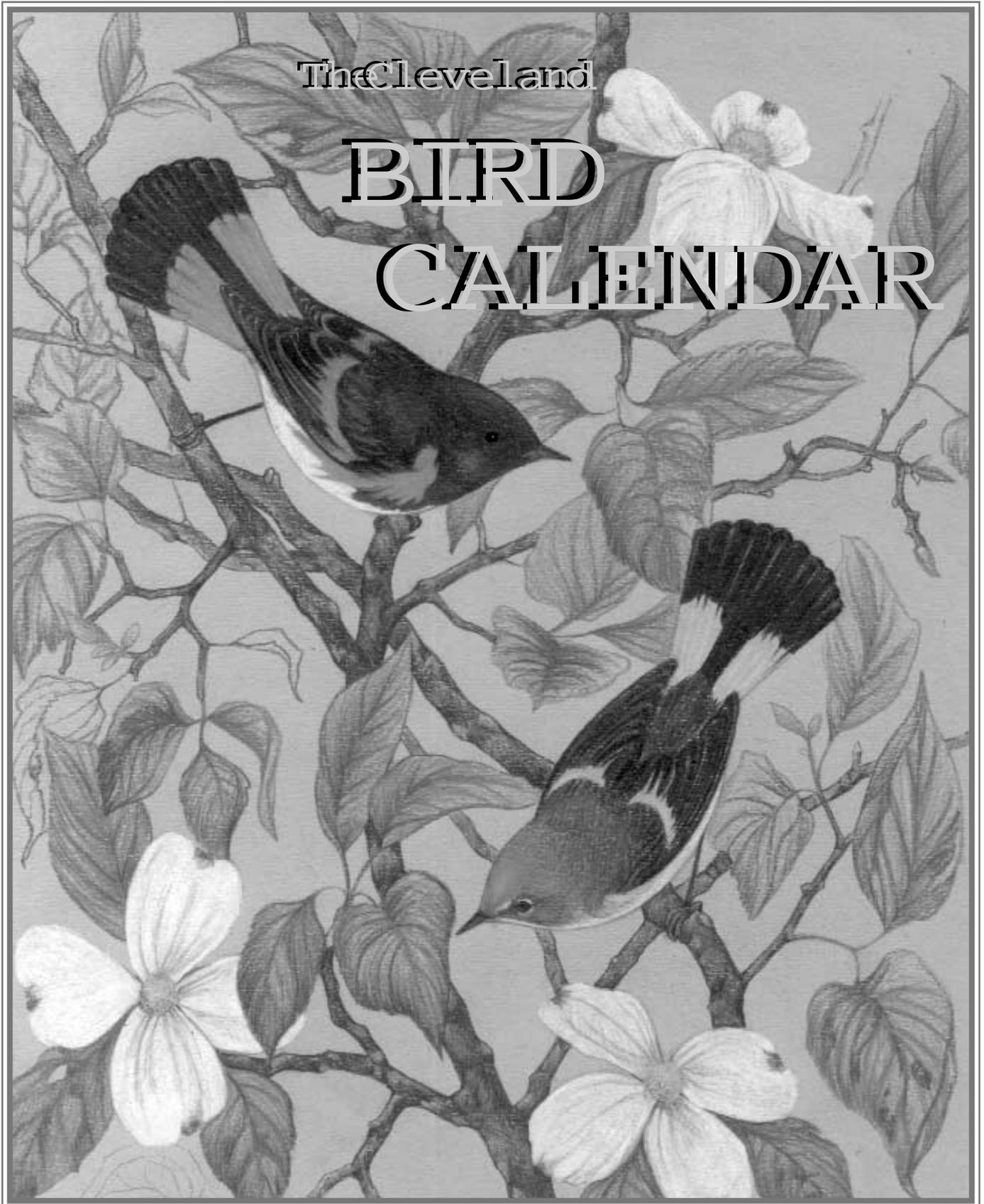


The Cleveland

BIRD

CALENDAR



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

December 2002, January, February 2003

Volume 99

Number 1

Founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of The Western Reserve University, *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* was and is published jointly by the Kirtland Bird Club and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 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. Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help in the preservation of sensitive habitats that harbor beleaguered bird species. Migrant stopover points, grasslands and wetlands are dwindling at an alarming rate; and *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* cannot overlook the importance of such lands and their influence on our local avifauna.

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

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

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

March 10 – Winter Season
June 10 – Spring Season
September 10 – Summer Season
December 10 – Autumn Season

Cover design: American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
by Jennifer Brumfield, 2002

Acknowledgment: Special thanks are given to Anthony Hess, Richard and Jean Hoffman, Thomas Leiden, Bertalan Szabo, William and Ann Toneff and the late Nancy Klamm for their generosity towards the publication of Volume 99.

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

Rare Bird Hotline: (216) 526-2473 (BIRD) 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.

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

Changes of Address: Contact Susan Chase at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (216) 231-4600, ext. 286.

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

Vernon Weingart©



John Edwards©



Marian Kraus©

ON THE INSIDE:

The Weather

by Dwight Chasar

Winter 2002-2003

Noteworthy Records

by Larry Rosche

Field Notes

FALL MIGRATION IN SWEDEN

by Brenda Kovalsky

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN SUMMIT COUNTY

by Dwight Chasar

FOX SPARROW IN ROCKY RIVER

by Ann and John Edwards

TWINSBURG WINTER BIRD COUNT 2002

by Stanley Stine

THREE INTERESTING GULLS

by Kevin Metcalf

Next Issue:

Townsend's Solitaire at Shaker Lakes

The Saga of the Garfield Heights Merlins

Spring 2003

Winter 2002-2003



WINTER 2002-2003

by Dwight Chasar

DECEMBER: Temperatures averaged 29.7°, 1.4° below normal. The high was 54° on the 19th, and the low was 3° on the 4th. Lake Erie water stood at 44° on the 1st and fell to 36° by the 31st. Precipitation was distributed over 16 days, totaling 3.71 in., .57 in. above normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .88 in. on the 25th. Snowfall totaled 22.4 in., and the greatest depth was 8 in. on the 26th. Sunshine occurred only 22% of the time possible.

JANUARY: Temperatures averaged 21.2°, 4.5° below normal. The high was 45° on the 8th, and the low was -4° on the 27th. Precipitation was distributed over 20 days to total 1.98 in., .50 in. below normal. The greatest fall in any 24 hr. period was .97 in. on the 24-25th. Snowfall totaled 30.3 in.,

while the greatest ground depth was 9 in. on the 29th. This was the second snowiest January on record. Sun was rare, shining only 29% of the time possible. Lake Erie was essentially covered with ice by mid-month.

FEBRUARY: Temperatures averaged 24.5°, 3.9° below normal. The high was 50° on the 4th, and the low was 4° on the 27th. Lake Erie remained ice-covered at 33° for the month. Precipitation was 2.74 in., .45 in. above normal and occurred over 19 days. The greatest 24 hr. fall was .85 in. on the 22-23rd. Snowfall totaled 30.1 in., with the greatest depth 8 in. on the 18th. This was the fourth snowiest February on record and the season is the fourth snowiest so far. The sun appeared 26% of the time possible. □



Adult Cooper's Hawk
January 31, 2003—Cleveland Heights, Ohio
by Dick Hoffman©

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

by Larry Rosche

The weather was brutal most of the season, but winter never fails to provide surprises for the hardy adventurers along the shoreline of Lake Erie. The total number of species reported for the period was an astounding 140! Also, the number of Noteworthy Species was exceptional. Couple these reports with the influx of rare to uncommon gulls at the local hot water sites, and it was a season to remember. Waterfowl numbers were highlighted by reports of lingering scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. Gulls brought more excitement to the region than most winters. Numerous Iceland, Glaucous, Thayer's and a barrage of unidentifiable birds had veteran observers asking more questions than finding answers. Do we really know what a second generation hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull looks like? Can we really be seeing gulls from the Far East? Or how about Northern Europe? Did other sites in the Midwest or East have such occurrences? Read Kevin Metcalf's cautious comments in Field Notes.

Regional Christmas Bird Counts reflected a wide array of lingering wintering birds. For the second year in a row, a Swainson's Thrush was seen and photographed during a time when it should be well into South America. While this species may not seem like the top bird for the winter to many, it has to be right up there. The 47 American Pipits on the Jan. 1 Burton CBC could well be a northern Ohio record. The Cuyahoga Falls Count was the leader with 80 species. Merlins at Calvary Cemetery in Garfield Heights delighted many observers all winter. For the most part, winter finches stayed away from the region, but half-hardy species like Golden-crowned Kinglets, American Robins, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Eastern Towhees were more numerous than expected. Good birding!

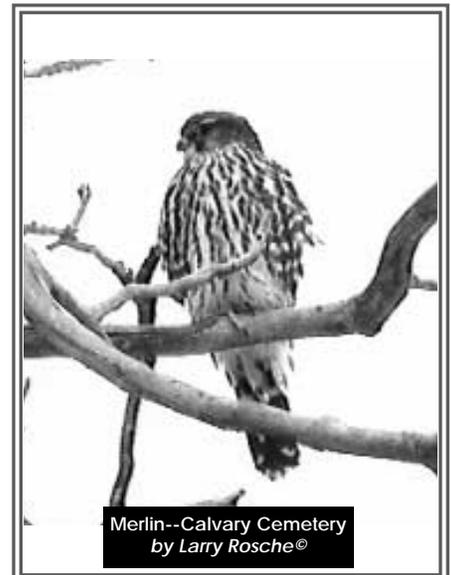


The latest **Common Loon** was at Bradstreet Landing on Dec. 28 (TLP). **Pied-billed Grebes** were in expected small numbers. A **Horned Grebe** lingered at Fairport Harbor until Dec. 28 (RH, KM). An early migrant was at Avon Lake on Feb. 2 (VF). Wintering **Double-crested Cormorants** were only found at Avon Lake (m. obs.) and Eastlake (AJF, BSh). **Great Blue Herons** lingered in small numbers and were busy getting nests ready on the warmer days of February. On Dec. 18, CMNH biologist Bob Segedi wrote, "A colony of **Black Crowned Night Herons** (about 50 birds) has returned to the back yard of a student's family living on Marvin and W. 30th street--quite close to Metro General Hospital. I saw them a little over a week ago. They come in

around late November most years and roost in spruce trees in this old residential neighborhood. They are best viewed from the alley east of and parallel to Marvin, just west of West 30th on the south side of the alley. Quite a sight!" Most **Turkey Vultures** used good judgment and remained south of the region through the period.

Snow Geese put in a decent showing. A single bird was seen in North Perry on Dec. 12 (JP). One was at Lakewood City Park on Dec. 28 (TLP). On Jan. 12, 2 white morphs were seen at West Branch SP (LR, VW). One was in Cuyahoga Falls on Feb. 17 (GBe). On Jan. 7, there were 23 **Mute Swans** at Springfield Lake (BMo). **Tundra Swans** were still moving during the first third of December. At Lakeshore MP, 262 were counted on Dec. 1 (JP). The same day, 49 passed over HBSP (RH, EB, BK). On Dec. 3, roughly 90 to 120 passed over Kirtland (HP). Eight

rested at Lake Phippen on Jan. 8-12 (LR, m.obs.) Another octet was at Nimisila on Jan. 8 (BMo). More unique, were 13 swans over Terra Vista (CVNP) on Jan. 29 (GL). A **Wood Duck** dawdled at Shaker Lakes on Dec. 4 (LD). Two woodies were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 28 (TMR). Small numbers of **Gadwall** were infrequently found



Merlin--Calvary Cemetery
by Larry Rosche©



Chukar–Novelty, OH
by Philip Junglas©

at open water sites. Four **American Wigeons** were counted on the Jan. 4 Wellington CBC. **American Black Ducks** were fairly numerous on open areas of the Upper Cuyahoga River (LR, VW). A **Northern Shoveler** was at Summit Lake on Jan. 8 (BMo). A drake was seen in the Ohio and Erie Canal in Akron on Feb. 21 (GBe). Six **Northern Pintails** were seen at O'Brien Cemetery in Hudson on Dec. 9 (GBe). Three were at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 28 (TMR). A hen was at E. 72nd St. on Dec. 28 (KM).

Canvasback numbers reached 200+ at Avon Lake on Feb. 2 (VF). The 315 that passed Lakeshore MP on Dec. 1

provided the high tally for the period (JP). The Lower Cuyahoga River maintained 12 “cans” most of the winter (LG). **Redhead** numbers were similar to Canvasbacks. The 20 at HBSP on Jan. 12 were the last ones seen there (RH). **Ring-necked Ducks** lingered in good numbers. The 330+ at Wellington Upground Reservoir on Jan. 3 was truly remarkable (VF). Given the harshness of the season, **Greater Scaup** numbers were reasonable. The high count was 170+ at Avon Lake Feb. 18 (VF). The same day, **Lesser Scaup** numbered 640+ there (VF). Fall scoters lingered into December at several west side sites. A **Surf Scoter** was at Edgewater CLSP on Jan. 9 (TLP). One was at E. 72nd St. on Jan. 2–8 (BMo, RR). One was at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 12 (RH, KM). Five were at Avon Lake on Feb. 8 (BWh). A **White-winged Scoter** was off Mentor Lagoons on Dec. 7 (SI). One was seen from Bay Village on Dec. 28 (CC). One was at Avon Lake on Feb. 21 (SS). Five **Black Scoters** were at Edgewater CLSP on Dec. 7 (TLP). One remained at Fairport Harbor through Dec. 22 (RH). Two were at Bradstreet Landing on Jan. 4 (BWh). A **Long-**

tailed Duck was at Lorain Harbor Jan. 4–10 (BWh, JP, m.obs.). A female was at Summit Lake Jan. 6–8 (GBe, CH, BMo). One was seen at Bradstreet Landing on Jan. 8 (TLP). Another was at Avon Lake on Jan. 25 (SS) and again on Feb. 2 (BF, PL). On Jan. 12, 40 **Buffleheads** were tallied at HBSP (RH). The 490 **Common Goldeneyes** at Avon Lake on Feb. 18 provided the high tally for the season (VF). **Hooded Mergansers** had returned to Pinery Narrows by Feb. 23 (DAC). Five **Common Mergansers** were seen at Jaite on Jan. 11 (DAC). Along the lake, numbers were as expected at open water outlets. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found in fair numbers along the lake throughout the season. The 3000 at HBSP on Jan. 5 provided a very good January tally (RH, EB). Up to 6 **Ruddy Ducks** lingered through the winter at the small opening in Lake Phippen (GB, KL, LR, VW).

Bald Eagle numbers soared to higher than expected heights. Birds of varying ages were reported all winter along the Cuyahoga River from the CVNP to Kent (GB, CG, DAC, WS). An immature was seen over Munson Township on Dec. 2 (KM). A third-year bird was at Mogadore on Dec. 9 (GBe). One was at Eastlake on Dec. 14 (AJF, JMc). One was at Summit Lake on Dec. 21 (GBe). A Bald Eagle graced the busy shopping areas in Montrose Dec. 28 (JB). On Jan. 7, an adult was seen flying over Springfield Lake (BMo). One was at HBSP the same day (RH). Two adults were seen at West Branch SP Jan. 12 (LR, VW). Another was over Lorain the same day (CW, SJ). An eagle was along the Boston–Red Lock Trail Jan. 16 (MRe, m.obs.). A near-adult was over Lakewood Park Cemetery on Jan. 31 (TLP). Two adults were off the Perry Nuclear Plant on Feb. 16

Comment on Winter 2002-2003 at Headland Beach State Park

The cold, snowy winter of 2002–2003, lay heavily on the bird life around Headlands Beach state Park. The most birds were along Zimmerman Trail near the parking lot. This area is close to a bird feeder at a residence adjacent to the parking lot and near where I established a feed drop-off site so I could help sustain the wintering Brown Thrasher and Swamp Sparrow. The number of species recorded during February 2003, was only 45--previous February low count was in 1996 with 64!! species--a very considerable drop-off. Hiking Zimmerman Trail was fun, though, as we kept in shape and searched for our cute little Eastern Screech-Owl, Brown Creeper and other birds along the trail. We felt good that the Brown Thrasher and Swamp Sparrow made it through the toughest part of the season, seemingly unscathed. It was hard birding during the season--and I missed a couple of days because of snow--but it is always fun to bird in any weather.

Ray Hannikman

(LR, CH, HP). Eagles were also seen at HBSP on the Feb. 9 & 19 (2 birds) (RH). A female **Northern Harrier** was seen at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 7 (LR). One was photographed in Lorain Co. on Feb. 6 (BF, PL). Numbers of harriers were felt to be "decent" in the Wellington area (FG). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** seemed far more conspicuous than usual in Portage Co. (LR). One was along the Ira Road Trail in the CVNP on Jan. 11 (TMR, m.obs.). On Jan 14, a sharpie picked off a tree sparrow at The West Woods Nature Center feeders (DB). One was seen over Brecksville Road on Jan. 20 (BAT). On Feb. 16, a sharpie hit a window going for a bird at a feeder in Kirtland. "The hawk was surprised, shook itself off, and flew away (LP)." **Cooper's Hawks** were numerous. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were widely reported. One at Perkins Beach on Dec. 24, was quite unusual (GL). A bird was seen in Barberton on Feb. 8 (KMo). Numbers were viewed as increasing in Valley City (FG). A nearly all-white **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen north of SR-87 on Hayes Road on Feb 8 (AJF). On Feb. 12, a Brecksville meeting attended by 24 ladies was privy to seeing a Red-tailed catch and eat a fox squirrel (BAT). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Burke Airport Dec. 10 (DJH). A dark-morph bird was regularly seen along Hayes Road, Geauga Co. (DB, AJF, VW). The high tally for the region was 9 on Feb. 1 in eastern Geauga County (AJF, BSh). A light morph bird was seen in Lorain Co. on Feb. 6 & 8 (BF, PL, GL). One was a very good find in Peninsula on Feb.18 (GBE). **American Kestrels** seemed to be holding their own. One was along Canal Road on Jan. 12 (TMR, m.obs.). A Groundhog Day trip through Lorain yielded 11 birds (BF, PL).

A **Chukar** startled viewers in Novelty (*fide* HP). Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen at LaDue on Dec. 13 (LR). **Wild Turkeys** provided a winter of entertainment at the Weingarts' feeder. A flock of over 20 would feed almost daily to the delight of anyone who cared to take the time to visit. A flock of 84 was seen along SR-528 in Geauga Co. on Feb. 1 (AJF). **American Coots** were fairly common at warm water outlets. Four **Wilson's Snipes** were at the Cuyahoga County Airport on the Cleveland CBC Dec. 14 (BF, PL). At least 3 were there on Dec. 19 (PK). For the first time in quite a while, no **American Woodcocks** were heard displaying by the end of the period.

Gulls were simply remarkable through January. The number of large white-headed gulls at E. 72nd St. defied calculation. With these hordes, came a variety of plumages that stretch the limits of identification by even the sharpest of gull watchers (see Kevin Metcalf's contributions to Field Notes). Birds that were Herring Gull in size, but had varying mantle colors to suggest the nominant European race, Vega, Slaty-backed and Western Gulls were seen by many and described and photographed. The identification to species of these curious birds may never be known, but they surely provided lengthy workshops and discussions. Gulls also elicited many comments on their behavior. The one from Jim Heflich was quite startling. "The other day driving home at 5, there were 1000's of gulls wheeling over the shoreway and the water intake



in front of the power plant at E.72nd. I saw two neat things in the few seconds I had to drive by. A gull carrying a rather large fish (shad?)--about 4-6"--dropped it over the rush hour traffic. I didn't see where it landed, but can imagine the shock if it hit someone's windshield. 'Raining Fish'--only in Cleveland. Among the gulls an all-white one stood out for a second or two. Assume it was a 1st-winter Glaucous Gull (or maybe an Iceland)."

The number of **Bonaparte's Gulls** that lingered despite the cold temperatures was unusual. The 2100 at Lorain on Jan. 3 were indicative (VF). **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** were extremely numerous until their mysterious annual "Hegira" to who knows where for who knows why. It is interesting to note that even the mall gulls disappear for a period of several weeks in late January--early February. An estimated 25,000 Herring Gulls were at E. 72nd St. on Jan. 22 (KM). A first-year **Thayer's Gull** passed by Lakeshore MP on Dec. 1 (JP). One was at E. 72nd St. on Dec. 16. (CSp). After that date, a barrage of Thayer's Gull reports hit the airwaves and this editor's desk. Two Thayer's Gulls were seen up river under the Center St. Bridge on Feb. 27 (LG). Regional reports of **Iceland Gulls** may have been as numerous as any time in the his-



Eastern Screech-Owl
Lakewood Park Cemetery
by Paula Lozano©

tory of the CBC. The first report was an immature at E. 72nd St. on Dec. 19 (NB). An adult "Kumlien's" was by the bridge there on Jan. 3 (GL,SZ). After this sighting, 10-12 could be found there (m.obs.). Eastlake and Avon Lake also provided numerous reports. As many as 4 Iceland gulls were seen at Avon Lake and 3 or more at Eastlake (m.obs.). One was at HBSP on Jan. 5 (RH). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** took a back seat to the more unusual "white-winged" gulls, but still were plentiful. Four were at E. 72nd St. on Dec. 19 (NB). Counts reached as high as 8 there in late January. One was viewed along the Cuyahoga River north of I-490 on Feb. 24 (LG). An adult in alternate plumage with bright bare parts and an unstreaked head was at E. 72nd St. Feb. 26 (DJH). In recent years **Glaucous Gull** reports have lagged behind Iceland Gulls, but not so this winter. Avon Lake and E. 72nd St. took turns vying for leadership in numbers. Of the 12 at Avon Lake on Feb. 18 Vic Fazio wrote, "Typically, any given sweep of the gull flock would net 9 birds

at a time. The species was especially conspicuous with birds in the air, on the water, or the ice, and as many as 8 within 150 yards off the end of the jetty." The high tally was 8 at E. 72nd St. on Jan. 22 (VF, m.obs.). Birds were seen at HBSP on Dec. 21, Jan. 4 & 5 (RH, EB). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were oft-

times numerous. At E. 72nd St. on Jan. 22, 900-1,000 were tallied (KM). Numbers at Avon Lake were nearly as impressive. Counts reached 565 on Jan. 24, 1040 on Feb. 18, (VF) and 212 (with obvious black backs) on Feb. 26, (BF, PL). A Great Black-backed Gull was an exceptional find on the Jan. 1 Burton CBC. A tardy **Common Tern** was viewed from Lakeshore MP on Dec. 8 (JP).

Eastern Screech-Owls were as expected. One was at Lakewood Park Cemetery on Feb. 6 (TLP, PL, m.obs.). One was found at Calvary Cemetery to add to the enjoyment of the Merlin watchers (LG, m.obs.). A gray bird delighted the HBSP gang the first two-thirds of January (EB, RH, BK). A red morph bird was at Pinery Narrows on Feb. 23 (DAC). The paucity of reports indicated that **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were relatively scarce. **Belted Kingfishers** found fishing better at local hot water outlets than along their usual riverine haunts.

Red-headed Woodpeckers put in an excellent winter showing. As many as 4 birds could be found at Shaker Lakes through the period (LD). Metcalf noted, "A banner year. At least 6-8 overwintered in North Chagrin Reservation (NCR) coincident with good beech mast year in NCR. One was in Bay Village on Dec. 28 (CC). A youngster was at Avon Lake on Feb. 2-26 (BF, PL). An immature Red-headed Woodpecker was in Lake View Cemetery on Feb. 20 (DJH). One was observed in Akron at a suet

A typical gull report from E. 72nd St. 21 January; 1:30 - 4:15 pm

Eventually I was able to come up with the following, especially after Craig Holt arrived to add his keen eyes to the coverage of another great gull viewing opportunity.

We had:

- 5 Glaucous Gulls; one adult, two 3rd-winter types (mottled silver mantle), and two immatures
- 2 Iceland Gulls; one adult, one 2nd-winter
- 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls; one adult, one 1st-winter, one 2nd-winter
- 3 Thayer's Gull; one adult, one 2nd-winter, one 1st-winter

The Thayer's Gulls were simply outstanding--all observed at very close range in flight and on the ice--all photographed/videotaped 20-25 yards away. By 3:30 when the 2nd-winter and adult appeared simultaneously, I was shivering so much I'm not too hopeful of the results. Still this was the single best Ohio experience with Thayer's Gulls I have had. The 2nd-winter bird, or another like it returned at 4:00 to sit in the water right in front of us for an encore.

Vic Fazio

SELECTED SPECIES TOTALS FROM The 102nd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

	BURTON	CLEVELAND	CUY. FALLS	ELYRIA/LORAIN	LAKEWOOD	MENTOR	WELLINGTON
PIED-BILLED GREBE	•	•	cw	•	1	•	•
HORNED GREBE	•	•	3	1	•	2	•
GREAT BLUE HERON	1	12	34	9	1	10	3
CANADA GOOSE	3317	1247	4839	1437	1393	680	3147
TUNDRA SWAN	21	8	11	•	•	•	•
MUTE SWAN	1	•	27	•	•	3	•
WOOD DUCK	1	1	7	•	2	2	•
GADWALL	1	5	2	•	•	•	4
AMERICAN WIGEON	•	•	•	•	4	•	4
NORTHERN SHOVELER	•	•	6	•	•	•	•
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	3	42	42	7	59	6	4
MALLARD	508	284	2220	328	1492	296	437
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
RING-NECKED DUCK	•	•	129	•	•	1	120
SCAUP (SP)	•	12	3	15	366	27	50
BUFFLEHEAD	•	20	1	1	65	36	20
COMMON GOLDENEYE	•	•	2	•	68	31	•
HOODED MERGANSER	•	3	18	•	•	11	•
COMMON MERGANSER	2	2	•	6	•	74	1
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	5	5714	•	960	1343	654	•
RUDDY DUCK	•	4	9	8	29	•	•
BALD EAGLE	7	1	7	4	•	•	•
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1	•	4	3	•	1	1
COOPER'S HAWK	3	2	18	6	3	4	4
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	14	3	7	•	•	3	•
RED-TAILED HAWK	20	14	94	13	14	4	30
AMERICAN KESTREL	1	1	7	9	•	3	24
WILD TURKEY	1	3	•	•	•	3	49
AMERICAN COOT	•	•	21	38	•	4	50
KILLDEER	•	•	•	1	•	•	•
RING-BILLED GULL	74	12403	746	12,189	16,014	6501	•
HERRING GULL	24	1004	29	556	6078	570	•
MOURNING DOVE	181	149	1037	136	115	109	1239
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	4	2	5	•	1	•	•
GREAT HORNED OWL	1	1	9	•	•	•	•
BARRED OWL	•	5	4	•	•	•	•
BELTED KINGFISHER	7	6	26	4	8	4	•
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	70	45	168	29	46	20	40
DOWNY WOODPECKER	87	61	256	47	46	29	32
HAIRY WOODPECKER	16	12	52	9	13	8	4
NORTHERN FLICKER	11	7	71	11	7	6	6
PILEATED WOODPECKER	17	10	9	•	3	6	•
BLUE JAY	350	143	796	85	72	137	88
AMERICAN CROW	264	96	874	36	61	116	30
HORNED LARK	•	156	7	•	•	•	806
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	384	66	756	93	56	187	81
TUFTED TITMOUSE	122	3	264	14	14	53	26
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	1	•	7	•	1	•	•
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	208	35	200	13	31	30	36
BROWN CREEPER	3	1	19	3	3	1	•
CAROLINA WREN	4	19	67	16	18	4	3
WINTER WREN	2	•	2	•	•	•	•
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	16	1	64	13	11	•	6
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	67	21	95	41	3	24	29
AMERICAN ROBIN	242	392	281	156	669	446	6
CEDAR WAXWING	137	80	269	38	13	cw	•
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	•	1	4	27	1	1	•
EASTERN TOWHEE	•	1	6	•	1	•	•
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	213	82	446	99	24	40	277
SONG SPARROW	36	28	167	24	31	5	23
SWAMP SPARROW	•	2	23	1	1	•	•
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	11	51	115	8	17	3	4
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	•	8	17	•	•	•	18
DARK-EYED JUNCO	363	287	791	309	172	158	229
SNOW BUNTING	•	25	•	•	•	•	•
NORTHERN CARDINAL	271	130	581	121	111	163	145
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	•	3	1	27	1	1	1
COMMON GRACKLE	•	•	7	3	2	•	10
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	•	1	19	6	•	122	•
PURPLE FINCH	3	•	3	•	•	•	2
HOUSE FINCH	119	98	645	341	121	135	65
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	311	123	1045	165	93	105	264
TOTAL SPECIES	58	72	82	62	61	60	56

feeder on Feb. 23, 2003 (JHa).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported on the Cuyahoga Falls (5 birds) and Wellington CBCs. A **Northern Flicker** at Gordon Park on Jan. 3 provided a rare winter lakefront sighting (GL, SZ). The 5 birds at Station Road on Feb. 2 represented an expected tally for the site (DAC). A pair frequented a suet feeder in Brecksville all winter (BAT). The 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** along the Boston-Red Lock Trail Jan. 16 was an expected woodland tally in the CVNP (MRe, m.obs.). A total of 45 birds were found on local CBCs.

American Crows received good coverage, and most observers felt that quite a rebound to the poor fall numbers was in progress. The large roost in Shaker Heights had grown to 3900 by Jan. 16 (VF). This was, however, some 45,000 fewer than last year. The 13 **Horned Larks** moving westwards off Avon Lake on Feb. 18 were right on time (VF). A Tufted Titmouse made an unusual visit to the lighthouse jetty at HBSP on Dec. 7 (HP). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were sparse. Birds wintered in Stow (TB) and Streetsboro (VW). **Brown Creeper** reports were good. A bird or two wintered along Zimmerman Trail (RH, EB, BK). A twosome was at Terra Vista on Jan. 29 (GL). One in Rocky River Reservation on Feb. 8 provided additional distribution information (BD, m.obs.). Two were at Judge's Lake (Hinckley Reservation) on Feb. 18 (GBe). **Carolina Wrens** continue to be found in new areas. A bird was trapped in an enclosed patio in Maple Hts. on Christmas. It was released unharmed (DR). One was at a feeder in Pepper Pike on Feb. 20 (GLa). Carolinas appeared to have weathered the winter in good fashion. Snow depth never exceeded 9 inches and that bodes

well for the species. Jeff Wert wrote, "Carolina Wren still around at the house! He made it, thanks to one night and a few afternoons in our garage." Echoing Wert, Greenland wrote, "One hung in there all winter in Valley City, including several visits to our wood pile on the back porch whenever I left the door open." A **Winter Wren** was at Gorge Metropark on Dec. 9 (GBe). One was at the West Woods on Dec. 28 (KM). Three were seen at Dike 14 on Jan. 3 (SZ). Another wren was seen in Clinton on Jan. 20 (GBe). One was along Zimmerman Trail on Feb. 2 (RH, EB). Two wintered at Valley City (FG). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Euclid Creek on Dec. 14 (PL). Three were spied at the West Woods on Dec. 28 (KM). One was at HBSP on Dec. 29 (EB, RH, BK). The conifers at Major Road in the CVNP hosted 15 on Jan. 12 (DAC). The woodlands at Mill Stream Run held 10 on Jan. 4 (GL). Two more were in Munson Township on Feb. 24 (KM). To go along with the 64 Golden-crowns, 7 tardy **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide* BS).

Eastern Bluebirds were plentiful. Counts along the Ira Road Trail reached 17 on Jan. 6 (TMR, m.obs.). Three birds in Rocky River on Dec. 12 were noteworthy (BD, m.obs.). A bluebird made for a pleasant surprise in a rather urban Kent neighborhood on Jan. 21 (GB, KL). A **Hermit Thrush** visited a Westlake residence on Dec. 28 (AL). Two made an appearance at Major Road (CVNP) on Jan 12 (DAC). One was seen at Mogadore on Jan. 29 (GBe). **American Robins** were abundant. Nearly every location hosted numerous birds. On Jan. 20, 175 were along the Ira Road Trail in the CVNP (TMR, m.obs.). Over 200 robins

could be found at the Calvary Cemetery (LG). On Feb.1, the ornamental trees at the city hall at Westfield Center hosted 300+ robins (LR, SSt). One visiting a suet feeder in Valley City was very unusual (FG). **Northern Mockingbirds** were very widespread. Nine were tallied on the Cleveland CBC. A bird was seen at Euclid Creek Reservation on Dec. 14 (BF, PL). The 5 at the Cleveland Zoo on Dec. 28 represented an all-time high for the area (TMR). Terra Vista hosted one Jan. 29 (GL). On Jan. 30, one was at E. 93 and Woodland in Cleveland (LD). On February 21, there was one mockingbird looking around the bushes where it nested last year at National City Operations Center in Cleveland (JWo). **Cedar Waxwings** were as expected. Fair numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported. The 12 at Station Road on Christmas was startling (DAC). A "butter-butt" was a good find at Mentor Lagoons on Dec. 29 (EB, RH, BK). Six were in the CVNP on Jan. 8 (LD). Five were an exceptional winter tally at Hudson Springs Park on Jan. 11 (GBe). Another bird was seen in Clinton on Jan. 20 (GBe). Two were very cooperative at Terra Vista Jan. 29 (GL). Four were at Mogadore on Jan. 29 (GBe). Five were seen at Caley National Wildlife Area on Feb. 8 (GL). Three were along the Ira Road Trail on Feb. 10 (TMR, m.obs.). One was seen Jan. 31-Feb. 14 at North Chagrin (KM). Midwinter **Eastern Towhees** often provide a bit of color to the continuum of white and gray of the region. One was a regular attendee to a feeder in Shaker Hts. (SuW). A towhee was in Fowler's Mill on Jan. 2 (KM). Two were in Sagamore Hills on Jan. 5 (DAC). On Jan. 12, two visited a feeder in Kirtland (LP). Two were seen at West Branch SP Jan. 12 (LR, VW).

Another was along Major Road the same day (DAC). Another towhee was at a feeder in Wadsworth on Jan. 21 (DBu). One was seen along the Ira Road Trail on Jan. 27 (TMR, m.obs.). A male provided a small surprise at Terra Vista on Jan. 29 (GL). **American Tree Sparrows** were abundant in rural settings. The only **Field Sparrows** were seen on the Burton and Cuyahoga Falls CBCs. Two lingering **Fox Sparrows** were found on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC. **Swamp Sparrows** are rarely found along the lakeshore counties in winter. This year, a bird wintered at the Zimmerman Trailhead (RH, m.obs.). Other birds wintered at North Chagrin (KM) and in Twin Lakes (LR). Three were at Station Road on Jan. 18 (DAC). A bird was along the Boston-Red Lock Trail Jan. 16 (MRe, m.obs.). One was spied along the Ira Road Trail on Jan. 20 (TMR, m.obs.). **White-throated Sparrows** were very numerous in successional habitats away from Lake Erie. A drive through West Branch SP on Jan. 12 provided a tally of 75+ (LR, VW). On Feb. 21, a survey of Dike 14 had 35 (SZ). Suburban feeders provided sustenance for many as well. On Feb. 10, a typical count of 4 was seen in Brecksville (PS). **White-crowned Sparrows** are uncommon to rare away from Lake Erie in the winter. A bird frequenting a feeder in Westlake Jan. 11-30 was very unusual (CC). Two in Rocky River on Jan. 18 provided more data as to their winter distribution (BD, m.obs.). The Feb. 21 survey of Dike 14 had 10 birds (SZ). **Snow Buntings** were fairly scarce or limited to small numbers after December. A flock of 25 skittered past Eastlake on Dec. 14 (AJF, JMc, BSh). Six **Lapland Longspurs** were sifted out in the freshly spread manure in Geauga Co. on Feb 1 (AJF, BSh). Two were



Common Eider - Fairport Harbor
by Gary Meszaros©

detected on a Kirtland Bird Club field trip to Geauga County on Feb. 22 (CC, m.obs.).

While blackbirds are typically scarce along Lake Erie in winter, the following note from Kathy Mock sums up what it is like in the southern edge of the region. "Last Sunday, Feb. 2, a HUGE flock of blackbirds flew over Van Buren Road near the Barberton Water Treatment Plant. I can't estimate any number closer than 'a few thousand.' I was driving and they were fairly high, and so unfortunately I was unable to get a good ID. I know that the flock of about 200 that has been hogging all my bird seed at home for the last 2 weeks is mostly grackles along with a few cowbirds, starlings, and at least one immature male red-wing." **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in all months. A bird was seen along the Ira Road trail on

Dec. 30 (TMR, m.obs.). One was seen at Nimisila on Jan. 10 (GBe). Two were at Twinsburg Ledges on Jan. 16 (LR, m.obs.). Another Rusty was noted in Clinton on Jan. 20 (GBe). Over 100 were seen in Barberton on Feb. 16 (GBe). A **Common Grackle** was noteworthy in Westlake on Jan. 5 (CC). Birds had returned to North Chagrin by Feb. 20 (KM). Three **Brown-headed Cowbirds** provided an unusual sighting in Pepper Pike on Jan. 6 (RR). **Purple Finches** were reported from South Russell on Jan. 6 and Mar. 1 (LGi). The only mention of **Common Redpolls** was a flock of 37 at Ira Road on Dec. 23 (TMR, m.obs.). A **Pine Siskin** was heard at the Zimmerman Trail on Dec. 24 (EB, RH, BK). Other than one on the Cuyahoga Falls CBC, **Evening Grosbeaks** escaped unnoticed. □

Noteworthy Reports

EARED GREBE – The last report of the holdover bird from fall was Dec. 24 at the Gordon Park Boat Basin (Zadar, Leidy, m.obs.).

NORTHERN GANNET – On Dec. 1, a juvenile was seen off Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik). One passed by Fairport Harbor on Dec. 6 (Rosche). Another, or the same bird was seen at Wildwood Cleveland Lakefront State Park on Dec. 12 (Rosche). A first-winter bird was at Lorain Harbor on Jan 10 (Pogacnik).

TURKEY VULTURE – One flew around for a while and perched in a tree by the Gordon Park boat basin on Jan. 3 (Leidy, Zadar).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – One spent most of January on the Cuyahoga River in downtown Kent (Holt).

KING EIDER – The last report of the immature male found by Nick Barber in November was Dec. 15. It was seen at its usual haunt off Mentor Lagoons (Hannikman, m.obs.).

COMMON EIDER – The long-staying hen was last seen at Fairport Harbor on Jan. 12 (Hannikman, Pogacnik, m.obs.). The photographic portrait provided by Gary Meszaros is a fitting tribute to this fine lady. She will certainly go down as one of the “birds of the decade” for the new millennium.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK – The only winter report was from Towner’s Woods on Feb. 28 (Stemen).

MERLIN – For the fifth consecutive year, an adult female/immature was found at Ridgewood Golf Course in Parma on Dec. 5 (Leidy). Lou Gardella wrote, “On Dec. 11, 2 Merlins were located at the Calvary Cemetery, Garfield Hts. These birds would sometimes be joined by another. As of the end of the reporting period the Merlins at Calvary Cemetery were still present. Up to three individual birds were observed there by many birders through the end of February. The male Merlin referred to as the “restroom” Merlin was true to his habit of perching every night in the same tree, except February 10, when a sudden severe snowstorm with whiteout conditions and 45 mph winds came in off Lake Erie. He may have shown up later, but I did not stick around to wait. Then on February 23, I returned to find that the cemetery had cut the pre-roost tree down. For a few days the Merlin went from tree to tree, finally settling on one. I observed feeding only once so far by the male. The female Merlin was not as habitual. She would show up sometimes 4 nights a week, then other weeks was present every night. She would normally perch in Section 86. Other birders had reported to me that they had observed the female eating. The third bird which I believe to be a female/immature would show up maybe 2-3 times a week, also perching in Section 86. Sometimes, this bird would still be perched as I was trying to

make it out before the gates were locked. I had suspected that all three birds were using the cemetery to roost, and Paula Lozano and I confirmed this late one evening on February 28. Also, a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, a Cooper’s Hawk and a pair of Screech Owls have been observed. Thank you to all the birders who responded with their sightings of the Merlin.” Two Merlins were seen on the Dec. 15, Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide Szabo*). A bird frequented the wetlands between Big Met and Little Met golf courses in Rocky River Reservation Dec. 28–Feb. 28 (B. Deininger, LeGallee, m.obs.). Merlins were noted at Lakeview Bluffs (former Diamond Shamrock Property) in Painesville on Dec. 19 and Jan. 19 (Pogacnik). Another Merlin was in Shaker Heights at Horseshoe Lake Feb. 18 (Sedransk).

PEREGRINE FALCON – Two birds were seen in Akron on Jan. 8 (Morrison). A Cooper’s Hawk and a Peregrine Falcon were seen in a bit of a tiff over Copley/South Hawkins in Akron on Jan 24 (Brumfield). A bird was seen frequently at the Hilliard Bridge nesting site Feb. 2–28 (Finkelstein,



Merlin--Calvary Cemetery
by Lou Gardella©

Lozano, Caldwell, B. Deininger). E. 72nd St. provided many sightings of local birds terrorizing the gulls. As many as three falcons could be seen at a given time (m.obs.). Peregrines were reported on the Cuyahoga Falls and Wellington CBCs.

RUFFED GROUSE – A cooperative bird allowed prolonged viewing at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site on Feb. 27 (Rosche, Ludt). the only other bird was seen at Hogback Ridge Park on Jan. 8 (Pogacnik).

SANDHILL CRANE – Longtime contributor Bert Szabo wrote, “On Dec. 3 at 1:50 PM, I was returning to my apartment in Munroe Falls when I heard a series of remarkably loud trumpeting calls coming from below the northwest horizon. It wasn’t long before three flocks of large gray birds became visible cruising just above the leafless tree-tops. While they flew overhead these birds united into one flock of 46 noisy Sandhill Cranes. When they joined together the cranes formed a ‘kettle’ in which they slowly arose and drifted southwestward into the blue sky containing a scattering of white cumulus clouds. The Sandhills spiraled upward into the shadow of a cloud where they became mere specks and soon disappeared. I thoroughly enjoyed this exciting, unexpected treat--and the ‘goose bumps’ caused by their unusual voices.” Four were at LaDue Reservoir on Dec. 1 (English). Duane Ferris reported, “For those of you who have been keeping track of the Jug Rd. Sandhills (Geauga Co.), the missing small brown crane has been found dead in a farmer’s field. The local Amish report that the bird was reluctant to fly for some time prior to its disappearance. The information is from Mrs Raymond Miller.”

PURPLE SANDPIPER – A bird was at Headlands Beach SP Dec. 1–6 (Hannikman, Rosche, Weingart). One was at E. 72nd St. on Dec. 19 (Barber).



Purple Sandpiper – December 6, 2002
Headlands Beach State Park
by Larry Rosche©

DUNLIN – The first December record for Dunlin at Headlands Beach SP was seen along the break-wall on Dec. 1 & 15 (Hannikman).

WILSON'S SNIPE – Rarely reported after a Christmas Bird Counts, 3 were found in eastern Geauga County on Feb. 1 (Fjeldstad, Shanks).

LITTLE GULL – On Dec. 1, an adult flew by Lakeshore MP (Pogacnik). One was seen flying along the breakwall off Fairport Harbor on Dec. 21 (Holt, m.obs.). Two adults were at Eastlake Jan.13 19 (Pogacnik).

BLACK-HEADED GULL –An adult was identified at Eastlake on Jan. 19 (Pogacnik).



Long-eared Owl – December 14, 2002
Cleveland Lakefront State Park
by Larry Rosche©

CALIFORNIA GULL – An adult was identified at Avon Lake on Jan. 14 (Pogacnik). An adult was fairly close to shore at Eastlake Power Plant on Feb. 21 (Zadar).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – An immature dallied at E. 72nd St. until Dec. 8 (Hannikman, m.obs.).

LONG-EARED OWL – One was found on the Dec. 14, Cleveland Christmas Count at Gordon Park, near the Watercraft Office (Zadar, Leidy, m.obs.). A bird was at Lakeview Bluffs on Dec. 19 and another, at Lakeshore Reservation Jan. 12 (Pogacnik).

SHORT-EARED OWL – One migrated past Fairport Harbor on Dec. 6 (Rosche, m.obs.).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL – A bird apparently spent January and February at a residence east of Girdled Road MP (*vide* Pogacnik).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER Wintering sapsucker reports are getting pretty darned regular. A bird wintered in Kirtland (Paine). On Jan. 21, one was seen at Lakewood Park Cemetery (Wright). One was at Mogadore on Jan. 29 (Bennett). Another was seen at the Bath Preserve on Feb.19 (Bennett). Three were seen at South Chagrin on Feb. 21 (Suzanne Wagner).

EASTERN PHOEBE – A tardy bird was tallied on the Dec. 15, Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide* Szabo).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE – Ray Hannikman wrote, “An adult was seen around Shipman Pond and the Headlands Beach State Park manager's residence on January 12, 2003. Brenda Kovalsky first spotted the bird near Shipman Pond and later the bird was seen on top of a tree at the park manager's house.

Small bill, full dark mask, no hint of any breast streaking clued us in that this was NOT the Northern Shrike seen a day earlier. The bird was observed for about a minute and a half in good sunlight, but departed to the west and was not seen again by us three.”

NORTHERN SHRIKE – A bird was in Parkman in Dec. 4 (Augustine). A bird was at Chagrin River Park on Dec. 10 (Pogacnik). One was at Towner’s Woods on Jan. 9 (Byrne, Liske). It or another was there on Feb. 28 (Stemen). One was seen on the Jan. 4 Wellington CBC (Black River Audubon). After Jan. 5, a shrike was seen intermittently through the period at Spencer Lake Wildlife State Area (Burllett, m.obs.). Another was in Sugarbush Knolls on Jan. 11 (Rosche). An adult was seen in Grand River on January 11 (Kovalsky, Bacik, Hannikman). A shrike took a female House Finch at a feeder in Thompson (Seman).

AMERICAN PIPIT – The 47 found on the Jan. 1 Burton CBC was an exceptional January tally (Best).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – A bird made for a timely gift at Station Road on Christmas Day (Chasar).

MARSH WREN – One was seen in the Dec. 21, Elyria/Lorain CBC (*vide* Black River Audubon).

SWAINSON’S THRUSH – A bird was found by Nancy Howell’s party and photographed by Jason Kassouf at Lake Isaac during the Dec. 28 Lakewood CBC. This marked the second winter record for this species in the past two years! Except for these two verified records, this species is not known to winter in North America. Any sighting of a Swainson’s Thrush at this time of year needs to be docu-

mented thoroughly. *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* would be remiss to publish a sighting of a winter Swainson’s Thrush that is not accompanied by physical evidence.

GRAY CATBIRD – Nimisila hosted a straggler on Dec. 9 (Bennett). One was at Shaker Lakes on Dec. 14 (L. Deininger). Two were reported on the Dec. 14 Cleveland CBC (*vide* LePage). Two more were seen on the Dec. 15 Cuyahoga Falls CBC (*vide* Szabo). Another was at Nimisila Reservoir on Jan. 10 (Bennett).

BROWN THRASHER – A bird was found near the entrance to the Zimmerman Trail at Mentor Marsh on Jan. 18. It remained faithful to the shrubby understory there through the period (Bacik, Hannikman, Kovalsky). Another was seen near Jaite in the CVNP on Jan. 22 (Bobel).

PINE WARBLER – A tardy bird was at Hudson Springs on Dec. 3 (Bennett). Findley State Park hosted one on Jan. 3 (Morrison). At Gordon Park on Jan. 3, one was seen clinging to the bark of the pines, nuthatch-style, and also feeding on the ground at our feet; did not seem healthy (Leidy, Zadar).

LINCOLN’S SPARROW – One was seen on Dec. 14 and Dec. 28. at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center by chief naturalist, Dan Bertsch (*vide* Stine & Wert). On January 7, a Lincoln’s Sparrow momentarily popped out of some thick hedges in the SW square of Public Square in downtown Cleveland (Colborn).

FOX SPARROW – A few of these birds are found most years on Christmas Counts, but this winter provided more than expected reports. One was at Nimisila

Reservoir on Jan. 10 (Bennett). A bird was daily at a feeder in Parma Jan. 15–Feb. 28 (LeGallee). Two were feasting in a sheep dip in Twinsburg on Jan. 16 (Rosche, Tisdale). One provided entertainment (see Field Notes) in Rocky River Jan. 20–Feb. 28 (Edwards).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL – A bird was reported on the Jan. 4, Wellington CBC (*vide* Black River Audubon). □



Fall migration in Sweden

by Brenda Kovalsky

Red-breasted Flycatcher, Black Woodpecker, Tufted Duck, Curlew Sandpiper--have I piqued your interest yet? Let me share with you the opportunity I had to spend some quality birding time in Sweden in mid-September 2002. I traveled with Sunbird Tours to the top two migration spots in Sweden. I had two expert trip leaders, James Lidster from England and Killian Mullarney from Ireland. Killian is one of the artists/authors of the *Birds of Europe* field guide.

Our first visit was to Falsterbo, along the southwest edge of Sweden. I relate the tip of Falsterbo to Pt. Pelee; it’s the last point of land before heading out over water, in this case, the Baltic Sea. Raptors and passerines funnel down to this tip. In just one day while standing along the point, I saw over 100 Sparrowhawks and 50 Red Kites. Several Marsh Harriers and Hen Harriers were actively hunting over the marshy area of the point. Waders, the European term for our

Shorebirds, were also plentiful with Greenshanks, Spotted Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, and Bar-tailed Godwits. Falsterbo Lighthouse runs a banding station, and we saw some really neat birds in the hand: Bearded Tit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Wren (same as our Winter Wren), Willow Warbler, and Sedge Warbler, to name a few. The much sought-after Black Woodpecker was closely observed near the Lighthouse. Large flocks of passerines flew over, giving their flight calls. Our leaders did an excellent job of identifying the flocks by sound and giving hints of what to look for to help identify the flocks. I quickly learned that those little birds with barely a tail were Wood Larks.

The last part of our trip took us to Oland, the Land of Wind and Sun. Oland is located on the East side of Sweden, an island accessible by the second longest bridge in Europe. It didn't take long to understand the nickname of this island--full rain-wear was necessary for the windy conditions, not the rain! Our first stop was Segerstad Lighthouse to meet with Christian and Cecilia, who live on the Lighthouse property. We discovered that the duck migration had started the day we arrived. Flocks of Tufted Ducks and Eurasian Wigeons were a common sight. Many flocks of Barnacle,



Bearded Tit
by Brenda Kovalsky©

Greylag and Brent Geese flew by. The official count of Barnacle Geese for one day was 13,190. An interesting point made by Cecilia, the Brent Geese usually fly over the water and generally avoid land.

We were birding with Christian and Cecilia in a small park along the Baltic Sea. While we were looking for Crossbills, Christian got a message on his pager that a Male Red-breasted Goose was spotted in a flock of Barnacle Geese. It was headed our way! We raced over to the water's edge, yelling to everyone in the group to follow; and within 60 seconds, here came the flock of Barnacle Geese. Christian quickly spotted the Red-breasted Goose and called out its position so everyone would have a chance of seeing it. What a wonderful sight!!

We found a large flock of Common Cranes in a field as we crossed from one side of the island to the other. Mudflats along the Baltic Sea were great for waders. Highlights were Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Ringed Plover and Ruff. Common Eiders (sound familiar to anyone?) numbered in the thousands. One of our other stops on Oland was Ottenby Lighthouse. White Wagtails decorated the lawn of the lighthouse, hopping about



Red-breasted Flycatcher
by Brenda Kovalsky©

looking for food. Rafts of Common Eiders milled about in the water not far from land. Two White-tailed Sea Eagles sat on the rocks among the Eiders. We witnessed a spectacular hunt by the eagles. They hunted together, flying low over the water, when one of the eagles snatched an Eider out of the water. After several attempts and much struggling by the Eider, the White-tailed Eagle wrapped its talons



Chaffinch
by Brenda Kovalsky©

around the neck of the Eider and carried it to the rocks for lunch. Rather gruesome, but a spectacular sight of nature at work.

I came away with 98 life birds and a lifetime of memories. If you have the opportunity to travel to Sweden, I highly recommend a visit to Falsterbo and Oland.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN SUMMIT COUNTY

by Dwight Chasar

The Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS) Summit Co. summer bird count (SBC) has censused birds each June since 1978, using a 4-10 day counting period. A large subset of this territory has also been censused since 1939 during the Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Bird Count in December, using the standard one-day count. Many of the people doing the counting are common to both censuses, and the procedures are very similar (Tveekrem 1989). For example, the birds seen per party hour in the field can be calculated. This provides an interesting opportunity for comparing results between these two counts for birds that are permanent residents, especially so for a bird whose population is changing significantly. This way, while the number of birds counted on the two censuses may not be identical, the population trends may be compared directly. The Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) would appear to be an appropriate subject bird (Rosche 1989).

Hicks (1935) considered this woodpecker to be very local and rare in northeastern Ohio in the early part of the 20th century. This was clearly evident in North Chagrin Reservation, where only one pair irregularly nested during the 1930s on one 65-acre study plot (Williams 1935). Expansion was noticeable in the northern third of Ohio beginning in the 1940s and 1950s (Peterjohn 1989). Ohio Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data (Earnst and Andres 1996) indicated that this northern trend continued into the second half of the century. Locally, using Cleveland Christmas Bird Count data, Hoffman (2000) showed that the Red-bellied began a steady climb starting 30 years ago, about the time that the GAAS census was initiated. By 1989, Rosche (1989) considered this bird to be the second most abundant woodpecker in the seven counties of the Cleveland region. This population increase seems to be part of this woodpecker's overall range expansion in the eastern US (Earnst and Andres 1996).

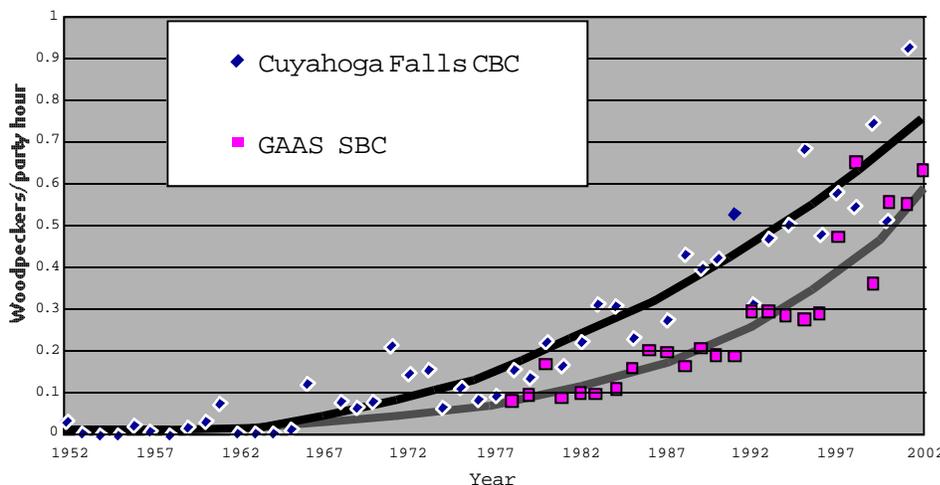
The accompanying chart shows that the trend lines for both censuses become closely parallel, indicating that the growth rate of the population as determined by either count

is fairly consistent. One can also see that Red-bellied Woodpeckers were not consistently found prior to 1965 and, in fact, were not found prior to 1952. The growth rate accelerated considerably more than linearly in the late 1970s, consistent with that found by Hoffman (2000). Another interesting aspect of the two curves is that higher numbers of woodpeckers were obtained on the CBC than on the summer count. This may be the result of a large number of feeder counters, who consistently participate in the Cuyahoga Falls CBC.

In future articles I will try to make similar comparisons from the two censuses for other resident birds with the hope of convincing readers of the value of counting birds.

Earnst, S.L. and B.A. Andres. 1996. "Population Trends of Breeding Birds of Ohio." *Ohio Biological Survey*, Misc. Cont. No. 3.
 Hicks, L.E. 1935. "Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Ohio." *Ohio Biological Survey*, Bull. No. 32, 6:125-190.
 Hoffman, J.M. 2000. "Red-bellied Woodpecker Increasing." *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 96 (1):11.
 Peterjohn, B.G. 1989. *The Birds of Ohio*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN.
 Rosche, L. 1989. "The Woodpeckers of the Cleveland Region." *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 85 (3):39.
 Tveekrem, C. 1989. "A Summary of the Greater Akron Summer Bird Counts from 1978-1989." *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 85(3):37.
 Williams, A.B. 1936. "The Composition and Dynamics of a Beech-maple Climax Community." *Ecology Monographs* 6: 317-408.

Comparison of Red-bellied Woodpecker Population Trend from Cuyahoga Falls CBC and GAAS Summer Bird Count



Fox Sparrow in Rocky River

by Ann and John Edwards

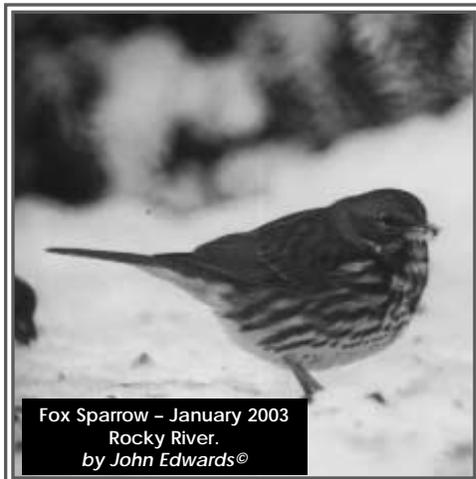
On Monday, January 20, at about 10:30 am, I was looking out my kitchen window when I spotted a Fox Sparrow sitting in a hemlock close to our bird feeder. We've had Fox Sparrows in our yard in late March and early April, but this was a big surprise at this time of year. I called my brother John at work to report it, and then Paula Lozano. When

Paula stopped by on her way to work sometime after noon, the bird had flown. We waited patiently for it to return, which it did, but only shortly after Paula had to leave for work.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the bird again, scratching for seed under our bird feeder, off and on over the next week, usually in the morning or late afternoon, but never for more than a few minutes at a time. I also observed that it rarely appeared alone, but flew in with a flock of juncos or sparrows; and when they flew, it flew, too.

Paula Lozano and Bob Finkelstein stopped by several times but never got a glimpse of it. Then I didn't see the bird at all for about a week, although it might have been in the yard when I wasn't at home or looking for it; and I began to think it was gone for good. Then on Sunday, February 2, John and I saw it again, briefly.

In the following week, on the occasions when I saw the bird at dusk, around 5:45 to 6:00 pm, almost solitary, with only a Mourning Dove or cardinal nearby. Beginning on Wednesday, February 12, I began to see it every day, almost always in the morning. When it was snowing or had snowed



Fox Sparrow – January 2003
Rocky River.
by John Edwards©



Fox Sparrow – January 2003
Rocky River.
by John Edwards©

overnight, I could count on seeing it several times throughout the day, but when the sun was out and the snow had melted a little, it was conspicuously absent. I would love to know where it went on those sunny days.

On President's Day weekend, February 15 to 17, John decided he was going to try to photograph our Fox Sparrow. The area the bird liked to frequent was about 60 feet from the back of the house, and we couldn't lure him any closer. So John got out his 8" Celestron telescope that he uses for astronomy, hooked up a camera to it, and set it just inside the back door to our attached garage. The scope has a 2000 mm focal length, giving it an f-ratio of V 10. We used 800 speed Fuji color print film.

The snowstorm on President's Day, the 17th, brought the Fox Sparrow to our yard every couple of hours throughout that day and on the following day. After that, we spotted it more regularly, notably on February 23, 24, 26, and 28. We exposed several rolls of film, hoping to capture it in a variety of weather and lighting conditions, but it was extremely frustrating because it wouldn't stay on the ground for long; and there were long periods of waiting for it to show up. Still we were able to

get some decent shots of the bird, especially when it decided to rest in our hemlock for a short time.

The Fox Sparrow has been in our yard every day now (at this writing, March 6), and we anticipate that it will now be around until weather conditions prompt it to migrate.

TWINSBURG WINTER BIRD COUNT 2002

by Stanley Stine

The following birds were identified in Center Valley Park during the count taken on December 28, 2002. Six people participated in the count. The count began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 1:00 p.m. Temperatures were in the 30°F range with a snow cover of about six inches. Brisk winds and 100% cloud cover were the dominant conditions during the count.

SPECIES	Total
Mallard	63
Mourning Dove	20
Belted Kingfisher	3
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	4
Downy Woodpecker	5
Northern Flicker	1
Blue Jay	12
Black-capped Chickadee	13
Tufted Titmouse	6
White-Breasted Nuthatch	12
Carolina Wren	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet*	1
Eastern Bluebird	2
American Robin	6
European Starling	61
American Tree Sparrow	8
Song Sparrow	1
White-Throated Sparrow	3
White-crowned Sparrow*	1
Dark-Eyed Junco	6
Northern Cardinal	14
House Finch	7
American Goldfinch	3

Of note: Though with fewer participants than in the past and an abbreviated count length, four species were added to the list, unrecorded since this activity began, two years ago. * Indicates new species.

THREE INTERESTING GULLS

by Kevin Metcalf

Possible “Scandinavian” Herring Gull in Cleveland

On January 22, 2003, I spent about three hours looking through the multitudes of gulls that descended upon the CEI warm water outlet near E. 72nd Street in Cleveland. It was a bone-chilling day with a brisk NW wind and intermittent light snow. The lighting was usually bright overcast, with occasional sun breaking through the clouds. There were easily 20,000 Herring Gulls present, with lesser numbers of Great Black-backed (900-1000), Ring-billed, Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer’s, Lesser Black-backed, and a single adult Bonaparte’s Gull.

I had just spent some time watching a dark-eyed adult Thayer’s Gull and an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, when I came across two adult Herring Gulls that exhibited obviously darker mantles than any of the other adult herrings in the area. Given the thousands of herrings present, I was surprised that two birds would stand out from the rest. I videotaped both birds, and focused my attention on one that was closest and showed another odd character—an all white tip to the longest primary (P-10). Below are my notes on the closer “white-tipped” bird which seemed to exhibit a mantle shade even slightly darker than the other, though I never saw the two side by side.

The size and shape of this gull was generally like the other Herring Gulls in the area. I would say that it was the size of a “medium-sized” American Herring Gull

(*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) and there were Herrings present that came across as bigger, or smaller, than this bird. The bill was thinner and straighter than some of the large male Herrings present, but similar to other individual Herring Gulls in the area. The bill was not as short and thin as that of a Thayer’s Gull.

Details of Plumage: This individual appeared fully adult, with an all-white tail, clear adult gray back and wings, and adult-type wingtip pattern. The bill was fairly bright yellow with a bright reddish spot on the lower mandible at the gonyleal angle, and a blackish mark forward of that, the black extending up onto the upper mandible. This bill pattern is often seen on third year and adult winter Herring Gulls, but I would say that the black was a little more obvious than on most of our Herring Gulls of this age—yet within the range of variation. The eye had a black pupil contrasting with the yellowish iris. The iris color was like the other nearby adult Herrings—pale straw yellow. The legs appeared pinkish, somewhat dull, but similar to many herrings present. The feet were pinkish.

The head, neck, and under-parts were typical of adult Herring Gull. This bird had a moderate amount of grayish-brown streaking around the eye, on the rear crown, nape, hindneck and sides of lower neck. I



did not note any specific details of this streaking as it looked basically like a Herring Gull, and I felt that the video would portray it accurately.

This darker-mantled gull was very easy to pick out and follow as it swam amongst the other adult Herring Gulls. Even if I would glance away, I could easily look back and re-find this bird due to the darker mantle. The mantle shade was darker than the adult Thayer’s I had just seen, and much paler than the Lesser Black-backed’s. I would say that the color would fall somewhere in the range of a pale or moderately dark California Gull (none present).

The wingtip pattern was the second characteristic of this bird that was unlike typical *L. a. smithsonianus*. The tip of P-10 was all white, with no black bar separating the “mirror” from the tip. The more extensive white tip was also visible on the folded wing as the bird floated on the water. P-9 had a large white “mirror” with a narrow black subterminal bar, unlike *smithsonianus*, which often lacks or has a small mirror on P-9. P-8 had an indistinct grayish “tongue” at the proximal edge of the large, blackish subterminal mark. P-7 and P-6 had progressively less black and paler “U”-shaped, whitish “tongues” along the proxi-

mal border of the black. P-5 had a small black subterminal bar. The wingtip pattern from underneath reflected what was visible above.

The mantle color and wingtip pattern both seem to fit *Larus argentatus argentatus*, the “Scandinavian” Herring Gull, which frequently shows an all white tip to P-10. (*L. a. smithsonianus* may rarely have an all-white tip to P-10.) However, there are also some potential problems with an ID as *argentatus*. *L. a. argentatus* averages a paler orange gonys spot than *L. a. argenteus* (Grant, 1986) and presumably our *smithsonianus*. The gonys spot on this bird actually seemed brighter reddish than the average *smithsonianus*, but within the range of variation. *Argentatus* also frequently shows very limited dark gray on the wingtip pattern from underneath, while this bird showed a very similar pattern underneath to other *smithsonianus*, although the video does not show this in conclusive detail. *Argentatus* is frequently lacking any black on P-5, but again this is subject to individual variation.

Other possible ID? This bird may represent a variant of American Herring Gull, which has many subtle plumage variations that have not been studied extensively. This bird might also be some sort of hybrid, showing subtle characteristics of a backcross or second generation. Hybridization with a species like Lesser Black-backed Gull or California Gull would explain the darker mantle, but not the more extensive white in the wingtip. Also, the legs showed no hint of yellow, and the size fell easily within Herring Gull. “Vega” Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vega*, which may be a full species) seems unlikely, since this bird lacked a dusky eye, and the mantle shade

seemed too pale for Vega. This adult gull and, possibly the other darker mantled adult Herring, may represent the “Scandinavian” subspecies of Herring Gull, *L. argentatus argentatus*. “*Argentatus*” is supposedly more migratory than the closer western European race *L. a. argenteus*, which is probably inseparable in the field from *smithsonianus*. The possible occurrence of *argentatus* this far inland in North America is intriguing, and follows on the heels of possible occurrences on the western Atlantic coast as far south as New York. With gulls, anything seems possible.

Another Cleveland “Mystery” Gull by Kevin Metcalf

January 19, 2003 was a great day for gulls along the Lake Erie shore. I had just spent part of the morning at the Avon Lake power plant looking at gulls and had tallied seven species there. After having my fill of gulls at Avon, and wanting relief from the frigid conditions, I got in my car and travelled east on I-90 through Cleveland, headed for home. As I passed the CEI power in Cleveland, I saw that the warm water outlet was brimming with gulls so I decided on one more stop. Shortly after arriving I saw Larry Rosche; and within minutes Larry found gull species number eight for the day, an adult Thayer’s Gull.

We enjoyed the Thayer’s and I videotaped it standing and flying. I then noticed a darker-mantled adult gull standing on the ice about 75 ft–100 ft. away. At first the mantle seemed somewhat like a pale Lesser Black-backed Gull, but this bird had pink legs and was the size of a Herring Gull. Larry then picked up the bird; and we

watched it for a minute or two, flying up from the ice and landing in the water in front of us. I fumbled with the video camera, through gloves and numb fingers, trying to get some footage. Larry went to get his camera; but the bird flew away from us, eventually landing on the ice maybe a quarter mile or more away. I kept the bird in view and watched it sitting on the distant ice, taking some video through the spotting scope. Larry and I left that day not knowing what this gull was, but “Vega” Herring Gull came to mind. Later, this same bird was independently photographed by Gary Meszaros.

In the field the mantle color of this gull was very puzzling, and I had difficulty placing it within the context of our local species, going back and forth between its being like a pale Lesser Black-backed or dark California Gull. I eventually decided it was intermediate between the two, but maybe closer to Lesser Black-backed. In size and shape it appeared about the size of the larger (probably male) Herring Gulls near it. In shape it was very Herring Gull-like, but maybe slightly rounder headed and the eye appeared maybe a little smaller--possibly due to the eye color, which was dusky, and the fact that the head was nearly clean white, while many of the adult Herrings present still had a lot of head streaking. The bill shape in the field did not seem notably different than a Herring’s, but the photos by Gary Meszaros revealed that the bill was rather stout at the base and acutely hooked at the tip.

Field Marks

The bill was yellow to orangish-yellow, with a moderately large orange-red spot at the gonydeal angle of the lower mandible. The eye was not blackish, nor as pale

as a typical Herring's. The blackish pupil was visible in the lighter iris, which was somewhat brownish or grayish-yellow, so that at a distance it looked dark. Only through a scope at close range could I see the pupil clearly contrasting with the iris. The head, neck, breast, flanks, belly, undertail and tail were white. The tail showed no dark markings that would suggest a third-year gull. The back and most of the upper wing ("mantle") was a medium, neutral gray color. The legs were grayish with a hint of pink, and the feet were pinkish. The legs and feet were similar in color to those of many of the Herring Gulls present, which showed a lot of variability. The "primary projection" was black with four white tips usually visible on the folded wing and a fifth white tip sometimes visible near the rear trailing edge of the folded secondaries.

The wingtip pattern on the upper surface, visible in the photos by Meszaros, is as follows: (Outermost visible primary is numbered P-10) P-10 black or blackish on inner and outer web for its entire visible length. Large white spot or "mirror" on distal portion encompassing the inner and outer web, followed by a black subterminal band and a white tip. P-9 also blackish for nearly entire length, with a very small white "mirror" and small white tip. P-8 has blackish outer web for nearly entire visible length and distal third of visible inner web blackish. Proximal two-thirds of inner web slightly paler gray, but no distinct "tongue" and little contrast with black. Small white tip. P-7 has broad black subterminal mark, broadest on outer web, forming a "U"-shaped inner margin. Inner web largely medium gray with a partial, narrow whitish "tongue"



Larus species #2
January 22, 2003
by Gary Meszaros©

bordering the black. P-6 has pattern similar to P-7, but with narrower somewhat anvil-shaped black mark and larger white tip. Both inner and outer web largely medium gray. P-5 with narrow black subterminal mark and large white tip. Otherwise, visible portion is medium gray with a partial, narrow white tongue bordering black. P-4 through P-1 medium gray with white tips.

Identification: The odd mantle color combined with the pinkish legs did not fit any of our regularly occurring species. After studying the video I began to settle on roughly three possibilities: "Vega" Herring Gull, a Herring Gull hybrid, or a Western Gull/ hybrid involving Western Gull. First I tackled "Vega" Gull, a Siberian subspecies of Herring Gull that has a darker mantle than our American *L. argentatus smithsonianus*, and has the dusky eye color of this bird. I had some reservations about calling this a Vega Gull. Having seen Vega in Japan, I felt the mantle color was a little too dark. However, subsequent study revealed that the mantle color

might fall within range. Even if the mantle shade were OK, the "color" of the gray still seemed wrong. Herring Gulls, even Vega, have cool-gray mantles, while this bird seemed to show a more neutral gray tone. The wingtip pattern also seemed not quite right. Vega Gulls generally show extensive pale "tongues" bordering the proximal edge of the black markings on P-6 - P-7 and distinct contrast between the black and gray on P-8. This is not evident in any of the photos--the whitish tongues just don't seem extensive enough for typical Vega. Vega is also reported to show a broader white trailing edge to the wing than *smithsonianus*, which with bird did not show. Also, this gull had a clean white head in January, while most Herring Gulls still show a lot of basic plumage head streaking at this time of year. The bill shape and rounded head shape did not seem to match Vega.

If this is a hybrid, then a hybrid of what? This bird seems to show a lot of Herring Gull characteristics, but with the white, somewhat rounded head, darker eye and stout bill, Western Gull or Great



Black-backed Gull might be coming into play. Pure Western Gull is discounted by the wingtip pattern, including the relative paleness of the inner primaries and secondaries when viewed from below, and bill shape, although bill shapes are variable. The mantle seems a bit pale for Western Gull, but may be within range of a Western-Glaucous-winged hybrid. I have experience with Western Gull, and the shape of this bird just did not come across as a Western.

So, if this is a hybrid with one Herring Gull parent, what is the other parent? The most likely hybrid might be Herring x Great Black-backed Gull. The darker eye color, more rounded head, and stouter bill might all be interpreted as intermediate between the two. Even the wingtip pattern might be considered intermediate, with the very large white mirror on P-10. However, Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls generally have narrower based bills with broader tips, but this is extremely

variable. Observers may look at the photos and not see any indication of Great Black-backed, but hybrids are often not simple intermediates of the two parents, and we might be dealing with a backcross or second generation hybrid. Ultimately, I don't think that this bird can be identified for certain. Since the bird does not fall easily into a species category, it is most likely a hybrid, possibly Great Black-backed x Herring hybrid or backcross involving those species. I welcome any other suggestions.

Possible First Winter Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) in Cleveland

As with the other gulls documented for January 22, 2003, at the E. 72nd Street warm water outlet, I saw this gull after I had been looking at the many thousands of gulls present, mostly Herring. I noticed this bird because of its evenly dark coloration and large bill relative to the first-winter Herring Gull's. I videotaped this gull for a while,

hoping that the footage would be sufficient to document the sighting. There were also a couple of other odd gulls in the vicinity, so I did not spend much time trying to discern all of the fine plumage features on this one. The day was frigid, and I had been looking at gulls for over two hours when I found this bird. I saw the gull mostly in the water, occasionally flapping and flying short distances. It was very aggressive and seemed to dominate the Herring Gulls near it.

Size and Shape: The overall size was similar to a Herring's, but it had a "bulkier" build than a Herring Gull's. This gull seemed deeper chested, held its neck more erect, had a more rounded head shape and a very large bill, especially at the tip and gonys, which was very heavy looking. Overall, this gull seemed "dumpier" and seemed to have broader, more rounded wings than the first-winter Herring's. As I watched this gull, the shape brought to mind Western Gull, (*Larus occidentalis*) which I have seen on the west coast. At the time of observation that possibility seemed extremely unlikely, since Western Gull is a relatively sedentary species with one accepted record east of the Rocky Mountains (Sibley, 2000). Even though I felt this bird had many good characteristics for Western Gull, the highly unlikely nature of this sighting made me put it on the shelf for future study.

Details of Plumage: The even, dark, gray-brown color of this bird is what drew my attention to it. The neck had sooty gray tones mixed with the dark brown. The bill was nearly all dark, appearing more or less blackish or dark grayish, with very limited pinkish "flesh" color around the base. The



Immature Larus
January 22, 2003
by Kevin Metcalf©

bill was more extensively dark than most, but not all, of the first winter Herring Gulls present. The eye was dark. The leg color was pale grayish with a pinkish tint. The scapulars had dark brown centered feathers with paler edging. The primary projection looked blackish or brownish-black. The uppertail coverts had a white or dirty-white ground color with course black barring. The tail appeared solidly blackish (unlike Herring Gull's)--no barring at the base of the feathers evident, though this feature is sometimes difficult to discern if the tail is not fully fanned out. The undertail color was whitish, similar to the uppertail, and the pale feathering extended forward to the legs, contrasting with the brown belly and sides. The belly, flanks, and sides were a fairly even medium brown. The wings (studied in video stills) seemed more evenly colored than the Herring's. The pale "window" or panel in the inner primaries was not obvious as in Herring Gull. This is a key feature that separates Western Gull from Herring Gull.

Possible ID

I feel this gull is a strong candidate for first-winter Western Gull. The shape and plumage details noted very closely match this species. No other large first-winter gulls should show this combination of massive, nearly all dark bill, evenly dark coloration of the head and neck, whitish uppertail with strong blackish barring that contrasts with the back and all-dark tail, and

fairly evenly brown wings with no distinct primary panel.

There are a couple of subtleties that may be unlike the typical Western Gull. The bill is fairly narrow based, while the bill of the Western Gull is often thick-based with a bulbous tip. The bill shape could represent an extreme of Herring Gull. Unfortunately, the video quality limits my ability to judge the fine points of the bill shape. Western Gull in juv./first winter plumage can often show horizontal barring on the foreneck and breast, which this gull did not seem to have. Also, the pale trailing edge to the secondaries was not much broader or pronounced than that of a Herring Gull. Typically, this rear border to the wing is more obvious on Western Gull. Again, the video quality is probably not sufficient to judge this, and this bird probably falls within the range of a variation of Western Gull.

Otherwise, given the massive bill, I considered a Herring x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid. However, such a hybrid should produce a paler, not darker head and underparts than the typical Herring. The tail should also show a more obviously barred base with more white than typical Herring's. This gull's tail showed no visible barring.

Given that another possible Western Gull has come to light from the same location this winter, I feel that this bird may have been another



Immature Larus
January 22, 2003
by Kevin Metcalf©

remarkable occurrence of Western Gull in Cleveland. This occurrence is inexplicable, given what we know of Western Gull distribution, and I was extremely skeptical that such a bird would show up here. I still have some doubts that I can pin an ID on this bird with absolute certainty, but Western Gull seems reasonable at this point. I welcome thoughtful comments by readers.

CORRECTION: The critical eye of the consulting editor noticed the error in the table for the Fall CVNP census. The error was caused, in part, by wrapping in the desktop program, but human error by the editor cannot be dismissed.

CORRECTIONS TO SEP.14, 2002 CVNP FALL BIRD COUNT		
THIRD COLUMN	READ	SHOULD READ
Black-throated Green Warbler	10	10
Blackburnian Warbler	7	7
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1
Palm Warbler	1	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	4
Blackpoll Warbler	1	1
Black-and-white Warbler	5	5
American Redstart	10	10
Ovenbird	2	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	44	44
Hooded Warbler	10	10
Wilson's Warbler	2	2
Scarlet Tanager	8	8
Eastern Towhee	18	18
Chipping Sparrow	42	42
Field Sparrow	84	18
Song Sparrow	1	43
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	158	1
Northern Cardinal	15	158
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	15
Indigo Bunting	2	2
Bobolink	34	2
Red-winged Blackbird	101	34
Common Grackle	9	1019
Brown-headed Cowbird	21	21
Purple Finch	2	2
House Finch	45	45
American Goldfinch	443	443
House Sparrow	67	67

Behind the Bird Calendar

Editor:

Larry Rosche (LR)

Consulting Editor:

Ray Hannikman (RH)

Editorial Assistants:

Technical Editor: Garnet Byrne (GB)

Weather Summary: Dwight W. Chasar

Data Sorting Editor: Delores Cole (DCo)

Contributors:

John Augustine (JA)
Emil Bacik(EB)
Nick Barber (NB)
Trudy Beal (TB)
Gregory Bennett (GBe)
Dan Best (DB)
Black River Audubon (BR)
Peg and Rob Bobel (PRB)
Don Burlett (DBu)
Jennifer Brumfield (JB)
Craig Caldwell (CC)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)
Tim Colborn (TC)
Leo Deininger (LD)
Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD).
Elinor Elder (EE)
Dave English (DE)
Victor Fazio III (VF)
Duane Ferris(DF)
Bob Finkelstein (BF)
Anders and Joyce Fjeldstad (AJF)
Andy Fondrk (AFo)
Lou Gardella (LG)
Linda Gilbert (LGi)
Ted Gilliland (TG)
Christa Glatter CG)
Frank Greenland (FG)
Rob Harlan (RHl)
Jackie Haley (JHa)
Jim Heflich (JHe)
Helen Hendrickson (HH)
Dick and Jean Hoffman (DJH)
Craig Holt (CH)
Nancy Howell (NH)
Susan Jones (SJ)
Mike and Jason Kassouf(MJK)
Patty Kellner (PK)
Paul Kiplinger (PK)
Charles Klaus (CK)
Brenda Kovalsky (BK)
Gretchen Larson (GLa)
Gabe Leidy (GL)
Thomas LePage (TLP)
Andy Lihani (AL)
Karl Liske (KL)
Paula Lozano (PL)
Kim Ludt (KLu)
Jim McConnor (JMc)
Kevin Metcalf (KM)
Gary Meszaros (GM)
Kathy Mock (KMo)
Ben Morrison (BMo)
Linda Paine (LP)
Haans Petruschke (HP)
John Pogacnik (JP)
Craig Rieker (CR)
Mary Reinthal (MRe)
Richard Rickard (RR)
Drew Rolik (DR)
Tom and Mary Ann Romito (TMR)
Phyllis Schnell (PS)
Joe Sedransk (JSe)
Bob Segedi (BSe)
Dan Seman (DS)
Beulah Shanks (BSh)
Susan Snyder (SS)
Chris Spagnoli (CS)
Brad Stemen (BSt)
Stanley Stine (SSt)
Woody Stover (WS)
Bertalan Szabo (BS)
Judy Tisdale (JT)
Bill and Ann Toneff (BAT)
Denis Vanek (DV)
Sandy Wagner (SW)
Suzanne Wagner (SuW)
Bill Whan (BWh)
Vernon Weingart (VW)
Jeff Wert (JW)
Ben Winger (BW)
Joe Wojnarowski (JWo)
Scott Wright (SW)
Clyde Witt (CW)
Sean Zadar (SZ)

The List of the Birds of the Cleveland Region

Red-throated Loon	Northern Goshawk	Heermann's Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	Swainson's Warbler
Common Loon	Red-shouldered Hawk	Mew Gull	Blue Jay	Ovenbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Broad-winged Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	Northern Waterthrush
Horned Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	California Gull	Common Raven	Louisiana Waterthrush
Red-necked Grebe	Rough-legged Hawk	Herring Gull	Horned Lark	Kentucky Warbler
Eared Grebe	Golden Eagle	Thayer's Gull	Purple Martin	Connecticut Warbler
Western Grebe	American Kestrel	Iceland Gull	Tree Swallow	Mourning Warbler
Northern Gannet	Merlin	Lesser Black-backed Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
American White Pelican	Gyrfalcon	Glaucous Gull	Bank Swallow	Hooded Warbler
Brown Pelican	Peregrine Falcon	Great Black-backed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-necked Pheasant	Sabine's Gull	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
American Bittern	Ruffed Grouse	Black-legged Kittiwake	Carolina Chickadee	Painted Redstart
Least Bittern	Wild Turkey	Ross's Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-breasted Chat
Great Blue Heron	Northern Bobwhite	Ivory Gull	Boreal Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Great Egret	Yellow Rail	Caspian Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Scarlet Tanager
Snowy Egret	Black Rail	Royal Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Western Tanager
Little Blue Heron	King Rail	Common Tern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Green-tailed Towhee
Tricolored Heron	Virginia Rail	Forster's Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Spotted Towhee
Cattle Egret	Sora	Least Tern	Brown Creeper	Eastern Towhee
Green Heron	Purple Gallinule	Black Tern	Rock Wren	Bachman's Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Common Moorhen	Thick-billed Murre	Carolina Wren	American Tree Sparrow
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	American Coot	Black Guillemot	Bewick's Wren	Chipping Sparrow
White Ibis	Sandhill Crane	Rock Dove	House Wren	Clay-colored Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Black-bellied Plover	Mourning Dove	Winter Wren	Field Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	American Golden-Plover	Passenger Pigeon	Sedge Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Wood Stork	Snowy Plover	Common Ground-Dove	Marsh Wren	Lark Sparrow
Black Vulture	Semipalmated Plover	Carolina Parakeet	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-throated Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Piping Plover	Black-billed Cuckoo	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Lark Bunting
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Killdeer	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Savannah Sparrow
G. White-fronted Goose	Black-necked Stilt	Smooth-billed Ani	Townsend's Solitaire	Grasshopper Sparrow
Snow Goose	American Avocet	Barn Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Henslow's Sparrow
Ross's Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Screech-Owl	Veery	Le Conte's Sparrow
Canada Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Great Horned Owl	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sp.
Brant	Solitary Sandpiper	Snowy Owl	Swainson's Thrush	Fox Sparrow
Mute Swan	Willet	Northern Hawk Owl	Hermit Thrush	Song Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	Spotted Sandpiper	Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Lincoln's Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Upland Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl	American Robin	Swamp Sparrow
Wood Duck	Eskimo Curlew	Short-eared Owl	Varied Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Gadwall	Whimbrel	Boreal Owl	Gray Catbird	Harris's Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Long-billed Curlew	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Northern Mockingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
American Wigeon	Hudsonian Godwit	Common Nighthawk	Brown Thrasher	Dark-eyed Junco
American Black Duck	Marbled Godwit	Whip-poor-will	European Starling	Lapland Longspur
Mallard	Ruddy Turnstone	Chimney Swift	Wagtail (species)	Smith's Longspur
Blue-winged Teal	Red Knot	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Pipit	Snow Bunting
Northern Shoveler	Sanderling	Rufous Hummingbird	Sprague's Pipit	Northern Cardinal
Northern Pintail	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Bohemian Waxwing	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Green-winged Teal	Western Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Black-headed Grosbeak
Canvasback	Least Sandpiper	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Redhead	White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Golden-winged Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Ring-necked Duck	Baird's Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	Dickcissel
Tufted Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	Bobolink
Greater Scaup	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-backed Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Purple Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Northern Parula	Eastern Meadowlark
King Eider	Dunlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Common Eider	Curlew Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Harlequin Duck	Stilt Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Magnolia Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Ruff	Acadian Flycatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common Grackle
Black Scoter	Short-billed Dowitcher	Alder Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Long-tailed Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher	Willow Flycatcher	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Bufflehead	Common Snipe	Least Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warb.	Baltimore Oriole
Common Goldeneye	American Woodcock	Eastern Phoebe	Blackburnian Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Barrow's Goldeneye	Eurasian Woodcock	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler	Brambling
Hooded Merganser	Wilson's Phalarope	Western Kingbird	Pine Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Common Merganser	Red-necked Phalarope	Eastern Kingbird	Kirtland's Warbler	Purple Finch
Red-breasted Merganser	Red Phalarope	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Pomarine Jaeger	Loggerhead Shrike	Palm Warbler	Red Crossbill
Osprey	Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Shrike	Bay-breasted Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Swallow-tailed Kite	Long-tailed Jaeger	White-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler	Common Redpoll
Mississippi Kite	Laughing Gull	Bell's Vireo	Cerulean Warbler	Hoary Redpoll
Bald Eagle	Franklin's Gull	Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler	Pine Siskin
Northern Harrier	Little Gull	Blue-headed Vireo	American Redstart	American Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-headed Gull	Warbling Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Cooper's Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Philadelphia Vireo	Worm-eating Warbler	House Sparrow