THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2019—2020 Membership Year, No. 2, Winter 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, December 4, 2019

Urban Birding Cleveland-Connecting to the Nature Around Us

Presented by Betsey O'Hagan

Betsey O'Hagan guides us through a pictorial retrospect of the recent 'Urban Birding with David Lindo' activities November 2-9, 2019, that welcomed UK birding celebrity, David Lindo, The Urban Birder to Northeast Ohio. The week-long extravaganza presented a broad spectrum of activities co-lead by Mr. Lindo and our region's finest citizen scientists, birders, and conservation-minded public. Participants explored iconic natural areas in the Lake Erie Basin, engaged with next generation birders, and investigated issues and restorative solutions to address the future challenges of wildlife, habitat, and people co-existing in changing urban landscapes.

In addition, Betsey will review Urban Birding Cleveland, a city-wide project catalyzed by Mr. Lindo's visit and adopted by conservation entrepreneurs and municipal leaders to connect residents and visitors to the wildlife and nature around them. Betsey will outline the urban birding model and next steps for citizens, organizations, and municipalities who want to get involved.

Biography: As a youth, Betsey grew up exploring the woods of Connecticut and camping and canoeing in the State of Maine. Music performance training brought her to the Cleveland Institute of Music and a career in teaching, performance, and program development. With the rise of the Internet and ability to communicate with people around the world in an instant, Betsey's skills as an innovative digital design architect and collaborative leader for transformation change grew. Today, Betsey dedicates her time to helping conservation organizations leverage the power of the Internet for business operations, entrepreneurial enterprise, and citizen science communications for future generations.

The Kirtland Warbler, the newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC), Cleveland Ohio, is published quarterly. It contains KBC meetings 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 submissions to the Editor, Anna Kozlenko or to annajulnes@yahoo.com

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Ornithology Discoveries in 2019

Presented by Dr. Andy Jones

Dr. Andy Jones returns for his annual talk to the Kirtland Bird Club to highlight the recent exciting findings from the world of ornitholgy. There are thousands of academic papers published every year on the biology of birds. These new discoveries are sometimes highlighted in newspapers, magazines, and on your Facebook feed, but far too many simply don't get the public attention that they deserve. Dr. Jones will highlight the taxonomic changes that birders will want to know about, as well as other discoveries that will simply make you a more observant and more informed birder. This talk will cover many exciting aspects of bird biology that were discovered in the last two years.

Dr. Jones received his BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and his PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota. He originally hails from east Tennessee, where his passion for natural history began at an early age; his current research involves the evolutionary history of birds from the Appalachian mountains as well as the Andes and the Philippines. Dr. Jones is responsible for the Museum's collection of avian specimens, which consists of approximately 30,000 study skins and 4,000 egg sets from the Ohio region and western North America as well as approximately 1,000 osteological specimens from Ohio. He is also responsible for specimen acquisition and preservation, maintenance of specimen records, and carrying out original research. His other tasks include providing various services to the scientific community, the media, the Museum's exhibitions and education divisions as well as the public at large. Dr. Jones was among 14 prominent American ornithologists to be named an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 2009, and in 2014 he was elected as Secretary of the AOU.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 21, 2019
Coordinator: Andy Jones

Description: The Kirtland Bird Club has a long tradition of supporting the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. There are groups that cover a variety of locations in parks, neighborhoods, and along the lakefront. Everyone is welcome to participate, including individuals who count birds at feeders in their yards. The map of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count circle is on the Kirtland Bird Club website at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Directions: To sign up for the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count on the East Side, contact Andy at ornitholoco@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Five Years of Systematic Surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Presented by Laura Gooch

A group of dedicated volunteers have been performing systematic bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) several times each week since July of 2014. With over five years of data collected, we will make some observations about the survey effort to date, present some preliminary results, and discuss how the surveys fit into broader efforts to monitor bird populations.

Laura Gooch is a civil engineer by training and an ornithologist by avocation. After practicing environmental engineering for more than 15 years, she began photographing and observing birds. She is currently a research associate with the ornithology department of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and a licensed bird bander affiliated with the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Her bird-related work includes bird photography and song recording, bird banding, migration monitoring through night-flight call analysis, bird study skin preparation, breeding bird surveys, and coordination of systematic bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

Thanks to members of the *Kirtland Warbler* Committee who reviewed and edited this issue: Paula Lozano

Upcoming Field Trips

Cleveland's Flats with Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

Leader: Erik Bruder
When: Sunday, January 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Meet at: Rivergate Park (Merwin's Wharf), 1785 Merwin Ave, Cleveland / Since we are birding, not dining at Merwin's Wharf, please park in the area closest to the skate park

Description: On a good day in January, the Cuyahoga River is a haven for waterfowl and gulls.
Directions:
From the **West Side**:
I-71 to the West 14th St exit. Go around the traffic circle, staying on West 14th St. Turn left on Abbey Ave and right on Columbus Rd. Come down into the Flats, cross the Columbus Road Bridge, and immediately turn left on Merwin Ave.

OR

West Shoreway to the West 25th St exit. Right on West 25th St. Turn left on Franklin Ave, a rough, uneven road down hill, and left on Columbus Rd. After crossing the Columbus Road Bridge, immediately turn left on Merwin Ave.

From the **East Side**:
Innerbelt to West 14th St exit, following signs to Abbey Ave. Left on Abbey Ave, right on Columbus Rd to come down into the Flats. After crossing the Columbus Road Bridge, immediately turn left on Merwin Ave.

Trip to Castalia, Ohio, and area with Black River Audubon Society

Leader: Paul Sherwood
When: Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9:00 am
Meet at: Parking area on north end of Duck Pond at intersection of OH-101 and Lowell Street

Description: Expect to see ducks and perhaps 2-3 additional waterfowl. More information at: https://ohiobirds.org/birding-at-castalia-pond/
Directions: SR-2 west to the SR-101 exit. Drive south 3 miles to the meeting place on the north side of the Duck Pond in Castalia.

After we have seen everything in the Duck Pond, we will look for birds in nearby areas. There will be a lunch stop but suggest you bring snacks, too.

Christmas Bird Count statistics: evolution of a project

By Dick and Jean Hoffman

In 1970, Jean left her job as a computer programmer to pursue other interests. However, In 1979, she returned to her former occupation. Data processing had advanced greatly in those intervening years. The COBOL programming language had experienced some significant changes, and Jean looked for a project to automate that would give her the opportunity to learn the new procedures and features.She settled on a project last done in the 1960s by Annette Flanigan.

Annette was a bird bander living in Waite Hill and former editor of the Cleveland Bird Calendar. She compiled the results of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Counts from 1940, when the Kirtland Bird Club began sponsoring the count, through 1963 and printed them out in tables. Jean acquired a printed copy of that compilation during her term as the KBC president and decided to digitize Annette's data and add the subsequent years to the database. Jean, also, wrote programs to update the database and produce printed annual and summary statistics reports from it. Dick ran the programs on his employer's mainframe computer system on weekends in January, after the past year's results were reported. These reports were given to the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count compiler.

When we purchased a home PC, Jean moved the database to it and rewrote the programs in a language called QBASIC. Later Dick converted the programs to Visual Basic V3. The reports were then posted on our web site. Data by species could be extracted and graphed from the database. This method was used in an article in the Winter 2000 Cleveland Bird Calendar about the increase in Red-bellied Woodpeckers in NE Ohio. Microsoft eventually dropped its support of Visual Basic V3, and Dick converted the database to a relational database under Apache Open Office Base and wrote SQL queries to produce the reports. Along the way, our web site was dropped by its Internet provider. However, we continued to keep the database updated and run reports for our own edification and for the Christmas Bird Count compiler. Finally, we have now arranged to have the summary statistics report posted on the Kirtland Bird Club's web site.

Cleveland CBC History

Cleveland, Ohio, Christmas Bird Count, 1940 - 2018

Sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club and conducted on Cleveland's east side, eastern suburbs into Lake and Geauga Counties, it covers a circle of 15 miles in diameter centered 0.5 miles west of the junction of Routes 6 and 175.

Taxonomy follows Clements/eBird 2018.

Summary of Cleveland Christmas Bird Counts 1940 - 2018

Species Name	Years Seen	Overall Average	Year Seen Average	Max	Max Yr	Min	Count	Week
Snow Goose	5	0	1	1	1959		CW	1989
Greater White-fronted Goose	2	0	3	5	1966			
Brant	1	0	1	1	1994		CW	1970
Cackling Goose	2	0	3	3	2018			
Canada Goose	57	918	1272	2558	1997			
Mute Swan	4	0	1	2	2008			
Tundra Swan	15	4	19	124	1999		CW	2
Wood Duck	33	1	3	21	1971		CW	1985
Blue-winged Teal	4	0	4	8	1979			
Northern Shoveler	17	1	4	14	2016		CW	1974
Gadwall	37	4	9	62	2016		CW	4
American Wigeon	31	1	3	9	1971		CW	2
Mallard	79	435	435	1425	1976	1		

Christmas Bird Count statistics (continuation)

Species Name	Years Seen	Overall Average	Year Seen Average	Max	Max Yr	Min	Count	Week
American Black Duck	78	154	156	478	1975			
Northern Pintail	23	1	2	4	1970		CW	3
Green-winged Teal	13	0	1	3	1971		CW	2
Canvasback	41	12	23	200	1952		CW	4
Redhead	48	57	94	2708	2016		CW	2
Ring-necked Duck	13	0	2	8	2006		CW	1977
Greater Scaup	46	38	65	1036	1963		CW	1972
Lesser Scaup	73	117	126	3050	1953		CW	2000
King Eider	1	0	1	1	1966			
Harlequin Duck	2	0	2	2	2005			
Surf Scoter	22	1	4	14	1996		CW	2
White-winged Scoter	26	1	3	18	2006		CW	1970
Black Scoter	20	1	4	11	2006			
Long-tailed Duck	21	0	2	4	1977		CW	2
Bufflehead	70	18	20	100	1991			
Common Goldeneye	77	95	97	412	2018			
Hooded Merganser	55	3	5	32	2015		CW	1967
Red-breasted Merganser	75	2382	2509	36899	2015			
Common Merganser	64	44	55	373	1985		CW	3
Ruddy Duck	55	22	31	393	2016		CW	1980
Northern Bobwhite	22	8	27	75	1949		CW	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	40	3	6	20	1962		CW	1971
Ruffed Grouse	24	1	2	16	1941			
Wild Turkey	16	4	18	61	2016			
Pied-billed Grebe	36	1	3	9	2016		CW	4
Horned Grebe	46	7	12	84	1974		CW	1969
Eared Grebe	2	0	2	2	1987			
Rock Pigeon	46	256	439	1612	2006			
Mourning Dove	76	124	129	301	1999			
American Coot	49	5	8	130	1975		CW	3
Sandhill Crane	1	0	2	2	2015			
Killdeer	18	1	5	35	1975		CW	2
Dunlin	3	0	1	2	1984		CW	3
Purple Sandpiper	4	0	1	2	1948		CW	1966
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0				CW	1984
American Woodcock	3	0	1	1	1963			
Wilson's Snipe	43	2	4	12	1975			
Red-necked Phalarope	1	0	1	1	1953		CW	1974
Red Phalarope	1	0	2	2	1980		CW	1988
Pomarine Jaeger	3	0	2	3	1988			
Black-legged Kittiwake	2	0	1	1	2005			
Ivory Gull	0	0	0				CW	1975
Bonaparte's Gull	76	3328	3460	25650	1974			
Black-headed Gull	2	0	1	1	1994			
Little Gull	6	0	2	3	1977		CW	2
Franklin's Gull	4	0	1	2	1969			
Ring-billed Gull	79	8066	8066	64250	1969	1		
Herring Gull	79	2644	2644	17410	1974	13		
Iceland Gull	11	0	1	2	2008		CW	4

Christmas Bird Count statisticsc(continuation)

Species Name	Years Seen	Overall Average	Year Seen Average	Max	Max Yr	Min	Count	Week
Great Black-backed Gull	53	36	53	650	2005		CW	1971
Common Loon	17	1	6	46	1983		CW	4
Northern Gannet	3	0	1	2	1947			
Double-crested Cormorant	29	2	5	40	2008		CW	1988
Great Blue Heron	58	7	9	46	1992			
Green Heron	2	0	4	6	2015			
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5	0	2	5	1983			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	0	1	1	1973			
Osprey	1	0	1	1	2008			
Northern Harrier	26	1	2	10	1948		CW	2002
Sharp-shinned Hawk	46	1	2	4	1983		CW	1981
Cooper's Hawk	68	4	5	18	2005		CW	1967
Northern Goshawk	1	0	1	1	2007			
Bald Eagle	19	1	3	9	2018		CW	1994
Red-shouldered Hawk	66	3	3	11	2006		CW	2
Broad-winged Hawk	4	0	1	1	1953			
Red-tailed Hawk	77	12	13	34	2004			
Rough-legged Hawk	22	1	2	7	1948		CW	2
Barn Owl	1	0	1	1	1992			
Eastern Screech-Owl	33	1	2	5	2001		CW	3
Great Horned Owl	38	1	2	3	1979		CW	3
Snowy Owl	5	0	2	2	1984		CW	4
Barred Owl	65	1	2	5	2017		CW	1967
Long-eared Owl	2	0	1	1	2000		CW	1972
Short-eared Owl	2	0	1	1	1977		CW	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	10	0	1	3	2013			
Belted Kingfisher	74	6	6	20	2001			
Yello-bellied Sapsucker	34	1	2	3	1953			
Red-headed Woodpecker	38	2	4	19	2016		CW	1994
Red-bellied Woodpecker	77	35	36	130	2017			
Downy Woodpecker	79	89	89	134	1964	29		
Hairy Woodpecker	79	22	22	58	1964	7		
Pileated Woodpecker	78	6	6	17	2008			
Northern Flicker	74	5	6	22	1984			
American Kestrel	70	4	4	11	1973		CW	2005
Merlin	18	0	2	5	1999			
Peregrine Falcon	10	0	2	3	2013		CW	2007
Eastern Phoebe	5	0	1	1	1952			
Northern Shrike	12	0	1	2	1954		CW	1991
Blue Jay	79	221	221	464	1986	23		
American Crow	79	398	398	2426	1979	1		
Horned Lark	26	3	8	36	1991			
Black-capped Chickadee	79	304	304	723	1983	39		
Boreal Chickadee	1	0	1	1	1972			
Tufted Titmouse	79	28	128	280	1969	18		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	68	8	9	40	2018			
White-breasted Nuthatch	79	89	89	162	1959	24		
Brown Creeper	74	4	5	29	1984			
House Wren	1	0	1	1	1975			
Winter Wren	38	1	2	4	1974			
Carolina Wren	61	8	10	41	2004		CW	1980
Golden-crowned Kinglet	71	9	10	72	1984			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18	0	2	7	1972		CW	1992
Eastern Bluebird	67	19	22	85	2001			
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	1	1	1971			
Hermit Thrush	17	0	1	3	2014			
Wood Thrush	1	0	1	1	1978			

Christmas Bird Count statistics (continuation)

Species Name	Years Seen	Overall Average	Year Seen Average	Max	Max Yr	Min	Count	Week
Northern Mockingbird	37	2	5	12	2001			
European Starling	79	2199	2199	61458	1986	79		
American Pipit	3	0	1	2	1982			
Cedar Waxwing	67	78	92	397	1993			
Evening Grosbeak	24	4	15	46	1977		CW	1967
Pine Grosbeak	4	1	19	31	1961			
House Finch	43	101	185	443	1992			
Purple Finch	34	4	10	123	1982			
Common Redpoll	27	17	50	174	1969		CW	3
Hoary Redpoll	1	0	1	1	1995			
Red Crossbill	4	0	6	9	1969			
White-winged Crossbill	3	1	23	60	1966			
Pine Siskin	45	10	18	68	2004		CW	2
American Goldfinch	79	136	136	332	1998	1		
Lapland Longspur	11	0	3	12	1988			
Snow Bunting	47	13	22	223	2010			
Chipping Sparrow	6	0	3	12	1959			
Field Sparrow	28	1	4	16	1964		CW	1982
American Tree Sparrow	79	160	160	570	1947	9		
Fox Sparrow	12	0	2	5	2012		CW	1965
Dark-eyed Junco	79	299	299	612	1947	53		
White-crowned Sparrow	18	1	4	18	1984		CW	1976
White-throated Sparrow	70	35	40	215	1980			
Vesper Sparrow	0	0	0				CW	1984
LeConte's Sparrow	1	0	1	1	2013			
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	1	1	1959			
Song Sparrow	79	43	43	108	1975	6		
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	1	1	1981			
Swamp Sparrow	46	2	3	23	2013			
Eastern Towhee	52	3	4	37	1960		CW	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird	0	0	0				CW	1993
Eastern Meadowlark	10	0	3	11	1956			
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	1	1	1957		CW	2
Red-winged Blackbird	44	38	68	1501	1983		CW	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	39	85	172	2107	1986		CW	1972
Rusty Blackbird	15	3	14	98	1991		CW	1966
Common Grackle	40	78	155	1414	1983			
Ovenbird	1	0	1	1	1996			
Nashville Warbler	1	0	1	1	2001			
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	2	2	1980		CW	2001
Yellow-rumped Warbler	33	3	6	33	1998			
Northern Cardinal	79	205	205	394	1975	34		
Dickcissel	0	0	0				CW	2
House Sparrow	79	627	627	1350	1951	129		

Total Species	Max & Max Year		Min & Min Year		Avg of Species	CW Only
169	87	2013	40	1942	69	5

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