

CLEVELAND REGION

Published by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

a n d

The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

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

- 1 Beaver Creek
- 2 North Amherst
- 3 Lorain
- 4 Black River
- 5 Elyria
- 6 LaGrange
- 7 Avon-on-the-Lake
- 8 Clague Park
- 9 Clifton Park
- 10 Rocky River
- 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport
- 12 Medina
- 13 Hinckley Reservation
- 14 Edgewater Park Perkins Beach
- 15 Terminal Tower
- 16 Cleveland Public Square Cuyahoga River
- 17 Brecksville Reservation
- 18 Akron Cuyahoga Falls
- 19 Akron Lakes
- 20 Gordon. Park Illuminating Co. plant
- 21 Doan Brook
- 22 Natural Science Museum Wade Park
- 23 Baldwin Reservoir
- 24 Shaker Lakes
- 25 Lake View Cemetery
- 26 Forest Hill Park
- 27 Bedford Reservation
- 28 Hudson
- 29 Kent



30 Lake Rockwell 31 White City 32 Euclid Creek Reservation 33 Chagrin River 34 Willoughby Waite Hill 35 Sherwin Pond 36 Gildersleeve 37 North Chagrin Reservation 38 Gates Mills 39 South Chagrin Reservation 40 Aurora Lake 41 Aurora Sanctuary 42 Mantua 43 Mentor Headlands 44 Mentor Marsh 45 Black Brook Headlands State Park 46 Fairport Harbor 47 Painesville 48 Grand River 49 Little Mountain Holden Arboretum 50 Corning Lake 51 Stebbin's Gulch 52 Chardon 53 Burton

- 54 Punderson Lake
- 55 Fern Lake
- 56 LaDue Reservoir
- 57 Spencer Wildlife Area

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM

PORTAGE ESCARPMENT (800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Editor Wayne A. Hammond

Weather Summary William A. Klamm

Editorial Advisor Donald L. Newman

Editorial Assistant Vera Carrothers

CONTRIBUTORS

Kay F. Booth Vera Carrothers Naomi Clark David Corbin Henrietta P. Crofts Mildred Daniels Ralph W. Dexter Corinne F. Dolbear Frederick W. Fais Annette B. Flanigan Fred E. Fricker James W. Fulton Wayne and Hilda Hammond Ray Hannikman Jean, Dick, and Jim Hoffman Gordon Spare Mary Huey Nancy Ibsen Perry F. Johnson Glenn Kitson. William and Nancy Klamm Charles H. Knight Walter P. Kremm Sibyl Leach

Martha Minns Carl and Mary Newhous Donald L. Newman Gretta Pallister Perry K. Peskin Bette S. Proudfoot Marjorie Ramisch Richard Rickard Robert A. Scheibe, Jr. Joseph P. Schirmer R. Segedi Marjorie S. Sheldon Margaret H. Sherwin Donald A. Siebert Michael Stasko Ethel D. Surman Bert L Szabo Martin A. Tkac, Jr. Ruth Vodicka Harold E. Wallin Guy Waltman Clinton E. Ward

* * * * * * * *

Wayne-A. Hammond 6256 Brooks Blvd. Mentor, OH 44066

THE WEATHER

- December Heavy snow on the first two days of the month provided 17.8 inches of the total of 24.1 inches of snow for the month. Other snowfall of over an inch occurred only on the 9th and 19th. Measurable precipitation fell on 22 days, which included 13 days of snow. Total precipitation amounted to 4.86 inches as water, an excess of 2.50 inches. Temperatures, however, averaged 1.4 degrees warmer than normal. Dreariness was typical with sunshine prevailing only 18 percent of the time possible. Lake Erie was open and ice free shallows and inland waters experienced quite limited transient freezing.
- January-Below normal temperatures were restricted, to the period from the 13th through the 21st, and the month averaged out a warm 5.0 degrees above normal. Precipitation on 17 days totaled 3.06 inches which was 0.5 inches in excess of normal; this included nine days of snowfall, which was heavy only on the 3rd, 18th, 19th, and 26th. Sunshine increased to 30 percent of the time possible. Lake Erie remained open, while inland waters and protected shallows were subject to some ice cover.
- February Although snow fell on 15 days, of the 19 on which precipitation occurred, most of it came in the period between the 4th and the 9th. Snow on the ground persisted through the 16th and was transient thereafter. Precipitation totaled 3.20 inches, an excess of 1.02 inches. Temperatures below normal occurred from the 7th through the 14th and again on the 27th. Over-all, the month averaged 2.5 degrees warmer than normal. Extensive ice cover set in on Lake Erie on the 9th and remained stable through the 16th, after which time shore ice and ice fields became variable and diminishing. Sunshine remained at 30 per cent of the time possible.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

Lack of ice on Lake Erie and a good supply of natural foods including fruits apparently determined the pattern for the 1974-75 winter birding season in the Cleveland Region. The Arctic ducks and gulls which visit the points of warm water discharge on the lake shore during winter were generally absent. So, too, were the northern finches. Common Goldeneyes and some other diving ducks normally common in winter evidently found little need to move in close to the shore. Similarly, Tree Sparrows appeared at feeding stations during severe weather but otherwise were rather inconspicuous.

But conspicuously present were an odd conglomeration of birds that would normally have been impelled to winter farther south: Horned Grebes, Green-winged Teals, Bonaparte's Gulls, American Robins, Purple Finches, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and numerous others. Migrants whose flights are dictated by weather conditions rather than the calendar departed late and began returning early. Not surprisingly, predators were also somewhat more in evidence than usual, not necessarily preying upon birds but also on a presumed increased supply of small animals.

<u>Winter Ducks: More Dabblers, Fewer Divers</u>. In addition to the normal wintering populations of Mallards and Black Ducks along the lakefront and on inland ponds where the water is kept open, an unusually large number of other dabblers were seen during the season. Many observers reported Gadwalls, Pintails, Green-winged Teals, and Northern Shovelers at Lakeview Cemetery; four teals on December 17 (Hoffman) were the largest number of any species. Pintails, American Wigeons, and Wood Ducks were sighted repeatedly in Lorain Harbor (Ward). All of these species were also reported from other locations. Hooded Mergansers were quite persistent, 10 being at Summit Lake, January 5 (Ibsen).

Reported numbers of diving ducks on the lakefront were highly irregular. Scaups in Lorain Harbor fluctuated from day to day from highs of 1,500 to lows of one or two (Ward). No individual tally of Common Goldeneyes exceeded 70 until mid-February. Red-breasted Mergansers were absent from the reports from December 29 through February 11. "This is the first fall and winter I can remember in 26 years of living on the lake that there have been no rafts of thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers" (Dolbear). Records of the northern sea ducks, occasional winter visitors here, were limited to a few Black and Surf Scoters and, a single observation of a Common Eider (see Noteworthy Records).

<u>Sightings Up for Variety of Hawks</u>. Although no significant invasion was noted, Rough-legged Hawks were reported several

times. Two light-phase birds evidently remained east of Gates Mills through most of December and January. More sightings than usual of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were recorded. The eight reports of a total of ten Marsh Hawks contrasts with the customary one or two sightings. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks showed no significant change, but American Kestrels gave evidence that they may be on the increase locally.

<u>Inland Gulls Satisfied Here</u>. "Great Black-backed sightings were never so low nor Bonaparte's and Little Gull sightings so high at one period in mid-winter, or ever" was the summary from Lorain (Ward). That assessment was supported by the reports from other lakefront points. The inland gulls, mainly Bonaparte's and Ring-billed, evidently remained in greater numbers than usual. In addition, there was an unprecedented ten winter records of Franklin's Gulls. Winter home for these species is from the Great Lakes southward.

Little Gulls, now established as permanent residents on Lake Erie, continue to increase locally. A count in Lorain Harbor on January 11 yielded 17 over a period of four hours: "Panning against a western fluttering of Bonaparte's in the harbor, I got six adults and an immature in a few seconds" (Ward). The season total of 34 specimens in 11 reports exceeds the record 1974 CALENDAR-year total. (See Fall, 1974, CBC.)

Conversely, northerly-wintering gulls generally showed little interest in Lake Erie's south shore. Sightings of Great Black-backed Gulls were markedly low, and the three records of Glaucous Gulls were the lowest total in at least ten years. Herring (as well as Ring-billed) Gull populations vary widely from day to day, but observers indicated that total numbers were down for the species.

<u>Owls Simplify Birding</u>. Instead of adhering to their usual secretive behavior, owls were unusually cooperative with local birders. A Screech Owl took up residence in a Wood Duck nest box near the Rocky River Reservation Interpretive Center, where it was on view daily (Stasko).

At least two Snowy Owls (distinguishable by color) were reported by several observers in and around Burke Lakefront Airport from the end of November to the end of February. An even more gregarious specimen chose the median strip on Interstate 271 near Mayfield Heights as its favorite roosting spot, where it was seen by many motorists in January and early February. Another flew over the Cleveland Museum of Natural History about 3:20 p.m. on February 25 (Kitson).

Short-eared Owls were both widespread and persistent in

the best showing since the 1970-71 winter, if not the best ever recorded locally. The birds were most numerous at Burke Lakefront Airport, where five were sighted at one time on February 22 (Klamm) and as many as four on other occasions (Hoffman). Two were at Gordon Park, December 7 (Hannikman), and individuals at various times thereafter. One was at White City on January 19 (Klamm). Another was in Portage County near Hudson on December 21 (Neil Henderson, <u>fide</u> Szabo). Near Grafton Prison Farm up to four birds were observed January 13-15 and on several dates in February (Johnson, <u>et al</u>.). The files of the BIRD CALENDAR show no previous winter in which so many specimens were reported from so many locations.

<u>Crows Congregate in Wickliffe</u>. Favorite roosting area this winter for the large aggregation of Common Crows in western Lake County was a remnant of sparse woods and shrubby second growth between Lakeland Boulevard and the Penn Central Railway tracks. About 400 were seen heading over Willoughby to that location on December 14 and rather continuously thereafter (Pallister). Most appeared to come from the east but some also from the south.

On January 23 a westbound motorist on Lakeland Freeway estimated 500 were strung out parallel to the highway and headed west at sunset (Hammond). During February an observer found that they did not roost in the exact same spot each evening but did occupy the same general area (Huey). During the day many of the birds evidently foraged near the Chagrin River, assembling around the Andrews School woods in late afternoon for the flight to the roost.

Fruit Supply Encourages Robins To Stay. Largest concentrations of wintering American Robins were in northern Summit County. Two and possibly three flocks of 200 or more remained near Bath and Peninsula to feed on multiflora rose hips, crabapples, and other fruits (Szabo, Ibsen). Small numbers took residence near homes in various locations in the region, wherever they found a satisfactory food supply: hawthorn (Siebert), multiflora rose (Newman), mountain ash (Kitson), and bread and raisins (Crofts). On January 19 a flock of 24 feasted on cherries from a Euclid home freezer (Rae Meister, fide Pallister).

<u>Blackbirds Arrive Early</u>. Evidently riding in on a warm front of February 18-19 which was followed by warm south winds, blackbirds started arriving in substantial numbers on February 21 and 22, about two weeks ahead of the normal beginning of migration. They were accompanied by Killdeers, a few Common Flickers, Eastern Meadowlarks, and other early migrants. Mixed flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were reported from February 21 on, becoming quite numerous by the 25th. Small numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds visited feeding stations throughout the winter. Most persistent, judging from contributors' reports, were those which frequented a residence in Mentor where these birds had also been habitual visitors the previous winter. On January 1 the count there was 29 Red-winged Blackbirds, 16 Common Grackles, and 76 Brownheaded Cowbirds (Hammond).

Northern Finches Scarce. Following the established pattern of alternating high and low seasons, only Evening Grosbeaks were seen with any regularity. Except for six Common Redpolls in Willoughby on January 2 (Blanche Birchmeier, <u>fide</u> Pallister), no other "winter" finches were reported. Only notable flock of Evening Grosbeaks was about 70 near Bath from January 2 to the end of the period; one albino specimen was seen repeatedly in the group (Marcella Glassner, <u>fide</u> Dexter, Szabo). Most other reports were of small bands or even individual birds which appeared casually and irregularly in the region.

Additional Winter Population Notes. Bobwhite coveys were larger and more frequently reported than in recent years; at Seiberling Nature Center a covey of 12 was seen throughout -- "one of the few years that a covey have maintained their population" (Szabo). . . . American Coots were seen irregularly and not in any notable numbers. . . . In addition to the early migrants in February, individual Killdeers were seen on several dates during the winter. . . . Mourning Doves, which did well during the winter, were among the popular guests at many feeding stations. . . . Lone report of a Red-breasted Nuthatch was of one which frequented a feeding station in Elyria Township during December and January (D. M. Brocklehurst, fide Johnson). . .. Conversely, Carolina Wrens were being sighted almost everywhere, including frequently at feeding stations; apparently the population explosion has suffered no reverses yet. . . . White-crowned Sparrows were recorded more often and from more locations than in recent years

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

<u>Whistling Swan</u> - A flight of 18 passed overhead at Virginia Kendall Park on February 23 in apparent migration flight (Szabo). Although individuals have wintered in the region, most recently in the 1973-74 seasons, this is the earliest spring record of migrating birds. A single immature also appeared on Sherwin Pond, February 25 (Sherwin). Previous earliest spring record was a single bird on Sherwin Pond, March 1, 1971.

Northern Shoveler -A pair were in Lakeview Cemetery on December 17 (Hoffman), and the male bird was seen there as

late as January 1 (Corbin, Hannikman).

<u>Common Eider</u> - A well-marked male was observed, January 29, amid thousands of gulls in rafts and on bits of floating ice offshore near Lorain (Dolbear).

<u>White-winged Scoter</u> - At least one and presumably more specimens were present in Lorain Harbor rather regularly from December 6 to December 28 (Ward, Dolbear). An adult female was at Edgewater Park on December 29 and January 15 (Klamm). One bird was at Lorain, February 25 (Ibsen).

<u>Surf Scoter</u> - One appeared at Lorain, December 10, and two were there almost daily from the 15th to the 24th (Dolbear, Ward). A female was diving along the seawall at White City on December 15 (Klamm).

<u>Broad-winged Hawk</u> - Two observers watched one for several minutes at the edge of an open area in the Mastick Picnic Area of Rocky River Reservation, December 29 (Siebert). This is the fourth winter sighting of the species. Although the normal winter range is from Florida southward, it may appear casually in winter in most of its nesting range.

<u>Bald Eagle</u> - On February 28 an adult was observed in flight near Mogadore Reservoir (Mary Kay Newton, fide Szabo).

<u>Merlin</u> - Two specimens were reported on December 21 from widely separated locations: one was at Burke Lakefront Airport (Scheibe); the other was near Route 532 north of Cuyahaga Falls (Judy Hindall, fide Szabo).

<u>Ruddy Turnstone</u> - One of a group of shorebird stragglers that remained throughout the winter at White City, a specimen was reported intermittently there from December 25 to February 23 (many observers). What was evidently a second bird was on Lakeview Beach, Lorain, on December 30 (Ward). CALENDAR records list only one previous winter report, January 1-2, 1968.

<u>Common Snipe</u> - Repeated observations during the winter indicated that perhaps as many as six birds wintered along a small stream southwest of the Cuyahoga County Airport; three flushed near the stream on February 2 were the first February record in the Cleveland Region (Fulton). There have been two previous January sightings recorded in the CALENDAR. (See Field Notes for a more detailed report.)

<u>Purple Sandpiper</u> - First sighted on December 22, one was a regular companion of the Ruddy Turnstone, mentioned above, at White City until at least February 8. The two were photographed together by several observers, and the sandpiper was recorded on at least 15 dates during the period. At

Fairport Harbor another specimen was studied for several minutes on the west breakwall.on December 28 (Fais).

<u>Red Phalarope</u> - Specimens of this rare winter visitor appeared at three locations during the winter; whether all sightings (in addition to a November record reported in the Fall, 1974, CALENDAR) were of a single wanderer or were of separate birds could not be ascertained. First report was from Clifton Beach in Rocky River, December 8 (Hoffman). On January 18, 19, and 21 one was seen by many observers and was photographed in the company of a Northern Phalarope at White City. On February 9 one was reported near the water outflow of the Illuminating Company plant at East 72nd Street (Hoffman, Klamm).

Northern Phalarope - From December 10 until at least February 3, one frequented the White City area, feeding in the settling basin, along the pier, and near the beach. It was studied by many observers, and on January 18 and 19 it associated with the Red Phalarope (see above), affording ample opportunity for photographic comparisons. In all, it was reported on 16 separate dates, although sightings were presumably somewhat more frequent than reported. Of the three phalaropes, all rare and accidental in the Cleveland Region, this species is the one most often seen.

<u>Glaucous Gull</u> - Only records were of a first-winter bird at Lorain Harbor on the relatively early dates of December 15 and 19 (Ward) and an adult at the East 55th Street marina, January 26 (Klamm).

<u>Franklin's Gull</u> - Three were with Bonaparte's Gulls near the Municipal Pier in Lorain, December 5 (Johnson). At Gordon Park an immature specimen was active on December 14 and 16 (Klamm, Hoffman). On December 22 individuals were seen at White City and at the East 55th Street marina, where one was also recorded on December 25 (Hoffman). An immature was in Lorain Harbor with Bonaparte's Gulls, December 30 (Ward). At Edgewater Park marina one appeared January 19 (Stasko).

<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u> - An immature was studied for about five minutes on and near the pier at Lorain Harbor, December 29. It was seen briefly standing on the pier as well as in flight and on the water, affording opportunity to observe all field marks (Ward).

<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</u> - One was seen at a Painesville residence, December 16 (Booth).

Eastern Phoebe - An unusually early spring arrival was seen near Bass Lake Road, Chardon, on February 25 (Ramisch).

Mockingbird - Specimens made brief appearances on widely

-8-

separated dates and in scattered localities throughout the winter. On December 14 one was at North Chagrin Reservation (Kitson). On December 22 another was on the south side of Oberlin (Champney, <u>fide</u> Johnson). One visited the yard of a Chagrin Falls residence, January 17 (Mrs. George Roby, <u>fide</u> Wallin). About a half-mile north of Kent a specimen flew across Hudson Road, January 23, and alighted in brush (Tkac). Last report was of one eating berries on shrubbery at a Willoughby residence, February 10 and 11 (Proudfoot).

<u>Brown Thrasher</u> - Individuals visited feeding stations in two locations regularly throughout the winter. One appeared at a Bath residence in mid-December and remained through February (Ibsen). Another came all winter to a feeder in the Headlands section of Mentor, where it ate corn and occasionally sunflower seeds (Fais).

<u>Wood Thrush</u> - From December 27 until January 10 one visited a feeding station in Willoughby several times daily, eating bits of grapes, apple, raisins, and other offerings, as well as feeding on euonymus berries (Pallister). Except for a single observation of a specimen, presumably a late migrant, on December 14, 1972, this is the only winter report of a Wood Thrush in the CALENDAR records.

<u>Hermit Thrush</u> - Observers at three locations reported either delayed migrants or wintering birds. On December 8 one was in the Rocky River Reservation (Stasko). Early on December 14 another was in Kuhlman Woods near East 140th Street, where one wintered in the 1973-74 season (Hannikman, Corbin). On two occasions, December 9 and January 25, one was observed in a feeding area at a residence south of Painesville (Newhous).

<u>Palm Warbler</u> - A Western race specimen was observed in deciduous shrubbery in northwestern Akron, December 3, two days after a heavy winter storm which left 24 inches of snow on the ground; quite visible was "a definite contrast between the dirty white of the belly and the yellow of the undertail coverts" (Fricker). Although the Palm Warbler is accidental throughout the State in winter (Trautman, <u>Ann-</u> <u>otated List of the Birds of Ohio</u>), this sighting is almost a month later than any previous BIRD CALENDAR record.

Northern Oriole - For three days in mid-January a male frequented a feeding station on Bainbridge Road, Solon. First sighted about 10:45 a.m. on January 15, it remained during much of the time until about noon on January 17 (Vodicka). (A more detailed report of the behavior of this bird is in the Field Notes section.)

<u>Dickcissel</u> - A female was at a feeding station in Willoughby daily from December 9 to 13 and again on December 28 (Huey).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK RAIDS IN YARD. On the 22nd of December a Sharp-shinned Hawk caught a male Cardinal and ate it on a stump within easy sight of us. On January 16, a snowy day with temperatures of 25 degrees, the feeders were very. active. The hawk appeared in the yard again, and all the birds disappeared. The hunter flew through our evergreen trees and watched and waited, then flew to a bare branch above a feeder.

At that point I noticed a White-breasted Nuthatch hanging from the edge of a feeder by its feet. The nuthatch remained absolutely motionless, even though it was in full view of the hawk, which was looking in all directions for food. The hawk finally left after about ten minutes. The nuthatch remained where it was for a few more minutes and then slowly opened its eyes and flew to safety. I had been wondering to that point if the nuthatch was really alive, it was so still. Birds returned to the feeders in about seven minutes after the hawk departed.

In all, I saw the Sharp-shinned Hawk visit the yard at least four days. - MARJORIE S. SHELDON

<u>SNIPES WINTER NEAR AIRPORT</u>. On the Christmas Bird Count, December 14, two Common Snipes were counted by Bernie Gleason and me at the Cuyahoga County Airport. They were found in the stream which runs from under the approach to the runway southwesterly and bends westerly to cross Richmond Road about 200 yards south of the airport entrance. All the following observations were made along the same stretch of the stream.

The time was about 8:30 a.m., and the weather overcast and cold on December 14. The banks of the stream and muddy areas were not frozen. Both snipes flew down stream ahead of the observers, landing twice. As we approached Richmond Road, both birds flew out and made a wide circle and landed back near the runway, where they had first been observed.

January 5 was a beautiful warm, sunny Sunday afternoon. Gary Fulton and I saw six snipes at the airport. Again we walked downstream from the runway. The snipes moved ahead of us, flying short distances and landing. As we turned the bend toward Richmond Road, they flew out--four singles and a pair. At one time we saw four flying in a group. The singles followed shortly thereafter. The group landed back in the stream near the runway.

On January 11, a cold, windy afternoon, Bernie Gleason and I again looked for snipes along the stream. As we walked along, three and possibly four flew out ahead of us. This time, though, we did not see them group or return to the stream.

It was snowing, raining, and blowing On January 18. The stream was still open. The ground was frozen, though some muddy spots were still soft. I took the usual route downstream. Three snipes again moved ahead and finally flew out at the bend of the, stream. Three more went out of sight and did not immediately return to the stream.

On January 26 there was a raw wind, a temperature of 23 degrees, and snow. About two inches of snow had accumulated on the level, but it was drifting and formed a ledge on the western side of the stream. Gleason, Janice Fulton, and I walked upstream. Two snipes flushed singly about 75 yards from where the stream emerges from under the runway.

February 2: a beautiful day--cloudless sky, no wind, and temperature about 30 degrees. Joe Bush and I had a nice morning. We went up and down the stream and put up three snipes, all singles. Also 18 Canada Geese flew over.

February 22 was a nice day, warm and with the snow gone after heavy snow and cold weather the two previous weekends. Gleason and I found tracks of shorebirds in the mud along the stream but saw no snipes. We did see a Horned Lark.

I believe that up to six Common Snipes wintered over at the stream at the Cuyahaga County Airport. It should be noted that the stream runs underground for a distance, and it probably , is a little warmer when it emerges than surrounding bodies of water. I have never seen the stream completely frozen over. This may account for the snipes being there during the winter. - JAMES W. FULTON

BONAPARTE'S GULL MOVEMENT "SPECTACULAR". The Bonaparte's Gull movement--ever westward--from January 9 through January 16 was spectacular for winter or for anytime. There were 3,000 in Lorain Harbor, January 9.

On January 10 at least 10,000 were in sight in the harbor, large rafts out in the lake, and Bonaparte's striking in boldly from the eastern city limits. There was a fluttering low over the harbor, Bonaparte's Gulls passing the western point (Route 58 and Lake Road) at a counted 100 to 300 per minute. This continued all morning, diminishing at afternoon. A backtracking east revealed the 10,000 still in the harbor; so apparently the harbor was a staging area. The area of observation from the eastern city limits to the west is about three-and-a-half miles. A conservative estimate would be 50,000 Bonaparte's Gulls on that date.

On January 11 the movement, still westward, was about 5,000. An estimated 40,000 passed on the 12th; 15,000 on the 13th; 8,000 on the 15th; and 150 on the 17th. On the

27th and again on the 30th, about 5,000 passed. Not a single Bonaparte's Gull was visible on January 31.

On Sunday, January 13, Mike Stasko assisted with a stopwatch to help confirm the. estimates of numbers. I am aware that the foregoing tallies exceed the known totals of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Great Lakes. I cannot explain the phenomenon. - CLINTON E. WARD

<u>ORIOLE MONOPOLIZES FEEDER</u>. A male Northern Oriole was first noticed at a feeder at 10:45 a.m. on January 15. He stayed for 15 to 20 minutes, eating sunflower seed. I think he ate small pieces dropped by other birds, for he seemed to have trouble breaking open his own seed. No other bird seed was in that particular feeder. He returned at 12:30 to another feeder hanging near the house, which also contained only sunflower seed. Again he remained for 20 minutes or so.

While he was gone, we put orange sections on a feeder. He returned at 3:00 and stayed till dark. He, ate the orange and sunflower seed. By this time he had decided that the feeder was his and defended it as if it were his nest.

On January 16 the oriole spent the better part of the day with us--a repeat of the feeding pattern and the defense of the feeder. At one point he worked hard to get at a partially-frozen orange section. The following day he returned in the morning and spent most of the morning. We have not seen him since. - RUTH VODICKA

Erratum (Fall, 1974): The fifth line of the Field Notes article, "Hooded Warbler Family Activity in September" should have read, "eight inches up in the crotch of an 18-inch maple," instead of "eight feet up, . . 18-foot maple. . ." The editor regrets the error in numbers.

* * * * * * * *

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

* * * * * * * *

Inquiries and correspondence regarding subscriptions to THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR should be addressed to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.