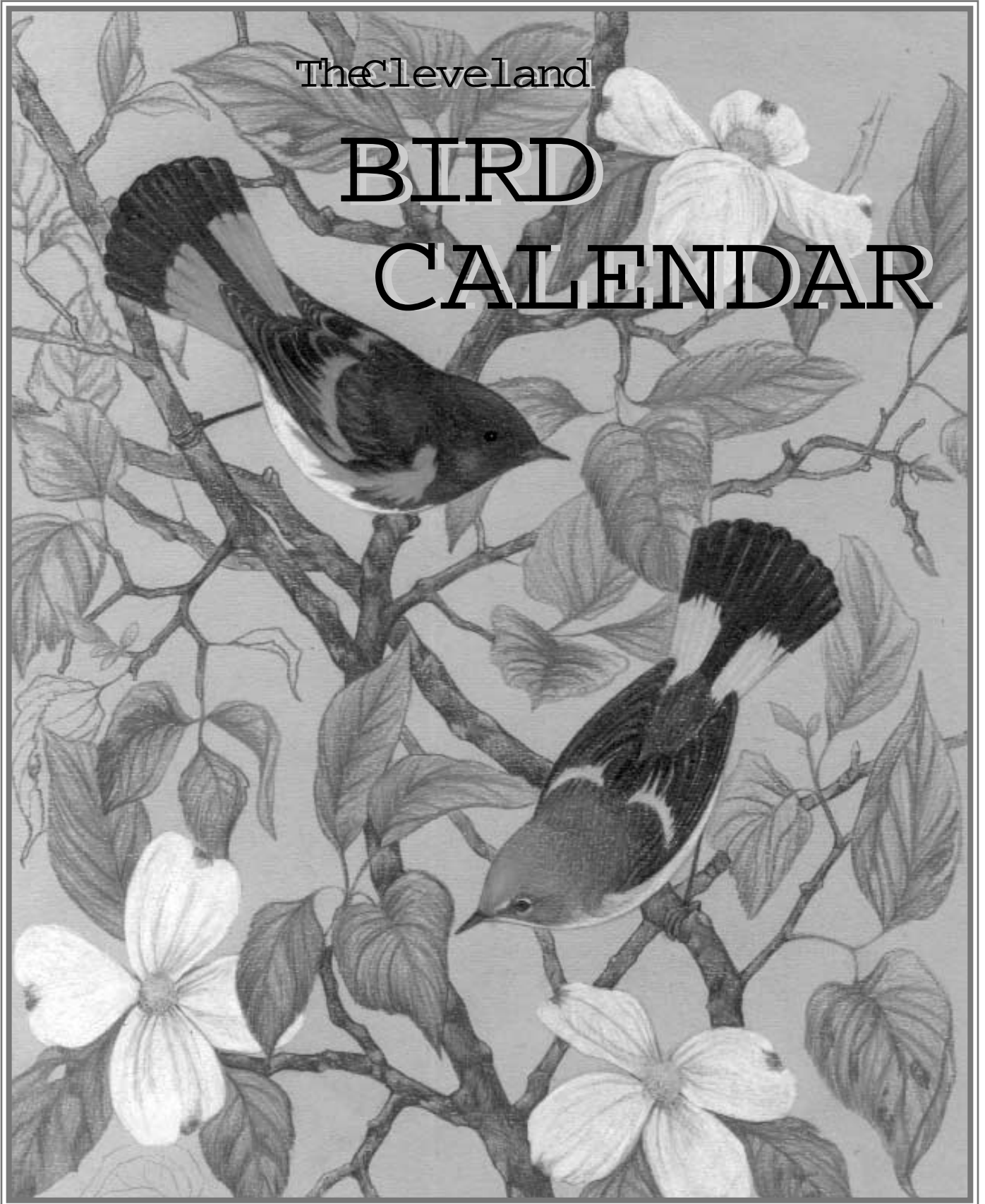


The Cleveland

BIRD

CALENDAR



Published by The Kirtland Bird Club  
and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

March, April, May 200  
Volume 99 Number 2

**Founded in 1905** by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was and is published jointly by the Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 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. Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help in the preservation of sensitive habitats that harbor beleaguered bird species. Migrant stopover points, grasslands and wetlands are dwindling at an alarming rate; and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* cannot overlook the importance of such lands and their influence on our local avifauna.

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

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

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

<b>March 10</b>	<b>Winter Season</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Spring Season</b>
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Summer Season</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Autumn Season</b>

**Seasonal report forms available at:**

[www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm)

**Click to Download a Quarterly Reporting Form (PDF Form)**

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by Jennifer Brumfield, 2002

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

**Rare Bird Hotline:** (216) 526-2473 (BIRD) The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities, (i.e., Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris's Sparrow, etc.), please contact the editors as soon as possible.

**Invitation:** The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month, except July and August, at 7:45 P.M. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Inquiries** regarding subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* should be addressed to Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; 1 Wade Oval; University Circle; Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The subscription rate is \$12.00.

**Changes of Address:** Contact Susan Chase at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (216) 231-4600, ext. 286.

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

March, April, May 200  
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# The Cleveland Bird Calendar



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## SPRING 2003 WEATHER

by Dwight Chasar

**MARCH:** The temperature averaged 38.7°, 1.2° above normal. The highest temperature was 76° on the 28th and lowest, 2° on the 3th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33 to 36° during the month. Sunshine prevailed 47% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 2.33 in., .61 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .55 in. on the 29th. Snowfall totaled 6.7 in. with the greatest 24 hr. amount being 2.4 in. on the 2nd. The greatest snow depth was 6 in. on the 3rd.

**APRIL:** The temperature averaged 48.9°, 1.3° above normal. The highest temperature was 82° on the 15th and the lowest, 28° on the 24th. Sunshine occurred 53% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 2.47 in., 0.90 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.52 in. on the 4th-5th. Snow totaled .1 in. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 50° by the end of the month.

**MAY:** The temperature averaged 57.8°, .7° below normal. The highest temperature was 80° on the 1st and the lowest, 38° on the 14th. The lake temperature rose to 60° by the 31st. Over 19 days, rain totaled 6.49 in., 2.99 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.66 in. on the 31st. This was the 5th wettest May on record. Sunshine prevailed only 36% of the time possible. □

### SEASONAL REPORT

**C**ommon Loons put in an impressive passage throughout the region. From late March through mid-April, numerous loons were counted on inland lakes. On Apr. 5, 370 were tal-



Adult Thayer's Gull  
March 3, 2003-E. 72nd St.  
by Brenda Kovalsky©

lied over HBSP (RH, EB). The same morning 611 were scoped from Lakeshore MP (JP). Inland, numbers ranged to 30±, at various reservoirs (m.obs.). **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** numbers were somewhat disappointing. No more than 20 were seen at a given site. Pied-billeds persisted at Herrick Preserve through the period. **Double-crested Cormorants** were amazingly numerous in downtown Cleveland in late Apr. (DR). **Great Blue Herons** continue to exhibit an upward trend in numbers. **Great Egrets** were seen in good totals. Counts of 5-7 birds were widely reported (m.obs.). The high tallies for **Green Herons** were 7 on the May 4 Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walk (hereafter SMBW) (MS, KG) and 8 at Deep Lock May 10 (TMR, m.obs.). **Black Crowned Night Herons** returned to the lower Cuyahoga River in large numbers. Lozano's highest tally was 230 Apr. 11 (PL, LG). One in Madison Apr. 11 was locally newsworthy (*vide* DB). **Turkey Vultures** were as expected. The high count was 254 at Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (JP). Vultures in Cuyahoga Falls Mar. 7 (JWo) and Chesterland Mar. 10 (LGi) were a little early.

Numbers of the usually rare to uncommon **Snow Geese** were very respectable. The first report was of 6 blue forms at

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

This spring had everything for the enterprising bird watcher. A remarkable 45 species (2 hybrids) made the Noteworthy Reports! The season started with eye-popping numbers of Red-necked Grebes--certainly a decades worth of reports for this fine species--along the lakefront. At the same time, many species of gulls--in plumages so diverse they defied published descriptions--were gathering at the warm water outlets. Waterfowl numbers, pretty good for our region, were represented by 32 species. Hawk migration was one of the best in the past decades; the 14 species represented a whole year's worth of sightings. Shorebirds continue to be disappointing because of their paucity in number and diversity. No Barn Owl reports were received. Woodpecker migration was solid. Flycatchers were late in arriving, but in fair numbers. Vireos and swallows were as expected, although Cliff Swallows appeared to be more widespread. The kinglet movement was far below average. Thrushes were fairly numerous and, augmented by a mostly cooperative Townsend's Solitaire at Shaker Lakes, were represented by 8 species. The pearls of spring--warblers--gave many a thrill to local bird watchers. Thirty-five species and two hybrids were represented. The only missing warbler was the Kentucky. Sparrow migration was not as great as 2002, but still many fine species were noted. At least 5 Clay-colored Sparrows were detected. That is really quite good for our region. There may be more additions, but reports from the Sunday Morning Bird Walks will be included in the Summer issue. This is an undaunting task of compilation and summary and I don't envy Ken Gober.

Looking through all the data--and there is plenty of it--there were some trouble spots. After trying to make heads or tails of 57 pages of e-mail, I sometimes think folks who enjoy the internet as a means of reporting, feel it is my job to figure out what they mean by "a few" or "plenty." How about, "kinglets were everywhere," but no sites were mentioned? I know it sounds as if I am nagging, but we hope to publish verifiable reports. I try to contact observers no one has ever heard of, and often I get responses that are less than friendly or show the observer is a neophyte bird watcher. How is an editor supposed to react to "What do you mean by taxonomical order?" Or how about, "The Schwan's man said it was" (always has been one of my favorites). I am sure to miss something in all those reports, but I tried to make sense of most. It really helps me if the "e-birders" put the date of the observation on the report. E-mail has a way of arriving at odd times, and to say "Yesterday, I saw oodles of Winter Wrens and zillions of Eastern Bluebirds" is difficult to pinpoint.

Good birding.

Lake Phippen Mar. 3 (GB, CG, KL). One passed by Lakeshore MP Mar. 16 (JP). Eight--5 blue, 3 white--were in Mantua Township Apr. 6 (EE, TLP). Four **Trumpeter Swans** were seen at Evergreen Lake in Parma Apr. 10 (GL). Others were seen at Sandy Ridge Reservation (m.obs.). These may have been wanderers from Dr. Wendt's breeding program in Columbia Hills. While no large numbers of **Tundra Swans** were detected (groups range to the high double digits), the migration was prolonged and widespread.

Although reports of many species of ducks dotted the region, numbers remain rather woeful locally. Situated far from most major flyways, I guess this is to be expected. This desk did not receive any report of numerous puddle ducks. High counts were: **Wood Duck** (24), **Gadwall** (27), **American Wigeon** (30),

**American Black Duck** (30), **Blue-winged Teal** (39), **Northern Shoveler** (9), **Northern Pintail** (20) and **Green-winged Teal** (15).

**D**iving ducks fared a little better. Numbers of **Canvasbacks** reached to 86 at Eastlake, while **Redhead** numbers grew to 130 there in early March. Perhaps as a result of the persistence of thick winter ice and snow cover, **Ring-necked Ducks** were greatly reduced at Mogadore this year. The high count came from the Portage County section of Berlin Reservoir, which hosted 750+ Mar. 25 (BMo). **Greater Scaup** numbers were as expected. **Lesser Scaup** numbers peaked at 2000-3000 in Lorain Mar. 28 (SZ) and to 1500 at HBSP Mar. 23 (m.obs.). **Surf Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** remained in small numbers along the lakefront well into March. Five Surfs were

located at LaDue on Apr. 27 (CH). A female White-winged was there Apr. 7 (LGi). **Black Scoters** hung around Eastlake with the many other divers. One showing a good bit of yellow on its bill was studied there Mar. 12 (DJH). A **Long-tailed Duck** was a striking sight at Lake Medina on Mar. 22 (JW). Birds were at HBSP Mar. 30 and Apr. 5 (RH, LR). Five were seen off Lakeshore MP Mar. 30 (JP). A bird was cooperative at E. 72nd St. in early Apr. (m.obs.). A drake was seen off Rocky River Park Apr. 11 (PL, BF). **Buffleheads** peaked at 140 at HBSP Apr. 5 (RH). The 220 **Common Goldeneyes** off Eastlake on Mar. 12 were the highest total noted along the lake (LR, TB). **Hooded Mergansers** moved well. The high tally was 200 at HBSP on Mar. 29 (RH). **Common Mergansers** remained numerous until late March. A lingering female was at Veterans Park Apr. 27 (m.obs.). **Red-breasted Mergansers** peaked at 4000 Mar. 23 at HBSP (RH, m.obs.). **Ruddy Ducks** were typically numerous (hundreds) at inland lakes. Lake

Erie numbers were fewer, but nonetheless the 100 at HBSP on Apr. 5-6 were exceptional (RH, m.obs.).

**Ospreys** were seen in very good numbers and in every county. The only Lorain Co. reports were a bird at Sandy Ridge Mar. 28 (TF) and another at Bacon Woods Apr. 19 (JMK). The earliest Osprey, away from a nesting site in Summit Co., was over Merriman Valley Mar. 30 (KMo). Many Osprey reports were submitted from along the Cuyahoga River throughout the period (TMR, m.obs.). **Bald Eagle** numbers continue to reach unfathomable numbers. A 3rd-year bird was seen at Nimisila on Mar. 29 (TBS). Eagles were daily occurrences along the lake and at local nesting sites. **Northern Harrier** reports were widespread and fairly numerous. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen in small numbers throughout the region. The high tally was 68 at Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (JP). **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to increase westward. The 29 **Broad-winged Hawks** over



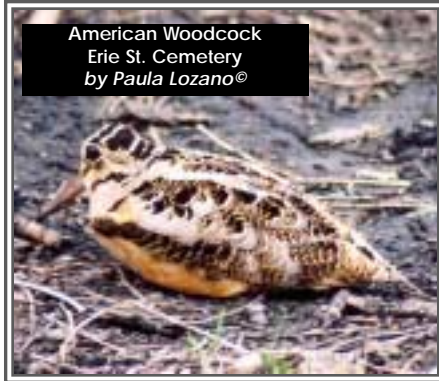
Shaker Lakes Apr. 19 were a portent of what would follow the next day (NB). On Apr. 20, 153 were seen over Lakewood (BVM), 42 at HBSP (RH, EB) and a whopping 382 off Lakeshore MP (JP). A partially albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was found nesting at Walborn Reservoir (BMo). A **Rough-legged Hawk** coursed Jaite Mar 2 (DAC). A dark-morph was seen in Garrettsville Mar. 3 (VW). Two were seen in Middlefield Mar. 15 (KM). A bird passed over Kendall Lake on Mar. 23 (PM). One was seen in Fairport Harbor Mar. 24 (JP). A tardy bird drifted over the Boston Trail (CVNP) Apr. 24 (MRe, m.obs.). **American Kestrels** were more evident than in recent years. A bird regularly seen in Sagamore Hills was indicative (SJ). High counts of kestrels included 6 at Bath Nature Preserve on Apr. 18 (BAT, m.obs.) and 24 at Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (JP).

On Mar. 9, a **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen flying over a field on the north side of Pleasant Valley (PS). **Wild Turkeys** have reached all areas of the region. Folks have learned that by feeding them the birds become quite bold and demanding. Although rail reports were received from many sites scattered about the region, the Ira Road Trail and Sandy Ridge Reservation remain the two most likely sites to actually view

**Comment on Spring-2003 at Headland Beach State Park**

It was a solid spring at HBSP. Waterfowl diversity was typically high (15-18 species/day) between March 20-28--and all those loons--370 of them on blustery April 5. Warblers were very good on all days birded after May 20--with Magnolias everywhere on May 25 and 31 (all were very wet this day). One of the most interesting spring observations involved about 20 Common Nighthawks, which were observed in three days (May 25, 26 & 31), as they hawked insects from 5:30 AM to 6:00 AM over the trees along the south side of Headlands Beach from the east end to the west end. I cannot think of a reason that these birds would stay put for a week, but I suspect they remained in the area during this time period. Emil Bacik made the comment to me that he enjoyed the season because the warblers, vireos and migrant flycatchers were low and could be easily studied--from the gorgeous colors of many of the warblers to the subtle shades of gray, green, olive and yellow on the *Empidonax* flycatchers. Perhaps, Emil conjectured, the warblers were lower because May's wet and cool conditions kept the bugs low. Whatever the reason (and Emil's was a logical one), it was a good time in May at HBSP.

*Ray Hannikman*



**Virginia Rails** and **Soras**. The only **Common Moorhens** were reported from traditional nesting wetlands at Sandy Ridge (TF, m.obs.) and Herrick Preserve (GB, CG, KL, m.obs.). Migrant **American Coots** were numerous throughout the region.

**Black-bellied Plovers** were seen in the HBSP area Apr. 27 & May 10 (RH, m.obs.). **Semipalmated Plovers** and **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen in typical numbers. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was record-breaking early in Mantua Township Apr. 4 (VW). **Spotted Sandpipers** were late in arriving, but numbers reflected they were just waiting for decent weather to make their northward move. **Sanderlings** were found only at HBSP May 20-26 (m.obs.). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at HBSP May 20 & 26 (RH). **Least Sandpipers** moved through in small numbers. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were widely reported in fair numbers. The high count was 70 at Lake Rockwell Apr. 23 (LR). Six **Dunlin** were tallied at HBSP May 20 (RH). **Wilson's Snipes** were widely reported in fair numbers. The high count was 50 in Mantua Township Apr. 4 (VW). One was seen at North Chagrin Apr. 14 (PK, SUW). **American Woodcocks** were displaying widely by mid-March.

**S**ome readers probably feel that gulls should be put aside for the more spectacularly colored birds, but hard core Cleveland area birders thrive on the challenges of field identification. Large white-headed gulls remained in startling numbers well into March. The variety and diversity in plumages made for many great conversations at E. 72nd St. Contrary to 2002, the gatherings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** failed to materialize. The 2,717 that passed by Lakeshore MP Apr. 19 was the most sizable count (JP). **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** remained abundant through the period. **Thayer's Gulls** were seen at HBSP Mar. 8 & Apr. 5 (RH). Adults and immatures were seen by many observers at E. 72nd St. in early March. The same time period continued to present birders the opportunity to see various plumages of **Iceland Gulls**. Upwards to 4 birds were obvious at E. 72nd St. and at Eastlake during this time frame. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** followed the same pattern of occurrence as the previous two species. **Glaucous Gulls** remained conspicuous through mid-March at hot water outlets along Lake Erie. Birds were exceptionally late at HBSP (RH) and Lakeshore MP Apr. 26. **Caspian Terns** arrived in early April and remained conspicuous along the lake until the end of May. High lakefront numbers included 44 at HBSP (RH) Apr. 19 and 141 at Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (JP). Inland highs include 30 at Lake Rockwell Apr. 23 (LR) and 20 at LaDue the same day (KM). **Common Tern** numbers were unimpressive. A high of 5 was all that the lakefront could muster. **Forster's Terns** far outpaced Commons. They arrived at record early dates, and their highs reached nearly 50 at various lakefront sites.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were below average. One was seen in the marsh south of Station Road parking lot on May 10 (FCD). Another was at Dike 14 the same day (SZ, GL). One was seen at Rocky River Nature Center May 17 (BD) and again on the May 18 Rocky River SMBW (MS, KG, m.obs.). Two were seen along the Boston Trail May 28 (MRe, m.obs.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were almost nonexistent. A bird was early at Lakeshore MP Apr. 29 (JP). Birds were seen in the CVNP May 10 (MRe, m.obs.) and May 27 (JHe). One was at North Chagrin May 18 (KM). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were well reported. **Great Horned Owls** successfully brought off young in Sagamore Hills (DAC), Bath Nature Preserve (BAT) and Firestone MP (DNR). **Barred Owls** apparently have benefited from the demise of the Great Horned Owl to WNV. Many more reports than usual were received of this woodland resident. Barred Owls at Shaker Lakes Mar. 22 (LD) and Huntington Reservation May 15 were indicative (TLP). **Common Nighthawks** were ridiculously late. The earliest report of a vocalizing bird was May 17 in Willoughby (BSh). By the end of the period, flocks of 20-40 were seen in the urban areas the lakefront counties. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were numerous after May 5. Nest buliding was observed at Bacon Woods May 25 (TLP).

**A**lways striking, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were commonly seen at traditional nesting sites and along lakefront migrant traps. High counts include 8 at North Chagrin on various dates (KM), 7 at Shaker Lakes May 16 (VF), and 7 more at HBSP May 17 (RH). One was seen at Summit

Lake in Akron May 22 (GBe). Does anyone still remember when this site was an outstanding birding area? **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** moved in decent numbers along the lakefront, but were noticeably fewer at inland sites. The high tally (81) of migrant **Northern Flickers** came from Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (JP).

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at Bacon Woods May 14 (CC), in Kirtland May 14 (HP), Rocky River Nature Center May 17 (BD), on the Rocky River SMBW May 18 (MS, BD, KG, m.obs.) and the Ravenna Training and Logistic Site May 21 (KLu, LR). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were conspicuous May 15. Reports indicated **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were unusually common at HBSP. As many as 8 were tallied there May 31 (RH, m.obs.). Leidy found a bird at West Creek Preserve May 17. Another was seen at Shaker Lakes May 27 (LD). A bird at North Chagrin June 1 was typically tardy (KM). **Acadian Flycatchers** were doing well at local nesting sites. No reports were received of birds at any of the lakefront birding areas. An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Hinckley May 27–28 (RSH). Three were “fee-be-o-ing” at Novak Preserve May 26 (LR). Two were heard at HBSP May 31 (EB, RH). **Willow Flycatcher** numbers were, for the most part, as expected. It was interesting to see that none were found on either the Rocky River or Shaker Lakes SMBWs. **Least Flycatcher** numbers were about average. As many as 6 were tallied on the Shaker Lakes SMBW and up to 12 at HBSP. **Eastern Phoebe** numbers remained solid. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were seen in expected numbers. The 4 on the May 4 Rocky River SMBW were typical (MS, m.obs.). Migrant **Eastern Kingbird** numbers topped

out at 43 at Lakeshore MP May 9 (JP). The high at HBSP was 20 May 11 (RH).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find at Villa Angela Apr. 27 (TLP). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was noted at Carlisle Reservation May 25 (CC). Lakefront reports were nonexistent. **Blue-headed Vireo** numbers were solid. A bird at Rockefeller Park on May 10 was the first reported from there (SC). As many as 3 visited Shaker Lakes for the better part of 3 weeks in late Apr. and early May (PP). **Warbling Vireos** were typically abundant. **Philadelphia Vireos** were unusually scarce. One was at HBSP May 20 (RH, m.obs.). One was at Shaker Lakes May 20 (BF), and two were seen there May 27 (LD). **Red-eyed Vireo** numbers seemed average. The Cleveland **American Crows** are in need of diligent monitoring to assess the effects of last year’s West Nile Virus outbreak (DR). Judging from the numbers of birds seen and reported, the eastern sector of the region does not seem to have been as adversely affected by the virus. The only measurable **Horned Lark** movement reported was 30 at HBSP Mar. 16 (RH).

**Purple Martin** numbers appeared improved. Nest boxes at several Lake County MP sites were well established. Hannikman’s persistent evaluation of HBSP yielded a high of 40 martins there May 17 & 18. Inland surveys in Portage and Geauga County revealed more sites than previously thought (LR). After early April, **Tree Swallows** were abundant. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** occurrence mirrored that of Tree Swallows. Triple digits of **Bank Swallows** were reported nesting along the river at South Chagrin (LGi, LRa). **Cliff Swallows** were found nesting

under the bridge at Bacon Woods, May 14 (CC). Two provided a new bird for the RTLS May 21 (LR, KLu). Other Cliff Swallows remained faithful to nesting sites at Berlin and West Branch SP. **Barn Swallows** arrived in the CVNP Apr. 13 (DAC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were skimpy. One at HBSP Apr. 27 was among the few received (RR). **Brown Creepers** have become very obvious along the Red Lock Trail in the CVNP (MRe). Lisa Rainong wrote, “While at South Chagrin early Saturday evening, May 3rd, I observed what appeared to be a pair of nesting Brown Creepers. I first heard two of them calling very close to each other. I then saw them together on the same tree trunk. One was carrying a clump of moss up the trunk of the tree. They were near the bridle trail that runs along River Road just north of Chagrin.” **Carolina Wrens** continue to thrive and have apparently learned to cope with harsh winters. Reports of **Winter Wrens** along the lakefront were somewhat disappointing. Counts of 5-7 were typical. **House Wrens** were vocalizing throughout the region by Apr. 20. **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** numbers were very disappointing. I can safely say I saw more Sandhill Cranes this April than Golden-crowned Kinglets. Metcalf lamented that he only saw at most 4 on a given day at North Chagrin in April. The high tally of Golden-crowned Kinglets at HBSP was a mere 11 on Apr. 6. Counts of Ruby-crowneds did not surpass 20 there. High counts of Golden-crowneds on the Rocky River and Shaker Lakes SMBW respectively were 3 and 10. Juxtaposed to these numbers Ruby-crowned high tallies at these sites were 9 and 40. LePage’s many surveys yielded few reports



RAVENNA TRAINING AND LOGISTICS SITE MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEY TOTALS—SPRING 2003

SPECIES	5/20/03	5/21/03	Totals	SPECIES	5/13/03	5/23/03	Totals
GREAT BLUE HERON	3	2	5	CAROLINA WREN	•	1	1
GREEN HERON	1	1	2	HOUSE WREN	3	12	15
TURKEY VULTURE	4	30	34	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	3	2	5
CANADA GOOSE	42	6	48	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	5	14	19
WOOD DUCK	2	•	2	VEERY	13	12	25
MALLARD	7	2	9	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	1	•	1
OSPREY	•	1	1	WOOD THRUSH	6	9	15
NORTHERN HARRIER	•	1	1	AMERICAN ROBIN	31	45	76
COOPER'S HAWK	•	2	2	GRAY CATBIRD	16	20	36
RED-TAILED HAWK	4	15	19	BROWN THRASHER	1	•	1
WILD TURKEY	6	4	10	EUROPEAN STARLING	13	60	73
KILLDEER	2	5	7	CEDAR WAXWING	21	18	39
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	1	•	1	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	19	17	36
ROCK DOVE	•	6	6	TENNESSEE WARBLER	•	2	2
MOURNING DOVE	4	5	9	YELLOW WARBLER	43	21	64
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	1	1	2	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	6	5	11
BARRED OWL	•	2	2	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	•	1	1
CHIMNEY SWIFT	2	4	6	CERULEAN WARBLER	5	3	8
RUBY-THROATED HUM.	5	3	8	AMERICAN REDSTART	6	9	15
BELTED KINGFISHER	•	1	1	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	1	•	1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	2	3	5	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	23	46	69
DOWNY WOODPECKER	2	1	3	HOODED WARBLER	6	10	16
HAIRY WOODPECKER	•	1	1	SCARLET TANAGER	4	7	11
NORTHERN FLICKER	6	8	14	EASTERN TOWHEE	15	15	30
PILEATED WOODPECKER	1	•	1	CHIPPING SPARROW	2	3	5
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	•	1	1	FIELD SPARROW	12	40	52
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE	6	5	11	SAVANNAH SPARROW	1	•	1
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	2	1	3	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	1	•	1
ALDER FLYCATCHER	4	•	4	SONG SPARROW	15	14	29
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	4	1	5	SWAMP SPARROW	1	4	5
LEAST FLYCATCHER	•	1	1	NORTHERN CARDINAL	11	7	18
EASTERN PHOEBE	1	7	8	ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK	8	22	30
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	4	7	11	INDIGO BUNTING	7	6	13
EASTERN KINGBIRD	5	3	8	BOBOLINK	12	•	12
WHITE-EYED VIREO	5	2	7	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	17	35	52
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	1	8	9	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	2	1	3
BLUE-HEADED VIREO	•	1	1	COMMON GRACKLE	11	17	28
WARBLING VIREO	2	3	5	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	19	5	24
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	•	1	1	ORCHARD ORIOLE	1	3	4
RED-EYED VIREO	16	29	45	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	12	31	43
BLUE JAY	13	9	22	HOUSE FINCH	1	5	6
AMERICAN CROW	10	5	15	GOLDFINCH	12	30	42
TREE SWALLOW	11	10	21	HOUSE SPARROW	2	2	4
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	1	•	1	TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS	599	782	1381
BANK SWALLOW	1	3	3	TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	79	82	93
CLIFF SWALLOW	•	2	2				
BARN SWALLOW	14	7	21				
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	4	5	9				
TUFTED TITMOUSE	12	11	23				
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	1	2	3				

Data provided by  
Carole Babyak, Kim Ludt  
and Larry Rosche

of either kinglet.

**Eastern Bluebirds** continue to improve and many are moving into suburban neighborhoods. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from HBSP May 20 & 24 (RH) and Norton May 25 (RSW). Another was seen at Berlin May 30 (BMo). A **Hermit Thrush** along the Ira Road Trail Mar. 3 was likely a holdover from winter (TMR, m.obs.). A **Gray Catbird** at a feeder in Sagamore Hills Mar. 7 reflected

a probable wintering bird (BPM). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to thrive in a lakefront counties. A bird in a condo-division in Copley Apr. 6 was a surprise (JB). **Cedar Waxwings** were as expected.

It is difficult to assess the warbler migration. Early dates in the table do not necessarily reflect arrivals of warblers very well. Overall, contributors seemed to be happy with local warbler migration. One can hardly fault folks, though, for

heading out to Crane Creek State Park and the Magee Marsh Bird Trail to see warblers up close. The deer have grazed that site so heavily that the understory is almost absent and viewing of usually skulking warblers is done with relative ease. For a 3–4 week period during late April though mid-May, Shaker Lakes provided many bird-watchers great warbler watching opportunities. Headlands was outstanding the last third of May. An astounding 61 **Blue-winged**

## Selected Totals for the May 10, 2003 CVNP Bird Census

Common Loon		Yellow-throated Vireo		Palm Warbler	
Double-crested Cormorant		Warbling Vireo		Bay-breasted Warbler	
Wood Duck		Red-eyed Vireo		Blackpoll Warbler	
Hooded Merganser		Blue Jay		Cerulean Warbler	
Turkey Vulture		American Crow		Black-and-white Warbler	
Osprey		Tree Swallow		American Redstart	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		N. Rough-winged Swallow		Prothonotary Warbler	
Cooper's Hawk		Bank Swallow		Ovenbird	
Red-shouldered Hawk		Barn Swallow		Northern Waterthrush	
Broad-winged Hawk		Black-capped Chickadee		Louisiana Waterthrush	
Red-tailed Hawk		Tufted Titmouse		Common Yellowthroat	
American Kestrel		Red-breasted Nuthatch		Hooded Warbler	
Virginia Rail		White-breasted Nuthatch		Wilson's Warbler	
Sora		Brown Creeper		Canada Warbler	
Killdeer		Carolina Wren		Yellow-breasted Chat	
Greater Yellowlegs		House Wren		Scarlet Tanager	
Solitary Sandpiper		Marsh Wren		Eastern Towhee	
Spotted Sandpiper		Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Chipping Sparrow	
Wilson's Snipe		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		Field Sparrow	
American Woodcock		Eastern Bluebird		Savannah Sparrow	
Mourning Dove		Veery		Grasshopper Sparrow	
Black-billed Cuckoo		Gray-cheeked Thrush		Song Sparrow	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		Swainson's Thrush		Lincoln's Sparrow	
Eastern Screech-Owl		Hermit Thrush		Swamp Sparrow	
Barred Owl		Wood Thrush		White-throated Sparrow	
Chimney Swift		American Robin		White-crowned Sparrow	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		Gray Catbird		Northern Cardinal	
Belted Kingfisher		Brown Thrasher		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Red-headed Woodpecker		Cedar Waxwing		Indigo Bunting	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		Blue-winged Warbler		Bobolink	
Downy Woodpecker		Tennessee Warbler		Red-winged Blackbird	
Hairy Woodpecker		Nashville Warbler		Eastern Meadowlark	
Northern Flicker		Northern Parula		Common Grackle	
Pileated Woodpecker		Yellow Warbler		Brown-headed Cowbird	
Eastern Wood-Pewee		Chestnut-sided Warbler		Orchard Oriole	
Acadian Flycatcher		Magnolia Warbler		Baltimore Oriole	
Willow Flycatcher		Cape May Warbler		Purple Finch	
Least Flycatcher		Black-throated Blue Warbler		House Finch	
Eastern Phoebe		Yellow-rumped Warbler		American Goldfinch	
Great Crested Flycatcher		Black-throated Green Warbler		House Sparrow	
Eastern Kingbird		Blackburnian Warbler			
White-eyed Vireo		Yellow-throated Warbler			
Blue-headed Vireo	12	Pine Warbler	2		

### Comments on the May 10, 2003 CVNP Bird Census

We finished the day with 131 species, the third highest total ever (134 and 136 were the other highs), and this included 29 warbler species. We also had the most participants, 47, for a spring census. Considering the down-pour prior to 7 am and local road flooding, we actually had good weather and the birds were very cooperative the rest of the day. At lunch time I reported that we had 124 species, but I had missed a couple of ticks in the lists given to me. Ann and I went out in the afternoon and found one of the Screech Owls we had staked out. Then in the evening, and a nice one it was, Ann and I came up with a Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren and 5 Woodcocks at Jaite but missed any early Nighthawks. Notables: 3 Golden-winged Warblers (but we had 4 in 1999); highest numbers ever for Tree Swallows, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Hooded Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and White-crowned Sparrows. The old coliseum grassland gave good numbers of Savannah Sparrow, Meadowlarks (a high) and Bobolinks. While the Common Loon was great, we actually had one in 1985, too. Hawks, crows and Blue Jays were all at normal numbers, indicating little effect of West Nile Virus on CVNP populations. Osprey sightings are becoming the norm on the spring census. This is the first census since 1990 that we missed a Spotted Sandpiper.

Thanks again for all the help and enthusiasm. The fall census will be September 13, 2003, so clear your calendars and we will see you then.

Dwight Chasar  
CVNP Volunteer

## SELECTED SPECIES 2003 SPRING ARRIVAL DATES

	DATE	RECORD		DATE	RECORD
Great Egret	3/18 Mentor Lagoons	3/10/02	Golden-w. Warbler	5/2 Shaker Lakes	4/28/64
Green Heron	4/17 Walborn Res.	3/12/38	Tennessee Warbler	5/3 Shaker Lakes	4/25/76
*Osprey	3/15 Berlin Reservoir	3/25/39	OC Warbler	5/7 Veterans Park	4/15/61
BW Hawk	4/19 Shaker Lakes	2/11/29	Nashville Warbler	4/28 Mogadore Res.	4/8/45
BB Plover	4/27 Fairport Harbor	4/20/64	Northern Parula	5/2 Firestone MP	4/2/88
Semipalm. Plo.	5/4 Mantua Tnshp	3/10/86	Yellow Warbler	4/19 Shaker Lakes	4/14/55
G. Yellowlegs	3/24 Fairport Harbor	3/4/79	Chestnut-sided W.	5/4 Firestone MP	4/17/64
L. Yellowlegs	4/11 Mantua Tnshp	3/21/38	Magnolia Warbler	5/1 Elmwood Park	4/20/48
*Solitary Sand.	4/4 Mantua Tnshp	4/7/56	Cape May Warbler	5/25 HBSP	4/24/55
Least Sandpiper	5/6 Streetsboro	4/17/45	*BT Blue Warbler	4/2/03 North Olmsted	4/14/59
Pectoral Sp	3/26 Mantua Tnshp	3/18/45	BT Green Warbler	4/18 Shaker Lakes	4/7/01
*Caspian Tern	3/27 Rocky River	4/1/90	Blackburnian Warbler	5/2 Firestone MP	4/19/42
Common Tern	5/4 HBSP	3/29/69	Yellow-throated W.	4/14 CVNP	4/9/01
*Forster's Tern	3/29 HBSP	4/1/90	Prairie Warbler	4/28 Lakeshore MP	4/12/43
RT Hum.	4/26 Kirtland	4/23/37	*Palm Warbler	3/25 CVNP	4/11/53
Olive-sided Fly.	5/14 Kirtland	5/1/55	Bay-breasted Warbler	5/6 Shaker Lakes	4/20/41
E. Wood-Pewee	4/28 West Creek Pr.	3/12/21	Blackpoll Warbler	5/10 HBSP	4/25/48
YB Flycatcher	5/17 West Creek Pr.	5/3/37	Cerulean Warbler	4/29 Shaker Lakes	4/22/62
Acadian Fly.	5/10 CVNP	4/30/64	B & W Warbler	5/1 Various sites	4/8/45
Alder Fly.	5/20 RTLS	5/25/80	American Redstart	5/3 Firestone MP	4/22/45
Willow Fly.	5/11 HBSP	4/18/76	Prothonotary Warbler	5/3 CVNP	4/10/69
Least Fly.	4/20 Lakeview Bluffs	4/10/55	Ovenbird	4/30 Elmwood Park	4/13/02
GC Flycatcher	4/30 Kirtland	4/1/73	*Northern Waterthrush	3/24 Elmwood Park	4/3/66
Eastern Kingbird	5/3 Various sites	4/6/48	Louisiana Waterthrush	4/18 Shaker Lakes	3/29/77
White-eyed V.	4/29 Shaker Lakes	4/17/77	Kentucky Warbler	6/9 CVNP	4/29/61
Blue-headed V.	4/19 HBSP	3/29/98	Connecticut Warbler	5/10 Shaker Lakes	5/2/65
YT Vireo	5/4 CVNP, NCR	4/13/47	Mourning Warbler	5/7 Walborn Res.	5/2/64
Warbling Vireo	4/28 North Chagrin R.	4/21/54	Hooded Warbler	4/27 Sandy Ridge	4/23/72
*Philadelphia V.	4/19 Bath Preserve	4/29/54	Wilson's Warbler	5/10 CVNP	4/23/78
Red-eyed Vireo	4/29 Stow	4/8/45	Canada Warbler	5/11 CVNP	4/20/48
Purple Martin	4/13 LaDue	3/1/29	Yellow-Breasted Chat	5/6 Veterans Park	4/23/76
Tree Swallow	3/24 Various sites	3/12/87	Scarlet Tanager	5/1 Various places	3/29/77
*N. RW Swallow	3/28 Fairport Harbor	4/1/61	Chipping Sparrow	3/28 Lorain	3/13/46
Bank Swallow	4/29 Mentor Lagoons	4/3/49	Grasshopper Sparrow	4/28 West Creek Pr.	3/23/29
Cliff Swallow	4/27 Berlin Res.	4/3/80	Vesper Sparrow	3/31 West Creek Pr.	3/2/46
Barn Swallow	4/4 Munson Tnshp	3/15/36	Lincoln's Sparrow	5/1 Various places	3/25/62
RC Kinglet	4/8 West Creek Pr.	3/30/30	RB Grosbeak	5/1 Various places	2/5/58
BG Gnatc.	4/16 Firestone MP	3/31/77	Indigo Bunting	5/1 Various places	4/14/45
Veery	5/1 Elmwood Park	3/31/29	Bobolink	5/6 Bath Preserve	4/14/45
Gray-ch. Thrush	5/20 HBSP	4/12/38	Orchard Oriole	5/3 CVNP	4/15/02
Swainson's Thrush	5/1 Elmwood Park	4/6/29	Baltimore Oriole	4/30 CVNP	3/24/46
Wood Thrush	5/1 Elmwood Park	3/22/53			
Blue-w. Warbler	4/27 HBSP	4/16/76			

\* Denotes new record in 2003

**Warblers** were tallied along the Horsehoe Pond Trail May 10 (GB, LR). The high count of **Tennessee Warblers** was a modest 10 at HBSP May 26 (RH). This common species suffers from a lack of interest to most birders. The always uncommon **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen May 3 at Red Lock (DAC), May 8 & 10 at Veterans Park (LR, JMc), May 8 at Stearn's Homestead (SZ), May 9 at Girdled Road MP (JP) and May 12 at Shaker Lakes (BW). **Nashville Warblers** put in an excellent showing. High counts ranged to 12 at Rocky River SMBW May 4 (MS, KG, m.obs.). **Northern Parula** numbers were good. The May 4

SMBW at Shaker Lake yielded a rather hefty 5 birds (PP, m.obs.). The only sighting at HBSP was May 24 (RH). Except for the May census, no reports were received from the CVNP. **Yellow Warblers** were abundant. With counts in the 5-10 range at most lakefront migrant sites, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were as expected. Inland nesting territories seem to be stable. **Magnolia Warbler** numbers were good. The high count was 30 at HBSP May 25 (RH). A rather difficult species to find locally in spring, **Cape May Warblers** put in a typical scarce spring showing. The only birds identified were along the Boston Trail May 15

(MRe, m.obs.), at HBSP May 25, 26 & 31 (RH) and in North Olmstead (SWr). Except for the 12 at HBSP May 20 (RH), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** numbers were in the 4-7 range. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** did not disappoint. The 38 on the May 4 Shaker Lakes SMBW was the highest count reported (PP, m.obs.). In gleaning the reports, it was interesting to note that only Rocky River showed **Black-throated Green Warblers** to be more numerous than Black-throated Blues. **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen on the Shaker Lakes SMBW May 11 & 18 (PP, mobs.). At Rocky River they were spied only on the May 4 SMBW

(MS, m.obs.). On May 15, from Chagrin River Park, Suzanne Wagner wrote, “-Most impressive-lots of Blackburnians. I saw three and heard many more.” On May 16, 5 were counted at Shaker Lakes (SuW). The high tally at HBSP was 3 May 24 (RH). Reports of **Yellow-throated Warblers** away from traditional nesting sites are always exciting. Two birds at Bedford Reservation Apr. 28 was good news (LD). **Pine Warblers** were conspicuous early season migrants. A bird at Villa Angela on Apr. 12 was right on time (TLP). A bird at Mill Stream Run May 26 was indicative of a probable nesting attempt (TLP). **Palm Warblers** were fairly numerous, especially at Shaker Lakes where 25 were counted on the May 4 SMBW (PP, m.obs.). **Bay-breasted Warbler** numbers seemed better than average. Up to 5 were seen at HBSP (m.obs.). The high for May 18 Shaker Lakes SMBW was 4 (PP). **Blackpoll Warbler** numbers were close to average. On May 17, 10 were counted at Fiestone MP (GBe). The high tally at HBSP was 25 May 20 (RH). Any **Cerulean Warbler** found away from tradi-



Peregrine Falcon chick  
by Scott Wright©

tional nesting sites is reason to celebrate. Shaker Lakes provided a refuge for an early bird on Apr. 29 (LGo). South Chagrin hosted one near the polo fields on May 23 (SuW). One was at HBSP on May 24 & 26 (EB, RH). Although most reporters refused to submit tallies for this sporty species, **American Redstart** numbers were felt to be excellent. Twenty were at HBSP May 20 (RH). **Prothonotary Warblers** away from nesting sites are particularly noteworthy. Birds were seen at Shaker Lakes, May 3-6 (CS, BF, m.obs.), Novak Sanctuary, May 4 (DJo), Veterans Park, May 15 (NA), Summit Lake May 15 (GBe) and HBSP, May 26 (RH, HP). **Ovenbird** reports showed small numbers were widely dispersed in the region. It seemed unique that no report was submitted from Shaker Lakes, although it may have been an unintended omission on my part. **Northern Waterthrushes** were reported in fair numbers. Most counts were in the 1-3 range. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were doing well in local nesting sites. No reports were received from lakefront migrant haunts. No sightings of **Kentucky Warblers** were received. **Mourning Warblers** were reported from HBSP on May 10, 11, 20 (2), 24 (4) and 31 (RH, m.obs.). A territorial male was at Berlin May 7-31 (BMo). Birds were seen at Station Road May 14 & 16 (DAC). A male was at Rocky River Nature Center May 17 (BD). Another was at Huntington Reservation May 23 (TLP). A **Common Yellowthroat** was exceptionally early at Ira Road Apr. 21 (TMR, m.obs.). A **Hooded Warbler** was a good find at Whiskey Island May 6 (CS). HBSP hosted birds May 10, 11 & 20 (RH). **Wilson's Warblers** put in a very solid showing in the region. PD editor/journalist Jim McCarty wrote, “On



Buckeye  
by Scott Wright©

May 28, I saw a pair of Wilson's Warblers working the shrubs at the former site of Donald Gray Gardens outside the Browns' stadium, now a shadow of the once-wonderful urban hot spot.“ Early **Canada Warblers** were at Rocky River SMBW (KG, MS), Shaker Lakes SMBW (PP, ) and the CVNP (DAC) May 11. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was spied at Verterans Park on May 6 (JMc).

**Scarlet Tangers** were reported in expected numbers. An orange variant at Shaker Lakes May 18 provided excitement for the 32 SMBW participants (PP). **Eastern Towhees** arrived in good numbers in mid-Apr. Inland numbers at successional habitats are often staggering. No late **American Tree Sparrows** were found. A **Field Sparrow** was early in Newbury Mar. 3 (MAS). **Vesper Sparrows** were scattered about lakefront sites in expected numbers. The 9 at North Chagrin Apr 6 was an excellent local showing (KM, m.obs.). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at West Creek Apr. 28 (GL). Another was seen at Bacon Woods May 3 (CC). A bird sang and allowed close viewing at North Chagrin May 1 & May 4



Cape May Warbler  
North Olmstead  
by Scott Wright©

(KM, m.obs.). At Dike 14, birds were seen May 1 (SZ) and May 3 (2) (KM). Headlands was not denied a Grasshopper Sparrow this year. Birds were spied there May 4 & 10 (RH, KM). **Fox Sparrows** moved well. A bird that may have been a “Slate-colored Fox Sparrow” was seen in Wadsworth on Mar. 31 (DBu). A large movement of **Song Sparrows** was reported from the Mentor area on Mar. 15. Over 150 birds were seen at both HBSP and Mentor Lagoons (RH, EB). **Swamp, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows** were as expected. A White-crowned Sparrow “gambelii” race was studied at Dike 14 May 3 (KM). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen at Spencer Lake SWA Mar. 16 (RSH). Eight passed by Lakeshore MP Apr. 15; another 16 flew by there on Apr. 20 (JP).

The first **Eastern Meadowlarks** were heard in Newbury Mar. 2 (MAS). A morning flight of approximately 8,000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was seen Mar. 15 at Dike 14 (SZ). **Orchard Orioles** were more numerous than ever in the history of bird study in the region. One at Carlisle May 25 added to the distribution map (CC). **Baltimore Orioles** were more abundant than expected. **Purple Finches** continue to hold on in fair numbers in the eastern parts of the

region. Two **Pine Siskins** were seen at Lakeshore MP May 9 (JP). □

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**RED-THROATED LOON** – First found on February 28, a bird was observed in circling flights and close to the pier to the delight many at Eastlake through March 24 (Holt, m.obs.). Another bird was found at E. 72nd St Apr. 11–14 (Wagner, Kiplinger, Zadar). A bird was found dead in Sagamore Hills after a storm Apr. 5 (Chasar).



Red-throated Loon  
March 8, 2003-Eastlake  
Larry Rosche©

**EARED GREBE** – A bird in transitional plumage was at Avon Lake on Mar. 14 (Fazio). One or more birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP Mar. 29–Apr. 6 (Hannikman, Bacik, Rosche). Another was off Lakeshore MP Mar. 30 (Pogacnik).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – On March 30 & 31 two birds graced the south end of LaDue Reservoir (Oswald, Rosche, Szuter). Another was seen and photographed at Burke Airport May 15 (White, Jim Minch).



American White Pelican  
May 15–Burke Airport  
by Randolph White©

## RED-NECKED GREBE –

Many observers reported a record number of birds this spring. The following is a list of reports received.  
Mar. 1 Avon Lake (11) (Holt)  
Mar. 2 Avon Lake (6) (Brumfield, Spagnoli)  
Mar. 2 Eastlake (15) (Holt, m.obs.)  
Mar. 6 Eastlake (6) (Morrison, m.obs.)  
Mar. 7 Eastlake (43) (Rosche)  
Mar. 12 Eastlake (e. of the Chagrin) (61) (Rosche, Beal)  
Mar. 13 Cuyahoga River at Collision Bend (4) (Gardella)  
Mar. 14 Avon Lake (1) (Fazio)  
Mar. 14 Eastlake (24) (Rickard)  
Mar. 14 Berlin Res. (Morrison)  
Mar. 14 Cuyahoga River at Bath Road (Vogus, Szabo)  
March 18-Apr. 27 Cuyahoga River and Chippewa Creek (Chasar, Dinkelbach, Gardella)  
Mar. 15 Avon Lake (3) (Zadar)  
Mar. 24 Fairport Harbor (Zadar)  
Mar. 23 Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik)  
Mar. 24 Lake Kelso (D. Ferris)  
Apr. 3 Mogadore (2) Rosche  
Apr. 3 Fairport Harbor (4) (Zadar)  
Apr. 6 (6) Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik)  
Apr. 10–13 East Branch Res. (Paine, m.obs.)  
April 20 (7) Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik)  
Apr. 23 (1) E 72nd (Bennett)  
May 3 (1) Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik)

**AMERICAN BITTERN** – An injured bird was found at Shipman Pond on Apr. 19 (Bacik, Hannikman, Kovalsky, Petruschke) One was viewed at Sandy Ridge on Apr. 21 (Fairweather, m.obs.). Birds seen at Sandy Ridge, May 10 & 17 may have been local nesters (Caldwell, m.obs.). Another bird was at Headlands on May 27 (Kiplinger, Wagner)

**LEAST BITTERN** – One was spied at Lorain Harbor May 18 (Leidy).

**TRICOLORED HERON** – A bird was reported at Squire Valleyview Farm Apr. 16 (Wagner).

**CATTLE EGRET** – One was in Fairport Harbor May 14 (Pogacnik).



**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – Reports of two birds constituted an above-average yearly total. The first bird was photographed at North Chagrin Reservation Mar. 12 (Metcalf, m.obs.). A Greenland form bird allowed videotaping in Mantua Township Mar. 19 (Rosche, m.obs.).



**ROSS'S GOOSE** – From Mar 18 through Mar. 25, an adult was an infrequent visitor to Lake Phippen & Lake Rockwell (Rosche, m.obs.).



**HARLEQUIN DUCK** – A female was found at Eastlake Mar. 2 and

remained there through at least Mar. 14 (Holt, Rickard, m.obs.).

**OSPREY** – The earliest sighting in the Cleveland region ever was made on Mar. 15 at the Berlin Reservoir nest site (Brumfield).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – A bird was spied Apr. 14, in Leroy Township by Dan Seman. He wrote, “Over the backyard from our house on a 115 acre farm, flying north at less than 1000 feet a crow was harassing a very large bird. As the crow turned away, the bird made a turn and flew south, then west. The tail had a black outer edge with contrasting white. Present were white wing patches with body and shoulders dark brown. A smallish head was noted.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK** – The only report was from Fairport Harbor on Mar. 24 (Pogacnik).

**MERLIN** – Southerly breezes on Apr. 1 brought Gardella’s passionate study of the falcons at Calvary Cemetery to a fitting close. Birds were seen at Headlands Mar. 15, Mar. 16 (3), Apr. 18, Apr. 19 (2) and Apr. 22 (m.obs.). A Merlin zipped by Eastlake Mar. 12 (Hoffman). Another was seen at Mentor Lagoons Mar. 19 (McConnor). One was at Lakeview Bluffs Mar. 27 (Pogacnik). North Chagrin hosted this species Apr. 6 (Metcalf). Birds flew past Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 & 27 (Pogacnik). A male was at Dike 14 May 10 (Zadar).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – The first record for West Creek Preserve was seen there Mar. 13 (Zadar). One provided a rare Medina County report at Lake Medina Mar. 15 (Wert). Birds put on frequent shows at Eastlake and E. 72nd during the peak of duck migration (m.obs.). Birds were seen at Headlands Apr.

15 (Kiplinger , Wagner), Apr. 20 (Bacik, Kovalsky) and May 10 (Metcalf, Petruschke).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – A pair was seen at Sandy Ridge Mar. 25 through the period (Lozano, Finkelstein, m.obs.). Naturalist Tim Fairweather wrote, “In case you’re wondering, Crane #355 has not returned. What is believed to be his mate returned to Sandy Ridge alone and managed to call in another potential suitor. They are now in courtship and hopefully will make Sandy Ridge their summer home.” Four cranes migrated over Fairport Harbor Mar. 27 (Pogacnik). A bird was videotaped in Auburn Township Apr. 4 (Rosche). Three were flushed from Mentor Marsh Apr. 9 (Rosche). One flew over Virginia Kendall Park Apr. 23 (Leidy).

**WILLET** – Two were at Headlands May 11 (Hannikman). Two were seen at the west end of the "hot waters" area at Lorain Harbor May 12 (Pogacnik).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** – The wolf-whistle call of this spectacular bird was heard in Troy Township, Geauga County May 17 (Heflich).

**WHIMBREL** – On May 18 one flew over Lorain Harbor (Leidy).

**LAUGHING GULL** – An adult flew by Headlands Mar. 29 (Bacik).

**LITTLE GULL** – The only spring reports were Mar. 23 at Headlands (Rosche) and from Lakeshore MP Apr. 19 (Pogacnik).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** Always noteworthy away from Lake Erie counties, a 2nd-summer plumaged bird was seen LaDue Reservoir on Mar. 30 (Rosche).

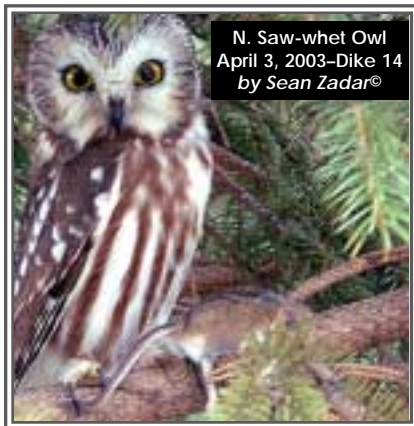
**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** – One was seen from Lakeshore MP Apr. 19 (Pogacnik).

**FORSTER'S TERN** – The first March record in our history was provided by a bird at Headlands Mar. 29 (Hannikman, Bacik).

**BLACK TERN**– Two flew by Lakeshore MP May 9 (Pogacnik). On May 12, another was seen flying over Elyria (Metcalf).

**LONG-EARED OWL** – One was seen at Dike 14 Mar. 15 (Zadar). Another was at Chagrin River Park Mar. 16 Pogacnik). Elmwood Park hosted one Mar. 28 (Lozano) On Apr. 19, another was at Headlands (Hannikman). An owl was tardy at Lakeshore MP Apr. 28 (Pogacnik).

**SHORT-EARED OWL** – One was at Dike 14 Apr. 19 (Zadar). Two graced the dunes at Headlands Beach SNP the same day (Hannikman, m.obs.). Another drifted past Lakeshore MP Apr. 20 (Pogacnik).



N. Saw-whet Owl  
April 3, 2003–Dike 14  
by Sean Zadar©

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – A bird was seen in the grape tangle at Lakeview Bluffs Mar. 27 (Pogacnik). One was seen at Dike 14 Apr. 3 (Zadar).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** – On May 3 a bird was spied in a tree at

Firestone MP by Marian Kraus. It remained motionless for a prolonged study by many members of the Kirtland Bird Club.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** – The wintering shrike at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area was last seen on Mar. 15 (Giancola).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** – A record early bird (by 10 days) was seen at the Bath Reserve by a Kirtland Bird Club field trip Apr. 19 (Romito, m.obs.).

**SEDGE WREN** – Two birds were at Walborn May 30 (Morrison).

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** – A bird embraced Shaker Lakes Mar. 4–12 (L. Deinger, m.obs.).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – It was an excellent year for this rarity. The first male was seen May 2 at Shaker Lakes (Anderson, m.obs.). On May 10, birds were seen at Horseshoe Pond (Rosche, Byrne) and Wetmore (CVNP) (Chasar). Another bird was seen near Peninsula May 14 (Wagner). One was present in Norton May 20 (Harlan).

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER** – One was along the north side of the lake at Veterans Park, May 1 & 2 (McConnor). Shaker Lakes provided many with an opportunity to study this hybrid on May 2 & 3 (Anderson, m.obs.). A banding station in the CVNP caught two birds between May 8 & 16 (Gary Fowler). One made a timely appearance on the May 11 Rocky River SMBW (Stasko, m.obs.).

**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER** – A male tirelessly repeated the primary Blue-winged Warbler bee-buzz song, May 2 –3 at West Creek Preserve (Zadar). As many as two

birds were at Novak Preserve in Aurora from May 4–26. On May 18, one of them sang a “bee-buzz bizzity-buzz” song (Johnson, Szabo, m.obs.). Another male was singing in Stow May 6 (Bennett).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – A male was heard and seen in North Olmsted Apr. 2 (Wright). This broke a 44 year-old record by 12 days!

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – The only report of this rarity was Apr. 28 at Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

**PALM WARBLER** – A western race bird was seen in a marsh along the railroad tracks south of Station Road foraging with a Yellow-rumped Warbler on Mar. 29 This provided the first March record in our annals (Dinkelbach).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – A bird allowed close viewing at Veterans Park April 30–May 1 (McConnor, m.obs.) A singing male was at West Creek Preserve on May 1 (Zadar). One was a surprise find at the Medina Raptor Center on May 17 (Brumfield, m.obs.).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – A bird was at Shaker Lakes May 11 (Heflich) On May 17 a singing male was at Fowler's Mill (Metcalf).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** – A bird stopped by Lakeshore MP on Apr. 28 (Pogacnik). On May 2–3, a bird allowed close observation in South Euclid (Heflich, m.obs.). As many as 3 were seen at Headlands May 11 (Hannikman, Leidy, Metcalf). Another bird visited Lakeshore MP May 9 (Pogacnik). Another was seen at Chagrin River Park May 16 (Pogacnik, m.obs.). A singing male was in Norton May 18 (Harlan).



Clay-colored Sparrow – May 2, 2003  
South Euclid  
by Jim Heflich©

**BLUE GROSBEAK** A male was found along the Grand River just southeast of Fairport Harbor May 14 (Pogacnik).

**DICKCISSEL** – A territorial male was located at the Ravenna TLS May 22. It remained faithful to the hayfields in Windham Township through the period (Dr. Courtenay Willis *vide* Ludt).



Brewer's Blackbird – Lakeshore MP  
May 24, 2003  
by John Pogacnik©

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**– A male was photographed at Lakeshore MP May 24–25 Pogacnik). □

## FIELD NOTES

### Townsend's Solitaire at Shaker Lakes

*Leo Deininger*

On March 4, 2003, about 9:30 AM, I parked on the dam at Lower Shaker Lake intending to do my five-mile race walk. As I got out of my truck, a bird flying across the footbridge caught my attention.

My first impression was Gray Catbird--really early. But then I saw the white outer tail feathers and thought--Northern Mockingbird. Fortunately, I had my binoculars in the truck and put them on the bird. Immediately, I saw it had a white eye-ring and buffy wing patches--not a Mockingbird! I had seen Townsend's Solitaire in the west. I checked my handy Peterson field guide to verify the identification, and drove home to call some local birders to come out to corroborate my identification. I was able to contact Nancy Renkert and Dick Hoffman. They arrived at the dam within several minutes of my call. Fortunately, the Solitaire was still there, and both Nancy and Dick identified it. Dick took several photographs. The bird stayed on the dam until about 11:00 AM and then seemed to disappear. In spite of an intense search, we could not find it. We all left for lunch. By 2:00 PM it was rediscovered in a fruit tree about a quarter mile south of the dam. The Solitaire basically stayed in this area at the intersection of Fairfax and North Park Boulevard for the next nine days. It would sometimes disappear for

several hours, but then return. It had frequent battles with a Northern Mockingbird for control of a favorite fruit tree--one of the few fruit trees still with some fruit this late in a rough winter. On occasion, it was heard calling. Many birders saw the Solitaire. For some, it was a life bird. I last saw it on March 12.

### Juncos Indoors

*by Dick Rickard*

In northeastern Ohio, the only area in the state where dark-eyed juncos nest regularly, the preferred habitat for the birds is wet woods of mature hemlock and deciduous trees with plenty of undergrowth (Peterjohn, 1991). Since completion of the state's breeding bird atlas project, the species may have expanded its breeding area slightly; but the number of individual birds present each summer has increased markedly (Rosche, 2002).

Dark-eyed juncos usually nest on the ground in a spot sheltered by roots, rocks, tussocks or branches. Occasionally, juncos will nest off the ground, even on man-made structures (Bent, 1968). However, I have seen only one reference to a junco nest inside a human habitation, and that was to one in a woodshed attached to the back of someone's home (Forbush, 1929).

Consequently, when my grandson Sam told me that juncos were building a nest in his family's attached garage in Orange Village, I didn't believe him--until I had a chance to look for myself. Eight feet inside, five feet above the floor of the garage, nestled in the center of a Christmas tree stand hanging on the wall, juncos had a nest of fine grass and moss well underway on the third or fourth of May 2003. On the ninth there were three



Townsend's Solitaire  
Shaker Lakes  
by Dick Hoffman©



eggs in the nest, the complete clutch as it turned out. I observed an adult junco on the eggs on the thirteenth but was unable to determine just how long incubation had been going on. On the morning of the seventeenth, a bird was still on the nest; but by 5:30 p.m. two eggs had hatched. A third must have hatched early that evening.

By the 28th the young filled the nest to overflowing and appeared completely feathered, except for down on their heads. Early on the 29th the first of the brood left the nest; by late afternoon all three were out. Although all three young got out of the garage successfully, one of them followed Sam back into the garage late in the afternoon, could not find its way out again, chirped loudly as long as Sam's family was outside, and was found dead beneath the nest the next morning. I can't help wondering if the bird had imprinted on Sam during his observations of the nest and young. On the morning of the 30th, the adults continued flying in and out of the garage, and the surviving young were audible, chirping in bushes near the garage.

This nesting record raises at least two questions. First, why juncos chose such a nest site when the immediate area, though flat, was damp and largely wooded with numerous clearings, providing many more natural locations? The garage faces south, and the door was open all day every day.

The cavity in the tree stand, though several feet above the floor, provided both the preferred overhang and proximity to a vertical surface (Bent, 1968). Though these characteristics may be interpreted as positives, it is also true that the nest was directly opposite the door into the house, which was con-

stantly used early and late in the day by two adults, 3 noisy children, and a noisier large dog.

Second, how could the birds carry out a successful nesting? In addition to the traffic in and out of the garage, the garage door was closed at night. Apparently, the household schedule conformed to the needs of the juncos. Nest-building, as well as feeding and caring for the young, did not take place between dusk and sunrise. During incubation and the days of brooding the young, the attending adult bird clearly was not inconvenienced or threatened by being closed in at night. In fact, the birds were thereby protected from marauding raccoons and other predators.

Though I don't expect the nesting described here to be a precursor of more domestic interactions of juncos with humans, I find real satisfaction in this example of accommodation between birds and people. I am also delighted that my grandchildren found so much pleasure in observing all stages of the nesting sequence.

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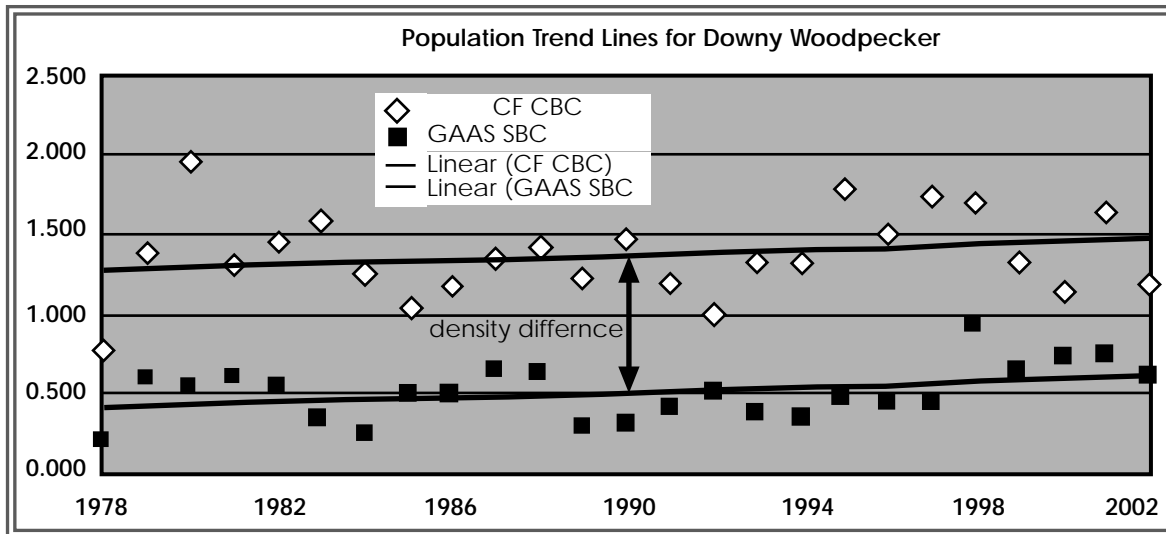
## Some Resident Bird Population Trends in Summit County

by Dwight Chasar

In the last issue of the *Calendar* (Chasar 2003), I compared the

Summit Co. population trend lines for the Red-bellied Woodpecker determined from the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit Co. Summer Bird Count (SBC) over the 1978-2002 time span. This was a test case showing how two different censuses of essentially the same territory resulted in very parallel trend lines for a resident bird whose population is rapidly growing. I have already reviewed trends for the Carolina Wren (Chasar 2000a) and House Finch (Chasar 2000b) and attributed reasons for wide fluctuations in each of the populations. But what about other common resident birds? Can data from two different seasonal censuses, one of one day and one of 3-10 day duration, compare favorably where significant trend changes may not necessarily be occurring?

Christmas bird counts occur during the season of little foliage cover but when the birds are relatively quiet. Some resident species move south of the region, but their northerly brethren from Canada may move in. Flocking for some is more common in the winter. Foliage during the summer count may visually hide the birds, but this is also a time that birds are singing on territory. Some species are, however, secretive during their nesting period. Any or all of these and other factors could contribute to failure of valid data collection in the two seasons. In this article I address the population trends from these same two censuses of eight resident species in Summit Co. I only address those resident species for which sightings were high enough to give some confidence level to the collected data. For example, owls, hawks, and the like are not discussed here.



higher density. While the densities differ, the population trends for the two censuses are very similar within each species. This is remarkable, considering the differences in season and

The accompanying graph shows the two linear population trend lines from the two censuses for the Downy Woodpecker. Three noticeable features stand out. The two lines are nearly parallel, indicating that the population trends are essentially identical from the two censuses. Neither line shows any significant rise (slope) indicating that the population has been fairly constant over the 25 years. However, the density of birds, as reflected in the birds/party hour, are different, with the CBC giving the higher density by about 0.9 birds/party hour. This difference in density may be explained by the factors mentioned earlier. In addition, during the CBC, a number of feeder counters participate; and this could inflate the population number over the SBC.

This analysis technique was used for seven other resident birds. Instead of showing all the plots of data, I have summarized the results of the analysis in the table. Here, I show the slope of the linear trend lines for each census over the 1978-2002 time period. The slope is the steepness of the line, how much it rises or falls (-) (vertical axis) over a given time (horizontal axis). The more identical the slopes from the two censuses for a given bird, the more closely the population trends compare. A slope of zero would indicate that the population is constant during the time period. In addition, I also show in the last column the difference in density between the two censuses for each species. Since in most cases the lines were nearly parallel for both censuses, I used the difference in density for the year 1990. In all cases the CBC gave the

time allotted for each census. Interestingly enough, both the crow and blue jay exhibited the greatest differences in trends between censuses. I have no explanation for this. For the chickadee and cardinal the respective slopes from the two censuses are in opposite directions but since the difference is so small, the trends are still close. The overall conclusion is that the populations of eight resident birds in the table are fairly constant while the crow appears to be increasing, at least according to the CBC data. Thus, my general conclusion is that the two different censuses agree fairly well between themselves; and this lends credence to the validity of the data from each.

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Species	Slope of linear trend line for 1978-2002		Density Diff. (birds/party hour)
	SBC	CBC	
Downy Woodpecker	.009	.008	0.9
Tufted Titmouse	.027	.033	1.2
American Goldfinch	.029	.049	2.1
White-breasted Nuthatch	.005	.012	0.8
Black-capped Chickadee	.010	-.013	4.2
Northern Cardinal	.019	-.040	2.0
Blue Jay	.004	.036	0.7
American Crow	.055	.204	3.0

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Seasonal report forms are available at**  
[www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm)

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# 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 Park
  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 (CVNP)
  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

