



CLEVELAND REGION

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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  
Summer Season  
1 June -31 August, 1980

June - The month was cool and dry. Temperatures were cooler than normal on 18 days with a continuous cool spell from June 8 to June 22. Overall, temperatures averaged 64.0 degrees, 3.9 degrees below-normal. Precipitation was poorly distributed on nine days, six of which came on June 9 and before. Precipitation totaled 2.68 inches, 0.60 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 64% of the time possible.

July -Temperatures averaged 72.3 degrees which was 0.90 degrees warmer than normal. Most of the warmer days occurred on the 15th and after. Precipitation was distributed on 12 days and totaled 4.77 inches. This was 1.32 inches above normal. Sunshine prevailed 63% of the time possible.

August -Precipitation occurred on 13 of the first 21 days and on the 30th and totaled 4.38 inches. This was 1.38 inches above normal. Temperatures averaged out to 73.2 degrees, 3.20 degrees above normal. In all there were 26 days on which temperatures averaged normal or warmer and only 5 days of cooler than normal weather. Sunshine prevailed only 47% of the time possible.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

It is becoming apparent from contributors' reports that the summer season in the Cleveland region is one of great activities for all levels of the birding enthusiast. Searching for rarities satisfies the birder with an interest in distribution patterns, observing nesting species rewards those seeking an understanding of a bird's social life, and just plain sitting in one's backyard gets one familiar with the local Common Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts, Cardinals, and bugs! In the paragraphs that follow are the Comment on the Season, noteworthy records, and the nesting/field notes for the summer of 1980.

Shore birds Whimbrels appeared at Burke Airport in late July and early August. Eight birds on August 3 was the largest count. No evidence of successful breeding of Upland Sandpipers at Burke Airport could be ascertained even though one and sometimes two birds were noted there in early June. Then, in early August, a minor influx of migrant Upland Sandpipers occurred at Burke Airport as upwards of 10 individuals could be found between August 2 and 9. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dowitchers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers all peaked in early August indicating that this period was the summer's main shore-bird migration time. An unusual sight was three Stilt Sandpipers at Burke Airport on August 3 (Hoffman). This species usually frequents mudflat areas, which type of habitat is lacking and/or inaccessible in our area.

Gulls Terns Deemed somewhat unusual were 40 Bonaparte's Gulls, mostly immatures, on June 1 at Muny Light and another 40, these birds adults in non-breeding plumage, there on June 29 (Hoffman). The summer's only Franklin's Gull showed up at Lorain on August 23 (Pogacnik), and a sub-adult Little Gull occurred July 24 at Gordon Park and July 27 at Wildwood.

Greatest numbers of terns appeared in mid-August. At this time Common and Caspian Terns reached their maximum numbers and Black Terns made a somewhat limited showing at Wildwood Park as over 100 of these birds gathered on the wires and moorings daily from August 18 to August 21. Prior to the usual early July sightings of the first migrant terns were late June sightings of both Common and Caspian Terns. These were probably non-breeding stragglers to our area.

Common Nighthawk The following table enumerates the best Common Nighthawk flights of late August:

Date	Number	Location	Observer
8/25	135	Warrensville Farms	Knight
8/26-27	100's	Kent	Rosche
8/27	410	Lakewood	Klamm
8/29	110	Warrensville Farms	Knight
8/31	245	Euclid, East 260	Hannikman
8/31	2,000	Brookpark Road, Fairview Park & N. Olmsted	Combs

Warblers Interesting observations were received regarding warblers. Three young and two adult Black-throated Green Warblers were found in Painesville in mid-July (Miller). Several pairs of this species were also noted in the Stebbin's Gulch/Little Mountain areas of Lake and Geauga Counties in late June (Peterjohn) and individuals were located in Chapin State Forest on June 24 (Peskin) and North Chagrin on July 11 (Hoffman). Breeding success could not be determined for the three pairs of Chestnut-sided Warblers reported to have summered at Hastings Road Metropark in Lorain (Pogacnik). Apparent non-mated Chestnut-sided Warblers were also seen at North Chagrin on June 14 (Besser), late June in Akron (fide Tveekrem), and at Peninsula on July 14 (fide Stover). Near Peninsula an amazing six singing male Prairie Warblers, a total of ten birds altogether, were noted in early June, but positive breeding success was not sought (Rosche). The Ovenbird continued its local decline with only a Painesville nesting being reported.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Double-crested Cormorant - (1) An immature bird summered at Lake Rockwell (Rosche). (2) An adult appeared off Wildwood Park on June 29 (Hannikman, Kellerman).

Little Blue Heron - An immature, in typical all white plumage, was noted on the concrete conduit at the Gordon Park impoundment on August 14 (Klamm).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - A single, mateless adult remained at Rocky River from early June to August 15 (many observers).

Green-winged Teal - A rather out of season individual was present at Lake Abraham[Abram] on July 3, 6, and 9 (LePage).

Ring-necked Duck - The first June record in CBC history, (the second summer record overall), of this species was of a male on the lagoon at White City on June 15 (Hannikmanman, Kellerman).

Ruddy Duck - A female spent from August 19 to the end of the period at the Gordon Park impoundment (Klamm).

Red-breasted Merganser - (1) A male and female were found after a lake storm on June 8 at Wildwood Park (Kellerman). Thereafter, a female was seen at several Cleveland lake-front locations throughout the summer. (2) An inland straggler was on the Cuyahoga River near Silver Lake on June 23 (fide Tveekrem).

Piping Plover - A single bird occurred at Burke Airport on August 3 (Klamm).

American Golden Plover - A new early fall date for this species was established when a lone bird was observed at Burke Airport on August 7 (Hoffman). Previous early fall date had been August 9, 1964.

Red Knot - One bird was at Lorain on August 23 (Pogacnik).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Two were reported from Burke Airport on August 16 (Fazio fide Hannikman).

Marbled Godwit - Two Cleveland lakefront sightings of this large shore bird were June 11 and June 13 and August 3 to August 14 (many observers).

American Avocet - Eight were at Munny Light on June 29 (LePage). This is the initial June record in CBC files.

Laughing Gull - An adult was noted about mid-morning on June 29 at Gordon Park (Hoffman).

Barn Owl - (1) A pair nested in Parma (Colvin, McLean). See the Field Notes section for the details on this nesting. (2) Most unusual was the occurrence of a single Barn Owl around East 30th and Euclid Avenue in late August. This bird was captured and taken to TV 5 where a story was made on the bird for the August 31, 6:00 p.m. news (fide Corbin).

Whip-poor-will - A rare find, a bird sitting on a nest was located near Portage Lake in late June (fide Tveekrem).

Cliff Swallow - Three were among the many swallows at Gordon Park on July 13 (Hoffman).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - An individual was thought to have summered in Rocky River (Stasko).

Short-billed Marsh Wren - One was found in cattails at the north end of Lake Rockwell on July 16 (Rosche).

Mockingbird - One appeared at the Naturealm in Akron on June 24 (fide Stover).

Golden-winged Warbler - (1) A male was noted at Tinker's Creek on July 4 , August 12, and August 27 (Elder). (2) One was at Horseshoe Lake on August 17 (Fazio fide Hannikman).

Northern Parula - Two were observed in Stebbins Gulch on June 27 (Peterjohn). This is possibly the first summer record of this species since June 1942.

Blackburnian Warbler - Out of habitat was a non-breeding female on June 28 at the Naturealm in Akron (fide Stover).

Bay-breasted Warbler - A very early fall migrant was found at the Rocky River Interpretive Center on August 3 (Stasko).

Kentucky Warbler - (1) One was seen and heard at Chapin State Forest on June 1 and 8 (Corbin). (2) A breeding pair was located at the Naturealm in Akron in June (fide Stover). One young bird was being fed on June 17, 18, 19. The parent birds were described as being very skittish and would get "fussy" when anyone started approaching within 150 yards of the youngster. This marks the first documented Cleveland area nesting of this species.

Orchard Oriole - Females and/or immature birds at Waite Hill in mid-July indicated to the observer of a possible local nesting (Sherwin).

Dark-eyed Junco - Out of place, a male summered near a residence in Fairview Park (Combs).

#### NESTING OBSERVATIONS

American Redstarts in Painesville As reported in the Spring edition of the CALENDAR, we observed a Redstart building a nest on May 30. The following observations continue that story--



From June 8 to June 17 The Redstart was seldom away from the nest, the male occasionally singing nearby, the female quietly sitting on the nest. Early in this period she sat very low in the nest, just head and tail visible. At the end of this period her entire body could be seen.

June 18 Early A.M., some movement could be seen in the nest, both adults bring food occasionally, the female settling and re-settling in the nest, with much poking her bill into the nest. Later in the day, one head was raised to receive food. All this was repeated the next day.

June 20 Early A.M., saw one nestling moving about a bit, but no sign of adults. Did hear the male singing far from the nest. An hour long observation of the nest convinced us that the adults had abandoned the nestling. The male was heard for a few days and then no sign of them the rest of the season. - JACK AND DOROTHY MILLER

Typical and atypical Barn Owl Nestings in NE Ohio Two Barn Owl nests in northeast Ohio were among those studied during research of this species in summer, 1980.

A pair nesting in the wooden eaves of a silo near Farmington has reportedly used the location for 10 years or more. One young bird was taken to a veterinarian on 14 July after having fallen from the nest two days earlier. It was the smallest of a brood of six. When the remaining five young were observed and banded on 17 July, the three males and two females ranged in age from 5 to 6.5 weeks. The parent birds were both roosting with the young in the silo, unusual with well-grown young such as these. The habitat near this nest was typical of successful Ohio nesting sites, with grassy pastures and wetlands supporting high populations of Meadow Voles, a preferred prey.

A second pair fledged young during the first week of July from a location in Parma, atypical for Ohio owls at their current low population level. This pair nested, probably for the first year, in a hollow Beech on an open wooded slope. These owls were not linked to agricultural grasslands or Meadow Voles, and the tree nesting site is more typical of areas where the owl is present in larger populations, or of Ohio when the Barn Owl was more common. This pair was unusually vocal and easily approached.

Our research at John Carroll University on this rare bird and its possible restoration in Ohio is progressing well and further investigation of these and other Barn Owl sites is being carried on. We wish to thank those individuals who have provided us with leads. Any additional current information on Ohio Barn Owls would be greatly appreciated. -BRUCE A. COLVIN AND E. BRUCE MCLEAN

Yellow-throated Warbler and Kentucky Warbler Nesting in Akron People have frequently told me a favorite adage about Deep Lock Quarry in Peninsula, "It's good to bird there late in the spring migration." With such advice I've always gone early and been rewarded nicely. April 28 was no exception. I was standing at a favorite spot for rarities, the lock itself, and listening to an unfamiliar call note that was strong and seemed like the call note of an Oporornis. It came from the tree tops and it was very early in the season to be an Oporornis. After patient waiting a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler appeared making chipping noises and feeding on insects. Many people saw this bird in the next three days, for it was extremely cooperative singing both in the morning and evening. On May 1 several people were certain that they had observed two Yellow-throated Warblers. Eventually I was able to see the two feeding in the tops of the sycamore trees that they preferred. The birds could nearly always be found in a sycamore near the lock or along the railroad tracks all through May. On May 19 I watched the bird about ten feet from me on the ground carefully looking through debris and finally selecting a piece of material and flying away. I had hoped for a nest and was pleasantly surprised that some other sharp eyes had located it. On May 22 Jessie Belitsky directed me to a tall sycamore by the lock. At a height of nearly 75 feet on the north side of the tree was the nest. By this time it appeared that the nest was entirely built. The birds would fly to the nest without material and settle onto the nest, presumably incubating, and remaining for ten to twenty minutes before leaving. I can not say that the birds were successful in raising young as we never observed any. In fact, I never saw the adults after May 31 and I have the feeling that the attempt to nest may have failed. At any rate, the Yellow-throated Warbler did make an attempt and we should watch for them in sycamores near the river bottoms next year.

On June 22 I also observed a male and female Kentucky Warbler defending an area at the Nature Center in Akron. They had been seen by Bert Szabo earlier and were observed

by others for several days later. We did not find a nest there; however, fearing the possibility of stepping on it.

These two little birds fiercely defended the area from humans and would fly close and call loudly when the territory was encroached upon. -DAVID STOVER

A Stebbin's Gulch Visit On June 27 I had the opportunity to visit Stebbin's Gulch and the Little Mountain area of Geauga and Lake Counties. At Stebbin's Gulch I noted 9+ Acadian Flycatchers, 3+ territorial male Winter Wrens, 5+ Solitary Vireos, 2 Northern Parulas, 7+ Black-throated Green Warblers, 4+ (including 1 fledgling) Louisiana Waterthrushes, 9+ Hooded Warblers, and 9+ territorial male (plus 1 fledgling) Canada Warblers. At Little Mountain I saw 5+ Acadian Flycatchers, 1 territorial male Winter Wren, 1 Solitary Vireo, 4+ (including 1 fledgling) Black-throated Green Warblers, 2 territorial male Blackburnian Warblers. 3+ (including 2 fledglings) Louisiana Waterthrushes, 10+ Hooded Warblers, and an adult and fledgling Dark-eyed Junco. Both areas were quite interesting and other species may have been present had I been there earlier in the breeding season. BRUCE PETERJOHN

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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.

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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 at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

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The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 696-8136. 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 each Tuesday. In case of extreme rarities, e. ., Heermann's Gull, Varied Thrush, Sabine's Gull, the tape should be called the day of the observation