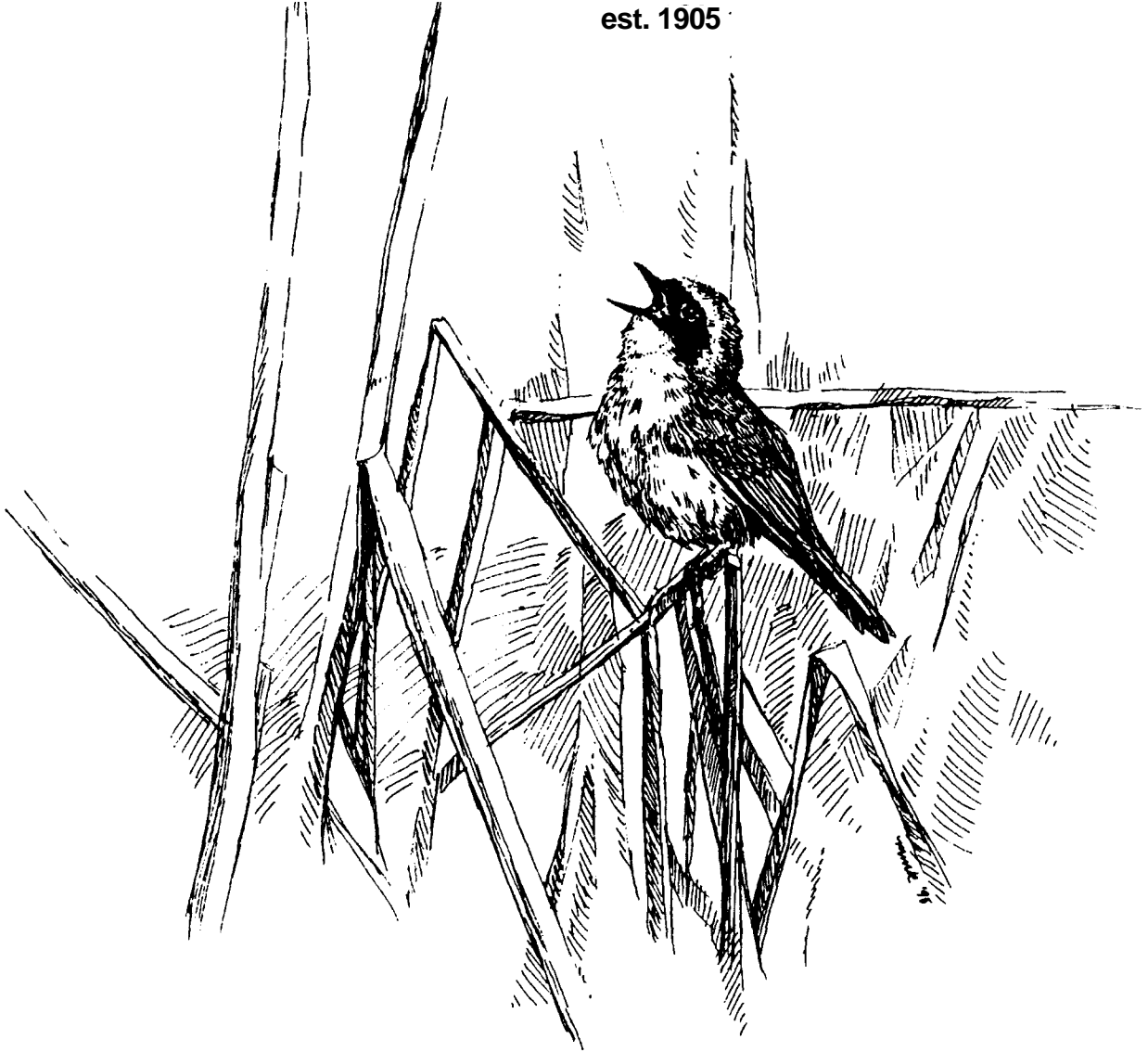


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The Cleveland
**Bird
Calendar**
est. 1905



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

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

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

5 March - Winter Season

5 June - Spring Season

5 September - Summer

**Season 5 December - Autumn
Season**

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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REFLECTIONS



Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) - Eastlake - 17 December 1994
by Larry Rosche

THE WEATHER

Winter 1994 - 1995

by William A. Klamm

DECEMBER - Temperatures averaged 36.9°, 6.0° above normal. The high was 61 on the 4th and the low 14 on the 13th. Lake Erie water stood at 50° on the 1st and slowly fell to 43° by the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 31% of the time. Precipitation was distributed over 11 days to total 2.94 in., 0.15 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.69 in. on the 6th-7th. Snowfall totaled 1.0 in. All of it fell on the 10th and 11th. This was the 5th least snowiest December on record.

JANUARY - The month was a dreary, snowy month. Precipitation came on 17 days to total 5.81 in., 3.77 in. above normal. The greatest amount in any 24 hour period was 2.53 in. on the 15th. Snowfall totaled 23.4 in. with the greatest amount in a 24 hour period at 8.6 in. on the 6th-7th. The greatest depth on the ground

was 7 in. on the 22nd. This was the 3rd wettest January on record. Temperatures averaged 30.0°, 5.2° above normal. The high was 67° on the 14th and the low 4° on the 5th. Lake Erie temperature 43° on the first dropped to 33° on the 31st. Sunshine occurred 26% of the time possible.

FEBRUARY - The month was again cold and dreary but evened out the winter season to a nearly normal winter. Temperatures averaged 26.9°, merely 0.3° below normal. The highest temperature reached was 55° on the 19th and the lowest was minus 1 degree on the 12th. Lake Erie water temperature was 33° the entire month. Precipitation came on 14 days totaled 1.73 inches, only 0.46 below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.67 in. on the 27th-28th. Snowfall totaled 14.7 in. with the greatest fall in any 24 hours at 6.6 inches on the 7th-8th. Sunshine prevailed 42% of the time possible.

THIRTY YEARS AGO: A small muddy pool at Rocky River Park provided a foraging area for a **Purple Sandpiper** and a **Red Phalarope** during the last half of Dec. 1964 (Stasko). An adult and 2 immature **Greater White-fronted Geese** were studied in a grain field just west of Lorain on 27 Dec. (Dolbear). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was studied carefully on 24 Dec. along Plum Creek in Oberlin (Morse). A **Red-throated Loon** visited Summit Lake 36 Feb. (Hjelmquist).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: During the 1974-1975 winter season **North-ern Bobwhite** coveys were larger and more frequently reported than in recent years (Szabo). An immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** was in Lorain on 29 Dec. (Ward). In what has been referred to as one of the best kept secrets in modern birding, a handsome male **Black-headed Grosbeak** was irregularly seen at a feeder in Akron from 1 Jan. through 5 Apr. (fide Szabo). An **Eastern Phoebe** made an early arrival on 25 Feb. in Chardon (Ramisch).

TEN YEARS AGO: A dark-morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was studied carefully as it flew by Perry Park on 1 Dec. 1984 (Peterjohn, Rosche). A **Common Black-headed Gull** visited several West Side locales in Dec. and Jan (LePage, M.ob). The only **Western Sandpiper** ever reported in December in Cleveland was on the 14th (Klamm). Five **Red Crossbills** were seen at North Chagrin Reservation on 7 Jan. (Corbin).

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

Winter is usually an easy season to write about because of Christmas Bird Counts, and gulls. Yes, gulls. Along the lakefront no other family is so conspicuous. It must be hard for birders who live far from the lake to understand our passion for the lakefront. Readers will again see reports of Northern Gannet, Pomarine Jaeger, and Black-headed Gull. Spending every available minute at the lake rewards us with glimpses of the rare. It is interesting to note that many sightings do not look like those depicted so symmetrically in hard-backed texts that have become popular over the past decade. As editor I feel compelled to defend our reporters. It takes much time to understand the lakefront. I feel that you have to experience it regularly with determination to improve your spotting skills to get to the level of some of our contributors.

I was particularly reminded of how difficult gull watching is for some when I tried to show Christmas Bird Count participants the Black-headed Gull at Eastlake. It was a life bird for nearly all of them, but as much as it stuck out like a sore thumb to Hannikman, LePage and me, many could not find it amid the 1000s of Bonaparte's Gulls. Luckily, the bird hung around for hours and everyone received satisfactory views.

Jaegers are another story. I can only guess, but it must take 100s of hours of watching the lake to see one. If only they would behave as the Pomarine that frequented the "hot waters" in Lorain back in 1979, then perhaps the doubting Thomases would believe the identifications. I suppose not, jaegers are too tough and they (jaegers) never read the books. When was the last time you saw an illustration with the tail projection uneven or missing? To those who question these sightings, I can only invite them to come and bird each weekend with Ray and me.

Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) indicated some startling results. How about a grand total of 11 Song Sparrows on the Cleveland Count! LePage lamented that this was the lowest tally of Song Sparrows since 1945. Special thanks to the Hoffmans for their outstanding summary of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count from 1940-1994. Good birding.

WINTER 1994-1995

Common Loons lingered into mid-December throughout the region. The high count was 6 on 25 Dec. at HBSP (RH). The count of 18 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Summit Lake on 28 Jan. was exceptional even for this traditional winter location (BO, LR). The 28 **Horned Grebes** on the 17 Dec. Elyria/Lorain CBC was the high for the period. As many as 20 **Double-crested Cormorants** wintered in Cleveland (DJH, PL). Three at the Berlin Yacht Club in southeastern Portage Co. represented a new location (BDL). **Great Blue Herons** were in expected totals. The 5 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** on the 17 Dec. Elyria/Lorain CBC was an expected number for that circle. A bird was in the flats on 18 & 25 Feb. (RHL, DJH). **Tundra Swans** were seen in

good numbers throughout most of December. A flock of 200 over East Branch Reservoir on 6 Jan. was exceptional (fide DB). Another bird was somewhat late at Lake Medina on 8 Jan. (CW). On the same late date, 18 rested at Springfield Lake (CH). A flock of 15 dallied at the mouth of the Grand River 15-16 Jan. (EB, RH, LR, JW). The high count of **Mute Swans** was 5 in Lorain on 7 Jan. (RHL, TLP). A flock of 14 **Snow Geese** passed over HBSP on 10 Dec. (EB, RH). Although not previously reported until 19 Jan., a blue morph bird was regularly noted afterward in the Akron area lakes. (BDL, DJB). This marked the 8th consecutive winter for this unband-ed individual to visit these lakes. **Canada Geese** continued to flourish everywhere in the region.

Dabbling ducks were hardly

noticeable. A **Wood Duck** at Clague Road Park on 2 Jan. (RHL), pairs in Akron in 7 Jan. (BDL) and the CVNRA on 16 Jan. (DJB) represented the only non-CBC reports. A **Green-winged Teal** was at Lake Rockwell on 13 Dec. (CH). **American Black Duck** totals were not good along the lake. The count of 70 at the Berlin Yacht Club on 25 Feb. represented the inland high (BDL). One needs only to look at the CBC data to see that **Mallards** continue to thrive. Two **Northern Pintails** spent the first half of January at Lake Rockwell. One was a good find on the 28 Dec. Wellington CBC (BR). A bird was at E. 72nd St. on 8 Jan. (FMG). Another drake was at the Avon Lake Power Plant on 29 Jan. (PL). **Northern Shovelers** lingered at LaDue and Lake Rockwell through 13 Dec.

Two were in Northfield on 22 Jan. (DAC). An immature male with a very noticeable white face crescent was at Nesmith Lake on 5 Feb. (CH). The high count of **Gadwalls** was 55 at Lake Rockwell on 13 Dec. (CH). Mid-winter birds were extremely scarce. No **American Wigeons** were reported after December.

High tallies of **Canvasbacks** were 300 in Lorain on 23 Dec. (JLD, ST) and an impressive estimate of 1240 off Lakeshore MP on 4 Jan. (JP). A total of 130 was counted in Cleveland on 29 Jan. (CH). Inland, the usual 1-2 wintered at Summit Lake (DJB, CH). A flock of 50 **Redheads** was discovered at the Berlin Yacht Club on 28 Jan. (BDL). Numbers along Lake Erie were very low. The high was 200 off E 55th St. on 14 Jan. (DJB). **Ring-necked Ducks** lingered at Lake Rockwell into late December. A bird was off Rocky River Park on 8 Jan. (BF, TLP, PL). **Greater Scaups** were numerous along the lake. The high count was 2000 off Rocky River Park on 12 Jan. (TLP). Inland, a migrant flock of 12 graced Summit Lake on 26 Feb. (BDL). **Lesser Scaups** were numerous as well. The high count was 2500 off Rocky River Park on 12 Jan. (RHL). Up to 2 **Oldsquaws** were seen of Rocky River Park on several January dates (M.ob.). A bird was in Cleveland on 12 Jan. (RHL). Two more were at Avon Lake on 11 Feb. (M.obs.). An immature female **Black Scoter** was seen off Sims Park on 17 Dec. (EB, RH, LR, JVP). A hen was off Rocky River Park on 21 Dec. and a drake was there on 2 Jan. (RHL). An immature male **Surf Scoter** was also seen off Sims Park on 17 Dec. (EB, RH, LR, JVP). Four at HBSP on 5 Feb. represented an

excellent local tally (EB, RH, LR, JVP). These numbers, paled in comparison to the 50+ off Rocky River Park on 6 Jan. (BF, DJH, TLP, PL). A bird was in Cleveland on 29 Jan. (CH). Up to 5 were seen in late February at Avon Lake (M.ob.). **White-winged Scoters** were hard to find except for Rocky River Park. Up to 5 were there on 7-14 Jan. (DJB, RHL, RR). A bird was in Cleveland on 29 Jan. (CH). The high counts of **Common Goldeneyes** were 700 off Rocky River Park on 7 Jan. and 500 in Cleveland on 12 Jan. (RHL). The high count of **Buffleheads** was 150 at Avon Lake on 29 Jan. (CH). As many as 200 **Hooded Mergansers** remained at Lake Rockwell through 8 Dec. **Red-breasted Mergansers** remained in good numbers through the Christmas Bird Counts. A flock of 500 **Common Mergansers** at Bradstreet Landing on 7 Jan. was high (RHL). A flock of 14 northbound migrants paused at Lake Medina on 16 Feb. (CW). A cold front pushed a flock of 100+ **Ruddy Ducks** from surrounding lakes and forced them to use Summit Lake as a resting spot on 3 Jan. (GLK). The usual half-dozen stuck around there for the entire winter. T

Three **Turkey Vultures** were over Amherst Township on 20 Feb. (BR). **Bald Eagles** continue to be seen widely. A subadult was over Eastlake on 19 & 23 Dec. (BF, KM, DAC). Birds were regular

*An immature female
Black Scoter was
seen off Sims Park ...*

at Lake Rockwell. Two immatures were at Berlin Reservoir on 28 Jan. (BDL). Two adults were seen soaring overhead in Burton Township on 18 Feb. (CH).

Northern Harriers were exceptionally common in Lorain Co. The 4 counted on the Elyria/Lorain CBC on 17 Dec. represented a good number. The 17 on the Wellington CBC on 28 Dec. was extraordinary (BR). As many as 5 were seen along Hayes Road in Geauga Co. in February (BF, PL, PP, M.ob.). A bird drifted over HBSP on 11 Feb. (RH). A bird was in eastern Portage Co. on 25 Feb. (BDL). Two were apparently courting at West Branch SP on 27 Feb. (LR). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** met an untimely death against a window in Parkman on 26 Jan. (JA). **Cooper's Hawks** were typically numerous. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were fairly common in the Chardon area (*vide* DB). Observers could hardly believe their eyes when they saw 3 feeding on suet in the heart of Mentor on 29 Jan. (AJF). A bird was in North Chagrin on 19 Jan. (RR). A bird was reported from Parma Heights on 13 Jan. (RHL). Two were together in Columbia Township on 19 Feb. (LR, JVP). **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers on local CBCs were good. **Rough-legged Hawks** were regularly seen along Hayes Road. As many as 4 dark morphs and 2 light morphs were tallied (DB, PP, M.ob.). A total of 5 was counted in Lorain Co. on 22 Jan. (NK). A bird was seen over 1-71 at the West 14th exit on 21 Feb. (TK). A single was at Burke Airport on 25 Feb. (TLP). **American Kestrels** received positive comments from several observers. Numbers seem to be on the upswing.

Four **Ring-necked Pheasants** were among the other good birds along Hayes Road on 28 Jan. (AJF). A **Wild Turkey** was in Lorain Co. on 26 Feb. (FMG). **American Coots** were in much higher than expected totals along the lake. The 59 counted at Lorain on 3 Feb. was truly exceptional (TLP). Inland, a count of 38 at Lake Medina on 11 Dec. was also quite high (CW). Holt located an incredible 230 at Nimisila Reservoir on 26 Dec. A **Killdeer** was early at the E. 55th St. Marina on 19 Feb. (TLP). A group of 11 **Common Snipes** was found at the traditional Cuyahoga County Airport location on the 17 Dec. Cleveland CBC (BF, PL). A bird in Akron on 6 Jan. and 1 Feb. was exceptionally hardy (BDL).

The only **Franklin's Gull** report came from Lorain on 8 Dec. (JP). **Little Gulls** were rather scarce. Birds were reported from Lakeshore MP on 2 Dec. and Lorain on 16 Jan. (JP). Tens of 1000s of **Bonaparte's Gulls** lingered along Lake Erie into January. An estimated 50,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were in Lorain on 11 Dec. (RHL). The high for **Herring Gulls** was 5000 in Lorain on 7 Jan. (RHL). A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** was at Eastlake on 17 Dec. (RH, LR, JVP). One was in Lorain on 28 Jan. (RHL). Another first-winter bird was in the flats on 8 & 11 Feb. (DJH). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was studied and photographed at Lake Rockwell on 1 Jan. (LR). This was the first Portage County report of this species. A first-winter bird was in the flats on 11 Feb. and 2 adults were there on 12 Feb. (DJH). Another immature was at Avon Lake the same day (RH). Many observers reported up to 3 **Lesser**

Black-backed Gulls at Eastlake into Jan. Likewise, as many as 2 were in Lorain. Other birds were seen in Cleveland on 8 Jan., 11 & 19 Feb. (DJH, TLP). LePage's 17 sightings of **Glaucous Gulls** along the Cleveland lakefront represented a less than expected number (to this editor). Some individual reports include: singles at HBSP on 28 & 29 Jan. (RH), immatures in Cleveland on 8 & 23 Feb. (DJH). and a bird sitting on the ice at the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant on 26 Feb. (BF, PL, M.ob.). Lake Rockwell's first record was of a first-winter bird on 1 Jan. (LR, CH). A **Glaucous X Herring Gull (Nelson's Gull)** was in Lorain on 23 Dec. (JLD, ST). Lake Rockwell hosted a first-winter, 3rd-winter, and adult **Great Black-backed Gulls** in the last third of December and into January. These were the 5th, 6th, and 7th records for the lake (CH, LR). As if to fill out the missing puzzle piece, a second-winter bird was

there on 1 Jan. (CH, LR). Another was found at Summit Lake on 6 Jan. (GLK). Two were at this site on 8 Jan. (CH). Six were counted in Warrensville Heights on 21 Dec. (RHL). The high count along the lake was 500 on in Cleveland on 12 Feb. (CH).

According to CBCs, it appears that Great Horned and **Eastern Screech-Owls** are thriving throughout the region. A **Barred Owl** was at North Chagrin on 18 Jan. (TLP).

Resident woodpecker populations were well represented on local CBCs. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** received little mention. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Bacon Woods along the Vermilion River on 25 Feb. (PL). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** outnumbered **Hairy Woodpeckers** almost 2 to 1 on most CBCs. **Northern Flickers** were more difficult to find than expected. A bird at Avon Lake on 18 Feb. was

Ohio Bald Eagle Update

by Harvey Webster

There were 26 active Bald Eagle nests in the State of Ohio in 1994. These nests fledged 30 young including two eaglets hatched from eggs salvaged from an abandoned nest near the mouth of the Sandusky River. They were hatched at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and subsequently fostered into nests at Killdeer Plains and near Oak Harbor. This reproductive success translates into 1.15 young fledged per active nest - well above the .7 young per active nest required for a stable population.

Ohio's eagle nests have fledged 92 young in the past 3 years accounting for the dramatic upsurge in the state's eagle population. If there is a trend emerging in the expanding eagle population in Ohio, it is the colonization of inland reservoirs where the eagles seem to enjoy much greater reproductive success. Of the 7 nests associated with Lake Erie between Port Clinton and Toledo only one was successful in 1994. Persistent toxins which continue to circulate through Lake Erie are believed to be responsible for this failure. Although the Bald Eagle has been delisted from endangered to threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it will continue to be listed as an endangered species by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM LOCAL 1994-1995 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

| | BURTON | CLEVELAND | CUY. FALLS | ELYRIA/LORAIN | LAKESWOOD | MENTOR | WELLINGTON |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 3 | 29 | 28 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 0 |
| CANADA GOOSE | 2557 | 2205 | 3435 | 643 | 252 | 1373 | 705 |
| A. BLACK DUCK | 41 | 73 | 24 | 24 | 131 | 25 | 2 |
| MALLARD | 436 | 678 | 1766 | 400 | 810 | 209 | 208 |
| SCAUP (SP) | 20 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 65 | 52 | 10 |
| CGOLDENEYE | 0 | 101 | 12 | 3 | 185 | 19 | 0 |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 32 | 78 | 5 | 63 | 56 | 35 | 27 |
| SHARP-SHINNED HAWK | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| COOPER'S HAWK | 6 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| RED-TAILED HAWK | 22 | 14 | 63 | 25 | 6 | 19 | 35 |
| AMERICAN KESTREL | 12 | 4 | 16 | 33 | 2 | 3 | 61 |
| MOURNING DOVE | 271 | 136 | 1385 | 402 | 113 | 348 | 922 |
| E. SCREECH-OWL | 1 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 0 |
| GREAT HORNED OWL | 1 | 1 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | 5 | 10 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER | 30 | 57 | 131 | 25 | 20 | 26 | 19 |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER | 83 | 121 | 345 | 103 | 76 | 68 | 35 |
| HAIRY WOODPECKER | 30 | 22 | 69 | 14 | 18 | 18 | 8 |
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 5 | 11 | 37 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| BLUE JAY | 269 | 230 | 944 | 179 | 76 | 179 | 104 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 542 | 519 | 1084 | 123 | 478 | 456 | 165 |
| Bc CHICKADEE | 407 | 487 | 1346 | 223 | 136 | 412 | 104 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 98 | 188 | 557 | 111 | 84 | 111 | 46 |
| RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH | 64 | 118 | 331 | 57 | 38 | 38 | 34 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 2 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 1 |
| CAROLINA WREN | 0 | 5 | 48 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 25 | 20 | 0 |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 41 | 17 | 38 | 18 | 0 | 35 | 27 |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 13 | 74 | 76 | 48 | 55 | 1211 | 0 |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 235 | 183 | 379 | 52 | 11 | 50 | 0 |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 437 | 5443 | 3967 | 3607 | 360 | 1983 | 3497 |
| YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER | 0 | 3 | 48 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 204 | 189 | 1112 | 166 | 93 | 186 | 97 |
| A. TREE SPARROW | 134 | 81 | 1328 | 82 | 142 | 246 | 73 |
| SONG SPARROW | 37 | 11 | 300 | 72 | 24 | 27 | 31 |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 1 | 1 | 37 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| WHITE-THROATED SPARROW | 5 | 2 | 65 | 13 | 2 | 21 | 10 |
| WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW | 0 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| DARK-EYED JUNCO | 205 | 217 | 817 | 235 | 117 | 291 | 97 |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 0 | 13 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 38 | 20 |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 0 | 9 | 45 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD | 0 | 125 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2510 |
| PURPLE FINCH | 0 | 0 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 15 |
| HOUSE FINCH | 232 | 238 | 1659 | 317 | 323 | 177 | 177 |
| COMMON REDPOLL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PINE SISKIN | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AMERICAN GOLDFINCH | 265 | 234 | 934 | 146 | 73 | 175 | 146 |
| EVENING GROSBEAK | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 455 | 456 | 2346 | 1067 | 206 | 418 | 372 |
| NUMBER of FIELD OBSERVERS | 20 | 56 | unknown | 31 | unknown | 25 | 22 |
| TOTAL SPECIES | 57 | 70 | 75 | 77 | 61 | 70 | 54 |

Table 1

the only one reported along Lake Erie (PP). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were as expected. Birds were regularly seen in the mature woods of North Chagrín Reservation (RR).

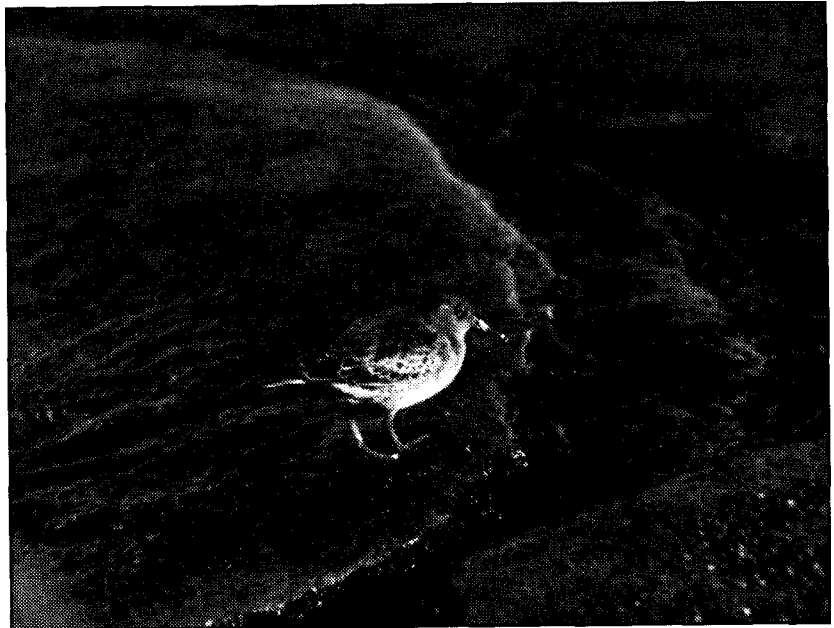
An **Eastern Phoebe** was tardy in Concord Township on 1 Dec. (JP). The high tallies for **Horned Larks** included 109 on the 28 Dec. Wellington CBC (BR) and 200 along Hayes Road in January (fide DB). Hundreds of

American Crows were migrating along the lakefront the last half of February (FMG). **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmice** were in excellent numbers. Few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported.

Brown Creepers fared much better than the previous species. Birds were regularly at many locales throughout the period. The threesome at Euclid Creek Reservation on 17 Dec. was representative of local abundance (PL). **Carolina Wrens** continued to thrive in Twin Lakes. Four were observed scolding an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in arborvitae shrub on 18 Jan. (LR). They were faring well in Parkman (JA) and Akron (BDL). They were felt to still be recovering from last winter's decimation in the lakefront counties. The only **Winter Wren** was at Rocky River Park on 14 Jan. (TLP). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** wintered in above average numbers.

Eastern Bluebirds were scarcer than usual. The high count was only 10 in the CVNRA on 29 Jan. (RHL). **American Robins** were widespread. The 1211 on the Mentor CBC was indicative of the usual Lake County totals (HW). A flock of 7-10 wintered along Shaker Boulevard (PP). **Northern Mockingbirds** were noted at Rockefeller Park and Forest City Yacht Club on 22 Jan. (BF, PL). A bird in Akron on 31 Dec. represented the first local report received in the 90s (BDL). Another bird just made it under the winter season wire in Willoughby on 28 Feb. (JP). **Cedar Waxwings** were widespread and sporadic in occurrence.

It was another good winter for **Northern Shrikes**. A bird was at Spencer Lake SWA on 8 Dec. where it remained through the period (NK). One was found in Hudson on the 18 Dec. Greater Akron CBC. It remained in this



Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) - Headlands Beach State Park - 26 December 1994
by Melinda Greenland

area until mid-January (DAC, M.ob.). One was a count week bird for the Elyria/Lorain CBC (BR). Another shrike was on the 28 Dec. Wellington CBC (BR). The Fjeldstads recorded one on the Burton CBC on 1 Jan. A bird was in the CVNRA near Ira Road on 24 Jan. (DJB). A **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in North Perry 6 & 7 Jan. (JP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found on most CBCs. The high was a rather remarkable 48 on the Greater Akron CBC (BO). A bird in Bratenahl on 11 Jan. was unique (DJH).

Rufous-sided Towhees were regular at North Chagrin (KM,

*It was another
good winter
for
Northern Shrikes.*

RR). **American Tree Sparrows** were as expected. Other than on local CBCs, **Field Sparrows** were few and far between. **Swamp Sparrows** wintered in small numbers at traditional sites. A **Fox Sparrow** was at West Branch SP on 27 Feb. (LR). **White-throated Sparrows** were locally common at West Branch SP and the CVNRA. **White-crowned Sparrows** were in above expected numbers in traditional wintering areas of Lake and Lorain Counties. A group of 9 was in Valley City on 21 Jan. (FMG). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were very numerous at feeding stations. **Lapland Longspurs** went unreported. **Snow Buntings** were scarce along the lakefront. Many observers saw 6 at Burke Airport on various occasions in mid-December. A flock of 45 in Lorain Co. on 25 Jan. (NK, TLP) and a bird in Middlefield on 22 Jan. (CH) were the only ones reported in the month.

Red-winged Blackbirds were less evident than in recent winters. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was an unexpected surprise on the Mentor CBC (HW). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were numerous and fairly abundant in the southern part of Akron. **Common Grackles** wintered in fair numbers throughout the eastern half of the region. Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were at North Chagrin on 2 Dec. (KM). A flock of 21 represented a high count in Valley City on Christmas Day 1994 (FMG). The top counts of **Purple Finches** were 19 on the 18 Dec. Greater Akron CBC (BO) and 15 on the 28 Dec. Wellington CBC (BR). **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** were absent. John Augustine photographed an albino **American Goldfinch** at his feeder in Parkman on 17 Dec. For all intents and purposes **Evening Grosbeaks** were absent from the region this winter.

NOTEWORTHY REPORTS

RED-NECKED GREBE - LePage's diligent lakefront watching produced this species at Avon Lake on 11 Jan.

EARED GREBE - The only winter report of this species was found in Lorain on 17 Dec. (Dunn, Tackett).

NORTHERN GANNET - First found in Lorain by Bob Conlon's party from Columbus on 11 Dec., an immature was seen by many during the following week.



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - Bath - 27 February 1995
by Larry Rosche

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - A bird was reported from the Painseville Dump 10-12 Jan. (Pogacnik).

BRANT - Always a surprise at this season, Bill and Nancy Klamm found one at Wildwood State Park on 17 Dec. Cleveland Christmas Bird Count.

HARLEQUIN DUCK - A young male provided excellent viewing for many people from all over Ohio at Avon Lake from 18 Dec. through early Feb. (Black River Audubon, LePage). An adult male was in Cleveland on 1 Feb (Hoffman). Another handsome drake was found near the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP on 4-5 Feb. (Hannikman, M.ob.).

MERLIN - At least 3 birds (2 males) remained in the same Bath Township location as last

year (Brumfeld, M.ob.). Two males were together along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor on 29 Jan. (Bacik).

PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird passed by Headlands Beach SP on 1 Dec. (Harlan). This rare falcon was counted on the Elyria/Lorain CBC on 17 Dec. (Pogacnik). Birds were intermittently seen in downtown Cleveland throughout the period. Akron was graced with the brief presence of an immature on 13 Jan. (Brumfeld). A bird with black and red leg bands was seen near MetroHealth Center on 1 Feb. (Lozano).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - It is quite possible that this was our best season ever for this species. While Headlands Beach SP had its first February record on the 5th, as many as 4 were reported there in the period

(Bacik, Hannikman, M.ob.). Lorain hosted as many as 3 on 17 Dec. (Dunn, Tackett, M.ob.). A bird was on the breakwall at MUNY Light [CPP] on 8 Jan. (Hoffman).

POMARINE JAEGER - A bird was in Lorain for the Elyria/Lorain Christmas Bird Count on 17 Dec. (Harlan, Pogacnik).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL - A well-studied adult put in a one day show at Eastlake just in time for the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count on 17 Dec. (Rosche, M.ob.).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - An immature was at Eastlake on 3 & 4 Dec. (Fjeldstad). One flew by Headlands Beach State Park on 28 Jan. (Bacik).

SNOWY OWL - One was first found at Burke Airport on 3 Jan. (Scott Wright, Lozano). It or another was there on 19 Feb. (Fjeldstad).

LONG-EARED OWL - Caley Wildlife Area provided its yearly report on 20 Feb. (Brumfeld).

SHORT-EARED OWL - As many as 8 were counted along Hayes Road in Geauga County. Duane Ferris first noticed 2 there on 8 Jan. Many observers watched them hunt this wintering area through the period. Up to 7 were in Lorain Co. all of Feb. (Black River, M.ob.)

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Pogacnik reported birds from Concord Township on 1 Dec. and from Perry Township on 18 Jan.

MARSH WREN - A calling bird was in Kent on 18 Dec. and

provided the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Bird Count its second report in the last decade (Rosche).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - Exceptionally noteworthy for the time of year, the Chasars located one in the CVNRA on 26 Dec.

HERMIT THRUSH - A tardy bird was at Lake Isaac on 14 Dec. (Harlan). Birds were locally noteworthy on the Elyria/Lorain CBC on 17 Dec. and on the Mentor CBC 26 Dec.

FIELD NOTES

The first five years of the 1990s at Headlands Beach State Park

By Raymond L. Hannikman

One of the most consistently and intensely birded areas not only in the Cleveland area but also the state of Ohio is the Headlands Beach State Park (HBSP)/Fairport Harbor area in Lake County. Either Emil Bacik and I, usually both of us, are at HBSP bright and early (extremely early in Emil's case since I believe he is half-owl) on Saturdays and Sundays every week to see and seek the birds of the weekend. Oftentimes, Cleveland Bird Calendar editor Larry Rosche joins us with less frequent appearances by Jeff Wert and John Vanderpoel. Mentor residents Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad are around to tell us what we have missed during the week and, come the begin-

ning of March, Emil, Larry, and I start to wonder when Margret (Muggsi) Krister will emerge from her annual winter hibernation to join us. The following report is a review of the first five years of the 1990s at HBSP as seen through the eyes of Emil, Larry, and me.

During the period from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1994, Emil, Larry, and I, taken together, have observed 267 species of birds in the HBSP/Fairport Harbor area. My choices for the best birds are:

Top Birds

1. Pacific Loon - One was observed from the bluff area in Fairport Harbor on Super Bowl Sunday, January 28, 1990.
2. Black Vulture - My comment to Larry was "that vulture doesn't have a tail" as a single Black Vulture sailed over our heads on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991. This was only the Cleveland area's second record of this species.
3. Snowy Plover - Ohio's first-ever Snowy Plover remained on the beach at Headlands all day on May 13, 1993.
4. Piping Plover - A somewhat elusive individual was found by Kevin Metcalf and occurred on April 20 and 21, 1994.
5. Long-tailed Jaeger - Single birds occurred on September 2, 1990 and for 20 minutes in the harbor on the stormy morning of September 20, 1991.
6. Common Black-headed Gull - A breeding plumaged adult

occurred with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls on February 25, 1990.

7. Carolina Chickadee - This southern wanderer was observed at length on May 14, 1994.

8. Bewick's Wren - Rare lake-front appearances of this species were noted on May 15, 1993 and May 14, 1994.

9. Varied Thrush - An exquisite adult male was near the entrance to the park on October 30, 1994.

10. Bell's Vireo - This was the rarity on an extraordinary migration day, May 20, 1990.

11. Worm-eating Warbler - This tame individual allowed detailed study of its behavior and feeding habits between April 16 and 17, 1994.

We have not seen all the good birds, however. Excellent birds - American White Pelican and Yellow-headed Blackbird - have eluded us and we are hoping to actually see a Northern Saw-whet Owl as Kevin Metcalf did in November 1994.

Top Days

Highlights of this five-year period also included a number of days of significant movements of birds. Among the best of the many good days were:

May 13, 1990 - A stormy and rainy dawn brought a significant flight of shorebirds close to the Headlands Beach breakwall between 6:30 am and 9:00 am. Hundreds of



Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus rildibundus*) - Eastlake - 17 December 1994
by Larry Rosche

Least Sandpipers and a Red Knot generated much excitement.

May 20, 1990 - Numerically, the best one-day count ever at Headlands Beach State Park - 123 species in a morning filled with spring migration at its best.

Fall 1993 - More than 125 species were tallied from September 18 to 23. Warblers - mainly Blackpolls and Magnolias - as well as hundreds of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets - just kept coming and coming in a frenzied flight southward.

**May 22, 1994 -
Warblers and
thrushes were
everywhere.**

May 22, 1994 - Warblers and thrushes were everywhere with the highlight being a Connecticut Warbler (one of three seen) which exploded into song 30 feet from the observers, one of whom finally got to see that long-sought after first Connecticut Warbler.

Summer 1994 - A pair of Cooper's Hawks raised 5 birds near a well-used picnic area, Emil, Larry, and I got to know the intimate details of Cooper's Hawk family life as the young birds grew up and fledged before us.

What will the next five years bring? Who knows what avian delights await Emil, Larry, Muggsi, and me, but you are all invited to read my next five-year summary in the year 2000. In the meantime, come join us at Headlands Beach State Park for some of the best birding in Ohio.

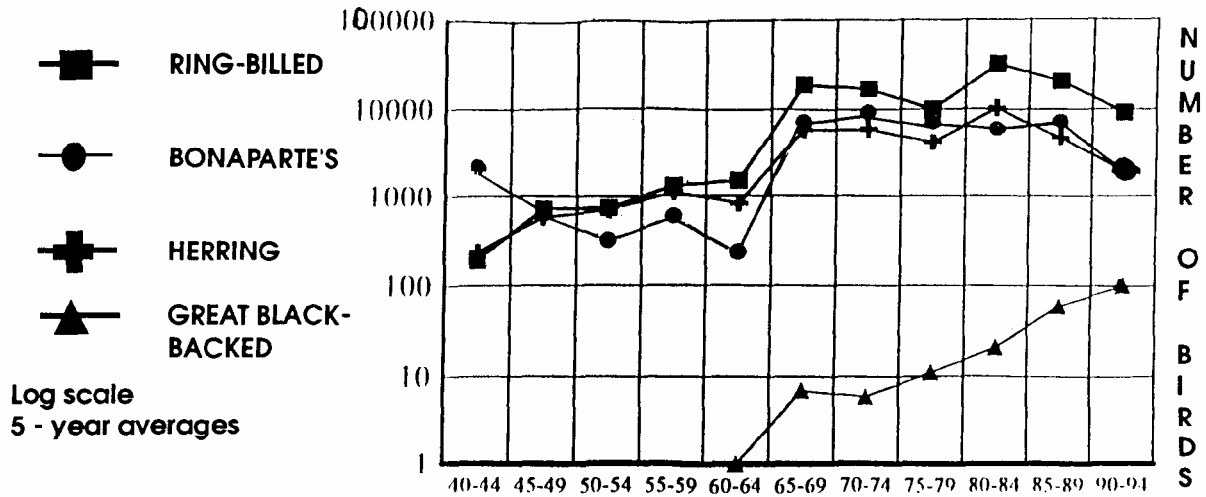
Cleveland Christmas Bird Count Summary 1940 - 1994

by Dick and Jean Hoffman

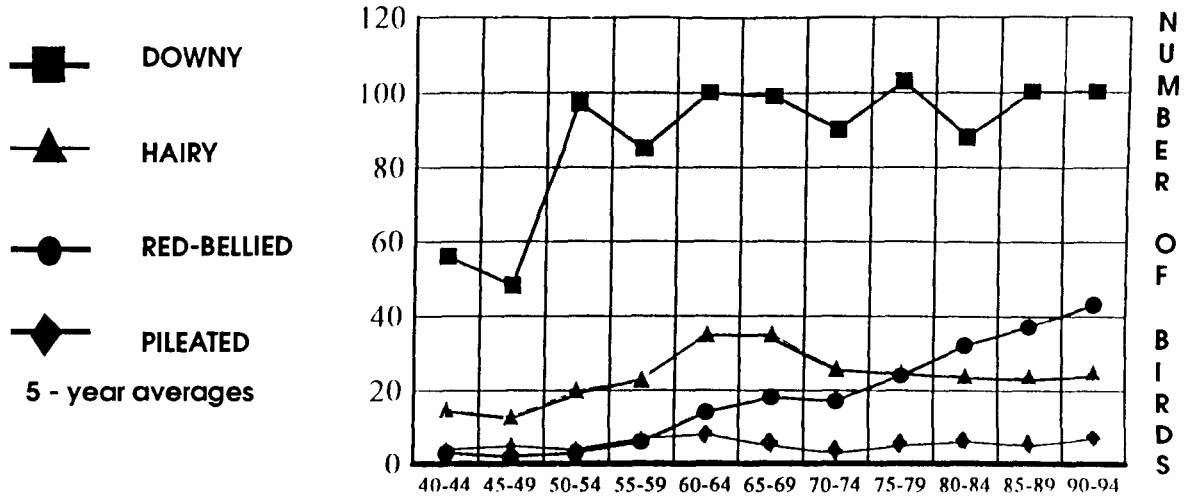
| Species | Years Seen | Overall Average | Year Seen Avg | Max | Max yr | Species | Years Seen | Overall Average | Year Seen Avg | Max | Max yr |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------|--------|
| Common Loon | 10 | 1 | 6 | 46 | 1983 | Pomarine Jaeger | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1988 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 20 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1991 | Franklin's Gull | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1969 |
| Horned Grebe | 32 | 5 | 8 | 84 | 1974 | Little Gull | 6 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1977 |
| Eared Grebe | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1987 | C. Black-headed Gull | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1994 |
| Northern Gannet | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1947 | Bonaparte's Gull | 53 | 3802 | 3945 | 25650 | 1974 |
| Dc Cormorant | 12 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1992 | Ring-billed Gull | 55 | 10015 | 10015 | 64250 | 1969 |
| Great Blue Heron | 35 | 4 | 7 | 46 | 1992 | Herring Gull | 55 | 3253 | 3253 | 17410 | 1974 |
| Green Heron | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1979 | Thayer's Gull | 8 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1985 |
| Black-crowned NH | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1983 | Iceland Gull | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1947 |
| Yellow-crowned NH | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1973 | L.esser Black-backed Gull | 10 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1988 |
| Tundra Swan | 7 | 1 | 12 | 35 | 1994 | Glaucous Gull | 13 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1980 |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1958 | Great Black backed Gull | 30 | 19 | 34 | 200 | 1992 |
| G. White-fronted Goose | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1966 | Ivory Gull | 0 | 0 | 0 | CW | 1975 |
| Snow Goose | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1959 | Rock Dove | 22 | 126 | 315 | 895 | 1994 |
| Brant | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1994 | Mourning Dove | 52 | 98 | 103 | 287 | 1987 |
| Canada Goose | 33 | 718 | 1197 | 2485 | 1974 | Barn Owl | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1992 |
| Wood Duck | 24 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 1971 | Eastern Screech-Owl | 16 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1992 |
| Green-winged Teal | 11 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1971 | Great Horned Owl | 31 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1979 |
| American Black Duck | 54 | 208 | 212 | 478 | 1975 | Snowy Owl | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1984 |
| Mallard | 55 | 465 | 465 | 1425 | 1976 | Barred Owl | 47 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1943 |
| Northern Pintail | 17 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1970 | Long-eared Owl | 0 | 0 | 0 | CW | 1972 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 2 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 1979 | Short-eared Owl | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1977 |
| Northern Shoveler | 9 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 1985 | Northern Saw-whet Owl | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1955 |
| Gadwall | 20 | 3 | 8 | 34 | 1986 | Belted Kingfisher | 50 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 1988 |
| American Wigeon | 25 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1971 | Red-headed Woodpecker | 21 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 1980 |
| Canvasback | 34 | 16 | 25 | 200 | 1952 | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 53 | 18 | 19 | 57 | 1994 |
| Redhead | 38 | 29 | 42 | 368 | 1980 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1953 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1941 | Downy Woodpecker | 55 | 88 | 88 | 134 | 1964 |
| Greater Scaup | 33 | 51 | 85 | 1036 | 1963 | Hairy Woodpecker | 55 | 24 | 24 | 58 | 1964 |
| Lesser Scaup | 53 | 155 | 161 | 3050 | 1953 | Northern Flicker | 50 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 1984 |
| King Elder | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1966 | Pileated Woodpecker | 54 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 1960 |
| Harlequin Duck | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1975 | Eastern Phoebe | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1952 |
| Oldsquaw | 16 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1977 | Horned Lark | 22 | 3 | 8 | 36 | 1991 |
| Black Scoter | 7 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1982 | Blue Jay | 55 | 196 | 196 | 464 | 1986 |
| Surf Scoter | 8 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1964 | American Crow | 55 | 418 | 418 | 2426 | 1979 |
| White-winged Scoter | 15 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1948 | Black-capped Chickadee | 55 | 325 | 325 | 723 | 1983 |
| Common Goldeneye | 55 | 99 | 99 | 404 | 1989 | Boreal Chickadee | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1972 |
| Bufflehead | 47 | 18 | 21 | 100 | 1991 | Tufted Titmouse | 55 | 127 | 127 | 280 | 1969 |
| Hooded Merganser | 35 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 1978 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 45 | 8 | 10 | 33 | 1941 |
| Common Merganser | 44 | 52 | 65 | 373 | 1985 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 55 | 89 | 89 | 162 | 1959 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 51 | 598 | 591 | 12925 | 1994 | Snow Bunting | 34 | 13 | 21 | 200 | 1970 |
| Ruddy Duck | 41 | 22 | 30 | 185 | 1979 | Red-winged Blackbird | 28 | 52 | 103 | 1501 | 1983 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1947 | Eastern Meadowlark | 9 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 1956 |
| Northern Harrier | 21 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1948 | Yellow-headed Blackbird | 0 | 0 | 0 | CW | 1993 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 29 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1983 | Rusty Blackbird | 12 | 3 | 13 | 98 | 1991 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 44 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1951 | Common Grackle | 28 | 103 | 203 | 1414 | 1983 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 42 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1960 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 30 | 118 | 217 | 2107 | 1986 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1953 | Northern Oriole | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1957 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 53 | 8 | 8 | 27 | 1986 | Pine Grosbeak | 4 | 1 | 19 | 31 | 1961 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 19 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1948 | Purple Finch | 30 | 6 | 11 | 123 | 1982 |
| American Kestrel | 53 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 1973 | House Finch | 19 | 68 | 197 | 443 | 1992 |
| Merlin | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1991 | Red Crossbill | 4 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 1969 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 39 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 1962 | White-winged Crossbill | 2 | 1 | 32 | 60 | 1966 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 24 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 1941 | Common Redpoll | 24 | 20 | 45 | 174 | 1969 |
| Northern Bobwhite | 22 | 11 | 27 | 75 | 1949 | Pine Siskin | 33 | 10 | 16 | 66 | 1943 |
| American Coot | 31 | 5 | 9 | 130 | 1975 | American Goldfinch | 55 | 112 | 112 | 310 | 1992 |
| Killdeer | 16 | 1 | 5 | 35 | 1975 | Evening Grosbeak | 23 | 6 | 15 | 46 | 1977 |
| Western Sandpiper | 0 | 0 | 0 | CW | 1984 | House Sparrow | 55 | 668 | 668 | 1350 | 1951 |
| Purple Sandpiper | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1948 | | | | | | |
| Dunlin | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1984 | Total Species Max & Max Year | Min & Min Year | Avg # Species | CW only | | |
| Common Snipe | 24 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 1975 | 158 | 85 1977 | 40 | 1942 | 67 | 6 |
| American Woodcock | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1963 | | | | | | |
| Red-necked Phalarope | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1953 | | | | | | |
| Red Phalarope | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1980 | | | | | | |

Cleveland Christmas Bird Count Summary 1940 - 1994

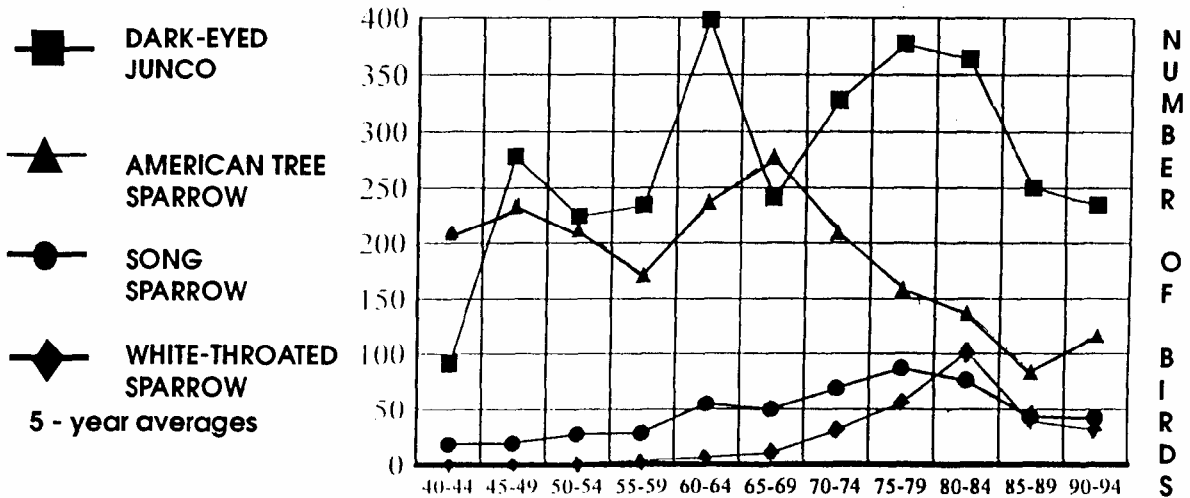
Comparison of common gull species



Comparison of resident woodpecker species



Comparison of common sparrow species



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

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 381-8325 (TEAL) 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.

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.

Changes of Address: Contact Barbara Hosta, at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, (216) 231 - 4600

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