



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org

2022–2023 Membership Year, No. 1, Fall Issue

Monthly Meetings

Kirtland Bird Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, September through June at 7:00 p.m. Each meeting includes announcements, some club business, and a speaker program. Meetings are free and all are welcome!

Monthly meetings of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio are in-person or on Zoom. Check our web site or Facebook page for details.

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

7:00 PM in person

Chagrin River Bird Quest

Speaker: *Matt Valencic*

Location: Frends pavilion at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

(This is an open-sided, covered outdoor space)

Event will be recorded. A live Zoom may be an option



Avid birder and educator Matt Valencic will talk to us about late summer birding and the Chagrin River Bird Quest, a fun event that's now in its 8th year. He will explain how we can participate, see some great birds, and help support the Chagrin River IBA (Important Bird Area).

Bird Quest takes place from 4 PM Friday, September 9th through 4 PM Saturday, September 10th. It concludes with the celebration at West Woods Nature Center in Novelty from 4-6 PM on Saturday.

Birders of all levels of experience are welcome to participate in Bird Quest and the associated programs.

There will be pre-event birding workshop on Saturday, August 27th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. Refresh your skills or learn new ones! There will be at least two optional guided walks.

Click https://clevelandaudubon.org/?page_id=6961 for more details and to register for Bird Quest and the pre-event birding workshop.

Special Event

Co-sponsored by Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio & Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022 at 6:30 PM on Zoom - Register [HERE](#)

Owls of the Eastern Ice Speaker: *Jonathan C. Slaght*

From 2006-2010, Jonathan Slaght studied Blakiston's Fish Owls in Russia for his PhD degree at the University of Minnesota. Slaght's memoir of his experiences, called "Owls of the Eastern Ice," was published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux in summer 2020 to acclaim.

It was named a New York Times Notable Book for 2020, longlisted for a 2020 National Book Award, one of the ten best books of 2020 by the Wall Street Journal, and won the 2021 PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award.

Here, he will describe the owls and his project, including vivid details of the adventures and struggles described in the book, and on-going conservation efforts with this endangered species.

Jonathan Slaght is the Director of Conservation for the Russia Program of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). His duties include strategic planning, oversight, and technical support for the development and implementation of conservation priorities in Russia, with a focus on Amur tigers, leopards, Blakiston's fish owls, and other iconic wildlife.

Slaght's writings have been featured in The New York Times, Audubon Magazine, and The Guardian, among other outlets, and in 2016 he translated a 1921 Russian classic by Vladimir Arsenyev called *Across the Ussuri Kray* for Indiana University Press. *Owls of the Eastern Ice* was his first book.



Monthly Programs (continuation)

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM - on Zoom

Restoration of Mentor Marsh - Results to Date

Speaker: *David Kriska, Biodiversity Coordinator, Cleveland Museum of Natural History*



More details coming!

Membership will be voting on a new KBC mission statement proposed by the Board at our October meeting:

Promoting the enjoyment, conservation, and study of the birds of Northeast Ohio and beyond

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
at 7:00 PM - on Zoom

Fall Migration at Cape May Bird Observatory

**Speaker: *Gautam Apte, Morning Flight
Counter at CMBO***

More details coming!



Upcoming Field Trips

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 8:00 AM
Meet at: 8701 Lakeshore Boulevard, Cleveland
Leaders: *Anna Kozlenko & Paula Lozano*

September is the peak of the fall songbird migration. The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve is one of the best places in Northeast Ohio to find many bird species. Its location and abundant food supply attract birds looking to rest and refuel. There are great opportunities to study "confusing fall" warblers, as well as encounter vireos, thrushes and sparrows, at this time of year.

Click <https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L618902> to read about Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Click <https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=2019&eyr=2022&bmo=8&emo=11&r=L618902> for fall eBird observations



Western Section of Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 8:00 AM
Meet at: the western end of Woodridge Lane near Forest Road, Mentor
Street parking on Woodridge Lane or Forest Road
[Get Google Maps directions.](#)
Leader: *Becky Donaldson*

We will walk on the closed utility road that will be accessible for our field trip. We will look for migrating sparrows, raptors and late warblers. In addition, we may bird on the nearby boardwalk at the Wake Robin Trail.

Click <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L603712> to read about Wake Robin trail area



Click <https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=2019&eyr=2022&bmo=1&emo=11&r=L603712> for fall eBird observations

Upcoming Field Trips (continuation)

Rocky River Park & West Side Lakefront Locations

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 8:00 am

Meet at: 20250 Beach Cliff Boulevard, Rocky River

Leader: *TBD*

Rocky River Park provides public access to the lakefront on the West Side. From its observation decks birders can see from the mouth of the Rocky River to Bradstreet's Landing. We will continue birding along the lake to other locations. Target species include loons, grebes, and waterfowl, including all three species of scoters.

Click <https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L233664> to read about Rocky River Park

Click <https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=2019&eyr=2022&bmo=1&emo=11&r=L233664> for eBird observations



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Birding for Beginners

By Christi Carlson

Beginning in June of this year, the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeastern Ohio began conducting walks, targeting new birders. The walks were designed to create a safe, non-threatening environment for new birders to learn more about birds. Binoculars are available for loan for use on KBC field trips. Email info@kirtlandbirdclub.org to reserve a set.

The walks have been held at parks throughout town with a reputation of hosting a variety of birds. The groups have been intimate and engaging with passionate individuals yearning to be outdoors looking at birds.

Some of the highlights have been Brown Creeper and Wood Duck at Shaker Lakes, Orchard Oriole at Cleveland Heights Forest Hills, and Rough-winged Swallow at Oakwood Green. Rogers Road Field in North Chagrin Reservation yielded a varied number of species such as Eastern Bluebird, Cedar waxwing, Wood Thrush, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and even a fly-by of a Bald Eagle.



We are looking forward to new birder walks scheduled for the upcoming autumn months and will keep looking for new birds to add to our lists!

Past trips

June - Oakwood Preserve

July - Rogers Road Field in North Chagrin Reservation

August - Wildwood at Euclid Creek Reservation



Photo by Alami Stock

President's letter

By *Patricia Kellner*



This summer has been a breath of fresh air for me. While I'm not throwing caution to the wind, life feels a little easier with COVID less of a threat. I still urge precautions – right now COVID is killing 400 people a month in the US, which works out to 3 times as many people as die from influenza each year, and new COVID variants are still emerging. Because of this I continue to wear my mask indoors, keep up with my vaccines, and only eat outdoors when away from home.

Following this summer's chance for a little more freedom, I'm looking forward to fall and lots of opportunities to go birding, learn more about birds and habitat conservation and restoration, and partner with other organizations on KBC programs. More about this to come!

Highlights of the summer for me were:

1 - A walk in downtown Cleveland with County Councilwoman Sunny Simon, Tim Jasinski of Lights Out Cleveland and Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, and Matt Shumar. Program Coordinator for the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. We looked at some of the buildings that are hazardous to birds and talked about ways to reduce bird-window collisions. Councilwoman Simon and her staff wanted to understand exactly what needed to be done to retrofit County Buildings with bird-safe glass. A representative from Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse (the Cavs arena) talked with Matt Shumar about ways to reduce reflectivity of their glass façade by adjusting lighting at certain times of day. It was heartening to see government, business, and non-profits work together on this bird safety issue!



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

more about Bird Quest and how KBC members can participate during this 24-hour birding marathon.

2 – A KBC field trip to Case Western Reserve's Squire Vallevue Farm in Moreland Hills. We saw Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Eastern Bluebirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and more. It was great fun!

3 – Walks in a few Geauga and Lake County parks: West Woods, Girdled Road Reservation, and Penitentiary Glen - with great forest habitat and lots of summer resident birds singing. Those trips outside of Cuyahoga County inspired me to invite Matt Valencic to talk about Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland's upcoming Chagrin River Bird Quest event at our September KBC meeting. We'll hear



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

4– Two great nature festivals in Southern Ohio: Mothapalooza at Arc of Appalachia in Bainbridge and the Midwest Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting at the Bergamo Center in Beavercreek. Both festivals had great walks through beautiful preserves as well as great speakers. Hoping we'll hear from one or more of those speakers at a KBC meeting this year.

In sum, lots of summer adventures and now great plans for the coming year with KBC! Renew your membership! Join a committee! Have fun with us! See you soon!

Summer KBC News!

What should you do if you find an abandoned bird? or an injured, ill, or dead bird? Start by checking our [new web page](#)! You can find it under the tab "MORE" on the upper right of the home page - Injured, Ill, or Abandoned

BIRDERS SPOKE UP FOR BIRDS - Sherwin Williams has agreed to install some bird-friendly windows. Read the story [HERE](#).

Contact us at info@kirtlandbirdclub.org to join our Bird Coalition or to get more information.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER Sunny Simon SPOKE UP FOR BIRDS - Simon invited Matt Shumar and Tim Jasinski from Lights Out Cleveland, a representative from Rocket Mortgage Arena, and KBC President Patty Kellner to accompany Simon and her staff from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works to tour venues in downtown Cleveland that are hazardous to birds. Councilwoman Simon has pledged to have bird-safe decals installed on County Buildings where there's a window problem and to continue to work with Lights Out Cleveland and Rocket Mortgage Field House to find ways to reduce bird-building collisions.

KBC will be an exhibitor at the Summer "Family Reunion" Cookout of our allies at [Black Environmental Leaders](#)! The event will take place Saturday, September 3rd at Edgewater Park from 11 AM to 4 PM. **KBC Members are encouraged to [VOLUNTEER](#)** to staff our table and/or to take short bird walks with individuals or small groups. We will have our loaner binoculars at the event.

Gautam Apte, KBC's [February 2021 Gull ID](#) presenter and our [April 2022 Weather Effects on Migration](#) speaker, started his first job as a college graduate on August 1st. He's been hired to survey birds every morning through all of fall migration at Cape May Observatory in Cape May, New Jersey. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the site where Gautam reports his daily sightings.

ICYMI - Great article about [Lorain Impoundment](#) by Rob Swindell, president of Black River Audubon Society

Birding on the Flip Side: Forest Hill Park, East Cleveland

by Linda Coulter



Photo by Loren Smith

Welcome to “Birding on the Flip Side” where you’ll find stories of less frequently visited birding spots and less common birding practices. Hopefully, you’ll be inspired to explore new paths and share your own “Birding on the Flip Side” tales.

It was a Little Blue Heron that sparked my interest in birding at Forest Hill Park in East Cleveland. See, the morning before I rode my bike to the park, I read an article in Bird Watcher’s Digest about that species. Then, as I pedaled out of the park’s woods and approached its pond, a small heron flushed from the water’s edge. Still a neophyte birder, I hoped the bird was the same species I had just learned about. Of course it wasn’t, but it was still a thrill! And the Green Heron that I really did see that day, has drawn me back to the park over and over again.

Forest Hill Park became my patch, where I’ve honed my skills and spotted over a hundred species. Thrushes, sparrows, warblers, water birds, raptors, and more have graced the objective end of my bins.

The park’s 248 acres was part of John D. Rockefeller’s estate and was deeded to the cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights in 1936. Two thirds of the park is in East Cleveland and my patch is carved out of this portion, bordered on the south by Forest Hill Boulevard and on the east by Lee Road.

Parts of the park are well kept, including the ballfields, which are home to the East Cleveland High School Cardinals, and the pond. Other areas have become overgrown. Remnants of times past, picnic tables, trash cans, an abandoned restroom facility and a neglected parking lot, can still be spotted through saplings and brush. Besides the pond, it’s near these seemingly forgotten facilities where I’ve found my birding gems: Indigo Bunting, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Towhee, and dozens more. In that back parking lot I ate my lunch while watching my lifer Fox Sparrow scratch for his. Along the lot’s edge my spouse, Dana, and I spied the most handsome Yellow-bellied Sapsucker we’ve seen before or since.

The Green Heron’s pond has hosted Redhead, grebes, Ring-necked Duck, Common Loon, and other dabblers and divers. Looking closely at the multitude of Canada Geese, I’ve found a Snow Goose, but am still waiting to spot a Cackling Goose. More recently the pond has become home to domestic ducks. A pair was dumped by a failed farmer and was adopted by park enthusiasts. They’ve hybridized with wild Mallards, yielding a multicolored flock.

The star of Forest Hill Park is the Red-headed Woodpecker. Multiple pairs can be found in the oaks towering over an overgrown meadow at the park’s center. Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy woodpeckers frequent the ever growing woods. Pileated Woodpecker occasionally puts in an appearance, though much less dependably.

More dependable are Red-tailed Hawks who hunt in the park throughout the year. Merlin, Cooper’s and Red-shouldered hawks also come by. A Barred Owl reportedly has taken up residence near the abandoned restroom, but I’ve yet to add him to my patch list.

(Thanks to my neighbor, Loren Smith, for the photographs of birds from my patch.)

Birding on the Flip Side: Forest Hill Park (continuation)

by Linda Coulter



Six people joined in a walk at historic Forest Hill Park in East Cleveland on Sunday, May 29. Unlike usual bird walks that focus on quantifying birds and species in a location, the group's purpose was to spot and learn to identify birds. Besides size, color, shape, and location, key diagnostics such as bill color, number of wing bars, and eye stripes, were highlighted. We also discussed the benefits of having a birding patch and ways to learn bird songs. The one mile loop covered varied habitat: fields, a pond, and the edge of woods. A total of 27 species were identified including Cedar Waxwing, Red-headed Woodpecker, Orchard Oriole, Warbling Vireo, and Eastern Phoebe.

A great time was had by all! KBC will host more New Birder Walks and we hope to spot you there!

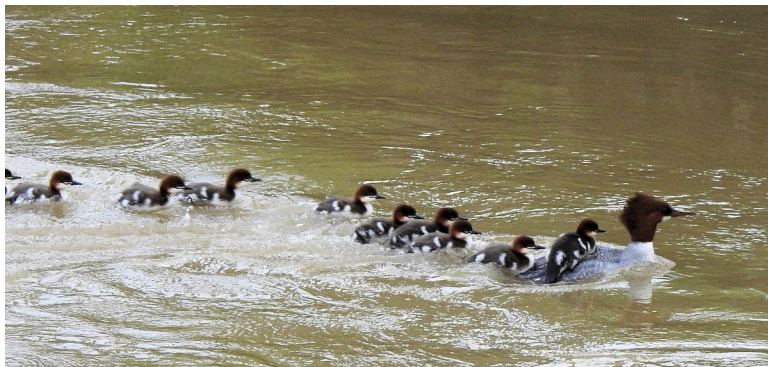


May KBC Field Trip

By Fred Dinkelbach

Photos by Anna Kozlenko

Our club field trip on May 7th at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's towpath Station Road trailhead had few disappointments. Sunny clear weather prevailed and a good crowd attended. At the walk's start a birder that happened along pointed out a woodcock nest in leaf litter barely 4 feet from the path next to the parking lot. It still took minutes to locate the well-camouflaged adult despite knowing its location. A minute later while crossing the iron bridge over the Cuyahoga River, skittering across the water from one bank to another everyone saw a female Common Merganser with eleven ducklings. Despite the river's swift water from overnight rainstorms, the family easily handled the fast current and gave us a nice viewing as they worked their way upriver, under the bridge, and eventually disappeared around a bend. Within minutes, as if that wasn't enough for a Common Merg quota, two males and a female flew along the river, circled in the distance, and headed back in our direction.

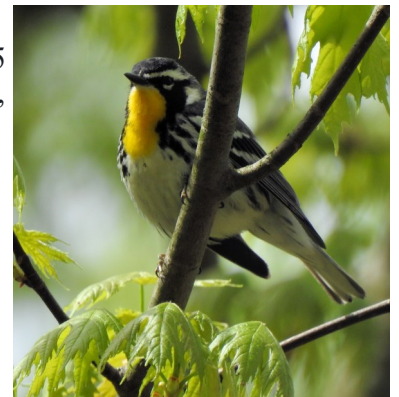


We had success finding two target birds that are reliably found here in spring: one singing Cerulean Warbler and three Yellow-throated Warblers, seen and heard. A hoped-for Prothonotary Warbler was absent; changing habitat saw a slow decline of the local Prothonotaries over the years so their absence was understandable. Also missing were the new Peregrine couple that attempted to nest on the landmark Route 82 bridge, but, in the days leading up to

the walk, the female had succumbed to the H5N1 virus. She was rescued, treated but soon died, and a necropsy was performed. We could not locate the male that valiantly staying on the nest for 3 more days. His efforts were not enough; it was unknown if eggs hatched or were even laid.



At morning's end 55 species were tallied, including 11 warbler species. Two checklists are logged in eBird; one for the west side of the river in Cuyahoga County (Hotspot name is Cuyahoga Valley NP--Station Rd. Parking Area) and another for the east side in Summit County (Hotspot-Cuyahoga Valley NP--Station Rd. Towpath Trail).



In memoriam

Long-time member of the Kirtland Bird Club Victor W. Fazio III, age 60, passed away on June 10, 2022, at the Calvary Mater Hospital in Newcastle, New South Wales. When his father started working at the Cleveland Clinic, the family moved from Australia to Shaker Heights, and Vic started birding the Shaker Lakes area. By the late 1980's he was a regular contributor to the Cleveland Bird Calendar. Vic's February 18-19, 1984, sightings and field notes were published in the Cleveland Bird Calendar, Volume 8, No. 1.

https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/loads/5/3/5/0/5350114cleveland_bird_calendar_vol080_no1_1984.pdf



He attended Wittenberg University and later taught ornithology at Heidelberg College. His interests included birds, dragonflies and moths, and he made hundreds of thousands of posts in iNaturalist on two continents. After 35 years of bird studies in North America, Vic returned to Australia and embarked on a new challenge, the moths of Australia. Read here about his iNaturalist posts in Australia.

<https://forum.inaturalist.org/t/rip-vic-fazio-long-time-contributor-and-ornithologist-entomologist/32768>

Vic will be missed by legions of family and friends, including the members of the Kirtland Bird Club.

Bird Watcher's Digest: Re-hatched & Reimagined

by Linda Coulter

On March 1, 2022, a blog post by author and artist Julie Zickefoose went viral. Why? Because it announced the re-hatching of Bird Watcher's Digest. As if spotting a Kirtland's Warbler on Magee Marsh beach, birders from around the country pumped their fists, silently cheered, and tweeted the news to their birder friends.

Under new ownership the publication is being reimagined. It has a new name, BWD Magazine, and an updated, fresh design. Artwork and photographs will be showcased in a larger 8 1/8" x 10 7/8" format. But, do not fear, the columnists, contributors, content, and quality we know and love will be inside this new package. Indeed, Julie Zickefoose's art will grace the cover of the inaugural July/August issue.

Besides Zickefoose, publishers Rich Luhr and Mike Sacopulos, have assembled a team of folks you are familiar with or soon will be: Jessica Vaughan, Dawn Hewitt, Bruce Wunderlich, Sarah Clark, Lisa Coe, and Shanna Lukes.

If you had a subscription when the original publication closed, you will receive a free subscription for up to 6 issues. Not sure if you're eligible? [Click here to find out.](#)

Want to renew your subscription or to become a new subscriber? [You can do that here.](#) Finally, if you haven't already, be sure to follow BWD on social media and share the news with your friends!

Facebook: [facebook.com/bwdmag](https://www.facebook.com/bwdmag) ; Instagram: [@bwd_magazine](https://www.instagram.com/bwd_magazine)

KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP



I would like to support the activities of Kirtland Bird Club with my membership:

- \$ _____ Single membership (\$20)
- \$ _____ Couples membership (\$30)
- \$ _____ Student membership (\$10)

I would also like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support:

- \$ _____ Unrestricted Donation
- \$ _____ The speaker program - sponsor a speaker (\$100)
- \$ _____ Loaner Binocular Fund – we accept cash and gently used binoculars
- \$ _____ KBC Scholarship Fund – to help young birders attend young birder camps
- \$ _____ Ohio Avian Scholarship Initiative – supporting bird research (up to \$1000 per grant)
- \$ _____ Total

In addition:

Please consider using your employer’s matching gift program to donate to KBC.
Please consider including Kirtland Bird Club in your estate plans.

Our membership year is September 1st to August 31st. Any membership payments received after March 1 will be include membership through August 31st of the following year

Check here if you would also like to help us with any of our programs or activities – we’ll be in touch!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____
 Email: _____

For couple’s membership:
 Additional name: _____
 Additional mobile phone: _____
 Additional email: _____

Mail check to:
KBC Membership

To pay via Paypal or credit card:
<https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.html>

c/o Mary Anne Romito
4310 Bush Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44109

Thank you, once again, for your support of the Kirtland Bird Club!



Kirtland Bird Club

4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Publisher of:

The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Birds of the Cleveland Region
A Field Book of Birds of the Cleveland Region
The Kirtland Warbler

On the web at: www.KirtlandBirdClub.org
www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com

Email address: info@KirtlandBirdClub.org

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