



CLEVELAND REGION

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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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THE WEATHER  
Summer Season, 1981

June - Most of the cooler than normal days passed in the latter half of the month and particularly from the 22nd to 28th, but overall temperatures averaged to 68.2 degrees or 0.3 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation was fairly well distributed through the month on 12 days and totaled 4.68 inches, 1.4 inches above normal.

July - Temperatures averaged out to 71.3 degrees or 0.1 degrees below normal. Most of the cooler than normal days again passed in the latter half of the month. Measurable precipitation totaled 5.31 inches, 1.86 inches above normal, and occurred on 11 days. Sunshine prevailed 69% of the possible compared with 68% for June.

August - Overall, temperatures averaged out to 70.0 degrees which was normal. The cooler than normal days were nearly all confined to the period from the 16th through 26th. Precipitation was measurable on 11 days with three more days producing traces to total 2.61 inches, 0.39 inches below normal. Distribution was uneven with all but 0.33 inches occurring by the 16th. From the 17th to 26th there was no precipitation at all. Sunshine prevailed 58% of the time possible.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Fun, relaxation, getting away from it all - these are phrases which are synonymous with summer and summertime activities. And they are also applicable to the birder and his pursuits - the fun and camaraderie of standing on a local mudflat studying shorebirds, the relaxation of strolling through one's local park enjoying the local nesters, and the getting away from it all by exploring some cool, shady ravine in a place you infrequently bird. As the summer issue of the Cleveland Bird Calendar has been demonstrating, this issue is no exception, birding in the Cleveland area at this season means discovering new facts about the local bird population and thus expanding current knowledge of the region's birds. Any contribution, be it large or small, to this publication serves this purpose, and though not all records are published herewith, all, nevertheless, form the basis for a new awareness of local summer birding. So now read about what you did in the summer of 1981.

Shorebirds Just when shore birding was thought to be a thing of the past in the Cleveland area, the Corps of Engineers dredging sites at Lorain and Gordon Park began producing shorebirds. And an intense desire to study the wind birds has even led one local shorebirder to discover "his own" mudflat near Kent. In addition to the more common "peeps", Lorain produced two Western Sandpipers on August 1 and a Baird's Sandpiper on August 27. Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers predominated at Gordon Park with Stilt Sandpipers and Western Sandpipers recorded there in late August. Whimbrels were noted from Gordon Park, Edgewater, and Burke Airport where a flock of up to four was observed in late July and early August. Apparently a different flock of Whimbrels, numbering as many as five, remained at Burke Airport in late August.

Reports of shorebirds from the inland mudflat at Kent were very interesting. Western Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Stilt Sandpipers, all uncommon away from lakefront areas, were all found in August (Rosche). These sightings prove that if proper habitat is provided for shorebirds, the birds will get there.

Gulls, Terns Herring Gulls were unsuccessful in a nesting attempt at Lake Rock- well with the nest box abandoned by June 27. Adult Herring Gulls also were found at

Lakeview Cemetery until June 4 and at favored lakefront areas but no evidence of nesting could be discerned. It is just a matter of time until the area's first actual nest is found as this species has nested successfully around the Cleveland Zoo and has been unsuccessful in attempts both at Lake Rockwell and Holy Cross Cemetery.

The Gordon Park landfill attracted good counts of terns in August. Common Terns and Black Terns both peaked on August 14 with 800 Common Terns and 500 Black Terns present on that date. Forster's Terns gathered at this site in unprecedented numbers with a new region high of 30 on August 2. More than a dozen Forster's Terns were noted on several dates throughout August. The Noteworthy Records section reveals the details of the Cleveland area's second record of Least Tern. Now for the Arctic Tern!!

Common Nighthawk The last 5 days of August produced the most numbers of Common Nighthawks. On August 28 more than 800 were noted at Kent (Rosche) and 200 were reported from Lakewood (Stasko). 173, also from Lakewood, were observed on August 31 (Klamm).

Alder Flycatcher One of the most significant aspects of the summer of 1981 was the discovery in late July of a colony of Alder Flycatchers at the Streetsboro Bog. At least ten singing birds were found on August 1 (Rosche). It was just in May of 1980 that the first documented occurrence of this species in the Cleveland region was made. And now a nesting colony has been found. Further investigations into this area will hopefully shed additional light on this species status at this location.

Vireos, Warblers White-eyed Vireo must now be considered an uncommon summer resident in the Cleveland region as the species was present all summer on Major Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation (Flynn) and a young bird was noted at Lake Rockwell (Rosche). Three Solitary Vireos were observed in hemlock areas of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on June 16 and five were recorded from Holden Arboretum on June 30. To complete the vireo nesting picture, an amazing 14 Yellow-throated Vireos were encountered in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on June 16.

Exploration of proper habitat during the nesting season is turning up more warbler breeding records. On June 30 Holden Arboretum produced 3 Magnolia Warblers, 8 Black-throated Green Warblers, and 8 Canada Warblers (Rosche). Other interesting warbler reports were three young Black-throated Green Warblers from Painesville on August 17 (Miller), a Canada Warbler from Virginia Kendall Park in June (Flynn), and a singing Chestnut-sided Warbler on Harvard Road of Warrensville Farms on July 21 and 23 (Knight). The Ovenbird may be faring better locally as the species was reported as "doing well" in the Cuyahoga Valley, and four territorial males were heard at Chapin State Forest on June 27. From Painesville there came the report of four Ovenbirds during the nesting season. Two juvenile Prairie Warblers were mist netted on Major Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area thereby constituting a first verified nesting record for the region. These nesting season explorations are a welcomed development in Cleveland area birding.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - A bird in breeding plumage remained along the lakefront in Lorain from August 22 to 24 (Pogacnik).

Ruddy Duck - A bird in female plumage was noted on the afternoon of August 10 at the Gordon Park Landfill (Klamm).

Piping Plover - A single bird associated with Killdeer at Burke Airport on July 29 (Klamm).

Red Knot - One in transition plumage was observed at the Gordon Park Impoundment on August 31 (Klamm).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Up to 14 were reported from Burke Airport beginning August 29 (Klamm, LePage).

Hudsonian Godwit - Large size and gray coloration immediately identified this species at the Gordon Park Impoundment on August 28 (Klamm).

American Avocet - Three birds were present at the Gordon Park Impoundment on August 7 with one bird there the next day (Klamm, Hoffman).

Red Phalarope - A single winter plumaged individual was studied and contrasted with Northern Phalaropes at the Gordon Park Impoundment on August 27 (Hoffman). This sighting thus becomes both the region's first summer and first August record of this species.

Northern Phalarope - Two birds were initially found at the Gordon Park Impoundment on August 14 (Klamm). Seven individuals were at this site from August 29 to 31. (Many observers). This species was last noted in August in 1958 and the seven birds represent the largest flock in this area since the observation of 18 Northern Phalaropes at Fairport Harbor on September 17, 1950.

Black-headed Gull - A winter-plumaged adult was observed at Lorain on August 13 (Pogacnik).

Laughing Gull - An individual in summer plumage was found at the Gordon Park Impoundment on July 12 (Hoffman).

Franklin's Gull - Another of the black-headed gulls, an adult Franklin's Gull was noted at the Gordon Park Impoundment on July 11 (LePage).

Least Tern - An adult was discovered sitting by itself at the Gordon Park Impoundment late in the morning of August 29 (Klamm, Hoffman). Very small size, white forehead, yellowish bill, and wing pattern easily set this bird apart. The bird was seen again on August 30. The only other record of Least Tern in the Cleveland area is of four birds on September 4, 1951 at Lake Dorothy in Barberton. For some observers, August 29 was a five species of tern day at Gordon Park

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - A rare mid-summer record was a single bird at Rocky River Metropark on July 5 (Stasko).

Lawrence's Warbler - One was observed at Tinkers Creek on July 5 (Elder, Rosche).

Tennessee Warbler - A very early fall migrant was an adult at Sims Park on August 2 (Corbin).

Yellow-rumped Warbler - Another early fall migrant was a bird at Lorain on August 21 (Hoffman).

Blackpoll Warbler - A new latest spring date was established when a singing male was found around the creek at Wildwood Park on June 21 (Kellerman). A singing male, also at Wildwood Park, on June 16 1974 marked the previous late spring date.

Northern Waterthrush - A single bird was found in Geauga County on July 6 (Rosche).



Kentucky Warbler - (1) A male reappeared at Chapin State Forest on June 27 and July 4 (Corbin). (2) One was mist netted on Major Road of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on August 26 (Flynn).

Orchard Oriole - One was noted at Caley Park in Lorain on June 7 (LePage).

White-winged Crossbill - The immature male that had spent the spring at a feeder in Lorain was joined by a second immature male on June 1 and both remained at this Lorain location until June 9 (Pogacnik). This was the first summer record of this erratic species in CBC files.

White-throated Sparrow - One appeared at a feeder in Lakewood on June 18 and 19 (Stasko).

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Addendum (Spring, 1981)

Summer Tanager - A male was seen at Kent on May 7 (Rosche).

FIELD NOTES

A Note on Phalaropes August 1981 brought a new dimension to phalaropes in Cleveland. I had never seen more than two Northern Phalaropes together here, but in late August from one to an incredible seven were present on the water in the Gordon Park landfill. This exciting event afforded views of a variety in non-breeding plumages and study of behavior unusual in Ohio. Even more unusual was the Red Phalarope which appeared with three Northern Phalaropes on August 27. This was the first August record of Red Phalarope for the Cleveland region, though they are abundant at this time in the Gulf of Maine (Finch, et al "Pelagic Birds in the Gulf of Maine", AM. BIRDS, 1978, 32:281).

Since there are difficulties in differentiating non-breeding plumaged Red Phalaropes and Northern Phalaropes, it was very rewarding to observe them together. I was familiar with the physical differences, but I was surprised by the differences in their behavior. The Northern Phalaropes were always very active while feeding, rapidly spinning, picking, jabbing, swimming up and down an expanse of water. They moved so quickly as to seem "nervous".

By contrast, the Red Phalarope fed in the same manner, but with slower, more deliberate motions. It also fed in a much smaller area, preferring to be along the concrete wall. Most striking was the Red Phalarope's behavior toward the Northern Phalaropes. When one of the Northern Phalaropes fed close to it, the Red Phalarope lowered its head and swam at the intruding Northern Phalarope. Sometimes this rush resulted in a brief flight toward the other phalarope. I saw no actual contact, but the Northern Phalaropes would move away. This happened at least six times with three different Northern Phalaropes. The Northern Phalaropes fed in loose association with no evidence of this behavior among them. -- JEAN HOFFMAN

#### Nesting of a Prothonotary Warbler

- 5/24 Male bird found singing and seemingly protecting territory in Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, on the west side of the railroad tracks, 1/2 mile north of Station Road. The area is heavily wooded and forest was flooded with three feet of water.
- 5/25 Bird singing constantly was seen entering woodpecker holes, one of which had what may have been the beginnings of a nest. (Moss and lichens cupped at bottom of woodpecker hole, 3 1/2 feet above standing water. A second singing male was seen today abutting territory to the north).
- 5/27 Female observed for the first time, she made several trips to the nest site with nesting material. Nest at this time seems about completed with moss, dried grass, skeletoned leaves, and small twigs. Second singing male to the north with a fourth bird, presumably a female, seen.
- 5/29 Nest completed. The second pair is on territory to the north. Territory of the original pair is approximately 60M x 100M judging by territorial squabbling between the two pairs. Nest of second pair has not been located.
- 5/31 No eggs in nest. Male seen taking insects to nest as if to feed young. Second pair not seen on this date.

- 6/3 No eggs. Second male calling.
- 6/6 Five eggs. Second pair calling.
- 6/8 Five eggs.
- 6/17 Four of five eggs just hatched.
- 6/21 Four young birds in nest, fifth egg apparently infertile. Nest of second pair located, also with four young which seem to be one or two days older than young of first pair. Nest location of second pair 100M to north of first pair, it was two feet above water which was 30 inches deep.
- 6/27 Parent birds still feeding young birds at first nest, male seems to be doing most of the feeding, making 2 1/2 trips to nest for each by the female. Young birds in second nest have fledged, no evidence of them or the parent birds was noted. One infertile egg was still in the nest. No further observations were made.  
-RICHARD KASSOUF

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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)696-8186. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland region as well as other interesting observations should be called in to the tape on Mondays as the tape is replaced with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, . . ., Sabine's Gull, Varied Thrush, the tape should be called the day of the observation. Out-of-state rarities like Jabiru (Texas) and Bahama Woodstar (Florida) have also been past tape highlights.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be directed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Attention: Helen Yenkevich, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.