

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

September, October, November 2003

Volume 99 Number 4

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:

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

Seasonal report forms available at:

www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/default1.htm

Click to Download a Quarterly Reporting Form (PDF Form)

Cover design: American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
by Jennifer Brumfield, 2002

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Fanny Dale, Linda Fehling, Anthony Hess, Dick & Jean Hoffman, Brenda Kovalsky, Andrew Lihani, Jim & Merry McConnor, Leonard & Jeanette Reeve and Bill & Ann Toneff for their generosity toward the publication of Volume 99.

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

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 556-0700. This number was updated in 2003. 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.

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.

Changes of Address: Contact Susan Chase at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (216) 231-4600, ext. 3286.

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

September, October, November 2003
Volume 99 Number 4

The Cleveland Bird Calendar



ON THE INSIDE:

The Weather

by Dwight Chasar

Autumn 2003

Noteworthy Records

by Larry Rosche

Field Notes

Notes on Late Summer Bird Song

Decline in NE Ohio

by Kevin Metcalf

My Sweetest Day Present

by Cathy Priebe

Unusual Courtship/Copulation

Behavior of Broad-winged Hawks

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

A Great Horned Owl

by Carl Sadowski, age 11

Next Issue:

Volume 100!

Christmas Bird Count Summaries

Rufous Hummingbirds in Winter!

AUTUMN 2003 WEATHER

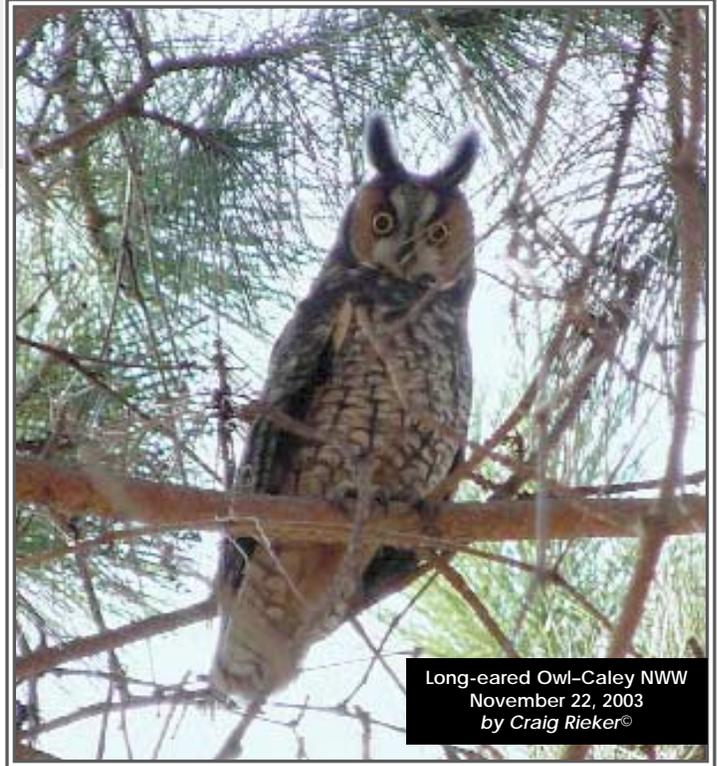
by Dwight Chasar

SEPTEMBER:

Temperatures averaged 63.7°, .4° above normal. The high was 84° on the 14th and the low was 42° on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 60% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 14 days and totaled 6.02 in., 2.25 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.78 in. on the 26-27th. Lake Erie was 74° on the 1st and eased down to 64° by the 30th.

OCTOBER: Temperatures averaged 51.4°, .8° below normal. The highest temperature was 79° on the 8th and the lowest was 33° on the 3rd. Sunshine occurred only 55% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 13 days and totaled 2.87 in., .14 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was .77 in. on the 25-26th. Lake Erie cooled to 54° by the 31st.

NOVEMBER: Temperatures averaged 47.8°, 6.0° above normal. The highest temperature was 79° on the 4th and the lowest was 23° on the 10th. Sunshine occurred a meager 33% of the time possi-



Long-eared Owl—Caley NWW
November 22, 2003
by Craig Rieker©

ble. Occurring over 14 days, rain totaled 3.68 in., .30 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.12 in. on the 28-29th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to 47° by the end of the month. □

THE SEASON

A **Snow Goose** was in Sharon Center Oct. 8 (EN). The 37 (32 white, 5 blue) at Walborn Reservoir Nov. 16 was an excellent tally (BMo). One was seen over Lake Co. Nov. 23 (GL). Numerous **Mute Swans** continue to clutter up the Akron

Lakes and nearby reservoirs (m.obs.). **Tundra Swans** moved well in early November. The evenings of Nov. 4-6 seemed to provide the most reports. Because most birds were noticed after dark, it was difficult to assess the actual movement. Of Nov. 6, Klaus penned, "This was a perfect Tundra Swan day--the kind of day on which I usually see Tundra Swans migrating



Ruddy Duck—Sandy Ridge Res.
October 11, 2003
by Delores Cole©

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

The 2002-2003 *Bird Calendar* year was very interesting. One has to wonder how many species we would have had if there were any decent shorebird sites along Lake Erie. The 278 species reported for the year were 2 fewer than the yearly average for the past 14 years. However, it must be considered a significant year, for the missing birds included regulars such as Brant, American Golden-Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Snowy Owl, Summer Tanager and Le Conte's Sparrow. Other noteworthy misses were Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Red Knot, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes. Imagine a *Bird Calendar* with no Franklin's Gull or Summer Tanager for an entire year!

As usual, the fall season brought many good birds. It is hard to predict which birds will show, but certainly the highlight for Ray and me had to be the Swainson's Hawk that lazily flew over us in Fairport Harbor. Readers will certainly enjoy the accounts of the Rufous Hummingbirds that provided new Lorain and Summit County records. Who would have ever guessed that a Common Eider would again appear in the region?

Doesn't bird watching always tantalize us with its unpredictability and many surprises?

southward. It was about 48°F and spitting rain with a low ceiling when I saw (and, naturally, heard) from my house, 65 Tundra Swans in two large 'Vees.' They veered toward Corning Lake at Holden Arboretum and may have landed there. I heard lots of Tundra Swans going over between 9 and 10 PM tonight. They seemed to be going in a easterly direction." Twenty swans were at Walborn Nov. 5 (BMo). From all the reports, many passed over those nights and were distributed widely throughout the region.

The duck migration was generally poor throughout the region. This was particularly true for Shaker Lakes (LD). However, Sandy Ridge Reservation continues to be the premier stopover spot for a variety of waterfowl. No one can doubt the success of this fine mitigation project by Lorain County Metroparks. No other site in the region offers bird watchers opportunities to easily study fair numbers of puddle and diving ducks like Sandy Ridge. **Wood Ducks** staged nicely at Lake Rockwell and at Station Road (CVNP) in early October. A drake lingered in Twin Lake Nov. 29 (LR).

Two more dawdled in Bath the same day (GBE). Four lingered through the end of the period at North Chagrin (KM). Few **Blue-winged Teal** were reported away from Sandy Ridge. A flock of 7 was at HBSP Sep. 25-28 (RH). Three were tardy at Herrick Fen Oct. 24 (GB, CG). A few **Northern Shovelers** were reported from Akron Lakes, HBSP, North Chagrin, Sandy Ridge and Veteran's Park (m.obs.). **Northern Pintails** provided regional excitement at several sites. Pintails were at HBSP Sep 28 (3) (RH); Oct. 15 (18) (KM) and Oct. 23 (6) (KM, LR). Sandy Ridge hosted 20+ birds in Oct.-Nov. (TF, m.obs.). Four were at Wellington Nov. 5 (SS). The top count of **Green-winged Teal** was 53 at Lake Rockwell Nov. 22 (LR, VW). Counts reached to 16 at Sandy Ridge (m.obs.). Wellington produced the only decent count of **Redheads** (28) Nov. 5 (SS). The high tallies for **Ring-necked Ducks** were Lake George (450+) Nov. 9 and Crystal Lake (Summit Co.) (250+) Nov. 10 (LR). An early **Greater Scaup** was an excellent find off Rocky River Reservation Sep. 9 (BD). **Lesser Scaups** were hard to find along the Lake. The high count was a mere 60 at HBSP Nov. 8 (RH). Inland the

high was a paltry 15 at Elm Lake in Streetsboro (CH). **Surf Scoters** again made news--mostly on the West Side (see table). A bird was at E. 55th St.

West Side Scoter Tallies Fall 2003

	10/31	11/4	11/5	11/6	11/8	11/15	11/18	11/20	11/23
Surf	5	•	6	13	13	13	5	18	8
White-winged	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black	•	•	•	5	9	9	•	3	3
Scoter species	•	6	18	•	•	•	•	•	•

Data provided by Paula Lozano, Bob Finkelstein and Tom LePage

Selected Data Collected During Weekly Surveys from Boston to Red Lock (CVNP)

DATE	9.03	9.13	9.18	9.25	10.02	10.09	10.16	10.23	10.30	11.06	11.20
Chimney Swift	13	4	21	•	•	6	•	•	•	•	•
Northern Flicker	7	4	2	2	7	2	7	3	2	•	4
Tufted Titmouse	6	2	4	1	•	9	•	3	2	5	3
Carolina Wren	1	4	1	7	5	5	5	6	1	2	5
Eastern Bluebird	10	6	3	15	24	29	40	22	19	14	7
American Robin	17	9	11	32	10	6	18	36	41	46	5
European Starling	11	10	14	5	42	37	28	22	279	28	9
Cedar Waxwing	45	37	5	3	•	5	65	36	19	6	•
Yellow-rumped W.	•	•	2	2	5	54	60	24	15	•	1
Chipping Sparrow	5	1	•	•	•	•	•	3	•	1	•
Song Sparrow	1	6	2	5	•	3	8	8	2	4	4
Swamp Sparrow	•	•	•	3	6	4	22	5	1	•	•
Northern Cardinal	7	12	12	8	5	13	6	12	2	8	10
Red-winged Blackbird	•	•	1	1	•	10	22	11	40	18	•
American Goldfinch	12	15	11	5	3	8	2	1	13	19	40

Mary Reinthal (Party members included Annette Webb, Marilyn & Gary Diefendorff, Wilbur McQueen, Hedy Jones, Sue Chester, Amy Macak, Winnie Kennedy, Wayne Crouse, Hope Orr and Lois Eckert.)

Marina Nov. 2-4 (SZ, GL). Another was at Fairport Harbor Nov. 22 & 27 (ESc, KM). Another Nov. sighting of 11 birds came from Lorain (DS). The only inland Surf Scoter report was from Lower Bear Lake at Beartown Lakes Nov. 14 (TGi). The only report of **White-winged Scoter** was from Bradstreet Landing Nov. 5 (TLP, PL). A **Black Scoter** was a good find at Mentor Beach Park Nov. 18 (JMc). The last 2 seen at Rocky River were on Nov. 28 (DS). The 39 **Buffleheads** at Lake George Nov. 9 was a good inland total (LR). **Common Goldeneyes** were extremely scarce. The only reports from HBSP were Nov. 8 & 9. Five were seen at the Akron Lakes Nov. 10 (GBe). The high count of **Hooded Mergansers** was (300+) at LaDue Nov. 22 (EE, KT). **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers swelled to well beyond the 15, 000 at Eastlake in late Nov. Another 10,000+ were at Avon Lake Nov. 9 (BD). **Ruddy Ducks** were as expected. High counts (300±) were from the traditional Ruddy Duck havens at Wellington and Mogadore.

Ring-necked Pheasant reports are always welcome. The 7 at Brandywine Golf Course, Peninsula, during September were quite a surprise (GSC). A male was seen at Wellington Nov. 5 (SS). **Wild Turkeys** have become so widespread they barely receive mention. A bird at Avon Lake Nov. 11 was surely a shock to the densely populated neighborhood (BD).

Loons were mostly disappointing at well-monitored sites. The best count from Lakeshore MP was 89 on Nov. 8 (JP). A dozen were tallied off Avon Lake Nov. 16 (BD). The high count for HBSP was a mere 13 Nov. 30 (RH). LaDue hosted 10-15 during Nov. (m.obs.). The Akron Lakes provided refuge for fair numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes**. Nimisila Reservoir hosted 20 Oct.

Comments on September 13, 2003 CVNP Census

You couldn't argue with the weather. It was beautiful. But each of us was asking, "Where were the birds?" Most of us were not seeing many species. At lunch, I reported that we had collectively seen 90 species, fairly normal for the fall census. However, I had missed 4 species on the list, so that meant 94 species in the morning. Not bad.

Several of us went to the old Coliseum site in the afternoon. While this did not add new species, it helped with Savannah Sparrow numbers. Ann and I went to Jaite in the evening to watch for migrating Common Nighthawks and came away with a flock of 11 at 7:20 pm and a second kestrel. The Tanquist party, which covered the boy scout camps, later reported a Wilson's Warbler and an Osprey. So the total of 97 species was third best for the fall census, next 103 and 101 (twice). By the way, there were 44 participants, highest ever for a fall census.

Some notable observations for a fall census were the second Bald Eagle; fourth Osprey in past five years; second Rusty Blackbirds in 14 years; second consecutive year for Common Nighthawks; Chimney Swifts at an all-time high; only the second time since 1991 Brown Creeper was missed. The following had lower than average numbers: Mallards, gulls, Rock Pigeons, American Crows, Black-capped Chickadees and Common Grackles.

Dwight Chasar
Volunteer, CVNP

September 13, 2003 CVNP Fall Bird Census Summary

Canada Goose	147	Willow Flycatcher	1	Black-and-white Warbler	6
Wood Duck	98	Eastern Phoebe	47	American Redstart	4
Mallard	27	Great Crested Flycatcher	4	Common Yellowthroat	22
Turkey	21	Eastern Kingbird	2	Hooded Warbler	6
Great Blue Heron	20	Yellow-throated Vireo	6	Wilson's Warbler	1
Green Heron	7	Warbling Vireo	20	Scarlet Tanager	16
Turkey Vulture	43	Philadelphia Vireo	1	Eastern Towhee	16
Osprey	1	Red-eyed Vireo	18	Chipping Sparrow	57
Bald Eagle	1	Blue Jay	339	Field Sparrow	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	American Crow	129	Savannah Sparrow	5
Cooper's Hawk	6	Black-capped Chickadee	193	Song Sparrow	65
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	Tufted Titmouse	62	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Swamp Sparrow	2
Red-tailed Hawk	16	White-breasted Nuthatch	17	Northern Cardinal	141
American Kestrel	2	Carolina Wren	29	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Killdeer	23	House Wren	17	Indigo Bunting	16
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	Red-winged Blackbird	78
Ring-billed Gull	2	Eastern Bluebird	35	Rusty Blackbird	2
Rock Pigeon	8	Swainson's Thrush	11	Common Grackle	120
Mourning Dove	122	Wood Thrush	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	American Robin	381	Baltimore Oriole	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Gray Catbird	119	Purple Finch	1
Great Horned Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	1	House Finch	66
Barred Owl	1	European Starling	579	American Goldfinch	402
Common Nighthawk	11	Cedar Waxwing	334	House Sparrow	92
Chimney Swift	410	Blue-winged Warbler	2		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	Nashville Warbler	2	PARTICIPANTS	44
Belted Kingfisher	22	Yellow Warbler	6	TEMPERATURE	67°-80°
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	WEATHER	SUN
Red-bellied Woodpecker	73	Magnolia Warbler	35	TOTAL SPECIES	97
Downy Woodpecker	70	Cape May Warbler	3	ORGANIZER	DWIGHT CHASAR
Hairy Woodpecker	12	Black-throated Blue Warbler	3		
Northern Flicker	61	Black-throated Green Warbler	8		
Pileated Woodpecker	15	Blackburnian Warbler	3		
Eastern Wood Pewee	15	Blackpoll Warbler	1		

22 (RSH). On Nov. 30, 58 were tallied on a survey of the many lakes in the Akron area (GBE). **Horned Grebes** were virtually absent this fall. The only substantial counts were from Bradstreet Landing Nov. 18 & 23 (25) (PL), Rocky River Park Nov. 24 (38) (PL, BF) and again at Rocky River Nov. 26 (77) (BWh, TS). The inland high tally was a meager 3 at LaDue in late Nov. (JHe, KT, CG, GB). **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to dominate the lakefront shoreline. Three **Great Egrets** were seen at Ira Road Sep. 8 (TMR, m.obs.). On Oct. 22, late **Green Herons** were seen at two sites in Twinsburg (SST, LR) and Portage Lakes (GBE). One at Station

Road Oct. 8 only had one wing (DAC). Few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported. One was in the "Flats" Sep. 19 (SBC). Four were



at Shaker Lakes Sep. 26 (LD). Two were seen at Dike 14 Nov. 4 (GL). Two immatures were by Aviation High School Nov. 9. (PL, LE). The phenomenon of late **Turkey Vultures** has increased markedly in the past decade and should not be a surprise to observers. One was in Solon Nov. 23 (DJo). Two remained in the Valley City area throughout the period (FG). A group of 75 rose simultaneously into the air over Sanitation Pond (CVNP) the morning of Oct. 12 (DAC).

An **Osprey** was in Kirtland Sep. 4 (HP). Shaker Lakes had one the same day (LD). Jaite provided

Comment on Autumn-2003 at Headland Beach State Park

With the exception of HSBP and the Cleveland region's first Swainson's Hawk, fall 2003 was a lackluster birding experience. I experienced rather routine warbler migration with no big fallouts and average numbers. Counts of Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets only peaked at 30 on October 19, 20 and on October 5 and 19 respectively. (In a normal fall, peak numbers would near 100+ per day.) My only comment for November's duck migration is, "Where was it?" To be sure, I may have missed large movements by birding mainly on the weekends (Note Larry Rosche's good September 30.), but fall 2003 was very lackluster in numbers and movements of birds. The season's tranquil, non-stormy weather patterns kept the ducks away and the warblers and vireos passing through--but as most birders will tell you--I'd rather be birding than anything else.

Ray Hannikman

excellent fishing for a bird Sep. 8 (DAC). An Osprey visited Cuyahoga Falls Sep. 27 (GBe). One was at Sandy Ridge Sep. 30 (TF). Another was seen over North East Yacht Club Oct. 1 (CSk). A late Osprey was at Chagrin River Park Oct. 30 & 31 (RB). **Bald Eagles** continue to delight observers with increased reports. Birds were regularly seen throughout the period in the CVNP, HBSP vicinity, LaDue and Lake Rockwell (m.obs.).

Kayakers have found that one can obtain intimate looks at these magnificent birds of prey by paddling inland reservoirs. Of course, the birds at Sandy Ridge startle many onlookers with their amazing tolerance of nearby humans. **Northern Harriers** were regularly seen in the Valley City all season. This prompted the observer to wonder if they were nesting locally (FG). One was in Akron Oct. 4 (GBe). A female was in Twinsburg Nov. 9 (SSt, FL). A male drifted over Granger Township Nov. 23 (JW). One was at HBSP Nov. 27 (NB).

Sharp-shinned and **Cooper's Hawks** were as expected. Cooper's vastly outnumber the smaller hawk in all parts of the region, except the hemlock-dominated sections of the Grand and Chagrin Watersheds. **Red-shouldered Hawks** are doing very well

throughout the region. Late **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in Peninsula Oct. 5 and Akron Oct. 7 (GBe). Five **Red-tailed Hawks** at Rocky River probably indicated a small movement Nov. 8 (BD). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed hunting south of the I-480 and Transportation Boulevard exit Nov. 14 (LGa). Two were seen in Fairport Harbor Nov. 21 (KM). A dark-morph was seen at Findley SP Nov. 22 (CR). **American Kestrels** were widely reported.

Virginia Rails and **Soras** were only noted at Sandy Ridge (TF). The high count for **American Coots** was 675 Nov. 30 at Portage Lakes SP (GBe).

The region continues to be in a depressed state of affairs when it comes to accessible shorebirding habitat along Lake Erie. Inland, we are simply pawns to the whims of those who make the decisions to lower water levels at local reservoirs. A fall season with no **Black-bellied** or **American Golden-Plover** reports seems very incomplete.

Semipalmated Plover reports were almost as poor. One was somewhat tardy at Lake Rockwell Oct. 18 (VW). However, (tongue-in-cheek) **Killdeer** reports were solid. Up to 95 birds were counted at Lake Rockwell (VW). Another 149 were seen at Berlin Reservoir Oct. 17 (BMo). The high count of **Greater Yellowlegs** was 15 at Lake Rockwell Oct. 30 (VW). Eight birds were seen at West Branch SP Nov. 1 (GBe). A bird was heard calling over North Chagrin Nov. 1 (KM). One was at Dike 14 Nov. 4 (GL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were generally felt to be scarce. A bird at Lake Rockwell Oct. 27 was fairly tardy (LR). The latest **Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers** were at the north end of Lake Rockwell Oct. 18 (VW). Southbound **Sanderlings** visited HBSP Sep. 1–Nov. 9. The high count was 30 Sep. 19 (RH). In what has to serve as a benchmark for all time shorebird paucity, the only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at HBSP Sep. 17 (RH). A **Western Sandpiper** was seen in the puddles



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Public Square, Cleveland
by Scott Wright©



along the west side of the Black River at Lorain Harbor Oct. 12 (DS). **Least Sandpipers** were seen in small numbers. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at West Branch SP Oct. 25 (GBe). Good numbers of **Dunlin** were seen along the Cleveland Lakefront. The 213 in Cleveland Nov. 4 were exceptional (GL). Inland, 10-25 were seen at West Branch SP (m.obs.) and 7 were at LaDue on Nov. 9 & 10 (CW, SJ, m.obs.). This group was doing their best to imitate dowitchers as they waddled and probed furiously in chest-deep water. Given the recent history of shorebird movements in the region, the 144 Dunlin at Berlin Nov. 13 was a remarkable inland total (BMo). The two **Stilt Sandpipers** at Lake Rockwell Oct. 18 provided the first Portage County report in over a decade (VW). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were not reported. **Wilson's Snipes** were in expected numbers. Weingart's 16 surveys from Oct. 15 through Nov. 26 yielded as many as 39 birds at the north end of Lake Rockwell. The old Coliseum site hosted 8 snipes Oct. 19 (DAC). The only lakefront report was from Dike 14 Nov. 4 (GL). **American Woodcocks** were few and far

between. Birds were seen at Erie St. Cemetery and Gordon Park Oct. 11 (RSH). A late bird was seen in downtown Cleveland Nov. 6-11 (KB, CS).

Bonaparte's Gulls were numerous at expected lakefront sites. At West Branch SP, birds peaked at 54 Nov. 1 (GBe, VW, m.obs.). Approximately 100 Herring Gulls were observed feasting on Gizzard

Shad at the Station Road Nov. 9 (DAC). An adult **Thayer's Gull** was photographed at Eastlake Nov. 26 (TS, BWh). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Lorain Oct. 4 (JP). Three were at Eastlake Nov. 18 (SZ). A **Glaucous Gull** was seen off Lakeshore MP Nov. 29 (JP). The last **Caspian Tern** report was Oct. 4 at HBSP (RH). The only inland report of Caspian Terns was from Sandy Ridge (TF). The latest **Forster's Tern** was at HBSP Oct. 26 (RH).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Towner's Woods Sep. 23 (LR). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Ira Road Sep. 13 (TMR, m.obs.). Birds were at Redlock Sep. 17 and again at Jaite Sep. 23 (DAC). A gray morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** was calling periodically in Valley City. This bird responded well to Greenland's imitation owl calls. A **Great Horned Owl** was seen throughout the period in Granger Township (JW). A **Barred Owl** calling at Dike 14 Oct. 14 was quite exceptional (CR).

Even with increased observer awareness to their regional plight, **Common Nighthawks'** migration

was characteristically dismal. A flock of 15 was seen flying over Burton Sep. 3 (TGi). The same evening 75+ were seen moving sw over Fowler's Mill (KM). Twenty were over Euclid Sep. 10 (RH). On Sep. 13, 11 were tallied on the CVNP census (DAC). Late birds were seen at Ira Road Sep. 22 (TMR, m.obs.) at Shaker Lakes Sep. 26 (LD) and at Cascade Valley MP Oct. 7 (GBe). Large gatherings of **Chimney Swifts** (300+) were noted in September and early October throughout the region (m.obs.). The latest report was Oct. 15 at HBSP (KM). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a hanging fuchsia Oct. 5 in North Royalton (CT). Another immature was in North Olmsted through early Oct. (SWr). The latest Ruby-throated was at Shaker Lakes Oct. 9 (RR).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were in evidence at HBSP Sep. 6 when 3 were tallied (RH, LR). Other September reports included birds at Shaker Lakes (SBC), West Creek Preserve (GL) and 10 on the CVNP census (DAC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** migration was fairly good. One was relatively early at Rocky River Sep. 6 (BD, m.obs.). A bird was late at Sandy Ridge Nov. 15 (TF). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Station Road Sep. 2 (DAC). One was at West Creek Preserve Sep. 3 (GL). Birds were at Shaker Lakes Sep. 8 (2) and Oct. 9 (RR). A tardy **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Furnace Run MP Oct. 11 (RSH). Fall "Empids" are always of interest. It seemed odd that **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported for an entire fall season. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen at Munroe Falls Park Sep. 16 (RSH). Another was noted at Brecksville Sep. 18 (DAC). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard at HBSP Sep. 7 (LR). A "**Trail's Flycatcher**" was at

HBSP Sep. 20 (RH). Another was studied at West Creek Preserve Oct. 10 (GL). **Least Flycatchers** were as expected in Sep. An **Eastern Phoebe** was very tardy in Peninsula Nov. 22 (PC). The latest report of a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was Sep. 14 at HBSP (RH).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen in Rocky River Reservation Sep. 10 (RSH). The only **Yellow-throated Vireo** report not included on the CVNP Fall Census or in the CVNP was 2 at South Chagrin Sep. 7 (BR). **Blue-headed Vireos** were at West Creek Preserve and Stearn's Homestead Oct. 5 (GL). One was at Cascade Valley MP Oct. 7 (GBe). Another was at HBSP Oct. 18 (RH). The latest **Warbling Vireo** was at Station Road Sep. 27 (DAC). **Philadelphia Vireos** reports were spread throughout the month of September. Birds were at Lower Shaker Lake Sep. 1 (BF), HBSP Sep. 6-27 (RH) and West Creek Preserve Sep. 3, Oct. 5 & 12 (GL).

The 1200 **American Crows** in Akron Nov. 29 indicated that the population has apparently recovered considerably from the effects of West Nile Virus locally (GBe). A morning flight of 45 **Horned Larks** was seen at Dike 14 Oct. 18 (SZ). The high tally was 75+ at HBSP Nov. 21 (KM). The last report of **Purple Martins** was Sep. 21 at Mentor Lagoons (RH). **Tree Swallows** numbered well over 1000 at Mentor Lagoons in late September. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** lingered until Oct. 4 at HBSP (RH). Two **Cliff Swallows** graced Mentor Lagoons Sep. 7 (RH, LR).

Black-capped Chickadees were moving along Lake Erie between



Connecticut Warbler
by Scott Wright©

Sep. 5-10. A total of 20 was seen at HBSP Sep. 7 (RH). Another 20 chickadees were at Rocky River Sep. 10 (RSH). **Tufted Titmice** are a species of concern in some parts of the region. This common species has become noticeably fewer and observers might take a closer count on their feeder birds this winter. An example would be the highest tally on Bill Deininger's walks at Rocky River Reservation was 2! **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread in small numbers. About 8-10 showed up in Valley City the 3rd week of October. Several remained throughout the period (FG). In early Nov., both White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches posed for a side-by-side comparison in Brecksville (PS). One provided a pleasant surprise in Westlake Nov. 30 (CC). One visited a South Euclid feeder regularly after Nov. 18 (JHe). The famous "nuthatch ranch" in South Russell hosted a single for most of the season (LGi). A **White breasted Nuthatch** hit the Sedivy's front window in Newbury Oct. 14. It eventually recovered and flew onto Mary Ann's shoulder, made its nuthatch sound and flew away! **Marsh Wrens** lingered at Sandy Ridge most of Oct. (TF). A bird was

Comments on Swallows in the Great Lakes

Canadian Naturalist Alan Wormington wrote of the passage of Cave Swallows in that province during the fall of 2003. Known sightings total 21 birds, assuming that there were no repeat observations. This compares to nine (9) birds reported in Ontario last fall (2002), and the 110-120 birds reported during the fall of 1999. These birds came in two waves. One was from Nov. 1-10 and the second Nov. 22-26.

John Pogacnik reported the following observation of an orange-rumped swallow off Lakeshore Metropark Nov. 23. "As far as my notes from the sighting, it was a smallish swallow with slightly rounded wings like a rough-winged swallow as opposed to the pointed wings of a Tree Swallow. The tail was short. There were no long feathers as in Barn Swallow. Basically it was dark above and pale below. The rump appeared to be a rusty orange in color. The wings and tail were dark. I was not able to tell if it was bluish or dusky. The forehead was too far away to discern color. The throat and upper chest were a rusty orange similarly colored to or just paler than the rump. By the time I had the bird in my scope it was already flying away so the throat may have appeared darker than it was due to shadowing. The underside of the remainder of the body and underwings appeared pale. The bill was too far away to stand out. The bird was probably about 50-75 yards offshore and the shore is approximately 50 yards from my house so the bird was 100-125 yards away or so."

While Bird Calendar readers would certainly recognize the significance of any swallow seen locally in November, this notice should serve as a reminder of what could happen in the not too distant future.

in Lorain Oct. 10 (ES, WS). One was spied at the Ira Road Trail Oct. 13 (TMR, m.obs.). They were numerous at Dike 14 with a high count of 15 Oct. 14 (CR).

Winter Wrens were widely distributed. High counts include 7 at West Creek Preserve Oct. 5 (GL), 8 at HBSP Oct. 11 (RH), 15 at HBSP Oct. 23 (KM, LR) and 5 at Dike 14 Nov. 16 (GL).

House Wrens were poorly reported. A bird was a little late at HBSP Oct. 18 (RH). Kinglet numbers were fair. The high count of **Golden-crowneds** at HBSP was 25 Oct. 11, while **Ruby-crowneds** topped out at 20 there Oct. 5 (RH). Few **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported after the first of Sep. The last bird was at Wildwood SP Sep. 20 (GBe).

Veeries went unreported for the season! **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports were scarce. Birds were noted at HBSP Sep. 6, 25 & 27 (RH). Two were in Lakewood Oct. 6 (JM). **Swainson's Thrushes** were in average supply. The 100 heard over Norton the night of Sep. 15 provided an excellent indication of their typical abundance (RSH). Wildflower gardening paid off in Lakewood where 15 **Hermit Thrushes** were observed eating Jack-in-the-pulpit berries (JM). The 50 Hermit Thrushes at Dike 14 Oct. 17 were "mostly feeding in Asian honeysuckle and a forest of Pokeberry 'trees' in the southeast corner" (CR). The latest **Wood Thrush** was at Elmwood Park Oct. 10 (BF, PL). A **Northern Mockingbird** was a "first" on the weekly walks at Ira Road Nov. 24 (TMR, m.obs.). Birds continued to be seen in the HBSP and Shaker Lakes areas. One was



Merlin-Calvary Cemetery
by Lou Gardella©

observed gorging itself on ornamental berries in downtown Cleveland Oct. 23 (JM). Two were observed throughout the season at Stearn's Homestead (GL). A **Gray Catbird** was somewhat late at Sandy Ridge Nov. 15 (TF). Another late catbird was at Fairport Harbor Nov. 22 (ESc). **Brown Thrashers** moved as expected. No tardy thrashers were reported. **Cedar Waxwings** were numerous. The 350+ at Station Road (CVNP) Nov. 15 provided an exceptional count (RR).

Warblers were seen in average numbers, although many lingered into mid-October. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was exceptionally late at Dike 14 Oct. 11 (CR). The top **Tennessee Warbler** total was 7 at Rocky River Oct. 1 (RSH). Metcalf wrote this interesting note Oct. 22. "I watched a Tennessee Warbler

today gleaning at least 7 caterpillars in a couple of minutes in a black locust tree behind my house--so it seemed to be doing pretty well for itself. Found one caterpillar about every 10-20 seconds on average (range from 7 seconds up to about 50 seconds between meals)." The latest Tennessee was at Stearn's Homestead Oct. 11 (GL). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were as expected. Three were seen at HBSP Sep. 30 (LR). Others were there Sep. 27, Oct. 4 and Nov. 9 (RH). One was at Elmwood Park Oct. 10 (BF, PL) and another, at Lower Shaker Lake the same day (BF). A rather brightly colored Orange-crowned was at North Chagrin Oct. 27-Nov. 2 (KM). West Creek Preserve and nearby Stearn's Homestead hosted them Oct. 10, 11, 27 and Nov. 10 (GL). Birds were seen at Dike 14 Oct. 11 (8) (CR), Nov. 2 (6) (SZ), Nov. 16 (GL) and Nov. 23 (GL, SZ). **Nashville Warblers** put in a good showing. The 4 at Mogadore Sep. 21 represented a good inland total (GBe). An extremely tardy Nashville was at Dike 14 Nov. 22 (ESc). A **Northern Parula** was seen at HBSP Sep. 6 (RH). One was at West Creek Preserve Oct. 11 (GL). Two others were seen at Rocky River Oct. 1 (RSH). Two **Yellow Warblers** were at Dike 14 Sep. 20 (GL). Another brace was tardy at Lorain Oct. 10 (ES, WS). The high tally for **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was 5 at HBSP Sep. 21 (RH). Two were at Cascade Valley MP Oct. 4 (GBe). **Magnolia Warblers** were widespread in average numbers. High counts reached to 20 at HBSP and 10 at West Creek Preserve. **Cape May Warblers** made a decent showing. Small numbers were seen

from Sep. 6 though Oct. 19. Rocky River hosted 3 birds Sep. 6 (BD); 6 more were seen at Horseshoe Pond the same day (JB). HBSP led the way with 8 Sep. 25 (RH). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were seen in good numbers. Five were observed in a Lakewood yard Oct. 6 (JM). The high tally was 10 at Rocky River Oct. 1 (RSH). The 300 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at HBSP Oct. 19 impressed even the most grizzled of observers (m.obs.). Rieker noted hundreds at Dike 14 Oct. 14. Twinsburg Valley Parkway hosted 150+ "Butter-butts" Oct. 25 (LR, SSt, m.obs.). **Black-throated Green Warblers** seemed more plentiful than usual. Birds were regularly found throughout the region during their Sep. 5 though Oct. 5 window of migration. Late birds were seen at HBSP Oct. 15-16 (KM, LR) and Elmwood Park Oct. 16 (PL). Most **Blackburnian Warblers** are long gone by October. Birds in Akron (GBe) and HBSP (RH) Oct. 4 were good finds. A **Pine Warbler** was seen at Kent Bog Sep. 6 (GBe). Birds were still singing at North Chagrin Sep. 18 (KM). One was in Kirtland Sep. 23 (CK). HBSP provided sustenance for one Sep. 25 (RH, LR). Another was at Rocky River Oct. 1 (RSH). One was at Stearn's Homestead Oct. 10 (GL). A **Palm Warbler** was exceptionally late at Burke Airport Nov. 16 (JTH, m.obs.). The 12 at West Creek Preserve Oct. 10 was rather low for a fall season high tally (GL). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were widespread. A bird was seen at South Chagrin Sep. 7 (BR). Four were at West Creek Preserve Sep. 10 (GL). Singles were at HBSP most of September into October (m.obs.). Another dawdler was at Lower Shaker Lake on Oct. 5 (BF). One was in Peninsula Oct. 10 (GBe). The 17 **Blackpoll Warblers** at Dike 14 Sep. 15 constituted the high tally (GL). As usual, no fall

reports of **Cerulean Warblers** were received. **Ovenbird** numbers were fair. Birds were noted at Rocky River Sep. 6 (BD); HBSP Sep. 21 & Oct. 5 (RH); Downtown Cleveland Sep 4 (deceased), 8, 13, 21, 29 (SWr, CS); Elmwood Park Oct. 9 (BF, PL) and West Creek Preserve Sep. 15 (GL). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Station Road Sep. 21 (DAC). Another was at Elmwood Park Oct. 10 (BF, PL). **Mourning Warblers** were scarce. Apparently, the plantings in Public Square provide the easiest viewing for this skulker. Birds were photographed and seen there Sep. 5, 14, 21 and 29 with a minimum of 3 Sep. 14 (SWr). On Sep. 21, one of the downtown Mournings put on quite a show for Scott Wright. Scott wrote, "... a very nice male Mourning gave me a few close ups as it went up the back steps of the building into the revolving door; and at this point, I was observing and photographing behavior, but if someone had exited the building at this time the Mourning would have been in the bank!!! So I approached and chased it out of the revolving door!" One was at Dike 14 Sep. 20 (GL). Another was at Rocky River Sep. 24 (RSH). A **Hooded Warbler** lingered at Mogadore and Lake Rockwell until the end of Sep. A migrant was noted at West Creek Preserve Sep. 15 (GL). One was singing at Holmesbrook Park Sep. 26 (RSH). **Wilson's Warblers** were fairly numerous. The high count was 10 at HBSP Sep. 13 (RH). Four **Canada Warblers** were at HBSP Sep. 6 (RH). One was in Hudson the same day (GBe). Extremely tardy birds were seen at HBSP on Oct. 9 (JMc) and Oct. 11 (RR). These are the latest reports of Canada Warbler since 1946. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in downtown Cleveland Sep. 5-6 (SWr, CS).

Scarlet Tanagers were as expected. Three were at Redlock Sep 21 (DAC). Two were at Rocky River Oct. 1 (RSH). Another was seen at HBSP Oct. 4 (RH).

Reports from Shaker Lakes indicated that sparrows were a little late in arriving. Gordon Park again outdid all other sites with sparrow reports. A total of 500+ **American Tree Sparrows** were estimated to be at Dike 14 Nov. 22 (ESc). **Chipping Sparrows** seemed to have moved later than usual. A flock of 48 was observed Oct. 17 as they migrated from the *Bird Calendar* region to the *Bobolink* region (BMo). One dawdled at HBSP until Nov. 20 (RH, LR). Another was in no hurry to leave Grafton the same day (CP). A chippy visited a feeder in Valley City during the last third of Nov. (FG). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at Dike 14 Oct. 11 (CR). One was at Mentor Lagoons Oct. 16 (LR). The high count of **Savannah Sparrows** was 30 at Dike 14 Oct. 11 (SZ). West Creek Preserve hosted the only **Grasshopper Sparrow** Oct. 27 (SZ). **Fox Sparrows** were widely reported. One was at Lake Medina Oct. 26 (JW). Two were at Lower Shaker Lake Nov. 1 (BF). Spencer Lake SWA hosted a bird Nov. 5 (SS). Another was at Ira Road Nov. 10 (TMR, m.obs.). As many as 5 visited a Valley City feeder (FG). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in fair numbers. The 6 at Shaker Lakes Oct. 24 made for a good day tally (LD). Dike 14 hosted 21 Sep. 20 (GL). Eighteen were tallied in Parma Oct. 18 (GL). **Swamp Sparrow** migration peaked at 65 at Dike 14 Oct. 26 (SZ). **White-throated Sparrows** topped out at 300 at Dike 14 Oct. 11 (SZ). On Nov. 4, Wright photographed an adult and an immature at Public Square eating CANDY! He wrote, "I swear and I photographed it. It



Rufous Hummingbird—Bath Township
by Marian Kraus©

was candy covered in foil and looked as if it contained peanut butter; they were fighting for it!!” The 1100+ **White-crowned Sparrows** at Dike 14 Oct. 11 made for an impressive tally (SZ). The 100+ at Shaker Lakes Oct. 24 was excellent for the site (LD). The 20 at Lake Medina Oct. 26 was an expected tally for the southwestern sector of the region (JW). The 300+ migrant **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Dike 14 on Oct. 18 were an expected tally for this attractive lair of migrating sparrows (SZ). **Snow Buntings** did not disappoint. Flocks numbered into the hundreds along the Lake Erie shore.

Tardy **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen at North Olmsted Oct. 2 (2) (SWr), Lower Shaker Lake Oct. 5 (BF), North Chagrin Oct. 7 (KM), South Chagrin Oct. 7 (SW) and Lorain Oct. 10 (ES, WS). **Indigo Buntings** put in a good showing. Apparently the best time for seeing migrants is from late September through the first third of October. Birds were at HBSP Oct. 4–5 (RH). West Creek Preserve hosted 9 Indigos Sep. 30 and 5 more Oct. 5 (GL). Late birds were at Sanitation Pond Oct. 12 (DAC), West Creek Preserve Oct. 31 (SZ) and Dike 14 Nov. 16 (GL).

No **Bobolinks** made any of the

field reports this autumn. An **Orchard Oriole** was spied at Sandy Ridge Sep. 4 (TF). Except for an exceptionally late **Baltimore Oriole** in Kirtland Nov. 8 (*vide* HP), all orioles were gone by early September. **Purple Finches** moved fairly well. Ten were seen at Redlock Oct. 18 (DAC). Another 10 were seen along the Boston Trail Oct. 23 (MRe, m.obs.). One was seen along the Ira Road Trail Nov. 3 (TMR, m.obs.).

A flock of 6 **Common Redpolls** was seen on the cliff at Lakeshore MP Nov. 29 (JP). **Pine Siskins** were widespread in small numbers. Early birds were at Painesville Township Park (16) Oct. 7 (JP) and at Erie St. Cemetery Oct. 11 (RSH). An octet was at Dike 14 Nov. 2 (SZ). Four were in Pepper Pike Nov. 27 (RR). Another siskin was in Fowler’s Mill the same day (KM). Migrating **American Goldfinches** go unnoticed by most observers (and editors). The 125 at HBSP Nov. 20 was too good to leave out (RH). □

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

ROSS’S GOOSE – An adult white morph was seen with Canadas in Shalersville Township Nov. 23. On Nov. 29, the same bird (?) was seen again at Lake Rockwell with a large flock of Canada Geese (Rosche).

COMMON EIDER – A female was a startling surprise at Fairport Harbor Sep. 25. It remained faithful to the area (where last year’s bird spent several months) through Sep. 29 (Pogacnik, m.obs.). Noted ornithologist Bruce Peterjohn commented. “That is a stunning bird (if you can call a female eider “stun-

ning”). The bird is clearly not a juvenile—even though I cannot discern the shape of the tail feathers with certainty from the photo, the white tips to some of the secondaries and the mixture of dark and barred feathers on the upperparts would definitively eliminate that age class. It is also clearly not an ‘adult,’ because the greater secondary coverts do not appear to have any white tips and the white tips on the secondaries are not as extensive as one would expect for that age class. The progression of female plumages for Common Eiders is rather poorly known, so positively assigning an age class to this bird may not be possible. Based on the extent of white tips to the secondaries and absence of white tips to the greater secondary coverts, my best guess is that this is a second-year bird (i.e., was hatched last year). According to the literature, the wing pattern is rather variable at this age and the extent of white can vary from being similar to a juvenile (no white) to almost adult-like. A third-year bird should show a more adult-like wing pattern; but given the variability in eiders and the fact that they have not received much serious study, I would be hesitant to assume that all birds of this age class would show more extensive white on the secondaries and greater secondary coverts than is visible on this bird.”

HARLEQUIN DUCK – An immature male was seen off Lakeshore MP Nov. 8 (Pogacnik).

RED-THROATED LOON – Birds were seen off Lakeshore MP Oct. 29 and Nov. 8 (Pogacnik).

RED-NECKED GREBE – The only report for the season came from Avon Lake Nov. 26 (Sanders, Shively).



Common Eider–Fairport Harbor
by John Pogacnik ©

AMERICAN BITTERN – A bird was flushed from a patch of gold-erods at Dike 14 Oct. 31 (Rieker). On Nov. 2, another bittern was seen there (the same one?) (Zadar).

LEAST BITTERN – At least one bird was reported well into September at Sandy Ridge (Fairweather).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – A light morph bird was observed as it leisurely drifted high over the fields east of Fairport Harbor Nov. 20 (Hannikman, Rosche). The distinctive dark flight feathers and contrasting whitish underparts were well seen, even at a great distance on that gorgeous fall day. The flight was very vulture-like, with the wings held well above horizontal throughout the observation. It was observed again later in the day in the same area (Pogacnik).

MERLIN – One was spied at the Lorain impoundment Oct. 11 (Harlan). A male was seen at Calvary Cemetery Oct. 22. A male and female were present intermittently throughout the period (Gardella, m.obs.). One was seen

hunting the dunes at Headlands Beach SP Nov. 6 (Meszaros).

PEREGRINE FALCON – The Cleveland birds continued to thrill many during the period (Wright, m.obs.). One was spied at the “hot waters” in Lorain Oct. 10 (Snively, Sarno). The same day, a migrant passed over West Creek Preserve (Leidy). On Nov. 16, an adult was seen briefly at West Branch SP. It flew in from the NE, harassed some Bonaparte's Gulls, and continued flying southwest. This provided one of the very few records for Portage County (Holt).

COMMON MOORHEN – Two were seen at Sandy Ridge Oct. 1 (Jones, Witt). The Harlans saw one there Oct. 20. Another was at Herrick Preserve Oct. 6–24 (Byrne, Glatter, Liske, Rosche).

SANDHILL CRANE – On the night of Nov. 6, six birds were seen heading east over Norton. These cranes were easily seen (and heard) with the moon as a backdrop. Dan Best saw the family of 4 cranes (2 adult, 2 imm.) that have been seen repeatedly in the corn

field of the farm immediately west of the Lake Aquilla outflow fly up out of the marsh to the farm fields Nov. 22. The Sandy Ridge birds were still being reported well into Nov. (Fairweather, m.obs.).

WHIMBREL – A bird was photographed by kayakers Oct. 13 at Whiskey Island. The Whimbrel was heard and seen flying off later (Kiplinger, Stearns).

PURPLE SANDPIPER – The first report was from Headlands Beach SP Nov. 15 (Hannikman). Up to 3 could be found along the break-walls there after that date (Meszaros, Zadar, m.obs.).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – A bird graced Burke Airport the first week of Sep. (White). One was seen near the lighthouse at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 4 (McConnor). Two were seen overhead at Headlands Beach later the same day (Fjeldstad)!

RED PHALAROPE – One was at the south end of a large area of standing water near the Muni Pier (“hot waters”) area in Lorain Oct. 4 (Pogacnik). Two birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on a very blustery Oct. 15 (Metcalf).



Whimbrel–Whiskey Island
by Richard Stearns ©

JAEGER SPECIES – An unidentified jaeger was seen from Rocky River Park Nov. 5 (Lozano).

LAUGHING GULL – An adult (basic plumage) was on the break-wall just north of the small boat basin at Lorain Harbor Sep. 5 (Zadar). A bird took up residence with Ring-billed Gulls in the North Reservoir area of Coventry Township, Summit Co. Oct. 27 throughout the period (Bennett, Brumfield, m.obs.). Another was seen flying near E. 72nd St. Nov. 4 (Leidy, Zadar).

LITTLE GULL – A first-winter bird was feeding with Bonaparte's Gulls at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 16 (Rosche). Birds were noted off Lakeshore MP Oct. 28, Nov. 16 and Nov. 29 (Pogacnik).

SABINE'S GULL – Bacik saw an immature Sep. 27 from the rocks at Headlands Beach SP. It was flying with a couple of Ring-billed Gulls. It or another was seen there on Oct. 10 (Pogacnik). A bird passed by Lakeshore MP Oct. 28 (Pogacnik).

BLACK TERN – One was observed flying leisurely off Headlands Beach SP heading toward Fairport Harbor Sep. 4 (Fjeldstad).

LONG-EARED OWL – A bird was photographed at Caley National Wildlife Woods Nov. 22 (Rieker).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was seen at Dike 14 Oct. 17 (Rieker). Seven birds (groups of 5 and 2) were found there Oct. 31 (Rieker). The 22 owls there Nov. 18 provided a record count and an unparalleled regional fallout event (Zadar). Five remained at least through Nov. 23.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – This charming owl was located at several sites this fall. The first was Sep. 4 in Kirtland. Petruschke wrote, "As I was leaving for work this morning, I thought I heard a Saw-whet Owl. I did my best Saw Whet imitation and sure enough the little guy answered back! Really cool!" This report may be further evidence of the small local breeding population in the region. Another owl was at Hell Hollow Oct. 28 (Pogacnik). Meszaros located a skulker at Headlands Beach SP Nov. 9. Dike 14 was not to be outdone. A Saw-whet was there on Nov. 18 (Zadar, Leidy). Two birds were discovered there by the Schlabach party Nov. 22.

WHIP-POOR-WILL – A bird was seen coursing the fields at a large horse farm in Streetsboro the evening of Oct. 18 (Weingart).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD – At least two birds lingered throughout the period. A striking male arrived in Bath Township the last week of September (Miller). A female was in Carlisle Township from Oct. 18 (Preibe) [See Field

Notes]. Both of these birds were new species for their respective counties. A belated report of an immature male Rufous Hummingbird (accompanied by photographs) was received from Angie Adkins. This bird visited a feeder in Strongsville from mid-September through November 9, 2001.

NORTHERN SHRIKE – An early shrike was found in Leroy Township Oct. 28 (Pogacnik). Another was seen at the Bath Preserve Nov. 25 (Brumfield).

SEDGE WREN – A bird was lost in the maze of downtown Cleveland Sep. 29 (Wright). Five birds were spied at Dike 14 in late Sep. (Leidy). Another was detected there Oct. 17 (Rieker).

PRAIRIE WARBLER – One was seen at Headlands Beach SP Sep. 25 (Elder, Hannikman, Rosche, m.obs.).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – Never easy to find after July, one at Rocky River Sep. 24 provided a rare fall treat (RSH).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – A bird was first reported at the two flower beds on the South of the National City Bank building at East Ninth and Euclid Sep. 3–9 (SWr). Another was in the same area Sep. 21 (SWr). Two were seen along the Marsh Rim Trail at Mentor Lagoons Sep. 7 (Peterjohn, Rosche).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – A bird was at West Creek Preserve Oct. 7. This is the fourth in three years at the site (Leidy). Another was located at Stearn's Homestead Oct. 10–11 (Leidy). One was furtive at Carlisle Visitor Center Oct. 20 (Wright).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW – One was found in Arcola Creek Marsh in the extreme northeast corner of Lake County Nov. 29 (Pogacnik).

RED CROSSBILL– Diligent field work turned up a single bird at Dike 14 Nov. 2 (Zadar).

EXOTICS: A **European Goldfinch** was in Fairlawn Nov. 13 and 14 This is the first report of this finch since 1966 (Helen DeNard). □

FIELD NOTES

Can You Hear Prebasic Molt?

Kevin E. Metcalf

Introduction: Most birdwatchers have experienced those late spring and early summer mornings when the forests and meadows are brimming with birdsong. By late summer this auditory storm dissipates--slowly, almost imperceptibly--until the last drops of song must be consciously sought out. I developed an interest in noting the seasonal ebb and flow of Northeast Ohio's avian "sound-scape" over ten years ago. After a few years of recording my observations, I learned that I could anticipate what weeks certain birds could be found singing, or not singing in Northeast Ohio. Over time I focused my attention on the late summer decline of song. Patterns began to emerge and became predictable from year to year.

There is still a lot to be learned about the song "phenology" or seasonal changes in Ohio's birdsong. This article will only scratch the surface of a topic that is potentially vast. I hope that this basic treatment of a fascinating topic will

spur others to take notice of the seasonal rhythms of birdsong in their own neighborhoods.

Function of Song and General Seasonal Patterns: The basic function of male territorial song in passerines, which are also called "songbirds," is to attract a mate. Some near passerines, such as cuckoos and doves, and some other groups of birds have complex songs as well that probably serve the same function. Studies of some songbird species indicate that unmated males will sing more frequently than mated males. For example, male Hooded Warblers, upon arriving on a potential breeding territory, will spend about 50–60% of their time singing. (Evans and Stutchbury 1994). Once a male songbird has mated and nesting begun, the frequency of song given by that individual often declines.

Wood Thrushes offer one fairly typical example of the annual cycle of song in our migratory breeding birds. Wood Thrushes are very vocal just after they arrive on territory (usually late April or early May in Ohio) and sing frequently through the mating and incubation stages of breeding. Singing declines when the first brood of young are being fed (Watson, 1987)--frequently by the end of May through June. Wood thrushes will often attempt to raise two broods. By early August in Northeast Ohio song has greatly decreased, as most wood thrushes have completed nesting for the year. By mid-August most have stopped singing entirely (pers. obs.). Some may sing infrequently at dawn or dusk into September. Wood Thrushes usually only give call notes during fall migration, and apparently sing little, if any, on their tropical wintering grounds

Table

Following is a list of forty-five "song-bird" species encountered on the Geauga County and North Chagrin Reservation routes surveyed in 2003 (study period ending 6 September) with dates of last song.

Mourning Dove*	August 9 (singing can persist through at least mid August)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	August 19 (singing throughout study)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	(singing throughout study)
Acadian Flycatcher	August 28
Willow flycatcher	August 28
Alder Flycatcher	August 28
Least Flycatcher (fall migrant)	August 28
Eastern Phoebe	August 26 (singing can persist into October)
Great Crested Flycatcher	August 10
Black-capped Chickadee	(singing throughout study)
Tufted Titmouse	(singing throughout study)
White-eyed Vireo	August 26
Yellow-throated Vireo	August 28
Warbling Vireo	(singing throughout study)
Red-eyed Vireo	(singing throughout study)
Brown Creeper	August 19
Carolina Wren	26 August (sings throughout the year)
House Wren	August 12
Veery	(none singing during study)
Wood Thrush	August 12
American Robin	August 26
Gray Catbird	(none singing during study)
Brown Thrasher	(none singing during study)
European Starling	(singing throughout study)
Blue-winged Warbler	August 19
Yellow Warbler	August 10
Common Yellowthroat	August 26 (singing can persist into September)
Hooded Warbler	August 28
Scarlet Tanager	August 23
Eastern Towhee	August 19
Chipping Sparrow	August 19
Field Sparrow	August 19
Savannah Sparrow	(none singing during study)
Song Sparrow	(singing throughout study)
Swamp Sparrow	August 26
Dark-eyed Junco	August 23
Northern Cardinal	(singing throughout study)
Indigo Bunting	August 10
Baltimore Oriole	August 26
Bobolink	(none singing during study)
Red-winged Blackbird	Sep. 6 (resumed song at end of study period--will sing through at least November)
Common Grackle	(none singing during study)
Baltimore Oriole	August 26
Purple Finch	(none singing during study)
American Goldfinch	August 28

*Mourning Dove and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were included in the study, although they are not passerines.

(Roth, Johnson and Underwood 1996).

There are a few resident birds for which I have noted male territorial song every, or nearly every month of the year. Usually these birds sing infrequently in winter, with song spurred by relatively warm or sunny days. These birds include Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow and House Finch. I suspect that Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbirds, European Starlings and American Robins probably can be heard singing year round as well. It should be noted that the “songs” of Black-capped Chickadees (“Fee-bee-bee”) and Tufted Titmice (“Peter-Peter-Peter”) serve more than one social function and so do not necessarily indicate male territorial behavior.

Late Summer Song Decline in Northeast Ohio: Typically in Northeast Ohio, from mid-July through mid-August the songs of our flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, wrens, warblers, sparrows and other songbirds greatly diminishes. Why bird song declines at this time seems obvious. The nesting season is ending. There is no longer a need to hold territory and advertise for a mate. Most of our breeding songbirds, many of which have migrated from other areas, sing until the last broods of young have been raised. After this, song quickly diminishes--no nesting, no territories, no song. End of story? From late July through September of 2003, I attempted to document the post-breeding decline in bird song along two survey routes in Northeast Ohio. I concentrated my efforts between 6 August–6 September, when I recorded the number of singing individual birds of each species on several dates.

One route in Geauga County took me through diverse habitats, including successional old fields, wetlands and forests. Another route in North Chagrin Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks (Cuyahoga and Lake County) was primarily through forest, including beech-maple forest with some hemlock ravine habitat and edge habitat. The surveys were conducted between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. The surveys revealed a dramatic decline in singing individuals during the study period. On the Geauga Co. route I noted a 78% decline in singing birds/hr, while there was a 64% decline in singing birds/hr. on the North Chagrin route. Most bird species that were singing at the onset of the surveys were silent by late August or early September. (See Table)

Prebasic Molt and Song

Phenology: In addition to the obvious connection between singing and breeding cycles, there seems to be a correlation between the onset of prebasic molt (the transition to “winter” plumage) and cessation of territorial song. It is believed that prebasic molt in most migratory North American birds is timed to take advantage of abundant late summer food supplies, while demands of family have ended and migration is not yet underway (Terres, 1980). Although the specific timing of molts for Northeast Ohio birds is still fertile ground for research, we have enough general information to at least say that a correlation between the late summer “quiet period” and prebasic molt exists.

There are some interesting exceptions and variations to this basic seasonal pattern. During my surveys, for example, Eastern Wood-Pewees and Red-eyed Vireos con-

tinued to sing persistently through the end of August and even into September. Baltimore Orioles, which are nearly silent in July, actually sang more in August. It is with these exceptions that I think we can learn the most about the reasons for the precise timing of the late summer decline in song.

In the case of Eastern Wood-Pewees, I found that the number of individuals singing per hour on 6 September (5.6/hr) was nearly the same as found on 6 August (5.33 per/hr.) in North Chagrin Reservation. Wood-Pewees are the most obvious singers in the forest from very late August through mid-September; however, after mid-September singing quickly declines. Prebasic molt in this species apparently peaks in September (McCarty, 1996) continuing as the birds undertake fall migration. It is interesting to note that in Ohio Eastern Wood-Pewees have been found with nestlings as late as September (Peterjohn 1989, McCarty 1996). Therefore, Wood-Pewees may be holding territory later in the season than most of our other breeding birds, and they undergo prebasic molt later than most of our breeding birds. Detailed observation might reveal whether these late nesters are putting off molt until nesting has been completed.

Resumption of Song After

Prebasic Molt: One of the most fascinating aspects of song phenology in our passerines occurs after the prebasic molt has been completed. Even though these birds are finished with nesting for the season, some will resume singing. Singing in this case may be just a hormonal response to changes in the photoperiod, but this needs further study. Usually this late season song lacks the “enthusiasm” of

the spring and early summer song. This post-molt song is usually (but not always) given in short bouts and sometimes with incomplete phrasing. Warbling Vireos, American Robins, Pine Warblers, Baltimore Orioles and Red-winged Blackbirds are some examples of “post-molt” singers in Northeast Ohio.

The song phenology of Warbling Vireos can help illustrate this pattern. Warbling Vireos become fairly non-vocal in mid or late July through early August (pers. obs., Peterjohn 1989), though some sporadic singing will sometimes be heard during this time (pers. obs.) Singing often increases toward the end of August and into September before the local breeders depart for migration. Apparently, and unlike Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo is known to sing in fall migration (Gardali and Ballard 2000). How does this song pattern fit into Warbling Vireo breeding and molt cycles? First, Warbling Vireos are usually single-brooded. (Again, this is unlike Red-eyed Vireo, which frequently raises two broods.) Once nesting is complete in Warbling Vireos, usually by early July, they go through a complete molt in July and August. This corresponds to the relatively quiet period that I have noted for this species in Northeast Ohio. Therefore, it seems that once the prebasic molt is complete, Warbling Vireos will resume singing; and I suspect that at least some of these birds are singing on the same territories they held earlier in the year. Baltimore Orioles follow a similar pattern of nesting, molt and song.

Red-winged Blackbirds offer another example of this “post-molt” resumption of song. Male Red-winged Blackbirds give frequent territorial songs when they

reach their breeding sites in late winter or early spring. Song is given regularly until about 21 July (pers. obs.). Singing becomes very sporadic in late July through about the first week of September, after which songs are given more frequently (pers. obs.). Red-winged Blackbirds are reported to go through a complete molt from “early July–mid October” (Yasukawa and Searcy 1995) or June–September for “AHY” (After Hatch Year) birds (Pyle 1997). From my observations in Northeast Ohio, the peak of prebasic molt in Red-winged Blackbirds occurs in August, with most adult males appearing to be in fresh basic plumage by about mid-September. Adult male Red-winged Blackbirds will do some singing at least into November in Northeast Ohio (pers. obs.) and possibly throughout the winter. I have even observed adult males doing a wing-spread or “song spread” display while singing in fall, contra published reports (Orians and Christman 1968 cited in Yasukawa and Searcy 1995).

Why males of some bird species, particularly migratory species, continue to sing once the nesting season has ended is, to my knowledge, still a mystery.

Conclusions: Understanding the song phenology of birds can broaden our understanding of bird distribution, breeding, molt and migration cycles. It has implications for anyone doing breeding bird censuses, as the timing of any song-based censusing should take into account the variations of song phenology for a given species at a given location.

I suspect that the “dates of last song” will be different for other regions in Ohio. I encourage bird-

ers to find their own summer song-bird survey route. Visit it each week, recording the number of each species heard, along with time spent afield, so that birds singing per hour can be compared as the seasons change. With more detailed observations, we might learn that we cannot only see molt in birds, but hear it as well.

Bibliography

- Evans Ogden, L.J. and B.J. Stutchbury. 1994. Hooded Warbler. No. 110 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Gardali, T. and G. Ballard. 2000. Warbling Vireo. No. 551 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- McCarty, J. P. 1996. Eastern Wood-Pewee. No. 245 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Orians, G. H., and G. M. Christman. 1968. A comparative study of the behavior of Red-winged, Tricolored, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Univ. Calif. Publ. *Zoology* 84: 1 - 81.
- Peterjohn, B. G. 1989. *The Birds of Ohio*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press.
- Popp, J. W., R. W. Ficken, and J. A. Reinartz. 1985. Short-term temporal avoidance of interspecific acoustic interference among forest birds. *Auk* 102: 744-748.
- Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds*. Part 1: Columbidae to Ploceidae. Bolinas: Slate Creek Press.
- Rising, J.D., and N. J. Flood 1998. Baltimore Oriole. No. 384 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Roth, R.R., M. S. Johnson, and T.J. Underwood. 1996 Wood Thrush. No. 246 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Terres, J. K. 1980. *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Watson, L. M. 1994. *Effects of nesting stage, time of season, and time of day on Wood Thrush detectability*. B.Sc. thesis, Univ. of Delaware, Newark.
- Yasukawa, K., and W.A. Searcy. 1995. Red-winged Blackbird. No. 184 in *The Birds of North America*, (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.

My Sweetest Day Present by Cathy Priebe

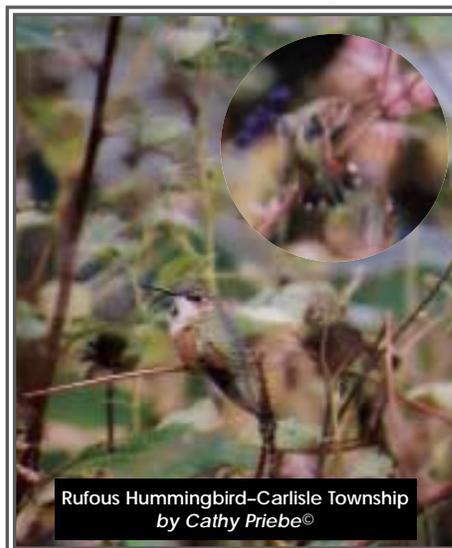
“Hey, honey, you have a hummingbird at your feeder!” my husband, Dave, exclaimed. My first reaction was, “Wow, a late ruby throat,” so I immediately changed the fluid and more or less forgot about our “Sweetest Day” (Oct. 18) hummer. Weekends are usually busy, so I didn’t encounter the bird again until early Sunday morning as I was taking my flowers from under the patio to the deck. Fall had been somewhat mild this year, so I still had a lot of pots filled with colorful flowers that I managed to save from the cooler temperatures at night. Satisfied that they were getting the right amount of sun, I began walking back to the patio when a whirr of wings buzzed by my head to the feeder. I looked closely as the hummer greedily drank before it realized my presence and flew off. “You are different,” I thought and made a mental note to call a local naturalist the following day if my visitor were still flying about.

“I’ll be there within the hour,” Gary Gerrone (Lorain County Metro Parks Naturalist) said with tempered excitement. I could tell he was slightly skeptical as I described my visitor to him; but all of the photos in my field guides strongly indicated that I had a Western North America hummer, a Rufous Hummingbird.

Thus began the flurry of activity as “Sweetie” became the center of scrutiny for a handful of noted birders and enthusiasts who identified, confirmed and documented my slightly way off course adult female rufous hummer.

She has been a joy and a worry all wrapped into a resilient bundle of energy. Every morning I would sit down with a cup of coffee and camera poised, waiting for her to come to her feeder. Her routines varied, but she usually got a good drink and then proceeded to the flowers. On cold and dreary days she would sit near the ground amongst the barren plant vegetation and zip up for the occasional unwary insect and then fly to the feeder. When the sun shone brightly and the air was warmer, she generally caught bugs, perused her favorite blooms and scoped out her territory, only visiting the feeder sporadically. Her last sip for the evening was about a half hour before dusk and I’m really not sure what time she had breakfast, but I usually saw her between seven and eight a.m. She would chirp impatiently at me if I was too slow putting out her flowers in the morning and would sometimes buzz by my head to let me know she was about. After all, she was the star and it was my duty to cater to her every whim.

Every evening I would scan several daily and extended weather forecasts to foresee her survival during a Northeast fall/winter. I pur-



Rufous Hummingbird—Carlisle Township
by Cathy Priebe©

chased another Perky Pet four flower glass feeder so I could easily exchange them when the temperatures dropped into the thirties, constantly keeping one at room temperature. I also placed a small “fly-by” tube feeder in the yard in case she was startled by my outside activities. During especially frigid nights, I kept a heat lamp pointed at her feeder so her food would not freeze. I also faithfully hauled the flowerpots in and out of the patio or the garage to keep her natural nectar supply as plentiful as possible and a small bowl of really ripe tomatoes to keep the fruit flies plentiful. Who would have thought I’d still be making sugar water, prolonging blooms and greenhousing into mid-November?

As I write this, she is still here, patiently waiting for her favorite plants (Mexican bush sage, pineapple sage, and various salvias) that should have succumbed long ago to be placed on the deck for her dining pleasure. She is spoiled beyond a doubt and happy to stay until her little bird clock says it is time to fly--hopefully before the weather becomes brutal. Until she makes up her mind, I will diligently continue to provide the necessary nourishment she requires to get her in shape for the next segment of her migration, which I am told should be the Gulf Coast. I can only hope on that fateful day, when I no longer see her flitting about, that she has taken flight and is successful.

I truly feel that I have been blessed with the presence of this special creature; and I know that I will definitely keep my feeders up well into October every fall, especially since there have been numerous rufous sightings throughout Ohio this year alone (2003). I’d also like to thank everyone who provided

me with helpful information, flowers and shared wonderment of this tiny whirlwind. Who knows, she may visit again next fall or she'll give a favorable "wings up" recommendation to fellow rufous hummers on the five-star accommodations she was fortunate enough to find in a backyard in Northeastern Ohio.

The following is a summary of some factors that may have been essential in attracting my wayward rufous hummer. The primary and most important ingredient was I had left one feeder out through mid-October with fresh fluid in it. I have to stress that hummingbird feeders should be cleaned and changed regularly based on the climate you live in. Your chances of attracting and keeping your avian customer may depend on the quality of their dining experience, so keep the food fresh. Plant a variety of flowers in pots so they can be moved at will to prolong their blooms. Also, plant flowers that generally bloom near the end of the season, especially those that may catch a passing hummer's fancy. My hummer really loved sages/salvias and sometimes ate from them exclusively. Some type of nearby moving water source is also important, i.e., pond, fountain, lake or river. I have all of these in or near my backyard. Water is a key ingredient for flying insects, and protein is a big part of the hummer diet. Trees, bushes and some type of natural vegetation also play an important role in their survival, especially at night. The rest is purely chance, since these little darlings are sporadic pioneers or simply victims of changing weather patterns that may disrupt their on-star capabilities. Whatever the reason, these vagrant tiny dynamos are fun to observe and take care of. This is one experience

I'll never forget for the rest of my birding life and I would repeat it in a wing-beat.

These flowers were significant contributors in attracting my rufous hummer: Mexican bush sage, pineapple sage (*salvia elegans*), lady-in-red or coral nymph (*salvia coccinea*), Victoria (*salvia farinacea*), lantana, impatiens, jewelweed, gartermeister fuchsia, cleome, canna, begonia, petunia, butterfly bush, honeysuckle and trumpet vine, phlox, flowering quince, fall clematis and mimosa tree.

Unusual Courtship/Copulation Behavior of Broad- winged Hawks

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

In 1997 the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks initiated a nesting raptor survey within its 3500 contiguous acres. Included in the numerous objectives were to find as many raptor nests as possible, determine nest density and distances from one another, and establish fledging success. The reservation was divided into 13 unequal sectors, and volunteers were recruited to monitor each one.

We were fortunate to have selected a sector in which, and nearby, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) nested each of the seven years of this continuing study. Compared to the literature on other species of raptors, relatively little has been published on the Broad-winged (Rusch 1972). This was the only nesting pair found in the entire reservation. This density appears to be normal, as in another study (Rusch 1972), between 0-2 pairs were found on 2750 acres. All of our nests occurred in close proximity,

with the two most distant nests being no more than 250-300 meters apart. In other words, each nest had been built relatively closely to those of other years. In fact, in two non-succeeding years, the nest had been in the same tree. While there is little information on breeding-site fidelity for this migrating raptor, it has been reported to use the same breeding area for several years in other U.S. locations (Goodrich *et al.* 1996), but nothing noted for more than 3-4 years in the same tract of woods (Bent 1961). In an Adirondack study, banded Broad-wings returned to nest within 100 meters of the previous year's nest (Matray 1974). Interestingly enough, the nests we found were always near hiking paths, park roads, and picnic grounds, i.e., areas more highly frequented by people. The Broad-winged is considered the tamest of all the hawks (Bent), and we found this to be pretty much the case.

Where we were able to determine the approximate dates, these data are shown in the Table for arrival, egg laying, hatching and fledging times. The data helped us to find a pair of hawks early enough in 2003 to observe courtship/copulation behavior. Descriptions of courtship behavior seem to have been confined mostly to aerial displays (Goodrich *et al.*) that we never had the pleasure to observe. However, we did witness courtship/copulation (?) behavior that apparently has not been described in the ornithological literature. What follows we observed for about a half an hour each day before going to work in the morning.

After several years of finding these hawk nests, we came to recognize where they were typically placed in a deciduous tree and what they looked like. At 7:30 am on April 23, we found the male at what

appeared to be the beginning of a nest. This consisted of a small bunch of thin sticks on a forked horizontal limb away from the trunk of a moderately sized Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*). Rarely does this hawk build a nest in such a location (Burns 1911), but typically constructs a nest of larger sticks in the first main crotch of more vertical limbs of a tree. So, for the sake of simplicity, we will call this April 23rd nest a "pseudo-nest," for reasons evident below. The male flew to the upper canopy of a nearby tree, broke off a small branch and carried it in his beak to the pseudo-nest.

Typically, dead sticks obtained from the ground are used and carried in the talons. While both sexes help construct the nest, the female does most of the work. After about a minute, the male flew to a nearby tree and called several times as he landed. The female was there and he mounted her for about 5 seconds, after which she flew off toward the west. Typically, copulation has been reported to last about 1 minute (Goodrich et al.). He remained in the tree for a few minutes and then flew off to the west from where we could hear their calls.



We found the female at the pseudo-nest on the 25th at about 7:15 am. She flew about 30 meters away and landed high in a tree. Five minutes later the male joined her, giving several calls, and copulated for a few seconds. Both sat for a minute, after which the male broke off a small branch and took it in his beak to the pseudo-nest. A few minutes later she flew to another nearby tree where he subsequently joined her. After a short period, she rapidly flew to the pseudo-nest tree to harass a fox squirrel near the pseudo-nest. She continued to molest the squirrel, which was persistent in examining the pseudo-nest. When the male took chase to the squirrel, the squirrel took his leave, as well did we to get to work. In retrospect, this defense was interesting behavior.

On April 24th at about the same time, the male was at the pseudo-nest puttering around. He then flew to the female in a tree about 25 meters away, gave a few calls, and mounted her, again for only a few seconds. Both stayed at the tree for a few minutes, after which he broke off a select small branch and carried it in his beak to the pseudo-nest. She soon flew off to the west. After he dallied around in an adjacent tree for a few minutes, he flew off in the same direction. We relocated one of the birds about 150 meters away sitting high in a tree.

This pseudo-nest was just not going to be the nest in which the eggs were to be laid. Everything was wrong about it. There had to be another nest location probably west of this one, where both birds often flew after copulation. We found that nest on the 27th, about 150 meters away in the crotch of a Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) tree. It was still incomplete but it looked more typical and was indeed a successful nest in the end. All previous nests were in White Oak. The most abundant or characteristic tree species of a locality is apt to be the one most frequently chosen for nesting (Burns).

Year	Date (month/day)				Miscellaneous Data		
	Arrival in park	First seen incubating	First young	Fledge date number	Tree Species	Trunk diameter	Nest height
1997	• •		6/25	6/25 (3)	White Oak	85 cm	17.8 m
1998	4/20	5/2	6/2	6/2 (3)	White Oak	68.9 cm	16.1 m
1999	4/19	5/4	6/14	6/14 (2)	White Oak	99.1 cm	22.6 m
2000	4/14	•	6/25	7/16 (1)	White Oak	43.5 cm	23.8 m
2001	4/9	5/2	6/18	6/18 (2)	White Oak	74.8 cm	19.3 m
2002	4/16	•	6/25	6/25 (2)	White Oak	101 cm	22.1 m
2003	4/16	5/6	6/15	6/15 (3)	Black Cherry	30.6 cm	19.6 m

In the Adirondack study (Matray), only one of 14 nests found was in a Black Cherry.

In reviewing our field notes, we realized that this was not the first pseudo-nest that we had observed. Early in April 2000, we reluctantly were led to believe that a similar collection of sticks in a less than ideal position on a tree branch attended by a Broad-winged Hawk was actually a nest. After coming back from vacation two weeks later, we realized that this pseudo-nest was abandoned. We later discovered the real nest during the fledging period.

None of the Burns, Bent, or Goodrich et al. reviews describes this courtship/copulation behavior for Broad-winged Hawks. We were unable to find any reference at all to this end.

Bent, A.C. 1961. *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*. Pt. 1. Dover Publications. 236.
 Burns, F.L. 1911. A monograph of the Broad-winged Hawk. *Wilson Bull.* 23 (3 and 4):1-320.
 Goodrich, L.J., S.C. Crocoll, and S.E. Senner. 1996. Broad-winged Hawk. No. 218 in *The Birds of North America*. (edited by A. Poole and F. Gill). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C: The American Ornithologists' Union.
 Matray, P.F. 1974. Broad-winged Hawk nesting and ecology. *Auk* 91:307-324.
 Rusch, D.H. and P.D. Doerr. 1972. Broad-winged Hawk nesting and food habits. *Auk* 89: 139-145.

A Great Horned Owl by Carl Sadowski, age 11

On November 9, we discovered that a Great Horned Owl was living in our back yard last month. It was also the day that our skinny cat disappeared. Coincidence? We may never know. I did some reading and found out that a Great Horned Owl could eat a cat.

You may wonder how we knew that it was a Great Horned Owl. We heard the owl in our backyard first.

It took us some time to find it. We decided that the owl was a Great Horned Owl by its size and call.

We have heard other owls from our property before. Those owls were the Barred Owl and the Eastern Screech-Owl. This hoot was different from other hoots we have heard. Mom has a tape of bird calls that we listened to inside the house. We decided it was a Great Horned Owl. Its call is like this, "Who's awake... me toooooo." I was the one who found the owl. Mom even let me use her Zeiss binoculars. There was a full moon that night so you could see it really well. It was up about 35 feet out on a branch. You could see the owl turn its head. My mom said she could see some white on its breast.

The owl is still around. Mom and Dad hear it often in the evening or early morning. I did some more reading and deduced that the owl was marking its space. It's cool to have a Great Horned Owl in my backyard.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Chris Ignasiak for having Carl share his exciting experience. □

CORRECTIONS:

The report of **Laughing Gull** at the Hardy Road Landfill should have read June 20, 1998. It had been previously reported as a species on the 1998 Greater Akron Audubon Society Summer Bird Count.

The columns from the Sunday Morning Bird tallies did not flow correctly in the Summer issue (Volume 99 #3). This had a disappointing effect on the totals for the walks. The correct total for week 4 and the totals follow.

CORRECTION: SMBW Tallies

Species	W4	Total
Common Loon		49
Pied-billed Grebe	3	26
Horned Grebe		7
Red-necked Grebe		2
DC Cormorant	49	849
Least Bittern	1	1
Great Blue Heron	213	958
Great Egret	1	3
Green Heron	25	68
BC Night-Heron		4
Turkey Vulture	56	402
Canada Goose	326	2203
Mute Swan	2	8
Wood Duck	90	610
Gadwall		2
A. Black Duck		8
Mallard	118	795
Bw Teal		15
N. Shoveler		2
Gw Teal		22
Ring-necked Duck	3	70
G. Scaup		1
L. Scaup		55
Bufflehead	3	34
H. Merganser		22
C. Merganser	1	6
Rb Merganser	32	902
Ruddy Duck	2	47
Osprey		4
Bald Eagle	1	1
Northern Harrier	1	5
Sharp-shinned H.	3	91
Cooper's Hawk	5	31
Red-shouldered H.	4	37
Broad-winged H.	6	103
Red-tailed Hawk	23	115
Rough-legged H.		2
A. Kestrel	2	24
Merlin		2
Peregrine Falcon		1
Wild Turkey		32
Sora	3	3
A. Coot		3
Sandhill Crane		2
Killdeer	27	142
G. Yellowlegs	2	4
L. Yellowlegs	4	4
Solitary Sandpiper	23	42
Willet		2
Spotted Sandpiper	17	48
Pectoral Sandpiper		3
Wilson's Snipe	1	4
A. Woodcock	1	6
Bonaparte's Gull		114
Ring-billed Gull	80	540
Herring Gull	9	166
G. Black-backed Gull	1	14
Caspian Tern	5	75
Common Tern		1
Forster's Tern	10	23
Rock Pigeon	52	182
Mourning Dove	106	622
Bb Cuckoo		3
Yb Cuckoo	1	6
E. Screech-Owl		1
GH Owl	2	8
Barred Owl	1	10
C. Nighthawk		11
Whip-poor-will	1	3
Chimney Swift	107	413
Rt Hummingbird	10	39
Belted Kingfisher	14	110
Rh Woodpecker	19	73
Rb Woodpecker	110	704
Yb Sapsucker	1	21
Downy Wood.	68	470
Hairy Woodpecker	13	94

Behind the Bird Calendar

Editor:

Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Editorial Assistants:

Copy Editor: Garnet Byrne (GB)

Weather Summary: Dwight W. Chasar

KBC Web Site Manager: Delores Cole (DCo)

Contributors:

Emil Bacik (EB)
Nick Barber (NB)
Gregory Bennett (GBe)
Dan Best (DB)
Black River Audubon (BR)
Kelly Blazek (KB)
Jennifer Brumfield (JB)
Roger Bueck (RB)
Steve and Beth Cagan (SBC)
Craig Caldwell (CC)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)
Pat Coy (PC)
George and Sandy Cull (GSC)
Bill Deininger (BD)
Leo Deininger (LD)
Elinor Elder (EE)
Laura Erickson (LE)
Tim Fairweather (TF)
Bob Finkelstein (BF)
Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad (AJF)
Andy Fondrk (AFo)
Lou Gardella (LGa)
Linda Gilbert (LGi)
Tami Gingrich (TGi)
Christa Glatter (CG)
Frank Greenland (FG)
Rob and Sandy Harlan (RSH)
Jackie Haley (JHa)
Jim Heflich (JHe)
Dick and Jean Hoffman (DJH)
Judy Tisdale Hurley (JTH)
Sally Isacco (SI)
Claire Johnson (CJo)
Diane Johnson (DJo)
Susan Jones (SJ)
Paul Kiplinger (PK)
Charles Klaus (CK)
Brenda Kovalsky (BK)
Gabe Leidy (GL)
Thomas LePage (TLP)
Karl Liske (KL)
Fred Losi (FL)
Paula Lozano (PL)
Jim McCarty (JM)
Jim McConnor (JMc)
Kevin Metcalf (KM)
Charlote and Andy Miller
Ben Morrison (BMo)
Ed Nowak (EN)
Jane Oswald (JO)
Linda Paine (LP)
Perry Peskin (PP)
Bruce Peterjohn (BP)
Haans Petruschke (HP)
John Pogacnik (JP)
Craig Rieker (CR)
Mary Reintal (MRe)
Richard Rickard (RR)
Bryn Roberts (BR)
Drew Rolik (DR)
Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)
Dan Sanders (DS)
Winnie Sarno (WSa)
Ed Schlabach (ESc)
Phyllis Schnell (PS)
Mary Ann Sedivy (MAS)
Dan Seman (DS)
Troy Shively (TS)
Carol Skinner (CSk)
Elaine Snively (ES)
Chris Spagnoli (CS)
Terry and Barb Sponseller (TBS)
Richard Stearns (RS)
Stanley Stine (SSt)
Woody Stover (WS)
Bertalan Szabo (BS)
Karin Tanquist (KT)
Cheri Tindira (CT)
Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)
Suzanne Wagner (SW)
Vernon Weingart (VW)
Jeff Wert (JW)
Bill Whan (BWh)
Randolph White (RW)
Ben Winger (BW)
Clyde Witt (CW)
Scott Wright (SWr)
Sean Zadar (SZ)

CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES



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

