

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.

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Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 5 - Winter Season

June 5 - Spring Season

September 5 - Summer Season

December 5 - Autumn Season

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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Perry Peskin (PP)

John Pogacnik (JP)

Mary Ann Romito (MAR)

Richard Rickard (RR)

Bert Szabo (BS)

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Vernon Weingart (VW)

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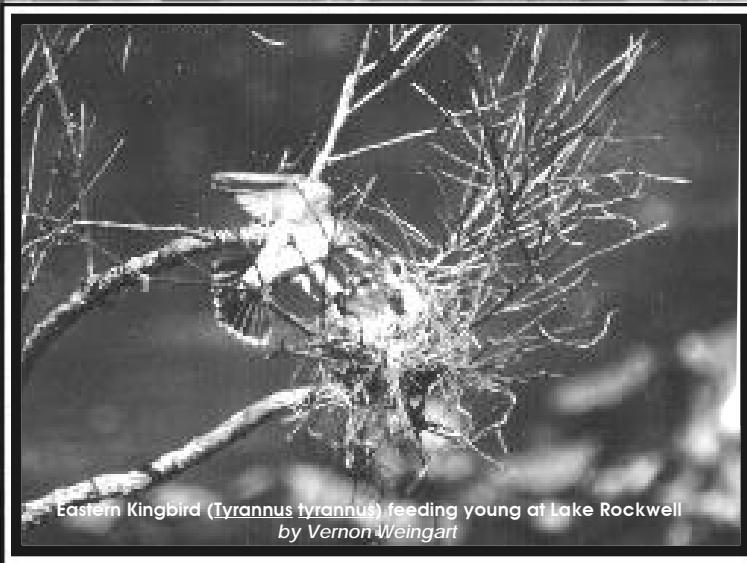
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THE WEATHER

by Dwight Chasar

JUNE: Temperatures averaged 69.3°, 1.7° above normal. The high was 90° on the 29th, and the low was 50° on the 26th. Lake Erie was 52° on June 1 and rose to 65° by June 30. Sunshine occurred 57% of the time possible. Rain occurred on 13 days and totaled 3.89 in., .19 in. above normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period was .80 in. on the 6-7th.

JULY: Temperatures averaged 69.6°, 2.3° below normal. The high was 89° on the 7th, and the low was 48° on the 11th. Rain occurred on 15 days, totaling 3.18 in., .34 in. below normal. The most rain fell on the 14-15th and amounted to 1.13 in. Sunshine was scarce, occurring only 17% of the time possible. Lake Erie rose to 74 by the 31st.

AUGUST: Temperatures averaged 70.9°, .5° higher than normal. The high was 90° on the 7th, and the low was 52° on the 18th. This was a dry month with .71 in. of rain, 2.69 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hour fall was .35 in. on the 20th. Sunshine prevailed 75% of the time possible. Lake Erie water temperature remained unchanged until August 31 when it rose to 75°.

REFLECTIONS

THIRTY YEARS AGO: Two colonies of **Sedge Wrens** were found in the summer of 1966. One was at Warrensville Farms (Knight) and the other along S.R. 615 in Lake Co. (Starling). The first June record for **Caspian Terns** was at Mogadore Reservoir on the 6th (Staiger). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was in Lorain on June 20. This was the first June record in 30 years (Dolbear). A breeding plumaged **Western Sandpiper** was at White City on July 19

(Surman, Jr.). A **Short-eared Owl** surprised an observer in Pepper Pike on Aug. 4 (Tramer). A **Western Meadowlark** remained in Avon through mid-July (Klamm).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: The first verified nesting of **American Coots** for the region, was at the Pekin Road marsh in the summer of 1976 (Peskin). The first June record of **Pine Warbler** for the region was at Sims Park on the 17th (Corbin). An out-of-place **Canada Warbler** was in Kuhlman Woods on June 13 (Hannikman). A flock of 20-30 **Red Crossbills** was in Mentor on June 9 (Jones). Five singing **Sedge Wrens** were in Avon on July 25 (Stasko). Four were in Geauga Co. on Aug. 8 (Besser). A '**Lawrence's Warbler**' was mist netted in Waite Hill on Aug. 19 (Flanigan). A **Piping Plover** was at Burke Airport on Aug. 26 (Hoffman). Two **Loggerhead Shrikes** were near 305th St. and the Lakeland Freeway on Aug. 29 (Hoffman).

TEN YEARS AGO: A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** raised 7 young at the Gordon Park Impoundment during the summer of 1986. Four **Upland Sandpipers** were in Fairport Harbor on June 14 (Rosche, Hannikman). Four different **Laughing Gulls** were seen at Gordon Park (Klamm). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was in Peninsula on June 25 (Maugans). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Hopkins International Airport on July 20 (Harlan). The high count of **American Avocets** was 7 at Gordon Park on July 7 (Klamm). A **Least Tern** was studied at length at the Gordon Park Impoundment on July 17 (LePage). A single adult **American Avocet** was at the Barberton Holding Basin on Aug. 16 (Rosche).



SUMMER 1996

COMMENT on the SEASON by Larry Rosche

I am sure that readers are fully aware of the importance of the nesting season in the Cleveland region. I must tip my cap to those contributors who once again ventured into deerfly infested areas to check on our breeding birds. The results were fairly spectacular. Because of the importance of the nesting season (and overlapping Spring and Fall migrations), this issue again is 4 pages longer than the other issues. The Lake County surveys continue to locate locally rare breeders. Other areas also produce solid evidence of successful nesting of our more common species. Many noteworthy sightings are included in the Field Notes section and not in the Noteworthy Reports section. Since most breeding records are unverified except by the single observer, I feel that readers have the right to make their own opinion of the nesting reports. The exceptions to this are two Nashville Warbler nestings. These birds were banded and photographed. I am particularly piqued by the report of nesting Common Mergansers along the Grand River. This is entirely possible because the species certainly has increased locally in the fall and winter. This would constitute the first breeding record of this species in Ohio. Although it was not verified, the observer made a fairly strong case for its inclusion in his article on Lake County nesting species. This species joins others (i.e., Black-and-white Warbler), which are suspected, but yet to be confirmed nesting in the region. USF&W Breeding Bird Surveys produced mixed results. I am not one to jump to conclusions with this data, but most Neotropical migrants were down when compared to the expected numbers. No American Kestrels were reported on any of the surveys (See Table).

As usual, the excitement of the chase was along the shores of Lake Erie. Rarities bring out more birders. The more birders along the lake-front--well, you guessed it--more rarities. Shorebirds were the highlight in Lorain. I have included most of LePage's outstanding finds in a table. Most of these were seen by many and all noteworthy records will be archived accordingly. Late Spring records fell at Headlands Beach State Park, where Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik, and Ann Missig shared in the action. The late departure dates for American Pipit and Bay-breasted Warbler easily eclipsed the previous benchmarks. Good birding.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was in Hudson on June 15 (LR). **Double-crested Cormorants** are routinely found on most bodies of water in the summer. A cormorant on a Gates Mills pond was an indication of their abundance (CK). **Great Blue Herons** continue to be seen in good numbers throughout the region. **Great Egrets** were widely dispersed in fair numbers. As many as 8 could be found in August at Ladue Reservoir along Auburn

Road. Other inland lakes had egrets in their usual expected totals. **Green Herons** were scarce in Medina and Lorain counties but felt to be increased in the eastern counties. In Painesville. As many as 8 foraged at a poolside, gleaning insects. While the homeowners found their antics amusing, they did not enjoy the time it took to clean the pool area. A few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** summered, but no reports of nests sites were received.

Mute Swans were as expected. Unusual duck sightings included: a **Green-winged Teal** at Lorain on July 11 (TLP), a **Northern Pintail** in Lorain on July 7 (RHL, SW) and a hen in Shalersville Aug. 3 (LR). Also, a **Northern Shoveler** was early in Lorain on Aug. 20 (TLP). A **Ruddy Duck** was tardy at Oberlin Reservoir on June 11 (NK). Nesting species were well reported. These included a group of 5 **Hooded Mergansers** in Brecksville on June 21-29 (DAC, PL, BF).

Osprey numbers were as expected. Birds spent the summer at LaDue and East Branch Reservoirs (*fide* DB). No word was received on the success of the nest in Southeast Portage Co. An osprey was over the Blair Road Property in Perry Township on Aug. 8 (JP). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** found a Geauga Co. feeder a good hunting spot on

June 30 (JA). A sighting of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Rocky River MP on June 19 provided us some local good news (TLP).

Broad-winged Hawks were unusually scarce. At Hinckley MP, 3 were seen on Anna Kozlenko's nesting surveys (NB). A pair was at Oneil Woods on June 15 (BS). Metcalf noted "far fewer" in western Geauga Co. A mostly albino **Red-tailed Hawk** spent the 3rd summer in a row in Claridon Township (*fide* DB).

American Kestrels were barely reported. This species remains a bird that needs to be monitored more closely. Kraps noted that she saw very few in rural Lorain

County. Weingart echoed her comments for Portage and Geauga Counties.

If editors are to go on what is reported, then **Ring-necked Pheasants** have all but disappeared from the local scene. **Wild Turkeys** received many more comments from contributors. One would have to presume that more turkeys are bagged by local hunters than pheasants. Because of the harsh winter of 1995-1996, **Northern Bobwhites** suffered serious setbacks to their recent local upward trend **Virginia Rails** raised young successfully at

numbers. **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived in their usual numbers away from Lake Erie. A late **Willet** was at Lorain on June 2(CH). **Spotted Sandpipers** were common. **Ruddy Turnstones** were regular along the lake. **Red Knots** frequented the Lorain mudflat on Aug. 25 & Aug. 31 (TLP, BF, PL). **Sanderlings** were as expected. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were common at Lorain. Two **Western Sandpipers** were in Lorain on Aug. 6 (RR). **Least Sandpipers** seemed to be fewer than expected. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at HBSP on Aug. 31 (RH). A northbound flock of 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** was at Lorain on June 5 (RR). One was there on June 7 (DJH).

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls continued to increase exponentially. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were in good numbers

by mid-August. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were regular and several juvenile plumaged birds were at HBSP by mid-August. About 20 summered in Lorain (CH). **Caspian** and **Common Terns** were in fair numbers. Three **Forster's Terns** were at Lake Rockwell on the odd date of June 26 (CH, LR).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at HBSP June 1 (RH, KM). Portage County continues to be the area most likely to harbor this species in the summer. A southbound black-billed was at Lakeshore MP on Aug. 20 (JP). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were far more numerous than Black-

...several hundred migrating Common Nighthawks over the Cuyahoga River ...

Streetsboro Bog. **Soras** went unreported. **Common Moorhens** were only reported from Portage Co. Three were at Walborn Reservoir on June 16 (BL). They successfully nested in Shalersville (VW, LR). One was at Herrick Fen SNP in June (RH, SW).

Shorebirds were diligently tallied in Lorain. (See LePage's report on page 26.) Seven **Black-bellied Plovers** were at HBSP on Aug. 17 (RH). A single **American Golden-Plover** was at HBSP on Aug. 18 (RH). **Semipalmated Plovers** were scattered about in small numbers. **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in small

LePage's Lorain Shorebird Report

SPECIES	Date	Number
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	8/8	3
	8/15	3
	8/21	1
	8/23	1
AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER	8/20	1
	8/31	1
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	6/3	11
	6/5	7
	8/13	3
	8/23	2
	8/30	10
AMERICAN AVOCET	7/13	1
	7/19	1
	8/7	1
	8/8	2
	8/15	2
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	7/22	1
	8/14	3
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	7/13	4
	7/14	16
	8/14	4
	8/20	10
WILLET	7/13	1
	7/22	1
	8/5	4
	8/6	2
	8/7	1
	8/8	2
	8/15	1
	7/8	1
MARbled GODWIT	7/26-8/31	1
Ruddy TURNSTONE	8/31	1
RED KNOT	7/21	4
	8/13-31	3
SANDERLING	6/4	51
	7/12	1
	8/17-26	30-50
WESTERN SANDPIPER	8/29	1
LEAST SANDPIPER	7/5	4
	8/7-26	3-7
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	6/4	5
	8/26	1
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	8/15	1
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	8/6-31	1-3
STILT SANDPIPER	7/14	1
	8/15	2
	8/20	8
	8/31	2
	6/28	1
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER	7/9	5
	7/13	15
	8/31	8
COMMON SNIPE	8/22	1
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	8/30-31	1

billers. The Romitos found them regularly in the CVNRA and Barber found 2 in Hinckley MP. Yellow-billed were in Rocky River MP on June 3, and in Bacon Woods on June 13 (TLP). Both cuckoos were banded at Lakeshore MP in July (JP).

Wert reported several hundred migrating **Common Nighthawks** over the Cuyahoga River the last third of August in Summit County. Leiden found **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nesting successfully at Rocky River Park, Perkins Beach, Little Met Golf Course, Sims Park, and on Estill Road in Lakewood. Kraps found them at 3 Lorain Co. sites.

One was along Station Road in Brecksville on June 29 (BF, PL). Birds were successful in Burton (fide DB). Three young were raised at Lakeshore MP (JP). An immature was viewed by the Kirtland Bird Club picnickers at North Chagrin on Aug. 7 (BF).

Pileated Woodpeckers received positive reports throughout the region. On Aug. 31, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Lakeshore MP (JP). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were abundant.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was early on Aug. 7 at Lakeshore MP (JP). **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were reported in stable numbers.

Alder Flycatchers were at Streetsboro Bog on June 14-July 13 (CH, DJH, RR). **Least Flycatchers** were in their usual small numbers. Two were in the CVNRA on June 15 (RHL, SW).

Two were on territories along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB). Southbound migrants exploded onto the lakefront by late August. **Eastern Phoebes**, **Great Crested Flycatchers**, and **Eastern Kingbirds** continue as fairly common nesters. Lakefront totals of kingbirds may have slipped in numbers, but it is diffi-

1996 CLEVELAND REGION BREEDING BIRD SURVEY ROUTES

	HIR	VC	WAY		HIR	VC	WAY
GREAT BLUE HERON	7	0	1	CAROLINA WREN	0	1	1
GREEN HERON	0	0	3	HOUSE WREN	41	15	24
CANADA GOOSE	12	4	0	MARSH WREN	0	0	0
WOOD DUCK	1	0	4	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	1		0
MALLARD	3	9	11	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	8	19	10
TURKEY VULTURE	3	0	0	VEERY	2	0	3
COOPER'S HAWK	0	0	1	WOOD THRUSH	1	6	6
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	0	0	2	AMERICAN ROBIN	146	158	156
RED-TAILED HAWK	3	0	3	GRAY CATBIRD	31	15	24
AMERICAN KESTREL	0	0	0	BROWN THRASHER	1	4	5
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	3	0	2	CEDAR WAXWING	4	1	0
WILD TURKEY	0	0	0	EUROPEAN STARLING	448	157	280
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	0	0	5	WHITE-EYED VIREO	1	2	0
KILLDEER	26	13	28	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	6	2	7
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	1	0	1	WARBLING VIREO	2	3	44
UPLAND SANDPIPER	1	0	0	RED-EYED VIREO	27	13	18
RING-BILLED GULL	0	0	10	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	1	0	2
ROCK DOVE	78	4	36	YELLOW WARBLER	18	29	26
MOURNING DOVE	170	34	88	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	0	0	0
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	2	0	2	CERULEAN WARBLER	2	0	3
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	0	0	1	AMERICAN REDSTART	0	1	8
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	0	0	0	OVENBIRD	0	0	1
CHIMNEY SWIFT	34	25	6	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	33	34	33
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	1	1	1	HOODED WARBLER	5	0	5
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	1	1	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	1	0	1
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	1	0	0	SCARLET TANAGER	1	4	1
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	6	0	5	NORTHERN CARDINAL	75	52	70
DOWNY WOODPECKER	5	1	3	ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	9	0	25
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2	1	1	INDIGO BUNTING	12	14	25
NORTHERN FLICKER	8	8	5	EASTERN TOWHEE	6	0	14
PILEATED WOODPECKER	1	1	2	CHIPPING SPARROW	48	36	36
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	8	5	3	FIELD SPARROW	7	13	14
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	1	0	2	VESPER SPARROW	2	0	1
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	15	1	14	SAVANNAH SPARROW	6	11	21
EASTERN PHOEBE	1	0	0	HENSLOW'S SPARROW	0	0	0
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	3	0	14	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	0	0	0
EASTERN KINGBIRD	0	10	2	SONG SPARROW	93	67	85
HORNED LARK	3	0	4	SWAMP SPARROW	12	0	4
PURPLE MARTIN	0	0	0	BOBOLINK	10	7	18
TREE SWALLOW	27	4	9	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	336	287	263
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	7	0	3	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	27	35	22
BANK SWALLOW	88	0	0	COMMON GRACKLE	162	165	124
CLIFF SWALLOW	0	0	0	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	30	14	8
BARN SWALLOW	64	16	37	ORCHARD ORIOLE	1	0	1
BLUE JAY	41	9	36	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	12	17	8
AMERICAN CROW	78	35	54	PURPLE FINCH	1	2	0
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	16	6	11	HOUSE FINCH	138	43	74
TUFTED TITMOUSE	53	16	43	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	44	13	30
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	8	0	2	HOUSE SPARROW	158	101	195

HIR = HIRAM; VC = VALLEY CITY; WAY = WAYLAND

cult to assess. Great Cresteds
prefer woodland habitats, and

reported totals probably do not
reflect a true status of the

occurrence.

Purple Martins gathered by the 100's in Lorain during the first half of August (TLP). **Cliff Swallows** nested in Huntsburg (DB). They continue to do well at several Portage County sites. Summering **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at North Chagrin (KM, RR). A pair fledged 2 young at Hinckley MP on June 15 (NKO). **Brown Creepers** were heard along the Upper Cuyahoga throughout the nesting season (DB). (See Field Notes for more on BRCRs.) **Carolina Wrens** continue to receive mixed reviews. **House Wrens** were abundant. The high count of **Marsh Wrens** was 9 at Walborn on June 16 (BL). The 2 in Shalersville were at a new site for the species (CH, LR). The same could be said for Tare Creek Marsh in Geauga Co. (fide DB). One word can sum up the local occurrence of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**. Scarce. None could be found during the nesting season along the Zimmerman Trail or Lake Rockwell.

At South Chagrin Reservation, 54 **Eastern Bluebird** fledged (BFR, JK). **Veeries** and **Wood Thrushes** were in expected numbers. The same could be said for **Gray Catbirds**. **Northern Mockingbirds** frequented HBSP into mid-June. Apparently, **Brown Thrashers** are going through another population crash in some areas. It doesn't seem that long since the last crash. None were found by Best in Geauga Co. Rickard's forays to Holden and elsewhere also yielded zero thrashers. Kraps found none in Lorain or Medina County in June. Chasar asked "Where are they in the CVNRA?" Keep on the lookout for these birds. Portage County thrasher populations were slightly above average (LR). Local vireos were in solid num-

bers. **White-eyed**s were in good supply in Portage and Summit counties. A **Solitary Vireo** was along the Upper Cuyahoga on July 7 (fide DB).

Spring migrants dominated the warbler picture in early June. Eleven species were tallied at HBSP then. The nesting season provided a few surprises (See Field Notes). Fall migrants were arriving along Lake Erie in good numbers by the end of August. The 36 singing male **Blue-winged Warblers** at Horse-shoe Pond indicated a stable population in the CVNRA (NKO). At least four BWWA territories were found at Hinckley MP (NB). A count of 25 **Yellow Warblers** along the CVNRA Bike Trail on June 14 was indicative of their abundance (BS). A total of 106 was banded at Lakeshore MP during July and August (JP). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** remained uncommon as a nesting species. The 7 singing male **Magnolia Warblers** at Hinckley MP constituted our local high nesting tally (NKO). A male Maggy was regularly seen on the 4th tee at Acacia Country Club (NB). The relic populations in Lake Co. were found in expected totals. Rarely found in the summer, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** dallied at HBSP through June 8 (RH). Hinckley MP must certainly be the local stronghold for **Black-throated Green Warblers**. Kotesovec noted 14 singing males and 2



First-summer Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
June 1, 1996 Lake Rockwell
by Larry Rosche

female there. One was at Holden Arboretum on June 23 (RR). **Yellow-throated Warblers** continue to thrive in the Lower Cuyahoga River Valley. More and more are turning up on Lake County surveys. **Pine Warblers** were as expected in Brecksville and Lake Rockwell. A **Palm Warbler** was early at Lake Medina on Aug. 24 (CW). An early **Bay-breasted Warbler** was banded at Lakeshore MP on July 21 (JP). **Cerulean Warblers** were as expected. The high count was 23 at Hinckley (NB). **American Redstarts** continues to be one of our most common summer warblers. The **Prothonotary Warbler** nest box project along the Upper Cuyahoga produced 10 broods (DB). **Ovenbirds** were regular at Findley SP (NK). On June 11, 5+ were tallied at North Chagrin (KM). They were numerous at Hinckley MP. Three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** summered at Hinckley MP (NB). Migrant **Northern Waterthrushes** returned as expected. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at North Chagrin through mid-June (KM). Only one was found at Hinckley (NB). Four **Mourning Warblers** were at HBSP on June 1 (RH). Two were at Lakeshore MP on Aug. 31 (JP). Three **Canada**

Warblers were tardy at HBSP on June 1 (RH). One was early at Lakeshore MP on Aug. 31 (JP). **Yellow-breasted Chats** nested at Mill Hollow and at Spencer Lake SWA (NK). Elsewhere they were found in expected numbers.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were regular visitors to Augustine's feeder in West Farmington. A family of **Eastern Towhees** was found at Triangle Lake Bog, a site well known for its flora not it's avifauna (PP). Elsewhere in Portage Co. towhees put in a solid showing. This was especially true at West Branch SP. An **Indigo Bunting** was at Augustine's feeder on June 19. Buntings were seen at the Kraps' feeder in Grafton. Breeding Bird Surveys indicated that a solid nesting population is present throughout the region.

Grasshopper Sparrows were poorly reported. One was at Charlemont on July 1 (NK). As many as 5 singing male **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found at North Chagrin (KM, RR). This represented a fairly stable local population. One was at Holden Arboretum on June 23 (RR). Several juncos spent the summer at Big Creek (DB). Of interest, was a late report of an "**Oregon Junco**" in Geauga Co. on Mar. 20. The bird was well documented by John O'Meara. **Bobolinks** were common in suitable habitat.

Eastern Meadowlarks continued to see their preferred nesting areas dwindle. No reports of meadowlarks were received from Cuyahoga County. Oriole populations were felt, by many observers, to be high this summer. **Orchard Orioles** experienced a banner summer season. A pair nested successfully

at HBSP. One was at Charlemont MP on July 1 (TLP). A female was observed at Hinckley MP on the Kozlenko survey. They were found at 3 CVNRA sites (DAC). Five were banded at Lakeshore MP in July and August (JP). Chasar noted very good numbers of **Baltimore Orioles** throughout the CVNRA. A **Purple Finch** was at Shalersville on June 3 (CH). A bird was along the Upper Cuyahoga on July 5 (vide DB). One was at the Big Creek on July 12 (DB).



COMMON LOON - A loon was at Lake Medina on Aug. 25 (Witt). Duane Ferris saw one at East Branch Reservoir on Aug. 31 (vide Best).

AMERICAN BITTERN - The only bird reported, was from North Chagrin Metropark on June 28 (Barber).

LEAST BITTERN - A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on June 1 (Metcalf). It or another was there on July 14 (Bacik, Hannikman, Missig).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Always one of the most sought after herons in the region, an immature was in Lorain on July 21 (LePage).

BALD EAGLE - Both Geauga and Portage County nests were successful. Twins were raised at each site. An immature was at East Branch Reservoir on June 6 (vide Best). One was at Head-

lands Beach SP June 30 (Hannikman).

NORTHERN HARRIER - One was at Charlemont Reservation on July 9 (Kraps). One was seen over the hayfields near Notre Dame/Cathedral Latin school on July 15 (vide Best).

PEREGRINE FALCON - The Terminal Tower pair fledged 3 young (Lozano). No word was received on the West Side birds.

AMERICAN AVOCET - The mud-flat in Lorain provided many the opportunity to see 1-3 avocets from July 13-Aug. 15 (LePage m.ob.).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - A territorial adult was in Fairport Harbor on June 1 (Rosche, M. obs.). A bird was calling in Nelson on June 8 & 14 (Rosche). One bird was near Notre Dame/Cathedral Latin School on July 13 (Rosche). A bird was in Fairport Harbor on Aug. 18 (Hannikman).

MARBLED GODWIT - This elegant species was observed in Lorain on July 8 (LePage).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - An immature delighted many at Lorain Aug. 30-31 (LePage). One was hunting insects on the water at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 31. This individual would repeatedly spring from the water to catch the bugs (Hannikman, Bacik, Metcalf, Missig).

LAUGHING GULL - LePage was Johnny-on-the-spot again, when he spied an adult at Lorain on June 11.

LITTLE GULL - An adult was at Headlands Beach SP Aug. 17-18 (Hannikman). An immature was

studied well in Lorain on Aug. 25 (Lozano, Finkelstein).

GLAUCOUS GULL - An extremely rare species in the summer, a first-summer-plumaged bird was at Headlands Beach SP on June 1 (Metcalf, Hannikman).

BLACK TERN - Two were found by Gene and Linda Kovach at Lake Rockwell on June 2 (Rosche). Two were at Headlands Beach SP on Aug. 17 (Hannikman, Metcalf).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - A 'whip' put in a one night stand in Munson Township on June 9 (Metcalf).

WINTER WREN - Two singing males were at North Chagrin in June (Metcalf, Rickard). A singing male was at Holden Arboretum on June 23 (Rickard). Tami Locher noted another singing male at Big Creek Park in Geauga County on July 24 (*fide* Best).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - An adult was in Chapin Forest on Aug. 15. A bird at this time of year certainly indicates a possible nesting attempt at the location (Pogacnik).

AMERICAN PIPIT - On June 8, a bird was at Headlands Beach SP. This may be the latest Spring date for this species ever in Ohio, certainly for our region (Hannikman).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A male was banded at Horseshoe Pond in the CVNRA on May 30 (Kotesovec).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - Two nesting areas were found, one in Lake County and one in Summit County. See detailed reports in the Field Notes.

NORTHERN PARULA - A territorial bird was seen regularly in Brecksville Reservation through July 14 (Chasar, Hoffman, Lozano).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - An extremely late singing male broke our previous late Spring date by 11 days on June 23 at Headlands Beach SP (Hannikman, Bacik, Missig).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Living up to its reputation as a notorious dawdler, a singing male lingered at Headlands Beach SP June 16 & 23 (Bacik, Hannikman, Missig).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - One was heard near the confluence of the East Branch and West Branch of the Upper Cuyahoga from mid-June through early July (Best).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - One was at Headlands Beach SP June 23-July 14 (Bacik, Hannikman, Missig, Rosche). Two were there on Aug. 24, well before expected fall arrivals (Hannikman). A bird was seen throughout the summer at Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - For the second summer in a row, A singing male was at Headlands Beach SP June 23-July 14 (Bacik, Hannikman, Missig, Rosche).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - Always an exciting find, a male was a one day only visitor to the Lorain impoundment on Aug. 21 (LePage).



Nesting Nashville Warblers in Summit County, Ohio

by Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr.
and Sean Zadar

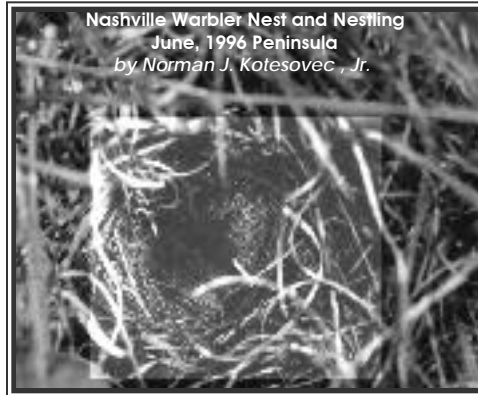
A nest of the Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) was discovered at Horseshoe Pond, near Peninsula in the CVNRA (Summit Co., OH), on June 13, 1996. We spotted the nest while censusing a population of Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) as part of an ongoing study of their reproductive success in northeastern Ohio (see Canterbury, *et al.* 1995). While following a banded "Blue-wing" male along a deer run lacing the plantings of young spruces, we chanced to flush a tiny, drab bird from the ground. We examined the area and found the remains of three nestlings that were patterned somewhat like young Blue-winged Warblers, having yellow feathers along the abdominal regions of the ventral tract and unsheathed rectrices that appeared blue, or slate-gray, in color. One nestling bore a puncture upon its breast; a second, a large hole in the skull; and the third was badly mutilated. It seemed that a Blue-winged Warbler nest had been depredated--the first found during the study.

We continued our search and soon uncovered the nest in



which was huddled, the lone survivor, colored and patterned in the same manner as its unfortunate siblings. If, indeed, a "Blue-wing" nest, it was a most atypical one, as it was a simple, but finely woven structure, hid carefully beneath a grass hummock. It was also not a bulky affair as most "Blue-wing" nests tend to be; neither was its cup set in a pile of leaves. Only a couple of tiny skeletonized leaves had been used along with some mosses tucked around its sides. Nevertheless, proceeding under the assumption that we had found a Blue-winged Warbler nest, we set up a mist net in hopes of capturing and banding the female when she returned to feed her sole youngster. We put up the net, and moved a short distance off, and waited. It was not too long afterwards that a bird flew in and was entrapped. Running forward to liberate the warbler, we discovered--much to our surprise--not a Blue-winged, but a Nashville Warbler entangled in the net. After freeing the bird, we carefully examined her in the hand; and, while 99.9% certain of the identity of our catch, we consulted a field guide to compare the markings of the Nashville Warbler against field marks of the female Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Suffice it to say, without going into a lengthy comparison, that our bird matched perfectly the description of the Nashville Warbler.

Though certain of the bird's identity, we were not fully convinced that the Nashville was the parent and not a late migrant instead. Although we hid a short distance away, the female Nashville remained shy



Nashville Warbler Nest and Nestling
June, 1996 Peninsula
by Norman J. Katesovec - Jr.

and aloof and treated us to but few glimpses the remainder of our stay. Our visit on the following day proved equally fruitless, and all that we were able to confirm was the presence of the male Nashville, as two birds now joined in the confusion.

When discovered, the nestling was fairly well feathered with eyes fully opened. As teleoptiles emerge from the feather sheaths on the seventh day (Williams, 1996), we aged the bird accordingly and judged that it might fledge on the 15th, or 16th of June, its 9th, or 10th day of nest life (Williams, *op. cit.*). The nestling appeared older than the mutilated siblings, which were collected and sent to Ronald A. Canterbury at Cleveland State University. These depredated young were identified to be 5-6 days old (Canterbury, pers. comm.). This would suggest that the nest was depredated about two days before discovery. Arriving on the morning of June 15 at 8:00 a.m., we resumed our vigil. Unlike previous outings, the Nashville female ventured into plain view, foraging within a stand of nearby cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*). Also promising, was the response of the male Nashville to a playback of a recording of its conspecific song. The male

was seen to fly from within the spruces, over the tape recorder, and into the cover of adjacent shrubbery.

Over the next hour, the female Nashville repeatedly perched upon the branch tips, flicked her wings, and bobbed with agitation before retreating into the spruces. She persistently gave loud chip calls. Finally, at 9:10, the female dropped from the trees to the ground; and, from where we were concealed, we were able to see the warbler approach the nest. At 9:30 we inspected the nest and found that the nestling had fledged. All that remained to mark its journey was a discarded fecal sac.

Few records have been published of summering Nashville Warblers in Northern Ohio. Single males in Ashtabula County during 1928 and 1929 were reported by Hicks (1933) and an unpaired male was found in Stark County in 1936 (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). In 1982, during the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project, a male Nashville Warbler established a territory in Lorain County, but no mate or nest was found (Peterjohn and Rice).

There are only two state records of nesting Nashville Warblers in Ohio, both based on adults feeding young. It is unclear if any nest has been previously discovered. While Hicks (1933) reports that "a male was observed feeding a fledgling just out of the nest" in the Pymatuning Bog area of Ashtabula County on June 15, 1931, he makes no mention of a nest--details of which are scrupulously given for other species that he considered "very rare and local" (i.e., Black-

throated Blue Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler, etc.).

Ohio's only other breeding record was provided by observations of a pair of Nashville Warblers in Geauga County on several occasions from June 10 through June 27, 1969 in Stebbins Gulch. The female Nashville was seen feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on June 24 and 25 (Flanigan, 1969).

As there seems to be no published description of a Nashville Warbler nest for Ohio, dimensions are as follows (measurements taken with a dial caliper): outside diameter (with moss lining)--6.5 x 11.2 cm., inside diameter--5.8 cm., depth--3.4 cm. These measurements are within the range of values given in Williams (1996), except for the outside diameter in which the cup (6.5 cm.) fell short of the range and the moss foundation exceeded it (range 7-10.5 cm.). The nest itself, a thinly woven cup set in a shallow depression beneath an overhanging grass hummock, was composed of very fine grasses. Its foundation was constructed chiefly of moss, with a few small skeletonized leaves and broken twigs. The rear of the nest, set against the grass hummock, was devoid of any material foundation.

The vegetation surrounding the nest was not dense, but was dominated by Prickly Dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), grasses (*Gramineae*) and, to a lesser degree, goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.). Also evident were hawkweed (*Hieracium* sp.), milkweed (*Asclepias*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla*), Heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*),

European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) and a variety of moss (*Bryophyta*). Shrubs included Northern Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli*) and other *Crataegus* species. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) saplings were present; and young trees, ranging in height from approximately 2-5 meters, included Red and White Oak (*Quercus rubra* and *Q. alba* respectively), while a stand of second growth Eastern Cottonwood grew nearby. The most prominent species of tree were the numerous Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) plantings that bordered the nest and ranged from approximately 1-5 meters in height. The site is best characterized as an old field habitat progressing from field to pioneer scrub and trees.

Acknowledgments

The senior author wishes to credit Sean Zadar with the discovery of the nest. We are grateful to the CVNRA and Cleveland Metroparks for allowing us the use of their lands for this research. We also thank Ronald A. Canterbury for his valuable comments on an earlier draft of the manuscript and counsel over the course of the study. The female Nashville Warbler was banded (#2080-92591) under USFWS federal permit #22576-C.

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Notes on State Listed and Rare Nesting Birds Found Within the Lake County Metroparks

by John Pogacnik

Pied-billed Grebe: A pair of birds was observed at Veteran's Park until the middle of June. No evidence of nesting was found.

Common Merganser: A female with 7 recently fledged young was found at Blair Road property along the Grand River on June 6. A single female-plumaged bird was seen at the same location in mid-July. Her young, less than one week old, had a strikingly marked facial pattern with a charcoal crown and rear of the head, two dark lines extending from the eye to the bill, white between the two lines, and also white cheeks and throat. The rear portion of the face was washed with rufous. The back was grayish with white splotches at the wing area, above the wing area, and near the rump. The bill was long and thin (typical merganser bill). Pennsylvania has experienced a dramatic increase in breeding numbers in the northern half of the state since the mid 1970's. Common Merganser has gone

from being one of the rarest breeding birds to the most common waterfowl in some areas in the state. It should be noted that Common Mergansers were found in 227 blocks during the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project (*Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, Brauning, 1992). (Ed. note: Readers should be reminded that although this sighting was well documented, it cannot constitute a first state record until some sort of verification is established.)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Sharp-shinned Hawks were found at 4 locations: Chapin Forest, Girdled Road, Hell Hollow, and Penitentiary Glen. No actual nests or young were found, but nesting was strongly suspected at Chapin Forest and Penitentiary Glen, both traditional nesting locales.

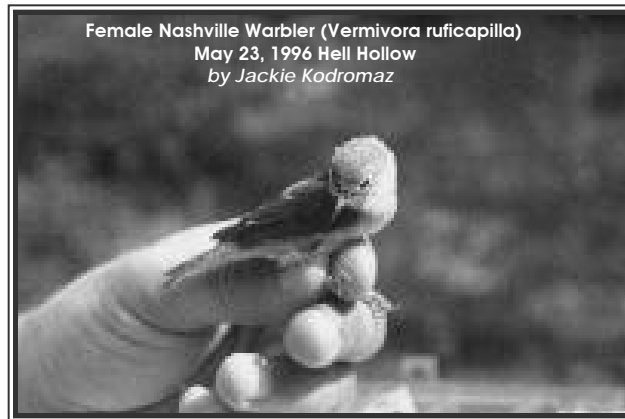
Red-shouldered Hawk: Red-shoulders were found at the following locations: Chapin Forest, Girdled Road, Hell Hollow, Hogback Ridge, and River Road--all traditional locations. Young were seen at Chapin Forest and Hell Hollow.

American Coot: A pair of birds was observed at Veteran's Park until the middle of June. No evidence of nesting was found.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Three newly fledged birds were found in a small grove of hemlocks at Girdled Road on July 3. The location was along the floodplain of Big Creek near a small wooded pond (Cell 45). The birds were being harassed by chickadees and titmice.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Sapsuckers were found at Cascade Road property and at Girdled Road. At Girdled Road a family (one adult and two young) was seen July 3 at the intersection of

Aylworth and Big Creeks. At Cascade Road two adults going through courtship were found in late May and early June. The Cascade Road location is adjacent to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Museum's Cottonwood Hollow Property. It was felt that the birds were probably nesting within that property.



Female Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)
May 23, 1996 Hell Hollow
by Jackie Kodromaz

Purple Martin: Martins nested at the following locations: Arcola Creek, Girdled Road, Hidden Valley, Penitentiary Glen and Veteran's Park.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A pair at Lakeshore successfully nested. The birds came to my Lakeshore MP feeder until late June. Young were found in mid-July near the picnic shelter at the park.

Brown Creeper: Creepers were found at two locations at Hell Hollow during June and July. Hard evidence of breeding was not established at either spot.

Winter Wren: The cool, wet spring provided the incentive for Winter Wrens to remain to nest in unprecedented numbers in the parks. They were found in the following locations: Chapin Forest (1 confirmed), Girdled Road (2 locations, one confirmed and one probable), Hell Hollow (5 locations, 3 confirmed and 2 probable), Hogback Ridge (1 probable), Huntoon Road (1 possible), Indian Point (1 probable), and River Road (1 possible). Two individuals were also banded at the Hell Hollow MAPS station at two different sites.

Marsh Wren: A single bird was heard at Arcola Creek in July.

Hermit Thrush: A pair of birds was found at River Road in mid-June, and a singing bird was found at Hell Hollow at the same location as last year.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Kinglets again nested at Chapin Forest. This year one pair was found in a 40-year old Norway Spruce planting. Young were found in late July. Last year, two pairs nested at Chapin Forest, both in Norway Spruce plantings of about 35-40 years in age. Pennsylvania has also had a major range expansion since the mid-1970's. There, birders have found GCKIs in spruce plantings, usually Norway, that are at least 35 years old.

Black and White Warbler: Birds were found at the following locations: Chapin Forest (1 singing male), Girdled Road (1 pair). Hell Hollow (1 singing male), Hogback Ridge (1 pair,

young found), Huntoon Road (1 singing male), Hidden Valley (1 pair), Indian Point (1 singing male), and River Road (1 pair).

Golden-Winged Warbler: A singing male was found at Girdled Road on July 3.

Nashville Warbler: Nashville Warblers successfully nested at Hell Hollow. Three were banded at one of the MAPS net sites. On May 23 a female with a complete brood patch was banded on June 1 a male showing a cloacal protuberance was banded, and on July 5 several young were seen with one being banded on July 10. The location was along Paine Creek in an area that had beaver activity the last two years. The beaver activity provided a partial clearing along the creek. While a nest was never located, an area of small hemlocks, grapes, and thick vegetation was felt to be the site.

Northern Parula: A male was found at River Road in June.

Magnolia Warbler: Again, the cool, wet spring seemed to be conducive to good numbers of Magnolias. Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 probable), Girdled Road (2, one confirmed and one possible), Hell Hollow (2 confirmed and 2 probable), Hogback Ridge (1 probable), Red Mill Marsh (1 possible), and River Road (1 probable).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A singing male was found at Hell Hollow from early June to early July. The bird was found within 50 feet of the nesting Nashville

Warblers. No female or evidence of breeding was ever found, and the feeling was that this was a summering male.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A single non-singing male in winter plumage was found at Penitentiary Glen in a small area of conifers. This bird was probably a summering bird.

Blackburnian Warbler: Singing birds were found along Paine Creek at Indian Point and along Mill Creek at Hogback Ridge, both in the area of Hemlocks. The Indian Point bird disap-



Male Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*)
May 23, 1996 Hell Hollow
by Jackie Kodromaz

peared in July with no evidence of breeding. At Hogback Ridge, young were found in early July.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Singing birds were found at Blair Road and Helen Hazen Wyman, both on the Grand River and one at Hell Hollow along Paine Creek.

Pine Warbler: Birds were found at Chapin Forest (1 pair), Huntoon Road (1 singing male), and Lakeshore (several young banded in mid-July).

Northern Waterthrush: Birds were found at Conley Road (1 male), Girdled Road (2, 1 singing male and one confirmed nest where young were found), and Hell

Hollow (1 pair found at a woodland pond. One juvenile was banded at the MAPS site, approximately 2,500 feet from the pond on August 3.

Mourning Warbler: A male was found at Girdled Road in early July. The species again nested at Lakeshore MP, where young were banded in mid-July.

Canada Warbler: Canada Warblers took advantage of the cool, wet spring, also. Birds were found at: Conley Road (1 possible), Girdled Road (2, 1 confirmed and 1 probable), Hell Hollow (4, two confirmed and two probable), Hogback Ridge (1 possible), Huntoon Road (1 possible), and River Road (1 probable).

Dark-eyed Junco: Juncos were found about everywhere that suitable habitat was present. The following is a list of locations: Blair Road (1 confirmed),

Chapin Forest (2, 1 confirmed and 1 possible), Conley Road (1 probable), Cascade Road (3 probable), Girdled Road (4, 2 confirmed and 2 probable), Hell Hollow (31 singing birds found), Hogback Ridge (1 probable), Huntoon Road (4 probable), Hidden Valley (1 possible), Helen Hazen Wyman (1 possible), Indian Point (1 possible), Lakeshore (1 probable), Penitentiary Glen (1 probable), and River Road (2, 1 confirmed and 1 probable),

Pine Siskin: A singing bird was found at Hell Hollow in early June. Siskins again nested at Lakeshore MP, where several young were banded in early June and late July.

Confirmed Nesting of Dark-eyed Junco in Brecksville Reservation

by Dwight W. Chasar

Confirmed nesting of the Northern Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) in Ohio has been confined to eastern Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties, in areas like Little Mountain and Stebbins Gulch. Many records fall within the Chagrin and Grand River watersheds (Peterjohn and Rice).

On June 24, 1995, Rob Harlan, Norm Kotesovec, and I observed a singing Junco in the Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks, on Meadows Drive near the parking lot of the riding stables. On May 17, 1996, I drove through the same area and again heard a singing Junco across Meadows Drive from the riding stables, where there is a small ravine.

At 9 am, May 22, I found a foraging male Junco on the ground, just 25-30 ft. in from Meadows Drive along the bridle path that skirts the small ravine. I could not tell at the time whether he was carrying nesting material or food. After a few minutes he flew toward Meadows Drive, where he joined a female Junco that had been continuously chipping. Shortly, they separated; and both continued to forage on the leaf-cluttered ground around the ravine. I backed off another 10 feet, after which the female

returned to the same sapling from which she was chipping earlier. She soon flew to the embankment of the culvert, which carries water runoff from the stables' side of Meadows Drive to the small ravine. She entered a nest and fed one of her three offspring. The three appeared to be identical with one slightly smaller than the other two. They still had down feathers on them, seemed somewhat bare, and from time to time opened their eyes while being fed. I would guess they were 4-5 days old. Juncos are uncommon cowbird hosts (Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye).

The nest was four feet below the wooden reinforcement of the bridle trail edge and about one foot above the top of the elegant stone and concrete retaining wall of the culvert. The nest was under an outcropping of dirt held together with vegetation roots, about six feet above the culvert outflow. This culvert was about 10 feet off Meadows Drive, thus providing a wood edge, which Juncos prefer for nesting (Peterjohn and Rice). The immediate trees were deciduous. Nearby, there was a smattering of conifers.

Over the next 45 minutes the male and female foraged the nearby fallen leaves and returned to feed the young, sometimes individually and sometimes together. The female was always cautious about approaching the nest, always resting in the same small sapling for a few seconds of chipping. The unconcerned male always approached the nest unhesitatingly from the floor of the ravine. Another visit near noon revealed similar behavior in

feeding. This time I observed the male removing fecal sacks from the nest, one of which he deposited on a horizontal branch of a sapling maple tree some 30-40 feet away.

On May 26, Jim Roetzel reported to me that two of the young were gone from the nest; on the 27th I found no young remaining. These could have been predated. However, Juncos fledged between May 20-June 10 in Ohio (Peterjohn and Rice). Second broods are common.

Coincidentally, while I was birding the Brecksville Reservation on May 24, I found another pair of Juncos at the Harriet Keeler Memorial Woods (about two miles as the Junco flies from the first site). It would be easy to speculate that more than one pair of Juncos nest in this reservation and this year may not have been the first.

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Notes on a Brown Creeper Nest in North Chagrin Reservation

by Kevin Metcalf

On the morning of June 30, 1996, while conducting a breeding bird survey, I noticed a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) flying to the back side of a dead willow that stands in an oxbow near the Chagrin River. Within seconds, it flew away from the tree,

seeming to depart from about the same place that it disappeared. This was not the typical creeper feeding pattern (landing near the bottom of a tree and working up), so I suspected a nest. I decided to watch the site; and within a minute, a creeper again flew to the same spot on the willow and left a few seconds later. The tree was visited about once a minute, but from my vantage point I could not see where the creeper(s) were going. I bush-whacked my way around to the other side of the oxbow and continued observations from there. Soon a creeper landed on the tree with food in its bill. It crept up about a foot and quickly ducked behind the edge of a piece of loose bark. Within 4-5 seconds the creeper flew out from behind the bark. I watched this repeatedly for the next half-hour (between about 8:40-9:10). The nest site was 10-12 feet up on the willow trunk, which was about 1.5-2 feet in diameter. The nest was over standing water.

Around 8:45 I watched the creeper perform a task that caught me by surprise. As songbirds typically do, one of the creepers left the nest after feeding, carrying a fecal sac (the excrement of a nestling encased in a membrane). What was remarkable was what happened next. The creeper flew directly to a snag that stood about 20 yards northeast of the nest. It proceeded to wipe the fecal sac onto the snag and flew off. It was then that I noticed a whole line of fecal sacs, or remnants of them, plastered to the side of this "fecal post" (about 24 white blobs in all). Apparently, this had been a

routine! The sources that I have read say that birds simply carry away and drop these fecal sacs somewhere, or in some cases, ingest them. This was the first I have seen or heard of this behavior

On July 4, I noticed one of the parent Brown Creepers again removing a fecal sac and wiping it on a different dead tree. With further searching, I found at least four trees that had numerous fecal sac remnants on them, all near the nest site. One snag had at least 45 of the white blobs. (This could be something to look for to help locate an active creeper nest.)

On July 5, I did not check the nest site. On Saturday, July 6, at about 8:30 a.m. I stopped to watch the nest for a while and saw no activity. Since the creepers were feeding very regularly, and I sat for no more than about 5 minutes on the other visits without seeing a creeper, the young had probably fledged on the fifth, I wish I had seen them leave the nest, as I wonder if they flew away first, or "creeped"!

results and a key to the dates of our surveys.

Ira Road Nesting Sites noted 6-3-96 (*), 6-10-96(**), 6-16-96 (***), 6-17-96 (****), 7-1-96 (*****). Towpath Indigo Cut off Trail to Ira Rd Parking lot.

While walking from Indigo Lake to Ira Road. The following sites were noted

- 1.** Baltimore Oriole. Nest in big silver maple tree next to house on feeder path. Nest is on west side of tree approximately 100 feet from entrance posts near road.
- 2.**** Northern Cardinal. Nest in center of grapevine at the bottom of small ash tree at the southwest corner where the Indigo Lake feeder trail meets towpath.
- 3.* Baltimore Oriole. 200 yards from feeder trail in a small Sycamore tree on the lowest north facing branch hanging over canal. Tree is west of towpath at canal edge. This nest was not seen 7-1-96. Branch may have fallen.
- 4.*** Warbling Vireo. Same tree as above Baltimore Oriole. Nest is at 10:00. This tree is 20 feet tall and about 4 inches around.
- 5.***** House Sparrow. Nest cavity in dead snag at the first break in the second island from the north. Nest is in third hole down from top.
- 6.*** Flycatcher(Willow?) Flycatcher noted landing on dead bushes on south end of north island and moves north on island to nest.
- 7.* Northern Flicker. Tall dead tree with small diagonal branch 11:00 direction east. Nest in thicker trunk, approximately 8-10 feet from top. Hole on east side of tree.
- 8.* Orchard Oriole. Nest in sec-

Some Nest Tallies for the CVNRA

by Mary Anne Romito

LA group of us, Guy and Mary Kay Newton, Marian and Howard Zehnder, Ian Adams, Nancy Howell, Mary Lou Hura and I have been bird watching Ira Road Trailhead every Monday in the CVNRA for several years. This year we decided to keep track of nests we found. The following are the

ond, (south) direction, sycamore tree on island parallel to path on other side of canal. Located on 1st major branch to right (1:00) Approximately 400 yd. south of feeder trail. Nest is left of crook in branch.

9.* Baltimore Oriole. Nest in small sycamore tree located at end of south end of island just south of Orchard Oriole nest tree. Nest on east side of tree.

10.**** Tree Swallow. Nest hole in dead snag between towpath and canal dead snag just south of north end of southern most island

11.** Baltimore Oriole. Nest in small sycamore tree at the south end of the South pond. Tree is between towpath and canal. Nest is on west side of tree, 10-15 feet from top.

12.* Yellow Warbler. Nest in thick shrub of rose and honeysuckle. Bush is on west side of towpath along the path edge, northwest of historic sign overlooking river bend.

13.* Rough-winged Swallow. In large root system of big dead fallen tree in southern bend of the river, east of the towpath.

14.* Baltimore Oriole. Nest above towpath, 10 yards south of major beaver dam over the canal in a sycamore tree.

15.* Warbling Vireo. Approximately 400 yard north of boardwalk. Nest in sycamore with Virginia Creeper on trunk base, just west of towpath. Nest located on horizontal branch northeast side of tree. Branch hanging 50 feet over canal. Tree 20 yards north of "28" mile post. As of 6-17-96 no activity at this nest.

16.**** Baltimore Oriole. Nest in Sycamore tree 50 feet north of boardwalk. There are two

sycamores at this location. Nest is in tree most north at 3:00 on southeast side of tree.

17.**** Catbird. Nest in Elderberry bush at northeast end of boardwalk.

18.* Tree Swallow. 1.5 feet from top of 12 ft. dead snag. Nest hole on north side. Snag is east of boardwalk 30 feet from the north end of the boardwalk.

19.* Red-winged Blackbird. Nest being woven in new growth purple loosestrife. Nest on watery green island, north of major observation platform on boardwalk, west of the boardwalk.

20.* Baltimore Oriole. Top of thin dead snag covered with Va. Creeper among large group of dead tree, west (40-50 yd.) and

...Eastern Kingbird. Nest in sycamore 150 ft. up , right fork...

approximately 50 yards south of observation decking.

21.* Eastern Kingbird. Nest in sycamore 150 ft. up, right fork, west of canal as sighted from large vertical dead tree trunk 50 yards south of boardwalk.

22.* Baltimore Oriole. Nest in same sycamore tree as Kingbird. Can be located as south of snag where Brown Creeper nested 2 years ago. Nest is hanging about 30 ft. above canal.

23.** Warbling Vireo. Nest in big sycamore at the south end of boardwalk. Same tree as kingbird. Nest at 11:30, about 20 ft down from top of tree. The nest is hanging just to the right of knot on the tree where a branch broke off. That branch is

on a trunk covered with Va. Creeper.

24.** Cedar Waxwing. Nest in Shingle Oak, west of canal at south end of boardwalk. Nest just even with top of dead snag facing south in shingle oak. (left of snag)

25.** Great Crested Flycatcher. Possible nest of back side of dead snag in canal just north of shingle oak.

26.* Baltimore Oriole. 40 feet further south on trail. Nest in sycamore on west side of canal. Nest is on first big branch hanging over canal approximately 50 feet above canal, opposite cherry tree, which is well covered with poison ivy.

27.**** Species unknown, possible robin. Nest in sycamore tree 50 feet south of boardwalk at about 4:00. Sycamore is the second sycamore south of the twin sycamores. Nest is on same branch with dead leaves. Strings of grass are hanging from nest.

28.**** Baltimore Oriole. Same tree as Unknown above. Nest is at top of tree, just left of 12:00.

29.**** Yellow Warbler. Nest in rosebush on west side of canal just behind a short snag. Snag is north of group of big dead snags about 150 feet south of boardwalk.

30.***** Mourning Dove. Nest in first spruce north of dead snag in spruce line north of Pancake Lock. Nest is on 3rd branch from bottom on side of tree.

31.** Hairy Woodpecker. Nest hole in a dead snag leaning against a tree with Va. creeper. Nest is 200 feet east of power pole further down the trail. Nest hole tree is between path and river.



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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 330 - 678- 9408 or Ray Hannikman at 216 - 261- 9552.

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Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be