

The Cleveland

Bird Calendar

est. 1905

Volume 91 Number 3
July, August 1995



Published by
The Kirtland Bird Club and
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University. The purposes of the publication are to provide information on the movements of birds through the Cleveland region, to monitor population densities of resident birds, and to help in the establishment of patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species of the region.

The Cleveland region includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly by The Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

- 5 March - Winter Season**
- 5 June - Spring Season**
- 5 September - Summer Season**
- 5 December - Autumn Season**

Cover design: Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
by Margret Krister, 1995.

June, July, August 1995

Volume 91

Number 3

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Editor:

Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Technical Editor

Janice V. McLean Ph.D.

Editorial Assistants:

William A. Klamm - Weather Summary

Dwight Chasar - Weather Summary

David Condon - Research

Contributors:

John Augustine (JA)

Emil Bacik (EB)

Dan Best (DB)

Black River Audubon (BR)

Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)

Bob Finkelstein (BF)

Andy Fondrk (AF)

Barbara Fry (BFr)

Frank and Melinda Greenland (FMG)

Robert Harlan (RHL)

Dick and Jean Hoffman (DJH)

Craig Holt (CH)

Joanne Kohler (JK)

Norma Kraps (NK)

Bob and Denise Lane (BDL)

Tom Leiden (TL)

Thomas LePage (TLP)

Paula J. Lozano (PL)

Kevin Metcalf (KM)

Peter Munson (PM)

Richard Rickard (RR)

Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)

Woody Stover (WS)

Bert Szabo (BS)

Ruth Thompson (RD)

Carol Tveekrem (CD)

Jeff Wert (JW)

Clyde Witt (CW)

On The Inside:

The Weather

by William Klamm

Reflections

Comment on the Season

by Larry Rosche

Summer 1995

Noteworthy Records

Field Notes

LITTLE ORPHAN ANI

by Bruce McLean

THE GREATER AKRON AUDUBON 1995

SUMMER BIRD COUNT

by Carol Tveekrem

PEREGRINE FALCON

NESTING CHRONOLOGY

by Paula J. Lozano

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS IN LAKE

VIEW CEMETERY

by Jean Hoffman

ON ATTEMPTS TO FIND FIVE

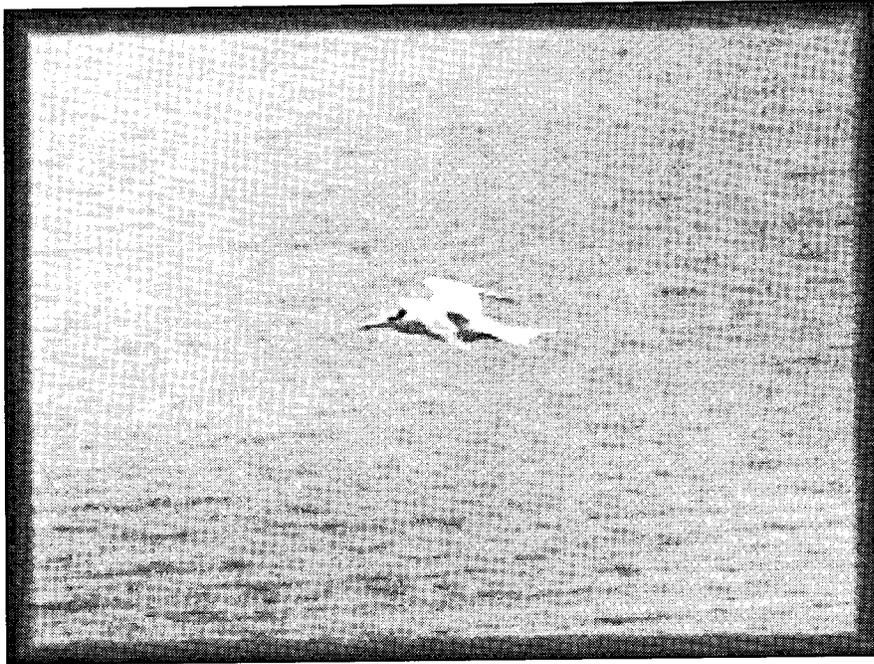
PARTICULAR WARBLER NESTS

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

Next Issue:

Autumn 1995

REFLECTIONS



Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) - Lorain, Ohio - July 21, 1995
by Larry Rosche

THE WEATHER

by William Klamm and
Dwight Chasar

JUNE - The month was quite warm, wet, and bright. A record high temperature tied the old 92° record on June 19th. Temperatures averaged 71.5°, 3.8° above normal. The high was 92° on the 19th and the low was 46° on the 13th. Lake Erie stood at 58° on the 1st, 59° on the 2nd, 60° on the 7th, 62° on the 12th, 64 on the 15th, 66° on the 18th and the 30th. Sun prevailed 63% of the time. It rained on 11 days and totaled 3.67 in., 0.03 in. below normal. The most was 1.25 in. on the 21st.

JULY - Temperatures averaged 75.5°, 3.6° above normal. The high was 98° on the 14th and the was 50° on the 3rd. Seven days had better than 90° tem-

peratures. Rain occurred on 12 days, totaling to 5.39 in., 1.87 in. above normal. The most in any 24 hours was 2.11 in. on the 15th. These conditions led to some long, uncomfortably humid periods. Lake Erie rose slowly from 66° to 76° on the 31st last. Sunshine prevailed a remarkable 70% of the time.

AUGUST - The month produced the second warmest August on record. Also a record high was tied on the 13th. Overall, temperatures averaged 77.8°, 7.4° above normal. The high was 95° on both 13th and 15th and the low was 57° on the 23rd. Lake Erie remained at 76° on the 1st, 75 on the 13th, 77 on the 26th and 77 on the 31st last. Sun prevailed 68% of the time possible. Rain totaled 2.00 in., 1.40 in. in deficit of normal that was distributed on 8 days. The most rain in any 24 hour period was 1.15 in. on the 5th.

THIRTY YEARS AGO: A Red Knot frequented White City June 6-8, 1965 (Carrothers). A King Rail family was noted in Chesterland on July 4 (Raynes). Least Bitterns nested at Mogadore Reservoir (Hjelmquist). Sedge Wrens nested at Warrensville Farms (Knight). The first summer record of House Finch was in Geauga Co. on July 18 (Tramer). Western Meadowlarks apparently nested in Lorain Co. (Klamm).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: The first June record of Willet for the region was at White City on June 23, 1975 (Hannikman). Short-eared Owls possibly nested at the east end of Burke Airport (Klamm). Piping Plovers were found at White City on July 20 (Klamm, Rickard) and on Aug. 4 & 5 (Hannikman, Hoffman). The earliest fall Philadelphia Vireo on record was banded in Waite Hill on July 27 (Flanigan). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Burke Airport on Aug. 23 & 24 (Klamm).

TEN YEARS AGO: Talkington encountered a minimum of 8 Least Bitterns on canoe trips through Mentor Marsh in 1985. The only record of nesting Green-winged Teal for the region was at the Barberton PPG Holding Basin (Rosche). Two Piping Plovers appeared at the Gordon Park Landfill in July (Klamm, Emery). The first June record of Stilt Sandpiper was at Spencer Lake on June 8 (Rosche). The first successful nesting of Pine Warbler for the region was at Lake Rockwell (Rosche).

Comment on the season

by Larry Rosche

Never in the years since I have been editor of this quarterly have I receive so much data. It is remarkable what having shorebird habitat will do to get birders out in the summer. Nest studies were also at an all time high. Not only were contributors diligent afield they were equally prompt in reporting their sightings. Nowhere was this more evident than in the report I received from the Greenlands postmarked Cape Breton, Nova Scotia! I cannot thank you enough for your field notes and your prompt data submission. As I have mentioned before, the nesting season is the season I enjoy hearing about the most. Our Bald Eagle population is growing. (It's too bad that we could not have had the excitement of finding nesting Ospreys as they did in Jefferson Co.) Not many regions can boast of finding 25 species of warblers during the nesting season, but local observers did. How many of these were successful remains a mystery. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Stebbins Gulch was a great find. You have to go back many years to find nesting evidence for this species in Ohio. I have included tables detailing the 4 Breeding Bird Survey Routes run locally and the totals from the Greater Akron Summer Bird Count. These tables should give a fair assessment of the numbers of our regular nesting species. A special thanks to Tom LePage for providing the first verified report of Royal Tern in Ohio. His daily diligence along the lake has helped many of us see great rarities. Good birding.

SUMMER 1995

The only **Pied-billed Grebe** was on the Greater Akron Summer Bird Count (GASBC) (CT). **Double-crested Cormorants** have become commonplace. **Great Blue Herons** remain in high numbers. Five **Great Egrets** were at the Avon Lake Power Plant on July 8 (RHL). As many as 20 frequented a manmade marsh at Carlisle Visitor Center in July (NK). They were scattered about the large lakes of Portage Co. at expected times. A bird at Geauga Lake on Aug. 28 was not expected (CH). **Green Herons** remain in low numbers in all areas except eastern Geauga Co. (JA). Correspondence with Bruce Peterjohn of the Breeding Bird Survey indicated an alarming downward trend for this species in Ohio and Kentucky. The high was 6 at LaDue on Aug. 20 (AF). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was in Lorain on July 19 (CH). A total of 8 was found at Rocky River

Marina on Aug. 30 (BF, PL). Three youngsters were at Walborn Reservoir on Aug. 31 (BDL). **Mute Swans** nested in several Portage Co. locales. **Hooded Mergansers** continue to maintain a small but stable summer population locally. Young were observed in Pinery Narrows on July 1 (DAC).

The usual array of **Ospreys** visited Lake Rockwell and Walborn Reservoir starting in late July. A bird was at Gordon Park on Aug. 14 (DJH). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was harassing swifts in Twin Lakes on June 27 (LR).

Red-shouldered Hawks were well represented in all 7 counties. A **Broad-winged Hawk** nest contained 3 young in July (DAC, PL, BF). A migrant passed through Lake View Cemetery on Aug. 30 (DJH).

Red-tailed Hawks were numerous. **American Kestrels** were in expected totals in the rural regions.

Ring-necked Pheasants were slightly down in Portage Co.

Wild Turkeys were successful in Mantua Township (CH) and at Russell Park (AF). **Northern Bobwhites** were found to be spreading into eastern Summit Co. Two calling in Streetsboro on June 17 were new to the this site (CH). At Carlisle Park 3 were found on June 11 (TLP). **Virginia Rails** were successful at Streetsboro Bog (CH, RR). **Soras** were in expected locales. Only one **Common Moorhen** was found on the GASBC.

Four adult **Black-bellied Plovers** were at Burke Airport on July 30 (TLP). The high count of **Semipalmated Plovers** in Lorain was 13 on Aug. 31 (TLP). The high count of **Greater Yellowlegs** was 13 on July 23 (LR, M.ob.). The high for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was 18 on July 23 (LR, JW, M.ob.). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were early at Jaite on July 10 (DAC). **Willetts** were in Lorain on several dates starting on June 16. Two were there on July 6 (TLP) and 1 on July 19 (CH), Nesting **Spotted Sand-**

pipers remained fairly easy to find in the many sand and gravel pit areas in the region. A nest with 4 eggs (the usual shorebird number) was found at Jaite on June 21. They hatched on July 10 (DAC). **Ruddy Turnstones** were in small but expected numbers along the lake. **Red Knots** graced Lorain's spacious resting area on several occasions. Two were there on July 23 (LR, JW), one on July 31 (TLP) and another on Aug. 12 (NK). **Sanderlings** were widespread along the lake. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were very numerous in Lorain. The high count was 160 on Aug. 25 (TLP). Two **Western Sandpipers** were in Lorain on Aug. 26 (RHL). The high count of **Least Sandpipers** was 23 at Lorain on July 20 (TLP). The only **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Burke Airport on Aug. 21 - 22 (FMG). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in good supply at Lorain. **Dunlins** are rarely found locally during this period. A bird at Lorain on Aug. 27 (DJH) and 2 there on Aug. 29 (TLP) provided exceptions. **Stilt Sandpipers** visited Lorain regularly from July 23 (DJH, M.ob.). Lorain's high tally of **Short-billed Dowitchers** was 14 on July 30 (TLP). **American Woodcocks** were as expected.

The first juvenile **Ring-billed Gulls** showed up at HBSP right on time July 1 (EB, RH). **Herring Gulls** have established themselves as a regular breeder in most of the region. Three first-summer plumaged **Bonaparte's Gulls** roosted with cormorants at Lake Rockwell on 13 June (LR). This plumage had never been noted there before. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were regularly found at lakefront sites. The high tally for **Caspian Terns** was 47 at

SELECTED SPECIES 1995 GREATER AKRON SUMMER SURVEY

PIED-BILLED GREBE	1	EUROPEAN STARLING	2720
GREAT BLUE HERON	272	WHITE-EYED VIREO	25
GREEN HERON	44	SOLITARY VIREO	17
WOOD DUCK	96	YELLOW-THROAT. VIREO	17
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	8	WARBLING VIREO	119
RED-TAILED HAWK	73	RED-EYED VIREO	382
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	21	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	92
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	24	YELLOW WARBLER	454
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	8	CHESTNUT-SIDED W.	11
BARRED OWL	10	BLACK-THR. GRN W.	8
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	57	YELLOW-THROATED W.	0
BELTED KINGFISHER	56	PRAIRIE WARBLER	1
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	4	CERULEAN WARBLER	47
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	111	AMERICAN REDSTART	19
DOWNY WOODPECKER	200	PROTHONOTARY W.	0
HAIRY WOODPECKER	41	OVENBIRD	41
NORTHERN FLICKER	147	LA WATERTHRUSH	5
PILEATED WOODPECKER	21	MOURNING WARBLER	1
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	113	COM. YELLOWTHROAT	392
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	93	HOODED WARBLER	137
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	125	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	23
EASTERN PHOEBE	77	SCARLET Tanager	91
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	84	NORTHERN CARDINAL	999
EASTERN KINGBIRD	46	INDIGO BUNTING	284
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	86	RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	222
BANK SWALLOW	637	CHIPPING SPARROW	379
BLUE JAY	721	FIELD SPARROW	314
AMERICAN CROW	472	SONG SPARROW	1140
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	656	DARK-EYED JUNCO	1
TUFTED TITMOUSE	541	BOBOLINK	90
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	154	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	1752
CAROLINA WREN	52	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	50
HOUSE WREN	385	COMMON GRACKLE	2764
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	28	BH COWBIRD	564
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	79	ORCHARD ORIOLE	15
VEERY	85	NORTHERN ORIOLE	289
WOOD THRUSH	218	PURPLE FINCH	29
AMERICAN ROBIN	2729	HOUSE FINCH	1035
GRAY CATBIRD	564	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	926
CEDAR WAXWING	380	HOUSE SPARROW	1793

DATA COMPILED BY CAROL TVEEKREM

Lorain on Aug. 9 (TLP). A group of 16 was at Dock 20 in Cleveland on Aug. 16 (PL). Another 6 were at LaDue on Aug. 20 (AF). The build-up of **Common Terns** in Lorain reached 230 by Aug. 31 (TLP). A first-summer plumaged bird was unexpected at Lake Rockwell on 6 June (LR). **Forster's Terns** were less plentiful than **Common Terns** but in expected numbers at Lorain.

Reflecting a good Spring migration, **Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were relatively numerous and widespread. BBS routes and the GASBC tallied exceptional numbers of cuckoos. The Chasars found a Yellow-billed nest with 2-3 young in Pinery Narrows on June 14. At least 6 pairs of Yellow-billeds were found along the Upper Cuyahoga (DB, AF). Black-billeds were

less common but in much better than expected totals. Read Paula Lozano's field notes and you will find how much the local Peregrines enjoy cuckoos.

Nesting **Common Nighthawks** were conspicuous over Kent for the first time this decade. Hundreds were noted over the Cuyahoga Valley south of Peninsula through the last third of August (JW). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** fared well. **Belted Kingfishers** were as expected. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were successful at Rocky River MP (PL, BF).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from Lakeshore MP on Aug. 13 (JP). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were abundant. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was late at Donald Gray on June 2 (FMG, PL). One was found in Parma Heights on Aug. 28 (RHL). Nesting **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were numerous in appropriate habitat. **Alder Flycatchers** were apparently on territory in the CVNRA in June (DAC). **Least Flycatchers** were found in the CVNRA, Ravenna Arsenal, and the Upper Cuyahoga. The first southbound migrants were noted at Lakeshore MP on July 28 (JP). **Eastern Phoebes**, **Great Crested Flycatchers**, and **Eastern Kingbirds** were well represented on summer censuses. **Purple Martins** gathered in Lorain in mid-August. The high count was an astonishing 1500 on the 13th (TLP). **Cliff Swallows** are nesting widely in Portage Co. (BDL, LR). By the end of August many reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were



Territorial Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) - Headlands Beach State Park
by Larry Rosche

being received. A **Brown Creeper** remained at Russell Park from June through 1 Aug (DB). One was at Hell Hollow on July 25 (JP). **Carolina Wrens** received mixed reviews. **House** and **Marsh Wrens** were in expected totals at expected sites. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** received little mention.

South Chagrin **Eastern Bluebird** nest boxes produced 42 young (BF, JK, RT). **Veeries** and **Wood Thrushes** are thriving in suitable habitats. **Gray Catbirds** were abundant. **Northern Mockingbirds** nested locally at Gordon Park. A bird on West 9th St. was unexpected on June 15 (PL). **Brown Thrashers** were spotty in distribution but generally holding their own as a nesting species. An apparently territorial **White-eyed Vireo** was at Gordon Park in late June through early July (DJH). **Solitary Vireos** put in a solid showing at Virginia Kendall Park and

various Lake County sites. **Yellow-throated, Warbling**, and **Red-eyed Vireos** were in expected totals.

Field observers certainly went the extra mile in order to locate 25 summering species of warblers. As expected there was some southbound movements noted along lakefront locales by the end of the period. The nesting population of **Blue-winged Warblers** seems stable. A "Brewster's Warbler" was at Hogback Ridge on June 4 (JP). **Yellow Warblers** were tallied in good numbers on BBS routes. A migrant **Northern Parula** at Lakeshore MP on Aug. 21 provided a portent of things to come in the fall (JP). Nesting **Chestnut-sided Warblers** can be found if the effort is taken. In the Lake Co. Metroparks, volunteers found them at River Road, Hell Hollow, and Indian Point. A total of 11 was found on the GASBC.

1995 CLEVELAND REGION BREEDING BIRD SURVEY ROUTES

	HIR	MID	WAY	VC		HIR	MID	WAY	VC
GREAT BLUE HERON	6	3	5	4	HOUSE WREN	33	22	22	24
GREEN HERON	1	2	0	0	MARSH WREN	0	2	0	0
CANADA GOOSE	31	36	41	0	BLUE-GRAY GNAT.	0	2	0	0
WOOD DUCK	4	0	2	0	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	14	1	16	14
MALLARD	13	8	0	4	VEERY	1	0	6	0
TURKEY VULTURE	1	6	0	0	WOOD THRUSH	9	1	8	1
COOPER'S HAWK	0	1	0	0	AMERICAN ROBIN	135	73	141	102
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	2	0	2	0	GRAY CATBIRD	33	13	22	8
RED-TAILED HAWK	1	1	1	3	BROWN THRASHER	3	0	3	0
AMERICAN KESTREL	3	0	3	3	CEDAR WAXWING	33	16	18	7
RING-NECK. PHEASANT	1	1	2	0	EUROPEAN STARLING	433	67	257	118
WILD TURKEY	0	0	1	0	WHITE-EYED VIREO	2	0	2	0
NORTHERN BOBWHITE		2	0	21	YELLOW-THROATED VIR.	3	0	5	0
KILLDEER	42	5	29	25	WARBLING VIREO	3	4	4	0
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	0	1	1	0	RED-EYED VIREO	34	9	28	5
ROCK DOVE	79	1	25	8	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	1	0	0	0
MORNING DOVE	118	27	144	37	YELLOW WARBLER	34	19	26	20
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	6	2	1	0	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARB.	1	0	0	0
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	2	1	1	0	CERULEAN WARBLER	0	0	4	0
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	0	0	0	0	AMERICAN REDSTART	1	1	7	0
CHIMNEY SWIFT	32	33	35	18	OVENBIRD	1	0	0	0
RUBY-THR. HUMMBIRD	0	0	1	0	COMMON YEL. THROAT	35	12	42	15
BELTED KINGFISHER	2	0	2	0	HOODED WARBLER	3	2	6	0
RED-HEAD. WOODPK.	0	0	0	0	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	2	0	2	0
RED-BELLIED WOODPK.	5	1	10	4	SCARLET TANAGER	7	0	5	1
DOWNY WOODPECKER	5	0	3	2	NORTHERN CARDINAL	75	23	65	33
HAIRY WOODPECKER	1	0	2	0	ROSE-BREASTED GROS.	8	2	8	0
NORTHERN FLICKER	4	1	3	1	INDIGO BUNTING	27	9	17	8
PILEATED WOODPECKER	2	0	0	0	RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	3	0	7	0
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	7	0	12	2	CHIPPING SPARROW	37	25	46	24
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	1	1	5	0	FIELD SPARROW	14	4	18	7
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	10	2	15	6	VESPER SPARROW	2	0	2	0
EASTERN PHOEBE	4	6	6	5	SAVANNAH SPARROW	13	3	16	1
GREAT CRESTED FLYC.	10	2	5	1	HENSLOW'S SPARROW	0	0	0	1
EASTERN KINGBIRD	2	0	6	6	GRASSHOPPER SPAR.	0	2	0	0
HORNED LARK	4	0	3	0	SONG SPARROW	86	33	78	54
PURPLE MARTIN	0	0	0	0	SWAMP SPARROW	5	3	8	0
TREE SWALLOW	15	4	22	0	BOBOLINK	16	7	9	0
ROUGH-WINGED SWA.	2	0	0	0	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	338	92	283	101
BANK SWALLOW	60	0	0	0	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	13	6	35	26
CLIFF SWALLOW	0	0	0	0	COMMON GRACKLE	155	44	123	59
BARN SWALLOW	31	7	22	21	BRN-HEADED COWBIRD	21	14	14	18
BLUE JAY	54	9	26	16	ORCHARD ORIOLE	0	0	1	0
AMERICAN CROW	82	58	61	22	NORTHERN ORIOLE	16	2	12	9
BLACK-CAPPED CHICK.	24	11	18	11	PURPLE FINCH	1	5	3	0
TUFTED TITMOUSE	49	5	47	24	HOUSE FINCH	97	21	90	37
WHITE-BREASTED NUTH.	2	0	2	0	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	42	19	31	32
CAROLINA WREN	2	0	0	0	HOUSE SPARROW	225	46	252	76

HIR = HIRAM; MID = MIDDLEFIELD; WAY = WAYLAND; VC = VALLEY CITY

Magnolia Warblers were reported from Hinckley MP (RHL), Hogback Ridge, and Hell Hollow (JP). The 9 **Black-throated Green**

Warblers in Stebbins Gulch on June 24 was an excellent tally (DAC, RHL). They were also found at Hell Hollow, Girdled

Road, Hidden Valley, River Road, and many sites in the CVNRA. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were better than expect-

ed in the CVNRA and in Lake County (DAC, M.ob.). **Pine Warblers** were thought to have nested at Hell Hollow, Hinckley, Holden Arboretum, Lake Rockwell, and the CVNRA (M.ob.). A young and a female were banded at Lakeshore MP(JP). **Cerulean Warblers** were as expected. This species is under consideration for threatened listing. **American Redstarts** were in good numbers throughout their expected breeding locations. A **Prothonotary Warbler** nest box project produced 25 young along the Cuyahoga River near Russell Park (AF, DB). **Ovenbirds** were regular at Findley SP (NK). Migrant **Northern Waterthrushes** were arriving along the lakefront by early August. As expected, **Kentucky Warblers** summered at Hinckley. A bird at Little Mountain was the only Lake Co. report (DAC, RHL). The only **Mourning Warbler** reported was on the GASBC (CT). As expected, **Hooded Warblers** were numerous. A count of 6 **Canada Warblers** in Stebbins Gulch on June 24 was exceptional (DAC, RHL). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were as numerous as any time in the past 20 years in eastern Summit and Portage Counties (LR).

Finding **Grasshopper Sparrows** takes a little time and habitat knowledge. It seems that they prefer areas where the topsoil has been heavily disturbed. My studies have found that they are among the first birds to take up summer residence in places where factories have been torn down. Such was the case in Barberton at the PPG plant this summer. They once

again nested in the barren site along Fairport - Nursery Road (RH, LR). Two were found in similar habitat in Hamden Township on June 4 (JA, AF, RM). A bird in Parma Hts. on Aug. 8 was a surprise (RHL). The relic populations of **Dark-eyed Juncos** appear to be doing well. An oddity occurred at South Chagrin when a female was found sitting on eggs in an old phoebe nest June 13 - 22 (KM). A bird at a Chesterland feeder on Aug. 7 was odd (AF). **Bobolinks** were in the usual places in most counties. The 6-10 at All Saints Cemetery in Northfield on June 4 was from a new area (DAC).

Eastern Meadowlarks remain common in their (locally) ever dwindling habitat. **Orchard Orioles** are expected at many inland areas at this season. The report of 10 being banded at Lakeshore MP in July was impressive (JP).

NOTEWORTHY REPORTS

COMMON LOON - Unprecedented for the site at this time of year, a single flew by Headlands Beach SP on July 8 (Bacik, Hannikman).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Two birds were found along S.R. 2 in Willoughby on June 6. They were seen by many through the 10th (Fjeldstad, M.ob.).

LEAST BITTERN - The only reports came from Mud Lake in Hudson (Rosche) and Veteran's Park in Mentor (Pogacnik).

SNOWY EGRET - The first Portage County record came from Shalersville Township near the north end of Lake Rockwell on June 11. A bird was viewed for 10-15 minutes as it fed and roosted in the trees along the Cuyahoga River (Rosche).

AMERICAN WIGEON - A male in partial eclipse plumage was at Upper Shaker Lake on June 14 (Munson).

RING-NECKED DUCK - Up to 6 summered in Shalersville (Holt, Rosche).

BALD EAGLE - The nest at Lake Rockwell had 3 young and the nest in Geauga Co. had 2. A subadult was over North Chagrin on June 5 (Metcalf).

NORTHERN HARRIER - This species was more numerous than in any year since the fifties. Madison Township hosted a breeding pair (Pogacnik). Birds probably nested at West Branch SP, the Ravenna Arsenal, and in Hiram Township (Rosche). Other birds were noted at Headlands Beach SP on June 17 (Hannikman) and in Lorain on July 23 (Rosche, Wert). A female was at Gordon Park on Aug. 8 (Hoffman). One was in southern Portage Co. on Aug. 15 (Lane).

PEREGRINE FALCON - See Field Notes.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Starting with a bird on July 23 (Rosche, M.ob.), this species provided much enjoyment for the many birders who visited the Lorain mudflat. Two were noted there on July 29, Aug. 10, a total of

10 on Aug. 11 , and 1 on Aug. 22 (LePage, Lozano, Kraps, M.ob.).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - An immature was walking amid the debris and dunes at HBSP on Aug. 13 (Rosche, Wert).

MARBLED GODWIT - A bird dallied at the mudflat in Lorain from Aug. 22 to Aug. 26 (LePage, Harlan, M.ob.).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - A bird paid a brief visit to the Lorain mudflat on Aug. 29 (LePage).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - A female was found with the pelicans in Willoughby on June 7 (Hoffman). A bird was in Lorain on a more expected date Aug. 24 (LePage).

LAUGHING GULL - The only report came from Lorain on June 27 (LePage).

LITTLE GULL - An adult was in Lorain on July 23 (Rosche, Wert, M.ob.)

ROYAL TERN - Ohio's first verified record of this species was present in Lorain on July 8, 20, and 21 (LePage). This bird was studied and photographed by many during the course of its stay.

BLACK TERN - The only sighting came from Lakeshore MP on Aug. 20 (Pogacnik).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Seven were on the Greater Akron Summer Bird Count (Tveekrem). A bird was in Lorain Co. on Aug. 16 (Black River Audubon).



American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) - Willoughby - June 6, 1995
by Larry Rosche

WINTER WREN - Reports came from the Zimmerman Trail on June 6 (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche), Stebbins Gulch on June 24 (Chasar, Fondrk, Harlan) and all summer at the Big Creek Nature Center (Best).

SEDGE WREN - The bird found Pittsfield Township on June 3 was our first indication of nesting in some time (Harlan). A bird was heard at Arcola Creek on July 8 (Pogacnik).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Two were in Hinckley MP on June 18 (Harlan). They nested in Hidden Valley MP and Chapin Forest (Pogacnik).

HERMIT THRUSH - One was in Hell Hollow on June 10 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN PARULA - A nest failed in Brecksville (Chasar).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WAR-

BLER - The first June record for the region in my tenure as editor was at Stebbins Gulch on the 24th (Chasar, Harlan).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - A singing male was located at Headlands Beach SP on June 19. It remained there well into July (Metcalf, M.ob.).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - The only report was from Stebbins Gulch on June 24 (Chasar, Fondrk, Harlan).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - The Oakhill area of the CVNRA had a singing male June 10 - 24 (Chasar).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER - A bird was at Russell Park on June 20 (Fondrk). This site has had summering birds in the past. A bird at Lake View Cemetery on June 9 was probably a northbound straggler (DJH).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - An adult was seen carrying food south of Russell Park on July 15 (Best, Fondrk).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - A bird was found on June 10 during the Valley City BBS Route (Greenland). One was reported from Madison Township on Aug. 5 (Pogacnik).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - One was at Headlands Beach SP most of July (Bacik, Hannikman, Rosche)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Unprecedented at this season, a bird was at Headlands Beach SP on June 24 (Bacik, Hannikman).

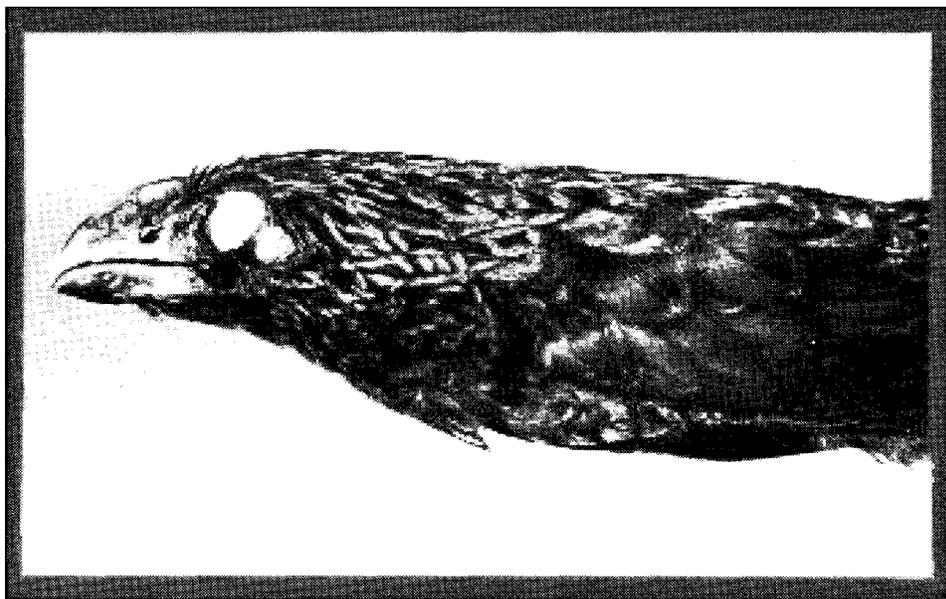
CORRECTION: The report of nesting Solitary Vireo on April 16 (Vol. 91 No. 2) was wrong. The observer meant May 16.

FIELD NOTES

LITTLE ORPHAN ANI

A student struggling to make a good study skin labeled the window-killed cardinal "male". His mentor noted the body was not dissected to check the gonads. "But no female cardinal is solid red," the student complained. But how would you know if you didn't check?" was the reply.

The story of Orphan Ani began in 1993 at a Thanksgiving dinner in Westlake, Ohio, when the host handed his biologist brother the corpse of a bird with the query, "What the hell is



Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) Cleveland Museum of Natural History
by Dan Flocke

this? The cat brought it in this morning." Biologists are unfazed by such table talk, and Dr. Andrew White casually said it looked like an ani. Andy passed the remains on to me a couple of days later, with the same question. It had a smooth bill, and we tentatively identified it as a Smooth-billed Ani (SBA) *Crotophaga ani*. I had seen the three anis: Smooth-billed, Groove-billed (GBA) (*C. sulcirostris*), and Greater (*C. major*) in the tropics, but was no expert, and further checking brought out some interesting problems. The bird had some characters of both SBAs and GBAs, and several sources warn that immature, and even some adult GBAs have smooth bills. Conventional wisdom also states that GBAs wander widely (there are records from about 25 states and provinces, four from Ohio), while SBAs nearly always stay at home in Florida. A SBA from northern Ohio would be a new record for the

state, the region and, indeed, for any inland state in North America. Substantiation of such a record clearly would be needed.

The bird was donated to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) collection. Additional study could be done there with study skins of both species, and reciprocity with other museums is facilitated when a confirming diagnosis is needed.

Dr. Timothy Matson, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at CMNH, examined the bird, compared it to the museum's collection of anis, and identified it as a smooth-billed Ani. It was prepared, accessioned, and is now #68471 in the CMNH bird collection. Daniel White deserves commendation for recognizing the value of a dead bird and bringing it to our attention. Tim and I both noted some equivocal features of the bird. The culmen

lacks the characteristic high, arched ridge intercepting the forehead with an obvious notch that is found in many SBAs. A pronounced gonydeal angle in the lower mandible profile is not obvious, and the bird was closer in length and weight to GBAs. These discrepancies could be due to the bird's immaturity and its severe emaciation (the cat may have picked up an already dead bird). Comparison with larger ani collections in other museums would confirm the identification. I had cautiously mentioned a possible Ohio SBA to a few people, and most agreed with National Audubon Society Field Notes Regional Editor Kenneth Brock that such a record would be questioned, and confirming opinions would be a plus. Others dismissed the possibility out of hand; it must be a GBA.

We contacted curators and registrars at regional zoos and at ISIS (International Species Inventory System), but found no records of captive anis that could have escaped. This fact and the bird's poor condition led us to think it was a true vagrant.

To shorten a lengthening tale, Little Orphan Ani earned its name by spending nearly the entire next year visiting at, or traveling between, museums. Ornithologists at the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), the Field Museum (Chicago), and the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University (LSUM) studied and compared the skin to anis in their collections and agreed that it was a

Smooth-billed Ani. Some expressed reservations about atypical features, notably the bill, but pointed out no single character distinguishes the species all the time. A brief note on the Ohio record has been submitted to the Ohio Journal of Science and details sent to the Ohio Bird Records Committee.



So, does all this mean none of us, even the curators, can tell anis apart in the field or in hand? No. What has come out of this is that all the identifying characters are variable enough that no single one will always work. As in several other species, we must sometimes weigh multiple features to decide.

Obviously, if there are clear grooves on the bill, a GBA is easy to call. But GBAs can have grooveless bills at times, Several U.S. and tropical bird guides point this out. I am not sure how commonly this occurs, however. Dr. J. V. Remsen of LSU says in an October, 1994 letter: "Although very young Groove-billeds may have indistinct grooves, we can find no specimen of Groove-billed in our series of about 125 specimens, including many first-fall birds, that

does not have prominent grooves. Actually, even our 3 nestlings/fledglings show some grooves."

Most adult SBAs have a higher arch on the culmen and a more obvious angle between culmen and skull than GBAs. Many of the field guides show this, some poorly. Probably the best version of typical bill shapes is Peterson and Chalif's Mexican guide. Interestingly, in the first edition of the North American guide by Robbins, et al., the plate by Singer has the bill shapes reversed, as Balch points out in his excellent 1979 ani article in *Birding*. Robbins' revised version adds a description of the correct relationship and retouches the same plate! Compare the two plates side by side to see this. Balch cautions "...some Smooth-billed Anis have bill shapes too similar to the typical Groove-billed shape to allow identification by that feature alone." This is true of our bird, even in the hand. Can we at least say, "all anis with a high-arched culmen and pronounced angle with the skull are SBAs"? This is probably true most of the time. Yet GBA #6206 in the CMNH collection has just such a profile together with a bunch of prominent grooves.

Balch also says the more pronounced angle on the lower mandible edge in SBAs is probably of little value in the field. In our bird it appears so in the hand as well; no pronounced angle is present.

The Ohio SBA appears to be in adult plumage, and matches

the color descriptions of SBAs. SBAs appear to have a bronzy iridescence on the head and nape in very good field light or in the hand. GBAs' head and nape appear to have greenish-blue iridescence, like the back and wings. Remsen points out in his letter that the shape of the bronzy streaks on feather edges differs in the two species, causing the apparent color difference. Broader and blunter bronze streaking on the head and neck feathers of SBAs causes these areas to look bronzy, while narrow, pointed bronze edges on the same feathers of GBAs allow the overall greenish iridescence to predominate. The best illustration I found of this color difference, giving the SBA an apparent bronzy "cape", is in Dunning's 1982 photos of South American landbirds.

SBA is consistently the larger of the two species. Peterson's Eastern Guide, 4th edition, curiously gets this backward. There may be size overlap, especially with young SBAs. In any case, one centimeter or so in 32 is all but useless in the field.

Voice is one of the better field marks. Ridgely (Birds of Panama) and others say the two are best distinguished by call. Remsen says, "Encourage observers to record call notes--the two species can be distinguished as far away as they can be heard." Verbal descriptions of the calls are almost as numerous as the describers. GBAs usual call is almost flicker-like, repeated and 2-3 noted, the first note highest

and rising in pitch. SBAs call is a whiny, querulous whistle, almost "wood-ducky," 2-3 noted and rising in pitch on the last note. Fortunately, tapes are available. "Voices of New World Cuckoos and Trogons" has both species. "Sounds of Florida Birds" and "Bird Songs of Trinidad and Tobago" have SBA. The former is better. "Songs of Mexican Birds" and "Field Guide to Western Bird Songs" both have GBA. Again, the former is better. Interestingly, an earlier Indiana report of SBA, rejected by the state records committee, included a description of voice. I hope to get more details on this in the future.

A final message from Little Orphan Ani is to keep looking for the unusual. We do so continually in many aspects of birding, and better optics and skills allow unprecedented precision in field identification. This record and observations suggest that extralimital SBAs may not be as rare in interior North America as supposed. Any ani outside its breeding range should be examined closely and all details recorded. Despite the fact that all three species wander widely in the tropics, and Kenn Kaufman's (Master Guide) comment, "both species wander widely", more than one birder told me: "I don't have to see the bird. Its a Groove-billed."

I still make a mediocre study skin, but I've never forgotten Dr. Milton Trautman's question: "But how would you know if you didn't check?"

PEREGRINE FALCON **(FALCO PEREGRINUS)**

NESTING **CHRONOLOGY**

by Paula J. Lozano

June 7, 2:00 p.m. Scott Wright telephoned and reported the banding of chicks at Terminal Tower, as follows: Calypso, R*9; Juliet, P*9; Wild Thing, S*9. Black lettering on red.

June 7, 2:31 p.m. Jenine Porter telephoned and reported that an egg had been found in a planter on the west side of Winton Place.

June 23. Steve Wilcox, ODNR Division of Wildlife officer, telephoned and reported that results of candling Winton Place egg were negative. Plans for next breeding season at Winton Place include removing planters and placing more nesting boxes around top floor. If and when Peregrines select one box, the others will be removed.

June 27, 6:30-8:00 a.m., Terminal Tower, Cleveland. Scott Wright observed 2 adults & 2 immatures (third immature not seen). Young all said to be females. (Note: Another bird hatched from third egg died. Its body was sent to the National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin, for a necropsy. Results indicated the bird's liver and spleen were enlarged.)

June 28, 6:45-8:00 a.m., Terminal Tower, Cleveland. Scott Wright observed Szell, Zenith, Calypso, and Juliet. He did not see Wild Thing, the youngest bird that had fledged sometime between yesterday afternoon and his

arrival this morning. When three workmen appeared outside on 37th floor, Szell made a pass/dive on them.

June 28, 12:00-1:00 p.m., Terminal Tower, Cleveland. Scott and I observed all birds. Wild Thing reappeared on Stouffer Tower City Plaza Tower's 5th floor ledge around 11:30 a.m. When I arrived, she had almost made it to the SW corner of the building before resting after traversing a strip of wire "spikes" used to discourage pigeons from roosting outside the hotel's windows. (Birds were seen on Channel 43's 10:00 p.m. broadcast and Channel 19's 11:00 p.m. broadcast.)

June 28, 9:00 p.m. Scott Wright reported that Gary Hoskins, ODNr Division of Wildlife officer, opened a window, grabbed Wild Thing by the legs and took her back to the nest box ledge on front of Terminal Tower.

June 29, 6:00-8:00 a.m. Scott and I observed all birds.

June 30, 6:00-8:00 a.m. Scott and I could not locate Wild Thing.

July 3. Scott Wright left message that the afternoon of June 29, Wild Thing had been found on the fourth floor roof and had been kept in a box during the 4th of July festivities at Public Square. One of three dead Yellow-billed Cuckoos left on the roof by the parent birds for the chick was also put into the box.

July 6, 9:30 a.m. Scott Wright telephoned and reported the death of Wild Thing. Her body was discov-



Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) - May 21, 1995 - Crane Creek SP
by Melinda Greenland

ered by a window washer on the 24th floor of the Bank One building on Superior Avenue.

August 1, 8:18 a.m., A female was seen over the intersection of Johnson Court and West 9th St. in front of National Terminal Warehouse.

THE GREATER AKRON AUDUBON 1995 SUMMER BIRD COUNT by Carol Tveekrem

The forty-four birders in twenty parties who participated in our eighteenth Summer Bird Count put in a record high 406 party hours, and found a new high 32,036 birds of 126 species. Most of the count was done over the period June 16-19, but some parties continued through the following weekend. This was our second highest number of species, remarkable considering that we missed several, notably American Black Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Pheasant. We saw only one Common Moorhen. We

added two new species to the count - Cliff Swallow and Hooded Merganser. Several species were seen for only the second time: Great Egret, Mute Swan, American Wigeon, Caspian Tern, and N. Parula Warbler. Other unusual species: Least Bittern in Hudson, Olive-sided Flycatcher (migrant straggler), Winter Wren in Firestone Metropark, N. Mockingbird, and two goodies from CVNRA, Mourning Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco, both evidently nesting. The Black-throated Green and Parula have both been confirmed as nesters in the valley.

We set new high number records for many species, but especially for widespread common small birds, largely due to the increased party hours. Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture and American Crow numbers were so ridiculous we suspect some duplication. Great Blue Herons and Wild Turkeys continue to increase. Other birds in higher than usual numbers

after correcting for party hours were: Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, all vireos except White-eyed, Cerulean Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole, House Finch and American Goldfinch. Brown Thrashers had their best count since 1980.

The only species lower than usual were: Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, and Purple Martin. None were seriously down, although martins and nighthawks have been slipping locally for some years.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS IN LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

by Jean Hoffman

From May 10 through May 25 1995, I often heard a Red-headed Woodpecker at some distance from the lower pond, but never saw one. Then for nearly a month I had no evidence of their presence and began to fear that they were not nesting in Lake View this year. At last, on June 21 I saw an adult adjacent to the pond, flycatching from a tree perch, but silent. On subsequent days I watched individuals until I guessed the area where they must have a nest.

Finally on July 7 I located the nest hole in a large Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*) in a good sized snag. Both adults were bringing food to the nest, one going completely into the hole, the other just leaning in. On the 13th I photographed the adults bringing food and was able to see the bill of one nestling sticking up into the opening. By July 16, two young were crowding the nest hole opening waiting noisily to be fed. As a nest in Rocky River had young like this a week earlier from which they had since fledged, I was sure these in Lake View Cemetery would also fledge before I could return on the 19th.

Thus I was not surprised when there was no activity around the birch tree on that date. I also didn't see any of the Red-headed Woodpeckers. What did surprise me was finding an adult in the hole on July 27 with its head sticking out, looking around, for several minutes. It then disappeared into the cavity as the other adult flew onto the snag to perch at the opening. In a moment the first bird came out and flew away past the second bird which then went down into the hole. This bird quickly reappeared and flew off as well. Strangely, they seemed to be carrying something in their bills as they left the snag.

On Aug. 2 an adult flew to the nest hole, perched, looked in, and then disappeared into it. Meanwhile, the other adult flew into a nearby tree for a time, occasionally preening. After about 15 minutes, the bird in the hole peered out a bit, ducked down, looked

once more, then went down again. When ten more minutes passed it looked out several times then flew off. Later an adult was feeding on the other side of the lower pond. This seemed remarkably like nesting behavior!

The idea of a second nesting was startling. Most of the sources I've read indicate that they are not double brooded here and I was also reminded of the rapid departure of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the fall of 1993. The last ones I saw that year were two immatures moving through Lake View Cemetery on September 17. I did not see another until April 29, 1994 on the lakefront. The Cleveland Bird Calendar for fall 1993 (Vol. 89, p.39) commented: "Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to be seen at Lakefront sites through mid-Sep. The latest immature to linger was at the Mastick Road area of Rocky River MP on 24 Sep. (WNK). The immature at the Ira Road Beaver Pond in the CVNRA on 5 Sep. was the only inland report (LK). This species was at a low point in its occurrence cycle in Geauga Co. (fide DB)." This time frame does not seem to give a second nesting much leeway to produce truly independent young. My interest firmly engaged, I tried to learn more about the behavior of this pair of woodpeckers in the following days.

Through August 16, the birds gave every impression of incubation at the nest site, but on the 17th they did not stay at the nest, but came several times to look in and fly off. For several days I could not find

the birds at all. Later they began to call from the vicinity and a few times again visited the nest site, but showed no signs that the nest was active. On the 30th the adult woodpeckers were heard and seen between the ponds, but never in the vicinity of the nest. They were heavily into molt with heads not quite so red and missing several tail feathers. It would appear that if there was a second nest, it failed.

ON ATTEMPTS TO FIND FIVE PARTICULAR WARBLER NESTS

by Dwight and Ann Chasar

Like typical birders we await spring migration with great anticipation. But after a few weeks, the movement of warblers through the area has subsided and one realizes it is all over for another year. For us and I assume for the birds, the second exciting episode begins -- nesting. This period extends longer than a few weeks and we look for confirmation of nesting well into July. The ultimate confirmation is the nest itself. This report is a summary of our experiences with five not-so-common warblers in northeast Ohio: Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) Yellow-throated (*Dendroica dominica*) Pine (*Dendroica pinus*), Brewster's (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*) and Chestnut-sided (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). The first four birds can be found in select habitats in and around the Brecksville Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks, just a few miles from our home while

the last a bit further south in the CVNRA. (A sixth, the Prairie (*Dendroica discolor*) at Oakhill in the CVNRA, did not fit into our schedule.)

Last year we confirmed nesting of the Northern Parula (Chasar) at the Plateau picnic area in the Brecksville Reservation but had hoped to better establish nest building and egg dates this year if it came back. We did not find the birds until June 8 (vs May 1 last year). We detected nest building by the female on June 10, but this nest fell from the tree on June 20. On the 22nd, she again began building a nest in the same tree. This nest also failed by the 28th. From this time on, we were not able to confirm any further Parula activity. This endeavor required visits to the nest site 1-3 times each day.

For years, the Yellow-throated Warbler has returned to the ford over the Chippewa Creek in the Brecksville Reservation but nesting behavior in any fashion has never been confirmed. This year we heard the male singing by April 17 (previous three years were the 15th, 18th and 21st). At least three males were singing later in April. The male that finally claimed the territory was a persistent singer, morning, afternoon or evening. He used the same perches and moved around in the same area. This behavior extended through July 22. No non-singing bird was ever seen, no nesting material was ever seen being carried, and no food carrying or feeding was detected. However, on July 1, a singing male and a chipping female were

seen together at the heronry in the Pinery Narrows, just less than a mile away. This is the closest we got to nesting behavior for YT Warblers. This involved almost daily visits, 30-60 minutes in length, mostly in the early morning hours.

The Pine Warbler has returned to the north end of Meadows Drive in the Brecksville Reservation for a number of years. This year's arrival was May 15 (last two years the 23rd and 2nd). Another at the south end of Meadows was found by Rob Harlan and Lois Wallin this year. In 1989, Harlan reported nesting in Brecksville by observing a Pine Warbler feeding a cowbird. Between its arrival and July 25th, one or the other of us made 3-4 visits per week to this location to try to confirm nesting. Our observations were those of a lone singing male high in the pine trees. On July 15 in the late morning, however, we found both a male and female low in the pines, very upset with our presence, chipping and scolding continuously, fluttering wings and moving around us. We thought the birds were defending territory or fledglings because of their aggressiveness. Later that evening, we returned to observe the warblers in hopes of finding a nest or fledglings. We did observe both birds in the same area carrying food but very wary of our presence. They typically waited with the food for up to five minutes, finally ate it themselves, and departed. This behavior occurred several times that evening. No nest or young was found. After that, we only found the male, high in the

pinetrees, singing, and never joined by another Pine Warbler. Our study ended on July 25th.

Since the CVNRA's completion of the new Station Road parking lot across from the entrance to the Brecksville Reservation, a singing Brewster's Warbler has returned to the entrance road since 1992. It was first sighted on May 9 (previous years 5/5, 5/5 and 6/13). Its singing was sometimes unusual and sometimes Blue-winged-like, often from a visible perch. We never got close to finding any nesting suggestions although Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) were also present. By June 14 (previous years the 28, 19, and 25) we lost track of the bird when singing ceased.

In efforts to find a returning Prairie Warbler along a bridle trail off Wetmore Road in the CVNRA, we instead found both male and female Chestnut-sided Warblers on May 28, moving together as if looking for an appropriate site to nest. On June 10, we found the male carrying food. Several more visits narrowed down a nest site to some grapevine tangles and shrubs to which the birds made frequent visits. On July 8, we found the female in the company of a fledgling near this area, thus confirming that the birds did nest but we did not find the nest itself.

Our nest finding attempts fell short of our goals although we did find over 30 other species' nests. We have learned more about bird behavior through these efforts and hope that we can apply this knowledge next

year when we continue the nesting quest.

VESPER SPARROW POPULATION TRENDS

By Sam Droge

Listed below are the estimated North American population trends for both summer and winter populations. Data came from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) (1966-1994) and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) (1959-1988).

The Vesper Sparrow likes its grasses kept short, sparse, and cool. Its abundance peaks in the rangeland prairies and sagelands of north-central U.S. and the southern prairie provinces of Canada. Like many grassland species, Vesper Sparrows have both benefited and been burdened by agricultural practices.

In the East, Vesper Sparrows initially benefited from the replacement of forests with agricultural lands. They were fond of the dry, weedy pastures found on hill slopes and also thrived in corn fields. As productive Midwest farms and the new rail networks began to drive grain prices down, local economies were disrupted and many farmers were forced to abandon marginal lands, those often best suited for growing crops of Vespers. These early this century changes initiated the decline of the species that continues through today.

Both BBS and CBC trends clearly indicate widespread and severe declines in eastern populations. There are really no

exceptions to this pattern east of the Mississippi River. While the amount of ag land is no longer decreasing at the rates that occurred in the first half of the century, shifts in the culture and methods of farming have now become the greatest factors. Vesper Sparrows benefited from farming practices now considered outmoded and inefficient. Insects and weed seeds have decreased as pesticide use has increased. Pastures have grown too thick and matted for Vesper Sparrows to use. Fertilized carpets of cool-season grasses have largely replaced the diverse mix of forbs and native clump-forming grasses characteristic of past farms.

In the West the situation becomes more complex. Populations here are largely stable or have increased slightly, though there are widespread declines in the more southern intermountain grasslands. These lands have always formed the core of Vesper Sparrow distribution (at least since they were covered with ice). Complex shifts in the acreage of sagelands, Crested Wheatgrass, and grazing practices all likely have some affect on Vesper numbers. Being an Easterner myself, it is difficult for me to develop a good picture of the dynamics now occurring in these regions. I would be interested in hearing what others saw as the issues affecting changes in the abundance of western Vesper Sparrows.

In the long-run it appears possible that we may lose many, if not most, of the eastern popu-

Breeding Bird Survey - For 1966-1994:

Number of regions with decreasing trends: 47
Number of regions with increasing trends: 21
Number of significant declines: 29
Number of significant increases: 6

Selected Areas	% \square	of routes	Avg.	Trend	Number	Reg avg
ILLINOIS	0.2	53	4.56		32	0.05
INDIANA	-2.2***	36	8.23		17	0.05
IOWA	3.5***	32	16.45		14	0.46
MICHIGAN	-3.5***	70	6.00		19	1.28
NEW YORK	-9.5***	71	1.05		23	0.15
OHIO	-3.8***	56	3.59		21	0.06
PENNSYLVANIA	-6.2***	79	0.92		14	0.07
W. VIRGINIA	-16.1***	14	0.18		38	0.03
GREAT LAKES PLAIN	-3.2***	89	8.25		27	0.14
OHIO HILLS	-15.6***	30	0.42		40	0.05
ALLEGHENY PLATEAU	-9.9***	77	0.78		24	0.04
TILL PLAINS	-1.5***	77	5.67		35	0.13
EAST	-3.3***	650	2.01		16	4.10
CENTRAL	0.4	257	14.81		22	0.34
WEST	0.0	421	10.30		34	0.16
ENTIRE SURVEY	-0.6**	1328	7.87		937	3.06

Christmas Bird Counts (1959-1988)

Number of regions with decreasing trends: 24
Number of regions with increasing trends: 4
Number of significant declines: 14
Number of significant increases: 0

Selected States	Trend	Number	Reg avg
ILLINOIS	-0.6	32	0.05
INDIANA	-0.3	17	0.05
KANSAS	-1.8	14	0.46
LOUISIANA	-2.7 *	19	1.28
MARYLAND	-1.6 **	23	0.15
MICHIGAN	0.0	21	0.06
MISSOURI	-0.5	14	0.07
NEW YORK	-1.1*	38	0.03
NEW JERSEY	-2.2 ***	27	0.14
OHIO	-0.5	40	0.05
ONTARIO	-1.1*	24	0.04
PENNSYLVANIA	-1.5 ***	35	0.13
SOUTH CAROLINA	-6.8 ***	16	4.10
TENNESSEE	-1.4	22	0.34
VIRGINIA	-1.9*	34	0.16
ENTIRE REGION	-1.7*	937	3.06

lotions of Vesper Sparrow. Their future is clearly in the hands of farmers, whether they are aware of it or not. Western populations, for now, seem secure.

Interpreting the Trends Yourself

Each line represents an estimated trend for a different region. For the Breeding Bird Survey trends are presented by state, province, physiographic regions, Fish and Wildlife Regions, country, and the entire region. Christmas Bird Count trends are presented by state, province, and for the entire region. Trend values are presented as the percentage change in population size per year. A positive value indicates an increase, while a negative one denotes a decline.

If you want to calculate the overall decline, the following formula may be used:

$$\text{TREND} = 100(((A/100)+1)^n)-1$$

where: A = the annual per-

centage change n = the last year of the survey time period minus the first year (i.e., 28 for the BBS and 29 for the CBC)

The trends estimated here are imperfect representations of the true population trends. Each trend comes with an associated sampling error. For some abundant, easy to detect species sampling error is small while for uncommon species or those difficult to count (e.g., flocking species) sampling error is large. As a guide to significance of the trend, we use statistical tests to determine how likely it is that the trend we estimated is really different from zero or no trend in the population. We use a 3-star system to indicate how confident we are that the estimated trend is different from zero. One star (*) - we are 90% confident, two (**) 95%, and three (***) 99%.

Invariably, problems occur in trend estimations. Factors such

as low sample size, large sampling error, sampling bias, and low relative abundance all can lower our ability to detect trends in populations. While you are mulling over the interpretations of these trends, consider some of the factors that could influence the trend estimates. Sample size is listed under the Number column heading and indicates the number of routes that went into the analysis for the BBS and the number of count circles for the CBC. Abundance figures for each of the estimates from the BBS are calculated as the average number of birds detected per route in those physiographic strata where the species occurs (note, before using any of the relative abundance figures, please check with the BBS office. These values are still being double-checked). Abundance for the CBC regions are calculated in the same way, but the measure is given as birds per 100 observer hours.

Acknowledgement: Special thanks are given to Anthony Hess, Mr. and Mrs. E. William Haley, Richard and Jean Hoffman, and William and Nancy Klamm for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 91.

Notice: All reports to The Cleveland Bird Calendar are archived in the The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 381-8325 (TEAL) The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities (i.e. Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris Sparrow, etc.) please contact the editors as soon as possible.

Invitation: The Kirtland Bird Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7:45 P.M. in The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Field Study: On the first Sunday of each month a census is conducted at Headlands Beach State Park. The purpose is to study the long term occurrence patterns of migrant and resident birds of the Grand River and Fairport Harbor section of the region. For more information call Larry Rosche at 678 - 9408 or Ray Hannikman at 261- 9552.

Inquiries regarding subscription to The Cleveland Bird Calendar should be addressed to Joan M. Palmer, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The annual subscription rate is \$7.50.

Changes of Address: Contact Jeanne Lose, at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, (216) 231-4600.

Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.