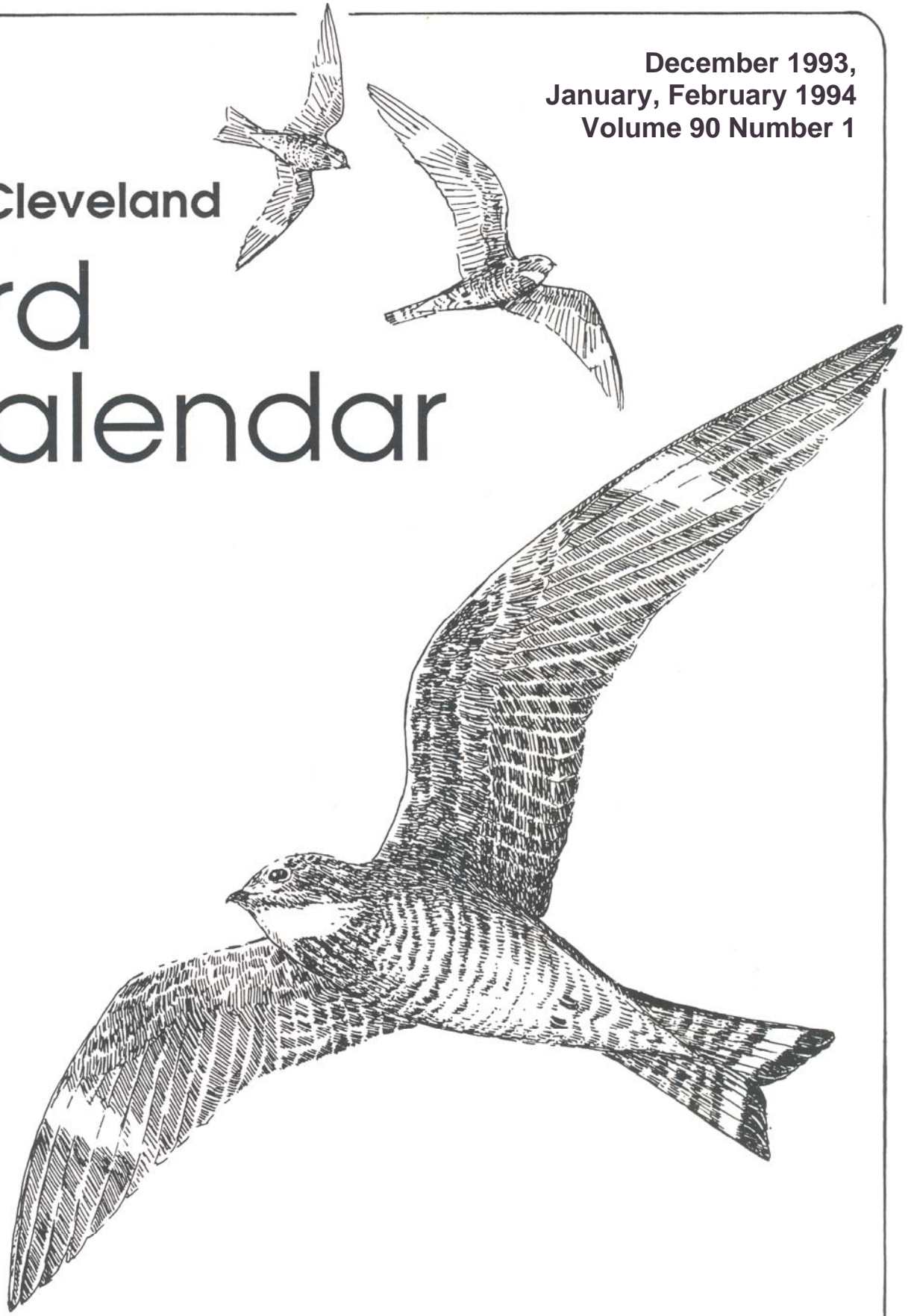


December 1993,
January, February 1994
Volume 90 Number 1

The Cleveland
Bird
Calendar



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

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

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

5 March - Winter Season

5 June - Spring Season

5 September - Summer Season

5 December - Autumn Season

Cover design: Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*)
by Margret Krister, 1993.

December 1993, January, February 1994

Volume 90

Number 1

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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THE WEATHER

Winter 1993-1994

by William A. Klamm

Traditionally, weather for the Bird Calendar has been compiled from data applicable to Lake Erie shoreline areas and up to 10 miles inland. Differentials for the parameters usually encountered seldom exceeded 3°F to 5°F. Because of the extremes in the temperatures, snow, ice rain and wind conditions this winter, local weather was often subject to abnormalities and given exceptional coverage on TV, radio and press. Oddly, only one record was broken until greater inland distances were considered. Several temperature, snow and other records were bested in areas more distant as Kent and Akron.

December - Temperatures averaged 30.5°F, 0.4° below normal. The high was 57° on the 10th and the low was -1° on the 29th. Lake Erie was 45° on the 1st and fell to 36° on the 31st. Variable icing conditions existed on the open lake and inland waters. Sunshine prevailed only

10% of the time, Precipitation came on 16 days and totaled 2.21 in. as water, 0.88 in. below normal with the greatest amount in any 24 hour period measuring 0.90 in. on the 4th. Snowfall on 12 days totaled 19.0 in. with the greatest fall in any 24 hours at 5.23 in. on the 25th. The maximum depth was 7 in. on the 27th.

January - A very cold and snowy month, precipitation on 19 days totaled 2.66 in., 0.62 in. above normal. The greatest amount in any 24 hour period (1.01 in.) was on the 28th, 29th. Snowfall totaled 27.4 in. with the greatest depth on the ground at 10 in. on the 18th. Temperatures averaged 19.3°, 5.5° below normal. The high was 47° on the 28th, a record setting all time low of minus 20° came on the 19th. The old record low of minus 19° was made on the 24th in 1963. Lake Erie was at 35° on the 1st and at 33° on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 22% of the time.

February - The month continued the cold and snowy trend. Temperatures averaged 26.5°, 0.7° below normal. The high was 64° on the 19th and the low was -4° on the 27th. Lake Erie remained at 33° on the 1st and reached 34° on the 28th. Sunshine prevailed 40% of the time. Precipitation totaled only 0.83 in., 1.36 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.35 in. on the 8th. Snowfall totaled 12.3 in. with the greatest amount in any 24 hour period at 4.5 in. on the 8th and 9th. The deepest on the ground was 4 in. on the 26th.

REFLECTIONS

Thirty Years Ago: Ohio's only record of Rock Wren was at Edgewater Park 7-14 Dec. 1963 (Surman, Jr.). A female Western Tanager visited a feeder in Mentor 1-28 Dec. (Hammond). The first verified regional record of House Finch was at Holden Arboretum on 5 Jan. (Hammond). A Franklin's Gull put in a rare winter appearance in Lorain on 19 Jan. 1964 (Klamm). A female Harlequin Duck was found in Lorain on 1 Jan. (Liebold). It remained there until it was collected on 22 Feb. (Ruthven).

Twenty Years Ago: A Northern Shrike was at Headlands Beach SP on 16 Dec. 1973 (Hammond). An immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in North Chagrin on 22 Dec. (Kitson). The region's 6th Common Black-headed Gull was in the CEI Power Plant vicinity 20 Jan. - 2 Feb. (Klamm). An immature Black-legged Kittiwake was at White City in Feb. (Hannikman). A Hermit Thrush wintered in Kuhlman Woods (Hannikman).

Ten Years Ago; The latest report of Green Heron in our files was seen in Euclid on 29 Dec. 1983 (Corbin). An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was seen by many as it remained in Lorain 7- 10 Jan. (Hoffman). An out of season Osprey was seen in Willoughby on 12 Feb. (Talkington). A Golden Eagle flew over Shaker Lakes on 19 Feb. (Fazio). A California Gull frequented Lorain 1-10 Jan. (Peterjohn). A Chipping Sparrow was documented in Kent on 31 Jan. (Rosche).

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

It's difficult for me to say what sticks out the most in my mind this season. Was it the cooperative Black-throated Gray Warbler in Independence? Was it driving through 30 inches of snow in Chardon in order to get to the Mentor CBC on the day after Christmas? Was it the arctic deep freeze in mid-January that lasted and lasted? Was it all those Red-necked Grebes? All of the above? This issue will have a different look to it. Bill Klamm's usual outstanding reports are missing. We miss him and wish him a quick return to the lakefront

Having worked on occurrence graphs for the species of the region for many years, I still find it difficult to label robins, blackbirds, grackles, and cowbirds in the winter. Locally these species are probably more abundant in the winter than at any time of year. Some observers go an entire winter without seeing a cowbird. Others in Akron or Eastlake see them by the 100s. American Robins roost in the Mentor Marsh areas in the 1000s, yet we consider them rare to uncommon. It is puzzling to me as to why Red-necked Grebes migrate into the region when nearly all water is frozen. The same phenomena occurred in the 70s (never in these numbers) when the winters were extremely harsh.

Once again, I remind readers that many of the reports received by The Cleveland Bird Calendar are unverified. Ray and I discuss single observer reports and do our best to screen any misidentifications. We appreciate photographs of rarities and abnormal numbers. One look at Gary Meszaros' photograph of 1000+ Common Redpolls or Paula Lozano's Pileated Woodpecker in urban Lakewood certainly serves to make these reports valid in our minds. The purpose is not to foment ill will among reporters but the editors find it difficult to accept single observer reports of extreme rarities unless they are supported by specimen or photographic evidence. We will defer to the judgement of the state records committee on such sightings.

Winter 1993-1994

The latest **Common Loon** remained at Wellington Reservoir until 28 Dec. (NK). **Pied-billed Grebes** were found in low numbers. The maximum was 9 at Summit Lake on 19 Dec. (CH, LK). As many as 5 **Horned Grebes** were found in the Summit Lake area throughout the period (LK, BDL). **Double-crested Cormorants** were in expected numbers at the lakefront power plants. An impressive total of 44 **Great Blue Herons** was counted in Eastlake as they went to roost on 5 Feb. (KM). The only **Black-crowned Night-Heron** report came from Lorain on 19-30 Dec. (NK, JP).

A flock of 35 **Tundra Swans** passed over Oberlin on Christmas (BR). A total of 66 was

seen flying east over HBSP on 5 Dec. Two were tallied on the 5 Jan. HBSP Sunday Census (EB, RH, CH, LR). One put in a rare mid-winter appearance in the CVNRA on 1 Jan. (DAC). A single was at Lake Medina on 27 Feb. (CW). **Mute Swans** were noted in higher than expected numbers. A flock of 6 remained at Eastlake for most of January. The bubblers at Wingfoot Lake harbored 7 during the same period. A blue phase **Snow Goose** was seen through mid-January in Akron (BDL). A bird at Silver Creek MP on 27 Feb. was a first for the location (BDL). A white morph bird was at North Chagrin on 17 Feb. (KM). The Lanes noted white, green, orange, and cream colored neck bands on many of the **Canada Geese** in the Akron Lakes.

Dabbling ducks were fewer than in the past few winters. The probable reason was that we had a lot more ice along the lakefront. See Table 1. A pair of **Wood Ducks** wintered in Akron (BDL). A group of 10 Green-winged Teals was at LaDue Reservoir on 5 Dec. (CH). **American Black Ducks** were thought to be in lower than usual numbers along the lake. **Mallard** numbers totaled into the 1000s. A **Northern Pintail** flew over Gordon Park on 24 Dec. (PP). One was off Rocky River Park on 26 Dec. (CH). Another was at Springfield Lake on 11 Jan. (BDL). A pair was in the CVNRA on 5 Feb. (DAC). A flock of 7 was at Summit Lake on 20 Feb. (BDL). Four were in Aurora on 23 Feb. (EE). Two early **Northern Shovelers** were off Lakewood City Park on 20 Feb. (CH). **Gadwalls** were virtually absent along

Lake Erie. Inland, they survived in the open water areas near the Akron Lakes in fair numbers. Four **American Wigeons** were in Northfield on 26 Feb. (DAC).

Canvasbacks dominated the waterfowl scene at Eastlake. On a given day, one could find as many as 400 there. Up to 4 wintered at Summit Lake. The **Redhead** flock at Eastlake was slightly smaller than the Canvasback flock but equally impressive. Inland, numbers had risen to 32 at Summit Lake by 26 Feb. (BDL). Numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** began to build up by the last third of Feb. A total of 150 was found in the Akron Lakes on 27 Feb. (LK). As many as 4 wintered with the ducks at Avon Lake (M.ob.). Holt tallied 1500 **Greater Scaups** off Rocky River Park on 26 Dec. A count of 1200 was made at Edgewater SP on 31 Dec. (RH). On 9 Jan. 500 scaups were counted at Eastlake (CH). As many as 4 **Oldsquaws** lingered into January at the mouth of the Grand River (m.ob.). Two at Springfield Lake on 19 Dec. represented a very noteworthy Inland occurrence (CH). The count of 11 off Lakeshore MP on 11 Jan. was the high. A **Black Scoter** was seen off Sims Park on 12 Dec. (RH). One was seen at the Gordon Park Yacht Basin 1524 Dec. (DJH, PP). One was at Cahoon Park on 19 Dec. (BF, PL). Another graced Rocky River Park 26 -31 Dec. (CH, DJH). Two **Surf Scoters** were seen off Rocky River Park 26-31 Dec. (CH, DJH). **White-winged Scoters** were fairly scarce. The high count was only 3 at Eastlake (m.ob.). **Common Goldeneyes** were numerous with as many as 500 seen of Lakewood City Park on 5 Feb.

(m.ob.). **Buffleheads** were plentiful along Lake Erie (TLP). **Hooded Mergansers** were typically scarce. **Common Mergansers** were numerous. A flock of 200 was at the mouth of the Grand River on 31 Dec. (RH). Up to 1000 were seen at Eastlake on 13 Feb. (LR). As usual, a few **Ruddy Ducks** wintered at Summit Lake.

The first **Turkey Vultures** were seen in the CVNRA (JMW) and in Akron (BDL) on 26 Feb. It has become routine to find **Bald Eagles**, at this season, throughout the open water areas of the region. This is a far cry from just a decade ago. An adult was in Fairport Harbor on 5 Dec. (EB, RH, LR). An immature was seen there later in the day (AJF). An adult was at Lakeshore MP on 1 Jan. (JP). An adult was along the Vermilion River on 3 Jan. (BR). On 16 Jan. a bird was at Edgewater SP (RH). Two were at Russell Park on 29 Jan. (BF). Another was at Eastlake on 30 Jan. (RH). An adult was in Perry Township the same day (JP). An immature was seen in the Burton Wetlands on 11 Feb. (fide DB). Up to 2 were seen in the Portage Lakes during most of the winter (fide BO). An adult was seen regularly along the Cuyahoga River in the Merriman Valley area of Akron (WS). The nesting pair could often be found ogling the ducks below the spillway at Lake Rockwell. An adult was seen soaring low over the Kent Post Office on 26 Feb. (LR).

Hawks, in general, were conspicuous near feeding stations during the record-breaking cold spell. A **Northern Harrier** was seen in the CVNRA on 1 Jan. (NI). **Cooper's Hawks** were numerous. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen raiding feeders throughout the region during the last two-thirds of the season. Dan Best rescued a bird from the Rini-Rego grocery store in Chardon on 20 Feb. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed harassing 2 Red-taileds and a Bald Eagle at LaDue Reservoir on 1 Jan. (AJF). Another visited a Mentor suet feeder on 16 Jan. (AJF). One was out of place at Walden in Aurora on 1 Feb. (EE). Birds were in the CVNRA and Sagamore Hills on 5 Feb. (DAC). A bird was in Medina Co. on 10 Feb. (JMW). On 12 Feb. 3 were tallied in Lake Co. (KM). A pair was courting in Stow on 17 Feb. (JT). Wendy Wasman watched a young **Red-tailed Hawk** swoop down and kill a duck in the courtyard of the CMNH. It rested in a tree next to the museum and was watched for long periods of time from a distance of less than 5 feet. Equally impressive, Denise Lane saw a Red-tail nearly decapitate an oversized Mallard in Akron on 8 Feb. **Rough-legged Hawks** were scarce. Krapf saw one in Lorain Co. on 22 Dec. The only sighting, thus far in 1994, was in Madison on 8 Jan. (JP).

A flock 7 **Wild Turkeys** was seen in the CVNRA on 15 Jan. (JMW). Three were seen in the Burton Wetlands on 4 Feb. (fide DB). The 3 **Northern Bobwhites** that wintered at Hogback Ridge Park represented our only report (JP). As many as 60 **American Coots** were tallied at Summit Lake (LK, BDL). The high along the lake

*Cooper's Hawks
were numerous.*

Waterbird Sampling for the Cleveland Region - Winter 1993 - 1994

Date	12/19	12/26	1/29	1/29	2/12	2/13	2/13	2/18	2/19	2/26	2/27	2/27
Location	AKL	RRP	EL	AvL	LR	EL	AKL	AKL	LR	AKL	EL	AVL
Pied-billed Grebe	9	•	•	1	•	2	4	7	•	1	2	•
Horned Grebe	•	•	2	•	•	•	1	1	•	3	•	•
Double-crested Cormorant	•	•	2	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	3	•
Great Blue Heron	3	•	•	•	1	2	•	•	1	•	2	•
Canada Goose	500	•	65	243	205	155	320	444	270	300	160	120
Wood Duck	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•
Green-winged Teal	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
American Black Duck	10	2	30	28	30	85	24	20	16	11	42	82
Mallard	400	400	70	45	65	190	360	550	20	460	70	224
Northern Pintail	•	1	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•
Northern Shoveler	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•
Gadwall	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	•
American Wigeon	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	•	•	•
Canvasback	•	15	80	25	•	•	4	4	•	1	155	270
Redhead	•	15	16	8	3	250	•	5	•	32	325	300
Ring-necked Duck	•	•	•	2	1	•	•	14	2	16	•	•
Greater Scaup	•	1500	30	40	•	200	•	•	•	•	500	400
Lesser Scaup	•	100	•	•	•	10	•	•	•	^a	45	145
Oldsquaw	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1
Black Scoter	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Surf Scoter	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•
White-winged Scoter	•	2	•	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	2	1
Common Goldeneye	16	60	4	26	4	296	8	15	•	3	60	322
Bufflehead	18	20	44	75	•	120	2	2	•	2	78	73
Hooded Merganser	30	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	2	2
Common Merganser	1	100	2	2	6	1000	-	•	3	•	100	150
Rd-breasted Merganser	•	300	5	12	•	200	•	•	•	•	20	60
Ruddy Duck	29	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	3	•	•
American Coot	185	•	1	•	1	2	45	55	2	42	2	1

AKL = Akron Lakes; AvL Avon Lake; EL = Eastlake; LR Lake Rockwell; MOG = Mogadore Reservoir; RRP Rocky River Park
Table 1.

was 8 at Eastlake on 20 Feb. (RR). A bird spent most of the winter in Northfield (DAC). A **Killdeer** was in Perry Township on 26 Dec. (RH, LR). The first migrants were noted along Lake Erie on the warm week-end on 19-20 Feb. (RH). Two were at Silver Creek MP on 23 Feb. (JMW).

Distant **jaegers** were left unidentified in Cleveland (RH) and at Eastlake (AJF). The only **Franklin's Gull** report came from Fairport Harbor on 17 Dec. (JP). An adult

Little Gull was at Eastlake on 4 Dec. (AJF). An adult was there on 22 & 23 Dec. (RH). An immature was there on 21 - 23 Dec. (KM, CH, m.ob.). A bird was seen at HBSP on 11, 12, & 24 Dec. (RH). Birds were seen on 6 occasions off Lakeshore MP (JP). The high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 1500 at HBSP on 11 Dec. (RH). Once the ice formed they disappeared. The tally of 25,132 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the Elyria/Lorain CBC clearly outdistanced any other high count. The high for

Herring Gulls was 3100 over North Perry on 26 Feb. (JP). A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** was in Lorain on 1 Jan. (DJH). A bird flew over Garfield MP on 12 Jan. (RHL). A first-winter bird allowed close scrutiny at Avon Lake on 5-27 Feb. (m.ob.). This species was regularly seen throughout the winter from Lakeshore MP (JP). An adult **Iceland Gull** was at Edgewater SP on 16 Jan. (EB, RH). A first-winter bird flew over Garfield MP on 12 Jan. (RHL). Another was seen far up stream

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM LOCAL 1993 CHRISTMAS COUNTS (CBCs)

	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA/LORAIN	LAKEWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTON
GREAT BLUE HERON	16	14	49	14	11	4	0
CANADA GOOSE	884	1888	3447	224	239	392	308
A.BLACK DUCK	35	110	36	25	83	100	0
MALLARD	413	714	1323	605	912	165	130
SCAUP (SP)	0	3	7	3	300	116	0
C.GOLDENEYE	0	63	0	0	54	47	0
BUFFLEHEAD	0	33	12	34	42	56	0
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	2	4	9	3	2	1	3
COOPER'S HAWK	8	6	23	3	1	3	5
RED-TAILED HAWK	10	17	55	17	7	3	47
AMERICAN KESTREL	7	6	14	47	7	4	33
MOURNING DOVE	283	152	1344	308	67	83	598
E.SCREECH-OWL	2	3	14	0	2	1	0
GREAT HORNED OWL	2	1	16	0	0	1	2
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	11	31	2	8	1	1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	40	32	112	16	11	14	11
DOWNY WOODPECKER	76	95	325	68	56	49	42
HAIRY WOODPECKER	26	27	77	6	9	11	8
NORTHERN FLICKER	2	5	42	7	2	2	3
BLUE JAY	192	260	819	213	68	98	81
AMERICAN CROW	423	654	953	146	283	84	215
Bc CHICKADEE	360	438	1213	189	110	92	138
TUFTED TITMOUSE	147	263	545	95	71	93	59
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	6	12	17	3	6	4	4
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	80	119	279	29	33	29	27
BROWN CREEPER	1	7	18	4	10	3	0
CAROLINA WREN	6	15	43	11	8	2	0
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	1	4	30	0	17	0	0
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	28	28	25	10	0	1	25
AMERICAN ROBIN	134	158	68	6	135	130	1
CEDAR WAXWING	78	397	547	7	29	4	0
EUROPEAN STARLING	506	2936	6684	3436	882	941	1485
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN CARDINAL	270	177	846	170	75	150	229
A. TREE SPARROW	254	98	469	69	35	88	541
SONG SPARROW	19	47	215	39	8	3	48
SWAMP SPARROW	7	1	22	6	0	2	2
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	4	8	50	8	7	10	1
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
DARK-EYED JUNCO	265	207	708	189	94	101	367
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	0	60	1	0	0	74	0
COMMON GRACKLE	0	120	34	1	0	20	0
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	0	137	16	1	0	5	18
PURPLE FINCH	1	2	28	0	0	2	4
HOUSE FINCH	181	278	1559	606	265	167	281
COMMON REDPOLL	60	8	0	28	0	1	145
PINE SISKIN	0	5	0	0	0	2	0
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	152	176	704	207	93	70	232
EVENING GROSBEAK	4	0	16	0	0	16	0
HOUSE SPARROW	591	499	1995	1266	219	233	503
NUMBER of FIELD OBSERVERS	unknown	56	82	29	23	15	18
TOTAL SPECIES	50	79	76	66	59	72	48

Table 2.

along the Cuyahoga River on 22 Jan. (ES). A second-winter bird was at Eastlake on 5 Feb. (m.ob.). A first-winter bird was there on 12 & 13 Feb. (RH, LR). and on 27 Feb. (JLD). As many as 3 were at Avon Lake on the latter date (m.ob.). As

many as 2 adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found at Eastlake throughout the winter (EB, RH, EE, m.ob.). A 3rd winter bird was there on 5 Feb. (m.ob.). **Glaucous Gulls** were numerous and widely

distributed throughout the lakefront. Of the two observers continually along the lakefront, LePage had 24 sightings, while Pogacnik had 44 sightings. Two flew over Garfield MP on 26 Jan. (RHL).

Six were counted off Lakewood City Park on 5 Feb. (BP, RH, LR). A tally of 10 was made at Eastlake on 27 Feb. (JLD, SU, m.ob.). The first **Great Black-backed Gull** reported from Summit Co. since the 70s was of a first-winter bird at Silver Lake on 20 Dec. (LR). Two flew over Garfield MP on 12 Jan. (RHL). Along the lake they were in expected high tallies on any given day. **Common Terns** were late at E. 9th St. on 1 Dec. (FG) and at Eastlake on 6 Dec. (JP).

Clyde Witt reported that all 3 regularly occurring owl species were in good numbers around Lake Medina. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at HBSP on 16 Jan. (EB, RH). A road killed red-phase bird was found in Norton (JMW). A bird was in Shaker Heights on 15 Feb. (PP). Three **Barred Owls** were seen on the Elyria/Lorain CBC. One was in the CVNRA on 30 Jan. (LK).

Woodpecker populations were stable. No **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** spent the winter in the same Bath location as last year (NI). A bird was in Lorain on 19 Feb. (JP). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** outnumbered **Hairy Woodpeckers** on all local CBCs. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at North Chagrin on 2 Dec. (RR). Another was in Lakewood on 20 Feb. (PL).

Horned Larks were regularly found in their usual Lorain Co. winter haunts (NK). In Portage County, as many as 150 could be found in the manure laden fields of Shalersville Township



Hermit Thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) - Selberling Naturealm - 19 January 1994
by Larry Rosche

(CH). **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmice** survived the arctic blast in good numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely reported at local feeders. A **Brown Creeper** was regular at the Toneffs in Brecksville during Feb. Time will tell if **Carolina Wrens** survived the fury of this post winter. **Winter Wrens** were reported at Horseshoe Lake on 18 Dec. (PP). Sagamore Hills on 2 Jan.(DAC). and the CVNRA on 12 Jan. (RHL). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in expected small numbers.

Eastern Bluebirds were less conspicuous this winter. The Chasars saw up to 8 all winter in the CVNRA. **American Robins** again wintered in ridiculously high numbers in Lake Co. Many 1000s could be found leaving their roost in the morning near HBSP. (LR, JW). Higher than usual totals were also seen in Aurora (EE). The Bath neighborhood, where

the Merlins wintered, hosted many robins as well. **Cedar Waxwings** were reported with greater frequency than in the past 2 winters. Flocks of up to 300 (2 Jan. Sagamore Hills (DAC)) were seen throughout the region on a given day. The 397 on the East Side CBC represented a new count high for the species (TLP). A **Northern Shrike** was obliging in Fairport Harbor on 12 Dec. (RH, LR). One was reported from Perry Township on 10 Jan. (JP). A **Pine Warbler** lingered at Lakeshore MP until 1 Dec. (JP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were extremely scarce. None was found on local CBCs. A bird in the CVNRA on 12 Jan. (RHL) and one at Lakeshore MP on 21 Dec. (JP) were the only ones reported.

Rufous-sided Towhees spent most of the winter at feeders in Chardon Township (fide DB)

and most of January in North Ridgeville (NK). **American Tree Sparrows** were as expected inland. As many as 25 visited Hannikman's feeding station at HBSP in Feb. provided a unique lakefront report. A **Field Sparrow** was an excellent find in Mentor on 19 Feb. (AJF). **Swamp Sparrows** wintered in the CVNRA (BAT). They were regular at the Lanes feeding station in Akron and at Lake Rockwell. The only **Fox Sparrow** (away from Lakeshore MP) was on the Burton CBC on 1 Jan. A **White-crowned Sparrow** survived the winter at HBSP by subsisting on Hannikman's generous helping of millet. In their traditional local wintering areas they were found in expected small numbers. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were very numerous. **Lapland Longspurs** went unreported. The largest flock of Snow Buntings (500±) encountered was along Mennonite Road in Portage County in mid-January (LR, CH). They were regularly noted in small numbers along the lake. I thought that seeing **Red-**



Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)
Lakewood - 29 February 11
by Paula Lazar

winged Blackbirds on territorial positions at HBSP on the first Sunday Census in Feb. last year was a fluke. This year, undaunted by 7° temperature, 4 males were again displaying on 6 Feb. (EB, RH, LR, JW). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was in Medina Co. on 2 Jan. (NK). On 11 Jan. 3 were seen in eastern Portage Co. (BDL). A group of 3 was at Lakewood Park on 20 Feb. (CH). Daily counts of 80+ **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were made in south Akron (BDL). A **Common Grackle** with an all white head was seen in Akron on 7 Jan. (BDL). As many as 6 **Rusty Blackbirds** spent the winter in Akron (BDL). Five were noted at Lake Isaac on 8 Dec. (RHL). **Purple Finches** were virtually nonexistent this season. **Common Redpolls** were locally abundant and reported from all 7 counties in the region. A total of 105 was counted at Eastlake on 9 Jan. (CH). A flock of over 1500 was seen along Antioch Road in Lake Co. on 19 Jan. (GM). A flock of 100± flew over Granger Township in Medina Co. on 23 Jan. (LR). On 1 Jan. a flock of 150 was seen near Wellington (NK). Contrary to these numbers, feeder reports were few. The high feeder counts (25) came from Strongsville on 29 Jan. (KC) and 50 at Big Creek Park on 4 Feb. (DB). Few **Pine Siskins** spent the winter locally. The only location where they were encountered intermittently was Sagamore Hills (DAC). **American Goldfinches** were common feeder visitors. A flock of 20+ Evening Grosbeaks dined at a feeder in Northampton Township from 18 Dec. through January (BO, m.ob).



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - Bath -
27 February 1994
by Larry Rosche

NOTEWORTHY REPORTS

RED-THROATED LOON - Two flew directly over Hannikman and Rosche at Headlands Beach State Park during the 5 Dec. Sunday Bird Census.

RED-NECKED GREBE - Little did we know that a late fall migrant, seen off Rocky River Park on 1 Dec., would be a portent of the greatest invasion of this species the state has ever known (LePage). On 9 Feb. birds were picked up in Mentor and Wickliffe. They were turned into the Lake County Rehab Center and later released in Ashtabula (Pogacnik). On 10 Feb. 2 more were turned in there. One was located at Summit Lake on 12 Feb. (Lane). It was joined by another by the 15th (Holt, Kopka, m.ob.). A bird was picked up in the Summit Mall parking lot and released into the Cuyahoga River on 12 Feb. (fide Stover). Still, another was in Eastlake that Saturday (Bacik, Hannikman, Metcalf).

neighborhood through the period (Ibsen, Kopka, m.ob.). One was in Mentor-on-the-lake on 17 Dec. (Pogacnik). A bird was reported on Cleveland CBC on 18 Dec. (LePage).

Lorain. An adult of the race associated with the Canadian Prairie Provinces was studied at length at Avon Lake on 27 Feb. (Rosche, Dunn, m.ob.).



Black-throated Blue Warbler
(*Dendroica caerulescens*) -
Garfield Heights - 4 December 1993 -
by Marge Hoprich

Two were there 19-27 Feb. (Fjeldstad, m.ob.). Perhaps the most startling report was the 7 at Avon Lake on 16 Feb. (Elder, LePage). LePage then proceeded to find 8 there on the 17th! An immature was in the "flats" area of the Cuyahoga River on 27 Feb. (Chasar). This totals to at least 19 birds. Of these many remained through the period, particularly inland.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - An adult was convincingly documented by former California raptor researcher and hawk identification expert Kevin Metcalf in Eastlake on 24 Dec. In what seems to be a seasonal report, an immature was seen at Lakeshore Metropark on 11 Jan. (Pogacnik). History has shown that lakefront locales are the best for this species.

MERLIN - As has become the expected several wintering birds were found. The most astonishing of the reports was the 4 that frequented a Bath

PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird was seen in Lorain on 19 Dec. (Harlan, Pogacnik). A pair was at the Metrohealth Medical Center on 23 Jan. (Lozano, Finkelstein). An immature buzzed the gulls at Avon Lake Power Plant on 27 Feb. (Lozano, Finkelstein, m.ob.).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - An immature remained at mouth of the Grand River through 26 Dec. (Bacik, Hannikman, m.ob.)

PURPLE SANDPIPER - A bird found its visit to Edgewater Park on 31 Dec. to be a life threatening situation. Hungry gulls hounded it everywhere it went (Hannikman, Bacik).

CALIFORNIA GULL - An adult was documented by Pogacnik and Gary Gerrone on 18 Dec. in

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -

An immature was found on the ice floes of the Cuyahoga River in the "Flats" on 7 Feb. (Greenland, m.ob.). It or another was at Settler's Landing on 18 Feb. (LePage).

SNOWY OWL - As many as 2 were seen in the Burke Airport vicinity for most of the winter. The latest date was 8 Feb. at E. 55th St. (Hoffman). Two birds were in Lorain on 19-29 Dec. (Finkelstein, Harlan, Peskin, Pogacnik). Of Pogacnik's 3 Lake County reports, a bird on the ice off Lakeshore MP on 6 Feb. was the latest.

LONG-EARED OWL - A bird was at the Caley Wildlife Area on 22 & 23 Feb. (Krapts). Stover later visited the area and



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) - Falsport Harbor - 26 December 1993
by Larry Rosche

found 2 birds, one of which was acting defensive.

HERMIT THRUSH - A bird was at the Seiberling Naturealm throughout the winter. It survived by feeding on pyrocantha bushes near th entrance. It was joined by a second bird in early February (Stover). The Hoffmans found 2 at Lake View Cemetery on 18 Dec. One was in Hell Hollow on 12-13 Jan. (Pogacnik).

GRAY CATBIRD - A bird provided the Cleveland CBC with an unusual species on 18 Dec. (LePage).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - The late date, record-breaking, immature male remained at the Hoprich's in Garfield Heights through 5 Dec.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER - An immature male spent 11-27 Dec. and delighted many observers at the Turner's feeding station in Independence. See field notes.

PALM WARBLER - A bird was documented from North Chagrin Reservation on 11 Dec. This established a new late date for the species. (Metcalf).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Don Busic continued to a single bird in the sunken plaza planting at E. 9th St. and Vincent through 23 Dec. (fide Klaus).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD - A male provided a count week species for the Cleveland CBC (fide LePage).



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) - Ashlatabula - February 1994
by John V. Pogacnik

FIELD NOTES

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) in Independence, Ohio by Laverne and Albert Turner

Saturday, December 11, 1993, saw the weather turn colder after a storm passed through on Friday evening. I had filled the sunflower seed and suet log feeders earlier and with the temperature about 25F at 11:00 a.m., had settled down in the living room recliner to relax watching birds. It was about a half hour later when a black and white chickadee size bird caught my eye because of its unusual fluttering near our gutter suspended suet log feeder about three feet from the window. It was smaller and puffier than the numerous

Downy Woodpeckers but similar in coloration. Binoculars

revealed it was not a downy or a chickadee. The hovering action of the bird was suggestive of warblers but neither Peterson's 1947 East of the Rockies or Hausman's Field Book of Eastern Birds depicted the bird. Don Eckelberry's color illustration of a Black-throated Gray Warbler flew out phoenix-like from plate 29 in the 1949 edition of the Audubon Land Bird Guide of birds of Eastern and Central North America by Pough. The Cleveland Audubon Society suggested that I notify the Kirtland Bird Club's Northeast Ohio Rare Bird Alert, which I did by leaving a recorded message. Later in the day, Jim Heflich returned my call and it was arranged that Ann and Bill Toneff would come the next day (Sunday) to verify the sighting. Throughout the rest of the day the bird was observed at the suet-log feeder at 15-30 minute intervals with

the last feeding at 4:50 p.m. A timid feeder compared to the jaunty chickadee or titmouse, the deliberate woodpecker, or the aggressive House Finch, he seems to get little suet from his brief but numerous forays at the feeder, although some time is spent browsing on the ground near holly shrubs beneath the two seed feeders. His fluffed-up ball-like appearance belies Eckelberry's painting but my assumption is that his present environment rather than his obesity is the cause. After his suet feeding, perched in a small dogwood three four feet from the feeder, he strokes his beak on the branch.

About noon on the 12th, Ann and Bill Toneff arrived and within an hour they had three observations and took photographs through the living room window. A little later Robert Harlan called and when he arrived about 4:00 p.m. the bird was at the suet feeder. (Our thanks to Robert for the copy of the Ohio Cardinal that had several interesting articles on the Black-throated Gray Warbler.) The view from our living room looks out upon the Cuyahoga River Valley with the National Recreation Area boundary adjoining our north property line. At times, the bird leaves the feeder in that direction, at other times he flies towards a creek valley on the west, but most often it is toward the tall white pine threes on our east property line.

The 22°F temperature at 8:00 a.m. on December 13th seemed to increase the birds' feeder visits to 10- 15 minute



Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) - Independence - 19 December 1993
by Larry Rosche

intervals which we observed until we left home about noon. Larry Rosche had called earlier in the day and informed us afterwards that he had visited, observed and photographed the bird while we were gone. The temperature was in the thirties on the 14th when Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wallin observed the bird 3 or 4 times in the hour that they were here. About 4:30 p.m., John Vanderpoel came just when the bird arrived for the longest and final feeding of the day.

The merit award for endurance has to go to Nancy and Bill Klamm who came about 11:00 a.m. on the 17th, set up two video cameras near the pine

trees and were still photographing when we returned around 3:30 p.m.

On Monday, the 20th, Larry and Woody Stover watched the bird from the living room. We arranged to bring some Amish birders at a later date. For the next three days, we had periods of light snow with daytime temperatures in the twenties and thirties. I had ground some hulled sunflower seeds and mixed them into the suet of which the warbler seemed to feed on for longer periods when he comes with the other birds. He only comes alone or nearly alone at the last feeding, near dusk. He is becoming more aggressive and contesting his space at the feeders with the chickadees, titmice, downies, House Finches -- and winning. He also appears to be trying to feed at the two sunflower seed feeders but this seems to be wishful thinking on his part. As yet he hasn't found

*A timid feeder
compared to the
jaunty chickadee ...*

the 10" wooden bowl that I suspended and spiked with suet, ground hulled sunflower seed, millet seed, ground corn, and hawthorn berries - but the nuthatches and titmice have.

The warbler found the bowl feeder on the 24th which is a dull overcast day with a temperature of 26 degrees F at 8:00 a.m. Larry came with a group of Amish men from the Millersburg area at 9:15 a.m. From the living room, they observed the bird feeding in the bowl at a distance of 2 or 3 feet and when he was perched in the dogwood tree. On Christmas morning, Jim Heflich

*Our wayward guest
was a Christmas
gift.....*

came with another couple. He is such an avid birder that he hadn't realized that he was coming on Christmas Day when he called. After spending 15 or 20 minutes outdoors, they came indoors and the warbler was in the bowl feeding. Suet seems to be his preference of what we have to offer. Even the cardinals were gone when he was in the bowl feeding at 5:30 p.m. this evening. He seems to be placid, trusting, single-minded - almost tame. As I filled the feeders earlier, he remained about 4 feet away in the dogwood tree.

The 27th was a partly cloudy day with a 9:00 a.m. temperature of 12 degrees (1 degree F was recorded at 6:00 a.m.). The warbler was at the bowl

feeding at various times until we left at 2:00 P.M. He seemed lethargic, didn't feed as long and seemed to eat very little. At the time, we did not know that we would not see him again. When in subsequent days he did not appear, we knew that he was gone forever. We can only speculate on the reasons for his departure: an owl that we hear at dusk, several neighborhood cats, the cold weather, or a more lucrative feeder. Our hopes are for the latter. Nevertheless, 17 days of empathizing with our guest (sans banding) was time enough to form an attachment for that fluffy ball. Titmice and chickadees and nuthatches have taken his place in the bowl feeder but not in our thoughts. Our wayward guest was a Christmas gift that will be remembered for the rest of our days, and as well will be all those dedicated, courteous bird-lovers that it was our pleasure to meet.

**A "Cooper's" comes
a callin' in
Cleveland Heights**

by Jean Hoffman

In the afternoon of Monday, January 17, 1994, when we had just finished shoveling out the driveway, we were sifting in the dining room while Dick talked to his father on the phone. The normal crew of mostly House Sparrows was in the backyard and at the feeder. Earlier, while out shoveling, Dick had seen a Cooper's Hawk flying around and arousing the crows and other birds. There was no sign of it when I went to look. Then a large bird

arrived out of nowhere and dramatically dove into the back of the pyrocantha bush. We assumed it was the Cooper's Hawk and wondered if it had grabbed a bird. The hawk then came limping out of the bush facing us and carrying a House Sparrow in one foot. It settled on a spot close to the bush and feeder with frequent looks around and began to consume the sparrow. It sent feathers flying all around and tore off strips of flesh, once having to coax down its throat what it had eaten. Twice it "mantled" over its prey (slightly raising its wings and raising a crest on its head) and at the same time called two or more times. The bird was an immature with back brown, already with a bluish cast, with whitish spots on the scapulars. The underparts were a clear white with well-defined dark streaks (sort of an elongated teardrop) on the breast and belly, but no markings on the undertail coverts. The eye was yellow with bluish surrounding skin, feet yellow. The tail was very long, rounded, with large pale terminal band. The head was mostly grayish brown with only slight streaking. When it had finished eating (the last gulp looked to be the head) all that was left was a reddish stain on the snow and a small flurry of feathers. It flew up to a utility wire where it found a somewhat precarious perch, did a little bill wiping and finally flew off to the west between the neighbor's house and garage. This drama in the afternoon convinced us that our new feeder is really working.

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- 9552.

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annual subscription rate is \$7.50.

Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to