

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

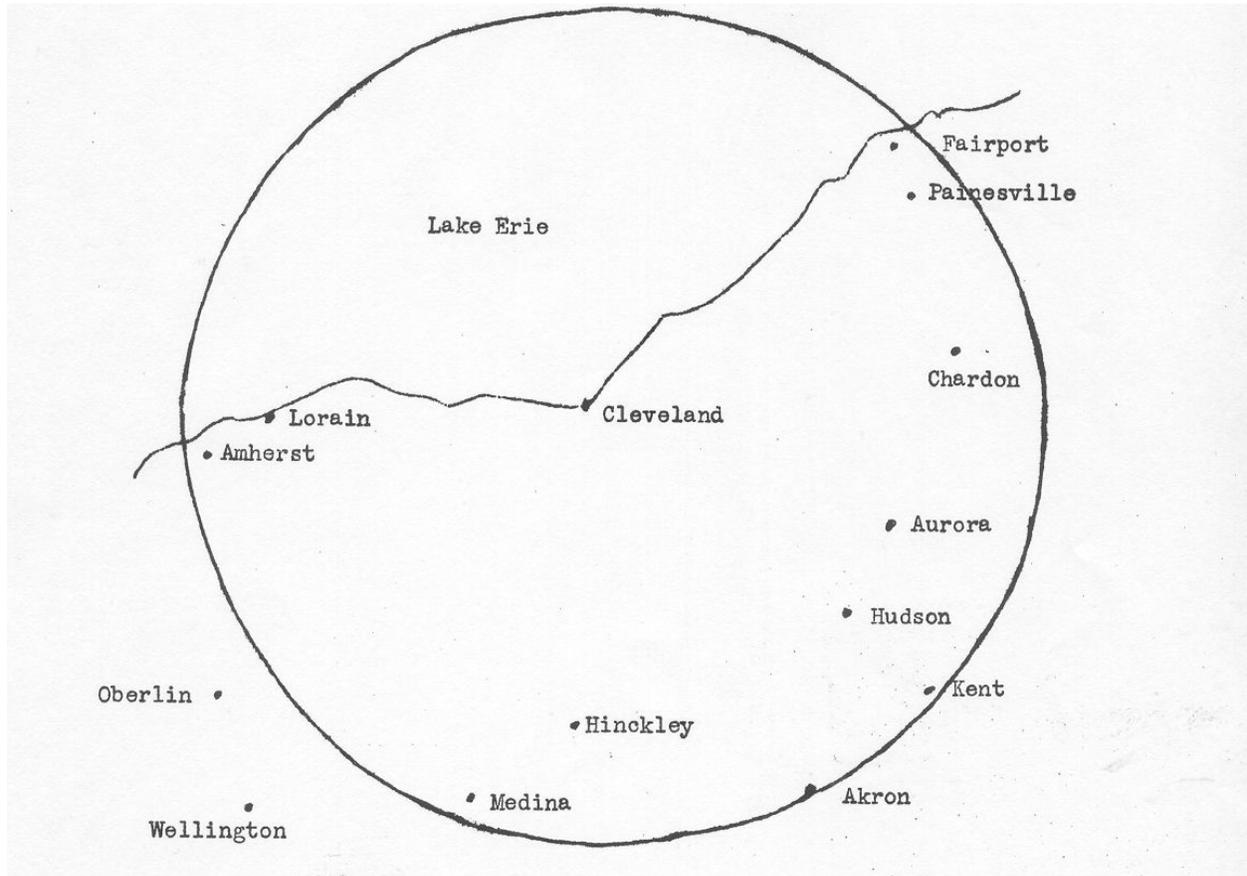
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Cleveland 15, Ohio

## THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Winter Bird Population Number

Issued April 23, 1948

Edited by Arthur B. Williams

With this issue of the Calendar we are happy to announce the inauguration of a new policy with reference to what reports of species shall or shall not be admitted to the published records of the Calendar.

Up to this time the Editor has had to rely pretty largely on his personal judgment in such matters, and often it has been no easy task to pass upon the validity of sight records involving rare or unusual birds.

Now the assistance of a recently organized special committee of the Kirtland Bird Club will be available as a group to whom such questions may be referred. The members of this committee are B. P. Bole, Jr., Donald L. Newman and William E. Scheele.

1947 Christmas Bird Count – The eighth annual Christmas Bird Count conducted by the Kirtland Bird Club, was held December 27, 1947. As in other years, the territory covered was to the east of Cleveland, including the Lake Erie shore, the Chagrin Valley and the Shaker Lakes. Species reported were as follows:

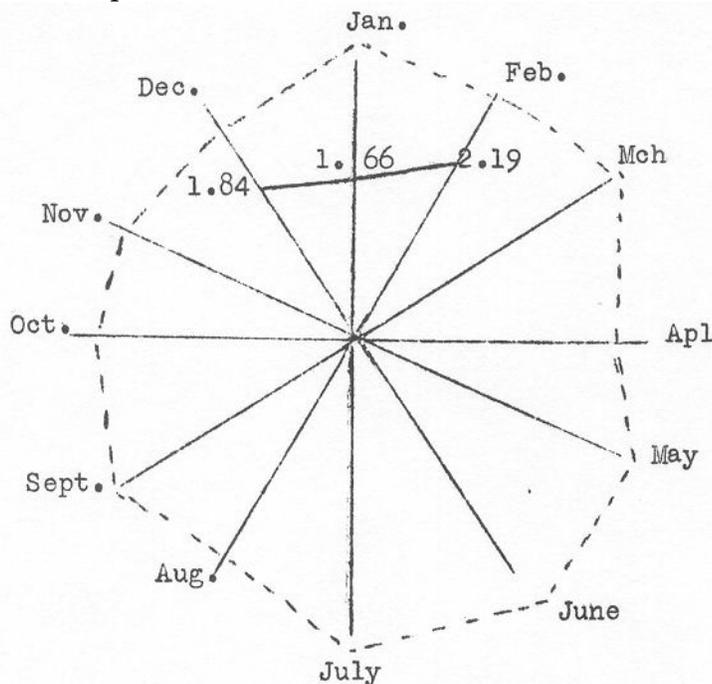
Gannet 2, Double-crested Cormorant 5, Great Blue Heron 1, Mallard 32, Black Duck 25, Redhead 80, Canvasback 1, Lesser Scaup 315, American Goldeneye 27, Bufflehead 2, Ruddy Duck 10, American Merganser 15, Red-breasted Merganser 10, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 1, Marsh Hawk 2, Sparrow Hawk 4, Bobwhite 29, Killdeer 1, Iceland Gull 1, Herring Gull 141, Ring-billed Gull 1936, Bonaparte Gull 1200, Rock Dove 163, Mourning Dove 1, Barred Owl 1, Kingfisher 4, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 12, Downy Woodpecker 42, Prairie Horned Lark 7, Blue Jay 67, Crow 7, Chickadee 121, Tufted Titmouse 18, White-breasted Nuthatch 24, Brown Creeper 3, Carolina Wren 1, Robin 30, Golden-crowned Kinglet 20, Cedar Waxwing 60, Starling 1044, Myrtle Warbler 11, English Sparrow 354, Rusty Blackbird 2, Cardinal 48, Redpoll 108, Goldfinch 16, Red-eyed Towhee 5, Slate-colored Junco 612, Tree Sparrow 570, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 25. Total – 58 species; 7232 individuals.

## SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

A glance at the precipitation chart on page 2 discloses that precipitation for the three month period was below normal for each month. Altogether the winter may be considered as having been a mild one, although on January 31 a low of 5 degrees below zero provided a new record for that day of the month. February also provided a few cold days. The extremes of temperature for this month varied from 8 below to 63 above – a total variation of 71 degrees. There were no devastating storms during the period, and more than the usual amount of sunshine.

## (Summary of Weather Conditions continued)

The details of monthly precipitation are shown graphically in the chart below. Each spoke of the wheel, from center to circumference, represents 3 inches of water. The dotted line connects the points which show "normal" or average precipitation for each month. The solid line connects points showing the actual precipitation for the months of 1947-1948 indicated. Figures are records of U. S. Weather Bureau located at the Cleveland Airport.



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## INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS

Very few of our "bird watchers" will ever forget the winter of 1947-1948 as a time when something new in the local bird world was continually turning up along the Lake Erie shore. Nearly everybody had a touch of "gannet fever". At the mouth of Rocky River; at Edgewater Park; and especially in the strip of open water opposite the Illuminating Company power plant at Gordon Park almost daily gatherings of local ornithologists were the rule. Word regarding some newly discovered rare species would be relayed from one to another by telephone, resulting usually in a quick trip to the lake front by the person called. Even our Akron friends caught the fever and paid several visits to the lake front. It may be said of Vera Carrothers that she really "covered the water front". Beginning December 12 and continuing through February 29, she made 51 visits to the lake front at East 72nd Street on as many different days. The result was an almost daily record of ducks and gulls.

Below are some of the more unusual species recorded. Unless otherwise indicated, these were observed along the Lake Erie shore at about East 72nd Street.

Red-throated Loon – Reported first on November 30 by Hill. Later (December 1 and 2) 2 were identified by A. B. Williams. On December 7 one was reported at Edgewater Park by Davies.

Gannet – Reported first on December 6 and seen by observers too numerous to mention subsequently throughout the month in numbers from 1 to 5. A single individual (perhaps not always the same bird) was reported practically daily January 1 to 13. All gannets observed were in immature plumage.

Double-crested Cormorant – Reported regularly in numbers from 1 to 6 in December, almost daily records of this species were made throughout January and February. As many as 7 at a time were seen January 11. In February the numbers varied from 1 to 3 at a time. Numerous observers.

Greater Scaup – No December records. On January 3 a flock of 6 were reported by Lieftinck, and on January 31, 400 by the same observer. On February 1 a flock of 10, and on February 7 a flock of 100 were reported by Morse. On February 14 Findley reported 100, and on February 21 Morse reported 10.

Barrow's Goldeneye – Two records. Probably same bird. February 13 (1), female, at Lake Erie and East 72nd Street, Scheele and Kula. February 15 (1), female, at the same place, Mountz and Mitchell.

White-winged Scoter – Reported regularly throughout December, January and February (both sexes) in numbers from 1 to 9 at a time – Carrothers, Davies, Findley, Hill, Lieftinck, Morse, Mountz, Newman, Perner.

Surf Scoter – One reported January, Ansley, Findley, Lieftinck, Piskac, Smiley.

American Scoter – One reported January 3, 4, 5, 6, Carrothers, Findley, Lieftinck.

American Eider – A female reported 4 times in December at Edgewater Park and mouth of Rocky River, Ackerman, Cook, Carrothers, Davies, Foley, Hill, Klein, Scott.

(Interesting or unusual records continued)

King Eider – Reported 6 times in December, twice in January and 3 time in February at Gordon and Edgewater Parks, and at Clifton Beach – Brody, Carrothers, Davies, Dobbins, Findley, Godfrey, Literaty, Morse, Schutler, Stewart.

Glaucous Gull – Reported as individual birds (1 record of 2) January 3 to February 29 (11 records) – Carrothers, Gibbs, Hill, Lieftinck, Morse, Mountz, A. B. Williams.

Iceland Gull – Reported as individual birds December 25 to January 17 (7 records) – Carrothers, Davies, Findley, King, Morse.

Great Black-backed Gull – Reported January 11 to February 29 as individual birds or in groups of 2 to 4 – Akers, Carrothers, Davies, Findley, Gibbs, Hill, Lieftinck, Morse, Mountz, Perner.

Atlantic Kittiwake – Reported first on December 21 by Piscac and Smiley. Later seen by Baggaley, Carrothers, Hill, Perner.

During the winter an unusually large list of summer resident species was reported as wintering in the region. These included Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Crow, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Meadowlark, Towhee, and Song Sparrow. Robins and Song Sparrows were reported in unusual numbers.

A Hermit Thrush and a White-throated Sparrow, both patronizing feeding stations, were also reported among the unusual records of wintering species.

## SPECIES LISTS

(within 30 miles of Cleveland Public Square)

### I.

#### Late Migrant Species

Loon – December 2 (1), 6 (1), 7 (2).

Pied-billed Grebe – December, records of from 1 to 3 throughout the month. Last, December 27 (1).

American Pintail – December 7 (1).

American Coot – December 13 (1), 20 (4), 24 (2), 25 (1), 27 (1), January 1 (1), 10 (1).

Killdeer – December 25 (1), 27 (1).

### II.

#### Wintering Grebes, Ducks and Gulls

Horned Grebe – Records of from 1 to 12 throughout December and to January 10. Then February 25 (1).

Mallard – December 6 (4), 16 (50), 27 (65), 28 (1), and throughout January and February. February 28 (59).

Black Duck – Almost daily records of from 2 to 150 throughout the period.

Baldpate – February 28 (12).

Wood Duck – February 28 (1).

Redhead – Almost daily records of from 1 to 100 throughout the period. Last, February 28 (14).

Ring-necked Duck – Scattering [of] records of from 1 to 6 throughout period. Last, February 29 (4).

Canvasback – Almost daily records of from 1 to 24 throughout the period. Last, February 28 (3).

(Wintering Grebes, Ducks and Gulls continued)

Greater Scaup – January and February records only (6 to 400). Last, February 21 (10).

Lesser Scaup – Almost daily records of from 50 to 2000 throughout the period. Last, February 29 (100).

American Goldeneye – Almost daily records of from 1 to 150 throughout the period. Last, February 29 (48).

Bufflehead – Almost daily records of 1 to 70 throughout the period. Last, February 29 (4).

Oldsquaw – Regularly recorded January 3 to February 27 (1 to 5).

Ruddy Duck – almost daily records of from 1 to 500 December 6 to January 11. Last, January 11 (28).

Hooded Merganser – December 20 (1), 21 (1), 23 (1), 29 (2).

American Merganser – Regularly recorded (1 to 700) throughout the period. Last, February 29 (85).

Red-breasted Merganser – Almost daily records of from 1 to 100 throughout the period. Last, February 29 (25).

Herring Gull – Regularly recorded (3 to 1100) throughout the period. Last, February 29 (700).

Ring-billed Gull – Regularly recorded (9 to 10,000) throughout the period. Last, February 28 (25).

Bonaparte Gull – Regularly recorded (7 to 5000) throughout December. January 10-11 (estimated 30,000), January 17 (250), 18 (50), 22 (14).

### III.

#### Wintering Stragglers and Delayed Migrants

Red-throated Loon – December 1 (2), 2 (2), 7 (1).

Gannet – Almost daily records of from 1 to 5 December 6 to January 13 (1).

Double-crested Cormorant – Almost daily records of from 1 to 6 throughout the period. Last, February 29 (3).

Great Blue Heron – December 26 (1), 27 (1), January 4 (1), February 21 (1).

Barrow's Goldeneye – February 13 (1), 15 (1).

American Eider – December 7 (1), 13 (1), 14 (1), 21 (1).

King Eider – December 14 (1), 20 (1), 21 (1), 22 (1), 24 (1), 25 (1), January 17 (1), 19 (1), February 7 (1), 8 (1), 15 (1).

White-winged Scoter – December 15 (1), 29 (9), 30 (3), and regularly throughout January and February. Last, February 29 (1).

Surf Scoter – January 3 (1).

American Scoter – January 3 (1), 4 (1), 5 (1), 6 (1).

Northern Bald Eagle – December 27 (1).

Glaucous Gull – Recorded 8 times as a single individual in January. February 21 (1), 29 (2).

Iceland Gull – December 25 (1), 27 (1), 28 (1), January 1 (1), 4 (1), 5 (1), 6 (1), 11 (1), 17 (1).

Great Black-backed Gull – Recorded regularly January 11 to February 29 (1 to 4).

Atlantic Kittiwake – December 21 (1).

Eastern Mourning Dove – December 11 (12), 14 (2), 27 (1), 28 (1), January 1 (2), February 2 (18), 5 (8), 8 (1), 11 (15).

Snowy Owl – December 19 (1), at Sprague and Columbia Roads, West View, Berea, reported by Raymond Roth.

Belted Kingfisher – December 21 (1), 25 (1), 27 (4), January 4 (1), 11 (1).

Northern Flicker – Regularly recorded December 2 to February 21 (1 to 5).

Eastern Red-headed Woodpecker – December 14 (1), 24 (1), January 8 (1), February 12 (1).

(Wintering Stragglers and Delayed Migrants continued)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – December 27 (1), January 16 (1), 18 (1), February 12 (1), 22 (1).

Eastern Crow – December, regularly recorded (3 to 7) throughout the month. January 4 (5). See Early Spring Migrants.

Brown Creeper – December 7 (1), 21 (2), 24 (2), 27 (4). During January and February recorded as individuals to February 22 (2), 26 (2), 29 (1).

Eastern Winter Wren – December 12 (1), 14 (1), 21 (2), January 4 (1), 18 (1).

Catbird – December 24 (12), 27 (1).

Brown Thrasher – December 29 (1).

Eastern Robin – Regularly recorded (1-30) throughout December and January. February 1 (5), 7 (4), 15 (50). See Early Spring Migrants.

Hermit Thrush – December 21 (1), 28 (1), January 18 (1), 25 (1), February 1 (1), 19 (1).

Eastern Bluebird – February 2 (2). See Early Spring Migrants.

Myrtle Warbler – December 6 (2), 26 (2), 27 (11).

Eastern Meadowlark – December 21 (5).

Rusty Blackbird – December 27 (2).

Red-eyed Towhee – Regularly recorded December 14 -27 (1-15), January 10 (17), 24 (13), 31 (2), February 1 (6), 7 (4), 8 (5), 14 (7), 21 (1).

White-throated Sparrow – December 27 (1). From 1 to 2 birds noted January 7 to February 28 at Waite Hill (Sherwin).

Swamp Sparrow – December 6 (1).

Song Sparrow – Regularly recorded throughout December (1-25), January (1-3), and February (1-10) to February 19 (3). See Early Spring Migrants.

#### IV.

##### Winter Visitors

Red-breasted Nuthatch – No December records. Single individuals recorded throughout January and February regularly at feeding stations at Brecksville, Parma.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet – Regularly recorded (1-26) throughout the period.

Eastern Purple Finch – December 14 (6), February 21 (5).

Common Redpoll – December 27 (108).

Slate-colored Junco – Regularly recorded in usual numbers (20-50) throughout the period.

Eastern Tree Sparrow – Regularly recorded (2-293) throughout the period.

Snow Bunting – December 4 (60), 9 (40), February 7 (15), 11 (2), 15 (42).

#### V.

##### Permanent Residents

Sharp-shinned Hawk – December 27 (1), January 10 (1), 15 (1), February 18 (1), 29 (1).

Cooper Hawk – December 21 (1), 24-29 (1), January 1 (1), February 26 (1).

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk – December 27 (5), 28 (2), January 10 (2), February 16 (2), 17 (2), 24 (2).

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk – December 1 (1), 24 (1), 27 (1), February 17 (1), 22 (2), 23 (2), 24 (2), 28 (1).

Marsh Hawk – December 27 (2), January 14 (2), 19 (1), February 5 (1), 17 (1), 24 (2), 25 (2).

Eastern Sparrow Hawk – Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the period.

Appalachian Ruffed Grouse – December 25 (3), January 3 (1), 25 (1), February 1 (1), 8 (1), 15 (1), 23 (1).

(Permanent Residents continued)

Eastern Bobwhite – December 14 (4), 20 (20), 21 (7), 29 (29), January 8 (10), 11 (16), 14 (10), February 15 (2), 29 (10).

Ring-necked Pheasant – Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the period.

Rock Dove – Regularly recorded (11 to 163) throughout the period.

Screech Owl – January 4 (1), February 2 (1), 18 (1), 29 (1).

Great Horned Owl – February 25 (1).

Northern Barred Owl – December 22 (1), 27 (1), January 17 (1), February 7 (1), 22 (1), 23 (1).

Northern Pileated Woodpecker – December 2 (1), 15 (1), 22 (2), 27 (2), January 2 (2), 10 (1), February 21 (2), 22 (2), 23 (1).

Red-bellied Woodpecker – December 22 (1), 27 (4). Regularly recorded as single individuals through January and February.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the period.

Northern Downy Woodpecker – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

Prairie Horned Lark – December 27 (7), January 24 (50), February 11 (8), 17 (4), 26 (3), 27 (1).

Northern Blue Jay – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

Northern Black-capped Chickadee – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

Tufted Titmouse – Regularly recorded in somewhat reduced numbers throughout the period.

White-breasted Nuthatch – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

Carolina Wren – December 11 (1), 21 (1), 24 (1), 27 (3), January 10 (1), 18 (1), 19 (1), February 1 (1), 21 (1).

Cedar Waxwing – December, regularly recorded (8-128) throughout the period.

Starling – Regularly recorded in considerable numbers throughout the period.

English Sparrow – Regularly recorded in considerable numbers throughout the period.

Eastern Cardinal – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

Eastern Goldfinch – Regularly recorded in usual numbers throughout the period.

## VI.

### Early Spring Migrants

Broad-winged Hawk – February 11 (1).

Killdeer – February 21 (2), 28 (8).

Crow – February 11 (12), then regularly recorded in increasing numbers throughout the month.

Robin – Migrating robins seen February 18, and reported in increasing numbers throughout remainder of month. February 21 (65), 23 (30), 28 (67), 29 (9).

Bluebird – February 18 (1), 22 (5), 27 (2), 28 (21).

Meadowlark – February 29 (1).

Red-winged Blackbird – February 8 (2), 23 (4), 27 (3), 28 (11).

Bronzed Grackle – February 27 (1), 28 (2).

Cowbird – February 26 (6).

Field Sparrow – February 19 (1) (Akers).

Fox Sparrow – February 21 (1) (Lieftinck).

Swamp Sparrow – February 23 (1).

Song Sparrow – February 22 (1), 23 (1), 24 (1), 25 (6), 26 (4), 27 (5), 29 (2).

## INTERESTING RECORDS FROM NEIGHBORING LOCALITIES

Ashtabula – December 20, Whistling Swan (4), Killdeer (1), Glaucous Gull (1), Red-breasted Nuthatch (1), Snow Bunting (2). January 17, Great Black-backed Gull (1), Bald Eagle (1), Robin (1) – J. E. Lieftinck.

Summit Lake – February 7, Pied-billed Grebe (3), Hooded Merganser (2), Coot (16) – J. E. Lieftinck.

Sandusky – December 7, Mallard (60), Black Duck (50), Shoveler (14), Canvasback (600), Coot (12), Tree Sparrow (15) – Vera Carrothers.

WINTER BIRD POPULATION STUDY  
1947-1948

by Vera Carrothers

In a 65-acre tract of Beech-Maple-Hemlock forest in the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park System. This is the same area in which Dr. Arthur B. Williams has conducted a breeding bird population study for the past 15 years (Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 1, No. 6, pp. 205-210).

	Dec.	Jan.						Feb.	
	22	2	10	17	23	25	31	1	8
<u>Permanent Residents</u>									
1. Barred Owl	1			1			1		
2. Pileated Woodpecker	2	2							
3. Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	
4. Hairy Woodpecker	3	1	1	3	3		4	1	1
5. Downy Woodpecker		6	2	4	5	4	3	4	2
6. Blue Jay			2		1	5	5	7	5
7. Black-capped Chickadee	5	11	4	8	3	12	11	10	8
8. Tufted Titmouse		2	1			2	3	5	
9. White-breasted Nuthatch		4		4	3	3	2	3	2
10. Cardinal	2	2	6	9	3	6	8	1	5
<u>Winter Visitors</u>									
11. Brown Creeper		1		1					
12. Golden-Crowned Kinglet			1						
13. Goldfinch			1	1			15	4	1
14. Red-eyed Towhee	1			1		1	2	2	2
15. Slate-colored Junco			15	47	24	25	3	12	6
16. Tree Sparrow				1					

Temperature ranged from 7° to 40° with an average of 18°. There was from 3 to 6 inches of snow during the last four weeks of the study. Trips averaged one and three-quarters hours each.

Comparing the permanent resident species of this study with the averages of Dr. Williams' 15-year study, it is of interest to note that, with one exception, the winter population substantially agrees with the summer breeding population. The exception is the tufted titmouse, which seems to show a 50 per cent reduction in the winter study. This agrees with the impressions voiced by several observers to the effect that the tufted titmouse has seemed scarce this past winter. Other species showing a small decrease in the area under study in winter as compared with summer are the downy woodpecker and the white-breasted nuthatch. This might readily be explained by the tendency of these species to wander more widely during the winter than might be the case with the other species.

## FIELD NOTE

Gulls A-plenty! – Margarete E. Morse writes: “On January 10 and 11, there were so many gulls along the Lake Erie shore that it was impossible to count them. There were actually thousands of them. They were over the water; over the land; and on the water – flying about and feeding. From Gordon Park to Edgewater the air was full of them. This aggregation of gulls, including herring, ring-billed, Bonaparte’s, and at least one glaucous gull, was so great as to make even an estimate of their numbers or the relative proportions of the different species impossible. It was a beautiful sight to see the air so full of gulls.”

Raymond W. Hill was more bold. Under date of January 10, he says: “There were thousands of gulls scattered along the lake front from White City to Edgewater Park. I suppose there were more Bonaparte than either ring-bill or herring. Maybe 30,000 in all.”