



CLEVELAND REGION

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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

Editor

Annette B. Flanigan

Editor (On leave)

Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Special Features

Donald A. Siebert

Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers
Adela Gaede
Jean Scheibe
Muriel H. Sneller

CONTRIBUTORS

Kay F. Booth
Vera Carrothers
Corinne F. Dolbear
Nathan Finck
Annette B. Flanigan
Adela Gaede
Doug Henderson
Madelin Hjelmquist
Delos E. Johnson
Perry F. & Jan Johnson
Glenn & Wilma Kitson
William & Nancy Klamm
Charles H. Knight
Walter P. Kremm
Hilda A. Lebold
Pat Miller

Robert J. Morse
Zigmond & Helena Nagy
Donald L. Newman
Perry K. Peskin
Marjorie Ramisch
Bertram C. Raynes
William H. Schlesinger
Margaret H. Sherwin
Donald A. Siebert
Merit B. Skaggs
Jean A. Staiger
Ethel Staley
Michael Stasko
Sue Storer
James S. Surman, Jr.
Clinton E. Ward

* * *

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to
Annette B. Flanigan
Smith Road, Waite Hill, Willoughby, Ohio 44094

THE WEATHER

June - A somewhat contrary month weatherwise. The first two days were rainy with the succeeding seven days being generally sunny, warm, and pleasant. Rainy and cloudy weather followed and dominated the rest of the month except for the last day which was sunny and warm again.

The 42 degree temperature deficit averaged cooler than normal by 1.3 degrees. Rainfall totaled 2.32 inches and was in deficit by 1.11 inches for the month. Winds were dominantly northerly the first 20 days and southerly the last ten days.

July - Uniformly cooler and wetter than usual with rainfall well distributed throughout the month but helped by exceptionally heavy precipitation on the 16th. Precipitation totaled 3.35 inches, providing a slight excess of 0.27 inches for the month.

Temperatures for the month averaged 1.9 degrees cooler. Wind direction was a constant variable, the longest intervals of consistent direction being only two days at a time. Water levels remained high and vegetation lush.

August- A slightly warmer and much drier month. The bulk of the precipitation occurred in the first eight days and the remainder at rather well separated intervals during the rest of the month. Rainfall accumulated to only 1.82 inches, leaving a 1.46 inch deficit.

Temperatures averaged 1.3 degrees warmer than normal. Winds were generally moderate and from the west overall.

Vegetation remained fairly lush and water levels were slow to recede, belying the deficit precipitation.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

A feature of the spring season was the late presence of migrating warblers, a condition which continued into the summer with 17 species recorded at the Rocky River Reservation on June 1 (Stasko) and they were still passing through the Cleveland region the four following days.

The expectation would be lateness in their return migration but the opposite apparently occurred as reports of migrating warblers for early dates in August were received: "On the morning of August 3, at both White City and Wildwood Park, the 'tsip' notes of migrating warblers were heard as these birds came in over Lake Erie. At least a half dozen 'yellow' warblers were glimpsed flitting about in the low vegetation, and once three birds were seen as they dropped into the brush at the beachline and then moved west." (Newman); and on August 19, a hot, humid, showery day, a tally was made of ten species at the Shaker Lakes (Knight); and six species were observed in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

The hawks were late migrating, being still on the move the first week in June, and there is evidence this was a widespread occurrence by a report from a contributor travelling in northern Michigan on June 14 and encountering hawk flights, with one group of buteos numbering 115 (Klamm).

Shorebirds. Lesser Yellowlegs and Dowitchers appeared at White City on July 10 (Surman, Jr.) to lead off the shorebird migration but the numbers, for both species and individuals for the period, were extremely meager.

Water was high at the usual points of observation with the result that suitable habitat for southbound shorebirds was scarce, causing many to seek casual water which produced sightings of two rare migrants, Stilt Sandpipers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers (Klamm) (for details see Noteworthy Records section).

Sustained Migration of Nighthawks. Migratory movement of the Common Nighthawk apparently began as early as the second week in August, then gradually intensified over succeeding weeks, and peaked on the 31st, as is indicated by the following reports from observers in various parts of the region:

August 11 - a substantial flight was noted along Lake Erie (Raynes).

August 16 - at 7:15 p.m. a swirling flock, numbering more than 120, was feeding in a concentrated group over the Smith Road pond in Waite Hill (Sherwin).

August 21 - between 7:20 and 7:30 p.m. a movement consisting of a few birds at a time and totaling about 25,

moved to the southwest in Highland Heights and Richmond Heights, feeding enroute, but not to the extent of creating a significant deviation in the direction of flight, and except for calls from two or three birds the movement was silent (Kitson).

August 26 - a group of 30 observed at Bedford Reservation (Knight).

August 31 - from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a silent passage of more than 50 birds, in twos, threes, and fours, came from the north and moved to the southwest in the vicinity of Painesville. For the most part they did not seem to be feeding but moved along steadily (Storer).

Between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. from a vantage point in Forest Hills [Hill] Park, Cleveland Heights, migration was observed, though it was not a concerted movement on a fixed course. A few bands of four to six birds appeared to be following the line of the Portage Escarpment as they traveled from east to west. Others were passing from north to south. But the largest number were moving in a leisurely drifting-feeding fashion from northwest to southeast, which is the typical line of flight over Cleveland Heights. In all, about 125 birds were recorded (Newman).

From 7:00 to 8:20 p.m. in Cuyahoga Falls two flight paths were observed: a light movement from southeast to northwest and a heavier movement, numbering 121 birds, from north to south (Hjelmquist).

An eastward passage of 88 birds was noted in Lakewood, the peak period occurring from 7:40 to 8:10 p.m. (Klamm).

Swallows and Martins. No large flocking of Swifts or Swallows were reported for the summer period.

A few small bands of Bank Swallows moved west along the lakeline at White City on July 20, between 8:25 and 10:00 a.m. Both Bank and Barn Swallows were moving west at intervals on the morning of August 3; the Barn Swallows moving singly or in twos and threes, the Bank in groups of six to two dozen (Newman).

Purple Martins were reported to be "completely successful" at the usual colonies at Edgewater Park and Webb Road (Klamm), and on July 22 "baby Martins were in every hole at White City, with two still being fed on August 13" (Carrothers). Paradoxically, no reports were received of the usual concentrations noted prior to their departure. On the contrary, at Lorain, "there was no flocking on the wires in front of the house at all this year" (Dolbear), and "no concentrations of this species were reported here in Elyria or elsewhere in late August, as is usually the case" (P. Johnson).

Red-breasted Nuthatch Appears in Some Numbers. Late in August a fair number of Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in a variety of localities. Two were in the pine grove at Clague Park on August 24 and again on the 31st (Stasko); one was at Lower Shaker Lake on the 25th (Newman); three in Bedford Reservation on the 26th (Knight); and two in Rocky River Reservation and one in Lakewood on the 28th (Stasko).

Concentration of Cedar Waxwings. A build-up in numbers occurred at Lorain in late May, of hundreds of Cedar Waxwings to more than a thousand on June 1, and diminished during the 2nd and 3rd to about a hundred, being attributed to a huge concentration of midges at the same period. Widespread occurrence was reported throughout Lorain County during the remainder of the month, but usually in small flocks (Dolbear, P. Johnson and Ward).

Scarcity of Certain Breeding Birds. The following comments from observers in the eastern and the western portion of the region would seem to indicate that the population of a considerable number of breeding species was down this summer:

“I am singling out three species that are very scarce in areas that I cover regularly: (1) the Ovenbird can no longer be heard or found in its old haunts; (2) the Carolina Wren is very hard to locate; (3) the Hooded Warbler is not to be found easily as a summer resident” (Stasko).

“It was a poor breeding season for resident warblers” (Klamm).

“Was this an off year for Cuckoos? During the entire summer I did not see or hear a single bird of either species” (Newman)

“Fewer sparrows in the fields I observe. No Henslow’s. Fewer hawks” (Raynes).

“In my area the Hooded Warbler and the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were non-existent and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird practically so” (Flanigan).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - An exceptionally good view was had on August 31 of one flying just inside the shoreline at Lakewood Park where treeless land juts out into the water making a good vantage point for birds going east and west. With the bird just overhead, the orange throat pouch could be clearly seen (Klamm).

Common Egret - None were recorded in the summer of 1967, but this summer there were three August records, each of a single bird: on the 3rd at Lakewood Park “flying west and struggling

against the wind” (Klamm); in Rocky River Reservation on the 10th (Stasko) and on the 18th (Surman, Jr.),

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Three birds in adult plumage were studied by many observers on June 20, 21 and 30, and one adult on the 22nd, at the Waterworks Park in Cuyahoga Falls, but they were not seen after construction work was begun to install sewer pipes (Hjelmquist). These are the first June dates since 1954 and only the third time in our history that three birds have been present at the same time.

Green-winged Teal - On July 29, an uncommonly early date, five were seen in the lagoon at White City (Carrothers).

Shoveler - Five immatures and/or females were at White City on August 25 (Carrothers), which is an exceptional number for such an unseasonably early date.

Redhead - The second August record in the history of the region is of a lone individual at Lorain on the 22nd (Dolbear).

Harlequin Duck - The immature male that occurred in Lorain harbor for much of the winter and at least through April 21, was recorded there daily in the last half of June and for the first six days in July. Then on August 26, presumably this same bird -- “now in full summer plumage” -- was observed “going in and out of the rocks in the west breakwall” (Dolbear, Nagy, Stasko, Ward).

Ruddy Duck - Two males were present at Lake Mogadore on June 11 for the third June record in our history (Staiger).

King Rail - By the happiest of accidents, though seemingly almost by design, a stray appeared on June 6 at the Lakewood residence of two BIRD CALENDAR contributors and was there again on the 8th. These are the first June dates since 1953, A detailed account follows in the Field Notes section.

Black-bellied Plover - Appeared earlier and in greater numbers than in recent years: (1) one at White City on August 3 and 15 (Newman and Raynes); (2) on August 17, 18, 24 and 25 in numbers ranging from six to nine birds at Burke Lakefront Airport (Klamm).

Willet - Two were seen on the sandbars of a beach area at Lorain harbor on July 1, a very early date (Ward).

Knot - A single individual “stood out” among a group of Black-bellied Plovers resting on a landing strip at Burke Lakefront Airport on August 17, and another bird, already in fall plumage, was observed and photographed at White City on August 25 (Klamm).

Dowitcher - Twenty-two were counted at Burke Lakefront Airport on August 3 (Klamm).

Stilt Sandpiper - In the casual water at Burke Lakefront Airport one was feeding and resting on August 3, and one occurred at White City on August 17. Both were in almost complete fall plumage, with the distinctive barring almost vanished but the chestnut color on the head still distinct (Klamm).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - On August 3, which is the earliest date ever reported, three were at Burke Lakefront Airport. One bird was feeding along the fence, another in casual water, and the third in the grass between the runways (Klamm).

Great Black-backed Gull - An immature occurred at White City on June 1 for the first June record in our history (Raynes); and the occurrence of an immature at Lorain harbor on June 15 and 16 suggests the possibility of the same bird (Dolbear, Lebold, Nagy and Stasko).

Laughing Gull - On June 15 and 16 at Lorain harbor, an adult was identified among a group of Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls congregated on the rocks, and it was also seen in flight when its distinguishing characteristics were clearly evident (Dolbear, Lebold, Nagy, Stasko) and recorded there again on June 25 (Ward). These constitute the first June records for the region.

Franklin's Gull - On August 10 and 17 two were in the boat basin at Edgewater Park and one in the boat basin at Gordon Park, and on the 24th three were at the Lakeside Yacht Club (Klamm).

Caspian Tern - On a sandspit at Lorain harbor they reached a high count of 150 in mid-August (Dolbear).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - A very early fall transient at Spencer Wildlife Area was seen and heard on August 11. "It was the call which first called my attention to the bird as I immediately realized it was something different and checked the call against the recording within an hour". Another, or the same bird was seen on the 25th (Morse).

Brown Creeper - Observed in early June near the Trailside Museum in Rocky River Reservation, where this species has nested in former years, and they were seen feeding young on June 22 (Klamm and Stasko).

Short-billed Marsh Wren - In an overgrown grassy field on Sherman Road in Geauga County, where this species has occurred in other summers, one was recorded on six dates from July 26 to August 18 -- each time singing and making short flights above the grass tops, then dropping back out of sight (Carrothers).

Mockingbird - One seen in Highland Park Cemetery on June 3 (Eleanore Hudgeon fide Carrothers).

Loggerhead Shrike - "On June 23 a Shrike was seen sitting on a fence, 18" high, surrounding a small flower bed in the front yard of a residence on Island Road in Lorain County. On the 24th the bird was in the identical spot and another was in a fencerow across the road; on the 29th a Shrike was again seen, this time on a power line in the same area" (Morse).

White-eyed Vireo - On June 2 its distinctive song was heard from a dense thicket in which many birds were concentrated in a yard at Perkins Beach (Klamm).

Golden-winged Warbler - A singing male was identified in a group of migrating warblers in the Rocky River Reservation on June 1 for a first June record (Stasko).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - One fed in the vines overhanging an enclosed porch in Waite Hill on August 15 which is a new earliest fall date (Flanigan).

Kentucky Warbler - A singing bird was reported from Heath Road in Geauga County on June 2 (Surman, Jr.).

Connecticut Warbler - At mid-afternoon on June 4 a female was feeding in the understory at Lower Shaker Lake (Newman).

Mourning Warbler - Single birds were reported from Rocky River Reservation on June 1 (Stasko), from Perkins Beach on the 2nd (Klamm), and from Mentor Marsh on the 3rd (Henderson).

Canada Warbler - Rarely, if ever, recorded in the western portion of the region during the breeding season, one was seen there on June 23 in the vicinity of Old Lake Road just west of Lorain (Nagy).

Western Meadowlark - At Warrensville Farms, where this species occurred during the spring, as well as in former years, one was seen and heard on June 8, 15, 22, 29, and July 4 (Knight).

Slate-colored Junco - In addition to the pair which nested in Chapin State Forest (see Nesting Observations), two other birds -- possibly a pair -- were seen elsewhere in the Forest: on June 15 a single bird, seemingly a female, was glimpsed as it darted across the dirt service road and disappeared into the quite dense woods on the north side of the ridge; and in the same area on June 19, a male fed leisurely at the roadside, then flew into the same portion of the woods (Newman).

FIELD NOTES

King Rail a Surprising Visitor. About 6:00 p.m. on June 6 as I approached the front entrance to our home in Lakewood a King Rail, far from its usual haunts, flushed from a clump of lily-of-the-valley and ran down the driveway and into an adjoining yard, flying up very little. I turned and went around the house in the opposite direction to see the Rail feeding in

the grass on the open lawn. There is a fencerow of shrubbery in back and a weedy flower bed, and the Rail disappeared into this growth. From there it went back and forth to feed.

My husband William and I searched for the Rail the following evening without success. But, to our surprise, on June 8, again at about 3:00 p.m., the bird appeared from the vegetation between the garages and came into our yard to feed in the open. William took movies of it as it fed in the completely open area all around the yard. This was the last sighting by us, but our neighbors, who were familiar with the Rail by this time, reported they saw it several nights later. There was no apparent sign of injury or exhaustion.

- NANCY KLAMM

Concentration of Upland Plover. Between June 16 and 30 I made a number of visits to two fields approximately three miles apart in Grafton and Eaton Townships in Lorain County, where Upland Plovers were nesting again this year, as they have in at least the last three years. In each of these fields I saw as many as 12 Plovers at a time, all adults as far as I could tell, but the peculiar thing was that the concentration seemed to move from one field to the other. While I would be waiting at one apparently deserted field, the Plovers would suddenly and silently appear; at one time they occupied seven consecutive fence posts where a moment before there had been none. Whenever there was a concentration at one place, there were never more than two birds to be found at the alternate field. The next evening the situation might be reversed.

There are two other fields in the same general area where Upland Plovers are also known to nest, but these have never produced more than a pair of birds. - ROBERT J. MORSE

Disaster at the Lakefront. On July 28 a collision took place between a jet plane and a group of gulls at the Burke Lakefront Airport, and gulls were ingested and left strewn along the airstrip in a huge mass.

By permission of the airport authorities we were permitted to check the specimens for the purpose of determining the number that were banded birds. The runway was quite wide and we found the north side had been frequented by Herring Gulls and the south side by Ring-billed Gulls. Many of the gulls were apparently slammed to the ground with sufficient force to tear them open. In the immediate area we found approximately 314 birds that had been destroyed, among which were five Herring Gulls with bands and three Ring-billed with bands. One Caspian Tern was identified among the victims.

- WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM

Unexpected Encounter with a Barn Owl. It has been some time since I have observed a Barn Owl in this area, but on August 12, I had a very definite contact with one as we were inspecting the big, empty barn at the Hoffacker farm on Sherman Road, just east of Route 306 in Chesterland. I opened the door to the silo area and a big bird began flying around my head, as startled to see me as I was to see it. It finally perched on the window ledge, and after I had removed the plentiful dust and cobwebs from my hair and eyes, I was delighted to see that my companion was a mature Barn Owl. The silo was empty and the windows broken at the top, and it was evident that the Owl had visited the area frequently. The bird was alone.

- DELOS E. JOHNSON

Flycatchers. Again this year, as in each of the past four years, it was possible to stand in one spot near the west side parking lot at Spencer Wildlife Area and hear the songs of six nesting flycatchers: Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested, Acadian, Traill's, Least and Wood Pewee. I doubt if there are very many other spots where the habitat requirements of all six species are met in such a small area. - ROBERT J. MORSE

Interstate Construction Defeats Bank Swallows. During the greater part of June Bank Swallows tried to colonize a pile of sand being used for construction of Interstate 90 at Gulf Road in Lorain County. About 20 burrows were started and as many as 29 birds seen on June 11. They were observed daily through July 11, at which time the sand was being used to mix concrete for the highway and the birds disappeared.

- PERRY F. AND JAN JOHNSON

NESTING OBSERVATIONS

Red-tailed Hawk - For the second successive year (see Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR, 63:22-23, 1967), the Red-tailed Hawk's nest in North Chagrin Reservation was productive.

February 24 - two birds circling high above the nest which was full of snow. No hemlock sprigs showing from the nest as in 1967.

April 6 - female flew off nest as I approached. New material has been added to the nest. Male joined female circling over area.

April 20 and May 11 - female on nest; left upon detecting me.

May 25 - two young active in nest. Pin feathers visible.

June 15 - both young well feathered, perching on edge of nest as adult fed flesh to one, while the other flapped its wings. Adult left screaming. Young remain in nest looking my way.

July 13 - young not seen but believed down ravine from the nest tree due to presence of both adults, one flying in and down ravine with a small animal in its talons.

-GLENN KITSON

Common Gallinule - On June 29, at a marsh in Burton where nesting observations were made in 1966, an adult and three young were seen feeding in the water and along the edge of cattails. - GLENN KITSON

Eastern Kingbird - In the mooring area of the Northeast Yacht Club at White City, an Eastern Kingbird successfully nested in a completely aquatic habitat. A row of 25 to 30 steel poles stands in the water about 300 feet from the shoreline and about 90 feet from the breakwall. A steel walkway mounted on posts parallels the row of poles, and boats are moored between the poles and the walkway. One of these poles was the site of the nest.

The nest, located about one foot from the top of the pole and about four and one-half feet above the water, was placed on the bolted juncture of the metal band which encircles the pole and holds the metal ring to which the boat's mooring line is attached. This line rose and fell with the motion of the boat, producing a rhythmic rasping. Since the nest was on the north side of the pole, the sitting female was directly exposed to winds off Lake Erie. Moreover, she must have been pelted by rain which fell in cloudburst proportions on July 16.

When I discovered the nest on July 20, the female was sitting close and the male was nearby. On July 28 the parents were feeding several well-feathered nestlings. Finally, on August 3 the female -- distinguished by her soiled breast feathers -- was feeding three fledglings in a willow tree about 200 feet from the nest site. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Black-capped Chickadee - Nest was in a wren box located near the drive leading to the main entrance of my home in Waite Hill.

May 9 - as I checked by lifting the lid of the house the Chickadee spread its tiny wings and body to cover all six eggs. Never once did it fly out when I made subsequent investigations.

May 21 - eggs hatched.

June 4 - all left the nest in apparent safety.

MARGARET H. SHERWIN

House Wren - The nesting history of the House Wren on a five-acre tract which I cover near our home in Waite Hill has been phenomenal. There were eight nests at six sites, two boxes

being used for subsequent nestings, and 39 young were fledged. At least two families of Wrens with newly fledged young were observed, outside, but adjoining the five-acre tract.

Only one nest was a failure, the cause being unknown. The seven eggs disappeared after 13 days of incubation with no sign of the slightest disturbance to the nest. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Bluebird - The breeding of the Bluebird in Waite Hill met with almost total disaster. On the grounds at Sherwin's five nests were built by two pair, 24 eggs laid and 11 nestlings hatched without a single fledgling being produced. Each nest met with undetermined loss and destruction at various stages, some having no sign of disturbance, others torn up and destroyed, and another with the entrance hole clawed and scratched until it was enlarged.

On the grounds at Flanigan's three nests were built, ten eggs laid (one nest could not be observed as it was in a dead stub), five nestlings hatched and only one fledgling produced. Five eggs disappeared from the second nest after seven days incubation without the nest being disarranged.

Only Merit Skaggs at nearby Willoughby Hills reported a successful nesting. Two broods, numbering eight birds, were produced by one pair and were banded before leaving the nest.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - When in early June we observed a singing bird in Rocky River Reservation, we assumed it was a migrant. Later, however, when we found it had established a territory, we began to search for a nest, and on June 23 located it in a tangle of vines and elderberry and blackberry bushes. The nest, which was well hidden and quite small, was made of fine grasses and was located 30.5 inches above the ground. It was occupied by the brooding female and a half-grown nestling, though the female quickly hopped off and disappeared. We visited the nest again on June 30, but the young one had left although the male was singing in the area. We saw the birds on July 4th and on the 7th, at which time the fledgling was begging for food. Thereafter we did not find them. - PAT MILLER and MICHAEL STASKO

Louisiana Waterthrush - Nest site was at the side of small plant growth, four feet above the stream, on the shale bank of a small tributary of Paine's Creek, Hell's Hollow Park in Lake County adjoining our region.

Discovery was due to the alarm notes of both adults as the nest area was being approached and a wait of 15 minutes, following which one adult went to the nest with food. During the wait the food-carrying adult made numerous approaches to within a few feet of where the nest was subsequently found.

On July 7 the nest contained two well-feathered young.

GLENN and WILMA KITSON

Red-winged Blackbird - An unusually late nesting occurred in the marsh at the Aurora Audubon Sanctuary. On July 11 the nest, located in a bush about two feet above the water, contained four eggs. - WILLIAM SCHLESINGER

Grasshopper Sparrow - [Although this species is a regular, though only locally common, breeding bird, prior to this summer no report had ever been received of a nesting or young out of the nest, Thus the following observations are of particular significance. - Ed-]

#1: June 23 - pair first noted in a field on Weber Road in Avon Lake.

July 7 - first indication of the exact nesting territory.

July 13 - adults feeding four young in the nest, which was located on the ground in short grass; the nestlings seemed to be four or five days old.

July 14 - photographed; parents did not approach the nest directly but followed a circuitous route through the grass.

July 21 - fledglings out and scattered, but flushed one and heard others; adult singing in extremely good voice.
- WILLIAM A. KLAMM

#2: July 2 - adult feeding one young out of nest on Sherman Road in Chesterland (Robert Witzeman fide Carrothers).

Slate-colored Junco - [The following nesting account of a rare and extremely localized summer resident is the first detailed observation in more than two decades, - Ed .]

Chapin State Forest in Lake County occupies a high ridge and consists almost entirely of deciduous, second-growth trees, though there are some fine mature specimens of tulip, cucumber, red and chestnut oak. This ridge slants toward the northwest, and along the extreme northwest edge is a ragged line of Canada hemlocks. A dirt service road, which is rarely used, winds its way through the forest. At the side of this road in the deciduous portion of the forest, about 300 feet from the Canada hemlocks, I found the nest and five eggs of a Slate-colored Junco on June 9.

The nest was situated in a natural cavity just below the top edge of the low bank on the upper side of the road and about one foot above the surface of the road. A small patch of grass grew near the base of the bank, while at the upper edge there was a colony of Canada mayflower, one of whose leaves partly obscured the nest hole. On the slope above, a sprawling, bush-like flowering dogwood cast its shade over the

bank, and a small beech tree -- its trunk at a 45 degree angle -- reached out over the nest site. Providing further concealment, a barkless, fallen limb jutted some 15 inches beyond the bank and a few inches above the nesting cavity.

The nest itself, which consisted of fine rootlets, grass stems, and thin strands of inner bark, was two inches deep and two and one-half inches in diameter; and it fully occupied the lower portion of the spherical cavity. However, the rim of the nest was slightly below the bottom edge of the opening to the cavity. When the female was on, her entire head and body were contained within the hole. Consequently, there was no outward evidence whatever of the location of the nest, and I found it only because I watched from a distance as the female fed at the side of the road and then disappeared into the bank.

On the day of discovery as well as on five other days, my observations at the nest site were made between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. The female always remained on the nest until I was about one yard away. Then she would quietly depart, seemingly by jumping down to the base of the bank, and would immediately scurry into the shrubby growth above the nest site. I would quickly look into the nest and promptly hasten down the road some 50 or 60 feet where from a seated position I would observe for ten to 20 minutes. A brief chronology of my observations follows:

June 9 - female incubating five eggs; no evidence of male

June 15 - female incubating. Upon her departure from the nest, she stops in the beech tree and utters her alarm note. In about one minute the male appears, and both stay within ten feet of the nest but keep silent. After ten minutes the female returns to the nest and the male moves off into the forest.

June 19 - female incubating. She leaves silently but utters her alarm note as she moves into the understory, whereupon the male appears and both perch in the beech sapling not more than six feet from the nest. After five minutes she resumes incubation as the male perches briefly in the dogwood which shades the nest site. He then flies away.

June 22 - female on. Nest contains four eggs and one nestling which seemingly hatched today. The male does not appear until ten minutes after the female has left the nest. Both stay in the immediate vicinity, moving about in the understory. She preens at great length, finally returning to the nest after an absence of 30 minutes.

June 23 - male at edge of road opposite nest site utters a few alarm notes as I approach. Female on. Nest contains four eggs, one dead nestling.

June 30 - nest empty. While I am examining it, the male appears and, for the first time within my hearing, sings twice, though a shortened song. I quickly move down the road, whereupon he flies into the beech sapling and the female joins him. One or both utter a few alarm notes, remain for a minute or two, and then fly away. This behavior suggests that the content of the nest was removed only a short time before, perhaps this very morning, for it is clear the pair still have a strong attachment to the site.

July 7 - from the hemlock-studded rim of the ridge about 350 feet north of the nest site, a Junco sings two series of songs, pauses briefly, and sings five more songs shortly before 11:00 a.m. Between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. he sings several times. Presumably this is the male of the nesting pair since I did not see or hear a Junco in that area earlier in the summer. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

HOW MANY BIRDS DID YOU SEE?

As another summer nesting season drew to a close, many questions could have been asked. How many birds nest in the United States each summer? Which species is the most common? How many birds were seen in the Cleveland area this summer? How many nested? Every person interested in birds has probably pondered such thoughts.

Although at first these seem like unanswerable questions, many learned ornithologists have made serious attempts to provide some answers. In 1964, in his book, "Birds Over America" Roger Tory Peterson estimated that there were between five and six billion birds in the United States. He based his approximation mostly on breeding bird censuses of the National Audubon Society. His estimate was not just an educated guess, however, because during the same year another independent survey estimated about 5,700,000,000 birds. Each spring and summer an army of serious birders takes to the fields to record bird nestings and make new bird census studies. When the data is evaluated, many new facts are brought to light which add to the already complex picture of bird distribution.

Just how does one determine how many birds may be found in the United States? First, the divisions of the various types of habitat must be known - how many acres of wetlands, rural areas, urban areas, mountains, prairies and deserts are contained within the boundaries of our country, and then the average bird population per acre must be obtained. Since birds tend to concentrate around wet places, marshes, swamps and bogs have the highest yield with an average of about ten birds per acre, and a rich bog may support as many as fifteen to sixteen. These, of course, are territorial birds. In California the Tricolored Blackbird, being a colonial type bird, sometimes lives in colonies of five to ten thousand birds in a single acre of marsh. Unfortunately, wetlands make up a relatively small percentage of our land mass. This is

one of the best reasons for preserving extensive wetlands such as Mentor Marsh and, creating new areas such as Spencer Wildlife.

Woodlands average about four birds per acre in healthy deciduous areas. Coniferous woodlands average a little better, and the edges of wooded areas have a higher yield. Cultivated farm acreage is not too valuable for bird life. Fifty years ago the U. S. Department of Agriculture made an extensive survey of the bird population of the rural countryside. It showed that the farms averaged two birds per acre, but with the increased use of pesticides since World War II, many of them lethal to bird life, this average has declined. Recent surveys taken in cultivated fields show extremely low populations ranging from zero to a meager eight or nine pairs on one hundred acres.

The prairies average less than one bird per acre. Deserts hold the smallest percentage, and in barren lands such as the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake in Utah, one can drive for miles without seeing a bird. On the other hand, areas such as the Dry Tortugas are densely populated. There the Sooty Tern colony averages about three pairs per square yard and Three Arch Rocks in Oregon has a seventeen acre area where 750,000 Murres live.

There are at least 50,000,000 acres of urban land in the United States and, since prime wetlands and woodlands are used most frequently for bird-breeding censuses, sufficient data has not been gathered as to the number of birds in our cities.

As for the most numerous species, the Robin, which lives throughout the country in cities, parks and forests, is possibly the most abundant. In the eastern woodlands it is the Red-eyed Vireo or the Redstart whose numbers run into the millions. The most numerous bird of the great plains is the Horned Lark. The most abundant sea bird may well be the Wilson's Petrel. In our area, if one would visit Magee Marsh near Toledo or the blackbird roost near Lorain in the spring or fall, one would feel that the Red-winged Blackbird must surely be the most numerous bird in the United States, and well it may be, for the winter roosts throughout the country often number in the millions of birds.

How many birds nested in the Cleveland area? Again one can only guess. Approximately 140 different nesting species have been recorded from time to time, and breeding bird population studies have been made on about 115 species. What is more important to the serious birder is the fluctuation of certain species; why birds such as the Brown Creeper or the Red-breasted Nuthatch will appear in an area which they never inhabited previously. Much of the variance in nesting birds

is due to the ever-changing landscape. As fields, forests and marshes change, either because of man's doing or by nature's own hand, the types of birds found in these areas will also change. This fluctuation of bird distribution helps to make bird watching a stimulating pastime. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

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FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

June 20 - I witnessed a performance at mid-morning that I believe is what is described by Meyerriecks and Baird in The WILSON BULLETIN (80:150-160, 1968.) as agonistic behavior of the Blue-winged Warbler. It was an aerial display which followed the pattern they term "Chases". Like them, I noted that "the pursuer never catches up with the pursued."

On this morning I heard the song of the Blue-winged Warbler and saw the bird, when almost at once I heard the song of the Golden-winged Warbler, then a response of another Golden-winged song. After a short time two birds were seen chasing, and the Golden-winged song was heard repeatedly. The Chases were direct, and rapid; all were short and at low level (less than ten feet). Since they followed a very short path during the Chases, I could almost always see them both.

When one of the birds would perch -- the perching spot was often the same --, I observed only a Blue-winged Warbler, never a Golden-winged, although at no time did I see the two birds perched together. I estimate I heard the song of the Golden-winged 200 times, and only three times did I hear the song of the Blue-winged. Even when I changed my viewing location to a position about 25 feet from their path, they continued their Chases as before. All of this action, which I observed for some 90 minutes, took place along the regular feeding path of the Blue-winged Warbler where I have observed this species during the past 11 years.

On June 28, I found a pair of Blue-winged Warblers feeding three fledglings in an area not more than 50 feet from where the Chase activity occurred. The male was singing. One young bird was able to obtain some food for itself although all three young were being fed by both parents. I judge, by thier [their] appearance and activity, that they were the second day out of the nest.

June 24 - At 8:45 a.m. a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers brought a fledgling to the suet feeders at the front windows and it was fed by both parents many times during the day. The adults first frequented the suet feeders on May 2 and by the 25th they were regular daily visitors, often feeding together. On June 17 when the supply in one of the feeders was low they

(both male and female) tore at the wooden cover, removing enough to enable them to reach down into the container rather than through the hardware cloth. By June 26 the young bird would perch on top of the feeder, as the parents fed, and would wait until it was fed, which was accomplished by ramming their bills down the throat of the young bird, pausing and repeating. This continued through the 27th and 28th when they disappeared.

It was not until July 13 that I again observed a Pileated at the feeders when a male appeared with a young bird unable to obtain food for itself. It patiently waited on the feeder top as the parent fed until it was itself fed by the adult.

At 7:15 a.m. on July 14 they were again at the suet, with the young making begging calls. At 8:00 they were still present but had moved to the suet at the back door where the young bird still appeared unable to obtain food for itself. Once it flew clumsily to the back door and tried to cling to the woodwork but failed and fell on the steps. Then it flew to the roof of the basement entry and walked awkwardly around. Finally it flew to a nearby apple tree with the parent. I observed it being fed again at 10:30 a.m.

I question, by the apparent lack of ability to obtain food for itself, if this is the same fledgling first seen on June 24, as it appeared to be newly out of the nest, but I have been unable to find in my literature any record of the length of time a young Pileated is fed by the parents.

July 15 - At 8:05 a.m. a Chipping Sparrow was seen tugging at the white cord holding a tuberous begonia to a stake support at the front entrance. I cut and placed five six-inch pieces of string on the iron railing and within ten minutes they had been taken by the sparrow to the nest location in a Taxus densiformis a few feet away. Three additional pieces of string were eventually taken and used in the interweaving of the nest cup.