



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2018—2019 Membership Year, No. 1, Fall Issue

## Monthly Meetings

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

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018**

## **Ecuador's biodiversity and discoveries from Darwin – Today**

**Presented by Tim Krynak**



Ecuador is a small country, but it is one of the most biologically rich and top ten in conservation in the world. It is well known through Charles Darwin's work and writings about the finches in the Galapagos Islands. During this program, we will learn more about Ecuador, its biodiversity, and people from Tim Krynak, who has almost twenty years of firsthand experience as a conservationist and researcher in Ecuador.

Tim has been an employee of Cleveland Metroparks for over twenty-five years, working as a Naturalist, Nature Center Manager, Natural Resources Project Manager and in his current position as a Natural Resources Area Manager. He has a Bachelor of Science in Conservation from Kent State University and a Masters Degree in Biology from John Carroll University.

Tim has traveled to Ecuador as a volunteer, researcher, and “guide” leading students from Grand Valley State University. When he is not working or traveling to Ecuador, Tim enjoys photography, birding and just being outdoors with Kathy, his wife, and their dogs.

***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 Dale Gaul [dalefgaul@att.net](mailto:dalefgaul@att.net) or to [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org).

## Fall meetings

**Wednesday, October 3, 2018**

### **A Bird's Eye View: An Ecological Perspective on Avian Sensory Perception**

**Presented by Sarah E. Mabey**



Imagine living like a bird. What makes it possible to migrate thousands of miles without getting lost, move to safety well ahead of storms, find mice in a sea of grass or nectar in a vast desert, or catch moving prey while diving at over 100 mph? Behind these extraordinary feats are extraordinary sensory adaptations. Dr. Mabey will review recent and past scientific discoveries to paint a picture of how birds “see” the world.

Sarah Mabey is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and the Coordinator of the Natural History Program at Hiram College. Her ornithological research focuses on the behavioral ecology and conservation of migratory birds. Over the past two decades she has had the good fortune to study migratory songbirds in North and Central America and Europe. She is particularly interested in migration ecology and stopover and the challenges associated with protecting birds and their habitats beyond the boundaries of parks and preserves. She received

her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, M.S. from Univ. of Maryland, College Park; and Ph.D. from the Univ. of Southern Mississippi. She conducted post-doctoral research at North Carolina State University as a recipient of the prestigious David H. Smith Conservation Research Postdoctoral Fellowship. Ms. Mabey is a member of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland's Board of Trustees.

**Wednesday, November 7, 2017**

### **The Owls of Ohio**

**Presented by Jim Tomko**



Ohio is a good state for owls! Learn what owls earn a living in our state, their habits, preferred habitats, and when and where to find them. No live owls will be displayed but interesting photos will demonstrate what distinguishes each species.

Jim has had a life-long fascination with our natural world. While Jim's childhood friends were playing baseball and football, he was wandering in the woods and ravines of northeast Ohio. Jim earned a bachelor of arts in Zoology from Miami University and a Master of Science in Environmental Biology from Ohio State. He also has a Doctorate of Optometry from Ohio State University with his practice located in Aurora, Ohio. Jim is the current president of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and the president of Aurora's Moebius Nature Center.

## Upcoming Field Trips



### **SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS AT LADUE RESERVOIR**

9:00 a.m., September 22, 2018

Leader: Matt Valencic

**Description:** September is all about shorebirds, but it depends on mudflats. If mud and gravel bars are good, you can expect up to 18 shorebird species, occasional Common and Forster's and Caspian Tern, gulls, and many Ospreys and Bald Eagles.

**Directions:** Ladue Reservoir is in Geauga County near the intersection of Routes 44 and 422 at Auburn Corners. We will meet at the boat house on the south end of Valley Road.

### **CONFUSING FALL WARBLERS AT ERIE ST. CEMETERY**

9:00 a.m., October 7, 2018

Leader: Mary Anne Romito

The Erie Street Cemetery in downtown Cleveland is an excellent place to be in October to observe migration in reverse. We will look for "confusing fall warblers", as well as thrushes, sparrows, and other song birds, as they use this urban green space to rest and refuel on the way to their wintering grounds.



**Directions:** From the East, take I-90 W around Deadman's Curve to the East 9th Street exit. Continue north, crossing Carnegie Avenue. The entrance to the Erie Street Cemetery is on the right, across the street from Progressive Field. From the West, take I-71 N/I-90 E to the East 9th Street exit and follow the same directions. From the South, take I-77 N, connect to I-71N/I-90 E, and follow the same directions. Address: 2254 E 9th Str.

### **DUCKS AT NIMISILA RESERVOIR**

9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 18, 2018

Leader: Jon Cefus



**Description:** Nimisila Reservoir is one of the 13 bodies of water that make up the Portage Lakes in Portage County. During the late fall and winter months and when there is no ice on the reservoir, many ducks can be seen here.

**Directions:** The address for the meeting pull-off is 5034 Christman Road, Clinton, Ohio 44319. From I-77 S, continue through Akron. Exit at Arlington Road. Turn RIGHT, following Arlington Road for several miles. Pass State Route. 619 and, then, turn RIGHT on East Cas-

ton Road. Next, turn LEFT on Christman Road. The large pull-off will be on your RIGHT. If you are coming from I-71, take State Route 18 East at Medina and then head South on I-77 S and follow the same directions from there.



# Birds and Brue

By Linda Coulter



The newest KBC endeavor focuses on social birding, a way to get to know one another while doing something we love. Our first Birding and Brews, a spring trip to the Shaker Lakes Nature Center on March 31, was a great start. Birders of all levels attended, including many old coots and some spring chickens who had yet to own binoculars. While the Common Loon, Red-breasted Mergansers, Bufflehead, and Pied-billed Grebe may have been highlights for the more experienced birders, our fledgling friends reminded us of the joy it is to discover there are differences between male and female Robins, while there are none between Blue Jays. Our hot coffee and brisk conversations at the Stone Oven on Lee Road warmed us after the

chilly lake outing.

Spring migration brings multiple birding opportunities, and fewer attended the second Birding and Brews trip to Rocky River Nature Center and its environs on May 6. The birds didn't seem to mind. It's always a treat to see a Blackburnian Warbler and a Pileated Woodpecker up close, whether you're with a crowd, a pal, or by yourself. In total we recorded 33 species, including Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat and more before heading to Troubadour Coffee Roasters in Fairview Park. Under the watchful eye of a carved Great Horned Owl sentinel, this unique cafe serves amazing coffee that is roasted on the spot.

On June 16, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve served up 21 species to 12 birders, who worked up an appetite on our first evening Birding and Brews adventure. After being delighted by dandy Cedar Waxwings, several Yellow Warbler gems, and the aerial maneuvers of Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts, our group flocked to Muldoon's Saloon & Eatery. As the name implies, our brew that night was not coffee, but our conversation was just as stimulating.

We hope you come on our next Birding and Brews adventure. It's a great way to make friends, meet new KBC members, see beautiful birds, and try great brews!



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

# Observations by KBC members

## Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Avian Surveys

By Laura Gooch



Photo by by JoAnn Kubicki.

The systematic bird survey project at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) completed its fourth year this past July. The project, lead by KBC with support from Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO), Western Cuyahoga Audubon, and Greater Cleveland Audubon, has been a success. We have performed 517 surveys to date (as of August 22, 2018), averaging about 2.4 surveys per week for the entire four-year period. Almost every week has had at least one survey, with the exception of a few winter weeks when deep snow or persistent wind and cold have kept us away.

The original goal of the project was to collect three to five years of point count data from CLNP in a way that allowed these data to be compared to point counts from Black Swamp Bird Observatory in the western Lake Erie basin. With four years of data collected, we have fulfilled the letter of that goal. We will continue for at least another year. All survey data have been collected in a database, shared with BSBO, and uploaded to Cornell's ebird database.

The survey's success is thanks entirely to the dedication of our surveyors. Champion surveyor Ken Vinciguerra has completed 159 surveys, followed closely by Laura Gooch and Dick Hoffman. Liz McQuaid has assembled a crack survey team (they always see the most species) who combine forces to make a survey at least once a month. Anna Kozlenko, Claire Johnson, and Julie West 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.

Regular surveyors watch the seasons unfold on Cleveland's lakefront, and find that systematic observation gives a keen appreciation for changing bird populations during each year and over the four-year period. Recent observations of particular interest include:

A Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) sang consistently this year in the wood north of the "sparrow field." This bird was heard and seen from spring through early July and was seen into mid-July. Least Flycatchers are not common breeders in northeast Ohio, and it is surprising to document probable breeding in a small wooded area like the one at CLNP.

Several pair of Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) were observed throughout this breeding season, including a pair attending a nest along the interior Harrier Trail.

One or two pair of breeding American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) were regularly seen this summer, including a pair attending a nest along the Harrier Trail. We typically see a few redstarts at CLNP throughout the breeding season, and a very late straggler was observed on November 6, 2017.

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) perching in the trees along the west edge of CLNP, adjacent to the Gordon Park marina. In the past month or so it has been typical to see more than 50 birds perched in the cottonwoods and numerous others flying and swimming in the marina area. Birds carrying sticks and plucking at branches have been observed, suggesting some interest in nesting in the area.

## Observations by KBC members (continuation)



We see a decline in the number of Downy Woodpeckers (*Picoides pubescens*) at CLNP since the area was treated to control *Phragmites australis*. Downies used to be our reliable winter companions, but they evidently miss the *Phragmites*. They are still present at CLNP, but in much smaller numbers.

Mild winters make a difference: A Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) was seen throughout the winter of 2016-17, but not during winter observations in other years. Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) have typically lingered at CLNP until November or even into December, returning around the beginning of April. In the mild weather of 2016-17, a bird was regularly seen throughout the winter.

In addition to the American Redstart, Least Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush mentioned above, species that have been documented breeding at CLNP include Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, and American Goldfinch.

Systematic analysis of our CLNP data and comparison with data from BSBO may reveal other trends and differences between CLNP and the lakeshore in the western basin of Lake Erie.

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](mailto:lgooch@alum.mit.edu).

Finally, here are the CLNP surveys by the numbers, as of 3 August 2018:

Surveys completed – 511

Points counted – 8,401

Species documented – 201

Individuals birds counted during point counts – 196,873 (note that the same individuals will have been counted on multiple days)

Hours spent counting at points – 700

Total hours spent on surveys – 1,734

Total checklists uploaded to eBird – 8,342 (one for each point count, plus an overall checklist for each survey)

Number of volunteers who have participated – about 30

Number of regular surveyors – 10-12



## 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

Dear KBC member

It is time to renew your membership to Kirtland Bird Club for the 2018/2019 membership year. This year we have a number of exciting speakers lined-up, as well as local field trips through January. For the most current information, please look at the Fall issue of Kirtland Warbler Newsletter or our website at [www.kirtlandbirdclub.org](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org).

Since the KBC membership year begins in September, please complete the membership form and, with your check made out to Kirtland Bird Club, bring it to the September 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-amember.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.

In the meantime, enjoy the cooler morning and evening hours for some early migration birding.

Sincerely,  
Your Kirtland Bird Club

#### **KBC Membership Renewal 2018—2019**

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**

Kirtland Bird Club  
4310 Bush Ave  
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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[www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com](http://www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com)

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