



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland Ohio  
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org & www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

Northeast Ohio Rare Bird Alert: 216 556-0700  
Fall 2009, Issue No. 4

## KBC MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Wednesday, September 2, 2009**  
at 7:30 p.m.

### *Birding In Madagascar*

Our friend **Antonio Salvadori** returns with an illustrated talk that will cover his recent trip to this fascinating island with a group of birding friends. In his talk Antonio will discuss, not only the many island endemic species of birds, but also the many interesting lemurs, geckos, chameleons - including the world's smallest one - and interesting insects. He will also discuss the recent political problems on the island, the way of life of the people and some of the difficulties and problems one might encounter when organizing a birding trip to this fascinating country.

**Wednesday, October 7, 2009**  
at 7:30 p.m.

### *The Wonderful World of Warblers*

Few groups of songbirds, or any other group of birds for that matter, generate the excitement that warblers do. Springtime brings warbler fever to birders, and reports of expeditions frequently include special mention of warblers and how many species were tallied.

It's no mystery why these brightly colored sprites stimulate such passion. Warblers are like feathered jewels, the males resplendent in rainbow hues in the spring. Some are rare, and finding a Connecticut Warbler, for instance, is akin to discovering buried treasure. But warblers are excellent environmental barometers and long-distance migrants that bind many states and countries together.

**Jim McCormac** will explore the big picture of warblers: what they are, the habitats they occupy in summer and winter, their interesting and diverse songs, and most importantly, the conservation issues peculiar to warblers.

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**  
at 7:30 p.m.

### *Work at the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab at The Ohio State University*

**Ian Ausprey**, the first recipient of KBC's Ohio Avian Project Initiative grant, will describe the exciting work at the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab at The Ohio State University. The Lab's goal is to provide the citizens of Ohio with expert information on the ecology and management of Ohio's wildlife resources. Over the past decade a number of research projects have examined how human-induced habitat modification influences the ecology of landbirds during their annual life cycle. This talk will discuss 1) How urbanization and timber harvesting influence the demography and habitat associations of birds during the breeding and post-fledging periods, 2) How migratory birds use forest fragments in city parks and along the southern Lake Erie shore, and 3) How wintering migratory landbirds use shade coffee plantations in Venezuela.

**KBC monthly meetings are held in a downstairs classroom at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
1 Wade Oval, University Circle  
Cleveland, Ohio**

You do not have to be a member of the KBC or the Museum to attend a monthly meeting or field trip. Parking is available on the street but check the museum calendar for events on our meeting dates.

**Please be advised that there will be a \$3.00 charge for parking in the Museum parking lot for monthly meetings starting in September.**

## 40 or so years ago...

### *Waterfowl Migration at Magee Marsh, Ottawa County, Ohio*

Casual observations on waterfowl migration and behavior were made at the Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area. The data, herein, deals mainly with the approximate dates of ingress and egress of the various species in the southwestern Lake Erie region.

Marked increases were noted in the numbers of blue-winged teal by late August; a peak was reached about September 10-20. Many still were present during the second week in October. However, by October 19 only a few stragglers remained. A lone blue-winged teal was observed at the Magee Marsh on November 2.

Green-winged teal made their appearance by mid-September and on October 1-2 they seemed to be as abundant as blue-winged teal. From October 9 to 15, groups of more than 100 were often flushed at Magee. Numbers decreased sharply after October 15. Early arrival and departure of green-winged teal was confirmed by other marsh men.

Wood ducks were abundant throughout August and September. No influx was noted, but their numbers appeared to decline after October 1. Occasional birds were seen until November 10, and a single bird on November 20.

Baldpates showed an early movement, and on September 23 were as abundant as mallard and black ducks. Large numbers were present during the last week of September. A slight decline was noted by October 15, and on November 2-5 a cold wave left only a few baldpates in the region.

Pintails also migrated early. Flocks appeared about September 20 and reached an early peak by October 1. A later influx failed to reach proportions of other years. Few pintails remained after the marshes froze on November 2-5.

Gadwalls entered the region early and in unprecedented numbers, but the peak was short-

lived. On November 2, the gadwalls were trailing only the black ducks and mallards in abundance, but the freeze of November 2-5 hastened their departure.

Shovelers arrived during the first week in October, and seemed to reach a peak about October 20-25. A few remained until December 1.

Mallard and black ducks are the most numerous species during the fall, and are also the most abundant breeders during the reproductive season. Changes in their abundance during migration are difficult to observe. Relative numbers are of more interest. During August the late afternoon feeding flights of these species were observed. Most of these flights left the Magee marsh and other nearby marshes about two hours before sunset. Feeding was done in stubble fields, often many miles from the marshes. Large flocks moved to a single field. Counts of these birds as they alighted in the field revealed that mallards outnumbered black ducks about 3 to 1. From October 19 to November 1 mallard and black ducks appeared to be about equal in numbers. Subsequent to the freeze of November 2-5, a preponderance of black ducks prevailed, and by December 1 black ducks outnumbered mallards about 4 to 1. Mallards and blacks constituted at least 95% of the dabbling ducks present after November 5.

Early movements of waterfowl into the Lake Erie region resulted in large numbers of ducks by October 19. Most dabbling ducks remained at a peak of abundance for the next two weeks. On November 2, a cold wave brought freezing temperatures and snow. On November 5, most Marshes were covered with 2½ to 3 inches of ice. Observations on waterfowl abundance were made difficult by this condition. Large numbers of ducks rafted on Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay and flew inland to feed on harvested fields of corn and soybeans. Moderate temperatures returned by November 6, but the marshes remained frozen until November 9. Observations at the Magee Marsh on November 6-8 revealed few waterfowl

**The Kirtland Warbler**, the newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC), Cleveland Ohio is published quarterly. It contains KBC meeting and trip information, web site updates, other events and programs of interest, and issues of local concern. A subscription to *THE KIRTLAND WARBLER* is a benefit of club membership. Contributions of articles, event information, photos, and drawings are appreciated. Send them to the Editor, Delores Cole or to [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org).



**SEASONAL REPORTS for  
The Cleveland Bird Calendar  
Your Summer report is due  
September 10th**

**Mail to: Fred Dinkelbach, CBC Editor  
6320 Greenwood Pkwy, Apt 406  
Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067**

**or email to:  
seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org**

**Reporting forms are available on the KBC website  
and at KBC meetings**

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other than mallards and black ducks. The return of open water on November 9 and 10 revealed no additions other than an increase of mergansers and a scattering of diving ducks.

Geese also were present in large numbers during the early part of the season. Local observers reported more geese than have been present for many years. Blue and snow geese appeared on October 12 and reached a peak between October 20 and 25. Some remained after the freeze of November 2-5, but few were seen after November 10. The writer observed about 1 snow goose for every 30 to 40 blue geese. The Canada goose migration was more widely spread than that of the blue geese. Flocks appeared early in October and reached a peak about October 25-November 2. Many flocks were noted during the remainder of November.

Diving ducks seldom occur in the marshes in any appreciable numbers. Lesser scaups were observed at the Magee Marsh on October 10, and occasional flocks were seen thereafter. Ruddy ducks were abundant on Lake Erie on October 16, but few were seen in the marshes. Mergansers appeared at the Magee Marsh about November 1, and many were seen during the period of November 10-18. On November 18-19, another freeze occurred and few mergansers were observed after that date. ~ ~ Karl E. Bednarik

Source: Cleveland Bird Calendar, Vol 47 No.4

## LOCAL FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, September 12th at 8:00 a.m.  
Headlands Beach State Park**

**Leader:** Jerry Talkington

**Target Species:** In Search of Fall Migrants

**Directions:** I-90 East to US-20 East to SR-44 (Heisley Road) north to the park entrance. Meet at the north end of the fishermen's parking lot.

**Sunday, October 11th at 8:30 a.m.  
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
Julie West's Big Sit**

**Leader:** Laura Gooch

**Target species:** Late fall migrants.

Laura will lead us for a walk around the lake and then we will join Julie West's Annual Big Sit.

**Directions:** The Nature Center is located at 2600 S. Park Blvd. North of Shaker Blvd and West of Lee Road.

**Saturday, November 7th at 8:00 a.m.  
Perry Park, Perry Township  
and Moving West**

**Leader:** John Pogacnik

**Target species:** Our target birds are Cave Swallows and Jaegers and who knows what surprises we will find!

**Directions:** Take Rte 2 to Rte 20 and follow Rte 20 to Perry Park Road. On Perry Park Road turn left and follow the road north right into the park.

# WANTED!

### KBC LOCAL FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

Are you good at organizing and scheduling? Can you volunteer 2-3 hours every three months? KBC is looking for someone like you to plan our local field trips and schedule leaders. If interested call Henry at 216-255-1919.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Midwest Birding Symposium September 17 - 20, 2009 Lakeside, Ohio

In addition to great birding, the Midwest Birding Symposium also features fun events, entertaining keynote speakers, a book signing session with authors of notable birding books, and an opportunity to purchase birding essentials at the Bird Watcher's Market. For registration information visit: [www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php)

### Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation September 26, 2009

A conference to be held at Ward Pavilion  
Wildwood Preserve, Toledo Metroparks

If you have spent time at popular birding spots or attended large gatherings of birders, you've probably noticed that this community tends to be overwhelmingly white. We don't see many birders who are African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American, or members of other minority groups. This same lack of diversity has been noticed in other

aspects of outdoor recreation, from camping and hiking to nature study. The board and staff of BSBO believe that more diversity would be a good thing, in order to create more broad support for conservation. Therefore, we are proud to be co-sponsoring a one-day conference featuring people who are doing something about this issue.

Our event on September 26 will feature presentations by John C. Robinson, a biologist, software designer, and author of *Birding For Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*; Dudley Edmondson, a professional photographer and author of *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*; and Tamberly Conway and Maricruz Flores, who work with the U.S. Forest Service and Stephen F. Austin University on the program "Latino Legacy: Amigos del Bosque" (Friends of the Forest). These experts will speak from direct experience as they share practical ideas on promoting diversity in the outdoors. In addition, a panel discussion will provide insight from local community leaders.

BSBO is sponsoring this event in collaboration with Toledo Metroparks and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Call 419-898-4070 or visit [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org) for registration information.

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