

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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



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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 Cover American Avocet, Conneaut, 7/27/2009, photographed by Jerry Talkington.

Back Cover Red-tailed Hawk with snake, Camp Ravenna, 6/26/2009, photographed by Judy Semroc.

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It is through the generosity of our supporters that publication is possible.

If you would also like to be a contributor to this important records journal, please contact the Kirtland Bird Club at 216-556-0700.

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The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its meetings held the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 PM at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, as well as joining one of the many scheduled field trips. For upcoming meetings, programs and trips, visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org. To become a member, call (216) 741-2352 or visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join. A Cleveland Bird Calendar subscription is included in membership.



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In This Issue (and Notes from Further Afield)

Fred Dinkelbach

I usually reserve this space to summarize the contents of this issue plus mention any comments and notes that just don't seem to fit anywhere else. While limited to reporting from our seven-county area, noteworthy state rarities do occur elsewhere, and such was the case for breeding records in 2009. From the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (reported by Ohio State University's director Paul Rodewald), there was quite an interesting assemblage for the year, some tantalizingly close to the Cleveland Bird Calendar area.

Common Mergansers bred in six different survey blocks in the Little Beaver Creek watershed of Columbiana County as well as in Ashtabula County (in three Conneaut Creek blocks). To the south a breeding pair of Mississippi Kites returned for a third year to a private Hocking County golf course. After a Logan County Eurasian Collared-Dove carrying nesting material had been documented in May, juveniles were observed at the same location on June 15th. A major winter invasion of Pine Siskins resulted in large numbers of breeding pairs, with at least seventeen confirmed and nine probable breeders, along with many confirmations of juveniles fed by adults at feeders.

Our Calendar area was not without its share of notable breeding highlights. Detailed in this issue's sightings are possible nesting Black-throated Blue Warblers, the first confirmed OBBA II breeding record for Nashville Warblers and a confirmed breeding Merlin, found by John Pogacnik in northeast Lake County. Of the Merlin, Peterjohn (1989, 2001) reports that "there are no indisputable breeding records from Ohio" but there was a possibility of a very small breeding population in the extreme northeast of the state, a possibility that was non-existent by the 1930s. Beginning in the 1980s Merlins have begun breeding in the maritime provinces and have dramatically expanded southward, with Pennsylvania documenting six breeding pairs from 2006 on (according to their recently completed second breeding bird atlas).

I'm breaking a rule when it comes to highlighting the efforts of our contributors. Or am I? The sightings are from the seven-county Cleveland Bird Calendar area, but I'm not sure photographs should have that limitation; showcasing our local birders' efforts is worthy of this publication. Member Jerry Talkington's photography skills shine when it comes to documenting local rarities, and even though they were further afield, I had to include some of his shorebird photographs taken during the summer of 2009 in this issue. Anna Julnes captured a pair of Trumpeter Swans in Ashtabula County in a photograph that I also couldn't turn down.

This Issue is Dedicated to the Memory of David LeGallee

All too often I'm mentioning the passing of our friends; this time it's David LeGallee. Wherever he's birding now, I'm sure he has his tripod case and scope slung over his shoulder, waiting for us to someday join him so that he can point out the local hotspots and talk about his travels (especially about the friends that accompanied him as well as the birds that were seen). And then he'll point out a nice diner nearby where we'll gather after the walk.

Weather Report, Summer 2009

Dwight Chasar

June Temperatures averaged 68.0°, 0.5° above normal. The high was 92° on the 25th and the low was 42° on the 4th. Lake Erie was 57° on June 1st and rose to 66° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 12 days and totaled 2.68 inches, 1.21 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period was 0.83 inches on the 17th.

July Temperatures averaged 69.9°, 2.0° below normal. The high was 86° on the 10th and 28th and the low was 53° on the 8th. While some communities approached record average low temperatures, Cleveland did not. Rain occurred over 12 days, totaling 3.75 inches, 0.23 inches above normal. The most rain in a 24 hour period fell on the 22-23rd and amounted to 1.37 inches. Lake Erie was at 74° at the end of the month.

August Temperatures averaged 72.5°, 2.3° above normal. The high was 93° on the 9th and the low was 48° on the 31st. Rain fell on 13 days, totaling 3.52 inches, 0.17 inches below normal. The most in a 24 hour period was 1.55 inches on the 28-29th. Lake Erie water ended the month at 71°.

Sightings Location Key

Boston CVNP Towpath near Boston Mills Road and Boston Store, 1/10 of a mile east of Riverview Road (Summit County).

Camp Ravenna (Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center) Commonly known as Ravenna Arsenal, Eastern Portage County.

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

Eldon Russell Park A 132-acre park located in Troy Township along the Upper Cuyahoga River (Geauga County).

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 County).

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

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

LaDue Reservoir between Auburn Center and Welshfield in southern Geauga County.

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.

Nesmith Lake Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.

Nimisila Reservoir in southern Summit County.

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

Sandy Ridge A large artificial wetland in North Ridgeville known for easily seen waterfowl, rails, moorhens and cranes (Lorain County).

Shaker Lakes Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County.

SP Abbreviation for State Park.

Springfield Lake Southeast of Akron in Summit County.

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

West Creek Reservation Cleveland Metroparks, Parma.

West Woods, The Geauga County Park District, overlapping Russell and Newbury Townships on Route 87.

Wildwood Park Cleveland Lakefront State Park at Neff Road (Cuyahoga County).



Wild Turkey Poulter, Camp Ravenna, 6/28/2009

Judy Semroc

Sightings Highlights

Noteworthy species, numbers, or dates are underlined>.

Canada Goose. Common, with higher counts inland at the beginning of the summer then switching to larger numbers along the lakefront by the end.

Mute Swan. Two to three were seen most days at Headlands, less than more recent years (RH). On 6/27 one was found at Hinckley Reservation (LD).

Wood Duck. At Ira Road 47 were seen on 7/6 (TMR). Approximately 50 were counted at a marsh off Rts. 8 and 303 in Summit County on 8/6 (DAC).

American Black Duck. No reports.

Mallard. Typical numbers, when reported. Headlands had 64 on 8/27 (RH).

Blue-winged Teal. No reports until mid-August when one appeared on 8/19 at HBSP (RH).

Green-winged Teal. The sole report was 30 at Headlands on 8/27 (RH).

Ring-necked Duck. Shaker Lakes saw a pair through 6/21; afterwards the female remained until summer's end but there was no evidence of nesting (LD).

Hooded Merganser. One female with 14 young was found at the Station Road heronry on 6/2 (DAC). On 6/30 Headlands had two (RH).

Ruddy Duck. On 6/21 a Hudson marsh at Rts. 8 & 303 hosted a male in

breeding plumage; return visits found no evidence of breeding (DAC).

Ring-necked Pheasant. Three males were seen on 6/21 and 6/22 at Barberton's Lime Lakes (DV).

Wild Turkey. On 6/13 a hen with seven poults, each smaller than a robin, crossed Old Oak Blvd. south of the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Middleburg Heights (NH). In the CVNP a pair of adults were seen with three young on 8/6 and another pair with four young on 8/13 (HO).

Common Loon. A breeding-plumaged individual flew past the Headlands Nature Preserve beach on 8/25, the first August record there for Ray Hannikman (RH).



Trumpeter Swans, Orwell, 4/18/2009

Anna Julnes



Brown Pelican, Fairport Harbor, 7/2/2009

Jerry Talkington

Pied-billed Grebe. The only report was on 6/20 with one adult and four young seen at a private-property marsh in Newbury Township (DB).

Brown Pelican. At the Portage-Mahoning County border of the Calendar area, one was seen on 6/18 and 6/20 at Berlin Reservoir (*fide* GL, many obs.). Then one individual, possibly the same bird, was seen and photographed on 7/2 at Fairport Harbor; it was sitting along the west bank of the Grand River south of the Coast Guard Station (EB, GL, JT).

Double-crested Cormorant. Seen mainly the last half of summer at HBSP; 30 were counted on 8/28 (RH).

One to three were seen throughout August at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Least Bittern. Ira Road had three found on 7/13 with follow-up observations of single birds on 7/27 and 8/3 (TMR). A private Geauga County marsh in Newbury Township hosted one on 7/27 (DB).

Great Blue Heron. Common, when reported.

Great Egret. Sandy Ridge had the highest counts: four were seen on 6/21 (CC) and five on 7/19 (DAC). Otherwise there were several July sightings of one or two birds.

Green Heron. Common at Headlands with as many as nine on 7/31 (RH). Four were seen in “aerial combat” on 8/19 at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. One was spotted at Columbia Woods Park in Norton (Summit County) on 7/16 (RSH). On 8/17 a juvenile was seen at Turkeyfoot Lake (SB). Leo Deininger noted that only one to four were seen in August at Shaker Lakes instead of the usual 10-to-15 (LD). An immature bird was seen at Wildwood Park on 8/31 (NA).

Turkey Vulture. At HBSP 100 were tallied on 8/30 (RH).

Osprey. Several area sightings. Notable were eight seen on 6/13 at Nimisila Reservoir, which had three active nests with visible nestlings (DV); four adults were later seen at Nimisila on 8/19 (SB). Sagamore Hills had a sighting on 8/20 (CW, SJ). Headlands had single birds seen on four dates the latter half of August, typical for that area (RH).

Bald Eagle. Two were seen on 6/22 at Lime Lake in Barberton (DV). An immature bird was seen at the Station Road nest on 7/10 (DAC). On 7/26 three were counted at HBSP (RH). Two immatures were seen on 8/30 flying by East Branch Reservoir in Headwaters Park (Geauga County), suspected to be young from the Tare Creek nest (Middlefield) (DB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Only two season sightings: One was observed calling on 6/6 in Richfield (RSH) and a second was observed on private property in Newbury Township (Geauga County) on 7/27 (DB).

Cooper's Hawk. Headlands had regular sightings of one bird throughout the summer (RH). Two observed nests in Brecksville Reservation had failed by 6/2; later at nearby Station Road an immature bird was found on 8/31 (DAC). Ira Road had a sighting on 6/29 and 8/31 (TMR). Two juveniles were seen at Summit County's Sand Run MP on 7/6 (DV).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Second only to the Red-tailed as the most common raptor. Craig Caldwell had two adults and an immature at Bacon Woods MP on 6/21 and an immature on 8/3 perched on his Westlake feeder (CC).

Broad-winged Hawk. Only six reports by three observers this season, one of which was an immature calling from its perch near the Hambden-Claridon Township line on 8/15 (DB).

Red-tailed Hawk. Very common. Eight, including one juvenile, were found for the Greater Akron Audubon

Summer Breeding Bird Survey on 6/13 in southern Summit County (DV).

American Kestrel. All reports: 2 on 7/8 along Bass Lake Rd., Newbury Twp. (DB). 1 on 7/11 along Bass Lake Rd., Newbury Twp. (DB). 1 on 7/12 at HBSP (RH). 1 on 7/18 at HBSP (RH). 1 on 8/1 flying over hayfield on Bass Lake Rd., Newbury Twp. (DB).

Merlin. As reported by the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas committee, a confirmed breeding Merlin was found by John Pogacnik in northeast Lake County, where a female was seen feeding a juvenile in late June and a juvenile and an adult female were seen again in late July (JP *vide* PR). A lone bird frequented the Mentor Lagoons area from 8/26 onwards (RH).

2009 Area Peregrine Falcon Fledging Success

Cleveland - ArcelorMittal	5
Cleveland - Bohn Bldg.	failed
Cleveland - Cle. Clinic	4
Cleveland - I-90 Bridge	2
Cleveland - Terminal	2
CVNP Turnpike Bridge	4
Eastlake Power Plant	3
Lakewood - Hilliard Rd.	failed
Lorain 21 st . St.	failed
Shaker Hts. Tower E.	failed
Valley View - I-480	3

Peregrine Falcon. One was seen flying over Progressive Field in downtown Cleveland on 7/18 (RSH). The CVNP pair nesting under the Ohio Turnpike bridge were seen with two young throughout August (HO).

Virginia Rail. Ira Road had one observed on four separate dates in June and July (TMR).

Common Moorhen. A preening bird was found at a marsh in Newbury Township on 6/20; later on 7/27 a pair with three young, as well as a nest with seven eggs, were discovered at the same site (DB). At a marsh off Rts. 8

and 303 in Summit County, two adults with seven young were found on 7/3; on 8/3 two families of different ages were observed there (DAC).

Sandhill Crane. The Burton Township (Geauga County) family of two adults and two young reported in the spring were observed until 6/8 (DB). On the evening of 8/17 from about 6 to 7 P.M. a lone Sandhill Crane was feeding at the edge of a cornfield north of Chestnut Ridge Rd. in North Ridgeville before being frightened away by a farmer's tractor (DD).

Black-bellied Plover. Two were found at HBSP on both 8/12 and 8/21 (RH).

Semipalmated Plover. Nearly as common as Killdeer at Headlands, these birds were seen there from 7/27 until end of season, with a high count of three on 8/4 (RH). On 8/6, two were found at Virginia Kendall Lake in the CVNP (DAC).

Killdeer. Sixty were counted on 8/10 at Sagamore Park (Summit County) (FL).

American Avocet. A breeding-plumaged individual was with a gull flock on HBSP's west public beach early on the morning of 7/12 (RH). Three birds flew past the HBSP Nature Preserve beach on the rainy day of 8/2 (RH). At East Branch Reservoir one was seen on 8/21 (GF *vide* DB and LR).

Spotted Sandpiper. Most sightings were from Headlands (RH); not very common this season.

Solitary Sandpiper. Five were seen in the CVNP both at Kendall Lake on 8/10 and at Station Road on 8/31 (DAC). HBSP had one on 8/19, their only report (RH).

Greater Yellowlegs. The only report was one spotted on 8/16 at Headlands (RH).

Willet. Three birds were resting together on the HBSP Nature Preserve



Piping Plover, Conneaut Harbor, 7/27/2009
Jerry Talkington



Whimbrels, Fairport Harbor, 6/19/2009
Jerry Talkington

beach early on the morning of 7/23 (RH).

Lesser Yellowlegs. A single bird was seen on 7/19, on 8/10 and on 8/22, each at a different location in the

CVNP (DAC). One bird on 7/26 was the only sighting from Headlands (RH).

Whimbrel. Though more reliably seen later in the summer, two birds were

found and photographed on the field adjacent to a marina in Fairport Harbor on 6/19 (JT *fide* RH). One was on the Headlands Nature Preserve beach on 7/26 (RH).

Ruddy Turnstone. The only report, Headlands had one on 8/17 (RH).

Sanderling. Seen from 7/27 onwards at Headlands; the highest count was 14 on 8/2 (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Three were seen on 8/6 at HBSP (RH). Kendall Lake in the CVNP had one or two on three separate dates in August (DAC).

Least Sandpiper. Headlands had three on 8/31 (RH). Three to four were spotted at the CVNP's Virginia Kendall Lake throughout August (DAC).

Baird's Sandpiper. At Headlands two were found on 8/1 (RH).

Short-billed Dowitcher. One was seen on both 7/14 and 7/15 at Headlands (RH). The Lorain Impoundment had two on 7/26 (GB).

Wilson's Snipe. The only report was one found at Herrick Fen in Portage County on 8/23 (GC).

American Woodcock. One was observed on 6/1 at Headlands (RH). On 7/7 a bird was seen flying from a shrub swamp along the Upper Cuyahoga River south of Eldon Russell Park at dusk (DB).

Sabine's Gull. On the morning of 8/30 a juvenile bird's distinctive wing pattern was easily observed as it passed to the west over Lake Erie at North Perry (JP).

Bonaparte's Gull. Only seen on four dates at Headlands with sightings of one or two individuals each (RH). No other reports.

Ring-billed Gull. Hundreds were regularly seen at HBSP throughout the summer (RH). In SE Summit County

67 were counted on 6/14 near a known active nesting colony on the roof of a Gilchrist Road business (DV).

Herring Gull. HBSP had consistent double-digit counts throughout the summer (RH).

Great Black-backed Gull. Headlands had the only reported sightings; five were seen on 6/1 and one or two on four dates afterwards (RH).

Caspian Tern. Seen mainly the last half of the summer at Headlands; the highest count was nine on 8/13 (RH). At downtown Cleveland's Whiskey Island 22 were observed on 8/27 (LD).

Black Tern. An early sighting was on 7/27 with one at a Newbury Township (Geauga County) marsh (DB). Two were spied over the lake at North Perry on 8/30 (JP).

Forster's Tern. One was seen at HBSP on 7/24 (RH).

Long-tailed Jaeger. At North Perry a distant bird was spotted over the lake on 8/30 by John Pogacnik. His account: "The long-tailed jaeger went by about 8:40 and was heading west. It was a juvenile bird. I could tell as it was approaching that it was a jaeger. As it got closer I initially had trouble seeing the white-flash on the upper wing and I couldn't see the underwing as it was flying very low. It quickly flew up when it came up on a ring-billed gull and the underwing flash was very evident. The bird was a dark grayish-brown. It immediately gave me a different tonal impression from the Parasitics and Pomarines I have seen. At this point I felt it was a long-tail. Compared to the ring-billed it was quite a bit smaller and trimmer. The wings were fairly narrow and had only a small flash of white on the upper surface. The undersides of the wing were dark with a distinct white flash at the primary bases. The belly was whitish and the flanks were distinctly barred dark and white. The tail was dark with little contrast in the rump from the tail and back. The head was

light grayish. I couldn't tell if it had streaking or not. The bill seemed small, but I really didn't see it that well as I was looking at other characters on the bird. In all the bird was observed for only a minute or so." (JP).

Rock Pigeon. Common, when reported.

Mourning Dove. Headlands' numbers were minimal until after mid-July; numbers reached 40 by 8/31 (RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The CVNP had a good representation; along with scattered single-bird sightings, two were found at Ira Road on 6/1 (TMR) and two at Red Lock on 6/18 (DAC). One was seen at HBSP on 6/3, on 7/19, on 7/22 and on 8/14 (RH). Two were found along the Upper Cuyahoga River on 6/8 (DB). Singer Lake in southern Summit County had two on 8/15 (FL).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Eldon Russell Park had one singing on 6/6, 6/8 and 8/24 (DB). Jaite had one each on 6/11 (DAC) and 6/14 (RSH). On 6/13 two adults and two juveniles were found at Lake Kelso in Geauga County (RSH).

Eastern Screech-Owl. There were five single-bird reports in our area.

Great Horned Owl. A road-killed owl was found on Rt. 44 in Chardon on 8/25 and was the only report (DB).

Barred Owl. There were a half-dozen single-bird reports. Two fledged young were found at the CVNP's Kendall Ledges on 7/3 (DAC). During the late afternoon of 7/13, in the Bedford Reservation just south of Bridal Veil Falls, a juvenile bird was heard making its rising hiss call (FL).

Common Nighthawk. All reports: 1 on 6/5 at Shaker Lakes (JW). 2 on 6/18 in Cuyahoga Hts., aerial displays with deep stoops (DAC). 1 or 2 from 6/25 to 8/8 in Cleveland Hts. (LD). 1 on 8/11 in Perry Twp. (SDI). 7 on 8/25 over Nesmith Lake (GB). 2 on 8/26 at Station Road (FL).

28 on 8/27 over Nimisila Rsrvr. (GB). 8 on 8/27 in Sagamore Hills (FCD). 1 on 8/28 at HBSP (RH). 13 on 8/28 over Portage Country Club (GB). 50 (approx.) on 8/31 at Rocky River Reservation, moving SSE (PL, BF).

Chimney Swift. On 8/27 120 gathered at HBSP (RH). At Rocky River MP 100 to 150 were seen on 8/31 (PL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Two nestlings were observed on 8/11 in a nest at Station Road (DAC).

Belted Kingfisher. Five were counted on 6/24 at Ira Road (TMR).

Red-headed Woodpecker. Highlights included two found at Ira Road on 6/8 (TMR), two adults and one juvenile seen at Stanford Road in the CVNP on 7/27 (DAC) and three, including one juvenile, reported from Boston in the CVNP on 8/13 (HO).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Very common, present in all complete reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Harlans were surprised by a male in a Wadsworth backyard on 6/9 (RSH). A calling male was found on 6/13 in Auburn Township (Geauga County) (RSH).

Downy Woodpecker. Typical numbers were reported for our most common woodpecker.

Hairy Woodpecker. Present in about half of the complete reports. One or two were regularly seen at Ira Road (TMR) and at HBSP (RH).

Northern Flicker. Seven were counted at Ira Road on 7/27 (TMR). Most commonly seen at Headlands in August with as many as six on 8/27 (RH).

Pileated Woodpecker. An active nest was found in Brecksville Reservation on 6/9 (DAC). Five were counted in Sagamore Hills on 8/18 (CW, SJ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher. A spring migrant remained at Mentor Lagoons on 6/1 and 6/2 (RH). On 6/10 the Ravenna Arsenal in Portage County had one seen at its west end (LR). Starting the fall migration, the CVNP had a sighting on 8/27 (HO) and one on 8/31 at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Ten were counted on 6/12 in the CVNP Blossom Music Center area (TMR). Headlands had a high of 14 on 8/28 (RH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Fall migrants were the only reports. At Headlands they were seen beginning 8/22, with as many as four on 8/31 (RH). Also on 8/31 one was found at Shaker Lakes (LD) and two at West Creek Reservation (GL).

Acadian Flycatcher. At Summit County's Hampton Hills MP, 13 were counted on 6/14 (TMR).

Alder Flycatcher. This less common flycatcher was well-reported, especially in Summit County. In the CVNP, Jaite had one on 6/1 (DAC) and one on 6/14 (RSH) while Oak Hill had three on 6/13 (RSH) and one on 7/4 (DAC). Hampton Hills MP (Akron) had two on 6/14 (CC, DAC). Elsewhere, Geauga County's Eldon Russell Park had one on 6/13 (RSH).

Willow Flycatcher. The highest reported count was six at Ira Road on 6/15 (TMR).

Least Flycatcher. Late migrants include three singing males along the Upper Cuyahoga River on 6/8 (DB). Station Road had birds present throughout early summer: three on 6/12, one on 6/28 and two on 7/9 (DAC). In August, Springfield Lake hosted one on 8/2 (GB), one was found in Parma Heights on 8/10 and a singing migrant was noted in Wadsworth on 8/18 (RSH). Headlands' fall migrants numbered 10 on 8/31 (RH).

Eastern Phoebe. On 7/13 nine were tallied at Ira Road (TMR).

Great Crested Flycatcher. Four birds, including two juveniles, were spotted in the CVNP's Boston area on 8/13 (HO).

Eastern Kingbird. A nesting bird was found at Station Road on 7/18 (DAC). Late sightings were six found at Ira Road on 8/10; a single bird was found there on 8/31 (TMR).

White-eyed Vireo. Two were commonly seen at Ira Road in June, with three seen there on 6/29, and one still seen there occasionally throughout the remainder of summer (TMR). An immature bird was discovered in Sagamore Hills on 8/25 (DAC). Dwight Chasar noted they had a "good showing this year, in many places in the CVNP" (DAC).

Yellow-throated Vireo. Doing very well in the CVNP; Ira Road had counts of one to four birds throughout the summer (TMR), three were counted on 8/3 at Station Road (DAC) and on 8/29 three were found at Boston (HO).

Blue-headed Vireo. One was observed on 6/14 in Lafayette Township (Medina County) (RSH). On 6/21 one was found in Hudson (DAC).

Warbling Vireo. Common, when reported. Highest count was 13 on 6/15 at Ira Road (TMR).

Philadelphia Vireo. The only reported sightings were from Headlands with one on both 8/22 and 8/31 (RH).

Red-eyed Vireo. At Hampton Hills in the CVNP, 17 were tallied on 6/14 (TMR), typical of the many double-digit June counts. On 8/27 HBSP had 15 (RH).

Blue Jay. Common; many complete reports had counts in the teens on more than a few dates.

American Crow. The highest number counted was 53 on 8/31 at Ira Road (TMR).

Purple Martin. Headlands had a strong showing through most of June and July with numbers peaking at 210 on 7/29 (RH). The Harlans noted that martins seemed more widespread than usual late July and into August, reporting a high of five in Norton on 7/24 (RSH). The now-famous Nimisila Reservoir roost had numbers in the thousands by 8/18 (RSH); 1200 to 1400 were counted on 8/27 (GB).

With the help of the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, ODNR banded 416 Martins along with 65 Tree Swallows at Portage Lakes. The PLPMA's 2009 records showed 129 nests, 610 eggs, 518 hatched and approximately 350 fledged in Summit County's Portage Lakes area. Cool weather on 6/28 through 7/1 killed a total of 126 nestlings; of which nearly all were larger individuals that were not yet feathered, suggesting a vulnerable period after being able to be fully brooded and warmed by the adults.

Tree Swallow. Headlands' numbers surged in July with a peak of 400 on 7/18 (RH). Inland, relatively few were reported in August.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Not seen until mid-summer at HBSP (RH); common inland mainly during June and July.

Bank Swallow. There were massive gatherings at Headlands late July with 1100 on 7/16, 1100 on 7/27 and 1700 on 7/29 (RH); no June sightings at Headlands and few in August. The only other reports were from Ira Road with one to four seen in June (TMR).

Cliff Swallow. The only report was of six seen on 6/21 at Bacon Woods (CC).

Barn Swallow. Common, when reported. By far the highest count was from Headlands with 250 on 8/29 (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee. All complete reports had peak daily numbers ranging into the teens.

Tufted Titmouse. Good numbers, roughly 50 to 75% as many as Chickadees in the complete reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Six were counted on 6/20 in the Major Road area of the CVNP (DAC). A lone bird was a surprise visitor to the picnic area east of the Headlands Beach parking lot on 7/13; this species had never been recorded in July in the Headlands area (JT fide RH). One and two were found there from mid-August onwards (RH). One was spotted in a Sagamore Hills neighborhood on both 7/28 and 8/2 (DAC).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Typical numbers; Ira Road had the highest count for one day with 15 on 8/31 (TMR).

Brown Creeper. All reports were in June. Dwight Chasar remarked they were “doing well, very common” (DAC). On 6/8, a nest was found under a dead Silver Maple’s loose bark along the Upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County (DB).

Carolina Wren. The only reports came from Headlands and several CVNP locations, but seemed to match previous years’ counts. Dwight Chasar noted that away from feeders “this population seems to be well down due to severe February snows” (DAC).

House Wren. Counts were lower than recent years – complete reports showed numbers equaling the Carolina’s.

Sedge Wren. Two were found at Barberton’s Lime Lakes on 6/21 and 6/22 (DV), the season’s only sighting.

Marsh Wren. Arcola Creek Park in Madison Township, Lake County, had three pairs on 6/4 (JP). Ira Road had reports of one on several mid-summer dates; two were seen there on 7/20 (TMR). HBSP’s highest daily count was four on 8/8 (RH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Three to four pairs were spotted along the Upper

Cuyahoga on 6/8 (DB). On 7/20 Ira Road had 12 (TMR); HBSP had as many on 8/27 (RH).

Eastern Bluebird. Numbers weren’t as high as Spring 2009 counts; complete reports had fewer than ten.

Veery. The Brecksville Reservation had two on 6/9 and three on 6/28 (DAC). The Romitos counted seven in the southern CVNP on 6/13 and five the next day at nearby Hampton Hills MP (TMR). Headlands had four migrants on 8/31 (RH).

Swainson’s Thrush. Headlands had one late spring migrant on 6/3 (RH); fall migrants were one bird on 8/30 at Wildwood Park (NA) and one at Headlands on 8/31 (RH).

Hermit Thrush. Noticeably absent from Kendall Ledges where they have typically nested (DAC). One was present at Wildwood Park on 8/2 (NA).

Wood Thrush. Few reports; the only counts higher than one or two birds were five on 6/13 and five on 6/16 from the southern CVNP (TMR).

American Robin. There were 79 of these common birds found at Kendall Lake on 8/30 (FL).

Gray Catbird. At Ira Road 24 were counted on 7/13 (TMR).

Northern Mockingbird. Seven birds were seen during the season in suburban residential areas and nearby parks (many obs.). Five were counted on 6/2 at the HBSP area (RH). The Berlin Reservoir area had a sighting on 7/13 (GB).

Brown Thrasher. There were several Summit County single-bird June reports. On 6/1 one was seen feeding a younger bird in Sagamore Hills (DAC). At HBSP, four were counted on 6/1; one to three were seen there late summer (RH).

European Starling. Limited counts were submitted; likely under-reported.

Cedar Waxwing. Highest reported counts were early and late summer with 200 at HBSP on 7/3 (RH), 67 on 8/27 in the CVNP (HO) and 82 at Ira Road on 8/31 (TMR).

Blue-winged Warbler. The CVNP had three on 6/8 and two on 6/20 (DAC). Hampton Hills had seven on 6/14 (TMR). On 7/20 one was seen at Ira Road (TMR). The last report for the season was a single bird at HBSP on 8/22 (RH).

“Lawrence’s Warbler”. This hybrid was observed in the HBSP Nature Preserve on 8/16; plumage indicated it was a female (RH, EB).

Golden-winged Warbler. The only report was a singing male discovered on 6/6 at Oak Hill in the CVNP; Rob Harlan noted it looked “pure” and not a hybrid (RSH).

Tennessee Warbler. Headlands had three or four fall migrants found daily the last week of August (RH).

Nashville Warbler. On 7/13 at Big Creek in LeRoy Township, two adults were found feeding a juvenile (JP). Fall migrants began trickling in during the latter half of August; at least seven were counted at Wildwood Park on 8/29 (NA).

Northern Parula. A singing bird was found at Station Road on 6/9 (DAC). Noteworthy was one on 6/21 at Bacon Woods (CC). A single bird was spotted on 8/30 at Wildwood Park (NA).

Yellow Warbler. Ira Road had 25 on 6/8 and 6/15; with at least half as many on several other June dates (TMR). Most of Headlands’ sightings were the last half of the summer with eight seen on 8/31 (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Larry Rosche remarked that these birds were as numerous as ever at the Ravenna Arsenal. The only other mid-season reports were one female in the CVNP on 6/21 (DV) and a singing male on

6/26 at Shaker Lakes (JW). Early fall migrants included three or four seen on 8/29 at Wildwood Park (NA); at HBSP birds were seen from mid-August on with the high count of seven on 8/31 (RH).

Magnolia Warbler. All reports were late August. Headlands had the highest numbers; 30 on 8/28 and 20 on 8/31 were highlights (RH).

Cape May Warbler. The only reports were one seen on 8/30 at Wildwood Park (NA) and two on 8/31 at HBSP (RH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Via the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas project, Hans Petruschke reported three singing males in June and July in a remote area of Holden Arboretum; the birds were difficult to observe and it wasn't possible to confirm breeding (HP).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. On 8/23 Shaker Lakes had the only reported fall migrant (SV).

Black-throated Green Warbler. The CVNP's Kendall Ledges' hemlock habitat had likely nesting birds with ten on 6/7 (GL), and four on 7/3 and five on 7/20 (DAC).

Blackburnian Warbler. Headlands had the highest fall migrant counts with seven seen on 8/28 and on 8/31 (RH).

Yellow-throated Warbler. After a constant presence at Station Road early in the summer, three could still be seen there on 7/26 (DAC).

Pine Warbler. One was observed north of Jaite on 6/8 (DAC), two were found on 6/13 in southern Summit County (DV) and on 7/13 at LeRoy Township's Big Creek had one (JP).

Prairie Warbler. The bird found in the spring at Jaite was last reported on 6/1 (DAC).

Bay-breasted Warbler. One early fall migrant was spotted at Headlands on

both 8/27 and 8/28; two were seen there on 8/31 (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler. There were only two late-spring migration reports, with two seen at Headlands on 6/3 (RH) and one on 6/7 at Wildwood Park (NA).

Cerulean Warbler. Always reliable in its known haunts, 2009 showed evidence of an even broader range of locations. During the first several miles of Fred Losi's twelve mile canoe trip on the Grand River on 6/6, at least seven were heard singing (FL). In the CVNP three were counted on 6/13 at North Hampton (TMR) and Station Road had four or five on 7/2 (DAC). On 6/21 Bacon Woods had four (CC).

Black-and-white Warbler. Mid-summer reports were a female at Horseshoe Lake (Shaker Hts.) on 6/26 (JW) and one heard calling on 8/1 in the CVNP at Wetmore (DAC). Headlands' fall migrants were plentiful the last half of August; highest reported count was ten on 8/28 (RH).

American Redstart. Two to three were seen on most Ira Road walks by

the Romitos in June and July (TMR). At least three were found on 6/8 along the Upper Cuyahoga River (DB). Early migrants included 14 at HBSP on 8/28 (RH) and four to five at Wildwood Park on 8/29 (NA).

Prothonotary Warbler. Two nests were found at Station Road on 6/2, then on 7/2 a family group of six were witnessed there (DAC). Nearby at Red Lock two territorial males were spotted on 6/11 (DAC). A singing male remained at Veterans Park at Headlands from 6/4 to 6/5 (JT, RH, SW). Three, including one female with nest material, were found at Sandy Ridge on 6/21 (CC). Two late birds were seen on 8/24 in buttonbush thickets along the Upper Cuyahoga River below Bridge Creek (DB).

Worm-eating Warbler. No summer reports; the CVNP's Wetmore area bird that was observed on 5/23 was not refound.

Ovenbird. Few reports. Two were observed on 6/14 at Hampton Hills (CC, TMR) and Oak Hill in the CVNP had three on 7/4 (DAC). Probable



**Hooded Warbler with young Cowbird,
Thompson Ledges, Geauga County, 6/12/2009**

Judy Semroc

migrants were a single bird found at HBSP on both 8/28 and 8/30 (RH); on 8/29 Wildwood Park had two (NA).

Northern Waterthrush. A singing bird was found on 6/6 at Eldon Russell Park (DB) and one on 6/13 at Lake Kelso in Geauga County (RSH).

Louisiana Waterthrush. On 6/20 one was found foraging in the foyer of The West Woods Nature Center's lower door (Russell Twp., Geauga County) (DB). Several single-bird sightings were reported from the CVNP and bordering parks in June. At Station Road's railroad bridge over the Chippewa Creek early on 6/29, two birds were poking along the water's edge; while one was obviously foraging, the other spent most of its time restlessly following the first; five minutes were spent waiting for one to feed the other, but it never happened (FCD). One was observed at the Bedford Reservation's Overlook area on 7/27 (FL).

Kentucky Warbler. One was heard on 7/13 at LeRoy Township's Big Creek (JP). Kentucky Warblers were absent from the CVNP Kendall Ledges where they had been present the previous several summers.

Connecticut Warbler. A singing male was a late-migrant surprise at the

CVNP's Oak Hill area on 6/6 (RSH).

Mourning Warbler. Headlands had one or two seen during the first week of June (RH).

Common Yellowthroat. Doing well in the CVNP, Ira Road had reliable counts of up to 10 in June and July (TMR) and the Boston stretch of the towpath had 18 on 8/6 (HO).

Hooded Warbler. Well-represented in its expected habitat. Five were counted on 6/9 in the Brecksville Reservation (DAC), the CVNP's Blossom Music area had five on 6/12 (TMR) and Oak Hill in the CVNP had four on 7/4 (DAC).

Wilson's Warbler. Seen on several dates the latter half of August at HBSP with up to twelve counted on 8/28 (RH). Wildwood Park had two on 8/29 (NA).

Canada Warbler. At Kendall Ledges, where birds had been seen summering in the past, one was found on 6/7 (GL).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Jaite had one on 6/1 (DAC). Two were found at Hampton Hills on 6/14 (CC, TMR). On 6/30 Sagamore Hills had one (DAC).

Eastern Towhee. Well-reported, especially from the CVNP and other

Summit County locations. Nine were seen at the DB Midwest property in Strongsville (Prospect Road) on 6/24 (TMR).

Chipping Sparrow. Common. Headlands had high August counts with 15 on 8/8 and 20 on 8/11 (RH).

Field Sparrow. Expected reports. Doing well in the CVNP; highest count was five on 6/14 at Hampton Hills (TMR).

Savannah Sparrow. Five were seen at HBSP on 6/2 (RH). Only one was noted at the Richfield Coliseum grasslands, seen on 6/7 (DAC). A total of 18 were tallied at Barberton's Lime Lakes on 6/21 and 6/22 (DV).

Grasshopper Sparrow. On 6/7 the Richfield Coliseum site had one (DAC).

Henslow's Sparrow. Four were located at the Richfield Coliseum grasslands on 6/13 (FCD).

Song Sparrow. On 8/6 there were 21 at Boston (HO). Ira Road had 17 on 7/13 (TMR).

Swamp Sparrow. In the CVNP, Jaite had eight on 7/9 (DAC) and 12 were tallied at the marshes in the Boston area on 8/6 (HO).

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Summer 2009

Ray Hannikman

I birded the Headlands Beach State Park a little differently during the summer of 2009. Early June brought a surprising Cerulean Warbler to Veterans Park on the third, but it was sad to see a Prothonotary Warbler, also at Veterans Park, fail to find a mate. During July and the first half of August I decided to look for shorebirds and I made the beach of the Nature Preserve my first early morning stop. American Avocets, Willets and Whimbrels were good finds and playing hide-and-seek with Sanderlings along the beach is always fun. The mid-July spectacle of flocking Bank and Tree Swallows was somewhat tempered by construction activities this year at Mentor Lagoons but there were days when many hundreds of swallows gathered on the wires. August 27, 28 and 31 brought good numbers of warblers to both Mentor Lagoons and the Headlands Beach area with plentiful Magnolia, Wilson's and Black-and-white Warblers and American Redstart. A fascinating close to the summer season occurred on August 28 at Mentor Lagoons when Jerry Talkington found a perched Common Nighthawk high in a tree and all around it were warblers fluttering and flitting about. Jerry surmised that perhaps the warblers perceived the nighthawk, with its sleepy eyes and cryptic coloration, as almost owl-like and they just had to harass the bird. After several moments of commotion, the warblers were gone but the nighthawk remained undisturbed. It was a fitting way to end summer birding with an eager eye to the surprises of fall migration.

Dark-eyed Junco. Summering birds reported were a singing male on 6/15 in Orange (Cuyahoga County) where one has nested in previous years (RSH), one to two mid-July at Bedford Reservation's Deer Lick Creek area (FL), four or five on 7/20 at Kendall Ledges (DAC) and one at North Chagrin Reservation on 8/1 (LD).

Summer Tanager. Gabe Leidy spotted one on 6/7 at the CVNP's Kendall Ledges (GL).

Scarlet Tanager. The highest daily counts were in August for most reports; on 8/3 five were seen at Ira Road (TMR).

Northern Cardinal. Counts of 10 to 17 were common at Ira Road the entire season (TMR). Headlands had 22 on 8/31 (RH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Ten were counted at Ira Road on 7/6 (TMR).

Indigo Bunting. Very common.

Bobolink. At the Coliseum grasslands, Gabe Leidy heard a Bobolink "repeatedly giving an uncanny Upland Sandpiper rendition" on 6/7 (GL); on 6/13 there were 50 counted at that location (FCD). On 7/8 a male bird

was found at the abandoned Boston Hills Golf Course in Hudson (DAC). A male was seen on 7/20 in Newbury Township on a wire overlooking a field (DB). Latest report was of two at HBSP on 8/18 (RH).

Red-winged Blackbird. Common, but no large late-summer flocks were reported.

Eastern Meadowlark. Given that Ohio's farmland and fields are scarcer in our area, few were reported. Five were seen at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/13 (FCD). On 6/21 two were found at Barberton's Lime Lakes (DV). At the recently closed Boston Hills Golf Course, ten were counted on 7/8 (DAC).

Common Grackle. At Ira Road 500 were seen on 8/31 (TMR).

Brown-headed Cowbird. One was observed being fed by a House Finch on 6/10 in Westlake (CC).

Orchard Oriole. The CVNP area had the only reports. At Ira Road three to four could be seen early June (TMR). The Chasars had one on 6/12 at Station Road, one on 6/18 at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation and one in Sagamore Hills on 8/13 (DAC).

Baltimore Oriole. On 6/15 Ira Road had 11; five was the season's last count there on 8/17 (TMR).

Purple Finch. More reports than recent years, with the greatest share in June. Highlights were three seen on 6/20 at the CVNP's Major Road area (DAC); five miles away at the Ira Road marsh three were found on 6/29 and four on 7/29 (TMR).

House Finch. Common, when reported.

Pine Siskin. The previous winter's abundance that continued into the spring produced one juvenile that was seen on 6/13 along Stafford Road north of LaDue Reservoir (RSH). A Pine Siskin was seen visiting a Mayfield Heights backyard feeder from 6/28 through 7/5; though capable of short flight it seemed badly maimed and is thought to have perished (NK).

American Goldfinch. Very common. At HBSP 100 was the day's total on 8/16 (RH).

House Sparrow. On 8/3 42 were counted at Ira Road (TMR).

An Examination of Two Erroneous Records of Rare Birds in the Cleveland Area

Bill Whan

In early 2010 Casey Tucker, while researching Ohio bird records in a database devoted to ornithological specimens in North American museums, discovered a record of an extraordinary find. At Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), he learned, was a specimen of a McCown's longspur collected on 10 March 1880 in Lakewood, Ohio. Because Lakewood is hundreds of miles east of this western species' nearest accepted record, Tucker asked the MCZ for details, confirmed the existing specimen and its data, and sent documentation to the Ohio Bird Records Committee, including seven sharp photographs of specimen #183160 and its labels.

The photos clearly show a molting adult male McCown's longspur. Longspurs' spring molt consists of wear on duller winter feathers that reveals the brilliant colors beneath, and this appearance was present and consistent with the 10 March date. There is only one tag, with the same handwriting used on both sides. On the obverse appears the MCZ stamp and collection number, the scientific name *Rhynchophanes mccownii*, the sex, and the notation "Lakewood, Ohio. 3-10-1880." On the reverse is printed "Collection of Frederic H. Kennard," the A.O.U. number (539), and under "Collector" the handwritten name "L. (as the MCZ read it) Hall". This is the extent of the written documentation.

Kennard (d. 1937) was an associate at MCZ, to which he donated his collection of ~5,000 North American bird specimens, among which must have been this one, on which the tag had evidently been adapted for Harvard's collection. Examination of the handwriting revealed that the name of the collector was actually "A. Hall," and a search among old Cleveland-area records and now-defunct ornithological publications revealed Hall as a careful amateur with some published papers about birds, a collector with specimens in a number of major museums, and citations in various important ornithological works. He is, for example, mentioned in Williams's 1950 work *Birds of the Cleveland Region* (p. 132) as collector of the area's first winter yellow-rumped warbler, and in Lynds Jones's *The Birds of Ohio* (1903) as reporter of unusual specimen records (American avocet, stilt sandpiper, evening and pine grosbeaks) in the northeastern part of the state. He authored several papers in journals of the day such as *Forest and Stream* and *Ornithologist and Oologist*; this was before the days of the *Auk*, or the A.O.U. itself. An old *Cleveland Bird Calendar* (1934 30(4):5) has a report from an Arthur H. Hall of a 'northern yellow-throat' in his Lakewood yard on 9/29/1934; this seems inconclusive, but worth noting.

Something else on the longspur's tag was misleading. In 1880, Lakewood was still called East Rockport; only in 1889 was the name changed. Williams in fact, citing Hall in his work of 1950, scrupulously reports he had collected the warbler specimen at "Rockport (now Lakewood)". Evidently the MCZ tag was not carefully based on Hall's original one, if any, which was missing. A collector's tag is essential for a specimen, especially one for a bird so far out of range; instead we have a derivative tag with errors. A search for more A. Hall specimens revealed others at Harvard, at Yale, at Oklahoma, the Smithsonian, and the American Museum of Natural History. There was one at Ohio State, a western meadowlark #14720, attached to which was an original handwritten tag indicating it had been collected in Hall County, Nebraska on March 25th of 1880. It had been acquired from Oberlin, and still had a tag from that institution, written in Lynds Jones's hand, as well as the crude field tag signed by the collector.

A careful look at Hall specimens in other museums revealed an extraordinary number from 1880, the year on the longspur tag: twenty-five of them, with three from Ohio (two labeled "Rockport") and the rest from Nebraska. Ten of those were skins of longspurs, four of them McCown's. Clearly some pattern was present, and eventually a search among the old journals found a short notice in the *Auk* of an article by Hall entitled "Spring Birds of Nebraska" in *Forest and Stream* (1884: No. 14, pp. 265-6 and No. 15, p. 284). Hall's work here is summarized as "an annotated list of 114 species, observed in the 'vicinity of the Platte River, in Southeastern Nebraska, from March 1 to June 1, 1880.' Includes Sprague's Lark (breeding), Townsend's Flycatcher, Baird's Sparrow, Leconte's [sic] Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Arctic Towhee, Magpie, Burrowing Owl, and other Western Birds, with most of the common Eastern species." Hall states in his first paragraph that he treats here "birds that came under my observation while on a three months' collecting tour in the vicinity of the Platte River, in Southeastern Nebraska, from March 1 to June 1, 1880" (p. 265). His annotations for McCown's longspur call it a "...common migrant. Saw them in full song in May," then remark on the ease of shooting them, saying he took 22 with a single shot on one occasion. He offers no dates for collections of this species, but it seems he must have brought back a lot of them.

So it seems very likely beyond doubt that a third defect in the MCZ tag involves the locality of the collection, for by his own account Hall was in Nebraska on 10 March 1880, where wintering and breeding-plumaged McCown's were plentiful. It seems the best explanation for the surprising data on the MCZ specimen's tag is that this longspur was among those Hall acquired during his lengthy expedition to Nebraska in March-May of 1880, but that over the course of time its original

written documentation seems to have become separated. Kennard or someone else before him must have mistakenly supplied it with the location "Lakewood, Ohio" because that was Hall's long-time place of residence. Hall, by all the evidence found, appears to have been a competent reporter, and not engaged in competitive collecting or sale of specimens or quests for publicity that might have tempted others in his day to misrepresent data. He is not known to have claimed to have collected a McCown's in Ohio. Overall, in the absence of other more compelling evidence, it seems best not to accept this documentation for such an unprecedented and highly unlikely occurrence, but to regard its recorded location as an error.

A related story involves another unusual Ohio record. According to Peterjohn (2001:535), Ohio's first record of western meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* is validated by a specimen from Lakewood, Ohio on 8 April 1880 (citing Williams 1950:149, 184). Williams's source is an article in a 1931 issue of the *Auk* 48:3(431) by J. Stevenson, of Cleveland. He reports the presence of this specimen at the Dickey collection in Pasadena, California, whose label reads "*Sturnella m. magna* ♂ 1 Lakewood, Ohio 4-8-1880" on one side, and on the reverse "Collection of Frederic H. Kennard, Collector S. Hall." Stevenson adds that expert examination had revealed the specimen to be "typical *neglecta*" rather than *magna*, the eastern meadowlark. It seems very likely this is another mislabeled specimen from Hall's expedition in 1880—this time having both the wrong location as well as the wrong species--again having passed through the hands of Kennard. It is quite possible more of them are in trays in other museums, but the two described here, which otherwise might have been significant Ohio records, should be disallowed. There is no Ohio specimen of McCown's longspur, and Ohio's first record of western meadowlark seems to belong to Lucas, not Cuyahoga, county.

Specimens in accredited museums are regarded as the gold standard of bird records, and by and large they are, but when they seem especially improbable some checking is always a good idea.

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Dark-eyed Juncos Breed in Cuyahoga County Backyard

Norman J. Kotesovec, Jr., Rosanne and Gary Dunlap

That a Mayfield Heights (Cuyahoga County) backyard Dark-eyed Junco had successfully bred was confirmed on 22-May-09 when an adult male junco was seen repeatedly feeding two juveniles below a feeding-station.

A juvenile junco was first seen at 10:00 bathing in a bird bath but, due to wet plumage, and without aid of binoculars, was not identified until 10:27 when the juvenile, now dry, was clearly seen being fed by an adult male junco four times at the base of a seed feeder. A second juvenile was fed twice while the first youngster, prone to petition, was fed an additional time by the male who simply pecked at the ground, retrieved a morsel and hastened to his ward. At 10:37 the adult junco took flight and was followed by one of the juveniles into an adjoining yard where both foraged on the ground; the male junco was seen feeding the begging juvenile once more until both were hidden from view. The remaining juvenile fed beneath the feeder until it too disappeared into ground cover.

Both juveniles were capable of sustained flight and were coarsely-streaked on both upper and under-parts, with a trace of a gape still visible. The juveniles appeared to be at least 25-26 days old as Nolan et. al. (2002, *The Birds of North America*, No. 716, Phil., PA, pp. 1-44) reports that fledglings are "not seen to feed selves until age approximately 25d" when their "flight appears as maneuverable as in adults." Given 4 days for egg-laying, 13 days for incubation and 12 days of nest-life, this clutch was probably commenced around 10-Apr-09. In Ohio, most first clutches are produced between 20-April and 07-May (Peterjohn and Rice, 1991, *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*, Ohio Dep. Nat. Resour., Columbus, p. 356). The male junco and two juveniles were again seen at the feeder on 24-May-09 and were photographed in the shrub bed by Rosanne Dunlap. The neighborhood is well-treed, chiefly with mature maple and with some backyards boasting large areas of shrub and ground cover. A juvenile junco was last seen on 17-Jun-09.

Nesting Juncos had been suspected since the summer of 2008 when a pair summered at the Dunlap's Longridge Road residence. Breeding was not confirmed in 2008, although the male junco often visited the feeder and flew to an adjacent lot where he either perched on a child's swing-set or disappeared underneath a raised porch. Through the successive seasons, juncos have been resident in this Mayfield Heights neighborhood with most birds departing for their northern haunts come spring.

However, a single pair again remained in 2009 to continually visit the backyard feeder, and the male junco was seen throughout the summer singing from either the utility wires in the front yard alongside the paved street or from various trees in the backyard. His territory seemed to comprise an area of four suburban lots; a lot equal to 60 x 175 ft. in size. At the time of this writing, both male and female juncos were last seen at the feeder on 29-Aug-09.

While it is impossible to say with certainty, without aid of color bands, that the junco pair are the same birds that summered last year (or remained over winter), the suggestion is, nonetheless, enticing. As for junco site-fidelity, the following extract is interesting. Nolan et. al. (op. cit.) writes: "In sedentary or partially migratory subspecies [of Dark-eyed Juncos] some adult males (rarely other sex / age classes) remain on or near breeding sites or return to them occasionally during winter."

No nest was found despite keeping watch of the male junco's travels after feeding or bathing. As was the case in 2008, he simply flew to and disappeared into a neighboring yard. While a territory size as large as "2 or 3 acres" is reported by Eaton in Bent (1968, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, Part 2, p. 1030), it remains possible that our "*winged*" juveniles were raised outside of the neighborhood, elsewhere in the nearby Chagrin River watershed where juncos traditionally breed (Peterjohn and Rice, op. cit.).

While it seems quite odd that these juncos should go "suburban" and forgo their hemlock forests to nest in an urban setting, Nolan et. al. (op. cit.) does list the following nest-sites (if not specific locality): "...on supports beneath buildings that are elevated on stilts or pillars...on window ledges, beams, light fixtures; in hanging flower pots...or under buildings." As all of the above are readily available in, or near the Dunlap's yard, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the nesting juncos chose a protected spot underneath a latticed porch.



**Adult Junco Feeding Juvenile,
Mayfield Heights, 5/24/2009**

Rosanne Dunlap

Contributors

Nancy Anderson	NA	Linda Gilbert	LG	Paul Rodewald	PR
Emil Bacik	EB	Ray Hannikman	RH	Drew Rolik	DR
Greg Bennett	GB	Rob & Sandy Harlan	RSH	Larry Rosche	LR
Dan Best	DB	Nancy Howell *	NH	Tom & Marry Anne Romito	TMR
Sandy Brown	SB	Sally & Dave Isacco *	SDI	Chad & Chris Saladin	CCS
Craig Caldwell	CC	Anna Julnes	AJ	Judy Semroc	JS
Dwight & Ann Chasar	DAC	Norman J. Kotesovec	NK	Jerry Talkington	JT
Greg Cudworth	GC	Gabe Leidy	GL	Scott VanValkenburg	SV
Leo Deininger	LD	Fred Losi	FL	Doug Vogus *	DV
Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach	FCD	Paula Lozano	PL	Suzanne Wagner	SW
Rosanne & Gary Dunlap	RGD	Terry Martincic	TM	Judy West	JW
David Dvorak	DD	Hope Orr	HO	Eileen Zimlich	EZ
Bob Finkelstein	BF	Haans Petruschke	HP		
Gary Fish	GF	John Pogacnik *	JP		

* 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

Kirtland Bird Club
c/o The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
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Cleveland, OH 44106-1767

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