

December 2000, January, February 2001 Volume 97 Number 1 <u>The Cleveland Bird Calendar</u> 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.

<u>The Cleveland Bird Calendar</u> 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 10 - Winter Season
June 10 - Spring Season
September 10 - Summer Season
December 10 - Autumn Season

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

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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.

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

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

# The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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### Winter 2000-2001 by Dwight Chasar

**DECEMBER:** Temperatures averaged 22.3°F, 8.6°F below normal, making this the fourth coldest December on record. The high was 50°F on the 17th, and the low was 1°F on the 22nd. Lake Erie water stood at 43°F on the 1st and fell to 32°F by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 19 days, totaling 2.75 in., .34 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .76 in. on the 16-17th. Snowfall totaled 21.9 in., the greatest depth was 7 in. on the 31st. Sunshine occurred only 37% of the time possible.

JANUARY: Temperatures averaged 27.7°F, 2.9°F above normal. The high was 49°F on the 30th, and the low 7°F on the 9th. Precipitation was distributed over 17 days to total 1.59 in., .45 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .37 in. on the 30th. Snowfall totaled 14.9 in., while the greatest ground depth was 9 in. on the 6th. Sun was rare, shining only 29% of the time possible. Lake Erie temperature held at 33°F during the month.

**FEBRUARY:** Temperatures averaged 32.2°F, 5.0°F above normal. The high was 63°F on the 9th and the low, 13°F on the 22nd. Lake Erie remained at 33°F for the month. Precipitation was 1.63 in., .56 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .60 in. on the 8-9th. Snowfall totaled only 3.2 in., with the greatest depth 1 in. on the 22nd. Sunshine continued to be scarce, shining 43% of the time possible. □



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ommon Loons had, for the most part, left the region by ✓ December. A calling and diving bird at Lake Pippen behaved quite oddly for the time of year (LR). A loon off Avon Lake Power Plant on Dec. 29 was the latest report (NB). Pied-billed Grebes were in short supply. One at Jaite on Jan. 27 was unusual (DAC). Two Horned Grebes dawdled at Eastlake on Jan. 1 (NB). The high tally of **Double-crested Cormorants** was 6 at Eastlake on Jan. 26 (RR). A few others were scattered about various lakefront locales (m.obs.). Great Blue Herons continue to survive winter by heading to the river edges. Nest inspection and repair were well under way by late February. Hopefully, the 6 Turkey Vultures seen in Hinckley on Jan. 23 were not waiting for a pancake breakfast (JMW). Four were there on Feb. 2 (JMW). One was seen over Best Lake on Feb. 13 (HH). Another was in Sagamore Hills on the same day (DAC). Two were over Rockside and I-77 on Feb. 16 (CC).

Lake Rockwell provided a stopover point for a blue morph **Snow Goose** on Dec. 30 (LR, WS).

A white morph bird was seen there on Feb. 19 (LR, VW). One was at the Carlisle Reservation duck ponds on Feb. 24 (BF, PL). Up to 10 **Mute Swans** frequented Avon Lake Power Plant (RR, CH, m.obs.). A flock of 125 **Tundra Swans** was seen over Geauga County on Dec. 6 (HH). LePage and Elder saw 75 at LaDue on Dec. 10. The only lakefront counts of note

were 20 over Dike 14 (Gordon Park) (SZ), and 17 over HBSP on Dec. 2 (RH). Always an exciting winter find, 3 Wood Ducks were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 30 (TMR). Two were noted in Munroe Falls on Jan. 17 (GB, KL). Up to 9 visited a small pond in Geauga County Jan. 1-Feb. 28 (DF). One was an early returnee at Shaker Lakes on Feb. 11 (LD). Gadwalls and American Wigeons were in very low totals. American Black **Ducks** wintered in good numbers along pristine portions of the Upper Cuyahoga River. Their numbers at lakefront locations were far lower than expected (CH). The 1675 Mallards at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 30 gave an indication of just how abundant the species is locally (TMR). On Dec. 20, 7 Northern Shovelers were found on Akron Lakes (BDL). As many as 8 were seen on on Summit Lake (CH). Two were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 30 (TMR). A Northern Pintail was at Sims Park on Dec. 13 (TLP). Migrants pintails were right on time at HBSP on Feb. 25 (RH). On Feb. 16, 3 Green-winged Teal were in Munroe Falls (GB, KL).

welve Canvasbacks were seen at Springfield Lake on Dec. 20 (BDL). Hundreds of Canvasbacks passed by HBSP on



Dec. 23 (NB. RH. LR). The Lakewood CBC tallied 92 on Dec. 30 (m.obs.). Eighty were seen in Cleveland on Jan. 1 (CH). On Jan. 27, 55 'Cans' were counted along the Cuyahoga River at LTV Steel (LG, LR). Redheads were fairly scarce. The high counts were 20 at HBSP on Dec. 25 (RH) and at Eastlake on Feb. 4 (CH). One was with Ring-necked Ducks at Munroe Falls on Jan. 11 (GB, KL). On Jan. 27, 15 were at LTV Steel. Ring-necked Ducks continue to winter in increased numbers. The high tally from the Lake Rockwell spillway was 23 on Jan. 21 (LR). Another 16 were seen in Munroe Falls on Jan. 11 (GB, KL). No gathering of Scaup numbered over 50 birds! Where have they gone? A Surf Scoter was picked out from amid the throng of Red-breasted Mergansers at Eastlake on Jan. 1 (NB). A female was in Cleveland on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 (CH). Two drake **White-winged Scoters** were at Eastlake on Jan. 1 (NB). Another twosome was at HBSP the same day (RH). A Black Scoter was seen regularly off Painesville Township Park Dec. 9-17 (RH, m.obs.). Longtailed Ducks were few and far between. The only report received was from HBSP on Dec. 3 (RH). **Buffleheads** were widespread in fair numbers. Sims Park hosted between 70 and 80 Common

Goldeneyes in Feb. (CH, RR). The highest CBC tally was 92 on the Dec. 30 Lakewood count (m.obs.). Sixty were counted at HBSP on Feb. 10 (RH). Hooded Mergansers wintered in typical small numbers. Common Mergansers have a long standing tradition of wintering along the Upper Cuyahoga. This year, as many as 10 could be found along the Lower Cuyahoga along the Boston to Lock 33

trail in January and February (MRe, m.obs.). Two Commons were at Berlin Reservoir on Feb. 13 (BDL). The high count was 200 off HBSP on Dec. 9 (RH). Up to 65 were seen off Dike 14 on Feb 20 (SZ). The 100 **Red-breasted**Mergansers at Berlin on Dec. 20 represented a good inland count (BDL). Forty **Ruddy Ducks** were at HBSP on Dec. 3 (RH). Only one remained through the winter at Summit Lake (CH).

**ald Eagle** reports once again were fairly numerous. A subadult was at HBSP on Dec. 17 (NB. RH). An adult was there on Feb. 11 (RH). An immature was noted at Redlock Trail on Jan. 10 (DAC). One was seen by Jane Griffith flying over Stow on Jan. 13 (fide GB). Another bird was seen at Munroe Falls MP on the same day (JT). Geauga County provided many sightings off and on all winter. An adult was seen over Fowler's Mill Golf Course on Jan. 30 (AFo). One or two adults were seen regularly near the Rookery Park in Munson Township throughout the winter (m.obs.). A rash of Geauga County sightings caused Best to speculate that a pair was establishing a territory in the Upper Chagrin Watershed. Judging from the lack of reports, Northern Harriers were relatively

scarce. One was seen at Boston Mills on Dec. 8 (JMW). One was over E. 72nd St. on Dec. 27 (NB). One was seen from I-90 coursing the Cleveland lakefront on Dec. 31 (DB). Another was seen from Eastlake Power Plant on Jan. 1 (NB). At Dike 14, an immature was present Dec. 16–27, and an adult male, on Feb. 9 (SZ). An immature Sharp-shinned Hawk was at A.B. Williams Woods on Dec. 4 (RR). Reports of Cooper's Hawks were numerous and demonstrate how

common this species is. **Christmas Bird** Count summaries readily indicate that Red-shouldered Hawks are thriving locally. The 53 on the Burton CBC was an eye-popping number. One was at Berlin on Dec. 20 (BDL). Another Red-shoul-

dered was seen at HBSP, where they are fairly rare, on Jan. 28 (RH). South Chagrin MP provided two sightings on Feb. 11 & 13 (LD). Barber saw one in Highland Heights on Jan. 10. **Red-tailed**  Hawks were numerous and widespread in both urban and rural habitats. Fondrk noted up to 5 (both light and dark morphs) Rough-legged Hawks along Hayes Road in Geauga Co. during January and February. Ferris added he saw them at 9 different locations in Geauga County and it was one of the best winters for hawks in general. One was at HBSP on Feb. 4 (RH). Holt noted one in LaGrange on Dec. 10. Two American Kestrels were seen



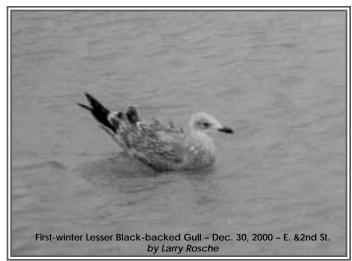
along the Boston to Lock 33 trail on Feb. 15 (MRe, m.obs.). This offered hope of future nesting in this sector of the CVNP.

A Ruffed Grouse burst from under a tree at Swine Creek Park on Feb. 10 (AFo). A flock of 10 Wild Turkeys wintered in a Medina wood lot (JMW). Christmas Bird Count reflected a growing population. American Coots continue to winter in higher than expected numbers. Eastlake hosted 11 on Jan. 26 (RR). Near the LTV Steel Plant on the Cuyahoga River, 31 coots were seen on Jan. 27 (LG, LR). The first returning Killdeer arrived on Feb. 9 in Munson Township (KM). Several were seen on Feb. 25 passing along the lake-

## Comment on Winter 2000-2001 at Headland Beach State Park and Nearby Areas

With the early arrival of winter at the end of November and a very cold December 2000, the winter season of 2000-2001 at and around Headlands Beach State Park was rather routine. With a frozen Lake Erie after early January, ducks were mediocre and somewhat hard to find. One or two wintering Northern Shrikes, 3-5 Red-breasted Nuthatches along the Zimmerman Trail, and the usual gang of American Tree Sparrows at my feeder and the Zimmerman Trailhead feeder were the mainstays of the season. A warm February 25 brought Killdeer back and the initial stirrings of the habitual rites of spring to the Headlands Beach State Park environs.

Ray Hannikman



ing. It poses some of the most complex taxonomic issues known in the birds of the Northern Hemisphere. Leaving some individuals unidentified is not a slap at any observer.

While there were 900

front (m.obs.). Common Snipes continued their uncanny knack of lingering at the Cuyahoga County Airport. Three were tallied on the East Side CBC by Finkelstein, Lozano, and Koslenko. American **Woodcocks** were rather early in Munson Township on Feb. 19 (KM) and the Burton Wetlands (fide DB). They were widespread by the end of February.

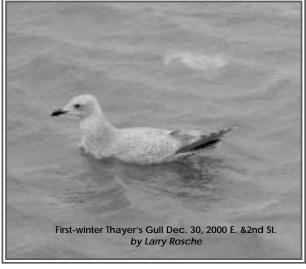
**▼** ulls provided winter entertainment we haven't seen in some years. Many observers were drawn to the lakefront at E. 72nd St. to enjoy and, at times, become frustrated with the variety of plumages demonstrated within a given species. Many readers are aware of the problems in gull identification, and in particular the white-headed gulls. The identification of the large 4 year, white-headed gulls is still evolvBonaparte's Gulls reported at HBSP on Dec. 2, there were none in January (RH). Ring-billed Gulls were found in great numbers throughout the season. Thayer's

Gulls of 3 different ages were found at E. 72nd St. One would have to guess at least four individuals were represented during late December through January. An adult was at Cahoon Park on Dec. 30 (TLP. SZ). Another adult was at Rocky River Park the same day and on Jan. 15 (TLP, SZ). First year birds proudly showed off their frosty wingtip

edges and brownish, as opposed to whitish, heads most of January at E. 72nd ST. (m.obs.). Iceland Gulls

> there were at this location, but certainly five different

third winter, and 2 adults. No reports of Iceland Gull were received from anywhere else. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were simply spectacular and cooperative. They were regularly found at Avon Lake (CC, RR, m.obs.). One of these birds displayed pinkish legs and was seen in Lorain as well. Harlan and Wagner noted 5 between Cleveland and Avon Lake on Jan. 6, including one showing characteristics of the intermedius race. Zadar reported 3 adults on Dec. 24 at E. 55th Street Marina, a first winter bird on Dec. 27 at E. 72nd Street, an adult on Dec. 30 at Bradstreet's Landing, a remarkable 8 on Jan. 2 (7 adults, 1 2nd/3rd vear) between East 72nd and Dike



were well represented at E. 72nd St. during the wintery spell of late December through January. Again, it is difficult to assess how many birds were noted by many competent observers. These included at least 2 first-winters, a second or

14. Many of these birds were photographed, giving great lessons in the various plumages demonstrated by this handsome gull. Glaucous Gulls were true to form. The high single day count from E. 72nd St. was 2 (m.obs.). Zadar reported an adult on Dec. 24 at E. 55th Street Marina, 2 adults there on Dec. 27, and a first winter bird on Dec. 30 at Bradstreet's Landing. A first winter bird spent most of January at E. 72nd St. (m.obs.). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in fair numbers, but with the cold

First-winter Thayer's Gull - January 2001 - E. &2nd St. by John Pogacnik®

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winter and the lingering ice cover, large gatherings feeding on the winter fish kill had yet to materialize. The only inland report was of two birds over Jaite on Jan. 13 (DAC).

**Tastern Screech-Owls** were in good supply. One wintered **⊿**in Valley City (FG). Both red and gray morphs were conspicuous in Twin Lakes (LR). Great Horned Owls were widespread, as expected. Two Barred Owls enlivened a Kent neighborhood on Jan. 4 (GB). Another twosome was calling at Horseshoe Pond on Feb. 24 (DAC). The best count of **Belted** Kingfishers was 3 along the Cuyahoga River in the CVNP on Feb. 8 (MRe. m.obs.). The Lanes found 6 adult and one immature Red-headed Woodpeckers at Berlin on Feb. 13. Up to 4 wintered at A.B. Williams Woods in North Chagrin MP (KM, RR). Another was fairly easy to find at Sims Park most of the winter (RH, m.obs.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was unusually tardy or perhaps attempting to overwinter at South Chagrin on Dec. 27 (KM). Northern Flickers wintered fairly well away from Lake Erie. The **Ravenna Training and Logistics** Site hosted well over 20 of these birds all winter (LR, m.obs.). One was at Findley SP on Jan. 21 (CC). Two wintered in Valley City (FG). Pileated Woodpeckers were in high numbers, and on some CBCs equaled or outnumbered flickers.

The 6 at Brecksville on Feb. 18 is a rather typical count for the site (DAC).

Winter Wrens were more widespread than expected.

Horned Larks were numerous in the rural sectors of Lorain County (BR). The high count from Geauga Co. was only 80 on Jan. 7 (AFo). On Dec. 30, 27 were counted at Burke Airport (LG). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in fair numbers. The many conifers at Lake Rockwell provided refuge for 10-12 all winter (LR, m.obs.). The conifer areas near the Zimmerman trail provided hospice for 1-4 most of the winter (RH). Two were along Major Road in the CVNP on Jan. 7 (DAC). The **Brown Creeper** at Findley SP on Jan. 21 was one of the three reports received (CC, JWo.). The Chasars found them at Jaite on Jan. 27 and in Brecksville MP on Feb. 18. Another wintered at North Chagrin (KM). Carolina Wrens seemed to have survived through the period in good shape. Dr. Chasar's studies indicate it is not so much the cold, but the depth of snow cover that does in this little sprite. Winter Wrens

were more widespread than expected. One was at Elmwood Park on Dec. 10 (BF, TG, PL). A bird was seen at Mentor Lagoons on Dec. 17 (NB, RH). One was at Gordon Park on Dec. 21 (NB). In the CVNP, birds were seen along Redlock Trail on Jan. 10 (DAC), along the Boston Trail on Jan. 11 (MRe, m.obs.), near Jaite on Jan. 24 (DAC), and at Boston Ledges on Feb. 13 (DAC). The Zimmerman Trail provided another sighting on Jan. 15 (RH). One was noted in Valley City on Jan. 27 (FG). On Feb. 10 one was singing up a storm at Holden (CC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in excellent numbers. On Jan. 1, at Munroe Falls MP, 11 were seen (GB, KL). One was at Swine Creek on Jan. 7 (AFo). In the CVNP, 7 were tallied on Jan. 7 (DAC). Two were in Twin Lakes on Jan. 15 (LR). On Jan. 24, 5 were counted at Brecksville MP (DAC). Three were at Holden on Jan. 26 (BDL). Four were feeding busily in the conifers at Mogadore Reservoir on Jan. 25 (LR). Four were at Happy Days on Feb. 3 (DAC). Two wintered at North Chagrin (KM). Several were occasionally heard throughout the period at the Geauga Parks (DB).

Eastern Bluebirds remained fairly numerous. The high winter tally along the Boston to Lock 33 trail was 23 (MRe, m.obs.). The Valley City contingent of bluebirds was present, but in reduced numbers when compared to previous winters (FG). While the number of American Robins located on local CBCs was unspectacular, the number found afterwards was very high. As many as 78 could be seen at E. 72nd St. in January and February (LG, m.obs.). A flock of 200 was seen at Shaker Lakes on Jan. 24 (LD). Northern Mockingbirds continue to be found widely in the region. A bird

Throughout the period I observed an American Crow roosting site located in the Miles Rd./Cranwood Parkway area. Thousands were seen each night. They were observed on building roof tops, where I am sure they stayed the night. I was not able to remain on the adjacent rooftop much after sunset. Each time I was there later in the evening it was the same sequence of events. Previous to this reporting period, I had observed them crossing I-480, heading in an easterly direction, but was not able to locate the area until a new work assignment brought me closer to them at the Loctite Corporation, Cranwood Parkway.

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graced Elmwood Park on Dec. 10 (BF, TG, PL). A bird was seen at the Cuyahoga County Airport on Dec. 16 (BF, TG, PL). Another was in Richmond Heights the same day (BF, TG, PL). One was at Eastlake Power Plant on Dec. 19 (NB). One was seen infrequently along SR-535 in Fairport Harbor (NB, RH, HP, LR). Two were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 30 (TMR). Two were at Canalway Center MP on Jan. 1 (LD). A bird provided amusement for the Townsend's Solitaire at Holden from Jan. 18 though Feb. (Adams, m obs.). A mockingbird was seen at Shaker Lakes on Feb. 4 (LD). One was seen at West 38th and Franklin on Feb 4 (DR). Cedar Waxwings remained in good numbers throughout the region. Most Christmas Bird Counts echoed these comments. A flock of 150+ was seen feeding on juniper berries at Swine Creek on Jan. 4 (DB).

p to 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at Seiberling Naturealm most of the winter (WS, m.obs.). Five were also seen at Findley SP on Jan. 21 (CC). One was a surprise in Aurora on Jan. 13 (EE).

An Eastern Towhee was regular in the CVNP in January (MRe, m.obs.). One was in Norton on Jan. 1 (fide GB). A survey at North Chagrin found 4 there on Jan. 9 (NB). A **Chipping Sparrow** was very tardy at Dike 14 on Dec. 8 (SZ). Field Sparrows were found in their typical small numbers well away from Lake Erie. The bird at HBSP on Dec. 2 & 3 was highly unusual (HP, RH). Other than CBCs, Fox Sparrows went unreported. Swamp Sparrows continued their uncommon winter existence in local wetlands. The 15 at Jaite on Dec. 3 represented the high tally (DAC). Several Whitethroated Sparrows survived the winter in Downtown Cleveland (DR). White-crowned Sparrows were as expected on CBCs. A Valley City feeder hosted 2-4 all winter (FG). Snow Buntings were widespread in fair numbers. On Feb. 1 a large mixed flock of 300-400 of birds in Geauga Co. was estimated to contain 15% Lapland Longspurs (DF). Two were at Burke Airport on Dec. 21 (FG). One was at the Cuyahoga County Airport (Richmond Hts.) on Dec. 16 (BF, AK, PL). Burke Lakefront Airport hosted 2 on Dec. 21 and another on Dec. 31, (FG, PL, JM).

A Red-winged Blackbird was a surprise at Shaker Lakes on Jan. 24 (LD). Three were found at HBSP on Jan. 6. Many wintered in SW Akron (JMW). Red-wingeds began frequenting feeders in Twin Lakes by Feb. 17 (LR). Presumably, these were just wintering birds running out of acceptable foraging in the local wetlands and fields. An Eastern Meadowlark calling from atop a tree in Geauga County on Jan. 1 provided a welcome splash of color to the Burton CBC (AFo). A pair was seen in a cornfield north of Lodi on Feb. 11 (FCD). Rusty Blackbirds were good finds in the CVNP on Feb. 25 (DAC) and at the Ravenna TLS on Feb. 27 (LR, m.obs). The 20 Brown-headed Cowbirds at HBSP on Feb.17 rep-



resented a good winter number (RH). On Feb. 6, a female **Purple Finch** provided, remarkably, the only February record at Metcalf's Munson Township feeder in 6 years! Two **Common Redpolls** were at Holden on Dec. 23 (HP). Three **Pine Siskins** were seen sunning themselves near the Rookery Park on Feb. 17 (AFo). Two were at Holden on Feb. 18 (RR). Another 4 were there on Feb. 25 (HP).



MERLIN – A bird wintered in the same Bath neighborhood as in the past decade (Rosche, m.obs.). Two were seen at Ridgewood Golf Course in Parma on Dec. 7 (Leidy). One was in Fairport Harbor on Jan. 28 (Gardella, m.obs.). Another was at Tri-C West campus on Feb. 3 (Leidy). Hannikman reported birds along Fairport Nursery Road in Fairport Harbor on Feb. 18 & 25.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** – A bird was in Warrensville Heights on Jan. 22 (Holt). Susan Jones reported, "Larry, thought you'd be interested in knowing that I saw a Peregrine Falcon today (Jan 30, 2001) at noon, University Circle, Cleveland. I was about to get into my parked car...(for once I'm not caught driving while birding!)...He landed on the steeple of the church nicknamed the "oil can" just west of the Cleveland Art Museum. Actually landed on the north side on one of the horizontal bars which protrude from the steeple. The facial pattern was unmistakable, as was the vellow beak and talon when he raised the right leg to preen. If it was a banded bird I could not tell, as the left leg was not visible from my vantage. (The right leg did not

carry a band). A bit early, isn't it?" On Jan. 8, Wizard, the male from East 13th St. was found dead in Parma (Wright). Both male and female peregrines were seen in Lakewood on Dec. 31 and Jan. 18 (Finkelstein, Lozano).

SANDHILL CRANE – The Troy Township trio remained in their favorite haunts until Dec. 11 (Best, m.obs.). A flock of 10-12 cranes was seen over North Olmstead on Dec. 20 (Elder). One flew over Holden Arboretum on Feb. 25 (Petruschke).

**DUNLIN** – An exceptional late bird was seen at Sims Park on Dec. 15 (Hannikman).

#### **PURPLE SANDPIPER -**

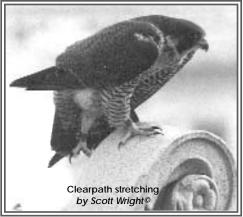
Hannikman found two on the breakwall at Headlands Beach State Park on Dec. 2, 3 & 25. One was located at E. 72nd on Dec. 23 & 24 (Hannikman). It was photographed there on Dec. 30 (Rosche).

LITTLE GULL – One was at Headlands Beach State Park on Dec. 17 (Barber, Hannikman). Two were observed flying among Bonaparte's Gulls near the north breakwall of Dike 14 the same day (Zadar, Gilliland).

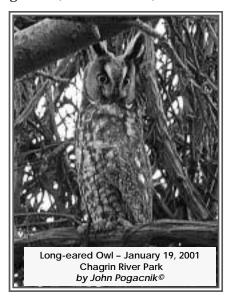
#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Still noteworthy away from Lake Erie, an adult was spied at Summit Lake on Dec. 9 (Holt).

SNOWY OWL – As many as 2 were seen at Headlands Beach State Park Dec. 3-15 (Hannikman, Rosche, m.obs.). One was seen there again on Feb. 9 (Metcalf). An immature female was at Burke Airport on Dec. 21 (Barber, Greenland, Lozano, Minch). Snowy Owls were seen intermittently there throughout the winter by airport personnel. The last sighting was Feb. 24 (Minch).



LONG-EARED OWL – A bird was found high in the pines at the Seiberling Naturealm on Jan. 2 (Stover, m.obs.). Another became a new edition to the Gordon Park list on Dec. 16 through the period. This owl roosted at various locations, including the pines near the Watercraft Office, the pines along the southern perimeter, and in willow thickets inside the impoundment, less than a meter off the ground (Zadar, Gilliland).



SHORT-EARED OWL - One was seen along Hayes Road in Geauga County on Dec. 9 (Best). Another was seen in the same area on Feb. 1 (fide Best). Duane Ferris reported a bird was present in Claridon Township Dec. 26-Jan. 1. A bird

was inadvertently flushed from matted-down shrubbery in the northwest section of Dike 14 (Gordon Park Landfill) on Dec. 16 & 17 (Gilliland, Zadar). One was hunting along Diagonal Road in Mantua Township on Jan. 21 (Rosche).

#### NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -

Zadar wrote, "From Dec.14 through Feb. 25, there were two winter resident and one winter visitor saw-whets observed at Dike 14. Judging by the quantity of owl pellets and the extent of "white wash" beneath the pines, particularly abundant under the eastern section, possibly 8-10 saw-whets passed through during fall migration."

NORTHERN SHRIKE – One or two birds remained in the Fairport Harbor-Mentor Marsh area all winter (Hannikman, m.obs.). The Reinthal party found one on Jan. 18, during their Boston to Lock 33 survey in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. One was also seen in the Burton Wetlands on Feb. 28 (Fondrk).

#### **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -**

One was found in the pine stand along the southern perimeter of Gordon Park on Feb. 20 (Zadar). This bird constitutes the only February report in the history of this journal.

### TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -

Esteemed nature photographer, Ian Adams located what has to be the most cooperative rare bird to ever hit the region at Holden Arboretum on Jan. 17 (although, some might argue the Green-tailed Towhee in Lorain County during the winter of 1992 was just as cooperative). The solitaire remained true to Holden's Holly Collection and was last reliably

seen on Feb. 21. Over 600 bird watchers from all parts of Ohio and nearby states came to see and tick this bird off their state lists. The Bird Calendar is indebted to naturalist Judie Gause for her diligence and cooperation in enabling so many to see this remarkable bird.

HERMIT THRUSH – A bird was in Elmwood Park on Dec. 30 (Kraus, m.obs.). One was at Swine Creek Park on Jan. 7 & 13 (Fondrk). A bird was seen at Findley State Park on Jan. 21 (Caldwell). One was in Lakewood on Jan. 21 (McCarty).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – The late bird from the fall was last seen on Dec. 10 at the Roslyn Road residence in Rocky River (Gilliland, Finkelstein, Lozano).

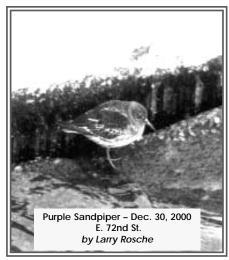
**BROWN THRASHER** – Nancy Klamm reported one at a feeder in Lakewood on Dec. 30.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** – A bird lingered at Dike 14 from Dec. 17 to Dec. 27 (Barber, Zadar, m.obs.).

**DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO** One was at Headlands Beach State Park on Dec. 23 (Rosche, Barber).

RED CROSSBILL – On Dec. 23
Haans Petruschke and Brenda
Kovalsky discovered 8 of these
beauties at the Holden Arboretum.
Several remained faithful to a stand
of Ponderosa Pines well into
February (Gause, m.obs).

Corrections: Delete the Streetsboro Bog Blue-headed Vireo sighting from Volume 96, Number 3, page 32. Please make these corrections to Volume 96, Number 4. On page 44, replace American Goldeneye with Common Goldeneye. Also,



my comment on the absence of Whip-poor-will for the year was inaccurate. Charles Klaus had reported a Whip-poor-will in the Summer Issue of Volume 96. Typos and mindless errors are the bane of every journal, and this editor accepts full responsibility. Where on earth did American Goldeneye come from?

LR



## A Summary and Some Thoughts on the First North American Gull Conference-by Larry Rosche

In November 2000 I attended the first North American Gull Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Diversity in gulls and the issue of 3 and 4-year gulls were addressed. I felt privileged to see and listen to the very few experts there are on these subjects.

The conference, organized by <u>Birder's Journal</u>, attracted gull enthusiasts from all over the world. I am not much of a conventioneer, and I am sure those

of you who know me wonder, "What on earth was Larry doing?" The thought of riding a bus filled with one-upsters is not my cup of tea; but my friends Paul Lehman, John Vanderpoel, and Jon Dunn were presenting so I decided it would be fun just to go to Niagara and bird.

Jon Dunn opened the session with a short overview of what gulls we should expect in the next two days. Then John Vanderpoel showed some bloopers and out takes from the **Advanced Birding Video Series** we worked on over the past 5 years. He got a lot of yardage out of poking fun at Jon's mispronunciation of the title of the series. The remarkable footage of the Sabine's Gulls at Safety Lagoon in Alaska still brought "oohs" and "ahs" to those in the room. The last speaker on Friday was Newfoundland's Bruce Mactavish, who presented his views on the identification of Common Gulls. He noted that the differences between Ring-billed Gulls and Common Gulls are slighter than the differences between Mew and Common Gulls. His knowledge of molts and feather wear was uncanny, but I was equally impressed by his knowledge of movements of birds between northern Europe and North America. To date, there are no verified records of Common Gull in the Great Lakes.

On Saturday, the dreaded bus ride was upon us. Fortunately, I had a seat in the front; and my claustrophobia did not rear its ugly head. Our leader was cordial, but full of himself. He had once eaten yak on his pizza and

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reveled in telling everyone. The birding was slow-paced, with many pit stops, etc. In a whole day, we only made it to Lewiston. It took 20 minutes just to load and unload the bus. However, the birds were plentiful, and we did see a half dozen Little Gulls and 3 Sabine's Gulls. It is interesting to note that Glaucous Gulls have become much rarer than Iceland or Thayer's Gulls in the Niagara region.

The Saturday evening talks began promptly with a discussion of the area's breeding species and the ecology of gulls in the Niagara region by local scientist, Chip Weseloh. Next, Paul Lehman revisited Thayer's Gull and its never-ending saga --Is it a species or isn't it? Louis Bevier summed up the taxonomic problems of Thayer's Gull and the problem of the scientist who apparently gave fraudulent data in establishing Thayer's Gull as a species. Louis did point out emphatically that Thayer's Gull exhibit far more characteristics of a species than does the highly variable Kumlien's race of Iceland Gull, Bruce MacTavish muddied the water even more with a remarkable set of slides depicting very dark Kumlien's Gulls.

I can recall a bird in Lorain many years ago, we deemed a "Thaylin" because it had one wingtip like a Kumlien's Gull and the other like a Thayer's Gull. I now know it was definitely a Kumlien's.

The featured speaker was Lars Jonsson. Lars stands head and shoulders over the rest of the gull experts. Not just because he is 6'7", but because he knows so much and can convey it through his artistic ability. Although English is a second language to Lars, he was at ease when talking about gulls. After an hour and half, it became apparent that Lars could talk about them for the next two days without taking a break

Lars actually carries a Kodak gray scale card in the field with him to judge the mantle colors of individual gulls. I was piqued by his theory on how dark wing tips and mantle color figure into the migratory pattern of the large gulls. **Except for Great Black-backed** Gull, the large gulls that migrate great distances to their wintering grounds invariably have dark mantles. He hasn't quite figured out why the Great Black-backed doesn't fit this sequence.

The most pleasant surprise was seeing all the people whom I have known over the years. Willie D'Anna is the local gull expert and always great to be with in the field. Guy McCaskie was there from California. Guy knows as much as anyone about gulls; but as he said, "I can always learn more, especially when Lars Jonsson is here." There were many faces put to names I had only read about. Like Rudolf Koos from Manitoba who has been so helpful to us while we worked on the updates of the Peterson Series maps. I also met the legendary Ted Hoogendoorn from the Netherlands. (Ted is working on a new gull guide to update Peter Grant's masterpiece). To my amazement he immediately recalled the

Sabine's Gull that wintered in the Cleveland region. Ted remarked that it is still the only known record of Sabine's Gull to winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

Many records committee members were there from other states and provinces. It was surprising to see that Jenny Brumfield was the only other person from Ohio present. When I thought about all of the gulls the Ohio Records Committee have voted on in recent years, I was disappointed not to see any of my fellow members in attendance.

## A Wildlife Adventure at Willoughby South High School by Tom Barber

(Editor's note: Enjoy this excerpt from a letter to Nick Barber from his father. Nick is one of our top contributors and is pursuing a career in ornithology at St. Louis University.)

#### Hi Nick,

I have a great Long-eared Owl story. Today at about 1:30 two girls and a female English teacher came down the hall with a box and a blanket and told me that there was an owl in the courtyard near my shop. They thought its wing was broken after it hit their classroom window. There were crows attacking it. They had called a vet that would take it if it were brought to him. Being the owl expert that I am, I thought I'd better help them, especially since I noticed one of the girls was wearing latex gloves and thought they would be enough to protect her. I unlocked the courtyard door; and sure enough, in the corner there was a beautiful Longeared Owl. I asked the girls why they thought the wing was broken, and they said it was hanging down. I told them it might not be broken, and the bird might only be stunned from the impact. I suggested that if it were injured that we should try to put the blanket over it and then try to pick it up. In the meantime, there had to be 20 crows circling overhead and cawing loudly. We approached the owl very slowly, and I got about 2 to 3 feet from the owl when it pulled its wings in and took off right at us. The girls all screamed; it was so cool.

The crows just went nuts. I could not believe how loud they were. Soon off they went after the owl. The owl must have landed in a tree across the street because the crows all landed in the top of a tree. I could see them from the court yard and they kept up their yelling . I had a classroom full of students and I could not leave them unattended any longer, so I did not get to see the owl again. Anyway, it was neat getting that close to the owl when he took off.





## Comments on the 101st Christmas Bird Count By Dwight Chasar

The seven counts shown in the Table occurred from Dec 16th through Jan 1st. There were a combined total of 113 species (vs. 112 last year) but an additional 3 species--a Gray Catbird in Cuyahoga Falls, a Turkey Vulture in Lakewood and a Dunlin in Cleveland--were seen during the count weeks. December was the fourth coldest on record, with more snow than NE Ohio has had in some time in that month. Compared to 1999, fewer species were seen in each count area except Cleveland; there were about 89,000 more individuals tallied overall last year. However, 75,000 of those are accounted for in just Red-breasted Mergansers and Ring-billed Gulls, most assuredly due to differences in Lake Erie's ice cover between the two years.

Some notable appearances were made by Long-eared, Short-eared, and Saw-whet Owls; Blackcrowned Night-Heron and Lapland Longspur in Cleveland; Brown Thrasher in Lakewood; Red Crossbills in Mentor; an Eastern Towhee and Eastern Meadowlarks in Wellington; one Killdeer and Rusty Blackbirds in Cuyahoga Falls. A Bald Eagle was observed along three of the lake front counts. Red-shouldered and Redtailed Hawks, as well as Wild Turkeys, were in unusually high numbers in Burton, while Ringnecked Ducks put on their own fest in Cuyahoga Falls. Though not in high numbers, American Kestrels were reported on each count. The Northern Mockingbird and Red-headed Woodpecker appear determined to emulate the Northern Cardinal's and Red-bellied Woodpecker's adaptation to NE Ohio winters. Each was found in four count locations.

As with last year, no Ruffed Grouse or bobwhites were reported, while Ring-necked Pheasants were seen in Burton and Wellington. There was only one Common Redpoll (Wellington) reflecting a non-irruption year for this bird. In contrast, Cuyahoga Falls, with its 48 feeder counters far outdistancing those in other areas, contributed high numbers of typical feeder birds, e.g., Blue Jays, Tufted Titmice, House Finches and American Goldfinches.

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	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA	LAKEWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTO
IED-BILLED GREBE	•	2	1	13	•	•	•
ORNED GREBE Great blue Heron	• 5	1 15	2 27	• 8	3	• 1	•
	1420	1875	2332	o 1282	5 537	174	185
anada goose Jndra Swan	1420	17	2332 6	1202	337	174	100
IUTE SWAN	•	17	6	•			
OOD DUCK		1	•	•			•
SADWALL	•		4	•	•	•	•
MERICAN WIGEON	•	•	•	•	9	•	•
ORTHERN SHOVELER	•	•	•	•	2	•	•
MERICAN BLACK DUCK	6	42	17	10	93	25	•
IALLARD	534	321	1116	369	3017	67	30
REEN-WINGED TEAL	•	•	1	•	2	•	•
ING-NECKED DUCK	•	•	159	•	•		•
CAUP (SP)	•	15	•	3	19	170	•
UFFLEHEAD	•	26	3	1	2	10	•
OMMON GOLDENEYE	•	70	7	1	319	90	•
OODED MERGANSER	•	2	9	3	•	2	•
OMMON MERGANSER	•	22	•	345	216	127	•
ED-BREASTED MERGANSER	•	2436	•	1442	4	1315	•
JDDY DUCK	•	3	2	6	•	•	•
HARP-SHINNED HAWK	2	4	3	3	1	•	4
OOPER'S HAWK	8	6	12	3	1	2	7
ED-SHOULDERED HAWK	53	3	3	•	2	3	•
ED-TAILED HAWK	76	25	54	12	4	22	25
MERICAN KESTREL	5	1	8	9	1	2	31
ILD TURKEY	65	13	37	11	•	•	21
MERICAN COOT	•	10	46	87	•	1	•
LLDEER	•	•	1	•	•	•	•
NG-BILLED GULL	15	1231	1836	13,390	4204	389	17
ERRING GULL	•	468	21	6502	1766	146	2
OURNING DOVE	419	175	489	205	128	48	335
ASTERN SCREECH-OWL	•	•	4	•	•	2	•
REAT HORNED OWL	1	2	6	1	•	3	1
ARRED OWL	1	•	1	•	•	•	•
ELTED KINGFISHER	1	5	6	4	2	2	•
D-BELLIED WOODPECKER	53	62	96	42	27	15	31
OWNY WOODPECKER	112	84	216	45	44	37	54
AIRY WOODPECKER	29	15	52	5	9	7	12
ORTHERN FLICKER	12	5	22	11	2	2	7
LEATED WOODPECKER	14	6	8	2	2	3	3
LUE JAY	362	360	601	184	144	94	145
MERICAN CROW	487	560	1012	161	1845	137	144
ORNED LARK	•	•	8	187	•	•	1357
ACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	421	242	873	109	102	96	105
JFTED TITMOUSE	146	139	305	94	94	43	33
D-Breasted Nuthatch	5	2	1	•	1	7	14
HITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	90	61	184	50	48	22	38
ROWN CREEPER	•	1	7	1	•	•	•
arolina wren	8	16	32	17	9	5	2
INTER WREN	1	1	2	•	1	•	1
OLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	6	4	57	6	5	2	1
Astern Bluebird	93	56	78	27	•	10	67
MERICAN ROBIN	3	119	53	68	166	34	•
EDAR WAXWING	272	108	813	64	1	•	•
ELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	•	8	3	•	•	•	4
MERICAN TREE SPARROW	200	131	555	203	34	70	632
ONG SPARROW	16	34	82	43	13	17	28
vamp sparrow	•	1	14	3	•	•	1
HITE-THROATED SPARROW	13	35	140	33	18	5	1
HITE-CROWNED SPARROW	•	4	5	1	•	2	26
ARK-EYED JUNCO	231	311	618	194	165	124	648
NOW BUNTING	•	18	•	21	•	•	47
ORTHERN CARDINAL	485	119	746	124	100	101	219
D-WINGED BLACKBIRD	•	1	•	53	•	•	•
OMMON GRACKLE	•	•	18	19	•	2	1
ROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	1	•	3	6	•	4	5
JRPLE FINCH	•	•	2	•	•	•	•
OUSE FINCH	349	73	606	97	199	48	66
MERICAN GOLDFINCH	185	160	752	99	182	33	296
OUSE SPARROW	675	254	1485	424	491	268	672
	46	77	74	73	60	54	49

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## The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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## The List of the Birds of the Cleveland Region

Red-throated Loon Pacific Loon Common Loon Pied-billed Grebe Horned Grebe Red-necked Grebe Eared Grebe Western Grebe Northern Gannet American White Pelican Brown Pelican **Double-crested Cormorant** American Bittern Least Bittern Great Blue Heron Great Egret Snowy Egret Little Blue Heron Tricolored Heron Cattle Egret Green Heron Black-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-crowned Night-Heron White Ibis Glossy Ibis White-faced Ibis Wood Stork Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Fulvous Whistling Duck G.White-fronted Goose Snow Goose Ross's Goose Canada Goose Mute Swan Trumpeter Swan Tundra Swan Wood Duck Gadwall Eurasian Wigeon American Wigeon American Black Duck Mallard Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Canvasback Redhead Ring-necked Duck Tufted Duck Greater Scaup Lesser Scaup King Eider Common Eider Harlequin Duck Surf Scoter White-winged Scoter Black Scoter Long-tailed Duck Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Barrow's Goldeneye Hooded Merganser Common Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Ruddy Duck Osprey

Swallow-tailed Kite

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Mississippi Kite

Northern Harrier

Bald Eagle

Cooper's Hawk Northern Goshawk Red-shouldered Hawk Broad-winged Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Rough-legged Hawk Golden Eagle American Kestrel Merlin Gyrfalcon Peregrine Falcon Ring-necked Pheasant Ruffed Grouse Wild Turkey Northern Bobwhite Yellow Rail Black Rail King Rail Virginia Rail Sora Purple Gallinule Common Moorhen American Coot Sandhill Crane Black-bellied Plover American Golden-Plover Snowy Plover Semipalmated Plover Piping Plover Killdeer American Avocet Greater Yellowlegs Lesser Yellowlegs Solitary Sandpiper Spotted Sandpiper Upland Sandpiper Eskimo Curlew Whimbrel Long-billed Curlew Hudsonian Godwit Marbled Godwit Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot Sanderling Semipalmated Sandpiper . Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper White-rumped Sandpiper Baird's Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Purple Sandpiper Dunlin Curlew Sandpiper Stilt Sandpiper Buff-breasted Sandpiper Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher Common Snipe American Woodcock Eurasian Woodcock Wilson's Phalarope Red-necked Phalarope Red Phalarope Pomarine Jaeger Parasitic Jaeger Long-tailed Jaeger Laughing Gull

Franklin's Gull

Black-headed Gull

Bonaparte's Gull

Little Gull

Heermann's Gull Mew Gull Ring-billed Gull California Gull Herring Gull Thayer's Gull Iceland Gull Lesser Black-backed Gull Glaucous Gull Great Black-backed Gull Sabine's Gull Black-legged Kittiwake Ross's Gull Ivory Gull Caspian Tern Royal Tern Common Tern Forster's Tern Least Tern Black Tern Thick-billed Murre Black Guillemot Rock Dove Mourning Dove Passenger Pigeon Common Ground-Dove Carolina Parakeet Black-billed Cuckoo Yellow-billed Cuckoo Smooth-billed Ani Barn Owl Eastern Screech-Owl Great Horned Owl Snowy Owl Northern Hawk Owl Barred Owl Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl Boreal Owl Northern Saw-whet Owl Common Nighthawk Whip-poor-will Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird Rufous Hummingbird Belted Kingfisher Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Black-backed Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Olive-sided Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Pewee Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Acadian Flycatcher Alder Flycatcher Willow Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe Great Crested Flycatcher Western Kingbird Eastern Kingbird Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Loggerhead Shrike Northern Shrike White-eyed Vireo Bell's Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Blue-headed Vireo Warbling Vireo Philadelphia Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay American Crow Common Raven Horned Lark Purple Martin Tree Swallow N. Rough-winged Swallow Bank Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow Carolina Chickadee Black-capped Chickadee Boreal Chickadee Tufted Titmouse Red-breasted Nuthatch White-breasted Nuthatch **Brown Creeper** Rock Wren Carolina Wren Bewick's Wren House Wren Winter Wren Sedge Wren Marsh Wren Golden-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Townsend's Solitaire Eastern Bluebird Veerv Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Hermit Thrush Wood Thrush American Robin Varied Thrush Gray Catbird Northern Mockingbird Brown Thrasher European Starling Wagtail (species) American Pipit Sprague's Pipit Bohemian Waxwing Cedar Waxwing Blue-winged Warbler Golden-winged Warbler Tennessee Warbler Orange-crowned Warbler Nashville Warbler Northern Parula Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler Magnolia Warbler Cape May Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler Black-throated Green Warb. Blackburnian Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler Pine Warbler Kirtland's Warbler Prairie Warbler Palm Warbler Bay-breasted Warbler Blackpoll Warbler Cerulean Warbler Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart Prothonotary Warbler Worm-eating Warbler

Swainson's Warbler

Ovenbird Northern Waterthrush Louisiana Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler Connecticut Warbler Mourning Warbler Common Yellowthroat Hooded Warbler Wilson's Warbler Canada Warbler Painted Redstart Yellow-Breasted Chat Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager Western Tanager Green-tailed Towhee Spotted Towhee Eastern Towhee Bachman's Sparrow American Tree Sparrow Chipping Sparrow Clay-colored Sparrow Field Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Lark Sparrow Black-throated Sparrow Lark Bunting Savannah Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow Le Conte's Sparrow Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp. Fox Sparrow Song Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Swamp Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Harris's Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Lapland Longspur Smith's Longspur Snow Bunting Northern Cardinal Rose-breasted Grosbeak Black-headed Grosbeak Blue Grosbeak Indigo Bunting Dickcissel Bobolink Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Western Meadowlark Yellow-headed Blackbird Rusty Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Common Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird Orchard Oriole Baltimore Oriole Bullock's Oriole Brambling Pine Grosbeak Purple Finch House Finch Red Crossbill White-winged Crossbill Common Redpoll Hoary Redpoll Pine Siskin American Goldfinch **Evening Grosbeak** House Sparrow