



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

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

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



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor

Wayne A. Hammond

Editorial Advisor

Donald L. Newman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistant

Vera Carrothers

CONTRIBUTORS

William and Mary Baum
 Jessie Belitsky
 Ann Biscan
 B. P. Bole Jr.
 Kay F. Booth
 Vera Carrothers
 Henrietta D. Crofts
 Mildred Daniels
 Ralph W. Dexter
 Corinne Dolbear
 Rosemary Donatell
 Annette B. Flanigan
 Fred E. Fricker
 Wayne and Hilda Hammond
 Ray Hannikman
 Charles Hocevar
 Jean, Dick, and Jim Hoffman
 Eleanore Hudgin
 Mary Huey
 Nancy Ibsen
 Robert M. Jost
 Glenn Kitson
 William and Nancy Klamm
 Charles H. Knight

Walter P. Kremm
 Charlotte Lanham
 Sibyl Leach
 Fred Lemke
 Ronald K. Morgan
 Donald L. Newman
 Gretta Pallister
 Perry K. Peskin
 Bette Proudfoot
 Marjorie Ramisch
 Richard Rickard
 Joseph P. Schirmer
 Marjorie S. Sheldon
 Margaret B. Sherwin
 Donald A. Siebert
 Gordon Spare
 Michael Stasko
 Bert L. Szabo
 Carol Tveekrem
 Emil Vavrek
 Ruth Vodicka
 Harold E. Wallin
 Clinton E. Ward

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

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

THE WEATHER

- March -** The month started off with light snow flurries occurring on each of the first five days. Heavier snowfall was limited to the period of the 7th through the 9th and again on the 14th (6-inch fall) and 15th. For the month, precipitation occurred on 18 days and totaled 3.47 inches, which was 0.42 inches in excess of normal. Temperatures averaged 1.3 degrees cooler than normal. Lake Erie was open until the 8th, when slush and shore ice began to accumulate and to provide extensive ice cover on the 9th through the 15th. Ice cover became variable on the 16th and diminished quickly thereafter. Sunshine prevailed for 38 per cent of the time possible.
- April -** The month was generally cold and dry with sunshine occurring 56 per cent of the time possible. Winds from northerly quarters prevailed continuously during the first 16 days and subsequently on five other days, so that temperatures averaged out a chilly 6.5 degrees below normal. Measurable precipitation was well distributed on 11 days, which included three days of snowfall in the first half of the month. The total precipitation was only 1.31 inches and was 2.13 inches less than normal.
- May -** Temperatures averaged 4.3 degrees warmer than normal, but cloudy skies and fairly dry weather helped retard excessively rapid foliation in the forepart of the month. Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days and amounted to 2.72 inches, which was 0.77 inches less than normal. Nearly half of the total came in cloudbursts on the 21st and 22nd which also caused flooding in vulnerable low-lying areas.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Weather conditions had conspicuous effects on the 1975 spring migration in the Cleveland Region. Many passerines that are expected in March and April were slow to arrive, evidently delayed by the northerly winds and unseasonable cold. American Robins were less numerous than usual in March, and contributors' reports listed only single specimens of the Common Flicker until April 10.

Delays continued into May, with a wide variety of passerines scarce until May 10. Following heavy rains and southwest winds, a "tremendous concentration of birds" was found at Akron's Firestone Park on May 6 (Tveekrem). Farther north, however, many species of warblers continued to be scarce. Then suddenly the entire area was swarming with mimids, thrushes, vireos, warblers, and sparrows.

The action continued from May 10 to May 18. But then southerly winds brought 90-degree temperatures, and the spring birding suffered an abrupt decline. For those species which normally migrate in early May, the effect was generally a slight tardiness or lingering. For the mid-May travelers the result was an even greater than normal compression of the migration season. For those which are seen most frequently after May 20, counts tended to be down somewhat. Nevertheless, the compilation of contributors' tallies compared favorably with reports of previous years. Not total numbers but flight schedules were most affected.

Divers More Frequent. Both Common Loons and Horned Grebes were sighted more often than usual during the season. Although the records of the former were distributed through April, as would be expected, the Horned Grebes were present noticeably earlier and later than usual. Pied-billed Grebes were at or above normal levels of occurrence.

Herons Show Mixed Pattern. Great Blue Herons and Green Herons, the two principal members of the family here, were both less numerous than in the very good 1974 season. However, they and the American Bittern were close to normal in numbers.

Black-crowned Night Herons, though, were somewhat more common. A west-bound flock of 12 were seen at Gordon Park on May 1 and another of 23 on the following day (Hoffman). By contrast, the uncommon and irregular Great Egret was seen less often than in recent years, and the Least Bittern was absent from the records for the first time since 1971.

Swans Early; Other Waterfowl as Expected. Waterfowl were seen in the region for the most part at about the times and frequencies that would be predicted from the immediate past

years. Most conspicuous exception was the migration of Whistling Swans. The few bands that were sighted were all in the first week of March and were hardly (if any) more than family groups. Migration is usually observed here in late March and early April.

Canada Geese were seen in normal numbers in migration, and the nesting population is evidently continuing to expand. Dabbling ducks, too, followed the customary pattern with some increases noted. The substantially higher number of records of Blue-winged Teals may have resulted only from physical changes in the western part of Mentor Marsh, thus increasing the opportunities of observing an otherwise normal population. American Wigeons were both more numerous and present for a longer period of time than usual. The 79 sighted by observers at four locations on April 6 would be enough for a season total in some springs.

Most of the diving ducks had what could be described as a good season with some evidence of late lingering. Buffleheads were notably more plentiful and more persistent in April. The same condition prevailed for both Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers. Only common species that was markedly below normal on the tallies was the Ruddy Duck.

Hawk Migration a One-Day Phenomenon. Except for a few small flights shortly before and after, the observed hawk migration consisted of a spectacular flight on April 30, principally over Lake County. Observers on a rough east-west axis from Lloyd Road in Wickliffe to Sperry Road in Kirtland Hills, a distance of more than nine miles, watched as hundreds of raptors rode a light south wind on a basically northeasterly course.

Near Lloyd Road an observer looked up to see "the sky full of hawks" at 12:50 p.m. As they soared upward "in a large, swirling spiral," he estimated the number at 100 to 150. Lacking binoculars, he was unable to identify species (Jost). Near Daniels Park, Willoughby, another contributor did tally 5 Turkey Vultures, 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 14 Broad-winged Hawks, 8 Rough-legged Hawks, 18 Marsh Hawks, 1 Osprey, 24 other accipiters, 5 buteos, and 91 unidentified raptors between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. (Pallister). A report from Sperry Road spoke of "200 (Broad-winged Hawks) in the sky in a spectacular migration" and also noted "about 10" Cooper's Hawks and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, not suggesting that these constituted a complete tabulation (Bole). Earliest observation was of unidentified buteos at 8:30 a.m. over Waite Hill (Flanigan). Reportedly, some migrants were also seen at Longfellow Elementary School in Eastlake. After 2:00 p.m. the birds were generally flying too high for species identification.

On that same date three observers, using the Garfield Monument in Lakeview Cemetery as an observation post, saw groups of hawks, mostly Broad-winged and a few Sharp-shinned, coming from the southeast and moving northwest toward Lake Erie. While some birds were "coming quite low and circling," others "remained high, wheeling in group" (Hoffman).

Rail Sighting Is Matter of Technique. The hazards of trying to draw too precise comparisons of seasonal trends from the reports of contributors were well illustrated on Soras and Virginia Rails this spring. More specimens than usual were tabulated, but the increase was explained in a note by one team of contributors.

"On April 26, May 10, and May 18 we took a tape of rail calls made from the Peterson record to Mentor Marsh. Along the pipeline to Becker Pond it was extremely effective in attracting Virginia Rails. Soras did sometimes give an answering call but were never brought into view. The Virginia Rails even responded to the recording of the Sora call but were aroused most by their own. When the tape was played, they would answer and approach the pipeline dike under cover of cattails, frequently coming into view in open patches of water." As many as 15 Virginia Rails were identified by "vocalizations at a given time" on April 28 alone (Hoffman).

Common Gallinules showed up infrequently on the spring reports, no group of more than three being seen. American Coots, conversely, were reported in somewhat larger numbers than usual. However, chance observations at a few favored locations, particularly LaDue Reservoir, probably account for the increase.

Shorebirds Irregular. Killdeers, always one of the more visible and widespread species that contributors take care to mention, seemed even more plentiful than usual. American Woodcocks, though, were a little slow in March, and the season total on Spotted Sandpipers was down slightly. Of only 18 sightings of Solitary Sandpipers, 12 were by a single observer in Mentor Marsh, and half of those were on May 4. (Hammond). Common Snipe reports were about normal. Scattered records of other migrating shorebirds were received as expected, but no reliable comparisons can be made of spring sightings of them.

Resident Woodpeckers Hold Steady. Despite chance factors and changes in the list of contributors, the reported number of sightings of the permanent-resident woodpeckers has held surprisingly constant over the past several years. Summations of records of Hairy Woodpeckers have ranged only between 100 and 109 for the last six spring seasons, even

though it is obvious that not all sightings of local residents are included in reports. Records of the other permanent residents have varied a bit more but not enough to justify a conclusion of any significant population shift.

Reports of Common Flickers, though, were distinctly lower this spring, and as mentioned previously, the influx came somewhat later than usual. Migration flights of any considerable size were reported only on the last weekend in April and the first two weekends in May. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in normal numbers, but there were none after May 11.

Flycatcher Migration Limited. Early-migrating flycatchers arrived on schedule; later species either were delayed or were recorded in reduced numbers. Eastern Phoebes were at or above the level of recent years. Great Crested Flycatchers arrived in early May and took up residence.

Eastern Kingbirds, however, were less numerous as migrants than customary and were much less common than usual after May 18, when they are sometimes most plentiful. Empidonax flycatchers also were reduced, particularly after May 18. Data on individual species, though, suggested that the decline was in migrants traveling beyond rather than in those establishing nesting territories locally. Probably many simply migrated through without stopping.

Nuthatches Remain Low; Wrens Up. The season was a continuation of the cyclic low for Red-breasted Nuthatches. The last two years with high reports were 1970 and 1973; thus it may be that 1976 will see another major influx. Brown Creeper sightings were at the usual level. House Wrens exhibit a degree of consistency similar to the resident woodpeckers.

Two species of wrens showed marked increases. The 83 reported sightings of Winter Wrens exceeded the total for the four preceding spring seasons combined. The 108 records for Carolina Wrens continued the upward trend which has been observed the past few years and was more than double the average of the preceding five springs.

Mimids, Thrushes Rush Through in Mid-May. Migrating mimic thrushes and thrushes tended to continue their passage to the period from May 10 to May 18. Their presence in the region during that time span is not of itself remarkable, as the peak of migration for several of these can be expected then. However, the narrow concentration into that period was greater than usual. Gray Catbirds were up in numbers. Brown Thrashers, which can be expected by the middle of April were slow to arrive, and the summary of observations was down.

American Robins also were laggards but were abundant by early April. Tallies of Wood Thrushes were off somewhat and were noticeably compressed into the May 10-18 period. The early-migrating Hermit Thrush was a little above the usual numbers. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries all made a good spring showing, and sightings of all three were heavy during the May 10-18 interval, normal peak for migration for all three. Eastern Bluebirds, less confined to a migration pattern, showed a decline in the contributors' records.

Vireo Migration Curtailed. Red-eyed Vireos did not appear on contributors' reports until May 10. Following their typical schedule, they were most numerous in the last third of May; however, the total for the season was low. Warbling Vireos also were relatively scarce but were most prevalent on the May 17-18 weekend.

The rare and usually early White-eyed Vireo was seen a notable nine times, six of the sightings between May 10 and May 18. That time span does coincide with the normal peak for the other three vireos seen here, and this spring records of them were even more concentrated than usual. There were relatively few sightings of Yellow-throated Vireos but normal numbers of Solitaries and Philadelphias.

Warblers Scarce after May 20. Generally speaking, the spring warbler migration was good, although any birder who missed the May 10-18 segment would be unconvinced. Mixed with the waves of common migrants were several specimens that are rare in the Cleveland Region.

Sightings of Tennessee Warblers were the heaviest in years, with more than half of all records on the May 17-18 weekend. Magnolia Warblers were present in very good numbers and more dispersed than other species into late May. Cape May reports were more than double the usual; and more than 95 per cent were in May 11-18. Yellow-rumped Warblers were so plentiful as to be "a nuisance" during the last week in April (Ibsen) and on through May 11; only three were seen after May 18.

On the negative side, Cerulean, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided Warblers were all well below normal numbers, with very few after May 18. Hooded Warblers and American Redstarts, both local nesting species, also showed a drop, but the data were inconclusive.

No Shortage of Blackbirds. Although reports of these are particularly susceptible to chance and human variabilities, if not outright disregard by the contributors, blackbirds were clearly not to be classed as endangered species. The Sewer Line Trail area of Mentor Marsh was an especially

popular roosting area for a changing population from late March to early May. On March 23 the masses of birds flying in at dusk were mostly Starlings, perhaps 10,000 of them, with Red-winged Blackbirds, a somewhat lesser number of Common Grackles, and a few Rusty Blackbirds joining in.

On April 6 Rusties outnumbered the other two blackbirds, the total running into the thousands. By late April the Common Grackles seemed to be the most numerous, but the total population had declined considerably. On May 11 there were an estimated 400 Common Grackles, 200 Red-winged Blackbirds, and 13 Rusty Blackbirds observed near the sewer line (Hammond).

Other icterids did not fare so well. Bobolinks were not seen until May 11, a rather late arrival date. Eastern Meadowlarks were reported in small numbers through the entire season, but only on March 23 were there numbers that could be recognized as migration flights--22 birds on the lakefront (Klamm) and 21 at Elmwood Park in Rocky River (Stasko). Both Northern Orioles and Brown-headed Cowbirds followed a fairly normal pattern, but both exhibited the abrupt decline in numbers after May 18.

Winter Finches Down; Most Sparrows Up. As expected from the winter observations, the northern finches were for the most part hard to find. The few wintering flocks of Evening Grosbeaks left fairly early, and later transients were less numerous than usual. Pine Siskins were the scarcest since 1971. Only Common Redpolls were 10 in Brecksville Reservation on March 2 (Knight) and two at Holden Arboretum on April 5 (Bole).

Other finches presented a somewhat confused picture. Indigo Buntings, Purple Finches, and Song Sparrows have maintained a remarkable consistency in recent years. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks declined sharply after May 18. American Goldfinches, conversely, were low in March and April. The spring records of Rufous-sided Towhees have shown a steady decline for the past five years from 292 in 1971 to 152 in 1975, a fact which may be coincidental but which will bear further watching. Tabulations of Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree, Chipping, and Field Sparrows were all below average. Savannah, White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows were all up at least slightly, with a conspicuous concentration on May 10-11. The latter group are all typically mid-May migrants.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - Only report was of one sighted at Huntington Beach, Bay Village, on April 20 by the Spring Bird Walk party.

Cattle Egret - Earliest of three spring records for this species was on April 23 near Virginia Kendall Park. The specimen, which earlier in the morning was sitting on a chimney at Routes 8 and 303, was observed feeding with cattle (Szabo). Another in breeding plumage was studied at Lake Isaac until it was driven off by nesting birds, May 4 (Hocevar).

On May 12 a flock of nine immature birds spent the day in a pasture with horses in northwest Kent and roosted that evening in two downed trees there (Donatell). All previous sightings in the Cleveland Region of this recent immigrant have been in the spring, presumably overflights by birds moving northward for the summer.

Great Egret - Near Lorain on March 22 a lone bird. was seen flying low over Lake Erie, traveling west; several Great Blue Herons were sighted on the same course during the day (Dolbear). This is the earliest spring date and only the second March date ever recorded in the region. There were also six other spring reports of Great Egrets, notably a group of five, April 19, on a small pond on White Road in Willoughby Hills (Kitson).

Black-crowned Night Heron - A mature adult flew over Shipman Pond in Mentor Marsh about noon on March 23 (Hammond). Although occasional in winter, this species is rarely seen here as early as this in the spring.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - An immature was observed "in good light," as it flew from the top of some evergreens across Shaker Lake to the top of a clump of pines on April 22 (Vavrek).

Snow Goose - Two birds, a white phase and an intermediate between the blue and white phases, remained together on Sherwin Pond from April 4 to April 17 (Sherwin). Sightings in Kirtland Hills on March 30 and April 13 could very well have been of these specimens (Bole). A single bird was on Sherwin Pond on three dates in early March (Sherwin).

Pintail - A pair were on Becker Pond, Mentor Marsh, with other waterfowl, May 3, an uncommonly late date (Hammond).

European Wigeon - April 4-14, a male remained on Sherwin Pond in the company of American Wigeons (Sherwin, et al.).

Northern Shoveler - Two males were feeding in Becker Pond with Blue-winged Teals and other dabblers on the late date of May 4 (Hammond).

Oldsquaw - At Wildwood Park on May 3 an apparently healthy male in spring plumage was swimming and diving (Hannikman,

et al.). This is only the second May sighting in the CBC records. What may have been the same male bird was seen at the East 55th Street marina on April 24 (Hocevar).

Hooded Merganser - On the notably late date of May 21 a lone female was seen at Lakeview Cemetery (Hoffman).

Piping Plover - "Very easy to see against the dark brown color of the lagoon" at White City was a single specimen on April 26 (Hannikman).

Ruddy Turnstone - Sightings at White City on March 9 (Hoffman) and March 15 (Hannikman) were evidently of the bird that had been seen there repeatedly during the preceding winter. There were also a few records during the customary migration season in late May.

Whimbrel - Three birds were resting near a temporary pool on White City beach in early evening, May 21, after a storm (Hannikman). This is the first record of the species in the Cleveland Region during the northerly migration season, and it must be presumed that these travelers were victims of the weather.

Willet - At White City on May 26 a lone bird was active on the beach (Klamm).

White-rumped Sandpiper - On May 31 one was feeding with Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers on the mudflats at White City (Hoffman).

Little Gull - Only spring record of this species, which has become increasingly common here in winter, was an immature feeding with Bonaparte's Gulls off White City, March 22 (Hannikman) .

Black-legged Kittiwake - An immature specimen frequented the docks and breakwall at the East 55th Street marina from March 29 to April 13 (Hoffman, et al.) The last date of observation is almost a month later than any record of this rare winter visitor in any previous year.

Long-eared Owl - One was discovered perched in a pine tree in Donald Gray Gardens in downtown Cleveland in early afternoon, April 21, where it remained for other birders in the vicinity to view it (Vavrek).

Tree Swallow - Three birds were seen at Holden Arboretum on the notably early date of March 23 (Hoffman).

Mockingbird - West of Lorain, in an area where the species is sometimes found in winter, a bird was seen daily during mid-May going to a nest in a large multiflora rose bush

(Ward). Behavior of birds at the old Nike site near Gordon Park during May indicated that they again were planning to nest in that area as in the two previous years (Hoffman, Klamm). Other sightings were near the Fairport Harbor Coast Guard station, April 19 (Rickard); F. A. Seiberling Nature Center, April 23 (Szabo); Gates Mills, April 26 (Shirley Anderson fide Rickard); Waite Hill, May 6 (Sherwin); and Kuhlman Woods, Cleveland, May 11 (Hannikman).

Hermit Thrush - One in Kuhlman Woods, near East 140th Street, March 9, was believed to be a wintering bird that had been seen there in December (Hannikman).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - Both species of kinglets tended to linger in the region somewhat later than normal. Latest report of a Golden-crowned was one studied "at close range" in Warrensville Heights, May 24 (Knight). Only once has a later spring observation been recorded here.

Loggerhead Shrike - Now rare in the Cleveland Region, two specimens were sighted on April 13 at wide-separated points on the lakefront. One was perched on a small shrub on the Gordon Park landfill (Vavrek). The other was seen by the Spring Bird Walk party at Mentor Marsh.

Prothonotary Warbler - Two of the three spring reports were unusually early. A male was in Firestone Park, Akron; on April 25 (Belitsky), and a specimen, sex not reported, was in the same location on April 30 (Ibsen). The species has been recorded in the region in April only twice before.

Swainson's Warbler - A lone bird was studied in Firestone Park for about 20 minutes at midday, May 12, as it fed on the ground and around the roots of a tree. Field marks including brown head, warbler bill and actions, and unmarked body, darker on the back, were noted from distances of 15 to 45 feet (Biscan). This southern warbler has been recorded only three times previously in the Cleveland Region. All sightings have been in the middle third of May, when the warbler migration is at its peak and overflights would be most likely to occur.

Worm-eating Warbler - As the weather cleared after a morning thunderstorm, a remarkable 12 specimens of this mainly southern species were part of a large concentration of warblers in Firestone Park. The birds were feeding on the ground and in small trees, three or four popping about in the same tree." Identification was by song, behavior, and field marks with an on-the-spot check of the Peterson field guide; the observer was already familiar with the species because of seeing them at her former home on Long Island (Tveekrem). A single Worm-eating Warbler was observed at Hower Lake on May 14 (Tveekrem). Trautman (Annotated List

of the Birds of Ohio) notes the occurrence of spring over-flights of this species into northern Ohio. However, the May 6 group is by far the largest number in any single report in the CBC files.

Brewster's Warbler - At least two of these hybrids, both singing the typical Blue-winged Warbler song, were observed in the Akron area during May. One at the F. A. Seiberling Nature Center was identified May 9 and was still present into June (Szabo, Ibsen). Another was in Firestone Park on May 13 and 18 and reportedly for at least two more days (Belitsky, Ibsen). In each location the presumption was that all observers were seeing the same bird, which may not have been the case.

Yellow-throated Warbler - On April 21 one was observed at Lower Shaker Lake in early afternoon for about five minutes, affording time for comparisons with the picture and text description in the Peterson guide (Lemke). Sightings of this rare migrant have usually been in late April and early May here.

Prairie Warbler - Another southern warbler which strayed into the region this spring, specimens were seen at three separate points with possibly four birds involved. First record was from Lower Shaker Lake, May 4 (Peskin); one was also seen there by the Spring Bird Walk group, May 13. One was in the Rocky River Reservation also on May 4 (Stasko). A dull-colored bird, probably a female, was in the yard of a Shaker Heights residence on May 15 (Rickard).

Kentucky Warbler - Specimens were sighted at two locations during May. In the Camp Cheerful area of Rocky River Reservation one was found singing in a woodland bog on May 15 and 17 (Stasko). Three sightings at Lower Shaker Lake may have been of a single specimen: May 16 (Knight), May 18 (Hannikman), and May 24 (Leach).

Rusty Blackbird - Two reports were received of birds in Mentor Marsh on May 18. A male and female were together west of Becker Pond about 7:45 a.m. (Hammond). Later that day another specimen was observed, also in the western part of the marsh (Hoffman). The species has been recorded in the region on a later date only once, also in Mentor Marsh.

Black-headed Grosbeak - An adult male visited a feeding station on Sand Run Road, Akron, irregularly from January 1 to April 5. It was sighted, usually late in the afternoon, from one to four times on 12 different dates. "Our feeders are in a secluded area surrounded by trees, one side of which is an old pine woods. We feed almost straight sunflower seed" (Mrs. Robert C. Graham fide Szabo). This is the first record of this species in the Cleveland Region.

Although no mention is made of Ohio sightings, Bent's Life Histories notes that the bird is casual in winter in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, as well as several southern states. This specimen was first reported at the end of the winter season, but publication was withheld pending receipt of corroborative evidence. A good color slide of the bird on the ground left no doubt of the identity. The species is therefore added to the list of native birds which have been identified in the Cleveland Region.

Lincoln's Sparrow - At the Mastick Picnic Area of Rocky River Reservation one was seen on the uncommonly late date of May 31 (Klamm).

Snow Bunting - As northwest winds of 30-50 knots stirred snow flurries, a flock of 13 in winter plumage fed for 10 minutes or more on the barren playground at Dale R. Rice Elementary School, Mentor, early in the afternoon of April 3 (Hammond). Earlier that day a single bird was in the yard of a residence in the southwestern part of Willoughby for about an hour (Proudfoot). A band of six were also at Burke Lakefront Airport on March 15 (Hoffman). The only record of this species later than April 3 was on May 2, 1955; all previous sightings after March 14 have been of single birds.

FIELD NOTES

COWBIRD PARASITIZES ROBIN. Sometime during the spring we observed an American Robin building a nest about four feet from the ground in a 6-foot blue spruce located outside the window of the teachers' lounge at Willowick Junior High School. After noticing that the nest-building was in progress, no-one paid much further attention to it.

However, on May 29 the school secretary, Mrs. Sharon Sterle, exclaimed, "Look at those little robins chasing their mother for food!" When I looked, I realized at once that the three little birds fluttering after the adult were not young American Robins but Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Later in the day I went out and looked at the nest. There were three American Robins not yet fledged in the nest. There were also three well-developed cowbirds sitting on the edge of the nest screaming. The next time I looked into the nest, there was only one robin and the three cowbirds. A young robin was later found dead beside the building. We never located the third one again.

The secretary and I decided to try to catch the young cowbirds and remove them. We could not catch them. They flew all over the school yard. During this time the mother

robin perched on the top of the one-story building with a beakful of worms.

Friday, May 30, there was one sad-looking little robin in the nest. We took it out and decided to hand-raise it, a project which was successful. Although the cowbirds had been able to fly on the previous day, the young robin could only manage to hop out of the nest. It was in fact, more than a week away from flight stage.

The cowbirds returned to the nest that day after we had removed the robin. By Monday, though, they and the parent robins were gone. - HILDA L. HAMMOND

CERULEAN WARBLER GROUNDED. On the broad brick ledge at the base of the Central National Bank Building in downtown Cleveland at 11:40 a.m. on May 15, I discovered a male Cerulean Warbler asleep--its head buried in the feathers of the upper back. Fearing that the bird would be injured should it be startled and fly out into the heavy flow of traffic just a few feet away on East 9th Street, I picked it up and carried it to a planting of low evergreens and shrubs in an open court at the rear of the building.

Judging from the warbler's loud squealing and vigorous wriggling while in my hand, it was in good health but probably had become over-tired and had settled down to rest on the ledge in the warming rays of the noonday sun before continuing its migration. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

VIRGINIA RAIL PICKS ODD HABITAT. At our home in the Chagrin-Lee area of Shaker Heights, a Virginia Rail was in the back yard on May 13. The area is a heavily settled residential neighborhood, yet this was the second year in succession that a Virginia Rail has stopped there during the spring migration season. Each time it showed a preference for a particular shady spot under a hedge and some bushes. - PERRY K. PESKIN

BARN SWALLOW BANDED AT UNUSUAL HOUR. At 9:00 p.m. on May 23 a Barn Swallow flew past my head and flutteringly came to rest on the light fixture just inches from the back door. There had been two going in and out of the barn all day, clinging side-by-side to the exposed beams and twittering. I thought surely the bird would leave its perch at once when I went up the steps and opened the door. But it appeared oblivious to my presence. I observed the bird as long as daylight permitted; it remained immobile even when a flashlight was beamed on it.

I then began to debate the possibility of capturing the bird and banding it, an appealing idea as my chances of ever capturing one in the mist nets are not very great. So

after an hour I opened the door and simply reached up, taking the bird in my hand. Almost at once it became active and began to twitter. After banding it, I confined it overnight. At 7:00 the next morning I released it; it circled over the barn several times and headed northward. Later in the day two Barn Swallows returned to the barn and began exploring again. But due to the short tarsus, I could not determine if either was banded. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

GREAT HORNED OWLS NESTING. During April we became aware that Great Horned Owls were using a nest some 40 feet up in a maple tree in our woods near Wilson Mills and Auburn Roads southwest of Chardon. On May 5 two young birds had left the nest and were perched nearby, occasionally stretching their wings or taking short flights. Both young were still present on May 6, and one was seen near the nest on May 8. - GORDON SPARE

RED-WINGS HARASS GEESE. Canada Geese have ventured to our feeding stations in Solon from a nearby lake this year for the first time. One day while I was weeding a flower bed not more than 15 feet away, I watched Red-winged Blackbirds attack geese that were eating feed on the ground. I was amazed by the boldness of the assailants. They always dove at the rear of the geese and like a dart found their mark. The geese could not maneuver quickly enough to ward off their opponents. The blackbirds succeeded in driving the geese away from the feed on the ground. - RUTH VODICKA

LOONS COURTING. On April 11 three Common Loons engaged in courtship activities on Lower Shaker Lake. Two of the birds faced each other just inches apart, bobbed their heads in measured, ritualistic fashion, and then dove out of sight, reappearing some distance apart. During the ten minutes I observed them, one of the three uttered a loud, resonant call several times. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

SCALY-LEG INFECTS RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS. On May 25, 1974, I captured a Male Red-winged Blackbird which was diseased. The tarsi including the heel and the toes were so afflicted that they were almost doubled in size. Some claws had fallen off, though I did not record the exact number. There was no evidence of the beak being affected.

I have banded thousands of birds in the past six years without encountering this type of malformation, and it was not until reading THE WILSON BULLETIN, 86:2 (June, 1974), "Scaly-leg (Knemidokoptiasis) in a Population of Evening Grosbeaks", that I learned the nature of the disease. The authors (Carrothers, et al.) write; "The disease apparently occurs infrequently in wild birds, with isolated incidences having been reported in perhaps a score or fewer species."

On July 18 what I judged to be the same bird appeared at one of my feeding stations. I did not capture it this time but studied it at a distance of 20 feet with binoculars and could see clearly the condition of the tarsi and the large-size legband, convincing me of the identification. There was no apparent spread of the disease. The bird appeared to be alert and in good condition.

Since then I have captured and banded four Red-winged Blackbirds affected by this disease--on November 8, 1974, and on May 12, June 1, and June 2, 1975. I also captured one on May 8 which carried a foreign band. I have not yet received a response from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the source of the band. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

* * * * *

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.