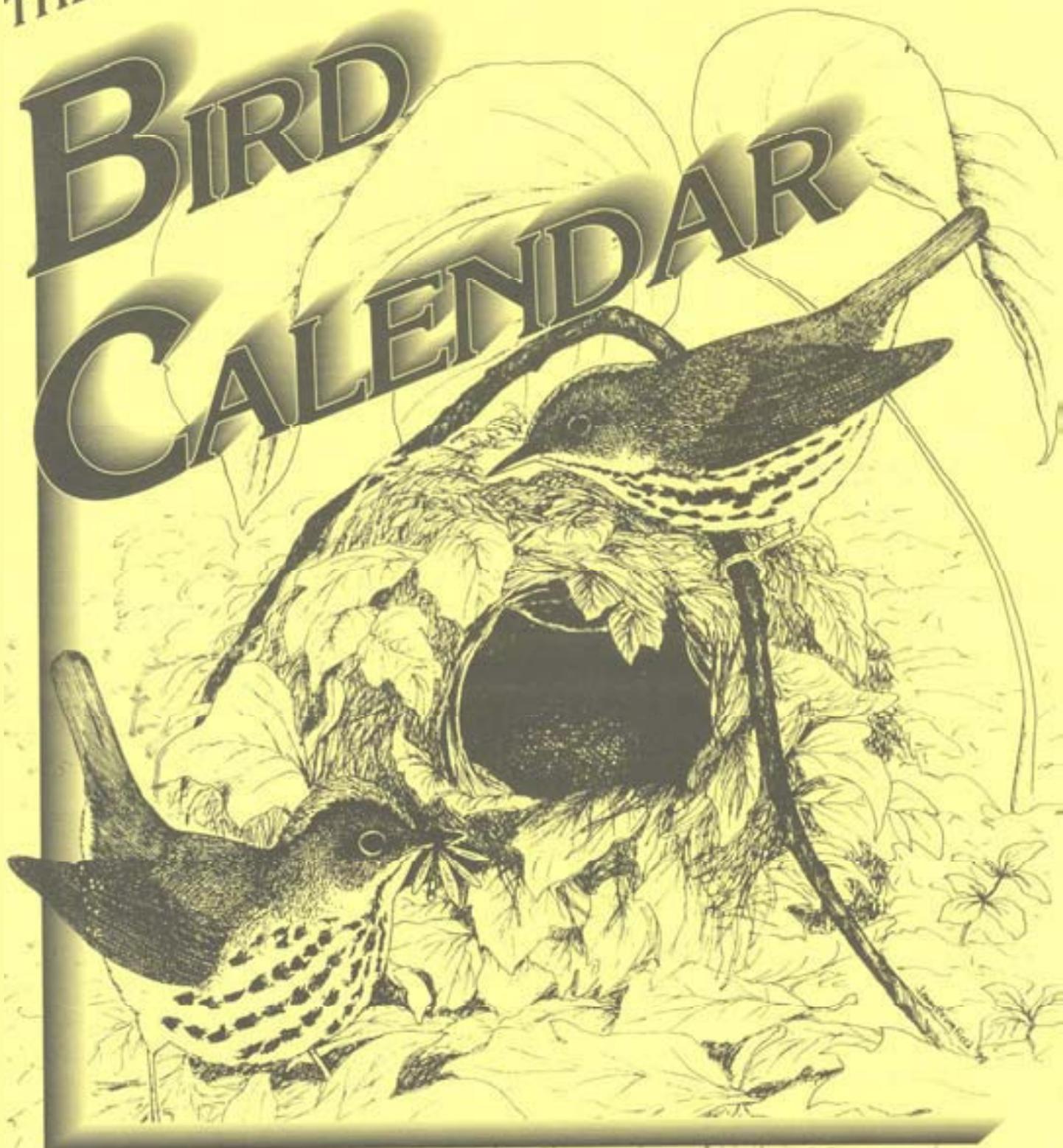


THE CLEVELAND

# 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.**

**Suggested due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:**

**March 5 - Winter Season**

**June 5 - Spring Season**

**September 5 - Summer Season**

**December 5 - Autumn Season**

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**by Jennifer Brumfield, 1998.**

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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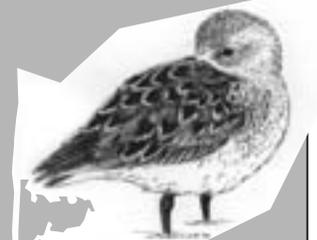
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# SUMMER 2000



by Dwight Chasar

**JUNE:** Temperatures averaged 68.6°, 1.0° above normal. The high was 88° on the 14th, and the low was 43° on the 7th. Lake Erie was 57° on June 1st and rose to 68° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 16 days, totaling 5.72 in., 2.02 in. above normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period was 1.29 in. on the 5-6th. Sunshine prevailed 73% of the time possible.

**JULY:** Temperatures averaged 68.0°, 3.9° below normal. The high was 84° on the 9th, and the low was 50° on the 24th. Sunshine was available 78% of the time possible, Rain occurred over 13 days--totaling 2.57 in., .95 in. below normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period fell on the 3rd, amounting to .75 in. Lake Erie rose to 72° by the end of the month.

**AUGUST:** Temperatures averaged 68.9°, 1.5° below normal. The high was 87° on the 31st, and the low was 48° on the 21st. Sunshine

occurred 73% of the time possible. Rain fell on 7 days, totaling 4.72 in., 1.32 in. above normal. The most in a 24 hr. period was 2.88 in. on the 6th. Lake Erie waters rose to 73° by the end of the month. ❁



by Larry Rosche

**P**ied-billed Grebes nested at Sandy Ridge MP (SZ, TG, TF, PL). LePage noted 20 there on July 13. One was at Best Wildlife Preserve on June 24 (DB). Four **Great Egrets** were in Streetsboro on July 14 (VW). One was at Shaker Lakes Aug. 8-22 (LD, GL). Another rested at Hinckley MP on Aug. 13 (LD). Two birds were noted in Geauga Co. during the period (fide DB). **Green Herons** have made some progress in returning to a more acceptable nesting status. At HBSP, birds were noted most of the summer, with 5 being tallied on July 7 and 8 on Aug. 26 (RH). On Aug. 26, the marsh between Station Road (in the



CVNRA) parking lot and the maintenance building hosted a sun-down gathering of 18 Green Herons. A group of 16 flew south in a loose flock (FCD). This was the largest gathering of this species reported to the Bird Calendar in many years. On Aug. 21, 8 were seen at the Ira Road beaver marsh (TMR). Thirteen **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were near Merwin Street, Cleveland, on June 1 (PL). Two were at HBSP on June 18 (RH). One was at Shaker Lakes on July 20 (BW). Three were in Lorain on June 2 (TLP). An immature was along the Upper Cuyahoga on July 14 (fide DB).

**Wood Ducks** were very numerous in the CVNRA (TMR). An

**American Black Duck** was at Gordon Park on July 26 (SZ, TG). Another was unusual at the Ira Road area of the CVNRA on July 17 (TMR). In Portage Co., apparent genetic swamping by Mallards has reduced true Black Duck populations greatly (LR). There were no reports of **Blue-winged Teals** nesting locally this year.

Southbound migrant Blue-wingeds were moving along the lake in mid-August. A **Green-winged Teal** was seen at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 30 (RR). **Hooded Mergansers** nested at Sandy Ridge MP (TF, SZ, TG), Pinery Narrows (DAC), and in Twin Lakes (LR). Nesting was suspected at Lake Kelso, when 2-3 immatures were observed on June 3 (fide DB). One was at North Chagrin on June 26 (RR). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Villa Angela SP on Aug. 20 (BF, PL, TLP, BW). Two stragglers were at HBSP on June 2 (RH).

**Ospreys** were well reported. Birds were at HBSP on July 23 and Aug. 26 (RH). One was at



Zenith and Pearl  
by Scott Wright©

## Comment on the Season

*After scrutinizing the nesting reports, I came up with nearly 150 birds that at least established territories or attempted to nest in our seven county region. I was thrilled with the addition of Dickcissels to the list of breeding birds for the Cleveland region. I cannot thank all of the people who wrote about this outstanding find (first reported to me by Donna Bretz); but, most importantly, I must express my gratitude to Scott Wright for all of his volunteer efforts in monitoring the nests and photo-documentation. The only previous mention of nesting in the region that I could find was in A.B. Williams' Birds of Cleveland. Apparently, Pat Bole found adults and young in Kirtland Township from 1929 to 1940. Williams did not mention a nest or eggs being found. Again, Scott has provided remarkable shots of the local Peregrines. The articles, artwork and photographs submitted to The Cleveland Bird Calendar are really appreciated. The meticulous field studies (most are volunteer efforts) going on in the region are particularly exciting to this editor. I thank these volunteer and professional field ornithologists alike for taking the time to submit their nesting data. Whether it is the yearly monitoring of bluebird boxes, running Breeding Bird Survey Routes, censusing the various summer nesters at local parks, or studying long-term impact of deer overbrowsing, these efforts do not go unnoticed. While no direct reports of nesting success were reported to me, I find the continued nesting of Ospreys in Portage County (including a new nest site) encouraging.*

*Although it is difficult to imagine, the local migration of shorebirds was worse than last year. Seeing only a few yellowlegs, one Pectoral Sandpiper, one flock of Short-billed Dowitchers, and few peeps on reports was disappointing to all of us who enjoy this group. Trips farther afield mean many of our top-notch reporters will be turning in less local data. Gulls were equally disappointing to lakefront watchers. Landbird migrants were only just beginning to trickle into the region at the end of August. Good birding!*

Gordon Park on Aug. 21 (SZ, TG). Another was at HBSP on Aug. 24 (TLP). Ospreys were conspicuous at Lake Rockwell most of August. It was not known if these birds were wanderers from nearby nesting areas or East Coast bound migrants (LR). One was at East Branch on July 13 (*fide* DB). A **Bald Eagle** was at Sandy Ridge MP on June 1 (TF). Non-adults were at HBSP on June 10-11 (RH). Nests were successful at Lake Rockwell and Tinker's Creek. According to ODOW data, it must have been decided the Tinker's Creek nest is in Summit Co. The region now boasts of 3 counties with Bald Eagle nests. The Geauga Co. nest

failed, but eagle sightings were steady at Bass Lake, East Branch, and LaDue (*fide* DB, m.obs.). Summer **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were above average. A bird was at Shaker Lakes on July 22 (GL). One was at Mill Stream Run Reservation on Aug. 1 (GL). A territorial pair was noted at Hinckley MP on July 2 (RHL, SW). On Aug. 20, one was at Sims Park (BF, PL, BW). **Cooper's Hawks** continue to be well represented locally. **Red-shouldered Hawks** have made great strides in establishing a solid nesting population throughout most of the region. More reports from southern Medina and Lorain Counties could prove they reside in

those regions as well. On the other side of the coin, few reports of **Broad-winged Hawks** were received. Lake County should have these birds in fair numbers, but none were reported. A migrant Broad-winged was at Sims Park on Aug. 20 (BF, PL, BW). One was at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 22-23 (LD).

Although the **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Spencer Lake SWA on June 9 (TLP) was probably a released bird, this editor will take any report he gets. It is assumed that **Ruffed Grouse** still can be found in the ravines associated with our watersheds, but no reports were submitted. **Northern Bobwhites** were found in small numbers on Portage County Breeding Bird Surveys (LR). One at Allardale MP in Medina Co. on June 11 was of special interest (TMR). Birds in Parkman were felt to have been released (JA). The **Wild Turkey** at Villa Angela SP on Aug. 25 probably has filled in the last dot on the map of distribution for the state. (TLP). **Virginia Rails** were regularly reported from the CVNRA (DAC). Three **Soras** were seen at Jaite on Aug. 27 (DAC). Two pairs of **Common Moorhens** nested at Sandy Ridge MP (TF, SZ, TG). A pair failed at Lake George (LR). **American Coots** were represented by 6 breeding pairs at Sandy Ridge MP throughout the period (SZ, TG). An American Coot spent the early summer at Veteran's Park (RH). They nested at Sandy Ridge MP (SZ, TG, m.obs.)

**M**uch to the chagrin of eager listers and avid lakefront observers, shorebirds lacked any substantial local habitat to dominate summer reports. Few individuals of the expected species were found at

*While reading the March, April, May 2000 issue of the CBC, I came upon the comment by Drew Rolik referring to Mockingbirds "Has this species become too common to report?" This made me take a moment to think about the time I had spent waiting to gain access to the LTV "84" hot strip mill. During this time I would walk over to end of the parking lot and check the area along an access road that has brushy plants, Sumac and other abandoned area plants. Within eyesight there were two pairs of Eastern Kingbirds with fledged young, American Goldfinches, Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, and two pairs of Northern Mockingbirds with fledged young. I had not thought too much of this until reading Drew's comment. On the ride to the mill, which was approximately 1/2 mile, I would see 8-10 mockers along or on the fence. This was from July 24 through August 18. After being transferred from this work site, I was sent to a building on Eggers Road off Independence Road for the next day; there I observed 5-6 mockingbirds throughout that day. This area, east of LTV has the same kinds of plants and shrubs, but with a little more green grass.*

*Another subject for comment is the Green Heron situation in the Cuyahoga Valley. Comments were made at the Kirtland Bird Club meeting that Larry Rosche had suggested a possible decline of this species. This past spring and summer, while conducting my dragonfly surveys in the Metroparks, I would come upon 2-3 Green Herons each time out. I suspected nesting in the newly created beaverpond South of Snowville and directly off of Riverview Rd. They were repeatedly sighted in this area. Also nesting in this area were Indigo Buntings, Bluebirds, Prothonotary Warblers, plus all the usual beaverpond species. I am not sure about population densities for the Green Herons, but I see this area as having a good population.*

*Lou Gardella 2000*

*Rob Harlan and Sandy Wagner paid special attention to wandering and/or late migrants passing through Wadsworth. "A wooded property abuts Sandy's home, but is not substantial enough to hold most nesting birds. A Scarlet Tanager passed through June 17, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on June 23, a Gray Catbird on June 18, and an Eastern Phoebe on June 14-17." Continuing his observations on little-used nesting sites and migration routes, Rob added, "I'm in the habit of taking nightly short walks around the neighborhood. The following migrants were all heard at roughly 11:00 pm. in Wadsworth: a Spotted Sandpiper on June 1, a Swainson's Thrush, June 1 & 9, a Green Heron on June 1, and a singing Yellow-billed Cuckoo on June 24.*

*In my Parma Heights yard, a pair of Gray Catbirds brought off one young, a first in the 50+ years my parents have lived there. The birds departed July 17. The first migrant Yellow Warblers were noted in Brook Park on July 6."*

various sites. Until new lakefront dredging operations begin or a new large-scale wetland mitigation project is initiated, shorebirding will remain a forgotten pleasure. No reports of **Black-bellied Plover** reached this desk by the end of the period. The same can be said for **American Golden-Plovers**. **Semi-palmated Plovers** graced HBSP briefly on July 21 & 30 (RH). **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted in small numbers. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were widespread, but in trite tallies. You know shorebirding was pathetic when no **Ruddy Turnstones** were seen along the lakeshore in July or August. The 12 **Sanderlings** at HBSP on Aug. 27 represented the high tally (RH). **Western Sandpipers** once again eluded observers. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** gathered in loose flocks along the Grand River in late July and August (RH, m.obs.). **Least Sandpipers** were widespread. The highest count came from Fairport Harbor on July 23 when 8 were seen (RH). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor on Aug. 19 (LR). It is hard to imagine, but the **Pectoral Sandpiper** at HBSP on July 23 was our only report (RH).

The only report of **Short-billed Dowitchers** was a flock of 20 birds at Lower Shaker Lake on July 18-25 (LD). Elsewhere, singles were noted flying over or landing briefly and departing. An **American Woodcock** was a good find along the Columbia Road Trail on June 28 (NB). An adult with 6 young

was observed in Parkman on July 9 (JA). A **Common Snipe** was unusual along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor on Aug. 19 (LR).

Except for a few first-summer plumaged birds, **Bonaparte's Gulls** stayed away all summer. A visit to the Lincoln Electric property along SR. 2 in Lake Co. on July 4 found 200+ juvenile **Ring-billed Gulls** (RH). Eleven **Caspian Terns** were at LaDue on Aug. 11 (fide DB). Three **Common Terns** were at HBSP on Aug. 26 (RH). A **Forster's Tern** was an oddity at HBSP on June 25 (RH). Birds were also noted there on Aug. 26 & 27 (RH).

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were outnumbered 21:3 by **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** on the towpath from Boston to Lock 33 in the CVNRA (MR). Two Black-billed and 3 Yellow-billed were at Jaite on June 4 (TLP) Two more Yellow-billed were found at Streetsboro Bog on June 23 (TLP).

### Eastern Bluebird Report 2000

by Lou Gardella

*The season started off on June 6, 2000. This is an unusually late date to start, but it had been a rainy spring; and in order not to compromise nesting I remained away until the weather had improved. Nests were made; but no eggs were laid or, if they were, they were abandoned. Raccoon predation was another situation that the birds had to face this season, after a few good years without the raccoons. Their population in the Metroparks, particularly in Brecksville, is on the increase again. The raccoons destroyed three nests and one box was unavailable to the bluebirds because of ants. None of the bluebird females that were examined in hand had been banded. Over the years, we have banded many; and not one has ever been recovered on the trail. The season ended August 15, with the cleaning of all boxes and removal of all nesting debris.*

*A total of 22 boxes were available this year. One was removed after being destroyed by construction equipment. Bluebirds, chickadees, and House Wrens used 13 boxes. Bluebirds used 10 for first and second nestings. Of the 34 eggs laid by Eastern Bluebirds, 15 fledged and 8 were destroyed by raccoons. House Wrens laid 8 eggs and 3 were destroyed by raccoons. Wrens fledged 5 young.*

**Eastern Screech-Owls** called regularly in Sagamore Hills (DAC) and Parkman (JA) most of Aug.

**Common Nighthawk** migration was poorly detected in the eastern half of the region. Charles Klaus wrote, "Last night at about 8 pm. there was a single nighthawk feeding over my house (Kirtland)--after a while it worked its way southward. Usually at this time of year I see nighthawks in groups (years ago quite large ones, lately small groups of 15 or fewer). To see one alone on August 28 is ominous and sad." Streetsboro provided a sighting of 11 nighthawks on Aug. 30 (VW). On Aug. 31, 30-40 migrants were noted at Hinckley (JW). At an observation overlook at the Stinchcomb Memorial, Rocky River MP the following totals were reported .

Aug. 26	(6)	(BF, PL)
Aug. 27	(17)	(BF, PL)
Aug. 28	(96)	(BF, PL, BW)
Aug. 30	(10)	(PL)
Aug. 31	(50)	(PL)

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** fledged one young on the rather late date of Aug.18 in the CVNRA (DAC). **Belted Kingfishers** were noticeably absent along the Upper Cuyahoga River. This was probably due to unstable water levels. The 11 at HBSP on July 1 represented good news (RH).



Fighting Semipalmated Sandpipers  
by Scott Wright©

**Prothonotary Warbler--Nesting Summary for Upper Cuyahoga River in vicinity of Eldon Russell Park (UCR/ERP) [Burton/Troy Townships]--utilizing plastic jars:**

- \* 11 nesting pairs involving 9 males and 11 females collectively made 18 nesting attempts of which 9 (50%) produced young.
  - \* The 9 unsuccessful nests lost eggs to or had nesting disrupted prior to egg laying by house wrens.
  - \* 5 of the 9 unsuccessful nestings were experienced by one pair alone while another pair suffered two clutch losses before successfully raising the third.
  - \* Of the 72 eggs tallied, 36 (50%) hatched, 13 (18%) failed to hatch and 23 (32%) vanished from intact nests, disappearance attributed to house wrens.
  - \* Based on regular nest jar monitoring, it appears that all 36 young fledged, with no known nest mortality or loss to predators.
  - \* 29 of 36 young birds were banded prior to fledging.
  - \* All 10 males in the study area (including 1 whose breeding status was not established) wear the USFWS aluminum leg band as well as color bands for individual identification in the field. 6 of these males were banded this year, the other 4 were birds returning to this nesting population.
- 9 of 11 females also wear the USFWS band and color bands. Of these, 4 were banded this year, 5 were returning birds including 1 female which was banded as a breeding adult in 1996 (Our oldest bird that we know of and, unfortunately, part of the pair whose breeding season was apparently unsuccessful after 5 nesting attempts in 5 different nest jars were disrupted/destroyed by house wrens). 2 females, new to the population, eluded banding.

Additionally, a Prothonotary Warbler was sighted by Duane Ferris near Lake Kelso (Burton Wetlands).

Dan Best, Geauga County Park District Naturalist

The most reliable area for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was along the towpath between Boston and Lock 33 (MR). One was sighted at Forest Hill Park on July 24 (LD). Two were at North Chagrin on June 26 (RR). One was seen along Pekin Road June 21 & 26 (fide DB). Duane Ferris saw one at Burton Wetland on Aug. 25 (fide DB). On Aug. 20, one was seen at Sims Park (BF, PL, BW). On Aug. 28, 2 were at Sims Park and another twosome at Villa Angela SP (TLP).

The first migrant **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 30 (RR). **Eastern**

**Wood-Pewees** were typically numerous in most any woodland habitat in the region. The first fall **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HBSP on Aug. 30 (BF, BW). A migrant **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 16 (GL). One at Gordon Park on June 17 was circumstantially unusual (SZ). The two along Zimmerman Trail on June 3 represented a probable nesting effort close to Lake Erie. Numbers of nesting Acadians away from the lakefront were as expected. **Alder Flycatchers** were at their usual haunts in Portage (LR, RR) and Geauga Counties (LR). Other Alders were noted in the CVNRA

at Oakhill and at Wetmore Trailhead(DAC). A late spring migrant was seen and heard at HBSP on June 2 (RH). **Willow Flycatchers** were widely reported. An early returning **Least Flycatcher** was at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 1 (GL). One at Nathan Hale Park on July 17 was an oddity (RHL, SW). **Eastern Phoebes** seemed to have had a banner year in most areas. The ample rainfall may have made for an abundance of food for most flycatcher species. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were numerous inland. The 4 at Tinker's Creek SNP on June 21 were representative of a solid breeding core (GB, CG, KL). A southbound **Eastern Kingbird** had reached Shaker Lakes by July 24 (BW). A kingbird was seen feeding young in Parkman on July 4 (JA). The 12 seen at Tinker's Creek SNP (TLP) on July 23 and the 12 at HBSP on July 30 (RH) reflected excellent local nesting success.

**White-eyed Vireos** nested widely away from the lake. The bird singing in the dense undergrowth near the Coast Guard Station at HBSP on June 11 was a mystery (RH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found in small numbers. A bird at Streetsboro Bog on June 10 was unusual (RR). Two were at Kendall Ledges on June 10 (DAC). Two singing males were along

*On Saturday, June 24, no sooner did I turn onto Slife Road from 301 than I found the first singing Dickcissel on the north side of road. Thinking that much too easy, I decided to do an informal auto census to see if I could locate any more. The second was heard singing at the far eastern end of the same field, but on the south side of the road. The third was heard singing from a large hay field further east along Slife again on the south side of the road. A fourth was heard singing yet again on the South side of Slife about a tenth of a mile from its intersection with Indian Hollow. I also heard a singing sedge wren in this area. There is a half acre or so patch of dark green reedy grass, probably watered by a seep, that the wren was singing from. A fifth Dickcissel was seen and heard 1/4 mi east of Smith Road, on the South side of Jones Rd. The sixth Dickcissel was heard about a tenth of a mile east of Hawley Rd, again on the south side of Jones Rd. Given that I found 6 birds, do you suppose they have just been overlooked all along?*

*A few other observations: These birds were all singing a bit of a variation on the typical song. They were interjecting an additional tik-tik after the first that was about an octave lower in pitch. Unless the bird pops up onto a tall weed or telephone wire, they are nearly impossible to visually locate. They are incredibly ventriloquistic. The one thing all these fields had in common, whether neglected weedy fields, such as on Slife, or hay fields, were large stands of thistle. Not surprisingly, there were hundreds of goldfinches in these fields also. There are a LOT of these type fields in that area, but many were along major roads not conducive to 5 mph surveying. Without a doubt, there are many more than just those that I found. If it weren't for your note, it's unlikely that I would have had the impetus to search for Dickcissels in Lorain County. Regards,*

*Craig Rieker*

Columbia Road Trail many times after June 22 (NB, JB). A male followed the same observation pattern at Wetmore Trail. One was at Pine Lake during the same survey period. On July 2, 3 were tallied at Hinckley MP (RHL, SW). Two were

at Little Mountain on June 16 & 17 (DB). The raspy songs of **Yellow-throated Vireos** dominated the woodlands at Lake Rockwell and the Ravenna TLS. An early **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen in the CVNRA on Aug. 26 (DAC). **Warbling** and **Red-eyed Vireos** continued in expected numbers.

**P**urple Martins may have nested at Triangle Lake Bog SNP. This was quite unusual, in that no artificial structure was present for them to use as a nest site. Many attempts were made to see if a dead tamarack provided a nest site. Unfortunately, sensitive terrain and plant disturbance could not allow a more thorough search (LR, LG). The Lakewood City



Baird's Sandpiper  
by Haans Petruschke

Park nest house had 10-15 pairs (TLP). Best noted their gradual decline in Geauga Co., and no large late summer gathering of martins was reported along the lake. **Tree Swallows**, often at the expense of Eastern Bluebirds, are doing quite well locally. A **Cliff Swallow** at HBSP on July 30 was unexpected (NB). At least 2 pairs nested in Huntsburg Township (fide DB). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was an excellent find at Horseshoe Pond in the CVNRA on July 21 (DAC). One was at Hinckley MP on July 2 (RHL, SW). **Brown Creepers** were found in expected numbers along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB, AF, LR). One was along the towpath between Boston and Lock 33 on Aug. 24 (MR). Two were at the Octagon in the CVNRA on July 2 (DAC). One was at Little Mountain on June 16 (DB). **Carolina Wrens** continue in good numbers locally. A **Winter Wren** sang in Brecksville on June 3 (DAC). It was not seen later. Gardella's and Best's reports provided more evidence of **House Wren** aggression being detrimental to Prothonotary Warblers and Eastern Bluebirds. **Marsh Wrens** were conspicuous at Shipman Pond and Sandy Ridge MP (m.obs.). They were equally vociferous at the Ira Road beaver marsh (TMR). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were considered to be in good numbers in the CVNRA.

**Veeries** and **Wood Thrushes** were found in expected numbers. A few **Swainson's Thrushes** had snuck back into the region by late Aug. **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be found more widely. Gardella noted as many as 6 adults along the road to LTV Steel in the flats. Drew Rolik reported birds from West 7th and University

### Sighting of Least Bittern by Tom Romito

*On Monday, June 26, 2000, the Ira Road Bird Surveying Group, consisting of Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Howard and Marian Zehnder, Guy and Mary Kay Newton, Nancy Howell, and Ian Adams, spotted a Least Bittern near the Ira Road parking lot in the CVNRA. Marian and Nancy first spotted the small heron-like bird fly into the spatterdock in the marsh by the north end of the boardwalk. Marian called out the chestnut color, distinctive of the Least Bittern, as opposed to the brown color of the American Bittern.*

*The bird stayed in the spatterdock for about 10 minutes. Encouraged by other members of the group, Nancy initiated "pishing" sounds, and the bittern finally popped out of the vegetation. The bird flew up and straight at Mary Anne's binoculars, then swerved to the left, over the boardwalk, and back into the marsh. Mary Anne said, "It was a marvelous sight."*

Streets and on the south side at Scranton and Columbus Streets. One flew across I-271 in the CVNRA on July 24 (NB). One was in Woodmere on June 11 (RR). A mockingbird was in Parma on June 2 (SZ). It or another was at Stearn's Farm in Parma July 31 (GL). **Brown Thrasher** populations were stable, but certainly not flourishing. In Parkman, thrashers enjoyed dining on blueberries the first two weeks of July (JA). **Cedar Waxwings** were beneficiaries of the large numbers of insects brought on by summer rains. Numerous young waxwings were seen in late Aug.

**S**ix **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen at Bedford MP on June 6 (DAC). Another 6 were at Carlisle MP on June 17 (TLP). **Yellow Warblers** were moving south by early July. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were in good supply. Two along the Wetmore trail on Aug. 5 were probably local nesters (DAC). The earliest fall report of **Magnolia Warbler** was at Sims Park on Aug. 20 (BF, PL, BW). A

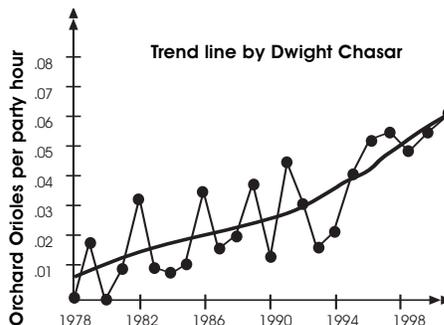
**Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in Parma Heights. on Aug. 25 (GL). No reports of fall **Cape May** or **Yellow-rumped Warblers** reached this desk. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were conspicuous along the Riding Run trail in the CVNRA (JB, NB, DAC, LR). Hinckley hosted 5 on July 2 (RHL, SW). **Yellow-throated Warblers** continue to survive well in the Station Road area of the CVNRA (DAC, GB, m.obs.). Two at Allardale MP on June 11 represented one of the very few reports ever from Medina Co. (TMR). **Pine Warblers** were feeding young in Brecksville on June 10 (DAC). Thorough study found the numbers at Lake Rockwell have improved to at least 12 territories (LR). Rickard found birds at Holden on June 4 and North Chagrin on July 8. **Blackpoll Warblers** lingered at HBSP until June 4 (RH). The often beleaguered **Cerulean Warbler** continues to make the CVNRA a local stronghold. The 6 at Bacon Woods on on June 5 were encouraging (TLP). Two others were at Spencer Lake SWA on June 9 (TLP).

**P**rothonotary Warblers nested in good numbers along the Upper Cuyahoga. One was detected at Sandy Ridge MP through June 16 (TF, GL). Nesting occurred in the Pinery Narrows (DAC). **Ovenbirds** were conspicuous in the CVNRA, Hinckley, Bradley Woods, and the Ravenna TLS. A **Northern Waterthrush** provided a puzzling sighting along Mosquito Trail at HBSP on July 30 (NB). This seemed too early for a migrant, but nesting has not been noted there. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were in fair numbers at expected locales. **Kentucky Warblers** have become our rarest *Oporonis* warbler. Until further notice, any sighting will be in the Noteworthy Reports section. A **Mourning Warbler** was early at HBSP on Aug. 20 (HP, LR). Another was detected there on Aug. 30 (BF, BW). **Hooded Warblers** were abundant. A **Wilson's Warbler** was at HBSP on Aug. 30 (BF, BW). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue to be uncommon. One was along the bike trail in the CVNRA on June 2 (RR). Two were in Sagamore Hills on June 6 (DAC). Another twosome was found in the CVNRA on June 13 (DAC). A chat was at Spencer Lake SWA on June 9 (TLP). Another was at Carlisle MP on June 17 (TLP).

The 10 **Scarlet Tanagers** at West Creek Preserve in Parma on June 7 were reflective of local abundance (GL). **Vesper Sparrows** were found in small numbers in Lorain and Portage Counties. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were scarce. One was in Fairport Harbor on June 4 (HP, RH). The 78 **Song Sparrows** at Gordon Park on Aug. 21 was a very good count (SZ, TG). The 16 **Swamp Sparrows** noted at Streetsboro Bog on July 6 were representative of this species' abundance away from the influ-

ences of Lake Erie (RR). Two **White-throated Sparrows** at HBSP on Aug. 30 were very unexpected (BF, BW). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was a surprise at the Pinery Narrows on June 7 (DAC). Elsewhere, many were found in the hemlock gorges of Lake and Geauga County. Over 20 were noted at Thompson Ledges alone (LR, WS)! As many as 5 were seen at Stebbins Gulch (HP, RHL, SW, EP). Two more were reported from Little Mountain (RHL, SW, EP). It is assumed that nesting takes place in many of the Lake County Metroparks, but no data was provided to this desk. This certainly would indicate over 100 juncos living in the region in the summer. Does this mean they should be considered common nesters?

**Bobolinks** were well reported. On July 8, 30+ were at Blanche Novak Audubon Sanctuary in Aurora (EE, TLP). On July 2, 20 males and a few females were seen in one tree in Northfield (DAC). An immature male **Orchard Oriole** demonstrat-



ed his dedication, attending a nest with young in Walton Hills on June 13 (DAC). Carlisle MP in Lorain County hosted 4 birds on June 17 (TLP). On July 4, one was at Charlemont Park in Lorain (TLP). Two **Purple Finches** were detected at Holden on June 4 (RR). Their numbers were solid on Portage Co. surveys (LR). ❁



**COMMON LOON** - An adult was found at Silver Lake by Gene and Linda Kovach on July 1. It remained at least through July 24 (Rosche). An injured adult was found at East 5th St. Marina on July 10 (Wright, Lozano). It remained at least through July 20.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** - At least 4 were seen regularly at Sandy Ridge throughout the nesting season (Fairweather, Zadar, Gilliland).

**LEAST BITTERN** - At least 2 pairs were seen at Sandy Ridge throughout the nesting season (Fairweather, Zadar, Gilliland).

**AMERICAN WIGEON** - An eclipsed-plumaged male was at Gordon Park on the odd date of June 17 (Zadar).

**RUDDY DUCK** - Successful nestings for this species are quite rare in the region. Sandy Ridge Metropark provided a nesting site for 2 pair this year (Fairweather, Zadar, Gilliland, m.obs.). Mogadore also hosted numerous ruddys all summer, but nesting results were unclear (Rosche).

### PEREGRINE FALCON RESULTS

- Akron (First Merit Bank)-Bandit-nest failed; 4 from LTV brought to site. All 4 fledged on June 18.
- Cleveland (Bohn Building)-Clearpath-4 fledged on June 19.
- Cleveland (Cleveland Clinic)-Chesapeake-nest failed.
- Cleveland (LTV Steel)-Star 5/X died April 10. On May 2, the 4 young were taken to Akron. All fledged on June 18.
- Cleveland (Terminal Tower)-Zenith-3 of 4 fledged on June 21.
- Cleveland (I-90 Bridge/Cuyahoga River)-Cascade-Nest failed.
- Lakewood (Hilliard Road Bridge)-Athena-3 fledged on June 13.

**OSPREY** - A new nest was located at Lake Hodgson in Portage County. Nesting success at Berlin Reservoir was unknown. Birds were hacked at North Reservoir in Summit Co.

**NORTHERN HARRIER** - Up to 3 birds were noted in Fairport Harbor throughout the season. Nesting was highly suspected, but unconfirmed (Hannikman).

**SANDHILL CRANE** - One was at Sandy Ridge Metropark on June 10 (Fairweather). The Geauga Co. Sandhill Crane saga continued. Two were last seen in Claridon Township north of Burton on June 22 & 24. Sightings resumed again in a farm field west of Aquilla Lake Wildlife Area along Aquilla Road in Claridon Township at the beginning of July continuing through August; last sighting as of early September was Labor Day. A report by canoeing Cleveland Metroparks natural-

ists of 3 cranes flying over the Upper Cuyahoga River at Eldon Russell Park fueled speculation that this "long lost" trio not seen since early in the year, may be a separate group (Best, m.obs.).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** One was in Lorain on the unusual date of Aug. 27 (LePage).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** - Our only report was from Kirtland. It was the first one the observer had heard in many years and generated much excitement (Klaus).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** Harlan, Wagner, and Pierce found a single bird at Stebbins Gulch. Pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested in Andy Fondrk's yard in Chester Township. They were documented and videotaped by Tom Leiden. Leiden also related that a nesting pair of sapsuckers was found near a boatyard at the Bass Lake

Community as well as birds returning to the willows on Clark Road in Chardon Township near Big Creek Park (Best).

**SEDGE WREN** - A bird was singing south of Elyria on June 24 (Rieker). Two more singing birds were found quite some distance from the previous bird in Lorain Co. on July 2 (Harlan, Wagner).

**WINTER WREN** - Two territories were found in Thompson Ledges during June and July (Rosche, Stover). Up to 4 were reported from Stebbins Gulch (Petruschke, Harlan, Wagner, Pierce). A singing bird was noted at Little Mountain on June 17 (Best, m.obs.).

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** - Hinckley was the only site to provide a report of a summering bird (Harlan, Wagner).

**HERMIT THRUSH** - Birds nested at Virginia Kendall Ledges (Chasar). A bird was on territory at Thompson Ledges into July (Best, Rosche, Stover). Two were found at Little Mountain on July 8 (Harlan, Wagner, Pierce).

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER** - A male was on territory at the Ravenna Training and Logistics site through mid-July (Zadar, Rosche).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** - Small numbers of this relic species still are found in Lake and Geauga Counties. This year, birds were located in Stebbins Gulch (Petruschke, m.obs.), Little Mountain (Best, m.obs.), and Thompson Ledges (Best, Rosche, Stover). Two were on territory at Hinckley MP (Harlan, Wagner).

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** - A singing male was observed at Gordon Park on the late date of June 17 (Zadar).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** - A singing bird was noted in Stebbins Gulch on July 8 (Harlan, Wagner, Pierce).

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** A territorial male was located at Hinckley MP (Harlan, Wagner).

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** - High water levels made detection



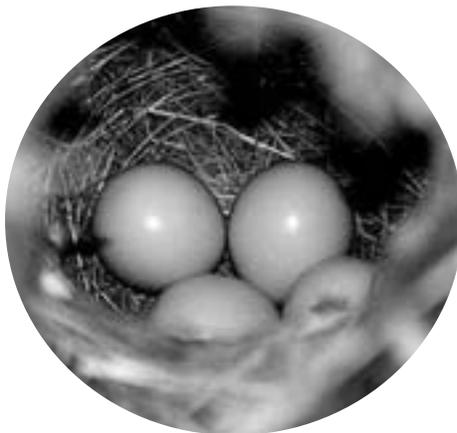
Rocky and Blaise  
by Scott Wright©

of this species difficult along the Upper Cuyahoga. Only 5 birds were noted from Burton to Lake Rockwell (Rosche, Best, Fondrk).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** - This summer, the only report was from Hinckley MP (Harlan, Wagner).

**CANADA WARBLER** - A male was at Happy Days on June 10 (Chasar). Five were tallied at Stebbins Gulch on July 8 (Harlan, Wagner, Pierce).

**HENSLow'S SPARROW** - At least 5 males were at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site through early July when fields were mowed (Zadar, Rosche). Three birds were found along Hughes Road in Lorain Co. on July 2 (Harlan, Wagner).



**DICKCISSEL** -

The first birds were found on June 15 along Slife Road south of Elyria in Carlisle Township (Black River). The birds remained to nest and provided the first nest ever collected in the region (Bretz, Wright, m.obs.).

**RED CROSSBILL** - A male was seen and heard at Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve on June 4 (Rosche). ❁



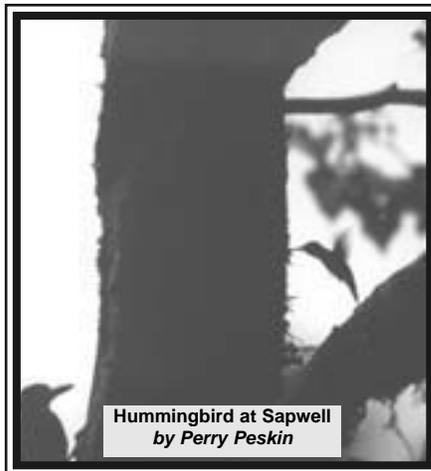
**Addendum to the Summer 1999 Issue of the CBC**

*by Perry Peskin*

On July 15, 1999, Bob Finkelstein showed me a Yellow-bellied sapsucker family feeding from "sap wells" bored into a tree in Hunting Valley, south of the Emerald Necklace (South Chagrin Reservation). This is probably the only such nesting area for this species in Cuyahoga County.

While I was taking pictures of the young sapsuckers, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird suddenly appeared, so I snapped its picture as well.

I didn't take any more film on this roll until March 2000, when I had it developed. Imagine my surprise when I discovered the hummingbird sipping sap from the "sap wells." At the April Kirtland Bird Club meeting I brought this up as a new feature of hummingbirds--that of living off sapsuckers' sap wells, in other words, in a form of symbiosis. I asked if anyone had



Hummingbird at Sapwell  
*by Perry Peskin*

ever heard of anything like this. After the meeting, Andy Lihani said he had either read of it or heard of it from someone else. Anyway, I have the evidence to prove it.

As a postscript, this experience may prove that hummingbirds have a sense of smell because the "sap wells" and the sap itself were not pink or red, as "hummingbird flowers" usually are. In fact they looked rather colorless.

**On the Population Status of Orchard Orioles in Summit/Cuyahoga Counties and Northeast Ohio**

*by Dwight Chasar*

The occurrence of Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) in Ohio has been rather variable over the century, according to Peterjohn (1989). Their most recent range expansion began in 1945. By the mid 1960s, however, increasing populations were apparent throughout some northeast counties. This expansion continued into the 1980s. Furthermore, Peterjohn wrote that they are least numerous in NE Ohio, where they are uncommon and locally distributed as scattered pairs. In 1988, the editor of the *Calendar* penned, "In the past ten years, the status of Orchard Oriole in the Cleveland region has become better known. Formerly, sightings of this species would always appear in the Noteworthy Records section of the *Calendar* whereas now only fall birds are deemed as noteworthy for inclusion in this section."

I reviewed the archived checklist tallies for Orchard Oriole from the annual Bird Walks for the last 20 years. These walks are held on the last three Sundays in April and first three in May, primarily in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties, in a number of locations. The raw numbers summarized for all locations are shown below:

Year	Number
1978-1984-	0
1985	2
1986	8
1987	0
1988	8
1989	2
1990	3
1991	1
1992	4
1993	8
1994	4
1995	1
1996	12
1997	7
1998	44
1999	10
2000	19

It is clear from these numbers that the population has increased, especially during the last five years. I then reviewed the Spring issues (March-May) of the Calendar for the same years. Some qualitative conclusions by the editors are shown below:

1976--no sightings  
 1977--1980 1-3 birds reported each year.  
 1981--"locally excellent spring. 6 birds reported."  
 1982--1988 only one report in 1984 (Sims Park)  
 1989-1994--numerous reports from region  
 1995--"marked range expansion"  
 1996--"must have broken all-time records for local occurrence"  
 1997--"excellent numbers"  
 1998--"continue to increase in numbers and in a wider occurrence pattern than ever before in the region."  
 1999--"continue to be found in increasing numbers along lake"

These above comments suggest

that some significant population change had started happening around 1990 and continued throughout the decade.

I then examined the Summer (June-August) issues of the Calendar for Orchard Oriole reports. These results follow:

1970-78--none reported  
 1979--two at Shaker Lakes  
 1980--one at Waite Hill  
 1981--one at Lorain  
 1982--four at Peninsula  
 1983-1988--none reported  
 1989--reported widely  
 1990--usual locations plus 4 new ones  
 1991--none reported  
 1992--scarce  
 1995--10 banded at Lakeshore MP in July  
 1996 "banner summer season"  
 1999--"more this year than previous years" by Tom LePage

An apparent increase was occurring here in the last half of the 1990s. In addition, Earnst and Andres concluded from 1966-94 breeding bird survey (BBS) data that the "Orchard Oriole increased dramatically and significantly in northern Ohio (10.1%)."

The Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS) has conducted a June summer bird count in Summit County since 1978. This count protocol is much like that of a Christmas Bird Count, counting individual birds and keeping track of party hours in the field. Two major differences are that nearly the entire county is covered, and the count is not limited to just one day. Therefore, dividing the total birds counted by the number of party hours normalizes the data so that variation in the number of participants and time counting is minimized for the number of birds seen. This is how the CBC data are treated. These results are shown in the graph below. One

can see that while the data are variable from year to year, the trend line is definitely upward and the growth in the second decade is greater than just a linear relationship. Indeed, these data certainly support the above qualitative conclusions drawn from sightings, anecdotal comments, and reports. In fact, the last 5 years of data show the highest number of sightings of Orchard Orioles in the last 20 years.

With this many summering Orchard Orioles, some would have to be nesting in the region. The following observations were found in the Calendar or observed this year:

1982--Peninsula (Summit) Adult feeding two fledglings.  
 1993--Parkman (Geauga) Adult feeding fledgling.  
 1994--Lakeshore MP (Lake) Active nest.  
 1996--Headlands Beach SP (Lake) active nest; Ira Road (Summit) active nest.  
 1998--Jaite CVNRA (Cuyahoga) 5 young in nest,  
 2000--Pinery Narrows CVNRA (Cuyahoga) active nest (fide Wilbur McQueen); Walton Hills (Cuyahoga) nest with young (fide Chasar).

From the 1982-87 breeding bird census, Peterjohn (1991) concluded that nesting Orchard Oriole was confirmed in Summit, probable in Cuyahoga, and absent in Lake Counties. Nesting is clearly established in these counties and NE Ohio from the above observations.

#### Literature:

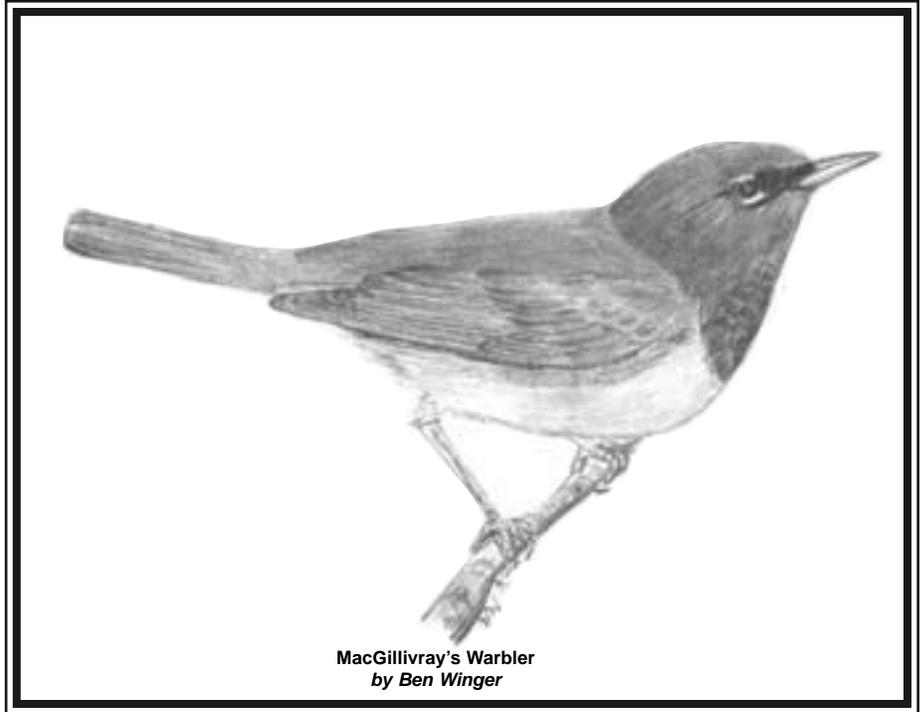
The checklists from the annual Bird Walks and the Cleveland Bird Calendar are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The results of the GAAS Summit County Summer Bird Counts are archived with Ann Chasar.  
 Earnst, S.L. and B.A. Andres. 1996. Population Trends of Breeding Birds of Ohio. Ohio Biological Survey.  
 Peterjohn, B.G. 1989. The Birds of Ohio. Indiana University Press.  
 Peterjohn, B.G. and D.L. Rice. 1991. The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

## The Young Birders Conference and On the Wing

by Ben Winger

This summer, I spent three weeks in June and July in Colorado, attending two American Birding Association sponsored youth programs. From the alpine tundra at 14,000 feet to the flat shortgrass prairie at under 5,000, the habitat, the people involved, and the knowledge gained were as diverse as the birds we saw.

The trip began with the first ever ABA Young Birders Conference. Thirty-seven enthusiastic birders ranging from the age of 12 to 20 gathered in Fort Collins to improve their skills and see the birds of the region. Ohio was well represented, with six of the state's many young birders in attendance--Nick Barber of Mayfield Heights, Jenny Brumfield of Akron, Gabe Leidy of Parma, Steve Landes of Columbus, Jon Ruidisueli of Lima, and myself. The instructors at the YBC were Jon Dunn, co-author of the Peterson Field Guide [A Field Guide to North American Warblers](#) and Steve Howell, co-author of Peter Pyle's [Identification Guide to North American Birds](#) (the "Banding Bible") and, of course, the Howell and Webb [Field Guide to Mexican Birds](#). Dunn and Howell each gave a lecture and led field trips in the three day period. Dunn's talk about the identification of North American sparrows was an excellent overview of the North American species, with a more in-depth emphasis on the species that we were likely to see while in Colorado, such as McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Brewer's Sparrows and its Spizella relatives, and Cassin's Sparrow. All



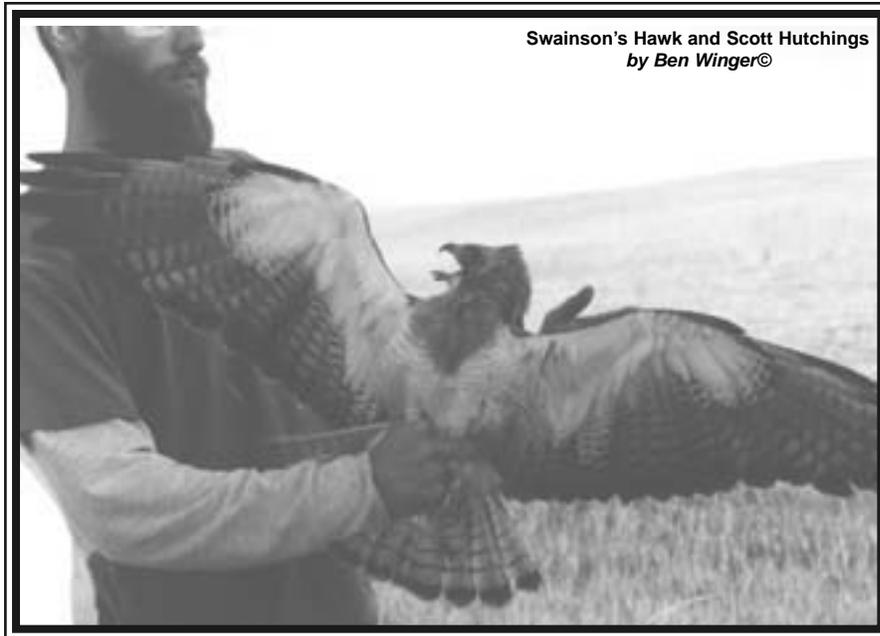
MacGillivray's Warbler  
by Ben Winger

except for the latter were seen during the YBC at Pawnee National Grassland, and I saw Cassin's Sparrow later during the trip. Howell's lecture was an exposure to molt, with emphasis on the evolutionary factors that shape molt, as well as sequences. I particularly enjoyed this speech because Howell clearly explained several topics that are often confusing and confused in the literature.

The first field trip was to Rocky Mountain National Park. The drive from Fort Collins produced White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows climbing and diving between the canyons. Lucky members of one van saw an American Dipper in the mountain stream alongside the road. At the park, everyone was treated to up-close scope views of a pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers visiting a nest hole. Rock Wrens sang in the heaps of glacial boulders, and Western Tanagers and Mountain Bluebirds showed off their brilliant

plumages. While birding, Dunn talked to us about the identification of just about every subspecies of the birds we were seeing, and the information was quickly devoured by hungry ears. Howell stressed the importance of taking good field notes, as well as the useful tool of using molt patterns to separate species, such as Empidonax flycatchers. The next day at Pawnee National Grassland, a Mountain Plover was the bird of the day for many participants, while Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark and Lazuli Buntings were highlights as well.

Aside from the birds and the lectures, one of the most enjoyable and valuable parts of the YBC was the opportunity to meet people my own age who share a passion for birding. Many participants in the e-mail forum TeenBirdchat came to the YBC, and all of us had enjoyed attaching faces to names.



Swainson's Hawk and Scott Hutchings  
by Ben Winger©

Right after the YBC, I attended the Colorado Bird Observatory's (CBO) Grasslands to Glaciers session of their On the Wing program. The ultimate focus of the program was to conduct field research on the shortgrass prairie birds of southeast Colorado and write papers detailing our work, but our days were filled with a variety of activities. We camped in primitive conditions on the Chico Basin cattle ranch in southeast Colorado, near Pueblo. Sleeping under tarps and pumping shower water directly out of a nearby stream, we were occupying one of the only shady spots in a vast landscape of cholla cactus, sage, and clear blue sky. Our surroundings were accentuated by the majestic Rocky Mountains just to the west.

Chico Basin is over 100,000 acres of private ranch, but also serves as a field station and study area for CBO. One of the goals of the current ranch owner is to implement a holistic method of managing the ranch. Working in cooperation with CBO, the owner's plan is apparently not detrimental to the shortgrass

prairie ecosystem. Groups of cattle are rotated throughout the different fields, so that the native plants are not completely consumed and trampled and have ample time for regrowth. Although the research we conducted on the ranch does not provide any exhaustive or particularly useful data, all of the campers learned how to record data, conduct accurate point counts, and analyze the findings in a formal scientific paper format. Research topics ranged from "Shortgrass Prairie Bird Activity as a Function of Time of Day" to "Bird Diversity in Cottonwood and Russian Olive Groves at Chico Basin Ranch." The papers were eventually published by CBO, and anyone interested in a copy should contact the author.

When we first arrived at our campsite, I eagerly explored the ranch with a few other campers. Our efforts produced good looks at Scaled Quail, Lark Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, and Western Kingbirds. In the evenings, our camp was serenaded by the sound of displaying Common Snipe and

the distant, ethereal trill of the Cassin's Sparrow. One clear night, a particularly enthusiastic Northern Mockingbird kept me awake until the early hours of the morning!

Birding around the ranch turned up several more species in lesser numbers, including Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, and Lesser Goldfinch. At the ranch headquarters, I was surprised and excited to find my Ohio "nemesis" bird, the Virginia Rail. Other western specialties like Prairie Falcon, Cassin's Kingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Canyon Towhee, and Black-headed Grosbeak were found on field trips to area parks.

Later during the program, we banded passerines on the ranch and raptors nearby. The songbirds, including Blue and Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles and Lark Sparrows were banded in the standard mist-net fashion, but raptor banding required a different method. We set out one early evening on a deserted highway through the prairie, scanning for raptors on perches. If the bird was close enough to the road, we would drive by and throw a little package out the window, in front of the bird. The package was a small laboratory mouse inside a chicken wire cage, with tangles of wire loops strung to the top. Ideally, the bird would see the mouse, swoop down for the kill, and get caught in the wire and be unable to fly. Then the bander would band the hawk and release it unharmed. However, each bird we tried (several Red-tailed, Swainson's, and one Ferruginous Hawk) looked at our present, looked back at us, and seemed to be thinking, "Would you

accept dinner from a stranger wrapped in a noose?" Finally, a male Swainson's Hawk fell for the trick; and we were able to band him.

Both the YBC and On the Wing were very valuable experiences for me, and I strongly recommend them for young birders or those who are interested in learning more about nature. Information about all ABA sponsored youth programs and scholarships can be found by following the Young Birders link on the ABA website, <http://www.americanbirding.org>.

## **The Breeding Birds of Sandy Ridge Reservation** *by Sean T. Zadar and Ted Gilliland*

Sandy Ridge Reservation (SRR) is a mitigated wetland located in the northeast corner of Lorain County, part of the Lorain County Metro Parks. Recently opened to the public last fall, the approximately 310-acre wildlife preserve offers habitat for a variety of forest and wetland avifauna. To the north, a gravel path guides visitors southward through a seasonably flooded oak/maple forest that attracts several breeding neotropical migrants, including Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbird, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (see table for complete listing). Continuing southward, the forest opens to an over 100-acre diked wetland. A trail atop the dikes grants access to the wetland, and a centrally located observation mound provides a panoramic view of the surroundings.

Migration brings an assortment of waterfowl to the wetland; and on occasion, they arrive on site in good numbers.

Recently, 80 Northern Shovelers were reported for spring 2000 ([The Cleveland Bird Calendar](#) 96:2, 2000). Other migratory waterfowl

find SRR eye-catching as a stopover site, including Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot. Conversely, shorebird movements through the region are rather unremarkable with only a smattering of sightings, predominately Snipe, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, and Spotted Sandpiper.

During a breeding bird survey from 7 June to 19 July 2000, 64 avian species were recorded within the forest and wetland regions (see table). The survey covered the main trails and the restricted access section. Standard point counts were conducted during seven scheduled weekly visits, totaling 22.8 hours and 22.6 kilometers on foot. As a supplement, spot mapping was implemented to plot out the approximate territories of selective species such as Least Bittern, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Marsh Wren.



Pied-billed Grebe-Sandy Ridge Metropark  
by Sean T. Zadar©

The census uncovered two summering Ruddy Duck males and two nesting pairs. Peterjohn (1989) states that Ruddys are accidental or casual summer visitors in glaciated counties, and rare but regular residents along western Lake Erie. In early July, park personnel observed immature Ruddy Ducks. Another wetland specialty Pied-billed Grebes found scattered open water and thick emergent vegetation, predominantly cattails and sedges, suitable to their habitat requirements. Six pairs of Pied-billeds produced at least 35 young, and during July their presence was ubiquitous.

Multiple reports of American and Least Bitterns emanated from Sandy Ridge in late April and early May. The census established two pairs of Least Bitterns throughout the breeding season with a pair occupying a cattail fragment west of the observation mound and another pair along the wetlands eastern edge within emergent vegetation. During late

April, birdwatchers sighted as many as five American Bitterns. However, from mid-June through most of July, the census recorded only one pair. Excessive rain inundated a significant area of principal habitat, which may account for their numerical reduction.

In early June, park personnel noted the occurrence of Cerulean Warblers and American Redstarts near a secluded river that snakes through the western section of forest. This area fell beyond the limit of the census, and therefore, it is unclear if they were summer residents or late migrants. In early July, a short-lived search to ascertain the status of these two woodland species was unsuccessful. A vocal Prothonotary Warbler embellished late May and early June. Subsequent visits fell short to relocate the songster, and it is assumed the male failed to procure a mate and consequently moved out of the area.

**Directions:** Located in the city of North Ridgeville, Lorain Co. From I-90, exit to SR-83 (exit 153) and head south. Turn west onto SR-254, and then turn south onto Case Rd. Turn east onto Otten Rd. and SRR is on the left side of the road. From northbound on SR-83, turn west onto US-20. Turn north onto Case Road, and then turn east on Otten Road.

**Acknowledgments:** We wish to thank the Lorain County Metro Parks for their cooperation and for providing additional bird sightings.

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



## Summer Bird Totals at Sandy Ridge Metropark

Pied-billed Grebe	6	Blue Jay	4
Least Bittern	2	Tree Swallow	3
American Bittern	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow 1	
Green Heron	2	Barn Swallow	2
Canada Goose	7	Tufted Titmouse	3
Wood Duck	2	Black-capped Chickadee	3
Mallard	8	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Blue-winged Teal	1	House Wren	2
Hooded Merganser	1	Marsh Wren	6
Ruddy Duck	2	Eastern Bluebird	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Wood Thrush	3
Red-tailed Hawk	1	American Robin	4
Virginia Rail	2	Gray Catbird	3
Sora	5	Brown Thrasher	1
Common Moorhen	2	European Starling	1
American Coot	6	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Killdeer	2	Yellow Warbler	3
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Ovenbird	1
Mourning Dove	1	Common Yellowthroat	2
Great Horned Owl	1	Scarlet Tanager	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Eastern Towhee	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Song Sparrow	10
Belted Kingfisher	1	Swamp Sparrow	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Northern Flicker	1	Northern Cardinal	3
Downy Woodpecker	3	Indigo Bunting	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Red-winged Blackbird	10
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	Baltimore Oriole	4
Acadian Flycatcher	2		
Willow Flycatcher	2	a) Data collected between 7 June	
Eastern Phoebe	1	and 19 July on a weekly basis.	
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	b) Numbers indicate singing males or	
Eastern Kingbird	2	mated pairs.	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	c) Active nest observed prior to	
Red-eyed Vireo	5	breeding bird census during April.	
Warbling Vireo	4		



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

**Rare Bird Hotline:** (216) 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.  
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