

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

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Fall Migration Number

Issued January 22, 1954

Subscription Price - \$1.00 a year

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NOTES ON THE WEATHER

From U.S. Weather Bureau, Cleveland Airport

September - Temperatures averaged close to normal. First 4 days were exceptionally hot and set new all time temperature records of 101° on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The maximum of 95° on the 29th was the highest in the records for so late in the season. Minima of 44° on the 13th and 41° on the 14th were new low records for those dates. Rainfall was about one half normal. Driest September in 12 years.

October - Sunny and mild. A maximum temperature of 83° on the 21st was the highest in the records for so late in the autumn. Precipitation was about one half the normal for the second successive month. During a rainless period from the 7th through the 23rd little crop loss resulted since nearly all had been harvested.

November - Temperatures somewhat above normal. First killing freeze on the 6th with a low of 27°. Precipitation near normal. Snowfall about double the normal amount for November.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE

Generally mild temperatures during this period seem to have caused some birds to linger on later than their usual departure dates. Snow buntings were present in good numbers in November, but otherwise no northern birds were reported - no grosbeaks or snowy owls. New late dates are:

Least Sandpiper - November 27(1) Richmond Beach (Hill)
 Red-backed Sandpiper - November 29(1) White City (Carrothers)
 Dowitcher - October 15(2) White City (Ackermann)
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - November 30(1) Aurora (Hamann)
 Least Flycatcher - October 18(1) Elyria (Johnson)
 Long-billed Marsh Wren - October 24(1) Near Akron (Harty)
 Hermit Thrush - November 29(1) Aurora (Hamann)
 Yellow-breasted Chat - November 11-December 22 (see page 3)
 Chipping Sparrow— November 26(1) Fairport (Booth)

Other records of interest are:

Holboell's Grebe - October 30(1) Grand River(Booth):
 Double-crested Cormorant - November 28(1) Lakeshore on way to Sandusky (Gaede, Carrothers)
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron - September 10, 13, 25(1), September 27, 30(3), October 4, 7(2) Rocky River Reservation (Davies(9/10), Ackermann)
 Snow Goose - October 29(2) Fairport Harbor (west wall) (Armour)
 White-winged Scoter - October 29(40) Fairport Harbor (west wall) (Armour)
 Surf Scoter -October 29(10) Fairport Harbor (west wall) (Armour)
 American Scoter - November 26, 29(1) Perkins Beach (Carrothers)
 Bald Eagle - October 31(1) Immature, near Chardon (Whittier)
 - November 26(1) Mature, on Chagrin River near Willoughby (Stanley)
 Duck Hawk - October 4(2) Gildersleeve Mountain (Barbour)
 - November 18(1) Fairport (Knight)
 Golden Plover - September 17(1) White City (Davies, Ackermann)
 - September 19, 30(1) White City (Newman)
 Woodcock - October 1(30) Rockside Road and Cuyahoga River (Akers)
 Purple Sandpiper - November 26(2) Fairport Harbor (Armour)
 Stilt Sandpiper - September 1(1) Berea Metropolitan Park (Akers)
 Northern Phalarope - October 29(1) Fairport Harbor (Armour)
 - November 14,15,30(1) Gordon Park (Harty)
 Great Black-backed Gull - November 1(1) Rocky River Park (Davies)
 Forster's Tern - September 5(7) White City (Hill, Carrothers) - September 6(1) White City (Newman) - September 17(2), October 15(1) White City (Ackermann)
 Winter Wren - September 14(1) New early date. Painesville (Booth)
 White-eyed Vireo - September 26(1) Painesville (Booth)
 Philadelphia Vireo - September 10-30 Total of 15 reported
 Orange-crowned Warbler - September 2-October 11 Total of 12 reported
 Pine Warbler - September 14, 27 (1) Grand River (Booth)
 Connecticut Warbler - September 29(1) Rocky River (Ackermann) - September 29(1) Elyria (Johnson)
 Redwing and Cowbird flock October 25(10,000) on ploughed field near Aurora (Hill)
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow - September 30(1) White City (Newman)

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - When I approached the fence at the rear of the sewage disposal plant at White City on the afternoon of September 30, I heard a mouse-like scurrying in the coarse grass stubble where I soon discovered a Sharp-tailed Sparrow about six feet away, too close indeed to allow my use of binoculars. But the bird was unmistakable and seemed to have stepped right out of Don Eckelberry's color plate in the Audubon Field Guide. After a moment this sparrow ran off through the grass and I followed, only to have the bird fly up and perch in the mesh of the wire fence where it remained for several minutes affording me an opportunity to study it carefully. Most impressive was the richness of the facial coloring, the buffy streak above the eye and the cheek patches taking on a quite vivid orange hue in the warm sunlight, while the streaked pattern was clearly defined, particularly the white stripes on the back. Donald L. Newman.

Lincoln's Sparrow - As I strolled through Eastman Park on October 6, looking for migrant birds, what was my surprise to observe a Lincoln's Sparrow on the grass only a few yards from the broad sidewalk where noon-hour pedestrians hastened by and a gathering of wine-soaked vagrants, oblivious of man and bird, were slumped on the park benches near which this ordinarily shy little sparrow was feeding. So unafraid was this bird that I approached to within about four feet, from which distance I could see that the buffy wash across the breast was rather blurred. Yet the sharp little black streaks on the sides, the rich brown of the crown, and the heavier black streaks on the back and rump marked the bird unquestionably as the Lincoln's Sparrow; but what strange surroundings for this retiring inhabitant of the wet meadows and wooded bogs of more northerly climes. Donald L. Newman.

White-throated Sparrow - Again this year several White-throated Sparrows have lingered in Eastman Park, apparently finding a sufficiency of seedy fare in the fresh manure which has been banked around the shrubbery. Three White-throats were present on November 20, while I saw just a lone bird on November 30. It would be interesting to know whether these are the same birds which spent the winter of 1952-53 in this patch of park in the very heart of downtown Cleveland. Donald L. Newman.

Pileated Woodpecker - At mid-afternoon on November 21, I was sitting in the living room listening to the radio when a flash of wings from across the street in Forest Hill Park made me hasten to the window. For a moment the bird, which I took to be a hawk, was lost to view but in the next instant a patch of fiery red on the trunk of a maple tree on the hillside caught my eye, and to my astonishment I saw that the bird was a Pileated Woodpecker. I immediately rushed to the bedroom for my binoculars,, and upon my return found that the woodpecker, a female, had moved to the near side of the tree giving me a chance to study it carefully but not for long because it soon flew to the edge of the woodland and so out of sight; nor did I see it again though I kept close watch the rest of the afternoon. In all my years of tramping through the old Rockefeller Estate, now Forest Hill Park, beginning in 1936, I never recorded a Pileated Woodpecker, and I know of no record of its having been observed in that area. Thus it was a double thrill to have this truly armchair view of the noble "Logcock." Donald L. Newman.

A CENSUS OF SHOREBIRDS AND OTHER WATERFOWL ON BALDWIN AND WALLACE LAKES, BEREA, OHIO
by James F. Akers

Date	Temperature	Clouds	Wind Direction	Wind Velocity	Time	Pied-billed Grebe	Great Blue Heron	Green Heron	Blue-winged Teal	Semiplumbed Plover	Killdeer	Black-bellied Plover	Spotted Sandpiper	Solitary Sandpiper	Lesser Yellowlegs	Pectoral Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper	Dowitcher	Stilt Sandpiper	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Western Sandpiper	Day Total	Total Species
Aug 22	75°	Clear			1600-1700			1		2	60		1		1	2				2		69	7
24	75°	Clear			1700-1800			1		2	80			1	1	4	4			3		96	8
25	80°	Clear			1500-1530					2	150					4	2			2	3	163	6
26	85°	Clear			1100-1200					1	100		1		5	4	3			1	3	118	8
27	70°	Clear			0700-0730		1	1		2	75		1			1	3			3	2	89	9
27	85°	Clear			1600-1615			2		2	150			2		4	3			4	2	169	8
28	85°	Clear			1600-1620			2			185		1			6	4			4	1	202	7
Sept 1	72°	Clear			0700-0730			2		1	75	1	2			6	3	1		4		95	9
1	99°	Clear			1600-1645		1	2		3	150	1				8	4	1	1	6		177	10
2	73°	Clear			0725-0735		1	1	5	2	50		2	1		4	4	1		1		72	11
2	101°	Clear			1605-1630			2	5	4	175	1			1	10	3	1		1		202	10
(1) 3	72°	Clear			0720-0735		1	1		2	15		2			4	3					29	7
3	98°	Clear			1600-1625			2		4	150		1	1		2	3					163	7
4	75°	Clear			0720-0735		1	1			15					2	1			1		21	6
5	60°	Overcast			0715-0730		1	1	9	1	12		1			2	1			1		29	9
(2) 5	70°	Skattered			1615-1700	1		2	17	3	5	1				2	2			3		36	9
6	60°	Broken	SSW	6	0730-0740		1			2	10						1			5		19	5
6	75°	Broken	N	9	1555-1615			2		1	5		1				1			1		11	6
(3) 8	75°	Clear	N	5	1600-1630	1		2			10	1								5		19	5
9	77°	Skattered	NE	3	1455-1505			2			5											7	2
(4) 23	60°	Skattered			0755-0815						56				1							57	2
24	55°	Clear			0810-0845		1	1			80											82	3
25	60°	Clear			0800-0845		1	1			90											92	3
Oct 5	50°	Overcast			0900		1				2											3	2

- (1) Lake level still dropping (25 days without rain and 8th day above 90°).
Marked decrease in number of shorebirds. Many killdeers nested in holes in mud.
- (2) Cold frontal passage during night. Lake still falling.
- (3) Baldwin Lake lowest ever seen. Wallace Lake level dropping and rapidly.
- (4) Baldwin Lake level normal and overflowing into Wallace Lake.
- (5) Baldwin Lake level low again

Note - Killdeer evidently spent nights away from water since numbers always low in morning, increasing by afternoon.

Nesting Censuses - Are you missing the fun of making a nesting census because you think it entails more time than you can spare, or because you think you actually have to find all the nests? Of course, the more time spent on it the better, but a perfectly adequate census can be made by spending as little as 4 hours once a week for 6 to 8 weeks, starting in April and finishing in June. And most of the birds are located by sound, especially in a forest habitat. A singing male that stays in one territory throughout the census period is taken to indicate nesting. Dr. Arthur B. Williams once tested this method of determining nesting pairs by hunting for the nests of 3 species at North Chagrin after the leaves had fallen and found 90% of the estimated total.

A census carried on in the same area year after year is valuable, too, in an ecological sense. The effect of climate, food supply, predators, etc., on fluctuations in population can be determined. The most worthwhile censuses are those taken in a definite habitat, such as marsh or swamp, open field, or a specific type of forest as beech-maple or flood plain. The acreage depends pretty much on the habitat, a swamp of 6 acres with a concentration of birds being as adequate as 65 acres of beech-maple forest. Anyone who has ever concentrated on one area year after year knows how much more interesting and rewarding such a study is as compared to a mere count of birds in various places. Why not pick out an area now and make a scale map of it with definite boundary lines, including stream beds, paths, ravines and other landmarks that make it easy to locate an observation. You will need a supply of these maps in order to carry on your census. In the next issue of the CALENDAR we will outline the exact procedure to be followed in making a nesting census. These censuses help us find out some of the many things we don't know about birds - and they're a lot of fun to do! The Editors
