

GUIDE TO THE CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT

Waterbirds, especially rarities or large numbers, and a variety of migrant landbirds attract many birders to the Cleveland lakefront. The area is easily reached from interstates 80,90,71 and 77. Other areas of interest are nearby both east and west. As there are few breeding birds, summer is the quietest season, but fall migrant shorebirds begin to arrive in early July and August through May there are many attractions. A spotting scope is helpful in scanning the lake and almost a necessity at some locations where the birds can only be viewed at a distance. Recent changes on the lakefront include the creation of the Cleveland Lakefront State Park (including sites 1, 2, 3 and 7) and the closing of White City Beach. For latest information call (216) 696-8186, the Northern Ohio Rare Bird Alert which is currently updated on Tuesday afternoon after taking reports on Monday.

Outstanding sightings listed for each location are rare species that have been seen in recent years. If you should discover any rarities while in Cleveland, please notify local birders or call the above number and leave details on the tape.

1. Wildwood Park (I 90 to E. 185th St., north to Neff Rd., left to Lake Erie and the park) two breakwalls into the lake and a wooded trail along Euclid Creek. Good vantage for watching movement along the lake.

Gulls, terns, waterfowl, passerine migrants: spring and fall.
Outstanding sightings: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, Whimbrel, Little Gull, Sabine's Gull.

2. Gordon Park/CEI at E. 72nd St. (I 90 exits at Liberty Blvd. and 72nd St.) old marina, breakwalls, light plant warm water outflow which keeps an area of water open in winter sometimes resulting in major concentrations.

Gulls, terns, waterfowl: best in winter, also spring and fall.
Harlequin Duck, Scoters, Red Phalarope, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Thayer's, Black-headed and Ivory Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake.

3. E. 55th St. Marina (I 90 exit at E. 55th St.) marina, protected water, some beach, weedy areas.

Gulls, waterfowl, shorebirds, fall migrants: fall and spring, check

in winter for Snowy Owl. Black Sooter, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, LeConte's Sparrow, Lapland Longspur.

North Marginal Rd. runs between E. 55th and E. 9th Sts. and is access to MUNY, Burke airport and two marinas. Check along the way for gull and waterfowl.

4. MUNY Light Plant (N. Marginal Rd. between Forest City and Lakeside Yacht Clubs) landfill impoundment offshore behind the plant. Take a scope and go along the east side of the plant to a platform in the rear to look into the landfill. The fill level has risen so that waterfowl are now unlikely.

Gulls, terns, shorebirds: spring and fall. Common Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Am. Avocet, Laughing Gull, Snowy Owl.

5. Burke Lakefront Airport (N. Marginal Rd. west of Lakeside Yacht Club) airport abutting the lake with weedy and wooded areas at the east end. Pull into spaces along the fence and take a scope up the hill where there is a road crossover. Check runways as well as grassy areas.

Hawks, owls, shorebirds: nearly all year. Little Blue Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Pomarine Jaeger, Snowy Owl.

6. Donald Gray Gardens (E. 9th St. north to the end, left to the Cleveland Memorial Stadium) small park on north side of the stadium with pine trees, weedy areas and ivy-covered slopes. Undergoing "improvement" which is detrimental. Park in stadium parking when possible--avoid when events scheduled at the stadium.

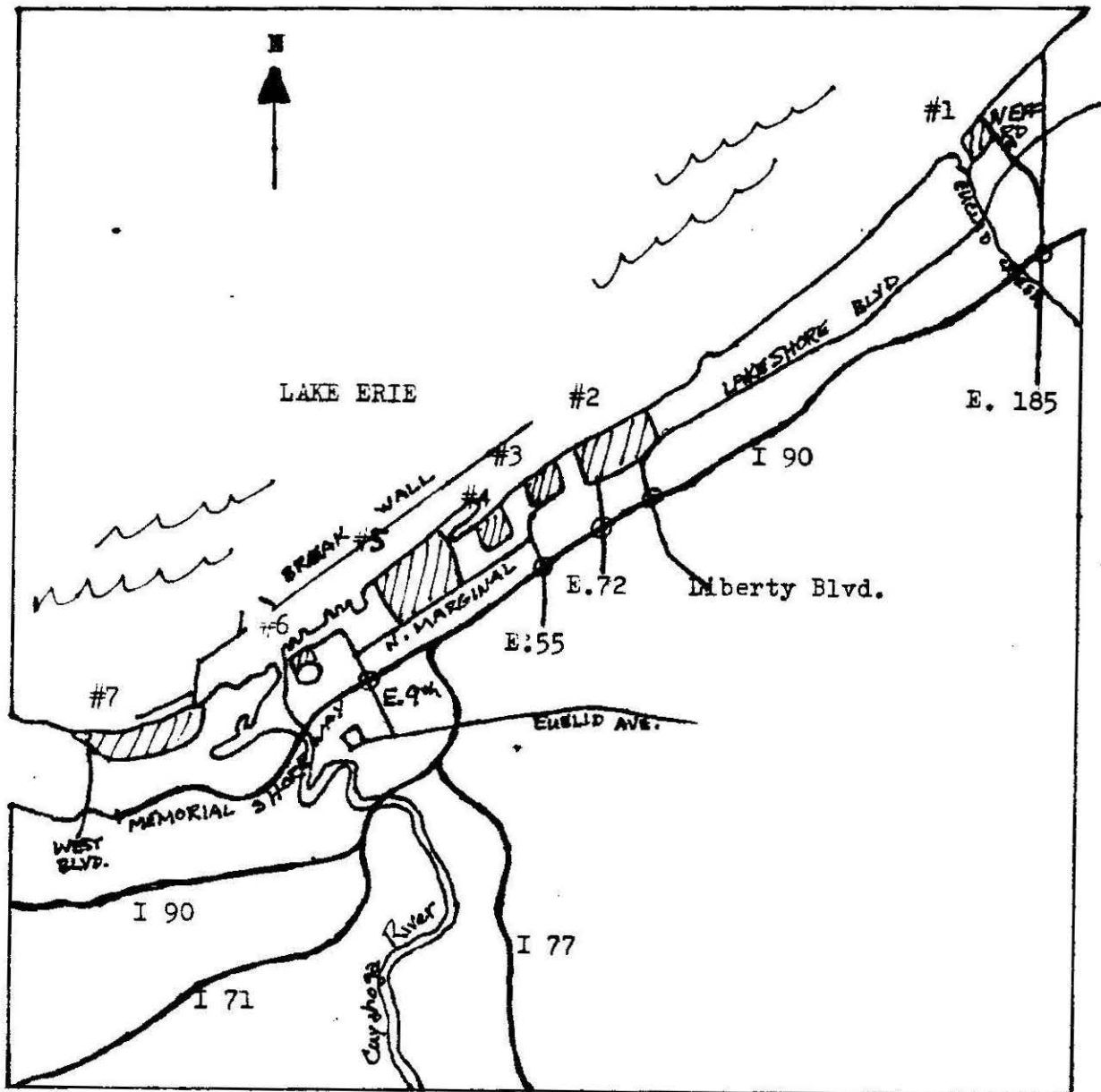
Migrant owls and passerines: spring and fall. Barn, Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls, Connecticut warbler (good for warblers), whip-poor-will, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

7. Edgewater Park (Memorial Shoreway (Rt. 6) west to Edgewater exit) large park with marina, breakwalls, playing fields and beaches.

Perkins Beach (continue west to the end of the Shoreway, to West Blvd, north into parking area at lake) actually bluff above the beach at extreme west end of Edgewater Park. Overlooks slightly protected bend in the shoreline where waterfowl may congregate. Excellent lookout for spring hawk migration.

Hawks, gulls, waterfowl, migrant passerines: spring and fall, winter until iced up. Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Gannet, Brant, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Sooters, Glaucous and Little Gulls.

Jean Hoffman



CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT (expanded between shoreline and Shoreway)