

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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



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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region.

To monitor population densities of resident birds.

To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

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

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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. Pine Siskin, Lakewood, 5/16/2009, photographed by Paula Lozano.

Back Cover. Pileated Woodpecker, South Russell, 5/3/2009, photographed by Linda Gilbert.

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



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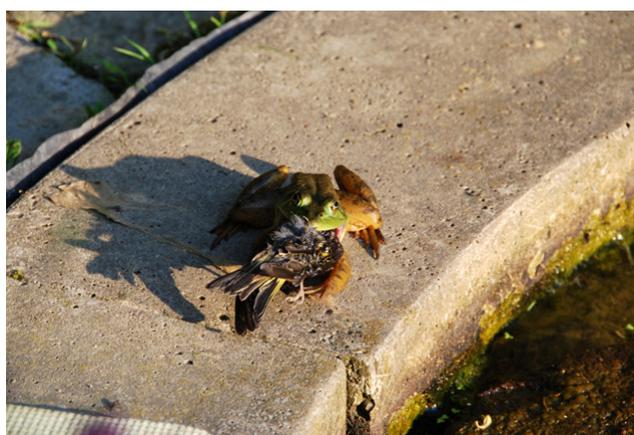
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In This Issue

Fred Dinkelbach

The season began by trailing the past winter's magnificent crossbill and siskin showing, which, to the delight and surprise of many, continued well into the spring; the last Red Crossbill was seen in April and last White-winged in May. Notable dates for the season included Friday, 4/24, a day that started with a thunderstorm and turned out to be *the* migration day of the spring, especially along the lake and most notably for the numbers of raptors. Rob Harlan had an abundance of overhead migrant thrushes in Parma Heights on the evening of 5/8; he estimated a bird calling every few seconds during a 15-minute period just before midnight. On 5/10, Gabe Leidy had 17 warbler species at Parma's West Creek Reservation and had "at one point, male Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Cape May Warblers...clustered within the same binocular view - a Magee moment!" His shorebird day at Lorain Impoundment on Tuesday, 5/14, was equally productive, likewise the Headlands outing by Ray Hannikman and friends that same day. Leo Deininger commented that Shaker Lakes had its best run of waterfowl in at least five years with 15 species being observed, some in impressive numbers. Also noteworthy were the many Rusty Blackbirds reported, twice as many as recent years. Expected birds missing for the season were Short-billed Dowitcher and Grasshopper Sparrow.

I also want to give special recognition to Dan Best of the Geauga County Park District, whose sizable compilation of sightings and photographs (both his own and from contributors) rivaled a typical issue of the Cleveland Bird Calendar.



Bullfrog eating a Pine Siskin, South Russell, 5/23/2009

Linda Gilbert

Weather Report, Spring 2009

Dwight Chasar

March The temperature averaged 39.6°, 2.1° above normal. The highest temperature was 69° on the 7th and the lowest 12° on the 3rd and 4th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33° to 38° during the month. Snowfall totaled 1.0 inch. Liquid precipitation, which includes rain and water content of the snow, totaled 3.33 inches, 0.39 inches above normal and fell over 10 days.

April The temperature averaged 50.7°, 3.1° above normal. The highest temperature was 86° on the 26th and the lowest 28° on the 7th. There were 2.6 inches of snow during the month, with 2.0 inches falling on the 7th. Liquid precipitation (see above) over 15 days totaled 3.08 inches, 0.29 inches below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hour period was 1.01 inches on the 14-15th. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 42° by the end of the month.

May The temperature averaged 60.0°, 1.5° above normal. The highest temperature was 85° on the 21st and the lowest 34° on the 18th. The lake temperature rose to 57° by the 31st. Over 11 days, rain totaled 2.35 inches, 1.15 inches below normal. The greatest fall for a 24 hour period was 0.50 inches on the 6th.

Correction

On page 16 of the Winter 2008-2009 issue, Volume 105, Number 1, the photograph was mislabeled. It should read Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Sightings Location Key

- Boston** CVNP Towpath near Boston Mills Road and Boston Store, 1/10 of a mile east of Riverview Road (Summit Co.).
- Burke** Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland.
- Columbia Woods Park** Municipal park in Norton (Summit Co.).
- CVNP** Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit-Cuyahoga Cos.).
- Deep Lock** Deep Lock Quarry, part of the Summit County Metro Parks in the CVNP, south of Peninsula.
- Elmwood Wetlands Preserve** North side of North Ridge Road, city of Lorain.
- Firestone Metro Park** 258 acre park south of Akron (Summit Co.).
- Frohning Meadows** Geauga Park District. Planted with prairie plants; a wet meadow habitat with low areas holding water; good for shorebirds (Bainbridge, Geauga Co.).
- HBS/Headlands** Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve in the east to Shipman Pond, Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (also known as Mentor Lagoons) (Lake Co.).
- HCPA** Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, located off Button Road in Bedford Reservation, just east of Dunham Road near the Overlook (Walton Hills, Cuyahoga Co.).
- Ira Road** CVNP towpath and beaver marsh boardwalk north of Ira Road (Summit Co.).
- Jaite** The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Vaughn and Riverview Roads in the CVNP (Brecksville-Peninsula, Cuyahoga-Summit Cos.).
- LaDue** Reservoir between Auburn Center and Welshfield in southern Geauga Co.
- Lake View Cemetery** East of University Circle, Cleveland.
- Lorain Harbor/Impoundment** City of Lorain, east of the mouth of the Black River; a dredge spoil impoundment area that in some years provides excellent shorebird habitat.
- MP** Abbreviation for Metroparks or Metro Parks.
- Nesmith Lake** Portage Lakes, southern Summit Co.
- Nimisila** Reservoir in southern Summit Co.
- Oberlin Reservoir** Lorain Co.
- PP** Abbreviation for Power Plant.
- Red Lock** CVNP Towpath trailhead on Highland Road in Sagamore Hills (Summit Co.).
- Sandy Ridge** A large artificial wetland in North Ridgeville known for easily seen waterfowl, rails, moorhens and cranes (Lorain Co.).
- Shaker Lakes** Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga Co.
- Sims Park** Euclid, Cuyahoga Co.
- SNP** Abbreviation for State Nature Preserve.
- SP** Abbreviation for State Park.
- Springfield Lake** Southeast of Akron in Summit Co.
- Station Road** CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Rt. 82 at Riverview Road, including the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (Brecksville, Cuyahoga Co.).
- Summit Lake** South of Akron.
- Turkeyfoot Lake** Part of Portage Lakes, southern Summit Co.
- Wellington Reservoir** Also known as Wellington Upground Reservoir (Lorain Co.).
- West Creek Reservation** Cleveland Metroparks, Parma.
- West Woods, The** Geauga County Park District, overlapping Russell and Newbury Townships on Route 87.
- Wilbeth Road** An urban migrant trap south of Akron where the Ohio Canal runs along the un-restored towpath; wetlands to the east and a landfill to the west (Summit Co.).
- Wildwood Park** Cleveland Lakefront State Park at Neff Road (Cuyahoga Co.).

Sightings Highlights

Noteworthy species, numbers, or dates are underlined.

Greater White-fronted Goose. One goose arrived at Oberlin Reservoir the afternoon of 3/2 in the company of six Canada Geese (GL).

Snow Goose. A single bird was seen at the North Perry lake front on 3/15 (JP).

Brant. On 3/8 an individual passed to the east among a flock of 170 Canada geese in North Perry (JP).

Cackling Goose. A pair was observed on 3/7 along the Lake Erie lake front in North Perry (JP).

Canada Goose. A family with goslings was found on the early date of 4/19 in the CVNP (GB).

Mute Swan. One to four were seen the entire season at Headlands (RH). Best Lake (Geauga Co.) had a single bird throughout April (*vide* DB).

Tundra Swan. Migration highlights were 268 counted on the evening of 3/10 over Akron (GB) and forty on 3/21 at Headlands (RH).

Wood Duck. Common. On 4/7 Ira Road had 23 (TMR).

Gadwall. Seen through 4/21 at Headlands with as many as fifty on 3/11 (RH). Mogadore Reservoir had 31 on 4/6, Turkeyfoot Lake had 11 on 5/8 and a female was seen 5/18 at Lorain Harbor (GB).

American Wigeon. Headlands had sightings until 4/26; peaking at 60 on 3/11 (RH). Besides several single-bird sightings at various locations in March, Tinkers Creek SNP had two on 3/17 (FL) and Frohring Meadows had two to three from March through mid-April (LG).

American Black Duck. All reports:
3 on 3/2 at Ira Road (TMR).
4 on 3/7 in North Perry (JP).
9 on 3/8 in North Perry (JP).
1 on 3/8 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 3/9 at Ira Road (TMR).
4 on 3/9 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 3/12 in Sagamore Hills (DAC).
3 on 3/12 at HBSP (RH).
3 on 3/14 in North Perry (JP).
4 on 3/16 in Sagamore Hills (DAC).
1 on 3/20 at HBSP (RH).
6 (3 m, 3 f) on 3/21 at Ira Rd. (DV).
2 on 3/23 at Ira Road (TMR).
2 on 3/29 in North Perry (JP).
1 on 4/5 along W. branch of the Cuyahoga R., Claridon Twp. (DB).

2 on 4/7 at Ira Road (TMR).
2 on 4/8 at HBSP (RH).
4 on 4/12 at HBSP (RH).

Mallard. Very common, as always. The highest count reported was 62 on 3/9 at Frohring Meadows (LG).

Blue-winged Teal. The earliest report was eight on 3/15 near Wellington (Lorain Co.) (GL); otherwise almost all sightings were in April. They were seen daily at Headlands from 4/1 to 4/30 with as many as 15 on 4/14 (RH). At Frohring Meadows five were found the week of 4/10 (LG). Two were seen on 4/12 at Station Road (DAC). On 4/13 at Lorain Harbor 23 were counted (GB).

Northern Shoveler. Sixty of these March migrants were found in a field near Wellington (Lorain Co.) on 3/15 (GL). At Wilbeth Road 32 were counted on 3/16 (GB). One to five could be found at Headlands, the last sighting being one on 4/6 (RH).

Northern Pintail. Only a few reports, the highest count was 11 at Best Lake on 3/4 (*vide* DB).

Green-winged Teal. Nine were seen at

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

Ray Hannikman

Headlands birders worked hard for their birds in the spring of 2009. Whether enduring brisk winds to observe fleeting waterfowl during March, or scanning sunny skies for hawk movements in April, or hoping that little flycatcher in front of you will reveal who he is by singing at the end of May, concerted effort and motivation guided the Headlands crew through a rather lackluster birding season. A period of very warm weather in late April brought several early migrants to the area; e.g. Kentucky and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. On the other hand, Red and White-winged Crossbills, which had never been recorded by us previously in the month of April, were a pleasant surprise even though the previous winter's invasion of White-winged Crossbills into Northern Ohio made their appearance not a total shock. Other highlights were regular sightings of American Bitterns at Wake Robin Trail in April, a singing Prothonotary Warbler at Veteran's Park in May, unusual numbers of Yellow-throated Vireos throughout the Headlands area, and May 21 and 27 when Mourning Warblers were heard and seen throughout Mentor Lagoons. Though days with fallouts of migrants were few and far between, the passion we birders display for getting up early in spring, or any season, to witness and wonder at the spectacle of migration was never and could ever be diminished by numbers alone.

Mogadore Reservoir on 3/7 and 25 at Lorain Harbor on 4/13 (GB). On 3/11 there were 16 observed at HBSP (RH). Latest report was one at Shaker Lakes on 4/21 (LD).

Canvasback. The only reports were 100 on 3/2 at Wellington Reservoir (CC) and on three dates at HBSP; the highest count there was 80 on 3/9 (RH).

Redhead. Just as common inland as on Lake Erie; on 3/2 Wellington Reservoir had an estimated 100 (CC) and on 3/11 Lake Medina had 250 (DV). With less than ten seen on most dates, a respectable 350 were counted on 3/9 at HBSP; the latest report was of two found there on 4/18 (RH).

Ring-necked Duck. In Geauga County on 3/12, a pond on Woodin Rd. (Hambden Twp.) had over 120 and LaDue Reservoir had at least 210 (DB). From 3/13 to 3/21 there were up to 380 at Mogadore Reservoir (GB). HBSP numbers peaked at 250 on 4/1, typical for that location (RH). Late sightings were one male at Summit Lake on 5/22 (GB); two pairs remained at Shaker Lakes from 4/16 to 5/31, but no nesting was evident (LD).

Greater Scaup. Latest sightings were twenty on 4/11 at HBSP (RH) and five on 4/12 at Wellington Reservoir (RSH).

Lesser Scaup. Headlands had 350 on 3/7 (RH). At Wellington Reservoir 550 were counted on 4/5 and 500 on 4/12; the latest sighting reported was also there, when six were seen on 5/2 (RSH).

Surf Scoter. Many inland sightings. Greg Bennett had one at Mogadore Reservoir on 4/6 (GB). The Harlans had two females and one male at Wellington Reservoir on 4/12, one female at Silver Creek MP (Summit Co.) on 5/11 and 5/12, and one female at Luna Lake (Summit Co.) on 5/13 (RSH).

White-winged Scoter. The only spring reports were two on 3/14 at Sims Park

(NA), one in North Perry on 3/22 (JP), and at HBSP one on 4/1 and two on 4/6 (RH).

Black Scoter. A single bird on 4/1 at Headlands (RH) and two in North Perry on 4/4 (JP) were among the few reports.

Long-tailed Duck. A pair, the male in full breeding plumage, was seen on 3/10 and 3/11 at Lake Medina (GL, DV). A male was seen at Nimisila Reservoir on 3/19 (GB) and one, sex not specified, was observed off Headlands Road on 4/6 (JT *fide* RH).

Bufflehead. Many were seen by Greg Bennett in the southern Summit County lakes mid-April: 97 at Mogadore Reservoir, 150 at Nimisila, 207 at Springfield Lake, 80 at Summit Lake, all on 4/6; and 176 at Nimisila, 108 at Springfield Lake, 116 at Turkeyfoot Lake, all on 4/17 (GB). The latest report was one at Wellington Reservoir on 5/2 (RSH).

Common Goldeneye. Expected numbers. Forty were counted at HBSP on 3/9 and the latest there was one on 4/18 (RH). At Sims Park 25 to 30 were observed on 3/14 (NA).

Hooded Merganser. Highlights include 50 observed at HBSP on 3/9 (RH), 25 at Wildwood Park on 3/14 (NA) and on 4/12 Shaker Lakes had 12 (LD). At their traditional nesting site at the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (CVNP-Brecksville Reservation), two male-female pairs were seen on 3/30 (PS) and two female adults with 14 young were seen on 5/4 (DAC).

Common Merganser. After having seen numbers from 300 to 600 in early March (RH), five females were noted at Headlands Beach on the very late date of 5/22 (JT). In the CVNP on the Cuyahoga River, one was seen at Jaite on 3/1 (DAC), two on 3/12 and one on 3/19 at Boston (HO) and two at Station Road on 4/11 (DAC, FL).

Red-breasted Merganser. HBSP's numbers climbed through March to 1200 on 3/18 and 2000 on 4/4, quickly

dropping afterwards; their last sighting was one on 5/29 (RH). Inland, 130-plus were counted at LaDue Reservoir on 3/12 (DB) and 14 were seen at Wellington Reservoir on 4/12 (RSH).

Ruddy Duck. At Wellington Reservoir 550 were seen on 4/5 and 750 on 4/12 (RSH).

Wild Turkey. The highest count reported was at least 12 seen on 3/27 in a Munson Twp. (Gauga Co.) corn field (DB).

Red-throated Loon. Two birds were seen during the season; one at Wellington Reservoir seen 3/31 (SS) and 4/1 (GL) and one seen from 4/17 to 4/21 at Springfield Lake (GB).

Common Loon. HBSP had one to four seen from 3/26 through 5/2 (RH). Shaker Lakes had sightings on four dates in early April; three were counted there on 4/7 (LD). May sightings included three at Mogadore Reservoir on 5/7 (GB), one at Wellington Reservoir on 5/2 (RSH) and one at Nimisila Reservoir on 5/13 (RSH).

Pied-billed Grebe. Spring highlights were 18 on 4/8 at Shaker Lakes (LD), 26 at Wellington Reservoir on 4/12 (RSH) and HBSP with 20 on 4/12 (RH).

Horned Grebe. Most reports were inland in early March: on 3/8 Springfield Lake had 27 (GB), Lake Medina had 20 seen on 3/10 (GL) and on 3/12 at LaDue Reservoir 17 were counted (DB). One was found at the Ira Road marsh on 3/16 (TMR). At Wellington Reservoir 30 were seen on 4/5 and two remained there on 5/2 (RSH).

Red-necked Grebe. Plentiful this season. On 3/4 one was seen at Eastlake PP (SW); two were there on 3/6 (JH *fide* LR). Greg Bennett found one at Summit Lake from 3/4 to 3/16 and two on 3/12 at Nimisila reservoir (GB). On 3/12 one was spotted at LaDue Reservoir (DB). One was found in the CVNP at Indigo Lake on 3/21 (DV). Wellington Reservoir had one

seen from 3/31 to 4/13 (SS, GB, RSH). North Perry had single-bird sightings from 3/22 to 5/2 (JP).

Eared Grebe. One was spotted in North Perry on 4/18 (JP).

Double-crested Cormorant. On 4/9 300 were counted at HBSP (RH). Inland, there were scattered reports of one to five individuals in April.

American Bittern. At West Woods one was seen at the picnic area pond on 3/23 (fide DB). One to three individuals were present along the Wake Robin Trail at HBSP from 3/28 to 5/5 (JT, SW, RH). One was heard at Sandy Ridge on 5/10 (CC). On 5/2 one was spotted at Wildwood Park (NA).

Least Bittern. On 5/14 one was observed at the break wall of Headlands Beach (RH).

Great Blue Heron. Common. After a pair of Bald Eagles began a nest in the famous Pinery Narrows rookery, Dwight Chasar reported that the original rookery split, with 21 nests started across the Cuyahoga River in Sagamore Hills Twp. (DAC). A long hike in the CVNP's Bath Road area on 3/14 provided Doug Vogus with a count of 98 (DV).

Great Egret. Becoming more common in the spring each year. The earliest report was five on 4/1 at Station Road; three were there on 4/12 (DAC). On 4/6 five were found at both Wingfoot Lake (GB) and Headlands (RH). At the Bath heron rookery one was seen on 4/7 (TMR). Sixteen were counted at Sandy Ridge on 5/10 (CC).

Green Heron. Fewer Greens were reported than Great Egrets. On 5/3 a pair was seen at their nest in Fairview Park, on a pond between Big and Little Met Golf Courses (CC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron. Two flew over Eastlake PP on 3/5 and landed in the nearby boat storage area (SW). Paula Lozano's diligent censusing of the roost in Cleveland's Merwin Street area of the Cuyahoga River tallied five (all adults) on 3/7 and then 94 on 3/28 (PL). Three were counted on 4/2 at HBSP (RH). One was seen on 5/7 over Columbia Woods Park (Norton, Summit Co.) and another the evening of 5/8 over Parma Hts. (RSH). The last sighting for the season was one on 5/13 at HBSP (RH).

Turkey Vulture. Thirty were seen circling over Russell Twp. (Geauga Co.) on 3/5 (fide DB). A steady movement passed along the lake front on 3/20; vultures were seen streaming

west to east from Rocky River and Lakewood (PL) and HBSP had 70 pass through (RH).

Osprey. Headlands had sightings six days in April, including 4/24 when two were seen (RH). There were seven April and early May sightings of single birds at local rivers and lakes. The Harlans observed three active nests at Nimisila Reservoir on 5/13 (RSH).

Bald Eagle. Adult birds were reliably seen near known nests at their host rivers and lakes. One immature was found at Columbia Woods Park on 4/1 (RSH). HBSP had regular sightings; three were seen on 3/24 (RH). The Station Road/Pinery Narrows nest failed for 2009 (CC, DAC) as well as the nest at Tinkers Creek SNP (FL).

Northern Harrier. In Lorain County, one was seen on 3/2 at Jones Road near Smith Road and another was found a month later at Carlisle Reservation on 4/5 (CC). On 4/16 one was seen at the Coliseum grasslands (HO). Headlands had many reports of single birds in April (RH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Headlands had 15 on 4/24, a big day also for Cooper's there (RH). Only five other sightings area-wide, most in late April.

A Common Loon Saga

Dick and Jean Hoffman

A Common Loon in full breeding plumage was found on the lower pond in Lake View Cemetery on April 26th and was seen again on a number of days in May. The size of the pond made us wonder if the loon would be able to leave. Early on the morning of May 20th, Dick checked our email before we left for Tulsa, OK and was alarmed to find an email from a man living near Lake View Cemetery who wanted to know what the strange bird was that he found in his yard the previous day. The message had an attached photograph of a Common Loon, undoubtedly the same bird being seen by us and others on the pond in Lake View Cemetery. In reply to his email, we referred the man to Harvey Webster at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, apologized for not being able to provide further help ourselves and asked that he keep us informed of the fate of the bird. When we checked our email in Sullivan, MO, that evening, we learned that Harvey had responded immediately, had secured the loon and was going to have it checked over and would then release it on Lake Erie if it was not injured. From Harvey's post to Ohio Birds the next day we learned that Harvey had been aware of the bird's plight and had at least contemplated various ways to catch it when it was on the pond. We also learned that Lake View Cemetery personnel had seen at least one unsuccessful attempt by the loon to get airborne off the pond, and that Harvey had in fact released the loon at East 72nd Street in the afternoon of May 20th after ascertaining that it was in good health and was uninjured.

Cooper's Hawk. Common throughout the season. Eight were counted on 4/24 at HBSP (RH). Two nests were found in the Brecksville Reservation in May (DAC).

Northern Goshawk. In North Perry on 4/25 an adult was flying just offshore in a westerly direction (JP).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Doing very well. On 3/31 Bacon Woods MP (Lorain Co.) had two at a nest while one called at a distance (CC). An active nest was documented 3/28 to 4/21 in Sagamore Hills; a third adult was seen there on 3/28 (SJ, CW). Eileen Zimlich found a nest in Brecksville where active brooding was taking place (date not reported) (EZ). On 5/13 three were counted at the CVNP's Oak Hill (TMR). On 5/21 a nest with three young and one tending adult was found and photographed at Headwaters Park (Huntsburg Twp., Geauga Co.) (*vide* DB).

Broad-winged Hawk. On 4/24 in one late-morning two hour period, 101 were counted at HBSP's Veterans Park (JT, SW, RH). On 4/16 three were found in Brecksville Reservation (DAC).

Red-tailed Hawk. Common. Six were spotted at Jaite on 5/14 (FL). Active nests in Brecksville included one at Brecksville Reservation near Sleepy Hollow Golf Course and another in a field near South Hills Office Park at Rt. 82 and I-77 where, by 4/17, the chicks had hatched (EZ).

Rough-legged Hawk. All sightings were along the lake. On 3/14 two light-morphs were seen at Burke (PL), one was seen on 4/12 at HBSP (RH) and on the banner hawk migration day of 4/24 one was spotted in North Perry (JP).

American Kestrel. All reports:
1 on 3/2 at Lorain Co. Airport (CC).
1 on 3/7 in Highland Hts. (Cuyahoga Co.) (PL).
Pair on 3/8 on Bass Lake Rd. (Gauga Co.) (DB).
1 on 3/14 at Rocky River Park (Cuyahoga Co.) (GL).



Black-bellied Plover, Lorain Harbor Impoundment, 5/18/2009

Greg Bennett

1 on 3/14 at Burke (PL).
1 on 3/17 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 3/18 on Bass Lake Rd. (Gauga Co.) (DB).
1 on 3/21 in Lorain Co. along Rt. 2 (CC).
1 male on 3/25 on Bass Lake Rd. (Gauga Co.) (DB).
1 male on 3/26 eating a vole along Bass Lake Rd. (Gauga Co.) (DB).
1 on 3/27 at Bass Lake & Butternut Rd. (Gauga Co.) (DB).
1 on 3/28 near Mogadore (GB).
2 on 4/1 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 4/4, flight direction W to E, at Elmwood Park (Cuyahoga Co.) (PL).
1 on 4/9 at Boston (HO).
1 on 4/11 at Jaite (DAC).
1 on 4/12 at Bath Nature Preserve (SJ, CW).
2 on 4/15 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 4/16 at Coliseum site (HO).
1 on 4/19 at HCPA (FL).
3 on 4/23 at Bedford Reservation's Button Rd. field (FL).
19 on 4/24 in North Perry (JP).
1 on 4/25 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 4/26 at HCPA (FL).

Merlin. Lou Gardella continued his dedicated watch of the Calvary Cemetery (Cleveland-Garfield Heights) birds: three were seen on 3/4, 3/5 and 3/17, two on 3/25 and one remained 3/28 through 4/6 (LGa). One was found at Turkeyfoot Lake on 4/19 (GB). At HBSP one was seen on six dates from 3/28 to 5/3, including 4/24 when two were seen (RH).

Peregrine Falcon. Successful nesting in urban, and now rural, areas has made these predators a common sight. Eleven sightings of mostly single birds, some of pairs; of these, nine were at or near known nests.

Virginia Rail. The earliest report was one in the CVNP's Boston area on 4/2; three were found there on 4/9 (HO). Three were counted at HBSP on 4/17 (RH). On 5/2 one was observed at Tinkers Creek SNP (FL). In the CVNP, Jaite had one on 5/14 (FL), the Sanitation Pond area (Brecksville) had three on 5/15 (DAC) and the Ira Road beaver marsh's highest count was four on 5/11 (TMR).

Sora. An early Sora was seen on 3/28 at Chagrin River Park (Willoughby, Lake Co.) (JH). Headlands had sightings of single birds almost daily from 4/12 through 5/8 (RH). Tinkers Creek SNP had one on 4/21 (FL). Sandy Ridge had one each on 4/26 and 5/10 (CC). One was found on 5/15 in the CVNP (DAC). On 5/16 one was observed at Ira Road (TMR). Lorain Impoundment had one on 5/18 (GB).

Common Moorhen. On 4/10 one was found at a Geauga County marsh at Pekin and Auburn Roads; it was seen multiple times into the summer (DB). On 4/19 one was spotted at Wilbeth Road (GB).

American Coot. Few reports. Lake Medina had 24 on 3/11 (DV), ten were counted on 4/1 at HBSP (RH) and Tinkers Creek SNP had 17 on 4/21 (FL).

Sandhill Crane. Two birds appeared over Veteran's Park at HBSP on 3/31 (RH, JT). Sandy Ridge's reliable cranes were seen again this season with one each on 4/26 and 5/10 (CC). South of Burton in Geauga County, a pair was first seen in a Rapids Road field on 3/7 (DB); on 4/29 the number grew to four, two adults with two tiny fledglings running in and out of their parents' legs, in a cornfield at Rapids Road (TG *fide* LG); this family was reliably seen through the end of the season (by 6/8 only one young was found with the parents) (*fide* DB). On 5/25 four were observed flying south along Rt. 44 near Lakeshore Blvd. (Lake Co.) (JT *fide* RH).

Black-bellied Plover. One found on 5/18 at Lorain Harbor was the only report (GB).

American Golden-Plover. The only report was 94 seen on 4/26 at Wellington Reservoir (GB).

Semipalmated Plover. On 5/18 Lorain Harbor had five (GB). Four were seen at HBSP on 5/14 (RH).

Piping Plover. One bird was discovered at the Headlands Beach Nature Preserve's beach on 4/29 (RH).

Killdeer. Thirty were found at Burke on 3/12 (DJH).

American Avocet. Gabe Leidy found one at Lorain Impoundment on 5/14 (GL).

Spotted Sandpiper. Expected numbers, when reported. Headlands had the earliest report, one on 4/25, and the highest count, 25 on 5/14 (RH).

Solitary Sandpiper. One seen on 3/27 at Columbia Woods Park (Norton, Summit Co.) was earlier than the previous record early date of 4/4/2003 (RSH). Six were counted at HBSP on 5/8 (RH).

Greater Yellowlegs. Headlands had one on four dates from 3/30 to 5/1 (RH). On 4/25 Hinckley Reservation had three (TMR). Several were found at Frohring Meadows the last half of April (LG). Three were seen on 5/10 at Sandy Ridge (CC).

Willet. The only report was seven at Mogadore Reservoir on 5/7 (GB).

Lesser Yellowlegs. On 4/28 HBSP had three (RH). Five were seen on 4/26 and 15 on 5/10 at Sandy Ridge (CC). On 5/14 there were 28 at nearby Lorain Impoundment (GL). One lingered at CVNP's Kendall Lake, seen on 5/30 (SS).

Whimbrel. A flyby flock of 43 was seen at the North Perry lake front in the early morning of 5/21 (JP).

Ruddy Turnstone. Headlands had one each on 5/11 and 5/25 (RH).

Sanderling. The only report was one each on 5/18 and 5/25 at Headlands (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Lorain Impoundment saw 30 on 5/14 (GL). HBSP had the only other sightings

with one seen on both 5/18 and 5/25 (RH).

Least Sandpiper. On 5/10 Sandy Ridge had five (CC). High counts were on 5/14 with 52 at HBSP (RH) and 100 at Lorain Impoundment (GL).

Pectoral Sandpiper. At a marsh near Wellington (Lorain Co.), 22 were seen on 4/1 (GL). The only other area sightings were from Linda Gilbert at Frohring Meadows: one the week of 4/21 and six the week of 4/26 (LG).

Dunlin. The only reports: Lorain Impoundment had 25 on 5/14 (GL) and one to five birds were seen at HBSP between 5/18 and 5/26 (RH).

Wilson's Snipe. In Suffield Twp. (Portage Co.) 42 were seen on 4/7 (GB). Rather high counts of 20 on both 4/7 and 4/15 in a flooded field off Rt. 44 just north of Lakeshore Blvd. (Lake Co.) (JT *fide* RH). As many as four were seen from 3/24 to 4/14 at Headlands (RH).

American Woodcock. On the evening of 3/7 Silver Creek MP had 13 (RSH). In the CVNP, four or five were counted displaying on 3/7 at Jaite (DAC) and three were observed on 3/26 at Station Road (SJ, CW). Two on 3/28 was Headlands' only report (RH). One was found at Sandy Ridge on 4/9 (CC). Bedford Reservation's Button Road field had three on 4/23 (FL).

Wilson's Phalarope. At Lorain Harbor on 4/26 a single male was found (JP).

Bonaparte's Gull. HBSP's spring numbers were not as high as recent years, the highest count being 60 on 3/24 (RH). Inland, Nimisila Reservoir had 159 (GB) and Wellington Reservoir had 100 (CC), both reported on 4/5.

Black-headed Gull. At the North Perry lake front an adult was observed flying west mid-morning on 4/18 (JP).

Little Gull. The only report was a winter-plumaged adult observed off Headlands Road on 3/20 (JT *fide* RH).

Ring-billed Gull. Headlands' winter numbers of thousands gradually dropped to 20 by 4/15 and then rose to 200 on 5/26 (RH). Oberlin Reservoir had counts in the hundreds on 3/2 (CC).

Herring Gull. Headlands' numbers peaked at 300 on 4/7 (RH). Hundreds were seen on 3/2 at Oberlin Reservoir (CC).

Thayer's Gull. Oberlin Reservoir had one first-cycle Thayer's on 3/1 (JMc).

Iceland Gull. Five remained on 3/1 at Oberlin Reservoir, leftover from their surprise winter showing there: two or three adults, one or two first-cycle, and one second-cycle (JMc); at least two birds remained the next day (CC) and one first-year by 3/15 (GL). On 4/4 North Perry had a sighting of a first-cycle bird (JP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. At least four remained at Oberlin Reservoir on 3/1; one first-cycle, one second-cycle, and two adults (JMc). Late-season reports were one adult on 4/6 at Long Lake (southern Summit Co.) (GB), one at HBSP on 4/14 (RH) and one adult on 4/25 at North Perry (JP).

Glaucous Gull. Five or six were seen at Oberlin Reservoir on 3/1 consisting of two or three second-cycle birds and a few adults (JMc). One was seen at Headlands on 4/24 (RH). A late first-cycle bird was seen at North Perry on 5/2 (JP).

Great Black-backed Gull. Oberlin Reservoir's amazing winter gull variety continued into early March; 11 or 12 Greaters were found on 3/1, mostly adults but at least two or three first-cycle and one second-cycle (JMc). Also inland, Springfield Lake had an adult on 3/13 and 3/24 (GB). Eight were counted at HBSP on 3/8; one to three could be found there until the end of May (RH).

Caspian Tern. Seen throughout April and May at HBSP; 60 were counted on 4/14 (RH). One was seen on 4/23 at



Two Great Horned Owl Nestlings, Elmwood Park, Lorain, 4/12/2009

Paula Lozano

Shaker Lakes (LD). At Lorain Harbor 65 were seen on 4/26 (GB). Many inland sightings in April and May of one bird, on larger ponds and lakes.

Black Tern. Craig Caldwell had two on 5/10 at Sandy Ridge (CC).

Sterna sp. Turkeyfoot Lake had 26 on 5/8 (GB).

Common Tern. Missing from Headlands this season (RH). The only report was ten seen at Turkeyfoot Lake on 5/8 (GB).

Forster's Tern. Summit Lake had three on 4/17 (GB). Headlands had sightings on two dates: ten birds on 4/25 and one on 5/13 (RH). Nimisila Reservoir had six on 5/13 (RSH).

Rock Pigeon. Few reports, all with small numbers.

Mourning Dove. Common. The largest counts were 19 at Ira Road on 5/11 (TMR) and twenty on 4/24 at HBSP (RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. All sightings were late May. There were six reports of single birds as well as two at Ira Road on 5/18 (TMR) and seven observed at Jaite on 5/24 (DAC).

Black-billed Cuckoo. The only reports: one calling at Kendall Ledges on 5/21 (DAC), one on 5/23 at Rocky River Reservation (TMR), one at Ira Road on 5/25 (TMR) and at HBSP there was one on 5/13 (DB) and also on 5/27 (RH).

Eastern Screech-Owl. One was discovered on 4/1 at Station Road (DAC) and one at Shaker Lakes on 4/25 and 4/26 (LD). On 5/9, an adult and five fledglings were observed in a Lakewood backyard (PL, BF).

Great Horned Owl. A nest was found with two adults on 3/14 in the southern part of the CVNP (DV). Craig Caldwell heard an owl in Westlake in the late evening of 3/28 and another calling at Sandy Ridge on 4/9 (CC). One was seen at HBSP on 4/1 (RH). A nest in a large hollow recess of a broken-off tree was found across from the Station Road southern marsh - an adult that appeared to be blind in its left eye was often in attendance and at least one nestling was usually seen, from 4/17 through 5/6 (DAC, EZ).

Snowy Owl. Two found at Burke during the winter were still present on 3/1 (GC).

Barred Owl. Several single-bird observations throughout the area; Fred Losi had two calling together at North Chagrin Reservation on 3/2 (FL).

Long-eared Owl. One was seen at Caley Reservation (Pittsfield Twp., Lorain Co.) on 3/31 (SS).

Short-eared Owl. On 4/1 two birds flushed from along the boardwalk at HBSP's Wake Robin Trail (RH). One was discovered at Frohring Meadows the week of 4/6 (LG). On 5/2, a late individual was flushed at the Lorain Impoundment, settling into a nearby tree (GL).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. On 4/2 one was discovered in LeRoy Twp. (Lake Co.) (JP).

Common Nighthawk. All reports:
1 on 5/19 at Shaker Lakes (LD).
6 on 5/22 at HBSP (RH).
3 on 5/23 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 5/25 at HBSP (LD).

Whip-poor-will. On the banner lake

front migration day of 4/24, one was spotted in North Perry (JP).

Chimney Swift. Twelve on 4/19 in Akron was the season's earliest report (GB). On 5/17 Bedford Reservation had 73 (FL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The earliest sighting was on 4/20 of one at HBSP; on 5/14 ten were counted there (RH).

Belted Kingfisher. Common. Three were seen on 4/13 at Ira Rd. (TMR). Bedford Reservation had three on 4/19 (FL). In Rocky River Reservation three were seen on 5/23 (TMR).

Red-headed Woodpecker. From 4/28 onwards, HBSP had nearly daily sightings with as many as six on 5/7 (RH). On 5/21 two were discovered at a nest in the CVNP's Boston area



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Headwaters Park, Geauga County, 5/21/2009

Christy Blair

(HO). Four were found at the Station Road marshes in the CVNP on 5/4; Dwight Chasar remarked they were not as populous there as previous years (DAC). Two were seen at Sandy Ridge on 4/26 (CC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common. Sixteen were counted on 5/3 in Bedford Reservation (FL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Numbers peaked mid-April with many single-bird sightings. The earliest report was one bird in Wadsworth on 3/5 (RSH). At HBSP 15 were counted 4/14 and 4/16; the latest sighting there was one on 5/2 (RH). A double-entrance cavity nest in a cottonwood tree with one pair of birds present was found and photographed on 5/21 at Headwaters Park (Huntsburg Twp., Geauga Co.) (*vide* DB).

Downy Woodpecker. Equaling the Red-bellied as the most common woodpecker, many reports had up to eight seen in one day.

Hairy Woodpecker. Roughly one Hairy for every three to four Downies, judging from complete reports. Six were seen the week of 4/16 at Frohring Meadows (LG).

Northern Flicker. Common. Numbers peaked at thirty on 4/18 at HBSP (RH).

Pileated Woodpecker. Highlights include four found on 3/25 at HBSP (RH), three on 4/12 at Bedford Reservation (FL) and three on 5/16 in the CVNP at Hale Farm (TMR). Dwight Chasar commented that it's not unusual to come across several in the CVNP after a few hours of birding (DAC).

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Four sightings: one on 5/16 at HBSP (RH), one at 5/17 in the Bedford Reservation (FL), a single bird on 5/18 at Station Road (SJ, CW) and one along the Rocky River on 5/23 (TMR).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Very early sightings this season; Hinckley Reservation had one on 4/25 (TMR),

one was observed from the Summit County Bike/Hike Trail and another at Station Road on 4/29 (SJ, CW). Eleven were counted on 5/23 along the Rocky River (TMR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The many sightings at HBSP, which had the only reports of this species, were typical for that area; one bird was seen there most days from 5/14 onwards and on 5/21 three were seen (RH).

Acadian Flycatcher. The CVNP Kendall Ledges had the earliest report of one bird on 5/8 (DAC). Most reports were from the last half of May. Six were counted at the Bedford Reservation Overlook area on 5/30 (FL).

Alder Flycatcher. HBSP had two on 5/21, three on 5/27 and four on 5/28 (RH). In the CVNP, the Chasars had one on 5/23 at Jaite and one in Peninsula on 5/28 (DAC).

Willow Flycatcher. On 4/19 one was observed in Penfield Twp. (Lorain Co.) (JLL), a single day later than the record earliest date set in 1976. All other reports were in May; four were found at HBSP on 5/27 (RH).

Least Flycatcher. Seen from 4/24 to the end of the season at HBSP with as many as eight on both 5/14 and 5/21 (RH). There were several sightings at Ira Road from 5/11 to 5/25 (TMR). Station Road had two from 5/3 to 5/14 (Many obs.).

Eastern Phoebe. Phoebes appeared in all complete reports throughout the area beginning mid-March. At least ten were counted on 4/13 at a Munson Twp. (Geauga Co.) pond (DB). At Rocky River Reservation 13 were counted on 5/23 (TMR).

Great Crested Flycatcher. These flycatchers suddenly appeared in our area within a few days of each other at the end of April in all reports; the earliest was three on 4/25 at Ira Road, where as many as six could be found throughout May (TMR).

Eastern Kingbird. A sudden arrival on 4/26 and 4/27 was documented by many reports. Twelve, the highest count, came from HBSP on 5/20 (RH).

White-eyed Vireo. On 4/25 Hinckley Reservation had two (TMR). Ira Road yielded six on 5/23 (TMR).

Yellow-throated Vireo. Two on 4/25 at Hinckley Reservation was the earliest report (TMR). Five were counted on 5/16 at Ira Road (TMR). Two were seen at a nest at Station Road on 5/13 (CC).

Blue-headed Vireo. The earliest reported sighting was one on 4/16 at Brecksville Reservation (DAC). A pair with nesting material was seen at Oak Hill in the CVNP on 5/9 (DAC). Four were seen on 5/10 at Bedford Reservation (FL).

Warbling Vireo. Earliest report was one at HBSP on 4/25; highest count was 18 on 5/16, also at HBSP (RH).

Philadelphia Vireo. The only report was of two on 5/7 at Station Road (DAC).

Red-eyed Vireo. Earliest reported were two on 4/30 at HBSP (RH). At Rocky River MP 16 were seen on 5/23 (TMR).

Blue Jay. Migrant numbers at HBSP peaked early-to-mid-May with 400 on 5/6 and 600 on 5/15 (RH).

American Crow. Headlands had 100 on 3/5 and 200 on 3/18 (RH).

Horned Lark. Headlands had two March sightings of a single bird, then five birds on 5/6 and one on 5/27 (RH). At Frohring Meadows one was seen the week of 4/6 and 15 the week of 5/21 (LG).

Purple Martin. Two early individuals were seen on 3/11 at Columbia Woods Park (RSH) and North Reservoir (Summit Co.) had four on 4/1 (GB). The only other reports came from Headlands; after two birds first appeared on 4/12 their numbers rose to

between 40 and 50 from 4/21 through the end of May (RH).

Tree Swallow. The earliest report was on 3/10 with two seen for about three minutes flying around the wetland in the immediate vicinity of the bald eagle nest in Tinkers Creek SNP (FL).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Earliest sightings were at Headlands with one on 4/5 (RH), two on 4/7 at Nesmith Lake (GB) and on 4/13 Station Road with ten (DAC).

Bank Swallow. Two on 4/20 at Ira Road (TMR) and one on 4/23 at Nimisila Reservoir (GB) were the earliest reports. HBSP had 20 on 5/21 (RH). On 5/21 a two-mile stretch of the Cuyahoga River south of Station Road yielded two colonies of nest-holes in the river banks (DAC).

Cliff Swallow. On 5/10 at Bacon Woods MP (Lorain Co.), six were seen collecting mud for their nests (CC). Four were seen on 5/23 along the Rocky River (TMR).

Barn Swallow. One seen on 4/9 at HBSP was the earliest reported sighting; highest report was 120 counted there on 5/14 (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee. High

counts were twenty the week of 4/16 at Frohring Meadows (LG) and 22 on 5/3 in Bedford Reservation (FL).

Tufted Titmouse. Common. Highest count was 15 at HBSP on 4/14 (RH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Not a peak year, though these birds were not scarce. Many reports of feeder birds and of sightings of one or two in April. On 3/31 eight were counted at Findlay SP (Lorain Co.) (SS).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Common. Highest count was six on 5/23 along Rocky River (TMR).

Brown Creeper. Headlands had regular sightings of one to ten birds through 5/1; 20 were found there on 4/23 (RH). Five were counted on 4/16 along a three-mile stretch of the towpath north of Station Road (SJ, CW).

Carolina Wren. Rob Harlan remarked that numbers seemed lower (RSH). Except for Headlands (RH) and CVNP's Boston area (HO), which each had one or two observed almost daily throughout the season, there were only seven other single-bird reports.

House Wren. Migrants began arriving 4/25 in many reports. Seventeen were

counted along the Rocky River on 5/23 (TMR).

Winter Wren. There were sightings of one and two in March and April throughout the area. One was found among the CVNP Kendall Ledges' hemlocks on 4/30, where they have been known to nest (PC). Commonly seen at HBSP until 5/4; six were observed there on 4/11 (RH).

Marsh Wren. Headlands had sightings from 4/27 to 5/22 with as many as four on 5/4 (RH). The only other report was one on 5/10 at Sandy Ridge (CC). Dwight Chasar noted that they weren't found in their usual CVNP territories (DAC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Migrant numbers peaked late March and early April. On 4/12, 24 were tallied at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The earliest report was one on 4/9 at Nimisila Reservoir (GB). Very abundant migrants were discovered at West Creek Reservation (Cuyahoga Co.) when 78 were counted on 4/19 (GL). The same week, 50 were seen on 4/24 at HBSP (RH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One at Best Preserve (Geauga Co.) on 4/14 was the

Avian Drama in Cleveland Heights

Steve Cagan

I'm sure that people are going to explain to me that this happens every day, but it's the first time we've seen it: about 7 PM, we looked out the kitchen window, which is near our feeders, and on top of the wooden fence that separates our yard from the neighbor, a Blue Jay (seemed a little small to me, a young one?) was working hard, pecking away at a lump of something at its feet. The lump of something turned out to be a House Sparrow. From what we could see, the victim was not quite dead, but nearly so, and the Blue Jay was not apparently eating; it was not coming up with anything we could see in its beak. But this was a very serious pursuit; the jay dragged its victim around, changed angles, at one point it latched on to the sparrow's beak.

Meanwhile, we were not the only ones whose curiosity was aroused. A Carolina Wren showed up (this is a pretty rare event), totally focused on the jay's activity. The wren kept hopping closer and closer, sort of circling from branch to branch like a passerine being "pished" in by a birder. A Downy Woodpecker also seemed interested, though it stayed a little further away by just a couple of feet. After a while, the sparrow fell off on the other side of the fence, and jay and wren followed. The woodpecker decided she was more interested in suet. After another while, I went out to see what was left, noting just indications in the leaves on the ground that they had been there.

earliest reported sighting (JH). The highest count was at Headlands with 25 counted on 4/27 (RH). Craig Caldwell had well-documented nest-building activity in the CVNP: one bird building a nest on 5/3 at Ira Road, two separate nests being built at Station Road on the same day, and a third nest found at Station Road on 5/13 (CC). Hope Orr's group found young in a nest on 5/21 at Boston (HO).

Eastern Bluebird. Expected numbers. High counts included 14 the week of 5/21 at Frohring Meadows (LG) and 12 in the CVNP on 5/21 (HO).

Veery. HBSP numbers were fewer than recent years; the earliest was two on 4/27 and the high was seven on 5/7 (RH). Many reports of one or two birds throughout the area in May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush. Earliest report was two on 4/26 at Hemlock Creek Picnic Area in Bedford Reservation (FL). Two early arrivals on 4/27 and three later birds on 5/28 were seen at HBSP, which overall had fewer numbers than recent years (RH). Many single-bird sightings: Silver Creek MP on 5/1 (RSH), at the CVNP Kendall ledges on 5/3 (CC), on 5/8 at a Wickliffe park (DJH), on 5/17 at Wildwood Park (NA) and a Westlake residence on 5/26 (CC).

Swainson's Thrush. The earliest report was from Hinckley Reservation, where one was seen on 4/25 (TMR). On 4/30 six were counted at the CVNP's Kendall Ledges (PC).

Hermit Thrush. The earliest report was five at HBSP on 3/29; the highest count was found there also with 30 on 4/24 (RH).

Wood Thrush. Headlands had the earliest report with four on 4/24 and the highest daily count with six on 5/2 (RH).

American Robin. Headlands had a count of 300 on both 3/18 and 4/14 (RH). Hundreds were seen at Calvary Cemetery (Cleveland-Garfield Heights) on 3/25 (LGa).

Gray Catbird. Beginning with one bird on 4/25, counts peaked at 60 on 5/15 at HBSP (RH). Many reports also had their highest counts mid-May; Hale Farm had 19 on 5/16 (TMR).

Northern Mockingbird. Found throughout the season in a Sagamore Hills subdivision with up to three birds on 3/23 and again on 4/29 (DAC, SJ, CW). At least four other reports of single birds in and around Cleveland.

Brown Thrasher. Few reports. One thrasher was an unfortunate victim of traffic, found by Nancy Howell on 3/31 along I-90 in Cleveland (NH). Headlands had the highest count with 14 on 5/1 (RH).

European Starling. Counts were included in only half the reports; 28 were seen at Ira Road on 3/2 (TMR).

American Pipit. All reports: in Suffield Twp. 18 were counted on 4/7 (GB); Frohring Meadows had sightings throughout April of three to eight birds (LG); Headlands had eight on 5/8 and 25 on 5/11 (RH).

Cedar Waxwing. All counts were higher towards the end of the season. Headlands had 200 to 300 in late May (RH). Other reports had maximum numbers under 50.

Blue-winged Warbler. Earliest reports were on 4/27; one at HBSP (RH) and two at Ira Road (TMR). High counts include five at CVNP's Horseshoe Pond area on 5/3 (CC) and four seen on 5/8 at Headlands (RH).

Brewster's Warbler. On 5/6 and 5/7 one was seen at Jaite (DAC).

Golden-winged Warbler. On 5/2 the Wetmore Trail area of the CVNP hosted one individual (HT). Headlands had single birds on 5/7 and 5/8 (RH) and on 5/12 and 5/13 (DB). Oak Hill in the CVNP had two on 5/9 (DAC) and one on 5/13 (TMR). On 5/17 one was seen at Wildwood Park (NA).

Tennessee Warbler. One to four were in most complete reports, mainly mid-May. One at Wilbeth Road on 4/26 was the earliest report (GB). Ten were counted at West Creek Reservation on 5/10 (GL).

Orange-crowned Warbler. One of these uncommon migrants was found on 5/2 at Wendy Park at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River (GL). Nesmith Lake had one bird on 5/3 (GB). At Headlands one was found on 5/8, 5/11 and 5/13 (RH).

Nashville Warbler. One on 4/27 at Station Road was the earliest report (FL). As many as eight were seen on 5/3 at Bedford Reservation (FL) and at HBSP on 5/6 and 5/8 (RH).

Northern Parula. Two were found at Elmwood Wetland Preserve on both 4/25 and 5/18 (GB). On 4/26 HBSP had its first migrant; three were found there on 5/16 (RH). A pair was seen at Station Road on 5/14 (DAC). Two were also found at Hinckley Reservation's Johnson Picnic Area on 5/19 (CC).

Yellow Warbler. Earliest was one at HBSP on 4/24 (RH); most reported first sightings were within the next two days. In many complete reports the peak number occurred on 5/16; Ira Road had 40 that day (TMR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. One at Station Road on 4/27 was the earliest report (FL). Headlands, where Ray Hannikman's observations outnumbered all other area reports combined, had sightings almost daily of one to four birds; five were counted on 5/10 (RH).

Magnolia Warbler. A common migrant. Earliest sightings were of one at Firestone MP on 5/2 (RSH) and one at Station Road on 5/3 (DAC). Seven were counted on 5/18 at Elmwood Wetland Preserve (GB). Headlands had 18 on 5/16 (RH).

Cape May Warbler. Few sightings. An early migrant was spotted in North Perry on 4/24, tying the earliest spring



Black-throated Blue Warbler, Lakewood, 5/16/2009
Paula Lozano

record set in 1955 (JP). Single birds were seen at West Creek Reservation in Parma on 5/10 (GL) and on 5/12 at Cleveland Lakefront SP (TMR).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. A common migrant at Headlands with sightings nearly every day in May; 12 were seen on 5/16 (RH). Three were found on 5/18 at Elmwood Wetlands (GB). There were five single-bird sightings at various CVNP locations on 5/3 and 5/4 (CC, DAC).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. On 3/2 ten were counted at Findlay SP (CC). HBSP had 35 on 4/23 and 30 on 5/8 (RH).

Audubon's Warbler (Yellow-rumped Warbler ssp.). An individual was found at Lake Metroparks' Veteran's Park in Mentor (Lake Co.) on the morning of 4/23, the same location where one was seen the previous year on 4/13 and 4/14/2008 (JP).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Although many reports had one to three birds, all on 4/25 as their earliest sighting, Headlands topped them all with eight seen on 4/24 (RH).

Blackburnian Warbler. Earliest report was one in Wadsworth on 4/28 (RSH). Headlands had between one and three from 5/6 to 5/27 (RH). In Bedford Reservation one was found on 5/10 and two on 5/17 (FL). Five were seen on 5/18 at Elmwood Wetland Preserve (GB).

Yellow-throated Warbler. The CVNP nesting locations for this species proved reliable once again this year. At Station Road one to three were counted between 4/12 and 5/18 (DAC, CC, SJ, CW, FL). Nearby, four were seen at the Brecksville Reservation border and one was observed at Deep Lock (DAC), all on 5/3. Red Lock had one on 5/8 (FL). One was located on Cleveland MP land in North Royalton on 5/6 (TMR). The only other location

reported was one found at HBSP on 4/24 (RH).

Pine Warbler. On 4/4 a singing male was discovered at Mogadore Reservoir (GB). One was observed on 4/11 at Brecksville Reservation (DAC). A total of 19 were counted at a North Perry residence on 4/24, travelling in small groups though at one point 11 were seen in one tree (JP). Headlands had only one each on 4/18 and 4/24 (RH). Three migrants were counted on 5/6 at Hinckley Reservation (RSH).

Kirtland's Warbler. One bird was discovered on 5/21 and provided good long looks that day at a North Perry residence bordering Lake Shore Reservation MP (JP).

Prairie Warbler. One was discovered at Jaite on 5/13 and remained until the end of the season (DAC, SJ, CW, FL).

Palm Warbler. Almost all sightings were the last week of April. Headlands had 25 pass through on 4/24 and numbers almost as high on several dates until 5/4 (RH). Ten were counted on 5/10 at Lower Shaker Lake (DJH).

Bay-breasted Warbler. Several single-bird sightings at HBSP beginning 5/7; five were found on 5/13 (RH). One seen on 5/2 at Firestone Park was the only other report (RSH).

Blackpoll Warbler. Numerous at Headlands; an early individual was seen on 5/2 and then one to eleven were seen almost daily from 5/16 on (RH). All other reports were from the CVNP; three were found on 5/18 at Ira Road (TMR).

Cerulean Warbler. On 4/26 the Harlan's had the earliest sightings, one at Hinckley MP and two at Lorain County's Eagle Creek SNP (RSH). Walks in the CVNP's Station Road area in May reliably produced counts of up to eight (many obs.). Three were found at Hinckley Reservations's Johnson Picnic Area on 5/19 (CC). On 5/21 Red Lock in the CVNP had three (DAC). Four were found along the Rocky River on 5/23 (TMR).

Black-and-white Warbler. A common bird at Headlands, the first sighting was two on 4/24 (RH). One was spotted in Brecksville Reservation on 5/5 (DAC). Bedford Reservation also had two on 5/10 (FL).

American Redstart. A common mid-May migrant throughout the area; HBSB had counts of up to 20 on most days that month (RH). At Elmwood Wetland Preserve 15 were tallied on 5/18 (GB).

Prothonotary Warbler. The earliest arrival was on 4/25 when one male showed at the nest jars placed at the Upper Cuyahoga's Eldon Russell Park (Geauga Co.); numbers at this location rose to 12 males and eight females by 5/22 (DB). Two singing males were found at Nimisila Reservoir on 4/27 (GB). Sandy Ridge had a pair on 5/10 (CC). A female was found on 5/14 at Cleveland's Wade Oval pond (HC). Single birds were reliably seen at HBSP 5/16 to 5/28 (RH). The CVNP's healthy population was seen by many from late April on; five were seen between Red Lock and Station Road on 5/21 (DAC). Ira Road had one on 5/25 (TMR). A Prothonotary was singing on 5/30 at Wildwood State Park on the west side of Euclid Creek south of the bathhouse (NA).

Worm-eating Warbler. One was found on private property in Cuyahoga County on 5/2 (GL). The Wetmore area of the CVNP had its annual sighting, this time on 5/23 (DAC).

Ovenbird. Headlands had up to nine seen between 4/24 and 5/27 (RH). Early arrivals included one at Hinckley Reservation on 4/25 (TMR) and one at Sandy Ridge on 4/26 (CC). Five singing males were heard on 5/18 at Findley SP (GB).

Northern Waterthrush. An early sighting occurred on 4/9 at Hogback Ridge Park (Lake Co.) (SJ, CW). Between one and four were seen almost daily at HBSP from 4/24 to 5/24 (RH). The CVNP had three

single-bird sightings in mid-May (DAC).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Many reports had one or two sightings of this early local nester. The Chasars found several in the CVNP beginning 4/14 (DAC).

Kentucky Warbler. The earliest spring record date of 4/29 set in 1961 was broken this season. On 4/25 one was seen in North Perry, observed coming inland off the lake, flying west along the shore and then heading into trees along the beach (JP). The next day on 4/26 a silent bird was the first ever April record at Mentor Lagoons (JT *file* RH).

Connecticut Warbler. One was heard singing, with a brief glimpse given, on 5/21 in North Perry (JP).

Mourning Warbler. Seen on eleven different days at Headlands, with a peak of 12 birds on 5/21 (RH). The only other report was one found on 5/28 in the CVNP in Peninsula (DAC).

Common Yellowthroat. The earliest report was a single bird on 4/25 at Wildwood Park (NA). On 4/30 24 were seen in the CVNP Boston area (HO).

Hooded Warbler. This common summer resident was in most complete reports. Earliest report was one at Wildwood Park on 4/25 (NA). Mostly single birds were observed at HBSP beginning 4/27 (RH). The CVNP had many observations; on 5/25 the count for the day at Kendall Ledges was 11 (CC) and four were tallied on 5/31 near Boston (DAC). On a walk through Rocky River Reservation 15 were counted on 5/23 (TMR).

Wilson's Warbler. HBSP had its first migrant on 5/7, with counts averaging between five and seven throughout May and with a high of 12 on 5/21 (RH). Bedford Reservation had two on 5/17 (FL). Two were counted at Wildwood Park on 5/31. (NA).

Canada Warbler. Many sightings at HBSP of one to seven birds beginning 5/6 (RH). At Bedford Reservation one was found on both 5/10 and 5/17 (FL). One was seen on 5/11 at Ira Road (TMR). Four were found on 5/18 at Elmwood Wetland Preserve (GB). Station Road had one on 5/18 (SJ, CW) and two on 5/19 (DAC); that same day one was spotted at the CVNP Kendall Ledges area (CC).

Yellow-breasted Chat. One was seen at HBSP on 4/25, 4/26 and 5/8 (RH). Summit County had all the other sightings; Silver Creek MP had one to three males from 4/28 through end of May (RSH), one at Oak Hill in the CVNP on 5/9 (DAC) and 5/13 (TMR), one on 5/12 in Sagamore Hills (DAC) and one at Jaite on 5/13 through 5/27 (DAC, FL, SJ, CW).

Eastern Towhee. As numerous as any sparrow this season; many reports had five to ten sightings in a day. An estimated 20 individuals were counted on 4/1 in the Mentor Headlands area (JT, SW, RH). Ten each were counted on 5/7 at Hinckley Reservation and again on 5/8 at Silver Creek MP (RSH). Seven were observed at the Coliseum site on 4/16 (HO). Seven were also counted on 5/16 at Hale Farm in the CVNP (TMR).

American Tree Sparrow. The latest report was one seen at Headlands on both 5/4 and 5/6 (RH).

Chipping Sparrow. A single bird on 4/2 in Brecksville Reservation was the earliest report (DAC). A high of 13 was counted on 4/9 at Boston (HO).

Clay-colored Sparrow. One was seen at a North Perry feeder on the morning of 4/24 (JP).

Field Sparrow. Well-reported throughout the season. Six were seen at Frohring Meadows the week of 4/16 (LG). On 4/19 HBSP had seven (RH). Eight were tallied on 4/25 at Hinckley Reservation (TMR)



Junco at Nest, South Russell, Geauga County, 5/14/2009
Linda Gilbert

Vesper Sparrow. HBSP had the only sightings; two each on 4/7 and on 4/9 (RH).

Savannah Sparrow. Frohring Meadows had twelve the week of 4/16; five or six were seen there on several dates afterwards (LG). Three were seen at the Coliseum site on 4/16 (HO) and two were seen there on 5/3 (CC) and 5/25 (DAC). The Canal Visitors Center area had eight on 4/18 (FL). One to three were spotted at HBSP throughout April and May (RH). Hale Farm in the CVNP had one on 5/16 (TMR).

Grasshopper Sparrow. None were found at the Richfield Coliseum grasslands (DAC).

Henslow's Sparrow. One was found at the Richfield Coliseum site on 5/3 (CC); by 5/25 five to six were heard singing there (DAC).

Le Conte's Sparrow. On 5/23 a skittish individual was flushed several times in the Headlands Dunes area (JT, RH).

Fox Sparrow. Seven were found at Jaite on 4/2 (DAC) and also at Elmwood Wetlands Preserve on 4/13 (GB). Many area sightings of one or two birds in April. A very good spring

for this species in the Headlands area, where ten to twenty were tallied on numerous dates highlighted by an estimated 40 birds on 4/1 (JT, SW, RH); throughout early April their loud ringing sounds echoed from Headlands Beach to Mentor Lagoons to Veteran's Park (RH).

Song Sparrow. Headlands had numbers 30 and higher early March to early April; 90 was the highest tally on 3/29 (RH). At Boston 24 were encountered on both 3/19 and 3/26 (HO). On 4/18 there were 32 at the CVNP's Canal Visitor Center (FL).

Lincoln's Sparrow. Earliest sightings were on 4/26; one in a Euclid backyard (LC) and one at HBSP (RH). The highest count was also at HBSP with ten on 5/13; the last sighting there was one on 5/20 (RH). The only other report was one each on 5/10 (Bedford Reservation) and 5/14 (Jaite) (FL).

Swamp Sparrow. High counts included seven on 4/28 at HBSP (RH) and seven on 5/11 at Ira Road (TMR).

White-throated Sparrow. Peak migration days at Headlands were 4/27 and 5/8 with 80 counted both days; the latest seen there was one on 5/24 (RH).

White-crowned Sparrow. Most reports were just short of mid-May. Highlights include seven on 5/11 at Ira Road (TMR) and 15 on 5/13 at HBSP (RH). Latest sighting was one seen on 5/25 at HBSP (RH).

Dark-eyed Junco. A straggler was found on 5/7 in the CVNP Boston area (HO). Possible nesting birds included one on territory on 5/8 in the Cleveland suburb of Orange, where one has been seen at this location in past years (a residential area with no ravine habitat) (RSH), and three on 5/30 at the Bedford Reservation Overlook (FL). A nest with more than one fledgling (one seen, more heard) was observed on 5/18 at a private picnic shelter in South Russell (LG).

Snow Bunting. On 3/7 there were 15 in a field off Jug Rd. (Gauga Co.) (*vide* DB). Five were found at Frohring Meadows on 3/9 (LG).

Summer Tanager. An adult male was found on 4/26 at Hinckley Reservation (*vide* RSH). On 4/29 to 5/1, one female visited a Hambden Twp. (Gauga Co.) suet feeder (Many obs. *vide* DB).

Scarlet Tanager. The earliest sighting was one in the Bedford Reservation on 4/26 (FL). Eight were counted on 5/16

at Hale Farm in the CVNP (TMR). On 5/21 an active nest was found in Brecksville Reservation (DAC).

Northern Cardinal. Common, when reported.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Well-reported. The Romitos had the earliest sighting with three on 4/25 at Hinckley Reservation, and the highest daily count with 15 on 5/11 at Ira Road and again on 5/16 at nearby Hale Farm (TMR).

Indigo Bunting. The earliest report was from HBSP on 4/27 (RH). At Rocky River Reservation 13 were counted on 5/23 (TMR).

Bobolink. The earliest seen was three

at the Coliseum site on 5/3 (CC), where numbers climbed to 25 by 5/25 (DAC). One to five migrants were seen at HBSP on five dates in May (RH). Frohring Meadows had 26 the week of 5/21 (LG).

Red-winged Blackbird. At Jaite an estimated 850 were seen on 3/26 (FL).

Eastern Meadowlark. Fifteen seen at Headlands on 3/15 (RH) and two on 3/29 at All Saints Cemetery (Northfield, Summit Co.) (DAC) were the earliest reports. At the Coliseum site five were counted on 5/25 (DAC).

Rusty Blackbird. All reports:
7-8 on 3/12 at Chagrin River Park (Willoughby) (JH).
10 on 3/13 at West Branch SP (Portage

Co.) (GB).
2 on 3/14 at HBSP (RH).
20-25, mixed w/Grackles, etc. on 3/15 at Red Lock (CVNP) (DAC).
25 on 3/15 at West Rd. & Hughes Rd. (Lorain Co.) (GL).
3 on 3/16 at HBSP (RH).
20 on 3/18 at HBSP (RH).
22 (19 m, 3 f) on 3/21 at Bolanz Rd., CVNP (DV).
4 on 3/23 at Ira Rd. (TMR).
12 on 3/26 at Jaite (FL).
1 on 3/26 at Boston (HO).
5 on 3/28 at Mogadore Reservoir (GB).
16 on 3/30 at HBSP (RH).
10 on 3/30 at Ira Rd. (TMR).
40 on 4/1 at HBSP (RH).
60 on 4/2 at HBSP (RH).
40 on 4/3 at HBSP (RH).
66 on 4/5 at Mentor Marsh (LR).
23 on 4/5 along W. branch of the



Female Summer Tanager, Hambden Township, Geauga County, 4/29/2009 – 5/1/2009
Christy Blair

Cuyahoga R., Claridon Twp. (DB).
 4-6 on 4/5 at W.C. Best Wildlife Preserve (*fide* DB).
 60 on 4/6 at HBSP (RH).
 2 on 4/7 at Ira Rd. (TMR).
 22 on 4/7 at Suffield Twp. (GB).
 10 on 4/7 at HBSP (RH).
 60 on 4/8 at HBSP (RH).
 50 on 4/9 at HBSP (RH).
 10 on 4/11 at Wingfoot Lake (GB).
 1 on 4/11 in Lakewood (Cuyahoga Co.) (PL).
 30 on 4/12 at HBSP (RH).
 4 on 4/12 at Lake Kelso (Geauga Co.) (DB).
 2 on 4/13 at Ira Rd. (TMR).
 20 on 4/14 at HBSP (RH).
 6 on 4/16 at Nimisila Reservoir (GB).
 5 on 4/19 at HBSP (RH).
 22 on 4/21 at Tinkers Creek SNP (FL).
 2 on 4/21 in Chardon (SDI).
 20 on 4/24 at Eldon Russell Park (Geauga Co.) (DB).
 1 on 4/25 at Elmwood Wetlands Preserve (GB).
 2 on 4/26 in southern CVNP (DV).
 17 on 4/26 in Munson Twp. (Geauga Co.) (DB).
 1 on 4/27 at West Woods (Geauga Co.) (LG).
 20-25 on 5/7 near Eldon Russell Park (Geauga Co.) (DB).
 1 on 5/12 at HBSP (RH).

Common Grackle. Several reports of March flocks of over 200. The Hoffmans had a nest built the first week of April at their residence and young being fed by 5/18 (DJH).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Ira Road had 15 on 3/23 (TMR). On 4/18 there were 17 at the CVNP Canal Visitor's Center (FL).

Orchard Oriole. Seemingly more numerous every year. Bedford

Reservation had its first sighting on 4/26 (FL). There were many sightings throughout the CVNP of one or two birds beginning 4/27 (many obs.); five were seen at Ira Road on 5/11 (TMR) and a first-year male was seen at Jaite on 5/24 (DAC). Three, one immature male, one mature male and one female, were seen on 5/13 at HBSP (DB).

Baltimore Oriole. Most all reports had their earliest arrivals 4/25 through 4/27. Headlands' highest number was 25 on 5/7 (RH). Ira Road had twenty counted on three separate dates in May (TMR).

Purple Finch. Ira Road had a sighting on 3/16 of one bird and on 4/13 of two (TMR). Very common at HBSP in April with the highest count of eight on 4/26 (RH). The Isaccos had numerous feeder visitors in April with as many as 11 on 4/21 (SDI). Between one and two were seen in South Russell in April as well (LG). The Chasars had one at Station Road on 4/11 and one at the Coliseum site on 5/25 (DAC). Also on 5/25 one was found at the CVNP Horseshoe Pond area (CC).

House Finch. Expected numbers.

Red Crossbill. On 4/9 two were seen and heard at Veteran's Park (JT *fide* RH).

White-winged Crossbill. Spring sightings were a continuation of the past winter's remarkable irruption. Two were seen at a Sagamore Hills feeder on 3/9 (SJ, CW). At least 12 flew over Dan Best's house on 3/7, where they were later found in spruces in a nearby cemetery (DB). In South Russell (Geauga Co.) five (one male, four females) were seen in a backyard

on 3/25 (LG). On 4/25 four were discovered at Hinckley Reservation (TMR). Headlands had its last sighting on 4/26 when four flew over observers at the nature preserve's dunes area (JT *fide* RH). The latest sighting was one that made a brief feeder appearance on 5/8 in North Perry (JP).

Common Redpoll. On 3/17 at Headlands 100 were counted; a single straggler was seen there as late as 4/2 (RH). As many as four were at a Wadsworth feeder from 3/5 to 3/23 (RSH). An extremely late bird visited a North Perry feeder on 5/10 (JP).

Pine Siskin. The winter showing continued into the spring; in fact, breeding was well documented and there were as many May sightings as there were in March or April. The Chasars witnessed nest-building on 4/14 at Deep Lock (DAC). Greg Bennett saw an adult feeding a fledgling at his feeder at Nesmith Lake on 5/10; later on 5/14 begging fledglings were seen (GB). A nest was found in a Box Elder in Grafton (Lorain Co.) on 5/12 by Cathy Priebe with four nestlings verified on 5/14; on 5/20 she photographed a lone fledgling; later she witnessed a siskin feeding a fledgling cowbird on 5/27 (CP).

American Goldfinch. Common.

Evening Grosbeak. A single female made a feeder visit in North Perry the evening of 4/29 (JP).

House Sparrow. Highest count report was twenty on 4/18 at the CVNP Canal Visitors Center (FL).

State of Excitement!

Scott VanValkenburg

The diversity of bird life will not be greater in the future, the organizations helping people to understand birds or to fight for their conservation never more numerous, and the technology - be it optics or the Web - making birding available to people of all means has reached a new pinnacle. That was the summary that I took away from Harvey Webster's State of the State's Birds talk at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) in 2009. Webster, who is Director of Wildlife Resources at CMNH, gave a fascinating talk that took us from Ohio in the 1790's through today with a look at the negative and positive impacts on our avian neighbors.

Between 1790 and 1840 the great forests of Ohio were turned into farmland. What had been a mostly forested state (with exceptions of a few grassland prairies, the Black Swamp of Northeastern Ohio, and some other wetland and grassland areas) became fields of crops grown for consumption in traditional agriculture such as still seen on Amish farms in our state. Hedgerows, the erection of barns, and large fields brought benefits to certain species even as others declined. The birds of the forest including Barred Owls & Pileated Woodpeckers declined; species that benefited from the new landscape such as the Bobolink and Barn Owl increased.

Following World War II, the use of chemical fertilizers and mechanized equipment led to monocultures and the elimination of habitats useful to birds like the Bobolink. The chemicals also were almost the nail in the coffin of birds in trouble such as the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

But between 1940 and 1994, forested land increased from 15% of the state to 30% of Ohio. Birds like the Pileated and Barred Owl made a comeback.

Far-sighted conservation efforts that protected land and key legislation - such as the Clean Water Act - further spurred recovery of many species. For example, critical nesting areas for Cerulean Warblers were protected. Double-crested Cormorants benefited from the improved condition of Lake Erie. Wild turkeys were reintroduced by the Division of Wildlife and have successfully repopulated much of the state. Sandhill cranes are nesting in Ohio again.

Energy development, urbanization (which fragments habitat and introduces structures with lighting and windows that kill birds), modern agricultural practices, viruses such as the Highly Pathogenic Bird Flu Virus, global warming, and other threats pose a real danger to the existence of some species. But our understanding of birds is increasing, and with the enormous number of people who feed or observe birds the potential for increasing that understanding and implementing practices that preserve these species for the future has never been greater. The Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and other organizations are working to meet this critical need. If Spring is a time of renewal, then Webster's address was a timely as well as effective message that we should appreciate the value of organizations like the KBC and reach out now to people who have a thirst for knowledge about birds.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Spring Census, May 16, 2009

Dwight Chasar, Volunteer, CVNP

The weather cooperated again with warmth and just a few scattered rain showers later in the morning. We had 20 teams representing 52 people out in the CVNP and we found 133 species of birds, the fourth highest since 1981.

While the census was begun in 1981, we began counting individuals of each species in 1995 and those are the numbers we have to compare to. The spring May date has varied over those years from the 7th to the 16th (this year) and that will have an effect on the numbers of individuals as well as some of the species being seen.

Summary of results: First Peregrine Falcon report on a spring count due to the nest on the I-80 bridge; Carolina wren numbers were down 65% from last year, presumably because of the high snow cover in February, which leads to their starvation. Hooded Mergansers were highest ever because we could get to the heron colony this year (eagle nest failed) to see successful broods of young. Look at the attached list of species seen and their numbers. Those numbers marked with asterisks (*) were highest counts ever for that species. You will see that they are all migrants (except waxwings) that nest here and they were given more time than usual (May 16) to arrive and to set up territories with singing, which made them more detectable. The blackpoll does not nest here but it is a late warbler migrant and we hit a high point for its presence because of the later count date. The waxwings have been an enigma to me. Sometime after winter and before nesting starts in June, they seem to disappear and are hard to find. Historically, our results show single digit or low double digit numbers. This year we had a super abundance, again I believe because of the later date of the census.

(Results on following page)

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Spring Census, May 16, 2009 (continued)

* Highest ever due to late census date

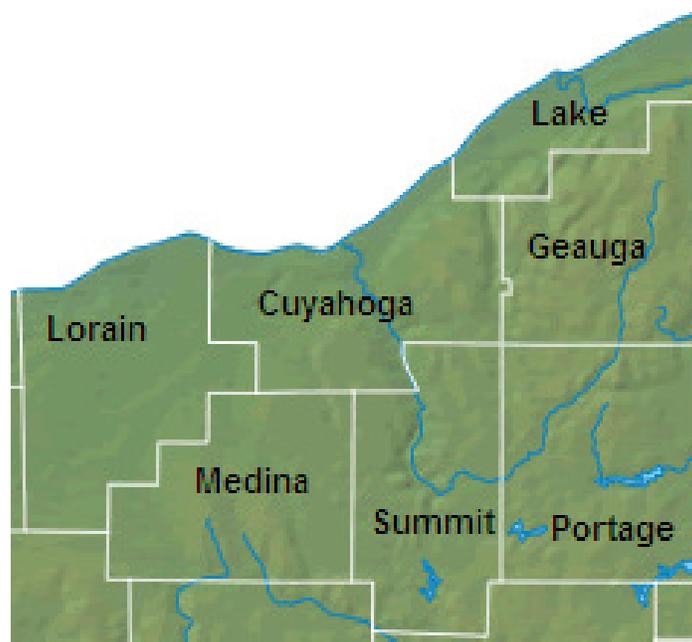
200	Canada Goose	* 46	Eastern Kingbird	1	Prairie Warbler
2	Mute Swan	14	White-eyed Vireo	* 14	Blackpoll Warbler
44	Wood Duck	16	Yellow-throated Vireo	6	Cerulean Warbler
56	Mallard	13	Blue-headed Vireo	2	Black-and-white Warbler
20	Hooded Merganser (<i>mostly young birds</i>)	* 94	Warbling Vireo	27	American Redstart
9	Wild Turkey	* 144	Red-eyed Vireo	11	Prothonotary Warbler
79	Great Blue Heron	149	Blue Jay	1	Worm-eating Warbler
1	Great Egret	117	American Crow	37	Ovenbird
8	Green Heron	169	Tree Swallow	7	Louisiana Waterthrush
95	Turkey Vulture	91	N. Rough-winged Swallow	153	Common Yellowthroat
2	Bald Eagle	40	Bank Swallow	65	Hooded Warbler
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	82	Barn Swallow	4	Wilson's Warbler
7	Cooper's Hawk	139	Black-capped Chickadee	5	Canada Warbler
13	Red-shouldered Hawk	90	Tufted Titmouse	1	Yellow-breasted Chat
2	Broad-winged Hawk	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	* 82	Scarlet Tanager
31	Red-tailed Hawk	36	White-breasted Nuthatch	47	Eastern Towhee
1	Peregrine Falcon	4	Brown Creeper	2	American Tree Sparrow
5	Virginia Rail	5	Carolina Wren	92	Chipping Sparrow
3	Sora	* 90	House Wren	39	Field Sparrow
23	Killdeer	1	Sedge Wren	4	Savannah Sparrow
5	Spotted Sandpiper	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Henslow's Sparrow
9	Solitary Sandpiper	* 120	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	153	Song Sparrow
2	American Woodcock	55	Eastern Bluebird	33	Swamp Sparrow
7	Ring-billed Gull	13	Veery	1	White-throated Sparrow
1	Herring Gull	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	White-crowned Sparrow
25	Rock Pigeon	11	Swainson's Thrush	244	Northern Cardinal
87	Mourning Dove	2	Hermit Thrush	54	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
1	Black-billed Cuckoo	27	Wood Thrush	* 160	Indigo Bunting
1	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	289	American Robin	9	Bobolink
1	Eastern Screech Owl	* 184	Gray Catbird	601	Red-winged Blackbird
* 6	Barred Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	6	Eastern Meadowlark
90	Chimney Swift	148	European Starling	147	Common Grackle
* 22	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	* 244	Cedar Waxwing	105	Brown-headed Cowbird
13	Belted Kingfisher	46	Blue-winged Warbler	19	Orchard Oriole
13	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Golden-winged Warbler	173	Baltimore Oriole
79	Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	Tennessee Warbler	34	House Finch
34	Downy Woodpecker	1	Nashville Warbler	259	American Goldfinch
* 19	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Northern Parula	56	House Sparrow
30	Northern Flicker	200	Yellow Warbler		
25	Pileated Woodpecker	10	Chestnut-sided Warbler		
* 44	Eastern Wood-Pewee	9	Magnolia Warbler		
1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Cape May Warbler		
* 36	Acadian Flycatcher	2	Black-thr. Blue Warbler		
* 14	Willow Flycatcher	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
4	Least Flycatcher	8	Black-thr. Green Warbler		
42	Eastern Phoebe	2	Blackburnian Warbler		
* 89	Great Crested Flycatcher	6	Yellow-throated Warbler		
		3	Pine Warbler		

Contributors

Nancy Anderson	NA	Ray Hannikman	RH	John Pogacnik *	JP
Emil Bacik	EB	Rob & Sandy Harlan	RSH	Cathy Priebe	CP
Greg Bennett	GB	Nancy Howell *	NH	Drew Rolik	DR
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Christy Blair	CB	Jeanne Hrenko	JH	Tom & Marry Anne Romito	TMR
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Linda Gilbert	LG	Jim McKormac *	JMc	Eileen Zimlich	EZ
Tami Gingrich	TG	Hope Orr	HO		

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

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



Cleveland Bird Calendar 7-county Area

Kirtland Bird Club
c/o The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle
Cleveland, OH 44106-1767



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