

Founded by  
FRANCIS H. HERRICK  
in 1905 for the recording  
of bird activities.

Edited by  
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BIRD CALENDAR COMMITTEE  
FOR 1938  
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*Bird Calendar of the*  
CLEVELAND BIRD CLUB

34th Year – Bulletin No. 1

April 30, 1938.

A summary of the weather conditions in the Cleveland area is as follows:

Month	Mean Temperature	Normal Temperature	Total Precipitation	Normal Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Normal Snowfall
January	29.0	26.5	1.07	2.51	8.9	10.5
February	33.8	27.4	3.01	2.51	2.0	9.7
March	43.6	34.6	3.52	2.71	0.6	5.1

The following people contributed records for the autumn season:

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

Charles H. Knight  
Margarette E. Morse  
Ralph O'Reilly  
Merit B. Skaggs  
M. B. Walters

Arthur B. Williams

The amount of trip activity is summarized in the table below:

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Number of field trips	21	15	33
Observers per trip	2.0	1.5	2.2
Hours per trip	3.4	2.8	2.8
Total mileage on foot per trip	3.4	3.1	2.3
Total hours observation in dense woods	48	25	30
Total hours observation in open country	14	11	34
Total hours observation in marshes, along lakes and streams	10	6	30

The total number of field trips is 69 as compared to 67 and 92 for the same period in 1937 and 1936, respectively. The total number of hours in field was 208, as compared with 212 last year.

In number of trips taken, Mr. Jedlicka leads with 13, followed by Mr. Bole and Miss Morse with 12. Mr. Bole leads in number of hours spent in the field, with 35, followed by Miss Hellwig with 33, and Dr. Williams with 32.

The total number of species reported for the first three months of 1938 is 99, 19 more than for the similar period of 1937. Miss Hellwig reported the most species for one observer, 62; Mr. O'Reilly lists 60 species. Both included species from Pymatuning Lake.

Records of some of the less common birds which were reported are:

Horned Grebe: Jan. 6 (1) MEM and Jan. 30 (1) MBS, Lake shore.  
 Old Squaw: Mar. 27 (1) RO'R, Mentor Yacht Basin  
 Short-eared Owl: Mar. 12 (1) MBW  
 Saw-whet Owl: Mar. 15, 9: p.m. (1) and Mar. 24, 4:30 a.m. (1) RO'R. Both at Cleveland Heights. Also one heard same place in February.  
 Hermit Thrush wintering on Adelbert campus, seen Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, RO'R  
 Redpoll: Jan. 27 (60) ABW South Chagrin; Mar. 12 (45) RO'R, MEM, MBS, Shaker Lakes  
 Snow Bunting: Jan. 15 (200) W. I. White, Jr., University Heights; Feb. 13 (5) RO'R

Attention should be called to Bird-Lore's second annual breeding bird census. Census work should be started immediately. Last year 15 censuses were contributed from the Cleveland area which equaled the number published from all the rest of the country put together. It is hoped that we can keep up our leadership in this field and as many as possible of those contributing last year should be able to census the same areas again this year. Much of the value of these censuses lies in comparisons from year to year. Those areas being censused for the first time this year should be of a uniform habitat and taken with the idea of repeating counts on the same area in subsequent years in order to be acceptable to Bird-Lore. Complete instructions will be found in the March-April issue of Bird-Lore. Those participating in these censuses should get in touch with Dr. Williams who, as last year, will act as supervisor for the local region. Censuses should be sent to him for final checking before being submitted to Bird-Lore and the Calendar.

The following general notes were sent in by Mr. Skaggs. The Calendar is always glad to receive interesting notes of habits and behavior of birds and any original observations which, so to speak, are not to be found "in the bird books":

"Where do little birds spend the night?

Some roost in trees, some roost on the ground, but Mrs. Skaggs and I saw a Bluebird chose an unusual place to spend the night. On March 15, 1938, at least 17 Bluebirds were flying about near our house. As it grew dusk, we saw some of them fly to a small maple tree in the front yard. Then, to our amazement, one of the birds hopped into a last year's nest of the Goldfinch and settled down for the night. The others flew away, but this bird seemed satisfied to stay in the nest. In the morning, he was gone, but this may have been due to a high wind blowing during the night.

This evening, April 4, we watched a downy woodpecker get his fill of the suet tied in a small cherry tree in the yard. Later, he went clear to the tip-top of the tree and clung to a limb as small in diameter as a pencil. A brisk wind was blowing and as the branch swayed, his tail which he was using as a prop, would slip out of position, causing him to go through some balancing antics. After several such "slips" he flew nearly straight up about 20 feet, then dipped away to a larger tree!

Last fall we began to scatter cracked grain in the backyard for the birds. Cardinals, Juncos and Tree Sparrows came soon to the bird cafeteria, but not for several weeks did any Bob-White come. At first there was a covey of 12, but they brought another bunch of 18. It was a nice sight to see 30 Bob-White feeding and scratching like little chickens for the grain. By mid-March, a count gave 25 individuals, which indicated a winter loss of 5. By April 1, some were still coming, but only 8 or 10 at a time and sometimes only one or two pairs.

M. B. Skaggs, Julian Road, South Euclid, Ohio."

## BIRDS OF THE DENSER WOODS

(Number observed per hour in habitat  
December, January, February).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
Black-capped Chickadee	3.00	2.58	2.17	1.79
Tufted Titmouse	2.42	1.92	1.77	2.46
White-breasted Nuthatch	2.04	1.46	1.23	1.34
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1.95	0.01	0.19	0.00
Cardinal	1.63	1.57	1.79	1.57
Downy Woodpecker	1.44	0.72	10.5	1.48
Hairy Woodpecker	0.50	0.64	0.33	0.64
Ruffed Grouse	0.25	0.18	0.07	0.03
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.23	0.13	0.22	0.20
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0.21	0.03	0.02	0.01
Brown Creeper	0.11	0.04	0.08	0.06
Barred Owl	0.11	0.03	0.08	0.09
Pileated Woodpecker	0.10	0.10	0.04	0.21
Great Horned Owl	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total: 14 species	13.99	9.42	9.17	9.88

There appear to be more birds in the woods this winter than in any preceding year. Practically every species except the Hairy Woodpecker registered an increase this year. It is of special interest that during these four years the average number of birds of all species seen per hour in the woods was 10.62. A comparison may be made with similar averages for the open country habitat and along bodies of water.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is again abundant this year. Last year only one record was reported in the field trips, while in 1936 it was present in numbers, although not as common as this year. In 1935, it was not recorded at all, thus maintaining its appearance in numbers in the region only every other year, a tendency that has been evidenced since the winter of 1925-26. (See Calendar 31st year, Bull. 4, p. 3, January 1936).

## BIRDS OF OPEN LAKES, LAKESHORE, STREAMS, AND MARSHES

(Number observed per hour in habitat  
December, January, February).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
Bonaparte's Gull	53.57	41.67	13.93	6.16
Lesser Scaup Duck	36.41	47.59	53.55	47.49
Herring Gull	20.71	82.19	57.23	16.64
Ring-billed Gull	14.63	34.03	119.23	14.32
American Merganser	6.26	2.46	8.68	4.25
American Golden-eye	2.50	5.27	12.93	0.73
Red-breasted Merganser	1.45	0.33	3.54	1.59
Black Duck	0.79	14.80	13.86	2.64
Ring-necked Duck	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00
Bald Eagle	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total: 10 species	136.32	229.41	283.14	93.82

Contrary to the situation in the other two habitats, the birds here show a decrease over last year. The average number of all birds observed per hour is 185.67, which is much larger than for either the woods or the open country. However, this figure needs special interpretation since people commonly visit these water bodies at points where they already know that the birds are concentrated, so that the intermediary blank areas are not always figured in.

MIGRATION TABLE  
(early spring migrants)

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Record</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Robin	Feb. 11 (15)	Also Jan. 15 (1)
Bluebird	Feb. 11 (2)	
Rusty Blackbird	Feb. 12 (2)	
Red-winged Blackbird	Feb. 13 (1)	
Mallard	Mar. 4 (2)	Also Feb. 13 (1)
Killdeer	Mar. 5 (4)	
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 6 (1)	
Cowbird	Mar. 6 (2)	
Meadowlark	Mar. 8 (2)	One in Calvary Cemetery Jan. & Feb.
Purple Finch	Mar. 9 (3)	
Bronzed Grackle	Mar. 8 (1)	
Flicker	Mar. 10 (1)	
Mourning Dove	Mar. 12 (2)	
Great Blue Heron	Mar. 13 (2)	
Baldpate	Mar. 13 (2)	
Shoveller	Mar. 13 (3)	
Pintail	Mar. 13 (2)	Also Feb. 5 (8) & Feb. 13 (8)
Canvas-back	Mar. 13 (1)	
Buffle-head	Mar. 13 (7)	
Hooded Merganser	Mar. 13 (3)	Also Jan. 24 (4) & Jan 30 (1)
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 13 (1)	
Woodcock	Mar. 13 (1)	
Kingfisher	Mar. 13 (1)	Also Jan. 19(1)
Red-headed Woodpecker	Mar. 13 (1)	Also Feb. 5 (1)
Phoebe	Mar. 13 (2)	
Migrant Shrike	Mar. 13 (1)	
Gadwall	Mar. 14 (2)	
Ruddy Duck	Mar. 19 (3)	
Coot	Mar. 19 (50)	
Field Sparrow	Mar. 19 (1)	
Swamp Sparrow	Mar. 19 (1)	
Red-head Duck	Mar. 19 (9)	
Wood Duck	Mar. 20 (4)	
Towhee	Mar. 20 (4)	
Vesper Sparrow	Mar. 20 (1)	
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 21 (2)	Also Feb. 1 (1)
Greater Yellowlegs	Mar. 21 (3)	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Mar. 21 (45)	
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 22 (4)	
Hermit Thrush	Mar. 27 (1)	Also Jan. 6 & Jan. 13 (1)
Pipit	Mar. 27 (2)	
Chipping Sparrow	Mar. 28 (1)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Mar. 30 (1)	
Savannah Sparrow	Mar. 30 (2)	
Lincoln Sparrow	Mar. 30 (2)	

The early part of the 1938 spring migration season seems to be definitely earlier than last year, some of the very early species, for example, Robin, Bluebird, Red-wing being reported as much as three weeks ahead of time. Of 30 of the above (most common) species, 20 are reported earlier, 8 later, and 2 on the same date. By adding the number of days each species appeared earlier or later than reported last year, as plus or minus so many days, and dividing this total by the number of species considered, a figure is obtained representing the average arrival time as compared with last year. In the above 30 species arriving in February and March, it amounts to plus 10 days; in other words, from this, it would seem that the early part of the season averaged 10 days early. It is interesting to note that Mr. Skaggs reports that the vegetation seems to be about two weeks ahead of last year.

#### BIRDS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY

(Number observed per hour in habitat  
December, January, February).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1935</u>
Tree Sparrow	12.91	7.48	23.28	15.63
Starling	9.93	12.06	19.70	31.93
Slate-colored Junco	9.16	3.93	15.55	5.11
Cedar Waxwing	4.58	0.29	1.59	0.00
English Sparrow	4.30	18.93	29.96	- - -
Bob-white	3.58	4.47	4.24	2.69
Blue Jay	3.20	1.07	3.77	3.15
Crow	2.85	0.92	4.32	1.25
Song Sparrow	1.08	1.61	2.74	0.79
Goldfinch	0.88	0.05	2.01	3.12
Prairie Horned Lark	0.77	0.88	3.12	17.52
Ring-necked Pheasant	0.72	0.76	1.07	0.15
Robin	0.66	0.15	0.08	0.00
Sparrow Hawk	0.45	0.22	0.28	0.30
Cooper's Hawk	0.10	0.05	0.06	0.00
Screech Owl	0.07	0.04	0.19	0.07
Red-headed Woodpecker	0.06	0.03	0.17	0.07
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.04	0.01	0.08	0.00
Red-tailed Hawk	0.02	0.11	0.06	0.08
Marsh Hawk	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.16
Mourning Dove	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.16</u>	<u>0.71</u>	<u>0.43</u>
Total: 21 species	54.88	53.29	113.00	82.45
Total (omitting English Sparrow)	50.58	34.31	83.04	82.45

The total abundance of birds is practically the same this year as last, if the English Sparrow is included. However, the English Sparrow is recorded with less accuracy than the other species. If it is omitted, there is evidence of an increase of abundance over last year. Altogether, 12 species show an increase, 8 a decrease, and one remains the same. The average abundance of birds in this habitat during the last four years is 62.60 birds seen per hour (exclusive of the English Sparrow). This is about six times the abundance indicated for the woods habitat. However, this needs to be taken into account, birds can be seen and recorded at a greater distance in open country than in the woods so that during an hour's time, one actually censuses a larger amount of territory.