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BIRD

CALENDAR



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

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

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 10 - Winter Season  
June 10 - Spring Season  
September 10 - Summer Season  
December 10 - Autumn Season

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# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

## ***ON THE INSIDE:***

### **THE WEATHER**

*by Dwight A. Chasar*

### **SPRING 2001**

### **NOTEWORTHY RECORDS**

*by Larry Rosche*

### **FIELD NOTES**

**Black-crowned Night-Herons  
on the Near West Side**

*by Drew Rolik*

**A Summary of the Rocky River Sunday  
Morning Bird Walks**

*by Mike Stasko*

**A Summary of the Headlands Beach Migration**

*by Ray Hannikman*

**Comments on the May 12, 2001**

**CVNP Bird Census**

*by Dwight A. Chasar*

**Competing in the  
Great Texas Birding Classic**

*by Ben Winger*

# Spring 2001



## Spring 2001 by Dwight Chasar

**MARCH:** The temperature averaged 34.0°, 3.3° below normal. The highest temperature was 55° on the 20th, and the lowest was 14° on the 26th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33° to 37° during the month. Sunshine occurred 49% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 2.41 in., 0.50 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .44 in. on the 12-13th. Snowfall totaled 26.7 in. with the greatest 24 hr. amount being 7.7 in. on the 11th. The greatest snow depth was 6 in. on the 6th.

**APRIL:** The temperature averaged 51.4°, 3.81° above normal. The highest temperature was 82° on the 12th; and the lowest, 25° on the 4th. Sunshine occurred 65% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 2.33 in., 0.81 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .78 in. on the 5-6th. Snow totaled .3 in. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 50° by the end of the month.

**MAY:** The temperature averaged 60.0°, 2.0° above normal. The highest temperature was 84° on the 1st; and the lowest, 33° on the 13th. The lake temperature rose to 57°. Rain totaled 3.84 in., .35 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.96 in. on the 21-22nd. There was no snow. Sunshine prevailed only 54 % of the time possible. □



Black-crowned Night-Heron  
by Lou Gardella © Century Studios



**T**he high counts of **Common Loons** were 35 at Berlin Reservoir (BDL) on Mar. 29 and 26 at LaDue on Apr. 1 (VW). **Pied-billed Grebes** were as expected. Observers are reminded to note well all local summering birds in their summer seasonal reports. The high report of **Horned Grebes** was 32 at Nimisila Reservoir on Mar. 31 (RHL, SW). The 2400 **Double-crested Cormorants** seen from Whiskey Island Marina on April 10 was an alarming total to the local fishermen Cleveland (PL).

The **Great Blue Heron** colony at The Narrows in the CVNP totaled 170 nests (BAT, m.obs.). **Great Egrets** were in good supply. The high tally was 6 at Merwin St. on



Apr. 10 (BF, PL). Two **Green Herons** made an early arrival at Mentor Marsh SNP on Apr. 13 (KM). The Chasars felt Green Heron numbers were below average in the CVNP. The Merwin St. gathering of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** topped out at 112 on Apr. 18. This number was reduced to 20 by Apr. 25 (PL). Inland, a bird at Tinker's Creek SNP was a good find on Apr. 27 (GB, m.obs.). **Turkey Vulture** numbers were impressive. On Mar. 28, 237 were counted as they drifted by Edgewater Cleveland Lakefront State Park (PL). On Apr. 7, 800 were tallied in Fairport Harbor (RH, EB).

Judging by the paucity of reports, much of the waterfowl migration was over by the time the spring season rolled around. A **Snow Goose** was seen at Wellington on Mar. 10 (TLP). One visited North Chagrin MP on Apr. 6 (KM). **Mute Swans** were found widely, and this desk wonders just how long it will be until they become as much of a nuisance as the local Canada Geese. On the same venue, 3 **Trumpeter Swans** were seen in a flooded field in Mantua on Mar 20-22 (LR, CH). **Tundra Swans** would have slipped through the region unnoticed, if not for the 50 at Lake Kelso on Mar. 4 and the 232 over Swine Creek Reservation on Mar.13 (fide DB).

**Blue-winged Teal** numbers were pathetic. The high count was a mere 25 at Lorain on Apr. 29 (CH). **Northern Shovelers** fared better than expected. The 46 at the Akron Lakes (mostly Nimisila) on Mar. 25 was very good news (CH). A total of 15 was seen

at HBSP (RH). High counts of **Northern Pintails** included 24 at Sandy Ridge MP on Mar. 4 (TMR) and 23 at HBSP on the same day (RH). **Green-winged Teal** numbers far outpaced Blue-winged Teal. The high single day tally was 30 at HBSP on Apr. 7 (RHL).

Most **Canvasbacks** had fled the region by early March. Wellington Reservoir held 510+ **Redheads** on Mar. 10 (VF). The 55 at Berlin on Mar. 18 was the best Portage County report in years (CH). **Ring-necked Ducks** were disappointing. The 280 **Lesser Scaups** seen at Nimisila Reservoir on Mar. 31 was an outstanding inland tally (RHL, SW). A gathering of 300 was noted at Wellington on Mar. 30 (BAT). A tardy female **Greater Scaup** was seen off the east breakwall at HBSP on May 28 (RH). On Mar. 20, a female **Surf Scoter** was seen at Wellington Reservoir (PL, BF). From Mar. 25-Mar. 31, a male and 2 females were seen off Rocky River, (PL, BF, m.obs.). Two males were at a private pond in Geauga Co, on Mar. 39 (AFo). A hen **Common Goldeneye** was exceptionally tardy on May 28 at HBSP (RH). The heavy rains of that morning may have contributed to the occurrence of both the Greater Scaup and the goldeneye. **Hooded Mergansers** were found in good numbers and lingering birds at many inland sites gave indication that a banner nesting season was under way. **Common Mergansers** moved early. A twosome at Dover Lake on Mar. 15 was of local interest (MR). Up to 13 **Ruddy Ducks** remained at Sandy Ridge MP nesting site as of May 17 (NB).

**M**igrant **Ospreys** were seen in good numbers. On April 5, at Edgewater CLSP, one was seen flying to the northeast carrying a fish and being

harassed by three American Crows (PL). One was at Shaker Lakes on May 2 (LD). On May 6 one was seen from a front porch as it drifted lazily over the Shaker Lakes Country Club (VF). Two were found in the CVNP on May 12 (DAC). Another Osprey soared over Parma on May (GL). One was seen at the nesting tower at Berlin on Apr. 1 (BDL). On May 26, an Osprey sailed over Granger Road in Medina Co. (JMW). A **Bald Eagle** soared over Shaker Lakes to the delight of many on Apr. 21 (TLP, MS, m.obs.). An immature was observed somersaulting to fend off a harassing gull on April 5, at Edgewater CLSP (PL). A new nest in Geauga Co. failed (DB). One was observed in Akron on Mar. 11 (CH). A total of 7 was

**Wild Turkeys continue to demonstrate their remarkable adaptability.**

reported from HBSP (RH). A female (possible nest?) **Northern Harrier** was regularly seen at Dike 14 from Apr. 4 through the period (SZ, m.obs.). One flew over Russell Park on May 20 (DB, DF, AFo). Migrants were noted in Streetsboro on Mar. 10 and Ravenna on Mar. 18 (CH). The high tally was 8 at Fairport Harbor on Apr. 7 (RH, EB). Ninety **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen at Fairport Harbor on Apr. 7 (RH, EB). **Cooper's Hawks** were as expected. **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to flourish locally. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was somewhat early in Munson Township on Apr. 12 (KM). The 144 moving by Edgewater SP on Apr. 23 was the only noticeable migration

reported (TLP). On Apr. 7, 110 **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen migrating over Fairport Harbor (RH, EB). **Rough-legged Hawks** were late at Fairport Harbor on Apr. 29 (LG, RH, LR) and at Dike 14 on Apr. 26 (SZ, TG). **Merlins** put in a good show. Two were at Dike 14 on Apr. 8 (SZ, TG). A total of 12 birds were seen at HBSP from Mar. 24-May 22 (RH, m.obs.). The 20 **American Kestrels** migrating over Fairport Harbor on Apr. 7 represented the high count (RH, EB).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** report was from the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site on Apr. 22 (KL). **Wild Turkeys** continue to demonstrate their remarkable adaptability. One was strolling along the State Road ramp to Interstate 480 on April 7 (LG). Five **Virginia Rails** and 2 **Soras** were among the birds found in the CVNP on May 12 (DAC). A Virginia Rail made the 10 p.m. sports news on Ch. 43 on Apr. 24. "They had a whole bit from the Indians game about this bird on the field that the grounds crew and security officers kept trying to shoo off the field. It would fly away then land again, refusing to leave (JM)."

Two Virginias were located at the Alexander Road wetlands on Apr. 25 (BAT). A Sora was seen at Dike 14 on May 8 (SZ). Five were at Walborn Reservoir on May 19 (BDL). On Apr. 23, a **Common**



Two eggs and two falcons at nest site by Scott Wright©

**Moorhen** was observed perched in a tree at Elmwood Park, Rocky River, approximately 50 feet off ground (PL)! Sandy Ridge MP hosted 2 on May 17-19 (NB, CC). One was at Walborn on May 19 (BDL).

Lorain provided brief, but significant shorebirding opportunities. Elsewhere, it was the same old story. Flocks totalling 95 **American Golden-Plovers** gave observers a thrill in Fairport Harbor on Apr. 8 (LR, VW, RH). On May 1, Fazio reported a most unusual sighting of a flock of 70 flying over I-480 shortly after he had exited the turnpike near the Cuyahoga-Lorain Co. line. The high tally for **Semipalmated Plovers** was 12 at Lorain on May 20 (TLP). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was very early on Mar.



Lunch time by Scott Wright©

Mew Gull - March 12, 2001 - Headlands Beach State Park.  
by Lou Gardella © Century Studios



13-15 at the Pioneer Trail Wetlands in Mantua Township (CH, VW, LR). Five **Sanderlings** provided amusing entertainment at HBSP on May 28 (AJF, RH). One was at Lorain on the same day (CH). Three **White-rumped Sandpipers** were spied in Lorain on May 18 (CH, TLP). Two to five were there May 26-28 (CH, RHL, SW, TLP). The Pioneer Trail wetland hosted 135 **Pectoral Sandpipers** on Apr. 13 (LR, VW). The 3 that passed by HBSP on Mar 31 were early, but not unprecedented (RH). **Dunlins** moved through in disappointing numbers. Formerly a common migrant, the only **Short-billed Dowitcher** seen was in Lorain on May 6, 18, & 20 (CH, TLP). Six **Common Snipes** were at Burke Lakefront Airport on Apr. 6 (PL, LR). One was at the Ira Road Marsh on Apr. 2 (TMR). **American Woodcocks** were as expected.

**G**ulls staged impressively the first third of March along the Lake Erie shoreline near the mouths of the local rivers. Some Herring Gulls were photographed and showed definite yellow legs. These photos were tentatively identified as northern European types by East Coast gull

experts. No one will ever know for sure, but they were definitely not Yellow-legged Gulls because of their large size and structure. Because of the disappointing numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** along Lake Erie, few reports of the rarer small species were received.

**B**onaparte's Gulls, however were very noticeable inland. The 50 in Mantua on Apr. 10 was representative of their inland abundance (CH). A **Thayer's Gull**

was at the west end of Lakeside Yacht Club on Mar. 4 (PL, BW). One was at Dike 14 on Apr. 8 (SZ). A second year **Iceland Gull** was at Mentor Lagoons on Mar. 4 (AJF). Two were at Dike 14 on Apr. 8 (SZ, TG). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** remained in good numbers well into March. Up to two birds were seen at HBSP, birds during the gull frenzy of Mar 3-13 (m.obs.). At Dike 14, 2 Lessers were seen on Mar. 24; and another, on Mar. 25 (SZ). Birds were also seen on Mar. 4 at the west end of Lakeside Yacht Club and on Apr. 4 along the west bank of Cuyahoga River at Merwin St. (PL). On Mar. 10, a fine tally of 10 **Glaucous Gulls** was made at HBSP (RH, LR, m.obs.). One was seen in Lorain on Apr. 10 (TLP). Two were seen on Mar. 4 at the East 72nd Street Marina (BF, PL, BW). Another was observed on Apr. 1 at Rocky River (PL, TG). A breeding plumaged adult was at Dike 14 on Apr. 11 (SZ). **Great Black-backed Gulls** refused to be left out of the dead shad bonanza at HBSP. On Mar 10, 270 were counted there (RH, LR, m.obs.).

#### *Cooper's Hawk - March 24, 2:00 p.m., Lakewood.*

*In morning I'd attended a learn-how-to-use your 35 mm camera class. At the end of the session the instructor reminded us to replace the film we'd removed from our cameras to be prepared for our next photographing opportunity. Little did I know but I'd soon be regretting the fact that I had not heeded his advice! As I turned into my driveway, I saw a Cooper's Hawk on the ground, sitting on top of a partially eaten Rock Dove. As quickly as possible, I turned off the motor, carefully opened the door and trunk, reloaded the camera and took four photos, using the car as a blind.*

*Paula J. Lozano*



After many unimpressive years, **Caspian Terns** were seen at HBSP in numbers that defy explanation. From Apr. 5 through May 25, as many as 90 could be counted (RH, m.obs.). One stopped by Shaker Lakes on Apr. 19 (LD). The high count at Docks 20/22 in Cleveland was 48 (PL). The high tally from Lorain was 97 on Apr. 10 (TLP). An early **Common Tern** was observed on Apr. 20 at HBSP (RH, LR). This was the only report received. **Forster's Terns** regularly visited HBSP from Apr. 7 through May 12.

**B**lack-billed Cuckoos were found in good numbers, considering the species. An early bird was at Mill Stream Run MP on May 5 (KM, LR). One was at Walborn on May 19 (BDL). Birds were seen at HBSP on May 16 (NB), and May 27 (AJF), but missed by the regular HBSP birding gang. Two were at Jaite on May 22 (DAC). Another was seen in the CVNP on May 24 (MRe). One was seen at Dike 14 on May 27 (BF, PL, BW, SZ). One was regularly heard at the Russell Park Prothonotary Warbler Trail (DB). An early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in the CVNP on May 6 was one of the few reported (DAC). Several were noted along the Russell Park Prothonotary Warbler trail (DB).

*Flycatchers provided one of the bright spots this spring.*

**Mourning Doves** don't usually warrant mention, but the 256 tallied at Dike 14 on on Apr. 8 opened this editor's eyes (SZ). Gray and red morph **Eastern Screech-Owls** delighted many at an Elmwood Park nest box (PL, m.obs.). **Great Horned Owls** were widespread. A bird in residential Lakewood on Apr. 23 caused quite a stir among the crows (PL). A **Barred Owl** was at Bacon Woods on May 11 (PL). **Common Nighthawks** were unspectacular and continue to need close monitoring by field observers. The 8 at Jaite on May 12 was the highest count (DAC). **Chimney Swifts** were in excellent numbers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were fairly late, but widespread after May 10.

**R**ed-headed Woodpeckers seem to be at a high end of occurrence locally. The 10 found in the CVNP on May 12 represented a very good count (DAC).

One showed its tenacity by evicting a Red-bellied Woodpecker from its nesting cavity at Shaker Lakes (LD). Two were at West Branch SP on Mar. 18 (CH). Migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found in fair numbers. One was extremely late at HBSP on May 20 (RH, EB). Information on locally summering sapsuckers is important for the next report. On Apr. 8 at Dike 14, 46 **Northern Flickers** were counted (SZ). Two sparring female **Pileated Woodpeckers** provided entertainment in Brecksville on Apr. 24. Slashing at each other with their bill, they were observed knocking each other to the ground (BAT).

Flycatchers provided one of the bright spots this spring. **Olive Sided Flycatchers** were reported from Bacon Woods on May 1 and May 12 (CC). The first date was a record-tying one. Another was at Shaker Lakes on May 10 (LD). Another was in Medina Co. on May 11 (JMW). One was at Deep Lock Quarry on May 12 (WS). A bird was at Happy Days on May 19 (DAC). Another was located at HBSP on May 22 (RH). At Dike 14, one was seen on May 27 and 2 on May 28 (SZ, TG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Dike 14 on May 17 (BF, PL, BW, SZ). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was a good find at Shaker Lakes on May 20 (PP). The 33 **Least Flycatchers** tallied at Dike 14 on May 17 was an impressive count (SZ). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were in very good supply. **Eastern Kingbirds** had returned to the CVNP by May 1 (DAC). A flock containing 7 birds was seen flying south over Shaker Lakes on May 15 (NB).

Most vireos did not disappoint. An early **White-eyed Vireo** had reached Villa Angela CLSP on Apr. 26 (TLP). The high count was 4 on



Hermil Thrush Nest-Lake County-2001  
by John Pogacnik©

May 11 at Bacon Woods (BF, PL). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was slightly early at Brecksville on Apr. 9 (DAC). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were very vocal from late April. The first **Warbling Vireo** returned to North Chagrin MP on Apr. 23 (KM). The high tally was 18 at HBSP on May 19 (RH).

**Philadelphia Vireos** put in an excellent showing. Hannikman noted them at HBSP on 4 dates, including a high count of 5 on May 18 (RH, KM, m.obs.). The 4 at Shaker Lakes on May 15 was equally impressive (NB). LePage saw them in Lorain on 3 dates with a high count of 2 on May 17. **Red-eyed Vireos** are uncommonly seen before May. The one seen at Elmwood Park on Apr. 30 was an exception (TLP).

On May 18, 75 **Cliff Swallow** nests were counted at Berlin (BDL). One was at the old Coliseum site on May 26 was unique (CC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** moved through in fewer than expected numbers. On Apr. 30, one was spied at Elmwood Park (PL). Two were counted at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 22 (PP). **Brown Creepers** were seen in fair numbers in the CVNP (DAC, LR, MRe). News was also good from the Upper Cuyahoga (DB, LR). Except for the CVNP, **Carolina Wrens** appear to be at an all-time high locally. Best marveled at how House Wrens, the chief nemesis of the Prothonotary Warbler project in the Upper Cuyahoga River, did not interfere with nesting this year. A **Winter**

**Wren** at Happy Days on May 24 was thought to be a nesting bird (DAC). **Marsh Wrens** had returned to their local nesting sites by early May. Sandy Ridge played host to as many as 5 on May 28 (GL). The 22+ at Walborn on May 19 must have been a noisy gathering (BDL). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** moved through in timely fashion and were at their Hinckley MP nesting site at the end of May (RHL, SW).



Caspian Terns at Dock 20/22  
by Paula Lozano©

**Eastern Bluebirds** were felt to be down in the CVNP (DAC). Elsewhere they appear to be thriving. Thrush movement was generally deplorable. Very few migrants were noted along the lake, when compared to previous years. **Veeries** and **Swainson's Thrushes** provided little to write about. May 15 provided the only date with any numbers of these two species along the lake. That day 15 Veeries and 20 Swainson's Thrushes were counted at HBSP (RH). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was an outstanding find at Oak Hill in the CVNP on May 12 (DAC). At HBSP, they were found on May 11 & 26 (RH). One was seen at Shaker Lakes on May 13 (PP). One graced Dike 14 on May 26 (SZ). Hermit Thrushes fared a little better, but again nothing special. Observers are to be on

the alert for summering birds to report. The high tally of **Gray Catbirds** was 82 at Dike 14 on that remarkable migration day of May 17 (SZ). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be found widely in small numbers. Birds at Forest Hills Park on Apr. 23 (LD) and in Sagamore Hills on Apr. 4 were of local interest (DAC). Six **American Pipits** were noted at HBSP on Mar. 18 and 10 there on May 5 (RH).

Metcalf identified 8 pipits there on May 4; 6 on May 11; and a tardy bird on May 18.

One had to put in a lot of time to get a good warbler count along the lake this year. LePage noted their showing as very poor. The 59 **Blue-winged Warblers** found in the CVNP on May 12 was very good local news (DAC). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were noted April 25 at Lower Shaker Lake (BF, PL), at Elmwood Park on Apr. 27 (BF, PL, TG), at HBSP on Apr. 27, 29, and May 15 (RH). **Northern Parulas** were in fair numbers. An extremely early bird was near record early on Apr. 9 in the CVNP (IA, m.obs.). A male was at Elmwood Park on Apr. 25-27 (PL, m.obs.). One was at Lower Shaker Lake on May 6 (VF). Another was there on May 15 (NB). Two were seen at Station Road in the CVNP on May 6 (BAT). Two were counted at Big Creek on May 13 (DB). Up to 3 were found at HBSP on May 20 (RH). A male was most likely on territory at Hell Hollow MP on May 30 (RHL, SW). **Yellow**

**Warblers** were thought to have made a strong comeback along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB). On Apr. 22, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was early at the Ravenna TLS (KL). The high tally was 15 at HBSP on May 15 (RH). The same day 11 were seen at Shaker Lakes (NB). The report from Dike 14 provided another 12 birds on May 17 (SZ). The high count of **Magnolia Warblers** at Dike 14 was a staggering 102 on May 17. The high mark for **Black-throated Blue Warblers** was 12 at HBSP on May 20 (RH). A male **Cape May Warbler** was somewhat early on Apr. 30 at Elmwood Park, Rocky River (PL). Usually abundant, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen in only fair numbers. **Pine Warblers** had returned to North Chagrin by Apr. 6 with 1-2 present into June (KM). One at Sandy Ridge MP on Apr. 18-21 was unexpected (TLP, CC). Two were at Dike 14 on May 21. A **Palm Warbler** was exceptionally late at HBSP on May 28 (RH). Another straggler was seen in

Lorain May 26 (RHL, SW). The high tally for Palms was a mere 15 at HBSP on May 15-16 (NB, RH). The first report of a **Cerulean Warbler** was from Brecksville on Apr. 29 (TMR). **Yellow-throated Warblers** had returned to Brecksville by Apr. 6 (DAC). On Apr. 29, 3 were heard near Chippewa Creek in Brecksville MP (BF, PL). Bacon Woods hosted one on May 11 (BF, PL). No extralimital reports were received.

**Prothonotary Warblers** had returned to the Station Road area by May 1 (DAC). **Ovenbirds** moved fairly well and were entrenched at local nesting sites in good numbers by mid-May. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was an exceptional find at Dike 14 on Apr. 4 (SZ). On May 13 & 14, a **Kentucky Warbler** was seen in Brecksville MP (FD, DAC). Always a treat, up to 3 **Mourning Warblers** pleased observers at HBSP from May 15 through May 27 (RH, m.obs.). A male was at Bacon Woods on May 18 (NB). A bird was seen at Brecksville MP on May 20 (BAT). Deep Lock MP hosted a male from May 26 through the period (LR). One was at CLSP/Villa Angela on May 26 (PL). A **Hooded Warbler** in a Lakewood backyard was a very lucky find on May 7 (PL). On May 17, the high tally of **Wilson's Warblers** at Dike 14 was 23 (SZ). Their numbers at HBSP reached to 15 on May 19 (RH). A **Canada Warbler** was exceptionally early at Happy Days on May 4 (DAC). Numbers were about average elsewhere. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at expected sites. One was in Bacon Woods on May 1 (CC). Another or the same was

there on May 11 (BF, PL). The same day one was at Baldwin Lake (RHL, SW). A chat at Streetsboro Bog on May 1 may have been the first ever reported from the area (CH). Barber found 2 at Bacon Woods on May 17. Two were at Jaite on May 12 (DAC). Two territorial males remained at Dike 14 from May 26 through the end of period (SZ, m.obs.). A bird dawdled very late (for HBSP) on May 25-6 (RH, RR).

The earliest **Scarlet Tanager** was seen at Bradley Woods on Apr. 27 (SW).

Migrant sparrows were in rather short supply along the lake. **Eastern Towhees** are thriving in shrubby habitats of Geauga and Portage Counties. No major groupings of **Chipping Sparrows** were noted. **Field Sparrows** are in the same category as towhees locally. It was a good spring for **Vesper Sparrows**. Eleven were at Dike 14 on Apr. 8 (SZ). On April 8, 3 were seen along Kipton Nickel Plate Road in Lorain Co. (BF, PL, BW). A Vesper Sparrow provided a special event for the CVNP, where they are rarely found, on May 6 (DAC). The movement through the Headlands Beach and Fairport Harbor area on Apr. 8 produced a remarkable tally of at least 25 Vesper Sparrows (LR, VW). On May 6, 6-8 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted in the CVNP (DAC). One was at the old Richfield Coliseum site, on May 12 (SZ). The high tally of **Fox Sparrows** at Dike 14 was 25 on Apr. 8 (SZ). LePage added 8 at Sims Park and 6 at Villa Angela CLSP on Apr. 7. Two at North Chagrin on Mar. 29 provided the early report (RR). The high count of **Lincoln's Sparrows** was 5 at HBSP on May 16 (NB). **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were in low



Awesome, Cloudy, and Drizzle  
by Paula Lozano©

numbers when compared to past springs. Migrant Dark-eyed Juncos were in very small numbers, although, the local nesting birds appeared to be in peak form.

The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported from Munson Township on Apr. 28 (KM). The earliest **Indigo Bunting** was in the CVNP on May 1 (DAC).

The first **Bobolinks** were seen in the CVNP on Apr. 30 (DAC). Early **Red-winged Blackbird** fledglings were noted at North Chagrin MP on May 10 (KM). The 11 Orchard Orioles tallied in the CVNP on May 12 demonstrated how common they have become in the region (DAC). The Jackson Field sector of South Chagrin MP also hosted several of this species well into summer (LR). **Purple Finches** continue to be fairly common in bog-influenced areas of Geauga and Portage Counties (LR). A **Pine Siskin** stopped by a thistle feeder at North Chagrin on May 15 (KM), and one was seen at Nathan Hale Park on May 18 (RHL, SW). □



**RED-THROATED LOON** - A late bird flew by Headlands Beach State Park on May 5 (Hannikman, Bacik).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** - A quick walk around Lower Shaker Lake on April 19 turned up the first report of the year for this species (Gooch). It remained there through Apr. 21 (Stasko, m.obs.). The first bird was seen at Dike 14 on Apr. 21 (Zadar). One frequented Shipman Pond



from Apr. 28 through at least May 15 (Metcalf, Hannikman, Bacik, Barber, Rosche).

**LEAST BITTERN** - Two birds were located at Dike 14 on May 17 and May 28 (Zadar, Gilliland).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** - One was seen flying along Big Creek off Cascade Road on Apr. 27 (Pogacnik).

**BLACK VULTURE** - Two were seen over the Nature Center at the Huntington Reservation on Mar. 31 (Richardson).

**ROSS'S GOOSE** - A bird was discovered at Wellington Reservoir on March 10 by naturalist Larry Richardson. Luckily, Vic Fazio happened by and obtained distant, but diagnostic photographs of the bird.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** - A female harassed gulls at Headlands Beach State Park on Mar. 25 (Hannikman, Bacik). Another falcon was seen there on Apr. 22 heading eastward (Hannikman, Bacik, Kovalsky). Peregrines were seen at Dike 14 on Mar. 21, Mar. 24 (2), and Apr. 24 (Zadar). One passed over Huntington Beach MP on May 5



(Metcalf, Rosche). Lozano reports the following: (2) - March 2- Hilliard Road Bridge, between Lakewood & Rocky River, female & male sitting on opposite light poles. (1) - March 4, United Methodist Church, corner of Chester Ave. & Martin Luther Jr. Blvd. (1) April 4, above location on church. (1) - April 5, above location on south side of steeple, observed from inside Severance Hall. (5) - May 25, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Hilliard Road Bridge - banding of 3 female chicks, named Awesome, Cloudy & Drizzle by students from Westlake's Bassett Elementary School. A bird was seen in Lorain on May 12 (Holt).

**SANDHILL CRANE** - One was seen over the Nature Center at the Huntington Reservation on Mar. 15 (Kriska, Richardson). Two birds were seen in Claridon on Mar 22-Apr. 1 (Metcalf, m.obs.). Two more were found at Sandy Ridge Metropark on Apr. 4. Subsequently, as many as 3 were seen there (LeGallee, m.obs.). Two loudly calling birds made quite a sight in Twin Lakes on Apr. 22 (Rosche). Two flew over the Ira Road marsh in the CVNP on May 12 (Burlett).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** - On Apr. 20, a group of 18 flew into the mouth of the Grand River and landed in the water about 200 yards off shore in Fairport Harbor. An hour later they rose up from the lake and flew by Headlands Beach State Park. While it is not unprecedented for shorebirds to land on the water and swim around for a bit, the hour or so these birds were on the water made for a most unusual sight (Rosche, Hannikman).

**WILLET** - Holt saw a fly-by at Lorain on May 12. The ever diligent Tom LePage had the good fortune to see 4 there on May 15.

**"NELSON'S" GULL** - *This rare cross of Herring and Glaucous Gulls (3rd-year bird) was studied and photographed at Headlands Beach State Park on March 12 (Metcalf, Rosche).*

**WHIMBREL** - A flock of 17 headed west past Headlands Beach State Park on May 22 (Hannikman). A large flock of 60+ calling birds flew over the fields along Fairport Nursery Road in Fairport Harbor on May 28 (Hannikman, Rosche).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** - Birds were at the Fairport Harbor IBA site on Apr. 28 (Holt) and May 4 (Rosche, Hannikman).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - It seems like years since we had multiple reports of this attractive species. Leo Deininger happened on this rare visitor at Sandy Ridge Metropark on May 6. Singles were in Lorain on May 17 & 23 (LePage, Rickard).

**LITTLE GULL** - An adult was at Headlands Beach State Park on Mar. 7 (Rosche, m.obs.). One was off Dike 14 on Mar. 24 (Zadar, Gilliland).

**MEW GULL** - A stunning winter adult was observed on the evening of Mar. 12 on the beach at Headlands Beach State Park (Rosche, Gardella, Hannikman).

**CALIFORNIA GULL** - Two winter-plumaged adults were seen from the beach at Fairport Harbor on Mar. 3. The greenish yellow legs of one bird were easily seen as it strolled with the throng of slightly smaller Ring-billed Gulls. In flight,

the wing tips showed a large amount of black extending inward and two large white mirrors at the distal end. (Rosche, Hannikman, Petruschke).

**BLACK TERN** - This increasingly rare species was seen only at Sandy Ridge Metropark on May 14 (LeGallee).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** - On April 23, at 3:35 a.m., a whip was heard outside Paula Lozano's Granger Avenue home in Lakewood. "Since it was a warm night, I had my bedroom window open and, therefore, woke up when I heard the bird. Once I had realized what I was hearing, I went outside but did not hear it again. What a way to start the day!" Another 'whip' was at West Creek Reservoir on Apr. 26 (Leidy). One was seen south of Snowville Road in the Brecksville Metropark on the evening of May 29 (Gardella).

**SHORT-EARED OWL** - The Fjeldstads saw one along Hoover Road in Geauga Co. on Mar. 10. Dike 14 provided refuge for 1 or 2 birds Apr. 4-7 (Zadar). Short-eareds were at Headlands Beach State Park on Apr. 7 & 21 (Hannikman). One provided excitement at Hinckley MP on Apr. 11 (Harlan, Wagner).

**LONG-EARED OWL** - One bird remained at Dike 14 from the winter period through Mar. 10 (Zadar).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** - A winter resident remained at Dike 14 through Mar. 25. Spring migrants were there on Apr. 11 and Apr. 21 (Zadar).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** - A bird displayed its lemon yellow underparts and black tail edged with bright white for a few fleeting sec-

onds as it passed over the nature area at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve on May 1 (Rosche).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** –

A bird at Holmesbrook Park in Wadsworth on Apr. 10 broke an early date record that had stood since 1947 (Harlan, Wagner).

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** – A single bird was found along Fairport Nursery Road in Fairport Harbor on May 27 (Hannikman, Fjeldstad). One or two were seen there again on May 28 (Hannikman, Rosche). The occurrence of this species this late in May is unprecedented in the Cleveland region in the past 40 years!

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** –

Four reports make for a banner season for this species. The first bird was seen at Berlin on May 1 (Lane). A handsome male brightened West Creek Reservoir on May. 8 (Leidy). Another graced Shaker Lakes on May 9 (Deiningner). Nathan Hale Park played host to one on May 17 (Harlan, Wagner).

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER** – Leidy noted one at Bacon Woods on May 5. One was seen at Horseshoe Pond in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park on May 12 (Zadar, Gilliland).

**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER** – On April 23, Deborah Landefeld found this very rare hybrid at Lower

Shaker Lake. She alertly called Lozano and several birders were able to see and photograph this handsome male.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** – A singing male in Twin Lakes on April 7 provided the earliest spring date ever for the Cleveland region by a single day (Rosche).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Birds were seen at Headlands Beach State Park on May 4 and 5 (Hannikman).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – One was seen at Hogback Ridge on May 1 (Pogacnik).

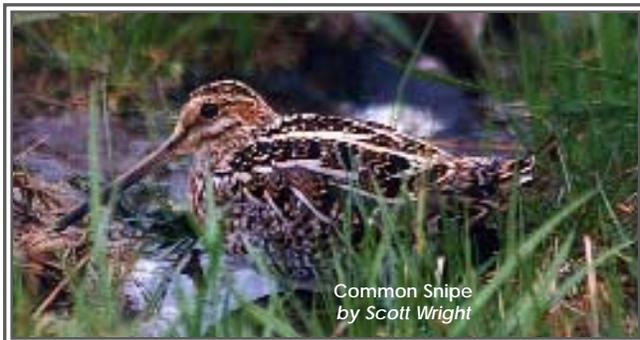
**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – One was observed skulking at Headlands Beach State Park on May 28 (Hannikman, Fjeldstad).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW**- Zadar located one at the old Richfield Coliseum site on May 12.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** – A remarkably late bird was frustratingly elusive in the tall grasses along the northern edge of the dunes at Headlands Beach State Park on May 26 & 27 (Hannikman, Bacik, Kovalsky, Rosche).

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** – Dike 14 hosted a remarkable total of 7 birds on May 26 (Zadar, Gilliland, m.obs.).

**“OREGON” JUNCO** – Best reported that this rarely seen race of Dark-eyed Junco spent most of the winter at Karen Morgan's feeding station in Geauga County. □



Common Snipe  
by Scott Wright



**Black-crowned Night-Herons on the Near West Side**  
*by Drew Rolik*

I recently learned from Ann Marie Wieland that from about 1990-1991 to 1998-1999 a flock of Black-crowned Night-Herons spent the winter on Cleveland's near west side. The birds were photographed by her husband, Carl; and a neighbor, Tim Delpapa, kept a journal recording the dates the herons were seen.

The flock, consisting of a maximum of 20 to 25 individuals, was seen each year from about October or November to March. The most interesting fact is that the birds roosted about a half mile inland from the Cuyahoga River in a cluster of trees in a residential neighborhood (West 28th and Chatham). When the property was sold in the late 1990s, the trees were cut down and the birds left.

This record raises the intriguing possibility that the birds may be found some distance away from the river, and would be worth investigating for similar situations on Cleveland's near west side. Could they even be nesting in an area away from the river?

**A Summary of the Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walks**  
*by Mike Stasko*

This was a very uneventful

series of spring birdwalks at Rocky River. The species total was up a bit at 94 compared to last year's 88, but several expected species were absent or in small numbers.

We only saw Blue-winged Teal on one walk. Low counts were made of White-crowned Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Eastern Towhees. No bittern, Spotted Sandpiper, or Osprey was seen. Northern Parula, Cape May, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Palm, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers were also missed. Although we had Lincoln's Sparrow on former spring walks, none were spotted this year. I am sure these birds were seen on other walks throughout the region. They just didn't come our way this year.

## **A Summary of the Headlands Beach Migration**

*by Ray Hannikman*

It was an unpredictable spring. We thought the ducks would be late because of the cold winter, but they left early. Likewise, we thought the warblers would be late, but they, and just about everything else pushed through early with the very warm late April and first third of May. Two large flocks (17 and 60) of Whimbrels, as well as an April 8 movement of American Golden-Plovers, were the shorebird highlights. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were in good numbers, eight on May 27 and six on May 25. These birds allowed great studies for beginning and veteran flycatcher watchers. And those usual spring stalwarts-the warblers-were okay. On May 15, 22 species were seen,

including the 20+ Bay-breasted Warblers, the highest-ever count at HBSP on May 15.

Two major movements occurred during the Spring of 2001--a spectacular gull concentration on March 10 and 11 and a major hawk movement on April 7.

Thousands of gulls gathered at HBSP on March 10 & 11. Highlights were 10 Glaucous, 3 Iceland, 3 Thayer's, 270 Great Black-backed, and one Lesser Black-backed Gull, on March 10. Blanketing the entire beach, the gulls gave observers great studies of late winter plumage of various years.

On April 7, from 11:45 AM to 2:45 PM Emil Bacik and I witnessed a good raptor movement. Highlights were 800+ Turkey Vultures, 5 Ospreys, 2 Bald Eagles, 8 Northern Harriers, 90 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 110 Red-tailed Hawks. What made this movement interesting was it began very late and lasted well into the afternoon. I was very happy to have been in the right place at the right time.

## **Comments on the May 12, 2001 CVNP Bird Census** *by Dwight Chasar*

On the May 12, 2001 CVNP Bird Census, we finished the day with 130 species, tying for the second highest spring census with years 2000 and 1995. We had a chilling rain for a good portion of the cool morning, then a cloudy afternoon, with sun arriving in the evening. We had 12 groups out with a total of 37 participants.

At lunch time, we totaled up to 123

species. Wilbur McQueen won the prize for picking the closest number to that total. As usual, we knew there were more species to be seen in the afternoon. Mary Lou Hura found the Pine Warbler in Brecksville Reservation. Paul Motts found a Blackpoll Warbler. McQueen and Winnie Kennedy found two Kestrels at Jaite. Ann and I found Bank Swallows and a Marsh Wren at the wetlands mitigation site at Pleasant Valley and Brookside Roads. Later that evening, after taking a short nap, we found calling American Woodcocks at Jaite. As luck would have it, as with last year, Common Nighthawks (8) flew over the same area a few minutes earlier.

Examining the data from over the years, I discovered that four birds were listed on this census that had not been found before on a spring census: Bald Eagle, American Black Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. The two sparrows were found at the old coliseum site in Richfield. That land now belongs to CVNP and promises good grassland birding for a few years.

On May 11, we found Blackburnian and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the Brecksville Reservation. On the 13th, in the same reservation, Fred Dinkelbach found a Kentucky Warbler. At Station Road on the same morning, I had 7 Double-crested Cormorants and a Northern Harrier fly over.

We have been keeping quantitative data for the last seven years of censuses. Thus, I can see how totals of each species compare over those years. We cover the same park areas fairly regularly with about the same number of people for about the same amount of time. It is pretty amazing how close those

numbers correspond, even with birds like goldfinches. I think these censuses are making a contribution to the field ornithology baseline in the CVNP.

The fall census will be on September 15, 2001 at Jaite, same procedure. Mark your calendars, change your vacation plans if necessary, and we will see you there.

## The Great Texas Birding Classic by Ben Winger

For some birders, a Big Day is the most exciting event. Sleep is sacrificed, identification skills that were stashed in the back of the mind are dusted off and put into good use, and most of all, a lot of birds are seen. Several Big Day competitions occur annually at migration hot

spots around the country. Birders organize teams of trustworthy companions and compete against one another to see who can detect the most species of birds in a 24-hour period. The American Birding Association has recognized these events as a good way to raise money for conservation and education programs, as well as to promote youth birding. Quite simply, the events are turned into birdathons. Every spring, the

### Selected Totals for the May 12, 2001 CVNP Bird Census

Osprey	2	Tree Swallow	121	Palm Warbler	1
Bald Eagle	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow		Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Bank Swallow		Blackpoll Warbler	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Cliff Swallow	1	Cerulean Warbler	1
Red-tailed Hawk	14	Barn Swallow		Black-and-white Warbler	2
American Kestrel	2	Black-capped Chickadee		American Redstart	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Tufted Titmouse		Prothonotary Warbler	3
Virginia Rail	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Ovenbird	2
Sora	2	White-breasted Nuthatch		Northern Waterthrush	1
Killdeer	25	Brown Creeper	5	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Carolina Wren	7	Common Yellowthroat	135
Solitary Sandpiper	3	House Wren		Hooded Warbler	4
Spotted Sandpiper	8	Winter Wren	1	Wilson's Warbler	1
American Woodcock	4	Marsh Wren	1	Canada Warbler	1
Mourning Dove	55	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Yellow-breasted Chat	3
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		Scarlet Tanager	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Eastern Bluebird		Eastern Towhee	35
Common Nighthawk	8	Veery	2	Chipping Sparrow	44
Chimney Swift	235	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Field Sparrow	5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	Swainson's Thrush	4	Savannah Sparrow	1
Belted Kingfisher	17	Hermit Thrush	2	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	Wood Thrush	223	Henslow's Sparrow	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	55	American Robin		Song Sparrow	
Downy Woodpecker	23	Gray Catbird		Lincoln's Sparrow	0
Hairy Woodpecker	7	Brown Thrasher	0	Swamp Sparrow	8
Northern Flicker	36	Cedar Waxwing	8	White-throated Sparrow	4
Pileated Woodpecker	12	Blue-winged Warbler		White-crowned Sparrow	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	"Brewster's" Warbler	1	Northern Cardinal	142
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Tennessee Warbler	7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	333
Acadian Flycatcher	6	Nashville Warbler	0	Indigo Bunting	441
Least Flycatcher	2	Northern Parula	0	Bobolink	5
Eastern Phoebe	31	Yellow Warbler	133	Red-winged Blackbird	551
Great Crested Flycatcher	36	Chestnut-sided Warbler	7	Eastern Meadowlark	3
Eastern Kingbird	30	Magnolia Warbler	3	Common Grackle	92
White-eyed Vireo	1	Cape May Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	9
Blue-headed Vireo	8	Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	Orchard Oriole	111
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	Baltimore Oriole	171
Warbling Vireo	59	Black-throated Green Warbler	12	Purple Finch	0
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Blackburnian Warbler	0	House Finch	333
Red-eyed Vireo	81	Yellow-throated Warbler	4	American Goldfinch	256
Blue Jay	110	Pine Warbler	1	House Sparrow	62
American Crow	133	Prairie Warbler	0		

American Birding Association and Leica Sport Optics send a team of young birders, called the Tropicbirds, age 14-18, to compete in the Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC), a Big Day event dedicated to raising money to preserve habitat along the Texas coast.

This year, the Tropicbirds were to compete in the Lower Texas Coast division of the GTBC, which takes place in the tropical Rio Grande Valley of Texas. What could be better, I thought, than to be sponsored to go birding in one of the best locations in the United States, while at the same time, raising money for a good cause? So I applied and was chosen for this year's ABA/Leica Texas Tropicbirds team. My teammates were Jessie Barry, 16, of Rochester, New York; Stephanie Dosch, 18, of Bellevue, Washington; and Chris Kimber, 16, of Toronto, Ontario. I had already met Stephanie and Jessie at the ABA/Leica Young Birders' Conference in Colorado last summer, but I was looking forward to the opportunity to bird with them again and to meet Chris.

After many days of anticipation and preparation, we arrived in sunny McAllen, Texas, on April 25. We were greeted by Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis, two expert birders from Cape May, New Jersey, who are the chaperones, leaders, and mentors for the Tropicbirds team. Within a half hour of arriving in Texas, we were already loading up the van to go birding. We had two and a half days to go scouting for the birds that we needed to see on the Big Day, as well as have a crash-course lesson on the songs and field marks of the birds of south Texas. Michael's phenomenal birding-by-ear skills proved invaluable during the scouting, but we had to pay

close attention to the birds and to his advice because by GTBC rules, neither he nor Louise were allowed to help us with locating or identifying any birds during the actual Big Day event. This would prove to be extremely frustrating and even humorous for us several times, but it forced us to learn the songs better than I would have ever imagined.

After two days of intense birding and scouting in the Valley, the Big Day was upon us. We went back to the hotel to try to get some late

*After two days of intense birding and scouting in the Valley, the Big Day was upon us.*

afternoon sleep, because we would need all the rest we could get in order to stay awake and alert for 24 hours. By nine o'clock, we were cleaning off our binoculars for the main event. We had dinner at Denny's to go over the last minute itinerary, and we were off.

00:00 Santa Ana NWR - We waited in silence for 13 minutes until a Common Pauraque called in the distance to kick off our day.

00:30 McAllen - A nesting Peregrine Falcon on top of the neon symbol of the Chase Bank building was found in the scopes.

01:30 Bentsen-Rio Grande SP - The fog was lowering on the tropical vegetation as we drove down the access road into the park. Stephanie said nonchalantly, "Was

that a bird on the stop sign back there?" We debated whether to turn around or to continue for our target birds in the park. We decided to turn around, and we were rewarded, as a beautiful Barn Owl was revealed against the night sky by the brights of the van. Inside the park, our targets were a staked out Elf Owl and a Chuck-Will's-Widow. After almost an hour of walking the dark trails in the park, the Elf Owl called behind a chorus of pauraques and late-night mockingbirds. We missed the "Chuck's," but spotted an Eastern Screech Owl in a tree under a park street lamp.

03:00 Santa Margarita Bluffs - Several Great Horned Owls hooted in the distance. Suddenly, a flat "BZZT!" sounded overhead. "Dickcissel!!!" I shouted, happy that we were finally able to make sense of one of the many chip notes that sounded from the nocturnal migrants stealthily winging it overhead. Finally, our target bird, Common Poorwill, revealed itself with a plaintive "Poor-will."

03:30 pit stop at Whataburger - Stephanie spotted a Lesser Nighthawk hawking insects around the street lamps, and Jessie pointed out the call of a Couch's Kingbird.

05:00 Falcon County Park - As we waited anxiously for a Vermilion Flycatcher to begin its pre-dawn chorus, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and mockingbirds began singing loudly, muddling our ability to identify other birds. "Brown-crested Flycatcher!...no, just a mockingbird." "Black-throated Sparrow!.. no, just a mockingbird." Just as we were running out of time and patience, the Vermilion Flycatcher began singing, and we breathed a sigh of relief. Other pre-

dawn songsters included Brown-crested and Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lark Sparrows.

Dawn - We set up our scopes along the Rio Grande River at Salineño, and waited as the fog lifted off the water. A pair of Ringed Kingfishers flew across from Mexico, as Double-crested and Neotropical Cormorants flew overhead. Great Kiskadees began their day, calling harshly behind us. The usually secretive Clay-colored Robin sang from atop a dead snag. Hooded and Altamira Orioles put some color into the day, while the cooing of several different dove species rose from the surrounding woodlots. A White Ibis flew up the river, our only one of the day. Brushier habitat farther up the road produced a pair of Verdin, but no Scaled Quail or Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, both tough misses.

08:00 Chapeño - We pulled in as two smiling teams pulled out; both had seen the Brown Jays that came to the feeders. We were shocked that we were unable to locate them! Disappointed, we had to leave in order to stay on schedule, but not without picking up Least Grebe, Gull-billed Tern, Audubon's Oriole and Mottled Duck.

Mid-morning Falcon Dam - We found the American White Pelicans that had been there earlier, but were unable to locate a Northern Harrier, one of our targets. A Painted Bunting sang from deep in the brushy, arid habitat, as we kept our eyes peeled for any new species. As we were pulling out, we realized that we didn't have Greater Roadrunner, a species that we would not have any chances for later on in the day. We made another loop around the park and as we pulled into the parking lot, Michael hit the gas and sped in a

straight line towards a bush, causing all of us to be extremely puzzled and slightly nervous. Suddenly, we all saw the reason for Michael's sudden heavy foot, and we began shouting excitedly. No, we were not about to plummet off a cliff; there was just a roadrunner directly in front of us that needed to be seen before it ducked into the brush. We thanked Michael for

***...Hook-billed Kite soared overhead. We watched it with awe until it became a tiny speck....***

making sure that we all saw the bird, and had a good laugh.

Gull-billed and Least Terns performed their acrobatics over the water, while Black and Turkey Vultures rose up from a roost into the first thermals of the day. "Muscovy!!!" Jessie shouted, but by the time all of us wheeled around, the bird had disappeared behind one of the walls of the dam. Luckily, Stephanie saw the bird, so we were able to count it for the day. By GTBC rules, 95 percent of the species sighted must be seen or heard by all members of the team, and the remaining five percent can be seen or heard by at least two members.

12:30-Bentsen-Rio Grande SP- A Long-billed Thrasher sang as we pulled into the park, just before flushing a Plain Chachalaca. Our spirits sunk when we could not relocate the family group of Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets, which we had seen there only two days earlier.

13:00 Santa Ana NWR - We were all starting to feel the lack of sleep catching up to us as we pulled into the parking lot, but we knew that we were running short on time and we would have to hurry. We shouldered the scopes and ran inside the park. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird chipped as it flew over the trail. Farther up, we stumbled on a small flock of eastern migrants, which were definitely a bonus. Then, a high pitched "peet-peet-peet" from inside a tapestry of Spanish moss—a tyrannulet! We set up the scopes at the first pond, and felt a resurgence of energy as we began rattling off the new species: Gadwall, Wigeon, Pectoral Stilt, and Solitary Sandpipers...got 'em?... Roseate Spoonbill...where's that Fulvous Whistling- Duck? Semipalms, White-faced Ibis... everybody see everything? A Louisiana Waterthrush bobbing on the edge of a dried up pool was a bonus bird and a very late migrant. We looked at our watches and ran to the next pond, unfortunately without one of the Leica scopes! Michael consented to run back to get it as we marched on.

At the next pond, we picked up Forster's Tern, Anhinga, and Yellow-crowned Night-heron. I heard a Least Bittern call, a species that I had missed earlier in the day. But where were those Groove-billed Ani's? We searched and searched, but could only come up with one Great-tailed Grackle after another. With spirits soaring, we clambered into the van, hydrated, reapplied some sun block and drove on.

14:30 Anzalduas Co. Park - We were able to find a Gray Hawk on a nest. We also found that every other team in the competition knew about the bird. So much for our scouts in the field, I thought.

On the edge of the river, we scanned for a staked-out Black Phoebe, but to no avail. Just then, Louise started coughing furiously, a hint that a VERY good bird was in the area. We looked up, just as a female Hook-billed Kite soared overhead. We watched it with awe until it became a tiny speck in the distance, but Michael reminded us of the time; and we ran back to the van.

18:30 South Padre Island - Earlier in the day, we had seen a rain storm that looked as if it were over the island, creating perfect conditions for a large fallout of neotropical migrants. However, the front passed over too quickly, leaving only a smattering of songbirds behind. After several stops along the way for a variety of species, including Tamaulipas Crow, Green Parakeet, Tropical Kingbird, White-tailed Kite, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit and Brown Pelican, we arrived on South Padre with the evening sun behind us. Jessie heard a Clapper Rail call from a roadside saltmarsh, while Chris spotted a Reddish Egret overheard. Royal and Sandwich Terns rested on a mud-flat with several Wilson's Plovers.

We hurried to one of the migrant traps, which are really just the small patches of woodland that remain among the resorts and condominiums. However, on a good day, these trees can harbor waves of colorful migrants, as they literally fall out of the sky after their long journey over the Gulf. We were greeted by small numbers of Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, many Indigo Buntings, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and several species of warblers, all gorging on the orange and grapefruit halves that decorate the trees like Christmas ornaments. We were

invited into the living room of a gracious resident of the island to view her bird feeders through the back windows. These hosted a Blue Grosbeak and a Dickcissel, as well as many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. As the sun got lower and lower, we worked harder and harder for any migrants that might be skulking in the brush. We waited patiently, crouching to see through the undergrowth...Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery, Ovenbird, Canada and Kentucky Warblers all materialized out of nowhere.

Our last stop was the boardwalk through the saltmarsh at the Convention Center on South Padre Island. Earlier in the week, we had found American Avocets in a pool here, but today we could not relocate them despite several thorough searches. Later, we were to learn that Michael had seen one of the avocets as we pulled in, just before it disappeared into the tall grass. We walked up the boardwalk, hopeful for a few more species. A Sedge Wren sang from the grass, and we flushed two Purple Gallinules. With no light or time left to make any more stops before checking into the finish line at midnight, we chatted with one of the other teams and shared stories

from the day. After enjoying a Barn Owl flying around the Convention Center, we piled into the van, bleary-eyed but hyper from too many chocolate covered espresso beans. In the parking lot of the hotel where the finish line was located, an Upland Sandpiper called once for the last bird of an absolutely excellent day.

We finished with a solid total of 192 well-earned species, a very respectable number, considering some of our tough misses. Seventy-three of those species were lifers for me, including a rosy-pink Franklin's Gull for life bird #400. Not only did we see and learn about an amazing variety of species, but we had the opportunity to bird with two outstanding birders, Michael and Louise, and raise money for the ABA. I would like to thank the ABA, Leica Sport Optics, Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis, on behalf of the 2001 Texas ABA/Leica Texas Tropicbirds team, for an incredible five days of birding, learning, and an all-around good time. □

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Scott Wright has helped The Cleveland Bird Calendar so much with his timely and outstanding photographs of the area's Peregrine Falcons. I thought readers would enjoy seeing who this remarkable volunteer is.



Scott Wright with Peregrine Falcon  
by Scott Wright®

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Black River Audubon (BR)

Craig Caldwell (CC)

Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)

Leo Deininger (LD)

Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD).

Elinor Elder (EE)

Victor Fazio III (VF)

Duane Ferris (DF)

Bob Finkelstein (BF)

Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad (AJF)

Andy Fondrk (AFo)

Ted Gilliland (TG)

Laura Gooch (LG)

Frank Greenland (FG)

Robert Harlan (RHL)

Helen Hendrickson (HH)

Craig Holt (CH)

Brenda Kovalsky (BK)

Charles Klaus (CK)

David Kriska (DK)

Deborah Landefeld (DLA)

Bob and Denise Lane (BDL)

Dave LeGallee (DLG)

Gabe Leidy (GL)

Thomas LePage (TLP)

Kim Ludt (KL)

Paula Lozano (PL)

James McCarty (JM)

Kevin Metcalf (KM)

Perry Peskin (PP)

Haans Petruschke (HP)

John Pogacnik (JP)

Mary Reinthal (MRe)

Larry Richardson (LRi)

Richard Rickard (RR)

Drew Rolik (DR)

Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)

Woody Stover (WS)

Bertalan Szabo (BS)

Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)

Judy Tisdale (JT)

Sandy Wagner (SW)

Vernon Weingart (VW)

Jeff and Melissa Wert (JMW)

Ben Winger (BW)

Scott Wright (SW)

Sean Zadar (SZ)

# CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES



1. Lorain Harbor
2. Findley State Park & Wellington Reservoir
3. Portage Lakes
4. Mogadore Reservoir
5. West Branch State Park
6. Lake Rockwell
7. LaDue Reservoir
8. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area
9. Bedford Reservation
10. Brecksville Reservation
11. Lake Isaac & Mill Stream Run
12. Rocky River Reservation
13. Avon Lake Power Plant
14. Edgewater Park & Perkins Beach (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
15. Burke Airport
16. East 72nd St. Marina & Gordon Park (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
17. Villa Angela & Wildwood Yacht Basin (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
18. Sims Park
19. Eastlake Power Plant
20. Mentor Marsh and Lagoons
21. Headlands Beach State Park
22. Lakeshore Metropark

23. Headwaters Park
  24. Lake Medina
  25. North Chagrin Reservation
  26. Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve
  27. Hinckley Reservation
  28. Mill Stream Run Reservation
  29. Shaker Lakes
  30. Lakeview Cemetery
  31. Berlin Reservoir
  32. Happy Days (CVNRA)
  33. Big Creek Metropark
  34. Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area
  35. Oberlin Reservoir
  36. Rocky River Park
  37. Seiberling Naturealm
  38. Sandy Ridge Metropark
  39. Holden Arboretum\*
  40. Streetsboro Bog-Gott Fen\*
- \*Restricted access

