



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

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THE WEATHER  
Summer  
1982

June - A cool month passed as temperatures averaged out to 64.1 degrees or 3.8 degrees below normal. There were only 8 widely scattered days when warmer than normal temperatures occurred and sunshine prevailed only 54% of the time possible. Precipitation was fairly well distributed on 10 days and totalled 5.01 inches, 1.73 inches above normal.

July - Rainfall was woefully short and poorly distributed on 6 days. Measurable precipitation totalled only 1.31 inches leaving a deficit of 2.24 inches for the month. Of the total, 0.93 inches came on the 3rd, and 0.10 inches on the 19th, and the rest on and after the 26th. Sunshine prevailed 69% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged out to 73.6 degrees, 2.2 degrees warmer than normal.

August - Warmer than normal temperatures ran through the 9th, then only 4 days occurred with warmer conditions and overall temperatures averaged out to 67.9 degrees, 2.1 degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation was scattered over 7 days and totalled 2.66 inches, 0.34 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 58% of the time possible.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Nothing can shatter the calm of a midsummer night's day-dreaming like a call about a new bird for the state of Ohio. And so began the saga of Ohio's first Painted Bunting. This bird, together with shorebirds, gulls and terns, and the nesting species, made up the story that was the summer of 1982, and you, as a contributor to this publication, helped write the story with your interest in the summer birds of the Cleveland region.

Shorebirds Preparations for and clean-up work after a July 4 roadrace at Burke Airport affected some species of shorebirds. Upland Sandpipers, infrequent breeders at Burke, went unreported there and elsewhere during the summer and should this race become an annual event, this species will be gone as a nester at this location. Summer breeding populations of Killdeer and Horned Larks would probably be adversely affected also. Another negative aspect of the shorebird season was that Buff-breasted Sandpipers had not arrived at Burke by the end of August by which time these birds have usually begun to pass through the Cleveland area.

Gordon Park, Lorain, the Kent mudflat, and West Branch mudflat near Akron produced the majority of shorebird reports. Spring shorebird migration spilled over into early June as 2 Dunlins and 1 Least Sandpiper were found at Gordon Park on June 4 (Klamm) and a dawdling Semipalmated Sandpiper appeared at Lorain on June 13 (LePage). Other interesting reports were as follows - at Gordon Park, 17 Willets on July 7 (Klamm) and 1 Western Sandpiper on July 17 (Hannikman), at Kent, a breeding plumaged Stilt Sandpiper on July 15 (Rosche), and at West Branch, 3 Baird's Sandpipers on August 25 and 26 (Elder, Rosche) and 1 Sanderling on August 30 (Rosche).

Gulls, Terns Another nesting attempt failed for Herring Gull at Lake Rockwell. Other gulls of interest were an immature Great Black-backed Gull at Lorain on July 17 (Hannikman), an immature Franklin's Gull at Gordon Park on August 16 and an adult of this species at Lorain on August 28 and 29 (LePage, Rosche), and a sub-adult Little Gull at Lorain on July 15 and 17 (several observers) and flying past Sims Park on August 22 (Hannikman).

The rubber tires of Lorain and the concrete outfall sewer and huge rocks of Gordon Park attracted good counts



of terns. Maximum numbers of Forster's Terns was 20 on July 24 at Lorain (LePage). Numbers of Common Terns at Gordon Park varied from 275 on August 25 to 600 on August 15 and 16 whereas 2,400 rested on the tires at Lorain on August 23. The peak abundance of Black Terns coincided with that of Common Terns with high counts of 1,000 birds on August 15 and 16 (LePage). Quite unlike Common Terns, Black Terns appeared only in numbers at Gordon Park. An interesting behavioral characteristic of the three tern species that comprised the great majority of birds at Gordon Park was that the Common Terns preferred the outfall sewer, the Caspian Terns occupied the small islands of the lagoon area, and the Black Terns gathered on the outfall pipe and rocks. This aided in accurate censusing of the birds.

Common Nighthawk One observer reported that "literally hundreds" of Common Nighthawks could be seen kettling over the Cuyahoga River in Kent after August 25 (Rosche) and he speculated that this was caused by an outbreak of dark-red colored gnats present in Kent at this time. Elsewhere, largest gatherings of Common Nighthawks were 100 silent birds at Richmond and Wilson Mills Road on August 24 (Hoffman) and 65 birds in Lakewood on August 30 (Stasko).

Alder Flycatcher The Streetsboro Bog colony of Alder Flycatchers was again active with at least 10 birds noted on July 25 (Rosche). The birds' behavior during the breeding season is fascinating as they become very quiet after nesting begins but vigorously start singing again in late July just before their southward migration commences.

Warblers Chestnut-sided Warblers again set up residence on Major Road of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Other places from which this locally expansionist species was reported during prime nesting time were Lake Rockwell, Tinker's Creek, Chardon, and Lake Aquilla. The Major Road area also hosted a reported nine territorial male Prairie Warblers during the summer. Hooded Warblers with 21 birds in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on July 9 and 25 at Stebbins Gulch on July 16 and Black-throated Green Warblers with 10 birds at Stebbins Gulch on July 16 are locally nesting species that appear to be doing well in proper habitat (Rosche). Only one Prothonotary Warbler nest, at Oxbow Pond of Mill Stream Run Metropark, was recorded (Hinkle) and successful Ovenbird nesting was noted only in Painesville with one young in July and three on August 1 (Miller).

Very early "fall" migrants were a singing Black-and-white Warbler on July 22 at Shaker Lakes (Lee) and what appeared to be a juvenal Black-throated Green Warbler on July 25 at Sims Park (Hannikman). Hard to classify, except as curiously interesting, were the two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats that suddenly appeared at the old Brooklyn Airport on July 10. The birds were described as "displaying and very noisy" and were present until the following weekend (Bacik). Perhaps the pairs drove each other away.

Addenda (Spring, 1982):

Goshawk An immature was noted at a residence in Lorain on March 9 (Pogacnik).

Worm-eating Warbler A single bird was at University School on May 9 (Rickard).

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

American Wigeon - One appeared at Gordon Park on June 20 (Klamm).

Lesser Scaup - A summering bird was noted at Gordon Park from June 4 to August 1 (Klamm).

Red-breasted Merganser - An immature and/or female, noted on several dates in the spring, was observed at Rocky River on June 10 (Klamm).

Piping Plover - An early migrant appeared at Lorain on July 12 (LePage).

Red Knot - The season's only individual was at Lorain on August 18 (LePage).

Long-billed Dowitcher - Only the second record in CBC files was a fully-plumaged bird at Lorain on July 15 (Pogacnik).

American Avocet - (1) Two birds in summer plumage were photographed at Gordon Park on July 13 (Klamm). (2) A lone bird was at Lorain on July 18 (LePage). This was Lorain's first record of this species.

Wilson's Phalarope - A winter-plumaged bird remained at Gordon Park from August 18 to 20 (Klamm).

Northern Phalarope - A single bird was at East 55th Street on August 29 (Hoffman).

Laughing Gull - Observations were all at Lorain - two adults, one of which was in high breeding plumage with the all black head and a faint pink blush to the underparts, on June 5 (Hoffman) and a single bird from July 12 to 19 (many observers).

Forster's Tern - A lone bird in winter plumage was found at Mentor Headlands on June 16 (LePage). This species had never been recorded in June in CBC files.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - A successful nesting occurred in Kent as evidenced by 2 adults feeding 2 young on June 12 (Rosche).

Short-billed Marsh Wren - A singing bird frequented a field at Western Reserve Academy throughout June until at least July 10 (many observers).

Mockingbird - One was occasionally found at Gordon Park from July 9 to August 20 (Kellerman, et al.).

Golden-winged Warbler - A striking male, with a yellowish tint to his underparts, was discovered at Sims Park on August 15 (Corbin).

Nashville Warbler - A singing bird was reported from Hastings Road Metropark in Lorain on June 17 (Pogacnik). This species has been reported from this location in previous summers so a concerted effort, if possible, in the future could be attempted to find the nest of this species.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - Two rare summer occurrences - at Rocky River on June 15(Klamm) and in Painesville on July 30 (Miller)..

Blackpoll Warbler - A singing male worked the tops of the trees at Sims Park on June 20 (Hannikman).

Palm Warbler - The observation of a single bird at Sims Park on August 14 and 15 established a new early fall date for this species (Hannikman).

Orchard Oriole - Successful nesting was documented when 2 adults and 2 young were found in the Cuyahoga Valley in Peninsula on July 11 (Rosche).



Painted Bunting - A female or immature male frequented a feeder in north Akron from August 19 to 25 (Lawson, Staiger). The bird was in the typical yellowish/greenish plumage of the female or immature male. Plumage characteristics and the fact that this was a hatching year bird have virtually eliminated any possibility that the bird was an escaped cage bird. This sighting thus becomes the first verified record for Ohio, the previous "record" being a vague reference in Dawson's Birds of Ohio

White-throated Sparrow - A singing bird was noted on June 8 and 10 at Chester Commons in downtown Cleveland (Hannikman).

#### FIELD NOTES

##### Nesting of Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Rocky River

The following are highlights of the complete nesting in Rocky River Valley from observations by William and Nancy Klamm in cooperation with Bob Lamp who made predawn to late morning and late afternoon to postsunset observations daily without fail. Some activities were recorded by movies. Each bird was named to keep track of activities and whereabouts.

May 7 - Both adults together. "Long Plume", the male, has been a regular in the valley for several years and has nested before. "Mystery Lady", the female, was a young adult, very timid, often reluctant, and inexpert at foraging and domestic activities. Courting was vigorous with 30 displays in 27 minutes in the morning. Additional courting and mating activities were regular thereafter, usually in early morning or late evening.

May 20 - The first nest stick is put in place this AM. "Plume" gathered sticks by breaking dead branches from the canopy of nearby trees. "Lady" was a reluctant worker and had to be coaxed and wooed on ensuing days. Progress was slow but steady.

June 2 - Incubation begins today, from this AM on an adult was always on the nest. Each adult had preferred positions for nest sitting and a brief period of stick readjustment took place before settling down on the nest after a duty exchange. All exchanges were made in daylight as the bird on the nest at sunset was the bird on the nest at dawn.

June 23 - "Skinny", a young adult believed to be a former "Long Plume" offspring, arrives from the Stinchcomb/Meadow river area to invade "Lady's" favorite foraging site and drives her away. "Plume" tolerated "Skinny" then lured the invader back to Stinchcomb/Meadow area for a day, but "Skinny" returned. Eventually "Lady" turned the tables and drove "Skinny" from her sites but allowed "Skinny" to forage at relatively short distances away.

June 25 - The first feeding of the nestlings takes place. In the ensuing days the nestlings were finally visible as beaks projected skyward as the adults came to feed. Four, nestlings, "Shadrach", "Meshach", "Abednigo", and "Runt" were evident by size and development. "Shadrach" was the most advanced and first at everything. Both parents brought food and each nestling was fed individually for about 12 days. Thereafter, the food was regurgitated into the center of the nest and the nestlings took what they could. "Plume" was good at discipline, making the young take a position and wait until dinner was delivered. With "Lady" almost uncontrolled begging and jousting occurred at times before food was regurgitated. The birds developed rapidly and began standing in the nest, preening as feathers developed, flapping wings, and all jetted excrement over the side of the nest.

July 15 - First standing on a limb outside the nest by "Shadrach". The other nestlings followed suit on subsequent days. Wing flapping and hanging on tight continued.

July 30 - The first limb jumping. "Shadrach" jumped 3 feet on the limb letting go for the first time. The other nestlings made similar progress on later days.

August 5 - The first flight from the nest tree to an adjacent tree by "Shadrach" and followed by "Meshach". "Abednigo" and "Runt" did not attempt this until days later. Eventually all nestlings moved around in the tree tops but returned to the nest for feeding and roosting.

August 16 - "Skinny" departs the area at sunset. The nestlings continue to wander in the forest canopy and return to the nest to feed and roost.

August 17 - The first known ground touchdown, oddly by "Abednigo" or "Runt". "Shadrach", followed by "Meshach", wandered off first as usual, "Abednigo" and "Runt" departed later but

not too far from the nest tree with one of them coming to the ground where toying with sticks and forest litter was a new experience. The birds returned to the canopy later.

August 18 - “Shadrach” and “Meshach” launch, landing at the river for the first time. The birds stabbed at floating and submerged objects, often acorns, leaves, twigs, and occasionally crayfish and minnows, catching little on this first experience. Bathing was a novelty but preening and sunning were routine. Both birds returned to the nest for evening feeding.

August 19 - “Shadrach” wanders off for the day, returns to roost high in the nest tree, but had no meal. “Shadrach” was never encountered again. “Abednigo” and “Meshach” spend the day on the river and tried to crab and fish, but they return at dusk for feeding and roosting. “Runt” stayed close to the nest all day and was the only one to have meals at the nest during the day.

August 22 - “Meshach” last seen this day.

August 23 - “Runt” launched to the river to go through the initial experiences of freedom.

August 24 - “Abednigo” last seen. “Long Plume”, the “Mystery Lady”, and “Runt” all crabbed and fished on the river. “Runt” was frequently with or near “Lady”. The adult regurgitated on the shore and did not pick up the “goodies” as is usually done allowing “Runt” to pick over the material. Eventually “Runt” lost interest in obtaining meals this way and kept learning to forage alone.

August 31 - The two adults and one immature remained in favored river haunts.

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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.

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