

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

FOUNDED BY FRANCIS H. HERRICK 1905



PUBLISHED BY THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB

AND

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

2717 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Devoted to the study of ornithology in the Cleveland region

Subscription price - \$1.00 per annum

Address: Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland 15, Ohio

Edited by Arthur B. Williams

This number issued July 10, 1951

As a background for this number of the CALENDAR we are always glad to have the reports of the Sunday Morning Bird Walks sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Conducted by about 40 qualified leaders at 13 different locations for six consecutive Sunday mornings from April 15 to May 20, these provide a total of 78 separate trips to observe the bird life of the region. When finally assembled, these records give a truly wonderful cross-section of the spring migration movement in our vicinity.

The list of 83 contributors to this issue of the CALENDAR we believe is the largest ever. Some new names are included and we welcome these people to the ranks of our reporters. In making up this quarterly picture of the bird life of the Cleveland region we welcome the cooperation of all who feel themselves competent to identify correctly the birds that they see.

All sorts of nesting records are desired, even though these may be fragmentary. While we plan to publish only complete accounts of nest histories, all other such information is accumulated in a file under each species name, thus building up a valuable source for future studies, Don't fail to read Dr. Dexter's complete account of the nesting of the chimney swift (pp. 9-10).

Information as to the location and size of eave swallow colonies is now especially desired. Thus far only one such colony has been reported, but there must be a few others at least. Look for the mud "jug" nests up under the eaves of old barns.

The BIRD CALENDAR should be attractive to many more people than now appear on its modest subscription list. Your help in enlarging this list and thus increasing the usefulness of the publication will be appreciated. Use the attached order blank for convenience.

Editor, CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
2717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 15, Ohio

Please enter my subscription to the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR at One Dollar per annum. I enclose herewith:

Check \$ _____ for _____ years.

Currency \$ _____ for _____ years.

Signed _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

NOTES ON THE WEATHER

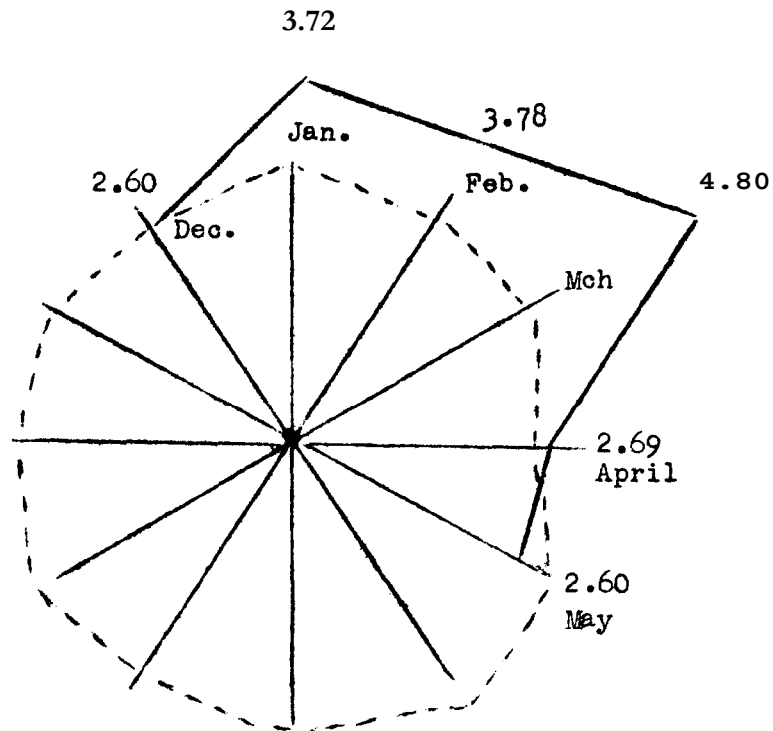
March - Precipitation about twice average. Snow fell on 7 days, totaling 14.5 inches. A violent thunderstorm in the early morning hours of the 7th did damage to buildings and trees.

April - First part of month with temperatures below normal. Second part above normal, producing an early wildflower season. Precipitation one quarter inch above normal. Last snowfall of winter was on April 17, bringing the season's total to 77.2 inches.

May - First month with below normal rainfall in 7 months. A little warmer than usual, with a few cold days. Sunshine considerably above normal.

As a whole, the three month period was such as to produce an early and a lush spring.

The chart below shows the amount of precipitation month by month in inches. The dotted line shows the normal or average pattern. The solid line shows actual precipitation by months as indicated. As a sort of measuring stick, each spoke of the wheel represents 3 inches of water.



CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors to this issue of the CALENDAR are:

Fred J. Ackermann	Lowell A. Gatts	Henry B. Merkle
James F. Akers	James W. Gebhart	Henry N. Merkle
L. P. Barbour	Marion Gebhart	Carl Newhous
Mrs. Robert Beale	Edna M. Gifford	Donald L. Newman
B. P. Bole, Jr.	Norman Gutschmidt	Mary Oliver
Clark Bole	Carl P. Hamann	Margaret E. Perner
Kay F. Booth	Emma L. Hanna	Frank M. Phelps
Margaret Brown	U. A. Hengesbach	Jerry Piskac
Burroughs Nature Club	Raymond W. Hill	Charles Poutasse
Harold Cantlin	Mrs. Merle Hostetler	B. C. Raynes
Vera Carrothers	Walter Hoyles	Raymond Roth
Belle L. Clisby	Frank D. Johnson	Grace P. Rush
Roy E. Clisby	Perry F. Johnson	Thomas Sanders
M. Owen Davies	Dale C. Kellogg	William E. Scheele
Mrs. Owen Davies	Mrs. C. W. Kimmel	Margaret H. Sherwin
Ralph W. Dexter	George King	Ray Smiley
Mrs. Frank Dimpsey	Alice Kingman	Jack Smith
H. C. Dobbins	C. H. Knight	Paul Smith
J. Doe	Robert Koenig	Robert S. Smith
Maude Doolittle	Rudolph J. Kula	Louis Sturm
C. T. Downer	John E. Lieftinck	Harold E. Wallin
Betty N. Endsley	Alice Lister	S. H. Watson
Mrs. Harold Enston	Mrs. A. E. Luedy	S. V. Wharram
Elsie C. Erickson	Robert W. McNeese	Lida H. Whittier
Mary E. Flahive	J. O. McQuown	Arthur B. Williams
Earl H. Foote	Lucille M. Mannix	Edythe G. Williams
Patricia Fraser	Howard W. Martin	Richard O. Wilson
Adela Gaede		Elizabeth M. Yoder

COMMENT ON THE RECORD

Interesting or Unusual Records

Holboell's Grebe - March 11, one each on Forest Hill pond, Corning Lake and Black Brood pond. April 15, one on Corning Lake.

Whistling Swan - Scattering records from March 25 through April 29 of birds on Corning Lake and Akron Lakes. On April 7 a flock of 30 were about to land on the wildfowl pool at the Cleveland Zoo, when they became alarmed and did not stop.

Canada Goose - The semi-wild pair which for the past two years has reared a brood of young on Sunset Pond, North Chagrin Metropolitan Park, has this year raised a brood of 6 goslings, now almost as large as their parents.

European Widgeon - Two seen on Corning Lake April 15.

Florida Gallinule - To the vast entertainment of many office workers in the Union Commerce Building, one of these marsh-inhabiting birds spent a half hour in an interior court of that building on May 11.

Golden Plover - This rare spring migrant was reported from the Sandusky marshes March 27(20), and May 12(92).

Black-bellied Plover - Also a rare spring migrant. A flock of 21 was reported April 2d in the Sandusky region, and a flock of 40 near Medina April 29.

Wilson's Snipe - S. V. Wharram reports finding a nest with 4 eggs May 13 in Plymouth Marsh, Ashtabula County. The 4 eggs hatched on May 17 and the young left the nest on the 19th. R. J. Kula reports hearing and seeing the snipe flying and singing in the early morning and evening at Huntsburg. We have no local breeding record for this species but these reports bring it rather close to our regional limits.

Purple Sandpiper - Three seen May 13 near Richmond Beach. After 10 minutes of close study, Kay Booth, Paul Smith and Carl Newhous agree as to the identity of these birds. All characteristic markings were noted. Usually this bird is seen here only in fall and winter. We have but one other spring record (March 21,22, 1949).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One seen May 11 at Fern Lake by Kay Booth, and 5 seen May 27 at White City by Donald Newman.

Snowy Owl - A bird picked up dead at Edgewater Park March 22. Another seen along the lakefront at East 49th Street April 1 by R. W. Hill.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Six reported seen in the Sandusky region May 21 by John E. Liefertinck.

Mockingbird - One reported present and singing about the Cleveland Zoo March 1 to 7. One near Mentor March 7. One in Highland Park Cemetery March 31.

Orchard Oriole - A pair reported at the Holden Arboretum May 21 by Paul Smith, who suspected nesting. On June 18 W. E. Scheele reported the nest containing young in a small apple tree about 6 feet up. This is one of very few recent records of this species nesting in our region.

Dickcissel - One reported singing on wire near Hinckley May 12 by Robert McNeese. One reported at feeding station on South Park Boulevard (near Shaker Lake) May 27 by S. H. Watson.

Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill - A mixed flock of these two species totaling 16 individuals seen April 7 in Stebbin's Gulch by Donald L. Newman. Read his account on p. 7. A red crossbill was picked up dead in Painesville May 6.

Some New Early and Late Dates

American Egret - One seen April 13 in swamp near Rootstown by R. O. Wilson of Kent State University. Also seen in same place April 16-17, and (probably same bird) at Lake Rockwell April 19. Previous early date is April 17, 1941. Egrets were also reported from Aurora Pond May 13 and 20 as well as from Sandusky region April 28 to May 21.

Belted Piping Plover - One seen April 8 at Richmond Beach. Previous early date April 18, 1948.

Ruddy Turnstone - Four seen at Richmond Beach April 8. Previous early date May 2, 1948

Caspian Tern - Three seen at Black Brook April 15. Previous early date April 18, 1947.

Alder Flycatcher - One reported April 29 at Hinckley. Previous early date May 2, 1942 and 1948.

Prothonotary Warbler - One reported April 28 at Aurora Pond. Previous early date May 1, 1949.

Golden-winged Warbler - One reported May 5 in Cleveland Heights. Previous early date May 6, 1943 and 1947.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - One seen April 5 in McCracken woods, Maple Heights. Previous early date April 8, 1948.

Red-backed Sandpiper - One reported seen May 31 at Richmond Beach. Previous latest date May 30, 1945.

Common Redpoll - A flock of 7 reported April 29 at Holden Arboretum. Previous latest date April 27, 1947.

Uncommon

Double-crested Cormorant - One record of 1 bird only.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - Only 3 records.

Tree Sparrow - Much smaller numbers than usual.

Warblers - Very meager returns for Parula, Cape May, Pine, Prairie, Connecticut and Wilson's. In the opinion of most observers there were no spectacular flights of migrating warblers this spring such as often occur. Yet the record of May 20 is an imposing one. On that date 27 different species of warblers were reported, totaling 878 individual birds. On the afternoon of that day Raymond Hill reported seeing more warblers in an hour at Shaker Lake than he had seen all spring. But they were not there in the morning:

Ducks and Shorebirds - Records of ducks and shorebirds within our 30-mile limit are disappointingly low. One bright spot, however, is the apparent increase of breeding wood ducks. We have to turn to the records of the Sandusky marshes, Mosquito Creek reservoir, and Pymatuning to get the "feel" of the waterfowl migration. (See pp. 6-7.) We have to acknowledge too that our coverage of marsh habitats has been poor.

RECORDS FROM NEIGHBORING LOCALITIES

Pymatuning Reservoir

Loon, April 9(1), 21(3); Horned Grebe, April 21(400); Canada Goose, April 9(300); Mallard, April 9(10), 21(12); Black Duck, April 9(5), 21(5); Baldpate, April 9(1), 21(110); Blue-winged Teal, April 9(3), 21(14); Shoveler, April 9(2), 21(30); Redhead, April 21(2); Lesser Scaup, April 21(18); Ruddy Duck, April 21(80); American Merganser, April 9(12), 21(2); Coot, April 21(48); Wilson's Snipe, April 9(1), 21(2) - James F. Akers (April 9), Adela Gaede (April 21).

Sandusky Region (Including Marblehead, Castalia, Huron River, Old Woman's Creek, East Harbor, Cedar Point Marsh)

	March						April		May		
	3	10	16	23	25	27	20	28	7	12	21
Horned Grebe						2					
American Egret								10	2	6	9
Canada Goose	1	1	8	1	1	1	1				
Blue Goose	1					1					
Mallard	6	200	20	6	24	143	12	20	10	20	
Black Duck	6	300	2		20	110	10	25		5	
Gadwall	7	18	8	2	10	107	4	10			
Baldpate	29	200	50	30	200	4000	30	5	4	4	
Pintail	5	12			10	117		4			
Green-winged Teal						2		3		2	
Blue-winged Teal						5		40		3	
Shoveler	2	32	12		50	60	6	2			
Wood Duck						2		2		2	
Redhead		10	6		25	79					
Ring-necked Duck	9	8	25		200	70	20				
Canvasback	2	80	100	12	150	125	2	2			
Lesser Scaup	34	1	50	100	75	118	36	15	2	40	
Goldeneye	21		2	12	12	16					
Bufflehead	2	3		2	8	18	4				
Ruddy Duck						9		60			
Hooded Merganser		4				6	4				
American Merganser	200	6	4	6	25	84	4	20			
Red-breasted Merg.		10	12	2	8	49	4	16		6	
Bald Eagle						2				2	2
Coot	1	26	200	6	1	875	200	120		15	
Golden Plover						20				92	
Black-bellied P.								21			1
Spotted Sandpiper										4	
Solitary Sandpiper								1		3	
Greater Yellowlegs								10		3	
Lesser Yellowlegs								10		2	
Pectoral Sandpiper										10	
Dowitcher										1	
Semipalmated										8	
Caspian Tern								60		20	5
Yellow-bellied Fl.											6
Lieftinck, Carrothers, Clisby, McNeese, Gaede											

Ravenna Reservoir

March 10 - Redhead 20, Goldeneye 3, American Merganser 100, Coot 1.
 March 25 - Mallard 2, Black Duck 4, Redhead 40, Ruddy Duck 3, American
 Merganser 30 - R. W. Hill.

Mosquito Creek

	March			April
	3	17	18	7
Loon				1
Whistling Swan		9	17	9
Canada Goose	2	105		
Mallard		2		4
Black Duck		30		2
Gadwall		4		
Baldpate		15	40	6
Pintail	800	200	40	
Shoveler				1
Redhead		150	40	100
Ring-necked Duck				2
Canvasback		12	40	2
Lesser Scaup		4		10
American Merganser		5		8
Red-breasted Merg.				6
Coot		12	1	20
Gaede, Hill, Mannix				

FIELD NOTES

Crossbills - Keeping high in the towering Canada hemlocks at Stebbin's Gulch, where only their dry, pebbly notes betrayed their presence, a mixed band of white-winged crossbills and red crossbills fed busily on the seeds in the tiny hemlock cones whose scales showered to earth with a lispng patter. Although the day (April 7, 1951) was clear and sunny, the crossbills were well hidden by the deep shadow of the tall hemlocks, and thus I was able to see and identify only one fine male each of the two species. When the flock flew off, however, I counted 18 individuals; and their distinctive notes heard in another part of the Gulch seemed to indicate there may have been more than one flock. In the same trees with the crossbills but feeding much closer to the ground was a group of pine siskins of which I counted only five, but surely there were more elsewhere in the hemlocks whose broad green branches concealed these active brown birds marvellously well - Donald L. Newman.

Habitat Relations - With the cutting down of the small ailanthus "forest" on the property adjoining the grounds of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on the east, the number of migrating birds recorded here in spring has been considerably reduced. However, now that the area is largely open grassland, two species never observed here before have appeared. These are a pair of prairie horned larks seen March 22 and 23, and an American pipit March 16. Another open field species was a bobolink present June 1 and 2, recorded only once before in this down-town location - The Editor.

Note on Juvenal Plumage of Male Downy Woodpecker - Behind the house at 2625 Idlewood Road, Cleveland Heights, stand two ancient pear trees remnants of a farm orchard of other days. In a small upright stub of dead wood in one of these trees a downy woodpecker had excavated a nesting hole about 10 feet from the ground. On June 3 and 4, 1951, the young were leaving the nest, and it was on June 4 that I watched the last one deciding whether to go or stay. He would come to the entrance hole, stick his head out, look about for a minute or so, then retreat. Not without astonishment I noted that the entire top of his head was dark red. The color was in a broad band from forehead to back of head. It was margined on either side by black. Then came the white stripes on the sides of the head. It made me mentally review my identification of the bird I had seen feeding the young the day before. I stuck to it that it must be a downy woodpecker, but an unusual one.

On consulting Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States) I found the following statement (Vol. 2, p. 261) which had never registered with me before. "Young male in juvenal plumage: Similar to adult male, but without the red band on the back of the head; more or less feathers on top of head tipped red..." If I had seen this bird under other circumstances I would have been hard put to it to identify him - Arthur B. Williams.

Hawk Flights Near Sandusky - A Comparison - Conditions in 1951 were similar to those in 1950 - a clear, warm morning with strong wind - in 1950 from the northwest, in 1951 from the southwest. Numbers of individuals observed in 1951 were considerably less than in 1950, but were far more numerous than I observed elsewhere. As in 1950, broad-wings predominated in the flight, but a number of other species were observed. Individuals seen in the flight and observed in the same general area for the two dates were:

	<u>May 6, 1950</u>	<u>April 28, 1951</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	100	25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	25	4
Cooper's Hawk	20	6
Red-tailed Hawk	5	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	0
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1
Sparrow Hawk	3	3
Bald Eagle	1	0
Marsh Hawk	6	3
Osprey	1	0

R. W. McNeese

Nesting of the Chimney Swift - Since 1944 the writer has made an intensive study of the nesting procedure of chimney swifts which inhabit the air shafts of our college buildings at Kent State University. Details of the life history of many individual banded birds have been observed and recorded.

A report is given here of a typical nesting pair. The nesting of chimney swifts 42-196909 (a female) and 42-196921 (a male) for the season of 1948 in air shaft E1 on Kent Hall has been selected for that purpose. The breeding behavior of this pair over a period of seven years has already been published (Ohio Jour. Sci. 51(1):42-46. 1951.) A more detailed account of its life history in 1948 is presented at this time to illustrate typical nesting procedure during one season.

Chimney swifts returned to the campus on April 25, 1948. For a period of some two weeks additional birds continued to arrive. On May 3 the first one to return to air shaft E1 that season reached its destination. It is not known which one of the pair this was. It was noted that on the morning of May 5 the nest of the previous season had disappeared, probably having been removed by this early returning bird. Not many swift nests remain attached to the walls throughout the winter and spring months, but those few that do so are generally removed at once by the returning birds.

That evening the pair was reunited for another season. These two birds were previously mated in this same air shaft for three years and were to continue as mates for two more years before the death of the female. Each night these two roosted side by side as the sole inhabitants of this air shaft. Each of the thirteen pairs on the roof of this building had its own nesting shaft.

On May 26 the new nest was started, being constructed on the site of the old one, twenty feet down in the shaft on the west wall. From then on one bird roosted on the nest foundation while the other roosted beside it. Five days later the nest was completed; then both roosted on the nest at night, while the female spent much of the day sitting there as well.

The first egg was observed on June 4. Now the birds roosted under or near the nest at night, leaving the eggs exposed until the clutch was complete. The second egg was laid on June 6; the third one was found two days later. The fourth egg appeared after another two days. After this, one or the other of the parents incubated the eggs at night, as well as during the day, while the other roosted under or beside the nest.

Hatching occurred in little less than three weeks. On June 29 the nestlings were still naked and helpless, but just beginning to acquire their blue pin feathers. The parents took turns brooding them day and night. By July 6 the pin feathers were beginning to open out into black body feathers and the nestlings were growing rapidly. Now they were left exposed on the nest much of the time, especially during the day. The parents often roosted on the wall beside the nest at night, especially during warm weather.

On July 17, three of the young left the nest, clinging to the wall nearby, while one remained on it. The next day all of them were in the same position as before. At 10 A.M. one of the parents was present, apparently encouraging them to try their wings. The following day all four of the juveniles were clinging to the wall, never again to return to the nest.

By July 25 two had learned to fly while the other two remained side by side on the wall. Two days later only one was left, but the following day all were gone. In the evening of July 29 five swifts roosted in shaft E1, but how many of these were of the original family is not known.

On August 6, ten birds roosted in this shaft, including the female which nested there along with two other breeding birds of the season, but none was with its mate (one bird, however, escaped from the trap and consequently cannot be accounted for). In the evening of August 12 the mates of E1 were found roosting in their shaft with the male swift which had nested in shaft J5 and one juvenile bird which may or may not have been an offspring of the E1 mates.

Soon the swifts left this shaft for the season, although two birds, the male parent and probably his mate, spent the night of September 27 there. By October 2 all swifts had left the campus. Between that time and the third week of October the nest in shaft E1 had fallen from the wall.