

# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

SINCE 1905

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 1



## Inside this issue...

How to order the 2005  
*Birds of the Cleveland Region*,  
revised and updated by  
Larry Rosche

DECEMBER 2004, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2005

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Winter 2005  
Volume 101  
Number 1



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

- To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region;
- To monitor population densities of resident birds;
- To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

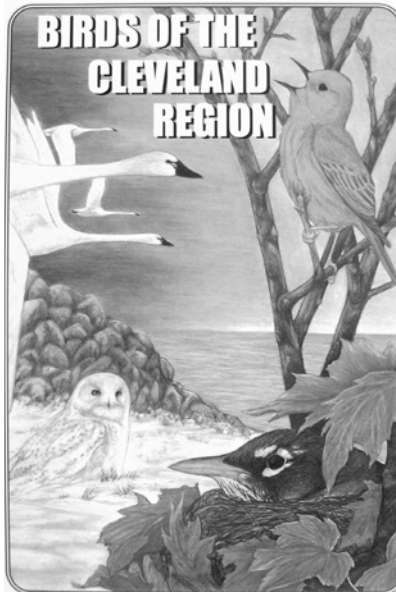
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*Front cover photo:* American Herring Gull *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* photographed in Cleveland by Kevin Metcalf, January, 2005.



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*We gratefully acknowledge **Brenda Baber & Patricia Coley** whose generosity helped make the publication of this issue possible.*

Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers and photographs to Kevin Metcalf; 12459 Fowlers Mill Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. 440-285-2184. e-mail: [skermetcalf@earthlink.net](mailto:skermetcalf@earthlink.net). We welcome your participation. All reports are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:**

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

Seasonal report forms are available at:

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

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# THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1905

## WINTER

DECEMBER 2004, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2005

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 1

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#### *You and Your Friends are Invited...*

The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its monthly meetings—the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August—at 7:30 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Or, join a field trip to one of the local birding hot spots. See the Web site for the up-coming meeting programs and trips, [www.kirtlandbirdclub.org](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org).

# WINTER 2004 — 2005

## Overview of the Season

by Kevin Metcalf

I was honored when Larry Rosche and the Kirtland Bird Club asked me to edit the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*. The journal begins its second century of publication in 2005. Larry Rosche ably served this journal as editor for the past 16 years. Larry will continue as a consulting editor, as will Ray Hannikman, another former *CBC* editor. Larry and Ray are phenomenal birders whose reputations as great field observers extend well beyond northeast Ohio. I am fortunate to have shared many hours in the field with them, and I consider them mentors.

One hundred thirty-three species of birds were observed in the Cleveland region from 1 December 2004 through 28 February 2005. In addition, ring-necked pheasants and northern bobwhite were reported, but not included in this tally because they probably no longer have viable populations in the region. Sightings are likely of recently released birds. Approximately eighty observers contributed records, not counting hundreds of participants in local Christmas Bird Counts (CBC).

In terms of summarizing the past season, the weather notes provided by Dwight Chasar tell part of the story. It was a long, snowy winter. However, while snow was record setting, temperatures were above average in January and February, a reminder that global warming will not, at least in the short term, necessarily mean less snow for Cleveland.

We got our first real slug of winter weather on 23 – 24 December, and it didn't let up until late January, when we enjoyed a relatively mild, uneventful period that lasted into early February. The Arctic blast of 19–20 December pushed large numbers of gulls

and fair numbers of waterfowl into the region. There were a couple of quick warm-ups that melted the deep snow in late December and January, resulting in flooding.

Snowfall and temperatures have a direct effect on water birds. Open water can be scarce during a “good” northeast Ohio winter. However, sections of rivers remained open, as did many lakes and reservoirs. A broad ice shelf formed along the shore of Lake Erie off Cleveland when the ice was at its peak in late January to early February. The Central Basin was more than 90 percent covered with drifting ice.

Gull watching was again excellent at the power plant “hot water” outlet at East 72nd Street in Cleveland. Ten species of gulls were seen this winter, not to mention hybrids and those that defied identification.

Avon Lake and Eastlake provided relatively good waterfowl watching. Numbers of common mergansers and goldeneyes were impressive. Other waterfowl numbers seemed poor, especially among the puddle ducks (mallards aside), and divers, such as scaup, red-heads and canvasbacks.

American robins wintered in the area in unprecedented numbers showing that it is food availability that dictates where birds are, not snow and cold. Other species




Kevin Metcalf, Editor

such as golden-crowned kinglets and eastern bluebirds seemed to do well despite the weather. Crows may be slowly recovering from the hit they took from West Nile Virus, however numbers are still low. Sparrows represented a mixed bag, with song sparrows down and white-throated sparrows doing well.

Winter finches and red-breasted nuthatches held promise this past fall, but for the most part left the region's feeder watchers wanting. Only small numbers of nuthatches and a smattering of pine siskins could be found, along with an even smaller number of common redpolls. The cyclical appearance of snowy owls was not to happen this winter. Not one was reported in the region. Nor were there reports of any owls, other than our three common resident species. A short-eared owl was seen just outside the seven county area on the Geauga-Trumbull County line. Contrast this to the phenomenon in the upper Great Lakes (Minnesota being the epicenter), where

great gray owls and northern hawk owls were seen in mind-boggling numbers.

A few rarities graced the region this season. Most notable was a varied thrush in Medina County. A widely seen harlequin duck, California gull, and an out-of-season American white pelican were recorded along Lake Erie. Lastly, in the they-should-have-known-better category, were an ovenbird in Leroy Township and a white-eyed vireo in Kent. To paraphrase Horace Greeley: Go south, young ovenbird, go south.

I would like to thank the hard-working, talented team of KBC volunteers who pulled together to create this publication; Dwight Chasar, Delores Cole, Linda Gilbert, Susan Jones, Mary Anne Romito, Larry Rosche, Julie West and Clyde Witt. And as always, thanks to the many dedicated field observers who provided reports. It is because of you that this publication exists. 

*See you in the field.*

## Weather Report

*by Dwight Chasar*

**December:** Temperatures averaged 31.0°, 0.1° below normal. The high was 63° on the 7th and the low was -6° on the 25th. Lake Erie water temperature was 48° on the 1st and fell to 34° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 18 days, totaling 4.47 inches, 1.33 inches above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 1.96 inches on the 22nd–23rd. Snowfall totaled 35.1 inches and the greatest depth was 14 inches on the 23rd. This was the snowiest December on record. Sunshine occurred only 8 percent of the possible time.

**January:** Temperatures averaged 27.4°, 1.7° above normal. The high was 68° on the 13th and the low 0° on the 28th. Precipitation was distributed over 16 days to total 5.89 inches, 3.41 inches above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 1.01 inches on the 11th–12th. Snowfall totaled 32.8 inches while the greatest ground depth was 10 inches on the 23rd. This was the third snowiest January on record. Sun was rare, shining only 8 percent of the possible time. Lake Erie was at freezing by the end of the month.

**February:** Temperatures averaged 30.9°, 2.5° above normal. The high was 63° on the 15th and the low, 14° on the 11th. Lake Erie water temperature rose to 34° by the end the month. Precipitation totaled 2.07 inches, .22 inches below normal and occurred over 15 days. The greatest 24 hour fall was .48 inches on the 20th–21st. Snowfall totaled 10.3 inches, with the greatest depth 3 inches on the 3rd and 4th. The sun appeared a minuscule 8 percent of the possible time.

# Seasonal Report

Underline denotes unexpected species in the region.

**Snow Goose**—two reported from Grafton, Lorain County 21 December (CP).

**Canada Goose**—counts of 780 at Wellington Reservoir 2 December (VF) and 490 at Summit Lake 6 February (GBe) are indicative of the abundance of this species.

**Mute Swan**—populations on Akron area lakes persist; 25–30 reported around Mogadore Reservoir (SH); surprising were 21 in Bay Village on 29 December (PL).

**Tundra Swan**—peak of reports 19 on 22 December including 12 Lorain County (CP); 24 Kent (LR); 42 Lake County (JP); 70 Sandy Lake, Portage County (SF); 93+ LaDue Reservoir and Punderson SP combined (KM); maximum of 170 Indigo Lake, CVNP 20 December (TMR); one lingered to 2 February Summit Lake (GB).

**Wood Duck**—a female lingered to 18 December North Chagrin (m.obs.); two on Lakewood CBC 26 December (*fide* NH); only mid-winter report of a pair on Summit Lake 13 January (GBe); presumed returning migrants reported from Mentor Lagoons, Lake County, 22 February (JMc) and Sandy Ridge 23 February (TF).

**Gadwall**—maximum 24 Lake Rockwell 20 December (LR); singles or pairs found at a few locations, such as the two at E. 55th St. 16 January (KM, m.obs.).

**American Wigeon**—most reports of returning migrants, typically 1–5 in late February; one male early January and throughout February at North Chagrin (m.obs.); maximum 22 on 26 February Summit County (GBe).

**Blue-winged Teal**—one male reported Wellington Reservoir 4 December (RH, m.obs.)

**American Black Duck**—being genetically swamped by mallards, this species is one to keep tabs on, as pure black ducks may be the exception rather than the rule in the region; although reported as “numerous” along the upper Cuyahoga River, maximum reported by a single observer was 20 on 15 December Lake Rockwell (LR); 12 at Lakeshore Metropark 20 December (JP); 17 in CVNP 26 December (TMR); 10 E. 72nd St. 16 January (KM); 7 in the area of Headlands Beach State Park 15–17 December (RH); the Cleveland CBC reported

a paltry *three* (average since 1940 is 183 *fide* DJH).

**Mallard**—ubiquitous and increasing, few observers take time to count mallards; 200+ Lake Rockwell 15 December (LR) and 200 at Grafton 21 December (CP) are indicative of the numbers of this species.

**Northern Shoveler**—maximum 22 at Summit Lake 16 December with up to six wintering there (GBe); 12 reported as wintering in the canals south of Long Lake (GBe, *fide* Summit Metroparks staff).

**Northern Pintail**—single birds or pairs popped up at scattered locations throughout the winter; a female put in an appearance in early January and again in early February, associating with the male American wigeon at North Chagrin (m.obs.); one at Munroe Falls 16 January (GB); pair at Summit Lake 10 February (GBe); maximum 24

## Headlands Beach State Park

*by Ray Hannikman*

Winter 2004-2005 was rather uneventful at Headlands Beach State Park.

Waterfowl were routine in December and early January, and decidedly scarce as Lake Erie became ice-covered after mid-January.

Zimmerman Trail yielded a winter wren in January, plus a brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet and red-breasted nuthatch in February.

Feeder-watching revealed 20–30 American tree sparrows and as many as four white-throated sparrows through the season. As February waned, northern cardinals began to sing and American crows became more numerous, a sure sign of spring.



Photo by Sandy Brown

**Female Long-tailed Duck at Summit Lake**

at Lake Rockwell on 23 February represented returning migrants (LR).

**Green-winged Teal**—three reports of single males; Lakewood CBC, 26 December; Lake Phippen 29 December (LR), and Merwin St., Cleveland in late February (PL).

**Canvasback**—Leo Deininger (LD) noted that in 50+ years of birding Shaker Lakes, his 15 January sighting may be a first for him at that location; daily counts at “hot water” outlets on Lake Erie usually <10 per day; maximum 104 Lakeshore Metropark 20 December; 50 reported Avon Lake 4 February (BAT); inland high count 20+ Tuscarawas River, Summit County 26 February (GBe).

**Redhead**—few wintered in the region; in spite of diligent coverage of Headlands Beach and Fairport Harbor only one Redhead reported the entire winter 17 January (RH); 24 in Rocky River 15 December (PL) was the high lakefront count; inland counts included 20 at Wellington Reservoir 12 January;

returning migrants included 40+ Summit Lake and 40+ along Tuscarawas River 26 February (GBe).

**Ring-necked Duck**—“fall” migrants included 640+ at Wellington Reservoir 2 December (VF); the number at this location dropped to 25 by early January (RSH); 60 LaFarge Lakes 15 December (LR); January counts of 45 Lake Rockwell and 40 Summit Lake were good totals (LR); one on 10 January off Clifton Beach, Lakewood (PL); one at Best Preserve, Geauga 26 January (AFo); 275 at Lake Rockwell in late February were returning migrants (LR).

**Greater Scaup**—maximum 61 Lakeshore Metropark 21 December (JP); other high counts were 47 Eastlake on 25 January and 33 at Rocky River Park 13 January (JG); inland, one seen Summit Lake 9 January and 4 at Lake Rockwell on 26 February.

**Lesser Scaup**—maximum 320+ at Lorain and 285+ at Avon Lake on 20 January (VF); the high tally of the season was a mere 20 at Head-

lands Beach SP on 20 December (RH).

**Harlequin Duck**—a female graced Eastlake 28 January—early February (NA, m.obs.); an immature male was reported from Lakeshore Metropark on 4 December (JP).

**Surf Scoter**—the waters off Rocky River Park produced the lion’s share of reports; maximum 14 at this locale 28 December (PL) and 12 on 29 December, after which observers found only 1–2; one female lingered through 15 January (m.obs.); one Sims Park, Lake County (m.obs.); Lakeshore Metropark had records on 19, 20, 25 December (JP).

**White-winged Scoter**—one male Avon Lake 28–30 January (VF, CPi) and 1–2 reported 31 January through 5 February Eastlake (DJH, BAT, NA)

**Black Scoter**—maximum five Lakewood CBC 26 December; 4 seen 28–29 December off Rocky River Park. (PL, m.obs.); one remained to 17 January (JB); noted on two December dates off Lakeshore Metropark (JP); one Sims Park 22 December (NA).

**Long-tailed Duck**—more reports than expected; a female Avon Lake 10 through 16 January (m.obs.); one Sims Park 30 December (NA) and Eastlake 30 January–12 February (NA, m.obs.); maximum four at Summit Lake on 9 Jan, with 1–2 remaining 7 February (GBe, m.obs.); Singles reported twice in December Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

**Bufflehead**—most reports of <12 per day; 125 in Eastlake 31 January (BAT); inland maximum 31

Turkeyfoot Lake, Summit County 14 December (GBe) and 35 LaDue Reservoir 15 December (LR); 24 were at Rocky River in January (JB).

**Common Goldeneye**—well represented along the Lake Erie shore this winter; Lakeshore Metropark had maximum of 98 on 24 December (JP); maximum winter counts were 300 at Eastlake 31 January and 300 at Avon Lake 4 February (BAT); “several hundred” reported at Rocky River 17 January (JB), while 115 were at the same location 2 Jan; 60 Sims Park 15 January (NA); 50+ E. 72nd St. 30 January (VF).

**Hooded Merganser**—maximum 150 at Lake Rockwell 15 December (LR); 14 Summit Lake 10 January (JB); other scattered reports from throughout the region.

**Common Merganser**—numbers impressive this winter on Lake Erie with a few found at inland rivers and lakes; Lakeshore Metropark had 887 passing by on 20 December (JP); 800 on 26 December off Painesville Twp. Park (LR) and 2,488 the same day between Cleveland and Avon Lake (PL); an estimated 3,600 at E. 55th St., 920+ at Avon Lake and 675 at Lorain for a total of 5,195 on 20 January (VF) (many more distant mergansers were not identified to species); 3,200 Avon Lake 2 February (BW) and 3000+ estimated Eastlake 3 February (RR); numbers waned by mid-February with counts of 500 at Eastlake on 12 February (NA).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—maximum 8,000 estimated 18 De-

ember along the Cleveland Lakefront (LR); 1,220 E. 55th 20 January was a good midwinter total (VF); dozens were noted dead or dying at the E. 72nd hot waters in early February, some at least showing behavior associated with sickness from botulism—no official word on cause of death.

**Ruddy Duck**—an impressive 1,000+ were reported from Wellington Reservoir 12 December (HO); 103 Summit Lake 16 December (GBe), with four remaining through the winter; 25 lingered at Wellington Reservoir to at least 1 January (RSH).

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—reports are probably of recent releases; 33 were reported from the Wellington CBC.

**Ruffed Grouse**—no winter reports received; hard to believe that in 1941 the Cleveland CBC reported 16!

**Wild Turkey**—seemed to enjoy a banner production of poults this past summer, but winter reports were few as some observers asked “where did the wild turkeys go this winter?” 30 reported from Bath on 26 December (JW); 25 same day in Geauga (AFo); 22 reported on Wellington CBC.

**Northern Bobwhite**—like the ring-necked pheasant, any sightings of this species in NE Ohio probably represent recent releases or escapes.

**Red-throated Loon**—a 1st winter plumaged bird was at Nimisila Reservoir, Summit County on 1 December (GB); one fly-by reported 11 December Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

**Common Loon**—maximum nine Lakeshore Metropark 5 December (JP), where singles were also reported 20 December; inland, five on Springfield Lake 1 December (LR) and six LaDue Reservoir on 5 December (BAT); one at Mogadore Reservoir 19 December was a late inland date (SH).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—maximum 10 Wellington Reservoir 1 January (RSH) and Lake Rockwell 20 December (LR); six totaled from two locations in Summit County 28 December (GBe).

**Horned Grebe**—few holdovers from fall, with none reported in the Fairport Harbor area this winter; one at Lakeshore Metropark 4 December and two at LaDue Reservoir, 15 December (LR); Avon Lake Power Plant provided the only midwinter reports from 10–15 January (m.obs.); two Eastlake 4–5 February (m.obs.); one at Lake Rockwell 25 February was a returning migrant (LR).

**Red-necked Grebe**—one report at Eastlake 4 February (JP, NA).

**American White Pelican**—unprecedented winter report of a bird lingering on the lakefront in the western part of our region; reports 16 January at the “east pier of the Spitzer Marina” and 27 January at “Lorain boat launch at the mouth of the Black River” (JW, CC, JB)

**Double-crested Cormorant**—up to three individuals were reported from the E. 55<sup>th</sup> E. 72nd St. “hot waters” area into January (m.obs.), with one remaining 2 February (RSH); maximum of six on 30 December at Merwin St., Cleve-



## Note on Accipiter Identification:

A study was conducted in the 1990's at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory in California, during which known-identity Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks (captured, measured and banded) were released for identification by experienced raptor counters. The results were that about 15 percent were misidentified. (Remember, odds are 50-50 of getting it right even without looking!) The most common problem was with male Cooper's hawks misidentified as sharp-shinned hawks.



Photo by Judy Semroc

Cooper's Hawk

land (PL); an inland report of one in S. Russell, Geauga on 21 December (LGi).

**Great Blue Heron**—a few lingered through the season as usual; reports of 1-3 along rivers or the Lake Erie shore, particularly at open water near power plants; maximum 30 Fairport Harbor 9 December (RH); 7 Eastlake 7-25 January (m.obs.); by 20 February up to 25 were already at the nesting site on Bath Rd. (EC); 20-25 were at the Station Rd. nesting colony by 27 February (DAC).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—up to 35 at the traditional roost along the Cuyahoga River near Merwin St. in January (PL, m.obs.)

**Turkey Vulture**—reported throughout winter in Hinckley area (CW, SJ, LR, BR); noted in Twinsburg 12 and 15 January (LD, SS); CVNP 13 January (FL), N. Ridgeville 2

February (CP); Solon 6 February (BAT); I-480 over the Cuyahoga River valley 12 February (AFo); South Chagrin 15 February (LD); Munson Twp., Geauga County 16 February (DE); Brecksville 17 February (JB); Parkman, Geauga County 21 February (DB) and Painesville, Lake County 28 February (JP).

**Bald Eagle**—continued a strong showing in the region; reported from all counties; mostly 1-2 birds per location with up to three Tinker's Creek SP, Portage County (FL).

**Northern Harrier**—few reports, mostly of single birds in agricultural areas in Geauga and Lorain Counties.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—far outnumbered in winter by Cooper's hawks, reports came in from across the region, invariably of single birds; birds identified by multiple

observers at Holden Arboretum, Mayfield Village and the Wellington CBC.

**Cooper's Hawk**—common and thriving in urban and suburban settings, this is the expected winter accipiter in the region; reports typically of 1-2 birds; three in Kent 23 February (GB).

**Northern Goshawk**—goshawk is a rare species in the region, with identification of immature birds problematic given the increase in immature red-shouldered hawks and Cooper's hawks in the area. That said, one adult was photographed outside the Cleveland Bird Calendar Region this winter at The Wilds (JB). No local reports were verified by multiple observers or photographed; reports included an adult at Lakeshore Metropark 30 December (JP); another adult reported from Holden Arboretum 26 December (HP).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—20+ years ago this species was considered scarce in NE Ohio; the local population has burgeoned, with birds faring well in suburban areas.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—this widespread resident was well represented this winter; the Cleveland CBC set a new high count with 34; typically 2-4 seen daily; 12 were counted along rural Lorain County roads 12 February (PL, BF); the same number was achieved in Pittsfield Twp., also Lorain County 23 February (CP); up to six were in Middlefield Twp. Geauga 26 December (AFo, RY).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—easily found at only a couple of locations; 8-9 in Middlefield Twp.,



Photo by Chad and Chris Saladin

### Peregrine Falcon

Geauga (AFo, m.obs.) represented by dark and light morph birds; this total was topped by a maximum of 10 along Russia Road in Lorain County 12 February (PL, BF).

**American Kestrel**—veteran observers note a significant decline of this species in the region, which may be part of a broader nationwide phenomenon; some experts are looking at West Nile Virus as a possible cause (John Smallwood, personal comment); up to three at Burke Lakefront Airport (DJH); maximum 12 in Pittsfield Twp. Lorain County (LR, CP); a total of 41 were reported on the Wellington CBC.

**Merlin**—reported from all counties except Geauga; the subspecies represented in our region is *F. c. columbarius* or “Taiga” merlin. Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland again hosted up to four wintering birds (LGa, m.obs.); singles overwintered at Shaker Lakes (LD, LGo), Lake View Cemetery, Cuyahoga County (DJH), All Saints Cemetery in Northfield, Summit

County (DAC), Tinkers Creek SP (FL). Single reports came from North Chagrin 16 December (KM), Fairport Harbor 26 December (LR), Sandy Ridge 31 December (TF), Medina County 1 January (CW, SJ), Akron 13 January (LR); Squire Valleevue Farm 6 February (LRa), CCC campus, Parma 20 February (NH). The once reliable over-wintering merlins in Bath near Banning and Shade Roads were not reported this winter.

**Peregrine Falcon**—city peregrines continue to make their presence known at major urban centers throughout the year, surviving and nesting on man-made structures just as pigeons and house sparrows. It should be noted that the locally breeding and wintering peregrines are not of any particular native North American subspecies (*F. p. tundrius*, *F. p. anatum*, *F. p. pealei*) but are a mix of genes from all over the globe, largely if not wholly descended from falconer’s birds.

**American Coot**—locally common throughout the winter, the 460+ at Wellington Reservoir 2 December was impressive (VF); 89 at Summit Lake 28 December was the high count for that site (GB); up to 29 wintered at the later location.

**Sandhill Crane**—the flock of 26 discovered by Jeff Wert 29 December was unprecedented; this flock stayed loyal to the Sharon Center area N. of Route 162 in Medina County to 8 January (m.obs.); Rob Harlan noted that “about eight of these appeared distinctly smaller than the rest” possibly being “Lesser” sandhills; also 3 reported near LaDue Reservoir 10 December (AFo) and at Sandy Ridge through 14 December (TF); 20 were reported 13 February N. off Ridgewood Rd. between Windfall and Bonita, Medina County (JM).

**Killdeer**—few reports of lingering killdeer were received; one 26 December Perry Twp. Park, Lake County (LR); one heard over Middlefield Twp., Geauga County 7 January (LGi); returning birds included one over Wadsworth 9 February (RSH) and another the next day at Sandy Ridge (TF); also at Caley Park 20 February (MK); widespread by the end of February, with reports from Geauga and Medina Counties 28 February (KM, BMcG).

**Purple Sandpiper**—only winter report for this species was a lingering individual at Headlands Beach SP 6 December (DB).

**Dunlin**—the flock of eight at Lakeshore Metropark 19 December was somewhat unexpected (JP).

(Continued on page 9)

# Family *Vireonidae* Status in Summit County

by *Dwight Chasar*

The Greater Akron Audubon Society has conducted its Summit County summer bird count for the past 27 years. From time to time in previous issues of the Calendar, I have summarized population trends for various species from these census data.

Five species of vireos regularly nest in Summit County: white-eyed vireo (*Vireo griseus*); yellow-throated vireo (*V. flavifrons*); blue-headed vireo (*V. solitarius*); warbling vireo (*V. gilvus*); and red-eyed vireo (*V. olivaceus*). Bell's (*V. bellii*) and Philadelphia (*V. philadelphicus*) are not known to have nested in the county or Cleveland region (Rosche 2004).

Data for three of the most abundant vireos are plotted in the accompanying graph in the normal fashion: birds/party hour vs. year of the census. Using birds/party hour tends to normalize the amount of time spent in the field for the census periods (Chasar 2004). Two conclusions can be drawn: First, in terms of relative abundance, the red-eyed vireo exceeds that of warbling vireo, which exceeds that of yellow-throated vireo. Both blue-headed vireo and white-

eyed vireo showed much lower numbers of individuals relative to the first three.

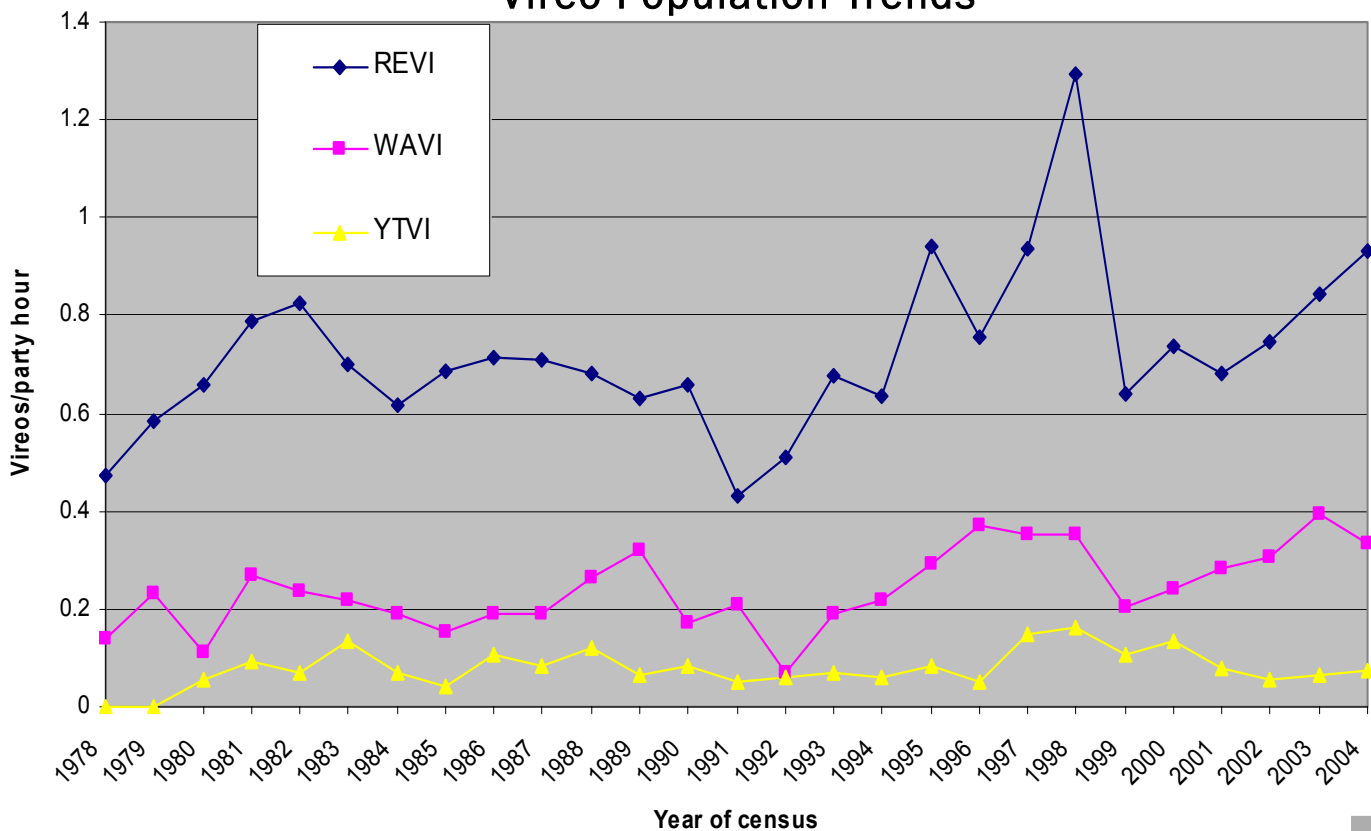
Second, for the three species plotted, the population trend-line (not shown) indicates that each population is increasing slightly, or is at least stable. From the limited data collected for blue-headed vireo and white-eyed vireo, it appears that their populations are also stable over the same period, with more individuals on average found in the last 10 years than in the previous 10 years. These conclusions are in agreement with those found for Ohio in general (Earnst 1996). 🐦 🐦

Chasar, D. 2004. Counting birds. *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 100(2):32.

Earnst, S.L. and B.A. Andres. 1996. Population trends of breeding birds of Ohio. *Ohio Biol. Surv. Misc. Cont.* No. 3.

Rosche, L. 2004. *Birds of the Cleveland Region*. Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland.

### Vireo Population Trends



**Wilson's Snipe**—maximum five at Cuyahoga County Airport 18 December, a traditional locale for this species (BF, JH).

**Little Gull**—only report was one at Rocky River Park 12 January (PL).

**Bonaparte's Gull**—10,000 estimated Eastlake 1 December (DJH); 1,414 counted 19 December Lakeshore Metropark (JP); inland, a good tally was 150 at LaDue Reservoir on 2 December (LR); most seemed to have left the area by 16 January. A large flock of more than 1,000 birds 17 January was at the mouth of Fairport Harbor. Part of this group, totaling 350–400 birds, gained altitude and flew to the south and out of sight over land (KM). After this, the high count for the region was one, which remained to 30 January at E. 72nd St. (DJH, VF); no February reports received.

**Ring-billed Gull**—high tallies of this species included 45,230 during a massive gull movement watched from Lakeshore Metropark 19 December (JP); 9,000 estimated Lorain lakefront 2 December (VF); 5,500 counted at E. 55th St. and 2,800 Lorain Harbor 20 January (VF). Inland maximum 6,500 at Oberlin City Reservoir 13 December (VF); Drew Rolik noted this species visiting a bird feeding station at his Maple Heights residence on several dates 26 December–22 January.

**California Gull**—one adult at E. 72nd Street on 8 January (LR, m.obs.); an apparent 3rd winter bird was photographed and identified by two experienced observers at this location 25 January.

**Herring Gull**—a good December tally included 3,710 flying past Lakeshore Metropark on 19 December (JP); as expected, large numbers gathered at power plant “hot waters” in midwinter; along the lakefront from Cleveland west to Lorain 7,400 totaled 20 January (VF); 7–8,000 were estimated at E. 72nd St. on 3 February (VF); 1,800 was a high inland count at Oberlin City Reservoir 29 December (LR, CP). Fazio noted that on 2 February 13.4 percent of the 44 adults he studied had clean white or alternate plumaged heads.

**Thayer's Gull**—one adult seen 16 December at Eastlake (LR); two reported 19 December Lakeshore Metropark (JP); birds aged as 1st, 2nd, 3rd winter and adult at E. 72nd St. 8 January–2 February (VF, GM, m.obs.). Typically no more than one Thayer's was reported on any given day.

**Iceland Gull**—unreported this past fall, a single bird was at Eastlake 18 December (NB); reported from Lakeshore Metropark 31 December (JP); maximum five reported 29 January at E. 72nd St. (two adult, two 1st winter, one 2nd winter) (VF); only other site to host this species was Avon Lake, where two were present 30 January (VF); one remained at E. 72nd St. 1 February (GM, JB)



Photo by Kevin Metcalf

**Lesser Black-backed Gull  
at E. 72nd Street,  
Cleveland**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—one at Oberlin City Reservoir 13 December (VF); maximum an incredible six 10 January from this location (CP); one at Headlands Beach SP 18 December (NB) and Avon Lake (m.obs.); up to two at E. 72nd St. (m.obs.); *L. f. graellsii* is the expected subspecies, but one adult photographed at E. 72nd was very dark-mantled and had a single “mirror” on P-10, probably indicating *L. f. intermedius* (VF).

**Glaucous Gull**—not reported this past fall, first for the season was a single bird at Headlands Beach 18 December (NB), followed by one at E. 72nd Street 27 December (BWi); most daily counts were of 1–4 birds; seven were at Avon Lake 31 January (JL); nine at E. 72nd Street 3 February (VF) and a maximum 14 reported 30 January along the lakefront (VF).



Photo by Kevin Metcalif

**Glaucous gull at E. 72nd Street, Cleveland, with Herring gull in the background**

**Great Black-backed Gull**—exceptional numbers; high counts early in the season were 400+ counted at Lakeshore Metropark 19 December and 428 the next day at the same location (JP); eventually E. 72nd/E.55th Street, hosted 1,170+ on 20 January (VF); another 200 added at the Cuyahoga River mouth, 420+ at Avon Lake and 140 at Lorain for a total 1,930 from the lakefront; few reports inland, but up to 12 at Oberlin City Reservoir 10 January (CP); one flying south over Munson Twp., Geauga County 31 January with five herring gulls was exceptional locally (KM).

**Great Black-backed X Herring Gull hybrid**—at least one adult of this presumed cross was at the lakefront at E.55/72nd St. from 8 January–3 February (BW, VF, JP, m.obs.)

**Glaucous X Herring Gull**—at least one adult “Nelson’s” gull was reported from E. 72nd St. (JP)



Photo by John Pogocnik

**Adult Great Black-backed Gull (left) X Herring Gull hybrid at E. 72nd Street, Cleveland**



Photo by John Pogocnik

**Glaucous X Herring Gull Hybrid (center) aka: Nelson’s Gull at E. 72nd Street, Cleveland**

**Mourning Dove**—the 86 found at Summit Lake on 6 February is indicative of the numbers of this species (GBe).

**Eastern Screech Owl**—underreported, three from Lakewood CBC 26 December.

**Great Horned Owl**—singles seen at scattered sites in Lake, Lorain, Cuyahoga and Geauga counties.

**Snowy Owl**—no reports for this species; not even at Burke Lakefront Airport.

**Barred Owl**—reported from Lake, Lorain and Cuyahoga counties; more of these were tallied on the Cleveland CBC (4) than Great Horned Owls (1).

**Belted Kingfisher**—as is typical, a few lingered at open water throughout the region, particularly through early January. One noted E. 72nd Street late January—early February (DJH, RSH).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—down regionally this winter, possibly correlated to a low mast production year for oaks, hickories and beech—held on at Sandy Ridge with up to four reported (CP); three in Lakewood 14 January (PL); elsewhere, reports of singles from Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—single late birds noted at Brust Park, Munroe Falls on 19 December (GB); 11–18 December Cuyahoga County (LC); 18 December Gates Mills (AFo); 6 February Sandy Ridge; four on the Lakewood CBC.

**Red-bellied Woodpeckers**—seem to be doing as well as ever.

**Downy Woodpecker**—most counts 1–4; maximum of 12 seen 27 December along the Twinsburg Center Valley Bike Trail (FL).

**Hairy Woodpecker**—most counts 1–2; maximum four reported in Kirtland (CK).

**Northern Flicker**—most reports 1–2; four seen CVNP on 9 January (DAC).

**Pileated Woodpecker**—typically 1–2 seen on a given day; most observers felt the “cock-of-the-woods” was doing very well.

**Eastern Phoebe**—a single bird reported from Hiram on 30 December (EFa).

**Northern Shrike**—reports of single birds; Chippewa Lake, Medina County 11 December (HO); Jaite in CVNP 18 December and Hudson 19 December (DAC); one at Bath Nature Preserve 12 December – 13 February entertained many (JW, m.obs.); two found on the Wellington CBC.

**White-eyed Vireo**—apparently the third winter record for this species in the region was one in Kent 19 December (LR, m.obs.); previous records were December 18, 1982 and February 7–11, 1998.

**Blue Jay**—reports were mixed; most observers could find 2–8 daily; with exceptional daily maximum counts of 15–20.

**American Crow**—post West Nile Virus interest in this species con-

tinues; some observers felt it was up this year relative to the last two winters, but numbers still lower than normal; daily maximum by single observers usually <10, with exceptional counts of 20–30; “several hundred” noted in Akron (SB).

**Horned Lark**—Hayes Rd. in Middlefield Twp. Geauga County and Lorain County sites produced highest counts; 75+ seen in Pittsfield Twp. (LR); 40–60 noted along Hayes Rd. (AFo, KM, MR).

**Black-capped Chickadee**—generally <10 reported daily, with exceptional counts of 17–18 per day in Twinsburg (FL).

**Tufted Titmouse**—reports were mixed; some observers felt it was up from past couple of years while others expressed dismay at the low numbers; most observers reported 1–4 daily, with high counts in the 6–8 range.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—small numbers (generally 1–3 birds per location) lingered in the region after a good showing this fall—apparently most continued moving through; a few lucky feeder-watchers got to enjoy these birds all winter.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—mostly encountered in ones and twos, with maximum counts of 7–9 per day.

**Brown Creeper**—fairly widespread this winter, although invariably found in ones and twos.

**Carolina Wren**—doing very well, even with record regional snowfall



Photo by Linda Gilbert

### Eastern Bluebird at Linda Gilbert's feeder

in December and record overall seasonal snowfall; generally found as singles or pairs, three were the exception from any one site (FL, GBe).

**Winter Wren**—individuals were found at widely scattered sites through 19 January; reports received from CVNP (FL), Headlands Beach SP (EB, RH), Sandy Ridge (TF), Shaker Lakes (LD), and Valley City (FG).

**Marsh Wren**—reported from Sandy Ridge for the Lorain CBC on 18 December (TF).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—seemed to be up over last year or two, with 1–4 reported from scattered locations including Shaker Lakes, North Chagrin, CVNP; ten at Oak Hill in CVNP 8 January (DAC); maximum count 20+ in Auburn Twp., Geauga County (LR) on the Burton CBC; 15–20 from Mogadore Reservoir area (SH).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—only report received was six, tallied on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC. This count has a history of turning up this species.



### Brown Thrasher

A lingering bird was in Chardon at least through 22 December.

Photo by Carly Martin

**Eastern Bluebird**—most reporters noted 1–6 per day; nine over Lake View Cem. on 15 February was a good local tally (DJH); 20 in Kent 19 December (LR); daily maximum of 24 at Holden Arboretum 5 February (BAT).

**Hermit Thrush**—found at Lake View Cem. (DJH) 18 December.

**American Robin**—unprecedented numbers of American robins lingered in the region; in the recent past it has been fairly easy to find this species throughout winter, but this winter it was hardly possible to spend an hour outside and *not* see robins; most often feeding on crabapples and staghorn sumacs; 3,000 estimated in and around Mentor Marsh SNP on 16 December (LR); other exceptional flocks included 450 at Croghan Park, Summit County (JB), 300 in Fairlawn (JB), and 208 in Lakewood (PL).

**Varied Thrush**—an individual remained in Homerville, Homer Twp. in SW Medina County to 1 December, a holdover from the fall season (DR, photographed).

**Gray Catbird**—single birds in Lorain 18 December (JP), Hiram 21 December (BFa) and on the Wellington CBC 29 December.

**Northern Mockingbird**—continues to draw comments from observers as it becomes widespread and increasingly numerous in the region; generally encountered as singles or pairs, daily maximum of five totaled from various Cleveland area locations (PL) 30 December.

**European Starling**—counts of 250 in Lake County (LR) 26 December



and 800+ in Pittsfield Twp. 23 February (CP) were representative of this species.

**American Pipit**—one found on the Wellington CBC 29 December by (LR, CP).



Photo by Barb Kaplan

### Pine Warbler in Peninsula, Ohio

**Cedar Waxwing**—widespread in small numbers through late December, after which it became somewhat scarce; Mary Ann Sedivy reported 13 in Newbury Twp. Geauga 20 Dec; high counts of 30 on 5 February at Holden Arboretum (BAT) and 30–40 at All Saints Cemetery in Northfield through 16 January (DAC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—singles 4 December Tinkers Creek SP (FL); 8 December Punderson SP (AFo); 23 December Medina County (HO); 1 January Wellington (RSH); 5–6 February Bainbridge (LGi); 8–11 January Cleveland Museum of Natural History grounds (JG,KM); two at The Rookery, Geauga Park

District on 1 January (AFo).

**Pine Warbler**—singles 11 December Holden Arboretum (BS); 19 December Kent (LR); one present throughout the winter in Peninsula,

still surviving into at least mid-March (one tough pine warbler!) (BK, photographed).

**Ovenbird**—Leroy Twp., Lake County is definitely not a good choice of wintering habitat if you are an ovenbird, but one ended up there 3–14 December (DS, photographed). Remarkable as this record is, it did not set a new late date for the region, which is 21 December 1996.

**Eastern Towhee**—a few reports of scattered individuals or pairs.

**American Tree Sparrow**—numbers were down; 40–45 wintered in Jaite (FL, DAC); 23 S. Russell, Geauga County 21 December

(LGi); otherwise widespread in small numbers.

**Field Sparrow**—noted at Sandy Ridge, Lorain County (TF) 18 December–30 January; two found on the Wellington CBC and the Cuyahoga Falls CBC; maximum six on Elyria-Lorain CBC.

**Fox Sparrow**—singles on 12 December at Jaite (DAC) and 18 December Lake View Cemetery Cuyahoga County (DJH).

**Song Sparrow**—several experienced observers concluded independently that numbers of this species are way down; most field reporters tallied only 1–3 per day, with a few finding 6–9 per day; exceptional daily counts were received of 16 near Summit Lake on 6 & 21 February (GBe); 20 reported 30 December from Caley Reservoir, Lorain County and surrounding area (CP, LR).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—one tardy bird reported at Public Square, Cleveland on 9 December (DR).

**Swamp Sparrow**—typically found as singles in or near cattails, at least up through the Christmas Bird Counts; may have been fewer than normal; two at Summit Lake 28 December (GBe).

**White-throated Sparrow**—doing well; a regular visitor to area bird feeding stations all winter and outnumbering song sparrows in some areas; 1–5 were typical daily counts; 11 tallied 19 December Summit County (FL); maximum 19 at Ira Rd. in CVNP 20 December (TMR).



**White-crowned Sparrow**—Lorain County seemed to be the hot spot for this species; 20+ Pittsfield Twp. on 29 December was a good regional winter tally (LR, CP).

**Dark-eyed Junco**—most observers found <12 at a given site; some exceptional counts were 25 in S. Russell, Geauga (LGi) and > 50 at Riverside Cem. Cuyahoga County (SWr).

**Lapland Longspur**—irregularly observed along Hayes Road in Middlefield Twp, Geauga County with up to 20 reported there 17 January (MR); three in Pittsfield Twp., Lorain County 29 December (LR, CP).

**Snow Bunting**—200 estimated in Pittsfield Twp. 29 December (LR, CP); 20–25 along Hayes Road, Geauga County 23 January–21 February. (AFo, KM)

**Northern Cardinal**—undeterred by a real winter, this species is doing very well in the region, no doubt due to bird feeders; counts of 10–20 per day were common; maximum daily counts by single observers of 32 in Summit County 19 December (FL) and 27 Summit Lake 9 January (GBe).

**Red-winged Blackbird**—most reports of 1–3 birds; a few lingered to 17–19 January, but most of these disappeared afterwards; 20 reported as seen “throughout the winter” at CanalWay Center (Cleveland Metroparks staff); maximum 200 seen at Sharon Center, Medina County 1 January (RSH); 49 in Auburn Twp., Geauga County 1 January was a good local tally (LR); a flock of 20 were in Kirtland 23 January (CK); returning birds noted at Summit Lake 6 February (GBe) and North Chagrin 8 February (KM)—the later returning after an absence of only 2–3 wks; returned to Shaker Lakes 15 February (LD); became widespread thereafter, with flocks of 100+ reported from a couple of locations by 19–21 February.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—a report of two along Hayes Rd. on 18 January (AFo) is noteworthy; also reported from Sandy Ridge in Lorain County (TF).

**Rusty Blackbird**—one was at Jaite, CVNP 1 January (DAC); the eight found in Akron 6 February was an early date for “spring” birds (GBe). This location also provided the high count of 36 on 21 February (GBe).

**Common Grackle**—23 in Kent 19 December (LR) and a few reported thereafter to 26 Dec; only January reports were of two at All Saints Cemetary in Northfield 8–9th (DAC) and four in Kirtland 23 January (CK); earliest returning 6 February Summit Lake (GBe) with small numbers of migrants becoming widespread by 15 February; 32 at Summit Lake on 21 February (GBe).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—25 on 2 January was a “good” local tally (RH), as were the ten wintering birds in Norton (RSH). High tally was 52 Summit Lake 9 January (GBe).

**Purple Finch**—mostly reported as singles or pairs, particularly in later half of Dec; three in S. Russell, Geauga 24–26 December (LGi); the maximum of seven in Punderson SP 2 February was a good local tally (AFo); a few noted returning to feeders again in late February.


**House Finch**—unlike purple finch, this species remains abundant.

**Common Redpoll**—earliest report of two on 2 December Wellington Reservoir (VF); also reports of three on 13 December Lakewood Cemetery (PL); Big Creek Park, Geauga 14 December (BMc); two in Kirtland 17–18 December (CK); Lakeshore Metropark 19 December (JP); and one in Valley City late December (FG); six were tallied on the Lakewood CBC (*vide* NH); no January reports received; one at Richard Rickard’s residence in Cleveland on 1 February.

**Pine Siskin**—a few lingered in the region; reported from Chesterland, Kirtland, Lakeshore Metropark, Lakewood, North Chagrin, Sagamore Hills, Valley City; high counts of ten at North Chagrin 18 December (m.obs.) and 8 January in Kirtland (CK); 25–30 in Valley City mid-December (FG), 4–10 remained through February; surprisingly, the Cleveland CBC set a new high with 68 (*vide* DJH).

**American Goldfinch**—following a great showing this fall, many stayed on at feeding stations in good numbers all winter; maximum counts, aside from Christmas Bird Counts, included 25 in Kirtland (CK) and 33 in Twinsburg (FL).

Evening Grosbeak—no winter reports received.

Hypothetical—House Wren and Chipping Sparrow were reported in the region from Christmas Bird Counts but were not supported by photos or written details. In this case all reports were from one CBC and these species were not reported at any other time or location in the region this winter. 

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Photos by Vic Fazio

Lesser Black-backed Gull, possibly *Larus fuscus intermedius*,  
at East 72nd Street, Cleveland

# American Herring Gulls' Subapical Spots

by Kevin Metcalf

## Notes on the percent of Adult American Herring Gulls\* in Cleveland having One vs. Two Subapical Spots

The number and size of subapical spots on the wing tips of large gulls is often used as an aid for separating species, subspecies, and age classes. Field guides to North American birds have consistently depicted adult herring gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) with two subapical spots; one on the longest, outermost primary (P-10) and one, usually smaller, on the second-longest primary (P-9). These spots are usually surrounded by black, and are often called “mirrors” by birders.

As recently as Sibley, 2000, there has been no mention of variability in the number of subapical spots in Herring Gulls. In 2001 Bruce MacTavish and Lars Jonsson noted that 90 percent of adult-plumaged herring gulls in the Niagara region lacked a subapical spot on P-9. This is unlike herring gulls found in Newfoundland, where <15 percent lack a P-9 mirror (Adriaens and MacTavish, 2004) and the East Coast (Massachusetts to Virginia), where 20-30 percent are estimated to lack this mirror (Olsen and Larsson, 2003).

I was unaware of these observations when I began to notice that a high percentage of otherwise adult-plumaged herring gulls in Cleveland displayed only one subapical spot. Beginning in 2003 I spent several hours studying adult herring gull wing tip patterns, mostly at E. 72nd Street on the Cleveland Lakefront from January-March. In many cases I videotaped the gulls and reviewed the video to determine the wing tip patterns. I also looked at specimens in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. From my sample of 114 adult-plumaged herring gulls, 82 (71.9 percent) had only one subapical spot. I took care to make sure that the birds I studied were in fully adult plumage, with pure white tails and clear adult gray mantles.

Percent of adult-plumaged herring gulls in Cleveland

(winter and early spring) with subapical spot on P-9 absent (“One-spotter”):

2003: 8 of 11 (72.7 %)

2004: 11 of 17 (64.7 %)

2005: 60 of 82 (73.17 %)

CMNH collection, 2005: three of four adults from Cuyahoga and Lake Counties. (75 %)

(Four additional local specimens in CMNH were molting the primaries when collected, so presence of subapical on P-9 not determined.)

More observations of wing tip pattern variation on the breeding grounds might help us determine the origins of herring gulls wintering in Cleveland. “One-sporters” might dominate in either the Midwest or Western Arctic breeding populations.

This issue also illustrates the pitfalls of applying European-based identification literature to North American gulls. Since 1982, *Gulls, a guide to identification* by P.J. Grant has been the standard reference for American gull watchers. However, this has led to many misconceptions, including how to age third winter and adult herring gulls based on primary pattern and other features. Even with a common species like herring gull, we still have a lot to learn.



*\*American Herring Gull (L. a. smithsonianus) has been split from the European Herring Gull by European ornithologists and is now called Larus smithsonianus. No word if this split may be accepted by ornithologists on this side of “the pond” sometime in the future.*

*Special thanks to Dr. Timothy Matson for allowing me to view the study skins of herring gulls in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History collection.*

This is a “typical” wing tip pattern of an adult American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) from the Cleveland Lakefront, January, 2005. Note the large subapical spot on P-10 and the lack of a spot on P-9. This bird had a pure white tail and unmarked, adult gray mantle.



Photo by Kevin Metcalf

# Christmas Bird Count 2004-2005

	Ashtabula +	Burton	Cuyahoga Falls	Cleveland	Elyria/Lorain	Lakewood	Mentor	Trumbull +	Wellington	Youngstown +
	OHAA	OHBU	OHCF	OHCL	OHEL	OHLA	OHME	OHTC	OHWE	OHYO
Canada Goose	870	1914	3396	1201	1581	869	586	787	1467	1647
Mute Swan		1	33			3	6			
Tundra Swan	50	0	124			8	5	188		10
Wood Duck	3	10	2	1		2				
Gadwall	1		6	0		4		5		2
American Wigeon			1					2		
American Black Duck	86		24	3	2	37	18	2	8	9
Mallard	326	670	1381	166	344	885	112	659	126	591
Northern Shoveler	1		15			2				
Northern Pintail			1						4	
Green-winged Teal						1				
Canvasback	1		0			1	1			
Redhead			1	0		1	3			10
Ring-necked Duck	1		49							
Greater Scaup	1					28	25			
Lesser Scaup	10		1	3	4	298	13			
Black Scoter						5				
Surf Scoter	1			1		3	5			
Bufflehead	0	1	3	15	2	108	21	17		
Common Goldeneye	5		2	49	13	513	20	0		
Hooded Merganser	12	1	22		1			2		6
Common Merganser	56			100	473	2488	1794			41
Red-breasted Merganser	823			8002	9861	724	3002			
Ruddy Duck	1		224			1		4		4
Ring-necked Pheasant		4							36	2
Wild Turkey	133	3	30	1		1		11	22	
Common Loon			1					0		
Pied-billed Grebe	1		1		1			0		2
Horned Grebe			1					0		
Double-crested Cormorant	5		1	3		56				
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	2	6	17	9	3		9	3	1	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron	9									
Bald Eagle	3	5	2	1	3	2	4	11		7
Northern Harrier	1	1			1			2		2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	7	2	3	2	3	1	3	
Cooper's Hawk	5	4	13	9	6	6	3	1	3	3
Northern Goshawk								1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	13	3	2	1	2	6	2		8
Red-tailed Hawk	21	62	39	34	25	3	11	14	43	20
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
American Kestrel	8	4	2	1	5		1	1	54	5
Merlin			1	2			1	0		
Peregrine Falcon						2				
American Coot	2		25	0	3	1	3	4	8	33
Killdeer							1			
Dunlin	1									
Wilson's Snipe				6						
Bonaparte's Gull	70		97	800	2340	4	206	12		61
Ring-billed Gull	3030	174	810	2234	25883	3512	2783	830	12	1394
Herring Gull	320	11	8	513	195	259	1870	1		8
Lesser Black-backed Gull							1			
Glaucous Gull							1			
Great Black-backed Gull	8		6	150	25	42	694			
Rock Pigeon		221	491	1065	257	195	77	86	198	151
Mourning Dove	189	276	427	262	441	130	91	201	663	76
Eastern Screech-Owl		2	5	1		3				1
Great Horned Owl	0	2	3	1	1	1	2			
Barred Owl				4		1	2	1		1
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	10	6		4	1		2	2

	Ashtabula +	Burton	Cuyahoga Falls	Cleveland	Elyria/Lorain	Lakewood	Mentor	Trumbull +	Wellington	Youngstown +
	OHAA	OHBU	OHCF	OHCL	OHEL	OHLA	OHME	OHTC	OHWE	OHYO
Red-headed Woodpecker				5	9	1		3		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	42	115	87	42	39	14	11	37	20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			2	1		4		1		
Downy Woodpecker	36	78	190	94	45	59	33	37	67	21
Hairy Woodpecker	14	24	60	21	7	28	15	5	6	3
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	2	12	24	8	7	2	3	15	11	2
Pileated Woodpecker	6	12	10	13		4	7	3	4	4
Northern Shrike	1		2						2	
White-eyed Vireo			1							
Blue Jay	98	135	338	296	142	98	112	113	110	68
American Crow	319	270	992	141	40	27	85	26	86	786
Horned Lark		2							130	20
Black-capped Chickadee	104	323	483	270	116	73	172	117	100	105
Tufted Titmouse	46	108	187	105	29	15	49	19	19	42
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	6	9	6	8	5		1	2	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	36	99	153	102	28	31	24	34	35	38
Brown Creeper		1	9	3	7	8		1	1	1
Carolina Wren	2	11	45	41	14	17	9	2	4	9
*House Wren			1							
Winter Wren			5	1		2				
Marsh Wren					6					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	34	57	8	35	17	3	15	7	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			6							
Eastern Bluebird	18	68	86	77	25		5	21	44	6
Hermit Thrush	1			2						
American Robin	25	137	977	1773	189	139	641	35	95	25
Gray Catbird					1				1	
Northern Mockingbird		2		11	1	2			2	2
European Starling	954	444	2369	3244	3540	391	974	174	7470	301
American Pipit									1	
Cedar Waxwing	14		122	33	6	16	54			1
Yellow-rumped Warbler		2		5				14	4	9
Pine Warbler			1							
Eastern Towhee	1		2	3	1				4	
American Tree Sparrow	61	123	707	107	148	16	59	392	92	56
*Chipping Sparrow			2							
Field Sparrow			2		9				2	
Fox Sparrow			1	1						
Song Sparrow	12	32	195	42	20	20	16	16	38	21
Swamp Sparrow			3		2				1	
White-throated Sparrow	18	14	242	79	36	22	15	3	21	3
White-crowned Sparrow			6	4	2			5	47	7
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	194	137	686	334	223	64	111	219	244	56
Lapland Longspur									2	
Snow Bunting	8						5	40	245	
Northern Cardinal	107	233	902	257	127	91	96	249	204	92
Red-winged Blackbird	66	50	7	2	6		2		2	
Rusty Blackbird			1							
Common Grackle			109	1			2			
Brown-headed Cowbird		1	5	14		4	31	7		
Purple Finch	2	3	20	1	6		2		3	
House Finch	87	176	469	285	31	116	99	99	55	57
Common Redpoll	4					6	4			
Pine Siskin	3		2	68			4			
American Goldfinch	102	277	783	228	61	187	158	387	95	93
House Sparrow	209	430	1078	729	231	194	397	282	562	117

\*Odd reports with no details or evidence provided are excluded from the Seasonal Report.

+ Christmas Bird Count outside the Cleveland Bird Calendar region.

Apparently the damage done to Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve has been repaired at last. Barnes Nursery complied with a US Army Corps of Engineers Order to Restore by 31 December 2004. The mechanical restoration of the berm and irrigation channel was completed on 8 December 2004 prior to the deadline. It is predicted that the soils in the restored channel will continue to settle and the fluctuating lake levels and movement of the ice cover this winter will cause soil movement to occur, further re-grading the area and returning it to preconstruction contours.

A re-evaluation of the project area will be preformed in late spring/early summer 2005 to evaluate if any additional minor corrective measures are necessary to include seeding of some areas.

Described as an attempt to benefit birds, the Barnes project was actually designed to profit the business and undertaken illegally from the start.

All the major environmental organizations—even state government ones—opposed Barnes's creation of dikes and ditches. U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) provided some critical impetus to the review process.




Photo by Clyde E. Witt

### Adult and immature bald eagles at Sheldon's Marsh

Now, one of Ohio's few shallow wetlands still open to natural fluctuations in Lake Erie has been preserved. Had the perpetrators been less bold and better connected, this environmental violation might have been allowed to continue and birding for people from the Cleveland area seriously compromised.

A number of environmental groups deserve special recognition for their persistence in forcing this issue to the benefit of all: The Firelands Audubon Friends of Sheldon's Marsh, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Ohio EPA, along with many citizens and elected officials who refused to stand by and see this area destroyed.

If you would like to learn more about Sheldon's Marsh, I suggest you visit the Web site of the Friends of Sheldon's Marsh, [www.sheldonsmarsh.org](http://www.sheldonsmarsh.org). 

## About the Authors

No Photo Available

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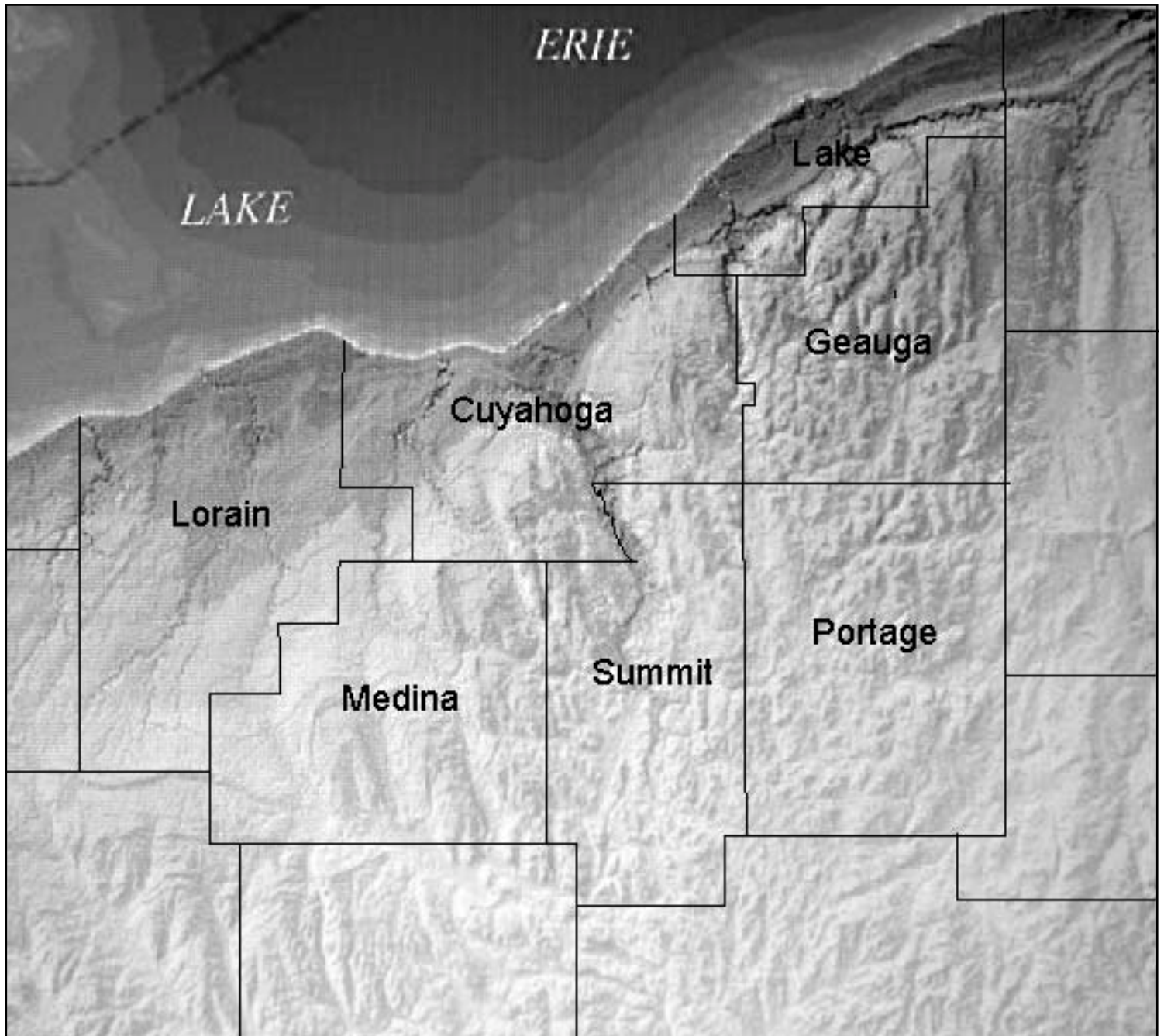
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The seven counties of northeast Ohio included in the Cleveland Bird Calendar region.

