THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2019—2020 Membership Year, No. 1, Fall Issue

Monthly Meetings

Guests are always welcome — Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
1st Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:30 PM

Wednesday September 4, 2019

Kirtland Bird Club field trip and dinner meeting

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, 6:30-8:00 PM

Members and guests are invited to attend a field trip to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve instead of meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. After the walk we will meet at Muldoon's Saloon & Eatery to have some food and informal discussion of the club's future

Directions to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd.

From I-90 take exit 177 for Martin Luther King Jr Dr.
Turn north on Martin Luther King Jr Dr.
After the stop sign, continue to your right onto Lakeshore Blvd.
CLNP will be on your left. Meet at the north end of the parking lot.

Directions from Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve to Muldoon's Saloon & Eatery, 1020 E 185th St,

Take Lakeshore Boulevard to Martin Luther King Jr Dr.
Go south on MLK for 0.2 miles.
Turn left to merge onto I-90E/OH-2 toward Erie PA.
Take Exit 182A to merge onto E 185th St.
At the light, turn left onto Villaview Rd. and immediately right into the parking lot at Muldoon's.

***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, as well as 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 always welcome.**

Monthly meetings

Wednesday October 2, 2019

Future of Kirtland Bird Club

Cleveland museum of Natural History, Class room A

7:30 pm

by Tom and Mary Anne Romito

The KBC board met on April 17 for its quarterly board meeting. We discussed the procedure for electing officers for the 2019-2020 program year. We also discussed what we would do if nobody ran for president and vice president.

At the May 1 meeting, President Dale Gaul announced the candidates for officers. They included Tom Romito for president, Laura Peskin for Recording Secretary, Anna Kozlenko for newsletter editor and webmaster, and Mary Anne Romito for treasurer, and Andy Jones as board-member-at large. Dale called for nominations for vice president, but there were none. Dale asked the candidates if they accepted their nominations for office. Tom said he accepted the nomination for president, provided that someone ran for vice president, but nobody did. For the past two years, Tom tried unsuccessfully to recruit anyone to serve as vice president when he became president.

Mary Anne noted that at their April 17 meeting, the officers decided that if there were no candidates for either president or vice president at the May meeting, we would hold a field trip on September 4 in lieu of a program meeting. Then on October 2 we would hold a membership meeting without a speaker to discuss the future of KBC.

The membership present at the May 1 meeting asked the board to write an article for the fall newsletter to explain this situation to all paid KBC members. This article provides that explanation.

The reality of the situation is that KBC cannot continue to exist without a president or vice president because the bylaws require them. Bylaws can only be changed with membership approval. In 2013, a committee of concerned members met and outlined five options for how to continue the club with or without officers. We will discuss those options at the October 2 meeting.

The current board members really hope that the membership will look at this meeting as an opportunity to help KBC become an active club whose goal is the study of ornithology, protection of birds habitats and is willing to help new members become better birders. We call on all paid members who care about KBC to attend the October 2 meeting.

If nobody attends, the board will decide on its own how to dispose of the treasury, laptop, projector, and banners, the *Cleveland Bird Calendar* and how to close out our non-profit status. Kirtland Bird Club has a long history in Northeast Ohio. We hope that most members will want to see KBC continue. Please come and be prepared to be an active and positive thinking member. Please consider becoming part of the board, either as vice-president or board member-at-large.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, DEVELOPED IN 2013

OPTION 1: CLOSURE	OPTION 2: COMMITTEES	OPTION 3: STATUS QUO	OPTION 4: MERGER	OPTION 5: ONE MEETING
Dispose of our funds, web sites, books, laptop, and projector.	Form a program committee and hold programs quarterly or annually. Also form a welcoming committee.	Continue to operate the way we do now, but hold quarterly (instead of monthly) program meetings.	Combine with another organization.	We would hold one business meeting per year to make decision on grants, awards, and the Cleveland Bird Calendar.
What to do with our funds can be discussed later.	Rotate volunteer moderators for the club meetings.	Members would have to volunteer to be president, VP, and corresponding sec'y.	Move our assets to the other organization.	An operating committee of five people (including a treasurer) could run the club.
	Suspend article of bylaws that require officers.	Support officers with program and welcoming committees.	We could discuss what to do with our funds at a later time.	We would still need a newsletter to keep people informed (maybe annually).
	Find someone to produce a newsletter and dues letters.	Hold dynamic presentations to attract people to join.		We would not have travel to CMNH for monthly meetings.
	Raise our profile through Facebook and Twitter.	Raise our profile through Facebook and Twitter.		We could cast votes on-line in lieu of meeting at all.
	This could be a stop-gap to inevitable closure.	This could be a stop-gap to inevitable closure.		
	Many volunteers will be necessary for this to work.	Many volunteers will be necessary for this to work.		

Which option do you most favor? _____

What other option (or combinations of these options) can you think of?

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Avian Surveys

By Laura Gooch

The systematic bird survey project at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) will complete its fifth full year at the end of this summer. Since a gradual beginning in July 2014, the volunteer survey team has performed 649 surveys (as of August 9, 2019), averaging about 2.4 surveys per week for the entire five years. Almost every week has had at least one survey, except for a few winter weeks when deep snow or persistent wind and cold have kept us away.

Surveyors have documented a total of 205 species at the site, with five new species noted in the past year. Liz McQuaid and her team had a banner day on 20 April, when they spotted two new species for the survey: Sandhill Crane and American Bittern. The bittern hung around long enough to be seen by quite a few other folks, too. Liz's team also spotted a Long-eared Owl in October. Ken Vinciquerra spotted a Dickcissel in October, and Laura Gooch spotted another in August. Dick Hoffman saw three Graylag Geese in late June.

It is interesting that the total species documented by our surveyors in the past five years is significantly smaller than the area's ebird total of 274 species. There are several reasons for this:

- The total species list for the site includes historical observations that were made while the area was being filled and while it still had mudflat habitat. There are about 25 shorebird species that have not been reported since 2000.
- The total species list includes rarities that have been seen seen only once or a very few times.
- Some species are seen far out on the lake from CLNP with the use of a spotting scope. Our surveys focus mainly on birds seen on CLNP itself, and only include birds that are close enough to the shore to be seen with binoculars.

Rigorous analysis of our CLNP data and comparison with point count data from Black Swamp Bird Observatory's (BSBO) Navarre field station in the Lake Erie western basin (a few kilometers from Magee Marsh) will be needed to define trends in the data and differences in bird movements along different parts of the Lake Erie shore. In the meantime, here are some casual observations about what we have seen this year and possible changes over the five-year period.

Three species that have been fairly common in summer in previous years have been scarce or abset through much of this summer:

- Red-eyed Vireos were present in average or above average numbers through the end of June, but they have been essentially absent since. In previous years, regular sightings along the Harrier Trail continued throughout the summer.
- In most years of the survey, Wood Thrush have been documented into mid July. 2018 was a particularly good year for this species, with above-average numbers noted throughout July and confirmed breeding. However, sightings of this species are down in 2019, with relatively few birds noted and none after the middle of July.

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Avian Surveys (continuation)

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo have been almost absent this summer.
- White-breasted Nuthatches were documented with unusual frequency from the fall of 2018 through the spring of 2019. This seems to have corresponded to a general movement south of birds that would normally have wintered farther north.
- Sightings of Yellow-rumped Warblers have shown a weak (and probably not statistically significant) downward trend over the period of the survey, and particularly over the past two years. Numbers seemed to be moderately down in the fall of 2017 and further down in the fall of 2018. Particularly few birds were seen last spring, which might have been a result of the unusually cold, wet weather.
- In contrast to Yellow-rumped Warblers, sightings of Magnolia Warblers show a weak upward trend over the period of the survey. This is mostly a fall phenomenon, with few birds typically noted in the spring.
- Unusual numbers of Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers were seen in the fall of 2018. This corresponded to an unusual number of at least Bay-breasted Warblers banded at Shaker Lakes.
- American Woodcock have been sighted regularly this summer, with two or three birds seen together on the path near the entrance bridge several times between the end of May and the beginning of July.

The original goal of our CLNP surveys was to collect three to five years of point count data that could be compared to point counts from BSBO in the western Lake Erie basin. With almost five years of data collected, we have fulfilled that goal. All survey data have been entered into a database, shared with BSBO, and uploaded to Cornell's ebird database. Data from our surveys may also be used in conjunction with Lights Out Cleveland data or local banding data.

As always, our survey's success is thanks entirely to the dedication of the volunteers. Ken Vinciquerra has completed 207 surveys, followed closely by Laura Gooch and Dick Hoffman. Liz McQuaid and her team have continued to survey at least once a month. Anna Kozlenko, Claire Johnson, Julie West, and new surveyor Ron Baker have all filled in on a regular basis. A few other folks have stepped up when we have needed extra help. All are greatly appreciated and integral to the project's success.

At least some of the surveyors find that going to CLNP weekly (and sometimes more often) and making systematic observation gives a kind of connection to the rhythm of seasons and patterns for bird movements that we don't want to give up. We are planning to continue the making regular surveys for the foreseeable future.

If you'd like to join the CLNP survey crew and gain the kinds of insights that regular, systematic surveys provide, we'd love to have you. You can contribute by surveying a day every now and then, one day a month, or one day a week. You are welcome to form a team and survey together or break the survey up amongst team members. If you are interested, contact Laura Gooch at lgooch@alum.mit.edu.

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Avian Surveys (continuation)

Finally, here are the CLNP surveys by the numbers, as of 9 August 2019:

- Surveys completed – 649
- Points counted – 10,765
- Species documented – 205
- Individuals birds counted during point counts – 262,966 (note that the same individuals will have been counted on multiple days)
- Hours spent counting at points – 897
- Total hours spent on surveys – 2,236
- Total checklists uploaded to eBird – 10,721 (one for each point count, plus an overall checklist for each survey)
- Number of volunteers who have participated – about 31
- Number of regular surveyors – 10-12

Kirtland Bird Club
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The Kirtland Warbler

On the web at: **www.KirtlandBirdClub.org**
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