

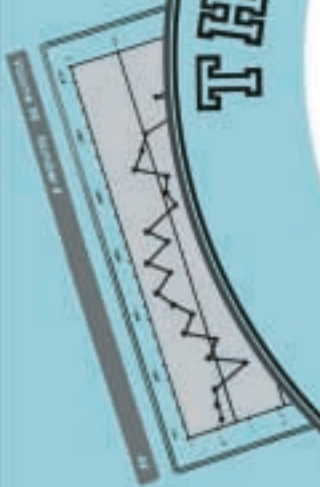
Bulletin No. 1, 1905.  
BIRD CALENDAR

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



RELECTIONS  
by  
M. C. Oberholser



Founded by Francis H. Herrick in 1905 for the recording of Bird Activities  
Edited by John W. Aldrich, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
April - 1940  
CLEVELAND, OHIO



**WEATHER**  
**SPRING 1993**  
by William A. Korman  
March: This was the 3rd warmest March on record, with a temperature averaged 53.6° Fahrenheit. (The high 57° below normal.)

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

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

Click to Download a Quarterly Reporting Form (PDF Form)

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**Back cover:** Worm-eating Warbler by Jennifer Brumfield, 2004.  
Orchard Oriole by Kevin Metcalf, 2004.

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

**Rare Bird Hotline:** (216) 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 7:30 P.M. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Inquiries** regarding subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* should be addressed to Carole Camillo, 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.  
Telephone: (330) 678-9408 e-mail: lorofs@aol.com

March, April, May 200  
Volume 100 Number 2

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar



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# SPRING 2004

## SPRING 2004 WEATHER

by Dwight Chasar

**MARCH:** The temperature averaged 40.4°, 2.9° above normal. The highest temperature was 73° on the 5th and lowest, 20° on the 10th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33 to 37° during the month. Sunshine prevailed only 8% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 4.82 in., 1.88 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was .92 in. on the 29-30th. Snowfall totaled 18.6 in. with the greatest 24 hr. amount being 7.1 in. on the 16th. The greatest snow depth was 7 in. on the 17th and 18th.

**APRIL:** The temperature averaged 48.6°, 1.1° above normal. The highest temperature was 81° on the 18th and the lowest, 27° on the 5th. Sunshine occurred a meager 7% of the time possible. Precipitation totaled 3.57 in., 0.31 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 0.71 in. on the 13-14th. Snow totaled 2.6 in. for the month. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 48° by the end of the month.

**MAY:** The temperature averaged 62.1°, 3.6° above normal. The highest temperature was 85° on the 10th and the lowest, 31° on the 4th. The lake temperature rose to 60° by the 31st. Over 18 days, rain totaled 5.90 in., 2.40 in. above normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hr. period was 1.52 in. on the 21st-22nd. Sunshine was essentially undetectable at only 7% of the time possible. □

## THE SEASON

The Cleveland region is not centered in a very good position for birders to observe large flights of northbound waterfowl. Nonetheless, 30 species is a fairly good representation. The only **Snow Geese** report consisted of 3 white morphs in Mantua Township Mar. 24 (LR, VW). On Mar. 7, 74 **Tundra Swans** passed by Lakeshore MP (JP). Another 125 migrated past HBSP Mar. 14 (RH). Puddle ducks moved early and were seen in average numbers. The first **Wood Ducks** arrived at North Chagrin Mar. 3 (KM). The first report of Wood Ducklings was May 17 at Twin Lakes (LR). The high count of **Gadwall** numbers were as expected. The high mark for **American Wigeons** was 40 at HBSP



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
by Carl Johnson

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

It seems updating *A Field Book of the Cleveland Region* serves as a catalyst to add a new species to the region's bird list. This time was no exception. Almost immediately upon getting the booklet out, a striking male Painted Bunting was photographed in Medina Township (See Field Notes). This brought fond memories of Jean Staiger and past experiences with a local Painted Bunting. The detailed information from the Sunday Morning Bird Walks was not available at press time. These valuable data will be ready for the summer issue.

I want to take time to thank Joan Palmer for all her help with subscriptions over my tenure as editor. I will always remember her cheerful face and support. Carole Camillo takes over as subscription coordinator. Many thanks are extended to Ray Hannikman for his remarkable and ongoing coverage of the Headlands Beach and Mentor Lagoons areas. While numerous birdwatchers frequent these prolific birding areas, few ever take time to report their findings. His daily tallies are reminiscent of the yeoman work done by Bill and Nancy Klamm along the Cleveland lakefront for 40 years. Journals such as this could not be worthwhile productions without the efforts of Ray and others who share his passion.

On a sad note, long time Kirtland Bird Club member Mike Stasko passed away in April at the age of 83. As a youth, Mike worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps at several National Wildlife Refuges in Utah. During World War II, Mike served in the U.S. Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He worked at the Lakewood Water Department for forty-one years until his retirement. Many local birders benefited from Mike's knowledge and his willingness to share that knowledge. He led the Cleveland Audubon Spring Bird Walks at Rocky River Reservation for many years. Mike Stasko was a good family man, an excellent birder and a real gentleman. He will be missed.

Mar. 6 (RH). Sandy Ridge Reservation provided refuge for 35 Mar. 25 (AL). **Northern Shoveler** numbers ranged to 20 at Sandy Ridge (TF, AL, m.obs.). Inland, up to 20 could be found at the Akron lakes (GBe). Another 16 were at the Ravenna TLS Apr. 16 (LR). While no high numbers were reported, **Blue-winged Teals** were widespread from late March through early May. **Northern Pintails** passed through in small numbers during the first part of March. The 41 at Lake Phippen Mar. 7 was locally noteworthy (LR, GB, m.obs.). **Green-winged Teals** fared well. High totals included 25 at HBSP Mar. 25 (RH) and 14 at the Ravenna TLS Apr. 6 (LR, KLu). No counts of Green-winged Teal were

received from Sandy Ridge, but it was assumed that fair numbers used the area for refueling before heading northward.

**Canvasback** numbers were about normal. The high was 62 birds off Lakeshore MP Mar. 7 (JP).

**Redheads** put in a fair showing in early March. Along Lake Erie, the

high count was 48 off Lakeshore MP Mar. 6 (JP). Lake Medina gave 60+ refuge Mar. 14 (JW). Another 60 Redheads were at Wingfoot Lake Mar. 19 (LR). **Ring-necked Ducks** were below average. The 200 at HBSP Mar. 20 was considered good for the site (RH). However, the high count of 900 at Mogadore Mar. 18 was far below expected numbers (LR). **Greater Scaups** are not known to dally in the region much after early April. A hen at Fairport Harbor May 24 was very late (RH). The 700 **Lesser Scaups** at Wellington Mar. 14 was an impressive inland total (RSH). **Surf Scoters** were widespread. Two graced Fairport Harbor Mar. 13 (RH, KM). A male was a startling discovery at Mallard Lake in Medina Mar.



19 (DK, BeMc). One was at LaDue Mar. 27 (AFo). Seven were at Nesmith Lake Mar. 31 (KMi). They moved to Summit Lake Apr. 1 (GBe). Spencer Lake hosted 8 Apr. 8 (HO). One was seen off Lakeshore MP Apr. 4 (JP). Singles were in Fairport Harbor Apr. 4 & 8 (RH). Two more were at Springfield Lake Mar. 31 & Apr. 1 (KMi, BMo). A pair was at West Branch SP Apr. 4-6 (LR, VW). A group of 8 was seen at Spencer Lake SWA Apr. 8 (HO). A **White-winged Scoter** was at Springfield Lake Mar. 27 (CH). Two were there Mar. 31 (KMi). One was seen at Walborn Reservoir Apr. 4 (BMo). As is typical, **Long-tailed Ducks** brushed through the region in quick fashion. However, this time they had the presence of mind to do so on a Saturday and therefore were tallied by several lucky observers. March 27 provided nearly all of the reports. That day Fondrk saw 40 at LaDue; Wert tallied 4 at Lake Medina and 5 at Granger Lake; and Caldwell saw two pairs at Oberlin Reservoir (CC). The only other inland report was a drake at Walborn Reservoir Apr. 9 (BMo). Long-tailed Ducks

were seen off Lakeshore MP Mar. 28 and Apr. 4 (JP).

**Bufflehead** numbers were solid well into mid-April. The 60 at HBSP Apr. 9 was the high (RH). **Common Goldeneye** numbers remained

depressed. The high tally from Lakeshore MP was a paltry 9 Mar. 21 (JP). The high from HBSP was a meager 15 Mar. 21 (RH). Inland highs were equally alarming. The Summit County high was 5 at Summit Lake Mar. 5 (GBe). The Portage County high was 2 at Brady Lake Mar. 26 (GBe). Lake Medina managed to host 6 on Mar. 27 (JW). No reports of goldeneyes were received from Geauga County. **Hooded Mergansers** arrived in good fashion. Nesting



Sharp-shinned Hawk - Lakewood  
by Craig Rieker©

was well underway by May. A hen **Common Merganser** lingering at a gravel pit lake adjacent to Lake Rockwell in Shalersville Township through the period was unusual (LR). Inland counts of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were very good. The 200+ at Nimisila Reservoir March-April reflected their abundance away from Lake Erie (GBe). High tallies included 1700 at HBSP Mar. 21 (RH) and 2053 off Lakeshore MP Mar. 13 (JP). **Ruddy Ducks** were widespread and generally felt to be doing well. Bucking this trend, Mogadore usually hosts many hundreds in spring, but this year's numbers fell well below its norm. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported only from Lorain Co. (CC). Even though concerns were had for their survival after such an ice-laden winter, **Wild Turkeys** appeared to be flourishing locally.

**Common Loon** migration spanned from mid-March through early May. A high tally was 37 at HBSP Apr. 8 (RH). Inland, 5 were at Oberlin Reservoir Mar. 27 & 28 (CC, PL, BF). Twenty were at LaDue Mar. 27 (AFo). Springfield Lake hosted 26 loons Mar. 31 (KMi). Another 11 were seen at Turkeyfoot Lake the same day (GBe). Another 25 were tallied at

#### Comments on Spring 2004 at Headlands Beach State Park Areas

After birding the Headlands Beach State Park area almost every day during April and May, I realize what a spectacle bird migration is. Birds, from late-lingering ducks to early warblers, from brightly colored spring male warblers to those pesky little *Empidonax* flycatchers, are there if you search them out. And if days seem as if they are the same with the same species in the same places, sit back and enjoy the scene, for change will move the birds on to their next destinations. Lingering impressions from Spring 2004 were HBSP's first-ever Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two Long-eared Owls high in a pine tree, twelve breeding-plumaged American Avocets, and a flock of migrants which took Emil and me over one hour to sort through and wonder at. There was that prolonged study of a tired Gray-cheeked Thrush and that frustrating Connecticut Warbler that sang but would never show. Birding disappointments were few and far between (there could have been more shorebirds and terns) during the spring at HBSP. I just hope your enjoyment of the bird migration for Spring 2004 was as satisfying as mine.

Ray Hannikman



Turkey Vulture - Lakewood  
by Carole Calladine©

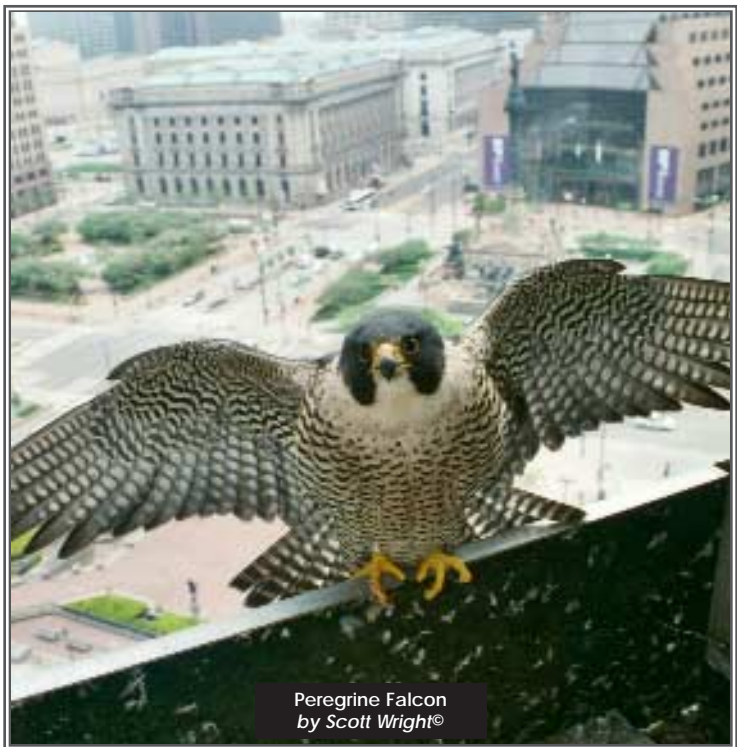
BF, m.obs.).  
Twenty  
**Turkey Vultures** were seen consuming dead heron fledglings that had blown from their nests on Bath Road May 25 (MM, BS). Large numbers of migrants were tallied in Lakewood from late March through late April (CRE, CCa).

Lake Medina Apr. 4 (JW). A breeding plumaged loon on Shipman Pond Apr. 30 was surprising (DJH). Two straggling immatures were at Nimisila Reservoir May 20 (GBe). **Pied-billed Grebes** were widespread and seen in better than expected numbers. Wellington Reservoir hosted 30 **Horned Grebes** Mar. 14 (RSH). Another 46 were seen at Turkeyfoot Lake Mar. 31 (GBe). Lakefront **Double-crested Cormorants** were deemed too many to count by Lozano.

**Great Egrets** were fairly widespread most of April and May. Up to 6 were seen at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (KLu). Two were at Spencer Lake SWA Apr. 8 (HO). The earliest egret was at Hinckley Lake Mar. 12 (RH). Another was early in Akron Mar. 24 (GBe). Four were at Sandy Ridge Apr. 30 (AL). Another four-some passed by HBSP May 1 (RH). For a change, it was good news for **Green Herons**. High counts ranged as high as 12 at Ira Road Apr. 26 (TMR). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** did not disappoint the Merwyn St. watchers. From Mar. 10 through Apr. 24, up to 109 were counted there (PL,

**A**n early **Osprey** was noted at the traditional nesting tower near Berlin Reservoir in southeast Portage County Mar. 22 (BMo). Another was seen over Harrisville Township, Medina County, the same day (LR). After that date, reports were widespread and rather numerous. Bad news was received concerning the pair at Lake Hodgson. Brad Bolton wrote, "It seems the storm early Saturday (May 22) did the Osprey chicks in. They hatched a couple days before the storm, but by Saturday

afternoon the adults' behavior was atypical for having nestlings. The adults have abandoned the nest-- I've checked several days this week. They come back occasionally, but don't stay." **Bald Eagles** nests were hanging on despite the strong winds. At this writing, young were being fed at most traditional nesting sites. Migrant **Northern Harriers** were conspicuous along the lakefront from late March through the first two-thirds of May. High counts were 7 in Lakewood Apr. 1 and 5 at HBSP Mar. 28 Apr. 16 (RH). At Lakeshore MP, 8 were tallied Mar. 28 (JP). A tally of 78 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was made in Lakewood Apr. 16 (CRE). **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested in the same tree as last year near Red Lock (CVNP) (MRe, mobs.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was exceptionally early at Brecksville Apr. 3 (BS). The 1600 over Lakeshore MP Apr. 18 was one of the largest movements ever noted in the history of record keeping in the Cleveland region (JP). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Lorain Co. Mar. 27 (CC). Another drifted over



Peregrine Falcon  
by Scott Wright©

Summit Lake the same day (CH). Three passed by HBSP (RH) and Lakeshore MP (JP) Mar. 28. One passed by Lakewood Apr. 16 (CRe). The status of **American Kestrels** remains puzzling to this editor. If they are common as most folks suggest, then why are they not on each and every day list report?

**Virginia Rails** were very scarce. The only reports were from Shipman Pond, Sandy Ridge, Ira Road and Troy Township. **Soras** were a bit more widespread. Bennett found them at Mogadore, Akron and Tinker's Creek SNP. A **Common Moorhens** were reported from Sandy Ridge May 15 (CC) and from mid-May at Herrick Fen (GB, KL).

Writing about shorebirding is nearly as depressing as not having any shorebird sites to write about. The only **Black-bellied Plover** was seen at HBSP May 9 (RH). A flock of 20 **American Golden-Plovers** skirted past HBSP Apr. 29 (LR). A flock of 95 in Mantua Township Apr. 300 was exceptionally noteworthy (LR, VW). Small numbers of **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at HBSP in mid-May (RH). The flooded fields in Mantua Township and Sandy Ridge Reservation. hosted expected numbers of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. **Solitary Sandpipers** were early and as expected. The high count of **Spotted Sandpipers** was 22 at HBSP Apr. 25 (RH). The only **Ruddy Turnstones** were reported from HBSP. No report of **Sanderlings** was received. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** skipped through the region almost undetected. **Least Sandpipers** were seen in small numbers at expected times. A few **Pectoral Sandpipers** were tallied in Mantua Township (m.obs.) and Sandy Ridge (SBC). The only **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at HBSP May 8 (RH). **American Woodcocks** were in

good supply. The apparent breeding of **Wilson's Snipes** in the CVNP was very good news (DAC, MRe m.obs.).

Gulls seemed to pass over the region without much fanfare this spring. The high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at HBSP was 350 Apr. 4 (RH). Another 350 were viewed on the taconite dock at Whiskey Island Apr. 6 (PL). The 112 at Spencer Lake SWA Apr. 8 was a good inland tally (HO). A second-winter **Thayer's Gull** was at Fairport Harbor Mar. 13 (KM). An unaged bird was seen off Lakeshore MP the same day (JP). An adult **Iceland Gull** was seen of Lakeshore MP Mar. 6 (JP). One was at HBSP Mar. 21 (RH). A first-year bird was viewed off Lakeshore MP Apr. 4 (JP). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** seem to appear almost anywhere these days. An adult was at Spencer Lake SWA Mar. 14 (RSH). This sighting provided the first Medina County record and completed the distribution pattern for all 7 counties of the region. A first-summer plumaged **Glaucous Gull** was exceptionally tardy at HBSP May 15 (RH). **Great Black-backed Gulls** lingered in expected numbers. A bird at LaDue Mar. 22 was unexpected (LR).

The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were from HBSP May 20, 21, 23 & 30 (RH), Hinckley MP May 29 and Sandy Ridge May 29 (RSH). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was record-breaking early Apr. 19 at Novak Sanctuary (DTJ, BS). The previous record had stood for 58 years. Other reports were as follows: May 8 CVNP (PC, KT); May 19, Elmwood Park (PL, TG); May 20, Nimisila (GBe); and May 22, 3 at Armington Pond (CVNP) (GBe). Two were seen at Lakeshore MP May 23 (JP).

**Common Nighthawks** continue to be severely depressed throughout the region. Any and all reports of

nesting birds will be greatly appreciated by this desk. From May 16 through May 24 as many as 12 were seen at HBSP (RH). All other reports received are as follows: Apr. 25 Strongsville (*fide* PS); May 10 Akron (GBe) and Tinker's Creek SNP (GB, CG); May 11 Peninsula (4) (PC, KT) and Oak Grove (DAC); May 15 Brookpark (FG); May 16 Valleyview (FL); May 20 Elmwood Park (JMK); May 21 Lake Rockwell (7) (GBe), Brecksville (10) (DAC) and Stow (2) (GBe); May 22 Lakewood (PL); May 27 Redlock Trail (2) (DAC); May 28 Mentor (CK); and May 29 Sagamore Hills (2) (FCD). **Chimney Swifts** were on time. Early birds were at Shaker Lakes by Apr. 21 (VF, LD). Five were seen over the West Woods Apr. 24 (LGi). In recent years, **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** have become the darlings of many a nonbirder. Feeders are being kept up longer in the fall and put out earlier in the spring. A male was record-breaking early Apr. 19 at Lake County Farmpark (JP). A bird in Grafton Apr. 26 date was more typical of an early arrival (CPr). HBSP hosted at least 12 May 13 (RH). One has to give credit to the blooming invasive honeysuckle for this gathering.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in good supply. Birds visiting feeders in Akron (JHa) and Granger Township (JW) provide unusual sightings. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were in fair numbers. An early arrival was seen at Spencer Lake SWA Mar. 29 (SS). As many as 18 were seen at HBSP Apr. 25 (RH). The best news concerning Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers came from Holden Arboretum where nesting was taking place by the end of the period (HP, LP, m.obs.). The 70 migrating **Northern Flickers** at HBSP Apr. 16 & 17 were noteworthy, but paled in comparison to the 324 notched at Lakeshore MP Apr. 18 (JP).



SPRING BIRD WALK SPECIES TOTALS

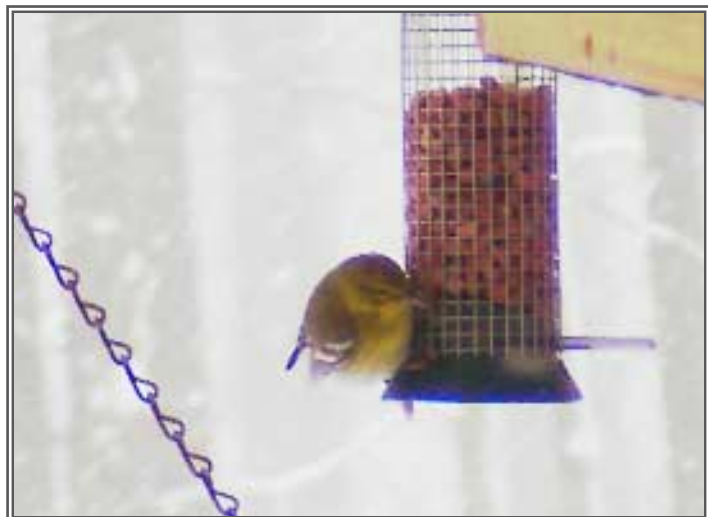
SITE	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23
North Chagrin	33	44	51	44	72	63	
South Chagrin	32	45	38	39	62	59	
Bedford	30	42	38	44	73	65	
Brecksville	53	58	65	67	93	84	
Hinckley	38	49	54	53	87	76	
Lake Isaac	40	40	35	0	64	60	
Rocky River	37	56	54	37	72	55	
Mentor Marsh	66	65	81	70	95	73	
Holden Arboretum	48	51	50	42	83	72	
Gates Mills	16	14	24	23	18	33	
Shaker Lakes	47	54	46	47	76	62	
Aurora Sanctuary	28	29	34	30	58	37	
Novak Sanctuary	38	42	50	61	61	70	
Geauga Parks	34	41	42	37	42	54	54
Hiram Field Station	26	36	36	39	62	56	
Penitentiary Glen	36	35	36	38	52	51	
Huntington	30	42	45	0	50	33	
Lantern Court	29	36	33	5	46	42	
Canalway	35	43	46	44	57	63	
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>54</b>
192 species for all walks							
Compiled by Ken Gober							

**White-eyed Vireos** were back at their usual Bacon Woods haunt by May 15 (CC). The high count at HBSP was 6 May 1 (RH, KM). In an unusual turn of events, they remained there in fair numbers through the end of the period (m.obs.). Early **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported from Brecksville Apr. 11 (DAC), Goodyear Height Apr. 17 (GBe), North Chagrin Apr. 18 (KM), Lakeshore MP Apr. 19 (JP), Norton Apr. 19 (KMo) and Lower Shaker Lake Apr. 23 (CIJ). One to 5 could be found at HBSP from Apr. 20 through May 22 (RH). These diligent reports give readers an indication of just how long the migration period is for this attractive vireo. The high count of Blue-headed was 5 at HBSP May 9 (RH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** arrived in Norton

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Shaker Lakes May 16 (LD). One was seen well at Station Road the same day (DAC). Olive-sideds were tallied at HBSP May 19 & 21 (RH). The first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Firestone MP May 10 (GBe). They arrived in the CVNP the next day (PC, KT). The first lakefront birds were a day later (m.obs.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were in good totals May 17-25 at HBSP (RH). A bird was at Erie Street Cemetery May 22 (BF, PL). Another was at West Creek Preserve May 23 (GL). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was early at Munroe Falls MP May 9 (BR). They were busily on territory by May 12 at Headwaters Park (KM). Birds were noted at Bacon Woods May 15 (CC). Ten **Alder Flycatchers** were tallied along Cable Line Road at West Branch SP May 23 (GBe). Elsewhere they were widespread in known nesting areas and not

noticed along Lake Erie until May 27. A **Willow Flycatcher** was early at HBSP May 6 (RH). The first **Least Flycatcher** was chalked up at Firestone MP Apr. 27 (GBe). The earliest report of **Eastern Phoebe** was from the CVNP Mar. 18 (MRe, m.obs.). They were widespread by the last third of March. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were making their presence known by late April at Tinker's Creek SNP (FL). By the first of May, they were widespread. No significant flights of **Eastern Kingbirds** were reported.

May 2 (KMo). Within a few days, they were widespread at local nesting sites. The bird at HBSP May 1 was the only one reported from any of the Lake Erie migrant watching sites (KM). A Yellow-throated was singing at Bacon Woods May 15 (CC). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was a good find at Bacon Woods May 15 (CC).



Another was at West Creek Preserve the same day (GL). A **Warbling Vireo** was quite early at Brecksville Apr. 21 (DAC).

As expected, Mother's Day weekend brought good tallies of **Blue Jays** along the lakeshore. The high tally of **American Crows** passing by HBSP was 150 Mar. 6 (RH). **Horned Larks** were unusually scarce. The first **Purple Martin** report was from North Reservoir Apr. 5 (GB). An exceptionally early **Tree Swallow** was seen Mar. 13 off Lakeshore MP being chased by a Herring Gull—fate unknown (JP). The swallows appeared in force the first week of April. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was nearly record-breaking early at Lake Rockwell Mar. 29 (LR). **Bank Swallows** were noteworthy at Shaker Lakes Apr. 16 (VF) and Lakeshore MP Apr. 18 (JP). The 6 in the CVNP Apr. 25 were at a more expected early date (PS). The first **Cliff Swallow** was at HBSP Apr. 30 (DJH). Nine passed by Lakeshore MP May 1 (JP). Another was at HBSP May 15 (RH). One was tallied at Bacon Woods May 30 (CC). Nesting birds were widespread in eastern Portage and Geauga Counties by mid-May (LR). **Barn Swallows** arrived in fair numbers by early April. The first report was Apr. 4 near Walborn Reservoir (LR, VW).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** moved in small numbers along the lake. At HBSP, birds were seen from Mar. 7 through May 9 (RH, m.obs.). Coinciding with the Red-breasted Nuthatch movement, fair numbers of **Brown Creepers** were noted along the lake. **Carolina Wrens** remain at all-time highs. **Winter Wrens** moved nicely throughout April. The passage of kinglets always provides interest-



Blue-headed Vireo  
by Craig Rieker©

ing comparisons. The peak for **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at HBSP was 25 on Apr. 7 (RH). The peak for **Ruby-crowneds** there was 20 on Apr. 23 & 24 (RH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen in excellent numbers in the region the last two-thirds of April through the end of the period. They were nesting throughout the region, including a nest near the Shaker Nature Center by the end of May (CIJ)

**Veeries** were as expected. On May 11, one was seen at Sims Parks providing the first spring report from this site in many years (LC). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were seen at West Creek Preserve May 9 & 23 (GL), North Chagrin May 10 (KM) and 6 dates in mid-May at HBSP (RH). The first **Swainson's Thrush** was impressively early at Erie St. Cemetery Apr. 19 (PL, BF). They moved nicely along the lake and high counts reached to double digits. It seems just like a matter of time until Swainson's are verified as nesting in the region. Late birds were singing vigorously at the end of the spring season at both HBSP (RH) and Hinckley (RSH). **Hermit Thrush** numbers were good. HBSP surveys revealed a steady but bimodal migration from Mar. 28 through Apr. 30. Peaks were 15 birds Apr. 18, and 30 birds Apr. 25.

A straggler was noted there May 26 (RH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were widespread in small numbers. Apparently they are nesting successfully in all regional counties. **Brown Thrashers** were feeding fledglings at HBSP May 16. This seemed a bit early (RR). **American Pipits** were widespread in April. Counts reached to 30 at the flooded fields in Mantua Township (m.obs.). Wintering **Cedar Waxwings** disappeared for the most part by the last third of March. The migrants and summering waxwings arrived in large numbers the last half of May and remained that way through the period.

**F**ield reports and 73 pages of e-mail reflected observers' enthusiastic response to the migration of Neotropical warblers. While e-mail reports rarely give numbers of birds seen, they do provide an insight into the total distribution and occurrence trends of this favored group. Any spring when warbler reports from the Cleveland region exceed 34 species, has to be called exceptional. This year, warblers were represented by a highly respectable 37 species, most of which were in expected distribution and numbers.

The earliest **Blue-winged Warbler** was Apr. 26 at South Chagrin (SW). Their numbers were excellent on the CVNP Spring Census. The Chasars' diligent coordination of volunteer efforts there do not go unnoticed. Starting with a Blue-winged at the old Coliseum site May 1, numbers in the CVNP steadily ballooned. On May 5, the Chasars tallied 12 at Walton Hills and then another 40 along the



Pine Warbler  
Rocky River Nature Center  
by Scott Wright©

Wetmore Trail during the May 8 census. Other early arrivals included a bird in Valley City May 1 (FG) and one in Norton May 2 (KMo). Along Lake Erie birds were seen at HBSP on 7 dates--which is far more than expected (RH, m.obs.). Or does it simply reflect more intense coverage? Bacon Woods hosted territorial Blue-winged May 8-30 (CC). **Tennessee Warbler** numbers were as expected. The first report was May 1 in Newbury (MAS). Another early bird was in Grafton May 10 (CPr). They reached the lakefront in fair numbers by May 15. **Orange-crowned Warblers** always elicit comments from reporters. Birds were at HBSP Apr. 29 & May 1 (RH, KM, LR). One was at Veteran's Park May 12 (JMc). The first report of **Nashville Warbler** was from Rocky River NC Apr. 25 (BD). Another was early at Forest Hill Park Apr. 27 (KM). The high was 7 at HBSP May 6 (RH). **Northern Parula** reports were stellar. An early male was in Brecksville Apr. 21 (DAC). Ira Road hosted one Apr. 23 (IK). Another graced Rocky River NC Apr. 25 (BD, BF, KG, PL). Three birds were in Valley City May 2 (FG). The window of passage stretched from May 2 through May 24 at HBSP (RH). A male was at Kendall Lake May 5 (GBe). One was at Bacon Woods May 8 & 15 (CC). Birds were at West Creek Preserve May 8 & 15 (GL). A whopping 6-8 were at Shake Lakes

May 9 (JHe, m.obs.). Two were at Hinckley May 16 (TMR). The 60 **Yellow Warblers** tallied along the Wetmore Trail May 8 was indicative of their local abundance (DAC). The 10 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at Firestone MP

May 11 provided the highest tally for the season (RSH). **Magnolia Warblers** were very common along the lake the last half of May. Hannikman's tallies reflect a distinct pattern of at least two waves. The first peak (9 birds) was May 12-13. The second (25 birds) was May 21-22. Three "Maggies" at Hinckley May 29 were thought to be nesters (RSH). A **Cape May Warbler** was exceptionally early in Strongsville Apr. 26 (*vide* CPr). Another was a pleasant surprise in Akron May 7 (GBe). On May 9, a male was at West Creek Preserve (GL). One brightened a yard in Grafton May 10 (CPr). Birds were seen at HBSP May 15 & 22 (RH). Three were spied there May 21 (TMR). Two were at Erie St. Cemetery May 22 (GL). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were widespread and their numbers were as expected. Coverage of downtown Cleveland migrant traps allowed many to see them at very close range. Sims Park provided reports May 8-9 (LC). The passage of Black-throated Blues at HBSP stretched from May 2 through May 23, with a high of 9 birds May 18 (RH). The 100 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Station Road (CVNP) Apr. 30 were an impressive tally (DAC, m.obs.). **Black-throated Green Warblers** seemed to be in above-average supply. The first birds were seen at HBSP Apr. 21 (RH). They were nearly daily

occurrences there through May 29. The 10 at Shaker Lakes May 19 was high for the date (RSH). The first April record of **Blackburnian Warbler** at HBSP was on the 25th (EB, RH, LR). One was at Novak Sanctuary May 2 (DTJ). A male was heard in Kent May 21 (GB, KL). This species was seen at Elmwood Park May 4 & 19 (PL, BF). Birds at Hinckley MP May 27 & 29, plus at a different site there May 29 were thought to be territorial males (RSH). **Yellow-throated Warblers** are marching southward in the Cuyahoga Valley towards Akron. At least 3 were noted at Ira Road Apr. 23 (IK). A small colony was discovered in Gates Mills in a large sycamore grove along the Chagrin River (LR). Other birds were noted at Columbia Reservation May 24 (LR, CPr) and at Bacon Woods (m.obs.). Starting with a bird at Fondrk's feeder in Chesterland Mar. 7, **Pine Warblers** were exceptionally widespread and numerous this spring. Another early bird was at North Chagrin Mar. 29 (KM). As many as 3 frequented the HBSP the last half of April (RH, DJH). On Apr. 30, Jean Hoffman wrote, "Got to HBSP in late morning and had lots of nice birds and such wonderful weather. Most notable for us were two Pine Warblers that were feeding in the grass at the east end of the picnic area. They were so bright and yellow we barely knew what they were, especially since they were mostly on the ground. They also liked to hop up on the cottonwood trunks and look sideways like nuthatches." Three Pines were at Rocky River Nature Center Apr. 17 (BD), but who would have ever imagined the same site would play host to 20+ birds in late Apr. (TM, BD, PL, KG, m.obs.). One was noted at Firestone MP in early Apr. (BS). Other Pines were regularly seen at Brecksville Reservation from early April (DAC, PS). Two adult males were at Shaker Lakes Apr. 12 (VF, LD). A bird at West

Creek Preserve Apr. 18 produced a new record for the site (GL). A very drab immature was at Dike 14 Apr. 30 (DJH). The two birds at Kendall Lake May 5 were probably members of the nesting colony there (GBe). **Palm Warblers** arrived early. Of the 10 Palms at HBSP Apr. 21, one was a “yellow” form (LR). On Apr. 28, 25 were counted at Singer



Prothonotary Warbler - CVNP  
by Scott Wright©

Lake Bog (LR). They were in above average numbers at Shaker Lakes (LD). A count of 12 Palms was made there May 5 (RR). Ten were at Firestone MP May 4 (RSH). At HBSP, **Bay-breasted Warbler** passage stretched from May 9–May 29. The high there was 3 on May 23 (RH). Four were showing off at Summit Lake May 18 (GBe). A Bay-breasted was an unexpected surprise at the RTLs May 29 (LR, KLu). **Blackpoll Warbler** numbers were impressive. Ten were at Shaker Lakes May 19 (RSH). Another 10 were seen at Summit Lake May 20 (GBe). Twenty were tallied at HBSP May 22 & 23 (RH). **Cerulean Warbler** numbers remain low everywhere but in the Brecksville Reservation/Station Road areas of the Cuyahoga Valley. A male foraging low in the invasive shrubbery at HBSP Apr. 25 was exceptionally early and exciting for the site (JMc, m.obs.). One was at Bacon Wood May 8-30 (CC). One sang constantly at South Chagrin May 16 (SW). Two were at North Chagrin May 16 (KM). A migrant was heard at Columbia Woods Park May 18 (RSH). A bird at West Creek Preserve May 23 provided the first record for the site (GL). **Black-and-white Warblers** were widespread in fair numbers. The 3 at Rocky River NC

May 9 was a typical site tally (BD). The earliest **American Redstart** was seen in Norton May 3 (KMo). They were abundant along the lake by May 12. The high tally from HBSP was 40 May 18 (RH, LR). **Prothonotary Warblers** were well-reported. Birds were at Sandy Ridge (TF, m.obs) and Columbia Reservation through the period (CPr, LR). One was at Rocky River Apr. 25-May 8 (AH, BD, m.obs.). Nest boxes were doing fairly well along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB, AFo). There were 5 singing **Prothonotary Warblers** throughout the wetland areas at Pinery Narrows May 31 (LGa). The 8 **Ovenbirds** at Rocky River NC May 9 provided a very good total (BD, m.obs.). **Northern Waterthrush** numbers were as expected. A bird was at Elmwood Park Apr. 21 (PL, JMK). Their passage at HBSP spanned Apr. 25 through May 12 (RH). One was at Bacon Woods May 8 (CC). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was early at Big Creek Park Apr. 9 (TGi). They were busy on territory by mid-April. One was along Mallet Creek Apr. 18 (FG). No extralimital lakefront report was received. **Mourning Warblers** were widespread. A bird was at Munroe Falls Park May 9 (BR). One was at Dike 14 May 22 (KM). Two were at Erie St.

Cemetery the same day (GL). Four were counted at Lakeshore MP May 23 (JP). HBSP hosted up to 6 Mournings between May 15 & May 29 (RH, m.obs.). **Common Yellowthroats** were typically abundant. Two **Hooded Warblers** were seen at HBSP May 16-17 (RH). **Wilson's Warbler** numbers were solid. The 8 **Canada Warblers** at HBSP May 22 were a bit above normal (RH). The 7 at Shaker Lakes May 19 was equally impressive (RSH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a good find at Erie St. Cemetery May 4 (GL). One was at Dike 14 May 19 (SZ). A territorial bird was at West Branch SP May 29 (GBe).

**Scarlet Tanagers** were widespread and common after the first of May. **Eastern Towhees** seemed far more numerous than usual along the lake. As expected, **American Tree Sparrows** left by mid-April. The latest bird was in Grafton Apr. 24 (CPr). The first report of **Chipping Sparrow** was from North Chagrin Mar. 29 (KM). Most reports indicated a solid movement of “Chippys” by Apr. 6. The high tally was 18 at Shaker Lakes Apr. 12 (VF). A group of 10 was noticed at Erie Street Cemetery Apr. 19 (BF, PL). Adults were seen feeding fledglings in Stow by May 21 (TB). A **Field Sparrow** provided uncommon excitement at Shaker Lakes Apr. 3 (SBC). **Savannah Sparrows** were widespread and numerous at nesting locales. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are always fairly uncommon. This year there were three reports. Birds were seen at Lakeshore MP Mar. 29 (JP); Mantua Township Apr. 30 (GB, CG); the old Coliseum site in the CVNP May 1 (DAC); Dike 14 May 19 (SZ); and Alderfer/Oenslager Wildlife Sanctuary (Medina Co.)

May 20 (RSH). Between Mar. 20 and Mar. 28 numerous migrant **Song Sparrows** were streaming past HBSP. High counts ranged to 125 Mar. 27 (RH). **Fox Sparrows** were fairly widespread and common from early March through late April (m.obs.). **Lincoln's Sparrows** put in a fair showing. The earliest report was from Holden Apr. 10 (HP). The first territorial **Swamp Sparrow** was singing at Goodyear MP Mar. 27 (BR). **White-throated Sparrow** migration peaked at 120 on May 9 at HBSP (RH). **White-crowned Sparrows** were numerous and widespread, but in far fewer totals than the seemingly ubiquitous White-throat. Most wintering **Dark-eyed Juncos** left the region on time and those that nest locally were doing so with great success (m.obs.). The Harlans noted a territorial male was at Hinckley MP May 27 & 29. This was their first



Pine Siskin – Parma Hts.  
by Craig Rieker©

territorial bird for Medina Co. Nine **Snow Buntings** were at HBSP Apr. 13 (KM). A flock of 18 **Lapland Longspurs** passed by Lakeshore MP Mar. 7 (JP).

**Orchard Orioles** have become very widespread and reports are too numerous to list. I would have to concur with Harlan who wrote, "This bird just keeps getting more common in the north, and it's hard to even consider its being as unusual as uncommon in proper habitat (farmyards or rural yards

with large trees)." Walks in along Columbia Reservation, South Chagrin Reservation, Summit Metro Parks Towpath and the CVNP often yield 4-6 sightings (m.obs.). Reports from throughout the region indicated that **Baltimore Orioles** arrived in force Apr. 29.

The often futile search for the Bohemian Waxwing in the CVNP provided out of towners opportunities to enjoy the **Purple Finches** that reside in the many coniferous areas of the park. The high count there was 10 Mar. 14 (SS). Greenland wrote, "Two arrived at our feeders in Valley City on Apr. 17 with a count up to around 25 by May 7. This

was the best showing of Purple Finches at our feeders ever. The birds left around May 10." Elsewhere they were widespread from Kirtland to Grafton. Six **Pine Siskins** were at Horseshoe Pond Mar. 13 (DAC). Small numbers paid visits to many feeders after that. North Chagrin and the West Woods hosted a few in early-

mid April. A single was in Kirtland Apr. 22 (CK). A threesome was seen at South Chagrin Apr. 23 (BR). Two were at the Rocky River Nature Center April 25 (PL, m.obs.). □

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** – The only spring sighting was from Lakeshore Metropark March 7 (Pogacnik).



American Bittern – Hiram  
by Linda Henry©

**RED THROATED LOON** – The first bird was seen at Springfield Lake Apr. 9-12 (Miller, Morrison). One was in Portage County waters at Berlin Reservoir Apr. 21 (Rosche). One floated by Lakeshore Metropark April 25 (Pogacnik).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** – One was at Springfield Lake Mar. 17-21 (Morrison, Sarno, Snively, Brumfield, m.obs.). Birds were seen from Lakeshore Metropark March 21 and Apr. 21 (Pogacnik).

**EARED GREBE** – The first bird was found by Hannikman and Bacik in Fairport Harbor Mar. 6. One was in Lorain Mar. 21-28 (Pogacnik, m.obs.). A bird in distinctive winter plumage was at Lake Rockwell Mar. 27 (Bolton). Another was off Lakeshore Metropark Mar. 28 (Pogacnik). Sandy Ridge hosted one Apr. 3 (Fairweather).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** – Six graced the southern end of Lake Rockwell, Mar. 28 (D&T Johnson). Six more were found at Walborn Reservoir the next day (Morrison). This group lingered and eventually grew to 7 birds Apr. 4 (m.obs.).



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
Shipman Pond  
video capture by Larry Rosche©

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**  
A bird over Columbia Woods Park in Norton was somewhat shocking to the observers May 1 (Harlan). Equally surprising was a bird that delighted many at Shipman Pond, Mentor Marsh May 20 (Hannikman, Paine, m.obs.).

These birds departed Apr. 10 (Morrison).

**AMERICAN BITTERN** – Linda Henry photographed a bittern in Hiram Apr. 16 (*vide* Gilbert). Two were at Sandy Ridge April 17 (Caldwell, Fairweather). Birds were seen at North Chagrin Apr. 18 & 25 (Metcalf, m.obs.). One was at Holden Arboretum Apr. 25 (Petruschke, m.obs.). One was seen as it flew over during the Sunday Morning Birdwalk at Brecksville the same day (Schnell, m.obs.).

**LEAST BITTERN** – A bird was at Veteran's Park May 5 (Hannikman). One was seen climbing around on the phragmites at Shipman Pond May 20 (Fjeldstad). Birds were reported from Sandy Ridge most of May (Fairweather, Harlan, m.obs.).

**SNOWY EGRET** – A bird at Sandy Ridge Apr. 24 provided the second record for this well-designed preserve (Fairweather).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** – A bird in adult alternate plumage stopped by Dike 14 Apr. 21 (Zadar).

**CATTLE EGRET** – Two were present most of the day at Sunset Pond, North Chagrin Reservation May 2 (Metcalf, m.obs.).

spied at Huntington Reservation March 25 (Richardson).

**MERLIN** – Merlins continue to be reported in fair numbers. One was at Rocky River Mar. 9 (Lozano, Finkelstein). Hannikman's daily surveys at Headlands yielded sightings on 9 days. The high there was 2 on Mar. 28. A male was seen hunting the Portage County section of Walborn Reservoir Apr. 4 (Rosche, Weingart). One was observed at Lakeshore MP Apr. 18 (Pogacnik). A bird over North Chagrin May 24 was fairly late (Metcalf).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – The Hilliard Road Bridge and urban Cleveland and Akron pairs were well reported. A falcon zipped past Lakeshore MP Mar. 7 (Pogacnik). A juvenile made an unexpected appearance at Stearn's Homestead Mar. 26 (Leidy). One was seen circling above Rocky River Reservation Apr. 5 (Lozano). One was tallied on an Apr. 16 hawk watch in Lakewood (Rieker). Birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP

**BLACK VULTURE** – Huntington Reservations' third report was observed March 25 (Richardson).

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK** – One provided a new record for Huntington Reservation Apr. 28 (Richardson).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – A bird was



Wilson's Phalarope – Lorain  
by Rich Nicholls©



Bohemian Waxwing - CVNP  
by Dwight Chasar©

on three occasions, with 2 birds there May 1 (Hannikman).

**SANDHILL CRANE** – As many as 4 cranes frequented the Lodi area in April and May (Brumfield). Nesting birds were in place in Geauga and Lorain County sites.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** – Twelve birds were observed resting on the water and in flight at Fairport Harbor Apr. 19 (Hannikman, Paine).

**WHIMBREL** – A flock of 31 passed by Lakeshore Metropark May 23 (Pogacnik).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** – A female was photographed in Lorain May 11 (Nicholls).

**BLACK TERN** – Two skirted by Lakeshore Metropark May 23 (Pogacnik).

**BARN OWL** – A dead bird was picked up at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site April 26. It had a band on it, and according to the wildlife officer she was banded as a juvenile in New York (approximately 250 miles away) in 2001 (Ludt).

**LONG-EARED OWL** – A bird lingered in Brecksville

Reservation March 6-Apr. 20 (Brumfield, m.obs.). On March 19, one was seen along Oak Hill Road in the CVNP (Cole, Fjeldstad). Headlands Beach State Nature preserve hosted 3 Mar. 29 (Metcalf). One was flushed from the unmaintained pine plantings on the east end of the Stebbin's Gulch Mar. 20 (Petruschke). Two rested furtively at Mentor Lagoons Apr. 8 (Hannikman, Rosche).

**SHORT-EARED OWL** – One was at Headlands Beach SP Mar. 29 (Metcalf). A tardy bird passed by Lakeshore Metropark May 1 (Pogacnik).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** – A bird spent the night of March 28 in Lakewood (*vide* Lozano). One was at Paine Falls Park Apr. 8 (Pogacnik).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** – A “Whip” was flushed along the Zimmerman Trail Apr. 23 (Hannikman). Another was at West Creek Preserve May 9 (Leidy).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** – A shrike was seen along Rapids Road southwest of Burton Mar. 14 (D&T Johnson, m.obs.).

**SEDGE WREN** – One was at Mentor Lagoons May 7

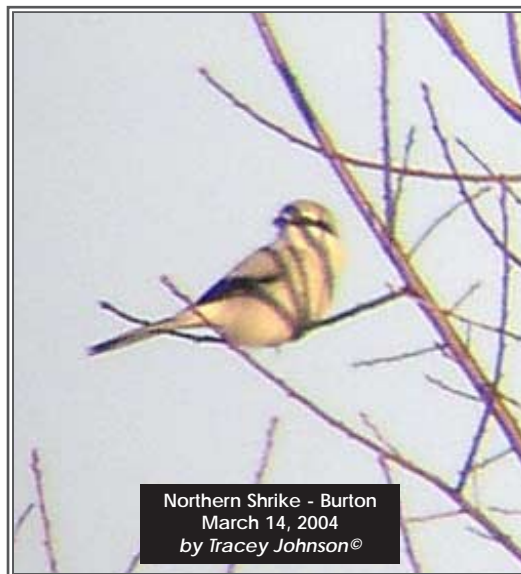
(Hannikman, McConnor, Paine, Rosche). Two were discovered in Lodi May 29 at 1 AM! These birds were vocalizing in the dead of night and easily located the next morning (Dinkelbach).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** – One was seen by Bob Fritz and Bob Barrett at the tree farm in the CVNP May 8 (*vide* Chasar). Another was spied north of Station Road the same day (Dinkelbach). A male was seen and heard at North Chagrin May 9 (Metcalf, m.obs.). One was at Erie St. Cemetery May 12 (Colburn, Leidy). Another was at Veteran's Park the same morning (McConnor). A male was heard along Stafford Road, Troy Township May 19 (Metcalf).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** – On May 8, singles were seen by two different parties--Phyllis Devlin at O'Neill Woods and Beth Pavlish and Lois Wallin in the northern part of the CVNP (*vide* Chasar).

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER** – Rich Nicholls and Richard Sweet observed a singing Kirtland's Warbler at Cleveland's Gordon Park May 16. The bird was first spotted in the pine trees just east of the State Park Headquarters building. It later flew to the US Government property further east, but the song still could be heard in the distance. See Field Notes.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** – One was seen near Mentor Lagoons May 6 (Hannikman). This species highlighted the May 9 Sunday Morning Bird Walk at Shaker Lakes (Heflich, Cl Johnson, m.obs.). A bird was singing at Columbia Woods Park May 13 (Harlan). On May 25, Dan Best wrote, “I presently have a Worm-eating Warbler hopping around my office. It just recovered (I hope) from a window collision outside my office. I'm glad



Northern Shrike - Burton  
March 14, 2004  
by Tracey Johnson©

our window netting is working so well in the bay windows of the nature center overlooking our feeding area. It is quite apparent we need them all around the building.”

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** – A bird was heard in Lodi May 1 (Brumfield). Another was at Kendall Ledges May 20 (Coy, Tanquist).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** – A female was seen along the Zimmerman Trail May 14 (Hannikman). A furtive male sang to its hearts content but did not show itself at Headlands Beach SP May 18 (Hannikman, Bacik, m.obs.). One was seen at Lakeshore MP May 23 (Pogacnik).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** – A bird was exquisitely photographed at Cleveland Public Square in mid-April (Wright). One was seen and heard at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site April 29 (Rosche, Ludt). Another Henslow's provided what was thought to be a first for Lower Shaker Lake on May 5. (L. Deininger).



Henslow's Sparrow – Cleveland  
by Scott Wright©

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** – Dike 14 provided 3 reports: 2 May 20 (Zadar); 1 May 21 (Zadar) and 1 May 22 (Caldwell).

**PAINTED BUNTING** – Betty Einhart photographed a male in Medina, May 9. This represented a new species for the region and brought back memories of the female that visited Jean Staiger's feeder in Akron over two decades ago. Because of much feather wear on the face, Mrs. Staiger's bird was thought to be an escaped cage bird.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**  
A male was reported from Streetsboro Apr. 24 (T. Johnson).

**"OREGON" JUNCO** – Females were seen at West Creek Preserve Apr. 4 and at Erie St. Cemetery Apr. 24 (Leidy). □

**ADDENDUM** A belated report of a **Harris's Sparrow** at Headlands Beach SP Oct. 12, 2003, was received from Ben Fambrough.

## FIELD NOTES



Painted Bunting – Medina Township  
by Betty Einhart©

## A DREAM COME TRUE

by Betty Einhart

In 1982 I read an article in the Akron Beacon Journal about a Painted Bunting. It had been seen at North Hill in Akron. According to the story, this is a rare bird, seldom venturing north of Tennessee. Out of curiosity I checked my Roger Tory Peterson Field Book and found this bird colorful beyond belief. The newspaper clipping was placed in the bird book with hopes of one day actually seeing the gorgeous creature with my own eyes.

Sunday, May 9, 2004, my sister, brother-in-law and I were sitting on their deck All of a sudden Carl lurched forward in his recliner, and exclaimed, "What's that?" Helen ran into the house for binoculars and I raced to my car for a camera. The bird waited in the grass. There was even time for changing lenses on the the camera. (Relatives were surprised by my immediate identification.)

Results of the snapshots were not great, but good enough to document our sighting. This happy scene took place at the home of Carl and Helen Riehm in Medina Township. My dream came true.



# 'BO WAX DAY'

by Jennifer Brumfield

Saturday, March 6, 2004

**8:00 a.m.** I'm huddled in my car, sitting in the parking lot in front of the Wild Bird Center and other storefronts of a Fairlawn shopping plaza. Every first and third Saturday of the month I'm at this spot, at this time, waiting for the bird center birdwalkers to meet me for a two hour hike to a local 'hotspot'. It's a bland morning--another monotonous March day in Northeast Ohio. Skies are shrouded in gray. A flock of 6 American Robins are hopping about on the devil strip of grass along the boulevard. Starlings, House Sparrows...a Ring-billed Gull flies over, headed towards Summit Mall. No doubt it'll survey the mall parking lot for scraps. You wouldn't believe me if I told you, but I've recorded more than 45 species of birds from where I'm sitting right now--in a plaza amidst the chaos of a suburban-turned-urban shopping nightmare. But right now there's only a few species in sight and even fewer would-be birdwalkers.

**8:05 a.m.** A red car is lurking down the boulevard and it turns into my parking lot. The driver pulls up to me and we greet through windows with early-morning, didn't-get-enough-coffee smiles. Rolling down the windows, we speak. "Not many people here, huh?" she says. Optimistically, I reply, "Nope. But we're going anyway. Looks like its just the two of us...your name is?" "Sylvia," she says with excitement. Sylvia hops in my Honda and we're off.

**8:15 a.m.** We drive down to visit the Great Blue Heron rookery on West Bath Road in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park lands. After a half-hour study of the mammoth birds I begin plotting the rest of



our morning tour. While conversing, Sylvia informs me that she's never seen a Pileated Woodpecker. She labels herself as 'just a backyard birder'; though she's observed many species on her home property, she really only keeps close tabs on her nesting pairs of Eastern Bluebirds. I decide that she needs to witness the awesome splendor of our largest woodpecker--a bird that is common but decidedly secretive throughout the Park.

**8:45 a.m.** Riverview Road becomes our northbound route through the riparian corridor of the Valley. We pass by the popular Ira Road 'Beaver dam' trailhead and marsh, Indigo Lake, and Szalay's Farm

lands. One must pay tribute to The Covered Bridge, even if we do so with a quick drive-by and a glance. Weaving up Oak Hill Road towards the Environmental Education Center, I scan the huge bare oaks, maples, and beeches as my car chugs up the hill. A pair of Pileateds frequents the beech/maple woods and woodlots along Oak Hill Road - and one can typically find their massive black figures amidst the woods by scanning from the car. I hoped to spot one or two for my pal Sylvia.

**9:00 a.m.** The Environmental Education Center parking lot is surrounded by patches of firs, pines, brushy fields, and second growth oak, beech, and maple

woods. A wonderfully 'birdy' little spot. Juncos, Song Sparrows, woodpeckers, cardinals, grackles, red-wings, and more residents were active this morning, providing leisurely viewing for Sylvia and me. I was pleasantly surprised to discover, atop a rather large spruce tree, a warbling male Purple Finch- a rather uncommon species in the Valley. He and the female that appeared beside him were a rather nice 'vacation for the eyes' from their outnumbering 'House' kin. No Pileateds. Not even a haunting drumbeat echoing out through the woods. I decided that we'd try for them further north.

**9:15 a.m.** Buzzing north along Oak Hill Road we constantly scan either side of the road looking for bluebirds and flocks of roving sparrows and finches. Robins are about in fair numbers, and we spook plenty of cardinals from the roadside. I glance out Sylvia's window and...'Oh, a bunch of Cedar Waxwings...' I proclaim. "CEDAR WAXWINGS", exclaims Sylvia. "I LOVE those birds, can we stop?" she says, with elevated eyebrows. Now sometimes I 'forget' why I'm a birder. I catch myself saying things like 'That's JUST a Red-tailed Hawk' or 'That's ONLY a Song Sparrow'. That's a JUNK-bird. Sound familiar? From time to time you're guilty of it too, darn it. But then I remember that we adore birds and birding for many reasons. And when it comes down to it, we're just plain fascinated by their uniqueness, their beauty, their style and their fashion. And Cedar Waxwings have style AND fashion. I've seen plenty of waxwings in my day. I would've kept on driving by that flock on Oak Hill. But Sylvia reminded me, with exclamation in her voice and on her face, that 'plenty' is never enough. Thanks Sylvia.

**9:17 a.m.** I rolled down the win-

dows and centered the car so we could view the waxwings from the road. My car was idling roughly and heat waves from the engine distorted our view. You can't have a sloppy view of Cedar Waxwings and be satisfied. You just can't. The flock of 14 birds was perched atop second-growth trees amidst a brushy field, not fifty feet from the road. They systematically perched, dropped to feed on fruiting shrubs, and then rested again. They appeared to be quite content. I parked the car, we hopped out, threw our binocs to our faces, and watched the crested, masked, yellow-bellied beauties. Ah, what a splendid mix of golden-buff browns, creamy yellows...and such a sleek style...and...what the...."You GOTTA be kidding me..."

**9:18 a.m.** Well, my friends, Cedar Waxwings most definitely are not designed with chestnut brown undertails, white and yellow markings on the wings, nor are they wholesomely gray from crest to belly. Number 14 in this waxwing flock sported all of the above, and it was a pompous bird. Silouhatted against the gray sky, facing towards us not fifty feet away, sat a bird. A gray bird. A rare bird. One that my father and I have been 'chasing' across Michigan and Ontario for what seems like an eternity. A Bohemian Waxwing. A 'Bo Wax' as many of us like to call them.

You, I'm sure, have felt that spine-tingling, nerve jittering and heart palpitating high upon discovering a feathered creature of extreme beauty and/or rarity. Now during the milliseconds that it took to identify the bird, process the fact that it was in Ohio, and that it was literally in my 'backyard' --the Valley of all places--I became quite ecstatic and awfully silly. Sylvia forfeited her cell phone and I called my father and begged him to drive like a madman to meet us

on Oak Hill. It didn't take much convincing to get him there in fifteen minutes. After blabbering messages onto voicemails, I turned to Sylvia and made sure that she was looking at the Bohemian. I explained to her, over and over, what a great find we'd made. I must've looked like a looney - eyes wildly open in utter disbelief. What a lucky lady, I couldn't help but add. One of the first birding outings she takes and she happens upon a 'BoWax' not twenty minutes from her home. Gee whiz.

And so we found a Bohemian Waxwing. That pot-bellied fellow befriended a rather large gang of Cedars and took up residence for over a week in and around a mile's reach of Oak Hill. Sure, plenty of people missed it--sometimes six or seven times. You know, I came back that evening, March 6th, and studied the bird through a scope at point blank range. And I never saw it again after that - I'm one of those souls that missed the bird seven or eight times. Quite a few of us could drive Oak Hill, Scobie, and Major Road in our sleep. Many of us could write a case study on Cedar Waxwings. The majority of us can locate patches of fruiting shrubs by sight AND smell. All of us understand the meaning of 'roaming flock'. I've seen plenty of Cedar Waxwings. Boy, do they get prettier every time. Thanks Sylvia.

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SIGHTING AT GORDON PARK

*by Rich Nicholls*

On Sunday, May 16, 2004, Richard Sweet and I were bird watching at Gordon Park. It was warming up nicely as the early morning cloud layer retreated to the south and clear skies were moving in off the Lake. We were going west to east behind the State Watercraft Office

building looking at the fence separating the park from Dike 14. We were enjoying Magnolia, Canada, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstarts, orioles, nesting House Wrens, Brown Thrashers, etc.

At about 10:30 AM we heard a strange warbler singing in the pine trees to the East. I could not, at first, associate the call with any specific warbler, but I knew it was unusual so we quickly followed the singing to investigate. We located the bird in one of the trees and saw the light yellow breast, broken necklace and white streaks on the blue background. I soon realized that it was a Kirtland's Warbler. I have seen these birds on their breeding grounds and the sight and sounds of this individual matched my memory of the territorial males singing in the scrub pine trees in central Michigan. The view we had was fleeting and there were some distractions caused by American Goldfinches but we got a good enough look to confirm the identification.

Apparently the bird did not like all the attention, as it flew off to the east shortly after we identified it. The area to the east is owned by the federal government and while it looks like a park with many tall oak trees, it is not open to the public. We could hear the bird singing in the distance but could not see it or get any closer. After a while the calling became louder and eventually the bird came back to the park near the entrance from Marginal Road. We followed the singing bird from tree to tree and saw it in flight but never got a another good look at it while stationary. Eventually it flew off to the east again and it was time for us to leave as well.

For me, the most amazing part of this experience was at the point where all the clues (the song, the

markings and most of all the singing in a pine tree) came together in one instant and brought back memories from my pleasant experience seeing these little maize and blue birds on their sparse breeding territory near Grayling, Michigan.

## STARLING VERSUS WOODPECKER

*by Fred Dinkelbach*

Sunday, April 18th, on the Cleveland MetroParks weekly Audubon bird census, my wife Cheryl, Ann Chasar, and I were walking along the Chippewa Creek in the Brecksville MetroParks when our attention was caught by an argument between a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Starling, the former being chased by the latter. A minute later as we approached a nearby tree, we saw a very flustered female Red-bellied flapping around and calling into a tree cavity about 30 feet off the ground. After a minute we saw why.

A beak was wiggling back and forth in an un-bird-like way while the female woodpecker flew up to the hole and away several times. After a minute, the head of a Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared, but looking as if it were lying on its side. It moved its head up and down, creating that side-to-side motion, and continued for several minutes. We wondered: Was it injured? Was it some kind of convulsion? A West

Nile symptom? The voice from the beak was barely recognizable as a Red-bellied and sounded in distress. As we watched, it worked its whole head out, still sideways, until finally a wing appeared. Sometimes it would turn its head and poke at something back in the hole. After another few minutes, most of the body was out except for a wing. It looked as if it were caught by the other wing and was trying to work its way free. Finally I saw its beak locked with another beak during one of its pokes back into the cavity. A Starling! When the Woodpecker finally had most of itself free of the hole, it was apparent that a Starling was dueling with him, holding him back by the wing, beak, or whatever it could latch onto.

The whole episode lasted about 10 minutes, from the first sign of a beak wiggling until finally breaking free of the Starling. The Red-



Red-bellied Woodpecker  
South Russell  
*by Linda Gilbert*©

bellied scooted up the tree, wings very ruffled, as a triumphant, squawking Starling perched at the cavity opening. It's known that Starlings displace other cavity nesters and most of the time the other bird resorts to creating another nest elsewhere. Sometimes the Starling is routed away. But it's particularly upsetting when it's an invasive species making survival difficult for a native.

A fitting epilogue to this story was the following Thursday when I met David Le Gallee at the Shaker Lakes boardwalk. As we chatted, we watched an Osprey wheel around and make a few attempts at catching fish. On its third try, it made its catch and flew with it nearly over our heads. It was almost above us when we saw it had a good-sized 6 to 8 inch goldfish. It was nice to see a recovering native species, the Osprey, dispatch a spreading invasive one.

## COUNTING BIRDS

by Dwight Chasar

When I explain to a non-birder that I count or census birds, invariably I get the same question: "How do you know that you aren't counting the same bird twice?" I typically respond with the comment that we miss so many birds that it doesn't make much difference. After all, we can't look in all directions at once, or through obstacles, or cover all required locations. What we do depend upon is that no matter how many birds we double count or miss, we hope we do it somewhat consistently year after year so that we can see a trend in bird populations over time.

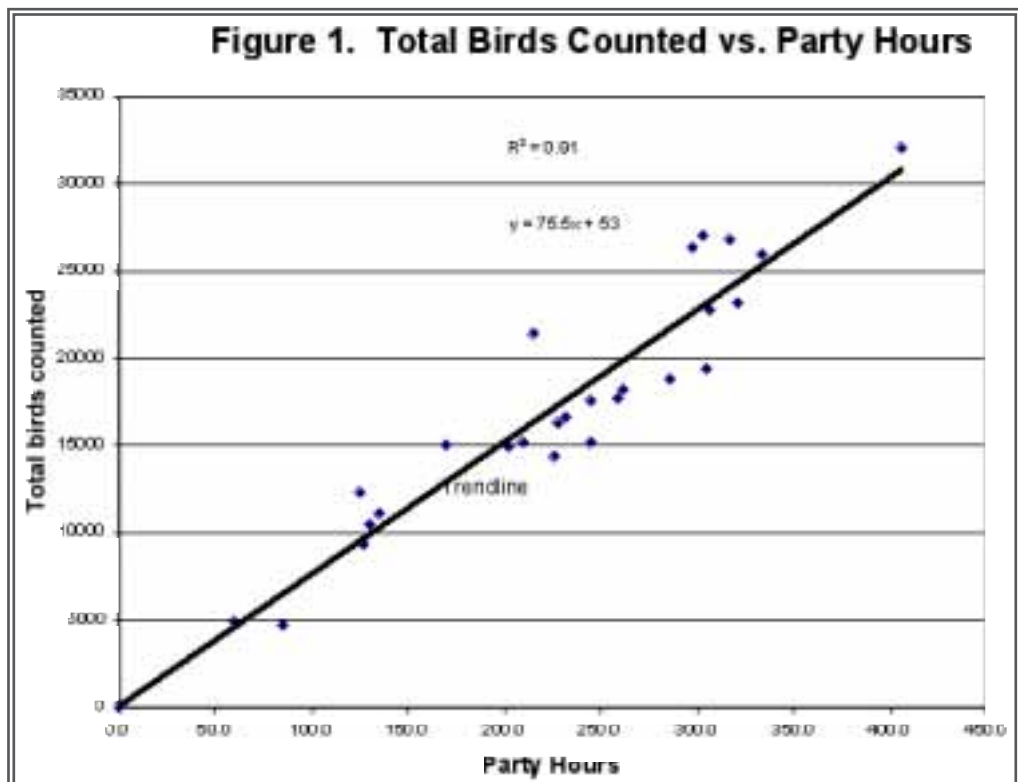
As an example, the Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS) has conducted a Summit County summer bird census since 1978. Over those intervening years, the number of days spanning the count period has increased (3 to 10), the number of birders counting each year has fluctuated (17 to 54), and the effective coverage of the county varied. Thus, the number of individual birds (density) counted fluctuates widely. To adjust or normalize for the varying hours in the field counting birds, it has become acceptable to use birds counted per party hour as a reflection of bird density. This especially correlates better where larger numbers of birds are counted. The Christmas Bird Count uses this method.

One way of verifying this relationship is to plot the total number of birds of all species vs. the number of party hours spent in the field counting them each year. It makes sense that, within reason, more hours spent in the field will result in more birds counted. For the GAAS census, I show this data in

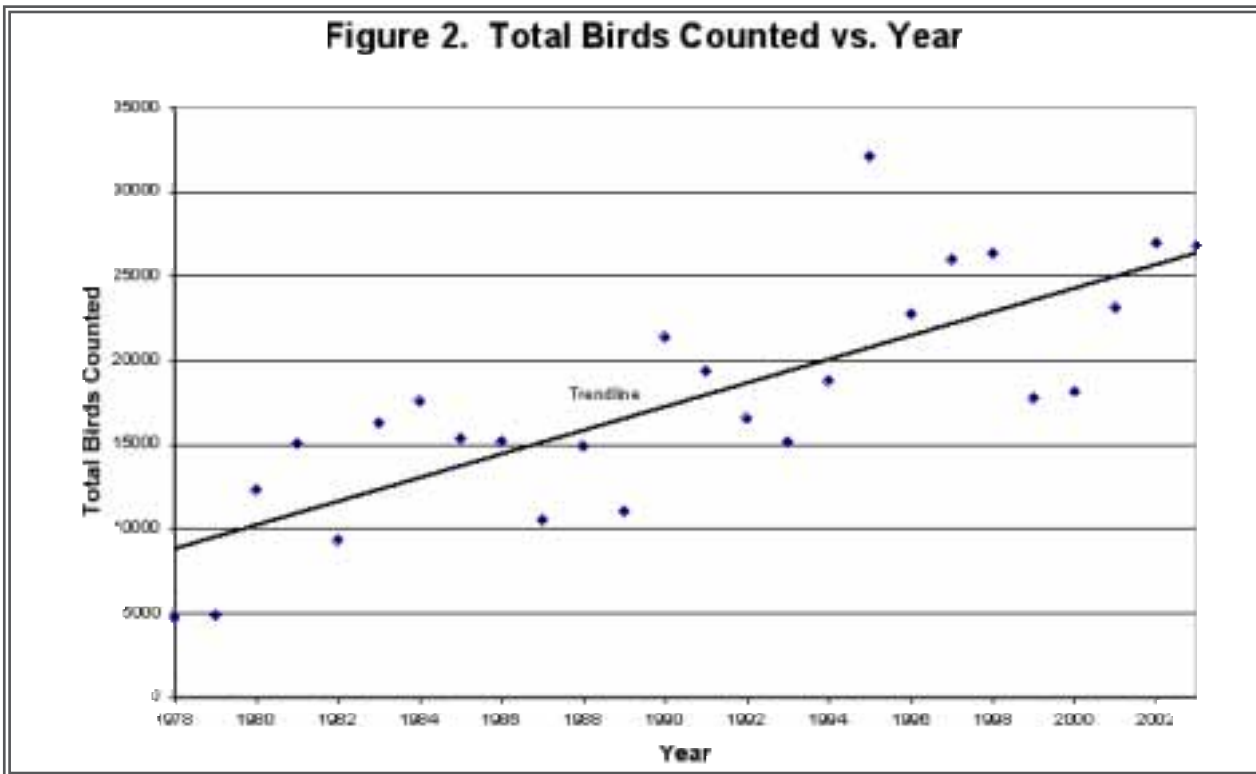
Figure 1, where the total number of birds are plotted on the vertical axis while the number of party hours spent counting those birds each time is shown on the horizontal axis. While there is scatter, nevertheless, those data lie very close to a straight-line relationship (linear trendline) estimated by the graphing program that I used. This program can also establish an equation that represents that straight line, such that if one knows one value on the vertical or horizontal axis, the other value can be correspondingly calculated. In this particular case, the straight line for the GAAS census is represented by:

$$\text{Total birds counted} = 75.5 \times \text{total party hours} + 53$$

Thus, if one knows how many party hours were spent counting birds in a GAAS census, then it can be predicted how many individual birds had been counted. A statistical correlation, R<sup>2</sup>, shows how well the data fit the linear trendline. The closer R<sup>2</sup> is to 1.0, the better



**Figure 2. Total Birds Counted vs. Year**

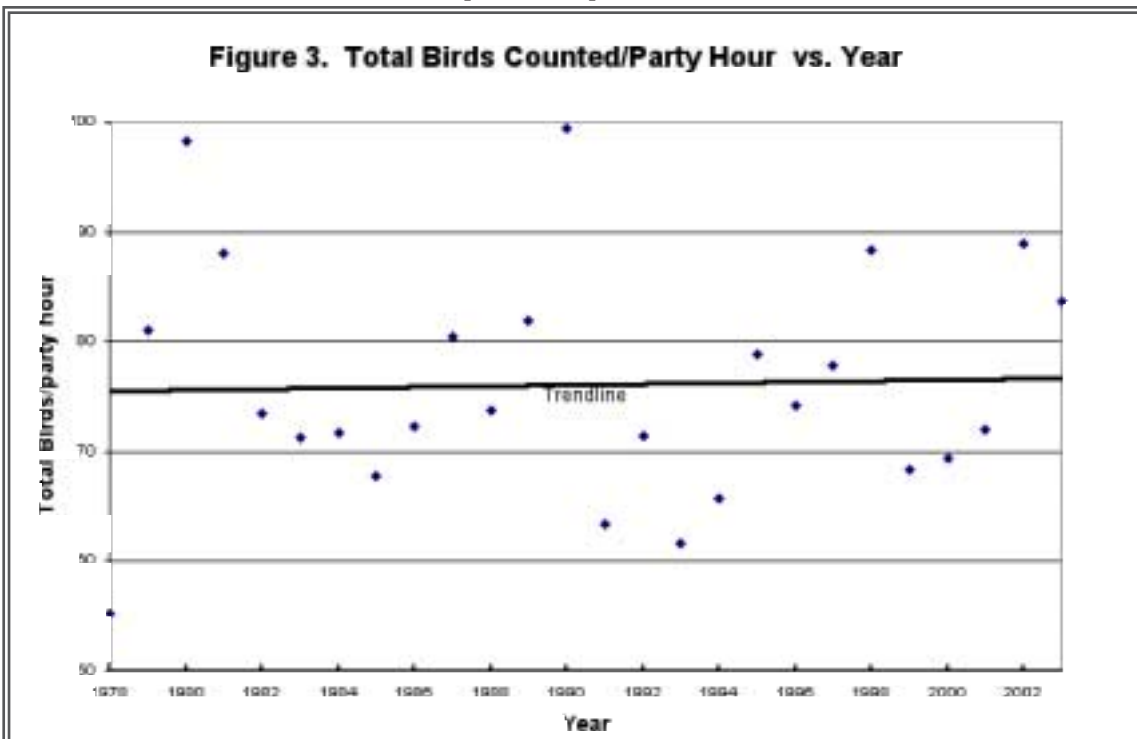


the fit. In this case,  $R^2 = 0.91$ , which is very good indeed. It should be pointed out that when very few or very many hours are used in counting these birds, the straight line will eventually fail (not correlate) at each end. It appears that this has not occurred so far.

Figure 1 thus lends validity to using birds counted/party hour as a fair representation of bird density. So plotting birds counted/party hour vs. the year of the count should give a more realistic indication of how total bird density has changed over the years. For example, if one plots total birds counted

vs. year, as in Figure 2, the trendline shows an increase in density (nearly doubled) over those years. However, plotting total birds counted/party hour vs. year shows a trendline that is essentially flat, even within the scatter of individual points. These data do not show how the population of

**Figure 3. Total Birds Counted/Party Hour vs. Year**



any individual species has changed, just that the overall number of birds has remained fairly constant. However, this concept is used for individual species density as well. □

## Totals for the May 8, 2004, CVNP Spring Bird Census

Canada Goose	111	Eastern Kingbird	10	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Wood Duck	36	White-eyed Vireo	8	Yellow-throated Warbler	5
Mallard	59	Blue-headed Vireo	8	Pine Warbler	3
Hooded Merganser	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	15	Prairie Warbler	2
Wild Turkey	6	Warbling Vireo	59	Palm Warbler	12
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Blackpoll Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Red-eyed Vireo	41	Cerulean Warbler	13
Great Blue Heron	213	Blue Jay	195	Black-and-white Warbler	16
Green Heron	2	American Crow	93	American Redstart	13
Turkey Vulture	103	Tree Swallow	230	Prothonotary Warbler	4
Osprey	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	90	Ovenbird	51
Northern Harrier	1	Bank Swallow	40	Northern Waterthrush	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Barn Swallow	79	Louisiana Waterthrush	5
Cooper's Hawk	5	Black-capped Chickadee	154	Common Yellowthroat	158
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Tufted Titmouse	78	Hooded Warbler	66
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Wilson's Warbler	2
Red-tailed Hawk	42	White-breasted Nuthatch	41	Yellow-breasted Chat	3
Virginia Rail	1	Brown Creeper	8	Scarlet Tanager	58
Sora	7	Carolina Wren	14	Eastern Towhee	66
Killdeer	5	House Wren	57	Chipping Sparrow	58
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	Field Sparrow	63
Solitary Sandpiper	8	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	87	Savannah Sparrow	6
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Eastern Bluebird	36	Grasshopper Sparrow	3
Wilson's Snipe	1	Veery	4	Song Sparrow	182
American Woodcock	10	Swainson's Thrush	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Ring-billed Gull	6	Hermit Thrush	3	Swamp Sparrow	49
Herring Gull	3	Wood Thrush	33	White-throated Sparrow	42
Rock Pigeon	31	American Robin	273	White-crowned Sparrow	34
Mourning Dove	91	Gray Catbird	137	Northern Cardinal	240
Chimney Swift	173	Brown Thrasher	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	77
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Cedar Waxwing	31	Indigo Bunting	21
Belted Kingfisher	10	European Starling	219	Bobolink	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	11	Blue-winged Warbler	118	Red-winged Blackbird	489
Red-bellied Woodpecker	87	Golden-winged Warbler	1	Eastern Meadowlark	3
Downy Woodpecker	41	Tennessee Warbler	1	Common Grackle	173
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Nashville Warbler	31	Brown-headed Cowbird	107
Northern Flicker	61	Northern Parula	2	Orchard Oriole	13
Pileated Woodpecker	18	Yellow Warbler	263	Baltimore Oriole	178
Acadian Flycatcher	3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	Purple Finch	7
Willow Flycatcher	2	Magnolia Warbler	17	House Finch	28
Least Flycatcher	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	10	Pine Siskin	1
Eastern Phoebe	39	Yellow-rumped Warbler	112	American Goldfinch	425
Great Crested Flycatcher	44	Black-throated Green Warbler	32	House Sparrow	79

### Comments of the May 8, 2004, CVNP Spring Bird Census

Again, the weather was just great and even the threat of rain wasn't that bad. We ended with 129 species, the fifth highest. We had 46 participants, second only to the high of 47. At lunch, I missed the Double-crested Cormorant and Blackburnian Warbler. Later another report came in by email that added Blackpoll Warbler. In the evening, Ann and I got 10 American Woodcocks at Jaite, which were calling and flying all over

The census was a little early in the month and for that reason we missed birds like Eastern Wood-Pewee and a few warblers, which arrived the next day or two. On the other hand, we got no owls, cuckoos, American Kestrel, Marsh or Winter Wren. Interestingly, Canada Geese numbers were down along with those of Killdeer. Red-tailed Hawks were at an all-time high, along with Soras and American Woodcocks.

An outstanding find was a Pine Siskin. I looked back in the records and found that we had Pine Siskin on census dates that were May 11 or earlier and never after that date. I checked the new *Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region* and found that this is about the date that Pine Siskins are last seen in the area. So our records are worth something.

The fall census is September 11, 2004. I will try to handle the organization of it as we have the past few times, by email, and assigned locations. Thanks for all the help once again.

Dwight Chasar  
CVNP Volunteer

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar



The Kirtland Bird Club  
Cleveland, OH

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