

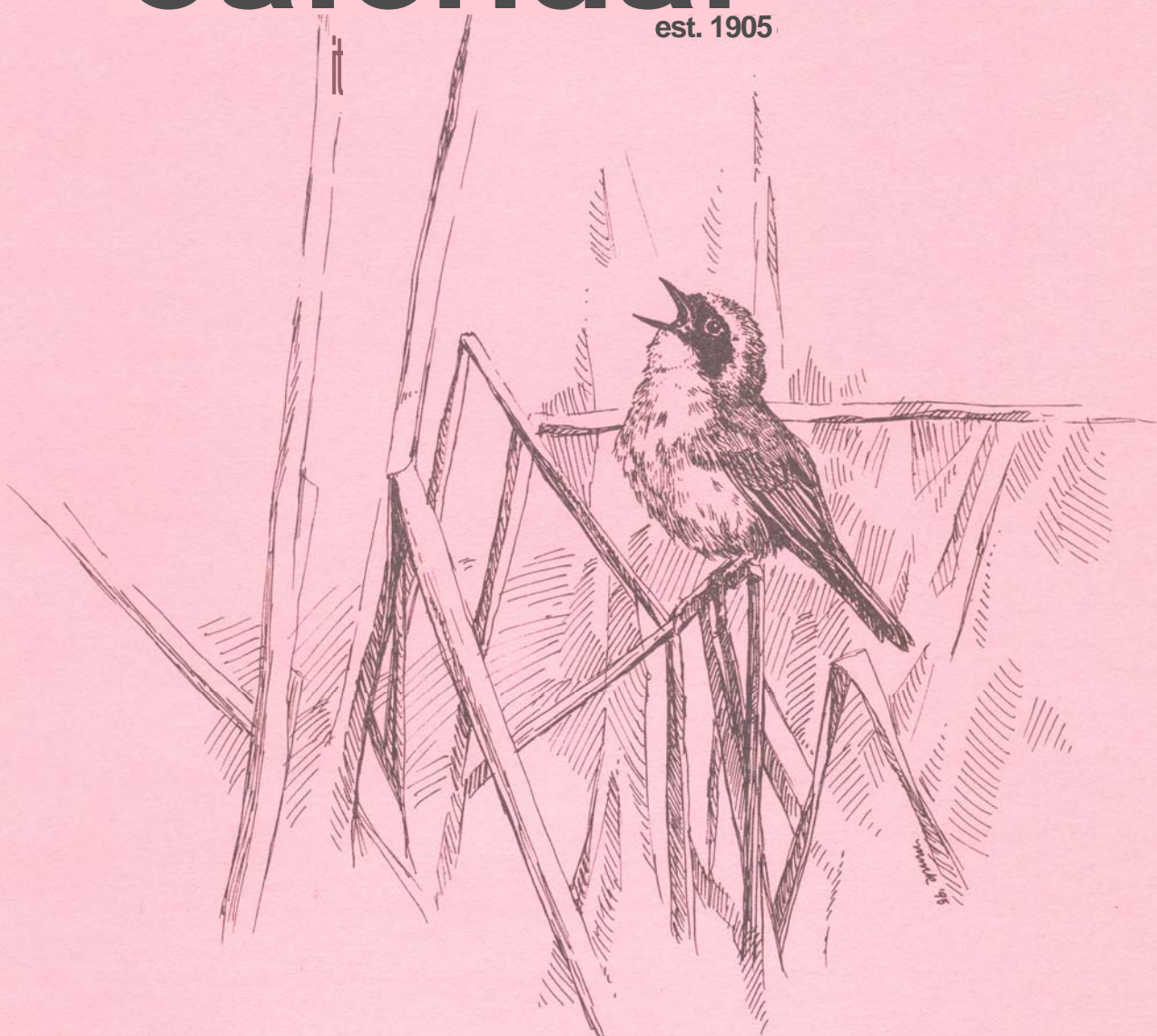
The Cleveland

**Bird**

**Calendar**

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September, October,  
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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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by Margret Krister, 1995.

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September, October, November 1995

Volume 91

Number 4

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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## On The Inside:

### The Weather

*William A. Klamm*  
*Dwight Chasar*

### Reflections

**Comment on the Season**  
**Autumn 1995**  
**Comment on the year**

*Larry Rosche*

### Noteworthy Records

*Larry Rosche*

## Next Issue:

**Winter 1995-1996**

**Local Christmas Bird Counts**

**A record year at Headlands**  
**Beach State Park**

**A look at Thayer's Gull**  
**in the Cleveland region**



Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) - Cleveland - Nov. 13, 1995  
by Scott Wright

## THE WEATHER

### AUTUMN 1995

by William A. Klamm and  
Dwight Chasar

**SEPTEMBER** - It was a relatively dry month with temperatures averaging 63.2°, just 0.70° below normal. A new record low temperature (36°) was established on the 23rd. Record lows were tied on the 11th (42°) and the 24th (36°). The high (89°) was reached on the 6th and the low (36°) on the 23rd and 24th. Sunshine prevailed for 63% of the time. Lake Erie water temperature stood at 78° on the 1st and fell to 65° by the 30th. Rain was well below normal as it totaled 1.03 in., 2.4 in. below normal. The wettest day was the 13th when 0.45 in. of rain fell.

**OCTOBER** - The month was warm and wet. Overall temperatures averaged 56.4°, 3.6 degrees above normal. The

high was 83° on the 12th, and the low was 34° on the 17th. Sunshine prevailed 47% of the time possible. Lake Erie temperature ended the month at 59°. Precipitation was high and was distributed over 11 days and totaled 4.08 inches, 1.54 in. above normal. The greatest rainfall in any 24 hour period was 2.10 in. on the 5th and 6th.

**NOVEMBER** - Our tenth snowiest November on record, The temperature averaged out to 38.5°, 4.1° below normal. The high was 71° on the 2nd, and the low was 22° on the 5th and 24th. Sunshine prevailed only 17% of the time. Lake Erie ended the month at 44°, falling from 59°. Precipitation came on 17 days and totaled 3.88 in., 0.71 in. above normal, The most rainfall in any 24 hour period was 1.80 in. on the 10th and 11th. Snowfall totaled 9.9 in., including 3.4 in. on the 17th.

## REFLECTIONS

**THIRTY YEARS AGO:** The Bird Calendar year ending with November 30, 1965, concluded with 258 species being reported. Of note was the report of 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** in the fall. An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was in the Chagrin River on Sep. 25 (Sherwin, Flanigan). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was in Avon Township on Oct. 3 (Klamm). A **Prairie Warbler** was at Furnace Run MP on Oct. 9 (Hjelmquist). The first **Black-legged Kittiwake** since 1947 was at White City on Nov. 28 (Klamm).

**TWENTY YEARS AGO:** The yearly summary concluded with 258 species for the year ending November 30, 1975. Our second record of **Sabine's Gull** was at White City on Sep. 13 (Hannikman). **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 1 (Hocevar) and at Gordon Park on Oct. 11-15 (Hoffman). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** dallied in Kulhman Woods on Nov. 8 & 9 (Hannikman).

**TEN YEARS AGO:** The Bird Calendar yearly list ended with 273 species being reported by November 30, 1985. Two **American White Pelicans** stopped by Gordon Park on Sep. 1 (Henderson). On Nov. 24 there was much birding excitement. The largest flock (7) of **King Eiders** in the history of the region was in Lorain (LePage, Harlan). The latest **Hudsonian Godwit** in our files was at Burke Airport (LePage, Emery). A **Dickcissel** was at a feeder in Cuyahoga Falls (Haddad).

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

When I started to write this column I was not in a positive writing mood because of the seemingly endless duck hunting season along the lakefront breakwalls. Reading the observer reports brought my mind back to better days. Thanks. I guess "remarkable" is a word that could describe the fall migration along the lake. It seemed that each weekend at Headlands Beach State Park tried to outdo the previous one; that is, until hunting season started. If you were along the lake on September 16 then you had a chance to witness an incredible movement of terns, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and sparrows. That day the terns just kept coming and coming. I don't mean to skew our data towards Lake County, but the lion's share of reports came from the eastern sector of the region. This desk really doesn't get a whole lot of inland landbird data so it is hard to assess passerine movements. For instance, very little was received from the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area or all of Summit County. There are a lot of birders there, but few have the time to report to us. Medina Lake is the only site in Medina County that receives consistent coverage.

The field reports indicated thrush migration was numerous and widespread. Vireos were steady and warbler migration was at times incredible. A remarkable 7 species of warblers was reported in November. Northern Parulas stand out among the warblers for their unexpected abundance. They were found at many lakefront sites and for the first time in many years inland. Again, I thank all of you for your diligent reporting and I hope that the 1995-1996 year will be outstanding.

### AUTUMN 1995

The 209 **Common Loons** rafting together on Lake Rockwell on Nov. 12 was truly an impressive sight. While no large flights of loons were reported along the lakefront, they were fairly common at the expected times. The high tally at LaDue Reservoir was 30 on Nov. 19 (AF). Widespread numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** surprised even the most veteran of observers. A record number 108 was at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 19 (LR, VW). On Nov. 24 a gathering of 26 was noted at Mogadore Reservoir. The 27 in Akron on Nov. 26 was high for that area (CH). **Horned Grebes** were fairly common, but numbers paled when compared to the previous grebe species. **Double-crested Cormorants** continued to stun locals with their abundance. Peskin saw his first ever at Lower Shaker Lake on Sep. 12.

Two **Great Egrets** were at Jaite on Sep. 2 (GB, JT). Another was at HBSP on Oct. 7 (EB, RH). The latest egret was on Oct. 22 in the CVNRA (DAC). The latest two **Green Herons** were in Valley City on Oct. 23 (FG). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at Lower Shaker Lake on Sep. 9 (PP). Four were at HBSP on Sep. 4 (RH). A bird in the CVNRA was unusual on Oct. 11 (DAC). The Cuyahoga River Flats supported many birds. A total of 34 was still there on Nov. 23 (DJH, PL).

The 820 **Tundra Swans** over Lakeshore MP on Nov. 4 was the high (JP). A flock of 70 was at LaDue on Oct. 30 (AF). The only Portage Co. report came on Nov. 29 when 23 circled, but did not land on the pond outside from the Davey Tree Headquarters building (TV). **Snow Geese** were in astounding numbers (for our region). The first bird was lounging with Canada Geese at Mentor City

Hall on Oct. 28 (AJF). A flock of 16 was seen over Lakeshore MP on Oct. 29 (JP). A flock of 31 was seen over Summit Co. on Oct. 30 (JW). A group of 13 passed over HBSP on the same day (KM). Another flock of 10 flew over HBSP Nov. 4 (EB). An adult was in Fairport Harbor on Nov. 12 (LR). The "Hudson Bay" flock of **Canada Geese** had returned to North Chagrin by Sep. 13 (KM).

Waterfowl numbers (with a few exceptions) were down at most lakes. Andy Fondrk noted that renewed hunting at LaDue Reservoir probably contributed to the low numbers there. The extended hunting season most certainly affected reporting along the lakefront. Of course, the view of waterfowl occurrence in the region along our lakefront will forever be altered until someone replaces the diligent counting of Bill and Nancy Klamm.

## November Survey for Lake Rockwell area Fall 1995

Date	11/5	11/12	11/18	11/24
Common Loon	7	209	2	5
Pied-billed Grebe	21	58	6	4
Horned Grebe	•	4	4	5
Double-crested Cormorant	45	3	•	1
Great Blue Heron	1	2	•	1
Canada Goose	400	480	350	500
Wood Duck	24	2	1	•
Green-winged Teal	4	•	•	•
American Black Duck	25	35	100	80
Mallard	250	270	400	600
Northern Shoveler	8	•	•	•
Gadwall	92	12	80	4
A. Wigeon	4	•	30	•
Ring-necked Duck	200	450	350	20
Greater Scaup	•	•	•	•
Lesser Scaup	7	4	30	3
Common Goldeneye	2	1	•	1
Bufflehead	5	5	40	12
Hooded Merganser	102	375	420	610
Common Merganser	•	•	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	22	4	•	3
Ruddy Duck	102	1	•	24
American Coot	50	70	500	175

The flock of 90 **Wood Ducks** at Lake Rockwell on Oct. 16 was half of last year's high number (LR). A total of 66 **Green-winged Teals** was counted off Lakeshore MP on Oct. 29 (JP). **American Black Ducks** were in good numbers by mid-November. **Northern Pintails** had a decent passage. The high count (15) at HBSP on Oct. 15 (RH) was nothing compared to the phenomenal total of 167 on Oct. 29 off Lakeshore M (JP). **Blue-winged Teals** were unreported from LaDue and only 2 showed up at Lake Rockwell. They were equally scarce along the lake. An exceptionally late bird was in the CVNRA on Nov. 5 (DAC). **Northern Shovelers** were found in small but increased numbers. The 16 at HBSP on Sep. 10 was the highest total the observers had ever seen there (EB, RH, LR). Two were at LaDue

on Nov. 11 (AF), while 8 were at Lake Rockwell (LR). Six rested at Springfield Lake on Nov. 26 (CH). **Gadwall** seemed to have taken over 4th place (from American Wigeon) in our most numerous puddle duck category. The gathering of 92 at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 4 was certainly a local best. Another 25 was at LaDue on Nov. 20 (KM). **American Wigeons** have become uncommon. As late as 15 years ago 500-600 could be found (in the fall) feasting on duckweed at Lake Rockwell. This year's high tally was 30 on Nov. 18. This grim news was echoed by Dan Best for Geauga Co. The high count along the lake was 12 at HBSP on Oct. 15 (RH).

The diving duck picture was better than recent late autumns. This probably was due to the

arctic weather occurring in Canada at the time. Hunters along the lakefront breakwalls had many a field day with the divers this year.

The 13 **Canvasbacks** at Best Lake on Nov. 17-18 represented our high tally (fide DB). A drake **Redhead** seemed out of place with the **Mallards** at Crystal Lake from Oct. 25 through early Nov. (LR). Two were at Mogadore on Nov. 24. **Ring-necked Ducks** were very disappointing. Flocks were reduced at Lake Rockwell. Elsewhere 350 rested at Crystal Lake on Nov. 10. A flock of 150 enjoyed several weeks at LaFarge Lake (CH, LR, VW). The 180 at Best Reserve on Nov. 9 was about half of the expected number (AF). **Scaups** were late in arriving and no large gatherings were reported. **Oldsquaws** were reported from Lakeshore MP on Nov. 3 and 11 (JP). A

### *American Wigeons have become uncommon ...*

female was at HBSP on Nov. 24 (LR, RH, NB). A flock of 12 **Black Scoters** passed by HBSP on Nov 24. Other singles were noted at various places along the lake

(M.ob.). One was at LaDue on Nov. 25 (CH). **Surf Scoters** were found in average numbers along the lake. The 28 at HBSP on Oct. 30 constituted the high (KM). A bird was off Rocky River Park on Nov. 19 (CH, DJH, TLP). Most unusual was an immature female at LaFarge Lake in Shalersville from the first week of Nov. through the season (LR, CH, VW). **White-winged Scoters** were at HBSP on Nov. 4 (EB) and 2 on



Nov. 24. Paralleling these sightings were birds at Lakeshore MP on Nov. 12 & 24. **Common Goldeneyes** were eagerly greeted by hunters along the breakwalls at HBSP. **Buffleheads** were in excellent numbers throughout the region. High numbers were bagged at HBSP (EB). **Hooded Mergansers** staged nicely throughout the inland lakes. Nowhere was this more evident than at Lake Rockwell in November. On Nov. 24 a grand total of 610 was counted there (VW). By the end of the period **Common Mergansers** had moved into lakefront locales in fair numbers. A group of 10 was noted at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 30 (VW). The massive hordes of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were east of their usual haunts on Nov. 5. Back tallied 75,000+ heading east past Fairport Harbor. Another 50,000+ was counted on the water at the mouth of the Chagrin River in Eastlake (LR). The same day only (*sic*) 10,000 were noted off Rocky River (CH). **Ruddy Ducks** were in almost unbelievable numbers. At LaDue 90 ruddies were counted on Oct. 30. Numbers at Lake Rockwell were at recent highs as well. Even the traditional Ruddy Duck capitol, Mogadore Reservoir, outdid itself when an astounding 925 were counted on Nov. 25 (LR).

**Turkey Vultures** lingered in Geauga and eastern Portage Co. well into Nov. **Ospreys** were widespread in their expected time slot. A bird was at Lake Kelso on Sep. 2 (DB). One was at Lake Medina on Sep. 9 (CW). Others were at HBSP on Sep. 20 & 23 (M.ob.).

Two were at Nimisila Reservoir on Oct. 11 (JT). There have been few recent reports from this former birding "hotspot." **Bald Eagles** were widely encountered. Fondrk saw them fairly regularly near LaDue. The Lake Rockwell pair and at least one youngster became very accommodating to observers by mid-Nov. **Northern Harriers** were fewer than expected. One was at HBSP on Sep. 24 (RH) and another was along Route 2 on Oct. 28 (AJF). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** received little comment. **Red-shouldered Hawks** continued to be conspicuous in many wooded communities. **Broad-winged Hawks** were not reported. Although **Red-tailed Hawks** continued to be our dominant diurnal raptor species, it seemed that their numbers were decreasing (LR). A **Rough-legged Hawk** visited Burke Airport on Nov. 17 (DJH). Few **American Kestrels** were reported. This desk still feels

that this falcon needs to be monitored more closely by reporters. If needed, a table could be designed to enumerate local sightings by county.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** reports continue to improve away from Lake Erie. The 8 at Deep Lock Quarry were truly surprising (TMR). A pair of **Northern Bobwhites** was in Spencer on Sep. 16 (BR). **Virginia Rails** were noted at Ira Road and Jaite in Sep. (TMR). One bounced off the window at the French Creek Nature Center but recovered and left on Oct. 2 (BR). A **Common Moorhen** was a noteworthy find at Holden Arboretum on Sep. 23 (RR). **American Coots** were abundant.

**Black-bellied Plovers** were found only along the lake. A few could be found most days of September in Lorain (TLP). The high tally (11) came from Burke Airport on Sep. 16 (TLP). A flock of 30 **American**

***Comment on the 1994-1995 Cleveland Bird Calendar year***

*by Larry Rosche*

*An above average total of 282 species was reasonably documented by multiple observers, detailed notes, or photographs. Only true rarities like Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Piping Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Parasitic Jaeger, California Gull, and Dickcissel were missed.*

*The Royal Tern in Lorain was the only new species for the region. My totals now stand at 361 species for the region. This year 2 American White Pelicans were seen. Portage County's first Snowy Egret was found. Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in all seasons except summer. Last year this column mentioned that no phalarope species was seen. All 3 were reported in 1995. A Long-tailed Jaeger was studied at distance by 3 lucky observers. One of the first rare gulls of the Calendar year (one missed last year) was a cooperative Common Black-headed Gull at Eastlake. The first spring record for Ohio of Rufous Hummingbird was photo-documented in Mentor. An apparent Carolina Chickadee was banded in North Perry. A summer Black-throated Blue Warbler provided slim evidence of possible breeding .*

**Golden-Plovers** graced Burke Airport on Sep. 22 (FMG). As many as 5 birds were seen in Lorain throughout most of Sep. (TLP). Birds at HBSP included 7 on Sep. 16 (LR) and a single on Sep. 22 & 23 (RH). The only inland report came from West Branch SP on Oct. 4 - 6 (CH).

**Semi-palmated Plovers** were in average numbers in Lorain. A bird at Munroe Falls MP on Sep. 1-10 was unique for the site (WS, CH). **Greater Yellowlegs** were relatively scarce. A very late bird was at LaDue on Nov. 25 (CH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was tardy at East Branch on Nov. 1 (AF). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was slightly late at Spencer Lake SWA on Oct. 1 (NK). **Willetts** went unreported. **Spotted Sandpipers** were in normal totals. The high count (5) of **Ruddy Turnstones** was in Lorain on Sep. 1 (TLP). LePage noted that peeps were in good numbers at Lorain throughout most of Sep. The only problem was that many were too distant to assure proper identification.

**Sanderlings** were common along the lakefront. The high tally was 25 at HBSP on Sep. 9 (RH). The high count of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was 125 in Lorain on Sep. 3 (CH). **Western Sandpipers** were seen in Lorain on Sep. 3 (RH), Sep. 9 (LR), and Sep. 26 & 27 (TLP). **Least Sandpipers** numbers were well below the expected averages.

**White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen on 9 dates in Lorain during Sep. The high count was 3 on Sep. 26 (TLP). **Baird's Sandpipers** were seen in Lorain on 5 Sep. dates (TLP). A late bird was at HBSP on Oct. 19 (EB). A late **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at LaDue on

Oct. 25 (RR). They were seen in small numbers at Lorain most of Sep. (TLP). One was at Spencer Lake SWA on Sep. 19 (BR). The high tally for **Dunlins** was 60 at East Branch Reservoir on Oct. 5 (AF). The high count in Lorain was only 25 on Oct. 18 (TLP). A few **Stilt Sandpipers** visited Lorain the first half of Sep.

**Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen in small numbers at Lorain in Sep. (NK, TLP). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were missed this year. Dismal news continued for **Common Snipes**. One of the few seen locally was at Caley Wildlife Area on Oct. 23 (BR). **American Woodcocks** were late at HBSP on Oct. 29 (KM), at Caley Wildlife Area on Nov. 2 (NK), and at Lakeshore MP on Nov. 2 (JP). A dazed bird was recovered by Sue Finley at E. 14th St. and Euclid Avenue on Nov. 6. The bird was taken to the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center (fide PL).

One of the most sought after species in the state is Long-tailed Jaeger. A tantalizing report of 2 unidentified jaegers was received from Lorain on Sep 16 (TLP). This date matches up very well with previous records of that species.

Another jaeger was off Perkins Beach on Oct. 21 (DJH). **Little Gulls** were at HBSP on Sep. 7 & 30 (RH, M.ob). There were four sightings from Lakeshore MP. Although hundreds of **Bonaparte's Gulls** could be found along the lakefront at expected times, the usual gatherings of 10,000+ did not develop this year. A flock of 92 at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 4 was a local phenomenon (LR). **Thayer's Gulls** were reported from Lakeshore MP on Nov. 9 &

22 (JP). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was regularly seen at Eastlake after Oct. 29 (TK). Another was at E. 55th St. on Nov. 11 (RHL). A first year **Glaucous Gull** was regularly seen at HBSP after Nov, 24 (EB, M.ob.). One was early at Lakeshore MP on Oct. 29.

The **Caspian Tern** migration was poor. The high at Lorain was only 31 on Sep. 1. A flock of 330 **Common Terns** was seen in Lorain on Sep. 1 (TLP). In what was perhaps the single most indicator of a major movement day, 1600+ were counted as they migrated past

**...1600+ were counted as They migrated past HBSP on Sep. 16**

HBSP on Sep. 16 (EB, RH, LR). Another 400 passed by there the next day. On Sep. 20 more than 400 terns were counted there (KM). As expected, a few lingered well into Nov. **Forster's Terns** were in average numbers. A late bird was at HBSP on Oct. 30 (KM).

**A Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at Jaite on Sep. 2 (GB, JT). The Romitos had one there on Sep. 16. All three regularly occurring owls were found at expected places. Fifty **Common Nighthawks** passed over Gordon Park on Sep. 6 (RHL). Late birds were over Elyria on Sep. 26 (NK) and 6 over Avon Lake on Oct. 6 (BR). Following up on a report of "100s of bats" at a house in Chardon, Dan Best found that the home was simply providing



a "motel" for 100s of **Chimney Swifts** on Sep. 15. Late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen at Carlisle Visitor Center on Sep. 23 (NK) and on Sep. 27 in Sagamore Hills (DAC).

After observing the behavior of birds along the lakefront, the Hoffmans felt that many **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were preparing to spend the winter. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** numbers were average or below. **Northern Flickers** passed through relatively unreported. Have the large numbers of migrants along the lake become a thing of the past? **Pileated Woodpeckers** were thought to be holding their own. This was particularly true in Geauga County.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was detected at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 24 (RR). The one in Parma Heights on Oct. 3 was the latest in my tenure as editor (RHL). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** staged nicely and were very vocal into Oct. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were in average totals at HBSP and Euclid

Beach SP. One was at the Cleveland Greenhouse on Sep. 30 (BF, PL). A **Least Flycatcher** in Parma Heights on Oct. 23 was our latest ever (RHL). The autumn movement of **Eastern Phoebes** through the region is well documented. From late September through the first two-thirds of October this species is expected. Nonetheless, this season produced excellent tallies as well as late occurrences. A total of 8 at Russell Park on Sep. 29 was the high number (AF). Another 5 was at Gordon Park on Oct. 21 (DJH). One was observed

picking at zebra mussel shells at Rocky River Park on Nov. 9 (DJH). Really late birds involved one at Lake View Cemetery on Nov. 24 (DJH), 3 at HBSP on Nov. 26 (EB, RH), and one at Sims Park the same day (RH).

**Great Crested Flycatchers** were few and far between. Echoing the previous species, **Eastern Kingbirds** were barely noticed. The bird in Strongsville on Sep. 28 had to be a real shocker (RHL). The only **Purple Martin** reported was at Lorain on Sep. 3 (CH). On Oct. 11 an estimated 900 **Tree Swallows** were hawking insects near the

A  
*Least Flycatcher  
in Parma Heights  
on Oct 23 was  
our latest ever*

surface of Lake Rockwell.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were as expected. A late bird flew by HBSP on Oct. 1 (RH, LR). Two **Cliff Swallows** put in a rare fall appearance at HBSP on Sep. 5 (KM). The **Barn Swallow** at Lake Rockwell on Oct. 21 was the latest ever for the site (LR).

**Black-capped Chickadees** moved along Lake Erie in very good numbers. A flock of 20 flying west at Gordon Park boat basin was unique (DJH). The banding station at Lakeshore MP netted a total of 68 on Nov. 19. **Tufted Titmice** also were along the lakefront. A total of 66 was banded at Lakeshore MP. Which way were they going? It's hard to imagine that they came from Canada. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** movement was

excellent in some areas and absent in others. Visits to conifers at local golf courses or parks produced regular observations of these sought after omens of winter finch movements. **Brown Creeper** totals were as good as any in the past 5 years at HBSP. A count of 25 was made at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 11 (DAC). **Carolina Wrens** continue to be common in some areas and scarce in others. One was at Lake Medina on Nov. 5 (CW). A bird was in the CVNRA on Nov. 26 (JW). A **House Wren** was late at HBSP on Nov. 12 (EB, LR). The high tally (31) of **Winter Wrens** came from HBSP on Oct. 20 (KM). Ten were at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 26 (FMG). Donald Gray Gardens was the only reporting site for **Marsh Wrens**. Birds were there on Sep. 28 (PL), Sep. 29 (TMR), and Oct. 6 (FMG, PL). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** numbers were mostly normal. High counts of 60-80 were as expected at lakefront locales. Banding at Lakeshore MP produced expected results. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were not noticed after early Sep.; that is, until Nov. 26 when one was mist-netted at Lakeshore MP (JP).

Unlike most fall seasons, this autumn's thrush migration was very well documented. The banding totals at Lakeshore MP were outstanding. Tallies from Rocky River and Parma Heights were equally noteworthy. **Eastern Bluebirds** were as expected. Two **Veeries** were at HBSP on Sep. 2. Although **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were only average at HBSP, a count of 7

in Parma Heights on Sep. 24 was outstanding (RHL). A bird was at at Donald Gray Gardens on Sep. 28 (FMG, PL). An exceptionally late Gray-cheeked was at Big Creek Park on Oct. 25 (DB). The banding station at Lakeshore MP in North Perry reported that 50 were banded there. The 30 **Swainson's Thrushes** at Rocky River MP on Sep. 17 and another 30 in Parma Heights on Sep. 18 gave indication of a solid west side passage (RHL). The 140 banded at Lakeshore MP for the season was simply remarkable. **Hermit Thrushes** staged nicely along the lake in mid-Oct. Ten were tallied at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 18 (TMR). The high count for HBSP was 23 on Oct. 21. A **Wood Thrush** dallied at Briarwood Golf Course on Oct. 11 (JT). **Gray Catbirds** lingered at HBSP through Nov. 5. **Northern Mockingbirds** were found in Wellington in Sep.

(BR), Akron on Nov. 26 (CH), Eastlake on Nov. 23 (AJF), and in Cleveland through the period (M.ob.). **Brown Thrashers** were common along lakefront locations during migration. One remained at the Carlisle Visitor Center through the period (N K). **American Pipits** were early at Parma Heights on Sep. 24 (RHL) and LaDue on Sep. 29 (LR). Ten were seen at LaDue on Oct. 25 (RR).

**Solitary Vireos** put in a solid showing throughout the region. They were seen at nearly every lakefront birding site. Three were in Parma Heights on Oct. 23 (RHL). **White-eyed Vireos** received little mention. Contrary to the previous vireo, **Philadelphia Vireos** were in

excellent numbers on the east side. From early September through early October, "phillies" were found in small numbers at HBSP. One was late at Euclid Beach SP on Oct. 10 (RHL). The immature **Red-eyed Vireo** at HBSP on Nov. 2 was one of our latest ever (DJH).

A migrant **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Rocky River MP on Sep. 17 (RHL). **Tennessee Warblers** were in good supply. A few even lingered into October. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at HBSP on Oct. 6 (LR, ES). Two were at North Chagrin on Oct. 21-22 (KM, M.ob.). A bird was at Lakeshore MP on Nov. 19. The **Nashville Warbler** reported in Mayfield Height on Nov. 26 was the latest in my tenure as editor (NB). **Northern Parulas** had their best fall in recent memory. One to two birds frequented HBSP throughout most of Sep. A single was in Chardon on Sep. 19 (KM). Lake Isaac hosted one on Sep. 21 (RHL). A bird at Lake Rockwell on Sep. 24 was the first I had seen there in 12 years. Three were spotted at Euclid Beach SP on Sep. 26 & 27 (FMG, BF, PL). Three were at Donald Gray Gardens on Sep. 26 (FMG, PL). Sims Park was not to be denied a parula. One visited there on Oct. 1 (BF, PL). **Yellow Warblers** are usually gone by early Sep. A straggler was at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 1 (DAC). Two lingered at HBSP through Oct. 6 (EB, RH, LR, ES). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were in average numbers. **Magnolia Warblers** were in their usual widespread abundance. **Cape May Warblers** were in fair totals. A count of 5 was made

at Rocky River MP on Sep. 17 (RHL). Ten were noted at HBSP on Sep. 23. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were in impressive totals at HBSP. As many as 8 were seen there on Oct. 1. A total of 5 was reported from Donald Gray Gardens (FMG, PL). A bird at Villa Angela on Oct. 19 was fairly late (DJH). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was early at HBSP on Sep. 4 (KM). Birds at Oakhill on Nov. 19 were probably intent on wintering there (TMR). The same was also suspected for "butter butts" in other parts of the CVNRA on Nov. 23 (JW). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were in excellent supply. The 25 at HBSP on Sep. 24 was a new fall benchmark for the site (KM). Other good tallies were 5 at Lake Isaac on Sep. 21 and 7 in Parma Heights on Sep. 22 (RHL). A high count of 8 **Blackburnian Warblers** came

*The immature  
Red-eyed Vireo  
at HBSP on Nov. 2  
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ever ...*

from Euclid Beach SP on Sep. 23 (FMG). One was somewhat late there on Oct. 1 (BF, PL). An even later bird was at Avon Lake on Oct. 8 (BR). **Pine Warblers** were at Donald Gray Gardens on Sep. 6 (PL, TMR) and at West Park Cemetery on Sep. 14 (TMR). One was in Rocky River MP on Sep. 17 (RHL). An adult male surprised observers at Gordon Park on Nov. 1 (DJH). September 4 was a slightly early date for **Palm Warbler** at HBSP (KM). "Many" were seen in the CVNRA on Sep. 27 (DAC). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in better than

### Autumn 1995 Field Tallies for Selected Migrants at Lake Isaac

Species	9/6	9/12	9/27	10/18	10/25
House Wren	2	1	•	•	•
Swainson's Thrush	•	2	3	•	•
Warbling Vireo	1	•	•	•	•
Philadelphia Vireo	•	•	1	1	•
Red-eyed Vireo	1	•	•	•	•
Blue-winged warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Nashville Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Yellow Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Chestnut-sided Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Magnolia Warbler	•	3	3	•	•
Cape May Warbler	•	2	•	•	•
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	•	•	•	•
Yellow-rumped Warbler	•	•	2	7	11
Black-throated Green Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Blackburnian Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Palm Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Bay-breasted Warbler	•	2	1	•	•
Blackpoll Warbler	•	•	2	•	•
American Redstart	•	1	1	•	•
Northern Waterthrush	•	•	•	•	•
Common Yellowthroat	•	1	1	•	•
Wilson's Warbler	•	•	•	•	•
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	2	2	3	1
Indigo Bunting	•	•	•	•	•

•Not observed Data excerpted from R. Harlan's field report

expected numbers this fall.

**Blackpoll Warblers** were in steady numbers throughout their expected time. The 15 blackpolls in Parma Heights on Sep. 14 was tops for the region (RHL). One was at HBSP on Oct. 20 (KM). **Black-and-white Warblers** were down at HBSP. **American Redstarts** were in excellent numbers throughout the region. A group of 7 was in Rocky River MP on Sep. 17 (RHL). An immature bird was late at HBSP on Oct. 21 (LR). **Ovenbirds** have a track record for being tardy. This year one was found in downtown Cleveland on Nov. 13 & 14 (RHL, SW). Bucking the trend of most species, **Northern Waterthrushes** were in below expected totals. A bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 8 (PL). **Mourning Warblers** were as expected. The best sighting was of 2 birds along the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA on Sep. 10 (HR). Birds were at HBSP on Sep. 5 & Oct.

10 (KM). Singles were at Donald Gray Gardens on Sep. 12, 29, & 30 (PL). Another was in Parma Heights on Sep. 18 (RHL). One was at Euclid Beach SP on Sep. 30 (BF, PL). A **Common Yellowthroat** dallied at HBSP through Nov. 12 (EB, LR). A Sep. 1 **Hooded Warbler** at Lake View Cemetery provided the Hoffmans with their first fall migrant for the location. A male at Lake Isaac on Sep. 27 was certainly a migrant (RHL). A bird lingered at Hinckley through Oct. 7 (RHL). **Wilson's and Canada Warblers** were in normal totals.

**Scarlet Tanagers** moved fairly well along the lakefront. A bird was somewhat tardy at Villa Angela on Oct. 19 (DJH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were in above average numbers at HBSP. **Indigo Buntings** staged at Lake Rockwell in early Oct. Late birds were at HBSP on Oct. 16 and at North Chagrin on Oct. 18 (KM). Six

**Rufous-sided Towhees** were seen at HBSP on Oct. 20 (KM).

**American Tree Sparrows** were a little late in arriving but numerous by the end of Nov.

**Chipping Sparrows** gathered in impressive early flocks. The group of 43 in North Royalton on Sep. 3 may have been a staging of local birds (JT). The same could be said for the 34 at Lake Rockwell the Sep. 24 (LR). Birds were as expected along the lakefront in October. The many November reports were unexpected. Late birds included a remarkable 25 at Lakewood Cemetery on Nov. 12 (BF, PL), 2 at HBSP on Nov. 12 (EB, LR), 2 at Lake Rockwell the same day (LR), a bird at North Chagrin on Nov. 13, and 2 in Chardon on Nov. 15 (KM). **Field Sparrows** moved along the lake in fair numbers the middle third of Oct. A late **Vesper Sparrow** was at HBSP Nov. 1-5 (JLD, LR, AJF). A bird reported in Mayfield Height on Nov. 26 was among our latest ever (NB). Several **Savannah Sparrow** lingered in a field in Mayfield Heights through Nov. 23 (NB). The only **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at HBSP on Oct. 1 (NB). **Fox Sparrows** were normal. The highs were 6 at Lake Isaac on Oct. 31 (RHL) and at Ira Road on Oct. 30 (TMR). One was in Lakewood on Nov. 16 (WNK). A bird was in Cleveland Heights on Nov. 20 (DJH). A **Lincoln's Sparrows** was late at HBSP on Nov. 1 (LR). **Swamp Sparrows** moved well. **White-throated Sparrows** were numerous. **White-crowned Sparrows** were in excellent totals (as evidenced by the 200 at Gordon Park on Oct. 10) (RHL). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were in good supply.

**Selected Migrants  
banded at Lakeshore Metropark  
August - November 1995**

Golden-crowned Kinglet	159
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	130
Veery	47
Gray-cheeked Thrush	50
Swainson's Thrush	140
Hermit Thrush	65
Wood Thrush	10
Gray Catbird	102
White-eyed Vireo	2
Solitary Vireo	6
Warbling Vireo	2
Philadelphia Vireo	1
Red-eyed Vireo	25
Tennessee Warbler	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	5
Nashville Warbler	17
Yellow Warbler	16
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3
Magnolia Warbler	81
Cape May Warbler	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler	76
Black-throated Green Warbler	7
Blackburnian Warbler	2
Palm Warbler	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Blackpoll Warbler	4
Black-and-White Warbler	4
American Redstart	8
Ovenbird	20
Northern Waterthrush	1
Mourning Warbler	21
Common Yellowthroat	52
Hooded Warbler	5
Wilson's Warbler	22
Canada Warbler	10
Yellow-breasted Chat	1

Data excerpted  
From J. V. Pogacnik's field report

**Snow Buntings** were in excellent supply. A flock of 200 flew over HBSP on Nov. 5 (AJF). Smaller groups moved by the same site throughout the month. A pair brightened the view at Lake Medina on Nov. 12 (CW). Another 200 was reported at Burke Airport on Nov. 24 (FMG). A tidy flock of 39 found the mud at LaDue quite interesting (CH, LR). Another flock of 150 passed by HBSP on Nov. 26 (EB, RH, BF, PL). A flock of 8 **Lapland Longspurs** was at HBSP on Oct. 8 (KM). Few **Bobolinks** were reported. One was noted at Euclid Beach SP on Sep. 30 (BF, PL). Contrary to bobolinks, **Eastern**

**Meadowlarks** moved through in expected numbers. A flock of 80+ **Rusty Blackbirds** at LaDue on Sep. 29 seemed early. A flock of 800 **Common Grackles** was unusual for Parma Heights on Nov. 2 (RHL). Usually **Brown-headed Cowbirds** aren't worthy of mention. After a discussion with Kevin Metcalf I was piqued to raise a question. Have you ever seen them in September? Where do they go? Only the Romitos mentioned them in their report. Perry Johnson also noted their absence in his comments in the Black River Audubon newsletter. Few **Northern Oriole** reports were

received. An oriole was late at Lake Medina on Oct. 6 (CW).

While **Purple Finches** were scarce, other northern finches mirrored the Red-breasted Nuthatch movement. A single **Common Redpoll** seemed out of place in a mixed flock of goldfinches and kinglets at HBSP on Nov. 5 (LR, AJF). Small numbers were seen in the area later. A flock of 8 was seen feeding in the birches at Lakewood Cemetery on Nov. 19 (DJH, TLP). **Pine Siskins** visited the region in fair numbers. Small flocks were noted at Amherst, North Chagrin, HBSP, and Lakewood Cemetery. A total of 17 was banded at Lakeshore MP on Nov. 24. **Evening Grosbeaks** made news in November. Several flocks of up to 20 were reported from Lorain Co. (NK). Small flocks were regularly observed at North Chagrin and Chardon. Up to 30 flew by HBSP on Nov. 19 (RH). On the 26th, 40 grosbeaks were found there (EB, RH).

NOTEWORTHY  
REPORTS

**RED-THROATED LOON** - Birds were seen off Lakeshore MP on Oct. 29 and Nov. 29 (Pogacnik), at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 4 (Bacik), and at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 19 (Hannikman, Rosche).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** - One was swimming eastward at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 5 (Rosche, Fjeldstad). One was reported from Lakeshore MP the same day (Pogacnik). Another was seen at Fairport Harbor on Nov.

11(Bacik). A bird was off Perkins Beach on Nov. 30 (Hoffman).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** - A bird was found perched in a tree in Lakewood on Oct. 19 (Klamm). An injured bird was picked up in Cleveland on Oct. 25 and brought to North Chagrin (Metcalf).

**LEAST BITTERN** - Echoing the previous report, another injured bird was picked up in Cleveland on an earlier date (Oct. 17) and brought to North Chagrin (Metcalf). Both were given to Lake County MP Rehab Center.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED**

**GOOSE** - Ten flew by Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 4 (Bacik).

**BLACK SCOTER** - In what has to be a modern inland record for this species, 12 were at LaDue Reservoir on Oct. 24 (Fondrk).

**MERLIN** - One circled Shipman Pond at Headlands Beach SP on the evening of Oct. 18 (Hoffman). Rickard had a rare treat when he met up with 2 birds at Sims Park on Oct. 21.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** - Two remained at Winton Place throughout the period (J.Porter fide Lozano). An immature frequented Headlands Beach SP from Sep. 17 through Oct. 21 (Hannikman, M.ob.). A bird was seen in Lorain on Sep. 8 & 9 (LePage, Harlan, Hoffman). Bob Faber saw one at Russell Park on Oct. 15 (fide Best).

**MARbled GODWIT** - A single bird was reported from Lorain on Sep. 24 (Hoffman).

**RED KNOT** - One graced the



Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - Headlands Beach State Park  
by Larry Rosche

Lorain mudflat on Sep. 3 (Hannikman, Hoffman, LePage).

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** - The first sighting came from Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 29 (Metcalf). Up to 2 were seen there through the period (M.ob.).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** - Our only report for the year was at Lorain on Sep. 22 (LePage).

**RED PHALAROPE** - A single was at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 15 (Hannikman, Bacik, Metcalf).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** - A juvenile flew by Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 16. The light color on the head and neck, small size, and structure led veteran observers to eliminate similar species to their satisfaction (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche).

**LAUGHING GULL** - A juvenile visited Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 14 & 15 (Hannikman, Metcalf). One was in Lorain on Sep. 21 (LePage). A first winter bird was at the E. 55th St.

Marina on Oct. 14 & 15 (Hoffman, LePage). One was off Lakeshore MP on Oct. 14 (Pogacnik).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** - A first winter bird was at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 15 & Sep. 30 (Hannikman, M.ob.). A late bird was off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 20 (Pogacnik).

**SABINE'S GULL** - An immature was record early in Lorain on Sep. 2 (Rosche, M.ob.). Metcalf found one at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 16. One was reported from Lakeshore MP on Sep. 17 (Pogacnik). Two more were at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 15 (Hannikman, Bacik, Metcalf).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** - A first winter bird at Headlands Beach SP on the morning of Nov. 23 gave observers a new meaning to "Thanksgiving" (Bacik, Hannikman).

**BLACK TERN** - A single stopped by Lorain on Sep. 8 (LePage). One was very late at Head-

lands Beach SP on Oct. 15 (Bacik, Hannikman, Metcalf).

**LONG-EARED OWL** - The only reports were from Lakeshore MP on Nov. 14 & 30 (Pogacnik).

**SHORT-EARED OWL** - It was an incredible season for short-eareds. Birds were reported from Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 1 (Hannikman, Rosche), Oct. 18 (Hoffman), 2 on Nov. 1 (Dunn, Rosche), 8 on Nov. 2 (Hoffman), and 1 on Nov. 24 (Bacik). Because of the foot traffic in the area, these owls were assumed to be different individuals. Two were at Gordon Park on Oct. 10 (Harlan). One was at Lakeshore MP on Oct. 14 (Pogacnik).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** - This owl species was also detected more than usual. The first report came from Lakeshore MP on Oct. 7. Another was there on Nov. 19 (Pogacnik). A bird took up temporary residence in the heart of Cleveland starting with Nov. 12 (Wright, M. ob). A bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on Nov. 17 (Finkelstein, Lozano). One was at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 19 (Bacik, M.ob.).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** - One was coursing the fields in Fairport Harbor on Oct. 1 (Rosche).

**SEDGE WREN** - A bird was in Chardon on Sep. 19 (Metcalf). Another was at Edgewater Park on Oct. 17 (LePage). One was at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 21 (Rosche).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** - One was in West Farmington on Oct. 29 (Augustine). A juvenile dawdled in the dunes area of Headlands



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) - Conneaut Harbor  
by Scoff Wright

Beach SP on Nov. 5 (Rosche, M.ob.). A bird was at Lakeshore MP Nov. 19-23 (Pogacnik). Dan Best suspected one at Best Wildlife Preserve after he saw a Swamp Sparrow wedged in a fork of a shrub. Tami Locher and Duane Ferris verified it there on Nov. 26.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** - A tardy immature female was at North Chagrin on Oct. 21 & 22 (Metcalf, M. ob.). A bird was reported from Lakeshore MP on Oct. 29 (Pogacnik).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** - Extremely rare in the fall, a bird was seen at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 6 (Rickard).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** - A slightly early bird was in Parma Heights on Sep. 2 (Harlan). Birds were banded at Lakeshore MP on Sep. 10 & Sep. 19 (Pogacnik). A female was at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 16 (Rosche).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** - A brilliant immature was at Headlands Beach on the exceptional movement day of Sep. 16 (Rosche, Bacik).

**LECONTE'S SPARROW** - A single was seen and described well at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 16 (Bacik).

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** - An optimal viewing opportunity of this tough to find species was at Donald Gray Gardens on Sep. 29 (Finkelstein, Greenland, Lozano). A much sought-after bird was found at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 1 (Barber). Two were at Gordon Park on Oct. 6 (Schlabach). One was reported from Lake-shore MP on Oct. 7 (Pogacnik).

Dean Thompson, a familiar face along the Lorain lakefront for many years, passed away on Sep. 12. She will be missed and remembered fondly by all of us who knew her.



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

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**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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