



CLEVELAND REGION

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The Kirtland Bird Club

# THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

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



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT  
(800-foot Contour Line)

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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## THE WEATHER

June - Even though the winds came from a southerly direction on 18 days of the month, temperatures were often cooler than normal, and the month averaged 2.3° below normal.

Rainfall occurred regularly for two and three day intervals all through the month providing 20 days on which trace and measurable precipitation occurred. Precipitation totaled 4.61 inches and was in excess by 1.18 inches.

July - The month featured violent storms which included heavy cloudbursts, high water and flooding that left excessive destruction in its wake. The storm of July 4 was particularly noteworthy in this respect. Precipitation occurred on only 13 days, but was well distributed throughout the month and often heavy and violent, totaling 6.47 inches and was in excess by 3.16 inches.

Temperatures varied regularly from normal and averaged out barely 0.3° warmer than normal.

August - Many days of dry pleasant weather passed under nearly static high pressure systems that allowed considerable smog and haze to persist. Temperatures were near normal through mid-month, then became warmer so the month averaged 1.2° warmer than normal.

Precipitation occurred on only five days, in two sessions, [sessions] from the 8th to 10th and on the 16th and 17th. Total precipitation accumulated to 0.53 and was in deficit 2.75 inches.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The dominant aspect of the summer season is expected to be the local breeding birds but this season attention was focused on a bird that last nested in the Cleveland region in 1954. A pair of Mockingbirds achieved three successful nestings, which is an uncommon number in their usual environment. Since these Mockingbirds were far removed from their normal breeding range it was possible to follow their actions in detail. See Nesting Observations for an account by Gen Reutter and Ruth Silliman.

The success of local breeding birds was generally at a normal level, but with a tendency to lateness. Chimney Swifts were reported late in starting their nesting on the campus at Kent State University (Dexter) and newly fledged young of the Horned Lark, Catbird, Rufous-sided Towhee and Song Sparrow were observed being fed after mid-August (Klamm and Flanigan).

The Eastern Bluebird was an exception in achieving nesting success. The history of one pair illustrates their inability to cope with the competition of the pugnacious House Sparrow. Driven from four successive nest boxes by aggressive sparrows the Bluebirds finally returned to nest box number one, more than two months after the initial attempt. Only one fledgling resulted from this fifth nest (Flanigan). On Sherwin farm only one Bluebird nest was successful (Sherwin). See Nesting Observations for a summary of five Bluebird nests (Skaggs).

Shorebirds. Shorebird movement made an auspicious beginning with the appearance of a Whimbrel on July 16 (Carrothers and Gaede) but it was not until mid-August that populations increased and brought reports of Willets (Kitson and Scheibe); an American Avocet and Stilt Sandpipers (Carrothers). See Noteworthy Records section for these records.

Gulls and Terns. The entire harbor area, and the lake for some distance around Fairport Harbor, was crowded with gulls and terns on August 28 with the total exceeding 5000. Several thousand were lined up on the outer breakwall but it was not determined what proportion of each species was present. More than 500 Bonaparte's and a large number of Ring-billed Gulls were in the harbor area as were many Black Terns and more than a thousand Common Terns (Hammond). A mixed flock of from three to five thousand Herring and Ring-billed Gulls remained all summer on the outer pier at Lorain harbor (Ward). The assemblage of gulls on the Cleveland lakefront was extremely meager and the build up was slow. No accumulation of either Bonaparte's or Ring-billed Gulls was present until August 1. Except for an east to west movement on August 10, of tremendous proportions, the Herring Gull was poorly represented (Klamm).

A flight of approximately 30 Common Terns heading southeast was sighted as it passed over the Ranger Station at Chapin State Park on August 27 (Howard). Seldom are these terns reported from an inland point.

Nighthawks and Swifts. There was a limited migration of the Common Nighthawk during mid-August. Ten Nighthawks flew in a northwesterly direction over Shaker Heights on the 12th and 30 birds, flying in the same direction, were observed on the 13th (Peskin).

Nighthawks did not appear to be active again until the final days of August. A northbound group of 30 was observed over Interstate 90 in Willoughby on August 29 (Hammond). "An early-evening watch of the sky over Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights on August 29, 30, and 31, failed to reveal any large, concerted migration. On the 29th about six birds were feeding locally; none were sighted on the 30th; but on the 31st scattered singles -- six in all -- moved in straight-line flight west along the edge of the Portage Escarpment" (Newman). Fifteen were seen over Upper Shaker Lake on August 30 and 40 birds were observed in Warrensville Heights on the 31st (Knight).

Report of the Nighthawk movement from the western portion of the region indicate the same trend was noted. "No outstanding movement was observed until August 30 when 42 Nighthawks flew in a southerly direction over Rocky River and 54 birds moved eastward over Lakewood between 6:40 and 8:05 p.m. which is the typical direction of flight noted at our home in Lakewood" (Klamm).

Only one notable gathering of Chimney Swifts was reported, of 200 over Painesville on August 20 (Hammond).

Blue Jay Migration. The extensive movement which began in March after a pronounced decline during the winter of 1968-69 continued through June 1. "Blue Jays still migrating on this day - 15 birds in small bands moving east along the lakefront" (Stasko).

Brown Creeper. In the 1969 season two nests were found in the Rocky River Reservation, as well as two additional areas of Brown Creeper activity (Stasko). A lone bird was sighted in North Chagrin Reservation on June 21 (Scheibe).

There is growing evidence the Brown Creeper is becoming a regular, though uncommon, summer resident. Prior to 1961 we had records of two nestings, both from the vicinity of Aurora. Since that date we have nesting reports and sightings during the summer period from all sections of the Cleveland region. Nests were found in Rocky River Reservation in 1961 and 1964; LaGrange Township and Fern Lake in 1966; Geauga County in 1967. Fledgling Brown Creepers, as well as parents carrying food, have been observed in Rocky River Reservation in 1966 and 1968. Sightings of lone birds have come from North Chagrin Reservation in 1962 and 1967; Cuyahoga Falls in 1963; Mentor Marsh in 1965 and 1967; Chesterland in 1965; Stebbins Gulch in 1966.

Winter Wren. As reported in the Spring issue of the BIRD CALENDAR Winter Wrens were heard singing regularly in Stebbins Gulch during April and May and they continued to be heard through July 10. "Now heard in all the wooded ravines of the region" (Bole, Jr.). On June 5 and 6 a Winter Wren sang morning and evening in the valley below a residence in Kirtland Hills (Webster).

Warblers. A Black and White Warbler in Brecksville Reservation on July 19 was the first migratory warbler reported and a Blackburnian Warbler in Bedford Reservation on August 3 was a very early transient (Knight). Only a scattering of reports were made until August 31 when a steady migratory movement took place and eight species of transient warblers were reported.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - On the morning of July 10 one was observed at LaDue Reservoir (Scheibe).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - The individual present at two small ponds in Willoughby from May 27 to the end of the spring period remained through June 5 (Denny). This is the third June record.

Shoveler - On August 31 a female Shoveler rested at the edge of the mud flat at White City, finally flying to the southwest (Klamm).

Piping Plover - (1) One was viewed closely at Lorain harbor on August 1 (Ward). (2) One was identified as it mingled with other shorebirds at White City on August 25, 29, and 31 (Raynes, Peskin and Klamm).

Black-bellied Plover - Many observers viewed one at White City from August 17 through the 22nd (Klamm *et al*).

Ruddy Turnstone - On July 28, an early date, one was present at Lorain harbor -(Ward).

Whimbrel - This rare migrant was observed at close range as it fed near Killdeer and Lesser Yellowlegs at White City on July 16 (Carrothers and Gaede).

Willet - Two fed on the mud flat at White City on August 15 at mid-day "almost lost among a large number of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. They soon separated from the gulls and engaged in two or three short flights of five to ten feet which fully displayed their striking wing pattern. They departed after being observed for about ten minutes" (Kitson). One of these Willets, or another bird, was observed later that same day and again on August 16 and 21 (Scheibe and Klamm).

Dunlin - (1) One at Lorain harbor on August 1 (Ward). (2) One at White City on August 19 (Gaede).

Stilt Sandpiper - Three Stilt Sandpipers fed at White City on August 8. One was in summer plumage with the vertical markings still distinct and two were in changing plumage (Carrothers).

Western Sandpiper - One fed in the company of other "peep" sandpipers at White City on August 17 (Carrothers).

American Avocet - From 8:15 to 9:00 a.m. on August 15 one fed with other shorebirds at White City, then a disturbance caused the entire group to fly up and the Avocet did not return (Carrothers). This is the first appearance of the Avocet since its confirmed record in 1964.

Iceland Gull - Appearing prominent among the Ring-billed Gulls a sub-adult lingered the greater part of the day inside the basin or on the breakwall at Edgewater Park on July 20 (Klamm). This is the second summer record in our history, the first in 1965.

Laughing Gull - This surprising visitor was observed for more than an hour at Edgewater Park on August 30 as it fished inside the basin and perched on the breakwall. The gull was in immature plumage with no white on the forehead (Klamm). This is the first August record for the region.

Barn Owl - On June 1 one was seen at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.).

Long-eared Owl - An occasional visitor in the chicken yards at Hanging Rock Farm in Kirtland Hills, three being present on June 1 (Bole, Jr.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - A late spring transient was seen in Lakewood Park on June 8 (Klamm).

Short-billed Marsh Wren - Once again, as in several past summers, a singing bird was seen on August 11 in the same overgrown grassy field on Sherman Road in Geauga County. The bird was heard on the 14th but did not rise above the grasstops (Carrothers).

Solitary Vireo - Two appeared on somewhat early dates: (1) on August 18 in Warrensville Heights (Knight); (2) on August 19 in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Brewster's Warbler - One, in adult plumage, was seen in Stebbins Gulch on June 25 (Flanigan). This is the second June record in the region.



Nashville Warbler - A new late date was established for the Nashville Warbler with their presence in Stebbins Gulch during June, last seen on June 27 (Flanigan). See Field Notes section for details of their appearance.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - A male of this species sang alongside a road near Chardon on June 25 (Spare).

Western Meadowlark - One sang during late May in the same area at Warrensville Farms as in former years and was still present on July 21 (Knight).

Orchard Oriole - (1) One was seen and heard singing near a residence in Mentor on June 30 (Fais and McKinley). (2) On July 5 one was observed at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.).

House Finch - Three were seen in a mulberry tree at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, on June 29 and were often present during the remainder of the summer period (Bole, Jr.). This is the second summer record in the region.

Red Crossbill - A single individual was observed in Stebbins Gulch on June 1 (Bole, Jr.). On July 15 a family of six Red Crossbills made their appearance in a mulberry tree at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, remaining for ten days (Bole, Jr., Sherwin et al).

Slate-colored Junco - (1) This species was observed in Stebbins Gulch throughout the summer period (Bole, Jr. and Flanigan). For a report of their nesting see Field Notes section. (2) On July 31 one was seen in a cottonwood tree at Headlands State Park (Fais and McKinley). (3) On August 19 three Juncos were seen in the deep woods in South Chagrin Reservation. Two days previous to this sighting another bird, thought to be a Junco, was seen in this area suggesting the possibility of a breeding population (Peskin).

White-crowned Sparrow - On June 5, lacking one day of the latest spring date, a White-crowned Sparrow sang in the poplar trees at Headlands Beach Park (Klein).

White-throated Sparrow - Two individuals were still visiting the feeders at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, on June 1 (Bole, Jr.).

From an Adjoining Locality:

Bald Eagle - On a canoe trip down the Grand River on July 13 an adult Bald Eagle was sighted about two miles from the Blair Road Bridge in Lake County, a short distance beyond our boundary (McKinley, Fais et al),

## NESTING OBSERVATIONS

Red-tailed Hawk - For the third successive year (see Cleveland BIRD CLEVELAND, 64:42-43, 1968 and 63:22-23, 1967), the Red-tailed Hawk's nest in North Chagrin Reservation was productive.

February 9 - nest was heaped with snow. No hawks were seen or heard.

February 23 - although the hawks were not in evidence there was a bright hemlock sprig visible on the nest edge.

March 2 - one adult was observed in nest area.

March 22 and 30 - neither adult present.

April 20 - both adults in area - but silent.

May 31 - one downy young peering out of nest and flexing its wings. No adults seen during hour-long observation.

June 22 - neither young bird nor adult in evidence.

This nest produced two young in each of the two former years, during which nesting the adult birds were frequently observed and heard. By contrast, this year an adult was never observed on the nest and the silence during their infrequent presence was conspicuous. - GLENN KITSON

Broad-winged Hawk - This bird was seen in Chapin Forest, Lake County, during the summer period. On June 29 the female was observed flying in and out of the trees. On July 8 two young, their heads still covered with down, were seen near a nest that was presumed to have been theirs. When the trees are bare of leaves a further search will be made for the nest.

- DAVID W. HOWARD

Common Gallinule - In a marsh created by the run-off from LaDue Reservoir five adult Gallinules and seven young were seen on July 21. On the 29th only two adults and one young were seen. It became increasingly difficult to make observations due to the extensive growth. - MARJORIE ENGLISH

Common Gallinule - Five downy young were observed at Mentor Marsh on July 22 and six downy young on the 25th. On both occasions they scurried into the cattails as they were approached. No adult Gallinules were seen.

- WAYNE A. and HILDA HAMMOND

Eastern Bluebird -.The following data is pertaining to five Bluebird nests in Willoughby Hills:

<u>Nest</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
#1	6	5	0
#2	5	0	0
#3	5	4	4
#4	2	2	2
#5	4	?	?
	22	11	6

Nest #1 - eggs were laid by April 26. Young hatched on or about May 2. All were dead in nest on May 10 following three days of cold, rainy weather.

Nest #2 - clutch was complete by May 5. House Wrens arrived May 8. Eggs punctured and thrown out of box on May 9 - presumably by Wrens.

Nest #3 - young banded in June.

Nest #4 - only two eggs laid. Young fledged August 3.

Nest #5 - fate unknown but several sticks placed in box by Wrens.

- MERIT SKAGGS

Prothonotary Warbler - A pair was observed in the mixed swamp forest at Mentor Marsh on the afternoon of June 25. There was much activity and singing and at least one was seen carrying food. The nest site was not seen. Shipman Preserve was visited after leaving the forest and two Prothonotary Warblers were seen with at least one young bird out of the nest and being fed. A visit was made to the same area on June 29 but no activity was seen. A bit of singing was heard at intervals - a kind of modified song. -

DANIEL McKINLEY, MARILYN and F. W. FAIS

Chestnut-sided Warbler - For the second consecutive year (see Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR, 64:44, 1968) a nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in Rocky River Reservation. The area occupied was approximately a quarter of a mile east of the nesting territory of last year. The nest was located in a dense patch of young wild cherry growth near the main park drive. On June 4, the day the nest was discovered, two downy young half filled the nest. The female remained defiantly on the edge of the nest although approached within two feet. On the 8th the nestlings had developed some feathers and the growth had been so rapid they now filled the nest to overflowing. Unfortunately, it developed the nest had been parasitized and the two nestlings were young Brown-headed Cowbirds. The nest was visited on June 13, 14, 15, and on the 16th, when the nest was empty. The two fledglings were fed by the foster parents for two weeks. - MICHAEL STASKO

THE NESTINGS OF THE MOCKINGBIRD  
Gen Reutter and Ruth Silliman

This article is a collaboration of our notes, taken separately and then compared, and supported by enthusiastic help from both our husbands and the Reutter children: Jeff, Barry, and Laura. The aid consisted of watching the Mockingbirds, whistling to them, chasing off dogs, cats, and other birds, and even one snake.

A Mockingbird was first seen in our area of Willoughby Hills on March 7, 1966. One continued to be seen every two or three weeks during the following three years. It generally fed on the ground, usually remaining three or four days before disappearing for another few weeks, and was always alone.

We had no knowledge of the sex of the bird until March 20, 1969, when singing was heard for the first time and we judged it to be a male. On the following day two Mockingbirds were seen together on the ground and it appeared he had found a mate. As time passed and we continued to see the two birds together we did decide the female was slightly more slender but it was impossible to differentiate when seeing only one bird.

At the beginning of our detailed note-keeping we recorded weather conditions when the birds were seen. Soon it was apparent that weather was not a factor so it was discontinued and weather notes will not be included.

The two birds were seen together for the following month. At first there were several days between sightings, then they began to be seen more often. Finally, on April 21, they began to carry nesting material into a high, dense, thorny hedge within sight of our two houses and from this point on their presence was continuous. When carrying nesting material to the nest site they would first stop in a tree that grew in the hedge and extended about fifteen feet above, then fly down into the hedge. The other bird would perch on some convenient high spot and act as a guard. This tree growing in the hedge served as a lookout post for the Mockingbirds. During this nesting they were seen to pursue Crows, Cardinals, and Grackles - and even cats were put to flight.

On April 22 a great deal of singing was heard for the entire day. It was a conglomeration of many melodious bird songs, interspersed with squawks of the Blue Jay, Catbird and others. Also on this day its song was heard coming down the chimney and upon investigation a Mockingbird was seen perched on the chimney top. This proved to be one of the favorite singing perches.

Nest building continued. The Mockingbirds would pick up

piece after piece of grass or twig, then drop it again as though searching for just the right material. They would often go to the very center of a shrub for wanted material.

On April 23 the Mockingbird began loud singing at 6:30 a.m. On the 24th at 10:45 p.m. a few calls, that were short and loud, were heard emanating from the hedge. When a whistled response was made the Mockingbird answered. It was not an imitation of our whistle, but definitely an answer. This continued in a take-a-turn manner for several moments. More than two hours later the singing was still in progress and we experienced our first nighttime serenading. The nighttime song was not muffled by other bird songs or daytime noise and at 1:35 a.m. it had not lessened.

The two Mockingbirds were not seen together for the next two weeks. By May 3 the Barn Swallows returned that have nested in several buildings on this eight acre area for the past 25 years. The Barn Swallows have used the wires between the house and the road as their perch all these years and declared their ownership by determinedly diving at the Mockingbirds when they were on the wire. The Barn Swallows were the only birds to show any aggressiveness toward the Mockingbirds and both partners engaged in this defense.

The Mockingbirds displayed a boldness and friendliness to their human neighbors and appeared to even seek out and enjoy their presence. The singing continued, day and night. The two birds were seen together again on May 7 and thereafter. The nighttime singing ceased and was not heard for about ten days.

At this time the nest, #1, was seen deep in the inner part of the thick and thorny hedge and it was almost certain the nest was occupied. It could not be closely examined. The nest was about eight to ten feet from the ground and the structure was very "twiggy" in appearance. The daytime singing was almost continuous at this period, and until the 20th, despite one day of unceasing rain. The two birds were seen flying together and were so close they seemed to be touching as they flew. The following day, May 21, during a singing session on the chimney top the Mockingbird flew up and about in a little motion resembling a cartwheel. After close observance of subsequent flights it was decided this cartwheel takes place at the height of the song. The song grows louder and more vigorous until it climaxes in this cartwheel, and it was witnessed on many occasions.

The singing dwindled very abruptly on May 24 and was heard only a few times each day. Only one bird was now being seen. On the 27th the nest site was approached and the nest appeared abandoned. What had occurred at this nesting remained unknown.

On this same day two birds were again observed together as one Mockingbird chased the other and made a buzzing sound --

angrily -- or so it seemed. It developed we were to hear this buzz almost every time the Mockingbirds were near each other. Both flew to the hedge, with one going to the tree and perching quietly, as the other entered the hedge about fifty feet away. At this time we questioned the existence of another nest, especially when the singing began anew on the 28th, as early as 5:30 a.m., and continued far into the night. The song was again frequently accompanied by cartwheels and the birds chased each other while giving the buzzing call.

On June 6 both Mockingbirds were seen carrying food into the area where nest #2 was later found and the nestlings could be heard as the parents entered the hedge. It was noted that as they searched for food on the ground the wings would often be fully spread and then slowly closed. This action took place many times throughout the remainder of their stay. There are apparently many explanations for this action by Mockingbirds but we came to believe it was done to stir insects up from the grass. It always took place on the ground and only after the feeding of nestlings was taking place. Both parents take part in the feeding. The singing was greatly subdued and heard much less often. It did not now reach the height of excitement when the cartwheel is performed and nighttime singing was abandoned.

On June 12 a ladder was used to make a visual examination of nest #2 in its almost inaccessible location. There was definitely more than one bird in the nest but it was impossible to make an exact count. Only one bird raised its head. The parents were four or five feet away buzzing angrily and holding food which they carried to the nest when we had gone no more than ten feet from the hedge. The nestlings were no longer heard by June 16 and the parents did not go to the nest area but were flying in and out of various shrubs and bushes instead.

On June 17 the two Mockingbirds were spending long periods of time in a mock orange bush about 125 feet north of the second nest. The bush was approached with the expectation of finding the fledgling Mockingbirds and it was with amazement an almost completed nest was found - #3. It was about five feet above the ground and in the outer edges of the shrub. The Mockingbirds had not been observed carrying nesting material to this nest. They were buzzing angrily just a few feet from the nest. Nesting material was still being taken to nest #3 on the 18th. It was presumed the young from nest #2 had met with disaster from some source, hence the hurried construction of nest #3, but a fledgling was seen on June 20. It appeared possible that two fledglings were present from the circumstances although two were not seen together. The parents alternated between carrying food to the young and nest construction.

Two bluish-green eggs, heavily spotted with brown were seen in the nest on June 23. One fledgling was still being fed. At this time the food consisted largely of cherries. A parent would peck at the cherry, after laying it on the ground, toss

it around and then feed it to the young bird. Three eggs were in the nest on June 29 and the fledgling still followed the parent birds, generally a few feet in the rear. It appeared a little unkempt as yet and was clumsy in flight.

The nest and eggs survived a violent storm of July 4 that created havoc in this section of Lake County. The brooding bird was absent from the nest to feed the fledgling to such an extent there was concern if proper conditions were being maintained for the eggs in the nest.

On July 7 one of the Mockingbirds and the fledgling were perched on the wire on several occasions and the young bird was begging for food held in the bill of the adult bird. The parent refused to feed the young bird. Three nestlings were found in nest #3 on July 8, suggesting the possibility the food had been for the nestlings, thus the refusal. The fledgling was seen only once following the refusal of food - on July 12.

The nestlings in nest #3 were photographed on July 9, with remote control equipment and telephoto lens. After scolding the camera for a short time the parents resumed their feeding. On this day nesting material was being taken into a rosebush about 75 feet from the site of the second nest and also into a spruce tree farther to the north. It was impossible to determine if each bird was working on a different nest or if both birds were working on both nests. The following week when the nest was approached for photography a black snake was seen quite near. The nest was not examined until the next day and only two nestlings were then present. Perhaps the third nestling was a victim of the snake. On the 19th one bird was fledged and on the ground beneath the nest while the other remained in the nest.

No interest was shown by the Mockingbirds in the nest in the rosebush but work continued on the nest in the spruce - #4. Two eggs were found in nest #4 on July 25. Apparently the first egg was laid just five days after previous brood had left nest #3 and while the parents were still engaged in feeding. On the 27th there were four eggs. The young from the third nest were not seen after August 2.

The eggs in nest #4 were in the process of hatching on August 7 with one nestling still partially covered with shell. They were fed in the nest for the next ten days. On the 17th they were fledged and were taken to the dead tree where the other young had been protected and fed after leaving the nest. The actions of the parent made it possible to follow the journey of about 600 feet and two days were needed to accomplish the trip. Only two young were seen to reach this area successfully. Only one adult accompanied the fledglings during this period. The other bird was seen less and less often and was judged to be the male as it could be heard singing and scolding across the road about 500 feet away. As the days passed only one young bird was seen with the parent.

FIELD NOTES

Thirteen Visits to Stebbins Gulch. Stebbins Gulch, a rugged little canyon formed by erosion many eons ago, runs for several miles just off Mitchells Mills and Wisner Roads in Geauga County. It was named after Hosea Stebbins who purchased it in 1860. The Gulch and adjoining acreage was acquired as a gift by Holden Arboretum in 1958. In some places its cliff-like walls rise several hundred feet above the shale of the stream bed. The stream that created the Gulch drops approximately 300 feet in a mile with numerous falls and cascades along its course. This portion is kept in its completely wild and natural state. In the deepest part of the Gulch the temperature never rises above 75 degrees in summer and as a consequence plants and trees of the colder north can thrive. This habitat is appropriate for avian species we normally see in the Cleveland area only in migration, resulting in frequent reports of rare and unusual sightings in the Gulch.

On and after June 4 a search began in the Gulch for data relating to the presence of the Winter Wren. Events of interest have been selected from detailed notes of the trips.

Acadian Flycatcher - The call of the Acadian Flycatcher was an almost constant sound being spaced at close intervals along the path. The puzzling song that is heard as the bird flies from one perch to another was heard repeatedly. Several were observed at eye-level (their perch in the tree, although many feet from the base of the tree in the lower reaches of the Gulch, was at eye-level for the observer on the trail) and it was noted the movement of the wings was fast and furious as the song was delivered, with the song ceasing as the bird perched again. This unique performance was observed on numerous occasions on subsequent visits and evoked questions as to the source. Is it a "voice sound" or a "wing sound"? It clearly resembles the whirring sound made by the wings of the Ring-necked Pheasant as he fans his wings when calling. Much has been written concerning this sound and there has been diversity of opinion as to its source. A. C. Bent deals with the sound at length in his Life Histories of North American Flycatchers and excerpts from the quotations follow: Alexander Wilson (1810), "as it flies from one tree to another has a low querulous note, something like the twitterings of chickens nestling under the wings of the hen. On alighting this sound ceases"; William Brewster(1882), "they (Acadian Flycatchers) had another note also which was much like the whistling of wings. I afterwards satisfied myself that this sound was a vocal one"; Aretas A. Saunders (1935), "the bird also sometimes produces a series of short musical notes all on one pitch, 'we-we-we-we-we', which resemble strongly the sound produced by the Mourning Dove in flight, and are supposed by many to be made by the wings. The bird sometimes produced this sound when in flight, as the Dove most frequently does". Frank M. Chapman states in his Handbook of Birds (1940), "a rarer note may be heard when the bird makes



a short, fluttering flight. It resembles the soft murmuring of whistling wings". On one occasion this sound was heard as the bird was perched with the observation made at eye-level from a position on the trail at the edge of the Gulch. The wings vibrated rapidly although the bird was in a perched position. No report can be found of this sound being heard with the wings at rest.

On June 30 an Acadian Flycatcher was observed carrying food to a nest located in a hemlock that overhung the stream bed. When the nest was investigated from the upper edge of the bank it was found to be occupied by a Brown-headed Cowbird. Although still covered with soft down it was so large it completely filled the nest cup. Both foster parents fed the nestling and it was noted as they perched on the rim of the nest that the nestling was as large, if not larger, than the foster parents. On July 2 they still fed the nestling Cowbird.

Winter Wren - The song of the Winter Wren was heard on nine of the thirteen visits, ranging from several songs a visit to a continual series of songs. It remained elusive and only a fleeting view was ever obtained. The singing was confined to the area described in the Spring issue of the BIRD CALENDAR and continued until July 10. Following this date no observation was made until August 8 and the Wren was not heard then or on subsequent dates.

Solitary Vireo - On June 10 a Solitary Vireo was heard and then seen, quietly perched in a hemlock. On June 16, near the same location, one was again seen.

Brewster's Warbler - At the upper rim of the Gulch in a grape tangle where Blue-winged Warblers had been seen on several visits a Brewster's Warbler was seen on June 25. The wingbars were wide and white. The underparts were almost entirely white with the upperparts in typical plumage.

Nashville Warbler - The song of the Nashville Warbler was heard several times on June 4 but no attempt was made to locate the bird. On June 10 a male, singing occasionally, was sighted and observed feeding for about fifteen minutes at the precise location where it was first heard. During the last few minutes of observation it perched on a dead limb with a large worm draped crosswise of the bill in the manner food is carried to the nest, sang a few times, then disappeared. The song was heard during the following hour as a tentative boundary was made for use in future study. The bird ranged on both sides of the Gulch but never more than about 50 feet from the stream bed and for a distance of perhaps 400 feet. As the "supposed territory" was entered on June 11 the Nashville was heard at once. Its song was followed for the ensuing two hours, on both sides of the Gulch, with the conclusion the tentative boundaries located June 10 were tolerably accurate. Twenty-seven songs were heard on June 20, two of them incomplete songs. The bird then appeared to become aware of an intruder, flying down within three feet

of the ground and within 15 to 20 feet of the observer. It was disturbed, but not unduly so, flying away within a short time.

The discovery was made of a female Nashville Warbler on June 24 (a first sighting of the female). She was feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird and was in such constant attendance it appeared unlikely she fed another young. A Nashville sang four times in the understory below but it was not determined if this bird was feeding a fledgling. The male Nashville was not seen to feed the Cowbird. The crop of the Cowbird was noticeably bulging with food. The female Nashville and the young Cowbird were encountered later and the Cowbird was calling for food. The Nashville Warbler ignored the calls as she groomed and preened and did not feed until at least ten minutes had elapsed [elapsed].

When sighted on June 25 with the fledgling Cowbird the female Nashville became extremely agitated. She flew in a semicircle before the observer and low in the vegetation, often flying and hopping eighteen inches from the ground on the low growth. A sharp chipping call was uttered during this time. The Cowbird did not appear excited and finally followed its foster parent out of sight. During a fifteen minute observation on June 27 the Nashville sang eight times. A young Cowbird was calling "cheep-cheep" but was not seen to be fed. This was the final sighting of the Nashville Warblers although five additional trips were made to the Gulch. At no time was the Nashville Warbler seen outside "supposed territory".

Magnolia Warbler - A singing male was seen before the descent into the Gulch was begun on June 4 and again on the 10th and the 20th.

Black-throated Green Warbler - Although their song had been heard on earlier visits to the Gulch one was first sighted on June 27.

Blackburnian Warbler - On June 30 a female Blackburnian Warbler fed a fledgling at frequent intervals. They were busy in the hemlocks on the slope.

Louisiana Waterthrush - On June 11 a nest was discovered with six young crowding the nest chamber. It was located six to seven feet above the stream bed in a mossy green bank above a shale bank. The nest hole was deep into the side of the bank and so overhung with greenery it was impossible to see until one of the parent birds was observed to disappear into the bank while carrying food. Both parents fed the nestlings and shared the duties of nest sanitation, generally flying at least 40 feet before dropping the fecal sac. A quick look on the 16th revealed them to be well feathered and the eye line conspicuous. On the 20th two medium-sized trees, a hemlock and a basswood had fallen from the upper ledge and their foliage covered the nest. The nest was found to be intact as it was recessed more than six

inches into the bank -- but empty! Their departure from the nest was judged normal however after the parents were observed feeding fledglings on both sides of the Gulch near the nest.

Canada Warbler - Two singing male Canada Warblers were seen on June 4 and thereafter. A pair fed young just out of the nest on June 24. On July 2 three fledglings were being fed though the young also foraged for themselves. These warblers were observed at both the upper and lower level of the Gulch.

Slate-colored Junco - A pair were nest building on June 10. The nest site, six feet above a pool of water, was a slightly recessed shelf in a shale bank with a small ledge jutting out above to form a partial roof. The Juncos picked up the dark, damp, leaves that were present on the nest site, carried them out over the creek bed and dropped them. They at once selected dry grasses and returned to the nesting site. They would arrange and rearrange the material before settling down and forming the nest cup with their body, continuing to pull and shape the grasses as they turned in the nest cup. Both birds worked steadily without pause and appeared to be equally active. When visited on June 16 the Junco was on the nest - contents unknown. From the ledge above a precarious view of the contents was obtained on the 20th. Four eggs could be plainly seen with the possibility of a fifth egg. On June 24 and 25 the Junco remained motionless on the nest although approached as close as five feet. The Junco was away from the nest on June 30, returning within five minutes carrying food. It settled on the nest at once after feeding a nestling. On July 2 a nestling was fed and the parent settled on the nest where it calmly remained when approached at eye-level. The nest was empty on July 10. It carried all the signs of successful use, being flattened on the nest edge and with signs of droppings. An adult was seen a short distance along the Gulch with an immature in its keeping.

On August 8 the Gulch was silent except for the cracking and popping of the bark on the sycamore trees. A Slate-colored Junco nest (#2) was discovered less than 60 feet from the first nest when a parent carried a large insect to the nest and fed a nestling. The parent settled on the nest immediately as was the habit noted at the first nest. A watch was made from across the stream, in plain view. After fifteen minutes the bird left the nest and an examination revealed one downy young and one egg. The nest was located about thirty inches from the base of a shale bank at the stream edge. The nest was quite exposed with only one small piece of vegetation. No sheltering camouflage was near and drops of water fell down the face of the shale cliff constantly and pattered on the outer edge of the nest material which was consequently wet. The nest material hung down as much as eighteen inches in places though averaging about ten inches. At times four or five drops of water fell at one time and passed within inches of the bird on the nest. The Junco returned in about fifteen minutes, flying to the nest at once, fed the nestling and settled on the nest. At no time during observations at the nest of the Junco had they displayed concern or annoyance.

Several hundred feet upstream another Slate-colored Junco was observed with two large worms draped across its bill which it carried to a nest (#3) In a cliff that overhung the Gulch. The overhang was formed of tree roots and earth above a shale cliff and seven feet or so above a pool of water. By standing on a tree that had fallen across the Gulch it was possible to see the nest was occupied by at least two well-feathered young. There was no concealing growth near this nest. A few grasses that appeared to be nest material hung down from the opening which was quite large. The parents brought food five times at short intervals. One feeding consisted of pale green worms.

On August 15 it was discovered a misfortune had occurred at Junco nest #2. The young bird was found on the shale beneath the nest. The condition of the body indicated it had fallen within a matter of a few hours. The egg was intact in the nest which suggested predation was not the cause of the mishap as did the undamaged condition of the dead nestling. There was evidence that clumps of mosses and lichens had fallen from the cliff directly above the nest and possibly they had hit the edge of the nest and dislodged the nestling. No adults were observed near this nest.

Farther up the Gulch the two parents were near nest #3 and mildly scolded (the first and only reaction of any Junco during the observations). Both parents were carrying food. One fledgling was fed several times with insects and yellowish worms. The fledgling could fly only short hops and kept mainly to the ground. Even though the tail was quite stubby the white side feathers were very evident. There was heavy striping on the breast in dark gray with no sign of the dark bib as yet. The wings and back were the color of an adult bird. The eye ring was noticeable, much like the eye ring of a fledgling Bluebird. Other fledglings were not seen but one or both adults carried food to the other side of the Gulch frequently.

ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Black crowned Night Heron Returns to Former Roost An example of the effects of a changing habitat is seen in the return, after a two-year absence, of the Black-crowned Night Heron to a former daytime roost in Lakewood. A stand of locust trees was used as a favorite roost, being used by as many as 18 birds in the past. The area was disturbed by the building expansion of the Lakewood Disposal Plant and the birds disappeared. Now the place is quiet again and the Black-crowned Night Herons are returning. Three birds were present on August 16 and four birds on the following day. - MICHAEL STASKO