



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2017—2018 Membership Year, No. 1, Fall Issue

Monthly Meetings

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

Wednesday September 6, 2017

The Vanished Avian Sextet: *Ohio's extirpated and extinct bird species*

Presented by **Jim McCormac**



Six species that once bred in Ohio – or allegedly did – are gone. They've either become extinct, or have long vanished as Ohio nesters. Their stories are interesting, and the reasons for their demise varied but with one common denominator. In almost all cases, these species were common if not abundant in the Buckeye State, and their disappearances offer important lessons in conservation that should not be forgotten.

Jim McCormac worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years, is an active writer who pens a bi-weekly column, *Nature*, for the Columbus Dispatch, regularly updates his natural history blog, *Ohio Birds and Biodiversity*, and has authored or coauthored six books so far. He is passionate about photography of all types, especially natural history, and shoots with Canon gear.

Thousands of his photos have been published in various forums.



Fall meetings

Wednesday October 4, 2017

Birds, Birding and Bird Conservation in Peru

Presented by **Gunnar Engblom**



Peru is one of the most diverse bird nations in the world with over 1860 species of birds on the list. Gunnar Engblom will talk about the ornithological highlights and the best birding routes, as well as reviewing some of the bird conservation challenges that Peru faces.

Gunnar Engblom is a Swedish birder who has lived in Peru for 19 years. He has a Peruvian wife and two daughters ages 10 and 8.

He is the owner of Kolibri Expeditions and offers bird-watching and bird photography tours. <http://kolibriexpeditions.com/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/KolibriExpeditions/>

He also runs marathons and is a budding musician.

Wednesday November 1, 2017

Chimney Swifts: Nature's Imperiled Avian Insectivore

Presented by **Judy Semroc**



Judy will discuss the life history, nesting requirements, benefits, and the consequences of human impact on this unique and beautiful species in Ohio. The program will also present ideas on how people can invite and help this species to visit and potentially nest on their properties.

Judy Semroc, Conservation Specialist at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, currently works in the Natural Areas Division. She is the founder of Operation Botanic Rescue, a volunteer plant rescue group, and Chrysalis in Time, the first Ohio chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). In 2013, Judy was the recipient of the "Outstanding Staff Achievement Award" at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Judy has co-authored two natural history guides, "Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northeast Ohio" in 2008, and "Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio: A Field Guide to Identification & Natural History" in 2017. As a former petroleum geologist and science teacher, Judy loves to learn about and

share her passion for the natural world through hikes, interpretive programs and photography.

Upcoming Field Trips



Fall Warblers at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Saturday September 23, 2017

Trip Start: 9:00 a.m.

Trip Leader: Tom Romito

Description: We will search for fall warblers and some early sparrows in this beautiful lush habitat along the lake.

Directions: 8701 Lakeshore Boulevard, Cleveland

Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Wake Robin Trail

Wake Robin Trail, Mentor Marsh

Saturday October 7, 2017

Trip Start 9:00 am

Trip Leader: Tom Romito

Description: Now is the prime weekend to find Le Conte's Sparrows and Nelson's Sparrows at the Marsh as well as many other more common sparrows.

Directions: Meet in a parking lot next to 8920 Woodridge Rd, Mentor, OH 44060



Loons at Bradstreet Landing: A joint field trip with WCAS



Photo A.Kozlenko

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Trip Start: 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Various

Target Species: Waterfowl, Cave Swallows

Description: Bradstreet's Landing in Rocky River, Ohio, offers easily accessible views of Lake Erie waterfowl. Grebes, loons, scaup, scoters have been seen here, as well as Cave Swallows. Depending on local sightings, we will either stay at Bradstreet's Landing or move to other Lake Erie hotspots.

Directions: 22400 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH 44116. Meet in the parking lot.

KBC needs a few good officers!

by Tom Romito, KBC Vice President

Organizations cannot survive and thrive for long without a steady influx of new members and leadership. Those that try inevitably burn out their leaders, because leaders tend to surface from the membership. They don't thrive because they jeopardize their reputations as outstanding organizations, and they may not survive in the long run because there is nobody to lead them.

I'm doing what I can to ensure that Kirtland Bird Club does not become one of those organizations. After serving KBC for 17 years as recording secretary, I've stepped up to become vice president. I'm helping to ensure that KBC prevails for at least four more years, since I will serve as vice president for two years and succeed President Dale Gaul for two more years after that.

My decision has come at a critical juncture in the history of KBC. Treasurer Mary Anne Romito, having served in her position for 20 years, is ready to step down, and deservedly so. Corresponding secretary Donna Owen now lives in Columbus and feels that she cannot fulfill her duties from a distance. Field trip coordinator Lukas Padegimas is going to pursue new opportunities in his life and is stepping down this fall.

By becoming vice president, I see my major duties as standing in for the president when necessary, chairing ad hoc committees, and "restaffing" KBC. I will do my first duty by doing whatever Dale needs me to do. My second duty comes whenever the officers and the membership decide to form a committee to accomplish a specific purpose ("ad hoc"). I'm taking on my third duty of my own volition to find members with the skills, motivation, and availability to replace the incumbent officers that I noted in the previous paragraph.

This year, I am contacting all KBC members by a letter in the U.S. mail to appeal to their interest in keeping KBC going by stepping up to fill one of the soon-to-be vacant officer positions. My hope is that at least three out of our 100 members will be able, willing, and available to do so. We are not going to elect people to these positions, unless more than one person steps up for any one position. We're going to waive the bylaws that state the requirement to elect officers.

By the time you receive this edition of "The Kirtland Warbler," you may have already received your letter from me about this. Please give this matter your sincerest consideration and contact me if you see yourself as someone who can help perpetuate KBC for the foreseeable future.

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 submissions to the New President **Dave Dvorak** or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Observations by KBC members

Notes from Pribilof Islands

By Philip Chaon
(Photography by author)

The Pribilof Islands are a group of four [volcanic islands](#) off the coast of mainland [Alaska](#), in the [Bering Sea](#), about 200 miles north of [Unalaska](#) and 200 miles southwest of [Cape Newenham](#)



Saint Paul Island is the largest of the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. While visited by Aleut people for hundreds of years prior, the first permanent residents were Russian fur traders arriving in 1788. The valuable Northern Fur Seal market was a key part of the purchase of Alaska by the United States. Today the island has approximately 450 residents and is an important fishing port and a popular ecotourism destination



Saint Paul Island is home to the world's largest breeding colony of Northern Fur Seal, numbering around 400,000. The island provides nesting habitat for an estimated 250,000 seabirds like this Crested Auklet. Including the islands of Saint George and Otter, the Pribilofs are home to 3-5 million seabirds



Least Auklets are the most abundant alcid in the Western hemisphere. Nearly 9 million of these 6 inch seabirds nest on islands ringing the Bering Sea. Unlike most of the world's alcids which are cliff nesters, Least Auklets nest in crevices among loose boulder piles along the shore. Additionally they forego a typical diet of fish and prey mostly on copepods and other zooplankton.

Observations by KBC members (continuation)



A Black-legged (left) and Red-legged Kittiwake (right) rest side by side on a dock in town. Red-legged Kittiwakes are a Bering Sea endemic and are well adapted to these harsh environs. The small legs and bill are helpful in reducing heat loss during cold winters and are an example of Allen's Rule, an ecological principle that states animals in colder climates will have reduced extremities.



Surrounded by ocean on all sides for hundreds of miles, the Pribilof Islands serve as a welcome place to rest for lost birds from Siberia. This Hawfinch was part of a long-staying flock on St. Paul in June of 2017. Rarities like this are a big draw for visiting birders during spring and fall migration.

**KBC is the best birding club in NE Ohio.
Become a member now.**

It's time to renew or join KBC. See membership form on next page.



Kirtland Bird Club

Club named in honor of Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland, Ohio Naturalist.
Affiliated with The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Membership Renewal Notice

August 18, 2015

Dear KBC Member,

Now is the time to renew your membership to Kirtland Bird Club for the 2017/2018 membership year. This year we have a number of exciting speakers lined up as well as local field trips up through January. For the most up to date information, please look at the Fall issue of Kirtland Warbler Newsletter or our website at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

The KBC membership year begins in September so please complete the form below and, with your check made out to Kirtland Bird Club, bring it to the September 2 meeting OR mail it to Mary Anne at the address found below. Alternatively, renew with a credit card at our secure online PayPal page <http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.html>

Along with your membership fee please consider a tax-deductible donation to publish the *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, to increase the KBC Scholarship Fund or the general fund. Thank you for your generosity. It means a great deal.

And, meantime, enjoy the cooler morning or evening hours for some early migration birding.

Sincerely,
Your Kirtland Bird Club

KBC Membership Renewal 2017—2018

Print name/names as appropriate for roster: _____

For student membership print school name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail _____ Daytime Phone: _____

2nd e-mail for couple members: _____

Note: By giving your email address you agree to receive notices of two online newsletters, meeting and field trip changes and reminders.

KBC respects your privacy and does not share member information with any other person or organization.

Single \$20

Student \$10 (Under age 24)

Couple/Family \$30

I also include a tax-deductible contribution to KBC in support of:

\$ _____ **Cleveland Bird Calendar Fund**

\$ _____ **KBC Scholarship Fund**

\$ _____ **General Donation**

\$ _____ **Total Amount Enclosed** (please make your check to Kirtland Bird Club)

Mail this form to: **KBC Membership, C/O Mary Anne Romito, 4310 Bush Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109**

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Cleveland, OH 44109

KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club



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4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
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The Kirtland Warbler
On the web at: www.KirtlandBirdClub.org
www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com
Email address: info@KirtlandBirdClub.org

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