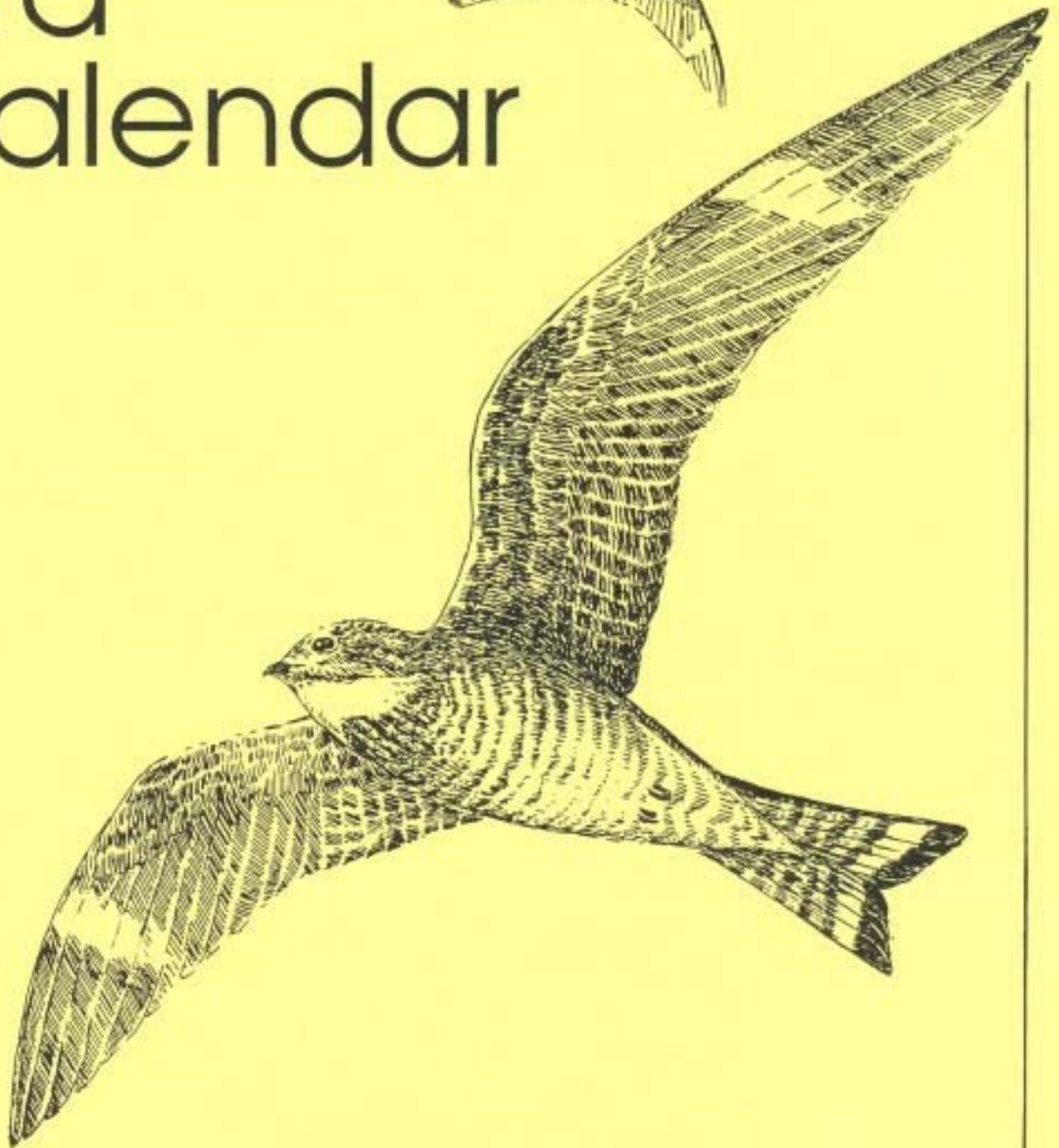


Volume 90 Number 3
June, July, August 1994

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

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by Margret Krister, 1993.

June, July, August 1994

Volume 90 Number 3

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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THE WEATHER

Summer 1994

by William Klamm

June: Temperatures averaged 69.7°, 2.1° above normal. The high was 94° on the 16th and the low was 41° on the 2nd. Lake Erie was 57° on the 1st and rose to 68° on the 30th. Sunshine was abundant and equaled or bettered any other area in the United States, including areas such as San Diego. Rain occurred on 12 days and totaled 3.35 in., .35 below normal. The most rain came on the 21st and added up to .82 in.

July: Temperatures averaged 73.3°, 1.4° above normal. The high was 92° on the 6th and 20th. The low low was 51° on the 11th. Lake Erie was 63° on

the 1st and rose to 75° on the 31st. Sunshine was again abundant. Rain occurred on 12 days and totaled 2.46 in., 1.06 below normal. The most rain again fell on the 21st and totaled up to .82 in.

August: Temperatures averaged 69.3°, 1.1° below normal. The high was 86° on the 1st, 3rd, and 25th. The low was 51° on the 7th. Lake Erie was 75° on the 1st and rose to 74° on the 31st. Sunshine was outstanding. It attained 59% of the time possible. Rain occurred on 10 days and totaled 5.35 in., 1.95 above normal. The most rain came on the 13th and 14th and added up to 3.65 in.

Reflections

Thirty years ago: The first

summer record of **Cattle Egret** for the region was in Chesterland on 3 June 1964 (*fide* Carrothers). A **Red Crossbill** visited a feeder in Geauga Co. the same day (Kremm). A juvenile **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in Lakewood on 8 July (Stasko). The only sighting of **Loggerhead Shrike** for the year was at Lakewood Park on 15 Aug. (Klamm). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at White City on 23 Aug. (Klamm).

Twenty years ago: An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at White City on 11 June 1974 (Hannikman). A **Tennessee Warbler** was a remarkable find on 10 July at Euclid Park (Corbin). **Willetts** were seen at White City on 10 dates from 13 July through 31 Aug. (Hannikman, Klamm, Peskin). A **Northern Harrier** was seen at Wingfoot Lake on 26 July (Schirmer). White City continued to be the only site in the region to have ever harbored **American Avocets** when 3 were seen there on 29 Aug. (Hannikman).

Ten years ago: A **Least Bittern** was out of place at Lake View Cemetery on 3 -- 6 June 1984 (Hoffman). The Gordon Park Landfill was in its glory as a shore-birding locale. Many outstanding birds were found there. The landfill supported not one but 3 **Piping Plovers** (Corbin, Klamm). **American Avocets** were found there on 4 dates in July (Klamm, Rosche, Talkington). Two **Marbled Godwits** were there on 23 July (Klamm, Talkington). These sightings were topped by a breeding plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** 15-18 July (Talkington, *et al.*).

Comment on the season

by Larry Rosche

Nesting season remains the most important season to me. The numbers of breeding species and periodic fluctuations in their totals appeal to me more than most people. It is through the continual efforts of the contributors to The Cleveland Bird Calendar that nesting data is monitored. This is particularly important in the ongoing monitoring efforts with regard to Neotropical migrants. Reading the data indicated to me that our summer populations of many species is very solid. Studies at Stebbins Gulch and along the Chagrin River indicate stable if not increasing populations of thrushes, vireos, and warblers. In the region, 142 species were presumed nesting in 1994. This is quite an increase over the 115 that nested at the time of Williams (1950). Among the 142, were our first confirmed records of Northern Parula Warbler and Ring-billed Gulls. The parulas nested at Brecksville Metropark and were viewed by many. I discovered the gull report while reading the Ohio Bird Banding Newsletter. In it was an interesting article K A. Fackelmann, Science News, Vol. 145) referring to the newly found gull colony in Bedford Heights. The gulls were studied by a team of ornithologists from the U. S. Department of Agriculture on the gravel-topped roof at the Riser Foods Warehouse. More than 1100 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls made their home there and each week brought 160 pounds of chicken and rib bones from a nearby dump to the rooftop. Wow! The region can now boast of having 10 species of nesting diurnal raptors. Peregrine Falcons were successful at the Terminal Tower where 4 young were banded. Bald Eagles nested successfully at Lake Rockwell for the first time since the mid-thirties.

Once again there was little habitat for southward bound shorebirds to stop and be studied. If only the vast habitat in the Western Basin of Lake Erie had been here. Once again, I would like to thank all of the diligent field observers who battle the deer flies and mosquitoes to gather the data so necessary to keep our records up to date. Wishing you the best of good birds.

Summer 1994

An immature **Common Loon** was found at Lake Rockwell on 25 June and was seen sporadically throughout the period (LR). Unique to Mogadore Reservoir (at this season) were 2 non-breeding plumaged birds on 26 Aug. (MR). The only **Pied-billed Grebes** found were at Silver Creek MP on the June Greater Akron Summer Bird Count (hereafter GASBC) (BDL, CT). **Double-crested Cormorants** summered in expected totals. A count of 244 **Great Blue Herons** was made on the June GASBC (CT). A **Great Egret** dallied at Jaite area of the CVNRA through 14 June (DAC). Another straggler spent all of June and July at Lake Isaac (RHL). A bird was at West Branch SP on 2 - 5 Aug. (LR,

CH). Two were at the Fish Hatchery in Medina on 7 Aug. (CW). **Green Herons** were holding their own in the CVNRA (DAC). A nice tally of 37 represented a 32% increase on the June GASBC (CT). LePage found 6 at Streetsboro Bog on 16 June. Small numbers were encountered in most Portage Co. areas (CH). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at HBSP on 4 June (RH). One was in Lorain on 16 July (CH). Up to 5 were in Cleveland on 16 -18 Aug. (FMG, CH, PL). One lingered at Shaker Lakes the last third of August (RR).

Mute Swans nested successfully at Mogadore. **American Black Ducks** again summered at Lake Rockwell. A total of 11 were seen on the June GASBC (CT). A pair of Blue-winged Teals was at

Carlisle MP on 15 Aug. (NK). A flock of 8 was at HBSP on 21 Aug. (RH). Four were at Lake Medina on 24 Aug. (CW). Three **Hooded Mergansers** at Tinker's Creek SNP on 18 July was suggestive of a nesting attempt (EE). A male **Red-breasted Merganser** was in Shalersville on 12 June (CH).

The usual 2-5 **Ospreys** passed though Lake Rockwell starting 26 July. A single was noteworthy at HBSP on 21 Aug. (RH). One was at Lake Medina on 24 Aug. (CW). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in the CVNRA on 1 July (TLP). One surprised the banding station at Lakeshore MP on 28 July (JP). Three were reported on the June GASBC (CT). Five **Red-shouldered Hawks** were tallied in the CVNRA during June surveys (GASBC). A bird was seen at

Shaker Lakes on 30 Aug. (RR). Ten sightings of **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported from Geauga Co. (KM). This was an expected number. The Chasars found them regularly along the Chippewa Creek ford in Brecksville MP. **Red-tailed Hawks** were as expected. Expected totals of **American Kestrels** were noted in the rural areas of the region. A count of 5 was made in Fairport Harbor on 24 Aug.

Other than traditional Portage Co. sites, **Ring-necked Pheasants** were scarce. A flock of 14 **Wild Turkeys** was in the CVNRA (Summit Co.) on 19 June (GSC). One was in the CVNRA (Cuyahoga Co.) on 2 July (RHL). Two were seen dawdling along Diagonal Road in Mantua Center on 10 Aug. (LR). Reflecting the previous harsh winter, **Northern Bobwhites** were in greatly reduced numbers on Breeding Bird Surveys in eastern Portage Co. (LR). Only 2 could be found on the June GASBC (CT). A calling bird in Sagamore Hills on 25 & 26 July seemed out of place (DAC). Two **Virginia Rails** were found in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). No **Soras** were noted at Spencer Lake SWA (NK). Two were tallied on the June GASBC (CT). A **Common Moorhen** lingered at North Chagrin through 6 June (KM). Tinker's Creek harbored one on 30 Aug. (EE).

The continued absence of suitable shorebird habitat along Lake Erie denied lakefront observers opportunities to study this attractive group. The high count of **Black-bellied Plovers** was a meager 4 at Burke Airport on 13 Aug. (TLP). A juvenile **American Golden-Plover** was at West

Branch SP on 28 Aug. (CH, LR). One graced HBSP on 31 Aug. (RH). A high count of 7 **Semipalmated Plovers** was made at West Branch SP on 5 Aug. (CH). **Greater Yellowlegs** were very scarce. The high count for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was an unimpressive 9 at Burke Airport on 13 Aug. (TLP). A bird was early in Lorain Co. on 4 July (NK). A maximum of 6 **Solitary Sandpipers** was at West Branch SP on 26 July (CH). No **Willetts** were reported. **Spotted Sandpipers** hatched in the CVNRA on 14 July (DAC). A count of 15 on the June GASBC (CT) represents an expected number. **Ruddy Turnstones** were found in small numbers at HBSP. **Sanderlings** were regular at HBSP after 10 July. The high tallies were 11 at HBSP on 17 Aug. (RH) and 7 at Edgewater Park on 13 Aug. (TLP). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were as expected given the limited habitat. An adult **Western Sandpiper** was an outstanding find at West Branch SP on 4-9 Aug. (CH). The high count of **Least Sandpipers** was 23 at West Branch SP on 13 Aug. (CH). Six **White-rumped Sandpipers** were late at Walborn Reservoir on 4-5 June (CH, BDL). An adult was seen flying with a Semipal-mated Plover at HBSP on 10 Aug. (LR). The first **Baird's Sandpiper** was at HBSP on 10 Aug. (LR). One was at West Branch SP on 28 Aug. (LR). **Pectoral Sandpiper** reports were scarce. A maximum

of 4 was at West Branch SP on 26 July (CH). One was in Lorain on 29 July (TLP). **Stilt Sandpipers** went unreported. Few **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found. An **American Woodcock** was seen in Geauga Co. through 2 July (KM). Two in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC).

As has become expected, the first juvenile **Ring-billed Gulls** showed up at HBSP in late June. The first juvenile **Herring Gulls** arrived there in late July and the juvenile Bonaparte's Gulls in mid-August. **Great Black-backed Gulls** maintained a common presence there throughout the summer. A high count of 60 was reached on 7 Aug. This tally included several juveniles. It seems like only a matter of time until they are found nesting in Ohio. A **Caspian Tern** was early at Walborn on 26 June (CH). On 19 June one provided an unusually early summer report at HBSP (RH). As many as 36 frequented the Akron Lakes on 24 Aug. (BDL). The high count of **Common Terns** was 48 in Lorain on 10 Aug. (TLP). **Forster's Tern** numbers were discouraging. The highest tally was a measly 4 on 21 Aug. at HBSP (RH).

Cuckoos were much widespread than in more recent years. Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** were seen on a brief 26 July visit to the Ravenna Arsenal (LR). A Black-billed was in Geauga Co. on 7 July (M). A total of 12 was tallied on the June GASBC (CT). Two were at Silver Creek MP on 18 June (BDL). The latest report came from the CVNRA on 23 July (DAC). A total of 5 Yellow-billeds were counted on the June GASBC (CT, GSC). Augustine

The continued absence of suitable shorebird habitat along Lake Erie....

reported that it had been quite a few years since he had seen so many cuckoos, especially Yellow-billed. The Chasars were privy to a courting pair of Yellow-billed in the CVNRA on 5 June. One was seen on the Pittsfield Breeding Bird Survey on 4 June (RHL). Dan Best encountered 2 at Russell Park, 1 at The Society for Metals property, 2 at Big Creek Park, and 1 at Swine Creek Reservation.

Three **Eastern Screech-owls** were found in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). A gray phase bird delighted many at HBSP from 28 Aug. through the period (RH, m.ob.). An early movement of 15 **Common Nighthawks** was noted on 19 Aug. over Kirtland Hills (CK). Hundreds were seen over Cuyahoga Falls on 23 Aug. (MH). Countless numbers were seen in the CVNRA on 27 Aug. (BS). A solid movement of 136 was noted over Euclid on 24 Aug. (RH). Witt noted 48 over Medina on 26 Aug. As many as 4 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** visited a feeder in Brecksville through 15 Aug. (BAT). **Belted Kingfishers** were in below normal numbers at HBSP. Tom Leiden's study of local woodpecker populations found a total of 14 adult and 5+ juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** along the lake-front and at Pinery Narrows. They were confirmed nesters at North Chagrin (KM). Lake Kelso provided another confirmed nesting locale (*vide* DB). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** numbers were more than double that of



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) - Medusa Marsh - 1994
by Melinda Greenland

Hairy Woodpeckers on the June GASBC (CT). Hairies were doing well in areas where mature trees were in abundance. Two juveniles visited a suet feeder in Strongsville on 12 June (TL). An immature male with much yellow on its crown caused a stir in Akron (RD). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were widely reported. Nesting evidence was supported by two adults and a juvenile female at Pinery Narrows on 26 June (TL). A total of 4 were seen in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). A bird was an unfortunate highway casualty in Geauga Co. on 9 June (JA). A family of 4 was noted at Tinker's Creek on 17 Aug. (EE).

Nesting flycatchers received good reviews. This was particularly evident on the GASBC where all but Great Crested were at or above 1993 totals. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was

late at Lakeshore MP on 1 June (JP). A bird at Holden Arboretum on 24 Aug. was on time (RR). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were abundant. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at Euclid Beach SP on 20 Aug. (FMG). at HBSP on 21 Aug. (RH). and at Holden on 27 Aug. (RR). A total of 3 was banded at Lakeshore MP (JP). An Acadian Flycatcher was still singing along the Zimmerman Trail through 9 July (RH). This was, most assuredly, our northernmost nester. Holt tallied 3 **Alder Flycatchers** at their traditional area in Streetsboro Bog on 18 June. One lingered at Lake Isaac through 22 June (RHL). One was vocal at Tinker's Creek on 23 June (EE). Two were singing at Aquilla Lake WMA on 25 July (KM). **Willow Flycatchers** abandoned a freshly built nest in the CVNRA on 12 June (DAC). A **Least Fly-**

catcher was in the CVNRA on 2 July (RHL). One was in Northfield on 30 July (DAC). A substantial count of 21 **Eastern Phoebes** was made in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). Five were noted at Holden on 23 July (RR). The 17 **Great Crested Flycatchers** found in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC) was an expected tally given the habitat. **Eastern Kingbirds** were prolific at Spencer Lake SWA where up to 20 were counted on 25 July (NK).

A **Horned Lark** over downtown Parma on 28 July was far out of habitat (RHL). **Purple Martins** gathered in Lorain throughout most of August. The high count was 500± on 31 Aug. (TLP). While not as impressive, the 62 heading west at HBSP on 31 Aug. was good for the East Side (RH). A single over Lake Isaac on 3 Aug. was Harlan's first there in several years. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were in normal totals. Bank Swallows were typically abundant in their nesting areas. Cliff Swallows again nested at West Branch SP.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was of Holden on 23 July (RR). A **Brown Creeper** was foraging on trees in the swamp at Pinery Narrows on 26 June (TL). Another was in the Summit Co. portion of the CVNRA on 2 July (RHL). Birds were reported from Hell Hollow MP on 23 June and Indian Point MP on 30 July (JP). A single creeper was heard at Russell Park from June through 1 Aug. (DB). **Carolina Wrens** received mixed reviews. Breeding Bird Routes and the Greater Akron Census seemed to support data that the past winter did adversely

affect this species. Harlan and Pogacnik felt that they were way down. Inland, they were prolific in Twin Lakes and other Portage Co. sites. They did well enough in Parkman to prompt the observer to wonder if the previous winter had a serious effect on their populations (JA). They were as expected in the CVNRA (DAC). **House Wrens** had outstanding breeding success on a Valley City Bluebird Trail (FMG). A new colony of **Marsh Wrens** was noted in a wetland northwest of Kent. Two were in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). One was at Tinker's Creek on 23 June (EE). Two were territorial at Shipman Pond after 10 July (EB, RH). A family group of 5 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was found in Geauga Co. on 10 July (KM).

Out of the 59 **Eastern Bluebird** eggs found in the boxes at South Chagrin MP 45 fledged (BFR). A total of 14 **Veeries** were found in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). Numbers on the June GASBC jumped from 17 in 1993 to 41 this year (CT). A bird at Lake Medina on 26 June was outstanding for the site (CW). A **Swainson's Thrush** was tardy at HBSP on 4 June (KM). A returnee had reached Donald Gray Gardens by 26 Aug. (TLP). Continuing their impressive spring numbers, **Wood Thrushes** were found in good totals at North Chagrin, CVNRA, HBSP, Lake Rockwell, and West Branch SP. The Culls tallied 50 in the CVNRA during their June surveys. The 5 tallied on 9 July represented an outstanding total for the time of year at HBSP (RH). **Gray Catbirds** were as expected, abundant. A **Northern Mockingbird** was found in Lorain Co. on 4 June (RHL). A juvenile was seen at

HBSP on 14 & 25 July (KM). It seemed odd that several **Brown Thrashers** were among the summer regulars at a feeder in Parkman (JA).

The total of 4 **White-eyed Vireos** found in the CVNRA during June surveys seemed low (GSC). A count of 26 was made on the June GASBC (CT). The northern most nesting report came from Indian point MP (JP). Chagrin River Park hosted one on 26 June (BF, PL). The 10 **Solitary Vireos** found in Stebbins Gulch on 13 July represented a very good tally (RHL). Three were found in the CVNRA on 2 July (GSC, RHL). One was at Holden on 23 July (RR). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were fairly common in Portage Co. but may be decreasing in the CVNRA. A total of 6 there during June surveys seemed very low to this editor (GSC). **Warbling Vireos** were very conspicuous throughout the region. The 63 on the June GASBC represented a W% increase (CT). **Red-eyed Vireo** numbers (163) were impressive on the June GASBC (CT).

Nesting warblers seemed in good totals. A total of 16 warbler species was found on the GASBC alone (CT). Fall migrants were streaming into the region by the last week of August. Twenty species were reported to have been banded during the "fall migration" period at Lakeshore MP

The population of **Blue-winged Warblers** seemed stable. Although their habitat requirements have caused them to leave certain areas. For example, they probably no longer nest at Lake Rockwell but are

still flourishing at the Ravenna Arsenal and CVNRA. A

Tennessee Warbler was banded at Lakeshore MP on 27 July (JP). The first one at HBSP was a month later (RH). A female **Northern Parula** with several tall feathers missing was in Parma on 15 Aug. (RHL). **Yellow Warblers** were abundant through June when they go through post-breeding molt. They showed themselves again in late July through mid-August. Harlan's field work found a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Lake Isaac on 1 June, 2 in Lorain Co. on 4 June, one at Chapin Forest MP on 7 June, and another at Hinckley MP on 19 June. Witt found 2 at Lake Medina on 19 June. A total of 7 was found on the June GASBC (CT). Six were noted in the Cleveland Lakefront State Parks on 26 & 27 Aug. (FMG, TLP, BF, PL, TMR). A **Magnolia Warbler** nest was found at Hinckley MP by Norm Kotesovec (fide RHL). Another Magnolia was noted in Stebbins Gulch on 13 July (RHL). **Cape May Warblers** were moving into the region in good numbers at the end of the period. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were in small numbers at HBSP by the end of the period (BF, RH, PL, LR). A count of 8 **Black-throated Green Warblers** was made in Stebbins Gulch on 13 July (RHL). As expected a few were found in the CVNRA. In Geauga Co. singing males were heard at Big Creek, Swine Creek, and Whitlam Woods (DB). A possible nester was at Chapin Forest on 24 July (BF, PL). **Yellow-throated Warblers** continued to be

Selected Species -- Greater Akron Summer Survey

Pied-billed Grebe	4	European Starling	1370
Great Blue Heron	244	White-eyed Vireo	9
Green Heron	37	Solitary Vireo	6
Wood Duck	82	Yellow-throated Vireo	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Warbling Vireo	63
Red-tailed Hawk	32	Red-eyed Vireo	182
Spotted Sandpiper	15	Blue-winged Warbler	70
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	Yellow Warbler	290
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	Chestnut-sided Warbler	7
Barred Owl	11	Black-throated Green W.	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	32	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Belted Kingfisher	33	Prairie Warbler	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Cerulean Warbler	17
Red-bellied Woodpecker	79	American Redstart	16
Downy Woodpecker	102	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	32	Ovenbird	25
Northern Flicker	102	Louisiana Waterthrush	7
Pileated Woodpecker	13	Mourning Warbler	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	94	Common Yellowthroat	284
Acadian Flycatcher	59	Hooded Warbler	109
Willow Flycatcher	72	Yellow-breasted Chat	13
Eastern Phoebe	51	Scarlet Tanager	43
Great Crested Flycatcher	56	Northern Cardinal	591
Eastern Kingbird	49	Indigo Bunting	197
N. Rough-winged Swallow	97	Rufous-sided Towhee	144
Bank Swallow	947	Chipping Sparrow	194
Blue Jay	413	Field Sparrow	137
American Crow	255	Song Sparrow	517
Black-capped Chickadee	371	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Tufted Titmouse	272	Bobolink	96
White-breasted Nuthatch	114	Red-winged Blackbird	789
Carolina Wren	27	Eastern Meadowlark	33
House Wren	186	Common Grackle	1170
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	32	Brown-headed Cowbird	304
Eastern Bluebird	62	Orchard Oriole	7
Veery	41	Northern Oriole	182
Wood Thrush	156	Purple Finch	22
American Robin	1394	House Finch	546
Gray Catbird	354	American Goldfinch	430
Cedar Waxwing	201	House Sparrow	943

Data compiled by Carol Tveekrem

found in the Cuyahoga River Valley from Brecksville to Cuyahoga Falls (m.obs.). With increased observer presence, this species is now being found regularly along the Grand

River. A male Pine Warbler was at Brecksville MP 25 June -- 9 July (RHL, DAC). A juvenile was banded at Lakeshore MP on 19 July (JP). Two were seen at Holden on 23 July (RR). Four **Prairie Warblers** were reported on the June GASBC (CT). The only migrant Prairie Warbler was at Sims park on 27 Aug. (TLP). Up to 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found in the Cleveland Lakefront State

A Magnolia Warbler nest was found at Hinckley MP

Parks on 27 Aug. (TLP). Another threesome was a Shaker Lakes on 30 Aug. (RR). A **Blackpoll Warbler** lingered at HBSP through 1 June (KM). A female **Cerulean Warbler** was seen feeding fledglings in the CVNRA on 16 July (DAC). Possible nesting **Black-and-white Warblers** were reported from Hell Hollow and Leroy Township (JP). Migrants were in very good tallies along the lake by the end of August. **American Redstarts** still singing at Lake Rockwell though 17 Aug. An unmated **Prothonotary Warbler** lingered at North Chagrin through 6 June (KM). Another tardy bird was at Lake Isaac on 8 June (RHL). At least 2 males summered in Brecksville (RHL). A male was in Hambden Township on 2 July (JP). Only one was seen on the June GASBC (CT). Six pairs were enticed to nest in artificial structures along the Upper Cuyahoga River (DB). **Ovenbirds** were felt to be doing well in the eastern sectors of the region. A nice tally of 25 was made on the June GASBC (CT). A **Northern Waterthrush** was an early fall returnee at Lake Isaac on 27 July (RHL). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were as expected in the CVNRA and along the Grand River. The only **Kentucky Warblers** were found at Hinckley MP on 2 July (RHL) and in Hambden Township 13-26 June (JP). Singing male **Mourning Warblers** were found at Chapin Forest on 7 June (RHL) and in the CVNRA on 2 July (GSC, RHL). Up to 2 fall migrants were seen at Donald Gray on 26 & 27 Aug. (TMR, TLP). **Hooded Warblers** were abundant. A count of 51 in the CVNRA during June surveys was

representative (GSC). A bird remained on territory along the Zimmerman Trail through 9 July (RH). **Wilson's Warblers** were putting in a solid showing by the end of the period along the lake. A **Canada Warbler** was singing along the Chagrin River in Lake Co. on 14 June (LR). Three were in Stebbins Gulch on 13 July (RHL). One summered at Hell Hollow MP (JP). Fair numbers of migrants were arriving at expected times along the lakefront at the end of the period. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was along Sagamore Road on 4 June (RR). Three were found in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). A total of 13 were reported on the June GASBC (CT). Silver Creek MP provided habitat for 8 territories (BDL). Another bird was at Chagrin River Park on 27 June (BF, PL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common nesters throughout the region. A count 40 at Lakeshore MP on 29 July certainly indicated a southward movement (JP). A total of 79 was banded there. A Chardon pair nested in the same tree as did Cedar Waxwings and Northern Orioles (KM). **Indigo Buntings, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Field Sparrows** were common as expected. Four **Vesper Sparrows** were reported in the CVNRA during June surveys (GSC). A singing bird was new to the Ravenna Arsenal on 26 July (LR). All Saints Cemetery in Northfield provided a new nesting area for **Savannah Sparrows** (DAC). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Lake Medina on 5 June (CW). Three were in Fairport Harbor

on 7 June and after (RHL, m.obs.). A total of 14 was reported on the June GASBC (CT). This total included 8 at Silver Creek MP on 18 June (BDL). One was at the Ravenna Arsenal on 26 July (LR). Hinckley MP provided a new location for summering **Dark-eyed Juncos**. A bird was in the CVNRA on several June dates (GSC). They were felt to be increasing in numbers at Hell Hollow MP (JP). At least 2 young were raised at Big Creek Park (DB). **Bobolinks** were in increased numbers. The 96 on the June GASBC represented nearly a 300% increase over 1993 (CT). Holden Arboretum hosted an impressive 35 on 24 July (FMG).

Eastern Meadowlarks were found regularly at All Saints Cemetery (DAC). The 20 at Sunny Hills Golf Course in Portage Co. on 6 Aug. represented the high tally (BDL). **Orchard Orioles** were widespread and possibly increasing as a local breeder. Probable nesting locations included the CVNRA, Hinckley MP, Kent, Medina, Indian Point MP, and Chagrin River Park. An active nest was actually observed with two fledglings at the top of maple tree at Lakeshore MP on 25 July (RR). A female was an outstanding find on 8 Aug. at Spencer Lake SWA (NK). **Northern Orioles** fledged young in Geauga Co. and North Chagrin approximately on 23 June (KM). Young were also noted by 26 June in Pinery Narrows (TLP). Migrants were noticeably moving at Lakeshore MP by 22 July (JP). An adult male **Purple Finch** seemed out of place at Lake Isaac on 22 July (RHL). A pair

was regularly seen through 29 July in Brecksville (BAT). The 22 on the June GASBC represented an expected tally (CT). They were more evident than usual in Parkman (JA). **House Finches** continue to thrive in the region. The 430 **American Goldfinches** reported on the June GASBC was 37 more than last year (CT). A **Pine Siskin** at the feeder at Big Creek Park on 1 June provided a unique report (DB).

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

LEAST BITTERN - The only summer report came from Arcola Creek on 9 Aug. (Pogacnik).

CATTLE EGRET - Lakeshore Metropark added another rarity to its list when 3 flew by on 17 Aug. (Pogacnik).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - The only report of the year came Arcola Creek on 27 Aug. (Pogacnik).

AMERICAN WIGEON - Two drakes spent the first week of June at the south end of Lake Rockwell (Rosche, Holt).

RING-NECKED DUCK - Unprecedented in the region, a pair (possibly attempting to nest?) remained through the season at a large lake in Shalersville Township (Rosche, Holt).

BALD EAGLE - The two young eaglets (Roy and Lucille) fledged at Lake Rockwell during the first week of July. The nest in Geauga Co. failed.

NORTHERN HARRIER - A female plumaged bird was seen regularly in Fairport Harbor through mid-July (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche). A bird soaring over Chapin forest on 24 July was unexpected (Finkelstein, Lozano).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Four young males (Utah, Omaha, Gold, & Sword) were banded on 17 June at the Terminal Tower (*fide* Lozano M.ob.). A bird that was released last summer in Akron returned and attracted a potential mate (Tveekrem). The Greenlands saw a bird at Burke Airport on 11 Aug. An adult buzzed the mudflat at West Branch SP on 17 Aug. (Holt).

MARbled GODWIT - A bird visited the miniscule mudflat at Lorain on 24 July. This represented the only report for the year of this attractive species (Hoffman).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - The large fields along Fairport Nursery Road in Fairport Harbor provided safe harbor to 5 on 20 Aug. (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche). Two were there on 21 Aug.

LAUGHING GULL - Two adults were seen at Headlands Beach SP on 1 & 2 June by Vernon Weingart. Mr. Weingart is the lost person ever to see a Bachman's Sparrow (1949) in the region. An immature was reported from Fairport Harbor on 4 Aug. (Pogacnik).

BLACK TERN - Birds were encountered at Headlands Beach SP (12) on 13 Aug. and 14 Aug. (1) (Hannikman) and in Lorain on 29 Aug. (5) (TLP).

BARN OWL - Lakeshore Metropark's amazing list grew again as 2 were seen and heard on 18 Aug. (Pogacnik).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - A total of 6 was found on the June GASBC (Tveekrem).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAP-SUCKER - A male was reported from Hell Hollow on 5 Aug. (Pogacnik).

WINTER WREN - The only nesting areas this year were Stebbins Gulch (Harlan) and Hell Hollow (Pogacnik).

SEDGE WREN - A bird was at Charlemont Reservation on 13 June (*fide* Kraps).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Once again, pair found Hinckley Metropark to be a suitable nesting site. Interestingly enough, a second territorial male was also found there on 19 June (Harlan).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - A bird was reported intermittently from Fairport Harbor from 4 June through 26 June (Pogacnik, Kraus).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A bird was at Brecksville Metropark on 4 June (Finkelstein, Lozano, Tony Hess). A bird was banded at Lakeshore Metropark on 29 Aug. (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN PARULA - The first known nesting of this species in the history of the region occurred at Brecksville Metropark (Chasar, Dinkelbach, M.ob.). See Field Notes.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - George and Sandy Cull report-

ed a singing male in the Virginia Kendall area of the CVNRA through June.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - A bird was early at Donald Gray Garden on 26 Aug. (Lozano). Another early returnee was banded at Lakeshore MP on 29 Aug. (Pogacnik).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - A bird was at Charlemont Reservation on 14 June (fide Kraps).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - This species was quite noteworthy this summer. A birds was found at Headlands Beach SP through 3 July (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche). Lane found one at Silver Creek Metropark on 18 June. Incredibly, he found another in Barberton on 19 & 20 June. Another was seen at Lake Isaac on 22 June (Harlan).



FIELD NOTES

The first confirmed Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) nest in Cuyahoga County and Northern Ohio

by Dwight W Chasar

On May 1st, 1994, Fred Dinkelbach reported that he had heard a Northern Parula singing in the Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, near the ford where Chippewa Drive crosses the Chippewa Creek. Williams states that the early arrival date for the Cleveland region is

May 3rd, 1942, while Chapman indicates that May 1st, 1900, was the early arrival date for Oberlin. The bird was reported again on the 8th in the same location. During the next two weeks, I stopped each morning on my way to work to listen and view the parula. On occasion two could be heard singing, one near the Chippewa Creek and the other from the Plateau picnic area just south of the ford. Toward the end of May, Rob Harlan called me and said that there was still a singing parula in the same area.

Nearly each morning in June I spent about 30 minutes in the

area listening and viewing. Most often the parula could be heard and seen in the Plateau picnic area. On the 14th and 21st, however, I caught a glimpse of a second bird with a yellow throat joining the singing male but could not confirm its identity as to species or sex. On the 23rd, my wife Ann, and I spent the morning at the Plateau with the mission of confirming a female parula. After two hours of keeping track of the male, we finally identified a female joining the male in a favorite Sycamore tree. During the 3-4 minutes that the parulas were together, the male remained on a small high branch, hardly

moving and singing almost inaudible songs, some the typical zeeeeeee-ups and other variations. They then departed eastwardly together. Two minutes later, the male was again singing his typical loud song in the Sycamore.

Visions of nesting parulas danced in our heads.

Williams states that the late date for the Northern Parula in Cuyahoga County is June 27 (1942). Now we were not only interested in besting a late date in Cuyahoga County but also eager to find evidence of nesting. Harlan told me that John Pogacnik had observed adult parulas feeding young a few years ago in Lake County. Peterjohn indicates that no Northern Parula nest had ever been found north of Columbiana County. On the down side, Mengel reported that no nest had ever been found in Kentucky even though the parula commonly nests there.

The next 16 days were relatively uneventful. The male parula's behavior was that of an unmated territorial bird, i.e., it was not carrying food to any one area but was foraging a wide area for itself.

On the morning of July 10th, Ann and I got to the Plateau area early. The male was singing and foraging in the trees to the west edge of the parking lot. With a limp green larva in its beak (this is standard fare according to Bent, p. 141), it flew across the parking lot into the trees near the pit toilet on the east side but out of

our sight. It sang several times, and shortly thereafter, flew across to the west side again. The parula repeated this activity 4-6 times. The nest had to be on the east side! Ann and I scanned the tree tops for a few minutes and then Ann said, "I have it. Look for the hanging grass in the spruce tree. I know that's it, the bird just entered."

Indeed it was the nest. It appeared as a cup suspended from drooping spruce boughs at the end of the branch, woven together with dried grasses, with eight long strands sticking out of the side (this is the side from which the birds entered the nest) more than hanging from the bottom. It appeared to be about 3-4 inches in diameter and depth. Where usnea lichen and Spanish moss are not available for nesting, parulas will use this technique for building (Bent, p. 140). The nest was about 40-50 feet high in a Norway Spruce, about 10-12 feet down from the top in a branch pointing in a northeasterly direction, about 4 feet from the trunk. The tree was on a hillside of hemlock, spruce, oak and sycamore, near a small ravine. We watched for another hour, confirming that both the male and female were bringing food

to the nest (Bent, p. 141). The male seemed to bring the larger fare while the female the lesser.

After lunch, we reported our finding to Harlan and then returned to the nest in the late afternoon for observation. For this and the next day, the feeding went roughly like this. The female approached the nest quietly from a slightly lower branch, flew up to the net edge from a southwesterly direction, fed the young, and then entered the nest for brooding (12-14 minutes each time on the 10th, 7-9 minutes on the 11th). When the male approached, he sang 1-10 times from the area, and then alit on the upper curved part of the branch the nest was in but closer to the trunk. She then flew from the nest, he flew or hopped down to the nest edge, fed the young, and was out of there in about 30 seconds. She would return in about 4-8 minutes and repeat her behavior. By July 12th, both the female and male were constantly feeding the young with little if any brooding. Some of the times, both birds were at the nest simultaneously. Feeding each day continued at a vigorous pace through 7:45 a.m. on the 18th. The chirping of hungry young could be heard on the 17th and 18th. The young fledged sometime after that last feeding observation and before 7 a.m. on the 19th. Occasional weak singing of the male was heard on the 19th and 20th in the general area of the ford/Plateau.

According to The Birder's

*The nest was
45-50 ft
high in a
Norway spruce,*

Handbook, parulas incubate eggs for about 12-14 days. Time for fledging is unreported. Egg dates in Ohio are unknown but young generally fledge in late June and early July from nests further south in Ohio (Peterjohn). The fact that no consistent singing was heard in the vicinity of the nest on the 6th, 7th, and 8th yet feeding and brooding were observed on the 10th suggests that the eggs hatched sometime on the 8th or 9th. This would calculate to about 10-11 days for fledging to occur. Counting backwards 12-14 days from hatching suggests the eggs were laid around June 24-26.

Parulas may return to the same nesting areas in successive years and have been known to use the same nest (Harrison). Perhaps we will have a better chance next year to firm up these dates and times. Luck favors the prepared mind!

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Intimate experiences with a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

family

by Ray Hannikman

Emil Bacik and I had the opportunity during June and July to observe the fledging of five Cooper's Hawks at Mentor Headlands Beach State Park. The following has been written from our observations of these not-so-shy birds.

June 18: At least two well-grown downy young in nest with attending adult.

June 19 -- July 10: During this period only two and sometimes three young birds were visible around the nest. We observed how the birds lost their white downy feathers and acquired their first juvenile plumage. Little did we realize that there were five birds in the nest. The nest, a rather untidy bunch of sticks and leaves, seemed not the structure which could support five growing Cooper's Hawks.

July 16: This morning Emil and I were fortunate enough to observe some interesting behavior from all five Cooper's Hawks. An adult bird came in to the nest and appeared to drop a prey item on the nest. While one of the young Cooper's hawks remained at the nest, its four siblings were on the ground in the parking lot and there were chasing each other around! The birds were all within six feet of each other. After a little bit of hopping about, one of the Cooper's

Hawks bolted from the group and landed on a nearby picnic table. Of the four young on the ground one perhaps a male, appeared smaller than the other three. During this observation, the birds were very vocal and gave various whistles, screams and calls to each other and their parents. All during our observations of these birds we usually could hear the birds before we spotted them.

July 31: Emil Bacik again found all five Cooper's Hawks at the west end picnic area. I later found four of the birds harassing American Crows out of the west parking area. After they had chased the last crow from the area, one of the youngsters darted out of a tree and headed toward a squirrel. The hawk pulled up at the last second and did not attack. Perhaps it was a little unsure of its hunting skills which would soon need to be perfected in order to survive.

August: Observations abruptly decreased during the first two weeks of August with only one or two birds being noted together. No Cooper's Hawks could be found during the last two weekends of the month.

Emil and I both felt lucky to be able to get to know this species a lot better and to observe its early social behavior. Abundant prey, rather insignificant human disturbance, though the nest sight was a well-used picnic area, and interested observers all contributed to our rewarding observations of this family of Cooper's Hawks.

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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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