



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

Vol. 63, No. 3

June, July, August 1967

- 17 -

## Editor

Donald L. Newman

## Associate Editor

Bertram C. Raynes

## Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers  
Adela Gaede  
Muriel H. Sneller  
Ethel D. Surman

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Vera Carrothers	William & Nancy Klamm	Margaret H. Sherwin
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Wayne & Hilda Hammond	Marjorie Ramisch	Bert L. Szabo
Madelin Hjelmquist	Bertram C. Raynes	T. F. Ulrich

## SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- June - Generally hot and dry. From the 3rd through 24th temperatures averaged 74.5°, and on four days from the 11th to 16th, highs exceeded 90°. Scattered rainfall totaled 1.17 inches, 2.26 inches below normal.
- July - On 15 days, about equally divided between the first, middle, and last part of the month, average temperature was from 4° to 13° below normal. On seven days the average was 3° to 8° above normal. Light rain, chiefly from the 4th through 13th, totaled 1.90 inches, a deficiency of 1.41 inches.
- August - Cool, cloudy, dry. Average temperature was 68.8°. Rainfall, at about seven-day intervals, totaled 1.85 inches, 56% below normal. Sunshine hours amounted to just 51% of the possible.

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

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Shorebirds Appear Early. As early as July 8, a fair number and variety of shorebirds had arrived in the region. On that date two observers traveled by boat along the Cleveland lakefront, from the East 9th Street pier to about Euclid Park and return, noting these transients on the breakwall: five or more Ruddy Turnstone, one Lesser Yellowlegs, and five or more Semipalmated Sandpipers (Klamm). This July 8 date is a new earliest occurrence date for the Turnstone (the previous date was July 26, 1956), and it matches the earliest date for the Sandpiper. Other early arrivals -- all at White City -- included a Dunlin and two Western Sandpipers on July 20 (Kitson), one Baird's Sandpiper on July 29 (Surman, Jr.), and a Golden Plover on August 12 (Klamm).

Nighthawks Move On. The first massing of Common Nighthawks was reported on the evening of August 25 from Squire Valleevue Farm adjoining the Chagrin River valley, where an estimated 400 birds were feeding together with many Chimney Swifts, Tree and Barn Swallows, and Purple Martins (Raynes). Actual migration was not observed until the following day when late in the afternoon a loose flock of 18 appeared flying toward the southwest over Bedford (Knight).

A major migratory movement of Nighthawks occurred in the final three days of August, as a cold front accompanied by some light rain advanced through the region from the northwest. On the 29th inland over Lakewood, birds began gathering after 6:30 p.m. until an estimated 300-400 were milling about between 7:50 and 8:10 p.m., after which most of them departed to the east (Klamm and Stasko). That same day over the western portion of Cuyahoga Falls, there was a north-south passage at about 7:30 p.m. when 1,187 were counted, though there were "many more". As so often happens, a small reverse movement occurred 40 minutes later, with some 175 birds passing from southeast to northwest (Hjelmquist).

At Cuyahoga Falls on August 30, Nighthawks were already on the wing at noon, when 141 were tallied traveling from southeast to northwest, while at 12:15 p.m. 50 were recorded moving north to south. Then at 4:30, 14 were seen on a northeast-southwest course, and at 5:50, 443 were following that same course at treetop level (Hjelmquist). A few miles to the west of Cuyahoga Falls another observer, who was driving north on Riverview Road in the valley between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., saw hundreds of Nighthawks gathering from the north, northwest, and northeast until thousands were centered in an area about one mile long and one-half mile wide. Many flew low, diving close to the road in front of cars. At that time the weather was cool, the sky overcast, and rain was falling throughout the surrounding area, though only a few drops fell locally. Thus the birds may have been attempting to escape the bad weather (Szabo).

Finally, on August 31 an estimated 500 Nighthawks were congregated over west Akron, criss-crossing the sky in their pursuit of insects, sometimes at rooftop height. One group of about 35, however, was high in the sky, "flying a direct north-south route without feeding" (Ulrich).

Bank Swallows Migrate West Along Lake. On the morning of July 30, Bank Swallows, in groups of three to 50, were migrating west along Lake Erie a few hundred feet offshore and ten to 20 feet above the water. This movement was observed at Mentor Headlands (Raynes) and at White City.

At the latter place 655 were tallied between 6:20 and 10:20 a.m., though there were actually many more since observations were not continuous during that period. The movement ceased at about 10:30. Occasionally, chiefly before 9:30 a.m., Barn Swallows, too, in ones and twos, moved west low over the water and close inshore (Newman).

Easterly Passage of Jays Continues into June. At Lakewood Park on the morning of June 3, the eastward passage of Blue Jays was still in progress and more than 85 were seen flying along the lakeline (Klamm). This is the first report of this movement in June. For the entire spring of 1967, then, the migration of Jays spanned a period of at least five weeks (April 30 to June 3), which is typical of the total time span of this phenomenon although the inception of the movement is often observed about April 25.

Empidonaces and Warblers Migrating as August Ends. During the last three days of August, when Canadian-born cool weather prevailed, Empidonax flycatchers and warblers were on their way south. At Waite Hill, where daily observations were made, eight species of warblers were identified on the 29th and six species on the 31st, but on both dates only one or two of a kind. The Empidonaces were somewhat more numerous both at Waite Hill (Flanigan) and elsewhere.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Shoveler - At Abram's Lake on June 4, a pair was observed together, the male seemingly engaged in courtship behavior (Stasko).

Bald Eagle - Two "mature white-headed birds flying close together" -- one or both uttering cries -- passed quite low over the southern limits of Painesville headed southwest at 9:30 a.m. on June 4 (Booth).

Common Gallinule - (1) So young that they could easily be caught and held in the hand, eight chicks in close company were found on June 25 at Abram's Lake, where the two parents were calling from the concealment of dense vegetation nearby (Stasko). (2) A pair with six young was observed feeding in a marsh near Burton on July 10 (Sneller).

Piping Plover - In association with Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings, a single bird was identified on August 30 at Headlands State Park as it fed in a low, muddy area some 75 yards back from the beachline (Snider).

Common Snipe - An adult trailed in flight by a young bird was seen on June 17 in an open field in Avon, where one or two birds were often heard winnowing in May of this year (Stasko). This is the first evidence received indicating that this species breeds in the western portion of the region.

Dowitcher - Exactly 24, in changing plumage, were feeding on July 28 in the water at White City, somewhat apart from a large group of transient shorebirds gathered there, including 15 Pectoral and 28 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 18 Sanderling (Surman, Jr.).

Franklin's Gull - At White City one immature was recorded on August 11, 13, 16, and 28 (Carrothers et al) and two immatures on the 20th, 26th, and 27th (Klamm).

Forster's Tern - On August 5, a new earliest date of occurrence, one in fall plumage was "fishing alone" at White City (Klamm).

Caspian Tern - Three, "flying east and diving", were sighted at Lorain on June 1, which is a new latest spring date of occurrence (Dolbear).

Whip-poor-will - (1) In. Bedford Reservation, from which it has been reported in other summers, one was calling on June 3 (Knight). (2) One was heard on the evening of June 11, 12, and 15, in a brushy area south of Painesville (Storer).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - One was recorded in Rocky River Reservation on August 20 (Klamm) and one in Bedford Reservation on August 26 and 30 (Knight).

Cliff Swallow - Rarely occurring after the end of July, four were among a throng of Common Nighthawks, Ohimney Swifts, Tree and Barn Swallows, and Purple Martins feeding over Squire Valleevue Farm on the evening of August 25 (Raynes).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - In a grove of Canada hemlocks in the Great Gorge in Bedford Reservation where this species was found in the summer of 1966, one was seen on June 3 and two together on July 24 (Knight).

Brown Creeper - (1) On June 1 in Mentor Marsh a bird "in full song" was observed for a protracted time, but during some two hours there the next day it was neither seen nor heard (Carrothers, Flanigan, King). (2) On June 6 near the heronry in Munson Township, Geauga County, a singing bird was heard (Carrothers and Flanigan). (3) Also on June 6 in the same area as the heronry though apart from it, a singing bird was seen carrying food to a dead elm tree in the swamp forest; and at 7:30 a.m. the next day one bird, singing briefly, "disappeared with food under the bark about 30 feet up on the dead elm and came out without it." There was no sign of the Creeper on June 8 or 11 (Carrothers). (4) In North Chagrin Reservation on June 11, two were found in a wooded area containing some dead elms (Kitson). These four records provide additional evidence that this species is becoming a regular though uncommon summer resident, seemingly as the result of the ready availability of nesting sites under the bark of the many dead American elm trees in wet woodlands.

Short-billed Marsh Wren - (1) In a grassy field at Hinckley Reservation one was heard singing on June 4 (Nagy). (2) Five or more singing birds were found in an abandoned farm field in Avon on July 9, and three were heard there on July 16 and 23 (Klamm). (3) A single bird was heard on

August 5 in a field on Sherman Road in Geauga County just east of County Line Road, though none was observed there in either June or July (Carrothers).

Mockingbird - One was seen briefly in flight at Holden Arboretum on July 28 (Martin).

White-eyed Vireo - From the concealment of a dense thicket lying between a field and wooded ravine in Avon, one was singing vigorously on June 4, but it was not found there later in the month (Klamm).

Western Meadowlark - (1) At the grass farm in Avon where this species was present in 1965 and 1966 and in the spring of this year, one bird -- "possibly with young" -- was identified on June 4, and one again on June 11 and July 16 (Klamm). (2) At Warrensville Farms, which is also a previous place of occurrence, a singing bird was seen and heard on July 4, 5, 8, and 9, "often accompanied by an Eastern Meadowlark" (Knight).

#### NESTING OBSERVATIONS

Least Bittern (#1) - Nest located about two feet above the water in a marsh near Burton; consisted of a slightly hollowed platform of dead cattails.

June 26 - four white eggs.

July 6 - four eggs; one adult appears.

July 10 - two eggs; two young, which must have hatched in the morning a few hours before being observed as they are still wet. One egg is cracked on the large end. Adults not seen.

July 11 - one egg; three young; adult on nest.

July 17 - four fuzzy little birds in nest. At my approach one leaves and starts climbing around in the cattails.

MURIEL H. SNELLER

Least Bittern (#2) - Nest identical with nest #1 but located in the marsh on the opposite side of the pond.

June 26 - five white eggs. Bird flushes from nest, which leads to its discovery.

July 6 - five eggs.

July 10 - five light tan downy young. Female which had been sitting beside the nestlings does not depart until I am two feet away.

July 17 - nest empty. One fledgling, still fuzzy and about five inches tall, is walking through the cattails very near the nest. No attempt to search for the others.

- MURIEL H. SNELLER

American Widgeon - During the winter of 1965-66 a pair of American Widgeon remained on the pond in Wade Park in Cleveland. In May 1966 they departed. Four Widgeon appeared on the pond in the first week of September 1966, and they, together with a number of Mallards, stayed through the winter of 1966-67 and into the spring. Though most of the pond froze over, there was always open water at the inlet, and food was provided by residents of nearby Wade Park 'Manor.

Near the end of May 1967 the male Widgeon seemed to be guarding a small peninsula quite overgrown with shrubs. Then on May 31 there were eight little ducklings on the pond. There were still eight young on June 13, but on the 18th only seven. On the 19th the female and the seven young were up on the bank eating grass, where they were joined by the male and an extra female, which was lame and with which the drake often associated. By July 8 the young swam about more independently, and they stayed together at least through July 21, by which time it was difficult to distinguish them from the female. At mid-August just five Widgeon were still on the pond. - ADELA GAEDE [This is the first breeding record in the history of the region. - Ed.]

Red-tailed Hawk - Nest of sticks located about 50 feet up in the crotch of an American beech tree on the side of a ravine in North Chagrin Reservation.

February 4 - one or two fresh-looking hemlock sprigs adorn the nest. No adults present.

February 18 - one hawk calling within 100 yards of the nest.

April 14 - female on the nest; male in a nearby tree takes to the air screaming.

April 30 - female perched on the edge of the nest as if looking at young.

May 10 - one young bird peering out after female flies from edge of nest. Both parents circle over nest site, screaming excitedly, but fledgling continues to peer out.

May 15 - male in the air near the nest with a mouse or frog in his talons. Female close by but neither bird comes to the nest, which appears to have been built up more at the rim, possibly by as much as three inches. Young not visible.

May 28 - two well-developed nestlings are perched on the nest rim; both are flexing their wings. Adults in the air calling.

June 11 - both nestlings well into immature plumage. One perched on edge of nest, the other sits in the nest. Male flies in with a snake but is frightened away by my presence. Both adults then circle the area screaming.

June 23 - both young out of the nest. One on a nearby limb in the nest tree, the other in a tree close by. The two fly along the



ravine as I come within 75 feet of them. Their flight is vigorous, smooth, steady.

July 13 - one adult in vicinity of nest tree gives a warning scream as I approach; however, young are not evident.

- GLENN KITSON

Broad-winged Hawk - Nest located about 40 feet up in the main crotch of an ash tree standing on a quite steep hillside, about half way up from the valley floor, in Rocky River Reservation.

May 30 - bird carries small stick in its bill to the nest which appears nearly completed.

June 2 - incubating.

June 30 - two downy young in nest.

July 20 - young, now brown-backed with some streaking on the side, almost as large as the adults.

July 23 - one young in the nest, one out on limb of nest tree.

July 27 - nest empty; unable to find young.

July 30 - both young sitting in dead elm tree 50 feet from nest tree; soon they fly off into the woods.

It was early in May that I first noted that a Broad-winged Hawk was frequenting the particular woodland where I later found the nest. During the incubation period the sitting bird would not fly off when I approached, though it watched me intently. After the young appeared, however, both parents flew close to me and uttered the "p--wee-e-e-e-e" call. On two occasions I saw one of the parents fly in with food: once with a salamander, once with a garter snake. - MICHAEL STASKO

Virginia Rail - July 11 - bird flushes off nest containing nine eggs. Nest located two inches above the water in the interlacing branches of small willows in a marsh near Burton. No further visits made. - MURIEL H. SNELLER

Common Nighthawk - Nest site was the flat, graveled roof of an office building at Shaker Square, Cleveland.

May 30 - female first observed on the roof within inches of the spot where a nesting occurred in 1965; she begins selecting a nest site.

June 1 - she forms a clearing in the gravel.

June 7 - two eggs; incubation has begun.

June 22 - one egg hatches; she continues to incubate the other

for a few days but it fails to hatch (later it was collected and found to be infertile).

June 30 - young bird, which is about eight times its size at hatching, has moved some ten feet from the nest site.

July 10 - young one almost fledged and ready to fly.

Observations, which were made only between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., were a collaborative effort with Dr. Morse R. Newcomb, whose office overlooks the rooftop. Once incubation had begun, the female remained quite motionless and with her eyes closed. However, for several days prior to the hatching of the egg, she was restless and shifted her position quite often. After the egg hatched, she again settled down into what appeared to be a daytime sleep. - BILL SCHLESINGER

Horned Lark - Nest located on the lawn in the back yard of a residence in Chester Township, Geauga County, where the same or another pair of Larks fledged two young on June 2 from a nest on the front lawn. The surrounding area is of a rural character.

July 8 - two young, one egg.

July 9 - three young.

July 14 - nest empty; cat reported to have chased young out of nest.

July 16 - two young back in nest.

July 17 - nest empty; one young being fed nearby.

- VERA CARROTHERS

#### FIELD NOTE

Adult and Young Cardinal Roost Together. At 8:20 p. m. on July 14, I heard the insistent "tic" of a Cardinal in the hemlocks which stand on either side of the front door of our house in Waite Hill. When I looked out, I could see that a male was seemingly coaxing a young one to a roosting place. After the young bird was perched in the right location (or so it appeared), the male remained perched a few inches away for several minutes and then flew off. The young one stayed on the spot but did not become motionless. At 8:40 the male returned and perched about four inches from the young and facing it. They remained so until I could no longer see them -- about 8:55. The roosting location, which was in plain view, was on the outer edge of the hemlock branches near the top of a ten-foot tree. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN