

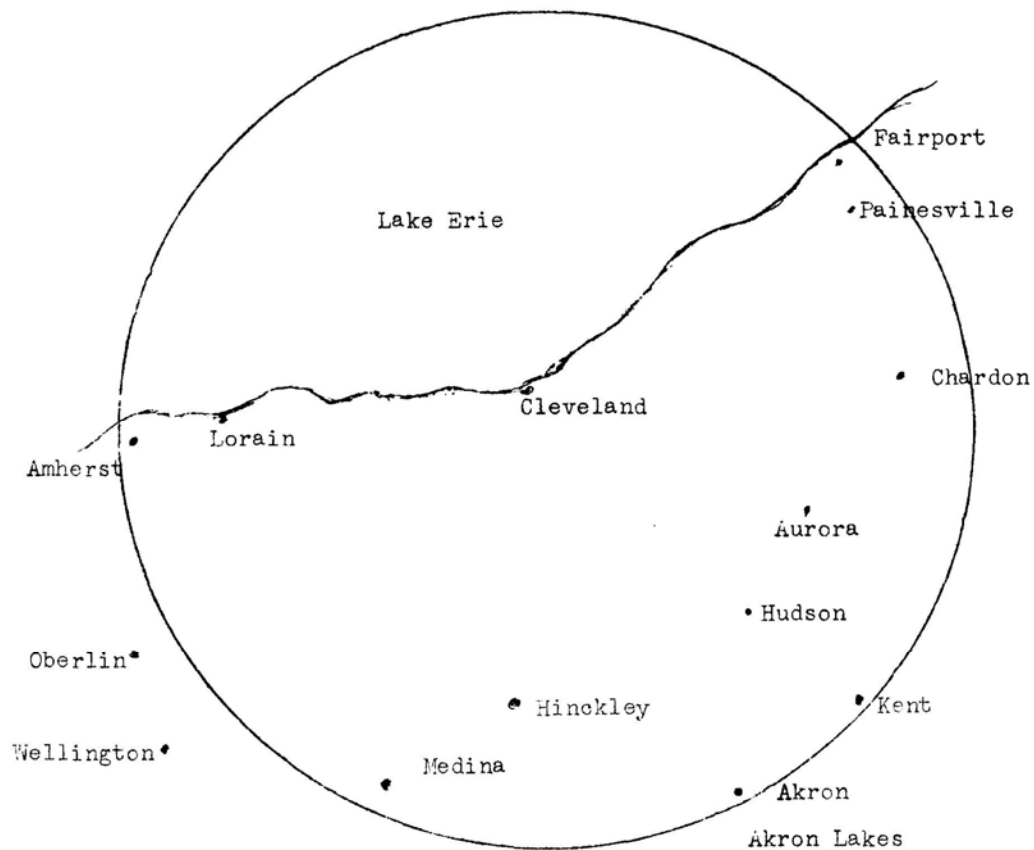
THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Founded by Francis H. Herrick
of Western Reserve University in 1905

Published and Edited
by
THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB

In Co-operation With
The Cleveland Bird Club Inc.

THE CLEVELAND REGION
(For Bird Calendar Records)
(The circle has a thirty mile radius)



At
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland 15, Ohio

CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Winter Bird Population Number

Issued March 23, 1950

Edited by Arthur B. Williams

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The tenth annual Christmas Bird Count, conducted by the Kirtland Bird Club, was held December 26, 1949. The same 15-mile diameter area east of Cleveland which has been used in previous years was covered this year. Twenty-two people participated, putting in a total of 91 hours in the field, traveling 293 miles by car and 52½ miles on foot. They recorded 59 species of birds, totaling 6336 individuals. The list is as follows.

Horned grebe 7, gannet 1, double-crested cormorant 2, great blue heron 1, mallard 91, black duck 188, canvasback 1, lesser scaup 700, baldpate 2, American goldeneye 6, bufflehead 3, oldsquaw 1, white-winged scoter 1, American merganser 11, red-breasted merganser 41, sharp-shinned hawk 1, Cooper's hawk 2, red-tailed hawk 2, red-shouldered hawk 4, rough-legged hawk 2, marsh hawk 1, sparrow hawk 1, bobwhite 64 (3 coveys), coot 2, herring gull 2083, ring-billed gull 731, Bonaparte's gull 1075, rock dove 1, mourning dove 3, great horned owl 2, snowy owl 1, barred owl 1, kingfisher 3, flicker 1, pileated woodpecker 3, hairy woodpecker 10, downy woodpecker 39, blue jay 67, crow 5, black-capped chickadee 84, tufted titmouse 33, white-breasted nuthatch 34, red-breasted nuthatch 3, brown creeper 7, robin 27, golden-crowned kinglet 5, cedar waxwing 203, starling 295, English sparrow 486, cardinal 35, purple finch 3, redpoll 2, pine siskin 30, goldfinch 14, slate-colored junco 228, tree sparrow 57, white-throated sparrow 1, song sparrow 17.

THE CHECK LIST

The copy for the Check List of Birds of the Cleveland Region is in the hands of the printer, and the book should be available before the next issue of the Calendar appears. It will contain more than 200 pages, and be bound in hard covers. It will be published by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Kirtland Bird Club jointly, as a volume in the Museum's scientific series.

This is not a book of life histories or descriptions of birds, but a condensed summary of all available records of the occurrence and nesting (if a breeding species here) of 330 species and subspecies of birds which have been reliably reported as having occurred within approximately 30 miles of the Cleveland Public Square.

In each case the status of the bird (degree of abundance); dates of migration (if a migratory species); habitat preference (where it may usually be looked for); and information as to nesting habits (if a breeding species here), are given.

Included also is a description of the Cleveland region, a brief historical review of ornithological interest in and about Cleveland, and some biographical notes on early Cleveland naturalists who have contributed to our knowledge of the birds of this region.

The price of the book will be \$2.00. Copies may be secured from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 15, Ohio.

PURPLE MARTIN CENSUS

It is proposed again to attempt a survey of purple martin nesting colonies in our region. Although the effort to do this last year started late, yet 88 martin houses, in 55 different locations, were reported, used by 973 pairs of birds.

This year, let us begin early and see if we cannot make a more complete coverage. Information needed is:

1. Exact location of colony (street and number, and owner's name if possible).
2. Number of martin houses at each location.
3. Number of entrance holes in each house.
4. Number of pairs of purple martins in each colony.

In this effort the Editor is asking the co-operation of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls of Cleveland, members of the Cleveland Bird Club, the newspapers of the region, and many individuals. Reports may be sent in to the Editor at any time, but preferably not later than June 15.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

December 1949 - The month was unusually warm and "open". Temperatures of 63° on the 12th, and 64° on the 22nd, were the highest of record for these dates. Precipitation well distributed throughout the month. Snow only in first half.

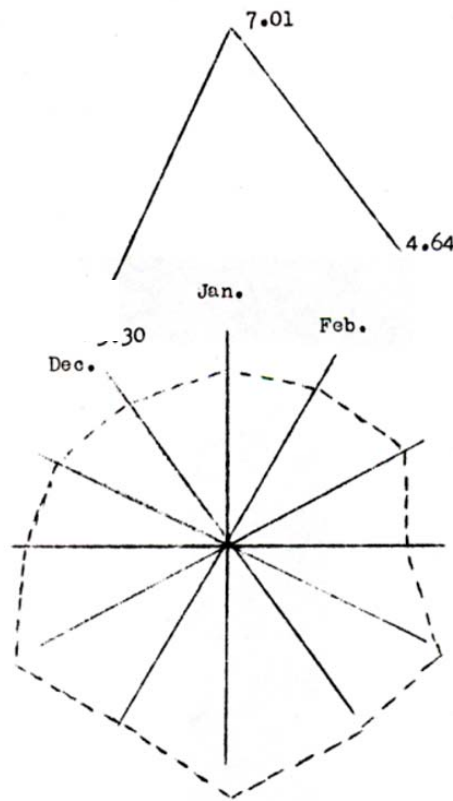
January 1950 - Precipitation was the greatest for any January on record, and most of it occurred as rain. Also, it was the fourth warmest January on record, the temperature of 73° January 25 being the highest ever recorded for the month.

February 1950 - The fifth consecutive month with temperatures above normal, but the closing 10 days provided the longest cold period of the winter. Precipitation 85 per cent above normal.

Precipitation for the entire 3 months period was over 100 per cent above normal.

The advent of snow and sleet storms in late February was doubtless responsible for the almost total lack of early spring migrants in this month.

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 1949-1950 indicated. Figures are records of U. S. Weather Bureau located at the Cleveland Airport.



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UNUSUAL OR INTERESTING RECORDS

Gannet - From December 17 to February 22, gannets were again regularly seen along the Cleveland lakefront, principally near Gordon Park. Highest number seen at one time, 4. All birds in immature plumage. Observers were many.

Surf Scoter - One reported rather regularly from the Cleveland lakefront by Vera Carrothers and other observers from December 26 through February 22.

Snowy Owl - These birds have been reported almost daily during December and January - not so frequently during February. Altogether, we have had 46 separate reports, including some 20 different localities. No doubt there are many duplicate records involved, but by carefully comparing dates and locations we may be reasonably sure that about 30 owls were involved.

Some of these became well known. The owl that made the ore dump at Edgewater his headquarters gradually turned pink as the dust from the hematite permeated his feathers.

In addition to those reported above, a check by phone with 5 Cleveland taxidermists disclosed the fact that about 50 snowy owls have been brought in to them for mounting.

It would seem to be a conservative estimate that at least 100 snowy owls may have invaded our Cleveland region this winter.

Evening Grosbeak - One seen December 3, 10, and 17 in Sand Run Metropolitan Park, Akron, by J. E. Lieftinck.

Wintering Stragglers - Due, no doubt, to the extremely open winter, an unusual number of delayed migrants appear in the records (see pp. 5-6). Such were the great blue heron, kingfisher, flicker, catbird, brown thrasher and hermit thrush.

Mourning doves and robins were commonly reported throughout the winter, sometimes in flocks.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE RECORDS

(within 30 miles of Cleveland Public Square)

Late Fall Migrants

Common Loon - December 10(1), 11(1), 24(2).

Pied-billed Grebe - December 9(3), 11(1), 13(1), 24(1), January 1(1), 2(1).

Blue-winged Teal - December 11(200).

Wintering Grebes, Ducks and Gulls

Horned Grebe - Regularly recorded in numbers from 1 to 20 December 1 to February 18.

Common Mallard - Regularly recorded December, January, February in flocks of 50 to 200.

Black Duck - Regularly recorded December, January, February in flocks up to 200.

Baldpate - December 3(5), 11(1), 26(2), 28(1), January 29(5), February 2(1).

American Pintail - January 30(1), February 2(5).

Redhead - December 1(1), 10(5), 17(6), 25(2), 28(3), January 7(20), 8(15), 17(22), 21(16), February 2(25), 5(20), 11(50), 18(65), 22(20), 25(10).

Ring-necked Duck - February 11(1), 18(2).

Canvasback - December 25(2), 26(7), 28(7), 30(2), and regularly in small numbers to February 25(8).

Greater Scaup - February 2(1) (Avon, J. F. Akers).

Lesser Scaup - Regularly recorded December, January, February in flocks varying from 25 to 5000. Last date, February 25(10).

American Goldeneye - Regularly recorded December, January, February in flocks of from 25 to 150. Last date, February 26(25).

Bufflehead - Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers from 2 to 50. Last date, February 25(1).

Oldsquaw - December 3(5), 10(1), 18(2), 26(2), January 1(1), 8(2), 14(1), February 17(1), 18(1).

White-winged Scoter - Regularly recorded from December 17 to 26 as single individuals except December 25(3)). No January records. Then February 12(1), 18(1), 22(1).

Surf Scoter - December 26(1), and 1 each on January 7,8,14,21,28, February 5, 11,17,18,22.

Ruddy Duck - Regularly recorded December 3 to 28 in flocks of 10 to 150. Then January 1(40), 4(27), 21(12), 28(2), February 18(21).

Hooded Merganser - December 1(2), 3(6), 9(2), 28(9), 30(2), January 1(5), 7(6), 14(6), 28(1), February 19(2).

American Merganser - Regularly recorded December 1(4) to 28(40), January 8(7), 11(8), 15(5), 30(500), February 5(550), 11(13), 17(23), 22(50), 25(5000).

Red-breasted Merganser - Regularly recorded December 3(10) to 26(41), January 1 to 29(1-18), February 5(200), 18(100), 22(500), 25(5000).

American Herring Gull - Regularly recorded December, January, February. December 17(6000), 25(10,000), 28(700), January 4(2500), 11(4000), 14(6200), 22(5000), February 4(200), 11(300), 18(300), 25(10,000).

Ring-billed Gull - Regularly recorded December, January, February. December 3(3000), 25(10,000), 28(2400), January 4(2500), 22(3000), February 4(200), 11(350), 20(2000), 25(10,000).

Bonaparte's Gull - Regularly recorded December, January, February. December 3(2000), 26(1246), January 2(687), 14(400), 30(25), February 12(50), 20(300), 25(1000).

Wintering Stragglers and Delayed Migrants

Gannet - Regularly recorded from December 17(1) to February 22(1). Sometimes 2, 3 or 4 seen at one time. All in immature plumage.

Double-crested Cormorant - December 1(33), 18(2), 26(4), January 1(2), 8(2), February 4(3), 18(1).

Great Blue Heron - December 3(1), 12(1), 21(1), 26(1), 28(1), 31(1).

Florida Gallinule - One wild bird on wildfowl pool, Cleveland Zoo, December 3-9 inclusive (Robert Mattlin).

American Coot - December 11(1), 26(4), 28(2), February 11(15), 18(15).

Killdeer - January 9(1).

Common Tern - December 18(3) (Black Brook, Paul Smith).

Eastern Mourning Dove - December 3(15), 11(3), 17(7), 21(2), 26(3), January 2(60), 6(3), 8(3), 10(12), 21(45), 30(33), February 20(5), 22(2), 28(2).

Eastern Belted Kingfisher - December 17(1), 26(3), 31(2), January 2(1), February 18(1).

Northern Flicker - Regularly recorded December, January and February in numbers from 1 to 3.

Red-headed Woodpecker - December 10(1).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - December 11(2), January 2(1).

Eastern Crow - December 1(8), 28(550), January 2(4), 22(3), 30(20), February 5(5), 11(8), 18(6).

Catbird - December 10(1), 17(1), 26(1), January 2(1), 7(1) (see Field Notes, p. 9).

Eastern Brown Thrasher - One present at feeding station Cleveland Heights December, January, February.

Eastern Robin - Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers from 1 to 350.

Eastern Hermit Thrush - One wintered at Sand Run Metropolitan Park, Akron
E. Lieftinck).

Eastern Bluebird - December 3(9), 26(2), 28(5), January 6(2), 8(3), 28(6),
February 5(2), 12(4), 18(2), 26(1).

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet - January 2(1), 6(1), February 5(1), 19(2), 25(1).

Eastern Meadowlark - January 5(1), 22(5), February 20(1).

Eastern Redwing - December 18(27).

Bronzed Grackle - December 14(1).

Eastern Cowbird - December 6(1).

Red-eyed Towhee - A few December, January, February records (in numbers from 1 to 3).

Eastern Field Sparrow - January 2(2) (Owen Davies).

White-crowned Sparrow - December 28(1) (at feeding station "daily", Cleveland
Heights, Mrs. Arthur B. Crofts).

White-throated Sparrow - December 24(4), 26(1), 31(1), January 2(1), 8(1).

Eastern Swamp Sparrow - January 8(1) (R. W. Hill).

Mississippi Song Sparrow - Regularly recorded December, January, February
numbers from 1 to 18).

Winter Visitors

American Rough-legged Hawk - December 8(1), 18(1), 26(2).

Iceland Gull - January 4(1) (J. F. Akers).

Great Black-backed Gull - February 25(2), 26(1).

Snowy Owl - 19 records in December, 95 in January, 9 in February. Reported
practically daily in December and January, and of course, including
many duplicate records (see Interesting or Unusual Records, p. 4).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - Regularly recorded December, January, February in
numbers from 1 to 22. Last date, February 28(1).

Brown Creeper - Regularly recorded December] January, February in numbers from
to 8. Last date, February 28(1).

Eastern Winter Wren - December 3(1), January 1(1), February 26(1).

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet - Regularly recorded December, January, February
in numbers from 1 to 10. Last date, February 26(1).

Evening Grosbeak - December 3(1), 10(1), 17(1).

Eastern Purple Finch - December 24(9), 26(3), 30(6), January 2(9), 8(6), 21(9),
February 4(6), 12(10), 22(3), 27(6).

Pine Siskin - December 3(6), 26(30), January 22(15).

Slate-colored Junco - Regularly recorded December, January, February (in
numbers from 1 to 250). Last date, February 26(109).

Eastern Tree Sparrow - Regularly recorded December, January, February (in
numbers from 1 to 60). Last date, February 26(37).

Eastern Snow Bunting - December 17(1), 18(12), 24(1), January 6(1), 30(1),
February 3(20), 25(112).

Permanent Residents

Sharp-shinned Hawk - December 7(1), 8(1), 22(1), 25(1), 26(1), January 1(1), 11(1),
15(1), 17(1), 24(1), 27(1), February 19(1), 23(1), 24(1), 28(1).

Cooper's Hawk - December 26(2), 28(1), 31(1), January 2(2), 2(1), 7(1), 14(1),
24(1), February 5(1), 15(1), 24(1).

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk - December 6(2), 9(1), 11(2), 26(2), January 28(1),
February 26(1).

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk - December 4(1), 26(4), February 25(1).

Marsh Hawk - December 17(2), 24(1), 26(1), 28(1), January 31(1), February 5 (2), 19(1), 25(1).

Eastern Sparrow Hawk - Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers from 1 to 4.

Appalachian Ruffed Grouse - December 9(1), January 1(1), 22(3), February 5(1), 12(1).

Eastern Bobwhite - December 4(15), 10(8), 24(9), 26(75), January 1(10), 22(8), 24(9), February 19(20), 24(7).

Ring-necked Pheasant - Regularly recorded in small numbers (1-10) December, January. Only one February record, February 26(3).

Rock Dove - Regularly recorded December, January, February (6 to 200).

Eastern Screech Owl - January 23(1), 25(1), 31(1), February 19(1), 26(1).

Great Horned Owl - December 10(1), 26(2), February 19(1).

Northern Barred Owl - December 26(1), 28(1), January 6(2), 14(2), February 19(1).

Pileated Woodpecker - December 9(1), 11(1), 26(3).

Red-bellied Woodpecker - December 3, 6, 9, 11, 31 (1 each), January 2, 21, 27, 29 (1 each), February 4, 5, 25 (1 each).

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker - Regularly recorded December, January, February (in numbers from 1 to 11).

Northern Downy Woodpecker - Regularly recorded December, January, February (in numbers from 1 to 50).

Prairie Horned Lark - December 3(2), 17(1), 28(75), January 7(7), 24(15), 30(50), February 5(6), 20(9).

Northern Blue Jay - Regularly recorded December, January, February (74 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

Northern Black-capped Chickadee - Regularly recorded December, January, February (115 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

Tufted Titmouse - Regularly recorded December, January, February (45 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

White-breasted Nuthatch - Regularly recorded December, January, February (43 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

Carolina Wren - Regularly recorded (1 to 3) December and early January. Then January 28(1), February 4(2), 22(1).

Cedar Waxwing - Regularly recorded December, January, February in numbers from 5 to 189.

Starling - Regularly recorded December, January, February. Flocks as large as 450 in December, smaller in January and February.

English Sparrow - Regularly recorded December, January, February (418 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

Eastern Cardinal - Regularly recorded December, January, February (89 on December 26, Christmas Bird Count).

Eastern Goldfinch - Regularly recorded December, January, February (numbers from 1 to 150).

Early Spring Migrants

Great Blue Heron - February 18(1) (possibly a wintering bird).

Killdeer - February 20(1), 25(1).

WINTER BIRD POPULATION STUDY

Sand Run Metropolitan Park, City of Akron

Area - About 300 acres, part of a 400 acre tract in the northwest corner of the City of Akron. Includes mature beech-maple woodland, with many dead trees. Also grape tangles and areas damaged by tornado in 1947. Gullies and ravines, including small streams. A public road runs the full length of the park. Some areas of cultivated fields and picnic grounds included.

By John E. Lieftinck

Coverage - December 3,10,11,17,24,26,31,1949; January 2,7,8,14,21,22,28, February 4,5,11,12,18,25,1950 (20 days, 4 to 5 hours in the morning, each day).

<u>Winter Residents</u>		<u>Others More or Less Regularly Present in the Area</u>	
(apparently restricted to the area)			
*Tree Sparrow	60	Mourning Dove	20
Bobwhite (4 coveys)	48	Cedar Waxwing	12
*Starling	36	Bluebird	6
*Slate-colored Junco	32	Prairie Horned Lark	4
*Chickadee	30	Crow	4
*English Sparrow	30	Flicker	3
*Cardinal	24	Red-tailed Hawk	1
*Tufted Titmouse	18	Total	50
*Blue Jay	16		
*Red-breasted Nuthatch	12		
Purple Finch	12		
*Downy Woodpecker	10		
Ring-necked Pheasant	8		
*White-breasted Nuthatch	8		
*Song Sparrow	8	<u>Occasional Visitors</u>	
Ruffed Grouse	6	Pine Siskin	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	White-throated Sparrow	4
Goldfinch	6	Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-eyed Towhee	6	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Hairy Woodpecker	4	Kingfisher	1
Brown Creeper	4	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Carolina Wren	4	Winter Wren	1
Robin	3	Evening Grosbeak	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Snow Bunting	1
Sparrow Hawk	1	Total	17
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		
Catbird	1		
Hermit Thrush	1		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		
Total Population	398		
29 Species			
Density (birds per 100 acres)	133		

*Species seen in the area each day of the survey

RECORDS FROM NEIGHBORING LOCALITIES

Sandusky Region

December 3 - Mute swan 2, gadwall 3, baldpate 6, shoveler 27, canvasback 100, goldeneye 25, bald eagle 2, marsh hawk 1, ring-billed gull 2000, Bonaparte's gull 1000, starling 10,000, meadowlark 2 - Margaret Perner.

December 29 - Snowy Owl 1 - Adela Gaede.

February 22 - Mute swan 2, mallard 12, black duck 4, gadwall 50, baldpate 100, pintail 15, shoveler 6, redhead 4, canvasback 50, goldeneye 15, marsh hawk 1, starling 25 - Adele Gaede.

Wellington

Mourning dove, February 9-28(2); great horned owl, January 28(1); crow, February 9-28(2-10); red-breasted nuthatch, December, January, February (3); brown creeper, December, January, February (1); Carolina Wren, December, January, February (1); robin, December 3, January 2-February (2-4); cedar waxwing, February 9-26(20-55); meadowlark, February 11,18(4); bronzed grackle, February 24(1); song sparrow, January 29-February 28(2) - Belle L. Clisby.

FIELD NOTES

A Catbird-Cardinal Episode - The catbird was first seen in Sand Run Metropolitan Park, Akron, on November 26, then on December 10, 17 and 26, and January 2 and 7. It nearly always sought the company of a flock of cardinals. On January 7 the catbird was perched in an evergreen tree facing a male cardinal. The catbird was clearly begging for food - bill extended, fluttering its wings, and clucking softly. The cardinal then fed the catbird at least twice. The cardinal was obviously trying to take care of the needy catbird. After awhile the catbird flew to a nearby bittersweet vine, where it fed on the berries - John E. Lieftinck.

Comments on the Birds Seen at the Lakefront January 28, 1950 - The snowy owl was seen again; the same one that has been seen frequently on past dates. It was identified as such only because of its decidedly reddish plumage, quite different from its customary white robe. This strange-colored owl obtained its garb from the dust of a large pile of red ore that has become the owl's favorite perch, or one of them. For this reason, bird students going past this area are sure to scan the large pile of ore for any suspicious humps which look at all owlish.

Another snowy owl was seen sitting on a long cement pier. It also had dark plumage, but was brown, rather than red. Consequently, we decided that this visitor from the Arctic was not intruding upon the first owl's lone title as Cleveland's "ore owl".

An American merganser was seen inside of the breakwater, and at quite good range, too. Through the telescope we could see its fine, reddish head with its slicked-back feathers.

A surf scoter was seen near the place it had been seen two weeks before. Its chunky body and swifter swimming caused it to stand out among the other birds - Mary Oliver.

Notes on Food Habits of Some Common Birds - Over the past several years it has been the practice of the writer to examine the stomach contents of dead birds which are brought to the laboratories of Kent State University. Twelve per cent have been found to contain empty stomachs. The stomach contents of the most interesting cases observed are summarized below.

Green heron - Shot October 8, 1948, at edge of pond on Kent-Stow road. Contents: 3 backswimmers, 3 spiders, 1 grasshopper, 1 field cricket, 1 small fish, with a mass of arthropod fragments.

Hooded merganser - 4 females captured in Fyke net set on Lake Rockwell November 18 to 23, 1948. Contents: 90-95 per cent shredded fish remains, 1 recently swallowed fingerling of large-mouth bass (3.5"), fragments of crayfish and water insects, fragments of filamentous green algae, fine gravel.

Barred owl - Shot at Windham April 14, 1949. Contents: hair and bones of a portion of a rabbit.

Chimney Swift - Found dead in Kent August 11, 1949. Contents: fragments of a beetle.

Northern flicker - Found dead on campus of Kent State University August 3, 1948. Contents: ants (abundant), pupae of ants, seed of wild cherry, sand grains.

Crow - Shot at Sandusky April 24, 1949. Contents: kernels of corn, fragments of insects, sand grains.

Brown creeper - Found dead on campus of Kent State University October 25, 1947. Contents: mass of insect fragments, most of which appeared to be Hemiptera and Coleoptera.

Eastern robin - Found dead in Kent May 8, 1946. Contents: 3 caterpillars, fragments of beetles, bits of grass, pebbles.

Wood Thrush - Found dead in Akron May 5, 1948. Contents: fragments of sow bugs (isopods) and millipedes, few pebbles.

Olive-backed thrush - Found dead on campus of Kent State University September 1946. Contents: 5 ants, 6 seeds in macerated fruit.

Cedar Waxwing - 3 found dead in Kent May 3, 1948; August 4, 1948; and November 7, 1949. Contents: all had seeds and pulp of small fruits.

Starling - Two shot May 10, 1948, and 1 shot April 20, 1949, on Kent-Tallmadge Road. Contents: (1) 16 green caterpillars, (2) 2 green caterpillars, 1 ground beetle, 4 small beetles, (3) mass of millipedes, weevils and beetles.

Magnolia warbler - Found dead in Stow May 15, 1948. Contents: fragments of insects.

Ovenbird - Found dead on campus of Kent State University May 12, 1948. Contents: mass of ants, weevils, beetles.

English sparrow - 1 shot April 30, 1948, in Kent; 6 shot on Kent-Tallmadge Road May 13, 16, 26, 1948; 1 April 20, 1949. Contents: kernels of corn and wheat, seeds, fragments of insects (especially beetles) and millipedes, gravel and pebbles.

Rose-breasted grosbeak - 3 found dead in Kent May 9, 1946; May 15, 1948; May 10, 1949. Contents: mass of small fruits and seeds, 3 beetles in one, pebbles.

Tree sparrow - Found dead at Stow December 12, 1946. Contents: mass of grass seeds and pebbles.

The preponderance of beetles is probably explained by the facts that the Coleoptera is the largest group of insects; there are many abundant species in diverse habitats; and the hard exoskeleton persists longer in the bird's stomach than that of more delicate insects - Ralph W. Dexter.