



# 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  
Winter 2008-2009, Issue No. 1

## KBC Monthly Meetings

Guests are welcome!

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

**Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:30 PM**

**"Bill Deininger's Bird Videos"**  
Presented by Bill Deininger

The program will focus on a number of short videos, some funny snippets, some unusual behaviors, and some questions to answer. This is an informal presentation and the club is encouraged to interact with the speaker. Share your own stories, make comments, ask questions. A lively dialogue is encouraged.

**Wednesday, January 7th at 7:30 PM**

**"Rails of the Lake Erie Marshes"**  
Presented by Auriel Van Der Laar

Auriel's program is on rails, some of the most elusive birds in the marshes. Exciting research has been taking place over the last few years to discover more about these birds, what habitats they prefer, and when they are passing through this area. While the research is ongoing, it has revealed some interesting aspects of these fascinating birds. Come and learn about the new pilot project regarding radio telemetry and learn about one of Ohio's endangered species, the King Rail.

**Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30 PM**

**"Southern California: Birding the Coast, Desert, and Mountains"**  
Presented by David Dvorak

Dave will present an ecosystem approach to Southern California with birds, other wildlife, and plants shown in their natural habitats. The program will feature such birding hotspots as the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Preserve and Torrey Pines State Nature Preserve.

## Monthly Field Trips

**Saturday, December 20th**

**Cleveland Christmas Bird Count**

Call Lisa Chapman at 216 731-2867 if you are interested in joining a count group.

**Saturday, January 24th at 9:00 AM**  
**E72nd St**

Jerry Talkington will lead us in search of gulls.

**Directions:** Cleveland Memorial Shoreway/I-90 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive exit. Proceed west on North Marginal Drive to the first East 72nd Street parking lot and drive to the farthest western end.

**Saturday, February 7th at 8:00 AM**

**Meet at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in Bay Village**

We will visit locations along the western shoreline with Craig Caldwell our leader looking for wintering ducks and gulls.

**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. Turn right (north) and meet at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road. Car pool from LENS.

**KBC Winter Potluck Get Together**

**Saturday, February 7th**  
**6:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

Canalway Visitor Center, E.49th Street  
Cuyahoga Heights.

Bring a dish to share

Place setting, honey baked ham & soft drinks provided

**Directions:** I-77 to Grant Ave. exit. Go west on Grant Ave. to E. 49th St. Turn left on E. 49th St. Settlers Bluff Picnic Area is on the right. Park entrance will be on the right (1/3 mile). Turn right into Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation on Whittlesey Way. CanalWay Visitor Center is at the end of the road.

For info call Henry Burton at 216 255 1919

## Lakefront salute to an early birder

Plain Dealer Aerial View - October 30, 2008

By Jim McCarty

You won't read a front-page obituary about Tom LePage or find a death notice in the Metro section. There wasn't a funeral or even a memorial service -



Tom LePage  
September, 1925 - October 2008

he specifically requested that no one make a fuss after he died.

Rather, birders who knew LePage raised a toast in his honor or said a little prayer. Lord knows he deserved all of this recognition and more.

LePage was 83 when he died of natural causes about a week ago in his apartment in Rocky River. A coroner's investigator found him in a

chair that had been a gift of appreciation from the Kirtland Bird Club for his decades of volunteer work.

LePage never married. He lived an ascetic life devoted almost entirely to watching birds. For years, he stayed at the West Side Cleveland YMCA, choosing to invest the bulk of his funds in birding gear and field trips.

He was part of an exclusive group of veteran Northeast Ohio birders who pursued the hobby before it was popular, and he laid the foundation for much of our birding history today. His peers were Bill and Nancy Klamm, Larry Rosche, Dick and Jean Hoffman, Elinor Elder, Jerry Talkington, Ray Hannikman, Emil Bacik, Woody Stover, Dave Corbin and John Pogacnik.

Although unable to drive, he continued to attend Kirtland Club meetings, courtesy of Paula Lozano.

For 30 years, he was the chief compiler of Cleveland's Christmas Bird Count and a frequent contributor to the "Cleveland Bird Calendar."

LePage was a mentor to countless area birders.

"I'd often go birding with Tom," said Vince Lucas, formerly of Westlake, who shared a passion for stamp collecting with LePage. "He taught me a lot as

I was just a beginner birder at the time. He was very knowledgeable and a decent human being."

Jim Heflich of South Euclid offered a heartfelt testimonial. "Probably never has there been such a combination - extreme humility and superstar birding skills."

Rob Harlan remembered LePage as "a good birder, a good friend and, most importantly, a good man - a shining example of what every birder should aspire to be."

As a legacy, three of his photographs of rarities are included in Rosche's essential book, "Birds of the Cleveland Region." They include shots of Ohio's first record of a sharp-tailed sandpiper, at Dike 14 in 1984; a yellow-crowned night-heron at the Rocky River Reservation in 1980; and a Heerman's gull in Lorain in 1980.

He also was credited with finding the state's first-ever tufted duck and royal tern and a first-ever summer record of a rough-legged hawk at Wildwood Park.

"Tom was truly old-school and sought no notoriety for himself," Rosche said. "He was the kindest gentleman you would ever meet and . . . a class guy who, with Bill and Nancy Klamm, made the lakefront a legendary birding hot spot. He found numerous lifers for many a young Turk and was always happy to show anyone any cool bird.

"All of us saluted the lakefront today in his honor."



**SEASONAL REPORTS for  
The Cleveland Bird Calendar  
Your Fall report is due  
December 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**

**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  
PROFIT & LOSS  
September 2007 through August 2008**

	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expense</b>	
Book Income		Accounting	300.00
Retail BOC	75.72	Awards	
Retail Field Guide	37.34	Scholarship	200.00
S & H, sales tax	16.94	Total Awards	200.00
Wholesale BOCR	70.00	Bank Fees	41.03
Book Income - Other	15.75	BOCR	
Total Book Income	215.75	envelopes	13.21
Calendar		postage	4.50
2008	830.48	Total BOCR	17.71
S&H, sales tax	56.52	Calendar expense	846.91
Total Calendar	887.00	CBC Online	
CBC Donations	100.00	postage	0.80
Contribution, unrestricted	915.45	Software	221.88
Interest Earned	882.24	Total CBC Online	222.68
Lifetime Member	0.00	Cleve Bird Cal	788.17
Membership dues	3,530.00	Donations	1,020.40
Scholarship fund	100.00	Liability Insurance	300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	6,630.44	Miscellaneous	
		Other gifts	19.30
		Total Miscellaneous	19.30
		News&Postage	889.30
		Office Expense	
		Postage	0.97
		printing	17.37
		Software	53.86
		Office Expense - Other	0.05
		Total Office Expense	72.25
		Pay Pal expense	4.86
		Rare Bird Alert	
		Phone Bills	209.40
		Total Rare Bird Alert	209.40
		Rest Room Rental	101.17
		Room Rent	400.00
		sales Tax paid	65.32
		Speaker	955.88
		Tax exempt filing fee	
		Ohio fee	50.00
		Total Tax exempt filing fee	50.00
		Web hosting fee	
		internic renewal	35.90
		Web hosting fee - Other	155.40
		Total Web hosting fee	191.30
		Total Expense	6,695.68
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-65.24</b>

**KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2008**

	<b>Aug 31, 08</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
6 month CD	\$25,599.96
Business Checking	\$1,503.16
Money Market	\$4,976.10
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>\$32,079.22</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$32,079.22</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$32,079.22</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
Youth/scholarship camps	\$1,510.00
Two-year operating	\$13,000.00
CBC-online	\$4,288.00
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>\$18,798.00</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$13,281.22</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$32,079.22</b>

## Tom LePage Scholarship Fund

At the November KBC pre-meeting, members shared remembrances of the birding experiences they had with Tom LePage. All who attended wanted the club to do something that would keep the memory of Tom's name going forward. The members decided to name the KBC Scholarship Fund in his honor. Along with this remembrance, KBC member, Sheldon Lewin asked that a past donation of \$3000 made to the club in his name be directed to this fund.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in the memory of Tom LePage, be sure to indicate that your gift be directed to the Tom LePage Scholarship Fund.

## Ohio Avian Project Initiative Program Grant

KBC has received several applications to fund Ohio avian projects. All applicants are worthy candidates and will be asked to complete a full application to be considered by the OAPI Committee, said OAPI committee chair, Scott VanValkenburg. The committee's selection and funding amount will be brought before the KBC membership for vote at the March meeting per the program's guidelines. VanValkenburg stated that it is wonderful that the start of this project is a success.

## Robin Kriegs, Niece of Former KBC Member, Donates Slides and Notes

KBC recently received a collection of 1,000 slides of banded birds from the estate of the late KBC member Annette Flanigan-Steadman. The collection was donated to KBC by her niece, Robin Kriegs, of Nokomis, Florida. Kriegs traveled to Cleveland on August 22 from Racine, Wisconsin, where she was visiting her son. She and her brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Carol Heisterkamp, met with ten KBC members at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to deliver the collection.

Flanigan-Steadman was a KBC member and editor of the Cleveland Bird Calendar in the 1960s and 1970s. She lived in Waite Hill and moved to Florida in 1975, where she banded birds until 1995. She passed away on February 14, 2008. KBC officers will safeguard the slide collection and notes and determine how to process them for historical purposes.



### Time is running out...

**If the box on the back of this issue is checked, we have not received your KBC membership renewal!!!**

## Donations Received in Memory of Jean Karolyi

Norm & Linda Eager, Ken & Sharon Keener,  
Thelma Keener, Dr & Mrs. David Kroner, Marilyn  
Palermo, Linda Warfield, Catherine Whittaker

Thank You



KBC members were on hand at the Museum of Natural History on August 22 when Robin Kriegs, niece of late KBC member Annette Flanigan-Steadman, donated her aunt's collection of 1,000 slides of banded birds to KBC. From left to right are Dick Rickard, Dick Hoffman, Perry Peskin, Jean Hoffman, Ms. Kriegs, Jerry Talkington, Bert Szabo, Suzanne Wagner, and Tom Romito.



KBC Recording Secretary Tom Romito, center, receives the collection of slides of banded birds belonging to the estate of late KBC member Annette Flanigan-Steadman, donated by her niece, Robin Kriegs, right. KBC member Perry Peskin is on the left.

## Some of Tom LePage's Sightings

**Tom's sightings first appeared  
in *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*  
in Vol 71 No4, Fall issue of 1975**

- November 22, 1975, 1,100 Whistling Swans  
Edgewater Beach
- September 28, 1975, 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers  
Burke Lakefront Airport, new fall record.
- October 19, 1975, 1 female Lapland Longspur,  
White City
- December 8, 1976, 1 Purple Sandpiper  
East 55<sup>th</sup> Street Marina
- April 4, 1976, 1 Northern Saw-whet Owl  
Donald Gray Gardens
- May 16, 1976, Clay-colored Sparrow,  
Shipman Pond, Mentor Marsh  
first *BIRD CALENDAR* record
- July, 8, 1976, 22 Ruddy Turnstones,  
Burke Lakefront Airport
- November 20, 1976, Northern Shrike  
old Brooklyn Airport

- September 11, 1976, Lawrence's Warbler  
Donald Gray Gardens, first recorded fall sighting
- October 31, 1976, Lapland Longspur  
Gordon Park landfill
- February 6, 1977, blue-phase Snow Goose  
Sunset pond, North Chagrin Metropark
- December 11, 1977, Surf Scoter  
Perkins Beach
- February 13, 1977, Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Lorain Harbor
- December 12, 1977, Northern Shrike  
Lakeview Cemetery
- October 9, 1977, Northern Phalarope,  
White City
- September 25, 1977, Bobolink  
White City, first fall record
- July 30, 1977, Nesting Upland Sandpipers  
Burke Airport
- March 25, 1978, Hoary Redpoll  
Akron, last to report

## Tom's Photos



## KBC 12 Month 2009 Calendar

The 2009 KBC Calendar will be on sale at the December monthly meeting for \$15.00 or contact Delores Cole to order 440 461-1084. Supply is limited!



### Photos

January: Snow Bunting, Photo by John Pogacnik	July: Long-billed Dowitcher Photo by Jerry Talkington
February: Common Redpoll Photo by Sally Isacco	August: Red-tailed Hawk Photo by David Dvorak
March: Common Teal Photo by Jerry Talkington	September: Whimbrel Photo by Jerry Talkington
April: Audubon's Warbler Photo by Jerry Talkington	October: Rusty Blackbird Photo by Mary Anne Romito
May: Blue Grosbeak Photo by Ethan Kistler	November: Pileated Woodpecker Photo by Delores Cole
June: Eastern Kingbird Photo by Anna Julnes	December: Long-eared Owl Photo by Robert Roach

### Other Events

#### December

December 9th, Ottawa NWR Auto Tour, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

#### December Christmas Bird Counts in Northern Ohio:

**December 14th**, Cuyahoga Falls, Marie Morgan, [m.morgan3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.morgan3@sbcglobal.net)

**December 20th**, Cleveland, Lisa Chapman, 216 731-2867

**December 21st**, Fremont, BSBO 419 898-4070

**December 28th**, Lakewood, Nancy Howell, 216 231-4600 ext 3225

**January 1st**, Burton, Linda Gilbert, [lkg38@adelphia.net](mailto:lkg38@adelphia.net)

**January 4th**, Ottawa NWR, Tom Bartlett

#### January

**January 10th – 8 AM to 2 PM**

Eagle Survey at The Wilds.

Visit [www.thewilds.org](http://www.thewilds.org) for info.

Greetings fellow KBC Members,

This is my first writing in the Kirtland Warbler and I am going to write about an area of enjoyment in our common passion---birding.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> my daughter Olivia and I attended the Ohio Young Birders 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in the Holmes county area of Ohio. The weather was great; blue sky, comfortable temperatures, and dry with a very light breeze. The birding was good and steady with many of the top birders young and old in the state of Ohio. Great talks from the up and coming birders at the conference added to this engaging day. But this was just the bonus to what I consider the best part of this experience. Are you now asking yourself, "what more could there be"?

To me the best part of this birding day was the community of birders. At this event there were many more people than I expected. Birders of all ages came from all over the state – the northwest, northeast, and central Ohio. Many adults who attended did not have children in the OYBC, but they attended as supporters of this great club. As this group of birders enjoyed the day you could feel the enjoyment from the smiles on the faces, the tone in their voices, and the "spring in their step". There was this passion of birding that we all shared but we all shared another blessing----our company. So all my fellow club members go out there and support great clubs like OYBC, enjoy the passion of birding, and as you do that, enjoy the company of a great group of people young and old---birders.

Henry Burton, KBC Vice-President

### Other Events (cont'd)

#### January 10th – 9 AM to 11 AM

Winter Gulls with CMNH. Fee  
Visit [www.cmnh.org](http://www.cmnh.org) for info.

#### February

##### February 1st – 9 AM to ??

**BSBO's Winter Blues Blow-out Party**  
Killdeer Plains WA Sportsman's Center

Morning Birding and a lunch potluck at the center.  
Call 419 898-4070 for info. Free.

##### February 7th – 9 AM to 3 PM

**Birding in Lorain County with CMNH.**  
Fee. Visit [www.cmnh.org](http://www.cmnh.org) for info.

##### February 28th 9 AM to 11 AM

Winter Raptors with CMNH. Fee  
Visit [www.cmnh.org](http://www.cmnh.org) for info.



# Kirtland Bird Club Membership Application

Membership year - September 1st - August 31

Time to renew

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, send my newsletter by email.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ The Cleveland Bird Calendar Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Patch

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Make check payable to Kirtland Bird Club. Thank you for your support!

- \$17 - Individual
- \$28 - Couple
- \$8 - Student
- \$4 - KBC Patch

**Mail to:**  
**Kirtland Bird Club**  
**C/O Mary Anne Romito**  
**4310 Bush Ave**  
**Cleveland, Ohio 44109**

Lisa Chapman - President  
 Henry Burton - Vice President  
 Mary Anne Romito - Treasurer  
 Tom Romito - Recording Secretary  
 Delores Cole - Corresponding Secretary  
 Fred Dinkelbach - Editor, Cleveland Bird Calendar  
 Vacant - Weekend Trip Coordinator  
 Vacant—Monthly Field Trip Coordinator  
 Scott Val Valkenburg - OAPL Grant Program Chair  
 Vacant - Christmas Bird Count Compiler  
 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

**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*