



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**

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WEATHER

March - Lake Erie was open all month with extensive ice cover being confined to harbors and sheltered areas through the 8th. Precipitation was well distributed on 11 days including snow on the 7th, 17th, 18th and 22nd. Accumulation totaled 4.2 inches as snow and all precipitation as 4.49 inches of water which was 1.44 inches excess. Most of the cooler than normal weather passed in 16th to 25th period, but overall temperatures averaged out 6.6 degrees warmer than normal. Sunshine occurred 58% of the time possible.

April - Precipitation occurred on 14 days including 2 days, the 5th and 6th, that dropped 1.7 inches of fleeting snow to provide a total accumulation of 3.58 inches of water, leaving a slight deficit of .07 inches for the month. Temperatures averaged out 3.1 degrees warmer than normal with the colder spells passing in the 5th through 9th and 23rd through 30th period. Sunshine prevailed 50% of time possible.

May - Cooler than normal weather prevailed only in 8th through 16th period. Overall, temperatures averaged 3.7 degrees warmer than normal. Measurable precipitation was confined to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. Trace precipitation was evident on another well scattered 7 days. In all, precipitation only totaled 1.02 inches and was in deficit by 2.47 inches.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

"Dull", "not exciting", and "uneventful" were some of the words used to describe the spring birding season in the Cleveland Region. Migrants were generally in lower numbers than in the past few spring seasons and were not concentrated on specific dates, there were really no "big" days when masses of passerines moved through the region. However, the season was not without significant arrival and departure dates for many species of birds as well as species that are rare in the Cleveland Region. Individuals of several species which generally arrive between late April and early May appeared during a warm spell in late March; conversely, remnants of species that are usually considered winter transients could be observed throughout March and April. Details of the major migration phenomena appear in the following paragraphs; details of such noteworthy Cleveland area birds like Snowy Egret, Kirtland's Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow appear in the Noteworthy Records Section.

Waterfowl The only Common Loon reported for the spring season was a winter-plumaged individual at LaDue Reservoir on the rather late date of May 9 (Corbin). Lakefront observers from Lorain Harbor to the Cleveland lakefront commented on the scarcity of Horned Grebes, the majority of reports for this diver occurred during the first ten days of April, but even then the most birds seen on a single date was nine, on April 3. After April 10, Horned Grebes were observed on only four dates for the remainder of the season, and each observation was of a single bird. Pied-billed Grebes were much more in evidence and were regularly observed at lake front localities and on inland bodies of water, 21 birds was considered an excellent count on Shaker Lakes on April 9 (Hoffman).

Truly impressive numbers of bay ducks appeared throughout the first half of March at Lorain Harbor. One observer conservatively estimated the number of bay ducks at approximately 40,000 on March 3, Redheads were put at 15,000, while Scaup ducks numbered about 4,000, the balance consisted of Canvasbacks and Common Mergansers which were only reported as "thousands". In addition to these remarkable numbers, the observer reported that there were many thousands of bay ducks that could not be identified because the birds were too far away and because of poor field conditions that hindered identification of ducks in the distance. Common Mergansers were still estimated at 20,000 on March 6. Numbers of bay ducks dropped markedly after mid-March, 1,200 Canvasbacks and 1,000 Scaup ducks being the maximum counts on March 20. (All Lorain Harbor observations by Ward.)

Along the Cleveland lake front, waterfowl numbers peaked somewhat later than at Lorain Harbor for some species and the numbers were nowhere the spectacular tallies amassed at Lorain. Redheads peaked, as at Lorain Harbor, during early March with counts of about 1,000 birds while Scaup duck numbers were highest in early April with tallies of about 600 individuals for a period of several days. Red-breasted Mergansers also showed this pattern of peak numbers being somewhat later along the Cleve-

land lakefront than at Lorain Harbor. Maximum numbers for Lorain were during the period of March 24 to 31 while the species' peak of abundance along the Cleveland lakefront was from April 2 to 10 (Klamm). Five Common Mergansers were considered unusual both in the lateness of the date and the numbers that occurred as they were observed at Walden Pond, Aurora, on May 7 (Elder, Hoffman).

Hawks with the exception of April 30 and May 1, when a very minor hawk influx developed, no significant hawk movements were detected. The movements of April 30 and May 1 consisted of 23 Broad-winged Hawks in the Rocky River-Lakewood area on the former date (Klamm), while 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, and 4 Broad-winged Hawks passed west to east at Huntington Metropark on the latter date (fide Wallin). Earlier, Broad-winged Hawks fascinated two Brooklyn Airport observers as up to six of these raptors could be observed perched together in a bare tree between the dates of April 20 and 22 (Bacik). The hawks may have been attracted to the ample food supply around the deserted airport which became for two days a temporary roosting site for the birds before they resumed their migrations to their breeding grounds.

Otherwise, hawks were observed in numbers that would suggest that the observers were viewing birds that were either resident in a particular area or were just passing through singly or in pairs. Adding variety to the season's raptor reports was the appearance of a tardy Rough-legged Hawk at Burke Airport on April 16 (Klamm) as well as sightings of a single Merlin and Bald Eagle. (See the Noteworthy Records Section for the details on these latter two records.)

Shorebirds As is typical for any spring season, migrating shorebirds, with the exception of very early Dunlins, began passing through the area about mid-May. Suitable habitat at White City and Mentor Marsh attracted Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers, while inland mudflats attracted Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers. Very uncommon during the spring, Dowitchers were seen at two separate locations on May 14, two along the lake front (Klamm) and one at Shaker Lakes (Hannikman). Unexpectedly absent from the spring reports was the Ruddy Turnstone. Even though this wide-ranging shorebird is primarily a summer and early fall migrant in the Cleveland Region a few individuals are usually noted at favored stopover points along the lake front. Most likely explanation for the species absence in contributors' reports is a lack of daily coverage of the Ruddy Turnstone's favorite spring stopover points like Mentor Headlands Beach or White City.

Gulls and Terns Several species of northern gulls that had been a feature of the winter of 1976-1977 lingered into March and April, well past their usual departure dates from the Cleveland Region. The Great Black-backed Gull was last reported from Lorain Harbor on March 24 when an immature bird was observed (Ward), Glaucous and Iceland Gulls as well as Black-legged Kittiwakes were also reported, details of these sightings appear in the Noteworthy Records Section. Bonaparte's Gulls passed through the region during late March and April, peak numbers were re-

corded on April 8 when approximately 2,200 birds were observed along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm).

Common Terns were in very poor evidence, only fourteen birds were tallied the whole spring and ten of these were on one day April 23. Three Common Terns at Shaker Lakes on May 3 were considered unusual for that area (Peskin). Caspian Terns reached a peak of 90 birds on April 20 at Lorain Harbor (Ward), these terns had begun arriving by very early April.

Owls The "owl prow" is now established as a birding technique for those dedicated birders who not only want to add these oftentimes hard-to-find birds to their life and year lists but who are also fascinated by these interesting birds. Any tree that appears to be a likely candidate for housing an owl is scrutinized as birders in places like the Donald Gray Gardens, Rocky River Metropark, and the old Brooklyn Airport search for these birds, and though successful results are the exception rather than the rule, the possibility that success may be sleeping in a tree just ahead is worth the effort. Though numbers of owls reported during the spring were not great, several species of owls rare in the Cleveland area were reported, and Short-eared Owls again lingered into the spring season; three birds were at Burke Airport, probably the best place to observe these diurnal owls, on April 9 (Hoffman). Screech Owls went unreported, both Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls were reported from localities where the birds are resident.

Flycatchers Flycatchers occurred in unspectacular numbers during the spring, Though all species that typically migrate through the Cleveland Region or are resident here during the summer were reported, few contributors made special mention of this particular group of birds in their reports. Least Flycatchers were reported as "common" during the latter half of May (Hoffman), Acadian and Willow Flycatchers were recorded from areas suitable to each species' particular nesting needs, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers passed through the region during the last third of May. Eastern Wood Pewees, despite some very early mid-April sightings, were somewhat late, the species was first recorded for the month of May on the 13th, typically the first Pewees begin arriving about a week earlier. Continuing the trend of the past several springs. Olive-sided Flycatchers made a good showing with twelve reports between May 22 and 31.

Wrens Wrens were not prominent in contributors' reports for the spring" period. House Wrens and Winter Wrens were low in numbers, the former were observed in numbers less than half of the tallies for the spring of 1976, while only nine of the latter were recorded: two in March, six in April, and one in May. Many observers reported that Carolina Wrens were not in areas where the observers were used to seeing them, the frigid winter of 1976-1977 having destroyed many of these effervescent little birds. Only four reports were received of Carolina Wrens, one in Rocky River Metropark on March 6 (Stasko), two and one on March 17 and 18 respectively, at Tinkers Creek Farm (Ramisch).

Quite in contrast to the dismal wren reports above was the observa-

tion that Long-billed Marsh Wrens were "abundant" at Mentor Marsh (Hoffman), the suitable habitat of the area attracting an apparently flourishing population of these birds. Only report of the Short-billed Marsh Wren was of an individual at the west end of Donald Gray Gardens on May 6 (Hoffman). Last summer this species bred in the Cleveland Region.

Mimid, Thrushes Mockingbirds appeared at two locations during the spring. April 16 at Mentor Marsh (Hoffman) and May 24 and 30 at the Nike site in Bratenahl, the place of previous nestings for the species in the Cleveland Region, and observers were hopeful of possible nesting this season, but a second, companion bird had not appeared by the end of the period.

Thrushes were not spectacular for the spring season, and numbers were down in comparison to the previous spring. The first Wood Thrush was noted on April 30, somewhat late as individuals of this species usually begin to appear about a week to 10 days earlier. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes were reported less frequently than in the spring of 1976, Gray-cheeked Thrushes appeared sporadically in contributors' reports, and Veeries were not particularly plentiful. Perhaps the reason for these lower numbers was the fact that the spring migration for these species encompassed much of the month of May, migrant thrushes were not concentrated on just a few weekend dates, as has happened in previous spring seasons, many of the transient thrushes, therefore, were probably missed as birders could not get out on weekdays.

Warblers Although comparing the spring warbler migration of 1977 with other years is a method of assessing the migration, comparisons can often be misleading because of several variable factors, some of which affect the reports of the migration period. These various factors include numbers of observers and hours in the field, the actual number of reports turned in to the CALENDAR, the weather and its effect on the progression of spring vegetation. The absence of daily reports from the bird banding station in Waite Hill certainly affected not only the number of warblers but also other species that migrate through our area. Still, there was less than total satisfaction with the warbler migration of spring, 1977. Comments like "less than sensational", "lost cause", "erratic" were received from contributors. The following table lists the species that were unaccountably low even when one considers the many variable factors that can determine the quality of the migration season:

	1974	1975	1976	1977
Black and white Warbler	144	116	160	39
Magnolia Warbler	448	345	421	41
Black-throated Blue Warbler	100	90	134	14
Palm Warbler	244	129	198	31

(Numbers indicate reports of each species for the entire spring.)

Orange-crowned Warblers, uncommon in any spring, were entirely absent from spring reports and all species were tallied in lower numbers for

the spring of 1977 than in 1976. The disappointing numbers reflect not only a very lackluster spring warbler migration for the year 1977 but probably reflect an exceptional spring in 1976. The reduced numbers for the Palm Warbler and the absence of the Orange-crowned Warbler may be a direct result of the bitter winter of 1976-1977 as these two species of warblers winter throughout much of the south and southeastern parts of the United States. The record cold that invaded these regions may have adversely affected the wintering populations of these birds.

Several contributors mentioned the advanced state of foliage on the trees as hindering identification of warblers. Many of the birds that were spotted high in the trees went unidentified and thus unreported. This factor must be considered when assessing the tabulations for the spring warblers.

On the bright side was the appearance of Kirtland's Warbler in the Cleveland Region. This species is still high on the list of endangered species; any occurrence outside the species' breeding range is quite extraordinary.

Finches and Sparrows With the exception of a single White-winged Crossbill and a few Pine Siskins, no northern finches were seen during the spring. After a winter of virtual non-activity concerning this group of birds, this was not unexpected. More House Finches were reported (see Noteworthy Records Section).

Sparrow migration was routine for the spring period. Most species' peak period of abundance fell between mid-April and mid-May. For the second year in a row a Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered within the Cleveland Region. This was only the Region's second sighting of this species and appears to be the third record for the entire state (see details in Noteworthy Records Section).

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - (1) At least three birds were active along the Cleveland lakefront on April 24: three were observed preening and wing-drying on the breakwall at East 9th Street during the morning and two were at Edgewater Yacht Club during the afternoon (Klamm), one was also spotted behind the Munny Light Plant during the afternoon (Hoffman). (2) Single specimens appeared at Rocky River on April 30 and May 7 (Stasko). (3) An adult was discovered at Lorain Harbor on May 16 (Ward).

Cattle Egret - At Burke Airport a solitary individual was observed on May 14 as it fed in the grassy areas between the runways. Buffy plumes of the summer-plumaged bird could be seen even though the bird was observed at considerable distance (Hannikman).

Snowy Egret - An individual of this species was discovered at Becker

Pond in Mentor Marsh about noon on May 29. Black legs, black bill, bright yellow feet, and orange-yellow patch around the eye were the characteristics that were noted on this southern heron, and the strong wind of the day even ruffled the aigrettes on the heron's head (Hoffman). This is the first documented sighting of the Snowy Egret in the Cleveland Region since August, 1956.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - About 7:00 a.m. on May 19 a specimen of this southern visitor was noted as it stood motionless in the river south of Stinchcomb Hill in Rocky River Metropark (Cica). The bird remained at the Rocky River location until May 28.

White-winged Scoter - Only record of this sea duck during the spring was of a single bird at Lorain Harbor on March 2 (Ward).

Bald Eagle - An adult was spotted in Aurora as it flew west to east over Route 306 at about 5:00 p.m. on April 27 (Lewis).

Osprey - Among several sightings of this large raptor during the spring was an individual seen at the mouth of the Rocky River on the remarkably early date of March 27 (Stasko). Another Osprey was not reported until April 19.

Merlin - This quick-flying, medium-sized falcon was seen as it passed over the Mastick picnic area in Rocky River Metropark on May 15. First noticed flying slightly above tree top level, the falcon circled around the area and then took off in the direction of Lake Erie (Klamm).

White-rumped Sandpiper - Recorded here for the fourth spring in succession, two summer-plumaged individuals were observed at White City on May 31. White rump, size (larger than the Semipalmated Sandpipers present at the time of observation), and streaked breast made identification easy (Bacik).

Dunlin - A lone individual at Burke Airport on April 9 established a new earliest spring date for the species (Klamm). Previous early date had been April 16, 1938.

Red Phalarope - An individual of this species that was just beginning to show signs of its dazzling, Arctic summer dress was scrutinized at length at Shaker Lakes on the evening of May 22. Characteristics observed on this bird were stout bill, yellow toward the basal quarter, pale gray wing, mottled medium-gray back, and two faint red spots near the flanks (Hoffman). Highly pelagic for most of its life, Red Phalaropes are very rare at any time in the Cleveland Region. This observation marks the initial May sighting for this species in the history of the Cleveland Region.

Glaucous Gull - (1) An all white individual was recorded from Lorain Harbor on March 7 (Ward). (2) One was "loafing and quarreling with the other gulls" at the impoundment behind Muny Light on April 8 (Klamm). Perhaps this was the same individual that was at Lorain Harbor on March 7, for this, too, was an all white bird. (3) A very tardy adult was reported

from the Gordon Park CEI plant on April 20 (Hocevar).

Iceland Gull - Easily distinguished among the Herring Gulls present, this sub-adult-bird was studied for about one-half hour on March 22 (Jim Hoffman). Never before has this Arctic gull been recorded on such a late date, March 22 thus becomes a new latest spring date for the species.

Laughing Gull - On the morning of April 23, an adult was viewed closely and was compared with Bonaparte's Gulls on the beach near Lorain Harbor (Ward).

Black-legged Kittiwake - Another of the species of winter gulls that lingered into March at Lorain Harbor, two immatures were observed on March 2 and one immature on March 7 (Ward).

Caspian Tern - The observation of one of these terns at East 72nd Street and the CEI plant on April 3 marks a new earliest spring date for the species. The previous earliest date was April 7, 1974 (Hoffman).

Barn Owl - Perched in a pine tree at the Donald Gray Gardens was a single bird of this species on April 21 (Hoffman, Klamm).

Snowy Owl - An individual that was being harassed by crows was observed as it flew over Lakeside Avenue at 26th Street in Cleveland on March 28 (Shaper). Snowy Owls were entirely absent from reports during the winter so speculation as to the origin of this bird arises, the owl may have wintered locally and not been reported, but this seems unlikely because Snowy Owls are large, conspicuous birds and because there is adequate coverage of the places likely to be frequented by Snowy Owls during a stay in our area or the bird may have been a migrant from parts to the south of the Cleveland Region. Another possible explanation of the origin of this bird was that it came from the north, though this seems extremely remote due to the lateness (March 28) of the sighting.

Long-eared Owl - Only reports of Long-eared Owls except for the semi-resident birds in Kirtland Hills were single birds on March 30 and April 12 at the old Brooklyn Airport. The birds were very tame and would fly only a short distance when flushed (Bacik).

Saw-whet Owl - About dusk on April 11 one was seen at the Donald Gray Gardens (Besser).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Second earliest spring arrival date on record was an individual reported from the spring birdwalk at the Holden Arboretum on April 24 (fide Wallin).

Great Crested Flycatcher - At Shaker Lakes one was viewed on April 17 (Besser), only the April 1, 1973 date is an earlier spring arrival date for this species.

Eastern Wood Pewee - Exceptionally early migrants were noted in West Geauga on April 17 and 19 (Kremm).

Gray Catbird - One appeared in Forest Hill Park on the very early date of April 7 (Pesch).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - First March record in the history of the Cleveland Region was of a bird that was recorded at Firestone Metropark on March 31 (Biscan). Previous earliest spring date of arrival was April 6, 1974.

Water Pipit - A solitary straggler was observed on May 30 at White City (Bacik). This sighting marks a new latest spring date, the previous late date being May 28, 1937.

Northern Shrike - The bird that had been repeatedly seen at the old Brooklyn Airport was last seen on March 21 (Bacik).

White-eyed Vireo - First of several sightings in the Cleveland area during the spring was a bird observed at Lakeview Cemetery on April 17 (Hoffman). This is a new earliest spring date: April 19, 1964 was the previous early date.

Solitary Vireo - One was reported on the Sunday morning birdwalk from Hinckley Metropark on the very early date of April 17 (fide Wallin).

Prothonotary Warbler - An early migrant was observed at Firestone Metropark on April 22 (Biscan).

Blue-winged Warbler - One sighted at Rocky River Metropark on April 17 was another of several species of warblers that appeared on very early dates this spring (Stasko). Another was sighted at Lake Isaac (Hocevar).

Brewster's Warbler - (1) Singing a song a little longer than the normal song of the Blue-winged Warbler, a single bird was observed for about one-half hour at the old Brooklyn Airport on May 12 (Bacik). (2) The spring's second individual of this hybrid was noted at Hanging Rock Farm on May 14 (Bole).

Kirtland's Warbler - About 3:00 p.m. on May 21 a male was studied for about ten minutes as it sang from a low branch of a large red oak at North Chagrin Metropark. Field marks noted were the black mask, yellow breast, gray-streaked upper back, but which showed olive undertones towards the rear. As the bird sang it cocked its tail sharply. After several moments the bird moved to a lower branch, sang and preened, and then flew into some heavy foliage where the observer lost it although the loud song could still be heard (Tkac). Nesting only in central Michigan and migrating to its only known wintering grounds in the Bahamas, the Kirtland's Warbler, North America's second rarest warbler, is seldom observed anywhere during migration. Not since May of 1959 has there been an acceptable sight record of this species in the Cleveland Region.

Prairie Warbler - (1) A very early arrival was at Shaker Lakes on April 19 (Besser). (2) A male frequented the same brushy area in Kuhlman Woods on April 30 and May 1 (Hannikman). (3) Akron area reports were

of late migrants, two at O'Neil Woods Metropark, May 28, and one at Deep Lock Quarry Metropark, May 29 (Fricker).

Louisiana Waterthrush - Two remarkably early migrants were observed in the Cleveland Region this spring: (1) An individual was noted as it fed at the bottom of a ravine at Sims Park on March 29 (Corbin). (2) A single bird was noted in Painesville, March 30 and 31 (Miller, see Field Notes Section for the account of this bird). The March 29 date becomes the new earliest spring date of record for this species; only previous March sighting was March 31, 1929.

Kentucky Warbler - (1) One was reported from Firestone Metropark on May 18 (Biscan). (2) On May 21 a single bird was recorded from the Donald Gray Gardens (LePage).

Orchard Oriole - Two individuals were observed at Hanging Rock Farm, May 14, one remained to May 21 (Bole).

Scarlet Tanager - Early during the evening of March 29 a male Scarlet Tanager was located at the old Brooklyn Airport (Bacik). Not only is this sighting a new earliest spring date of occurrence it is also the first March report of this species in the history of the Cleveland Region. Previous earliest spring date had been a full three weeks later in the year at April 18, 1943.

Blue Grosbeak - Identified by its large size and brown wingbars, a male was observed at Flatrock Ford on the East Branch of the Chagrin River on May 14 (Bole).

House Finch - (1) A male visited a feeder in Solon from March 4 to March 7 (Surman). (2) A pair was noted nest building on May 30 at Upper Shaker Lakes (Newman).

White-winged Crossbill - Studied for several minutes, a very tardy vagrant appeared at a residence in Chardon, May 19 (Sheldon). Only previous occurrence of this nomadic species in May in our region was in 1974.

Clay-colored Sparrow - To the surprise of those gathered for the Sunday morning birdwalk at Shaker Lakes there appeared a lone bird of this species. The sparrow frequented an area of low bushes and willows and was heard giving its distinctive, soft, buzzing song (Peskin). The bird was seen between May 8 and 10; only previous record was last spring, May 16, 1976.

#### FIELD NOTES

STUNNED LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH Sighted first on March 30, this warbler hit our picture window on March 31. The bird was having difficulty breathing, so I held it cupped in my hands, occasionally giving the

bird a drop of water on its upper bill. The waterthrush remained in my hand for about one-half hour. During that period the bird kept looking at me and licking the drops of water. The bird was then let go and it flew to a nearby tree where it remained for several hours before departing. - DOROTHY MILLER

MIGRATING HAWKS At 3:10 p.m. on April 10 -- clear, warm, with a southerly breeze -- six Buteos soared and sailed east northeast at a great height, perhaps 1,000 feet, over my home in Cleveland Heights, about one-half mile south of the Portage Escarpment, often a flight-line for hawks and migrating passerines. Then at 3:25 p.m. an American Kestrel, alternately flapping and gliding, passed by on the same course but not quite as high. Mid-afternoon migration of hawks has not often been reported in the Cleveland Region, but this may be attributable to the fact that not many observers are afield and watching the sky at that time. - DONALD NEWMAN

NESTING HOUSE FINCHES In the wooded bottomland west of the dam at the Upper Shaker Lake, a pair of House Finches was building a nest in a large sycamore tree on May 30. The nest, whose outer shell and base seem to have been completed, was situated in a cluster of leafy branchlets about 48 feet above the ground and ten feet out on a long, slender limb that thrusts upward. Working in unison, the birds snipped off clusters of the fresh, green paddle-shaped fruit of a white ash tree which stands some 60 feet from the nest tree and carried them to the nest where the female deposited them inside, working them into the structure by pressure from her breast.

Presumably these two House Finches were members of the flock of as many as 15 that during the past winter and this spring regularly visited a feeding station at a residence about three-quarters of a mile from the nest site. This nesting attempt is the first reported from the Cleveland Region. DONALD L. NEWMAN

EVENING GROSBEAKS FAIL TO RETURN TO NORTHEASTERN OHIO Either because of, or in spite of, the most severe winter weather on record, Evening Grosbeaks did not "invade Northeastern Ohio in the season of 1976-77. Since 1947 I have tabulated records from friends, colleagues, students, and correspondents, as well as from all published sources, and in general there has been a biennial rhythm with a heavy incursion of Evening Grosbeaks alternating with a light incursion. A light incursion was expected in 1976-77, but to my surprise, none was seen or reported to me. In the past 31 years, only two other winters failed to attract Evening Grosbeaks, 1948 and 1957. Since 1947 there have been 16 years of relatively large incursions, and 15 years of relatively light incursions, including three without any known record. Years of better than average abundance were: 1950, 1952, 1954-55, 1958-60, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1969-70, 1972-74, and 1976. The alternate years had only average or less than average abundance of this northern wanderer. RALPH W. DEXTER

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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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Inquires 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. (Attention: Helen Yenkevich)