



CLEVELAND REGION

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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

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



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

March - Moderately cold through 9th, with light snow on 4th through 8th. Mild 10th through 14th. Cold through 24th, with 3.3 inches of snow on 15-16th. Warm final 7 days, averaging 53°.

April - In first 17 days average temperature was 53°, and wind was from south quarter on 8 days. In final 13 days the average was 47°, and wind was from the south on 3 days. Light rain was well scattered through the month.

May - With an average daily maximum of 60.9°, average minimum of 43.6°, and overall average of 52.3° (5.7° below normal), this was the coldest May since 1917. Rainfall on 9 of the first 11 days totaled 3.49 inches, after which only minor shower activity occurred near the middle and end of the month.

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

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Reluctant, scowling, miserly are some of the adjectives to describe the spring season, which provided only a niggardly number of days favorable to migration. As a consequence of the bad weather which prevailed during most of the last half of the period, the movement of passerines was much retarded, and the passage of vireos, warblers, and fringillids was quite brief.

Regardless of the unfavorable weather, the season was not lacking in interesting and significant events some of which are described below.

March 9-11. Southwesterly winds shifting to southerly prevailed the first two days, and on the 9th five Canada Geese as well as a small band of Red-winged Blackbirds appeared at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation (Kitson). On the 10th at Lorain a continuous stream of blackbirds, "lasting for hours", passed from east to west, "flying partly over the lake and partly over the adjacent land." Red-winged Blackbirds predominated, though Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were numerous, too. Even on the 11th, which was foggy and with wind from the north, "they were still migrating in good numbers" (Dolbear).

March 24 - April 2. During this period the wind was from the south quarter except on the 24th, 28-29th, and the 1st, but these lapses in a favorable air flow only temporarily halted or slowed migration. Along the lakeline at Lorain on the 24th there was a good movement of Meadowlarks from west to east, "a few stopping **in** the trees to rest a bit" (Dolbear). A flock of Whistling Swans called loudly as they passed over Waite Hill at 4:30 **a.m.** on the 25th (Flanigan). On the 26th at Mentor Park Beach, where "the lake was still frozen for perhaps half a mile", blackbirds--estimated at 90% Red-winged, with some Starlings, Meadowlarks, and Grackles--were passing in two directions. "At 8:40 a.m. an estimated 300 per minute were flying southwest over the beach and 30 per minute northeast, both flights mixing at all levels from less than 50 feet to over 700 feet. There were no clearly defined flight paths as in former years. By 9:30 a.m. virtually all movement stopped" (Hammond). On the 27th, which was showery but mild, Yellow-shafted Flickers and blackbirds were moving along the lake at Bratenahl (B. Raynes), while at Waite Hill Golden-crowned Kinglets were first reported in the region, and singing Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows were migrating (Flanigan).

Hawk migration was under way on the morning of March 25, when 3 Red-tailed, 1 Red-shouldered, and 1 Sparrow Hawk were noted as they traveled east past Perkins Beach (Klamm) On the 26th, with the wind from due south and the thermometer reaching a high of 80⁰, the movement intensified. Between 9:00 a.m. and noon in Rocky River no more than half a mile south of the lakeline, 31 hawks were counted moving in an easterly direction. "Most were up moderately high, some flew just over the treetops." Among those identified were nine early-arriving Broad-winged -- four in one group, five in another -- and scattered singles comprising 2 Sharp-shinned, 1 Red-tailed, 11 Red-shouldered, and 2 Sparrow Hawks (Stasko). No other hawk movements were reported until March 30, when noontime observation at Perkins Beach produced 15 to 20

Turkey Vultures, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, several Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks, and one Osprey -- all moving west to east (B. Raynes). At the same site six Turkey Vultures were seen in transit on the 31st (Carrothers) and nine on April 2 (Klamm).

April 9. After three days of variable westerly and northerly winds, the prevailing wind was from the south and migration resumed, though in moderate numbers. At Lorain Yellow-shafted Flickers were moving west along the lake (Dolbear), and this species as well as Mourning Doves, Tree and Barn Swallows, and Meadowlarks were "trickling west" at Gordon Park and White City (Klamm). Small numbers of Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, and 13 Canada Geese passed by Mentor Park beach before 9:30 a.m.; two Marsh Hawks appeared separately headed northeast; and Mourning Doves and blackbirds were also moving northeast over the beach (Hammond).

April 23. Although the temperature was in the forties, the sky overcast, and the wind from west southwest, hawks -- notably Broad-winged -- were migrating in the morning. Between 10:00 a.m. and noon from the elevation at Stinchcomb Memorial in Rocky River Reservation, 303 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied. "Most of the birds came through very high and fast in groups of from six to as many as 84. Very few did any circling and that no doubt accounted for their speed" (Stasko). At Perkins Beach between 9:50 a.m. and noon, 71 Broad-winged Hawks, as well as four Turkey Vultures, were counted as they moved to the east, "most passing very high and inland" (Klamm).

April 30. Warm, sunny, with wind out of the south, all of which favored hawk migration. In Rocky River Reservation from 7:30 to 10:15 a.m., a pair of observers recorded 7 Red-tailed and 11 Broad-winged Hawks and 1 Osprey traveling north through the valley. Then at about 11:15 these observers counted 3 Sharp-shinned and 53 Broad-winged Hawks heading west to east across the valley only about one-half mile south of the Lake Erie shoreline. Between 11:35 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. they maintained a careful skywatch at Perkins Beach, logging the following eastbound migrants: 11 Turkey Vultures; 47 Sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's, 5 Red-tailed, 1 Red-shouldered, 78 Broad-winged, 1 Marsh Hawks; 3 Osprey. Finally, returning to the valley in Rocky River Reservation, they recorded 5 Turkey Vultures and 5 Broad-winged Hawks at mid-afternoon, and at 5:10 p.m. a band of 25 Broad-winged Hawks loosely drifting to the south as though seeking a place to roost for the night (Klamm).

Migration in May. Despite the miserable weather which characterized the month of May, passerines and other species did of course migrate through the region, though their passage was certainly retarded, generally of short duration, and was lacking in vigorous and sustained singing.

Some measure of the tardiness of migration is found in the following first dates of observation (unless otherwise indicated, only a single bird was reported on the date shown): two Common Nighthawk, May 19; Veery, April 30; Red-eyed Vireo, May 16; Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 11; Bay-breasted Warbler, May 15; four American Redstart; May 13, Scarlet Tanager, May 12. Moreover, in the case of such species as the Eastern

Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Cerulean and Magnolia Warblers, and Ovenbird, the main body of birds arrived from a week to ten days late.

A notable grounding of migrants occurred on May 11, which was dark, cold, and rainy. On that day a Lorain observer reported many thrushes and warblers, including a Yellow-breasted Chat, at her home overlooking Lake Erie (Dolbear); and an observer in Bratenahl reported a "big wave of Veery, Wood Thrush, warblers -- one or more Chats among them --, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (30 in one tree alone), and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows" (B. Raynes).

Eastward Movement of Jays. The first flights of Blue Jays to the east along the Lake Erie shoreline were observed on April 30 at Perkins Beach where, between 11:35 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., 261 birds were counted, though none were seen after 12:46 (Klamm). This movement continued in May, but intermittently depending upon wind and weather conditions. On May 13 more than 650 were observed in passage at Lakewood Park and Perkins Beach (Klamm). Between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. on the 18th some 300 jays passed over Headlands State Park. "They were low to moderately high, in groups of ten to 40 or so in loose formation, going steadily east along the beach" (Pallister). Even as late as May 25 the movement was still in progress, for on that morning small numbers -- from one to as many as 26 -- passed over the northern edge of Mentor Marsh, not more than 15 to 20 feet above the treetops. Others moved along the inner portion of the beach at adjoining Headlands State Park, sometimes stopping momentarily in the scattered groves of poplar trees. In all, 238 were counted -- none after 12:30 p.m. (Newman).

Only rarely has the springtime passage of Blue Jays been observed inland. Two such reports were received this spring. At Waite Hill five passed over at 3:00 p.m. on May 1, two at 10:30 a.m. on the 4th, and a group of four and of ten at noon on the 19th. All were headed north northeast at or slightly above treetop level and were utterly silent (Flanigan). On the afternoon of May 13 at Lower Shaker Lake a band of 14, followed soon after by a band of six, appeared traveling north not much above the treetops (Peskin).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - Flying low over the water, a single bird moved west past Perkins Beach on the afternoon of April 22 (Klamm).

Little Blue Heron - Two were observed on April 23, which is a notably early date: (1) at Strawberry Lane pond in North Chagrin Reservation an adult "flew in and perched in a tree beside a Common Egret. It then flew to the ground at the edge of the pond and began to walk around," which it was still doing when the observer left about five minutes later (Surman, Jr.); (2) at 7:00 a.m. and again at 10:00 a.m. an immature was wading about in a broad expanse of flooded land off Canal Road in Valley View, and at about 2:00 p.m. it was flushed from an adjacent cornfield (Smiley).

Cattle Egret - In late afternoon on April 16 in the Beaver Creek area near the western edge of Lorain, a single bird was studied for more

than an hour as it "fed in a pasture where a horse was grazing. It followed the horse, eating the insects stirred up by the animal's movement. At times it walked between the horse's feet. Once it came to the edge of the field where a pair of Mallards was feeding in a low-lying water area. Then it came through the wire fence, so close to our parked car we did not need binoculars to observe it. At all times it was feeding actively. It was nowhere in sight the next morning" (Lebold). This is the fifth record for the region since the first report in April 1962 (none were reported in 1965 or 1966), and it predates by two days the previous earliest date.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Extremely rare in spring and recorded only once before in April (April 26-29, 1953), there were two April records this year: on the 6th an adult which was observed for about 90 minutes as it sat in a tree in a wooded locale near the western limits of Lorain (Lebold); and on the 30th in a boggy impoundment in the Rocky River valley an adult which was perched about ten feet off the ground in the center of the bog but then became alarmed and flew to the top of a stand of pines where it remained for several hours (Stasko and Klamm).

Blue Goose - At Sherwin's Pond in Waite Hill a single bird was recorded on 13 dates from March 25 to April 28, and two were there April 14-19 (Peskin, Flanigan, Sherwin).

European Widgeon - (1) In the company of ten American Widgeon on March 25, a male was feeding at the open mouth of Rocky River where driftwood and debris was trapped along the edge of the ice (Stasko). (2) On Corning Lake in Holden Arboretum a male was observed -- sometimes with American Widgeon -- from May 20 to 27, which is the latest occurrence in the history of the region (Bole, Jr.).

Rough-legged Hawk - At Punderson Lake on the morning of April 16, four birds -- one in the light phase -- appeared out of the southwest and joined a migrating Red-tailed. and a Red-shouldered Hawk which were soaring in the high-ceilinged blue sky; but after about five minutes they moved off in the direction from which they had come (Ramisch).

Pigeon Hawk - A single bird in flight to the northeast was sighted at 8:50 a.m. on March 26 at Mentor Park beach, where a heavy migration of blackbirds was in progress (Hammond).

Piping Plover - From May 8 to 11 a solitary individual remained at White City, feeding much of the time on the sandy beach (Surman, Jr.)

Black-bellied Plover - One in breeding plumage and one in non-breeding plumage appeared together at White City on May 20 (Kitson); and one in breeding plumage was feeding with five Ruddy Turnstone along the beach at Headlands State Park on May 25 (Newman).

Dowitcher - At White City one was recorded on May 12 (Carrothers) and two on May 16, when they fed with a group of nine Dunlin (Surman, Jr.).

Sanderling - Rare in spring though common in fall, two were foraging along the beach at White City on May 10 (Surman, Jr.).

Snowy Owl - (1) One bird, presumably one of the two which occurred in February along the east side of the Cleveland lakefront, was seen on March 5 as it sat on the ice off Gordon Park (Klamm). (2) A "large, very white, slightly-flecked" bird sat for several hours or more atop the mast of a freighter at the Lorain Municipal Pier on March 4 (Lebold et al); and it was there again on March 6 (Ward). (3) In Lorain on the exceptionally late date of April 20, one (possibly the Municipal Pier bird?) was discovered on top the chimney of a house where it was watched for fully an hour in late afternoon during which it "seemed to be mostly sleeping, with its head drawn into the contour of its body" (Ward).

Long-eared Owl - From about 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on April 13, Blue Jays and other resident birds repeatedly harassed this owl which was well concealed in one of a group of Canada hemlocks near the edge of a deep wooded ravine in East Cleveland. At last the owl flew to the far side of the ravine and was not found again (Sneller). This report is from precisely the same locality where two birds were present during the winter and early spring of 1963.

Saw-whet Owl - (1) In Rocky River Reservation near the confluence of Abram's Creek and the river, one was heard momentarily shortly before 6:00 p.m. on March 12, as the sun was setting (Klamm). (2) In the same residential neighborhood in Lakewood where an immature was found in July 1964, an adult was observed in a spruce tree on April 3 (Stasko).

Mockingbird - (1) The bird which was first seen in Waite Hill on October 28, 1966 was recorded last on March 9 (Flanigan). (2) One appeared on April 14 at a residence in Lorain overlooking the lake (Dolbear). (3) One which was reported from Bratenahl on April 19 remained for "over one month" (B. Raynes). (4) At White City on May 4 one flew past in a westerly direction following the line of trees along the inner margin of the beach (Surman, Jr.).

Loggerhead Shrike - All reports were of transient birds which were not seen again: (1) one on April 2 in Rocky River Reservation where it made frequent sallies to the ground from a row of birch trees, though it was not apparent what, if anything, was captured (Stasko); (2) two together at Warrensville Farms on May 2 when they were watched for some two hours as they "followed each other about from one exposed perch to another in dead elm trees and made frequent short flights to the ground in search of insects (Knight); (3) a single bird which perched briefly on May 9 on wires along the railroad right-of-way bordering Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland (Knight).

White-eyed Vireo - Perhaps discouraged from singing by a chilling north wind, an utterly silent bird hopped about in some shrubbery at Lower Shaker Lake on April 27 (Sneller).

Prothonotary Warbler - (1) A contributor who traveled down the Cuyahoga River on a rubber raft in Portage and Geauga Counties on May 13 observed a male in a swamp forest bordering the river near Welshfield (Schlesinger). (2) A transient singing male occurred in Rocky River Reservation on May 14 (Klamm). (3) At Shipman Pond in Mentor Marsh on May 25 a pair was present, the male singing and the female carrying nest material to a

hole in a willow stub near the edge of the pond (Newman).

Worm-eating Warbler - (1) From April 17 to 19, which is the earliest this species has ever been reported, one remained in a grove of pines comprising about three acres in Waite Hill. It was in the company of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Black and White Warbler, and Myrtle Warblers all of which at times fed with it on or close to the ground. On the 18th it was heard singing "at least 40 times -- not constantly but at intervals" (Flanigan). (2) In Bedford Reservation on May 14 one was "closely observed for about ten minutes in a thicket where it sat quite still as it uttered its monotonous trill at frequent intervals, throwing its head back each time until the beak was perpendicular. Finally it flew to the ground and disappeared" (Knight).

Lawrence's Warbler - One was scrutinized for more than five minutes on May 1 in Waite Hill as it perched in a leafing maple tree and carefully preened its feathers (Flanigan). This is the third successive year this hybrid has been reported, whereas prior to 1965 there was just one record in the entire history of the region.

Black-throated Gray Warbler - At Lower Shaker Lake an immature male or a female was studied for a total of 90 minutes on April 25 and 26 -- sometimes only six feet distant -- while it flitted through the shrubbery or into a low tree along the lake shore. At no time was it heard singing (Snider and Sullivan). This is the first April record. The last previous record was of a bird at Holden Arboretum on May 20, 1956.

Prairie Warbler - A silent and poorly-marked but identifiable bird occurred at Lower Shaker Lake on May 3 (Snider and Sullivan).

Kentucky Warbler - (1) On the morning of May 6 a male struck the window of a residence in Willoughby Hills and fell to the ground but promptly recovered and flew away (Skaggs). (2) In association with several Canada Warblers, a singing male foraged about on or near the ground adjacent to a small stream at Lake Lucerne, Geauga County, on May 23 (English).

Western Meadowlark - At the grass farm in Avon where this species has been reported in the last two years, a singing male was identified on April 23 and May 14 (Klamm).

Orchard Oriole - Two adult males were at Spencer Wildlife Area on May 20 (Nagy), and one adult male, "in company with Baltimore Orioles," along the Chagrin River in Moreland Hills on the evening of May 26 (Raynes).

Dickcissel - The immature male which was a regular feeding station visitor at the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill beginning about mid-January was last recorded on March 9 (Sherwin). On May 19, however, at a nearby residence in Waite Hill, a fully adult male was discovered feeding on the ground at a pigeon feeder (Walter and Helen Halle fide Sherwin).

Red Crossbill On April 16 in Brecksville, two immatures bathed in a bird bath, then flew into a dogwood tree to shake off the water when a third immature joined them. Soon all three flew to an American elm and "began to work over the limbs of the tree" (Hostetler).

Lapland Longspur - On the very late date of April 2, a flock of 12 was found at Cuyahoga County Airport; Among them were "at least four males well into summer colors" (Kitson).

FIELD NOTES

Nesting Canada Geese. On Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation a pair of unbanded Canada Geese was beginning to build a nest on the island in front of the south observation tower on April 4. Presumably these were two of the five geese which arrived on the pond on March 9. By April 11 the female was on the nest, though its location on the island make it impossible to determine the number of eggs. On May 5, I observed the adults with five goslings swimming near the nest island. By May 31 the goslings were well developed and were commencing to flex their wings.

During the period April 4 to May 5, I did not observe other adult geese at the pond. On May 10, however, another adult pair came in. They inspected the nest island as though interested in building there because one goose repeatedly picked up and dropped sticks and pieces of nest material. This second pair was driven from the pond by the gander of the brood, and they flew away. To the best of my knowledge they did not return. - GLENN KITSON

Swifts Come and Go at Kent State University. Chimney Swifts (at least four) returned on schedule on April 17 to the campus of Kent State University. However, the weather very soon turned cold and they disappeared. Because of the cold, rainy weather during the spring, the swifts came back and left three additional times. Whether they go southward or find a warm chimney to wait out the cold, wet period, I am not sure, but I have observed these disappearances for many years. Each time the weather becomes unseasonable, the swifts leave, or at least many of them will, for a few days. - RALPH W. DEXTER Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

WATCH FOR COLOR-MARKED BONAPARTE'S GULLS

As a part of their investigation of the distribution and migratory behavior of the Bonaparte's Gull, Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein of Buffalo, New York, are cannon-net trapping this species and then are banding and color marking each bird before its release. A different color dye is used for each marking session. Leg streamers are also being used for easy sight identification.

If you see any unusually colored Bonaparte's Gulls, make careful note of the following details: date, location, color, number of marked birds, and number of unmarked Bonaparte's Gulls with the marked gulls. Please send this information to Joanna Burger, Department of Biology, State University College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York, 14222.