

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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NOTES ON THE WEATHER

(From U. S. Weather Bureau, Cleveland Airport)

March - Cloudy and mild with snowy, cold and windy weather confined to the opening 10 days and the closing week. Between the 11th and the 25th there was no snow and the temperature was almost continuously above freezing. The 21st, with a maximum of 72°, was the warmest so far this year and since October 27. Precipitation was mostly in the form of rain well distributed throughout the month. Snowfall of 5.0 inches about normal.

April - Generally cloudy and cool with temperatures above normal on only a few days. Precipitation occurring on all but 5 days was near normal and well distributed throughout. Snowfall from the 17th to the 21st totaled 4.3 inches and brought the seasonal total to 35.7 inches, considerably less in comparison to the last 3 years.

May - Well above normal in respect to temperature and precipitation. Warmest May since 1944, with less than 1/4 of the month having daily average temperatures below the normal. Maximum reading of 90° on the 10th established a new high mark for the date, and the minimum of 38° on the 28th constituted a new low record for that day. This was also the wettest May in the past 4 years, with only 9 days on which no measurable precipitation occurred. Sunshine was generally inadequate and local farming and gardening operations were retarded by the lack of good drying weather.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE

The first double-crested cormorants reported in our region since April 1951 were seen at Huntington Park, Bay Village, on April 11, by William Moseley - 2 birds.

Adela Gaede saw a snowy egret May 18 at Shaker Lake. She looked for the bird again the next day but was not successful in locating it. This makes the 10th record of this bird in the Cleveland region.

The first spring records in our region for the yellow-crowned night heron are an adult seen near the boathouse at Shaker Lake on April 26 (Piskac, Smiley); April 28 at the same place (Ramisch; Gaede, Mannix); last seen there April 29 (Mannix); and 7 immature birds May 18 at Black Brook. Paul Smith saw the latter flying over and is not positive they were yellow-crowneds, although he distinctly noted a good length of legs trailing out behind.

Canada geese are nesting again this year at the Holden Arboretum and at the North Chagrin Reservation of the Metropolitan Parks. These are of course semi-wild birds.

One hundred white-winged scoters were seen March 7 at Perkins Beach by Vera Carrothers and Lucille Mannix.

William Moseley observed an extensive hawk migration April 25 at Huntington Park, Bay Village. He says, "In an hour before noon a total of 305 hawks were seen, of which 55 were sharp-shins, 8 were red-shouldered, and 242 were not definitely known, though I think the majority were broad-wings. Nine turkey vultures were also seen. At times during this eventful hour they were soaring past so fast it was all I could do to count them. They came out of the west in high circling columns and rode the winds toward the east. Very impressive!"

Perry F. Johnson saw a bald eagle on the Elyria Bird Walk May 10, and an immature eagle was seen May 7 near Aurora Lake by Carl Hamann.

A rare record for this region is that of 2 king rails seen May 3 at the Holden Arboretum by Donaldson S. Dimpsey.

Another unusual record, especially for the western part of the area, is that of 4 piping plovers seen at Huntington Beach, Bay Village on May 17 (Moseley).

Donald Newman reports another spring record, and a late one, for the black-bellied plover, one seen May 31 at White City.

Winnowing of the Wilson's snipe over a wet meadow was heard for the last time April 11, having been heard for a week before on Bass Lake Road near Chardon by Marjorie Ramisch.

Mrs. George Wiley reports that at a swamp on Green Road (near Akron) on May 15 she saw 2 Baird's sandpipers, and later another arrived. These birds remained there 10 days.

Great black-backed gulls, usually recorded here in winter and early spring, were seen May 17 at Black Brook by Kay Booth. There were 9 birds.

On May 16 Owen Davies saw about 25 black terns across Lake Road from the Vermilion lagoons, just outside of our region, in a swamp created by piling up fill dirt and cinders. Nests were found.

In a Norway spruce in his front yard in Lakewood, Mr. Davies reports seeing a long-eared owl on April 10.

A late migration of nighthawks was observed near Chardon May 26. About 12 birds were seen towards evening, at short intervals, mostly flying high and steadily in a northeast direction, but a few birds 'skimmed low over the ground (Whittier).

A rather early date for the house wren is one seen March 20 at the Holden Arboretum by Donaldson S. Dimpsey.

Just one record for Bewick's wren this spring, one seen at Elyria May 10 by Perry F. Johnson.

Marjorie Ramisch reports hearing a short-billed marsh wren singing May 21-31 near Chardon in a wheat field next to a marshy meadow where this species nested two years ago.

Veerys pass through the Museum yard every spring, but this year, on May 25, one was heard singing for the first time (Whittier).

There was an apparent migration of cedar waxwings May 30 at Huntington Beach. During an observation period of from 8 to 12 in the morning William Moseley saw at least 20 flocks of between 15 and 50 birds flying high and often alighting in trees for a time. The birds were flying westward along the lake. None were seen $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland.

A white-eyed vireo was seen on the Rocky River South Bird Walk May 10 by Harold Cantlin and Walter Hoyles.

The warbler migration was rather slow in early May when the weather was cold and wet, fewer species and numbers being noted. Observers reported that most birds were seen from about May 14-21, with a definite wave on the week-end of May 16-17. Owen Davies says there was a "slight wave" May 27-29 in Lakewood. Unusual records were:

Orange-crowned warbler - May 10(1) - Warrensville Heights, in second growth wood (Newman); May 17(1) in Rocky River Metropolitan Park (Davies).

Parula warbler - April 19(1) - Rocky River South Bird Walk. The bird was very cold and sluggish in a temperature of 28°-32° and was picked up and held in the hand. A female. (Cantlin, Hoyles)

Yellow-throated warbler (sycamore?) - May 11(1) - Lakewood (Davies)

Black-pollled warbler - April 29(1) - Willoughby (Skaggs) (See note on p. 5)

Pine warbler - May 3(1) - Waite Hill, Willoughby (Doolittle, Sherwin)

Kentucky warbler - May 19(1) - Shaker Lake (Hill); May 24(1) Elyria (Johnson)

Orchard orioles were seen this spring at Lorain, Black Brook, Cuyahoga Falls and Aurora Pond, all records from May 16-31.

On May 2 C. H. Knight saw a summer tanager in Tinkers Creek Great Gorge at Bedford.

One lone evening grosbeak was seen May 17 by Louis Sturm on the South Chagrin Bird Walk. This makes two records for the year, quite a contrast to last year.

Purple finches were common this spring. On May 13 the total number of birds seen on the 13 Museum Bird Walks was 127, 75 of which were seen at Elyria (Johnson).

There were also an unusual number of pine siskins seen in April and the first part of May. Flocks numbering from a few birds to 35 were seen at the Holden Arboretum, Nimisilla [Nimisila] Lake, Rocky River Metropolitan Park, Kent, Bedford and Willoughby (April 5-May 14).

On May 28 Mrs. Walter Sellars at her home in Lakewood had 7 red crossbills (3 females and 4 males) feeding on elm fruit in trees recently sprayed. One of the birds, a female, was subsequently found dead and brought to the Museum where it was added to the collections by Rudy Kula, who says the bird had suffered no apparent injury.

An early chipping sparrow date is March 15 at the Holden Arboretum (Dimpsey).

The two white-throated sparrows that Donald Newman reported as wintering in Eastman Park in downtown Cleveland were last seen there May 13.

On April 4 ten Lapland longspurs were seen in our area by Vera Carrothers, Adela Gaede, Hattie Schultz and Lucille Mannix on their way to Castalia.

For those who want to keep their BIRDS OF CLEVELAND up to date, new late dates were May 19 for the ring-necked duck, Aurora Pond (Gaede); and May 31 for the black-bellied plover, White City (Newman). New early dates were March 22(2) for the wood thrush, Willoughby (Barbour); May 3(2) for the golden-winged warbler, Tow Path Bird Walk (Hostetler); April 19 for the parula warbler, Rocky River South Bird Walk (Cantlin, Hoyles); April 26 for the cape may warbler, Hinckley Bird Walk (Merkle); and April 11(2) for the palm warbler, Willoughby (Sherwin, Doolittle).

RANDOM BIRD NOTES DURING SPRING OF 1953 AT WILLOUGHBY, OHIO

by M. B. Skaggs

Very tardy in starting its flight to nesting territory in Northern Canada was a tree sparrow found in my bird-banding trap on May 3, 1953.

In April, I was puzzled by the appearance of a long-tailed "junco" in the garden. The bird was quite brownish on the head and back but had white outer tail feathers on each side of the tail. Obtaining my field glass, I was amazed to learn that the bird was a partial albino field sparrow. While I watched, the bird confirmed this by giving a very normal field sparrow song. This was the first instance of albinism that I have noted in this species.

The black-poll warbler is usually among the last of the warbler tribe to appear in the spring migration. It was, therefore, a surprise to see one on April 29, 1953. A large wave of myrtle warblers was evident and the birds were busily engaged in food finding in the trees in front of our home. The black-poll was a well-marked male in full breeding plumage. This is the earliest that I have seen this warbler.

On the night of June 8, 1953, southern Michigan and northern Ohio were visited by a tornado and very heavy rainfall. The rain came down in sheets along with some hail. I wondered as to the fate of several bird nests in the yard; in particular, a yellow warbler brood of three about six days old and a chipping sparrow brooding a set of eggs. Next morning, I checked the nests and found both nests "doing business as usual". What a beating from the storm those little mothers took in order to preserve their young and eggs'. They had very little protection from the wind and rain as the yellow warbler nest was in a rose bush and chippy's nest was near the top of a spruce tree.

Do you want to plant some trees in your yard that will give both shelter in the winter time and nesting places to the birds in summer? If so, you will do well to consider evergreens. Several years ago we put in quite a number of blue spruce, black hills spruce, Scotch pines and red pines. Before one of the spruce trees was two feet high, a song sparrow built her nest on the lowest branch. The robins often build the first nest of each year in an evergreen tree, I suspect because the evergreen tree provides shelter and the deciduous trees do not have leaves in April in Ohio. Chipping sparrows, catbirds, cardinals, robins all use evergreen trees for nesting sites. So plant a spruce or pine tree in your yard and the birds will appreciate your effort to "spruce up" the place.

Of all the nests on our place, a phoebe's nest on the front porch is least exposed to the elements. On her nest, phoebe is out of the rain, wind and sun

A tufted titmouse built her nest in a hollow limb of a fallen apple tree on our place. The limb was in nearly a vertical position with the nest about 15 inches from the opening. The nesting was successful and the young left the nest on June 7.

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

by Lucille Mannix

Early on Saturday morning, June 13, six members of the Kirtland Bird Club, Vera Carrothers, Elsie Erickson, Mildred Stewart, Marjorie Ramisch, Adela Gaede and I left Cleveland to attend the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Douglas Lake, Michigan. The station is ideally located beside this small placid lake. Members and guests were housed in cabins of four. Excellent meals were served in the community dining room.

Four paper sessions were held in Aspen Hall on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday was reserved for organized field trips. The papers were very interesting, and representative of much of the new work and thought in ornithology. To mention a few, Theodora Nelson, "A History of ornithology at the University of Michigan Biological Station"; Edward Voss, "Botanical Features of the Douglas Lake Region"; Josselyn Van Tyne, "The Distribution of Kirtland's Warbler"; Maurice Broun, "Mid-summer Aggregations of Barn Swallows in Eastern Pennsylvania"; Donald Borror and Carl Reese, "Analytical Studies of Bird Songs"; Robert Stein, "Song Types of the Alder Flycatcher"; K. T. Rogers, "The Use of Embryology in Field Ornithology"; George Grube, "The Blue-winged Warbler, its Habitat, Habits and Incidence of Predation upon it"; Harold Peters, "Funk Island, Former Home of the Great Auk"; Gordon Alexander, "Introgressive Hybridization in Flickers". In the evenings there were two movies, Fran Halls "South to Siesta Land", and Olin Pettingill's "Tip o' the Mitten"

We were almost continually busy with early morning and late afternoon field trips, visits to the laboratories, evening paper sessions and movies. Bird skins used in the ornithology course were laid out in one of the laboratories for use by the members, as were bird feathers, bird records and record player. We managed a trip to Reese's bog, a mat of spruce and tamarack, where we heard and saw winter wrens, Nashville, blackburnian and parula warblers. The parula uses the usnea lichen in the bog for its nesting material. Also a trip to Wilderness State Park, a large park of about 6000 acres, which has been left in a natural state with only narrow roads winding through this densely forested wild region. Veery and hermit thrushes were heard. We were fortunate, too, to see the rare species of Ram's-head Lady's Slipper.

On our way to the station we spent some time searching for the Kirtland's warbler, without success. Because of this we were especially interested in the organized trip to Kirtland warbler territory with Dr. Van Tyne and Mr. Mayfield. We drove as a caravan, about ten cars, some sixty miles from camp and there divided into two groups. We were taken by Mr. Mayfield to an area of small jack pines about five to six feet in height. In a matter of minutes we were hearing several Kirtland's warblers, and in a short time we saw our first Kirtland's warbler, a fine singing male. Later a nest was located, with a female on the nest. A clay-colored sparrow also was seen, and several prairie warblers were heard in the distance.

The next meeting of the club will be in June of '54, at Cape May, New Jersey. All members and their guests are welcome.

A CENSUS OF DUCKS AND OTHER WATERFOWL AT HUNTINGTON PARK, BAY VILLAGE
(about 1000 feet of shore)

by William F. Moseley

Date	Weather	Time of Observation E.S.T.	Horned Grebe	Pied-billed Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant	Canada Goose	Mallard	Black Duck	Baldpate	Blue-winged Teal	Redhead	Lesser Scaup	Goldeneye	Ruddy Duck	Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser	Unknown	Day Total
Feb. 26	39°-cloudy-windy	4:30-5:30 PM											4		2			6
March 7	30°-clear-slight wind SSW	9:30-10:00 AM					2	4			4	1	17		2		150	180
8	32°-cloudy-strong wind SSE	2:30-3:00 PM										1	28					29
9	31°-clear-calm	6:00-6:30 PM									11	20	60					91
10	32°-cloudy-strong wind SSW	3:45-5:30 PM											31		4			35
11	50°-cloudy-strong wind NWN	5:30-6:00 PM																0
12	65°-clear-calm	12:45-1:15 PM																0
13	50°-clear-slight wind SSW	3:30-3:45 PM											47					47
16	34°-cloudy-strong wind SE	2:30-3:00 PM		1									1				5	7
17	39°-clear-wind SW	6:00-6:15 PM																0
18	50°-cloudy-wind NW	6:00-6:30 PM		3													1	4
19	40°-cloudy-strong wind E	5:30-6:00 PM																0
20	35°-clear-wind W	6:00-6:15 PM																0
22	50°-cloudy-rain-wind NW	8:30-8:45 AM																0
23	50°-part cloudy-strong-wind NE	6:30-7:00 AM															1	1
29	32°-cloudy-strong wind SE	10:30-11:00 AM	8													7	18	33
30	40°-cloudy-wind ESE	3:00-3:30 PM	5													26	1	32
31	38°-cloudy-strong wind ESE	4:30-5:00 PM																0
April 6	38°-part cloudy-strong wind SW	6:00-6:30 PM	3														2	5
7	45°-clear-slight wind SSW	6:15-6:45 PM	1	1										1		17	1	21
8	35°-cloudy-wind WSW	6:00-6:30 PM	1													20	1	22
9	50°-clear-slight wind WSW	12:30-5:15 PM	1									7		70		80	14	172
10	35°-cloudy-wind WSW	6:30-6:45 PM														35		35
11	40°-part cloudy-slight wind NE	7:30-8:30 AM			2					2		2			2	215		224
12	40°-cloudy-wind strong SSW	3:15-3:30 PM														30	5	35
13	42°-[art clear-wind strong SE	5:30-6:00 PM		2												29	2	33

Date	Weather	Time of Observation E.S.T.	Horned Grebe	Pied-billed Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant	Canada Goose	Mallard	Black Duck	Baldpate	Blue-winged Teal	Redhead	Lesser Scaup	Goldeneye	Ruddy Duck	Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser	Unknown	Day Total
April 14	50°-clear-slight wind SE	5:45-6:15 PM	1	1												27	3	32
15	55°-part cloudy-strong wind NE	12:30-1:00 PM																0
16	34°-cloudy-strong wind SE	4:30-4:45 PM														11		11
17	32°-cloudy-snow-rain-wind SW	6:30-6:45 PM														21		21
18	30°-cloudy-calm-snow	6:45-7:00 PM														99		99
19	40°-clear-wind SE	11:30-11:45 AM		2													3	5
20	32°-cloudy-strong wind SE	6:00-6:30 PM		6												8		14
21	42°-clear-wind E	4:45-5:15 PM		5												30		35
22	50°-clear-strong wind E	6:30-6:45 PM		1		1										12		14
23	65°-clear-wind E	4:45-5:15 PM		1		1			4		23			46		14	50	139
24	35°-partly cloudy-calm	7:20-7:45 AM				1						3				39	145	190
25	65°-part cloudy-strong wind E	12:00-12:30 PM		1		1						11					4	17
26	50°-part cloudy-wind E	9:00-9:30 AM														17		17
27	39°-cloudy-strong wind E	4:00-4:30 PM														41		41
28	50°-clear-calm	5:00-5:30 PM										6				48	4	58
29	45°-part cloudy-strong wind SW	5:00-5:30 PM																0
30	45°-cloudy-wind SW rain	4:30-5:00 PM					1									10	1	12
May 1	60°-cloudy-wind NE	5:15-5:45 PM														57	5	62
2	50°-cloudy-fog-wind S	8:30-9:00 AM					1											1
3	55°-clear-wind E	5:45-6:15 AM					1							2		2		5
4	65°-cloudy-wind W	4:30-5:00 PM																0
5	55°-clear-wind SE	4:15-5:00 PM	2						2	9		6						19
6	50°-cloudy-fog-calm	4:30-5:00 PM							5	1		9						15
7	50°-cloudy-fog-calm	3:30-4:30 PM					2			1		26					3	32
8	50°-cloudy-fog-calm	5:15-6:00 PM								1		57						58
10	70°-clear-wind NE	7:45-8:15 AM																0
12	75°-cloudy-wind NW-rain	10:30-11:15 AM										6						6
13	48°-cloudy-wind-SE-rain	5:30-6:00 AM										1						1
14	40°-cloudy-strong wind SE-rain	4:45-5:15 PM																0
15	50°-cloudy-wind SW-rain	4:00-5:00 PM																0
17	50°-calm-rain-gusts	9:00-12:00 AM					1										14	15
18	65°-clear-calm	4:30-5:00 PM										17					13	30

Date	Weather	Time of Observation E.S.T.	Horned Grebe	Pied-billed Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant	Canada Goose	Mallard	Black Duck	Baldpate	Blue-winged Teal	Redhead	Lesser Scaup	Goldeneye	Ruddy Duck	Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser	Unknown	Day Total
May 19	65°-clear-calm	5:00-5:30 PM										65						65
20	75°-clear-calm	5:00-6:00 PM															1	1
22	50°-clear-wind SE	5:00-5:45 AM										69						69
Totals-allow for counting same birds on successive days			22	24	2	4	8	4	7	18	15	323	188	119	11	897	448	2090