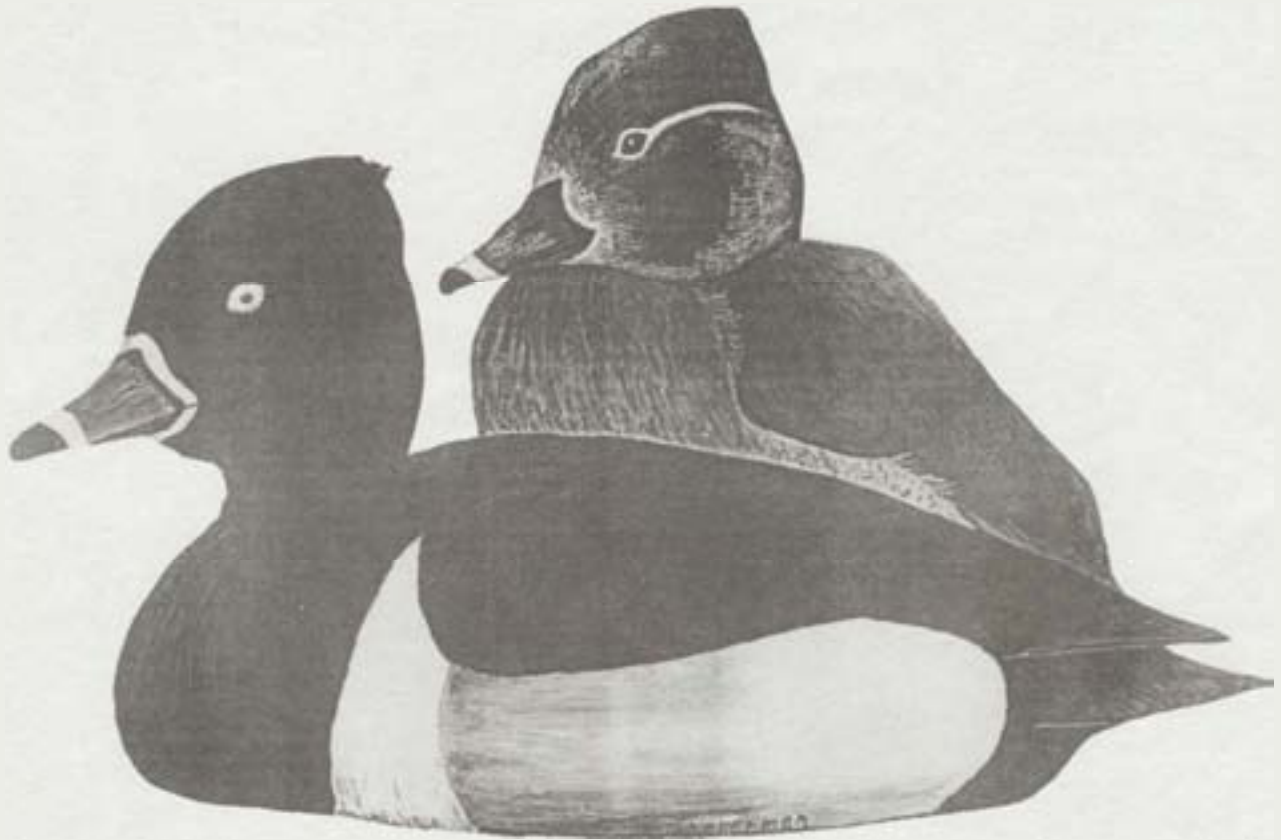


The Cleveland

June, July, August 1991  
Volume 87 Number 3

# BIRD CALENDAR



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

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

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

**15 March - winter season**

**15 June - spring season**

**15 September - summer season**

**15 December - autumn season**

Cover design by Thomas Kellerman, 1991.

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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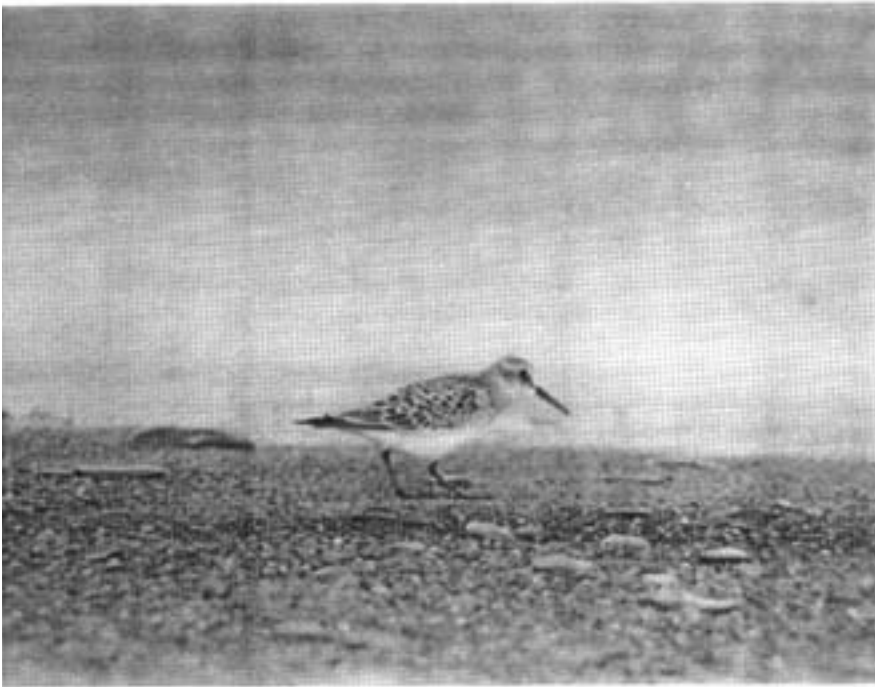
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about future sightings**



Baird's Sandpiper - Headlands Beach State Park - 10 August 1991  
by Larry Rosche

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## THE WEATHER

### Summer 1991

by William Klamm

**June** - Remarkably warm and dry. Temperatures averaged 71.1 degrees, 3.5° above normal. For extremes, a high of 92° on the 15th was followed by a low of 50° on the 14th. Precipitation occurred on only 3 days and totaled 1.37 inches, 2.12 in. below normal. The maximum fall in any 24 hours was 0.68 in. on 11th-12th. Lake Erie water temperature stood at 59° on the 1st and rose to 70° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 85% of the time possible.

**July** - Another warm and dry month. Temperatures averaged 74.7 degrees, 3.1° higher than normal. The extremes were a high of 97° on the 20th and a low of 54° on the 15th. Precipitation fell on 8 days to total 1.69 inches, 1.68 in. below normal. The maximum fall for any 24 hours was 0.84 in. on the 23rd.

Sunshine prevailed 82% of the time possible and Lake Erie water temperature rose to 77° by the 22nd and remained there through the 31st.

**August** - The month was warm and fairly dry. Temperatures averaged 72.7 degrees. This was 2.3° warmer than normal, with a high of 92° on the 29th and a low of 53° on the 6th. Precipitation was distributed on 10 days and totaled 2.79 inches, 0.59 in. below normal. The maximum fall in any 24 hours was 0.88 in. on 19th-20th. Sunshine slipped to 69% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature started at 77°. dropped to 76° on the 8th, to 75° on the 20th, to 74° on the 28th and after.

## REFLECTIONS

**Thirty Years Ago:** On 6 June 1961 a Bald Eagle was observed over Cleveland Heights (Walters). An Osprey was seen at Everett on 25 June (DeSante).

The first Little Gull summer record for the region was at White City on 13 August (Schwab and Rickard). A flock of 28 Upland Sandpipers was observed feeding on the grassy expanses at Cleveland Hopkins Airport on 26 August (Klamm).

**Twenty Years Ago:** Rocky River Reservation provided much summer excitement in 1971. On 6 June a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches fledged 2 young (Klamm). A pair of Bewick's Wrens raised 4 young near the Trailside Interpretive Center (Smith, Stasko). An adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found at the Wildlife Management Area on 7 July (Flanigan). The first nesting record of Orchard Orioles since 1954 was at Macedonia (Drushal). A Willet was at LaDue Reservoir on 12 August (Scheibe).

**Ten Years Ago:** In summer 1981 Alder Flycatchers were found nesting at Streetsboro Bog. Up to 10 singing males were counted there in July and August (Rosche). A "Lawrence's Warbler" was seen at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve on 5 July (Elder, Rosche). The Gordon Park Landfill attracted many terns and on 14 August a high count of 800 Common and 500 Black Terns was made. Common Nighthawks moved in late August with a high count of 800 in Kent on the 28th. Seven Red-necked Phalaropes at the Gordon Park Landfill on 29 August was the largest flock in the region since 1950 (Hannikman, Hoffman, Klamm). The second regional sighting of a Least Tern was at the same locale on the same day (Klamm, Hoffman).

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## Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

Summer birding means taking a hard look at our local nesting species and how they compare in numbers to previous summers. Most observers felt that the weather this summer contributed to excellent nesting success. Many reported early breeding successes and the relic bird populations of Geauga and Lake Counties were still very much in evidence. Nesting (or at least summering) warblers were represented by 20 species. - a great summer for breeding birds (not to mention the absence of mosquitoes), at least on the surface. Examination of Harlan's Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey caused me concern over the short-term decrease in some common species. Percentages of common species have demonstrated a dramatic decline since 1989. I know that a 3 year study is not sufficient to start drawing foregone conclusions, but it is eye-opening. It is studies such as these that let us know how precarious an existence our birdlife has. The continued urbanization of farmlands and woodlands may be making an impact on roadside species, or could it be that we are taking our censusing more casually? I hope not.

In the past few summers shorebird habitat has been hard to find. The often used phrase of the early nineties if you build it they will come" certainly applies to charadriiform [charidiformes]. This summer low water levels at Lake Rockwell encouraged hundreds of the more common sandpipers to stopover and rest before headed south. Our first records in two years of Long-billed Dowitchers and Red-necked Phalaropes were found in August. It seemed like a long time since I was able to see breeding plumaged returnees from the Arctic.

Fall landbird migrants were trickling in at the periods end. The period of 19-25 August provided a fairly decent movement of passerines in the northern part of the region. Only time will tell if Hannikman's prophecy, that an excellent migration follows a dry summer, will hold true. Good birding.

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### Summer 1991

A Common Loon at Wellington Reservoir on 4 June was an extraordinary find (NK). Pied-billed Grebes were reported nesting at Silver Creek Metropark (83). A single bird was observed at Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area on 14 July (NK). A pair was regularly seen at the Barberton Holding Basin most of the summer (m.ob.). A pair was also noted at Lake Medina on 24 Aug. (CW). Double-crested Cormorant sightings were widespread and numerous for the time of year. Three at Lake Medina on 24 Aug. were from a previously unreported location (CW). Great Blue Herons continue to increase when compared to a decade ago. Lake Rockwell hosted 50-75 daily due to low water levels and available prey. Great Egrets were few and far

between. Green-backed Herons were in evidence in August at many locations but in small numbers. Nesting success was thought to be good only in the CVNRA (DAC). At Spencer Lake SWA they were virtually nonexistent (NK). Tinkers Creek had 8 on 6 July (TL). Black-crowned Night-Herons were regularly seen in Lorain, Rocky River, HBSP, and Shaker Lakes (m.ob.).

A Snow Goose sighting in Medina County on 18 Aug. was mind-boggling for the time of year. One cannot help but think that someone's aviary is missing a bird (CW). Wood Ducks were reported to have had excellent early nesting success. A duckling at Lake Rockwell on 6 Aug. appeared to be no older than a week.

This seemed late for such a young bird. American Black Ducks summered in their usual locales. Blue-winged Teal were the dominant nesting duck at Barberton. Vanderpoel saw 85 there on 13 July. Migrant teal were showing up inland in fair numbers by early August. Along Lake Erie they were less conspicuous. Summering oddities included 1-2 Gadwalls at Gordon Park in early June and a male Ring-necked Duck all summer at Mogadore Reservoir. A Hooded Merganser was at Gordon Park on 7 July (RH). The description of the pair swimming and feeding in the Rocky River on 5 Aug. indicated juveniles. It is entirely possible that this species nested in the Rocky River Valley. The Chasars noted them at their usual locale in the CVNRA on 3 June.

SHOREBIRD SURVEY FOR LAKE ROCKWELL- SUMMER 1991													
DATES	JULY			AUGUST									
	11	27	29	3	5	9	14	18	19	21	24	29	31
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SEMI PALMATED PLOVER	0	1	0	15	28	30	9	5	7	15	15	9	10
KILLDEER	75	120	100	125	157	200	200	250	100	150	110	70	90
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	2	1	0	3	2	2	1	1	3	3	6	5	2
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	0	15	10	5	6	16	19	25	110	75	80	30	15
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	0	25	12	20	29	35	25	12	8	10	5	1	2
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	2	2	1	1	8	10	1	8	4	3	0	4	1
SEMI PALM. SANDPIPER	0	3	0	2	8	45	46	30	65	50	55	45	50
LEAST SANDPIPER	16	15	15	30	51	50	150	150	130	120	40	15	3
WHITE-RUMP. SANDPIPER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	11	6	4	1	2
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	0	15	30	50	50	75	75	75	150	100	70	50	50
STILT SANDPIPER	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
SHORT-BILL DOWITCHER	0	1	6	0	0	10	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
LONG-BILL. DOWITCHER	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
COMMON SNIPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>DAILY TOTAL</b>	95	198	174	251	339	476	528	561	591	535	388	233	229
<b>NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>	4	8	7	9	9	13	10	10	13	12	11	11	14

Forty-two Turkey Vultures at Wellington Reservoir on 4 July was expected (NK). No report of nesting success was received from anywhere in the region. Lake Rockwell's first fall Osprey was early on 4 July (LR). One appeared at Spencer Lake on 30 Aug. (NK), and another bird hunting in Lorain Harbor on 24 Aug. caused quite a stir (WNK). An early Northern Harrier was over the East Branch of the Chagrin River in Waite Hill on 2 Aug. (CK). Coopers Hawks were widespread and encountered more often than American Kestrels in Portage Co. (LR). Sharp-shinned Hawks were possibly nesting in Geauga Co. (AF). One was at Jaite on 28 July (RHL). Noisy Red-shouldered Hawks were continuing to make things lively for Stow residents. They were doing well in their other locations along the Cuyahoga and Grand Rivers. Broad-winged Hawks were reported from Big Creek Park (DB), Lake Isaac (RHL), West

Branch SP, and Lake Rockwell. Bill and Nancy Klamm kept close watch on a pair of Red-tailed Hawks in the Rocky River Valley and noted some interesting behaviors. The fledglings, instead of leaving the nest site, would often be seen returning to the nest to be fed. This is odd behavior for large raptors. American Kestrels were widespread but certainly not numerous.

Ring-necked Pheasants were thought to be increasing in the southern sectors of the region. A Ruffed Grouse was at Streetsboro Bog on 10 June (TL). Northern Bobwhites were

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**... 4 Whimbrels  
were feeding on  
the runway at  
Burke Airport on  
21 July**

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at West Branch SP on 4 June. Harlan had 4 in Hinckley on 9 June. Both Virginia Rails and Soras were reported from Spencer Lake (NK). A Sora at Baldwin Lake was readily observed 7-12 Aug. (WNK). Common Moorhens raised 29 young at Barberton (CH, LK, JV). An immature was regularly seen at Shipman Pond in Aug. (RH, m.ob.). American Coots did not nest locally.

Shorebirds were found in good numbers at Lake Rockwell from early July due to the many acres of suitable foraging areas. Other areas such as West Branch SP, Burke Airport, Gordon Park, Lake Medina, and the Holding Basin in Barberton provided minimal habitat. Once again the weekend of 18-19 Aug. proved to be a time of much shorebird migration (see table).

Several Black-bellied Plovers were reported from Burke Airport

in Aug. The high count was 7 on 10 Aug. Lesser Golden Plovers were seen only at Lake Rockwell. Semipalmated Plovers were early at Gordon Park on 16 July (TL). Both yellowlegs totals were excellent compared to 1990. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was seen in the CVNRA on 2 July (DAC). A Solitary Sandpiper had returned to the Rocky River Valley from its nesting area by 6 July (WNK). Three Willets were on the rocks on the east side of Gordon Park on 22 June (RH). Tom Kellerman found 4 Whimbrels feeding on the runway at Burke Airport 21 July. Two were there on 4 Aug. Another was video-taped there on 21

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**...Nighthawk  
nesting was a  
total failure in  
Akron..**

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Aug. (WNK). LePage saw yet another there on 29 Aug. A single bird was at HBSP on 24 Aug. (RH, TL). A Ruddy Turnstone was a late migrant at Walborn Reservoir on 2 June (CH). Sanderlings were common at HBSP from mid-July. A bird at Lake Rockwell seemed out of place on 23 Aug. (LR). A flock of 200+ northward bound Semipalmated Sandpipers at Walborn Reservoir on 2 June was an outstanding find (CH). A Western Sandpiper graced Gordon Park with its presence on 13 July (RH, PR). Least Sandpipers were widespread. Baird's Sandpipers were more numerous than usual. Starting

with 2 at HBSP on 10 Aug. (m.ob.) they were seen regularly through the period. Another was at HBSP on 11 Aug. Two were at Burke on 21 Aug. The 11 at Lake Rockwell on 19 Aug. may have constituted the largest tally in the history of the region (LR). An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Baldwin Lake on 22 July (WNK). Another early bird was in Vermilion on 26 July (NK). A Dunlin was at the East Pier in Lorain on 11 June (NK). No Stilt Sandpipers were seen along the lakefront. Holt saw an early adult at West Branch SP on 18 July. Others were as expected at Barberton and Lake Rockwell. A Short-billed Dowitcher set an early record for fall arrival (or was it late spring?) on 23 June at E. 55th St. and Gordon Park (RH, RHL). The high count for the region was a paltry 27 at Gordon Park on 13 July (TL). A Common Snipe was early at Gordon Park on 14 July (TL). An American Woodcock was again a regular at HBSP in June and July (RH). A bird was at Lake Isaac on 14 Aug. (RHL).

Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls began to build by 20 July at HBSP. A high of 300+ was there on 11 Aug. (RH). Herring Gulls have become uncommon breeders and are widely spaced throughout the region. Medina is the only county that has yet to report a nesting pair. Great Black-backed Gulls were as usual at HBSP. One was in Cleveland on 18 Aug. (WNK).

Up to 46 Caspian Terns were observed in Lorain on 28 Aug. Another 40 were in Cleveland on 19 Aug. (WNK). A flock of 26 at Barberton on 18 Aug. was double

the expected tally for the location (JV). Common Terns were fairly numerous in August but certainly nowhere near last summers totals at HBSP. Forster's Tern numbers were poor. A bird at Lake Rockwell 14 July was totally unexpected (LR). One word describes the 1991 occurrence of Black Terns in the region--scarce! Four at Barberton on 18 Aug. was the high tally (JV). A winter plumaged bird was at Lake Rockwell on 20 Aug. (CH).

Three Black-billed Cuckoos were found on Fondrk's BBS route in Geauga and Lake Counties. LePage saw one in Lorain Co. on 2 June and another at Streetsboro Bog on 10 June. A bird was at Lake Rockwell on 23 Aug. (LR). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Geauga Co. on 1 June (AF). One was in the CVNRA on 14 July (DAC). Woody Stover felt that Common Nighthawk nesting was a total failure in Akron due to the heat of early summer. Both Szabo and Rosche commented that nighthawks were about 10 days early in their southward movement. A flock of over 150 on 16 Aug. at Lake Rockwell was the largest reported. Kopka noted 100 in Akron on 22 Aug. No Whip-poor-will reports were received. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in extraordinary numbers in July and August throughout the region. Many felt that the lack of wildflowers, due to dry conditions, forced hummingbirds to visit feeders more often than is usual.

Red-headed Woodpeckers nested at Sims Park, Punderson SP, and Tinkers Creek Creek SP. At Perkins Beach they were

constantly feuding with American Kestrels over nest sites (WNK). Two Pileated Woodpeckers were at Spencer Lake SWA on 30 Aug. (NK). Fondrk found them regularly in Geauga Co.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Euclid Beach SP on 26 Aug. (TL). Another was at Tinkers Creek SP on 28 Aug. (EE). Nesting empidonax flycatchers were as expected. Fall arrivals were noticed in mid-August. The small colony of Alder Flycatchers persisted at Streetsboro Bog (CH). A bird was near Hinckley on 9 June (RHL). Willow Flycatchers were typically abundant. A Least Flycatcher at Best Wildlife Preserve on 16 June was noteworthy (DB). One at Valley View Golf Course in Akron was at a location that has had the species summer in the past (LK). Two at Cascade Metropark were as expected (BS). Eastern Phoebes were at their usual locations. Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird numbers seemed stable.

Active nest houses of Purple Martins were reported from Medina Co. (NK) and Eastlake (CH). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were numerous at Gordon Park, with up to 300 counted there on 14 July (WNK, TL). Bank Swallows were plentiful at their usual nest sites. Cliff Swallows nested successfully at West Branch SP. A bird flying at Wade Oval on 2 Aug. was a remarkable find (PP).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted at several Geauga and Lake County sites (AF). No

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## ***Furnace Run Metro Park provided a new location for White-eyed Vireos.***

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Brown Creeper reports were received. Carolina Wrens have pleasantly returned to a common status. Reports from the Cuyahoga and Rocky River Valleys are particularly encouraging. House Wrens were common to abundant. Marsh Wrens were numerous at Barberton (CH, LR, JV). A bird in Cascade Metropark on 14 June was a surprise (BS). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers received little mention.

Rosche conjectured that, if one drives for 20 minutes in Portage Co., one could not help but see an Eastern Bluebird. Veeries were in expected local numbers for the season. Six Swainson's Thrushes were at Lake Isaac and 2 were at HBSP on 31 Aug. Rolik felt that Gray Catbirds were scarce in Maple Heights. He noted that the understory of his nearby woodlands was particularly sparse due to the lack of rain. Northern Mockingbirds were again successful at Gordon Park. At least two feuding pairs were seen there on 19 Aug. (WNK). Brown Thrashers were thought to be increasing in Portage Co. (LR). Two young Cedar Waxwings at HBSP on 28 July indicated an earlier than expected nesting (RH).

Furnace Run Metropark provided a new location for White-eyed Vireos (NI). They were widely distributed throughout the region as expected. Solitary Vireos were noted at their traditional breeding areas. LePage saw one feeding a cowbird young at North Chagrin on 7 July. Fondrk found 11 on his Geauga and Lake County censuses. Yellow-throated Vireos were fairly common. Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo numbers seemed good.

Blue-winged Warblers are apparently thriving in the CVNRA (m.ob.) and widespread elsewhere in the region. Chestnut-sided Warblers continue their uncommon status as a nesting species. A new location for summering Magnolia Warblers was at Hinckley on 16 June (RHL). Another was at Stebbins Gulch and two were at Little Mountain on 29 June (AF, RHL). A bird at North Chagrin on 12 July was a pleasant surprise (AF). Black-throated Green Warblers were as expected in the hemlock dominated areas of Geauga and Lake Counties. Five Blackburnian Warblers were at Lake Isaac on 20 Aug. (RHL). A Pine Warbler was seen at the Carlisle Visitor Center on 26 Aug. (NK). A single Prairie Warbler was reported from the usual location in Peninsula. This bird was not reported after 4 June (DAC, CH, LK). Cerulean Warblers were said to be common in preferred locales. This summer's Black-and-white Warbler was at Brecksville Metropark on 28 July (TL). Prothonotary Warblers were thought to be doing well in the



CVNRA (DAC). An Ovenbird at HBSP on 15 June was unexpected (RH). A bird was seen at Furnace Run Metropark on 14 June (NI). Five were at Bradley Woods on 24 June (TL). A bird was at Findley SP on 7 June (NK). A waterthrush in nontypical Louisiana habitat at Bradley Woods was left unidentified (TL). Fondrk and Harlan counted 8 Louisiana Waterthrushes in Stebbins Gulch on 29 June (2 less than last year). A bird was noted in Big Creek Park in early June (DB). Kopka counted 3 Kentucky Warblers in Hinckley on 1 June. They were seen there well into the summer. No others were found in the region. Two late Mourning Warblers were at Headlands BSP through 3 June (RH). The first fall arrivals were there on 25 Aug. and at Lake Isaac on 31 Aug. Wilson's Warblers were as expected in late August. Three Canada Warblers were tallied in Stebbins Gulch on 29 June (AF. RHL). Yellow-breasted Chats were commonly seen and heard in the Jaite area of the CVNRA (DAC).

Rufous-sided Towhees were reported in good numbers. Chipping and Field Sparrows were common and Vesper Sparrows continued their uncommon existence as a breeding species in the rural sectors. Savannah Sparrows seemed to be less widely distributed, however, they were numerous in their preferred fields. Grasshopper Sparrows were only reported from Lorain Co. (FL. NK) and Strongsville (m.ob.). A family of Dark-eyed Juncos was raised in Russell

Township. This nesting was unusual in that the birds nested in a hanging basket of flowers at the home of Sue Prior (fide CK). Mr. Klaus collected the nest and deposited it at the CMNH. Juncos were in their usual summer numbers at Stebbins Gulch and Little Mountain. A bird lingering in Litchfield Township in Lorain Co. until 13 June was exceptional (NK). The first fall returnee was in Lakewood Park on 23 Aug. (WNK). The Webber Road Bobolink field provided initial nesting conditions but unfortunately it was plowed and the birds disappeared (WNK). Holt counted 19 in Strongsville during July. They were as expected in Geauga Co. (AF. RR). Eastern Meadowlarks were in good supply in Portage Co. (LR). Szabo counted 3 Orchard Orioles in Akron's Cascade Valley on 14 June. Others were reported from the expected CVNRA locales (m.ob.). Northern Orioles were numerous with 30 tallied in the Cascade Valley on 14-17 June

(BS). Purple Finches were uncommon. A pair frequently visited the feeder at the Donald W. Meyer Center at Big Creek Park (DB). A bird at Tinkers Creek SP on 24 Aug. may have been an early migrant (CH). A Pine Siskin with some downy feathers still evident visited Harlan's feeder in Parma Heights on 17 June.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**American Bittern** - Two birds were seen at the Lime Lakes in Barberton on 4 & 18 Aug. (Vanderpoel).

**Least Bittern** - Hannikman continued to locate the bird found at Shipman Pond in the spring through 2 June. Barberton was home to several all summer (m.ob.).

**Mute Swan** - A bird was out of season at the Lorain Harbor on



Long and Short-billed Dowitchers - Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge  
by Jon Dunn

15 July (LePage). This may represent a movement into the region and it is possible that this feral species may become a member of our local breeding bird population.

**Green-winged Teal** - A hen summered at Barberton (Kopka, Vanderpoel). An eclipse male at Lake Rockwell on 28 July was a first summer record for the location (Rosche).

**Canvasback** - A male was found at the CEI plant at E. 72nd St on 21 Aug. It remained throughout the period. This was very unusual for the species (Klamm).

**Harlequin Duck** - The most extraordinary find of the summer was an out of place eclipse plumaged male along the shore near North Marginal near E. 55th St. The bird was discovered by the Klamms on 6 Aug. and remained through the period. Unbelievably, there is one other previous summer record in 1968 from Lorain. Interestingly, it too was an immature male.

**Bald Eagle** - The pair at Lake Rockwell remained through the summer, with the subadult bird molting into magnificent adult plumage as the summer wore on. The nest was used as a roost but no evidence of incubation was ever noted. A third individual, an immature, showed up as expected in late August (LR).

**Peregrine Falcon** - Drew Rolik reported that the pair at the Terminal Tower was seen regularly in June. Of note was the occurrence of one of the birds

dive-bombing a window where people were watching it. The bird came so close that its wingtips would touch the glass.

**Sandhill Crane** - One and sometimes two were irregularly observed through the summer in southern Lorain County. The birds spent most of their time feeding in a soybean field near S.R. 303 and Diagonal Road (Kraps, m. ob.). If not for the appearance of the Harlequin Duck in Cleveland, this would have been the outstanding sighting of the summer. It was conjectured by many that these cranes had ventured out of Wayne Co. This species has been known to nest near Rittman in recent summers.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** - A molting adult was with a small flock of Short-billed Dowitchers at Lake Rockwell on 19 Aug. The size, plumage, and bill differences were clearly evident. Another was there on 31 Aug. (Rosche).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - The first regional occurrence in 2 years was that of a juvenile at Lake Rockwell on 21 Aug. The bird lingered for only one evening and then left (Rosche, Holt).

**Franklin's Gull** - A first-summer bird was at HBSP early in the morning of 22 June (Hannikman). It soon departed and was not observed again in the summer period.

**Little Gull** - A first-summer bird was at HBSP on 28 July (Hannikman). An adult was seen intermittently with the flock of

Bonaparte's Gulls at HBSP from 4 Aug. though the period (Hannikman, LePage, m.ob).

**Winter Wren** - A family group was in the CVNRA on 15 June (DAC). Fondrk and Harlan found 3 at North Chagrin, 5 in Stebbins Gulch, 2 at Chapin Woods, and 2 at Little Mountain. Two singing birds were found in a sandstone /hemlock ravine adjacent to Big Creek Park on 3 July (DB).

**Northern Parula** - A bird was apparently on territory at Hinckley Metropark through 19 June (Harlan, Holt).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** - The Brecksville Reservation birds were readily found along the Chippewa Creek in June-July (Harlan).

**Henslow's Sparrow** - A bird put in an appearance at O'Neil Woods on 2 June (Kopka). Bacik reported a single male along Lena Road in Aurora during June. Five were counted along Jones Road in Medina Co. on 30 Aug. (Kraps).

**Addendum:** Two species were inadvertently omitted from the spring issue. Please add **Black Vulture** to the Volume 87 Number 2. An adult was seen in a kettle of migrating Turkey Vultures at HBSP on 31 March (Hannikman, Rosche). This represented the second Cleveland region record of this species, nearly 25 years after the first. Also add **Northern Goshawk**. An adult was observed migrating eastward on 31 March (Hannikman, Rosche).

## FIELD NOTES

### Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*) - The first nesting record in Northeastern Ohio

by *Mary Reinthal*

There are no apologies for not noticing earlier. Although I heard the Golden-crowned Kinglets almost daily on my walks all winter and spring I was watching for those late warblers, ignoring the commonplace kinglets. Then, as the breeding bird count was approached I checked the records and realized these remaining kinglets could be unusual.

6/8/91 Larry Rosche came to the rescue and confirmed these kinglets were indeed here a little late and advised me to pay attention to them.

6/9/91 After some close observation I discovered the nest about 25 feet high in a Norway spruce, suspended about 4 feet from the tip of the branch. A Norway spruce has drooping branches that perfectly hid the small tan globular nest.

6/10/91 In spite of the darkness under the branch, I could see two young birds. One had stripes on its head. An adult bird fed them about every 10 minutes.

6/11/91 Larry Rosche came to observe the nest and young kinglets.

6/12/91 There was a great increase in the feeding frequency. It appeared as if both

parents were now feeding the young.

6/13/91 The kinglets have fledged.

6/14/91 The kinglets are being fed in the evergreen canopy where they are almost impossible to see. The parents are very vocal. The greatest number of kinglets I can see at one time is four.

6/26/91 I do not see the kinglets.

6/30/91 A male kinglet, distinguished by song, not appearance, is vocalizing loudly in a one to two acre area around the nest. He is singing the full song: four or five very high pitched notes ascending in half tones, followed by lower pitched rapid chattering notes.

7/9/91 The loud songs have ceased. Now there are just very faint calls and snatches of song in the conifers and mixed deciduous old orchard near the nesting site.

7/21/91 A second kinglet has appeared with the vocalizing male. From this date on I hear infrequent calls near the nesting site. On two occasions. I see one kinglet feeding another. It has not been possible to get a total count of kinglets.

Further notes: Unfortunately I observed little of the incubation and brooding periods. Although I could not distinguish the male from the female, I observed one bird feeding the young about every 10 minutes. While this bird was feeding and wherever it went in search of food, another kinglet accompanied it, calling and singing constantly.

Usually the birds were too quick for me to observe what they carried into the nest. Occasionally I saw caterpillars in the birds bill as well as nesting material. At one time one bird was feeding the young and another approached it with nesting material. The feeding bird quickly took the material, put it in the nest area and flew away. That was June 10, three days before fledging.

Before the nest was discovered, the birds had been calling and singing. Usually only the first, ascending part of the song was heard. After the male returned from the nest site he sang the complete song at different points in his territory for about nine days before he resumed non-breeding calls.

The birds were fairly tolerant of observation but, sometimes they did not feed the young when I was in the area, and there would be an increase in the "Brown Creeper" Calls.

The nest was located in an old field planted with several van-

eties of pine and spruce about 37 years ago. These are all exotics. Surrounding areas are old fields and ravines of mixed deciduous woods that were last farmed in the late forties. In the last three years, Solitary Vireos and Black-throated Green Warblers have joined the native Red-eyed Vireos, Veeries and Hooded Warblers in this area. A Cooper's Hawk nest was built near the kinglet nest this year. Six young were raised in a black walnut tree.

### The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey 1991

by Robert Harlan

The Cleveland Area Breeding Bird Survey (CABBS) entered into a third year in 1991. A cooperative effort with the Kirtland Bird Club, the CABBS is conducted to gather data concerning the population status of breeding birds in northeastern Ohio. CABBS is patterned after the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey, with minor differences. A complete explanation of CABBS methods is described in The Ohio Cardinal Vol. 12(4) and The Cleveland Bird Calendar Vol. 85(3).

A total of 7032 birds was tallied along the 12 roadside routes scattered throughout the 7 county Cleveland area. This represents an average of 586 individuals/route, down from 601.4/route in 1990 and 643.1/route in 1989. The total number of species recorded

each year has remained very consistent, however - 100 in 1989, 103 in 1990, and 101 in 1991. Five species previously unrecorded on CABBS routes were discovered in 1991: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Moorhen, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Dark-eyed Junco. This brings the total number of species found thus far to 116.

Table 1 lists the 25 most numerous species in order of abundance. When compared to the baseline year of 1989, 17 of the top 25 species in 1991 show declines in average number of individuals/route. Similarly, in 1990, 19 of 25 showed declines. This may indicate unusually

high totals in 1989, but one must consider the overall decline in ind./route since 1989. Actually, only one species in the top 25 has shown a consistent increase (C. Grackle), while 6 have shown a decrease every year (Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, and House Finch). It is very difficult to keep a watchful eye on such common species, but this activity does seem to be in order.

Eastern Bluebirds have shown a consistent increase from 0.80 ind./route in 1989 to 2.83 ind./route in 1991. Perhaps human assistance, along with a series of mild winters, is bene-

**TABLE 1 — 1991 TOP 25 SPECIES AND PERCENT CHANGE SINCE 1989**

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVG/ROUTE	CHANGE
1. Red-winged Blackbird	674	56.17	-23.69
2. European Starling	558	46.50	-16.37
3. Common Grackle	491	40.92	+45.09
4. American Crow	439	36.58	+24.09
5. American Robin	413	34.42	-9.42
6. House Sparrow	318	26.50	-12.83
7. Northern Cardinal	309	25.75	-10.28
8 Song Sparrow	309	25.75	+3.00
9. Mourning Dove	273	22.75	-0.66
10. House Finch	201	16.75	-18.29
11. American Goldfinch	183	15.25	+27.08
12. Common Yellowthroat	181	15.08	+11.73
13. Canada Goose	180	15.00	-23.47
14. Tufted Titmouse	157	13.08	+4.67
15. Red-eyed Vireo	135	11.25	+8.17
16. Gray Catbird	127	10.58	+18.91
17. House Wren	126	10.50	-9.48
18. Yellow Warbler	116	9.67	-6.15
19. Indigo Bunting	113	9.42	-24.67
20. Cedar Waxwing	112	9.33	-22.22
21. Chipping Sparrow	103	8.58	-7.71
22. Blue Jay	96	8.00	-25.93
23. Chimney Swift	92	7.67	-4.17
24. Black-cap. Chickadee	80	6.67	-21.57
25. Field Sparrow	76	6.33	-13.24

fitting this species. Brown Thrasher numbers remain essentially unchanged again, but the birds seemed more common later in the season. Carolina Wren, likewise, appeared more common at summers end, while CABBS data show only a slight increase. Next years surveys may provide evidence for these apparent gains. Cuckoos numbers remain low, with only 3 Black-billed being noted. Time should prove enlightening for all species.

I am grateful to all the following who, in addition to the author, participated in this survey: Anders Fjeldstad, Andy Fondrk, J. P. Harlan, William & Nancy Klamm, Tom LePage, and Larry Rosche.

Robert Harlan 7072 Parma Park Blvd. Parma Hts., Ohio 44130

### **Notes on a summer occurrence of Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)**

*by Craig Holt*

One of the last birds I ever expected to see in the Cleveland region in the summer was a Harlequin Duck. I was astonished to hear that Bill and Nancy Klamm had located one near the E. 55th St. Marina in early August. On 10 August I went to look for this rarity. After a bit of searching I found the duck near an abandoned building just west of the foot of E. 55th. It was surface-feeding with some Mallards and a Blue-winged Teal.

The overall color of the bird was brownish-black, with a small black bill, and 3 round white spots on each side of the head. A faint white vertical stripe was visible in front of the wing. Some white was visible along the rear edge of the wing and the tail was long. The dark legs and belly were clearly seen as it rested on the nearby rocks. From these combined characteristics, the bird was determined to be a male. The wings were very stubby (no primary or secondary flight feathers). This feature indicated that this individual was either in molt or a pinioned escape. The white at the rear edge of the folded wings it could have been exposed feather quills.

The question of whether this was a wild bird or an escape was answered (for me) on 25 August when I spotted the bird again. It was resting on a rock just west of where I first saw it. It looked quite healthy and preened vigorously. The flight feathers had grown in considerably. The wings showed much more white in the secondaries and along the line where they meet the back. The vertical white side stripe and white spot behind the bill were more prominent. A white spot at the base of the tail had appeared and the sides now had a chestnut suffusion. The bird was not banded.

From these observations, I felt comfortable in concluding that it was a wild male which had been in eclipse plumage when I first saw it and was now

attaining typical adult plumage. It will be interesting to watch for further plumage changes if the bird remains into the fall.

### **Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) A documentation**

*by Rob Harlan*

Date.- 6 April 1991

Time 3:50 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Other Observers Ray Hannikman found the bird at approximately 12:15 p.m. Tom LePage studied it with Ray and later with me.

#### **Field Marks:**

Head - The crown was dark brown with scattered white feathers. The face was strongly patterned. The lores were gray. The superciliary, auricular area, and throat were off-gray or off white. The eye was black. The auricular area was outlined by dark brown. The throat was edged by brown malar lines. The bill was fairly large for a sparrow-type bird. The upper mandible was gray. The proximal 3/4 of lower mandible was pink, and the distal 1/4 gray. The upper mandible was larger than the lower mandible. The lower mandible did not have swollen base. The nape area was more of a streaked buffy brown than the crown or back. If an imaginary line were to be drawn around the back of the head from the rear border of

the auriculars, this would delineate the upper border of this streaked buffy nape area. The nape soon blended into the more grayish back. The crown was fairly light.

**Back** - The back was basically grayish, heavily streaked with brown. The rump was buffy, also streaked with brown.

**Tail** - The tail was mostly dark gray-brown centrally with white outer tail feathers. In flight, these white feathers were not prominent, less than those on a junco. At rest, the white outer tail feathers were seen as a narrow white edge to a dark gray-brown tail. The tail appeared slightly forked.

**Wings** - The wings were primarily brown with 2 white wing bars. No white shoulder patch was evident at rest or in flight, indicating that this bird was a female.

**Underside** - The throat color was clear off-white, bordered by brown malar lines. The upper breast and flanks were vaguely streaked with brown. This created a necklaced effect when viewed head on. The upper breast was slightly more buffy than the throat. The central breast was brighter and more buffy than any other part of the bird. This color was reminiscent of the underside of a fresh-plumaged fall Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) This bright buffy shade diminished to off-white in the undertail area.

**Legs** - The legs were pinkish-red. The feet seemed slightly darker.

**Size** - The overall size was comparable to a medium-sized sparrow.

**Vocalizations** - When flushed, the bird sometimes gave a typical longspur rattle of two or three notes.

#### **Behavior:**

The bird spent most of its time walking along the mudflat feeding on seeds. It did not hop. When flushed it usually flew higher into the air than the other sparrows present, flying at very low elevations from one clump of weeds to another. It seemed slightly more tolerant of close approach than the other sparrows, allowing us to come within 10 yards or so.

#### **Similar Species:**

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) the only regularly occurring longspur in Ohio, was quickly eliminated by the pinkish-red legs and by the total absence of black or rusty feathering.

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*) was eliminated by the bill characteristics (no swollen area at the base of the lower mandible) and by the tail pattern. The inverted "T" pattern would have been readily visible at the distances involved.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) was the only other real possibility, but it was eliminated by the well-defined face pattern and, by the white on the tail restricted to the outer tail feathers. Neither

McCown's nor Chestnut-collared Longspur has ever been documented acceptably in Ohio, but either could occur based on other records east of the Mississippi. All species of longspur were considered in this identification, and all but Smith's can safely be ruled out by various plumage and/or soft-part traits.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) can quickly be eliminated by the facial pattern (no eye-ring etc.), by the lack of chestnut on the lesser wing coverts, by buffiness on the underside, and by the longspur vocalization.

#### **Former experience:**

I have seen Smith's Longspur once before, surprisingly, five years ago to the day, at Gordon Park Impoundment. I have seen McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in breeding plumage in Montana. Lapland Longspurs are seen regularly in the fall along Lake Erie.

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Artwork, photographs, and articles are needed for future Issues of The Cleveland Bird Calendar Please feel free to submit papers of interest on local birding sites or other items pertinent to bird study to Larry Rosche 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.

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**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