THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

A Quarterly Journal of Bird Sightings from the Cleveland Region
Since 1905

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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

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Editor: Fred Dinkelbach
Editorial Consultants: Ray Hannikman
Contributors: Dwight W. Chasar
                           Andrew Jones
                           Larry Rosche
                           Bill Whan
                           Ray Hannikman
                           Dick & Jean Hoffman

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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Cleveland Bird Calendar Archives on-line: Volunteers are scanning and converting past issues into searchable PDF files. The completed issues are published and can be found at www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com.

Contributions
We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: bird_location_date_photographer.jpg. Seasonal report forms are available at: www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/cbc/cbc.htm. All submissions are archived at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Due dates for seasonal field reports are:
Winter - March 10
Spring - June 10
Summer - September 10
Autumn - December 10

Front Cover. Green-winged Teal (Common Teal ssp.), Station Road (CVNP), 4-15-2008, photographed by Jerry Talkington.
Back Cover. White-crowned Sparrow, Bay Village, 5-7-2005, photographed by David Lewis.
Contents

In Memorium: Tony Hess  Delores Cole and Paula Lozano ................................................................. 18
A Crow Encounter and its Implications  Dick and Jean Hoffman ....................................................... 19
The Weather  Dwight W. Chasar .......................................................................................................... 20
Location Key ........................................................................................................................................ 20
Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons
  Ray Hannikman .................................................................................................................................. 28

We gratefully acknowledge
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It is through the generosity of our supporters that publication is possible.

If you would also like to be a contributor to this important records journal, please contact the Kirtland Bird Club at 216-556-0700.

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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 many fine local birding locations. See the Web site for the up-coming meetings, programs and trips: www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Vol. 104, No. 2    Spring 2008
In This Issue
Fred Dinkelbach

This past spring as my wife Cheryl and I gathered with other birders for one of the six Sunday morning Audubon spring bird walks, Tony Hess and his wife Christine Lotenero stopped by our location of choice, the Station Road area of the CVNP. We waved to each other across the crowd that gathered in the parking lot and would have looked forward to saying hello and chatting but we ended up in different groups. Tony always had an interesting account to tell, a story about birding or about his travels, but I thought it would have to wait until some other time. Unfortunately, a week and a half later, and after just having completed the previous issue where I reflected on the passing of Tom LePage and Sheldon MacLeod, we learned of Tony succumbing to a heart attack. Below is an article about Tony and how we can contribute to his legacy with the Tony Hess Ohio Young Birders Memorial Fund at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

In Memoriam
Tony Hess
1950 – 2009

In April 2009 our dear friend Tony Hess died quite suddenly, leaving family members and countless friends to mourn his death. His entire working career was at Holcomb Educational Resources. He had many outside interests, including baseball and birding. He was a very unique and knowledgeable person. In high school he appeared twice on Academic Challenge and was on Jeopardy once, leaving with winnings of about eight thousand dollars. Part of that jackpot went toward a trip on a Russian ice breaker to the Arctic. That was one of his many birding trips to foreign destinations, including Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago. Right before his untimely death Tony and his wife, Christine Lotenero, shared a family trip to the Cayman Islands. Many KBC members have fond memories of trips near and far that were shared with him.

Tony felt very strongly about the importance of knowledge and education. Throughout his birding years Tony mentored young people whenever he could. To honor Tony’s memory, Christine, his widow, has decided to establish the Tony Hess Ohio Young Birders Memorial Fund at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, which will be used for OYBC educational programs.

If you would like to honor Tony in this way, you can make a tax deductible contribution in his memory by sending a donation to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 13551, W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449, noting that it is for the Tony Hess OYBC Memorial Donation Fund.

By Delores Cole and Paula Lozano
A Crow Encounter and Its Implications
Dick and Jean Hoffman

On May 13, 2008, we encountered a crow at Headlands Beach State Park (HBSP) that caused us some excitement. As we entered the parking lot at the east end near the dunes area, Dick remarked that it sounded like a Fish Crow was present. After parking, we quickly located the crow in the trees in the parking area. For the next 20 minutes, we followed its progress around the parking area and the picnic area, listening to its strange vocalizations and trying to photograph the bird. The calls it was making were not the usual “caw” type vocalizations of American Crow but consisted of one or two notes, nasal in character and more like a “quack” call of a duck. Juvenile American Crows make some strange vocalizations but in appearance the bird was quite glossy black and thus probably not a juvenile. Jean thought it might be smaller than American Crow though Dick was not as positive about this. Having heard and seen Fish Crows many times in many places during our travels, we were at least willing to consider that the bird was of this species. Jean was able to take several fairly clear photos of the bird, one of which was a very nice flight shot which, when studied later, showed severe wear on the secondaries. The only potential recording device available was a cellular phone. We tried to record the vocalizations by dialing our home phone and invoking our voice mail but when reviewed later nothing useful was contained in the recorded message; the cell phone is just not sensitive enough to record distant bird calls. The bird moved about the nearby trees, drawing the vocal ire of robins and Blue Jays. It was investigating collections of dead leaves and other debris in the crotches of trees, apparently looking for bird nests. Eventually it flew off to the east, toward the Coast Guard station, and was not seen or heard again as we birded further in the park.

That evening, Jean searched the Internet for information on Fish Crow and in particular how to tell it from American Crow. A particularly good site was this one at Cornell: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/FishCrow.htm. She found several recordings of Fish Crow vocalizations and we soon became convinced that what we had heard was different; the recorded notes were short and very nasal whereas the bird at HBSP called in longer notes, somewhat intermediate between the cawing calls we expect from American Crow and the “uh-uh” calls of Fish Crow. This Internet site gave a very good description of differences in the primaries between the two species, with American Crow exhibiting broad, rounded wings while Fish Crows are pointed due to the relative lengths of some of the primaries. The flight shot Jean got of the HBSP bird seemed to show broad, rounded wings. Given this information and the worn condition of the bird’s secondaries, we decided the HBSP bird was simply a strange American Crow, probably a bird born last year that hadn’t quite got its adult voice yet.

The experience made us really think about the chance of Fish Crow showing up in Ohio. Later that evening, we had the opportunity to discuss the bird with Dick’s brother Jim, who, since moving there nearly 30 years ago, has noted the spread of Fish Crow into the Tulsa, Oklahoma, area. What was once a rare wanderer to Tulsa is now a common breeder in the area. Fish Crow is apparently expanding all along its present range. It has jumped north and west from the east coast to near Utica in upstate New York (see http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/nyrange.htm). In Pennsylvania, the species is spreading north and west from its range in the southeastern part of the state and has reached nearly to the Pittsburgh area, as indicated in the results of the current PA Breeding Bird Atlas (see http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/PA/). It has spread north up the Mississippi River into Kentucky and has been spreading north and east since then in that state, per the results of the Kentucky Atlas project. It has now been seen along the Ohio River in southwestern Indiana. It will probably continue to follow the Ohio River east and follow the river’s north-south tributaries to expand into the interior of Ohio. Sooner or later, it will show up in the Cleveland region and birders need to be watching for it. How to reliably tell Fish Crow from American Crow may become an important issue in the not too distant future.
MARCH: The temperature averaged 33.5º, 4.0º below normal. The highest temperature was 64º on the 3rd and lowest 9º on the 9th. Lake Erie waters rose from 33 to 34º during the month. Snowfall totaled 30.4 inches, with the greatest 24-hour amount being 10.8 inches and with the greatest ground depth of 15 inches on the 9th. This was the snowiest March on record. Liquid precipitation, which includes rain and water content of the snow, totaled 5.51 inches, 2.57 inches above normal and fell on 18 days.

APRIL: The temperature averaged 52.3º, 4.7º above normal. The highest temperature was 81º on the 25th and the lowest 26º on the 15th. There was only a trace of snow during the month. Liquid precipitation (see above) over 13 days totaled 2.21 inches, 1.16 inches below normal. The greatest fall for a 24-hour period was 0.83 inches on the 10-11th. Lake Erie water temperature moved up to 44º by the end of the month.

MAY: The temperature averaged 56.3º, 2.2º below normal. The highest temperature was 82º on the 26th and 31st and the lowest 37º on the 13th and 29th. The lake temperature rose to 55º by the 31st. Over 15 days, rain totaled 4.17 inches, 0.67 inches above normal. The greatest fall for a 24-hour period was 1.22 inches on the 2-3rd.

Sightings Location Key

Boston. CVNP Towpath near Boston Mills Road and Boston Store, 1/10 of a mile east of Riverview Road (Summit County).
Caley Reservation. Lorain County Metroparks, Lorain County south of Rt. 303 and west of Rt. 301.
Calvary Cemetery. Located on the Cleveland-Garfield Heights border (Cuyahoga County).
CVNP. Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit and Cuyahoga County).
Deep Lock. Deep Lock Quarry, part of Summit Metroparks in the CVNP, south of Peninsula, Ohio.
Firestone Metro Park. 258 acre park south of Akron (Summit County).
Frohring Meadows. Geauga Park District, Bainbridge. Planted with prairie plants; a wet meadow habitat with low areas holding water; good for shorebirds (Geauga County).
Hayes Road. Rural road and adjacent roads in eastern Geauga County, known for a wide variety of owls and raptors found feeding in the fields in the winter months.
HBSP/Headlands. Unless otherwise stated, Headlands Beach State Park and surrounding area, from Fairport Harbor and Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve west to Shipman Pond and Zimmerman Trail and adjacent Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (Lake County).
Ira Road. CVNP north of Riverview and Ira Roads; a large beaver marsh bisected by the towpath boardwalk.
Jaite. The wetlands and early-succession fields surrounding the intersection of Highland and Riverview Roads in the CVNP (Brecksville-Peninsula, Cuyahoga-Summit Cos.).
MP. Abbreviation for Metroparks or Metro Parks.
Nimisila. Reservoir in southern Summit County.
Red Lock. CVNP Towpath trailhead on Highland Road in Sagamore Hills (Summit County).
Sandy Ridge. Artificial wetland in Lorain County known for easily seen waterfowl, rails, moorhens and cranes.
Sanitation Pond. Wetland area near the northern end of the CVNP and east of Riverview Road & Greenhaven Parkway. Also know as Fawn Pond. (Brecksville, Cuyahoga County).
SP. Abbreviation for State Park.
Station Road. CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Rt. 82 at Riverview Road, including the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (Brecksville, Cuyahoga County).
Summit Lake. South of Akron.
Swine Creek. Swine Creek Reservation, Geauga Parks District, southeast corner of Middlefield Township.
Terra Vista. Near the Canal Visitors Center in CVNP (Cuyahoga County).
Turkeyfoot Lake. Part of Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.
WBSP. West Branch State Park (Portage County).
West Creek Reservation. Cleveland Metroparks, Parma.
West Woods. Geauga County Park District, overlapping Russell and Newbury Townships on Rt. 87 (Geauga County).
Wilbeth Road. An urban migrant trap south of Akron where the Ohio Canal runs along the un-restored towpath. Wetlands to the east and a landfill to the west (Summit County).
Wildwood Park. Cleveland Lakefront State Park at Neff Road (Cuyahoga County).
Sightings Highlights
*Noteworthy species, numbers, or dates are underlined.*

Rarities this season did not disappoint. A Black-necked Stilt was seen and photographed in Lorain County; a Common Teal, the Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged, stayed in the CVNP for almost a week; the Audubon’s subspecies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared with a group of Myrtle Yellow-rumps at Mentor’s Veteran’s Park. Eurasian Collared-Doves have been nesting as far north as North Carolina after their spread into the U.S., and have been seen roaming as far north as Pennsylvania and other parts of Ohio, so it was only a matter of time before they would show up in the CBC area, and in North Perry on April 6th one did. A flock of Brants provided a record late date for our area. Adding to the list of rarities were Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Eared Grebe, Whip-poor-wills; raptors such as Black Vulture, Goshawk and Golden Eagle; and passerines like Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak. And it’s always nice to use the plural case when reporting Worm-eating Warblers, Le Conte’s Sparrows and, for the month of May, Evening Grosbeaks.

Breaking up the sightings into species accounts does migration patterns no justice. This season, there were several key dates that generated some very good birding throughout the area. March 22nd saw a large passage of waterfowl: the Romitos had 21 species at Portage Lakes, plus loons, two grebe species and coots; that day also proved fruitful for Greg Bennett, Gabe Leidy, and Rob & Sandy Harlan. Many Horned Grebes were found at the surrounding lakes on March 22nd; the day before and after held some large counts for Wood Ducks, Redheads and Ring-necks.

Two days stand out for raptor counts. On April 5th at Lorain Harbor Gabe Leidy had nine species of hawks (including 257 Turkey Vultures), all between 11:00 and 1:15; and later that day he counted 286 robins at E. 72nd Street. Four days later over Cleveland Heights, Philip Chaon had eight raptor species, including 93 Turkey Vultures and 28 Red-tailed Hawks, with some loons thrown in. In addition to these events, between the 13th and the 16th of March in the Hayes Road area of Geauga County, Dan Best, Senior Naturalist of the Geauga Park District, came across nearly every possible hawk species for northeast Ohio.

As I compiled the sightings of Kestrels I was struck by how they reminded me of the Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk reports. Whether gathering at Hayes Road or Burke airport, or seen during movements of other hawks, it was as if Kestrels were here for the moment and not one of our local nesters. There was only one sighting reported in May, and peaking ahead to the following summer’s reports doesn’t look good – only three individuals!

Inland birding for shorebirds was productive at Frohring Meadows in Geauga County with Ruddy Turnstones and Short-billed Dowitchers, along with pipits and Black Terns. Plant succession will change this area in the near future, but it’s good to know that if there’s habitat, they will come. Not that some shorebirds didn’t grab opportunities elsewhere for a place to stop on their migration - Leo Deininger had his first ever Short-billed Dowitchers and Greater Yellowlegs at Shaker Lakes.

Despite our area’s many talented birders, spring birds that may be more-hit-than-miss but were not reported for 2008 included Red-throated Loon, American Golden Plover, Willet, Pomerine Jaeger, Thayer’s Gull, and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

**Snow Goose.** Four birds, two dark-morph and two white, were found with Canada Geese in fields just south of Route 535 in Fairport Harbor on 3/15 (fide RH). A blue morph was found in Cuyahoga Falls from 4/24 to 5/8 (GB).

**Ross’s Goose.** On 5/24 an adult made a late appearance at Summit Lake (GB).

**Brant.** At North Perry, 46 were seen heading west along the lake on 5/26. This breaks the previous record late date of February 4, 2002 (JP).

**Cackling Goose.** All reports were from the Mentor Headlands area. One was discovered near the lighthouse in Fairport Harbor on 3/17 and later in fields just north of Route 535 (JT, SW, fide RH). Another was at Mentor Yacht Club on 4/6 (LR, JT fide RH). On 5/26 an individual was observed flying eastward past Headlands Beach with a group of Canada Geese (JT, LR, fide RH).

**Canada Goose.** Highest count was at HBSP with 800 on 3/1 (RH).

**Mute Swan.** Portage Lakes had three on 3/22 (TMR). Four were seen at Headlands on 4/5 (RH).

**Tundra Swan.** At HBSP 20 were seen on 3/6 and 40 were there on 3/27 (RH). A flock of at least 15 flew over Swine Creek on 3/16 (DB). Oberlin Reservoir had 27 on 3/23 (GL).

**Wood Duck.** An estimated 150 individuals, by far the largest migration ever at HBSP, were noted on 3/21 (EB, fide RH). Also noteworthy were 79 at Sandy Ridge on 3/23 (GL).
Gadwall. At Nimisila Reservoir, over 30 were seen on 3/22 (GB) and 20 on 3/31 (RSH). Fourteen were counted at HBSP on 3/31 (RH).

American Wigeon. Long Lake in Summit County had 27 on 3/10 (GB), on 3/18 Headlands had 21 (RH) and twelve were found at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR).

American Black Duck. All reports:
2 on 3/4 at HBSP (RH).
3 on 3/13 at N. Chagrin NC (FL).
2 on 3/16 at Tare Creek, Geauga County (DB).
1 on 3/16 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 3/17 at Ira Road (TMR).
10 on 3/17 at HBSP (RH).
60 on 3/21 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 3/22 at Portage Lakes (TMR).
4 on 3/23 at Tinkers Creek SP (FL).
2 on 3/23 at N. Chagrin MP (SV).
2 on 3/23 at Tinkers Creek SP (FL).
2 on 4/6 at HBSP (RH).
2 on 4/8 at HBSP (RH).
1 on 5/9 in the CVNP (DAC).

Mallard. North Chagrin MP had counts of 50 throughout the season (SV) with 65 on 3/13 (FL).

Blue-winged Teal. Five were found at Headlands on 3/3 (RH).

Northern Shoveler. Headlands had as many as four on many dates from mid-March to mid-April (RH, GL). On 3/22 three were seen at Portage Lakes (TMR).

Northern Pintail. Fifty was HBSP’s highest count on 3/15 (RH). At Aquilla Lake Wildlife Area (Chardon, Geauga County), 26 were seen on 4/4 (HH fide DB).

Green-winged Teal. Ten were at Sandy Ridge on 3/30 (CC). Headlands had 15 on 4/11 (RH).

Green-winged Teal (Common Teal ssp.). First discovered by Joe Wojnarowski on 4/13, many birders were treated to excellent views of a male at the CVNP Station Road beaver marsh until 4/19 (JWo, many obs.).
**Canvasback.** Wellington Reservoir had 15 on 3/2 (RSH). On 3/14 Long Lake (Summit County) had 103 (GB). Twenty were counted at HBSP on 3/24 (RH).

**Redhead.** A big spring for this duck on our inland lakes. Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve (Geauga County) hosted more Redheads than all other reports combined - from mid to late March numbers were between 60 and 90 almost daily (DB). Forty were seen at Wellington Reservoir on 3/2 (RSH). At Portage Lakes 24 were counted on 3/22 (TMR). Seen on only three dates at Headlands, 30 were found there on 3/24 (RH).

**Ring-necked Duck.** Numbers climbed at HBSP to 150 on 3/24 and 200 on 3/31 (RH). Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve in Geauga County had daily counts of 10 to 25 in late March (DB). At Sandy Ridge 169 were counted on 3/23 (GL). A female at the Lorain impoundment on 5/19 was a late sighting (RSH).

**Greater Scaup.** At Headlands 120 were counted on 3/24 (RH). Inland, 100 were seen at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR).

**Lesser Scaup.** On 3/22 100 were seen at Portage Lakes (TMR). HBSP had 1800 on 3/24 (RH). A late female was at the Lorain impoundment on 5/19 (RSH).

**Harlequin Duck.** Four birds passed close to the beach at HBSP on 4/10 (RH, SW).

**Surf Scoter.** Eight were found at North Perry on 4/12 (JP).

**White-winged Scoter.** One was seen at Avon Lake Power Plant on 3/1 (PL, BF). Latest reported was one at North Perry on 4/5 (JP).

**Black Scoter.** The only spring report comes from Headlands, where a very late immature male was with Red-breasted Mergansers off the east end of Headlands on 4/30 (RH).

**Long-tailed Duck.** One female was observed at Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve (Geauga County) on 3/13 (DB). On 3/22 two were seen at Portage Lakes (TMR).

**Bufflehead.** Portage Lakes had 100 on 3/22 (TMR). Headlands had daily double-digit counts through mid-April (RH). A late report was an injured drake at Wilbeth Road on 5/24 (GB).

**Common Goldeneye.** There were 70 at HBSP on 3/15, where there were mostly single-digit counts through mid-April (RH). Sims Park had 59 on 3/31 (NA).

**Hooded Merganser.** Headlands had 25 on 3/6 (RH). On 3/16 Eastlake Power Plant hosted 37 (NA). The highest count reported was 80 at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR). A peat bog in Northfield had 20 on 3/29 (DAC).
Common Merganser. Forty were counted at HBSP on 3/15 (RH). On 3/22 at Portage Lakes 24 were seen (TMR). The Cuyahoga River had five near Station Road on 3/3 (DAC).

Red-breasted Merganser. Hundreds were counted at Headlands through mid-April with a peak of 1200 on 3/29 and finishing the season with four on 5/10 (RH). Highest count reported was over 16,000 at North Perry on 4/6 (JP). Inland, 200 were found at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR) and 292 were at Nimisila on 3/31 (RSH).

Ruddy Duck. On 4/16, approximately 75 were found at Nimisila and 90 at Turkeyfoot Lake (GB). Forty were seen at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR).

Wild Turkey. Counts were of only one or two birds, if reported.

Common Loon. On 3/22, Long Lake in Summit County had 16 (GB) and Portage Lakes had 10 (TMR). Nimisila had 10 on 3/31 (RSH). Four flew over Cleveland Heights on 4/9, a day coinciding with a burst of hawk migration (PC). Seen almost daily at Headlands with the highest count of 29 on 4/12 and latest with three on 5/12 (RH). A late report was a non-breeding-plumaged bird on 5/26 at WBSP (GB).

Pied-billed Grebe. Thirteen were at Nimisila on 3/31 (RSH).

Horned Grebe. There were many inland reports of Horned Grebes on 3/22: Greg Bennett had a good day with a combined total of over 300 from seven different southern Summit County lakes including 81 from Turkeyfoot Lake (GB); three were seen at Portage Lakes (TMR). Forty were found at Wellington Reservoir on 3/23 (GL), on 3/31 Nimisila had 45 (RSH) and four were seen at HBSP on 4/6 (RH).

Red-necked Grebe. On 4/7 a winter-plumaged bird was found along the lake in North Perry (JP).

Eared Grebe. Portage Lakes had one on 3/22 (TMR).

Double-crested Cormorant. Highest Headlands count was 700 on 5/4 (RH). Inland flyovers included 20 on 4/19 at Station Road (DAC).

American Bittern. At Wildwood Park one was seen on 4/8 and on 5/3 (NA). Headlands sightings were one at Mentor Lagoons on 4/11 (RH) and one along Wake Robin Trail on six dates between 4/11 and 5/22 (JT, SW, RH).

Least Bittern. One flushed from the end of the boardwalk at HBSP’s Wake Robin Trail on 5/18 and again on 5/23 (JT, SW, RH).

Great Blue Heron. The CVNP Pinery Narrows rookery had its typical 100+ counts during the weekly Audubon censuses April and May (many obs.).

Great Egret. Headlands had five on 4/11 (RH). On 4/18 one was found in the Hudson area (DAC). Hope Orr’s group spotted one in the Boston area of the CVNP on 5/10 (HO).

Snowy Egret. One in fine breeding plumage fed in shallow waters at Veterans Park near Headlands on 5/6 (JT, SW, RH).

Little Blue Heron. On the morning of 5/4 one was seen west out over the lake at North Perry (JP).

Green Heron. Earliest report was one seen at Wilbeth Road on 4/16 (GB). Shaker Lakes had eight on 5/14 (LD).


Black Vulture. One was spotted over Sagamore Hills on the evening of 5/13 soaring with a flock of 10 or so Turkey Vultures (HT).

Turkey Vulture. There were 250 on 3/25 and 300 on 3/30 at HBSP (RH). At Lorain Harbor 257 were counted on 4/5 (GL). In Cleveland Heights, 93 passed over in one half-hour on 4/9 (PC).

Osprey. Earliest Headlands sighting was one on 3/30, where one or two were seen throughout the season (RH). Nimisila had one on 3/31 (RSH). On 4/6, three birds were found at Mogadore Reservoir (FL) and one at Lake Dorothy (Summit County) (RSH). Station Road had one on 4/10 and on 5/25 (DAC). On 4/24 one was seen at West Creek (GL). Shaker Lakes had one on 5/4 (LD). On 5/4 two flew over Bedford Reservation’s Button Road (FL).

Bald Eagle. Singles or pairs were present in most reports. A Short-eared Owl was harassed by an eagle at Hayes Road on 3/2 (SDI). On 3/16, one was guarded by three crows as it perched in a small tree on Nauvoo Road near Hayes Road and another was on a nest on the south edge of nearby Tare Creek Marsh in Middlefield Township (DB). At least one was tending a nest at Oberlin Reservoir on 3/23 (GL). Four were seen at HBSP on 3/25 (RH). On 5/4 a pair was seen ¼ mile from Eldon Russel Park upstream on the Cuyahoga River in Troy Township, Geauga County (DB).

Northern Harrier. Caley Reservation had two on 3/2 (RSH); two more were seen in rural Lorain County the same day (BF, PL). On or near Hayes Road, a male was seen on 3/14, another on 3/16 and a female also on 3/16 (DB). Tinkers Creek SP had one on 3/23 (FL). On 4/7 a female was found at Jaite (DAC). Cleveland Heights had a sighting on 4/9 during a sizable movement of hawks (PC). Headlands had at least one sighting most days with as many as four on 4/26 (RH). Bedford Reservation’s Button Road field had one each on 4/27 and 5/18 (FL). Frohring Meadows had one the week of 5/1 (LG).
Sharp-shinned Hawk. Present in all complete reports and seen throughout the season. Three were counted on 4/19, another sizable hawk migration day, at North Perry (JP). Four were seen at HBSP on 4/26 (RH).

Cooper’s Hawk. Overall, more numerous than the Sharp-shinned. Headlands had eight on 3/30 (RH). The Hoffmans had three in or near Lake View Cemetery on 3/2, 3/17 and 4/8 (DJH). Five were counted at Lorain Harbor on 4/5 (GL) and six were seen from North Perry on 4/9 (JP).

Northern Goshawk. At Headlands, an adult flew over two observers on Wake Robin Trail on 3/17 (JT, SW fide RH).

Red-shouldered Hawk. An active nest was discovered off Deer Run in Solon on 3/17 (BH). Nine were counted moving through Lorain Harbor on 4/5 (GL).

Broad-winged Hawk. At HBSP six were counted on 4/14 and seven on 4/21 (RH). On 4/19 there was a large raptor migration in the Cleveland area; Broad-wings were well represented with 86 counted at North Perry (JP). Ten were kettling over West Creek on the same day and thirteen were also seen there on 4/24 (GL). By 5/6 there were four nests in Brecksville Reservation (DAC).

Red-tailed Hawk. A nest was found at Calvary Cemetery on 3/31 with an incubating female and a nearby male being harassed by a Merlin (LGa). Six was the highest Headlands count, on 3/30 (RH). On 4/5, 17 passed through Lorain Harbor (GL). Two confirmed nests were discovered in Garfield Heights including one near I-480 by 4/7 (MP, LGa). On 4/9, 28 flew over Cleveland Heights within one half-hour period (PC).

Rough-legged Hawk. These hawks continued their strong presence from late February. One dark-morph and one light-morph were found in rural Lorain County on 3/2 (BF, PL). Hayes Road had seven on the same day (SDI). One was seen at Ira Road on 3/10 (TMR). Three dark-morphs were seen at Hayes Road and one light morph at nearby Swine Creek Reservation on the morning of 3/16 (DB). Later in the day three light-morphs were found in the Hayes Road area (DB). HBSP had three on 3/30 (RH). The former Coliseum site had one on 4/5 (PCy, KT). One of each morph was noted at Lorain Harbor on 4/5 (GL). In Cleveland Heights, one light-morph passed through in a noticeable large hawk movement on 4/9 (PC).

Golden Eagle. Two Headlands sightings: An adult appeared over Wake Robin Trail on 3/24 (JT fide RH) and another at Veterans Park on 4/16 (JT, RH, SW, JM).

American Kestrel. All reports:
- 3 on 3/2 in Lorain County (TMR).
- 1 on 3/2 at Lorain County Airport (PL, BF).
- 1 on 3/16 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 3/29 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 3/29 at I-77 & Pleasant Valley (SV).
- 2 on 3/30 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 4/31 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on several March dates, Bass Lake Rd., Geauga County (DB).
- 1 on 4/5 at former Coliseum site (PCy, KT).
- 1 on 4/5 at Lorain Harbor (GL).
- 2 on 4/5 at Euclid Creek Reservation, copulating (PL, BF).
- 1 on 4/6 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 4/7 at HBSP (RH).
- 9 on 4/9 at Cleveland Hts. (PC).
- 1 on 4/10 at CVNP-Boston (HO).
- 1 on 4/13 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 4/13 at Button Road, Bedford Reservation (FL).
- 1 on 4/18 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 4/18 at CVNP-Peninsula (PCy).
- 1 on 4/19 in the CVNP (DV).
- 18 on 4/19 at North Perry (JP).
- 2 on 4/24 at HBSP (RH).
- 1 on 5/18 at Button Road, Bedford Reservation (FL).

Nesting Ospreys, Cell Tower, Parkman (Geauga County), 4-29-2008
Tami Gingrich

Vol. 104, No. 2 Spring 2008
Merlin. The Tri-C Parma campus had one on 3/1 for possibly the 8th straight year (GL). Calvary Cemetery had at least three males and a female on 3/16; one female was found there as late as 4/6, where it was observed eating a bat (LGa). One was seen at Lorain Harbor on 4/5, a day with a good hawk movement (GL); likewise one moved through Cleveland Heights on 4/9 (PC). Single birds were seen at Headlands late March through late May and two seen there on 5/11 (RH).

Peregrine Falcon. Newest bridge nesting attempt for our area was the I-80 turnpike bridge over the Cuyahoga River (DV, DAC). Sightings not associated with the known nesting locations include three at Burke on 3/13 (HC), one at Sandy Ridge on 3/16 (SV) and one at HBSP on 4/27 and 5/12 (RH).

Virginia Rail. Ira Road had a pair on 4/14 and again on 5/19 (TMR). Headlands had two on 5/4 (RH). Five were observed at Sanitation Pond on 5/9 (DAC).

Sora. HBSP had two on 4/14 (RH). Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve (Portage County) had one on 4/20 (PCy). On 5/1 one was found at Rocky River Reservation (CC). In the CVNP, Sanitation Pond had one on 5/9 (DAC).

Common Moorhen. Station Road had a sighting of one on 4/20 (DAC). On 5/11 one was observed at Headlands (RH). A pair was found at Wilbeth Road on 5/22 (GB).

American Coot. Sixty were tallied at Portage Lakes on 3/22 (TMR) and Sandy Ridge had 50 on 3/30 (CC).

Sandhill Crane. Two passed over the HBSP Wake Robin Trail on the morning of 3/17 (JT, SW fide RH); another was seen at Headlands on 4/13 (JT fide RH). Four flew overhead in LeRoy Township (Lake County) on 4/3 (JP). On 4/5 Tinkers Creek SP had one (FL). Two were heard calling over Parma on 4/6 (fide RSH). Sandy Ridge had its pair seen throughout the season (many obs.).

Black-bellied Plover. Two were at Headlands on 4/19 (RH).

Kildeer. Over 200 birds were found in fields north of Route 535 in Fairport Harbor on 3/17 and 3/18 (JT, RH).

Black-necked Stilt. There are contentious records for our area from 1881 and 1941 in which no specimens were saved. A potential first record for our area with physical evidence, one bird was spotted and photographed on private property near Wellington on 5/13 (JMc).

Spotted Sandpiper. HBSP had 40 on 5/14 (RH). On 5/15 eight were seen at Shaker Lakes (LD). The Lorain Impoundment had 10 on 5/19 (RSH) and 30 on 5/22 (GL). One nocturnal migrant was heard over Columbia Woods Park (Summit County) on the night of 5/31 (RSH).

Solitary Sandpiper. Five were seen at Headlands on 5/3 (RH).

Greater Yellowlegs. Rocky River Reservation had 15 on 5/1 (CC) and on 5/15 four were at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Lesser Yellowlegs. A first March Headlands record occurred when one circled over Wake Robin Trail, but did not land, on 3/31 (RH, JT, SW). In May ten were counted at Frohring Meadows the week of 5/1 (LG) and six were found at Shaker Lakes on 5/15 (LD).

Wilson’s Snipe, Bainbridge, 3-22-2008

Linda Gilbert

Semipalmated Plover. On 5/22 there were 11 at Lorain Harbor (GL). Five was the count at HBSP on 5/31 (RH). Three were seen at Frohring Meadows twice in the latter half of May (LG).

Piping Plover. A very late bird lingered along Headlands Beach from 5/22 to 5/24 (RH, JT, SW).

Whimbrel. Scarce inland, during the spring CVNP census a single-bird flyover was noted on 5/10 at Oak Hill (fide DAC). Three different flocks for a total of 77 birds were moving along
the lakefront and seen from North Perry on 5/26 (JP).

**Ruddy Turnstone.** A nice inland find was one at Frohring Meadows the week of 5/16 (LG). On 5/26 at HBSP 22 were counted (RH).

**Sanderling.** Fifty were at Headlands on 5/26 (RH).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** HBSP had 40 on 5/26 (RH) while the same number was seen at Frohring Meadows during the same week (LG).

**Least Sandpiper.** Headlands had six on 5/2 (RH). On 5/9 Sanitation Pond had five (DAC). On the week of 5/21 eleven were seen at Frohring Meadows (LG). Lorain Harbor had 15 on 5/22 (GL).

**White-rumped Sandpiper.** One was spotted at Lorain Harbor on 5/22 (GL).

**Pectoral Sandpiper.** Scarce overall in this season’s reports and none were reported from the lakefront. Frohring Meadows had three the week of 5/1 (LG).

**Dunlin.** Frohring Meadows had seven the week of 5/16 (LG). On 5/25 Lorain Harbor had over 40 (GB). There were 69 at HBSP on 5/31 (RH).

**Short-billed Dowitcher.** Shaker Lakes had two on 5/15 (LD) and one was at Frohring Meadows the week of 5/21 (LG).

**Wilson’s Snipe.** The Coliseum property hosted 10 to 15 on 4/5 (DAC, PCy, TK). On 4/17, nine were seen at a Highland Hts. business park (PL) and eight were found at Headlands (RH).

**American Woodcock.** Single birds were seen at HBSP 3/21 through 4/7 (RH), five were spotted at Erie Street Cemetery on 4/5 (PL, BF) and Jaite had up to six on 4/10 (DAC).

**Wilson’s Phalarope.** Lorain Harbor had one on 5/22 (GL).

**Bonaparte’s Gull.** Springfield Lake in Summit County had over 50 on 3/22 (GB). Headlands’ counts peaked at 250 on 4/6 (RH).

**Little Gull.** An adult was seen at North Perry on 3/30 (JP).

**Laughing Gull.** Three individuals were found at the far eastern end of the Headlands Beach in May – one first-summer bird on 5/7 and 5/8 (RH, JT, SW) and two adults in breeding plumage on the windy morning of 5/22 (RH).

**Franklin’s Gull.** At North Perry a 1st-cycle bird was seen on 5/18 (JP).

**Ring-billed Gull.** HBSP had a peak of 600 birds on 3/4 and after a mid-season drop they climbed to 250 on 5/28 (RH). Inland, 148 were counted at Boston in the CVNP on 3/6 (HO).

**Herring Gull.** On 3/31 Turkeyfoot Lake had 40 (RSH) and eighty were counted at Headlands on 3/4 (RH). Greg Bennett reported probable nesters at Berlin Reservoir and Wingfoot Lake (Portage County) and Cuyahoga Falls at Gilchrist Road and Turkeyfoot Lake (Summit County) (GB).

**Iceland Gull.** One adult was found at North Perry on 4/6 (JP).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull.** At North Perry, one adult was seen on 4/12 and one 3rd-cycle was seen on 5/4 (JP).

**Glaucous Gull.** One 1st-cycle bird was seen at North Perry on 4/6 (JP).

**Great Black-backed Gull.** Only one, a 1st-cycle bird, was seen at E. 72nd St. on 3/13 (HC). Mostly single birds were seen at HBSP throughout the season (RH).

**Caspian Tern.** At the Port of Cleveland (mouth of the Cuyahoga), 193 were counted on 4/12 (PL). Headlands had approximately 50 on 4/19 (GL) and 70 on 5/7 (RH). On 5/10 the Lorain Impoundment had over 50 (GB).

**Black Tern.** On 5/14 there were 16 at Springfield Lake (Summit County) (GB), Frohring Meadows had two the week of 5/21 (LG) and two were found at WBSP on 5/26 (GB).
Common Tern. One was seen at Mentor on 4/9 (SV). Nimisila Lake had 31 on 5/20 (GB).

Forster’s Tern. On 4/10 two were found at Turkeyfoot Lake (GB). One was seen at HBSP on 5/3 and on 5/5 (RH).

Rock Pigeon. Expected numbers, when reported.

Mourning Dove. A flock of 100 moved along the lake heading west at North Perry on 4/5 and another flock numbering 150 did so the next day (JP). On 4/9 Headlands had 25 (RH). Canalway Visitor Center had 25 on 5/25 (FL).

Eurasian Collared-Dove. In North Perry, John Pogacnik noticed one traveling with a flock of Mourning Doves on 4/6 and was able to verify the ID through his scope after it landed in a tree (JP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Always reliably found at Jaite, this year one was present on 5/26 and 5/29 (DAC). Boston (CVNP) had five on 5/29 (HO).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Two were counted at HBSP on 5/11 (RH). Firestone MP had one on 5/22 (RSH).

Barn Owl. Rob Harlan’s first migrant since late March 1991, on the night of 3/24 one was heard at Columbia Woods Park (Summit County) (RSH).

Eastern Screech-Owl. There were sparse reports for our commonest owls, Screech and Barred. On 4/3 a gray morph Screech was seen at Station Road and a red morph at Sanitation Pond (DAC). One was seen at Headlands on 5/23 (RH).

Great Horned Owl. Seen at Sandy Ridge’s popular nest was a female with two owlets on 3/30 (CC). HBSP had one on 3/2, 5/4 and 5/19 (RH). Station Road had two on 5/5 (DAC).

Barred Owl. North Chagrin MP had one on 3/9 (SV) and on 4/13 (LD). Three different birds were seen during the day in Geauga County in early March as they perched on utility wires overlooking hayfields or meadows (DB). On 4/30 one was heard calling at Red Lock in the CVNP (DAC). One was found at Bedford Reservation on 5/17 (FL).

Long-eared Owl. None were reported from Caley Reservation, where they had been so common the past winter, but it was a good spring for this owl at Headlands. Three were just east of the fisherman’s path on 4/1 (RH) and four were found on 4/7: two which flushed right in front of three observers from bushes near the end of the fisherman’s path (RH, JT, SW) and two just west of the dunes (RH, JT, SW).

Short-eared Owl. Two were found at Hayes Road on 3/2, one of which was being harassed by a Bald Eagle (SDI). Single birds were noted at the HBSP State Nature Preserve area on 4/5 and 4/7; four were flushed by criss-crossing the dunes area on 4/9 (JT, RH, SW). Burke had one on 4/17 (PL).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. Plentiful the previous fall, none were reported over the winter but one appeared on 5/18 at Headlands. Ray Hannikman’s account: “Much small bird scolding by warblers, gnatcatchers and sparrows, as well as larger species such as robins, cardinals, Blue Jays, etc., led Emil Bacik to investigate the commotion. Most surprisingly a Saw-whet flushed from the thick growth on the south side of the State Nature Preserve area and was found about 15 feet up in a small tree (EB, JT fide RH). This was Headland’s first ever May record and a very late spring sighting”.

Common Nighthawk. All reports: 1 on 5/7 at HBSP (RH). 1 on 5/21 at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Spring 2008
Ray Hannikman

What I will remember about spring 2008 is the color of the season as reflected in its birds – the blinding white snows and dark grays of March, Snow Geese of two color morphs in a thawing field or Tundra Swans in V formation overhead; the delicious browns of emergent April, two Long-eared Owls in a leafless tree or a Short-eared Owl flushed from a field of brownish-tinged grasses; and the prism of colors – orange, rose, blue, yellow, red, etc. – of May’s neotropical travelers, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 30-plus species of warblers as they continue their journeys of thousands of miles to raise a new generation. Then there are the show-stoppers, species rare in the Cleveland area: a beautiful male Yellow-rumped (Audubon’s) Warbler in mid-April or furtive Le Conte’s Sparrows in April and May, or those species which possess a certain degree of charisma – a Northern Saw-whet Owl being harassed by warblers (!) in mid-May or that memorable Connecticut Warbler which sang for two-and-a-half hours one morning and yet remained and was singing again the next morning! This bird’s secretive behavior made those who crawled under bushes and thickets really appreciate how special a bird can be. And in the end, though numbers of birds did not rival those of recent springs and there were no days when migrants overwhelmed observers, the birds came and left, and we, especially those of us who have been lucky enough to be a-field often in the Headlands Beach State Park area, can not help but be enriched by the experience.
Whip-poor-will. At Calvary Cemetery one was heard and seen on 4/20 (LGa). On 4/23 one was heard calling at 9 PM at a Sagamore Hills residence (DAC). One was flushed from HBSP’s Zimmerman Trail on 5/9 (RH).

Chimney Swift. Earliest report was one in Akron on 4/16 (GB). On 5/28 Headlands had a high count of 130 (RH). Over 100 were seen in Troy Twp. (Geauga County) on 5/4 (DB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. HBSP had 10 on 5/16 (RH).

Belted Kingfisher. The Romito’s Ira Road walk produced six on both 3/24 and 3/31 (TMR). On 4/4 four were found at Red Lock in the CVNP (DAC). Two were seen at a nest hole at Station Road on 5/16 (DAC).

Red-headed Woodpecker. Sandy Ridge had five on 3/16 (SV). On 4/24 six were seen at Station Road (where one spent the winter) (DAC). One to four were counted at Headlands 3/30 through 5/27 (RH).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common in all complete reports, high counts were Hinckley Reservation’s 11 on 4/13 (TMR) and HBSP’s nine on 4/15 (RH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. One was found in the Salt Run area of the CVNP on 3/1 (PCy). Firestone MP had five males on 4/7 (RSH); On 4/9 West Creek had six (GL). Two were seen in Hinckley Reservation on 4/13 (TMR). Mid-April had typical high counts at Headlands with 14 on 4/8 and 16 on 4/12 (RH).

Downy Woodpecker. Eighteen were counted in Bedford Reservation on 4/20 (FL).

Hairy Woodpecker. Four were counted at Bedford Reservation on 4/13 (FL). Nesting was documented at Station Road on 5/12 (DAC).

Northern Flicker. Thirty were seen at Headlands 4/6, 4/9 and 4/11 (RH).

Pileated Woodpecker. The CVNP had four at Boston on 3/13 (HO) and three at Red Lock on 4/4 (DAC).

Olive-sided Flycatcher. The Button Road field in Bedford Reservation had one on 5/16 (FL). Firestone MP had two on 5/22 (RSH). Three were found at Mentor Lagoons – one on 5/24 and two on 5/30 (JT, EB, RH, SW). On 5/25 one was seen at Elmwood Cemetery Park in Lorain (GB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. HBSP finished the season with ten on 5/31 (RH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Wilbeth Road had one on 5/24 (GB). At Headlands four were counted on 5/31 (RH).

Acadian Flycatcher. Rocky River Nature Center had six on 5/25 (FL).

Alder Flycatcher. Singles were observed at Jaite on 5/24, 5/29 and 5/31 (DAC). Mogadore Reservoir (Portage County) had two on 5/26 (GB). On 5/30, three were noted at HBSP (RH) and up to two in the CVNP’s Oak Hill area (CC, JB).

Willow Flycatcher. Jaite had six on 5/24 and 5/29 (DAC).

Least Flycatcher. Seven were found at Firestone MP on 5/7 and again that many on 5/14 (RSH). On both 5/14 and 5/17 eight were seen at HBSP (RH).

Eastern Phoebe. Twelve were at Headlands on 3/30 (RH). At Ira Road eight were counted on 3/31 (TMR). On 4/17 a nest with five eggs was found at Station Road (DAC).

Great Crested Flycatcher. Six were counted in the CVNP on 5/9 (TMR).

On 5/10 the CVNP Boston area had eight (HO). HBSP’s highest count was nine on 5/30 (RH).

Eastern Kingbird. On 5/24 three were seen at Jaite with nest-building observed as well (DAC). At North Perry, on a day with a large movement of birds, John Pogacnik reported 174 kingbirds, many in groups of two to five (JP).

Northern Shrike. The reliable Jaite shrike was seen on 3/1 (GL). Sandy Ridge hosted one on 3/20 (SV).

White-eyed Vireo. An early report was one at Kendall Lake (CVNP) on 4/19 (TMR).

Yellow-throated Vireo. Deep Lock in the CVNP had three on 5/7 (DAC) and again on 5/10 (TMR).

Blue-headed Vireo. Brecksville Reservation had four on 5/2 (DAC). One late migrant was seen at Firestone MP on 5/22 (RSH).

Warbling Vireo. One was seen on 4/27 at Turkeyfoot Lake with a mouthful of nesting material (GB). On 5/25 Canalway Visitor Center had 25 (FL). Eighteen were counted at HBSP on 5/31 (RH).

Philadelphia Vireo. Two birds were counted on three separate days the last half of May at Headlands (RH).


Blue Jay. Fifty were counted at Sandy Ridge on 3/16 (SV). Migration at Headlands peaked in early May with hundreds there on three separate days; highest was 700 on 5/6 (RH).

American Crow. Approximately 350 to 400 were seen flying west to east along the western Cuyahoga County lakeshore on 3/1 (PL, BF).
**Horned Lark.** Twenty were found by birding Lorain County back roads on 3/2 (TMR).

**Purple Martin.** Station Road had one on 4/26 (DAC). Fifty were counted at HBSP on 5/29 (RH). At least 10 took up residence at martin houses at the north end of E. 156th St. (Cleveland) (DJH).

**Tree Swallow.** Among early sightings were 25 at Tinkers Creek SP on 3/29 (FL) and three at Sanitation Pond on 4/3 (DAC). Rocky River Reservation had 50 on 5/1 (CC).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow.** Firestone MP had one early appearance on 4/7 (RSH). At Headlands, counts of 30 to 40 were common throughout May (RH).

**Bank Swallow.** Headlands had counts of 60 on both 5/17 and 5/27 (RH).

**Cliff Swallow.** Five were counted at Bacon Woods MP on 5/5 (CC). Two were at HBSP on 5/11 (RH). Birds were seen building nests under the Charles Perry Bridge (E. Erie Ave./Rt. 6) in Lorain on 5/25 (GB).

**Barn Swallow.** An early bird was seen on 3/31 at Ira Road (FL). The highest Headlands count was 300 on 5/12 (RH).

**Black-capped Chickadee.** On 3/16, 30 were counted at Sandy Ridge (SV).

**Tufted Titmouse.** Boston (CVNP) had ten on 3/6 (HO), while a four-mile walk in the CVNP on 4/19 produced 17 (DV).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** In the CVNP, the Christmas tree farm area in Peninsula had seven on 4/18 (PCy), eight on 5/7 (DAC) and two on 5/20 (CC). One or two extended their winter presence at a Macedonia feeder through 4/30 (FL). Almost always present at Headlands the entire season; seven were seen there 5/2 (RH).

**White-breasted Nuthatch.** HBSP had 10 on 4/12 (RH).

**Brown Creeper.** Headlands had a respectable 35 on 4/12 (RH). Four were counted at Brecksville Reservation on 4/19 (DAC).

**Cliff Swallow.** Five were counted at Bacon Woods MP on 5/5 (CC). Two were at HBSP on 5/11 (RH). Birds were seen building nests under the Charles Perry Bridge (E. Erie Ave./Rt. 6) in Lorain on 5/25 (GB).

**Sedge Wren.** One was discovered at West Creek on 5/7 (GL). The Boston area of the CVNP had two on 5/10 and again on 5/29 (HO).

**Marsh Wren.** On 5/10 one was found at Lorain impoundment (GB). Sandy Ridge had one sighted on 5/14 (CC). Five were counted on 5/30 at HBSP; at least one was to be found there throughout May (RH). In the CVNP, Boston had one on 5/22 (HO) and Jaite had one on 5/26 (DAC).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet.** Headlands had 16 on 4/12 (RH). Many late reports on 5/20: three observed in Hinckley (TMR), two at the CVNP Horseshoe Pond area (CC) and two at Station Road (SV).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet.** There were 25 on 4/14 and again on 5/3 at HBSP (RH). Bedford Reservation had 12 on 5/4 (FL).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** Twenty were tallied at Headlands on 4/26 (RH). Fledged young were found in the Brecksville Reservation on 5/27 (DAC).

**Eastern Bluebird.** Present in most complete reports, usually with one or two seen. Seven males were found in the Salt Run area of the CVNP on 3/1 (PCy).

**Veery.** Station Road had two on 5/4 (DAC). HBSP had 12 on 5/14 (RH).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush.** A Cleveland Heights backyard hosted one on 5/13 (DJH). On 5/18 one was observed in Brecksville (TMR). Six were seen at Headlands on 5/25 (RH).

**Swainson’s Thrush.** Seen almost every day in May at Headlands with a high count of eight on 5/14 (RH). Two

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**Winter Wren, Wendy Park, 10-14-2007**

*David Lewis*
were seen at the Northfield-Macedonia Cemetery on 5/25 (DAC).

**Hermit Thrush.** Fifty was the estimated total from the various HBSP locations on 4/9 (RH, JT, SW); eight were counted at West Creek that same day (GL). The latest at HBSP was one on 5/20 (RH). On 5/19 A territorial singer was found in the CVNP near Scobie Road (RSH). At Kendall Ledges, one was observed carrying food on 5/30 (JB).

**Wood Thrush.** Eight were observed in Richfield on 5/6 (DAC) and Headlands had 14 on 5/20 (RH).

**American Robin.** At HBSP 400 were counted on 3/19 and 600 on 3/30 (RH). One hundred were tallied at Terra Vista on 3/24 (SV). At E. 72nd St., 286 were counted in a very short time on the morning of 4/5, a day that also happened to witness a good hawk migration (GL).

**Gray Catbird.** The bird which wintered at Mentor Lagoons was seen alive at Veterans Park on 3/29, but later found dead (RH). The Headlands area had 80 on 5/14 (RH).

**Northern Mockingbird.** Ones and twos were seen at HBSP throughout April and May (RH). Lake View Cemetery had one on 4/8 (DJH).

**Brown Thrasher.** Firestone MP had one on 3/31 (RSH). At HBSP, six were counted on 4/19 (GL) and 12 on 4/21 (RH).

**European Starling.** Typical numbers.

**American Pipit.** Frohring Meadows had five on the weeks of 4/26 and 5/1 (LG). Two were seen at HBSP on 4/26 and on 5/3 (RH).

**Cedar Waxwing.** At Headlands 300 were observed on 5/26 (RH). At North Perry the same day, over 1300 were counted in less than two hours with a final daily total of over 1700 (JP).

**Blue-winged Warbler.** Eight were observed at Major Road in the CVNP on 5/7 (DAC). Six were counted in the CVNP at Oak Hill on 5/6 (FL) and on 5/9 (TMR). Bacon Woods MP had three on 5/14 (CC).

**Brewster’s Warbler.** One appeared at Wildwood Park on 5/13 (NA).

**Golden-winged Warbler.** On 4/26 a male was found in Mogadore (GB). One was seen in the CVNP at Oak Hill on 5/6 (FL) and on 5/9 (TMR). On 5/14 a male was found at West Creek (GL).

**Tennessee Warbler.** On 5/17 fourteen were counted at HBSP (RH).

**Orange-crowned Warbler.** Two were seen at HBSP on 5/5 and 5/6 (RH). In the CVNP, one was seen near Major Road on 5/7 and the Kendall Ledges area on 5/13 (DAC).

**Nashville Warbler.** Eight were at Lake View Cemetery on 5/5 (DJH). Headlands had 10 on 5/6 (RH).

**Northern Parula.** Elmwood Cemetery Park in Lorain had one on 5/11 and on 5/25 (GB). Summit Lake had one on 5/16 (GB). Seen throughout May at HBSP with a peak of five on 5/17 (RH).

**Yellow Warbler.** Ira Road had 22 on 5/10 (TMR). In the CVNP, 25 were counted on 5/14 (DAC) and the same number were at Headlands on 5/20 (RH). On 5/25 at Canalway Visitor Center 35 were tallied (FL).

**Yellow-throated Warbler.** First report was one near Peninsula in the CVNP on 4/12 (DV). Nearby, the Station Road area of the CVNP had 15 on 4/20 (DAC). Jerry Talkington located one high in the trees of the Headlands picnic area on 4/19 but it quickly departed (JT fide RH). Deep Lock Quarry (Peninsula, Summit County) had two on 5/10 (TMR).

**Pine Warbler.** Single birds were found at HBSP throughout April (RH). On 4/28 at Ira Road seven were counted (TMR). Three were on territory at Nimisila on 5/20 (RSH) and one was singing at Rocky River on 5/25 (FL).
Prairie Warbler. One was seen at West Creek on 5/7 (GL). An adult male was along the HBSP fisherman’s path on 5/17 (JT, SW, RH, EB).

Palm Warbler. An individual of the Eastern race was found at West Creek on 4/22 (GL). On 4/27 Bedford Reservation had 15 (FL). Thirty were observed at Headlands on 5/1 and 5/2; 20 were found there on 5/19 (RH). Highest count reported was 50 on 5/2 at West Creek (GL).

Bay-breasted Warbler. Three were found at Firestone MP on 5/7 (RSH). On 5/17 three were seen at Hinckley Reservation (TMR). There were four at HBSP on 5/23 and 5/24 (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler. Seen the latter half of May at Headlands with 20 counted there on 5/26 (RH). On 5/31 Turkeyfoot Lake had three (GB).

Cerulean Warbler. Station Road had two on 4/26 and 4/29 (DAC) and again on 5/3 (FL). Three were counted at Deep Lock on 5/10 (TMR). Shaker Lakes had one on 5/18 (LD).

Black-and-white Warbler. An adult male that remained at Veterans Park on 4/12 and 4/13 was Headlands’ earliest record (JT, RH). Seven were seen there on 5/8 (RH). The CVNP had five on 5/9 (TMR).

American Redstart. In the CVNP, six were found on 5/13 (DAC) and the Romitos had counts of one and two throughout May (TMR). HBSP had 16 on 5/17 and 15 on 5/30 (RH).

Prothonotary Warbler. Three were counted at Station Road on 4/29 (DAC). Two males were seen at Nimisila on 5/20 (RSH). A detailed Prothonotary survey from Dan Best, Senior Naturalist, Geauga Park District, follows: Four nesting pairs were verified at Eldon Russell Park (Troy Twp., Geauga County). Two more pairs had their nest displaced by Tree Swallows and two more unmated males were found at the Troy/Burton township line. Per their color bands, 2 females and 5 males had returned from previous year(s), including one bird that returned for the 9th year. By May 20th, 13 singing males were counted.
between U.S. 422 and Hiram Rapids Road on the upper Cuyahoga River.

**Worm-eating Warbler.** A possible overflight on 4/20 at West Creek resulted in one bird that provided viewing for 20 minutes (GL). One was found on the CVNP spring census on 5/10 (DAC) (See article in this issue).

**Ovenbird.** Headlands had ten on 5/9 (RH). The same day eight were counted in the CVNP (TMR).

**Northern Waterthrush.** Dwight Chasar remarked this was his best year ever for this species; six were counted at Sanitation Pond on 5/9 (DAC). Four was the highest daily count at HBSP on 5/14 (RH).

**Louisiana Waterthrush.** On 4/8 two were found in the CVNP (DAC). Rare in the Headlands area, a single bird was found along the lake’s edge at Veterans Park on 4/13 (JT, EB fide RH). The same day one was found in Hinckley Reservation (TMR). A nest with young was discovered 5/28 in the CVNP (DAC).

**Kentucky Warbler.** The ledges area of the CVNP had one or two from 5/13 to the end of May (DAC, CC, JB). Two were at Hinckley Reservation on 5/20 (TMR).

**Connecticut Warbler.** Firestone MP had two singing males on 5/22 (RSH, EP). From Ray Hannikman: “At Headlands, one bird briefly sang from underbrush near the dunes entrance on May 22. What was probably the same adult male sang for two and a half hours from thick underbrush along the fisherman’s path on May 23. The bird’s songs were loud and vigorous. And, most remarkably, this same bird remained until May 24 when its songs were less frequent but no less vigorous.” (RH, JT, EB, SW).

**Mourning Warbler.** Two males were at Firestone MP on 5/22 (RSH). Bedford Reservation had two on 5/23 (FL). On 5/25 six were observed at Headlands (RH).

**Common Yellowthroat.** HBSP had 14 on 5/20 (RH).

**Hooded Warbler.** An early report came from West Creek Reservation where one was seen on 4/22 (GL). On 5/10 Peninsula’s Deep Lock Quarry had seven (TMR). Five were at CVNP on 5/28 (DAC).

**Wilson’s Warbler.** Two were seen in Bedford Reservation on 5/18 (FL). Headlands had counts of four and five the last half of May (RH).

**Canada Warbler.** Common at HBSP beginning 5/8 onwards; six were seen there 5/29 (RH). At Firestone MP, five were found on 5/22 (RSH).

**Yellow-breasted Chat.** Seen annually at Jaite, this season was no exception with one seen on 5/24, two on 5/26 and one on 5/31 (DAC). One was observed at HBSP on 5/27 (RH).

**Summer Tanager.** One was spotted at Rocky River Nature Center on 4/26 (PC).

**Scarlet Tanager.** Wildwood Park had an early report with one on 4/23 (NA). On 5/10 six were counted at Deep Lock Quarry in Peninsula (TMR). Headlands had ten on 5/23 (RH).

**Eastern Towhee.** Fourteen were observed at HBSP on 4/9 and on 4/11 (RH). On 4/13 Hinckley had nine (TMR). The CVNP’s Christmas Tree Farm trail had eleven on 4/18 (PCy).

**American Tree Sparrow.** At Jaite 35 were seen on 3/31 (DAC) and Headlands had a conservative estimate of 30 on 4/6 (DJH).

**Chipping Sparrow.** No less than 12 were at a Rocky River feeder at one time on 4/19 (JE).

**Clay-colored Sparrow.** One was discovered in North Perry on 5/2 and again on 5/4 (JP).

**Field Sparrow.** Several were heard at LaDue Reservoir on 4/24 (DJD). On 4/25 five were found at HBSP (RH). In Sagamore Hills 10 to 12 were reported along cleared electrical lines on 5/1 (DAC).

**Vesper Sparrow.** One was found at West Creek on 4/9 (GL) and Headlands had one on 4/12 (RH).
White-throated Sparrow. Two were found at the Richfield Coliseum property on 4/5 (DAC). More than 10 were seen at E. 72nd St. on 4/7 (LG). On 4/8 eight were found at West Creek (GL). Frohring Meadows had eight the weeks of 4/26, 5/21 and 5/26 (LG).

Grasshopper Sparrow. One made an early appearance at Headlands on 4/20 (RH).

Henslow’s Sparrow. The former Coliseum grasslands in Richfield had one each on 4/22 (DAC) and 5/30 (CC).

Le Conte’s Sparrow. Single birds were found at HBSP’s Wake Robin Trail on the very early date of 4/11 (JT, SW fide RH) and in the State Nature Preserve dunes area on 5/7 (JT fide RH).

Fox Sparrow. Almost all observations were in mid-April. Ten were seen at Headlands on 4/7 and 4/11 (RH). On 4/14 Jaite had six (DAC). West Creek had 18 on 4/9 (GL).

Song Sparrow. HBSP had 80 on 3/24 and 70 on 3/28 (RH). Firestone MP had 25 on both 3/31 and 4/7 while Erie Street Cemetery had 35 on 4/6 (RSH). In the CVNP, Boston had 28 on 5/10 (HO).

Lincoln’s Sparrow. One was at Wildwood Park on 5/2 (NA). On 5/14 Headlands had 20 (RH). Three were counted in Bedford Reservation on 5/16 (FL).

Swamp Sparrow. Jaite had 15 on 3/1 (GL). On 4/12 16 sixteen were seen at HBSP (RH). In the CVNP, Boston had 10 on 4/24 (HO).

White-throated Sparrow. Headland’s highest count was 90 on 4/25 (RH). The same day at least 30 were seen at Wildwood Park (NA). A late report was one on 5/25 at Elmwood Cemetery Park in Lorain (GB).

White-crowned Sparrow. Headlands had 50 on 5/14 (RH).

Dark-eyed Junco. Erie Street Cemetery had 35 on 4/16 (RSH). A nesting pair near the Brecksville Nature Center was seen feeding three young on 5/29 (BH).

Lapland Longspur. At Lorain County Airport and nearby roads 11 were seen on 3/2 (BF, PL).

Snow Bunting. Two flocks of over 30 birds each were found at Hayes Road on 3/2 (SDI). Two were found from Garfield Road (Oberlin, Lorain County) and six from Jones Road (Wellington) on 3/2 (PL, BF).

Northern Cardinal. Thirty were tallied at Hinckley on 4/13 (TMR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. An early report was one from Sagamore Hills on 4/27 (DAC). On 5/8 twenty were counted at HBSP (RH). Terra Vista had 13 on 5/10 (FL).

Blue Grosbeak. The feeders at West Woods hosted an immature bird from 5/6 to 5/11 (many obs.).

Indigo Bunting. Eight were found at Headlands on 5/17 (RH).

Bobolink. Frohring Meadows had five of 5/1 (LG) and the Coliseum site had 20 on 5/30 (CC).

Red-winged Blackbird. Thousands were seen at Headlands in March; 5000 were estimated there on 3/19 (RH).

Eastern Meadowlark. Emil Bacik noted a massive movement of an estimated 200 birds at HBSP on 3/21 (fide RH).


Bluebird. Thirty were at Ira Road on 3/3 (TMR).

Common Grackle. Two thousand were estimated at Headlands on 3/19 (RH). Terra Vista had 75 on 3/24 (SV).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Thirty were at Ira Road on 3/3 (TMR).

Orchard Oriole. Slowly increasing, and many CVNP sightings: One was found in the Kendall Lake area on 4/25 (PCy); Jaite had one on 5/6 and Sanitation Pond had two on 5/9 (DAC); in the Boston area three were counted on both 5/15 and 5/29 (HO). On 5/26 a very vocal immature male was found around the Lake View Cemetery ponds (DJH). At least three pairs were found at the South Chagrin Reservation’s Jackson Road Picnic Area on 5/29 (BH).

Baltimore Oriole. Headlands had 25 on 5/8 and again on 5/17 (RH) and Terra Vista had the same number on 5/20, five of which were female (SV).

Purple Finch. Three were found at Station Road on 4/29 (DAC). Seen at HBSP from mid-April onwards with six on both 5/4 and 5/6 (RH). On 5/7 two were found at Firestone MP (RSH). One was on territory in Orange (Cuyahoga County) on 5/21 (RSH).

House Finch. As expected, with seemingly higher non-urban counts this year.
Common Redpoll. Six were observed at Carlisle Reservation in Lorain County on 3/2 (BF, PL). Chardon had eleven at a feeder on 4/3 (SDI). Jerry Talkington heard one pass over the Headlands State Nature Preserve dunes area on 4/10 (JT fide RH).

Pine Siskin. Only single birds were reported: Perkins Beach (Cleveland) on 4/6 (RSH), Brecksville Reservation on 4/9 and 4/29 (DAC), and at HBSP on 5/7 (RH).

American Goldfinch. Seventy were counted at Headlands on 5/17 (RH).

Evening Grosbeak. In North Perry, four were seen on 4/19, then a late pair were seen there on 5/21 and a male on 5/26 (JP). Both May dates beat the former late spring record of 5/5 set in 1976.

House Sparrow. Non-urban reports included 14 at Ira Road on 3/10 (TMR).

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May 10, 2008, CVNP Bird Census Results
Dwight W. Chasar, CVNP Volunteer

It was great weather again to census. We had 45 people out in 15 teams to cover the park and found 130 species (plus a Brewster’s Warbler). At lunch those reporting totaled about 120 species. But by the end of the day, with the results of 3 other teams, and Ann and I going out later and getting both the Junco and Woodcock, brought the species list up to 130, which ties for sixth highest since the census started in 1981. The highest ever was 138.

We missed all three owls, the Hooded Mergansers (under the Bald Eagle nest), Willow Flycatcher and cuckoos (we were a little early for them this year), and Hermit Thrush (first miss since 1998).

First ever for a spring census were the Sedge Wren (Boston towpath north) and Whimbrel (flyover flock at Oak Hill). Also had the first Worm-eating Warbler since 1987, when the census was on May 8. This bird was on the Kendall Lake cross-country trail and not far from the one that summered on Wetmore Road last year.

As far as numbers go of each species, comparing the 2008 results to those over the years when we started counting numbers in 1995, the following popped out: Lows for Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Starling, Grackle. Prothonotary Warbler was low only because we missed them for various reasons (Eagle nest and not singing at the time).

Highs were for Virginia Rail and Yellow-throated Vireo (the latter has been steadily increasing over the years since 1995).

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Contributors

Nancy Anderson (NA)  Bob Finkelstein (BF)  Jim McConnor (JM)
Emil Bacik (EB)  Henry Fortlage (HO)  Wilbur McQueen (HO)
Gregory Bennett (GB)  Lou Gardella (LGa)  Hope Orr (HO)
Dan Best (DB)  Linda Gilbert (LG)  Ed Pierce (EP)
Steve Borgis (HO)  Ray Hannikman (RH)  Milly Piros (MP)
Jen Brumfield (JB) *  Rob and Sandy Harlan (RSH)  John Pogacnik (JP)
Craig Caldwell (CC)  Helen Hendrickson (HH)  Tom and Mary Anne Romito (TMR)
John Cameron (HO)  Bob Hinkle (BH)  Larry Rosche (LR)
Philip Chaon (PC) *  Dick and Jean Hoffman (DJH)  Jerry Talkington (JT)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)  Sally and Dave Isacco (SI)  Karin Tanquist (KT)
Sue Chester (HO)  Hedy Jones (HO)  Henry Trimpe (HT)
Hans Clebsch (HC) *  Winnie Kennedy (HO)  Scott Van Valkenburg (SV)
Pat Coy (PCy)  Tim Krynak (TK)  Doug Vogus (DV)
Wayne Crouse (HO)  Gabe Leidy (GL)  Suzanne Wagner (SW)
Leo Deininger (LD)  Fred Losi (FL)  Annette Webb (HO)
Lois Eckard (HO)  Paula Lozano (PL)  Joe Wojnarowski (JWo)
John Edwards (JE)  Jim McCarty (JMc) *

* Sightings gathered from known sources on birdingonthe.net/mailinglists/ohio.html

Some submissions are received indirectly through forwarded correspondence (fide = “in trust of”).

Cleveland Bird Calendar 7-county Area