



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 |
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| 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 |
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| 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

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THE WEATHER

- June - Measurable precipitation was well distributed on 17 days during the month and totaled 4.10 inches, providing an excess of 0.82 inches above normal. Temperatures below normal occurred only in the period during the first 10 days, so that overall the month averaged 2.0 degrees warmer than normal. Sunshine prevailed during 68 per cent of the time possible.
- July - Temperatures averaged out essentially normal, being a mere 0.1 degree cooler. Precipitation fell on only nine days and was substantially confined to the period from the 9th through the 20th. This amounted to 2.54 inches and was in deficit by 0.91 inches. Haze and smog were notably heavy on 19 days. Sunshine managed to prevail during 81 per cent of the time possible, though.
- August - The month was warm and wet. Temperatures averaged 2.6 degrees warmer than normal, and the rainfall of 7.44 inches was 4.44 inches in excess. The precipitation occurred on 15 different days with the frequency being greater in the latter half of the month. Cloudbursts of severe local intensity produced catastrophic flooding in several local areas in addition to the general excess for the region.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Most conspicuous feature of the 1975 summer birding season in the Cleveland Region was the early start of the southward migration of warblers, along with such fellow-travelers as flycatchers and thrushes. Notable, too, were the number and variety of shorebirds along the lakefront. Of those summer-nesting species for which reasonably valid comparisons can be made, few changes were recorded from the established norms of recent years. It was, on the whole, a satisfactory season for birds and birders.

Heron Colony Thriving. The Great Blue Heron nesting colony near Heath Road, Geauga County, gave every indication of prospering when examined in June. In addition, reports from other locations indicated that both Great Blue and Green Herons were present in the region in normal numbers. There were three July records, a total of four specimens, of Black-crowned Night Herons on the lakefront. A Least Bittern was seen in a marsh on Pekin Road, Geauga County, on July 27 (Peskin). A detailed report on the Heath Road heronry is to be found in the Field Notes section.

Waterfowl Records Limited. Although Mallards, Black Ducks, and teals started appearing in Mentor Marsh and other suitable locations in August in increasing numbers, there was no evidence of any substantial early influx of nonresident birds. The resident waterfowl seemed to be reasonably successful, though. Canada Geese continue to flourish in the region. Wood Duck populations appear steady; Only summer record of Green-winged Teals was of two in the company of Blue-winged Teals, Mallards, and Black Ducks in Mentor Marsh on the rather early date of August 3 (Hammond).

Raptor Outlook Favorable. Although reporting on these species is notably inconsistent from season to season, the available data suggest that most raptors are continuing to do well. Turkey Vulture and Red-tailed Hawk reports have held fairly steady. Red-shouldered Hawks were known to be nesting this summer. Two Broad-winged Hawks were seen frequently during June and July near Chardon (Spare), and there were a few other sightings elsewhere. Reports of American Kestrels were well above the level of recent years; however, such numerical changes must be treated with extreme caution, as the increase could well be from repeated sightings of a few family groups.

Great Horned Owls were absent from contributors' records. But a family of six Screech Owls were reported in Lorain County in June (fide Johnson), and several others were seen or heard in August at various locations. Barred Owl sightings were more numerous than usual. In addition, Short-eared Owls were seen throughout July at Burke Lake-

front Airport under conditions that suggested possible nesting (see Noteworthy Records and Field Notes).

Grouse, Sora, Gallinules Nest Successfully. Of only two summer reports of Ruffed Grouse, one was of a hen with at least two chicks near Bartholomew Road in Geauga County, June 16 (Peskin). Reports of BobWhites and Ring-necked Pheasants were fairly low.

Two immature Soras found in the Pekin Road marsh on August 17 were evidently local hatchings (Leach). A pair of Common Gallinules with four young were also in the same marsh on that date (Leach). A gallinule with two downy youngsters was found in the west end of Mentor Marsh on August 3 (Hammond). Two American Coots in partial juvenile plumage found nearby on the same date and again on August 20 were presumed to be nonbreeding birds hatched the previous year, although they may have been hatching-year specimens (Hammond). Six coots were in the Pekin Road marsh, August 13 (Peskin). A flock of 31 early-migrant coots were on Bass Lake on August 31 (Ramisch).

Uncommon Shorebirds Persist. Several shorebirds overstayed their time in the spring migration, lingering into June. But the fall migration for several species began quite early in the latter part of the summer. Making early fall appearances and in larger numbers than usual were Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, among others. Least Sandpipers were at White City almost daily from June 29 (Hannikman) to the end of the season. No shorebird was markedly scarce.

Many uncommon to rare species also demonstrated an unusual tenacity. Willets were sighted on nine separate dates. From one to three Red Knots were seen almost continuously from August 7 on at White City; two or three records would be more characteristic of a season.

Dowitchers staged a full-scale invasion. First record was a single specimen on July 3 at White City, where 46 were counted on July 7 (Hannikman). In addition to varying numbers seen regularly at White City until the end of August, a flock of 12 were near Becker Pond in Mentor Marsh on August 25 (Hammond). Highest August count at White City was 28 on the 16th (Hoffman).

Stilt Sandpipers were identified on more dates and in greater numbers than in the preceding ten years; all reported sightings were at White City. In addition to the unusual records noted here, there were observations of shorebirds so far off-course or out of season as to very nearly deserve the label of misfits. See the Noteworthy Records section for more on these.

Gulls on Schedule, Terns Less Frequent. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls became increasingly numerous during July and August, as expected. The former were particularly plentiful at Fairport Harbor, where an estimated 600 swarmed around a commercial fishing boat on July 30 (Hammond). Along the Cleveland waterfront Ring-bills were the more common species. By mid-August as many as 2,800 Bonaparte's Gulls were frequenting the Gordon Park area as usual.

By contrast, tabulations of Common Terns were down, and sightings of Black Terns were quite low except for a flock of about 100 feeding with Common Terns near the Fairport Harbor lighthouse, August 25 (Hammond). Caspian Terns were well distributed and in about normal numbers.

Nighthawks More Dispersed. Reports of resident Common Nighthawks were greater than in recent years, particularly in July. But the start of the fall migration, customarily in late August, was somewhat less pronounced than usual. Indications were that the proliferation of mosquitoes as a consequence of the August rains encouraged migrants to delay. Observations of Chimney Swifts were not in any way remarkable. At least one Whip-poor-will was heard consistently west of Aurora Lake through the summer (Hudgeon).

No Discernible Decline in Flycatchers. Concern about a possible reduction in Eastern Kingbirds appears to have been premature, as contributors found no noticeable decline in the species. Sightings of Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebes likewise were comparable to recent summers.

Nesting-season records of the Empidonax flycatchers were all at or above normal. Migrating Empidonaces, however, arrived in August in surprising numbers. The influx was steady from the 16th on. The five August sightings of Olive-sided Flycatchers contrast with the more typical one or two records of this late and uncommon migrant.

Wrens Multiplying. Reported numbers of House Wrens were about the same as in recent years, despite rather inadequate coverage of some potential nesting territories by correspondents. Winter Wrens were found singing at two locations (see Noteworthy Records).

Carolina Wren sightings continue to increase. The 125 records this summer exceeded the 108 during the spring. There were 83 in the summer of 1974, 41 in 1973, 30 in 1972, 25 in 1971, and only 21 in 1970. This upward curve has been observed in all seasons for the past several years.

Mockingbirds Nest; Swainson's Thrushes Return Early. Both mimic thrushes and thrushes were present in seasonal num-

bers or better. During June a pair of Mockingbirds raised three fledglings at the former Bratenahl Nike site (now the Navy Finance Center Annex), not far from the 1974 nesting location in Gordon Park. Incubation started after June 1, and by June 25 the young were being fed out of the nest (Hoffman). Other summer records of Mockingbirds included one in Lorain, June 4 and 5 (Dolbear).

Gray Catbirds were quite plentiful in contributors' reports. Brown Thrasher sightings were slightly above the immediate past years, though the increase is probably not significant.

American Robins, Wood Thrushes, and Veeries were evidently at normal levels. Eastern Bluebird populations seem to be holding fairly constant. Added to these regular residents were some unusual summer observations of Swainson's Thrushes plus a notably early start of the fall migration of this species in August. (See Noteworthy Records).

Warblers Appear in Mid-August. Many species of nonresident warblers were being sighted almost continuously after August 16, some even earlier, and reports of Yellow Warblers, Ovenbirds, and American Redstarts also picked up at that time. Among the species which showed particularly marked increases for so early in the southerly migration were Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Canada Warblers. No less than 24 warbler species were observed during August. Cerulean Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and Yellow-breasted Chats, all presumably residents, were seen earlier in the summer. No species--either resident or migrant--was clearly below expected numbers.

Icterids Not Obtrusive. The blackbirds, which sometimes attract negative comment by their presence, generated no special interest during the summer. Bobolinks were found in nesting colonies in several locations. Orchard Orioles were seen on six dates in Waite Hill (Flanigan) and on June 2 in Bratenahl (Hoffman). Reports of Northern Orioles were not remarkable.

No Notable Increases Among Finches. Most finches and sparrows appeared to be present in about the usual numbers, no species being conspicuously up. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks may have been down. Reports on Rufous-sided Towhees, which had seemed to be declining, were somewhat irregular--satisfactory in some locations, absent in others; the overall picture, though, was not reassuring and will bear watching.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Little Blue Heron - An immature was studied as it fed in short grass at the eastern end of Burke Lakefront Airport,

August 23 (Klamm, Hoffman). Long-range movies were taken of it the following day (Klamm), and the bird was observed again in the same area on the 25th, this time in bright sunlight (Hoffman).

Lesser Scaup - On the "unseasonably cool" evening of August 8 a male, intermediate in plumage between immature and full adult, was inside the breakwater at White City (Hoffman).

Hooded Merganser - A female was diving in a pond near Pekin and Auburn Roads, Geauga County, July 13 (Peskin, Bob Shaper). Observers were of the opinion that the specimen was a casual visitor, rather than a summer resident.

Osprey - One was sighted near the Heath Road heronry in Geauga County, June 8 (Hoffman). A mid-summer visitor was studied for about five minutes on July 24, identification being made on the basis of the clear white underparts and long, angled wings (Rickard, Shirley Anderson).

Piping Plover - One was photographed as it fed actively at White City on July 20 (Klamm, Rickard). Single specimens were also observed there on August 4 and 5 (Hannikman, Hoffman) .

Black-bellied Plover - A summer-plumage bird was on the mudflat at White City on the morning of June 1, a very late spring date (Hannikman).

Common Snipe - A single bird was seen near Bass Lake on June 7, 19, and 22 (Ramisch). An early migrant appeared at White City, August 20 (Hannikman).

Whimbrel - One was discovered "busily preening" on the basin flat at White City about noon on July 26 and was filmed as it departed about 10 minutes later (Klamm). On July 30 one was approached to within about 15 yards by boat as it stood on the outer breakwater at Fairport Harbor at 11:15 a.m.; it remained as the boat moved away several minutes later (Hammond).

Willet - On June 23 two in summer plumage were in the lagoon area at White City in early evening, apparently the first June record of the species in the Cleveland Region (Hannikman). From one to three specimens were sighted in the same location by several observers between July 19 and August 23. In addition, a flock of eight and a single bird were observed in flight at Fairport Harbor on the morning of July 30 (Hammond). This species appears to be increasing in migration locally.

Lesser Yellowlegs - On the evening of June 26 a well-marked adult was on the mudflat at White City (Hannikman). This

is a new earliest fall date for the species in the Cleveland Region.

Red Knot - First of the many summer sightings at White City was of two birds on August 7 (Hannikman). Two were there again on the 10th and a single one on the 12th (Hoffman). From August 19 on as many as three specimens were reported daily by several observers. In addition, one was on the breakwall at Edgewater Beach on August 16 (Klamm). Prior to 1962 this species was recorded in the BIRD CALENDAR on only 15 dates.

White-rumped Sandpiper - Three specimens were feeding at various points around the lagoon at White City on June 1 and 2 (Hannikman, Hoffman).

Stilt Sandpiper - The unprecedented incursion of this species into the region commenced with two birds in changing plumage on the mudflat at White City before noon on July 13 (Hannikman, et al.). One or two birds were seen there by various observers intermittently from July 14 to August 22. A flock of 15 were counted on the mudflat in the early evening, August 4; most still showed vestiges of the summer plumage pattern (Hannikman, Hoffman).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - At Burke Lakefront Airport six fed alone or with Black-bellied Plovers, August 23 and 24, despite interruptions by aircraft (Klamm).

American Avocet - A beautifully marked adult was observed at White City, July 28 (Carrothers, Leach, Peskin). What was presumed to be the same specimen was in the edge of the lagoon there about noon, August 4 (Hammond). Reported in the Cleveland Region for the first time in 1960, this species has been seen at White City in three of the past four summers.

Wilson's Phalarope - Another fairly recent addition to the Cleveland Region list, a single specimen was seen at White City on August 9, 10, and 22 (Hannikman, et al.).

Little Gull - Only summer record of this species which is becoming increasingly common locally was an adult bird with Bonaparte's Gulls at White City, August 18 (Hoffman).

Forster's Tern - Earliest of four summer sightings was of one in changing plumage which settled in the basin at White City with gulls and two Common Terns seeking refuge from a violent storm on the afternoon of July 19 (Klamm, et al.). This is apparently the first July record in the Cleveland Region. Two immatures were at White City on August 5 (Hoffman), and single birds were at the same location on August 10 (Stasko) and August 23 (Hoffman).

Short-eared Owl - Up to three specimens were seen at Burke Lakefront Airport repeatedly from July 2 to August 4. All observations were limited to the time from 8:40 to 9:45 p.m. and to the area of the east end of the airport, the adjacent landfill, and the 0.4 mile of Memorial Shoreway and Inner Belt traffic islands nearby. Although the birds gave evidence of being a family group, no clear determination of nesting at the location could be made (Klamm). A more detailed report of the owls' activity is to be found in the Field Notes. A. B. Williams (Birds of the Cleveland Region) describes the Short-eared Owl as "possible rare summer resident" on the basis of a pair observed in Pepper Pike and another pair in Shaker Heights during the summer of 1939. BIRD CALENDAR files list no summer records since.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - August 20-31, a total of 16 specimens were reported from several locations. Only three had been recorded in August in the previous five years.

Brown Creeper - One was seen and a second heard near the Heath Road heronry, June 8 and 11 (Carrothers, Hoffman). A pair were taking food to a nest behind bark on a dead red maple tree on the north edge of Becker Pond, Mentor Marsh, on June 22 (Hoffman).

Winter Wren - From late spring until July 16 one was singing frequently in an area of fallen hardwood trees near, Chardon at an elevation of 1320 feet, where the species had summered previously (Spare). A single bird was seen singing near Cedar and Rock Haven Roads, Geauga County, on June 8, 22, and 29 (Hoffman).

Hermit Thrush - One was studied for about four minutes in Kuhlman Woods, near East 140th Street, on the morning of August 16, all field marks being noted (Hannikman). This is a new earliest fall date of record.

Swainson's Thrush - On July 29 one was netted and banded in Waite Hill (Flanigan). Circumstances of the observation and the characteristics of the season appear to justify listing this as a new earliest fall date, rather than as a summer resident. Another early migrant was in the Rocky River Reservation, August 10 (Stasko).

Philadelphia Vireo - A specimen netted and banded in Waite Hill on July 27 registered another earliest fall date of record (Flanigan).

Tennessee Warbler - Two hatching-year males were netted and banded in Waite Hill on August 12, a new earliest fall date. Others were banded on August 13 and 14 (Flanigan).

Cape May Warbler - A male in full adult plumage was found

in Lakewood Park, August 16 (Klamm). Two were in Mentor Marsh, August 20 (Hammond). Both dates are uncommonly early for fall migration.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - A very young bird was netted and banded in Waite Hill on the markedly early date of August 13 (Flanigan).

Pine Siskin - Two were in Rocky River Reservation on the unusually late spring date of June 7 (Klamm).

Dark-eyed Junco - A well-documented nesting was recorded in the latter part of August near Callow Road, Lake County; the first of four eggs hatched on August 31 (Miller). At the east end of Headlands State Park a single bird was seen near a sand bank on July 25, a few days after tornadoes had struck in Ontario (Newhouse).

White-throated Sparrow - On June 5 a late-lingering migrant was banded in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

Lincoln's Sparrow - Another very late spring bird was netted and banded on June 5 in Waite Hill (Flanigan).

FIELD NOTES

SHORT-EARED OWLS NESTING? On July 2 while driving on Memorial Shoreway adjacent to Burke Lakefront Airport just after sunset, I observed a Short-eared Owl conspicuously hovering over a traffic island separating the freeway lanes and the exit for the Inner Belt Freeway. This prompted an immediate exit from the shoreway and a return along the North Marginal Road, which runs between the airport and the freeway.

The owl was located sitting on the grass near the airport taxiway, readily observable with binoculars and telescope. A departing airplane flushed a second owl, which joined the first, but both were lost in the deepening darkness as they flew off.

Short-eared Owls were sighted on 19 subsequent dates in July, three birds being seen on the 6th, 12th, and 14th and daily from the 14th through the 20th. Last sighting was one owl on August 4. All observed activity occurred at the east end of the airport and adjacent landfill and the 0.4 mile of freeway traffic islands. Activity was confined to the period from 8:40 to 9:45 p.m. Red-winged Blackbird harassment usually restricted continuous flight exposure before sunset. Observable flight or exposed activity increased to a maximum during the afterglow and waned with increasing darkness. Attempts to locate the owls at dawn or during the day were always negative. Permission to

enter the landfill, dump, or airport was denied by airport authorities.

One owl was unquestionably an adult and the dominant individual; it could be distinguished from the other two because of the loss of a feather in one wing and then in both wings. This owl did all the hunting over the freeway islands as well as the airport and landfill. One of the other two was given more attention by the known adult and by the third bird, which was always in closer proximity.

On several occasions the owls perched on the ground within 100 feet of observers to make lengthy reconnaissances before relocating. Feeding was observed in several instances, but in one instance the known adult was observed carrying a sizable catch (about vole size) from the traffic island to the dump area, completely ignoring the other two.

The island-hunting owl was oblivious to the freeway traffic, which rushed by as close as three or four feet at times. The masses of people on the hillsides and marginal drives to watch the fireworks display on July 4 had no visible influence on hunting activity over the islands. A few feet of film were obtained in which the owl is clearly distinguishable sitting on a freeway lamppost and hovering in the air nearby. - WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM

GRACKLE GROOMS WITH MOTH BALL. As we looked out the window of our Wickliffe home on or about June 23, we saw a Common Grackle about 20 feet from us. We were fascinated when we saw it pick up a very white object. Because of the color and size, we were sure that it was a moth ball like one we found nearby. We had placed these balls near plants to discourage rabbits from nibbling our tree peonies.

The grackle picked up the white ball and rubbed its wing feathers with it several times before dropping it. Then it stood for a little while with its beak wide open, as if to cool its mouth. It picked up the object several times, repeating its actions. Then it flew up into a nearby tree with the moth ball still in its beak. In a few minutes it flew away. We searched the ground under the tree perch but found no trace of the object. So we were sure it carried the ball away. - MATILDA TOBIAS

HERONRY UNAFFECTED BY STORM. We were guided to the Heath Road heronry in Geauga County by Vera Carrothers on May 30. At that time the foliage was very dense, and observation of the nesting Great Blue Herons was difficult. The young were hatched, as evidenced by remains of egg shells below nests, though. Only one nest contained visible young. But based on the adult birds perched on peripheral nests and the frequency of flights from the major nesting area, an

estimate of 60 active nests was reached, though this may be high.

A storm on June 4 did considerable damage in the Cleveland area, and there was some fear that the heronry would be disturbed. We returned to the site on June 8 to find the nests intact; felled trees had not contained nests. Counting nests was no easier than before, and the original estimate of numbers was retained.

The nucleus of the colony we found, was a group of 27 nests in one dead and one dying beech. Of these nests at least half were active. The young were highly visible when fed, and the young most conspicuous nest contained four young. Their size and plumage were very similar to the one pictured on the left in Plate 32 of Bent's Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds and described as "about half grown." Many other nests were in use in small clusters radiating from this nucleus. Many of these were in trees in full leaf. The section of woods under colonization was estimated to be about 900 by 100 yards.

As summer conditions were not conducive to accurate observation, no further attempts were made. Though this colony may not have made a complete comeback from the 1960's, when the area suffered considerable storm damage, it does seem quite healthy. It is hoped that TRW, Inc., the present owner of the property, will maintain this area for the continued growth of the colony. - JIM, DICK, and JEAN HOFFMAN

HUMMINGBIRD NESTS OBSERVED. Two Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests were found this summer in the wildlife area of the Rocky River Reservation Interpretive Center. One, off the parking lot at the center, was viewed by many birders. Two young were brought up successfully. The other nest, deeper in the woods, also contained two young, and it also was successful. - MICHAEL STASKO

MARTINS ASSEMBLE IN AKRON. [ED. NOTE: Previous accounts of Purple Martins congregating at this site were published in CBC in the Summer, 1973, and Fall, 1974, issues. Judging from other contributors' reports of martin sightings, it appears unlikely that any large proportion of the birds reported on below nested within the Cleveland Region.]

About 500 Purple Martins started to gather at their annual roosting site near Akron Municipal Airport, June 18. The first arrivals were immature males and a week later mature males. Numbers increased up to 5,000 by July 7. From July 27 to 31 there were 28,000 to 30,000 birds. Coming from all directions, females, and juveniles arrived daily about one-half hour before sunset. The flock seems

to change each day, with new arrivals taking the place of those departing.

On August 3 thousands of martins were very restless. Few perched on the wires, which indicated a readiness to depart. August 11 saw thousands circling overhead, climbing higher and higher till they were out of sight, like hawks riding a thermal. After a severe weather warning the following day we went to see how many were roosting, after so many had departed the day before. There were approximately 20,000. All were gone by the end of August. What attracts the martins to this spot remains a mystery, as it is three miles from a lake. - ANN BISCAN

ORIOLE NESTS IN DYING ELM. Nesting birds normally encounter many hazards--the elements, predators, the activities of man--during the course of nesting. Species, notably the Northern Oriole, which select an American elm tree as a nest site face an added hazard: death of a part, or even all, of the tree from Dutch elm disease before the nestlings are fledged.

Such was the case of a Northern Oriole which nested in one of a row of tall American elms which line about one-half mile of Monticello Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. The nest, some 50 feet above ground, was located at about the mid-point of a slender, down-drooping, six-foot-long branch which extended from a large upthrusting limb. Three small leafy twigs shaded the nest, which contained two or more buzzing nestlings when I discovered it on the evening of June 22. At that time the foliage on the surrounding twigs had just begun to shrivel, though for the most part the leafage on the rest of the tree was still fresh and green.

On succeeding days the leaves in the vicinity of the nest continued to shrivel and turn brown. By the evening of June 24, those that had shielded the nest opening were almost completely withered. Although two brief but heavy rain showers occurred later that evening, the fledglings obviously suffered no harm, as was evidenced by their noisy squealing the next evening. By that time nearly all the foliage about the nest was brown and shriveled, so that the nest was fully exposed and the late afternoon sun struck hot against it. On the evening of June 26, one of the fledglings (seemingly there were just two) was clearly visible when it extended its head and neck out of the nest to take food from one or the other of the parents.

At 7:00 p.m. on June 27, one fledgling calling "cheep, cheep, cheep," was perched on the rim of the nest while the other struggled to rise to the mouth of the nest. Within a few minutes the bird on the rim fluttered to the

other side of the tree and was lost to view. Three minutes later the second bird succeeded in leaving the nest and perched on a supporting twig. But only for a moment, for it promptly dropped back inside, at which time I was compelled to end my observations that evening.

When I last visited the nest site at about 1:30 p.m. on June 28, I found the nest empty, but I soon discovered a fledgling in an evergreen tree about 25 feet distant, where it was being fed by the mother bird. Though I searched, I could not find the second young one.

Several weeks later a third or more of the crown of the elm tree was nearly leafless, and soon afterward the tree was cut down by the city forester. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

BLUE JAY IN DUAL ROLE. On June 7 a Blue Jay was discovered feeding on the ground, partially concealed by an evergreen. A close look revealed that it was holding a bird on the ground with one foot as it fed. When the jay took alarm and flew, I found the victim to be a newly-fledged House Sparrow. It was on its back, and the jay had been feeding on the thorax section.

I then reflected that on June 2 a pair of Blue Jays had themselves been victimized. At least three Common Grackles joined forces and robbed a Blue Jay nest high in a spruce by the back walk. The parents desperately tried to protect the nest but were no match for the persistent grackles. One or more nestlings were removed. I saw one being carried away. It was of good size as the jays had been feeding their young for at least eight days. The jays continued to return to the nest and guard it. So apparently some nestlings survived. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

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AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month except July and August in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

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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.V