



CLEVELAND REGION

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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek | 30 Lake Rockwell |
| 2 North Amherst | 31 White City |
| 3 Lorain | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation |
| 4 Black River | 33 Chagrin River |
| 5 Elyria | 34 Willoughby |
| 6 LaGrange | Waite Hill |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake | 35 Sherwin Pond |
| 8 Clague Park | 36 Gildersleeve |
| 9 Clifton Park | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River | 38 Gates Mills |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina | 40 Aurora Lake |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation | 41 Aurora Sanctuary |
| 14 Edgewater Park | 42 Mantua |
| Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| Illuminating Co. plant | 50 Corning Lake |
| 21 Doan Brook | |
| 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

Ray Hannikman

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistant

Elinor Elder

Jean Hoffman

Ethel Surman

CONTRIBUTORS

Emil and Priscilla Bacik

Kay F. Booth

Bruce A. Colvin

Fanny Dale

Ralph W. Dexter

Elinor Elder

Vic Fazio

Ray Hannikman

Dick and Jean Hoffman

Tom Kellerman

William and Nancy Klamm

Charles H. Knight

Walter Kremm

Chris Lee

Tom LePage

Jack and Dorothy Miller

John Pogacnik

Richard Rickard

Larry Rosche

Dee Ross

Michael Stasko

Carol Tveekrem

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

Ray Hannikman
13706 Eaglesmere Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

WEATHER
Summer 1979

June - Most of the cooler than normal weather occurred in the last third of the month. Overall, temperatures averaged out to 66.9 degrees which was 1.0 degrees cooler than normal. Sunshine occurred 70% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 3.47 inches for a slight excess of 0.19 inches. Rainfall on the 20th was notable providing 2.11 inches of the total.

July - Temperatures averaged out 0.3 degrees cooler than normal at 71.1. The cooler periods were from the 1st to the 9th and again from the 17th to the 21st. Sunshine prevailed 53% of the time possible. Precipitation, except for the 22nd when 1.59 inches fell, was well distributed on 12 days and totaled 3.76 inches, 0.31 inches above normal.

August - The month was unusually wet as precipitation totaled 4.46 inches, 1.46 inches in excess of normal. On the 24th 1.17 inches of rain fell. Sunshine prevailed only 43% of the time possible. Below normal temperatures occurred from the 12th to the 18th and again on the 25th. The average temperature of 71.5 degrees was 1.5 degrees warmer than normal.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

"Oh, those hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer..." are the words of a popular song that describes summertime activities. For the active birder in the Cleveland region the days of summer certainly are not lazy. Observing nesting species, exploring new places to bird locally, scrutinizing far-distant shorebirds -- these are some of the activities that occupy the time of local birders. The fruits of an active birding summer follow in the ensuing paragraphs of commentary, noteworthy records, and field notes.

Shorebirds With White City closed indefinitely, the basin behind Muny Light and the runways of nearby Burke Airport offer the only real accessible places to watch shorebirds. These two areas attracted excellent numbers of migrant shorebirds. At Muny Light, in addition to those rarer species of the Noteworthy Records section, there were 21 Willets on July 8, 50 Lesser Yellowlegs and 50 Dowitchers on August 18, and scores of Least Sandpipers and Semipalmated Sandpipers in late July and early August. At Burke Airport Sanderlings reached a peak of 39 on July 26 and Black-bellied Plovers 29 on August 24. From August 20 to the end of the period from one to four American Golden Plovers were also present with the Black-bellied Plovers. Upland Sandpipers apparently did not attempt to nest at Burke Airport as sightings of single birds on July 25 and August 18 were thought to be migrants.

Farther to the south, at LaDue Reservoir near Akron, favorable water levels and almost daily coverage resulted in fine inland counts of shorebirds. In addition to the commoner "peep" sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Solitary Sandpipers, Common Snipe were encountered in numbers very unusual for summer. Highest count was 15 birds on August 23 (Elder). Two Black-bellied Plovers and small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers, intermittently present at LaDue from late July to the end of August, rounded out the shorebird picture at this inland location.

Gulls, Terns During early summer a very young Herring Gull, with two adults nearby, was observed on the breakwall of Muny Light. Positive evidence of breeding, however, could not be determined. Recently Herring Gulls have nested successfully at the Cleveland Zoo, so further nesting attempts at suitable locations can not be ruled out.

One of the pleasures of summer lake front birding is tern-watching. With the exception of a single Common Tern and

three Caspian Terns at Wildwood Park on the unusually early date of June 23 terns began arriving in late July and were present in good numbers throughout August. Black Terns were particularly impressive as they gathered by the hundreds at Wildwood Park. It was somewhat difficult to arrive at an accurate count of the Black Terns as there was a constant movement of the birds from their resting spots on the wires and moorings of the yacht club to their feeding areas over the lake. And when Common Terns moved in good numbers, as occurred occasionally in late August, quite a tern spectacle was created. Forster's Terns were noted irregularly at favored Cleveland lake front spots in late July and early August and a count of 13 at Lorain Harbor on July 27 (Klamm) became the largest number of this species ever reported in the Cleveland region.

Nighthawks With a few exceptions, late August gatherings of Common Nighthawks did not materialize. The most noteworthy were: (1) Forty-five Nighthawks flying to the southwest in groups of 3 to 10 at dusk over the Warrensville Farms on August 30 (Knight). (2) Four hundred twenty-five flying from west to north/northeast over Lakewood throughout the evening of August 28 (Stasko). (3) Seventy-five to 80 birds also over Lakewood on August 28 (Stasko). The season's lone Whip-poor-will was recorded at Blossom Music Center sporadically through the entire summer (Lee, Tveekrem).

Purple Martin Lakewood Park and Wildwood Park, on Cleveland's west side and east side respectively, were the sites of the season's major gatherings of Purple Martins. Both on August 12 and 19 more than 1,000 Martins were tallied at Lakewood Park (Stasko) while several hundred could usually be found at Wildwood Park from late July to mid-August.

Ovenbird Concern was voiced in the Spring 1979 issue of the Calendar about the lack of Ovenbirds in favored areas of the Cuyahoga Valley (Rosche). This concern was valid as no Ovenbirds were reported from this area during the nesting season. One contributor stated that Ovenbirds were totally absent from Bedford, Brecksville, and North Chagrin Metroparks-areas where the birds had been located in previous summers (LePage). Successful nesting did occur, however, in Painesville where a young bird was noted on June 27 (Miller). Hopefully next summer will be a better one for Ovenbirds in the Cleveland area.

Sparrows Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows appeared at several locations throughout the summer. At

the Kent State University Campus six Grasshopper Sparrows were observed in June and the species was also reported from Hastings Road Metropark in Lorain (Pogacnik). Hastings Road Metropark witnessed an unprecedented summering of Henslow's Sparrows as eight males were reported as singing on territory throughout the summer (Pogacnik). Additional sightings of Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Rocky River Metropark on June 23 (four birds, Stasko), a field in Strongsville (a male singing on territory) on August 1 (LePage), and Glen Oaks School on July 6 (a single bird, Kellerman).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - Two in winter plumage appeared on Lake Rockwell on July 30 and remained to the end of the period (Rosche, Elder).

Double-crested Cormorant - A solitary straggler was seen on the breakwall off East 9th Street on the unusual mid-summer date of June 23 (LePage).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - (1) A single adult was at the Avon Lake CEI Plant on July 26 (Pogacnik). (2) Another adult remained at Rocky River Metropark from July 14 through the end of the period (Klamm). The bird frequented the area where this species successfully nested in 1978.

Red-breasted Merganser - (1) One was observed at Lorain on June 8 (Pogacnik). (2) One swam close to the rocks near the east breakwall at Wildwood Park on July 29 (Hannikman).

Bald Eagle - An immature bird, possibly the same individual that had been seen in the spring, was noted at Lake Rockwell on August 6 (Rosche).

Whimbrel - Maximum count at Burke Airport was nine on August 2 (LePage).

Stilt Sandpiper - A solitary bird was at Lake Abrams on July 29 (LePage).

Hudsonian Godwit - Six, largest number ever noted in the Cleveland region, were observed as they took flight from the Munny Landfill on the morning of August 18 (LePage).

American Avocet - Single birds were at the Munny Landfill on July 24, August 8, and August 24 (Hoffman, Klamm).

Iceland Gull - An immature in the all white plumage of the second year was observed on the beach at Mentor Headlands on July 2 (LePage). Iceland Gull has only appeared two previous times in summer in the Cleveland area.

Great Black-backed Gull - (1) An immature was at Mentor Headlands on July 2 (LePage). (2) Six were found on August 24 at Avon Lake (Pogacnik). Summer sightings of Great Black-backed Gull in our area probably reflect the increase in abundance of this species at all seasons in the Great Lakes region.

Laughing Gull - An adult coursed back and forth right in front of the observer on June 25 at the East 55th Street Marina (LePage).

Franklin's Gull - What was thought to be a second-year bird was at Edgewater Park on June 23, a most unusual date (LePage). By mid-August a few immature Franklin's Gulls had returned to favorite lakefront spots.

Barn Owl - One was observed in broad daylight near the Lorain County Airport on July 28 (Pogacnik). See the Nesting Observation Section for the detail on the successful nesting of Barn Owls in July.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - A tardy migrant was found in Cleveland Heights on June 7 (Hoffman).

Brown Creeper - Summer records were of a singing bird in Bedford Metropark on June 17 (LePage), and another in Deep Lock Quarry on June 25 (Klamm). Both areas contain suitable habitat for breeding of this species.

Mockingbird - One spent June and July near the Seiberling Nature Center in Akron (Tveekrem).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - An extremely early fall migrant was at Hastings Road Metropark in Lorain on August 26 (Pogacnik).

Loggerhead Shrike - A single bird was observed across from Kent State University Stadium on August 18 (Rosche).

White-eyed Vireo - The first documented nesting record of this species in CBC files occurred when two adults and three young were found at Hastings Road Metropark on July 15 (Pogacnik). Two other pairs were also reported to be summering in this area. Sightings of White-eyed Vireo at other locations during the summer were two birds on June 16 and one bird on

(continued) August 19 (Stasko) at Rocky River Metropark and a bird reported from the Firestone Metropark in Akron (Tveekrem).

Philadelphia Vireo - One was noted at Shaker Lakes on the very early date of August 3 (Fazio).

Golden-winged Warbler - Four late August sightings were most unusual: a female on August 19 and a male on August 25 in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman), and single birds on August 24 at Donald Gray Gardens (Klamm) and August 27 at Warrensville Farms (Knight). On June 8 a pair was located in Bedford Metropark but could not be found on subsequent visits (LePage).

Tennessee Warbler - One was seen at Lake Rockwell on the record-tying early fall date of August 1 (Elder).

Nashville Warbler - One was present from June 1 to July 15 at Hastings Road Metropark (Pogacnik).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - An adult and two fledged young were at Hastings Road Metropark on July 15 (Pogacnik).

Orchard Oriole - Two birds at Shaker Lakes were a second-year male on July 30 and a female on August 20 (Fazio).

NESTING OBSERVATIONS

OBSERVATION OF A BARN OWL NEST On the night of July 7, 1979 activity at a northern Ohio Barn Owl nest was monitored for information on feeding and fledging activity. The nesting site was in the loft of a large barn with direct entrance through a hole in the side of the barn. The habitat was predominantly agricultural with prominent wetlands near the barn. Five young owls were observed in the nest cavity the afternoon of July 7. Observers were situated in an adjacent barn 15 yards away.

Two definite feeding periods were observed: one from 10:00 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. and one from 3:35 a.m. to 5:10 a.m. The first period began one hour after sunset and the second ended 50 minutes before sunrise. A total of 15 prey items was deposited at the nest cavity during the night, 10 during the first feeding period and 5 during the second. Most of the hunting trips were in the direction of the wetlands.

The eagerness of the young just prior to the start of

the second feeding period resulted in one of them falling out of the nest cavity. This bird was able to maintain enough flight to reach the barn roof and was fed once while out of the nest. Two other young fell from the nest just after the last prey item was brought, perhaps due to competition for space at the nest cavity entrance. One of the birds fell to the ground, the other re-entered the nest. The fledged owlet also re-entered the nest 15 minutes before sunrise. Fledging appeared to be brought on through direct competition at the nest cavity entrance.

Adults vocalized little. The young vocalized constantly from sunset to 20 minutes before sunrise, and they sounded like raspy adults.

Activity monitored at this site, especially that of feeding periods, has been noted at other Barn Owl nesting locations.

These observations were taken as part of an ongoing research program on the Barn Owl at John Carroll University.
BRUCE A. COLVIN

NESTING OF SOLITARY VIREO On July 28 Woody Stover took me to a nest of Solitary Vireos which he and Bert Szabo had found while climbing rocks at Hinckley Ledges. I photographed both the male and female at the nest which contained three young. The young seemed to be newly-born, but I would have to imagine at least a few days old because I did not get to Hinckley until a day or so after the nest was initially located. I returned about eight days later to try to obtain more photographs but all the birds were gone. - LARRY ROSCHE

NESTING OF EASTERN PHOEBE IN PAINESVILLE -

6/14 Saw a pair bringing food to three nestlings. The nest was built on a small piece of jutting rock, overlooking the creek, with a rock ledge as an overhang. The nest was well-hidden, in back of the roots of a fallen tree.

6/19 Nestlings were well covered with brown feathers, were flattened out in the nest, had their wings spread out, and eyes half shut.

6/22 We could see the wing bars on the young birds which were overflowing the nest.

6/24 All are now sitting upright, can see their eye rings.

6/25 8:00 a.m. one fledged, by 9:30 a.m. all were gone. -
JACK AND DOROTHY MILLER

COMMON GALLINULES ON LAKE ROCKWELL On July 30 I located one adult Common Gallinule at the north end of Lake Rockwell. The next day Elinor Elder and I went to see the Common Loons at Rockwell and happened upon a family of Gallinules, three chicks and two adults. The chicks were very downy still but had bright red bills. They responded beautifully to the different "squawks" of the adults. On August 10 I observed the family in the arrowhead plants. At this time the young were much larger and had developed a black ring toward the bill tip. On August 13 the juveniles were still "furry" but much larger. The bill color had become yellow with a black ring. Also another pair of adults were observed farther out in the lake. By August 27 the juveniles had developed white in the wing. -
LARRY ROSCHE

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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, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 696-8186. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland area as well as other interesting observations should be called into the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced with current sightings every Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, e. g., Sabine's Gull, Varied Thrush, Western Tanager, the tape should be called the day of the observation.