



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland Ohio  
[www.KirtlandBirdClub.org](http://www.KirtlandBirdClub.org) & [www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com](http://www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com)

Northeast Ohio Rare Bird Alert: 216 556-0700  
Summer 2008, Issue No. 3

## KBC Monthly Meetings

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

**Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7:30 PM**

### "The History of Egg Collecting"

Presented by Lake Metroparks Naturalist,  
Mary Huey

Oology was a common piece of a naturalist's experience in the late 1800's and early 1900's when those interested in birds collected their nests and eggs much as people collect stamps or coins today. When Hugh and Gretta Pallister donated their fathers' collections to Lake Metroparks in 2005, lifelong birder Mary Huey jumped at the chance to clean, catalog, and organize the collection to be used as a teaching tool for the park system's interpretive naturalists. This program presents a basic history of egg collecting and the part it played in the evolution of birding as we know it today against the backdrop of the collection.

Guests are welcome!

**No meetings in July & August**

## KBC Monthly Field Trips

**Saturday, June 7, 2008**

**8:00 AM to Noon**

**KBC is Block Busting Block 40D2SW  
near Homerville, Ohio**

Join KBC President, Lisa Chapman, in surveying this block where the city meets farm country. Habitats are still varied and some private property owners have given permission for us to survey their land. We will be looking for birds within "safe dates" for breeding, paying particularly attention to nest building or tending behaviors, eggs or fledglings. If you have been curious about Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas 2, this is a good introduction. Much useful information and further explanation is available at [www.ohiobirds.org/obba2](http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2). It is hoped that KBC members will visit this sector on their own to continue to add data to the project.

**Directions:** Take I-71 south and exit on SR -224 west at Lodi. At the exit there is a McDonald's on the left. We will meet there 8:00 AM

**Saturday, July 26, 2008**

**Dragonflies, Damselflies, Butterflies &  
all else that flies!**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

1600 Bell Street, South Russell, Geauga County

**Leader:** Linda Gilbert

**Target species:** Butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies & nesting birds

**Directions to 1600 Bell Street:** I-271 to SR-422 east to SR-306 north. Turn right (east) on Bell Street. Watch for KBC sign on south side of Bell Street and park at end of driveway by the picnic shelter.

**Note:** Potluck picnic will follow the walk. Bring a dish to share and your tableware.

**Friends and family welcome**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2008**

**6:30 PM**

**Perkins Wildlife Garden  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

Harvey Webster, Wildlife Resource Center Director of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will walk us through the Perkins Wildlife Garden and share his unique insights about the birds and beasts he cares for. Meet by the ticket desk at the museum's main entrance.

**Welcome New KBC Members!**

Deb Neidert & Henry Trimpe

## 40 or so years ago ... Purple Gallinule at Waite Hill by Annette Flanigan

*From the December 20, 2007 Plain Dealer with comments by Dick Hoffman:*

*Annette Flanigan Stedman passed away in Florida this past weekend. She was a long time member of the KBC, edited the Calendar from 1968 to 1970, compiled the list of early and late dates that is posted at the archives and banded at her house in Waite Hill, where she entertained and enlightened KBC members on several occasions. She was a particularly good friend of Bill and Nancy Klamm. When her first husband died, she moved to Florida where she married a Stanley Stedman and continued to report on bird sightings.*

Since a Purple Gallinule had never been reported in the Cleveland region prior to May 1962, we asked Annette B. Flanigan to write the following account covering the entire period she observed this bird. - Ed.) On the morning of May 16, 1962, I discovered a Purple Gallinule on the marshy end of the pond near our home in Waite Hill. This particular area was flanked on one side by a dense growth of rose bushes extending out over the water. Throughout its stay I never saw the bird anywhere but in this limited area, which consisted of about 150 square feet. It fed there regularly between about 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and again between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., EDT. Sometimes it also appeared toward late afternoon.

For several days following May 16, the Purple Gallinule fed together with a Common Gallinule, thus making it possible for me to note the difference in their manner of feeding and of moving about. The Purple Gallinule was deliberate in its movements and fed on the top of the grassy areas, so that most of its legs were out of the water. It seemed to prefer shallow water where the grasses were growing. At times it would step from dry twig to dry twig to cross a space rather than walk through the water. And it would reach down into the water to feed while clinging to a branch. Its deliberate manner of walking was like that of the Green Heron, while its habit of constantly flicking its tail was like that of the Sora Rail. In contrast, the Common Gallinule was much quicker in its movements and it fed more like a duck, with its body down in the water.

The Purple Gallinule seemed to become accustomed to the presence of my husband and myself,

so that after several weeks we could go out into the open quietly without disturbing its feeding. (During the bird's stay, it was seen, and even photographed, by many persons.) The gallinule always appeared from the rose tangle, where it went to rest when not feeding. I never saw it rest in the open; but two or three times it climbed into the tangle by way of a fallen log and paused a few minutes to preen. Sometimes it would climb the rose bushes and then drop into the tangle, resting a foot or so above the water. Occasionally, when alarmed, it flew to the tangle, generally with feet dangling and tossing its wings.

On June 25, which was the last date I saw the bird, the gallinule was feeding a short distance away from its usual area, where I had never seen it feeding before. At that time in the month the water was gradually receding in the pond. Possibly, then, the feeding area became insufficient, compelling the bird to depart.

Source: Cleveland Bird Calendar, Volume 58 No. 3, 1954

## Announcing KBC's Ohio Avian Project Initiative Program

According to the American Bird Conservancy, numerous studies have shown an alarming decline in migratory songbirds and that "populations of once-common migratory birds such as the Cerulean Warbler have declined by 82% and the Rusty Blackbird has declined by over 90%." How should the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC), with a mission dedicated to "the serious study of ornithology" respond?

One approach was suggested by Scott Weidensaul, who in his "A Brief History of American Birding" wrote that his hope "for the future is a fusion of the science of birds with the love of chasing them, the best of the ornithologist and the lister, with a vehement commitment to avian well-being binding those approaches together."

Recognizing the desire of the KBC membership to increase knowledge of birds in Ohio and refusing to stand by while our modern day Passenger Pigeons pass the way of that once-common species, the

**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).

Kirtland Bird Club is happy to announce the launch of an annual funding program called the "Ohio Avian Project Initiative". This program will provide annual support of grants from \$250 to \$1,000 to avian research, education and conservation projects in the state of Ohio. Preference will be given to projects that focus on bird species designated as "species of concern" by state and national organizations. Appointed by KBC president, Lisa Chapman, a five member committee will be responsible for soliciting appropriate projects, reviewing proposals and making funding recommendations to the KBC membership for a vote every March.

Grantees will be expected to submit a number of written reports to the membership, and they will be invited to share results at membership meetings.

September - Determination of funds available to award  
October - Accept prequalification applications through our website

November to December - Invite proposals  
January - Committee reviews proposals and decides on award(s) to propose to membership

February - Motion made by the committee at February KBC meeting to award the grant(s)

February - Motion publicized in KBC's Spring Newsletter  
March - KBC membership votes on motion at the March meeting

## Other Events and Activities

### May:

**May 30th - June 1** - Birding by Ear Workshop at The Wilds. Call **740-638-5030 x2286** for info.

### June:

**June 21st, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.** Auto Tour at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Visit [www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/) for directions.

### July:

**July 19th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.** - Auto Tour at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Visit [www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/) for directions.

### August:

**August 15th & 16th** - Black Swamp Bird Observatory is hosting a shorebird workshop by Kenn Kaufman. Visit [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org) for registration information or call 419 498-4070.

**August 15th – 25th** - Birds of Venezuela. Visit [www.cmnh.org](http://www.cmnh.org) for trip information and registration.

**August 16th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.** - Auto Tour at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Visit [www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/) for directions.

## From our President ---

At the time of this newsletter's arrival, we may be well into the high holy days of spring migration. Many will have made their annual pilgrimage to Magee Marsh. Prayers will have been offered up for a chance to see the elusive warbler(s) that would prove most gratifying. We will all remind ourselves of how lucky we are to live in this prime location. As if this were not enough, many of us will also be fascinated by the breeding activities of our own residents.

This is the third year of the five year Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Kirtland Bird Club has adopted our own site in Medina County near Homerville. With the help of Bob Finkelstein and Paula Lozano, we have done an early survey of DeLorme 40D2SW. It is a mix of agricultural land, large woodlots, several streams, and new development. We have permission from one land owner already, to survey a rather large and diverse tract. I hope over the next three years, individuals will survey this priority block, enter the data, and help develop a picture of breeding bird population changes as the country continues to meet the city.

Once again, I need to ask your help. Our local trip leader Paula Lozano, who has given so unselfishly of her time and talents for a very long time, would like some else to step forward and take this responsibility. Would it not be a shame to see our monthly trips curtailed? We could use several people willing to lead two or three trips per year. Nor is one required to be a self-proclaimed expert. Sightings and identifications done by group effort can be highly instructive.

Lastly, best wishes to Ethan Kistler and Phil Chaon who will be competing on different teams at the World Series of Birding at Cape May in May. Bring a little glory home to Cleveland boys!

~ ~ Lisa Chapman

**SEASONAL REPORTS for  
The Cleveland Bird Calendar  
Your Spring report is due June 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**

## **Paula Lozano to Retire as Local Field Trip Coordinator**

Our local trip leader and coordinator for many, many years is retiring from this KBC post. Please join me in thanking Paula for all her time and effort in fulfilling this KBC tradition. Thank you Paula!

Henry Burton has agreed to step up to the plate and will be taking over as Local Trip Coordinator. Please contact Henry at 216-255-1919 if you are interested in helping him coordinate local and /or out –of-town field trip or if you would be interested in leading a trip at one of your favorite northeast Ohio birding spots. Thank you Henry!

## **KBC Receives Key Gift Grant**

We have recently received a \$500.00 Community Gift Grant in behalf of Delores Cole's service as a KBC officer. KeyCorp encourages their employees to volunteer within their communities by offering these grants. If you recall Delores asked that last years gift be used to help distribute our book, *Birds of the Cleveland Region*, to Ohio college libraries. This year Delores has asked that the Key

Bank gift be used for donations to support youth oriented nature / conservation activities and projects.

From this years Key grant, the KBC officers have decided to donate \$100 to help support student member, Ethan Kistler, in his participation on the Youth 2008 World Series of Birding Team - Subadult Skuaz. The officers have also decided to donate \$250 to Black Swamp Bird Observatory to assist with expenses for the Ohio Young Birders Club's 2nd annual conference on October 4th.

***Thank you Key Bank for allowing us to support youth oriented avian activities!***

## **Update on the Cleveland Bird Calendar Online Project**

If you have recently visited our website you know that we are still working on scanning, typing and proofing past CBC issues for publication in PDF format. We want to thank all of our volunteers who have helped us in the past several months. Thank you Gretchen Larson, Craig Caldwell, Mar Anne Romito, Dwight Chasar, Lisa Chapman, Dick Hoffman and Delores Cole.

[www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com](http://www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com)

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**Kirtland Bird Club**  
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