

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Nesting Number

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Rudolph J. Kula, Harold E. Wallin, Lida H. Whittier

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NOTES ON THE WEATHER

From the U.S Weather Bureau, Cleveland Airport

June - Temperatures for the first two weeks averaged only about 3° above normal, but from the 15th on there were 9 days with maximum reading of 90° or higher. The 99's registered on the 25th and 26th were the highest temperatures ever recorded so early in the year, and humidity was uncomfortably high through much of the month. Precipitation was less than half the normal, causing near drought conditions throughout the important early growing season.

July - There were 16 days on which temperatures were 90° or higher, with the humidity generally high. Also one of the driest Julys on record, prolonging near drought conditions locally.

August - Although temperatures averaged a little above normal, the month seemed quite cool by contrast with the preceding very warm June and July. Yet the 44° registered on the 24th was the lowest temperature ever recorded at Cleveland in 82 years. Rainfall, though below normal, was heavy enough to benefit vegetation.

THE RECORD

There were 18 great blue herons at Sherwin pond, Willoughby, July 23, and also an American egret which stayed there through the second week of August. An American egret was also seen at Hinckley August 3 (Knight), 2 on August 6 on the Chagrin River near Willoughby (Stanley), 2 August 19 west of Grafton (Akers), and 7 August 31 on Route 87 near Route 44 (Carrothers, Hill, Oliver).

A bobwhite recorded July 6 in Willoughby's city streets was the first seen by L. P. Barbour since the "Big Snow" of 1945.

Mrs. George Wiley reports Virginia rails nesting in a swamp on Route 532 near Cuyahoga Falls (4 young seen July 6 and 8).

Adding to our meager fall records for the piping plover for this region is a bird seen August 10 at White City by Donald Newman. Mr. Newman also saw at White City a white-rumped sandpiper August 10, black-bellied plover August 16 (one also seen on the 22nd at the same place by Ackermann); ruddy turnstones August 10,23; Baird's sandpiper August 10,24; dowitcher August 24(2).

L. P. Barbour reports a Hudsonian curlew, seen July 10 at Fairport Beach about 6:30 P.M. at about 10 yards distance and 10 feet above the water's edge.

At Bedford Airport and in nearby fields, C. H. Knight saw 28 upland plovers on the morning of July 13, scattered in small groups.

Two August records for the great black-backed gull are August 7, one at Fairport Harbor (Akers), and August 20, 3 seen off Lakewood Park (Ackermann).

Jim Akers reports 24 caspian terns at Fairport August 7.

Evidence of successful nesting of red-headed woodpeckers are the 12 birds, both adult and young, seen by Fred Ackermann at Lakewood Park August 16.

The large bank swallow colony on Snowville Road, Brecksville, was visited July 13 by a black snake which was observed crawling from nest to nest (Wallin).

Only two cliff swallow colonies were reported this summer - both of which were also reported last year. The colony at Huntsburg had 16 pairs last year and only 8 this year; while the colony at Fullerton Road, Novelty, had 5 nests this year, as compared with 3 last year (Kula, Downer).

Dr. Nyerges of Bay Village reports that his martin colony (40 pairs of birds) was visited by a Cooper's hawk on July 23. The hawk took about half the young from the nests, using its claws and disregarding attacks by the adult martins.

On June 2 Frank Phelps discovered a pair of chickadees feeding young about 4 miles south of Elyria. The nest was in a stump standing in a large woodland pond and was some 30 feet from the bank. Mr. Phelps says this species is a very uncommon nester in Lorain County.

Analysis of a white-breasted nuthatch nest was made by William Mosely. The nest was in a crested flycatcher box which was put up two days before the nuthatches moved in and was located 30 feet up in a in oak. Six eggs were laid (by May 13) only one of which hatched. The young bird left the nest June 16. The upper 1/2 inch of the nest consisted of: chipmunk fur, human hair, lint, shreds of grapevine bark, 5 1/2 inches of rope, feathers, grass and a piece of brown wrapping paper. The lower 1 1/2 inches consisted of: pin oak bark, 970 pieces; white oak bark, 1 piece; hickory bark, 30 pieces; (bark chunks from 1/4 to 3 inches long and from 1/8 to 1 inches wide, largest 1 inch by 3 inches); chunks of wood (largest 1/2 inch by 1/4 inch by 4 1/2 inches), 617 pieces; lumps of dirt 240; lumps of plaster 41; cloth 1; pin oak acorns, 3 halves; sunflower seed 2; land snail shells 3; other seed 9; claw of cat or dog 1; remains of mice 37 (probably brought in as owl pellet); beech bud covers 2; unknown 5.

An early record for the red-breasted nuthatch was reported by Mrs. Margaret Sherwin at Willoughby where one arrived August 31 and stayed a week.

The strange ways of the house wren in choosing nest sites was again demonstrated by two nests reported. One, May 23, was found by Fred Ackermann in an iron pipe forming a swinging gate that closes off the ford when the water is high at Cedar Point Road in the Rocky River Reservation. The pipe, which is 3 inches in diameter, has a 4x2 1/2 inch opening made to hold a chain that is used to hook a padlock to the post. The wren built its nest in this hole, about 4 feet off the ground. The Park policeman had to close the gate during the occupancy of the wrens, but managed to do so without disturbing the birds. The other nest, also in an iron pipe, was located in Parma Heights in the backyard of Mrs. Charles Lamb. This nest was placed about 2 feet down the pipe, which was 2" in diameter, about 5 1/2 foot long, and set vertically in the ground. There were 5 young in the nest June 20 (seen with the aid of a flashlight), and they were successfully raised and left the nest under their own power.

The Bewick's wren again nested in the Cleveland region this year. Mrs. George Wiley reports a singing bird in a yard near Mogadore Lake on Route 43 June 4, and a pair seen June 7. On July 2 they were seen carrying food. On July 27 four young almost full grown were seen.

Dr. C. T. Downer located a nest and a dummy nest of the long-billed marsh wren in a small marshy area at the southern extremity of Euclid Creek Reservation June 14. On June 18 the first nests were gone and two more were found, and on June 29 one of these had disappeared. Dr. Downer suspects human interference, but it is interesting to note that this species attempted nesting in that location.

A robin nest was reported in which petunia petals were used - white petunia petals only, although there were plenty of pink ones in the flower border from which they were gathered by the bird (Cochran).

A flock of about 100 cedar waxwings were seen August 1-24 at the bridge at the Coventry Road end of Shaker Lakes, adult and immature birds, eating wild cherries and also insects caught in flycatcher-like fashion over the falls and stream (Watson).

The magnolia warbler was reported at Stebbin's Gulch through July 6, and one was seen there August 2 (Davies). Also, a male of this species was seen July 16 in a beech-oak-maple forest on the great gorge path in Bedford Reservation by William Moseley. The Canada warbler was at Stebbin's Gulch June 12 (Newman).

Some early returning warblers were a Nashville July 27 (Watson), blackburnian and Canada August 3 (Knight). The warbler migration was apparent from about August 20 on. Owen Davies discovered a concentration of warblers in Lakewood Park which he will report on fully later, but highlights in August were a black-throated blue singing August 30, a pine seen August 29 and a Connecticut August 23.

Twenty immature bobolinks were seen near Chardon July 14 (Whittier), while Charles Knight saw a total of 70 several miles east of Hinckley August 3. The birds were perched in open fields and consisted of two compact flocks including a number of adult males in post-nuptial plumage.

Only two purple finches were reported this summer, one June 7 at Stebbin's Gulch (Mannix), and one July 13 at Bedford Reservation (Knight).

On August 8 Lucille Mannix saw 3 dickcissels at Route 87 and South Woodland Road - one male, one female and one immature.

From July 4-24 a white-throated sparrow was heard singing at intervals daily and was seen fairly regularly by Carl Baier in Lakewood. Owen Davies saw this bird on the 6th and 12th.

New early spring date (Omitted from the last Calendar):

Short-billed Marsh Wren, March 29, Headlands and Coast Guard
Roads (Booth)

New latest spring dates:

Lesser Scaup, June 5, Willoughby (Sherwin)
Olive-backed Thrush, June 8, Willoughby (Barbour)
Lincoln's Sparrow, June 11, Rocky River (Ackermann)

New early fall dates:

Greater Yellowlegs, July 25, Berea Metropolitan Park (Akers)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, August 10, Lakewood (Davies)
Nashville Warbler, July 27, Shaker Heights (Watson)
Blackburnian Warbler, August 3, Hinckley (Knight)
Canada Warbler, August 3, Hinckley (Knight)
Slate-colored Junco, August 26, Silver Lake (Gibbs)

Owen Davies points out that BIRDS CLEVELAND mentions the lack of records for the orange-crowned warbler west of the Cuyahoga Valley, but that he and others have several for this species from the western part of the region that should be added, as follows:

April 20, 1952, Elyria (Akers)
May 2, 1947, Lakewood (Davies)
May 12, 1940, Rocky River Reservation (Davies)
May 7, 1950, Rocky River Reservation (Davies)
May 15,17,18, 1951, Rocky River Reservation (Ackermann, Davies)
September 15, 1945, Rocky River Reservation (Davies)
September 14,19,30, 1946, Lakewood (Davies)

RECORDS FROM NEIGHBORING LOCALITIES

Mosquito Creek

Sunday, June 1, George King saw 20 Hudsonian curlews circle twice around the northern end of the lake, bucking a strong north wind. They landed along the shore and within 5 minutes were bathing. This was at 12:30 and at 3:15 the birds were still there, resting.

Carl Hamann reports that on July 25 the water was so high that there were no mudflats and he saw only four species - great blue heron, semipalmated plover, killdeer and spotted sandpiper.

Several good records were made in August:

Little Blue Heron, August 9 (Mannix, Gaede, Erickson)
 American Egret, August 24,30 (Hill, Gaede, Carrothers)
 Green-winged Teal, August 23 (Barbour), 31 (Carrothers)
 Piping Plover, August 9 (Mannix, Gaede, Erickson)
 Golden Plover, August 23 (Barbour), 30 (Gaede, Carrothers)
 Knot, (3), August 24 (Hill)
 Baird's Sandpiper (2), August 24 (Hill), (1) August 30
 (Gaede,Carrothers)
 Dowitcher (30), August 23 (Barbour), (10) August 24 (Hill), (3)
 August 30 (Gaede, Carrothers)
 Stilt Sandpiper (6), August 23 (Barbour), (1) August 24 (Hill)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (2), August 31 (Carrothers, King, Smith)

Sandusky Region

Owen Davies saw 71 American egrets June 21 and 52 June 29; 19 black-crowned night herons June 21 and 25 June 29; 35 black terns June 21 and 30 June 29, 14 July 26 in this region, and on June 21 a black rail at Magee Marsh.

Karl Bednarik reports that the bald eagles at Magee brought off two young and that the Winous Point colony of American egrets had 4 nests this season with 9 young successfully raised. He also reports a sandhill crane at Winous Point April 17, seen by Ralph Andrews, and a glossy ibis at the same place May 5-21 seen by Ralph Andrews and John Anderson.

Vermilion Marsh

P. F. Johnson reports that on July 1 about 30 hummocks appeared to have black tern nests on them, with adults incubating in most cases. Four or five had two downy young being fed. The adult birds "dive-bombed" Mr. Johnson continually, coming within 2 feet of his head from behind and from 4 to 5 feet when approaching from the front. July 25 only a few terns were present with only one nest with young birds in it observed. Mr. Johnson does not know whether young were fledged and had departed in the interval or if most nestings were unsuccessful due to storms and a higher water level. A rise of 2 inches would have flooded most nests, and the level on the 27th was about 1 inch higher than on the 1st.

BREEDING BIRD POPULATION STUDIES

Ridge (Oak-Hickory) and Slope (Beech-Maple) ForestLocation - Brecksville Reservation of Cleveland Metropolitan Parks.Total area - Approximately 50 acres (same area covered by Harold E. Wallin in 1947)Coverage - 5/26,30, 6/18,19, 7/1,10,16. Total hours - 25

By Kathleen S. Hostetler

Census

	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Nests</u>
Redstart	21	4
Red-eyed Vireo	19	2
Wood Thrush	15	2
Cerulean Warbler	10	
Acadian Flycatcher	10	2
Wood Pewee	6	
Hooded Warbler	6	3
Ovenbird	5	
Cardinal	5	
Scarlet Tanager	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	1
Robin	3	
Black-capped Chickadee	3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	1
Northern Yellowthroat	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	
Blue Jay	1	
Song Sparrow	1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	
Belted Kingfisher	1	

No. Species - 23

No. Pairs-126

Density - Pairs per 100 acres - 22

No. Nests Found - 17

Cowbirds raised by red-eyed vireo and hooded warbler (2). Lack of ovenbird song and abundance of Acadian Flycatchers noted.

Visitors: Hairy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Catbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Goldfinch.

Grassland Habitat - Two Ungrazed Fields

By Carl F. Hamann

Location - Aurora Township, Portage County, Ohio

Site of Area - Approximately 25 acres, consisting of two fields of 10 acres and 15 acres (paced). The first field on the Johnson farm east of Eggleston Road; the second 1^{1/2} miles southwest adjacent to the local cemetery [cemetery]. Both are on the 1140 foot contour above sea level.

Description - The first field of 10 acres is bounded on three sides by brushy fence rows and on the west by a small clump of trees and shrubs and a wheat field. A low wet spot approximately 1/4 acre in extent lies off the northeast corner and supports a few elm trees, buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and sedges at the periphery. Otherwise vegetation consisted of mixed grasses but predominantly Timothy (Phleum pratense). The second field of 15 acres is bounded on the north by a brushy fence row, on the east by similar habitat, on the south by a gravel road, and on the west by a beech-maple forest. The vegetation is of mixed grasses and weeds with a scattering of higher growing plants such as blackberry (Rubus sp.), elderberry (Sambucus canadensis) and wild rose (Rosa sp.). Nomenclature is from Gray's Manual of Botany, 7th Edition.

Topography - Both fields are slightly rolling.

Coverage - May 1,7,12,15,16,22,29,30; June 3; July 8,21. Hours varied from 6:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. E.S.T. and totaled approximately 22.

Census (combined area) - Boblink 2(8); Eastern meadowlark 2(8) Eastern Red-winged Blackbird 2(8); Eastern Savannah sparrow 1(4); Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow 3(12); Western Henslow's Sparrow 5(20); Eastern Vesper Sparrow 1(4); Eastern Field Sparrow 1(4); Mississippi Song Sparrow 1^{1/2}(6).

Total - 9 species, 18^{1/2} territorial males (74 males per 100 acres).

Frequent Visitors - Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Robin, Bluebird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Goldfinch.

NESTING OF A SELECTED PAIR OF CHIMNEY SWIFTS

by

Ralph W. Dexter

Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

During the summer of 1952 thirteen pairs of Chimney Swifts nested in the air shafts of four buildings on the campus of Kent State University. Each one occupied a shaft of its own. One pair has been selected for a detailed description at this time. An earlier account was published in the Cleveland Bird Calender (47(2):9-10. 1951) of nesting procedure of another selected pair in the summer of 1948.

Chimney Swifts returned to the campus on April 20, 1952. Two of them were found in shaft M7 that evening perched side by side. One of these proved to be a male (42-188540) which was banded in 1948 and had nested in M7 for the past three years. The other one was a female which had nested in shaft A5 for the past two years. She soon left M7 to return to A5, at first alone, but was joined there by her previous mate at the end of two weeks. In the mean time the male in M7 was joined by another female (48-164543). This bird was banded in 1950 but had not previously nested on the campus. She also returned the first day (April 20), and that night roosted with the male in shaft S1. His former mate soon returned to him, however, and No. 43 then entered M7 where the former mate of No. 42-188540 failed to return.

This pair became mates in M7 for the season. Each night that examination was made these two were perched side by side on the east wall with but two exceptions. In the evening of May 26 one was some three feet below the other. Three nights later they were two feet apart on the east wall and a third swift spent the night on the west wall with them. The visitor did not return and the pair resumed perching side by side. Copulation was believed to be observed in the evening of May 30. The following afternoon nest building began. That evening the pair roosted on the foundation. Each day work proceeded on the nest, but construction was slow. By the end of a week it was about half finished. At night one bird perched beside the nest while the other roosted just below it. When finally completed on June 9, it was a little odd in appearance. Apparently two foundations were made side by side but only one was completed. The nest was placed 14.3 feet down on the east wall. Now one swift, presumably the female, roosted at night on the nest while her mate clung to the wall immediately below it. At times he was beside the nest instead. The first egg was observed on June 15. Three eggs were seen on June 17. Incubation was continuous by one or the other of the birds from that time on. Hatching took place in the absence of the writer. On July 18 two nestlings were observed just getting their black juvenile plumage. (The third egg either did not hatch or was destroyed in the meanwhile). Two days later the young birds left the nest to cling to the wall. The parents stayed close by them. The following day the juveniles were back on the nest again. Such is rather unusual since in most cases juveniles remain out of the nest once they leave it. That evening, however, they were on the wall just under the nest while the parents were on the adjoining walls.

For the next week the juveniles were alternately on and off the nest. The parents apparently made efforts to induce the young to fly but their offspring were slow in gaining confidence in using their wings. The juveniles in most of the other shafts had already taken their initial flight and some had already left the family group. On July 31 one juvenile from M7 had taken to flight. The other was still being fed by the parents. The next day both juveniles were on the wing. In the evening of August 1 five swifts roosted in M7 which were trapped the following day. Two were the parent birds, one was a non-breeding bird (48-166266) which had visited the nesting swifts in E1 at the time of egg laying, one was a juvenile (probably offspring of the M7 pair) which was banded with no. 20-188686, and the fifth was another juvenile. This one had been banded (20-188682) the previous day when it was discovered roosting alone in shaft C3 the evening of July 31. Possibly it, too, was an offspring of the M7 pair since juveniles frequently roost in other places after they once leave the home shaft. The group then dispersed.

The female parent was recaptured August 13 while roosting for the night with seven other swifts in shaft P3, but neither her mate nor any of the others which had been with her that season were included. Families often scatter after nesting is completed, including those parents which have been mated for a period of years and which will continue to be mates in future nesting periods.

WATERFOWL AND BREEDING CONDITIONS ON THE MAGEE MARSH 1952

by
Karl E. Bednarik

The information presented in this report was gathered on the Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Oak Harbor, Ohio. The 1960 acre marsh is located on the southwestern quadrant of Lake Erie. The purpose of the survey was to determine the comparative number of potential breeders and to measure the success of their nesting attempts.

The methods used in sampling were of two types:

1. Potential breeding population surveys which consisted of water surface censuses or dike checks on sample nesting areas.
2. Brood censuses of the sample water surface areas to determine brood densities.

The data gathered this current season on potential breeding pairs cannot be accurately compared with early surveys of the area. John M. Anderson, Biologist, Chairman of the Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway Committee, has annually surveyed a one linear mile transect on the Magee area from 1949 through 1952. The figures for this transect, listed below, indicate Anderson's findings.

<u>Species</u>	1949	1950	1951	1952
Mallard	18	9	10	7
Black Duck	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	24	12	14	9

Breeding Pairs on 160 Acres Marshland (Magee Marsh)

Mallard	29.2 pairs per square mile
Black Duck	8.1
Blue-winged Teal	9.4
Wood Duck	<u>6.2</u>
	52.9

Nesting Conditions

A general survey of waterfowl nesting habitat for the current breeding season indicates that there appears to have been a decline in potential breeding sites. The all time recorded high in the level of Lake Erie is the principal factor in the decline of available nesting sites, e.g., muskrat houses and swales. The spring northeast storms regularly flooded the marsh from one to two feet higher than the normal marsh level. The resulting wave action demolished the muskrat houses and inundated the swales, leaving only relatively barren dikes as available nesting sites. Weather conditions encouraged a normal movement of waterfowl, and nesting of local species was well under way by mid-May.

A resume of nesting is herein enclosed; however, such items are not usually considered in breeding ground surveys, counts of potential breeding pairs and brood counts being more accurate.

<u>Date Located</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Egg</u>	<u>Incubation</u>	<u>Type Predation</u>
May 6	Black Duck	7	Unsuccessful	Crow
6	Mallard	8	"	Mammal
6	Mallard	11	"	?
7	Mallard	10	Successful	
7	Black Duck	9	Unsuccessful	?
7	Black Duck	10	"	Mammal
7	Mallard	6	"	Crow
8	Mallard	8	"	Mammal
8	Mallard	9	"	?
8	Wood Duck	10	"	Raccoon
9	Wood Duck	11	Successful	
10	Wood Duck	15	"	
11	Wood Duck	5	Unsuccessful	?
12	Mallard	4	"	?
12	Black Duck	11	Successful	
12	Mallard	11	Unsuccessful	Mammal
12	Mallard	10	"	?
12	Mallard	4	"	Fox Snake
15	Mallard	9	Successful	
16	Mallard	2	Unsuccessful	?
16	Mallard	6	"	?
16	Mallard	6	"	?
20	Black Duck	9	"	Mammal
20	Black Duck	6	"	"
21	Mallard	7	"	"
21	Mallard	7	"	"
24	Blue-winged Teal	6	"	?

Summary of Above Listed Nestings

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. Nests</u>	<u>Av. Clutch</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>
Black Duck	6	8.4	1	5
Mallard	18	7.1	3	15
Wood Duck	4	10.1	2	2
Blue-winged Teal	<u>1</u>	6.0	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	29		6	23

Summary of Brood Data

	<u>Class I</u>			<u>Class II</u>			<u>Class III</u>
	<u>No Broods</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Av.</u>	<u>No Broods</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Av.</u>	
Mallard	5	31	6.1	2	9	4.1	None
Black Duck	2	18	9.0	1	5	-	
Wood Duck	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Total	8	58	6.2	3	14	4.2	

The phenological development of the vegetation and the type of craft used in making brood observations limited the observer in this type of survey.

Other Nesting Waterfowl

<u>Date Located</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Incubation</u>
May 12	King Rail	12	Unsuccessful
12	King Rail	10	Successful
15	King Rail	6	Unsuccessful
16	Virginia Rail	10	Successful
16	King Rail	11	"
16	King Rail	12	Unsuccessful
16	Coot	9	Successful
16	Virginia Rail	10	"
16	Virginia Rail	7	Unsuccessful
16	Pied-billed Grebe	4	Successful
18	Florida Gallinule	8	"
19	Pied-billed Grebe	3	"
21	Florida Gallinule	4	Unsuccessful
21	King Rail	2	"
21	Florida Gallinule	7	"
21	Virginia Rail	10	"

Summary of Other Nesting Waterfowl

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. Nests</u>	<u>Av. Clutch</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>
King Rail	6	8.5	2	4
Virginia Rail	4	11.3	2	2
Florida Gallinule	3	6.3	1	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	3.1	2	0
Coot	1	9.0	1	0

Summary

The record high of Lake Erie has brought about a decrease in available nesting sites for waterfowl. Waterfowl nesting on any main dikes of the Magee area were unsuccessful in fully incubating their eggs. Predation by mammals is quite high. Nests located in swales were more successful. A number of broods in areas in which no nests were found indicates that some successful nests were on the area.