



CLEVELAND REGION

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

*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 SUMMARY  
Summer 1978

June - Most of the warmer than normal weather prevailed during the last 15 days of the month. Overall, temperatures averaged out to 69.0 degrees which was 1.1 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation was well distributed and totaled 3.30 inches. This was a meager .02 inches in excess of normal. Sunshine prevailed 64% of the time possible.

July - Temperatures averaged out to 72.2 degrees, .80 degrees warmer than normal. Cooler than normal temperatures occurred from the 1st thru the 5th, 10th thru the 12th, 16th thru the 18th, and the 24th, 28th, 30th, and 31st. Precipitation fell on only seven days and was poorly distributed coming during the first three days, again on the 13th, 23rd, 27th, and 29th. Precipitation totaled only 2.40 inches for a deficit of 1.05 inches from normal. Sunshine prevailed 53% of the time possible.

August - There were only six days when temperatures averaged cooler than normal. These occurred on the 4th, 5th, 11th, 20th, 21st, and 30th. Overall, the month averaged out 3.2 degrees warmer than normal. Measurable precipitation fell on the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 9th, 19th, 28th, and 30th. Precipitation totaled 3.59 inches and was in excess of normal by .59, inches.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Who says that birding in the summer in Cleveland is dull and routine? Certainly these words are not an apt description of the Summer of 1978. As usual the Cleveland lakefront drew the most attention and consequently produced the majority of the season's noteworthy sightings. Other areas were not neglected and were also productive. However you spent the summer, wherever your own individual wanderlust led you, the birds of the Summer 1978 provided an interesting potpourri of the rare and not so rare, the easily seen and the difficult to find. The following paragraphs of commentary, noteworthy records, and field notes are an attempt to piece together an enjoyable season.

Shorebirds The summer shorebird season began with the sighting of a Marbled Godwit at the Muny Landfill on June 11 (Hoffman, et al). Thereafter, the area's main stopover points for shorebirds, Burke Airport, the Muny Landfill, the East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Marina, and White City hosted a great variety of these migrants. Particularly impressive were the numbers of shorebirds that were recorded at the Muny Landfill. Here counts of Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers reached more than 100 individuals in August. "Peep" sandpipers were also abundant but many could not be identified because of the distances between these small shorebirds on the landfill's mudflat and observers stationed on shore. Observations of shorebirds, as well as other species of waterbirds, during the last few years have proven that these birds will appear in the Cleveland area in significant numbers provided that there is habitat for these birds.

Nesting of Upland Sandpipers was suggested at Burke Airport but could not be absolutely proven. Several observers noted two birds throughout June and July and on July 24 a "buffy" immature was located. Whether this bird was raised locally or whether it was an early migrant could not be determined. A solitary displaying Common Snipe was found at the Streetsboro Marsh on June 27 but further observations were not made to determine the nesting status of this species at this particular location (Hoffman).

Gulls and Terns The return of Bonaparte's Gulls began in the last half of July and this species was common along the lakefront in August. Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls also showed a similar pattern of occurrence. One adult Little

Gull appeared at White City on August 19 and 26 (Hoffman, Corbin). The adult Black-headed Gull that frequented the White City and Gordon Park areas in late July and early August became the most sought-after bird of the season as birders from all over the state of Ohio were attracted by the possibility of adding this vagrant to their life and state lists. No massive concentrations of terns occurred during the season. During the summer of 1977 thousands of Common Terns and Black Terns congregated at the Munny Landfill. Such a gathering did not materialize during the summer of 1978. Peak numbers for both Common Terns and Black Terns occurred in mid-August when more than 300 Common Terns on August 19 and 350 Black Terns on August 22 were tallied along the Cleveland lakefront (Klamm). Continuing the trend of the past several summers, Forster's Terns were regularly found in small numbers along the lakefront. Three birds on August 18 were the most encountered on one day.

Nighthawks Absent from contributors' reports for the summer period were any counts of notable flights of Common Nighthawks. This fact can be discerned from the following table that lists the "major" flights of Common Nighthawks reported for late August:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF BIRDS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
8/21	17	Tinker's Creek	Knight
8/22	14	Rocky River .	Klamm
8/23	18	Rocky River	Klamm
8/23	16	W. 117th Street	Klamm
8/27	31	Lakewood	Klamm
8/30	30	Tinker's Creek	Knight
8/31	20	Tinker's Creek	Knight

Swallows Early July usually finds Bank Swallows on the move west. This summer there was little evidence of any concentrated westward movement as maximum counts of migrating Bank Swallows were 100 on July 8 and 110 on July 12 (Klamm). After mid-July there were only sporadic sightings of this species.

Purple Martins were widely and abundantly reported from all corners of the region. The colony at White City APPARENT-ly was quite successful as continuous counts of more than 100 Purple Martins, adults as well as juveniles, could be seen in late July and early August. A ,truly remarkable gathering of an estimated 20,000 Purple Martins was noted at a new roosting sight in Akron on July 17 (Biscan). These birds were still

very much in evidence at the end of August as hundreds could be seen migrating westward along the lakefront.

Warblers A Black and White Warbler in Bedford Reservation on July 23 was the first non summer resident warbler observed (Knight). From that date until mid-August Yellow Warblers, traditionally the first species of warbler to begin the flight southward, were the most common warbler reported. As August drew to a close, the fall migration of warblers was well underway. Especially prominent in contributors' reports at this time were Magnolia Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Baybreasted Warblers, and American Redstarts.

House Finch Even though a nest with eggs or young has yet to be located it is apparent that somewhere in the Cleveland area House Finches have bred. Reports of adults and young birds from Akron and Lakewood indicate that the House Finch should now be considered as a breeding species in the Cleveland Region.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Great Egret - Two birds were present at Baldwin Lake in Berea on August 10. The birds were observed preening on and fishing from dead trees in the middle of the lake (Klamm).

Pintail - A pair was observed from June 25 to July 8 at the Muny Landfill (Hoffman). CBC records indicate no previous June or July occurrences for this species in the history of the region.

Green-winged Teal - Two were found at the Muny Landfill on July 4 (Hoffman).

Rough-legged Hawk - Unprecedented in CBC files was the occurrence of a single, light-phase Rough-legged Hawk observed on July 26 over Wildwood Park (LePage). All field marks were noted as the hawk drifted toward the east. Needless to say, this is the first summer record for this species in the history of the Cleveland Region. Such an extra seasonal sighting can not be explained for the normal summer range of the Rough-legged Hawk begins about latitude 55 degrees north and extends throughout Arctic North America. A sighting in Cleveland is an extraordinary record.

Piping Plover - A solitary bird was observed at Burke Airport on August 3 and 4 (Hoffman).

Whimbrel - Two Whimbrels were noted on July 23 at White City (LePage), July 26 Wildwood Park (LePage), and August 31 at Burke Airport (Kellerman fide Hannikman). The birds at Wildwood Park were apparently the first ones encountered at that location.

Red Knot - A winter-plumaged bird was flying around White City early in the evening of August 29 (Hannikman).

Stilt Sandpiper - One was found at White City on July 23 (Talkington fide Hannikman).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper- All sightings were made from Burke Airport: single birds on August 13 (Klamm), August 21 (Klamm), August 31 (Hoffman), and four birds on August 28 (Hoffman).

Marbled Godwit - At the Muny Landfill solitary birds were observed on June 11 and 12 (Hoffman, et al), July 21, 22, 26, and August 5 (Klamm, LePage). Two individuals appeared at the Muny Landfill on August 19 (Klamm). Heretofore, there had been just two 20th century records of this large shorebird in CBC files, in the fall of both 1956 and 1961. These are the first summer occurrences for this species in this century.

American Avocet - (1) A single bird lingered at the Muny Landfill from July 6 to July 8. On July 8 two birds were present (Hoffman, et al.). (2) Eleven birds, the highest count recorded in the region, were tallied on July 27 (Klamm).

Parasitic Jaeger - An adult, in the light phase of plumage was observed for less than half a minute chasing Bonaparte's Gulls just off the breakwall at the Northeast Yacht Club on August 18. "The gulls were resting on the water when suddenly they rose up. The jaeger was observed chasing~ down a Bonaparte's Gull. Having had its fun with this particular bird, the jaeger turned its sights on another Bonaparte's Gull, made an incredibly quick u-turn, and chased this bird out over the lake." Plumage characteristics, manner of flight, and familiarity with all three species of jaegers aided in the specific identification of this bird as a Parasitic Jaeger (Hannikman).

The appearance of any of the three species of jaegers in the Cleveland area is always extremely noteworthy. This sighting, only the second jaeger to be reported in our area in the 1970's, represents the first Parasitic Jaeger to be specifically identified as this species since September 22, 1946. It is highly probable, however, that some of the immature birds reported just as "jaeger (sp.)" in the past 30 years have been of this species.

Great Black-backed Gull - An immature bird was found at the Edgewater Yacht Club on August 24 (Klamm). Only previous summer record was an immature bird seen in June of 1968.

Black-headed Gull - An adult in full breeding plumage was first noted at White City on the morning of July 23 (Hannikman, Corbin). Subsequent to the initial discovery at White City, this gull frequented the Northeast Yacht Club and the Gordon Park boat basin.

Characteristics noted were the red bill, bright red legs, chocolate-brown hood that did not extend as far back on the bird's head as the black hood of the more familiar Bonaparte's Gull, and light gray mantle. Since the Black-headed Gull almost invariably was observed with Bonaparte's Gulls, the bird's larger size was also apparent. This latter characteristic aided in locating the bird. The bird was last seen on August 4 by which time the brown hood was fading rapidly (Hoffman). These sightings represent the first occurrence of this European gull in the summer in the history of the Cleveland Region.

Franklin's Gull - An immature was at Gordon Park on the early date of August 10 (LePage).

Caspian Tern - Three birds were found at the Muny Landfill on June 11 (Hoffman). This is the first June observation of this species since 1967.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - An extremely early fall migrant was noted in sycamore trees near Tinker's Creek in Bedford Metropark on August 7 (Knight).

Winter Wren - (1) One was located in North Chagrin on June 10 (Corbin). (2) Another singing bird was heard in the Stebbin's Gulch on July 30 (Corbin). The observer noted in his report that he thought that this species bred in Stebbin's Gulch.

White-eyed Vireo - A solitary individual was seen on July 17 at Lake Isaac in the Rocky River Metropark (LePage).  
Prothonotary Warbler - On July 1 in a swampy area at the end of Cedar Road in Geauga County a single individual was observed (Leach, Ramisch).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - A singing male was found at North Chagrin on June 23 (LePage). The bird could not be relocated despite subsequent searching.

Kentucky Warbler - A single male persistently sang in Chapin Forest on June 10 (Corbin).

Prairie Warbler - (1) Two birds were in Deep Lock Quarry of Akron Metropark on June 25 and 27. A single bird remained until June 29 (Rosche). (2) An unusual number, four, appeared in spruce trees in a yard in Kent on August 26 (Rosche).

Wilson's Warbler - A new early fall date for this species was established when one was observed at Shaker Lakes on August 4 (Fazio). Previous early date had been August 6, 1971.

White-crowned Sparrow - Two appeared at a feeder in Solon on June 18 (Surman). This marks a new late spring date. The previous late date was June 6, 1964.

#### FIELD NOTES

PILEATED WOODPECKERS AT FEEDER On August 6, I saw an adult female Pileated Woodpecker feed suet to a young male at our feeder. On August 20 the female thrust suet down the throat of the young male three times. As the young male waited on the tree below the female, he became impatient and picked at his mother's tail. The mother would then turn and chase him a few feet away. This also took place three times. Finally the mother finished, and then the young male fed himself at the feeder. - WALTER P. KREMM

THE NESTING OF THE YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested successfully for the first time in the Rocky River Valley. The adults were distinguished by the length of their plumes as one bird's occipital plume was longer than the others. The long-plumed bird was present from June 1 to August 23 and was joined on June 9 by the short-plumed bird. Both birds were noted on 19 different days with the short-plumed bird being alone on June 24, 25, 28, July 1, 5, and 6.

The short-plumed bird was last observed on July 16. The fledgling appeared with the long-plumed bird from August 1 through August 6. The short-plumed bird was noted to wander from the area on several occasions whereas the long-plumed bird was noted out of the area but once. Since fox regularly hunt and feed along the stretch of river which the herons frequented it is not known whether the short-plumed bird and/or the fledgling fell prey or departed on their own. - WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM (This report represents the first nesting record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the Cleveland area. - Ed.)

NESTING OF RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE

- 7/25 Observed a pair of Towhees bringing nest material to a small hemlock in a partial clearing in the woods close to the ravine. The floor of the nest consists of loosely woven twigs. The cup is deep and is lined with soft materials (dead grasses, etc.) and is about 1-1/2 feet from the ground.
- 7/29 First egg appears, followed the next day by a second egg.
- 7/31 Third egg appears. The cup is so deep that the female can not be seen while sitting on the eggs. Unaware that the female was on the nest, I frightened her several times while checking to see if the eggs had hatched.
- 8/12 Two eggs have hatched. Nestlings are very quiet and very red.
- 8/13 Third egg has hatched. Pair are taking turns sitting on the nest and sitting on a branch overlooking the nest.
- 8/20 Nestlings are now very active. They stretch, preen, and move about the nest.
- 8/22 The three young have fledged. Heard them but did not see them until 9/17. There are two females and one male. The breasts are streaked with some rufous feathers. -  
DOROTHY MILLER

Errata (Spring, 1978)

The new early date for Wilson's Warbler should read April 23.  
The new early date for Orchard Oriole should read April 21.

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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, Attention: Helen Yenkevich, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.