



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 |
| 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)

- June - Unseasonably cold on the 1st, 2nd, 10th, 11th, and 15th through 19th; otherwise quite hot, notably in the final ten days when the average was 75.5°. Light rain was confined almost entirely to the first half, and the month's deficit was 1.60 inches. Sunshine hours totaled 85% of the possible.
- July - Hot the first 14 days, with an average of 76.4°; then more moderate temperatures to the end of the month. Rainfall totaled 3.89 inches, of which 3.02 inches occurred on just two days, the 24th and 27th.
- August - Temperatures were generally on the cool side, and the average of 68.8° was 1.1° below normal. Of a total of 3.48 inches of rain, 2.95 inches fell from the 10th to 22nd; none thereafter.

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

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Shorebirds: late northbound, early southbound. A late movement of northbound shorebirds was observed at Firestone Conservation Reservoir in Akron over a period of several days in June. On the evening of the 2nd, 62 Sanderlings were feeding there, and on the afternoon of the 3rd, some 50 Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed. At both morning and evening on the next two days, 22 Semipalmated Sandpipers were counted, and on the evening of the 6th the count was 14. But on the following day none was present (Laughlin).

The vanguard of the returning shorebirds appeared exceptionally early. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at a small pond on Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley on the record-breaking date of June 30 were the first southbound migrants reported (Raynes). Then at White City another new early date was established with the sighting of a Dowitcher on July 5 (Kitson). Two days later four Lesser Yellowlegs and five Least Sandpipers were seen at White City (Surman, Jr.). Then on July 9, two Solitary Sandpipers were recorded in Rocky River Reservation (Klamm). (See also the Noteworthy Records section for the dates of early-arriving Stilt and Western Sandpipers.)

Although a good variety of shorebirds occurred in July and August, notably at White City where 16 species were tallied (Surman, Jr.), no large flocks were reported. In part this scarcity is explainable by the high water level at White City, which offered little in the way of mud flats; but even more important is the total absence of reports from such inland bodies of water as Lake Rockwell, LaDue Reservoir, and others where sizable numbers are often found.

Nighthawks on the Move. From Pepper Pike Village on the evening of July 25, came the first report of a gathering of Common Nighthawks -- about 25 -- which were coursing low over an expanse of field (Tramer). In the western portion of the region the buildup of population was noticeable by August 15 over the Rocky River valley (Stasko). Not until August 28, however, were fairly large flights noted. On that date at Spencer Wildlife Area and over areas to the north, "Nighthawks were numerous, starting to feed and travel in a drifting manner generally eastward -- sometimes southeast, sometimes northeast. Earliest flights were noticed at about 5:00 p.m., with activity increasing rapidly after 7:00 p.m. Groups of birds at this time were coming out of the woods to sweep the air of insects and begin traveling" (Klamm). Also on the 28th between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., "roughly 300 birds in twos and threes and some larger groups" were counted along Route 20 between Elyria and Rocky River (Stasko), while to the south along Route 21 between Barberton and Brecksville "over 200 Nighthawks in small flocks of 20 to 40 birds" were seen (Skaggs).

A quite massive movement then occurred on August 29, when 1,500 or more were sighted over Lakewood. "The activity was insignificant before 7:35 p.m., after which moderate numbers took to the air, milled about feeding, and after 7:50 p.m. began to move in large numbers generally to the east. The flow was heavy until 8:20, then diminished, and by 8:45 some movement to the south as well as east occurred" (Klamm).

On the evening of the 29th, too, an impressive passage occurred over Pepper Pike Village and east to the Chagrin River valley (Raynes). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the following day an estimated 400 Nighthawks appeared over Lakewood (Stasko); and this was the final large flight reported anywhere in the region.

Martins Gather. In favored areas along the Cleveland lakefront good-sized bands of Purple Martins were assembled on August 14. On that date a few young birds about ready to fledge were still in nest houses at White City, Edgewater Drive, and Webb Road. As soon as these last birds were fledged, the flocks apparently departed in the ensuing week although inland, particularly in the vicinity of Spencer Wildlife Area, the species remained abundant (Klamm). At White City at 7:50 a.m. on August 21, upward of 1,000 Martins were congregated; then at 8:30 a. m. "they all left at once going west" (Carrothers.).

Breeding Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Two colonies of the rare Short-billed Marsh Wren were reported. At the one colony in a large grassy meadow at Warrensville Farms, "there appeared to be five breeding pairs, compared to three pairs in 1965. Only one pair was found this year on the same territory as last year. Four pairs were located 600 to 800 feet south of last year's territories, and the wrens were more widely scattered than in 1965. One to three fledglings were observed on several visits in June and July, but again no nests were found" (Knight).

A second and hitherto unknown colony of wrens was found in an extensive meadow along Route 615 in Lake County. Because of the size of the meadow and the limited time for observation, only a small portion was explored. But in the area surveyed an estimated 12 to 15 wrens were present in June and in early July (Starling).

Passerine. Migration Begins. Although a scattered few migrant warblers were reported at mid-August, the mass movement of passerine species apparently did not get underway until almost the last day of the month. At Waite Hill, where daily observations were made, "the first migration movement" was noted on the 29th, when two Swainson's Thrushes appeared together with a small number of Brown Thrashers, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and six species of warblers (Flanigan).

New Early Date. The following is a new earliest fall date:

Caspian Tern (1) - July 7, White City (Surman, Jr.)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - For about ten minutes on June 20 at Lorain, an immature was studied as it sat on the water 50 to 100 yards offshore and "seemed to be feeding on something on the surface." Boating activity in the area eventually caused the bird to depart to the west (Dolbear). This is the only June record in at least the past 30 years.

American Widgeon - Two males were reported from the Lower Shaker Lake on the exceptionally late date of June 5 (Knight).

Osprey - Early on the afternoon of June 11, a bird appeared over a farm in the north central portion of Geauga County, having come from the south. It flew rather slowly, soared a little, then turned west and flew off in the direction of Bass Lake (Ramisch).

Willet - Six birds in changing plumage were observed and photographed late on the afternoon of August 17 as they rested or sometimes fed on the exposed patch of sand and silt in the lagoon at White City; thrice they flew off to the east but returned (Surman, Jr.).

Knot - On August 18 at White City, three fall-plumaged birds had stopped to feed (Surman, Jr.). This is the first record of more than one bird in the past 15 years.

Stilt Sandpiper - One in almost full summer plumage and one in almost full autumn plumage appeared together at White City on the exceptionally early date of July 19 (Surman, Jr.).

Western Sandpiper - A notably long-billed individual in seeming full summer plumage was identified at White City on July 19, a quite early date (Surman, Jr.).

Franklin's Gull - Among the hundreds of gulls and terns gathered at White City, one bird of this species was sighted on August 21 (Klamm) and on the 23rd and 29th (Surman, Jr.).

Little Gull - An adult was recorded at White City on August 17 (Starling).

Foster's Tern - One at White City on August 29 (Surman, Jr.).

Caspian Tern - Eight birds -- in association with two Common Terns and ten Ring-billed Gulls -- were discovered on June 6 at Mogadore Reservoir (Staiger). This is the first June record for the region.

Short-eared Owl - Springing up from the roadside along Gates Mills Boulevard in Pepper Pike Village just at twilight on August 4, this bird flew parallel to a moving automobile for at least 500 feet before veering off and disappearing over the rooftops of nearby houses. (Tramer).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - In the hemlocks of the Great Gorge in Bedford Reservation, where this species is thought to nest, a male was observed on June 25 (Knight).

Brown Creeper - (1) In the same wet woodland near the Trailside Museum in Rocky River Reservation where two pair nested in the spring and early summer of 1964, one and sometimes two birds were recorded on six dates from June 11 to August 27. An immature was observed there on July 3. Search for the nest tree was unsuccessful (Stasko). (2) On July 24 in Stebbin's Gulch one bird was seen and another was heard calling nearby (Stasko). (See also the Nesting Observations section for accounts of breeding birds at Tern Lake and in Lorain County.)

Chestnut-sided Warbler - One was observed on July 19 in Carlisle Township, Lorain County, in the same area where one was reported several

times during the summer of 1964 (Morse).

Blackpoll Warbler - In the early afternoon of June 11, one was seen and heard for more than an hour as it leisurely fed high in a group of oaks in Elywood Park, Elyria (Morse).

Western Meadowlark - A single bird was seen on June 26 singing from a perch in a "preferred area", and a silent bird was observed" on the same perch on July 17 at the grass farm in Avon where this species was present in the spring of this year as well as in the spring and summer of 1965 (Klamm).

Blue Grosbeak - From August 27 through 31, an injured immature or female remained in the vicinity of a residence in Lorain overlooking Lake Erie. There was a bare spot on the bird's back about one-half inch in diameter, and the right wing drooped. It moved about on the ground quite well, however, "running through the grass something like a Cowbird", and feeding on sand flies and other insects (Dolbear). This is the first summer record since 1959.

White-throated Sparrow - An immature remained from June 20 through 24 at a residence in Lorain, where it sometimes fed on seeds on the ground beneath a feeding tray. On the 22nd and the 24th it occasionally sang the full song of the adult (Dolbear).

Addenda: (the following records were received too late for publication in the Spring 1966 issue)

Red-throated Loon - A single bird in winter plumage was identified on the water in the company of several Common Loons at Mogadore Reservoir on May 22 (Staiger). This is the latest date in the history of the region.

Harris' Sparrow - On May 7, 8, and 10, one bird visited the feeding station at a residence in Chesterland (Ruble).

NESTING OBSERVATIONS

Sora - On June 6 at a marsh in Burton I observed a Sora's nest containing nine eggs. It was located about six inches above the water in a small clump of cattails standing approximately ten feet into the marsh where the water was eight to ten inches deep. Incubation was still underway on June 11. On June 18 an adult and one young left the nest upon my approach. Four eggs were still in the nest. Since young rails are known to leave the nest in as little as two days after hatching, I presume that four other young had previously departed. Except for the remains of one egg shell, the nest was empty on June 23. On that date I had a glimpse of two young near the nest. - MURIEL SNELLER

Common Gallinule - For nearly 30 minutes on July 2, I observed a pair of Common Gallinules with six young in a small marsh near Burton. The young engaged in some food foraging but appeared to be still largely dependent upon the parents. When not in the water, the fledglings rested on tree roots or bent over cattails which protruded from the

water. Afterward I discovered in nearby cattails the well-concealed, typically broad pan-shaped nest made of cattails and placed just a few inches above the water. - GLENN KITSON

Common Snipe - In an allotment on Route 532 near Wyoga Lake in Summit County, a landfill for a proposed road created a marshy area with some cattails, sedges, and muck. It was there on June 12 that my husband and I watched a Common Snipe probing in the mud. We returned on June 24 and discovered four young Snipe of varying size, and on the 27th we saw two young, larger and quite speckled. When we next visited the area on July 10, the marsh was dry and no Snipe were evident. - JEAN A. STAIGER [This is the second breeding record in the history of the region. The earlier record, April-May 1963, was from a marsh only about five miles distant from this 1966 site. - Ed]

Cliff Swallow - At Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley on July 9, I watched four Cliff Swallows in the vicinity of one of the barns and at a mudhole on the edge of one of the ponds. Two of the birds were carrying mud to a newly-begun nest under the eaves of the barn. The other two, which appeared to be immatures, carried no mud but would cling to the eaves near the nest site though they took no part in the construction. The following is a chronology of my subsequent observations:

July 11 - nest appeared to be about two-thirds complete; the immature birds were not present.

July 15 - nest completed; two adults in vicinity.

July 22 - female incubating; male feeding her.

July 30 - no activity; no birds observed.

August 6 - adults feeding nestlings.

August 14 - adults very active in feeding the nestlings, of which there seemed to be at least two judging from the sounds coming from the nest.

- GLENN KITSON

Brown Creeper #1 - In a wet, wooded area of LaGrange Township, Lorain County, where I conducted a breeding bird census this year, a pair of Brown Creepers was seen and heard at the time the area was first surveyed in March. They were seen on later trips in April, and by May their actions indicated probable nesting. Observation of the birds on several occasions for periods of an hour or more narrowed the probable nesting location to a 100-foot diameter circle in a swamp containing predominately dead American elms standing in one-half to two feet of water. The swamp was surrounded by a wet, second-growth forest of red maple, white ash, silver maple, basswood, and cottonwood.

Usually only one bird of the pair was seen at a time. Singing was regular at intervals of perhaps five minutes throughout late April

and May. On several occasions one of the pair was heard and seen more than one-quarter mile from the probable nesting site. The nest was finally located on June 11, when both birds were seen carrying food under a loose piece of bark, measuring one inch by two and one-half inches, 25 feet up on a ten-inch diameter dead elm at the center of the suspected nesting area. The birds habitually entered one side and left from the other side of the opening between the bark and the trunk. Feeding activity was also observed on June 15 and 18, but the nest was empty on the next visit on June 28. The Creepers were heard and seen, however, when the area was last visited on July 17. - ROBERT J. MORSE

Brown Creeper #2 - Among the tall trees approximately 200 feet east of Fern Lake, I observed a pair of Brown Creepers for about ten minutes on June 11 as they fed four fledglings on the trunk of a 15-inch diameter maple tree. All the activity was at a height of 30 to 35 feet close to the main crotch where there appeared to be considerable buckled bark. Presumably this was the nesting site, though it was somewhat higher than usual. The fledglings moved freely around the trunk and occasionally one or more would fly to adjoining trees, returning soon to the crotch area. When last observed all four young were huddled close to the crotch. - GLENN KITSON

Loggerhead Shrike - In the fields adjoining the southern border of Cleveland-Hopkins Airport I discovered a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes feeding two fledglings on June 12. The adults and four fledglings were there on June 18, and two or three birds were present until July 3, when only one could be found. The Shrike family appeared to have left the area thereafter.

The Shrikes, whose nest I was unable to find, frequented a row of small dead elms overgrown with ivy. The adults were much more wary than the young and resorted to more distant vantage points at my approach. At a distance it was hard to distinguish between the adults and young because they were of equal size.

In their quest for food, the adults sometimes snatched insects from the air, but generally they would alight on the ground and come up with a beetle or caterpillar to feed the young. At no time did I see them catch or feed on mice or birds. One young Shrike, obviously inexperienced, tried to impale a caterpillar on a blunt twig. After several attempts the caterpillar hung draped over the twig, then fell to the ground; but the bird made no attempt to retrieve it. - MICHAEL STASKO [This is the only breeding record in the past 15 years. - Ed.]

Song Sparrow - Brown-headed Cowbird - The following is a chronology of my observations of the nesting of a Song Sparrow which was parasitized by a Brown-headed Cowbird. The nest was placed about three feet above ground in a taxus shrub on the lawn of an industrial building in Richmond Heights.

[Continued on next page]

<u>Date</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Comment</u>
June 9	4	-	
" 13	5	-	includes one Cowbird egg
" 22	4	1	nestling Cowbird
" 23	2	3	2 Song Sparrows, 1 Cowbird
" 24	2	3	1 nestling Song Sparrow nearly dead
" 27	1	1	moribund nestling of June 24 missing; second young Song Sparrow dead in nest; young Cowbird healthy and growing
" 29	1	1	dead bird of June 27 missing
" 30	0	1	Cowbird sole occupant - GLENN KITSON

FIELD NOTES

Mallard Escapes from Snapping Turtle. As I neared the pond behind our house in Waite Hill on August 30, I heard the loud call of a duck and could see about 50 ducks -- mostly Wood with a few Black and Mallards -- in a tight cluster. One female Mallard appeared to be stretched out in the water in a very odd position, and I could see there was a tugging on one side that pulled her slightly down. I thought the duck was either caught on an entangling log or was being held captive by a snapping turtle, of which there are at least two in the pond.

When I boldly approached, the Mallard began to beat her wings upon the water and thrash about. I could see then that a large turtle was rolling in the water behind her and that it had a tight grip on her left foot. The Mallard at times was half submerged and I felt she would be lost unless I could get her to exert herself. Consequently, I took a long branch which I extended toward her and agitated it enough to stir her to frantic action. She beat her wings furiously on the water, finally pulled free, and flew off squawking. Apparently she was unharmed. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Purple Martin Colony in Waite Hill. At our home in Waite Hill we have seven Purple Martin houses containing a total of 248 compartments. The first house, with 28 compartments, was erected in 1960, and the same size house was erected in each of the next three years. Even in the first year, Martins occupied some of the compartments. As the other houses were added, they, too, promptly had some tenants, gaining more in subsequent years.

Then in 1964 we put up an 80-compartment house, which has a center well and access from a ladder so that the house can be cleaned out from inside by removing the back covers. I made the mistake of having these

covers perforated in order to provide ventilation; not a single bird moved in. The next year I changed the back boards to solid masonite, and the Martins immediately started using the house. Finally, in 1965 two more 28-compartment houses were erected, and they had some occupants that year.

During early spring I keep the six 28-compartment houses covered with canvas to prevent House Sparrows and Starlings from getting too familiar with the surroundings, and the 80-compartment house has wooden shutters which I clamp on during that time. Also, early in the nesting season I have three or four sparrow traps scattered around the base of the Martin houses in order to break up pairs of sparrows that may have started nesting there. Starlings being a little more difficult to keep out, I spend some time each evening shooting them with a pellet gun whenever they perch on the house or appear to be nest building.

This year the first Martins -- one pair -- appeared on April 12. By May 1 we had approximately 30 pairs. Then during the abnormal cold spell of May 9-11, when below freezing temperatures were recorded, we lost a number of these birds and the others disappeared. Before their departure many of them stayed on the ground and seemed to be feeding in the grass, but whether on the grass itself or on insects I could not determine. Later, on May 16, I found six dead Martins on our premises, apparently victims of the cold.

About mid-May some of the Martins started to return. From then on they came in fairly large numbers until by the middle of June we had an estimated 180 to 185 pairs. Unfortunately, during the rest of the summer I was compelled to be away from home for a considerable time, so that I did not have an opportunity to ascertain the nesting success of the Martins. I was able to observe, however, that this year some 25 or 30 birds remained until nearly the end of August, whereas generally in other years they have all departed around the 15th of that month. -
WALTER M. HALLE

House Sparrows Dispossess Barn Swallows. On the morning of June 7 at our home in Waite Hill, I saw a pair of House Sparrows flying in and out the barn, and I noted that a pair of Barn Swallows whose completed nest was inside the barn were greatly excited. When I entered the barn, I heard the Sparrows chattering loudly and I saw the male perched on the edge of the Swallow's nest in the peak of the roof. He had thrown out the nest lining, which was lying on the floor. Although I tried to drive the Sparrows away, when I left they returned.

The Swallows flew away but came back each day for a week, entering the barn and apparently flying to a spot where they could view the nest though I did not see them occupy it. Meanwhile, the Sparrows, which we had repeatedly disturbed in an attempt to drive them out, abandoned the nest after several days; however, the Swallows made no noticeable effort to resume nesting in the barn. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

CORRECTION

On page 26 of the Spring 1966 issue the name "Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys" appearing in the final sentence of the second paragraph should read: Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Just published by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is a 576-page book, BIRDS IN OUR LIVES, which many bird students will wish to add to their libraries. This book was written "to give readers . . . an opportunity to achieve a greater appreciation and a deeper insight into the impact of birds on our civilization. It brings into focus the economic, esthetic, scientific, and recreational values of the 850-odd species that comprise the bird resources of North America and Hawaii." Among the 61 authors, all of whom are recognized authorities in their special fields, are Roger Tory Peterson, John Kieran, Ernest Swift, Roland C. Clement, John W. Aldrich, and Allan D. Cruickshank.

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES, which contains 80 wash drawings and 372 photographs, may be obtained by sending \$9.00, check or money order, to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.