

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

SINCE 1905

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 4



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Region's First Cave Swallows!
pages 10-12

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2005

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar was founded in 1905 by Francis H. Herrick of the Western Reserve University. It is published quarterly by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The purpose of the Calendar is:

- To provide information on the movement of birds through the Cleveland region;
- To monitor population densities of resident birds;
- To help determine patterns of vagrancy for rarely encountered species.

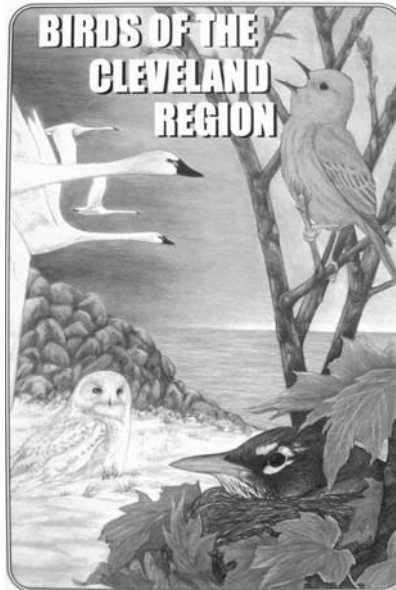
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Cover photo: Rufous Hummingbird; Photographed on October 29, 2005 in Wadsworth, Ohio by Ernie Cornelius.



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We welcome your participation. All reports are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

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You and Your Friends are Invited...

The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its monthly meetings
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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Or, join a field trip to one of the local birding hot spots.

See the Web site for the up-coming meetings, programs and trips;

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Kevin Metcalf, Editor

Strange Days

It was an action-packed autumn for birders along the North Coast. Potentially, three all-time new species were seen for the region, two documented by photographs: **Magnificent Frigatebird** (5 September, photographed), **Gray Flycatcher** (18 September, multiple observers) and **Cave Swallow** (5–20 November, photographed, multiple observers, specimen). Other outstanding rarities included **Northern Gannet** (26 November, multiple observers), at least 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds** (9 October through end of the period, banded, photo-

graphed, multiple observers) and **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (22 October, multiple observers). An additional species, Western Kingbird, was reported by a single observer. (Details with the Ohio Bird Records Committee.)

The list of expected migrants found on unexpected dates was, to this editor, as fascinating as the rarities. This list includes Green Heron (14, 21 November), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4 November), White-eyed Vireo (11-14 November), Red-eyed Vireo (10 November), Tree Swallow (13 November), numerous late Gray Catbirds, Nashville Warbler (4 November), Blackpoll Warbler (26 November), Common Yellowthroat (2 and 17 November). Other late reports were of an Acadian Flycatcher (13 October), Orange-crowned Warbler (28 October), Mourning Warbler (10 October) and Hooded Warbler (10 October).

It should also be mentioned, besides the birds, *late* was the operative word for other natural phenomenon in our region. This year saw the latest peak in fall color in recent memory, occurring 1-5 November. In November I was able to find 25 species of blooming wildflowers in northeast Ohio (many of them non-native weeds). Some butterflies (Orange and Clouded Sulphurs) and dragonflies (American Rubyspot, Great Spreadwing, Dusky Dancer, Common Green Darner, Black-tipped Darner, Shadow Darner and Autumn Meadowhawks) were found into November. Did the weather, which kept the leaves on the trees, the flowers blooming and the insects active, also motivate some birds to linger? Or, did prevailing winds just preclude efficient migration, leaving the birds waiting at the gates until the weather allowed them to move south? Or, with the many days of southwest winds, did some of these species reverse migrate, actually coming back north after starting migration south?

In searching for answers, at least the story of the Magnificent Frigatebird

seems fairly straightforward. The remnants of hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans and an extensive area along the Gulf Coast, passed over the region on 31 August, just a few days prior to the appearance of this tropical seabird. No doubt the frigatebird originated in the Gulf of Mexico and was pushed up with this deep low-pressure storm.

Likewise, the Cave Swallows that invaded Northeast Ohio in November were not all that unexpected. Their appearance is part of trend that has been unfolding in the northeastern U.S. for many years now. In the Cave Swallow's traditional U.S. range--primarily southern and southwestern Texas, the species has recently started nesting in man-made structures such as bridges and culverts. Its population in the south is exploding. It is still somewhat a mystery that cave swallows head northeast in the fall when our local swallows have left for the south. The discovery of a dead cave swallow in Lakewood may speak to the fate of at least some of these birds, which no doubt find that insects are not easy to come by in November.

Far more unexpected this fall was the appearance of a Gray Flycatcher. Gray Flycatchers breed throughout much of the western U.S., primarily the Great Basin west of the Rocky Mountains, and as far north as southern British Columbia. By mid September many Gray Flycatchers would be migrating into the southwestern U.S. and Mexico.

During much of September across the nation there was general flow of air from the southwest, across the central Great Plains and toward the Great Lakes. Of interest in relation to the Gray Flycatcher was a low pressure system that moved out of Southern California on 14 Septem-

ber and tracked into the central Great Plains on 15 September. Westerly winds continued across much of the middle U.S. through the 17th.

Northeast Ohio saw consistent southwesterly winds from 11–14 September, and on the 16th. There was an abrupt change to northerly winds on the 17th and 18th. The Gray Flycatcher was found on the 18th. Was the Gray Flycatcher ushered into the region by the low that came out of the Southwest on the 14th and 15th? Could this bird have covered a distance of roughly 1,500 miles in three or four days? Probably. For comparison, Blackpoll Warblers are believed to fly non-stop for two to three days, or more, covering 2,000 miles as they cross part of the Atlantic Ocean to South America. Although Blackpoll Warblers are one of the more extraordinary land bird marathoners of the avian world, it is plausible that a migrant Gray Flycatcher could cover 500 miles a day for three days with the right weather conditions.

The Black-throated Gray Warbler has a similar western breeding range as the Gray Flycatcher. The story of its arrival may be similar. On 18–19 October another low was in the southwest while high pressure sat over northern Mexico and southern Texas. Again, there was a general pattern of southwest winds across much of the central U.S. The low moved into the central plains and midwest on the 20th and 21st where it weakened. Northeast Ohio saw westerly winds on 17–19 October, with an abrupt change to winds out of the north on the 20th. The warbler was discovered on the 22nd.

Outside our region, an Anna's Hummingbird showed up at a feeder north of Cincinnati for several weeks. It persisted into December. The hummer might very well have arrived in a similar fashion as the warbler and flycatcher.

Contrary to this western theme was the occurrence of Northern Gannets in late November, coinciding with a general shift in weather patterns. Northern Gannets are normally found along the Atlantic Coast. The weather system that pushed the gannet into our region may have been low pressure that moved up the coast beginning 21 November, reaching the latitude of New Jersey by 22 November. Low pressure systems generate counterclockwise winds. As the low moved north it was pulling air up from the Atlantic and then inland from New England into the Maritime Provinces. The low continued moving north and inland to eastern Quebec and the St. Lawrence region by 23–25 November. The gannet (and later, gannets) might well have been pulled initially north and inland, finally catching the northerly winds on the back-side of the low as it spun around in eastern Canada. The bird may have then moved south along the St. Lawrence until it reached the Great Lakes.

Of course, we may never know the exact story of how any of these vagrants arrived here. Future observations of rarities coinciding with weather patterns, however, might shed light on how some birds get pulled off course. It might also help us predict when and where to keep an eye out for the next vagrant bird.

As strange as the weather and the birding was this fall, it is important to keep in mind that most species passed through our region—all 239 of them—basically on schedule. So, as yet, the world as we know it has not come to an end, despite Magnificent Frigatebirds from the south, Northern Gannets from the east, and Gray Flycatchers from the west—all on the North Coast.

See you in the field,

~ Kevin

Weather Report

by Dwight Chasar

September: Temperatures averaged 67.1°, 3.8° above normal. The high was 86° on the 12th and the low 42° on the 30th. Lake Erie was 73° on the 1st and eased down to 68° by the 30th. Rain occurred over nine days and totaled 3.55 inches, .22 inches below normal. The greatest 24 hour rainfall was 1.82 inches on the 25-26th.

October: Temperatures averaged 54.4°, 2.2° above normal. The highest was 82° on the 4th and 6th and the lowest 33° on the 29th. Rain occurred over 11 days and totaled 2.53 inches, a departure of .20 inches below normal. The greatest 24 hour fall was .73 inches on the 24-25th. Lake Erie water cooled to 55° by the 31st.

November: Temperatures averaged 44.7°, 2.9° above normal. The highest was 70° on the 9th and 15th and the lowest 13° on the 25th. Occurring over 17 days, rain totaled 2.65 inches, .73 inches below normal. The greatest 24 hour fall was .71 inches on the 14-15th. There was 5.5 inches of snow, with the greatest depth of two inches on the 23rd and 25th. Lake Erie temperature dropped to only 45° by the end of the month.

Seasonal Report

Underline denotes unexpected species in the region

HBSNP – Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve

MMSNP – Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve

CVNP – Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Snow Goose – Two were reported from Fairport Harbor, Lake Co. 6 November (JP). One accompanied a large flock of Canada Geese near Turkeyfoot Lake, Summit Co. mid-November (DK). One dark or “blue” morph was seen in Parma, Cuyahoga Co. 20 November (TM, NH).

Brant – A flock of nine flew past Lakeshore Metropark 7 October (JP). Five at Rocky River Park 10 October (SWa) and one noted 26 October flying east past HBSNP (RH).

Cackling Goose – This recently “split” as a separate species from Canada Goose, and is a review species in Ohio. One was seen by several observers at Columbia Woods Park in Norton, Summit Co. 31 October (RSH, EP). Another was at Perry Park 20 November (TMR, JP). Details with the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Canada Goose – High counts of 400 were made in Parma 20 November (TM, NH) and 900-1,000 in Akron 15 November (DK).

Mute Swan – A high count of 28 at Mogadore Reservoir, Portage Co. (RSH). Eight were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Tundra Swan – First birds reported 14 November from HBSNP, Lake Co., and Lake Kelso and Middlefield,

Geauga Co. (RH, BMc, TG). A massive movement through the region 17 November, with 1,500 estimated over Mentor, Lake Co. between 3 – 4 p.m. (AJF), flocks of 85+ over Summit Co. (GBe, JB, RSH) and 200 estimated over Hinckley, Medina Co. (GL).

Wood Duck – A maximum of 62 at North Chagrin 24 October (KM), with 49 at Shaker Lakes 13 October (RR). Last date seen was of a foursome 25 November at North Chagrin (KM). A hen with one duckling was seen on the late date of 15 September (RSH).

Gadwall – First reported at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co. 24 September (CC). A maximum of 10 at Wellington Reservoir 25 November (TMR) and two in Kirtland 24 October were of local interest (CK).

American Wigeon – First reported 24 September (CC), a maximum of 24 noted at Sandy Ridge 4 November (PL, JKR).

American Black Duck – Some high counts included eight in the CVNP 12 November (DAC), six on 3 November at North Chagrin (RR) and 23 November at MMSNP (RH). The only double-digit numbers were reported from Lakeshore Metropark on dates spanning 7–23 November, with a high of 39 on 7 November (JP). No details on whether any of these counts involved hybrids, which is most probable.

Mallard – High counts included 163 at Lakeshore Metropark 7 November (JP), and 120 at North Chagrin Reservation (KM).

Blue-winged Teal – Twenty-two in the MMSNP-HBSNP area 15 September, with the last reported from Sandy Ridge 4 November (JKR).

Northern Shoveler – First reported at Sandy Ridge and in Akron on 24 September (CC, GBe). High counts included 18 on 12 November at Nesmith Lake in Akron (GBe) and 20 at Sandy Ridge 27 October (SWa).

Northern Pintail – Seven were seen from HBSNP on 15 October (RH).

Green-winged Teal – A high count of 100+ reported at Sandy Ridge on 4 November (JKR). Five remained at Gordon Park boat basin, Cuyahoga Co., 24 November (NA).

Canvasback – One at Wellington Reservoir, Lorain Co. 6 November (RSH) was surpassed by a remarkable high count of 480 seen from Lakeshore Metropark 7 November (JP).

Redhead – The highest count was 10 at Wellington 13 November (SSn).

Ring-necked Duck – GBe noted that Lesser Scaup was more common in the Akron area lakes this fall. The largest numbers reported were of 250 at Wellington Reservoir 6 November (RSH) and 150 at Crystal Lake in Stow 19 November (DAC).

Greater Scaup – First noted 20 October at HBSNP (RH) with eight on 10 November at Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Lesser Scaup – First noted 13 October at HBSNP (RH) and a high count of 82 at Lakeshore Metropark 10 November (JP).

Harlequin Duck – One was seen from Lakeshore Metropark 7 November (JP).

Surf Scoter – The first report was of two on 9 October from Lakeshore Metropark (JP). The high count there was of five on 23 November (JP). It was

also reported from Sims Park, Cuyahoga Co. in late November (NA). One was noted at the Portage-Mahoning Co. line at Berlin Reservoir 11 November (BM) and one at Wellington Reservoir 20 November (CW, SJ).

White-winged Scoter – Eight were at HBSNP on 16 October (RH).

Black Scoter – First reports were from HBSNP 26 October (RH). High count of 17 at Sims Park 26 November through the end of the period (NA) and 30–40 estimated at Eastlake 25 November (RH, JT). Two were at Rocky River Park, Cuyahoga Co. 1–6 November (BD, PL). It was also seen from Lakeshore Metropark on at least three dates spanning 9–23 November (JP).

Long-tailed Duck – One reported on 9 and 10 November at Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Bufflehead – First arrived in the region 22 October (RR) with highest counts including 32 at Wellington Reservoir 13 November (SSn) and 36 at LaDue Reservoir 8 November (DB).

Common Goldeneye – First noted 23 October at Rocky River Park (PL), with eight there on 25 November (CC). A high count was 20 at Sims Park on 23 November (NA) with only one reported at HBSNP for the season, 19 November (RH).

Hooded Merganser – Numbers peaked at 100 at LaDue Reservoir on 20 November (RR).

Common Merganser – An early arrival at HBSNP 2 October did not preclude any large numbers for the rest of the season (RH). The maximum count was of 233 on 7 November at Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Red-breasted Merganser – First noted 27 September at HBSNP (RH), with a maximum of 900 on 23 November (RH). The high count received was of 4,060 from Lakeshore

Metropark 23 November (JP). Thousands were at Eastlake (m.obs), however not in the numbers we have come to expect in the region in November. Three hundred noted at Avon Lake Power Plant 25 November (CC).

Ruddy Duck – An early high count of 75 was made at Wellington Reservoir 17 October (HO). Seasonal maximum of 800–850 there 13–19 November (JB, SSn) and 420 at Mogadore Reservoir and 100 at Wingfoot Lake, Summit Co. 20 November (GBe).

Ruffed Grouse – No reports received.

Wild Turkey – Reported consistently from the HBSNP-MMSNP area throughout the period (RH), plus four at Chagrin River Park in October (NA). Other reports scattered around the region, including 12 in Munson Twp., Geauga Co. (LGi).

Red-throated Loon – One was seen 19 November among a large Common Loon flight, witnessed from Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Common Loon – First dates noted were 16 October at Lakeshore Metropark (JP) and 23 October at HBSNP (RH). A huge westerly flight was noted 19 November with 221 counted from HBSNP (RH, JT, EB) and an estimated 350 at Lakeshore Metropark (JP). Another good flight noted on 23 November from Rocky River, with 53 counted in 30 minutes of observation (PL, BF).

Pied-billed Grebe – A maximum of 33 at Nimisila Reservoir, Summit Co. on 29 October (GBe) was followed closely by 31 on Mogadore Reservoir

20 November (GBe).

Horned Grebe – Low numbers of this species. Only one or two noted at any given location between 26 October and 30 November (RH, JP, FL. m.obs.).

Red-necked Grebe – Only one reported from Lakeshore Metropark 24 November (JP).

Northern Gannet – The first of many sightings of this species into the winter season, one immature was at HBSNP 26 November (EB, RH, JT).

Double-crested Cormorant – Six hundred were estimated on 9 October at HBSNP (RH). Inland, 90 noted at North Reservoir, Summit Co. 6 November (GBe).



Photo by John Pogacnik

Magnificent Frigatebird

Lake County over Lake Erie – September 15, 2005

Magnificent Frigatebird – A first for the region. One was photographed flying east over Lakeshore Metropark, North Perry on the afternoon of 5 September (JP). It was not relocated. Details with the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Least Bittern – This species nearly escaped detection in the region this year. A late report from summer of one seen 29 August at Arcola Creek, Lake County (JP).

American Bittern – Another late report from the summer season; one found on 11 August at Gully Brook Preserve, Willoughby Hills, Lake Co. (JP).

Great Blue Heron – Species is widespread and common. Twenty were noted at MMSNP 3 November (SI); 10 there 16 November (RH).

Great Egret – One was noted 15 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Also noted at Sandy Ridge 24 September (CC).

Cattle Egret – Six were unexpected at Nesmith Lake 1 November (GBe).

Green Heron – One to three typically were reported from various locations. The single location high count was of six at North Chagrin Reservation 10 September (KM). Expected departure dates were represented by one 24 September at Sandy Ridge Reservation (CC), and 25 September at Station Road in CVNP (DAC). Quite unexpected was one that turned up in Kirtland, Lake Co. on 14 November (CK) followed by another in Madison Twp, Lake County 21 November (JP).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – The traditional roost along the lower Cuyahoga River in Cleveland provided 39 on 21 November (PL). Nine were at Shaker Lakes during September into early October (LD). Two also seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 7 September (RH). It was also noted at Summit Lake, Akron 1 October (GBe) and at Wildwood State Park 14 Oct (NA).

Turkey Vulture – A maximum of 75 counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 20 September (RH).

Osprey – One was consistently reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area through 3 October (RH). A late report came from Wellington Reservoir 20 November (JWa fide Bill Whan).

Bald Eagle – One was consistently

reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area through 18 October (RH). Another regularly reported from the CVNP (SJ, m.obs.) and one at Bacon Woods, Lorain Co. on 15 October (CC).

Northern Harrier – First reported 12 September through 14 November in the HBSNP area (RH). A few scattered reports of individuals elsewhere in the region (FL, m.obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – No more than one per day reported beginning 14 September through 13 November. Locations included the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH), CVNP (DAC, TMR) Summit Co. (GBe), Kirtland, Lake Co. (CK), and South Russell, Geauga Co. (LGi).

Cooper's Hawk – Generally one to three reported daily. This species has become more numerous in recent years and loves finding prey at bird feeding stations.

Red-shouldered Hawk – Widespread throughout the region, including urban areas. One and two expected daily (LD, m.obs.). One immature at Erie Street Cemetery, Cleveland on 24 September was at a somewhat unusual location (RSH).

Broad-winged Hawk – A report of one 1 October at Shaker Lakes was beyond the expected departure date for this species in the region (LD).

Red-tailed Hawk – Singles or pairs were typical. One was noted jousting with two mink in the CVNP on 5 September (DAC).

Rough-legged Hawk – Few reports, including a somewhat early arrival at the old Coliseum site in CVNP on 15 October (DAC).

American Kestrel – Singles noted from scattered locations including Cleveland and Highland Heights (m.obs.).

Merlin – One or two reported from 5 September through 6 November from the HBSNP-MMSNP area (JT, RH, JP). One noted at Dike 14, Cuyahoga Co. 31 October (PL) and one in Bainbridge, Geauga Co. 6 November (JH).

Peregrine Falcon – One and two reported 16 September through 6 November in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (JT, RH). Resident birds remained at the Hilliard Rd. bridge at least until 20 November (CC). Two were at the Lorain Lakefront area 25 November (CC).

Virginia Rail – Two reports; one bird at Ira Road, CVNP, located by call on 15 October (DAC), and one at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co. 12 November (JH).

Sora – One located at Pleasant Valley Marsh, 5 September (DAC). An injured immature was at Nimisila Lake 6 September (GBe). One noted at Chagrin River Park, Lake Co. on 2 October (JT) and one late bird at Sandy Ridge Reservation 24 October (CC).

American Coot – A maximum of 775 tallied in the Akron/Portage Lakes area 20 November (GBe), topped the 600+ from Wellington Reservoir 6 November (RSH). That's a lot of mudhens!

Sandhill Crane – Unexpectedly, two were seen flying north over Eastlake, Lake Co. on 4 November (AJF). Two were seen near Aquilla and Spencer Roads, Claridon Twp., Geauga Co. 13 October (DB), six reported from near La-Due Reservoir, Geauga Co. 17 October through 25 November (DB, LGi, m.obs.).

Black-bellied Plover – The last was reported from HBSNP 8 October (RH).

American Golden-Plover – Species last reported from HBSNP 22 September (RH).

Killdeer – A late report of 125 at West Branch State Park, Portage Co. 7 August provided the high count for

autumn in the region (RSH). thirty in Parma on 11 September (GL) and late season reports included five at Crystal Lake, Stow on 19 November (DAC), 11 remaining at LaDue Reservoir to 20 November (RR), one at Wildwood State Park 26 November (NA) and one along North Marginal Road, Cleveland the same day (JWe).

Greater Yellowlegs – Two at Nesmith Lake 1 November (GBe) were late with the last seen 6 November at Fairport Harbor while area birders watched for cave swallows (JP, RH, LR).

Lesser Yellowlegs – This species was noted 11 September in Parma and at HBSNP (RH, GL).

Solitary Sandpiper – Scattered reports of ones and twos with the last noted 13 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Willet – Only one report for the season was from Lakeshore Metropark 5 September (JP).

Spotted Sandpiper – The last was noted 14 October at Veteran's Park (LR).

Ruddy Turnstone – One remained at West Branch State Park, Portage Co. through 23 October (GBe). This bird may have been injured and possibly the same one seen on 31 August.

Sanderling – A maximum of 12 at HBSNP on 24 September, with the last one noted at that location 2 October (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Last spotted 16 September at HBSNP (RH).

Least Sandpiper – Bird was last noted 17 September at HBSNP (RH).

White-rumped Sandpiper – Only one reported from HBSNP 1 October (EB).

Pectoral Sandpiper – Four were seen in Parma 11 September (GL), with the last noted at LaDue Reservoir 22 October (RR).

Purple Sandpiper – Two arrived 25 November at the lighthouse break wall, HBSNP, the most reliable location in Ohio for this species (EB).

Dunlin – Few were noted. One was early on 7 October at HBSNP (RH), with two seen on 2 November (RH).

Wilson's Snipe – This species was noted 5 September through 26 October (JP, GL, m.obs.) with eight at Sandy Ridge in 4 November (JKR, TMR).

American Woodcock – Migrants were noted 11 September through 10 November (JT, RH, CW).

Parasitic Jaeger – A review species for Ohio, this jaeger is not as expected in the region as pomarine, and there have been no photos or specimens of this species in the region in decades.

Two reports by single observers; one from HBSNP 29 October (LR) and one from Lakeshore Metropark 30 October (JP).

Pomarine Jaeger – Two were seen from HBSNP 14 November (BM). One noted from Lakeshore Metropark 25 November (JP) and one from HBSNP 26 November (JT, EB, RH). All were within the expected window of passage through the region.

Jaeger species – Jaegers present a tough ID at the distances and in the weather conditions often experienced in NE Ohio. Birds unidentified to species included one 25 October and another, 28 November at Rocky River Park (PL). The latter, at least, falling more within the expected passage of pomarine than any other jaeger species.



Photo by Greg Bennett

Red Phalarope

Lorain, Ohio — October 16, 2005

Red Phalarope – One bird at Lorain Harbor 16 October (GBe) and one seen flying past HBSNP on 26 October (RH). It was last reported 6 November at Fairport Harbor (JP).

Laughing Gull – This species was reported to the *Ohio Cardinal* on 30 August and 18 – 25 October at Findley State Park (BH, fide Bill Whan).

Little Gull – Singles were noted with Bonaparte's gulls on five dates spanning 22 October through 25 November in Fairport Harbor (JT, EB, RH, JL). It was also seen 23 October at Lakeshore Metropark (JP) and one adult at Wildwood State Park 25 October (RH).

Bonaparte's Gull – Seven thousand were in the HBSNP-Fairport Harbor area 26 October (RH) with other reports of tens of thousands at Eastlake (JT). Inland tallies included 60 at West Branch State Park 30 October through 13 November (GBe). Unusual were three along the Cuyahoga River at Station Road, 20 November (DAC) with 1,200 remaining at E. 72nd Street, Cleveland through 30 November (FL).

Ring-billed Gull – An estimated 2,700 in the HBSNP area 22 November (RH) and 2,000 at Avon Lake Power Plant 25 November (CC).

Herring Gull – Three hundred reported in late November in the HBSNP area (RH).

Thayer's Gull – Remarkably, the only report of this species came not from Lake Erie, but from a field in Pittsfield Twp., Lorain Co, south of Oberlin 6 November, where an adult was found by experienced observers (RSH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – The first report since early August was reported 3 September in Lorain (JP). Another report included one in a field in Pittsfield Township, Lorain Co. 6 November (RSH), accompanied by 500 ring-billed gulls and 20 herring gulls.

Glaucous Gull – One first winter bird was present 24 November at Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Great Black-backed Gull – Only singles were reported for most of September and October, with a maximum of 15 around Fairport Harbor on 16 November (RH).

Black-legged Kittiwake – Another tally for Lakeshore Metropark was one immature reported 24 November (JP).

Caspian Tern – At the onset of the reporting period, a maximum of 11 were counted at Springfield Lake 1 September (GBe). Five noted in the HBSNP area through 10 September, with two remaining to 7 October (RH).

Common Tern – In less than one hour of observation on the afternoon of 25 October at Wildwood State Park, 740 were observed flying east (RH). Otherwise, a maximum of 84 were seen on 11 September at HBSNP (RH).

Forster's Tern - None reported.

Mourning Dove – Daily high counts of 40 to 50 were typical (RH, DAC). One hundred were reported from Perry Park, Lake Co. 20 November (TMR).

Black-billed Cuckoo – One was noted 15 September at Mentor Lagoons (RH) and 10 September on the CVNP fall census (DAC, et. al.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – One of the remarkable stories of this season was the number of late reports of this species, which is not expected past late September. One was at Mogadore Reservoir 2 October (GBe), followed by one in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 3 October (RH). Later still was one 10 October in Munson Twp. (KM). These dates, interesting in themselves, were far surpassed by one 25 October at Chagrin River Park, Lake Co. (NA) and, lastly, one was discovered at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Co on the amazing date of 4 November (JKR, BD, PL, TMR, m.obs.). This bird was observed eating "woollybear" caterpillars (*Pyrrharctia*

isabella). This is the second-latest ever record for the region.

Eastern Screech-Owl – Three were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area 14 October (RH). It was also reported from Westlake (CC), Kirtland (CK) and Sagamore Hills (DAC).

Great Horned Owl – One noted in Kirtland 25 September (CK), one at HBSNP 1 November (SI) and two in Sagamore Hills 17 November (DAC).

Barred Owl – Few reports. One noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Long-eared Owl – One was found at HBSNP 9 October (EB, JT, RH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – The only report received was of one returning to the area of the Seiberling Naturealm 21 November (WS fide Larry Rosche).

Common Nighthawk – A few of the higher counts included 146 in Summit Co. 5 September (JB), 80+ in Northfield on 8 September (DAC), 63 at Cas-



Photo by Judy Kolo-Rose

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Sandy Ridge Reservation
November 4, 2005

cade Valley Metropark, Summit Co., on 18 September (GBe) and 50 in Russell Twp., Geauga 8 September (DB). The latest for HBSNP was one seen on the mornings of 2 – 4 October (RH).

Chimney Swift – In Summit Co. 5 September 385 (JB); 400 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 20 September (RH). Most departed by 15 October (m.obs.). One was somewhat tardy at HBSNP 21 October (RH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – Late reports of adult males came from Kent on 4 September (BB) and Chesterland, Geauga Co. on 16 September (BP). Most ruby-throats departed on or before 23 September (RH, JWe). A late report of a female came 30 September in Oberlin, Lorain Co. (DDS) and another female/immature in Chesterland, Geauga Co. the same day (BP).

Rufous Hummingbird – Two visited feeders in Wadsworth only two–three miles apart, providing first records for Medina County. One was at the residence of Michelle Hendrick, 9 October–7 November (MH, RSH EC). This bird was banded 14 October by Allen Chartier of Michigan. An immature male was at another Wadsworth residence on Dohner Drive, 4 November into December, also banded by Chartier 14 November.

Belted Kingfisher – Generally one to three reported daily from various locations (TMR, m.obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker – Species seemed down this year. One was seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area through 10 September (RH), one to three in the CVNP (DAC, CW, SJ) and one at North Chagrin Reservation 2 October (KM, m.obs.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker – Quite common with 12 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area into late September (RH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – Nine was a good tally in the HBSNP-



Photo by Ernie Cornelius

Immature Male Rufous Hummingbird
Wadsworth, Ohio – October 29, 2005

MMSNP area 27 September (RH). Six were seen there 9 October (MK) and at least a few remained through the end of the period.

Downy Woodpecker – Common with 20 reported in the HBSNP-MMSNP area in late September (RH).

Hairy Woodpecker – Generally one to three were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area per visit, except for six there on 1 October (RH).

Northern Flicker – Twenty at HBSNP-MMSNP on 11 October (RH) with four still present at Ira Road, CVNP 28 November (TMR).

Pileated Woodpecker – One or two are expected daily in the region by single observers, with sightings of four or more in a day exceptional.

Five were seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 2 October. One was regularly seen at Shaker Lakes, considered locally unusual (LD, JWe).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – Singles were sighted 5 September at Shaker Lakes (JWe), also 10 September at North Chagrin Reservation, Lake Co. (KM) and one 16 – 17 September at Mentor Lagoons (JT, RH, NA). A single bird was found at Arcola Creek 19 September (JP) and one at Shaker Lakes 20-21 September (RR, JWe).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – Twelve were counted 10 September (RH). Last noted at Wendy Park, Cuyahoga Co. 1 October (RR) and the HBSNP-MMSNP area 2 October (RH, JT).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – An incredible 10 were counted in the

HBSNP-MMSNP area on 10 September, with one seen the same day in CVNP (DV). Species last seen 25 September (RH, JT).

Acadian Flycatcher – End-of-season reports came from Bacon Woods, Lorain Co. 24 September (CC), and one extraordinarily late sighting on 13 October at Hell Hollow Metropark, Lake Co. (JP).

Willow Flycatcher – The last was reported from Furnace Run Metropark, Summit Co. 14 September (RSH).

Alder/Willow Flycatcher – Birds indistinguishable as either Alder or Willow (“Traill’s”) were seen as late as 17 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Least Flycatcher – Five were seen on 10 September at HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Three were noted at Firestone Metropark 15 September (RSH). Rob Harlan said, “I have noticed fewer migrant leasts in recent years.”

Gray Flycatcher – The one bird documented by experienced observers 18 September just east of the Coast Guard Road near Headlands Beach State Park would provide the first record for the region and only the second record for Ohio. Details are with the Ohio Bird Records Committee (JT, RH, LR, m.obs.).

Eastern Phoebe – Nine seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 7 October (RH) with the last one noted at Dike 14 on 15 November (NA).

Great Crested Flycatcher – the species was last reported 10 September during the CVNP fall census (DAC, et. al.).

Western Kingbird – A report of this species from Chapin Forest 2 October is being reviewed by the Ohio Bird Records Committee (HP).

Eastern Kingbird – Three were seen in Kirtland on 3 September (CK), with

the last from the region 10 September in the CVNP (DAC).

Northern Shrike – A bird was first seen 31 October at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (LR). One was also noted at the Sanitation Ponds of CVNP on 13 November (DAC).

White-eyed Vireo – A late report was of one at Firestone Metropark 22 October (RSH). This date was surpassed by one late bird 11–14 November at Mentor Lagoons (SI, JMc, RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo – A single bird was present in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 16 – 18 September (JT, RH). Species last noted 24 September at Bacon Woods, Lorain Co. (CC).

Blue-headed Vireo – Migrants were found 9 September through 22 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, with a maximum of seven found there on 4 October (RH). Last for the region was seen at Euclid Creek Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. 27 October (NA).

Warbling Vireo – A single location maximum of 10 was noted on 10 September at Ira Road, CVNP (TMR). A tardy individual was found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 23 October (RH, JT). Outside the region an apparent new late date for Ohio was set with one present in Lucas County 8 November (BZ).

Philadelphia Vireo – A high count of 18, were tracked down by diligent observers RH and JT on 10 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area. These observers also found the species through 5 October. Other reports included two at Shaker Lakes 4 September (BF), singles in Akron 18 September and 2 October (GBE) and one 11 September in CVNP (DAC).

Red-eyed Vireo – Migrants peaked on 10 September with 50 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). The last one detected there was on 13 October.

What might be the second latest for the region, was seen at North Chagrin Reservation on 10 November (KM).

Blue Jay – High daily counts of 30 at West Creek Preserve, Parma (TMR), and 27 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH), both on 11 September (RH).

American Crow – generally fewer than 15 per day reported by single observers with 24 seen at Ira Road, CVNP 21 November (TMR).

Horned Lark – Migrants were noted September through mid November (CK, SI).

Purple Martin – Last date for the HBSNP-MMSNP area was of one 9 September (RH), and four on 10 September on the CVNP fall census (DAC, et. al.).

Tree Swallow – MMSNP area saw a staging of 1,400 on 4 September (RH) where the species was last noted 14 October (RH). One laggard reported 13 November from Lakeshore Metropark (JP).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – A maximum for fall was 40 on 4 September (RH) and the last seen 14 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). A report for summer was received of greater than 100 at Sandy Ridge Reservation on 4 July (CC).

Bank Swallow – One lingered until 3 September at HBSNP (RH).

Cliff Swallow – One was seen on 20 September at HBSNP (RH).

Cave Swallow – See next three pages

Barn Swallow – Fifty were noted in early September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH) with the last seen there 29 September (RH). This species did not linger late in the region.

Black-capped Chickadee – In the HBSNP-MMSNP area, the maximum



Photo by Kevin Metcalf

Cave Swallow

Cave Swallow – Certainly the sensation of the season was the invasion of this species, representing the first documented sightings for Ohio. First reported from Perry Park, Lake Co. on a Kirtland Bird Club Field Trip 5 November, observers identified one and possibly as many as 16 (JP, PL, m.obs.). Estimates as high as 70 birds seen 6 November along the Lake County shore from Painesville Township Park and other vantage points (VW, JP, LR, KM, RH, JMc, AF m.obs). Another was well seen from Perry Park 12 November (DC, LB, JMc) and from Lakeshore Metropark, Lake Co. as well as Bay Village, Cuyahoga Co. 13 November (JP, PL). Four were seen in Willoughby along the Lake Erie shore 13 November (JT) and the HBSNP-MMSNP area 14 November (RH, JMc).



Photo by Kevin Metcalf

Cave Swallow from Lakewood, OH November 2005 Note the pale chin and throat.

Photo by Kevin Metcalf



The Cave Swallow specimen seen in these photos was en route to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and is held by Larry Rosche. The specimen is a first specimen for Ohio and seems to represent the southwestern race, *Petrochelidon fulva pelodoma*.

daily count was of 28 (RH). Twenty-four noted at Ira Road, CVNP 28 November (TMR) and 15 at Wildwood State Park 1 November (NA).

Tufted Titmouse – High daily count of 15 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 3 October (RH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – A good showing for this species. It was found from late August through the end of the period, with a daily maximum reported of 20 on 11 September in CVNP (CW, SJ).

White-breasted Nuthatch – Six or fewer were typically reported as daily high counts. A daily maximum of 10 reported for the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 3 October (RH). The same number found in CVNP on 25 September (DV).

Brown Creeper – The 20 creepers found on 25 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area was impressive enough, however 30 on 12 October was extraordinary (RH).

Carolina Wren – Eight per day was typical with a maximum of 10 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 11 September (RH).

House Wren – Eight were found on 9 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH) and six in CVNP at Jaite on 17 September (DAC).

Winter Wren – Migrants of this species were detected from 18 September through 9 November, with some lingering into the winter season regionally. Remarkable were counts of an estimated 100 on 9–10 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH, JT).

Sedge Wren – This bird nearly escaped detection this fall, save one spotted 11 October at the Dike 14 dredge disposal impoundment on the Cleveland lakefront (BW, BF).



Photo by Scott Wright

Red-breasted Nuthatch

North Olmsted – Fall 2005

Marsh Wren – First detected on 20 September, then 20 October and 2 November in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Another was sighted at Arcola Creek 28 September and 4 November (JP).

Golden-crowned Kinglet – First date reported was 18 September, with 35 on 11 October (RH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – First date of 10 September on the CVNP census (DAC, et. al), with 80 on 27 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Many were also noted on 9 October, such as 60+ Wildwood State Park (NA).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Species was last noted on 10 September at Jaite, CVNP (DAC).

Eastern Bluebird – Forty-nine were

noted along the CVNP towpath 20 October (MR) for the high count.

Veery – Migrants were noted 22 August through 25 September (RSH, RH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – Migrants recorded in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 7 September through 12 October (RH). The last seen inland was at Shaker Lakes 10 October (JWe).

Swainson's Thrush – Migrants were noted through 2 October at HBSNP-MMSNP area, with a maximum of 22 counted on 24 September (RH) The last reports were of one at Wildwood State Park 9 October (NA), and one at Shaker Lakes 10 October (JW). Some observers felt numbers were low. Contrarily, an estimated flock of 275–350 thrushes were reported from Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga Co. on 20 September (PCh). The flock was believed to consist of 80% Swainson's.

The unexpected has become the expected when birding the Headlands Beach State Nature Park area. Outstanding rarities – Gray Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Northern Gannet, Brant, and a late November Blackpoll Warbler – as well as a continuous stream of days filled with warblers, vireos and thrushes in September (how about 18 Philadelphia Vireos on the 10th!) made for many pleasant hours in the field. October surprised with 21 species of warblers, hundreds of sparrows, mostly white-throated, and a White-winged Crossbill as we recorded our most species (155) for the month. And I'll never forget having to switch identification gears after seeing a Northern Gannet and having Jerry Talkington find a bright and sprightly Blackpoll Warbler – on November 26! What also made the season enjoyable for me was exploring new places at Mentor Lagoons to seek birds – new trails, more little “cubbyholes” there to find and enjoy the birds of autumn 2005 and beyond.

Hermit Thrush – First migrants were noted 27 September at HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH), with a maximum there of 15 on 11 October (RH). Late birds were seen at Shaker Lakes 14 November (JWe) and at North Chagrin Reservation 26 November (KM, GM).

Wood Thrush – Fall migrants were scarce, with only one reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area in September (RH). Late dates were of one at Erie Street Cemetery 15 October (RSH) and the last at Shaker Lakes 17 October (JWe).

American Robin – Reports of 80 to 100 were received from several locations (RH, BD, KG, m.obs.). Hundreds were reported 10 October at Garfield Park Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. (JB), and a high count of 250+ in CVNP 4 November (DV).

Gray Catbird – The daily high of 28 were noted in CVNP 10 September (DV), with 12 the same day at HBSNP-MMSNP area. Quite a few lingered past their expected departure in early October, with reports of one at Dike 14 on 23 October (SBC), one at Chagrin River Park, Lake Co. 27 October (NA), one at Hinckley Reser-

vation, Medina Co. 2 November (BR), one at River Road, Madison Twp. 3 November (JP), and one at HBSNP 5 and 11 November (RH, SI).

Northern Mockingbird – Species can be fairly common in urban areas, especially closer to the Lake Erie shore. One was detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area in late November (RH).

Brown Thrasher – Matching the catbird numbers on 10 September, 12 were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). The last was found 16 October at Chagrin River Park (NA).

European Starling – Few observers take the time to count this abundant species. One hundred at Findley State Park in November was a representative count for a given location (TMR).

American Pipit – Migrants were noted from 19 September through 27 November (RH, BD, m.obs.).

Cedar Waxwing – A high daily count of 150 in CVNP 11 November (DAC), with a flock of about 100 at North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. in mid November (KM).

Blue-winged Warbler – One was seen in CVNP 4 September (DAC) and two found there 10 September (DV).

Tennessee Warbler – A high count of seven on 12 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH) with the last noted there 20 October (RH).

Orange-crowned Warbler – Fewer than expected. Two early birds were found 4 September in CVNP (DAC), and two were seen at Wildwood State Park 5 October (NA) and in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 11 October (RH). The last was seen 28 October at North Chagrin Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. (KM).

Nashville Warbler – First noted 5 September, maximum of 35 on 25 September. One was found on the late date of 4 November at Shaker Lakes (JWe).

Northern Parula – Migrants were found 10 September through 6 October (RH, JP, m.obs.).

Yellow Warbler – This species was found consistently in the HBSNP-MMSNP area through mid September; 12 present 10 September (RH) with the last date noted 26 September (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – Maximum noted was 12 on 10 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH) and the last seen there 6 October (RH).

Magnolia Warbler – A maximum of 20 were counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 7 September (RH). Six were still present at that location on the late date of 12 October (RH, NA).

Cape May Warbler – Three were seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 21 September (RH) with one remaining there through 7 October (RH). Two were noted at Summit Lake on 8 October (GBe).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – Species found regularly through the month of September, with high counts of five in the HBSNP-MMSNP area with four present through 9 October (RH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler – Ninety were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 12 October (RH) and 73 at Shaker Lakes 10 October (JWe). These represented the high daily counts for the season. Later seasonal reports included two in Jaite, CVNP 20 November (FL).

Black-throated Gray Warbler – Details were received for one believed to be a first fall female, seen by two observers at Firestone Metropark, Summit County 22 October (EP, JR). The bird was seen twice between 9 AM and 10:30 AM. Field marks noted included solid dark crown, white supercilium, black auriculars, white malar and throat, two distinct black dashed lines on flanks, two substantial white wing bars, back and upper tail dark, bill dark. Details with the Ohio Bird Records Committee.

Black-throated Green Warbler – A maximum of 15 were counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 3 October (RH). Inland, five were noted at Summit Lake 9 October (GBe). The last date reported was 21 October in the HBSNP area (RH).

Blackburnian Warbler – A remarkable seven were still present in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on the late date of 12 October (RH).

Yellow-throated Warbler – Unusual in fall, one was found in Stow, Summit Co. on 19 September (GB).

Pine Warbler – Presumed local breeders were noted singing in September, as is typical (KM, RSH). The only report of a migrant was from Wildwood State Park on the late date of 31 October (NA).

Palm Warbler – Usually one of our more common migrant warblers, a high count of only 16 were seen in CVNP 8 October (DV). Also found 10 September through 23 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Bay-breasted Warbler – A high count of 11 were found 25 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area. Four were still present on 3 October (RH). The last date reported was 5 October at Rocky River Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. (RSH).



Photo by Scott Wright

Blackpoll Warbler
September 25, 2005

Blackpoll Warbler – 20 September brought an estimated 50 to the HBSNP-MMSNP area, with seven still lingering to 12 October (RH). Mind-boggling was a very healthy looking blackpoll foraging at Headlands Beach on 26 November, beating the latest date for the species in the region by 25 days! (JT, EB, RH).

Black-and-white Warbler – maximum of eight were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area 9 September (RH). The species lingered through 10 October at that location (JT, RH).

American Redstart – Fourteen were recorded in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 10 September (RH) with the last reported 8 October (RH).

Prothonotary Warbler – An important sighting of one still present near the nesting area at Station Road 6 September (DAC), shedding some light on how late this uncommon species lingers in the region.

Ovenbird – The high count was eight on 10 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Six still noted 4 October in downtown Cleveland (CW) with the last report 11 October in Kirtland (CK).

Louisiana Waterthrush – A belated report of one 24 August in Rocky River Reservation (RSH) and another late report of two on the CVNP census 10 September (DAC. et. al.).



Photo by Scott Wright

Northern Waterthrush
Cleveland – Autumn, 2005

Northern Waterthrush – Species was not widely reported. Five were estimated in downtown Cleveland 15 September (SWr). Four were found on 12, 14 and 19 September at Shaker Lakes (JWe). The last reports included one each at Shaker Lakes 7 October (JWe) and 10 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (JT).

Connecticut Warbler – Single representatives of this elusive species were noted on 7 September in downtown Cleveland (SWr), Shaker Lakes 9, 12 September (JWe), Lakeshore Metropark 24 September (JP) and at HBSNP 25 September (RH).

Mourning Warbler – Numerous reports with four in Cleveland 7 September (SWr) and 15 September (TMR). October reports included one 8 October in CVNP (DV) and one at Wildwood State Park (NA). One was noted 9 October at Shaker Lakes (GN, TP) and the last seen 10 October at Garfield Park Reservation, Cuyahoga Co. (JB).

Common Yellowthroat – A high count of 18 on 10 September were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). It was also reported as abundant in downtown Cleveland 16 September (JAE, SWr, BD). The last dawdlers were found on 2 November (RH) and 17 November (BR), the latter at Jackson Field, South Chagrin Reservation.

Hooded Warbler – An unusual number of October reports included one at Erie Street Cemetery, Cleveland on 1 October (RR), one immature/female at

Mogadore Reservoir 2 October (GBe), a late male 8 October in CVNP (DV) and a female 10 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (JT, RH).

Wilson's Warbler – A daily maximum of 22 was counted on 7 September (RH) with the last one seen at North Chagrin on 6 October (RR).

Canada Warbler – Three were noted on 9 September in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). The last was reported from Shaker Lakes 23 September (JWe).

Yellow-breasted Chat – Two birds were reported on the CVNP fall census 10 September (DAC, et. al.).

Scarlet Tanager – Three occurred early in the reporting season from Ira Road, CVNP (TMR). Mostly singles were noted thereafter through 10 October (JWe, m.obs.). Numbers seemed low.

Eastern Towhee – Eight counted 4 September, CVNP (DAC) and five at HBSNP-MMSNP area 10 October (RH). A few lingered through the end of the period.

American Tree Sparrow – The first arrivals were noted in the region 20 October (RH, MR). As many as 50 were counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 19 November (RH).

Chipping Sparrow – Twenty were counted on 17 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH), with the last one at South Chagrin Reservation on the late date of 17 November (BR).

Clay-colored Sparrow – The only report was of one at North Chagrin Reservation 2 October (KM, JMcC, m.obs.).

Field Sparrow – Fourteen were noted on 8 October in CVNP (DV) and the last date was 9 November at HBSNP (RH).

Vesper Sparrow – This species just made the fall report with one sighting at HBSNP 1 October (EB).

Savannah Sparrow – One was late at HBSNP on 27 November (RH).

Grasshopper Sparrow – Only one was found at Arcola Creek, Lake Co., 28 September (JP).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow – Always an exciting find in the region, this secretive species was reported at Arcola Creek, Lake Co. 28 September (JP). No reports were received from Dike 14 this fall where they have been somewhat reliable in the recent past.

Fox Sparrow – Early arrivals were at Shaker Lakes 9 October (LD) and HBSNP 11 October (RH, JT). It was noted on several dates in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, including five on 9 November (RH). The high count in the region of 10 at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site 4 November (LR) and it was noted through the end of the period in some locations.

Song Sparrow – Fifty were counted at Shaker Lakes 8-9 October (LD) and 42 on 8 October in CVNP (DV). Numbers declined into November.

Lincoln's Sparrow – Single birds were first noted 10 September at North Chagrin Reservation (KM), followed the next day at HBSNP (RH). A maximum of 10 at Erie Street Cemetery, Cleveland 24 September (RSH) with the last on 28 October (RH).

Swamp Sparrow – An outstanding inland high count of 50+ was made at Shaker Lakes 10 October (LD). Another 25 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 12 October (RH) were noted at the latter location through 10 November (RH).

White-throated Sparrow – The first arrived 5 September at HBSNP (RH), with 300 estimated there 9–11 October (RH). The inland high count of

100+ was made at Shaker Lakes on 8–9 October (LD).

White-crowned Sparrow – Early arrivals were noted in Kirtland 24 September (CK) with the bulk arriving 8–9 October. The high count reported was 20 at Shaker Lakes on 8–9 October (LD).

Dark-eyed Junco – One was noted 16 September at Erie Street Cemetery, Cleveland (JAE). They arrived en masse with the white-crowned and white-throated sparrows; 50 on 9 October in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, 110 in the Gordon Park/Dike 14 area 15 November (NA) and 60 in Euclid on 30 November (RH).

Lapland Longspur – Three were seen at HBSNP on 30 October (RH), and the last seen there on 2 November (RH).

Snow Bunting – The first arrival noted at HBSNP was on the early date of 19 October (SI). Also early were eight at this location 21 October (RH) with a maximum of 110 on 30 October (RH). A late report came from Perry Park, Lake Co. 20 November (CC).

Northern Cardinal – Typical daily counts ranged from 15 to 25 and were reported by many observers.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Eight were noted on 10 September (RH), with the last report 12 October at Shaker Lakes (JWe).

Indigo Bunting – One was still feeding a young cowbird 6 September (DAC). Three in CVNP 8 October (DV) with the last date reported was 10 October (RH, JWe).

Red-winged Blackbird – A good late season count of 51 was made at Ira Road, CVNP 21 November (TMR). Unlike last year, relatively few lingered through the end of the period at some locales, such as North Chagrin Reservation (KM).

Eastern Meadowlark – The last date reported was 9 November in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Rusty Blackbird – This species is in precipitous decline throughout North America. One hundred were seen in CVNP 5 November (DAC). Another 70 were seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 21 October (RH). It was reported as numerous at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site in October and November (LR). The species was also noted at Sandy Ridge Reservation (CC), North Chagrin Reservation (KM) with the last reported 20 November in CVNP (FL).

Brewer's Blackbird – This species is unexpected in NE Ohio. This individual was identified standing atop a horse in southern Geauga Co. near the corner of Nash Road and Rte. 168, 5 November (JH).

Common Grackle – Flocks of up to 3,000+ were reported at North Chagrin Reservation in October (KM). An estimated 300 were seen in Kirtland 20 October (CK).

Brown-headed Cowbird – Has this species declined? Few birders take the time to count them, but those who did reported mostly single digit counts. It was absent from most daily lists this fall. Only two were found on the CVNP fall census 10 September (DAC, et. al.).

Baltimore Oriole – One bird was reported in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 4 September (KM, m.obs.). Another appeared at Shaker Lakes 5 September (JWe) and seven on the CVNP fall census 10 September (DAC, et. al.).

Purple Finch – There was a modest passage of this species through the area. Migrants noted at Lower Shaker Lake 9 October (BF, TP). One was noted in the HBSNP area 14 October (RH), four at Shaker Lakes 20-21 October (LD, JWe) Small numbers were

noted at Firestone Metropark 23 October (CSp). Four were seen on November 14 in CVNP (TMR). The species lingered until at least 17 November in Kirtland (CK) and 28 November in CVNP (TMR).

House Finch – Fifteen were seen at Shaker Lakes (JWe) and 40 in Kirtland (CK).

White-winged Crossbill – One flew over experienced observers 30 October at Mentor Lagoons, Lake Co. (RH, JT).

Common Redpoll – No reports.

Pine Siskin – Species were first noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 23 October (RH) with a maximum of 12 there on 29 October (RH). Three were seen in South Russell, Geauga Co. 31 October (LGi) and four in Hinckley

Reservation, Medina Co. 2 November (BR). Other occasional flocks of up to 50 reported from Lakeshore Metropark on unspecified dates (JP).

American Goldfinch – This bird was widespread and common as expected. A maximum of 100 estimated in West Creek Preserve, Parma on 11 September (TMR), and 50 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 November (RH).

Evening Grosbeak – no reports

House Sparrow – As many as 275 were counted while driving in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland on one day in September (KM).

Exotic:

Trumpeter Swan – One bird with collar number 6M4 (similar to the one pictured at right) was at Columbia Reservation, Lorain County on 11 November. According to ODNR, this was a female that had been released at the Grand River Wildlife Area in March, 2001. It had been reported in Parkersburg, West Virginia in 2003 and previously at Columbia Reservation in 2004. (*Special thanks to Dave LeGallee for getting the background information on this bird.*)



Photo by E. J. Peiker

Window Strikes: Culling the Herd and the Data

by Clyde Witt

Numbers don't lie; liars use numbers – and then there are birders. We like numbers because we learn a lot from them. A wealth of data recently came to the *Cleveland Bird Calendar* via Megan Tadiello, wildlife rehabilitation specialist at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. Tadiello has put together four-year's worth of data, gathered from window strikes at Cleveland's BP Building.

Window strikes are a common occurrence we're all too familiar with. Culling through the data can generate more questions for birders than answers. It can even lead to wild speculation. Did so many White-throated Sparrows (93) die in the fall of 2005 because they are young fliers and didn't know any better? Are there just more of them?

Lacking the space to present all the data, I've opted to look at some of the highlights. Well, they're lowlights if you're one of the victims. Someone with time and talent should overlay this window strike data with weather information for the periods; or whether lights were on the nights so many birds died.

Speculation is a characteristic and essential part of being an enthusiastic birder. After reading this article, flip through to Julie's piece on banding and Ray's comments on White-throated Sparrows. Take a look at Kevin's overview of the season and the lengthy seasonal species report. They're all pieces of the same puzzle. There's enough information here to generate some interesting conspiracy theories.

Here are some things I found interesting. Anyone wishing to massage the data can find the Excel spreadsheets archived with the other calendar data at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Looking at the death numbers for the years 2002 through 2005, the latter was a tough one for migrants. Sixty-six species managed to collide with the rufous-sided building on the east quadrant of public square. Of the 679 individuals picked up, 240 lived to tell the tale, 452 were DOA and the rest later died or were euthanized

It's no surprise, May of that year saw the most spring impacts and the leader (or loser) was the White-throated Sparrow. Possibly because fall migration is more prolonged, more species and in greater numbers hit the wall; possibly these were more diligent efforts to pick up dead birds that year. Once again it was the White-throated Sparrow that paid the price for inattention, 11 died in September, 73 in October and nine in November.

It was a tough fall for other species as well. Among the more than 600 birds killed, 74 Common Yellowthroats died and 35 American Woodcocks hit the windows. Even a racing pigeon managed to come to an abrupt halt that year.

Another interesting report is from 2004. The species count was low with only 42 victims. The interesting thing is that in the spring, red bat and silver-haired bat species were recovered. Then in the fall of 2004, red bat, silver-haired bat and hoary bat were collected. Bats do not show up in any of the other years. And bats are generally good at avoiding anything. How did they manage to smack into a building? Things that make you say, hmmm.

Probably the most interesting thing about these numbers is that they make you wonder what the real window-strike totals are. How tough must it be for a bird to weave its way around the Key Tower at 947 feet, the Terminal Tower at 708 feet and the BP Building standing in their shadows at only 658 feet.?

More questions than answers, that's for sure.

Species Found at the BP America Building during 2005



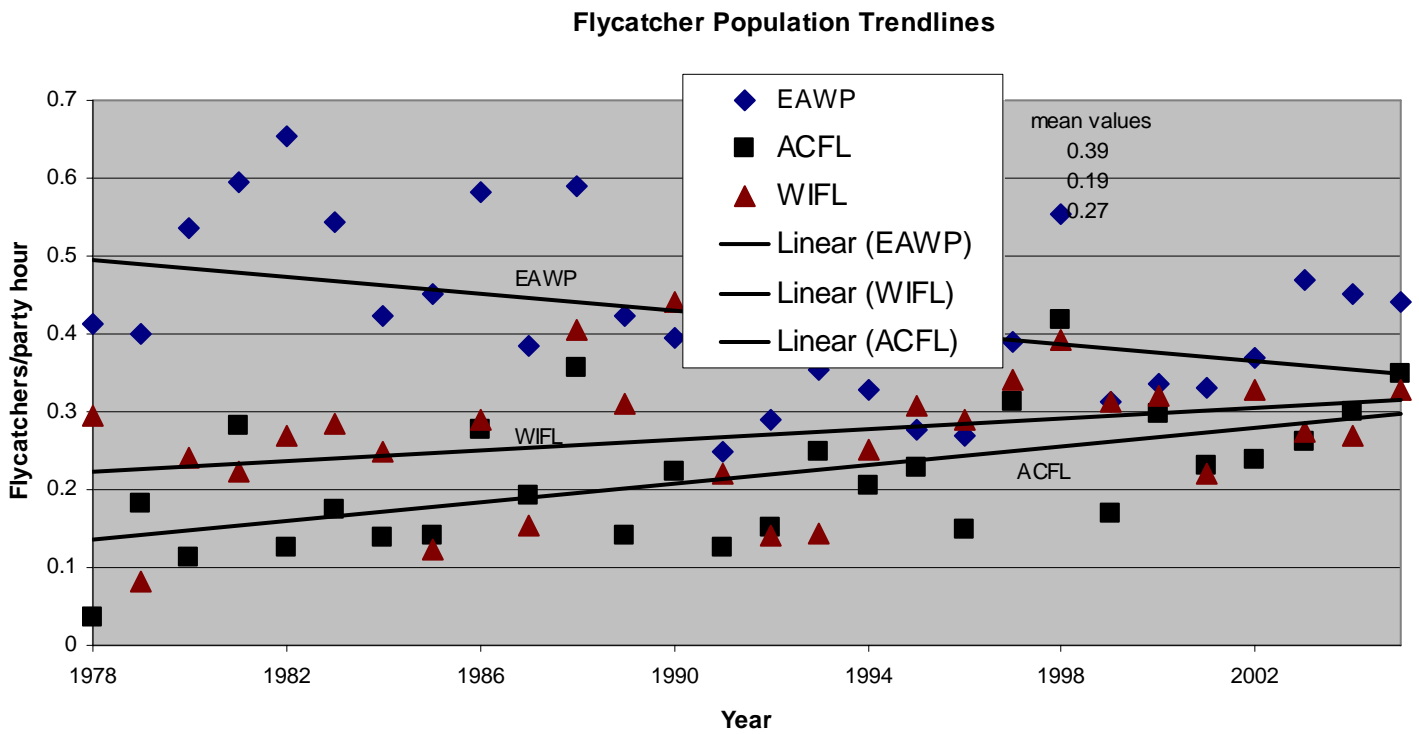
American redstart
 American robin
 American woodcock
 Baltimore oriole
 Black and white warbler
 Blackburnian warbler
 Black-capped chickadee
 Blackpoll warbler
 Black-throated blue warbler
 Black-throated green warbler
 Blue-winged warbler
 Brown creeper
 Canada warbler
 Cape May warbler
 Cerulean warbler
 Chestnut-sided warbler
 Chimney swift
 Common grackle
 Common yellowthroat
 Connecticut warbler
 Cooper's hawk
 Dark-eyed junco
 European starling
 Field sparrow
 Fox sparrow

Golden-crowned kinglet
 Gray catbird
 Gray-cheeked thrush
 Hermit thrush
 House sparrow
 Indigo bunting
 Lincoln's sparrow
 Magnolia warbler
 Marsh wren
 Mourning dove
 Mourning warbler
 Northern cardinal
 Nashville warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Ovenbird
 Pine warbler

Racing pigeon
 Red-bellied woodpecker
 Red-breasted nuthatch
 Red-eyed vireo
 Rock dove
 Rose-breasted grosbeak
 Ruby-crowned kinglet
 Rufous-sided towhee
 Scarlet tanager
 Sedge wren
 Song sparrow
 Sora
 Summer tanager
 Swainson's thrush
 Swamp sparrow
 Tennessee warbler
 Virginia rail
 White-breasted nuthatch
 White-crowned sparrow
 White-throated sparrow
 Wilson's warbler
 Winter wren
 Yellow-bellied sapsucker
 Yellow-shafted flicker
 Wood thrush

Population Status of Flycatchers in Summit County

by Dwight Chasar



This is another in a continuing series of articles on the population status of nesting birds in Summit Co. (Chasar 2004). As in previous accounts, the data presented here for the family *Tyrannidae* are taken from the Greater Akron Audubon Society June summer bird count. The data are plotted in the usual manner, i.e., birds/party hour vs. year. For each species, a linear trend-line, calculated by Excel, is used to represent the population trend. I show the mean values for each species on the graphs. The mean value (birds/party hour) is the number around which there are as many densities above and below it in the scatter of data points.

I have arbitrarily grouped the species by similar densities for graphing purposes. Of the six species whose population data are graphed, only the Eastern Wood-pewee may be experiencing a population decline in Summit Co. Comparing the Summit Co.

trends to those in Ohio (Earnst 1996) in general, while the Eastern Wood-pewee is down and the Great Crested Fly Catcher is up in Summit Co, the opposite is observed overall in Ohio. Otherwise, the other four species' trends are in similar directions for both Summit Co. and Ohio.

Data are sparse for both Alder and Least Flycatcher and therefore plotting and predicting a trend-line is tenuous at best. It would appear from the raw data, however, that the Least is observed less often and the Alder more in recent years compared to the earlier years of the census. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed in June of 1979, 1989 and 1995.

Chasar, D. 2004. Counting Birds. *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, 100 (2):32.

Earnst, S.L. and B.A. Andres. 1996. Population trends of breeding birds of Ohio. *Ohio Biol. Surv. Misc. Cont. No. 3*.

Banding Highlights at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

by Julie West

This was the fifth year of banding at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Banding was conducted Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, weather permitting from 22 August through 17 October. Additional banding was done on 21 October and 4, 7 and 14 November.

By the end of August I had an inkling it would be an unusual season. I had already banded five Mourning Warblers. My previous fall season high was three in 2001. This number would double by the end of the season. I also seemed to be on my way to banding a record number of Gray Catbirds, with 41 banded by 31 August. It turned out that the total was 66, exceeding the previous high of 65 in 2004.

On the other hand, until 10 October, I was predicting I would have my least productive fall season in terms of total number of birds banded. I was on track to band 100 or more birds less than my previous low of 517 in 2002. On 10 October, however, I banded 179 birds, followed by 82 on 12 October. The numbers returned to fairly normal levels until 4 November when I banded 99 birds. Prior to this year, the most birds I had banded on one day, 9 October, 2002, was 66. I ended the season with a total of 892 birds banded. My previous high was 590 banded in 2003.

I banded a record number of birds in the following species:

Species	Total 2005	Total 2004	Total 2003	Total 2002	Total 2001
House Wren	12	8	3	6	2
Winter Wren	13	9	1	6	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	3	2	12	20
Gray-checked Thrush	11	7	6	4	7
Gray Catbird	66	65	41	25	51
Yellow-rumped Warbler	149	23	31	90	16
Black-throated Green Warbler	7	0	3	4	0
Connecticut Warbler	2	0	1	0	0
Mourning Warbler	10	1	0	1	3
Wilson's Warbler	28	14	18	12	21
Scarlet Tanager	3	0	0	0	0
White-throated Sparrow	118	71	71	58	78
Northern Cardinal	22	9	11	4	15
House Finch	36	3	9	1	7
American Goldfinch	128	80	71	39	21

Fall Census Cuyahoga Valley National Park

by Dwight Chasar

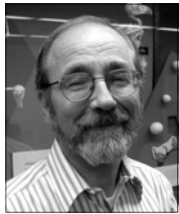
10 September 2006

42 Participants in 14 parties

Weather: Sunny, 58-80 F°

Species	No.	Species	No.	Species	No.
Canada Goose	211	Yellow-throated Vireo	14	Black-throated Green Warbler	7
Wood Duck	55	Blue-headed Vireo	7	Blackburnian Warbler	5
Mallard	58	Warbling Vireo	34	Pine Warbler	1
Wild Turkey	9	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Palm Warbler	2
Double-crested Cormorant	5	Red-eyed Vireo	35	Bay-breasted Warbler	5
Great Blue Heron	28	Blue Jay	380	Blackpoll Warbler	11
Green Heron	9	American Crow	142	Black-and-white Warbler	3
Turkey Vulture	51	Purple Martin	4	American Redstart	8
Osprey	1	Tree Swallow	30	Ovenbird	2
Cooper's Hawk	6	Black-capped Chickadee	268	Northern Waterthrush	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	Tufted Titmouse	90	Louisiana Waterthrush	2
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	44	Common Yellowthroat	31
Red-tailed Hawk	14	White-breasted Nuthatch	100	Hooded Warbler	10
American Kestrel	3	Brown Creeper	4	Wilson's Warbler	1
Killdeer	13	Carolina Wren	68	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Rock Pigeon	52	House Wren	13	Scarlet Tanager	11
Mourning Dove	128	Marsh Wren	1	Eastern Towhee	35
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Chipping Sparrow	8
Eastern Screech-owl	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	Field Sparrow	25
Barred Owl	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	Savannah Sparrow	10
Common Nighthawk	4	Eastern Bluebird	47	Song Sparrow	54
Chimney Swift	377	Swainson's Thrush	9	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10	Wood Thrush	4	Swamp Sparrow	6
Belted Kingfisher	17	American Robin	345	White-throated Sparrow	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	11	Gray Catbird	129	Northern Cardinal	139
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	European Starling	407	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14
Downy Woodpecker	91	Cedar Waxwing	537	Indigo Bunting	4
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Blue-winged Warbler	8	Red-winged Blackbird	154
Northern Flicker	50	Tennessee Warbler	9	Eastern Meadowlark	16
Pileated Woodpecker	22	Nashville Warbler	12	Common Grackle	575
Eastern Wood-Pewee	33	Northern Parula	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	Baltimore Oriole	7
Eastern Phoebe	33	Magnolia Warbler	26	House Finch	25
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	Cape May Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	407
Eastern Kingbird	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	House Sparrow	97
White-eyed Vireo	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3		

About the Authors



◀ **Dwight Chasar**, former KBC president, leads bird walks in the CVNP year round and organizes/compiles the Spring and Fall CVNP bird censuses.

Ray Hannikman, former editor of the CBC, began birding in 1970. Since 1994, most of his non-Ohio birding has been focused on South America – mostly Peru and Brazil. ▶



◀ **Clyde Witt**, is past president of the Greater Akron Audubon Society and has been its newsletter editor for 10 years.

Julie West began birding over 15 years ago. She has volunteered at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory banding station since 1996 and has banded birds since 1998. ▶

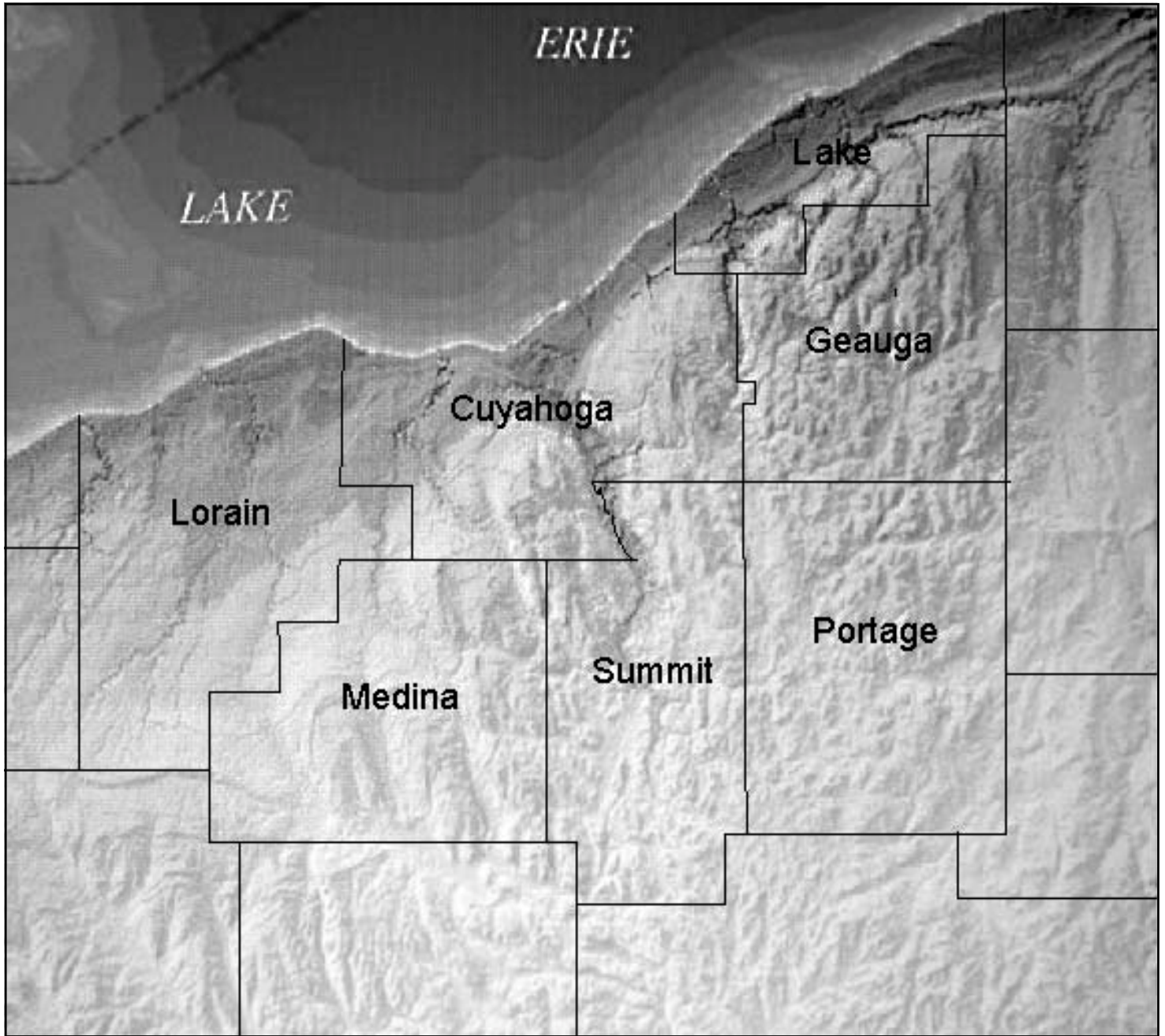


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The seven counties of northeast Ohio included in the Cleveland Bird Calendar region.

