



CLEVELAND REGION

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Published by

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

and

The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

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CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

From U. S. Weather Bureau Reports (Cleveland Hopkins Airport)

- March - Generally mild, with no protracted periods of much-below freezing temperatures. On the 10th, 2.2 inches of snow fell, and on the last three days, 4.5 inches fell. Precipitation totaling 5.21 inches was 2.08 inches above normal.
- April - Cold the first four days, but moderately warm thereafter. Total precipitation of 4.87 inches was well distributed throughout the month.
- May - Average temperature of 60.7° was well above normal, and on all but six days the maximum temperature was 65° or above. Rainfall totaled 3.02 inches, of which about one-third occurred on the 24th. Sunshine hours amounted to 75% of possible hours.

* * *

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COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Generally mild weather along the routes of travel south of the Cleveland region and the absence of protracted cold spells or extended periods of unfavorable winds produced two effects on spring migration: (1) many species arrived early, as is evidenced by the listing at the end of this commentary and in the Noteworthy Records section; (2) the flow of migrants was broadened or flattened out, so that while there were peaks of migration, these peaks were blunted.

In evaluating the season we must not overlook the exceptionally early flowering and leafing of trees and shrubs, which were about two weeks ahead of what we consider normal. For example, the black locust trees were leafing out by May 15, at which time, too, most of the oaks were already fully foliated. This condition made observation difficult, and undoubtedly caused us to conclude that some of the mid and late-May migrants, such as the Blackpoll, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers, were scarcer than was actually the case.

The discussion which follows attempts to present a brief chronology of the spring migration as well as its most interesting and significant aspects.

March. From the 5th through the 8th, large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds arrived together with smaller numbers of Killdeer, Robins, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Particularly notable were an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles flying east over Lakewood late in the afternoon of the 6th (Stasko). On the 8th, which is a new earliest date of occurrence, about 120 Whistling Swans flew over Waite Hill at mid-day headed northwest (Flanigan), while on the 10th an estimated 500 to 1,000 swans were observed traveling southeast over Hiram (Jon Bole fide Bole, Jr.)

April. Between the 9th and the 14th, Slate-colored Juncos became most abundant, and in that same period good numbers of Savannah, Vesper, Field, and Fox Sparrows were reported. White-throated Sparrows made their appearance in modest numbers from the 21st to the 23rd, but this species never reached any great abundance in either April or May.

Chimney Swifts returned to the campus of Kent State University on April 17, which is the earliest date in 21 years of record keeping (Dexter). However, the earliest arrival reported this spring was a single bird at Spencer Wildlife Area on the 11th. (Morse).

The first species of warbler reported was the Myrtle on the 10th, when six were counted in North Chagrin Reservation (Rooks) and two in Waite Hill (Sherwin). By the week end of 25-26, the Black end White, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Myrtle, and Palm Warblers were well represented.

On the afternoon of the 29th, a flight of 22 Broad-winged Hawks was seen moving northeast in the vicinity of Elyria (Morse), and

on the 30th, which was a cloudy, rainy day, a group of eight passed over Rocky River Reservation (Ackermann).

May. The flow of passerine migrants accelerated during the first ten days and reached a peak on the week end of 9-10 with the arrival of large numbers of Empidonax flycatchers, particularly the Least, Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo Bunting. Warblers continued to move through the region after the 10th, the Chestnut-sided and Magnolia being notably abundant on the 13th. By the 18th, however, the passage of migrants was much reduced, and no sizable movements were reported thereafter.

Migrating Nighthawks. Although late summer and early autumn flights of the Common Nighthawk are observed each year, rarely, if ever, has there been a report of a flight through the region in the spring. Thus of exceptional interest is a northward movement of approximately 20 birds which were following the course of the Rocky River Valley on the evening of May 20 (Barber).

Lekeline Migrants. For at least the past nine years we have been aware that the southern shoreline of Lake Erie serves as a west-to-east migration route for hawks, Killdeer, Yellow-shafted Flickers, and a great variety of passerines, notably the Blue Jay and the "blackbirds". Not until more recently, however, did we discover that in the case of the blackbirds there was also an east-to-west movement along the lake, the two opposing movements often occurring simultaneously.

Additional evidence of this counter-movement of blackbirds was secured this spring. Early on the morning of March 7 at Mentor Park, with the wind from the west southwest, some 100 Starlings, 4 Meadowlarks, and 230 Red-winged Blackbirds were observed flying low over the beach into the wind, while going with the wind at a height of 100-300 feet were 12 Crows, 65 Red-wings, and 4 Common Grackles (Hammond). On March 14 and 15 at Bratenahl along the cliffline overlooking the lake, Red-wings and Grackles were moving both east and west, though the major movement, which included Starlings and Meadowlarks, was to the west into a mild westerly wind (Newman). This dual movement was also noted at Perkins Beach, but at that point the greater flow was from west to east (Klamm).

Observations at Perkins Beach on nine week end dates from March 14 to May 16, chiefly by William and Nancy Klamm, disclosed a seemingly continuous passage of birds to the east. As early as March 14 hawk migration was underway, and five species were recorded, of which the Sparrow Hawk was the most numerous. Three Short-eared Owls were tallied, also. The bulk of the migrants that day consisted of blackbirds, though fair numbers of Killdeer, Mourning Doves, Common Crows, Eastern Bluebirds, and Eastern Meadowlarks were moving, too. On March 15 the Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk were in transit along the lakeline, and Robins had joined the procession of Common Crows, Eastern Bluebirds, and Icterids.

As an example of what can be seen at Perkins Beach when migratory conditions are favorable, the following is the tally of birds on April 12 between 9:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Klamm):

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|-------------------------|-----|
| Turkey Vulture | 38 | Green Heron | 2 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 2 | Mourning Dove | 11 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 48 | Yellow-shafted Flicker | 69 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 8 | Black-capped Chickadee | 222 |
| Marsh Hawk | 3 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 21 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Meadowlark | 9 |
| Sparrow Hawk | 3 | Blackbirds | 900 |

On May 2 at Perkins Beach a steady stream of birds was moving east throughout the morning and well into the afternoon. Twenty-five species were recorded, with the Barn Swallow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and American Goldfinch being especially numerous (Knight and Newman). Also on May 2, but to the east at Gordon Park, a similar movement of eastbound migrants was observed between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. During that period Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows were tallied in good numbers. Impressive, too, were the large flocks of Rock Doves -- as many as 85 in a group -- which were traveling east (Knight).

In a reversal of the predominant pattern of lakefront migration, small bands of Cedar Waxwings and of American Goldfinches, as well as an occasional Barn Swallow, were moving west past White City on the morning of May 24 (Newman).

Blue Jays in Migration. The annual springtime migration of Blue Jays east along the Lake Erie shoreline was first observed at Perkins Beach on April 18, which is at least one week earlier than this movement has been reported in the past six years. Only a dozen or so birds were recorded then, but numbers increased thereafter though they did not reach the high peak of some other years. The maximum count was 1,830 birds during a two-hour watch at Perkins Beach on the morning of May 3 (Newman). Yet these flights apparently continued well into May, for on the morning of the 16th at Perkins Beach 1,519 were recorded in 2 1/2 hours (Klamm).

Prior to this year only one small inland flight of Blue Jays had been reported, but this spring a number of small inland flights were observed. At Warrensville Farms in a half hour in the early afternoon of April 25 and again on the 26th, several dozen Jays passed from southwest to northeast at an altitude of 200 to 300 feet (Knight). In Forest Hill Park, Cleveland Heights, at 8:35 a.m. on May 3, a band of 21 birds streamed silently through the edge of the woods on a due east course, and in the same spot at 7:30 a.m. on May 5, three Jays were flying northeast at a height of at least 600 feet (Newman). Finally, at 8:00 a.m. on May 7 in Waite Hill, seven Jays headed northeast passed over at a height of no more than 75 feet (Flanigan).

Chickadees and Nuthatches Move East. As in the spring of 1962, the Lake Erie shoreline was the flight path of a large easterly movement of Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches. The size of this movement, which was also observed at Gordon Park on May 2 (Knight), is shown in the following data recorded at Perkins Beach during morning hours on the dates indicated (Klamm and Newman):

| | | <u>April</u> | | | <u>May</u> | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| | <u>11</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 90 | 222 | 233 | 123 | 93 | 51 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 31 | 21 | - | 5 | - | - |

Northern Finches Stay Late. Many of the flocks of Evening Grosbeaks which had wintered in the region remained through the first two months of spring, and they were reported from 11 localities. In March and early April at North Chagrin Reservation, from 75 to 85 birds sometimes appeared at the Trailside Museum feeding station (Rooks). Even as late as April 30, a flock of 50 Grosbeaks visited a feeder at Lake Lucerne, where from two to 30 birds had been irregular visitors during March and April; then on May 2, thirty-five were counted there (English). The last flock reported consisted of ten birds on May 11 at Waite Hill, from which the final record of the season -- "a bedraggled female" -- was reported on May 18 (Flanigan). The last record at the feeding station of Dr. R. C. McKay in Brecksville, where the largest wintering flock was observed, was of a female on May 17 (fide Dexter).

Small bands of Pine Siskins were quite commonly observed during the last half of April and the first week of May. On May 2 at Perkins Beach and at Gordon Park, flocks of a dozen or so birds were moving east along the lakeline. Final record was of a dozen birds feeding on the seeds of an American elm tree in Bratenahl on the late date of May 24 (Newman).

As was true during the winter of 1963-64, the Red Crossbill was reported almost exclusively from an area lying within the Chagrin River watershed. The one exception was a band of four birds observed in Akron on March 10 (Hjelmquist). In all, this species was recorded in eight localities. During March the largest number reported was 14 birds at a feeder in Waite Hill on the 8th (Klamm), and in April the maximum was an estimated 50 birds in a flock in North Chagrin Reservation on the 19th (Rooks). Also in April, from the 16th to the 26th, seven males and three females were regular visitors to a feeder in Mayfield Heights (Staley). In May at a feeder in Waite Hill which a flock had visited all winter, 20 Red Crossbills were counted on the 8th, which was the last date of occurrence there (fide Sherwin). At a feeder in West Geauga, where two males and two females had been steady visitors during the winter, none appeared in March; but on April 28, a female was recorded, then a pair on May 5, and a female again on May 17 and 31 (Kremm).

Although flights of Red Crossbills have been observed in the autumn along the Lake Erie shore, seemingly none has ever been reported in the spring. Thus of especial interest is the report of an "enormous flight, 250-300 birds, in groups of 10 to 20 traveling southwest at Gordon Park on May 16" (Bole, Jr.).

The White-winged Crossbill, for which there were only a few winter records, was observed in just four localities, all of them lying within the Chagrin River watershed. The largest number was four at a feeder in Waite Hill on March 22 (Klamm); and the final record was of three birds feeding in a group of Austrian pines in Richmond Heights on April 10 (Kitson).

New Occurrence Dates. For annotation in "Birds of the Cleveland Region" are the following new earliest and latest dates of occurrence:

New Earliest Spring Date

Belted Kingfisher (2) - March 1, Clifton Park lagoon (Stasko)
 Acadian Flycatcher (2) - April 30, Waite Hill (Flanigan)
 Tree Swallow (3) - March)A, LaDue Reservoir (English)
 Loggerhead Shrike (1) - March 2, Highland Heights (Baynes)
 Golden-winged Warbler (1) - April 28, North Chagrin Reservation (Rooks)
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (1) - April 17, Cuyahoga Falls (Hjelmquist)
 Northern Waterthrush (1) - April 11, Rocky River Reservation (Siebert)
 Mourning Warbler (1) - May 2, North Chagrin Reservation (Rooks)

New Latest Spring Date

Whistling Swan (1) - May 29, North Chagrin Reservation (Rooks)
 Palm Warbler (1) - May 29, Rocky River Reservation (Ackermann)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Eared Grebe - On a farm pond in Kirtland Hills Village one bird was present from April 30 to May 6 (Bole, Jr.). This is the first May record in the history of the region.

Cattle Egret - (1) In Munson Township, Geauga County, three birds were seen on April 18, and they remained a full week according to the farmer who discovered them on his land. They spent the night in a swampy area and usually passed the day in the pasture with a herd of cows. After the first week the birds disappeared, but one was seen again on May 2 and 3, even trailing after the farmer as he traveled across his fields on a manure spreader (fide Ramisch, who saw and definitely identified one bird on April 25). (2) At a farm near Chesterland one bird was observed in the barnyard atop a pile of manure on April 28 (Carrothers) and was recorded also on May 2 (Rooks). The owner of the farm stated that the bird was present from April 23 to 29, and again on several dates in May as late as the 26th (fide Carrothers). This is the third successive spring this species has been recorded in the region, but this is the first time more than one bird has been reported.

Common Egret - At LaDue Reservoir on March 25, one bird was "seen fishing all day" and was observed to catch and swallow an 8-10 inch bass (English). This is a new earliest date of occurrence.

Snow Goose - (1) In the late afternoon of March 15, a flock of about 50 birds passed over Painesville headed in a generally northerly direction at a height of 500 to 700 feet (Mantz). (2) At mid-day on March 29, near Aurora a vee of 13 birds plus one Blue Goose was observed for several minutes as they circled overhead and then flew off to the east (Tramer). These are only the second and third records of spring migrants in the history of the region.

European Widgeon - A male, in the company of three Shovelers, was identified on a small pond in Akron on March 28 (Hjelmquist).

Pigeon Hawk - Among the migrant hawks moving east past Perkins Beach on March 14 and on April 26 was one bird of this species (Klamm). On April 29 in Bratenahl a female was observed at the edge of a small woodland (Baynes).

Sandhill Crane - Two birds were recorded on the morning of April 12: one soaring and drifting in an easterly direction over Rocky River Reservation near the Stinchcomb Memorial (Stasko and Coristine); one at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation, where it appeared out of the northwest, flew low over the nearby brushy meadow as though seeking to alight, and then moved off toward the southeast, meanwhile calling frequently (Rooks). These are just the fourth and fifth records in the present century.

Piping Plover - At White City on April 17 a single bird was feeding along the narrow sandspit which extends into the inner basin (Raynes and Carrothers). This is the first spring record since April 1951.

Black-bellied Plover - Late in the afternoon of April 20, with a cold, misty rain limiting visibility, nine birds -- "in varying stages of plumage, some quite advanced" -- were feeding in a newly-plowed field in Waite Hill, together with six Dunlin (Sherwin). This is a new earliest date of occurrence for this plover.

Baird's Sandpiper - Three birds, in the company of a few Semipalmated Sandpipers and five Dunlin, were identified at White City on May 25, while on the 28th a springtime high of eleven was counted there (Raynes). There are just two prior spring records for the region.

Iceland Gull - One of the two or more birds which wintered at the harbor in Lorain was observed there on March 1 (Klamm).

Laughing Gull - For at least two hours on the morning of May 24, a single bird stood at rest along the edge of the narrow sandspit which arcs across the inner basin at White City, where a few immature Ring-billed and immature Bonaparte's Gulls were also resting. Finally, it took to the air alone, heading west into a strong westerly wind (Newman). This is the second spring record for the region.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker - On the wooded property of a residence in Walton Hills, just across the road from Bedford Reservation, a female bird was studied at a distance of no more than 50 feet on April 5, as it worked on several trees both living and dead (Ralsten). Seemingly this is the same bird that was observed in the Reservation on February 9, 1964.

Boreal Chickadee - In Columbia Township, Lorain County, a single bird was recorded on five dates in March from the 7th to the 14th, then again on the 31st, and lastly on April 2. Each time it was feeding on suet at a feeder located only three feet from the window of the observer's house; on two occasions the bird uttered its distinctive call (Stelter). The only previous confirmed record of occurrence is of a bird in Rocky River Reservation on November 16, 1963.

Bewick's Wren - One was seen on May 9 at Shaker Lakes (Tramer).

Mockingbird - One April record and five May records are the largest number reported since the spring of 1959 when there was a total of five records. The most surprising report was of a bird on May 12 and on May 25 in old Monroe Street Cemetery located in a semi-industrial area on Cleveland's near West Side (Martin).

White-eyed Vireo - There was an exceptionally large number of records this spring: (1) at Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls, one singing bird on April 19 and two on April 21, both of which are new earliest dates of occurrence (Hjelmquist); (2) a singing bird in South Chagrin Reservation on May 3 (Knight); (3) one in Mentor on May 4 (Hammond); (4) at a residence near Grafton a pair (one singing continuously, the other silent) was observed on May 2, and from May 22 to the end of the month one bird was seen and heard regularly in nearby heavy undergrowth (Morse).

Brewster's Warbler - One bird was identified at Spencer Wildlife Area on April 26 (Morse), which is the first April record for the region and is the only record since May 1959.

Yellow-throated Warbler - For well over one hour on the morning of May 9 at a residence in Mayfield Heights, a singing male foraged for insects in a small grove of flowering quaking aspen and white ash trees; and on the following day this bird (presumably the same one) was seen briefly again (Staley).

Pine Warbler - Uncommon in both spring and fall, this species is normally recorded as just a few single scattered birds. This spring, however, two birds were seen and heard in the pine groves at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation on April 18, then four the next day, and these four apparently remained through April 28 (Rooks). At Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Cuyahoga Falls, three were observed on April 24 (Hjelmquist).

Prairie Warbler - A singing bird was seen on the morning of May 10 at the Trailside Museum parking lot in North Chagrin Reservation, and, presumably, this same bird was singing there throughout the morning of the next day (Rooks).

Kentucky Warbler - One bird was reported from Spencer Wildlife Area on May 23 (Morse).

Western Meadowlark - On the evening of April 30 and again on the evening of May 1, a singing bird was observed in the top of a tree in a field along Route 10 near Elyria, but it was not found in the area thereafter (Morse). This is the first record from the western portion of the region.

Brewer's Blackbird - In the vicinity of Stow on March 31, among a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Common Grackles, three birds of this species were identified in bright sunlight and in direct comparison with the Grackles (Hjelmquist). This is the second spring record in the history of the region and is the first March record.

Blue Grosbeak - For about ten minutes shortly after 6:00 p.m. on May 4, at a residence in Pepper Pike Village, a male bird hopped about on the ground and fed on seeds which had fallen from a feeding tray (Griffiths).

House Finch - This newcomer to the region, whose occurrence was first definitely established in the winter of 1963-64, has apparently begun already to enlarge its area of occurrence. One was identified on April 19 at Holden Arboretum, which was the site of the original sighting; and at nearby Hanging Rock Farm, where several had wintered, a pair were regular feeding station visitors until May 10 (Bole, Jr.). A single male, in the company of House Sparrows, came to a feeding station in Mentor on April 23 and 24 (Hammond). A third record is of a solitary bird seen briefly on April 29 at Sunset Pond in North Chagrin Reservation (Collins).

Dickcissel - At a residence in Mentor where a female or immature bird was present from November 27 to December 1, 1963, a female occurred again on May 1 and 2. Like the earlier visitor, she foraged on the ground beneath a feeding tray and in the company of House Sparrows, though she remained apart from them at other times (Fais).

Le Conte's Sparrow - On the morning of April 9, near Stow, a single bird was studied for some ten minutes at a distance of about 12 feet as it stood in a grassy ditch preening its feathers (Hjelmquist). Of the two previous records in the history of the region, one is of a bird observed in April 1962 and the other of a sickly bird taken alive in December 1962.

Oregon Junco - Single feeding station visitors were reported from Painesville on March 17 and 23, and April 5 (Storer), and from Waite Hill, March 30 to April 1 (Flanigan).

FIELD NOTES

Migrants at Night. On the night of May 6 at my home in Shaker Heights, I lay awake in bed listening to a large movement of passerines calling to one another as they flew over. A light overcast had moved in and, therefore, the birds were flying low, with the result that their call notes bounced off the clouds to become more audible below. The movement began after midnight and continued well past 1:00 a.m. (I fell asleep sometime after that hour). During one twenty-minute period I counted no less than 147 "peep" notes. Over two-thirds of these were notes of Swainson's Thrushes. The rest were probably warblers and fringillids, although I heard at least one Veery. - ELLIOT TRAMER

Starling Evicts Flicker from Nesting Hole. At our home in Waite Hill on May 6, I heard the loud complaining call of a Yellow-shafted Flicker, which I observed as it backed out of its nesting hole about 40 feet up in a dead tree. The Flicker was struggling with a Starling which it had grasped by the leg in order to drag this intruder out of the hole. The two birds then fell into the leafy trees below and out of my sight, but seconds later the Starling flew up into the hole with the Flicker right after it. They both disappeared inside. Soon, however, they reappeared, again with the Flicker holding tightly to the Starling's leg, and they both dropped to the ground. This performance was repeated a third and a fourth time, though this last time the birds remained in the hole for about five minutes. Following the fourth descent to the ground, the Starling flew back to the hole, entered, and then promptly stuck its head out of the opening; meanwhile the Flicker simply disappeared. The next morning the Starling was in complete possession of the hole, despite the fact that the Flicker had chiseled out this nesting site. - ANNETTE B. FLANIGAN

The "Anting" Grackle. Some birds are known to make a practice of crushing ants for the formic acid which their bodies contain. With a crushed ant in the bill, the bird will preen, working the acid into its feathers and under its wings. Presumably the acid will drive vermin from the bird's body.

In May 1963 and again this spring at my home in Lyndhurst, I observed a Common Grackle "anting" with mothballs instead of ants. The mothballs were available because each March I scatter them throughout the daffodil and tulips beds to ward off nibbling rabbits. After thoroughly rubbing its breast and back with a mothball, the Grackle would then attempt to deposit the ball under its wing, where vermin are presumably plentiful. On one occasion my wife and I saw the bird make half a dozen attempts to hold a mothball against its body with its wing, but without success. Between failures the bird would walk around the ball as though expecting it to move; or possibly it was contemplating another holding technique. - GLENN KITSON

Birds Use String for Nesting Material. This spring at our home in Waite Hill I had an opportunity to watch three species of birds -- Eastern Kingbird, Robin, Baltimore Oriole -- gather nesting material which I put out for them. I was impelled to do this when, on May 13, I saw a pair of Baltimore Orioles come to the wisteria vine alongside the porch and tug at the cords that fasten the vine to a metal pipe. Though they examined the entire vine, they did not find any loose pieces of cord. I then cut 30 sections of string and looped them over the vine.

Within half an hour after the string was put out, a male Robin had gathered all of the pieces except for a few which I had loosely tied to the vine. In late afternoon I put out more string, which the Robin soon carried off for use in its nest being built in a pear tree in the yard. The two Orioles returned to the wisteria vine at 8:00 p.m., at which time all of the string was gone. But that evening I strung out an additional supply in the vine, so that the string would be available the following morning.

At 8:30 a.m. on May 14 the female Baltimore Oriole came to the vine and took eight pieces of string, and she came again at 6:00 p.m. On the 15th she made at least six visits, taking all the string I had put out. With the exception of May 20, she continued to gather string on each of the next six days through the 22nd. The male sometimes perched in a tree near the wisteria vine and seemed to be watching the female when she came to the vine to obtain the string, but I never saw him pick up a piece.

The Eastern Kingbird, which was building its nest in the very top of an apple tree, first came for string on May 23, and then returned for more on the next four days. But on the 28th both birds were gathering grasses, and no string was taken.

Each of the three species gathered the string in a different manner. The Robin picked up piece after piece until its bill held all it could accommodate, after which the bird flew off with the entire mass. Using the opposite technique, the Oriole selected one piece at a time, flew off with it, and then returned for another piece, keeping this up until the supply was exhausted. The Kingbird took the string on the fly, which necessitated much hovering and beating of wings; and it was not always successful on the first attempt.

About one week before I became a supplier of string, I observed a female Baltimore Oriole gathering material for her nest from last year's marsh reeds, from which she stripped thin strands about 2 1/2 feet long. When she had collected about six of them, she flew off with the strands streaming from her bill. - ANNETTE
B. FLANIGAN