



4910 BUSH AVENUE ♦ CLEVELAND, OHIO 44109

June 7, 2006

Delores Cole
President

Lisa Chapman
Vice President

Mary Anne Romito
Treasurer

Tom Romito
Recording Secretary

Lou Gardella
Corresponding Secretary

Kevin Metcalf
Editor,
Cleveland Bird Calendar

Ed Pierce
Van Trip Leader

Karin Tanquist
Van Trip Coordinator

Paula Lozano
Local Trip Coordinator

Delores Cole
Webmaster

Dear Phil,

On behalf of the members of the Kirtland Bird Club, it is my pleasure to present you with this check in recognition of your noteworthy achievements in Ornithology, in the general field of Natural History and to help defray the cost of your plans for this summer.

Some 5-6 years ago, you became interested in birds. On a walk around your neighborhood, you saw a small blue and yellow bird. To satisfy your curiosity, you consulted a field guide at the local library and were able to identify the bird as a Northern Parula Warbler. You were hooked. Eventually you discovered the Kirtland Bird Club through the KBC Hot Line, and you joined the club. There you found a group of helpful people with interests similar to your own.

Between 2-3 years ago you joined the Future Scientists program at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH). The field trips that the group took increased your knowledge about birds and other facets of Natural History. Belonging to the organization introduced you to people in your age group, and an additional benefit of belonging to the Future Scientists is that the group meets with the Explorer Series speakers.

Perhaps a wish to interact with more people of your age motivated your next initiative: to start a group of young Ohio birders. Kim Kaufman was also working to organize such a group, and the two of you eventually got together on the initiative. Last month, you, Ethan Kistler and Brad Wilkinson had a "big sit" on the upstairs porch of your house to raise money for the group. The three of you counted 50 bird species and raised almost \$600.

In addition to your other activities, Phil, you volunteer in the entomology department at CMNH where you are working on a project to expand the population of the endangered Mauritania Swiftlet. The Swiftlet, a swift-like bird, populates a few islands near Guam. Your job is to help identify insect populations on nearby islands that are similar enough to the swiftlet's food source to make introduction successful.

You also want to become a licensed bird bander. To get the necessary experience you need, you have been assisting Julie West in banding birds at Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) banding sites. Eventually you will train with Julie Shieldcastle, and when you have enough hands-on experience, you will take qualifying exams for a license.

This summer your plans include attending the ABA Young Birders Conference in Colorado. The conference will provide you with another learning experience and will undoubtedly open your eyes to other possible activities that you could undertake in the future.

In the few years that you have been learning about birds and other creatures, Phil, you have demonstrated much initiative and imagination. Those qualities augur well for your future endeavors. Please keep us informed about your activities, and know that we as a club are proud to have you as a member.

Sincerely,

Delores Cole, President
Kirtland Bird Club