



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
Summer 1986

June - Temperatures ranged from a minimum of 43 degrees on the 3rd to a maximum of 91 degrees on the 22nd. Overall, temperatures averaged 67.2 degrees, 0.4 degrees below normal. Precipitation occurred on 16 days with no more than 0.5 inches on any given day. Precipitation totaled 2.97 inches, 0.52 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 57% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature rose from 60 degrees at the start of the month to 71 at the end.

July - Temperatures averaged out to 73.1 degrees, 1.5 degrees warmer than normal. Rainfall on 11 days totaled 3.10 inches, 0.27 inches below normal. Sunshine prevailed 75% of the time possible and water temperature rose to 75 degrees by the 31st.

August - Temperatures averaged out to 69.0 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.58 inches, 0.20 inches above normal. Sunshine prevailed 66% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature reached 76 degrees on the 1st, held steady until the 21st, then slowly declined to 73 degrees by the 31st.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Finding, watching, and studying shorebirds -- in the Cleveland area this aspect of birding is an important summer activity. An outbreak of botulism at Gordon Park in August saw the mudflat turned in to a deathflat for scores of migrant shorebirds as well as quite a few numbers of waterfowl. Perhaps this was the reason that numbers of birders seemed down over the usual gatherings that had gotten together there during the past few years to view the shorebirds. But summer birding also means the nesting season -- the season of new life -- and this also demanded much attention from those who had ample free time to pursue nesting species. If birds and birding are important to you, read on and share the experiences of your fellow enthusiasts in the following pages of commentary, noteworthy records, and field notes.

Waterfowl - The summer of 1986 may have been the last summer for any number of waterfowl to spend the season at Gordon Park. Certainly the west basin can be filled over as quickly as the east and the habitat which compels waterfowl to linger and which is used for nesting will be lost. Species, not normally associated with summer locally and which spent all or part of the season at Gordon Park, included up to 5 Gadwalls, 1-2 American Wigeons, 1-2 Redheads, 3-4 Lesser Scaup, and 1 Red-breasted Merganser. Breeders were Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck as a female and two young were noted in early June. At Barberton, in addition to breeding species like mentioned above, Green-winged Teal were present but nesting was not confirmed this year.

Least Bittern - Most encouraging was the report of breeding Least Bitterns at Frame Bog in Streetsboro (Vidic). Individuals were discovered at Gordon Park on July 20 and August 3 but breeding here was thought to be unlikely as the birds were in the same areas where Common Moorhens were nesting and also both birds were males. Since 3 or 4 Least Bitterns were recorded at Gordon Park in May, future nesting can not be discounted even though the marshy areas this species prefers are becoming much reduced.

Common Moorhen - Birders who regularly visited Gordon Park became familiar with this species during the summer. See the Field Notes section for the details of these birds. Other areas where this species nested successfully were in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Kent, and Lake Rockwell where it had been five years since the previous nesting.

Shorebirds - Shorebirds never left. Numerous mid-June sightings at Gordon Park and Barberton documented this statement. In addition to the late records annotated in the Noteworthy Records section, other representative period counts were as follows --

Gordon Park

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date (Number)</u>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6-8 (42), 6-14 (20)
Dunlin	6-8 (6), 6-14 (7)
White-rumped Sandpiper	6-8 (8), 6-14 (5), 6-18 (1)
Semipalmated Plover	6-8 (8), 6-14 (5)
Black-bellied Plover	6-29 (2)
Least Sandpiper	6-22 (1)
Willet	6-11 (1)

Barberton

Semipalmated Sandpiper	6-9 (20), 6-13 (3)
Least Sandpiper	6-5 (2)
White-rumped Sandpiper	6-9 (2)

At the end of June, Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers, and more Least Sandpipers were back at Gordon Park.

As alluded to in the introduction, beginning in early August - the peak period for shorebird numbers - an outbreak of botulism struck Gordon Park. Scores of shorebirds perished as efforts, which included propane canons and rifle shot, proved ineffective at disbursing the birds. Nevertheless good birds were found and migration continued. Uncommon migrants at Gordon Park were up to 4 Whimbrels in mid-July, up to 9 Red Knots during late August, a maximum of 11 Stilt Sandpipers on August 10, sporadic Western Sandpipers from mid-July to the end of August, and 10 Millets on July 5. Both Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper nested successfully at this location.

Low water levels at Lake Rockwell produced some excellent shorebird habitat. Highlights were 3 Lesser Golden-Plovers on August 30. Species composition at Barberton as well as peak numbers fairly well coincided with Gordon Park.

Baldwin Lake also received excellent coverage. Among the highlights there were: 47 Lesser Yellowlegs and 31 Pectoral Sandpipers on July 25, and 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 2 Stilt Sandpipers on August 13 (Harlan). Shorebirds will be there given the proper habitat.

Common Nighthawk - Sizable, late August movements of this species occurred only in areas to the south of Cleveland. Five hundred+ birds were tallied in Kent and Steetsboro along the Cuyahoga River and fields on Route 43 on the 29th (Vidic). One hundred sixty+ were reported from the Kent and Stow area on August 31 (Rosche). Minor movements were observed over East 260th Street in Euclid from August 25 on.

Flycatchers - Commentary about species - either positive or negative - that do not get "publicity" is part of the educational process which is an essential aspect of this publication. Telling and informing people about birds, as many as possible, is part of that process. As a for instance, Acadian Flycatcher seems to be one of these species that is rarely commented upon. Counts indicting a good local summer population were made as follows: Brecksville Metropark, 20 on June 3; Millstream Run Reservation, 17 on June 19; Hinckley, 21 on June 26; Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 20+ on June 13; and Lake Rockwell, 12 on June 15 (Harlan, Rosche). Lower numbers of Alder Flycatchers were reported primarily because areas where they had been observed before were not as intensively birded. The species did, however, appear in two new locations, North Chagrin and Lake Isaac. In both cases the birds were just observed for a very short period, one and two days. More field work is needed to determine the status of Alder Flycatcher at these locations.

Brown Thrasher - Concern was voiced during the spring about an apparent decline in numbers of this species. No birds nested at Sims Park and one contributor who canvassed several woodlots where thrashers should have been presented mentioned that the species seemed less abundant than expected. Areas in the southern part of the region, Hinckley, Portage and Summit Counties, produced the majority of reports with somewhat mixed results. Despite the general comment that thrashers seemed to be declining in Summit and Portage Counties comes the report of 2 pairs nesting behind a residence in Streetsboro, 3 singing males along the N & W railroad tracks in this city, and birds regularly heard at Tinker's Creek in early summer (Vidic). Just the fact that observers suddenly began to notice thrashers - the species was noticed because of its absence from areas where birders were accustomed to finding them - should alert observers that something is happening with this species. The Calendar will monitor this species during the next several years to determine the extent of its changing status.

Warblers - A good variety of warblers was present along the lakefront, mainly at Sims Park, in the first half of June. Exceptional at Sims were the latest spring Wilson's Warbler, a female, since 1959 on June 10, Canada Warbler on June 13, 3 Mourning Warblers on June 10, and 1 the next day. A very late singing male Mourning Warbler was in a Willowick woodlot on June 15 (Corbin).

Those go-getters who do breeding bird surveys for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas continue to produce fine nesting data about warblers. Most encouraging were comments about apparent increases in Ovenbirds. Thirteen were tallied just along Truxell Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in mid-June, and the species was described as "widespread" in the Lake Rockwell area (Rosche). "More plentiful" was another comment (LePage) while 9 were counted at Millstream Run Reservation on June 19 (Harlan). Other good finds were a Black-throated Green Warbler west of the Cuyahoga River at Millstream Run Reservation during much of the season and a Golden-winged Warbler in early June and a Black and White Warbler in July in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Quite unusual was the rather slow start to the fall warbler migration. Birds were scarce with an early Bay-breasted Warbler at Sims Park from August 4 to 9 and a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Mentor Headlands August 13 being the best finds.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - An individual in non-breeding plumage remained at Lake Pippin during June and July (Rosche).

Little Blue Heron - An adult was noted on the concrete outfall at Gordon Park on June 22 (Hannikman). The bird was seen briefly, quickly departing out over the lake.

Tundra Swan - The first summer record in CBC history was of a single bird at Gordon Park from June 25 to July 2 (Klamm).

Ring-necked Duck - One summered at Lake Rockwell (Rosche).

Hooded Merganser - A female appeared in a swampy area just north of the Route 82 bridge between Summit and Cuyahoga Counties on June 22 (Chaser). Two birds with this female were not positively identified but may have been immature. Another female, with no evidence of young, was found in a secluded woodland pond at North Chagrin on June 23 (LePage).

Bald Eagle - What was described as a "first-year" bird was found at Mentor Headlands on June 29 (Kellerman).

Semipalmated Plover - A new "late" spring date was established when one was last seen at Gordon Park on June 18 (Klamm).

Piping Plover - Single birds were at Gordon Park on August 17 and 18 and 27 through 31 (LePage et al.).

American Avocet - High count was 7 at Gordon Park on July 7 (Klamm). The first bird ever recorded at Barberton appeared on August 16 (Rosche).

Upland Sandpiper - Four in a field off Route 535 in Fairport Harbor on June 14 probably indicated breeding at this site (Rosche, Hannikman).

Marbled Godwit - One was found resting on the tires at Lorain on July 15 (Klamm).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - A lone bird dawdled at Gordon Park until June 18 (Klamm).

Baird's Sandpiper - A very early migrant appeared at Gordon Park on July 20 (Hannikman).

Dunlin - Another tardy Gordon Park bird, one remained there until June 18 (Klamm).

Long-billed Dowitcher - Rare midsummer individuals were at Barberton on July 20 (Rosche) and Gordon Park on August 9 (Hannikman).

Wilson's Phalarope - This species, quite oddly, appeared only at Barberton - an adult on July 5 and a juvenile August 16 and 18 (Rosche).

Red-necked Phalarope - Two birds were first noted at Gordon Park on August 24 while 3 were there on August 30 (Hannikman). Inland sightings were 2 at Barberton on August 28 and 1 at Lake Rockwell August 30 (Rosche). All birds were juveniles.

Laughing Gull - A bird in what was apparently second-winter plumage remained at Gordon Park from June 6 to 9. Single adults were there June 18 and 23 with 2 adults on June 21 (Klamm).

Least Tern - An adult remained at Gordon Park for several hours on July 17 where it was studied at length (LePage).

Loggerhead Shrike - A lone bird was discovered along the fence at the southern end of Hopkins International Airport on July 20 (Harlan).

Tennessee Warbler - An out of season straggler was singing at Wildwood Park on July 1 (Kellerman).

Pine Warbler - Two or more birds summered at Lake Rockwell (Rosche). A very young bird, recently out of the nest, was banded in Willoughby on July 7 (Talkington).

Worm-eating Warbler - One was in Peninsula on June 25 (Maugans). Summer records in late June the past three years may indicate a slow expansion into the Cleveland area of this species' breeding range.

Kentucky Warbler - Two birds were present at Hinckley on June 26 (Harlan).

Mourning. Warbler - What was judged to be a migrant was at Silver Lake August 12 (Rosche). This was a new early fall date.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - One was noted at Lorain on August 26 (Pogacnik). This was the first August record in CBC files.

Brewer's Blackbird - A single female was scrutinized and properly documented on June 1 near Kent (Rosche).

FIELD NOTES

Nesting Observations at Gordon Park and the Impoundment - Blue-winged Teal - This species succeeded in raising 7 chicks which first appeared on July 3 in the west basin. The family appeared to reside in harmony with all the other residents except the Mute Swans which chased anything that came near the island at times.

Wood Duck - A female with only 2 chicks was present in Doan Creek and the south basin for several days on and after June 3.

Common Moorhen - At least 2 pairs nested in the west basin, other pairs possibly in Doan Creek or the North basin. On June 21 two adults and one tiny chick foraged in the open briefly near the island of the west basin. Thereafter adults and numerous chicks of varying size were noted. By July 2 four

adults and 11 chicks were observed with some photographed. Some renesting obviously occurred as chicks of varying age and size appeared all through August as well. Only immature birds seemed to remain by the end of August.

Killdeer - At Gordon Park a pair nesting on the upper field fledged 4 chicks on June 23. Inside the Impoundment one pair nested right on top of the Doan Creek conduit and hatched 2 on July 15 and 2 on July 16. Other birds with chicks were evident on the mudflat at various times.

Spotted Sandpiper - In the Impoundment the first 4 chicks were encountered on June 12. A nest was discovered on the Doan Creek conduit not far from the Killdeer nest and 4 birds were hatched on July 11.

Herring Gull - Two nests were established on the Doan Creek conduit. One was placed in an abandoned Canada Goose nest and the other on some earth placed as the conduit rises for vehicle crossing. The goose nest pair completed a clutch of 2 eggs on June 10 and the riser nest also completed a clutch of 3 eggs on June 10. The goose nest pair abandoned the eggs in the last week of June. The riser nest pair hatched its eggs on July 3 (photographed). Again because of human interference the chicks scattered. One was last seen on the rocks forming the north wall of the Impoundment on July 8 before an impending rainstorm.

Chipping Sparrow - At Gordon Park, one pair nested in a pine tree near one of the Mockingbird pairs and consequently were regularly chased viciously and had to sneak in and out of their nest. The 4 nestlings apparently fledged satisfactorily. WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM

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, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Visitors are always welcome.

The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a **WEEKLY RARE BIRD ALERT** at (216) 289-2473. Sightings of species rare in the region as well as other interesting migration and seasonal observations should be called in to the tape on Sundays as the tape is updated with current sightings each Monday. In the case of extreme rarities, e.g. Varied Thrush, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 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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