

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

*A Quarterly Journal of Bird Sightings from the Cleveland Region
Since 1905*



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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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.

Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help preserve sensitive habitats and migrant stopover points.

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Issues more than two years old are available as searchable PDF files at www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com.

Contributions

We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: `bird_location_date_photographer.jpg`. Seasonal report forms are available at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm. All submissions are archived at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are:

Winter - March 10

Spring - June 10

Summer - September 10

Autumn - December 10

Front and Back Cover. White-winged Crossbills, Lake View Cemetery, 2-8-2009, photographed by David Lewis.

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In This Issue

Fred Dinkelbach

The highlight, by far, for the winter of 2008-2009 was the phenomenal number of siskins and crossbills. To list individual sightings gathered for this issue would have taken at least two pages. Along with those exceptional numbers, there were significantly more than the expected counts of Northern Pintails, the *Aythya* ducks, Long-tailed Ducks, Merlins and Hermit Thrushes. Expected birds missing during this season were Brant, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked and Eared Grebes, Sandhill Crane, Black-legged Kittiwake, Long-eared Owl, Brown Thrasher and American Pipit.

Other notable reports included more Blue Jays than crows seen on the Burton Christmas Bird Count, not for a lack of crows, but because there were over three hundred Blue Jays counted for the day. Later in the winter, an exceptional roost of Grackles, Cowbirds, Rusty- and Red-winged Blackbirds was documented by Larry Rosche in southern Summit County; so many birds that the number estimates for Red-wings and Grackles could only be rounded to the nearest ten thousand.

Many seasoned observers contributed to gull counts as a total of eleven gull species graced our area during the season, twelve if Kumlein's is included, plus two hybrids. The small gulls virtually disappeared after early January with the onset of a heavy winter's ice cover and did not return before season's end. At Oberlin Reservoir, thirty or so miles south of Lake Erie, Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik encountered a "mini-East 72nd Street" on both February 21st and 28th where they found six Glaucous Gulls (all in one scope-view) and six adult Iceland Gulls including an adult Kumlien's, all observed with easy viewing compared to the typical unendurable lakefront conditions.

Also in this issue Dwight Chasar delivers one of his signature biographies, this time combined with a well-researched book review, on author and scholar (and Cleveland Bird Calendar contributor) Irene Rorimer and her book, "A Field Key to Our Common Birds", a 1940 guide covering Lake Erie and the surrounding region with a special emphasis on our reporting area.

Sightings Location Key

Burke Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland.

CVNP Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit-Cuyahoga Cos.).

E 72nd Cleveland lakefront at East 72nd Street where heated waters from nearby power plant keep a small section ice-free and very hospitable to gulls during winter.

Firestone Metro Park 258 acre park south of Akron (Summit Co.).

Gordon Park Lakefront marina/park east of East 72nd Street, Cleveland.

Hayes Road Rural road and adjacent roads in eastern Geauga County, known for a wide variety of owls and raptors found feeding in the fields in the winter months.

HBSP/Headlands Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve in the east to Shipman Pond, Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (also known as Mentor Lagoons) (Lake Co.).

Ira Road CVNP towpath and beaver marsh boardwalk north of Ira Road (Summit Co.).

Jaite The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Highland and Riverview Roads in the CVNP (Brecksville-Peninsula, Cuyahoga-Summit Cos.).

Lake View Cemetery East of University Circle, Cleveland.

Lorain Harbor/Impoundment City of Lorain, east of the mouth of the Black River, a dredge spoil impoundment area that in some years provides excellent shorebird habitat.

MP Abbreviation for Metroparks or Metro Parks.

Nimisila Reservoir in southern Summit Co.

Oberlin Reservoir Lorain Co.

PP Abbreviation for Power Plant.

Red Lock CVNP Towpath trailhead on Highland Road in Sagamore Hills (Summit Co.).

Sims Park Euclid, Cuyahoga Co.

SP Abbreviation for State Park.

Springfield Lake Southeast of Akron in Summit Co.

Station Road CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Rt. 82 at Riverview Road, including the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (Brecksville, Cuyahoga Co.).

Turkeyfoot Lake Part of Portage Lakes, southern Summit Co.

Wellington Upground Reservoir Lorain Co.

Weather Report, Winter 2008-2009

Dwight Chasar

December Temperatures averaged 31.0°, 0.1° below normal. The high was 65° on the 27th and the low was 1° on the 21st. Lake Erie water stood at 41° on the 1st and fell to 34° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 20 days, totaling 3.83 inches of liquid equivalent, 0.69 inches above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 1.01 inches on the 19th. Of this, snowfall totaled 8.4 inches and the greatest depth was 2.0 inches on the 7th and 31st.

January Temperatures averaged 19.4°, 6.3° below normal. The high was 43° on the 4th and 23rd and the low -13° on the 16th. Precipitation was distributed over 19 days to total 2.66 inches, 0.18 inches above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.67 inches on the 9-10th. Snowfall totaled 40.5 inches while the greatest ground depth was 17 inches on the 29-30th. This was the second highest monthly snowfall on record. Lake Erie was at 32° by mid-month and remained there.

February Temperatures averaged 30.6°, 2.2° above normal. The high was 63° on the 11th and the low -7° on the 5th. Lake Erie was at 34° at the end the month. Precipitation totaled 2.73 inches, 0.44 inches above normal and occurred over 16 days. The greatest 24 hour fall was 0.94 inches on the 11-12th. Snowfall totaled 10.9 inches, with the greatest depth 22 inches on the 5th.

Sightings Highlights

Noteworthy species, numbers, or dates are underlined.

Snow Goose. The CVNP Christmas Bird Count had three on 12/14, found east of Hudson (GLS *fide* DAC). Su Snyder observed one white-morph individual at Wellington Reservoir on 12/27 (SS).

Ross's Goose. On 2/21 one was found in a front-yard pond just south of Caley Reservation in Lorain County (MK *fide* LR).

Cackling Goose. Three were found in a two-week period: on the 12/20 Cleveland CBC two were seen along the lakefront east of Cleveland (RH, JS, LR), on 12/24 one was found at E 72nd (GL) and one was seen on Lake

Pippen (Portage Co.) on 1/3 (GC).

Canada Goose. Two thousand were counted on 1/3 at the Wellington Upground Reservoir (CC).

Mute Swan. HBSP had five on both 12/3 and 1/5 (RH). Also on 1/5 four were found behind the Cleveland Public PP (DJH). On 2/6 five were present at the Avon Lake PP (CC).

Black Swan. Three obvious escapees were in a lakefront marina east of Burke on 1/5 (DJH).

Tundra Swan. Late fall migrants included 34 at Summit Lake (south of

Akron) on 12/7 (GB) and 16 on 12/8 at HBSP (RH). On 12/7 two large flocks of Canada Geese in formation preceded 47 Tundra Swans, also in formation, viewed flying over Button Road Field in Bedford Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks in the middle of the afternoon (FL). Forty were seen from Sims Park on 12/8 (NA). Mid-winter sightings included 16 stragglers huddled on the ice on Bass Lake (Munson, Geauga County) on 1/1 (DB) and two that flew over Sagamore Hills on 1/12 (DAC).

Wood Duck. Doug Vogus found two: one in a Cuyahoga Falls pond on 1/6 and one in the Cuyahoga River near



Wild Turkeys, Brecksville, 12-20-2008
Phyllis Schnell

Bath Road on 1/31 (DV).

Gadwall. Highlights included four on 12/15 at Ira Road (TMR), eight on 12/21 at HBSP (RH) and nine counted on 1/19 at Nimisila Reservoir (GB).

American Wigeon. Two were seen at Canal Way MP on 2/20 (LD). On 2/28 three were seen at Headlands (RH).

American Black Duck. All reports: 20 on 12/4 at HBSP (RH). 12 on 12/6 at HBSP (RH). 29 on 12/7 at North Perry (JP). 3 on 12/13 at North Perry (JP). 4 on 12/13 at HBSP (RH). 3 on 12/18 at HBSP (RH). 12 on 12/20 on the Cleveland CBC (LC). 8 on 12/21 at HBSP (RH). 6 on 12/27 at Wellington Resrvr. (SS). 24 on 12/28 on the Lakewood CBC (NH). 7 on 12/28 at Cleveland Zoo/Brookside Park (TMR). 8 on 12/28 at Avon Lake PP (CC). 1 on 12/28 at Bay Village (CC). 2 on 12/28 at Rocky River Park (CC). 3 on 1/1 at North Perry (JP). 1 on 1/1 at Canal Way MP (LD). 6 on 1/3 at HBSP (RH). 4 on 1/3 at E 72nd (GC). 2 on 1/5 at Gordon Park (DJH). 1 on 1/6 in Cuyahoga Falls (DV). 2 on 1/9 at Canal Way MP (LD). 10 on 2/6 at Avon Lake PP (CC). 10 on 2/7 at Avon Lake PP (CC). 2 on 2/9 at HBSP (RH). 2 on 2/9 at Ira Rd. (TMR). 10 on 2/16 at Ira Rd. (TMR). 6 on 2/16 at Dike 14 (also 2 Mallard hybrids) (DB). 2 on 2/18 at Station Road (DAC). 3 on 2/21 at HBSP (RH). 2 on 2/23 at HBSP (RH).

Mallard. Typically common. Highest reported counts were 441 at Cleveland Zoo/Brookside Park on 12/28 (TMR) and 212 at Canal Way MP on 1/9 (LD).

Northern Shoveler. Greg Bennett counted 19 wintering on local lakes in Akron (GB). On 1/6 one female was observed at E 72nd (GL).

Northern Pintail. Along the lakefront Pintails were numerous mid-season. At E 72nd on 12/28 multiple flocks totaling 90 birds were observed; that same day at North Perry 227 were counted in 18 flocks (JP). At Lorain Harbor a flock of 25 passed overhead on 1/2 (GL). On 2/6 ten were seen at Avon Lake PP (CC). Inland, four were seen on 12/20 at Nimisila Reservoir (GB) and one was seen on 1/1 at WC Best Wildlife Preserve in Geauga County (DB).

Green-winged Teal. On 12/16 HBSP had one (RH). Two were seen at Wellington Reservoir on 12/27 (SS). On 1/6 a female was seen at E 72nd (GL). A drake was seen at North Reservoir (Portage Lakes, S. Summit Co.) on 2/11 (GB).

Canvasback. Sims Park had 40 on 12/8 (NA). Most evident in their February migration, Avon Lake PP had counts of 1000 on 2/6 and 2/7 (CC), on 2/13 there were 110 at Headlands (RH) and at Lorain Harbor 120 were seen on 2/14 (GB).

Redhead. On 12/8 Sims Park had 21 (NA). The January ice kept numbers down along the lakefront. One hundred were found on 2/6 and again on 2/7 at Avon Lake PP (CC). Dike 14 had 150 on 2/16 (DB). HBSP had 60 on 2/23 (RH). Inland, a Hudson lake had one on 12/11 (DAC) and Ira Road had one on both 2/9 and 2/16 (TMR).

Ring-necked Duck. Over 90 were counted wintering on local Summit County lakes (GB). Forty were seen on 12/11 on a lake near Hudson (DAC).

Greater Scaup. There were few reports, of mostly small numbers in late February. The highest number reported was 50 at Avon Lake PP on 2/6 and 2/7 (CC). The only inland report was one seen at Ira Road on 2/9 (TMR).

Lesser Scaup. On 12/5, approximately 110 were seen at Springfield Lake (GB), 53 at Turkeyfoot Lake (GB) and 500 at HBSP (RH). About 50 were behind the Cleveland Public PP on

12/25 (DJH). Avon Lake PP had 1000 seen on both 2/6 and 2/7 (CC).

Harlequin Duck. An immature male was discovered at North Perry on 12/28; another was seen there on 1/4 (JP).

Surf Scoter. Ten on 12/2 and two on 1/3 were the only reports from Headlands (RH). At Sims Park three were spotted on 12/12 (NA).

White-winged Scoter. HBSP had one on 12/2 and two on 12/12 (RH). Two were found on 12/8, 12/13 and 12/21 at Sims Park (NA). On 12/28, two were seen from Huntington Reservation and Bay Village (CC). One was present on 1/24 at Eastlake (GL).

Black Scoter. At Headlands 31 were observed on 12/2 and one on 1/3 (RH). On 12/8 two were found at Sims Park; by 12/13 four were seen there and on 12/20 there were five (NA). Five were spotted at Avon Lake PP on 12/28 (CC).

Long-tailed Duck. On 12/13 a female was found at E 72nd (CC). Two, probably an immature male and female, were at Gordon Park on 12/20 (DJH). Perhaps three Long-taileds seen at E 72nd on 1/1 (GL) may have been these same birds. Also on 12/20 one was seen at Sims Park (NA).

Bufflehead. At Sims Park 28 were counted on 12/8 (NA). Craig Caldwell had numbers in the twenties from 12/28 to 2/7 along the lakefront wherever ice-free waters were available (CC).

Common Goldeneye. On 12/8 forty were counted from Sims Park; the numbers climbed to 60 on 12/12 and 96 on 12/20 (NA). Over 70 were reported from Berlin Reservoir on 12/24 (GB). The Avon Lake and Bay Village lakefronts each had 70 counted on 12/28 (CC). Headlands had a strong showing with numbers climbing to 500 by 2/26 (RH).

Hooded Merganser. On 12/16 HBSP had 15 (RH). A total of nine were counted wintering on Akron lakes by

Greg Bennett (GB). On 2/16 six were seen at Dike 14 (DB).

Common Merganser. Seen throughout the season at Headlands, numbers climbed to 400 on 2/20, followed by at least 300 the next week (RH). Three males were found at their typical inland haunt on the Cuyahoga River at Jaite on 1/4 (DAC).

Red-breasted Merganser. On 12/13 over 1100 were tallied at North Perry (JP). As many as 40 were counted at HBSP during the first half of December and the last half of February (RH).

Ruddy Duck. At Sims Park 221 were counted on 12/8 (NA). On 12/11 eight were seen at a Hudson lake (DAC).

Ring-necked Pheasant. One male was spotted at Whitney Road (Lorain Co.) on 2/1 (PL, BF).

Wild Turkey. On 12/26, 21 were seen in a Brecksville backyard that bordered the CVNP's Pinery Narrows (PS). On 2/21 at West Branch SP (Portage Co.) 45 were seen (GB).

Common Loon. The only reports were the usual late fall migrants at HBSP, two on 12/2, one on 12/3 and four on 12/4 (RH).

Pied-billed Grebe. Mainly single birds seen throughout the season; on 12/3 HBSP had six (RH) and six were in a marina east of Burke on 1/5 (DJH).

Horned Grebe. E 72nd hosted one on 1/1 (GL). On 1/31 one was seen on the Cuyahoga River south of Ira Road in the CVNP (DV).

Double-crested Cormorant. Leo Deininger saw 62 on 1/9 and 48 on 2/20 at Canal Way MP (LD).

Great Blue Heron. Numbers generally reflected availability of open water and did not pick up until late February. At Canal Way MP 14 were seen on 2/20 (LD) and on 2/22 Ira Road had 20 (TMR).

Great Egret. On 12/8 one was found at Turkeyfoot Lake (GB). Canal Way MP had one on 1/1, a midwinter record falling between the latest fall (12/10/1997) and earliest spring records (3/10/2002) (LD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. Three immatures were resting on a log at Gordon Park on 12/20 (DJH). None were reported from their usual winter roost at Cleveland's Merwin Street.

Turkey Vulture. The earliest spring sighting was a single bird found over Akron on 2/2 (GB).

Osprey. On 12/20 one was found in the Hunting Valley/Pepper Pike area on the Cleveland CBC (*vide* LC).

Bald Eagle. Eagle reports from their known nest sites are not mentioned here. Near Cleveland and along the Cuyahoga River, one was found on 12/1 at Canal Road north of Rockside

and another on 1/7 at Canal and Pleasant Valley Roads (SJ, CW). Three were observed on 12/12 at Headlands (RH). Single immature birds were found at Dike 14 on 12/13 and at Avon Lake PP on 2/7 (CC). Single birds were seen along the Cuyahoga in the CVNP Boston area on 12/18 and 2/5 (HO). An adult was seen at Bass Lake Preserve (Geauga Co.) on 1/1 (DB). On 1/18 toward dusk one was seen flying over the Cuyahoga River near the intersections of Alexander and Riverview Roads (FL). An adult was seen on 1/25 at Firestone MP (JR). An immature was seen at Red Lock in the CVNP on 2/14 (DAC).

Northern Harrier. A female was seen at Burke on 12/27 (PL, BF). On 1/3 one was seen near the Lorain County Airport (CC); the same day an immature bird was spotted in Palmyra Township in Portage County (GB). One was found at Berlin Reservoir on 2/21 (GB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. The only reports: one on 1/4 at HBSP (RH), one at E 72nd on 1/17 (GL), one in Cuyahoga Falls on 1/30 (GB), one in the CVNP on 2/7 (CW, SJ) and one in Akron on 2/13 (JR).

Cooper's Hawk. Much more numerous than Sharp-shinned; all complete reports had single birds sighted throughout the season (see also Rusty Blackbird account).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Singles and pairs were seen the entire season

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Winter 2008-2009

Ray Hannikman

Birding in December in the Headlands Beach State Park area was dominated by the spectacle of thousands upon thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls continuously present at the mouth of the Grand River. Occasional sightings of Black-headed Gulls compelled birders to negotiate the rocky break-wall to the lighthouse to try to ferret out that one Black-headed Gull within the hordes of Bonaparte's Gulls. After the Bonaparte's Gulls departed in the early January cold, often bitter with extreme wind chills, near record snowfall blanketed the area in a deep freeze. When I did manage to make it out to Headlands, walks along various trails typically yielded year-round resident Chickadees, Titmice, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals and Downy Woodpeckers. But by mid-February Red-winged Blackbirds were on some territories and waterfowl, mostly Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes, were beginning to move into openings in a very ice-covered Lake Erie. Spring, close in our thoughts, remained far away.

throughout the area. Numbers approached the Red-tailed's on many complete reports with roughly one Red-shouldered reported for every two Red-tailed. On 1/1 seven were seen in Munson and Newbury Townships (Geauga Co.) along with seven Red-taileds (DB).

Red-tailed Hawk. This common hawk was well reported throughout the season, as exemplified by the Christmas Bird Counts.

Rough-legged Hawk. Burke airport had one light-morph on 12/27 (PL, BF). One was seen at Burke on 1/5 (DJH) and again on 1/9 (CC). On 1/22 one light-morph was seen soaring over Hinckley Reservation (GL). The following Geauga County birds were reported by Dan Best: one light-morph at Bundysburg Road on 1/22, one dark-morph at Hayes Road on 1/26, one light-morph at Bundysburg Road also on 1/26, one dark at Hayes on 2/8, and two light-morphs (one male and one female) on Hayes also on 2/8 (DB).

Golden Eagle. Late afternoon on 1/6, John Pogacnik saw one fly over Rt. 2 in Painesville, about a mile west of the Grand River, heading south just over tree-top level (JP).

American Kestrel. Lower winter numbers than previous years. All reports:
1 on 12/1 at Canal Road north of Rockside Rd. (Cuyahoga Co.) (SJ, CW).
1 on 12/4 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 12/11 at Boston (CVNP) (HO).
1 on 12/15 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 12/25 at Gordon Park (DJH).
1 on 12/27 at Burke (DJH).
1 on 1/3 at Lorain Co. Airport (CC).
1 on 1/12 CVNP at Canal Road (SJ, CW).
1 on 2/1 at Oberlin Rd. Lorain Co. (PL, BF).
1 on 2/1 at Whitney Rd. Lorain Co. (PL, BF).
2 on 2/8 at Burke (PL, BF).
1 on 2/14 at Red Lock (CVNP) (FL, DAC).

Merlin. The ever-reliable Calvary Cemetery in Garfield Heights hosted

up to four birds from 12/8 through 2/26 (LGa). On 12/29 one was observed at Cascade Valley MP (GB). In two separate Sagamore Hills neighborhoods, one was spotted on 12/2 and another on 1/22 (CW, SJ). One was spotted buzzing a flock of starlings on 12/21 in the southern CVNP (DV). Long Lake (Portage Lakes, southern Summit Co.) hosted one on 2/2 (GB). The bird reported from Lake View Cemetery in the fall continued to be present throughout most of the winter, making the fifth winter in a row there for this species; 2/11 was the latest date (DJH). One wintered in Kent (GC *fide* LR). A female was seen with its prey on 2/28 at Highland Park Cemetery in Shaker Heights (LRA).

Peregrine Falcon. The Hoffmans wrote "One was seen at E. 55th Street on 12/1, hovering and flying very low, obviously hunting, and at one point landed in a tree, then on a picnic table and finally on the ground. It disappeared when a squall of sleet blew in off the lake. A falcon scared off by Burke security personnel on 12/25 was probably this individual." (DJH). One was seen on the ice at Springfield Lake on 1/6 (GB).

American Coot. Twenty were in the marina at E. 55th Street on 12/1 (DJH). Thirty wintered at East Reservoir (GB). On 12/13 twenty were counted at E 72nd (CC).

Killdeer. On the mid-afternoon of 1/2 two birds were heard and then seen along the bank of the Cuyahoga River in CVNP, just south of the Jaite Railroad Bridge (FL).

Purple Sandpiper. One bird on 12/4 and two on 12/5 were noted on the breakwall at Headlands Beach (RH, JT, SW).

Dunlin. A late migrant appeared on the east end of Headlands Beach on 12/5 (SW, JT).

Wilson's Snipe. Three were counted in the Cuyahoga County Airport area on the Cleveland CBC on 12/20 (PL).

Bonaparte's Gull. None were reported after mid-January. On 12/3 Ray Hannikman had 20,000 at Headlands and numbers between 8000 and 15,000 throughout December; the latest sighting there was one on 1/7 (RH). A leucistic bird was seen at E 72nd on 12/6 (GL). On 1/9 E 72nd had 2000 (CC). The only non-Lake Erie report was a single bird sighted in the CVNP on 1/3 (CW, SJ).

Black-headed Gull. Both first-year (on 12/2) and adult winter (on 12/3) individuals were noted at the mouth of the Grand River (RH, JT, EB, SW). On 12/13 a single adult was found at North Perry (JP). At E 72nd an adult was seen on 12/28 (JP) and an individual of unspecified age on 1/9 (CC).

Little Gull. Reports from North Perry include an adult on 12/6 and one immature and three adults on 12/13 (JP). On 12/13 one was seen at Lorain Harbor (GL). Four were noted at the mouth of the Grand River on 12/21 (RH). On 1/1 a single adult was spotted at E 72nd (JP).

Franklin's Gull. A first-year individual, first found in mid-November 2008, associated with the thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls at the mouth of the Grand River from 12/1 through 12/4 (RH, JT, SW, EB). A single bird was seen from E 72nd (CC) and an immature bird at North Perry, both on 12/13 (JP). Lorain Harbor hosted one on 1/2 (GL).

Ring-billed Gull. Numbers climbed into the thousands at the typical lakefront gull gathering spots until ice formed in early January; after the ice cleared in mid-February thousands again were seen and the numbers tapered afterward. Interesting was a semi-leucistic bird spotted at E 72nd on 12/28 – it was normal on its right side and leucistic on its left (JP).

California Gull. This rarity was seen on five separate dates, all at E 72nd and most in December. An adult was the first sighting, on 12/6 (GL). First-year birds were found on 12/7 (GL), 12/13 (JB), 12/30 (GL) and a late sighting on

2/7 (GL). A third-year was seen on 12/30 (GL).

Herring Gull. The same trend as Ring-billed but numbers usually peaked in the hundreds rather than thousands. At E 72nd 2000 were counted on 1/9 (CC).

Thayer's Gull. This gull was seen nearly every day at the typical gull-watching spots along the lakefront. Numbers were not timed with ice cover but spread throughout the season. First-year birds were the most numerous, especially in December; a half dozen single-bird sightings of second-year and adults were seen at E 72nd throughout the season (many obs.). Gabe Leidy had noteworthy sightings that included three first-years and one second-year on 12/21 and two first-years and one second-year on 2/7, all at E 72nd (GL). Inland, one first-year and one second-year were found at Oberlin reservoir on 2/28 (GL).

Iceland Gull. Over half of the sightings were first-years, primarily at E 72nd but a few were reported from Eastlake PP, Lorain Harbor and North Perry (many obs.). The only third-year was a single gull at North Perry on 2/13 (JP). Second-year birds, all seen at E 72nd, included two on 12/21, one on 12/26 and at least four on 1/9 (many obs.). E 72nd had the highest counts for all age cycles with six on 12/30 (GL), at least nine on 1/9 (JB), eight on 1/18 (GC), six on 1/30 (SW) and seven on 1/31 (JP). **Kumlein's** Iceland Gulls were observed at E 72nd with three (one adult and two first-years) on 1/1 (JP). After the Lake Erie ice subsided so did the Iceland Gull sightings, except at Oberlin Reservoir which also had the only inland observations: three first-years on 2/21, and seven adults (including one **Kumlein's**) and four first-years on 2/28 (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Almost two-thirds of the birds reported were adults, predominantly at E 72nd in December and early January, where there were two or more birds on most days. HBSP's only report was one on 12/3 (RH); the only Lorain Harbor sighting was two adults on 2/14 (GB).

Notable sightings at E 72nd were six on 12/13 (JB), six on 12/28 (JP) and twelve on 12/6 that included all ages, first-year through adults (GL). There were no inland reports.

Glaucous Gull. Of the gulls seen throughout the season at their expected lakefront gull gathering sites, a third were first-years (many obs.). Up to eight were seen several times at E 72nd: five adults and three first-years on 1/9 (JB), eight (ages not reported) on 1/31 (JP) and likely as many on 2/8 (PL). Inland sightings almost matched the previous winter's lakefront totals: Oberlin reservoir had seven first-years, one second-year and four adults on 2/28 (GL); Lake Rockwell hosted a single first-year bird on 2/23 (GC).

Great Black-backed Gull. The Hoffmans summarized this gull's presence well, noting "about seven were at Gordon Park on 20 Dec, the first group of any size we've seen this winter. On 27 Dec, about ten were off E 72nd and more were seen along the lakefront. On 1 Jan there were at least 50 from E 72nd to E 55th including about 12 standing on docks at the marina. On 5 Jan they could be found in good numbers all along the lakefront between Gordon and Burke" (DJH). Overall numbers rose during the season; on 2/14 over 250 were counted at Lorain Harbor (GB).

Glaucous x Herring (Nelson's) Gull Hybrid. All sightings were in January at E 72nd: one first-year bird on 1/1 (GL), a second-year on 1/9 (JB) and a third-year on 1/31 (JP).

Greater Black-backed x Herring Gull Hybrid. Same dates, location and observers as Nelson's Gull this season, except all were adult birds: one on 1/1 (GL), one on 1/9 (JB) and three on 1/31 (JP).

Pomarine Jaeger. One was found at Avon Lake PP from 12/13 through 12/27 (many obs.).

Rock Pigeon. Typical numbers.

Mourning Dove. On 2/9 Ira Road had 62 (TMR).

Eastern Screech-Owl. A single red-morph was found at Firestone MP on five dates between 1/23 and 2/15 (JR). David Lewis discovered one at midnight 2/2-2/3, perched on his bird feeder observing the rabbits in his backyard (DL).



**Eastern Screech-Owl,
Bay Village bird feeder, 2-3-2009**
Dave Lewis

Great Horned Owl. Headlands had one on 12/1 (RH). Suburban birds included one heard on five different evenings from 1/20 to 2/27 in a Westlake neighborhood (CC) and one seen in a Sagamore Hills yard on 1/26 and 2/1 (SJ, CW). On 2/18 one was observed at Station Road (DAC).

Snowy Owl. Beginning 12/1, a very dark immature bird was found at Burke, remaining there through 1/5 (many obs.). Another was seen there on 2/15 (GC). A lighter-colored bird was seen at Burke on 12/2 (DJH).

Barred Owl. The only reports were in mid-December from Summit County: one in the CVNP on 12/13 (DAC), one from the CVNP's Boston Run also on 12/13 (TMR) and one at Route 8 and Quick Road on 12/14 (TMR).

Short-eared Owl. One was at the east end of Burke on 12/1 and again on 12/5 (DJH); by 12/7 five were seen there (LR) and on 1/3 the number was three (GC).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. On 12/20 one was located near the headquarters building at Gordon Park (CC).



**Pileated Woodpecker,
North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co., 2-15-2009**

Sally Isacco

Belted Kingfisher. Found along the ice-free Cuyahoga River throughout the season (DAC).

Red-headed Woodpecker. The only report was one at the Station Road marshes on 1/5 (DAC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common. Highest daily count was eight seen on 1/5 at Ira Road (TMR).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. More common than usual this winter. One was found in Sagamore Hills on 12/8 (DAC). Two were observed in Mogadore on 1/16 (GB). Lake View Cemetery hosted one that was seen on three dates from 1/27 to 2/1 (LRa). On 2/2 Ira Road had one (TMR). One was found at Ravenna Arsenal on 2/4 (LR).

Downy Woodpecker. Slightly more common than the Red-bellied; 14 at Ira Road on 12/29 was the highest daily count reported (TMR).

Hairy Woodpecker. Expected numbers: all reports were of one or two birds.

Northern Flicker. One bird seen at Ira Road on 12/29 was the Romitos' only sighting for the season (TMR). Two were found near the Munson-Newbury Township border on 1/1 (DB). Jaite had one on 1/7 (DAC).

Pileated Woodpecker. Well represented in all complete reports; wintertime numbers were usually greater than the Flicker's. On 1/12 Doug Vogus counted four during a five mile hike in the CVNP (DV).

Northern Shrike. One bird appeared near the parking lot at Mentor Lagoons on 12/6 (JT, SW *vide* RH). The shrub-succession habitat at Jaite provided sightings of one bird on 12/11 and 1/7 (DAC) and again on 1/17 (GL). On 1/31 and on 2/7 one was seen at the Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve (Portage Co.) wetland (FL). Also on 2/7 a single bird was found at Herrick Fen (Portage Co.) (GC).

Blue Jay. Common. High counts include 24 seen on 12/14 at the Summit County Bike & Hike Trail Rt. 303 and Rt. 8 (FL), 14 in Eastlake on

12/20 (CC) and 15 at Ira Road on 2/9 (TMR).

American Crow. On 12/13 in the CVNP south of Everett 180 were spotted (PC). At HBSP 250 were counted on 2/27 (RH).

Horned Lark. On 1/3 twenty were seen at Lorain County Airport (CC). Two groups of about one dozen birds were seen on a manure-spread field on Hayes Road (Geauga County) on 1/22 (DB). A total of over 135 was seen on three locations in rural Lorain County on 2/1 (PL, BF). On 2/13 at HBSP 20 were counted (RH). Noteworthy was one flying over a grass meadow at Firestone MP on 2/15 (JR).

Tree Swallow. The first area record for January was of three seen flying together to the west along the lakefront on 1/1 at North Perry (JP).

Black-capped Chickadee. Many reports had at least ten for a daily count; on 2/2 19 were tallied at Ira Road (TMR).

Tufted Titmouse. Numbers nearly matched the Chickadee; highest was 14 on 1/18 in Bedford Reservation (FL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Not as strong a presence as previous winters; only single-bird sightings (when reported) throughout the season with half of the reports clustered in the first half of December. The exception was four on 1/1 at the CVNP Peninsula tree farm area (DV).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Common. Highest counts in the CVNP were by the Romitos were at least seven at Ira Road on several dates, including ten on 2/2 (TMR).

Brown Creeper. Five reports of single birds from mid-January to mid-February. Two were seen at Tinkers Creek SP on 1/31 (FL).

Carolina Wren. A likely indicator of how these birds weathered the season were counts that were higher and more common the first half of the season versus the last half: An informal count

from submitted complete reports totaled 34, 18 and 11 individuals for December, January and February, respectively. Notable were six at the Boston area of the CVNP on 12/11 (HO) and four, also in the CVNP, on 12/28 (DAC). James Reyda in Akron had up to four spend their nights throughout the winter in a watering can that had previously served as a nest (JR).

Winter Wren. One was seen at the CVNP ledges on 12/2 (PC). Ira Road had two on 12/8 (TMR). One was seen the morning hours of 1/3 in two different Bedford Reservation hemlock ravines east of the overlook (FL). On 1/5 one was spotted at HBSP (RH).

Marsh Wren. This rare winter straggler was seen at the Cleveland MP Lake Abrams wetland, when a single bird was seen from the boardwalk on 12/30 during the Lakewood CBC (NH). Jerry Talkington found one bird near the entrance to Wake Robin Trail at HBSP on 1/5 (JT *fide* RH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. On 12/2 five were counted at the ledges area of the CVNP (PC). There were several reports of single individuals seen in January. On 2/7 two were found at HBSP (RH).

Eastern Bluebird. Seemed to have survived the winter well in the CVNP; Hope Orr's group had many sightings with high counts of ten on both 1/8 and 2/19 in the Boston area (HO).

Hermit Thrush. Ira Road had one on 12/8 and two on 2/2 (TMR). Greg Bennett found one at Nimisila on 12/20 and later one at Mogadore Reservoir on 12/30 (GB). At the Peninsula tree farm trail in the CVNP, one was found on 1/1 and another on 1/31 (DV). At Seiberling Naturealm (Akron) a single bird was observed on 1/22 (SS) and, likely the same bird, heard repeating its song three times on 2/1 (FCD). On 1/26 one was seen at Sims Park (LC).

American Robin. Flocks lingered throughout the winter in Lake View Cemetery and seemed to grow as the season progressed; on 2/5 a group of

about 100 fed in crabapples on Shaker Boulevard near the Green Road Rapid Station in Shaker Heights (DJH).

Gray Catbird. One remained at Cascade Valley MP on 12/29 (GB).

Northern Mockingbird. Rural birds were surviving the winter well. In the northwest corner of Bedford Reservation's Button Road Field on 12/7 a single individual was seen silently flying about (FL). On 12/22 one was found at West Branch SP (GB). Two were seen in Sagamore Hills on 1/6 (DAC).

European Starling. Common. One hundred seen in Westlake on 12/12 was a typical large flock number (CC) (see also Rusty Blackbird account).

Cedar Waxwing. Not common. Flocks were most prevalent in the CVNP; highest numbers were found at Ira Road with 65 on 12/1 and 80 on 1/12 (TMR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Except for a few reports of single birds, on 12/8 two were found at Ira Road (TMR) and 15 were seen at West Branch SP on 12/22 (GB).

Pine Warbler. On 12/5 one was found at Orchard Hills Park (Chester Twp., Geauga Co.) in a stand of tall white pines, foraging in the company of chickadees and titmice (LRa).

Ovenbird. One was seen and photographed under a feeder in Cuyahoga Falls on 12/7, in an area that borders the CVNP (SD).

Eastern Towhee. On 12/20 four were counted during the Cleveland CBC in the Hunting Valley/Pepper Pike area (NH). One was found in the CVNP south of Bath Road on 1/1 (DV).

American Tree Sparrow. The highest Headlands count was 60 on 12/25 (RH). Multiple flocks along Lorain County roads on 1/3 totaled 200 birds (CC).

Field Sparrow. Single birds were seen from CVNP trails on four dates from

12/2 to 2/12 (CW, SJ). On 12/14 during the Cuyahoga Falls CBC on the Summit County Bike & Hike Trail just north of Hudson Drive, a single bird was briefly seen (FL). Jaite had one on 12/27 (DAC).

Chipping Sparrow. On 1/6 one visited a North Perry feeder (JP).

Fox Sparrow. One was observed at Ira Road on 1/26 (TMR).

Song Sparrow. Included in all complete reports with typical counts of up to ten in one day.

Swamp Sparrow. Headlands had 15 on 12/1 and eight on 1/5 (RH). On 1/9 two were found in Firestone MP (JR). Ira Road had two on 1/12 and one on 2/16 (TMR).

White-throated Sparrow. Reliably seen throughout the season at Ira Road; 16 were tallied on 12/1 (TMR). The Hoffmans counted 14 at Lake View Cemetery on 12/20, several of which were feeding high in fruit trees (DJH).

White-crowned Sparrow. One immature individual, seen at a Munson Township feeder on 1/1, was the only report (DB).

Dark-eyed Junco. In northern Summit County 44 were observed on 12/14 (FL). On 12/20 at Lake View Cemetery 89 were counted (DJH).

Lapland Longspur. On 2/1 six were seen with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in a freshly manured field in Lorain County near West Road (PL, BF).

Snow Bunting. HBSP had five on 12/1 and six on 1/5 (RH). On 1/22 over 80 were counted from Hayes Road (Gauga County) and 80 to 100 found along nearby Peters Road (DB). In Lorain County 75 to 100 were seen at Whitney Road near West Road on 2/1 (PL, BF).

Northern Cardinal. High counts reported were 21 at Firestone MP on 1/23 (JR) and 23 at Ira Road on both 1/19 and 2/23 (TMR).

Red-winged Blackbird. Ten were found at Headlands on 1/5 (RH). On 1/26 Ira Road had 31 (TMR) (see also Rusty Blackbird account).

Rusty Blackbird. Larry Rosche and his birding friends discovered a blackbird bonanza in Barberton (southern Summit Co.) at the PPG Industries' Lime Lakes:

"Since yesterday (1/23) was so nice I headed out to check on Rusty Blackbirds at the Lime Lakes in Barberton. It was simply mind boggling. How does one count a swath of birds a half-mile long, 200 yards thick and 500 yards wide? I have to smile at the reports I read about the first Red-winged Blackbird of the year. There had to be at least 50,000 RWBLs going to roost in Barberton. Add in another 30,000 Common Grackles, 20,000 European Starlings, 5000 Brown-headed Cowbirds and hundreds of Rusties and you get a picture of what stays in the winter in southern Summit County...the Lime Lakes certainly provide an important staging area for a huge number of birds, albeit blackbirds."

On 2/14 Larry remarked: "Blackbirds are coming in hot and heavy at the Barberton site. The best estimate for Rusty Blackbirds has been 325 so far. It is really hard to count them or identify them in flight. We tried this morning to see them coming out of the roost and had some Rusties but we missed the majority of the group leaving because of not being in the right spot. We did see 10-12 Cooper's Hawks hunting the early morning hordes. I have had no luck finding blackbirds at Kent/Fishcreek Wetlands, Mogadore Reservoir Wetlands or Mentor Marsh. I think most of the birds in this area must use the Barberton site for roosting and then head a bit south southwest for daily feeding." (LR).

All other reports:

- 1 on 12/1 at Ira Road (TMR).
- 1 on 1/9 at Firestone MP (JR).
- 8 on 1/18 at Firestone MP (JR).
- 5 on 1/23 at Firestone MP (JR).
- 2 on 1/25 at Firestone MP (JR).
- 5 on 1/31 at Firestone MP (JR).

3 on 2/6 at Wolf Creek (Sharon Ctr., Medina Co.) (DBe).

2 on 2/6 at Firestone MP (JR).

18 on 2/8 at Firestone MP (JR).

4 on 2/22 at Firestone MP (JR).

Common Grackle. In Firestone MP 23 were seen on 1/31 (JR). Nine were counted at Ira Road on 2/9 (TMR) (see also Rusty Blackbird account).

Brown-headed Cowbird. At Firestone MP 67 were counted on 1/18 (JR). In the CVNP, 28 were found on 1/31 (DV) and Ira Road had 24 on 2/9 (TMR) (see also Rusty Blackbird account).

Purple Finch. Thirteen were counted at the CVNP's Horseshoe Pond on 1/2, three were seen at Berlin Reservoir 1/17 through 1/31 and one was found at West Branch SP on 1/24 (GB).

House Finch. Fewer numbers than past winters; highest number reported was nine at Firestone MP on 1/9 (JR).

Red Crossbill. On 2/13 a bird was found when it was heard calling from the top of a tall evergreen at the West Woods Nature Center (Geauga Co.) parking lot (SW).

White-winged Crossbill. The 2008-2009 winter irruption for this species was the largest in recent history, found throughout the area in pairs to sizable flocks. When noted, usually seen in spruces; Pat Coy, in an early-December quest to find crossbills, found none in various CVNP hemlock ravines (PC). Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner saw 35 birds on 12/1 at Mentor Lagoons and 80 at a nearby housing development near Black Brook Golf Course on 12/3 (JT, SW *vide* RH). In Fairlawn, up to 40 were seen between Rosemont Burial Park Cemetery and the nearby Seiberling Naturealm (Akron) between 1/20 and 2/1 (many obs.). On 1/26 in Gates Mills 35 were counted (RB *vide* LR).

Common Redpoll. Clyde Witt and Susan Jones had one or two regular feeder visitors 1/15 through 2/5 (CW, SJ). At Headlands, ten were tallied on 1/4 and 30 on 1/25 (RH). On 1/11

North Chagrin MP had one (LD). At a Geauga County feeder one joined 30 siskins on 2/13 (DB).

Pine Siskin. This was an exceptional winter for siskins, seen throughout the season and included in almost every submission. Some complete reports had numbers rivaling cardinals or goldfinches. Seen most of the winter at the Chasar's residence in Sagamore Hills, they reported that "We had siskins at our house throughout January and in fact, every day in February. Besides the thistle feeder, we have two sweet gum trees and our neighbors have several more. The siskins were on the tops of the trees, on our roof, in our gutters, on the ground eating the seeds that drop out of the gumballs"; 75 were counted at their residence on 12/16; they also remarked that their appearances seemed to coincide with fresh snow (DAC).

Over 30 were counted at Nesmith Lake (Portage Lakes, southern Summit Co.) on 12/10 (GB). On 1/1 there were 28 at a Newbury Township feeder (DB). An individual of the rare green morph was discovered at a North Perry feeder on 1/17 (JP). On 2/11 North Chagrin Reservation had 35 (FL).

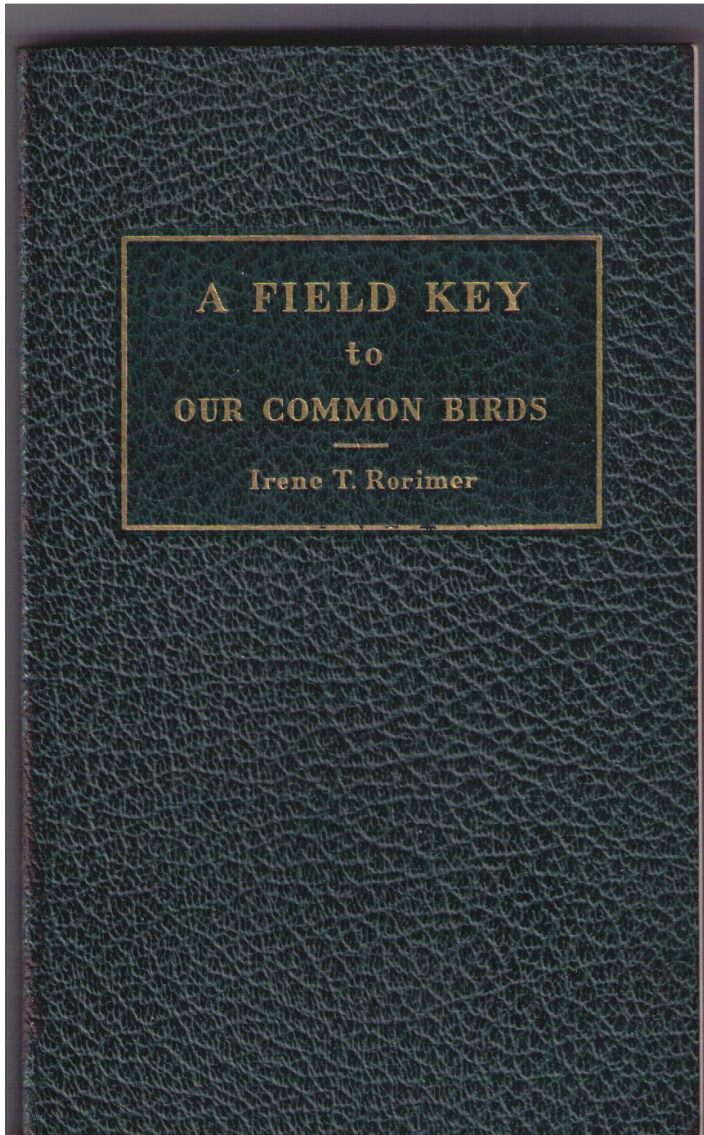
American Goldfinch. Typical numbers, from single birds to flocks of twenty.

House Sparrow. Common, when reported. At Ira Road 72 were tallied on 12/1 (TMR).

Irene Turk Rorimer

Dwight Chasar

It was January 2009 that Bob Finkelstein brought to my attention by phone call that he found a used book in which I might have interest. The book, written by Irene T. Rorimer, is entitled, "A Field Key to Our Common Birds." Bob kindly offered to bring it to the next KBC meeting for my examination but I was impatient. I found the book on-line through Abebooks and had a copy within a few days, the cost of shipping being more than that of the book itself. The book is still cataloged in at least three Ohio libraries and several copies are at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History library.



This 4.25 x 6.75 inch 160 page dark green soft cover book (see photo) by Rorimer is Pocket Natural History No. 8, Zoological Series No. 3, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, copyright 1940. The original price was \$1.50! The black and white and color bird illustrations are by none other than *the* Roger Tory Peterson (his first field guide was copyrighted in 1934, then revised and enlarged in 1939). According to the forward in her book, "[t]he species treated in this Key are found primarily in an area that includes Lake Erie and adjoining territory, with special emphasis on northern Ohio." Thus this is not a complete field guide. Irene's acknowledgments are to three giants in Ohio Ornithology: Charles Kendeigh, then at the U of IL but formerly at WRU, John Aldrich, Curator of Ornithology, and Arthur B Williams, Curator of Education, both of CMNH. A search of Rorimer in Google Books found many reviews of her book, including one in a Philippine magazine.

A Google search on Irene Rorimer provided several hits. Besides the book, Google found reference to a thesis title, "A Key and Field Guide to the Birds of Northeast Ohio", published in 1937. In fact, I found her Master's thesis at the Health Center Library of Case Western Reserve University (OhioLink library search). It appears that she did this work under the supervision of J. Paul Visscher, then Chairman of the Biology Department and she also acknowledged the above men (vide infra) as well as S. Prentiss Baldwin, another renowned name in Cleveland and Ohio ornithology. The format of the thesis and that of the book are essentially identical. The birds are first keyed by habitat in which they are seen and then further keyed by size relative to commonly recognized species, e.g., crow, robin and house sparrow.

Some comments should be made about the bird illustrations done by Peterson. I compared the illustrations in his 1934 and 1939 editions and the birds are illustrated identically. The illustrations done by Peterson for Rorimer are different from those in Peterson's two guides, and these differences seem to depend on the families depicted. For water fowl, herons, woodpeckers, thrushes, sparrows, and some others, all the birds face the opposite direction in the Rorimer book compared to the Peterson guides. The colored male warblers, as well as a few other species, in Rorimer are depicted with open bills vs. closed in Peterson, Shorebirds, herons, woodpeckers, vireos, wrens, and sparrows are all in slightly different poses. Hawks are shown in more plumage detail in Rorimer. There are illustrations of Canada Goose, Cedar Waxwing, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a few others in Rorimer that do not appear at all in Peterson. I would have to say that there are no duplicate illustrations between the Peterson and Rorimer books. Absent from the Rorimer book are the arrows unique to Peterson for pointing out field marks. The CMNH hired Peterson to do the illustrations for Rorimer's book and the original prints are at the museum while the proofs are owned by Joan Lettvin (vide supra). I made a surprise visit to



Irene Rorimer

the RTP Institute in June 2010 and talked with Marlene Mudge, Curator Special Collections, and volunteer staff. They were unaware of Rorimer's book and Peterson's illustrations therein but were interested in acquiring the book.

Another Google hit on Rorimer was to a paper entitled "An Ecological Approach to the ID of Birds of Northwest Ohio," given at the 47th Annual Meeting (1937) of the Ohio Academy of Science. I would bet there was a typo in the title and Northwest should have been Northeast. She was on the membership rolls of the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1938 and her then address of record was 22275 Parnell Road in Shaker Heights.

A very satisfying Google hit was in the Cleveland Bird Calendar, which the Kirtland Bird Club has made word searchable on-line. Irene was a bird field contributor to the 1941 fall issue, which meant she was still in the Cleveland area.

A hit that suggested something of a new career path was in the Southern Medical Journal, October 1945, where she is a co-author of the paper "Resistance of alpha-hemolytic Streptococci to Penicillin," published out of the University of Virginia Medical School. So sometime shortly after 1941, she must have moved from Cleveland. An acknowledgment in her 1937 master's thesis to C. Kenneth Cuyler of the Cleveland Clinic suggests that she may have had a leaning in this vocational direction. I later learned that she had an interest in studying the drug that could have saved the life of her younger daughter who died at age six (*vide* Lettvin).

So who was Irene Rorimer? After searching census records, marriage and death records, and the like, this is what I have pieced together. Irene was born August 21, 1895, in Lexington town, Oklahoma territory to Nathan and Sarah (Weiss) Turk, both of Austrian/Hungarian origin and was the oldest of five children. It appears that the family minus her father spent time in Texas (census records) but by 1920 Irene was on her own in Oklahoma City, where she taught at the Central High School. I know not where she obtained her college degree but there is the hint that it was from the U of Oklahoma (Tulsa). Irene moved to Cleveland where she had a married sister. There Irene met and married Jack Morris Rorimer (originally Rohrheimer), a native Clevelander, on June 20, 1921, and she listed her occupation as teacher on the marriage record. She taught chemistry and physics at Shaker Heights High School (*vide* Lettvin). By 1930, they lived at 1725 East 115th St and had two children, Joan and Ellen. Census records show that Irene listed no occupation at that time but Jack was by then business manager of Empire Plow, still at its same location today. The family eventually moved to Florida, where Jack later became business manager for the Florida West Coast Symphony and he died in 1960. Irene had played in the string section of the orchestra and in a stringed quartet (*vide* Lettvin). She also became an active researcher and lab worker for the Cape Maze Laboratory. She left Sarasota in the 1990s and died May 2, 1992, in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

A special thanks to Bob Finkelstein for alerting me to this book, Louis Rorimer of Cleveland, Joan Rorimer Lettvin (Irene's daughter) of New Hampshire, and Wendy Wasman of the CMNH for helpful information. As an interesting aside, Rorimer is a famous name in 20th century interior design in Cleveland and is related.

Lakewood Christmas Bird Count, December 28, 2008

Nancy Howell

Despite the windy conditions, this was one of the best Christmas Bird Counts with regard to the number of species seen. Sixty-nine species were sighted the day of the count and four additional species during count week. Fifty-one people participated with 58.25 hours out in the field and 17.00 hours watching feeders. Another 1.45 hours was spent owling either in the early morning or late in the day. Morning temperatures were around 60 degrees, but a fast moving cold front brought drizzle, rain, and then decreasing temperatures throughout the day. By the end of the day the temperature was down to 28 degrees. The ultimate worst part of the weather was the wind, initially coming from the south, but then swinging around from the west – northwest at 30 mph gusting up to 40 and even over 50 mph. Seeing birds as well as hearing them was difficult. Thanks to all of the birders who braved the elements and added species and numbers to the list.

Lake Erie was pretty much wide open, hence not concentrating gulls or waterfowl. A decent selection of waterfowl was found with dabblers such as American Wigeon, quite a few Northern Pintail, a couple of Northern Shoveler and a Green-winged Teal. The open-water ducks and divers generally were lower in number with very low numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers. Note that no Redhead or Canvasback, two species that are generally represented, were seen that day or noted on

count week. All three species of scoters as well as the Long-tailed Ducks were wonderful additions. The number of gulls was respectable. Counting all those Bonaparte's and Ring-bills was a challenge with the gusting winds. A single Glaucous Gull was a terrific find.

Not a bad array of raptors: five Bald Eagles were seen by various groups and likely not the same bird(s). The single Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin and Peregrine made for a well rounded list. One single Screech Owl wouldn't have been found without the help of smaller birds mobbing it. Owling in a couple of usually productive areas produced absolutely nothing.

Belted Kingfishers were scarce this year with only two being reported from one site. The rivers and creeks were mostly ice-free. Was it the wind? The woodpeckers were well represented. Of the feeder-friendly birds such as chickadee and nuthatch, many species seemed to have lower than usual numbers. Again the wind may have played a significant role.

This was not the year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, although a few were found. The two Winter Wrens reported were good; but a Marsh Wren during count week is noteworthy as it was seen in a wetland area that is now protected (to some degree) by the Cleveland Metroparks system and is more accessible from a recently completed boardwalk. Hermit Thrush were not seen during the day of the count, but finding it count week was nice. We know that Northern Mockingbirds are going to be seen almost every year and fortunately this year was no exception. Three Yellow-rumped Warblers were good, as they are not always found each year. Two Chipping Sparrows, seen in very different areas, are not usual winter residents and they look quite different in the winter when compared to their crisp summer plumage. We were hoping to have Pine Siskins visit feeders in the area and they didn't let us down.

(Count-week dates are noted in parenthesis)

999	Canada Goose	14	Cooper's Hawk	49	White-breasted Nuthatch
1	Tundra Swan (12/27/08)	3	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Brown Creeper
2	Wood Duck	20	Red-tailed Hawk	10	Carolina Wren
2	American Wigeon	1	Merlin	2	Winter Wren
24	American Black Duck	1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Marsh Wren (12/30/08)
1003	Mallard	1	American Coot	1	Hermit Thrush (12/29/08)
2	Northern Shoveler	5590	Bonaparte's Gull	338	American Robin
124	Northern Pintail	12646	Ring-billed Gull	2	Northern Mockingbird
1	Green-winged Teal	545	Herring Gull	1143	European Starling
4	Ring-necked Duck	1	Glaucous Gull	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler
18	Greater Scaup	41	Great Black-backed Gull	97	American Tree Sparrow
144	Lesser Scaup	146	Rock Pigeon	2	Chipping Sparrow
3	Surf Scoter	135	Mourning Dove	25	Song Sparrow
4	White-winged Scoter	1	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Swamp Sparrow
5	Black Scoter	2	Belted Kingfisher	14	White-throated Sparrow
2	Long-tailed Duck	29	Red-bellied Woodpecker	179	Dark-eyed Junco
158	Bufflehead	69	Downy Woodpecker	132	Northern Cardinal
253	Common Goldeneye	15	Hairy Woodpecker	4	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Hooded Merganser	2	Northern Flicker	1	Common Grackle
11	Common Merganser	3	Pileated Woodpecker	156	House Finch
56	Red-breasted Merganser	73	Blue Jay	83	Pine Siskin
1	Wild Turkey (12/27/08)	46	American Crow	168	American Goldfinch
3	Great Blue Heron	171	Black-capped Chickadee	336	House Sparrow
5	Bald Eagle	49	Tufted Titmouse		
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch		

Burton Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2009

Linda Gilbert

This year marks the 50th year of Burton Christmas Bird Count started by Bob McCullough in 1958. Here's how some of the birds on this year's list stack up to 50 years of bird records:

Wood Duck Sporadic; no more than four individuals ever counted over the time span.

Northern Pintail Sporadic; no more than two individuals ever counted over time span.

Bald Eagle First reported in 1993 and regularly seen thereafter; no more than seven individuals ever reported.

Cooper's Hawk Highest count in 50 years.

Short-eared Owl First time reported this year.

Red-bellied Woodpecker Highest number in 50 years.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker A high count but very sporadic, only reported six times in 50 years with generally 5-7 years between sightings.

Pileated Woodpecker Highest number in 50 years.

Eastern Towhee Regularly reported from 1961-1976, sporadic thereafter; not reported since 1998.

White-throated Sparrow Highest number in 50 years.

White-crowned Sparrow Not reported since 1998.

White-winged Crossbill Highest count; first and only other report was as a "count week" species in 2002.

Pine Siskin Highest number in 50 years.

(* indicates a high count, based on species numbers over a 50 year period 1958-2008).

1808	Canada Goose	5	Great Horned Owl	2487	European Starling
28	Tundra Swan	1	Short-eared Owl	120	Cedar Waxwing
4	Wood Duck	1	Belted Kingfisher	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler
297	Mallard	77	Red-bellied Woodpecker *	6	Eastern Towhee *
1	Northern Pintail	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *	237	American Tree Sparrow
3	Lesser Scaup	101	Downy Woodpecker	25	Song Sparrow
8	Wild Turkey	33	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Swamp Sparrow
1	Pied-billed Grebe	19	Northern Flicker	27	White-throated Sparrow *
3	Great Blue Heron	19	Pileated Woodpecker *	8	White-crowned Sparrow
7	Bald Eagle	348	Blue Jay *	384	Dark-eyed Junco
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	341	American Crow	351	Northern Cardinal
14	Cooper's Hawk *	526	Black-capped Chickadee	1	Brown-headed Cowbird
40	Red-shouldered Hawk	208	Tufted Titmouse	8	Purple Finch
54	Red-tailed Hawk	23	Red-breasted Nuthatch	187	House Finch
3	Rough-legged Hawk	147	White-breasted Nuthatch	16	White-winged Crossbill
5	American Kestrel	6	Brown Creeper	223	Pine Siskin *
12	Ring-billed Gull	10	Carolina Wren	217	American Goldfinch
3	Herring Gull	16	Golden-crowned Kinglet	428	House Sparrow
94	Rock Pigeon	90	Eastern Bluebird		
221	Mourning Dove	244	American Robin *		

Cleveland Christmas Bird Count, December 20, 2008

Lisa Chapman

An area ten miles in diameter covering Lake View Cemetery, Shaker Lakes, parts of North and South Chagrin Reservations, Eastlake Power Plant, East 72nd Street lakefront, Sims Park, Cuyahoga County Airport.

783	Snow Goose	2	Northern Harrier	199	American Crow
2	Cackling Goose	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	373	Black-capped Chickadee
2	Mute Swan	5	Cooper's Hawk	104	Tufted Titmouse
55	Tundra Swan	5	Red-shouldered Hawk	15	Red-breasted Nuthatch
4	Gadwall	25	Red-tailed Hawk	123	White-breasted Nuthatch
12	American Black Duck	2	Merlin	1	Brown Creeper
241	Mallard	8	American Coot	19	Carolina Wren
4	Northern Pintail	3	Wilson's Snipe	39	Eastern Bluebird
35	Greater Scaup	12,000	Bonaparte's Gull	557	American Robin
5	Lesser Scaup	1	Black-headed Gull	9	Northern Mockingbird
8	Surf Scoter	5033	Ring-billed Gull	985	European Starling
1	White-winged Scoter	3510	Herring Gull	23	Cedar Waxwing
9	Black Scoter	1	Thayer's Gull	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler
3	Long-tailed Duck	2	Iceland Gull	4	Eastern Towhee
14	Bufflehead	2	Lesser Black-backed Gull	164	American Tree Sparrow
79	Common Goldeneye	2	Glaucous Gull	30	Song Sparrow
8	Hooded Merganser	80	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Swamp Sparrow
50	Common Merganser	580	Rock Pigeon	61	White-throated Sparrow
10,000	Red-breasted Merganser	215	Mourning Dove	428	Dark-eyed Junco
2	Ruddy Duck	1	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Snow Bunting
4	Wild Turkey	8	Belted Kingfisher	255	Northern Cardinal
40	Double-crested Cormorant	75	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Common Grackle
16	Great Blue Heron	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	212	House Finch
3	Black-crowned Night Heron	116	Downy Woodpecker	54	Pine Siskin
1	Osprey	24	Hairy Woodpecker	285	American Goldfinch
1	Bald Eagle	6	Northern Flicker	525	House Sparrow
		17	Pileated Woodpecker		
		344	Blue Jay		

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Christmas Bird Count, December 14, 2008

Dwight Chasar

Fifty-two species is the best we've ever done. (31 people in 12 teams.)

3	Snow Goose	64	Mourning Dove	20	Eastern Bluebird
648	Canada Goose	1	Barred Owl	1	Hermit Thrush
2	Mute Swan	25	Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	American Robin
1	Wood Duck	57	Downy Woodpecker	189	European Starling
259	Mallard	15	Hairy Woodpecker	28	Cedar Waxwing
1	Redhead	3	Northern Flicker	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler
56	Ring-necked Duck	6	Pileated Woodpecker	127	American Tree Sparrow
8	Ruddy Duck	178	Blue Jay	1	Field Sparrow
7	Great Blue Heron	146	American Crow	14	Song Sparrow
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	221	Black-capped Chickadee	1	Swamp Sparrow
2	Cooper's Hawk	53	Tufted Titmouse	40	White-throated Sparrow
4	Red-shouldered Hawk	7	Red-breasted Nuthatch	209	Dark-eyed Junco
13	Red-tailed Hawk	58	White-breasted Nuthatch	129	Northern Cardinal
5	American Coot	2	Brown Creeper	36	House Finch
45	Ring-billed Gull	9	Carolina Wren	24	Pine Siskin
1	Herring Gull	1	Winter Wren	102	American Goldfinch
131	Rock Pigeon	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	71	House Sparrow



**Red-headed Woodpecker,
Brecksville, 2-19-2009**

Derick Ruff

Contributors

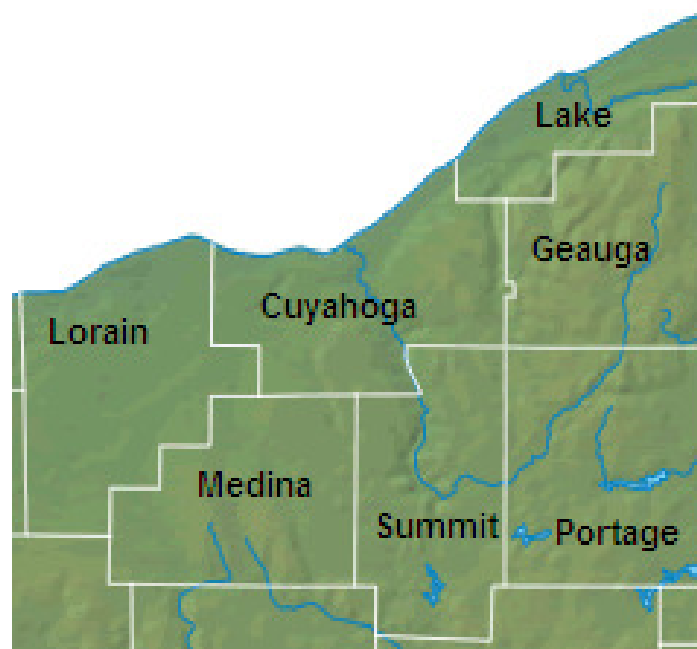
Nancy Anderson (NA)
Emil Bacik (EB)
Greg Bennett (GB)
Dan Bertsch (DBe)
Dan Best (DB)
Roger Beuck (RB)
Jen Brumfield (JB) *
Craig Caldwell (CC)
Lisa Chapman (LC)
Dwight & Ann Chasar (DAC)
Delores Cole (DC)
Greg Cudworth (GC) *
Leo Deininger (LD)
Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD)
Pat Coy (PC)
Susan Dupstadt (SD)

Bob Finkelstein (BF)
Lou Gardella (LGa) *
Linda Gilbert (LG)
F. P. Greenland (FPG)
Ray Hannikman (RH)
Nancy Howell (NH) *
Dick & Jean Hoffman (DJH)
Sally & Dave Isacco (SDI)
Susan Jones (SJ)
Marian Kraus (MK) *
Gabe Leidy (GL) *
Dave Lewis (DL)
Fred Losi (FL)
Paula Lozano (PL) *
Marc Nolls (MN)
Hope Orr (HO)

John Pogacnik (JP) *
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Bob Roach (BR)
Larry Rosche (LR)
Tom & Mary Anne Romito (TMR)
Derick Ruff (DR)
Phyllis Schnell (PS)
Su Snyder (SS)
Jerry Talkington (JT)
Doug Vogus (DV) *
Suzanne Wagner (SW)
Bill Whan (BW)
Clyde Witt (CW)

* Sightings gathered from birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/ohio.html

Some submissions are received indirectly through forwarded correspondence (*fide* = "in trust of").



Cleveland Bird Calendar 7-county Area

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