



33rd Year – Bulletin No. 1
January-February-March, 1937

Bird Calendar of the

Prepared
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CLEVELAND BIRD CLUB

CLEVELAND, O.

A summary of the weather conditions in the Cleveland vicinity for January, February and March, is as follows:

Month	Mean Temperature	Normal Temperature	Total Precipitation	Normal Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Normal Snowfall
January	35.8°F	26.5°F	6.58 in.	2.51 in.	5.3 in.	10.5 in.
February	30.9	27.4	1.74	2.51	6.5	9.7
March	31.7	34.6	2.00	2.71	9.7	5.1

As seen from the above data, comparatively mild conditions prevailed in January and February, temperatures being 9.3° and 3.5° above normal and snowfall only on-half to two-thirds normal, respectively. In March, on the other hand, temperatures were 2.9° below normal and snow fall nearly twice normal. Total precipitation was high in January and near normal for the other months.

The contributors to this Bird Calendar bulletin are:

John W. Aldrich
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Franklin Jedlicka
Dale C. Kellogg

Eugene P. Odum
Ralph O'Reilly, Jr.
Merit B. Skaggs
Arthur B. Williams

Margarette E. Morse

We wish there were more contributors to this Calendar than are represented in the above list. Most of these people have been sending in bird lists for several years and we welcome their records for compilation here. A composite list is more valuable and interesting than individual lists, both as a basis of permanent record and for comparison from year to year. Anyone interested is invited to contribute, and if you know of any person who is making field lists of birds seen on trips in this region, tell them about the Calendar and ask them to come and get acquainted. We also welcome brief notes concerning any phase of bird study that may come to your attention which you believe may be of popular and permanent interest.

A line of bird observation and study to keep in mind for the summer season, beginning at once, is the taking of a census of breeding birds in some selected habitat. You may be interested in the birds of a coniferous forest, a beech-maple or oak-hickory deciduous forest, farmland, marsh, a country estate, or some other type of area. If so, visit the area five or six, or more, times during the summer, at weekly intervals. Sketch a rough map of the area, and indicate on the map all nests located or other evidence of nesting birds. To be worthwhile, such an area should be at least 15 acres in size, but preferably not over 50 or 60 acres. You will find such a study a lot of fun and a stimulus for summer study that may teach you new facts about birds. We are interested in

including lists of numbers of all such breeding birds on known acreage in this Calendar for the summer season. Bird-Lore magazine will also publish the best of these as they are undertaking this year a nation-wide breeding bird census in all kinds of habitats, of the sort that this Calendar has been publishing for several years. (See Bird-Lore, 1937, Vol. 39 (March-April), page 147, or telephone Dr. A. B. Williams for full instructions).

The total number of species recorded during the first three months of this year is 80, which is 20 less than observed over the similar period of 1936. Mr. Skaggs saw the largest number of species for a single observer, listing 59 species. He was able to increase the size of his list by trips for water birds. Mr. Bole took the largest number of trips for birds, 15, which included weekly visits to his special study area on Little Mountain.

The number of trips per month by all observers and other information is given in the table below:

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Number of trips	11	18	38
Observers per trip	1.4	1.6	1.9
Hours per trip	3.5	3.0	3.1
Total mileage on foot per trip	2.2	2.3	2.5
Total hours of observation in dense woods	23	29	53
Total hours of observation in open country	6	19	36
Total hours of observation in marshes along lakes and streams	10	6	30

The total number of trips, 67, is 25 less than last year's 92. This accounts for the fewer species seen in these three months this year, compared with last year, as mentioned above.

A few rare species require special notation:

Double-crested Cormorant – Feb. 20 (1), seen by O'Reilly in Ashtabula Harbor.

European Wigeon – Mar. 21 (1), 27 (1). The first record was obtained by Kellogg. He states it was a lone male in a flock of 40 Baldpate and was watched for a half-hour. The second record was made by Skaggs, also of a male, found at Pymatuning.

Black-backed Gull – Jan. 25 (1). Mr. Aldrich found this bird when taking a waterfowl census for the Biological Survey, along with Mr. Connell, Chief Game Protector of the Cleveland area. The observers were taken in a U.S. Coast Guard cutter along the inside of the Cleveland breakwater for its full length, then outside and east along the coast, about five miles off shore, to Euclid Beach, returning at a distance of one mile from shore. Later they went by car from Perkins Beach on the west side to the City Disposal Plant on the east side, stopping at all the breakwater enclosures along the way. Besides the Black-backed Gull, they listed:

Lesser Scaup Duck	886
Golden-eye Duck	5
American Merganser	37
Black Duck	384
Mallard	2
Herring Gull	1500
Ring-billed Gull	500
Bonaparte Gull	1000

Iceland Gull – Jan. 30 (1). Observed by Skaggs, O'Reilly and Miss Morse, at Ashtabula Harbor. It was observed with Herring Gulls, both flying and sitting on the ice.

Evening Grosbeak – March 14 (4). Seen by Mr. and Mrs. Skaggs, Miss Morse and Mr. O'Reilly. Miss Morse writes, "It was a real bird thrill to see the Evening Grosbeaks, 2 males and 2 females, at the feeding station where they had been coming for several weeks. This was my first sighting of them in Ohio."

Redpoll – Feb. 22 (29). Miss Morse tells of seeing these birds, while accompanied by Miss Carrothers, at Fairport, near Mentor, observing them with 8x binoculars for about a half-hour. "On the ground and in the weeds we approached sufficiently close to see the bright red caps, black chins and reddish wash on the breast of the males."

Summary of Field Trips

The following tables summarize the number of birds of each species seen per hour's observation in each type of habitat.

BIRDS OF THE DENSER WOODS

<u>Species</u>	Number observed per hour in habitat (average of December, January, February)		
	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
	Black-capped Chickadee	2.58	2.17
Tufted Titmouse	1.92	1.77	2.46
Cardinal	1.57	1.79	1.57
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.46	1.36	1.34
Downy Woodpecker	0.72	1.05	1.48
Hairy Woodpecker	0.64	0.33	0.64
Ruffed Grouse	0.18	0.07	0.03
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.13	0.22	0.20
Pileated Woodpecker	0.10	0.04	0.21
Brown Creeper	0.04	0.08	0.06
Barred Owl	0.03	0.08	0.09
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.01	0.19	0.00
Great-horned Owl	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total: 13 Species	9.39	9.15	9.87

The total number of birds in the denser woods has varied but little in the last three years, although some changes in the status of individual species has occurred. The Chickadee appears to be gaining in abundance, the Titmouse decreased considerably in 1936 from 1935, but was gaining again in 1937, the Downy Woodpecker appears to be steadily increasing in numbers, the Ruffed Grouse may be in the upswing of its cycle, and other species have remained nearly the same or varied in a more random manner.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY
(Open woods, shrubby fields, farmland, cities. Number
observed per hour in habitat during December, January, February).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
English Sparrow	18.98	29.96	- - -
Starling	12.06	19.70	31.93
Tree Sparrow	7.48	23.28	15.63
Bob-white	4.47	4.24	2.69
Slate-colored Junco	3.93	15.55	5.11
Song Sparrow	1.61	2.74	0.79
Blue Jay	1.07	3.77	3.15
Crow	0.92	4.32	1.25
Prairie Horned Lark	0.88	3.12	17.52
Ring-necked Pheasant	0.76	1.07	0.15
Cedar Waxwing	0.29	1.59	0.00
Sparrow Hawk	0.22	0.28	0.30
Mourning Dove	0.16	0.71	0.43
Robin	0.15	0.08	0.00
Red-tailed Hawk	0.11	0.06	0.08
Cooper's Hawk	0.05	0.06	0.00
Goldfinch	0.05	2.01	3.12
Screech Owl	0.04	0.19	0.07
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.03	0.17	0.07
Marsh Hawk	0.02	0.02	0.16
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.01	0.08	0.00
Total: 21 Species	53.29	113.00	82.45
Total (omitting English Sparrow)	34.31	83.04	82.45

The total number of birds in the open country shows a decrease in abundance this year over last, amounting to 53 percent. This is considerable and one wonders what may have produced it. The total numbers for 1936 and 1935 agree very closely. The Starling, Prairie Horned Lark, Sparrow Hawk and Goldfinch show a progressive decrease in numbers during the last three years, the other species vary in an irregular manner.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN LAKES, LAKESHORE, STREAMS AND MARSHES
 Number observed per hour in habitat (December, January, February).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
Herring Gull	82.19	57.23	16.64
Lesser Scaup Duck	47.59	53.55	47.49
Bonaparte Gull	41.67	13.93	6.16
Ring-billed Gull	34.03	119.23	14.32
Black Duck	14.80	13.86	2.64
American Golden-eye	5.27	12.93	0.73
American Merganser	2.46	8.68	4.25
Ring-necked Duck	1.06	0.00	0.00
Red-breasted Merganser	0.33	3.54	1.59
Bald Eagle	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total: 10 Species	229.41	283.14	93.82

The abundance of water birds would be in reasonable agreement for 1937 and 1936 were it not for the exceptional temporary concentration of the Ring-billed Gull during December 1936, which raises the average for that winter. The low figure for 1935 is due largely to the low numbers of Gulls that were reported that year.

MIGRATION TABLE

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Record</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Crow	Feb. 12 (1, 1)	Many wintered
Prairie Horned Lark	Feb. 13 (8, 5)	10 seen on Jan. 11
Song Sparrow	Feb. 20 (12)	Some wintered
Ring-necked Duck	Feb. 28 (10)	Some wintered
Bluebird	March 4 (2)	2 seen on Feb. 8
Killdeer	March 4 (1)	
Hooded Merganser	March 4 (11)	
Canada Goose	March 5 (100)	
Robin	March 6 (5)	2 seen on Jan. 4
Cowbird	March 6 (3)	
Red-winged Blackbird	March 6 (3)	
Meadowlark	March 7 (1)	
Bronzed Grackle	March 7 (1)	
Baldpate	March 9 (1)	
Whistling Swan	March 9 (37)	
Marsh Hawk	March 9 (1)	
Canvas-back	March 11 (4)	
Redhead Woodpecker	March 12 (180) [transcriber's note: probably Redhead (duck)]	
Bufflehead	March 12 (6)	
Kingfisher	March 13 (2)	
Mallard	March 13 (2)	2 records on Jan. 25
Mourning Dove	March 14 (48)	2 seen on Feb. 8
Coot	March 20 (1)	
Pintail	March 20 (20)	3 seen on Dec. 1
Great Blue Heron	March 21 (1)	
Turkey Vulture	March 22 (1)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	March 22 (1)	
Shoveller	March 27 (1)	
Green-winged Teal	March 27 (6)	
Pied-billed Grebe	March 27 (6)	
Horned Grebe	March 28 (1)	
Gadwall	March 28 (4)	
Blue-winged Teal	March 28 (4)	
Phoebe	March 29 (1)	
Vesper Sparrow	March 30 (1)	
Towhee	March 31 (1)	
Migrant Shrike	March 31 (1)	
Field Sparrow	March 31 (4)	
Fox Sparrow	March 31 (1)	

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