



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio  
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org & www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2011—2012 Membership Year, No. 2, Winter Issue

## Monthly Meetings

Cleveland Museum of Natural History — Guests are always welcome! Parking is free.  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday December 7, 2011

#### Highlighting Recent Ornithological Journal Articles

Presented by Dr. Andy Jones

The number of research papers published every year involving birds is staggering. Journals like *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, and many others publish dozens of papers per year. Many of these papers are fairly impenetrable due to technical jargon, and only a handful of these papers make their way into the popular realm where birders can learn about the exciting scientific discoveries. Dr. Andy Jones will highlight some of the most exciting research results in ornithology in 2010, focusing on those with relevance to birding.

Andy Jones, Ph.D. is the William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Andy was among 35 prominent American ornithologists to be named an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 2009. After completing his Ph.D. at the famous Bell Museum of Natural History, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Jones co-authored research that revised the taxonomy of the terns of the world, and is pursuing similar work on the pygmy-owls. His work also involves the evolutionary history of birds in the Philippines and Appalachians. Andy is an editorial consultant to the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, chair of the research committee at Black Swamp Bird Observatory and former editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*.

### Wednesday January 4, 2012 Responsible Wind Energy

Presented by Mark Shieldcastle

Every spring and fall many millions of birds migrate long distances between nesting grounds in Canada or the northern United States and wintering grounds in the southern U.S. or the tropics. These birds mostly fly at night and spend the days resting and feeding within stopover habitats. Within North America a few areas are major stopover habitats, critically important to the

survival of large numbers of birds. One such region involves a series of sites along the south shore of Lake Erie, in the northwestern part of Ohio known as the Lake Erie Marsh Region.

The stopover areas that support the migratory birds and bats in this region also support wind resources of great interest to the wind power industry, which now proposes to build wind turbines nearby. Cumulative effects of wind turbines on migratory birds and bats (e.g. direct mortality, avoidance, and disturbance to stopover and breeding) have not been addressed scientifically at a major stopover location nor are there regulations enforcing sound scientific reviews of development actions. The issues surrounding wind turbines in bird sensitive areas, such as the Lake Erie Marshes, sound science, and the conservation ethic will be discussed during this program.

Mark has a degree in Wildlife Management from Ohio State University. He was on staff at Ohio State with the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit before accepting a position with the Ohio Division of Wildlife where he has spent thirty-two years as a Wildlife Biologist specializing in avian research. Last year he retired as Project Leader of Wetland Wildlife Research. Mr. Shieldcastle is currently employed as Director of Research for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

### Wednesday February 1, 2012 An Epic Alaskan Arctic Adventure

Presented by Lukas Padegimas

Lukas will share his summer experiences as a volunteer for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at a remote four person field camp at Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Alaska, with the Arctic Shorebird Network. It is a story of an intensive study of nesting shorebirds, survival and adventure in this remarkably wild place. His summer experience was supported, in part, by scholarships from the Kirtland Bird Club and the Ohio Young Birders Club.

Lukas has been fascinated by birds since he saw a scarlet tanager on a bird walk in 2004. His love for shorebirds came after a

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**REMEMBER: Pay your 2011—2012 membership dues, ASAP!**

## Glenn on Citizen Science, etc.

As I become more involved in birding, I am continually impressed with the amount of research being performed in a number of areas related to ornithology. Years ago, as an undergraduate enrolled in an ornithology course at Kent State, the professor, Dr. Ralph W. Dexter, pointed out that this scientific field was one of very few (perhaps including some aspects of astronomy) where the general public had the opportunity to contribute significantly to knowledge. This has indeed been the case. To illustrate, the current issue of *Birdscope*, published by the Cornell lab of ornithology, contained a lead article entitled "eBird Users Supply Information for Landmark Report". Ken Rosenberg, director of conservation at the lab, noted that the State of the Birds report demonstrated what eBird can do to provide information for setting priorities and allotting finite resources for conservation purposes. eBird, of course, is primarily a citizen science initiative. Our efforts are not only enjoyable, but also make a difference.

On a more professional level, the 9 September issue of *Science* magazine, a primary reference journal, included three articles related to birds. In hummingbirds, it was found that during courtship, which is accompanied by dramatic aerial dives, feather shape influenced the sounds produced. As cited from another journal, recorded songs of great tits (*Parus major*) from a Dutch forest showed that the birds shifted from low to high frequency songs to be heard above urban noise. However, females preferred males with the lower frequencies so the switch had an effect on breeding

behavior. Finally, it has been known that migrating birds that fly long distances without stopping use fat as an energy source. Water is also essential for prolonged flight. Gerson et al, working with Swainson's thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*) showed that breakdown of proteins was essential to water production and that flying in more humid environments lessened the use of stored energy reserves. So, the loss of muscle and organ mass noted in migrating birds was a normal result of keeping the bird's body in balance.



I hope that some of our members had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Birding Symposium. I could only spend one day but had a most enjoyable and informative experience.

Please keep in mind that KBC is always looking for quality speakers for our monthly meetings. If you know of someone who you think might have a presentation, do not hesitate to let us know.

Good Birding!  
Glenn,  
KBC President

## Christmas Bird Count

Kirtland Bird Club's CBC, officially named The Cleveland CBC, will be **Saturday, December 17, 2011**. Please join in this historical bird census

For those who don't already know, The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 to promote conservation of birds, rather than the killing of birds for trophies and decorations. Now in its second century, it has evolved into being far more: the results are accepted and used by scientists and conservationists and considered the best tool available for assessing the long-term trends of the early winter bird populations.

The area covered by thousands of birders, all counting every bird they see or hear, is vast. *American Birds*, the official Count publication reports CBC summaries for all of the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Belize, Mexico, Guam, Bermuda and the West Indies.

CBCs are open to anyone at all levels of birding skill. In fact, it is yet another way to get out to enjoy the camaraderie and knowledge of those with a similar passion. There is a \$5 fee to participate which your leader will accept on Count day. Anyone who wants to join this 112 year old international bird census may contact **Jerry Talkington**, count compiler, by phone (440-946-0063) or e-mail, ([jerry073352@att.net](mailto:jerry073352@att.net)).



**Glaucous Gull**, reported from Cleveland count circle, CBC 2010, the only one reported in the Ohio/West Virginia/Kentucky area.

Many birders like to participate in more than one CBC. Counts in our 7-county region are:

**Cleveland (KBC)—Saturday, December 17, 2011**  
**Lakewood—Friday, December 30, 2011**  
**Burton—Sunday, January 1, 2012**  
**Wellington—Wednesday, December 28, 2011**  
**Cuyahoga Falls—Sunday, December 18, 2011**  
**Elyria/Lorain—Saturday, December 17, 2011**

You can get an entire listing of Ohio Counts, with the contact information at [www.Ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter](http://www.Ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter).

## Programs...continued from page 1

family vacation to Henlopen State Park in Delaware. Since then, he has been greatly interested in conservation and the study of these remarkable birds. Other than birding, his interests include traveling, culture, the arts and living the dream.

**Please read Lukas's article, Page 3, for more information.**

This issue of *The Kirtland Warbler* was reviewed and edited by Warbler Committee members: Su Snyder, Dick Hoffman, Dwight Chasar, Ann Chasar and Gretchen Larson.

## Extended Field Trips, 2012

**Your Input is Needed!** Almost 50% of our field trips have been canceled due to the lack of registrants, including the Hawk Mountain and Niagara Falls trips. At this time nothing is scheduled for 2012.

We need input from you to determine whether there is an interest in continuing this membership benefit. When the KBC Van Trips began many years ago, they were a way for members to learn of birding sites and a way to hone birding skills with others of varying skill level. Members enjoyed the group camaraderie while being shown new venues and seeing birds not easily found in their hometown. Times have changed and this might be why it seems there is not much interest in taking group birding trips. Information describing where to find great birds is instantaneously available at our fingertips, there are now more birding organizations in our area, offering field trips of their own, and bird tour groups abound, as do birding festivals.

Is there an interest in continuing these trips? There is a certain amount of time and expense expended in setting up these trips; we, therefore, need to know there will be interest before going further. Certainly, there are challenges, but they can be overcome if there is enough interest to fill the vans. Is there a trip that you would really like to participate in? Perhaps we should schedule one big trip a year. Or, is it time to keep the memories and move on? What are your ideas?

Please fill out the survey found within this newsletter. It is also on the website under Forms. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated. Return your survey to me at the December meeting or you may scan and attach to an email. You may also send to my home address found in the KBC roster.

Thank you,  
Eileen

Extended Trip Coordinator  
[ezimlich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ezimlich@sbcglobal.net) or 216-509-4204.

## Local Field Trips: SEE BACK PAGE

One of the benefits of KBC membership is participation in the local field trips. Our club is in need of a person or persons to coordinate these trips. It would be a shame for our club to let this group birding opportunity be a thing of the past. Won't you consider stepping up to this endeavor and helping KBC keep up this long-time and vital benefit of KBC?

This is an ideal position for a couple of birding pals, working as a team; OR just you!

If you would like to volunteer call or email Glenn Novotny, President; [grn52443@hotmail.com](mailto:grn52443@hotmail.com) AND/OR, if you'd like to lead a trip, likewise contact Glenn.

## An Epic Alaskan Artic Adventure

Early on 4 July, 2011, I stepped from a float plane, back on to flat ground, for the first time in many weeks. Euphoria swept through me as I reentered the world of civilization with its gravel roads, hot showers, cell phones, electric lighting and materialistic people. Sure, Kotzebue is a poor excuse for a town as we know it. It's more of a village where early 1990s ghetto style is still at the prime of popularity; where half the people hunt and gather for a living; where scientific expeditions fly in and set out for the mountains, and where silver coinage is freely used to acquire those small precious \$16 bags of chips. After spending more than six weeks on the tundra of tussock grass and swamp, Kotzebue felt like total civilization. The respect one gains for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is grand after such experience.

And the experience itself was a day to remember. After all, having passed miles beyond the edge of the North Pole, the sun would continue to shine above our heads for the whole continuation of this field study. Besides gathering information for a long term study on why all nesting Arctic shorebirds are declining, our crew had numerous adventures – from heading back to the ice age and witnessing the movement of hundreds of Musk Oxen coming down from the mountains, to rafting to an island in time to see the devastation a local fox brought to countless Glaucous Gull chicks on South Island and beyond. The fight for survival is grand – to eat or be eaten, to protect your nest with your life, or flee.

Our field camp stationed itself at Cape Kruzenstern National Monument, a place that is unconquerable by civilization for its extreme climatic conditions, and inaccessibility. It is a place that has only been slightly studied and a great deal remains to be discovered. The feeling of stepping on a piece of land where no one else stood can not be matched in many places on Earth. Here our group carried out intensive searches of our plots to study the breeding populations of Semipalmated Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Red-necked Phalarope. Unlike the Buff-breasted Sandpipers breeding in other parts of the Arctic, these species have not suffered major declines. A point of no return, however, is all too easily passed. Our research focused on gathering climate data, food resource data, and breeding success rates.



**Red-necked Phalarope**

Together with 12 other field camps, we were part of the Arctic Shorebird Network whose goal was to pinpoint the limiting factors to population growth of these remarkable birds and the effect that climate change will have on them. The effects of climate change are already visible in the Arctic. The weather becomes more unpredictable every year with its greater temperature swings and precipitation levels, premature thawing, and rising water levels. The nesting Arctic birds are one hardy lot.

The question remains, however, will they survive far into the future, or are they doomed to failure? And would the knowledge we gather allow for some to be saved from following the path of the Great Auk and Dodo?

**Lukas Padegimas**

**Come to the KBC meeting February 1, 2012 and enjoy Lukas's presentation on his Alaskan experiences.**

**EXTENDED FIELD TRIP SURVEY**

**November, 2011**

We need input from the KBC membership to determine whether there is an interest in continuing the extended field trips. Please answer the following short survey questions. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please print this form, fill it out and bring to the December meeting or scan and then email it to Eileen at ezimlich@sbcglobal.net.

1. Circle which you would prefer to do: a. car-pool b. rent a van

2. If you've NOT gone on any trips in the past two years, please tell us why not by selecting all that apply:

- a. I don't like to travel in close quarters
- b. The trips costs too much
- c. I don't like the locations
- d. I prefer to do my own traveling
- e. I'm too busy.
- f. I prefer traveling with professional bird guides.
- g. other reasons \_\_\_\_\_

3. A 3-day, 2-night van trip usually costs between \$250 — \$300 for lodging and travel. You buy your food. Is the cost  
a. too much, b. reasonable, OR c. too little?

4. Please suggest a day trip destination you would not want to miss: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please suggest a destination for a longer trip you'd not want to miss: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How interested would you be in going on a week-long trip?  
a. very interested, b. somewhat interested, c. not at all interested.

7. Please suggest a week trip you would not want to miss: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please indicate the likelihood of participating in the following trips, if offered:	<b><u>in 2012:</u></b>	<b><u>in 2013:</u></b>
Feb – (3 day) Sault Ste Marie, MI (boreal species) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Mar – (1 day) Killdeer Plains, OH (hawks, owls, waterfowl) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
April – (3 day) Lake Hope, OH (early migrants) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
June – (1 day) Killbuck Marsh (barn owl +) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
June – (3 day) Peterson Institute, NY .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
June – (3 day) Milo, MI (Kirtland's warbler) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Aug – (1 day) Columbus parks (shorebirds, rails+) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Sept. – (1 day) Michigan hawk watch .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Oct. – (3 day) Hawk Mt, PA (hawk watch).....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Oct. – (3 day) Montezuma NW Refuge, NY (waterfowl+) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely
Nov. – (3 day) Niagara Falls (gulls, waterfowl) .....	___ likely ___ not likely	___ likely ___ not likely

9. Additional comments and ideas: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Thank You!***

If you have questions about this survey contact Eileen, ezimlich@sbcglobal.net or Susan, susanj@windstream.net

# Kirtland Bird Club

## Profit & Loss

September 2010 — August 2011

### Income

Total Book Income	\$86.50
CBC Donations	\$420.00
CBC mailing assistance	\$350.00
CD sales	\$15.00
Contribution, unrestricted	\$2,189.73
Interest Earned	\$231.28
Membership Dues	\$3,180.80
Patches	\$23.00
Tom LePage Scholarship Fund	\$16.00

Total Income \$6,512.31

### Expenses

Accounting	\$300.00
Scholarship	\$500.00
Bank Fees	\$50.00
Birds of Cleveland	\$2.41
CBC Online	\$306.22
Cleveland Bird Calendar	\$1,203.83
Donations	\$700.00
Liability Insurance	\$350.00
News & Postage	\$899.68
OAPI	\$1,000.00
Office Expense	\$9.52
Pay Pal expense	\$14.68
Rare Bird Alert	\$198.88
Equipment repairs	\$709.98
Room Rent	\$360.00
Sales Tax paid	\$7.35
Speakers	\$600.00
Total Tax exempt filing fee	\$50.00

Total Expense \$7,262.55

Net Income -750.24

The bottom line shows a deficit reflecting current economics. The membership has stabilized and expenses exceed the club's income. Fortunately KBC has "rainy day" savings and generous folks make donations to support the publication of *The Cleveland Bird Calendar*. Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible.

*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](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org).

# This, Just IN... Local Field Trip!

**Editor's Note:** Craig Caldwell (KBC and WCA member) has made this Western Cuyahoga Audubon field trip a joint one by inviting KBC members along. Let's return the compliment with a really good turnout of KBC members.

Thanks, Craig!

**Saturday, February 18, 2012 8 :00 AM**

## Gulls and Waterfowl

Leader: Craig Caldwell

Meet at RTA Park-n-Ride lot, Sperry Road, north of I-90 off Columbia Road, Westlake, Ohio. Participants may carpool from the RTA lot.

Winter in Cleveland means Gulls and Waterfowl all along the Lake Erie shore. Bring a scope if you have one, and dress for icy blasts off the lake. We will visit the current winter "hot" spots.

If you are driving via I-90, exit at Columbia Road and go north. Sperry Drive is on the right, very close to I-90. Turn right on Sperry and drive a short distance. The RTA lot will be on the left.

If you are taking I-480, exit at Great Northern Blvd. going north. Follow Great Northern to Lorain Rd. Turn right (east) on Lorain Rd. Turn left (north) on Columbia Rd. Follow Columbia passing over I-90 and turn right on Sperry Dr. Drive a short distance. The entrance to the RTA lot will be on the left.

A map is at:

[www.mapquest.com/?version=1.0&hk=9-iOL6M5Y5](http://www.mapquest.com/?version=1.0&hk=9-iOL6M5Y5)



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Jerry Talkington • Christmas Bird Count Compiler  
Andy Lihani & Bob Finkelstein • Scholarship Fund Co-chairs  
Larry Rosche • Honorary Lifetime Member  
Ed Pierce • Honorary Lifetime Member

Publications:  
*The Cleveland Bird Calendar*  
*Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region*  
*Birds of the Cleveland Region*