Kirtland Bird Club of NE Ohio Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2025

1. **The meeting was started** by President Sean McCleery at 7:09 PM at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. There were 42 people present and another 20 screens on Zoom.
2. **Prior to the meeting, there was a bird walk** on the boardwalk, with a total of 20 people in one large group and others in smaller groups, and 20 species were observed, including a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 8 Common Nighthawks, at least 4 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a Piliated Woodpecker.
3. **Announcements.** New members and those for whom this was their first meeting were welcomed. Sean reviewed the history of the club and our mission statement. Also reviewed were activities and internet presence and the Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI) that rewarded grants totaling $6000 in 2025.
4. **Field Trip Recap.**
    a. The twilight boat cruise at Nimisila Reservoir in Portage County was hosted by the Portage County Purple Martin Association. Attendees witnessed thousands of Purple Martin coming into roost.
    b. At Canterbury Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, 70-100 Chimney Swifts were observed coming into roost in the chimney. This population is gradually declining.
5. **Upcoming events.**
    a. Friends of Heights Parks Native Plant Sale, Sat, September 6, 10 AM - 2PM at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.
    b. Headlands Birding Festival by the Friends of Headlands Beach State Park September 19-21, 2025.
    c. Horseshoe Lake: Looking for volunteers to conduct bird surveys at Horseshoe Park, documenting bird activity before, during, and after the Doan Brook restoration project. Commitment: at least 1 survey per month (1.5 - 2 hours per survey); If interested, contact Laura Gooch at lgooch@alum.mit.edu.

6. **Upcoming Field Trips**.
    a. 9/13/25 at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. Leader: Paula, who will see if Ken Vinciquerra can assist.
    b. 9/27/25 at Metzger Marsh with Gautam. Leader: Paula. No rain date.
    c. 10/11/25 Mentor Lagoon, Leader: Anna.
    d. 10/13/25 Big Sit at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center. Leaders: Julie West and Laura Gooch. All are welcome from dawn to dusk.
    e. 11/15/25 West Side lakeshore locations. Leader: Paula. This will start at Rocky River City Park, continue to Bradstreet's Landing and additional locations.
7. **Speaker** was Gautam Apte, talking about Morning Flight: a Season of Visible Migration. Gautam, who is a lifelong birder and field biologist, is originally from Shaker Heights. Having spent his early years enjoying the spectacles of bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie, he earned his degree in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Science from the Ohio State University. Most recently, he completed the first season of counting the spring migration as part of the monitoring project at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and is lucky to be returning for the inaugural fall season at that same site.
8. **Thank You to Patty Kellner** for the past 5+ years of service to the President of the Kirtland Bird Club.
9. **Next meeting will be** 10/8/25 at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. The Speaker will be Dave Tomashefski of the Meadow City Nursery. "Pollinator Town" is the subject of his presentation.
10. **Adjournment** . The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.