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

The Cleveland Bird Calendar is published quarterly, and all reports are archived in 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

Cover design: American Kestrel (Falco sparverius)

by Jennifer Brumfield, 2000

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Rare Bird Hotline: 330-467-1930 The hotline is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club. In cases of extreme rarities, (i.e., Western Grebe, Mew Gull, Varied Thrush, Harris's 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.

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Sharp-shinned Hawk by Jennifer Brumfield©

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FALL 2002



FALL 2002 by Dwight W. Chasar

September: Temperatures averaged 68.7°, 5.4° above normal. The high was 93° on the 8th and the low, 47° on the 25th. Lake Erie was 73° on the 1st and eased down to 69° by the 30th. Sunshine prevailed 76% of the time possible. Rain occurred over only 5 days and totalled 3.50 in., .27 in. below normal. The greatest 24 hr. rainfall was 1.80 in. on the 27th.

CTOBER: Temperatures averaged 51.8°, .4° below normal. The highest was 82° on the 4th and the lowest, 30° on the 31st. Sunshine occurred only 44% of the time possible. Rain occurred over 9 days and totalled 1.52 in., a departure of 1.21 in. below normal.

The greatest 24 hr. fall was .59 in. on the 25-26th. Lake Erie water cooled to 55° by the 31st.

OVEMBER: Temperatures averaged 41.3°, .5° below normal. The highest was 67° on the 10th and the lowest, 20° on the 28th. Sunshine occurred a meager 27% of the time possible. Occurring over 15 days, rain totalled 3.65 in., .27 in. above normal. The greatest 24 hr. fall was 1.34 in. on the 21-22nd. There was 6.1 in. of snow, with the greatest depth of 2 in. on the 28th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to only 44° by the end of the month.



Comment on the Season by Larry Rosche

A total of 274 species was reported for the 2001–2002 Bird Calendar year. This is a very good total when one considers the lack of substantial shorebird habitat along Lake Erie. No Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher or Red-necked Phalarope was reported. No Laughing or Sabine's Gull graced the region this year. Barn Owl and Dickcissel also went unreported.

The Fall season was nothing short of spectacular. Thirty-five species and one hybrid made the Noteworthy Reports section. Birders were delighted to have the opportunity to view rare waterbirds during their long stays. The reviews of landbird migration were mixed. When considering the overall species diversity, the broad picture shows a rather typical movement of southbound migrants. The lateness of arrival of many sparrow species may fur-

Black-throated Green Warbler by Jennifer Brumfield®

ther indicate the effects of long-term warming of the planet. The continued close monitoring of resident species will help lend a clearer picture as to the effects of West Nile Virus. As always, each field reporter is gratefully thanked for contributing to the ongoing assessment of the region's avifauna.

Good birding-and reading!



major flight of Common Loons was noted over Parma Heights on the morning of Nov. 19. A total of 768 was counted there (SZ). At HBSP, the high count reached only 30 on Nov. 23 (RH). On Nov. 10, 25 were seen at Avon Lake and another 51 at Rocky River Park (PL, m.obs.). Pied-billed Grebes remain inexplicably scarce. The five at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 21 represented the high inland tally (LD). Four **Horned Grebes** on West Twin Lake seemed early on Oct. 14 (LR). One at Fairport Harbor in November still showed vestiges of breeding plumage and gave observers impressions of an Eared Grebe. **Double-crested Cormorants** were simply abundant.

Great Egrets were seen at HBSP on

Sep. 24 (2) and Oct. 6 (RH). Five were seen in Lorain Co. on Sep. 19 (LR). Two were at Sandy Ridge on Oct. 20 (CC). A few Green Herons remained into October. One was at Ira Road (CVNP) on Oct. 7 (TMR, m.obs.). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Eastlake on Nov. 23 (KM). Up to 8 holdovers from summer clung to Shaker Lakes through September (LD). Dike 14 hosted 3 on Sep. 8 (SZ). Three Turkey Vultures were seen over Holden Arboretum on Oct. 28 (CK). They were reported throughout the period in the CVNP (DAC).



On Oct. 21, at Lakeshore MP Pogacnik wrote, "I had a group of 80⁺ fly-by **Snow Geese**. Most were 'blues.' I guessed about 6-7 Snows." One was at Lake Medina on Nov. 30 (JW). Another (without a date) was seen at Best Lake (fide DB). Twelve "blues" migrated past HBSP on Nov. 3 (LR). A "blue" was at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 9 (KM). Charles Klaus wrote, "It is interesting that some of the tagged Canada Geese which visit my pond are the same as in prior years. K2R0 has been a visitor for many years." Starting with 14 flyovers at Swine Creek Reservation on Nov. 1 (DB), Tundra Swan migration was prolonged and widespread. A flock of 85 was at LaDue on Nov. 1 (DF). High numbers were reported in late November. On Nov. 25, 100+ were seen over Pepper Pike (RR). Shaker Lakes provided hospice for 60 Wood Ducks on Sep. 21 (LD). On Nov. 9, Lake Rockwell hosted an astounding 350 Gadwall. This was

Paula Lozano's West Side Scoter Tallies											
	10/19	10/21	10/24	10/25	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/31	11/2	11/10	11/13
Surf	3	4	1	4	11	50	34	30	20	16	50
White-winged	•	•	3	3	3	4	1	3	5	•	4
Black	•	•	3	13	16	15	14	60	55	6	48
scoter species	•	•	•	•	33	•	36	40	77±	•	•

probably the largest congregation of this species ever in Portage County (LR). Two American Black Ducks at Ira Road on Oct. 7 provided a sighting of local interest (TMR, m.obs.). Blue-winged Teal numbers were low. A Northern Shoveler was seen at LaDue on Oct. 31 (RR). The only reports of Northern Pintails were from HBSP On Oct. 14, 12 passed by (KM). Another was seen on Oct. 19 (RH). The high count of Green-winged Teals was 65 at Sandy Ridge MP on Nov. 25 (RHL, SW). Ten Greenwinged Teal sped past HBSP on Oct. 13 (RH). The next day 17 were seen there (KM). Up to 22 Canvasbacks graced Wellington in Nov. (TLP. SS). Four Redheads were at Lake Medina on Nov. 16 (JW) and up to 22 at Wellington Nov. 3–23 (TLP, SS). As many as 450 Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Wellington on Nov. 13 (SS). The high count for Portage County was 450 at LaFarge Lakes in Shalersville on Nov. 9 (LR). On Nov. 27, 10 **Greater Scaup** were seen close to shore at Fairport Harbor (KM). The 68 Lesser Scaups at Wellington on Nov. 3 were a very good inland tally (SS). Scoters were nothing short of spectacular. As Jean Hoffman wrote, "We don't remember scoters ever hanging around so long or in such numbers, especially all three species together, or at so many locations." Paula Lozano's daily tallies off Rocky River Park gave full details for the West Side. On Oct. 5, 3 Surf Scoters were off Lakeshore MP (JP). Five were at HBSP on Oct. 14 (LR). A flock of 8

was off Perkins Beach on Oct. 25 (PL, TLP). Four were at HBSP on Oct. 31 (JMc). A bird was seen in Lorain Harbor on Nov. 12 (SZ). Seven flew by Lakeshore MP on Nov. 13 (JP). Another 5 were there on Nov. 24 (JP). One drifted close to shore at Fairport Harbor in late Nov. Remarkable numbers of White-winged Scoters were also seen at the mouth of the Grand River. Birds were there on Oct. 19 (8), Oct. 20 (3), Oct. 27 (4), Oct. 30 (1) and Nov. 24 (RH, KM, LR). Birds were seen off Dike 14 on Nov. 9 & 20 (SZ). Two birds zipped by Lakeshore MP on Nov. 13 (JP). One was seen at E. 72nd St. on Nov. 29 (BMo). Black Scoters were reported in good numbers. Three were at HBSP on Oct. 8 (JMc). On Oct. 20, one was off Lakeshore MP (JP). One was seen offshore of Dike 14 on Nov. 9 (SZ). A drake was at Eastlake on Nov. 11 (HP). Black Scoter numbers reached 23 at Lakeshore MP on Nov. 13 (JP). Another 14 were there on Nov. 24 (JP). A hen remained at Fairport through the period (m.obs.). A Long-tailed Duck spent several days at Eastlake Power Plant from Nov. 3 (LR, m.obs.). Three flew by Lakeshore MP on Nov. 13 (JP). Three dared the hunters at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 17 (RH). Another passed by Lakeshore MP on Nov. 24 (JP). A female was cordial at Elm Lake in Streetsboro Nov. 25-27 (CH, m.obs.). **Buffleheads** arrived in surprising numbers inland. Lake Medina

Reservoir Nov. 17 (RHL, SW). Another 126 were seen at LaFarge Lake in Shalersville on Nov. 23 (LR). A hen Common Goldeneve on a small lake in South Russell on Nov. 13 was newsworthy (LGi). Lakefront sightings of goldeneyes were not very impressive. The movement of mergansers in the region provided interesting comparisons. Along the shores of Lake Erie, the Red-breasted were ubiquitous from mid-October through the period while Common Mergansers were slow to arrive. As is the case in most autumns at Lake Rockwell. the Red-breasted were absent; but Common and Hooded were plentiful. The 320 Hooded Mergansers at Lake Medina on Nov. 16 were an excellent tally (JW). Another 300+ were at Lake Rockwell in late November (m.obs.). Common Mergansers were hard to find along Lake Erie, but Lake Rockwell hosted up to 60 on Nov. 23-30 (LR, GB, CG). Estimates of the Redbreasted Mergansers at Eastlake in November reached well over 10,000! Ruddy Ducks were typically numerous. Mogadore held 1200+ on Oct. 20 (LR). On Oct. 26, 850 were at Wellington (RHL, SW). The high count of Ruddys at Lake Medina was 450 on Nov. 3 (JW).

Ospreys were well reported and widely distributed. Several sightings lingered into late October. A bird at East Branch Reservoir on Nov. 30 was the latest report ever turned into this journal (BSK). It is remarkable to see that the status of Bald Eagle has grown to uncom-

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hosted 80 Nov. 16 (JW). A total of

170 was seen at Wellington

mon. One of the Tinker's Creek birds was seen on Sep. 4 (GB, KL). One was over Brecksville MP on Sep. 29 (LG). On Oct. 13 at dawn, there was an immature perched in a tree at Klaus's pond in Kirtland. Various ages were reported in the CVNP in Nov. (DAC, TMR, m.obs.). As many as 5 birds were in the Lake Rockwell area all season. LaDue hosted a close-knit pair on Nov. 3 (LGi. LR). Two adults were seen soaring near the Rockside/Canal Road area on Nov. 14 (LG). An adult was at Wellington on Nov. 23 (SS). A 3rdyear bird was at South Chagrin on Nov. 26 (LD). Four eagles were at East Branch on Nov. 30 (BSK). Northern Harriers were seen at HBSP on Sep. 27 and Oct. 27 (KM). A female was seen at Herrick Preserve on Oct.10 (WS). Another harrier was viewed at Lake Medina on Nov. 5 (GL, SZ). One was seen at LaDue on Nov. 11 (SuW). A bird was south of Akron in a tree on Goodyear Boating & Yachting Association property along S. Main St. on Nov. 14 (KMo). Another flew over Fairport Harbor on Nov. 15 (BF). One drifted over East 72nd Street on Nov. 20 (SZ). A Broad-winged Hawk passed over West Creek Preserve on Sep. 1 (GL). Two were at Ira Road on Sep. 23 (TMR, m.obs.). Broadies were seen at Dike 14 on Sep. 11 & 14 (SZ). A Roughlegged Hawk was seen at Swine Creek on Nov. 17 (TGi). Merlins were felt to be uncommon. Birds were seen at Headlands Beach SP on Sep. 28, Oct. 6 (2) & 20 (RH), Oct. 8 (JMc), Oct. 24 (SI), Oct. 27 (KM) and Oct. 30 (LR, VW). Two were seen at Lakeshore MP on Oct. 27 and on Nov. 9 (JP). Another graced Ira Road on Nov. 25 (TMR, m.obs.). One was at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 29 (HP). Four hen Wild Turkeys walked through the yard in Granger



Township on Nov. 23 (JW). One was at Villa Angela on Sep. 15 (TLP). Northern Bobwhites and Ring-necked Pheasants went unreported. A Sora visited Dike 14 on Sep. 4 (SZ). Another was spied at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 7 (RR). Common Moorhens have all but disappeared from field lists. This species may become the next candidate for the Noteworthy Reports section. The only report was from Herrick Preserve on Oct. 10 (WS). The high count of American Coots was 300 at Wellington on Nov. 23 (SS).

The continual lack of suitable expanses of habitat along the shore of Lake Erie causes shorebirds to be missed by most observers. The following reports are meager when compared to a decade ago. Perhaps a committee should be formed to set standards as to which species should be put in the Noteworthy Reports section. It seems we are lucky to get a report of a dowitcher anymore. Does that mean it should be in the Noteworthy Reports section? If habitat is available, we would have numerous dowitcher reports. Any ideas?

An Interesting Gull in Rocky River

Jean Hoffman wrote, "Gulls were not such fun and the only 'other' species we saw was Lesser Black-backed at Eastlake with the best being Nov. 14 with you. The other bird of interest we believe was an albinistic Herring Gull at Rocky River Park on Nov. 9, which Dick described as follows: seen perched on rock jetty with immature Herring Gull (quite dark) and adult Great Black-backed Gull. Yellow bill with red spot, yellow eye, heavy streaking on head and back and sides of neck (heaviest on the lowest part of the hindneck); medium gray "splotching" in secondaries, rest of plumage clear white. Primaries fairly long. Size about the same as the other Herring Gull. Flight pattern with spotty plumage reminiscent of [Alaskan] Northern Fulmar. He may have gotten photos, but we're still in the film era and the pictures are in the camera."

A Black-bellied Plover was at LaDue on Sep. 14 (JP). Birds were seen at HBSP on Oct. 9 (RH, LR) and again on Oct 15 (RR). The **American Golden-Plover** at HBSP on Sep. 29 was Hannikman's only sighting for the fall. The only inland report was from LaDue on Sep. 14 (JP). Two Semipalmated Plovers were on the shore of the small pond in Clinton on Oct. 23 (ESn). Greater Yellowlegs were found in expected numbers. One at the Medina County Fairgrounds on Oct. 20 was from a new locale (RHL, SW). Late birds were at North Chagrin on Nov. 1 (KM). and in Twin Lakes on Nov. 13 (LR). Lessers Yellowlegs were as expected. A straggler was seen at LaDue on Nov. 10 (CW). A tardy **Solitary Sandpiper** was at LaDue on Oct. 1 (LR). For unknown reasons, Spotted Sandpipers were scarce. Remarkably, no Ruddy Turnstones were reported. Sanderling numbers were good at HBSP. Tallies peaked at 50 on Sep. 28 at HBSP (RH). Late birds were



at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 8 (BW) and Lorain Harbor on Nov. 23 (GL, SZ). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at Fairport
Harbor on Sep. 2 (RH), and the 23 at LaDue on Sep. 14 (JP) were the only reports of this formerly common species. The last **Least Sandpiper** was at Lake Rockwell on Oct. 19 (LR). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were at Girdled Road MP on Sep. 4 (LR, JP). **Pectoral**

Sandpipers were at HBSP on Oct. 9 & 20 (LR, RH). Other were seen at LaDue on Oct. 1 and Lake Rockwell on Oct. 31 (LR). The high inland tally for **Dunlin** was 46 at West Branch SP on Nov. 1 (VW). At Dike 14, 102 migrants passed by on Nov. 2 (SZ). On Nov. 1, the Lorain Hotwaters hosted 65 on (SZ). Another 70⁺ were seen at HBSP on Nov. 2 (KM). Two Stilt Sandpipers were at Sandy Ridge on Sep. 21 (BF, PL). Short-billed Dowitchers were a no-show this fall. A Wilson's Snipe (formerly Common Snipe) was at the old Coliseum site in the CVNP on Oct. 6 (DAC). One found itself dazed and in the middle of busy Crossview Road in Seven Hills on Oct. 7. Observers were able to herd the bird to safety (RHL, SW). As many as 12 snipes probed the mud at Lake Rockwell in late Oct. (LR, VW). An American Woodcock was a surprise in the banding nets at Jaite on Oct. 1 (SuW). Birds were seen at Elmood Park on Sep. 25 and at Villa Angela Oct. 22 (TLP). A dead woodcock was found outside the BP building Oct. 23 (DR). Readers should get a feel for the typical migration pattern for the "timberdoodle" from the above reports.

One Tough Tufted Titmouse

I came home from work on Sep. 20 and was in my room changing when I saw a Tufted Titmouse land on a branch right by the window with something hanging from its beak. I went closer for a better look and that "thing" started to move...it was a field mouse hanging by the tail from the beak of a tufted titmouse!!!! I grabbed my binoculars for a closer look.

Every time the mouse would jiggle, the titmouse would swing his head violently, smacking the mouse's head 5 or 6 times against the branch it was sitting on. I was thinking...am I really going to see a titmouse eat a mouse???? This smacking and jiggling went on for about 5 or 6 times and then the mouse did not move anymore. The titmouse dropped the mouse to the ground and flew back over to my feeder. I had recently filled the feeders and figured a mouse was in the seed bucket when I filled the hopper feeder. Apparently the titmouse took exception to a mouse being on the platform and decided to make an example out of him. At least I was able to see some bird behavior, even though I have not had a chance to go out in the field. Anybody ever heard of this before?

Bob Cox Chardon, Ohio

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Swirling Swifts

Acting upon a tip from Bob McCullogh and Carol Skinner, Joyce and I visited the chimney of Berkshire House School (about a block north of the square in Burton) the other night. We arrived "on site" about 7:45 P.M.; even then, there were about 50+ swifts flying around the chimney with one or two going in at a time. Found it hard to believe that Bob saw 1000+ swifts here; and over the next half hour, I tried to estimate how many swifts were going into the 70 or so foot chimney on the north side of the high school and came up with about 1700 or so !! They seemed to arrive in small groups of about 50 or 60, then fly around the chimney several times and then go into the chimney in small numbers (usually fewer than 10). Trying to estimate their numbers was difficult; I tried to keep track of them in tens and then folded down a finger. When I reached 100, I just kicked up my estimate. Perhaps, there is an easier way to do this !!

Anders Fjeldstad

Jaegers were left unidentified at Painesville Township Park on Oct. 30 (LR), off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 17 (JP) and on Nov. 17 in Lorain (GL). Bonaparte's Gulls were numerous along the lake and fairly evident inland. One was at Spencer Lake on Oct. 12 (SS). Four were at LaDue on Oct. 22 (LR). As many as 2 Thayer's Gulls were seen with regularity at Eastlake during the middle of November (TLP. m.obs.). A first-year bird was discovered off Dike 14 on Nov. 9 (GL, SZ). Another was at Community Park in Sheffield Lake on Nov. 23 (GL. SZ). Two early Iceland Gulls were observed well at Eastlake on Nov. 13 (EE, TLP, HP). Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were in fair supply. A first-winter plumaged bird was seen offshore of Dike 14 on Sep. 4 & Oct. 5 (SZ). An adult was at HBSP on Sep. 28-Oct. 3 (RH, LR). On Nov. 14, 6 of varying ages were seen at Eastlake (m.obs.). On Nov. 23, 5 birds (2nd-year, 3rd-year and 3 adults) were in Lorain (GL, SZ). Harlan and Wagner noted adults at Clifton Beach, Avon Lake Power Plant and Lorain on Nov. 17. They saw a 2nd-vear bird in Lorain on Nov. 25. The lake watch at Lakeshore MP produced sightings

on Nov. 17 and 29 (JP). The Chasars provided an interesting note on inland movement of Herring Gulls. Birds had returned to the Station Road Bridge to feed on migrating Gizzard Shad by Nov. 13. An early first-year Glaucous Gull was at Eastlake on Nov. 3 (LR, RB, VW). One was at Avon Lake on Nov. 30--a more typical date (GL, SZ). Although present at usual locales. Great Blackbacked Gull numbers were fewer than expected. Over 100 Common Terns were at HBSP on Oct. 30 (LR). Two straggled in Lorain on Nov. 17 (RHL, SW). One at Lake Medina on Nov. 3 was a surprise (JW). Forster's Terns lingered along the lake until late Oct. Fairport Harbor hosted 30⁺ on Oct. 30 (LR). One was in Lorain the same day (TLP). Five or six were at Bradstreet Landing on Oct. 31 (PL, SuW).

On Oct. 6, Claire Johnson and Perry Peskin identified a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Shaker Lakes. Perry commented that he had not seen one there in a decade! Up to 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen gorging on Catalpa Sphinx Moth Caterpillars in the same trees from

Oct. 17-24 (MRe, m.obs.). One was reported from Shaker Lakes on Oct. 5 (SC). Eastern Screech-Owls were reported at Jaite (DAC) and Lakewood (PL). Shaker Lakes hosted one on Sep. 9, (SC). A Barred Owl was seen at Elmwood Park as it was being harassed by two Cooper's Hawks on Oct. 14 (TLP). One was seen at North Chagrin on Oct. 20 (LD). Common Nighthawks moved through the region in early September. On Sep. 2. 25 drifted southward over Stinchcomb-Groth Memorial Scenic Overlook (PL). "Hundreds" were seen over the Cuyahoga River near I-77 on Sep. 3 (LG). A late bird was at Shaker Lakes on Sep. 19 (LD). Chimney Swifts staged dramatically throughout the region. Shaker Lakes hosted 200+ on Sep. 18 (LD). On Oct. 5, 800+ were hawking insects over the superfund field at Fairport Harbor (RH). An estimated 4,000 were seen over Dike 14 the same day (SZ). The last date was Oct. 14 (40+)--a good late season count at HBSP (KM). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report was from North Olmsted on Oct. 15 (SWr). Six Belted Kingfishers at Ira Road on Oct. 7 were indicative of local abundance along Cuyahoga River (TMR, m.obs.).

The Chasars reported that all Redheaded Woodpeckers had left the CVNP by Oct. 5. Very unusual for the site, one was at Lake Rockwell on Sep. 23 (LR). Katherine Novak Sanctuary hosted 5 on Sep 28 and one on Oct. 31 (GB, KL). A juvenile visited a feeder in West Akron on Nov. 15 (JHa). A dawdler was still at Shaker Lakes on Nov. 20 (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were widespread in fair numbers. The high tally was 11 at HBSP on Sep. 29 (RH). One lingered in Kirtland on Nov. 30 (LP). The 12 Northern Flickers in the CVNP on Nov. 25

represented a good indication of how common they are away from Lake Erie in the winter (TMR, mobs.).

Olive-Sided Flycatchers put in an excellent showing. On Sep. 5, one was seen along Red Lock Trail in the CVNP (MRe. m.obs.). Two were at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 8 (RH, m.obs.). West Creek Preserve hosted singles Sep. 19-21 (GL, LR). One was at Euclid Beach SP on Sep. 21 (RHL, SW). The same day one was spied at Shaker Lakes (SC). Another was seen at Lakeshore Bluffs on Sep. 27 (Pogacnik). Three Eastern Wood-Pewees were at Erie St. Cemetery on Oct. 5 (RHL, SW). A Yellow**bellied Flycatcher** was at HBSP on Sep. 2 (RR). An extremely late "Traill's" type Empidonax flycatcher was along the Coast Guard Road at HBSP on Oct. 6 (RH). A late Great Crested Flycatcher was at Erie St. Cemetery on Oct. 11 (SWr).

A White-eved Vireo was at Whiskey Island on Sep. 22 (TCT). Only LePage found Blue-headed **Vireos** at more than one site. He saw singles at Elmwood Park on Sep. 25, Oct. 1 & 22; at Sims Park on Sep. 29; and at Villa Angela on Oct. 22. Other reports were from North Chagrin on Sep. 29 (KM), at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 4, 8 & 14 (RR. DJH), at Jaite on Oct. 11 (DAC) and 2 at HBSP on Oct. 20 (RH). Philadelphia Vireos were at HBSP on Sep. 7-8 (RH). One was banded at Jaite on Sep. 13 (SuW). One was at Lorain Harbor on Sep. 19 (BF, PL, LR). The 10 at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 26 were an exceptionally high number (GL, SZ). Red-eved **Vireo** numbers peaked at 12 on Sep. 14 at HBSP (RH).

American Crow numbers were

felt to be so low that readers are encouraged to tally them on each field excursion. Rolik commented. "Crows were very common in Maple Heights and Edgewater Park through mid-August; then no records here or at Edgewater (except dead birds in garbage cans!) through mid-October; first frost Oct. 14; then occasional sightings here and elsewhere in southeast Cuyahoga County beginning late October. (Still none at Edgewater). Seems to have been severely affected by West Nile Virus both here and Edgewater." The 117 crows at Ira Road on Oct. 14 far exceeded all other counts (TMR, m.obs.). Although depressed substantially in numbers, crows, nevertheless, display unusual antics. On Nov. 17, 4 were observed harassing a Red Fox on the beach at Rocky River Lagoons (CC).

The last reported **Purple Martin** was at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 22 (RH). **Tree Swallows** peaked at 500 in the HBSP area on Sep. 22 (RH).



This is a number more closely associated with inland bodies of water. As many as 3 juvenile Cliff **Swallows** lingered at Mentor Lagoons until Sep. 22 (RH, KM, LR). A late **Tree Swallow** was seen at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 10 (BD, MS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were hard to come by, except at traditional nesting sites. **Brown** Creepers were in expected numbers. Nine Winter Wrens were counted at HBSP on Sep. 29 (RH). On Sep. 18 a Marsh Wren was seen E. 9th and Euclid (SWr). Small numbers were encountered at Dike 14 most of Oct. (SZ). Blue-gray **Gnatcatchers** escaped without being reported this season.

Eastern Bluebird numbers were very good. The 37 seen in CVNP on Sep. 19 represented the high day tally (MRe, m.obs.). Three Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen at Mentor Lagoons on Sep. 8 (LR). Metcalf found 4 there on Sep. 21. Another bird was seen at Rocky River Reservation on Sep. 21 (BF, PL). One was at Lower Shaker

Lake on Sep. 23 (BF). Two were at Villa Angela on Sep. 26 (TLP). Birds were at HBSP on Sep. 21, 24 & 29 (RH, BF). Ten Swainson's Thrushes were seen at Rocky River Nature Center on Sep. 7 (BD, m.obs.). One was tardy at HBSP on Oct. 15 (RR). Jean Hoffman wrote, "Our really best observation was the Swainson's Thrush migration. We wrote of the occasion: Between about 12:30 and 1:10 am (Sept. 16) we heard a lot of birds coming over Cleveland Heights. The majority were 'wheeps' that we think may have been Swainson's Thrushes, but there were a lot of other sounds, too. Conditions were excellent with the low ceiling and foggy

conditions and the slow-moving cold front. Sound checks again close to 3:00 and nearing 4:00 am showed the birds were still coming over. We are not up on ID of night sounds, but there were small numbers of several different sounds coming with all the Swainson's Thrushes. Since no one else seemed to be enough of a night owl to catch this, we want to pass it along." Ten Hermit Thrushes were seen at HBSP on Oct 12 (RH). Wood Thrushes had disappeared by early September. Two Gray Catbirds were late at Elmwood Park on Oct. 29 (PL. LR). Northern Mockingbirds were found in many areas of the region. One rather urban bird was viewed near Tower City on Nov. 5 (DR). Brown Thrashers continue a puzzling existence and migration pattern in the region. Few were noted along the lakefront in their expected late September-October migration window. A thrasher at Sims Park on Sep. 29 was one of the few reported (TLP). LaDue hosted fair numbers of **American Pipits** most of October. The high count was 110 on Oct. 22 (LR, VW). Another 32 were at Dike 14 on Oct. 22 (SZ). Over 100 Cedar Waxwings were seen at Headwaters Park on Nov. 3 (DB). The Romito party tallied 140 at Ira Road on Nov. 4. This

waxwing flock ballooned to 302 by Nov. 11.

Blue-winged Warbler was at Swine Creek on Sep. 8 (DB). Two were at Horseshoe Pond on Sep. 14 (LR). Tennessee Warblers were in good supply. At West Creek Preserve, 25 were counted on Sep. 3 (SZ). Another 19 were at Horseshoe Pond on Sep. 14 (LR). Orangecrowned Warblers were at HBSP on Sep. 8 (LR), Oct. 6 (RH) and Oct 14 (LR). One was in North Royalton on Sep. 20 (TCT). A bird was at Dike 14 on Sep. 28 (GL, SZ). Another was seen at Shaker Lakes on Oct. 4 (RR). Two were at Elmwood Park on Oct. 6 (BF, PL). Erie St. Cemetery provided refuge to a male on Oct. 11 (SWr). Fowler's Mill hosted another on Sep. 26 (KM). Another bird was seen at Dike 14 on Sep. 28 (SZ). One dallied at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 9 (GL). Two were banded at Jaite on Oct. 10 and another there on Oct. 18 (SuW). North Chagrin hosted birds on Oct. 13 & 22 (KM). An exceptionally yellow Orange-crowned at HBSP on Nov. 9 & 15 was likely a member of the orestera race (KM, LR). Nashville Warblers were fairly numerous and widespread. The 64 found in the early successional growth along the

> northern perimeter of Dike 14 on Oct. 2 provided a stunning tally (SZ). The last date for a Nashville was Oct. 27 at HBSP (KM). Two Northern Parulas were at Dike 14 on



were at HBSP on Sep. 29 (RH). Parulas were at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 21 & 29 (GL). Yellow Warblers lingered at HBSP until Sep 29 (RH, RR). Chestnutsided Warblers moved well in September. A lingering bird was at HBSP on Oct. 6 (RH). Magnolia Warblers were plentiful. A bird at Mentor Lagoons on Oct. 9 was tardy (LR, VW). The conifers surrounding Horseshoe Pond harbored at least 26 Cape May Warblers on Sep. 14 (LR). Six were at Erie St. Cemetery on Sep. 16 (SWr). Another 8 were at HBSP on Sep. 21 (RH, LR). Three Blackthroated Blue Warblers were seen at E. 9th and Euclid on Sep. 18 (SWr). Two males were at Mentor Lagoons on Oct. 9 (LR, VW). Another male was at Jaite on Oct. 18 (SuW). Yellow-rumped Warblers passed through in significant numbers. Zadar counted 326 at Dike 14 on Oct. 2. Hannikman's count of 150 at HBSP on Oct. 6 was radically conservative. Reinthal's party tallied 40 in the CVNP on Oct. 10. The Chasars saw 50 there the next day. On Oct. 19, 53 were counted at Rocky River Nature Center (BD. m.obs.). Blackthroated Green Warblers staged a fairly prolonged migration. High counts were 12 at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 26 (GL) and 8 at HBSP on Sep. 29 (RH). A tardy Blackburnian Warbler was at Sandy Ridge MP on Oct. 3 (BW). The only Yellow-throated Warbler



report was from the CVNP Fall Census (DAC). A Pine Warbler was viewed at Rocky River MP on Sep. 18 (RHL, SW). One was singing at North Chagrin on Sep. 29 (KM). Palm Warblers were fewer than expected. A report of an Eastern Palm Warbler at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 17 was noteworthy (GL, SZ). Blackpoll Warblers were numerous along the lake. The 25 at HBSP on Sep. 21 were indicative of their abundance (RH). A Black-and-white Warbler met an untimely demise at on Sep. 30 Cleveland State University (DR). The high count of **Ovenbirds** at Public Square was 6 on Sep. 28 (SO, SWr). A dead Ovenbird was found at CSU on Sep. 30 (DR). Northern Waterthrushes were well represented. Late birds were found at Rocky River Nature Center on Oct. 19 (BD, m.obs.) and in the CVNP on Nov. 11 (TMR, m.obs.). The latter bird missed being an alltime late date by 4 days. Louisiana

Waterthrushes were late in the CVNP on Sep. 13 (MRe) and at the artificial waterfalls of the Cleveland Garden Center on Sep. 21 (RHL, SW). Mourning Warblers were fairly scarce. One was in Orange on Sep. 18 (RHL, SW). Birds were seen in the Downtown area on Sep. 12 and Oct. 1 (SO, SWr). Another bird was at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 20-1 (GL). Three were at Dike 14 on Sep. 28 (SZ). A female was at North Chagrin on Sep. 29 (KM). A singing male Hooded Warbler was at Holmesbrook Park in Wadsworth on Oct. 2 (RHL, SW). Wilson's Warblers did not disappoint. Counts reached into the mid-teens at most lakefront sites. Canada Warblers were noted at HBSP on Sep. 2 & 15 (RH). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were at Burton Wetlands on Sep. 22 (DB).

A Scarlet Tanager was seen at Sandy Ridge on Sep. 21 (BF, PL).

Another late bird was at West Creek Preserve on Sep. 29 (GL). Migrant sparrows were numerous, but the major movements seemed to be as much as ten days later than in some years. Zadar's study at Dike 14 (see table) provided an in-depth look at the numbers of migrant sparrows that actually invade the Cleveland region each year. Two American Tree **Sparrows** were early at HBSP on Oct. 8 (JMc). A group of 49 **Chipping Sparrows** was seen at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 17 (GL, SZ). The 14 at Lake Rockwell on Oct. 27 seemed late for the number (LR). A "chippy" in South Russell on Nov. 28 was extra tardy (LGi). Towner's Woods provided refuge for 40+ Field Sparrows on Oct. 7 (GB, CG, KL). West Creek Preserve hosted **Vesper Sparrows** on Oct. 17-28 (GL, SZ). Lincoln's **Sparrow** numbers were very good. The first migrant was seen at Holden Sep. 13 (LR). One was spied in Lakewood on Sep. 28 (PL). Ten were at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 1 (GL). On Oct. 6, 3 were at Elmwood Park (PL, BF). Three more were at Jaite on Oct. 8 (JB, LR). Fox Sparrows were in good supply. A twosome allowed for prolonged viewing in the CVNP on Nov. 3, as they bathed with Song and White-throated Sparrows, Northern Cardinals and American Goldfinches (DAC). One was in South Euclid the same day (JHe, PK). The high tally of Fox Sparrows was 6 at Ira Road on Nov. 4 (TMR, m.obs.). Dike 14 provided the regional high count with 22 on Nov. 7 (SZ). Mentor Marsh hosted 75 White-throated Sparrows on Oct. 9 (LR, VW). White-crowned Sparrows were plentiful. On Oct. 9, there were 100+ at Mentor Marsh (LR, VW). Herrick Fen Preserve held 50⁺ on Oct. 19 (LR). **Dark-eyed Junco** movement was fairly impressive. One was a

Sean Zadar's Sparrow Highlights

American Tree Sparrow 1 @ Dike 14 on 10/22 (return) Chipping Sparrow

49 @ West Creek P. on 10/17 Clay-colored Sparrow

1 @ Dike 14 on 9/14

1 @ West Creek P. on 10/9

Vesper Sparrow

1 @ West Creek P. on 10/17 2 @ West Creek P. on 10/22

1 @ West Creek P. on 10/28

Savannah Sparrow

11 @ Dike 14 on 10/22

Henslow's Sparrow

1 @ Dike 14 on 10/2

1 @ Dike 14 on 10/11

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

2 @ Dike 14 on 9/28

2 @ Dike 14 on 10/5 1 @ Dike 14 on 10/11

Lincoln's Sparrow In previous years, Lincoln's Sparrow staged in respectable numbers at Dike 14. This fall, their abundance appears to be slightly higher than

average. The contributing factor may be the degree of early successional growth, that compared to the past three years, dominates a much greater area of the landscape.

Lincoln's Sparrow Sightings from Dike 14:

2 on 9/14

10 on 9/22

6 on 9/26

33 on 9/28

32 on 10/2 12 on 10/5

42 on 10/11

Song Sparrow

201 @ Dike 14 on 10/11

Swamp Sparrow

73 @ Dike 14 on 10/11

Fox Sparrow

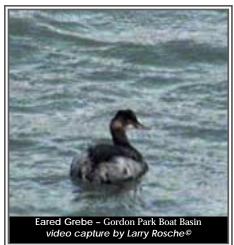
22 @ Dike 14 on 11/7

White-throated Sparrow

507 @ Dike 14 on 10/20

White-crowned Sparrow 1,709 @ Dike 14 on 10/22

(State record count?)



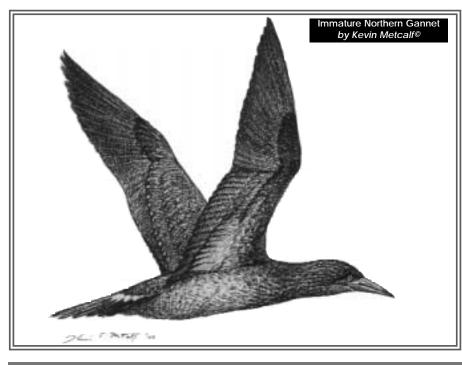
bit of a surprise in Orange on Sep. 18 (RHL, SW).

A Lapland Longspur was seen at HBSP on Oct. 14 (KM). Two were at Dike 14 on Oct. 22 (SZ). A flock of 30 skittered by Fairport Harbor on Nov. 27 (LR). Few Rosebreasted Grosbeaks were noticed passing through. One was at Rocky River Nature Center on Sep. 28 (BD, m.obs.). Tardy Indigo Buntings were noticed at the CVNP on Oct. 11 (DAC). and at Dike 14 Nov. 7 (SZ). The last Bobolink report was from Dike 14 on Oct. 6 when at least 12

Bobolinks--all females--were seen (JHe, PK). No reports of tardy **Orioles** were received. A female **Purple Finch** was at Novak Sanctuary-Aurora on Oct. 22 (LR, VW). The only other report was from South Russell on Nov. 13 (LGi). **Pine Siskins** were scarce. One was at HBSP on Sep. 21 (RHL, SW). Others were seen at Rocky River Park in November. Goldfinches staged nicely in November. The 171 birds at West Creek Preserve on Nov. 3 were representative (GL). Metcalf wrote,

"A female American Goldfinch incubating 4 eggs on the late date of September in my yard in Fowler's Mill was interesting, but nest was abandoned by the 18th, with two of the eggs gone." A loose flock of 28 Evening Grosbeaks passed over NASA Glen Research Center on Nov. 13 (CR). Three flew over North Olmsted on Nov. 15 (SWr).

CORRECTION: In Volume 98, Number 3, please change the June 22 Marsh Wren report from Bacon Woods to Sandy Ridge.





RED-NECKED GREBE – One was seen offshore of the east boundary of Dike 14 Nov. 2–5 (Zadar). Another delighted many out-oftown birders at Eastlake on Nov. 11 (Petruschke, m.obs.).

EARED GREBE – The first of three birds was located off Rocky River Park on Nov. 14 (Overacker, m.obs.). Zadar found an exceptionally cooperative bird at the Gordon Park Boat Basin and East 72nd St. from Nov. 20 through the period. Another was seen at Mentor Beach Park on Nov. 29 (Leidy).

RED-THROATED LOON – The only report to reach this desk was one seen flying low over the water off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 24 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN GANNET – On Nov. 16, Metcalf wrote, "A Northern Gannet was at the mouth of the Rocky River, viewed from Rocky River Park.... It came in and landed amongst the throngs of Redbreasted Mergansers, then got up and flew, then landed again. It is a mostly gray-brown 1st-fall bird. When I left, it was still there. I was able to get some video footage." This same bird was seen by a sharp-eyed group from Tuscarawas County, but from a different vantage point (Hostetler, Schlabach, Yoder, m.obs.). Another immature was observed at the mouth of the Grand River on Nov. 30 (Bacik, Hannikman).

AMERICAN BITTERN – The wetlands along Knapp Road at West Branch State Park played host to this rarity on Sep. 30 (Weingart). Another lurked in the cattails of Sanctuary Marsh outside the North Chagrin Nature Center Oct. 10-13 (Metcalf).

CATTLE EGRET - Two birds provided the first Medina County records on Oct. 20 at the Medina County Fairgrounds (Harlan, Wagner).

BRANT - Ten were observed passing by Lakeshore MP on Oct. 13 (Pogacnik). On Nov. 25, two California birders observed one over Headlands Beach SP (Nelson. Ellis). One was at Fairport Harbor on Nov. 29 (Leidy).

KING EIDER - Documentation of King Eider (Somateria spectabilis)

Age-Immature male Site-Mentor Beach Park Date-November 27, 2002

Large, dark duck, obviously larger than adjacent mergansers, looking about as bulky as two mergansers put together. Body dark brown, breast paler and speckled. Head dark rufous with indistinct eye line suggestive of the pattern displayed by adult King Eiders (The blue crown and rear-crown areas on an adult seemed set off on this bird by the eye line). Bill pinkish-orange with some dusky smudges closer to the tip of the upper mandible; seemed to be a hump midway down the culmen. Neck thick and heavy. Broad and heavy in the water. The head was broad, and the forehead feathering down the culmen formed a sort of point. Feet dusky-pink with dark webs. Wings dark with some pale on the linings. Spread wings slightly just before diving, and stayed under water for a long time.

Nick Barber

To the delight of many, this rare eider remained in the Mentor Lagoons area well through the period.

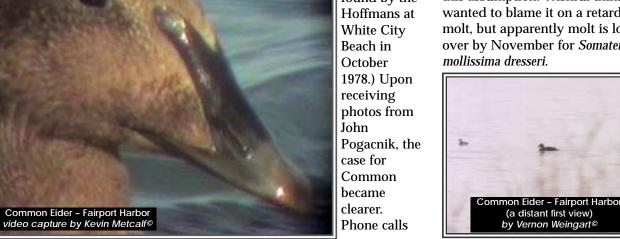
COMMON EIDER – Early Sunday, November 3, 2002, a hen Common Eider was discovered at Fairport Harbor. The initial identification and first impressions were that of a Common Eider, but the the first sighting of the eider was under less than optimum conditions and at a great distance. The coloration and head could range from Common to King in pattern and shape. Knowing the improbability of such a sighting, identification was changed and left pending as a King Eider by Rosche. (The first and only previous Common Eider

> for Ohio was found by the 1978.) Upon photos from Common



from Emil Bacik and Haans Petruschke and an e-mail from Sean Zadar persuaded me to reconsider my tentative change in identification. As a precaution, one of John's photographs was sent to Paul Lehman for verification. While leaning toward being more Common than King, Paul felt the photo was inconclusive. After examining further photos, Paul agreed that it was indeed a Common Eider.

The original party did not approach the bird, for fear it would fly and be killed by one of the many hunters present. After observing this eider many times into December, I felt it was apparent that it could not fly and had probably been shot. The missing wing and tail feathers supported this assumption. Wishful thinkers wanted to blame it on a retarded molt, but apparently molt is long over by November for Somateria



The bird disappeared on Nov. 11, but was relocated on Nov. 24 by Joe Sedransk. It remained in Fairport well into the winter season, and marked the second record of this species in Ohio.

HARLEQUIN DUCK – A female was seen off Dike 14 on Nov. 2 (Zadar). A male was seen from Lakeshore MP on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – On Nov. 4, Springfield birders Doug Overacker and Julie Karlson reported this species, which is yet to be photographed diagnostically in NE Ohio species. Doug and Julie withstood this editor's grilling and pleaded their case well for acceptance of their sighting.

PEREGRINE FALCON – One in the CVNP was big news indeed on Oct. 5 (Chasar). The same day Hannikman and Rosche saw 3 in the Headlands Beach area and Zadar saw two at Dike 14. Brumfield saw one at Jaite on Oct. 6. One flew over North Chagrin on Oct. 10 (Metcalf). Birds were seen again at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 12 & 13 (Hannikman). Two more were at Dike 14 on Oct. 26 (Zadar). Three were at E. 72nd St. on Nov. 29 (Rosche, m.obs.).

SANDHILL CRANE – The last report of the pair at Sandy Ridge was Oct. 20 (Caldwell). The Claridon group was last seen on Nov. 23 (Karen Morgan *fide* Best). The Troy group was seen into December (Bob Faber *fide* Best). Five or six frequented Ladue from October through November (Elder, Ferris, LePage, Tanquist).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – One was along SR-44 at LaDue on Sep. 14 (Pogacnik).

PURPLE SANDPIPER – Two were observed at Rocky River Park on Nov. 16 (Hostetler, Schlabach, Yoder, m.obs.). One was on the breakwall at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik). Although often difficult to detect, as many as

2 were reported from the west breakwall at Headlands Beach SP through the period (m.obs.).

RED PHALAROPE – The only sighting for the year was at Rocky River Park on Nov. 16 (Hostetler, Schlabach, Yoder, m.obs.).

POMARINE JAEGER – An immature was at Headlands Beach SP on Oct. 30 (Rosche). Another was seen off Rocky River on Nov. 14 (Spagnoli). Two dark immatures were reported from Lakeshore MP on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik).

PARASITIC JAEGER – An immature was seen off Lakeshore MP on Oct. 5 (Pogacnik). Two more immatures were reported there on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik). On Nov. 21, one was well documented off Rocky River City Park (Spagnoli, Lozano, LePage, Finkelstein).

BLACK-HEADED GULL – Our only report was an adult at Eastlake Power Plant on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik).

LITTLE GULL – A first-winter bird was at Dike 14 on Nov. 2 (Zadar). Winter adults were at Eastlake and Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 29 (Rosche). Two were reported from Lakeshore MP on Oct. 20 & Nov. 29 (Pogacnik).

MEW GULL – Documentation of Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhnchos*)

Age-First-winter Site-Eastlake Power Plant Date-November 14, 2002

"At approximately noon on November 3, 2002, I found a firstwinter Mew Gull among a large gathering of Ring-billed Gulls at Eastlake. I was able to watch it for several minutes and obtain some decent video. The gull spooked



and it was not relocated. The small, slender bill and dark eye stood out. The bird was 7/8 the size of nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The long, pointed wings looked mostly dark from above and below when the gull took off and was immediately lost in the thousands of Ring-billed Gulls. The neck area was heavily mottled as I have seen in other first-year birds. The mantle was considerably darker than any first-year L. delawarensis in the area. The bill was mostly black, although the base of the bill was pale. The bill was shorter and noticeably thinner than the bills of nearby Ring-billed Gulls.

I do not relish documenting single observer reports, but the video capture seems to portray what I saw fairly well."

Larry Rosche

CALIFORNIA GULL – A winterplumaged adult bird of the prairie race was viewed and photographed well at Eastlake on Nov. 3 (Rosche, Beuck, Weingart).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -

One was seen off Lakeshore MP on Nov. 17 (Pogacnik). On Nov. 28, Hannikman found an immature at E. 72nd St. on Thanksgiving and it remained for viewing through the period. This was the first local kittiwake to be observed at length in over 6 years.

BLACK TERN – Two were at LaDue on Sep. 14 (Pogacnik). One was spied n Lorain on the late date of Oct. 30 (LePage). Another exceptionally late individual was at Dike 14 on Nov. 10 (Zadar). The late date for the region is Dec. 4, 1965, during a time when Black Terns were more common in the region.

SHORT-EARED OWL – One was at Dike 14 on Nov. 7 (Zadar). One was seen migrating over Fairport Harbor on Nov. 10 (Pogacnik). Three were seen there on Nov. 14 (Leidy, Zadar).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – The only reports of this highly

The only reports of this highly prized species were from Dike 14 on Nov. 9 & 11 (Zadar, Leidy).

NORTHERN SHRIKE – One was at Station Road on Nov. 3 (Chasar). Remarkably, another was seen the same day at Chagrin River Park (Bacik, Kovalsky). One was at Lakeshore Park on Nov. 29 (Pogacnik).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – Two birds seen at Mentor Lagoons on Oct. 20 eclipsed the late date set on Oct. 17, 1991 (Hannikman).

BARN SWALLOW -

One was record-late at Headlands Beach SP on Nov. 10 (Stasko, B. Deininger)

SEDGE WREN -

Birds were seen at Dike 14 on Sep. 22, on Sep. 28 (2) and on Oct. 20 (Zadar, Leidy).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – The only fall report was a female at Sandy Ridge MP on Oct. 3 (Whan).

"LAWRENCE'S"
WARBLER – An adult
male was seen at West
Creek Preserve on Sep.
20 (Leidy).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – Wright found one near the



NCB building in downtown Cleveland on Sep. 18–21. It was seen "walking and then hiding like a fox!" Scott found another one at Erie St. Cemetery on Oct. 11. Two were banded at Bedford MP on Sep. 25 and another at Jaite on Sep. 13 (S.Wagner). One was viewed at Dike 14 on Sep. 22 (Leidy, Zadar). One was seen at Lakeshore Bluffs on Sep. 27 (Pogacnik).



CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Two reports seemed about average for this dapper sparrow. The first was at Dike 14 on Sep. 14 (Zadar). The other was seen at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 9 (Leidy, Zadar).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW -

Always a tough bird to find in migration, birds were located at Dike 14 on Oct. 2 & 14 (Zadar).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW -

Leidy's diligent field surveys paid off handsomely. Gabe saw a bird at Stearn's Homestead on Oct. 8 and another at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 21.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW – Zadar and Leidy noted 2 at Dike 14 on Sep. 28. They found 2 more there on Oct. 2–5 and another there on Oct. 10. One was at West Creek Preserve on Oct. 1 (Leidy). □



Population Dynamics of Catbird and Thrasher in Summit County by Dwight Chasar

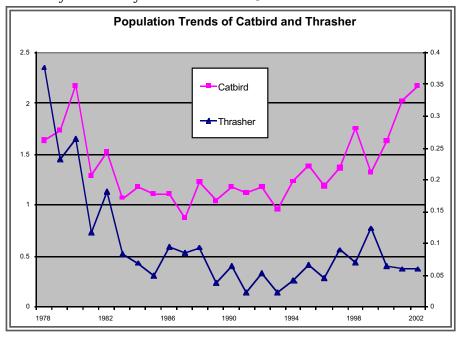
Data from the Ohio Breeding Bird Survey (Earnst and Andres, 1996) show that the statewide population of Gray Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis) has been steadily increasing 3.4 % annually since the inception of the survey. The Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum), however, seemed at best to be holding its own (Earnst and Andres, 1996) although some local declines have been evident in portions of central and western Ohio where intense agricultural land use practices eliminated suitable nesting habitat (Peterjohn and Rice, 1991). Earlier surveys (Dawson, 1903; Hicks, 1935) indicated that both populations had been healthy in Ohio, well before the BBS was initiated.

A survey of relatively recent issues

of The Cleveland Bird Calendar suggests that the thrasher has not been without concern in Northeast Ohio. In the 1986 spring issue, the Editor suggested that "contributors should be watchful of Brown Thrasher as some concern was voiced about a possible decline of this species locally" and that "traditional nesting areas should be searched carefully for this species in order to evaluate this possible decline." After several more years of discouraging observations, reporters to the Calendar began to see improvements through 1989-93. after which the Editor drew the readers' attention to "another population crash" from 1995-97. By 2000, populations seemed stable but not flourishing. The contributions that the Editor works with generally are anecdotal at best but, nevertheless, may be the only data available at the time.

Twenty-five years of quantitative population data for these two species obtained from the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit Co. summer bird count are plotted in the graph below. Birds/party hr is plotted on the vertical axes, the

43



left for catbird and the right for thrasher vs. year. A downward population trend for both species is evident from the inception of the bird survey, with a leveling out in the 1983-94 time frame for the catbird and 1989-96 for the thrasher. Naturally, that for the catbird is very surprising, considering that birders did not seem to anecdotally express concern, presumably because there were still plenty of birds to see. Both populations seem to be at least remaining constant, if not trending upward, in the last 5-7 years.

The catbird can be encountered anywhere there is dense brushy cover, shrubby margins and corridors, to wit, successional habitats. While the thrasher frequently shares breeding territories with the catbird, it does not exhibit the same adaptability, preferring upland areas to wetter ones (Peterjohn and Rice 1991). Since the BBS typically is done along road routes that can have ideal edge habitat for these birds, the BBS data might be biased toward positive population dynamics. Presumably, habitat loss in Summit County is responsible for the population declines, considering all the development that has occurred in the county. The reversal of this population trend may be due to natural or planned succession of old farm fields and abandoned railroad rights-of-way, both of which would provide appropriate habitat. Our experience with birding the abandoned railroads is in agreement with high numbers of catbirds. Let's hope that the thrasher will show an upward trend as well.

The third local mimid, Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), has not made frequent appearances (1-2 birds in 33% of the counts) on

the Summit Co summer bird counts. Since it is expanding its territory in Cuyahoga Co, from the Cleveland lakefront to all points east, west, and south of the city (Rosche, 2002), it may not be long before we start regularly tallying this bird as a summer resident in Summit Co.

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Hicks, L.E. 1935. Distribution of the breeding birds of Ohio. *Ohio Biological Survey*, Bull. No. 32, 6: 125-190

Peterjohn, B.G. and D.L. Rice. 1991. *The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas*. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH.

Rosche, L. 2002. The Season. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. 98(3):35.

One Happy Bander by Suzanne Wagner

A wonderful opportunity came to me in 2002. While waiting to board a Metroparks bus for a trip to Killdeer Plains, I spotted a flier asking for volunteers to be trained as bird banders for a special project. I had to blink my eyes to be sure I wasn't hallucinating, as this was the answer to a long-sought goal of mine.

Though banding can be controver-

...power line corridors are ever more important in offering food sources... sial, this project is a truly righteous one. Sponsored by Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Metroparks serving Summit County, the project's purpose is to study the volume and distribution of migrating birds passing through power line corridors to see which vegetation seems to be most advantageous and what degree of mowing, pruning, etc., is most helpful to the birds. The project is funded by FirstEnergy, Corp., and the results may offer guidance for management of corridors. As the needs of humans continue to reduce the foraging opportunities for migrants, power line corridors are ever more important in offering food sources in these essential edge habitats.

The volunteers received expert training at Garfield Park under the tutelage of Master Bander Gary Fowler and Jill Gallucci. Their patience and guidance gave nervous novice volunteers the confidence to believe that we actually could become banders. Most of our practice was with rugged, nearly unbreakable house sparrows as we learned how to set up mist nets, an art in itself, and then remove the birds to band, weigh, measure, and assess the fat storage and sexual status of our captives.

The project operated during April/May and September/
October on eight different sites (Hinckley, Pine Lane, Bedford, Jaite, Furnace Run, Cascade Valley, and two at Mill Stream Run)--two sites per day, four days per week. Arriving an hour before daylight, we set up twelve 40-foot nets by flashlight in order to be ready when the first birds began to stir. I must say that I was shaking with fear and freezing temperatures during the spring, desperately hoping to succeed at this difficult

Official Spring/Fall FirstEnergy Bird Banding Project Comparison 2002

1			.	D: 1 D 1 1			.
Birds Banded	Spring	Fall	Total	Birds Banded	Spring	Fall	Total
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	2	0	2	MYRTLE WARBLER*	3 R 1	167	170
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	0		3	BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLE	к і 1	2	3
DOWNY WOODPECKER	5	8	13	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER		2	3
HAIRY WOODPECKER	5	1	6	PINE WARBLER	0	1	1
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	0	2	2	WESTERN PALM WARBLER	0	4	4
MOURNING WARBLER	9	0	9	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	0	7	7
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	2	9	11	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	4	5	9
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	0	1	1	AMERICAN REDSTART	13	35	48
TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER*	27	8	35	OVENBIRD	14	15	29
LEAST FLYCATCHER	0	2	2	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	21	5	26
EASTERN PHOEBE	2	5	7	CONNECTICUT WARBLER	2	5	7
BLUE-HEADED VIREO	1	3	4	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	81	94	175
WHITE-EYED VIREO	3	2	5	HOODED WARBLER	3	10	13
WARBLING VIREO	0	7	7	WILSON'S WARBLER	23	14	37
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	1	10	11	CANADA WARBLER	7	1	8
RED-EYED VIREO	9	23	32	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	0	1	1
BLUE JAY	16	16	32	EASTERN TOWHEE	4	13	17
TREE SWALLOW	1	0	1	CHIPPING SPARROW	6	0	6
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	90	64	154	FIELD SPARROW	35	29	64
EASTERN TUFTED TITMOUSE	27	12	39	FOX SPARROW	0	7	7
CAROLINA WREN	5	14	19	Song Sparrow	41	90	131
HOUSE WREN	29	20	49	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	6	21	27
WINTER WREN	0	6	6	SWAMP SPARROW	21	14	35
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	1	8	9	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	70	119	189
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	69	18	87	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	4	35	39
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	1	0	1	DARK-EYED JUNCO	0	9	9
Eastern Bluebird	0	1	1	NORTHERN CARDINAL	123	66	189
VEERY	7	1	8	Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	19	0	19
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	2	18	20	INDIGO BUNTING	13	5	18
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	12	95	107	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	9	0	9
HERMIT THRUSH	18	15	33	RUSTY BLACKBIRD	3	1	4
WOOD THRUSH	11	8	19	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	9	0	9
AMERICAN ROBIN	82	123	205	ORCHARD ORIOLE	4	1	5
GRAY CATBIRD	171	302	473	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	25	0	25
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	0	1	1	COMMON GRACKLE	3	8	11
Brown Thrasher	4	1	5	PURPLE FINCH	1	9	10
European Starling	0	1	1	HOUSE FINCH	8	16	24
CEDAR WAXWING	7	3	10	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	118	14	132
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	34	1	35				
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	1	0	1				
TENNESSEE WARBLER	39	64	103	TOTAL	1663	1819	3482
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	4	3	7	Species Banded	71	76	87
NASHVILLE WARBLER	45	27	72	Data provided by Suzanne Wagn			
Northern Parula	2	0	2	Special thanks to Dr. Dan Petit, G		er and	k
YELLOW WARBLER 141 1 142 Jill Gallucci, Cleveland Metroparks							
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	12	2	14	biologists, for allowing this publica	ition.		
Magnolia Warbler	67	56	123				
CAPE MAY WARBLER	0	14	14	*Names used by the Bird Banding			
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	4	15	19	Myrtle Warbler refers to Yellow-run			
				Traill's Flycatcher refers to Alder/V	/illow Fly	catch	ier.

and delicate task. Cries of "Help me, Gary" were not infrequent, since the birds' safety was certainly more important than my pride. By September, though, I was full of assurance; and Gary's patience and confidence paid off, as he was able to do his work without interruption. Other volunteers working with Jill were equally fortunate.

I am neither qualified nor authorized to draw any conclusions; however. I offer here some straightforward data. We banded an astonishing 28 species of warblers, including a Golden-winged, a Yellow-breast Chat and 7 Connecticuts. We had 141 Yellow Warblers in the spring vs. only one in the fall, no doubt due to the September start when those guys had already flown. The opposite was true of Myrtles, which flew into our nets at a rate of 3 in the spring and 167 in the fall. A nearly even seasonal distribution was observed with Magnolias, Common Yellowthroats, and Ovenbirds. Gray Catbirds (473) were our most frequent net inhabitants, followed by American Robins, White-throated Sparrows, and Northern Cardinals (ouch-those guys bite hard and do not let go!). Our grand total came to 87 species banded.

And now a few personal observations from this smitten volunteer. The snoring "call" of Blue-winged Warblers on a spring morning cannot fail to elicit a chuckle. Having sparrows in your hand is an excellent way to learn the plumage of these hard-to-separate species, of which we banded eight. One young lady surprised us by laying an egg in the bag while awaiting processing! Downy Woodpeckers look quite dirty up close. Those catbirds are really early risers, filling the nets in the first runs and

This project has another year to run, and more volunteers are needed.

then settling down with full bellies. Our one Tree Swallow scared the heck out of me because he has no neck to hold onto. Chickadees snarl up nets in the worst way, and then they peck under your fingernails while you try to untangle them. The Orange-crowned Warbler really does have an orange crown when you ruffle his feathers. A special thrill one chilly morning was to find my first bird of the day gazing up at me, calm and lovely. This was an American Woodcock. To hold a woodcock and then a kinglet is such a wondrous experience.

This project has another year to run, and more volunteers are needed. Training will be offered in March, and each of us typically volunteers 1-2 mornings per week. If you love birds and are willing to be cold and bitten and happy and full of astonishment, please consider joining us. You will never regret it.

Contact Heather Triplett, Cleveland Metroparks, Manager of Volunteer Services, 216-635-3258,

hat @clevel and metroparks.com.

CVNP Fall Bird Census Summary

by Dwight Chasar Volunteer, CVNP

On September 14, 2002, the lightning was spectacular! The rain was surely needed. But did it all have to occur on census day? Yes, indeed!

It appears that most of us got to bird somewhere between 10 am and noon, as the birds became active in that time frame. And they must have, for we ended up with 101 species, tied for second highest with 1998, when it was sunny all day. While I said we had 98 at lunch. I missed Reinthal's waterthrush on the back of the list. so we had 99 at that time. Devlin's group was still out birding and when I got her list, she added Lincoln's Sparrow and Common Nighthawk. Dinkelbach came up with another Common Nighthawk later in the evening. We were out later but only came up with another 400 Common Grackles.

Notables included the following: first Common Nighthawks on a fall census; first Orange-crowned Warbler since 1986; no gulls, but if I had been a gull that day, I wouldn't have been flying either.

There were high numbers for Wild Turkey, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo. Blue Jay and American Crow numbers were in the normal range, suggesting that West Nile Virus may not have got to them.

Thanks for all the good help. I think people still enjoyed themselves and have stories to tell.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spring Cuyahoga Valley National Park Bird Census will be held May 10, 2003.

In 2003, a dedicated effort will be made to update The Birds of the Cleveland Region.

Individuals interested in serving on a committee to review the status of occurrence of local birds are asked to contact

Larry Rosche at 330-678-9408 or e-mail lorofs@aol.com.

September 14, 2002 CVNP Fall Bird Census Summary Great Blue Heron 31 White-eyed Vireo Black-throated Green Warbler 10 Green Heron 3 Yellow-throated Vireo Blackburnian Warbler 7 Canada Goose 263 Warbling Vireo 10 Yellow-throated Warbler 1 Wood Duck 42 Philadelphia Vireo 4 Palm Warbler 1 47 Red-eyed Vireo 40 Bay-breasted Warbler 4 Mallard Turkey Vulture Blue Jay 362 Blackpoll Warbler 1 5 Osprey American Crow 188 Black-and-white Warbler Sharp-shinned Hawk 10 Black-capped Chickadee 363 American Redstart Cooper's Hawk **Tufted Titmouse** 84 Ovenbird 2 Red-shouldered Hawk Red-breasted Nuthatch 11 Louisiana Waterthrush 1 Red-tailed Hawk White-breasted Nuthatch 77 Common Yellowthroat 44 10 American Kestrel 1 Brown Creeper 6 Hooded Warbler Turkey 43 Carolina Wren 31 Wilson's Warbler 2 31 House Wren 8 Scarlet Tanager 8 Killdeer Winter Wren Spotted Sandpiper 1 Eastern Towhee 18 1 42 2 Rock Dove Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 10 Chipping Sparrow Mourning Dove 84 87 Eastern Bluebird 63 Field Sparrow Yellow-billed Cuckoo Song Sparrow 1 Veerv 2 1 Eastern Screech-Owl Swainson's Thrush 1 Lincoln's Sparrow 158 Common Nighthawk Wood Thrush 3 Swamp Sparrow Chimney Swift 285 American Robin 396 Northern Cardinal 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbird Gray Catbird 2 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2 Belted Kingfisher 20 **Brown Thrasher** Indigo Bunting 799 34 Red-headed Woodpecker 4 European Starling Bobolink Red-bellied Woodpecker 45 Cedar Waxwing 424 Red-winged Blackbird 101 9 Downy Woodpecker 63 Blue-winged Warbler 5 Common Grackle 21 Hairy Woodpecker 23 19 Brown-headed Cowbird Tennessee Warbler 2 Northern Flicker 51 Orange-crowned Warbler Purple Finch 45 Pileated Woodpecker 12 Nashville Warbler House Finch 443 Eastern Wood Pewee Yellow Warbler American Goldfinch Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Chestnut-sided Warbler 2 House Sparrow 67 Acadian Flycatcher Magnolia Warbler 19 Willow Flycatcher Cape May Warbler 32 **OBSERVERS** 37 1 Eastern Phoebe 62 Black-throated Blue Warbler Great Crested Flycatcher Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 TEMPERATURE 66°-80° **WEATHER** SUN/RAIN/CLOUDS **TOTAL SPECIES** 101 **ORGANIZER** DWIGHT CHASAR

Geauga Park District Deer Exclosure Study 2002 by Tami Gingrich

I am working closely with our Natural Resource Department that has constructed deer exclosures in several of our parks. These are small plots designed to keep deer out so that we may study the diversity of plant species that will grow inside and compare that with the plants growing outside. An inventory of the plants eaten each year will be used this to help manage the deer herd in our parks in the future. Of course, a study like this is something that will take many years before we see results. Recording what birds we hear near the exclosures during this study will help us determine which birds are either benefiting or suffering as the flora changes as a result of deer browse. In the name of citizen science, this project has allowed me to recruit volunteers to monitor the bird species around these structures. There will be 3 more exclosures added to the study in 2003.

BIG CREEK

Turkey Vulture Cooper's Hawk Wild Turkey Chimney Swift Rt Hummingbird Red-Bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy woodpecker Pileated Woodpecker Acadian Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Peewee G.Crested Flycatcher Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay **American Crow** Bc. Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Wb. Nuthatch Wood Thrush American Robin Cerulean Warbler American Redstart Louisiana Waterthrush **Hooded Warbler** Scarlet Tanager Chipping Sparrow Song Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Northern Cardinal Rb. Grosbeak Bh. Cowbird American Goldfinch

SWINE CREEK

Red-shouldered Hawk Rb. Woodpecker Northern Flicker Acadian Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Pewee Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay American Crow Bc Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Wb.Nuthatch Wood Thrush American Robin American Redstart **Hooded Warbler** Scarlet Tanager Northern Cardinal American Goldfinch

THE ROOKERY

Great Blue Heron Turkey Vulture Canada Goose Red-shouldered Hawk Mourning Dove Rb. Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Acadian Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Pewee G. Crested Flycatcher Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay American Crow

Bc. Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Wb. Nuthatch **Brown Creeper** Carolina Wren Veery Wood Thrush American Robin Gray Catbird Cedar Waxwing Yellow Warbler Cerulean Warbler **Hooded Warbler** Scarlet Tanager Eastern Towhee Song Sparrow Northern Cardinal Rb. Grosbeak **Baltimore Oriole** American Goldfinch

THE WEST WOODS

Canada Goose Rb. Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Acadian Flycatcher G. Crested Flycatcher Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay American Crow Bc Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Veery Wood Thrush American Robin Cedar Waxwing Bt. Green Warbler

American Redstart Ovenbird Hooded Warbler Scarlet Tanager Northern Cardinal Bh. Cowbird American Goldfinch

WHITLAM WOODS

Canada Goose

Red-shouldered Hawk Mourning Dove Rb. Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Pileated Woodpecker Eastern Wood-Pewee Warbling Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay **American Crow** Bc. Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Wb. Nuthatch House Wren Wood Thrush American Robin Gray Catbird Cedar Waxwing Cerulean Warbler Ovenbird Scarlet Tanager Chipping Sparrow Song Sparrow Northern Cardinal Rb. Grosbeak Common Grackle Bh. Cowbird American Goldfinch

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CLEVELAND REGION BIRDING SITES

