

THE CLEVELAND

BIRD

CALENDAR



December 2001, January, February 2002

Volume 98

Number 1

Founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was and is published jointly by the Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 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. With the dawn of the new millennium, readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help in the preservation of sensitive habitats that harbor beleaguered bird species. Migrant stopover points, grasslands and wetlands are dwindling at an alarming rate; and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* cannot overlook the importance of such lands and their influence on our local avifauna.

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

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

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 10 - Winter Season
June 10 - Spring Season
September 10 - Summer Season
December 10 - Autumn Season

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by Jennifer Brumfield, 2000

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Notice: All reports to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* are archived in 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's 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.

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on

WINTER 2001-2002

by Dwight Chasar

DECEMBER: Temperatures averaged 37.1°, 6.0° above normal. The high, a record for this date, was 71° on the 5th, and the low was 11° on the 30th. Lake Erie water stood at 50° on the 1st and fell to 41° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 15 days, totaling 2.53 in., .61 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was 1.15 in., on the 16-17th. Snowfall totaled 3.7 in., and the greatest depth was 2 in. on the 30th. Sunshine occurred only 35 % of the time possible.

JANUARY: Temperatures averaged 34.6°, 8. 9° above normal. The high was 62° on the 28th; and the low, 14° on the 3rd. Precipitation was distributed over 13 days to total 2.21 in., .27 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .68 in.

the 31st. Snowfall totaled 2.6 in., while the greatest ground depth was 4 in. on the 8th. Sun was rare, shining only 42% of the time possible. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 36° by the end of the month.

FEBRUARY: Temperatures averaged 34.6°, 5.6° above normal. The high was 62° on the 25th; and the low, 10° on the 5th. Lake Erie remained at 36° for the month. Precipitation was 2.43 in., .14 in. above normal and occurred over 14 days. The greatest 24 hr. fall was 1.04 in. Snowfall totaled 16.9 in., with the greatest depth 6 in. on the 27th. The sun appeared 49% of the time possible. This was one of the warmest winters in the last 50 years. □



Louisiana Waterthrush-Twinsburg, Ohio-December 29, 2001
by Carl Johnson©

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

Those readers who choked on their Pepsi® when they read of last fall's singing Acadian Flycatchers at Happy Days in mid-September had better put their beverages down. This winter (what there was of it) produced a myriad of reports never seen by this editor. A whopping 147 species came across my desk, and nearly each eyebrow raiser came with full details, photos or specimen. It is hard to imagine ever topping this mark. Looking through our list of august reporters, it was exciting for me to see names from the past.

Waterfowl were less than hoped for, but nearly all expected species were found. Highlights were Snow Geese and Tundra Swans in much higher than normal numbers. Reflecting range expansion or mild temperatures, Turkey Vultures were found in all winter months. Except for Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks, wintering raptors were in good numbers. The Terminal Tower Peregrines were busy at the nest by mid-February. Oddly, with all of the ballyhoo raised by so many groups, few Killdeer wintered; and Purple Sandpipers disappeared by early January. Gulls did not disappoint. By early February, the Cleveland Lakefront was the place to see many of our uncommon to rare large white-headed larids. American Coots remained common through the winter. Landbirds were simply remarkable. While Christmas Bird Counts often provide startling news, many landbirds were seen well after the counting ended. Cooperative Snowy Owls delighted many from all over Ohio. There were multiple records of half hardy migrants like Winter Wrens, Eastern Towhees, Fox Sparrows and Rusty Blackbirds. Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins and Cedar Waxwing were abundant all winter. The ground zero report of an American Crow roost was a most interesting contribution. White-winged Crossbills were seen in at least 3 counties. The rarity list was impressive. Starting with....-- on second thought, just go ahead and enjoy the reading. As the jingle goes..ba, ba, ba, ba...ba, the joy of birding!



The latest **Common Loon** was off HBSP on Dec. 30 (RH).

Pied-billed Grebes wintered more numerous than usual along the lake. On Jan. 1, 16 were counted at HBSP (RH, LR). A few **Horned Grebes** were seen in January. One was at Wildwood CLSP on Jan. 1 and another at Sims Park on Jan. 12 (TLP). They were uncommon in the region by mid-February. **Double-crested Cormorants** had a banner winter. Eastlake provided refuge for up to 50 on any give day (m.obs.). The Fairport area had up to 47 during January (EB, RH). On Feb. 9, 15 were in Lorain (TLP). **Great Blue Herons** remained numerous. Bob Faber noted a kettle of 24-30 drifting eastward over Mentor Marsh in a period of 7 minutes on Feb. 20. Fair numbers of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** wintered locally.

Two frequented the shrubs near Aviation High School on North Marginal Road in Cleveland most of the winter (m.obs.). Gardella's trip along the Lower Cuyahoga netted 24 on Dec. 13, 18 on Jan. 1 and 24 on Jan. 5-27. **Turkey Vultures** continued to be seen in Geauga County through December. Others were frequently noted throughout the winter in the CVNP (DAC, JWo, m.obs.). One was in Brecksville on Jan. 18 (BAT). After birds were seen at LaDue on Feb. 8 (RR), many vultures were sighted.

Snow Geese were seen in far greater than expected numbers. The eight (3 blue, 5 white) at Wellington on Dec. 5 provided the high tally for the site (SS). Many observers found up to 6 there through mid-February. Up to 3 could be found resting on Lake Phippen in January (GB, CG, KL, m.obs.). One was seen off Bradstreet's Landing, Rocky River

on Dec. 29 during the Lakewood CBC, (PL, BF, TG, TLP). An adult white morph was seen near Tri-C on Jan. 1 (GL). Another was seen in southern Summit Co. on Jan. 11 (LR, WS). **Mute Swans** were as expected. **Tundra Swans** lingered in good numbers. Tallies from HBSP were: Dec. 2 (57), Dec. 9 (125), Dec. 30 (90), Jan. 1 (30), Jan.



Bald Eagle--Lake Phippen
by Vernon Weingart®

18 (4), Jan. 19 (4) and Feb. 26 (8) (RH, LR). In contrast, the Lake Rockwell area tallies were Dec. 9 (56), Jan. 3 (1), Jan. 8 (46), Jan. 9 (7), Jan. 11 (32) and Jan. 13 (18) (GB, CG, LR). Twenty-three were seen off Clifton Beach on Dec. 29 (PL, BF, TG, TLP). A flock of 24 drifted over the Rookery Park on Jan. 1 (HH). Wintering **Wood Ducks** far outpaced recent winter totals. A hen wintered in Northfield (DAC). Another hen took up with the resident Mallards at Clague Road Pond in January and remained through the period (GL, PL, m.obs.). Two drakes were at Twinsburg on Dec. 29-30 (m.obs.). Three were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 29 (TMR). Up to 5 were at Lake Phippen in January (GB, CG, CH, KL). Many had returned to the region by early February. Other than the ubiquitous Mallard and the genetically altered American Black Duck, the handsome **Gadwall** is the most likely puddle duck to be encountered in midwinter in this part of the state. Lakefront numbers were decent, with a high count of 50 at HBSP on Dec. 30 (RH, EB). Gadwalls enjoyed waters near the bubbler at Wingfoot Lake. Up to 34 were there in January (LR). Nine were at Sandy Ridge MP on Feb 9 (RR).

American Wigeons were seen in small numbers. The five at Clague Park on Jan. 5 provided a good local report (GL). By late February, a sizeable group of 44 was found at Mogadore (LR). Apparently "pure" **American Black Ducks** were numerous along the Upper Cuyahoga north of Lake Rockwell all winter (LR, VW). Three **Northern Shovelers** were in Cleveland on Dec. 30 (RR). A **Northern Pintail** was at Wellington on Jan. 13 (SS). Pintails made a solid push (for our area) into the region in mid-February.

Fifteen **Canvasbacks** made for a good tally at Wellington on Jan. 22 (SS). On Dec. 30, 100+ were at Fairport Harbor (RH, EB, LR). **Redhead** numbers mirrored "Cans" at Wellington (m.obs.). On Dec. 30, 75 were tallied at Fairport Harbor (RH, LR). Sharon Center hosted 8 Redheads on Feb. 18 (BDL). Unprecedented numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** wintered locally. Tallies reached over 100 at Wellington and Oberlin (VF, SS, m.obs.). Another 175 were at Fowler's Mill Golf Course on Dec. 7 (AFo). They inched as far north at North Chagrin by Jan.29 (KM). **Scaup** numbers were unimpressive. A **Surf Scoter** wintered at

Wellington (FG, SS, BWa). Another was at Oberlin on Feb.17 (FG). A **White-winged Scoter** was viewed off Rocky River Park on Dec. 19 (TLP). A **Black Scoter** was reported from Lorain Jan. 11 (CC) and on Feb. 1 (BWa). Ten were seen at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 11 (CC). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at Fowler's Mill Golf Course on Dec. 7 (AFo). Four were seen at HBSP on Dec. 8 (RH, EB). One was seen off Lakeshore MP on Jan. 5 (BWa). **Buffleheads** continued a strong winter presence, but **Common Goldeneyes** were pitifully low. A count of 6 **Hooded Mergansers** was made along Red Lock Trail on Dec. 27 (MRe). The high count of **Common Mergansers** was 350 at Fairport Harbor on Dec. 30 (RH, EB, LR). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were in fair numbers along Lake Erie. **Ruddy Ducks** followed the wintering trend of the above species. As many as 400 were counted at Wellington in early December. Another 97 were at Fowler's Mill Golf Course on Dec. 7 (AFo). The 25 at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 5 were very unexpected (DAC), as were the 35 at Edgewater CLSP on Jan. 10 (TLP).

Bald Eagle reports continue to soar. Up to five wintered at Lake Rockwell (LR, m.obs.). Four adults and an immature were seen in the LaDue area (DB, m.obs.). Two were seen intermittently at Fowler's Mill (AFo). Eagles were noted at HBSP on Dec. 25 (RH), Jan. 20 (LG) and Feb. 24 (RH). An eagle was spied over Mentor Marsh on Feb. 20 (BFa). One was at Edgewater CLSP on Feb. 23 (TLP). Another was seen at Oberlin Reservoir on Feb. 24 (FG). **Northern Harriers** were found in very small numbers. The only report (not from a CBC) was from West Branch SP on Jan. 27 (LR). The Wellington CBC, held on Jan.

Comment on Winter 2000-2001 at
Headland Beach State Park and Nearby Areas

The winter of 2001-2002 was the best since I have started keeping detailed records at HBSP. More species per visit were seen throughout the period than in recent memory. This was undoubtedly due to the mild winter weather which was only severe in late December. Zimmerman Trail never was more active with up to four Eastern Towhees, 6-8 White-throated Sparrows, 2-3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Red-breasted Nuthatch occasionally noted, and many Tufted Titmice and Black-capped Chickadees. Walks at the field on Fairport Nursery Road produced two sightings of Northern Shrike, 6-8 Horned Larks in January and February, two records of a seasonally unusual (for HBSP) Eastern Meadowlark in January and February, and a lovely, light morph Rough-legged Hawk in February. It was a great winter of birding HBSP and surrounding areas.

Ray Hannikman

5, reported 11 harriers. Accipiters often give rise to amusing or interesting field accounts. At Holden on Dec. 22, a leucistic **Sharp-shinned Hawk** with a nearly white breast light grey back and a supercilium was seen (HP). An immature frequented the feeding station at the Meyer Center at Big Creek Park throughout the period. Best wrote, "We witnessed this young raptor's hunting prowess improve as time went on: ambushes left chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers motionless for minutes on end while it perched nearby. Learning that still birds can be spooked into moving, the kill rate increased to 3-4 birds per day during the peak of its presence; chickadees and tit-

mice were the most frequent victims. Captured on videotape was the immature's encounter with a Fox Squirrel that approached the hawk in the tree and scolded it." Elsewhere, sharpies were in good numbers and widely distributed. **Cooper's Hawks** were fairly common throughout the region. **Red-**

Oh, for days like this

John Pogacnik wrote, "While doing surveys at Chagrin River park in Willoughby today I had all three mimids, a rare feat up here in northeast Ohio in the winter. Two Mockingbirds were found. One was just west of the parking lot, and the second was along the river northwest of the landfill. A Gray Catbird was under the power lines in some multiflora rose about 100 yards north of the river. The Brown Thrasher was in some sumac that surrounds a small conifer planting along the trail (thanks to Jim Connor for advising about that one). Elsewhere in the park, there was a Winter Wren."

shouldered Hawks have become fairly numerous. With increased numbers comes observances of oddball plumages. These plumages undoubtedly lead to misidentifications. No Broad-winged Hawk has ever attempted to winter locally (outside of a rehab center). A Red-shouldered was noted at Garfield MP on Dec. 22 (LD). **Red-tailed Hawks** were common sights along roadsides and becoming more suburban with the passing of each season. Two nearly white Red-taileds were seen along Aquilla Road in Claridon Township on Feb 9 (HH). Eight **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen along Hayes Road in Geauga Co. on Jan. 5 (AFo). One was spied in Fairport Harbor on Feb. 9 (RH). **American Kestrels** were in much improved numbers. Wert wrote, "Kestrels seemed fairly abundant, with 8-10 sometimes seen in the short 12 mile drive between Granger and Wadsworth." The most unique sighting was a male carrying a small snake in Fairport Harbor on the unusual date (for the snake) of Feb. 3 (RH, EB).

Wild Turkeys continue to thrive, whereas all other upland game birds have all but disappeared. Sightings of **Northern Bobwhites** and **Ring-necked Pheasants** are all assumed to be released birds. I will gladly stand corrected by anyone who finds an active nest of either of these two beautiful and sorely missed birds. **American Coots** were in excellent totals. Up to 30

Comments on Wintering American Crows

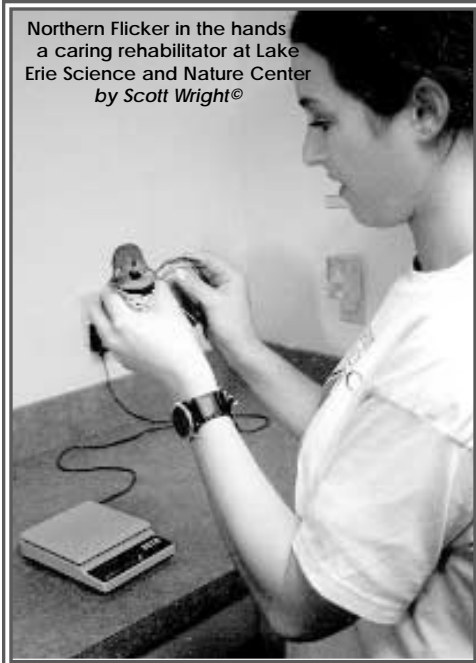
I have been keeping tabs on the crows in the area again this winter. More than any of the previous three seasons the flock has been roaming a large area, from Mill Creek along I-480 north through Warrensville Hts., and into Shaker Hts. and then east into Beachwood.

The flock itself is enormous and typically spread over such a large area that even a general estimate had been very difficult to obtain. In late December, I discovered a single gathering of 7500 birds on the racetrack at Thistledown. Allowing for a few birds in the vicinity, I then estimated the roost to number around 9000. For much of the winter I never came close to that number again, until President's Day--the 18th. That evening I became ground zero for the roost. Well after dark, the crows would move in waves of several thousand each, jockeying for a particular set of trees in which to situate themselves. I live right across from the Cleveland Dialysis Care center on Chagrin Blvd. The residential block, within which the CDC resides, holds around 40 large trees with full crowns. Each of these eventually was occupied by 100-600 crows. A smattering of a few dozens per tree could be seen at the perimeter of this enclave. I spent about 45 minutes, counting tree after tree, often starting over again when a few trees would explode and the night sky suddenly darkened to ink. If you're wondering, the night sky here in Shaker is far from dark. So many city lights are on, the low cloud cover is perpetually glowing. The crows made for very prominent silhouettes. Eventually, I counted not fewer than 11,000 birds. They were present in these numbers for three evenings 18-20 February. The whitewash on my drive-way, given I was 100 yards from the nearest major tree roost, was impressive.

While I have lived across from large crow concentrations, such as the Springfield roost when it grew to 12,000 birds in the early 80's, there is something marvelous about standing within such a roost.

Vic Fazio

Northern Flicker in the hands of a caring rehabilitator at Lake Erie Science and Nature Center
by Scott Wright©



spent the winter at Lake Rockwell and another 40 or more at Wellington (m.obs.). Reflecting the mild winter near Lake Erie, counts of coots ranged to double figures at many sites. A **Killdeer** dawdled at Ira Road on Dec. 31 (TMR). On Dec. 9, 12 **Common Snipes** enjoyed the mudflat at Lake Rockwell (LR). One was at the Cuyahoga Co. airport on Dec. 15 (BF, PL). Up to 3 birds were located along Curtis Wright Parkway, Richmond Heights Jan. 13-30 (BF, PL). An early returnee was seen at Dike 14 on Feb 25 (SZ). Early **American Woodcocks** were contesting territories at Jaite on Feb. 23 (DAC).

Distant jaegers were left unidentified off Rocky River on Dec. 5 (PL, BF) and at HBSP on Dec. 26 (KM). Gull numbers began to build up at E. 72nd in early February. All the uncommon to rare white-headed larids were found there with relative ease throughout the month.

Thousands of **Bonaparte's Gulls** lingered well beyond the normal

time frame. On Dec. 26 two adults (of the thousands present) had full "breeding plumage" dark heads at Fairport Harbor (KM). **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** were typically numerous. Two winter adult **Thayer's Gulls** were at Avon Lake on Feb. 5 (SZ). One was there on Feb. 9 (BAT). Two more winter adults were seen on Feb. 15 at E. 72nd St. (SZ). **Iceland Gulls** were as expected. A first-winter Iceland was at Eastlake on Jan. 20 (RH). An adult and an immature were at Avon Lake on Feb. 5 (SZ). The similar duo was at E. 72nd St. on Feb.15 (TLP, SZ). One was seen off Rocky River Park on Feb. 16 (SZ). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were fairly common along Lake Erie in February. One was seen at Eastlake on Jan. 20 (RH). Two were found in Cleveland on Jan. 1 (LG). Six were counted on Feb. 15 at E. 72nd St. (SZ, m.obs.). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Avon Lake on Dec. 10 (TLP), and again on Feb. 9 (RHL, BAT, SW). Two were seen there on Feb. 5 (SZ). Two first-winter birds were seen in Lorain on Jan. 2 (GL). An adult and an immature were at E. 72nd St. on Feb. 15 (TLP, SZ). The four Glaucous Gulls at Oberlin Reservoir on Feb. 17 may be the most ever noted from an inland site (FG). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in large numbers from

early February through the period.

Eastern Screech-Owls pleased many at Elmwood Park and Lorain. **Great Horned Owls** were reported in average numbers. A bird in South Euclid seemed in a rather urban setting (JHe, PK). **Barred Owls** were widely distributed. Gabe Leidy found them at the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, on Dec. 18 and in the CVNP on Jan.2. One was hit by a car near Fowler's Mill and had to be euthanized (DB). **Belted Kingfishers** were in expected numbers. As many as five **Red-headed Woodpeckers** wintered at the CVNP (DAC). Hannikman wrote, "Two, possibly three birds spent the mild winter along Zimmerman Trail. It could not be determined if the Red-headed Woodpecker seen in the grasp of a Cooper's Hawk's talons on Jan. 21 survived, but two Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted on several dates after this incident." As usual, Lakewood played host to several wintering Red-headed (PL, m.obs.). One in Mayfield Hts. was a surprise (BF, PL, TLP). A bird at Lake Rockwell on Jan. 26 was the first winter record ever noted there (LR). One spent Jan.-Feb. at the Ridgewood Golf Course (GL). **Northern Flickers** were well represented in the CVNP (DAC, BAT). On Jan. 25,

When you are an infamous wildlife rescuer and never-tiring volunteer, people reach out for you in times of need.

On December 31, Scott Wright wrote, "Got a call from TV 19. A guy had brought in a 'peregrine' that had hit a building. I rushed down to find a Coopers dead in the box. (sorry no photos). But the guy from TV 19 had pried the dead pigeon from the coopers talons, now that would have made a nice photo. They each died on impact with the building. Sorry to say I do not know what building it happened.

"ODOW had been called and I was told to dispose of the bird by Cuyahoga wildlife enforcement officer. She will be helping wildflowers grow so that song birds will visit, and my resident Cooper's will chase the songbirds. The cycle of life continues."

17 were tallied in the CVNP (GL). Mid-winter birds at Lake View Cemetery (DJH) and Lakewood were exceptionally far north (BF, PL). HBSP has no January records for this species (RH). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were well-reported on CBCs.

On Feb. 24, a sizeable movement of 1,700 **American Crows** passed by HBSP (RH, EB). **Horned Larks** were in expected numbers inland. Along the lakeshore, they were seen in small numbers, but more numerous than usual. Individual reports and CBCs reflected high numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. Contrary to this, **Brown Creeper** numbers were about average. Two creepers were along Red Lock Trail on Jan. 17 (MRe). Riding Run Trail hosted a creeper on Jan. 12 (JW). **Carolina Wrens** continue to thrive and expand into areas never before thought possible. **Winter Wrens** remained in their usual small numbers. A bird was at Shaker Lakes on Jan. 8 (LD). Another was at North Chagrin on Jan. 15 (KM). One was at Ira Road on Jan. 21 (TMR). Unusually small numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted. Is this indicative of a species that only moves as far south as it has to? The high count was a mere 3 at the Rookery Park on Dec. 25 (AFo).

Eastern Bluebirds were in outstanding numbers. Nest box monitors will have to be out early this year. While they may not inhabit every yard as in most seasons, literally thousands of **American Robins** flocked together in the Mentor Marsh Area. Portage and Summit Counties boasted of numerous wintering robins as well. The Lanes counted 150+ in Sharon Center on Feb. 18. **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be

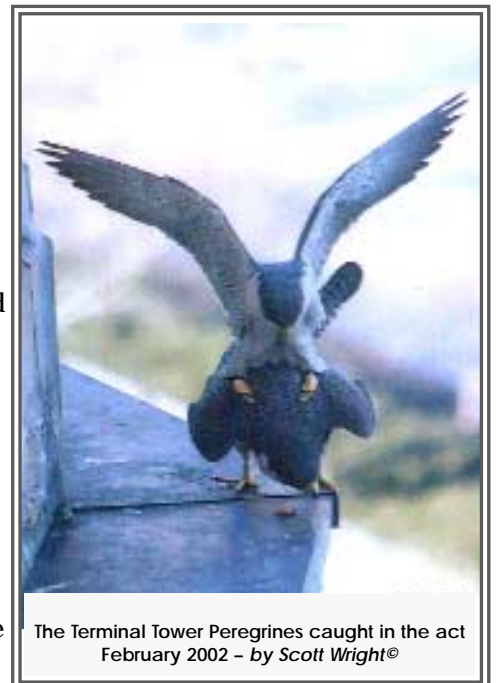


Common Redpolls Lakewood Cemetery
by Scott Wright©

found widely. Twelve were counted on the Cleveland CBC (TLP). Two wintered in Sagamore Hills (DAC). Another twosome was at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 29 (TMR). Two were intermittent in Parma throughout the period (GL). One was at Fowler's Mill on Jan. 12 (AFo). Birds were seen at HBSP on Jan. 12 and Feb. 24 (RH). One was at Calvary Cemetery in Garfield Hts. on Jan. 13 (LG). To quote Drew Rolik, "I suspect mockingbirds can be found in many urban neighborhoods." Jean Hoffman added, "At least two remained in Lake View Cemetery, two by Gordon Park and we found one in Euclid Creek Reservation by the Highland picnic area showing they are all over." With increased numbers comes variability. Zadar noted a melanistic Northern Mockingbird on Feb. 23 along North Marginal Road. **Cedar Waxwings** were in exceptional supply. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** followed the kinglet pattern. Few were seen and one has to wonder why? As usual, one or more could be found in the bayberry plantings at Seiberling Naturealm (WS).

Eastern Towhees were widespread in their usual small numbers. One wintered in Valley City (FG). Two females wintered at Ridgewood Golf Course (GL). Most unusual, for so close to Lake Erie, were 4 found along the

Zimmerman Trail on (RH). **American Tree Sparrows** were in staggering numbers in the CVNP. Chasar reported several hundred there on Jan. 6. **Field Sparrows** were located in small numbers in the southern part of the region. A bird wintered as far north as West Creek Preserve (GL). Six were counted at Jaite on Jan. 26 (DAC). Two birds were heard in full song at Lake George the same afternoon (LR). One was found in the CVNP on Feb. 8 (LD). **Fox Sparrow** reports were well above average (see CBC summary). One wintered at Jaite (DAC). A bird surprised the HBSP crew along the Zimmerman Trail on Feb. 16 (RH, EB, BK). **Swamp Sparrows** followed suit and were in good supply. One along Red Lock Trail on Jan. 31 was exceptional (MRe). **White-throated Sparrows** were much more numerous than expected in Portage County and Valley City. They were also more numerous than ever in Kirtland Hills (CK). **White-crowned Sparrows** were also more widespread than usual. The 35 in Kent on Dec. 16 was



The Terminal Tower Peregrines caught in the act
February 2002 - by Scott Wright©

most unexpected (LR, WS, JW). A bird along North Marginal on Feb. 10 was also a surprise (LR, VW). A flock of 22 **Snow Buntings** was seen at E. 55th St. on Jan. 8 (LD). Other than a few east of Middlefield on Dec. 26 (DF), **Lapland Longspurs** went absent.

Editors can get in trouble by making comments like "Blackbirds were numerous in winter." This year vast clouds of mixed blackbirds could be found heading to roost in the southern reaches of the regions. (I often wish that we received data from Akron like the old days. Do these birds still flock into the Lime Lakes area of Barberton?) Couple these with the large wintering flock in the Mentor Marsh area, and--what else can be said--Blackbirds were numerous this winter. Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted in all months. Twenty were at HBSP on Feb. 16 (RH, KM). Another 20 were seen groveling for food at Lake Rockwell on Feb. 20 (LR). Five **Purple Finches** were at Kendall Lake/CVNP on Feb. 9 (DAC). The Oak Hill area has long hosted wintering Purple Finches. This year, 8 were found there in Jan. 25 (GL). One was at The Rookery Park on Feb. 9 (AFo). Twenty **Common Redpolls** were seen at Abram Lake in Berea (CR). Up to 35 were tallied at Lakewood Cemetery in January (TLP, PL). Five were in Chesterland on Jan. 9 (AFo). Four **Pine Siskins** were at Hinckley MP on Jan. 20 (DBu). As many as 20 graced the Chasars feeder in Sagamore Hills. Seven were in Munson Township on Jan. 21 (KM). On Dec. 8, a flock of 40 was seen at La Due (GL., SZ). The flock at Meyer Center grew to 60 in January (DB). An **Evening Grosbeak** was tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*fide* MM, BS).

□



RED-THROATED LOON – One was seen on Dec. 6 & 8 at Rocky River Park (Wahn). One paid a timely visit to Fairport Harbor on Dec. 22-25 (Rosche, Hannikman, m.obs.). Two flew by Lakeshore MP on Dec. 29 (Pogacnik). Burke Airport personnel reported seeing one on Feb. 15th in the slip between Hornblower's Barge & Grill and the USCG station (*fide* Lozano). Many birders saw it there the next day.

NORTHERN GANNET – An immature was found near the mouth of the Grand River on Dec. 21 by Tom Kellerman. It was seen there intermittently through Dec. 31 (Bacik, Kovalsky).

BRANT – A flock of nine passed by Headlands Beach SP on Dec. 5 (Miller). One was viewed with Canadas near the fishing pier at Fairport Harbor on Dec. 30 (Hannikman, Bacik, Rosche). One, perhaps this same bird, was seen off Lakeshore MP on Feb. 24 (Pogacnik).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – Post-CBC drakes were seen at Wildwood CLSP on Jan. 2 (Hoffman) and at LaDue on Feb. 8 (Rickard).

HARLEQUIN DUCK – An immature male flew by Lakeshore MP on Dec. 26 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – Rarely reported (more rarely accepted) outside of its November-December or March-early May migration pattern, a bird was seen in Strongsville on Jan. 29 (Caldwell).

GOLDEN EAGLE – On the bitterly cold and windy morning of Dec. 24,

this species was seen over Headlands Beach SP heading southwest (Kovalsky, Bacik).

MERLIN – One was seen in Parma on Dec. 1 (Leidy). Another was in Fairport Harbor on Dec. 2 (Rosche, Weingart). On Dec. 8, Brumfield found one at Highland Square in Akron and another in Bath. Metcalf saw one at Headlands Beach SP on Dec. 15. One was at Aquilla State Wildlife Area on Dec. 22 (Fondrk). A male was seen along Fairport Nursery Road on Dec. 24 (Kovalsky, Bacik). On Jan 2, one came streaking east along the shore at Sims Park in Euclid (Hoffman). One was seen at W. 44th and I-90 on Jan. 3 (Romito). Best reported that Duane Ferris saw a Merlin at Restful Lake (no date given).

PEREGRINE FALCON – An immature coursed Eastlake Power Plant on Dec. 2 (Rosche, Weingart). On Dec. 22, a bird was tallied on the Elyria/Lorain CBC (Pogacnik). Rolik saw one of the downtown birds on Feb. 19. Scott Wright found the Terminal Tower Peregrines already starting to nest at the end of February! A new female from Pittsburgh has taken up the site.



Female Peregrine
by Scott Wright©

Jean Hoffman wrote, "On Jan 27, by the lower pond at Lake View Cemetery, a Peregrine came flying in toward a pigeon (Rock Dove) and smashed into it, grabbing it. The Peregrine reversed direction and flew past us back toward Euclid Ave. and west carrying its Sunday brunch. Our first sighting in Lake View Cemetery, was probably overdue, given their nesting status in University Circle, where one was seen Jan. 12."

RUFFED GROUSE – For the first time in my tenure as editor this species is placed in the Noteworthy Reports section. Grouse numbers have dwindled to very discouraging levels. Not one Christmas Bird Count circle in the region tallied this species. A resident species that is not tallied is most assuredly rare. Our only report consisted of a bird that stopped by Lakeshore Metropark on Feb. 24 (Pogacnik).

VIRGINIA RAIL – One responded to a tape at Abram Lake on Dec. 3 (Rieker).

SANDHILL CRANE – The two imprinted birds provided company for many observers at Sandy Ridge Park. The Troy trio left on Dec. 14. (Ferris).

PURPLE SANDPIPER – Small numbers of this perky little sandpiper were seen at Headlands Beach SP through early January (Hannikman, m.obs.).

POMARINE JAEGER – Poms continued to be seen off Rocky River into December. Gilliland saw five from Rose Point on Dec. 1. Four were spied from Rocky River Park on Dec. 2 (LePage). "On the warm, sunny and unbelievable Dec. 3 afternoon, we eventually saw two of the jaegers far off shore where they disappeared--one east, the

other west. A little later we had better views of three Pomarine Jaegers, still well out, but identifiable. One sat on the water two places, becoming almost invisible. (Hoffman)" One

was photographed nicely by Bill Wahn at Avon Lake Power Plant on Dec. 8. Another graced Headlands Beach SP on Dec. 11 (Fry, Meszaros). One was off Lakeshore MP the same day (Pogacnik). On Dec. 16, two hunted off Huntington Reservation (Lozano, Gilliland). Two were in the same binocular view at Headlands Beach SP on Dec. 24 (Kovalsky, Bacik). One was there on Christmas Day (Hannikman). An immature flew by Lakeshore MP on Dec. 26 (Pogacnik).

PARASITIC JAEGER – Zadar discovered an immature harassing gulls about 1,000 feet north of the fishing pier at Avon Lake Power Plant on Dec. 1. "The jaeger's slender wings were nearly identical in length to a Ring-billed Gull that it was giving steady chase to for over a minute. Pomarine Jaegers are less likely to engage in a prolonged chase. The observed jaeger's body was slender. The flight characteristic was very distinct with quick wing beats, similar to a Bonaparte's Gull, unlike a Pomarine Jaeger's more steady, somewhat bouncy flight. There were very distinct white crescents on the upperwings, a characteristic not found on Pomarines."



Baltimore Oriole – Dec. 24, 2001
Brecksville.
by Lou Gardella©

FRANKLIN'S GULL – A first-winter bird was in Lorain Harbor on Dec. 22 (Pogacnik). A winter-plumaged adult provided excitement for the Thursday lunch bunch at Rocky River Park on Jan. 10 (Finkelstein, Klamm, LePage, Lozano, Thompson).

LITTLE GULL – On Dec. 22, an adult was seen at the mouth of the Black River (Pogacnik).

BLACK-HEADED GULL – On Dec. 20 and 22, an adult was seen at Lorain Harbor (Zadar, Pogacnik). On Dec. 30, an adult flew so close to observers at Fairport Harbor it was hard to miss (Hannikman, Bacik, Rosche,).

CALIFORNIAN GULL – On Dec. 20 an adult graced the Avon Lake Power Plant (Zadar).

SNOWY OWL – These Arctic visitors provided much enjoyment throughout the winter at Avon Lake (Caldwell, LePage, m.obs.) and Burke Airport. Up to 8 birds were reported by personnel who work at Burke Airport (*vide* Greenland, Lozano). One was at the dump along US-2 in Perry Township on Dec. 11 (Pogacnik). A Snowy was seen on the top of the Morton Salt Plant in Grand River on Dec. 15

(Hannikman, Metcalf). One was seen on the east breakwall at Fairport Harbor on Dec. 24 (Kovalsky, Bacik). The bird (rescued by Scott Wright in November) that spent time at the Lake County Rehab Center was released at Headlands Beach SP in late January. It was seen along Fairport Nursery Road on Jan. 26 (Hannikman, Bacik).

LONG-EARED OWL – Two were seen at the extreme northwest corner of Girdled Road Park on Dec. 10 (Pogacnik).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was viewed just north of Wadsworth on Dec. 7 (Harlan, Wagner). One flew over the Lorain impoundment on Dec. 22 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – This owl put in what seems to be a yearly visit to the Seiberling Naturealm on Dec. 8. The bird remained, but was often elusive, into January (Stover, m.obs.). At Dike 14, one apparently spent the winter. Two were there on Dec. 5 (Zadar, m.obs.).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER Two were tallied on the Cleveland CBC (*fide* LePage). The Cuyahoga Falls Count had one (*fide* Morgan, Szabo). One was in Chesterland on Dec. 15 (Fondrk). A female wintered in Kirtland (Paine). One was at a feeder in Kirtland Hills on Jan. 1 (Klaus).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH – The long-staying visitor from the Southern Pine and Mixed Oak Forests remained faithful to its microhabitat in in South Russell through Jan. 15 (Gilbert).

HOUSE WREN – One was

reported on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*fide* Morgan, Szabo).

NORTHERN SHRIKE There was an immature at the Holden Arboretum on the morning of Dec. 22 (Petuschke). Another shrike was present at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area on Jan. 13 & 20 (Burlett). Shrikes were noted in Fairport Harbor on Jan. 19 and Feb. 16 (Hannikman). One was seen near the bottom of Quick Road in the CVNP Jan. 2–25 (Leidy). One was tallied on the Elyria/Lorain CBC on Dec. 22 (*fide* Black River Aud.).



Swainson's Thrush-Peninsula, Ohio
January 25, 2002
by Mary Anne Romito©

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – A truly remarkable report came from Peninsula. Barb Kaplan found a window kill on her porch on the remarkable date of Jan. 25. This may be the latest “official” record of this species ever in the Midwest.

GRAY CAT-BIRD – One was seen on the Dec. 22 Mentor CBC (*fide* Fjeldstad). On Jan. 3, Pogacnik found one at Chagrin River Park. On Jan. 26, another was seen at Villa

Angela CLSP (Hoffman).

BROWN THRASHER – Thrashers were very noteworthy this year. One was seen by the Kirtland Bird Club field trip on Jan. 13 at Villa Angela CLSP (Lozano, Toneff, m.obs.). One was at Headlands Beach SP on Feb. 24 (Hannikman). Pogacnik found a thrasher at Chagrin River Park on Jan. 3.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – Jerry Talkington and Ron Kish found a bird along the Chagrin River on the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count (*fide* LePage).

YELLOW WARBLER – A bird found on the Dec. 16 Cuyahoga Falls CBC was well-described. This extended our latest date for Yellow Warbler by a week. (Morgan, m.obs.).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – This species was detected along Tinker's Creek in Twinsburg on Dec. 29. It was pho-

tographed diagnostically by Judy Semroc and Carl Johnson. This may be the only verified winter sighting ever in eastern North America (Rosche, m.obs.). See Field Notes.



Summer Tanager – January 8, 2002 – North Ridgeville
by Ron Lang©



Summer Tanager – January 8, 2002 – North Ridgeville
by Ron Lang®

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT – A first-winter male remained at North Chagrin Dec. 3 –28 (Metcalf).

SUMMER TANAGER – A female visited the feeder of Ron Lang in North Ridgeville off and on most of January. His photo documentation coupled with expert opinion (Paul Lehman, Bruce Peterjohn) made for a positive identification. The absence of a tooth on the bill edge is fairly clear on the photos. Unbeknownst to Ron, several Summer Tanagers had been seen in southern Canada in November and December.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK – At 8:15 AM, on Valentine’s Day, a male was heard, then seen in Brecksville (Schnell). (Ed. note: It makes me think that the Schnell’s yard is the place to be on special holidays.)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK – Extremely rare along Lake Erie after November, a single bird was seen in Fairport Harbor on Jan. 19 and Feb. 16 (Hannikman, Bacik).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – One visited a yard in Brecksville Dec. 20-25 (Schnell). (see Field Notes).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL – On Dec. 14, Karin Tanquist wrote, “I was treated this afternoon to the

on and off presence of a juvenile White Winged Crossbill at the thistle feeder outside my house. I should stay home from work more often!” A bird was spied at North Chagrin on Dec. 28 (Metcalf). Rieker noted at least 9 individuals used his feeding station in Parma during the season. Five visited a feeder in Newbury Township in late Dec.–Jan. (Ferris, Faber). One was at Lakeshore MP on Feb. 27 (Pogacnik). □



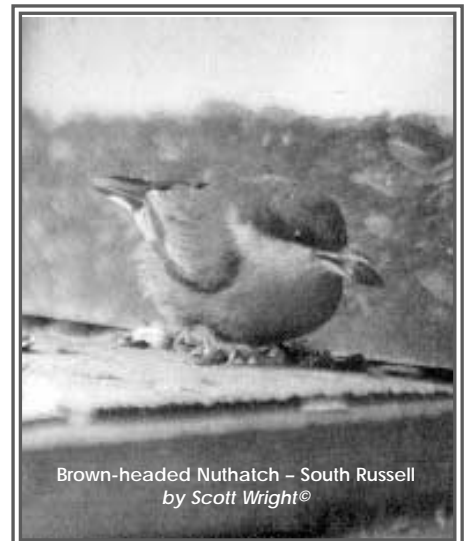
THE BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH AN EPILOGUE by Linda Gilbert

“Empty-Nest Syndrome” is the loneliness many parents feel when their offspring “fledge” from the home. It might also be defined as the feeling of emptiness one experiences after a Brown-headed Nuthatch and 282 birders depart to lead their separate lives. It is much quieter around the house now, except, of course, for our bird feeders, which are still as popular as ever.

From November 21, 2001 until January 15, 2002, we enjoyed the company of this special little misplaced nuthatch and the many folks who came to the house to see it. After one frustrating week in November when the bird didn’t appear at all, it finally settled into

a regular daily routine in December and January, putting on a good show for anyone who wanted to see it. I saw the nuthatch for the last time in the late afternoon on Jan. 15. It flew off to the south. Hopefully, it returned safely to its appropriate range and habitat.

Out of the total number of folks who signed the guest book, approximately 234 of them were able to view the nuthatch. People came from Michigan, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, as well as from distant parts of Ohio. It was fun to watch the various reactions of people when they first saw the bird. A woman who was watching from inside the house almost had her face plastered against the kitchen window when the nuthatch was on the feeder picking through the sunflower seeds. A few other people exchanged “high-fives.” Another lady, observing from the backyard, was jumping up and down while tugging on her husband’s sleeve and pointing at the bird. A few minutes later, at the kitchen table, she embarrassingly admitted that her enthusiasm sometimes scared things away. The nuthatch, however, didn’t seem to mind. One



Brown-headed Nuthatch – South Russell
by Scott Wright®

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM The 102nd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA/LORAIN	LAKESWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTON
PIED-BILLED GREBE	•	4	16	2	4	1	1
HORNED GREBE	•	7	•	•	1	2	•
GREAT BLUE HERON	3	29	37	22	6	3	2
CANADA GOOSE	5,765	2,271	2,563	842	404	891	4,317
TUNDRA SWAN	48	11	5	•	58	•	•
MUTE SWAN	•	•	11	•	•	3	•
WOOD DUCK	1	8	6	•	1	•	•
GADWALL	4	6	22	3	17	1	3
AMERICAN WIGEON	•	•	6	•	10	•	•
NORTHERN SHOVELER	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	15	30	34	12	200	18	8
MALLARD	1,119	477	1,464	909	925	300	246
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	•	•	1	2	•	•	•
RING-NECKED DUCK	2	•	154	•	•	•	36
SCAUP (SP)	10	1	15	1	39	•	46
BUFFLEHEAD	8	6	27	32	10	9	6
COMMON GOLDENEYE	•	27	•	4	51	11	•
HOODED MERGANSER	•	15	22	18	18	10	1
COMMON MERGANSER	•	•	•	•	•	8	•
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	•	1,800	1	8,856	707	250	•
RUDDY DUCK	•	•	323	75	22	•	4
BALD EAGLE	4	•	•	3	•	1	•
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	4	2	10	3	•	4	1
COOPER'S HAWK	9	10	16	4	5	3	7
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	29	8	4	•	1	2	•
RED-TAILED HAWK	41	33	85	24	11	13	43
AMERICAN KESTREL	7	2	11	20	2	7	59
WILD TURKEY	1	2	16	•	•	2	111
AMERICAN COOT	8	1	138	138	7	•	8
KILLDEER	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
RING-BILLED GULL	44	3,010	1,124	64,281	9,983	9,589	8
HERRING GULL	•	819	26	1,220	2,230	144	•
MOURNING DOVE	401	172	957	262	206	67	405
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	6	5	12	2	2	2	•
GREAT HORNED OWL	3	2	9	2	•	1	1
BARRED OWL	4	•	4	1	•	1	•
BELTED KINGFISHER	1	20	23	2	3	2	•
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	38	89	192	26	41	30	37
DOWNY WOODPECKER	125	102	338	61	40	37	54
HAIRY WOODPECKER	40	20	82	8	10	7	8
NORTHERN FLICKER	6	6	33	5	1	•	6
PILEATED WOODPECKER	8	9	11	3	3	6	3
BLUE JAY	253	381	1,007	157	133	166	111
AMERICAN CROW	634	850	1,010	239	788	273	331
HORNED LARK	3	•	•	•	•	•	72
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	563	363	1,029	153	142	252	187
TUFTED TITMOUSE	215	204	493	80	86	140	48
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	8	1	64	•	7	1	•
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	86	103	277	61	55	36	95
BROWN CREEPER	3	•	21	1	1	5	3
CAROLINA WREN	1	28	82	34	11	11	4
WINTER WREN	•	•	•	1	•	1	•
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	2	•	13	1	2	1	1
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	67	85	111	75	•	67	70
AMERICAN ROBIN	119	469	187	38	302	332	13
CEDAR WAXWING	247	84	340	11	•	128	•
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	•	•	1	1	•	•	1
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	216	68	391	96	13	45	65
SONG SPARROW	37	20	146	21	14	2	11
SWAMP SPARROW	•	•	35	•	•	1	•
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	10	66	124	11	12	26	3
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	•	•	43	•	•	•	2
DARK-EYED JUNCO	250	412	625	157	62	304	109
SNOW BUNTING	15	2	•	1	•	2	•
NORTHERN CARDINAL	451	224	851	170	88	82	236
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	•	5	174	142	cw	26	•
COMMON GRACKLE	•	71	62	47	•	350	•
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	cw	60	•	33	•	75	1
PURPLE FINCH	5	•	4	•	2	1	•
HOUSE FINCH	188	297	929	146	264	100	169
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	276	256	1,038	114	77	121	100
TOTAL SPECIES	60	70	77	76	67	74	56

gentleman commented that some birders don't believe rare bird sightings until they see for themselves. Moments later, when the nuthatch suddenly appeared on the feeder, he exclaimed, "It IS a Brown-headed Nuthatch!" Another birder left a note saying that he came on Christmas morning and got his "Christmas present" within 10 minutes of arriving. Many birders came twice to see the bird so that they could claim it on both the 2001 and 2002 bird lists. Other people visited more than once just for the pleasure of seeing it again. Some birders were challenged to try to get a glimpse of all three nuthatch species on the feeder at the same time. Only a handful of people were actually lucky enough to join the "triple crown club." Someone else commented about a possible caption for a picture of all three of them together. It would read, "Where are we?" The only time I was fortunate enough to see all three nuthatches together was when I had the vacuum cleaner in my hands instead of the camera!

Another interesting aspect of this adventure was the abundance of gifts, which were bestowed upon us in appreciation for the chance to get a look at the little bugger. People brought bags of birdseed, suet, an upside-down suet feeder (the woodpeckers love it--actually, so did the nuthatch), a jar of honey, tea, snacks, a six pack of beer, home-made candy, a home-made candle, Apollo's Fire opera tickets, framed pictures of the bird, a Christmas ornament with a hand-painted picture of the Brown-headed Nuthatch on it, and many lovely Christmas cards and thank-you notes. My family and I were certainly surprised by all the gifts, and every one of them was put to good use--my dad, of course, enjoyed the beer! Oh, and in case

anybody is wondering if we would do this again now that we know exactly how fanatical birders are, the answer is "You betcha!"

PS. At the beginning of March 2002, I received a letter from the Ohio Bird Records Committee in Columbus saying that they voted to accept the Brown-headed Nuthatch as an official state record--chalk up another one for Ohio!

NOTES ON A WINTER BALTIMORE ORIOLE

by Phyllis Schnell

December 20, 2001: Dear Mr. Rosche, This morning at approximately 8:30 AM, I saw a male Baltimore Oriole in one of the crabapple trees by the pond. It was working on eating one of the few remaining berries on the tree. It was easily identifiable because I got within 15 feet of it. It disappeared before I returned from getting my daughter on the bus for school. Later today, at 2:30 PM, my husband and I were in the yard and saw it again. This time it was on the ground under some conifers, rustling around in the grass. It seemed unusually "tame," as it let us get within 5 ft. of it; we

were afraid it might be unable to fly. It kept moving away from us, but stayed on the ground, always about 5 ft. away. After both of us had seen it intermittently for a half hour, (we were doing yard work, not harassing the poor bird) it did fly--to a high branch in the woods behind our house. The heron rookery is just down the hill from our back yard. We always see the orioles in the high branches in the Spring, including their nests, but have NEVER seen one in December, much less the 20th!!!

December 23, 2001: Dear Larry, Yes, the Baltimore Oriole is still around as of this afternoon. Our whole family has been seeing it almost every time we look out!! It has been alternating between the crabapple trees and the pine trees, and this morning it also ventured to the pine where I keep bird feeders, although I didn't observe it eating out of the feeders. It likes the crabapple best, I think. I worry about its survival now that the temperature has plunged. I will continue to keep you posted. Now that we've had our special bird guest, I'll have to join the Kirtland Bird Club, or at least find out how to receive the *Bird Calendar*.

December 25, 2001: Dear Larry, The oriole was last seen Christmas Day at 10 am. At 11 AM, of same day, a sharp-shinned hawk was seen over the driveway. I'd like to think the oriole is in the Bahamas by now, but it could have been Christmas dinner for the sharpie! Happy New Year, and best of birding in 2002!.



Baltimore Oriole - Dec. 24, 2001
Brecksville.
by Lou Gardella©

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS WINTER OVER IN THE CVNP

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

A few years ago we documented (Chasar, 1999) the population growth of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). These birds, however, typically vacated the valley by mid-September and returned again in early May, thus avoiding the winter months. This winter revealed that at least three groups of Red-headed remained in the valley. At least one bird remained along the towpath north of the Boston area (Mary Reinthal *et al.*), 2-4 in the marsh south on the tracks from Station Road (Bob Roach, Chasars), and 2-3 in the heron colony north on the tracks from Station Road (Clyde Witt, Chasars). All three areas are summering locations.

Red-headed Woodpeckers have been documented to winter over in northern climes during mild winters when the mast crop is plentiful (Smith, 2000). The Cleveland weather summary for this quarter indicates that this was one of the milder winters on record, with little snow and temperatures above normal. Can these woodpeckers forecast a mild winter? We noticed early in the fall that both a mature and an immature woodpecker at Station Road (south) were caching food, e.g., acorns, beechnuts, in the tops of the standing snags in the marsh, as this species of woodpecker is apt to do. This suggests that 2001 was a good mast year locally; the woodpeckers took advantage of the food abundance and avoided migration. Those woodpeckers that

remained for the winter would have the additional advantage of claiming the best territory for nesting.

Chasar, D. and Chasar, A. (1999). Population Trends of the Red-headed Woodpecker in the CVNRA. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 95(3), 31.
Smith, K.G., J.H. Withgott and P.G. Rodewald. 2000. Red-headed Woodpecker. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 518 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.), Philadelphia, PA.

THE LOWLY HOUSE SPARROW

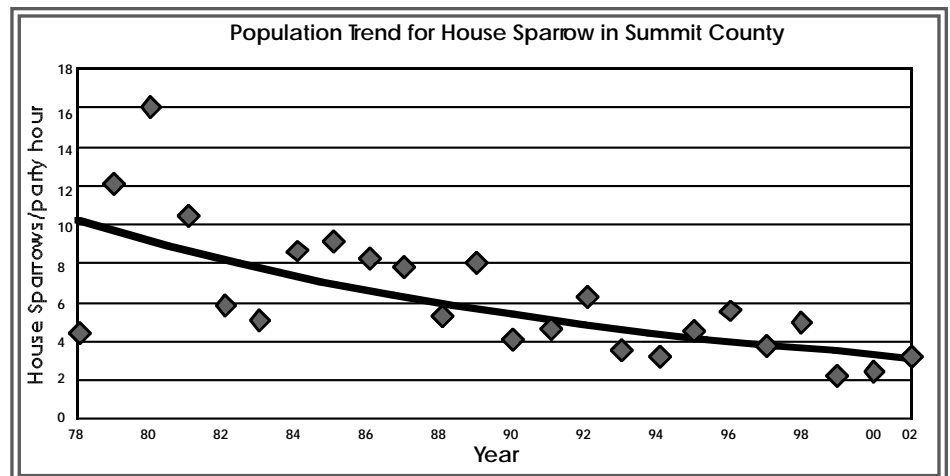
by Dwight Chasar

Passer domesticus, the House Sparrow, sometimes called the English Sparrow, is found at the far bottom of any Ohio bird checklist. The reason for this is by virtue of its avian evolutionary development and taxonomic classification, if not for how ornithologists and birdwatchers have historically viewed this species. Dawson (1903) used the following words and phrases to show his disdain for this bird: “the most deplorable event in the history of American ornithology;” “wretched foreigner;” “prodigious increase of the pest;” “scalawags;” “presence of this bird is absolutely undesirable;” “scourge, plague, enemy, vermin;” “avian blot on nature.” He described its voice as “vulgar bletherings and maudlin mirth,”

and its nest as a “half-bushel ball of trash.”

An Old World sparrow, the English Sparrow was introduced into New York from Europe in 1850 (Sibley, 2000). It was also introduced (Jones, 1903) directly into Ohio at Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Warren (1869), Marietta (1870), Coshocton and Portsmouth (1874), Steubenville (1880-81), and Wapakoneta (1882). It appears that the purpose of introduction was for control of insect pests or to provide new Americans with a reminder of a homeland left behind (Elphick, 2001). While the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) was introduced into St. Louis, MO in 1870 (Elphick, 2001), this bird has remained pretty much confined to MO during the 20th century while the House Sparrow spread all the way to the west coast by 1910 (Sibley, 2000)! This rapid expansion resulted from the House Sparrow’s close association with people and it thrived on refuse in cities, as well as waste grain in farm fields and horse manure (Peterjohn, 1989).

In a 1934 letter (CMNH archives) to John Aldrich, S.C. Kendeigh, editor of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*, wrote, “One or two contributors have sent in records on



numbers of English Sparrows. We have not hitherto recorded them in the Bird Calendar but now believe that beginning with Jan 1, 1935, we will do so ... Being a species now well established in our avifauna and one of considerable economic importance there seems no valid reason for excluding it." Contrarily and understandably, there has been little reported about this sparrow in the Calendar in the last 45 years.

The House Sparrow population peaked in 1900-1920 (Peterjohn, 1989) and since 1965, it has continuously declined in eastern North America (Robbins, 1986) and in Ohio (Earnst, 1996), as reflected in data from the Breeding Bird Surveys. Locally, this downward trend is also evident in Summit County as determined from the Greater Akron Audubon Society summer bird census conducted since 1978 (See chart). This widespread decline has been attributed to a number of factors, including the replacement of horses by cars, changes in farming practices such as monoculture crops and heavy use of pesticides (Elphick, 2001), severe winter weather (Peterjohn, 1989) and the expansion of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) (Kricher, 1983). This latter factor has been discounted by an Indiana study (Hamilton, 1991). Is it possible that one day the *Calendar* will receive field-reports attesting to this sparrow's rare occurrence in Ohio?

Archives, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ornithology Files, Box 4.
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Sparrows, American Goldfinches, and Purple Finches in Indiana. Indiana Audubon Q. 69:251-254.
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TWINSBURG WINTER BIRD COUNT 2001

by Stanley Stine and Larry Rosche

The following birds were identified in the parks of Twinsburg during the count taken on December 29, 2001. Eleven people participated in the count, which took place in two different locations. The count began at 9:00 AM and concluded at 3:00 PM. Temperatures were in the low 20's, with snow cover and a brisk wind out of the north-northwest. The most unexpected bird I have discovered in recent winters was a Louisiana Waterthrush along Tinker's Creek and the Twinsburg Parks Bikeway. A description of the events and characters of the bird follow.



Louisiana Waterthrush-Twinsburg, Ohio
 December 29, 2001
 by Judy Semroc©

Documentation of Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*)

by Larry Rosche

Twinsburg, Summit County, Ohio
 December 29, 2001. Observers: Twinsburg Winter Bird Count Party and members of Chrysalis in Time NABA Club

At approximately 11:00 AM on December 29, 2001, I flushed a small dark bird from a wetland area adjacent to Tinker's Creek. The bird fluttered from behind me and I briefly glimpsed it. It did not remind me of a wren, and my curiosity got the best of me. I pursued the bird and located it next to a buttonbush trunk. I could only see that it had an eyeline that was very bold and swooshed upward at the back of the head. My first

thought was waterthrush, but then this is December, so I tried to rattle the roladex in my brain for a species. I began to think Old World Warbler. I still had not seen it front, so I asked

Canada Goose	99	Black-capped Chickadee	10
Wood Duck	2	Tufted Titmouse	5
Mallard	44	White-Breasted Nuthatch	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	Carolina Wren	5
Red-Shouldered Hawk	2	Eastern Bluebird	6
Red-tailed Hawk	5	European Starling	1
Ring-Billed Gull	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	8
Mourning Dove	20	American Tree Sparrow	7
Belted Kingfisher	5	Song Sparrow	3
Red-Bellied	7	Swamp Sparrow	1
Woodpecker	7	White-Throated Sparrow	7
Downy Woodpecker	3	Dark-Eyed Junco	17
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Northern Cardinal	45
Pileated Woodpecker	14	House Finch	14
Blue Jay	15	American Goldfinch	3
American Crow	5	House Sparrow	



Louisiana Waterthrush-Twinsburg, Ohio
December 29, 2001
by Carl Johnson©

the rest of the party to help. Cameras in hand we began to photograph this sorry individual. It began to grovel for food and showed its front to me. I said, "My gawd, it is a waterthrush, and it sure looks like a Louisiana Waterthrush to me." I asked Stanley Stine to check the long bill, white throat, streaked, pale underparts with a buffy wash to the flanks. He noted them and asked, "What on earth is it doing here?" I said "I don't think anyone will believe this one. I have seen a Northern Waterthrush in Ohio in December and January, but this bird should have been gone by September."

The bird continued to allow close photographs and viewing for the next hour or so. It bobbed its rear as it walked about looking for food. It would fly weakly, and I can't say the wings were all that droopy. I did see it close its eyes as if to be in serious stress, but as a group we did not approach the bird close enough to have it scurrying about frantically. We simply let the bird go about its business and when it came close enough, the photographers shot away. Lou Gardella tried for it on December 30, but was unable to locate it. In all, nine people saw the bird and at least 8 of them were familiar with the species.

OF SITES, SIGHTINGS AND CITATIONS

by Larry Rosche

This past winter I received some interesting mail concerning the lack of ink given to many of the local parks. There are at least 14 Cleveland Metroparks, but it seems to some readers that North Chagrin is the only Cleveland Metropark that receives any coverage. I would have to agree. North Chagrin does receive the most coverage! Kevin Metcalf works there and is the only Cleveland Metroparks naturalist who finds time to report the birds found in the park. Local naturalists are swamped with paperwork and the like. Being a naturalist is their job; I doubt if they relish going home to fill out more reports. All readers are encouraged to write up their favorite birding haunts. Many of the Cleveland Metroparks have ample habitat for exciting ornithological citizen science. Think of the areas of the CVNP that the Chasars can't necessarily cover thoroughly. Lorain, Medina and Summit County Metroparks receive only a smattering of coverage. The lake-front is watched at various spots well by many, but as the venerable Bill Klamm used to say, "things change hourly." We cannot assume that the chief contributors to the *Bird Calendar* are seeing everything.

As far as sightings go, all are interesting to me. I am puzzled when someone says "I don't know what you want, so I don't report." Does this mean they want each sighting they report to have their initials beside it? Truthfully, I don't know what I want either. It varies year to year and season to season. I confess to having a greater concern over our nesting birds than our migrants, but to think that if some-

one saw a warbler in winter and did not report it boggles my mind. All birds are important--well maybe not the introduced ones--so try to find the time to write down your sighting data. I am equally puzzled by those with outstanding field books that they fill with daily notes, but then never seem to have time to summarize their sightings in a timely fashion. I have often mentioned that I do not have time to sort through the *OhioBirds* Listserv extracting data from the reports that pertain to our region. Perhaps the next editor will be more of an e-birder?

With regard to citations, every effort is made to give the original finder of the bird the first name in the Noteworthy Reports. These sightings are usually of birds that make the pulse quicken. Cyclical changes in resident bird populations and unique behavioral observations often receive mention as well. These may be in a separate text box or included along with the seasonal sightings report. I attempt to put the seasonal sightings for each species mentioned in chronological order of appearance and in the correct taxonomical order. Sometimes the magic works, and sometimes it doesn't. The spread and increase of mockingbirds is a good example of change in distribution of resident species. The cyclical abundance of Green Herons, Brown Thrashers and American Kestrels has been covered in the recent past on these pages. Even the gradual decline in the introduced House Sparrow abundance has received some precious lines of text. The continual monitoring of species like Common Nighthawk, Golden-winged and Cerulean Warbler and grassland birds will be of highest import to me in the near future.

□

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The List of the Birds of the Cleveland Region

Red-throated Loon	Cooper's Hawk	Heermann's Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	Swainson's Warbler
Pacific Loon	Northern Goshawk	Mew Gull	Blue Jay	Ovenbird
Common Loon	Red-shouldered Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	Northern Waterthrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Broad-winged Hawk	California Gull	Common Raven	Louisiana Waterthrush
Horned Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Herring Gull	Horned Lark	Kentucky Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Rough-legged Hawk	Thayer's Gull	Purple Martin	Connecticut Warbler
Eared Grebe	Golden Eagle	Iceland Gull	Tree Swallow	Mourning Warbler
Western Grebe	American Kestrel	Lesser Black-backed Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Gannet	Merlin	Glaucous Gull	Bank Swallow	Hooded Warbler
American White Pelican	Gyrfalcon	Great Black-backed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Brown Pelican	Peregrine Falcon	Sabine's Gull	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-necked Pheasant	Black-legged Kittiwake	Carolina Chickadee	Painted Redstart
American Bittern	Ruffed Grouse	Ross's Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-Breasted Chat
Least Bittern	Wild Turkey	Ivory Gull	Boreal Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Great Blue Heron	Northern Bobwhite	Caspian Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Scarlet Tanager
Great Egret	Yellow Rail	Royal Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Western Tanager
Snowy Egret	Black Rail	Common Tern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Green-tailed Towhee
Little Blue Heron	King Rail	Forster's Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Spotted Towhee
Tricolored Heron	Virginia Rail	Least Tern	Brown Creeper	Eastern Towhee
Cattle Egret	Sora	Black Tern	Rock Wren	Bachman's Sparrow
Green Heron	Purple Gallinule	Thick-billed Murre	Carolina Wren	American Tree Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Common Moorhen	Black Guillemot	Bewick's Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	American Coot	Rock Dove	House Wren	Clay-colored Sparrow
White Ibis	Sandhill Crane	Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Field Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Black-bellied Plover	Passenger Pigeon	Sedge Wren	Vesper Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	American Golden-Plover	Common Ground-Dove	Marsh Wren	Lark Sparrow
Wood Stork	Snowy Plover	Carolina Parakeet	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-throated Sparrow
Black Vulture	Semipalmated Plover	Black-billed Cuckoo	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Lark Bunting
Turkey Vulture	Piping Plover	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Killdeer	Smooth-billed Ani	Townsend's Solitaire	Grasshopper Sparrow
G. White-fronted Goose	American Avocet	Barn Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Henslow's Sparrow
Snow Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Screech-Owl	Veery	Le Conte's Sparrow
Ross's Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Great Horned Owl	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp.
Canada Goose	Solitary Sandpiper	Snowy Owl	Swainson's Thrush	Fox Sparrow
Brant	Willet	Northern Hawk Owl	Hermit Thrush	Song Sparrow
Mute Swan	Spotted Sandpiper	Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Lincoln's Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	Upland Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl	American Robin	Swamp Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Eskimo Curlew	Short-eared Owl	Varied Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Wood Duck	Whimbrel	Boreal Owl	Gray Catbird	Harris's Sparrow
Gadwall	Long-billed Curlew	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Northern Mockingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Hudsonian Godwit	Common Nighthawk	Brown Thrasher	Dark-eyed Junco
American Wigeon	Marbled Godwit	Whip-poor-will	European Starling	Lapland Longspur
American Black Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Chimney Swift	Wagtail (species)	Smith's Longspur
Mallard	Red Knot	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Pipit	Snow Bunting
Blue-winged Teal	Sanderling	Rufous Hummingbird	Sprague's Pipit	Northern Cardinal
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Bohemian Waxwing	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Northern Pintail	Western Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Black-headed Grosbeak
Green-winged Teal	Least Sandpiper	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Canvasback	White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Golden-winged Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Redhead	Baird's Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	Dickcissel
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	Bobolink
Tufted Duck	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-backed Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Scaup	Purple Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Northern Parula	Eastern Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Dunlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	Western Meadowlark
King Eider	Curlew Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Eider	Stilt Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Magnolia Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Harlequin Duck	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Ruff	Acadian Flycatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common Grackle
White-winged Scoter	Short-billed Dowitcher	Alder Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Black Scoter	Long-billed Dowitcher	Willow Flycatcher	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Long-tailed Duck	Common Snipe	Least Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warb.	Baltimore Oriole
Bufflehead	American Woodcock	Eastern Phoebe	Blackburnian Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Common Goldeneye	Eurasian Woodcock	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler	Brambling
Barrow's Goldeneye	Wilson's Phalarope	Western Kingbird	Pine Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Hooded Merganser	Red-necked Phalarope	Eastern Kingbird	Kirtland's Warbler	Purple Finch
Common Merganser	Red Phalarope	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler	House Finch
Red-breasted Merganser	Pomarine Jaeger	Loggerhead Shrike	Palm Warbler	Red Crossbill
Ruddy Duck	Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Shrike	Bay-breasted Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Osprey	Long-tailed Jaeger	White-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler	Common Redpoll
Swallow-tailed Kite	Laughing Gull	Bell's Vireo	Cerulean Warbler	Hoary Redpoll
Mississippi Kite	Franklin's Gull	Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler	Pine Siskin
Bald Eagle	Little Gull	Blue-headed Vireo	American Redstart	American Goldfinch
Northern Harrier	Black-headed Gull	Warbling Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Philadelphia Vireo	Worm-eating Warbler	House Sparrow