

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:

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

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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Spring 1996

William A. Klamm and Dwight Chasar

March - Temperatures averaged 30.9°, 6.4° below normal. The high was 65° on the 31st and the low was 6° on the 3rd. Sunshine prevailed 45% of the time. Lake Erie temperature off Cleveland stood at 35° all month. Precipitation was distributed on 16 days to total 2.81 in. 0.1 in. below normal. The greatest amount in any 24 hour period was 5.2 in. on the 21st. Snow, ice pellets or hail accumulated to 19.4 in. The most snow in any 24 hours was 5.2 in, on the 21st. The greatest snow depth was 9 in. on the 21st.

APRIL - The average temperature was 46.3°, a departure of -1.3 degrees. The high was 79° on the 12th, and the low was 21° on the 8th. Total precipita-

tion was 5.61 in., 2.68 in. above normal. The greatest amount in any 24 hours was 1.76 inches on 22nd-23rd. Snow, ice pellets or hail accumulation was 10.2 in. Greatest 24 hour fall was 7.1 inches on the first. The I1-inch fall on the 23rd made the total '95'96 snow season accumulation 101. 1 inches, the highest on record. Sunshine was 47% of the time possible. Off Cleveland, Lake Erie was 35° on the first and 45° on fthe 30th.

MAY - Sunshine increased to 50% of the time possible. Lake Erie water rose to 52° on the 31 st. Continuing the lower than normal trend, the average temperature was 56.7°, 1.3° below normal. The high was 88° on the 19th and the low was 30° on the 14th. While no snow fell, rain totaled 2.08 in., 1.30 in. below normal. The greatest amount of rain in any 24 hour period was 0.59 in, on the 10-11 th. The rain and wind direction changes helped stack up the birds around the Cleveland.



THIRTY YEARS AGO: A flock of 12-13 Pine Grosbeaks made news at Holden Arboretum on Mar. 5-13,1966 (Hammond). An immature Pine Grosbeak was at Lakewood Park Cemetery on Mar. 12 (Klamm). A LeConte's Sparrow was seen at Spencer Lake SWA on Apr. 30 (Morse). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Lakewood on May 14 (Klamm). A Lawrence's Warbler was in Warrensville Heights on May 17 (Surman).

TWENTY YEARS AGO: A total of 2 sightings were noted for Doublecrested Cormorants in the Spring of 1976. A Loggerhead Shrike was at the old Nike site at Gordon Park on Mar. 27 (Klamm). A Cattle Egret was in Waite Hill on Apr. 23-24 (Flanigan, Klamm, Sherwin). Merlins were seen by the Hoffmans in the Headlands Beach SP area on Apr. 17 and May 1. A Lawrence's Warbler was in Rocky River Reservation on May 2 (Stasko). A LeConte's Sparrow was captured in Eastlake on May 1 (Talkington). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Sims Park on May 15 (Corbin).

TEN YEARS AGO: A female Barrow's Goldeneye was at Eastlake on Mar. 8-9, 1986 (Peterjohn). A Barn Owl was at Sims Park on Mar. 29 (Rosche, Hannikman, Corbin). A Piping Plover was at Gordon Park on May 15 (Klamm). A King Rail was found dead near the Eastlake Power Plant on May 18 (Talkington). The only Summit Co. record of Whimbrel was at the Barberton Holding Basin on May 25 (Rosche, Wert).

COMMENT on the SEASON by Larry Rosche

Like many other birders I know, I keep a spare pair of old Leitz binoculars in a kitchen cupboard. These come in handy when something unusual pops into the backyard. This spring was exceptional for odd birds appearing at our feeders (and the neighbors). I can't recall ever seeing Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings so dependent on bird seed. The harsh winter and cold spring must have driven them to seek any available food. These birds usually are heard much more than they are seen around Twin Lakes. The Greenlands, Norma Kraps, and John Pogacnik commented on these two species at their feeders in numbers. Norma and John added that several Baltimore Orioles were trying to get sugar water out of their hummingbird feeders.

It was great to receive data from southern Summit County, I may be the only one who notices, but it appears that many species arrive at the southern end of the region a day or two before they reach the lake. If you watch weather patterns, you can predict fall-out days along Lake Erie. As you read the field data, May 10 will stick out as a day of unusual movement and sight records. Of May 10, 1996, John Pogacnik wrote "Best spring day in years--420 birds banded, 118 species seen at Lakeshore Metropark." Ed Pierce saw 23 species of warblers at Firestone Metropark that day. Ray Hannikman summed up Headlands Beach State Park passerine movement this way: "Unprecedented numbers of Veeries and Ovenbirds warmed up the cold weekend of May 11-12, while overall passerine migration was lackluster. Warblers and mid-May sparrows flew over Headlands rather than dropping in." Dwight Chasar and I felt that the inland migration was quite good. I think 1983 was the last time so many passerines hung out for such a long period inland. It will be hard to forget watching with my daughters a Kentucky Warbler sifting through leaves in my yard.

l've included two tables for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and Lakeshore Metropark to help save space for field data. Kevin Metcalf's documentations on King Eider and Golden Eagle in the Field Notes section should help to convey to readers a good style and a method of thoroughly describing a rarity. Good birding.

ommon Loons were quick to pass through. Tallies at LaDue Reservoir of 45 on

Mar. 27 (DJH) and 70 on Mar. 28 (CH) were the counts of note. The group of 10-25 loons at Chippewa Lake on Mar. 30-Apr. 6 was from a new reporting area (PL, FG). The high count of **Piedbilled Grebes** was 25 on Apr. 14 at Wellington Reservoir (FG). **Horned Grebes** were in expected totals. The numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** ballooned to 1000 at Cleveland Harbor on Apr. 15 (PL).

Great Blue Herons are doing well. The Bath Road colony had 64 (BAT). A newly discovered rookery in Kent had 142± nests (BB). Great Egrets were as common as I can recall. A bird was early at Shaker Lakes on Mar. 27 (RR). One was in Rocky River on Apr. 13 (BF, PL). The Hoffmans counted 4 in the HBSP area on Apr. 21. Harlan saw 2 at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 17. Weingart had 4 in Streetsboro on Apr. 13. Green Herons were in slightly better numbers. An early heron was at Holden Arboretum on Apr. 14.

(CK). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** maxed out at 76 along the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland on Apr. 17 (PL). The high for HBSP was I I on Apr. 13. They were encountered in all other counties except Portage in small numbers.

Waterfowl migration along Lake Erie was summed up best by Hannikman. "Optimal ice conditions--an extreme ice pack with open leads close to shore--produced an excellent spring waterfowl movement. Weekly surveys, at the end of the breakwall, at HBSP produced all three scoters, Oldsquaws, and good local counts of Northern Shovelers. While numbers were normal, numbers of species were a good mix of bay, sea, and puddle ducks."

A flock of 285
Tundra Swans
moved past HBSP
on Mar. 17 (EB,
RH, LR). Another
80 was at Nimisila
Reservoir on the
some day (CH).
Mute Swans were
as expected. A
Snow Goose
paused at Lake
Medina Mar. 10-

13 (CW). On Mar. 17, three were at Wellington (NK), and a blue morph was at Mogadore Reservoir (CH). Three were at Spencer Lake SWA, and two were in Brighton on Mar. 22 (BR). An injured intermediate form was at Ira Road marsh on May 23 (DAC). The high tally for Green-winged Teals was 30 at HBSP on Mar. 16 (EB, RH). The high tally for Northern Pintails was 30 at HBSP on Mar. 17 (EB, RH). The earliest Bluewinged Teals were somewhat improved over recent years. As previously mentioned, Northern Shovelers were more conspicuous at HBSP than in any of the past 2 decades. Gadwall num-

bers were unimpressive. American Wigeons were below average. Canvasbacks were found in small numbers. The high count came from Berlin Reservoir on Mar. 24 (CH). A flock of 100+ Redheads was at Mogadore Reservoir on Mar. 17 (CH). The high count for Ring-necked Ducks was 1000 at Mogadore Reservoir on Mar. 17 (CH). An Oldsquaw was at Wellington Reservoir on Mar. 6-17 (BR). A tidy group of 12 was at LaDue on Mar. 28 (CH). A male was at E. 55th Marina on Mar. 31 and Apr. 3 (DJH). At HBSP, 2 Oldsquaws were seen on Apr. 14, and 3 on Apr. 27 (EB, RH). A foursome of Black Scoters at HBSP on Apr. 21 was exceptional (EB, AM). A group of 3 Surf Scoters was at Avon Lake Mar. 10-23

A gathering of 500+ Ruddy Ducks at Chippewa Lake on Apr. 14...

(JLD, ST M. obs). A female was at Wellington on Apr. 6-14 (CH, FG). Two White-winged Scoters were at HBSP on Mar. 3 (RH, CH). Another was at Eastlake on Mar. 10. One was last reported at Avon Lake on Mar. 23 (BF, RHL, TLP, PL). A flock of 5 Buffleheads at Pippin Lake was rather tardy (CH). Red-breasted Mergansers topped out at 2500 on Apr. 14 at HBSP (EB, RH). A gathering of 500+ Ruddy Ducks at Chippewa Lake on Apr. 14 was noteworthy for the lake (FG).

Turkey Vultures were later than usual, but in expected numbers.

Ospreys were widely distributed. One was early at LaDue on Apr. 5 (RR). Spencer Lake provided a fishing site for one on Apr. 13 (FD). Birds were regular at Lake Medina (CW). A bird passed over Sims Park on Apr. 21 (JK). On the same date, 2 were at Caley Wildlife Area (NK). Bald Eagles were widespread throughout the region. Indeed, it seemed that more eagles were reported than ospreys. An eagle with a dark tail, but white head, was in Wellington on May 12 (NK). A subadult flew over Deep Lock Quarry on Apr. 27 (DAC, TMR). Northern Harriers were in above-average totals along Lake Erie and, as expected, inland. Accipiters were as expected. Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be found

with increased regularity. As many as 3 were at Holden Arboretum on Mar. 31 (CK). A total of 4 was tallied during a mini-migration over Cleveland Heights on Apr. 18 (DJH). A total of 78 **Broad-winged Hawks** passed by Perkins Beach on Apr. 19 (RHL).

Red-tailed Hawks were not mentioned in any great hawk watch totals. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Wellington Township on Mar. 30 (PL). One was at Chippewa Lake on Mar. 31 (TLP). A bird was over Valley City on Apr. 7 (FG).

A small flock of **Wild Turkeys** was regularly seen in Peninsula (FD, M.obs.). Two in a North Royalton backyard caused a little local excitement (JT). **Northern Bobwhites** were scarce. A **Virginia Rail** was at Donald

Gray Gardens on Apr. 19 (PL). At the Ira Road marsh, 4 were heard on Apr. 22 (TMR). **Soras** were

79	Great Blue Heron	78	Black-capped Chickadee	1	Blackpoll Warbler
4	Great Egret	79	Tufted Titmouse	19	Cerulean Warbler
3	Green Heron	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	Black-and-white Warbler
168	Canada Goose	20	White-breasted Nuthatch	11	American Redstart
35	Wood Duck	8	Brown Creeper	6	Prothonotary Warbler
86	Mallard	1	Carolina Wren	36	Ovenbird
}	Turkey vulture	5	House Wren	3	Northern Waterthrush
	Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Louisiana Waterthrush
	Broad-winged Hawk	32	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Mourning Warbler
	Red-tailed Hawk	2	Eastern Bluebird	17	Common Yellowthroat
	Wild Turkey	75	Veery	7	Hooded Warbler
	Virginia Rail	12	Swainson's Thrush	1	Wilson's Warbler
ļ	Killdeer	5	Hermit Thrush	3	Canada Warbler
}	Spotted Sandpiper	4	Wood Thrush	11	Scarlet Tanager
	American Woodcock	105	American Robin	52	Northern Cardinal
	Ring-billed Gull	14	Gray Catbird	24	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
)	Herring Gull	1	Brown Thrasher	14	Indigo Bunting
,	Rock Dove	86	Cedar Waxwing	6	Eastern Towhee
21	Mourning Dove	66	European Starling	33	Chipping sparrow
	Barred Owl	1	White-eyed Vireo	9	Field Sparrow
	Ruby-throated Humming-	3	Yellow-throated Vireo	48	Song Sparrow
	Belted Kingfisher	24	Warbling Vireo	4	Swamp Sparrow
23	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Philadelphia Vireo	70	White-throated Sparrow
5	Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	Red-eyed Vireo	7	White-crowned Sparrow
ļ	Downy Woodpecker	4	Blue-winged Warbler	8	Bobolink
,	Hairy Woodpecker	i	Golden-winged Warbler	113	Red-winged Blackbird
ļ	Northern Flicker	32	Tennessee Warbler	1	Eastern Meadowlark
·)	Pileated Woodpecker	13	Nashville Warbler	2	Rusty Blackbird
•	Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	Northern Parula	81	Common Grackle
	Acadian Flycatcher	118	Yellow Warbler	62	Brown-headed Cowbird
	Willow Flycatcher	24	Chestnut-sided Warbler	72	Baltimore Oriole
	Least Flycatcher	28	Magnolia Warbler	12	House Finch
)	Eastern Phoebe	1	Cape May Warbler	5	Pine Siskin
, ļ	Great Crested Flycatcher	4	Black-throated Blue W.	143	American Goldfinch
57	Eastern Kingbird	88	Yellow-rumped Warbler	12	House Sparrow
24	Tree Swallow	20	Black-throated Green W.	1 4	nouse spanow
0	N. Rough-winged Swallow	8	Blackburnian Warbler	Data	submitted by Dwight A.
	Bank Swallow	3	Yellow-throated Warbler	Chasa	. •
.7	Barn Swallow	2	Pine Warbler	CHUSC	AI .
5		5	Palm Warbler		
Ü	Blue Jay	0	raii ii Walbiel		

widespread in small numbers. A **Common Moorhen** was at HBSP on May 15 (KM). Two were in Shalersville Township May 26-31 (VW M.obs.).

A few rarities offset a rather dismal shorebirding season. **Black-bellied Plovers** were scarce. **Semipalmated Plover** numbers peaked at 20 in Lorain on May

21 (PL, TLP). The 20 Greater Yellowlegs at HBSP on Apr. 14 were the high number (EB, RH). Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers were seen in expected numbers. Spotted Sandpipers were fewer than expected. The high count of Ruddy Turnstones was 7 at HBSP on May 11 (EB, RH). Always a good find in spring, Sanderlings

were at HBSP on Apr. 27, May 11-12 (EB, RH). One was in Lorain on May 2 (TLP). Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers were few. A flock of 13 at Streetsboro Bog on May 14 was a very low high number for Least Sandpipers (CH, VW). No White-rumped Sandpipers were seen. A group of 8 Pectoral Sandpipers moved by HBSP on

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LAKESHORE MP BANDING REPORT AND COMPARISON										
SPECIES	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996					
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	1	12	10	22	15					
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	7	4	5	6	4					
LEAST FLYCATCHER	6	10	8	13	19					
E. WOOD-PEWEE	2	6	5	9	5					
BROWN CREEPER	23	31	10	15	26					
HOUSE WREN	28	25	25	28	33					
WINTER WREN	2	3	12	5	25					
GRAY CATBIRD	131	133	152	105	109					
WOOD THRUSH	6	10	11	13	14					
HERMIT THRUSH SWAINSON'S THRUSH	13	28	23	17	39					
	24	37 4	50	29	82					
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH VEERY	2 13	4 11	6 27	8 9	22 27					
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	8	19	16	22	12					
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	5	10	41	24	29					
WHITE-EYED VIREO	1	2	3	3	1					
SOLITARY VIREO	í	1	1	1	2					
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	0	2	i	2	2					
RED-EYED VIREO	3	14	7	17	12					
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	3	1	5	3	12					
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	1	1	1	2	1					
NASHVILLE WARBLER	2	3	4	19	2					
YELLOW WARBLER	55	23	31	56	24					
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	2	4	5	14	2					
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	11	21	47	55	24					
CAPE MAY WARBLER	0	1	1	1	0					
BLACK-THROATED BLUE W.	2	4	14	4	3					
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	6	8	6	5	3					
BLACK-THROATED GREEN W. PRAIRIE WARBLER	0	1	3 1	3 0	1 0					
PALM WARBLER	3	10	6	7	17					
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	0	3	5	3	15					
AMERICAN REDSTART	26	27	33	42	32					
OVENBIRD	6	8	14	16	35					
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	1	1	3	1	2					
MOURNING WARBLER	18	26	50	34	28					
CONNECTICUT WARBLER	2	8	5	2	2					
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	49	22	67	56	75					
HOODED WARBLER	0	2	2	1	17					
WILSON'S WARBLER	2	10	15	20	12					
CANADA WARBLER	16	16	49	32	10					
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	7	I 14] 35	3O	4 53					
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	7 48	14 27	35 25	30 34	30					
CHIPPING SPARROW	13	27 71	25 47	33	1 08					
FIELD SPARROW	13	16	31	33 15	30					
SONG SPARROW	137	408	178	324	456					
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	54	42	72	59	37					
SWAMP SPARROW	54	39	84	57	1 02					
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	264	424	447	393	554					
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	44	33	64	118	37					
DARK-EYED JUNCO	208	505	381	285	509					
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	23	26	8	2	0					
NORTHERN ORIOLE	10	15	6	16	45					
PURPLE FINCH	10	47	63	38	27					
HOUSE FINCH	372	484	438	359	140					
PINE SISKIN	39 290	1 451	36 383	1	98 362					
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	290	401	303	288	JUZ					
DATA PROVIDED BY JOHN V. POGACNIK										

Apr. 13. Of the few **Dunlins** reported, the one at Streetsboro Bog on Apr. 22 was most unusual (CH, VW). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were not reported. **Common Snipes** were

widespread in occurrence. Three were at Holden Arboretum on Mar. 31 (CK). Five were in Wellington Township on Mar. 30 (PL). The high was 10 at Nathan Hale Park on Apr. 12

(RHL). The weather made it easy to explain why American Woodcocks had arrived at traditional displaying areas later than normal. On May 20, Department of Agricultural officials counted 6,674 nesting pairs of **Ring-billed Gulls**, on Dock 20 (fide PL). Herring Gulls and **Bonaparte's Gulls** were in expected inland numbers. The 'bony' flock at HBSP grew to 500 by mid-April. A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** was at HBSP on Mar. 3 & 10 (EB, CH, RH, LR). Wintering Iceland Gulls remained in Lorain though Mar. 16 (M. obs.). An immature was at HBSP on Mar. 17 (EB, RH, LR). The latest Lesser Black-backed Gull was in Lorain on Apr. 24 (TLP). A first-winter bird was at HBSP on Mar. 3. Late Glaucous **Gulls** were at Edgewater SP on Apr. 16 (TLP) and at HBSP on Apr. 29 (EB, RH, KM). A 2nd year Great Black-backed Gull was at Lake Rockwell on Mar. 16-17 (LR, CH). Another inland bird was at Chippewa Lake on Mar. 28 (FG). (JP). Even more remarkable, was a first-summer bird at Lake Rockwell on May 27-28 (LR, M obs.). **Caspian Terns** peaked at 586 in Lorain on Apr. 24 (TLP). The high for Cleveland was 88 at Dock 20 on Apr. 19 (PL). A bird over Munson Township on May 18 was a surprise (KM). **Common Terns** staged nicely in Lorain. On May 15 LePage noted 726 small terns in Lorain. He estimated 80% were Commons. Two Forster's Terns were at Lake Medina on Apr. 14 (FG).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was early in Valley City on May 4

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(FG). Another was there on May 21. Others included: I in Streetsboro on May 10 (CH); 1, Firestone MP, May 17 (EP); 1, Shaker Lakes, May 19-23 (PP, RR); 1, HBSP on May 23 (RH). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Jaite on May 26 (FD). On was also at Burr Oak-Black River Metropark on May 31 (TLP).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were as expected. A high count of 12 was made at HBSP on May 12 (M. obs.). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in fair numbers. The high was only 25+ at HBSP on Apr. 19 (M. ob.). The 50 Northern Flickers at HBSP on Apr. 20 constituted the high (EB, RH). Pileated Woodpeckers were nesting at Spencer Lake SWA (NK).

live-sided Flycatchers were in expected numbers: 1, Firestone MP, May 15 (EP); 1, Happy Days Visitor Center, May 18 (DAC)1; Euclid Beach SP, May 23 (TLP); 1, Nathan Hale Park May 24 (RHL), 1, Jaite beaver marsh May 27 (FD). Eastern Wood-Pewees returned a few days later than normal. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Seiberling Naturealm on May 10 (BAT). **Acadian Flycatchers** were as expected. An exceptionally early Alder Flycatcher was at Firestone MP on May 9 (EP). Two were at the Ira Road marsh on May 23 (DAC). One was at Jaite on May 28 (RHL). Several were vocalizing at HBSP the last week of May. Willow Flycatchers were common. The 20 Least Flycatchers at Nathan Hale Park on May 14 was a good total (RHL). On May 18, 16 were tallied at HBSP (EB, RH). Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers, and East**ern Kingbirds** arrived here in good numbers.

Horned Larks received little mention. A Purple Martin was early at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 10 (PP). Tree Swallows were 10 days later than usual at Lake Rockwell. Bank Swallows continue to thrive. Northern Rough-winged mirrored the tardiness of Tree Swallows. Two Cliff Swallows were unusual at Nesmith Lake on Apr. 24 (RHL).

The 700 American Crows moving by HBSP on Mar. 3 were expected. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were in good numbers and lingered late. Brown Creepers were well reported. A count of 9 was made in Avon Lake on Apr. 7 (BR). Six indicated a fairly good inland movement at Firestone MP on Apr. 17 (EP). A total of 11 Carolina Wrens was reported at Ira Road on Apr. 22 (TMR). Winter **Wrens** moved well. A bird at North Chagrin on May 27-31 inferred a nesting attempt (JK RR). A Marsh Wren was at Donald Gray Gardens on May 10 (FG, PL). Migrants were noted at HBSP on 4 dates. One was singing at Jaite on May 28 (FD). A territorial bird was at Weaver Road marsh in Shalersville on May 29-31. Golden-crowned **Kinglets** moved through early (RH). Ruby-crowned Kinglets fared well, as did **Blue-gray** Gnatcatchers.

Eastern Bluebirds were doing well at Holden Arboretum (CK, RR). Greenland reported hatching in Valley City on May 23.

Veeries passed through in very high numbers. On May 11, 50 were counted at Brecksville (DAC). The same day an estimated 70 were in the HBSP area (M. obs.). Along the lake, Graycheeked Thrushes were as expected. Swainson's Thrushes were typically numerous. High

counts for **Hermit Thrushes** ranged into the twenties at HBSP (M. obs.). At Firestone MP a count of 14 was made on Apr. 17 (EP). The high for **Wood Thrushes** at HBSP was 20 on May 11. Gray Catbirds were abundant. Northern Mockingbirds were noteworthy at Lake View Cemetery (DJH), in Geauga Co. (MS); Mogadore (CH), over I-90 and E. 222nd (RH); and in Grafton (NK). Along the lake, where mockingbirds are expected, many more than normal were encountered. The usual gang of 3-4 was at the Gordon Park area (BF, PL). An estimated 10± birds stopped by HBSP (RH, KM). Brown Thrashers were conspicuous along the lake. The news from the CVNRA was very discouraging. Chasar noted that he had not found one as of the end of May, An **American Pipit** was late in Lorain on May 31 (TLP). Hundreds of **Cedar** Waxwings flocked at HBSP during late May (M. obs.).

White-eyed Vireos were as expected. The 4 at Firestone MP on May 17 was good for the site (EP). The high tally for **Solitary Vireos** was 5 at Brecksville on May 17 (RHL). A late bird was at Mill Hollow on May 22 (NK). A Yellow-throated Vireo was unusual for HBSP on May 22 (RH, LR). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was in the CVNRA on May 10 (BAT). The high count was 3 at Firestone MP on May 18 (EP). A 'Philly' at Streetsboro Bog on May 19 was a good find for the area (RR). Two were in Valley City the same day (FG). One was at Ira Road on May 20 (TMR); another, at HBSP, May 22 (EB, RH). Warbling Vireos were plentiful. Red-eyed Vireos continued as our most numerous vireo.

Blue-winged Warblers provided

an interesting contrast along th lake. Only one was reported away from Lakeshore MP, where 12 were banded (JP). **Tennessee** Warblers were conspicuous in Portage and Summit Counties May 10-20 (M. obs.). An **Orange** crowned Warbler was at Sims Park on Apr. 28-30 (JK). One was at HBSP on May 15 (EB, RH). Another was at Shaker Lakes on May 17 (RHL). Long-time contrib utor, Perry Peskin, noted that Nashville Warbler numbers were better than in the past. "Any warbler that comes into our yard has to be abundant." Northern Parulas put in a good late showing. Five were at Brecksville on May 17 (PL). One was at Firestone MR May 17-18 (EP). Three were at HBSP on May 19 (M. obs.). One was at Nathan Hale Park on May 21 (RHL). One was in Valley City on May 15 (FG). Chestnut-sided Warblers were plentiful. Magnolia Warblers were common. Cape May Warblers were in better than expected totals. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were widespread and in expected numbers. Except for HBSP where they were slightly lower than usual. Late Yellow-rumped Warblers were in Valley City, May 23 (FG) and at Firestone MP on May 26 (EP). Black-throated Green War**blers** were numerous. The high tally was 45 at Holden Arboretum on May 5 (CK). A late Blackburnian Warbler was at Firestone MP on May 30 (EP), Yellowthroated Warblers were at expected locations. Pine Warblers were in astounding numbers. A Kirtland Bird Club field trip to Shaker Lakes on Apr. 20 produced 3 (BE PL). Another was at Firestone MP on the same day (EP). On Apr. 21, 5-6 were at North Chagrin (KM). The same day, 6 Pine Warblers were

reported from Holden Arboretum (CK). Jaite hosted 3 on Apr. 27 (DAC). Four were at HBSP on Apr. 27 (EB, RH, LR). Two were at Hinckley MP on May 4 (RHL). One was at Seiberling Naturealm on May 10 (BAT). A very "yellow" Palm Warbler was at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 19 (RHL). The high tally for Palms was 20 at the same site on May 12 (PP). Bay-breasted Warblers were in fair numbers along Lake Erie and they lingered through the period. Blackpoll Warbler numbers were encouraging. **Cerulean Warblers** were absent along Lake Erie. Black-andwhite Warblers were in good numbers. Nine at Firestone MP on May 10 were a good indication of a strong BAWA movement inland (EP). **American** Redstarts were abundant. Prothonotary Warblers returned to their usual local nesting areas, but none were seen along the lakefront. **Ovenbirds** were in astounding numbers. A high count of 46 was made at HBSP on May 11. Northern Waterthrushes were more common than expected. Up to 5 could be found at HBSP May 4-27 (EB, RH). A **Louisiana** Waterthrush in Strongsville on Apr. 18 was at an unexpected locale (RHL). **Kentucky Warblers** were noted in Twin Lakes on May 16 (LR), Valley City on May 16 (FG), Brecksville on May 17 (RHL), Nathan Hale Park on May 21 (RHL), River Styx MP on May 22 (RHL CW), and North Chagrin on May 27 (JK). Mourning War**bler** numbers were slightly lower than expected. A bird spent May 18-19 at Sims Park (JK). Streetsboro Bog was host to 2 on May 19 (RR). Two were at Millstream Run on May 21 (BE PL). **Common Yellowthroats** were in

a year ago. Wilson's and Canada Warblers were reported in expected totals. A **Hooded Warbler** was at Sims Park on May 1 (JK). A count of 7 at Firestone MP on May 4 was high for the site (RHL). Along Lake Erie, Yellow-breasted Chats are uncommon. A chat was at Sims Park on May 18 (JK). Chats were at Donald Gray Gardens on May 4, 10, & 21 (PL). Chats did not elude the Hannikman at HBSP this year. He saw them there on May 12, 15, & 18. Inland, one was at Firestone MP May 10 (EP), 1, at River Styx Park May 20, (CW); 1, at Mill Hollow, May 22 (NK).

Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings arrived from the tropics to find little to forage on. This prompted them to appear at feeders in record numbers. On May 12, 10 were seen in the some tree in Brecksville (DAC). In a parking lot at Shaker Lakes, 12 were seen on the ground together on May 2 (PP).

Very unusual for the species, American Tree Sparrows lingered at HBSP through May 4 (EB, RH, LR). A total of 200+ Chipping Sparrows was reported from Holden Arboretum on May 5 (CK). A **Vesper Sparrow** visited HBSP on Apr. 13. Another was at Shaker Lakes on Apr. 18 (BF). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Donald Gray Gardens on May 4 (BF). **Fox Sparrows** put in an excellent showing along the lake (M. obs.). Inland, 2 spent most of April at the Carlisle Visitor Center feeding station (NK). Four were at Firestone MP on Mar. 27 (EP). Lincoln's **Sparrows** were uncommon. White-throated Sparrow numbers were less

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reduced numbers compared to

than expected. A White-crowned Sparrow was late at Donald Gray Gardens on May 31 ((TMR). Dark-eyed Juncos left the region early. A nest found in Brecksville Reservation provided a local first (DAC). A Lapland Longspur was along North Marginal Road on Mar. 3 (PL). Two were at Nathan Hale Park on Apr. 11 (RHL). A late bird was noted at HBSP on May 10 (KM).

Orchard Orioles must have broken all-time records for local occurrences. They were widespread inland and conspicuous along the lakefront. The earliest Baltimore Oriole was at Firestone MP on Apr. 25 (RHL). Several observers reported orioles trying to obtain sustenance at hummingbird feeders. An oriole fed on suet in Brecksville, May 13-17 (BAT).

Common Redpolls lingered in fair numbers into mid-March. Pine Siskins also lingered into May. American Goldfinches had a strong lakefront migration. Several early May reports of Evening Grosbeaks were were a bit surprising (M. obs.).



RED-NECKED GREBE - On Mar. 10-11 a single was at Eastlake (Chasar, Dunn, Finkelstein, Rickard, Tackett). Pierce found 2 there on Mar. 13. On Mar. 16, LePage found a single bird at Wellington Reservoir. As many as 2 were seen there through Apr. 6 by many observers. Holt found one on Springfield Lake on Mar. 31. One was off Lakeshore MP on Apr. 4 (Pogacnik). Metcalf

spied 2 at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 5. The late sighting was at West Branch SP on Apr. 8 (Rosche).

EARED GREBE - One was off Lakeshore MP on Apr. 4 (Pogacnik). A bird was at Lake Medina on Apr. 7 (Harlan) Two were there onApr. 10 (Witt).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - On March 7, an incredibly early, but verified bird was rescued from the ice by Coast Guard personnel in Lorain. It was taken for rehabilitation and was to be released later (Kraps).

AMERICAN BITTERN - LaFarge Lake hosted one on Apr. 21 (Weingart). The beaver marsh near the Jaite headquarters hosted one on Apr. 25-27 (Chasar, Dinkelbach, Romito). A bittern was in a Geauga Co. field on May 2 (Metcalf). A bird in Shalersville Township on May 26 was a surprise. Birds have not been found nesting in Portage Co. in many years (Weingart).

LEAST BITTERN - Birds were at Headlands Beach SP on May 12 & 18 (Hannikman, Metcalf).

CATTLE EGRET - One was at Burke Airport on Apr. 20 (LePage, Lozano, Finkelstein, M.obs.). On May 2, LePage found 9 there.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-

HERON - Two beautifully attired adults frequented Streetsboro Bog from Apr. 29 though May 4 (Weingart, M.obs.).

KING EIDER - Metcalf found the most striking male ever in the state of Ohio at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 5 (see Field Notes). It remained in the Grand River vicinity until the 6th. It was relocated at Eastlake Power

Plant on Mar. 11 (M. obs.).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
Five birds were reported from
Perry Township on Mar. 1.3

Perry Township on Mar. 13 (Pogacnik).

OSPREY – Our first nesting record (to my knowledge) was in Portage County at Berlin Reservoir (fide The Akron Beacon Journal).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - One was migrating east at Headlands Beach SP on Mar. 31 (Rosche, Wert). An adult was reported from Lakeshore MP on Apr. 3 (Pogacnik).

GOLDEN EAGLE - A subadult bird was thoroughly documented (See Field Notes) at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 12 (Metcalf).

MERLIN - A bird was still in the Bath wintering area on Mar. 15 (Harlan). Reports from Headlands Beach SP included: 2 on Mar. 17 (Rosche); 1, Apr. 19, (Hannikman); 1, Apr. 22, (Metcalf); 1, May 4, (Finkelstein); 2, May 10, (Metcalf). Birds were reported from Holden Arboretum on Apr. 21 & 28 (fide Klaus).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Paula Lozano reported that 2 eggs hatched at Winton Place. Other falcons were seen frequenting MetroHealth Hospital. A dead bird was turned into the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. A bird over Brecksville Reservation on Apr. 14 was migrating north (Chasar). A falcon over Jaite on May 26 seemed late for a migrant (Chasar).

SANDHILL CRANE - On Mar. 10, 2 cranes flew over Medina (Witt). The first record for this species at Headlands Beach SP was noted on May 5 (Wert, M. obs.).

WILLET - Two graced the Lorain mudflat on May 3 (LePage). One whizzed by Headland Beach SP on May 11 (Bacik, Hannikman).

WHIMBREL - A flock of 14 flew by Headlands Beach SP on May 27 (Bacik, Missig).

MARBLED GODWIT - On Apr. 21 Vernon Weingart found 2 at the north end of Lake Rockwell. Perhaps these birds were an echo of the birds on the western part of the state the same weekend.

LAUGHING GULL - Two were reported near Municipal Stadium on Apr. 28 (Romito). An adult was in Lorain on May 21 (LePage).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Inland, adults were noted at Lake Rockwell on Mar. 16 (Rosche, M.obs.) and at LaDue Reservoir on Mar. 28 (Holt).

BLACK TERN - A bird was at Lake Rockwell on May 9 (Holt).

LONG-EARED OWL -The first owl was found at Donald Gray Gardens on Mar. 24-25 (Hannikman, Greenland). Another bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on Apr. 19 (Lozano, M. obs.). A bird was roosting in the dunes area at HBSP on Apr. 18-20 (Bacik, M. obs.).

short-EARED OWL - The Chasars and Finkelstein saw one at Burke Airport on Mar. 10. Another was at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 13 (Hannikman, Rosche). Harlan saw one as it passed by Perkins Beach SP on Apr. 19. A bird passed over E. 55th St. Marina on Apr. 20 (Hoffman).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -

One was at North Chagrin on Mar. 10 (Metcalf). Two were at Donald Gray Gardens on Apr. 24-26 (Greenland, LePage, Lozano). There were 3 reports from Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - This species put in a very strong showing along the lakefront. Birds were along the Zimmerman Trail on May 1, May 4, and May 11 (Missig, Hannikman, Lozano, M.obs.). Nathan Hale Park hosted one on May 7 (Harlan). One was at Euclid Beach SP on May 9 (LePage). Another rested at Firestone MP on May 10 (Pierce). On May 10 & 20, singles were at Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik).

SEDGE WREN - Birds were at Donald Gray Garden on May 2 & 10 (Lozano, Greenland). A bird was at Headland Beach SP on May 10 (Metcalf). One was at Lakeshore MP the same day (Pogacnik).

VARIED THRUSH - The wintering bird at Nathan Hale Park was last seen by Susan Sprengnether on Apr. 6 (Harlan).

NORTHERN SHRIKE - A bird was documented in Gates Mills on the late date of Mar. 28-30 (Metcalf, Rickard).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - Charles Klaus reported one at The Holden Arboretum on Apr. 4.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - It was a banner year for Goldenwingeds. Klaus reported many more than usual in his walks at Holden Arboretum. Greenland noted 3-5 in Valley City. One was at Lakeshore MP on May 9 (Pogacnik). A bird was at Donald Gray Gardens on May 10 (Romito). A-male was found in

the plateau area at Brecksville on May 12 (Rosche, Wert). Onetwo birds were reported there afterwards (M. obs.). The marsh near Ira Road provided refuge for one May 12-13 (Chasar, Dinkelbach, Romito).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - The only report came from Lakeshore MP on May 24 (Pogacnik).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - The only report was from Lakeshore MP on Apr. 19 (Pogacnik).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Kellerman noted one at Wildwood State Park on May 19. Another was at Firestone MP on May 22 & 26 (Pierce). One was also at River Styx Park on May 18 (Witt).

SUMMER TANAGER - A handsome male graced Rosche's feeder briefly on May 12.

DICKCISSEL - A male was reported from Lakeshore MP on May 16 (Pogacnik).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - A bird was fairly early at Headlands Beach SP on Apr. 19 (Metcalf). Another was in Madison Township on May 14 (Pogacnik).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPAR-ROW - This tough-to-find sparrow was found at Euclid Beach SP on May 23 (LePage).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL - Six were at Lakeshore MP on Mar. 3 (Pogacnik).

HOARY REDPOLL - An <u>exilipes</u> race bird was documented in Mentor near the Zimmerman Trail on Mar. 17 (Hannikman, Bacik). Three were documented from Lakeshore MP Mar. 3 - Apr. 6 (Pogacnik, Pierce).





Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

by Kevin Metcalf

pril 12, 1996. Time: 11:50 am. Age: (1 subadult). Location: Headlands Beach State Park. Observers: Kevin Metcalf and Ed Stokes Distance and Lighting: Light fair, distance of several hundred yards (difficult to judge). Optics: 8 x 42 Leica Binoculars and 30X Kowa spotting scope.

Notes were taken in the field about 10 minutes after sighting, without consulting field guides. This documentation was typed from notes three days later, with added comments.

FROM NOTES: I noticed a largelooking, dark raptor, somewhat turkey vulture-like, but different. (I had been seeing T.V,'s all morning). I took a look through my binoculars and noted that this bird was shaped differently than turkey vultures, soaring more steadily (no wobbling) with a slight dihedral, and with wings more evenly broad looking. Tail not as wedge shaped as a turkey vulture. As the bird turned, I saw a pale patch at the base of some of the flight feathers, in the area of the inner primaries - outer secondaries. I said "I think I've got a good raptor." Then I grabbed my scope and sprinted up the hill a few yards to get a better view. (There was a pine in front of us, blocking our view as the bird drifted east). I got it in the

scope. "Golden Eagle," I half shouted. Ed Stokes got the bird in his binoculars. The bird glided toward us and turned to circle, giving me a couple of brief, but satisfying looks at some diagnostic characters. Through my scope, I again noted the whitish patch at the base of some of the flight feathers. Otherwise, the bird appeared dark: dark belly, head, underwing coverts, flight feathers. It circled again, and I saw the whitish base to the tail. There was not a crisp line demarcating the white base from the dark end of the tail but maybe there was some dusky marbling in the white area. I also noticed some indistinct, wavy barring in some of the flight feathers (outer secondaries). The bird drifted farther east and out of sight behind the pine. Total viewing time was about 30 seconds.

Comments: I had spent the morning birding around Headlands and totaled over 70 species there for the day. There was a decent hawk flight that morning, with 8 other raptor species seen, including a subadult bald eagle viewed around 9:30 am. Temperature was in the 70's and there were fairly strong southerly winds. Seeing that it was a good raptor day, I set up my scope on a small hill near the park headquarters, at the western end of the park. This hill provided me a good view to the south-south-east and every few minutes I was seeing a migrating raptor. Ed Stokes and a voung birder had just stopped by to find out what I had been seeing. Luckily, Ed was there to verify the sighting.

Elimination of other species:

Turkey vultures hold wings in a stronger dihedral, have twotoned wings, and tip a lot in flight. They look unsteady. I had seen many T.V.s that morning in the same light at similar distance, so I readily saw this wasn't a Turkey Vulture. Dark morph buteos (rough-leg and red-tails) have whitish flight feathers that contrast with the dark wing-linings. This contrast would have been evident. The tail pattern eliminates all redtails, except Harlan's; but they generally have silvery flight feathers, heavily barred, and would not show a distinct white patch on wing. Dark morph Swainson's Hawk does not have white patches in wing, but is overall evenly dark at a distance. Shape was incorrect for any buteo. Bald eagle is anoth- er contender, but juveniles/ subadults always have whitish axillaries and other white markings in the underwing coverts. This bird's underwing coverts were all dark. Subadult bald eagles can have white in the flight feathers, but there is usually white on the inner secondaries and the white is not limited to the base of the flight feathers. A Bald Eagle's shape and dihedral are quite different, being very large-headed and holding their wings either very flat or slightly bowed downward at the tips. (I had just observed a subadult Bald Eagle 2 1/2 hours earlier, and its "jizz" is very different from a Golden Eagle.

The details noted on the tail and wing patterns make this bird probably a 2-4 year old "subadult," as opposed to an adult or 1 -year old juvenile. Adults are all dark brown. Juveniles have a clean border, between white

and dark band on tail, and have blackish flight feathers that do not show any barring (but, of course, can have a white patch).

April 11 is probably within the expected time of spring migration for this species in northeast Ohio. I would expect goldens in spring in northeast Ohio between early March and midlate April. I have seen 50-60 Golden Eagles of various age before, but this is a first for me in Ohio. Although this species does not require review by the Ohio Birds Record Committee, I wanted to document this bird, as it is very rare and the species and raptors as a group provide many identification challenges.

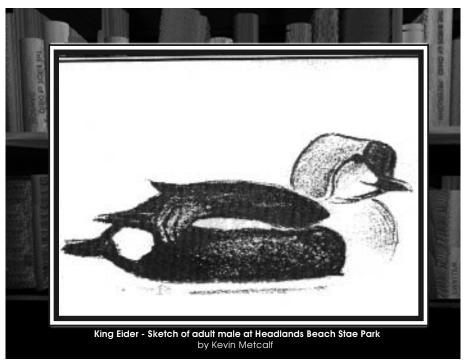
KING EIDER (Somateria spectabilis)

by Kevin Metcolf

March 4, 1996 Time: about 9:45 - Noon and 4:30 to 5:45 Location: Just east of Headlands Beach State Park lighthouse in area of open water (Lake Erie mostly ice-covered). Distance: As close as 50-60 yards with 30X scope, mostly at greater distances. Lighting: The morning viewing period had excellent light with full sun. The afternoon was overcast, but the light was still good.

Please see accompanying sketch as primary documentation. I made the drawing from memory about an hour after viewing without the use of field guides. (I have an art degree.) I memorized every detail that I could while viewing the bird in the field.

This individual was striking and unmistakabie. ImmediaTe things



were mostly black body with a pale breast (tinted very pale orange-brown) and the various colors on the head and bill.

- About the size of a com-- mon merganser (direct comparison)
- Black on scapulars, most of wings, flanks, and belly
- Bill red with paler spot on top on distal portion
- Large orange knob trimmed in black, arising from top of bill, meeting the forehead
- Crown and nape powder blue-gray
- Under eye, cheeks--pale, limegreen
- Line going down and back behind eye, forming border between blue-gray and green areas on face
- Big white oval patches on sides of rump--very conspicuous
- White patches on the upperwing (coverts)
- Legs yellowish

 Underwing dark with paler grayish underwing coverts.

I watched the bird dive for about 50-60 seconds. As it drank water, it lifted its bill in the air to reveal a bold, forwardpointing "V"- shaped marking under the chin. I heard it make a muffled, short "ooh" or "aah" sound once. There really are no similar species to eliminate.

The question of an escaped or released bird could come up. This seems unlikely. The bird seemed wary and did take flight with a small group of mergansers, only to circle and land again. The plumage was immaculate. There was no band on at least the left lea, which I saw well, and there appeared to be none on the other. This occurrence, although rare, fits the pattern of occurrence in the eastern U.S. The bird was seen by many observers who agreed with the identification.

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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 330 - 678- 9408 or Ray Hannikman at 216 - 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.

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Field reports, artwork, papers, and photographs should be directed to Larry Rosche, 7473 Sylvan Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240. e-mail lorofs@aol.com