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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

Editor

Wayne A. Hammond

Editorial Advisor

Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistant

Vera Carrothers

CONTRIBUTORS

B. P. Bole, Jr.
Kay F. Booth
Vera Carrothers
Henrietta D. Crofts
Naomi Clark
Mildred Daniels
Ralph W. Dexter
Marilyn and F. W. Fais
Annette B. Flanigan.
Wayne and Hilda Hammond
Ray Hannikman
David W. Howard
Mary Huey
Perry F. Johnson
Glenn Kitson.
William and Nancy Klamm
Charles H. Knight
Walter P. Kremm
Sibyl Leach

Nick Mankovich
Carl and Mary Newhous
Donald L. Newman
Gretta Pallister
Perry K. Peskin
Bette S. Proudfoot
Marjorie Ramisch
Mary Randall
Genevieve Reutter
Richard Rickard
Joseph P. Schirmer
Marjorie Sheldon
Margaret H. Sherwin
Gordon Spare
Michael Stasko
Bert L. Szabo
Charles H. Tillinghast
Clinton E. Ward

All records, comments, and observations should be sent to:

Wayne A. Hammond
6256 Brooks Blvd.
Mentor, OH 44066

THE WEATHER

- December - Except for the 10th and 11th, warmer than normal temperatures prevailed from the 1st through the 11th and again from the 23rd through the 29th. Over-all, the month averaged 3.8 degrees warmer than normal, while sunshine managed to prevail during 26 per cent of the time possible. Precipitation fell on 31 days, with snow occurring on 15 of these. Persistent snow cover was frequent from the 14th on. Snowfalls totaled 18.8 inches for the month and were notably heavy on the 15th, 20th, and 31st. Total precipitation amounted to 3.53 inches, which was in excess by 1.19 inches. Late Erie remained open and ice-free all month, while some inland and shallow waters were subject to transient freezing from the 8th on.
- January - The month started in a wintry manner but turned moderate on the 14th. Thus temperatures averaged 5.1 degrees above normal and sunshine was visible 31 per cent of the time possible. Precipitation was well distributed on 17 days and totaled 2.56 inches, which was normal. Snow occurred on nine of these days, totaling 8.9 inches and was notably heavy on the 1st and during the period from the 8th through the 12th. Extensive ice cover developed on Lake Erie by the 5th and remained through the 16th, breaking up to open water by the 19th. Inland waters were subject to variable ice conditions.
- February - Cyclic changes and deviations were moderately abrupt, and the month passed in a near-normal manner. Temperatures averaged barely .2 degrees warmer than normal on alternating swings of slightly warmer and cooler than normal days, except for a stable cooling period from the 3rd through the 11th and a continuous warming spell from the 16th through the 23rd. Precipitation occurred on 19 days, amounting to 2.34 or 0.16 inches in excess. Fresh snow cover beginning on the 2nd added to the residual on the ground, and the repetition of snowfall at regular intervals thereafter provided some residual snow cover all through the month, even though rain fell at times. Lake Erie remained open through the 7th; developed extensive ice cover by the 9th, which persisted through the 19th; was open through the 23rd; and had variable ice fields thereafter.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

If a simple generalization, may be made about the past winter, it is that a relatively mild, wet season is no assurance of favorable birding. Yet, conversely, neither does such weather predicate an absence of northerly species. With a few exceptions the 1973-74 winter season in the Cleveland region was routine to the point where one is tempted to characterize it as dull. Of course, the usual summer residents who forgot to migrate showed up at feeding stations seeking a handout, and, several late-migrating species were in the neighborhood even later than normal. Few species, though, appeared in impressive numbers. Almost every variety that is regularly reported here in the winter quarter was observed, and the number of casual and rare winter visitors was satisfactory. Over-all, though, it just wasn't a memorable season.

Loons, Grebes Not Numerous. - Despite open water on Lake Erie during most of the season and inland waters ice-free for considerable periods, Common Loons and both locally-common grebes were reported less frequently than usual. Only three Common Loons were recorded, but one of these remained on a pond until late January. Horned Grebes were missing from the contributors' reports from December 25 until February 10. Numbers of Pied-billed Grebes showed up in the latter part of the period on Summit Lake, 14 being counted on January 27 and 30 on February 10 (Schirmer). No other species in these families was recorded.

Ducks Erratic. The winter duck population showed several inconsistencies, when compared to records of the immediately preceding years. Mallards and Blacks were about normal in numbers, and there were scattered reports, as usual, of most of the other dabblers. American Wigeons, though, were more scarce than expected, and Gadwalls were missing entirely from the reports.

Bay ducks appeared to be more plentiful than usual, but again with some deviations from the trend. Redheads were up in numbers, with the biggest rafts in recent years being seen during February; 800 were tallied at Lorain on the 20th (Ward) and 146 near the mouth of Rocky River on the 24th (Klamm). Canvasbacks were plentiful in the first half of the season but less common later, exactly the reverse of the normal pattern. Counts on mixed flocks of Greater and Lesser Scaups, predominantly the former, fluctuated widely with the shifts in the weather and lake ice. At Lorain, for example, 230 were tallied on January 4, only 5 on the 8th, and 200 on the 12th. They hit a peak of 20,000 on February 11 and dropped to 40 on the 22nd (Ward). Common Goldeneyes also fluctuated and over-all seemed to be below normal. Buffleheads, on the other hand, were ap-

parently up. Ruddy Ducks showed the normal late-season decline.

Winter-visiting sea ducks were among the happier features of the season. Oldsquaws showed a modest population boom, a remarkable 23 specimens being at Lorain, December 23 (Ward). There were frequent sightings of small numbers of them throughout the period. Other northern ducks present were the Harlequin, King Eider, and all three scoters. (See Noteworthy Records for details.) By contrast, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were much below expected levels, the Red-breasted being particularly scarce. There were, however, a reasonable number of reports of the always-uncommon Hooded Merganser.

Buteo Sightings Down. Only three Red-shouldered Hawks were reported by contributors, an unusually low total. While considerably more numerous, Red-tailed Hawks were also somewhat below levels of recent years. A lone Rough-legged Hawk was recorded, the second successive winter that this irregular visitor has been scarce (see Noteworthy Records). American Kestrels seemed to be well distributed throughout the region. The other hawks usually seen here in winter--Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Marsh--were all reported; however, none is seen frequently enough for valid conclusions of population trends. One female Cooper's Hawk is known to have wintered at a Girl Scout camp near Richfield (Howard).

Shorebirds Linger at White City. Winter isn't the season for shorebird-watching; nevertheless, some uncommonly late specimens attracted birders to White City during December. Included were at least two Purple Sandpipers, three Dunlins, and a Northern Phalarope. (See Noteworthy Records for more details.) A Killdeer was at White City on January 5 (Hannikman); this species has been known to winter locally.

Little Gulls Highlight Winter Gull Population. Observations of arctic and other wandering gulls revealed a rather contrary pattern. Iceland Gulls were completely missing from the reports, and Glaucous Gulls were absent after December 23, except for four at Gordon Park on February 9 (Klamm, Rickard). Great Black-backed Gulls, though, were present along the lakefront in unusual numbers. Greatest concentration was at Lorain, where at least 125 were seen on January 4 (Ward). Most unusual, however, were the number of sightings of Little Gulls; there were 16 reported during January and February, with five on February 2 (Klamm). This European visitor is most often seen here in December, if at all. Wintering populations of Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls, while shifting widely during the season, could be described on the whole as normal. Details of the rarer species of gulls are to be found

in the Noteworthy Records section and in a special report in the Field Notes.

Resident Populations Hold Steady. Casual observers are inclined to regard both Mourning Doves and Belted Kingfishers as exclusively summer residents and to express surprise at their presence here in winter. Both do, of course, winter regularly in the region, though in reduced numbers. Records for the winter just past revealed that both were doing quite well. Flocks of Mourning Doves numbering 10 to 15 were consistent visitors at feeding stations at several locations, and many other individuals and small bands were reported from all parts of the region. Kingfishers were sighted in several localities and rather continuously for the entire season.

Woodpeckers appeared either to be unchanged in numbers or to be more numerous than in the recent past, depending on the species. The permanent-resident Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers remained steady, while the Pileated may have showed a slight gain. Variations from year to year in the contributors' list and diligence in reporting make firm conclusions impractical. In addition to these, there were more sightings than usual of the Red-headed and about as many of the Common Flicker. Apparently even one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained for the winter, as one was seen in the same location in Kuhlman Woods on four occasions (Hannikman--see Noteworthy Records).

Horned Larks, another of the residents customarily showing a seasonal reduction, were reported with about the usual frequency. Similarly, observations of American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds were at the normal level; as might be expected, reports of both species came mainly from the area around the Holden Arboretum. By contrast, Cedar Waxwings were infrequently observed except in December, and most reports were of relatively small bands.

Red-breasted Nuthatches Scarce. Only three reports were received of Red-breasted Nuthatches, the lowest total in recent years. Brown Creepers, too, while reported fairly regularly, were evidently reduced in numbers. There were the expected reports of Winter Wrens, two definitely wintering in Kirtland Hills (Bole). Carolina Wrens, which fluctuate considerably from year to year, were present in average numbers, 22 being reported on specified dates and two other specimens being seen regularly throughout the period (Charles Vanik, *fide* Spare). Numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were not remarkable, only nine being tallied in six separate observations after December.

Blackbirds More Persistent. All local species of blackbirds persisted in the region more than usual during the

winter. Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds were often seen at feeding stations through the season. At least 10 of each of the three species were around a feeder in Mentor during the first part of February, where smaller groups had been since throughout January (Hammond). Biggest feeding station raid, though, was in Lorain; more than 1,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared in one yard in December (Ward). That location is near a roost which was the scene of a huge concentration during the late winter. More details of that flock are expected in the spring reports. In addition to the common species, Rusty Blackbirds were sighted more frequently than usual; most of the records were in Lake County in December.

Winter Finches Disappointing. Prospects of a conspicuous incursion of northern finches failed to materialize. A contributor who has made an extensive study of the Evening Grosbeak population over the years commented on his report this time, "Both the number of localities and the flock size do not come up to what I expected" (Dexter). That analysis was borne out by total tabulation. Although a fairly large number of sightings were recorded in December, no flock exceeded 30 birds. In January and February up to 50 birds were frequently seen at a location in Kirtland Hills (Daniels); all other flocks were comparatively small.

Purple Finches were rather scarce, and Common Redpolls were limited to 13 specimens in four February sightings. After December Pine Siskin observations were confined to two January records of a band of seven near Chagrin Falls (Sheldon) and several February reports of one or two birds each. Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were entirely absent from the reports.

White-winged Crossbills, however, supplied a welcome contrast to the prevailing pattern. No less than seven contributors noted this rarest of the winter finches during the last half of the season. Most reports were of one or two specimens, generally at feeding stations. The exception was a flock of five males and three females at feeder in Mentor Headlands, January 25-28 (Randall).

Populations of the other finches seen here in winter ranged from normal to low. Rufous-sided Towhees were at the lowest level in years. Field Sparrows were reported in December only. About a dozen White-crowned Sparrows stayed in North Olmsted (Johnson), and up to five were seen intermittently in Akron (Schirmer). Tree Sparrows appeared to be less plentiful than usual. Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and Song Sparrows did not seem especially numerous. Four small flocks of Snow Buntings and one lone specimen were reported from White City.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - One remained on a pond at Camp Hilaka, near Richfield, until after the January thaw, persistently circling about to keep a small area ice-free (Howard).

Black-crowned Night-Heron - An adult was observed in flight under favorable conditions near Euclid Creek Park on December 22 (Rickard).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - An immature was studied both in flight and standing in the company of a Great Blue Heron on the edge of the Chagrin River in North Chagrin Reservation, December 22; observation was made over a period of ten minutes (Kitson, fide Robert Scheibe).

Whistling Swan - At least two immature specimens, possibly more evidently wintered in the area. Two young birds were on Sherwin Pond on six dates between December 16 and January 8 (Sherwin, Stasko); a single immature was there February 14 (Sherwin). Three birds, at least two of them immature, were on Lake Erie west of Headlands State Park on December 2, and two of undetermined maturity were flying down the Grand River at Fairport Harbor in a snow flurry a week later (Hammond). On February 8 four Whistling Swans were reposing on the ice off White City (Hannikman). It appears probable that this group included the others reported. See Field Notes for a report of one other.

Snow Goose - A white-phase specimen was seen at the Holden Arboretum on two unspecified dates in December (Bole); on Sherwin Pond, February 20 and 23 (Sherwin); and again at the Arboretum, February 27 (Hammond). Presumably it was a single but rather elusive specimen which intermittently joined the several hundred Canada Geese wintering in that vicinity. Another white-phase Snow Goose was near Green Lake, Shaker Heights, December 12 (Peskin).

Northern Shoveler - One was observed at Lorain on January 17 and 21 (Ward) . This is the first January report in nine years.

Harlequin Duck - A female was in Lorain Harbor on February 1-5 (Ward).

King Eider - An undetermined number of specimens were at Lorain Harbor rather consistently for a 10-day period in the latter part of December. Confirmed sightings included an immature male on the 16th, a first-spring male on the 17th, 2 males on the 18th, 2 males on the 19th, 3 males on the 20th, 1 male on the 21st, 3 males and 2 females on the 22nd, 1 male on the 23rd, 3 males and a female on the 24th, and 1 female on the 25th (Ward).

White-winged Scoter - Up to eight specimens were present at Lorain, December 16-24 and two on January 11 and 12 (Ward, Stasko) . Also, a single bird was off the mouth of Rocky River, December 8 (Stasko), and a flock of eight more than a mile north of the Fairport Harbor light, December 9 (Hammond).

Surf Scoter - Only report was of two on the Cleveland lakefront on January 6 (Klamm).

Black Scoter - A female was observed moving west at White City on December 5 (Carrothers).

Rough-legged Hawk - A light-phase individual flew over Bratenahl along East 140th Street in the early afternoon of February 21, the only report for the season (Hannikman).

American Woodcock - A single bird was flushed from bushes in Kuhlman Woods near East 140th Street, February 24 (Hannikman). This is the earliest known date in modern times.

Purple Sandpiper - The two specimens reported at White City during November (see Fall, 1973, CBC) were seen by several contributors during early December. One was successfully documented on 16mm film on several dates during the period (Klamm). Latest recorded sighting was of a lone bird on December 22.

Dunlin - One in winter plumage frequented the White City beach and mudflat area from December 12 to 25 and was photographed in the company of the Purple Sandpiper mentioned above (Klamm, Hannikman). The December 25 date (Hannikman) duplicates the latest recorded fall date for the species. Three specimens were at White City, December 15.

Northern Phalarope - A lone bird was "skittering about the water" at the mouth of Rocky River on December 1 (Stasko). The following day one, probably the same specimen, was at White City (Klamm).

Glaucous Gull - Sightings at four separate lakefront locations were all of first- or second-year birds. A first-year specimen was at White City, December 20 and 23 (Hannikman). Another first-year was at Lorain, December 21 (Ward). Three in second-year plumage were loafing on the piers with numerous other gulls at the Eastlake CEI plant, December 22 (Klamm). Four second-year birds were active around Gordon Park, February 9 (Klamm, Rickard).

Black-headed Gull - One was in the Gordon Park-CEI lakefront area on January 20 and February 2 in the company of other gulls (Klamm). This species has been recorded in the Cleveland Region on only five previous dates: December 13,

1965; January 22, 1966; and three times in March, 1968. A more detailed report on the Black-headed Gull is to be found in the Field Notes section.

Little Gull - An unusually high number of sightings of this rare winter visitor were recorded. Earliest report was of a single bird at White City on January 1 (Hannikman, Peskin). Others identified were 1 at White City, January 5 (Klamm); 2 at Gordon Park-CEI, January 20 (Klamm); 1 at CEI, January 25 (Carrothers); 3 at CEI, January 26 (Klamm, Leach); 5 at CEI, February 2 (Klamm); 1 at CEI, February 3 (Klamm); and 1 at White City, February 7 (Hannikman). All records were of adult birds, generally in the company of Bonaparte's Gull. Undoubtedly, many reports represented multiple observations of the same specimens.

Black-legged Kittiwake - At White City, February 7, an immature was observed chasing a Bonaparte's Gull in an effort to rob it of a small fish. Unsuccessful, it headed out over the lake. observation was made in bright sunlight under particularly favorable conditions (Hannikman).

Snowy Owl - Only reports of this Arctic visitor were, surprisingly, a considerable distance from Lake Erie, where they are most frequently seen. One was at Wingfoot Lake near Akron on December 15 (Schirmer) and two were near Brunswick "about December 16 or 17" (fide Howard).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - In Painesville one fed daily on fruit of a flowering crab from December 15 to 24 and intermittently thereafter throughout the season (Booth).

Mockingbird - Wintering birds were reported from locations in four counties in the region. One which had been around an Amherst (Lorain County) residence "since mid-summer" was observed as late as early January (J. Blaser, fide Johnson). In Bedford (Cuyahoga) one was at a home from December 7 to 10 (Betty Larsen, fide Newman). In Willoughby Hills (Lake) where Mockingbirds have often been seen in past years, one appeared on January 16 and 20 (Reutter). In an area on Stow Road in Hudson Township (Summit) one was observed all through the season (Szabo).

Brown Thrasher - One appeared at a feeding station in Shaker Heights, December 24, and was seen there "on the average every other day since, feeding on small seeds" (Rickard). Another was at a feeder on the south edge of Chardon, February 8 (Ida Schinagle, fide Spare).

Hermit Thrush - For the second successive year one wintered in Kuhlman Woods. Observed on nine separate dates from January 19 to February 27, it seemed quite active, feeding and sometimes vocally scolding at the observer (Hannikman).

Northern Shrike - During snow flurries on December 16 one moved about among trees near the east end of Headlands State Park shortly before noon (Hammond). Another was observed catching a mouse, which it carried off in its claws, at the Interpretive Center of Rocky River Reservation on January 20; presumably the same specimen was also viewed there by several birders on January 26 (Stasko).

American Redstart - As reported in the Fall, 1973, CBC, an immature remained at a residence in Kirtland Hills until December 8, a new latest date of occurrence (Bole).

Rusty Blackbird - In addition to an abnormal number of records in December, principally of males at feeding stations, there were two late-winter observations. A male, apparently the same one which had been seen in the location several times from December 16 to 31, was with a mixed flock of blackbirds around feeders at a Mentor residence, January 23 (Hammond). Another, sex not reported, was at a feeder in Lorain, February 11 (Ward). Rusty Blackbirds are rare after late November and very seldom recorded in January and February.

FIELD NOTES

Rare Gulls Associate With Bonaparte's. [ED. NOTE: The following observations of gulls which are rare winter visitors are not only of interest in their own right but may aid other observers in identifying these species]

A Black-headed Gull was encountered on January 20 and again on February 2 at the Gordon Park-CEI lakefront area. The bird on the wing was noted to be slightly larger than the Bonaparte's Gull and had dark wing linings at the end, fading toward the body, with conspicuous white markings on both the upper and lower wing near the tips and leading edge. The bill is stouter than the Bonaparte's, and flight is more lumbering. Either the head is slightly larger or the neck shorter than the Bonaparte's, giving a more bulky appearance. The winter-plumaged bird was distinguished from the Little Gull by size and white wing markings and from the Bonaparte's by the dark underwing lining, size, and stouter bill. On January 20 the wind was from the south-southwest, the lake calm, and most gulls were loafing. The Black-headed was one of the few on the wing and was readily followed.

Observations were fairly routine on most dates when the Little Gulls were sighted; however, activity on February 2 was especially opportune. The wind was strong from the north-northeast, the lake very rough, a variable overcast prevailed, and fresh snow was on the ground. About 8,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were concentrated in the Gordon

Park-CEI area, fishing or flying about, with others riding water in numerous rafts. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were in minor numbers, but a lone Black-headed Gull and lone Great Black-backed Gull were also present. The presence of five Little Gulls could frequently be confirmed by simultaneous location, with the Black-headed Gull acting as a reference point on the water.

Rafted Bonaparte's tended to form windrows to the northeast over a considerable expanse of water. Fortunately, the Black-headed Gull chose to ride the water at the end of a Bonaparte's raft extending from the CEI hook pier out into the harbor. One pair of Little Gulls regularly rode the water with this raft or took wing in this area, while three other individuals regularly plied back and forth close to the seawall or rode water close in. The alternating periods of flight and rest were observed over a two-hour span of time for the five Little Gulls. It was apparent at times when two birds were close together that the black underwing linings and mantle tended to be paler on one bird than the other. - WILLIAM KLAMM

Bonaparte's Gulls Perform Aerial Display. On February 09, 1973 I had reported 75 Bonaparte Gulls "wheeling and banking like shorebirds." At Lorain Harbor on January 31, 1974, a quiet day with open blue sky and water, about a half-mile out there was a raft of over 1,000 Bonaparte's performing the wheeling and banking maneuver. Also, they were rippling up from the raft like cascades and rising up en masse and settling like falling leaves. One of the great thrills of winter birding! - CLINTON E. WARD

Swan Succumbs to Unknown Causes. A Whistling Swan was found in the yard of the Douglas Sawdey residence, Salida Road, Mentor-on-the-Lake, on February 18. It was sitting listlessly, head drooping, huddled on the ice and snow. Although it allowed the family to touch it, it would not eat food offered. By evening Mrs. Sawdey called state game protector Terry Welch, who took it for convalescence. He stated that it should weigh about 20 pounds but seemed to weigh only eight or ten. Mr. Welch later reported that it died within the hour and has since been sent to the proper authorities to determine cause of death. Preliminary indications were some sort of poisoning. - MARILYN FAIS

Kestrel Preys on Cardinal. On February 10 about 4:00 p.m. after supplying the hanging and platform feeders, I returned to the house and glanced out our picture window toward the feeders. I noticed at once a bird on the ground below the platform feeder and under a footbridge. Since it looked unfamiliar, I took up my binoculars. Before I could use them, though, the bird took off. It was an American Kestrel, and it was carrying a female Cardinal that it had

probably just killed at the feeder. The hawk wasn't much larger than its victim. It flew only about 100 feet and settled at the top of a broken-topped dead tree, about 15 feet off the ground. The hawk proceeded to eat the Cardinal. Feathers continuously fell as the Kestrel ate, and its tail jerked up and down throughout the meal. I watched the hawk off and on for an hour. Then it was gone. The next day I looked below the tree, but there was no sign of the Cardinal. The feathers had been blown away or covered with snow. I noticed that there were no birds near or on the feeders for several minutes after the Kestrel appeared. But they were soon feeding again, even as the predator was consuming the Cardinal only about 100 feet away. - WALTER P. KREMM

Kestrel Stunned by Window Collision. A female American Kestrel apparently struck at a bird in our feeder-group, missed, and hit the west windows of our sunporch, landing in a state of shock on the stone terrace. I went out to help her, but she flew to snow-covered roofing over our dining room windows and lit. There she perched and scolded me "Killy-killy-killy-killy-killy." - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Pileated Woodpecker Demonstrates Caudal Dexterity. I had often watched the Brown Creeper brace itself momentarily as it hitched its way up a tree. I was accustomed to seeing the Downies use their tails as props against the suet feeders. Yet it wasn't until I watched a Pileated Woodpecker in Novelty, January 11, that I realized the full usefulness of that appendage.

A large hunk of suet (5-7 pounds) was in a net bag, suspended by wire from a sloping bough of a big maple tree. The bird, a handsome male, perched under the net-covered suet so that its body was parallel to the ground. Its tail was held at a 90-degree angle with the end of it pressed against the branch. Now and then it stopped its hammer blows for an instant to adjust its tail. In this manner it fed for at least a half-hour. Later it returned for two shorter periods. - MARJORIE RAMISCH

Pennsylvania Stocking Sharp-tailed Grouse. The Spring, 1973, CBC carried a report of a Sharp-tailed Grouse seen in the West Geauga area, April 20, 1973. Available evidence indicated that it was a natural specimen, and it was therefore recorded as the first sighting of the species in the Cleveland Region. Recently, an exchange of letters with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, following up on a report from the northwestern part of that state, has revealed that the commission has been stocking Sharp-tailed Grouse there.

John J. Kriz, wildlife biologist with the commission, writes, "In 1970, 200 birds were live-trapped in Southwest-

ern South Dakota and flown to Pennsylvania. About 100 were stocked in Erie County and 100 placed in Bradford County. Confirmed sightings occurred at least two years afterwards. Last February 69 Sharptails were live-trapped in the Nebraska Sand Hills, and 8 more were obtained just recently. These birds were released in Erie County.

All birds were banded prior to being released into the wild. The sex ratio was approximately 50:50. We have no confirmed reports of nesting or dancing grounds behavior, although small flocks (3-6 birds) have been reported from time to time."

In light of this information, it is now concluded that the specimen reported here in 1973 was most likely one which had strayed from the Pennsylvania stocking. In absence of proof of successful reproduction of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in the general area, the species has been removed from the list of species in the Cleveland Region. Contributors are advised, though, to be alert for these birds and especially to watch for any evidence of successful breeding. If such evidence is found, the status of the species would be subject to re-evaluation. - ED.

Addendum (Fall, 1973)

Snowy Owl - One was observed near Cuyahoga Falls during the first week of November (fide Howard). This report adds a species to the total for the year; however, because of the removal of the Sharp-tailed Grouse from the list, the figure remains at 257.

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