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THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

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

- December Temperature and precipitation were above normal. During the last half the temperature averaged well above 32°. On the 11th a snow storm deposited up to 12 inches in the eastern portion of the region.
- January Snowfall was less than half of normal, while the temperature averaged just above normal. There was only one near-zero day, 4° on the 9th.
- February The coldest and driest February since 1947, and one of the windiest months on record. The temperature averaged 23.2°, with readings of zero on the 12th and sub-zero on the 17th and 18th. Snowfall was near normal, the heaviest fall occurring from the 17th to the 19th.

All records, observations, and comments should be sent to Donald L. Newman, 14174 Superior Road, Cleveland 18, Ohio.

THE NEW NOMENCLATURE

Beginning with this issue the Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR will use the nomenclature contained in the Fifth Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of Birds of North America which was published in the autumn of 1957. On page 15 of this issue we have listed, for the benefit of our readers, the principal changes in the names of the birds of the Cleveland region.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Certainly the outstanding feature of the winter was the invasion of Robins, whose numbers exceeded those of the winter of 1955-56 and rivaled the phenomenal invasion of the winter of 1950-51. In the first three weeks of December there were just five records totaling 11 birds, but, as a hint of what was to come, the West Side Christmas Count on the 22nd produced a total of 198 birds. The other counts were much less revealing: East Side, 13; Brecksville, 0; Cuyahoga Falls, 52. On December 30, at Shaker Lakes a flock of about 150 Robins was observed. But these may have been only the vanguard, for the real influx did not begin until about the second week of January. From then until the end of February they were seen throughout the region in flocks of from six to 500 or more. They concentrated in orchards, stands of hawthorns and staghorn sumachs [sumacs], and wherever else they could find berry-bearing trees and shrubs. Frozen apples, both on the tree and on the ground, were a chief source of nourishment. As soon as the supply of food was depleted, the Robins moved on. Thus at a farm near Peninsula a flock of at least 150 birds appeared about January 15 and remained for the next five or six days while feeding on the dry red multiflora berries. By the time these berries were gone, only about a dozen birds still remained (Price).

Two flocks estimated to contain a thousand or more Robins each were reported. The one was observed just at twilight on January 17 at Mentor Headlands as the birds were coming in to roost (F.H. Firsching fide Booth), and the other was at Lake Mogadore on February 2, where the birds were settling in the pine trees (Staiger). The protracted cold spell which began February 7 may have caused the breaking up of these large flocks as they spread out in search of food, for several observers noted a more widespread dispersion of the birds after that date.

In contrast to last winter when there were just two records of the Northern Shrike, this winter produced eight records of at least six different birds, which is the largest number reported in the past eight years. With the exception of a bird observed near Lorain on February 22 (Lebold), all of the others were found east of the Cuyahoga River. This pattern of distribution is typical of the history of this species in the Cleveland region.

Though not as spectacular as the invasions of 1945-46 and 1951-52, there was a quite sizable incursion of Evening Grosbeaks, which were reported in all three months and from 13 separate localities. Yet, as has been true previously, this species was not recorded in the extreme western portion of our region; the most westerly record was of three birds in Elmhurst Cemetery, Avon, in late December (Davies). Feeding stations attracted the largest flocks, and a band of as many as 58 occurred regularly at the McKay residence in Brecksville, from which community the Grosbeaks were most commonly reported (Hostetler). In Kent eight to ten were first seen on January 8, but gradually increased to about 20 by the end of February (Dexter). At Northfield Center, where the birds appeared for the third successive year, some two dozen came daily to a feeding station during January and February except for one week in mid-January when they failed to appear at all.

Purple Finches occurred in some numbers throughout the winter in the Rocky River Valley, while in Brecksville a flock which increased from 15 to 22 birds frequented the feeding station at the McKay residence (Hostetler). This species was not recorded in either the eastern or western sections of the region.

The Redpoll, for which there were no records last winter, was reported in seven localities this winter and well distributed throughout the region. A flock of 50 was frequently observed feeding on the seeds of the yellow birch trees at the Lower Shaker Lake during the latter half of December (Deininger), and there were an estimated 50 at the Sherwin Farm on February 9. The largest number reported was an estimated 75 near the Hach Sanctuary on February 8 (Skaggs).

Unlike most other winters, this year saw no reports of such early-arriving migrants as the Killdeer, Bluebird, and Common Grackle, which customarily appear, at least in small numbers, during the middle or latter part of February. Crows began to arrive about February 20, though seemingly in smaller flocks than usual. The Redwinged Blackbird was conspicuously absent, and there was just one record of a solitary bird at Summit Lake, Akron, on February 21 (Wiley). Apparently the prolonged cold and snow which extended into the area well south of Cleveland had an effect upon the northward movement of the late February migrants.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR (Autumn 1957), a typographical error made it appear that 348 species and subspecies were reported in the Cleveland region from December 1, 1956 to November 30, 1957. The correct figure is 248, which is two less than the total reported in the previous year.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Red-necked Grebe - On December 12, in one of the small enclosed channels at the East 72nd Street plant of the Illuminating Company on the lakefront, a single bird was swimming and diving in the company of a Horned Grebe (Henderson). A second record of this rare visitor is of a bird on Summit Lake in Akron, on February 20, where it was still present at the end of that month (Wiley). These are the first reports for this species in the region since one was observed on the Cleveland lakefront on March 23, 1955.

Black-crowned Night Heron - After being flushed from a clump of spruce trees in the Rocky River Valley on January 19, this heron, for which there are three previous winter records, flew across the river and landed in a sycamore. In a few minutes it flew on up the valley, but several hours later was again flushed from the same clump of spruce trees (Davies).

Blue Goose - Seemingly the same individual that was observed on the Sherwin Farm, Waite Hill, in the last week of November was seen there again on December 7 and 8 in association with a flock of semi-wild Canada Geese which divided their time between the pond and the adjoining fields (Sherwin).

Oldsquaw - In the bright noonday sunlight on February 20, six handsome males, flying low over the water, flashed past the ducks assembled in the ice-free area on the lakefront at East 72nd Street (L. Maly). This is the largest number reported in the last ten years.

Harlequin Duck - The third record for the Cleveland region, where this species was first reported in January 1954, is of a male on Lake Erie, just off Webb Road, Lakewood on January 4 (Klamm). This bird was seen in the same spot on January 12 (Davies). On both occasions the bird was in a group of several hundred Common Goldeneye.

Surf Scoter - This occasional winter visitor was reported just once - on December 22, when one was observed on Lake Erie at Webb Road (Davies).

Mourning Dove - While small bands of one or two dozen quite often winter in the region, an exceptionally large flock consisting of approximately 150 birds spent this winter in Waite Hill. They fed on corn and roosted at night in a group of pines adjoining a house. (Sherwin).

Mockingbird - The three records for this winter are the most to be reported in any winter of which we have record. One bird was recorded on December 22 in Big Creek Parkway (Akers). A second Mocker appeared in the last week of December on the heavily planted grounds of a residence in Bedford and was still there at the end of February, having fed regularly on bread, suet, and peanut butter (Hostetler). Yet another backyard visitor appeared in Carlisle Township a few miles south of Elyria, on November 12 and divided its time between two feeding stations a few hundred feet apart. This bird was seen daily and was still present at the end of February (Johnson).

Catbird - Discovered on January 9, in a planting of Japanese crabapple and other ornamental trees in Cascade Park, Elyria, this bird was not seen again although it was looked for often thereafter (Johnson). This is just the second January record for the region, and one of a very few winter records.

Baltimore Oriole - A female or immature oriole - quite shy and rather sluggish skulked in the thick shrubbery and in a stand of pine trees at the Lower Shaker Lake on December 29, when it was observed at close range for about ten minutes (Henderson). The only previous winter record for the region is of an injured bird in Lakewood on January 3, 1927.

Pine Grosbeak - A flock of nine of this rare visitor was feeding in rose bushes at Dorchester Farms, Kirtland Township, on January 24. Near the same place on February 8, a flock of 30 was observed feeding on the road (Scheele). There were no other reports of this species this winter.

White-winged Crossbill - Three females or immatures at the Lower Shaker Lake on December 30 constitute the only record for the season. They called noisily as they flew about in the tops of the pine trees near the boathouse (Deiningner).

FIELD NOTES

Bald Eagle Chases Gull. As I was driving through Clifton Park at about mid-day on January 11, I suddenly caught sight of an adult Bald Eagle flying west low and quite close to shore. When it crossed Rocky River and went up over the bluff, it was moving so slowly I thought it was going to alight in a tree but instead it flew on and out of sight. In a moment or two, however, it came back, flying much faster and headed out across the lake. Then it changed course and chased a gull (seemingly a Ring-billed) back and forth for a minute or so, after which it resumed its westward flight, but at a quickened pace and much farther out than when I first saw it. VERA CARROTHERS

Screech Owl and Saw-whet Owl Share Common Fate. When, on February 15, we cut down a hollow oak tree which stood in the chicken yard on our farm in Lake County, we discovered a Screech Owl and a Saw-whet Owl sharing a cavity in the trunk, but both birds were dead and had frozen stiff. This was in the middle of a period of below zero weather. The owls were made up into skins by Howard W. Martin who found that the stomachs of the birds were absolutely empty; not a single feather, tuft of hair, or fragment of bone was present. If the Saw-whet Owl had been resident in the vicinity during the fall or winter, we were not aware of its presence as we had neither seen nor heard it. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

Crows Roosting at Lorain. Late in the afternoon of January 25, 850 Crows streamed over Sheffield Road (Route 611) on the east edge of Lorain in continuous groups of from 10 to 100 birds. They landed in a field and woods north of the road which suggested this was to be a Crow roost for the night. The course of the flight was from southwest to northeast and passed directly over the steel mills of the city. - WILLIAM and NANCY KLAMM

Large Flock of Cedar Waxwings Feed on Haws. - The guest parking space at the apartment in which I live in Shaker Heights is screened from the boulevard by fourteen Washington hawthorns, which were heavily fruited with clusters of small red haws. Starting on February 2, and continuing through the two weeks of frigid weather that followed, I several times observed flocks of from ten to thirty Cedar Waxwings feeding on these fruits. On February 17, the sub-zero day with a strong wind blowing from the west, I looked out across the garage roof joining our building with another just like it to the west. The metal awning stanchions of a porch on the roof, protected from the west wind by the apartment wall, were covered solidly with Waxwings - like migrating swallows on a wire. A few would fly to the hawthorns to feed and then would fly back to the stanchions for protection from the bitter wind and cold. I counted at least 135 birds, which were there for several hours during the middle of the day along with two hungry Robins. The next day there was not a single haw left on the trees. - MARY K. WATSON

Bantam Rooster Bests Shrike. A chicken coop housing a small flock of bantam roosters stands some distance to the rear of our house on our farm in Lake County, not far from Holden Arboretum. On the morning of February 15, I heard a great commotion in the coop where I soon discovered a Northern Shrike in desperate combat with a Dark Brahma rooster. How the Shrike had gained entrance to the coop I do not know, but it was obvious the bird had made a near fatal mistake because the bantam rooster was more than a match for it. I separated the combatants and placed the Shrike in a separate portion of the coop leaving it there overnight. The following morning the chickens were in good condition but the Shrike was "in extremis" from the below-zero cold. I brought it indoors to examine it more closely and it quickly recovered, but after about half an hour it keeled over dead - whether from acute starvation or from some internal injury I cannot say. - B. P. BOLE, JR.

White-throat Sings at Christmas Time. Shortly after 8:00 a.m., on December 19, a warm, spring-like day, I stopped for a few minutes in tiny Eastman Park in downtown Cleveland to see whether the White-throated Sparrows were still present. I had seen two White-throats there throughout most of November, and, sure enough, one of them was perched in the leafless bushes bordering the library. A restless flock of some two dozen House Sparrows was keeping up a rowdy clamor when from out of this din rose the voice of the White-throat - his song vague, abbreviated, and ill-defined, as though he were trying to recall what note came next. He sang three times in this halting manner, and then I walked on gladdened by this brief caroling at the holiday season. - DONALD L. NEWMAN

Wintering Broad-winged Hawks. At least two Broad-winged Hawks wintered near Berea where I last saw them on February 12, though they may have been present even

later. Generally just one bird was seen at a time, but the two had recognizably different plumages. They were usually soaring low over a wide expanse of fields, a big vineyard, or an orchard along West Road. These two birds were observed together by Henry Merkle on December 22, the day of the West Side Christmas Count. On that same day a third Broad-wing was sighted as it sailed low over the brush pile area in the Rocky River Valley. Later what was apparently this same bird was seen in Westlake, not too far distant from the rim of the valley. Crows attacking one of the birds gave a good opportunity for size comparisons.

(Normally the Broad-winged Hawk winters from southern Mexico south to Venezuela, and this is the largest number ever reported in the Cleveland region during this season. The few previous winter records have been of solitary birds. - Ed.) - OWEN DAVIES

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON FOOD OF COMMON BIRDS - IX

Ralph W. Dexter
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

In the past year stomachs from 64 birds representing 35 species were examined. Eight were found empty (Bufflehead, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Chimney Swift (2), Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Robin). Below is an analysis of the stomach contents of 56 birds comprising 30 species, and an analysis of 138 pellets of the Barn Owl. Unless otherwise stated all specimens were collected in 1957. Acknowledgment is made to Laurence Isard for furnishing nearly half of the birds, and to those other persons, especially Ray Barbush, who kindly contributed specimens for study; also, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gamble for permission to collect Barn Owl pellets at the Gilcrest farm. My thanks go to Dr. Clinton Hobbs of Kent State University and to Almond Rood of Phalanx Station for identification of most of the fruits and seeds reported here. The previous report in this series was published in the Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR 53 (1): 13-15. 1957.

Mallard - 2 shot on October 29 near Medina. Contents: (1) a seed of Polygonum persicaria and a seed of Lepidium campestre (?); (2) 3 seeds of the rose family.

Black Duck - 2 shot on November 23 at Cleveland breakwall. Contents: both had large mass of green algae; one had numerous seeds of bulrush (Scirpus sp.?) while the other had 5 seeds of milkweed (Asclepias sp.). Another shot at the same place December 18. Contents: large amount of green algae with 22 seeds of Pennsylvania smartweed (Polygonum pennsylvanicum) and 1 water snail (Bythinia tentaculata).

Wood Duck - Shot October 28 near Hudson. Contents: mass of duck weed (Lemna sp.) with 8 seeds of the rose family.

Lesser Scaup - Shot November 23 at Cleveland breakwall. Contents: 3 snails (2 Valvata sincera, 1 Physa gyrina); 46 fingernail clams (Pisidium sp.) and 1 midge (Tendipedid) larva.

Red-breasted Merganser - 3 shot November 23 at Cleveland breakwall. Contents: (1) 3 shiners (Notropis sp.); (2) 2 shiners (Notropis sp.); (3) 1 white bass (Roccus chrysops).

Cooper's Hawk - (1) Shot September 3 at Dover Dam, Tuscarawas County. Contents: 1 immature Horned Lark (in stomach of Horned Lark were found 1 caterpillar and several insect fragments); (2) Shot October 21 near Medina. Contents: 1 shrew (Sorex sp.); (3) Shot November 7 near Medina. Contents: feather fragments and a seed of yellow foxtail (Setaria glauca) (possibly from stomach of

prey?); (4) Shot November 11 near Medina. Contents: 2 small perching birds, 1 in crop and 1 in stomach; (5) Shot November 17 near Medina. Contents: fragments of feathers and flesh with several seeds of yellow foxtail and fragments of insects (these possibly from stomach of prey?).

Marsh Hawk - Shot November 23 near Medina. Contents: in crop, portion of a small bird; in stomach, 1 sparrow (Song Sparrow? In stomach of sparrow, 25 seeds of smooth crabgrass (Digitaria ischaemum), 10 unidentified seeds, 2 aphids, fragments of Coleoptera and Hemiptera.)

Sparrow Hawk - Shot October 2 near Medina. Contents: mass of insect fragments.

Bobwhite - (1) Killed June 12 by striking house at southern edge of Kent. Contents: 1 slug, numerous seeds of chickweed (Stellaria sp.) and several other unidentified seeds; (2) Found dead July 21 near Medina. Contents: 1 ant, several fragments of beetles, 5 kernels of wheat (Triticum aestivum) 14 seeds of Pennsylvania smartweed (P. pennsylvanicum) and several seeds of lady's thumb (P. persicaria) and velvet leaf (Abutilon theophrasti).

Ring-necked Pheasant - (1) Found dead July 16 south of Kent. Contents: 1 hemipteran, 1 caterpillar, 1 cherry stone (Prunus cerasus), several seeds of buttercup (Ranunculus sp.), mustard (Brassica sp.) blackberry (Rubus sp.) and curley dock (Rumex crispus); (2) 2 shot November 11 near Wyoga Lake and examined by Joseph Beckett. Contents: one had 3 acorns and the other had field corn in crop and gizzard; (3) Another one found dead same place December 1. Contents: 5 spider cocoons, 1 caterpillar, some green foliage, and many seeds of cheat (Bromus secalinus) smartweed (P. pennsylvanicum) and 3 other kinds not identified; (4) Shot December 20 near Medina. Contents: green foliage with 1 seed of frost grape (Vitis riparia).

Sora - Found dead September 12 on highway near Medina. Contents: fragment of a small fish.

Rock Dove - Killed May 10 by cat on K.S.U. Campus. Contents: 2 unidentified seeds.

Barn Owl - (1) 68 pellets collected December 3, 1956, at Gilcrest farm near Hartville. Contents: 158 field mice (Microtus pennsylvanicus) 13 short-tailed shrews (Blarina brevicauda) 9 white-footed deer mice (Peromyscus leucopus) 1 Norway rat (Rattus norvegicus) 1 house sparrow (Passer domesticus) (2) 70 pellets collected at same place on November 30, 1957. Contents: 194 field mice, 40 short-tailed shrews, 14 white-footed deer mice, 7 rat bones, 1 Canada shrew (Sorex cinereus) 1 house mouse (Mus musculus) and 1 small passerine bird. (1 kernel of corn found probably came from stomach of a rodent swallowed).

Great-horned Owl - (1) Found dead November 20 in northern Green Township of Stark County. Contents: 1 small rabbit; (2) Shot December 2 near Medina. Contents: small amount of feather fragments.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Found dead May 1 at Mayfield Heights. Contents: 1 spider and fragments of beetles.

Downy Woodpecker - Found dead June 21 on Pitkin Avenue in Akron. Contents: insect fragments.

Common Crow - (1) Shot March 4 near Streetsboro. Contents: 5 grains of wheat; (2) shot September 18 near Chardon. Contents: 1 grasshopper, 1 moth cocoon, 4 kernels of corn, fruits and seeds of poison ivy (Rhus toxicodendron) and arrow-wood (Viburnum recognitum)

Robin - (1) Found dead April 22 at eastern edge of Kent. Contents: 7 fragments of earthworms and 8 fragments of beetles; (2) Found dead May 27 on K.S.U. campus. Contents: 1 caterpillar, 1 ant, insect eggs and fragments, 1 seed of black mustard (Brassica nigra) (3) Found dead July 15 at Kent. Contents: 1 dipteran, 1 small wasp, 1 leaf-hopper (Cicadellidae) 1 hemipteran (Anthocoridae), and 3 wild cherries.

Wood Thrush - Found dead April 26 near Cuyahoga Falls. Contents: 1 millipede and 1 beetle larva.

Swainson's Thrush - 2 found dead in May at Brimfield. Contents: (1) 6 ground beetles (Carabidae) and 1 click beetle (E lateridae); (2) mass of insect fragments, chiefly beetles and weevils.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Found dead April 20 in Ravenna. Contents: Fragments of flies (Diptera), bugs (Hemiptera), beetles (Coleoptera), and wasps (Hymenoptera).

Cedar Waxwing - 2 found dead November 21 on K.S.U. campus. Contents: fruit and seeds of crabapple in both.

Starling - Found dead in May in Akron. Contents: 1 springtail (Collembola).

Magnolia Warbler - (1) Found dead May 14 on K.S.U. campus. Contents: Several aphids, weevils, and fragments of other insects. (2) Found dead May 17 at Brimfield. Contents: insect fragments including beetles. (3) Found dead on May 17 on K.S.U. campus. Contents: 1 winged ant and a mass of insect fragments.

Ovenbird - Found dead June 28 near Cuyahoga Falls. Contents: 1 spider, 1 caterpillar, and insect fragments including beetles and weevils.

House Sparrow - (completely albino) - collected by Ray Barbush near Medina on September 21. Contents: kernels of wheat and corn.

Redwinged Blackbird - (1) Found dead May 1 at Mayfield Heights. Contents: 1 hemipteran nymph and a mass of unidentified seeds; (2) shot May 12 near Medina. Contents: numerous seeds of field peppergrass (Lepidium campestre?) and insect fragments, including beetles, in both; (3) Shot May 20 at Mosquito Creek Reservoir. Contents: 1 caterpillar, 1 weevil, fragments of a beetle, and numerous seeds of field peppergrass.

Cardinal - 2 found dead in March at Brimfield. Contents: seeds of Polygonum (?) in both.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Found dead May 9 on K.S.U. Campus. Contents: fragments of seeds and insects.

Indigo Bunting - (1) 2 found dead in May at Brimfield. Contents: insect fragments including beetles and weevils in both; (2) Found dead May 29 on K.S.U. campus. Contents: 4 caterpillars.

Slate-colored Junco - Found dead in May, west of Kent. Contents: seeds of yellow foxtail, chickweed, lambs quarters (Chenopodium album) and hedge nettle (Stachys sp.?).

Addenda: Some of the seeds from the Mallard shot October 15, 1956, and reported earlier (Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR 53 (1): 13. 1957) have been determined as Myriophyllum (possibly M exalbescens) Seeds from a Black Duck shot August 15, 1955, and reported in the CALENDAR 52 (1): 8. 1956, are believed to be a species of Cornus (dogwood). Seeds from the Ruffed Grouse shot in January 1953, and reported in the CALENDAR 49 (1): 9. 1953, have been determined as swamp rose (Rosa palustris).

THE NEW NAMES OF BIRDS OCCURRING IN THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Fifth Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, which was published in the autumn of 1957, contains many changes in nomenclature. Most of these changes result from the abandonment of the practice of assigning vernacular (English) names to subspecies, all of which are now designated by their Latin names only. With the exception of the birds whose names are followed by an asterisk, the following list describes major changes in nomenclature affecting common species which normally occur within the Cleveland region. Extreme rarities have been purposely omitted.

Previous Name (4th Edition AOU Check-List)	New Name (5th Edition AOU Check-List)
Holboell's Grebe *	Red-necked Grebe *
American Egret	Common Egret
Baldpate	American Widgeon
American Goldeneye	Common Goldeneye
American Scoter	Common Scoter
American Merganser	Common Merganser
Duck Hawk *	Peregrine Falcon *
Florida Gallinule	Common Gallinule
Wilson's Snipe	Common Snipe
Red-backed Sandpiper	Dunlin
Alder Traill's Flycatcher	Traill's Flycatcher
Eastern Olive-backed Thrush	Swainson's Thrush
American Pipit	Water Pipit
Migrant Shrike	Loggerhead Shrike
Blue-headed Vireo	Solitary Vireo
Grinnell's Waterthrush	Northern Waterthrush
Northern Common Yellowthroat	Yellowthroat
English Sparrow	House Sparrow
Bronzed Grackle	Common Grackle
Eastern Cowbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Eastern Goldfinch	American Goldfinch
Red-eyed Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee