



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)

- September - Hot the first 4 days; generally cool thereafter, with a below-normal average of 59° in the final 26 days. Showers occurred on the 3rd and 4th and on 6 of the last 11 days. Yet total rainfall of 1.66 inches was 1.24 inches below normal.
- October - On 21 days the average temperature ranged from 1° to as many as 13° below normal, and the month's average was a notably cool 50.3°. Rainfall totaling 1.18 inches was less than half of normal, and was confined almost entirely to the period from the 10th through 20th.
- November - Generally mild, with alternate quite cool and quite warm spells. Only on the 29th was the average temperature as low as 31°. Snow flurries occurred on the 3rd and 5th, and 7.5 inches fell in 24 hours on the 28-29th.

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

If new late dates of occurrence are a proper basis for judgment, then we would have to conclude that the period of migration this autumn was exceptionally protracted. For there were, in all, nine new latest occurrence dates, as well as several near-latest dates. Moreover, the movement of Common Nighthawks, which is described below, extended to mid-October, and one band of Tree Swallows lingered well into October.

Sustained Migration of Swans. Although the passage of Whistling Swans through the region often encompasses several weeks, with a few peak dates, the movement this autumn seemed to be more sustained. The first flight reported was a group of 11 headed north northeast over Waite Hill on the morning of October 29, while at 7:30 a.m. the next day an estimated 100 passed over flying south (Flanigan).

In November on the 2nd at 11:20 p.m., a large flight estimated at several hundred was heard moving south to southeast over Lyndhurst (Kitson). Then on the 6th at 9:25 a.m. a band of 30 was traveling east along the lakeline at White City (Kitson), and on the 11th a flock of 31 followed the same course past that site (Surman, Jr.). The peak of the migration was reached on the 12th when small flights were sighted at Mentor Park and at Waite Hill during the day, and an observer in Mentor heard "at least four great flocks go over in the night" (Fais). Just at sunrise on the 13th some 60 swans in bands of ten or more took flight south from Lake Rockwell, their calls mixing in a weird medley with the cries of 35 Common Loons assembled on the water (Szabo). Also on the 13th a band of nine -- two adults and seven immatures -- stopped to rest off Mentor Park beach and then moved on east (Hammond). At Waite Hill late in the afternoon of the 14th one flock was heard in passage (Flanigan). Finally, on the 19th at White City 73 swans were counted as they came in over the water from the north and continued on a southeasterly course (Carrothers).

No Reports of Migrating Canada Geese. In puzzling contrast to the many reports of Whistling Swans, not a single contributor reported seeing or hearing even a small flock of migrating Canada Geese. Fair numbers of geese were recorded at Holden Arboretum, LaDue Reservoir, and Lake Rockwell in October beginning about the 10th. A gathering of geese on the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill grew steadily from some 200 on September 22 to more than 1,000 by the third week of October, with about 1,000 still present on November 6 (Sherwin).

Nighthawk Migration Resumes in October. The impressive movement of Common Nighthawks which occurred on the evening of August 29, and the smaller movement on the preceding evening, apparently comprised the bulk of the birds which moved through the region. For during September the largest flight reported consisted of 35 birds flying high to the northeast over Bedford Reservation late in the afternoon of the 9th (Knight). Yet there was a considerable delayed movement in the first half of October. At late afternoon on the 2nd, 27 Nighthawks -- seemingly just having risen from the roof of a school building in Lakewood -- circled low and then drifted off to the south and southeast (Klamm). Over Cuyahoga Falls at 4:15 p.m. on the 8th, 12 birds were flying "on a

direct course southeast" (Hjelmquist). Eight were milling low over Upper Shaker Lake late in the afternoon of the 9th; four were flying due south over Bedford Reservation late in the afternoon of the 10th; and, finally, three headed south over Warrensville Farms late in the afternoon of the 16th (Knight).

Passerine Migrants Move With Cold Fronts. The following chronology of the occurrence of large numbers of passerine species is based chiefly upon reports from contributors who were able to make almost daily observations in their home neighborhood or elsewhere. Consequently, since in each instance the appearance of these birds was associated with the approach or the passage of a cold front, it seems evident that they were actually *in transit* and were not simply migrants that had assembled over a period of days, resting and feeding before resuming their southward flight.

September 6 (cool air mass enters late in afternoon of the 5th) - "The first noticeable warbler movement . . . Blackpoll and Redstart were most common, and ten species in all were seen" (Morse, near Grafton).

September 8 (northerly winds on the 7th) - "Good migration . . . with first Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Gray-checked Thrush, Veery; 18 Swainson's Thrush; 12 species of warblers, though not in great numbers" (Flanigan, at Waite Hill). "Good warbler populations were seen on the 7th and 8th" (Morse, near Grafton).

September 11 (cold front moves in) - "Another heavy flight of warblers, with Tennessee, Blackburnian, Yellowthroat, and Redstart most prominent" (Morse, near Grafton).

September 12 - "Good migration: 18 Catbirds; 3 Yellow-throated, 6 Red-eyed, 3 Philadelphia, 6 Warbling Vireos; 14 Tennessee, 15 Nashville Warblers; 6 Yellowthroats" (Flanigan, at Waite Hill). "Yellow-throated Vireos were abundant; from one to six were heard singing in each of four locations visited. Tennessee and Magnolia Warblers were most common" (Morse, near Grafton).

September 15 (cool air flow from Canada, northerly winds) - "Gray-cheeked, Swainson's Thrushes, warblers, sparrows heard going over in wide swath; about every two seconds at times" (Starling, between 9:30 p.m. and midnight, from his observation post on the roof of the 16-story Manger Hotel in downtown Cleveland).

September 27 (cold front enters; northerly winds) - "Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Brown Thrasher; many Ruby-crowned Kinglets; six species of warblers, notably Black-throated Green and Yellowthroat; abundance of White-throated Sparrows" (Newman, on the Mall in downtown Cleveland at 8:15 a.m. and at noon.)

October 2 (cool air flow from Canada on the 1st) - "Seven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Huge warbler and small bird migration; front lawn under apple trees filled with Myrtles and Palms . . ." (Sherwin, at Waite Hill). "Fourteen species of warblers were seen, with the Magnolia most numerous" (Morse, near Grafton).

October 20-21 (broad cold front approaches on the 21st) - "Many Golden-crowned Kinglets, host of White-throated Sparrows" (Newman, on the Mall in downtown Cleveland at 8:15 a.m. on the 20th). "Hermit Thrushes; Slate-colored Juncos; Fox, White-crowned, White-throated Sparrows moving through in good numbers" (Raynes, in Bratenahl on both dates).

New Occurrence Dates. The following are new earliest and latest dates of occurrence for the region:

New Earliest Date

Redhead (3) - October 10, Lake Rockwell (Hjelmquist)
Bufflehead (10) - October 10, Lake Rockwell (Hjelmquist)

New Latest Date

Barn Swallow (1) - October 9, LaDue Reservoir (Starling)
Northern Waterthrush (1) October 24, Bedford Reservation (Knight)
Yellowthroat (1) - November 26, Cuyahoga County Airport (Kitson)
Wilson's Warbler (1) - October 23, Abram's Lake (Stasko)
Savannah Sparrow (1) - November 20, Clifton Beach (E. Surman)

Yearly Total. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1, 1965 to November 30, 1966, 254 species were recorded, as compared with 258 in the preceding year. In addition, one unidentified jaeger, the hybrid Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, and the gambelii race of the White-crowned Sparrow were reported.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - One on November 28 at Lake Rockwell, where a great variety of waterfowl was congregated (Hjelmquist).

White-fronted Goose - An adult and an immature were among a flock of 20 Canada Geese which came in to LaDue Reservoir at midday on September 21 and foraged on the "island" (English). This is the first September record in the history of the region and is just the third reported occurrence in the past 16 years.

Snow Goose - A single bird was conspicuous in a large flock of Canada Geese observed at LaDue Reservoir on the afternoon of October 9 as the entire flock "rose from the water, milled around overhead, and then took off to the east" (Staiger). This is a new earliest occurrence.

Blue Goose - (1) At Lake Rockwell on October 10 and 12, one adult was found in the company of many hundreds of waterfowl, including Canada Geese (Hjelmquist). (2) On the morning of October 30 at Perkins Beach, an immature was photographed as it "walked around at the top of the bluff, nibbled some grass, and then lay down on the grass for a nap" (Klamm).

Harlequin Duck - Riding the water close inshore at times, two birds were photographed on November 13 at Clifton Beach, where a good number

of diving ducks had, gathered (Klamm). This is the first November record for the region.

Surf Scoter - On the quite early date of October 20, an immature or female was sighted flying east past White City close to shore (Surman, Jr.)

Bald Eagle - (1) An immature circled a few times over Nimisila Reservoir on the afternoon of November 6 and then continued on a northerly course (Hjelmquist). (2) An adult and an immature were recorded at Lake Rockwell on November 28 (Hjelmquist). See the Field Notes section for an account of this pair.

Peregrine Falcon - Early in the afternoon of November 12 at White City, one came in at high altitude, then dropped to a height of perhaps 150 feet, circled once over the lagoon, and flew on west (Klamm). This is just the second autumn record since 1961.

Pigeon Hawk- On September 12 near Grafton a "brown-plumaged bird was studied for four or five minutes as it perched on a fence post. The bird twice flew from its perch and promptly returned; then it flew off, caught something in the field, and took it to a perch near the top of a dead elm where it proceeded to eat its catch, but the distance was too great to determine what was caught" (Morse). This is the only September record since 1947.

Yellow Rail - A dark-plumaged individual, possibly a bird of the year, was found alive inside the Mentor Mall shopping center on October 17. It was given to B. P. Bole, Jr. who turned it over to aviculturist S. David McKelvey. The bird, which fed readily on mealworms and which exhibited no signs of injury, was kept until October 22 when it was released at Holden Arboretum (The Editor, who was afforded an opportunity to see the bird just before its release).

Black-bellied Plover - With snow falling and the weather worsening, a tardy migrant was identified on November 29 at White City as it stood on a sandbar close to the breakwall (Surman, Jr.).

Knot - Two birds were among a company of Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and other shorebirds at LaDue Reservoir on October 9 (Staiger), and one was still there on October 12 (Szabo), which is a new latest date of occurrence,

Stilt Sandpiper - At LaDue Reservoir two were recorded on October 2 (Hammond) and two on the 9th (Starling).

Red Phalarope - One, in association with a Dunlin, was feeding in the water and among some rocks at White City on November 4 (Flanigan and Surman, Jr.).

Jaeger (sp.?) - On the afternoon of September 22 an unidentified jaeger -- 'slate gray all over' -- was found resting on a plowed field in Waite Hill. When one of the observers approached to within 15 feet, "the bird awkwardly took flight, but once airborne it flew with ease" and soon disappeared to the northeast in the direction of Lake Erie (Flanigan and Sherwin).

Franklin's Gull - At least two individuals occurred along the Cleveland lakefront: on the East Side the immature which was first recorded at White City on August 21 was last recorded there on October 28, having been observed on 18 intervening dates (Surman, Jr. et al); on the West Side an immature was identified at Lakewood Park on October 16 as it was "fishing and trying to rob a Horned Grebe, too" (Klamm), and one was seen at the mouth of Rocky River on September 24 and November 26 (Stasko).

Little Gull - One adult was at Gordon Park on September 11 (Starling), and one, probably the same bird, was feeding with a group of Bonaparte's Gulls at White City on September 29 (Surman, Jr.).

Snowy Owl - At about 7:30 a. m. on November 19 on East 172nd Street near the Lakeland Freeway in Cleveland, a dark-breasted bird was discovered atop a utility pole. During the following hour or more it once pursued a Rock Dove but was not seen to catch it. Later the owl flew to the top of a house on an adjoining street, after which it was not seen again (Stark).

Short-eared Owl - One occurred on September 26 on the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill, where it soon settled in the concealing cover of the clover pasture (Sherwin).

Saw-whet Owl - A dead bird was found on November 24 at Lake Rockwell by Susan Davis, a student at Kent State University, who brought it to the University's biology department (Dexter).

Whip-poor-will - In the Donald Gray Gardens on the lakefront in downtown Cleveland at 8:45 a.m. on October 20, one bird was approached to within ten to 15 feet as it rested on the limb of a tree (Starling). This is a new latest occurrence date.

Tree Swallow - In October at LaDue Reservoir a conservatively-estimated dozen birds, with some 85 Chimney Swifts, were feeding over the water on the 2nd (Hammond); two were recorded on the 5th (Gaede); and an estimated 20, with perhaps two dozen Swifts, were there on the 9th (Starling). These dates are a month or more past the time this species normally occurs. In fact, there was just one other record, that of seven birds on September 4, also at LaDue Reservoir (Hammond).

Mockingbird - The four occurrences reported is the largest number for any autumn in the past 16 years: (1) at Bath, where much of their feeding was on rose hips, four were seen October 1-8, three on October 26, and two on the 27th (Hjelmquist); (2) one at Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley on October 2 (Kitson); (3) one at Mentor Park Beach on October 9 (Hammond); (4) one at a residence in Waite Hill from October 28 to November 29 (Flanigan).

Prothonotary Warbler - At the edge of a mixed hardwood forest in Hampton Hills Metropolitan Park, Summit County, a bird in full adult plumage was observed briefly on September 28 at the same time that a heavy movement of Magnolia and Myrtle Warblers was in progress (Szabo). This is a new latest occurrence date for this species, which has been reported

only twice before in September in this century.

Brewster's Warbler - On September 4 at a residence near Grafton, one "with white wing bars and pure white underparts perched briefly in the yard after being vigorously pursued by a Robin" (Morse). This is the first autumn record for this hybrid in the history of the region.

Baltimore Oriole - At about 8:00 a.m. on November 8 at a residence in Willoughby, an immature -- seemingly a male -- was discovered in a Scotch pine tree some 15 feet from the kitchen window. The bird, which appeared to be feeding on something it found at the base of the tufts of pine needles, flew away after about ten minutes and was not seen again (Skaggs). This is a new latest occurrence date.

Blue Grosbeak - The female or immature which first appeared on August 27 at a residence on the lake shore in Lorain remained until September 2 (Dolbear).

Evening Grosbeak - A single male was reported from Bath on November 17 (fide Dexter).

Harris' Sparrow - (1) An immature was found in a weed-grown, leaf-strewn area of Grovewood Park in northeast Cleveland on October 23 (Newman). (2) In Firestone Metropolitan Park an immature -- sometimes in song -- was observed daily from November 1 to 10, which is the first November record in the history of the region (Laughlin et al).

White-crowned Sparrow - Among a flock of this species which frequented the grounds of a residence in Waite Hill, one bird belonging to the gambelii race was identified, after the most careful study, on October 14, as it fed at an open tray feeder. It was seen often thereafter to the afternoon of October 17 (Flanigan).

Lapland Longspur - One was noted at White City on October 14. (Starling) and two there on October 15-16 (Klamm).

FIELD NOTES

Red-shouldered Hawk Harasses Barred Owl. The loud screaming of a Red-shouldered Hawk on the morning of September 19 attracted me to a wooded area near our home in Waite Hill, where I found the hawk perched on the limb of a tree directly above a Barred Owl. As it scolded the owl, the hawk lowered its head in a menacing manner; and sometimes it flew at the owl, nearly but not quite touching it. The owl was seemingly indifferent, only turning its head occasionally to look at the hawk. After observing the two birds for 35 minutes at close range -- sometimes directly beneath them -- I departed.

Again, on the afternoon of October 6, the scolding of a Red-shouldered Hawk drew me to the same location where the Barred Owl was sitting in a tree in bright sunlight. Three Blue Jays soon appeared, and one or another twice struck the owl on the head from behind, though it was more a brushing or ruffling of the feathers than a blow against the skull. After ten minutes the owl flew down to the ground. Judging from the

sounds which followed, it may have taken a chipmunk. Then the owl flew off into the woods. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Bald Eagles at Lake Rockwell. When Gale Wiley and I visited Lake Rockwell on November 28, we discovered an adult and a young Bald Eagle perched about three feet apart on separate branches in the top of a tree. While we were watching them, a Marsh Hawk dived at the young one and then flew away. After a short time we noticed that both eagles were looking skyward. Soon a Red-tailed Hawk swooped down at the young one, which promptly uttered a shrill scream. The hawk made three more passes at it within 20 minutes.

After driving to a telephone to inform others of our find, we returned to watch the eagles, which were still in the tree. The young bird was becoming restless, and after much stretching of its wings it flew over to the adult. Then using almost a dancing step, it would come sidling down the branch to the adult and, after a brief head-bobbing, would dance back up. After this performance was repeated three or four times, the adult flew out across the water with the young bird following. In a very short time the adult caught a fish and flew with it to a tree. The young one followed but as soon as it came down beside the adult, the latter flew off to another tree. When the adult finished eating the fish, it flew back to perch close by the young eagle. - MADELIN HJELMQUIST

Wilson's Warbler Caught in Burdock. While James Coristine and I were on a field trip at Abram's Lake on October 23, a small warbler caught our attention. It was feeding on top of weeds close to the ground in a field overgrown with goldenrod and many blackberry thickets. The bird suddenly darted into a clump of burdock where one wing was caught in an open position and was held firmly by the multitude of hooked spines on the seed heads. We watched for a short while as the warbler, which we had identified as a male Wilson's, tried in vain to free itself by fluttering its other wing. I then carefully approached the bird and freed it. After we had examined and released the warbler, it flew off, none the worse for its ordeal. - MICHAEL STASKO

Grackle Kills House Sparrows. At our home in Mentor on July 18, 1966, I observed an adult Common Grackle, apparently a male, pecking at a dead female House Sparrow lying on the ground. The grackle held the sparrow with its foot and continued to peck at the head, pulling out feathers and dropping them. After a few moments it drew the sparrow out of sight under a multiflora rose hedge. An examination of the site shortly after revealed fresh blood but no other sign of the sparrow except the scattered feathers. The sparrow was apparently killed on the spot.

We had been finding dead House Sparrows in the yard almost daily during the first half of the summer. Every one had head injuries, and many had the entire back of the head ripped open or the head missing. At first we blamed the cats, but the freshly-killed victims began to appear during the day when the cats were confined. The pattern of injuries of many of the sparrows indicated that the killer was eating the brains. Shortly after the incident of July 18, the sparrow killing stopped. This fact caused me to suspect that the killing might have

been done by a single grackle but of the band of a dozen or more which regularly came to our feeding stations. - WAYNE A. HAMMOND

Variety of Observations on Bird Behavior. [The following observations were made on a wooded residential property on County Line Road in West Geauga containing a pond about 50 feet in diameter. - Ed.]

Green Heron - Many times I have watched a Green Heron searching for frogs at the outer edge of the pond. Sometimes the heron would stand motionless for several minutes, sometimes it walked swiftly -- almost running -- but usually it would move slowly. As it approached a frog floating on the surface, it would take a step with such slow motion that ten or 15 seconds would be consumed in making a single movement. Invariably the frog would swim away before the heron got within striking distance. However, when the frogs hid at the bottom of the shallow edge of the pond, they were vulnerable. Time and again I saw the heron probe beneath the surface with its long bill and come up with a frog which it swallowed in a matter of seconds.

Pileated Woodpecker - A female Pileated Woodpecker came regularly and frequently to our feeder for five years. Sometimes she appeared as often as three times in a single day. On one occasion she was eating bits of suet at the foot of a silver maple tree when a red squirrel descended the tree and made a threatening gesture toward her. She stood her ground and menaced the squirrel with her bill, whereupon the latter retreated up the tree and did not return.

One day as I watched her feed at the base of the same silver maple, she suddenly took off and flew on about a 45-degree angle into the picture window from which I was observing her. She was jolted so severely that she remained beneath the window for almost an hour until she recovered sufficiently to fly away. The next day she almost repeated this episode. I saw her fly from about the same spot toward the same window. I waved my arms frantically at her as she approached, and at the last moment she veered off sharply. I hurried outside to see whether she had hit the brick outer wall of the house, but she had managed to avoid a collision and was nowhere in sight.

Thrushes - While a considerable variety of birds have struck our picture window during the past seven years, ranging from a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and an Indigo Bunting to a Belted Kingfisher and Pileated Woodpecker, a high percentage have been thrushes. The explanation might be that (1) the thrushes fly swiftly rather close to the ground and perhaps often 100 yards at a time and (2) we live in a wooded area where thrushes are numerous. Curiously, although we usually have several Rufous-sided Towhees around in summer, and even though they keep close to the ground, I have never seen a Towhee strike the picture window. Incidentally, a large majority of the birds which hit the window recover and fly away. - WALTER P. KREMM

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CORRECTION

On page 33 of the Summer 1966 issue in the account of the #1 nesting of the Brown Creeper, the measurement of the loose piece of bark under which the nest was located should read: one foot by two and one-half feet; not "inches".