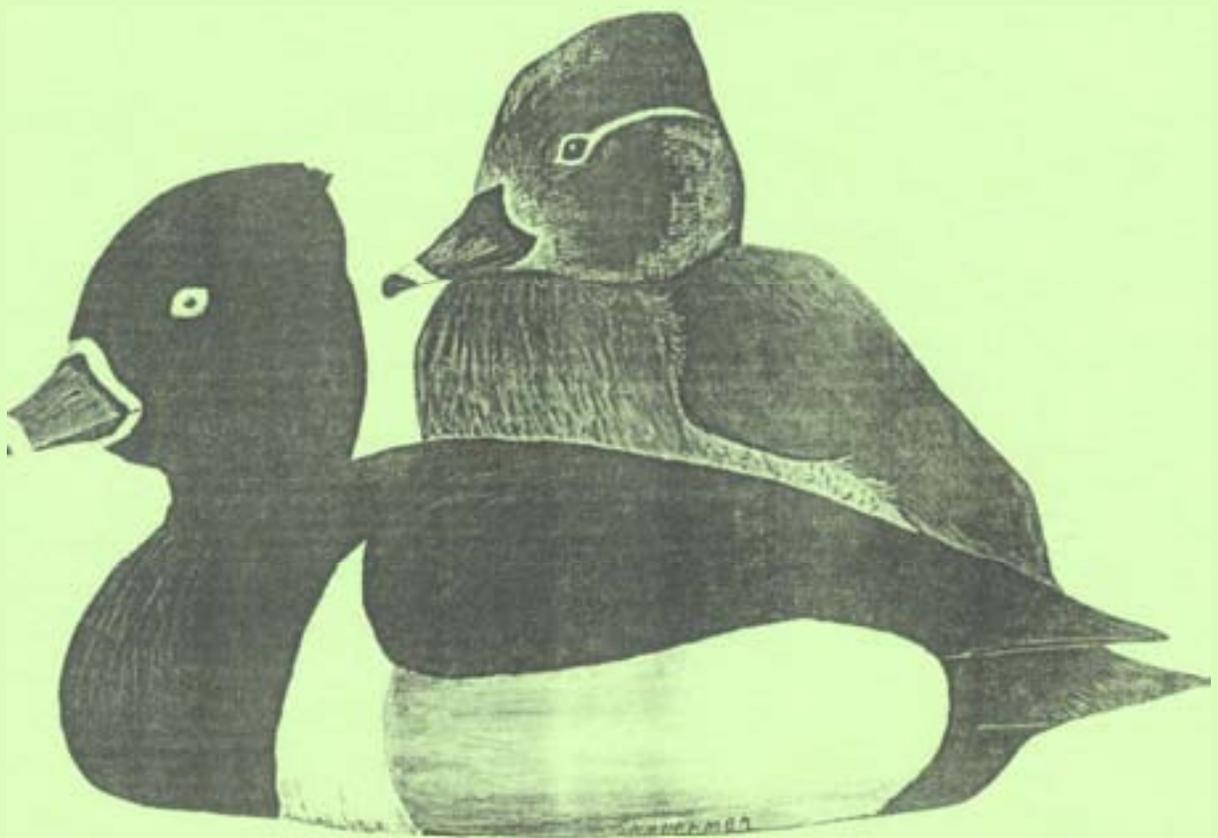


The Cleveland

Volume 87 Number 2
March, April, May 1991

BIRD CALENDAR



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**The Kirtland Bird Club and
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

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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March, April, May 1991
Volume 87 Number 2

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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SPRING WEATHER 1991

by William Klamm

March - Temperatures averaged 40.71, 4.1 degrees above normal. The high was 75° on the 27th and the low was 17 on the 12th. In the first half of the month, most daytime temperatures were slightly above freezing and well below at night. Lake Erie temperature stood at 33° on the 1st and rose to 39° by the 31st. Except for a skim ice coating on the 16th, Lake Erie was open all month; although, some harbors, basins, and shallow areas had varying amounts of ice cover through the 18th. Sunshine prevailed 46% of the time possible. Precipitation occurred on 15 days and totaled 3.64 in. as water, .65 in, above normal. This included 4.2 in. of snow on 5 days.

April - As the 7th warmest April

averaged 52.6°, 4.5° above normal. The extremes were a high of 82° on the 7th and a low of 22° on the 3rd. Lake Erie temperature was 40° on the 1st and rose to 49° by month's end. It rained on 18 days to total 4.22 in., .92 in. in excess of normal. Only trace snowfall was recorded on the 1st, 2nd, and 10th. Sunshine prevailed 41 % of the time.

May - Temperatures averaged 66.9°, 8.7° above normal. This produced the warmest May on record (previous was 65.8° in 1896). Of note, were record highs on the 16th (89°, old record was 88° in 1962) and the 23rd (90°, old was 87° in 1962) as well as ties of some long standing record highs on the 13th (86°, old was 1900) and 29th (81°, old was 1887). Lake Erie temperatures rose to 58° by the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 63% and precipitation fell on 10 days to total 3.24 in., .6 in. below normal.

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: The region's earliest Loggerhead Shrike was found at Burke Airport on Mar. 1961 (Klamm). Harris's Sparrow was recorded for the 3rd spring in succession. An adult visited a feeding station in Russell Township on 21 Mar. (Raynes). A Blue Grosbeak stunned itself against a window in Elyria. It recovered after about 30 minutes and departed (Brekelbaum).

Twenty Years Ago: A severe snowstorm on 20 Mar 1971 created a hazard for birds on the move. The last Harris Sparrow ever reported in the region was in Avon Lake on the late date of 9 May (Klamm). A Western Meadowlark was on territory in Lorain Co. from 12 May (Johnson).

Ten Years Ago: A Black-legged Kittiwake was in Lorain 21-25 Mar (Pogacnik). Three White-fronted Geese were in Mentor on 5 Apr. 1981 (LePage). A Sandhill Crane flew lazy circles over Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve on 28 Apr. (Eider). A brightly colored Le Conte's Sparrow was at Sims Park on 28 Apr. (LePage, Corbin), A late Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Shaker Lakes on 25 May (Besser, LePage).

Spring 1991

Common Loons were encountered in near average numbers throughout the region. Unusual was the number of breeding plumaged birds that lingered along Lake Erie until late May (m.ob.). Pied-billed and Horned Grebes put in a very poor showing. Offsetting these low totals were what seemed

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

From a weather standpoint, this was the most pleasant spring in recent history. From a bird standpoint, it was quite lackluster. Winter left timidly and no strong spring storms meant few major fallout, Migrants were able to move through leisurely and earlier than expected, Except for the weekend of 29-30 April, weekend birding left quite a bit to be desired. Pierce noted that the best movements in Akron occurred during 4-9 May, which is about a week earlier than I expect. Another decent increase of migrants happened on 15 May. It seemed to Bill Klamm that many birds were timely in their arrivals but unremarkable in their numbers. He mentioned that the usually abundant White-throated Sparrow encountered in only modest numbers this spring and relatively poorly along the shore of Lake Erie. LePage echoed his comments and felt that Tennessee. Nashville. Cape May. Bay-breasted. and Wilson's Warblers were particular scarce.

Another reason for the lack of excitement, and perhaps the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the birders, was the continued absence of habitats that would attract shorebirds. This enjoyable group was, hardly noticed except for the brilliant female Wilson's Phalarope found by Hannikman at Gordon Park there was little else found, Even quality gull sightings were down (except for Vandepoel's Franklin's Gull at Springfield Lake). If there was a positive note to the season, it was the outstanding nesting conditions it provided. Many young were at of the nest at early dates. A fledgling Bay Village Eastern Screech-owl in early March was extraordinary.

I would like to take this space to once again thank all of the diligent reporters. The table for arrival dates was more complete than ever Bert Szabo's coverage for Summit County was greatly appreciated in this respect. The Cleveland Bird Calendar is greatly indebted to Perry Johnson for his many years of tabulating the *Wing Tips* for the Black River Audubon Society. It has provided a wealth of information for this publication in recent years. Good birding.

to be vast numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Over 200 visited Lake Rockwell, Other flocks of 60, were noted from West Branch State Park and Headlands Beach State park (HBSP). Great Blue Herons continue to flourish. Another rookery was found near Tinkers Creek SNP (TL). Great Egrets were as expected but Green-backed Herons appear to be decreasing at alarming rate, especially as northbound migrants. They were few and for between along the lakefront, The Klamms noted singles on only 3 occasions and Rosche did not detect any at Lake Rockwell for the entire period! Szabo's early sighting at Cascade Valley Metropark on 14 Apr. was noteworthy. Black-crowned Night-Herons were regularly seen at their usual locales in Rocky River, Lorain, and Shipman Pond.

A few small flocks of Tundra Swans were reported. One of 30 in Geauga Co. on 4 Mar.

(vide DB) and 25 in Medina on 16 Mar. (CW) were the largest groups. A blue phase Snow Goose was at North Chagrin Reservation on 2 Mar. (TK) Green-winged Teal were very scarce. The high count was a paltry 18 at Barberton on 3 Mar. (JV) Northern Pintails were noted widely in insignificant numbers. Blue-winged Teal tallies were rather alarming. The 22 lbsen saw at Barberton on 7 Apr was the largest gathering reported. Northern Shovelers fared better, Half had a high count of 32 at Barberton on 6 Apr. As usual they were not reported along Lake Erie. Gadwall and American Wigeon were expected. The last sizable

Blue-winged Teal tallies were rather alarming

count of Redheads along Lake Erie was 121 on 1 Mar (WNK), Lesser Scaup peaked at 600 on 23 Mar (WNK). Inland, Fondrk counted a high of 95 on Geauga Co. lakes on 2 Apr. Ring-necked Ducks were in expected totals away from Lake Erie. The highest was 3000 at Mogadore Reservoir on 8 Apr. (LR). The best sightings came from the sea duck families. Two Oldsquaw were at Wellington Reservoir on 15 Mar. (BR). LePage saw one there on 5 Apr and one at Oberlin Reservoir the same day. Several were along the lake from 1 Mar to 26 Mar (WNK), Kellerman saw one at Sims Park on 13 Apr. The Lanes had 2 males at Springfield Lake on 6 Apr. for the only Summit Co. report. Up to 14 Surf Scoters were noted in the harbor areas adjacent to Lake Erie throughout March (WNK). White-winged Scoters were seen twice along the lake in Cleveland through 12 Mar. (WNK) and once at HBSP on 24

Turkey Vulture and hawk flights passing Perkins Beach Spring 1991

Date	23-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	4-Apr	6-Apr	7-Apr	15-Apr	23-Apr	26-Apr	30-Apr
Turkey Vulture	5	17	83	55	138	46	29	28	14	3	18
Northern Harrier •	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	•	9	•	2	2	21	30	17	•	47
Cooper's Hawk •	•	•	•	•	1	•	1	1	•	1	•
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	•	•	•	1	•	•	1	•	3	•
Broad-winged Hawk	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	79	3	12
Red-tailed Hawk	•	•	•	•	7	4	9	2	•	9	•
American Kestrel	2	•	•	•	•	3	4	4	•	•	•

Mar. when Fjeldstad counted 12. The only inland report came from LaDue reservoir on 10 Mar. (CH). Hannikman noted a hen Common Merganser in Lake Erie near Gordon Park on the late date of 5 May. At least one pair of Ruddy Ducks remained at Barberton (JW).

Turkey Vulture flights were good, with 305 at HBSP on 31 Mar. the high tally (RH, LR). Reports of Ospreys were numerous. The first was at Findley SP on 1 Apr. (NK). Others were seen there through 1 May (BR). A bird was at HBSP on 20 Apr. (RH). Two were in the CVNRA on 21 Apr. and 29 Apr. (DAC, RHI). Seiberling Naturealm hosted one on 22 Apr. (WS). A bird at Lake Kelso on 24 April was tussling with an adult Bald Eagle (DB). Another was spied at HBSP on 11 May (AJF). Pierce saw a bird at Firestone Metropark on 15 May. As expected, one or two dallied through the period at Lake Rockwell (LR). Bald Eagles were as expected at Lake Rockwell throughout the period. Lorain County continues to report an increased presence of this species. A bird was at Wellington Reservoir on 1 Mar. (NK), and 2 were seen in Wellington on 16 Apr. (BR). Others were noted in Geauga Co. on 8 Mar. (AF), at LaDue on 10 Mar. (CH), at Best Lake on 23 Mar. (AJF), on 24 April Apr. at LaDue (AF), and at Lake Kelso on 24 Apr. (DB). The 18 Northern Harriers represented an expected total. A bird at Fire-

stone Metropark on 2 May was surprising (ECP). Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase in Summit County. Ibsen found another nesting location in Bath. The earliest Broad-winged Hawk was detected at HBSP on 7 Apr. (AJF). A stunning dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk was seen at HBSP and nearby locales from 31 Mar.-6 Apr. (LR, AJF). Merlin reports continue to increase and cause excitement. No less than 5 were reported from HBSP during the period (m.ob.). A bird at the Kopka's in Akron was outstanding on 1 Apr.

Virginia Rails were first seen at Firestone Metropark on 24 Apr. (ECP) and at Spencer SWA on 30 Apr. (NK). Soras were mentioned only from Spencer SWA on 17 Apr. (NK), Norton Marsh on 20 Apr. (LK). Lake Isaac on 7 May (RHL), and HBSP on 23 May (RH). Common Moorhens were found in their usual small numbers and locations.

Shorebirding was pathetic. Black-bellied Plovers were seen in very small numbers by few observers along the lake. Semipalmated Plovers were slightly better with highs of 8 at HBSP

and 14 at Lake Rockwell. Solitary Sandpiper numbers were unimpressive while Spotted Sandpipers were as expected. Ruddy Turnstones were noted at HBSP on 12 & 17 May (RH). The only sizable flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers was found at Walborn Reservoir (BDL, CH). Holt counted 77 there on 27 May. The Klamms encountered Least Sandpipers on only 4 May. Two White-rumped Sandpipers were at Walborn on 27 May (CH). Sixty Pectoral Sandpipers streaked west past HBSP on 27 Mar (LR). A bird was early at Walborn on 29 Mar. (BDL). Up to 42 were seen at Barberton on 6-7 Apr. (CH, NI). Hannikman and Harlan saw 25 Short-billed Dowitchers at HBSP on 17 May. Common Snipe were seen in above average totals. Holt had a nice flock of 41 at the Mantua Center Sod Farms on 20 Apr. American Woodcocks were early at Donald Gray Gardens on 2 Mar. (FL) and at the Ameritrust Building in downtown Cleveland on 3 Mar. (CK).

One to two Iceland Gulls lingered in the vicinity of 72nd St. until 14 Mar. (FL). Up to 4 Glaucous Gulls were there also (FL, WNK). Two Caspian Terns were at Springfield Lake on 21 Apr. (BDL). On the same date, the Klamms saw 24 along the lake. Two Caspian Terns were observed by Charles Klaus from office window as they flew down Euclid Avenue on 24 Apr. This sighting was unique in the

**Merlin reports
Continue to
increase**

fact that these birds were approximately 32 stories above the ground. A Common Tern was early at HBSP on 28 Apr. (RH, JV). The earliest Forster's Tern was at HBSP on 16 Apr. (LR). None were reported away from Lake Erie.

Black-billed Cuckoos were in good supply. An early bird was in Cleveland on 27 Apr. (RH). A bird was regularly found at Firestone Metropark during the span of 6-15 May (ECP). One was at Lake Isaac on 7 May (RHI). Sims Park had one on 11 May (TK). Birds were at HBSP on 16 May (RH) and 23 May (AF). Swine Creek Reservation provided us with a location for the species on 19 May (DB). Lastly, a singing bird was in Twin Lakes on 26 May (LR). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen on 5 May at the Pinery Narrows (CH) and at Swine Creek the same day (DB). Common Nighthawks arrived en masse the second week of May.

Short-eared Owls were encountered often this spring. Four were near Wellington on 16 Mar. (BR). The first migrant noted along Lake Erie was near HBSP on 23 Mar. (RH) and again on the 27th (AJF). Others were seen in Cleveland on 27 Mar. (WNK). 4 on 4 Apr. (TL), another on 21 Apr. (Rh, TL) and the last 28 Apr. (RH). Not much newsworthy was reported with respect to woodpeckers. Red-headed were seen along the lake as expected. Kraps saw the only one inland at the Carlisle Visitor Center on 29 Apr. Rickard's extensive coverage of Shaker Lakes failed to produce this species. The most unusual woodpecker report came from Bath. An aberrant Red-bellied was photographed at a tube feeder. The bill was enormous for the

the species and it obviously will never assume its intended role of nest excavation (NI).

The only Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Lorain Co. on 12 May (BR). The first Eastern Wood-Pewee was at the Seiberling Naturealm on 10 May (BS). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were conspicuous along the lakefront the last week of May and into June. Acadian Flycatchers were in good supply. Alder Flycatchers shoed up at their usual haunts on time. A Willow Flycatcher was a good find at Shaker Lakes on 19 May (PP). Least Flycatchers seemed to be in lower numbers than the last few springs. An Eastern Phoebe was exceptionally early at Seiberling on 2 Mar. (LK). Great Crested Flycatchers were actively nesting by mid-May. Eastern Kingbirds were well reported and apparently are thriving in all suitable habitat.

Swallows elicited few comments from observers. Szabo's notes indicated that they were on time and in good totals. Cliff Swallows were good finds at Lake Isaac on 17 Apr. (RHI) and at Shaker Lakes on 21 Apr. (PP). Purple Martins did not fare as well as the other swallows. Their strongholds are in the rural areas of Geauga and Portage Counties. Areas where few birds travel. A Barn Swallow was extremely early on 26 Mar. in Geauga Co. (AF). The best flight of Blue Jays by Perkins Beach was 900 on 29 Apr. (WNK). On 9 Mar. 600 American Crows moved past HBSP (RH).

A sustained movement (16+ hour) of Black-capped Chickadees was noted at Perkins Beach on 4 Apr. (WNK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Brown Creepers were somewhat better. Counts of 3 6 were had at HBSP from

On March 19, 1991, the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Wildlife Rehabilitation Program received a fledgling Screech Owl (Otus asio). The fledgling was a 2 to 3 week old bird with soft plumage having replaced the down. The bird was a grey morph of this variably colored species. The owl was found on the ground on West 21st Street in Cleveland, Ohio on this same date. The bird was presumed an orphan and brought to the Center for care. Alert and active, the owl seemed in perfectly good health. The body condition was good and so were both body weight and hydration.

Screech Owls in Northern Ohio begin breeding in mid-April. This bird was hatched in the first week of March and presumably nesting must have occurred much earlier. The eggs are incubated for 26 days. One must assume that pairing of this birds parents may have started in January and the parents bred in early February. This Screech Owl is a very early record for the Ohio North Coast and may very well be a state record, according to Lee Cavano, Greater Cleveland Screech Owl expert and director of an ongoing Screech Owl banding project in our area.

Larry Richardson

Early March through April (RH, LR). Carolina Wrens are beneficiaries of mild winters. They were widespread throughout the region. Winter Wrens moved when expected but perhaps the weather was so nice that they did not have to refuel along the lake in the numbers that usually appear. The first House Wren reported was at Punderson SP on 11 Apr. (AF). Marsh Wrens made it back to Barberton on time (LR). Migrants were seen at Donald Gray Gardens on 6&10 May (WNK). Golden-crowned Kinglets were conspicuous at the usual arrival times but abruptly departed. Ruby-crowned Kinglets followed the same pattern. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were earlier than any year in recent memory. Birds were widely distributed by 7 Apr. (m.ob.).

Eastern Bluebirds are increasing at a very pleasing rate throughout most of the region. Thrushes, in general, were not exceptional. Gray-cheeked Thrush numbers were way down when compared to last year tallies. Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were below average as well. Wood Thrushes seemed to be the only thrush to appear in numbers above recent averages. Perhaps this was a ramification of the mild April temperatures. The influx could have been birds that normally spend their nesting seasons south of us. The first Gray Catbird was on 11 Apr. in Geauga Co. (AF). No new locations for Northern Mockingbirds were reported. Brown Thrashers seem to be continuing their comeback from their low point of the mid-eighties. Fondrk noted 22 American Pipits at HBSP on 13 May. LePage saw a tardy individual at Gordon on 27 May.

The expected early vireos were on time but a lull in vireo activity was noted the first two weeks of May. White-eyeds were normal away from the lake. A bird at Big Creek Metropark on 26 May was a good find for the location (DB. AJF). The earliest Solitary Vireo was at Shaker Lakes on 16 Apr. (RR). Yellow-throated Vireos were absent along the lake but plentiful in their many nesting areas by the first week of May. An early bird was in Lorain Co. on 17 Apr. (BR). Philadelphia Vireos were readily found at HBSP during the last half of May. A bird along the Black River on 18 May was a good find (BR). Few comments were received on Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos. Their populations are apparently healthy.

Warblers were described as unremarkable in variety and numbers by many hard core warbler enthusiasts. Blue-winged Warblers were common and improving along the lake. The 4 at HBSP on 27 Apr. was indicative (RH). The Lanes reported them as daily at Firestone Metropark from 27 Apr. to 3 May. Tennessee Warbler numbers were good for a very brief period in early May. They disappeared early and were barely reported after the 15th. Harlan found the only Orange-crowned Warblers, one at Baldwin Lake on 1 May and the other at Mentor Marsh on 6 May. Although nearly all reporters saw Nashville Warblers, their numbers were uniformly thought to be low. Northern Parulas always get comments from those who see them. Reports were: 9 May at Firestone Metropark (ECP). 12&18 May at Sims Park (TK), 14 May at Lake Isaac (PHI). 14 May at Mentor Marsh (RHI), and 2 at Shaker Lakes on 19

May (PP). Yellow Warblers seemed to be everywhere and in excellent totals. Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers were very widespread and in average numbers. Cape May Warblers were in fair numbers. A high of 4 at Lake Isaac was near the spring norm. Migrant Black-throated Blue Warblers moved well, especially at HBSP. Hannikman counted at least 8 there on 15 May. Yellow-rumped Warblers found the weather to their liking and passed through early. Black-throated Green Warblers were early and reported from all our counties in modest numbers. The report from Lake Isaac on 8 Apr. was truly an early date

***Blue-gray
Gnatcatchers
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any year in recent
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(RHI). A Pine Warbler was found at Lake Isaac on the expected arrival date of 18 Apr. (RHI). The only Prairie Warbler was at Major Road on 5 May (RHI). Palm Warblers were impressive as they moved along the lake on 5 May, when 75+ were counted at HBSP (LP). Elsewhere, particularly inland, they were seen in good numbers. Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers were in below average numbers along the lake. Blackpolls put in a decent showing inland. The high tally was 8 at Lake Isaac on 14 May (RHI). Cerulean Warblers were in very good numbers in their usual nesting locales. A bird at Lake Isaac was unexpected on 30 Apr. (PHI). Black-and-white Warblers were well reported. American Redstarts were conducting nesting activity by 11 May at

the Pinery Narrows region of the CVNRA (OH). Prothonotary Warblers were found at Mentor Marsh (AJF), at Pinery Narrows (OH), and along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB). A bird was early in Lorain Co. on 26 Apr. (BR). Ovenbirds were very well reported. A possible increase in nesting birds was noted in Portage Co. (LR). A Louisiana Waterthrush was an excellent find at Shaker Lakes on 6 Apr. (RR). A Kentucky Warbler was a first for Lake Rockwell on 12 May (LR). The only others were reported from HBSP on 12 May (RH) and 2 at Hinckley on 29 May (RHI). The first Mourning Warbler was at Mentor Marsh

***American Redstarts
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on 6 May (RHI). Lake Isaac hosted an impressive 4 on 14 May (RHI). They were regular at Firestone Metropark 15-31 May (ECP). Kellerman saw one at Sims Park on 21 May, A high of 0 Mourning Warblers was at HBSP on 25 May (RH, LR). Wilson's Warblers were felt to be lower than usual numbers (TL, LR). Canada Warblers provided few surprises, arriving in fair numbers and on time. Nesting Hooded Warblers certainly occupy nearly every suitable woodlot in the region. The only Yellow-breasted Chats were (2) at Mentor Marsh on 8 May (RHI). in Lorain Co. on 12 May (BR), at Bacon Woods on 18 May (BR), and at Lake Isaac on 27 May (RHI).

Scarlet Tanagers. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings were all reported well during the last few days of April

Buntings were all reported well during the last few days of April and into the first week of May. Chipping Sparrows arrived throughout most of the region on 4 Apr. The earliest Vesper Sparrow was in Lorain Co. on 1 Apr. (NK) another was early at Gordon Park on 6 Apr. (ECP). The only Grasshopper Sparrow was in Kirtland Hills on 19 May (LR, JV). Fox Sparrows were pleasantly plentiful at the expected times. The 3 Ibsen found in Barberton on 7 Apr. were representative for the region. Lincoln's Sparrows were poorly represented through the area. White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows were in fair numbers but moved through very quickly when compared to normal time periods. A male Dark-eyed Junco lingered at HBSP through 27 May (1K. m.ob.) A Bobolink was early in Medina Co. on 30 Apr. (NK). Eastern Meadowlarks moved fairly well along the lake in late March and into mid-April.

Orchard Orioles were found in the expected areas of the CVNRA (DAC, RHI). Up to 8 were counted there on 8 May (PHI). Kellerman located an immature male at Sims Park on 29 Apr. for the only lakefront report. They were in below average numbers elsewhere. Rosche did not find any in Portage Co. Likewise, none were reported from Shaker Lakes or Lake Isaac. Northern Orioles were in abundance from 1 May. Purple Finches continue their strong showing in the areas surrounding Lake Rockwell (LR). Several Pine Siskins were at the Holden Arboretum on 17 Mar. (RR). They put in a good late April showing at HBSP. The only Evening Grosbeak was reported from Elyria on 18 Apr. (BR).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

American Bittern - Dan Best found this species in Munson Township on 18 Apr. Andy Fondrk happened upon a bird at North Chagrin on 25 Apr. A bird was flushed from the weeds of Gordon Park on 4 May (Hannikman). The Lanes found another at Firestone Metropark on 9 May. A bird was regularly seen along Jones Road in Lorain Co. all of May (fide Perry Johnson).

Least Bittern - A bird was in Lorain Co. during the week starting on 30 Apr. (fide Perry Johnson). Three were at Barberton 19 May (Rosche, m.ob). A bird was most obliging at Shipman Pond from 22 May (Hannikman, m.ob.).

Harlequin Duck - Two were seen repeatedly near the Munny Light Plant from 1 Mar. through 7 Apr. (Klamm, LePage. m.ob.). The Fjeldstads had one of HBSP on 24 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon -The Klamms noted the resident Cleveland pair off and on near Burke Airport throughout the period. An early migrant was at East Branch Reservoir on 10 Mar. (Fondrk). The Chasars were privy to an hour-long display by an individual in the CVNRA on 21 Apr. A bird at Hinckley Metropark on 12 May was truly remarkable (Vanderpoel).

Wilson's Phalarope - A female was identified by Hannikman at the Gordon Park Impoundment on 18 May. It remained at least through the 20th.

Northern Saw-whet Owl Starting with 23 Mar and lasting through 5 Apr. (Hannikman, Baticik, m.ob) up to 5 birds were

County Arrival Dates for Common Migrants - Spring, 1991

SPECIES	CUYAHOGA	GEAUGA	LAKE	LORAIN	MEDINA	PORTAGE	SUMMIT
GREEN-BACKED HERON	4/18	5/6	4/27	4/28	4/29	5/4	4/14
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	3/31	4/13	3/31	4/1	•	3/9	3/4
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	4/27	4/17	4/6	4/24	5/30	4/28	4/20
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	4/30	5/3	4/28	•	4/29	4/23	4/29
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	5/14	•	5/12	5/10	•	5/11	5/10
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	5/11	5/4	4/29	5/14	5/12	5/18	4/28
LEAST FLYCATCHER	4/26	•	4/28	4/29	5/20	4/28	5/9
EASTERN KINGBIRD	4/29	5/4	5/4	5/8	5/12	5/7	5/10
BARN SWALLOW	4/18	3/26	4/21	4/20	4/24	4/15	4/20
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	5/1	•	5/11	5/1	5/6	•	5/13
WOOD THRUSH	4/28	5/4	4/27	4/27	5/6	4/28	4/28
GRAY CATBIRD	4/27	4/11	4/28	4/27	4/29	4/27	4/27
SOLITARY VIREO	4/16	4/27	4/27	4/27	•	5/1	5/10
WARBLING VIREO	4/28	5/4	4/28	4/30	5/1	4/28	4/28
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	4/28	5/5	4/27	4/26	5/1	4/29	4/27
NASHVILLE WARBLER	4/27	5/4	5/4	5/1	5/1	5/5	5/10
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	5/7	•	5/4	5/18	•	5/15	5/9
PALM WARBLER	4/29	•	4/27	5/10	5/1	4/27	4/27
BAY-BREASTED WARB.	4/29	•	5/11	5/14	•	5/4	5/10
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	5/12	5/19	5/15	5/12	•	5/21	5/13
AMERICAN REDSTART	5/1	5/19	5/11	5/1	5/1	5/2	4/24
N. WATERTHRUSH	5/7	•	5/12	•	•	5/1	5/5
C. YELLOWTHROAT	4/26	5/16	4/28	5/3	4/30	4/29	4/29
SCARLET TANAGER	4/28	5/16	5/11	5/1	5/1	5/2	5/10
ROSE-BREASTED GB.	4/28	5/4	5/11	5/2	4/27	4/29	5/2
CHIPPING SPARROW	4/9	3/17	4/21	3/27	4/15	4/14	4/4
SAVANNAH SPARROW	4/6	•	4/6	4/6	3/23	4/15	4/9
BOBOLINK	5/1	5/16	5/12	4/30	4/30	•	•
NORTHERN ORIOLE	4/27	5/22	4/28	5/1	5/1	4/30	5/3

located at Donald Gray Gardens. Bacik banded 3 of these. Kellerman's continuous study at Euclid Beach SP yielded a bird on 26 Mar. The Fjeldstads reported a bird on the break-wall at HBSP on 27 Mar.

Whip-poor-will -Two were singing in Parma Heights on 27 Apr. (Harlan). One was in Bath on 1 May (Ibsen). The Klamms found a bird at Donald Gray Gardens on 6 May. LePage saw one at Sims Park the same day.

Golden-crowned Kinglet - The first nesting of this species in the region (and possibly the state) was at the Reinthals in Richfield. Details will be in Vol 87 No. 3.

Varied Thrush - A cat mauled an adult male of this species in Mentor on 16 April. It was taken to Lake Metropark Wildlife Rehab Center where it survived a few more days. Unbelievably, the specimen was incinerated a month later (fide Fjeldstad). This would have provided the state with its second specimen if it had been turned in to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Northern Shrike - Fondrk saw this species near Russell Park on 14 Mar. Fjeldstad had a bird on the fence along SR 44 south of HBSP on 16 Mar. A late bird was at the Walter C. Best Preserve on 23 Mar. (Fjeldstad, m.ob.).

Golden-winged Warbler - A remarkable showing occurred this spring. Pierce encountered 5 individuals in early May at Firestone Metropark. A male was at Lake Isaac on 3 May (Harlan). He saw another at the Jaite area of the CVNRA on 5 May. He located a different bird in the same park on 11 May. Szabo had 2 on 6 May, one at the Seiberling Naturealm and the other at Deep Lock Quarry. A bird was at HBSP on 18 May (Hannikman, Harlan).

Brewster's Warbler -Harlan found this hybrid in Middleburg Heights on 13-14 May. He described a bird which he felt to be a back-cross type due to its very white underparts.

Yellow-throated Warbler - Our earliest record for this species was established by Paula Lozano at Donald Gray Gardens on 9 Apr. The Klamms were fortunate to also see it. Harlan located 3 in the CVNRA on 29 Apr. Up to 2 were in Bacon Woods 10-12 May (Perry Johnson).

Worm-eating Warbler - A bird was near the rookery in the CVNRA on 29 Apr. (Harlan).

Connecticut Warbler - A singing bird was at HBSP on 17 May (Hannikman, Harlan). Another was at Firestone Metropark the same day (Pierce).

Blue Grosbeak - A male visited Gary Gerrone's feeder in Avon Lake on 30 Apr. Kraps was also able to see it that day.

Henslow's Sparrow - A bird was singing at Charlemont Reservation in Lorain Co. (Perry Johnson, Gary Gerrone).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow—Hannikman's good luck with this species continued as he found a male at Gordon Park on 17 May. It, or another, was there on 19 May (RH, LR, JV).

Smith's Longspur - Hannikman documented a bird in basic plumaged on 6 Apr. at the Gordon Park Landfill. LePage and Harlan also supported this observation in writing. This editor greatly appreciated the thorough descriptions of this individual from these trusted contributors.

Northern Oriole - The bird from the winter in Akron thought to be a Bullock's form was last seen by Kopka on 2 Apr. Correspondence with noted field expert, Paul Lehman, found him in agreement with Mr. Kopka.



Franklin's Gull 8 April 1991, Akron, Ohio
By Larry Rosche

FIELD NOTES

North Coast Barn Owls

By Larry Richardson

Serendipity means a wonderful, unexpected discovery. The story about a captive Barn Owl at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center may, for those of us that witnessed the events, can be best described as serendipitous.

The Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located in Huntington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. This 108 acre park is in far western Cuyahoga County, and the Center is less than one half mile south of Lake Erie.

As the Centers Director, I was opening the Center for a monthly budget meeting on March 18, 1991. I remember hearing what I thought was a mechanical squeak, not unlike the sound of a motor running with a bad bearing. Because there is no such machine in the vicinity of the

Center, I gave it a little thought.

Once in the Center, I made my necessary rounds and the noise persisted until curiosity got the best of me. My investigation took me to the rear of the Center to an area housing our resident wildlife (LENSC has a wildlife rehabilitation program and maintains wildlife displays for education. The resident animals are not releasable and are therefore maintained under state and federal permits).

As I approached the windows overlooking the area, I saw a large white bird rise from the top of one of the cages and disappear into the woods surrounding the Center. The bird had flown from the cage housing the Centers resident Barn Owl. And, much to my surprise, I discovered that the origin of the persistent, repetitious squeak was our Barn Owl. I waited for awhile and the wild bird returned to my view. It was unmistakably a Barn Owl.

I immediately contacted a network of bird enthusiasts including Gary Gerrone of the Lorain County Metroparks who was able to come to the Center right away. We watched the wild Barn Owl come directly down to the cage and interact with the caged bird through the cage mesh. This bird would fly away and return several times this evening and for the next several evenings.

Knowing that the captive owl is a male got us started in analyzing the situation. The generally darker plumage of the wild owl and the apparent "nuptial behaviors" led us to believe the wild bird to be a female.

The mystery yet unsolved is whether the male (which had never been in an outside cage before) was hormonally stimulated to attract females and one happened by, or if the fact that the female was in the area had stimulated the male to begin his persistent attempt to attract this female to (presumably) mate.

This persistent calling began every evening at dusk for a week. The wild bird would respond to the squeaking with great interest and approach the cage. This would go on intermittently for at least several hours, if not all night. Several people were able to witness this drama unfold for the first few days.

The wild owl seemed to become more nervous in approaching the cage as each evening passed. Trips to the cage were less frequent although the wild owl was nearby most of the evening. We thought the wild owl was understandably losing interest since mating was impossible. One event happened that confused

us however. At one point, the wild Barn Owl was apparently attacked in a very close fly-by by another bird that we could not identify. That incident was significant, but we realized it only after later events unfolded.

Every time the wild owl would come into the area of the cage, it was almost always preceded by a short but loud screech more typical of the usual Barn Owl vocalizations. I was almost certain at one point that I heard two different screeches. Later, I was watching the wild owl with my binoculars. It was perched on a limb above the cage. While I was watching, I heard a screech from way off to my right. The owl in my view did not make the screech, but it turned its head immediately in the direction of the screech, having heard it too. Within the hour, a second wild Barn Owl appeared in the cage area. This second owl was larger and darker than the first wild owl, and also clearly a female. After this event, the first wild Barn Owl never returned. The appearance of the second female might explain why the first owl acted so nervously and her interest in the male had waned.

This appearance of the second wild owl may also shed some light on who attracted whom in the original incident. It is probable that the two wild owls were migrants, heading northward and, as many birds do, probably dispersed east or west when reaching the Lake Erie Shore. The migrant wild owls probably stimulated the captive male into his frenzied and persistent attempts to attract them and mate. This is the most plausible scenario.

On March 27, 1991, a weather front moved through, bringing

40 mile-per-hour-plus winds. After this date, no wild owls were present and the captive owl had ceased his serenade. About two weeks later in April, the captive owl began singing one evening. No owl appeared, and thereafter the singing ceased. It is possible that another presumably a third, wild Barn Owl may have

THE APPEARANCE OF THE SECOND FEMALE...

been in the area that night, but we will never be certain.

The Center had access to night vision video equipment during the height of the Barn Owl activity. Several hours of footage were recorded. There is good documentation of the captive owls behavior. All the footage is of the second wild owl, but the behavior of both wild owls was virtually identical.

Early on, a Barn Owl nesting box was hastily and strategically placed at the Center. Another similar event had happened in Richland County, Ohio, where a captive female Barn Owl attracted a wild male barn owl, which in turn attracted a wild female. The wild pair then courted, mated and nested in the barn housing the resident captive owl. The birds that appeared at the Center did not, as far as we know, attract a wild male and neither wild female took any interest in the nesting box presented.

Considering the circumstances and the Center's location, this chain of events was very serendipitous and exciting. The LENS is the last place one would expect to see Barn Owls.

There are as few as 15 pairs nesting in Ohio, primarily in the southern half of the state. Barn Owl migration through this area is considered rare, but as we now suspect, it may not be as rare as we had once believed.

SITE GUIDE

PART III A Shaker Lakes Birding Calendar

by Victor Fazio III

January: Wintry desolation will greet most visitors, or so it often appears. A Coopers Hawk may be seen darting through the woods, or a Great Horned Owl actively establishing territory. Elsewhere a kinglet or Carolina Wren may be foraging along an open stream, a kingfisher may be heard overhead. Finches and waxwings are occasionally common in fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. Still, with the lakes frozen, I may only expect 20-25 species a day.

February: Migration begins. First detected are the Horned Larks flying overhead on clear sunny days (listen for a Snow Bunting with them). By mid-month, waxwing and robin flocks increase along the RTA tracks of Shaker Boulevard (typically between Lee and Warrensville Roads). These birds are closely approached while they feed on hawthorn berries. With late February and warm south winds come the first swans and hawks overhead. They are best viewed from Larchmere Bridge.

March: Except for the mergansers that linger into April, Spring duck migration peaks here in mid-March. At this time watch for a dawn movement of American Robin, generally peaking at 200-000 birds. Later in the day, vultures join the

hawk flights. Keen observers may detect a Killdeer or an early swallow flying by the bridge. The woods remain quiet, for the most part, until the first kinglets and phoebes arrive during the last few days of the month, at which time I may record up to 55 species.

April: Southwest winds on warm days offer the best birding throughout the month. I have recorded as many as 9 species (600 individuals) of diurnal raptor in a day from Larchmere Bridge. Peak times are between 1000-1400 hours during the last week of April. While you are watching don't be too surprised by a meadowlark flying over the rooftops and forest canopy of this suburban setting. I have counted as many as 7 one morning. After more than 400 hours on the bridge, it has become apparent to me that many species are capable of passing overhead that may otherwise not be expected to be encountered here. Keep an open eye out for the likes of bluebird, pipits, cormorants, and even a Cattle Egret (1984). Also watch the lakes in early April for storm-downed waterfowl, especially loons, grebes, and sea-ducks. Woodland birding picks up decidedly after the 15th, however, the first migrant 'waves' are not expected before April

***Migrant waves
are best following
southwest winds in
spring and after north-
west winds in
fall...***

28. Generally, I detect 50-70 species per day in April.

May: Migrant passerines are best found during 'waves', mass movements typically coinciding with strong winds (SW in spring and NW in fall) associated with the passage of a weather front. Don't be deterred by rain, should it be associated with these winds; the birds will be there and often foraging lower than on a clear day. Frequency of these waves is as variable as the weather, but in May perhaps one or two a week throughout the month. Best viewing is from sunrise to 1-2 1/2 hours later, with the dregs greeting the late riser. Generally, I record 65-85 species per day, however my personal best around the lakes is 104 (dawn-dusk) and group best 107.

June: With a relatively high number of lingering migrants and wayward non-breeder present into the first week of June, it is often worthwhile scouting the lake edges, especially the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake. One June, I had both male Black-throated Blue and Blackpoll Warblers sing there every day through mid-month. White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are among those species I have found lingering into June. I have also noted that during the first few days of the month passerine movement is still high. The latter half of June is much quieter but for the activity of the 60 species that either breed or regularly summer here.

July: Fall migration starts shortly after Independence Day with the arrival of immature Black-crowned Night-Herons and the first Solitary Sandpipers.

Depending on the mudflat exposure, a modest number of yellow-legs, a few peeps, and maybe a Pectoral Sandpiper will have made an appearance by mid-month. By late July the southward movement of Yellow Warblers is evident, Purple Martins gather at Horseshoe Lake, and a few kingbirds may be detected calling overhead. Something I have as yet to fully assess is an apparent tendency for the casual occurrence of marginal breeders of northeast Ohio at Horseshoe Lake in late July. Over the years, these have included Black-throated Green Warbler (several), Brown Creeper (several), and consistently Northern Waterthrush. I bring this to readers' attention should they be interested in discovering whether this is a general phenomenon and how widespread it may be in our region.

August: Summer doldrums may persist through the first third of the month but around the 10th be looking for the first Olive-sided Flycatcher, harbinger of the autumnal passerine movement. During the 2nd third of the month variety picks up greatly with arriving Swainson's Thrush, and several warbler species possible. Early in the latter third of the month I anticipate the first fall wave, as warblers may come teeming through. If you are still waiting for September to view warblers, you will have missed the boat on several species, particularly Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers. At dusk in late August and sometimes into September watch for the evening movement of nighthawks through the region. Larchmere Bridge is the best location around the Lakes.

***By late July
the southward
movement
of Yellow Warblers
is evident... a few
kingbirds may be
detected...***

where I observe an annual peak of 150 to 1200.

September: This month sees the peak autumnal diversity as I have recorded 85 species in a day as early as the 1st and as late as the 24th. To achieve this peak, I will be out first thing after a cold snap with the passage of a NW frontal system. A general rule of thumb, used at migration observatories around the Great Lakes, is that the lower the anticipated temperature drop, the stronger the storm, the more birds. Throughout the month one may reasonably expect to census quality numbers of warblers on wave days. In early September they are augmented with flycatchers, overlapping with Catharus thrushes mid-month, and later with sparrows.

October: Woodland birding is still productive through the first ten days then dropping off dramatically by mid-month. Watch for the annual gathering of swifts at this time near Lower Lake. There is little activity in late October as few waterfowl congregate locally, but for those diehards, the potential for a late migrant.

November: Before you forsake inland parks for the action along Lake Erie, you may stop

at Larchmere Bridge for migrants overhead. Perhaps due to this parks proximity to the escarpment, waterbird flights, often in association with cold fronts, are occasionally noteworthy. Once I recorded 2200 Tundra Swans from Larchmere Bridge and another time 350 loons overhead at Horseshoe Lake. The lakes themselves are visited by only a few divers and there is little in the way of woodland birds.

December: Very little hereabouts to attract the visiting birder, especially after the mid-month freeze (figure 2-3 days before that year's CBC). Being one of those confirmed diehards mentioned above, I do find myself beating the riparian bushes for unusually late birds such as a House Wren or a Green-backed Heron, during the first few days of the month. A good day in December would be about 30-35 species, though one may find up to 50 the first week.

Conclusion: This ends a 3-part series based on my personal experience. However, without the aid of a great many persons, my knowledge of the area would be greatly diminished. Prominent among these have been Mary Flahive, for access to historical records from the Shaker Lakes kept at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Jean Aiken and Cindy Swartz for their guidance and expertise in ornithological matters. Perry Peskin, long-time bird walk leader, and the well remembered Dave Corbin who first set before me the challenge of investigating the birds of the Shaker Lakes.

Notice: All reports to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* are archived in the library of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 289-2473 The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris' Sparrow, etc) please contact the editors 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.

Field Study: 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 of the Grand River and Fairport Harbor section of the region. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678-9408 or Ray Hannikman at 261-4047.

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Inquiries regarding subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* should be addressed to: Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The annual subscription rate is \$7.50.

Field reports, artwork, papers, and comments should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240 by 15 June 1991.