



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 | 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
Fall - 1971

- September - Averaged warmer than normal by 3.5 degrees. Torrential rain on the 13th measured 1.70 inches. Precipitation was distributed on 9 days in all, totaling 4.27 inches which was 1.37 inches in excess. Northerly winds prevailed on 18 days with sunshine occurring only 48% of the time possible.
- October - Much warmer than normal by 6.5 degrees on average. Precipitation was measurable on 8 days and totaled 1.61 inches, leaving a deficit of 0.81 inches. Most of this precipitation was confined to the four-day period, 6th through 9th; which accumulated 1.38 inches of the total. Sunshine occurred during 60% of the time available, and northerly winds prevailed on only 8 days.
- November - The 21st was notably violent with driving winds from the NW, making an extremely rough Lake Erie, accompanied with frequent drizzle and snow squalls. The first snowfall, however, began as early as the 6th to provide several days of persistent ground cover. Precipitation was measurable on 17 days and accumulated to 2.02 inches which was in deficit by 0.69 inches. With all this, temperatures averaged out normal. Northerly winds were dominant on better than 12 days.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The autumn season was not a dramatic one, but due to the continually mild weather many of our summer species lingered beyond their normal dates of departure. Likewise, many of the winter waterfowl had not occurred in any great numbers by the end of the season.

Among the most noteworthy observations of the fall season were the appearances of the Red-throated Loon, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, Little Gull, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Oregon Junco (See Noteworthy Records section for details). A major influx of the Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak occurred in late November and promised to endure. The foregoing and other aspects of the autumn season will be discussed in greater detail in the following paragraphs.

Loons and Horned Grebes in Fair Numbers. Although two Common Loons appeared along the Lorain lakefront on October 20 (Lebold), the major influx did not occur until the second week of November. Every observation of Common Loons occurred, with the aforementioned exception, between November 6 and 14. The largest single observation being of eight birds at the lakefront on November 7 (Stasko).

Horned Grebes were well reported on many occasions throughout November, although not in as large numbers as in recent years.

Migrating Swans. The first Whistling Swans seen in the Cleveland area appeared at LaDue Reservoir on November 1 at which time 66 were observed (English). At 1:43 AM on this same day a flight of swans was heard over Cleveland Heights (Newman).

Subsequent reports of Whistling Swans were scattered, with no apparent major movement through the region. Twenty-five swans were reported from Chardon on November 4 (Spare). On the morning of November 8 a large flight of swans was heard above Kirtland Hills (Bole, Jr.) and at Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Whistling Swans were observed on five occasions from November 3 to November 27 along the lakefront near Painesville with the maximum number noted of 100 on November 26 (Booth).

Few Migrating Canada Geese Reported. Many observations of Canada Geese were reported. However, the overwhelming majority of these reports came from Sunset Pond, Holden Arboretum and the Sherwin Farm in Waite Hill. At the Sherwin Farm about 2,000 had gathered by the end of November. "The concentration of Canada Geese came very much later than usual" (Sherwin).

Red-breasted Mergansers Abundant. Along the lakefront at Cleveland and Lorain the only duck observed in large numbers was the Red-breasted Merganser. It was first recorded on November 7 and was present through the end of the month. The peak number was observed on the 7th at Lorain where from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM a continuous stream comprising an estimated 50,000 birds passed in flight from west to east (Nagy). This is the largest movement ever reported. On November 19, 5,500 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen along the lakefront and on the 20th some 3,740 were tallied (Stasko and Klamm).

In contrast, the Common Merganser was reported on only two occasions: two birds at LaDue Reservoir on September 26 (Allenson and Klamm), and a single bird on November 26 at Headlands State Park (Hammond).

Other Waterfowl. Fair numbers of Mallards, Black Ducks, Widgeon, and Gadwall were reported. Wood Ducks were reported in increased numbers, but the other dabbling ducks (Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, and Shoveler) were reported in discouraging numbers. Pintail were observed on only two occasions. One was reported on November 11 from Waite Hill (Flanigan) and one at Mentor March on November 26 (Hammond). Only two reports of Redheads were made, on November 7 and 25; and two reports of Canvasbacks, November 25 and 28(Klamm). There were no reports of the Ring-necked Duck, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter and Common Scoter.

Shorebirds Disappointing. Reports of shorebirds this fall were few in number. There were less than three observations of the Pectoral Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper and no reports of the Ruddy Turnstone and Dowitcher. The only exception to the poor shorebird activity was that Golden and Black-bellied Plovers were reported in good numbers. The Golden Plover was reported throughout September at Burke Lakefront Airport, with a maximum of 29 on September 25. This species was last seen there on October 3 when eight were recorded (Klamm).

The Black-bellied Plover was also reported in good numbers this fall from many locations. The latest observation of a single bird was made on November 14 as members of the Kirtland Bird Club were being led on a walk at Headlands State Park (Kitson et al).

Gulls and Terns. Large concentrations of gulls were reported along the Cleveland lakefront and reached the maximum number on

November 21 when the following estimates were made: 2,000 Herring, 10,000 Ring-billed, and 2,000 Bonaparte's Gulls (Klamm)

Terns appeared in substantial numbers and were present for a much extended season. Common Terns reached their peak on September 25 when an estimated 1,455 were observed along the Cleveland lake-front (Klamm). Caspian Terns were recorded continuously until October 5 when a single bird was observed on the mud flat at White City (Carrothers). Twenty-five Common Terns and a very late Black Tern were observed on November 14 at Headlands State Park (Kitson) (See Noteworthy Records section for details).

Nighthawks Migrate in Early September. The evening of September 2 produced several good flights of Common Nighthawks. A flock of 35 was observed at dusk as they moved in a southwesterly direction while leisurely feeding over the Great Gorge in Bedford Reservation (Knight). On the same evening a flock of 87 was seen at Lakewood (Klamm). The vast majority of nighthawk observations were seen within the following five days.

An observer in Cleveland Heights reported that on the hot and humid evening of September 4, 284 nighthawks were observed between 7:15 PM and 8:00 PM as they "flew on a westerly course north of the ridgeline of the Portage Escarpment" (Newman).

The following evening, September 5, the largest number of migrating nighthawks was reported from Lakewood when 575 were tallied (Klamm). On September 6, 7, and 27, movements of 51, 150, and 10 were observed at Lakewood (Stasko). The only other sizeable migrations noted were 57 birds circling clockwise west to east in Elyria on September 5 (Nagy), and 50 birds at North Chagrin on September 3 (Scheibe).

As indicated in the preceding paragraphs the nighthawk movement was most evident during the first week of September. Reports of single birds, however, continued throughout September. The last reports of the Common Nighthawk were made on October 4 when single birds were seen in Cleveland Heights (Newman) and Painesville (Skaggs).

Several sizeable movements of Chimney Swifts were noted in October culminating on the 9th when two observers [observers] in Lakewood noted a band of 127 and one of 45 in passage (Klamm and Stasko). On the very late date of October 17, eight Chimney Swifts were observed as they flew over Bedford Reservation (Knight).

Passerine Migrants Plentiful. Most of the passerine migrants appeared in good numbers and at their accustomed time. The only noteworthy exception was the Red-breasted Nuthatch which, for the second consecutive year, was not recorded in large numbers.

In September at Waite Hill, where daily observations were made, some of the highlights of migration were as follows:

- “September 2 - Light rain began at 8:30 AM and birds poured through
- September 3 - 11 species of warblers
- September 6 - 13 species of warblers
- September 14 - 15 species of warblers; after yesterday’s downpour there was a tremendous movement of birds all day long
- September 19 - 15 species of warblers; rain off and on all through day and migration continued all day
- September 23 - 13 species of warblers” (Flanigan).

Other contributors offered these comments on migration:

- September 26 - “This was my best day for small land bird migration; 17 species of warblers, with many flickers, catbirds, thrushes, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the move” (Stasko).
- October 7 - A blackbird migration was witnessed by several observers in Waite Hill. This massive migration, primarily of grackles, was in a northwest direction and continued throughout the evening. This “river of grackles” was thought to be a width of several hundred feet “of solid birds - sighted from the east horizon as far as the eye, with binoculars, could see - disappearing in the same manner to the farthest western horizon” (Sherwin and Flanigan).
- October 12 - 20 meadowlarks were observed passing through the Seiberling Nature Center in Northampton Township (Szabo).

November 7 - "Horned Larks and Snow Buntings - migrant influx very evident ... at Burke Lakefront Airport. The ground with light snow cover was favored by the birds in the more wind-swept areas where grasses were well exposed" (Klamm).

Northern Finches. All of the northern finches except the Red Crossbill made appearances this fall. Evening Grosbeaks were recorded by many observers. Contrary to the fall of 1970 when there were no reports of Evening Grosbeaks, several observations of grosbeaks were made in November.

The first reports were of five birds on November 14 in Rocky River Reservation (Stasko). Eight grosbeaks were observed at a Chardon residence on November 17 where a single bird had been seen on the 15th and 19th (Spare). On the 20th, one grosbeak appeared at a North Olmsted residence (Gary Lambacher *fide* Dexter). On November 23, 40 birds appeared at a feeder in Waite Hill and six on the 25th (Sherwin). Also, on the 23rd eight were observed at a North Chagrin residence (Finck) and 30 grosbeaks appeared at a Kirtland Hills residence where they were reported through the end of the period (Daniels). A report of 12 birds was made in Strongsville as they picked up grit from along the side of Albion Road. Whenever a car would go by, this flock of grosbeaks would fly to nearby trees only to return to the roadside as soon as the automobile would pass (Hocevar).

Common Redpolls appeared in late November when 16 and 20 were seen at Warrensville Farms on November 25 and 28 (Knight).

The Purple Finch was recorded throughout the period, but most observations were of single birds. The only notable exception was an observation of nine birds in Bedford Metropolitan Park on October 8 (Knight).

Contrary to the fall of 1970 when there was only one observation of the Pine Siskin, this season brought several records of this species. The first report was of three birds on October 17 near the Rocky River Sewage Treatment Plant as they fed with Goldfinches (Stasko). Two hundred siskin were observed on October 19 and 150 on October 20 as they fed in hemlocks surrounding a residence in Waite Hill (Sherwin and Flanigan). Other records include four birds on October 30 at Shaker Lakes (Peskin) where 12 were present on October 31 and November 23 (Corbin). Twenty were reported from Mentor Headlands on November 14 (Kitson).

The rarest of the winter finches--White-winged Crossbills, made only brief appearances in the region. Fifty crossbills were reported from a Waite Hill residence on November 10 (Sherwin), five were observed feeding in hemlocks at a Mentor residence on November 14 (Bayard Abbott fide Flanigan).

Snow Buntings were observed on only two dates this fall. The first report came on November 7 when 26 were observed at Burke Lakefront Airport (Klamm) The only other report was of 50 birds at Mentor Headlands Beach on November 14 (Kitson et al).

Late Stragglers. As is not uncommon, some birds were tardy in their migratory journey, including the following: Woodcock, November 6 (Knight); Tree Swallow, October 9 (Leach); Purple Martin, September 26 (Klamm); Parula Warbler, September 26 (Hammond); Hooded Warbler, October 8 (Scheibe and Knight); Canada Warbler, October 5 (Leach); Louisiana Waterthrush, September 28 (Skaggs); Nashville Warbler, October 23 (Corbin); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, November 23 (Corbin).

Early Arrivals. An early-arriving Greater Scaup was observed on October 9 (Klamm) and a Great Black-backed Gull on November 7 (Stasko). An early Tree Sparrow was observed in the Mall area in downtown Cleveland on October 12 (Corbin).

Yearly Total. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended, that is, from December 1, 1970 to November 30, 1971, 247 species were recorded, as compared with 242 the preceding year. In addition, the hybrid Brewster's Warbler and the gambelii race of the White-crowned Sparrow were reported. This marks the second consecutive year, and the second year since 1959-60, that the number has fallen below 250. For the entire year there were no records of the Snowy Owl, Red Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak, or Lapland Longspur.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - An injured bird was observed on November 26 on the Mentor Headlands beach. Whenever this bird was approached, "it would slide along the sand into the water and swim out some distance, but it would return to the beach when no longer threatened". The bird was seen again the following day and reported to the game protector (Hammond).

Double-crested Cormorant - On November 6 a lone immature "passed within 100 feet at tree top level along the bluffs at Perkins Beach"(Klamm).

Surf Scoter - A lone immature bird was observed preening and diving along the seawall at White City on October 30 (Klamm).

Common Egret - On the quite late date of September 15 one was recorded on a pond in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Sandhill Crane - A single adult was recorded in a swampy area on Stafford Road north of LaDue Reservoir on October 31. It was first seen in flight and was subsequently observed at rest (English). This is the first record since 1966 and the first fall record for the region.

Piping Plover - On September 11 one was identified on the mud flat at White City as it fed with Semipalmated Plovers and sandpipers (Klamm) and was subsequently seen on September 14 (Scheibe).

Franklin's Gull - Ten reports were received from September 11 to November 7 of immature birds. All observations were of single birds except for two at Perkins Beach on October 9 and two at White City on October 10. On two other occasions individual birds were reported from White City and Gordon Park on the same date (Klamm and Stasko).

Little Gull - In the late afternoon of September 26, an adult was observed fishing off and along the lakefront seawall (Klamm).

Black Tern - One was observed on November 14 at the Mentor Headlands Beach as it fed in the company of Common Terns. This very late observation was made as members of the Kirtland Bird Club were being led on a walk at Headlands State Park (Kitson et al).

Barn Swallow (1) One was seen on October 22 at LaDue Reservoir (Skaggs). (2) A single bird was observed as it repeatedly skimmed over Lake Lewandowski in Warrensville Heights on October 28 (Knight). Both are new latest fall dates, the previous late date being October 9, 1966.

Short-billed Marsh Wren - One was observed on October 1 and 4, and two on October 2, in a field near North Chagrin Reservation (Scheibe).

Mockingbird - (1) In Waite Hill one was seen on October 30 and was observed on several occasions throughout November (Flanigan). (2) A single bird was observed on September 22 at a Painesville residence (Booth). (3) One bird was observed on September 30 at a lakeshore residence in Mentor (Fais).

Grey [Gray]-cheeked Thrush - One was mist-netted and banded on October 30 at a residence in Waite Hill. The bird was subsequently seen on November 8 and 12 and re-netted on November 10 and 13 (Flanigan). These are new latest fall dates, the previous late date being October 23, 1933.

Black and White Warbler - A very late bird was found feeding in the pines of the Wildlife Management area in Rocky River on November 20 (Stasko).

Blackpoll Warbler - On the morning of October 31, a male in spring plumage [plumage] was found feeding in birch trees at Shaker Lakes (Corbin), The previous latest fall date was October 29.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - A female appeared on October 24 at North Chagrin Reservation. It was observed in the company of three female Red-winged Blackbirds as it perched in the bare branches of a bush in the slough near Squire's Castle (Scheibe). This blackbird has not been reported in the Cleveland region since May 1966 and this is the first September record.

Oregon Junco - (1) An individual of the pink-sided race was observed on October 10 in a large flock of Slate-colored juncos near the Mentor Waste Water Treatment plant (Hammond). (2) One was observed in Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland on October 13 and seen again the following day (Leach).

White-crowned Sparrow - Two individuals of the gambelii race were identified and banded at a residence in Willoughby Hills. An adult was observed on October 13 and an immature on November 6 (Skaggs).

FIELD NOTES

Birds Observed in a Downtown Cemetery. All subscribers to the BIRD CALENDAR have, during the past several years, followed the reports that contributor Sybil Leach has compiled during her noonday walks in Erie Street Cemetery. This ancient cemetery is located in the center of the Cleveland downtown business district and is only 7 1/2 acres in size.

During her noonday visits this fall, over 50 species were observed. Some of the more interesting observations included:

- observation of a Sparrow Hawk on nine separate dates;
- an incredible number of Yellow-shafted Flickers seen on 42 separate dates, with a high count of 70 on September 21;
- Red-headed Woodpeckers observed on September 9 and October 11;
- a Red-breasted Nuthatch on September 8;

- a Prothonotary Warbler on September 1;
- a Lincoln's Sparrow on October 7;
- an Oregon Junco on October 13 and 14.

The all-time total for the cemetery is now 95 species. The most recent additions being Ring-billed Gull, Blue-winged Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Common Nighthawk, House Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow and Oregon Junco. There are probably few areas covered as extensively and as well as the Erie Street Cemetery.'

Several Nesting Observations - On September 17 a late nesting Wood Pewee was observed "feeding two grown youngsters near Blueberry Pond, Holden Arboretum, in early evening" (Hammond).

Addenda-Summer 1971. A report of nesting Orchard Orioles at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Newton, Sunnybrook Road, Portage County, came in late for reporting in the Summer issue.

"The nest was located 25 feet above ground in a tall spruce tree... very close to the top. An overhanging branch very near the top of the nest protected it from above. The female would approach the nest from below, the male from above. The suspended nest was more shallow than the Baltimore Oriole's. The birds were first seen on May 10. The last bird left the nest on June 20. The adults were seen feeding three fledglings... and were not seen after June 22" (fide Szabo).

Swifts Observed Returning to Chimney Roost. On the evening of September 17 several hundred Chimney Swifts were observed as they entered a chimney near the Lake Theater in Painesville at dusk (Hammond). An estimated 40 birds were observed on the evening of September 21 as they entered the chimney of the Strongsville City Hall and Police Department (Hocevar).

A Brief Report of Barred Owls. The following is an account prepared by Bert Szabo, Naturalist of the Akron Metropolitan Park System. Mr. Szabo is adept at imitating the Barred Owl calls and gives the following account and results of his experiments.

"During this past fall I have been experimenting with imitating the call of the Barred Owl ; in various areas. The calls aren't real authentic but enough to fool the owls. It takes fifteen or twenty minutes for them to answer and often two resident birds begin calling to each other. They apparently become alarmed at the

intrusion of a third party and often will fly to a branch over the caller. Many of their calls to each other and various conversations defy description. By this calling method, owls have been found at:

F. A. Seiberling Nature Center Two birds anytime
Smith Road, Northampton Township

Virginia Kendall Park One bird late afternoon
Kendall Lake

Tinkers Creek State Park One bird at noon
Old Mill Road
Twinsburg, Portage County

Aurora Sanctuary Two birds at noon
Pioneer Trail
Portage County”

Bert L. Szabo

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.