

The Cleveland

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BIRD CALENDAR



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor population densities of resident birds, and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region.

The Cleveland region includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

15 March - winter season

15 June - spring season

15 September - summer season

15 December - autumn season

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THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor:

Larry Rosche

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman

Editorial Assistants:

William and Jackie Haley

William A. Klamm - Weather Summary

Contributors:

Emil Bacik

Black River Audubon Society

Dwight and Ann Chasar

Elinor Elder

Bob Faber

Linda Ferrato

Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad

Robert Furst

Gary Gerrone

M. M. Hahn

Robert Harlan

James Hoffman

Richard and Jean Hoffman

Craig Holt

Ivor Kiwi

William and Nancy Klamm

Charles Klaus

Len Kopka

Norma Kraps

Walter Kremm

Betty B. Lake

Thomas LePage

Perry Peskin

Ed and Cheryl Pierce

Larry Richardson

Richard Rickard

Drew Rolik

Susan Sprengnether

Woody Stover

Judy Tisdale

John Vanderpoel

Harold Wallin

Jeff Wert

Clyde Witt

On The Inside:**The Weather**

William Klamm

Reflections**Comment on the Season**

Larry Rosche

Spring 1990**Noteworthy Records****Field Notes**

Ray Hannikman

Robert Harlan

Craig Halt

Susan Sprengnether

“Big Day” Birding NE Ohio Style

by John Vanderpoel

Next Issue:**Summer 1990****Breeding Bird Survey Results**



Virginia Rail at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve
by Barbara Baker

THE WEATHER

Spring 1990 by William Klamm

March - Temperatures averaged 42 degrees, 5.4 warmer than normal. The extremes reached a high of 80 degrees on the 15th and a low of 14 on the 7th. Lake Erie water temperature stood at 34 degrees on the 1st and rose to 39 by the 31st. Lake Erie was open all month but some harbor and shallow areas exhibited variable ice cover through the 5th. Sunshine prevailed 43% of the time. Precipitation came on 15 days to total .86 inches as water, 2.13 inches below normal. As snow, the total was 4.4 inches over 5 days.

April - Temperatures averaged 49.4 degrees. 1.3 warmer than normal. The extremes attained a high of 87 degrees on the 25th, a record high for any April, and a low of 24 on the 8th and 18th.

Lake Erie water temperature was 40 degrees on the 1st rose to 44 by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 47% of the time. The month was also the 10th snowiest April on record. Precipitation totaled 4.57 inches as water, 1.35 inches in excess of normal distributed over 14 days. Snow totaled 4.7 inches and fell on 5 days.

May -This month was the 6th wettest May on record. Precipitation came on 15 days and totaled 6.18 inches, 2.88 inches in excess of normal. Temperatures averaged 56.3 degrees, 1.9 cooler than normal. The extremes reached a high of 70 degrees on the 8th and 9th and a low of 37 on the 2nd and 14th. Lake Erie water temperature was at 45 degrees on the 1st and went to to 55 on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 47% of the time.

REFLECTIONS:

Thirty Years Ago: March 1960 was described as having boreal weather which resulted in a large incursion of redpolls. A pair of Western Meadowlarks was seen at Burke Airport (Klamm, Newman). A Yellow-headed Blackbird put in an appearance near the old Nike Missile Site in Cleveland on 22 May (Klamm). An adult Harris's Sparrow was found in a brushy wetland adjacent to State Route 224 in Akron on 24 May (Westmeyer).

Twenty Years Ago: A winter finch outbreak of siskins, redpolls, crossbills, and grosbeaks was widespread in the region into May 1970. Four Cattle Egrets were in Waite Hill on 19 May (Sherwin, *et al.*). An immature Peregrine Falcon was observed closely in Hudson on 7 May (Henderson). The second May record of Franklin's Gull was of two at White City on 16 May (Klamm).

Ten Years Ago: Many rarities were reported by observers in the spring of 1980. These included the region's first record of Tufted Duck in Lorain 3-9 Mar. (LePage, m.obs.) and Alder Flycatcher in Munson Township 25 May (Hoffman). An injured Purple Gallinule was found by a policeman in Lorain on 13 Apr. A hawkwatch in Lorain produced a Golden Eagle and over 1100 Broad-winged Hawks in migration (Pogacnik). Ethel Surman and Larry Rosche had a brief but direct encounter with a Black Rail at Lake Rockwell on 4 Apr.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

The season was dominated by odd weather. Record warm temperatures in April propelled foliage growth and treetop viewing became virtually impossible during the height of migration. As is often the case, odd weather brings odd birds, not only to the Cleveland region but to nearby areas as well. The north shore of Lake Erie had numerous out of place vagrants. Closer to home, a Violet-green Tree Swallow was photo-documented in Holmes County. Two new birds for the region were located (Brown Pelican and Ruff), Two birds were reported for the first time ever in the spring season (Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers). Several days were impressive in that migration could actually be observed as many tired birds arrived at Lake Erie birding locations. On 28 April many landbirds could be seen flying across the mouth of the Grand River and then into the trees and shrubs at Headlands Beach State Park. Shorebirds moved along the lakeshore at the same location in good numbers on 13 May. Many warblers descended onto the region in the middle of May, with the 15th, 19th, and 20th producing excellent totals. While reports from the eastern half of the region were outstanding the western half of the region did not fare as well. The Sunday Morning Bird Walk totals reflected a drop in attendance. The walks in which birders showed up rain or shine far outpaced the others.

In total, 243 species were reported. Warblers elicited comments from several noted observers and this family certainly let its presence be known, particularly in the eastern sectors of the region. It seemed that many warbler species were in higher than normal totals. A total of seven Golden-winged Warblers was indeed impressive, especially since this is a state endangered species. Cape May Warbler numbers far exceeded their totals for 1989. Wilson's Warblers were in fall season numbers. Many thanks to the conscientious observers who take the time to write down their field data. The Calendar received several reports too ornithologically significant to print. It is hoped that those observers will have these sightings printed in other journals before we can publish them in our quarterly. Good birding.

Spring 1990

Common Loons were poorly encountered along Lake Erie but in fair numbers inland. Early birds were noted at Lake Rockwell on 22 Mar. (Rosche) and Oberlin Reservoir on 24 Mar. (LePage). A high of 16 was at Lake Medina on 15 Apr. (Witt). Two lingered off Sims Park on 28 May (Kellerman). Pied-billed Grebes were in fair numbers. Mid-April produced the highest tallies and therefore was thought to be the peak of migration. Horned Grebes were fairly common from March through the middle of April. Highs were not exceptional when compared to last year. Double-crested Cormorants continue to be impressive in numbers throughout the region. On 14 Apr. 61 were observed at Lake Rockwell. Other flocks of 30+ were noted from Ladue Reservoir and Headlands Beach

State Park (hereafter. Headlands BSP). A Great Blue Heron rookery of 30+ nests was found near Wingfoot Lake (Rosche, Tisdale). The large rookery on S. R. 303 in Lorain County was doing well (Krapf). Great Egrets were quite widespread through April and into late May. The most interesting report was of a bird in the lagoon along MLK Drive as it began to snow on 12 Apr. (Hoffman). Green-backed Herons were somewhat late in arriving, with the first at Gordon Park on 19 Apr. (LePage). All observers are encouraged to monitor local breeding efforts of this beleaguered species. Black-crowned Night-Herons were normal, with

an early bird at Euclid Beach on 1 Apr. (LePage). The early inland report was from Barberton on 7 Apr. (Pierce).

Waterfowl were fairly well represented with their inland totals (see table). Many Tundra Swans were reported migrating over the region on the night of 4 Mar. A flock of 44 was at Lake Rockwell on 5 Mar. Thirty were northward bound over Headlands BSP on 10 Mar. (Hannikman, Rosche). Krapf located seven at Wellington Reservoir on 21 Mar. A single at Spencer Lake on 24 Mar. provided a Medina County report (LePage). A blue phase Snow Goose was exciting at Sims Park on 10 Mar. (Pierce). Canada Geese were escorting young by 26 Apr. at Spencer Lake. A sizable flock of 244 Green-winged Teal was at Barberton 12 Mar. (Rosche, Vanderpoel, Wert). This congre-

***A sizeable flock of
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Inland Waterfowl Sampling/Greater Cleveland March - April 1990

Date	3/8	3/8	3/11	3/11	3/13	3/22	4/5	4/5	4/8	4/13	4/14	4/21	4/21
Location	MOG	AKL	LAD	MOG	BHB	BHB	MWL	BHB	MWL	LAD	MWL	WBR	LR
COMMON LOON	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	v	1	1	1	•	5
PB. GREBE	•	11	•	4	•	4	2	1	2	12	8	•	2
HORNED GREBE	•	10	17	1	•	•	•	•	2	22	1	•	1
DC CORMORANT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	•	•	25
CANADAG.	270	120	400	12	14	14	110	14	30	80	40	18	40
WOOD DUCK	•	•	•	•	4	4	•	2	6	•	4	10	6
Gw TEAL	•	•	4	•	20	75	•	244	•	1	•	40	•
A. BLACKDUCK	6	12	•	•	8	14	4	8	6	•	1	•	4
MALLARD	200	410	10	25	48	20	16	10	12	2	16	30	10
Bw TEAL	•	•	•	•	4	50	•	35	10	•	•	20	2
N. SHOVELER	•	•	•	•	9	35	•	47	2	•	•	4	•
GADWALL	10	2	20	4	•	3	6	3	50	•	4	2	16
A. WIGEON	25	•	10	3	25	25	30	16	65	•	20	28	3
CANVASBACK	•	•	•	11	11	5	•	1	•	47	20	•	•
REDHEAD	•	111	•	146	5	25	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
RING-NECK DUCK	2600	5	•	520	420	396	1050	2	1100	•	650	4	10
GREATER SCAUP	•	•	5	10	•	•	4	•	•	•	•	•	•
LESSER SCAUP	5	9	50	120	4	2	420	20	850	20	560	6	40
C. GOLDENEYE	2	8	6	28	•	•	10	•	5	•	•	•	1
BUFFLEHEAD	3	2	15	39	5	24	20	•	55	82	75	6	16
HOODED MERG	2	1	22	•	12	8	6	•	8	•	•	•	75
COMMON MERG	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	11	•	•	5
RBBREASTED MERG	•	•	500	•	•	•	•	•	30	1050	100	•	200
RUDDY DUCK	•	7	•	•	•	3	70	•	90	60	290	•	10

AKL = Akron Lakes; BHB = Barberton Holding Basin; LAD = LaDue Reservoir; LR = Lake Rockwell;
MOG = Mogadore Reservoir; MWL = Mogadore Res. and Wingfoot Lake

gation included an albino female. It apparently had no trouble finding a mate. A better than average passage of Northern Shovelers was noted, with up to 60 were at Barberton. A hundred Canvasbacks were at Wellington Reservoir on 8 Mar. (Kraps). Ring-necked Ducks were in expected high totals. The highest was 2600+ at Mogadore Reservoir on 8 Mar. (Rosche). Kiwi and others saw 7 Oldsquaws at Sims Park on 4, 10 Mar. and 9 on 18 Mar, Nine flew by Headlands BSP on 18 Mar. (Hannikman, Rosche). A bird was somewhat tardy at Edgewater on 18 Apr. (LePage). **Six Surf Scoters** were off Rockledge on 1 Mar. and two were there on 10

Mar. (Klamm). Two at Oberlin Reservoir on 23 Apr. were noteworthy (Kraps). Not since Vera Carrothers reported 100 White-winged Scoters off Perkins Beach in March of 1953 had this species been so numerous in the region. Many staged off Sims Park in early to mid-March (mobs.). They were evident on the west side as well, with up to 31 off Cahoon Park on 1 Mar. (Klamm). One at Oberlin Reservoir on 30 Mar. (Kraps) and three at Mogadore Reservoir 5-8 Apr. (Rosche) represented the only inland reports. Five Common Mergansers at Lake Rockwell on 21 Apr. were late for the location. Ruddy Duck totals were definitely higher than last year at Mogadore Reservoir

with a high of 353 on 16 Apr. Kraps located another 350 on Oberlin and Wellington Reservoirs on 13 Apr.

Twenty-three Ospreys were noted. Almost every report was of a single bird. The latest report was from the CVNRA on 20 May. Adult and immature Bald Eagles were infrequent visitors to Lake Rockwell in March and April where they are expected. The **Fifty-one Northern Harriers** reported represented an outstanding total for this part of the state. The largest group was five hunting the wetlands at the Barberton Holding Basin on 5 Apr. (Rosche, Wert). A female found at Berlin

State Wildlife Area on 8 Apr. was from a previously unreported site (Vanderpoel). Another over a large uncut field in Fairport Harbor on 27 May raised the question of possible nesting (Hoffman). Klamm reported 23 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 9 Apr. at Edgewater. An adult along the Zimmerman Trail and another at Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area carrying prey on 27 May indicated probable nesting (Hoffman). Red-shouldered Hawk numbers seemed improved throughout the region. Previously unreported areas include: a nest with young in Stow, a territorial bird in South Chagrin Reservation, and in Novelty (Lake). The Fjeldstads reported 32 Broad-winged Hawks in Grand River on 22 Apr. Sixty passed over Huntington Reservation on 20 May (Sprengnether). A light phase Rough-legged Hawk was tardy at Headlands BSP on 28 Apr. (Rosche, mobs.).

A Wild Turkey scurried across the road at LaDue Reservoir on 13 Apr. (Elder, Tisdale). Virginia Rails arrived on time but still seem to be suffering from the effects of the drought of 1988. The first Sora report was of a specimen which had the misfortune to crash into the Terminal Tower 19 Apr. (Rolik). American Coots were fairly abundant on the inland lakes. For example, Springfield Lake harbored 123 on 18 Mar. (Vanderpoel). Common Moorhens were first found by Tisdale at the State Route 532 Marsh in Cuyahoga Falls on 21 Apr.

Shorebirds were represented by

24 species, including one species never reported before in the region. An impressive flight was noted at Headlands BSP on 13 May. Hundreds of the more common species were counted as they flew west along the shoreline. Few Black-bellied Plovers were encountered. Semipalmated Plovers were first noted at Lake Rockwell on 4 May (Holt). Thirty-one were there on 13 May and 23 were at Walborn Reservoir on 22 May. A Solitary Sandpiper was very late at the Gordon Park Impoundment (hereafter Gordon Park) on 26 May (Hannikman). An excellent total of 75 Spotted Sandpipers was at Gordon Park on 13 May. As is usual, a few Ruddy Turnstones were noted along Lake Erie. A bird seemed out of place in a wet cornfield in Streetsboro on 18 May (Rosche). What was not usual, was the lack of a Sanderling report. The first Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Lake Rockwell 13 May and on the Towpath Bird Walk. Four White-rumped Sandpipers were early at Lake Rockwell 12 May (Rosche). A single was at

Shorebird Totals from Headlands Beach State Park on 13 May 1990

Black-bellied Plover	2
Semipalmated Plover	40
Killdeer	6
Greater Yellowlegs	21
Lesser Yellowlegs	35
Solitary Sandpiper	3
Spotted Sandpiper	115
Ruddy Turnstone	7
Red Knot	1
Least Sandpiper	340
Dunlin	165
Short-billed Dowitcher	280

Walborn Reservoir on 22 May (Rosche). Many reported a breeding plumaged bird at Gordon Park on 26 May. Up to 5 were there on 29 May (LePage). Another was at Barberton on 28 May (Harlan). Pectoral Sandpipers were much improved over last year. An early bird flew by the Gordon Park Boat Basin on 11 Apr. (Hoffman), whereas a late bird was at Gordon Park on 17 May (Hannikman). Dunlins were early at Walborn Reservoir and Barberton on 8 Apr. (Vanderpoel). They were fairly numerous along Lake Erie. Two Common Snipe were at Gordon Park on 20 Apr. while twelve were still at

*I arrived at Sims Park about 1:30 PM on 10 March 1990 to overcast skies and light rain. Larry Rosche, Emil Bacik, and Ray Hannikman were already present. I saw a flock of 7 Oldsquaws and an adult male Harlequin Duck. However, fishermen in a boat moved into the area and all of the ducks flew. Larry and the others leave but / stay. About 2:00 PM the rain stops and the sun starts to break through. As I am scoping the lake a flock of 50+ White-winged Scoters moves in and lands. Eventually over the next 1.5 hours I counted **186 White-winged Scoters**, all sitting on the lake in three different groups. They intermittently dive as a group and I found only two birds in female or immature plumage. The remainder were adult males showing a prominent white patch on the wing coverts and a white outline around the eye. Ed Pierce*

(Editors note) This marks the largest spring congregation of this species in The Cleveland Bird Calendar files.

Barberton on 1 May. American Woodcocks were at O'Neil Woods by 3 Mar. (Kopka). LePage noted an Iceland Gull at the Lakeside Yacht Club on 1 Mar. An immature was at Headlands BSP on 4 Mar. and 7 Apr. (Hannikman, Kiwi, Rosche). LePage found Glaucous Gulls on 4 Mar, at Edgewater and on 26 Mar. at the E. 55th St. Marina. Caspian Terns were in good supply the last half of April at Headlands BSP and Lorain. Away from Lake Erie they were found at Firestone Park, Barberton, Portage Lakes, Lake Rockwell, Spencer Lake, and Findley State Park, These reports reflect this terns ability to hold its own against the burgeoning population of gulls on the Great Lakes. Eleven Common Terns at Spencer Lake on 23 May were unexpected (Kraps). A **record early Forster's Tern** was in Lorain on 1 Apr. (Richardson). A bird at Barberton on 5 Apr. represented our second earliest report. An exceptional inland total of 34 was at Lake Rockwell on 12 May (Rosche). They were uncommon along the lakefront in late April through mid-May, although a high of 60 was reached at Headlands BSP on 13 May.

Black-billed Cuckoos were found at Barberton on 8 May, (Rosche), a Terminal Tower kill on 17 May (Rolik), in Lake County on 19 May (Fjeldstad), and in Rocky River Metropark on 23 May (Klamm), Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported on the Sunday Morning Bird Walks (hereafter Bird Walks). Common Nighthawks were moving well during the last third of May. A

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in Twin Lakes on the early date of 28 Apr. Many were moving through the region the weekend of 12 May. A movement of Belted Kingfishers was evident during the second week of April. Red-headed Woodpeckers were very noticeable along Lake Erie in May but scarce inland. A bird was somewhat early on 21 Apr. at Lake View Cemetery. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were very widespread and numerous. This was quite different from a year ago. Thirty were counted at Headlands BSP on 15 Apr. Pileated Woodpeckers continue to move into more urban settings. The Haleys had a pair regularly visiting their feeder in Akron.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from the CVNRA on 9 May (Kiwi) and 13 May (Chasar). Kellerman saw this species at North Chagrin Reservation on 19 May as did the Hoffmans at Lake View Cemetery. Harlan located two at Lake Isaac on 29 May. The first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Headlands BSP 16 May (Hannikman). Afterwards they were uncommon into June. Acadian Flycatchers were scarce migrants but commonly on territory by late May. Alder Flycatchers were on territory at Streetsboro Bog on 28 May. Least Flycatcher totals were excellent with counts of 30+ at Sims Park and Headlands BSP. Kiwi first noted an Eastern Phoebe 10 Mar. at Perkins Beach, Inland, the Hoffmans saw an early bird at Lake Rockwell on 11 Mar. Great Crested Flycatchers were very noticeable from late April. Twenty-five

Eastern Kingbirds were early at Headlands on 28 Apr. (m.obs.). In fact, several veteran reporters indicated that they saw their first April kingbird this year.

Swallows were quite numerous and apparently most species are flourishing. Most observers felt that Northern Rough-winged Swallows have increased. It seemed to be easier to find Cliff Swallows than Purple Martins at Headlands BSP. As usual, when the weather became cold, thousands of swallows could be found hawking insects just above

An impressive movement of 2300 American Crows was noted at Headlands Beach State Park on 11 March.

the water on inland reservoirs. The first Purple Martins were four at Perkins Beach on 9 Apr. (Klamm). The only report away from Lake Erie came from a long time nesting area in Streetsboro. Ninety Tree Swallows at Barberton on 12 Mar. were a large number for the date. Four were also early at Spencer Lake on 14 Mar. A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was near record early at Wingfoot Lake on 5 Apr. (Rosche). Cliff Swallows had returned to their West Branch SP nesting areas by 24 Apr. Others were reported from Barberton, LaDue Reservoir, Headlands BSP and Gordon Park. Blue Jays passed by Perkins Beach at a rate of 365

an hour on 30 Apr. (Klamm). An impressive movement of 2300+ American Crows was noted at Headlands BSP on 11 Mar. (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as probably nesting at Shaker Lakes (Peskin). Brown Creepers moved significantly in April. A bird near the coast Guard Station on the late date of 27 May was out of synchrony with normal migratory patterns (Hoffman), Carolina Wrens fledged young in Atwater by 1 May. Although a Winter Wren was early at Donald Gray Gardens on 22 Mar. (Klamm), totals were not good. The high tally from Headlands BSP was only 12 on 15 Apr. The first House Wren reported was in Akron on 13 Apr. (Kopka). Marsh Wrens had arrived at Barberton by 29 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** moved fairly well in mid-April but they seemed fewer than last year. A high of 125 was noted at Lake Medina on 7 Apr. (Witt). Ruby-crowned Kinglets demonstrated the same pattern numerically as Golden-crowned Kinglets, only at later dates. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were conspicuous from the last third of April. Twenty-five at Headlands BSP on 28 Apr. was above normal. Chasar wrote of a good population in the CVNRA.

Bill Klamm commented that Eastern Bluebirds were met with unusual frequency in his regular survey areas (where they are seldom noted). A Veery was early at Firestone Metropark on 15 Apr. (Kopka). Gray-cheeked Thrush numbers were noticeably improved over last year through-

out the region. Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were only fair. Ten Swainson's at Euclid Beach Park on 26 May were indicative of a late movement (LePage). Wood Thrushes seemed in adequate supply. The Gray Catbird found in January along the Zimmerman Trail was in the same locality on 23 Mar. (Hannikman). New locations for Northern Mockingbirds were in Stow on 14 Mar. (Furst) and Kent on 19 Apr. (Rosche). Brown Thrashers have returned to many of their former locations and seem to be out of trouble for the time being. Forty Water Pipits were along Hawley Road in Lorain County on 13 Mar. (LePage). Ken Reed reported 150 east of Wellington on 31 Mar. and on 1 Apr. Thirty were in Auburn Township on 13 May and 25 at Walborn Reservoir on 19 May.

Vireos were timely and as expected. A White-eyed was slightly early at Sims Park on 25 Apr. (Kellerman). One at Euclid Beach Park on 28 May was surprising. The earliest Solitary Vireo was at Firestone Metropark on 5-11 Apr. (Furst). Yellow-throated Vireos were fewer than usual along Lake Erie but on territory at their regular nesting sites. Philadelphia Vireos were normal in the middle of May. A high of 6 was reported from Lake View Cemetery on 19 May. A bird at Garfield Park on 27 May was from a previously unreported area (Chasar). Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos were common and vigorously singing by 10 May.

Warblers were quite spectacular in numbers and variety (see table) in the eastern sectors of the region. Elsewhere, this was not the case. The usual Akron hot spot, Firestone Metropark, was much quieter than expected (Kopka, Pierce). If The Sunday Morning Bird Walk censuses are any indication of true numbers, then Yellow Warblers have suffered a catastrophic drop in breeding populations away from Headlands BSP. Reporting on the eastern regions, Jean Hoffman wrote "Some came early, but many came on pronounced waves. Several

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appeared at the crest of a wave only to disappear until the next wave a week or two later. On May 15 warblers were generally common for the first time, being heard on residential streets, MLK Drive, and the Bratenahl Annex. After May 20 many were on hold though others moved through the static period. Many warblers were present at the end of May, but a lot cleared out as soon as the winds came from the southwest on May 31. It was an unusual warbler migration, fascinating in the sharply marked periods of movement and very late presence of some birds. While warblers were often conspicuously present, numbers may have been smaller than

they seemed if the same birds were frequently present. In any event, it was a very satisfying warbler spring for us.”

Blue-winged Warblers were unusually common along Lake Erie and described as plentiful inland. Tennessee Warbler numbers were as impressive as any time in recent springs. The tree-lined streets of the region were alive with the song of this species the last half of May. An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Lake View Cemetery on 6 May (Hoffman). Three were found at Headlands BSP 20 May (Bacik, Hahn, Rosche). A Nashville Warbler was in the vanguard on 25 Apr. at Headlands BSP

Mourning Warblers were common at lakefront locales...

(Hoffman). Northern Parula reports were: 12 May Headlands BSP (Hannikman, Rosche), 19 May Lake View Cemetery (Hoffman), 20 May (3) at Headlands BSP (Bacik, Hahn, Rosche), Sims Park (Kellerman), South Chagrin Reservation (Hoffman), 21 May in Parma (Harlan), and 23 May at Sims Park (Hoffman). The totals of Cape May Warblers were much better than last year. Black-throated Blue Warbler numbers were conspicuous at Headlands BSP. A bird at Erie View Cemetery on 28 Apr. was early (Rosche, Hannikman). Once again. Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered in larger than usual

numbers. A bird at Headlands BSP on 27 May was quite late (Hoffman). Kiwis total of 112 at Shaker Lakes on 20 Apr. was the high count. A Black-throated Green Warbler was early at Shaker Lakes on 20 Apr. (Kiwi). Blackburnian Warblers were fairly numerous from 15 to 28 May. Pine Warblers were found at Shaker Lakes on several occasions in late April. One in Sagamore Hills was unexpected (Chasar). The only Prairie Warblers were at their traditional Peninsula site in the CVNRA by 5 May (mobs.). Palm, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers seemed in ample supply. Jean Hoffman noted a singing Bay-breasted Warbler outside her home in Cleveland Heights from 24 to 31 May. Cerulean Warblers were on territory at West Branch SP by 5 May. A bird at Lake View Cemetery on 19 May was out of place. Black-and-white Warblers were described as abundant in the Akron Metroparks. A total of 25 at Headlands BSP on 5 May was indicative their abundance along Lake Erie. The first **Prothonotary Warbler** was noted on 28 Apr. at Firestone Metropark (Ferrato). Wert and Vanderpoel located one at the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA on 13 May. The Towpath Bird Walk reported one on 20 May. A male was inspecting nesting sites at Lake Rockwell the same day (Rosche). Lake Isaac provided the only other report on 29, 30 May (Harlan). Ovenbirds were very common throughout the eastern half of the region. Kellerman was surprised to see one inside his workshop on Harvard Avenue on 25 Apr.!

The first Louisiana Waterthrush was at Firestone Metropark on 15 May (Kopka). A Kentucky Warbler was early at Shaker Lakes on 29 Apr. (Peskin). Others were reported from Huntington Reservation, Penitentiary Glen, and Headlands BSP. Mourning Warblers were common at lakefront birding locales in late May. An aberrant male with a broken eyering was seen at Lower Shaker Lake on 19 May. It sang the typical Mourning Warbler song. The observers felt that at best it was a MacGillivray's/ Mourning hybrid (Hoffman). Another inland report was from North Chagrin Reservation on 19 May (Kellerman). Fifteen were seen on the 20 May Bird Walks (fide Wallin). This was an very good spring for Wilson's Warblers. Twenty-five at Headlands BSP on 20 May represented an exceptional spring total (mobs.). Canada Warblers were expectedly numerous the last third of May. An early **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Headlands BSP on 29 Apr. (m.obs.). The Chasars found one in the CVNRA on 12 May. Another was reported from Lake Medina on 15 May (Witt). Penitentiary Glen recorded one on the 20 May Bird Walk. The last report was from Mill Hollow Park on 28 May (Richardson).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were very well represented throughout the region. A bird in Geauga County 24 Apr. was early (Hahn). Indigo Buntings were widely on territory by 15 May. Oddly, they were easy to find at Headlands BSP on 19-20 May (mobs.). Several observers commented on

**Sunday Morning Bird Walk Totals for
Vireos and Warblers Spring 1990**

Species	4/29	5/6	5/13	5/20
WHITE-EYED VIREO	7	4	1	4
SOLITARY VIREO	8	4	1	4
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	3	8	8	10
WARBLING VIREO	8	40	20	53
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	•	1	•	22
RED-EYED VIREO	5	20	49	153
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	59	80	32	32
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	•	•	2	2
TENNESSEE WARBLER	•	2	14	122
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	•	•	•	3
NASHVILLE WARBLER	8	20	7	9
NORTHERN PARULA	1	•	•	4
YELLOW WARBLER	58	142	121	135
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	1	13	12	68
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	1	3	18	115
CAPE MAY WARBLER	6	•	2	20
BLACK-THROATED BLUE W.	4	3	8	17
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	162	98	42	27
BLACK-THROATED GREEN W.	15	13	22	16
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	1	2	3	18
PINE WARBLER	1	•	1	•
PALM WARBLER	50	31	9	2
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	•	•	5	35
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	•	•	2	8
CERULEAN WARBLER	2	23	4	22
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	10	41	8	18
AMERICAN REDSTART	3	4	10	176
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	•	•	4	1
OVENBIRD	4	5	18	21
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	2	5	6	10
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	4	6	5	5
KENTUCKY WARBLER	2	•	•	1
MOURNING WARBLER	•	•	•	15
COMMON YELLOWHROAT	42	64	85	75
HOODED WARBLER	8	16	13	33
WILSON'S WARBLER	1	•	1	44
CANADA WARBLER	•	2	•	41
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	•	•	•	1

•Not observed

increased numbers of Rufous-sided Towhees. Rolik noted them in an area of Maple

Heights where they had been absent for six years!

Sparrow migration generally went undetected and the Bird Walk tallies were very low. Exceptions were 14 Mar. when 83 Song Sparrows were detected by the Klamms and on 20 Apr. when the Hoffmans encountered 500 Dark-eyed Juncoes at Gordon Park. A Chipping Sparrow in Sagamore Hills on 24 Mar. was exceptionally early (Chasar). Vesper Sparrows were noted along Lake Erie in early April. Inland, they demonstrated a pattern of being a week later. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Gordon Park on 24 Apr. (Klamm, LePage). One was studied at Headlands BSP 13 May (Bacik, Hahn, Rosche). Norma Kraps reported this species along Biggs Road on 22 May. High counts of Fox Sparrows were 15 on 18 Mar. in Cleveland and Rocky River (Klamm) and 11 at Euclid Beach Park on 17 Apr. (LePage). Lincoln's, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows were in below average totals. Late Dark-eyed Juncoes were in Akron (Kopka) and at South Chagrin Reservation on 20 May (Hoffman). The latest was at Headlands BSP on 21 May (Hannikman). An albino Dark-eyed Junco was in Parma Heights on 20 Apr. (Harlan). Twelve Bobolinks were early at Headlands BSP on 28 Apr. (m.obs.). Twenty-seven Eastern Meadowlarks moved past Perkins Beach on 10 Mar. (Kiwi).

An Orchard Oriole was early at Headlands BSP on 28 Apr. (Rosche, mobs.). Others were as expected, with a bird in Parma on 9 May being from a new locale (Harlan). Northern

County Arrival Dates for Common Migrants – Spring, 1990

SPECIES	CUYAHOGA	GEAUGA	LAKE	LORAIN	MEDINA	PORTAGE	SUMMIT
GREEN-BK HERON	4/19	5/20	4/28	5/5	4/29	5/4	4/22
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	3/31	4/13	3/31	4/5	4/28	4/8	3/12
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	4/15	4/13	4/15	4/15	5/30	5/5	5/22
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	4/26	5/13	4/28	4/21	4/29	4/21	4/15
C.NIGHTHAWK	5/9	•	5/16	5/9	•	5/13	5/9
E.WOOD PEWEE	4/29	5/20	5/12	5/22	5/13	5/16	5/12
LEAST FLYCATCHER	4/25	5/13	4/25	•	5/20	5/14	5/8
E.KINGBIRD	4/28	4/29	4/28	5/5	5/2	4/28	5/6
BARN SWALLOW	4/15	4/28	4/15	4/12	5/6	4/17	4/20
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	4/29	4/27	4/28	4/25	5/6	5/22	4/30
WOOD THRUSH	4/27	5/1	4/29	4/23	5/6	4/29	4/27
G.CATBIRD	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/28	4/29	4/26	4/29
SOLITARY VIREO	4/21	•	4/28	4/27	4/22	5/1	4/5
WARBLING VIREO	4/28	5/13	4/28	4/30	4/29	4/28	4/28
BLUE-WINGED WARB.	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/29	4/29	5/1	4/27
NASHVILLE WARB.	4/28	5/2	4/25	4/27	5/6	5/5	5/5
MAGNOLIA WARB.	4/28	5/5	4/28	5/21	5/21	5/12	4/28
PALM WARBLER	4/28	4/26	4/25	4/26	4/26	5/1	4/27
BAY-BREASTED WARB.	4/30	5/16	5/12	4/29	•	5/19	4/28
BLACKPOLLWARB,	5/13	5/13	5/19	•	•	•	5/17
A.REDSTART	5/9	5/19	5/6	5/9	5/20	5/1	5/20
N.WATERTHRUSH	4/27	4/26	5/6	4/27	•	5/1	5/6
C.YELLOWTHROAT	5/2	4/29	4/28	4/28	4/29	4/29	4/27
SCARLET TANAGER	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/28	5/13	5/1	5/11
ROSE-BREASTED GB.	4/30	4/24	4/28	4/27	5/6	5/1	4/28
CHIPPING SPARROW	4/15	4/15	4/7	4/7	4/15	4/15	3/24
SAVANNAH SPARROW	4/10	4/15	4/14	4/5	4/5	4/15	4/9
BOBOLINK	5/6	4/29	4/28	5/8	•	5/13	5/15
N.ORIOLE	4/26	4/28	4/28	4/26	4/29	4/26	4/28

• NO DATA RECEIVED

Orioles were incredibly numerous along the usual Lake Erie migrant watching spots. Purple Finches were in especially good numbers in Lorain County in late April. Rickard first noted them in North Chagrin Reservation on 3 Mar. Pine Siskins were numerous and exhibiting nesting behavior in Portage County well into May. Jackie Haley reported this

species was still visiting her feeder in Akron on 20 May. Betty Lake reported them through the period in Novelty. They were extremely evident along Lake Erie throughout most of May. Indicative, were 200 siskins flying west at Headlands Beach SP on 20 May (Bacik, Hahn, Hannikman). Kiwi was fortunate to find three Common Redpolls at Shaker

Lakes on 21 Mar. These were the only ones reported in the region. American Goldfinches were migrating in excellent numbers along Lake Erie during the last week of April into May. A few Evening Grosbeaks were detected at Shaker Lakes and Rocky River in April. Thirty-three at Headlands BSP on 20 May were rather late (Hannikman, Rosche).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - Once again, this species was found at Summit Lake. Bill Osborne located a bird early on 5 Mar. and it remained through the 13th. Rosche found another at Mogadore Reservoir on 11 Mar.

Brown Pelican - Susan Sprengnether spotted the first state record of this coastal species near Huntington Reservation on 29 Apr. It was described by Larry Richardson as it lounged near Cahoon Park.

American Bittern - Wert located two at Barberton on 25 Apr. Another was along Rogers Road in North Chagrin Reservation on 5 May (Kellerman). A single was at Headlands Beach SP on 12 May (Hannikman, Rosche).

Least Bittern - A bird was flushed at Shipman Pond on 29 Apr. (Rosche, mobs.). The Hoffmans saw one there on 27 May.

Snowy Egret - Dave LeGallee found this species at Baldwin Lake on 23 May. Bill Klamm videotaped it the next day.

Eurasian Wigeon - Lorain County naturalist Gary Gerrone reported a male at Oberlin Reservoir on 11 Mar.

Harlequin Duck - Two males were at Headlands Beach SP on 4 Mar. (m.obs.). Another was at Sims Park on the same day (Kiwi, Hannikman). A late bird was intermittent off Perkins Beach 14-21 Apr. (Klamm).

Bald Eagle - Kiwi discovered an immature at Headlands Beach SP on 4 Mar. It or another was seen there on 13 Mar. (Elder, Rosche). The Chasars reported an adult in the CVNRA on 20 Mar. Gerrone reported two adult birds along the Vermilion River through the period. These birds were in the general vicinity of the former "great eerie" described by Dr. Francis H. Herrick in 1925.

Merlin - A female was at Mentor Marsh on 11 Mar. (Rosche). The Klamms saw one at Perkins Beach on 9 Apr. Another was at Headlands Beach SP on 14 Apr. (Hannikman). A male allowed close viewing there on 21 Apr. (Rosche). A female was there on 20 May (Hannikman, LePage). Harlan had a late bird on 21 May in Parma Heights.

Peregrine Falcon - An adult was seen at Burke Airport plucking feathers from a captured bird on 17 Apr. (Klamm). Drew Rolik was able to get excellent views of the pair frequenting the Terminal Tower area from the Greenbriar Suite on several occasions. On 16 April a bird was seen in its nesting tray. Charles Klaus reported that both falcons tormented an unsuspecting Turkey Vulture as it migrated through central Cleveland. They double-teamed the overmatched vulture and continually drove it eastward on 7 May.

Sandhill Crane - Bob Faber reported two sightings near Russell Park on 10, 15 May.

Willet - A single was on the beach at Headlands BSP on 29 Apr. (Rosche, mobs.). Twelve

were photographed as they were standing, preening, and calling from an exposed sand bar at the south end of Lake Rockwell the same afternoon (Rosche). Kopka saw a single bird there on 14 May. A bird was at Huntington Beach on 13 May. Two on the Towpath Bird Walk 20 May were certainly out of place (*vide* Wallin).

Upland Sandpipers - Two were in Fairport Harbor 21 Apr. (Rosche, mobs.). One was at Gordon Park 22 Apr. (Hannikman). LePage spotted another at Burke Airport on 23 Apr. A lone bird was flying around the IX Center on 26 May (Klamm).

Western Sandpiper - A molting bird with chevrons on only one side and a disproportionately long bill was at the Gordon Park impoundment on 20 May (Hannikman, Rosche).

Baird's Sandpiper - The first spring record of this species in the history of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was located by Craig Holt on the evening of 4 May at Lake Rockwell. Since the lake was at an all time low, he and Rosche were able to get excellent looks at this adult as it foraged on an exposed sandbar. Its distinctive calls were heard. Least Sandpipers and Dunlins provided size comparisons. Photographic efforts failed. This species has yet to be photographed in the spring in Ohio (*The Birds of Ohio* Peterjohn 1989).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - The first spring report in our files was described at the Barberton Holding Basin on 28 May (Harlan).

Ruff - The long awaited first local record was a stunning black, orange, and white male at the Gordon Park Impoundment 16 May (Hannikman). It was last seen on 20 May by Jeff Wert.

Wilson's Phalarope - A male was identified by the Hoffmans at the Gordon Park Impoundment on 19 May.

Laughing Gull - An adult was at Headlands Beach SP on 16 May (Hannikman).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - A breeding plumaged adult was meticulously described at Lake Rockwell on the snowy evening of 6 Apr. (Holt). This was, most assuredly, the first report from Portage County for this species.

Black Tern - Norma Kraps saw an impressive 23 at Spencer Lake on 13 May. Hannikman located one at Headlands Beach SP on 16 May. Two were at Wellington Reservoir on 18 May (Kraps), one was at LaDue Reservoir 19 May (Rosche, Vanderpoel) and nine were at Lake Rockwell 22 May (Rosche).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - Two birds were calling on the foggy morning of 22 April from a small woodlot in Mentor Marsh near the Zimmerman Trail (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche).

Whip-poor-will - The Stovers discovered one in their yard in Tallmadge on 24 Apr. LePage found one at Donald Gray Gardens the same day. A live bird was brought to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for a successful rehabilitation on 7 May (*fide* Kiwi).

Northern Shrike - The Oberlin Reservoir bird was last seen on 11 Mar. by Gary Gerrone, Jack Smith, and Joe Strong.

Bell's Vireo - Vanderpoel located the second regional record of this species at Headlands Beach SP on the major movement day of 19 May. It was observed the next day by Bacik Hahn, and Rosche.

Golden-winged Warbler - Kiwi saw a male at Shaker Lakes on 8 May. Another was on the Zimmerman trail the same day (Hoffman). Two were seen on the North Chagrin Bird Walk on 13, 20 May (*fide* Wallin). Harlan noted one in Parma on 15 May. A female was at Headlands Beach SP on 19 May (Hahn). Remarkably, another female was along the Zimmerman Trail on 28 May (Hannikman, Hahn).

Brewster's Warbler - A bird singing the typical Blue-winged song was at Lake View Cemetery on 6 May (Hoffman). The underparts were described as being completely white, upperparts gray except for a large yellow wing patch and yellow crown, black through the eye like a Blue-winged Warbler. This indicated to the observer that it was most likely a Brewster's back cross hybrid. Another bird was reported from Penitentiary Glen on 6,13 May (*fide* Wallin). Harlan's ongoing study at Lake Isaac turned up another on 8 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler - A bird was at Lake Rockwell on 5 May (Rosche). Harlan located one along the Chippewa Creek at Brecksville Reservation on 26 May.

Worm-eating Warbler - Jean Hoffman found the first spring record in two years feeding in the oaks at Lake View Cemetery on 6 May.

Connecticut Warbler - Vanderpoel located a male at Headlands Beach SP on 19 May and it was viewed briefly by several others. Richardson saw his first at Huntington Reservation on the same date. Former Clevelander Jim Hoffman found a female along the Zimmerman Trail on 27 May. Euclid Beach State Park harbored one on 28 May (Kellerman).

Summer Tanager - An immature male was reported from Lake Isaac on 14 May (Harlan). Another was on the Towpath Bird Walk on 20 May (Chasar).

Le Conte's Sparrow - A bird was seen at Gordon Park on 16 May by Jerry Talkington (*fide* Hannikman).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Two were flushed at Gordon Park by Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman on 16 May.

Western Meadowlark - A male, found on 13 May in Streetsboro, remained through the period. This was the first record for Portage County (Rosche).

Brewer's Blackbird - Vanderpoel scrutinized a flock of eight feeding with grackles in a cow lot west of Medina on 22 Apr. The dark eye and gray-brown color of the females were the key field characters noted.

FIELD NOTES

The first Cleveland area record of Ruff

by Ray Hannikman

The Cleveland area's long sought-after first record of Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) was found by me at the Gordon Park Impoundment at approximately 6:00 pm on May 16, 1990. This gaudy male was present at this location until at least the early afternoon of May 20, at which time it disappeared into the reeds. Ohio's spring records of this widespread Eurasian shorebird mainly fall within the period of mid-April to mid-May with most individuals having been found in the marshlands of the state's western basin. The following is a brief description of the fields characters of this individual.

Body - The ruff was a bright orange and did not extend over the top of the birds head and out onto the back. The back color was mainly black with white edges to the feathers. This gave the bird a rather scaly-looking appearance. This blotchy black coloration extended over the breast down to the belly. The belly was white. The bird occasionally puffed out its ruff and stretched its wings. The underwing color was a contrasting milky white.

Leg Color - Leg color seemed to take on the gray color of the muck the bird was feeding in.

Bill - The bill was rather short and slightly decurved and was thicker toward the base.

The bird freely associated with the other species of shorebirds present during its stay -Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlins, and Semipalmated Plovers.

What seemed ironic about this sighting was that if I had not decided to turn back and walk a little farther east toward the southeast corner of the impoundment that day this bird may not have ever been found. Instead, many local and out-of-town birders got to see and enjoy this bird.

Ohio's first wild Brown Pelican

by Susan Sprengnether

At the close of the Audubon Bird Walk at Huntington Reservation on Sunday, April 29, 1990 I suggested another scan of Lake Erie. We were hoping to once more observe the two loons we had seen earlier as they fished and called to each other. Betty Pontius and Sue Smith of Bay Village joined me for another look. The three of us carefully studied the lake surface, allowing enough time for any diving loon to emerge. We weren't successful. Our disappointment was brief. But, it wasn't a loon that satisfied my searching eyes: sitting amongst some bobbing gulls, about 150 feet off the most eastern sandstone pier, was an enormous, brownish bird with an unmistakable massive bill.

I was stunned at what I was seeing. Were my feet still firmly planted on the sands of the "North Coast"? This was a sight

often viewed along the Southern Atlantic Coast, the Gulf Coast, or the Pacific Coast. I thought to myself, "Stay CALM ... note all field marks ... what ELSE could this be? ... identify ... get crazy with excitement LATER ... this could be the FIRST sighting of a BROWN PELICAN for Ohio and the Great Lakes Region!"

With my cries of disbelief and astonishment, the others came running. By now, this lone wanderer had begun preening with its long bill. He reared back, flapping his wings, causing a ruckus among the gulls. After a few moments "he" (and I use that terminology loosely as the sexes are similar in appearance) suddenly arose from the surface, flapped a few times, banked close along the surface, and landed about 50 yards to the east in the midst of some very shocked gulls. While the frightened gulls were showing their displeasure at this intrusion, the pelican settled and tucked his head for a nap. No doubt, this was a well earned nap for he had been on a very long journey from his natural and preferred salt water habitat.

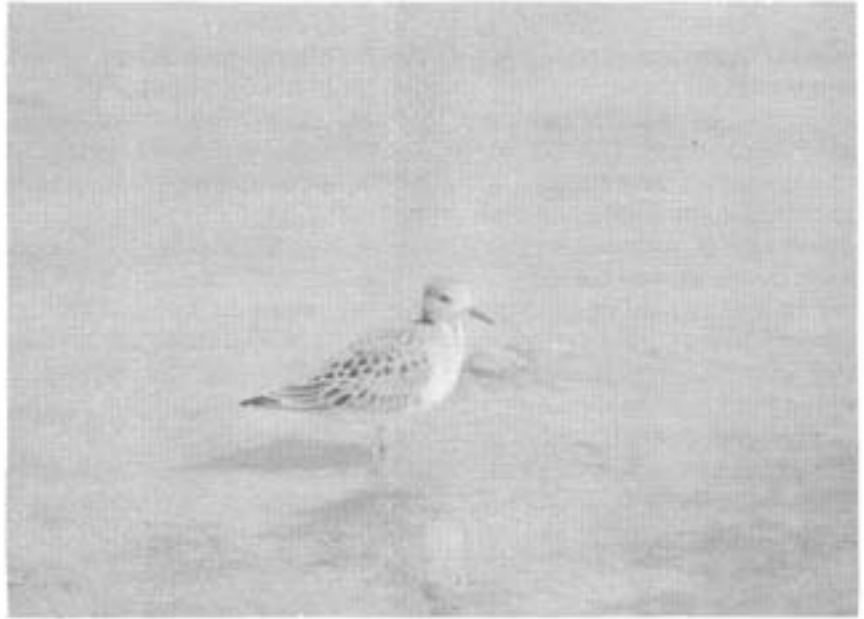
Although I wanted very much to spend more time observing this misplaced and rare visitor to Ohio, I could not pass up the chance to get more birders to see it. I set out quickly for home, stopping first at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center to begin spreading the news, Larry Richardson, director of the center, went to the shore and found that the peli-

can had moved farther to the east. My son Bill, and husband Bob, also found that the migrating bird was on the move, being barely able to see him because he was so far from shore.

I was beginning to feel like a frustrated town crier because almost every birder I tried to contact was out in the field making the best of this beautiful day. Those few individuals who answered the telephone were there because of obligations preventing further birding. Three people reached were Harold Wallin, Mike Stasko, and Bob Hinkle. They helped to spread the word. Many birders learned the news by this "grapevine." I heard of birders hurrying to the north shore only to find that our new Ohio sighting had already moved on, probably in a confused search for salt water.

I had a work obligation on the East Side so the day could not be spent tracking this now elusive bird. I was compelled, though, to stop at every possible spot along the shore in the late afternoon to continue searching (despite my inappropriate dress and heels). This effort was to no avail -although I did get to see several birders who had received reports of a weird sighting.

Now was the time to get CRAZY WITH EXCITEMENT! Isn't birding GREAT?_ You always have a chance to see the nuttiest of birds while meeting the nicest people.



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper
by Larry Rosche

Notes on a spring sighting of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper
by Robert Harlan

On May 28, 1990 while I was scoping a White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 Dunlin, and 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers on a small mudflat island in Barberton, Ohio, a medium-sized, vertical sandpiper walked into scope view. My initial impression was Buff-breasted Sandpiper, an impression which remained throughout the viewing. The bird was a solid buff-colored vertical sandpiper, about the same length as the Dunlins, but taller. It was seen facing me and to the side. The breast, throat, and underside appeared to be a clear buffy color, without noticeable markings (The dark brown flank markings of the White-rumped Sandpiper were clearly visible at the same distance). The neck was comparatively long and thin, the head

also was buff-colored. The bill was not clearly observed; presumably this indicates a small, straight bill, as I believe any atypical bill would have been readily observed. The legs were of moderate length, certainly not as long as a yellowlegs, but longer than the Dunlins, for instance. The leg color was not seen.

After approximately 5-10 seconds, the bird flew away from me to a small algae covered mudflat at the edge of the water. It then ran back into the Phragmites and was not seen again. I would say that the entire viewing lasted only 10-20 seconds. A dorsal view was obtained during the short flight. The back itself appeared streaked brown, not plain or spotted. The wings were also brown, and showed no wingbar. The rump and tail were also the same bright brown color. No white was visible on

the rump, sides of the rump or tail. Basically, the bird appeared to be essentially solid brown as if flew 20 or so feet to the waters edge.

While short, this observation convinced me that I was seeing a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. I am well aware of this species spring status in the east and the need for a feather by feather description. However, it is a distinctive appearing bird, one that I am accustomed to seeing along Lake Erie in late August to mid-September.

East of the Mississippi, Buff-breasted Sandpipers are casual at best in the spring. Ohio has only one documented sighting of seven birds in Wyandot County on June 11, 1966 (Birds of Ohio). A short search of the literature from surrounding areas revealed two Indiana spring records -May 22, 1926 and June 1, 1977 (Indiana Birds and Their Haunts), and one Detroit area record, May 31, 1952 (Birds of SE Michigan and SW Ontario). My May 28, 1990 sighting certainly seems to fall into the apparent migration window. Although I definitely would have preferred a longer view, I felt that this information could be supplied for the record.

An inland sight record of Lesser Black-backed Gull

by Craig Holt

On 6 April 1990 I observed an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Lake Rockwell in Kent, Ohio. The gull was at the south end of the lake, about 50 yards from shore. I was watching from the dike adjacent to Ravenna

Road when I found the bird at 6:15 P.M. I studied it continuously for approximately one hour at 30-35X through my Bushnell spotting scope.

The weather that day and the next was cold and windy, with temperatures near 32°F and snow flurries occurring occasionally. The sky was slightly overcast on the evening of 6 April, light enough to allow good viewing. I first saw the Lesser Black-backed Gull swimming near a small island where waterbirds often congregate. It was associating with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. The gull spent most of the next hour standing and walking on the island. It also flapped its wings and flew several times.

Field marks of the bird were: size, smaller than a Herring Gull but larger than Ring-billed; slim bodied, long-winged silhouette; dark slate gray mantle and wings with black primaries; yellow legs; yellow bill with prominent red spot on end of lower mandible; clean white head and neck with no dark markings or mottling; white breast and belly. From these observations I concluded that the bird was Larus fuscus graellsii an adult in breeding plumage.

I watched the gull until 7:15 P.M. and then scanned the rest of the lake for 5-10 minutes. When I looked back to the island the gull was gone. I searched for a few more minutes until it was too dark to see but I could not relocate the gull. I looked for it on subsequent days but never saw it again.

"Big Day" birding Northeast Ohio style - reflections of a westerner

by John Vanderpoel

I gazed through the telescope at the shape silhouetted in the predawn glow. It drifted slowly in the still water, its head tucked serenely under the wing. Tranquility shrouded the moment. Suddenly a swallow-like bird sliced across my field of view. "Black Tern" Larry yelled. Simultaneously the shape raised its head and I cried "Common Loon".

It was only 5:30 AM on Saturday, May 19th at LaDue Reservoir. We were off to a good start. Seven species already had been identified, highlighted by the loon and the tern, two birds I knew would be difficult to find along the lakefront. Having recently moved from the west I was excited about the opportunity to participate in a "Big Day" with two of the Cleveland region's most avid birders, Larry Rosche and Ray Hannikman. Thoughts raced through my mind as we drove northward. I had often expounded to my birding friends in Colorado about the chances of seeing 25 species of warbler in a single day in Ohio. Would today be the day? Could we hit 140 species? A great deal would depend on the fallout of migrants that had occurred in the last nine hours.

We met Ray, Emil Bacik and Muggsi Hahn at the Headlands Beach State Park and immediately headed for the beach hoping for a shorebird movement. Now this was different



Female Wilson's Phalarope
by Larry Rosche

strategy, Established procedure for a Colorado Big Day was to save the shorebirds and waterfowl for the dog hours of midafternoon. However, here in Northeast Ohio, where so many people compete for discordant uses of so few natural areas, my strategy may have resulted in observations of beer-bellies and bikinis rather than the shorebirds we found. As we turned back into the nature area, the anticipation heightened. Small birds were dripping from the trees. The warblers started coming fast - Redstart, Chestnut-sided, and Tennessee all in the first three minutes. Moving low along the shrub border ahead of us were Lincoln's Sparrows, Catbirds, and several thrushes, More warblers including, Blackburnian, Wilson's, and Black-throated Blue fed actively in plain view.

Muggsi spotted a female Golden-winged Warbler and I saw its two golden wingbars just as it retreated into the tangles. Five minutes later sifting quietly in the understory of a woodlot thicket, I noticed a warbler walking beside a fallen log. I forced myself to look at the undertail coverts - yellow. Yellow spectacles, the black inverted triangle on its face, and the lack of a necklace confirmed that this bird as a Kentucky Warbler, Bingo!! What a thrill, could it get any better than this?

By 8:00 AM we stood at the entrance to the Zimmerman Trail with 16 species of warblers already ticked off the list. Rosche felt that we were now in a strong position to break 130 species. This certainly would be the highest single day total ever in the history of the Cleveland

region. After over an hour on the trail we added several woodpeckers and four more warblers, including a cooperative Orange-crowned. We returned to the picnic area at the east end of the park and I drifted off by myself. I had just sighted a very small vireo with an extremely faint wing bar when Larry shouted Orchard Oriole! I continued my study on the vireo and noted a scarcely visible eyering, then ran toward the oriole planning to view it then lead the others back to confirm this probable Bells Vireo. I had seen hundreds of Orchard Orioles in the riparian habitats of Eastern Colorado, but the song of this first year male enhanced the climactic surge of birding events that had been developing throughout the morning. The last hour spent at Headlands was rounded out by a confirmation of the Bells Vireo by Larry and a furtive but mostly uncooperative Connecticut Warbler. The fallout I had secretly hoped for had come true. We left for Gordon Park with 24 species of warblers and 107 total. Everyone was buoyant and confident. The number 150 started ringing in my mind but I thought it prudent to hold this thought to myself - for a while.

The sludge outflow at Gordon Park has produced many rare sightings over the years and it was a logical next stop. Besides, Rays sighting of a Ruff there earlier in the week was of national significance. For me it would be a coup-de-grace - a life bird on a Big Day outing. The euphoria I was feeling

diminished as I survey the land-fill. Hey! This wouldn't be as easy as I supposed. There were willows everywhere and finding shorebirds would take time. As I began picking out the moving forms amid the willows I located Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Short-billed Dowitchers. Finally the Ruff was spotted and oh, what a bird! After taking some time to fully appreciate the Ruff we plotted out our itinerary for the rest of the day. We would drive to Streetsboro for the Western Meadowlark, then work over the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, and finish at the Barberton Holding Basin.

The Western Meadowlark could not have been more obliging. The rich melodious song helped me escape, for an instant, to a clear, blue vista overlooking the grasslands of Eastern Colorado. This meadowlark, so common on the western prairies, had last been seen in Northeastern Ohio in October of 1978! It would end up being involved in the irony of the day.

On an average May day in the west one would expect to see 8 species of diurnal raptors. So far today a lone American Kestrel had brought our total to a paltry number of one, but now in the valley of the Cuyahoga that number began to grow. Turkey Vultures soared along the ridges and a Red-tailed Hawk stared at us from its nest. These encounters were followed by Larry's glimpse of an Osprey and two Broad-winged Hawks that screamed at us at Deep Lock Metropark. A Red-shouldered



Red-shouldered Hawk, Slaw, Ohio
by Larry Rosche

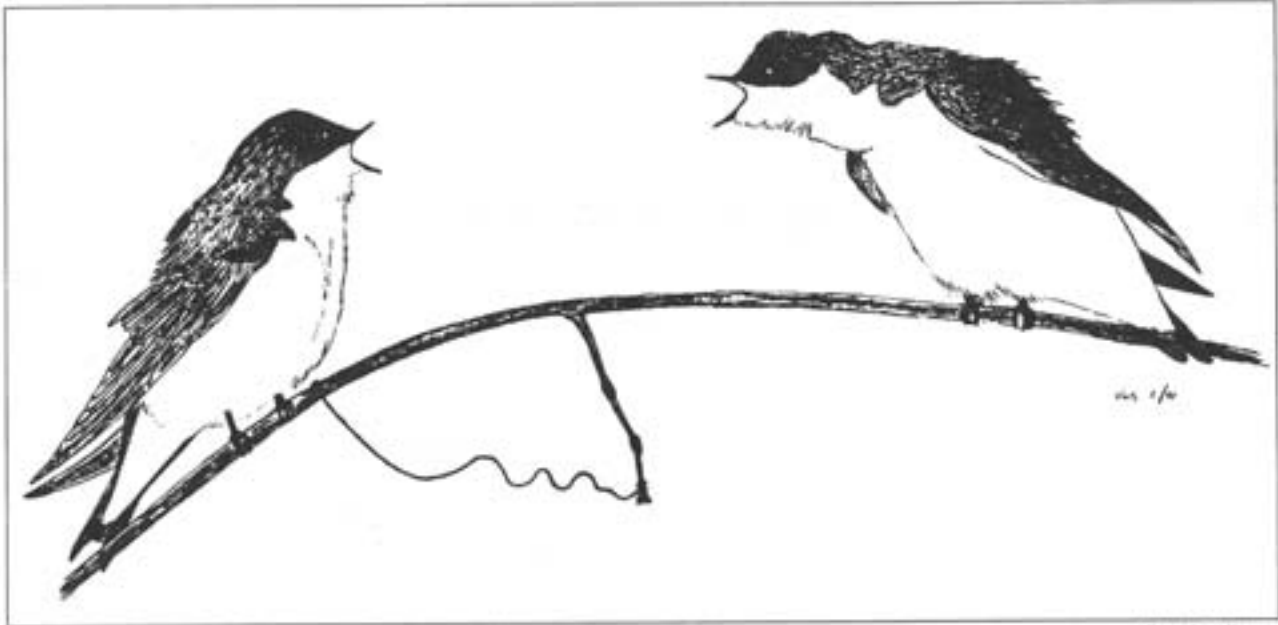
Hawk flashed close by, near Major Road. The raptor tally now stood at a respectable six.

We finished working the valley at 5:30 PM. Our list had grown to 136. We had added four warblers, Blue-winged, Cerulean, Hooded, and Prairie. At this point Ray and Muggsi parted for their homes and other commitments. Undaunted, Larry and I headed south for the marsh birds in Barberton. We both acknowledged that if the ducks were there and we picked a few more common species like Eastern Meadowlark then 150 species were within reach.

The Barberton Holding Basin is a great place to bird. Early arrival migrants, late lingering shorebirds, and waterfowl give it interesting birds ten months

of the year. Today, unfortunately, was calmer (bird wise) than it had been over the last couple of weeks. True, both common rails were calling and six species of duck were readily found but we needed the American and Least Bitterns, Common Snipe, Green-winged Teals, Northern Shovelers, and the lone Canvasback that had been there just two days prior to our "Big Day. It was 8:00 PM and we stood at 145 not bad, but there were still some birds that should have been givens which we hadn't seen. As we left Barberton Larry spotted a Coopers Hawk flying parallel to the car 100 yards from the road, a fortuitous turn of events.

The next stop would be the rural areas east of Mogadore in Portage County, where we continued our now frantic



Tree Swallows
by Victor Fazio III

search for an Eastern Meadowlark. There were none, but despite the fading light I caught the figure of a Great Horned Owl impassively scanning the surrounding field from a wooden fence post. The last 15 hours of birding had now produced 147 species; but there was still 20 minutes of light left. Surely we could spot an Eastern Meadowlark. So we raced from field to field searching and listening. We resorted to gimmicks, the nature of which I vowed to keep secret, but the irony had been played out. The Western Meadowlark, accidental in this part of Ohio, was the only meadowlark seen this day. We added American Woodcock and Barred Owl at the east end of Mogadore Reservoir to finish our day at 149.

The "Big Day" though different than one in the west was every bit as enjoyable and educational. The majority of my experience was developed in the

west, however, I am excited about the opportunities for birding in Ohio. Rest assured that I will be trying again next year for 150 species including both meadowlarks.

Volume 86 Number 2 did not have space for Shaker Lakes Part II and The pipits, waxwings and shrikes of the Cleveland region. Look for them in future issues.

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 289-2473 The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. For birds of extreme rarity please contact Larry Rosche 678-9408 or Ray Hannikman 261-4047 as soon as possible.

Invitation: The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7:45 P.M. at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors are always welcome.

Invitation: On the first Sunday of every month a census is conducted at Headlands Beach State Park. The purpose is to study the long term occurrence patterns of migrant and resident birds in the eastern part of the Cleveland region. Interested parties should meet at Shipman Pond at 7:30 AM.

Inquiries regarding subscription to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to: Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The subscription rate is \$4.00 annually.

Field reports, artwork, articles, and photographs are needed for Volume 86 Number 3 of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. All correspondences should be addressed to Larry Rosche 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240. Please remember to report by 15 September 1990.