



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                |                              |
| 22 Natural Science Museum    |                              |
| Wade Park                    |                              |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir         | 51 Stebbin's Gulch           |
| 24 Shaker Lakes              | 52 Chardon                   |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery        | 53 Burton                    |
| 26 Forest Hill Park          | 54 Punderson Lake            |
| 27 Bedford Reservation       | 55 Fern Lake                 |
| 28 Hudson                    | 56 LaDue Reservoir           |
| 29 Kent                      | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area     |



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  
Elizabeth Rose  
Muriel H. Sneller

## CONTRIBUTORS

Kay F. Booth  
Vera Carrothers  
Naomi Clark  
John Davidson  
Marjorie S. English  
Marilyn J. Fais  
Nathan Finck  
Annette B. Flanigan  
Adela Gaede  
Wayne & Hilda Hammond  
Madelin Hjelmquist  
Perry F. Johnson  
Faye B. King  
Glenn Kitson  
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Donald A. Siebert  
Merit B. Skaggs  
Ethel Staley  
Michael Stasko  
Sue Storer  
Ethel D. Surman  
James S. Surman, Jr.  
James W. Surman  
Bert L. Szabo  
Harold E. Wallin  
Clinton E. Ward

\* \* \*

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

## THE WEATHER

September - A near normal month weatherwise. Considerable precipitation scattered throughout the first six days with temperatures somewhat cooler than normal. A sustained flow of dry northerly winds occurred from the 11th to the 15th, which was followed by warmer weather and considerable rain for the next nine days.

Temperatures averaged only 0.3 degrees cooler and the precipitation, totaling 3.36 inches, was in excess by 0.46 inches.

October - A month of peculiar contrasts, as overall it was colder and wetter than normal, yet winds from a northerly direction dominated on only three days for the region as a whole, the 12th, 25, and 30th.

It should be noted, however, that localized conditions in lakefront areas frequently provided some contrasting wind conditions relative to the region as a whole. These modified wind components gave evidence of providing conditions for either exceptional abundance or very lean concentrations of migrants in the lakefront areas. Southerly winds following a northerly component were most conducive to good concentrations. Excellent examples were provided by the land wind shift from W on October 5 to ESE on October 6 and the shift from N on October 12 to S on October 13. Many days were favorable to excellent concentrations in areas close to the lakefront.

Temperatures were above normal on the 1st and 2nd, and again on the 12th through the 19th, with the result the average was 1.3 degrees below normal. Precipitation was well distributed with snow traces occurring in the latter period. The accumulated total of 2.9 inches of precipitation was in excess by 0.48 inches for the month.

November - A gloomy, wet, and unstable month that seemingly progressed backward in passing through five temperature cycles. The early part of the month was dominantly cooler with the latter part having moderate to relatively warm temperatures. Northerly winds prevailed on seven of the first ten days.

Temperatures averaged 1.1 degrees warmer than normal. Trace and measurable precipitation occurred on 20 of the 30 days which included some measurable snow or sleet on five days. Total precipitation was 4.35 inches and was in excess by 1.74 inches.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Autumn was extremely eventful in the Cleveland region, the action being created by many different species. The migration showed peak movements while maintaining a steady flow throughout the period. The activity will be discussed in detail in the following paragraphs.

Movement of Common Loons. An observer who visited White City often early in the morning (7:35 to 8:10 a.m.) recorded a movement of Common Loons from November 8 through 21. He noted 19 flights totaling 83 birds and ranging in size from single individuals to a group of 11. The direction of flight was to the west with the exception of the passage of several groups comprising 34 Loons on the 21st when the movement was to the south and south-southeast (Surman, Jr.). A similar migration was noted by this same observer in the autumn of 1967, though it was somewhat earlier, November 4-16.

Prolonged Passage of Whistling Swans. Migration of the Whistling Swan was unusually prolonged extending over almost the first two thirds of November. The first record was of a flock heard as they passed over Waite Hill at 8:00 a.m. on November 3.

November 10 It was not until the 10th that the general push was evident. At mid-morning a flock of 150 Swans was seen resting on Lake Erie at Rocky River. Shortly thereafter two flocks, numbering 52, appeared overhead from a southerly direction and continued on over the lake in a north-easterly direction (Stasko). A flight of 23 moved south along the west bank of the Chagrin valley in the North Chagrin Reservation at 11:15 a.m. (Kitson). Four flights, totaling 90 Swans, passed over Waite Hill in quick succession, flying at a low level in a southeasterly direction at 4:45 p.m. (Flanigan).

November 11 A flock of 30 was observed in Waite Hill as they flew east-southeast at 8:30 a.m. and they could be heard calling long after they passed from sight (Flanigan). At 1:10 p.m. 90 Swans were seen flying eastward over northeast Cleveland (Surman, Jr.). A flock of 32 Swans flew east over Mentor Park at 4:30 p.m. "acting as though searching for a resting place, but headed somewhat away from the lakefront" (Hammond).

November 12 The weather seems related to the appearance of numbers of Swans on this date. A massive storm, spawned in the Gulf of Mexico, headed toward New England and created conditions that resulted in a blustery storm in our region. At about 10:30 a.m. Swans were forced down very low in Waite Hill and were flying and milling around over the two Sherwin Ponds for more than an hour and could be observed at eye-level. Their calling was almost continuous as large and small flocks appeared before us as we stood at an elevated observation point between the two ponds. One flock of 50 Swans, one of 30, one of 12, and many smaller flocks as well as single birds were counted. Three adult and four immature Swans came down on the upper pond and two adult and two immatures came down on the lower pond (Sherwin and Flanigan).

On the same date from an observation point in a high-rise apartment in Euclid near Lake Erie, a count was made of 97 Swans flying east between 12:00 and 12:45 p.m. Four flocks, flying east and totaling 124 Swans were over northeast Cleveland between 1:15 and 4:00 p.m. (Surman, Jr.). At a small lake near Punderson several dozen were counted on the 12th and 13th. Large flocks were heard on Punderson Lake but were uncounted (James W. Surman). LaDue Reservoir and Holden Arboretum also hosted Swans on these dates. Observers in Waite Hill were awakened at 3:00 a.m. on the 13th by large flocks passing overhead and two flocks, totaling 12 Swans, flew very low over the ponds between 7:15 and 7:45 a.m. (Sherwin and Flanigan). At White City, 16 Swans in two groups flew east between 7:35 and 8:00 a.m. (Surman, Jr.).

November 16 At 11:30 a.m. a flock of 18 Swans was joined by five more while passing over Willoughby Hills, formed a vee and continued their southeasterly flight (Skaggs). At various times during the day, groups, ranging in size from eight individuals to 75, were observed in Waite Hill (Sherwin).

November 17 At 1:30 p.m. ten Swans separated from a circling group and came down on Sherwin Pond in Waite Hill. The remaining 11 circled and called for ten minutes then resumed their flight (Flanigan).

November 21 Fifty-eight Swans in two groups were flying south at White City at 8:00 a.m. (Surman, Jr.). This was the last date for reports of any number. Our final report was of three at Lake Rockwell on the 27th (Gaede).

Other Waterfowl. Most of the ducks that normally appear on the lakefront, with the exception of the Red-breasted Mergansers, were extremely scarce. "The flights of this species were particularly impressive this fall along the lakefront at Lorain. On November 10, flocks of 50 to 200 moved from west to east at the rate of one flock every two to three minutes. On the 16th the flocks were both larger and more frequent. Twenty to thirty thousand birds moved by in the one hour that I was present. On the 17th the story was the same, with one flock of at least 3,000. A very small percentage of the birds stopped in the harbor but the flocks were quite nervous and were usually up and away within a few seconds. Even so, the harbor contained thousands at any given time. Among all the birds, I saw only three to five in male plumage" (Morse).

All three species of Scoters were reported in ones, twos, and threes from the Cleveland and Lorain lakefront during November. One White-winged, two Surf, and one Common Scoter were observed at one time in the Lorain harbor on the 14th (Ward).

Hawks Move West Along Lakeline. Of especial significance because it has been noted so rarely in autumn is the movement of hawks which occurred on September 18. Within an eight-minute period

at 12:15 p.m. these hawks were seen moving from east to west overland parallel to the Lake Erie shore in the vicinity of Mentor Marsh: 1 Sharp-shinned, 3 Red-tailed, 3 Broad-winged, and 4 unidentified Buteos. Then about 1:00 p.m. from a high-rise apartment in Euclid overlooking the lake, eight Buteos were observed moving to the west. At the time the wind was from the east and southeast (Surman, Jr.).

Extended Nighthawk Migration. Common Nighthawks were on the move in good numbers the latter part of August, as reported in the Summer issue of the BIRD CALENDAR; and this movement continued through the first three weeks of September, with reports of a few scattered late birds to mid-October. The following are some highlights of this extended and widespread migration.

September 1 (1) a flock of 18 flew to the southwest at 5:30 p.m. (Flanigan); (2) a flight of 50 headed south at Pleasant Valley Road and Route 94 at 3:00 p.m. (Leach); (3) ten were observed during the hour before sunset in Lakewood (Klamm).

September 3 (1) "at our home in Lorain eight Nighthawks were feeding at 7:00 p.m. as 32 others flew by heading east. The 32 turned northward, arced around and headed due south -- the original eight fed on" (Nagy); (2) "at 7:50 p.m. a band of 23 Common Nighthawks was feeding in the sky over Cleveland Heights just south of the line of the Portage Escarpment. At times the group broke up, moving in all directions, but soon reassembled to resume feeding. When last seen the birds were drifting off to the northwest. Obviously, they were not birds in passage but were simply birds that had assembled in the area before advancing on the next stage of their migration" (Newman); (3) "150 were counted during the hour before sunset at our home in Lakewood" (Klamm)

September 4 (1) 13 were heading in a generally westerly direction over Shaker Heights (Peskin); (2) in Cleveland Heights 100 or more were swirling overhead at 7:15 p.m. (Kitson).

September 8 (1) "during a brief period of observation, between 7:00 and 7:15 p.m., Nighthawks -- in ones, twos, and threes -- were moving north to south over Warrensville Heights in a quite straight-line flight. Some were not much above the housetops, while others were at a height of 500-800 feet. In all, I counted 35" (Newman); (2) 12 were observed over Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain (Lebold); (3) "599 were counted at our home in Lakewood between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m." (Klamm).

September 14 "75 were counted at our home in Lakewood during the hour before sunset -- 40 in the Rocky River valley earlier" (Klamm).

September 15 (1) "again over Warrensville Heights, this species was passing from north to south, though this time there was considerable backtracking which made it difficult to keep an accurate count. However, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. I observed

at least 40 birds, the largest group consisting of 13. Most of them flew quite low, perhaps at an altitude of no more than 500 feet. Traveling south some 100-200 feet below the Nighthawks, though sometimes on a level with or even above them, were many monarch butterflies. Yet I did not find that these birds were feeding upon these insects" (Newman); (2) "149 were tallied, a few during the afternoon but the bulk at the usual hour before sunset at our home in Lakewood" (Klamm); (3) Nighthawks were observed moving in a southwesterly direction along the lakefront in Euclid for about an hour in the evening. The birds were not concentrated but four or five could be seen in the air at one time (Alfred Mahan fide Sherwin).

September 16 (1) Nighthawks, totaling about 50, flew very high, moving south steadily by twos and threes from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Willoughby (Pallister); (2) in the early evening in Lakewood, Nighthawks were flying northwest to east and 125 were counted in one hour (Stasko).

September 20 On a warm evening in Lakewood 30 Nighthawks were counted flying east between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. (Klamm).

September 21 "Our usual hour-before-sunset count in Lakewood netted almost 400 birds, with a few being observed in the Rocky River valley earlier" (Klamm ).

September 22 84 Nighthawks moving eastward in Lakewood (Stasko).

Nighthawks were not reported again until October 7 when four were seen in Lakewood on their "sunset count" (Klamm). "Two were feeding near our home in Lorain on the 9th, 12th, 15th, and 16th. The two on the 16th appeared to be unusually high in the sky while feeding in their usual manner when noticed at 5:30 p.m. They were still feeding when I departed 45 minutes later" (Nagy). October 16 is a new late date of occurrence.

Swifts in Passage. The actual passage of a multitude of Chimney Swifts, a phenomenon not often noted, was observed on September 15 in Waite Hill where, between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. "a large, concentrated mass of a thousand or more Swifts traveled fairly speedily from east-northeast to west-southwest, feeding as they moved. A few scattered stragglers followed this huge group during the next half hour" (Flanigan).

Several large concentrations of Swifts were reported, too. On the evening of September 10 in Elyria, some 400 were going to roost in the chimney of a commercial building and about 1,000 in the chimney of the former library building (Johnson). In Willoughby on September 14 "at dusk hundreds of Swifts descended the airshaft chimney of the Junior High School, as has been their habit spring and fall for the past 20 years" (Alfred Mahan fide Sherwin). (For an account of Swifts in Hudson see the Field Notes section.)



Red-breasted Nuthatch Quite Common. Although not present in large numbers, the Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported almost daily from September 1 to mid-October. The 52 occurrence records this autumn contrast sharply with the mere three records for the autumn of 1967 and contrast, too, with the spring of 1938 which produced not a single record.

Brown Creeper in Abundance. During the latter part of September the Brown Creeper was numerous and continued to be so to about the end. of October. Some excerpts from observers reports follow:

September 29 - "52 Creepers tallied with heaviest concentration along the lakeshore area -- Creepers everywhere" (Klamm).

September 30 - "quite a windy day in Waite Hill and I stationed myself at a sunny protected slope where the waves of migrants passed. Between noon and 1:00 p.m. at least six waves of migrating birds came through, each being made up of different species but each containing Brown Creepers -- resulting in the greatest number of Creepers ever seen in one day by me -- 18" (Flanigan).

October 10 - 12 Brown Creepers in Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland (Leach).

A widespread occurrence in the Elyria and Lorain area with "reports from nearly all observers throughout the September and October period" (Johnson).

Evening Grosbeak Appears on Broad Front. Not since the autumn of 1965 has the Evening Grosbeak been present in any significant numbers throughout the region as occurred this autumn, with the exception of our western area of coverage. We will endeavor to present the picture by locale as certain areas produced numerous records.

Brecksville The first indication of their presence came from Brecksville, the Metropolitan Park being visited on October 27 by a band of six (Knight); a home feeder was visited by two individuals on November 12 (Nausbaum); on the 24th they appeared at two feeders located at neighboring residences, possibly being the same birds, numbering from six to more than 20 and becoming regulars to the end of the period (Fred Livingstone fide Wallin).

Painesville A feeder was visited by six Grosbeaks on October 29. They came on frequent dates to the end of the period, with a high count of 40 on November 24, being about evenly divided as to sex (Storer).

Walton Hills A flock of 30 Grosbeaks was present from the first part of November to the end of the period (Staley).

Rocky River. The Metropolitan Park had one individual on November 1 (J. Golloway fide Scott) and the feeder at the Maintenance Barn in the park had 30 birds on the 4th (Scott), being present in smaller numbers on the 11th and thereafter (Wallin).

Willoughby Hills A feeder was visited by six on November 9 (Alice Shields fide Flanigan); two were seen in flight early in the morning of the 26th (Skaggs).

Chagrin Falls One pair came to a feeder on November 10 and built up on the ensuing days to 20 individuals on the 19th reaching a peak of 40 birds on the 27th. Their numbers fluctuated but at least two dozen were regularly present to the end of the period (English).

North Chagrin Reservation Eight Grosbeaks were present on November 10 (Kitson); three pairs were at the Trailside Museum on the 11th (Wallin), increasing to a flock of 25 on the 27th (Finck).

Peninsula A single bird was present on November 11 and quickly increased to flocks numbering from 65 to 77 or more by the 25th (Hjelmquist).

Waite Hill Four males appeared at a feeder on November 11, increasing to eight males and one female the following day. They were in constant attendance at the feeders until 3:30 p.m. after which time no observation could be made. (This is the latest time they have been reported to visit at feeders. One other late visit, of 2:50 p.m., was reported from Chagrin Falls by Marjorie S. English.) The Grosbeaks varied in numbers, reaching a count of 11 on the 13th, and were last seen on the 16th (Flanigan).

Chardon Two individuals were present until noon at a feeder south of Chardon on November 14 (Ramisch).

South Euclid A residence was visited by two pair on Noveiber 22 (L. J. Vogler fide Wallin).

West Geauga A feeder was occupied by six on November 23, increasing to 15 birds on the 24th, with four still present at the end of the period (Kremm).

Akron Twelve Grosbeaks were reported from Sand Run Metropolitan Park on November 24 (Hjelmquist).

White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows Abundant. White-crowned Sparrows were reported by more observers this autumn and in greater numbers. A report of 55 on September 29, 45 on October 5 and 40 on October 12 is an indication of their abundance (Klamm). A flock of 30 was present in Waite Hill on October 5, decreasing to 20 birds on the 22nd and three present on November 30, an uncommonly late date (Flanigan).

White-throated Sparrows were reported in impressive numbers: 214 on September 29 and 195 on October 12 (Klamm). A report from the extreme western region "a particularly heavy migration of the White-throated Sparrow was noted on the morning of October 12 with 350 found along a half-mile stretch of road just west of Lorain on the lake shore" (Morse).

Yearly Total. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1 1967 to November 30, 1968, 258 species were recorded, as compared with 253 in the preceding year. In addition the hybrid Brewster's Warbler was reported. There was no record for the Forster's Tern or Northern Shrike.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Western Grebe - One was studied for more than half an hour by members of the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Society at LaDue Reservoir on the afternoon of November 3. Although it was inclined to remain by itself, there were Horned Grebes near enough for comparison and the long, slender white neck was conspicuous (Hjelmquist). This is the first autumn record in the history of the region and just the second record in all.

Common Egret - A single bird was reported on September 7 and 8 from Mentor Park Beach (Hammond).

Harlequin Duck - The male that was present in the Lorain harbor for much of the winter of 1967-68 and through the past summer, attaining full breeding plumage, was recorded regularly from September 17 through October 12 and seen "briefly, but well" on November 13 (Lebold, Stasko, Ward).

Bald Eagle - An immature was watched for five minutes, until out of sight, as it soared toward the southwest over Painesville on September 6 (Booth).

Peregrine Falcon - (1) When first seen on October 2, this adult was far out over Lake Erie in the company of gulls. At about 7:50 a.m. it flew in and perched in a dead tree about a quarter mile west of White City; it was in the same spot at 8:45 a.m. (Surman, Jr.). (2) About midday on October 6, a blustery cold day, one was gliding along just inland not far above the treetops along Lake Shore Boulevard in Bratenahl (Raynes).

Piping Plover - (1) A single bird, in winter plumage, was studied for 30 minutes as it fed busily on a sand bar at Harmon's Beach in Lorain on September 18 (Corinne Dolbear, Ward fide Lebold); (2) one was observed feeding at White City on September 23, 24, and 25 (Carrothers, Gaede, Raynes, Surman, Jr.).

Willet - The second September record in our history is of one at Harmon's Beach in Lorain on the 25th (Ward).

Purple Sandpiper - One spent the day feeding along the edge of the lagoon at White City on November 1 (Surman, Jr.).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One was at White City on September 25 (Carrothers, Gaede, Surman, Jr.).

Western Sandpiper - A single bird was observed at White City on September 28 (Carrothers).

Franklin's Gull - Nine reports were received from September 1 to October 23, all of single birds with the exception of two on September 21. Areas of occurrence were Harmon's Beach at Lorain, Lakewood Park, Edgewater Boat Basin and Lakeside Yacht Club Basin (Lebold, Klamm, Ward).

Little Gull - Throughout the day of November 7 an adult was observed feeding and resting beyond the breakwall at White City. Before 8:00 a.m. on November 28, another, not fully adult, was feeding with about 70 Bonaparte's Gulls at the outlet of the effluent pipes at White City (Surman, Jr.).

Long-eared Owl - One was found in a thicket near Brookpark Bridge in Rocky River Reservation on November 23 (J. Gollowa, fide Scott).

Saw-whet Owl - (1) One perched in a tree in a residential section of Akron on October 31 (Hjelmquist). (2) At 4:00 p.m. on November 13, one, with a portion of a small bird in its talons, was in a tree about a yard distant from the Rocky River Trailside Museum and remained until 6:30 p.m. when the shutters on the building were closed (J. Golloway fide Scott).

Mockingbird - (1) One frequented the grounds around our home in Waite Hill from October 11 through the 23rd (Flanigan). (2) One observed in Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls, on November 24 (Hjelmquist).

Prothonotary Warbler - (1) At Donald Gray Gardens in Cleveland on September 1, a male fed apart from the other warblers that were there (Klamm). (2) A male in Waite Hill on October 15, marks the first October record for the region (Flanigan).

Parula Warbler - A male occurred in the Rocky River valley on September 28 (Klamm).

Orchard Oriole - At midday on November 14, an adult male fed on suet and upon the ground beneath a feeder in Chagrin Falls (Clark and E. Surman). This is a new late date of occurrence for this species, which rarely occurs after early August.

Baltimore Oriole - (1) On November 11 a brilliantly-plumaged male was seen twice at a feeder near a residence in Lorain County (Edward Bittner fide Morse). (2) An immature male appeared at a feeder in Chagrin Falls on November 13 and was seen daily to the end of the period (Clark, Knight, E. Surman).

Common Redpoll - This species has not been reported since the autumn and winter of 1965-66 when they appeared in large numbers. Two were at Shaker Lakes on November 23 and 11 birds on the 30th (Shaper and Carrothers).

Pine Siskin - (1) A rather early appearance of 11 on October 13 at Bedford Metropolitan Park (Knight). (2) A dozen or so were at Shaker Lakes on November 23, 26, 29, and 30. (Peskin, Shaper, Carrothers, Gaede). (3) One at Painesville on November 27 (Booth).

Oregon Junco - A well-marked individual with black head and breast and brown back, sharply defined, appeared at 4:00 p.m. on October 28 and was seen at 7:00 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. on the 29th in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Snow Bunting - (1) A flock of 70 were at Mentor Park Beach on November 10 and 25 observed at Mentor High School on the 15th (Hammond). (2) At 8:00 a.m. on November 26 about 200 followed the breakwall at White City moving to the west (Surman, Jr.).

Addendum:

(Summer 1968)

Golden-winged Warbler - A rare fall appearance of this species took place August 31 on the campus at University School in Shaker Heights where a well-marked male was observed feeding on the lower branches of a lilac (Rickard).

Spur-winged Goose - An African species, formerly definitely Ethiopian then reported in southern Egypt and later recorded in upper Egypt and often common in western Uganda and western Tanganyika. One, assumed an escape, spent a week during the latter part of October, free flying and unbanded, at a pond in Columbia Township in Lorain County. It passed the night on the pond with a flock of Mallards, flying off in the early morning and returning late in the afternoon (Morse)

#### FIELD NOTES

Hawk Behavior. On the afternoon of November 2, in LaGrange Township, Lorain County, I stopped my car to watch a Sharp-shinned Hawk which alighted in a small tree in a farmyard. As I watched, a Sparrow Hawk appeared on the power line nearly overhead and called. The Sharp-shinned moved successively down a line of small trees and about two minutes later flew across an open field to perch on a short fence post in another fence row. Almost immediately the Sparrow Hawk attacked, diving from a height of about 100 feet. He made five passes and each time forced the Sharp-shinned to duck. The arc followed by the Sparrow Hawk and the speed of his flight was reminiscent of a Hummingbird's courtship flight on a grand scale. A few minutes after the attack stopped, the Sharp-shinned Hawk flew off. - ROBERT J. MORSE

Gathering of Swifts in Hudson. Over the years I have seen Chimney Swifts using the chimney of the village waterworks in Hudson. The

Turner Lumber Company, which is about 150 feet distant, has an abandoned chimney that was used at one time by their power plant. On September 26 the evening sky began to fill with more than the usual number of Swifts, and this buildup continued until there were Swifts flying about everywhere you looked. At 7:40 p.m. they began diving into the chimney of the lumber company. By 7:55 p.m. they had all disappeared except for a few stragglers using the last bit of twilight. No count was made since it seemed impossible.

On September 27 the evening sky again filled with Swifts just as the sun was setting. At 7:30 p.m. I tried to count them diving into the chimney at a rate of at least ten birds per second. But most were diving past the opening, and only two or three birds would dart in. By 7:45 p.m. all the Swifts were in except for a few stragglers. An approximate count -- 1,800 birds.

On the evening of October 1, fewer Swifts gathered in the sky and they were not as noisy. At 7:25 p.m. they began their dive into the chimney and ten minutes later all were inside. I estimated their number at about 700. Thereafter I did not have opportunity to make further observations. - BERT L. SZABO

White-crowned Sparrows Plentiful in 1968 Fall Migration. The White-crowned sparrow is considered a rattler common spring and fall migrant in the Cleveland region. I usually find more of this species in the fall than in spring. This was true in the past two fall migrations.

Since the young of the year have a brown and cream colored crown instead of the black and white crown of the adult, it is easy to classify the birds into the two age groups. The percentage of young birds is an index to nesting success in the far north, even though the sample is admittedly small. Following are data from banding operations in the Willoughby area:

Year	Adult	Immature	Total	% Immatures
1968	34	38	72	52.8
1967	21	29	50	58.0

More birds were banded in 1968 because birds were trapped in two locations. It should be noted that in both years well over half were immatures. Of special interest was an adult banded on October 26 which appeared to be an intermediate between the nominate and gambelli forms.

While most of the White-crowned Sparrows are seen in October, extreme dates were October 4 to November 7 in 1967, and September 29 to November 13 in 1968. - MERIT B. SKAGGS

Fall Migration at Donald Gray Gardens. An area of the inner city of Cleveland that offers a stopping place for migratory birds crossing the lake or following the shoreline is the Donald Gray

Gardens, a remnant of the Great Lakes Exposition held during the summers of 1936 and 1937. The Gardens cover three and one-half acres, stretch more than one thousand feet along the shore of Lake Erie and adjoin the Cleveland Municipal Stadium. They were designed by Donald Gray, landscape architect. Large trees, representing 30 to 50 years growth, were moved in and the Horticultural Gardens formed. With the closing of the Exposition, the Gardens were turned over to the City of Cleveland and became a part of the Cleveland Park System. They remained unchanged until the opening, in 1959, of Erieside Avenue, N. E. which became the northern boundary of the gardens.

During September and October 1968 the population of birds in the Gardens was observed almost daily: early in the morning on week days and either in the morning or afternoon on weekends depending upon whether a baseball or football game was scheduled.

Sixty-seven species of birds were tallied during the survey. The Gardens were the site of the first-observation dates for the region this autumn for eleven species: Winter Wren 9/24; Hermit Thrush 9/28; Gray-cheeked Thrush 9/14; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9/28; Prothonotary Warbler 9/1; Pine Warbler 9/14; Northern Waterthrush 9/8; Connecticut Warbler 9/8; Mourning Warbler 9/8; White-throated Sparrow 9/7; Fox Sparrow 10/5.

Small passerines such as the Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, both the Kinglets, and many species of warblers were especially abundant. The most abundant bird was the White-throated Sparrow, 20 or more being present on 15 days and 50 or more on three days. September 14 was a busy day, 36 White-throated Sparrows and eight species of warblers being seen, many of them bathing and drinking at a leaky faucet. The Gardens hummed with activity on September 18, when an outstanding aggregation of 15 species of warblers were present, including three Connecticut and two Mourning.

By September 28-29, the warbler population had thinned and was replaced by the Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, thrushes, kinglets, and six species of sparrows. Seemingly a part of the general migratory movement, 11 Black-capped Chickadees appeared on the 28th. They were quite active, nine finally flying east and two remaining. From four to eight Chickadees were present until October 19, the varying number suggesting the likelihood that individual birds were moving in and out in company with the general migratory flow of passerines.

October 5 showed a mixture of a few "straggler" warblers and numbers of the later migrants: 7 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 4 Winter Wrens, 7 Hermit Thrushes, 5 Fox Sparrows. October 6 was affected by too much disturbance, possibly from the football game of the night before; however nine Hermit Thrushes were seen, and a flock of 40 Chimney Swifts was active for a short while over the Stadium.

October 19 provided some exceptionally tardy migrants -- an Eastern Wood Pewee, the second seen in the survey; a Wood Thrush; an Ovenbird; and a Northern Waterthrush. Present, too, on that date was a Carolina Wren, the only one recorded in the Gardens. - VERA CARROTHERS, WILLIAM and NANCY KLAMM

### THE DECOY - AN AMERICAN LEGACY

In the Humboldt Mountains near the little town of Lovelock, Nevada, between the years of 1911 and 1924, the excavation of the Lovelock cave took place. Among the many artifacts of the vanished civilization of aboriginal Indians called "Tule Eaters," which were unearthed, were eleven duck decoys. These decoys were of two types, stuffed or mounted skins and completely artificial birds made of tule, a large variety of the common great bulrush found in the western United States, and shaped in to the form of Canvasbacks. These tule decoys, thought to be between 1,000 to 2,000 years old, were in excellent condition and proved that long before the white man set foot on this continent the American Indian had discovered that ducks could be lured into range of the bow and arrow. Little did these unknown Indians realize this creation of an artificial duck was the beginning of America's native wildlife art form - the art of decoy making.

From the journals of America's earliest explorers came reports of vast flights and flocks of ducks and shorebirds which existed in this newly discovered land. North America, during this era, probably contained more wildfowl than any continent on the globe. These men saw game and birds so plentiful that they assumed the abundant wildlife in this land would flourish forever. But Audubon, writing about his experiences in New Orleans on March 16, 1821, told of a group of hunters strung out along a section of the Mississippi during the passage of thousands of Golden Plover. He estimated that 48,000 birds were brought down on that day. When Audubon died in 1851, the great army of waterfowl was already beginning to diminish.

To the lover of birds and specially ducks and shorebirds the name, "Market Gunner," will forever have an ominous sound, for these men with decoys and gun batteries were responsible for the slaughter of millions of ducks and shorebirds for fancy restaurants and meat markets. They so seriously reduced the numbers of some species of curlew and plover that it is doubtful they will ever be seen in great numbers again.

As early as 1846, concerned groups began to take steps toward conservation. Rhode Island passed a law prohibiting spring shooting. From that time on conservation forces steadily increased, finally achieving country-wide prohibition of spring



shooting, night shooting and shipment of birds. These restrictions were issued under the Federal Migratory Bird Law in the year 1913. A few years later the sale of game was brought to an end by the treaty of July 3, 1918. Under the provisions of this law our country entered into an agreement with Canada which protected the waterfowl of North America over the entire range of migratory flight, and in 1924 shorebird hunting was declared illegal.

The economic use of wildfowl which had endured for over a century came to an end and the market gunner disappeared from the American scene. But, besides achieving these laws, which assured migratory birds protection forever, this country gained a truly distinctive art form, for the years of 1850 to 1900 became known as the golden age of decoy making. Names like Cobbs Island, Stratford, Barnegat, Great South Bay and Delaware are more than geographic locations. They are the names of decoys with regional characteristics.

A Barnegat decoy is identifiable by the well rounded tail and its lightness due to its hollow construction. It is truly a graceful piece of sculpture, devoid of any unnecessary details. Albert Laing of Stratford, Connecticut, 1811 - 1885, started the style known as Stratford, which was carried on by Charles "Shang" Wheeler. Wheeler was a master carver whose work was the forerunner of the decorative mantlepiece decoy of today. Stratford decoys, like the Barnegat decoys, are of hollow construction but have an exaggerated overhanging breast designed to ride the slush ice which comes down river. Decoys from the Long Island area usually were carved solid from native white pine or white cedar. Black Duck decoys made from life preserver cork salvaged from beaches were first used on the Great South Bay of Long Island, and many fine shorebird decoys came from the New Jersey area.

Today the largest collection of old decoys in this country, and many newer carvings so detailed that they take on an air of realism, can be seen at the Shelburne Museum near Burlington, Vermont. These pieces, which number in the thousands, are housed in one building and when you pass through the doorway you are stepping back into the dramatic past of American waterfowl which all began thousands of years ago when a long forgotten hunter crouching in the reeds of a western marsh discovered that wild ducks could be decoyed. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

#### Literature Cited

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kirtland Bird Club, with the cooperation of Bert Szabo, has just published a seven page pamphlet, EARLY AND LATE DATES FOR THE BIRDS OF THE CLEVELAND REGION, which will be of value to the bird student interested in an index of such records. The pamphlet includes FIRST dates of occurrence, in the history of the Cleveland region, of 28 species. It was compiled by Annette B. Flanigan from BIRDS OF CLEVELAND by Arthur B. Williams (1950) and the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR from that date to September 1968.

It may be obtained by sending fifty cents, check or money order to Vera Carrothers, Wade Park Manor, East 107 & Park Lane, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

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The subscription price of the Cleveland Bird Calendar to non-members of the Kirtland Bird Club is \$2.00 per year. The membership dues are \$4.00 per year Individual and \$8.00 Family and includes subscription to the Cleveland Bird Calendar.