



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

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



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor
Annette B. Flanigan

Editorial Advisor
Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary
William A. Klamm

Special Features
Donald A. Siebert

Editorial Assistants

Vera Carrothers
Adela Gaede
Elizabeth Rose

CONTRIBUTORS

Mary & William Baum
B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Vera Carrothers
David Corbin
Mrs. Arthur B. Crofts
Mildred Daniels
Corinne Dolbear
Martha Drushal
Don Ehlerger
Marjorie S. English
Annette B. Flanigan
Adela Gaede
Wayne & Hilda Hammond
Charles Hocevar
Perry F. & Jan Johnson
Faye B. King
Glenn Kitson
William & Nancy Klamm

Charles H. Knight
Sibyl Leach
Zigmond & Helena Nagy
Donald L. Newman
Perry K. Peskin
Marjorie Ramisch
Bertram & Margaret Raynes
Genevieve Reutter
Robert A. Scheibe
Margaret H. Sherwin
Ruth Silliman
Merit B. Skaggs
Karl Smith
Gordon Spare
Michael Stasko
Sue Storer
Bert L. Szabo
Clinton E. Ward

* * * * *

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to
Charles Hocevar
18934 Prospect Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

June - A warm, verdant month that passed with lush growth and well distributed rainfall. It was not excessively wet but sufficiently so to keep low-level ground areas in puddles and pools of water. Precipitation on 12 days totaled 3.79 inches and was in excess by 0.36 inches.

Temperatures were cyclically varied above and below normal by a very modest deviation and averaged 3.1 degrees above normal.

July - Rainfall on 11 days occurred at evenly distributed intervals, but was often more violent in character and briefer in duration than in June. The total amounted to 3.72 inches and was in excess by 0.38 inches.

Temperatures were generally warmer than normal in the fore part of the month and cooler in the latter part, with the final average a 2.4 degrees below normal.

August - Excessively, dry and somewhat cool weather characterized the month. Precipitation developed on only seven days, often being brief but heavy. The total accumulation was only 0.91 inches and was in deficit by 2.37 inches.

Temperatures above normal occurred on ten days and the month averaged 1.6 degrees cooler than normal.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The summer season appeared to pass with little or no outcropping of uncommon occurrences. Although the customary nesting birds tended to be sparse, the supply of several must be classified as "dismal" (Bluebird and House Wren). There were several reported nestings that are rare and unusual (Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Orchard Oriole), and successful nestings once again by the Mockingbird that has established itself in Willoughby Hills. These events will be fully reported in Nesting Observations.

A bleak picture is received regarding the Bald Eagle nestings in northern Ohio. The results of an aerial survey made in mid-July, as well as a survey on foot, indicated that not one -- of eight nesting pairs -- had hatched an egg! This same survey in 1970 reported one young bird had been produced and two young birds in 1969 (fide Johnson).

Gulls and Terns. Gulls arrived on the Cleveland lakefront about on their normal schedule and their population reached its peak in late August -- 7,250 Bonaparte's on the 22nd; 450 Herring and 2,200 Ring-billed on the 28th (Klamm). At Lorain harbor the tern migration made a slow start on August 11, with 5 Common and 6 Caspian Terns, growing to 200 Common and 75 Caspian Terns by the 17th. The following day about 100 immature Black Terns, 500 Common Terns, and 40 to 50 Caspian were present (Dolbear and Ward). Waves of terns were passing at White City on August 27, many of which did not stop. At least 600 individuals were on the beach, 300 of which were Black Terns (Carrothers). The tern population at Fairport Harbor on the 29th was estimated to number at least one thousand birds (Hammond).

Nighthawks on the Move. First movement was noted on July 29 at Painesville when a count of 12 was made (Booth), and seven birds were reported at Pepper Pike on August 8 (Raynes), but not until the 15th was a true migratory movement in progress, when more than 20 were seen passing over East Cleveland at 8:00 PM (Skaggs). At a Lakewood residence the first gathering was noticed on August 20 when 18 individuals were milling about accompanied by about the same number of Martins (Stasko). At Warrensville Heights, 13 Nighthawks were noted on the 22nd, and 30 were seen feeding leisurely as they moved to the southwest on the 30th (Knight). A survey, made at dusk in Lakewood on August 25 and 26, resulted in a tally of 93 and 97 birds respectively (Klamm). A count of 75 to 80 birds was made at a Lorain residence on August 29 at 7:00 PM, when they were observed as they constantly flew in a circle in a counterclockwise movement. This movement continued until 8:40 PM, when darkness prevented further observation (Nagy). A flock of about 50 was observed at 7:30 PM on the same day at Pepper Pike as they wheeled about, feeding and moving steadily westward (Kitson). On the 30th and 31st, from 6 to 10 individuals were observed as they fed at dusk at Waite Hill (Sherwin).

“On four of the final six days of August, I watched the broad expanse of evening sky visible from Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, for evidence of Nighthawks in migration. But I saw no true migratory movements, though on the evening of the 29th a few scattered bands -- 43 birds in all -- passed from east to west along or close to the line of the Portage Escarpment. I believe, however, these were birds gathering locally to feed and to await the actual day of departure since normally the flow of migrants is from northwest to southeast” (Newman).

Only one large movement of Chimney Swifts was reported, of 300 or more at Elyria on August 22 (Johnson),

Bank Swallows Gather at White City. “When I arrived at White City at about 10:15 AM on July 25, a great host of Bank Swallows occupied the electric power lines and were feeding over the land and the lagoon. By a partial count and estimate I arrived at a figure of 600 birds, among them a complete albino. Although I did not actually observe any of them move on to the west, which is the typical direction of lakeline flight in late July and early August, many must have resumed their migration because shortly before noon, when I left White City, only about a third of the swallows was still present.

A week later, on the morning of August 1, some 30 Bank Swallows, including the complete albino, were at White City. During the two and one-quarter hours of observation that morning, small groups of this swallow -- three or four to a dozen or more -- moved westward along the lakeline just offshore and 15 to 20 feet above the water. I tallied about 100 in all” (Newman).

This same gathering of swallows, including the albino specimen, was observed by another spectator on July 25 (Hammond).

Brown Creeper Again Present. Reports were received for each of the three summer months. Near Chardon a singing bird was present from June 1 through the 13th and sightings were made on the 20th, July 4, and on three August dates (Spare). One was found near Holden Arboretum on June 11 (Skaggs) and July 30 (Bole, Jr.). On August 22 one was observed at Virginia Kendall State Park (Hammond) and one at Bedford Reservation on the 27th (Peskin).

Continuity of Mockingbird Nesting. By June 8 the peeping of the nestlings from the second nest could be heard, and the parents devoted their energies to carrying food to the nest. Several days later, by the source of the peeping, it was judged they were out of the nest. However, they apparently did not survive long enough to venture beyond the immediate nest area as the peeping ceased and thereafter the parents were always alone. The two fledglings from the first nesting had by now left the area.

The third nest was built in a spruce tree which had harbored

one of the 1969 nests. Two young dogs often played near the nesting tree and the Mockingbirds demonstrated their aggressiveness in protecting their territory. Time after time the birds would swoop down and actually peck the dogs on the tail, following them right to the back door of the house, and then would perch near by to watch and wait. Soon this became a game to the dogs and they would lie directly below the scolding birds as though enjoying their antics. No one was allowed near the nest tree without feeling the swish of wings a few inches above his head. Two fledglings emerged from this nest on July 20 and were fed by the parents in the protection of some brush a short distance away. They ventured farther on their own and finally, they left the area.

There was some indication of a fourth brood, as one of the adults was seen carrying food to a northerly location, but no sign of young was either seen or heard.

Thus, the lone Mockingbird which appeared in 1966 and was ultimately joined by a mate in 1969, produced two fledglings (surviving long enough to leave the nesting territory) in 1969, five fledglings in 1970, and four fledglings in 1971 -- eleven in all (Reutter and Silliman).

Only one other Mockingbird was reported for the summer, coming from Shaker Lake on June 12 (Leach).

White-eyed Vireo Remains at Rocky River Reservation and Lorain County.

One that was first observed on May 18, remained at the same Rocky River Reservation area which was frequented by a White-eyed Vireo last summer. It called frequently, becoming less vocal as summer progressed. Although it was under observation until July 18 there was no evidence found of a nest (Klamm and Stasko). At French Creek Reservation, Lorain County, one was seen and heard on June 5 and July 4. On the following day one was heard singing at a location one-quarter mile away (Johnson).

Warbler Migration. The migration began on an auspicious note with the appearance of a Wilson's Warbler at Lakeview [Lake View] Cemetery on August 6, for a new earliest fall date (King). A quite early Magnolia and a Cape May (marking a new earliest fall date) appeared at Brecksville Reservation on the 9th (Knight); a Pine Warbler on the 17th was the first migrant species at Waite Bill (Flanigan). By the 22nd there was evidence of movement on a wide front: Shaker Lake (Leach); Virginia Kendall Park (Hammond) which included a Prothonotary -- the second August record -- and a Brewster's -- the first August record in the history of the region. A migration was observed at North Chagrin Reservation on the 24th -- including Black and White, Golden-winged (a rare fall record), Tennessee, Nashville, and Black-throated Green (Scheibe). The 31st ushered in the full force of migrants and a tally of eleven species was made at Shaker Lakes (Corbin and Knight).

Orchard Oriole Remains on Scene. After being reported over the entire Cleveland region in the spring -- judged to be at least eight different individuals -- this oriole remained in the area and two nestings resulted. One family with three young birds appeared in a mulberry tree at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, on July 3 (Bole, Jr.). A nesting which took place at Macedonia will be described [described] in Nesting Observations.

Certain Species Becoming Increasingly Scarce in Region. With the encroachment of urbanization the habitat required by certain species that formerly nested in the region is fast disappearing. As a result there was only one report each for the Least Bittern and Sora Rail, at Hoover Pond, Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.); Virginia Rail at North Chagrin Reservation (Scheibe); Common Gallinule at Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Early Arrivals. Assiduous field work by several observers was rewarded by the discovery of early arrivals in the region: (1) Green-winged Teal on a small stream in Rocky River on August 22, and American Widgeon on Baldwin Reservoir on August 4 (Klamm); (2) Ruddy Turnstones at White City and Edgewater Park on July 23 and 24 (Carrothers and Klamm); (3) Solitary Sandpiper at Rocky River on July 11 (Stasko); (4) Gray-cheeked Thrush at Waite Hill on August 25 (Flanigan); (5) Solitary Vireo in Tinker's Creek Gorge on August 8 (Knight); (6) Black-throated Blue Warbler at Waite Hill on August 25 (Flanigan).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Hooded Merganser - On August 6 a young female was discovered on the pond at the Cleveland Zoo and was still present at the end of the summer period. There was no apparent injury and the bird was active and feeding well (Ehlinger). [The only previous summer record was in July 1962. Ed.]

Semipalmated Plover - From one to three individuals lingered at White City in early June, last reported on the 9th, for a new latest spring date (Carrothers).

Golden Plover - From five to seven birds were observed at Burke Lakefront Airport on various dates from August 21 to 28 (Klamm).

Black-bellied Plover - One, still in winter plumage, appeared at White City on June 19 for a new latest spring date (Peskin). A very early individual was discovered at White City on August 1 (Klamm), and from one to eight birds were observed on scattered dates until the 28th, at White City and Burke Lakefront Airport (Baum, Carrothers, Scheibe, Stasko).

Willet - On August 1, one was present at White City, where it fed and rested on the mud flat of the settling basin, frequently in the company of a Greater Yellowlegs and Black-bellied Plover, and

was photographed. As the Willet flew about the striking wing pattern was displayed (Hocevar and Klamm). On the 8th, this, or another bird was observed at the same location (Baum and Stasko) and again on the 10th and 11th (Carrothers and Scheibe). On the 12th one was present at LaDue Reservoir (Scheibe).

Knot - Two birds were present at White City on August 15. One bird was very striking in plumage as the upper portions of the feathering were newly acquired white and dark grays, but the breast still retained a very rosy hue. The other bird was in complete fall plumage (Klamm and Newman).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - A lone bird, in the company of 6 Golden and 8 Black-bellied Plovers, was present at Burke Lakefront Airport on August 28. The smaller size attracted immediate attention as the group was put to flight and resettled to feed in the grassy areas along the taxi strip, where it could be studied with care (Klamm).

Franklin's Gull - (1) One or two second-year birds were observed on August 21, 22, and 28, at Edgewater Park and White City (Klamm). (2) An adult was viewed in the Boat Basin at White City for several minutes at mid-day on August 30 (Hocevar).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - An adult bird was found on July 7 in the Wildlife Management Area of Rocky River Reservation in a section which contains many dead trees, as members of the Kirtland Bird Club were being conducted around the new Interpretive Center (Flanigan et al). This is the first summer record in the history of the region.

Olive-sided Flycatcher - One at Warrensville Heights on August 28 and one at Upper Shaker Lake the following day (Knight).

Philadelphia Vireo - One was found at Shaker Lakes on the quite late date of June 1 (Corbin).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - (1) A singing male was present at Rocky River Reservation on June 13 (Klamm); (2) a singing male was observed daily near Chardon from July 1 through 11 (Spare).

Kentucky Warbler - A male called loudly as it fed in an area of low brushy growth at Waite Hill on August 30 (Flanigan).

Western Meadowlark - One, which was present at Sheffield Village, Lorain County, through May, continued to be seen and heard almost daily until July 22 (Johnson, Nagy, Ward).

NESTING OBSERVATIONS

Common Nighthawk - The roof of the CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM Building at Elyria was the site of a nest and one of the fledglings, capable of only very weak flight, was found in the parking area on August

21. A second fledgling, able to sustain stronger flight, was found with the adults. This is a rather late nesting, as the gathering and southward movement of the Nighthawks has already begun in late August. - PERRY F. JOHNSON

Bank Swallow. This species traditionally nest in large colonies, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, so it was of particular interest to follow their activities at White City, where they nested in unusual circumstances. William and Nancy Klamm noticed excavating being done by the swallows on May 31, in an eight-foot pile of dirt which was left over from construction work which was taking place. Half of the dirt had been removed, leaving a vertical cliff, and this is where the swallows were building. Six holes were excavated in one bank and two in an adjacent bank, but all were on the same level. Observations were then made at several-day intervals between June 4 and July 17. Four birds were usually seen and one hole in each of the banks was constantly used, so it was assumed there were two pair, although a third opening was used occasionally.

On the morning of June 9 the swallows were active about their nest cavities and everything was serene, but in the afternoon two boys and a dog were using the banks as a playground and it was feared the swallows would depart. However, the following day everything appeared as usual.

All through the summer trucks and huge cement mixers passed constantly, only about 50 feet from the nests, and on July 14 a truck load of rubbish was dumped against the bank. Fortunately this pile of rubbish did not reach as high as the nest holes and the birds continued going in and out as usual.

No fledglings were seen, but since the adults were in such constant attendance, it is likely the two nests were successful.

- VERA CARROTHERS

Red-breasted Nuthatch - A pair, nesting in Rocky River Reservation, fledged two young on June 6. This family of four was encountered in the pine woods on June 27 and July 3. - WILLIAM and NANCY KLAMM [In 1965 two successive nestings were reported from this same area (CBC, 61,3:30-32). - Ed.]

Bewick's Wren - A pair nested at Rocky River Reservation and on the evening of July 14 two adults were observed feeding nestlings. The nest was located in the outdoor restroom near the Trailside Interpretive Center. Observations continued and in the early morning of the 21st four young were counted in the nest. At 11:00 AM of that same day they were seen leaving the nest with the parents. On that evening the two adults and four young were found in the woods, about 500 feet from the nest, by Michael Stasko and Owen Davies. - KARL SMITH [In 1957 a pair nested at Cuyahoga Falls, producing 4 young, and a pair nested at Pepper Pike which raised 5 young. -Ed.]

Orchard Oriole - On June 3 their nest was discovered resting on a crotched branch in the top branches of a pine tree near a residence at Macedonia. Both male and female were observed entering and leaving the nest and the male frequently perched near the nest and sang as the female sat on the nest. On the 12th activity increased, and we judged that feeding was taking place. By the 19th the young could be heard in the nest, being very noisy when the parents arrived with food. A very severe storm, with both wind and rain, occurred on the 20th, and the following morning four young were seen perching on low branches in the pine trees, with one young still remaining in the nest. The female stayed with, and cared for, the young bird in the nest and the male carried food to the four that had fledged. With hopes of keeping the young fledglings from predators, as we believed they had left the nest prematurely due to the violent storm we placed them in a basket with dried grasses and set the basket on some branches in the tree. Our efforts failed, but several days later the birds were seen about 200 yards away with the male in attendance, so they managed to survive. The female continued to protect the late fledgling. After four or five days they were not seen, but were heard. Then, several weeks later a family of Orchard Orioles was spied in a cottonwood tree in the yard and assumed to be the same family. It was impossible to determine the number of birds but at least three young were seen. - MARTHA DRUSHAL [The last nesting record was in 1954 and came from Avon. -Ed.]

Nesting Notes - At least two Screech Owl nestings were successful: (1) adult with two young observed along the Chagrin River in Willoughby Hills on July 5 (Flanigan); (2) adult with two young near the Interpretive Center, Rocky River Reservation, on the 7th (Stasko et al).

House Wrens were singled out by several observers as being alarmingly low in nesting population: “we had no House Wrens near the house this year” (Bole, Jr.); “not one nest in any of the boxes where at times we have had as many as five nestings in progress at one time” (Flanigan); “our area is extraordinarily low in wren population” (Raynes).

Bluebird nestings were reported as follows: “one pair on our lower farm” (Bole, Jr.); “parents feeding two young on June. 2” (English); “five young fledged on May 26” (Flanigan); “3 successful nestings reported in five boxes” (Ward). The negative reports as follows: “female met with disaster, male tried to feed her but ignored the nestlings and five young died in the nest” (Dolbear); “parents disappeared and five young perished in the nest” (fide Flanigan); “no nests at two regular locations” (Sherwin); “of 10 available boxes, only three produced young” (Skaggs); “none in any of my boxes, but a successful nesting reported by a neighbor” (Spare); “after five years of at least four of five nests, not one this year” (Szabo); “we had no Bluebirds this year” (Storer).

Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed building a nest in a crotch of a dead ironwood tree in Chesterland on May 16. On the 23rd the nest was completed and both birds were on territory. Incubating was taking place on the 30th. On June 6 there was much unrest and scolding at the nest site and the bird was on and off the nest frequently. When viewed on the 13th it was seen that the gray lichens which formed the outer portion of the nest were gone from the bottom half and the brown inner material was showing. In a ten minute interval of observation, one of the birds went to the nest three times and removed material from the outside. The terrain was too rugged to permit the bird to be followed to the new location. When next observed, on July 2, not a shred of the former nest remained and no gnatcatcher was seen (Carrothers). ["A practice, apparently peculiar to the gnatcatcher, and one that has been commented upon by almost every observer familiar with its ways, is its habit of tearing up a completed or partly built nest and re-using the materials to build a new nest a short distance away" from BULLETIN 196 by A. C. Bent. -Ed.]

FIELD NOTES

Great Blue Heron Colony. Due to development now taking place in the vicinity of the heronry which is located between Heath and Rockhaven Roads in Geauga County, the probability of diminishing usage is impending. There has been a heronry in this location as far back as 1927 -- a small one, according to the memory of one who hunted in the swampy section at that time (fide Ramisch). This nesting site of a colony of Great Blue Herons has been observed by me for the past ten years. I consider the nesting to be fairly stable this year, as compared to past observations, despite the heavy toll taken of the nesting trees by the damaging storm of July 1969. About half of the nest trees were lost at that time but the birds returned in 1970 and 1971 and appear to have adjusted by locating in the few trees that were left standing. Their choice for nesting is the huge American beech trees which were alive at the time of my first visit, making it difficult to count the nests or to make a tally of the young. But the trees are now dead, except one, and it appears diseased, and unfortunately there are no trees in the adjacent woods of sufficient size to accommodate the huge nests.

As the beech trees are taller than the surrounding trees it is possible to see the nests from a Heath Road vantage point. On March 23, 1969, more than 80 herons could be seen from this Heath Road lookout. In April of this year there were always from 30 to 50 birds in sight from this observation point but it is almost impossible to determine the total population as they come and go constantly.

On a trip to the nesting trees with Annette Flanigan on April 10, 1967, a rather detailed count was made, resulting in 75 active nests, which would indicate the presence of 150 birds. On a trip

inside the nest area on May 23 of this year all of the nests could not be seen but there were at least 20 herons visible, some incubating, but no young could be seen above the rim of the nests.

Later in the summer the swamp which rims the nesting territory is almost impassable, as the vegetation completely covers the fallen trees making walking extremely hazardous. However, on July 7, 1971, the middle of the nest area was reached. At least 12 to 15 nests occupied each of the six trees, but not all of the nests were in use.

Thus far the construction has not interfered with the colony and there is a promise not to cut any of the nesting or adjacent trees, but there lurks the disquieting possibility that the draining of the 900 acres will adversely affect the feeding territory of the herons.

- VERA CARROTHERS

Turkey Vulture Again Appears at Shaker Lake. In the Spring 1971 issue of the BIRD CALENDAR (67:2,29), I explained that two Turkey Vultures seen in the vicinity of the Upper Shaker Lake on May 15 were the first I had ever recorded in 34 years of birding in the Shaker Lakes region. Almost as surprising, then, was a single Turkey Vulture seen briefly near the Upper Lake just before noon on June 6. This bird, which was sailing high in a very small circle to the north of the lake, had lost at least one primary wing feather and several others were quite ragged, but its flight did not seem impeded in any way. I can only speculate whether this bird was a tardy migrant moving east or a rural bird of our region which had wandered into the metropolitan area. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Cuckoo Behavior. At 11:30 AM on a hot, muggy, August 13 I was called to the residence of Mrs. H. J. Killmeyer in Highland Heights to identify a bird which had lain motionless in the top edge of a trimmed hedge since about 10:15 AM. When I arrived at noon the bird was still in the same hedge, three feet from a window, and appearing as though it had been tossed there by someone. It was a cuckoo.

I cautiously approached the bird and got as close as five feet before it aroused and suddenly flew to a nearby apple tree and perched there, facing me. I could then see by the markings that it was an immature Yellow-billed Cuckoo. There is no way of assigning the cause of the bird's behavior -- it might have eaten some worms that had been subject to poison spray; or it may have crashed into the window and then dropped down onto the hedge. Frank M. Chapman, in his book BIRDS of EASTERN NORTH AMERICA, comments that the cuckoo will perch "motionless, and apparently slightly dazed", however, he refers to this action being for only a short period of time. - MERIT B. SKAGGS

Hummingbird Vignettes. Since early May Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were daily visitors at a feeder at a Chagrin Falls residence. Only males were seen until mid-August -- with few exceptions -- then the females began to frequent the feeder. One male, at least, took the attitude that the feeder was his alone, and time and again would drive the females away, and on one occasion a bee that was trying to feed was driven off. But the females were persistent and did manage to feed fairly often. - MARJORIE S. ENGLISH

A small bright-red feeder, which is used exclusively for peanuts, hangs from the roof of an overhang at the back door of a Waite Hill residence. On August 23 a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird approached the feeder and hung in the air, fluttering, for some seconds as she circled the feeder twice, staying only inches from the feeder. Finally she came to rest and perched on the rim of the feeder eyeing the small round openings which dispense the chopped peanuts. After a few seconds of exploration she flew to a dogwood tree a few feet away and remained some minutes. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

As I watched two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at my Willoughby Hills home on August 30, they hovered before some roses, some large lillies [lilies], and some past-prime bergamot blooms, and engaged in some chasing as they fed and perched. Then, one bird flew toward me on its way to another flower bed, and in so doing, came close to a bath towel hung out to dry. The hummingbird hovered for several seconds in front of the large red "roses" woven into the design of the towel. Hummingbirds tend to be attracted to red above all other colors and this bird, likely a young of the year, was either fooled by the red rose design or was just curious. - MERIT B. SKAGGS

Blackbirds and Bass. On June 17 a group of garden club members toured the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center in Summit County. A Red-winged Blackbird nest was pointed out near the pond area as a young Red-wing, just out of the nest, sat on a cattail and watched. The fledgling then became frightened and started to fly across the pond, but it was too far. The bird turned and started back, but soon tired and landed on the water, still continuing its flight movements which propelled it 15 feet over the surface of the water. The bird floated well and the movement came as it pressed down upon the water with its wings -- the wings never once sank below the surface. Rapid progress was made and the bird was just about to climb onto a cattail leaf when a largemouth bass reached up and swallowed it in one gulp! BERT L. SZABO

Wildlife Management Area of Rocky River Reservation. [Probably no area around the Cleveland region is so well covered or produces more noteworthy records and uncommon nesting records than Rocky River Reservation, I asked Michael Stasko, one of the several perceptive observers in this Reservation, if he would describe this one section, as related to his own birding experiences there,

which spans the years between 1958 and the present. -Ed.]

The Wildlife Management Area involves 125 acres and is tucked away in the south-east corner of North Olmstead [Olmsted]. It is very productive for birding in all seasons, as the floor of the valley is approximately 100 feet below the surrounding countryside and affords protection for birds and animals in winter. A long time ago the river carved its way through here, then eventually found an easier path and changed its course. The land is now high enough to be unaffected by the river. The area contains several bogs and a small, wet, meadow — by August the bogs are usually dry but in spring they abound with activity and one can hope to observe the Black-crowned Night Heron or the Yellow-crowned, an American Bittern, or perhaps a Prothonotary Warbler. A Catbird made a rare winter appearance here in December 1969. There is also a small stream, which is sluggish but holding water most of the time.

A stand of red pine marks the entrance to the area from Cedar Point Road and it is here the Red Crossbills remained until July in 1970. There are two other extensive pine woods and this year the Red-breasted Nuthatch chose the pines near where the Girl Scout cabin once stood as their nesting site.

A large brushpile is located between the two service roads that run through the nursery and branches and trimmings from throughout the park are collected here. This is an excellent place to view the ground dwellers and the species that explore brushpiles. Two long rows of white birch trees are farther along the road and they are attractive to the winter finches when they appear in the region. The nursery is to be phased out eventually, but many of the trees have grown too large for transplanting and will remain undisturbed.

There is a large park-like section north of the nursery where the grass is kept mowed, and it is near this section the Chestnut-sided Warbler nested in 1968 and 1969. The first June record for a Golden-winged Warbler in the region was made here in 1968 -- a singing male. Purple Finch are seen here in July, and in late summer large flocks of seed-eaters congregate in the trees. The White-eyed Vireo has been present here for two successive summers and hopes of an eventual nesting are held.

There are remnants of large yellow birch and hemlock trees still growing along the north side of Old Fort Hill and perhaps they influenced the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to linger until July 7 of this year, marking the first summer record for this bird.

The Trailside Interpretive Center which is located at the foot of Old Fort Hill will undoubtedly become a focal point for study and activity, as from it, trails radiate into most of the Wildlife Management Area. Indeed, the service roads themselves

make good trails. It is near the Center that the three Screech Owls were observed on July 7 just at dusk. Brown Creeper nestings were discovered near here in 1964 and 1968, and this year the nest of a Bewick's Wren. The outdoors here will become a classroom where plants, animals, trees, and birds, as well as the geology of the river, can be enjoyed and studied, with the Interpretive Center providing guidance for all who are interested.

- MICHAEL STASKO

A Thirteen-Year Observation of the Resident Blue-winged Warbler.

Beginning in 1959 an exact record has been kept of the arrival and subsequent activities of the Blue-winged Warbler on a 25-acre tract in Waite Hill. Since the Blue-winged interbreed with the Golden-winged to produce the hybrid Brewster's and the even rarer Lawrence's (both of which are fertile), and they in turn breed with the parent stock, there is always the remote possibility of such a mating taking place. The rule is -- different species of birds, when mated together, are usually sterile, but if they are fertile, their offspring are invariably sterile. This group (of Genus *Vermivora*), then, is an extraordinary exception to this well known rule. Special effort was therefore made to identify both individuals of a nesting pair, however, this effort was successful only six times of the thirteen seasons the Blue-winged was followed.

Their intriguing habit of singing closely resembled songs, and even the interchange of songs, creates the desirability for sight identification. Early in July the Blue-winged ceases to sing almost entirely, and since it is quite deliberate in its movements, seldom fluttering, it is very difficult to observe during this period. During August it is heard only very rarely. Notes have been kept regarding such deviations in singing as observed here. Its alarm note is a distinctive "chip" and easily distinguished from the alarm note of the two other resident warblers: Yellow and Yellowthroat. All these factors combine to stimulate one's curiosity and to present a challenge.

1959. First acquaintance was made on May 3 with the arrival of two birds which remained together and which were observed through May and June. Their territory was an area of meadow bordered by a stand of trees, and this area, through the seasons, proved to be their permanent territory -- occupied for the entire succeeding thirteen years. No nesting developments were obtained for this elusive bird this first year.

1960 and 1961. They were again present through May and June, but all watchfulness met with failure as no indication of the whereabouts of the nest was found.

1962. The first Blue-winged appeared on April 29. Special care was taken in observations and identifications because a singing Golden-winged Warbler was sighted on May 8. This bird was followed and watched, and another Golden-winged, or possibly the

same individual, was found in the same area on the 10th. However, no further event of any significance developed.

1963. April 30 was the arrival date. On May 5 a singing male Golden-winged was present, and one was seen on the following day. No association was ever noted. As in previous years, no clue was found to the nest location. A strange, unidentifiable, warbler was seen on August 24 which at first glance was called a "Blue-winged", but as it was studied, dissimilarities were seen in the plumage about the eyes. All the other markings of the Blue-winged were present. One authority states "there are numberless intergradations of plumage, connecting the two parent forms (Blue-winged and Golden-winged). Most intergrades tend to approach the Blue-winged Warbler in coloration ... specimens tending toward Golden-winged Warbler show an expansion of the eyeline...".

1964. The earliest arrival of the study period was made -- April 28. A singing Golden-winged was observed on May 7. Beginning in early June this year, the Blue-winged sang more often and for longer periods than any time in the past -- all day, and at times, in the evening.

On June 4 of this year, an exciting discovery was made at Punderson State Park, of a Brewster's Warbler feeding four fledglings. On the 6th a dead Blue-winged Warbler was found close by, but it could only be presumed to have been the mate of the Brewster's. The parent and young were observed until June 11.

1965. May 5 was the arrival date and by the 15th singing on the usual territory was heard. A singing male Golden-winged was observed on the 7th, and one was watched for fifteen minutes on the 28th as it fed and sang only inches from a Blue-winged in the same low honeysuckle bush. There was no apparent recognition by either bird. On June 7 the Blue-winged sang what is described as its less common, or nesting song -- differentiated from its typical or "territory" song, the bzzzzzz-brrrrrr. This nesting song was the only song heard all this day from the Blue-winged as it traveled its usual path. On the following day singing of the territorial song was resumed. The pair was observed feeding in close company on the 22nd -- both were silent. Again, no determination could be made as to where the nest was located.

1966. First sighting was on May 6, and one bird was searching out a nesting site on the 19th -- flying about just two feet above the ground. This year the Golden-winged made its greatest number of appearances for the study period: a male on the 8th and 15th; a female on the 11th and 20th. The singing and activity of the Blue-winged appeared to be in the usual pattern, until June 13. As I walked along about ten feet south of the mowed path that I regularly follow, the male bird appeared and became very disturbed, making a repeated 'chip' call, which I thought was answered by another 'chip'. I returned to this area later in the

day remaining in concealment and saw the adult Blue-winged carrying food and 'chipping'. When I realized the bird was aware of my presence I departed. On the following day the nest was found in the center of a clump of goldenrod and only five feet from the mowed path. It was occupied by 4 well-feathered young. The parents were observed taking food to the nest on the 15th and 16th -- the nest not being approached again after the first examination. Soft, light-green worms were the main item of food taken to the nest during my observation. Both parents were extremely wary and spotted me, although I was standing behind a dense tree, and they came around chipping excitedly, so I departed. About 8:30 AM on the 17th the parents already had at least one young out of the nest and were watching it closely. They gathered food in the immediate area, never going more than fifteen feet away. After they had it safely perched on a branch about twelve inches from the ground they resumed carrying food to the nest. The nest was empty on the 18th but the "family" was close and there was much activity and calling.

Singing was resumed on June 20 and continued until July 5--- still on the territory. Four birds were observed on August 29; one perched atop a tall tree singing the common bzzzzzzz-brrrrrrr, after which it sang the uncommon song six times. From their plumage it is possible they were the "family". After eight years of observation, their nest was finally discovered -- this is truly an elusive bird.

1967. May 1 was an eventful day -- a male Blue-winged was encountered as it sang its rarer song, continuing for fifteen minutes and on. I resumed my walk -- soon to identify a male Lawrence's Warbler perched in a tree, preening and grooming as I watched for seven or eight minutes. A soft, light, rain had fallen just previously and it appeared the Lawrence's was utilizing the raindrops. On the 28th the male Blue-winged was singing the territory song near the site of last year's nest, and on June 11 was singing the nesting song. Four birds were seen on August 21, but no determination was made as to their origin. For the first time since 1961 no Golden-winged had been sighted.

1968. A Blue-winged arrived on May 5; a male Golden-winged was seen on the following day. By the 7th the Blue-winged was singing on the usual territory, On the 9th two birds were present -- by their plumage they were judged a pair -- and were seen together the following day also. By the 15th the singing was almost constant through the day; the nesting song was heard on the 18th. There was much singing during the remainder of June, the territorial song interspersed with the nesting song.

On June 20 I witnessed a performance by two birds which is described as agonistic behavior, consisting of an aerial display, following a pattern which is termed "chases" in which "the pursuer never catches up with the pursued" (described in detail in

CBC:64;3-49). At least one of the participants was a Blue-winged Warbler. The songs of both the Blue-winged and Golden-winged were involved, but unfortunately the Blue-winged was the only bird clearly seen. On the following day the Blue-winged sang uninterruptedly for some minutes at the site of the contest.

Then, on the 28th, there came positive evidence of nesting when two adult Blue-winged, feeding three fledglings, were encountered in the precise area of the 1966 nest site. From their mobility and appearance, the fledglings were thought to be several days out of the nest. I followed as they moved along over the usual territory, then, when they reached what I had considered to be the boundary line of the territory, they turned and re-traced their path. They appeared oblivious to my presence. The parents called continually and although they fed the young, at least one was able to obtain food from the underside of leaves.

1969. May 3 was the arrival date; singing on territory began on the 6th and continued into evening, being heard at 8:30 PM and later. On the 14th one bird was seen searching about in the grasses for a nesting site as I had observed in previous years -- not feeding. This year I became involved with the Nashville Warbler appearance at Stebbins Gulch (heretofore unrecorded in summer) and little time was devoted to the Blue-winged Warbler, though an immature Blue-winged was seen on August 2, suggesting a possible successful nesting.

1970. Singing on territory was noted on the day of arrival -- May 3 -- and continued through the month. This year there appeared to be a move to the northeast along the territory, as though the habitat there was more desirable. On the 21st the searching actions were seen which takes place in locating a nesting site.

Two birds, believed to be a pair, were watched for twenty minutes on the 24th, behaving in a manner not before noted. They perched closely, often only ten inches apart, with one bird moving about as the other bird remained quietly in one place, in an apparently submissive attitude. Then both birds flew up and down in the air, facing one another in close proximity, with wings fluttering furiously and often appearing to touch. During this fluttering dance they ranged from two feet above the ground to nine or ten feet in the air -- traveling up and down in a perfectly straight line. All this while not a sound was uttered by either bird, although the one presumed by its actions to be the male had sung at regular, closely spaced intervals all the time I had watched it before the second bird appeared. The second bird always perched on a lower level than the dominant bird, even when less than a foot apart, and seemed to gaze upward to the dominant bird. I got the impression it was awaiting a mating. Perhaps my presence was a deterrent, as I was within thirty feet and completely in the open; their tree being on the edge of a mowed clearing. This tree had often been a singing perch for the Blue-

winged this spring. On through June this tree was often occupied by a singing Blue-winged Warbler and several times one was seen flying from it down into the weedy growth below. Since the Nashville Warbler had returned to Stebbins Gulch, I again became involved, and there was not enough time to devote to both birds.

1971. All these years the habitat was gradually changing, but the Blue-winged was singing on the usual territory on May 7. But later in the month the singing perch was changed at least three times -- I believe the male was having difficulty in acquiring a mate. On June 12, and on the following two days, his calling continued into the evening. Not until June 25 was the female bird noted.

As I walked one of the paths on July 6, the male and female Blue-winged were quite disturbed by my presence, and chipped constantly all around me. I retreated to a spot of concealment where I could still observe their actions, and saw the female disappear into the weedy growth. Two days later I stood near this supposed nest site for more than twenty minutes without seeing any sign of activity, then I prepared to leave -- with great reluctance. Then I decided to approach the exact spot where I had seen the female disappear on the 6th, and where I had seen an almost certain flash of a Blue-winged Warbler dropping down on the 7th. On the second step from the mowed path there came a flash of greenish-yellow in the weedy growth, and there before me was the female Blue-winged Warbler -- laying prone in the grasses with wings outspread -- only a mere five inches from her nest. The bird looked up at me but remained silent and motionless. Cautiously and quickly I retreated, backing out to cause less commotion as well as lessen the damage to the vegetation so that my steps could not be retraced. I had seen by a quick glance that four tiny white eggs were in the nest. No effort was made to examine the nest or the site.

From this it would appear I should have been boldly approaching the sites where the birds were seen disappearing, as the Blue-winged Warbler is not easily flushed from the nest. Being a "close-sitter", only when closely approached does she leave the nest.

This, the second nest of this elusive bird to be found, although nesting here for thirteen years, was located just about 85 feet directly north of the first nest (1966), and was situated at the base of a clump of goldenrod, as was the first nest also.

The female flushed from the nest on July 11, and I could see from my position in the path that the eggs were intact. The eggs were seen on the 14th also. No record could be found in

literature of eggs in the nest at such a late date. On the 15th the male and female were active in the nest vicinity and everything appeared normal. However, on the 19th, I judged the nest abandoned as I could see that leaves had fallen into the nest and onto the eggs -- I had not seen the adult birds since the 17th. I could find no slightest sign of disturbance anywhere about the nest.

Returning home after an absence of two weeks I found the nest and eggs undisturbed, and as last seen -- but clearly abandoned. When the eggs were collected and examined there was no sign of embryo development. The period of incubation for the Blue-winged Warbler is given as ten or eleven days, therefore it seems certain the eggs had been infertile.

The nest of the Blue-winged Warbler is unique and quite distinctive. It is a very deep cup with the outside composed of dead leaves and wide strips of bark. The inner lining consists of wild grapevine bark which is laid across the nest, rather than bent around in a circle in the conventional manner, and at times with a very small amount of very fine grassy material, as was found in the first nest. This horizontal layering of the nest material was more pronounced in the second nest than in the first. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

Literature Cited

Bent, A. C. 1953. Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers
The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Forbush, E. H. 1929. Birds of Mass. & Other New England States
Griscom & Sprunt 1957. The Warblers of America

* * * * *

AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.

* * * * *

GREAT BLUE HERON SURVEY

A study project is being planned by The Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University involving a nation-wide survey of this species as they are at the top of the aquatic food-chain and may well be an important indicator species.

“The first step will be to compile an inventory of heronries. To this end, we appeal to all readers with knowledge on this point to write to us. Information may be recent or old; detailed or sketchy. Even ‘I remember seeing a heronry as a boy’ is helpful if the site is remembered well enough to locate on a topographic map.

We hope that this inventory will contain the exact locality of the heronry, a general description of the site, and as much history as possible. We hope that this stage of the program can be completed by the winter so that arrangements can be made for census work in the 1972 breeding season.” - DAVID B. PEAKALL, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University.

[Any information you may be able to provide to further this study should be sent to the above address. -Ed.]