



CLEVELAND REGION

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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

### September

The month turned out to be cool and damp with temperatures averaging 4.0 degrees below normal on rather irregular cyclic changes. Precipitation was measurable on 13 days, well distributed throughout the month, and totaled 3.06 inches, which was in excess of normal by 0.26 inches. Sunshine occurred during 54 per cent of the time possible.

### October

The over-all weather was peculiarly dry and cool. While measurable precipitation was well distributed on 14 days, the rainfall measured less than 0.1 inches on eight days and not more than 0.2 inches on the other six days. The total was only 1.19 inches and was in deficit by 1.38 inches. Accompanying temperatures averaged 2.6 degrees cooler than normal, with sunshine prevailing 52 per cent of the time.

### November

While the temperature averaged 1.47 degrees warmer than normal, the month ended in a wintry mode with measurable snow on the 21st and again on the 25th, 26th, and 27th. Rain or snow occurred on 17 days and totaled 4.72 inches of liquid precipitation to provide an excess of 1.96 inches for the month. The accumulated snowfall totaled 5.3 inches.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

For the birding enthusiast who insists on pursuing the unusual and exotic, the 1974 autumn season was interesting but not particularly remarkable in the Cleveland Region. However, for the birder who enjoys going out in pleasant weather and seeing a goodly number of recognizable specimens at predictable times and places, it was quite satisfactory--one might say, gratifying.

In general, the commoner permanent residents appear to be maintaining fairly stable populations, to judge from the reports of contributors. Observations of Belted Kingfishers and Horned Larks and Tufted Titmice fluctuate surprisingly little from year to year. Bobwhites were seen in greater numbers in the season just past, but that may well reflect only an increase in success in searching. The Common Crow, though, does seem to be growing in numbers within the region, perhaps because of the incorporation of large tracts of undeveloped land into municipalities and the consequent prohibition of hunting.

As for the migratory species, most were seen in about normal numbers, with several well above that level. Waterfowl were disappointingly scarce along the lakefront, and some of the late finches were rare or absent. Over-all, though, the gains considerably outweighed the declines.

Waterfowl More Numerous Inland, Low on Lakefront. Although the reasons were not readily discernable, most species of waterfowl which frequent small lakes and ponds in migration were at or above the usual levels, while those generally confined to Lake Erie were down in numbers. Canada Geese and Mallards, which are both resident and migrant, as well as Black Ducks and American Wigeons were reported with about normal frequency. Both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teals, though, were noticeably more plentiful, and Wood Duck tallies suggested a modest increase. Likewise, the pond-frequenting Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers showed up on the reports more often than expected. Not all of these were on inland waters, though; nine Hooded Mergansers were at White City, November 16 and 17 (Hannikman). Reports of American Coots were up considerably.

By contrast, Whistling Swans were rather scarce, daylight observations being mostly of small flocks and scattered through most of November. Counts of Scaups were low and limited to November 13-17, except for a few Lessers earlier and later. Largest number of Common Goldeneyes was a band of 11, while Buffleheads were even less visible and Redheads missing entirely.

While a few Ruddy Ducks appeared early, there were

never any great numbers. A lakefront resident accustomed to seeing long streaming flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers commented specifically about their absence (Dolbear); the total of 415 on all reports was less than what might be expected in a single raft.

Some waterfowl classed as rare in the Cleveland Region were seen. Snow Geese were reported from two inland sites. All three species of scoters appeared on the lakefront, quite early for these winter visitors. (See Noteworthy Records.) An Oldsquaw was reported on the relatively early date of November 24 (Klamm).

Outlook on Raptors Generally Favorable. Comparisons based on tallies of reported observations are particularly unreliable on hawks and owls. The impression, though, is that the season was a fairly good one, both in total sightings and in the variety of species present. Turkey Vultures "were last seen about November 5th" near Holden Arboretum (Bole); the general pattern of reports gave the impression of more birds and later.

Sightings of 25 Broad-winged Hawks at Lorain on October 16 was unusual for both lateness and numbers (Dolbear). Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels appeared to be holding steady. Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be uncommon though regular in the region, judging from the reports. Contributors recorded 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks 3 Bald Eagles, 2 Marsh Hawks, 4 Ospreys, and 4 Merlins; all of these species are frequently absent from the fall reports. Details on the Bald Eagles and Merlins are in the Noteworthy Records.

A generous assortment of owls also were observed. In addition to the regularly-resident Screech, Great Horned, Barred, and Long-eared Owls, contributors sighted Barn, Snowy, and Short-eared Owls. The last-named three are discussed in the Noteworthy Records.

Habitat Change Affects Shorebird Reports. What appeared in the tabulation of contributors' records to be a notable increase in some species of shorebirds was probably more a case of accessibility of habitat to the observers. The water level in Mentor Marsh dropped markedly in early fall, exposing an extensive and easily-reached mudflat in the western part. Tabulations of Common Snipes, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Dunlins all benefited from this change. Several of the common lakefront species dropped back to more normal numbers in contrast to the heavy migration of 1973. Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers and Sanderlings all were somewhat below the average of recent autumns. Other species could best be characterized as "normal", with the usual complement of off-course

wanderers which cannot appropriately be included in a survey of seasonal trends. Those are relegated to the Noteworthy Records section.

Rare Visitors Appear Among Gulls, Terns. Along with the customary massive influx of Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls and the September tern migration were several more unusual specimens. These included Glaucous and Black-headed Gulls, a Black-legged Kittiwake, and a remarkable number of Little Gulls, as discussed in Noteworthy Records. A Great Black-backed Gull appeared at Lorain as early as October 30 (Ward). The 42 sightings of Franklin's Gulls were far above the normal number, and there were four scattered observations of Forster's Terns. Counts were up on Bonaparte's Gulls, though such comparisons must be treated with caution. The migration of Common and Black Terns was particularly heavy in early September, tapering off rather quickly. Caspian Terns also moved through fairly early, but reports were below expectations.

Mourning Doves Congregate in Eastern Sector. What a contributor described as "the largest concentration of Mourning Doves I have ever observed," about 200 in all, were feeding on a newly-seeded road edge at the Cuyahoga County Airport on September 1 (Kitson). It should be added that this is the largest flock reported to the CALENDAR in any season in several years.

At Mentor Marsh 41 were counted on October 12 (Leach), and about 26 were seen repeatedly near the Dale R. Rice School in Mentor from late September to October 20 (Hammond). Other concentrations of up to 26 birds were also reported from Waite Hill (Flanigan, Klamm). All of these locations are in the eastern part of the region, though the habitats involved vary substantially.

Nighthawk Migration Interrupted. Migration of Common Nighthawks started in late August, as reported in the summer issue of the CALENDAR, but then almost stopped for the first six days of September. From September 7 to September 13 flights of up to 200 birds were sighted in several locations. The greatest number were observed on the 9th, which was a Monday and hence obviously not affected by the weekend phenomenon. An account of one contributor's records of the migration is included in Field Notes.

Increases Reported in Some Flycatchers. Eastern Phoebes, which had done well on the spring and summer reports, continued to show gains in the fall season. While the higher total could not unequivocally be termed significant, it did suggest a population increase and not merely fortuitous observations. Empidonax flycatchers were also reported in larger numbers than in recent years, even though the fall

migration was a bit slow in starting. The peak weekend of September 14-15 was about a week later than expected. The seven Olive-sided Flycatchers, all single specimens, which were recorded during September were the largest number in any recent fall migration.

Red-breasted Nuthatches Inconspicuous. Nearly all reports of red-breasted Nuthatches were of only one or two birds, and there were no reports after November 1. Indications were that they drifted through in small numbers in late September and October and that few, if any, chose to stay.

Carolina Wrens Multiplying. Observations of House Wrens showed the second good year in succession for the species. Winter Wrens also were present in good numbers and widely distributed during the normal migration period from late September on.

Carolina Wrens, though, continue to show a remarkable increase annually. The tallies for the last five fall seasons tell the story- 1970--26; 1971--65; 1972--66; 1973--84; 1974--146 in 92 records. The Autumn, 1969, issue of the CALENDAR reported a similar rise after a five-year low period. However, the total in that season was only 92 specimens in 73 records. In Birds of the Cleveland Region A. B. Williams writes of the Carolina Wren, "Population as a rule considerably reduced after severe winters."

Mimids, Most Thrushes Doing Well. Tallies of Gray Catbirds were somewhat above recent years, and the species showed up on reports consistently into early October. One frequented a garden in Kirtland Hills until mid-November (Bole). The Brown Thrasher population seemed to be normal or perhaps a little better. The same was true of American Robins, Wood and Hermit Thrushes, and Veeries. (The last-named is never common here in fall.) Swainson's Thrushes, though were unusually plentiful; the total of 531 specimens tabulated was well over twice the average of the past four fall migrations. The 133 Gray-cheeked Thrushes almost equaled the total of the last three fall seasons combined. Eastern Bluebirds, on the other hand, were not above average in numbers, perhaps a little low.

Vireos Stay Late. Although the numbers being observed were not significantly higher, the vireos were present somewhat later than usual. Most active date for Red-eyed Vireos was September 28, close to the normal end of the season; last report was November 1 (see Noteworthy Records). More than half of all Philadelphia Vireo sightings were in October, and Warbling Vireos were seen almost throughout September.

Warbler Migration Very Good. Taken as a whole, the autumn migration of warblers was highly successful. Commonly, due

largely to chance factors, increases reported for some species are counterbalanced by apparent declines in others. This time every common species was either at the normal level or above, and some of the tallies could only be described as remarkable. Tennessee, Magnolia, and Bay-breasted Warblers and Ovenbirds were reported in more than double the numbers of the past few years. Black-throated Green, Palm, and Mourning Warblers and Common Yellowthroats approached or exceeded the excellent totals of 1973. While far below the abundance of the 1973 season, Blackpoll Warblers were still above any of the three years preceding it. Cape May, Chestnut-sided, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers all recorded moderate gains. All other common species were reported with frequencies that were close to the average of the past four fall seasons.

Blackbird's Mass on the Fringes. Major concentrations of blackbirds were reported from the outer edges of the region and well away from the central urban area. An estimated 3,500 Red-winged Blackbirds and 300 Common Grackles roosted in Mentor Marsh, September 26 (Hammond). A flock of 12,000 Grackles were seen over Oberlin on September 4 (Champney, *fide* Johnson). "Tens of thousands" of Grackles were observed leaving a roost area near Lake Lucerne on October 22 and 23 and in reduced numbers for several days following (Sheldon). A southbound column of Grackles "must have taken close to five minutes to pass by" a residence in Kirtland Hills on the morning of November 8 (Tillinghast).

Largest flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds were 1,200 on October 19 and 5,000 on October 21 in LaGrange Township (Ed Bittner, *fide* Johnson). Except for a band of 10 in Kirtland Hills on September 25 (Daniels), nearly all Rusty Blackbirds were reported from Mentor Marsh.

Resident Finches Irregular. Finches which are primarily summer residents showed a mixed pattern during the fall. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks recorded a substantial increase over the immediate past year. Reports of Indigo Buntings were moderately higher. American Goldfinches, conversely, were down in numbers, and Rufous-sided Towhees were the lowest in years. Population of the mainly-migratory Purple Finch was fairly good, comparable to the successful 1972 and 1973 seasons. Chipping, Field, Swamp, and Song Sparrows all appeared to be at satisfactory levels.

Winter Finches Mostly Absent. A small number of Evening Grosbeaks straggled into the region during November but did not indicate any disposition to remain at any point long. Pine Siskins were reported as having been "noted" October 16 at Columbia Station, but with no data as to numbers seen (Ann Crowell, *fide* Johnson). Common Redpolls and the other more rare winter finches were missing entirely from the

reports of contributors. In "good" winters these generally start appearing in November.

Juncos Scarce, Migrant Sparrows Normal. Dark-eyed Juncos were unusually scarce during the fall. Largest single flock reported was less than 30 birds, and few bands numbered as many as 20. Commonly, flocks of from 50 to more than 100 are seen during October and November. Tabulations of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were very close to the average for the four preceding years. Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, too, were reported in normal numbers.

What was evidently the largest movement of these birds observed during the fall was on October 11 but under circumstances that made tabulation of individual species virtually impossible. Along the lakefront from the East 55th Street marina to Headlands State Park a contributor noted "an abundance of Savannah, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's, Swamp, and Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. "The most impressive showing occurred at Headlands, where literally thousands congregated. The sounds of scratching and trampling of leaves pervaded the wooded portions of the dunes and picnic areas" (Hoffman).

Snow Buntings Dispersed in Small Bands. Instead of a few fairly large flocks or a concentration at only two or three locations, Snow Buntings appeared in small bands, sometimes only single birds, at several locations. Although most were along the lake shore a flock of 40 showed up in a cindered parking lot at East 152nd Street and Coit Road on November 23 (Newman). First record of the season was at the 55th Street marina on October 22, a relatively early date (Hoffman). The largest number of observations were at White City, but others were at Lorain, Shaker Lakes, Headlands State Park, and Mentor Marsh near Becker Avenue. In all, 287 specimens were tallied in 17 records.

Yearly Summary. In the BIRD CALENDAR year now concluded (December 1, 1973, to November 30, 1974) a total of 262 species were recorded. This is the second highest total in the 19 years that the CALENDAR has been publishing such summaries, being exceeded only by the 274 species in the 1963-64 year. Of all species which may be expected in the Cleveland Region with any degree of regularity, only the Iceland Gull and Pine Grosbeak, both rare winter visitors, were entirely missing from contributors' reports. In addition to the 262 species, the hybrid Brewster's Warbler was again sighted.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - An adult was observed in the lake near Gordon Park from November 1 to 3 (Hoffman). Five

specimens were together on Lake Rockwell on November 26 (Ibsen).

Snow Goose - Individuals were seen in Kirtland Hills on three unspecified dates in October (Bole). One blue phase bird and one white phase were on Lake Rockwell, north of Route 14, on November 17 (Ibsen).

White-winged Scoter - A male led a small flock of unidentified ducks over Lake Erie near White City about 11:00 a.m., October 13 (Hannikman). This is the first October record of the species here since 1953. There were also four reports in November: single birds on the 9th, 10th, and 23rd and three on the 17th (Klamm).

Surf Scoter - A band of six were seen on the lakefront on the Cleveland East Side, November 17 (Klamm). A lone bird was near Beach Cliff Park, Rocky River, on November 17, 18, and 19 (Stasko) .

Black Scoter - A female was diving near the Municipal Pier on November 24 (Stasko) .

Ruddy Duck - On the very early date of September 29 one was observed at White City(Hannikman).

Bald Eagle - An immature was attacked by two Red-tailed Hawks while circling over Mentor Marsh near the end of Becker Avenue, September 28 (Rickard). One was soaring overhead on October 16 in Kirtland Hills, and one was also in the same area on October 27 (Bole).

Merlin - One crossed Route 44 south of Painesville, following a westbound flock of Common Grackles about 9:15 a.m., October 6 (Hammond). During October a Merlin staged three daylight raids on young chickens in Kirtland Hills (Bole).

Piping Plover - On September 2 a lone bird was photographed with Semipalmated Plovers and other shorebirds at White City from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. (Klamm, et al.).

Willet - A group of five flew along the shoreline and then landed on the water's edge on the west side of LaDue Reservoir, October 1, the latest fall date in the records of the CBC (Ibsen). One which had been at the East 55th Street marina basin during August was last reported on September 1 (Klamm).

Purple Sandpiper - A lone bird was feeding on the sand at White City in the early evening of October 25, keeping itself somewhat apart from a flock of Dunlins (Hannikman). Since the beginning of publication of the CALENDAR, this species has been recorded on this early date only once, in

1922. One is reported to have been collected in Cleveland, though, on September 11, 1883.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - At White City one originally identified in the preceding report period was still present on September 1 (several observers).

Hudsonian Godwit - Two were preening and feeding on the mudflat at White City during the evening of September 26. Identification was based on the long, slightly-upturned bill, orange with black at the tip; tail with white base and black terminal band; dark wings with white streaks. The birds retained much of the reddish color of the breeding plumage on the underparts (Hoffman, *et al.*). This is the second sighting of the species in 1974. Prior to the identification of one at Headlands State Park, on May 18, only three specimens had been known to visit the Cleveland Region. (See CBC, Spring, 1974.)

Red Phalarope - At Beach Cliff Park one was present on November 17, 18, and 19. Identification was based on the lack of markings on the back, bill thicker than that of a Northern Phalarope, and light wing stripe. "Contrary to what the field guides show, the bill on this bird was black" (Stasko). [ED. NOTE: The bill color is commonly depicted as yellowish, but Matthiesson points out in The Shorebirds of North America that in the definitive basic (winter) plumage the bill is usually yellowish at the base but is "sometimes all dark." ]

Glaucous Gull - Two adults flew across Bass Lake "at eye level" in clear weather, one calling as they went past the observer, November 30 (Ramisch). Although this species is reported almost every winter from the lakefront, this is only the second record from an inland location; in February, 1959, one was seen at Summit Lake. Furthermore, the only previous November report was from Gordon Park in 1967.

Black-headed Gull - An adult in the company of Bonaparte's Gulls flew past the breakwall at White City on November 3, identifiable in part by the dark undersurface of the wing-tips--"easily seen as the bird flew" (Hannikman). Earliest of the six previous sightings of this very rare winter visitor was December 13, 1965.

Little Gull - No less than 10 separate observations along the lakefront from Beach Cliff Park to White City were recorded during the fall season. All were of single birds except two adults active inside the breakwall behind the waste water treatment plant at Edgewater Park, November 24 (Klamm). Other reports were as follows: immature, White City, September 1 (Klamm); adult, White City, October 6 (Hannikman); immature, Gordon Park, October 26 (Hoffman);

adult, White City, October, 27 (Hannikman); adult, White City, November 9 (Hoffman); adult, White City, November 23 (Hannikman); adult, Beach Cliff Park, November 24 and 28 (Stasko); adult, Municipal Light Plant, November 30 (Hoffman).

This species is commonly identified as a "European wanderer." However, there is conclusive evidence that they have been nesting in recent years near Pickering, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Ontario east of Toronto and perhaps at other Canadian sites on the Great Lakes. It seems highly probable that the rapid increase in sightings here result from that resident population. Williams' Birds of the Cleveland Region mentions only two specimens prior to 1950. The 1974 CALENDAR records show 31 specimens in 21 reports.

Black-legged Kittiwake - On November 11 one was observed at Lorain harbor, first standing on a breakwall and then in the water under conditions that enabled careful comparison with accompanying Bonaparte's Gulls (Ward).

Forster's Tern - Four fall observations at White City could very well all have been of the same bird. Latest report was October 6, a fairly late date (Hannikman).

Caspian Tern - On the comparatively late date of October 19 one was sighted at Lorain harbor (Ward).

Barn Owl - At mid-morning on November 28 one was found in a barn near Hudson on a perch ordinarily used by Barn Swallows and House Sparrows. When disturbed, it attempted to exit through a closed window, recovered, and then flew erratically north across Aurora Road (Henderson).

Snowy Owl - Two individuals were each seen twice on November 29, one on the outer wall at the 55th Street marina and the other near the runway at Burke Lakefront Airport. One was seen at Burke the following day (Hoffman).

Short-eared Owl - On the landfill at Gordon Park two birds were observed for more than an hour on November 1; they engaged chiefly during that time in attempting to evade the observers and the harassment of gulls (Hoffman). One was in the same general location on November 17 (Klamm).

Whip-poor-will - One which was heard repeatedly throughout the summer at Aurora was last heard there on September 8 (Eleanore Hudgeon, fide Carrothers). A specimen was seen at Sims Park in Euclid on September 22 (Corbin), and another was flushed from the ground in Kuhlman Woods near East 140th Street on October 5 (Hannikman). Summer residents of this species are presumed to depart generally by

the end of August, and observations of the fall migrants in September and October are quite rare.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - An early-migrating mature adult was in the yard of a Painesville residence on September 2 (Booth).

Bewick's Wren - One alighted on the ground outside a picture window and within six feet of the observer at a home in Gates Mills, October 6 (Kremm). Most previous reports of this always-rare species have been from April to July.

Short-billed Marsh Wren - Two September sightings were the only records for the year. One was at Sims Park, Euclid, on the 22nd (Hoffman) and the other was in Kuhlman Woods on the 28th (Hannikman).

Brown Thrasher - Individuals were reported from various locations long after the normal end of migration. Latest was near the Grand River in Painesville on November 10 (Booth) .

Sprague's Pipit - A lone specimen was observed at close range for about 15 minutes on the Gordon Park landfill, October 31. All significant field marks including pale flesh-colored legs, white outer tail feathers, streaked back, and thin bill were noted as the bird was seen both perched on the ground and in flight (Hoffman). Of five previous reports of this western plains resident, only one has been in October; the others have been in spring.

White-eyed Vireo - Individuals were netted and banded in Waite Hill on September 5 and 9 (Flanigan). A rare spring migrant, this species is seen even less frequently in fall.

Red-eyed Vireo - A hatching-year bird was netted and banded in Waite Hill on the late date of November 1 (Flanigan).

Philadelphia Vireo - At the Interpretive Center in Rocky River Reservation, October 27, an adult was seen by several observers participating in the last of a series of Autumn Bird Walks (Stasko, Don Altemus). This is a now latest fall date of record for the species.

Nashville Warbler - A male was feeding in the company of Dark-eyed Juncos and sparrows in Kuhlman Woods, November 2 (Hannikman). One was mist-netted and banded in Waite Hill on November 10 (Flanigan). Only two Nashville Warblers have been recorded previously during November in the Cleveland Region.

Northern Parula - A female was observed with several other warblers at a residence in Mentor, October 2 (Hammond).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - On October 18 a specimen was netted and banded in Waite Hill (Flanigan). There has been only one later fall record in the region.

American Redstart - A female fed on rose hips at a Chagrin Falls residence on the uncommonly late date of November 21 (Nelson). One in Kirtland Hills in 1973 is the only later record in CBC files.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - One which was first observed in Waite Hill on November 7 was netted and banded on the 11th and recaptured on the 16th (Flanigan). November 16 is a new latest fall date; the previous latest observation was on October 29, 1961.

Lapland Longspur - A single specimen was in the company of 40 Snow Buntings at the East 55th Street marina on October 22. Four were together on the Gordon Park landfill, November 2; when disturbed, three flew from the area, but the fourth remained feeding in a small grassy patch, permitting close observation (both observations Hoffman). These are the first records of the species here since 1968.

#### FIELD NOTES

CATTAIL MARSH SERVES AS SWALLOW ROOST. Where did your swallows go at night when the nesting season was over? If you live close to Cleveland, chances are that they roosted in my 1/16-acre cattail marsh in northeast Hudson. The nightly clientele in early August may have reached 2,000 birds, mostly Barn Swallows coming in from north and west. Smaller numbers have been coming for at least two years previous, but not much longer because the marsh was a dry hayfield before we flooded it six years ago.

Swallow roosts are not big news in northern Ohio. In 1931 Louis Campbell watched one at Cedar Point which peaked August 8 at 250,000, mostly Bank Swallows. Barn Swallow roosts of up to 5,000 have been seen in Ontario. (See Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds.) Our Hudson roost has minor distinctions: it does not include Purple Martins, though they share the daytime airspace, but it does include an occasional Cliff Swallow. Moreover, we have all these notes, diligently recorded despite mosquitoes; Virginia Purcell and Doug Henderson helped.

One might doubt the coexistence of any significant number of mosquitoes near the dormitory of perhaps 2,000 swallows. There ought to be a deficit of something like 4,000,000 mosquitoes, considering the reputation of swallows. Actually, I believe there were more mosquitoes than last year. I attribute this to the House Sparrows, who have been more successfully competing with Barn Swallows

for nesting space in my barn, and on the fact that most of the roost swallows spend no time feeding at the marsh.

The number of swallows skimming the fields began to increase about sunset, but until late in the summer, when the mosquitoes were nearly gone, none roosted so early as sunset. The big influx always began about 15 minutes after sunset; another 15 minutes later all the swallows had settled into the marsh. That's when the mosquitoes really seemed to come up, although no doubt the timing was governed more by light or temperature or air currents than by good sense on the part of the mosquitoes. Perhaps the mosquitoes only seemed worse once the swallows no longer held our attention.

In the mornings the timing was a little more irregular, a little more dependent on the weather, than in the evening. We have records of 10 morning and 18 evening observations in the period from August 14 to September 10. On most bright mornings the marsh was empty before sunrise, but a few Barn Swallows clung to their perches 15 minutes after sunrise on dark and rainy mornings.

These late-risers were mostly young birds, and I believe they were locals, because of their position in the marsh. I concluded that the local daytime resident birds who nested in our barn were the same ones who later felt free to fly through it and who stayed on till September 9, roosted in the southern end of the marsh, perched first in the evening, and flew latest in the morning.

Actually, our systematic observations did not begin until the peak population had been reached, which was probably before August 14. Cliff Swallows were not seen that late for example. After August 14 the dates of significant departures appeared to be August 17, perhaps 500 birds; August 23, about 500; August 30, 250; August 31, 420; September 2, 60; September 8, 10; September 9, 40; and September 10, a final 8. On September 10 a group of 12 swallows flew by high at sunset, but none roosted. All of these records were overwhelmingly of Barn Swallows. There were Banks as late as September 3 and also Rough-winged, but never more than a few.

The most exciting thing about the swallow roost is the hardest to document--the wild twittering melee which collapses into an organized roost. Harvey Bicknell, with his tape recorder and parabola, has collected some monodirectional corings of the envelope of sound, but it is really three-dimensional. For several minutes the air is filled from every compass-point with chirping swallows. The well-known "cheep-cheep!" alarm notes of the Barn Swallows are rarely part of it. It is pervasive rather than loud. The

buzz of a single Bank Swallow easily comes across, 200 yards away, cutting through the softer Barn Swallow chatter. Then, from what looks like random motion occupying perhaps half-a-cubic-mile, the birds end up in an orderly amphitheater-like array in which the density is about one swallow per square foot. I suppose this means the milling hundreds were not moving aimlessly, but had coalesced in an organized way in response to some communication or pre-determination, but we couldn't see how. - NEIL HENDERSON

MARTINS RETURN TO AKRON SITE. [ED. NOTE: The Summer, 1973 CALENDAR carried a report-of an extensive roost of Purple Martins in southeast Akron. The following updating of the situation is from the same contributor.]

My first 1974 visit to the site was June 15; no Purple Martins were present. On June 25 over 100 immatures were seen. On July 9 there were over 100 mature males and a few immatures. By July 25 Martins arrived by the thousands--mature males, females, and juveniles; I estimated over 5,000 in all.

August 9, a conservative estimate was over 10,000 Martins. They arrive from all directions in all kinds of weather including thunderstorms about a half-hour before sunset. After resting on the electric lines (which facilitates counting), huge flocks will circle like a funnel cloud and drop into the trees. Most of the Martins left about the first week in September. Few were observed as late as September 23. - ANN BISCAN

HUMMINGBIRDS STORING TRAVEL RATIONS. We had Ruby-throated Hummingbirds constantly at our feeders, which were located on our deck 15 feet above the drive of our home at Lake Lucerne. At least two and possibly four were present. We were delighted to have them back when we returned from a three-week trip, as no food had been put out for them. It was noticeable that the last week to ten days before they left they were drinking the food much faster than they had all summer. We saw the last one on October 3; three years ago they were here until October 5. - MARJORIE S. SHELDON

NIGHTHAWKS MIGRATING. On September 1 and 3 and from the 9th through the 13th, I watched the evening sky over Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, for migrating Common Nighthawks. None were recorded on either of the first two days.

At 7:30 p.m. on the 9th, with the air still, sky partly cloudy, and temperature moderate, some 60 birds were feeding as they shifted about in the sky. During the next 30 minutes they moved back and forth to all four compass quadrants, their number meanwhile diminishing until the final count was eight.

With the weather still mild, the evenings of the 10th and 11th produced tallies of 13 and 16 birds, respectively, most of them feeding locally before moving either east or west. On the 12th, again warm and the air still, a group of approximately 80 milled about in the fading sky before drifting off to the southwest. The air was cool and the wind from the west on the final evening, the 13th, when in 45 minutes of observation I counted not a single Nighthawk.

In Cleveland Heights at 7:05 p.m., September 28, I chanced to see a Nighthawk which seemed to have just launched itself into the air, as it was flying in a wildly erratic manner low over the housetops. Then it gained altitude as it began to circle overhead, and within a minute or two it had disappeared off to the north. The evening was warm, the wind southerly, and rain threatening.

Finally, on a warm, sunny October 6, at 2: 55 p.m., a Nighthawk appeared out of the northwest, sailed over the woods at Upper Shaker Lake at a height of perhaps 500 feet, and continued out of sight to the southeast.

At least one locally-breeding Nighthawk was still present on September 6, for at 8:10 p.m. I heard one call several times in my home neighborhood. Birds in passage are invariably silent. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

A PEAK OF PASSERINE MIGRATION? If the number of dead birds is a proper measure of the magnitude of migration, then a great many passerines must have been moving south on the weekend of September 21-22. For on Monday, the 23rd, I found one each of the following species in a hasty survey of the "kill" occurring in downtown Cleveland at several of its tall buildings: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. In addition I found one exhausted immature Nashville Warbler. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

[ED. NOTE: A check of the tabulation from all CBC contributors reveals that the September 21-22 weekend was indeed a productive one. For both numbers and variety of passerines reported, it was exceeded in the fall season only by the following weekend of September 28-29.]

HOODED WARBLER FAMILY ACTIVITY IN SEPTEMBER. At North Chagrin on September 7, we encountered a male Hooded Warbler singing loudly about halfway between the Center and the lookout on the Nature Trail. Just ahead a few yards, about eight feet up in the crotch of an 18-foot maple, a young bird was begging. The female Hooded flew down and fed it. The baby flew across the path and continued begging and then disappeared from sight. I didn't see it or the female again. The male still sang. Another male, singing not so

loudly as the first, was observed near the A. B. Williams Memorial. - VERA CARROTHERS

[ED. NOTE: A. C. Bent, Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers, reports in considerable detail from the extensive studies conducted by A. B. Williams of nesting of Hooded Warblers. Williams is quoted as stating: "But the Hooded Warbler is a persistent nester. Second and third attempts are made if necessary, and I am of the opinion that only the advance of the season finally puts an end to the bird's efforts to get a family of young on the wing if previous efforts are not successful." However, the latest evidence of nesting cited by Bent was of a dying juvenile apparently abandoned by the parents which was observed by Williams on August 22. According to Williams, the young remain in the nest for eight days or a little more but follow the parents for some time after to obtain food. Exact time span for them to accompany the parents thus is not reported. That the foregoing observation of what may be a late-record nesting of the Hooded Warbler should have taken place in proximity to the memorial to Dr. Williams must be regarded as a fascinating coincidence.]

LONG-EARED OWL HAS APPETITE FOR CHICKEN. One night I accidentally locked a Long-eared Owl in on of the chicken houses. On opening in the morning, out flew the Long-eared, and there were two chicken skeletons inside. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Erratum (Summer, 1974): As the result of a misreading of a contributor's report, it was incorrectly stated that a family of four Mockingbirds were observed in the old Nike site in Bratenahl on August 12. The impression was that these were the same birds as had been observed earlier in Gordon Park. The August 12 observation (Hoffman) was in 1973 rather than 1974 and indicates that the 1974 nesting in Gordon Park represented at least the second year in succession that the species had nested successfully in that general area.

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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.