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*Bird Calendar of the*

**CLEVELAND BIRD CLUB**

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A summary of the weather conditions during April and May is as follows:

Month	Mean temperature	Normal temperature	Total precipitation	Normal precipitation
April	44.3°F	46.2°F	2.18 inches	2.44 inches
May	62.6	57.9	2.05	3.12

Temperatures during April averaged 1.9° below normal, during May 4.7° above normal. The first part of April was cool, the latter part warm, the first part of May was warm, the latter part cool. Precipitation during both months was below normal.

The following people contributed to this bulletin:

John Aldrich	S. Charles Kendeigh
B.P. Bole, Jr.	Margarette E. Morse
Franklin Jedlicka	Ralph O'Reilly
Lynds Jones	Merit B. Skaggs
Dale C. Kellogg	Arthur B. Williams

The table below gives the statistics concerning number of trips, mileage, duration, etc.

	April	May
Number of trips	61	82
Observers per trip	1.8	2.0
Total mileage on foot per trip	2.7	3.0
Hours per trip	2.6	3.2
Total hours of observation in dense woods	57	101
Total hours of observation in open country	68	100
Total hours of observation in marshes, along lakes and streams	33	62

The above table does not include records of two or three individuals who reported migration data only. Mr. Jedlicka reported 26 trips for the two months, which is more than anyone else reported. Miss Morse seems to have the longest list of species observed, 154, but Mr. Skaggs is close with 151. The total number of trips taken thus far this year is 235, which is more than in 1934 (200) but less than in 1935 (271).

A total of 201 species were observed by all observers during April and May. The total year's list to date is 209. This is one more than was observed last year at this time.

Some of the more unusual species observed are given special mention on the next page.

American Scoter (B.P.B.) – April 26 (1) Gordon Park.  
Goshawk (M.B.S.) – April 19 (1) Pymatuning, identification later checked.  
Golden Plover (D.C.K.) – April 23 (50), 26 (17), 29 (25).  
Dowitcher (A.B.W.) – April 26 (2)  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (S.C.K., F.J., O'R) – May 16 (1, 1), 23 (1).  
Bewick Wren (M.B.S.) – May 10 (1) Ceylon Junction, east of Huron, good identification.  
Mockingbird (R.L. Votypka) – May 21 (2) Boston Heights.  
Gray-cheeked Thrush (B.P.B.) – May 18 (15).  
Philadelphia Vireo (F.J., M.B.S., B.P.B.) – May 7 (1), 10 (1, 1), 24 (3).  
Golden-winged Warbler (S.C.K.) – May 7 (1) North Chagrin Park, excellent view.  
Orange-crowned Warbler (M.B.S., F.J., B.P.B.) – May 8 (2), 9 (1), 16 (1, 3), 24 (2)  
Sycamore Warbler (B.P.B.) – May 24 (1) Observed closely near Gordon Park.  
Pine Warbler (O'R) – May 1 (1) Observed for 10 minutes at 10-15 feet.  
Worm-eating Warbler (F.J.) – May 9 (1) Observed for a half-hour often within 10 feet.  
Connecticut Warbler (A.B.W.) – May 7 (1).  
Blue Grosbeak (R. Frank Kukowitch) – May 4 (1) Observed in shrubbery near West Tech High School greenhouse at close range for 10 minutes. The bird was a female and the observer is sure of his identification.

Mr. O'Reilly reports finding a sora rail in his backyard on May 12! He also saw on April 8 a large black falcon flying over the Heights. The bird had long pointed wings, a long narrow tail, and of a size suggestive of the duck hawk.

Mr. Skaggs writes: On May 30, Mrs. Skaggs and I found two young killdeer not over three days old. When we chased one it ran to a small stream and swam across and remained in the water under some small willows. We caught it and carried it to its mother.

I saw an English sparrow come out of a bluebird's nest-box, having chased out all but one of the young. The next morning the remaining one was dead with a bloody head. Pretty bad circumstantial evidence against the sparrow!

Mr. Williams sends the following notes on migration in the Rocky River valley: from April 3 to 8, and possibly longer, the migration of robins seemed to be held at a standstill in the valley. This was a period of snow and below freezing temperatures. The birds were largely on the ground along river and stream edges where they seemed to be getting food from the exposed mud. This situation was general throughout the region from Cedar Point road to the river mouth. By making unit counts it was estimated that there were probably 2000 robins thus "waiting" in this short stretch of valley.

On April 21 the temperature went below freezing, so that on the 22nd there was considerable ice and remains of snow in the valley. On this day it was apparent that the valley was flooded with hermit thrushes which seemed to be waiting for more favorable conditions to migrate. By making unit counts it was estimated that probably 1000 hermit thrushes were using the valley as a refuge at that time. Berries of sumacs (*Rhus typhina* and *R. glabra*) were largely being used as food.

On April 22 yellow-bellied sapsuckers were common throughout the valley. If their distribution was at all even, there may have been from 100 to 150 of these birds present from Cedar Point to the river mouth.

From observations made throughout early May along both sides of the river edge for about a mile upstream from Puritas Springs Road it appears that pairs of song sparrows are nesting along the river edge pretty regularly from 300 to 500 feet apart.

Dr. Lynds Jones reports the following species of water birds nesting in the Port Clinton-Catawba-Marblehead region: mallard, coot, baldpate, black, and shoveler. Those who were on the Bird Club trip of May 17 to Pymatuning were interested in finding many ducks apparently nesting: black, mallard, blue-winged teal, shoveler, lesser scaup, and pintail.

Mr. Jedlicka writes the following plea for the preservation of herons that is quoted word for word: "Herons are beautiful birds. So why aren't they protected more carefully? At Pymatuning the heronry had been raided before we got there, and at Fremont we saw a terrible spectacle. Herons, both great blue and black-crowned, were lying everywhere. These beautiful birds hung from the branches where they had become entangled. They cluttered up the ground where they had fallen. Vultures filled the skies. Is this the way these birds are protected? Mr. Fuller expressed his opinion that they were slain because of their fish-eating habits. Are these birds to be slaughtered because they eat fish - their natural food? Who is more entitled to the fish than they? - not man. Something must be done, - and soon!"

The editor here interjects a comment. Mr. Skaggs also has been much concerned about the lack of heron conservation in northern Ohio and has taken up the matter with state officials in Columbus. We suggest that anyone who is interested, or who has any influence, or is willing to get to work on the matter, communicate with Mr. M.B. Skaggs (14755 Coit Road, Cleveland, Ohio).

In the tables that follow, records of the density of many species of birds are given covering the three spring months of March, April, and May. The data are presented as number of birds observed per hour spent in each kind of habitat. The statistics are obviously of approximate accuracy only because of difficulty of counting all birds observed, of properly estimating the amount of time spent in various habitats, and in some cases, even of placing the bird in its proper habitat. However, the averages probably have relative significance when prepared in the same way year after year and may give some idea as to seasonal and annual fluctuations in abundance. The figures also give some idea as to the relative abundance of different species if one keeps in mind that the more conspicuous species will be seen in larger numbers than the less conspicuous forms.

BIRDS OF THE DENSER WOODS

Number observed per hour in habitat (March, April, May)

	1936	1935	Remarks
Hermit Thrush	2.29	2.03	April only
Red-eyed Vireo	2.13	- - -	May only
Cardinal	2.03	3.39	
Ovenbird	1.85	1.25	May only
Black-throated Green Warbler	1.72	1.68	May only
Redstart	1.66	- - -	May only
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1.38	0.42	April only
Wood Thrush	1.26	1.21	May only
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1.12	1.42	March and April
Tufted Titmouse	1.10	1.57	
Towhee	0.92	2.36	April and May
Hooded Warbler	0.87	- - -	May only
Crested Flycatcher	0.87	0.62	May only
Black-capped Chickadee	0.86	0.64	
Scarlet Tanager	0.81	- - -	May only
Olive-backed Thrush	0.80	0.87	May only
Downy Woodpecker	0.79	1.01	
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.51	0.80	
Cerulean Warbler	0.50	0.13	May only
Warbling Vireo	0.46	0.47	May only
Brown Creeper	0.33	0.36	March and April
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0.28	0.30	May only
Louisiana Water-thrush	0.25	0.20	May only
Hairy Woodpecker	0.24	0.23	
Veery	0.21	0.32	May only
Least Flycatcher	0.18	- - -	May only
Yellow-throated Vireo	0.14	- - -	May only
Acadian Flycatcher	0.12	- - -	May only
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0.06	0.17	May only
Carolina Wren	0.06	0.07	
Barred Owl	0.05	0.13	
Pileated Woodpecker	0.04	0.05	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.04	0.00	March and April
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0.03	0.06	
Winter Wren	0.02	0.03	March and April
Great Horned Owl	0.02	0.00	
Ruffed Grouse	0.01	0.02	
Grand Total, excluding species not represented both years	20.10	21.81	

Of the 30 species in which data are available for this year and last, the total number of individuals to be seen per hour is only slightly less this year. Considering the 12 permanent resident species separately, the total number of individuals observed per hour this year was 5.74, last year 7.97, a reduction in numbers of 28%. Of this group only the black-capped chickadee showed a significant increase. The 14 migratory and summer resident species have about the same numbers this year, 12.85, and last, 12.03. Many of these wintered, of course, far to the south and avoided our last cold winter in northern Ohio.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY  
(Open woods, shrubby fields, farmland, cities)

Number observed per hour in habitat (March, April, May)

	1936	1935	Remarks
Crow	28.80	14.05	
Robin	15.06	25.04	
Slate-colored Junco	14.70	21.30	March and April
English Sparrow	9.84	10.73	
Song Sparrow	6.99	9.95	
Bronzed Grackle	7.06	21.20	
Starling	6.23	28.64	
Tree Sparrow	4.16	3.56	March and April
Yellow Warbler	3.78	5.06	May only
Cowbird	2.99	10.46	April and May
Mourning Dove	2.95	5.44	
Field Sparrow	2.14	3.09	April and May
Barn Swallow	2.09	6.72	
Meadowlark	1.94	3.77	
Purple Martin	1.86	5.32	May only
Flicker	1.73	4.24	
House Wren	1.62	2.98	May only
Bluebird	1.60	1.61	
Chimney Swift	1.60	5.93	May only
Cedar Waxwing	1.52	5.78	
Catbird	1.51	2.65	May only
Killdeer	1.42	1.83	
Bob-white	1.39	1.94	
Goldfinch	1.23	2.96	
Kingbird	1.06	0.61	May only
Baltimore Oriole	1.00	1.19	May only
Phoebe	0.99	2.62	April and May
Bobolink	0.91	1.08	May only
Prairie Horned Lark	0.71	0.89	
Vesper Sparrow	0.63	1.39	April and May
Chipping Sparrow	0.60	1.12	April and May
Indigo Bunting	0.51	1.11	May only
Brown Thrasher	0.44	0.71	May only
Grasshopper Sparrow	0.44	0.20	May only
Turkey Vulture	0.39	0.49	April and May
Ring-necked Pheasant	0.36	0.47	
Blue-winged Warbler	0.33	0.71	May only
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.30	0.43	
Sparrow Hawk	0.25	0.28	
Marsh Hawk	0.17	0.37	
Red-tailed Hawk	0.16	0.11	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0.13	0.10	
Savannah Sparrow	0.13	0.15	May only
Cooper Hawk	0.11	0.02	
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.11	0.32	
Henslow Sparrow	0.09	0.15	May only
Screech Owl	0.09	0.05	
Migrant Shrike	0.05	0.10	April and May
Broad-winged Hawk	0.03	0.10	
Total, 49 species	134.20	219.02	

The open country birds show a marked decrease in numbers this year compared with last. This decrease amounts to 39%. The abundance of these birds now more nearly compares with what it was in 1934, since the calendar last year noted a much greater abundance in 1935 over 1934. Out of the 49 species for which comparisons are available for 1936 and 1935 only a very few species have a greater abundance this year, notably crow, tree sparrow, kingbird, grasshopper sparrow, and possibly three or four others. The bluebird appears to have maintained its abundance similar to what it was last year.

In the last bulletin of the calendar this year a month by month comparison was made of the numbers of bob-white for the winter season this year and last. In the table below this is extended to include the spring months and a correction made of one figure previously given.

	December	January	February	March	April	May
1935	2.46	2.90	2.71	0.82	2.73	2.27
1936	5.14	5.00	2.59	1.58	1.50	1.09

In 1935, the species maintained nearly constant numbers throughout the winter and spring (excluding the anomalous value for March). The average value for December and January is 2.68, for April and May 2.50. Mortality must have been very low. In 1936, the average value for December and January is 5.12, for April and May 1.30, a decrease of 75%. This must mean that the mortality of this species last winter was very great and may be correlated with the long continued snow and cold. The greatest mortality came apparently in February and March. Thus, in spite of the fact that during the winter the bob-white population this year averaged 91% greater than last year, by the end of spring it averaged 48% less. Will the amount of reproduction this summer be sufficient to offset this loss?

BIRDS OF THE OPEN LAKE, LAKESHORE, STREAMS, AND MARSHES

Number observed per hour in habitat (March, April, May)

	1936	1935	Remarks
Canvasback	75.50	15.20	March and April
Lesser Scaup Duck	59.56	7.74	
Coot	27.33	7.14	April and May
Red-winged Blackbird	22.47	15.83	
Bonaparte Gull	20.45	11.94	April only
American Merganser	15.56	0.50	March and April
Black Duck	12.15	5.91	
Herring Gull	10.44	14.24	
Ring-billed Gull	7.77	3.90	
Bank Swallow	4.41	4.76	May only
Baldpate	4.30	8.32	April only
Rough-winged Swallow	3.96	8.47	May only
Ring-necked Duck	3.03	1.94	April only
Rusty Blackbird	2.57	0.42	April only
Golden-eye	2.48	0.69	March and April
Blue-winged Teal	1.90	2.17	April and May
Red-breasted Merganser	1.88	1.70	March and April
Great Blue Heron	1.68	3.57	April and May
Northern Yellow-throat	1.34	3.39	May only
Shoveller	1.34	1.20	April and May
Spotted Sandpiper	1.14	3.78	May only
Mallard	1.13	2.32	
Pied-billed Grebe	1.11	0.38	April and May
Common Tern	1.08	15.36	May only
Pintail	1.00	0.36	April only
Bufflehead	0.84	0.64	April only
Belted Kingfisher	0.76	1.90	April and May
Tree Swallow	0.74	3.23	May only
Black-crowned Night Heron	0.69	3.19	May only
Green Heron	0.30	0.50	May only
Gadwall	0.18	0.10	April only
Swamp Sparrow	0.16	0.50	May only
American Bittern	0.14	0.23	May only
Green-winged Teal	0.12	0.10	April only
Bald Eagle	0.12	0.02	
Florida Gallinule	0.12	0.63	May only
Wilson Snipe	0.12	0.29	April and May
Sora Rail	0.03	0.10	May only
Virginia Rail	0.01	0.09	May only
TOTAL, 39 species	289.91	152.74	

Taking all the species together, these marsh, river, and lake birds have increased considerably this year as compared to last year. This increase in total number is due chiefly, however, to the notable increases in the first 7 species listed in the table. Considering species by species, 19 are more abundant this year than last compared with 20 species that are less abundant. An encouraging increase is noted in the food ducks, 10 species show an increase in numbers, 3 a decrease. The total number of food ducks this year is 163.53, last year 46.68. The large increase in coots is noteworthy. All three species of herons have decreased in numbers, which is of significance in view of their being destroyed commonly by fishermen in recent years.

## SPRING MIGRATION

	<u>First Record</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Last Record</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	March 29	April 26	May 3	Some winter
American Bittern	April 4	- - -	- - -	
Wood Duck	April 4	- - -	- - -	
Bonaparte Gull	April 4	April 16	May 17	One February record
Louisiana Water-thrush	April 8	May 3, 17	- - -	
Swamp Sparrow	April 9	May 10	- - -	
Lesser Yellow-legs	April 10	- - -	May 23	
Greater Yellow-legs	April 10	May 17	May 23	
Horned Grebe	April 11	- - -	April 26	One February record
Solitary Sandpiper	April 12	May 1-10	May 17	
Upland Plover	April 13	- - -	- - -	
Osprey	April 13	- - -	- - -	
Tree Swallow	April 13	April 25-26	- - -	
Savannah Sparrow	April 13	- - -	- - -	
Red-tailed Hawk	April 13	April 29	- - -	Some winter
Winter Wren	April 13	- - -	April 29	Some winter
Olive-backed Thrush	April 13	May 9-10, 16-18	May 30	
Myrtle Warbler	April 18	May 1-5	May 17	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 18	April 26	May 10	
Loon	April 19	- - -	May 23	
Florida Gallinule	April 19	- - -	- - -	
Rough-winged Swallow	April 19	May 10, 16-17	- - -	
Bank Swallow	April 19	- - -	- - -	
Brown Thrasher	April 19	- - -	- - -	
Barn Swallow	April 19	- - -	May 16-17	
Caspian Tern	April 19	- - -	May 23	
White-throated Sparrow	April 20	May 3	May 16	
Lincoln Sparrow	April 22	- - -	May 10	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 22	- - -	- - -	
Grasshopper Sparrow	April 22	- - -	- - -	
Black-crowned Night Heron	April 22	- - -	- - -	
Golden Plover	April 23	- - -	April 29	
Goldfinch	April 23	May 10, 16-17	- - -	Some winter
Sora Rail	April 23	- - -	- - -	
Long-billed Marsh Wren	April 23	- - -	- - -	
Chimney Swift	April 25	- - -	- - -	
Spotted Sandpiper	April 26	May 16	- - -	
Virginia Rail	April 26	- - -	- - -	
Semipalmated Plover	April 26	- - -	May 23	
Dowitcher	April 26	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Black and White Warbler	April 28	May 1-5	May 17	
Whip-poor-will	April 28	- - -	- - -	
Green Heron	April 28	- - -	- - -	
Red-headed Woodpecker	April 28	- - -	- - -	Many winter
Bobolink	April 28	May 9, 17	- - -	
Wood Thrush	April 28	- - -	- - -	
White-crowned Sparrow	April 29	May 7-10	May 20	
Baltimore Oriole	April 29	May 9-10	- - -	
House Wren	April 29	- - -	- - -	
Yellow Warbler	April 29	May 1-10	- - -	
Ovenbird	April 29	- - -	- - -	
Blue-headed Vireo	April 30	- - -	May 10	



Catbird	April 30	- - -	- - -	
Palm Warbler	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Pine Warbler	May 1	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Nashville Warbler	May 1	May 10	May 17	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 1	- - -	May 23	
Black Tern	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Common Tern	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Northern Yellow-throat	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Henslow Sparrow	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	May 1	May 3	May 16	Some wintered
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Least Flycatcher	May 1	- - -	- - -	A few remain
Veery	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Warbling Vireo	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Crested Flycatcher	May 1	May 16-17	- - -	
Black-throated Green Warbler	May 1	May 4	- - -	
Red-eyed Vireo	May 1	- - -	- - -	
Black-poll Warbler	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Blackburian Warbler	May 2	- - -	May 16	
Cape May Warbler	May 2	- - -	May 10	
Magnolia Warbler	May 2	May 10, 16	May 20	
Tennessee Warbler	May 2	- - -	May 16	
Indigo Bunting	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Kingbird	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Acadian Flycatcher	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Scarlet Tanager	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Hooded Warbler	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Redstart	May 2	- - -	- - -	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 3	- - -	May 17	
Red-backed Sandpiper	May 3	- - -	May 23	
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 3	- - -	- - -	
Blue-winged Warbler	May 3	- - -	- - -	
Cerulean Warbler	May 3	- - -	- - -	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	May 4	- - -	May 18	
Cliff Swallow	May 4	- - -	- - -	
Grinnell Water-thrush	May 6	- - -	- - -	
Wood Pewee	May 6	- - -	- - -	
Connecticut Warbler	May 7	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Parula Warbler	May 7	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Golden-winged Warbler	May 7	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Philadelphia Vireo	May 7	- - -	May 24	
Nighthawk	May 7	May 10	- - -	
Bay-breasted Warbler	May 8	- - -	May 20	
Orange-crowned Warbler	May 8	- - -	May 24	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 8	- - -	- - -	
Canada Warbler	May 9	- - -	May 17	
Worm-eating Warbler	May 9	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Least Sandpiper	May 9	- - -	May 23	
Orchard Oriole	May 10	- - -	- - -	
Wilson Warbler	May 10	- - -	May 24	
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 10	- - -	- - -	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 10	- - -	- - -	

Least Bittern	May 10	- - -	- - -	
Woodcock	May 14	- - -	- - -	No earlier records
Ruddy Turnstone	May 14	- - -	May 24	
King Rail	May 14	- - -	- - -	
Mourning Warbler	May 16	- - -	May 17	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 16	- - -	May 23	
Alder Flycatcher	May 17	- - -	- - -	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 18	- - -	- - -	Only the one record
Sycamore Warbler	May 24	- - -	- - -	Only the one record

#### Other Last Records

Redhead Duck – April 8, Whistling Swan – April 12, Tree Sparrow – April 23, Canada Goose – April 26, Fox Sparrow – April 26, Pectoral Sandpiper – April 26, Baldpate – April 26, Canvasback – April 26, American Merganser – April 30, Slate-colored Junco – May 2 (some remain to breed on Little Mountain), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – May 3, Gadwall – May 3, Bufflehead – May 3, Rusty Black-bird – May 3, Ring-necked Duck – May 3, Ring-necked Duck, May 3, American Golden-eye – May 7 (female on Shaker Lake), Ruddy Duck – May 10, Green-winged Teal – May 11, Wilson Snipe – May 16, Red-breasted Merganser – May 17, Lesser Scaup Duck – May 17, Purple Finch – May 18, Hooded Merganser – May 23, Hermit Thrush – May 30.

About five high spots may be noted in the migration table for April and May, perhaps these may be called migration “waves”. These came on April 13, 19, 28-29, May 1-2, and May 7-10. Between these dates, the arrival of many species occurred on scattered dates but the migration appeared to be going on at a slower pace. The migration during early April was slow, due to cold weather, but had speeded up considerably by the end of the month. The warbler migration in May came unusually early, being at its height during the first week of the month, rather than the second week as is normal. Some observers who missed going out during this first week noted very few warblers since the birds passed through in a hurry. Unusual concentrations of some species of warblers occurred locally. For example, Mr. Bole observed the following at Little Mountain and the Holden Arboretum on May 4: Black and White Warbler – 25, Black-throated Blue Warbler – 200, Black-throated Green Warbler – 50, Blackburnian Warbler – 10, Myrtle Warbler – 200, Palm Warbler – 50. Those who were on the early Sunday morning bird walk at Shaker Lakes on May 3 will long remember the hordes of myrtle, yellow, and palm warblers that were observed, most of the males in full song.