

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

SINCE 1905

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 3



**Inside this issue...**

The region's second white ibis  
See photos on pages 4 & 5

**JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2005**

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Summer 2005

Volume 101  
Number 3

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*The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

- To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region;
- To monitor population densities of resident birds;
- To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

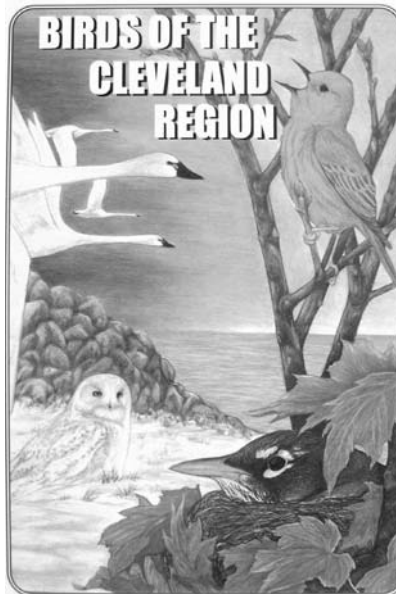
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**Cover photo:** Dark-eyed junco nest, Photographed by Kevin Metcalf June, 2005 Munson Twp. Geauga County, Ohio



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We welcome your participation. All reports are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

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

Seasonal report forms are available at:

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# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1905

## SUMMER

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST, 2005

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#### *You and Your Friends are Invited...*

The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its monthly meetings – the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August – at 7:30 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Or, join a field trip to one of the local birding hot spots. See the Web site for the up-coming meetings, programs and trips; [www.kirtlandbirdclub.org](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org).

# Summer 2005

## Overview of the Season

by Kevin Metcalf



Kevin Metcalf, Editor

## The Summer Season — Time to Take Stock

For the many folks who pursue bird watching as recreation, the summer season represents the lull between spring and fall migration.

Migration offers excitement and the unexpected. We can see a great variety of birds and every day potentially offers something new. Many migrants pass through Northeast Ohio fleetingly on their way to other breeding areas. If we don't get out to see them during the short period they are with us, we have to wait for the next migration period or maybe another whole year — or more — before we can see those birds again.

By contrast, summer birds seem mundane and predictable. This might be why bird watchers often take for granted birds like red-tailed hawks, blue jays, yellow warblers and red-winged blackbirds. We assume that the song sparrows singing in our backyards and local parks will always be there and pay little attention to the silver-tongued “little brown bird” because we are accustomed to seeing and hearing them day in and day out.

In my view, however, summer is the most important time to watch birds. It is the season that birdwatch-

ers can contribute most to our understanding of bird populations and potentially affect bird conservation. Every bird has to nest somewhere, and it is during this time that birds are glued to a particular habitat and location. This is in contrast to the migration seasons, when weather factors play a huge role in what we actually see, making the task of tracking populations, especially of nocturnal migrants, very difficult. The “predictable” nature of the breeding season allows us to take stock of the birds and the quality of the habitats around us. The work that Larry Rosche has done at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site in Portage County exemplifies what knowledgeable field observers can contribute to bird conservation.

I would like to encourage regional bird watchers to look at the summer nesting season as the most important season for assessing the health of our bird populations. While spring and fall offer the allure of the rare or unusual migrant bird, it is our local breeding birds that most need our watchful eye. We are now seeing not only the globalization of the world economy and culture, but a degree of globalization of nature. While we grapple with the “old” threats of urban sprawl and habitat destruction, we

now face new threats in the form of infectious diseases and exotic species spreading in consecutive



Photo by Scott Wright

**Juvenile Common Grackle**  
...in hand; note the grey iris July 25, 2005

waves across the North American continent. We cannot take any of our birds for granted. What is common today may be gone, or seriously compromised, tomorrow. Get out there and take detailed, systematic notes of the avian riches around you. Pay attention, be diligent. If we don't do it — as bird watchers, bird banders and other citizen scientists — who will?

*See you in the field,*

*~ Kevin*

## Weather Report

*by Dwight Chasar*

**June:** Temperatures averaged 73.7°, 6.2° above normal. The high was 94° on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the low was 51° on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Lake Erie was 56° on June 1st and rose to 70° by the 30<sup>th</sup>. Rain occurred on 16 days and totaled 1.64 inches, 2.25 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period was .63 inches on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**July:** Temperatures averaged 71.2° or .7° below normal. The high was 88° on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. The low was 56° on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Rain occurred over 9 days, totaling 1.72 inches, 1.58 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period fell on the 14<sup>th</sup> and amounted to .62 inches. Lake Erie was at 76° at the end of the month.

**August:** Temperatures averaged 74.0°, 3.8° above normal. The high was 94° on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the low was 52° on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Rain fell 9 days, totaling 7.60 inches, 3.91 inches above normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 3.55 inches on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Lake Erie water ended the month at 74° after reaching a high of 77°.

### **Stormy Weather at Weather Service**

In weather reports since summer 2004, the reported sunshine percentage of the maximum possible (5 – 8%) for each month has been in error. These values were obtained from the Cleveland Weather Service F-6 weather summary. When the weather editor quizzed them at the end of the spring 2005 reporting period, that the numbers seemed unreasonable, they realized that the calculations were incorrect. However, they have yet to make corrections in their weather summaries, past or present.

# Seasonal Report

**Underline** denotes unexpected species in the region

**HBSNP** – Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve

**MMSNP** – Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve

**CVNP** – Cuyahoga Valley National Park

**Canada Goose** – daily maximum 200 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 17 July (RH). Nesting success at North Chagrin Reservation has dropped dramatically in recent years due to egg predation. The decline seems correlated to the increase in mink and coyote populations (KM).

**Mute Swan** – an alarming maximum of at least 40 around the west side boat launch area of Mogadore Reservoir 1 August (PD); up to seven at Veteran's Park, Lake Co. (RH) and others reported from Nimisila Reservoir (SB).

**Wood Duck** – doing well; a female with 16 young in tow was observed 8 June at Station Road, CVNP (DAC); maximum 25 in the MMSNP area 27 June (RH).

**Gadwall** – one remained to 24 June (RH).

**American Wigeon** – a pair at Veteran's Park, Lake Co. was unusual 23 – 24 June (RH). Another two-some was present 26 August (RH).

**American Black Duck** – only report was from Frame Lake-Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve 1 July (PC, KT).

**Mallard** – as widespread as ever.

**Blue-winged Teal** – first migrant reported 26 August (LR).

**Green-winged Teal** – one at HBSNP-MMSNP area 31 August (RH) and two at LaDue Reservoir the same day (KM).

**Hooded Merganser** – a female with 15 young at Station Road, CVNP 8 June (DAC); also found at River Rd., Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Ruddy Duck** – an aberrant adult male was at Shaker Lakes 1 June, lacking white in the face (DJH).



Photo by Dick and Jean Hoffman

**Ruddy Duck**  
Shaker Lakes

**Ruffed Grouse** – difficult to find in the region. Only report was from the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR).

**Wild Turkey** – reported from scattered locations, including CVNP (m.obs.), Frame Lake-Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve (PC, KT), Chester Twp., Geauga Co. (KM), the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH); three on Harvard Ave., Warrensville Twp., near George Forbes Camp 1 July (SJ). A hen with seven young were at Berlin Lake State Wildlife Area, Portage Co., 22 June (GBe).

**Common Loon** – one Nimisila Res., Summit Co. 10 July (RSH).

**Pied-billed Grebe** – nesting at Wilbeth Rd., Akron was noted 28 June (GBe); an adult with four young were at Pleasant Valley Marsh, Cuyahoga Co. 2 June, where the species nested last year (DAC). Adults with four young also found at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR); two at Nimisila Reservoir 30 August (GBe) and one 31 August HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

**American White Pelican** – one at Mentor Lagoons 14 – 16 June was photographed and seen by multiple observers (RS); two were at Mogadore Reservoir, Portage Co. 25 –28 June (GBe). See photo, next page.

**Double-crested Cormorant** – one to four detected most of the summer in the HBSNP area; increased in mid-August with 40 on 19 August and 50 on the 23 August (RH).

**American Bittern** – no reports; this and the next species were, decades ago, encountered regularly in the region during the breeding season.

**Least Bittern** – no reports.

**Great Blue Heron** – seems to be doing well. In addition to the several large colonies in the region, an upstart colony of three nests was found at Mason’s Landing, Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Great Egret** – scattered reports of one to 11 from late July and August (TMR, GBe, m.obs.); maximum 30 roosting at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co. 31 July (PL, JAu, m.obs.).

**Green Heron** – typically one or two per day noted with a maximum



Photo by Kim Rado

**White Ibis**  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park

five at Pleasant Valley Marsh, Cuyahoga Co. 19 June (DAC).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – present 29 June through the end of the summer period at Shaker Lakes; maximum 10 at this location (LD, LG, m.obs.).

**White Ibis** – providing the second record for the region, an immature

was found and photographed in Jaite, CVNP on 9 July (KR).

**Turkey Vulture** – up to 25 present at HBSNP-MMSNP area 22 August (RH); 24 at Ira Road, CVNP 1 August (TMR).

**Osprey** – scattered reports throughout the region included one over Chagrin River Park, Lake Co. 10 July (MK); one in Norton, Summit Co. on 31 July (RSH). A new nest at Headwaters Park, Geauga Park District produced young (TG, BMc). Nesting also reported from Nimisila Reservoir and birds were seen in the HBSNP area in August (RH).

**Bald Eagle** – scattered sightings of one or two (m.obs.). A pair of adults was at Station Road, CVNP 18 August (DAC). A nest at Lake Milton collapsed 5 June and one of the two eaglets taken to Medina Raptor Center for care. After a period of time the eaglet was taken to an active nest at Tinker’s Creek State Nature Preserve by Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff, where it was put with another



Photo by Rob Swaney

**American White Pelican**  
Mentor Lagoons, Lake County

eaglet and foster parents (FL).

**Northern Harrier** – one on 5 June in Lake Co. was interesting (RH). Another was seen in Lorain Co. north of Oberlin 19 August (DDS); a female was seen 1 June at the Ravenna Training & Logistics Site, and an adult male was there 14 June (LR); Another male was seen in Portage Co. 28 August (LR).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** – reports from Chapin Forest, Girdled Rd., Hell Hollow, Hogback Ridge and Indian Point, Lake Metroparks (JP) and at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR).

**Cooper's Hawk** – one or two typically reported. Here's a nesting chronology, documented at Shaker Lakes, where a pair nested in a large red oak. Nest building observed 10 April, adults feeding young in May, four good-sized chicks sitting on edge of nest 1 July, fledging occurred by 5 July with the young staying near the nest until 19 July (LD, DJH).

**Red-shouldered Hawk** – common, with sightings of one or two per day typical. This species was reported more consistently in the HBSNP-MMSNP area than was red-tailed hawk (RH).

**Broad-winged Hawk** – reported from Hinckley Reservation (FL) and Brecksville Reservation of



Photo by Kim Rado

**White Ibis**  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cleveland Metroparks (DAC); the latter location had two nests, one with young on 9 June (DAC).

**Red-tailed Hawk** – common throughout the season.

**American Kestrel** – scattered reports; declining in at least some areas.

**Virginia Rail** – found at scattered wetlands in the region; daily maximum noted was three at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve in 5 hrs. 45 minutes of observation in June (FL); one calling as late as 8 July at Mogadore Reservoir (GBe).

**Sora** – an adult with one young at Pleasant Valley Marsh, Cuyahoga Co. 5 July (DAC).

**Common Moorhen** – nesting at Frame Lake-Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve produced four young, seen 1 July (PC, KT); one in Akron 13 - 29 June (GBe).

**Sandhill Crane** – the Sandy Ridge Reservation pair were unsuccessful

at nesting (m.obs.). Evidence of successful breeding came from a pair with two young at a Jug Rd. farm in Geauga Co. in late July (BMc); a pair was observed at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site 31 May (LR).

**Black-bellied Plover** – one each at HBSNP (RH) and LaDue Reservoir (LR). Two at West Branch State Pk. (GBe) 31 August.

**American Golden-Plover** – first found 7 August in Lorain (JP); maximum four at HBSNP on 31 August (RH).

**Semipalmated Plover** – first arrived 2 August at West Branch Reservoir (Gbe); six were detected on 15 August at HBSNP (RH); five at LaDue Reservoir 11 August (EK).

**Piping Plover** – one adult at HBSNP 15 August was only the second record from that location (RH, JT).

**Killdeer** – large gatherings including 30 to 40 at Sandy Ridge 10 July (DAC); maximum 92 at West Pines Golfing Range in Avon 3 August (PL).

**American Avocet** – passes through the area in small numbers each year, usually along the Lake Erie Shore. A female was at Headlands Beach, Lake Co. 19 July (RH); one at West Branch State Park, Portage Co. the same day for



Beginning with thirteen species of warblers on 1 June, and ending with 250 common terns and 37 black terns in Hurricane Katrina's wake on 31 August, the summer birding at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve and surrounding areas provided an escape from the weather which was unusually hot and dry. Early June's warblers included a singing male Kentucky warbler, Cape May and Blackburnian warblers, and a fair number of those spring laggards – blackpoll warblers. As is usual, hundreds of tree swallows and bank swallows faithfully gathered on telephone wires in July and early August at Mentor Lagoons, Shipman Pond and downtown Grand River. A cold front in late August brought 14 species of warblers in good numbers on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. To end the month of August, the remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought hundreds of common terns and 37 black terns past Headlands Beach. Watching the terns struggle against gale force Northeast winds showed what strong fliers these species are. And I certainly will not forget that flock of 12 black terns braving a squall and heading eastward over the trees of the Headland's parking lots! Birding during the summer takes patience and determination but the season at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve and surrounding areas was relaxing and fun.

the fourth regional inland record (GBE); another was inland at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co. 21 August (DL).

**Greater Yellowlegs** – one at Sandy Ridge Reservation 9 July (RR, SSn); other scattered late July - August reports of small numbers; maximum 12 at Burke Lakefront Airport 9 August (DJH).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – three at Sandy Ridge Reservation 9 July (RR, SSn), other sightings late July through end of period; including a maximum 12 at Burke Lakefront Airport (DJH).

**Solitary Sandpiper** – first at Sandy Ridge Reservation 9 July (RR); sightings throughout August with a maximum three at LaDue Reservoir 30 August (KM).

**Willet** – only sighting was of one flying east past Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve 13 July (KM).

**Spotted Sandpiper** – a nest with eggs in Avon, Lorain Co. 14 June (PL) and a maximum five in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 6 August (RH).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – eight at HBSNP (RH) and two at West Branch State Park 31 August (GBE).

**Sanderling** – HBSNP is the only consistent location for this species in the region; with the first sighting 6 August (RH); maximum 25 on 31 August (RH); three inland were unusual at West Branch State Park, Portage Co. 31 August (LR).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – maximum 90 at HBSNP on 31 August (RH).

**Least Sandpiper** – first noted at Pleasant Valley Marsh, Cuyahoga Co. 5 July (DAC); maximum 10 at Sandy Ridge Reservation 10 July (DAC); also at West Branch 20 August (LR) and LaDue Reservoir 30 August (KM).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – one arrived at West Branch Reservoir 2 August (Gbe); maximum three there on 8 August (GBE); also reported from LaDue Reservoir 21 August (CD).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – first noted at Burke Lakefront Airport 9 August (DJH); maximum 16 at HBSNP on 31 August (RH).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – first noted at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co. 23 July; one at West Branch State Park 29 July (GBe); another at LaDue Reservoir 21 August (CD); an unspecified number were at West Branch 26 August (LR).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – one at Sandy Ridge Reservation 9 July (RR,SSn), maximum 31 at West Branch State Park, Portage Co., 13 July (GBe); one at LaDue Reservoir, Geauga Co., 30 August (KM).

**Wilson's Snipe** – one at Jaite, CVNP 19 July (DAC); two at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site 11 August (LR).

**American Woodcock** – widespread but not always easy to find in summer; one in Lake Co. 5 June (RH); two at Triangle Lake Bog State Nature Preserve, Portage Co. 21 June; one at Berlin State Wildlife Area 24 June (GBe).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – one at Sandy Ridge Reservation 31 July (PL, JAu).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – an alternate plumaged female graced West Branch State Park 13 July, while another basic plumaged bird was there 31 August (GBe).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – first sighting for the season was 14 July at HBSNP, where singles were detected through 13 August; increased to 26 on 15 August; maximum 700 on 31 August (RH).

**Ring-billed Gull** – numbers along the Lake Erie shore declined through June, increasing again in mid-July; 2,500 counted 6 August at HBSNP (RH); young recently

out of the nest were at Cleveland State University 5 July (BC).

**Herring Gull** – maximum 65 counted at HBSNP on 15 August (RH); inland, 27 tallied at Nimisila Res. 10 July (RSH).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – a third-year plumaged bird was reported from Lorain Harbor 7 August (JP); while unexpected in this season, there are reports from the region in every month except July.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – two seen in the Fairport Harbor area 12 July through the end of the period (RH).

**Caspian Tern** – three sighted around Fairport Harbor 28 June (RH); one at West Branch State Park 5 July, with seven there by 29 July (GBe); total of 35 seen at several Akron area lakes 15 August (GBe); 12 were at Shaker Lakes 29 August (JWe); 30 at West Branch State Park 31 August (LR).

**Common Tern** – first reported 7 August in Lorain (JP); sightings at HBSNP 29 through 31 August, with maximum of 250 on the 31st (RH); also reported from Summit Co. 30 August and Portage Co. 31 August (GBe).

**Forster's Tern** – first noted 7 August in Lorain (JP) and 9 August HBSNP (RH), with maximum 20 at HBSNP 31 August (RH).

**Black Tern** – as the remnants of Hurricane Katrina came through the area on 31 August, 37 were counted passing by HBSNP (RH); one was inland at LaDue Reservoir 30 August (KM).

**Mourning Dove** – one of our more abundant birds; 50 reported from late August in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – one in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 June (RH); also reported from CVNP 14 July (RR).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – seemed to be up this year, though observers generally did not report more than one or two from any given location; a peak of sightings mid-June; two found along the Twinsburg Center Valley Bike Path in 2 hrs. 15 minutes of observation 10 June (FL); a pair was seen mating on the late date of 16 August (DAC).

**Eastern Screech-Owl** – few reports; one found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area though the summer (RH); one at Shaker Lakes throughout August (LD).

**Great Horned Owl** – few detected.

**Barred Owl** – one at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve 18 June (FL); a few others from scattered sites.

**Long-eared Owl** – a report of nesting at Cascade Rd., Lake Co. was received with no details (JP); there are apparently no confirmed nesting records from the region (Rosche, 2004), though the species has been recorded in summer.

**Common Nighthawk** – one in Lake Co. 1 June (RH); another 2 June at Shaker Lakes (LD); nesting was suspected in Valley View, Cuyahoga Co. (DAC); a late summer flock of 53 was noted 25 August

at Rocky River Reservation (PL).

**Chimney Swift** – maximum count received was of 300 in Berea 14 August (TMR).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – many observers felt there were more around this year than in recent years; nine noted at Lakeshore Metropark feeders 14 August included five adult males and four others; by 17 August numbers were down to three with no adult males; however, as the remnants of Hurricane Katrina came through, the numbers of hummers jumped at this location to about a dozen, with five adult males in the mix (JP).

***Selasphorus sp.*** – a hummingbird of the genus *Selasphorus* showed up at Lakeshore Metropark feeders 7 August (JP).

**Belted Kingfisher** – sightings increased in late July - early August, with four in the HBSNP-MMSNP area; maximum eight at Shaker Lakes 12 August (LD).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** – not as widespread as expected in recent years; up to two in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH); noted at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve (FL), CVNP and West Branch State Park (GBE); a family group of five at Station Road, CVNP 10 through 18 August (DAC, RR).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** – two to five typically reported daily.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – successfully nested at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, Windham Twp., Portage Co. (LR); noted at seven locations in Lake

Metroparks (JP); and in late August in Munson Twp., Geauga Co. (KM).

**Downy Woodpecker** – one to six typically reported daily; one made daily visits to a hummingbird feeder at a Kirtland residence (CK).

**Hairy Woodpecker** – one or two typically reported daily; three at Ira Road, CVNP 22 August (TMR).

**Northern Flicker** – one to four typical, with nine in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 19 July (RH).

**Pileated Woodpecker** – widespread; one or two typical per day; locations included one at Shaker Lakes 28 August (LD).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – one lingering at Hogback Ridge, Lake Metroparks late June through early July was unexpected (JP).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** – typically < eight from any one location; maximum 12 noted at Shaker Lakes 18 August (LD).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – northbound migrants detected 1 June (RH), with fall migrants detected 20 August (RH).

**Acadian Flycatcher** – one to five typical daily; nest with eggs found 9 June in Eldon Russell Park, Geauga (KM); five tallied in 4 hrs. 15 minutes of observation in Hinckley Res. (FL).

**Alder Flycatcher** – two migrants still present HBSNP-MMSNP 4 June (RH); one in Springfield Twp., Summit Co. 25 June (RSH); two singing at Berlin State Wildlife Area 22 June; one at Jaite, CVNP 12 July (DAC); also re-

ported from Arcola Creek and five other locations in Lake Metroparks (JP); found at many locales at the Ravenna TL Site (LR).

**Willow Flycatcher** – migrants still

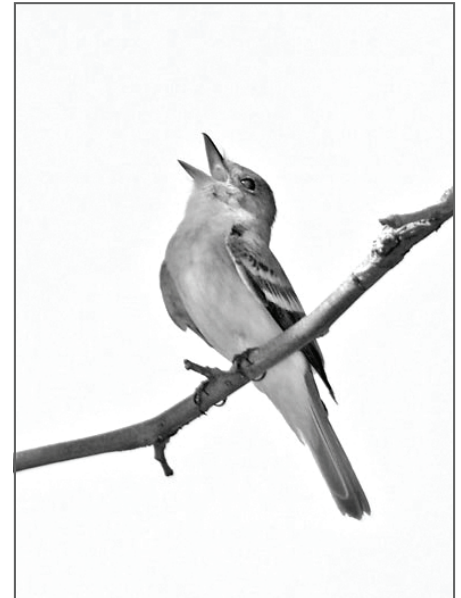


Photo by Kim Steinger

**Willow Flycatcher**  
North Chagrin Reservation

detected in HBSNP-MMSNP 5 June (RH), maximum 10 noted at Jaite, CVNP 5 June (DAC); presumed fall migrants returning 10 August (RH); studies at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Arsenal indicate significant declines there in recent years (LR).

**Least Flycatcher** – migrants through 2 June (RH); confirmed breeding at Lakeshore Reservation and Mason's Landing, Lake Metroparks (JP); southbound migrants detected by 6 August (RH).

**Eastern Phoebe** – up to four were typically found daily at any one site.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** – 10 found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 3 June (RH); usually noted in ones and twos at a given site.

**Eastern Kingbird** – up to six in the HBSNP-MMSNP area; nesting was noted 1 July in CVNP, with three nestlings at Kendall Lake (PC, KT); last detected in CVNP, 29 August (TMR).

**White-eyed Vireo** – two were at Mentor Lagoons throughout the summer (RH); also found in the Burton Wetlands area (KM) and three locations in Lake Metroparks (JP)

**Yellow-throated Vireo** – widespread but in moderate numbers, usually one or two noted at any given site; a nest with young was found in CVNP 25 June (DAC); also noted at Hinckley Reservation, Eldon Russell Park, Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve; last reported 18 August (RR).

**Blue-headed Vireo** – five males in Hinckley Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks, Medina Co. 26 June (RSH); a pair seen in South Chagrin Reservation 5 June (RR); also summering birds at Brecksville Reservation and Ledges, CVNP (DAC); many Lake Metroparks records, where nesting was confirmed at Hell Hollow and Paradise Rd. (JP).

**Warbling Vireo** – maximum 18 detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 2 June (RH).

**Philadelphia Vireo** – one southbound migrant returned by 26 August (RH).

**Red-eyed Vireo** – one on 4 July at Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland was interesting because this is certainly marginal as nesting habitat (RSH); 11 were counted at Macedonia Longwood Park 15

June, in 1 hr. 45 minutes of observation (FL).

**Blue Jay** – some still seemed to be migrating into early June along the Lake Erie shore, such as 10 on 9 June (KM); daily maximum of 20 reported from CVNP 15 August (TMR).

**American Crow** – one to three typical; seven at Twinsburg Pond Brook Metropark 11 June (FL).

**Horned Lark** – few observers note this species, which is fairly common in the agricultural areas.

**Purple Martin** – maximum of 600 at Nimisila Reservoir 21 August (GBe); 125 at Mentor Lagoons 14 August (RH); 175 still present at Nimisila Reservoir 30 August (GBe).

**Tree Swallow** – numbers in the HBSNP-MMSNP area increased from 250 on 9 July to 2,000 on 6 August (RH), followed by counts of 400 to 900 through 14 August (RH).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – maximum 50 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 7 July (RH).

**Bank Swallow** – maximum up to 1,500 at HBSNP-MMSNP area 19 July (RH), where up to 900 remained to 14 August (RH).

**Cliff Swallow** – only report was from the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, where 118 were counted (LR).

**Barn Swallow** – maximum 60 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH) where the species departed by 20 August (RH).

**Black-capped Chickadee** – generally < seven per day at any given location; up to 11 at Ira Road, CVNP 15 August (TMR).

**Tufted Titmouse** – one to four from any given site typical; seemed less common than expected in some areas; studies at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site indicate declines there in recent years (LR).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – found at Aurora Sanctuary 19 June (DR); Headwaters Park, Geauga Co., 25 June (AFo, CS, RY); three at Hinckley Reservation on 26 June (RSH); maximum 4 near Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 26 June (DAC); one at Ledges, CVNP 10 July (DAC); one in Sagamore Hills 17 July & 24 August (DAC); first fall migrants detected at South Chagrin Reservation 23 August (BR) and HBSNP-MMSNP area 25 August (RH).

**White-breasted Nuthatch** – generally one to four daily; five in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 17 July (RH); six in Twinsburg 10 June (FL).

**Brown Creeper** – at least two singing birds reported from Eldon Russell Park, Geauga (m.obs); singles noted at Happy Days Ledges, CVNP and Brecksville Reservation (DAC).

**Carolina Wren** – doing well; two to eight reported daily from many locations.

**House Wren** – two to eight typical daily; nine found in 2 hrs. 15 minutes along the Twinsburg Center Valley Bike Path 10 June (FL).

**Winter Wren** – recorded at 10

locations in Lake Metroparks, with nesting confirmed at Chapin Forest, Hell Hollow and Penitentiary Glen (JP); one was singing at Brecksville Reservation 5 July (DAC).

**Sedge Wren** – three singing birds on Quarry Rd., Pittsfield Twp., Lorain Co. on 12 June; another in the Bath Nature Preserve, Summit Co. on 4 July (RSH); also found within the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, Portage Co. (LR) and at Girdled Road, Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Marsh Wren** – one found at Arcola Creek (JP); three found in the MMSNP area through the summer (RH); the same number found at Pleasant Valley Marsh (DAC); two at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve 8 June (FL); maximum of five at Jaite, CVNP (DAC).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** – the small population in Hinckley Res-

ervation persists, with three territorial males 26 June (RSH); nesting was suspected at Chapin Forest (JP).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – one to three at any given site typical; numbers in the HBSNP-MMSNP area jumped to 13 on 25 August (RH).

**Eastern Bluebird** – daily counts typically < 3; a flock of eight noted 11 August (KM).

**Veery** – found at scattered sites, such as Hinckley Reservation, Chagrin Valley, and Eldon Russell Park. Typically reported in small numbers; five at Pond Brook Metropark, Twinsburg 11 June (FL); fall migration for the species was detected by 29 August (RH).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – one late holdover from spring was in Lake Co. 1 June (RH).

**Swainson's Thrush** – a spring mi-

grant lingered through 5 June (RH); an autumn migrant returned by 25 August at HBSNP (RH).

**Hermit Thrush** – a nest with four young was discovered at Happy Days Ledges 9 June, probably fledging around 14 June. A nest with four eggs was at that location 13 August (DAC); also reported during the breeding season at Hell Hollow, Hidden Valley and Paine Falls, Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Wood Thrush** – widespread, however most observers only noted one or two at any given location

**American Robin** – maximum count was a flock of 175 flying west over North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. on the evening of 10 August (KM); 80 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 26 August (RH).

**Gray Catbird** – 24 were counted in the HBSNP- MMSNP area 6

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June (RH); four to six typically reported from any one site.

**Northern Mockingbird** – two found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area throughout the summer (RH); a fledgling being fed by an adult was noted in Public Square, Cleveland 17 August (CW); also noted at Summit Lake, Akron 29 August (GBe).

**Brown Thrasher** – found at scattered sites; up to four at HBSNP throughout the summer; two reported from Sagamore Hills (DAC).

**Cedar Waxwing** – 80 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 June (RH), with numbers declining rapidly thereafter; inland high 30 in CVNP 29 August (TMR).

**Blue-winged Warbler** – locally common; maximum up to 10 at Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 26 June (DAC); late report was of one at Ira Road, CVNP 22 August (TMR).

**Golden-winged Warbler** – none reported this season.

**Tennessee Warbler** – fall migrants found 23 August at South

Chagrin Reservation (BR) and 25 August at HBSNP (RH).

**Nashville Warbler** – one to three found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 23 through 27 August (RH).

**Northern Parula** – reported from Hinckley Reservation, Medina Co. 4 June (FL); one singing in Rocky River Reservation at the Willow Bend Picnic Area 12 June (TK); another in Brecksville Reservation 13 through 18 June where nesting was documented in 1994 through 97 (DAC).

**Yellow Warbler** – noted still singing in Wadsworth 29 July (RSH); maximum of 25 to 30 detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 6 and 7 August (RH), representing peak of fall migration through the area; many noted at Lakeshore Metropark 17 August (JP).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** – a spring migrant lingered to 1 June, while fall migrants returned by 22 August; maximum four on 23 August (RH).

**Magnolia Warbler** – three spring migrants at HBSNP area 1 June (RH); three territorial males noted in Hinckley Reservation 26 June (RSH); up to seven found at Hell Hollow, Lake Metroparks (JP); fall migration underway by 22 - 23 August (m.obs.); 18 maggies detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 25 August (RH).

**Cape May Warbler** – a northbound bird was at HBSNP 1 June (RH), while a southbound migrant was detected by 23 August at South Chagrin Reservation (BR).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – a fall migrant returned by 24 August (RH).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – one lingered from spring to 2 June (RH), while one was found 18 August for an early returnee (RH).

**Black-throated Green Warbler** – seven males noted in Hinckley Reservation 26 June (RSH); Hell Hollow, Lake Metroparks hosted eight (JP).

**Blackburnian Warbler** – a late spring migrant was in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 June (RH); one found

2005

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Cleveland Bird Calendar

from

Bird Watcher's Digest

at Pine Lane, CVNP 20 June (FL); another possible nester was at Headwaters Park, Geauga Co. 25 June (AFo); a returning migrant was found in South Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. 23 August (BR).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – doing well in CVNP where it was reported through 10 July (RR); reported from eight areas in Lake Metroparks including Hidden Valley, Hogback Ridge, Indian Point and River Road (JP).

**Pine Warbler** – increasing nester as pine plantations mature from reforestry projects in the first half of the 20th century. Territorial birds noted at many scattered locations, including Hinckley Reservation, Brecksville Reservation, North Chagrin Reservation, Rocky River Reservation, Chapin Forest, Nimisila Reservoir, Mogadore Reservoir, Headwaters Park, Novak Sanctuary. Maximum of 13 at Headwaters Park, Geauga Co. 25 June (AFo, CS, RY).

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – an impressive early fall count was of six on 25 August (RH).

**Blackpoll Warbler** – lingering spring migrants were noted through 6 June (RH), while fall migrants were found beginning 24 August at Shaker Lakes (LGo) and 25 August at HBSNP (RH); maximum three on 26 August (RH).

**Cerulean Warbler** – daily maximum of six noted in Hinckley Reservation, Medina Co. 4 June (FL). Also noted at several area parks, including CVNP, Swine Creek Reservation, Headwaters Park and Eldon Russell Park, Geauga Co.

Nesting discovered at CVNP, with incubation noted 1 June and young (3 or 4) fledging by 23 June (DAC). Also recorded at 20 locations in Lake Metroparks, with nesting confirmed at Girdled Rd., Hell Hollow, and River Rd. (JP).

**Black-and-white Warbler** – singles were found at Mentor Lagoons 18 June and 17 July (RH). Also discovered at nine locations during the breeding season in Lake Metroparks, with breeding confirmed at Hell Hollow (JP); singing males noted at two locations at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR); fall migrants detected at South Chagrin Reservation 23 August (BR); up to four at HBSNP-MMSNP area 25 August (RH).

**American Redstart** – present throughout the summer at scattered locations; seven in Hinckley Reservation, Medina Co. 4 June (FL) with a maximum of 12 reported at Headwaters Park, Geauga Co. 25 June (AFo, CS, RY). A fall migrant was at Shaker Lakes 22 August (LGo); seven migrants in Lake Co. by 25 August (RH).

**Prothonotary Warbler** – maximum reported was eight at Station Road, CVNP, including adults and young (DAC). More fledged there on 18 June (DAC); a pair with two or three young reported from the same area 10 July (RR). Birds also nested at traditional areas along the upper Cuyahoga River near Eldon Russell Park (DB); a singing male was at Bradley Woods Reservation 7 June (TK), while another was at Novak Sanctuary 11 June (DR). A nest box in Rocky River Reservation held five young on 12 June (TK); one found in Tinkers Creek

State Nature Preserve 23 June (FL) and one at Mason's Landing, Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Ovenbird** – locally common; four singing at West Branch State Park 24 June (GBe); fall migrants returned by 28 August (RH).

**Northern Waterthrush** – a spring lingerer found in Lake Co. 1 June (RH). A singing individual heard at Lake Kelso, Geauga Co. 18 June (KM). Other possible breeders included one at Hell Hollow and one at Hidden Valley, Lake Metroparks (JP). Fall migrants in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 6, 18, & 24 August (RH), including one migrant at Shaker Lakes 22 August (LGo) and another in downtown Cleveland 24 August (SWr).

**Louisiana Waterthrush** – fairly common along streams associated with the Portage and Allegheny Escarpment. The last was noted 7 August at North Chagrin Reservation (KM).

**Kentucky Warbler** – a late migrant or wanderer was along the road to the Coast Guard Station adjacent to HBSP on 1 June (RH, JT). Also two were near the Ledges Shelter, CVNP (DAC, RR). The last report from the latter location was 14 July (RR).

**Mourning Warbler** – spring migrants found through 5 June. Four were found in HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 June (RH), one each at Erie Shores Golf Course and Girdled Rd., Lake Metroparks, where nesting was considered at least a possibility (JP). Two were singing at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, one through mid-June (LR).

Fall migrants found by 17 August in Lake Co. (JP) and 24 August at Shaker Lakes (LGo) and downtown Cleveland (SWr). Also two were noted at North Chagrin Reservation 28 August (KM) and several in downtown Cleveland 31 August (SWr).

**Common Yellowthroat** – maximum 11 at Frame Lake-Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve (PC, KT).

**Hooded Warbler** – six at Kendall Lake area, CVNP 1 July (PC, KT) and five at Hinckley Reservation 4 June (FL).

**Wilson's Warbler** – another late migrant in spring, detected through 5 June with a maximum of seven on 1 June (RH). Southbound migrants were easy to find in the HBSNP-MMSNP area beginning 19 August (RH); maximum nine on 25 August (RH).



Photo by Scott Wright

**Morning Warbler**  
...takes flight

**Canada Warbler** – confirmed breeding in Hell Hollow, Lake Metroparks, with possible breeding at six other Lake Metroparks locations (JP). An early fall migrant was found 8 August (RH). Birds



Photo by Kevin Mercaif

**Hooded Warbler**  
Headwaters Park, Geauga County

were seen regularly after 15 August, with a maximum of five on 23 August (RH).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – one each found at Wetmore and Jaite, CVNP 5 June (DAC) and a maximum of two in Sagamore Hills 6 June (DAC). Also one in Pittsfield Twp., Lorain Co. 12 June (RSH) and one each located at Erie Shores Golf Course and Indian Point, Lake Metroparks (JP).

**Scarlet Tanager** – typically one or two from various sites. Four were noted at Hinckley Reservation 4 June (FL); five at North Ledges in Twinsburg 18 June (FL); two at South Chagrin Reservation 23 August (BR) and two at Ira Road, CVNP 29 August (TMR).

**Eastern Towhee** – maximum 10 in Horseshoe Pond area of CVNP 26 June (DAC). Four were noted at other locations in CVNP (m.obs.).

**Chipping Sparrow** – few observers note this common nester.

**Field Sparrow** – few observers reported this common nester. A maximum of four in CVNP 20 June (RR).

**Vesper Sparrow** – no reports were received. Is this species nesting in the region?

**Lark Sparrow** – One was quite a surprise 19 June at the Botzum Water

Treatment Plant of the Akron Sewer District, located in the CVNP (MM, BZ). The bird was photographed, but the photos are not reproducible.

**Savannah Sparrow** – present at scattered locations, believed by this editor to be underreported.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – maximum six found in Springfield Twp., Summit Co. 24 June (RSH). Also, confirmed breeding at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR).

**Henslow's Sparrow** – observers should note any potential breeding in the region; the only reports received were from the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, where an adult with young was seen in July (LR). Is this now the only breeding site in the region?

**Song Sparrow** – 11 max at Kendall Lake in CVNP 1 July (PC, KT).

**Swamp Sparrow** – maximum 11 at Frame Lake-Herrick Fen 1 July (PC, KT).



**White-throated Sparrow** – one singing along Beach Road., Wadsworth on 2 July (RSH) produced a rare midsummer record.

**White-crowned Sparrow** – one tardy migrant was singing at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve 9 June (KM).

**Dark-eyed Junco** – this species is expanding its nesting range beyond the traditional stronghold near the Portage Escarpment in the Grand and Chagrin River watersheds. One lingered around HBSNP, viewed 1 and 27 June (RH). A nest with eggs was discovered in Munson Twp., Geauga Co. 9 June for what might be a first confirmed nesting attempt in the township, though the nesting was unsuccessful (KM). Another nesting was reported from Bainbridge Twp, Geauga Co. (DE). A group of three to five was reported from Bedford Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks on 12 June through 3 July (CSp, FL). Adults and young noted in Brecksville Reservation (DAC). Two singing males were in Hinckley Reservation 26 June (RSH); an adult with a recent fledgling was a surprise in Sagamore Hills, Summit Co. 31 July (ME) and an adult pair were feeding two juveniles in Chesterland, Geauga Co. 31 July (AFo).

**Northern Cardinal** – As many as 24 were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 10 August (RH).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – seemed to enjoy a good summer relative to recent years with daily maximum of eight noted 10 June in Twinsburg (FL).

**Indigo Bunting** – widespread throughout the season.

**Dickcissel** – one was singing at the western edge of our region along Baird Road in Henrietta Twp., Lorain Co. 7 June (JR). A second-hand report came from Jim Reyda from Krumroy and Killian Rds. south of Akron (fide LR).

**Bobolink** – Twelve were seen at the old Richfield Coliseum site in at Rte. 303 and I-271 (FL, JKR). Three were noted at Twinsburg Stone House 14 June (FL). Reportedly doing well in parts of the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR).

**Red-winged Blackbird** – up to 44 tallied at Ira Road, CVNP 15 August (TMR) and 45 at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve 5 June (FL).

**Eastern Meadowlark** – one or two at any given site, including the old Richfield Coliseum site, CVNP (FL, m.obs.).

**Orchard Oriole** – nine were found on Rob Harlan's Breeding Bird Survey Route that included Pittsfield Twp., Lorain Co. and part of



Photo by Jim Roetzel

**Female Orchard Oriole**

Huron Co., on 12 June. Rob noted that this equaled the number of *Baltimore* orioles on the route. Three were in Sagamore Hills 10 June (DAC) and one at Red Lock, CVNP 16 June (DAC).

**Baltimore Oriole** – 12 found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 4 June (RH), with less than half that number found there through 12 July. Numbers jumped back up to 10 – 12 and afterwards, only single digits reported; most reporters found as many as eight at a given site with two noted in CVNP 29 August (TMR).

**Purple Finch** – one male was in Hinckley Twp. on 26 June (RSH), another in Kirtland 10 June (CK) and one near Horseshoe Pond, CVNP 26 June. Breeding was confirmed at Lakeshore Reservation and was noted at six other areas in Lake Metroparks (JP).

**House Finch** – As many as 20 reported in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 July (RH).

**Pine Siskin** – one still present in Kirtland until 13 June (CK); the species bred at Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

**American Goldfinch** – nest building noted at Station Road, CVNP 16 August (DAC). In the HBSNP-MMSNP area 13 August (RH) as many as 20 were reported; the same number noted in CVNP 5 August (TMR).

## Late Hermit Thrush Nest

by Dwight & Ann Chaser

We continue our interest in finding late-nesting hermit thrushes.<sup>1</sup> The reason for this is that there is little evidence of double brooding by this species in Ohio.<sup>2</sup> To conclusively determine double brooding, it is necessary to mark the females in some way and then find those marked birds in two successive nestings in a breeding season. This is difficult, however, for us amateurs. So our approach has been to collect circumstantial evidence by finding late nests and comparing egg dates to those of earlier ones that we have determined over the years.

On 13 August we found a hermit thrush on its nest at Ritchie Ledges in the CVNP. This bird was well down in its nest and would not leave. We felt it was on eggs. The next day we looked into the nest with a mirror on an extension pole and found four bluish eggs. This is a normal clutch size and better yet, no egg was that of a brown-headed cowbird. There were still four intact eggs on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> but sometime between then and 7:00 pm of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, they hatched. The egg dates for this nest calculate to be about 4 – 7 August. This is the latest egg date of hermit thrush in our records. Unfortunately, sometime between 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August, the nest was apparently predated. We collected the nest on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Among other bits of various vegetation, the nest cup was lined with a mixture of white pine needles<sup>1</sup> and red maple samara.<sup>3</sup>

Typical egg dates that we have calculated from nests at these ledges since 1999 fall in the following ranges: 30 April – 2 June (n=6); 8 June – 1 July (n=5); 10 – 13 July (n=2); and now 4 – 7 Aug (n=1). We think that these latter nests from July and August reflect second broods.

<sup>1</sup> Chasar, D. 2004. Hermit Thrush Nest. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 100:67.

<sup>2</sup> Peterjohn, B.G. and D.L. Rice. 1991. *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*. The Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH.

<sup>3</sup> Chasar, D. and A. Chasar, 2003. Late Hermit Thrush Nest. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 99:31

# Notes on the Birds of Ravenna Training and Logistics Site

by Larry Rosche

*Editor's Note: Rosche's full length report, including charts and more data than can be reproduced here, is available on the Kirtland Bird Club's Web site, [www.kirtlandbirdclub.org](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org), and in the archives of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.*

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The Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTLS) consists of approximately 20,000 acres, mostly flat to gently rolling forested land. Some grasslands and shrubby fields are interspersed among the forest. An extensive road network provides easy access throughout the facility. Bird species have been surveyed at this site previously. The current surveys were to confirm and add to existing survey data. There is also an active environmental restoration program associated with previous munitions manufacturing and demilitarization.

## **Survey Results**

One hundred ninety-five species were documented during 2005. This brings the list of avifauna species located at RTLS to 210. Much of the data supports the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Of the 125 species known to summer at RTLS, all but 11 displayed some form of breeding bird behavior in 2005. Summering winter wrens and dickcissels were not located at RTLS in 2005.

The 95 species tallied on breeding bird study (BBS) routes provided a new benchmark for number of species. This was seven species more than previously record. The average number of species located was 8.13% more than the seven-year average. Likewise, the total individuals censused on the BBS routes indicated a whopping 16.03% above average.

Resident species demonstrating significant increases included wild turkey, barred owl, red-bellied woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, northern cardinal and house sparrow. Short to medium range migrant increases were significantly shown by wood duck, hooded merganser, tree swallow, eastern bluebird, chipping sparrow, Savannah sparrow and red-winged blackbird. Long-distance neotropical migrant species encountered in higher than expected totals on BBS routes included black-billed cuckoo, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, Acadian flycatcher, alder flycatcher, least flycatcher, great crested flycatcher, warbling vireo, cliff swallow, barn swallow, wood thrush, blue-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, American redstart, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, bobolink and Baltimore oriole.

Resident species significantly down in numbers included Cooper's hawk, American kestrel, mourning dove, belted kingfisher and tufted titmouse. Short-distance and sometime resident species showing noticeable declines included killdeer, brown thrasher, field sparrow and purple finch. Other migrant species showing precipitous downward changes in status included willow flycatcher, eastern kingbird and white-eyed vireo.

## **Point Count Surveys**

This was the first year for surveys of this nature. It is hoped these routes can be duplicated for many years. In all, 79 species were detected on the 100 points. Of these, several species provided exciting news. A hen northern harrier was located; least flycatchers (Ohio species of concern) were noted; blue-headed vireo provided a new nesting locale; a sedge wren pair was found; and cerulean warblers were tallied at three points. The four double-crested cormorants seen in Logging Tract 3 were an example of oddball occurrence and surely not an indication of a breeding population.

One hundred fourteen breeding species were found during foot surveys. Apparently game birds such as ring-necked pheasant and

northern bobwhite no longer exist at RTLS. Surveys along Sand Creek yielded surprising numbers of cerulean warblers and further study along this stream is highly recommended. Surveys for territorial American woodcocks and owls were completed on evenings and nights at various times of the year. Woodcocks are thriving at RTLS, but weather factors and number of surveyors limited full assessment of their distribution.

Special acknowledgement is extended to Ms. Kimberly Ludt for her timely and thoughtful assistance throughout the breeding bird route surveys.

### **Species of Interest**

**Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Migrants are detected yearly. In 2005, Rosche and Ludt heard an adult calling from a former burning pit south of Ramsdell Road slightly east of Snow Road. After completing the BBS route, Rosche returned to find two adults courting in this wetland. This particular wetland is intermittent, but with 2002, 2003 and 2004 being rather wet in Northeast Ohio, these birds found the area to their liking. Later, adults were seen at this site attending at least four young. This marked the first known nesting at RTLS and one of the few in sites in Portage County to host this unique waterbird.

**Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*) –

An Ohio endangered species. A female was seen flying. On 14 July a male was observed over the switch grass fields. A former nester, there are still many acres of suitable habitat for nesting.

**Sharp-shinned Hawks** (*Accipiter striatus*) – an Ohio species of concern – were seen during foot surveys. This is a secretive species and its habitat needs are large, continuous woodlands (Peterjohn, Rice). The logging tracts where adults were observed certainly possess the proper habitat ingredients.

**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*) – An Ohio endangered species. A pair was flushed from fields near the former demolition area on 31 May. This pair called and drifted lazily overhead for several minutes and may have been disturbed by workers at the demolition site. Rosche and Ludt observed the pair at length and distant photographs were obtained. Sandhill Cranes migrate through the region in late March and April and this pair was certainly prospecting for a nesting site. Geauga County, immediately to the north, is known to have the only two viable nests in NE Ohio. The RTLS contains many acres of wetlands that would serve as nesting site for these distinguished beasts.

**Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds were heard in the Northeast Wetland in Windham Township. These

wetlands have hosted numerous rails in the past and there is no reason to think that they are not flourishing there.

**Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) – an Ohio species of concern – were heard in the Northeast Wetland in Windham Township during foot surveys. As in the case of the Virginia rail, there is no reason to think that they are not breeding at this site.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** (*Limnodromus griseus*) – This long-distance, holarctic wader was seen and photographed at the mitigation pond on Slagle Road 14 July. This marked the first known occurrence at RTLS and reflected the positive effect of the mitigation site as an important stopover site for such highly migratory shorebird species.

**Wilson's Snipe** (*Gallinago delicata*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds were heard winnowing near the drop zone during woodcock surveys. On 11 August, two birds were observed feeding at the mitigation pond area on Slagle Road. This raised the question as to whether birds nested nearby in the wetlands associated adjacent to the drop zone. The RTLS has more than enough preferred habitat to support a population of Wilson's Snipe.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – an Ohio endangered species. A pair successfully raised at least two young along the South Fork of Eagle Creek near the bridge on

Paris Windham Road in Windham Township. Adults were first noticed with young in early June and videotaped at the site on 28 June. The RTLS has had a history of potential breeding being established, but this was the first successful attempt since the studies began in 1993. This is the farthest south the species has nested in Ohio and represents the only viable Portage County nesting area.

**Least Flycatcher** (*Empidonax minimus*) – an Ohio threatened species. Least flycatcher numbers were somewhat decreased at RTLS in 2005, especially when compared to 1999. The decline is somewhat justified because the burning grounds at the north end of George Road were off-limits to the researcher. In 1999, this area was the center of abundance of this special insectivore.

**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds were found on territory during the 7 June point counts. This pair remained well into July and provided a first record and first nesting at the RTLS. Two adults were videotaped in distraction display 28 June.

**Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds continue as in the previous studies at the Northeast Wetland.

**Cerulean Warbler** (*Dendroica cerulea*) – another Ohio species of concern.

This wood warbler has demonstrated a steady decline and has become a species on the watch list of the USF&W. Surveys in 1993 yielded 29 territorial males whereas the number of singing males found during the 2005 survey slipped to 17. This is somewhat misleading because BBS route numbers had fallen to single digits in the past 5 years. Therefore the 17 territories, including eight males on BBS routes, represent a vast improvement over 2001–2004 totals.

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) – This warbler is a species of local interest because of its paucity as a breeder in Northeast Ohio (Rosche, 2004). Two singing males were detected on territory. One was vocal along the Wadsworth Glen area and Eagle Creek. The other was along Sand Creek in July and perhaps had already finished nesting.

**Mourning Warbler** (*Oporornis philadelphia*) – an Ohio species of special interest. Birds were noted in Logging Tracts three and eight. The bird on the Snow Road BBS route was still singing on territory in mid-June.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds were confirmed as breeders in Logging Tracts Seven and Ten. The dump area in Paris Township was a new location for this species.

**Henslow's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus henslowii*) – an Ohio species of concern. A male was heard on the Smalley Road BBS Route, 3 June. At least four birds were seen and one adult photographed with young in the hayfield west of Paris Windham Road in Windham Township during July. The RTLS continues as the only known site in Portage Co. to

host a summering (albeit small) population of this grassland specialist.

**Bobolink** (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – an Ohio species of concern. Birds were suc-

Photo by Kevin Metcalf



**Bobolink**  
Bean Road, Geauga County

cessful at the tank training grounds in the Trumbull County section of RTLS, and the hayfields on either side of Paris Windham Road in Windham Township. Habitat remains the key in attracting these striking and beneficial birds.

# 28th Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Bird Census June 10–19, 2005

A record number of observers found a record number of total birds!

Greg Bennett, Virginia Bumgardner, June Beyman, Peg Bobel, Dodie Boyd, Jackie Bradshaw, Jenny Brumfield, Dave Brumfield, Virginia Buerki, Robert Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Sue Chester, Pat Coy, Wayne Crouse, George & Sandy Cull, Robert Curtis, Phyllis Devlin, Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach, Lois Eckert, Paul Ellsworth, Mary Ann Faruque, Marty & Anne Gulbransen, Judy & Michele Hendrick, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Linda Kelliar, Jim & Linda Kennedy, Andrea Klein, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Steve & Marilyn Kaminsky, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Winnie Kennedy, Jim Knisely, Steve Kolbe, George & Linda Kovach, Nancy Ibsen, Fred Losi, Brad Lyell, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Mike Pasek, Wolfgang & Joyce Pelz, Marlo Perdicas, Ed Pierce, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Sally & Norm Richenbacher, Ronda Russell, Pat Rydquist, Bert Szabo, Doug Vogus, Jim Vogus, Annette Webb, Ethyl Wheland, Clyde Witt.

Coordinators; Ann Chasar & Doug Vogus

1312	Canada Goose	69	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Northern Parula
48	Mute Swan*	128	Northern Flicker	631	Yellow Warbler*
118	Wood Duck	43	Pileated Woodpecker*	8	Chestnut-sided Warbler
1046	Mallard*	154	Eastern Wood-Pewee	13	Black-throated Green Warbler
1	Hooded Merganser	122	Acadian Flycatcher	13	Yellow-throated Warbler*
31	Wild Turkey	5	Alder Flycatcher	7	Pine Warbler*
3	Pied-billed Grebe	115	Willow Flycatcher	2	Prairie Warbler
21	Double-crested Cormorant	3	Least Flycatcher	23	Cerulean Warbler
560	Great Blue Heron	121	Eastern Phoebe	3	Black & White Warbler
44	Green Heron	128	Great Crested Flycatcher*	39	American Redstart
124	Turkey Vulture	85	Eastern Kingbird	4	Prothonotary Warbler
6	Osprey	20	White-eyed Vireo	37	Ovenbird
3	Sharp-shinned Hawk	29	Yellow-throated Vireo	7	Louisiana Waterthrush
26	Cooper's Hawk	9	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Kentucky Warbler
30	Red-shouldered Hawk	167	Warbling Vireo*	1	Mourning Warbler
6	Broad-winged Hawk	363	Red-eyed Vireo	298	Common Yellowthroat
71	Red-tailed Hawk	621	Blue Jay	126	Hooded Warbler
7	American Kestrel	421	American Crow	12	Yellow-breasted Chat
8	Virginia Rail	7	Horned Lark	133	Scarlet Tanager
3	Sora	129	Purple Martin	193	Eastern Towhee
2	Common Moorhen	378	Tree Swallow*	420	Chipping Sparrow
1	American Coot	141	N. Rough-winged Swallow	128	Field Sparrow
191	Killdeer	114	Bank Swallow	1	Lark Sparrow
10	Spotted Sandpiper	384	Barn Swallow	78	Savannah Sparrow
1	Wilson's Snipe	636	Black-capped Chickadee	18	Grasshopper Sparrow
6	American Woodcock	294	Tufted Titmouse	1089	Song Sparrow*
166	Ring-billed Gull	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	73	Swamp Sparrow
4	Herring Gull	169	White-breasted Nuthatch	1210	Northern Cardinal
1	Common Tern	5	Brown Creeper	198	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
264	Rock Pigeon	100	Carolina Wren	302	Indigo Bunting
831	Mourning Dove	357	House Wren	3	Dickcissel
4	Black-billed Cuckoo	5	Marsh Wren	125	Bobolink
46	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	59	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1661	Red-winged Blackbird
7	Eastern Screech-Owl	124	Eastern Bluebird	45	Eastern Meadowlark
3	Great Horned Owl	44	Veery	1207	Common Grackle
5	Barred Owl	1	Hermit Thrush	406	Brown-headed Cowbird
6	Common Nighthawk	140	Wood Thrush	21	Orchard Oriole
642	Chimney Swift	2674	American Robin	298	Baltimore Oriole
60	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	807	Gray Catbird	6	Purple Finch
35	Belted Kingfisher	18	Brown Thrasher	320	House Finch
5	Red-headed Woodpecker	2272	European Starling	1116	American Goldfinch
242	Red-bellied Woodpecker	633	Cedar Waxwing*	1545	House Sparrow
249	Downy Woodpecker	71	Blue-winged Warbler		

\*record high for that species

**Total Species: 128 Total Birds: 30299 Party Hours: 350 + 11 owling**

Temperatures during the 10 day census period ranged from well above average to the lowest temperature of the month on June 18th. Most days were sunny with only one day with 0.32 inches of rain. Species abundance reflected recent GAAS trends. Of note were: a continued increase in mute swans; only one great horned owl and one screech owl during 10 hours of owling by Culls; good numbers of woodpeckers and hawks; a spike in yellow-billed cuckoos; a continued downtrend in bank swallows. Except for yellow warblers and common yellowthroats, warblers were found sporadically in select habitat. However, it is nice to harbor 19 species of warblers! Grassland species were found in fair numbers, reflecting both efforts to preserve grasslands and as yet undeveloped southern areas of the county. There were no detectable effects of the long, snowy winter. Four (!) species totally new to the GAAS census were exciting finds: a common tern over Nimisila Reservoir, a snipe from a small wetland in the NW corner of the county, dickcissels in two southern areas, a lark sparrow at the Akron sewage plant. These increased the cumulative total species over the 28 years of the GAAS census to 172.

## About the Authors



**Dwight Chasar** leads the Audubon Spring Bird Walk in Brecksville and participates in the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Summer Bird Count.



**Ray Hannikman**, former editor of the CBC, began birding in 1970. Since 1994, most of his non-Ohio birding has been focused on South America—mostly Peru and Brazil.



**Ann Chasar** volunteers in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Cleveland Metroparks, Brecksville Reservation. She and Doug Vogus began coordinating the GAAS Summer Bird Census in 2000.



**Larry Rosche**, former editor of the CBC has authored *Birds of the Cleveland Region*. He currently is an inventory biologist for the Natural Areas Division of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.



**Doug Vogus** has been birding almost since breathing! He and Ann Chasar became organizers of the GAAS Summer Bird Census when Carol Tveekrem moved from Ohio. He spends most of his free time in the CVNP.



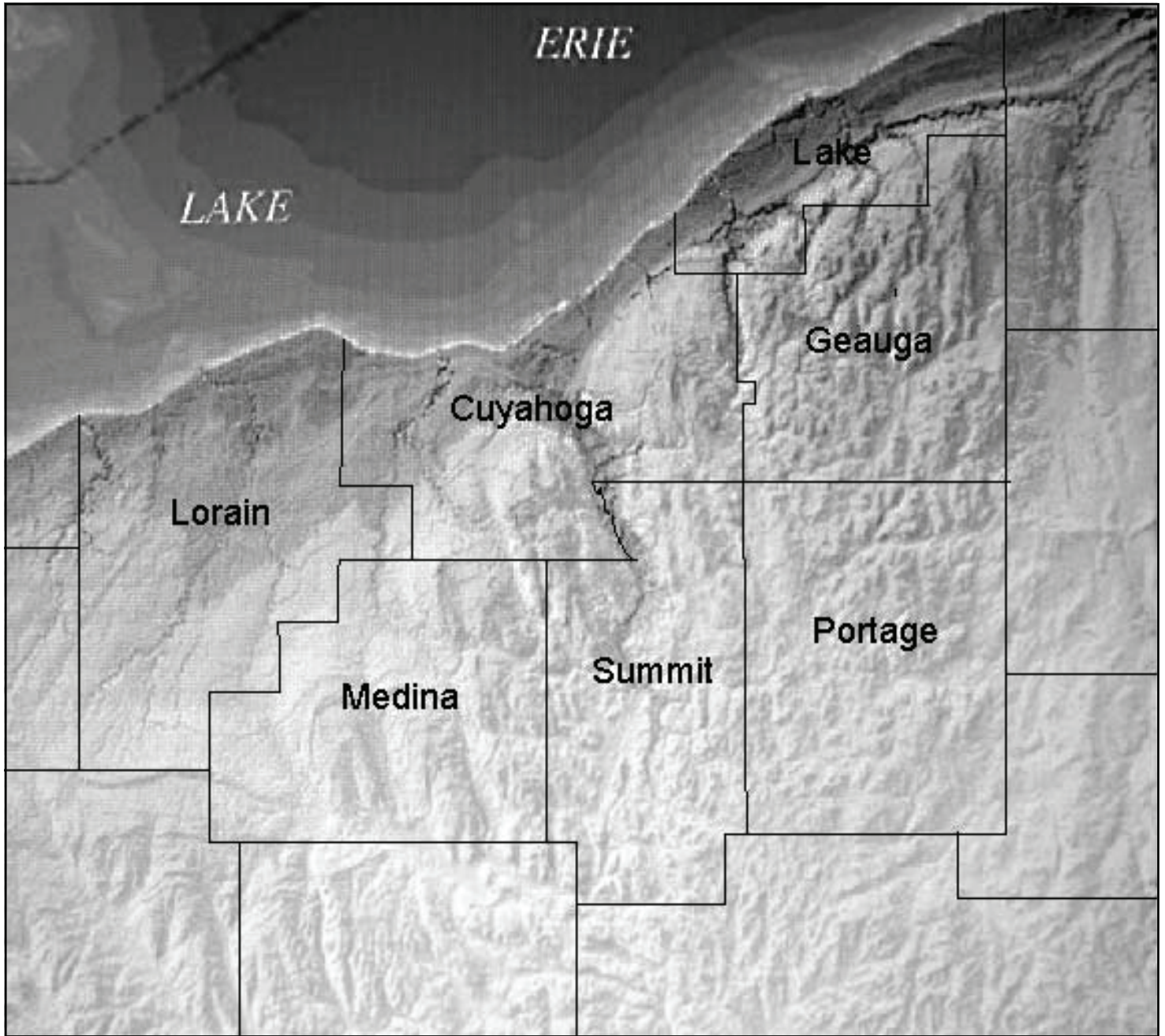
**Susan Jones** has led Audubon bird walks and intimately studied owls in the field. Although computer graphics is not currently her business focus, she's designed various journals and newsletters for 15 years.

## Thanks to Our Field Contributors...

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*The seven counties of northeast Ohio included in the Cleveland Bird Calendar region.*

