



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

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THE WEATHER

March - Northerly winds were persistent during the first 17 days. Lake Erie remained extensively ice covered while a temperature deficit of 11 degrees below normal was acquired in this period. Ice cover began to weaken on the 16th, ruptured on the 17th, and began moving out on southerly winds on the 18th. A warming trend then continued through the 28th, erasing the former temperature deficit and was accompanied by variable weather, wind shifts, and frequent precipitation. The winds turned northerly during the last four days.

The month averaged out one degree cooler than normal. Precipitation totaled 1.82 inches and was in deficit by 1.31 inches.

April - The month was cool and wet. Winds from the north were dominant on 17 days and from the south on 11 days. Residual ice fields on Lake Erie completely disappeared in the first few days of the month.

Temperatures averaged 2.4 degrees below normal. Precipitation was regularly scattered on 14 days throughout the month that accumulated to 4.49 inches and was in excess by 1.08 inches.

May - The month was quite wet but slightly warmer than normal. Winds shifted at regular intervals and prevailed from a given direction for moderately sustained periods.

Precipitation occurred on 12 days at fairly regular intervals that provided 5.73 inches total for the month and was in excess by 2.21 inches.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The spring season was most eventful. It included rare and unusual sightings (Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Bewick's Wren, Summer Tanager, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow); uncommonly early arrivals (Common Egret and Prothonotary Warbler) as well as late-lingering individuals (Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Scoter, Rough-legged Hawk, and Pigeon Hawk); appearances of species rarely seen in the spring season (Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Dowitcher, Great Black-backed Gull, and Franklin's Gull); an extension in the range of a certain species (Red-headed Woodpecker); a rare nesting occurrence (Mockingbird); incidents that could portend a unique nesting (Winter Wren). Details of these events appear in this issue.

The Common Loon and the Common Egret were reported with greater frequency than in recent years and from the entire area.

The departure of wintering waterfowl, the arrival and passage of migrant waterfowl, occurred rapidly with the ice breakup in mid-March. "Although Lake Erie was extensively ice covered on the 15th the open water in the harbor areas inside the breakwall, from the Cuyahoga River and east, produced the greatest concentration and variety for the whole migratory period" (Klamm).

Whistling Swans. A group of students on field trips in Willoughby sighted a flock of 27 Whistling Swans flying west in "vee" formation at 8:00 p.m. on March 18. At 10:30 p.m. on the 22nd a good sized flock (many more than the previous flight) was observed flying in a northwesterly direction and calling as before. The moonlight made the flocks visible on both occasions (Denny).

Hawks. Migratory movement was noted as early as March 16 when one unidentified Buteo was observed sailing northeast at an altitude of 1,000 feet or more along the line of the Portage Escarpment at Forest Hill Park at 3:15 p.m., a rarely reported time of passage (Newman). A count was made between 12:05 and 1:15 p.m. at Perkins Beach on April 4 (a sunny day) of 22 Turkey Vultures and 24 Buteos and Accipiters (Surman, Jr.). On April 14 a flight of 5 Accipiters and 18 Buteos was seen very high over a residence in Bay Village wheeling and circling with the air currents which carried them eastward (Cook). A morning survey at Perkins Beach on April 19 netted the following: 1 Rough-legged, 5 Sparrow Hawks, and 13 unidentified Buteos and Accipiters. A mid-day tabulation for one hour on the same day resulted in 8 Turkey Vultures, 12 Sharp-shinned, 1 Cooper's, 1 Red-tailed, 15 Sparrow Hawks, and 13 unidentified Buteos and Accipiters (Surman, Jr.).

April 26 was the first highly productive day for concentrated

13 Broad-winged, and 1 Osprey were tallied on the same day (Stasko).

The peak of the hawk migration took place on April 27. A count of 3 Turkey Vultures, 62 Sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's, 5 Red-tailed, 68 Broad-winged, 2 Marsh, 30 unidentified Hawks, and 1 Osprey, all moving in an easterly direction, was obtained from the same observation site as the 26th (Stasko). A time-log of the migration at Perkins Beach on the 27th, in progress at the time of arrival, follows:

Time	Turkey Vulture	Sharp-shinned	Cooper's	Broad-winged	Osprey	Sparrow Hawk	Blue Jay
10:30	-	24	5	3	-	-	152
10:45	-	7	1	1	-	-	17
11:00	-	9	1	-	1	-	158
11:15	3	5	-	-	-	1	53
11:30	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
12:00	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
	<u>3</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>467</u>

The Accipiters and Blue Jays were moving at a low level from west to east (Klamm).

Gulls and Terns. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were not plentiful until after mid-March when numbers increased sharply with the ice breakup, the populations remaining fairly high until after mid-April. Bonaparte's Gulls drifted in slowly after March 22 and increased, an excellent concentration being present from April 6 to 13. They diminished rapidly with none remaining by May 1 (Klamm).

The Common Tern was first reported from Timberlake where 20 moved west to east at twilight on March 29 (Martin) a new earliest spring date of occurrence. Several large concentrations were reported from Lorain harbor: (1) 200 on April 19 (Dolbear); (2) 600 on May 9 following a storm and 900 on May 13 (Ward).

Caspian Terns were present on many dates in April with the largest flocks observed at Lorain harbor: (1) 45 on the 16th (Lebold); (2) 50 on the 19th (Ward). There were three May reports, also from Lorain harbor, being last reported on May 17 (Ward, Dolbear, Klamm).

Black Terns were reported from Lorain harbor on May 9 when two were seen following a storm (Ward). Two were observed at LaDue Reservoir on May 18 (English).

Nighthawk Migration. The Common Nighthawk appeared in Cleveland Heights, Willoughby Hills, and Waite Hill on May 15 for the first records of the season (Newman, Skaggs, Flanigan). The following day, May 16, a migration was observed in Bay Village. "Nighthawks were first seen shortly before 7:00 p.m. when two

came into view flying high on a rather straight eastward course. Soon after these two passed from view another two came from the west, circled slowly and steadily moved east. Then a group of four passed, another two, three, and then a single bird. A bit later a trio came, still later another two and they continued in this manner until 25 birds had passed. They were all moving at about the same height, making no diving or sudden maneuvers as in feeding, but continued steadily eastward, sometimes in wide circling turns. Their passage was silent" (Cook). Such a flight of the Common Nighthawk in spring is rarely observed.

Red-headed Woodpecker Extends Range. The Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from the entire area of coverage especially through the month of May. "Last year for the first time in many years the Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen frequently near the Trailside Museum in the Rocky River Reservation. This year they have been seen far up the Cuyahoga Valley and in the Brecksville Reservation. Its appearance up the valleys seems to have followed the increase in the numbers of dead elms" (Wallin). Redheaded Woodpeckers are apparently moving into new locations in the Akron area (Ulrich). See the Field Notes section for an account of a group in migration along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Swallows. The movement of Swallows at Mentor Park was particularly strong during May. In the early evening of May 1 there was a mixed flight of Swallows. On the 14th flocks numbering in the thousands moved southwest. This flock was composed of Tree and Barn Swallows for the most part but quite a number were Bank and there were at least five Cliff Swallows. A heavy movement passed to the southwest at 1:30 p.m. on the 18th with Tree and Bank Swallows predominating but including Barn, Rough-winged Swallows, a few Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts (Hammond).

On May 26, a clear, sunny day with a northeast wind, a great swirling group of some 200 Swallows fed on insects congregated in a pocket formed by snow fence, sand, and a building at the edge of the beach and parking area at Headlands Beach. The Swallows completely ignored a watching group composed of 15 people and swooped in among them to feed. This flock included Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows (Pallister).

Purple Martins. A very early "scout" appeared in Geauga County on March 24, more than two weeks before another was observed (Dr. Perry McCullough *fide* Booth). The Martins were late appearing in Waite Hill but "more are present than ever before although it was not until the end of May that they became more numerous and active. In the course of eliminating nests of the House Sparrow from the Martin house a clutch of six eggs was observed in one of the Martin nests, a rare number as the usual number of eggs is four or five" (Walter Halle *fide* Flanigan).

Blue Jays in Migration. As expected the return of the Blue Jay was noticed after the decline in population during the winter.

Reports from contributors show the extent of the movement, including several flights inland which are rarely observed.

March Blue Jays returned to Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills on March 11 but migrating flocks were not observed until the last week of the month (Bole, Jr.).

April The passage of numbers of Jays in Bay Village was first noted about April 4 with a count of 50, the following day 19. On April 27 there was a migration of 15 (Cook). A regular observer along the lake reported a good Blue Jay migration, the first substantial movement being noted on April 27 at Perkins Beach when the birds were moving through at about 400/hr. (Klamm). A flight of 16 was observed at 2:00 p.m. on April 28 in East Cleveland (Sneller).

May A mid-day flight of 25 Jays moving east, flew high over The Natural Science Museum on May 2 (Kitson). A massive movement of more than 250 birds occurred in Bay Village on May 3 (Cook). Groups of Jays, numbering from five to 15 and flying high, moved steadily to the northeast from 9:00 to 10:00 am. over a residence in Willoughby on May 7 (Pallister). May 8 was an active day in Bay Village with more than 40 birds tallied (Cook). Many groups were observed at a moderately high altitude moving steadily along the lake and inland above the tree tops at Headlands Beach and Mentor Marsh on May 14. This movement was noted at Mentor Marsh on the 16th also (Pallister). At Lakewood Park the Blue Jays were moving at 850/hr. on May 17; 1200/hr. on May 24; 300/hr. on May 30. It was notable that flights were strong in late-day periods as well as the customary early-day period (Klamm). On the morning of May 22 between 9:10 and 9:35 approximately 80 Jays, in loose groups of six to 14 birds, flew high over Lower Shaker Lake from west to east (Knight). On a May 24 field trip to Mentor Marsh a migration of Blue Jays was notable as hundreds, possibly thousands, passed along the lake shore during the day traveling from west to east (Dolbear). A Bratenahl observer reports a Blue Jay movement along the lake on May 25 and termed it "late" (Raynes). The last migratory movement noted in Bay Village was on May 26 of more than 200 Jays following the lake shore eastward in groups of about 25 each. After five of these groups had passed one very large group totaling about 100 birds passed. These were strung out and for several moments seemed never to end (Cook). Extensive Blue Jay movements were noted on May 28. The edge of Mentor Marsh was full of Jays in the morning from 9:00 to 11:30, some in the trees but the greater number were in small flocks of six to 15, flying from west to east at about a 50 foot altitude and more than a hundred birds were seen. In the early afternoon small flocks of from four to eight individuals and totaling more than 40 birds were heading north along the East Branch of the Chagrin River near Holden Arboretum (Martin). Blue Jays continued to move on May 30 as two flocks of about 20 each headed northeast at Headlands State Park in the early morning (Hammond).

(See the Field Notes section for a detailed account of the Blue Jay migration along the Lake Erie shoreline on May 3 and 4.)

Cedar Waxwings Abundant. Many contributors reported increased numbers of Cedar Waxwings: (1) “hundreds to be seen from the lakefront to Chagrin Falls on May 21” (Raynes);(2) “Cedar Waxwings invaded the western suburbs after the middle of May with some flocks numbering in the forties and fifties” (Stasko); (3) “on and after May 24 this bird has been exceptionally abundant and widespread” (Klamm); (4) large flocks were reported from Lorain on May 29, 30, and 31 (Dolbear and Lebold); (5) “one” notable feature of May 30 was the presence of flocks of Cedar Waxwings at Headlands State Park, Holden Arboretum, and Chase Drive in Mentor” (Hammond).

Warbler Migration. The spring migration progressed at a fairly leisurely and even pace and while lacking the days of warbler intensity we eagerly await there were several days of massive movement evidenced over the entire region. May 7 was such a day: (1) 14 species of warblers in Concord Township (Newhous); (2) “huge waves of warblers at Firestone Park in Akron” (Ulrich); (3) a cloudy and humid day at Waite Hill with 18 species of warblers and new arrivals of eight other species (Flanigan).

May 14 appears to have been the crest when the migration continued through the entire day at the same degree of density. There were signs of it being “the day” in Lyndhurst at 7:00 a.m. (Kitson); a notable migration at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills featured an outstanding passage of Cape May Warblers (Bole, Jr.); it was a “peak” day for warblers at Waite Hill where the abundance of Cape May Warblers was also noted (Sherwin and Flanigan). The rarer warblers were extremely well represented this spring as will be noted in the Noteworthy Records section.

Icterids. The first movement of any size was reported on March 17 when an estimated 400 Red-winged Blackbirds, mostly males, stopped by the lagoon near Mentor Park at dusk. On the 23rd, a mild and sunny day with a strong south wind, Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles, Crows, and Robins were well distributed all the way from Mentor to Magee Marsh, with the movement appearing general throughout the lakefront area (Hammond).

Blackbird activity was noticed in Bay Village on April 2 and 3 with the birds numbering in the hundreds, but the 4th seemed the high point in the migration. On that date the Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Robins were moving along the lakefront to Bay Village, beginning to move inland near Huntington Beach and heading in a more southeasterly direction. At the eastern boundary of Bay Village these groups seemed to be passing eastward over the railroad tracks and along Detroit Road, while at the extreme western boundary they were seen only above the lakeshore with none moving inland. In

fact, along the L & N Railroad tracks crossing Bradley Road there were no blackbirds at all. Not until reaching Lake Road at Bradley Road could these passerines be seen. At this point the lakeshore is but a scant 100 feet away while at the railroad crossing at Bradley Road the lake is about one and one-half miles away. Approximately 1,000 birds were counted (Cook).

A mixed flock of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds, and Starlings was strung out from Mentor Park to the yacht club (about one-half mile) at sunset on April 6, a cool but sunny day. The total number was in the thousands, with male Red-winged Blackbirds seeming to predominate, although no accurate tally was possible as large numbers were down in the brush (Hammond).

Presence of Evening Grosbeaks Uninterrupted. The incursion which began on October 27, 1968 and continued through the winter diminished somewhat as to numbers in the spring but the Grosbeaks were present continuously. The final record was of a female present on May 27 at the feeding station of Dr. R. C. McKay in Brecksville where the largest concentrations had occurred. The peak count of 200 was made on January 19, with the high of the spring season being 90 on March 8 (fide Dexter). The final date of occurrence, May 27, matches the previous latest spring date which was made in 1952, also at Dr. McKay's feeders in Brecksville.

A pair of Grosbeaks remained at a feeding station in Chagrin Falls until May 21 where the count had remained high through the incursion. Observations of late feeding were made on several occasions of previously unreported times of day: 5:00, 5:10, and 5:20 p.m. E.S.T. (English). Reports of Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder in the afternoon are rare.

Courtship behavior was noted at two widely separated locations: (1) one pair courting on May 3 at Chagrin Falls (English); (2) from April 24 to May 3 a male Grosbeak regularly fed a female at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Eared Grebe - On March 17 two rested on Corning Lake in Holden Arboretum where this species occurs most frequently in this region (Bole, Jr.).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - This rare spring visitor remained at two small ponds on the grounds of the C.W. Tyler's in Willoughby from May 27 to the end of the period. It was rather tame. When disturbed it flew into trees adjacent to the ponds and could be approached within 50 feet (Mitchell Behnke fide Denny). There was a mottling or streaking in the plumage on the nape, side of neck and throat, otherwise an adult bird. The two

white occipital plumes on the head were prominent and unusually long. According to Palmer in HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, "several succeeding stages (of plumage between juvenal and adult) are very poorly known as to sequence".

White-winged Scoter - (1) On March 2 a lone female was diving in a hole in the ice along the Cleveland lakefront with Scaup and Goldeneye. The habit of rearing-up and stretching the wings revealed the white wing patches. Eight White-winged Scoters were in a concentration of ducks in the lakefront area on March 15, two being males and the others females or immatures (Klamm). (2) A single bird was observed at Lorain harbor on five dates in April when it seldom occurs (Lebold and Ward).

Common Scoter - One female Common Scoter was studied -- close up -- at the Municipal Pier at Lorain harbor for about thirty minutes on April 19. It was alone and occasionally diving (Lebold). Observations were made on the 19th and 22nd, at close range, of presumably the same bird (Johnson and Ward). These are the first April records since 1940.

Rough-legged Hawk - A late migrant moved with a moderate south wind along the Lake Erie shore at Perkins Beach on the morning of April 19 (Surman, Jr.).

Pigeon Hawk - On the early morning bird walk at Big Creek Park in Geauga County on May 11, a clear, sunny day, one was observed soaring high above the tree tops (Ramisch). This is the latest date of occurrence since 1960.

Black-bellied Plover - (1) Casual water on farm land west of Elyria produced an unusually large number, 16, on May 11 (Ward), four still present on the 14th (Lebold). (2) One was reported from Lakewood Park on the 18th (Klamm). (3) On the 30th, an uncommonly late date, one was present at Headlands State Park (Hammond).

Dowitcher - The wetland habitat on Albrecht Road west of Elyria produced 13 Dowitchers on May 18 and three on the 21st (Lebold). One was seen at Headlands State Park on May 30 (Hammond).

Sanderling - Two spring reports, which are rare: (1) one Sanderling in the company of five Ruddy Turnstones at Mentor Park on May 18 (Hammond); (2) two were feeding with a number of small unidentified shorebirds at Headlands Beach on May 26 (Pallister).

Great Black-backed Gull - This Gull again lingered into the spring season, as in 1968. (1) Six were observed, late in the day on March 5, at a borrow-pit along Route 2 between Willoughby and Painesville (Barbour). (2) Two were at Lorain harbor on March 4 and one immature on April 3 (Ward). (3) An adult, followed by an immature and flying in a westerly direction, passed at close range at Lakewood Park on March 29 (Klamm).

Laughing Gull - On May 10 one was studied for more than half an hour as it perched on a small boat mooring rack at Harmon's Beach, Lorain. Its presence was seemingly resented by the Bonaparte's Gulls (Ward). One was observed at 1:00 p.m. on May 25 on the beach at Headlands State Park in the company of 13 Ring-billed Gulls. The birds were flushed from the sand four or five times and each time, except the last, they moved only a little distance down the beach. "When I realized that one was not a Bonaparte's as first assumed, I stalked the birds and was able to approach to within thirty yards (paced off afterward). This time it swung out over the lake and snatched up a small fish and a Ring-billed Gull immediately gave chase, forcing the Laughing Gull to give up its catch. As it sought to evade the larger gull I was able to observe the color pattern" (Hammond). This is the first spring that more than one report has been made.

Franklin's Gull - An adult "in full plumage" was at the Municipal Pier in Lorain on April 14 at 7:05 a.m. One was observed for five minutes at the same location on the 17th (Ward).

Little Gull - An adult was actively flying in the company of other gulls around the Municipal Pier at Lorain on April 19. It was observed for more than half an hour and came near enough for close-up views (Lebold, Ward, et al).

Winter Wren - Winter Wrens are present in Stebbin's Gulch and their singing was noted in several locations to the end of this period (Bole, Jr., Denny). See the Field Notes section for a detailed report.

Bewick's Wren - One was seen on a May 17 field trip at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills (Dave Nichols fide Bole, Jr.).

Mockingbird - (1) The Mockingbird that frequented Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls, from November 24 to the end of the winter season lingered on until March 9 (Hjelmquist). (2) Two Mockingbirds fed silently on the ground in Highland Cemetery on the afternoon of April 27. They later flew into a large tree and were not seen again (Knight). (3) One flew about silently on the ground and in the trees near a residence in Bay Village from 5:00 p.m. until dark on April 29 (Cook). (4) One was seen in Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland during the noontime survey on May 16 (Leach). (5) A Mockingbird appeared at a residence in Willoughby Hills on March 7 and singing was noted on the 20th, one day before the arrival of a second bird. A close observation was kept of the pair and their nesting was subsequently confirmed (Reutter, Silliman, Carrothers, et al). A detailed account of this rare nesting occurrence will appear in the summer issue.

White-eyed Vireo - (1) In Waite Hill on April 28 a White-eyed Vireo called and talked for ten minutes then sat motionless

and silent directly over my head as I entered notes in my book --still present when I continued on (Flanigan). (2) One, utterly silent, and not in the company of any other migrants, was watched for about five minutes at mid-morning of May 4 as it fed at Perkins Beach (Newman). (3) The loud song of a White-eyed Vireo led to its discovery in a yard in Willoughby Hills on May 5 (Skaggs). (4) One sang intermittently as it fed in a thicket near Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation on May 12 (Scheibe), and presumably the same bird was observed about 7:30 p.m. of the same day (Kitson). (5) A silent White-eyed Vireo was seen at Lower Shaker Lake on May 15 (Knight). (6) One was observed at Beaver Creek near Lorain on May 20 (Ward).

Prothonotary Warbler - On April 10 one was observed at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation (Finck); apparently remaining in the area and was seen on April 12 and 13 (Kitson, Scheibe, and Maurice Walters vide Carrothers). These dates represent new earliest spring dates of occurrence.

Worm-eating Warbler - One was seen on May 14 near Camp Cheerful at Strongsville (Stasko).

Golden-winged Warbler - (1) One at North Chagrin Reservation on May 4 (Kitson). (2) One at Deep Lock Quarry, Summit County on May 5 (Szabo). (3) Two dates of occurrence at Beaver Creek in Lorain County, May 7 and 10 (Ward).

Brewster's Warbler - A population explosion or some unknown circumstance resulted in reports of unprecedented numbers of this hybrid warbler, (1) On May 5 at Deep Lock Quarry, Summit County, three of these rare warblers fed with a Golden-winged Warbler (Szabo). (2) One was observed in a massive movement of warblers at Firestone Park in Akron on May 7 (Ulrich). (3) A Brewster's with white wingbars (an occasional plumage variation) was seen in Concord Township on May 9, 11, and 12, and presumed to be the same individual (Newhous, et al). (4) One was observed in Bratenahl on May 15 (Raynes et al). (5) A Brewster's Warbler was watched for 15 minutes at M-.43-a.m. on May 10 at Deep Lock Quarry, Summit County. The call was first noticed as it had the first note of the Blue-winged Warbler but the second note was higher in pitch than the Blue-winged's second note. It alternated this with a three-note song, the third note being like the Blue-winged's usual second note. No yellow showed on the underparts of the bird but the other markings were typical (Michaelis).

Parula Warbler - This species appeared in greater numbers than ever before in our history. (1) One on May 4 at Beaver Creek, Lorain County (Ward). (2) On May 8, a day of massive movement in Firestone Park in Akron, six Parula Warblers sang in one tree (Ulrich). (3) One in Rocky River Reservation on May 18 (Siebert), and one observed on May 25 (Klamm).

Prairie Warbler - A silent and drably colored Prairie Warbler was observed at Highland Cemetery on May 9, and one at Lower Shaker Lake on May 15 which sang repeatedly for more than an hour (Knight).

Western Meadowlark - In the same area at Warrensville Farms as in previous years one was heard singing on May 26 and 30 (Knight).

Orchard Oriole - (1) A first-year male visited the feeding station at a residence at Chagrin Falls on April 30, a very early date, and again on May 1 (Clark). (2) One sang in the vicinity of a residence in Willoughby Hills from May 10 to 15 (Skaggs). (3) A first-year male was observed in several locations at Holden Arboretum on various dates from May 17 to 25 (Bole, Jr., Kitson, Webster). (4) An immature male that sang frequently was observed for about forty minutes in the Shaker Lakes area on May 19 (Knight).

Summer Tanager - A male was observed for three or four minutes as it remained on the ground within 20 feet at Holden Arboretum on May 7 (Walsh).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - On May 17, at Lakewood Park in the short field grass area covering land-fill along the lake, three Sharp-tailed Sparrows and a Grasshopper Sparrow were pitching, sitting up briefly, and running in the barren ruts between grassy patches. The Sharp-tails were in excellent plumage with deep ochre head coloring, typical face patch, and weak striping on the breast area. The crowns were dark and white streaks at the shoulder and back were fairly prominent. The birds were studied for several hours until rain interrupted observations. Of the various subspecies, "Nelson's" or "Inland race" was indicated as they differed from the Common Sharp-tails that we have observed and photographed along the Atlantic Coast. Regrettably, only the Grasshopper Sparrow stayed still enough to be photographed (Klamm).

Oregon Junco - Observations were made of the pink-sided race of the Oregon Junco at a residence bordering North Chagrin Reservation on April 2, 12, and 20 (Scheibe).

White-crowned Sparrow - An individual of the Gambel's race was banded in Willoughby Hills on May 14 (Skaggs).

Lincoln's Sparrow - Individuals of this species lingered in the region: (1) two were observed at Perkins Beach on May 24 (Klamm); (2) one at Mentor Park on May 26 (Hammond).

Addenda:

Glossy Ibis - Two adults of this species occupied a marshy area adjoining route 608 near Middlefield in Geauga County, a nearby

locality, from May 7 to 9, They were oblivious to the parade of viewers and fed in close companionship, often quite near the highway (Kaarlo Pollari fide Flanigan, Ramisch, et al). So far as can be determined this is the first record of this uncommon Ibis for this area.

Mute Swan - "On March 22 a lone, immature male was resting on the water behind the breakwall at Edgewater Park. The bird eventually moved into some open water in the Edgewater boat basin where it was observed at close range" (Klamm).

FIELD NOTES

Nesting Canada Geese. On March 31 a pair of Canada Geese were nest building at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation. Two eggs were observed in the nest on April 4 but I was never able to observe the eggs thereafter as the female was always on the nest. Seven goslings hatched the morning of May 2 and all were growing and well developed when last observed on May 27. For the first time the nesting adults tolerated other geese, as many as 15 being present. - GLENN KITSON

Common Gallinules Found in Improbable Locations. On May 5 a Common Gallinule was brought to the Natural Science Museum, having been found the night before in the boiler room of the Erievue Building in downtown Cleveland. The boiler room is on the 39th floor and is windowless. Apparently the Gallinule entered the air intake duct on the roof and was discharged into the boiler room, having to pass through at least two large fans to do so. The bird did not appear to be injured but it refused to eat and was found dead the following morning. - GLENN KITSON

One morning in early May a Common Gallinule was found dead close beside the wall of a building at W. 88th and Lorain. This area had been almost completely cleared of buildings to make way for the new interstate road and perhaps this building left standing and surrounded by open ground proved a deadly hazard for the migrating Gallinule, - DONALD A SIEBERT

Great Horned Owl Feeding. On Sunday afternoon, March 2, while biking in a heavily-wooded, swampy area just east of the Cuyahoga-Geauga County line our Labrador surprised a Great Horned Owl. The Owl was sitting on the ground at the edge of the swamp which was frozen over at this time. The bird did not fly but "fluffed out its feathers so that it looked twice its size. It hissed at the dog, which retreated, and then it ran along the ground back into the swamp looking for all the world like a turkey". Two piles of chicken feathers were observed and a pile of rabbit fur was nearby. Two days later when the same place was visited more chicken feathers were seen, but the Owl was not again observed. - DAVID AND MARTHA JOHNSON
fide DELOS E, JOHNSON

Chimney Swifts at Kent State University. The return of the Swifts to the campus (34 returns) is somewhat ahead of last year (28 returns) which was the lowest in 25 years. Nesting is slow, however, due to the cool, rainy, weather and the number of nests thus far is six, with not many more expected. Usually many more nest on the campus, the average number being 18. - RALPH W. DEXTER Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Red-headed Woodpeckers and Other Lakeline Migrants. In addition to the Blue Jays which were moving east along the Lake Erie shoreline on the morning of May 3 and 4, other migrants were moving on that same course. From time to time at Perkins Beach one to a half dozen Red-winged Blackbirds, a few Common Grackles, a scattering of American Goldfinch, and an occasional Barn Swallow passed overhead. On the 3rd I recorded singly two Redheaded Woodpeckers, but the next morning I tallied from one to three at a time, 15 in all. Not infrequently a Woodpecker would fly by simultaneously with a flock of Jays, though the Woodpecker did not seem to be a member of the group since it would be a few yards above or below them, and with its powerful, deep-stroking wingbeat would outdistance the more shallow-stroking Jays. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Jays Move East. Again this year the customary eastward migration of Blue Jays occurred along the Lake Erie Shoreline. From 8:25 to 11:00 a.m. on May 3, and from 8:15 to 11:00 a.m. on May 4, I kept a careful count of the Jays moving past Perkins Beach. On both days the weather was mild and partly sunny, with a light to fairly brisk south or southwest wind on the 3rd and a calm on the 4th. Numbers of birds ranged from occasional singles to a flock of 41 on the 4th. This particular flock was unusual because it paused briefly in the tops of a line of tall oaks which grow several hundred feet from the edge of the bluff overlooking the lake. The flight of all the other Jays was uninterrupted, save for an isolated few which also stopped momentarily in the treetops.

Between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. on both days, several bands of Jays moved east over the water several hundred feet from the lakeline and at a considerable height, perhaps 600-700 feet. Thereafter nearly all movement was overland, either at the lakeline or from 50 to 200 feet back of the line. Altitude varied from just a few feet above the treetops to possibly 1,000 feet. On the 3rd when there was a light to fairly brisk wind, the birds were generally at a much greater height than on the 4th when there was no wind. The count of Jays at Perkins Beach totaled 371 on the 3rd and 424 on the 4th.

At mid-morning on the 4th I followed a band of 16 Jays through my binoculars until they were lost to sight. As they passed over the bluff at Perkins Beach, they were arranged in a

broad front spaced about one yard apart. They continued in this fashion until they reached an indeterminate location to the east — presumably the vicinity of the old mouth of the Cuyahoga River — when they broke formation, shifted about in a rather disordered manner without making any forward progress, then reassembled in their original formation and continued their flight but on a more northeasterly course. Since the old river mouth is about the point where the lakeline changes direction, the birds seemingly had to alter their heading to be able to continue along the lake rather than head inland, which is where their east-south-east line of flight would have taken them.

Migration of Jays apparently continued to the very end of May. On the 27th at 12:15p.m., three birds appeared over the Mall in downtown Cleveland and moved east just north of Lakeside Avenue, while at the same time I glimpsed some 30 eastbound Jays before they disappeared in the haze in the distance. And on the morning of the 30th, a trio of Jays was traveling east over Wildwood Park on the lakeshore.

The easterly movement of Jays has not often been observed away from the Lake Erie shoreline. Particularly noteworthy, then, is a band of some 17 which suddenly materialized at about noon on May 24 at Upper Shaker Lake, where they stopped momentarily in the treetops and then proceeded east-northeast, three additional birds following them within less than a minute. (I recorded a similar movement of about 30 birds at the Upper Lake on the afternoon of May 3, 1958.)

All previous accounts of the springtime migration of Jays along the lakeline and inland, too, have described birds moving from west to east. This year, however, I sighted two passages in the opposite direction. On May 4, a group of five passed high over Perkins Beach headed almost due west; and at 8:40 a.m. on May 30, a band of ten moved west over White City at a height of 500-600 feet. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Winter Wrens in Stebbin's Gulch. The singing of Winter Wrens in Stebbin's Gulch was first noted on May 24 and 25 in two widely separated areas. On May 30 I observed two Winter Wrens flying in and out of a cluster of tree roots and debris overhanging a ledge of Cleveland Shale in the Gulch. On the average of every eight to ten minutes one of the Wrens would fly to the bank with a small "something" in its bill, disappear into the bank for about 20 seconds and then fly off. When I approached the overhang to look for a nest both birds scolded me. I was unable to locate a nest so I resumed my position about 30 feet across the Gulch. Again the birds took up the sequence. I again approached the bank to search and the birds began to scold as before. I was not successful in my search and finally gave up after about one hour of observation when it became necessary for me to leave although no determination had been made as to what was taking place. - GUY L. DENNY

Bird Oasis Re-visited. As reported in the Spring 1968 issue, Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland which provides a stopping place for migratory birds was visited during mid-day for half-hour periods between May 3 and 23. Beginning on March 14 this year, 47 mid-day visits were made, also of half an hour duration.

Unusual sightings were made and they differed from the observations of 1968. A Sora Rail, normally a frequenter of marshes with dense vegetation, was perched in one of the bushy shrubs on May 8. An American Woodcock, a nocturnal bird of the moist woodlands, swamps, and thickets was observed on open, grassy ground on March 24 and May 8. Sixteen species of warblers were observed this year, in contrast to the five species observed last year. Many species were seen in remarkably large numbers, a sampling follows: 25 Flickers on April 21; 15 Catbirds on May 8; 6 Brown Thrashers on April 29; 15 Robins on March 24; 6 Hermit Thrushes on April 17 and 21; 75 Slate-colored Juncos on April 9 and 50 on three other dates in April; 20 Tree Sparrows on March 19; 25 Field Sparrows on April 16; 50 White-crowned Sparrows on May 7 and four on May 28 which was the last date of their sighting in our region; 40 Song Sparrows on March 19. A Mockingbird seen on May 16. was perhaps the most exceptional observation. - SIBYL LEACH

May Count 1969. This year, on May 17-18, the fourth "May Count" by the Kirtland Bird Club was made. The rain was nearly constant, varying from light drizzle to heavy showers, and lighting conditions were unfavorable. Nevertheless, a tally of 142 species was made.

Wood Warblers are the key in a spring count and 29 species were identified, including the standards usual for the period, and enhanced by the Orange-crowned and the Mourning Warbler. Notable observations were made, including the Osprey, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, and Water Pipit. A rare sighting was made of the White-eyed Vireo and among the eleven species of sparrows tallied there appeared an observation of extreme rarity-- the Sharp-tailed -- of which three were seen. A spring observation of this species has not been made since 1959.

Waterfowl was not plentiful and no stragglers appeared to remain from an earlier movement except one Scaup, but an otherwise drab list was bolstered by the record of a Common Loon.

- ROBERT SCHEIBE

THE REDBIRD MOVES NORTHWARD

"The Cardinal Grosbeak is very abundant in all the southern states as well as the peninsula of the Floridas. In the western country a great number are found as far up on the Ohio as the city of Cincinnati. They extend to considerable distances into

Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. They are found in the maritime districts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey where they breed and a few remain the whole year. Some are seen in the State of New York and now and then a straggler proceeds into Massachusetts, but further eastward this species has never been observed." Written in the 1830's, this was Audubon's description of the range of the Cardinal.

Originally a bird of the Carolinian fauna and non-migratory by nature, this colorful songster has been steadily increasing its range, first to the north and now to the northeast. The bird that we take for granted in Ohio is rarely seen in New Hampshire, parts of Massachusetts, Maine and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Eighty years ago it was still quite unusual to find it in parts of Ohio. In *BIRDS OF OHIO*, by Lynds Jones of Oberlin College in 1903, he states, "Ten years ago the Cardinal was scarce in Lorain County and even now it is far less numerous at the lake shore than twenty miles south. Lately it has appeared at London, Ontario. Clearly it is extending its range from year to year. With more protection it will soon become one of our most familiar birds". This last point of Mr. Jones' is important when trying to answer the question, "Why has the Cardinal's range been expanding?" During the nineteenth century it was hunted heavily as a food source and for cage birds. Under protection it has steadily increased in numbers. It was noted that "As a cage bird it does excellent in captivity, but it should never be placed in a cage with other birds as it appears impossible for him to keep peace with them".

The Cardinal continued northward into Michigan and Wisconsin. In *BIRDS OF MICHIGAN* by A. J. Cook, April 1893, he stated, "The Cardinal is very rare. Never seen at Ann Arbor and one nesting record near Detroit". In *Brief Notes from Michigan* from *THE AUK*, 1900, J. Claire Wood stated "During ten years of careful field work I have seen the Cardinal Grosbeak but twice and secured both specimens, a female November 1897 and a male December 3, 1899". At Lake Geneva, Wisconsin on Thanksgiving Day 1917, Mr. F. K. Hutchinson wrote, "Great was the excitement at Wychwood to see a male Cardinal feeding with Juncos where hemp seed had been thrown on the brick paths of the formal garden close to the house".

In the northeast the Cardinal, although seen rarely, was slow in spreading its range. According to Dr. T. Brewer around 1900, "It is but a chance visitor in Massachusetts during the summer. I know of only one pair that nested. This was in the Botanical Gardens at Cambridge six years ago and departed in the fall with their young". Edward H. Forbush writing in 1929 in *BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES*, "Not common in the northernmost states and though they reside throughout the year in southern New York and southern Ontario, they do not seem to be able to maintain themselves long in New England, staying with us for only a brief period". As late as 1949, Palmer in

MAINE BIRDS, "The Cardinal is a very rare visitant, most records referring to escaped captives. Earliest record was in 1852. After a prolonged northeasterly storm that did great damage from Maine to Virginia, this species along with other southern birds appeared in Portland in April. In the winter of 1945-46 a female came to a feeding station in Androscoggin County and left in late April".

Geographical features such as mountains, rivers, or large metropolitan areas have had an effect on the spread of this songbird. The Hudson River was a pathway as well as a barrier. The Cardinal did not cross but moved north up the river valley. In BIRDS OF NEW YORK, 1914, "In this state it is commonest in the extreme southeastern counties west of the Hudson River, but not in Westchester County on the other side of the Hudson". The Cardinal was a resident in the New York area, but by 1900 it had become quite rare, probably as a result of hunting pressures coupled with a long sustained cold period in the late 1800's. But increased temperatures and relaxation of hunting led to a population explosion and eventually brought about the crossing of the Hudson River. The Cardinal eventually overcame mountain barriers. In 1949 AUDUBON FIELD NOTES for Hudson-St. Lawrence area, "The Cardinal is holding its former range extension and is pushing north into new territory. It was reported in Essex County in July. This is the first definite record of the Cardinal from the Adirondack region".

The study of a non-migratory species is best made in winter. Then the biggest advancements in range are made because they become released from close ties to their small breeding territories. A check of Christmas Counts for southern New England shows no birds recorded until 1944 when seven were tallied and then a gradual increase with 51 observed in 1959 and 90 in 1960. In the winter of 1963-64 a census taken of four western counties of Massachusetts showed 609 compared with 507 in the previous winter. The 1963 Christmas Count disclosed 12 Cardinals at Martha's Vineyard and two at Block Island, R. I. October and November of 1965 saw Cardinals pushing into New Hampshire and Maine. On October 11 a total of 12 Cardinals was reported from nine localities in New Hampshire. In Maine, October brought seven reports of single birds. November produced 12 Maine records as far north as Brewer. Winter 1965-66 showed seven Cardinals were seen on three Christmas Counts in southwestern Maine and a female was seen farther north at Bangor. Two male Cardinals reached the Maritime Provinces: one at Pokiok, York County, New Brunswick on February 14 and one at Digby, Nova Scotia on March 15-16. Cardinals seen southeast of Montreal at Cowansville and Lennoxville were a giant step in their increase in that area.

So the Redbird continues to overcome barriers in the northward movement. Even extreme cold does not seem to deter his progress, and the range continues to extend. - DONALD A. SIEBERT

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Canada Geese Hostile to Common Egret. A Common Egret appeared at ease in the company of the Great Blue Heron and they often fed together, contrasting with an episode at mid-day of April 24 when the Egret was observed as it came down on the edge of the Smith Road pond among hundreds of Canada Geese. A group of about 25 Geese moved in at once and approached the Egret causing it to fly up. The Egret came down again shortly and as it stepped into the water the Geese advanced and closed in, surrounding it. Slowly, silently, almost imperceptibly, they inched forward until a tight circle of two to three feet was formed around the Egret, and remained so until the Egret retreated to the grassy shore. A few minutes passed, the Geese drifted a distance and their group loosened but when the Egret again stepped into the water they returned at once. Again the Egret retreated to the shore and began to preen and groom. The Geese drifted away with the exception of five individuals that remained close, moving about but watchful. No interest was shown by the main group of Geese. There was no noise, threatening action, or sign of aggressiveness at any time, only the inexorable pressing forward of the group of 25 as a whole. When observed 20 minutes later the Egret was moving about following the grassy edge of the pond, not yet entering the water. Later the Egret was seen to feed compatibly with the Geese by Margaret Sherwin.

Apparent evidence of at least one night's roost was seen in a pine woods adjoining one of the ponds where the Egret fed. A three foot area along my path was whitened with chalky droppings on the morning of the 25th that had not been evident on the 24th.

Broken-wing Strategy of Wood Duck. A female Wood Duck appeared on my path in the deep woods the morning of May 13, floundering helplessly from side to side, flopping both wings and uttering low calls as she moved towards a small body of water. Seeing I was not following she returned to the path before me and repeated her performance. I remained quiet. She then gave a low call that was evidently a signal, as the young at once moved out from a spot less than 15 feet from where I stood but unobserved by me until that moment. She led them off and I was able to count at least 12 as they scurried through the grasses.

Yellow Warbler Battles Her Image. At 8:05 a.m. on May 5 a pair of Yellow Warblers were flying into and around a hawthorn tree beside the barn but it was not until I entered the barn at 9:00 preparatory to driving out that I became aware of what was taking place. The female Warbler was flying at the two south windows, pecking at the glass, clinging to the wood muntion bars and chipping loudly, twice flying to the much larger window on the west side of the barn. At 9:30 she entered the barn, flew all around the inside even clinging to the topmost rafters. After 10 minutes she returned to the outside and the pair remained together momentarily before she resumed her battle. The male bird sang all this while, never being more than 25 feet away but moving about always. The female never appeared to be frantic -- just

extremely determined and I stood inches from the windows inside the barn without causing a pause in her actions. At 10:00 a.m. I left on an errand, returning in 20 minutes and departed shortly for my morning walk, returning at 12:30 to find no change had taken place. At this point I covered the windows on the south side of the barn with newspaper, the large west window with a film. She was generally at my shoulder (or two feet away) as I worked from a stepladder. At the west window she pecked and clung to one end as I was busy at the other. The male bird came close at this time and after 10 minutes of flying about the windows they departed for a shrubbed area closeby. The female soon returned to the hawthorn tree and for the first time I saw her feed. It was now 1:30 p.m., her chipping was no longer heard although the male continued to sing. At 2:00 I again heard her chipping and to my dismay found her flying at the windows at the front of the barn, back and forth endlessly. At this time I put a film on all the barn windows.

After being away all the following day, May 6, I arrived home at 4:30 p.m. to find the female obsessed with the windows in the house, especially one on the porch and the back door, almost completely glass. The male was often with her and they would pause in the wisteria vine that grows around the porch peering at the windows. He sang almost constantly and she chipped almost constantly. She attacked the windows on all sides of the house though to a lesser degree on the north. I did not see any interest shown in the second-floor windows but she did battle two on the stair landing. This continued through the evening until 8:15 p.m., despite efforts to discourage her by flicking newspaper or a cloth at the windows which merely caused her to leave briefly.

The next morning, May 7, was dull and cloudy and I drew all the curtains and shades at 7:00 a.m. At 7:10 the female was seen circling the house but no effort was made to resume the battle.

Baltimore Oriole Shows Preference in String for Nest. On May 17 string was provided for the Oriole and the female carried away all that was provided each day - about 15 pieces of soft twine eight inches in length. On the 19th I included hard-twist cord and a hemp-type rope in addition to the soft twine. Later I observed her tugging at soft twine which held a mesh suet bag to a post and I realized she had taken the soft twine from the selection leaving the other two types of material. She was not successful in obtaining the twine from the mesh bag and flew to the perch holding the selection of string, took a piece of hard-twist cord in her bill, dropping it onto the ground at once. Later in the day she worked the hemp-type rope until it completely separated into fine hairlike strands which she carried to the nest site four or five at a time. As I no longer had soft twine available I offered a soft white yarn which was taken at once. This yarn could easily be seen in the nest structure.