourning Dove	Sedge Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Black-bellied Plover	Passenger Pigeon	Marsh Wren	Lark Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	American Golden-Plover	Common Ground-Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-throated Sparrow
White Ibis	Semipalmated Plover	Carolina Parakeet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Lark Bunting
Wood Stork	Snowy Plover	Black-billed Cuckoo	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Black Vulture	Piping Plover	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Townsend's Solitaire	Grasshopper Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Killdeer	Smooth-billed Ani	Eastern Bluebird	Henslow's Sparrow
Fulvous Whistling Duck	American Avocet	Barn Owl	Veery	Le Conte's Sparrow
Greater White-fronted Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Screech-Owl	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Snow Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Great Horned Owl	Swainson's Thrush	Fox Sparrow
Ross's Goose	Solitary Sandpiper	Snowy Owl	Hermit Thrush	Song Sparrow
Canada Goose	Willet	Northern Hawk Owl	Wood Thrush	Lincoln's Sparrow
Brant	Spotted Sandpiper	Barred Owl	American Robin	Swamp Sparrow
Mute Swan	Upland Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl	Varied Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	Eskimo Curlew	Short-eared Owl	Gray Catbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Whimbrel	Boreal Owl	Northern Mockingbird	Harris's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Long-billed Curlew	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Brown Thrasher	Dark-eyed Junco
Gadwall	Hudsonian Godwit	Common Nighthawk	European Starling	Lapland Longspur
Eurasian Wigeon	Marbled Godwit	Whip-poor-will	Wagtail (species)	Smith's Longspur
American Wigeon	Ruddy Turnstone	Chimney Swift	American Pipit	Snow Bunting
American Black Duck	Red Knot	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sprague's Pipit	Northern Cardinal
Mallard	Sanderling	Rufous Hummingbird	Bohemian Waxwing	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing	Black-headed Grosbeak
Northern Shoveler	Western Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Northern Pintail	Least Sandpiper	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Golden-winged Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Green-winged Teal	White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Tennessee Warbler	Dickcissel
Canvasback	Baird's Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	Bobolink
Redhead	Pectoral Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-backed Woodpecker	Northern Parula	Eastern Meadowlark
Tufted Duck	Purple Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Yellow Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Greater Scaup	Dunlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbill
Lesser Scaup	Curlew Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
King Eider	Stilt Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cape May Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
Common Eider	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common Grackle
Harlequin Duck	Ruff	Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Surf Scoter	Short-billed Dowitcher	Alder Flycatcher	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Orchard Oriole
White-winged Scoter	Long-billed Dowitcher	Willow Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Black Scoter	Common Snipe	Least Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Oldsquaw	American Woodcock	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-throated Warbler	Brambling
Bufflehead	Eurasian Woodcock	Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Common Goldeneye	Wilson's Phalarope	Western Kingbird	Kirtland's Warbler	Purple Finch
Barrow's Goldeneye	Red-necked Phalarope	Eastern Kingbird	Prairie Warbler	House Finch
Hooded Merganser	Red Phalarope	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Palm Warbler	Red Crossbill
Common Merganser	Pomarine Jaeger	Loggerhead Shrike	Bay-breasted Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Red-breasted Merganser	Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Shrike	Blackpoll Warbler	Common Redpoll
Ruddy Duck	Long-tailed Jaeger	White-eyed Vireo	Cerulean Warbler	Hoary Redpoll
Osprey	Laughing Gull	Bell's Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler	Pine Siskin
Swallow-tailed Kite	Franklin's Gull	Yellow-throated Vireo	American Redstart	American Goldfinch
Bald Eagle	Little Gull	Blue-headed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Northern Harrier	Black-headed Gull	Warbling Vireo	Worm-eating Warbler	House Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Philadelphia Vireo	Swainson's Warbler	
Cooper's Hawk	Heermann's Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	Ovenbird	