



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

- June - The-month was generally warm and wet, even though measurable precipitation occurred on only 13 days, well distributed, and sunshine reached 60 per cent. of possible. Temperatures averaged 2.6 degrees warmer than normal for the month with most of the cooler-than-normal days in the last third of the month. Precipitation accumulated to 6.72 inches and was in excess by 3.29 inches. Water levels for Lake Erie continued at extreme highs.
- July - Sunshine was quite bundant and prevailed during 70 per cent of the time possible. Except for very heavy rainfall on the 21st, measurable precipitation was lightly distributed on 11 other days and accumulated to 2.94 inches, which was in deficit by 0.37 inches. Temperatures averaged 0.7 degrees warmer than normal, and water levels for Lake Erie remained very high.
- August - Rainfall occurred on the opening and closing days of the month, during the period from the 10th through the 15th, and again on the 20th to provide, 3.11 inches, which was in deficit by 0.17 inches. Sunshine occurred during 59 per cent of the time possible, while temperatures averaged 2.8 degrees warmer than normal. Lake Erie water levels receded modestly.

BIRD SPECIES NAME CHANGES

Name changes announced in the 32nd Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist (April, 1973) have been rather widely publicized. Nevertheless, as a convenience to readers, the following summary of changes involving birds which may be encountered in the Cleveland Region is included here. The new names are being used henceforth in this publication. The underlined name in each case is the recognized name for the species.

Blue Goose is now considered the dark form of Snow Goose

Red-shafted Flicker and Gilded Flicker are now considered conspecific with Yellow-shafted Flicker, all three of which are classed as subspecies under the name Common Flicker.

The former Traill's Flycatcher is now listed as two species. The "fitzbeu" species, which occurs in the Cleveland Region, is now Willow Flycatcher. The "fee-bee-o" species, which occurs in the boreal forest regions, is Alder Flycatcher.

Audubon's Warbler is now considered conspecific with Myrtle Warbler, each being classed a subspecies under the commonly held name Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Bullock's Oriole is now considered conspecific with Baltimore Oriole, each being classed a subspecies under the commonly held name Northern Oriole.

Oregon Junco, White-winged Junco, and Guadalupe Junco are considered conspecific with Slate-colored Junco, all four of which are now classed as subspecies under the commonly held name Dark-eyed Junco.

The following changes involve changes in names only and do not involve changes in classification of species.

<u>Former Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Common Egret	Great Egret
European Widgeon	European Wigeon (spelling)
American Widgeon	American Wigeon (spelling)
Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
Common Scoter	Black Scoter
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Knot	Red Knot
Catbird	Gray Catbird
Robin	American Robin
Parula Warbler	Northern Parula
Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

By all but the most fanatical birders, summer in the Cleveland Region is apt to be viewed as the doldrums. After taking note of the late spring migrants, observers are generally tempted to limit their birding to tours to distant refuges until the time arrives to start watching for the early fall arrivals. Few have the time, determination, and patience to conduct nesting studies, and besides, most of the birds which can be thus observed locally are likely to be dismissed as too commonplace to warrant attention.

Summer in 1973 could therefore be described as fairly normal, meaning that there were few conspicuous changes in the recorded resident population and the reports received did not provide uniform enough coverage of the region for any firm conclusions. Most of the apparent deviations from the pattern of recent years seemed to be related to the excessive rain in the early part of the season and the somewhat dry conditions late. Waterbirds fared well, with evidence received of successful nestings of Least Bitterns, Soras, and Common Gallinules, among others. On the other hand, observers sensed a reduction in the summer population of some ground-nesting passerines, including the Blue-winged Warbler, Ovenbird, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Several Shorebirds Arrive. Early individual specimens of numerous species of shorebirds made early appearances along the Lake Erie shoreline, and the migrant shorebird population over-all was quite favorable. "An initial influx was evident on July 8 at both Burke Lakefront Airport and White City," one contributor noted. "Killdeers were the most abundant arrivals with scatterings of other shorebirds" (Klamm). A new earliest fall date of July 1 was recorded for the Lesser Yellowlegs, while a July 5 sighting of a Dowitcher matched the previous earliest date for that species. A Whimbrel observed on June 23 might be regarded as either the earliest fall specimen or as the only spring one; in any case, the date was earlier than the bird had ever been recorded before in the region and was only the second June report. Details of these may be found in the Noteworthy Records section.

Among the more common migrants which arrived early in significant numbers were the Semipalmated Plover, present in small groups continuously after mid-July; Ruddy Turnstone, reported in flocks of up to 15 in late July; and Least Sandpiper, nine of which were at White City on July 6 (Hannikman). Usual arrival time for all three species is early August. Perhaps because of receding water levels exposing feeding areas, most of the common migrant shorebirds were fairly plentiful throughout August. Most reports were received from White City and Burke Lakefront Airport.

Bank Swallows Nest All Swallows Depart Early. A colony of Bank Swallows was found to be nesting at Hach Sanctuary along the Chagrin River in Willoughby Hills during the early part of the summer. About 30 nest holes were seen in a somewhat obscured location near where a large colony had been conspicuously visible several years ago. According to a nearby resident the swallows have been nesting there annually. This year the parent birds were very busy feeding when observed on July 2 and 5. July 11, only a few were entering nest holes. Early on July 13 not a swallow was seen in the area (Carrothers). By July 17 Bank Swallows were appearing along the lakefront, indicating the start of migration; two were seen at White City and two more at Headlands State Park. The following day more than a hundred had gathered at White City (Hannikman), the largest concentration reported in the season.

Nor were Bank Swallows the only species which seemed to migrate early. Both Barn Swallows and Purple Martins evidently were on the move ahead of their usual schedule. Only a few of the former species were observed after flocks of migrants were reported from various points August 10-12. Large flocks of Purple Martins were also reported along the lakefront on these same dates. On August 21 thousands of martins were seen departing from a roost area near Akron, with very few birds in that location subsequently (Biscan--see Field Notes). The following day more than 400 martins were observed bucking into a 20-knot northeast wind over the western end of Mentor Marsh (Hammond). Other observers commented on the near-absence of Purple Martins late in the season. A similar pattern seemed to apply to the other species of swallows in the region.

News Good and Bad on Wrens. Although certainly not to be classed as an endangered species yet, the House Wren may have had a poor year locally. Reported numbers were well below the two preceding years. On the other hand, Carolina Wrens continued to do well, being seen in many locations throughout the summer. A pair was in residence in Kirtland Hills (Bole), and one bird was singing all summer, although no nest was found, near downtown Willoughby (Pallister). Long-billed Marsh Wrens apparently nested successfully near the Sewer Line Trail in Mentor Marsh, as three immatures were seen August 12 near where adults were heard singing during the spring (Hammond). Winter Wrens, too, may have nested in the region; a pair was seen near cliffs along the Chagrin River in Kirtland Hills on both June 8 and August 13 (Bole).

Nest construction by a Brown Creeper was observed by a group of birding canoeists on the Cuyahoga River, May 27. The nest was being built under a loose piece of bark on a snag standing in the river about a mile north of U. S. 422

(Ferris). "The bird showed no alarm but returned repeatedly with fine fibers, even though there were four or five canoes often within ten feet of her nesting site." No subsequent reports were received as to the success of the nesting venture.

Warbler Absence Is Brief. The late spring migration of warblers continued on into early June with an unusually high incidence of warbler reports during the first week of the month. A Blackpoll on June 16 marked a new latest date for that species. The male bird gave evidence of wishing to set up a nesting territory, as did a male Chestnut-sided and the male Kentucky reported in the spring BIRD CALENDAR; all were evidently unsuccessful in finding mates. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) Despite such tardiness in departing for the normal nesting grounds, most warbler species were returning on schedule in the middle and latter part of August and in numbers which suggested a successful breeding season. Reports from the end of the summer gave promise of a very good fall migration.

Migrant Fringillids Present in June. A female Evening Grosbeak was present as late as June 2, the latest spring date ever recorded here. More remarkable, Pine Siskins were seen at two locations in bands of up to five during most of June. Only once before had a single siskin been reported here after early June.

Two Dark-eyed Juncos were in Stebbins Gulch on June 2 (Flanigan) and approximately 10 the following day (Bole). Apparently one pair nested there, although the degree of success was not determined (Bole). One bird also appeared in Painesville near the Grand River on the rather early date of August 19 (Booth).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Great Egret - At Lower Shaker Lake a lone bird was observed on August 27. What was presumed to be the same specimen was also seen on the 31st (Knight).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Two immatures appeared on Sherwin Pond, Waite Hill, on August 31 and remained until at least September 7 (Flanigan).

Green-winged Teal - One was on Upper Shaker Lake on the early date of August 5, idling in the shallows at one end of the lake with eight Blue-winged Teals. All nine were either females or immatures (Newman).

Red-breasted Merganser - What appeared to be an immature was preening itself on the beach at White City on the morning of August 2. After some five minutes of this activity it flew to the water and commenced diving (Hannikman).

Osprey - On June 6 one was fishing at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center, Akron Metropolitan Parks (Szabo). This is the first summer report of the species since 1966.

King Rail - Two, possibly a pair, were in low-lying portion of a cultivated field near Plum Creek, Columbia Township, on July 2. In the same location, which was partially flooded until the August dry spell, two had been seen on one occasion in the spring. Observers were unable to determine, though, if they nested (MacClellan, fide Johnson).

Sora - A pair nested successfully on Whiteoak Pond, Kirtland Hills; on August 10 at least three young were with the mother in a patch of cattails (Bole).

Golden Plover - An adult just beginning to change to fall plumage was on the mudflat at White City, August 11 (Klamm, fide Hannikman).

Whimbrel - A lone bird was observed in flight at White City Beach on June 23 about 12:45 p.m. This large shorebird with a long decurved bill, brown plumage, and trailing feet was moving from west to east offshore from the parking lot at moderate altitude when it veered inland over the adjacent settling and yacht basin while losing altitude. When nearly to water level, the bird resumed an eastward course and rapidly climbed in altitude (Klamm). The only previous record of this species in the Cleveland Region earlier than July was June 27, 1959.

Three Wimbrels [Whimbrels] were observed flying westward over White City lagoon on July 30 at approximately 12:50 p.m. (Kitson).

Upland Sandpiper - A pair with two young were seen during early July by several observers at the Akron Municipal Airport (fide Szabo).

Willet - A group of seven flew over the breakwall at White City on August 12 (Knight). Other observations of the species, all at White City, were of two birds on July 25 and single specimens on July 3, July 8, July 21, and August 6 (Hannikman).

Lesser Yellowlegs - Marking a new earliest fall date of occurrence, a lone bird was observed at Upper Shaker Lake, July 1. Quite approachable as it fed in the shallow water of the mudflats, it seemed to be in perfect plumage, with no evidence of frayed, worn, or molting feathers (Newman).

Red Knot - One in summer plumage was feeding in the company of Dowitchers at White City on July 25 and 20 (Hannikman, fide Corbin). What was believed to be the same bird was

also there on August 1 and 2 (Hannikman). One in winter plumage was photographed at White City On July 2 (Klamm). Another in winter plumage moved from the mudflat to the White City parking lot and wandered about in the gravel with seven Dowitchers, August 23 (Hannikman).

Dowitcher - In the early afternoon of July 5 a lone bird was on the mudflat at White City; this matches the earliest fall date for the species (Hannikman).

Western Sandpiper - Earliest of several sightings at White City of this usually-rare fall migrant was on July 20; an adult in summer plumage, it was observed extensively in the company of Semipalmated Sandpipers (Hannikman). Two specimens were at the same location on five separate dates later in July (Hannikman, Kitson). An adult in changing plumage was present on August 30 (Hannikman).

Laughing Gull - An adult, still retaining the black head coloration, was flying eastward with other gulls at White City on July 26. One, possibly the same specimen, was observed at less than 30 yards' distance, July 30, on the mudflat at White City; it was identifiable by the reddish bill and dark mantle with no trace of white. A first-year bird with brown forehead and breast and blackish bill and feet was feeding close to the White City breakwall with Ring-billed Gulls on August 29 (all observations by Hannikman).

Forster's Tern - An immature or fall-plumage specimen was at Wildwood Park, August 17, in the company of hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls and Black Terns and a few Common Terns. Compared at a distance of 20 yards to a Common Tern, it had a black patch through the eyes only, not extending to the back of the head, and showed much white throughout the wings (Hannikman).

Barn Owl - One hunting rats inside a chicken cage at Hanging Rock Farm, Kirtland Hills, was caught, killed and eaten by a chicken-hunting raccoon, July 25 (Bole).

Eastern Kingbird - At North Chagrin Reservation a pair were feeding two young on August 16, somewhat late in the season for such activity (Carrothers).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - Except for one heard, June 1, in Euclid Park (Corbin), the only summer report was of a single bird in the Rocky River Reservation near Cleveland Hopkins Airport on June 30 (Stasko).

Mockingbird - One was "singing lustily" in Lorain, June 12 and 15, in a residential section one block north of Lorain Shipyard (Ward). Another singing bird was observed near Maple Lane, Willoughby Hills, on July 12; the location is

about one-fourth mile from where Mockingbirds had been nesting for the past few years but where they were not seen this summer (Carrothers).

Swainson's Thrush - A "well-marked individual" was seen on the morning of June 16 along the edge of a road under construction through Euclid Park (Corbin). Because of the type of location in which it was observed, this specimen is regarded as a new latest spring migrant, rather than a summer resident. Conversely, a pair along the eastern cliffs of the Chagrin River in Kirtland Hills, August 13, were deemed by the observer to be in residence (Bole).

White-eyed Vireo - Two were seen at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center, June 27 (Szabo). At French Creek Reservation near Sheffield, July 9, one responded to "squeaking" which was being directed at Song Sparrows (Johnson).

Golden-winged Warbler - An adult male was singing on a dead branch in Kuhlman Woods near East 140th Street on June 4 (Hannikman). This is a new latest spring date for the species and only the second June sighting on record.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - A male staked out an area near the Interpretive Center in Rocky River Reservation and remained until the end of June. Although it sang quite often, there was no evidence of its finding a mate or of actually nesting (Stasko).

Bay-breasted Warbler - One in summer plumage was observed in the wildlife area of Rocky River Reservation on August 5. Sighted in a pine-woods section, it was evidently an early migrant (Stasko).

Blackpoll Warbler - An adult male was seen and heard singing around the Wildwood Park lagoon, June 16, a new latest spring date (Hannikman).

Kentucky Warbler - The male reported at University School in the spring was seen there on several occasions during early June (Rickard, Knight) and was singing as late as June 9 (Corbin). Last sighting was June 16 (Knight); after that date the observers were not able to check on it.

Wilson's Warbler - Two were sighted along the lakefront on the unusually early date of August 12 (Klamm).

Dickcissel - A singing male appeared near the corner of Bolender and Martin Roads, west of Wingfoot Lake, on June 2 and 3. It was joined by a female on June 6, and the two were observed mating, with the male always singing. Although they appeared to be a nesting pair, they were last seen on June 15, about one week after the hay fields they

had been frequenting were harvested (Shirmer, fide Neil Henderson). Dickcissels have been known to nest in the Cleveland Region; however,, no specimen had been reported as sighted here during the summer season in more than two decades.

Evening Grosbeak - A female which had been present at a feeding station near Lake Lucerne throughout May was last seen there on June 2 at 6:30 p.m. (Sheldon). This marks a new latest date for the species.

Pine Siskin - Seldom reported here after late May, two bands were seen repeatedly this year during June. Two and sometimes three birds. were seen in Waite Hill on six dates to June 19 (Flanigan); also, a group of five were in that area on the 17th (Klamm). At a feeding station near Lake Lucerne another group of five were also reported on June 17, with two being sighted on the 23rd and on the 27th (Sheldon).

Dark-eyed Junco - Either extremely late migrants or summer residents were observed in Stebbins Gulch in early June—two birds on the 2nd (Flanigan) and approximately 10 on the 3rd (Bole). One pair was along the nearby eastern cliffs of the Chagrin River during the summer (Bole).

White-crowned Sparrow - A tardy migrant was observed in Lakewood on June 3 (Klamm).

FIELD NOTES

Mower Aids Red-shouldered Hawk. During July 22-24 a Red-shouldered Hawk was heard most of the time in the rural area along Bass Lake Road near Chardon. The hawk began to appear closer to the road, so that neighbors nearby spent time in their back yards watching it. Later it moved southwest to the back area of the farm.

Several weeks later the farmer who mows and bales hay for the farms around here told me of his experience with the hawk. This year has been noted for the number of small animals. The farmer noticed that the hawk appeared about the time the mowing began and moved with the machine. Mowing flushed out moles and field mice. The hawk was always on hand and picked up its food as they ran. It continued to forage here until a day or two after the fields had all been cleared. - MARJORIE RAMISCH

Virginia Rail Takes Refuge in Garage. At approximately 10:30 on the morning of July 12, as I was driving along the street level of the Abington Road parking garage at University Hospital, I spotted what at first glance I took to be a juvenile Starling that had flown inside the garage. As I came alongside the bird, I came to a quick stop when I real-

ized that what I was seeing was a Virginia Rail. Leaving my car in a "no parking" area, I pursued the rail, which reluctantly took flight, narrowly missing the windshield of an incoming car, and flew out the Abington Road entrance.

I got back in my car, exited, and drove around the block, hoping to get another glimpse of the bird, but I was unsuccessful. What it was doing at this location during what would still be considered early summer was and still is a mystery to me. One clue to its appearance might be the weather of the previous night, which was quite windy and stormy. - DAVID CORBIN

Gulls Grounded During Storm. In Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, are three adjoining baseball diamonds which I can see from my living room windows. On the evening of June 3 the diamonds were in use until shortly after 7:00 p.m., when a severe thunderstorm accompanied by fierce winds swept through the Greater Cleveland region. Fascinated by the fury of the storm and the play of lightning across the sky, I watched the torrents of water swirl over the playing fields.

At 7:55 the rain slackened somewhat, the wind moderated, and the sky grew lighter, revealing a dozen large gulls--either Herring or Ring-billed--gathered in the flooded outfield. Although lightning was still flashing and thunder booming, within a minute or so all the birds took to the air, circled about as they gained altitude, and quickly passed out of sight. These birds must have been in flight when the storm began and were forced to settle on the ground until the worst of the storm was over; however, to them the flooded outfield, with water several inches deep, may actually have appeared to be a small pond on which to settle while the storm abated. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Martins Congregate Near Akron Airport. For the past few years other birders and I have noticed Purple Martins gathering near Akron Municipal Airport in late summer. The wooded area, about one-fourth mile in length and a city block wide, runs along a railroad; Triplett Boulevard is to the south, Kelly Avenue to the west, and Archwood Avenue to the north.

During July and August I can sit in my yard and observe the martins flying overhead about one hour before sunset. The aerial path to the roosting area is a couple of miles wide, and one can see them feed as they fly eastward to roost. Each morning they can be seen and heard leaving, flying westward to feed. This year I have seen the largest concentrations that I have observed in this location.

My first visit to the roosting area this year was on

July 11. Only mature males were sighted, less than 100 in number. On August 21, after a storm, there were Purple Martins by the thousands—females, immatures, and mature males. All the telephone wires and trees were solid with martins. The sky was black (like a funnel cloud) with Purple Martins flying overhead. After August 21 there were very few left. This date is the earliest that I have seen them leave.

Other swallows, Common Grackles, and Starlings use the same area to roost. In the morning they fly off in different directions in what I call mini-flocks.- ANN BISCAN

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AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. 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.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.