

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.

Subscriptions

A subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* is a benefit of Kirtland Bird Club membership. Annual membership is \$28 (Couple), \$17 (Single) or \$8 (Student). To join or report an address change, contact Mary Anne Romito, Kirtland Bird Club, 4310 Bush Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. Make check payable to Kirtland Bird Club. Additional membership information can be found at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join. Issues are also on sale at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History gift shop.

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 Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser Hybrid, Cleveland Lakefront at East 72nd Street, 2/20/2010, photographed by Jerry Talkington.

Back Cover Eastern Screech-Owl, Red and Gray morphs, Stark County, 2/20/2010, photographed by Judy Semroc.

Contents

Weather Report <i>Dwight Chasar</i>	2
Lake Erie Ice Cover January and February 2010	3
Three Winter 2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count Results.....	4
Sightings Location Key.....	6
Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons <i>Ray Hannikman</i>	7

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In This Issue

Fred Dinkelbach

This issue begins a change in my data-gathering for the Cleveland Bird Calendar. Hopefully the reader will agree it's for the better. Previously, I would print out all e-mailed submissions, whether they were a single sighting or a ten-page spreadsheet. To that I would add a healthy glean from the Ohio list serve, favoring KBC members and those reports containing more thorough and detailed information. I would spread these out on the largest table available, and then double that volume of paper by adding the previous years' reports along with older CBC issues. This gave me a fighting chance to equal the many experts who have edited the Calendar in the past; those who had an accurate feel for trends, exceptions, high or low numbers, early or late dates, for every species. I do not yet have that feel. Instead I would sweat over the pages before me, teasing out anything noteworthy. Along the way, I worried if the numbers were statistically significant, if a certain pattern was because of weather that day or even a reflection of observers only able to bird on weekends. Some submissions were summarized from the observer's personal records, making me the sole interpreter of already-interpreted data. Even then I would be conservative and only report the obvious.

This will change. Beginning with this issue I flipped the switch and began using Cornell's eBird.org web site. After gaining approval, eBird administrators will provide extracts of requested data; they only ask that a digital copy of the Cleveland Bird Calendar be provided in return (though their library has always received a printed version). Their bar chart feature lets me much more easily compare the current reporting period with other years. For now I compare with data of the past ten years; it appears to cover a good majority of the data entered so far into eBird but I fully expect that span to increase as more birders post historical sightings. Since I'm currently behind in publishing I can also view a few years afterwards, which helps determine if this issue's exceptions are just that, or are part of a trend. The armchair researcher is given a better picture of the season; anyone wanting more is pointed in the same direction I followed to go further. Also, another advantage of eBird data is all birds are in the correct sequence, an enormous convenience in putting together the Calendar.

Does that mean eBird is my single go-to source for the Calendar's sightings? Not at all. Considering the winter '09-'10 season alone, very notable records are absent from eBird: Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Black Vulture, Virginia Rail, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Iceland Gull, Long-eared Owl, Savannah Sparrow, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and last but not least, Brewer's Blackbird. That's quite a list! That doesn't come close to balancing this season's species recorded only in eBird and nowhere else: Chipping Sparrow. As well as not everyone having a computer to enter data, other eBird disadvantages currently are it does not give a feeling of a deadline for the Calendar's reports and it does not come close to providing earliest or latest dates, either historically or in the current year.

For the majority of the past 106 years, the Cleveland Bird Calendar was the only source of year-round birding records for our region. In the digital age it will no longer be, but it will still showcase our unrivaled birding community's skills, complimented by the unrivaled quantity of data stored in eBird.

Weather Report, Winter 2009-2010

Dwight Chasar

December: Temperatures averaged 31.7°, 0.6° above normal. The high was 53° on the 3rd and the low was 9° on the 30th. Lake Erie water stood at 48° on the 1st and fell to 40° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 16 days, totaling 2.71 inches of liquid equivalent, 0.43 inches below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.68 inches on the 2-3rd. Of this, snowfall totaled 6.9 inches and the greatest depth was 4.0 inches on the 29th.

January: Temperatures averaged 27.1°, 1.4° above normal. The high was 52° on the 25th and the low 6° on the 10th. Precipitation was distributed over 17 days to total 1.69 inches, 0.79 inches below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hour period was 0.52 inches on the 24-25th. Snowfall totaled 18.6 inches (at the airport) while the greatest ground depth was 9 inches on the 12th. Lake Erie reached 32° by mid-month, with much of it frozen over. Lake effect snow was much greater east of Cleveland.

February: Temperatures averaged 28.4°, a 0° deviation from normal. The high was 47° on the 21st and the low 4° on the 8th. Lake Erie was at 33° at the end the month, with much of it still frozen. Precipitation totaled 2.71 inches, 0.42 inches above normal and occurred over 17 days. The greatest 24 hour fall was 0.51 inches on the 5-6th. Snowfall accounted for a total of 31.7 inches, with the greatest depth 18 inches on the 28th.

Lake Erie Ice Cover

1-9-2010 through 3-1-2010



1-9-10



2-4-10



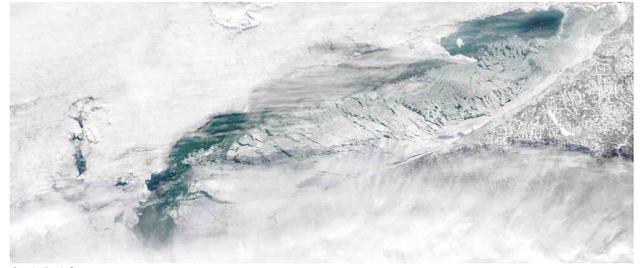
1-14-10



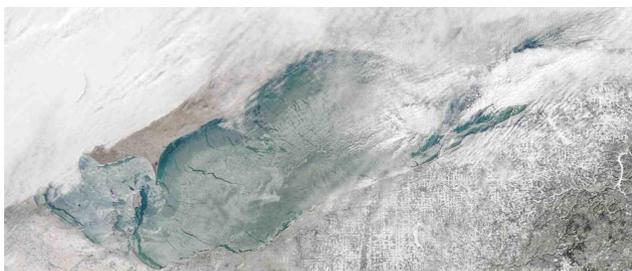
2-8-10



1-21-10



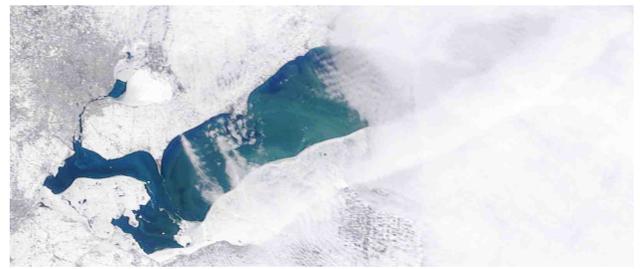
2-15-10



1-31-10



2-20-10



3-1-10

Three Winter 2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count Results

Lakewood, 12-27-2009 reported by Nancy Howell

With temperatures hovering in the upper 20's to low 30's and scattered, light snow flurries, overcast skies and almost no wind ... it was, in most regards, a nice winter day. It was also one of the best of the Lakewood Christmas Counts with regard to the number of species seen, not to mention effort by the terrific counters. Seventy-five (75) species were sighted the day of the CBC and one (1) additional species during count week. Sixty-eight (68) participants spent 55.00 hours out in the field and 14.00 hours watching feeders. Another 1.25 hours was spent owling either in the early morning or late in the day and it produced results!

Lake Erie was open and so gulls and diving ducks were not as concentrated as could be, but the crews doing the Lake Erie shoreline did a fabulous job. A few species of dabblers (Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail) were found both along Lake Erie and a few sites inland. Big water ducks and divers generally were low in diversity and in number with the exception of Red-breasted Mergansers. Note that no Canvasback or Common Mergansers and only single digits of Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck were sighted. Two species of scoters were great additions. A single Tundra Swan was found at, of all places, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Continuing with Lake Erie sightings Double-crested Cormorant (not usually hanging around in the winter) and a Common Loon added nice touches. The gull numbers were respectable with Ring-billed Gulls far outnumbering other species. No white-winged or unusual gulls were sighted, possibly due to the lake being open and birds scattered widely.

Diurnal raptors made nice showings. At one time listing a Bald Eagle or Peregrine Falcon would be notable, not so much any longer. What is notable is that two American Kestrels were found around the Cleveland airport. Sightings of kestrels have dwindled over the years. Having all three expected falcons is pretty cool.

Owls made a comeback this count year with three Great Horned Owls, including a pair, a single Barred Owl and two different Screech Owls.

Woodpeckers were in good numbers across the board with Red-headed Woodpeckers (not seen every year) being located at a mitigated wetland site.

American Crows and Blue Jay numbers seem to have rebounded from several years ago after West Nile virus came through. The more feeder-friendly birds such as chickadee,

titmouse and nuthatch numbers were good. Several Red-breasted Nuthatch were tallied and it was not a huge year for them. Brown Creeper, Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglets were a nice touch.

A good fruit year (honeysuckle, flowering crabapple, hawthorn and poison ivy) kept many of the fruit eaters, such as Eastern Bluebird, American Robin (lots) and Cedar Waxwing around. Five Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were a good find.

Three Chipping Sparrows, not usually sighted, were noted from different areas. A single Fox Sparrow was good. One might not think that Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird are that exciting. In northeast Ohio the numbers of blackbird and grackle were considerably higher than expected. Normally the number of these species is in the single digits, if found at all.

Lastly, two Purple Finches filled out our list.

Burton, 1-1-2010 reported by Linda Gilbert

Once again we experienced dismal weather for our count. Visibility deteriorated over the course of the day and many folks resorted to counting birds at people's feeders. Numbers were low.

- This year's count recorded the highest number of Eastern Screech Owls. Screech Owls were recorded consistently between 1986 and 2000 and sporadically after that.
- American Robins had the highest count this year over a ten year period, in spite of the awful weather.
- Three Redheads were seen at Best Preserve. Redheads have only been recorded sporadically over the history of our count - previously seen in 1974, 1978 and 1993.
- Count week species include a Northern Shrike seen at Best Preserve and two reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the north-central part of our circle.
- Eastern Meadowlarks in Middlefield were a good find. They were last seen on the 1999-2000 count.

Cuyahoga Falls, Sector I, 12-20-2009 reported by Dwight Chasar

We had a good number of species, 51, probably second highest for us, and 700 more individual birds than last year (when we had 52 species).

	Lake-wood	Burton	Cuy. Falls		Lake-wood	Burton	Cuy. Falls
* = High Count							
** = Count Week							
Canada Goose	1264	1314	628	American Kestrel	2	3	
Mute Swan			4	Merlin	2		
Tundra Swan	1			Peregrine Falcon	3		
Wood Duck	3			Northern Shrike		1 **	
American Black Duck	23			Blue Jay	415	165	226
Mallard	801	404	279	American Crow	174	111	155
Northern Shoveler	2			Black-capped Chickadee	355	327	263
Northern Pintail	4			Tufted Titmouse	117	135	127
Redhead	1	3		Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	8	5
Ring-necked Duck	1		60	White-breasted Nuthatch	151	82	82
Scaup sp.	90			Brown Creeper	3		5
White-winged Scoter	1			Winter Wren	1		
Black Scoter	1			Carolina Wren	14	2	6
Bufflehead	62			Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	4	3
Common Goldeneye	352			Eastern Bluebird	2	64	36
Hooded Merganser	9			Hermit Thrush			1
Red-breasted Merganser	35,677			American Robin	1347	434 *	96
Ruddy Duck	2		2	Gray Catbird			1
Wild Turkey	7	59		Northern Mockingbird	4		
Common Loon	1		1	European Starling	1491	2259	382
Pied-billed Grebe			1	Cedar Waxwing	39	145	
Double-cr. Cormorant	3			Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	3	
Great Blue Heron	5	3	1	Eastern Towhee	1 **		
Bald Eagle	2	1		American Tree Sparrow	63	146	138
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			Chipping Sparrow	3		
Cooper's Hawk	11	3	2	Fox Sparrow	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	19	4	Song Sparrow	24	8	31
Red-tailed Hawk	37	12	16	White-throated Sparrow	24	6	16
Rough-legged Hawk		2	1	White-crowned Sparrow		1	1
American Coot			3	Dark-eyed Junco	257	220	63
Killdeer			3	Northern Cardinal	187	316	164
Bonaparte's Gull	1956			Red-winged Blackbird	59		1
Ring-billed Gull	28,064	17	213	Eastern Meadowlark		5	
Herring Gull	301		25	Common Grackle	89		2
Great Black-backed Gull	17			Brown-headed Cowbird	1		
Rock Pigeon	232	81	24	Purple Finch	2	2	1
Mourning Dove	285	117	81	House Finch	148	102	61
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	8 *		American Goldfinch	317	176	153
Great Horned Owl	3	1		House Sparrow	530	304	208
Barred Owl	1	2	1	Species Total	75	45	51
Belted Kingfisher	8	1	1	Individual Total	75,341	6,823	3,747
Red-headed Woodpecker	3						
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	56	62				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2 *					
Downy Woodpecker	128	98	71				
Hairy Woodpecker	29	29	12				
Northern Flicker	7	3	12				
Pileated Woodpecker	9	4	13				

Sightings Location Key

CVNP. Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit and Cuyahoga Counties.

East 72nd Street. Cleveland lakefront at East 72nd Street where a small section of the lake remains ice-free and is very hospitable to gulls and waterfowl during winter.

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.

Lake View Cemetery. East of University Circle, Cleveland.

Lakes Rockwell-Pippen. Reservoirs, Kent, Portage County.

Lakeshore Reservation. North Perry, Lake County.

Nesmith Lake. Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.

Turkeyfoot Lake. Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.

Sightings Highlights

Species not seen annually during the reporting season, or those with noteworthy dates and/or counts, are underlined. The sequence now follows the 2013 AOU list. For our region the only changes are separating the falcon family from the hawks and placing them before their closest relatives, the parrots and the passerines. Also, the Carolina Wren now finishes the wren sequence instead of being listed first.

Because of the growing base of collected data and the availability of records on line, I will forgo the detailed breakdowns of Black Duck, Kestrel, Common Nighthawk or Rusty Blackbird. If a common species has no noteworthy counts or dates, it will not appear as a highlight. My (flexible) criteria for including a report in the sightings highlights continue to be the same: more common bird reports are more generalized while rarer/seasonal/irruptive species are more detailed, nesting information is given a higher consideration, and the more detailed and thorough an observation, the greater the chance it will be included.

Expected birds for the season but not reported: Brant, Eared Grebe, Northern Harrier, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger and American Pipit.

Snow Goose. Geauga County's LaDue Reservoir hosted one bird on 12/12 (IS); Sandy Ridge had another on 12/19 (many obs.). One was seen on 1/16 at Rocky River Park (TK). On 1/16 and 1/17 one blue-phase joined the Canada Geese at East 72nd Street (GL).

Snow Goose x Canada Goose (hybrid). At East 72nd Street a hybrid goose was spotted on 1/27 (GL).

Cackling Goose. One joined 13 Canada Geese out on the lake at Lakeshore Reservation on 12/13 (JP).

Mute Swan. Residing at Turkeyfoot Lake throughout the season with as many as 29 counted on 1/9 (GB).

Trumpeter Swan. Three immatures turned up on 12/31 at Nesmith Lake (GB).

Tundra Swan. The latest report was a single bird at Headlands on 1/5 (RH).

Wood Duck. Two at Mogadore Reservoir (Summit County) on both 12/26 and 2/5 were among the few mid-winter reports (GB).

American Black Duck. Present in most complete reports; numbers peaked along Lake Erie in December while inland numbers rose by February. Lakes Pippen and Rockwell had 14 on 12/8 (KT).

Northern Shoveler. Over 50 wintered at Summit and Long Lakes and nearby canals south of Akron (GB).

Northern Pintail. One spent most of January at Cleveland Lakefront State Park (NA). Ten were found at Portage Lakes on 1/24 (TMR).

Green-winged Teal. Few reports, mostly December.

Canvasback. Headlands had 20 on both 1/5 and 1/7 (RH); both East 72nd Street and the Eastlake power plant also had 20 each on 1/16 (CC).

Redhead. The adjacent quarry pond at Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve in Geauga County had two drakes and one hen from 12/13 to 1/1 (DB). Wellington Upground Reservoir in Lorain County had 25 on 1/20 (CC).

Ring-necked Duck. Over 100 gathered at Portage Lake's East

Reservoir (Summit County) on 1/9 and 1/18 (GB).

Greater Scaup. The season's highlight was 323 counted at Lakeshore Reservation on 12/11 (JP).

Lesser Scaup. Most impressive was 970 seen on 12/11 at Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Eider sp. Too far out on the lake to get a positive ID, John Pogacnik spotted a female/immature bird with a group of Surf Scoters on 12/6 from Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Harlequin Duck. One bird was found on 12/1 from the overlook at the end of Headlands Road by Jerry Talkington (*fide* RH). A young male was spied passing west in a group of six Long-tailed Ducks along the lake's edge on 12/11 at Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Surf Scoter. Lakeshore Reservation had eight on both 12/6 and 12/11 (JP) while Euclid's Sims Park provided views of one or two throughout December (NA).

White-winged Scoter. Three could be seen on 12/6 at Lakeshore Reservation (JP) and two on 1/6 at Summit Lake (GB). Lower numbers in February than in other years.

Black Scoter. Ten females were spotted at Sims Park in Euclid on 12/5 (NA). One to four visited Lakeshore Reservation the following weeks (JP).

Long-tailed Duck. A group of six flew past Lakeshore Reservation on 12/11, joined by a young male Harlequin Duck and a Black Scoter (JP). Later in

the season that location had one bird on 12/26, a female on 12/29 and a male on both 12/31 and 1/2; finally three appeared on 1/3 (JP). Headlands had one on 1/28 (RH).

Bufflehead. On 12/11 more than 600 visited Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Hooded Merganser. Typifying December gatherings on inland lakes, Turkeyfoot Lake had over 50 on 12/19 (GB). Four remained the entire winter at Summit and Long Lakes (GB).

Bufflehead x Hooded Merganser (hybrid). Most observers felt an unusual duck was possibly a Hooded hybrid with a likely Bufflehead at E. 72nd Street on 1/17 (many obs.). Gabe Leidy's observations:

- "Two white windows on the folded wing, but ONLY present/visible on the bird's left side. I thought at first that they may have been just concealed on opposite (right) wing, but after watching the bird preen, it seemed that these striking marks were, in fact, only present on the left wing. Very strange.
- Pale yellow eyes - quite obvious.
- Squared off head, with low forehead, very different from Bufflehead. Head on, side of face flat, without the 'puffed out' typical of Bufflehead.
- Tail held erect and out of the water the entire time, rather than flat on the water as Bufflehead.
- White auricular mark elongated and rectangular, rather than rounded.
- A bit paler on the flanks and breast overall."

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid). A beautiful male

made an appearance at E. 72nd Street on 2/20 and 2/21 (many obs.).

Common Merganser. At Lakes Rockwell and Pippen, 78 gathered on 12/5 (PC, KT). In the CVNP, three could be found on the Cuyahoga River near Jaite on 12/27 (DAC) and one on 2/8 at the Ira Road beaver marsh (TMR). At HBSP numbers climbed to an impressive 1500 by 1/7 (RH).

Red-breasted Merganser. The tens of thousands typical of November waned to the usual thousands for December and hundreds for January.

Red-throated Loon. Two individuals on 12/1 and single birds on 12/5 and 12/6 could be observed from the overlook at the end of Headlands Road by Jerry Talkington (*fide* RH); at Madison Township Park on 12/7 he discovered seventeen (JT *fide* GL). At Lakeshore Reservation, one floated to the west on 12/5, three flew west on 12/11 and a single bird could be seen there the next day; finally a single visitor was witnessed there on the early morning of 1/1 (JP).

Common Loon. A bird on 12/20 at O'Brien Cemetery's pond in Hudson provided a nice find (FL). Latest report was one on 1/2 at Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

Pied-billed Grebe. One each overwintered at Summit Lake and Nimisila Reservoir in southern Summit County (GB).

Horned Grebe. Leftover fall migrants provided a handful of early-December sightings.

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Winter 2009-2010

Ray Hannikman

Birding activity during the winter of 2009/2010 in the Headlands Beach State Park area correlated well with the deepening onset of winter. The lackluster waterfowl migration of November 2009 spilled into December and woodland birding was equally as unexciting due to a total lack of any winter finches. To be sure the season produced a few good birds such as Red-throated Loon, Harlequin Duck and Red Phalarope, but overall birding during the winter of 2009/2010 in the Headlands Beach State Park was tedious and disappointing.

Red-necked Grebe. One was briefly seen on Lake Erie at North Perry on 2/6 (JP).

Double-crested Cormorant.

Typically common year-round, cormorants became scarce in February this season.

Great Egret. On 1/2 one was spotted near Cleveland during a Lake Erie pelagic birding excursion (CC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. On 1/2 over 60 occupied the Cuyahoga River near downtown Cleveland (CC).

Black Vulture. On 2/7 this rarity turned up at East 72nd Street (JP).

Turkey Vulture. One was seen along I-71 in Medina County on 12/26 and again on 12/30 (CC).

Bald Eagle. Commonly seen along large rivers and lakes with pairs and single birds included in most complete reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Geauga Park District naturalist Dan Best documented four birds from various county locations throughout the season (DB). On 1/18 a pair showed themselves at Ira Road (TMR).

Cooper's Hawk. Well-reported throughout the season; approximately half of the observations came from hawks near feeders. On 12/6 a female was trapped between the State and Ohio Theatres in Cleveland in an enclosed fire escape, a known pigeon source for these hawks, until workers could open a roof hatch and let it escape (SW). An immature bird in Maple Heights found itself briefly caught in a chain-link fence while chasing a sparrow on 12/6 (DR).

Northern Goshawk. Gabe Leidy's account of his encounter on 1/27: "A massive immature Northern Goshawk was perched briefly on a wire along Howe Road in Strongsville, just south of Strongsville Mall, around 4:10 PM this afternoon. I fully expected the bird

to be a young Red-shoulder - quite typical behavior for them - but there was no mistaking the size and markings of a "gos" from fifteen feet away...as I nearly instigated a 12-car pileup. Overall, a hulking, big-headed raptor, sitting with a bit of a hunch (those who have seen Red-shoulders on wires know they quite often appear to have excellent posture), washed with cream and boldly streaked beneath, and sporting a broad, distinctive white supercilium. Cooper's Hawk is a much slighter bird in build, white below with fine brown streaks, and also holds a more erect posture. It is rare to see a Cooper's Hawk perched on a wire, in my experience, though I don't know how much more common for Goshawks." (GL).

Rough-legged Hawk. This irruptive species didn't have the turnout seen in other winters, but our area observers did their best to find what they could. On 12/20 a female dark-morph was seen from the Summit County Bike & Hike Trail (FL). Dan Best documented their continuing autumn presence in Geauga County that spilled into the winter; on 1/1 two from the Burton-Middlefield area became part of the Burton Christmas Bird Count, and then on 2/8 four birds were seen: a dark phase on Hayes Road south of Peters Road, two light phase birds on Nauvoo Road west of Hayes, and a light phase that flew out of Swine Creek Reservation over Bridge Road (DB). At the former Richfield Coliseum site one could be viewed on 1/9 (DAC). Lorain County back roads yielded two on 1/23, a light morph and a dark morph (GL).

Virginia Rail. The Medina Raptor Center took in a bird on 1/8 that had been retrieved from a snow drift in Cuyahoga Falls (LJ *fide* GL).

American Coot. Seen throughout the season, highlights were 200 on 12/19 at Turkeyfoot Lake (GB) and 250 on 1/20 at Lorain County's Wellington Upground Reservoir (CC).

Sandhill Crane. Geauga County had a resident pair remain until 12/25 (DB). At LaDue Reservoir, three turned up on 12/5 and seven on Christmas, later than on past years (LGt *fide* DB). Migrant flights included nine over Geauga County on 12/12, a day with a notable crane migration throughout Ohio (*fide* GL).

Killdeer. One flew past the overlook at the end of Headlands Road on 12/10 (JT *fide* RH). The season's latest (or the earliest?) report came from the CVNP with a southbound flyer on 1/1 (DV).

Dunlin. One was spotted in Cleveland Harbor during a pelagic birding tour on 1/2 (many obs.).

Purple Sandpiper. The only report was one spotted briefly as it flew from the rocks near the Headlands Beach lighthouse to the outer break wall on 12/8 (RH).

Wilson's Snipe. While checking out the Lake Rockwell-Lake Phippen area one was observed on 12/8 (KT, SJ).

Red Phalarope. On 12/18 an individual swam close to the break wall at the end of Headlands Road (RH).

Bonaparte's Gull. Lake Erie had December numbers in the hundreds or thousands, but by February these birds became almost non-existent. Ray Hannikman at Headlands had as many as 7000 on 12/15; the last sighting there was three on 1/14 (RH).

Little Gull. On 12/12 one adult joined the Bonaparte's at Lakeshore Reservation (JP).

California Gull. On 1/24 at Lorain Harbor an adult joined other gulls lining up at cracks in the lake ice opened by south winds (JP).

Herring Gull. Where Bonaparte's and Ring-billed numbers peaked in December, January favored the Herrings; Craig Caldwell regularly

found hundreds along various lakefront locations that month (CC).

Thayer's Gull. On 12/28 one adult visited Lakeshore Reservation (JP). One second-cycle on 1/24 and two birds on 2/14, one adult and one second-cycle, visited East 72nd Street (GL, JP).

Iceland Gull (incl. Kumlien's Gull). Only one December sighting reported: on 12/11 at Lakeshore Reservation a first- or second-cycle Kumlien's appeared (JP). Another first-cycle Kumlien's was seen there on 1/1 (JP). East 72nd Street had one first-cycle Iceland in January and one second-cycle and one or two adults in February (many obs.). Other reports included a first-cycle Iceland at the Eastlake power plant on 1/16 and 1/17 (many obs.), one adult and two first-cycles at Lorain Harbor on 1/24 (JP) and one unspecified age bird at Headlands on 1/28 (RH). East 72nd had two adults and one second-cycle on 2/14 (JP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. At least one or two were seen at all the warm-water outlets throughout the season, with adults not showing until January. On 2/14 East 72nd Street had three first-cycles and two second-cycle birds (JP) and two adults (GL).

Glaucous Gull. No December sightings. East 72nd Street had an adult and a first-cycle gull early January to late February; a second-cycle and two adults showed up there on 2/14 (many obs.). An adult and a first-cycle visited Lakeshore Reservation on 1/1; a first-cycle was also seen there on 1/3 (JP). On 1/27 Lorain Harbor hosted one (CC) and Headlands had one sighted on 1/28 (RH). East 72nd had three, one adult and two first-cycles, on 2/14 (JP).

Herring x Glaucous (Nelson's) Gull. Gabe Leidy discovered one first-cycle bird on 2/14 at East 72nd (GL).

Great Black-backed Gull. Notable was 50 on 1/9 at East 72nd Street (CC).

Snowy Owl. Burke Lakefront Airport hosted one on 12/24 and 12/25 (many obs.).

Long-eared Owl. Both this owl and the Saw-whet left pellets discovered at Lorain County's Caley Reservation in January, but no owls could be found (GL).

Short-eared Owl. On 1/26 Linda Gilbert spied an owl at Frohring Meadows, the only report for the season (LGt).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. A Lakewood resident discovered a backyard bird on 12/14 (*vide* GL). In January tell-tale pellets were found at Caley Reservation (Lorain County), but no owls (GL). On 2/3 one posed for Sally Isacco's camera at Chagrin River Park (SDI).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. One was counted for the Burton Christmas Bird Count on 1/1 (*vide* DB).

American Kestrel. Based on reported birds, winter numbers seem fairly consistent over the past decade, especially in grassland/field habitats in Lake and Lorain counties.

Merlin. The usual winter residents returned to Cleveland's Calvary Cemetery; up to three could be found from 12/25 to 2/21 (LGa). Also at local cemeteries, one was seen on 1/17 and 1/19 at Highland Park Cemetery in Shaker Heights (IS), one on 1/24 in Lorain's Ridgehill Cemetery (JP) and one at Lake View Cemetery on 1/30 (SC). A single non-cemetery bird was discovered in west Akron on 1/20 (GB).

Peregrine Falcon. Regularly seen near their local nest sites or keeping an eye on Lake Erie's warm-water outlets.

Northern Shrike. One bird was repeatedly observed in Homer Township (Medina County) from 12/7 to 1/6 (GE). Two were documented by Dan Best in Geauga County: one at Walter Best Wildlife Preserve in Munson Township on 12/12 and one on 12/21 west of Rt. 44 and north of



Female Horned Lark, North Chagrin Reservation, 1-9-2010
Rosalyn Schrank



Yellow-throated Warbler, Chagrin Falls, 12-16-2009

Sally Isacco

Rt. 322 (DB). One bird occupied the CVNP's Station Road south marsh on 12/26 (PL). A reliable winter visitor at Bath Nature Preserve returned again this season on 1/5 and 2/5 (SB).

American Crow. At a former roost sight where counts numbered in the high thousands ten years prior, 700 passed through on 1/17 and 500 on 1/19 at the Highland Park Cemetery (Shaker Heights-Highland Hills) (IS).

Horned Lark. Five to ten could be seen on multiple trips to Headlands January and February (RH). Up to 25 mixed with a group of Snow Buntings and a Lapland Longspur on 1/8 through 1/10 in a CVNP corn field

(many obs.). A female appeared at the feeders at North Chagrin Reservation on 1/9 (RS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Usually reported from bird feeders, this season Red-breasteds were seen more often afield. Sightings clustered around the first half of December and the end of January into February.

Winter Wren. Ira Road had two on 12/14 and several single-bird observations in January (TMR). Also in the CVNP, on 1/30 one was flushed near Kendall Ledges (KT, PC).

Hermit Thrush. On 1/13 Lisa Rainsong found a Hermit Thrush in the

sumac near the southeast end of Lake View Cemetery (LRg). One was seen on 2/8 at Lorain County Metro Park's Bacon Woods (CC) and three inhabited the CVNP's Oak Hill area on 2/21 (GL).

Gray Catbird. Making their sporadic winter appearances, one could be seen and heard clearly in Cleveland Metropark's Bedford Reservation on 12/6 (FL), a bird visited a feeder in North Perry on 1/8 (JP), and another remained at New Franklin in southern Summit County on 2/21 (GB).

Northern Mockingbird. One was discovered at the CVNP Station Road marsh on 12/7, where it has been reliably seen at this very non-urban setting (DAC).

Lapland Longspur. One was found on 1/7 and 1/11 along route 535 in Fairport Harbor in the company of many Snow Buntings (RH). A CVNP cornfield near Bolanz Road yielded a single bird on 1/8 amongst a mixed flock of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks; it could be seen by itself until the end of the season (BO).

Snow Bunting. The bulk of winter arrivals occurred slightly later than usual this season. Large flocks, 150 on 1/5 and 300 on 1/6, appeared along Route 535 in Fairport Harbor by Jerry Talkington (JT *fide* RH). On 1/8 through 1/10 a CVNP cornfield near Bolanz Road hosted a dozen birds joined by at least as many Horned Larks and a Lapland Longspur (many obs.). At least 80 frequented a manure-spread Amish field on Nauvoo Road in Geauga County on 1/10 (DB).

Common Yellowthroat. On 12/14 one lingered at the Ira Road beaver marsh (TMR).

Yellow-throated Warbler. One wintered in Chagrin Falls regularly visiting a suet feeder from 12/15 until discovered dead on 1/2, likely succumbing to the cold. The body was donated to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (SP, PK *fide* SDI).

Chipping Sparrow. The Ostermillers had a single bird at Spencer Lake (Medina County) on 12/18, the season's only sighting (KHO).

Field Sparrow. Three observations; the Chasars had two in Sagamore Hills on 12/7 and three at Jaite in the CVNP on 12/26 (DAC), while the Romitos had one on 2/15 at Ira Road (TMR).

Savannah Sparrow. Two birds could be found along Route 535 in Fairport Harbor on the rather late date of 12/23 (JT *fide* RH).

Fox Sparrow. Two were discovered in Sagamore Hills on 12/7 (DAC). The Cleveland Metropark's Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation feeders hosted one bird for five days in mid-February (JK).

Dark-eyed Junco. An "Oregon" male visited a North Perry feeder 2/26 and 2/28 (JP).

Eastern Meadowlark. Five documented on the 1/1 Burton Christmas Bird Count highlighted their survey (DB). On 1/13 Laura Jordan of

the Medina Raptor Center had a single bird visiting her farm's manure pile in Spencer Township (Medina County) (LJ).

Rusty Blackbird. As many as 17 frequented a Parkman feeder (Geauga County) the week of 1/12 (TG). At least 18 appeared on both 1/21 and 1/22 at Chagrin River Park (SDI).

Brewer's Blackbird. One joined a group of Rusty Blackbirds at a feeder in Parkman (Geauga County) on 1/12 through 1/16 (TG, LGt, LR).

Common Grackle. On 2/12 about 150 joined as many cowbirds at the Barberton Lime Lakes (LR). Over 250 were observed at Nesmith Lake on 2/15 (GB).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Larry Rosche had 150 mixed with an equal number of grackles at the Barberton Lime Lakes on 2/12 (LR).

Red Crossbill. Laura Gooch found an immature male at Shaker Lakes Nature Center on the morning of 12/10. Her description: "This was a somewhat

unusual looking bird. Bright yellow rump, Kodak yellow throat, some red coming in on head, streaking on back, some light edging on primaries and secondaries, no significant wing bars. I did not see the lower mandible clearly, but I think it did not have a fully-developed crossbill. I did not see the breast or under-tail coverts." (LGh).

White-winged Crossbill. On 12/22 a feeder visitor was found in Auburn Township (Geauga County) (*fide* GL). One took advantage of a North Perry feeder briefly on 1/1 (JP).

Common Redpoll. On 1/3 and 1/8 a single bird visited a North Perry feeder (JP).

Pine Siskin. North Perry had a feeder visitor on 1/8 (JP).

Exotics/Escapees: A Black Swan was seen at the Ira Road beaver marsh throughout January and February (TMR).



Rusty Blackbird, Chagrin River Park, 1-21-2010

Sally Isacco



Brewer's Blackbird, Parkman, Ohio, 1-11-2010

Tami Gingrich



Brewer's Blackbird, Parkman, Ohio, 1-11-2010

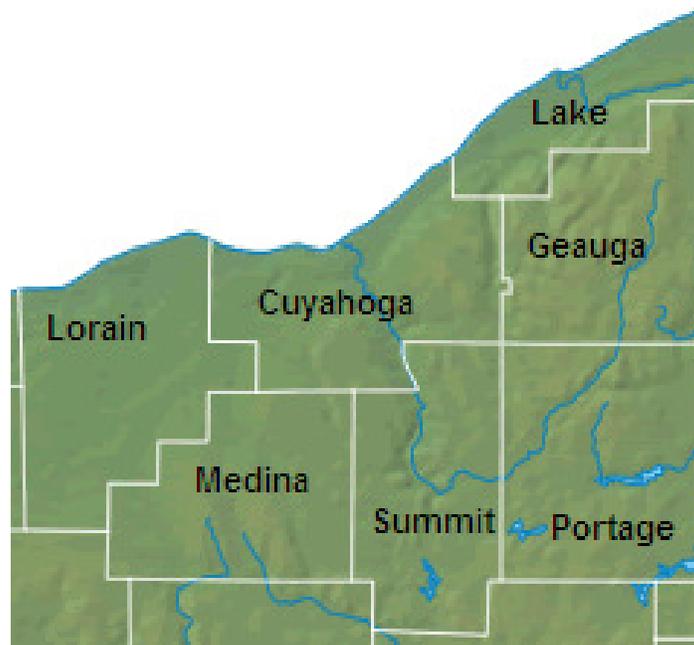
Tami Gingrich

Contributors

NA	Nancy Anderson *	RH	Ray Hannikman	JP	John Pogacnik *
GB	Greg Bennett	NH	Nancy Howell	SP	Susan Prior *
DB	Dan Best	SDI	Sally & Dave Isacco *	LRg	Lisa Rainsong *
SB	Sandy Brown *	SJ	Susan Jones *	JR	James Reyda
SC	Steve Cagan *	LJ	Laura Jordan	DR	Drew Rolik
CC	Craig Caldwell	PK	Paul Kiplinger *	TMR	Tom & Mary Anne Romito
DAC	Dwight & Ann Chasar	TK	Tim Krynak	LR	Larry Rosche
DC	Delores Cole	JK	Joann Kubicki *	IS	Inga Schmidt *
PC	Pat Coy *	GL	Gabe Leidy *	RS	Rosalyn Schrank
LD	Leo Deininger	JL	Julie Lindstrom	JS	Judy Semroc
GE	Greg Emmert *	FL	Fred Losi	JT	Jerry Talkington
BF	Bob Finkelstein	PL	Paula Lozano	KT	Karin Tanquist *
LGa	Lou Gardella *	AM	Aaron Milenski	DV	Doug Vogus *
LGt	Linda Gilbert	HO	Hope Orr	SW	Scott Wright *
TG	Tami Gingrich	BO	Bill Osborne		
LGh	Laura Gooch	KHO	Ken & Helen Ostermiller		

* 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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