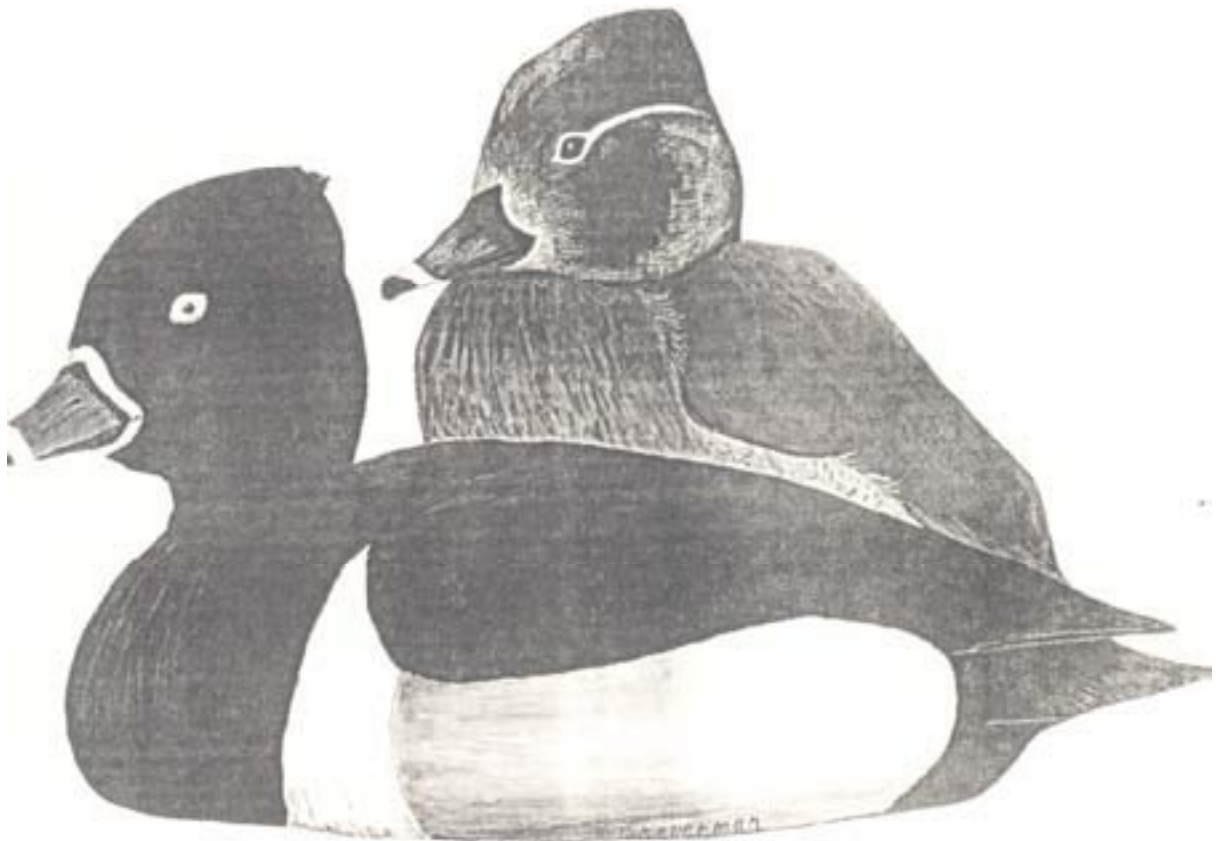


The Cleveland

December 1991
January, February 1992

Volume 88 Number 1

BIRD CALENDAR



Published by
**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.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Kirtland Bird Club. A generous contribution from the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society aided in the purchase of editorial hardware.

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.

December 1991, January, February 1992
Volume 88 Number 1

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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THE WEATHER

Winter 1991-1992

by William Klamm

December - Temperatures averaged 34.8°, 3.7° above normal. The highest temperature was 63° on the 13th and the lowest was 10° on the 5th. Lake Erie water stood at 46° on the 1st and fell slowly to 38° on the 31st, however, extensive ice cover was persistent in basins, sheltered harbors and quiet waters after the 19th. Precipitation over 16 days totaled 2.26 in., .49 in. below normal. The maximum 24 hour rainfall was 1.19 in. on the 2nd and 3rd. Snowfall totaled 9.4 in. with 3.2 in falling on the 15th and 16th. Sunshine prevailed 25% of the time.

January - The month was warmer and gloomier than expected. Temperatures averaged 30.2°, 4.7° above normal. Extremes were 56° on the 3rd and -2° on the 16th. Lake Erie temperature continued to

drop slowly finally reaching 33° on the 26th. Precipitation occurred on 16 days and totaled 3.32 in., .85 above normal. Snowfall totaled 23.8 in. with the maximum 24 hour snowfall 6.2 in. on the 14th. The greatest snow depth of the season was 13 in. on the 16th. Sunshine prevailed only 14% of the time.

February - Temperatures averaged 32.7°, 5.2° higher than normal. The extremes were 56° on the 22nd and 7° on the 9th and 10th. Lake Erie temperatures nudged upwards to 35° on the 26th. Precipitation over 15 days totaled 2.65 in., .45 in. above normal. Snowfall totaled 6.2 in., a maximum of 2.4 in. on the 7th and 8th. Sunshine prevailed 22% of the time. Overall, this was the warmest winter in recorded history for the region.

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: With the exception of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, the northern finches were scarce! A Cape May Warbler was in Willoughby Hills on 9 Dec. (Skaggs). A Lesser Golden-Plover was at White City on the extreme date of 10 Dec. 1961 (Carrothers, Hudgeon). A flock of 14 Pine Grosbeaks, which was feeding on spruce buds in the Rocky River Reservation, suddenly found a Northern Shrike in their midst on 1 Jan. 1962. Though they showed it "due respect, they did not flee" (Klamm).

Twenty Years Ago: A Western Tanager was in Mentor from 21 Dec. 1961 through 3 Jan. 1962 (Fais). A Northern Goshawk was seen as it flew over Mentor Marsh on 3 Jan. (Hammond). A Red-necked Phalarope was close to shore at White City on 6 Jan. (Corbin). A Northern Shrike was near Headlands Beach SP on 16 Jan. (Corbin). A Loggerhead Shrike was banded in Willoughby Hills on 31 Jan. (Skaggs). A Black-legged Kittiwake was in Lorain 14-20 Feb. (Ward, Stasko).

Ten Years Ago: A female King Eider wintered at Avon Lake (Pogacnik, Rosche). Eastlake's first records of Thayer's Gull were of a first and a second year bird on 13 Dec. (Hannikman, Rosche). The Mew Gull from Nov. was last seen in Lorain on 27 Dec. (Hoffman, Pogacnik). A February invasion of redpolls brought a Hoary to Akron (Osborne, m.ob.) and to Lorain (Pogacnik). An adult Bald Eagle was reported in January and February in Willoughby Hills (Sherwin). About 75 White-winged Crossbills were at Chestnut Hill Cemetery on 21 Feb. (Elder, Rosche).

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

I like the predictability of winter. Rare fall stragglers show up in early December, rare feeder birds are found on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), and the hope of finding a rare gull keeps everyone birding the lakefront throughout the season. This season we had another fine total of Northern Shrikes widely distributed through the region. They are expected on most CBCs. I wonder how many Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Thrashers, Gray Catbirds, Common Yellowthroats, and various sparrow species would be found if contributors took time to inspect proper habitats other than on a CBC. Certainly the rare finds on our CBCs are of birds that are attempting to overwinter. It seems that with the increased coverage of Lake County and its habitat diversity almost anything is possible when it comes to bird sightings.

I don't mean to sound like CBS journalist Andy Rooney but when looking at the this season's weather I am puzzled. This was the warmest winter on record yet I had more snow in my yard for a longer period of time since the 70s. Indeed, this past winter was the first time either Bert Szabo or I remember Summit Lake completely frozen. Hard to figure isn't it?

Finally, I sometimes feel that the local weatherman is the most important purveyor of bird knowledge to the vast majority of people in the region. I can only hope that contributors will share their knowledge more freely. The report and picture of a Great Gray Owl (without any reference to where the picture was taken) sent in by a Medina man certainly misled quite a few casual bird watchers. Good luck on your spring bird outings.

Winter 1991-1992

Common Loons lingered in expected numbers. A moribund bird fished from the boat basin at E. 72nd St. on 6 Dec. had been banded in Northern Michigan (DJH, HW). Another was out of season in Fairport Harbor on 15 Jan. (JP). Wintering Pied-billed Grebes were noted in higher than normal totals along Lake Erie (m.ob.). Up to 9 were at Summit Lake (CH, LK). An Eared Grebe was in Perry on 15 Dec. (JP). Double-crested Cormorants continue to winter in the region. Small groups of 4-7 could be found along the shore of Lake Erie (m.ob.). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen on the 14 Dec. Elyria/Lorain CBC. Three Tundra Swans were noteworthy over Burke Airport on 24 Jan. (EM). A flock of 35 over Madison on 9 Feb. were early migrants (AJF). Mute Swans were found in many places. It is presumed that they are wild birds but their

origin is always suspect. A blue-morph Snow Goose, assuming it is the same bird, spent its 6th winter in Akron (m.ob.). Up to 9 lingered at Lake Medina into late Dec. (CW). Another "blue" was at LaDue Reservoir on 12 Jan. (JP).

Dabbling ducks were fewer than in the past few winters. The ice formation on Lake Erie kept the local harbors and marinas plugged for the majority of January and February. As expected, small numbers of Wood Ducks found refuge on open water areas throughout the winter. The first migrants were noted on 20 Feb. in Aurora (EE). Holt noted lingering Green-winged Teal at Lake Rockwell on 6 Jan. and in Cleveland on 18 Jan. American Black Ducks were as expected along Lake Erie. Up to 115 could be found in and around Lake Rockwell (CH, LR). Forty in the CVNRA on 31 Jan. was a good local count (WAT). Wintering Mallards totaled in the 1000s. As usual, a

few Northern Pintails were widely scattered about the region all winter. Migrants were apparent by the end of February. Two Northern Shovelers were in Cleveland on 6 Dec. (WNK). A pair was at North Chagrin on 31 Dec. (RR). Up to 4 wintered at the Akron Lakes. (LR). A hen was at Edgewater Park on 18 Jan. (CH). Gadwall and American Wigeon were as expected throughout the season.

One has to be at the lakefront on the right day to get a chance to see numerous divers. The high count of Canvasbacks was 200 in Lorain on 24 Feb. (JP). A high of 300 Redheads was there the same day. Inland, the high count for Canvasbacks was 6 at Phippen Lake on 23 Jan. (CH). The high tally for Redheads was 5 at the same location on 11 Feb. (CH). Ring-necked Ducks wintered in unprecedented numbers. Up to 8 spent the entire season in

the vicinity of Lake Rockwell and Lake Phippen. Their numbers grew considerably by the end of February. One spent the winter in Northfield (DAC). Two pairs lingered at Best Lake until 14 Dec. (DB). Another was at Lake Isaac (RHL) and a few scattered along the shore of Lake Erie (WNK). Scaup could be found in numbers of up to 1100 on a given day along the lake (m.ob.). An Oldsquaw was at Wildwood Lakefront SP on 2 Dec. (TL). Males were at Rocky River Park (CH) and Perry (JP) on 15 Dec. A single was in Cleveland on 19 Dec. (WNK). Two were at Oberlin Reservoir 5 Jan. (JES). They were missed the next day but a single was there from 7-12 Jan. (BR). A Black Scoter was seen off Rocky River Park 6-31 Dec. (WNK, TL). Two were there on 29 Dec. (CH). Another was in Perry on 1 Feb. along with 11 dark-winged scoters (unidentified) (JP). Two Surf Scoters were identified along the lakefront by Rickard on 1 Jan. Ten White-winged Scoters were tallied at Fairport Harbor on 21 Jan (NB). Common Goldeneye numbers were low. The highest tally along the lake was only 230 on 16 Dec. (WNK). Bufflehead numbers were good. Selected high counts were: 167 in Cleveland on 6 Dec. (WNK); 110 at Avon Lake on 25 Jan. (CH); 148 from Cleveland to Avon Lake on 6 Feb. (WNK). A flock of 150 Hooded Mergansers was counted at Oberlin Reservoir on 3 Dec. (NK). Holt counted 100 at Lake Rockwell on 14 Dec. Common Mergansers were intermittently numerous east of Fairport Harbor (LR). Elsewhere they were scarce. A total of 2940 Red-breasted Mergansers off Cleveland was an excellent count for 19 Jan. (WNK). An impressive

200 Ruddy Ducks remained at Oberlin Reservoir through 7 Dec. (NK). Up to 3 wintered in Akron (CH, LK).

An early Turkey Vulture was reported from HBSP on 28 Feb. (RR). Northern Harriers continue their winter existence in Lorain Co. (NK). Up to 2 were seen regularly at Gordon Park (TL, PP). Males were at Swine Creek Reservation on 4 Dec. (DB) and Lost Nation Airport on 6 Dec. (AJF). A female bird hunting the dunes at HBSP was unusual on 16 Feb. (LR). Wert found one at Barberton on 23 Feb. It was nice to see that Cooper's Hawks outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks on at least 3 local CBCs. The Toneff's saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk at their home in Brecksville on 2 Dec. Red-shouldered Hawks seemed to be fairly common. The 12 on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC represented a high number (BS). A bird was seen at Gordon Park by Ervin Miller and others in January. LePage saw a pair in Brecksville on 12 Jan. Witt found another at Lake Medina on 16 Jan. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were higher than recent years. Birds were scattered throughout our 7 county region. A bird near Granger on 4 Dec. provided a report from a little known area (JW).

American Coots were as expected, with many at the

**On 21 Jan. a
gathering of
40,000 gulls was
noted at E. 72nd
St.**

Akron Lakes and more than usual along Lake Erie. A high of 29 on 6 Feb. was remarkable for the lakefront (WNK). Killdeer were returning in small numbers by the last third of February. An American Woodcock in Perry on 10 Dec. was late (JP). The latest Common Snipe was in the CVNRA on 29 Dec. (JW).

A dark-morph immature jaeger was left unidentified as it flew offshore in Perry on 18 Jan. (JP). The weekend of 18-20 January brought many gulls to the lakefront. On the 21st a gathering of 40,000 was noted at E. 72nd St. (RH, TL, LR). The uncommon species (Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous) were present in expected numbers. A high of 3 Thayer's was at E. 72nd St. on 20 Jan. (RH, TL, LR). Single Thayer's were reported from Avon Lake (AJF), Fairport Harbor and Lorain (JP). The high for Iceland and Lesser Black-backed was 4 each at E. 72nd St. on 20 Jan. (RH, TL, LR). Single Icelands and Lesser Black-backed were widely distributed along the lake throughout the winter (m.ob.). Six Glaucous Gulls were there the same day (RH, TL, LR). Equally impressive was the 400± Great Black-backed Gulls there at the same time. Another sizeable concentration of Great Black-backed were 400 off Perry on 1 Feb. (JP). While there were numerous reports of single Glaucous Gulls across the lakefront areas, up to 5 could be found in Avon Lake and Lorain (TL, WNK, NK). Generally speaking, Bonaparte's Gulls were scarce along the lake after 25 Dec. (WNK). Inland, 2 were out of established patterns of occurrence at Summit Lake on 26 Jan. (CH). The tally of Ring-billed Gulls on the 14

Dec. Elyria/ Lorain CBC was a whopping 70,520. Herring Gulls continued to be abundant in the region.

As previously reported, our resident owls were fairly numerous. Barred Owls were reported from North Chagrin and Brecksville Reservations for the first time in recent winters (TL). Elinor Elder visited an area in Aurora where she hadn't been in several winters on 6 Feb. to find that Red-headed Woodpeckers still winter there. Lakefront birders found them at more locations than usual. Birds were reported at HBSP, Perkins Beach, Wildwood SP, and Sims Park. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a good find in Bath on 16 Jan. (NI). Northern Flickers were

***A total of 98
Rusty Blackbirds
was tallied by
LePage in East-
lake on 21 Dec.***

fairly common in parts of the CVNRA. A bird at Clifton Beach on 19 Jan. was unusual (WNK). A total of 17 Pileated Woodpeckers was counted on the Mentor CBC (HW). Horned Larks were consistently found in the rural areas of Lorain Co. (NK) and at Burke Airport (m.ob.). A lark was found dead in a Strongsville driveway on 15 Jan. (TLN). Red-breasted Nuthatches were few and far between. Carolina Wrens are continuing to increase. A total of 65 on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC was indicative (BS). Winter Wrens

were widely distributed. A tardy bird was at Big Creek Park on 10 Dec. (DB). One was at Lake Rockwell in Jan. (LR). Another was at Lake Isaac on 3 Jan. (RHL). The only site that consistently reported Brown Creepers was Big Creek Park (DB). A bird was singing at Lake Isaac in late Feb. (RHL). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed to be in lower than usual numbers. Eastern Bluebirds were reported from Hunting Valley (RR). American Robins were in high numbers in Lake Co. throughout the period (LR). While less conspicuous elsewhere, they were found in small numbers in Portage, Summit, and Lorain Counties. The Klamms counted 168 on the west side on 6 Feb. Northern Mockingbirds were reported from their usual haunts near Gordon Park (m.ob.) and in Lake County (JP). Hundreds of Cedar Waxwings were tallied on the Elyria/Lorain and Cuyahoga Falls CBCs. Yellow-rumped Warblers were found regularly at Seiberling Naturealm (WS).

Four Rufous-sided Towhees visited a feeder in Avon on 18 Jan. (BR). Wert found them regularly at Cascade Valley Park in Akron. As usual, American Tree Sparrows were abundant away from Lake Erie. Field Sparrows are rare winter residents in the southern part of the region. Two in Perry on 28 Dec. were exceptional (LR). The Savannah Sparrow that lingered at HBSP until 1 Dec. was noteworthy (CH, LR). Two Fox Sparrows were counted on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC. Up to 4 remained at Cascade Valley Park into January (JW). Song Sparrows rarely receive mention in this column.

This past season many observers noted their absence. While they are not abundant at this time of year in the lakefront birding areas, it was alarming to find that only 9 were found on the Mentor CBC (HW). The Toneffs' diligent study in the CVNRA yielded the first winter report of Swamp Sparrows for the park in recent years. They were common in the marshes west of Lake Rockwell (LR). As predicted in the fall issue, Dark-eyed Juncos remained very numerous through the winter. Up to 6 Lapland Longspurs were at Burke Lakefront Airport on 18-21 Jan. (m.ob.). Snow Buntings were sprinkled widely in the region in small numbers. A nice flock of 50 was in Middlefield Township on 29 Jan. (DB).

Blackbirds wintered in high numbers from Euclid to Fairport Harbor. A total of 98 Rusty Blackbirds was tallied by LePage in Eastlake on 21 Dec. Brown-headed Cowbirds were numerous at feeders in Akron and in traditional eastern suburbs (m.ob.).

The only report of a Purple Finch not on a CBC came from the Carlisle Visitor Center on 31 Dec. (NK). Common Redpolls lingered in small numbers. Four were at the Kraps' feeder in Lorain Co. from 9 Feb. A flock of 40 was at Lakewood Cemetery on 4 Dec. (WNK). LePage found 24 there on 14 Feb. The largest concentration (60) was in Painesville at Wyman Park on 7-8 Jan. (JP). Up to 25 Pine Siskins spent the winter in Twin Lakes (LR). A bird in Lorain Co. on 7 Dec. was unusual (NK). Evening Grosbeaks were noted only on CBCs.

NOTEWORTHY REPORTS

Red-throated Loon - A bird was fishing the waters off E. 55th St. on 7 Dec. (Bacik).

Western Grebe - Bill and Nancy Klamm located almost everyone's first Ohio Western Grebe off Lakewood Park on 8 Dec. It was later found frequenting the mouth of the Rocky River. It remained there until 20 Dec.

Brant - An inland bird was documented thoroughly in Northfield on 15 Dec. (Chasar). Another was just out of the east side CBC circle at E. 55th St. on 21 Dec. (Hoffman).

Harlequin Duck - A female was at Eastlake on 18 Jan. (Rosche). It was seen there again on 26 Jan (Pogacnik). Nancy Brundage and Cal Keppler saw a male there on 21 Jan.

King Elder - Two were lounging off North Perry on 5 Dec. (Pogacnik). A female was convincingly documented from the Boat Basin at E. 72nd St. on 12 Jan. (Holt).

Bald Eagle - Adults were seen at Bacon Woods on 6 Dec. (Black River Audubon) and North Perry on 10 Dec. (Pogacnik). An adult and an immature were seen at Lake Rockwell in Jan. (Holt, Rosche). New nest construction has begun at this site.

Northern Goshawk - Immatures were reported from Lorain on 14 and 21 Dec. and Madison Township on 29 Jan. An adult



Lincoln's Sparrow - Seiberling Naturealm - 18 January 1992
by Larry Rosche

was seen at Hell Hollow on 29 Feb. (Pogacnik).

Merlin - Our list of winter records for this species continued to grow. The first bird was at Daniels Park in Willoughby on 21 Dec. it was watched as it consumed a Cardinal (Fjeldstad). A bird was at Mentor Beach Park on 28 Jan. (Fjeldstad). One was in the vicinity of Painesville Township Park 31 Dec.-25 Jan. (Pogacnik). Once again a bird was seen at Lost Nation Airport. This time it was only there on 12 Jan. (Fjeldstad). Cuyahoga County birds were: at Burke Airport on 9 Jan. (Pogacnik); Edgewater Park on 23 Jan. (LePage).

Peregrine Falcon - At least 3 birds were encountered regularly in Cleveland (Klamm, LePage, m.ob.). These birds were seen doing a variety of activities, including dive-bombing

Snowy Owls and tussling with a Cooper's Hawk. An immature was an excellent find in Lorain on 15 Jan. (Schlabach).

Sandhill Crane - A flock of 23 over Mayfield Heights on 24 Feb. established a new early spring arrival date (Pogacnik).

Virginia Rail - Paul and Larry Kittle found a bird in Parkman on 29 Dec. which had the misfortune of being caught in a mink trap. The bird had been then used as bait by the trapper.

Purple Sandpiper - Up to 2 birds frequented the breakwalls at Headland Beach SP through 12 Jan. (Bacik, Hannikman, LePage, Pogacnik).

Parasitic Jaeger - A bird was seen clearly by Tom Kellerman and Emil Bacik near the mouth of the Rocky River on 15 Dec. The rapid flight and narrow

wings were two of the determining factors in the identification.

Pomarine Jaeger - A dark-morph immature was in Fairport Harbor on 8 Jan. (Pogacnik). An immature gave observers a good half-hour show at E. 72nd St. on 20 Jan. This bird flew close enough to allow observation of the blunted tail feathers. (Hannikman, LePage, Rosche).

Common Black-headed Gull - An adult was found on 9 Jan. at Edgewater Park (LePage, Harlan). It put on a spectacular display for many on 11 - 12 Jan. (Hannikman, Klamm, Lozano).

Franklin's Gull - A bird was off North Perry on 16 Dec. (Pogacnik). The Fjeldstads saw one at E. 55th St. on 11 Jan.

Little Gull - A winter plumaged adult was at Headlands Beach SP on 24 Dec. (Hannikman). A bird was seen in North Perry on 18 Dec. and 4 Jan. (Pogacnik).

Snowy Owl - The fall invasion lasted well into January. On 9 Jan. LePage found 2 at E. 55th St., 3 at Burke Airport, and 2 at Edgewater Park. A bird was in Fairport Harbor on 5, 6 Jan. and 12 Feb. (Pogacnik). A bird was at the Munny Pier in Lorain on 12 Jan. (Kraps).

Barn Owl - A bird was hunting in Kirtland Hills on 21 Feb. It was conjectured that this individual was in suitable nesting habitat. Continued surveillance was to be made (Pogacnik).

Short-eared Owl - A bird was an excellent find at LaDue Reservoir on 1 Dec. (Fjeldstad). Harlan noted 3 at Hopkins International Airport on 27 Feb.

Northern Saw-whet Owl - Our only report was from North Perry on 27 Dec. (Pogacnik).

House Wren - A bird was studied well at Cascade Valley Park in Akron on 5 Jan. This established a new benchmark for tardiness by this species (Kopka).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - A bird scrutinized by Bill Osborne west of the Cuyahoga River along Bath Road on 15 Dec. was the most impressive find on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - The bird from November lingered to become the first December record in the history of [The Cleveland Bird Calendar](#) at North Perry on 1 Dec. (Pogacnik).

Hermit Thrush - Pogacnik found a bird in his yard in North Perry on 18 Dec. He located another in Hell Hollow on 4 Jan. The bird that was seen at Lake Isaac on 13 Jan. and 6 Feb. certainly overwintered (Harlan).

Gray Catbird - A bird was reported on the Elyria/Lorain CBC (Black River Audubon) on 14 Dec. The Hoffmans saw one in Perry along Parnly Road on 5 Jan.

Northern Shrike - This is becoming an expected species. An immature spent the winter at Gordon Park. It was joined by

another on 22 Feb. (m.ob.). A bird graced Russell Park on 1 Dec. (Fjeldstad). A bird was in Leroy Township on 5 Dec. (Pogacnik). An immature in odd plumage was seen intermittently near Riverview Road from Brecksville to Boston in January (Harlan, Wert). The plumage was odd in that it was very reddish-brown and the bill was paler than expected. Another was regularly found near Girdled Road Park 3-29 Feb. (Pogacnik).

Pine Warbler - A female survived the winter at the Pogacniks' in North Perry by feeding on suet. She was still there as of this writing.

Common Yellowthroat - An adult male surprised Rosche, Stover, and Wert in a Kent peat swamp on 15 Dec. This marked the 3rd time in the past decade that they had found this species on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC.

Lincoln's Sparrow - Our 3rd winter record in the past 5 years was first reported by Woody Stover on 17 Jan. at the Seiberling Naturealm. Rosche and Harlan saw it on 18 and 19 Jan. it was seen intermittently into March. This was the first time that this species was photographed diagnostically in Ohio in winter.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - A brilliantly plumaged male visited a feeder adjacent to Mentor Marsh on 16 Jan. (Fjeldstad). Unfortunately, for those who keep detailed Lake County lists, subsequent searching failed to produce the bird.

Table 1
Occurrence Extremes for Migrants in the Cleveland Region

	Early Spring	Late Spring	Early Fall	Late Fall
Red-throated Loon		5/22/66	9/23/90	
Horned Grebe		5/15/43	8/16/49	
Red-necked Grebe		5/11/13	9/16/45	
Eared Grebe		5/6/64	7/20/81	
American Bittern	3/20/46/			12/9/59
Least Bittern	4/29/90/			10/28/62
Great Egret	3/22/75			11/6/60
Snowy Egret	4/10/87	6/1/89	8/3/49	10/4/36
Little Blue Heron	4/2/60			9/7/47
Cattle Egret	4/13/74	6/3/64	7/24/83	11/9/82
Green-backed Heron	3/12/38			12/29/83
Yellow-crowned NH	4/6/67			12/22/73
Tundra Swan		7/2/86	10/18/52	
G White-fronted Goose	3/14/71	4/5/81 &85	9/21/66	12/28/64
Snow Goose		5/23/88	9/28/69	
Brant	none	none	10/18/89	1/25/60
Blue-winged Teal	2/22/62			12/25/71
Eurasian Wigeon	3/6/66	5/27/67	9/14/80	11/24/41
Redhead		6/19/89	8/21/54	
Greater Scaup		7/16/89	9/27/75	
King Elder		3/13/60	10/22/89	
Oldsquaw		5/27/86	10/1/81	
Black Scoter		4/22/69	10/4/81	
Surf Scoter		5/28/89	10/3/70	
White-winged Scoter		5/25/38	9/2/44	
C. Goldeneye		5/27/79	7/27/84	
Bufflehead		6/29/84	8/12/83	
Common Merganser		5/25/62	9/25/43	

FIELD NOTES

Extreme date occurrence for selected migrants

by Larry Rosche

I have been meaning to release data on the occurrence extremes of the 360 species known to have occurred in the Cleveland region for several years. Because data from the files of the Cleveland Bird Calendar goes back to 1905, I have found it quite a task. The most difficult problem that I've wrestled with is that I feel that some records are in error. I assume that all editors questioned the authenticity of various early and late dates reported and that they were published only

after serious scrutiny. Still, some of the included dates are certain to raise an eyebrow or two. For the purpose of this article only birds which have established patterns of migration and early and late dates of occurrence are included in the tables. Birds which have been seen less than 5 times in the region are excluded. Blanks in the tables indicate records for the entire period.

The first group includes birds closely associated with water. My studies have shown that waterbirds prefer to stay at a lake or reservoir where they have found good foraging and a safe haven. Ice buildup seems to be the only reason

waterbirds leave the region. Two water bodies of note because of their safety from hunters include Lake Rockwell and Summit Lake. In the fifties, when rubber was king in Akron, Summit Lake was used to help cool molds in various factories. Thus, the lake would remain open all winter and birds that normally would be along the coast remained behind. Included among these are Red-throated Loons, Red necked and Eared Grebes and, perhaps most incredible, a Common Moorhen in 1959-60. Black-crowned Night Herons have been reported in all months. Blue-winged Teal is the only regularly occurring puddle duck not to have a

	Table 2			
	Early Spring	Late Spring	Early Fall	Late Fall
Osprey	3/25/39			11/22/85
Northern Goshawk		4/28/78&81	11/19/77	
Broad-winged Hawk	2/11/48			11/19/75
Rough-legged Hawk		5/29/66	7/26/78	
Golden Eagle	2/19/84	4/27/62	9/20/80	1/18/91
Merlin		6/17/58	7/29/60	
King Rail	4/9/41			11/22/83
Sora	3/21/38			11/17/47
Sandhill Crane	2/23/92	5/15/90	10/10/91 11/25/90	
Black-bellied Plover	4/20/64			12/5/63
Lesser Golden-Plover	3/31/85	5/10/87	7/1/83	12/10/61
Semipalmated Plover	4/10/26	6/18/86	7/3/31 & 64	11/13/38
Piping Plover	4/8/51			11/24/69
American Avocet	4/26/82	6/5/87	6/29/80	10/30/78
Greater Yellowlegs	3/4/79	6/14/59	7/9/72	11/30/85
Lesser Yellowlegs	3/21/38	6/12/48	6/17/86	11/17/41
Solitary Sandpiper	4/7/56	6/7/41	6/23/47	11/19/27
Willet	4/21/74 &76	6/5/76	6/23/75	10/1/74
Spotted Sandpiper	3/20/76			12/16/79
Upland Sandpiper	3/28/29			9/30/47
Whimbrel	5/4/79	5/25/86	6/23/73	11/24/85
Hudsonian Godwit	none	5/18/74	8/13/85	11/24/85
Marbled Godwit	5/3/87	6/13/80	7/1/87	10/2/55
Ruddy Turnstone	4/8/51	6/6/85	7/7/76	2/17/89
Red Knot	5/11/86	6/17/84	7/14/84	11/4/69
Sanderling	3/27/88	6/11/72	6/29/77	1/11/79
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4/29/73	6/25/77	6/30/66	11/2/52
Western Sandpiper	5/20/90	6/9/57	6/20/86	10/26/52
Least Sandpiper	4/17/45			11/30/85
White-rumped Sandpiper	4/30/86	6/20/83	7/9/64	10/27/84
Baird's Sandpiper	4/25/13	6/11/64	7/17/55	11/25/33
Pectoral Sandpiper	3/18/45	5/28/86	7/7/57	11/22/83
Purple Sandpiper		5/13/51	10/25/74	
Dunlin	3/29/85	6/18/61 & 86	7/7/83	1/2/83
Stilt Sandpiper	4/27/87	6/8/85	7/7/57	10/25/86
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	none	5/28/90	8/3/68	10/28/81
Short-billed Dowitcher	4/12/70	5/30/69	6/25/77	10/20/56
Long-billed Dowitcher	4/26/85	4/30/84	7/15/82	11/23/75
American Woodcock	2/21/1880			12/18/71
Wilson's Phalarope	4/27/85	5/26/73 &87	7/4/83	10/3/72
Red-necked Phalarope	5/18/57	6/2/86	8/3/86	2/3/75
Red Phalarope		5/22/77	8/27/81	3/31/55
Pomarine Jaeger	none	none	9/8/63	2/11/79
Parasitic Jaeger	none	none	8/18/78	1/26/83
Laughing Gull	3/31/79			12/6/86
C. Black-headed Gull		4/6/87	7/23/78	
California Gull		4/29/87	10/30/88	
Thayer's Gull		5/13/84	11/20/81	
Iceland Gull		7/2/79	11/1/52	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		4/28/84	8/9/89	
Glaucous Gull		5/16/79	8/7/77	
Black-legged Kittiwake		6/24/89	10/31/78	
Caspian Tern	4/1/90			11/20/77
Common Tern	3/29/69			12/20/53
Forster's Tern	4/4/82			1/13/90
Black Tern	2/12/60			12/4/65

	Early Spring	Late Spring	Early Fall	Late Fall
Black-billed Cuckoo	4/25/48			10/29/41
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4/25/48			11/24/85
Snowy Owl		4/23/61	10/22/55	
Common Nighthawk	3/14/22			10/28/75
Whip-poor-will	4/9/81			10/22/87
Chimney Swift	4/5/80			11/3/83
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	4/23/37			10/27/45
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		7/5/81	8/15/36	
Black-backed Woodp.		4/20/57	9/27/84	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	5/1/55	7/5/41	8/1/38 & 48	10/16/65
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3/12/21			10/26/75
Yellow-bellied Flyc.	5/3/37	6/27/38	8/10/52	10/18/76
Acadian Flycatcher	4/30/64			10/8/37
Alder Flycatcher	5/25/80			8/14/84
Willow Flycatcher	4/18/76			10/16/44
Least Flycatcher	4/10/55			10/11/48
Great Crested Flyc.	4/1/73			10/23/82
Eastern Kingbird	4/6/48			10/24/76
Purple Martin	3/1/29			11/11/31
Tree Swallow	3/12/87			11/20/72
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4/1/61			10/16/91
Bank Swallow	4/3/49			11/12/55
Cliff Swallow	4/3/1880			9/21/41
Barn Swallow	3/15/36			10/29/89
House Wren	3/15/45			1/5/92
Sedge Wren	3/29/52			10/28/79
Marsh Wren	4/16/50			2/28/87
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3/30/30	7/24/83	8/16/53	1/9/76
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3/31/77			12/1/91
Veery	3/31/29			11/4/51
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4/12/38	6/7/57	8/15/73	11/13/71
Swainson's Thrush	4/6/29	7/4/58	8/2/76	12/20/80
Wood Thrush	3/22/53			1/10/75
American Pipit	3/8/42	5/30/77	9/4/48	12/20/38
Northern Shrike		4/14/79	10/7/54	
Loggerhead Shrike	3/2/64			11/9/58
White-eyed Vireo	4/17/77			12/18/82
Solitary Vireo	4/4/46			11/22/85
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/13/47			10/17/38
Warbling Vireo	4/21/54			10/31/87
Philadelphia Vireo	4/29/54	6/5/89	7/27/75	10/27/74
Red-eyed Vireo	4/8/45			11/25/31

winter record. Only seven regularly occurring species have not been recorded in all months. We have had 2 summer records of Harlequin Duck. June is the only month Common Goldeneyes have not been seen. July is the only month Buffleheads and Redheads have not been seen.

Falconiformes are fairly clear cut except for Broad-winged

Hawks. I personally feel that this species does not occur from the middle of September through March. Our files indicate records for the winter but there have been no specimens or photographs verifying these reports. A more recent phenomena involves Merlins. During the past 10 years several have been photographed in the winter. Readers should become aware of this change in occurrence status.

Rails and shorebirds offer much more opportunity for the avid bird finder to establish a new occurrence standard. Virginia Rails, Killdeer, and Common Snipe are the only birds in this group known to occur at all seasons. We have historical records of Eurasian Woodcock, Long-billed and Eskimo Curlews, and Black-necked Stilts. In addition to these we

Table 4

	Early Spring	Late Spring	Early Fall	Late Fall
Blue-winged Warbler	4/16/76			11/14/48
Golden-winged Warbler	4/28/64			10/21/78
Tennessee Warbler	4/25/76	6/21/90	7/1/86	11/1/87
Orange-crowned Warb.	4/15/61	5/27/79	8/22/57	12/24/64
Nashville Warbler	4/8/45		8/1/58	11/13/76
Northern Parula	4/2/88			11/20/76
Yellow Warbler	4/14/55			12/7/83
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4/17/64			10/22/61
Magnolia Warbler	4/20/48			11/8/70
Cape May Warbler	4/24/55	5/28/60	8/9/71	1/18/57
Black-throated Blue W.	4/14/59	7/4/53	7/30/82	10/29/54
Yellow-rumped Warbler		6/2/74	7/17/85	
Black-throated Green W.	4/8/45			11/18/48
Blackburnian Warbler	4/19/42			10/20/46
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/12/88			9/12/82
Prairie Warbler	4/12/43			10/30/80
Palm Warbler	4/11/53	5/29/64	8/14/82	11/11/85
Bay-breasted Warbler	4/20/41	6/14/64	7/17/55	10/29/78
Blackpoll Warbler	4/25/48	6/21/81	8/8/41 & 70	10/31/71
Cerulean Warbler	4/22/62 & 64			10/7/73
Black-and-white Warbler	4/8/45			12/16/79
American Redstart	4/22/45			12/8/73
Prothonotary Warbler	4/10/69			10/15/68
Worm-eating Warbler	4/17/76			9/9/79
Ovenbird	4/14/46			12/16/90
Northern Waterthrush	4/3/66			11/15/67
Louisiana Waterthrush	3/29/77			12/9/61
Kentucky Warbler	4/29/61			10/17/58
Connecticut Warbler	5/2/65	6/5/56	7/28/62	10/12/58
Mourning Warbler	5/2/64			11/2/85
Common Yellowthroat	4/13/61			2/1/87
Hooded Warbler	4/23/72			10/31/49
Wilson's Warbler	4/23/78	6/5/56	8/4/78	10/29/72
Canada Warbler	4/20/48			10/26/46
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/23/76			12/22/53

have photo-documented records of Ruff, Sharp-tailed, and Curlew Sandpipers

Jaegers, gulls, and terns have a reputation of defying what has been previously written. Those listed in Table 2 represent a small portion of the entire group that regularly occurs here. We have come to expect that any gull at any time is the rule. We have records for all months for Sabine's, Little, and Franklin's Gulls. Mew, Heermann's, and Ivory Gulls have been recorded fewer than 5 times each. Extreme tern records are in

question because of identification problems. The field guides that first became popular in the 50s and 60s inadequately addressed tern plumage and occurrence. Of Forster's and Common Tern, Forster's Tern is the earliest spring arrival while Common Tern tends to be the late fall straggler. This has been verified through advances in photography and video cameras. However, the latest tern record was that of a Forster's at Fairport Harbor on 13 Jan. 1990.

As I look at migrant landbirds I find that the tables agree with

observations over the past 15 years with a few exceptions. Due to former records of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls in the summer, the only owl that has not been recorded in all months is Snowy Owl. Of the flycatchers, I feel that Alder Flycatcher surely remains beyond August. I find the report of Bank Swallow on 12 Nov. 1965 quite unbelievable. Marsh Wrens have wintered at Lake Rockwell. With the recent nesting of Golden-crowned Kinglets in Richfield, we now have records for all months. Our late fall reports of Swainson's and Wood Thrushes may

	Table 5			
	Early Spring	Late Spring	Early Fall	Late Fall
Summer Tanager	4/23/66			9/29/56
Scarlet Tanager	3/29/77			10/21/56
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2/5-12/58			12/1/78
Blue Grosbeak	3/3/62			9/2/66
Indigo Bunting	4/14/54			10/29/59
Dickcissel		6/15/73	8/8/52	
American Tree Sparrow		5/30/58	9/25/55	
Chipping Sparrow	3/13/46			1/27/84
Vesper Sparrow	3/2/46			1/29/80
Savannah Sparrow	2/27/63			1/27/63
Grasshopper Sparrow	3/23/29			11/8/48
Henslow's Sparrow	3/24/63			10/31/62
Le Conte's Sparrow	4/9/64	5/16/90	10/1/86	12/10/62
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	5/11/85	5/28/52 & 83	9/15/59	2/1/53
Fox Sparrow		6/26/89	8/22/48	
Lincoln's Sparrow	3/25/62	6/17/59	8/11/63	2/29/88
White-crowned Sparrow		6/6/64	8/20/61	
Harris's Sparrow	3/16/59	5/24/60	10/23/66	11/10/66
Lapland Longspur		5/3/28	9/16/84	
Smith's Longspur	3/16/57	5/24/24	none	
Snow Bunting		5/2/55	10/15/45	
Bobolink	4/14/45			11/1/87
Western Meadowlark	3/12/61			10/15/61
Rusty Blackbird		5/23/71 & 76	9/16/49	
Brewer's Blackbird	3/6/74	6/1/86	8/23/58	10/4/60
Orchard Oriole	4/21/78			11/14/68
Pine Grosbeak		[4/26/70]	[11/2/65]	
Red Crossbill		7/30/76	10/8/72	
White-winged Crossbill		6/9/81	9/10/81	
Common Redpoll		5/13/78	10/21/86	
Evening Grosbeak		6/5/76	9/8/63	

cause an eyebrow to raise, but we have several December Wood Thrush records and the Swainson's Thrush was identified and documented by the respected David H. Corbin. I found it odd that we are without winter records of American Pipit.

Note in Table 4 that we have records for 32 species of warblers in each of the summer months. Pine Warbler has records for all months. Yellow-rumped Warbler has been seen in all months but, to my knowledge, does not nest. In Table 5, I find few surprises. Again, some species of sparrows probably winter more often than most expect. Sparrow migration is concentrated

in October and when "late" birds are found at feeders or in the shrubs in downtown Cleveland I think that these individuals are trying to overwinter.

A youthful impression of a Christmas Bird Count

by Lauren Hess

On December 12, 1991, my 5th grade class from Grant School in Lakewood went on a Christmas Bird Count. We went with Paula Lozano, Mike Stasko, and Dave LeGallee.

I saw 23 different species, including a Western Grebe! My favorite was the Belted Kingfisher. The kingfisher made a call that was loud and repetitive, but I cannot describe the

voice very well. This beautiful bird was blue with a wonderful crown. When we were driving up and down some side streets I thought I saw a Great Horned Owl. But, unfortunately it was only a plastic bird propped on a fence. We also saw tons of House Sparrows, finches, and doves. Then we went to the Lake Erie shore and saw a Great Black-backed Gull and 3 Herring Gulls. Off shore we saw a flock of Lesser Scaup.

I had a wonderful time on our Christmas Bird Count! I learned how to tell which birds were which. Also, I actually enjoyed it. I learned how fascinating birds can be, and I saw some birds that I never thought I'd see. I had the best time ever.

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

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 321- 7245 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. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Field Study: On the first Sunday of each 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.

Acknowledgement: Special thanks are given to William and Nancy Klamm, Dick and Jean Hoffman, and Anthony Hess for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 88.

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

Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.