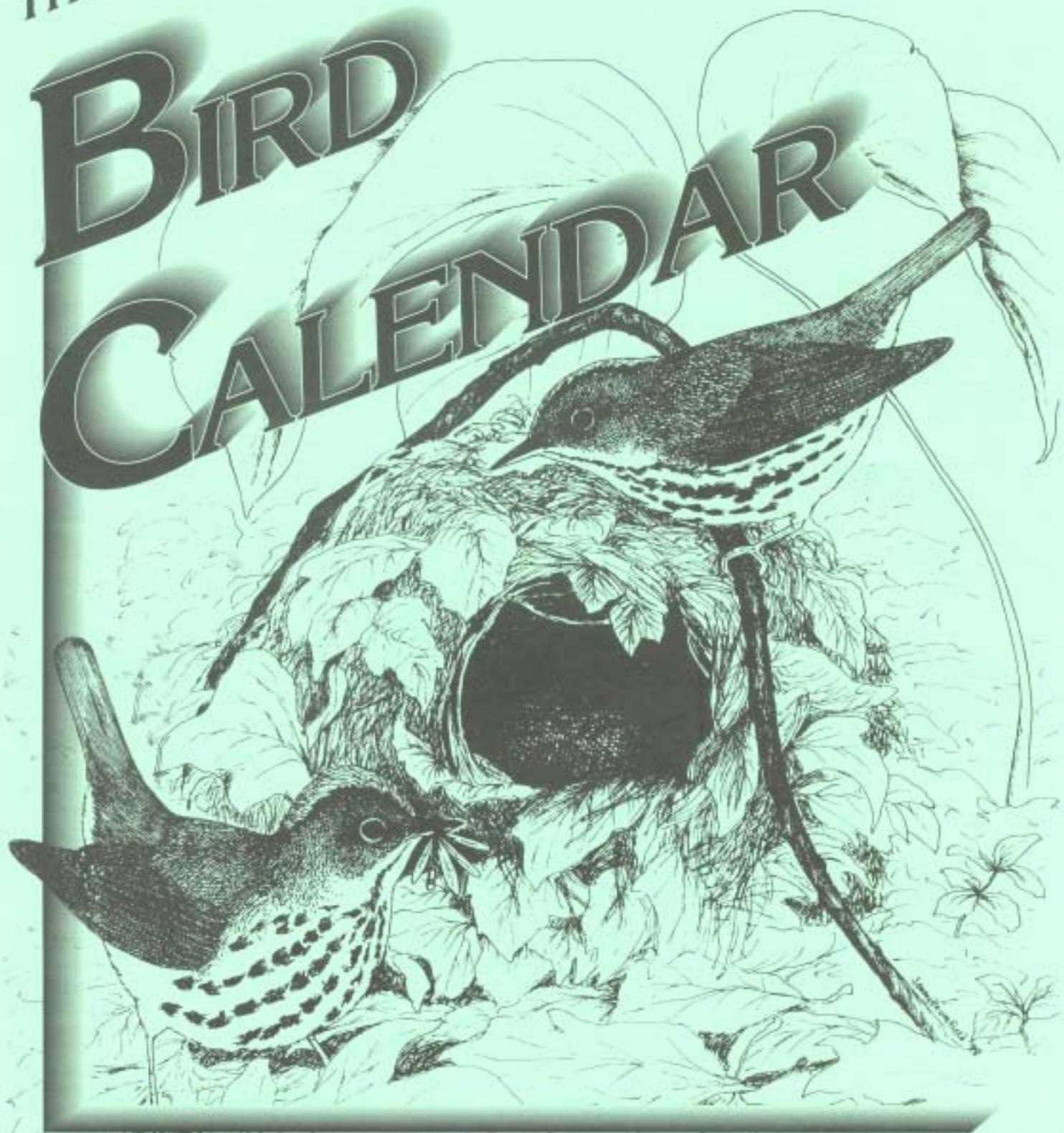


THE CLEVELAND

March, April, and May 2000
Volume 96

Number 2

BIRD CALENDAR



Published by The Kirtland Bird Club
and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

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: Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

by Jennifer Brumfield, 1998.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Editor:

Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Editorial Assistant:

Dwight W. Chasar - Weather Summary

Technical Editor

Garnet Byrne (GB)

Contributors:

John Augustine (JA)
Nick Barber (NB)
Kathy Barber (KB)
Jane Berger (JBe)
Dan Best (DB)
Dave and Jenny Brumfield (DJB)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)
Leo Deininger (LD)
Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD)
Tim Fairweather (TF)
Vic Fazio (VF)
Bob Finkelstein (BF)
Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad (AJF)
Andy Fondrk (AF)
Ted Gilliland (TG)
Christa Glatner (CG)
Laura Gooch (LG)
Robert Harlan (RHL)
Jackie Haley (JH)
Craig Holt (CH)
Isaac Kerns (IK)
Mary Krejci (MK)
Thomas LePage (TLP)
Karl Liske (KL)
Paula Lozano (PL)
Bernie Master (BM)
Jim McConnor (JM)
Kevin Metcalf (KM)
Ben Morrison (BMo)
Perry Peskin (PP)
Haans Petruschke (HP)
Craig Reicker (CR)
Richard Rickard (RR)
Mary Reinthal (MR)
Drew Rolik (DR)
Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)
Mel Schurdell (MS)
Mike Stasko (MS)
Judy Tisdale (JT)
Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)
Sandy Wagner (SW)
Vernon Weingart (VW)
Jeff Wert (JW)
Ben Winger (BW)
Scott Wright (SW)
Sean Zadar (SZ)

ON THE INSIDE:

The Weather

by Dwight A. Chasar

Spring 2000

Noteworthy Records

by Larry Rosche

Field Notes

Hermit Thrush Nest:

A Sequel to 1999

by Dwight Chasar

Notes Regarding Migration at Gordon Park Impoundment

by Sean T. Zadar

Hawk Watching at Lake Erie Metropark

by Haans Petruschke

Next Issue:

**Summer 2000
Summer Birding
at Sandy Ridge MP**



The Weather

SPRING 2000

by Dwight W. Chasar

MARCH: The temperature averaged 43.2°, 5.9° above normal. The highest temperature was 79° on the 8th; and the lowest, 21° on the 3th. Lake Erie waters rose from 34° to 41° during the month. Sunshine prevailed 53% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 1.57 in., 1.34 in. below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .35 in. on the 11th. Snowfall totaled 8.0 in., with the greatest amount being 3.5 in. on the 11th. The greatest snow depth was 2 in. on the 12th.

APRIL: The temperature averaged 47.0°, .6° below normal. The highest temperature was 75° on the 15th; and the lowest, 28° on the 10th. Sunshine occurred 55% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 3.72 in., 0.58 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.71 in. on the 7-8th. Snow totaled 1.2 in. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 48° by the end of the month.

MAY: The temperature averaged 61.5°, 3.5° above normal. The highest temperature was 86° on the 12th; and the lowest, 39° on the 16th. The lake temperature rose to 56°. Rain was plentiful, totaling 5.45 in., 1.96 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.80 in. on the 28th. There was no snow. Sunshine prevailed 68% of the time possible. *



Male White-winged Crossbill-March 13, 2000-Cleveland Heights
by Laura Gooch©

The Season

Common Loons moved through in fair numbers. The 39 at HBSP on Apr. 9 were deemed excellent by the observer (RH). **Pied-billed Grebes** were as expected. Five at the Hudson Municipal Water Wetland on May 15 provided hope for a local nesting (IK). The high count of **Horned Grebes** was 105 on the Akron Lakes Mar. 18 (CH). **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to explode. It is hard to imagine how the fish population at little Granger Lake could tolerate 42 cormorants on Apr. 16 (JW). The gathering at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River reached 725 on April 27 (PL, MS). **Great Blue Herons** constructed at least 160 nests at the Pinery Narrows rookery (BAT). Best reported approximately 150 nests at a farm in Hambden Township and another 80 at The Rookery in Munson Township. The earliest **Great Egret** was spied by Bill Hudson in Munson Township (*vide* DB). They were as common as I ever recall

in this part of the state. In my various trips around Geauga, Lake, and Portage Counties, I saw 31 egrets. This is ten times the expected number. Add in the sightings of others and it appears they were common most of April and May. **Green Herons** were in much improved numbers. The first was in West Farmington on Apr. 19 (JA). Ten were at Gordon Park on May 9 (SZ). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** flew over SR 44 near HBSP on Mar. 8 (AJF). Up to 50 were seen at Merwyn St in Cleveland during the period (PL, BF, FG). LePage found 4 at Gordon Park on Apr. 11.

No significant reports of **Snow Geese** or **Tundra Swans** were noted. **Wood Ducks** were numerous. **Gadwall** reports were rather disappointing. The high count was only 48 on Mar. 18 at Wingfoot Lake and Mogadore (CH). **American Wigeon** reports were downright poor. Holt found only 18 in Summit and Portage Counties for the entire season. Numbers of migrant **Northern Shovelers** have improved greatly

SPRING 2000



Flash at Hilliard Road Bridge
by Scott Wright©

in the past few years. The 80 counted at Sandy Ridge MP on Mar. 2 represented the highest local tally in many years (AJF, mobs.). The 22 at Lake George Apr. 6-16 paled in comparison to the Sandy Ridge tally (LR). A total of 21 Shovelers moved past HBSP on Apr. 8 (RH). Five graced a farm pond in West Farmington on Mar. 5 (JA). The single shoveler at Shaker Lakes on Mar. 8 is more indicative of our usual occurrence of this species (PP). **Green-winged Teals** were widespread in fair numbers. The earliest bird was at HBSP on Mar. 1 (RH, HP).

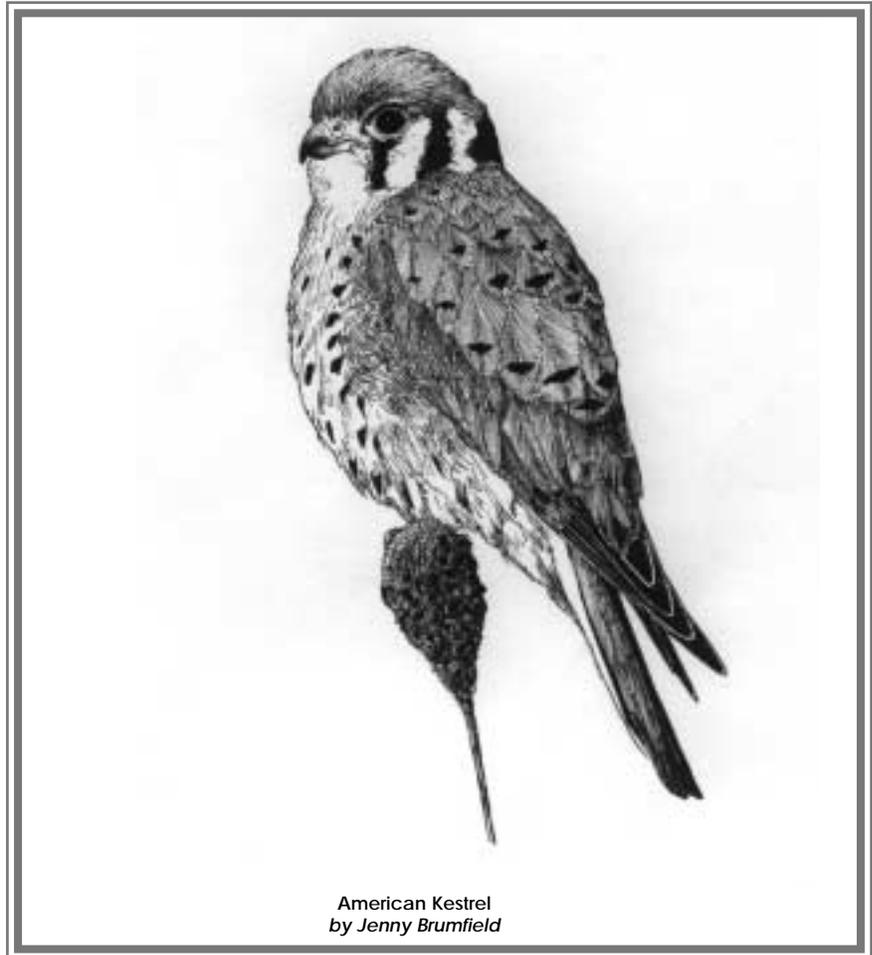
Canvasbacks and Redheads were unremarkable. **Ring-necked Ducks** seemed to be going through an occurrence pattern shift. The 500 at Mogadore on Mar. 15 were well below normal at this preferred locale (LR). As if to make up for the absence of the previously

mentioned species, **Lesser Scaups** were in greater than usual inland totals. The 300 at LaDue the end of March was a very nice count (fide DB). Over 200 were seen at Springfield Lake on Mar. 15 (LR, VW). A **Surf Scoter** was at Oberlin Reservoir on Apr. 9 (TLP). Three were at Rocky River City Park on Apr. 19 (TLP). One was at Wellington on Apr. 29 (RHL, SW). Three **White-winged Scoters** were seen at LaDue on Apr. 8 (CH). A female **Black Scoter** was at HBSP on Apr. 9 (RH). A lone male **Bufflehead** remained at Mentor Lagoons through May 29 (RH). Peak numbers of **Ruddy Ducks** were 350 at Mogadore on Mar. 10 (LR), 250 at Wellington on Apr. 8 (CH), and 780 at LaDue on Apr. 21. Ruddies were also numerous along the lake.

Ospreys were well reported. One was early near North Chagrin on Apr. 6 (AJF).

Two were in Fairport Harbor Apr. 7 (RH, HP, LR). Another was in West Farmington on Apr. 11 (JA). Five reports were received from Geauga Co. (*fide* DB). An Osprey was seen on the Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walk on Apr. 30 (MS). One was in the CVNRA on May 14 (DAC). **Bald Eagle** reports have become almost commonplace. Adults and immatures were regularly found near local nesting areas and along the lake. One was at Forest Hills Park on May 16 (LD). Nests were successful at Lake Rockwell and Tinker's Creek SNP. The Geauga County pair did not fare so well. Yet there were at least 8 sightings of adults and immatures in Geauga Co. (*fide* DB).

Northern Harriers were in good supply. Late birds included one at Sandy Ridge on May 29 (BAT). Nesting was obviously taking place in Fairport Harbor (RH, HP, m.obs). **Red-shouldered** continued their boom period throughout most of the region. **Broad-winged Hawks** had returned to the CVNRA by Apr. 14 (DAC). One was in Granger Township on Apr. 22 (JW). A small movement (11) was noted at Arcola Creek on Apr. 23 (CH). One on the May 7 & 14 Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walks was noteworthy (MS). With few exceptions, **Rough-legged Hawks** were as usual. One was in Wadsworth on Mar. 18 (RHL, SW). Another was in Valley City on Apr. 22 (FG). A bird was in Fairport Harbor on Apr. 23 (RH). Another, with many feathers missing on its left wing, was there on the very late date of May 22 (RH). For those of us who have been birding locally for the past few decades, it is hard to imagine that **Merlins** have left the Noteworthy Reports section of the *Bird Calendar*. This season, no less than 14 birds ventured by HBSP (RH, HP, m.obs.). Other



American Kestrel
by Jenny Brumfield

birds were found at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 20 (BW) and Lake Aquilla SWA (*fide* DB). **American Kestrels** were faring well in rural sectors.

Ring-necked Pheasants have all but disappeared from Northern Ohio. Birds at Caley Woods on Mar. 16 & Apr. 20 (TLP) and the bird noted at Wellington on Apr. 21 were probably released (RR). A **Ruffed Grouse** was near Bridge Creek, north of LaDue on Apr. 9 (LR). Others were noted in the Swine Creek area (*fide* DB). A **Wild Turkey** ventured onto the dunes at HBSP on Mar. 27 (JM). Three were photographed there Apr. 15-16 (RH, LR, VW). The twosome on the Toneffs' patio in Brecksville on Mar. 21 created a unique scenario. One was at Villa

Angela on May 21 (TLP). Reports of flocks numbering to 100 were received from Medina Co. (FG). A bird at Holden on Apr. 30 was more news of the now widespread occurrence of this species (HP). No **Northern Bobwhite** reports were received.

Virginia Rails were disappointing. Contributors are encouraged to report each sighting of this secretive species. A **Sora** was seen on the May 21 Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walk (MS). As many as 4 **Common Moorhens** could be found at Sandy Ridge MP (TF, mobs.) A pair had taken up residence at Lake George by the end of the period (LR). **American Coots** peaked at 520 in Akron on Mar. 18 (CH).

Comments on the May 13, 2000 CVNRA Bird Census

We finished the day at 130 species, tied for second place with 1995, and just six less than we had in 1999. We had a light warm rain almost all morning, then a sunny afternoon, and then a cool evening. We had 14 groups out with a total of 38 participants.

At lunch time, we totaled up to 122 species, which in itself tied for third highest for a spring census. Naturally, we knew other species were to be found. In the afternoon, Mary, Lou Hura found a black and white warbler at the Alexander Road bike path. Dwight and Ann went to Armington Pond for a possible Bobolink but the grass fields were plowed. Thus, we came away with a Savannah Sparrow instead. We went back to Scobie Road, where no Bobolinks were found in the morning. The once grassy field is now becoming scrubby and after walking back half way, Dwight found a singing Bobolink, in some better grass areas. Then Ann and Dwight went on to the ledges at Happy Days for a Hermit Thrush. Dwight was standing in the right place when someone frightened a Hermit Thrush off a ledge and it flew into a tree trunk, slightly stunned, giving Dwight a chance to see it.

When we got home, the Sangriks had left a phone message with their morning list of birds, as they had left for Crane Creek and could not make lunch. They added Cliff Swallow and Northern Mockingbird.

Ann and Dwight went to Jaite in the evening to try to call out a Sora, but we dipped on that one. However, between 8.30 and 9 pm, we got flying Common Nighthawks and lastly calling American Woodcocks. This brought the census to a close at 130 species.

The most noteworthy observation after looking at data from past years is that the Northern Mockingbird was the first ever on a spring census. Ann had an Osprey the next morning at Station Road.

The fall census will be September 16. The next spring census will be May 12, 2001. I know you will put these on your calendars and again arrange your busy schedules around these.

Dwight Chasar
Volunteer, CVNRA and all around nice guy

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** stopped by HBSP on May 5 (RH, HP). No **American Golden-Plovers** were seen or heard. A **Semipalmated Plover** was in Mantua on Apr. 27 (LR, VW). The first **Greater Yellowlegs** were at HBSP on Apr. 7 (RH). **Lesser Yellowlegs** showed up there 2 weeks later. **Solitary** and **Spotted Sandpipers** were widespread and in their usual numbers. Three **Ruddy Turnstones** graced the beach at HBSP on May 19 (RH). Four **Sanderlings** stopped there the same day. One lingered there until May 24 (RH). **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in short supply. No **White-rumped Sandpipers** were located this spring. A flock of 130 **Pectoral Sandpipers** was seen on Apr. 5 in the extreme southwestern corner of Lorain Co. (VF). On Apr. 29, near SR 58 just

south of Russia Road a flock of 75 **Dunlin** occupied a roadside puddle (VF). Five **Short-billed Dowitchers** moved by HBSP on May 12 (RH). A **Common Snipe** was on time at the Ira Road Beaver Marsh on Mar. 13 (TMR). Seven were in the flooded fields near Wellington on Mar. 16 (TLP). Ten were at Jaite in the CVNRA on Mar. 23 (DAC). The high tally was 17 at Wingfoot Lake on Mar. 18 (CH). **American Woodcocks** were widely reported in good numbers.

Bonaparte's **Gulls** were in good numbers, but unfortunately had no rarities as companions this spring. A **Thayer's Gull** flew by HBSP on Mar. 26 (RH, HP). Two **Iceland Gulls** were at the mouth of the Grand River the same day (RH, HP). A 3rd-year **Lesser Black-**

backed Gull was in Cleveland on Mar. 12 (CH). Others were noted in Lorain on Mar. 17 and Apr. 8 (TLP), and at HBSP on Mar. 26 (RH). A **Glaucous Gull** was in Lorain on Mar. 17 (TLP). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in lower than expected numbers. Six **Caspian Terns** were at LaDue on Apr. 9 (RR). Along the lake, they seemed below average. **Common Terns** were relatively scarce along the lake, the high tally being only 9 at HBSP on May 17 (RH). Metcalf wrote, "It may be worth noting that the first week or so of April is the expected arrival time for **Forster's Tern** in northern Ohio, and they generally arrive before the Common Terns. This may be a change from previous decades, as the Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region puts their arrival in late April, when they

are only listed as rare. They are a fairly common migrant throughout April, into May." Inland, Forster's Terns were reported from LaDue, Springfield Lake, and Lake Rockwell. Along the lake, they were as expected. A high of 9 was reached at HBSP on Apr. 29 (RH).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in West Farmington on May 10 (JA). One was detected at Ira Road on May 17 (TMR). One was at Station Road on May 29 (PP). At least one was seen sporadically along the Upper Cuyahoga River (AF, DB). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports clearly outpaced the previous species at about a 50:1 ratio. The reoccurring Gypsy Moth infestation locally is mostly to blame. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were doing well. A pair of **Great Horned Owls** gave bird watchers a treat and park officials a headache at the east parking lot at HBSP. Remarkably, the two young survived to leave the oft-ogled nest.

Contrary to several Internet reports, the earliest **Common Nighthawks** for the Cleveland region arrived on May 4 in Granger Township (JW). This was slightly earlier than expected locally. On May 7, they were detected in the CVNRA (DAC) and in Valley City (FG). The majority did not appear until the last half of the month. The 20 at HBSP on May 22 was an excellent spring tally for the site (RH). The first **Chimney Swifts** were detected at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 19 (BF, BW). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were common after May 1.

Six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were detected at Ira Road in the CVNRA on Apr. 25 (TMR). Up to 10 were noted near Station Road

Of Nighthawks and Mayflies

Coinciding with the mayfly hatch, 3 Common Nighthawks made their annual brief appearance at Russell Park on May 26, two over the Upper Cuyahoga River north of SR 87 on May 30 as part of their annual brief appearance. To small birds, this large variety of mayfly, with a body length of about 1.5 inches, is the equivalent of a slow-flying, foot-long Oscar Meyer. All kinds of birds (waxwings, blackbirds, cuckoos, etc.) join the flycatchers (kingbirds, great crested, phoebes, etc.), swallows, and bats in hawking these "Cuyahoga kielbasa" out of the air. The nighthawks' brief presence begins and ends within the span (less than a week) of this mayfly extravaganza..

Dan Best

(FCD). One was along the Wetmore Trail on May 18 (IK). Two were heard near Lock 32 in the CVNRA on May 11 (MR). One was at Shaker Lakes on May 2 (LD). Migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were about average. One was seen at Bedford Reservation on Apr. 19 (DAC). A late bird was noted at Edgewater SP on May 22 (TLP). A pair was found nesting at Andy Fondrk's home in Chesterland. Paula Lozano and Tom Leiden reported at least two other nests in Geauga County. **Pileated Woodpeckers** continue to demonstrate a strong presence in the region.

An early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Shaker Lakes on May 11 (BW). One was along Zimmerman Trail on May 26 (RH). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were in expected totals. The 14 at Holden on May 14 were indicative (HP). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Villa Angela on May 19 & 27 (TLP). As many as 4 were tallied at HBSP from May 19 to May 29 (RH). **Acadian Flycatchers** were numerous by mid-May. An **Alder Flycatcher** missed by one day being record early at Gordon Park on May 9. It was identified by sight and song (SZ). One was

also early at Silver Creek MP on May 12 (RHL, SW). A **Willow Flycatcher** was early at Gordon Park on May 4 (SZ). **Least Flycatchers** were in good supply throughout the region.. **Eastern Phoebes** were in very high totals along the Upper Cuyahoga. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were numerous and more conspicuous than any recent memory around the natural area at HBSP. Ira Road hosted 3 early **Eastern Kingbirds** on May 1 (TMR).

White-eyed Vireos along the lake are always newsworthy. On May 6, one was singing at Villa Angela (TLP). Birds were noted at HBSP on May 5, 6, & 13 (RH). A bird was at Shaker Lakes on May 2 & 3 (BW, BF, PL). White-eyed were seen at Fawn Pond Road in the CVNRA on May 21 (BAT). One was at Big Creek Park on May 14 (fide DB). **Yellow-throated** and **Blue-headed Vireos** made it back to their preferred nesting locales on time. If one needs to find a Yellow-throated Vireo on his big day, he should try Tinker's Creek SNP. They are very vocal and numerous there. **Warbling Vireos** arrived in good numbers by early May. On May 21, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted on the Shaker Lakes Sunday Morning Bird walk (PP). One was at HBSP the same

day (RH, LR). A bird was early on May 12 at Whiskey Island Marina (FG, PL). One was found at Edgewater SP on May 16 (PL).

Purple Martins seemed to be in higher numbers than in the past few years. **Cliff Swallows** returned to regular nesting sites on time. They were fairly regular along the lake. The most unusual report was of a bird at Holden Arboretum on Apr. 30 (HP).

Few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted. **Brown Creepers** put in a good showing. The high tally was 20+ at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 3 (NB, KB). Finding the nest of this unique species is always a special treat. On May 31, the Chasars located one in the CVNRA. Best reported 2-4 singing males along the Prothonotary Warbler trail on the Upper Cuyahoga River. **Carolina and House Wrens** were conspicuous throughout the region. **Winter Wrens** moved nicely. A **Marsh Wren** was at Ira Road on May 5 (TMR). At least 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** nesting territories were noted at Hinckley MP (RHL, SW). The 20 at Tinker's Creek SNP on Mar 30 (TLP) and the 26 near Lock 32 on Apr. 13 were demonstrative of a fairly strong the local passage (MR). The 30 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** reported on the Rocky River



Pine Siskin
by Scott Wright©

Sunday Morning Bird Walk of Apr. 30 (MS) and the 40 at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 1 (NB, KB) were indicative of regional abundance. One was early at HBSP on Mar. 30 (JM). Numbers of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** provided early migrant watching throughout early April. A nest was completed in a leafless oak at Tinker's Creek SNP by Apr. 29 (LR).

Eastern Bluebirds are flourishing locally. The 11 tallied at Holden on Apr. 23 were representative of local abundance (RR). **Veeries** were in good numbers along the lake. Inland, they were abundant in preferred nesting locales. One was at Villa Angela on May 6 (TLP). Birds were seen regularly at HBSP most of May (RH). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a good find at Lake George on May 17 (LR). One was at Villa Angela on May 21 (TLP). Birds were noted on 3 late May dates at HBSP (RH). **Swainson's Thrushes** were again disappointing. The high count of **Hermit Thrushes** was 22 at HBSP on Apr. 20 (NB). **Wood Thrushes** were widespread and fairly numerous. A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 20 (BW). One was at Jaite on Apr. 30 (DAC). They were regularly found along the shore of Lake Erie from Lorain to Fairport Harbor. Typically, the Romitos found 6 along the Cleveland Lakefront on Mar. 5. After finding 6 on the near West Side of Cleveland, Drew Rolik commented, "Has this species become too common to report?" A **Brown Thrasher** caused quite a racket in Kent on Apr. 14 (GB, CG, KL). Elsewhere, reports of thrashers were improved. On Apr. 8, 20-30 **American Pipits** were in Carlisle Township (SW). On May 1, 25 pipits were at Gordon Park (SZ). The last report was May 12

at HBSP (KM). **Cedar Waxwings** were abundant.

Warblers received a variety of comments. Dwight Chasar wrote "Between Apr. 30 and May 3, 24 warbler species were seen in the CVNRA (between ourselves and others we talked to)." Greenland touted, "Spring migration 2000 seemed to be a bit better, but earlier than last year." On the other hand, Hannikman had no day that brought more than 19 species of warblers to HBSP this spring.

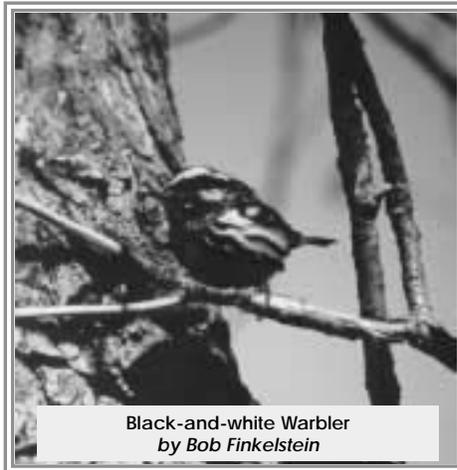
Blue-winged Warblers arrived May 1 in West Farmington (JA). On May 12, Zadar tallied 69 at the Horseshoe Pond sector of the CVNRA. He commented "This is the highest number I have ever recorded for this location since I began censusing the area five years ago." The 3 along the Ira Road beaver marsh on May 15 were more typical (GB, JT). **Tennessee Warblers** were in average numbers. The high tally was 14 at Holden on May 14 (HP). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 30 (NB, BW). Another was at Veteran's Park on May 5 (NB, m.obs.). Another was spied at Gordon Park on May 11 (SZ). Barber felt **Nashville Warblers** seemed scarce at Shaker Lakes this spring. Hannikman's totals from HBSP appeared to be fairly typical. **Northern Parulas** put in a good showing. Two were at Shaker Lakes on May 5 (JBe, BF, PL, BW). On May 7, two were reported from the same locale (NB, KB). Shaker Lakes again hosted birds on May 15-16 (NB, KB). Birds were at HBSP on May 5, 13, & 22 (RH, m.obs.). On May 4, a male was at Whiskey Island Marina (FG, PL). Birds were at Gordon Park on May 7 & 9 (SZ). One graced Granger

Avenue in Lakewood on May 10 (PL). One was found at Edgewater on May 12 (PL). A female was at Whiskey Island Marina, Cleveland, on May 12 (FG, PL). A bird in the CVNRA on May 26 may have represented a territorial male (NB). The first **Yellow Warbler** report was a rather late Apr. 24 in Streetsboro (CH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were numerous along the lake and inland. While still one of our most conspicuous warblers, **Magnolia Warbler** numbers were somewhat lower than usual. **Cape May Warblers** are usually tough to find in spring. This year was no different. The only reports were May 2 at Shaker Lakes (BW, BF, PL), May 7 at HBSP (RH), May 9 at Shaker Lakes (NB, KB), May 11 at Whiskey Island Marina (FG, PL), and May 15 at Gordon Park (SZ). Seven **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at Deep Lock Quarry MP on May 11 (IK). They put in a marvelous showing at HBSP. Between May 6 and May 29 Hannikman tallied 64 sightings. His single day high count was 16 on May 12. The 20 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Ira Road on Mar. 13 was a good count for the time of the season (TMR). **Black-throated Green Warblers** passed through early, but were in solid totals for the region. **Blackburnian Warblers** were about average. The high at HBSP was 3 on May 21 (RH). At Shaker Lakes the high was 2 on May 7 (NB, KB). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were first reported from their usual nesting areas on Apr. 14 (DAC). One was along the Wetmore Trail on May 15 (IK). **Pine Warblers** continue to invade locally. A bird was regularly found at Holden from Mar. 25 through mid-May (HP, RR). Two were counted on the Apr. 30 Rocky River Sunday Morning

Date on top of column	1	2	3	4	7	8	9	11	15	16	23
Blue-winged Warbler	°	°	°	°	1	°	°	°	°	°	°
Tennessee Warbler	°	1	°	°	6	4	1	°	°	°	°
Nashville Warbler	°	°	°	°	2	1	1	°	°	°	°
Northern Parula	°	°	°	°	2	°	°	°	1	1	°
Yellow Warbler	4	4	4	1	2	°	2	°	°	°	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	3	1	°	1	°
Magnolia Warbler	1	°	°	°	2	3	3	4	°	°	°
Cape May Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	2	°	°	°	°
Black-throated Blue Warbler	°	°	1	°	1	°	1	°	°	°	°
Yellow-rumped Warbler	25	10	15	6	15	20	35	15	3	°	°
Black-throat. Green Warbler	3	°	°	1	°	°	°	°	°	°	°
Blackburnian Warbler	°	°	35	°	2	°	°	°	°	1	°
Palm Warbler	25	°3	°	3	8	4	1	3	°	°	°
Bay-breasted Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	2	1	2	3	°
Blackpoll Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	3
Black-and-white Warbler	°5	1	5	1	1	°	2	°	°	°	°
American Redstart	°	°	°	°	°	°	2	3	1	3	2
Northern Waterthrush	1	°	°	°	1	°	1	°	°	°	°
Common Yellowthroat	°	°	°	°	°	°	2	°	°	1	°
Wilson's Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	1	2	°	°
Canada Warbler	°	°	°	°	°	°	1	°	2	°	°

May Warbler Data from Shaker Lakes by Nick and Kathy Barber

Bird Walk (MS). The same day, up to 13 were tallied at Shaker Lakes (NB, PP, BW)! A bird was at Kendall Lake on May 11 (IK). Exceptional numbers remained to nest at Lake Rockwell (LR). **Palm Warblers** held their own this spring. On May 3-5, up to 35 were counted at Lower Shaker Lake, (NB, KB, JBe, BF, PL, BW) **Bay-breasted Warblers** were more conspicuous inland than along the lake. An estimated 80 **Blackpoll Warblers** were at HBSP on May 28 (HP). A **Cerulean Warbler** was a good find at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on May 5 (MK). No reports of Cerulean Warblers were noted along the lake. It is hoped observers will report all local nesting areas of this habitat sen-



Black-and-white Warbler by Bob Finkelstein

sitive species. **Black-and-white Warblers** were in expected numbers. Numerous **American Redstarts** gave observers something flashy to watch throughout most of May. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Sandy Ridge MP on May 29 (BAT). The only report from the CVNRA was the same day (PP). Ten pairs had established residence near Russell Park by the end of May (DB, AF). An **Ovenbird** was belting out his best rendition of "teacher, teacher, teacher" at Big Creek Park on May 8 (DB, LR). Another, perhaps in a state of awe, appeared very docile in Public Square on May 16 (DR). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at the Ira Road beaver marsh on May 14 (GB, JT). They were regularly observed at Shaker Lakes from May 1 through May 16 (m.obs.). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were fairly common by Apr. 15. The 8 in Stebbins Gulch on Apr. 29 were indicative of their expected abundance (HP). One was unusual at Shaker Lakes on May 17 & 19 (RR, NB). **Kentucky Warblers** were found four times. This was well above recent years. The first was noted at the Ravenna TLS on May 3 (LR). One was at Silver Creek MP on May 12 (RHL, SW). Two were in

Virginia Kendall near the Octagon on May 18 (IK). The last report was from Streetsboro on May 26 (LR, VW). Counts of 3-4

Mourning Warblers were regular at HBSP the last third of May (RH, m.obs.). A female was at Edgewater SP on May 17 (PL, FG). One was in Valley City on May 15 (FG). **Canada Warblers** staged their best movement locally in quite some time.

Numerous reports were received along the lake and in the CVNRA. A **Yellow-Breasted Chat** was very vocal at HBSP on May 12 (m.obs.). One was in Valley City on May 15 (FG). One was seen along the Wetmore Trail on May 17 (IK). One was at Carlisle MP on May 31 (TLP).

Eastern Towhees were in solid numbers by May. Two at Gordon Park on Apr. 4 were the earliest to reach the lakefront (TLP). The latest **American Tree Sparrow** was at Gordon Park on May 5 (SZ). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was at Lake George on Apr. 6 (LR). By Apr. 14, 50 were being seen at the conifer-laden Holden Arboretum (HP). A **Field Sparrow** was singing at the Ira Road trail-head on Apr. 3 (TMR). Always an uncommon migrant locally, **Vesper Sparrows** were in rather good supply this year. The Dinkelbachs had the pleasure of

observing one in the same bush as a Savannah Sparrow on Mar. 25 at the Jaite beaver marsh. On Apr. 3, one was at Shaker Lakes (NB). On Apr. 9, 6 were at Holden (HP). Between Apr. 9 and May 5 as many as 8 could be found at Gordon Park (SZ, m.obs.). Whiskey Island played host to one on Apr. 19 (NB). HBSP held two on Apr. 20 (NB). A bird was seen at Gilmore on Apr. 28 (NB). The first **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at HBSP on Apr. 24 (NB). Two were at Gordon Park on Apr. 28 (SZ). Another was at Shaker Lakes on May 1 (BF, mobs.). One was elusive at HBSP on May 13 (RH, m.obs.). **Fox Sparrows** came through in expected numbers. The high tally was 11 at HBSP on Apr. 7 (RH). Likewise, **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in expected local totals. The four at HBSP on May 21 represented a local high number (RH). The first bird to reach the lake was at Gordon Park on May 1 (SZ). Another fairly early Lincoln Sparrow was at Shaker Lakes on May 2 (LD). **White-throated Sparrow** numbers were decidedly down at HBSP. This prompted Hannikman to comment, "Where were the White-throated Sparrows? A maximum of six on May 6 was a pitifully meager count. I missed the spring chorus of White-throated Sparrow song this year."

White-crowned Sparrows peaked at 122 at Gordon Park on May 4 (SZ). A **Dark-eyed Junco** at Virginia Kendall Ledges was unusual on the late date of May 15 (DAC). A **Lapland Longspur** in summer plumage was at the Fairport Harbor fields on Apr. 14 (RH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were fairly common

migrants at HBSP. A walk along the tracks from Tinker's Creek SNP to Streetsboro Bog would surely yield over 100 of these brightly-colored specimens. Typically, **Indigo Buntings** are common away from Lake Erie. They were unusually conspicuous along the lake this spring. On May 7, 8 were tallied at HBSP. This is an extraordinary number for the site (RH). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was early at HBSP on Mar. 4 (RH, HP). A **Common Grackle** with white tail feathers hanging out in the field next to Stow Kent Bowling lanes provided an interesting sight (JT). **Orchard Orioles** had returned to the Ravenna TLS by May 3 (LR). An immature male was spied at Shaker Lakes on May 4 (BW). Three birds were at HBSP on May 5 (RH, HP). A male was singing along the Upper Cuyahoga on May 22 (DB, AF). An Orchard Oriole at Rocky River MP on May 30 may be representative of a new nesting locale (TLP). **Baltimore Orioles** were very numerous. The 30 counted at HBSP on May 5 was conservative indeed (RH). **Purple Finches** put in a fairly strong showing, given the recent past seasons. The 6-12 at a Valley City feeder Apr. 21-30 was indicative of the increase (FG). Two were seen at Bradley Woods on Apr. 19 (TLP). They were in outstanding numbers in the eastern sector of the region. LePage counted 20-25 **Common Redpolls** at the Lorain impoundment on Mar. 19. One was in Akron on Apr. 19 (JH). Three **Pine Siskins** were in Brecksville on Mar. 29 (DAC). Ten were checked off at Knollwood Cemetery in Mayfield Heights on Apr. 28 (NB). Judging from the photographs, it appears they may have nested near North Olmstead (SW). ❁



Pine Siskins in North Olmstead
by Scott Wright©



RED-THROATED LOON - An immature was off the main beach at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 24 (Barber). One was at Springfield Lake on Apr. 25 (Morrison).

RED-NECKED GREBE - A breeding-plumaged bird was in Shalersville on Apr. 23-24 (Rosche, Holt, m.obs.). Three were seen at Springfield Lake on Apr. 25 (Morrison). They remained for several days (m.obs.).

EARED GREBE - A handsomely plumed bird was swimming off the east end of Gordon Park on Apr. 13-15 (Rosche, Zadar).

AMERICAN BITTERN - It was a very good season for this difficult to detect species. The first bittern was in Lorain on Mar. 19 (LePage). A bird spent several days in West Farmington starting Apr. 10 (Augustine). A bittern was in the CVNRA on Apr. 30

(Chasar). Another graced Lorain on May 3 (LePage). One was videotaped perched atop an SUV in Cleveland Heights by Ray Hereford on May 7 (*vide* Metcalf). First reported on May 14, up to four birds were found at Sandy Ridge MP in North Ridgeville (Kerns, m.obs.). One was at Gordon Park May 9-11 (Zadar).

LEAST BITTERN - As many as 3 birds were seen at Sandy Ridge MP (Barber, Toneff, m.obs.). Another was calling vigorously at Tinker's Creek SNP on May 21 (Rosche). One was calling along Shipman Pond May 26-27 (Rosche, Hannikman).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - Two individuals were found. The first was at the Ira Road Beaver Marsh in the CVNRA on May 11 (Kerns). The other spent May 22 to May 26 along the west bank of Cuyahoga River, near Merwin Street in Cleveland. This adult allowed photographs to be taken and was seen by many (Lozano, m.obs.).

BLACK VULTURE - A bird was observed in Medina Co. line along Camel Creek on Apr. 25 (Fazio).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Nesting at local sites was in full progress at the end of the period (Wright, Lozano, m.obs.). A bird was at Headlands Beach SP on May 13 (Metcalf, Hannikman). One was at the "Hotwaters" in Lorain on Mar. 1 and at Gordon Park on Apr. 9-10 (Zadar).

SANDHILL CRANE - Two were photographed along Stafford Road in Geauga Co. on Mar. 20 (Rosche, Weingart). One was at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 30 (McConnor). Two were regularly found in Madison in early Apr. (Fjeldstad, m.obs.). Two adults were studied in Claridon Township on May 26-27 (Metcalf). Best posed the question as to whether the Claridon Township pair was a new pair to the area or whether the usual pair may have relocated to the wetlands and fallow fields of the West Branch of the Upper Cuyahoga River.

WILLET - One was seen on the beach at Villa Angela on May 19 (LePage).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - On Apr. 23, 3 were in the field in Fairport Harbor (Hannikman, Rosche). Four were in the same field the next day (Hannikman, Petruschke). One was at the western section of the impoundment at Gordon Park on May 5. This accommodating shorebird foraged openly, allowing thorough scrutiny (Zadar).

WHIMBREL - A northbound flock of 8 passed over Lake Rockwell on May 20 (Rosche).

MARbled GODWIT - One flew by Headlands Beach SP on May 12 (Metcalf).



Sandhill Cranes in Auburn Township Mar. 20, 2000
by Larry Rosche

LITTLE GULL - One was in the vicinity of Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 2 (Petruschke).

BLACK TERN - Birds were reported from Sandy Ridge MP on May 15 and May 20 (Fairweather).

BARN OWL - A bird was flushed from Auburn Road in Mantua Township in the predawn hours of Apr. 16 (Rosche, Weingart).

LONG-EARED OWL - The only report of this handsome owl was from Kent Bog in mid-April (fide Byrne).

SHORT-EARED OWL - Up to 3 birds were seen in Fairport Harbor Apr. 15-21 (Hannikman, Metcalf, Petruschke, mobs.). One was at Gordon Park on Apr. 30 (Zadar).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Two different individuals were found at Gordon Park. One was there Apr. 9-10 (Zadar), and another was found there on Apr. 14, (Zadar, Finkelstein, Winger).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - It seems like years since this desk received a report of this beleaguered species. This spring, not one, but two birds were reported. The first was seen by Dr. Bernie Master at Gordon Park on Apr. 29. Another adult was found and photographed along the fence guarding the superfund fields in



Loggerhead Shrike-Fairport Harbor-May 6, 2000
by Haans Petruschke

Fairport Harbor on May 6. Unfortunately, some rowdy dirt bikers came along and chased it off (Petruschke, m.obs.).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - One was observed singing at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 25 (Hannikman, Metcalf).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A male Blue-winged Warbler X Golden-winged Warbler was noted at the Ravenna TLS. "A very unusual song prompted Dr. Courtenay Willis to investigate this songster. A week later, I was able to view the hybrid at close range. It had yellowish edgings to the white wing bars, which is typical of Blue-wings with Golden-winged Warbler integration in their ancestry. The eyeline was exaggerated with a wide portion at the lore, creating an upside-down triangle. The throat had no black which completely eliminates a Lawrence's Warbler." (Zadar). Another hybrid of this type was at Villa Angela on May 5 (Finkelstein, Lozano).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - On May 1, a singing male was between the towpath and Station Road bridge in the CVNRA (Dinkelbach).

SUMMER TANAGER - Our only report of this handsome Neotropical migrant was from the May 21 Rocky River Sunday Morning Bird Walk (Stasko, m.obs.). Checking previous records, I find the third weekend of May provides the best opportunity to see this species.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Two were found singing along the southern perimeter fence to Gordon Park on May 7 (Zadar). Apparently, this is the first report of multiple birds in the history of the region.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - The only report of this grassland specialty was at Gordon Park on May 5 (Zadar).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - Stunning photographs of both male and female birds were obtained by Laura Gooch in Cleveland Heights on Mar. 13. Three (same?) were at Shaker Lakes the same day (Deiningner). A pair was in Cleveland Heights on Apr. 13 (Metcalf). *



Hermit Thrush Nest: A Sequel to 1999 by Dwight Chasar

On May 13, 2000 I observed a Hermit Thrush (Catharus guttatus) at the same site as last year's nest at the Kendall Ledges in the CVNRA. It was about this date when I estimated that eggs would have been laid last year. (Chasar).

On May 15, after about 2 hours of observing the thrushes coming and going from my own somewhat concealed position, I discovered their nest. The nest was on a shallow ledge about 10-12 inches deep on the opposite face of the crevasse used last year. It was located near a pile of debris of branches, twigs, and leaves, caught between a tree sapling growing out of the side of the crevasse and the crevasse face itself. The nest was to the side of the debris and made of twigs arranged in a circular array. It was about 12 feet from the bottom of the crevasse and just above the path that traverses the

Saw
indicated
young were
few days old...

crevasse. This nest was as vulnerable from below as the one last year was from above.

When I observed the nest from above the crevasse with my Swarovski scope, I saw no eggs but instead, a couple of tiny beaks bobbing up from time to time! The female arrived shortly, fed the two beaks, and settled down to brood the young, as only she does (Jones), for about 30 minutes. Halfway into this period, the male arrived with food. He passed the food to the female, whose beak was opened widely. She raised from the nest, fed the young, took more food from the male, and fed the young again. The male did not feed them, and he left.

She continued brooding. Then she became very alert, left the nest, and the male immediately flew in. He fed the young himself, removed a fecal sac, ate it at the nest, and then left. Eating the fecal sac at the nest indicates that the young were just a few days old (Jones). The nest remained unattended for about 12 minutes, when the female returned and again fed the young. After 5 minutes the male arrived with food. He passed some to the open gape of the female, she arose from the nest, and they both proceeded to feed the young. She opened widely again, he passed more food to her, and they both continued to feed. She opened widely again, but he was depleted of food. He

left the nest, and she settled down to brood once more. During this brood time, two groups of two people walked through the crevasse just below the nest. She froze to the nest both times.

I again observed the nest on May 20. The adults were still very attentive to the young. Since I was away on business for a week, my wife Ann visited the nest on the evening of the 25th. At that time, the nest was empty. On the next morning, Ann found the two adults being attentive to two non-cowbird young in the same crevasse. Unfortunately, she also observed a blue jay nab one of the fledglings in a flurry of bird activity and fly away with it.

Assuming that these two fledged on the 25th, the eggs would have hatched on the 13th, the first day I observed the adult and also making the chicks yet young enough for the adult to still be eating the fecal sacs at the nest (*vide supra*). Incubation of the eggs would have started on May 1, and they would have been laid in the last two days of April. Nest construction takes 7-10 days (Jones). This means that nest building began as early as April 15th. This nest was at least 12 days ahead of last year's. The earliest documented date for nest building in Ohio is April 30 (Peterjohn) in Hocking Co. It is noteworthy that a Hermit Thrush was observed at Virginia Kendall on January 17 (Brumfield).

Brumfield, D. and J. 2000. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, p. 6.

Chasar, D. 1999. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, p. 30.

Jones, P.W. and Donovan, T.M. 1996. "Hermit Thrush." *The Birds of North America*, No. 261, (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.

Peterjohn, B.G. and D.L. Rice, 1991. *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, p. 30.

Notes Regarding Migration at Gordon Park Impoundment

Sean T. Zadar

In times past, Gordon Park impoundment, a dredge disposal site dubbed "Dike 14" by the Army Corps of Engineers, inspired locally a heightened enthusiasm for shorebirds, as an impressive variety dominated the avian scene. During the 1980's, a cumulative total of 38 shorebird species graced extensive mudflats created by the addition of dredged materials to the impoundment. It seemed that new local shorebird records were broken almost every season. Astounding discoveries came during 1984 when a summer Curlew Sandpiper and then a fall Sharp-tailed Sandpiper thrilled many observers (*The Cleveland Bird Calendar* 80:2, 1984; 80:3, 1984). Over the twenty-year history of the Gordon Park impoundment, 262 avian species have been reported for the area.

But now, the Gordon Park impoundment rests in a state of hiatus undisturbed by human modification. The process of ecological succession has spawned both field and pioneer forest species throughout the landscape. As habitat transformation began to change the interior topography, resource exploitation by avifauna shifted from shorebirds to sparrows primarily. The impoundment began to magnetize progressively larger concentrations of sparrows, and now the area is considered an important staging site for them. Undoubtedly, Gordon Park has become a preferred staging area for White-crowned Sparrows (CBC data; pers. obs.; see discussion below). Since 1980, seventeen species

have been documented within the complex, including several noteworthy songsters: Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow. Sparrow high counts have been well documented. Two hundred plus White-throated Sparrows have been encountered during fall migration (Peterjohn 1989; pers. obs.). During peak fall migration in October, White-crowned Sparrows have reached as many as 400-500 transients (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 85:4, 1989; pers. obs.). This spring, 92 White-throated Sparrows and 122 White-crowned Sparrows dwelled within the impoundment on May 4. Climactic abundance figures for Song Sparrows most likely exceed 100 migrants per day during both spring and fall migrations (pers. obs.). From April 19 through May 4, 2000, Song Sparrow numbers remained fairly consistent, averaging 77 detectable songsters daily. Vesper Sparrows have peaked seasonally at six on April 18, 1988, and twelve, on October 22, 1987 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 83:4, 1987; 84:2, 1988). On October 12, 1991, a phenomenal count of 200 Chipping Sparrows occurred at the impoundment (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 87:4, 1991). Forty-four Savannah Sparrows were found this spring on May 4, representing the largest spring concentration on CBC record. In the past, high tallies for Field Sparrows were 16 on October 15, 1989, and 15, on April 8, 1993 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 85:4, 1989; 89:2, 1993). A remarkable count of 45 Lincoln's Sparrows took place on September 5, 1989 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 85:4, 1989). Swamp Sparrows

...Spring migration 2000 brought fifteen species of sparrows to the impoundment...

were most numerous on October 5, 1996, with 40 migrants sighted (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 92:4, 1996). Lastly, Dark-eyed Juncos reached figures as high as 500 during spring, 1990, and 400 during spring, 1992 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 86:2, 1990; 88:2, 1992).

Spring migration 2000 brought fifteen species of sparrows to the impoundment. An outstanding highlight was the detection of two singing Clay-colored Sparrows on May 7 along the southern perimeter fence. This is the first published record of two concurrent Clay-colored Sparrows for the Gordon Park locality and for the region covered by The Cleveland Bird Calendar (CBC data). Other exceptional discoveries were a single Henslow's Sparrow on May 5 and two Grasshopper Sparrows on April 28. One previous spring record exists for a Henslow's Sparrow at Gordon Park impoundment, a single individual in 1993 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 89:2,



1993). Vesper Sparrows were encountered reliably during the second week of April with a maximum of eight on April 15, breaking the standing spring record of six reported on April 18, 1988 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 84:2, 1988).

The Gordon Park impoundment has become a sanctuary for exceptional migrant owls, all of which are species of concern in Ohio. Over the past decade, migrant Short-eared Owls have regularly exploited natural resources within the impoundment. Spring totals average 1-2 migrants per season, whereas fall numbers are slightly higher, averaging 2-3 owls per season (CBC data; pers. obs.). Recent observations include a peak of seven Short-eared Owls during the 1999 fall season and a single bird on April 30, 2000 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 95:4, 1999; pers. obs.). Since last fall, Northern Saw-whet Owls have frequented an immature conifer stand near the southern perimeter. Published data on sight records for this species are scarce for Gordon Park. The conifer stand may have reached a maturation level suitable to the habitat requirements of saw-whets, or the dense habitat may have hampered past detection efforts. A single bird was mist-netted in autumn, 1989, and three owls were observed in autumn, 1999 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 85:4, 1988; 95:4, 1999). Two separate migrants were discovered this spring, one on April 9 and 10, and another on April 14. Historically, Barn Owls have been documented, as feather remains were found on October 8, 1988, and a living specimen on December 16, 1992 (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 84:4, 1988; 89:1, 1992-93). There were two noteworthy

flights over the impoundment this spring. Cedar Waxwings crested on May 31 with an impressive 1,666 migrants, comprised of discrete flocks ranging in size from 3 to 140 (average = 44). Substantial flights of Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen on April 14th with 432 transients (flock size range from 10 to 130; average = 39) and on April 15th with 968 (flock size range from 2 to 90; average = 33).

Traditionally, sizable numbers of Northern Flickers have staged at Gordon Park. Spring concentrations have reached as many as 100 migrants in 1992 and a maximum occurrence of 45 this spring (The Cleveland Bird Calendar 88:2, 1992; pers. obs.). Acknowledgments: Special thanks to Nancy Klamm for use of her library and field notes. In addition, thanks to Ben Winger and Ted Gilliland for their enthusiasm and keen field observations. The author acknowledges Ted Gilliland for his photo-documentation efforts.

Reference:
Peterjohn, B.G. 1989. The Birds of Ohio.
Indiana University Press.

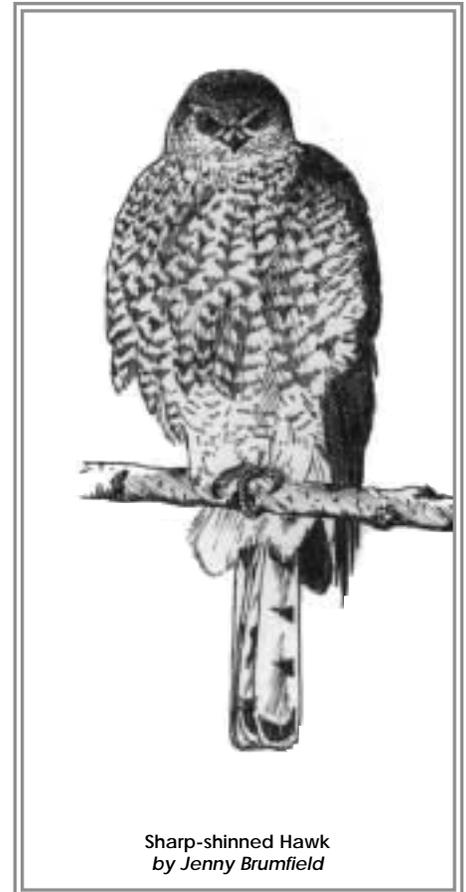
Hawk Watching at Lake Erie Metropark *by Haans Petruschke*

Until just 6 years ago, Lake Erie Metropark, located in Brownstone Township, Michigan, between Toledo, and Detroit, was pretty much unknown as a fall hawk migration site. Cape May, New Jersey; Holiday Beach, Ontario; Hawk Ridge, Minnesota; Galveston, Texas; and Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, were considered to be the major fall sites in North America, each boasting counts of more than

50,000 hawks per year. That changed on September 19, 1994, when Tim Smart, and Jeff Shultz counted 228,000 Broad-winged Hawks in a single day's flight.

Since 1994 Lake Erie Metropark has been recognized as one of the most important fall hawk migration sites in North America. It is the best site for Broad-winged Hawks north of Texas and the best site for Golden Eagles east of the Rockies. On the right days the Hawk migration at this site can be spectacular, (if not awe inspiring) both in sheer numbers, and the varieties of species observed. In addition to the Broad-wingeds and Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons are more numerous than at any other northern site, except Cape May, New Jersey; Swainson's Hawks are counted annually; and all of the expected hawks that occur in northeastern North America are found in good numbers.

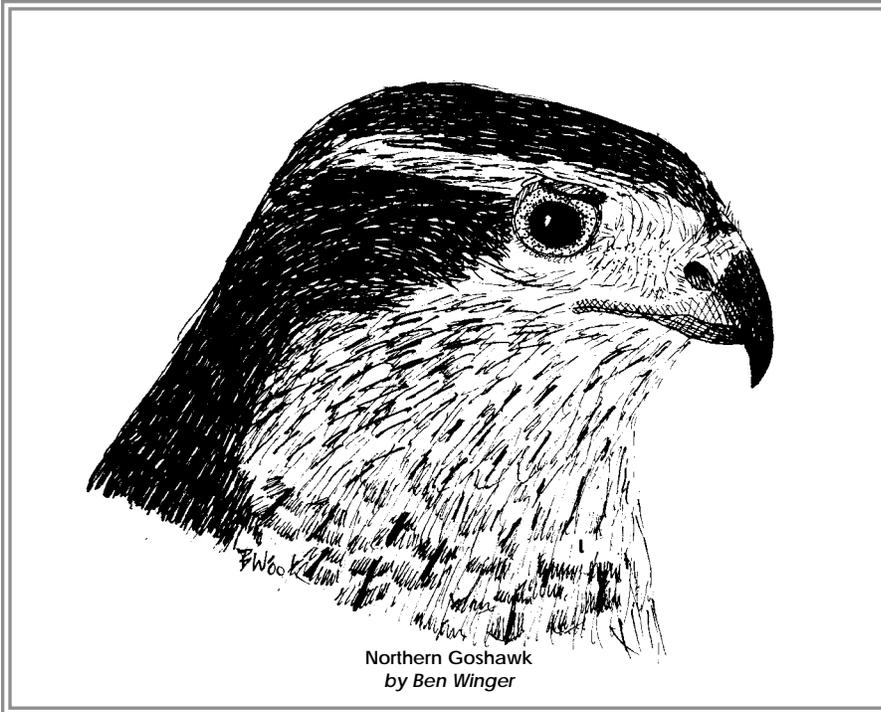
The history of Lake Erie Metropark began in the late 1980's when Tim Smart, an experienced hawk watcher, who had spent many years helping with the count at Holiday Beach, began to wonder where the hawks all went after they departed the Holiday Beach area. Holiday Beach has been known for decades as an important fall migration site. It is located on the northern shore of Lake Erie about 8 miles east of the mouth of the Detroit River. The migration at Holiday Beach is to the west, as birds follow the Lake Erie shoreline. Realizing the birds had to be crossing the Detroit River somewhere, Tim began to search for the area. By 1991 he had settled on 2 sites: the boat launch at Lake Erie Metropark, when the winds are out of the south, and the boat launch at



Sharp-shinned Hawk
by Jenny Brumfield

Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, when the winds are out of the north. These sites are about 3 miles apart. The Lake Erie Metropark boat launch is right at the mouth of the Detroit River, while the boat launch at Pointe Mouillee is actually along the shore of Lake Erie. Collectively, these two sites are known as Lake Erie Metropark.

There is often a question why Lake Erie Metropark gets more hawks than Holiday Beach, which is after all, only 8 miles away. Geography offers the best explanation. Both Holiday beach and Lake Erie Metropark are good sites because of a funnel effect. Many hawks are reluctant to cross large bodies of water. So any hawk heading south out of Ontario will probably encounter the Great Lakes. If the hawk hits



Northern Goshawk
by Ben Winger

Lake Superior east of Heron Bay, it will probably follow the shore of Lake Superior south and east, then follow the shore of Lake Huron further south into southwestern Ontario. If a hawk hits the northern shore of Lake Ontario, or Lake Erie, it is likely to follow the shoreline southwest, again into southwestern Ontario. So any hawk heading south across a 600-mile front is funneled into the relatively small area of southwestern Ontario. While Holiday Beach is up the neck and on one side of the funnel, Lake Erie Metropark is right at the exit.

This geography results in spectacular hawk flights. Last summer, the effects of a hurricane bottled up the Broad-winged Hawks to the north. When the weather finally broke on September 17, more than 500,000 Broad-wingeds came through on a single day! While days like this have occurred only twice in the 10 year history of the

site, mid-September often has Broad-winged Hawk flights of 40,000 to 70,000 birds in a single day. Later in the season single day flights of other hawks can be very impressive. On October 30, 1998, 4,233 Red-tailed Hawks were counted. Most of this flight occurred in just a 3-hour period. Days with over 1000 Sharp-shinned Hawks can occur any time from mid-

September to early October. Golden Eagle flights usually begin around mid-October and last through mid-November. Peak days can result in more than 40 birds being counted.

From the perspective of a Cleveland area birder, Lake Erie Metropark, as an easy day trip, offers some of the finest hawk watching in North America. Lake Erie Metropark is a 2.5-3 hour drive from downtown. Leaving at 6:30-7:00 will get you to the site just as the action is beginning at 9:30-10:00. The hawk flights are usually over by 5:00 so you can be home before 9:00. While Holiday Beach is only 8 miles away, another 2-3 hours are required to get there by car, as you must cross the river in Detroit, then head back south to Lake Erie. The best days for any



Broad-winged Hawk
by Ben Winger

fall hawk migration are during or immediately after the passage of a cold front. September 17-21 are the peak dates for Broad-winged Hawks. Sharp-shinned Hawks come through with the Broad-wingeds and continue through early October. Early October is best for variety, with 15 hawk species possible in a single day. As stated earlier, mid-October to mid-November is the best time for Golden Eagles.

The mechanics of the hawk watch at Lake Erie Metropark are different from other sites. There is no tower or high point for observation. Birds are first spotted at distances sometimes exceeding 2 miles and may not get closer than a mile to the observation site. As a result, a spotting scope can be very useful at the site. Because of the great distances involved, getting a

good look at a life bird may be frustrating at times. Lawn chairs, sunscreen, insect repellent, and clothing for all types of weather are also useful. Fully improved restrooms are located at the Lake Erie Metropark boat launch, while pit-type facilities are all that exist at the Pointe Mouillee boat launch. There is a charge for vehicles at Lake Erie Metropark but access to Point Mouillee is free. An official counter will be working at the day's primary site. On slow to moderate days, there can be a lot of time to answer questions, find birds, etc. During peak flights the official counter and his or her assistants can get very busy, so it's best to ask questions of those not directly involved in the official count.

To get to Lake Erie Metropark, take I-75 north to exit 27, Huron River Road. Follow Huron River

Road east to Jefferson. The entrance to Lake Erie Metropark is a quarter mile north on Jefferson. Follow the signs to the Marshland Museum (where year-to-date summaries are posted) and boat launch. To get to Pointe Mouillee, take Jefferson south about 2 miles to Campau Road. Follow Campau east and then south to the boat launch.

The hawk watch at Lake Erie Metropark is conducted every day from September 1 through November 30. The hawk watch is conducted by Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research. Anyone can join SMRR by contacting us via e-mail at: smrr.officers@umich.edu. Research personnel will mail a membership form, or you can call Jeff Shultz directly at 734-439-0750. *

The totals for the 1999 season:		Significant dates from the 1999 season.	
Turkey Vulture	31,424		
Osprey	73	September 17, 1999	555,371 Broad-winged Hawks
Bald Eagle	109		
Northern Harrier	1,159		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11,571	September 17, 1999	3,570 Sharp-shinned Hawks
Cooper's Hawk	395		
Northern Goshawk	32		
Red-shouldered Hawk	735	October 27, 1999	43 Golden Eagles
Broad-winged Hawk	612,457		
Swainson's Hawk	14	October 31, 1999	48 Golden Eagles
Red-tailed Hawk	5,457		
Rough-legged Hawk	93	November 7, 1999	43 Golden eagles
Golden Eagle	245		
American Kestrel	1,529	October 24, 1999	4,313 Turkey Vultures
Merlin	44		
Peregrine Falcon	93	November 14, 1999	1 Gyrfalcon (4th record)
Gyrfalcon	1		
TOTAL	665,512	September 17, 1999	3 Swainson's Hawks
		September 21, 1999	4 Swainson's Hawks
The last seven seasons, (1993-1999) have averaged 299,808 birds per season.		September 17, 1999	9 Peregrine Falcons

Acknowledgment: Special thanks are given to Nancy Klamm, Anthony Hess, Richard and Jean Hoffman, Thomas Leiden, Jim and Merry McConnor, Bertalan Szabo, and William and Ann Toneff for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 96.

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.

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 subscription rate is \$7.50.

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

Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be sent to Larry Rosche; 7473 Sylvan Drive; Kent, Ohio 44240.
e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

