



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
Spring 2010, Issue No. 3

KBC MONTHLY MEETINGS

at 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Guests are welcome! Parking is free!

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

"Nature Preserves & Birds in Northeast Ohio"

Presented by David Kriska and Eddie Dengg Birders in the Cleveland area (and anyone who appreciates nature!) are lucky that far-sighted people have protected a wonderful range of rare natural areas. For instance, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (which works to protect the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio, and the state's largest land trust) has preserved more than 250 properties and more than 20,000 acres. Many of the WRLC areas are critical bird habitat, and open to birders. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Natural Areas Program now comprises 37 nature preserves and 4,781 acres that contain unique natural communities, such as hemlock northern hardwood forest, Lake Erie island alvar, fossil dune ridge, marshes, swamps and glacial wetlands. They protect 110 state-listed plant species and 90 state listed or rare fauna, and provide critical habitat for migratory and rare nesting birds. Together, they represent the remarkable biological diversity that was once widespread throughout the region.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

"Four decades of Change: Northern Alaskan Seabirds Respond to a Rapidly Melting Arctic"

Presented by George Divoky

George Divoky has spent 35 years studying arctic seabirds off northern Alaska witnessing major changes in the avifauna and marine and coastal habitats of the region. Warming-induced changes in snow have affected a number of the region's marine birds by causing rapid changes in the distribution and abundance of their nest sites, prey, competitors and predators. Divoky's annual observations from his research island provide evidence of the rapid rate of change occurring at northern latitudes.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

"A Shade-grown Coffee Future"

Presented by Paul Baicich

You've probably heard about the links between birds and shade-grown coffee. Some coffees threaten the lives of birds; some coffees can actually benefit birds. And millions of coffee-drinkers can make the difference. In this talk we will take a journey to visit vital points of intersection, a crossroads for birds, agriculture, and people. Here, Paul Baicich explores the shade-coffee/birds connection, focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean and "our" birds which migrate to the Neotropics. You will leave this presentation with a greater appreciation of the issues and the ability to explain the coffee-and-bird issue to birding and non-birding friends alike!

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

See van trip description and times

Saturday, April 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Station Road,

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Leader: Dwight Chasar

Target Species: Yellow-Throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagle, Eastern Phoebe, and a number of other nesting or migrating birds.

Directions: I-77 South to Exit 149A, State Route 82 East (Royalton Road). Continue east on State Route 82, crossing State Route 21 (Brecksville Rd). Go right (south) at Riverview Road and left (east) at entrance to Station Road at bottom of hill.

Saturday, May 1 at 8:00 a.m.

Tuscarawas Meadow Area,

Firestone Metropark, Summit County

Leader: Ed Pierce

Target Species: Spring Migrants (always great warbler numbers, and much more!)

Directions: Take I-77 to I-76 near Akron to I-277 East/US Route 224 East. Exit at South Main Street, turning right (south) and continue for approximately one mile, Turn left (east) on Warner Road, left again on Harrington Road and immediately left into the Tuscarawas Meadow's parking lot.

Notes: Bring something for potluck brunch at home of Ed and Cheryl Pierce immediately following walk (their home is adjacent to the park)

WEEKEND VAN TRIPS

To register contact Eileen Zimlich
at 216-509-4204
or email at ezimlich@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, March 13, 2010 Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

(Day trip) We will crisscross the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area & Upland Reservoir in search of wintering hawks, owls & waterfowl. Target species include: Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Horned Larks, N. Saw-whet, Long-eared & Short-eared Owls, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Shrike, Pheasant, Bob-White and, if there is open water, swans, ducks & grebes.

We will depart at 6:30 a.m. and return in the evening. Participants will share travel costs (van rental, gas & tolls). Deposit of \$25 with registration.

Friday April 30, - May 2, 2010 Hocking Hills, Ohio

(2-night, 3-day trip) Join us in the beautiful Hocking Hills area of southern Ohio seeking early migrants and southern species. Target species include: Kentucky, Blue-winged, N. Parula, Worm-eating Warblers, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Black Vulture, Barred Owl, Carolina Chickadee, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Pheasant, Bob-White, Blue Grosbeak, Grasshopper & Henslow's Sparrows.

We will depart Friday at 4:00 p.m. and return Sunday around 6:00 p.m. Hotel/motel reservations will be arranged. Participants will pay individually for hotel and meals. Participants will share travel costs (van rental, gas & tolls). \$25.00 deposit with registration.

May, 2010

No Scheduled KBC Trip

You are encouraged to participate in the Biggest Week in American Birding festival, May 6 - 16, 2010. Visit www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com for details and registration information.



FORTY OR SO YEARS AGO . . .

Henslow Sparrows—Protectors of the Pines

These secretive birds of neutral colors and insignificant vocal powers usually go unnoticed by the passer-by as well as by many an amateur ornithologist. When Mrs. Clisby reported 100 Henslow Sparrows, therefore, the Editor came to sharp attention and wondered what the answer might be. Mrs. Clisby writes from Wellington, Ohio, most interestingly as follows. "About the Henslow Sparrows. They are scattered over several fields planted with evergreens in the Findley Forest Reservation. The trees are from 3 to 5 feet high, with weeds and grasses all over the field—over 100 acres of it. The 100 Henslows reported were an estimated number, arrived at by counting carefully a portion of one field and

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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.

Welcome New KBC Members!

Toby Briskin & Michael Vender
Elizabeth McQuaid

OTHER EVENTS

March 6

Adams County Amish Bird Symposium

9:30 am -3:30 pm

Wheat Ridge Road

Contact Chris Bedel Cincinnati Museum Center's
Edge of Appalachia. eoa@bright.net or 937-544-
2880 x 11.

March 27

Shreve Migration Sensation

Shreve, Ohio

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shreve Elementary School

598 North Market Street (SR 226)

April 23, 24, & 25

North Coast Nature Festival

Rocky River Nature Center

N. Olmsted, Ohio

Visit [http://www.clemetparks.com/events/
northcoastnaturefest.asp](http://www.clemetparks.com/events/northcoastnaturefest.asp) for details.

Waterfowl Symposium

**February 26 - 28
Columbus, Ohio**

Waterfowl
Symposium



February 26-28, 2010

Sponsored by
The Ohio Ornithological Society
& Columbus Audubon

OOS is partnering with Columbus Audubon to present a three-day waterfowl symposium, headquartered at the brand new Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus. The event will include entertainment, lectures, and field trips. Visit www.ohiobirds.org for details and registration information.

The Common Good

My wife Marta and I both winced when a co-leader of a field trip (not a KBC trip!) referred to a White-breasted Nuthatch as a "trash bird." His denigration of *Sitta carolinensis* stemmed from his understandable desire to help the group find colorful, and sometimes rare, warblers. But I find the disregard for species of bird that have populations designated as "common" in our area to be disheartening for several reasons.

First, if somebody who is studying birds doesn't find the behavior of nuthatches fascinating, then they are reducing our pastime to a chase for rarities which can't spread the joy and wonder of all avian life.

But perhaps most important is that the emphasis on the rare creates challenges for vital sources of information for understanding birds. How many times have we read a comment from Fred, our esteemed editor of the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, that "the species was underreported?" Are KBC members really not taking note of birds that have stable, widespread populations in our area? Or is it symptomatic of the attitude that only rarities matter, and only "experts" should report?

Keep in mind that what is common today may not be in the future, and that data reported now in the CBC (as it has been since 1905!) may be vital to future scientists (and citizens who care about birds). As Jim McCormac noted in Winter 2007-2008 edition of *The Ohio Cardinal* (another important source of data on birds!) "it is important to critically study and evaluate common species, not just rarities...Significant evidence of changes to the environment will in most cases be better supported by shifts in established bird populations than with rare species out of range."

As Scott Weidensaul noted in *Of A Feather*, the FeederWatch program "tracked the progress of an epidemic eye disease that swept through house finches in the 1990's..." The deaths of many American Crows due to West Nile virus raised concern for that species among many, but 14 years of Christmas Bird Count data analyzed by Caffrey and Peterson (*American Birds*, 2003) found that there was no cause for concern for the species (sad as it may have been for the individuals, and the possible disruption of social groups).

So I want to issue a challenge to every single KBC member. Please take note of the birds you see in

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Kirtland Bird Club

4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Publisher of:

The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region
Birds of the Cleveland Region

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- Lou Gardella - NE Ohio Rare Bird Alert Compiler
- Delores Cole - Webmaster
- Andy Lihani & Bob Finkelstein, Co-chairs, Scholarship Fund
- Larry Rosche - Honorary Lifetime Member
- Ed Pierce - Honorary Lifetime Member

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the places you frequent. Keep a record of the first date, the high and low, the last date, and report those to the Cleveland Bird Calendar. Not just the Iceland Gull, but the American Crow, the European Starling, and yes, even the Canada Goose. It will be a good day when the *Cleveland Bird Calendar* editor does not note that reports on common species are rare. You each have a contribution to make; thanks for helping present and future generations to better understand birds.

Good birding!
Scott VanValkenburg
President

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listening to their song (if you call it a song) over the whole territory. The birds nest here. We do not see them elsewhere in this vicinity.

The ranger on the Reservation tells us that the white pines are often damaged to a considerable extent by the saw fly, and that he was expecting to use a spray to counteract the attack of these insects, but that the Henslow Sparrows arrived before the spray, and by their efficient work in disposing of the insects made the use of the spray unnecessary."

Source:
The Cleveland Bird Calendar, Volume 39 No2, 1943

**SEASONAL REPORTS for
The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Your Winter report is due
March 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**

This issue of the *Kirtland Warbler*
is in memory of
Duane McDowell