



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
2010—2011 Membership Year, Spring Issue No. 3

Wednesday March 2

Rails of Lake Erie: Migrational Timing, Habitat Usage, & Breeding Cycles

Presented by Mark Shieldcastle

Little information is known about migratory timing and habitat use in Ohio by the secretive



King Rail

birds known as rails. This group, made up of Sora, Virginia Rail, and King Rail has received little study, but is

highly sought after as watchable wildlife. Mark Shieldcastle, research director for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, will describe a more than eight-year study of these birds. The latest project received a KBC Ohio Avian Project Initiative Grant.

Mark Shieldcastle has participated on the national committee charged with developing the National Marshbird Monitoring Protocol; he has 10 years experience in capturing and banding rails; was the lead investigator in the development of the Ohio Wetland Breeding Bird Survey for the Ohio Division of Wildlife; and has over 34 years banding experience; banding and supervising banding of over 750,000 birds.

Wednesday April 6

In the Steps of Darwin: The Birds, Other Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands

Presented by Paul Barding

The observations of an awe-inspiring diversity of birds and other wildlife on the Galapagos Island played a crucial role in the development of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Paul Barding and his daughter visited the islands in 2005 and came away from this unique place feeling lucky to have experienced it first-hand. He'll share beautiful visuals and his own observations of the birds, other wildlife, and plants who inhabit these world-renowned islands off the coast of Ecuador.

Paul Barding, who lives in Olmsted Falls, has been an avid birder for more than 30 years and has taken birding trips to Alaska, Peru, Costa Rica, and the Galapagos. He studied biology and zoology in college (BS 1973, MS 1974) and has worked in the environmental profession for 36 years. He presently works for the Sherwin-Williams Paint Company in Cleveland.



Blue-footed Booby

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KBC Monthly Meetings

1st Wednesday every month, 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Guests are always welcome! Parking is free!

President's Message

While the seasonal narrative of *Birds of the Cleveland Region* brings me joy at the beginning of each month, I am also fascinated by reports of KBC members in old editions, more than 100 years of which can be viewed online on our site.

Fifty years ago, members reported on March 26; "Coincident with a prevailing southerly wind, a great influx of Eastern Meadowlarks and of Song Sparrows appeared along the Lake Erie shoreline but was seemingly not noted inland. At Headlands State Park an estimated 300 Song Sparrows and 50 Meadowlarks were reported, as well as some 600 Common Grackles (Booth). In the immediate Cleveland area, Meadowlarks occurred all along the lakefront wherever there was suitable open grassland, such as the lawn of the Easterly Sewage Disposal Plant, while Song Sparrows were concentrated in areas of rank, weedy vegetation, such as at Wildwood Park and the marsh at Burke Lakefront Airport."

Members further reported that on "April 23, which was clear and sunny, observers at the Huntington Beach Reservation Sunday morning bird walk,

found the sky full of migrating hawks, but with the exception of ten Cooper's and six Broad-winged, they were at such a height that identification was not possible. In the Rocky River Reservation, however, Broad-winged Hawks were perched everywhere in the trees throughout the valley until about 8:30 am. From then until 9:30 a.m. they took to the air as additional Broad-wings moved in from the southwest and proceeded in a northeasterly direction. With the exception of five Cooper's Hawks, this entire flight consisted of Broad-winged Hawks, of which some 600 were counted that morning."

Future generations thank you for observations you submit, for your donations to keep the *Cleveland Bird Calendar* published, and for helping new birders experience the wonder of every season in our area.

Good birding!

~ Scott

ScottVanV@gmail.com

757-943-0317



Program Descriptions, continued from page 1



Wednesday May 4

**Birdsong Techniques:
Sorting Out the Singers**

Presented by Dr. Lisa Rainsong

Learning bird songs can feel a little overwhelming at times – especially in May! Bird song is music, and the techniques used in ear training and music appreciation classes can provide valuable tools for identification of avian musicians and their repertoires. Lisa Rainsong will help you sort out the singers and their songs through an approach that can be applied to many of the birds we hear.

Lisa Rainsong's musical life integrates composition, education, vocal performance, and natural history. She is a member of the Music Theory faculty of The Cleveland Institute of Music, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate course in music theory and ear training. Lisa holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from CIM. She is also a professional singer who performs as both a soprano soloist and as a choral musician, singing with ensembles including Quire Cleveland and the chorus of Apollo's Fire. She earned a Naturalist Certificate from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and now teaches classes on bird song and insect song identification throughout Northeast Ohio. She has been awarded Small Research Grants from the Geauga Park District in 2009, 2010, and 2011 for cricket and katydid surveys - research work that is done primarily by ear.

Official Notice of a Motion

The Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI) committee is seeking approval of their selection of a \$1,000 Kirtland Bird Club grant to Kelly Williams-Sieg of Ohio University to study behavioral responses of Neotropical migrants in response to disturbance, habitat structure, and territory density. A vote from the membership for approval will be requested at the March 2nd meeting. If passed the grant will be the third issued by KBC's OAPI. A vote from the membership for approval will be requested at the March 2nd meeting. If passed the grant will be the third issued by KBC's OAPI.

Entitled "Adaptive significance of behavioral plasticity in a heterogeneous environment", the study will examine how birds' behaviors change in response to changes in forest structure. The study will examine differences in foraging behavior, reproductive success, and other factors between birds in undisturbed forest in southern Ohio and two areas that have been disturbed (one by prescribed fire, the other by commercial thinning). The focal species are Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager.

OAPI committee member Dr. Andy Jones noted that "Several of these species, especially Hooded Warbler, are well studied for certain aspects of the breeding season, but this study will follow individual birds later into the nesting season than a typical study would. Marking individual birds and following them is a time intensive approach with great rewards, and any data resulting from this study will be of great interest to the avian conservation community."

KBC funds would pay for mist nets and color bands for individually marking birds in April 2011. This is an opportunity for KBC to support research that will not only increase understanding but also provide guidance to those developing policies related to conservation of birds in disturbed habitats. Please join in the discussion on March 2nd.

Muchas Gracias!

A heartfelt thank you to members of the Kirtland Bird Club for supporting Black Swamp Bird Observatory's (BSBO) Donate the Guía program. Each twelve-dollar donation purchases a *Kaufman Guía de Campo a las Aves de Norteamérica*, the Spanish-language edition of the *Kaufman Guide to the Birds of North America*. Donated books are given to Spanish-speaking people in the United States and northern Mexico. They are distributed by BSBO partners, the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) and Environment for the Americas.



At the January KBC meeting Howard Besser, Steve and Beth Cagan, Hans Clebsch, Delores Cole, Bob Finkelstein, Cheryl Harner, Gretchen Larson, Linda Johnson, Tom Pienkowski, Nancy Renkert, and Eileen Zimlich immediately responded to my request for donations for a January event sponsored by SJV. The response was overwhelming! Not only did the donations fulfill the current request, but also there was enough to purchase guides for the next event.

There is always a need for field guides. I hope you consider donating your first or, perhaps, second or third book to the Donate the Guía program. I assure you that each book has a direct and positive impact on its recipient, as well as the birds and conservation efforts in the United States and Mexico.

Muchas Gracias!
~ Paula

Paula Lozano
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Volunteer Coordinator of Donate the Guía Program

You may donate at any KBC meeting, by contacting Paula, or via the PayPal option at: www.bsbo.org/donate_the_guia.htm

To learn more: www.bsbo.org/kenn_kaufman.htm
SJV: www.bsbo.org/sharing_the_joy_of_birding.htm

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. Your contributions of articles, event information, photos, and drawings are welcome. Please send them to the Editor, Susan Jones or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Camp Chiricahua - 2010 Scholarship Report

For ten days, July 13—24, 2010 I had the great opportunity of being a part of Camp Chiricahua, birding with some of the best young birders in the nation in Southeastern Arizona. We focused on rarity hotspots such as the canyons of the Chiricahua and Huachuca mountain ranges. These ranges are considered the best places to find Mexican specialties including Elegant Trogons, Sulfur-bellied Flycatchers, and up to fourteen species of hummingbirds. Our guides, Rob Day and Dave Jasper, are very knowledgeable of the area and its flora and fauna.

The first few nights of our trip we camped in the well known small town of Portal at the base of the Chiricahua Mountains. The town and its surrounding areas produced many life birds for me, including Hepatic Tanager, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Golden Eagle, and Elegant Trogon. Almost all the local people are birders and eagerly helped us find new birds. We also encountered a Black-tailed rattlesnake, a tarantula, and numerous Black Widow spiders. The next stop on our trip was Rustler Park, farther up in the Chiricahuas. We camped there for two days and observed more great birds: Red-faced Warbler, Olive Warbler, and a guest appearance by a very uncommon Short-tailed Hawk.

Leaving Rustler Park, we drove across the desert to the San Pedro River Inn. The inn is a great place for birders as there are many birds to see on the grounds such as Barn Owls, Common Poorwills, and Gila Woodpeckers. We made many field trips to the

Huachuca Mountains where we saw nearly all of the possible hummingbirds in North America. The two most memorable were the White-eared and Berylline Hummingbirds, both rare visitors from Mexico and South America. We ended our trip on a high point with great views of a pair of Spotted Owls in Miller Canyon.

This was easily the best birding trip in which I have participated. In total I had 103 life birds. However, this trip was not just about birding. I learned a lot about the native plants, mammals, and insects of Arizona. I also learned more about conservation of invaluable habitats.

I thank the Kirtland Bird Club and the Ohio Young Birders Club for sponsoring this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

~ Wyatt Miller

LePage Scholarship Recipient



Young Birders Say Thanks!

Every year, Delores Cole, KBC Digital Communications Coordinator, directs a grant from Key Bank to KBC. The grant supports KBC's general operations, the Ohio Young Birders Conference (OYBC) and the club's membership in Black Swamp Bird Observatory. KBA recently received thank you notes from several of the young birders who attended the 2010 OYBC. This says a number of positive things about young birders.

Excerpts from three of the letters follow.

"Thank you very much for your generous support of the 4th Annual Ohio Young Birder's Club Conference. I...had a wonderfully enjoyable experience being surrounded by some of the brightest and most invigorating conservation leaders my age."

~ Lucas Padegimas

"I found the conference to be a positive motivation to become more involved in birding and conservation." ~ Zack Stultz

"Thank you for helping make this conference possible." ~ Kayla Parry



Welcome New Members

**Sandra & Ed Buckles
Glenn Novotny**

Weekend Van Trips

For more information - contact Van Trip Coordinator **Eileen Zimlich** at **216-509-4204** or ezimlich@sbcglobal.net. Note that a full list of van trips and a registration form is on the KBC website at www.KirtlandBirdClub.org

Saturday, March 5

Killdeer Plains, Ohio (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, Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared & Short-eared Owls, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Shrike, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bob-white and, perhaps, swans, ducks & grebes.

Departure: 6:30 a.m.

Return in the evening.

Estimated cost: Less than \$20/person to share the cost of gasoline.

Required deposit: \$10 with registration.

Deadline: Reserve your spot before February 19.

Friday April 1 — April 3

Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, IL (3 day, 2 night trip)

Travel to Illinois in search of Greater Prairie Chickens and more. We have a blind reserved (Note: On Sunday we must be at the park 1 hr. & 15 min. before sunrise ... requiring very early rise).

Target species: Displaying Greater Prairie Chickens, Lesser Golden Plovers, Pectoral Sandpipers, "winnowing" Wilson's Snipe, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Pipit and Smith's Longspur.

Departure: Friday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m.

Approx. return: Late Sunday, about 10 p.m.

Estimated cost: For travel & lodging \$200—\$325. Motel reservations will be arranged. Participants pay individually for motels & meals; share travel costs (van rental, gas & tolls).

Required deposit: \$25 with each registration. Limited to 8 participants.

Deadline: Reserve your spot before March 4.

Local Field Trips

THERE MAY BE A MARCH FIELD TRIP SCHEDULED AFTER THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE; IF SO IT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MARCH MEETING AND ON THE WEBSITE.

Saturday, April 23 at 8:00 a.m. **Station Road, CVNP**

Leader: Dwight Chasar

Target species: During the official CVNP Spring walk: Yellow-throated and Cerulean Warblers, herons and nesting Bald Eagles. After CVNP, the KBC group will go down the tracks where waterfowl and other species will be plentiful.

Directions: I—77 South to Exit 149A, State Rte 82 East (Royalton Rd). Cross State Rte 21 (Brecksville Rd) and continue east, about 2 more miles to Riverview Rd; turn right (south). Turn left at the bottom of hill, onto Station Road.

Note: This date is subject to change. Check for a members email, the website, or call Scott at 757-943-0317 to confirm!

Saturday, May 7 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: 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 about 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 food to share for potluck brunch hosted by Ed and Cheryl Pierce immediately following the walk (their home is adjacent to the park). Need a ride or want to offer one? Please email Scott at ScottVanV@gmail.com

Are you willing to lead a field trip? Please email Jessie St. Christopher, local field trip coordinator, ladystar317@yahoo.com with the location and month you'd like to lead a walk.



Kirtland Bird Club

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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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The Cleveland Bird Calendar

WINTER REPORTS **Deadline March 10th**

Mail to: **Fred Dinkelbach, 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

The CBC is an opportunity for KBC
members to be citizen scientists. We of-
fer several opportunities to hone your
birding skills throughout the year.

