



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
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 |
| 14 Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| 16 Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| 18 Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| 20 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

Editor
Donald L. Newman

Associate Editor
Bertram C. Raynes

Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers
Adela Gaede
Florence Selby
Ethel D. Surman

CONTRIBUTORS

Fred J. Ackermann	Madelin Hjelmquist	Bill Schlesinger
L. P. Barbour	Faye B. King	Jack H. Selby
B. P. Bole, Jr.	Glenn Kitson	Margaret H. Sherwin
Kay F. Booth	William & Nancy Klamm	Donald A. Siebert
Vera Carrothers	Charles H. Knight	M. B. Skaggs
Genevieve Chambers	Walter P. Kremm	Ethel Staley
John & Georgianna Davidson	Josephine Laughlin	Alfred Starling
Ralph W. Dexter	Sibyl Leach	Michael Stasko
Corinne F. Dolbear	Hilda A. Lebold	E. S. Stokes
Marjorie S. English	Howard Martin	Sue Storer
F. W. & Marilyn Fais	Dan McKinley	W. F. Streeter
Annette B. Flanigan	Robert J. Morse	Ethel D. Surman
Adela Gaede	Mary & Carl Newhous	James S. Surman, Jr.
Wayne & Hilda Hammond	Donald L. Newman	Bert L. Szabo
Blair, Doug & Neil Henderson	Charlotte Parker	T. F. Ulrich
	Marjorie Ramisch	Harold E. Wallin
	Bertram C. Raynes	

SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- March - Four inches of snow fell on the 6th and 7th, and 1.4 inches on the 26th. From the 10th to 23rd, average daily temperatures were generally well above freezing, but in the final 8 days the average was 28°, or 11° below normal.
- April - Average daily temperatures in the first 17 days were consistently below normal by 2° to 8°. Light snow fell on the first 7 days but did not stay on the ground. Southerly winds produced a warm spell from the 18th through 20th. Moderate temperatures prevailed thereafter. Light rain fell on 8 days in the final two weeks.
- May - On all but one of the first 15 days the average temperature was below normal, and there was a record low of 25° on the 10th. Southerly or southwesterly winds prevailed on the 15th and 16th, 18th through 21st, and 23rd and 24th. Light rain occurred mainly between the 8th and 21st.

All records, observations, and comments should be mailed to Donald L. Newman, 14174 Superior Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

March. A warm air mass, which started on February 28 to advance on a broad front through the Mississippi valley, reached northern Ohio on March 2, bringing with it the first influx of migrants over the next several days. On the 2nd at 11:30 p.m., Killdeer were heard over Pepper Pike Village as they traveled north on a south wind (Raynes). Between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on the 4th a steady northeast movement of Common Grackles, in groups of 15 to 40, was noted over Lyndhurst and Richmond Heights, and on that same day five Canada Geese arrived on Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation (Kitson). By the 5th small numbers of Robins, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Red-winged Blackbirds had appeared.

The regular eastward flow of blackbirds along the Lake Erie shoreline occurred in March, but there were not sufficient reports to provide a basis for judging the size and timing of this movement. Of interest, however, is the two-directional movement which was again observed at Mentor Park Beach. There on the morning of March 19, with the wind from the southwest, Starlings, Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles were moving into the wind at low level while at high level, and in smaller numbers, Meadowlarks and Red-winged Blackbirds were headed northeast (Hammond).

April. Northerly winds prevailing through the first 16 days were not conducive to migratory movements. On the 17th a warm front approached northern Ohio followed by a continuing flow of warm air through the 20th. This weather pattern produced a large influx of a good variety of birds. In Bratenahl from the 18th through 20th, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving east along the Lake Erie shoreline, and many Yellow-shafted Flickers, Brown Creepers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Meadowlarks, and Fox, Field, and White-throated Sparrows were also on the move (Raynes). Among the eastbound migrants recorded at Perkins Beach in one hour shortly after noon on the 18th were 11 Belted Kingfishers, 64 Yellow-shafted Flickers, and 45 Black-capped Chickadees (Starling). In Forest Hill Park, where a daily early-morning census was taken, a great host of Slate-colored Juncos and a large number of Savannah and Field Sparrows were present on the 19th, which was the peak date there for these species (Newman). (For an account of migrating hawks see below.)

During the final ten days of April, migrants continued to appear, but no appreciable movement occurred until after the passage of a warm front on the 28th. On the morning of the 29th at Waite Hill, where daily observations were made, Eastern Kingbirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Catbirds, Wood Thrush, 1 Baltimore Oriole, and 1 Scarlet Tanager first made their appearance (Flanigan). As April ended, House Wrens came into the region in fair numbers.

May. A quite large but yet a minor movement occurred in the period from the 5th through 10th, which included the two coldest days of the month. This movement was triggered by a warm front advancing up the Mississippi valley on May 4 and then spreading east and northeast as it reached Illinois and Wisconsin. Consequently, on the 5th,

which was the only warm day of this period, at Waite Hill the first migration of warblers occurred, and 11 species were tallied, though only a few of a kind. (Flanigan). But on the 6th, despite northwesterly winds accompanying the passage of a cold front, the migration of warblers intensified. At Waite Hill 15 species were recorded, the Black and White, Myrtle, and Black-throated Green being especially abundant (Flanigan).

Another warm front started to move up the Mississippi valley on May 7, but reached only as far as the Ohio River where it was blocked by a broad cold front that had moved down from Canada. Nevertheless migrants continued to arrive in the region. From the 5th through 10th, in addition to the warblers, a sizable influx of Catbirds, Veeries, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-throated Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and of Chipping, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows occurred. On the 10th, again at Waite Hill, a "big migration wave" was noted late in the afternoon when Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Black throated Green, and Palm Warblers were numerous and White-crowned Sparrows were especially so (Sherwin).

The second and major migratory movement occurred from May 15 through 21, as the bulk of the passerine species -- from Empidonax flycatchers to White-throated Sparrows -- appeared in the greatest numbers. This was also the peak period for the Chimney Swift. During these seven days, with the exception of the 17th, the wind was from the south or southwest. Comments from seven contributors, who made frequent or daily observations and who are located in various parts of the region, indicate that the 18th was the peak day for warblers. Other contributors offered other peak dates, however: the 15th at Mentor (Hammond), the 16th at Waite Hill where 21 species were recorded (Flanigan), and the 20th at Grafton (Morse).

Notable among the warblers was the scarcity of the Black and White in the last half of April, when just two birds were reported, and then the exceptional abundance of this bird over an unusually extended period in May, from the 5th to 22nd. The Orange-crowned, Parula, and Mourning Warblers were reported more often than usual. In contrast, the Cape May, which is normally a quite common migrant, was exceedingly scarce; out of a total of 15 occurrence records, 13 were of single birds and two of two birds. The Hooded Warbler, too, was reported much less frequently and in much smaller number than usual.

Among the transient or non-breeding species of warblers, very few were recorded after May 22, even such normally late migrants as the Blackpoll and Wilson's. The scarcity of these two in the last ten days of May and the absence of reports of a fair number of stragglers (including Swainson's Thrush) suggest that the surge of birds which flooded the region from the 15th through 21st contained not only the summer resident population but nearly all those headed further north as well. The pattern of occurrence of the Bay-breasted Warbler is the outstanding example of the seemingly abrupt conclusion of the migration. With the single exception of three birds on the 28th, all of the records of this species are confined to the period

from May 16 through 22.

There was a heavy concentration of American Goldfinch and sizable bands of Pine Siskins, too, along the Lake Erie shoreline or a few miles inland from about May 14 through 22. At Lakewood Park on the 14th, Goldfinch were migrating from west to east (Klamm). This movement apparently continued over the next seven days, with the birds sometimes gathering in great numbers when they stopped to feed. At Mentor on May 20 and 21, an estimated 300 or more Pine Siskins were feasting on the seeds of a luxuriant crop of dandelions in a small field (F. Fais and McKinley).

Hawks in Migration. With the wind out of the south quarter from April 18 through 20, conditions for hawk migration were favorable. At Perkins Beach on the 18th, between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m, these species were tallied moving from west to east: 12 Turkey Vultures, 16 Sharp-shinned, 4 Red-shouldered, 8 Broad-winged, and 4 Sparrow Hawks, and 1 Osprey (Starling). At the same place on the 20th, thirty Broad-winged Hawks were counted in passage (Starling). For a good hour on the morning of the 20th in Rocky River Reservation, groups of two to eight Broad-winged Hawks -- 35 in all -- were "coasting along easily until they neared Lake Erie when they turned east as usual" (Ackermann). Also on the 20th, fifteen Broad-winged Hawks were counted moving from west to east over Gorge Metropolitan Park in Cuyahoga Falls (Szabo).

Even with weather conditions unfavorable, Broad-winged Hawks moved throught the region later in April. On the morning of the 24th, with the sky overcast and rain impending, ten birds were observed "circling and drifting from west to east" over Rocky River Reservation (Klamm). On the 25th, which was sunny but with the wind out of the north, a dozen Broad-winged Hawks were recorded at 11:05 a.m. as they passed from southwest to northeast over Bath; and about an hour later six were seen "sitting in trees along the roads and feeding" in Virginia Kendall Park (Hjelmquist). No other migratory flights were reported until the exceptionally late date of May 18 when, between 4:00 and 4:45 p.m., bands of three to six Broad-winged Hawks -- 32 in all -- were moving from the west to the east or southeast near the north end of Rocky River valley (Stasko).

High Water Discourages Shorebirds. The high level of water on Lake Erie and on inland lakes discouraged, or prevented, shorebirds from stopping to rest and feed. The Semipalmated Plover and the "peep" sandpipers were especially affected. Just a single Least and a single Semipalmated Sandpiper were reported. In contrast, the Pectoral Sandpiper, which is much more a bird of the grasslands than of beaches and mud flats, was notably abundant. As early as March 27, a flock of 19 was feeding on a graveled road at Spencer Wildlife Area, and on April 10 a group of 40 was foraging in a field near Grafton (Morse). Twenty-nine were counted in a plowed field in Avon on April 17 (Klamm). Then at Firestone Conservation Reservoir in Akron more than 100 Pectoral Sandpipers were observed on the afternoon of April 20, but only about 20 were there the next morning (Laughlin).

Jays Move East along Lakeline. The annual eastward passage of Blue Jays along the shoreline of Lake Erie was first noted at Bratenahl on April 25 when the birds were moving "despite a north wind" (Raynes). Since no contributor made daily, or at least frequent, observations of this springtime phenomenon, we cannot judge its magnitude or duration. Some concept of the number of birds involved can be gained, however, from a report of 2,500 recorded at Perkins Beach between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on a day in the first week of May (Starling). Hundreds of Jays were following the lakeline on the morning of May 15, when they were seen from Huntington Beach in the western portion of the region to Headlands State Park near the eastern boundary. In between, at Lakewood Park in the fore part of the morning, the Jays were flying "at a low elevation, just over and under the treetops", while later in the morning at Perkins Beach the birds were moving at a higher level and in smaller numbers (Klamm). Also on the 15th, at Mentor, a scant two miles inland, bands of up to 18 birds passed on a direct northeast course during much of the day (Hammond).

Final observation of Jays moving east was made at Perkins Beach on May 20, when 595 were tallied between 8:25 and 11:00 a.m. Of this total, almost 50% were recorded in the first half hour (Newman).

Although the lakeline passage of Jays has been observed for many years, all of the published reports involve flights occurring in the morning or early afternoon. Of singular importance, then, is an observation made to the west of the Cleveland region near Crane Creek Beach Park in Ottawa County. There on May 2, about one mile south of Lake Erie and paralleling Route 2, thousands of Jays were streaming east at 6:00 p.m. They were at a height of some 50 feet and, like the typical morning migrants, were completely silent (Stokes)

Red-breasted Nuthatch Abundant. A number of contributors in various parts of the region commented on the exceptional abundance of the Red-breasted Nuthatch. This judgment was supported by the tabulation of all of the records submitted for this species, which indicates it was present in large numbers throughout the region from May 7 through 21. Single birds were even observed in the last few days of May at several localities.

Many Mockingbirds Reported. Never in the past 50 years were as many Mockingbirds reported as were reported this spring. There were 16 records in all from ten localities, ranging from April 18 to May 29. Of these ten localities, all but two (Hudson and Aurora Sanctuary) are on or within a few miles of Lake Erie. Two birds were seen at Holden Arboretum on May 7 and 29 (Bole, Jr.); all the other records were of single individuals.

Evening Grosbeaks Reappear. During the final ten days of February 1966 just a single Evening Grosbeak was reported, and in March there were only five records, of which the largest flock consisted of four to 11 birds which appeared daily at a feeding station in Twin Lakes from the 2nd to the 17th (Foster Brooks fide Dexter). Between April 6 and May 8, however, there was a scattering of reports -- 14 in all -- involving both feeding station birds and birds in the wild. The

largest number observed in April was nine on the 15th in Hinckley Reservation (Hjelmquist) and in May, twelve on the 8th in North Chagrin Reservation. The final record was of a male in flight at Perkins Beach on May 23 (Starling).

Effects of Unseasonable Cold in May. As a consequence of the unseasonably cold weather in the first half of May, the development of foliage on shrubs and particularly on trees was delayed, and the insect population was much reduced. These conditions had a marked effect upon many of the insectivorous birds. At Holden Arboretum a number of Purple Martins died during the severe cold on May 9-10 (Martin), and dead Martins were found in two localities in Willoughby on the 11th (Skaggs). Some occupied Martin houses located near the Lake Erie shoreline were abandoned in early May but were reoccupied sometime after the 15th (Klamm).

As for changes in feeding habits attributable to the cold or to the scanty leaf development, a contributor wrote that on May 9, "Empidonax flycatchers were hunting insects close to the ground" and sometimes alighted on the ground (Gaede). Typical of many comments about the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a report of ten birds on the 6th "feeding on the ground and alighting on the lower branches" in a woodland in Mentor (M. Fais). One such Grosbeak was even seen "feeding on a black-topped road" (Ulrich). On May 13 in a covert at Waite Hill, five Cerulean Warblers "were traveling together closely and never rose more than two feet above the ground. This was also true of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers" (Flanigan). Other birds seen feeding unusually low or actually foraging in the leaves on the ground were the Golden-winged, Magnolia, Yellow, and Canada Warblers and the American Redstart. At Waite Hill on the 14th and 15th, a Yellow Warbler ate suet at a feeder, which was also visited by Baltimore Orioles (Flanigan).

One contributor remarked that "many an Empidonax flycatcher was passed up because of its silence" (Stasko); and a pair of contributors stated that on May 10, with the temperature ranging from 30 to 48 degrees, they recorded ten species of warblers but "only the Nashville sang" (Newhous). Other contributors, too, noted the uncommon silence of both migrants and of breeding birds.

New Extreme Dates of Occurrence.

New Earliest Spring Date

Northern Waterthrush (1) - April 3, Rocky River (Stasko)
Savannah Sparrow (1) - March 7, Willoughby Hills (Skaggs)
Field Sparrow (1) - March 2, Waite Hill (Flanigan)

New Latest Spring Date

Rough-legged Hawk (1) - May 29, Pepper Pike Village (Raynes)
Rusty Blackbird - two, May 15, Mentor (Hammond); one, May
15, Lower Shaker Lake (Schlesinger)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - (1) One was observed on Summit Lake in Akron on March 9 (Hjelmquist). (2) Three birds -- one in winter plumage, one in almost full breeding plumage, and one just beginning to acquire the summer plumage -- were at LaDue Reservoir on April 7 (English), and one was there on April 10 (Hjelmquist).

Common Egret - On the very early date of April 9, five birds, which is a large number at any time, were seen in a lagoon along Mentor Headlands where they remained for the next two days (Mrs. Stiles Smith fide Booth).

European Widgeon - (1) Two males were identified on March 6 as they swam about in a flooded area adjoining the Cuyahoga River near Welshfield (Selby). (2) Two were seen on Corning Lake in Holden Arboretum on April 6 (Bole, Jr.).

Oldsquaw - A pair on Lake Lucerne on April 5 was the only spring record (English). There was also just one record in the past winter.

Surf Scoter - Not reported at all in the winter quarter, this species was represented by just one spring record of a bird along the Cleveland lakefront on April 2 (KLamm).

Black Vulture - Shortly after 11:00 a.m. on May 30, a single bird appeared low over open country on the outskirts of Hudson where it joined two Turkey Vultures which were riding a thermal, though it remained below them. Eventually the Turkey Vultures moved off to the north while the Black Vulture departed to the south, alternately flapping and sailing (N. Henderson and Raynes). This is the first record in the history of the Cleveland region.

Bald Eagle - Four birds were reported: an immature over Mentor Marsh on April 10 (Raynes); an immature headed northeast over Painesville on April 17 (Booth); an immature in flight at Aurora Sanctuary on May 1 (Henderson); a near-adult, "with a suggestion of dark at the end of the tail," which stooped once as it passed over Aurora Sanctuary on May 15 (Henderson).

Peregrine Falcon - At about 9:00 a.m. on April 21 at a residence in Bratenahl on the high bluff overlooking Lake Erie, an immature bird came in from the lake and struck a Starling which was perched in a bush about two feet off the ground. The force of the blow knocked the Starling to the ground and presumably killed it. The falcon immediately "looped over," came back, and while still in flight picked up the bird and carried it to a small tree. There the falcon "reduced the Starling to feathers in just a few moments." It then flew back out over the lake, shifted its course, and disappeared to the east (Stokes).

Sandhill Crane - Late in the afternoon of March 20, this bird appeared out of the north over Goodyear Heights Metropolitan Park in east Akron and proceeded south at an estimated altitude of 1,500 feet until it was

lost to view (Szabo). This is the earliest occurrence date in this century.

Black-bellied Plover - One was feeding along the edge of the river in Rocky River Reservation on April 24 (Ackermann); and one was foraging at Cuyahoga County Airport on May 20 (Kitson).

Baird's Sandpiper - This exceedingly rare spring migrant was first sighted along the edge of a pond in Firestone Metropolitan Park on May 18, and then was flushed and followed to a nearby stream where it was studied carefully again "from all angles" (Ulrich).

Stilt Sandpiper - One stopped briefly at White City on May 24 (Carrothers), which is the first spring record since May 1957.

Franklin's Gull - An adult "in full breeding plumage fished alone" for a short while on April 3 at White City and then departed (Klamm). This is just the second April record for the region.

Long-eared Owl - (1) At noon on March 17, one bird was found in the Donald Gray Gardens on the Cleveland lakefront, and it was still there just before dusk, when it was perched on a branch close to the trunk of a large evergreen tree; but it was not there the next day (Streeter). (2) On 12 dates from April 10 to May 30, one to four birds appeared in the chicken yards at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills Village, in which locality this owl is seemingly resident for much of the year (Bole, Jr.).

Saw-whet Owl - One was reported from Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills Village, on May 16 (Bole, Jr.). This is the only May record in the last 15 years.

Bohemian Waxwing - A single individual was discovered on March 27, among a flock of about 30 Cedar Waxwings feeding on the fruit of a multiflora rose hedge along a road in Waite Hill (Starling).

Loggerhead Shrike - Three records of occurrence demonstrate how rare this species has become in the region: on April 2 at Burke Lakefront Airport where the bird was "working for insects" (Klamm); on April 17 when one stopped briefly at Lakewood Park (Klamm); and also on April 17, one at Holden Arboretum (Bole, Jr.)

Worm-eating Warbler - (1) On May 20 in Firestone Metropolitan Park, three birds "in company with Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers, were feeding and singing 15 to 20 feet up in a grove of mixed hardwood trees in a low area near the river" where they stayed for some 20 minutes (Ulrich). (2) During the Sunday Morning Bird Walk at Aurora Sanctuary on May 22, one bird was recorded (fide N. Henderson).

Brewster's Warbler - At Spencer Wildlife Area on April 30, this hybrid "was watched for perhaps 30 seconds as it moved rapidly through the treetops singing the Blue-wing song" (Morse).

Lawrence's Warbler - In a scrub-grown tract of land in Warrensville Heights on May 17, a solitary, silent individual was identified as it flitted about in the crown of a low tree (Surman, Jr.).

Prairie Warbler - (1) Two males, separate but fairly near to each other, sang occasionally as they moved about in the trees and shrubbery at Lower Shaker Lake on the morning of May 10 (Knight). (2) At Aurora Sanctuary two singing males were observed on May 22 (Henderson).

Kentucky Warbler - A male -- "not singing" -- was reported in Bath on May 16 (Hjelmquist).

Western Meadowlark - At the grass farm in Avon where this species occurred in the spring and early summer of 1965, one bird was singing on March 19 and 20, two on May 8, and one on May 22 (Klamm).

Yellow-headed Blackbird - A male was among a flight of a thousand or more Brown-headed Cowbirds and hundreds of Red-winged Blackbirds streaming east along the lakeline at Lakewood Park on the morning of May 14 (Klamm).

Summer Tanager - In Rocky River Reservation on April 23, a male was observed "feeding much in the style of a flycatcher, sallying forth and returning to its perch at a height of 50 to 60 feet" (Stasko). It was there again the next day (Siebert). This is the first April report of occurrence in the history of the region.

Pine Grosbeak - The two localities in which this species was observed in January and February 1966 were also the only localities where it was seen this spring: in Lakewood Park Cemetery one immature on March 12 (Klamm); at Holden Arboretum a flock of 12 or 13 on March 5, 6, and 13 (Hammond), and two males on April 10 (Starling).

European Goldfinch - Throughout the afternoon of April 19, at a residence in Pepper Pike Village, one bird -- in the company of some 30 American Goldfinch and a dozen Purple Finch -- visited one or another of several feeding trays where it ate sunflower seeds exclusively. It was "in sleek condition" and was "very much at home with the finches and the outdoor feeders" (Parker, E. Surman et al). This is the first record in the history of the region.

Le Conte's Sparrow - At Spencer Wildlife Area on April 30, "a single bird was studied for ten minutes at ranges down to three feet" as it moved about in a small patch of meadowgrass. "It flew very reluctantly and then only for a few feet, and it preferred to burrow through the matted grass" (Morse).

* * *

FIELD NOTES

Courting Behavior of Lesser Scaup Pair. On March 3, along the lakefront at Cleveland, I observed the courtship behavior of a pair of Lesser Scaup involving the use of a physical object, or offering, consisting of a small fish. The pair swam back and forth before each other in an erratic and irregular manner, with alternate movements toward and away from each other. From time to time each bird made a very shallow dive, which was obviously not intended for food-seeking but was a part of the courtship. The male made these dives more frequently; and in general he was the more aggressive.

The significant feature of this courtship, however, was the exchange of a small fish between the two birds. This exchange was a regular part of the courtship; and in fact the courtship display seemed to be built around the transfer of the fish (a shiner about four or five inches long). Thus for a period of about 20 minutes whenever one bird approached the other, it was largely to accomplish the exchange.

On a few occasions the fish fell into the water as it was being transferred, whereupon the donor duck, which always seemed to me to be responsible for the failure, would quickly and energetically retrieve it. In most instances the fish was grasped about the stomach and held slightly aloft. The birds did not appear to throw their heads back and swim erect while holding it. After about 20 minutes the pair swam off, and one bird -- I do not know which -- swallowed the fish. - BERTRAM C. RAYNES.

Nesting Goose Attacks Osprey. At the pond on our farm in Waite Hill on April 26, I watched an Osprey dive into the water and bring up a large carp. Instantly, however, a male Canada Goose which was guarding a nest on a nearby island attacked and almost struck the Osprey, causing it to drop the carp and to depart promptly from the vicinity of the pond. - MARGARET H. SHERWIN

Cedar Waxwings Roost at Night. Eleven Cedar Waxwings went to roost at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on April 7, in two staghorn sumach bushes on the grounds of our home in Waite Hill. Although all the birds faced west, they did not congregate in one location but were scattered about in the bushes -- some perched in the crotch of a branch, some next to a seed head. I observed them at intervals until 7:09 p.m., after which they became blurred shapes difficult to discern. During this period of observation they maintained the same position and the same posture -- unmoving and with heads erect.

On the evening of April 24, a dozen Cedar Waxwings went to roost in a clump of staghorn sumach in the meadow. Again, once they had settled they did not move about or shift position. Finally, on April 26, at 6:30 p.m., EST, I saw 14 waxwings roost in a blackberry thicket. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Observer Identifies Western Race of White-crowned Sparrow. At our home in Waite Hill six White-crowned Sparrows were feeding on the ground beneath the front window on May 17, when I observed that one of them was different from the others because the white eye stripe extended to the base of the bill rather than stopping at the anterior end of the eye, as in the typical White-crowned. This distinguishing characteristic was easily noted as the birds were feeding in a small area only about eight feet distant. Many times throughout the next day I again studied this uniquely-marked sparrow while it fed with the others; and I believe without any doubt that it belonged to the western race Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN [For a discussion of the occurrence of this western race in the Cleveland region, see the article on page 24 of this issue. - Ed]

More Albino Birds from Northeastern Ohio. Every spring brings a new crop of albino and albinistic birds to our attention. This year additional interesting examples have been found by various observers.

Miss M. Hortense Beardslee called my attention to an albinistic Robin in Ravenna. This bird, a male, had a white head and neck, and the body was splashed with white. It had remained in the neighborhood, presumably nesting there, and had been noted since the summer of 1965. An albinistic Robin was reported by the writer (Wilson Bulletin 69: 185-186. 1957) from the same general area. Possibly this recent albinistic bird was a descendant of the one previously reported.

A former student of mine, Donald E. Gray, notified me of a female Robin with pure white plumage, except for the light orange breast, in the square at Shalersville. This bird resembled one described earlier from Deerfield (ibid.). The Shalersville Robin built two nests. One was destroyed by children, and the other was apparently robbed of its eggs by a Blue Jay. This white Robin was not seen in the area after the last week of May.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bliss found at their residence in Kent on May 1, 1966, an albinistic Blue Jay. The normally black portions of the plumage were pure white. The bird was not seen again.

Mrs. Ray C. Bliss discovered a pure albino House Sparrow at her residence in Kent during the first week of April. It remained until May 3. One of my students, Patrick Maurer, found an albinistic House Sparrow near his home in Canton in the middle of March. The lower surface was all white; the upper surface was a cream color. Since it was often seen in company with a male House Sparrow, it is assumed that the albinistic bird was a female. Observations extended over ten weeks.

As noted earlier (Bull. Cleve. Aud. Soc. 4:7. 1958), Robins and House Sparrows are among those especially susceptible to albinism. - RALPH W. DEXTER, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

GAMBELII RACE OF THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW
IN THE CLEVELAND, OHIO AREA

by

Merit B. Skaggs

The White-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys) nests in the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones over a vast area extending from northwest Alaska eastward to Labrador and even to southern Greenland. While most of the breeding grounds are in Alaska and northern Canada, some White-crowns nest in the high Rocky Mountains south to New Mexico, where similar ecological conditions prevail. Also, some breed along the West coast south to California.

Five races or subspecies of the White-crowned Sparrow have been described. Briefly they are: Z. l. nuttalli (Nuttall's White-Crowned*) which is resident along the narrow coastal strip of central California and is non-migratory; Z. l. pugetensis (Puget Sound White-crowned), which breeds from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California; Z. l. oriantha (Mountain White-crowned) breeding in the high Rocky Mountains from the Canadian border to northern New Mexico; Z. l. gambelii (Gambel's White-crowned), which breeds from Alaska eastward across Canada to Hudson Bay; and Z. l. leucophrys (Eastern White-crowned), whose breeding range extends from about north central Manitoba and central northern Ontario east to northern Labrador and northern Newfoundland. In general, the nominate race leucophrys can be said to nest north of the 50th parallel and east of the 90th meridian. In the Hudson Bay area, ornithologists have estimated that about 90% of the White-crowns found on the east side are leucophrys and about 10% are gambelii; west of Hudson Bay the reverse is true. It is with these latter two forms that this paper is concerned.

The wintering range of the White-crowned Sparrow may be broadly stated to be the southern half of the United States, with the bulk of leucophrys wintering from West Virginia and the Ohio valley southward to Texas and the Gulf coast. Since oriantha and gambelii move south into southwestern United States and even into Mexico in winter, the combined breeding and wintering territories of the White-crowned Sparrow cover nearly all of the United States and Canada!

From the nesting territory west of Hudson Bay, gambelii would likely migrate to the winter range by means of a route over the Great Plains. Peterson¹ says it is "casual" east of the Mississippi River. Since Ohio is directly south of Hudson Bay, it should not be surprising that the multitude of White-crowned Sparrows migrating southward in October and northward in May through Ohio should include some gambelii.

Identification of a White-crowned Sparrow as belonging to the gambelii race rests mostly on a single marking: the white superciliary

* With the publication of the 5th Edition of the A. O. U. Check List, the practice of giving English names to subspecies was abandoned. For clarification, however, we are including the former English names of these subspecies.

(eyebrow) line that starts from the bill; in other races the white stripe starts at the eye. Conversely, leucophrys and the western forms have a narrow black line from the eye to the bill, whereas gambelii lacks the black line, having white lores instead. The difference is well illustrated in Peterson's A Field Guide to Western Birds and also by Allan Brooks in The Book of Birds published by the National Geographic Society.

Can gambelii be safely identified in the field? My opinion would be "NO", at least under ordinary conditions of distance and of light. This judgment is based partly on the fact that the White-crowned Sparrow does not usually allow a close approach and partly on the following experience. In December 1956, we had an immature White-crowned Sparrow coming in to feed with the other winter birds at our home in Willoughby. We often saw this bird at a distance of 15 feet, but it was only when I held the bird in my hand and banded it that I realized it was of the gambelii race. This bird still did not have the black and white head stripes of the adult when we last saw it on March 17, 1957.

Dr. Milton B. Trautman, of the Ohio Historical Society, advises me that there are only four specimens of Z. 1. gambelii in the state collection, as follows:

Fairfield County	-	October 13, 1928	-	Immature female
Lucas County	-	October 21, 1933	-	Immature male
Muskingum County	-	January 23, 1936	-	Immature male
Ottawa County	-	April 26, 1954	-	Adult female

Identification of the first three was confirmed by the late Dr. Harry C. Oberholser. Dr. Trautman collected the last one on South Bass Island. He noted the bill was a golden yellow, and he states that he observed adult spring males in a large breeding population in Alaska also had this characteristic, "with only a little darkening or none along the culmen." This would be in contrast to the darker horn-colored or pinkish bill of leucophrys.

It is interesting to note that the first record for gambelii in New York state was obtained by the famous bird artist Louis A. Fuertes at Ithaca on April 30, 1898². Of course, the standard way to establish a record in those days was by means of a shotgun.

Now that we have such fine bird portraits in full color and with the advent of bird banding, it is no longer necessary to kill a bird in order to identify it. Captured birds can be carefully examined in the hand and can also be photographed. While the acceptability of such records may be questioned by some, the value would certainly depend on the experience and integrity of the bander. The writer is confident that in the past 25 years he has banded and identified at least 11 White-crowned Sparrows that were of the race gambelii. Data are as follows:

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Age</u>
40-199976	South Euclid	Cuyahoga	5-10-1941	Adult
40-199984	" "	"	5-15-1941	"
40-192975	" "	"	5-20-1944	"
21-154685	Willoughby	Lake	10-10-1953	"
23-157151	"	"	10-29-1955	Immature
23-157186	"	"	5-13-1956	Adult
24-146879	"	"	12-26-1956	Immature
25-176230	"	"	5-10-1958	Adult
26-193425	"	"	5-10-1959	"
26-193453	"	"	5-11-1959	"
27-195917	"	"	10-21-1959	Immature

The first three records were published (1950)³. Identification of the immatures was undertaken only after consultation with Dr. Oberholser in 1955. Thus it is very probable that some were handled prior to that time but not recognized. In addition, several intermediates were noted. They had broken eye lines, and one had a line on one side of the head but not on the other side. Dr. Trautman is of the opinion that more intermediates than typical gambelii occur in Ohio.

The writer has banded a total of 881 White-crowned Sparrows, of which 11 were identified as gambelii. The percentage of gambelii is therefore 1.24. If this percentage holds, the probability of finding this race in Cleveland is one in eighty White-crowns. It will be interesting to see if bird banding, collecting, or accidentally killed birds will provide additional information on the occurrence of Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys in both Ohio and in the Cleveland area.

The writer is grateful to Ralph K. Bell of Clarksville, Pennsylvania, a bird bander especially interested in White-crowned Sparrows, and to Dr. Milton B. Trautman, Curator of Vertebrate Collections at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio, for helpful suggestions and information used in the preparation of this paper.

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Willoughby, Ohio
 May 9, 1966