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

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

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

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 5 - Winter Season
June 5 - Spring Season
September 5 - Summer Season
December 5 - Autumn Season

Cover design: Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus) by Kevin Metcalf, 1997.
On The Inside:

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by Dwight A. Chasar

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Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) - October 11, 1997 - Headlands Beach State Park by Larry Rosche

**Autumn 1997 by Dwight Chasar**

**SEPTEMBER:** Temperatures averaged 62.6°, 1.3° below normal. The high was 84° on the 2nd and the low, 42° on the 27th. Lake Erie was 71° on the 1st and eased down to 66° on the 30th. Sunshine occurred 67% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 11 days and totalled 4.25 in., .81 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 2.73 in. on the 19-20th.

**OCTOBER:** Temperatures averaged 53.1°, just .3° above normal. The highest was 81° on the 13th and the lowest, 32° on the 23rd. Sunshine prevailed 55% of the time possible. Rain occurred on only 9 days and totalled 1.63 in., a departure of .91 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was .99 in. on the 26-27th. Lake Erie water cooled to 60° by the 31st.

**NOVEMBER:** Temperatures averaged 39.0°, 3.6° below normal. The highest was 60° on the 1st and the lowest, 17° on the 18th. Sunshine was rare at a meager 20% of the time possible. Occurring over 19 days, rain totalled 2.58 in., .59 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .70 in. on the 27-28th. Snow amounted to 8.6 in., but never exceeded 2 in. on the ground. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 45° by the end of the month.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO:** The year 1967 ended with a total of 253 species recorded in the Cleveland region. On Sep. 29, the Klamms found the first acceptable record of *Sabine’s Gull* in the history of the region at White City. It or another was seen there off and on through Nov. 18. The Klamms found a

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** on Sep. 16 and a *Whimbrel* on Sep. 30 at Burke Lakefront Airport. They found *Little* and *Franklin’s Gulls*, and a *Black-legged Kittiwake* at Gordon Park on various dates. A group of 10+ *Red Crossbills* was in Waite Hill on Nov. 19 (Klamm, Flanigan). A *Prothonotary Warbler* was at Lower Shaker Lake on Sep. 17 (Peskin, Rickard).

**TWENTY YEARS AGO:** A total of 261 species was turned in for the 1977 Bird Calendar year. *Hudsonian Godwits* were seen at White City on Sep. 9 (Hoffman); Muny Landfill, Sep. 11 (Klamm); and Burke Airport, on Sep. 23 (Hoffman). An immature *Laughing Gull* was at White City on Oct. 8 (Hoffman). A Red-necked Phalarope was at White City Oct. 9-12 (Hannikman, LePage, Hoffman). A *Long-billed Dowitcher* was at White City on Oct. 14 (Hoffman). A *Northern Parula* was tardy at Kulhman Woods on Nov. 5 (Hannikman). Two *Red-throated Loons* were seen together on Nov. 6 at White City (Rickard, Herder).

**TEN YEARS AGO:** The yearly species total for 1987 was 277. A *Dickcissel* was at Gordon Park on Sep. 14 (Harlan, LePage). A *Western Kingbird* was at Headlands Beach on Sep. 20 (Hannikman). The first October *Northern Rough-winged Swallows* were at Headlands on Oct. 3 & 4 (Rosche). A *Whip-poor-will* was record-late at Donald Gray Gardens on Oct. 22 (Klamm). The latest *Warbling Vireo* ever was at Firestone MP on Oct. 31 (Pierce). The latest *Bobolink* ever was at Headlands Beach on Nov. 1 (Gustafson, Peterjohn). A *Rufous Hummingbird* visited a feeder in Parma Nov. 5-10 (Cohen). Three *Brant* were in Lorain on Nov. 21 (Harlan, LePage).
Each Fall issue, as I tally the list for the year, I am always impressed with the skill and dedication of today’s birder. The progress made in the number of species reported is quite noticeable. The species total for this year was an impressive 285 compared to the 250-260 species twenty years ago. The fall 1997 season was also interesting in other ways. Ray, Emil, and I noted that hunters did not do much killing during the long season at Headlands Beach State Park. It seems, however, only a matter of time until these sportsmen read the Waterbird Table results from Lakeshore Metropark. Will they then try to exert pressure on Lake County Metroparks to open that area to hunting?

On the birding front, shorebirds continued to be the headliners in Lorain. Elsewhere, LaDue Reservoir and Lake Rockwell both provided safe haven for the rare Long-billed Dowitcher. Gulls were fairly unimpressive. The Sabine’s Gulls reported were both seen only briefly. Merlins and Peregrines are becoming almost expected along the lake. Bald Eagles are too numerous to list. It wasn’t that long ago when Ospreys far outpaced eagles during fall migration. Now, sites like Lake Rockwell, are lucky to support a single Osprey for a day. Landbird migration was very noticeable in September. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown creepers were common along the lake. Warbler migration was (as lakefront standards go) a little better than expected. Some species like Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Wilson’s Warblers were in good numbers. Sparrows were later than usual, but in solid numbers. As expected, Fall rarities were the highlights for most observers. Lorain hosted the skulking LeConte’s Sparrows and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed on several days. At least 3 Connecticut Warblers were found at Headlands.

As the year ends, I again extend many thanks to the observers and contributors. Recent sketches are especially helpful. The field identification and drawing skills shown by Kevin Metcalf and 15-year old Jennifer Brumfield are very commendable.

Good birding.

Many Common Loons could be found along the shoreline in early to mid-Nov. LePage noted 200 off Huntington Beach on Nov. 4. A tally of 200+ was off E. 55th St. on Nov. 5 (FG, PL). The high at HBSP was 127 on Nov. 8 (RH). Inland, the numbers were more subdued. Horned Grebes were seen in unprecedented numbers. As many as 600 gathered at the mouth of the Grand River in Nov. (m.ob.). Another 250 was noted off E. 55th St. on Nov. 11-17 (FG, PL).

Great Egrets were fairly common. Two lingered in the CVNRA until Oct. 12 (DAC). A bird dawdled along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor through Nov. 30 (LR, RH). The late Green Herons were in the CVNRA on Oct. 6 (DAC) and in Valley City on Oct. 10 (FG). Black-crowned Night-Herons lingered as expected. Best reported many Tundra Swans moved over and through Geauga County during a Nov. 6-16 time frame. Counts were in the hundreds. Along the lake, the high was 92 over Lakewood on Nov. 1 (TLP). Snow Geese put in a decent showing, but paled when compared to 1996.
Wood Ducks were very unimpressive. A maximum of 75 Green-winged Teals was at Lorain on Oct. 26 (CH). American Black Ducks received little mention. The high tally for Northern Pintails was 8 at LaDue on Oct. 21 (CH). Blue-winged Teal were nonexistent. The largest group noted (12) was at HBSP on Sep. 20 (RH). Northern Shovelers gathered in decent numbers at Berlin Reservoir (BDL). Another 7 shovelers were at Springfield Lake on Nov. 30 (CH). Gadwalls and American Wigeons were scarce.

Canvasbacks congregated in small numbers on inland lakes. The high was 75 at Wellington on Nov. 8 (FG, m.obs.). Wellington Reservoir again provided the high tally of Redheads. A total of 80 was there on Nov. 16 (FG, m.obs.). Geauga and Portage County continue to be the fall hotspots for Ring-necked Ducks to gather. As many as 350 rested at Lake Kelso on Oct. 27 and at Best Lake on Nov. 3 & 15 (fide DB). At the LaFarge Lakes in Shalersville Weingart counted 446 on Oct. 26. Two drake Oldsquaws were at HBSP on Nov. 22 (RH, NB). Black Scoters were seen in small numbers. Off the West Side, 2-5 could be found intermittently (TLP, m.ob). Surf Scoters went unreported, except from Lakeshore MP. As expected, numbers of Hooded Merganser grew to considerable size by the end of the period. Red-breasted Mergansers carpeted the water off Eastlake in numbers so high that it provided inspiration for a Calculus problem. A flock of 230 Ruddy Ducks was at LaDue on Nov. 9 (fide DB). A gathering of 500+ was at Wellington on Nov. 16 (FG). Another 370 were at LaFarge Lakes on Nov. 23 (VW).

There were 7 reports of Ospreys from Geauga Co. The latest was Oct. 29 (fide DB). At HBSP, Ospreys were noted on 3 occasions (RH). Bald Eagles continue to show up at almost any lake or lakefront locale. Small numbers of Northern Harriers were seen in all counties, but Summit and Portage. A Broad-winged Hawk was noted in Chardon Township on Sep. 11 (DB). The only Ring-necked Pheasants were seen in Valley City and LaGrange (FG). John Augustine reported, what very few can say they have seen in recent decades, 10 Northern Bobwhites coming to his feeder in Geauga Co. A Common Moorhen spent most of September in Lorain (TLP). A flock of 1000+ American Coots at Wellington on Nov. 2 provided a good indication of just how common the species is.

Small numbers of Black-bellied Plovers could be found in Lorain through the middle of Nov. The high count of American Golden-Plovers was 5 on Sep. 19 in Lorain (TLP). One was at West Branch SP on Sep. 21 (CH). The 23 Semi-palmated Plovers in Lorain on Sep. 14 was the high. A Spotted Sandpiper was late at HBSP on Oct. 25 (NB, RH). Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings were, for unknown reasons, unusually scarce. High tallies for Sanderlings were 25 on Oct. 28 (fide DB). A mealy 6 at HBSP on Sep. 20 (RH). As many as 45 Semipalmated Sandpipers could be found in Lorain (TLP, CH). A juvenile Western Sandpiper was in Lorain on Oct. 19 (CH). Least Sandpipers received little mention. White-rumped Sandpipers were intermittent in Lorain from Sep. 17 through Nov. 9 (RHL, SW, CH). Baird’s Sandpipers were in Lorain on Sep. 10-17 (TLP, CH). Dunlins were as expected. Stilt Sandpipers were in fair supply. The high was 11 on Sep. 15 in Lorain (TLP). Short-billed Dowitchers were found only in Lorain. Common Snipes were scarce. American Woodcocks were found in better than expected fall numbers. The oddest occurrence was at Public Square on Oct. 23 (NB).
November 1997 Waterbird Survey for Lakeshore MP

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Table 1

Caspian Terns were uncommon. The high count of Common Terns was 150 at HBSP on Oct. 26 (RH). The 103 Forster’s Terns in Lorain on Oct. 21 made for an excellent tally for the time of year (TL).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were feeding a recently fledged youngster in the CVNRA on Sep. 20. This report sheds light on the nesting extremes for this secretive species (DAC). Common Nighthawks moved dramatically the first weekend of September. A flock of 200 was over Newbury on Labor Day (fide DB). A tally of 228 nighthawks flying east to west was made in Valley City on Sep. 1 (FG).

Red-headed Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in average numbers. Pileated Woodpeckers continued to thrive in suitable habitats. Olive-sided Flycatchers were in the CVNRA on Sep. 1 (DAC). Lakeshore MP hosted one the next day (JP); HBSP, one on Sep. 7 (RH). Eastern Wood-Pewees were gone by early October. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at HBSP on Sep. 13 (RH). One dawdled at Nathan Hale Park Sep. 17-19 (RHL). A Willow Flycatcher lingered at HBSP until Sep. 27 (RH). Eastern Phoebes moved as expected. The only one noted lingering was at Lakewood Park on Nov. 22 (RHL, SW). A Great Crested Flycatcher was at HBSP on Sep. 21 (RH).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found just about everywhere. Brown creepers put in a better than average showing. Carolina Wrens were numerous. House and Winter Wrens were very conspicuous along the lakefront. Marsh Wrens were widespread in small numbers. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets put in an above-average showing.

Robins and waxwings gathered in uncountable numbers the last half of November in Geauga, Portage, and Summit counties. Fifteen Eastern Bluebirds were along Ira Road on Oct. 20 (TMR). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were spied at HBSP on 5 dates in September (RH). The high count for Swainson’s Thrushes was 12 on the wave day of Sep. 14 (RH, LR). Hermit Thrushes were numerous. The last Wood Thrush was Oct. 4 at HBSP (RH). A Gray Catbird was tardy at Mentor Lagoons on Oct. 26 (PL, BF). Northern Mockingbirds were seen at the usual lakefront sites. American Pipits were widespread and in expected totals.

Blue-headed Vireos were found at Euclid Beach SP on 3 occasions (PL, BF). A bird was at HBSP on Oct. 10 (RH). A White-eyed Vireo was a good find at Kendall Lake on Nov. 8 (DAC, TMR). Birds were noted at HBSP on Sep. 21 & 29 (RH, LR). Philadelphia Vireos were the most often reported vireo.
species. At HBSP, counts reached as high as double digits.

Warblers were in decent numbers. The middle of September brought an exceptional number of birds to Headlands. The Chasars continuing studies in the CVNRA lead them to become one of the privileged few to have seen a Prothonotary Warbler in September.

The only Blue-winged Warbler reported was from Lakeshore MP on Oct. 6 (JP). A Tennessee Warbler was rather late on Oct. 19 at HBSP (RH). Orange-crowned Warblers were found at HBSP on 6 dates (RH, KM). One was at Gordon Park on Oct. 17 (KM). Northern Parulas were at HBSP on Sep. 14, Sep. 27, and Oct. 19 (RH, m.obs.). One was at Cleveland Lakefront SP on Sep. 21 (BF, PL, PP). One was in Lorain on Oct. 19 (CH, PL, BF). A Yellow Warbler was tardy at HBSP on Oct. 17 (KM). Chestnut-sided Warblers moved well in early to mid-Sep. Magnolia Warblers were the most common fall warbler (at least before the wave of Yellow-rumped arrived). Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers were as expected. A tremendous incursion of Yellow-rumped Warblers occurred in mid-October. Hundreds could be found at lakefront locales. Hannikman’s high tally at HBSP was 200+ on Oct. 19. Inland, the same story held true into November. The 50 at Kendall Lake on Nov. 3 was indicative (TMR). Black-throated Green Warblers were common in mid-September. Blackburnian Warblers fared better than expected at HBSP. The Chasars continued to see the Brecksville’s Yellow-throated Warblers well into September. Palm Warblers were not as numerous as expected. Bay-breasted Warblers were as numerous as at any time in the past decade at HBSP. Thus, it was not too surprising that 2 lingered there on Oct. 3, the relatively late date for the species (RH, LR). Blackpoll Warblers were in high numbers at HBSP. Black-and-white Warblers were as expected. American Redstarts were abundant. Ovenbirds were reported in small numbers. Northern Waterthrushes were very scarce. Mourning Warblers were fairly scarce. One was at HBSP on Sep. 1 (RH). One was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 3 (RHL, SW). Another was at Nathan Hale Park on Sep. 19 (RHL). A Hooded Warbler was a good find at HBSP on Sep. 28 (RH). Wilson’s Warblers were in good numbers. Canada Warblers were as expected.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks fared better than the last few falls. Late Indigo Buntings were in the CVNRA on Oct. 4 (DAC) and at HBSP on Oct. 19 (RH).

Sparrows were late in arriving, especially American Tree Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows were found only at Lake Medina (CW). Fox Sparrows were in good supply away from Lake Erie. The 7 in the CVNRA on Nov. 7 represented a good tally (DAC). Two were at North Chagrin Nov. 18-21 (KM). The Gordon Park Landfill hosted 300+ White-crowned Sparrows on Oct. 17 (KM). When it came to sheer numbers, Dark-eyed Juncos were the most impressive sparrow.

Snow Buntings were in average numbers along the lake. Lapland Longspurs put in sporadic showings at HBSP and Lorain. The high was 3 at Lorain on Oct. 19 (TLP, CH). Two Bobolinks at Gordon Park on Oct. 12 were noteworthy (RHL, SW). Baltimore Orioles were not reported. Purple Finch were in decent numbers. Common Redpolls stirred early interest (Oct. 28 Huntington MP (KM), but this soon fizzled. Evening Grosbeaks were found in small numbers. The 14 in Newbury on Nov. 8 represented an average count (fide DB).

**ADDENDUM:** Please change the report of 3 Harlequin Ducks at HBSP on April 26 to 3 Oldsquaws.
RED-THROATED LOON - A bird flew over Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 18 (Hannikman).

RED-NECKED GREBE - The first bird was observed flying by Avon Lake on Nov. 9 (Holt). One was off Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 23-24 (Hannikman, Metcalf). An unverified but remarkable count of 5 was reported off Lakeshore Metropark on Nov. 5 (Pogacnik).

EARED GREBE - One was in Lorain on Nov. 15 (Yoder, Harlan, Wagner). A bird was in Fairport Harbor on Nov. 16 (Bacik, Hannikman). Another single was spotted off E. 55th St. on Nov. 22 (Brumfield).

AMERICAN BITTERN - A bird was in Lorain on Oct. 9 (LePage).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - An immature was at Walborn Reservoir on Sep. 2 (Lane).

SNOW GOOSE - A bird at North Chagrin on Sep. 20 was record-breaking early (Metcalf).

BRANT - One was reported by out-of-town birders at Avon Lake on Oct. 25 (fide Barber). One was at E. 55th St. Marina on Nov. 9-11 (Holt, Yoder, Lozano, m.obs.).

KING EIDER - A handsome adult male was at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 27 (Hannikman). It was found again at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 30 (Rosche, Hannikman). An immature or female was documented by a single observer off Lakeshore Metropark on Nov. 16 (Pogacnik).

MERLIN - Birds were at Mentor Marsh on Sep. 12 and at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 17 (Metcalf). Hannikman noted birds at Headlands on Oct. 14 & 18. A male was a surprise visitor to urban Euclid on Oct. 20 (Hannikman). The Romitos found one at Kendall Lake on Nov. 8.

Another was found at Headlands on Nov. 11 (Rosche, Weingart).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Peregrines were seen regularly by many observers in Akron, Cleveland, and Lorain. A single falcon coursed the breakwall off Fairport Harbor on Oct. 4 (Hannikman, Rosche). One was in the CVNRA on Nov. 16 (Chasar). One was reported from Penitentiary Glen on Oct. 7 (Pogacnik).

SANDHILL CRANE - Two birds remained and were seen many times in Troy and Auburn Townships most of the period (Best, Holt, Metcalf). Several birds were heard flying over Nathan Hale Park on Nov. 10 (Harlan).

WHIMBREL - A single was in Lorain on Sep. 5 (LePage).


MARbled GODWIT - One was at the Lorain mudflat on Oct. 13 (LePage).

RED KNOT - One to two birds frequented Lorain most of September (LePage, m.obs.).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - The latest record ever for the region was on Nov. 9 in Lorain when two were observed together (Holt).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - The only report for the year came from Lorain on Sep. 19 (Pogacnik).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - This fall provided more reports than usual for this locally rare species. Speculation was that the Western Basin resting areas were no longer available. Lorain hosted 1-2 Sep. 9-24 (LePage, m.obs.). Holt spied 2 at LaDue Reservoir on Oct. 7. The first Long-billed Dowitcher ever found at Lake Rockwell was present Oct. 25-26 (Rosche, m.obs.). Remarkably another showed up there on Nov. 7-8. Weingart, m.obs).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - One was in Lorain on Sep. 3 (Harlan, Wagner). A month later, another was in there on Oct. 3 (LePage).

RED PHALAROPE - Duane Ferris reported this species at LaDue Reservoir (no date received) (fide Best).

POMARINE JAEGEr - A sub-adult was at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 22 (Hannikman, Barber).

PARASITIC JAEGEr - A distant bird was off Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 25 (Rosche). A striking adult was at Eastlake on Nov. 11 (Hannikman, Rosche, Weingart). Birds were documented from Lakeshore Metropark on Oct. 1 and Nov. 17 (Pogacnik).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - An adult (an age rarely seen locally) was in Lorain on Sep. 22 (Harlan, LePage). One was reported off Lakeshore Metropark on Oct. 26 (Pogacnik).

LITTLE GULL - At Headlands Beach SP, Hannikman found a first-winter bird on Oct. 18; an adult was there on Nov. 2; and two adults were seen on Nov. 22. An
first-winter bird on Oct. 18; an adult was there on Nov. 2; and two adults were seen on Nov. 22. An adult was at Eastlake on Nov. 1 (Rosche).

Three sightings were made off Lakeshore Metropark (Pogacnik).

SABINE’S GULL - A juvenile was in Lorain just long enough to be ticked off for the Bird Calendar year on Sep. 7 (Holt, LePage).

Pogacnik documented one from Lakeshore Metropark on Oct. 1.

Black Legged Kittiwake - The only report was off Lakeshore Metropark on Nov. 9 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - A bird was found along the Coast Guard Road near Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 11 (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche).

SEDGE WREN - A male was in Lorain on Sep. 22 (Harlan, LePage). One was there on Sep. 29 (LePage).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - One was reported from Lakeshore Metropark on Sep. 13 (Pogacnik). A cooperative female was at Headlands on Sep. 14 (Missig, Metcalf, Rosche).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - A female was mist-netted and banded by Tami Locher at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 13. An unbanded female was at Headlands on Sep. 14 (Rosche, m.ob.). Pogacnik reported one at Lake-shore Metropark on Sep. 6.

DICKCISSEL - An immature was studied thoroughly at Gordon Park on Oct. 17 (Metcalf).

LE CONTE’S SPARROW - Lorain hosted 2 on Oct. 8 (LePage, Rickard). One was there on Oct. 9 (LePage). Two were found there on Oct. 11 (Harlan, Wagner). One was at Gordon Park on Oct. 12 (Harlan, Wagner).

NELSON’S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - It was a good year for this species. One or more were seen in Lorain on 6 dates from Oct. 6 through Oct. 15 (LePage, m.ob.). Metcalf photographed one at Gordon Park on Oct. 17.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - Our only verified report was of two birds at Lakewood Park Cemetery on Nov. 16 (Finkelstein, Lozano, m.obs.).

Identification

•Behavior: The Blackpoll was particularly active, fluttering and flitting around in some low shrubby willows and into some medium-height stands of cottonwoods. In one instance, the warbler flew up from a low shrubby willow and performed a spectacular fly-catching dance in mid-air. Eventually, as the flock moved further out along the dike, tree height and abundance lessened; and our bird had to resort to feeding on the ground under cover of more small shrubby willows. While feeding in the willows, it sneaked around in the lower branches, gleaning periodically from them as it fed. When it flew from shrub to shrub, it would flick and spread its tail out, making the presence of its tail spots much more visible.

•Description:

Overall size: A medium-sized warbler, smaller than a Yellow-rumped; tail not long, creating a bit of a shorter, stubbier-tailed appearance.

Overall color: The bird was a fairly bright individual, being noticeably olive-brownish above and washed pale greenish-yellow below on the breast, throat, and face. Lower belly and undertail coverts were much paler, almost whitish. Wings were dark gray, contrasting well against two obvi-
ous white wing bars. Streaking wasn’t especially distinct in plumage, though streaking on sides of breast and on the back was apparent.

**Back pattern and color of upperparts:** Back streaked in dusky gray, overall a distinct olive-brownish tone of color, contrasting against darker wings. Back greener than cap, which was a slightly darker olive-brown color.

**Color of underparts and pattern:** Pale yellow wash on underparts, more limited to upper belly, breast and throat, and extending up onto lower sides of the neck. Streaking on sides and breast was dull but was apparent. Lower belly and undertail coverts were much paler, whitish.

**Flank color:** An absence of any distinct bun or bay color here on our bird was a good mark in our ID, as many (but not all) Bay-breasted Warblers (the species which we were most concerned about comparing our bird to) will show this.

**Head pattern:** Darkish gray eye line contrasted with a paler, washed out yellowish supercilium. Face was an overall greenish-yellow, extending up onto sides of the lower neck area.

**Wing pattern and color:** Wings were a dark gray color, two distinct white wing bars almost ashy in appearance.

**Tail pattern and shape:** The tail wasn’t especially long, appearing a bit blunt-shaped as the bird perched. Tail was a very dark, almost blackish gray, and in flight white outer tail spots were noticeable.

**Leg color:** Pale grayish (color not very noticeable here, yet we could see the legs were not black).

**Bill color:** Small dark bill.

**Voice:** No calls were heard.

Identification of “Blackpoll Warbler” was made after watching the bird very closely, observing overall color, amount of streaking above and below, and a few smaller details in ID. Our bird obviously stood out in the flock of darker brown sparrows and dark gray juncoes and therefore appeared fairly bright greenish-yellow at first glance. Closer inspections revealed the marks I’ve reviewed above.

I believe our bird was not a Bay-breasted because there was a distinction that could be made between the yellowish breast, throat, and upper belly and the more white lower belly and undertail coverts. In addition, a fairly obvious paler yellowish supercilium was present contrasting against a darker greyish eye line. The bird also showed obvious streaking along its sides and back, though it was dull; and it had paler legs. Finally, the overall color characteristic of Blackpoll (Bay-breast would be greener above).

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**Nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**

*Sphyrapicus varius* in Ashtabula County

*by Thomas Leiden*

**The First Nest - YB97A**

June 12, 1997

The call came into work: Jean and Dick Hoffman reported on their Web site (1) that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) were nesting in Ashtabula County. I was ecstatic, for this woodpecker rarely breeds in Ohio and I’d tried for several years to locate a nest. I contacted Jean who enthusiastically shared their observations and the nest location they discovered Sunday, June 8.

June 13, 1997

The site was exactly as Jean described—a meandering creek tucked below a cemetery as part of a small wetland, hosting several mature willow trees. As I gazed at the willows, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew to one of these trees and disappeared from sight.
tucked below a cemetery as part of a small wetland, hosting several mature willow trees. As I gazed at the willows, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew to one of these trees and disappeared from sight.

Scrambling down the bank, I located the male going halfway inside a cavity near the severed top of a 15' high willow trunk. After feeding the nestlings, the bird quickly yielded to the female sapsucker who also fed the young. Observing the sapsuckers for almost an hour, I noted similar observations made by Jean - the constant use of the sap wells by the adults birds prior to visiting the nest, even after flycatching, and the removal of brown fecal sacs.

June 15, 1997
Obtained permission from owner to access nesting area. Adult sapsuckers were very active in feeding the young and keeping the sap wells open. These were visible on several willow trees. Adults foraged quietly, but the cries of the nestling(s) could be heard.

June 22, 1997
Hearing an "owegee" call of a sapsucker, I discovered an adult male feeding a fledgling on a small willow tree by the creek. A few minutes later, I heard a begging call nearby and located another fledgling. I was able to confirm two young had fledged. The plumage of the young bird was basically brownish gray with white mottling on the wing and back; the white wing stripe was prominent. This bird blended in so well with the mature willow tree that I had trouble locating it from 20' away without binoculars.

June 24, 1997
Joined by Paula Lozano and Bob Finkelstein for an uneventful evening of observations. Sapsuckers were quiet; with difficulty, we located both adults and one young bird.

August 10, 1997
Surveyed nesting area and I was not able to locate any of the sapsuckers.

The Second Nest - YB97B
June 14, 1997
Feeling energized from yesterday's findings (Nest 1), I decided to survey several other locations known for past sapsucker nesting activity. The first site was the Grand River Terraces Preserve (2), owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. After two hours with no success, I left the area and proceeded east on Sweitzer Road. I stopped the car nearby at the bottom of a small ravine, getting out to survey the several large willow trees occupying the bottomland habitat. As I pondered the similarity between this site and the first nesting habitat, I heard a "yip yip" call and saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flying east along the south side of the road. The bird, a male, stopped briefly by a row of sap wells in one of the willows before flying north across the road along the ravine. After watching the behavior of both sapsuckers, I was convinced the nest site was north of the willow trees. I followed the flight patterns of these birds by skirtsing the eastern edge of the ravine, which was completely logged within the last few years. This property abuts the Museum's Grand Terraces. I found the nest in a snag on the eastern slope of the ravine with the cavity facing westerly. After the sapsucker left the nest tree, I scrambled past it to get a vantage point on the other side of the ravine. I did pause to obtain a GPS reading, and I did not hear any sounds emanating from the nest. During the next twenty minutes, I observed that the young were fed six times by both adults. The adults went all the way into the cavity to do the feeding. On one feeding trip, the male brought out a yellowish-brown fecal sac and deposited it on a tree near my location.

Back at the road, I discovered two willow trees with sap wells. These trees were approximately 0.2 miles from the nest site. Obtained permission from the owner to gain access to the nest.

June 22, 1997
Arriving at my monitoring site, I could hear the soft cries of the nestlings, which increased in intensity whenever they were fed. During one ten-minute period, I observed that the young were fed seven times, with the majority of the feedings done by the female. The adults now went in halfway to do their feeding. The adult male flew several times to a maple tree near my location. Twice, he disposed of the fecal sacs from the nest, wiping his beak on the bark when through. I also discovered that several sap wells were started on the far side facing the nest.

June 24, 1997
With the aid of a scope brought by Paula and Bob, we were able to verify that two nestlings were visible within the cavity opening. The young were very raucous and appeared never to cease calling. The female responded by
by increasing her feeding visits; in one thirteen-minute period, she fed the young five times. The adults were able to feed the young by clinging to the tree just outside the cavity.

As we were leaving, we noticed the male sapsucker chasing a male Hairy Woodpecker from the sap wells on the willow trees.

June 29, 1997
Panic set in when I could not see the nest tree from my monitoring position. I investigated, discovering that the tree fell into the ravine, killing both nestlings. Both adult sapsuckers were observed feeding at the sap wells on the willow trees.

August 10, 1997
Surveying the willow trees by the road, I was not able to locate or hear any sapsuckers in the vicinity.

Summary

These Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nests confirm that a small nesting population still exists in northeast Ohio. Estimated range of the start of incubation for YB97A is from May 5 to May 16, 1997, representing early nesting by these woodpeckers (3). The sapsuckers' quiet nesting behavior, coupled with the out-of-the-way breeding locations, increases the difficulty in confirming nest sites. The coincidence this year of the similar habitat of the willow (sap wells) trees is amazing. I'm looking forward to doing additional studies on these birds next year. I would appreciate being kept informed of any sightings of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers past May 1st.

Literature
(2) Matson, Timothy O. 1985 Kirtlandia 41:15-21

BOOK REVIEW

by Robert Harlan

A Field Guide to Warblers of N. America
By Jon L. Dunn and Kimball L. Garrett.

We've all heard the expression "You should have seen it--the warblers were dripping off the trees!" Hopefully, we have all witnessed this sort of incredible avian display at one time or another; indeed, I can't think of a better introduction to the delights of birding than a tree full of spring warblers. And fortunately, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett's new book, A Field Guide to Warblers of North America is sure to increase our understanding and appreciation of this engaging group.

But do not be deceived by the words "Field Guide" in the title--this tome could have just as easily been titled "An Encyclopedia to Warblers of North America". A wealth of valuable information almost bursts forth from this book's 656 pages, 32 color plates, 61 range maps and 115 color photos; yet somehow, Houghton-Mifflin has managed to condense all of these facets into an appealing, pocket-sized format.

Dunn and Garrett thoroughly cover 60 species of warblers, primarily species "that have been recorded in North America north of the United States/Mexico border, exclusive of the West Indies" as well as two species (Belding's Yellowthroat and Bahama Yellowthroat) that have never been fully substantiated as occurring in

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the United States. Each species receives treatment broken down into twelve categories: an Introduction, Description, Similar Species, Voice, Behavior, Habitat, Distribution (very detailed), Status and Conservation, Subspecies, Taxonomic Relationship, Plumage and Molts (very detailed), and References. Each species is also treated to full coverage in the color plates, plus each receives at least one color photo and color range map.

Speaking of the range maps, a reader might be surprised at the amount of detail used in this feature. Typically, range maps "have generally shaded in vast areas... not taking into account distributional complexity on a smaller scale." In contrast, Warblers incorporates data gleaned from numerous state, provincial and regional works, including breeding bird atlases, to allow "detailed mapping of occupied areas and range gaps alike". The intricacies of this mapping method certainly provide a more detailed picture than what one would normally expect from a range map.

As an example the depth of coverage presented in the text, I examined two species in particular, Northern Waterthrush and Louisiana Waterthrush. One might think that these species, being rather nondescript, might warrant less attention than species with many plumage variations. Yet this is not the case--most species in this book average about nine or ten pages of treatment, while Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush receive 10.5 and 7.5 pages, respectively. Regarding the 12 categories listed above, I took the time to count the number of lines of text for selected entries. This effort revealed: "Similar Species"--Northern Waterthrush 77 lines, Louisiana Waterthrush 14 lines; "Voice"-- 16 lines, 27 lines; "Behavior"-- 33, 31; "Habitat"-- 24, 20; "Distribution"-- 78, 71; and "Plumages and Molts"-- 51, 44. If anyone happens to have a question about waterthrushes, they need only to look at these sections; chances are, the answer lies within.

Some interesting statements are made in the waterthrush accounts. I found one identification tip particularly useful for separating these two "confounding" species--namely, that "Northerns bob the tail almost continually in an up-and-down motion; this bobbing appears to include only [the] rear of the body," whereas Louisiana's "tail bobbing is more circular and involves more body motion than in the Northern."

Recollecting on my observations of these two species, I would have to agree. This could serve as a valuable tip when foliage obscures these species' subtle plumage differences. Regarding the timing of waterthrush migrations, I found the statement that "after about 20 August nearly all water-thruses recorded in the U.S. are Northers" to be a real eye-opener. So would be the apparent hybrid Northern Waterthrush and Blackpoll Warbler (wow!) listed on page 465. However, if the statement made on page 468 regarding Louisiana Waterthrush is correct ("the sexes are identical..."), then I predict a sudden (and permanent) population crash for this species in the very near future.

Levity aside, this is a wonderful book. The attention to detail Dunn and Garrett have paid to their subject is clearly evident throughout this work, more so than in just about any other bird book that comes to mind. I highly recommend it.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Special thanks are given to William and Nancy Klamm, Richard and Jean Hoffman, Anthony Hess, Mr. and Mrs. E. William Haley, William and Ann Toneff, and Bertalan Szabo for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 94.

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

RARE BIRD HOTLINE: (216) 526-2473 (BIRD) 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.

INQUIRIES REGARDING SUBSCRIPTION to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The annual subscription rate is $7.50.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Contact Shannon Spyker at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, (216) 231-4600 ext. 309

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