

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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



VOLUME 104 NUMBER 3
JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2008

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

The Cleveland Bird Calendar

Summer 2008
Volume 104 Number 3
ISSN 1557-8798

Editor: Fred Dinkelbach
Editorial Consultants: Andrew Jones
Larry Rosche
Bill Whan
Ray Hannikman

Contributors: Dwight Chasar
Ray Hannikman
Fred Losi
Mary Anne Romito

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.

Subscriptions

A subscription to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* is a benefit of Kirtland Bird Club membership. Annual membership is \$28 (Couple), \$17 (Single) or \$8 (Student). To join or report an address change, contact Mary Anne Romito, Kirtland Bird Club, 4310 Bush Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44109. Make check payable to Kirtland Bird Club. Additional membership information can be found at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join. Issues are also on sale at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History gift shop.

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. Black-necked Stilt, LeRoy Township, Lake County, 7-8-2008, photographed by John Pogacnik.

Back Cover. Indigo Bunting, Sandy Ridge, 7-27-2008, photographed by David Lewis.

Contents

The Weather <i>Dwight Chasar</i>	38
Location Key.....	39
Common Nighthawks on August 25, 2008 <i>Fred Losi</i>	44
Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons <i>Ray Hannikman</i>	45
Cliff Swallows Nesting in the Rocky River Valley, 2008 <i>Mary Anne Romito</i>	52
Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Census, June 13-22, 2008 <i>Ann Chasar & Doug Vogus</i>	56

We gratefully acknowledge

G. Dennis Cooke & Barbara Andreas, Brenda Baber, Dan Best, Don Burlett, Henry Burton, Karl Liske & Garnet Byrne, Craig Caldwell, Christi Carlson, William M. Carran, Jr., Caroline & Robert Chandler, Liz Clingman, William Craig, Fanny W. Dale, Leo Deininger, Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach, Anita Friedman, Linda Gilbert, Russell K. Hack, Bob Hopp, Nancy Howell, Linda Johnson, Hedy Jones, Laura & Bill Jordan, Michael Kaplan, Ronald Kish, Paula Lozano, Joseph McCullough, Marcia Polevoi, Susan Prior, Mary Reinthal, Nancy Renkert, Bob Roach, Tom & Mary Anne Romito, Audrey Smith, Bert Szabo, Jerry Talkington, William & Ann Toneff, Scott Van Valkenburg, Denis Vanek, Judy & John Wilkinson, Connie Workman, Barbara Zaas Partington and Eileen Zimlich

for their generous support of the Cleveland Bird Calendar. 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.



Kirtland Bird Club Board, 2009

Lisa Chapman *President*
Henry Burton *Vice President; Out-of-town Trip Coordinator*
Mary Anne Romito *Treasurer; Chair, Finance Committee*
Tom Romito *Recording Secretary*
Delores Cole *Webmaster; Corresponding Secretary*
Fred Dinkelbach *Editor, Cleveland Bird Calendar*
Scott Van Valkenburg *Chair, Ohio Avian Project Initiative Program*
Bob Finkelstein and Andy Lihani *Co-chairs, Scholarship Fund Committee*
Lou Gardella *NE Ohio Rare Bird Alert Coordinator*
Jerry Talkington *Cleveland Christmas Bird Count Compiler*
Ed Pierce, Larry Rosche *Honorary Lifetime Members*

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. To become a member of Kirtland Bird Club, visit www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join or call (216) 741-2352. A subscription to the Cleveland Bird Calendar is included in membership.



The Kirtland Bird Club gratefully acknowledges the significant support of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for the Cleveland Bird Calendar.

To become a member of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, visit www.cmnh.org or call (216) 231-4600 ext. 3309. Membership levels of \$75 and under are fully tax deductible.

In This Issue

Fred Dinkelbach

The summer of 2008 held its fair share of excitement for our local observers. It would be difficult to top Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, both Summer and Western Tanager, Lark Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt and Mississippi Kite; or out-of-season surprises such as Evening Grosbeak and Rough-legged Hawk. Students of sparrow identification had a likely Clay-colored-Field Sparrow hybrid in extreme southern Lorain County to challenge them. An unexpected local bonanza of Cliff Swallow nests at no less than seven Rocky River bridges was discovered by the Romitos; Mary Anne Romito provides a detailed article chronicling their locations, numbers and nesting success. And speaking of swallows, the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association discovered an August pre-migratory martin roost. Located at Summit County's Nimisila Reservoir, there were estimates ranging from ten- to forty-thousand birds; keep an eye out for this becoming a perennial roost.

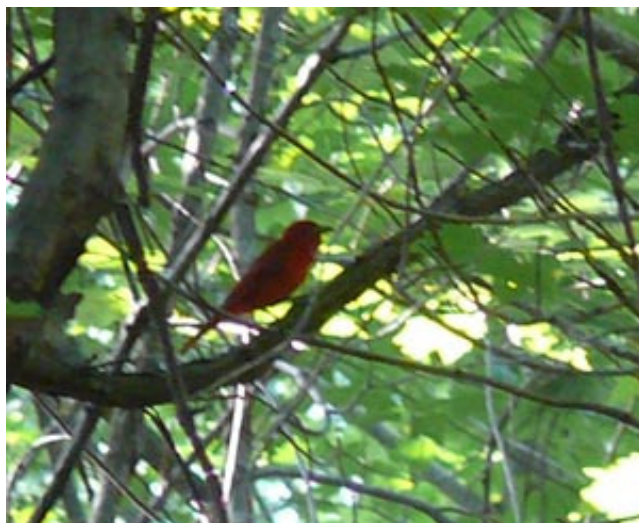
Every year Ann Chasar and Doug Vogus co-ordinate the Greater Akron Audubon Society's Summit County summer bird census. This year, as always, it gives a very good representation of our area's mid-June bird population along with its own share of highlights; among them Bufflehead, four Osprey juveniles, Horned Larks and a Worm-eating Warbler.

A prolific birder this season was Dan Best, the Geauga County Park District's Senior Naturalist. In addition to his work with Upper Cuyahoga Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes and banding, his travels in the Geauga County countryside resulted in sightings of Least Bittern and Common Moorhen. His sightings of raptors during this season were only outdone by his own reports from the famous Hayes Road area in the colder months.

Few people report nests or any kind of nesting behavior. The exception is the Chasars, who, if you've birded with them, seem to find as many nests as birds. In each issue you'll see they are the ones credited with most nest observations. I'm sure other readers have their own observations – any submissions on nest location and construction, number of young, and dates of courtship, egg-laying, hatching and fledging are welcomed (and I need not mention providing this data to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas as well).

In this issue I have followed the A.O.U.'s sequence decision to move the tanagers next to the cardinals. If you have ever been fooled by a quick glimpse of a sunlit cardinal in hopes of finding a Scarlet Tanager, you may find some comfort in the fact that you were closer than you thought: recent DNA analysis has shown that the North American (*Piranga*) tanagers are more closely related to the cardinal family than the neotropical tanagers.

Potential birds for our area that were not reported for the summer of 2008 were: American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Western and Stilt Sandpipers, and Vesper Sparrow.



Summer Tanager, Mill Stream Reservation, 7-2-2008

Dwight Chasar

Weather Report, Summer 2008

Dwight W. Chasar

June Temperatures averaged 70.9°, 3.4° above normal. The high was 93° on the 8-9th and the low was 51° on the 2nd. Lake Erie was 55° on June 1st and rose to 68° by the 30th. Rain occurred on 16 days and totaled 5.21 inches, 1.32 inches above normal. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.56 inches on the 21-22nd.

July Temperatures averaged 73.5°, 1.6° above normal. The high was 89° on the 17-18th and the low was 53° on the 1st. Rain occurred over 11 days, totaling 3.02 inches, 0.50 inches below normal. The most rain in a 24-hour period fell on the 12-13th and amounted to 1.27 inches. Lake Erie was at 75° at the end of the month.

August Temperatures averaged 71.0°, 0.8° above normal. The high was 91° on the 22nd and the low was 54° on the 20th. Rain fell on 9 days, totaling 1.43 inches, 2.26 inches below normal. The most in a 24-hour period was 0.5 inches on the 9-10th. Lake Erie water ended the month at 72°.

Sightings Location Key

Boston. CVNP Towpath near Boston Mills Road and Boston Store, 1/10 of a mile east of Riverview Road (Summit County).

CVNP. Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit and Cuyahoga County).

Frohring Meadows. Geauga Park District, Bainbridge. Planted with prairie plants; a wet meadow habitat with low areas holding water; good for shorebirds (Gauga 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.

HBS/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, also known as Mentor Lagoons (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.).

LaDue Reservoir. Between Auburn Center and Welshfield in southern Geauga County.

MP. Abbreviation for Metroparks or Metro Parks.

Nesmith Lake. South of Akron.

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 known as Fawn Pond. (Brecksville, Cuyahoga County).

Shaker Lakes. Shaker Heights.

SP. Abbreviation for State Park.

Station Road. CVNP towpath trailhead area south of Route 82 at Riverview Road, including the Pinery Narrows heron rookery (Brecksville, Cuyahoga County).

Summit Lake. South of Akron.

Swine Creek. Swine Creek Reservation, Geauga County Parks District, southeast corner of Middlefield Township.

Turkeyfoot Lake. Part of Portage Lakes, southern Summit County.

West Woods, The. Geauga County Park District, overlapping Russell and Newbury Townships on Route 87.

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).



Northern Bobwhite, Bainbridge, 8-5-2008

Craig Griffin

Sightings Highlights

Noteworthy species, numbers, or dates are underlined>.

Canada Goose. HBSP had the highest number reported with 250 on 8/28 (RH).

Mute Swan. Five or more birds appeared at Headlands throughout the summer; on 6/2 nine were seen (RH).

Wood Duck. On 6/28 at Sandy Ridge, 64 Wood Ducks were found: two adult males, eight adult females, and 54 ducklings (SV). On 7/7 Ira Road had a count of 62 (TMR).

Mallard. Highest number reported was 80 on 8/28 at Headlands (RH).

Blue-winged Teal. On 6/28 two flew over the wetland at Sandy Ridge Reservation in Lorain County (FL).

The only HBSP sighting was five on 8/16 (RH).

Northern Shoveler. Four were counted on 8/25 at Headlands (RH).

Green-winged Teal. On 8/24 twelve made a showing at HBSP (RH).

Long-tailed Duck. A new early fall record for our area, beating the previous record (10 October 1991). Ray Hannikman's Headlands account: "What was probably a moribund individual was found on the east beach of the nature preserve on August 25 by myself and Emil Bacik. The bird entered the water, swam out a little, and disappeared – and probably expired." (RH)

Bufflehead. On the Greater Akron Audubon Society's breeding bird survey, Greg Bennett saw an injured bird at Summit Lake on the week of 6/15 - 6/22 (GB).

Hooded Merganser. HBSP had a single bird on 6/3 (RH). An immature male was seen at Lorain Harbor on 6/22 (RSH).

Ruddy Duck. Nesmith Lake had one on 7/26 (GB). Headlands had its last migrant on 6/30 when one bird was seen (RH).

Wild Turkey. On 7/1 one adult with five young were reported from Richfield (DAC). At Ira Road on 8/25 a hen and three poults were seen (TMR). Ten were found at Headlands

on 8/26; singles and pairs were occasionally seen throughout the summer there (RH).

Northern Bobwhite. Two reports for the summer: On 8/5 one was found in Summit County behind an office on North Cleveland-Massillon Road a mile north of Ira Road (CG *fide* MM). Bert Szabo of Munroe Falls discovered one behind his residence on 8/7; his neighbor informed him that earlier in the day there were seven feeding below her bird feeders and the flock had left the lone bird behind. It remained the next day, when it appeared to be in ill health (BS).

Pied-billed Grebe. The only report was on 8/23; one was found in a pond on the north side of Bartholomew Road just west of Route 44, Auburn Township (DB).

Double-crested Cormorant. Two were found at Shaker Lakes on 8/2 (LD). Headlands' highest numbers occurred the last half of August; on 8/31 70 were seen there (RH).

Least Bittern. Single birds were noted along the boardwalk at the Headlands Wake Robin Trail on 6/2, 6/7 and 6/8 (RH). Ira Road had a sighting on 7/7 (TMR). At a marsh at Pekin-Auburn Roads in Newbury Township, Geauga County on 8/19, a Least Bittern was seen in a short flight low over cattails in the SW quadrant of the marsh (DB).

Great Blue Heron. On 7/6 there were 27 at Ira Road (TMR).

Great Egret. One was seen in Copley on 6/25 to 6/27 (RSH). On 6/28 four were feeding in different parts of the wetland at Sandy Ridge (FL). Five were found at Hinckley MP on 7/18 and three remained there on 7/20 (LD).

Tricolored Heron. This area rarity was found along Blair Road in Perry Township (Lake County) on 6/5; the next day it was seen approximately one mile to the west at Indian Point Park where Paine Creek joins the Grand River (JP).

Green Heron. A casual observation from Dan Best, Senior Naturalist of the Geauga Park District was "...Green Herons on the rebound. Many single

bird sightings throughout the county this spring/summer." (DB). Most complete reports had one to three birds throughout the season.



Green Heron, Sandy Ridge, 8-17-2008

David Lewis



Young Turkey Vulture, Rocky River Reservation, Olmsted Township, 7-26-2008

Mary Anne Romito

Black-crowned Night-Heron. On 6/3, Columbia Woods Park in Norton (Summit County) hosted one (RSH). One was seen at Shaker Lakes on 7/26, 8/2 and 8/20 (LD). A juvenile was found in Wildwood Park on 8/14 (NA).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. This former nester-turned-rarity for our area was found on 7/29 in Painesville Township (JP).

Turkey Vulture. A young vulture was photographed on 7/26 at the Lagoon Picnic area in the Rocky River Reservation (TMR).

Osprey. On 8/20 an Osprey flew over Frohring Meadows Park and on 8/23 one was seen at least twice working LaDue Reservoir between Route 44 and Auburn Road (DB).

Mississippi Kite. Ethan Kistler spotted this kite at Burton Wetlands (Geauga County) on 6/7 (*fide* LG). This is only the second-ever report for the Cleveland area, the other on 4 July 1999 in Sagamore Hills Township.

Bald Eagle. Station Road had one adult and one immature on 6/28 (DAC). Single birds were seen on four days during the last week of August at Headlands (RH).

Northern Harrier. On 6/14 a harrier was spotted at the closed Lake County landfill adjacent to Orchard Hills Park in Geauga County (LG).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. The only reports were from the CVNP: on 6/21 one was seen at the Horseshoe Pond area (DAC) and the Boston towpath had one on 6/26 (HO).

Cooper's Hawk. Four reports of individual birds throughout the area for June. On 8/19 an immature bird was on a utility wire on Bass Lake Road in Newbury Township (DB). On 8/25 three juveniles were seen at Oakwood Park in Lorain County (PL). Headlands had one bird seen on seven dates throughout the summer (RH).

Red-shouldered Hawk. A few were included in most reports; the trend was largely single birds in June and July and pairs seen in August.

Broad-winged Hawk. During the season, three nests in the Brecksville Reservation each fledged two birds while a fourth nest failed (DAC). Ira Road had one each on 6/9 and 8/4 (TMR). One was seen at Hinckley MP on 7/20 and one at South Chagrin MP on 7/31 (LD). Geauga County Broad-wingeds seen on roadside utility wires were: on 8/6 from Pekin Road (Newbury Township), on 8/19 along Sperry Road (Newbury Township) and on 8/22 along Wilson Mills Road (Munson Township) (DB).

Red-tailed Hawk. Most reports had one or two seen; Ira Road had three on 8/11 (TMR).

Rough-legged Hawk. On 6/9 Nancy Howell spotted a Rough-legged flying over the marsh at Ira Road. The weather was clear and others in the Romitos birding group were able to identify the bird. This was a record late spring occurrence, beating the previous record set on May 29, 1966, although there is a summer record of July 26 1978 from Wildwood Park (*fide* TMR).

American Kestrel. Other than the GAAS survey (see this issue's article), only three sightings, all from the CVNP: The Boston Towpath had one each on 8/7 and 8/21 (HO) and Ira Road had one on 8/17 (TMR).

Peregrine Falcon. A probable nest location was found for the new Turnpike bridge pair in the CVNP, but was later abandoned (DAC). According to the Ohio Division of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife, in 2008 65 chicks successfully fledged from 21 Ohio nests.

Virginia Rail. Two were found at Ira Road on 6/2 (TMR). On 6/28 one was observed at Sandy Ridge (SV). Two were heard and seen calling at Frohring Meadows on 7/24 (LG).

Sora. At Frohring Meadows on 7/24 Tami Gingrich and Linda Gilbert observed an agitated Sora, possibly a sign of a nearby nest, with at least three total were heard total that day; on 8/18 a park visitor saw a downy black Sora chick in the wet meadow area (LG). On 8/23 one provided great views for thirty seconds on the north side of the beaver marsh, west side of the Towpath Trail, by the Ira Road Trailhead in CVNP (FL). On 8/26 HBSP had a single bird (RH).

Common Moorhen. At the Pekin-Auburn Road Marsh in Geauga County (Newbury Township) throughout August, there were four to five immature birds (DB).

American Coot. Single birds were seen three different days in late June at Headlands (RH).

Sandhill Crane. Two were seen on 6/28 at Sandy Ridge (FL, SV).

Semipalmated Plover. Headlands had occurrences of mostly single migrants in early June and late August (RH). One was found at the Lorain Harbor impoundment on 7/20 (BF).

Killdeer. On 7/30 over 60 were counted on the large lawn of a Hudson business (FCD).

Black-necked Stilt. Eight weeks after one was discovered in Lorain County, a bird was spotted and photographed in Lake County at a private LeRoy Township wetlands on 7/8. It circled a couple of times after being flushed and then flew south with a few Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, not to return (JP *fide* LR).

American Avocet. One bird was along the HBSP beaches on 8/24 (RH, JT).

Spotted Sandpiper. Inland, small numbers were seen June and July. Approximately ten were seen at the Lorain Harbor impoundment on 7/20 (BF). Headlands had sightings

throughout the season with the highest count being six on 7/14 (RH).

Solitary Sandpiper. On 6/28 one was feeding in a mudflat at Sandy Ridge Reservation (FL), Headlands had one on 7/18 (RH) and on 8/25 one was seen at Ira Road (TMR).

Greater Yellowlegs. Only sighting was one seen at a private LeRoy Township wetlands (Lake County) on 7/8 (JP *fide* LR).

Willet. A single bird was observed on the beach at HBSP on 7/5 (RH).

Lesser Yellowlegs. On 7/20 two were found at the Lorain Harbor impoundment (BF). One was at LaDue Reservoir near Route 44 on 8/23 (DB).

Ruddy Turnstone. Seven were seen at HBSP on 8/27 (RH).

Sanderling. Except for a sighting on 7/16, Headlands saw one to four birds seen on ten different dates from the middle to the end of August (RH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Up to 12 were spotted at the Lorain Harbor impoundment on 7/20 (BF). The Headlands highest count was five on 8/28 (RH).

Least Sandpiper. At Lorain Harbor, eight were found on 7/7 (GB) and on 7/20 twelve were seen (BF). A marsh in the CVNP at Pleasant Valley Road hosted one on 8/3 (DAC).

Baird's Sandpiper. One, in typical juvenal plumage, was studied on the beach of the Headlands' State Nature Preserve on 8/22 (RH).

Pectoral Sandpiper. The only report was of one seen on 8/17 at Wildwood Park (LC).

Short-billed Dowitcher. The Lorain Harbor impoundment hosted one on 7/20 (BF).

Wilson's Snipe. Very unusual in the HBSP area in summer, a lone Wilson's



Solitary Sandpiper, Sandy Ridge, 7-26-2008

David Lewis

Snipe was flushed from the water's edge at Wake Robin Trail on 6/6, 6/10 and 6/11 (RH, JT).

American Woodcock. On 6/12 one was present near the south shore of Chippewa Lake in Medina County (FL). Headlands had one on 6/1 and on 6/28 (RH). Three were counted on 7/10 at Jaite (DAC).

Red-necked Phalarope. At Headlands on 8/27, a juvenile was first pointed out to Emil Bacik by his fisherman friend Dave Kramer (*fide* RH). The bird spent its time on the water between the lighthouse and all along the breakwall. It was last seen that day at 6:00 PM by Suzanne Wagner (EB, RH, SW).

Bonaparte's Gull. The only reports came from Headlands; the largest number was 70 seen on 8/24 (RH).

Ring-billed Gull. The Harlans found an evident nesting colony in the Cleveland industrial Flats all summer (RSH). Numbers at HBSP climbed

through the summer to 1,100 on 8/21 (RH).

Herring Gull. On 8/21 there were 150 counted at HBSP (RH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. A first-summer bird was found among the summering Ring-billed Gulls on the beach of the HBSP nature preserve on 6/28 and 6/29 (RH).

Great Black-backed Gull. The only Headlands sighting for the season was one on 6/18 (RH). Two were found on 6/22 at Lorain Harbor (RSH).

Caspian Tern. On 7/7 three were seen at Lorain Harbor (GB). Eight were counted at Nesmith Lake on 8/2 (GB) and one appeared at Shaker Lakes on 8/3 (LD). A pair of Caspian terns were diving for fish in LaDue Reservoir (west of Route 44 in Auburn Township) on 8/23 (DB). Headlands had one or two seen mid-July to end of August (RH).

Common Tern. HBSP had four on 8/1 and six on 8/29 (RH). Lorain Harbor had one sighted on 8/16 (SV).

Forster's Tern. Three at Nesmith Lake on 6/23 was the only report (GB).

Rock Pigeon. Expected numbers, when reported.

Mourning Dove. On 7/5 there were 26 counted at HBSP (RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Headlands had single birds noted on many summer dates, most in June (RH). On 6/7 Burton Wetlands (Geauga County) had one (LG). On 6/28 one was heard calling along the forest edge of the wetland at Sandy Ridge Reservation (FL). Jaite had four on 7/10 (DAC).

Black-billed Cuckoo. One was heard calling on 6/15 at Pond Brook Metro Park in Summit County (FL). On 6/28

one was heard calling along the edge of the wetland at Sandy Ridge Reservation (FL). One was heard calling at Hemlock Creek Picnic Area in Bedford Reservation on 8/2 (FL). One was observed on five different dates from 6/1 to 8/28 at HBSP (RH). Taber Preserve (Russell Township) had one on 8/28 (LG).

Eastern Screech-Owl. Single birds were found at Headlands on 7/22, 8/20 and 8/22 (RH). In Westlake, two were heard on 8/20 and one on the evening of 8/25 (CC). On 8/31 one was observed at Shaker Lakes (LD).

Great Horned Owl. Two reports from Westlake where a single individual was heard calling on 6/24 and 8/12 (CC). One was reported on 6/28 from Headlands (RH).

Barred Owl. On 6/8 one was found at North Chagrin Reservation (SV).

HBSP had one on 6/13 (RH). On 6/19 an adult with two young were seen in Hudson (DAC). At the CVNP's Oak Hill area, two to three young were heard hissing on 7/14 (DAC).

Common Nighthawk. All reports:
1 on 6/1, Lakewood (PL *fide* BF).
1 on 6/1, HBSP (RH).
1 on 6/4, Chester & 33rd, Cleveland (DAC).
1 on 6/5, Shaker Lakes (LD).
1 on 6/14, Norton (RSH).
1 on 6/22, Lorain (RSH).
1 on 8/20, Shaker Lakes (LD).
1 on 8/21, HBSP (RH).
30 on 8/24, CVNP (FL) (See article below).
9 on 8/24, NW Akron (GB).
7 on 8/28, Wilbeth Rd., Akron (GB).
1 on 8/29, Station Road (FCD).
1 on 8/31, Shaker Lakes (LD).

Chimney Swift. On 6/12 there were 1,100 counted swirling into the

Common Nighthawks on August 25, 2008

Fred Losi

I was definitely beat after two long arduous miles of hiking. Duane Kurapka, Jeanne Utter and I had an exceptionally fun time at a trifecta hike of Portage County's Triangle Lake Bog, Kent Bog and Herrick Fen. The botanical wonders of the day will have to remain a mystery as they were too many to mention. However, a single Henslow's Sparrow graced our presence with excellent views at Triangle Lake Bog.

Even though I was beat and wanted to crash on a couch, I still opted to join my son Samuel for cross-country running at the CVNP Virginia Kendall Lake's Pine Hollow. At the 6 PM start there were several Common Nighthawks flying over the area around Kendall Lake. This certainly put a smile on my face and I figured that this was icing on the cake of a stupendous day. After running the loop trail around the lake I was confronted with a decision. Do I join the kids running hills or not? There are two opposing hills basically north-south. The south hill is the base of the sledding hill. The north hill is just to the south of Kendall Lake, perhaps a bit east. These climbs are fairly high and I estimate 80 feet on each side. Obviously I decided to run with the kids and was greatly rewarded. On the far hill there is a 360 degree view downward creating a panoramic view of perhaps thirty Common Nighthawks feeding below and around me.

This is the second time I have been in the midst of Common Nighthawk feeding. The first time was at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve on May 18, 2005. That time it was dusk and the feeling was a bit ethereal, with forty feeding birds. This time viewing conditions were just about perfect with field markings very visible, even without binoculars. Several times individuals swooped within 10-20 feet of my position. I tried to call attention to the phenomenon to others around me but no one appeared in the least bit interested. I have to admit that I didn't try real hard as most of the kids were overheated and recovering from exhaustion.

Even though I repeated the hill run several more times, each return brought me great pleasure as the show persisted through the approximately thirty minutes of hill work. As practice ended, the number of birds diminished. In my mind, they tended to disappear to the west, probably moving toward the Cuyahoga River valley. I only wished that I had more time that week as I would very much have liked to repeat the experience. You may wish to try yourself, although the running part is certainly optional.

chimney of Trinity United Church in Wadsworth between 9:09 and 9:36 PM (RSH). In Bedford Heights, roughly 260 were seen going down an old factory chimney on 7/15 and 250 were seen there on 8/30 (DAC).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Five were seen on 7/21 at Ira Road (TMR). Headlands had eight on 8/31 (RH).

Belted Kingfisher. Six were counted at Ira Road on 8/4 (TMR).

Red-headed Woodpecker. Found at their typical haunts. On 6/8 two were seen at Euclid City Park (NA), Station Road had three adults and one young on 6/28 (DAC); five each were seen at Sandy Ridge on 6/28 and at Station Road on 7/26 (SV); four were found in the CVNP Boston area on 8/28 (HO); seen the entire season at Headlands with as many as three on 6/1 (RH).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Eight were counted at HBSP on 8/31 (RH).

Downy Woodpecker. Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP had eight on 6/15 (FL).

Hairy Woodpecker. Five were seen on 8/17 at Schoepfle Garden, Lorain County MP (Henrietta Township) (TMR).

Northern Flicker. On 7/7 eight were found at Ira Road (TMR).

Pileated Woodpecker. Two adults were feeding one juvenile on 7/12 at North Chagrin MP (SV). Ira Road had three on 7/28 (TMR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Sagamore Hills had a spring migrant on 6/1 (DAC). A fall migrant was studied at Mentor Lagoons on 8/25 (RH, EB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP had 12 on 6/15 (FL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Ira Road had a sighting on 8/11 (TMR). On 8/17 there was an early report of two birds at HBSP; the number climbed to five on 8/31 (RH, LR).

Acadian Flycatcher. High counts were five found at Twinsburg's North Ledges on 6/21 (FL) and eight at the CVNP Kendall Ledges on 6/30 (DAC).

Alder Flycatcher. All sightings but one were in June. Headlands had two on 6/1 (RH). On 6/9 the Romitos found one at Ira Road (TMR). One was observed in Sharon Township (Medina County) on 6/14 (RSH). The Chasars had three sightings: one in Sagamore Hills on 6/12, one in Hudson on 6/18 and one in Richfield on 7/1 (DAC).

Willow Flycatcher. The highest counts came from the marshes at Ira Road; two to four were found throughout June and July (TMR).

Least Flycatcher. There were many reports of vocal migrants in early June. On 6/14 one was heard calling repeatedly near the Spring Peeper Pike Trail at Center Valley Park in Twinsburg (FL) and a singing male appeared at Summit Lake on 6/29 (GB). For August, Jaite had a sighting of one on 8/25 (DAC) and on 8/31 six were counted at Headlands (RH).

Eastern Phoebe. The Chasars provided the following nesting records: a nest with five eggs at Red Lock (CVNP) on 6/29, a nest with three young in Brecksville Reservation on 7/8 and a nest with six eggs at Jaite on 7/9 (DAC). At Ira Road nine were found on 8/11 (TMR) and on 8/23 eight were seen there (FL).

Great Crested Flycatcher. On 6/1 eight were found at HBSP (RH). The CVNP's Boston towpath area had six on 7/17 (HO).

Eastern Kingbird. Ira Road had ten as late as 8/18 (TMR).

White-eyed Vireo. On 6/12 one was heard calling near the south shore of Chippewa Lake in Medina County (FL). Ira Road had four on both 7/7 and 7/14 (TMR). Latest report was for 8/23 when one was heard calling north of the beaver marsh, north of the Ira Road Trailhead in the CVNP (FL).

Comments on the Season – Headlands Beach State Park / Mentor Lagoons, Summer 2008

Ray Hannikman

June's early morning starts and oftentimes muddy and mucky trails, July's frequently oppressive heat and humidity, and August's buzzing and biting gnats can hinder one's summer birding. However, hopes of finding a late spring migrant warbler, or lake-skirting shorebird, or totally unexpected vagrant drive the determined birder onward. In the Headlands Beach State Park area during the summer of 2008, in between keeping tabs on the many hundreds of Bank Swallows that gather each July at Mentor Lagoons, or walking down the Wake Robin Trail boardwalk and listening for the squeaky songs of Marsh Wrens as Eastern Kingbirds call near their nests, there were interesting surprises - the Long-tailed Duck, American Avocet, and mesmerizing little Red-necked Phalarope in August at the beach, the insect-hawking Olive-sided Flycatcher also in August at Mentor Lagoons, and the White-crowned Sparrows which played hide-and-seek with me during July and August near the State Nature Preserve. Small numbers of 21 species of warblers during the last two weeks of August were an encouraging sign of what may lie ahead for Headlands birders as summer wanes into fall in the month of September.

Yellow-throated Vireo. The highest count reported was seven on 7/14 at Ira Road (TMR).

Blue-headed Vireo. On 6/2 at Hinckley Reservation, two singing males were heard along Kellogg Road (NK *fide* DAC); three males were found there on 6/4 (RSH). The CVNP Major Road-Horseshoe Pond area had one on 6/21 (DAC).

Warbling Vireo. The twelve found on 6/1 were typical for HBSP (RH).

Philadelphia Vireo. No June observations; Headlands had one on 8/29 and two on 8/31 (RH).

Red-eyed Vireo. Sixteen were tallied on 8/20 at Rocky River Park (RSH). Twinsburg's Stone House trails had 13 on 6/20 (FL). On 8/31 14 were counted at HBSP (RH).

Blue Jay. Highest reported counts were Headlands with 40 on 6/1 (RH) and Ira Road with 20 on 8/25 (TMR).

American Crow. No large triple-digit counts were reported for the season; numbers were less than twenty, usually only single birds.

Horned Lark. Three were found during the 10-day GAAS census in June (See article this issue).

Purple Martin. A favorite in the Geauga County Amish community, martin houses produced large colonies in Middlefield, Parkman and especially Troy townships this season (DB). According to the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, in 2008 the Portage Lakes area had 125 nesting pairs (114 successful), 574 eggs, 484 hatchlings and 464 fledged. Even more surprising was the association's discovery of a pre-migratory roost at Nimisila Reservoir. Witnessed on 8/6 and 8/9, at the very least 10,000 martins would land in the reeds at the southern end of the lake just before dark to spend the night; this occurred after gathering in the many hundreds

elsewhere around the lake in the evening (LH).

Tree Swallow. Headlands had 70 on 8/26 (RH) and 150 gathered at Mentor Lagoons on 8/31 (SV).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. At Ira Road 24 were seen on 6/30 (TMR). By 8/16, Headlands' numbers peaked at 25 (RH).

Bank Swallow. At Headlands, 2000 were seen on 7/16 followed by 1700 on 7/18 and 1200 on 7/24 (RH). Inland, thirty active nest holes were counted at Red Lock in the CVNP on 6/23 (DAC). On 7/16 three were on a utility wire with other swallows along Hayes Road, just north of Swine Creek (DB). Ten were counted on 7/28 at Ira Road (TMR).

Cliff Swallow. Mary Anne Romito detailed their discovery and subsequent survey of nesting Cliff Swallows in the Cuyahoga County's Rocky River valley in an article in this issue. Dan Best of the Geauga Park District reported on the expanding population of Geauga County Cliff swallows (called Eave Swallows by the Amish): On 7/16, nests were found under a granary's eaves on a Jug St. farm in Troy Township and under the eave of a small Amish horse barn at the corner of Patch Road and Tavern Road (Route 168) in Parkman Township; it was the second year for a new cliff swallow colony under the Route 322 bridge over East Branch Reservoir (Claridon-Huntsburg Township line); and confirmed vacated Cliff Swallow nests in August under the barn eaves on Gray Horse Farm on Sherman Road (Munson Township) (DB).

Barn Swallow. Twenty were counted on 7/6 in Sagamore Hills (DAC) and the same were counted at Ira Road on 8/4 (TMR). On 8/26 there were 50 at HBSP (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee. On 7/12 at North Chagrin Reservation 25 were tallied (SV).

Tufted Titmouse. Common in all complete reports, with many counts of ten birds for a given day.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Locally common, both as nesters and as feeder visitors. Hinckley MP had two on 6/4 (RSH). On 6/21 the CVNP's Horseshoe Pond area had five (DAC). Three were at Barberton Reservoir on 6/13 (GB). One or two birds frequented a feeder in Sagamore Hills between 7/8 and 7/13 (SJ, CW).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Ten were found on 6/15 at Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP (FL).

Brown Creeper. Two were found at Hinckley MP on 6/4 (RSH). On 6/11 one was heard near the Towpath and Old Carriage Trail intersection near Red Lock in the CVNP (FL). One was heard calling at the north end of Pond Brook Metro Park on 6/15 (FL). Two were seen chasing each other on 8/30 at Mentor Lagoons (SV).

Carolina Wren. On 8/14 the Boston towpath area of the CVNP had five (HO). On 8/18 at Ira Road eight were found (TMR).

House Wren. On 6/5 15 were observed at the CVNP Boston towpath (HO), Headlands had 12 on 6/8 (RH) and thirteen were counted at Tinkers Creek SP on 6/22 (FL).

Winter Wren. At the CVNP Kendall Ledges, one was found on 6/30 (DAC) and two on 7/25 (PC).

Sedge Wren. The only reports were three found in the CVNP Boston area of the towpath on 6/5 (HO) and three found during the entire GAAS census (see article this issue).

Marsh Wren. On 6/28 one was heard calling at the south end of the wetland at Sandy Ridge Reservation (FL). Three were observed on 7/10 in the CVNP (DAC). Seen from the season's start at HBSP, the last report was five on 7/27 (RH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Two were heard singing at their traditional locales in Hinckley MP on 6/4 (RSH). On 6/21 at the Horseshoe Pond-Major Road area in the CVNP two were observed (DAC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP had 11 on 6/15 (FL). Headlands had the lion's share of its sightings during the latter half of August; numbers peaked there on 8/22 and 8/31 at 12 (RH).

Eastern Bluebird. The CVNP Boston area had ten on 8/21 (HO).

Veery. On 6/30 three were observed at Ira Road (TMR). Brecksville Reservation had four on 7/11 (DAC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush. A rather late migrant was along the HBSP Zimmerman Trail on the rainy day of 6/3 (RH).

Swainson's Thrush. On 6/2 two were seen at Headlands (RH).

Hermit Thrush. On 6/20 four were observed at the CVNP's Kendall Ledges and two were found in Brecksville Reservation on 7/5 (DAC).

Wood Thrush. Eight were counted at Headlands on 6/1 (RH). Twinsburg's North Ledges had nine on 6/21 (FL). On 6/24 five were counted along the Buckeye Trail in the CVNP (DAC).

American Robin. Late-summer concentrations were evident with 100 at Schoepfle Garden, Lorain County Metro Parks (Henrietta Township) on 8/17 (TMR), 70 on 8/21 at HBSP (RH) and the Boston area of the CVNP had 57 on 8/28 (HO).

Gray Catbird. Fourteen were counted along the Twinsburg Center Valley bike path on 6/14 (FL). At Ira Road 18 were counted on 8/18 (TMR). On 8/31 Headlands finished the season with a high count of 25 (RH).

Northern Mockingbird. Rural Sharon Township in Medina County had one on 6/18 (RSH). Individuals were found at two Sagamore Hills locations, one on 6/13 and another on 6/20 (DAC). Headlands had one seen most days throughout the season (RH). A fledgling was photographed at the Cleveland MP Canalway Visitor

Center on 8/10 (DL).

Brown Thrasher. Few reports. At Headlands, thrashers were observed throughout the season in small numbers, with a maximum of four on 6/1 (RH). The CVNP had one at Sanitation Pond on 6/7 (DAC) and one on 6/15 at Jaite (FCD).



Nashville Warbler, Rocky River, 8-21-2008

Marian Kraus

European Starling. There were 210 in the Boston area of the CVNP towpath on 8/28 (HO).

Cedar Waxwing. Headlands had 100 on 6/1 (RH). Hope Orr's group found 160 on 8/28 in the CVNP Boston area (HO).

Blue-winged Warbler. In the CVNP, ten were found in the Major Road-Horseshoe Pond area on 6/21, four at Oak Hill on 7/4 and on 8/2 four at Wetmore Trail (DAC); on 8/23 one was seen at Ira Road (FL).

Tennessee Warbler. Headlands had three sightings the last week of August including two birds seen 8/29 (RH).

Nashville Warbler. A decorative backyard fountain in Rocky River attracted a fall migrant on 8/21 (MK). On 8/25 five were counted at HBSP (RH).

Northern Parula. One was singing along the West Branch of the Black River near Wellington on 6/1 (RSH). On 6/28 one was observed at Station Road (DAC). A male stood out in a small flock of warblers at Mentor Lagoons on 8/29 (RH, JT).

Yellow Warbler. Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP had 21 on 6/15 (FL). Up to 11 could be reliably seen at Ira Road throughout July (TMR) while 12-to-15 could be regularly seen at Headlands mid-to-late August (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. On 6/17 a singing male was discovered at Towner's Woods Park (Kent-Ravenna) (GB). Wetmore Trail in the CVNP had one on 8/2 (DAC). On 8/23 four were seen at HBSP (RH).

Magnolia Warbler. At Hinckley Reservation, one was observed on 6/2 (NK *fide* DAC) and another on 6/4 (RSH). Emil Bacik found an immature male along the Headlands' breakwall on 7/31, his and Ray Hannikman's first ever sighting for the month of July; also seen nearly daily at Headlands the

latter third of August, with seven on 8/25 and 8/29 (EB, RH).

Cape May Warbler. Headlands had a fall migrant arrive on 8/31 (RH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. From 8/22 onwards one or two birds were seen regularly at HBSP (RH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler. A late spring straggler was noted near the entrance to the Headlands State Nature Preserve on 6/2 (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler. At Hinckley Reservation, as many as four males were observed on 6/4 (RSH) and on 6/8 (NK *fide* DAC). The hemlock gorge at Daffodil Trail in Summit County's Furnace Run MP had one on 6/20 (FCD). In the CVNP Kendall Ledges, seven were counted on 6/30 (DAC) and two on 7/25 (PC).

Blackburnian Warbler. Where they have traditionally nested, one was singing in Hinckley MP on 6/8 (NK *fide* DAC) and on 6/4 (RSH). Returning migrants trickled into Headlands starting mid-August (RH).

Yellow-throated Warbler. Most observations were in the CVNP in June: Jaite had two on 6/3 (DAC), Ira Road had one on 6/9 (TMR) and on 6/11 one was heard near the Red Lock parking lot (FL).

Pine Warbler. Greg Bennett found two singing males at Barberton Reservoir on 6/13 and three singing males at Towner's Woods (Portage County) on 6/16 and 6/17 (GB). On 6/16 one was found in Brecksville Reservation (DAC).

Palm Warbler. A very late Palm was found foraging on the beach at lake estuary of Arcola Creek Park in Madison Township on 6/11 (JP).

Bay-breasted Warbler. At Headlands the fall migration began with two birds on 8/23 (RH).

Blackpoll Warbler. Seven were counted on 6/1 at HBSP (RH) and one at Ira Road on 6/2 (TMR). The first fall sighting was one at Headlands on 8/31 (RH).

Cerulean Warbler. One or two were heard at Station Road throughout June (FCD).

Black-and-white Warbler. A late migrant was found at Wildwood Park on 6/7 (NA). Headlands' earliest fall appearance was one on 8/17 (LR).

American Redstart. Three were seen on 6/2 and again on 6/30 at Ira Road; four were found there on 7/14 (TMR). On 6/11 six were found along the Buckeye Trail in the CVNP (DAC). Two were counted on 6/20 from the Twinsburg Stone House trails (FL). Headlands had nearly daily summer sightings with a high of eight on 6/20; late summer sightings included 11 on 8/31 (RH).

Prothonotary Warbler. The Chasars noted the following nesting in the CVNP: on 6/4 a nest in a snag was found at Station Road, fledglings were seen being fed on 6/26 also at Station Road, and on 7/5 nest feeding was seen from the towpath (DAC). Other area observations were one at Burton Wetlands on 6/7 (LG), one on 6/11 heard north of Red Lock in the CVNP (FL), three on 6/12 seen and heard on the south shore of Chippewa Lake in Medina County (FL) and one on 6/16 at Lake Pippen in Portage County (GB). The Prothonotary Warbler Nest Project (Geauga County) had the following results for their 17th year: eight nests by seven pairs produced at least 25 fledglings. On 6/16, eight singing males were noted beyond the last downstream nest jar station to U.S. 422 (DB). On 8/11 Ira Road had a single sighting (TMR).

Worm-eating Warbler. Bill Osborne found this bird in the CVNP the second week of May and last saw it 6/13. This was the same location it has been found for the fifth consecutive year, along Wetmore Road about a ½ mile

past the Wetmore Trailhead coming from Akron-Peninsula Road. His account: "The bird was quite easy to locate by sound near the East side of the road and usually was pretty co-operative. I have observed or heard it many times over the years, but have never seen a pair or nesting behavior or young" (BO).

Ovenbird. In the CVNP, seven were tallied on 6/11 along the Buckeye Trail and at Oak Hill five were found on 7/4 (DAC). HBSP sightings were single birds on 6/5, 8/23 and 8/28 (RH).

Louisiana Waterthrush. At Orchard Hills Park (Chester Township) a nesting pair was discovered in June (LG). In the CVNP one was discovered at Blue Hen Falls on 7/1 and two at Station Road on 7/16 (DAC). Two were found on 7/28 at Ira Road (TMR). On 8/2 three were heard during the annual Tinkers Creek Stream Walk that covered about three miles of Tinkers Creek east of Hemlock Creek Picnic Area (FL). On 8/17 one was observed at Schoepfle Garden, Lorain County MP (Henrietta Township) (TMR).

Kentucky Warbler. On 6/15 two were found in the Kendall Ledges area of the CVNP; this season one was below the ledges instead of the "plateau" picnic area (GL).

Connecticut Warbler. One was studied by Suzanne Wagner at Mentor Lagoons on 8/23 (SW *fide* RH).

Mourning Warbler. On 6/1 one was seen in Sagamore Hills (DAC). Headlands hosted one late spring transient on 6/1 and an early fall migrant on 8/20 (RH).

Common Yellowthroat. On 6/12 ten were observed from State Road in Medina County (FL). Eight were counted at Ira Road on 7/7 (TMR).

Hooded Warbler. Present in most complete reports that covered its habitat. CVNP's Oak Hill had ten on 7/4 (DAC). Along the Kendall Ledges



Lark Sparrow, Willoughby, 6-21-2008
Nancy Anderson



Possible Grasshopper Sparrow Nest, Lake County, 6-14-2008
Linda Gilbert

hiking trail in the CVNP on 7/25, Pat Coy observed six Hooded Warblers, including males feeding a fledgling in two different parts of the Ledges area (PC). A good number for the location and date was five in the Headlands Beach State Park area on 8/23 (RH, JT, SW, EB).

Wilson's Warbler. A late spring migrant was found at Nesmith Lake on 6/11 (GB). Returning fall migrants began with six counted at HBSP on 8/23 (RH).

Canada Warbler. Headlands ended the spring migration with five on 6/1, then starting on 8/17 single birds were seen almost daily (RH). On 8/16 a

beautifully plumaged male was spotted at Wildwood Park in Cleveland (JH).

Yellow-breasted Chat. One was found on 6/7 in Walton Hills (DAC). Five were counted at Summit County's Silver Creek MP on 6/9 and one was found in Medina County's Sharon Township on 6/14 (RSH). Jaite had one or two heard on 6/9 and Richfield had one on 7/1 (DAC).

Eastern Towhee. In the CVNP, Horseshoe Pond had five on 6/21, Oak Hill had ten on 7/4 and on 8/2 Wetmore Trail had six (DAC). Also in the CVNP, on 7/21, five were found at Ira Road (TMR).

Chipping Sparrow. Twinsburg's Crown Hill Cemetery hosted 30 birds on 6/22 (FL).

Field Sparrow x Clay-colored Sparrow hybrid. In Charlemont Reservation in extreme southern Lorain County on 7/3, a sparrow with a broad mix of field marks, song, and song responses for both Field and Clay-colored Sparrows was studied at length. It was netted for DNA analysis on 7/16; results are pending (AJ, AB, EK, GT).

Field Sparrow. Five were counted at Twinsburg's North Ledges on 6/21 (FL). On 7/10, 20 were counted at Jaite (DAC).

Lark Sparrow. Jeanne Hrenko and Nancy Anderson identified a bird on 6/21 at Chagrin River Park in Lake County; it was seen through 6/29 (JH, NA, LC).

Savannah Sparrow. The Richfield Coliseum property had four on 6/15 (FCD). Throughout the summer at Frohring Meadows, Linda Gilbert remarked about nesting birds, "I think seven pairs would not be too many – Savannahs seemed to be all over the place" (LG).

Grasshopper Sparrow. The Richfield Coliseum property had two on 6/2 (DAC) and again on 6/15 (FCD). Linda Gilbert and Dan Best deduced a likely Grasshopper nest after a bird was flushed at the closed Lake County landfill adjacent to Orchard Hills Park in Geauga County on 6/14 (see photograph, previous page); other singing males were heard nearby (LG).

Henslow's Sparrow. Two were

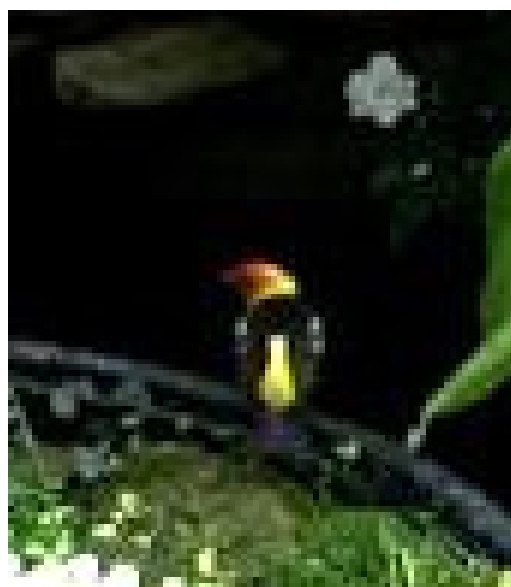
observed at the Richfield Coliseum property, once on 6/2 (DAC) and again on 6/15 (FCD). Also in June one was observed at Geauga Park District's Orchard Hills Park (LG) and at an adjacent closed Lake County landfill on 6/14, three to five birds were heard singing at the landfill's top (LG). A late sighting on 8/24 offered great looks at a bird perched in the open at Triangle Lake Bog (Ravenna), where the trail meets the open water (FL).

Song Sparrow. On 6/5 28 were counted in the CVNP towpath's Boston area (HO).

Swamp Sparrow. Eight were tallied on 7/17 around the CVNP Boston trailhead (HO). On 7/21 seven were counted at Ira Road (TMR).

White-throated Sparrow. One bird, often singing, was noted at HBSP's nature preserve and surrounding woods from 6/8 through 7/5 (RH, EB, JT). At a Lakewood backyard on 7/9, Paula Lozano witnessed both the song and the "chip" of a hidden bird (PL).

White-crowned Sparrow. An adult was noted on several dates at Headlands between 7/12 and 8/25, the



**Western Tanager, Sheffield Lake, 7-7-2008
(Original and enlarged)**

Melinda Burdette

dates when White-crowns are least likely to be seen in our area (LR, RH, JT, EB).

Dark-eyed Junco. Two birds were a surprise in the woods just east of the Headlands Fisherman's Path on 6/9 (RH). At Orchard Hills Park (Chester Township) two nesting pairs were found in June (LG). On 7/8 two adults were seen feeding four nestlings in the Brecksville Reservation (DAC). Two were found at the Kendall Ledges in the CVNP on 7/25 (PC). Bedford Reservation's Hemlock Creek area had one on 8/2 (FL).

Summer Tanager. On 7/2 this tanager was discovered at Mill Stream Reservation in Cuyahoga County by Henry Fortlage. At one interval it sang for a continuous six minutes (TMR).

Scarlet Tanager. Six were counted along the CVNP Buckeye Trail on 6/24 (DAC). On 6/29 one was seen feeding a cowbird chick at Red Lock in the CVNP (DAC).

Western Tanager. On 7/7, 7/8 and 7/11 the private residence in Sheffield Lake of Melinda Burdette and Joseph Hobert was lucky enough to host this rare vagrant. It frequented a decorative waterfall and took turns bathing with a local robin, allowing itself to be photographed (MK, JMc).

Northern Cardinal. On 8/17 20 were seen at Lorain County Metro Parks' Schoepfle Garden in Henrietta Township (TMR). Headlands had the same count on 8/23 (RH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Six were seen at Twinsburg's Pond Brook MP on 6/15 (FL). Six were also found at Ira Road on both 6/16 and 7/7 (TMR).

Indigo Bunting. The CVNP Boston area had ten on 6/19 (HO). Two families of buntings were in the surrounds of The West Woods Nature Center with immature birds noted there in July and August (DB).

Dickcissel. A singing bird was located on 6/7 at Chagrin River Park in Lake County (JP).

Bobolink. Forty were counted at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/15 (FCD). Four were counted on 6/20 in the meadows at Twinsburg's Stone House (FL). At Frohring Meadows, Tami Gingrich and Linda Gilbert confirmed nesting Bobolinks on 7/24. They watched a female carry food in and a fecal sac out. This is outside of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas "safe dates" for this species by a couple of weeks (LG). At the closed Lake County landfill adjacent to Orchard Hills Park in Geauga County, perhaps five pairs of nesting Bobolinks were seen June and July (LG).

Red-winged Blackbird. On 7/19 North Chagrin Reservation had a count of 100 (SV), the Boston area of the CVNP 55 on 7/24 (HO) and 51 were tallied at Ira Road on 8/25 (TMR).

Eastern Meadowlark. Fifty, mostly immature birds, were counted at the Richfield Coliseum property on 6/15, perched in the fenced-in central area (FCD). On 6/20 Twinsburg's Stone House had three in the surrounding meadows (FL). Six meadowlarks in a flock were seen on 7/16 near the corner of Newcomb and Patch Roads (Parkman Township) (DB).

Common Grackle. The only summer report of a sizable flock was 100 on 8/9 in Cleveland Heights (SV).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Expected numbers. Rocky River Reservation had ten on 8/17 (CC).

Orchard Oriole. Ira Road had many sightings in June and July with the highest count of four on 6/16 (TMR). On 6/12 one was heard singing on State Road, south of 271 in Medina County (FL). One was seen and heard from the top of the mound between the Stone House and ball fields in Liberty Park in Twinsburg on 6/20 (FL). On 6/21 a family of three was seen at the Button Road field in Bedford Reservation (FL). A female with two fledglings were found at Turkeyfoot Lake (S. Summit County) on 6/24 (GB). Jaite had five on 7/10 (DAC).

Baltimore Oriole. Most sightings were early in the summer, but on 7/7 HBSP had 12 (RH) and on 8/18 Ira Road had 15 (TMR).

Purple Finch. On 6/18 one was heard singing at the west end of Longwood Park in Macedonia (FL). A male and female were seen in the CVNP at Horseshoe Pond on 6/21 (DAC).

House Finch. Most complete reports had one to ten birds.

American Goldfinch. Highest count was 36 on 8/25 at Ira Road (TMR).

Evening Grosbeak. A male individual was seen at a North Perry feeder on 6/3; this was likely the same bird that appeared there on 5/26 (JP).

House Sparrow. Sightings were dependent on nearby urban or residential locations.



Nesting Cliff Swallows, Rocky River Reservation, 8-1-2008

Mary Anne Romito

Cliff Swallows Nesting in the Rocky River Valley, 2008

Mary Anne Romito

This spring, my husband Tom and I were training for the 31-mile UltraWalk to raise funds for the Rocky River Important Bird Area survey. During one of our training sessions, I noticed Northern Rough-winged Swallows flying into a cliff along Valley Parkway just south of the Emerald Necklace Marina in Lakewood. Subsequently, I started paying attention to swallows because Terri Martincic, the regional Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator, urged me to atlas along Rocky River's Main Stem and East Branch.

While walking with Tom, Stan Searles (Curator of Birds and Aquatics at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo) and several other individuals participating in the UltraWalk on May 24, I noticed Cliff Swallows flying under a traffic bridge on Valley Parkway just south of the marina. Then, on June 23, I talked to Penny O'Connor, who said she found nesting Cliff Swallows on South Mastick Bridge near Rocky River Nature Center.

Following is a table of my observations of Cliff Swallows in this region between June 26 and August 7. Please note that Valley Parkway generally runs north and south but does zig-zag, and the crossroads run east and west.

Bridge (Listed north to south)	Constructed of	Species	June 26, 2008	June 29, 2008	July 10 & 12, 2008	July 24, 2008	July 31 & August 1, 2008	August 7, 2008	Total Nests per Bridge	# of Nests known to have raised Young
Valley Pkwy south of Marina	Concrete	Cliff Swallow	10 nests on West side, 0 nests on east side (rusty metal pipe entire length of east side)	Same	12 nests Many adults	No activity. Swallow gone	No activity		12	6
Valley Pkwy north of Memorial Field	Concrete	Cliff Swallow	1 west side of bridge	Same	2 active nests with chicks inside	1 active nest	No activity		2	2
Valley Pkwy south Tyler Field	Concrete	Cliff Swallow	2 east side not active, 1 on west side active with chicks	No activity	No activity	No activity	No activity		3	1
Old Lorain Rd Bridge	Metal		0 nests	0 nests	0 nests	0 nests	0 nests		0	0
Mastick Rd Bridge	Concrete	Cliff Swallow	1 north side, 2 south side in process	1 north side, 2 south side Active with chicks	1 nest on each side still active	Nests destroyed. Possible storm damage			3	3
Bridge south of RRNC	Concrete	Cliff Swallow		1 west side with chicks	No activity	No activity	No activity		1	1
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Western arch)	Concrete and stone	Barn Swallow		4 under east-most arch		3 nests 1 active	1 active nest, 2 not active	1 nest still active	3	3
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Western arch)	Concrete and stone	Cliff Swallow		None	None	None	None	None	0	0
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Middle arch)	Concrete and stone	Barn Swallow		2 or more		7 nests 6 active nests with chicks	3 active nests (1 has 6 chicks), 4 not active	4 active nests, 3 not active	7	6
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Middle arch)	Concrete and stone	Cliff Swallow		Unknown		1 active nest with chicks	1 active nest, 1 not active	No activity. Cliff Sw. gone	2	2
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Eastern arch)	Concrete and stone	Barn Swallow		2 or more		4 active nests	4 active nests, 3 not active	4 active nests	4	4
Cedar Point Rd Bridge (Eastern arch)	Concrete and stone	Cliff Swallow		Unknown		1 active nest with chicks	2 active nests	No activity. Cliff Sw. gone	2	2

Bridge (Listed north to south)	Constructed of	Species	June 26, 2008	June 29, 2008	July 10 & 12, 2008	July 24, 2008	July 31 & August 1, 2008	August 7, 2008	Total Nests per Bridge	# of Nests known to have raised Young
Foot Bridge & Ford bridge at Valley Pkwy & Cedar Pt	Ford too low? Foot bridge metal			0 nests					0	0
Stafford Road Bridge, Valley Pkwy foot bridge, and ford bridge,	Steel, Steel, Concrete (too low?)			0 nests					0	0
Music Mound Bridges in Berea	Concrete & stone Bridges Concrete painted with slick paint (to keep graffiti off?)			0 nests					0	0
Total nests									24 Cliff, 14 Barn	17 Cliff, 14 Barn

In summary, I found a total of 24 Cliff Swallow nests, 17 of which I am confident contained chicks. In addition, I found 14 Barn Swallow nests, all of which contained chicks. I found the Cliff Swallow nests on six different bridges. Five of these bridges contained only Cliff Swallow nests. The sixth bridge, the Cedar Point bridge, contained both Cliff Swallow nests and Barn Swallow nests.

Cleveland Metroparks Naturalist Tim Krynak had this to say about these observations: "That is great news about the cliff swallows. To my knowledge and our recent Cleveland Metroparks Checklists (2004 edition) this is the first documented nesting of cliff swallows in Cleveland Metroparks! Great find!"

To place my observations in historical context, I searched the Cleveland Bird Calendar archives (80 percent of which are now on-line at www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com). The last mention of Cliff Swallows was in May of 1963, when Perry Peskin and Elliot Tramer observed an unsuccessful nest at Squire Valleevue Farm in Hunting Valley. Prior to that in 1934, 1926, 1927, and 1912, there were only mentions during migration.

A.B. Williams noted in his seminal 1950 book *Birds of the Cleveland Region* that Cliff Swallows were abundant in Ohio in the 19th century, but declined during the first half of the 20th century, probably due to competition with House Sparrows for nest sites, "combined with a shortage of suitable nesting locations on buildings." C.S. Robbins noted in 1986 that Cliff Swallows began to nest under bridges and on dams of large reservoirs. The adults foraged over the lakes as well as adjacent upland fields. This increased adaptability in the choice of nest sites allowed their populations to expand within Ohio and throughout eastern North America.

My findings confirmed the behavior of Cliff Swallows noted in the first *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* in 1985. Most notably, Cliff Swallows may begin nest construction during late April, although these activities are most prominent during May. Most nests with eggs have been reported during June, with the earliest clutches laid in the second half of May and late nesting attempts produce clutches in July. Nests with young have been reported as early as June 15-16 and fledglings by early July. Most young swallows fledge between July 15 and August 5 while late nests may produce fledglings during the second half of August. Further, many colonies are segregated from other swallows, although a few pairs nest with colonies of Barn Swallows.

Of special interest is that all of the Cliff Swallow nests that I observed were located on the undersides of concrete bridges. The superstructures of these bridges (everything below the deck or roadway) were covered with a coarse texture that made it suitable for the swallows to make their nests adhere to the concrete. According to Steven Knowles, architect for the

Cleveland Metroparks, these bridges were all constructed in the late 1950s. Most of them were improved in 1997, but only road surfaces were augmented, not the superstructures.

Since nobody reported nesting Cliff Swallows in the Rocky River Valley before, it is possible that the birds never nested there until now. It will be interesting to see if these birds continue their colonies for very long, for the first OBBA noted that few colonies remained in existence for no more than two to three years. This will be the focus of future surveys which I plan to conduct.



Nesting Cliff Swallows, Rocky River Reservation, 7-1-2008

David Lewis

Greater Akron Audubon Society Summit County Census, June 13th-22nd, 2008

Doug Vogus & Ann Chasar, coordinators

A record number of participants spent a record number of hours in the field. They counted the highest number of birds in the thirty-one years of this census. Actual birds per party hour were down, possibly due to the weather. While census days had little rain, many were overcast and 5 days had below average temperatures. The results mirror those of recent years. Our treasured parks and preserved areas have specialized habitat for species difficult to find elsewhere in the county. But volunteers also scoured industrial areas, bike paths and RR tracks to find high numbers of yellow warblers, house wrens, catbirds, willow flycatchers, eastern towhees and a few mockingbirds. Church lots, cemeteries and small woods throughout the county revealed eastern pewees, great-crested flycatchers, red-eyed vireos, wood thrushes and scarlet tanagers. Airports and a few grasslands had high numbers of meadowlarks and savannah sparrows. The lakes in the southern part of the county yielded ruddy ducks (Springfield Lake), moorhen and pied-billed grebe (Summit Lake), a coot, double-crested cormorants and nesting osprey. Surprises were small heron colonies and nesting gulls. A few of the wintering red-breasted nuthatches and juncos stayed put. A lone great-horned owl was found.

1933 Canada Goose	6 Common Nighthawk	389 Tufted Titmouse	32 Ovenbird
39 Mute Swan	509 Chimney Swift	9 Red-breasted Nuthatch	4 Louisiana Waterthrush
79 Wood Duck	57 Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	219 White-breasted Nuthatch	2 Kentucky Warbler
660 Mallard	46 Belted Kingfisher	6 Brown Creeper	363 Common Yellowthroat
1 Bufflehead (injured)	3 Red-headed Woodpecker	137 Carolina Wren	153 Hooded Warbler
5 Ruddy Duck	279 Red-bellied Woodpecker	552 House Wren *	7 Yellow-breasted Chat
22 Wild Turkey	327 Downy Woodpecker	2 Winter Wren	137 Scarlet Tanager
1 Pied-billed Grebe	54 Hairy Woodpecker	3 Sedge Wren	241 Eastern Towhee
38 Double-cr. Cormorant	128 Northern Flicker	7 Marsh Wren	592 Chipping Sparrow
565 Great Blue Heron	48 Pileated Woodpecker	2 Golden-crested Kinglet	138 Field Sparrow
73 Green Heron	231 Eastern Wood-Pewee	89 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	78 Savannah Sparrow
144 Turkey Vulture	153 Acadian Flycatcher	124 Eastern Bluebird	9 Grasshopper Sparrow
18 Osprey (4 juveniles)	8 Alder Flycatcher	63 Veery	2 Henslow's Sparrow
2 Sharp-shinned Hawk	132 Willow Flycatcher	2 Hermit Thrush	117 Song Sparrow
32 Cooper's Hawk	3 Least Flycatcher	223 Wood Thrush	75 Swamp Sparrow
32 Red-shouldered Hawk	1 Olive-sided Flycatcher	2721 American Robin	4 Dark-eyed Junco
7 Broad-winged Hawk	89 Eastern Phoebe	1055 Gray Catbird *	1320 Northern Cardinal
96 Red-tailed Hawk	180 Great Cr. Flycatcher *	7 Northern Mockingbird	178 Rose-br. Grosbeak
9 Am. Kestrel (5 juveniles)	112 Eastern Kingbird	16 Brown Thrasher	401 Indigo Bunting
1 Common Moorhen	24 White-eyed Vireo	2266 European Starling	110 Bobolink
1 American Coot	33 Yellow-throated Vireo	637 Cedar Waxwing	1830 Red-winged Blackbird
231 Killdeer	9 Blue-headed Vireo	64 Blue-winged Warbler	111 Eastern Meadowlark *
24 Spotted Sandpiper	157 Warbling Vireo	1 Northern Parula	1291 Common Grackle
5 American Woodcock	432 Red-eyed Vireo	651 Yellow Warbler	539 Brown-hd. Cowbird
74 Ring-billed Gull	750 Blue Jay	5 Chestnut-sided Warbler	21 Orchard Oriole
21 Herring Gull	565 American Crow	16 Black-thr. Green Warbler	299 Baltimore Oriole
308 Rock Pigeon	3 Horned Lark	4 Yellow-thr. Warbler	7 Purple Finch
790 Mourning Dove	248 Purple Martin	5 Pine Warbler	325 House Finch
7 Black-billed Cuckoo	397 Tree Swallow	27 Cerulean Warbler	1121 American Goldfinch
11 Yellow-billed Cuckoo	296 N. RW Swallow	1 Black-and-white Warbler	1375 House Sparrow
3 Eastern Screech-Owl	210 Bank Swallow	57 American Redstart	
1 Great Horned Owl	464 Barn Swallow	6 Prothonotary Warbler	
11 Barred Owl	743 Black-capped Chickadee	1 Worm-eating Warbler	

Total Species: 129

Total Birds: 33,190

Volunteers: 69

Party Hours: 428

Note: Peregrine Falcons fledged 3 young before the count

* Record # per party hour

Contributors

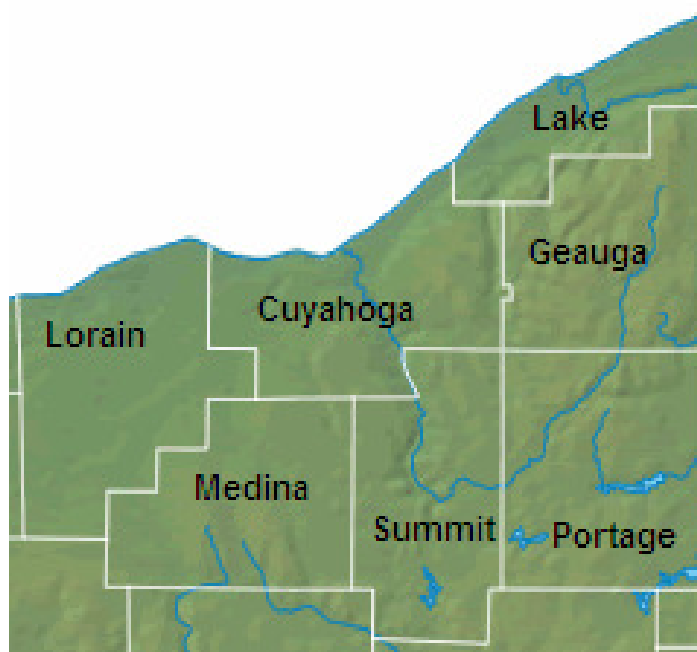
Nancy Anderson (NA)
Emil Bacik (EB)
Gregory Bennett (GB)
Dan Best (DB)
Aaron Boone (AB)
Steve Borgis (HO)
Melinda Burdette (MB)
Craig Caldwell (CC)
John Cameron (HO)
Philip Chaon (PC) *
Lisa Chapman (LC)
Dwight and Ann Chasar (DAC)
Sue Chester (HO)
Wayne Crouse (HO)
Leo Deininger (LD)
Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach (FCD)
Lois Eckard (HO)
Bob Finkelstein (BF)

Linda Gilbert (LG)
Craig Griffin (CG)
Ray Hannikman (RH)
Rob and Sandy Harlan (RSH)
Dick and Jean Hoffman (DJH)
Jeanne Hrenko (JH)
Larry Hunter (LH)
Hedy Jones (HO)
Susan Jones (SJ)
Andrew Jones (AJ)
Winnie Kennedy (HO)
Ethan Kistler (EK) *
Norm Kotesovec (NK)
Marian Kraus (MK)
David Lewis (DL)
Gabe Leidy (GL)
Fred Losi (FL)
Paula Lozano (PL)

Jim McCarty (JMc)
Marie Morgan (MM)
Wilber McQueen (HO)
Hope Orr (HO)
Bill Osborne (BO)
John Pogacnik (JP) *
Drew Rolik (DR)
Tom and Mary Anne Romito (TMR)
Larry Rosche (LR)
Bert Szabo (BS)
Jerry Talkington (JT)
Grant Thompson (GT)
Scott Van Valkenburg (SV)
Suzanne Wagner (SW)
Annette Webb (HO)
Clyde Witt (CW)

* Sightings gathered from birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/ohio.html

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



Cleveland Bird Calendar 7-county Area



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 2831
