



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 | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | 52 Chardon |
| Wade Park | 53 Burton |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 55 Fern Lake |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | |
| 28 Hudson | |
| 29 Kent | |



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)

- March - Daily average temperatures were generally near or somewhat above freezing through the 18th, but for the final 13 days the average was only 27.5°. Measurable snow fell on 13 days from the 5th to the 26th, including a fall of 4.7 inches on the 5th and 3.6 inches on the 23rd.
- April - Quite cool except for brief warm spells accompanied by southerly or westerly winds on the 6th, 7th, 11th, 21st and 30th. Scanty rainfall totaling 1.83 inches was scattered through the month.
- May - Warm the first ten days, with a daily average temperature of 67.9°. Generally mild thereafter, though very warm on the 15th and 16th. Rainfall of only 2.29 inches occurred chiefly during the first ten and the last ten days.

* * *

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COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Like a balky horse moving in fits and starts, Spring was reluctant to enter northern Ohio, but when it finally did appear it arrived at a brisk gallop and sped through our region.

Lake Erie was extensively ice covered throughout March and the first ten days of April. Not until about April 14 was the lake free of ice. On May 1, none of the deciduous trees were in leaf, though the American elm and red maple were in flower. Yet just five days later the American beech and the sugar maple were almost fully leafed, and on May 8 the tulip and red oak were beginning to unfold their leaves, which were nearly completely developed by May 10. Thus by mid-May there was a broad canopy of foliage over most wooded areas, so that despite its late start, Spring had not only caught up with but had outpaced itself. For example, the black locust and the Canada mayflower, which normally blossom about June 1, were in full flower on May 22.

The pace of migration paralleled the progress of spring in the region: much retarded in March; quickening in the first ten days of April but becoming fitful and hesitant thereafter; then in the first ten days of May hurrying on in a great burst of speed, slackening somewhat in the next five days, and, after a brief spurt at mid-month, trailing off to the usual laggards and the late-comers, such as the Black-poll Warbler. Chronological highlights and significant aspects of the season are reviewed below.

March 14-16. The first Whistling Swans and Canada Geese were reported at this period, when temperatures averaged about four degrees above freezing and the prevailing winds were from the west and southwest. At LaDue Reservoir on the 14th, 51 Swans and 42 Canada Geese were counted (Hammond), and on the 16th about 70 Swans were seen on Cloverdale Lake near Painesville (Terry Dunne fide Booth). At the ponds on Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill, the population of Canada Geese grew from an estimated 145 on the 13th to 250 on the 15th (Sherwin).

March 28-31. A warm front passed through northern Ohio on the 28th bringing with it the first influx of Killdeer and Eastern Meadowlarks, both of which continued to arrive in the next several days, notably the 31st. In Lorain on the 30th -- an exceptionally late date -- the first Eastern Phoebe was recorded (Johnson).

April 3-7. Apparently moving a few days ahead of a warm air mass which was advancing out of the Gulf region, several large vees of Canada Geese totaling about 500 birds flew north or northwest over LaDue Reservoir at mid-morning on the 3rd, while at about noon on the 4th a vee of some 250 birds headed north over Lyndhurst (Kitson). Also on the 4th an estimated 400 Whistling Swans were reported at Holden Arboretum (Collins).

Icterids were on the move, too, and heavy flights of Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were observed at Mentor Park

beach during this period (see Hammond's account in the Field Notes section which follows). Along the lake shore in Lorain evening flights of blackbirds -- Red-wings and Common Grackles, with occasional Robins, too -- were noted on several days in early April. "They went over in waves of hundreds, always going from east to west. Also about the same time, though during the day, waves of Eastern Meadowlarks flew by in concentrations of 50 or more going west to east" (Dolbear). On the 6th in downtown Cleveland blackbirds were moving east on a flight line paralleling St. Clair Avenue. At mid-morning when a heavy overcast blotted out the sun, a flock of some 200, mostly Grackles, appeared over East 9th and Superior Avenue, milled about briefly as if disoriented, and then resumed their eastward passage (Newman). And on the 7th Blackbirds were moving west along the Lake Erie shoreline in Bratenahl (Raynes).

Early on the morning of the 7th in Lakeview Cemetery great numbers of Fox Sparrows, Slate-covered Juncos and Song Sparrows were feeding along the woodland edges.

April 11-12. Another warm front moved through northern Ohio on the 11th, with the temperature reaching a high of 73°. Strong southwest winds along the lake favored a fairly good easterly flight of hawks (see below). Migrating east past Perkins Beach on the 11th were Yellow-shafted Flickers and Robins; 129 of the former and 298 of the latter were counted in three hours (Klamm). Beginning late in the afternoon of the 11th and continuing until shortly after 7:00 p.m., massive flights of Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds occurred along the lakefront at Cleveland (Klamm).

Fox Sparrows in large numbers appeared on the 11th and 12th, and Savannah, Vesper and Field Sparrows also became numerous at that time.

April 30-May 10. Throughout this period a succession of warm air masses advanced through northern Ohio with the result that wave after wave of migrants poured into the Cleveland region. Peak movements occurred on May 5, 7, 8 and 9. Passerine species constituted the bulk of this movement, and six species of vireos and 35 species of warblers were reported.

At Waite Hill on May 2 there was a "big migration" of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Nashville Warblers and White-throated Sparrows (Sherwin), while in Rocky River Reservation that day both the Chipping and White-throated Sparrow were in great abundance (Coristine). In Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, where a daily early-morning count was taken from April 12 to May 23, ten species of warblers, notably the Chestnut-sided, were recorded in 45 minutes on May 5, on which date the Baltimore Oriole and White-crowned Sparrow also arrived in sizable numbers (Newman). On May 6 in Nela Park, East Cleveland, over 200 White-crowned Sparrows were observed (Skaggs). Early on the morning of May 7 in Forest Hill Park, 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were sighted within about five minutes, while later that day in Westlake some ten of these Grosbeaks stopped to partake of

grain at a feeding station (fide Wallin). Also on May 7, which was the peak day at Waite Hill where daily counts were made, 18 species of warblers were recorded but only three were "in any numbers" -- Nashville, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted (Flanigan). Then on the week-end dates of May 8-9, the passage of migrants continued at a high level.

May 15-16. A flow of warm air from out of the lower Mississippi valley again advanced into northern Ohio to produce another influx of migrants, though of a lesser magnitude than in the May 7-9 period. Swainson's Thrush and the Tennessee, Wilson's and Canada Warbler were particularly abundant, while among the locally breeding species the Acadian, Traill's and Least Flycatchers and the Wood Pewee appeared in good numbers.

Among the lakeline migrants moving east past Perkins Beach on the morning of May 15 were a dozen Eastern Kingbirds, including a band of eight, a flock of 15 Eastern Bluebirds and small flocks of American Goldfinch totaling about 150 birds (Klamm). It is interesting that the Bluebird should be migrating at the same time that its local congeners were far advanced in nesting, some probably having young in the nest.

Tail-enders. Migration continued of course during the latter half of May but at an ever-decreasing pace. There was a fair-sized movement of warblers, especially the Black-poll, on the 23rd. Swainson's Thrush was also quite numerous then, but for the season as a whole this thrush seemed to be somewhat less abundant than usual. Yet, oddly enough, eight Swainson's Thrushes were recorded on the exceptionally late date of May 31 (Knight). Notable because of their scarcity were the Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo; for the final ten days of May there were just three records of each species, and at no time during the month did any observer report more than two birds of either species.

Wintering Rough-legged Hawks. Many of the Rough-legged Hawks which had wintered in such exceptional numbers in the western portion of the region (western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties) remained well into March. In that month 24 were recorded on the 14th, 14 on the 21st and 10 on the 28th, while the final count was of six on April 3 (Klamm). In the eastern portion of the region, chiefly Lake County, where a good number were present in December 1964, just a few were seen through the rest of the winter, and two on March 18 were the only Rough-legged Hawks reported there in the spring (Barbour).

Hawks in Migration. The first movement of hawks through the region was noted on April 11 at Perkins Beach, where in a period of about three hours the following species were tallied as they passed in an easterly direction along the lakeline: 3 Turkey Vultures, 21 Sharp-shinned, 1 Cooper's, 2 Red-tailed, 2 Red-shouldered and 11 Sparrow Hawks (Klamm). On the morning of April 20 and 21 at Bay Village, single Broad-winged hawks, "strung out in a long, thin, slowly-drifting line", moved steadily eastward just a few hundred yards south of the lake shore (Cook). On both dates more than a dozen birds were seen.

Also on April 21 over Rocky River Reservation, 50 to 60 Broad-winged Hawks as well as some Accipiters were sailing toward the east, but many of the hawks were far too high to be identified (Stasko).

On the morning of May 2 in a two-hour period of observation in Lakeview Cemetery, some two dozen Buteos and Accipiters were observed as they drifted in a northeasterly course along or just south of the Portage Escarpment. They were at such a towering height in the cloudless sky that specific identification was impossible (Newman). At Perkins Beach on the morning of May 8, hawks were again moving east, and the tally for three hours was as follows: 15 Turkey Vultures, 7 Sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's, 67 Red-tailed, 3 Red-shouldered, 1 Broad-winged, 19 unidentified Buteos (Klamm). An apparently minor movement of hawks occurred along the lakeline on May 9, when six Broad-winged, 1 Red-shouldered, and one Osprey were seen at Huntington Beach (Ackermann), while inland 5 Red-tailed, 2 Red-shouldered and 4 Broad-winged Hawks were recorded in Rocky River Reservation (Klamm). Finally, on May 16 in Rocky River Reservation, a good flight of Broad-winged Hawks -- 60 to 70 birds -- as well as other Buteos and some Accipiters were sighted, but once more the great height at which they were traveling east prevented specific identification (Stasko).

Ospreys Exceptionally Numerous. There was an exceptionally large number of records of the Osprey, which was recorded on 18 dates and in 11 localities. The first record -- a quite early one -- was of two birds on April 14 at Waite Hill where they seemingly remained through the 19th (Sherwin and Flanigan), and two were seen there on May 25 (Flanigan). Two birds were also observed at Holden Arboretum on May 3 (Kitson), but all the other records were of singles, including one on April 17 "wheeling in a generally northeast direction" over Chester Avenue and East 93rd Street in Cleveland (Peskin). Of interest, too, is one Osprey which was "going west, fishing" at Perkins Beach on May 1 (Klamm).

Eastward Passage of Jays. The regular eastward passage of Blue Jays along the lakeline was first noted on the Sunday Morning Bird Walk at Huntington Beach on April 25, when some two dozen birds were seen. But the movement this spring did not seem to attain the magnitude of other years, always remembering, however, that observations are largely confined to week ends so that if massive flights occurred at other times they would be unnoticed. In any case, the largest movement this spring was tallied on May 8 at Perkins Beach where 1,014 Jays flew by in about three hours (Klamm). On May 15, also in a three-hour period, 462 were counted at the Beach, and on the 22nd, 125 or more were noted in flight at Lakewood Park (Klamm).

Of inland flights of migratory Jays, which are seemingly quite rare, there were two reports: a band of 16 on April 29 flying north-east over Warrensville Farms, where several small flights were also reported in the spring of 1964 (Knight), and on May 2 in Lakeview Cemetery a flock of eight slipping through the trees along the edge of the Portage Escarpment, which has served as an occasional flight line in other years (Newman).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - (1) The bird which was observed at Eastlake on the final two days of February was still present on March 1 (Carrothers). (2) One was sighted at LaDue Reservoir on April 7 (English),

Eared Grebe - On Corning Lake in Holden Arboretum, where this species has been reported more often than in any other locality in the region, a single bird was recorded on May 2 (Bole, Jr.).

Double-crested Cormorant - (1) At Bay Village on the morning of April 26, a solitary individual was feeding some 15 to 20 yards offshore. When it surfaced after one of several submersions, it held in its bill a large fish somewhat longer than its bill which it swallowed after a bit of manipulation. In the next 20 or 30 minutes the bird gradually moved northward and was lost to view (Cook). (2) One bird was observed at Perkins Beach on the morning of May 15, when it appeared from out of the south, proceeded north over the lake, then changed its course to the east as it disappeared in the distance (Klamm).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - In Waite Hill a single bird was discovered on May 3 along the Chagrin River, where "it stepped gingerly from one rock to another watching intently for its prey, snatched and swallowed a large crayfish, and seemed completely unperturbed by children and dogs playing close by" (Sherwin). Then on the evening of May 5, two birds were seen together along the river (Eastman), and on May 6 and 7 a single individual was observed in a small marsh not far from the river (Flanigan).

Snow Goose - Calling continuously as they flew east along the Lake Erie shoreline, three birds were sighted at Lorain on the morning of April 26 (Dolbear). This is the first April record of migrants in the history of the region.

White-winged Scoter - (1) A group of eleven was idling on the water off the foot of Clague Road at Bay Village on the afternoon of April 11, and the number had grown to 25 birds on the following afternoon (Cook). (2) Eight were recorded on April 27 at Corning Lake in Holden Arboretum (Gaede and Carrothers).

Surf Scoter - One bird was found among some 2,000 diving ducks congregated in the open water behind the breakwall at Edgewater Park on March 20 (Klamm).

Common Scoter - A bird at Eastlake on March 27 was the only spring record (Kitson); and none was recorded in winter 1964-65.

Bald Eagle - (1) Two birds were seen along the Lake Erie shoreline on April 11: an adult sailing east past Perkins Beach at midday (Klamm), and during the afternoon an immature "soaring high and drifting northward" at Bay Village (Cook). (2) At mid-morning on May 9 in Rocky River Reservation southwest of Cleveland-Hopkins Airport, an adult soared and wheeled and then disappeared to the northeast (Stasko).

Peregrine Falcon - (1) About midday on April 5 at Lorain, one adult was observed traveling east "parallel to shore and 20 feet or so above the edge of the steep bank just west of Beaver Point" (Johnson). (2) Again at about midday on April 6 at Lorain, six birds together were seen as they moved east over the lake but very close to the shoreline. A few moments after their passage, one falcon returned and perched briefly in a tree (Dolbear). These six birds constitute a truly singular record, for this is the largest number reported in the region this century. Indeed, in the past 14 years only one year, 1960, produced a total of as many as six birds recorded in a twelve month period.

Pigeon Hawk - (1) At Mentor Park beach on April 3 a single bird was sighted among a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Meadowlarks which were migrating on a northeasterly course along the lakeline (Hammond). (2) Two birds were observed singly as they moved east past Perkins Beach on April 11, when a great variety and a fair number of migrating hawks were recorded there (Klamm). (3) At Holden Arboretum on May 2 a Pigeon Hawk and the Wood Thrush it was pursuing were killed when they crashed into a picture window (Bole, Jr.).

American Golden Plover - A solitary bird, "not entirely in spring plumage," was feeding in the wrack at the high water mark on Harmon's Beach in Lorain on April 24. After some time it flew out over the lake toward the west (Wallen). (See also the end of this section for a record from a neighboring locality.)

Black-bellied Plover - One was recorded on May 2 in eastern Lorain County, where it was feeding in a temporary pool of water on a sod farm (Klamm), and one was seen at White City on May 17 (Raynes).

Ruddy Turnstone - On the exceptionally early date of April 28, a flock of six was observed at Harmon's Beach in Lorain for a short time before they flew off in a northeasterly direction (Wallen).

Willet - Ten birds were resting and feeding at White City early in the afternoon of April 26 (Kitson), and nine were still there late in the afternoon (Collins). This is the first spring record since May 1948.

Sanderling - There were three May records of this rare spring, though common fall, migrant: three at White City on the 22nd (Klamm), four at Harmon's Beach in Lorain on the 28th (Dolbear), and 15 there on the 29th (Lebold). This last record is a new latest spring date.

Glaucous Gull - (1) Off the mouth of Rocky River on March 7, the "other gulls kept their distance" while this gull was eating (Stasko). (2) An immature bird was seen in the company of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls at Harmon's Beach in Lorain on April 28, which is the first April record in the history of the region (Johnson).

Little Gull - One adult in winter plumage was identified in the harbor at Lorain on March 24 in the company of Ring-billed Gulls (Johnson) and on April 4 with recently-arrived Bonaparte's Gulls (Siebert).

Caspian Tern - An extraordinary number were congregated at Harmon's Beach in Lorain on April 28 when about 100 birds occupied a sand bar together with some gulls (Johnson), while on April 29 an estimated 110 were recorded there (Lebold).

Snowy Owl - At the harbor in Lorain where one and sometimes two birds were present during much of the winter, one bird was observed on March 13 as it "made some unsuccessful passes at the ducks" (Klamm).

Long-eared Owl - For much of the day of April 11, one bird occupied a large Colorado blue spruce which stands close to a residence in Willoughby, where it was the cause of great excitement among a gathering of small woodland birds as well as Blue Jays and Common Grackles. At dusk the owl departed (Pallister). (See also Bole's report of this species in the Field Notes section which follows.)

Short-eared Owl - In Grafton Township, Lorain County, late in the afternoon of March 7, with a low overcast prevailing, one bird was actively hunting as "it moved from the top of one telephone pole to the next at intervals of less than a minute, with each flight covering perhaps 15 seconds over the open field" (Morse).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - At a residence in Concord Township south of Painesville on the afternoon of April 23, one male was discovered as it darted from blossom to blossom among a hillside planting of daffodils. Several times it paused to rest on the bare twigs of a low shrub (Newhous). This observation, which constitutes a new earliest date of occurrence, was made on a day when at Cleveland the Weather Bureau recorded a high of 57° and a low of 37°; the following six days were equally cold, which probably accounts for the bird not being seen again.

Mockingbird - All three records were from the northeast portion of the region: an over-wintering bird last seen at Mentor on March 27 (Fais); one at Holden Arboretum on May 2 (Bole, Jr.); and one at North Chagrin Reservation on May 1 and 2 (Kitson).

White-eyed Vireo - Seven records for this species, which seems to have occurred more often in recent years, comprise the largest number ever reported: a singing bird at Aurora Sanctuary on May 2 (Henderson); a singing bird in Waite Hill on May 4 (Flanigan); one in Lakewood Park on May 7 (Klamm); a singing bird in Rocky River Reservation on May 8 and 9 (Klamm); two singing birds in Lorain County Metropolitan Park on May 8, and one there May 12 (Johnson).

Worm-eating Warbler - In Bedford Reservation on May 9 a singing bird was studied at a distance of no more than 30 feet as it moved about in a tangle of grapevines on a wooded hillside (Piscak and Smiley).

Lawrence's Warbler - At Buttermilk Falls in North Chagrin Reservation on May 6, this hybrid, which repeatedly uttered the typical song of the Blue-winged Warbler, was observed as it fed in the upper portion of trees growing from the ravine bottom (Kitson). The bird was reported at or close by the Falls on May 9, 19 and 23, in which vicinity

several Blue-winged Warblers were also seen, the habitat being suited to their nesting (fide Kitson). This is just the third record in the history of the region.

Prairie Warbler - (1) A bird which was "singing persistently" was observed in a brusky area in the flood plain of the Black River in Sheffield Village on May 4. (Johnson). (2) In Waite Hill on May 21, one sang almost continuously from 12:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. The next day it was heard at 9:00 a.m. and later in the morning, apparently departing shortly before noon (Flanigan).

Kentucky Warbler - (1) Late in the afternoon of May 4 in Waite Hill, a non-singing male was observed feeding close to the ground in shrubby undergrowth (Flanigan). (2) On the Sunday Morning Bird Walk in Gates Mills on May 9, a singing male was studied for some five minutes as it moved about in underbrush and a tangle of weed stalks (Poutasse).

Bobolink - On March 28 one male was observed in the morning at Edgewater Park, while later that day in eastern Lorain County one male was found in a mixed flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds (Klamm). This is a new earliest date of occurrence, the previous date being April 14, 1945.

Blue Grosbeak - At Lower Shaker Lake early on the morning of May 7, one bird was sighted as it perched briefly in shrubbery surrounding the bird sanctuary and then flew out of sight (Raynes).

Evening Grosbeak - A single bird was reported from Holden Arboretum on April 11 (Bole, Jr.). In contrast, the "invasion year" of 1963-64 produced records from 11 localities in the spring of 1964.

House Finch - Two were identified at Holden Arboretum on April 15 (Bole, Jr.) and one there on April 25 (Collins).

Lark Sparrow - On April 27 at Painesville Municipal Beach, one bird was studied leisurely at close range while it was perched and while "it scratched and hunted for seeds" in the sand dune area behind the power plant (Szabo).

Oregon Junco - (1) The bird which seemingly wintered at Holden Arboretum was last reported on March 21 (Hammond). (2) One was discovered on April 10 among a large flock of Slate-colored Juncos feeding in an uncultivated field at Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls (Ulrich). (3) In Highland Cemetery, Warrensville, on April 17 "a brightly-colored individual was observed for 25 minutes as it foraged by itself" (Knight).

From an Adjoining Locality:

American Golden Plover - At Vermilion, just a scant mile or so beyond the western boundary of the Cleveland region, a flock of about 50 was sighted on May 24 as they flew back and forth across a weedy field in which they finally settled and remained to feed (Wallen).

FIELD NOTES

Owls at Hanging Rock Farm. [The following notes were submitted by an observer who resides at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills Village where he raises a variety of domestic fowl. He often places dead fowl, or "owl offerings," at certain stations in the farmyard so that predators will take these dead birds rather than attempt to get at the live ones. - Ed.]

May 11 - Great Horned Owls pulled a daylight (late afternoon) raid on our Red Buckeye yard; they killed all but one bird. Five owls were on the job: male, female and three young.

May 14 - A brilliant fight at the owl station between three dive-bombing Barn Owls and one Great Horned Owl over two chicken carcasses.

May 16 - Two Long-eared Owls executed a White Leghorn pullet that insisted on sleeping on top of one of our cages. Nothing but a clean-picked skeleton was left.

May 26 - After I had been squatting and making meadow mouse sounds by kissing my thumb, a Long-eared Owl knocked my rain hat off after buzzing me. This episode immediately preceded a violent thunderstorm. When the storm was over (I had locked up the chickens very hurriedly), I heard a commotion in one of the houses and found I had locked a Barred Owl in with the birds. Upon my opening the door, the owl flew out, bill snapping. Nobody was hurt; Barred Owls don't eat chickens. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Brown Creeper Eats Corn. In Waite Hill on April 28 a Brown Creeper which had been searching for food on the trunk of a crab apple tree in our yard flew to the old tree trunk which holds a bird feeding tray. There it continued its search for food until eventually it came to the tray where it ate three pieces of cracked corn. The Creeper was then driven away by another bird, but it returned a few minutes later, consumed another piece of corn, and promptly departed. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Further Account of Lorain County Blackbird Roost. In the Field Notes section of the Autumn 1964 issue of the BIRD CALENDAR, I described my observations of a blackbird roost in Lorain County which on November 29, 1964 consisted of an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 birds --90 to 95 per cent Starlings, plus some 5,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds and 1,000 Common Grackles. I continued to visit this roost almost once each week throughout the winter and well into the spring, scheduling my observations so that I would be there when the birds were coming in at the end of the day.

Apparently there was a mass exodus of birds early in December, for during December and January the roost consisted of only 20,000 to 30,000 birds. Of these numbers, Starlings comprised about 75 per cent, Grackles 15 per cent and Cowbirds 10 per cent. On January 23 the proportion of birds remained about the same, but the population

was down to an estimated 5,000 to 7,500. This sharp decline was caused by severe icing conditions that day, with one-half inch of ice coating every branch and twig. I believe the birds were simply not able to make it back to the roost, and those that did -- their plumage studded with ice pellets -- had great difficulty perching.

The reduction in the population was just temporary, however, and on February 6, I estimated 15,000 were present. Though some Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in early February, the Common Grackle was the principal species that month and grew more numerous as the month advanced. By the end of February, Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds had become more evident in the flock, though Grackles were still in the majority.

In March more and more birds, notably Grackles, settled into the roost area -- an extensive stand of hawthorns -- shortly before dark. The roost reached its maximum size in the period from April 3 to 11, when I estimated it to contain 250,000 birds. It was impossible to estimate how many there were of each species, though it was evident there had been a change in composition, with the Red-winged Blackbird replacing the Grackle as the principal species.

When I last visited the roost on May 19, small unmixed groups of Grackles and Cowbirds -- from 6 to 25 birds -- were still coming in for the night. I counted more than 15 groups from my vantage point.
- MICHAEL STASKO

Icterids Migrate on Three Levels at Mentor Beach. During the period from April 3 to 6, I observed heavy migrations of icterids at Mentor Park beach, including the heaviest concentrations of Meadowlarks I have ever seen. In about one hour early in the morning of the 3rd and 4th, I tallied 210 and 240 Meadowlarks, respectively, and 3,000 Red-winged Blackbirds on each date. The main movement each day was northeast along the line of the beach. Wind and weather conditions did not seem to be a significant factor, as the wind direction varied from north to southeast and the velocity from nothing to rather brisk, the temperature from 15° to above 50°.

On the evening of April 6, I observed another big flight. This time it amounted to a three-level movement, with an estimated 9,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 1,000 Common Grackles going northeast high, 250 Meadowlarks traveling in the same direction at bush-top level, and an estimated 2,000 mixed Red-wings and Grackles in between headed southwest. - WAYNE A. HAMMOND

Birds Respond to Changing Conditions. In the general vicinity of Grafton, Lorain County, two species seemed to be present in noticeably greater numbers this year. The first of these is the Red-headed Woodpecker, which a number of persons have commented on seeing in areas where it was previously not seen and, also, on seeing it in increased numbers in areas where it has previously nested. My records show the same thing, and I wonder if this may not be associated with the large number of standing dead elm trees.

The second bird which seemed to be more numerous is the Bobolink, which I found in many fields in this area where I know it has not nested in the recent past. A possible reason for this is the increased acreage devoted to grasses because of the Land Bank program of the Federal government. - ROBERT J. MORSE