



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
Spring 1988

March - Temperatures averaged 37.5 degrees, 0.9 degrees above normal. Lake Erie water temperature at 33 degrees on the 1st gradually rose to 37 degrees on the 31st. Vast expanses of residual ice fields and skim ice were prevalent on the lake through the 6th with a mixture of open water and variable ice fields continuing on the lake through the 11th. Rotting ice cover persisted inside the breakwall and harbor areas through the 17th. Precipitation on 17 days totaled 2.20 inches, 0.79 inches below normal. Snowfall was 20.4 inches including 6.7 inches on the 20th. Sunshine prevailed 56% of the time possible.

April - Temperatures averaged 47.9 degrees, 0.2 degrees below normal. Precipitation on 14 days totaled 3.47 inches, 0.15 inches above normal. Snowfall on the 15th and 16th measured 1.9 inches. Lake Erie water temperature rose to 48 degrees by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 60% of the time possible.

May - Precipitation on only 10 days totaled 1.33 inches, 1.97 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged 59.7 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. Lake Erie water temperature rose to 59 degrees by the 31st. Sunshine increased to 69% of the time possible.

Spring got here, but it took a while. Rather warm weather in early April gave way to northerly winds later on in the month and well into May. As a result, birders had to be afield when the weather warmed in order to experience the best of spring migration and fortunately peak passerine migration occurred during weekends, May 15 and 16, and 21 and 22. Coverage of Mentor Headlands continued to yield impressive tallies of birds, locally rare species, and interesting migration phenomena (how about a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flying overhead making like a migrant Red-headed Woodpecker?). Excellent reports continued from Rocky River, Lake Isaac, and Portage and Summit Counties, but more coverage is needed to be turned in from Shaker Lakes and many of the Cleveland Metroparks. This way an even more complete picture could be compiled about seasonal trends and more birders could get to be part of the Cleveland Bird Calendar.

Waterfowl - Small numbers of Common Loons were noted from late March through early May. Largest number was five at LaDue Reservoir on April 17. Indicative of a very poor showing for the species, only 14 Tundra Swans were reported in March.

Along the Cleveland lakefront waterfowl movements were termed "modest" (Klamm). As is typical for March, several hundred Lesser Scaup remained off Edgewater for most of the month while Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 1,298 on April 17. Among other highlights were 2-3 Oldsquaw at Edgewater between March 13 and 30 and single White-winged Scoters at Perkins Beach on March 13 and at Sims Park on April 10.

The regular survey of Summit and Portage County Lakes yielded no surprises. Most curious was the fact that the region's high spring counts for both Canvasback and Redhead occurred at Mogadore Reservoir on March 24 and 27. Impressive numbers of Ring-necked Ducks again turned up at Mogadore with 1,100 on March 9 and 1,125 on March 24. Courtship behavior was displayed by a pair of Ruddy Ducks at Barberton during the last days of May and observations were to continue in to the summer to determine possible breeding success (Rosche).

Hawks - Late March produced the season's best raptor flights. The following table summarizes the major flight days:

<u>Date</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>3/26</u>	<u>3/26</u>	<u>3/29</u>	<u>4/5</u>
<u>Location</u>	<u>PB</u>	<u>PB</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>PB</u>	<u>H</u>
<u>Species</u>			<u>Count</u>		
Turkey Vul.	115	219	265	226	201
Shp. Sh. H.	11	33	2	8	25
Coopers H.	2	3	2		
Red-shold H.	5	15		24	
Red-tailed H.	38	37	32	7	6
Am Kestrel	7	14	10	9	
N. Harrier	1	2			

PB (Perkins Beach), MH (Mentor Headlands), H (Huntington)

Undoubtedly many of the birds, especially the Turkey Vultures, noted at Perkins Beach on March 26 also passed over Mentor Headlands. Winds on March 26 were from the west/southwest - the direction which produces the best hawk flights in the spring. At Mentor Headlands skies were clear earlier in the day on March 26 but then clouded over after about 10:30 a.m. Most of the raptors were noted between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. It is hoped that future spring hawk watches will take place at Huntington, a location from which little spring hawk data have come in the past . The northerly winds of late April and early May meant no influx of Broad-winged Hawks. 24 Broad-winged Hawks at Huntington on the rather late date of May 12 was the season's high count (Harlan). Another anomaly of the season was that Peregrine Falcon reports (3) and Bald Eagle reports (3) both outnumbered osprey sightings, single birds at Mogadore Reservoir on April 19 and Rocky River on May 5.

Shorebirds- There were virtually no shorebird movements through the Cleveland region. Lack of mudflats during the spring must have forced shorebirds to other areas. For the entire spring there was one report, eight birds, of Semipalmated Sandpipers, a stark contrast to 1986 when 1,000+ Semipalmated Sandpipers massed at Barberton at the end of May. The April-migrant Pectoral Sandpiper seemed to be the only species in any numbers (85-90 at Burke Airport on April 19 and 20) but even these totals did not compare with past years. The hoped-for repeat of last spring's sightings of Lesser Golden-Plover never materialized; in fact, there was just one Black-bellied Plover record. Renewed dumping of dredgings during June at Gordon Park will hopefully lead to a full summer shorebird season.

Gulls Terns- An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Huntington Beach on March 25 highlighted the spring's gull

reports. Bonaparte's Gulls continued their conspicuous absence with a paltry 110 on April 12 being the best one day count. At period's end a few first-summer Great Black-backed Gulls appeared to be about to summer in the Mentor Headlands area.

Lakefront counts of Common Terns were limited to eight birds on April 29 and one bird on May 8. Caspian Terns appeared early (3 on April 2) and were fairly common throughout April. Two Black Terns were a surprise at Mogadore Reservoir on May 14. Most recent spring reports of this latter species have come from the Akron Lakes area. A few Forster's Terns showed up at the end of April and early May.

Flycatchers - Only one Eastern Kingbird was reported before May 8 at which time the species descended upon the region. 45 was the count at Mentor Headlands that day as a constant stream of kingbirds flowed through the area. As usual, Least Flycatcher was the most numerous empidonax flycatcher. All records fell between May 8 and May 22 with a lone bird last reported on May 29. 20 Least Flycatchers were at Mentor Headlands on May 21 (Rosche). Rather late in arriving in appreciable numbers was the Willow Flycatcher as before the report of 15 at Barberton on May 29 the maximum count had been six on May 21. No Alder Flycatchers had been reported by the end of May and the traditionally late May-early June migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher had appeared just once, again on "flycatcher" day, May 21, at Mentor Headlands.

Warblers - 27 species of warblers on May 15 at Mentor Headlands was the highest single day count (Rosche, Hannikman). 21 species, but more individual warblers, were found there on May 21. Particularly numerous were Yellow, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. More plentiful than usual was the Northern Parula Warbler. Three birds were noted both at Rocky River on May 11 (Klamm) and at Mentor Headlands on May 15. Sometimes just one or two individuals of this species occur during an entire spring. Pine Warblers also made a strong local showing with persistent small numbers at Shaker Lakes throughout April (Peskin, Rickard) and other migrants reported from Sims Park, Donald Gray Gardens, Hinckley, Strongsville, and Mentor Headlands. At least two Prairie Warblers were at Major Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area at the end of May. This species had been absent from this area the last couple of years. Contributors failed to find a single Connecticut Warbler - so now the possibility exists that this species may be missed for the entire CBC year as fall birds are usually more difficult to find and

certainly more challenging to identify.

Orioles - Northern Orioles and Orchard Orioles are seldom commented upon - Northern Oriole probably because it is regarded as a common species and Orchard Oriole probably because it has been thought of as scarce in the Cleveland area. On a wave day in May, when all of a sudden spring migrants of many species start to appear, Northern Orioles are visually dazzling and audibly conspicuous as they move along the lakefront. Every once in a while during this procession of orioles a couple of birds pauses briefly in a tree and oriole whistles fill the air. Most often, however, the orioles, chattering as they go along, continue through an area. 57 Northern Orioles at Mentor Headlands on May 8 put on a show that lasted most of the morning. Smaller numbers of Northern Orioles repeated this pattern the next weekend at Mentor.

In the past ten years, the status of Orchard Oriole in the Cleveland region has become better known. Formerly, sightings of this species would always appear in the Noteworthy Records section of the Calendar whereas now only fall birds are deemed as noteworthy for inclusion in this section of the Calendar. This spring one observer noted at least 17 Orchard orioles in the Cleveland area - the majority coming from Portage and Summit Counties where the status of this bird has been changed to uncommon migrant and rare breeder by improved coverage in these areas. Most of the Orchard Orioles were immature males and several birds were still present at the end of May. Orchard Orioles were also noted this spring at Mentor Headlands and Sims Park.

Sparrows - Late American Tree Sparrows along with on time Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Fox Sparrows, and Vesper Sparrows became numerous in the region on March 30. Vesper Sparrows, as was the case during the fall of 1987, were more abundant than usual at Gordon Park in late March and through mid-April. Most interesting was the fact that all the spring's records of White-crowned Sparrows fell within the period from May 8 to May 17. 60 White-crowned Sparrows were at Mentor Headlands on May 8 and quickly did the species move through the area as four birds were last recorded on May 17. Maybe there were White-crowned Sparrows present in the area before May 8 and after May 17 but none was reported to the Calendar. White-throated Sparrows also departed the region quickly as May 18 was the last record of this species which normally lingers through the end of May. Summer reports will indicate that a few birds did show up in early June.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Little Blue Heron - An adult was present at Barberton on May 29 (Rosche, Stover, Wert).

Cattle Egret - One in breeding plumage appeared at Barberton on "heron" day, May 29 (Rosche, Stover, Wert).

Snow Goose - A new late spring date was established when a white-phase bird was noted in Kent on May 23 (Rosche).

Bald Eagle - Three birds were seen: at Lake Isaac on March 2 (Harlan), in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on April 24 (Chaser), and at Mentor Headlands on May 15 (Hannikman). All birds were described as immatures or subadults.

Peregrine Falcon - Three birds in March were encountered: at Lake Isaac on March 2 (Harlan), Barberton on the 21st (Wert), and Mentor Headlands on the 26th (Hannikman, Rosche).

Sandhill Crane - One was part of the west to east movement of Turkey Vultures and other raptors at Perkins Beach on the morning of March 26th (Klamm).

Willet - A lone bird was found at Lake Rockwell on May 16 (Rosche).

Sanderling - Three birds were discovered on the mudflat at Gordon Park on March 27 (Glick). Not only a new early spring date of occurrence in the Cleveland area, this date established the first ever March record of this species in the Cleveland region. It was just two years ago that the first April record of this species was established.

Wilson's Phalarope - A bird judged to be a male appeared in a drainage ditch at the Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road on May 10 (Henderson).

Forster's Tern - A new early spring date was made when one was found perched on the docks at Wildwood on April 3 (Kellerman).

Snowy Owl - A very late migrant was at the East 55th Street Marina on April 9 (Hoffman).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - Two birds were located at Donald Gray Gardens on the evening of March 25 (Bacik). At least one bird was noted until March 31 (many observers). In CBC records two obviously migrant Northern Saw-whet Owls had never been found in the same location before. One Northern Saw-whet was found in Erie Street Cemetery's only yew tree on April 3 (Hannikman).

Barn Swallow - First March record in 18 years was of a bird flying past Sims Park close to the apartment on the west side of the park on the 26th (Hannikman).

Golden-winged Warbler - A male was at Lake Rockwell on May 10 (Rosche), a female was on the Zin-imerman Trail at Mentor Headlands on May 15 (Rosche), and two (sex not recorded) were at Sims Park on May 16 (LePage).

Northern Parula - A bright male was discovered in the pine trees near Lake Shore Boulevard at Sims Park on April 2 (Hannikman). This date becomes a new early spring date for the species.

Black-throated Green Warbler - A singing male was at Lower Shaker Lake on the very early date of April 8 (Rickard).

Yellow-throated Warbler - One in the Rocky River Valley on April 12 established a new early spring date (Klamm). Another individual was in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on May 10 (Rosche).

Blue Grosbeak - An immature male surprised many observers at Mentor Headlands on May 21 and remained several hours (Rosche, Mock).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - On May 15 one was banded at Gordon Park (Bacik).

Lincoln's Sparrow - Last winter's bird remained throughout March and was last observed April 4 (Busic).

Yellow-headed Blackbird - A singing male was at Barberton on May 26 (Rosche).

Common Redpoll - Only spring report was from Gates Mills on March 7 (Kremm).

Nesting Pine Siskins in Kent Ohio - In recent years an increasing number of birders has become more cognizant of the outstanding variety of breeding birds in the Cleveland region. After seeing Pine Siskins carrying nesting material for several springs at Lake Rockwell and hearing of breeding birds at Hinckley it came as no surprise to me when I found a nest in Kent. I was searching for Northern Saw-whet Owls at Standing Rock Cemetery on April 2. I approached a small group of cedar and saw what I thought was an old nest. Not true! A female Pine Siskin was brooding already hatched young. They looked to be at least three days old by the amount of feathering.

The nest was 9'6" high in a small cedar and adults and chicks were easily seen. Parents would come and go very infrequently and it seemed that they could care less about feeding the young. I saw three young the first day it was not until April 10 that I discovered a fourth. Pat Haddad and I took turns visiting the nest site and recording our observations (I am indebted to Pat for her detailed note taking). Parents would leave the youngsters for period of up to 45 minutes or longer. The seeds they brought to the young were obviously filled with high energy. The young simply did not get fed very often in our ten days of observations. The temperature was quite mild for the time of year and even in drizzle the parents were mostly away. As the young grew the parents stayed away more and more. By April 6 wingbars were showing on the young. On April 8 the young were visibly upset at the lack of feeding by the adults. They flailed about the nest and almost fell out. By April 10 the young seemed fully grown and it was only a matter of time before they left. On the morning of April 12 all four were sitting on top of the nest as if to say "let's go". Sure enough, they were gone by the afternoon.

Some factors that probably contributed to the siskins' success were mild weather and no grackles in the immediate vicinity of the nest. In all I tallied only 18 species of birds that came within 75 feet of the nest tree. Of these only American Robins seemed to upset the adults. The siskins remained at the cemetery until the middle of May. I collected the nest and will donate it to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

A few questions are still left in my mind about nesting siskins. Is it all that rare? Ray Hannikman and I observed many Pine Siskins at Headlands Beach on May 15 and a fair

number had fluffs of downy feathers on their heads. I feel that this was a good year for early nesting and, who knows, maybe we will find an Evening Grosbeak or crossbill nest after an invasion year. Perhaps the key is to look for these birds in March and April. Time will tell but year after year the Cleveland region produces outstanding breeding reports.
- LARRY ROSCHE AND PAT HADDAD.

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 Sunday afternoons as the tape is updated each Monday. In the case of extreme rarities, e. g., Black-throated Sparrow, Rufous Hummingbird, the tape should be called on the date of observation.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to the Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to:

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