

Bulletin No. 1, 1905.
BIRD CALENDAR

of about



REFLECTIONS
by [illegible]
with [illegible]

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

100th Anniversary



Editor: [illegible]
Editor: G. W. C. Oberholser
Staff Artist: Ray Veen
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Founded by Francis H. Herrick in 1905 for the recording of Bird Activities
Edited by John W. Aldrich, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
April - 1940
CLEVELAND, OHIO



WEATHER
SPRING 1993
by William A. Korman
March - This year the 3rd warmest March on record. Temperature averaged 53.6°. Temperature normal. The high 9.7° below normal.

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

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:

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

Seasonal report forms available at:

www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm

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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) 556-0700. This number was updated in 2003. 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 7:30 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.

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar



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Winter 2003-2004

WINTER 2003-2004 WEATHER

by Dwight Chasar

DECEMBER: Temperatures averaged 33.6°, 2.5° above normal. The high was 53° on the 28th and the low was 19° on the 13th. Lake Erie water stood at 47° on the 1st and fell to 36° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 18 days, totaling 4.01 in., .87 in. above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .73 in. on the 22-23rd. Snowfall totaled 26.6 in. and the greatest depth was 5 in. on the 26th. Sunshine occurred only 27% of the time possible.

JANUARY: Temperatures averaged 21.6°, 4.1° below normal. The high was 61° on the 3th and the low, -7° on the 25th. Precipitation was distributed over 22 days to total 2.69 in., .21 in. above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .75 in. on the 3-4th.

Snowfall totaled 32.9 in. while the greatest ground depth was 11 in. on the 30th. This was the second snowiest January on record. Sun was rare, shining only 18% of the time possible. Lake Erie reached freezing by mid-month and was ice covered.

FEBRUARY: Temperatures averaged 29.7°, 1.3° above normal. The high was 59° on the 29th and the low, 0° on the 1st. Lake Erie remained fairly much ice covered at 33° for the month. Precipitation was .76 in., 1.53 in. below normal and occurred over 12 days. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .24 in. on the 20-21st. Snowfall totaled 5.7 in., with the greatest depth 7 in. on the 1-2nd. The sun appeared a minuscule 7% of the time possible. □

THE SEASON

Snow Geese put in a decent showing. The 53 seen in Lorain Dec. 20 led the way (JP). One visited Fairport Harbor during the first



Tundra Swans
January 1, 2004-Lake Pippen
by Vernon Weingart®

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

I must admit to swelling with pride as the *Bird Calendar* enters its 100th consecutive year in print. Perhaps to put it in an appropriate perspective, the Passenger Pigeon was not extinct at the time of Francis Herrick's first issue. After the first fifty years, Dr. Harry Oberholser penned, "With the present number the *Calendar* auspiciously begins the second fifty years of its usefulness." A century is quite an impressive run, and hopefully there will be many more volumes to follow. The longevity of the *Bird Calendar* rivals that of the *Auk*, *Wilson's Bulletin* and the *Condor*.

As for winter birds, I find the appearance of a male "Audubon's Warbler" most appropriate to start this volume. Readers will enjoy Sean Zadar's article in the Field Notes section. This bird is rarely found anywhere east of the Mississippi. Lakefront birding was dominated by gull watching at E. 72nd St. and Eastlake. Puzzling hybrids and many thousands of large gulls made for interesting discussion and head shaking. Bald Eagle numbers were as high as in any year of my tenure as editor. American Crows appear to have rebounded considerably from West Nile Virus in most sections of the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, American Robins and Yellow-rumped Warblers were in higher than expected numbers. Hawk watchers who visited the rural areas of Geauga, Lorain and Portage Counties were rewarded with sizable flocks of Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and a few Lapland Longspurs.

Kudos to Jean Hoffman's for her thoughtful cover design, which reflects her long-standing association with the *Bird Calendar* and her great respect for all who have contributed. Renowned artist, Ray Harm, whose Long-eared Owl first graced this cover in May 1957, was especially pleased to see it there again. The back cover design is reflective of the four seasons of the *Bird Calendar* and will grace the cover of the upcoming *Birds of Cleveland*. Good birding!

week of January and two flew by Lakeshore MP Jan. 15 (JP). **Tundra Swan** numbers were very high for the winter season. December swan numbers were very high and reflected a late passage. It seems each year has more and more lingering birds. The 49 swans seen flying east over Cleveland Hts. Jan. 15 was a very good January total (LGa). That same day more swans were reported from Cleveland (*vide* TMR) and Macedonia (FL). **Wood Ducks** were more widespread than expected. A bird was at Veteran's Park Jan. 3 & 10 (RH, LR). One was in Cuyahoga Falls Jan 16 (LR). Birds were just beginning to return to the region by late February. Sandy Ridge hosted 18 **Gadwall** Dec. 20 (TF). Six were at LaDue Jan. 6 (KM). A flock of 18 was seen at Wellington Reservoir Jan. 7 (VF). **American Black Ducks** were fairly numerous on open areas of the Upper Cuyahoga River (LR, VW). Fifty were counted at Clague Road Park Dec. 4 (PL, BF). **Northern Shoveler** numbers were surprising. As many as 15 wintered on the Akron lakes and nearby canals

(GBe, CH). The 30 at Summit Lake Dec. 27 was an impressive local tally (GBe). **Northern Pintails** made unusual appearances at inland lakes. Lake Phippen hosted a drake off and on Jan. 27-Feb. 15 (GB, KL, CG, LR). A pair was seen at Summit Lake Jan. 28 and a threesome in Barberton Feb. 14 (GBe). As is typical for late February, small numbers were seen passing by HBSP (RH, EB, BB).

Canvasback numbers were relatively low along Lake Erie. High counts did not surpass 100 at any site. A flock of 18 was seen at Wellington Reservoir Jan. 7 (VF). A group of 60+ was at Eastlake Jan. 31 (LR, m.obs.). The flock of 55 **Redheads** at Wellington Reservoir Jan. 7 was the high tally for the winter season (VF). The 240 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Wellington Jan. 7 was quite a gathering for such a



White-winged Scoter - Summit Lake
January 31, 2004
by Gregory Bennett©

late date (VF). **Greater Scaup** numbers ranged to 40± on the West Side (PL, BF). Eastlake hosted 400± Jan. 31 (LR). The HBSP high count of **Lesser Scaup** was 150 Jan. 17 (RH, EB). The best count (317) came from the Lower Cuyahoga River in the "Flats" Jan. 25 (CH). **Surf Scoters** lingered in double-digit tallies on the West Side into early December (TLP). On Dec. 20, Lorain hosted 21 Surfs (JP). On Dec. 28, 7 were seen in Bay Village (PL, BF, TLP, BW). One was viewed from Lakeshore MP Jan 11 (JP). Two Surfs were watched as they lounged at Eastlake Jan. 21-25 (JMc, CH, m.obs.). **White-winged Scoters** were seen in expected numbers. Two dawdled at Eastlake from late January into mid-February (m.obs.). A female at Summit Lake Jan. 31-Feb. 12 was the most unusual report (GBe, m.obs.). Seven **Black Scoters** were seen in Bay Village Dec. 28 (PL, BF, TLP, BW). One zipped past HBSP Jan. 1 (RH). Five were seen at the mouth of Mentor Lagoons Jan. 8 (LR). Another Black was seen off Perkins Beach Jan. 11 (GL). The high count from Eastlake was 8 on Jan. 31 (AFo, m.obs.). Small numbers of Black Scoters were seen in each month off Lakeshore MP (JP).

As usual, a few **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at sites by precious few people. A hen was seen on the Cuyahoga River off Merwyn St. in the Flats Jan. 18-21 (PL, BF, JMc). A drake was at Eastlake Jan. 21 (JMc) and a hen there Feb. 1 (JP). Three passed by Lakeshore MP Jan 23 (JP). **Buffleheads** were as expected. **Common Goldeneye** numbers continue to be depressed when compared to previous decades. The high tallies from HBSP were 40 Jan. 17 and 50 Feb. 22 (RH). The high count from Rocky River was 124 Jan. 8 (PL, BF). No tallies were received for the season from a favored goldeneye haunt--Avon Lake. On Feb. 22, 172 Common Goldeneyes passed by Lakeshore MP (JP). This number represented what should be in the region at this time. Numerous **Hooded Mergansers** lingered in Akron lakes well into December. Excellent tallies of **Common Mergansers** were made intermittently at HBSP. The best numbers were 900 Jan. 11, 1700 Jan.18 and 400 Feb. 22 (RH). Another 700 were seen at Eastlake Jan. 31 (LR, m.obs.). Small numbers were fairly regular along the Cuyahoga River from Mantua to Station Road (m.obs.). **Red-breasted Mergansers** lingered in large

numbers into January. Then, as is typical, numbers dwindled to mere handfuls. By the end of the period, males were decked out in nuptial garb and plentiful once again. Only two **Ruddy Ducks** wintered at Summit Lake (GBe). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at LaDue on Dec. 13 (LR). **Wild Turkeys** continue to flourish. Sixteen were watched near Lake Rockwell Dec. 28 (GB, KL). Another 20 were seen in Kirtland (LP). Another bird was reported from near Wellington Feb. 16 (FG).

The latest **Common Loons** were observed Dec. 13 at HBSP (RH) and Lakeshore MP (JP). **Pied-billed Grebes** could be found in small numbers at spillways, canals and open water areas. The most unique observation was a grebe at a small pond in Twinsburg Township all winter. The open area of this pond would often decrease to less than 10 feet across, but the bird persisted there into March (LR, EE, CH). No reports of midwinter **Horned Grebes** were received. **Double-crested Cormorants** wintered in small numbers at Eastlake and along the Cleveland Lakefront (m.obs.). **Great Blue Herons** were as expected. Four **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found as they huddled against the strong winds of Jan. 8 in Lorain (VF). **Turkey Vultures** were widespread throughout December and again by mid-February.

Bald Eagles were fairly common. Adults and immatures delighted many observers throughout the region. An adult was at Tinkers Creek and Canal Road Dec. 7 (SJo, CW). Others were seen in this vicinity throughout the period (m.obs). The following tallies are from the ODNR 2004 Bald Eagle surveys: Cuyahoga (6), Geauga (4), Lake (2), Lorain (5), Portage (5) and Summit (1). Eagles were even found in urban areas, such as Akron Jan. 26 (GBe) and Mayfield

Comment on Winter 2002-2004 at Headland Beach State Park

The cold temperatures, snow and howling winds of January made the HBSP birding crew of Brenda Baber, Emil Bacik, Larry Rosche and me more determined to find the birds which we knew were lurking along woodland trails, flying over the lake or soaring over the fields and marshes. And birds we did find! Weekend walks along the Zimmerman Trail produced wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches (up to 5), Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper and Winter Wren. In February, a Common Redpoll visited a feeder near th Zimmerman Trailhead. Waterfowl peaked somewhat late in mid-January before lake freeze-up. But Brenda, Emil, Larry and I will not soon forget February 29 when many early (foolish) migrants showed up--Eastern Meadowlark, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, along with 7 species of hawks--including 2 Rough-legged Hawks. Our 60 species in the area on the 29th may not be topped for a long time. Our birding crew really enjoyed what was a very good winter for birds.

Ray Hannikman



Bald Eagle dispute--Lake Phippen
by Brad Bolton©

Village Jan. 7 (FL). **Northern Harriers** were in fair supply. The 22 tallied on the Wellington CBC were notable (BR). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** continue to be the accipiter most noticed in the Kirtland area (HP). **Cooper's Hawks** were numerous throughout the region and have certainly become our second most abundant hawk species. A common raptor in most eastern counties, **Red-shouldered Hawks** were regularly noted in Granger Township (JB, JMW) and Sandy Ridge (TF). This expansion westward has been ongoing for at least the past decade. **Rough-legged Hawks** could be found in the Wellington area most of the winter (BF, FG, PL, CPr, CR). Another 5± Rough-leggeds frequented the farm field east of Middlefield through the period (m.obs.). A dark morph was near the Kent State University Dec. 6 (LR). There was a dark morph at SR-2 and SR-44 Dec. 10 (JP). Rieker reported 9 Rough-leggeds in Lorain County Jan. 25 and only 3 Red-taileds! One Rough-legged was seen off and on at Dike 14 (m.obs.). **American Kestrels** present a puzzling picture to this editor. While the Lorain County rural areas continue to provide regular sightings, kestrels are few and far between in most other sectors of the region. The high count of kestrels in the Hayes Road area was 3 (AJF, PK).

highlight the winter season. This year the large flocks arrived at E. 72nd St. the first week of January and provided enjoyment, frustration and remarkable viewing for several weeks. Again birds were found and described meticulously that would fit well within the known characters of Western Gull. Spagnoli's detailed scrutiny on Jan.17 of an adult bird showing many characters consistent with Western Gull at E. 72nd St. was particularly vexing. The hybridization of many gull species has led to many spirited and unresolved discussions over the years. Who can forget the published account of Slaty-backed Gull from Volume 89, Number 1? A decade ago hybrids were just being discussed. It took many years before the Slaty-backed was finally rejected by the Ohio Rare Bird Records Committee. Experts voiced their opinions for and against this bird. I am sure the gull Mr. Spagnoli saw would suffer the same fate. Sedentary species have a real tough time passing vagrancy tests.

American Coots were fairly numerous. Summit Lake provided enough food and shelter for at least 24 (GBe). **American Woodcocks** were calling as early as Feb. 22 in Kent (GBe).

Gulls always seem to

Photographs of a first-winter gull taken by Metcalf last year were sent to West Coast experts, who could find nothing that went against its being a Western Gull. Ultimately, it may have to come down to DNA testing to affix the proper species label to these problematic gulls.

Count estimates of the gull flocks are important ways to show how one year stacks up against other years. Hannikman and Fazio provided much needed data. The number of **Bonaparte's Gulls** thinned out completely by mid-January. The 38,000 Bonaparte's at Lorain Jan. 8 far outpaced all other sites (VF). Accompanying these birds at Lorain were a staggering 110,000 **Ring-billed** and 12,000 **Herring Gulls** (VF)! **Thayer's Gulls** were widely dispersed from Lakeshore MP to Lorain. The first report of Thayer's was a second-year bird off Lakeshore MP Dec. 18 (JP). E. 72nd St. hosted as many as 3 birds at a given time (GL, m.obs.). One was at HBSP Jan. 31 (EB, RH). **Iceland Gulls** pleased many observers at E. 72nd St. Up to 3 birds could be found there most of January and February. Birds were seen at HBSP Jan. 25 and Feb. 16 (RH). Two were in Lorain Feb. 22 (JP). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were as expected. Up to 6 could be found at E. 72nd St. (m.obs.). **Glaucous Gull** num-



Gulls at 72nd St.
January 22, 2004
by Judy Semroc©



Glaucous Gull 72nd St.
January 2004
by Delores Cole©

bers ranged to 9-10 at E. 72nd Jan. 18 (VF, JP, m.obs.). Others were seen at Lakeshore MP Jan. 18 and Feb. 22 (JP) and HBSP Feb. 8 & 22 (RH). Lorain had 1 on Jan. 8 (VF) and at least 7 Feb. 22 (JP). Up to 3 birds were at Eastlake Jan. 24 (JMc, m.obs.). A first-year bird was at Avon Lake Feb. 8 (DS). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were as numerous as any time in the history of birdwatching in the region. As many as 1500 were estimated to be in the E. 72nd St. area at any given day in mid-January.

Christmas Bird Count tallies for **Eastern Screech-Owls**, **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were as expected. **Belted Kingfishers** wintered along local rivers in expected numbers. No lakefront **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported to this desk. At Station Road, up to 6 wintered (DAC, m.obs.). **Northern Flickers** were in solid numbers away from Lake Erie. The 10 flickers at Mogadore Jan. 16 were representative (GBe). The only January Cuyahoga County flicker report was from Brecksville Jan. 4 (BAT). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were widespread and fairly numerous throughout the wooded areas of

the region. **American Crows** appeared to have returned to more typical winter numbers. Flocks of 100+ birds were noted widely away from the lakefront (BS). **Horned**

Larks were numerous in Lorain County (BF, PL, CRi, m.obs.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** numbers were above average. It seemed most observers reported 1-2 at their feeders all winter. The high tally was 4 at Hinckley Dec. 28 (JMW). **Brown Creepers** wintered in above average numbers. Two were seen in Brecksville Jan. 24 (BAT). **Carolina Wrens** continue to thrive. **Winter Wrens** lingered at Sandy Ridge into January (TF). One was intermittent along the Zimmerman

Trail all winter (RH, EB, BB). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were very widespread and in fair numbers. Up to 12 were seen at South Chagrin in December (SW, CJ). As many as 4 could be found at Rocky River Nature Center (BD). Another foursome gleaned insects in the poison ivy along Center Valley Parkway Dec. 28 (FL, LR, SST, m.obs.). Two were regularly found along the Zimmerman Trail all winter (RH, EB, BB). Another kinglet was at North Chagrin Jan. 25 (CC). **Eastern Bluebirds** were well reported on local CBCs. A flock of 20± in Twin Lakes Jan. 23 was unusual (LR). **Hermit Thrush** numbers were as expected. Two were checked off on the Dec. 20 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide* BS). **American Robins** survived the season in high numbers. **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to spread into the far reaches of the region. Six were scored on the Dec. 20 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide* BS). Three were seen at Holden Arboretum Dec. 27 (HP). Two were in a South Euclid yard Jan. 3 (JHe). Fondrk found one at Best Lake Jan. 5. On Jan. 22, a bird was seen in the Flats (BF, PL). A “mocker” was spotted along West Road in Lorain Co., Jan. 23 (BF, PL). Birds were



HerringxGreat Black-backed Gull – 72nd St.
January 2004
by Kevin Metcalf©

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM The 103rd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA/LORAIN	LAKESWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTON
PIED-BILLED GREBE	.	.	8	4	2	.	1
HORNED GREBE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
GREAT BLUE HERON	2	7	23	1	4	19	3
CANADA GOOSE	1705	1630	2769	1798	1566	725	1653
MUTE SWAN	.	.	21	.	.	6	1
TUNDRA SWAN	.	.	.	5	.	.	4
WOOD DUCK	.	.	7	.	10	.	.
GADWALL	.	.	23	18	.	.	12
AMERICAN WIGEON	.	.	.	.	3	.	4
NORTHERN SHOVELER	.	.	6	.	.	.	4
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	1	8	22	5	49	46	.
MALLARD	344	162	1363	226	972	184	150
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	.	.	.	8	.	.	2
RING-NECKED DUCK	.	.	141	.	.	.	80
SCAUP (SP)	.	58	29	1	40	5	10
BUFFLEHEAD	.	12	4	.	19	21	30
COMMON GOLDENEYE	.	60	.	1	32	16	.
HOODED MERGANSER	.	1	84	8	1	.	.
COMMON MERGANSER	.	7	2	110	.	32	.
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	.	4000	7	408	14	32	.
RUDDY DUCK	.	.	9	34	2	.	30
BALD EAGLE	3	1	1	2	1	1	.
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	.	1	10	10	1	2	.
COOPER'S HAWK	7	9	37	.	2	5	5
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	30	5	9	.	.	4	.
RED-TAILED HAWK	46	23	81	29	8	29	42
AMERICAN KESTREL	2	1	8	10	.	6	53
WILD TURKEY	1	.	4	.	.	1	147
AMERICAN COOT	.	.	95	104	1	.	121
KILLDEER	.	.	5	.	.	.	.
RING-BILLED GULL	.	3127	571	46,202	11,556	5071	13,605
HERRING GULL	29	358	10	3153	24	237	2
MOURNING DOVE	102	219	848	390	82	74	1103
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	.	.	7	1	2	.	.
GREAT HORNED OWL	1	.	5	2	1	.	2
BARRED OWL	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
BELTED KINGFISHER	3	5	15	1	3	6	1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	56	78	189	40	24	33	27
DOWNY WOODPECKER	62	108	315	76	26	70	30
HAIRY WOODPECKER	19	21	67	11	10	9	3
NORTHERN FLICKER	18	8	37	14	1	8	24
PILEATED WOODPECKER	12	8	16	1	2	5	6
BLUE JAY	137	167	681	116	30	164	118
AMERICAN CROW	198	104	493	35	8	136	132
HORNED LARK	.	3	.	40	.	.	27
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	309	190	844	154	43	205	63
TUFTED TITMOUSE	78	108	263	36	10	111	18
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	3	2	6	2	4	3	6
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	79	86	237	49	31	88	24
BROWN CREEPER	3	.	25	2	.	2	1
CAROLINA WREN	8	21	64	20	6	18	3
WINTER WREN	1	.	6	.	1	.	1
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	2	2	22	.	10	7	.
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	42	28	72	61	1	58	68
AMERICAN ROBIN	22	272	672	76	224	388	1
CEDAR WAXWING	23	1	109	2	.	.	8
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	1	.	9	1	.	.	3
EASTERN TOWHEE	.	.	13	.	.	.	.
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	258	110	546	137	35	130	54
SONG SPARROW	58	24	246	30	10	13	8
SWAMP SPARROW	1	1	27	2	.	.	.
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	9	41	202	29	7	3	7
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	.	1	8	3	.	.	11
DARK-EYED JUNCO	238	296	799	242	119	193	98
SNOW BUNTING	.	.	.	3	.	5	.
NORTHERN CARDINAL	227	235	1055	161	74	192	112
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	.	15	7	.	43	139	51
COMMON GRACKLE	.	248	49	.	14	4	.
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	.	30	21	.	32	2	100
PURPLE FINCH	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
HOUSE FINCH	90	115	823	45	54	89	72
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	108	215	751	140	91	134	164
TOTAL SPECIES	50	66	84	70	64	69	65

often seen in the Eastlake area near the power plant (m.obs.). A bird at Terra Vista on Jan. 23 gave Leidy a two mimid day. One was seen at Shaker Square Feb. 22 (EE). Compared to the number of robins present all winter, **Cedar Waxwings** were unusually scarce.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were well reported. Up to 12 could be found in the CVNP through mid-January (DAC, m.obs.). **Eastern Towhees** wintered in higher than expected numbers in the CVNP (TMR, m.obs.). **American Tree Sparrows** were numerous. Two **Field Sparrows** at South Chagrin Dec. 30 were very far north for the time of year (BR). **Song Sparrows** were on the move Feb. 28 at HBSP. A count of 15 was well above the winter average tally for the site (RH). **Fox Sparrows** were found only on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*fide* BS). **Swamp Sparrows** typically retreated to areas where they are difficult to census. **White-throated Sparrows** were as numerous as any time in recent memory. **White-crowned Sparrows** were scarce but found with effort at traditional sites near Findley SP. **Dark-eyed Juncos** rarely merit notice in winter, but a tally of 58 at HBSP Feb. 8 was a spike of over 40 birds from the normal daily count there (RH). Large flocks of **Snow Buntings** put on intermittent shows in many rural areas. The high tally for the birds east of Middlefield was 300 Feb. 21 (AJF), m.obs.). A flock of 120+ Snow Buntings were seen in Mantua Jan. 18-20 (LR, m.obs.). Over 100 were counted in Lorain County Jan. 25 (CR). **Lapland Longspurs** were found in close association with two of the previously noted Snow Bunting flocks. Six were seen in the Mantua group. The high count of "Lappys" seen in the Middlefield area was 20 on Feb. 28 (KM).

Approximately 3,000 **Common Grackles** and blackbirds were in



Bald Eagle--Lake Pippen
by Brad Bolton©

Wadsworth Jan. 5 (JMW). A **Rusty Blackbird** was a surprise visitor at the West Woods Feb 18 (LGi). The 100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on the Wellington CBC provided the high tally for the winter (BR). Except for a few in the Oak Hill area, **Purple Finches** were exceptionally scarce. Two were in Carlisle Township Feb. 16 (CPr). **Common Redpolls** frequented the traditional Lakewood Cemetery haunt (MK, m.obs.). One to two visited the feeder at the entrance to the Zimmerman Trail most of February (RH, EB). **Pine Siskins** were scattered about. Three appeared at a Chesterland feeder Dec. 24, but not afterwards (AFo). One was at South Chagrin Dec. 30 (BR). Sixteen were in Bath Township Jan. 2 (LR, CM). The Oak Hill area had 15± siskins Jan. 25 (JMW). Siskins visited a feeder in Sagamore Hills intermittently (SJo, CW). **Evening Grosbeaks** have become so intermittent that they rarely grace the region at any season. □

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – This rarely seen species was spied as it flew past Headlands Beach SP Feb. 28 (Hannikman, Bacik).

ROSS'S GOOSE – The bird from the fall remained in the Lake Rockwell area through Dec. 18

(Fretz, Rosche). A juvenile Ross's Goose was documented and photographed at a yard in Macedonia Jan. 10 (Losi).

BRANT – Three birds were seen along SR-2 in Mentor Dec. 31 (Fjeldstad).

HARLEQUIN DUCK – For the second consecutive year a female graced Eastlake with its presence. First noted on Jan. 31 as she darted into the slip (Rosche), this hen remained to be observed by many for nearly three weeks. She was last reported Feb. 18 (Anderson).

RUFFED GROUSE – One was seen on a tour of a prospective Geauga park property in Burton Jan. 21 (Gilbert, McCullough).

RED-NECKED GREBE – The only report for the season was from Eastlake Feb. 1 (Pogacnik, m.obs.).

TURKEY VULTURE – Four were seen soaring over Hinckley (looking for a pancake breakfast?) Jan. 30 (Wert).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – On Feb. 8, an immature was seen in a small wooded area along SR-83 southeast of Avon Lake Power Plant (Sanders).

MERLIN – Gardella's nightly vigils at Calvary Cemetery yielded as many as 4 Merlins this winter. A bird flew over a pond on Kendall Park Road in the CVNP Dec. 19 (Coy). Two were seen flying side by side over Lake Abram Dec. 27 (Rieker). One was seen at Shaker Lakes Jan. 10 & 26 (L. Deininger). A female allowed close viewing as it devoured prey at Lost Nation Airport Jan. 14 (Fjeldstad). Another was at the busy intersection of I-480 and I-271 on Feb. 13 (L. Deininger). Merlins were seen in Fairport Harbor Dec. 6, Jan. 1, Feb. 22 and Feb. 29 (Hannikman, Bacik, Baber).



Documentation of an Immature Ross's Goose

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2003 Time: 9:00 - 9:30 AM
 Location: Macedonia, Summit County Conditions: Very sunny and approximately 17 degrees Fahrenheit.

Details: I viewed the bird arriving from the south in a v-formation with two Canada Geese. It landed in my neighbor's front yard and was there for the next half hour. I had to participate in a family activity, so I did not see the bird leave. I got excellent looks at the bird from as close as 35 feet away. I did not see the bird feeding. It seemed inactive, except when the Canada Geese had territorial disputes with it. There were 30 Canada Geese present with the Ross's Goose.

These items differentiate it from a Snow Goose as well as provide support for its being a juvenile.

- 1) No grin patch on bird. This characteristic strongly suggests Ross's.
- 2) Smaller size suggests Ross's.
- 3) Shorter neck suggests Ross's.
- 5) Dark legs and feet suggest juvenile bird. The leg color would be dark for adult birds only when they are unhealthy. I observed no behavior that appeared out of the ordinary.
- 4) Almost the entire bird was pure white, except for the black wing tips. There may have been a hint of gray on the head. However, I wasn't sure that the gray wasn't shadowing. Given this observation and the fact that it was probably a juvenile strongly suggests Ross's.

Fred Losi

PEREGRINE FALCON – An adult was viewed at E. 55th & Shoreway Dec. 3 (Heflich). An adult female was seen intermittently in Lorain Dec.–Feb. (Fazio, Miller, m.obs.). A pair allowed prolonged viewing Jan. 27 as they perched on top of

the Meridian Condo Complex in Lakewood (Boronka). On Jan. 31, an immature wreaked havoc at Eastlake (Rosche, m.obs.). Two were seen on the Lakewood CBC Dec. 28 (Finkelstein, LePage, Lozano, Winger). Another two-

some were spotted near Water's Edge Café & Deli in Lakewood Jan. 22 (Finkelstein, Lozano).

VIRGINIA RAIL – Two were found at Lake Abram on the Lakewood CBC Dec. 28 (Rieker).

SANDHILL CRANE – An early returnee was spotted in eastern Geauga County Feb. 26 (McCullough, m.obs.).

WHIMBREL – A note received from Burke Airport biologist Randolph White read, "January 15, 2004, I haven't seen any Snowy Owls yet this year. We did have 7-10 Short-eared Owls here in December, though. And something that you will find interesting is that the WHIMBREL that first showed up here on July 17, 2003, is still here. I saw it yesterday and see it on a regular basis daily." Needless to say, this is one of the most remarkable occurrences ever of Whimbrel in the region.

PURPLE SANDPIPER – The bird along the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP remained though Dec. 24 (Hannikman, m.obs.). One took up temporary residence at Eastlake Jan 24-25 (Fjeldstad, Holt, Lehman, McConnor, Sanders, m.obs.).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Finkelstein and Heflich found 4 snipe at the usual Cuyahoga County Airport drainage ditches along the runway on the Dec. 20 East Side Christmas Count. Far more unusual was the bird observed at Walter C. Best Preserve Jan. 21 as it landed in a wet area near a parking lot. (Fjeldstad, Lozano).

POMARINE JAEGER – One was spotted during the Elyria/Lorain CBC at Lorain Harbor Dec. 20 (Pogacnik).

LAUGHING GULL – The bird from fall lingered until Dec. 5 at North Reservoir in Akron (Bennett,



Laughing Gull – December 5, 2003
North Reservoir – Akron
by Larry Rosche

m.obs.). After a 46-day visit, this bird apparently found that life as a wintering Ring-billed Gull in Northeast Ohio was not all that it was cracked up to be.

LITTLE GULL – A second-year bird was in Lorain Dec. 20 (Pogacnik).

FRANKLIN'S GULL – A first-winter bird added to the excitement in Lorain Dec. 20 (Pogacnik).

CALIFORNIA GULL – Outstanding views of an adult basic-plumaged bird were obtained at the “hot waters” in Lorain Jan. 3 (Miller). A third-year bird was with a throng of large larvae at E. 72nd St. Jan. 8 (Rosche).

“NELSON'S GULL” – This hybrid was represented by as many as 3-4 birds of different ages among the



“Nelson's Gull” - E/ 72nd St.
by John Pogacnik©

large gull flock in the E. 72nd St. area during January and February (Metcalf, Pogacnik, m.obs.). The photo below shows the pale mantle and dark wing tips typical of an adult .

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – One was viewed from Lakeshore Metropark Dec. 13 (Pogacnik).

LONG-EARED OWL – The bird at Caley Wildlife Area was seen again Dec. 7 (Kraus). A Long-eared lingered at Dike 14 through Dec. 20 (Zadar). One roosted in a small conifer stand at Brecksville Reservation Feb. 16 through the period (Brumfield, m.obs.).

SHORT-EARED OWL Seven to ten visited Burke Airport in December (White). One was seen by Duane Ferris along Hayes Road Jan 20. (Unfortunately, Duane was involved in a traffic accident on Jan. 22 and never recovered. Geauga County has lost one of its long-standing naturalists; his reports to the *Bird Calendar* will be missed.) A Short-eared was flushed from Dike 14 Feb. 7 (Stover).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – A bird was found Dec. 26 in a small pine stand near the intersection of Medina and Granger Road in Granger Township (Brumfield). Another was photographed in a courtyard of an office building in the warehouse district in downtown Cleveland near W. 6th and St. Clair (Kooser). One was regularly

found near the Watercraft Office at Gordon Park Jan. 10-28 (Zadar). “The owl roosted at a height greater than expected for this species, approximately 20 feet, as compared with those found roosting inside Dike 14, which tend to roost at heights less than 10 feet. It was consistent in its roost location, using the same pine and the same position on a branch, facing west. It was seen on numerous occasions perched with a rodent in its talons.”

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD – The adult female in Grafton was last reported Dec. 1 (Priebe). The adult male in Bath lingered until New



Rufous Hummingbird – Bath
December 31, 2003
by Dave Priebe

Year's Day. Andy Miller related that he saw the bird come to the feeder, back up as if to say good-bye and then shoot straight up in the air, never to be seen again. This Rufous Hummingbird established the latest record for the region.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER One was seen at Bass Lake Jan. 1 (Metcalf). A sapsucker visited a suet feeder in Kirtland Jan. 21 (Paine). One was watched in Lorain County Jan. 25 (Bednarik). Another visited a feeder near Swine Creek Reservation intermittently throughout the winter (Gingrich).

EASTERN PHOEBE – The East Side CBC reported one Dec. 14 (*vide*



Rufous Hummingbird – Grafton
by Cathy Priebe

LePage). On Dec. 22, a phoebe was observed behind the bathroom along a small creek at Hidden Valley, Lake Metropark (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SHRIKE – The reclaimed superfund site in Fairport Harbor hosted a bird on Dec. 11. Remarkably, two shrikes were there Dec. 13 (Hannikman, Paine). Birds were noted on the Cuyahoga Falls and Elyria/Lorain CBCs. A bird was seen actively hunting in the formal garden near Lotus Pond at Holden Arboretum Dec. 20-27 (Petruschke). Another shrike was spied about two miles north of Burton Village Jan. 1 (McCullough, Fjeldstad, Sedivy, Shanks, m.obs.). A bird put in a one-day showing at Jaite Jan. 24 (Chasar). One was viewed along Hawley Road east of Findley State Park Jan. 25 (Bednarik). An immature was at Bath Nature Preserve Feb 28 (Wert).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – One was reported on the Dec. 14 East Side CBC (*fide* LePage). Another lingered at Seiberling Naturealm through Jan. 3 (Stover).

HERMIT THRUSH – Hardy birds were seen in the Terra Vista area of the CVNP Jan. 23 (Leidy) and at Horseshoe Pond (CVNP) Feb. 16 (Brumfield).

GRAY CATBIRD – A catbird was extremely tardy at Forest Hills Park Dec. 14 (Cagan). Another lingered along the Black River walking trail in Lorain Dec. 20 (Pogacnik). Two were tallied on the Dec. 20 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*fide* Szabo).

BROWN THRASHER Leidy was rewarded with this winter rarity at the Terra Vista area (CVNP) Jan. 23.

AMERICAN PIPIT – Unusually tardy birds were seen Dec. 20 on the lawn adjacent to the fence of Dike 14 near the boat trailer parking lot; on the Dec. 20 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*fide* Szabo); at Fairport Harbor marina Dec. 27 (Rosche); and at the Station Road parking lot Dec. 28 (Chasar). This last location was an unexpected surprise.

“AUDUBON’S WARBLER” – This western race of Yellow-rumped Warbler has visited the region very few times and not since 1959. Zadar documented a handsome male (See Field Notes) in Parma Heights Jan. 19 and 24.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – The Chasars stumbled upon this half-hardy warbler at Jaite Jan. 10.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – A bird was seen and documented at Headlands Beach SP Dec. 27 (Metcalf). This broke the previous late date Nov. 8, 1948, by nearly a month.

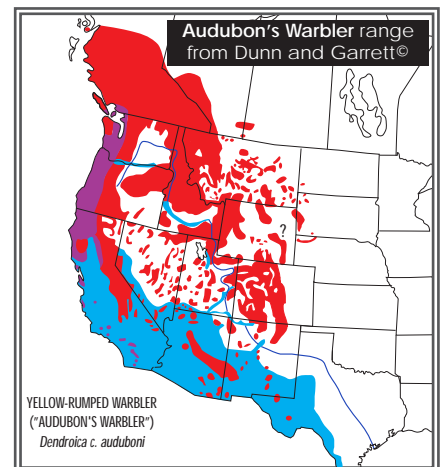
“OREGON” JUNCO – A female visited a feeding station in Twin Lakes Dec. 25 and throughout the period (Rosche). □

FIELD NOTES

First Documented Winter Record of “Audubon’s Warbler” in Ohio

Sean T. Zadar

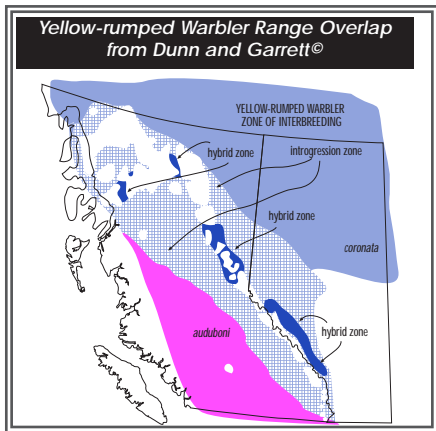
Not long after returning home from a disappointing birding excursion along the Cleveland lakefront, I looked out the front window of my Parma Heights residency and noticed a warbler feeding on a basket-type suet feeder hanging from a branch on a River Birch. The date was January 24, 2004, and I had already seen a warbler feeding on that same feeder earlier in the week on the 19th. Based on my brief observation of the bird, I initially identified the warbler as a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata coronata*) of the eastern U.S. subspecies “Myrtle.” But on the 24th, I noticed something that stood out so obvious, and so brilliant, I immediately rushed for a pair of digital binoculars to capture as many images as I possibly could. This warbler had a conspicuous, vibrant yellow throat! After studying plumage characteristics, examining digital pictures of the warbler, and eliciting expert opinion, I came to the conclusion that this was an excellent candidate for “Audubon’s Warbler” (*Dendroica c.*



auduboni), a western subspecies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler, which is an accidental visitor in Ohio.

Breeding range, zone of intergradation and winter habitats:

During the summer, “Audubon’s Warbler” breeds in Canada from central British Columbia, southern Alberta and southwest Saskatchewan to mountainous areas within the western U.S., as well as in coastal coniferous forests from northern California northward to B.C. It breeds as far east as western portions of N. Dakota, S. Dakota and Nebraska. It breeds in mountainous (to timberline) and coastal coniferous forests, which



include firs, spruce and Douglas-firs, often mixed with aspens.

A zone of intergradation (hybrids) between the two subspecies “Myrtle” and “Audubon’s” occurs in the northern Rockies of Canada, from southwest Alberta to northwestern B.C. “Audubon’s” is the dominant subspecies in western mountainous forests (Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce and western white spruce), while “Myrtle” dominates boreal forests (white and black spruce). Intergradation can occur in areas where these two distinct habitats become less individually defined and interweave to form a habitat mosaic, or where suitable nesting habitat is limited. Based on the observed plumage characteristics of the warbler seen

in Parma Heights, it appears to be a genetically pure “Audubon’s” (See below for complete documentation).

In winter, “Audubon’s Warbler” avoids heavily wooded habitats in favor of brush or tall vegetation. This warbler can be found wintering in manicured habitats, like parks and gardens, and in agricultural fields, open woodlands, riparian groves, chaparral and beaches.

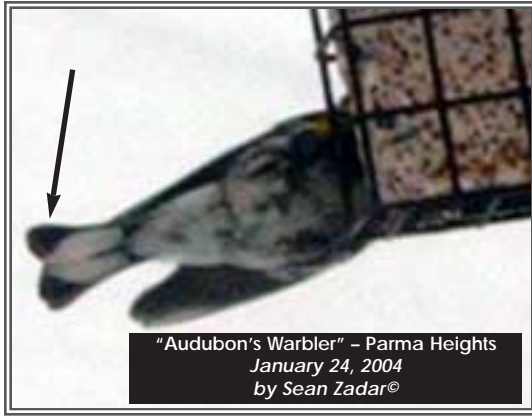
Documentation: The observed bird was an adult male in nonbreeding (basic) plumage. Forehead, sides of crown, sides of head (lores and auriculars), sides of neck and hind-neck were a dull bluish-gray with a brown tinge. The auriculars were unmarked and showed no hint of a patch or black coloration. Crown patch was relatively large, conspicuous and bright yellow. A narrow, whitish supraocular crescent and thinner, whitish subocular crescent formed a broken eye-ring. A faint, pale supraloral mark was evident. The throat was a bright, vibrant yellow. The throat patch was rounded at the lower back edges and did not extend upward into the rear border of the auricular region. Photographs show that the chin had a small amount of whitish tone near the base of the lower mandible. Breast, sides and flanks were streaked heavily with black against a whitish background. The breast sides had distinct, bright yellow patches with some black streaking. Crown patch, throat and breast sides were nearly identical in brightness and intensity of color. Belly and undertail coverts were whitish and unmarked. The upper and lower back was dull bluish-gray with a brown tinge and distinct black streaking; the feathers had relatively large dark centers. The rump patch was bright yellow, similar in coloration to the throat, crown



“Audubon’s Warbler” – Parma Heights
January 24, 2004
by Sean Zadar®

patch and breast sides. Uppertail coverts were not seen well but appear dull bluish-gray in the photographs. Overall, the wings were dull bluish-gray. Greater and medium coverts were tipped with white to form distinct wing bars. Greater coverts show whitish edges to feather sides. Inner secondaries show faint, whitish edges in photographs. Tertiaries were edged with white. Tail shows whitish edges on the top in the photographs, but it is difficult to ascertain which rectrices they are, e. g., r1, r2, r3, etc. From underneath, the tail has large white patches outlined with a thin black line on the outer edges, and the tip of the tail has relatively large black corners.

Flock and foraging behavior: On both days that the “Audubon’s Warbler” was observed, it fed with a small flock of 5 or 6 Dark-eyed Juncos. No other Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in the area. This is puzzling since Bent (1976) stated that, “During the winter months, the “Audubon Warblers” are truly social, and are nearly always met in flocks, sometimes containing 25 or more individuals.” I assume that Bent meant that “Audubon’s” are met in flocks of the same subspecies, i.e., other “Audubon’s,” since he did not use the term “mixed” to describe the flock. One might expect a stray “Audubon’s” in the eastern U.S. to be found amidst a flock of “Myrtles.” Nonetheless, it



appeared to “socialize,” or flock, with other birds, albeit not conspecific ones.

The warbler perched on a nearby branch for a moment after feeding and then continued to feed. It seemed energetic, exhibiting no superficial signs or behavioral abnormalities indicative of poor physical health. It was timid and did not stay longer than two minutes. Many of the local birds have been harassed occasionally by a Cooper’s Hawk that targeted my bird feeders.

Where did it go? The warbler never returned after it was last seen at around 10:00 A.M. on January 24. The temperature plummeted to 2°F (-17°C) on January 20 and Jan. 21, 6°F (-14°C) on January 22, 18°F (-8°C) on January 23, -4°F (-20°C) on January 24 and -7°F (-22°C) on January 25 (source: Weather Underground; <http://www.wunderground.net>). Is it a possibility that this warbler could not tolerate subzero temperatures and, subsequently, expired due to the extreme coldness? Bent (1976) stated that, “‘Audubon’s Warbler’ is a hardy bird. At least some individuals remain in winter almost up to the northern limit of its breeding range; and while it retires entirely from its summer haunts in the mountains, most of its breeding range elsewhere is not wholly deserted. It probably remains as far north as it can make a living; its adaptability in finding

a food supply helps in this and makes it one of the most successful of western birds as well as one of the most abundant in all parts of its range.” Therefore, subzero temperatures seem an unlikely cause of its unexpected disappearance. It was the dead of winter with heavy snow cover and, therefore, why should it leave so suddenly from a reliable food source?

Conversely, the warbler may have relocated to another feeder station within the area. I am aware of several other stations within a half-mile radius. Another possibility may arise from the nature of the adjacent topography. The warbler was found in a suburban neighborhood situated contiguous to a relatively narrow ribbon (less than 400 feet wide) of riparian corridor within Big Creek Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks. The warbler may have found a natural food source inside the forest. On two occasions, I attempted to relocate the warbler in the adjacent Metroparks; but I was unsuccessful in my determined efforts. Lastly, the “Audubon’s” may have been a transient winter visitor to Parma Heights and subsequently left the region.

Peterjohn writes of three sightings of adult male “Audubon’s Warblers” in Ohio: Shaker Heights on April 30–May 3, 1931, Richmond Heights on October 5, 1941, and Wooster on April 23-28, 1992. The Parma Heights bird constitutes a first winter record for Ohio and one of the few sightings of this subspecies in the State.

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Population Dynamics over 60 Years on 50 Acres of Brecksville Reservation

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

There are three basic techniques for censusing bird populations: line transects, point counts and territory mapping (Bibby 1992). The first two techniques have been more popular due to their relative simplicity, and many scientific papers have been published using these techniques and defining their effectiveness (Ralph 1997). Territory, or spot mapping popular in earlier years, requires more time and field work (Ralph 1993) and is best limited to smaller areas, generally no greater than about 50 acres.

Territory mapping requires walking a finite area of habitat and plotting on a detailed map of the area the locations where any bird is seen or heard. This is done for a number of visits, generally a minimum of eight (Ralph 1993), during the breeding season. Then a composite map from all visits for each species is made and from that map territories can be arbitrarily assigned by recognizing repetitive occurrence of a species in localized areas of the study plot.

A.B. Williams (*Calendar* editor 1941-51) masterfully developed this technique in a bird census of North Chagrin Reservation from 1932-48 (Williams 1936). S. Charles Kendeigh (*Calendar* editor 1931-38), a mentor and colleague of Williams at Western Reserve University, used this technique to determine breeding bird density in select areas of Illinois from 1927-76 (Kendeigh 1982). One location in this latter work was further studied in 1983 (Tazik 1984) and 1992 (Robinson 1992) using the same procedure, thus lending some

insight into avian population dynamics for over 65 years in one study area!

Harold Wallin, who worked with Williams, used territory mapping to census 50 acres of the Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, for seven years between 1941-49 (Wallin 1941-1949; Archives). Kathleen Hostetler further censused the same 50 acres in 1951-54 (Hostetler 1951-4) using territory mapping. Our discussions with Lois Wallin in 1999 further revealed that she and Harold censused the same territory in 1978-79. While they did not publish the results of this study, Lois still had the raw data from each of the days they censused! All that was needed was to make composite maps of each species' locations and determine the numbers of territories. Lois also provided us with blank maps of the study area and walked with us over the area to confirm the boundaries. This provided us the background to follow up with our own territory mapping of the same 50 acres in 2000 and 2002.

This upland plot was described (Wallin 1947) as "50 acres consisting of ridges and ravines with fairly steep slopes. On the ridges white, red, and black oaks and shagbark hickory predominate; on the slopes beech, sugar maple, white ash, and other associated species occur. There is considerable undergrowth of seedling trees and shrubs." Today, as then, Valley Parkway transects the 50 acres such that the plot is divided into two parcels, thus providing some road edge habitat. A mowed field lies to the south but is external to the 50 acres. Unlike the early description, there exists little undergrowth today, presumably due to extreme deer browse.

Between late May and early July, we (either together or each alone) made seven visits in 2000 and nine

visits in 2002 to the Brecksville study area on non-rainy days between 6:30-11:30 am and, using territory mapping, plotted all the birds we saw and heard and any nests we discovered. We found in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Archives) some of the original territory maps that Harold drew and used these as a guide in developing our procedure for determining nesting territories from our own data.

All census data on these 50 acres over the 60-year time period are summarized in the accompanying table. We have arbitrarily arranged all species into four groupings according to the general population trends we observed. Some species could be moved to another grouping but for purposes of discussion these should suffice. The numbers shown are the number of territories of a species in a particular year. The entry "vis" indicates that the birds were detected, but no territory could be confidently established because of insufficient data.

The first group is comprised of birds that were not detected in early censuses and whose presence in later ones was only minimal. We were aware of the Barred Owl nest from another study on nesting raptors in the reservation. Since Cedar Waxwings and goldfinches are later nesting birds, we could not establish territories but they were indeed present during our census. Yellow-billed Cuckoo provided an interesting observation in that it seemed to be present in two time periods. There was a substantial gypsy moth infestation

in the late 1990s (Chasar 1999), and therefore the three territories in 2000 would have been expected (Chasar 2000). Their presence in 1949-53 would also suggest that some temporary event brought these opportunistic birds to the same location. We would also suggest that the presence of Brown Creeper in 2000 and 2002 was indirectly due to the gypsy moths, as many oak trees died during that infestation and thus provided good nesting opportunities for the bird. However, we do recognize that nesting Brown Creeper in the Cuyahoga Valley has been growing in general. Bluebirds would normally not be expected in this plot, but their territory centered in a forest break of dead trees that provided old woodpecker holes for nesting.

The second group in the table consists of birds whose number of territories remained essentially the same over the 60-year period. While there are fluctuations in the numbers, these could be the normally expected year-to-year variation or an expression of the researchers' inability to define all territories. The positive aspect here is that many of the birds in this group are Neotropical migrants. While some of these are of population concern in Ohio (Swanson 2002), their numbers in this plot remained relatively constant. This



suggests that adequate nesting habitat is one essential ingredient in maintaining population density.

The birds in the third group are those whose territories have significantly increased during the study period. Eight of these are year-round residents, five of which nest in cavities. The increase in dead trees due to the gypsy moth defoliation in the late 90s could account for these latter birds' increase. The Red-bellied Woodpecker population has been growing in Ohio due to its northward migration (Chasar 2003). The Northern Cardinal is also a bird whose population has grown due to its northward movement. The robin is an enigma, as it was totally absent from the plot, and only in the last half of the century, and in the last few years at that, did its population grow substantially. Our explanation is that the robin was initially a forest edge bird but the forest canopy opened up for some reason, the robin moved in, and never left. The Blue Jay may have discovered similar opportunities. Of the three Neotropical migrants in this group, the Veery and Acadian Flycatcher probably have expanded their

nesting territories southward and northward, respectively, in the later years. We feel that the Hooded Warbler and Veery, in spite of the lack of good under-story, have taken advantage of the invasive Japanese Barberry throughout the study area; we found nests of both in barberry.

The last group of 4 birds is one where territories have alarmingly decreased over the 60-year period. The Ovenbird is most obvious in that there were none detected during our two counts. It had only one territory in the 1978-79 count but held around 20 territories during the 1940s. The Ovenbird prefers extensive canopy closure and contiguous forest, and possibly the loss of trees in this plot may have contributed to this decline. This decline, however, began in the 1950s. We feel the decrease for the Redstart is at least in part due to changing habitat from its preferred under-story to mature forest. The Cerulean Warbler has experienced a general overall population decline across much of its historical territory in North America. Currently, this warbler probably exhibits one of the best popula-

tions in the Cuyahoga Valley just west of this study area in the floodplain but nothing like the 15-20 territories per 50 acres found in the 1940s. The Cerulean will nest in both upland and floodplain habitats, and maybe our results suggest that floodplain is preferred when both are readily available. The trend with the Wood Thrush is also one of overall decline in North America, and our census data support that observation. There have been many suggestions for this decline, like predation by raccoons or Blue Jays, both of which are abundant in the Brecksville Reservation.

Since most discussion on bird population is concerned with Neotropical migrants, we looked at the sum total of all territories of these migrant species for each census year. In the early 1940s there were about 80-90 nesting pairs, which rose to a high of 100-120 in 1949-1951 and then dropped to about 80 again in the latter years. So the nesting density of these migrants is the same now as in 1941; only the distribution of the species has changed. We can only imagine how post World War II development in North America contributed to all the changes we observed, especially for those species that have difficulty adapting to change.

Acknowledgments: We thank Lois Wallin for all her support; Virginia Krumholz, Archivist at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, for finding some of Harold Wallin's early data, and Karl Smith, Nurturing Restorations, Inc., for helpful discussions concerning the study plot vegetation.

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Barred Owl-Mogadore Reservoir
by Gregory Bennett©

NUMBER OF TERRITORIES ESTIMATED IN YEAR

Birds species which were originally absent and were on no more than a few territories in later years.

	1941	1942	1943	1946	1947	1948	1949	1951	1952	1953	1954	1978	1979	2000	2002
Barred Owl														1	1
Northern Flicker								1	1	vis	1	1	0	1	2
Pileated Woodpecker							vis					1	1	1	1
American Crow							vis					2	1	1-2	1
Brown Creeper							vis					2	1	1-2	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo							vis	2	vis	1				3	
Eastern Bluebird														1	1
Cedar Waxwing													1	vis	
American Goldfinch								vis						vis	vis

Birds species whose number of territories remained substantially the same.

	1941	1942	1943	1946	1947	1948	1949	1951	1952	1953	1954	1978	1979	2000	2002
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	vis	vis	1	vis	2-3	5
G.-crested Flycatcher	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	vis	3	1	2	3
Eastern Wood Pewee	7	3	7	4	4	2	6	4	6	5	6	6	6	6-7	6
B-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	3	4
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	2	0	5	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	2-3	0
Red-eyed Vireo	13	7	10	12	9	11	17	17	19	9	11	9	9-10	13	18
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	2
Scarlet Tanager	3	2	3	5	4	8	6	9	4	4	5	2	2	6	5
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	vis	vis	vis
Indigo Bunting	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	vis	0

Birds species whose number of territories significantly increased.

	1941	1942	1943	1946	1947	1948	1949	1951	1952	1953	1954	1978	1979	2000	2002
Red-bel. Woodpecker	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	vis	1	3	4	5-6	8
Downy Woodpecker	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	9-10	7
B.-capped Chickadee	4	4	3	1	3	7	1	3	3	2	2	4	8	8-9	8
Tufted Titmouse	5	6	3	4	6	3	5	4	4	2	vis	6	9	9-11	11
W-breasted Nuthatch	2	2	1	0	4	4	3	7	2	4	2	5	11	7-8	6
American Robin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	2	3	3	15	23
Northern Cardinal	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	6	5	2	2	5	6	5-6	6-7
Blue Jay	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	1	2	1	2	4	5-6	8
Veery	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	vis	1	7	6	10	10
Hooded Warbler	2	3	4	4	6	3	6	7	6	3	5	9	9-10	8	8
Acadian Flycatcher	3	3	2	2	2	4	4	4	10	6	4	10	10	19	16

Birds species whose number of territories significantly decreased.

	1941	1942	1943	1946	1947	1948	1949	1951	1952	1953	1954	1978	1979	2000	2002
Wood Thrush	8	5	7	5	6	11	16	13	15	8	7	1	3	3	4
Ovenbird	27	18	18	20	8	16	20	17	5	9	8	0	1	0	0
American Redstart	11	10	8	16	17	20	20	21	21	15	13	4	1	1-2	1
Cerulean Warbler	10	10	8	17	14	14	19	17	10	10	7	12-13	7	2-3	2

TABLE 1

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Ben Winger©
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