



CLEVELAND REGION

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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
and  
The Kirtland Bird Club

# THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek               | 30 Lake Rockwell             |
| 2 North Amherst              | 31 White City                |
| 3 Lorain                     | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation  |
| 4 Black River                | 33 Chagrin River             |
| 5 Elyria                     | 34 Willoughby                |
| 6 LaGrange                   | Waite Hill                   |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake           | 35 Sherwin Pond              |
| 8 Clague Park                | 36 Gildersleeve              |
| 9 Clifton Park               | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River               | 38 Gates Mills               |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina                    | 40 Aurora Lake               |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation      | 41 Aurora Sanctuary          |
| 14 Edgewater Park            | 42 Mantua                    |
| Perkins Beach                | 43 Mentor Headlands          |
| 15 Terminal Tower            | 44 Mentor Marsh              |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square   | 45 Black Brook               |
| Cuyahoga River               | Headlands State Park         |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation   | 46 Fairport Harbor           |
| 18 Akron                     | 47 Painesville               |
| Cuyahoga Falls               | 48 Grand River               |
| 19 Akron Lakes               | 49 Little Mountain           |
| 20 Gordon. Park              | Holden Arboretum             |
| Illuminating Co. plant       | 50 Corning Lake              |
| 21 Doan Brook                |                              |
| 22 Natural Science Museum    |                              |
| Wade Park                    |                              |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir         | 51 Stebbin's Gulch           |
| 24 Shaker Lakes              | 52 Chardon                   |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery        | 53 Burton                    |
| 26 Forest Hill Park          | 54 Punderson Lake            |
| 27 Bedford Reservation       | 55 Fern Lake                 |
| 28 Hudson                    | 56 LaDue Reservoir           |
| 29 Kent                      | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area     |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT  
(800-foot Contour Line)

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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## SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- September - Average temperature of 60.3° made this the coolest September since 1918. Rainfall totaled just 2 inches, of which 1.17 inches occurred on the 12th.
- October - On all but 4. days the average daily temperature was from 1° to as many as 20° above normal; the lowest reading was 35° on the 14th. No rain fell in the first 26 days, and only 0.71 inches in the final 5 days.
- November - Generally mild temperatures, with a low of 25° on the 25th; but exceptionally cloudy. Precipitation was about 50% of normal. Snowfall was also below normal, though on the 12th and 13th heavy snow fell in the eastern portion of the region, notably northern Geauga County.

## HARRY CHURCH OLBERHOLSER

June 25, 1870 - December 25, 1963

Distinguished Ornithologist    Valued Counselor    Honored Friend

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

Taken as a whole, this autumn could be characterized as a rather colorless, undistinguished season. The generally mild weather which prevailed probably tended to thin out and prolong the southward movement of migrants. No sudden great surge of passerines was noted, nor were any spectacular flights of waterfowl reported. Yet the season was not without interest, for it was marked by three notable phenomena: (1) a massive migration of Common Nighthawks on September 2; (2) a westward movement of Black-capped Chickadees during the latter half of October; (3) the possible beginnings of an invasion of northern finches. Each of these phenomena will be discussed, in the proper order, below.

Waterfowl. An early flight of Canada Geese was observed on September 21, when a flock of 16 and one of 47 birds moved east along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm); but no late fall flights were reported. First passage of Whistling Swans was recorded on November 19 at Waite Hill, where, at early morning, two flocks totaling 220 birds flew over on a southeasterly course (Flanigan). Late in the afternoon of November 21, a flock of 50 swans "flew very high above Waite Hill heading directly south" (Flanigan). The greatest number of flights was observed on November 24, when some 165 birds were seen flying west at Mentor Headlands (Booth); 77 birds, in two flocks, passed over LaDue Reservoir in a southeasterly direction (Surman, Jr.); and a flock swung over but did not alight on Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum (Paul Martin *vide* Kitson). Finally, on November 30 a vee of 15 was sighted early in the morning traveling south over Hinckley Lake (Kraus).

Along the lakefront at Cleveland a westward movement of waterfowl was noted on November 2 involving Mallard, Black, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Ducks and Red-breasted Mergansers. On November 30, Redheads and smaller numbers of Canvasbacks were the important migrants. Diving ducks were not abundant at any time, and the Scaup population was very low, with the Greater more numerous than the Lesser. During the last week of November the Red-breasted Merganser was present in good numbers, with more than 800 recorded on the 24th. The Common Merganser was exceedingly scarce, and four birds on November 24 was the largest number reported. The only particularly noteworthy species of duck observed along the lakefront was a band of eight Common Scoters in flight on November 16. [The preceding commentary is based almost entirely upon records and remarks submitted by William and Nancy Klamm who made a regular weekly survey of the Cleveland lakefront. - Ed]

Nighthawks Migrating. During the final ten days of August there was a buildup of the population of Common Nighthawks in certain localities, but this in itself could not account for the tremendous surge of birds which occurred on the evening of September 2. For this massive movement covered a broad front and seemingly embraced the entire Great Lakes area. Within the Cleveland region large flights were reported over Elyria, Grafton, Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, and Willoughby, while to the east of our region, at Ashtabula, "the sky was full of them

on the night of September 2” (Savage). At Lakewood “migration started about 7:00 p.m. following a preliminary feeding period, peaked about 7:25, and tapered off at 7:14.5 with only local birds remaining. More than 1,500 Nighthawks passed in this period moving east to southeast” (Klamm). Between 7:10 and 7:50 p.m., 1,114.0 birds were recorded over Willoughby, where they seemed to be coming from the northeast and then turned south (Hammond).

Confirmatory evidence that this movement of Nighthawks encompasses a broad front came from several sources. At the western extremity of the Great Lakes, a veteran bird student, J. Paul Perkins, first mate on the W. J. Filbert reported that “about Labor Day he sighted thousands of nighthawks near Duluth, Minnesota” (Savage). Far to the east, at Buffalo, New York, reports from observers indicated “that there was a widespread general movement of Nighthawks on the 2nd that took this species out of [the] area — a remarkably early departure” (Harold H. Axtell writing in *THE PROTHONOTARY*, 29: 84.1963).

Contrary to the experience at Buffalo, sizable bands of Nighthawks remained in the Cleveland region subsequent to the massive movement on September 2. Localized flocks of from 10 to 150 birds were reported by several observers on September 7 and 8. In Lakewood on the evening of September 19, some 300 birds were observed flying on a generally eastward course (Stasko and Klamm). As late as September 26, a ‘band of ten was seen over Elyria (Johnson). The final record for the autumn was of two birds over Rocky River Reservation on September 29 (Ackermann).

Chickadees Move West in October. During the latter half of October bands of Black-capped Chickadees moved west close to the Lake Erie shoreline. This movement was first observed on October 17 in downtown Cleveland (and in Lorain), when at about 9:30 a.m. some 13 birds were seen feeding briefly in the trees and shrubs on the grounds of St. John’s Cathedral, after which they flew off to the west. Similar small flights were noted that day at 12:45 p.m. and at 3:00 p.m., and on succeeding days through October 27. This westward movement seemed to converge on the Cleveland Public Square where the Chickadees milled about in the plane trees before proceeding west along Superior Avenue. For example, within a few minutes at mid-afternoon on October 18, thirty-eight birds were counted as they streamed out of the trees on the Mall and into the northeast quadrant of the Square (Newman).

Evidence of the size of this movement of Chickadees was contained in the report of an observer who, on the morning of October 22, stationed herself, facing north, in the driveway at White City where she could view the row of trees bordering the upper beach-line. Between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. she tallied 1,100 Chickadees — in groups of a few to as many as 130 birds — moving west through the lower portions of the trees. The following day she recorded no such transients, but in a period of 25 minutes at mid-morning on October 24, she counted 96 Chickadees ‘passing westward through the treeline at

White City (Carrothers). In Lorain on October 17 and again on October 20, westward migrating Chickadees were observed along the Lake Erie shoreline. "The wave seemed to be continuous, with about a dozen in each group as they flew from tree to tree. On both occasions it was early afternoon" (Mrs. Calvin Dobear[Dolbear] fide Lebold).

What is particularly impressive about this westerly passage of Chickadees is not only its long duration (at least 11 days) but also the fact that the birds were apparently moving throughout much of each day. Thus judging from the figures we have, it would seem that an enormous number of birds was involved. Although several inland observers reported an increase in number of Chickadees in October, this may have been simply the normal post-breeding increase; and there was no positive indication that the migrating birds actually ranged inland. It is interesting to note that while the movement this autumn was to the west, a similar movement observed at Headlands State Park on the morning of October 8, 1959 was to the east; some 500 Chickadees were counted that morning (The Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR, 55:4,11. 1960).

Scarcity of Carolina Wrens. Since the Cleveland region lies in the far northern portion of the range of the Carolina Wren, a severe winter, such as that of 1962-63, can produce a high mortality in this truly carolinian species. Assuming there was no other cause for population decline, the occurrence records for this autumn clearly reflect that mortality; for only 16 observations totaling 19 birds were reported, and from just three localities. An observer in the westernmost portion of the region commented that "at Mill Hollow Park and Amherst, where several [Carolina Wrens] could be listed most any day a year ago, one is lucky to find one in half a dozen trips" (Johnson).

A measure of the relative abundance of the Carolina Wren in recent autumns is shown in the following data in which the first figure indicates the total number of autumn records and the second the total number of birds represented in those records:

|             |             |             |             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>1963</u> | <u>1962</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1959</u> | <u>1958</u> |
| 16/19       | 43/72       | 69/151      | 51/59       | 38/98       | 40/105      |

Transient Thrushes: The Hermit Thrush was reported in fair numbers during October, chiefly the first half of the month, and it seemed to be slightly more common than in the autumn of 1962. Swainson's Thrush occurred plentifully in September, particularly in the last half of that month. The Gray-cheeked Thrush was typically uncommon and was observed most often in the period September 27-29.

Warblers in Migration. Observers in three widely-separated localities commented on the abundance of migrating warblers on September 8 (a weekend date), which was apparently a high point in the southward movement. In Lorain County eleven species were identified on the grounds of the residence of one observer (Morse), while far to the northeast at Waite Hill the warbler migration on the 8th was

the “best of the fall”, with Wilson’s Warbler far outnumbering any one of the eleven other species recorded there (Flanigan). In Lakewood Park, too, on both September 7 and 8, warblers — notably the Bay-breasted and Wilson’s - were present in good numbers (Klamm).

Northern Finches Appear. On September, 8, almost one month ahead of our previous earliest occurrence date, a male Evening Grosbeak was observed in Brunswick, and this or another male was seen on September 21 at nearby Hinckley Reservation (Kraus). But the first flock of Evening Grosbeaks was not reported until October 13, when about 25 birds were observed in flight at Upper Shaker Lake (Knight). Thereafter through October and November this grosbeak was observed in seven other localities well, distributed throughout the region. Yet, with the exception of 35 birds at North Chagrin Reservation on October 27 (King and Carrothers), the number of birds was remarkably small, ranging from a single individual to a high count of eight.

The Pine Siskin apparently arrived at about the same time as the grosbeaks, for the first record was of 18 birds at Lower Shaker Lake on October 13 (Tramer). From then until November 9 small flocks were recorded at six additional localities, after which date these birds seem to have departed from the region: a single bird at Lake Rockwell on November 16 was the only record to the end of November. For the Redpoll, which is often the associate of the Pine Siskin, there was just a single record of a solitary bird seen in Warrensville Heights on November 24 (Surman, Jr.)

Rarest of the northern finches to visit the region were the Crossbills -- both the Red and the White-winged, the latter having been last previously reported in the autumn and winter of 1957. At Lower Shaker Lake on the morning of November 3, four White-winged Crossbills -- two males and two females or immatures -- were observed at length feeding in yellow birch trees (English), and late in the afternoon of that day eight birds were seen in flight at Upper Shaker Lake (Shaper). On the following day, one male and two females or immatures were seen in Waite Hill (Dennis Sherwin fide M. Sherwin).

Not until November 16 was the Red Crossbill first reported, when eight birds were discovered at Lake Rockwell (Carrothers and Surman, Jr.). The second and only other flock reported from the region consisted of 20 birds which appeared early in the afternoon on November 17 at Huntington Reservation, overlooking Lake Erie, where they fed in a stand of pine trees for about five minutes, “then after circling higher and higher headed in a southwesterly direction” (Siebert). To the east of the Cleveland region, at Conneaut, a flock of 20 Red Crossbills was sighted “flying in off Lake Erie” on November 26 (J. Paul Perkins fide Savage).

Although the foregoing records establish that a good variety of northern finches appeared in our region, the total number of birds reported was quite small -- too small, indeed, to justify the use of the term “invasion” to describe their appearance. Only after the records for the three winter months are received and analyzed will we

know whether these autumn records were precursors of a widespread incursion.

Tardy Stragglers. Mildness of October's weather, which was characterized by winds from the southern quarter on most days in the first four weeks, was undoubtedly the cause of the occurrence of a considerable variety of birds in the region beyond their normal departure time. Particularly notable among some 16 late-tarrying species were these: 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, October 27; 1 Black-billed Cuckoo heard or seen almost daily at Columbia Station from late August to October 21 (Barber); 1 House Wren, October 27; 1 Wood Thrush, October 27; 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, September 26 and 27, and one September 29; 5 Tennessee Warblers, October 20; 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, November 4; 1 Nashville Warbler, October 27; 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers, October 26; 1 Northern Waterthrush, October 13; 1 Mourning Warbler, October 20; 1 Indigo Bunting, October 20.

Yearly Summary. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1, 1962 to November 30, 1963, 259 species were reported within the Cleveland region. There were no records of the Whip-poor-will and the Short-billed Marsh Wren. In the previous year 260 species were reported.

New Occurrence Dates. For annotation in "Birds of the Cleveland Region" are the following new latest fall dates of occurrence:

American Woodcock (1) - November 28, Hinckley Reservation (Kraus) Pectoral Sandpiper (1) - November 16, LaDue Reservoir (Surman, Jr.) Yellowthroat (1) - November 23, Warrensville Heights (Surman, Jr.)

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - This now rare species in our region was recorded just once: on November 9 at Edgewater Park where one bird, apparently an immature, was "loafing at the end of a pier of submerged rocks" (Stasko).

Common Egret - A single individual observed at La Due Reservoir from October 20 to 26 constituted the only record for the autumn (English and Surman, Jr.); and this species, which has become increasingly rare in the region, was not reported at all during the summer of 1963.

Bald Eagle - An immature bird was recorded between October 20 and 27 at LaDue Reservoir (English and Surman, Jr.)

Peregrine Falcon - On September 28 one was observed in flight in Rocky River Reservation (Klamm).

White-rumped Sandpiper - At White City a varying number were present beginning with two birds on September 26 (Carrothers), then five on September 28 (Klamm), and, finally, a single bird which was last observed on October 11 (Raynes).

Stilt Sandpiper - Among an assembly of shorebirds at White City on September 14 was one bird of this species (Carrothers).

Red Phalarope - From September 30 (Carrothers) to October 2 (Raynes), one bird was observed at White City, and one was there on November 6 (Carrothers and Raynes). At Lakewood Park on November 3 a solitary individual "in complete winter plumage" was studied at close range as it "dabbled in a brack-line" (Klamm). These are the first records since December 1955.

Northern Phalarope - One bird, together with "peeps" and other sandpipers, was present at White City on September 8 and 22 (Klamm). At Edgewater Park one was recorded on September 29 (Stasko) and one on November 20 (Siebert).

Pomarine Jaeger - At mid-afternoon on September 8 at Gordon Park, an immature jaeger was sighted on the water about 250 feet offshore. During the next 90 minutes wave action carried the bird toward the rock-walled shoreline where it was eventually washed into a small watery hollow beneath the rocks which was inaccessible to the observers, making rescue impossible. Twice during its unwilling drift toward shoreline, the jaeger, which gave no evidence of bodily injury, made abortive attempts to rise off the water. At these two junctures motion pictures (in sunlight) were secured of the extended wings. Scrutiny of still shots taken from the movie film disclosed that all of the primaries, on both upper and lower surface, were marked with white. This marking in conjunction with other characteristics was the basis for specific identification (Klamm). This is the first record since November 1956. (Later determined to be a Parasitic Jaeger, *Birds of Cleveland Region*, 2004, p.178)

Franklin's Gull - This species was reported from three localities: one bird at White City quite regularly from September 1 to October 11 (Klamm and Carrothers), and two birds there on September 27 (Carrothers); one at Edgewater Park, November 14 (Siebert); and one at Lorain Harbor, November 26 (Johnson).

Little Gull - For the first time in the history of the region, this gull was reported in the autumn: a single bird at White City on September 28 (Surman, Jr.), and one -- a well-marked adult -- there on November 23 and 30 (Klamm).

Forster's Tern - White City was the site of occurrence for all records, beginning with three birds on September 1 (Klamm); two on September 2 and 8 (Surman, Jr. and Klamm); and one bird on five dates through September 17 (Carrothers).

Snowy Owl - (1) From November 6 to 30, a distinctively dark-plumaged bird was seen on the Cleveland lakefront at various points between White City and Burke Airport (Raynes, Carrothers, Klamm). (2) On November 30 at Lakewood Park, a second owl, in much whiter plumage, was observed holding a rat it had caught on the shore dump (Klamm).

Saw-whet Owl - An adult, which was being scolded by a band of Tree Sparrows, was discovered in Columbia Station on November 28 (Barber).

Boreal Chickadee - The first record in the history of the region is of two birds seen feeding together on November 16 in a small grove of pine trees in Rocky River Reservation. Initial identification was made by the drawling manner of utterance characteristic of this species; and the birds were then studied at close range over a period of 25 minutes (Klamm),

Mockingbird - In the marsh at Mentor Headlands one bird was recorded on October 26 (Booth).

White-eyed Vireo - On November 10 at Mentor, a bird was scrutinized at a distance of ten yards as it moved about in leafless brush at the edge of a woodland (Hammond). This record, which is a new late date of occurrence, is one of a very few autumn records in the history of the region; and it is the only such record in the past ten years.

Kentucky Warbler - At Hinckley Reservation on September 29, a well-marked individual was observed for about ten minutes as it fed in low brush along the river (Kraus).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - The first record since September 1959 is of a bird at Spencer Wildlife Area on October 13 (Morse).

Oregon Junco - A single bird appeared at a backyard feeding station in Lakewood on November 30 (Stasko).

From Nearby Localities:

At Ashtabula - 3 Hudsonian Godwits, September 29 (Mary Hudie fide Savage); 1 Northern Phalarope, September 15 (Savage); 1 Parasitic Jaeger, September 26 (Savage).

At Conneaut Harbor - 5 Red Phalaropes "almost daily" from November 2 to November 20 (J. Paul Perkins, Norman Hazen, Sally Clark, James Rittenhouse fide Savage); 1 Northern Phalarope, September 2 (Norman Hazen fide Savage).

At Pymatuning Dam - 7 Knots, September 14 (Skaggs and Kitson).

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AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (July and August excepted) in the Natural Science Museum, Cleveland. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.

## FIELD NOTES

Woodcocks Feeding on Lawn. In the period from September 15 through October 22, at our home along the Black River in Lorain County, Woodcocks could be seen throughout the day feeding and resting on a patch of freshly-seeded lawn which was being watered regularly. The water was undoubtedly the attraction since the drought had made their normal habitat unproductive of worms. The peak number of birds observed was six, but three were present for more than half of the period. The birds allowed a quite close approach before flushing, and it was interesting to observe the wonderfully skilled manipulation of the bill in probing for earthworms. - ROBERT J. MORSE

Re-visits to a Swallow Colony and a Heronry. Periodic re-visits have been made to a colony of the Bank Swallow and the Rough-winged Swallow at Black Horse near Ravenna in Portage County, Ohio, since this colony was first described (Bull. Cleve. Aud. Soc. 3(3): 23, 1957; 5(3): 5, 1959). In recent years Mr. George B. Towner, owner of the sand pit where the birds nest, has recorded the first returns as follows: 4-22-60; 4-20-61; 4-18-62; 4-25-63. All of the swallows leave the immediate vicinity by late June each year. In 1958, six Bank Swallows and one Rough-winged Swallow were banded on May 22. The following day two of my students (James Thompson and George Mayle) recaptured two of the Bank Swallows and the Rough-winged Swallow and banded three more Bank Swallows.

In 1959, three Bank Swallows and one Rough-winged Swallow were banded on June 9. The season of 1960 was not a very successful one at the Towner Sand Pit partly because the sand banks were not cut down vertically that year, and, also, there was considerable disturbance from gunners on weekends. There were, however, many tunnels constructed at the Smallfield Gravel Pit near Kent in spite of constant operations for removal of gravel.

In 1961, under more favorable conditions, a total of 75 tunnels was constructed at the Towner Sand Pit. Dr. Lowell P. Orr and I banded 17 Bank Swallows and two Rough-winged Swallows in June. In 1962, we banded five more Bank Swallows on May 29. To date we have obtained no returns or recoveries of banded swallows. In 1963, the number of tunnels was much reduced, disturbance had increased, and we failed to capture any of the birds for banding. Birds in this colony have now become very cautious and wary. They hesitate to reenter the tunnels in our presence and will no longer leave tunnels covered by nets as they once did.

The heronry. of the Great Blue Heron near Shalersville in Portage County has also been re-visited periodically since it was first described (Cleve. Bird Cal., 55(3): 13, 1959). On November 30, 1961, we counted 57 nests in 16 trees. On December 4, 1962, the count was down to 40, and on November 26, 1963, the number was 35. Several nests that had been damaged by the elements were found on the ground. - RALPH W. DEXTER

Shrike Attacks Meadowlark. About 9:30 a.m. on October 25, I happened to glance out my office window at the General Electric Company plant in Richmond Heights and noticed a Shrike swoop at several Starlings feeding in the adjacent meadow. The Starlings took flight and escaped the Shrike which flew to a nearby tree from which it studied several Meadowlarks feeding in the grass. After a few minutes the Meadowlarks had worked their way closer to my window. Meanwhile the Shrike had flown away, at least out of my sight. During this time one Meadowlark had moved apart from the others, out of the meadow, and onto the lawn not more than 50 feet from my window. I was about to end the observation when the Shrike re-appeared and attacked this single Meadowlark. Contact was extremely brief, for apparently a Meadowlark is a bit too large for a Shrike to handle. At any rate, the Meadowlark took to the air, seemingly none the worse for the encounter. The Shrike did not pursue but settled in a nearby tree.

Unfortunately, I did not have my binoculars and could not distinguish the Shrike's head markings. However, the wings and tail appeared darker than on a Northern Shrike observed in the same place in May 1962; but in the absence of more conclusive field marks the bird's specific identity will never be known. - GLENN KITSON