

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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## SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

From U. S. Weather Bureau Reports (Cleveland Hopkins Airport)

- March - In the first nine days, snowfall totaled 7.9 inches but little fell thereafter. Cool weather prevailed until the 24<sup>th</sup> when south winds started a warming trend that lasted the rest of the month.
- April - Warm during the first three days and again from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>; otherwise quite cool. On the 30<sup>th</sup> 0.3 inches of snow fell. Precipitation of 2.41 inches was one inch below normal.
- May - Cool, with new record lows set on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Total precipitation of one inch made this the driest May since 1934. Normal for the month is about 3.50 inches.

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All records, observations, and comments should be sent to  
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## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

March. Continuing the pattern of February, wintry weather prevailed during the first ten days of March, with considerable snow though temperatures averaged slightly above freezing. Under these conditions it is not surprising that the first Canada Geese reported a flock of 25 on the 11th - were flying south over Richmond Heights in eastern Cuyahoga County, apparently having found no open water since the inland ponds were frozen over and Lake Erie was extensively ice-covered (Kitson). Other small flocks of Canada Geese appeared in the next few days, however; and on the 9th and 10th Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were first recorded in some numbers.

Movement of blackbirds along the Lake Erie shoreline was noted on March 12 at Mentor, where for the next four days "Red-wings, mostly males, flew over in the morning headed northeast" (Hammond). With winds out of the south quarter on the 16th and 17th, this movement of blackbirds intensified and included not only Red-wings but Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Starlings. Large numbers of Crows and a lesser number of Killdeer, Mourning Doves, and Robins were also a part of this easterly migration. The Meadowlark was exceptionally numerous on the 17th both at Perkins Beach and at Mentor Beach Park. At the latter location, 83 birds were counted between 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. as they passed northeast over the beach at an elevation of 100 to 150 feet (Hammond). Inland, too, on the 17th "great northbound flights of Red-wings and Grackles" were observed over Kirtland Hills Village, Lake County (Bole, Jr.). At Perkins Beach on the morning of the 17th, small bands of Canada Geese passed over in a northwesterly course (Klamm).

On March 22, one day prior to a shift in the prevailing wind from northwest to due south, "large vees of Canada Geese, 500 to 1,500 birds", flew over Kirtland Hills Village (Bole, Jr.). On that same day in Summit County, "a very large movement of blackbirds" was noted, and in a single field 68 Meadowlarks., "in one bunch, mostly just sitting," were counted (Hjelmquist). Although March 23 was a sunny day with a favorable south wind, there seemed to be a lull in migration, but the next day birds were on the move again in force.

At Perkins Beach on the morning of the 24th., Crows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles as well as a scattered few Accipiters, Buteos, and Turkey Vultures were moving east, which is the standard direction of flight at that point. Yet at Mentor Beach, near the easterly boundary of the Cleveland region, birds were moving both east and west! Just after sunrise at the Park, "an estimated 5,000 Redwings, 1,000 Starlings, 150 Grackles, 17 Robins, 18 Mourning Doves, and 9 Meadowlarks in mixed flocks were observed flying low (sometimes only two feet above the sand) and headed westerly into the wind. Smaller flocks, too high for identification but apparently also Redwings, were headed east directly above. Probably 300 feet or more separated the two flights of birds" (Hammond).

The easterly flow of blackbirds past Perkins Beach continued on March 25 and 26. On those same days there was also a westerly movement of blackbirds along the shoreline on the east side of Cleveland (Carrothers). This phenomenon of opposing migrations of the same species on opposite sides of the city surely demands close study in future years.

The month of March saw the return of the Turkey Vultures to the celebrated roost at Hinckley Reservation. Five birds were seen there on the 16th and no fewer than 20 the next day. The flock built up during the following week, and by the 24th there were "at least 60 birds in the air around the roost at one time." (Wallin).

Ice fields which persisted until the last week of March probably discouraged any sizable gathering of waterfowl along the lake at Cleveland. No migratory flocks of ducks were noted there. Of interest, however, was a flight of about 50 Horned Grebes moving west past White City on March 16 (Klamm). Inland on March 30, some 300 or more Common Mergansers were seen flying north through the Rocky River Valley (Barber).

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April. From March 27 through April 2, no migratory flocks were reported along the Cleveland lakefront where one observer made a daily morning survey. But on April 3, blackbirds as well as Mourning Doves again moved west along the shoreline between White City and Gordon Park and then shifted inland to follow a southwesterly course (Carrothers).

A warm front originating in the lower Mississippi Valley passed through the region on April 17, bringing with it an influx of Slate-colored Juncos and of Savannah, Field, and Chipping Sparrows, as evidenced by a daily early-morning census of a small portion of Forest Hill Park in Cleveland Heights (Newman). On the 18th Chimney Swifts returned to the campus at Kent State University, which is "the earliest date of return in the past 20 years" (Dexter). Then on the 19th another warm front moved into the region, producing a flight of Savannah and Field Sparrows at Forest Hill Park, and at Waite Hill a "steady flow of Myrtle Warblers" and a "heavy migration of Brown Creepers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets" (Flanigan). Also, on the morning of the 19th, Tree Swallows - "mostly singles" - were moving east along the lakefront at Cleveland (Carrothers).

On April 29, when a warm front was advancing into the Ohio River Valley, large numbers of Chipping, Field, and White-throated Sparrows arrived at Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, while at Waite Hill there was a migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Myrtle Warblers (Flanigan).

May. Migrant passerines, in varying numbers, moved into or through the region during the entire month of May, but there did not seem to be any truly massive flights resulting from an explosive buildup of birds to the south of our region. The daily surveys in Cleveland Heights (Newman) and at Waite Hill (Flanigan) indicated that there were two peak periods of migration: the 8th to the 12th during which time three warm fronts advanced on or into the region; and the 18th

and 19th when the prevailing winds were from the west.

In the first period there was a large migration of White-crowned Sparrows on the 8th, but they did not linger in any numbers on the following days. On the 10th there was an influx of Catbirds, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, a good variety of warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, the Chipping and White-throated Sparrows. Warblers were the outstanding feature of the migration on the 18th and 19th, which was the time the Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos arrived in fair numbers. At Waite Hill on the 19th, between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., 16 species of warblers were identified (Flanigan).

Hawks in Migration. For the second successive year the Kirtland Bird Club conducted a study of the migration of hawks through the Cleveland region. An analysis of the data accumulated is now being made by Dr. Neil Henderson, and a comprehensive account of this study will appear in the Summer Number of the BIRD CALENDAR. In brief, however, it appears that the hawk migration began as early as March 17, when many Buteos were moving east past Perkins Beach, and they were last seen there on May 19 (Klamm), though of course this movement was not continuous throughout this period. The peak of numbers for the Sharp-shinned Hawk was April 19, and for the Broad-winged Hawk, April 20-21.

Jays Move East. The regular easterly movement of Blue Jays along the lake Erie shore was first noted on April 27 at Lakewood Park, where a band of 34 was counted as they passed by (Klamm). This flow of birds continued on many days thereafter until at least May 26, when moderate numbers were still flying east. The highest count was made on May 4, a warm, sunny day with a light southwesterly wind. At Perkins Beach on that day some 1,700 jays were recorded between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. EDT (Carrothers), and almost 1,200 were logged there in the next two hours, the flow diminishing in the final half hour (Carrothers and Newman). About 1,000 jays were recorded at Perkins Beach in two and one-half hours on the morning of May 7 (Carrothers), and a large, though diminished, number were observed in flight there on May 18 and 19 (Klamm).

New Dates. For annotation in "Birds of the Cleveland Region" are the following new late and early dates of occurrence:

New Latest Spring Date - Osprey (one each) - May 31, Waite Hill (Sherwin), and Columbia Station (Barber)

New Earliest Spring Date

Common Snipe (1) - March 2, Mentor (Barbour)

Caspian Tern (3) - April 5, White City (Carrothers)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1) - April 21i., Willoughby (Pallister)

Traill's Flycatcher (1) - March 30, near Lake Rockwell (Hjelmquist)

Parula Warbler (male and female) - April 6, Rocky River Reservation (Baum)

Henslow's Sparrow (1) - March 24, Waite Hill (Sherwin)

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - (1) The two birds which were first discovered on Summit Lake in Akron on February 2 were last seen there on March 22 (Hjelmquist). (2) A single individual occurred at White City on March 16 (Klamm).

Double-crested Cormorant - The only record of this species, which has become an increasingly rare visitor to the region, is of a bird flying west past Lakewood Park on March 31 (Klamm).

Cattle Egret - At the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill a single bird appeared on April 21 and remained until the evening of April 28 (Sherwin and Flanigan). During that time it was studied by many observers. When the egret was first seen, "it was in the midst of a flock of steers near a muddy hole in a large field adjacent to the pond. It looked weary, and it was not being royally entertained by the steers, the black ones in particular chasing it as though it were an intruder. Only on one or two occasions was the bird seen away from that muddy spot, even when the steers were in a far distant part of the pasture. Towards the end of the egrets stay, it appeared livelier and flew about more, and eventually became happily welcomed by the cattle. They seemed to realize that the bird was helpful, and several would line up to take their turn being deinsected around the face and eyes. They even allowed the bird to perch on their backs" (Sherwin). This is the second occurrence of this species, which was first reported in the Cleveland region on April 27, 1962 at Clifton Park Lagoon.

European Widgeon - A male was studied at close range on March 9 as it swam on the Cuyahoga River in Northampton Township, Summit County (Hjelmquist). This is the first record since April 1958.

Common Eider - On March 17 at East 72nd Street on the Cleveland lakefront, a single bird was observed flying west close inshore (Klamm).

Goshawk - An adult bird, "alternately flapping and sailing at about treetop level", was seen briefly at Gates Mills on March 11 (Tramer).

Bald Eagle - (1) Among the hawks which were migrating in ones and twos past Perkins Beach on the morning of March 17 was one immature eagle (Klamm), (2) A perfectly-plumaged adult spent some time on May 31 perched in a tree overlooking the pond at the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill (Sherwin).

Peregrine Falcon - Two migrants were reported: one flying east at Perkins Beach on the morning of March 17 (Klamm), and one which perched briefly at Headlands State Park before flying off to the west on the morning of April 13 (Booth).

Sandhill Crane - At about mid-afternoon on March 30 a lone bird was identified as it flew in a northwesterly direction in the vicinity of West Richfield, Summit County (Schaedel, Jr.). The most recent prior record is of a bird near Richmond, Lake County, On April 7, 1946.

King Rail - Two birds were seen and heard on May 19 and 25 at the marsh along Rock Haven Road, near Chesterland (Surman, Jr. and Tramer)

Purple Gallinule - Alive but suffering from "convulsions" when it was found in the yard of a residence in Mentor on May 10, this bird died soon after. Fortunately, it was immediately preserved by quick freezing and has been given to the Natural Science Museum for inclusion in its collection of bird skins (Booth). This is the second record for the region, the first bird having occurred at Waite Hill in May and June 1962.

Franklin's Gull - A bird which was resting in the company of Bonaparte's Gulls on a sandbar at White City on May 2 represents the first May record and only the second spring record in the history of the region (Carrothers).

Long-eared Owl - On March 29 on the grounds of the Sohio Research Laboratory in Warrensville Heights, this owl, after extended harassment by two Blue Jays, flew from an old apple tree to a nearby tangle of wild grapevine. There, too, it was heckled for a time by a band of small birds, but the owl remained in the tangle (Surman, Jr.). (See also the Field Notes section in this issue for an account of -two Long-eared Owls observed in East Cleveland for about two months.)

Mockingbird - A non-singing bird was observed on May 12 and 26 in a scrub-growth area at Hinckley Reservation (Henderson)

Swainson's Warbler - On the Sunday Morning Bird Walk of May 12, at Huntington Beach Park a bird was studied for about five minutes as it searched for food along the bank of Cahoon Creek - sometimes at a distance of only 20 to 25 feet from the observers. It was silent all the while (Rea and Schuele). This is the first record in the history of the Cleveland region, and it is one of a very few records for Ohio.

Yellow-throated Warbler - Early on the morning of May 4 in LaGrange Township, Lorain County, a bird was discovered singing from the roof of a house where it apparently was feeding on the fallen blossoms of elm and sycamore trees. Soon afterward it disappeared (Morse).

Sutton's Warbler - For a period of about two hours on the sunny morning of May 9, this hybrid flitted about in the bushes and trees at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls, where it was studied by five observers, several of whom hurried to the Cemetery in response to a phone call that the bird was there (Hjelmquist). Not only was it identified by plumage characteristics but also by its "very unusual song - almost unforgettable - a buzzy song with a little down flip at the end, repeated twice in a row" (Glassner). So far as is known, this is the first Ohio record.

Prairie Warbler - Two birds were reported: a singing male at Waite Hill on April 29 (Flanigan), and a non-singer, probably a female, in Rocky River Reservation on May 12 (Stasko).

Kentucky Warbler - Unaccompanied by any other warblers, a solitary and silent individual was discovered in the bird sanctuary at the Lower Shaker Lake on May 8 (Tramer).

Western Meadowlark - For the sixth consecutive year this meadowlark was recorded at Burke Lakefront Airport, where it is seemingly a breeding bird. A single singing bird was heard on four dates from March 16 to the 30th (Carrothers and Klamm); and two singing birds were seen on April 14 (Klamm).

Blue Grosbeak - Two males paused briefly on the morning of May 9 at the edge of a woodland a few hundred yards south of the lake shore in Bratenahl and then flew on (Raynes).

Dickcissel - A bird which appeared on the evening of May 16 and remained the next day joined a group of House Sparrows that gathered at a well-stocked feeder at a residence just south of Painesville (Booth). This is the first record since the spring of 1956.

Lapland Longspur - Not recorded anywhere in the region during the winter of 1962-63: a flock of 18 birds was observed on the grounds of Hawken School in Gates Mills on March 25 (Tramer); and a single bird was seen on the Cleveland lakefront on March 29 (Raynes).

#### FIELD NOTES

Nestings of Canada Geese. Three pairs of Canada Geese nested this spring on our farm in Waite Hill. One nest, however, was disturbed and abandoned on May 5, possibly as a result of the arrival the evening before of two strange Canada Geese which had been chased by two of the breeding males. In any event, on the 5th we heard a great commotion at the nest of one of the three pairs, and soon after we discovered that the nest had been abandoned. One egg remained in the nest and one we found in the water. After waiting several hours in case the nesting pair might return, we removed the egg from the nest, though it was then quite cold, and took it to an occupied nest. The sitting goose left upon our close approach, thus allowing us to add the one white egg to the six buffy brown eggs she was incubating.

On May 11, I was fortunate to see all seven little goslings emerge from that nest, proving thereby that the adopted egg had hatched, too. The next day there were only five goslings, two probably having fallen prey to turtles. But as of May 31, all five young were still present on the one pond, while on the other pond there was a family of six goslings,

Also on the morning of May 11, William Scheele, Director of the Natural Science Museum, and I watched the hatching of Canada Geese at a small pond along Kirtland-Chardon Road. The nest, which had been built on top a muskrat house was quite easily seen from the road, and we stopped just as the goslings were hatching. The gander stood tall and guardedly close to the nest as little fuzzy chartreuse balls

staggered from under the mother bird's wing and unsteadily crept down the mound towards the waters edge. There were at least four or five when we left, - MARGARET H. SHERWIN

First Record of Nesting Common Snipe. (Although it has long been thought that the Common Snipe occasionally nested within the Cleveland region, the following account is the first authentic report of such a nesting. Much credit is due Madelin Hjelmquist for her diligent observation, -Ed.)

April 14. - When I stopped at the small marsh, consisting of about three acres, located on Riverview Road in Northampton Township, Summit County, I heard the winnowing of Common Snipe and saw five birds, one of which came down almost in front of me. But I took my glasses from the bird and was unable to find it again for some 30 minutes until she flushed up about 10 or 12 feet in front of me. I tried to pinpoint the place from which she had flown, and later I watched her sneak back through the marsh grass using a very roundabout route. I saw her climb on what I was sure was a nest. For another half hour I observed her from my car parked on the road about twelve feet distant. During most of that time she had her long bill tucked under her wing. Upon my departure I made sure of some landmarks to help me locate the bird again.

April 15 - I drove out in the morning, and to my surprise it took me at least a half hour to find the bird, though it was on the same spot as the day before. Late in the afternoon I donned my rubber boots and returned to the marsh determined to find out whether there was a nest. The bird was away from the site when I arrived. Quickly wading in, I soon found the nest which consisted of a grasslined cup located on top of a small rise of earth where grass and skunk cabbage were growing. There were four pointed eggs, olive colored but with a reddish cast and with streaks and spots of reddish brown. All the eggs were pointed toward the center of the nest. Before I hastily departed, I heard the female not far away making an odd little clucking sound.

April 17-30 - During this period I visited the nesting area on six days, sometimes accompanied by Marcella Glassner. The bird was not always on the nest at the time of these visits, and on the 22nd she was absent for over one hour. A storm on the night of the 16th apparently affected the structure of the nest, for thereafter the eggs were visible from the road - a distance of about 12 feet. On the 29th the eggs were not arranged as before, with the small end pointing in toward the center of the nest; but on the 30th they had been rearranged in the original pattern.

May 1 - The female was on the nest at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, when I arrived. When she left a few minutes later, she very carefully pulled grasses up around the entire nest, which took her about three minutes. Upon her return after five minutes (and again later on) she did not try to 'cover up' her approach as she had been doing, but returned by a direct route. In resuming her position

on the nest, she made herself very wide and sat in a much different manner than before. She moved about considerably after getting on the nest, making slow up and down movements almost like swaying, but up and down rather than sidewise. When I went out to check on the eggs, she flew away without uttering a sound.

May 2-3 - On both days she seemed extra nervous and stayed off the nest for very short periods, always returning by a direct route. She frequently adjusted the grasses and weeds around the nest. When a Sora Rail walked nearby, she sat perfectly still until it came close whereupon she turned her head sharply in its direction.

May 4. - Upon my arrival at 12:30 p.m., the female was on the nest and was nervously moving her head and body. Suddenly a baby bird moved out from under her. She seemed to keep pushing at the baby with her bill to try to nudge it off the nest very gently. I left immediately to get Marcella Glassner because Dr. Ralph W. Dexter, of Kent State University, had given me some bands and had told me I would need help in putting them on the young birds. Unfortunately, Mrs. Glassner was not at home. But I returned to the marsh where I found that the young bird was already several yards away from the nest. I waded out to the bird, causing the mother to fly away, and after much difficulty succeeded in banding it. This fledgling was beautifully feathered in orange and black, with white spots on the back and white markings on the face. When I put it down, it walked away. At this time the nest still contained three eggs.

Thinking that perhaps the other eggs would hatch later in the day, I returned to the marsh at 4:20 p.m. and was soon joined by Mrs. Glassner. One snipe was winnowing in the air, and the female which was on the nest uttered a loud chicken-like cry, but whether in response to the winnowing we did not know. Upon arriving at the nest, we found that two more eggs had hatched, one of the young having just emerged as shown by its damp feathers while the second was already out of the nest. The female remained close by. We banded both of these fledglings. Then we returned to the car and watched until the female returned to the nest, followed soon after by one of the young which crawled beneath her. The other young bird which had been banded in the morning was uttering little shrill peeps about four yards from the nest. At length, after much arranging of the young in the nest, the female left and went to the peeping youngster which then followed her back to the nest and snuggled beneath her breast together with the other two birds. After a while, however, she seemed to want them to move off the nest and she began to push them gently with her bill. Yet all three were in the nest when we departed. At 7:30 p.m. we visited the nest again, finding just one young bird and the unhatched egg.

May 5 - At 11:30 a.m., Mrs. Glassner and I waded out to the nest which was empty save for the one egg which now had a hold [hole] in it. Neither the female nor the young were seen. I returned at 1:30 p.m. with Emmett Shellenberger who photographed the nest. Then seeing an adult bird winnowing over the marsh, we watched it come down. By carefully

approaching the spot where it landed, we flushed the adult and discovered one young bird nearby, which Mr. Shellenberger photographed. This was the last any of the young was seen.

Although I discovered only the one nest, I believe there may have been one, possibly two, other nesting pairs of Common Snipe in the marsh. For often two birds (once three birds) were winnowing in the air simultaneously. Furthermore, two snipe repeatedly came down in two different portions of the marsh and at a considerable distance from the nest of the pair I was observing. - MADELIN HJELMQUIST

Long-eared Owls Winter in East Cleveland. (The following account is based in part on notes submitted by Adela Gaede and Ethel D. Surman, who were the first outsiders to identify the owls. Analysis of the owl pellets was made by Stanley Temple, staff member of the Natural Science Museum. - Ed.) At about the end of January 1963, two Long-eared Owls were discovered in a small grove of Canada hemlocks bordering the property of Dan B. Billington, on Oakhill Road in East Cleveland. Since the birds customarily perched near the top of the trees, they could be seen quite easily from the upstairs windows of the Billington house as well as from the adjoining house of Dr. D. A. Baumgartner, both of which families were most generous in allowing observers to study the owls from inside the houses. The neighborhood is wooded and there is a deep wooded ravine bordering one side of Oakhill Road, so that the owls were established in good hunting territory.

One of the owls disappeared near the end of February, and the other bird disappeared on March 3, but was back in the hemlocks on March 6, where it was seen almost daily until March 16. Then it departed again, reappearing for one last time on March 23. The plumage of one of the owls, presumably the female, was much darker than that of the other; it was this darker bird that disappeared first.

Between February 16 and March 9, thirty-eight pellets were collected from beneath the hemlocks in which the owls roosted during the day. As Temple points out, however, this number represents "only a small portion of the total number of pellets cast during this period."

A general analysis of the pellets produced the following findings Vol. 59, No. 2 -19

(Comments are those of Temple):

Sparrows, Chickadees, and other small birds	13
Blue Jays (I am surprised at such a large bird being taken)	4
Starlings	3
Downy Woodpecker	1
Mice (Not identified as to species)	14
Rats (Surprisingly small number considering their abundance in the area)	5
Shrews	3

Judging from this small sampling it would appear, as Temple remarks, that these owls were not “mousers” but that they simply took advantage of the available small bird population. According to Arthur C. Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey), “a very large proportion” of the food of the Long-eared Owls “probably close to 80 or 90 per cent on a seasonal average, consists of injurious rodents.”

Unsuccessful Nesting of Cliff Swallows. On May 1, Perry Peskin and I watched four Cliff Swallows as they inspected the eaves on the east side of a barn at Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley. On May 6 I returned alone and found only two swallows, but these were hovering very close to the barn, as if they intended to nest there.

On my next visit to the Farm on May 19, four birds were present. This time nesting had begun. The one pair had a nearly-completed nest under the eaves, while the other pair had evidently just started nest building. All four birds were observed alighting on the ground and taking mud “globs” from the edge of a rain puddle.

On May 25, Perry and I found the first nest completed and one bird evidently incubating. The second nest was half-completed. We observed two swallows alighting to take mud from the margin of one of the ponds about one hundred yards distant, seemingly for the completion of this second nest.

When I visited the Farm on May 30, both nests were complete but the Cliff Swallows were gone, and House Sparrows had taken over the nests. I watched while a male House Sparrow lined one nest with white down feathers gathered in a nearby poultry yard. - ELLIOT TRAMER

Starling Attacks Squirrel. On the morning of May 10, from a window in our house in Painesville, I watched a Starling which was perched on a wire in a large maple tree and was declaring his rights to the big, rough-edged hole dug out last year by a Yellow-shafted Flicker. Below a gray squirrel flashed along the trunk. As the squirrel traveled higher in the tree, the Starling became silent. When the squirrel was still some distance beneath the bird and on the opposite side of the tree, the Starling made a sudden flight, ending it with a nip at the middle of the squirrel’s back. The squirrel headed down the tree and the Starling made contact once more, whereupon the squirrel hustled to the ground. The Starling took his stand on a low limb, wiped his bill, and uttered a rusty squeak. A few minutes later he flew back to the wire, then to the hole where he poked his head in a couple of times after which he flew away. The squirrel went back to its original position on the west side of the tree and nibbled on the fresh green maple buds. - KAY F. BOOTH

Century Run Nets 105 Species. Accompanied by Mrs. Gilbert Tramer and James S. Surman, Jr., I set out on May 19 on my second annual Chagrin River Valley century run. The first, undertaken on May 15, 1962, netted 101 species, and we were out to better that total.

We started out at 4:00 a.m. for the marsh on Rock Haven Road, about four miles east of Chesterland. Several birds - Barred Owl, Common Snipe, American Woodcock - were identified by ear alone before it was light. Thanks to a good deal of early-morning activity, we built up a long list, getting 66 species in two and one half hours at Rock Haven Road. The most notable of these was the King Rail. We heard one bird "chacking" near the roadside before it was light enough to see. Later we saw one King Rail and heard another about one hundred feet away.

After stops at North Chagrin Reservation and at Squire Valleevue Farm (for Cliff Swallows), we had 89 species and still had to get such common species as the Tufted Titmouse and Green Heron. At this point (about 11:00 a.m.) a strong wind came up and the sky became overcast. We began struggling to increase our list. A Redheaded Woodpecker on Sperry Road just south of Holden Arboretum helped, but what finally put us over 100 was a trip to the beach at Mentor Headlands. That evening we rounded off the day with Upland Plovers at Cooley Farm in Warrensville Heights and a Common Nighthawk at Lower Shaker Lake, giving us 105 species for the day. Oddly enough, we did not record several very common species, among them the Green Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Turkey Vulture. ELLIOT TRAMER

Fox and Geese. At 6:00 a.m. on April 1., I observed a flock of 12 Canada Geese in a tight group at the edge of the pond in Waite Hill, their necks extended watching something that was not in my view. Then a fox appeared walking slowly and stiff-legged. The fox was only about five feet from the geese but did not display any notice of them. By this time three or four of the geese had left the water and come onto the shore. The fox continued walking and then leaped into the air and came down on something I could not see, but a bird about the size of a Red-winged Blackbird flew up into a dead tree. Evidently the fox got another Red-wing as it held something about the same size in its mouth. The geese watched in silence and when the fox moved on, they went out into the pond to feed. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN