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

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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THE WEATHER

Fall 1990 by William Klamm

September - This was the fourth wettest September on record. Rain came on 12 days to total 7.33 in., 4.41 above normal. Temperatures averaged 63.4 degrees, .7 cooler than normal. A high of 87° on the 6th and a low of 30° on the 24th were reached. Lake Erie temperature at 74° on the 1st fell to 67° on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 51% of the time.

October - Temperatures averaged 53.7 degrees, .5° above normal. The extremes reached a high of 82° on the 6th and a low of 29° on the 27th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 56° by the 3 1st. Sunshine prevailed 47% of the time. Precipitation was distributed on 10 days to total 4.92 in., 2.47 in. above normal.

November - Rain came on 11 days to total 2.28 in., .48 below normal. Temperatures averaged 45.3 degrees, 3.5° above normal. The high was 74° on the 1st and the low was 23° on the 13th. Record highs of 71° on the 27th and 68° on the 28th were attained. Lake Erie slipped to 50° on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 37% of the time.

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: A total of 247 species was reported for the 1959-1960 year. An immature Long-tailed Jaeger was found in Parma on 13 Sept. (Bartel). The only report of King Rail for the year was at Lake Rockwell on 23 Oct. (Staiger). The first inland record of Forster’s Tern was at Lake Rockwell on 6 Nov. (Henderson). A Red-throated Loon was there on 13 Nov. (Staiger).

Twenty Years Ago: A total of 240 species was reported during 1979-1980 to The Cleveland Bird Calendar. A Plegadis ibis was identified as a Glossy as it flew east by Perkins Beach on 20 Sept. (Klamm). An American Bittern was late at Goodyear Metropark on 2 Oct. (Szabo). A rare occurrence inland of two Double-crested Cormorants was noted at Lake Rockwell 12, 18 Oct. (Leach, Raynes). Ohio’s only record of Painted Redstart visited a feeding station in Middleburg Heights from 12 through 22 Nov. A snowfall on the 23rd put an abrupt end to the Redstart’s appearance (Hadden).

Ten Years Ago: A record total of 281 species was reported during 1979-1980 to The Cleveland Bird Calendar. A Clay-colored Sparrow was documented in Kent on 14 Sept. (Rosche). A Golden Eagle was in Lorain County on 20 Sept. (Pogacnik). A Dickcissel was at Burke Airport on 29 Sept. (Talkington). The West Side’s first Sabine’s Gull was at Edgewater Park on 20 Oct. (LePage). A Le Conte’s Sparrow was at E. 55th St. on 22 Oct. (Hoffman). A Brant was at Huntington Beach from 31 Oct. to 9 Nov. (Corbin, et al.). A Cattle Egret was observed at Cahoon Park on 6 Nov. (LePage, Peterjohn). The first verified fall sighting of an Eared Grebe was in Lorain 9-11 Nov. (Peterjohn). An immature Pomarine Jaeger was there 20-28 Nov. (Hoffman). The first November record of Thayer’s Gull was in Lorain on 30 Nov. (Elder, Hannikman, Pogacnik, Rosche).
COMMENT ON THE SEASON
by Larry Rosche

What a season, what a year! The first state record of Black Guillemit was found by Bill and Nancy Klamm. While the guillemit was of great significance, not to be forgotten were the incredible totals of many passerines. The weather may have been lousy but observers found many species of landbirds to be far more numerous than usual. The puddle duck outlook remained grim. Hawks and eagles were encountered as expected, with a few Broad-winged Hawks seen in October. (This is very late locally.) Gamebird numbers have been reduced greatly. It was wondered if any Ring-necked Pheasants were reproducing in the region without the aid of wildlife personnel. A chickadee movement was noted along Lake Erie. Both kinglets were exceptionally numerous everywhere. More Philadelphia Vireos were reported than any other species in this family. Warbler reports were indicative of a prolonged passage. This family provoked much observer interest and the data were so plentiful that it was nearly impossible to keep them in some kind of readable order. All expected species of warblers were counted in better than recent averages. Large flocks of sparrows were seen on several days in October.

For the year 1989-90, a record setting 283 species were reported to the Bird Calendar. Missing were Cattle Egret, Piping Plover, both godwits. Red-necked Phalarope, Long-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Observers are to be congratulated for their continued dedication to the study of avifauna occurrence in the region. Most all of these sightings were verified by multiple competent observers and/or with photographic evidence. The unverified single observer reports were scrutinized and, in some cases, printed and in others not printed. This editor apologizes to any reader who feels that only concrete evidence of occurrence is acceptable for printing. Continued good birding!

Fall 1990

The first Common Loons were seen on 14 Oct. One was at Headlands Beach State Park (hereafter HBSP) (Hannikman, Rosche) and one was near the Gordon Park Impoundment (hereafter Gordon) (Rickard). Up to a hundred were feeding in the water off Perry Park on 4 Nov. (Gustafson, Peterjohn). The most notable Cleveland tally was 84 on 7 Nov. (Klamm). Small numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were moving in early October. No gathering of more than 15 was reported. Very few Horned Grebes were seen. The only group of any size (20) was noted at Perry Park on 4 Nov. As expected, an Eared Grebe showed up in late November. A bird was at HBSP 25-30 Nov. (Peterjohn, m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants were in good numbers locally. Up to 30 were at HBSP on 13 Sept. while a high of 104 was reached at E. 55th St. on 13 Oct. (Klamm, LePage). Great Egrets put in a strong late September through mid-October showing. Seven Great Egrets at Lake Rockwell on 14 Oct. constituted the highest number ever reported from the location. They were also noted at Baldwin Lake, Hudson Springs, LaDue Reservoir (hereafter LaDue), Lorain County, and West Branch SP. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron was a local rarity at Lake Rockwell on 8 Oct. Tveekrem reported that late summer night-herons were fairly numerous in the Akron area. Rickard noted them at their usually reliable spot on Lower Shaker Lake on 4 Sept. The Klamm counted up to 6 along the Cleveland Lakefront through early November.

Anseriforms were represented by 29 species. Tundra Swans were very well reported. Early groups were 65 at La Due on 23 Oct. (Fondrk), and 15 at Oberlin Reservoir on 27 Oct. (Kraps). Jerry Ake (fide Stover) reported a flock of 500 at West Branch SP on 6 Nov. On the same day LePage saw 175 over Cleveland. Elinor Elder heard many in the wee hours of the morning on 7 Nov. that they flew over Aurora. She and LePage counted 64 at Ladue in the next morning. She wrote of 482, in six separate flocks, over her house from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on 10 Nov. On 11 Nov. she tallied another 90 in the same fashion. Hannikman observed 25 on 8 Nov. along the lakefront. Seventy-five spent the night at Lake Rockwell on 9 Nov. Swans were also moving along Lake Erie on 10 Nov. with 110 over Eastlake and 275 over Gordon Park (Rosche). Contrary to these outstanding eastern reports, only 5 were seen in Lorain County during the same 6-11 Nov. time frame. A white
phase Snow Goose was at North Chagrin Reservation (hereafter North Chagrin) on the early date of 13 Oct (Kellerman). A blue phase bird (presumed to be the same bird that has wintered in Akron the past four years) was Nesmith Lake on 1 Nov. (m.ob.). An adult (atlanticus bird joined a flock of 600 Canada Geese at Lake Rockwell on 4 Nov. By 8 Nov. it had been joined by an adult nominate race blue phase bird. A considerable size differential was apparent between these two birds. Anders Fjeldstad reported a white phase bird with Canadas in Mentor on 18 Nov. Wood Ducks were normal. Late Green-winged Teal were in the CVNRA on 17 Nov. (Chasar) and Lake Isaac on 22 Nov. (Harlan). Northern Pintails were more prevalent than expected. Small flocks were seen on several weekends at HBSP. Blue-winged Teal migration was very sparse. Few were noted along Lake Erie and they were down over 90% at their usual staging spot in Barberton (Holt. Rosche). Holt saw 4 tardy birds at Lake Rockwell on 21 Oct. A very late hen was at Mogadore Reservoir (hereafter Mogadore) on 11 Nov. (Rosche). A Northern Shoveler was at Barberton on 19 Sept. Up to four, including two males in eclipse plumage, were at Mogadore from 21 Oct. - 11 Nov. These were the only reports. Gadwall and American Wigeon were beginning to arrive at Lake Rockwell by the second third of October. The wigeon flock there peaked at 205 on 16 Oct. Six Gadwall were at Lower Shaker Lake on 1 Nov. (Peskin) and 18 were at Fowler’s Mill Golf Course on 30 Nov. (Fondrk).

**Two Canvasesbacks** were at North Chagrin on 21 Oct. (Kellerman). Two were at Best Park on 23 Oct. (Fondrk). Three were at Oberlin Reservoir on 8 Nov. (Klaps). An immature, incapable of flight, was on the shore at LaDue on 17-21 Nov. Summit Lake had one on 29 Nov. (Holt). A Redhead was at Gordon on 23 Sept. (Kellerman), two were at LaDue on 27 Oct. (Fondrk), and 10 were at Wellington Reservoir in mid-November (Klaps). Scaup numbers were unimpressive, except for the 840 off Perkins Beach on 27 Nov. (Klamm). A Greater Scaup was early at HBSP on 30 Sept. (Hannikman, Rosche). Scoters were very well distributed on the West Side during the period 18 Oct. through 23 Nov. The Hoffmans counted 75 mixed scoters in a flock off Huntington Beach on 11 Nov. (Klamm). Black Scoters and 40 Surf Scoters were seen on 14 Nov. (Klamm). White-winged Scoters peaked at 9 on 4 Nov. Inland, two Surf Scoters were bagged at West Branch SP (Jon Yenulonis). Two were at Oberlin Reservoir on 8
Klamms’ Lakefront Waterbird Survey November 1990

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Nov. (Kraps). The only inland White-winged Scoter was at LaDue on 19 Nov. (Elder).

Hooded Mergansers were widespread inland but only Lake Rockwell hosted any numbers. Three had the misfortune of flying too close to the gunners on the breakwall at HBSP on 17 Nov. One was shot, with no attempt to retrieve it, and floated to a grave in Lake Erie. A count of 60,200 Red-breasted Mergansers was made on 11 Nov. in Lorain. A Ruddy Duck was early at Oberlin Reservoir 17 Sept. (Kraps). The flock at Mogadore was slightly down from last year. This species was scarce along Lake Erie (Klamm).

Ospreys were widespread and reported from many inland reservoirs and lakes in all counties. More noteworthy were reports of several individuals along Lake Erie in late September and into October (mob.). Bob and Denise Lane counted 3 at Nimisila Reservoir in late October. Four were at Lake Rockwell on 20 Oct. (Hannikman, Rosche). November Ospreys are rare. Tisdale saw one at Lake Rockwell on the first. Early Northern Harriers were in Kirtland Hills (Klaus) and Lorain County (Kraps) on 21 Sept. It was unusual to have one at Tinkers Creek SNP on 22 Sept. (Fjeldstad). Up to four were at Gordon on 13-14 Oct (m.ob.). Two were in Geauga County on 23 Oct. (Fondrk), and one was in the CVNRA on 6 Nov. (Chasar). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Carlisle Reservation, Gates Mills, LaDue, Munroe Falls, Tinkers Creek SNP, and West Branch SP. Fall reports of Broad-winged Hawks are rarely received. Harlan located a bird in the Jaite area of the CVNRA on 17 Sept. The Chasars found another individual in the CVNRA on 6 Oct. An even later bird was in Geauga County on 15-16 Oct. (Fondrk). A Rough-legged Hawk was exceptionally early at Carlisle Reservation on 26 Sept. (Kraps). Two flew over Gordon on 10 Nov. (m.ob.). Another was in Lorain County on 29 Nov. Norma Kraps tallied 13 American Kestrels during a 2 hour drive in rural Lorain County during November.

The only rail reported was a Sora at Lakewood Park on 16 Oct. (Klamm). Common Moorhens were last seen in Cuyahoga Falls on 1 Sept. (Kopka). A juvenile was thought to be late on 29 Sept. at Barberton. Rosche was very surprised when it, or another, was there on the extraordinary date of 1 Nov.

Shorebird reports used to be the highlight of the fall season. This year, unless you happened to be at the right place at the precise moment birds were flying by, you probably missed most of the action. Above normal rainfall kept usual habitats too wet for waders. Finding a location to regularly study this family in the region, is no longer a possibility. It is likely that “shorebirding” will become a lost form of art in the region.

LePage reported that on 9 Sept. (after heavy rains) Burke Airport hosted many dozens of pectorals and yellowlegs. Bacik and Fjeldstad had an incredible count on the same morning at HBSP. A few Black-bellied Plovers were distributed at Burke Airport, Mantua Center, and HBSP, where Kellerman saw a late bird on 3 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plovers were slightly more widespread than Black-bellieds. Small flocks were at Burke Airport, Mantua Center Sod Farms, HBSP, and West Branch SP at the expected times. The high count was 14 at Burke on 24 Sept. (Klamm).
Bacik's and Fjeldstad's shorebird totals for 9 Sep. at HBSP

<table>
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<td>Baird's Sandpiper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunlin</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-billed Dowitcher</td>
<td>90</td>
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Best tally of Semipalmated Plovers was a meager 6 at HBSP on 9 Sept. (Hannikman). Whimbrels were in unprecedented numbers. The rainy morning of 9 Sept. brought an impressive flights totalling 104 to HBSP (Fjeldstad, Back, Haley). Other reports include: 3 at Burke Airport on 9 Sept. and 1 on 16 Sept. (LePage). Ruddy Turnstones were noted only along Lake Erie. Four Red Knots were counted on the 3 Sept. HBSP census. Sanderlings remained common at HBSP through September. Semipalmated Sandpipers were in low numbers. A Western Sandpiper was at HBSP on 8,9 Sept. (Dan Flocke, Hannikman). A Baird's Sandpiper stayed at HBSP 8-15 Sept. (mob.). In addition to the birds at Burke Airport, 40 Pectoral Sandpipers remained at the sod farms in Mantua Center for a week following the heavy rains of 8-10 Sept. Dunlins were nearly unreported due to the lack of mudflats. Six Common Snipe were in Mantua Center on 8-12 Sept. Ten were reported at Mentor Marsh on 28 Oct. An American Woodcock was reported at HBSP on 21 Oct. (Hannikman).

Fjeldstad and LePage located a Franklin's Gull at HBSP on 3-8 Sept. One to 2 immatures were in Lorain on 11-17 Nov. (Hoffman, Pogacnik). A Little Gull was at HBSP on 8 Sept. (m.ob.) Lorain's only report was on 12 Nov. (Pogacnik). An adult was at Eastlake on 17 Nov. (Rosche). Up to 8000 Bonaparte's Gulls were noted along the lakefront on 12 Nov. (Hannikman). A first winter plumaged Iceland Gull was at East lake on 28 Nov. (Schlabach). The first Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported were on 12 Nov. Two were seen by Hannikman, one at Eastlake and the other at E. 72nd St. Pogacnik reported 3 at Lorain on the same day. The 72nd St. bird was seen by LePage on 27 Nov. Avon Lake hosted one on 21-23 Nov. (Fazio, Kellerman). Another was in Lorain on 25 Nov. (Hoffman, Kellerman). Two adults were at Eastlake and in Lorain on 28 Nov. (Peterjohn, Schlabach). A Glaucous Gull was in Lorain in late November (mob.).

Caspian Tern numbers were pathetic. The high count from Lorain was a mere 18 on 18 Sept. (Klaps). The Common Tern flock at HBSP had grown to over 1000 by September (m.ob.). This was, by far, the most impressive local gathering for this species in some time. Forster's Terns received little mention.

Rock Doves receive little mention from this desk mainly because they are abundant. From the odd behavior department we have the following report. Drew Rolik saw a Rock Dove as it alighted on the water at Edgewater Park on 1 Sept. After a few moments it flew to a more suitable resting spot. Two hundred Mourning Doves at Gordon on 21 Oct. provided many prey items for the numerous raptors visiting there. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Lake Rockwell on 2 Sept. Rosche was surprised to find it again, in the same tree, on 20 Sept. A Short-eared Owl was at E. 55th St on 10 Oct. (LePage). Two were flushed from the weeds at Gordon on

At 9:00 a.m. on 13 September 1960 a jaeger was found alive by Gus Bartel at his residence on Russell Avenue in Parma. Bartel writes that the jaeger was sitting on the lawn catching flies that were near him. It appeared that it had been there for some time because the grass was flattened in about an 18 inch circle. When I got close to it, it stood up and stretched its wings. It tried to fly but didn't get very far off the ground. It allowed me to pick it up without seeming to be frightened or inclined to resist. It didn't make a sound of any kind.

Since the bird was incapable of flight, it was taken to the Cleveland Zoo where it remained until 17 September, when it died. Later, after it had been prepared as a study skin, it was examined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser who identified it as an immature Long-tailed Jaeger.

It is interesting to note that a thunderstorm and heavy rain occurred on the night of 12 September and in the early morning hours of 13 September. This storm was linked with Hurricane Donna which swept up the Atlantic Coast at that time and which conceivably may have carried this oceanic migrant far off its normal course, causing it to become so disoriented that it flew inland and was finally compelled to land on a lawn in Parma.

Reprinted from The Cleveland Bird Calendar Volume 56. Number 4.
21 Oct. (Hannikman). The Klamms found another being harassed by crows at Lakewood Park.

A flock of 100 Common Nighthawks over Euclid on 16 Sept. (Hannikman) was the only noteworthy tally received. Two were tardy in Akron on 27 Sept. (Rosche). Chimney Swifts were in abundance until 20 Oct., at which time they abruptly left. On the evening of an impressive lightning storm (6 Sept.) Witt noticed many birds seeking shelter near his Medina home. Among these were 9 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. An immature male was studied thoroughly in Akron through 23 Oct. (Haley, m.ob.). This was the latest date since 1945 for this species. This bird was viewed by many and it was easy to see how challenging immature Archilochus hummingbird identification is.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are rarely reported at feeding stations. An adult at Bill Osborne’s feeder from 22 Nov. in densely populated North Akron was quite unusual. The first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was on 18 Sept. at Euclid BSP (LePage). Fondrk’s totals from Lake and Geauga Counties indicated a good distribution. Judy Tisdale reported a sapsucker at Lake Rockwell on 27 Nov. This was the only report from this oft-monitored locale. An immature Hairy Woodpecker at Chester Commons 1-8 Nov. must have been in a confused state of mind (Witt).

Olive-sided Flycatchers put in a decent showing. A bird was at Sims Park on 28 Aug. (LePage). Harlan located a bird in Rocky River Reservation on 1 Sept. and two at Lake Isaac on 5 Sept. He saw another there on 8 Sept. One was at Holden Arboretum on 5 Sept. (Rickard). Kopka saw one at Firestone Metropark on 10 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were fairly widespread. A bird at the Seiberling Naturealm on 30 Sept. was a good find for the location (Kopka). The latest “Traill’s” Flycatcher was at HBSP on 28 Sept. (Fondrk). A very tardy “empid” was in Cleveland on 7 Oct. (Klamm). A late Great Crested Flycatcher was very noteworthy at HBSP on 21 Oct. (Hannikman). This bird was well described and the pale base to the lower mandible was seen, thus ruling out Ash-throated Flycatcher. This was our second latest report in the last 85 years.

The Hoffmans added to the growing list of October records for Northern Rough-winged Swallow. One was at Burke Airport on the 7th. Four Barn Swallows were late at Lake Medina on 30 Sept. (Witt). Chickadees and titmice were unusually common along the dunes at HBSP on 7-21 Oct. LePage reported that chickadees were also conspicuous at Euclid Beach SP in mid-October. Hannikman noticed a small flock of chickadees and a titmouse at Gordon on 25 Oct. Witt reported a fallout of 11 Red-breasted Nuthatches at his home in Medina (a bird he had not seen there for 7 years) just before the storm of 6 Sept. A Winter Wren at French Creek Reservation on 19 Sept. was the earliest report. Twenty to 30 could be found at HBSP in mid-October. This was indicative of their abundance along Lake Erie. Witt noticed small numbers regularly at Chester Commons. Three
House Wrens were still at Gordon on 15 Oct. (LePage). A few Marsh Wrens were tallied along various lakefront locales in their usual September to October time period.

**Kinglet totals** were astounding. (see LBB table). LePage counted over 100 Golden-crowneeds at Donald Gray Gardens on 13 Oct. A Ruby-crowned was late at the Carlisle Visitor Center on 6 Nov. (Kraps). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported in October. One was at HBSP on the 2nd (Fondrk), and the other was at Euclid BSP on the 7th (LePage).

The Black River Audubon Bluebird Report indicated 226 birds fledged in Lorain County this year. Thrushes were in excellent supply at their usual times. Two Veeries were later than expected on 24 Sept. (Klamm). Gray-cheeked Thrushes lingered at Euclid BSP and Donald Gray through 25 Sept. The Klamm reported many Swainson’s Thrushes in Sept. On 3 Sept. they tallied 88 in the Rocky River Valley. They were not as noticeable on the East Side. A very late bird was reported from North Chagrin on 1 Nov. (Fjeldstad). Hermit Thrushes were in good tallies regionwide. A late Wood Thrush was at North Chagrin 810 Nov. (Fjeldstad). A Northern Mockingbird was at HBSP on 12 Nov. Birds remained near their Gordon nesting areas through the period. LePage felt that Brown Thrashers were in totals as high as he had seen in quite a few years. Perry Peskin saw a late thrasher at HBSP on 19 Nov. Two American Pipits were early at HBSP on 15 Sept. They were conspicuously absent at LaDue (Eider).

White-eyed Vireos were reported from Lake Rockwell and Lake Isaac. A Solitary Vireo was at Spencer Lake SWA on 11 Sept. (Kraps). Others were at HBSP on 29 Sept., Cleveland 13 Oct., and Euclid BSP on 14 Oct. The latest bird was at Shaker Lakes on 19 Oct. (Rickard). Philadelphia Vireos were widespread and quite numerous. A high of 10 was at HBSP on 17 Sept. (LePage).

Thirty-one species of warblers provided good numbers but few surprises during September into October. The warbler movement was most concentrated from 15-25 Sept. The intense coverage of the lakefront provided by Fondrk, Klamm, and LePage was truly outstanding. Also, it was very interesting to read Charles Klaus account of birds seen in downtown Cleveland. He encountered 14 species (some were window kills) of warblers near National City Center.

Orange-crowned Warblers were identified at Donald Gray on 24 Sept., at Gordon on 25 Sept. (LePage), at HBSP on 29 Sept. and 21 Oct. (Hannikman), and at Lake Medina on 14 Oct. (Witt). Nashville and Magnolia Warblers were very plentiful this fall. Ten to 20 of these were easy to find along Lake Erie locales. Northern Parulas were at HBSP on 29 Sept. (Hannikman, Holt, Schlabach) and at Lake Isaac on 2 Oct. (Harlan). Counts of 6-10 Chestnut-sided Warblers at many locations were much better than recent fall averages. A Pine Warbler at Tinkers Creek SNP on 27 Sept. was unique (Holt). Palm Warblers were as expected. Bay-breasted Warblers were more numerous than Blackpolls. The high count was 27 on 17 Sept. (Klamm). LePage found the first fall Cerulean Warbler in many years at HBSP on 17 Sept. Black-and-white Warblers were in above average totals in Sept. The last bird was on 14 Oct. at Euclid BSP (Kellerman). Ovenbirds were widely distributed. Two lingered at Chester Commons on 23 Oct. (Witt). Mourning Warblers were well represented. LePage saw 3 at Gordon on 2 Sept. Klaus reported a late one near National City Center on 16 Oct. Pierce saw another straggler at HBSP on 20 Oct. It is hard to imagine that a Hooded Warbler could be found in the skyscraper habitat of inner Cleveland but one was at the National City Center on 3 Sept. (Klaus). On 16 Oct. Common Yellowthroats were in good totals in the downtown area (Klaus). A Wilson’s Warbler was tardy on at HBSP 14 Oct. (Hannikman). A Canada Warbler was late at HBSP on 2 Oct. (Fondrk).

**Sparrow migration** is well documented for the region. It seems that the second weekend of October brings a large influx of many varieties of sparrows to...
Selected Little Brown Bird (LBB) High Tallies (Date)
October 1990

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<th>Species</th>
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<th>HB</th>
<th>LR</th>
<th>LI</th>
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*CC = CHESTER COMMONS, GP = GORDON PARK, HB = HEADLANDS BSP, LI = LAKE ISAAC, LR = LAKE ROCKWELL.*

the Cleveland area. Some remain in selected locations for several weeks, others merely stop briefly and move on. Indeed, the movement along Lake Erie was over by November. The 10 species of sparrows found at the Caley Wildlife Area in Lorain County in November indicated a wide variety of sparrows wintering in that part of the region (Krips).

The first American Tree Sparrow was seen on 16 Oct. (LePage). Chipping Sparrows were well represented regionally. A flock of 60 was concentrated at Lakewood Park Cemetery on 11 Oct. (Klamm). On a less positive note, no solid flight of Field or Savannah Sparrows was noticed. LePage found several Vesper Sparrows near the lakefront in late October. Another was seen in Wellington on 8 Nov. (Krips). Always a good find, a Grasshopper Sparrow was observed by the Klamms at Donald Gray on 15 Oct. Lincoln’s Sparrows were at or below recent fall averages. Fox Sparrows were as expected. High counts were in the 5-10 range per location. A bird at Chester Common 22-23 Oct. was unique (Witt). White-crowned Sparrows were in large numbers at Gordon on 13 Oct. Away from Lake Erie, they were widespread and in unprecedented fall totals. White-throated Sparrows were typically numerous. Unusual was a small flock that took up residence on Public Square and remained through the period (Rolik). An early Dark-eyed Junco was noted at the Jaite area in the CVNRA on 17 Sept. (Harlan). Snow Buntings were conspicuous at HBSP on 4 Nov., where a flock of 150± was very cooperative and allowed close approach. Fortunately for the observers, 2 Lapland Longspurs were with them. Up to 50 Snow Buntings were at Gordon 26-29 Nov. (Klamm), and a small flock flew by the East Pier in Lorain on 11 Nov. (Krips). Three Lapland Longspurs were at Gordon on 27 Oct. and 3 over E. 72nd St. on 12 Nov. (Hannikman).

Purple Finches moved through in fair numbers, but few were thought to be taking up winter residence. Pine Siskins were reported in low numbers. Two Evening Grosbeaks were in Streetsboro on 3 Nov. (Holt). Woody Stover reported a single at the Seiberling Naturerealm on 6 Nov.
NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - A record early bird was at Headlands Beach SP on 22 Sept. (Hannikman, Rosche). Gary Gerrone picked one out of a group of 19 Common Loons flying over the French Creek Interpretive Center on 29 Nov.

Brant - Kellerman located an adult at Lakeview Park in Lorain on 11 Nov. Another was there through the 28th (mob.). Ten birds put on a “really good show” for first time reporters Timothe and Ed Sullivan at Ladue Reservoir on 22 Nov. Their description clearly ruled out Canada Geese. This was the first report for Geauga County.

Harlequin Duck - Kellerman saw a female at E. 72nd St. on 24 Nov. The Klamms saw the same bird at E. 55th St on 26 Nov.

Bald Eagle - As expected, Lake Rockwell hosted several individuals this fall. An adult was there on 13-28 Sept. (Holt, Rosche). Two different immatures put in one day showings there on 15 and 18 Oct. An adult and an immature were there and in close association from late October through the period.

Northern Goshawk - An adult was seen sporadically in Lorain from 22 Nov. (Pogacnik).

Merlin - Two were at the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA on 26 Sept. (Beck). A male was at Headlands Beach SP on 29 Sept. (Hannikman, Vanderpoel). Euclid Beach SP was the scene of another on 16 Oct. (LePage). A Merlin was in the vicinity of the Lost Nation Airport on 30 Oct. (Fjeldstad). A bird flew over many observers at E. 72nd St. on 9 Nov. (Schlabach, Glick).

Peregrine Falcon - Vanderpoel reported an adult near the Central Interchange in Akron on 22 Sept. Four were observed at Headlands Beach SP on 30 Sept. (LePage, m.ob.). One of these was watched as it toyed with two Turkey Vultures for the greater part of an hour. Other reports were from Headlands Beach SP on 7,13 Oct. (m.ob.). Gordon Park on 13, 21 Oct. (Hannikman, Vanderpoel), and Erie Street Cemetery 28 Nov. (Hannikman). Rolik reported that the downtown birds have been dive-bombing workers doing restoration on the facade at the Terminal Tower.

Purple Sandpiper - One or two were at Headlands Beach SP from 25 Nov. (Fjeldstad, mob.).


Long-billed Dowitcher - Holt located Portage County’s first record at West Branch State Park on 2 Oct. It remained through the fourth. This was the first local report of this species in two years.

Red Phalarope - A bird was in Lorain on 24 Oct. (Kellerman). Hannikman found one at Wildwood Lakefront SP on 28 Oct.

Long-tailed Jaeger - An adult was seen and documented by
a very knowledgeable observer at Headlands Beach SP on 2 Sept. This marks the first time that an adult of this species has been seen in the region (Hannikman).

**Parasitic Jaeger** - Once again, Hannikman’s diligence at Headlands Beach SP paid off. An immature was seen as it flew west on 12 Nov. Another was at Eastlake on 25 Nov. (Fjeldstad).

**California Gull** - An adult was studied at the “hot waters” in Lorain on 11-12 Nov. The mantle color, dark eyes, long thin drooping pale yellow bill with black and red blotches near the tip were well described (Hoffman, Peterjohn).

**Black-legged Kittiwake** - An immature was near the mouth of the Grand River on 12 Nov. (Hannikman). Another was at E. 72nd St on the same day (LePage, Hannikman). One was at Eastlake from 17 Nov. (Hoffman, Kellerman).

**Black Guillemot** - The first state record for this species, an immature, was found in the Gordon Park Yacht Basin at the foot of East 72nd St on 8 Nov. (Klamm). It died and was retrieved there by the Hoffmans on 11 Nov. The specimen was given to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Barn Owl** - Harvey Webster saw a bird that had been trapped in a warehouse 13-17 Sept. at East 34th and Broadway. The bird escaped and continued its southward journey.

**Snowy Owl** - A very white bird was seen in the dunes area at Headlands BSP on 18 Nov. (Bacik, Fjeldstad). A bird with much dark feathering was at the Gordon Park Yacht Basin on 18-19 Nov. (Greenland, Kellerman). Another bird was trapped at the Ford Plant in Brookpark and released at Crane Creek State Park in early December after rehabilitation (Pogacnik).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** - A bird spent 11 Nov. in a spruce tree thirty feet from a screech-owl in Westlake (Cavano).

**Northern Shrike** - Pierce located an immature at Firestone Metropark on 3 Nov. A bird was at the Holden Arboretum on 4 Nov. (Greenland). One was seen at Russell Park on 23 Nov. (Fjeldstad).

**Golden-winged Warbler** - A female was in Parma Heights on 10 Sept. (Harlan).

**Connecticut Warbler** - Hannikman saw a bird skulking at Headlands Beach SP on 1 Sept. Fondrk had another there on 2 Oct. He also saw a bird on 16 Oct. along Pond Road in Geauga County.

**Dickcissel** - A female was at Gordon Park on 29 Sept. (Schlabach).

**Henslow’s Sparrow** - The only report for the Calendar year was located at Headlands Beach SP on 1 Oct. (Fondrk).

**Addendum:** A Worm-eating Warbler was at Hell Hollow on 17 June 1990 (Peterjohn). This report was inadvertently omitted in Volume 86 Number 3.

**DELETION** Please remove all references to Royal Tern from Volume 86 Number 3.

**Corrections** in Volume 86 Number 3: Please switch the years in the species comparison table on page 41 for the CABBS report on the summer of 1990. The Solitary Sandpiper report on page 35 was a near record late date and at Sims Park not Gordon Park.
Verifying documentation of an extraordinary sight record
by William A. Klamm

Species: Black Guillemot (Cepphus grylle)
Number: One bird (Juvenile/first autumn)
Location: Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Date: November 8, 1990
Time: 1130 to 1315 and 1430 to 1615
November 9, 1990 Time 1010 to 1445

Description: A small black and white water bird was noticed sleeping on the water near the rocky edge of a yacht basin. It was thought to be Horned Grebe in size. The bird awoke when a Common Loon swam by making the size estimate for the bird by comparison very plausible. No other birds were nearby since hunters and fishermen in their power boats kept coming and going from the boat-launching ramp in this area. This prompted the bird to dive, resurface, and stay alert. It became apparent by observation with a 30X Balscope that the plumage, color, and pattern were indeed unusual and not due to an oiled or soiled bird. All colors were essentially black, white and varying shades of gray. The bill was darkish, pointed and moderately heavy, the neck was somewhat thick, and the body stocky or bulky in appearance. The forehead and crown were very blackish with a dark line extending behind the eye, the hind neck became less blackish toward the mantle and back, the sides varied from light to blackish gray. The wing displayed a large whitish area crossed by blackish bars and did not extend very far toward the tail. When the wings were raised, the trailing edge was heavily margined with black on the underside and the underwing lining was white. The feet were not clearly seen but, in shallow underwater movements, the wings appeared to be open airplane-like the few times this was seen. Overall the characteristics fit those of an alcid and specifically a juvenile Black Guillemot. With both the National Geographic and Peterson's Field Guides at hand, the identification and observations were in good agreement.

Voice: None heard

Behavior: The bird often slept or rested on water usually close to a wall, piling or other protection from operating power boats. On the first day of observation, the bird was quite alert, readily dove and fished, sometimes bringing up small fish and other times taking minnows or fry at the surface. On the second day the bird was less active but otherwise acting about the same. On the third day the bird was sluggish and probably quite sick. On the fourth day the bird was found dead and collected by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Habitat: General - at a Lake Erie shoreline boat harbor and yacht basin. Specifically - at E. 72nd Street and the Gordon Park area.

Similar appearing species: Pigeon Guillemot, does not have the white underwing lining seen; Common Murre lacks the substantial white wing patch.

Distance: Variable, from 30 feet to several 100 feet by camera focus.

Recorded: by 8 mm video tape and 35 mm camera.

Optical Equipment: 8 x 40 Trinovid Binoculars, 30X Balscope.

Light: Full sun to full shade or overcast from many angles.

Previous experience: Mostly breeding birds on Kent Island, Prince Edward Island, also coastal areas of Maine and Massachusetts.

Other observers: Nancy Klamm, Jim Heflich, Rob Harlan, Bruce Peterjohn, Mary Gustafson, Dick and Jean Hoffman, Ray Hannikman, Larry Rosche, and many others. All agreed.

Independently identified by: Rob Harlan and Bruce Peterjohn who also noted additional markings found on birds of James Bay origin.

References: Birds of Canada by E. Godfrey (1966) and Seabirds by P. Harrison (1983)
Guillemot subspecific identification
by Bruce G. Peterjohn

The classification of Black Guillemot subspecies is a fairly complex subject that has never been universally accepted. More than ten subspecies have been formerly described, but most recent authorities recognize five or six subspecies. Most of these subspecies can be positively identified only in the hand. However, immatures of the subspecies mandtii/ultimus can be recognized by the small white tips on the outer secondaries and primaries coverts (Cramp et al., 1989, Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palearctic, Vol. IV.). On the Cleveland guillemot, the white-tipped secondaries were clearly visible in the photographs (one wing had four secondaries with white tips, the other had three) as were the white-tipped primary coverts when the bird flapped its wings. This individual clearly belongs to this subspecies group.

According to some authorities, the mandtii race breeds across arctic North America (including Hudson and James Bay), portions of Greenland, and arctic Europe east to eastern Siberia (Cramp et al., 1989). Other authorities recognized the guillemots breeding in arctic Canada as the separate subspecies ultimus Regardless of these taxonomic considerations, the Cleveland guillemots identity as the mandtii/ultimus subspecies indicates its origins were from arctic Canada, most likely from the vicinity of Hudson and James Bay rather than from the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence River.
November excitement
by Rob Harlan

November is an intriguing month. Almost anything can turn up along the lakefront, and finding a rarity is now the rule rather than the exception. But November is also a good time to stay close to the phone, waiting for the news that someone has discovered another hopelessly lost Purple Sandpiper, a King Eider, maybe even a particularly stupid immature Northern Gannet. But a Black Guillemot?

I was just about to leave for Lake Isaac on the afternoon of Thursday, November 8, when the phone rang. Hi Rob, this is Ray. Now Ray Hannikman isn’t in the habit of calling from work, so I knew something of the earth-shattering variety was in the works. Ray quickly related to me the remarkable story that a county-worker of his, a beginning birder, had just come to work after stopping at E. 72nd Street, where he had run into Bill and Nancy Klamm. It seems they were filming a bird they believed to be a Black Guillemot, but they weren’t as close as they would have liked, and there was always the outside chance it could have been a partially albinistic grebe, or maybe some other type of unfathomable mutant hybrid, or ...... Experience has taught me that if the Klamms think they have something unusual, then they do have something unusual. After talking with Ray, I immediately called the Klamms. “Did you guys just see something weird? Yes - how did you know? We just got home and we are going to look at the video to make sure. After explaining the bizarre chain of events that enabled me to find out about the bird before they had the chance to tell anyone, I quickly abandoned my plans of going to Lake Isaac. After a flurry of phone calls, I left instead to meet the Klamms and Jim Heflich at E. 72nd Street.

Bill and Nancy had arrived before me but hadn’t been able to find the bird again from their vantage point at the Gordon Park Launching Ramp. Previously they had seen the bird in the channel leading into Lake Erie. If it chose to hug the breakwall and swim around the outside of Gordon Park Impoundment, then viewing it would be impossible without actually gong in the impoundment, and looking from there. As this would entail simultaneous rockhopping along the breakwall and peering over top of the steel barrier, it was an option I didn’t look forward to. Instead, we moved over to the E. 72nd Street parking lot for a view at a different angle. Jim soon arrived but, as we still hadn’t found the bird, we both decided to walk out the small breakwall that protects the boat basin. Careful scanning of the water on either side of us turned up nothing on the way out. We were nearly to the end when the Guillemot popped out from a crevice in the wall. “I don’t believe it, I said aloud to myself, more stunned than excited. We were no more than 15 feet away from an undeniable immature Black Guillemot, Ohio’s first. After the shock wore off, we took voluminous mental notes on the birds appearance and
behavior. Luckily, as we were walking back along the break-wall, the bird stayed a short distance ahead of us and was herded directly to Bill and Nancy, who were waiting at the waters edge with camera in hand.

The Guillemot ultimately would be seen by just about everyone that looked for it, as it stayed (alive at least) until Saturday. I consider myself very fortunate to see it on Thursday, when it was acting like a Guillemot, rather than only on Saturday, when its behavior was more reminiscent of a discarded plastic 2-liter pop bottle, bobbing up and down in the corner of the boat basin with other assorted flotsam. Lake Erie in November is something of a rarity machine, where the unusual has become the expected, but this is one experience I wont soon forget.

Identification problems of a very late hummingbird
by Jackie Haley

At approximately 4:30 pm., October 3, 1990, I observed a hummingbird at our feeder. Bill and I had been out of town the week prior, so I did not know if the bird had just arrived or had been there the week before, but it was late for a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris) to be in Akron, Ohio. October 1, 1989 had been the latest date we had recorded a hummingbird at our feeder. We assumed it was a female or immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but I called Larry Rosche and reported it. The weather during the remaining week was cold, windy and rainy, preventing very good views of the bird during the brief times it visited the feeder. It was still appearing regularly at the feeder by October 9, so I thought perhaps it was an immature Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus) since they have appeared during fall migration in Ohio. I called Larry again and he said to keep an eye on it. Thinking VAGRANT, I called Pat Haddad, Bill Osborne, Ed Pierce and Bert Szabo. Pat came over about 6:00 p.m. and we watched the bird until dark, taking photographs. The shape of the birds tail, the white outer tail feathers, rufous flanks and long appearing bill and the apparent larger size indicated a possible immature female Rufous Hummingbird. The next morning Bill Osborne arrived at 7:30 am. and watched the bird for an hour and felt, because of the lack of rufous on the tail, it must be an immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Ed Pierce arrived at 1:00 and concurred with Osborne’s opinion. Larry arrived about 3:30 p.m. and, after observing the bird come to the feeder several times, had another idea.
Because of the late date, October 10, the gray looking crown, and small size, he thought it could possibly be an immature Black-chinned Hummingbird (Archilochus alexandri).

Further research revealed that the immature and female Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the immature and female Black-chinned Hummingbird are almost indistinguishable in the field. The Black-chinned Hummingbird has been known to winter in the Southeast. Could this be a lost stray? The bird came to the feeder regularly at 12 to 25 minute intervals from dawn to dark. We were out of town until the 15th and much to our relief, the bird was still there when we returned. The weather had cleared and become much warmer.

On Friday, October 19, Bruce Peterjohn and Mary Gustafson came to photograph and attempt capturing the bird in a mist net to examine and measure it in the hand. Several hours later, the wary bird remained free, but Mary was able to take many photographs from a distance of approximately 6 feet. They felt it could be a vagrant immature male Black-chinned Hummingbird. The bird appeared to be healthy and very wily in being able to avoid being captured.

Mary and I had both observed a dark central spot in the area of the gorget which could be the beginning of the purple band of the Black-throated Hummingbird. Other field marks observed were the mottled green back, gray brown head, a white tear drop shape behind the eye, a dark line through the eye, slight streaking of the chin and the very white outer tail feathers. It also had a noticeable white band extending across the chest and curving toward the mantle. During the day, it seemed very small, giving rise to the assumption that in the evenings the bird was fluffing its feathers in preparation for the cold nights, giving it the appearance of being a larger bird.

The bird was observed during the course of the weekend by Larry Rosche, Ray Hannikman, Bert Szabo, John Vanderpoel, Jim Helflich, Rob Harlan, and Dick and Jean Hoffman.

Bruce had taken careful measurements of the feeder and was able to compare the length of the bill relative to the feeder in the photographs. The bill was 13 mm. long, typical of an immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This established that our mystery bird was an immature Archilochus columbri.

At 7:45 am., October 23, the bird appeared on his favorite perch near the feeder, fed several times and left, flying south of the neighbors house. That was the last it was seen.

**Rare Bird Hotline:** (216) 289-2473. The hotline is sponsored solely by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Ruff, Kirtland’s Warbler, Varied Thrush, etc.) please contact the editors as soon as possible.