

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

A Quarterly Journal of Bird Sightings from the Cleveland Region

SINCE 1905

VOLUME 102 NUMBER 2



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Fallout...Page 17

MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2006

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Spring 2006

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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.

Readers are encouraged to make every effort to identify and help preserve sensitive habitats and migrant stopover points.

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Cover photo: Kirtland's Warbler, Photographed by John Pogacnik at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve, Mentor Ohio, May 2006. See article page 17.

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We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers and digital photographs to Kevin Metcalf:

12459 Fowlers Mill Rd., Chardon, Ohio 44024
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In order to publish the correct information, please label the photos: bird_location_date_photographer.jpg

Due dates for seasonal field reports are as follows:

Winter Season March 10

Spring Season June 10

Summer Season September 10

Autumn Season December 10

Seasonal report forms are available at:

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SPRING

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You and Your Friends are Invited...

The Kirtland Bird Club welcomes you to its monthly meetings
– the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August – at 7:30 PM at
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;

www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Spring 2006

Overview of the Season

by Kevin Metcalf

Some Enchanted Spring

*“Who can explain it? Who can tell you why?
Fools give you reasons, wise men never try.”*

- Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, South Pacific, 1949

Spring in Northeast Ohio, in particular the month of May, is a time of birding hopes and dreams. It is the time when all Birder-Kind feel the tingle of anticipation of what feathered treasure might land in their backyard or local Hot Spot. Like no other time of year, we are tuned-in. Binoculars are cleaned, field guides revisited, weather forecasts and birding list-serves are checked and rechecked.

Then, they come. Birds arrive from distant lands. Brilliant flashes of color, movement and song fill our eyes, our ears and our memories. We sort through the birds one by one, delighted at each new arrival. Whether a beginning birder still learning how to use binoculars, or a veteran whose binocular strap has worn a crease in the back of his or her neck, who can tire seeing Scarlet Tanagers and Blackburnian Warblers? Who can tire of May?

But, like most wondrous, magical things, May comes and goes all too quickly. It is like a Mourning Warbler darting into a curtain of leaves. And, like most hopes and dreams, May can rarely fulfill all of its promise. Our appetite for birds is not often sated. There are always gaps in our wish list. There are always more birds that we hope to see. And there are some birds that seem like they will always remain a dream. These are the birds whose names we do not utter on the trail for the same reason that you should not share your birthday wish after blowing out the candles—if you say their names, your dream of seeing them might not come true.

For many birders in Northeast Ohio, the un-utterable became flesh and feathers on May 10 at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve. Two confiding male Kirtland’s Warblers spent hours foraging at distances too close for most binoculars to focus on. To quote John Pogacnik, as observers stood in awe of these two wonders literally at our feet, “Does this qualify as a religious experience?” It was simply the show of a lifetime—or lifetimes. It was such a fulfilling experience that relatively few birders went back to Headlands in the coming days when two more Kirtland’s Warblers appeared. If you saw the two males on May 10, I suspect that you felt as I did—that nothing would compare. I doubt that even on the breeding grounds two Kirtland’s Warblers have been watched so closely for so long by so many people. And, maybe nowhere outside of the breeding grounds in Michigan have four Kirtland’s Warblers been observed at the same location.

Just when we all thought that no other warbler experience could come close to this, another dream appeared. A Swainson’s Warbler, known for its artful concealment or outright absence from local migrant traps, not only

sang and let itself be observed, but stayed put for a couple of days as if to make sure anyone with the ability could have a look. I personally had this bird land on a low branch in plain view not more than seven feet from me after it was chased by a territorial House Wren. It sat and lethargically looked around as if wanting me to watch it.

How do we explain the presence of four Kirtland's Warblers at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve—where they had never been seen before—followed by a Swainson's Warbler at the same location—where it had never been seen before?

Maybe Ray Hannikman is good at keeping his birthday wishes a secret.

I wish all of the Cleveland Bird Calendar readers good birding, as I say farewell as editor of this venerable publication. It has been a very satisfying experience to review your reports and piece together the story of Cleveland bird distribution. However, the increasing demands of raising a family of three, coupled with the fact that my wife, Evelyn, is going back to work full time this fall, means I will not have adequate time to contribute to the Calendar in this capacity. Maybe sometime in the future I will again.



See you in the field,

~ Kevin

Weather Report

by Dwight Chasar

March: The temperature averaged 37.6°, 0.1° above normal. The highest temperature was 72° on the 31st and lowest 20° on the 4-5th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33 to 38° during the month. Snowfall totaled 2.2 inches with the greatest 24-hour amount being 0.7 inches. Liquid precipitation, which includes rain and water content of the snow, totaled 1.54 inches, 1.40 inches below normal.

April: The temperature averaged 51.4°, 3.8° above normal. The highest temperature was 76° on the 20th and the lowest 28° on the 26th. Snow totaled 0.4 inches for the month. Liquid precipitation (see above) over nine days totaled 2.45 inches, 0.92 inches below normal. The greatest fall for a 24-hour period was 1.03 inches. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 47° by the end of the month.

May: The temperature averaged 58.8°, 0.3° above normal. The highest temperature was 88° on the 29-30th and the lowest 35° on the 7th. The lake temperature rose to 56° by the 31st. Over a span of 16 days, rain totaled 4.54 inches, 1.04 inches above normal. The greatest fall for a 24-hour period was 1.13 inches on the 15-16th.

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

Greater White-fronted Goose – Unusual for our region was the flock of 12 at the north end of Lake Rockwell, Portage County on 5 March (JH, PP).

Snow Goose – One was unexpected at Rocky River Reservation on 24 April (TK).

Canada Goose – High counts included 568 at Ira Road in CVNP on 7 March (TMR).

Mute Swan – Mute Swans are native to Central Asia and their increasing presence in the region may have a detrimental impact on our wetlands. Nimsila Reservoir, Summit County hosted 29 of these beasts on 13 March (RSH). Seven to 10 were found consistently in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 March – 12 April, after which numbers dropped to five – six (RH). Nesting was noted at Pleasant Valley Marsh, CVNP on 30 March (DAC). One was at Chagrin River Park, Lake County on 14 May (JH). It can be hoped that Ohio wildlife officials undertake serious means to stop the spread of this alien species.

Tundra Swan – First noted on 5 March at Lake Rockwell (JH). Up to 66 were seen at HBSNP on 24 March (RH).

Wood Duck – This species had become widespread in the region by late February. A high count was of 52 in the Tummonds Preserve near Mantua, Portage County on 18 March (BFa). A female with eight young was noted on 22 May at Wildwood State Park (NA).

Gadwall – The daily high count reported for the season was 35 at Mogadore Reservoir on 25 March

(BAT). Twenty-four were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 12 March (RH). Up to 20 at West Branch S.P., Portage County on 11 March and 21 at Mogadore Reservoir on 25 March (GBe). One lingered in the HBSNP-MMSNP area to 19 May (RH).

American Black Duck – High count of six in CVNP 27 March (TMR),



Photo by Tim Krynak

Snow Goose

Rocky River Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks — 24 April 2006

(GBe), while 22 were at the HBSNP-MMSNP area the same day (RH). Another 30 were at Sandy Ridge Reservation on 23 March (CC).

Eurasian Wigeon – One drake remained from the winter season at Walborn Reservoir, viewed from Price Street and German Church Road, to 6 March (LR, BM, m.obs.).

American Wigeon – A daily high count for the season of 35 at Wellington Reservoir, Lorain County on 15

with the last one noted at HBSNP-MMSNP area 6 May (RH).

Mallard – An abundant species, the 90 counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 March (RH) is a representative daily count.

Blue-winged Teal – Two arrived at Sandy Ridge Reservation by 23 March, a location that also provided the regional high count of 20 on 12 April (CC). One remained to 5 May at Pleasant Valley Marsh, CVNP (DAC)

and another to 24 May at Sandy Ridge (CC). Both of these locations offer potential nesting habitat.

Northern Shoveler – Fourteen arrived at the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 10 March (RH) for the high count, while two were in Geauga County the same day (LGi). Unusual was one male that lingered along Fairport Nursery Road, Fairport Harbor to 29 – 30 May (RH).

Northern Pintail – Six were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 6 March (RH).

Green-winged Teal – Spring migrants had been detected by late February. The daily high count for the season was of 20 at Sandy Ridge Reservation on 23 March (CC). Greenwings were last noted at Sandy Ridge on 26 April (CC) where nesting has occurred.

Canvasback – A high count of 70 along the Lakefront on 25 March (RH), while the high inland tally was of 23 at Summit Lake on 5 March (GBe).

Redhead – Approximately 500 were totaled from several Akron area lakes on 4 March (GBe), while the high lakefront count was of 53 on 7 March (RH). An estimated 200 – 250 were at Wellington Reservoir on 15 – 16 March (BAT, CC).

Ring-necked Duck – The high count reported for the season was 500 at Mogadore Reservoir 16 March (LR), while a day earlier 180 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Greater Scaup – Fifty were reported from Wellington Reservoir on 15 March (BAT), while another high inland count was of 20 on Lake Dorothy, Summit County on 9 March (RSH). The highest reported lakefront count was 20 in the HBSNP area on 13 March (RH). Two lingering at Pleasant Valley Marsh on 30 March were somewhat surprising (DAC).

Lesser Scaup – High counts included 1,500 in the HBSNP area on 13 March, followed by 900 at the same location 23 March (RH). A good inland tally included 200 at Mogadore Reservoir 25 March (GBe).

Surf Scoter – Up to 15 were at HBSNP on 25 March (EB, JT). A good inland count was of six (three adult male, three adult female) at Nimisila Reservoir, Summit County on 15 March (GBe). Two were noted at Sims Park, Euclid on 9 March (NA).

White-winged Scoter – Only two reports, with one at HBSNP on 6 March (RH) and another at Sims Park, Euclid the same day (NA).

Long-tailed Duck – Singles were reported from HBSNP on 2 – 4 March (RH), Chippewa Lake, Medina County on 27 March (RSH), and Lake Kelso, Geauga County on 28 March (LGi). The eight at Nimisila Reservoir on 29 March (GBe) represented a very good local count.

Bufflehead – A high inland count of 114 at Springfield Lake, Summit County on 3 April (GBe), while 60 provided the high Lakefront total on 13 March (RH). One female lingered at Rocky River Reservation to 15 May (BD).

Common Goldeneye – A high count of 70 at Sims Park, Euclid on 16 March (NA). Twenty were at HBSNP on 8 and 16 March, where they were last noted 5 April (RH).

Hooded Merganser – The high count reported was of 200 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 18 March (RH). Young were noted at Station Road, CVNP on 14 May (DAC).

Common Merganser – A good inland count of 40-50 at Lake Rockwell on 5 March (JH, PP), while three stayed through 5 April at HBSNP (RH).

Red-breasted Merganser – The high

Lakefront count was 700 at Sims Park, Euclid on 4 April (NA) while the high inland count was 270 at Chippewa Lake, Medina County on 27 March (RSH). Other high counts included 200 at Oberlin Reservoir, Lorain County (BAT). One dawdler remained through 25 May at HBSNP (RH).

Ruddy Duck – The highest count was 221 at LaDue Reservoir, Geauga County on 16 April (LGi), while about 200 were at Wellington Reservoir 16 March – 12 April (CC). One lingered at Summit Lake to 26 May (GBe).

Wild Turkey – When is the breeding season for Wild Turkeys in our area? Barb Partington knows, having witnessed turkey copulation in her backyard on 20 March. This species continues to show up in urban areas, leaving observers to wonder how really “wild” are these Wild Turkeys. Reports included one from Shaker Heights on 13 March (PP), one at Wildwood Park, Cuyahoga County on 4 April (NA), one at Edgewater State Park/Dike 14, Cleveland on 29 April (KM, BD, m.obs.) and one along Martin Luther King Drive, Cleveland on 3 May (CW, SJ). A good spring count was 22 seen from Fitzwater Road, Cuyahoga County on 15 March (BAT).

Red-throated Loon – Unusual was one in basic or “non-breeding” plumage at Nimisila Reservoir on 5 April (GBe). One was similarly clad at Headlands Beach State Park on 4 May (RH, JT, HP).

Common Loon – Numbers observed this spring were unimpressive. Eleven were at Mogadore Reservoir, Portage County on 9 April (GBe) while 30 were seen from HBSNP on 14 – 15 April (RH). Lingerers included three at Nimisila Reservoir (one each in alternate, basic and “in-between” plumage) on 16 May (RSH).

Red-necked Grebe – Two were seen flying past Lakeshore Metropark on 30 March (JP) for the only report.

Pied-billed Grebe – A high count of 46 came from the Lake Erie Shore near the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum on 7 March (CW). Inland, a good count was of 13 at Nimisila Reservoir on 6 April (RSH).

Horned Grebe – A few had returned to the region by late February. Three were at Walborn Reservoir on 6 March (JSp). Peak counts were of 50+ at Nimisila Reservoir on 26 March (GBe) and 73 at Sims Park, Euclid on 11 April (NA). The species was last noted on 17 April at HBSNP (RH).

Eared Grebe – One in alternate plumage was observed at Chippewa Lake, Medina County on 27 March (RSH).

Double-crested Cormorant – Inland, up to 230+ were at North Reservoir, Summit County on 8 April (GBe) and 100+ at Mogadore Reservoir 9 April (GBe). Nine-hundred were estimated from HBSNP on 19 April (RH). Flocks of cormorants flying overhead, even at inland locations, have become a fairly common sight.

American Bittern – One was spied at Jaite, CVNP on 12 and 18 April (DAC), while another entertained observers 23 – 24 April at Shipman Pond, Headlands Beach State Park (AJF, RH).

Least Bittern – One was heard on 26 May at Shipman Pond, Headlands Beach State Park (RH).

Great Blue Heron – Up to 25 were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 May (RH).

Great Egret – Three were interesting at Station Road on 23 April, with one remaining there until 21 May (DAC).

Up to 20 were at Sandy Ridge Reservation on 24 May, while five were seen in the HBSNP-MMSNP area the same day (RH). The species was last noted on 27 May at Rocky River Reservation (BD).

Little Blue Heron – One was very early, though not record early, at Columbia Reservation, Lorain County on 9 – 15 April (CP, CC, m.obs, photographed). One was also seen at HBSNP on 28 May (EB). See photo next page.

Green Heron – One was very early at Wilbeth Road, Akron on 8 April (GBe). A high count of four was in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 10 May (RH). Some observers noted that this species was encountered less often than expected (FL).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 57 at Merwin Street on 28 March (PL), up to five at Station Road on 23 April (DAC).

Turkey Vulture – This species wintered in the region and had become common by late February. High counts included 115 flying east along Edgewater Park, Cleveland on 28 March (PL), 150 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 30 March (RH), and 1,200 seen from Lakeshore Metropark on 3 April (JP).

Osprey – One returned to a nesting area near Kent by 23 March (LR) and another was at Nimisila Reservoir by 31 March (RSH). One or two were noted on several dates in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 15 April – 26 May (RH).

Bald Eagle – Seven of these magnificent birds were seen at the same time at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve, including one adult on a nest, one adult and five immatures in the air. Two eaglets were banded in the nest at this location by Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff on 23 May (FL). Two adults were noted at Chippewa Lake, Medina County on 27 March (RSH).



Photo by Robert Roach

American Bittern

Cuyahoga Valley National Park — 1 May 2006

Northern Harrier – Singles were observed regularly on dates spanning 11 March – 29 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Two were noted at Burke Lakefront Airport on 8 April (CW, SJ)

Sharp-shinned Hawk – A pair was noted in Brecksville Reservation 22 – 28 April (DAC). In the HBSNP-MMSNP area the species was noted 16 March – 1 May, with a high count of three on 27 April (RH). The highest count for the spring was 10 seen over Cleveland Heights on 23 April (PCh).



Photo by Judy Semroc

Little Blue Heron

Columbia Reservation, Lorain County Metroparks — mid- April 2006

Cooper's Hawk – Nesting was noted at Lower Shaker Lakes by 16 April (PP), while nesting was underway in Brecksville Reservation by 29 April (DAC). One was noted dining on a House Finch on 9 May (DAC).

Red-shouldered Hawk – Three active nests were noted in CVNP on 12 March (DV) and one in Brecksville Reservation on 16 April (DAC). Five Red-shoulders were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 11 March (RH).

Broad-winged Hawk – First arrived at South Russell, Geauga County on 10 April (LGi). The species was noted at Brecksville Reservation on 14 April, with mating witnessed there on 20 April and nesting underway by 25 April (DAC). A peak number of 203 were counted migrating over Cleveland Heights on 23 April (PCh). Outside the region at Conneaut, Ashtabula County, 1,073 were tallied (BG) on the same date.

Red-tailed Hawk – Five active nests were found in CVNP on 12 March (DV).

Rough-legged Hawk – The only report was of one at Lakeshore Metropark on 3 April (JP).

American Kestrel – A pair were noted at a nest hole on West Road in Lorain on 16 March (CC).

Merlin – One was at All Saints Cemetery, Northfield on 5 March (DAC). Another was in Franklin Township, Portage County on 21 March (LR). The species was noted in the HBSNP area 7 April – 14 May, with two there on 29 April (RH).

Peregrine Falcon – Singles were noted at HBSNP on 11 March and 13 May (RH). A presumed migrant was seen over Cleveland Heights on 23 April (PCh).

Virginia Rail – Outside of the Cleveland Region, Tom Bartlett called up this species in Springville Marsh, Seneca County on 12 March, and felt this was early by a couple of weeks at that location. Locally, Sandy Ridge Reservation provides a reliable spot for this species (CC, m.obs.). Also noted at Firestone Metropark, Summit County (RSH) and Ira Road, CVNP among a handful of other places.

Sora – The species was first noted on 17 April in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Three were present at the Sani-

tation Pond in CVNP on 13 May (DAC). Also noted at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve, Pleasant Valley Marsh, Ira Road, CVNP and, and the maximum count of six from Sandy Ridge Reservation, 3 May (JE).

Common Moorhen – One was at Wilbeth Road, Akron on 16 – 22 May (GBe). Also found at Sandy Ridge Reservation beginning 24 April (JH, m.obs.)

American Coot – Good counts of 100+ came from Mogadore Reservoir and Springfield Lake (GBe), while an estimated 300+ were at Wellington Reservoir on 15 - 16 March (BAT, CC). The high count for the season was 1,400 at Nimisila Reservoir on 6 April (RSH). Tardy were birds at Wildwood Park, Cuyahoga County on 25 May (NA) and in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 31 May (RH).

Sandhill Crane – First reported in Geauga County 13 March (TG*i*, *fide* LG*i*), while the pair at Sandy Ridge Reservation returned by 14 March (TF). Other March sightings included one in Franklin Township, Portage County on 21 March (LR). One flew over Edgewater Park/Dike 14 on 11 April (JH). Sandhills were also seen flying over Red Lock, CVNP on 17 May (DAC) and Cleveland Heights on 23 May (PCh); both unusual for date and location.

Black-bellied Plover – This species was noted 24 April – 28 May, with a high count of five on 23 May at HBSNP (RH).

Semipalmated Plover – This species was first observed 29 April at Sandy Ridge Reservation (KM, BD m.obs.) with reports as late as 26 May for the region. A high count of three reported on 25 May at HBSNP (RH).

Killdeer – This species had returned by 25 February. One was heard flying

over CVNP on 4 Mar (DV), while 15 passed over the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 March (RH). This species was on eggs in Brecksville by 18 April (DAC). Young were noted at Sandy Ridge Reservation by 7 May (CC).

Greater Yellowlegs – The species was noted 2 April – 24 May (RH, CC m.obs.)

Lesser Yellowlegs – The species was noted 27 April – 14 May (RH, CC m.obs.)

Solitary Sandpiper – First reported from Sandy Ridge on 18 April (CC). Five were at Wilbeth Road, Akron on 27 April (GBe) and CVNP 7 May (JH). Last noted 24 May at Rocky River Reservation (RSH) and 25 May at HBSNP (RH).

Spotted Sandpiper – One was at Sandy Ridge by 18 April (CC) with six there the next day (JH). The high count was of 27 at HBSNP on 20 May (RH).

Ruddy Turnstone – The species was encountered at HBSNP 22 – 26 May, with a high tally of 27 there on 25 May (RH).

Red Knot – Two breeding plumaged birds in the company of the aforementioned Ruddy Turnstones were seen at HBSNP on 25 May (RH, JT, SW).

Sanderling – Singles were noted on two dates at HBSNP – 22 and 25 May (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – The species was noted 24 – 28 May, with an unusually high count of 70 on 26 May at HBSNP (RH).

Least Sandpiper – Noted as early as 29 April at Sandy Ridge Reservation (KM, BD, m.obs.) and as late as 26 May at HBSNP (CC, RH).

Pectoral Sandpiper – Four were in Suffield Twp., Portage County on 18 – 25 March (GBe). The maximum count for the season was of 75 at Sandy Ridge on 26 April (PL). Last date noted was of one on 2 May at HBSNP (RH).

Dunlin – Noted on dates spanning 24 April – 24 May, with a high count of 14 on 22 May (RH).



Ruff

Sandy Ridge Reservation — 26 April 2006

Ruff – To the delight of many, one male of this Eurasian shorebird stayed around Sandy Ridge Reservation 18 – 26 April (BD, CC, BAT, SW, m.obs., photographed).

Short-billed Dowitcher – The only report was of two at Sandy Ridge Reservation 3 May (JE).

Long-billed Dowitcher – A report of two birds flying by the lighthouse at HBSNP on 12 April (JT). The date is most likely within the migration window of Long-billed Dowitcher rather than Short-billed, but no details were received as to whether voice was heard or what field marks were noted. This is the first report for HBSNP.

Wilson's Snipe – A good early showing with seven in Diamond, Portage County on 19 March (GBe), while

more returned to CVNP by 30 March (DAC) and HBSNP on 31 March (KM, RH). Up to 13 were counted at Jaite, CVNP between 1 April and 1 May (DAC), while 20+ were at Sandy Ridge 19 April (JH) and 35 at the old Richfield Coliseum site on 23 April (GL).

American Woodcock – Arrived in Akron by 9 March (GBe). Also reported from Walter Best Preserve, Geauga County on 11 March (MRo) and CVNP on 13 March (DAC) with a high count of 6 – 10 at the latter location (DAC). Ten also reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 28 May (RH).

Red-necked Phalarope – One beautifully plumaged female was a pleasing spring find at HBSNP on 14 – 15 May (PK, RH m.obs.).

Little Gull – Noted in the HBSNP area 13 March – 1 May, with a high count of 10 at the mouth of Mentor Lagoons 31 March – 2 April (JT, RH, SW). One of the birds was in second-summer plumage with a black head and pink blush to the under parts.

Laughing Gull – An adult flew west past Lakeshore Metropark 5 March (JP) with another sighting at Lorain Harbor 17 April (GBe). A twosome was at HBSNP on 25 May (RH, SW, JT).

Bonaparte's Gull – Good counts included 3,000 at HBSNP on 15 March (RH), 10,047 from Lakeshore Reservation on 3 April (JP) and up to 1,400 at Lorain Harbor 17 April (GBe).

Ring-billed Gull – Up to 3,661 counted from Lakeshore Metropark, moving east, on 3 March, in two hours of observation (JP), while 3,900 estimated at HBSNP 16 March (RH).

Photo by Paula Lozano



Photo by Ernie Cornelius

Great Horned Owl on Nest
Brecksville Reservation

Herring Gull – High count reported was 500 in the HBSNP area on 24 April (RH).

Thayer's Gull – One was unusual on 4 April and 25 April at HBSNP (RH).

Iceland Gull – One was present in the HBSNP area through 25 April (RH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Singles present in the HBSNP area through 12 May (RH), with two seen on 9 and 25 April (RH). Also reported from Wildwood Park, Cuyahoga County 18 April (NA).

Glaucous Gull – One was present through 24 April at HBSNP (RH), while another was reported from Whiskey Island, Cleveland on 29 April (PCh).

Great Black-backed Gull – A high count of 30 at HBSNP on 24 April, with seven lingering there until 28 May (RH).

Caspian Tern – An impressive 112 counted at Lorain on 17 April (GBe), with another very good count of 50 in the HBSNP area 28 April (RH).

Common Tern – Early were three on 17 April at Lake Rockwell (LR). Six were noted on 6 and 9 May at HBSNP (RH).

Forster's Tern – First noted 10 April at HBSNP (RH) with a high count of 10 there on 19 April (RH). Up to five at Berlin Reservoir, Portage County, on 18 April (GBe). Last reported 11 May at HBSNP (RH).

Mourning Dove – An abundant species. The 40 reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area 27 March represented an expected daily high count (RH).

Black-billed Cuckoo – Early dates noted were 10 May at Bacon Woods, Lorain County (CC) and Lakeshore Metropark (JP). Two were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area 30 May (RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – One arrived at Lakeshore Metropark on 10 May (JP). Afterwards the species went un-

reported until 29 May, with one seen at Wildwood (NA). Noted at Station Road, CVNP and South Chagrin Reservation 31 May (DAC, RR).

Eastern Screech-Owl – A nest with one young was discovered at Station Road, CVNP on 9 and 24 May (DAC). One or two noted at the HBSNP-MMSNP area from 1 March – 30 April (RH). Also reported from Lakewood, Cuyahoga County (MS).

Great Horned Owl – At least two nests in CVNP were active on 12 March (DV), while another was active in Russell Twp, Geauga County on 25 March (LGi). March nesting was also noted in Franklin Township, Portage County (LR). A nest at Sandy Ridge had two visible nestlings by at least 12 April (m.obs.), while a Station Road, CVNP nest had one nestling 16 April (DAC).

Snowy Owl – At least one remained at Burke Lakefront Airport from the winter season through 31 Mar (PL, BF, m.obs. photographed).



Photo by Paula Lozano

Snowy Owl
Burke Lakefront Airport — March 2006

Barred Owl – One was seen regularly at Shaker Lakes throughout the period (LD). Two adults attended one young in Brecksville Reservation on 13 May (DAC). One was interesting in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 6 May (RH) and two were at Rocky River Reservation on 10 May (RSH).

Long-eared Owl – A noteworthy find was one in the HBSNP area on 26 March (EB).

Short-eared Owl – One was spied at the old Richfield Coliseum site on Rte. 303 on 4 March (KT, PC). One was at Burke Lakefront Airport 17 March and two there on 23 April (JH, PL). Another was not far away at Cleveland Lakefront State Park/Gordon Park on 7 April (LR). Lingering was one at Burke on 24 May (PL).

Common Nighthawk – Early returnees were found on 3 May in Brecksville and Akron on 5 May (BAT, GBe). The species was only noted on three dates this spring in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Other observers penned that there was “No migration to speak of” over CVNP this spring (DAC).

Whip-poor-will – One “serenaded” a listener in Westlake 1 May (CC), while another was calling at Lakeshore Metropark on 10 May (JP).

Chimney Swift – Returned to Akron on 20 April (GBe) and HBSNP on 23 April (RH). High count of 1,000+ entering the Wadsworth Post Office chimney at dusk on 23 May (RSH). Another good count of 80 at Rocky River Nature Center on 7 May (BD).

Selasphorus Hummingbird – A report of a Rufous Hummingbird was received without details from Lower Shaker Lake on 14 May (PP). This species has become fairly regular in small numbers in the fall, but is still unexpected in the spring.



Photo by Scott Wright

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker
Downtown Cleveland — 11 April 2006

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – The early report of a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was posted on the Ohio-Birds List-Serve from Bedford on 23 April (KMCK), although it is left open to question whether other species were considered. Another early report came from Munson Twp, Geauga County on 30 April, which has become a more expected first arrival date (BP). A high count of 40 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 May (RH).

Belted Kingfisher – An active nest hole was found at Redlock, CVNP on 23 April (DAC). A high tally of six at Ira Road, CVNP in March (TMR).

Red-headed Woodpecker – The species was noted 24 March at the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). Up to six were reported from Station Road, CVNP in late April and early May (DAC). The species was also noted at Sandy Ridge, Rocky River, North Chagrin, Ira Road, CVNP and Wildwood Park.

Red-bellied Woodpecker – Fourteen were reported in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in CVNP on 4 Mar (DV), while the daily high count for the HBSNP-MMSNP area was 12 on 26 April (RH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – First noted at HBSNP on 30 March, with four at that location on 1 April (RH). High count was nine at Firestone Metropark 11 April (RSH).

Downy Woodpecker – Thirteen were reported in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in the CVNP on 4 Mar (DV), while 12 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 22 April (RH). The “beige” Downy from Brecksville continued through the period from the winter season (BAT).

Hairy Woodpecker – Ten were counted in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in CVNP on 4 Mar (DV).

Northern Flicker – No outstanding totals this spring, with a high count of 45 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 11 April (RH) and 15 the same day at Sims Park (NA).

Pileated Woodpecker – Up to five visited suet feeders in Chardon Twp., Geauga County in mid March (*fide* BFa) while four were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 27 March (RH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – One was found at Kent Bog on 20 May (GB), Shaker Lakes on 24 May (LD), the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 25 May (RH) and Shaker Lakes on 29 May (DC). **See photo next page.**

Eastern Wood-Pewee – First noted on 12 May, Wildwood Park (NA), with a high count of 12 on 25 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Noted on dates spanning 11 – 31 May at HBSNP, with eight counted there on 26 May (RH).

Acadian Flycatcher – One arrived on 10 May at Rocky River Reservation (RSH), while two had returned to Brecksville Reservation by 12 May (DAC), becoming common and widespread thereafter.

Alder Flycatcher – Arrived at Firestone Metropark by 23 May (RSH), with four migrants found at HBSNP on 25 May (RH).

Willow Flycatcher – First found on 11 May (RH). Six noted in the HBSMP area on 28 May (RH)

Least Flycatcher – Arrived at the HBSNP-MMSNP area by 2 May (RH), with 14 noted there on 10 and 22 May (RH).

Eastern Phoebe – One returned to Lake Medina on 11 March (DKe) with another found the following day at Brecksville Reservation (DAC). Maximum daily count of 36 at Lakeshore Metropark on 3 April (JP). Nesting was underway in May and a nest with young nearly ready to fledge was noted at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve on 25 May (FL).

Great Crested Flycatcher – One was somewhat early at Station Road, CVNP on 30 April (DAC). A high of nine were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 31 May (RH).

Eastern Kingbird – One was back at Station Road, CVNP by 26 April (DAC). Up to 15 were reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 25 May (RH).

Northern Shrike – One was in Broadview Heights near the corner of Valley View Parkway and Broadview Road on 17 March (CW), while one at Jaite, CVNP lingered to 18 March (DAC).



Photo by Fred Losi

Eastern Phoebe in Nest
Tinker's Creek Nature Preserve — 25 May 2006



Photo by Delores Cole

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Shaker Lakes — 29 May 2006



Photo by Carl Johnson

Northern Shrike
Bath Nature Preserve — March 2006

Special moments, frozen in time—and one's memory—define what makes us feel good.

For some spring birders, rainbow-patterned warblers catching insects, flitting about newly leafing trees and shrubs, captures the season. For others, the dawn chorus, proclaiming and announcing the season of new beginnings, rings loud and bids them to become part of each new day.

For me, I will remember spring 2006 at Headlands Beach State Park because I had new birding experiences: a second-summer Little Gull with full hood and pinkish blush to the breast; a Swainson's Warbler turning up leaves in the under story only to abruptly halt and pour forth its loud and beautiful song; an exquisitely plumaged female Red-necked Phalarope braving the Lake Erie Nor'easter of frothy-covered stirred-up waves; and two male Kirtland's Warblers—literally at my feet—feasting on insects before they journeyed off to Michigan.

Though these, and many more experiences of Spring 2006, will ever be a part of my birding memories, I am eager to add more to the continuously unfolding picture of bird migration through the Headlands Beach State Park area.

White-eyed Vireo – One was locally interesting at West Woods, Geauga County on 4 May (LGi). Two were also unexpected at Wildwood on 3 May (NA). A high count of five along the Clinton Towpath, CVNP on 9 May (RSH), followed by four in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 May (RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo – This species returned to Akron (GBe) and CVNP (DAC) on 23 April.

Blue-headed Vireo – Three had returned to CVNP by 15 April (PC). Up to nine were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 3 May for the seasonal high count (RH).

Warbling Vireo – One was back at Ira Road, CVNP on 24 April (TMR). Fourteen were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 May (RH).

Philadelphia Vireo – Reports of singles at Brecksville Reservation on 12 May (DAC), Firestone Metropark on 23 May (RSH), the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 24 May (RH) and Wildwood on 29 May (NA).

Red-eyed Vireo – Returned by 4 May to HBSNP (RH), with a peak count of 14 there on 28 May (RH).

Blue Jay – Fifty or more were noted on several dates in the HBSNP-MMSNP area from 22 April through the end of May, with peak numbers of 900 on 22 April and 500 on 9 May (RH).

American Crow – Migration was underway by the beginning of March, with peak numbers of 400 on 11 March at HBSNP (RH). Numbers at HBSNP dwindled after the 125 seen on 29 March (RH). Nest construction was underway in North Chagrin Reservation by 19 March (KM).

Horned Lark – Only noted on three dates in the HBSNP area, with the latest being 23 May (RH). Also present at Lorain County Airport (CC). Ten noted on 9 March in Geauga County (KM).

Purple Martin – Arrived by 6 April at Mentor Lagoons with a maximum of 30 there on 24 May (RH).

Tree Swallow – A very early incursion took place this spring, with two seen at Veteran's Park, Lake County and one at West Branch State Park on 11 March for what is apparently a record early date for the region (RH, GBe). Seven were at HBSNP-

MMSNP and four were at West Branch the next day (RH, EK). The species had become widespread by 15 March (FL, m.obs.)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – Arrived by 10 April at HBSNP (RH). A high count of 50 was at Nimisila Reservoir on 16 May (RSH).

Bank Swallow – Arrived by 19 April at HBSNP (RH), with up to 120 at that location by 21 May (RH).

Cliff Swallow – The first reports of the season were on 18 April, with five at Berlin Reservoir (GBe) and 50+ at West Branch State Park (LR).

Barn Swallow – This species had returned to Summit Lake by 9 April (GBe). An estimated 190 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 21 May (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee – Twenty-six were reported in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in the CVNP on 4 Mar (DV). Ten at Gordon Park on 10 April were interesting for that location (JH).

Tufted Titmouse – Nineteen reported in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in CVNP on 4 Mar (DV).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – Northbound migration was meager, with some active observers missing the species entirely this spring. This is interesting considering a good winter showing in parts of NE Ohio. The species was noted as late as 10 May at HBSNP (RH). Up to three pairs were noted in the Horseshoe Pond area of CVNP on 14 May (CW, SJ). A pair was excavating a possible nest cavity in South Chagrin Reservation 22 – 23 May (RR) while birds were noted on territory 22 May at Lake Rockwell (LR).

White-breasted Nuthatch – Eighteen were tallied in nearly 6.5 hours of observation in the CVNP on 4 Mar (DV).

Brown Creeper – Three noted at Station Road, CVNP on 16 April (DAC) while a maximum of 12 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 13 April (RH). Nesting was suspected at Pond Brook Metropark, Summit County on 20 May (FL).

Carolina Wren – Doing well, with representative numbers that included eight in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 6 April (RH) and 10 at Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, Bedford Reservation on 12 March (FL).

House Wren – An early arrival at Bacon Woods, Lorain County on 18 April (CC), followed by one at HBSNP on 21 April (RH). The species was widespread by the end of April.

Winter Wren – A daily maximum of seven noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 11 April (RH).

Sedge Wren – One was a good find at Mentor Lagoons on 4 May (JT, RH, SW).

Marsh Wren – Very early was one at CVNP 11 April (DAC), while 4 – 5 were at Jaite, CVNP on 21 May

(DAC) and Sandy Ridge Reservation on 24 May (CC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet – A high tally of 30 were in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 11 April (RH). Inland, 20 was a good number at Firestone Metropark on 31 March (RSH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – One was early at Shaker Lakes on 30 March (PCh). A more typical return date was one in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 9 April (RH). Forty were present at the latter location on 22 April (RH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Returned by 11 April to Firestone Metropark (RSH) and 12 April to Station Road, CVNP and Bacon Woods, Lorain Co (DAC, CC).

Eastern Bluebird – No large flocks reported, but local breeders seem to be doing well.

Veery – Two returned to HBSNP on 30 April, with a peak count of 30 there on 14 May (RH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – Not a good showing. The species was not detected until 17 May at HBSNP, with ones and twos encountered there through 31 May (RH).

Swainson's Thrush – First reported on 1 May near CVNP (PC) while the species was not detected at HBSNP until 7 May, with a peak of nine there on 26 May (RH).

Hermit Thrush – Birds that had likely wintered included singles in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 1 and 5 March (RH, JT), one at Shaker Lakes on 5 March (JWe, GN) and one in CVNP on 13 March (TMR). A high count of 30 was in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 30 April (RH).

Wood Thrush – Early returnees included one on 21 April at Sandy Ridge Reservation (LR) and 27 April at Brecksville Reservation (DAC). A high count of 10 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 May (RH). A nest (see below) was photographed at Holden Arboretum on 28 May (FL).



Photo by Fred Losi

Wood Thrush Nest
Holden Arboretum — 28 May 2006

American Robin – A peak count of 500 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 25 March (RH). Another high count was of 120+ at the Cuyahoga County Airport on 26 May (NA).



Photo by Larry Roach

Partial Albino American Robin
Franklin Twp., Kent, Portage Cty.

Gray Catbird – Early, or birds that had wintered, were singles in CVNP near Kendall Lake 5 March (EK), with another at Wilbeth Road on 12 March (Gbe). Also early was one at Firestone Metropark 11 April (where one had wintered (RSH) and HBSNP 13 April (RH). Catbirds had become fairly widespread by 23 Apr (KM). Up to 60 were estimated in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 20 May (RH).

Northern Mockingbird – This species has become widespread, with up to three in the HBSNP area 14 and 27 May (RH).

Brown Thrasher – Returned to HBSNP by 1 April, with 14 counted there 29 April (RH).

American Pipit – Migrants detected 30 March through 25 May (RH), with a high count of 65 at Lakeshore Metropark on 3 April (JP).

Cedar Waxwing – Scarce until the first week of May, when “waxers” became widespread. High count of 250 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 28 May (RH).

Blue-winged Warbler – This species was first noted at CVNP on 27 April (PC) and it became widespread thereafter.

Golden-winged Warbler – Singles at Mentor Lagoons 4 May (JT, RH, HP), Sagamore Hills on 8 May (DAC) and Eldon Russell Park 20 May (LGi). A late migrant was at HBSNP on 24 May (SW).

Tennessee Warbler – First noted at HBSNP on 11 May, with a peak number of 18 there on 28 May (RH). Three were still present at this location on 26 May (RH).

Orange-crowned Warbler – Arrived at Sagamore Hills 29 April (DAC), with one at HBSNP the same day (RH). Two were at HBSNP on 21 May (RSH) with one lingering there to 25 May (RH).

Nashville Warbler – First arrival noted at South Russell, Geauga County on 21 April (LGi), followed by one at Station Road, CVNP on 23 April (DAC). Up to 10 were present at HBSNP-MMSNP on 7 May (RH).

Northern Parula – One was earlier than expected at Brecksville Reservation on 14 April (DAC). This species was found consistently in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 1 – 25 May, with a peak number of seven on 21 May (RH).

Yellow Warbler – Arrived by 23 April at HBSNP, with a peak count of 26 there on 15 May (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – Arrived at CVNP on 1 May (PC), South Russell, Geauga County on 3 May (LGi) and HBSNP on 4 May (RH). Peak counts in the HBSNP-MMSNP area of 12 on 10 May (RH) and 20+ at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Arsenal on 9 May (LR). One was lingering at Station Road on 21 May (DAC).

Magnolia Warbler – Arrived by 30 April in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, with a good tally of 40 there on 11 May (RH). Seven migrants were still present on 29 May (RH).

Cape May Warbler – First noted 9 May at HBSNP, with an early peak count on that day of six (RH). Singles were noted at this location through 25 May (RH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – One was somewhat early at Brecksville Reservation 30 April (DAC), the same day it was first noted at HBSNP (RH). A very good count of 30 was achieved in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 14 May (RH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler – A high count of 100 were noted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 May (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler – First arrival at HBSNP-MMSNP and South Russell, Geauga County noted on 21 April (RH, LGi), with a high count of 12 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 14 and 19 May (RH).

Blackburnian Warbler – Seemed to be a very good spring for this species. First noted in North Chagrin Reservation on 1 May (KM), Geauga County on 3 May (LGi) and the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 4 May (RH), with a peak count of eight at the latter location on 15 May (RH).

Yellow-throated Warbler – An overshoot was discovered at HBSNP on 11 April where the species is rarely detected (RH). One was back at a traditional site at Station Road, CVNP on the same day (SW).

Pine Warbler – Two were early at Shaker Lakes on 30 March (PCh) while another was at Nimisila Reservoir on 31 March (RSH). A more typical return date was on 11 April at Brecksville (BAT, DAC). This species was found on three dates in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, spanning 20 – 25 April (RH). Up to six were in CVNP by 15 April (PC) and 10 were noted by the end of the period at Nimisila Reservoir (RSH). Some observ-

ers noted that this species seemed more common than expected this spring (PP).

Kirtland's Warbler –The first Kirtland's Warblers were discovered on 10 May at HBSNP (RH, SW, JT, m.obs, photographed), followed by females observed on 22, 24 and 26 May (AJF, RH, m.obs.). See **article on page 17**.

Prairie Warbler – Unlike last spring, when the species went unreported for the region, the species was found at HBSNP on 10, 14 and 21 May (JP, RH, DAC).

Palm Warbler – Arrived at HBSNP-MMSNP area by 20 April (RH), with counts of 40 in the there on 10 and 15 May (RH).

Bay-breasted Warbler – Arrived by 7 May, with maximum counts of nine recorded in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 10 and 21 May (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler – First noted 7 May at Bedford Reservation (FL). The species was not detected until 14 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, with high counts of 18 at that location on 27 May (RH).

Cerulean Warbler – Had returned to Station Road by 26 April (DAC). Another species that is rarely detected at HBSNP, it was found there on 14, 15 and 25 May (RH). Three were found in Rocky River Reservation on 10 May (RSH).

Black-and-white Warbler – A very early report came from Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve, Lake County of one on 13 April (KMe). Arrived at HBSNP on 23 April (RH), with a good count of 16 tallied on 10 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

American Redstart – First noted 4 May (RH), with a peak count of 20 on 21 May (RH).



Kirtland's Warbler
Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve

Prothonotary Warbler – Returned to Station Road, CVNP and Rocky River Nature Center on 23 April (BD, DAC), the same date that this species returned to the region last year. Twelve or more were reported from the upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County by 29 May (JH). This was one of the few eastern warblers missed at HBSNP this season.

Worm-eating Warbler – One was found at Lakeshore Metropark on 4 May (JP) and Mentor Lagoons on 5 May (JT, RH, SW).

Swainson's Warbler – One incredibly cooperative individual was discovered singing just to the east of HBSNP on 19 – 21 May (RH, SW, JT, m.obs, photographed). The bird spent much of its time on the ground singing and foraging under non-native “Bush-Honeysuckles”. See **article page 21**.

Ovenbird – Had returned to Brecksville Reservation by 27 April (DAC). High count was of seven in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 12 and 14 May (RH).

Northern Waterthrush – Had returned by 23 April to HBSNP, with up to three at this location on 14 May (RH).

Louisiana Waterthrush – An early report can from Girdled Road Reservation, Lake Metroparks on 28 March (JP), while another unusual sighting was of one at Lakeshore Metropark 4 May (JP).

Kentucky Warbler – Reported from Indian Point Metropark, Lake County on 3 May (JP) and CVNP at the “traditional” site at the ledges by 18 May (PC).

Connecticut Warbler – This species was found at HBSNP from 22 – 28 May, with two on 23 May (RH, DAC, SW, m.obs.).

Mourning Warbler – Seen at scattered sites throughout the region on dates spanning 10 – 31 May (RSH, DAC, RH m.obs.). A good count of six in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 27 May (RH).

Common Yellowthroat – First noted at Bacon Woods on 26 April (CC). Had returned to CVNP and HBSNP by 1 May (DAC, RH). Twelve were counted in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 11 May (RH).

Hooded Warbler – Found on several dates in the HBSNP-MMSNP area from 2 – 15 May, including four on the 15th (RH).

Wilson's Warbler – Found from 9 – 29 May, with a peak count of 14 on 25 May (RH).

Canada Warbler – First noted on 10 May at Rocky River Reservation (RSH). The species was detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 11 – 26 May with counts ranging up to seven on 20 – 21 May (RH).



Photo by Scott Wright

Clay-colored Sparrow

Downtown Cleveland — 23 May 2006

Yellow-breasted Chat – An early arrival was at the Columbia Woods Apartments on 4 May (RSH). The species had returned to CVNP by 8 May (DAC) and the Ravenna Training and Logistics Arsenal by 9 May (LR). Chats were also found in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 15, 19, and 27 May (RH).

Summer Tanager – A male was reported from Rocky River Reservation on 23 April (TC) and another at Kent on 13 May (LR, GC).

Scarlet Tanager – Earlier than expected was one at Sandy Ridge Reservation 21 April (LR) and Brecksville Reservation 25 April (DAC). High counts of 10 at Rocky River Reservation on 10 May (RSH) and seven noted on a few dates spanning 9 – 20 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Eastern Towhee – Up to 12 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 23 April (RH). One was noted as singing a combined Eastern Towhee-Northern Cardinal song, described as “Drink Your Pretty Pretty Pretty” for about 15 minutes at Bacon Woods on 12 April (CC, TMR).

American Tree Sparrow – A high count of 16 on 24 March (RH). Late reports included one on 20 April at HBSNP and at Brecksville (BAT, RH), while extremely late was one in Richmond Heights 12 May and Wildwood Park 15 May (NA).

Chipping Sparrow – Arrived by 31 March in South Russell, Geauga County (LGi) and 3 April at HBSNP (RH). High counts included 65+ at Edgewater State Park/Dike 14 (SZ) and 15 at HBSNP-MMSNP area on 1 May (RH).

Clay-colored Sparrow – Far more sightings than expected, with the first reported from Erie Street Cemetery, Cleveland on 3 May (TC). One foraged near the bird feeders at Rocky River Nature Center on 20 May (BD, TK, m.obs.). An incredible three were in Cleveland at Commodore Perry Park on 23 May (SWr) and another at Public Square the same day (JMcC, photographed).

Field Sparrow – Unusual was one at Sagamore Hills on 5 March (DAC). Detected from 31 March – 14 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area, with a high count there of eight on 30 April (RH).

Vesper Sparrow – Three were seen at Edgewater State Park/Dike 14 near the Cleveland lakeshore 31 March (PL, BF), with others following at HBSNP on 10 & 17 April (RH).

Savannah Sparrow – A peak count of 12 migrants at Whiskey Island on 29 April (PCh) with that same number achieved at HBSNP on 2 May (RH).

Fox Sparrow – Noted on 11 March – 18 April in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH), with a good count of 12 there on 9 April (RH).

Song Sparrow – High counts of 45+ at Edgewater State Park/Dike 14 on 10 March (JH) and 65 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 3 April (RH).

Lincoln's Sparrow – One was early at Sagamore Hills on 29 April (DAC), followed by two the next day at HBSNP (RH). High count of 25 on 9 May (RH).

Swamp Sparrow – Migrants detected in the HBSNP-MMSNP area 11 April – 12 May, with a peak of 13 on 23 April (RH).

White-throated Sparrow – Peak count reported was of 175 on 2 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). One lingered at Holden Arboretum until 28 May (FL).



Photo by Scott Wright

Clay-colored Sparrow

Downtown Cleveland — 23 May 2006

White-crowned Sparrow – Three arrived at HBSNP on 23 April, with a peak of only 25 there on 2 May (RH). Forty-five were tallied at Wildwood Park on 23 May (NA).

Dark-eyed Junco – High counts of 250+ at the Edgewater State

Park/Dike 14 area on 10 April (JH) and 400+ there on 12 April (SZ). One lingered at HBSNP to 28 May (RH).

Lapland Longspur – A count of 157 seen from Lakeshore Metropark on 3 April (JP) represented the only report for this species.

Snow Bunting – One was seen at HBSNP on 12 March (RH).

Northern Cardinal – Daily counts of up to 30 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – One arrived at bit ahead of schedule at Sandy Ridge Reservation on 21 April (LR). A good count of 26 was tallied on 9 May in the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH). A pair with nesting material was observed at Sandy Ridge on 14 May (CC).

Indigo Bunting – Arrived by 4 May at HBSNP, with a high count of eight on 19 May (RH).

Bobolink – Had returned to Northfield by 6 May (DAC). From 10 – 15 reported from the old Richfield Coliseum site (CC).

Red-winged Blackbird – Maybe they are down, or maybe observers are simply not taking the time to report this common species. A high count of only 40 was reported from the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 27 March (RH), while a flock of 2,500+ blackbirds were reported to include mostly Red-wings at Edgewater State Park/Dike 14 in Cleveland (SZ).

Eastern Meadowlark – Had returned to Northfield by 5 March (DAC) and the Fairport Harbor area by 10 March (RH). Up to five at the old Richfield Coliseum site (CC).

Rusty Blackbird – Up to 80 at Jaite, CVNP on 27 April (DAC) and 200 at

HBSNP-MMSNP area 25 March (RH).

Common Grackle – Certainly there are more than reports indicate, with high counts received at this desk of only 100 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area and in the CVNP (RH, TMR).

Brown-headed Cowbird – Few observers take the time to count Cowbirds. A high count of only three from the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 12 March (RH), while fifteen were at Ira Road, CVNP on 16 April (TMR).

Orchard Oriole – Continues to become more widespread in the region. One returned to Jaite, CVNP and Edgewater State Park by 1 May (DAC, JH), with other reports of 1 – 3 at scattered locations through the end of the period (RH, RSH, BAT, m.obs.).

Baltimore Oriole – Present in good numbers. Returned by 30 April to HBSNP (RH), with up to 40 counted there on 19 May (RH).

Purple Finch – Ones and twos noted on dates spanning 6 March – 18 May (LGi, RH m.obs.). Four were in Brecksville on 20 April (BAT).

House Finch – A common species that is often not listed on reports. A high count reported of only nine from the HBSNP-MMSNP area (RH).

Common Redpoll – Apparently absent from the region this spring.

Pine Siskin – One was at South Russell, Geauga County on 11 May (LGi) and HBSNP on 21 May (RSH) for the only reports of the season.

American Goldfinch – This species seems as abundant as ever, with a representative count of 60 in the HBSNP-MMSNP area on 4 May (RH).

Exotics:

Northern Bobwhite – A pair of females were in Westlake 18 – 26 March (CC), while another Bobwhite was seen in Wadsworth, Medina County on 23 May (RSH). Although the origin of these birds is uncertain, the urban/suburban settings where these birds were found is suspect. Bobwhites are regularly pen raised and released by private individuals or local “Conservation” or Hunting Clubs.

Hypothetical:

Short-tailed Hawk – Certainly one of the most remarkable reports of the season was of a light morph of this species from Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve/Shipman Pond of Headlands Beach State Park on the morning of 17 May. Details are with the Ohio Bird Records Committee. This would be a first state record and an extraordinary sighting for the Midwest.

Grackle sp. – A large, long-tailed grackle (either Great-tailed or Boat-tailed) was reported as flying past Lakeshore Metropark, headed east, on 7 May, with size and shape compared to Common Grackles. No documentation was submitted by the observer.

Errata:

The reference to 50 Mute Swans in Volume 102 Number 1 (Winter 2005 – 2006) should be deleted. The observer later noted that the number should have referred to Canada Geese.

Kirtland's Warblers at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve

by Ray Hannikman

When Suzanne Wagner and I heard an unfamiliar song from the under story at the beginning of the fisherman's path at Headlands Beach State Park May 10, neither of us realized what an ornithological drama would unfold during the next 16 days. Up popped a Kirtland's Warbler, no more than ten feet away. Four Kirtland's Warblers occurred from May 10 to May 26. Below are some personal observations and reflections about this truly unique event in Ohio—and probably North American—birding annals.



Kirtland's Warbler

Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve — May 2006

Field Marks - Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner found the second male Kirtland's Warbler on May 10. This individual differed from the first male as follows: less crisp side streaks, face mask less black and not as defined, and a browner cast to the back streaks and feather edgings. Anders Fjeldstadt found an adult female Kirtland's Warbler on May 22. It showed no face mask and even finer and less distinct streaking on the sides. I found the fourth Kirtland's Warbler, probably a first spring female, on May 24. This second female was a duller yellow below, had rather faint dots across her breast and even less defined side streaking. All four Kirtland's Warblers showed the species' characteristic split eye ring and vigorously pumped their tails. Many observers remarked about both the large size of the birds and the large bill size.

Behavior – All four Kirtland's Warblers were extensively observed in the field. I found it remarkable that all four frequented basically the same areas: scrubby growth and cut trees of the periphery of the State Nature Preserve. Late in the day, May 10, after the two male Kirtland's Warblers had "found" each other, the birds spent considerable time near each other and foraged both on the ground and by making short jumps to pick prey off low growth. The birds were also observed chasing each other. The confiding nature of this species surprised observers as the birds often approached, literally underfoot, toward their admirers. On the evening of May 22 the adult female fed on recently hatched insects 30 to 40 feet up in the trees along the fisherman's path. Otherwise she, and the first spring female, displayed the similar confiding and "up close and personal" behavior as their male counterparts. During that first frantic morning of May 10, the two males occasionally were lost by observers, then found when they began to sing. Singing stopped around 2 p.m. as the birds really began to feed and seek prey.

Photo by John Pogacnik

Significance – I keep asking myself: Why four Kirtland's Warblers? I have no answer. With a population of about 4,000 individuals and considered "vulnerable" (Stattersfield, 2000*) by Birdlife International, Kirtland's Warbler is nowhere an expected species on its spring migration route between its winter home in the Bahamas and nesting grounds in Michigan. Recently, one, sometimes two, individuals have been noted almost annually in spring along the Magee Marsh Bird Trail boardwalk and nearby areas along the western Lake Erie marshes.

But two birds, seemingly migrating together as the May 10

males appeared to be doing, were unique in the Cleveland region. Whereas four individual Kirtland's Warblers at any one location during spring migration can only be characterized as never having been recorded anywhere in any year.

And why Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve? Was this area similar to the dense undergrowth where these birds had just spent their winter in the Bahamas, and found to their liking as they returned to Michigan? And how was it possible that all four Kirtland's were un-banded given the fact that the species recovery program aims to locate and band as many individuals as possible? I have to leave these questions unanswered. Maybe explanations for wonderful things should be left for each of us to ponder.

Credits – Thanks especially go to Jerry Talkington, Suzanne Wagner, Anders Fjeldstadt and Jim McConnor for keeping track of the four Kirtland's Warblers and to John Pogacnik for his superb digital photographs. And to all those who enjoyed these birds, thank you for polite and courteous behavior.

*Stattersfield, A. J. and Capper, D. R. eds. (2000). Threatened Birds of the World. Lynx Editions & Birdlife International, Barcelona & Cambridge.

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*It is though the generosity of our supporters that publication
of this and all quarterly issues are possible.*

If you would also like to be a contributor to this important
records journal, please contact the Kirtland Bird Club,

216-556-0700

The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

by Dwight Chasar

House Wrens may arguably be the most studied passerine in North America (Johnson 1998). After all, they are ubiquitous, relatively abundant across most of their range (most of the U.S.), and tolerant of human activity. Historically, their range in the U.S. was more northerly. They began moving southward as forests were cleared for agriculture and residences in the late 1800s.

What many readers may not realize, however, is that most early research on the life history of the House Wren began right here in the Cleveland region. S. Charles Kendeigh (1904-86) has been credited with the early study of the wren's physiology and behavior of a local Ohio population from 1921-1939 (Johnson 1998). Kendeigh grew up in Oberlin, graduated from Oberlin High School (1922), then Oberlin College (BS/MS), while the famous Lynds Jones was still on the faculty. After obtaining his PhD from the University of Illinois, Kendeigh joined the biology faculty of Western Reserve University (1931-38), during which time he also edited the *Calendar*.



Photo by Dave Lewis

House Wren

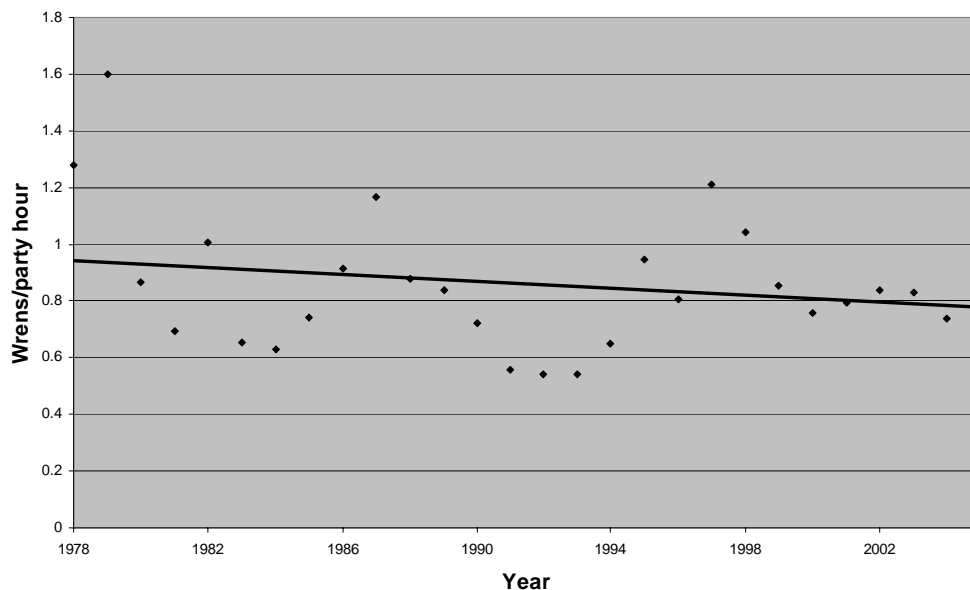
Perhaps it was Kendeigh's early association with Samuel Prentiss Baldwin (1868-1938), however, that led to Kendeigh's own wren research. Baldwin was Cleveland born and of ill health and constitution. After a number of successful detours of interest (ornithology, geology, law, business and horticulture), Baldwin settled in on ornithology. His Gates Mills estate, called Hillcrest Farm, became known as the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory. His trapping of birds, followed by banding, an advance recognized in and of itself, led to his early work on the House Wren and its return rate from year to year to Hillcrest Farm. His extensive detailed studies of this Ohio population of wrens led to the suggestion that the Ohio House Wren was indeed a distinct subspecies, averaging darker and grayer than the nominate species. Thus, the Ohio bird was designated *Troglodytes aedon baldwini* in honor of Baldwin's research on the species. Kendeigh started as a student assistant to Baldwin in 1925 while still at Oberlin and they continued to collaborate on bird research in multiple areas at Hillcrest Farm until Baldwin's death (Kendeigh 1940).

The world-renowned Harry Oberholser (1870-1963) also played a part in the local wren story. Oberholser, while spending most of his career with the U.S. Biological Survey in Washington, D.C., began advising the

ornithology department at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in 1928. Born in New York, he had moved to Wooster in 1890 to look after his father's dry goods store and thus began his Ohio connection to birding. Upon retiring in 1941, Oberholser came to Cleveland as the full time curator of ornithology at the CMNH until 1947. It was Oberholser (1934) who set out in print the characters and distribution of the North American House Wren, including *baldwini*, based primarily on the collections of the CMNH and the U.S. National Museum.

So, with this background perspective, it may be prudent to discuss the current status of the House Wren breeding population in the Cleveland area. The Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County summer bird count is the closest data we have at hand to do this. Included is a plot of wrens/party hour vs. year. One can see that the 28 years of data trend somewhat downward but probably not significantly. “For Ohio, the BBS indicates an upward trend in the Ohio population (Earnst and Andres 1996).”

Population Trend of House Wren in Summit Co



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

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Swainson's Warbler at Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve

by Ray Hannikman

On the morning of May 19 Suzanne Wagner and I were birding the road near the Coast Guard Beach when we heard an effervescent, bubbly song from the nearby brush. I said "Louisiana Waterthrush?" Then the bird fell silent.

Later, Jerry Talkington heard the song, however, could not find the bird. Something about this song did not click with Jerry. He was determined to find the bird. Early the next morning Jerry, Suzanne and I again heard the song.

When the bird flew to a bare branch Jerry exclaimed "It's a Swainson's [warbler]!"

Fortunately it was a Saturday and other birders were in the area. I called Emil Bacik over and Jim McCarty alerted Ohio Birds (www.ohiobirds.org) via his cell phone. The word got out on the Internet and another gold rush to Headlands Beach State Park ensued.

The bird was observed by many all day Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21. The bird could not be found on May 22, however, a singing Connecticut Warbler delighted otherwise disappointed birders.

The warbler was another new bird for the Headlands Beach State Park area, and only the fifth record (the last in May, 1975) for the Cleveland Region.

This Swainson's Warbler added yet another species to the fantastic month of May in the park. Below are some field and behavioral notes on this very rare sighting.

Field Notes and Behavior

The rich, loud song of the Swainson's Warbler helped birders locate the bird. Foraging consisted of turning and probing both the upper and lower surfaces of leaves that were often as long as the bird itself, as it looked for insect and other prey items. It worked almost exclusively

on the ground within Lily-of-the-Valley or among the bushy, shrubby tangles.

And who can forget when the warbler would momentarily cease its deliberate-paced strutting and burst forth into its song. The sound was loud and penetrating; so beautiful and charismatic. This particular individual showed a distinct pale yellowish cast to the under-parts from its throat to its underbelly. The characteristic pale eye line, rusty cap and large bill, along with its overall subdued color tones, make it perfectly suited to life on or near the ground.



Photo by John Pogacnik

Swainson's Warbler

Headlands Beach State Nature Preserve — 20 May 2006

Significance

Swainson's Warbler is strictly a spring overshoot to North-east Ohio. All previous reports occurred within a narrow window of dates—May 12 through May 18. Three of the four reports were single-observer sightings.

A Swainson's Warbler which remained in one particular area for three days, to be observed by many birders, was a rare event indeed. Along with four Kirtland's Warblers, two stunning male Golden-winged Warblers and multiple

Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve Bird Banding List for Spring 2006

Bander, Tami Gingrich

Banding Dates: May 9 – 14

Total Number of Species: 40

Total Number of Individuals: 227

Downy Woodpecker	1	Black and White Warbler	3
Least Flycatcher	6	Ovenbird.....	3
White-eyed Vireo.....	1	Northern Waterthrush.....	8
Warbling Vireo	3	Mourning Warbler.....	1
Black-capped Chickadee.....	2	Common Yellowthroat	15
Carolina Wren.....	1	Hooded Warbler	1
House Wren	1	Wilson’s Warbler.....	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	1	Song Sparrow	5
Veery.....	4	Lincoln’s Sparrow	14
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	1	Swamp Sparrow.....	7
Swainson’s Thrush.....	2	White-throated Sparrow	9
Wood Thrush	5	White-crowned Sparrow.....	4
American Robin	2	Northern Cardinal.....	4
Gray Catbird.....	28	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Yellow Warbler.....	35	Indigo Bunting.....	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	2	Red-winged Blackbird.....	8
Magnolia Warbler	5	Common Grackle.....	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	Brown-headed Cowbird.....	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	Baltimore Oriole.....	8
Palm Warbler	11	American Goldfinch	6

Bald Eagles at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve

by Fred Losi

The following is a nesting chronology of the Bald Eagles at the Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve, 2004 – 2006

2004

Incubation started March 13 – 14
Hatching occurred April 16 – 17 for two eaglets
Eaglet found deceased in nest on June 27
Fledging detected June 30 for one sub adult bald eagle

2005

Incubation started February 26 – March 5 at new nest
New nest is built on a man-made base installed by ODNR
Original nest is no longer in use
Hatching occurred April 3 – 6 for one eaglet
Eaglet from Lake Milton fostered at nest starting June 10
Fledging detected June 26 for one sub adult bald eagle
Fledging detected July 7 for second sub adult bald eagle

2006

Incubation started February 26 – March 2
Hatching occurred April 3 – 7 for two eaglets
The nest remains active as of April 21 with two developing eaglets

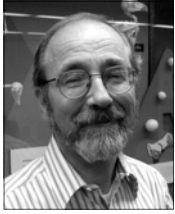
Cuyahoga Valley National Park Spring Census

by Dwight Chasar

Date—May 13, 2006; temperature ranged from 47 to 64 with drizzle throughout the morning;
51 observers in 17 teams; teams were out from 7AM to 1PM; 138 species, best for a spring census

Canada Goose	261	Eastern Phoebe	37	Yellow-rumped Warbler	88
Mute Swan	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	49	Black-throated Green Warbler	17
Wood Duck	58	Eastern Kingbird	43	Blackburnian Warbler	7
Mallard	76	White-eyed Vireo	6	Yellow-throated Warbler	14
Hooded Merganser	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	13	Pine Warbler	4
Wild Turkey	6	Blue-headed Vireo	4	Palm Warbler	2
Great Blue Heron	268	Warbling Vireo	69	Bay-breasted Warbler	5
Great Egret	8	Philadelphia Vireo	6	Blackpoll Warbler	1
Green Heron	8	Red-eyed Vireo	109	Cerulean Warbler	17
Turkey Vulture	56	Blue Jay	178	Black-and-white Warbler	11
Osprey	2	American Crow	144	American Redstart	25
Bald Eagle	2	Tree Swallow	111	Prothonotary Warbler	6
Cooper's Hawk	6	N. Rough-winged Swallow	97	Ovenbird	55
Red-shouldered Hawk	13	Bank Swallow	3	Northern Waterthrush	3
Broad-winged Hawk	10	Barn Swallow	173	Louisiana Waterthrush	11
Red-tailed Hawk	19	Black-capped Chickadee	197	Kentucky Warbler	1
American Kestrel	3	Tufted Titmouse	107	Mourning Warbler	2
Virginia Rail	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	Common Yellowthroat	150
Sora	4	White-breasted Nuthatch	47	Hooded Warbler	82
Killdeer	23	Brown Creeper	5	Wilson's Warbler	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Carolina Wren	42	Canada Warbler	2
Solitary Sandpiper	10	House Wren	76	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Marsh Wren	1	Scarlet Tanager	56
Wilson's Snipe	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	Eastern Towhee	61
American Woodcock	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	Chipping Sparrow	95
Ring-billed Gull	11	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	91	Field Sparrow	69
Rock Pigeon	39	Eastern Bluebird	66	Savannah Sparrow	11
Mourning Dove	102	Veery	11	Fox Sparrow	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	6	Swainson's Thrush	4	Song Sparrow	242
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	Hermit Thrush	3	Swamp Sparrow	42
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Wood Thrush	60	White-throated Sparrow	16
Barred Owl	4	American Robin	397	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Chimney Swift	401	Gray Catbird	127	Northern Cardinal	315
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21	Northern Mockingbird	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	80
Belted Kingfisher	17	Brown Thrasher	3	Indigo Bunting	71
Red-headed Woodpecker	17	European Starling	212	Bobolink	32
Red-bellied Woodpecker	128	Cedar Waxwing	125	Red-winged Blackbird	428
Downy Woodpecker	76	Blue-winged Warbler	46	Eastern Meadowlark	3
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Tennessee Warbler	25	Common Grackle	163
Northern Flicker	49	Nashville Warbler	11	Brown-headed Cowbird	103
Pileated Woodpecker	21	Northern Parula	2	Orchard Oriole	17
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	Yellow Warbler	178	Baltimore Oriole	196
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	Purple Finch	7
Acadian Flycatcher	18	Magnolia Warbler	46	House Finch	13
Willow Flycatcher	2	Cape May Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	424
Least Flycatcher	11	Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	House Sparrow	42

About the Authors



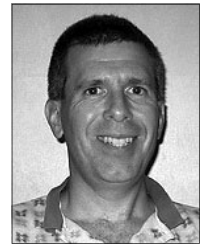
Dwight Chasar, former KBC president, leads bird walks in the CVNP year round and organizes/compiles the Spring and Fall CVNP bird censuses.



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.

Kevin Metcalf, current editor of Cleveland Bird Calendar and Naturalist with Cleveland Metroparks at North Chagrin Reservation.

Fred Losi, enjoys sharing his appreciation of nature with his two young sons. He monitors the Aurora Pond Osprey nest platform, as well as the Bald Eagle nest of Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve for ODNr.

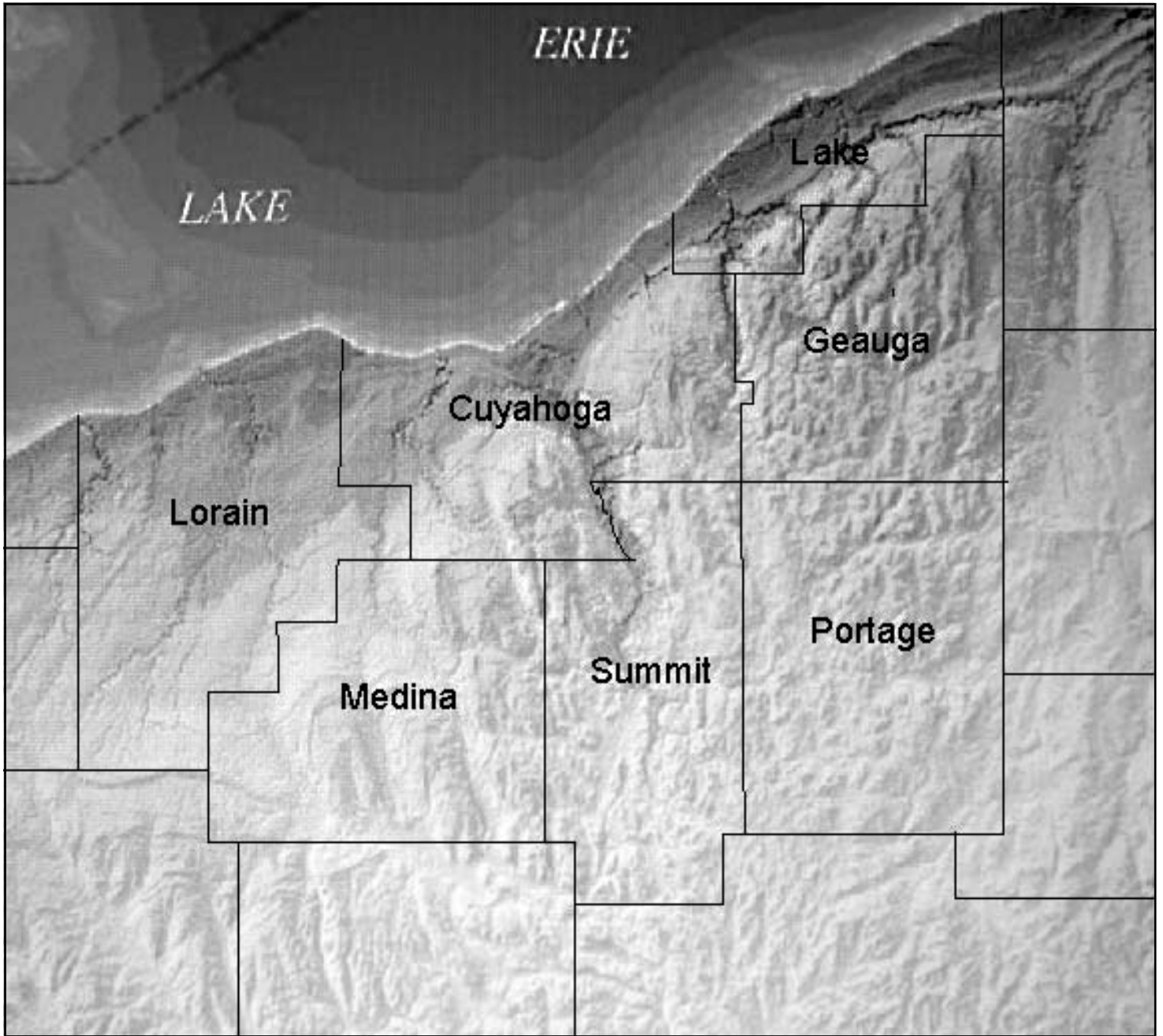


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*The seven counties of northeast Ohio included in the
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