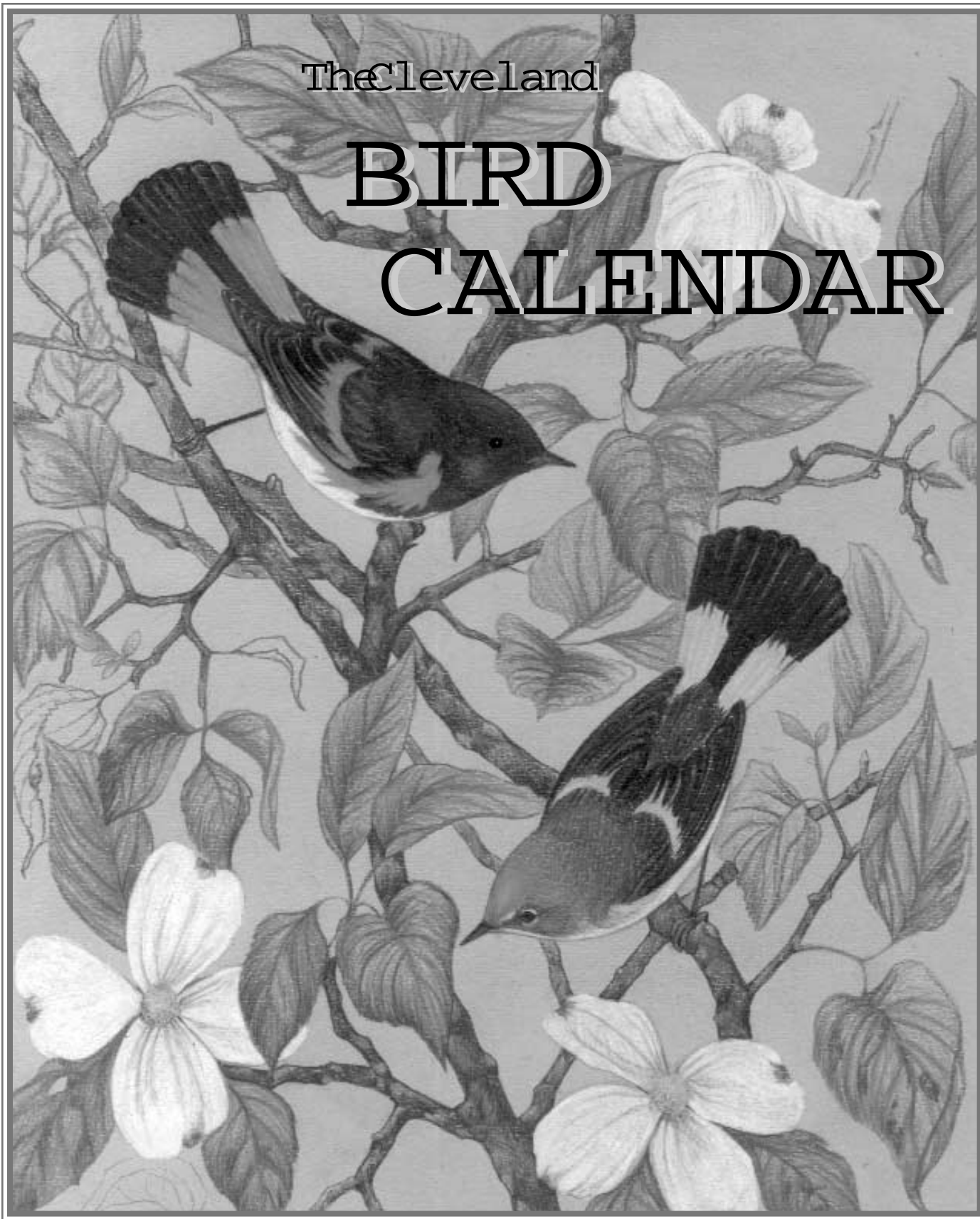


The Cleveland

BIRD

CALENDAR



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

June, July, August 2003  
Volume 99 Number 3

**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. 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:

<b>March 10</b>	<b>Winter Season</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Spring Season</b>
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Summer Season</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Autumn Season</b>

**Seasonal report forms available at:**

[www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm)

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by Jennifer Brumfield, 2002

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

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**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 \$12.00.

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**Field reports**, artwork, papers, and photographs should be sent to Larry Rosche; 7473 Sylvan Drive; Kent, Ohio 44240.  
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June, July, August 2003  
Volume 99 Number 3

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar



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Field Report Forms are  
available at

[www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm)

## SUMMER 2003 WEATHER by Dwight Chasar

**JUNE:** Temperatures averaged 66.9°, .6° below normal. The high was 91° on the 26th and the low was 41° on the 2nd. Lake Erie was 59° on June 1st and rose to 72° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 11 days and totaled 3.17 in., .72 in. below normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period was 1.66 in. Sunshine prevailed 56% of the time possible.

**JULY:** Temperatures averaged 72.5°, .6° above normal. The high was 92° on the 4th and the low was 54° on the 29th. Sunshine was available 62% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 11 days, totaling 4.89 in., 1.37 in. above normal. The most rain in a 24 hr. period fell on the 7-8th and amounted to 2.20 in. Lake Erie was still at 72° at the end of the month.

**AUGUST:** Temperatures averaged 73.2°, 3.0° above normal. The high was 92° on the 21st and the low was 55° on the 31st. Sunshine occurred 66% of the time possible. Rain fell on 8 days, totaling 1.96 in., 1.73 in. below normal. The most in a 24 hr. period was .6 in. on the 26-27th. Lake Erie waters fell to 75° by the end of the month after reaching a maximum of 76° earlier. □

### SEASONAL REPORT

**T**hree **Common Loons** were noted on the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summer Bird Count (GAASSBC). An immature enjoyed the summer at LaFarge Lakes in Shalersville until Independence Day jet ski activities drove it off (LR). **Pied-billed Grebe** numbers were very low. Herrick Preserve, Mogadore Reservoir (LR, GB) and Sandy



Whimbrel-Burke Airport-  
July 17, 2003  
by Randolph White©

Ridge provided the only verified nesting (TF, m.obs.). **Double-crested Cormorants** summered in fair numbers. Up to 3 **Great Egrets** could be found at Mill Stream Run Reservation in June and July (GL). **Green Herons** were more numerous in most of the region. The 5 at Clague Road Park July 16 (CC) and 3 at Holden Arboretum July 18 were representative of most inland lakes (RR). The only negative comments were from HBSP (RH). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** returned to Shaker Lakes July 26 (LD). One was at Summit Lake Aug. 25 (GBe). A group of 25+ **Turkey Vultures** were seen migrating across the lake Aug. 31 (JM).

The only local successful nesting of **Blue-winged Teal** took place at Sandy Ridge (TF). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** lingered at Veteran's Park June 1-8 (RH, JP). A female was at Sandy Ridge June 4 (TF). **Hooded Mergansers** nested widely. A female at Wildwood CLSP was interesting (RH). Where did it come from? A female was at Baldwin Lake July 9 (GL). The only **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen June 1 at HBSP (RH). **Ruddy Ducks** nested at Sandy Ridge Reservation (TF). A male was seen at Veteran's Park on the unusual date of July 27 (RH).

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

The 44th supplement to The A.O.U. *Checklist of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition has incorporated major family changes in order of appearance. It will take me a while to adjust. I will wait to see how other journals incorporate these changes. For the moment, I will go with the name change of Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon. However, for the reader's sake, I am not all that sure about putting the duck and chickens ahead of the loons at this time. While printers and graphics designers may leap with joy at the thought of financial gain through the necessity of updating all local checklists, I am a bit leery of rushing ahead with the inevitable.

Field reporters were very busy this summer and much of the breeding bird work is displayed in the tables provided. It is hard to imagine a wetter summer or the sheer number of mosquitoes during June and July field surveys. For the summer period, 187 species were reported. As with many of the recent summer reports, much of the the information on local nesting species can be found in the data tables provided. These surveys provide invaluable data in the future mapping of seasonal occurrence and population trend changes. To know that 26 species of warblers were located in the region during the nesting season is simply a tribute to the diligence of field observers and their field skills in identification. It is with great satisfaction that I relay this information to our readers.

Special thanks to all those who endured the rain and biting insects to contribute to the nesting reports. Now it is time for migrants and fall rarities. Enjoy!

**Osprey** numbers were difficult to assess. Up to 3 could be found at Lake Rockwell any day of the summer, but there is no nest site at the lake. Nests at Berlin Reservoir and Lake Hodgson were presumed to be doing well. Hacking sites in the Akron Lakes continue to add numbers of this special bird to our region. Ospreys have adapted to using cell towers for roosting. The 3 Lake Rockwell birds were often seen at the corner of SR-43 and Ravenna Road. Unfortunately, the cell phone tower folks put up plastic owls; and these decoys caused the birds to abandon their roost. A cell phone tower in Twinsburg near Pond Brook also acted as a perch to survey fishing sites for at least one Osprey in June and July (LR). Ospreys were nearly daily occurrences along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor (RH, m.obs.). **Bald Eagles** continue to nest successfully at traditional sites in Lorain, Portage and Geauga Counties. No nest has been found in the CVNP, but frequent sightings of adult eagles there raise the suspicion (TMR, m.obs.). The only June and July reports of **Northern Harrier** came from Sandy Ridge (TF). One was at Fairport Harbor Aug. 17 (RH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were widespread in Lake County. One was seen in Kent June 23 (RSH). A bird was sighted at North Chagrin in June (KM). One buzzed a yard in Kirtland July 17 (HP). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were widely reported in the Cleveland

Metroparks (LD). Marking a distinct trend reversal, **Broad-winged Hawks** were widely reported in the eastern counties. Birds were very regular in Auburn, Munson and Newbury Townships. Three near Indigo Lake in CVNP (Summit Co.) were not unexpected (TMR). A bird at North Chagrin was a pleasant surprise Aug. 3 (PP). Reports of **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels** were as expected.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** reports were limited to the GAASSBC (*fide* DAC, DV). **Wild Turkeys** continue to thrive. Two hens were seen June 7 at a Brecksville Reservation banding site (PP). Five poults were seen at LaDue July 20 & 27 (JO). Two **Northern Bobwhites** were reported on the GAASSBC (*fide* DAC, DV). One was heard in Lorain Co. June 8 (RSH). **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** received few comments. A Sora at the north end of Chippewa Lake was good news. (RSH).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at HBSP June 7 (RH). The first returning **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at HBSP July 19 (RH). The flooded fields in rural sectors of the region provided ample foraging for both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. The earliest **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at the old Coliseum site June 29 (DAC). Birds were widely reported after this appearance. An adult **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen with 3 young in July at

## 2003 BBS Route Data--Ravenna Training and Logistics Site

Double-crested Cormorant	1	Acadian Flycatcher	12	Ovenbird	9
Great Blue Heron	10	Alder Flycatcher	40	Kentucky Warbler	1
Green Heron	2	Willow Flycatcher	28	Common Yellowthroat	170
Turkey Vulture	19	Least Flycatcher	3	Hooded Warbler	32
Canada Goose	54	Eastern Phoebe	7	Canada Warbler	0
Wood Duck	4	Great Crested Flycatcher	33	Yellow-breasted Chat	7
Mallard	37	Eastern Kingbird	13	Scarlet Tanager	42
Hooded Merganser	1	White-eyed Vireo	9	Eastern Towhee	128
Northern Harrier	0	Yellow-throated Vireo	17	Chipping Sparrow	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	Warbling Vireo	9	Field Sparrow	144
Cooper's Hawk	1	Red-eyed Vireo	141	Savannah Sparrow	7
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Blue Jay	88	Grasshopper Sparrow	0
Broad-winged Hawk	0	American Crow	80	Song Sparrow	184
Red-tailed Hawk	13	Tree Swallow	19	Swamp Sparrow	7
American Kestrel	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	Northern Cardinal	92
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	Bank Swallow	0	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	98
Wild Turkey	27	Cliff Swallow	2	Indigo Bunting	42
Northern Bobwhite	0	Barn Swallow	18	Dickcissel	1
Sora	1	Black-capped Chickadee	43	Bobolink	32
Killdeer	10	Tufted Titmouse	129	Red-winged Blackbird	215
Ring-billed Gull	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	20	Eastern Meadowlark	8
Rock Dove	6	Carolina Wren	3	Common Grackle	163
Mourning Dove	60	House Wren	68	Brown-headed Cowbird	91
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	Marsh Wren	0	Orchard Oriole	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	Baltimore Oriole	40
Barn Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	11	Purple Finch	3
Barred Owl	0	Veery	123	House Finch	10
Great Horned Owl	1	Wood Thrush	70	American Goldfinch	185
Chimney Swift	14	American Robin	229	House Sparrow	16
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	18	Gray Catbird	175		
Belted Kingfisher	3	Brown Thrasher	15	Species Total	92
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	European Starling	128		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	25	Cedar Waxwing	133	Species per stop	16.695
Downy Woodpecker	15	Blue-winged Warbler	66	% one-year change	+6.73
Hairy Woodpecker	8	Yellow Warbler	145		
Northern Flicker	18	Chestnut-sided Warbler	31		
Pileated Woodpecker	5	Cerulean Warbler	2	Data provided by	
Eastern Wood Pewee	33	American Redstart	10	Larry Rosche and Kim Ludt	

West Creek Preserve. This provided a first breeding record for the site (GL). **Sanderlings** were seen in small numbers at HBSP after July 27 (RH, RR).

**Semipalmated Sandpipers** were returning by July 19 at HBSP (RH). Early returning **Least Sandpipers** were noted at the old Coliseum site (DAC) and at HBSP (RH) June 29. Six **Pectoral Sandpipers** were early at HBSP July 14 (RH). Six **Short-billed Dowitchers** were tallied in a flooded pasture in Lodi Aug. 3 (FCD). Two juveniles were at Veteran's Park Aug. 16 (RH). **American Woodcocks** were well reported in the CVNP. Birds were flushed at several point count sites throughout the ongoing habitat usage studies (NB, LR). A bird was still displaying in Northfield June 2 (FCD). One was a summer surprise in Bath (JTH).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were slow to arrive. The high count was a mere 20 at HBSP Aug. 23 (RH). For all intents and purposes, as many as 10 **Caspian**

**Terns** summered at LaDue (m.obs.). Caspians also were regular at HBSP in June and August. A **Forster's Tern** was seen at HBSP July 6 and Aug. 30 (RH).

### Comment on Summer-2003 at Headland Beach State Park

The summer season began with warblers and ended with warblers. Indicative of the late spring migration were the 17 species of warblers recorded on June 1, the highlights of which were 25 Blackpoll Warblers and our first month of June Cape May Warbler. The 10 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on June 1 certainly must have approached, and probably exceeded, any early June count in the Cleveland area. At the end of the summer season, 16 species of warblers were found August 30 & 31. An adult male Golden-winged Warbler and a Prairie Warbler were the special birds of the day. In between, the season produced record numbers of Tree and Bank Swallows (thousands of each must have passed through the area), and some out of season ducks. On the negative side was the near total absence of Common Nighthawks, somewhat fewer Wood Ducks and very poor numbers of Green Herons. Shorebirds again were in poor numbers because of high water levels on the Grand River. One works for the birds at HBSP area in the summer, but the season's surprises await the determined birder.

*Ray Hannikman*



### Prothonotary Warbler Report 2003

**Warbler Numbers:** Twenty adult Prothonotary Warblers occupied a territory along the Cuyahoga River one mile north and one mile south of Eldon Russell Park in Geauga County. Over this territory, 18 nesting jars were placed in the river, close to shore.

**Returning Warblers:** Of the 20 warblers (10 males, 10 females), 14 were color-banded adults that nested here last year. This represented a 70% return rate. Most of the warblers nested at or near the same site they did last year. One of the returning males had fledged from one of our jars in 2000.

**Nesting Attempts and Results:** There were 16 nesting attempts, of which 13 were successful. A total of 84 eggs were laid and these resulted in 44 birds fledging. This was a record high for the 8 years records have been kept. Of the 3 failures, one was caused by House Wren interference, and the others were due indirectly to high water. A large floating log rolled over one jar, and the other jar accidentally fell into the river (reason unknown). One male attempted unsuccessfully to hold two jars with two different females.

*Andy Fondrk and Dan Best*

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at HBSP June 1 & 7 (RH, SI). Another was at Sandy Ridge June 3 (TF). One was in Stow June 14 (GBe). Numbers on summer breeding bird surveys reflected an expected population. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were regularly seen in the CVNP (m.obs.). One was at Rocky River Nature Center June 14 (BD). Another was at HBSP June 5 & 15 (SI, RH). A male was observed singing July 29 at Mill Stream Run (GL). Three were found at on June 29 at Mogadore (GBe). One at a residence in Cleveland Heights Aug. 4 was unique (BW). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were conspicuous throughout the region. A family group with 4 young was seen in Sagamore Hills June 11 (DAC). **Barred Owls** were widespread and apparently increasing. **Common Nighthawks** were monitored diligently. Numbers of summering birds have plummeted to record lows. Single summering birds were noted at Lakeland CC (MS, CK), Cuyahoga Falls (JTH),

Shaker Lakes (LD), Wadsworth and Norton (RSH). There were also far fewer southbound migrants detected in late August. Sites like the CVNP used to have birds numbering in the high hundreds. This year's high count was 54 (DAC). On Aug. 29, Steve Cagan commented, "Beth and I walked through Forest Hill Park this evening about 7 and saw our first Common Nighthawk in Ohio this year!" Jen Brumfield echoed his comments. "I have seen only TWO Common Nighthawks this summer. The first was August 29th in North Hill, Akron, and the second was August 31st over Rizzi's pizzeria in Copley. Both times I had to do a double-take. I thought nighthawks were extinct." Long-time observers Dick & Jean Hoffman wrote, "Nighthawks? What are those? Well, actually we have a few reports of them. During the summer three different days Jean heard a nighthawk passing over our house in Cleveland Heights heading south in the wee

hours while it was still dark. Then last week (late August) one night the lights were on at the Heights High playing field at Cedar & Lee and we saw one nighthawk flying around in the lights. In years past it was never as good a location as the church towers at the Christian Science overlooking University Hospital or St. Anne's at Cedar & Coventry, but when lit up might have six or so around. That is absolutely all our records this year, so three sounds pretty good to us!" Ruth Thompson penned, "During much of August, nighthawks arrived at dawn and again at dusk, flying by my 5th floor window. Sometimes they came close to the window... As the days progressed, the bird numbers dropped from perhaps 10-15 to 2-3."

**R**ed-headed Woodpeckers were well reported. The high tally for the CVNP was 5 at Station Road Aug. 24 (RR). A tardy **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen along the Grand River in Fairport Harbor June 2 (JP). Shaker Lakes provide another late report June 4 (LD). A dawdler was at Chagrin River Park June 11 (JMc). A southbound male was singing at Mentor Lagoons Aug. 16 (RH). The 10 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at HBSP June 1 may have been a record count (RH). One was at Forest Hills Park June 6-7 (KM, SBC). Fall migrants were at HBSP Aug. 24 & 30 (RH, LR). **Alder Flycatchers** were tallied in fair numbers on summer counts. Two were at HBSP June 1 (RH). Another twosome was along the Ira Road Trail June 3 (TMR, m.obs.). Two were along Oak Hill Road June 29 (RSH). Willow Flycatchers were in ample supply. **Least Flycatchers** were unusually scarce. **Great Crested Flycatchers** and **Eastern Kingbirds** were numerous.

### Pine Warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatch Survey Results 2003

This study was done as a part of the citizen science program conducted by the Geauga Park District. There is suitable Pine Warbler and Red-breasted Nuthatch habitat on both sides of the lake at Headwaters Park. Points were selected along the roads bordering both sides of the lake where conifers were abundant. The car odometer was used to measure distance between points. Two visits were made, one in June and one in July. Pine Warbler and Red-breasted Nuthatch songs were used to determine whether birds were present.

A total of 5 Pine Warblers were found on the east side of the lake. There were 3 males and 2 females. Two Pine Warblers were seen on the west side routes, one male and one female. On both sides of the lake, adult warblers were seen carrying food. No Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen this year, but two were observed last year. This is the second year the study was conducted.

*Andy Fondrk and Russ Young*

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a surprise at Rocky River Nature Center June 14 (BD). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at Bacon Woods July 13 (CC). **Blue-headed Vireos** were conspicuously absent from Ritchie Ledges (DAC). Stebbins Gulch provided the only report away from Lake county Metroparks (HP). **Warbling Vireos** were plentiful. Two **Philadelphia Vireos** lingered at HBSP June 1 (RH). Another was seen there Aug. 30 (RH, LR).

**Purple Martins** were numerous along the Lake Erie shoreline. The 25 at LaDue on July 26 were welcome additions to Geauga County (JO). **Tree Swallows** were abundant. **Northern Rough-winged** and **Bank Swallows** flourished in the dampness of summer and the abundance of mosquitoes. **Cliff Swallows** were widespread in Geauga County (DF). Traditional sites at West Branch and Berlin hosted many birds. On June 21, a bird heading up under eaves of a barn, as if to a nest, was seen in Medina Co. (RSH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** nested at traditional sites at Hinckley, Lake Rockwell and Horseshoe Pond. A bird in

Orange June 4 was a surprise (RSH). A bird in South Russell July 17 was the earliest ever for the site (LGi). **Marsh Wrens** were widespread. One was seen at the Lime Lakes in Barberton June 30 (GBE). **Winter Wrens** were detected at 10 Lake County MP sites (JP). None were located this year at Ritchie Ledges/Happy Days (DAC). One was found along the Pine Lake Trail June 28 (GBe). **House Wren** numbers were solid.

Although **Eastern Bluebirds** are thriving in rural sectors, the Bluebird Trail at Firestone MP produced only chickadees, Tree Swallows and House Wrens (DNR). **Veeries** were numerous on summer counts. One summering at Rocky River NC was welcome West Side news (BD). As many as 6 **Wood Thrushes** were counted at Rocky River NC in June (BD). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to amuse observers with their antics. This summer a pair defended their nest on a median strip on Clayton Road in Shaker Hts. These birds were completely oblivious to the many construction workers and vehicles in the area

(RT, PP). Two were seen on a Pittsfield BBS route June 8 (RSH). A **Brown Thrasher** was a good find at Shaker Lakes July 19 (LD). **Cedar Waxwings** were in very good numbers.

No less than 26 species of warblers summered in the region. Adding migrants makes a tidy 30 warblers for the season! As is typical, the hemlock-dominated areas of the Chagrin, Cuyahoga and Grand River Watersheds led the way on breeding birds surveys. Returning warblers were bolstering field reports by the last third of August. **Blue-winged Warblers** were located in good numbers during nesting surveys. A **Tennessee Warbler** was at HBSP June 1 (RH). Early migrants were noted there (RH) and at Holden Aug. 17 (BR). Returning **Nashville Warblers** were seen in South Russell (LGi) and South Chagrin (BR) Aug. 20. **Yellow Warblers** were tallied in record numbers on the GAASSBC. Inland nesting territories of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** seem to be stable. A bird at the Ritchie Ledges shelter in June and July was somewhat surprising (DAC). **Magnolia Warblers** were reported from 11 Lake County MP sites (JP). A singing bird at North Chagrin June 7 was but a one day wonder (KM). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** had returned to HBSP by Aug. 30 (RH). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was late at HBSP June 1 (RH). One at Sandy Ridge on July 12 was particularly vexing (TF). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were doing well in traditional nesting areas. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was exceptionally early at Mentor Lagoons Aug. 3 (RH). The only report of nesting birds was from traditional sites in Stebbins Gulch (HP). A bird was late in Parma Hts. June 5 (RSH). **Yellow-throated Warblers** continue to persist along



## Lake County Metroparks: 2003 Noteworthy Breeding Birds

<p><b>Abbreviations used</b>  <b>E:</b> State listed as Endangered  <b>SC:</b> State listed as Species of Concern  <b>SI:</b> State listed as Special Interest  <b>T:</b> State listed as Threatened  <b>R:</b> Locally rare as a breeder  <b>U:</b> Locally uncommon as a breeder</p> <p>ARCOLA CREEK – Green Heron-U, Alder Flycatcher-U (2), Purple Martin-U          BIG CREEK – Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Cerulean Warbler-SC, Dark-eyed Junco-T (3)          BLAIR ROAD PROPERTY – Green Heron-U, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Least Flycatcher-T, Cerulean Warbler-SC, Dark-eyed Junco-T          CASCADE ROAD PROPERTY – Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-E, Dark-eyed Junco-T (2)          CEDAR HILLS CAMP – Blue-headed Vireo-U, Cerulean Warbler-SC, Dark-eyed Junco-T (2)          CHAGRIN RIVER PARK – Green Heron-U, Spotted Sandpiper-U, Purple Martin-U, N. Mockingbird-U (2), Savannah Sparrow-U          CHAPIN FOREST RESERVATION – Green Heron-U, Sharp-shinned Hawk-SC, Red-shouldered Hawk-U (2), Blue-headed Vireo-U, Golden-crowned Kinglet-SI, Winter Wren-SI, Magnolia Warbler-SI (2), Cerulean Warbler-SC (3), Black-and-White Warbler-U, Pine Warbler-R, Dark-eyed Junco-T (5)          CONCORD WOODS – Green Heron-U          CONLEY-PARADISE ROAD PROPERTY – Green Heron-U, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U (2), Alder Flycatcher-U, Winter Wren-SI (3), Magnolia Warbler-SI, Cerulean Warbler-SC (2), Dark-eyed Junco-T (5)          ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (CAMP KLEIN) Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Winter Wren-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T, Purple Finch-SI          ERIE SHORES GOLF COURSE – Green Heron-U, Purple Martin-U (4), Red-headed Woodpecker-U, Alder Flycatcher-U (2), Least Flycatcher-T, Yellow-breasted Chat-U</p>	<p>GIRDLED ROAD RESERVATION – Green Heron-U (2), Sharp-shinned Hawk-SI, Red-shouldered Hawk-U (2), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-E, Blue-headed Vireo-U (3), Purple Martin-SI, Least Flycatcher-U, Brown Creeper-SI, Winter Wren-SI (2), Magnolia Warbler-SI (2), Cerulean Warbler-SC (3), Black-and-White Warbler-U, Canada Warbler-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (5), Bobolink-SC (3 pair), Purple Finch-SI          HELEN HAZEN WYMAN PARK – Green Heron-U, Cerulean Warbler-SC          HELL HOLLOW WILDERNESS AREA – Green Heron-U, Sharp-shinned Hawk-SC, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U (6), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-E, Least Flycatcher-T, Brown Creeper-SI, Winter Wren-SI (3), Hermit Thrush-T (2), Magnolia Warbler-SI (5), Cerulean Warbler-SC (5), Black-and-White Warbler-U (2), Northern Waterthrush-SI, Canada Warbler-SI (2), Dark-eyed Junco-T (26), Purple Finch-SI          HIDDEN VALLEY RESERVATION &amp; RESOURCES CENTER Green Heron-U, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Common Moorhen-SC, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-E, Blue-headed Vireo-U (2), Purple Martin-U, Hermit Thrush-T, Cerulean Warbler-SC (3), Yellow-throated Warbler-Un, Black-throated blue Warbler-SI, Black-and-White Warbler-U, Magnolia Warbler-SI, Northern Waterthrush-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (2), Purple Finch-SI          HOGBACK RIDGE RESERVATION – Sharp-shinned Hawk-SC, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U (2), Least Flycatcher-T, Winter Wren-SI (2), Cerulean Warbler-SC (6), Black-and-White Warbler-U, Magnolia Warbler-SI, Yellow-throated Warbler-U, Dark-eyed Junco-T (7)          HUNTOON ROAD PROPERTY – Magnolia Warbler-SI, Cerulean Warbler-SC, Canada Warbler-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (2)          INDIAN POINT RESERVATION – Green Heron-U, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U, Least Flycatcher-T, Winter Wren-SI (2), Magnolia Warbler-SI, Cerulean Warbler-SC (4), Dark-eyed Junco-T (5)          LAKE FARM PARK – Red-shouldered Hawk-SI,</p>	<p>Kentucky Warbler-U          LAKEFRONT LODGE – Purple Martin-U (2)          LAKESHORE RESERVATION – Least Flycatcher-T, Purple Finch-SI          LAKEVIEW BLUFFS – Spotted Sandpiper-U, Alder Flycatcher-U, Yellow-breasted Chat-U          MASON'S LANDING – Green Heron-U, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Least Flycatcher-T, Prothonotary Warbler-SC, Cerulean Warbler-SC (2), Dark-eyed Junco-T          PAINE FALLS I-90-PAINE ROAD – Sharp-shinned Hawk-SC, Red-shouldered Hawk-U (2), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-E, Blue-headed Vireo-U (4), Winter Wren-SI (2), Hermit Thrush-T, Magnolia Warbler-SI (2), Cerulean Warbler-SC (3), Canada Warbler-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (8), Purple Finch-SI          PENITENTIARY GLEN – Green Heron-U (2), Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U, Winter Wren-SI, Magnolia Warbler-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (3), Bobolink-SC          PINE RIDGE GOLF COURSE – Purple Martin-U (2)          RED MILL MARSH – Green Heron-U          RIVER ROAD PROPERTY – Green Heron-U (2), Hooded Merganser-U, Sharp-shinned Hawk-SC, Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U (3), Purple Martin-U, Brown Creeper-SI, Winter Wren-SI (3), Magnolia Warbler-SI (2), Cerulean Warbler-SC (4), Northern Parula-R, Black-and-White Warbler-U, Northern Waterthrush-SI, Canada Warbler-SI, Dark-eyed Junco-T (7), Purple Finch-SI          RIVERVIEW – Green Heron-U, Blue-headed Vireo-U, Black-and-White Warbler-U, Cerulean Warbler-SC (2), Dark-eyed Junco-T, Purple Finch-SI          CHILDREN'S SCHOOLHOUSE NATURE PARK – Red-shouldered Hawk-U          SOUTH RIDGE – Red-shouldered Hawk-U, Least Flycatcher-T, Dark-eyed Junco-T          VETERAN'S PARK – Green Heron-U, Purple Martin-U (3)</p>
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Surveys and data compilation by  
John Pogacnik

watersheds with an abundance of sycamores. **Pine Warblers** were seen along Scobie Road (CVNP) June 29 (RSH). One was territorial at North Chagrin (KM). **Two Bay-breasted Warblers** lingered at HBSP June 1 (RH). **Blackpoll Warblers** linger commonly along Lake Erie. A bird along the Boston Trail June 5 was exceptional for an inland site (MRe). **Cerulean Warblers** were holding their own in the CVNP (GB, DAC, BR). Birds were also reported from Mill Stream Run (GL) and Hinckley (RSH). **Prothonotary Warblers** nested at traditional sites along the

Upper Cuyahoga. They successfully nested at Sandy Ridge (TF). A pair used a nest jar at Brecksville and yielded positive results. Up to 3 immatures were seen there (LGa, m.obs.). **Ovenbird** numbers were fairly good. **Mourning Warblers** lingered at Fairport Harbor June 2 (JP), Veteran's Park June 4 (JP), Novak Sanctuary June 7 (EE, TLP) and HBSP June 1, 7 & 8 (RH). An early returnee was spied at HBSP Aug. 18 (RH). A **Hooded Warbler** at Rocky River NC July 12 was the most northerly report (BD). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at Shaker Lakes on Aug. 25 (CJo). Lingering

**Canada Warblers** are expected along Lake Erie's migrant traps. However, a bird at HBSP June 17 was very late for the site (RH). Birds at NCR June 1 (KM) and Elmwood Park June 2 (BF, PL) were of local interest. The only summering report of Canada Warbler for the region away from usual Lake County MP sites was from Stebbins Gulch (HP). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Lakeview Bluffs June 16 (JP). Another was at Fawn Pond (CVNP) July 14 (DAC). Jaite hosted at least one vocal bird most of June (m.obs.).

## Spring 2003 Sunday Morning Birdwalk Tallies

Species	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	Total	Species	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	Total
Common Loon	21	8	18	3	1	1	44	N. Flicker	111	97	86	57	29	44	424
Pied-billed Grebe	20	1	1		1		18	Pileated Wood.	17	14	19	12	16	18	96
Horned Grebe	6		1				1	Olive-sided Fly.						1	1
Red-necked Grebe	1	1		49			22	E. Wood-Pewee	6				9	22	37
DC Cormorant	287	364	76	1	37	36	49	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						2	2
Least Bittern				213			26	Acadian Flycatcher						10	20
Great Blue Heron	15	185	196	1	146	203	7	Willow Flycatcher						8	13
Great Egret	1			25	1		2	Least Flycatcher						11	55
Green Heron		6	3		17	17	849	Eastern Phoebe	39	36	27	40	17	24	183
BC Night-Heron	1	2		56	1		1	Great Crested Flycatcher				17	32	55	104
Turkey Vulture	56	108	42	326	78	62	958	Eastern Kingbird		1	1	8	24	32	66
Canada Goose	458	432	409	2	314	264	3	White-eyed Vireo			1	3	2	3	9
Mute Swan		2	3	90		1	68	Yellow-throated Vireo				22	13	19	54
Wood Duck	127	113	136		79	65	4	Blue-headed Vireo		10	11	11	3	15	50
Gadwall	2						402	Warbling Vireo			7	92	71	76	246
A. Black Duck	2		6	118			2203	Philadelphia Vireo				1		8	9
Mallard	180	153	127			87	8	Red-eyed Vireo				15	55	128	199
Bw Teal	4	4	7				610	Blue Jay	197	164	288	176	336	127	1288
N. Shoveler		2					2	American Crow	89	129	116	99	94	104	631
Gw Teal	19	2	1	3			8	Purple Martin			8	10	6	9	33
Ring-necked Duck	53	8	6				795	Tree Swallow	188	394	374	278	280	258	1772
G. Scaup	1						15	N. Rough-winged Swallow	4	43	74	100	79	121	421
L. Scaup	44	9	2	3			2	Bank Swallow		3	4	2	1	8	18
Bufflehead	22	4	5				22	Barn Swallow	2	10	20	38	42	76	188
H. Merganser	12	5	2	1	1	2	70	Black-capped Chickadee	170	137	227	116	68	98	816
C. Merganser	2		3	32			1	Tufted Titmouse	117	102	178	108	53	72	630
Rb Merganser	238	293	333	2	5	1	55	Red-breasted Nuthatch						1	1
Ruddy Duck	33	7	4				34	White-breasted Nuthatch	40	38	48	41	23	31	221
Osprey		2		1	1	1	22	Brown Creeper	24	10	12	10	1	1	58
Bald Eagle				1			6	Carolina Wren	15	17	12	19	9	10	82
Northern Harrier		2	2	3			902	House Wren		2	10	34	33	36	115
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	79	2	5	4	2	47	Winter Wren	12	1	1	2		2	18
Cooper's Hawk	2	13	3	4	6	2	4	Marsh Wren				2			2
Red-shouldered H.	3	14	8	6	5	3	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	65	9	1		1		76
Broad-winged Hawk		88	2	23	7		5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	120	150	157	8	3	448
Red-tailed Hawk	15	23	17		22	15	91	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	102	125	157	109	62	557
Rough-legged Hawk		2		2			31	Eastern Bluebird	52	61	58	31	52	48	302
A. Kestrel	4	13	2			3	37	Veery				6	9	7	22
Merlin	1	1					103	Swainson's Thrush			1		6	15	22
Peregrine Falcon		1					115	Hermit Thrush	2	28	16	10	4		60
Wild Turkey		1	11	3	11	9	2	Wood Thrush		40		18	31	43	132
Sora							24	American Robin	332	282	285	212	164	175	1450
A. Coot	3						2	Gray Catbird	7			85	148	140	380
Sandhill Crane	2			27			1	Northern Mockingbird	3	7	10	2	3	3	28
Killdeer	25	30	29	2	15	16	32	Brown Thrasher		6	7	11	6	3	33
G. Yellowlegs			2	4			3	European Starling	211	209	214	136	209	192	1171
L. Yellowlegs				23			3	American Pipit				1			1
Solitary Sandpiper			6		11	2	2	Cedar Waxwing	5	2	5	4	31	16	63
Willet				17	2		142	Blue-winged Warbler			3	17	20	12	52
Spotted Sandpiper	1	2	5		18	5	4	Golden-winged Warbler				1	1		2
Pectoral Sandpiper		3		1			4	"Brewster's Warbler"				1	1		2
Wilson's Snipe	3			1			42	"Lawrence's Warbler"				1		2	3
A. Woodcock	5						2	Tennessee Warbler				1	10	13	24
Bonaparte's G.	80	21	2	80	11		48	Nashville Warbler			1	48	18	10	77
Ring-billed Gull	93	134	127	9	65	41	3	Northern Parula				7	4	3	14
Herring Gull	36	37	37	1	20	27	4	Yellow Warbler		11	13	121	130	131	406
G. Black-back Gull	2	4	2	5	1	4	6	Chestnut-sided Warbler				9	19	25	53
Caspian Tern	4	28	7		30	1	114	Magnolia Warbler				4	21	29	54
Common Tern				10	1		540	Cape May Warbler					2		2
Forster's Tern		4	1	52	8		166	Black-throated Blue W.				6	11	12	29
Rock Pigeon	18	43	23	106	17	29	14	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	55	76	154	67	33	387
Mourning Dove	82	125	120		92	97	75	Black-throated Green W.		5	2	43	8	21	79
Bb Cuckoo				1		3	1	Blackburnian Warbler				2	2	7	11
Yb Cuckoo					1	4	23	Yellow-throated Warbler		6	7	9	11	5	38
E. Screech-Owl			1	2			182	Pine Warbler	1	6	8	7	2	1	25
GH Owl	1	2	1	1	1	1	622	Prairie Warbler				1	1		2
Barred Owl	1	1	5	24	1	1	3	Palm Warbler		13	23	128	31	6	201
C. Nighthawk				1		11	6	Bay-breasted Warbler					1	9	10
Whip-poor-will				107		2	1	Blackpoll Warbler					1	5	6
Chimney Swift		4	21	10	116	165	8	Cerulean Warbler				9	12	12	33
Rt Hummingbird				14	10	19	10	Black-and-white Warbler				27	10	9	46
Belted Kingfisher	20	23	17	19	19	17	11	American Redstart				4	20	46	70
Rh Woodpecker	6	10	8	110	14	16	3	Prothonotary Warbler				4	6	6	16
Rb Woodpecker	116	173	139	1	79	87	413	Ovenbird				5	11	5	21
Yb Sapsucker	5	7	6	68	2		39	Northern Waterthrush		2	2	9	19	5	37
Downy Woodpecker	123	97	111	13	36	35	110	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	7	5	8	5	7	33
Hairy Woodpecker	14	13	15	57	10	29	73	Connecticut Warbler					1		1

Spring 2003 Sunday Morning Birdwalk Tallies							
Species	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	Total
Mourning Warbler					1	2	3
C. Yellowthroat			3	41	40	46	130
Hooded Warbler				3	23	29	55
Wilson's Warbler					6	12	18
Canada Warbler					3	7	10
Scarlet Tanager				5	28	44	77
Eastern Towhee		48	33	43	22	21	178
A. Tree Sparrow	11	2			1		1215
Chipping Sparrow	9	108	112	88	51	68	8
Field Sparrow	34	31	37	31	17	18	2
Vesper Sparrow	24						27
Savannah Sparrow	2	1	2	16	2	3	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	3			1			36
Fox Sparrow		1					838
Song Sparrow	35	146	177	175	70	107	7
Lincoln's Sparrow	163			3		4	69
Swamp Sparrow		18	11	19	6	6	381
White-throated Sp.	9	102	94	137	14	4	111
White-crowned Sp.	30	10	4	73	17	7	171
Dark-eyed Junco		30	6	10	5	3	1171
Northern Cardinal	117	213	250	184	163	124	158
Rb Grosbeak	237	7	1	58	51	41	101
Indigo Bunting				9	49	43	40
Bobolink				3	40	8	51
Rw Blackbird	342	492	433	368	351	286	2272
Eastern Meadowlark	11	10	35	6	18	16	96
Rusty Blackbird	2	17	34	61			114
Common Grackle	9	432	293	178	173	131	1216
Bh Cowbird	187	313	188	169	143	104	1104
Orchard Oriole				11	12	15	38
Baltimore Oriole				136	206	151	493
Purple Finch	5	4	5	5	2	3	24
House Finch	29	53	32	29	13	21	177
American Goldfinch	306	357	352	396	311	259	1981
Evening Grosbeak						8	8
House Sparrow	94	82	101	100	94	76	547

Data compiled by Ken Gober

**Vesper Sparrows** were widespread in Portage County. The Mantua area provided several sites in soy bean fields (LR). Seven were seen on a Pittsfield BBS route June 8 (RSH). Twelve **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen at the old Coliseum site in the CVNP (NB, FD, DAC, TMR, m.obs.). They were far more numerous at the Ravenna TLS than previously thought (LR, KL). There is so much available habitat for this relatively quiet species; its true occurrence may never be fully known. The 10 **Swamp Sparrows** detected at Streetsboro Bog June 22 were expected (RR). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at HBSP until June 22 (RH). Early southbound migrants were detected there Aug. 30 (RH, LR). **Bobolinks** were widespread and fairly abundant where suitable habitat was available.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**AMERICAN BITTERN** – One was seen at Sandy Ridge Reservation June 6–16 (Fairweather).

**LEAST BITTERN** – A bird was noted at Sandy Ridge Reservation June 6–July 17 (Fairweather). One was at the north end of Chippewa Lake June 17 (Harlan).

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** – This rare breeder was noted only at Sandy Ridge (Fairweather).

**REDHEAD** – An adult male consorted with Mallards at Veteran's Park July 4–13 (Hannikman).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – Three were reported on the GAASSBC (fide Chasar, Vogus). One was seen

**Orchard Orioles** are flourishing and it is assumed they are at an all-time high in abundance. The 7 seen in SW Medina Co. June 21 (RSH) were indicative. Numbers of **Baltimore Oriole** on breeding bird surveys reflected a solid local contingent. **Purple Finches** remain uncommon in the eastern sectors of the region. □

in Brecksville July 11 (Schnell). An immature was seen at Orchard Hills Golf Club in Chesterland Aug. 3 (Petuschke). Nesting sites in Cleveland and Akron continue to produce young. Adena, the Akron female, was shot by an irate pigeon owner in August.

**COMMON MOORHEN** – Nesting sites included Herrick Fen (Byrne, Glatte, m.obs.), Sandy Ridge (Fairweather, Lozano, Finkelstein, m.obs.) and Hidden Valley RC (Pogacnik).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – Sandhills were seen at least four different places in Geauga County. These sites were on either Jug, Clay, or Rapids Roads (Ferris). A pair summered at Sandy Ridge Reservation (Fairweather, mobs.).

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – A bird in breeding plumage was photographed at Burke Airport July 17. Singles were seen there again in late August (White).

**WILLET** – A flock of 16 was seen at Headlands Beach May 7 (Rosche). This report was inadvertently left out of Vol. 99, No. 2.

**WHIMBREL** – Wildlife manager Randy White saw singles at Burke Airport several days in mid-to late July. He again noted a single there the last week of August.

**LAUGHING GULL** – A bird was documented fully at the Hardy Road Landfill in Akron by Doug and Jim Vogus June 20.

**BLACK TERN** – A bird was at Sandy Ridge June 14 (Fairweather).

**BARN OWL** – A pleasant surprise, but not totally unexpected, one was found at the Ravenna TLS June 3 (Rosche, Ludt).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER**

Four were detected on Lake County MP boundary surveys (Pogacnik).

**SEDGE WREN** – Four were reported on the GAASSBC (fide Chasar, Vogus). This impressive total reflected Dinkelbach’s discovery of birds at the old Coliseum site in the CVNP.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**  
Birds were noted at traditional nesting sites at Hinckley Reservation (Harlan) and Chapin Forest (Pogacnik).

**SWAINSON’S THRUSH** – A singing male occupied the brushy understory along the U.S. Coast Guard Road just east of the fisherman’s entrance to Headlands Beach SP June 28–29 (Hannikman). Needless to say, this was one of the few late June records for this species in our annals.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – One was seen in Peninsula June 1 (Roberts). A striking male along the Zimmerman Trail allowed prolonged study Aug. 30 (Rosche, Hannikman).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** – The latest spring sighting for the region was made at Headlands Beach SP June 1 (Hannikman).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – A hike through Stebbin’s Gulch at the Holden Arboretum June 7 yielded a remarkable 3 singing males (Petruschke).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – Two were at Armington Pond (CVNP) June 16 (Bennett). A fall adult male graced Headlands Beach SNP Aug. 31 (Hannikman).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** – On June 9, Brumfield discovered a male vigorously singing at the shelter at Virginia Kendall. As many as two males were found there well into July (Barber, Chasar, m.obs.).

**MOURNING WARBLER** – A territorial male summered at Walborn Reservoir (Morrison). A male was territorial on Munson Township June 28–July 13 (Rosche, Mark Skowronski).

**HENSLOW’S SPARROW** – A male was singing at the Coliseum field June 16 (Zadar). Another male was seen at the Ravenna TLS July 28 (Rosche).

**DICKCISSEL** – The male that provided the first Portage County record in May remained on territory at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site through mid-July (Dr. Courtenay Willis, Ludt, Rosche).

**BREWER’S BLACKBIRD**– A male was well-described in the “Flats” June 15 (Harlan). □

**FIELD NOTES**

**Six Years of Adventure:  
What Lies Ahead?**

*by Ben Winger*

Many birders, especially those that started at a young age, cannot recall when or why they became interested in birds. However, I can remember the defining moment at which the light switched on, or, to put it in other terms, when I was bit by the birding bug. I was on a family trip to Wyoming, and while on a hike in the Grand Tetons, a friend of ours, who happened to be a casual birder, was carrying the *Golden Guide to Birds*. Just out of curiosity, I asked to look at the book. I remember that I opened to the page at the beginning of the sparrows section, which pictures just the heads of every sparrow in North America. I was immediately entranced--all of these small, brown birds looked exactly alike to me, but according to the text, they could be told apart by a trained eye. For the rest of the hike, I made the classic beginning birder mis-



take: I walked with my nose in the book, looking at all of the beautiful and exotic illustrations, rather than paying attention to the wildlife around me. But towards the end of the hike, a bird flashed across the trail and I caught a momentary glimpse of a black and white tail pattern. After leafing through the book, with no knowledge of taxonomy or where to start whatsoever, I finally narrowed it down to one oddly named creature. "A Clark's Nutcracker? What the heck is that?" I didn't know much about the bird with the funny name, but I was hooked. I was twelve when the Clark's Nutcracker crossed my path, or should I say, when I crossed its path; and, six years later, my enthusiasm and excitement for ornithology still grows with every new bird I see, every new piece of knowledge I acquire and every time I step outside to go birding. When I first became interested in birds, I would never have dreamt that I would become so passionately involved in this "hobby." I began a volunteering job cleaning filthy eagle cages at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and worked my way up to presenting live animal programs to the public. I had an insatiable appetite for books about birds, but I soon found that I had to get out and see things for myself. It has been six years, ten states, five mountain ranges and 520 species of birds since my first outing. Birding began for me as an exciting curiosity, but has evolved into a predominant part of my identity and has introduced me to the equally enthralling fields of entomology, botany and ecology. What intrigues me most about birding is that no matter how many times I see a bird, or how many times I visit a local park, there is always something new and interesting to look at. Birding has taught me to

appreciate even the most local woodlots and parks, while at the same time filled me with great excitement and desire to explore the biological diversity of the world.

This fall, I begin college at Cornell University. This "hobby" has already led me to such amazing experiences, including travels in the American West, a 24-hour "Big Day" in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, an unexpected trip to see shorebirds in Alaska, and exposure to a very different aspect of bird studies--long-term research of Tree Swallows at Cornell last summer. Some might think that my enthusi-

*"I would like to thank the members of the Kirtland Bird Club for the support..."*

asm and desire to explore ornithology would be curbed by now, but they couldn't be more wrong. The best way to describe my passion would be to call it a snowballing effect. With each new experience, be it hard-core birding, intensely focused ornithological research, or just a casual stroll through the woods on a spring day, I become more excited and more passionate about birds, ecology and the environment. Now, while on the verge of starting a new part of my life, I am filled with anticipation. It is almost a feeling of not having enough time to do everything I want to. I want to study birds, but I also want to take part in the vast fields of study to which watching birds has introduced me. Will I become focused on conservation

biology, or will I become involved in a more strictly pure-science approach to ecology and evolutionary biology? I am fascinated by the behavioral studies of ravens by Bernd Heinrich and I could see myself becoming immersed in similar projects; but I am also interested in the biogeography of islands, such as Hawaii, New Zealand and Madagascar, and I yearn to visit these places before their one-of-a-kind ecosystems disappear forever. On the other hand, modern evolutionary theory (first introduced to me in, what else, a book about birds) has fascinating and blossoming applications in the study of the origins and nature of the most interesting species of all--humans. There are so many possibilities open to me, and it is amazing to think that all of them stem from that first Clark's Nutcracker.

However, I don't want to be misleading. It was not just the birds that have inspired and encouraged me, it was the birders, also. So many of the readers of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* are members of the Kirtland Bird Club, the embracing group that "took me under its wing" after I showed up with my mom on my first KBC trip in January 1999. I saw six new birds at Eastlake Power Plant that day, including my first Pied-billed Grebe, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull, and Surf Scoter. But more importantly, I met new people that day, who since then have driven me all over the state of Ohio and beyond to search for birds and have become wonderful friends and mentors. I would like to thank the members of the Kirtland Bird Club for the support, encouragement, knowledge and good humor that they have showered upon me and every other young birder that has come through the club. It will be a bless-

## 26th GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER BIRD COUNT--June 13-22, 2003

Common Loon	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	210*	European Starling	1833
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Downy Woodpecker	210	Cedar Waxwing	530
Double-cr Cormorant	32*	Hairy Woodpecker	44	Blue-winged Warbler	64
Least Bittern	1	Northern Flicker	113	Yellow Warbler	534*
Great Blue Heron	421	Pileated Woodpecker	30	Chestnut-sided Warbler	8
Great Egret	1	Eastern Wood Pewee	149	Black-thr. Green Warbler	13
Green Heron	54	Acadian Flycatcher	83	Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Turkey Vulture	181*	Alder Flycatcher	4	Pine Warbler	3
Canada Goose	1591	Willow Flycatcher	87	Prairie Warbler	2
Mute Swan	29*	Eastern Phoebe	71	Cerulean Warbler	31
Trumpeter Swan	7	Great Crested Flycatcher	92	Black & White Warbler	3
Wood Duck	141	Eastern Kingbird	77	American Redstart	34
Mallard	667	White-eyed Vireo	6	Prothonotary Warbler	3
Hooded Merganser	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	20	Ovenbird	33
Osprey	7*	Blue-headed Vireo	8	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Warbling Vireo	125*	Kentucky Warbler	1
Cooper's Hawk	30	Red-eyed Vireo	268	Mourning Warbler	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	20	Blue Jay	603	Common Yellowthroat	286
Broad-winged Hawk	7	American Crow	472	Hooded Warbler	102
Red-tailed Hawk	93*	Horned Lark	10	Yellow-breasted Chat	7
American Kestrel	7	Purple Martin	152	Scarlet Tanager	108
Peregrine Falcon	3	Tree Swallow	241	Eastern Towhee	158
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	138	Chipping Sparrow	320
Wild Turkey	88*	Bank Swallow	161	Field Sparrow	152
N. Bobwhite	2	Barn Swallow	368	Savannah Sparrow	44
Virginia Rail	4	Black-capped Chickadee	491	Grasshopper Sparrow	12
Sora	1	Tufted Titmouse	284	Song Sparrow	922
Killdeer	149	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Swamp Sparrow	59
Spotted Sandpiper	20	White-breasted Nuthatch	142	White-throated Sparrow	4
American Woodcock	4	Brown Creeper	8	Northern Cardinal	995
Ring-billed Gull	62	Carolina Wren	96	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	193*
Herring Gull	9	House Wren	263	Indigo Bunting	288
Rock Dove	222	Sedge Wren	4	Bobolink	139
Mourning Dove	795	Marsh Wren	2	Red-winged Blackbird	1456
Black-billed Cuckoo	8	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	63	Eastern Meadowlark	60
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14	Eastern Bluebird	103	Common Grackle	1192
Eastern Screech Owl	6	Veery	39	Brown-headed Cowbird	477
Great Horned Owl	8	Hermit Thrush	2	Orchard Oriole	33*
Barred Owl	9	Wood Thrush	141	Baltimore Oriole	319
Common Nighthawk	11	American Robin	2082	Purple Finch	9
Chimney Swift	515	Gray Catbird	704*	House Finch	394
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	60	N. Mockingbird	2	American Goldfinch	1135*
Belted Kingfisher	53	Brown Thrasher	20	House Sparrow	1277
Red-headed Woodpecker	6				

Total Species= 130 (A Record)  
 "Total Birds=25,036"  
 Total Party Hours= 317

\* = record high for that species

Compiled by Ann Chasar and Doug Vogus

ing if one day I have those wonderful qualities to share with a curious young birder. I also must thank Robin Craig, the friend who inadvertently and unintentionally introduced me to birds and bought me my first field guide after I showed the slightest interest. Although I'm sure my life would have been just fine had I never stumbled upon birds, in retrospect, it is hard not to say, "Where would I be? How could I have lived?" Thank you to all who had anything

to do with the chance encounter, and to those who later mentored and encouraged me. I hope to stay in close touch and to always be able to return from any adventure or travel to join the club on spring walks to Shaker Lakes, the birding place that feels most like "home." After a spell of day dreaming in which I consider all of the career options I listed above and more, I am somehow brought back to the present, when I realize that I don't have to decide now. The best way

to go about deciding is to just continue what I have done for the past six years: follow my interests and my passions to wherever they take me. I think that so far, such an approach has certainly served me well. Where my interests will take me in the long run, I can't say. But I am certainly excited.



## Late Hermit Thrush Nest by Dwight and Ann Chasar

We found an active Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* nest on August 3rd at the Ritchie Ledges, CVNP. The nest was at the top edge of a huge boulder about 15 ft. high tucked into Common Polypody *Polypodium virginianum*. Both adults fed the three young thrushes. A visit on the 5th indicated that the three active young were in fine shape and would soon fledge. They were gone from the intact nest by the 7th, suggesting that the young had successfully fledged. Timing would suggest that the eggs had hatched about July 25th and had been laid around July 10-12th.

The latest nest we have on record for this area, coincidentally on the same boulder, was July 30, 2002, when the nest was destroyed in a storm (*Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 98, 2002, p. 41). The calculated egg dates for that nest were July 10-13th. Of the previous 10 nests that we were aware of over the last four years, nine had calculated egg dates from late April to the end of June. Thus, with these July egg

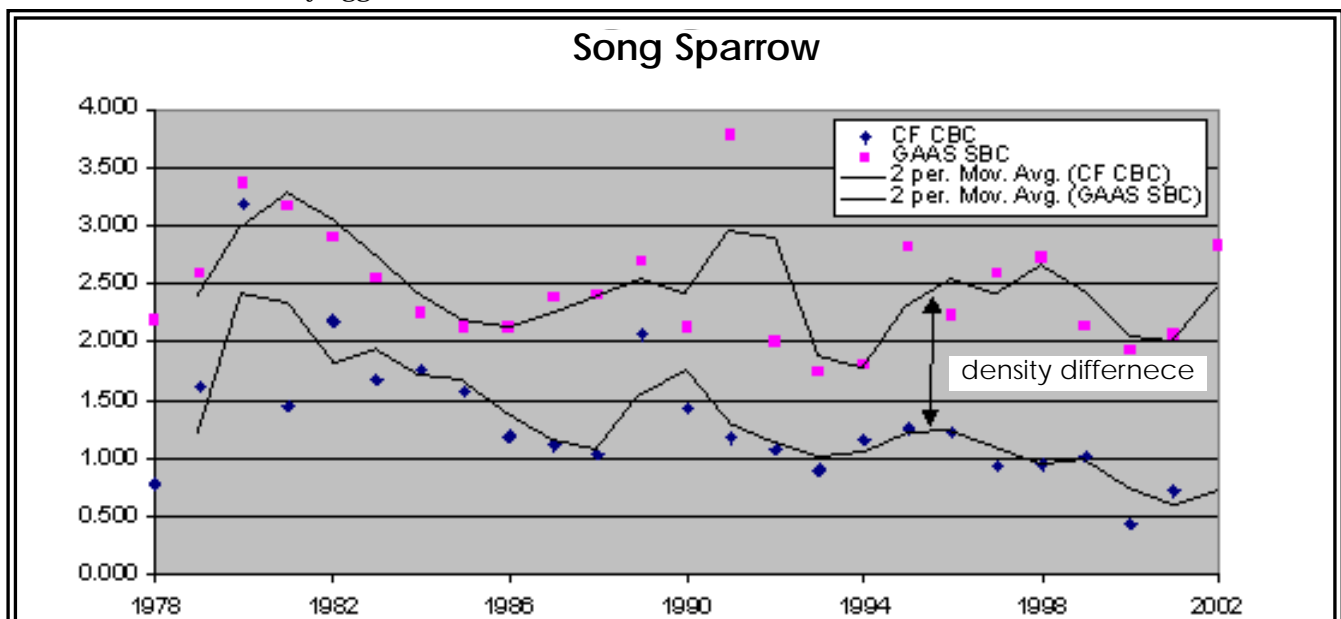
dates, we feel that we are accumulating circumstantial evidence that second brooding of Hermit Thrush does occur in Ohio. There appears to be no documented record of later nesting Hermit Thrush in Ohio.

This year's nest was easily retrievable and was examined for identification of nesting material. While the base contained leaves, twigs and moss, the lining consisted entirely of the stems that hold the samara (seeds) of the Red Maple *Acer rubrum*. (Thanks to Phil Meriac and Chuck Thomas for help in identification.) Approximately 2200 were used. Red Maple was present in the vicinity of the nest. We were not able to find any specific reference that identified this material being used for nest lining by the Hermit Thrush. These samara stems superficially resemble pine needles that have been often reported used by the Hermit Thrush, but no pine trees were near the nesting area.

## Song Sparrow Population Status in Summit County by Dwight Chasar

The Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit Co summer bird counts (GAASSBC) and the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas bird counts (CBC) substantially census the same area of the county. In past articles I compared the last 25 years of data from the two censuses for population trends for some year-round resident birds. The trend data agreed well for Red-bellied Woodpecker (Chasar 2003a) whose population has been growing rapidly and for eight other common resident birds (Chasar 2003b) whose populations appear to be relatively constant. For all these birds the CBC showed a higher density (birds/party hour) than the SBC and possible reasons for this were addressed.

Although the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) is classified as a permanent resident in Ohio, it undergoes a definite migration in the spring and fall, where the last fall lakefront migrants depart by



mid-November (Peterjohn 2001). To complicate the issue, it was estimated that approximately 50% of the wintering population around Columbus were visitors from north of Ohio (Nice 1937). Without question the “Silver-tongue” (Dawson 1903) could be the ultimate test species for which to compare population trends between the two counts.

When I look at population trend data I use various methods to see how they compare or how the trends can best be presented. Sometimes a straight trend line or a smoothed curve can be more demonstrative. For the Song Sparrow I used a two-year moving average to compare the data. In a two-year moving average, the density (birds/party hr) is averaged for year one and two, for two and three, for three and four, and so on. This method tends to smooth out the year to year fluctuations and can sometimes better reveal subtle changes in a trend.

The accompanying graph shows plots of Song Sparrow density vs. year, using the two-year moving average for each of the two different county censuses. It is clear that the density is highest for the summer bird count, contrary to that found for the other resident birds discussed earlier. This is logical since many Song Sparrows migrate out of the area for the winter. More interestingly, however, is that the two trend lines tend to fluctuate up and down in nearly a parallel fashion. A change in density as a result of some factor that increases or decreases the population can be observed in both counts. When I looked at the straight-line trend for both sets of data, both were slightly down, contrary to the state-wide Breeding Bird Survey (Earnst 1996) which indicates a

slight overall increase. It would appear that the two censuses in Summit Co are very consistent with one another.

Chasar, D. 2003a. *Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 99(1):13.  
 Chasar, D. 2003b. *Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 99(2): 33.  
 Dawson, W.L. 1903. *The Birds of Ohio*. The Wheaton Publ. Co., Columbus, OH.  
 Earnst, S.L. and Andres, B.A. 1996. *Population Trends of Breeding Birds of Ohio*. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, p. 103.  
 Nice, M.M. 1937. *Studies of the Life History of the Song Sparrow*. Vol. 1. Trans. Linnaean Soc. New York, Vol. 4. 246pp.  
 Peterjohn, B.G. 2001. *The Birds of Ohio*. The Wooster Book Co, Wooster, OH.

## Juncos Indoors - Again by Dick Rickard

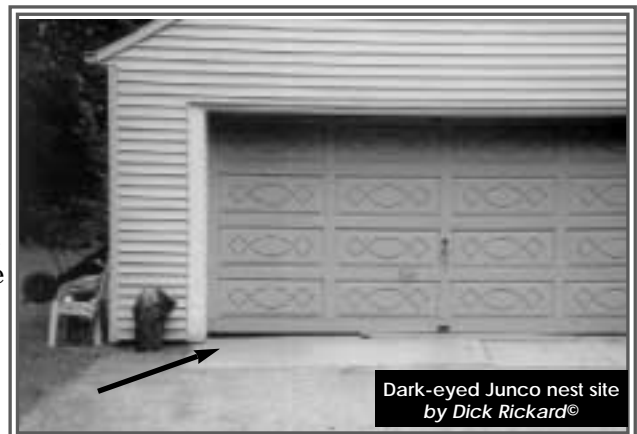
After the successful fledging of two young juncos described in “Juncos Indoors” (Rickard, 2003), my grandson Sam and his mother commented on the activity of adult juncos for several days around their house, including visits in their garage. Also, young birds were audibly begging for food. During those days, Sam brought the nest in the Christmas tree stand over to show me, then replaced it in its original spot. We all assumed that the juncos had had enough of nesting in a noisy garage.

To everyone’s surprise, on June 7 Sam found an egg in the nest. By evening on the following day, a second egg appeared. When my daughter closed the garage door for the night, no adult bird was on the nest. On the 9th, because nobody would be at home during the morning, she lowered the garage door to within a foot of the pavement. When she left at 8:15 a.m., there were the same two eggs; but on her return at about 1:00 p.m., she found an

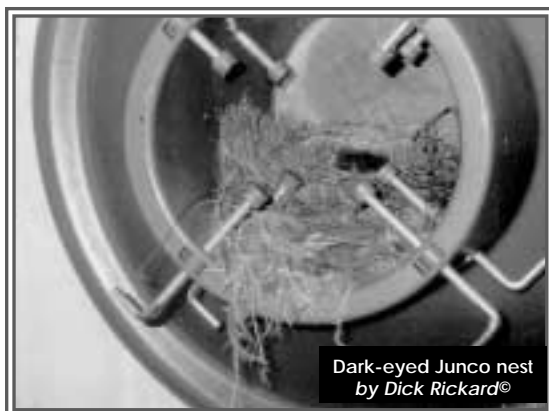
adult on the nest. At 2:30, there were 3 eggs; on the following day, June 10, 4 eggs were in the nest.

For the following 2 to 3 days, the adult birds were active around the nest, but by the 13th, they had settled down to constant incubation. On June 21, Sam phoned me about 8:45 p.m. to announce that 3 eggs had hatched. The 4th must have hatched shortly after, but we did not have a clear view of the 4 young until the 24th. Brooding proceeded normally until the 29th when one baby was found dead beneath the nest. The rest developed normally through July 3. On the 4th, the nest was empty.

At this point, we all breathed a sigh of relief. My daughter no longer had to share the garage. The juncos (assuming the same pair raised both broods) had fulfilled their duty to fledge two broods, and I settled down to write this article. I checked the nest’s location and found it actually was 5.5 feet above the garage floor and 13.5 feet from the garage entrance. However, there remained two unanticipated questions to consider: Why, unlike the first brood, did the second disappear or remain silent after they left the nest, and why did the adults, having finished their seasonal obligation, spend so much time still flying in and out of the garage?



Dark-eyed Junco nest site  
by Dick Rickard©



About the time I finished the introductory paragraphs of this account, I received an answer to the second question. On the morning of July 12, Sam phoned to say there was an egg in the nest. By midafternoon on the 13th, there were 2; and a third appeared the next morning. Starting on the 15th, checking the nest's contents became difficult because the female was always on the nest. Though the 4th egg probably was laid on the 15th, we did not see it until the 17th.

Incubation proceeded normally until July 23 when my daughter and her family left for a short holiday, closing the garage door. Fortunately, as I had hoped, the adult birds found a 3 to 4 inch gap between the door and the cement floor sufficient for access. I visited the nest daily and observed the female flitting through the gap on the 24th.



When Sam checked the nest about 1 p.m. on the 26th, three eggs had hatched. Our next clear look at the nest's contents came on the 30th; four young were there. On August 7, they were still there; on the 8th, they were all gone. During the following days, my daughter was relieved not to have adult juncos visit-

ing the garage. As had been true with the 2nd nesting, there was no sign of the fledged juveniles.

Again, as after the first brood's fledging, I was left with questions. Did the young of the 2nd and 3rd broods simply leave the area when they fledged, or did their silence betoken an accident? The first brood stayed near the garage for several days, calling for food. Also, was the desirability of the Christmas tree stand nest site enhanced by the wood-pile just beneath? Further, was that desirability increased when the baby lost from the second brood led my daughter to pad the wood-pile with old drop cloths? Nobody can answer these queries definitively. There are other questions, too, that can't be answered but do lead to serious thought about junco behavior. Does our birds' ready acceptance of the 4-inch gap below the garage door simply demonstrate the power of the bond between adult birds and their young, or do juncos have a much broader definition of a suitable nest site than we have assumed?

After all, the birds saw that the garage door would be closed for part of each day when they were selecting the site and starting construction.

Most important, why were there 3 broods in the same nest? I have seen no reference to a triple brooded junco pair or to the re-use of a junco nest by other juncos. Because females take the lead in nest building (Bent 1968), I have to believe that a single female laid all three clutches in this garage nest. If her mate died or was replaced for any reason, she theoretically could continue using the same nest. However, a new male would have his own territory which certainly would differ to some extent from his predecessor's. Therefore, I have to conclude that the 3 broods were raised by the same pair of adults. The fact that there were 3 broods must be simply another example of birds' ability to vary from the norms that we expect of them.

Bent, A.C. 1968. *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies, Part 2*. Dover Publications Inc., New York, NY.  
 Farkas, Samuel H. 2003. Personal Communications.  
 Rickard, Dick. 2003. "Juncos Indoors." *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 99(2): 32.

## BIRDS OF CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PRESERVES

*Bob Finkelstein*

One of the many programs of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) is one that establishes nature preserves with land the Museum has obtained. This program is managed by Dr. James K. Bissell, who is Coordinator of Natural Areas, as well as Curator of Botany. In 1955 the Museum began acquiring and preserving land that best represents the broad

spectrum of biodiversity found within northern Ohio. To date CMNH has more than 3400 acres in nature preserves.

I feel fortunate to have been allowed to tramp over a number of these preserves during the past 10 years or so in search of birds that I assumed and hoped were nesting species. In June and part of July of this year, 2003, I surveyed several preserves: the Cash Tract and Nye Woods, both in Ashtabula County

<b>BIRD SURVEY OF SEVERAL CMNH PRESERVES—2003</b>			
Preserve	Cash	Nye	K. Fen
Date	6/6-25	7/10	7/14-16
Great Blue Heron	2	•	2
Green Heron	1	•	•
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	1
Wild Turkey	•	1	•
Y.-billed Cuckoo	1	•	•
Barred Owl	1	•	•
Rt Hummingbird	2	•	1
Red-bellied Wp	1	•	•
Downy Wp	1	1	2
Hairy Wp	1	•	•
Northern Flicker	•	•	1
Pileated Wp	1	1	•
E. Wood-Pewee	1	2	1
Acadian Flyc.	3	1	•
Eastern Phoebe	1	1	•
Great Crested Fly.	1	•	2
Eastern Kingbird	1	•	2
Warbling Vireo	1	•	•
Red-eyed Vireo	8	6	•
Blue Jay	2	1	•
American Crow	4	1	•
N. Rw Swallow	2	•	•
Barn Swallow	•	1	•
Bc Chickadee	•	2	3
Tufted Titmouse	4	1	2
Wb Nuthatch	1	2	1
Bg Gnatcatcher	2	•	•
Eastern Bluebird	•	4	•
Veery	•	1	1
Wood Thrush	1	•	•
American Robin	•	•	2
Gray Catbird	•	1	5
Cedar Waxwing	2	•	•
Bt Green Warbler	2	•	•
Ovenbird	•	4	•
C. Yellowthroat	•	2	5
Hooded Warbler	4	1	•
Scarlet Tanager	2	2	•
Song Sparrow	3	2	3
Northern Cardinal	1	1	2
Rb Grosbeak	2	3	•
Indigo Bunting	2	2	•
Common Grackle	•	•	3
Bh Cowbird	4	•	•
Baltimore Oriole	2	•	3
House Finch	4	•	•
A. Goldfinch	2	1	3
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>

and Koelliker Fen in Geauga County. These three preserves represent three distinct habitat types found in northern Ohio. On two of the surveys of the Cash Tract and the survey of Nye Woods, I was helped a great deal by the clear hearing and sharp eyes of Paula Lozano. On one of the surveys of Koelliker Fen, Ben Winger and Paula both agreed to come along. Nothing that flies, sings or calls escapes Ben's attention.

A short description of the method I used in these surveys may answer a few questions about the origin of the numbers in the table that follows the text. Except for Nye Woods, each site was surveyed at least twice using a method I will call "random wandering." All of the birds I mention in the text can be found in the table, and for a given species at one of the preserves, the number recorded in the table is the maximum number of birds of that species identified on a single survey of the preserve.

The Cash Tract is in a gorge of the Grand River and is about 46.5 acres in area (Boronka, pers. comm.); the forest cover is a northern hardwood-hemlock association (Bissell, pers. comm.). The tract consists of a narrow flood plain along the river and an upland or terraced area beyond the flood plain. The upland area is transected by several steep-sided ravines that carry seasonal streams (Bissell, pers. comm.) that drain into the Grand River. Stands of hemlock occur in the upland area, and it is here that the two singing Black-throated Green Warblers were found. Acadian Flycatchers were found in areas adjacent to the ravines, and Hooded Warblers were found in both areas. I was disappointed not to find a single Louisiana Waterthrush in the

ravines and was puzzled by the absence of Black-capped Chickadees, but the Barred Owl was certainly a plus.

Nye Woods is mostly swamp forest (Bissell, pers. comm.), though it was not very wet in July. The most frequent warblers were Ovenbirds followed by Common Yellowthroats. The Bluebirds were unexpected but were along the edge of the road across from the preserve and could have nested around the edges of the preserve. Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in approximately equal numbers in both the Cash Tract and Nye Woods. The Wild Turkey was hidden in a field bordering on Nye Wood, and when we disturbed the turkey (tom or hen), it ran into the woods.

Koelliker Fen is an alkaline wetland of 13.6 acres located in Geauga County. Red Maples and Ironwood grow around the fen, and I observed that the fen itself is covered in places with thick stands of willows and other woody plants that I could not identify. There are also areas in the fen that are fairly open, and some areas that contain cattails and other unidentified, emergent vegetation. Unfortunately, the cattails are not the native species, but rather the invasive, narrow-leaved species. The predominant birds of the fen were Common Yellowthroats and Gray Catbirds, though several other species were not far behind in numbers. Even though we found only one Veery, it was a good find. □

**Correction:** The photo of an American Woodcock on page 23 in Volume 99 # 2 should be attributed to Paula Lozano.

# Behind the Bird Calendar

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Randolph White (RW)  
Ben Winger (BW)  
Scott Wright (SWr)  
Russ Young (RY)  
Sean Zadar (SZ)

# CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lorain Harbor</li> <li>2. Findley State Park &amp; Wellington Reservoir</li> <li>3. Portage Lakes</li> <li>4. Mogadore Reservoir</li> <li>5. West Branch State Park</li> <li>6. Lake Rockwell*</li> <li>7. LaDue Reservoir*</li> <li>8. Cuyahoga Valley National Park</li> <li>9. Bedford Reservation</li> <li>10. Brecksville Reservation</li> <li>11. Lake Isaac &amp; Mill Stream Run</li> <li>12. Rocky River Reservation</li> <li>13. Avon Lake Power Plant</li> <li>14. Edgewater Park &amp; Perkins Beach (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)</li> <li>15. Burke Airport</li> <li>16. East 72nd St. Marina &amp; Gordon Park (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)</li> <li>17. Villa Angela &amp; Wildwood Yacht Basin (Cleveland Lakefront State Park)</li> <li>18. Sims Park</li> <li>19. Eastlake Power Plant</li> <li>20. Mentor Marsh and Lagoons</li> <li>21. Headlands Beach State Park</li> <li>22. Lakeshore Metropark</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Headwaters Park</li> <li>24. Lake Medina</li> <li>25. North Chagrin Reservation</li> <li>26. Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve</li> <li>27. Hinckley Reservation</li> <li>28. Mill Stream Run Reservation</li> <li>29. Shaker Lakes</li> <li>30. Lakeview Cemetery</li> <li>31. Berlin Reservoir</li> <li>32. Happy Days (CVNP)</li> <li>33. Big Creek Metropark</li> <li>34. Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area</li> <li>35. Oberlin Reservoir</li> <li>36. Rocky River Park</li> <li>37. Seiberling Naturealm</li> <li>38. Sandy Ridge Metropark</li> <li>39. Holden Arboretum*</li> <li>40. Streetsboro Bog-Gott Fen*</li> </ol> <p>*Restricted/limited access</p> |
|--|--|

