



CLEVELAND REGION

Published by
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 | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | 52 Chardon |
| Wade Park | 53 Burton |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 55 Fern Lake |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | |
| 28 Hudson | |
| 29 Kent | |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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THE WEATHER

The Weather

Summer, 1985

June - Temperatures averaged out to 62.7 degrees, 4.9 degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation totaled 2.93 inches, 0.56 inches below normal. Lake Erie's water temperature began the month at 59 degrees and rose to 65 degrees by the end of the month. Sunshine prevailed 63% of the time possible.

July - Temperatures averaged out to 71.1 degrees, 0.5 degrees below normal. Precipitation, on only 8 days, totaled 3.23 inches, 0.14 inches below normal. Sunshine increased to 66% of the time possible. Lake Erie's temperature increased to 72 degrees.

August - Precipitation totaled 4.01 inches, 0.63 inches above normal. Temperatures averaged out to 68.9 degrees, 1.5 degrees below normal. Lake Erie's water temperature held steady at 72 degrees until the 14th, thereafter temperature was 71 degrees. Sunshine prevailed 57% of the time possible.

COMMENT ON THE SEASONS

Summer birding in the Cleveland area continues to uncover new information about the birds along this part of Ohio's North Coast. Breeding bird parties are exploring new areas of Portage, Geauga, Lake and Summit Counties and continuous coverage of other areas keeps turning up new and fascinating nesting records. A most fascinating development in understanding local shorebird migration is that the continuous coverage of the Barberton Salt Pond, combined with daily coverage of the Gordon Park Impoundment is providing an interesting picture of inland vs lakefront shorebird migration. The summer birding season, replete with nesting records, late migrants, and more Laughing Gulls than have ever been recorded in local birding history, is analyzed below.

Waterfowl The Gordon Park Impoundment and the Barberton Salt Pond areas attracted an interesting variety of summering waterfowl. The following were reported at some time during the summer from these locations:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Gordon Park</u>	<u>Barberton</u>
Gadwall	+	+
Northern Pintail	+	
American Wigeon	+	+
Northern Shoveller	+	
Ring-necked Duck	+	
Lesser Scaup	+	
Ruddy Duck	+	

To the west, a Lesser Scaup was reported from Lorain on July 10 and 11 Red-breasted Mergansers were on the tires there on July 2 (fide Johnson).

Shorebirds Shorebird migration was well documented at the Barberton Salt Pond. In addition to the several significant late spring dates enumerated in the Noteworthy Records section, other interesting early June sightings were: 10 Semipalmated Plovers on the 6th, 1 Sanderling on the 6th, and a Looser Yellowlegs on the 18th. Throughout July and August, Short-billed Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers remained numerous. 30+ Spotted Sandpipers throughout June and July indicated a good nesting season for this species. The presence of Common Snipe until the end of May gave indications that the species was about to nest at Barberton, but only a single bird, on June 6, was noted.

Even though there was no shorebird like last summer's Curlew Sandpiper, the Gordon Park Impoundment still provided textbook shorebirding throughout the summer. Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Dunlins and Semipalmated Sandpipers were all recorded during the first week of June and it was a few scant weeks later when the season's first migrant, again a Lesser Yellowlegs, was noted on June 30. The most numerous migrants were Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers; nesting Spotted Sandpipers scolded observers in June and protected their young in July. Willets showed much better than the past several years as counts of 17 on August 5 and 14 the next day indicated. The species that seems to have benefited most by the existence of Gordon Park is the Stilt Sandpiper. In the days of White City 2 or 3 Stilt Sandpipers were considered a good count and the presence of 15 one day was considered a red-letter day. This summer a Cleveland area record high count of 63 Stilt Sandpipers was recorded on August 7 with 56 remaining the next day (Klamm). As the summer progressed, bird students could study all types of shorebirds and their various plumages; from the earliest arriving adults of July to the juveniles of August. Studying shorebirds close-up, as well as the excellent diversity of species, makes the Gordon Park Impoundment a must stop for all summer shorebirders.

Thanks to some summer pumping there was a mudflat at Lorain. Species mix was similar to that of Gordon Park but with much smaller numbers. For example, a good count of Short-billed Dowitchers from Lorain would have been 10 birds while at Gordon Park a good count would have been a minimum of 50 birds.

Laughing Gull The following table best reveals the magnitude of the summer's unprecedented invasion of Laughing Gulls into the Cleveland region:

Location and Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gordon Park</u>	<u>Lorain</u>	<u>Total</u>
8/8	2	4	6
8/9	2	7	9
8/10	7	5	12
8/11	16	10	26
8/12	18	10	28
8/13	12	7	19
8/14	7	-	7
8/15	5	3	8
8/16	7	6	13
8/17	4	-	4
3/18	3	5	8
8/19-31	max 2	max 11	-

When the discussion starts about the summer's Laughing Gulls, it should be remembered that heretofore single observations of more than one Laughing Gull were considered excellent finds, so 28 separate individuals in one day between Lorain and Cleveland on August 12 has to be considered a major ornithological event. As can be seen from the above table, there actually were two groups of Laughing Gulls - one at Cleveland and one at Lorain. Same day observations at both Cleveland and Lorain bear this conclusion out rather than having to believe that one group of birds was moving between both locations. As unbelievable as is the occurrence of 28 Laughing Gulls, was that all, except for two second-year birds at Lorain on August 22, were juveniles - this year's birds: This leads to the question - where did these birds originate? As far as is known, Laughing Gull does not breed in the Great Lakes area, so the idea that these birds were post-hatching wanderers from a regional nesting colony can be ruled out. Incredible as it may seem one can only conclude an east coast origin for our Laughing Gulls even though the very small numbers of non-juvenile birds seem to stretch the laws of probability since Laughing Gulls of all ages occur in good numbers all along the east coast in summer. Needless to say, the 28 Laughing Gulls on August 12 was the highest count ever in Ohio (previous local high count was 3!!) and may be one of the highest counts ever anywhere for so many non-storm-driven birds away from the coast. Further assessment of the Laughing Gull invasion must wait until reports from other Great Lakes locations are compiled to see if this phenomenon was reported elsewhere and to what extent.

Gulls, Terns One can almost say that Franklin's Gulls summered in the area. At least four appeared at Gordon Park: 1 to 3, including 2 beautiful adults, from June 29 to July 15, and a juvenile from August 21 on. A lone Franklin's Gull was reported from Lorain on June 6. Finally, there were two sightings of Little Gulls - a first CBC June record of a first-summer bird at Gordon Park on the 2nd (Corbin) and a juvenile from August 25 on.

Common Terns were numerous along the lakefront beginning in mid-August. 900+ birds were present at Gordon Park after August 12 and an estimated 1000 were at Lorain on August 30. Caspian and Black Terns peaked at 221 and 556 respectively on August 12 and 15. Numbers of Forster's Terns were again disappointing as the best count was 6 on several dates in August.

Cuckoos Contributors were asked to make special mention of any sightings of cuckoos. As the migration of both Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Black-billed Cuckoo spills over well into June, it was thought that the few reports of cuckoos in May may have reflected a later than usual spring passage. This, however, was not the case as few migrant and summer cuckoos were noted. These species will bear watching in coming years.

Common Nighthawk Largest movement of Common Nighthawks was 50 birds in Euclid on August 29. Indications were that the heaviest movements of this species were to occur in early September.

Alder Flycatcher Continuous summer field work has been turning up this species in many areas to the south of Cleveland. Territorial males were encountered at the following locations: 9 at Burton, 5 at Streetsboro, and 4 southeast of Solon at the power line slash near the junction of Liberty and Aurora Roads. Several other locations hosted at least one territorial male. Based on the field work of the past few summers it seems safe to conclude that Alder Flycatcher is an uncommon breeder in proper habitat. Birders who have specifically sought this species and whose records have clarified the status of this species in the Cleveland region are to be congratulated on their efforts. It was a job well done.

Carolina Wren Several pairs were found in Summit and Portage Counties where this species appears to be recovering from several past severe winters. An improvement in this species' summer population in Cuyahoga County has not been noticed and/or reported by observers.

Warblers As usual, Sims Park attracted an excellent variety of late spring warblers in early June. Six species, including Mourning and Blackpoll Warblers, were present on June 1, with a singing Northern Waterthrush lingering until the 7th.

In heavily censused Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas survey areas nesting warblers continued to provide surprises. Mourning Warblers were found at three locations at the American Society of Metals Park in Geauga County and one immature bird was noted. Again, no actual nest was located because of the thick undergrowth this species prefers but the observation of a juvenile bird all but confirms nesting (Fondrk). Other interesting counts from census areas were: 35 Hooded Warblers at Chapin Forest on June 7, 28 Hooded

Warblers and 8 Ovenbirds in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on June 16, 30+ American Redstarts and 1 Magnolia Warbler at Perry on June 17, and 2 Magnolia Warblers at Aylworth Creek on June 13 (Rosche). Indicative of probably a small, local breeding population, Black-throated Green Warblers appeared at several census areas. Three Ovenbirds were located at the Heath Road Heronry on June 12 and 20. Summer reports of this species should always be mentioned as the current status of this bird is being monitored in view of an apparent decline in numbers during the last several breeding seasons.

Fall migration started somewhat slowly. Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Magnolia Warblers made up the bulk of the late August migrants as warm, tranquil weather during this period prevailed and did not produce conditions for any extensive warbler influx.

Corrections - Spring, 1985

Red-necked Phalarope - The first spring sighting of this species since May, 1957 was of single, summer-plumaged females at Barberton on May 28 and 30 (Rosche). The records were listed in the Spring issue of the Calendar under Wilson's Phalarope.

Wilson's Phalarope - Singles were at Barberton on the record early date of April 27 and at Kent on May 7 (Rosche, Osborne).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - Two birds, one in summer plumage, one in winter plumage, lingered at Pippin Lake from June 1 through 6 (Rosche).

American Bittern - There were two summer records: one in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on July 3 (Rosche) and the other on Aurora Road in Hudson on July 16 (Henderson). Mid-summer sightings may indicate that this species may still nest in the Cleveland area.

Least Bittern - (1) Up to three were noted in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area through the end of July (Rosche). (2) A minimum of eight was found in June and July by canoeing out into Mentor Marsh (Talkington). Just a small part of the marsh was covered in this manner; it was thought that many more of the birds were in areas that could not be explored at that time.

Green-winged Teal - Young birds, found at the Barberton Salt Pond on July 28, confirmed the first nesting of this species in CBC history (Rosche).

White-winged Scoter - A female-plumaged bird was at the Gordon Park Impoundment from August 26 to 28 (Klamm). This was the first summer sighting of this species in CBC records.

Hooded Merganser - Young were reported at the Hastings Road Metropark in Lorain during the season (Pogacnik). This nesting added yet another species to the list of birds known to have nested in the Cleveland area.

Piping Plover - 2 birds appeared at Gordon Park - July 15 and 21 (Klamm, Emery) and one at Lorain from August 7 through 21 (Klamm).

American Avocet - A record area high count of 12 was recorded at Gordon Park on July 25 (Klamm). Single birds were at Gordon Park on July 9 and at Lorain on July 25 (Klamm).

Whimbrel - 10, an all-time area high count, were at Gordon Park on August 11 (several observers). This species was also noted at Mentor Headlands and Sims Park in August and earlier on two dates in July.

Hudsonian Godwit - Two birds at Gordon Park on August 13 were the region's earliest fall migrants ever (Klamm).

Marbled Godwit - Lone birds appeared at Gordon Park on July 8 and 30 (Klamm).

Ruddy Turnstone - A new late spring date for this species was established with the sighting of a single bird at Barberton on June 6 (Rosche).

White-rumped Sandpiper - Birds were recorded as follows: 4 at Gordon Park on June 1 (Emery) and 8 on June 6 at Barberton (Rosche).

Stilt Sandpiper - Inexplicable was the word for a summer-plumaged bird at Spencer Wildlife Area on June 8 (Rosche). Not only a new late spring date, the sighting also established the first June record of Stilt Sandpiper in the Cleveland region.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Birds were at Gordon Park as follows: 1, August 23-25 and 2, August 29; at Burke Airport: 1, August 25 and 4, August 30 (Klamm, Emery).

Tennessee Warbler - A singing male was found in a tulip tree at Sims Park on July 31, a new earliest fall date (Corbin).

Yellow-rumped Warbler - A bird described as a "juvenile" was discovered in Perry on July 17 (Rosche), This species had never been recorded in the Cleveland area in the month of July before and this sighting recalls the August 13, 1975 Waite Hill banding record of a bird that was described as "very young".

Pine Warbler - The first successful nesting of this species in the Cleveland area occurred at Lake Rockwell in June (Rosche).

Worm-eating Warbler - One was found in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on June 5 and 23 (Rosche).

Kentucky Warbler - Single males were located at Little Mountain on June 2 and 14 (Rickard). The old standby was at Chapin Forest on June 7 (Rosche).

FIELD NOTES

Decline Continues in Nesting Population and Nesting Success at Kent Colony of Chimney Swifts Between 1949-85 the average number of resident Chimney Swifts (Chaetura pelagica) on the campus of Kent State University was 32.0. Before the recent decline in number (1977-85) the average was 34.5. In the summer of 1985 there were only 18b resident swifts, the lowest record since observations began in 1944.

From 9 nesting pairs only 18 juveniles were produced, only half of what might be expected. Nesting success was variable; the following is a brief synopsis. Only 1 pair produced 4 juveniles without incident; 1 pair produced 3 and another pair produced 2 from 4 eggs layed; 1 nest fell, but all 4 nestlings survived; 2 other nests fell with 3 nestlings in one case and 2 in the other surviving; in 1 nest the 3 eggs disappeared (infertile?) and in another nest 4 nestlings disappeared. In 1 case the empty nest was washed off the wall with heavy rain (the usual cause of fallen nests), and a replacement nest was constructed on the

same site; 4 eggs were laid but disappeared (infertile?) just before the second nest fell from the wall.

Both the resident nesting population and nesting success of Chimney Swifts were at the lowest level known over the past 42 years. -- RALPH W. DEXTER

Woodcock Distraction Though the afternoon of June 12, 1985 was cloudy, cool and wet, Joe Emery and I visited a woods in Munson Twp., Geauga County. As we were following a faint trail into the woods, an American Woodcock erupted from a few feet in front of us. Startled, we watched it fly off, never more than 10 feet off the ground. Its flight was slow, its tail drooping, and its legs dangled much like a rail. The bird dropped back into the undergrowth perhaps 50 feet to our right. This awkward flight pattern seemed likely to be a distraction display so we turned to look at the ground where it had flushed hoping to find a nest. In the dim light we could discern nothing on the dark woodland floor, but a high, thin sound was arising from somewhere near us. Suddenly, as though a patch of the leaf litter was trembling, we saw movement. The movement gradually became defined as three woodcock fledglings began to move apart. All three raised their little wings, held them out, and quivering, scurried off in different directions all the while continuing their reedy plaint. We saw one of them in an opening about 20 feet away still hurrying off with lifted wings aquiver. We were stunned by this event, totally new to both of us, but we walked on to allow the woodcock to re-gather its young in peace. While we were unaware of this behavior, Bent includes a description of a similar occurrence on Long Island. - JEAN HOFFMAN

A Pair of Young Barred Owls The nesting site of a pair of Barred Owls was probably across the creek from our land. It was from this area that we heard the birds calling, both day night, last spring ('85) and the spring before.

On June 5 we heard an ascending whistle coming from this area. Later in the day we again heard, and this time saw, a pair of young Barred Owls. For the next 23 days we tracked them as they made their way through our woods, whistling to be fed. The sound they made seemed to us to be like steam escaping (ascending) or like the sound a human makes when whistling through his front teeth. This last sound ended in a loud hiss.

Early in the period of observation, the young owls "sang" almost all day. They were not fearful of our presence and they seemed to become accustomed to our being nearby. Occasionally they came close to us. At this time the birds

all fluffed out and spent most of their time perched, usually on the same tree and sometimes even on the same branch. The birds' feathers were white and buffy.

After a week the baby owls were flying from tree to tree; they were still calling for food, but less frequently. We saw one of them claw a pellet from its throat, and then watched it drop to the ground as though puzzled by it all.

One morning we saw crows making a fuss near the young owls; an adult owl was calling and then the call actually changed to a growl. We never saw an adult during the day, but occasionally we did see one near the young at dusk.

By the third week the young were sleeping more during the day. When we came close, they would open their eyes, sound a hiss or two and then go back to sleep. At dusk we would find them flying close to the ground and then landing on a fallen tree, apparently hunting for food. An adult was not far away. At this time they had more pronounced horizontal barred feathers on the upper breast and vertical stripes on the belly. The feathers were more brown and buff and less white.

We were saddened when they flew out of our viewing area. We had been fascinated by their presence and mannerisms. They were last seen on June 28. JACK AND DOROTHY MILLER

Summer Along the North Coast After many hours in the field this summer, I marvel at the variety of breeding species. Migrants are wonderful, but Ohio has a tremendous avifauna population in the summer. Some of the nesting species I encountered during the summer were Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal at Barberton, many Alder Flycatchers at various locations, Red-breasted Nuthatches at Lake Rockwell, Prothonotary Glen and Hinckley. 22 species of warblers were noted in the Greater Cleveland area and I feel that most of them were trying to breed. Pine Warblers were successful at Lake Rockwell for what I believe to be the first nesting record for northeast Ohio. Many species are expanding - Orchard Oriole, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler and Hooded Warbler. The only noticeable downward trend was in Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. I encountered more Least Fly-catchers than Gnatcatchers. LARRY ROSCHE

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.

The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a WEEKLY RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 289-2473. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland area as well as other interesting observations should be called into the tape on Sunday afternoons as the tape is updated with current sightings each Monday. In the case of extreme rarities, e. g., Varied Thrush, Sabine's Gull, the tape should be called the day of the observation.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to the CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to:

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