



CLEVELAND REGION

*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

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek               | 30 Lake Rockwell             |
| 2 North Amherst              | 31 White City                |
| 3 Lorain                     | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation  |
| 4 Black River                | 33 Chagrin River             |
| 5 Elyria                     | 34 Willoughby                |
| 6 LaGrange                   | Waite Hill                   |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake           | 35 Sherwin Pond              |
| 8 Clague Park                | 36 Gildersleeve              |
| 9 Clifton Park               | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River               | 38 Gates Mills               |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina                    | 40 Aurora Lake               |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation      | 41 Aurora Sanctuary          |
| 14 Edgewater Park            | 42 Mantua                    |
| Perkins Beach                | 43 Mentor Headlands          |
| 15 Terminal Tower            | 44 Mentor Marsh              |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square   | 45 Black Brook               |
| Cuyahoga River               | Headlands State Park         |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation   | 46 Fairport Harbor           |
| 18 Akron                     | 47 Painesville               |
| Cuyahoga Falls               | 48 Grand River               |
| 19 Akron Lakes               | 49 Little Mountain           |
| 20 Gordon. Park              | Holden Arboretum             |
| Illuminating Co. plant       | 50 Corning Lake              |
| 21 Doan Brook                | 51 Stebbin's Gulch           |
| 22 Natural Science Museum    | 52 Chardon                   |
| Wade Park                    | 53 Burton                    |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir         | 54 Punderson Lake            |
| 24 Shaker Lakes              | 55 Fern Lake                 |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery        | 56 LaDue Reservoir           |
| 26 Forest Hill Park          | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area     |
| 27 Bedford Reservation       |                              |
| 28 Hudson                    |                              |
| 29 Kent                      |                              |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT  
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor

Ray Hannikman

Assistant Editor

Elinor Elder

Weather Summary

William A. Klamm

Editorial Assistant

Jean Hoffman

CONTRIBUTORS

Kay Booth  
Dave Corbin  
Elinor Elder  
Joe Emery  
Pat Haddad  
Ray Hannikman  
Rob Harlan  
Dick & Jean Hoffman  
Perry Johnson  
Tom Kellerman  
William & Nancy Klamm

Charles Klaus  
Walter Kremm  
Tom LePage  
Jeff Maugans  
Jack & Dorothy Miller  
Perry Peskin  
John Pogacnik  
Richard Rickard  
Larry Rosche  
Trevor Vidic

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

All records, observations, and comments should be sent to:

Ray Hannikman  
440 East 260th Street  
Euclid, Ohio 44132

THE WEATHER

Fall 1985

September - Temperatures averaged out to 64.9 degrees, 0.8 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation, on 7 days, totalled 2.05 inches, 0.87 inches below normal. Lake Erie water temperature fell from 71 degrees on the 1st to 68 degrees on the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 70% of the time possible.

October - Temperatures averaged out to 54.0 degrees, 0.8 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 3.45 inches, 1.00 inch above normal. Lake Erie water temperature fell to 59 degrees on the 31st. Sunshine prevailed 49% of the time possible.

November - Precipitation occurred on 21 days and totaled 8.80 inches, 6.04 inches above normal. It was the wettest November in recorded times. Sunshine prevailed a scant 14% of the time possible. Temperatures averaged out to 46.0 degrees, 4.2 degrees above normal. Lake Erie water temperature declined to 48 degrees by the 30th.

## COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Fall 1985 birding had it all exciting rarities, a spectacular, but localized one-day "fall-in" of migrants on October 6, strong lakefront and inland movements of waterfowl, and a promising start for the winter finches. The fall routine goes something like this: check one's favorite near-to-home spot(s) for migrant warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows, etc., and then it's on to the lakefront. As the seasons progresses and passerine migrants diminish the lakefront draws more attention until, by mid-November, it becomes the start for a day in the field. And that is what the Cleveland Bird Calendar is all about - a summary of all the days in the field for all of its contributors.

Common Loon - The following table summarizes the most noteworthy movements of Common Loons --

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Flight Direction/Winds</u>
11/15	214	East 72nd	Not Recorded
11/17	68	East 55th	Strong SW Winds, movement to the SE
11/21	60	Bratenahl	Westerly winds, movement to the NW over the lake
11/21	42	Gordon Park	Westerly winds, movement to S & SW
11/21	91	Lee Road Cleve. Hts.	Overhead to the south
11/24	45	West Side "Y"	Overhead
11/24	98	Ohio Turnpike	Cuy. & Lorain Counties

A most interesting observation of Common Loons occurred on November 24. 126 loons were observed moving west to southwest over East 55th Street between 7:10 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. Winds were from the west at about 10 - 20 mph. The observers noted that the loons were getting higher as the observation period progressed. Next observations came at East 9th Street at 8:55 a.m. when 61 loons were noted very high in the sky and again moving to the southwest (Hoffman). This puts a new twist into our continuously evolving knowledge of lakefront loon movements; namely, that rather than movements being limited to very early morning hours and then ceasing, as most past observations had indicated, the birds continue to migrate but only at ever increasing heights well beyond the range of binoculars. What new facets of loon migration the ensuing years bring will keep lakefront loon watchers on their toes.

Tundra Swan - Swan day, fall 1985, was without a doubt November 15. In a period of several hours, a count of 3,133 swans was made at East 72nd Street (LePage). Every now and then, when conditions are right and lucky observers are in the right place, it seems that a tremendous swan day occurs. Numbers as above have not been witnessed locally since November 11, 1977 (see CBC Vol. 73, No. 4). Indicative of the swan influx of November 15 were the following observations from Cleveland's west side: 600 in Lakewood and 160 at Edgewater (Klamm). Other good-sized flocks were 86 at Lake Rockwell on November 11 and 12 and 106 at Gordon Park on November 21.

Brant - This species staged an unprecedented incursion into the Cleveland area in mid-November. On November 11 what was probably the same group of 19-21+ Brant was noted initially moving eastward past Edgewater and then inside Gordon Park (Klamm). The birds then took off heading further eastward and were noted at Sims Park about 3:00 p.m. (Hannikman). Undoubtedly different birds, 33 Brant were observed in the Gordon Park area on November 12 while 30 inside the Impoundment and 4 on the grass just to the west of the Impoundment were found on November 14. 13 birds remained inside the Impoundment on November 15 while 4-6 birds nonchalantly remained at the grassy area until the 17th. Other Brant records were 4 birds late in the afternoon at Lorain on November 11 and 2 at Edgewater on the 16th. The flock of 33 Brant on November 12 was the second largest number ever reported in CBC history only surpassed by 36 in Painesville way back on March 9, 1924.

Other Waterfowl - Lucky were the observers who were along the lakefront on November 11. In addition to the aforementioned Brant, other highlights were: 34 Black Scoters, and 7,000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Sims Park where the birds literally filled the late afternoon sky. Peak numbers of this species occurred November 22 when an estimated 25,000 Red-breasted Mergansers were between Lakewood and Cleveland (LePage). The November 11 waterfowl push was not confined to just lakefront areas as the 22 species of waterfowl that were found at Lake Rockwell that afternoon indicated (Rosche). Noteworthy records from this location were: Snow Goose, October 26, November 7-11, 255 American Widgeon on October 6, and 350 Hooded Mergansers on November 30 (Rosche).

Shorebirds - Surprisingly late for so many birds was the

count of 34 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Burke Airport on October 24. This species was present in good numbers at this location after September 14 with the high count of 55 on September 29. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at Burke on September 30 with 22 birds with a half-dozen or so individuals remaining through early November. Single Whimbrels were noted at Burke Airport and Gordon Park on several dates in September and October with a tardy bird present at Burke on October 18. Other shorebird highlights at Gordon Park were: 1-2 Baird's Sandpipers continuously present until October 20, sporadic Western Sandpipers, and up to 7 Red Knots through October 20.

The Barberton Salt Pond was regularly surveyed throughout the season and the results added to present knowledge about inland shorebird patterns. Among the most noteworthy sightings were 60 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Cleveland area record high count of 8 Wilson's Phalaropes, and 2 Ruddy Turnstones on September 4, 42 Least Sandpipers on October 3, and a rare inland appearance of Red Knot on September 21 (Rosche). A late inland push of Pectoral Sandpipers on October 20 and 24 Northern Killdeer on November 30 rounded out the shorebird picture at this location. At West Branch State Park Killdeer were very numerous through the end of October, from 1-3 Baird's Sandpipers were present from early September through October 5, and a Western Sandpiper was found on October 5.

Another area that attracted regular visits to record shorebirds was Baldwin Lake. Here highlights were Western Sandpiper on September 11 and Stilt Sandpiper on September 27 (Harlan).

Gulls - 1-2 Laughing Gulls, remnants from August's invasion, were regular at Gordon Park from September 1 to October 10. Thereafter the only sighting was of a first-winter bird at Lorain from November 24 to 30. This species has never been recorded any later in the fall than the latter date. Franklin's Gulls were noted only as single birds and only on eight dates during the season. 20,000+ Ring-billed Gulls were tallied along the lakefront from mid-November on. With the build-up of gulls in the last half of November came the expected sporadic sightings of the rare larids - Glaucous Gulls and Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. All reports of the latter species were of adults at either Eastlake or Lorain.

Terns - The mudflat at Gordon Park and the "tireflat" at Lorain attracted good numbers of terns. 2,000 Common Terns at Lorain on September 9 was the highest count reported. After September 22 very few Common Terns were recorded, and no Black Terns, which had been seen in numbers up to 400 in early September, were noted after this date. From 1-3 Forster's Terns could be identified among the Common Terns at Gordon Park during September (Klamm).

Common Nighthawk - Well in excess of 300 Common Nighthawks were encountered on State Route 303 and the Akron Peninsula Road towards Blossom Music Center on September 1 (Elder). Only other double-digit tally was 15+ birds from Lakewood on September 7. A lone nighthawk on September 15 rounded out the fall migration for this species.

Water Pipit - Normally a species that does not elicit much comment from observers, counts of 150 on September 29 and 115 on September 30 from the lakefront areas of Burke Airport and Gordon Park were noteworthy. Good counts of pipits continued along the lakefront until mid-October.

Warblers - Two contributors who were out nearly every day in the fall noted that the best warbler days occurred in twos: September 3 and 4 (11 and 15 species); September 11 and 12 (11 and 10 species); September 15 and 16 (16 and 14 species); and September 22 and 23 (16 and 17 species) (Klamm). Otherwise, the warbler migration was characterized by steady numbers, both of species and individuals, with no fallouts (except for October 6) caused by cool fronts from the north.

Winter Finches - Very moderate numbers of winter finches were reported. Evening Grosbeaks were mentioned on two specific dates with 88 birds passing overhead through Kent on October 11 (Rosche) being the only sizeable number. Common Redpolls were encountered throughout November with the largest flocks as follows: 50-60 in Lorain on November 30 (Pogacnik), 56 at Lakewood Park on November 14 (LePage), and 50 at Gordon Park on November 17 (Harlan). 24 Pine Siskins on October 24 at West Branch State Park completed the winter finch picture.

Sparrows - The Gordon Park Impoundment was alive with White-crowned Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows (250+ and 160+ respectively) on October 11. One observer noted it was the best movement of White-crowned Sparrows he had ever witnessed (LePage). Gordon Park's large area, big enough to draw

in many birds, its lakefront location, the first land sparrows hit after a fall trans-lake flight, and its weedy and often-times dense grassy areas, excellent places for ground-dwelling sparrows to feed, rest, and hide make this location the area's premier place to search for and study sparrows.

YEARLY SUMMARY - In the Bird Calendar year now ended (December 1, 1984 to November 30, 1985), 273 species of birds were recorded in the Cleveland area. Highlights included Western Grebe, American White Pelican, LeConte's Sparrow, and record numbers of Brant and Laughing Gulls. No new species were added to the Cleveland list.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-throated Loon - Three birds, an excellent total, were observed - at Lake Rockwell on November 11 and 12 (Rosche), at LaDue Reservoir on November 23 (fide Hannikman), and at Mentor Headlands on November 30 (Rosche).

Eared Grebe - Single birds were at Lorain on November 9 and 10 (Rosche, Pogacnik) and near Huntington Beach on November 25 (Kellerman).

Western Grebe - A lone bird associated with Horned Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers off Huntington Beach on the afternoon of November 24 (Klamm). Only the third record ever in the Cleveland area (first since November 3, 1968), this sighting was the first from Lake Erie waters as the previous birds were noted from the Akron Lakes of Lake Pippin and LaDue Reservoir, Western Grebe has recently been split into two species, Western Grebe and Clark's Grebe. Easiest differentiating characteristic between the two is that Clark's Grebe has the white area on the face extending above the eye. The more likely bird east of the Mississippi is Western Grebe.

American White Pelican - Two were found early in the morning of September 1 at Gordon Park (Henderson). Only the second CBC record, it was, however, only in 1984 that this species first was recorded locally. Pelicans are rare, but regular summer and fall visitors to the Western part of Ohio, so contributors should be looking out for this bird along the lakefront.

American Bittern - (1) Gordon Park sightings were single birds on September 22 (Klamm) and September 29 and 30 (Rosche). (2) Another bird was startled from its roost near the boardwalk at Herrick Fen, near Streetsboro, on October 8 (Vidic).

King Eider - A lone bird was at Edgewater Park on November 13, 17 and 18 (LePage, Hoffman). On November 24 at Lorain 7 King Eiders, including 2 immature males, flew into the harbor area and soon departed (LePage, Harlan). This flock was the largest numbers of this species ever observed in the Cleveland area.

Harlequin Duck - Females were seen at Lorain on November 2 (Klamm) and Perry (Rosche) on November 10.

Bald Eagle - Two birds were reported - an adult at Lake Rockwell October 15, 25, and 26 (Rosche, Elder), and one, age not reported, in Painesville on October 21 (Miller).

Peregrine Falcon - Probably two birds occurred at Gordon Park - on September 9 (Maugans) and on four dates from October 1 - 17 (several observers).

Piping Plover - From 1-2 birds were present at Gordon Park September 6-9 (several observers).

Hudsonian Godwit - A new late fall departure date was established when a lone bird appeared at Burke Airport on November 24 (LePage, Emery). This bird was probably the same bird that had been noted at Edgewater Park on November 22 (LePage). Other fall sightings were single birds on September 9 and 21, 2 birds on October 5, and 4 birds on September 22, all at Gordon Park (Hannikman, Harlan, Klamm), and 2 birds at Burke Airport October 12-14 (Klamm).

Ruddy Turnstone -- Two birds dawdled at Burke Airport from November 1-10 (Klamm).

Least Sandpiper - Three birds present at the Barberton Salt Pond on November 30 established a new late fall date (Rosche). Previous late date was November 27, 1953.

White-rumped Sandpiper - Present continuously from September 11 through September 30 at Gordon Park, maximum count was three on the 25th (several observers).

Purple Sandpiper - Single birds were at Edgewater Park on the early date of October 31 (LePage) and Lorain on November 11 (Pogacnik).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Birds were present as follows: at Gordon Park - a single bird from September 2 through 10 and at Burke Airport - maximum of two birds on September 13 and 16 with single birds present on several dates until October 11.

Red-necked Phalarope - Only records were single birds at Barberton September 2-4 and September 11 (Rosche).

Red Phalarope - One bird was at Gordon Park on September 25 (Klamm, LePage) and one remained in casual water near the North Marginal Roadway at Burke Airport November 7 and 8 (Klamm).

Jaeger (sp.?) - Single immature jaegers were noted at Rocky River on November 20 (LePage) and flying westward past Sims Park on November 24 exactly one year after an immature Parasitic Jaeger was identified there (Hannikman).

Black-legged Kittiwake - An apparently injured first-winter bird remained on the water off the western end of Gordon Park on November 17 (LePage, Hoffman). Another individual was at Lorain on November 24 and 29 (LePage, Rosche).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - A lone bird, present on several unreported dates in November at Gordon Park, was last seen on the 24th (Rickard). This species has never been recorded locally in the month of November and the 24th thus becomes the new late fall date for the species. Previous late fall date was October 27, 1963. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo present so late seemed odd for a year which saw very few of this species reported to the Calendar.

Northern Saw-whet Owl - One remained at Donald Gray Gardens November 8-10 (Klamm et al.).

Bank Swallow - Curious was a lone bird at Gordon Park on September 15 (Hoffman). No other Bank Swallows were reported after August 7 until this late migrant.

Wood Thrush - A doomed individual remained at Chester Commons in downtown Cleveland from October 28 to the end of the period (Hannikman). The bird had an apparently injured wing which undoubtedly prevented it from migrating further south and which ultimately sealed its fate.

Solitary Vireo - A new late fall date was established when one was located at Sims Park on November 22 (Corbin). Previous late date was November 17, 1980.

Palm Warbler - Second latest fall date ever occurred when one was found at Edgewater on November 11 (Hoffman).

Mourning Warbler - A bird judged to be an immature female was discovered at a woodlot along Lakeshore Boulevard in Willowick on November 2 (Corbin). Not only a new late fall date for this species and also a first November record, it was the latest Oporornis warbler ever in CBC files. Previous late fall date for Mourning Warbler was October 22, 1961.

Dickcissel - One was discovered at a feeder in Cuyahoga Falls on November 24 and remained until December 1 (Haddad).

LeConte's Sparrow - For the account of this species see the Field Notes section.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow - From 1-2 individuals occurred at Gordon Park from September 30 to October 21 (several observers) while 2 were at Barberton on October 3 (Rosche).

Yellow-headed Blackbird - An adult male was at Gordon Park about dawn on October 26 (Emery).

Northern Oriole - A very late bird was located at Mentor Headlands on October 26 (Rosche, Hannikman).

#### FIELD NOTES

A Not-so-Swift Swift At noon I observed an immature Peregrine Falcon, occasionally being harassed by Chimney Swifts, lazily drifting east over the Gordon Park Impoundment. At one point it made a couple of lightning quick turns and suddenly it had a Chimney Swift which it had caught in flight! The Peregrine continued lazily sailing along the Lake Erie shore and I watched it in my scope until it was out of sight. Every now and then the Peregrine dropped the swift beneath it with its legs and then brought it forward to take a bite. JOE EMERY

The Day Migration Stopped October 6, 1985 was probably the best fall birding day in the history of Sims Park in Euclid. The day started out with thunderstorms. These thunderstorms produced hail which accumulated to about 1/4 inch at my house. I could tell that this weather was localized as I could see sunny skies to the south and west and I found out when I got to Gordon Park that this area did not experience our storm. After the rain and hail stopped, I stepped outside my house and passing overhead were dozens of birds, Yellow-rumped Warblers and both kinglets. I said to myself, "I've got to get

to Sims." and I proceeded to get dressed. When I got to Sims I found the park teeming with grounded migrants. Most numerous were the following - White-throated Sparrow, 200+, Hermit Thrush, 60+, Golden-crowned Kinglet, 60+, Dark-eyed Junco, 50+, Palm Warbler, 12, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, 40+. Other interesting birds were about a dozen Winter Wrens, 2 Sedge Wrens, 6 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Returning to Sims Park after Gordon Park, the park was still full of birds, it seemed as if nothing had departed. Both Dave Corbin and I remarked that neither of us had ever experienced such a number of Hermit Thrushes at the park. I even had about a half-dozen Hermit Thrushes in my backyard and neighboring yards. Most of the migrants probably would have passed right through the area without stopping had they not been grounded by the early morning storm. My mistake was that I did not go to Mentor Headlands. I could see the dark storm clouds all along the lakefront to the east and other lakefront parks possibly were experiencing the same type of influx of birds as was happening at Sims Park. I'll know better next time. Dave Corbin reported about two dozen Hermit Thrushes and loads of White-throated Sparrows the next day at Sims - these were the remnants from a storm that literally stopped migration for a day. RAY HANNIKMAN

Sharp-shinned Hawk in Kent - Mrs. Anita S. Foote maintains a half-dozen bird feeders in and about her backyard in Kent. The yard is a small fenced-in plot that shares a variety of large shade trees with the bordering yards of this older housing development near the Kent State University campus. Mrs. Foote enjoys a wide number of bird species visiting her yard, including hunting Cooper's Hawks in the deep snows of past winters despite the absence of any significant stands of woods in the area.

On the morning of October 28, Mrs. Foote sighted the first Dark-eyed Junco of the season. Later that afternoon, she looked out the kitchen window to see if any more juncos had arrived when she noticed the feeder areas were unusually quiet. The yard was void of birds except for a "blue Jay-sized" bird with a very long tail. This bird, perched conspicuously on a low branch of a peach tree, was bobbing up and down as if it was unable to decide whether to fly off or remain on the branch. Just as she realized that it was a small hawk, the bird jumped from its perch with wings outspread into an evergreen bush at the base of the peach tree. The bush exploded with small birds fleeing in all directions as the hawk wheeled to pursue a group of the frantic birds.

The suddenness and speed of the attack left Mrs. Foote unaware momentarily of what was happening as no birds could be seen within the limited field of vision of the window. Then she saw the hawk hopping along the lawn with a sparrow-sized bird in its clutches and flapping its wings in an attempt to fly off with its kill. Unable to take to the air, the hawk remained motionless for a minute and then began to pull feathers from the prey as it cast a periodic glance to its surroundings.

I happened to enter the kitchen at that time and Mrs. Foote pointed out the small hawk clearly visible about 15 yards from the window. The hawk's slate-gray back, white breast, belly and flank feathers with red-orange ribbing, long striped tail and small size indicated that it was an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk. Nonetheless, I was a little leery of the identification with regards to the literature on the matter of the small male Cooper's Hawk being close in size to a large female Sharp-shinned Hawk. However, as the hawk was stooped over working the kill, the elevated tail feathers and white under-tail coverts were discernible; the squared ends and notch in the middle of the tail confirmed the identification of this particular bird as a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

The small accipiter did not appear as slim as the species is depicted in the field guides, probably due to piloerection of the feathers in the brisk autumn breeze and the bird's posture aground. Its eyes were red with white about the nares and the tarsus and taloned digits were a brilliant yellow. The hawk tore at the kill with an up-and-down motion of the head and beak, and did not lift the head to swallow. Plucking and consumption of the prey took about ten minutes during which I was able to sketch the bird from the excellent viewpoint of the window.

I went out to examine the kill and found only a great pile of small body feathers, the right alula and phalanges with a few primaries and secondaries attached, some retrices, and the lower mandible of the bill. Everything else, even the feet, had been consumed. The feathers and lower beak were enough to identify the Sharp-shinned Hawk's backyard meal as a Dark-eyed Junco. TREVOR VIDIC AND ANITA FOOTE

Everybody Gets to See a LeConte's Sparrow - I usually derive a great deal of pleasure from showing people birds, especially those difficult to identify shorebirds and gulls. On October 13, as I was walking alone along the sandy areas near the

pipeline on the mudflat at Gordon Park, a sparrow popped up in front of me and sat on a stalk of grass. Buffy breast and eye line, white head stripe, and faint streaking on the side of the bird lead me to yell, "Larr, I think I've got a LeConte's Sparrow:" On this date only two people got to see the elusive LeConte's Sparrow. The following Saturday was heavily overcast with a low ceiling and a misty rain fell throughout the day. Needless to say, no one was at Gordon Park when I got there. Walking through the grassy areas I again kicked up the LeConte's Sparrow and this time the bird just perched about 30 feet in front of me for about 5 minutes. Elinor Elder came down and was rewarded with similar looks. The next day the usual Gordon Park crowd was gathered in hopes of relocating the little sparrow. Luck was with the birders this day as Larry Rosche found the bird and observers were able to get within 5 feet of the bird as it sat mesmerized in the weeds. There had only been eight previous Cleveland area sightings of LeConte's Sparrow, all single birds and single-day observations and all seen by one or very few observers so 30+ birders getting to literally walk up on this species was unique in CBC records. LeConte's Sparrow is one of the most elusive of Ohio sparrows and requires patience and determination to try to relocate after the bird flushes into the weeds. Most times the bird is gone. It took a good group effort to get everyone to see this bird so I hope all who saw this LeConte's Sparrow realized how lucky they were to get the looks they did. RAY HANNIKMAN

AN INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle. Visitors are always welcome.

The Kirtland Bird Club sponsors a weekly RARE BIRD ALERT at (216) 289-2473. Sightings of species rare in the Cleveland area as well as other interesting migration observations should be called in to the tape on Sundays as the tape is updated with current sightings each Tuesday. In the case of extreme rarities, e.g., Varied Thrush, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, the tape should be called the day of the observation.

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to the Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to:

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
Attention: Sydney Ann Vance  
Wade Oval, University Circle  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106