

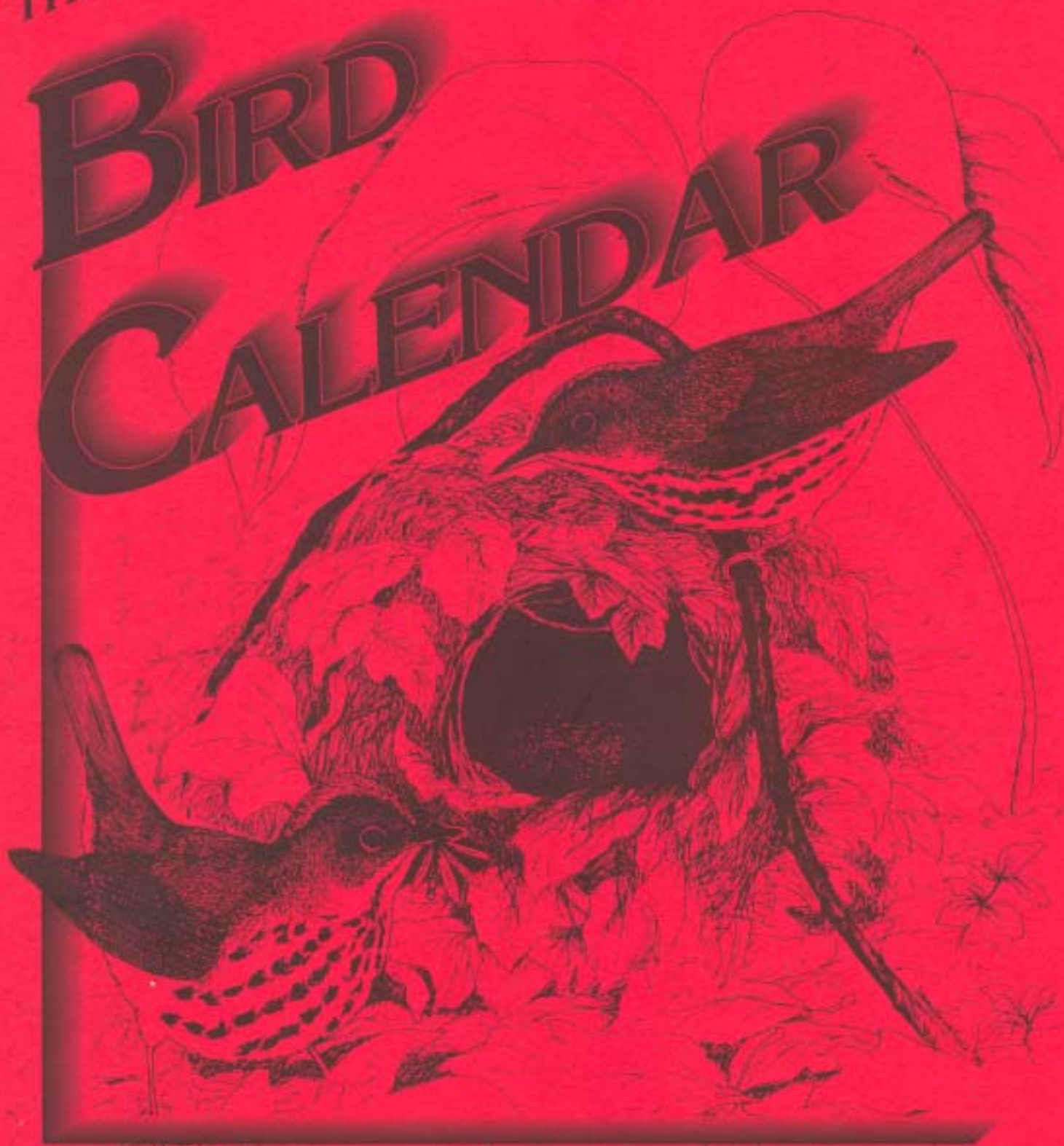
THE CLEVELAND

September, October, and November 2000

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BIRD CALENDAR



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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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by Dwight Chasar

SEPTEMBER: Temperatures averaged 63.1°, .8° below normal. The high was 84° on the 11th, and the low was 35° on the 29th. Lake Erie was 74° on the 1st and eased down to 64° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 66% of the time. Rain occurred over 8 days and totalled 3.29 in., .15 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.46 in. on the 23-24th.

OCTOBER: Temperatures averaged 57.4°, 1.9° above normal. The highest was 79° on the 2nd, and the lowest was 29° on the 29th. Sunshine occurred about 61% of the time. Rain occurred over 11 days and totaled 3.56 in., a departure of 1.02 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.14 in. on the 8-9th. Lake Erie water cooled to 58° by the 31st.

NOVEMBER: Temperatures averaged 39.8°, 2.8° below normal. The highest was 66° on the 9th, and the



Buckeye closeup
by Scott Wright©

lowest was 13° on the 23rd. Sunshine occurred only 30% of the time. Occurring over 15 days, rain totalled 2.55 in., .62 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .56 in. on the 21st. Snow totalled 11.2 in., with the greatest 24 hr. fall of 7.5 in. on the 21st. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 43° by the end of month.

by Larry Rosche



Common Loons were found in very good numbers. On Nov. 18, 40 were seen off Gordon Park (SZ). The next day, Hannikman tallied 216 at HBSP. This was the second highest total ever for the site. On Nov. 23 another 87 were counted there (RH). **Pied-billed Grebes** were un spectacular. A striking nearly albino **Horned Grebe** was readily observed from the walkway at E. 72nd St. on Nov. 18 & 19 (PL, BF, m.obs.). The high count of Horned Grebes was 50 at HBSP on Oct. 22 (RH). Double-crested Cormorants continued on their collision course with fishing enthusiasts in NE Ohio. On Sep. 18, 175 were seen at Walborn Reservoir (BM). Another 677 were tallied from Gordon Park on Oct. 22, flying west/southwest in groups of approximately 100. (PL, BF, BW). The 800 at HBSP on Oct. 22 surely spelled doom for many of the shad running up the Grand River (RH).

A **Great Egret** was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 16 (RR). Seven graced Gordon Park on Oct. 8 (SZ). Four egrets were at Walborn Reservoir on Sep. 26 (CH).

Green Herons were in fair numbers. The latest bird was Oct 1 at HBSP (RH).

Black-crowned Night-Herons

were seen in expected numbers at traditional sites. A lingerer at HBSP on Nov. 5 provided a birthday surprise for the observer (RH). On Nov. 20, 6 were at the Lakeside Yacht Club on North Marginal (TLP). **Turkey Vultures** were conspicuous along the lake. The 100 at HBSP on Sep. 16 was typical (RH).

The Hudson Bay migrant **Canada Geese** returned to North Chagrin on Sep. 15 (KM). The first **Tundra Swans** (10) were noted on Oct. 28 at Gordon Park (SZ). On Nov. 4, 62 were counted from the same site (SZ, TG, BW). Another 150± were over Mentor and 50 more over Concord Township the same day (fide DB). Lake Phippen hosted 180 on Nov. 11 (LR, VW). A total of 52 was counted at HBSP the same day (RH). LaDue held 42 on Nov. 5 (RR). On Nov. 22 a group of 22 was seen over Munson Township (KM). On Nov. 6, 93 **Wood Ducks** produced what may have been the highest daily count ever seen on the ponds at North Chagrin Nature Center (KM). The 125 woodies at Tinker's Creek SNP on Sep. 21 reflected an outstanding breeding year (GB, CG). **Gadwall** and **American Wigeon** were found in small numbers. The high count for Gadwall was 44 in Akron on Nov. 22 (CH). The passage of **Blue-winged Teal** through the region has become somewhat of a mystery lately. Any sightings of this species should be reported. The 20 **Northern Shovelers** in Akron on Nov. 22 was good news (CH).

Naturalist Duane Ferris related to reporter Dan Best this observation of 3 Common Loons and a Horned Grebe at LaDue on Nov. 19. "Three loons and a horned grebe were congregated in a small eye of open water on the mostly froze-over reservoir. Two loons dove while one remained on the surface. Small fish, panicked by pursuit, were breaking the surface. The loon that stayed 'up top' was 'going crazy,' grabbing fish left and right. Cooperative hunting strategy or intelligently taking advantage of other's efforts? The grebe was diving and feeding, but any involvement or association with the loon feeding frenzy is uncertain."

The 1999-2000 Cleveland Bird Calendar Summary

The Bird Calendar year ended with a respectable 277 species reported. I cannot thank the people who report to the Bird Calendar enough. Our reporters are among the most respected birders in North America; as editor, I am most fortunate not to have to question very many reports. I receive many fine seasonal summaries. Some are e-mailed, some are printed out neatly on a PC, and some are handwritten on paper. All are in taxonomic order of one kind or another and are greatly appreciated. Hannikman's studies at Headlands Beach border on the remarkable. Tom LePage continues to find exceptional sightings in his daily field work. Bill Klamm would be very happy to see how Sean Zadar continues his and Nancy's efforts at Gordon Park. As we all know, Gordon Park is a tremendous migrant trap, but it takes considerable effort to hack your way around the overgrown vegetation. Several fairly regular, but rare, species failed to make the list. These include Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, King Eider, Northern Goshawk, Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, California Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Whip-poor-will (2nd year in a row), and Golden-winged Warbler. If anyone knows of a report of these or if I have omitted them by accident, please let me know.

I am sure some of these will be published elsewhere because of the relative ease birders now have in posting to the Internet. Indeed, some of our former contributors no longer make seasonal summaries and leave both reporting and editing to editors. I feel the observers have the ownership of the bird report. As an editor, I simply try to bring out what readers want to see in this venerable journal. If I were a wizard with a spiffy pewter caldron that I could dump all the posts to OhioBirds Listserv and to the various local websites into for sorting in taxonomic order, I would. My work and family obligations take up too much of my time to sift through the many daily reports put on the web. Of course, I do wonder what my caldron would do with messages that include Snowy Owl and Broad-winged Hawk in the same sentence. Not to mention those by innocent observers who apparently have yet to read of local occurrence patterns. Best of birds in 2001! LR

Green-winged Teals were seen in lower than expected numbers. As is typical for October, small numbers of **Canvasbacks** were seen at several inland reservoirs. **Redheads** were very scarce. One was at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 (GL) and Nov. 3 & 12 (LD). The former gravel pit lakes in

Shalersville held 940 **Ring-necked Ducks** on Oct. 20 (LR, VW). The count for the traditional Best Lake staging site was 157 on Nov. 4 (DB). The 225 at Wellington on Nov. 26 was exceptionally good for such a late date (FG). The highest count of **Lesser Scaup** was 200 at Berlin Reservoir on Nov. 21 (BDL). Two **Surf Scoters** were off Cahoon Park on Nov. 17 (TLP). Four were seen at Rocky River Park on Nov. 19 (CH). Two were seen at HBSP on Oct. 22 & Oct. 31 (RH). Two **Black Scoters** were off Sims Park on Nov. 16-19 (TLP, RR). Black Scoters were seen on 5 days at HBSP and totalled 11 birds (RH,

CH). A male **Long-tailed Duck** graced Rocky River Park on Nov. 13-19 (TG, PL, BF, SZ, m.obs.). Along Lake Erie, **American Goldeneyes** were in low numbers. One was at Springfield Lake on Nov. 29 (BDL). LaDue held 173 **Hooded Mergansers** on Nov. 18 (fide (DB)). Elm Lake in Streetsboro held 75 on Nov. 17 (CH). The 13 **Common Mergansers** at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 were unusual (RR). A more typical date was the Nov. 1 & 2 sighting of a bird at Shaker Lakes (LD). The high count (24,277) of **Red-breasteds** was reached at Gordon Park on Nov. 12 (SZ). **Ruddy Duck** numbers were impressive. On Oct. 21, (300+) were at Fowler's Mill Golf Course Lake in Geauga Co. (KM). Mogadore played host to over 3000 ruddies on Oct. 29 (LR, VW). On Oct. 28, Wellington Reservoir hosted 575, and Oberlin Reservoir 200 (RHL).



Partial albino Horned Grebe
by Bob Finkelstein©

Ospreys were well reported. Hannikman reported them at HBSP on Sep. 1, 4, 8, 9, 23, & 30. On Sep. 3, another was at HBSP (PL, BF, BW). A bird was over Gordon Park on Sep. 25 (SZ). One was at LaDue on Oct. 3 (RR). Another was seen over the Pekin Road marsh on Oct. 11 (fide DB). On Nov. 11, a pair of **Bald Eagles** was seen in the CVNP just north of Greenhaven Parkway (CR). "The eagles were first noticed soaring high overhead, widely separated from one another. They eventually

merged, and greeted each other with a talon-clasping barrel roll. They then soared together at a lower altitude over the marsh for ten minutes or so, as if they were checking out the neighborhood for potential housing. Alas, they eventually sailed off in opposite directions." Two more were seen over SR-2 at E. 305th on Sep. 29 (RH). Another flyover was observed at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 7 (GL). Inland, Lake Rockwell, LaDue, Mogadore, and West Branch Reservoirs hosted several adults and young throughout the period. Best reported at least 10 birds in Geauga County in the period. A bird soared over the West Creek Preserve on Sep. 7 (GL). This report added another site to an ever increasing list of locales reporting this species. **Northern Harriers** were reported from Fairport Harbor on Sep. 1 & 10 (RH). One drifted over Parma on Sep. 11 (GL). One was at Swine Creek Reservation on Nov. 12 (fide DB). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were widely distributed. A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen along Jones Road in the traditional Lorain County area on Nov. 14 (TLP). Another was seen at Gordon Park on Nov. 25 (TG, SZ). An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** remained at Dike 14 from Oct. 13 to Nov. 18. Zadar discovered its scattered remains under a White Pine along the southern perimeter on Nov. 23. A Great Horned Owl heard on the same day raised suspicion regarding the predator behind the kill. One was at Shaker Lakes on Nov. 6 (LD). An immature **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at Gordon Park on Sep. 6 (SZ). An adult was seen in Munson Township on Sep. 8 (KM). Geauga **Merlins** continue to be found in remarkable numbers. Migrants were noted at Gordon Park on Sep.

Comments on Migration at Headlands Beach State Park Area

Waterfowl: Highlight here had to be the Brant, with a high count of 16 in a flock over the lake on November 18. Bay ducks and sea ducks made very modest showings in late October and early November, while thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers were in the HBSP area at the very end of November. Surprising was the early departure from the area of Green-winged Teal. The species was barely recorded (only on October 28) during the month of October. Wood Ducks peaked between September 23 & 24 with up to 24 birds at Veteran's Park on September 24.

Terns: Talk about a group that got out of town quickly--it surely was the terns, as no Common or Black Terns were noted during the period. There were only 2 Forster's Terns--both on September 15. Caspian Tern numbers were also very low.

Swallows: Swallows stayed late, as evidenced by a very late Purple Martin at Mentor Lagoons on September 26., a Cliff Swallow there on September 14, and a late Tree Swallow over the dunes on October 31.

Winter Wren: Twenty-six of these little sprites between the dunes and Mentor Lagoons on October 8 was an excellent HBSP count.

Warblers: Warblers seemed to peak during the last 8-10 days of September. Prior to then, counts of both numbers of individuals and species were low and uninspiring. Curiously low were Blackpoll Warblers with a peak of 22 on September 30. Some autumns, day counts can exceed 50 individuals.

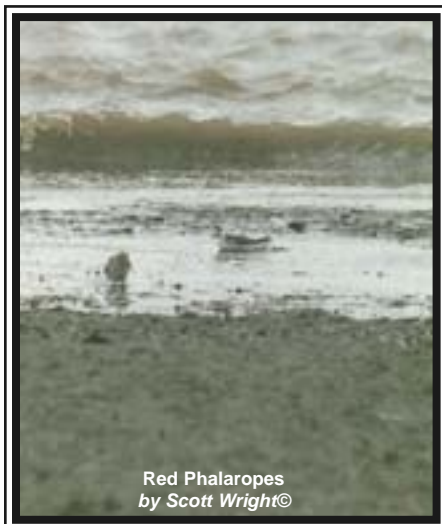
Ray Hannikman

I made a specific effort to get a handle on the American Crow flock here in Shaker. There have been evenings when the roost movement passes over the Van Aken shopping center---a wide expanse allowing for a view of the broad flight. My best count was just shy of 6000 birds. As a portion of the flight originates from further to the south heading over the Lee/Chagrin Blvd shopping district, I'd be confident in rounding that off to 6000. This peak took place just before the mid-November cold snap--around Nov. 8-10. I have not expressly counted since, but numbers of foraging birds on lawns appeared to have halved 10 days later.

Vic Fazio

16, 24, Oct. 10, 13, 29, and Nov. 4 (SZ). Birds were noted at HBSP on Sep. 16, 22, Nov. 11, & 26 (RH). A Merlin was at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 (GL). A bird was in Rocky River Nov. 18 (SZ). Kent hosted one on Sep. 16 (GB, LR). One was at LaDue on Oct. 3 (RR).

The only report of **Ruffed Grouse** was of a deceased bird in Chardon on Oct. 9 (*fide* DB). Any **Northern Bobwhite** is noteworthy, but also of questionable origin. A bird in Rocky River MP on Sep. 26 was interesting (CR). A twosome of **Virginia Rails** was heard calling in the CVNP on Nov. 12 (CR). **Soras** were found at Gordon Park on Sep. 9, 20, 23, & Oct. 17 (SZ). No reports of **Common Moorhens** were received. **American Coots** were typically abundant at inland lakes and fairly numerous along the shores of Lake Erie.



Red Phalaropes
by Scott Wright©

A Black-bellied Plover was at Sims Park on Sep. 21 (TK). Birds graced HBSP on Sep. 1, 15 (2), 23 (5), 25, & Oct. 7 (RH, TK). **American Golden-Plovers** were found only at HBSP on Sep. 17 (2) (RH, BW), 23 (6), & 30 (RH). On Sep. 5, Morrison noted 22 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Berlin. Up to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** lingered at West Branch SP until Oct. 29 (LR, VW). The latest **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at LaDue on Oct. 3 (RR). A late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Berlin Reservoir on Oct. 21 (BDL). Sharp ears detected a nocturnal migrant over Wadsworth the same day (RHL, SW). Small numbers of **Ruddy Turnstones** were seen at HBSP in early September (RH, GL, RR). The only **Red Knot** reported was at Fairport Harbor Beach on Sep. 15 (LR, RH). The high count of **Sanderlings** was 60 at HBSP on Sep. 25 (TK). The last Sanderling seen there was on Nov. 11 (RH). Three **Western Sandpipers** were seen at Berlin Reservoir on Oct. 15 (BDL). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were uncharacteristically scarce or unreported. **Least Sandpipers** were gone by mid-September. A **Baird's Sandpiper** stopped by Gordon Park on Sep. 6 (SZ). Two were seen at Berlin on Sep. 28 (BM). One was detected at the "hot waters" in Lorain on Oct. 11 (TLP). A flock of 70 **Pectoral Sandpipers** was at Berlin on Sep. 15 (BM). Three were at LaDue on Oct. 3 (RR). The only lakefront reports

were on Sep. 23 at HBSP (RH) and on Sep. 24 at Burke Lakefront Airport (PL, BF, BW). The high count of **Dunlin** was 22 at Berlin Reservoir on Oct. 29 (BDL). Five were in Lorain on Nov. 19 (CH). A flock of 16 **Stilt Sandpipers** was spied at Berlin on Sep. 15 (BM). The formerly abundant **Short-billed Dowitcher** was not detected. Two **American Woodcocks** were found on the CVNP Fall Census (DAC). A group of 8-15 **Common Snipes** was at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 4-5 (CH, VW). Few southbound snipes were detected along the lake.

Bonaparte's Gulls put in a fair showing. The high tally was 800 at HBSP on Nov. 10 (RH). Inland, small flocks of 20 or fewer were at most larger lakes, the exception being the 125 at Berlin on Nov. 26 (CH). A roost of 1100+ **Ring-billed Gulls** at Berlin in October was unexpected (BDL, BM). This was double any lakefront count for the same period. Jane Berger and Ben Winger saw an exceptionally early **Iceland Gull** at Wildwood CLSP on Nov. 23. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was noted at HBSP on Sep. 13 (RR). A first-year bird was at Gordon Park on Nov. 9 and an adult on Nov. 23 (SZ). Avon Lake Power Plant hosted an adult on Nov. 19 (SZ). Two more adults were found at Lorain Harbor the same day (SZ). Another was at HBSP on Nov. 23 (RH). The high tally of **Caspian Terns** was a mere

On Oct. 8, the weather was absolutely miserable (rain/wind). The trees, bushes and the yards along Edgewater & Harborview Drives, Cleveland, were carpeted with Winter Wrens, both kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Song, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. On one front lawn I counted 75 White-throated Sparrows!

Paula Lozano

22 on Sep. 5 at Docks 20/22, Cleveland (PL). The **Common Tern** movement was pathetic. Hannikman reported zero from HBSP! LePage noted a wretched high of 3 at Lorain on Oct. 31! **Forster's Terns** were just as disappointing.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was a good find in Boston (CVNP) on Sep. 27 (MR, m.obs.). One was at Ira Road (CVNP) on Oct. 2 (TMR). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was spied in Brecksville on Sep. 9 (BAT). One was at Millstream Run on Nov. 2 (BDL). On Nov. 19, one was photographed at Lakewood Park Cemetery (BF, PL). One was cooperative at HBSP on Sep. 3, 30, & Oct. 31 (RH). Over 40 **Common Nighthawks** were seen at the CVNP on Sep. 9 (KM). The same evening 64 were counted over Parma (GL). On Sep. 8-10, 10-20 were seen daily in Valley City (FG). Few others were noted in September. The latest bird was observed flying east over Kirtland on Sep. 17 (CK). **Chimney Swifts** elicited these comments from Charles Klaus. "There is a large colony which roosts in a chimney at The Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby. Surely 1000's. It is to me one of the great sights of nature to watch them at dusk circle the chimney and then pour in for the night. On September 14 I watched,



Le Conte's Sparrow - Mentor Lagoons
by Kevin Metcalf©

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Fall Bird Census 2000

Pied-billed Grebe	2	Pileated Woodpecker	9	Cape May Warbler	1
DC Cormorant	4	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	B.-throated Blue W.	2
Great Blue Heron	15	Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	Yellow-rumped W.	1
Great Egret	1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	B.-throated Green W.	6
Green Heron	6	Least Flycatcher	1	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Turkey Vulture	53	Eastern Phoebe	40	Pine Warbler	1
Canada Goose	722	Great Crested Flycatcher	2	Palm Warbler	1
Wood Duck	143	White-eyed Vireo	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
American Wigeon	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	3	Blackpoll Warbler	6
Mallard	309	Warbling Vireo	2	Cerulean Warbler	1
Osprey	1	Philadelphia Vireo	1	Black-&-white Warbler	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Red-eyed Vireo	7	American Redstart	7
Cooper's Hawk	0	Blue Jay	315	Ovenbird	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	American Crow	308	Common Yellowthroat	47
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Black-capped Chickadee	253	Hooded Warbler	3
American Kestrel	3	Tufted Titmouse	83	Scarlet Tanager	6
Wild Turkey	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Eastern Towhee	18
American Coot	1	White-breast. Nuthatch	57	Chipping Sparrow	13
Sandhill Crane	4	Carolina Wren	18	Field Sparrow	36
Killdeer	7	House Wren	6	Song Sparrow	33
Spotted Sandpiper	3	Marsh Wren	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
American Woodcock	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Swamp Sparrow	5
Ring-billed Gull	94	Eastern Bluebird	124	Northern Cardinal	116
Herring Gull	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Rose-breast. Grosbeak	8
Rock Dove	75	Swainson's Thrush	10	Indigo Bunting	33
Mourning Dove	62	Wood Thrush	6	Red-winged Blackbird	529
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	American Robin	300	Common Grackle	359
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	Gray Catbird	62	Baltimore Oriole	1
Chimney Swift	34	Brown Thrasher	1	Purple Finch	3
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	3	European Starling	226	House Finch	92
Belted Kingfisher	16	Cedar Waxwing	94	American Goldfinch	335
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Tennessee Warbler	5	House Sparrow	198
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	Nashville Warbler	10		
Downy Woodpecker	75	Yellow Warbler	2		
Hairy Woodpecker	10	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5		
Northern Flicker	88	Magnolia Warbler	15		

but only 10 or so circled the chimney; and of those, only a few dropped into it. But, on September 17 there were 100's over my pond and meadow. Clearly a migrating flock." A total of 1100 was counted at Berlin on Sep. 21 (BM). On Sep. 23 another 1100 were counted over Gordon Park (SZ). An unidentified hummingbird in Streetsboro on Nov. 8-9 was very interesting (CH). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** provided one of the very few sightings this year in Maple Heights on Sep. 10. (DR). Hummingbirds all but disappeared by mid-September. The last report was from Kirtland on Sep. 16 (CK). **Belted Kingfishers** were conspicuous in the CVNP and HBSP throughout the period.

The Lanes found 11 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Berlin Reservoir on Oct. 15. On Sep. 2, birds were at Sims Park and CLSP/Villa Angela (BF, PL). The same day 2 were spied at HBSP (GL). A bird was at Sims Park on Nov. 23 (JB, BW). From mid-September through mid-October, fair numbers of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** could be found throughout the region. The high count was a rather low 12 at HBSP on Sep. 26 (RH). The 50+ **Northern Flickers** at Gordon Park on Oct. 1 was the high tally for the species (BW).

Olive-sided Flycatchers put in a very solid showing. One was at HBSP on Sep. 1 (RH). On Sept. 2, two were at Cleveland Lakefront SP, Villa Angela Area, in same tree (PL, BF)! One was at Nathan Hale Park on Sep. 5 (RHL). Another

enjoyed an afternoon at Sims Park on Sep. 10 (PL, TLP). From Sep. 5 through Sep. 9, one-two were seen at the West Creek Preserve (GL). One was at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site on Sep. 20 (LR). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** received little mention. Other than Least Flycatcher, few empids were reported. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at HBSP on Sep. 1, 10, and 24 (RH). A tardy bird was at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 29 (GL). The latest **Least Flycatcher** was at HBSP on a rather ordinary date of Sep. 26 (RH). **Eastern Phoebes** moved as well as expected. The only **Eastern Kingbird** reported was seen in Portage Co. on Sep. 14 (CH).

White-eyed Vireos went unreported from along Lake Erie. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found in fair numbers during their usual mid-September through mid-October time frame. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at HBSP on Sep. 2 (RH). Inland, they were found at local nesting areas until late September. **Philadelphia Vireos** were rather scarce. One was at Whiskey Island on Sep. 13 (FG, PL). Lake View Cemetery hosted 3 on Sep. 16 (BW). The Ravenna TLS harbored one on Sep. 20 (LR). Another was at Gordon Park on Sept. 24 (BF, TG, PI, BW, SZ). One was sighted at Elmwood Park on Oct. 3 (RHL). At HBSP, small numbers were encountered from Sep. 1 through Oct. 15 (RH). A **Warbling Vireo** was somewhat late at HBSP on Oct. 21 (KM). The only noticeable influx of **Red-eyed Vireos** was on Sep. 22 at HBSP when 12 were tallied (RH).

A Purple Martin was very late at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 26 (RH, LR). Over 200 **Tree Swallows** were seen at LaDue on Sep. 20 (RR). This assemblage

Sandhill Crane Saga Continues With Autumn 2000 Episodes by Dan Best--Naturalist, Geauga Park District

Concerning the "Claridon Pair": Geauga Park District's spring and summer reports related sighting of these two from Claridon-Troy Road in northern Burton Township to Aquilla Lake in Claridon Township from mid-May through July. The last sighting of these birds was in the field across from (not in) Aquilla Lake State Wildlife Area on Labor Day weekend (Grace Butcher, et al). Nothing since.



Claridon Sandhill Cranes
by Kevin Metcalf©

"Troy Trio" lingers: A group of cranes, invariably together, consisting of two adults and a possible immature bird (little or no red on head)--all gray (vs. brownish) in color produced a consistent run of sightings throughout the fall 2000 season after an absence (per lack of reports) throughout much of 2000, except for Jan. 1 Christmas Count, March 16 sightings at LaDue, and a Cleveland Metroparks naturalists sighting of 3 cranes overhead at Eldon Russell Park on July 22..

Three cranes were sighted along Pekin Road on Sep. 14 by GPD Volunteer Naturalist Roy Podogil and again in a wetland off Pekin Road on Oct. 6. These are suspected of being the "Troy Trio."

Regular sightings of the trio, which were reported from the island(s) in the vicinity of the LaDue Reservoir marina, commenced again in Autumn 2000. On Sep. 25, City of Akron personnel reported "We see them all the time." Duane Ferris reported 3 throughout October and November.

Since October (per Sandy Buckles to DF), the 3 cranes were frequently sighted in corn stubble in fields in the Jug St. and Patch Road vicinity in Troy Township--due east of LaDue Reservoir. Sightings here continued through November (Molly Bartlett, Bob and Eric Faber) into December -- 12/3 & 12/9 (DB)--indicating LaDue Reservoir and the Jug Road field as the two major areas for the "Troy Trio." So the question remains: Where do these cranes disappear in the summer and are they breeding somewhere in the wetlands of the Cuyahoga River? We are pretty sure, however, that the "Claridon Pair and the "Troy Trio" are separate groups of cranes.

grew to over 1700 --and a few Barn Swallows-- by Sep. 24 (file DB). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Lake Rockwell on Oct. 8 . This was the latest ever for the site (LR). Another Rough-winged lingered at Gordon Park on Oct. 14 (SZ). That bird was 3 days short of our latest ever. A **Cliff Swallow** was observed carefully at HBSP on Sep. 4 (RH). The last **Barn Swallow** reported was from HBSP on Oct. 15 (RH). On Nov. 11, over 30 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were detected in the Findley State Park campground (CR). They were scattered about elsewhere in small

numbers. **Brown Creepers** were found in good numbers. The high tally was 8 at HBSP on Sep. 26 (RH). The increases over the past 20 years of **Carolina Wrens** are well-documented in local journals. They are and have been common throughout the region for the past decade. The 6 found at Ira Road on Oct. 2 were indicative (TMR). **Winter Wrens** were conspicuous along the lake and inland. Counts at HBSP ranged to 30 on several October dates. **House Wrens** moved well in late September. Five **Marsh Wrens** were at Gordon Park (Dike 14) on Sep. 25 (KM, SZ). On

Sep. 29, one was at HBSP (RH). Whiskey Island Marina hosted birds on Oct. 3 & 11 (FG, PL). One was at Ira Road on Oct. 16 (TMR). The kinglets were both well-represented, especially along the lakefront. Hannikman conservatively estimated 140 **Golden-crowneds** at HBSP on Oct. 8. The same day he tallied 80 **Ruby-crowneds**. The next day Zadar tallied 300 Golden-crowneds and 200 Ruby-crowneds at Gordon Park. Inland, Golden-crowned numbers peaked at 61 at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 (GL). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were absent from most reporter's field sheets. I hope I am not the only one who cannot hear them as I once did. The high count of gnatcatchers was only 6 at HBSP on Sep. 30 (LR). A bird was tardy in Lorain on Oct. 22 (TG, SZ).

The 75 **Eastern Bluebirds** seen in Boston on Oct. 12 were indicative of just how well they are doing in the CVNP (MR, m.obs.). The 3 at Lake View Cemetery on Oct. 28 were good news (BW). A **Veery** was at Gordon Park on Sep. 24 (PL, m.obs.). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted at Whiskey Island Marina on Sep. 27 & Oct. 4 (FG, PL). One was at Lake View Cemetery on Sep. 16 (BW). They were regular at HBSP all of September. A late bird was at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 10 (GL). **Swainson's Thrushes** were common in their usual September migration period. The high counts were 10 at Lake View Cemetery on Sep. 16 (BW) and at HBSP on Sep. 24 (RH). **Hermit Thrushes** were widespread from late September through October. The high tally was 15 on Oct. 15 in the Mentor Lagoons-HBSP area (RH, LR). On Oct. 16, construction on the north side of the National City Bank Building forced (via jack hammering) a large concentration

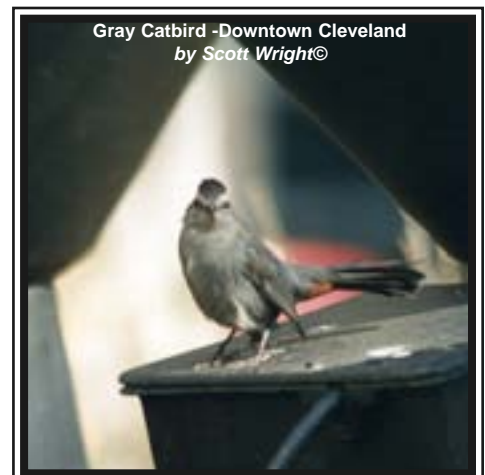
A Study of Four Commonly Occurring Species in the Boston (CVNP)												
	September				October				November			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
Cedar Waxwing												
1997	0	0	0	0	0	15	8	80	30	5	0	20
1998	53	23	21	4	8	0	22	8	8	0	0	0
2000	15	17	9	0	14	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Yellow-rumped W.												
1997	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	80	40	30	2	40
1998	0	0	0	5	17	25	55	26	25	1	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	20	20	21	17	10	2	0	0
Eastern Bluebird												
1997	0	0	0	0	0	20	3	80	40	12	50	30
1998	0	0	0	3	18	2	45	20	15	2	0	0
2000	8	30	10	46	3	25	33	33	2	15	23	9
A. Robin												
1997	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	80	40	60	20	0
1998	0	0	0	1	6	1	24	9	1	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	9	36	15	85	5	2	3	0	0

Data submitted by Mary Reinthal. (In 1999, the bridge was out at Boston.)

of birds to the Euclid Ave. side of the building. This provided the Calendar a late report of a **Wood Thrush** doing its best to stay hidden in this very small green spot in an ocean of concrete (SW). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to evoke comments from readers. Three were at Whiskey Island on Sept. 13 (FG, PL). One was in the CVNP on Nov. 12 (BAT). Two were in another sector of the CVNP the same day (CR). Another was at Shaker Lakes on Nov. 5 & 15 (LD). **Gray Catbirds** were slightly tardy at Gordon Park on Oct. 16 (RHL, SW) and on Oct. 24 (SZ). A late **Brown Thrasher** was seen at Shaker Lakes on Nov. 1 (LD). Another tardy bird was at Ira Road on Oct. 30 (TMR). Six **American Pipits** were at Lake Rockwell on Nov. 5 (VW). Four were seen at Gordon Park on Nov. 23 (SZ). One was late at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 29 (KM). **Cedar Waxwings** had made little effort to move into the region from the north by the end of the period.

The field diligence of Hannikman at HBSP and Zadar at Gordon Park/Dike 14 provided much data

on the distribution of warblers across the lakefront. On Oct. 16, a tardy **Tennessee Warbler** was found at Chester Commons, along with the usual sparrow suspects (SW). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were detected in higher than normal numbers. Hannikman recorded them on 5 dates at HBSP. Zadar counted many at Gordon Park in September and October. His top counts there were 14 on Oct. 8 and 10 on Oct. 9. One was at HBSP on Sep. 18 (KM). On Sep. 23, 4 were there (BM). Two were at North Chagrin on Oct. 4 (KM). Another was at Whiskey Island on Oct. 4 (PL, FG). One was in Twinsburg on Oct. 13 (LR), another



at HBSP on Oct. 14 (KM), and yet another at Veteran's Park on Oct. 15 (RH, LR). Whiskey had another bird on Oct. 21 (BF, PL). On Oct. 22, one was at Gordon Park (BF, PL, BW). Any way you slice it, that's a lot of Orange-crowned Warblers for our region. **Nashville Warblers** poured in along the lakefront sites in strong numbers. From Sep. 16 through Oct. 14, HBSP hosted as many as 30 individuals (RH, m.obs.). Gordon Park tallies were even more impressive. The high count there was 46 on Sep. 16 (SZ). The high inland report was 14 at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 22 (GL). **Northern Parulas** were seen in expected numbers. Birds were at HBSP on Sep. 16, 17 (2), 22, 26 (3), and Oct. 1 (RH, m.obs.). At Gordon Park parulas were noted on Sep. 16 and 2 on Sep. 24 (SZ). A Northern Parula was at Rocky River MP on Sep. 13 (RHL, SW). On Oct. 10, one was at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 10 (GL). The latest parula was at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 (GL). The last date for **Yellow Warblers** was Sep. 30 at HBSP (RH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** moved well with a high of 7 at HBSP on Sep. 22 (RH). **Magnolia Warblers** were common from Sep. 1 through Oct. 1 at HBSP. Counts were usually in the 10-14 range there. From Sep. 8 through Oct 14 as many as 10 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** could be found at HBSP (m.obs.). **Cape May Warblers** staged their



best local fall migration in some time. This year's counts normally reached double digits. This compared quite favorably to recent falls, when field counts were fortunate to have them at all. On Sep. 16, 4 were seen at Lake View Cemetery (BW). Over 20 Cape Mays were tallied at HBSP on Sep. 18 (KM). Inland, the Ravenna TLS held 3 captive on Sep. 20 (LR). Another was seen in the snow at North Chagrin on Oct. 8 (KM). One was tardy in Mayfield Heights on Nov. 5 (NB). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were plentiful and widespread. The high count was 131 at Gordon Park on Sep. 30 (SZ). **Black-throated Green Warblers** put in a fair showing. **Blackburnian Warblers** continue to be one of the scarcer fall migrants of the the Dendroica genus. Two were at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 11 (GL). The only one detected at HBSP was on Sep. 26 (RH, LR). A **Pine Warbler** was at Ridgewood Golf Course on Sep. 23 (GL). One was at Lake View Cemetery on Sep. 16 (BW). Two were singing in the sleet and rain on Oct. 8 at Lake Rockwell (LR). **Palm Warblers** did not disappoint. The high was a respectable 65+ at Gordon Park on Oct. 1 (BW, m.obs.). Whiskey Island provided refuge for 4 Palms on Oct. 21 (PL, BF). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in fewer than expected totals. The high was only 4 at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 1 (BW). **Blackpoll Warblers** were off slightly from their usual abundant fall status. The Cleveland high was 18 on Sep. 13 at Whiskey Island (FG, PL). At HBSP, the high was a respectable, but lower than usual, 22 on Sep. 30 (RH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was studied closely along Major Road in the CVNP on Sep. 18 (LR, m.obs.). **Black-and-white Warblers** were found in fair numbers. Usually not as abundant as the previous genus nonetheless,



they were common at HBSP from mid-September through early October. **American Redstarts** put in a strong showing. A male was somewhat late at HBSP on Oct. 21 (KM). An **Ovenbird** was at LaDue on Sep. 20 (RR). Single observations were the norm along the lake. Of interest was a bird in Lakewood at 7:15 PM on Sep. 25 (PL). **Northern Waterthrushes** went unreported. Rarely found after July, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported from Shaker Lakes on Sep. 14 (BW). A **Mourning Warbler** was at HBSP on Sep. 1 (RH). One was at Shaker Lakes the same day (BW). Another was at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 26 (LR). One was at North Chagrin on Oct. 4 (KM). **Hooded Warblers** received more than their usual observer comments. A male was observed in the snow at North Chagrin on Oct. 19 (KM). Three were felt to be migrants at Homesbrook Park in Wadsworth on Sep. 12 (RHL, SW). The movement of **Wilson's Warblers** through the region serves as a good barometer from which to judge migration. If lakefront sites host over 10 of these tiny dynamos on a given day, then it is usually an indication of a strong overall passage of warblers. The high count from Gordon was 18 on Sep. 13 (SZ). At HBSP, this species was seen regularly from Sep. 8 through Oct. 15. The high tally there was 15 on Sep. 23 (RH). A migrant **Scarlet Tanager** reported was from HBSP on Sep. 3 (BF, PL, BW).



Worm-eating Warbler
by Kevin Metcalf©

Sparrows were just short of spectacular this season. The only species not reported was Grasshopper Sparrow. **Vesper Sparrows** put in a great showing. One was in Lorain on Oct. 28 & 29 (RHL, EP, KM). Vespers were noted at Gordon Park on Oct. 19 & 21 (SZ). On Oct. 28, 4 were at HBSP (RH). The 62 **Savannah Sparrows** at Gordon Park on Oct. 4 may have been a record (SZ). **Fox Sparrows** were seen in fair numbers. Three were seen at North Chagrin on Nov. 19 (KM). **Song Sparrows** moved exceptionally well. The high count was 152 at Gordon Park on Oct. 4 (SZ). **Lincoln's Sparrows** caught observers' eyes in higher than expected numbers and in little known areas. The high count was 20 at Whiskey Island on Oct. 4 (FG, PL). One was seen working the edge of a pond in Kirtland on Sep. 17 (CK). **Swamp Sparrows** moved nicely, with 83 tallied on Oct. 4 at Gordon Park (SZ). On Oct. 6, 75 were tallied at Arcola Creek (BM). The 500 **White-throated Sparrows** and the 600 **White-Crowned Sparrows** at Gordon Park on Oct. 9 brought back fond memories of years past (SZ). Headlands BSP hosted 250 White-throateds on Oct. 8 and 40 White-crowned on Oct. 15 (RH). Two White-throated Sparrows were quite early at HBSP on Sep. 2 (GL). The high tally of **Dark-eyed**

Juncos at Gordon Park was 500 on Oct. 19 (SZ).

Lapland Longspurs were noted on four October dates at HBSP. The high count was 7 on Oct. 22 (RH). One was there on Nov. 12 (CH). Singles were noted from Gordon Park on Oct. 13, 14, Nov. 9, and Nov. 18(SZ). On Oct. 28, another was at the Lorain Impoundment (SZ). **Snow Buntings**

were fairly common along the lakeshore. Flocks of up to 70 were noted by many observers. Inland, they were seen in the Oberlin and Wellington Reservoir areas in fair numbers (FG). Late **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were in Cleveland on Oct. 10 (TMR) and Shaker Lakes on Oct. 13 (GL). The only October **Indigo Bunting** report was on Oct. 7 in the CVNP (DAC). A **Bobolink** was at the Lorain Impoundment on Sep. 29 (KM). Three were at Gordon Park on Oct. 4 (SZ). A meadowlark was curiously left unidentified in the CVNP on Oct. 22 (DAC). The last report of **Eastern Meadowlarks** was Oct. 28 at HBSP (RH). **Baltimore Orioles** left in timely fashion, with no reports of stragglers.

Purple Finches were scarce. A flock of 40± **Common Redpolls** was at HBSP on Nov. 12 (VF, LR). Two were at Gordon Park on Nov.



Snow Bunting
by Bob Finkelstein©

4 (SZ). The first **Pine Siskin** was at Gordon Park on Oct. 7, and 16 were there on Oct. 14 (SZ). A siskin was picked out from amid the many American Goldfinches at HBSP on Oct. 31 (HP, RH, LR). On Nov. 19, an **Evening Grosbeak** was spied in Akron (JB).g



RED-THROATED LOON - On Oct. 22, one was seen from Gordon Park (Finkelstein, Lozano, Winger).

RED-NECKED GREBE - On Nov. 8, a bird in transitional plumage was seen off the east shore of Gordon Park (Zadar). On Nov. 19, one was seen at the Lakeside Yacht Club (Finkelstein, Lozano, Dennis Vanek).

EARED GREBE - A bird was discovered at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 21 (Petruschke). It or another was HBSP on Nov. 26 (Hannikman) and again at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 27 (Rosche, Wert).

AMERICAN BITTERN - A bird was at Headlands Beach State Park on Sep. 15 (Rosche). One (hopefully a male) was found in the men's bathroom in Warehouse A at Ceres Terminals, Port of Cleveland, on Sept. 21. Hugh Goldie of World Shipping telephoned to report a "large, brown bird" that the stevedores thought was a "heron." The bird was captured by Laura Jordan of the Medina Raptor Center and, after being checked out by their avian vet, was released at Sheldon's Marsh the same day (Lozano). A bird was present at Gordon Park



Immature Cattle Egret-Mogadore
by Larry Rosche

on Oct. 4 (Zadar), and again on Oct. 11 (Harlan, Wagner).

CATTLE EGRET - An immature lounched for several days at a quarter horse farm in Mogadore. By blind luck, it was happened upon by Rosche on Nov. 9. Holt saw it there on Nov. 10. The bird would follow horses around as they kicked up grasshoppers during the day, then roost on the roof of one of the barns with Rock Doves at night.



American Bittern in
Port of Cleveland Restroom
by Paula Lozano©

GLOSSY IBIS - A bird was very cooperative in the Brecksville Metropark Nov. 5-11 (Chasar).

IBIS SPECIES - A dark ibis was left unidentified as it flew by Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 4 (Hannikman, Petruschke). Two dark ibises flew by Rocky River Park on Nov. 23 (Leidy).

BRANT - This species was found in much higher than expected numbers. Birds were at Headlands Beach State Park on Nov. 4 (2) (Hannikman, Petruschke); Nov. 11 (7) (Gilliland, Zadar, m.obs.); Nov. 12 (1) (Hannikman, m.obs.); .and Nov. 18 (16) (Hannikman, m.obs.). Two were at the Gordon Park Boat Basin on Nov. 12-16 (Finkelstein, Lozano, LePage, m.obs.).

HARLEQUIN DUCK - A wounded immature male was seen at Headlands Beach State Park Nov. 11 (Gilliland, Hannikman, Zadar, m.obs.).

PEREGRINE FALCON - An immature was at Headlands Beach State Park on Sep. 30, Oct. 7, 15, & 22 (Hannikman, Metcalf, Petruschke). Zadar and others noted single birds at Gordon Park on Sep. 24; Oct. 7, 10, 14; and 2 on Oct. 9. He added two at Edgewater Park on Nov. 18. On Nov. 19, two were seen at Winton Place (Finkelstein, Lozano). Scott Wright wrote, "A young falcon winged his way to West Palm Beach, FL from the Hilliard Road bridge. He was recovered with a gunshot wound. Wound was not serious and a complete recovery is expected. Band numbers K/W hatched in 2000. Was he caught in the chad cross fire?????"

SANDHILL CRANE - See Dan Best's notes.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Two were seen flying westward at Headlands Beach State Park on Sep. 1 (Rosche, Hannikman). Two others were located at Sims Park on Sep. 21 (Kellerman). Using the old-fashioned method of making a phone call, the observer was able to contact Tom LePage and have his sighting verified.

WILLET - One landed on the far-west mudflat at Gordon Park for a brief moment before continuing westward on Oct. 2 (Zadar).

WHIMBREL - This bird made a good traveling companion for the above Willet at Gordon Park on Oct. 2 (Zadar). A Whimbrel was spotted at Headlands Beach state Park on Sep. 10 (Fjeldstad).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Our latest report ever of this species was from Headlands Beach State Park on Nov. 11 (Metcalf).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - A bird was located on the near breakwall at Headlands Beach State Park on Nov. 28 (Hannikman, m.obs.).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - A bird graced Burke Lakefront Airport Sept. 23-24 (Lozano, Finkelstein, Winger).

RED PHALAROPE - Two birds were found near the breakwall at Headlands Beach State Park on Nov. 12 (Fazio, Hannikman). One was in Lorain on Nov. 19 (Holt).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER - Hannikman, Petruschke, and Rosche witnessed a quick flyover of an immature bird at Headlands Beach on Sep. 15.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - One was spied in the company of a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls at the



Western Kingbird--Sep. 8--CVNP
by Jared Mizanin©

intersection of Jones and Hawley Roads in Lorain Co. on Nov. 11 (Rieker).

LITTLE GULL - One was at Gordon Park on Oct. 28 (Zadar). An adult flew by Headlands Beach State Park on Oct. 22 (Hannikman, m.obs.). Another was there on Nov. 6 (Elder, LePage, Tanquist).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL-

Always noteworthy away from Lake Erie, one was at Oberlin Reservoir on Nov. 11 (Greenland). Two adults were at Summit Lake on Nov. 22 (Holt).

SHORT-EARED OWL - A bird was flushed at Gordon Park on Oct. 1 (Rosche, Finkelstein, Lozano, Winger). One was at Gordon Park on Oct. 8 (Zadar, Gilliland). One was at Headlands Beach State Park on Oct. 29 (Hannikman). One



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Gordon Park
by Sean Zadar©

was in Parkman Township on Nov. 22 (Ferris, fide Best).

WESTERN KINGBIRD - A bird was photographed in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park on Sep. 8 by Jared Mizanin.

NORTHERN SHRIKE - The only reports for the fall were two birds in the Headlands Beach State Park area on Oct. 26 (Hannikman), one in the CVNP on Nov. 8 (Stover), and one at Mentor Lagoons on Nov. 26 (Hannikman) .

SEDGE WREN - Zadar's diligence at Gordon Park paid off with 3 of these on Sep. 13, 2 on Sep. 16 & 30 (Gilliland), and 1 on Oct. 14. Metcalf noted them singing there on Sep. 25 & Oct. 3.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - A male lingered through the period at Rocky River. It remained until Dec. 10, establishing a new late date for the species (Gilliland, m.obs.).

PRAIRIE WARBLER- An immature male was along the Lake Woods Trail at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 26 (Rosche, Hannikman).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - A belated summer sighting of note, one was banded at Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation on June 19. (Metcalf).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - A bird was at Lake View Cemetery on Sep. 21 (Winger). One was reported from the Jesuit Retreat Home in Parma on Sep. 13 (Leidy). On Sep. 27, a bird was seen at Whiskey Island (Greenland, Lozano). One was at Gordon Park on Oct. 1 (Rosche, Winger).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - Always noteworthy after August, a

chat was spied at Headlands Beach State Park on Sep. 2 (Leidy).

WESTERN TANAGER - Respected observer Tom LePage watched a bird closely at Elmwood Park in Rocky River on Oct. 3. This is our first local report of this species since January of 1972 in Mentor.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - One was scrutinized carefully at Gordon Park on Oct. 4 (Zadar). Another was spied at Whiskey Island on Oct. 7 (Winger). Best received reports of 3 members of this species in Geauga County this fall. Two were at Andy Fondrk's home and another at Ray Dabkowski's home. Both were in Chester Township on the sleet and snow-filled day of Oct. 8. No previous record of Clay-colored Sparrow exists from Geauga County, but these reports were deemed credible by the editors. According to the Bird Calendar records, this brings the total species for Geauga County to 277.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Gordon Park hosted a bird in juvenile plumage on Sep. 23 and an adult on Oct. 16 (Gilliland, Zadar). The adult was photographed. On Oct. 28, a stunning bird was found in the grassy areas adjacent to the Mentor Lagoons parking lot (Rosche, Hannikman). Later in the afternoon, it was photographed diagnostically by Kevin Metcalf.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - The long and storied history of Gordon Park playing to this species continued in 2000. Zadar and Gilliland reported 1 from Sep. 15-16 and 2 from Sep. 23 to Oct. 14. Readers gain insight into Sean's seriousness from this comment, "I thought I had two different sparrows on Sep. 15, based

on plumage differences; but I could only confirm two from Sep. 23 to Oct. 14. It was most apparent that two Nelson's were present after one completely molted its tail." Two were spied at Arcola Creek on Oct. 6 (Morrison).

OREGON JUNCO - This rare form of Dark-eyed Junco was spied in Newbury Township by Eric Faber on Nov. 23 ([fide Best](#)).

DICKCISSEL - One was spied at Gordon Park on Oct. 1 (Winger). g



Readers Comment on Previous Issues

Stanley Stine wrote, "Hello, Larry, I was just reading the Perry Peskin column in your publication and his comment about hummingbirds possibly having a sense of smell made me stop and think. I wonder, and I'm not discounting the smell idea, if the fact that nearly all woodpeckers/sapsuckers have "red" markings on the facial area might be akin to "flagging down" a passing hummingbird! It would be far easier to see the moving head of a drilling woodpecker with that red splash, than spot a recently drilled wound in a tree, I would think. Just a thought for a 'what it's worth file' in the [Bird Calendar](#) .

Drew Rolik added more to the discussions on local occurring Northern Mockingbirds. "One was near Scranton Road (just south of downtown Cleveland) Sept. 12; one at Gordon Park in Cleveland

Oct. 17; and one in a yard on Franklin Blvd. (Cleveland's near west side) Oct. 26. Fewer observations this season. I found Lou Gardella's comments on this species in the last issue very interesting. My observations agree with his; industrial (or formerly industrial) areas with "abandoned area plants" are the locations where I have most frequently seen this species. The exception is in winter/cold weather, when I've most often observed this species in urban gardens where there are many shrubs with fruits and perennials with seeds."

IDENTIFICATION OF IMMATURE PLEGADIS IBIS IN AUTUMN

by Bruce G. Peterjohn

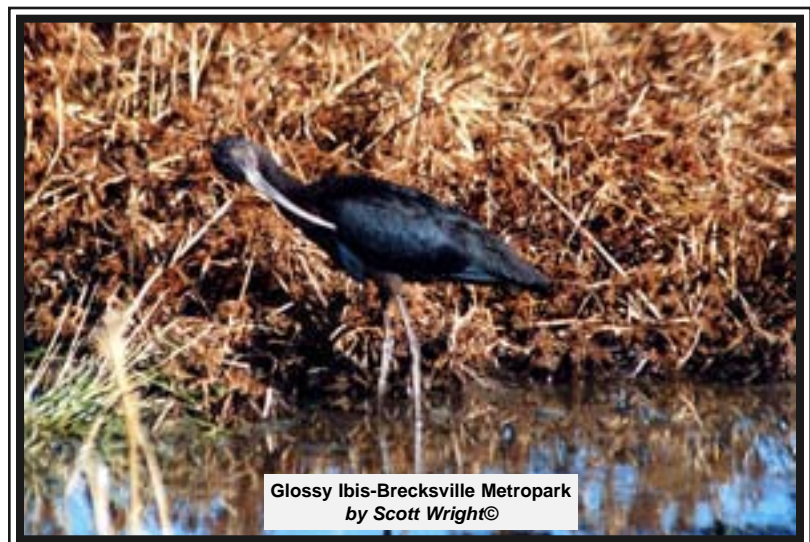
The field identification of Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) poses a challenge that has not been well described in the standard field guides. This article briefly discusses the issues associated with the field identification of these species in autumn and will hopefully assist in the correct identification of extralimital ibis that appear in Ohio.

Since the distinguishing characteristics vary with the age of the individual and its stage of molt, the first step in this identification process is to age the bird(s):

ADULTS

In July, the adults of both species normally retain their breeding plumages. The coloration of the soft parts will fade as the individuals leave their breeding condition, but they can be safely aged as adults by their bright metallic purple-bronze upperparts and wings and unmarked rufous-bronze head and neck. The adults will molt out of this breeding plumage during autumn, and by late September or early October, will obtain their non-breeding plumages. The non-breeding plumage of both species consists of a rather dull purplish back and wings and a brownish head and neck with fine white streaks across the head and extending approximately halfway down the neck.

On average, adult White-faced Ibis tend to molt slightly earlier than Glossy Ibis. Adult White-faced may obtain a complete non-breeding head pattern by late July or early August, while in the mid-Atlantic region, most adult Glossies are just beginning to molt their



Glossy Ibis-Brecksville Metropark
by Scott Wright©

heads and neck during August. Differences in the timing of molt are not diagnostic, but may provide a helpful clue for some individuals.

SUB-ADULTS

Throughout their first year of life, individuals of both species retain the non-breeding plumage described above. Until late August or early September, any *Plegadis ibis* in non-breeding plumage is a sub-adult. Distinguishing these individuals from adults is not possible once the adults have obtained the non-breeding plumage.

JUVENILES

The juvenal plumages of both species are a dull dark brown head, neck, body, and wings with variable amounts of white blotches around the face and upper neck. Some individuals may lack these white blotches, and they can be very conspicuous on others. Additionally, the bills are relatively short and frequently have a pinkish base contrasting with a darker tip. These individuals quickly begin their post-juvenal molt, and by September most have obtained their first non-breeding plumage similar to that described above. If close examination is possible, some of these individuals will retain small white patches on their chins and throats until late autumn, at least into early November, allowing them to be aged as first-year birds.

Fresh juvenal plumage is likely to be encountered only in the vicinity of the nesting colonies. In the mid-Atlantic region, juveniles regularly leave the colonies during late June and early July. By the time these individuals would have the opportunity to wander into Ohio, they should have largely completed their post-juvenal molt.

Hence, the basic pattern is of three different age classes in summer that all molt into a similar non-breeding plumage by early autumn. The identification process for *Plegadis ibis* is subdivided into these two time intervals:

JULY-AUGUST

The separation of adults is fairly straightforward during these two months, although as the intensity of the soft part colors begin to fade and the birds begin to molt into non-breeding plumage, these field marks become more difficult to use. The best field marks for identifying these individuals are:

Iris Color: Bright crimson for White-faced and brown for Glossy. The brighter iris color causes the eye to appear larger and more conspicuous on the White-faced.

Face Pattern: Glossy Ibis have two pale lines extending across the bare facial skin from the eye to the base of the bill; these lines are powder blue during the height of breeding but fade to grayish-white during the non-breeding months. White-faced Ibis have a narrow white border that completely surrounds the bare facial skin and eye. The pale lines on the Glossy Ibis are located on the bare facial skin and are permanent, although they fade somewhat in intensity out of the breeding season. The white border on White-faced is produced by white feathers that surround the facial skin. These feathers are molted annually and this border disappears as the adults molt into their non-breeding plumage. During this molt, some White-faced will lose the pale border behind the eye but will retain two narrow pale lines between the eye and the bill, producing a pattern that closely resembles a Glossy Ibis.

Facial Skin Color: Reddish on White-faced Ibis and dull grayish-purple on Glossy Ibis. This color will fade after nesting, and by early August, most White-faced will have dull grayish-purple facial skin similar to a Glossy. Other potential field marks such as leg color and upperparts color are most helpful when both species are togeth-

er for direct comparison, but are of less value for single birds.

Iris color is the only definitive field mark for all adults, although the other features will also be helpful for the vast majority of individuals. The iris color of adult White-faced Ibis is surprisingly apparent in the field, assuming that the individual is at a reasonable distance and in decent lighting conditions. If iris color cannot be definitively established, individuals exhibiting problematical field marks should be left unidentified.

Identification of sub-adults is based on iris color and face pattern. The iris color of sub-adult White-faced is crimson, nearly as bright as on the adults, while Glossies have brown iris. Sub-adult Glossy Ibis have two pale lines on the lores that are similar to the adults, while White-faced have unmarked grayish lores. Some caution is needed in the use of this field mark, especially on feeding birds, since the lores can become covered with mud and the pale lines can disappear. Sub-adult *Plegadis ibis* with pale lines on the lores are definitely Glossies, while the identification of those with unmarked lores should be confirmed by iris color.

Many extralimital juveniles will likely have to remain unidentified. Juvenile Glossies obtain the pale lines on the lores at an early age: In the mid-Atlantic region, approximately 25% will exhibit these lines by late July and 60-75% by the end of August. Any juvenile exhibiting these lines can be definitively identified as a Glossy. A small proportion of juvenile White-faced Ibis will begin to show some reddish color in the iris by late August, although the birds would have to be close and in excellent light to see this color in the field. Any juvenile

showing definite red color in the iris is a White-faced.

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

By September, determining the ages of most Plegadis ibis will not be possible. Observers should pay close attention to the face pattern and iris color in order to identify the individuals. Any ibis with a crimson iris is definitely a White-faced, while individuals with two pale lines on the lores will be Glossies. It is not safe to assume that birds with unmarked lores are White-faced, since some young Glossies may not have obtained these pale lines. Birds with unmarked lores and brownish iris should remain unidentified.

By October, all juvenile Glossies should have obtained the pale lines on the lores. It is still possible for these lines to be obscured by mud. For birds that are only observed briefly or while actively feeding, individuals with unmarked facial skin should be left as unidentified ibis. However, if the individuals remain for several days and can be carefully studied in good viewing conditions without observation of pale lines on the lores, these birds are most likely White-faced Ibis. Adult White-faced should still show crimson iris, but the iris color of juveniles changes slowly during the first fall and winter, and many young White-faced will retain a brown iris into their first winter.

A Review and an Update of the House Finch in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties

by Dwight Chasar

Many veteran readers of the Bird Calendar can probably remember

the first House Finch (Carpodacus mexicanus) that they saw in Ohio. My first was at a sunflower feeder in my front yard in Sagamore Hills, Summit County. It was on a Saturday in the early 80's, but I didn't record the date. I was just getting into birding. After its release on Long Island, NY, in 1940 (Hill), the House Finch had its first regularly recorded observation in Cuyahoga County in January 1976, at a feeder in Cleveland Heights. This observation appeared in the Noteworthy Reports of the Calendar. (An earlier sighting of a banded male occurred in April, 1974, at a Waite Hill, Lake Co., feeder). Then in December of 1976, four males made appearances at two residences in Shaker Heights. In 1977, a pair visited a Westlake feeder on July 10 for two weeks, while reports from Akron (Summit County) came in August of the same year. The editor of the Calendar in 1977 penned, "For better or worse, it appears that the House Finch is here to stay." And so it did!

In the winter of 1977-78, concentrations of up to 125 House Finches, the largest flocks yet, were reported from Rocky River Metropark. Clearly, nesting had to have been happening. The first record of nesting was in late May of 1977 in a large Sycamore tree at upper Shaker Lakes, but the nest was subsequently abandoned. In 1978, there were summer reports of young at feeders in both Akron and Lakewood. But it was in 1979 on the John Carroll University campus in University Heights (Cuyahoga Co) that

a number of nests occurred and were conveniently studied by Bruce McLean of the biology department. The finch was confirmed as a breeding species in NE Ohio.

The first Cleveland Christmas Bird Count (CBC) to tally House Finch was in 1976 with 13 individuals, 1977 with 16, and 1978 with 75. The Cuyahoga Falls CBC got its firsts with 3 in 1978, 6 in '79, and 82 in '80. The annual spring Bird Walks, held primarily in Cuyahoga County in relatively undeveloped areas, somewhat later tallied 1 in 1979 and 4 in 1980. The Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS) Summit County summer bird count (SBC) had its first census in 1978 and had 2 House Finches, followed by 2 in 1979 and 3 in 1980. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park (the CVNP is in both Cuyahoga and Summit County) spring censuses did not tally House Finch until 1984. Below is a chart showing the relative abundance of House Finches, represented by birds/party hour vs. year for the two CBCs and the SBC. Clearly the growth was rapid for the first 10 years and then tended to stabilize over the next 10. For whatever reason, the numbers grew much faster in Summit County, as shown from the CBC data. One possible reason could be that there



Immature White-crowned Sparrow
by Scott Wright©

are many more feeder counters in this CBC area.

The growth of the House Finch population in NE Ohio has not been, however, without incident. All three censuses also show that a precipitous drop in numbers occurred from 1995 to 1996 and continued at least into 1997. Summit County House Finches have still not recovered to the 1995 levels. In fact, even the spring CVNP censuses and the annual spring Bird Walks show drops in the same time period based on just the raw numbers of counted birds (see Table). Conjunctivitis, the House Finch eye disease, caused by the bacterium *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, was without doubt the culprit. Bird watchers in the eastern United States began seeing finches with infected eyes in 1994. By November 1995, 18% of the feeder House Finches in Ohio had the disease (Dhondt). The disease can lead directly to death of the birds (Hochachka) while their inability to find food or avoid predators most certainly would assist.

It has been suggested that the House Finch has had a negative local population impact on the European House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and on the American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (Hill). I

also examined census data from the same CBCs and SBCs for both these birds against that of the House Finch. The goldfinch showed a general increase in population during the same period, while the House Sparrow showed a continuous general decline that was already in place when the House Finch first arrived in NE Ohio. Those conclusions are in total agreement with those reported for a state-wide study in Indiana during 1982-89 (Hamilton) and are consistent with the breeding bird survey (BBS) data in Ohio for these two birds.

The House Finch is rarely found far from urban or suburban areas, having a fondness for feeders and for nesting around buildings (Hill). Its population development in Cuyahoga/Summit County fits this description well, having been found first in the populated areas, particularly around winter feeding stations, and then only later in undeveloped areas like the CVNP (*vide supra*). Ironically, if you have never seen House Finch nests, check out the

Table 1.
House Finch Numbers from Spring Bird Counts

Year	CVNP Census	Audubon Bird Walks
1993	na	570
1994	na	877
1995	39	662
1996	12	423
1997	32	383
1998	31	339
1999	29	364
2000	29	404

historic iron truss bridge at Station Road in the CVNP the next time you visit. How many nests can you find?

The Cleveland Bird Calendar was used to obtain the early dates for House Finch in Cuyahoga/Summit Counties. The CBC data were obtained from two web sites: www.birdsource.edu and <http://www.mnt.edu/~shipman/z/cbc/homepage.html>. The Ohio BBS results were obtained from: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>. The annual Bird Walks data are filed in the Archives of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The results of the GAAS SBC and the CVNP censuses are archived with the author.

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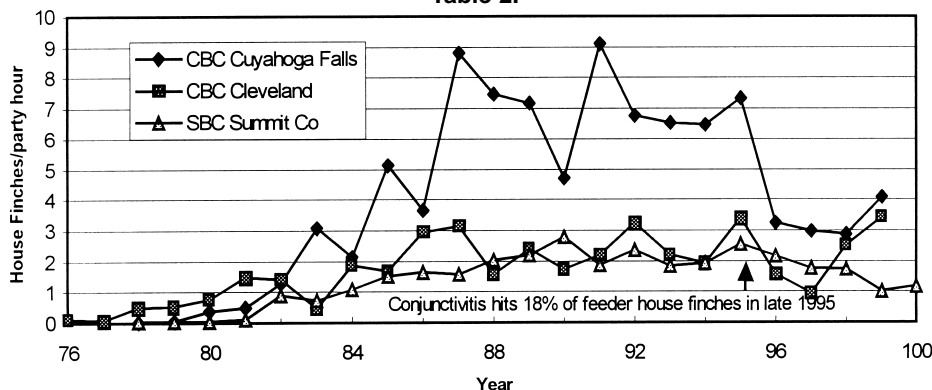
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Congratulations

After nearly two years of recovering from being run down by a car traveling at 70 mph, Bob Lane is back reporting. His fortitude is applauded.

Comparison of Censuses for House Finch

Table 2.



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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.
e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES



1. Lorain Harbor
2. Findley State Park & Wellington Reservoir
3. Portage Lakes
4. Mogadore Reservoir
5. West Branch State Park
6. Lake Rockwell
7. LaDue Reservoir
8. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area
9. Bedford Reservation
10. Brecksville Reservation
11. Lake Isaac & Mill Stream Run
12. Rocky River Reservation
13. Avon Lake Power Plant
14. Edgewater Park & Perkins Beach (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
15. Burke Airport
16. East 72nd St. Marina & Gordon Park
17. Euclid Beach & Wildwood Yacht Basin (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)
18. Sims Park
19. Eastlake Power Plant
20. Mentor Marsh and Lagoons
21. Headlands Beach State Park
22. Lakeshore Metropark
23. Headwaters Park
24. Lake Medina
25. North Chagrin Reservation
26. Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve
27. Hinckley Reservation
28. Mill Stream Run Reservation
29. Shaker Lakes
30. Lake View Cemetery
31. Berlin Reservoir
32. Happy Days (CVNRA)
33. Big Creek Metropark
34. Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area
35. Oberlin Reservoir
36. Rocky River
37. Seiberling Naturealm
38. Stebbins Gulch*
39. Holden Arboretum*
40. Streetsboro Bog-Gott Fen*

*Restricted access

