



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

Assistant Editor

Elinor Elder

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistants

Jean Hoffman

Ethel D. Surman

CONTRIBUTORS

Emil Bacik

Howard R. Besser.

Kay F. Booth

Dave Corbin

Ralph W. Dexter

Elinor Elder

Ray Hannikman

Dick and Jean Hoffman

Tom Kellerman

William and Nancy Klamm

Walter P. Kreamm

Charles H. Knight

Christopher Lee

Tom LePage

Jack and Dorothy Miller

Carl Newhous

Perry K. Peskin

Bruce Peterjohn

Edwin C. Pierce

John Pogacnik

Richard Rickard

Larry Rosche

Margaret H. Sherwin

Gordon Spare

Michael Stasko

* * * * *

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

Ray Hannikman
440 East 260th St.
Euclid, OH 44132

THE WEATHER
Fall Season
1 Sept. - 30 Nov. 1981

September - The month was very wet and not too sunny. Sunshine prevailed 46% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 6.75 inches for an excess of 3.95 inches. Rainfall came on 15 days well distributed but not as to intensity since 71% of the precipitation occurred by the 15th. Temperatures averaged out to 62.4 degrees or 1.5 degrees cooler than normal.

October - Precipitation, including snowfall, came on 11 days, mostly in the last half of the month. As water this was 2.33 inches and was in deficit by 1.24 inches. Snow totaled 4.00 inches, 3.80 inches on the 19th and 0.20 inches on the 23rd. Sunshine prevailed 52% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged out to 50 degrees or 3.80 degrees below normal.

November - Temperatures averaged out to 42.6 degrees, 1.0 degrees above normal. Sunshine prevailed 50% of the time possible. Measurable precipitation including snowfall came on only 8 days with most in the latter half of the month. As water precipitation totaled 1.99 inches or 0.77 inches below normal. Snow totaled 2.0 inches and was confined to the 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Fall is the "do-your-own-thing" birding season. You can stroll through a favored woods in September and greet the warblers as they make their way south, you can sit in your backyard and count Common Loons, you can look out over a windswept lakefront airport and wonder at the haunting beauty of a Snowy Owl, or you can get in a van, forget what and who is troubling you at the office, and go test your skill at identifying gulls from above. So take a few minutes to relive, in the following paragraphs, the latest birding fall of your life.

Common Loon Favorable northerly winds on weekends and observers keenly interested in expanding knowledge of loon migration combined to produce excellent data on the local fall movements of these birds. The season's best counts were as follows --

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
10/24	42	East 260th Street to Sims Park
11/17	138	East 260th Street to Sims Park to Wildwood Park to Northeast Yacht Club
11/29	511	Along I-271 from Mayfield Road. to I-90
11/29	150	East 260th Street

Observers: Rosche, Elder, Hannikman

All of the above records were of loons flying overhead. The only exception to this pattern has been 1978 when bad weather forced the loons to fly low over Lake Erie on an east-to-west course and was responsible for putting down more than 175 loons off Wildwood Park.

The biggest obstacle (besides weekend trips to Niagara Falls) to gathering loon migration data seems to be the fact that the birds are often- times high overhead soon after daybreak with much of the day's flights over by 8:30 a.m. Few birders are stationed at vantage points early enough in late October and November to witness the loon flights. The observers who compiled the above data have even speculated that the bulk of loon migration may occur at night with the early morning counts being the tail end of the previous evening's flights. Analysis of this year's data

and past data also brings out the curious fact that practically all the best counts of loons have come from areas east of the Cuyahoga River. 27 loons along I-90 between Avon Lake and the Lorain County line may indicate that if observers were stationed at the right places in western Cuyahoga County, they could also be seeing loons. It was unfortunate that the observers' absences from the Cleveland area during the peak loon migration time of November 14 and 15 and 21 and 22 left a gap in this year's data. A more complete picture of a season's loon migration may include same day east side/west side coverage at strategic lakefront sites and observers who are willing to pinch hit loon watching when their fellow birders are leading trips out of state.

Whistling Swan Large numbers of swans failed to materialize in November. Best totals were as follows: November 7, 200 at Lake Rockwell (Rosche), November 21, 41 at Edgewater (LePage), November 23, 50 at Sims Park (Corbin), November 24, 80 at Eastlake (LePage), and November 28, 125 at Chardon (Spare). It has been noted in the past that when there are numbers of loons observed there can also be significant swan movement for both species are November migrants and both move with favorable northerly winds. There was good loon movement on November 7 and there were 200 swans at Lake Rockwell, and there was the terrific weekend of November 28 and 29 and there were the 125 swans in Chardon. There was only one loon reported during the period from November 21 to 24 when the above rather minor influx of swans of this three day period was noted. Observers, used to looking for swans in November, should now search the skies for loons as well.

Waterfowl Ring-necked Ducks peaked at Lake Rockwell on November 1 with 1750 present. On no other day during the season were more than 1,000 noted. The Gordon Park Impoundment has become a regular stopover point for migrant waterfowl. All three species of scoter as well as Oldsquaw occurred there in October and November. Protected habitat such as Gordon Park and an increase in lakefront observers probably account for an increase in reports of these species and such species as Gadwall whose numbers appear to be on the upswing. Hooded Mergansers also made a good showing at Lake Rockwell with 220 on November 27. No concentrations of Red-breasted Mergansers were noted. This was somewhat surprising as numbers of

this species built up to well over one-quarter of a million birds during the last three days of November in western Lake Erie. Only small flocks totaling several hundred - birds were observed at Lorain and Burke Airport.

Shorebirds Two Whimbrels remained at Burke Airport until September 3. Afterwards, no others were noted. After two autumns when these birds were rather scarce, Golden Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers were counted in excellent numbers. Amazing were 91 Golden Plovers on October 1 as well as 60 on September 27, 64 on September 29 and 55 on October 3 (Klamm). After October 3 the Golden Plovers quickly departed to be replaced by Black-bellied Plovers. Numbers of this species fluctuated between 10 and 27 from October 5 to 28. Among the more uncommon species were two Western Sandpipers inland at Kent in September (Rosche) and a Stilt Sandpiper at Gordon Park on September 3 (Klamm).

Gulls and Terns An early Glaucous Gull briefly appeared at Lorain on November 28. Franklin's Gulls, all immatures, were reported on only five dates for the entire season and then only as single birds. The fall's first Little Gull was found on November 21 and thereafter small numbers could be located along the lakefront. Quite interestingly, Mentor was the best place to observe the most numbers of this species with a maximum of five birds present at one time. The abundance of Little Gulls in the fall of 1979, when more than a dozen individuals could be studied at East 55th Street, appears to have distorted the thinking on the status of this species in the Cleveland area for that fall was undoubtedly a very good Little Gull year whereas the past two falls probably reflect more accurately the true abundance of this bird locally.

The Gordon Park Landfill continued to attract unprecedented numbers of Forster's Terns during September with up to 17 birds noted there on September 20. Black Terns did not linger for with the exception of a single straggler on October 1, observations of this species ceased after September 7.

Nighthawks, Swifts Minor gatherings of Common Nighthawks appeared on September 1, 2, and 9. 40 birds each evening were reported from Warrensville Farms on September 2 and 9 (Knight), 26 on Cleveland's west side on September 2 (Klamm), and 25 along the shoreway from East 72nd Street to East 105th Street on September 1 (Hannikman).

During September and October Chimney Swifts in great numbers gathered at Lake Rockwell. The report for September 18 mentioned "1,000's (Rosche). The whole lake area just teemed with the swifts as they prepared for the long journey to South America. In mid-September late Bank and Barn Swallows as well as up to four Cliff Swallows joined the swarming hordes of swifts.

Owls Beginning November 14 two distinctly different Snowy Owls could be noted at Burke Airport. The Screech Owl is usually reported only when stumbled upon in the woods or when one fortuitously takes up residence at a conspicuous roosting place such as a nest box. The report of five Screech Owls located at Lake Rockwell before dawn on October 9 (Rosche) may indicate that this nocturnal dweller could be more frequently found if the proper owling effort were made.

Water pipit The Water Pipit is a species which rarely evokes comment from CBC contributors. The main thrust of this species' fall migration through the area certainly occurred on October 25 when "water pipits were everywhere I went ... and overhead I heard them anytime I was out (Rosche)." 25 were recorded over the observer's house, 50+ at Lake Rockwell, and 38 at Silver Lake.

Warblers With the exception of September 18 at Sims Park and with the exception of a few species such as Bay-breasted Warbler and Magnolia Warbler, the fall warbler migration was typified by average to below average numbers of both species and individuals (when a contributor mentions that the usually ubiquitous Yellow-rumped Warbler seemed less common than normal, you know it was not a warbler fall). September 18, nevertheless, produced excellent variety and numbers of warblers at Sims Park as violent weather put the birds down. Among the 19 species of warblers there that day were 50+ Magnolia Warblers, 50+ Bay-breasted Warblers, and 20+ Black-throated Green Warblers. The season's more unusual sightings included a late Nashville Warbler at the East 156th Street Bluff on November 1 (Kellerman), an Ovenbird at Chester Commons on October 16 (Hannikman), and three Connecticut Warblers, two at Sims Park (Corbin) and one at Lorain (Pogacnik).

Evening Grosbeak Just a modest incursion of Evening Grosbeaks developed. Largest flock was 40 birds on October 29 at Lake Rockwell. Smaller flocks were observed at

Kent, Shaker Lakes, Bath and Chardon. The larger flocks noted were just in transit as none remained in a particular area for any length of time.

Yearly Summary In the BIRD CALENDAR year now ended (December 1, 1980 to November 30, 1981), 271 species of birds were recorded in the Cleveland area. This was ten less than the previous year. No jaegers were spotted, the Saw-whet Owl went undetected for the first time in several years, and neither shrike was found. On the plus side were Ohio's first Mew Gull, the Cleveland area's second Least Tern, White-fronted Goose, Le Conte's Sparrow, the discovery of a nesting colony of Alder Flycatchers, and the return of that terribly lost Heermann's Gull. A sight record and photograph of a Brown Pelican awaits review by the Ohio Records Committee. This would be another new species for the Cleveland area.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - The year's only sighting was of an individual off of the Northeast Yacht Club on November 11 (Corbin).

Eared Grebe - A bird in winter plumage was astutely studied for fifteen minutes as it drifted from close to the breakwall at Wildwood Yacht Club out into the lake and out of sight. (Rosche, Elder, Hannikman). It was just in November of 1980 that the Cleveland region had its first fall.

Eared Grebe. The species may prove to be an uncommon fall transient as more attention is paid to fall grebes.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Two individuals were noted: the adult at Rocky River left on the evening of September 5 (Klamm), and an immature at Shaker Lakes on September 7 (Peskin).

Brant - (1) Twelve were observed in flight and as they rested on the water off Mentor Headlands on October 29 (Hoffman). (2) Six passed close to the breakwall at Wildwood on October 31 (Kellerman).

Harlequin Duck - A female was sighted just to the east of the breakwall at Sims Park on November 3 (Corbin). The intensive coverage of lakefront areas during the past several years has changed the status of this species from that of very rare visitor to that of uncommon late fall, winter, and early spring migrant.

Peregrine Falcon - Two individuals were reported: a bird at the East 55th Street Marina on October 6 (Klamm) and an immature at Burke Airport on November 21 (Pierce)

Piping Plover - An immature appeared at Burke Airport on the afternoon of September 1 (Besser).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - A solitary straggler was first noted at Burke Airport on October 24 and remained until the unheard of late date of October 28 (Besser, Hoffman). Needless to say, the latter date is a new late fall date of occurrence, the previous late date had been October 9, 1980. On September 1 and 2 up to three Buff-breasted Sandpipers could be found at Burke Airport (Several observers).

Hudsonian Godwit - Another laggard, one was recorded at Burke Airport on October 6 and 7 (Klamm, Hoffman).

American Avocet - 2 on September 2, 3 on September 13, and 3 on October 18 were all observed at the Gordon Park Impoundment (Klamm et al.).

Northern Phalarope - Up to ten birds were observed also daily from September 1 to September 20 at the Gordon Park Landfill (Many observers).

Red Phalarope - One was seen at Lorain on October 3 (LePage).

Wilson's Phalarope - A lone bird was contrasted with Northern Phalaropes on September 6 at the Gordon Park Landfill (Besser).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Two birds on November 21, and single birds on November 20, 25, and 28 constituted the fall sightings from Lorain (Pogacnik). An adult was at Eastlake on November 14 (Peterjohn).

Thayer's Gull - A first-year bird was reported at Lorain on November 20 (Pogacnik).

Mew Gull - The eighteenth species of gull to visit Ohio shores, a first-year immature of the west coast race Larus canus brachyrhynchus, was critically studied as it frequented the area behind the Lorain Wastewater Treatment Plant on the afternoon of November 29 (Peterjohn, Rosche, Elder, Hannikman). See the Field Notes section for a more detailed account of this sighting.

Black-legged Kittiwake - An immature was at Lorain on November 22 and 26 (LePage, Pogacnik).

Whip-poor-will - A tardy migrant was captured and banded at Sims Park on October 3 (Talkington, Corbin, Hannikman).

Lawrence's Warbler - The bird that summered at Tinker's Creek was last seen on September 1 (Elder).

White-winged Crossbill - (1) The immature male noted the previous winter, spring, and summer made it four seasons in a row when it appeared at a feeder in Lorain on September 10. Another immature male was at Ridgehill Cemetery in Lorain on November 21 (Pogacnik). (2) Two males and at least four females or immatures were noted at Shaker Lakes on October 25 (Rickard). (3) Ten appeared at Edgewater Park on November 17 (LePage).

FIELD NOTES

Chickadee Banding Over 100 Black-capped Chickadees have been banded as individuals at the Brecksville Trailside Interpretive Center of the Cleveland Metroparks System by bird bander Marie Morgan of Akron. Each chickadee has its own unique combination of plastic-colored bands and the regular aluminum band. One of the goals of this study is to learn more about the range of individual chickadees. If you observe any banded chickadee with colored hands, please record the bands on both legs and their position, top and bottom; that is, white over orange over white and white over aluminum. Also, make note of the date, time, and location and please report it by calling 526-1012 or mailing your observation to: Karl Smith, Brecksville Interpretive Center, 9305 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141. -- KARL P. SMITH

Mew Gull at Lorain The Mew Gull has become the eighteenth species of gull to be noted in Ohio. Ross' Gull and Western Gull have been recorded from Illinois, so our state has the potential to add two more species to our gull list. (With the "gull" people whom I know in this state this should be no problem, at least in identifying one of these waifs if one does occur). Also possible is the occurrence of Mew Gull of the nominate European race, *Larus canus*. Ohio would probably become the only state in the lower 48 to have both races of Mew Gull that have been seen in the lower 48 on its state gull list. North America's third race of Mew Gull, *l. g. kamtschatschensis* is the Siberian race and known only from the west Aleutian Islands

of Attu, Buildir, and Shemya. The following is my account of this exciting occurrence.

Species: Mew Gull, Larus canus brachyrhynchus

PLUMAGE First-winter.

SIZE Bird was slightly smaller than both adult and immature Ring-billed Gulls present and very much smaller than the Herring Gulls present.

BILL Yellow tip, black ring, yellow until the base of the bill (about 1/2 of the total length of the bill was yellow). To me, the bill length and mass were not noticeably different from those of the Ring-billed Gull.

LEGS Leg color was pinkish. The tarsi were shorter than the tarsi of Ring-billed Gull.

MANTLE & BODY Back color was a light brown/gray color. There was little contrast between the coloring of the back feathers and the color of the wing coverts on the sitting bird. Rather than the checkerboard like color of first-year Ring-billed Gulls, the light brown/gray back color smoothly blended into the light brown color of the wing coverts. And this color blended into the light brown color of the sides of the bird.

TAIL Tail had a brown subterminal band and the upper tail coverts were a uniform, light brown color. The undertail was delicately spotted, not heavily barred. Even though the bird was observed flying, the color of the feathers directly under the tail was not observed.

THE FLYING BIRD Elinor Elder and I both noticed a faint, light brown wing stripe which extended from the bend in the bird's wing to the mantle.

BEHAVIOR Typical gull behavior, standing on a pier, preening, about three short flights and one longer flight were taken before the bird flew off.

WEATHER There were fairly strong winds from the northwest north quadrant on Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28. Winds were lighter but still from the north/northwest on November 29. Wind direction may be a possible explanation for the Mew Gull's presence at Lorain for I believe the bird was blown in from the upper Great Lakes. Other species moving during this three-day period were tremendous numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers in Western Lake Erie, a Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at Lorain on November 28 along with a Glaucous Gull. On November 29, an Eared Grebe was found at Cleveland, and record numbers of migrating Common Loons were noted during the morning of November 29. West-to-east migrants were definitely moving during this period. - Ray Hannikman

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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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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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The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 697-8186. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland region as well as other interesting observations should be called into the tape on Mondays as the tape is updated at this time with current sightings. In the case of extreme rarities, Sabine's Gull, Mew 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.