



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
Winter 2008, Issue No. 2

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, December 5, 2007 at 7:30 PM

"Why does my field guide keep changing?"

Dr. Andy Jones, Ornithology Curator at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will explain why we get a new version of field guides every few years which incorporate "new" species. He will talk about where these species come from, and how do ornithologists make decisions when designating them? Are molecular biologists entirely to blame? We will find out tonight.

Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM

"Escape (tonight) to Trinidad and Tobago"

Trinidad and Tobago are lush, stunningly beautiful islands located just 10° above the Equator, adjacent to Venezuela. Blessed with a perfect climate and a unique blend of Amazonian and West Indian fauna and flora, this verdant two-island republic is considered the best place in the New World to first experience the splendor of tropical birds. More than 460 species representing a high percentage of all South American families are represented in T&T. Such diversity in such a small area is unequalled almost anywhere else in the world. In this program, presented by Bill Murray, you will learn much of the diverse natural history of the islands, including flowers, trees, and butterflies.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:30 PM

"Birding Central Kenya"

In November, 2006, this KBC couple participated in a two week birding tour of central Kenya with WINGS tours. Along with many big game animals and tremendous scenery, they saw over 500 species of birds. This slide program will be a smorgasbord of flora, fauna, scenery and geography presented by Dwight and Ann Chaser.

KBC Monthly Field Trips

Saturday, December 15, 2007 all day

Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. If you are interested in participating in the count and joining a group contact Tom LePage at 440 356-4035.

Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 8:30 AM

Where: East 72nd Street, Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County

Leader: Larry Rosche & Jerry Talkington

Target species: Wintering species

Directions: Cleveland Memorial Shoreway/I-90 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive exit. Proceed west on North Marginal Drive to East 72nd Street parking lot.

The OYBC will join us on this trip

Saturday, February 9, 2008, 8:30 AM

Meet at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, to carpool. From there we will travel to lakefront sites that will be determined that morning.

Target species: Wintering gulls, grebes & waterfowl

Leader: Craig Caldwell

Directions: I-90 W to Columbia Road exit. Stay right at split on exit ramp, turning right (north) on Columbia Road. Cross railroad tracks, turn left (west) at traffic light at Wolf Road and continue 1.7 miles to Huntington Reservation entrance.

KBC Long Distance Trips

Saturday, January 19th to The Wilds, Cumberland Ohio. Pack your lunch and join us for a one day carpooling trip to look for Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl. Contact Henry Burton for details, meeting time and location 216 255-1919.

President's Day Weekend to "the Sault", February 15 - 18th for winter grosbeaks, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Snowy, Hawk and Great Gray Owls. The trip will leave for Upper Michigan on Friday at 2 PM (note earlier time) from location TBD and will return early Monday evening. For details and reservations contact Henry Burton at 216 255-1919.

40 or so years ago... WINTER BIRDS AT MAGEE MARSH

By Karl E. Bednarik

Daily movements of waterfowl, as well as passerine and raptorian forms of bird life, were recorded on the 2000 acre Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Ottawa County, Ohio. The marsh, approximately two hours drive from Cleveland, lies on the principal migratory travel lanes of waterfowl over Ohio. The rapid and continual December freeze of all marsh areas of the southwestern Lake Erie region, as well as deep snow cover on surrounding corn fields, induced almost complete withdrawal of waterfowl to regions to the south.

Mixed winter flocks of ring-necked pheasants were in evidence throughout December and January. In the optimum pheasant range of northwestern Ohio, these birds segregate during the winter by sexes into large flocks. No such flocks were witnessed on the Magee area; instead the sexes moved together in flocks of 150 to 250 birds. Feeding data indicated that the 12 to 16 inch snow mantle of December limited the type or amount of food available; Burdock and Staghorn Sumac comprised a large portion of the winter feed throughout December and January. Dispersal of winter flocks was noted in early February.

Marsh hawks were the most common raptors in the region throughout the winter; 2 rough-legged hawks were recorded in January.

Bald eagles were observed almost daily on the marsh; 5 eagles were seen in one tree in the middle of February. A pair of eagles was seen in courtship flight in early February on the Magee area; these birds have since established territory over a nest on the marsh.

Great horned owls were observed incubating eggs on the area as early as February 10.

Canada geese made their appearance on January 3; a violent southwest wind on January 1 brought a marked movement of geese traveling over the marsh in considerable numbers. A large flock of 1061 geese was observed feeding on the marsh on February 2.

Mallards and black ducks are the most common species throughout the year as well as principal breeders during the nesting season. Few birds of these species were evident during December. A large movement was re-

corded on January 15. Moderate temperatures of February have resulted in a large influx of these two species in the region.

Pintails were also recorded early. Flocks appeared in the large bird movement of January 15; however, the subsequent cold weather resulted in a regression which persisted until the last week of February. Flying pairs of pintails are now very much in evidence throughout the marsh.

Canvasback and American goldeneyes were not listed until mid-January. Diving ducks seldom occur on the marshes in large numbers; however, a large flock of these birds was observed in the open pools of Magee in late January. The first bluebills (scaup) were reported on February 24.

American mergansers appeared in large concentrations on February 2; they are easily the most abundant of all waterfowl in the entire region at the present time with males outnumbering the females.

Three whistling swans made their appearance on January 28; a flock of 110 birds was seen at Crane Creek, immediately to the west of Magee, on February 4. There are reports that this flock wintered some miles to the east of Toledo.

A pair of white-winged scoters was observed floating among the ice floes off Marblehead Lighthouse on January 8.

An influx of prairie horned larks was noted in early February. A strong northern movement out over the Lake was recorded on February 2. There are similar reports of large numbers of larks passing over the island archipelago in early February.

The most outstanding feature of bird movement in this region to date has been the migration of crows. No crows were reported in the county until January 15; an influx appeared on February 24 until 300 to 600 birds are to be seen daily moving from the southwest over the barrier beach between the lake and the marsh.

Red-winged blackbirds arrived during the last week of February; clouds of these birds are to be seen wheeling over the marsh.

Source: Volume 48, Number 1, December 1951 - January, February 1952

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 Members!

Judy Hunt, Bret McCarty, Loretta Pierce,
David Daberko, Thomas Frankel and Troy Frankel

Other Events and Programs

December:

December 9th, Ottawa NWR Auto Tour, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 9th, Sunday Bird Walk, North Chagrin Reservation,
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

December Christmas Bird Counts:

December 15th, Cleveland, Tome LePage, 440 356-4035
Dec. 16th, Cuyahoga Falls, Marie Morgan,
m.morgan3@sbcglobal.net
Dec. 27th, Lakewood, Nancy Howell, 216 231-4600 ext 3225
Jan. 1, Burton, Linda Gilbert, lkg38@adelphia.net

January

Ohio Winter Bird Atlas all month see www.bsbobird.org
January 5th, Winter Bird Watching at Wentwood Preserve,
CMNH, www.cmnh.org
January 5th, Raptor Field ID, The Wilds, www.thewilds.org
January 13th, Sunday Bird Walk, North Chagrin Reservation,
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
January 12th, Eagle Survey, The Wilds, www.thewilds.org

February

February 9th, Raptor Field ID, The Wilds, www.thewilds.org
February 10th, Sunday Bird Walk, North Chagrin Reservation,
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
February 15-18th, 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count
February 16th, Raptor Rendezvous, CMNH, www.cmnh.org
February 17th, Cleveland's Hot Winter Birds, CMNH,
www.cmnh.org

2008 KBC Monthly Calendar



Twelve KBC members are represented in the 2008 calendar and they look wonderful. They will be available for sale at the December 5th meeting for \$15.00 or you can order a calendar by calling Delores Cole at 441 461-1084.

The winning pictures are...

Cover, Northern Parula by Dave Lewis, January, Tufted Titmouse by Anna Julnes, February, Glaucous Gull by Hans Clebsch, March, Barred Owl by Mary Anne Romito, April, Hermit Thrush by Dwight Chasar, May, Cerulean Warbler by Hugh Rose, June, Blue-winged Warbler by Jerry Talkington, July, Scarlet Tanager by Dave Lewis, August, Bobolink by Delores Cole, September, Magnolia Warbler by Scott Wright, October, American Woodcock by Marty and Wendy Nuetzel, November, Mallard by Doug West, and December, Purple Sandpiper by Sally Issaco.

From our President ---

As we transition into more seasonable weather, fall birding has become more enjoyable. I endured a half day trip at 85 degrees on 10/9 and am happy the temperature is now cooler. One hot day in October does not a "climate change" make, but what are the changes and patterns that could be unfolding even now? It takes a lot of data and learned researchers to sort it all out. Historically, much of that data has been provided by the amateur birder who reports his or her findings. We all need to be doing that now. Let us not miss an indicator of biological change by failing to report what we see now that is unusual. As an example, check the e-bird link at the Cornell Lab website, (www.ebird.org), for red-breasted nuthatch reports in the four state region including Ohio for the last month or two. You will see a graph spike abruptly appear indicating 28% of reports included this species. In this prime birding area, especially during migration, changes may be unfolding that will yield valuable scientific insights, if we see them, and report them. I urge you to up your commitment to reporting especially to the Cleveland Bird Calendar, but also the Ohio-bird listserve, Project Feederwatch, Christmas Bird Count and other databanks. But the fall season will soon be behind us and winter birding with the challenging gulls, horned larks and larkspur chases will be here. Will it be another winter with an open water Lake Erie? How will it effect what we see?

On another topic; you may have noticed that we have a very healthy treasury. I would be interested to know if the membership has any thoughts about how this treasury best serves the club. In other words, should some of it be put to work helping the birds? Helping the birders? Please e-mail or call me if you have thoughts to share. lchapman@yahoo.com or 216-731-2867.

~ ~Lisa Chapman

SEASONAL REPORTS

Your Fall report is due **December 10**

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
or at KBC meetings

Holiday Gifts



Available at KBC Meetings

- ◆ Gift Memberships - \$17.00
- ◆ Birds of Cleveland - \$20.00
- ◆ Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region - \$5.00
- ◆ KBC Patches - \$4.00
- ◆ KBC 2008 Monthly Calendar - \$15.00

Or contact KBC
at 216 741-2352 for orders

◆ \$19.99 Subscription (Fundraiser) to Bird Watcher's Digest make wonderful gifts. Call 800 879-2473 and mention Kirtland Bird Club. BWD will give our club \$10.00 for every new subscription.

Start your holiday shopping at the December KBC meeting. Remember to bring cash or your checkbook!

Ohio Winter Bird Atlas 2008

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory is coordinating the last year of the Winter Bird Atlas and we need your help to fill in blocks with little or no data. There are more than 120 blocks with no data and many others with less than 20 species. The blocks that need special attention can be found on our website at www.bsbobird.org. The Winter Bird Atlas is conducted during the month of January anywhere in Ohio and we are looking for people to count birds on a weekly basis if possible, 1-4 hours a morning preferably from the empty blocks or pick a quadrangle block near you from the Ohio Gazetteer DeLorme.

This is a great opportunity to venture out with friends and contribute to the Ohio winter bird knowledge. More information is available on www.bsbobird.org or call the Observatory at 419 898-4070 and we will send you an information packet or answer your questions.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Kirtland Bird Club
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