



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2014-2015 Membership Year, No. 1, Autumn 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

Birds, Buildings, Bridges, Barriers & Baseball Harvey Webster, CMNH, 3 September 7:30 pm

The built human landscape presents unique challenges and opportunities for birds. Nighthawks, gulls and Killdeer have successfully used gravel-topped flat building roofs as nesting habitat. Peregrine Falcons use skyscraper ledges and bridges to nest in the heart of our cities. Gulls and waterfowl use the warm water discharge from electric generating plants as roosting and feeding spots in the winter. On the other hand windows and lit buildings, wind turbines and communications towers as well as many other structures kill millions of birds passing through our cities every year. In this illustrated program we will explore the perils and possibilities for birds in the urban environment and how we can ameliorate the negative impacts.

Harvey B. Webster is Director of Wildlife Resources at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He oversees the Ralph Perkins Wildlife Center and the Museum's Wildlife Resource Center.

Webster led the Bald Eagle Breeding Program at the Museum that pioneered artificial insemination and other captive management techniques. The Museum was the first institution in the world to successfully breed Bald Eagles by means of artificial insemination. Eaglets produced at the Museum were fostered into wild Ohio nests and have contributed to the successful recovery of the eagle in this region.

Webster was educated at Cornell University and has been with the Museum since 1974 with background in wildlife conservation. He served on the technical committee of the Important Bird Areas initiative for Audubon Ohio. He is currently coordinating a program called Smart Light/Safe Flight, a collaboration with the Ohio Lights Out Initiative, an effort to get urban skyscrapers to turn their lights off at night during the spring and autumn migration of birds to prevent the birds from striking the buildings and save energy.

In addition he presents programs on Ohio's eagles, raptors, birds and wildlife as well as the natural history of the region. He is a regular guest on the Sound of Applause with Dee Perry on WCPN-90.3 public radio, and makes appearances on area television and radio stations promoting conservation issues.



Please join Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, and Kirtland Bird Club as we present this very special event:

Featured Speakers:



Dr. Michael Hutchins

National Coordinator, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign
American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

Dr. Hutchins is actively involved in all ABC issues concerning wind energy and its impacts on avian life. Dr. Hutchins has been an involved scientist and conservationist for three decades and has authored over 220 papers on various science issues.

Eric Ritter

Communication and Strategy Manager
Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo)

Mr. Ritter is primarily responsible for managing LEEDCo's public education and stakeholder engagement activities. Eric has many years of experience working as an outreach consultant for various environmental, social justice and political causes.



Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Place: Independence Civic Center
6363 Selig Dr.
Independence, OH 44131
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Oa8nM>



Google

We are fortunate to have representatives from two organizations deeply interested in the use of wind energy and its potential impacts on avian wildlife. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has a strong, successful record working to conserve birds throughout the Americas. They are active in the areas of public education, conserving avian habitats and working to eliminate threats to birds. For more information, see their web site: <http://www.abcbirds.org/>.

The Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) is a regional non-profit and economic development organization building an offshore wind energy industry in Ohio. The counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, the City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, and Nortech are all founding members. For more information, see their web site: <http://www.leedco.org/>.

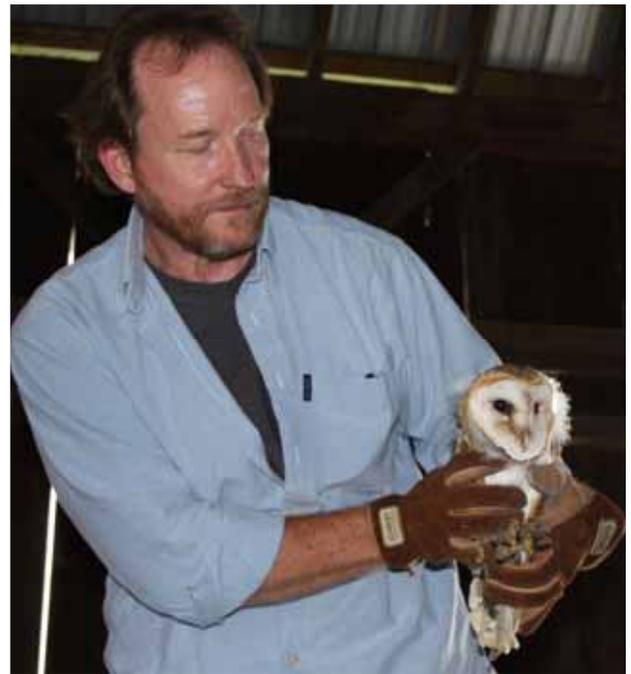
AS THE FORMAT OF THIS PROGRAM WILL ALLOW ONLY LIMITED TIME FOR QUESTIONS, THE ORGANIZERS REQUEST THAT QUESTIONS BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: JL2D9KD.PHL5JK@E@7D19C3FD. THE SPEAKERS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO ADDRESS MOST QUESTIONS DURING THEIR PRESENTATIONS.

Monthly Programs continued

The Barn Owl Project Presented by Tom Henry 5 November 2014, CMNH 7:30 PM

Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) are a threatened species in Ohio. Barn Owl population size is believed to be limited primarily by the lack of foraging habitat in close proximity to an abundant number of secure nesting locations. The Division of Wildlife (DOW) accumulated 14 years of productivity data on Barn Owls from 1990 through 2003. This information was obtained through capture and banding at Barn Owl nest and roost sites; in that period over 1600 chicks and 250 adults were banded. In 2003 the Division reduced its banding activities due to manpower constraints. The current Barn Owl banding project was started in 2007 to supplement that reduced effort. The project collects data on Barn Owls in a portion of their breeding range which had earlier been identified as having high to medium productivity. During the eight study years to date (2007 - 2014), we have banded a total of 1505 barn owl chicks and 239 adults (147 females, 90 males, and two of undetermined sex). We have also recaptured an additional 277 adult owls (129 females, 147 males, and one of undetermined sex) which had been banded in previous years. Join Tom as he describes the techniques used and the efforts expended to capture and band one of Ohio's most elusive owls.

Tom Henry worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW) at the Wildlife District Three office in NE Ohio for 28 years. The first 8 years of his career were spent assisting landowners as a private lands biologist and the remaining years serving as an assistant wildlife management supervisor. In his supervisory capacity, Tom was responsible for coordinating both the Peregrine Falcon and Osprey hatching projects that helped to reintroduce these two previously endangered species to NE Ohio. He also coordinated the capture and banding efforts of ODW personnel in NE Ohio over the sixteen years that the Barn Owl banding efforts were active. Tom received a B.S. in Wildlife Management and a M.S. in Zoology both from The Ohio State University. Tom retired from the ODW in 2006 with over thirty-two years of state service and now spends his summers volunteering as a Bald Eagle nest monitor and capturing and banding Barn Owls in the Amish communities of central Ohio.



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 Editor, Sarah Winnicki or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Sarah would like to personally apologize for the delay in this newsletter, which was the result of her work and research schedule.

Local Field Trips

Fall Migrants along the Lakefront in Wendy Park

Cleveland, Cuyahoga County

Sunday September 21st, 2014

Trip Start: 8:30 am

Trip Leader: **TBA**

Target Birds: Fall warblers and sparrows

Location: Wendy Park: Whiskey Island in Cleveland Ohio (next to Edgewater Park)

Directions: Wendy Park is located on the immediate western shore of the Cuyahoga River where the river empties into Lake Erie. To get there, first head to Edgewater State Park which is located off of the West Shoreway Highway 2. When exiting the West Shoreway (Highway 2) at Edgewater Park, you'll be heading north towards lake Erie. Take the first (and only) road to the right, heading east. Continue driving east. You'll have railroad tracks to the south or right, and the Cleveland Port Authority will be to your left or between you and Lake Erie. The road will end at the Whiskey Island Marina guard gate, which is the entrance to Wendy Park.

Tennessee Warbler (fall),
photo by Sarah Winnicki



Fall Migrants at Headlands Beach and Rare Sparrows at Wake Robin

Mentor-on-the-Lake, Lake County

Sunday October 5, 2014

800 AM

Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas

Let's journey to another beautiful haven for migrating birds in October. I remember seeing a Short-eared Owl a few years ago when walking along the field here. Depending on the weather conditions, we might get an interesting variety of birds.

If the conditions are terrible and stormy, we may be lucky to get a Red-necked or Red Phalarope chilling along the rocks of the break wall, or a Purple Sandpiper. That is usually not the case. On a balmy day, we would see some of our later warblers passing through as well as the fall force of the sparrow migration. If the winds are right, we may be lucky to get some later raptors migrating overhead. The more eyes we have, the more chance we have of spotting that one random Clay-colored Sparrow that may be near the beach. Or better yet, the greater the chance we have of someone spotting a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the tangles! I am sure we'll see plenty of Hermit Thrushes and Fox Sparrows at the very least.

After a walk at Mentor Headlands State Park, those who want can take a very short drive to Mentor Marsh, an area where there is a good possibility of seeing a Nelson's or a LeConte's Sparrow. It would be especially amazing to see the progress done by the local naturalists in the marsh's restoration from the phragmites plant invasion.

Target Species: LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, late migrant warblers such as Orange-crowned, and other fall migrants such as Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren

Location: 9601 Headlands Road, Mentor. Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve in Lake County, west of Fairport Harbor.

Directions: Take I-90 or SR 2 to SR 44, continue north to enter park. Meet at the extreme east end of Headlands Beach State Park where the Dunes State Nature Preserve is located.



Savannah Sparrow
Photo by Sarah Winnicki

Local Field Trips cont.



Red-breasted Mergansers,
photo by Tim Winnicki

Ducks and More along the Lake Shore at Rocky River Park

Rocky River, Cuyahoga County

Sunday November 23rd, 2014

Trip Start: 9 am

Trip Leader: **TBA**

We will start at Rocky River Park and then continue west or east depending on where the most exciting numbers of ducks and loons will be concentrated.

Target Birds: Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe. Other waterfowl and gulls.

Location: 20200 Beach Cliff Blvd, Rocky River, OH 44116

Remember KBC in Your Giving Plans!

Americans are bombarded everyday by charities asking for money. The Kirtland Bird Club is no different. We're asking you to include KBC in your will or retirement plans.

You're probably asking yourself right now, "What's in it for me?" Simply this: By including KBC in your will or other estate plan, you can help ensure that future generations will enjoy birds as you do now.

If you have not yet written a will, we urge you to do so. A properly-prepared will is the only way to be sure that your wishes will be carried out after your lifetime. It is important that you have your will prepared by an attorney who understands your needs and is familiar with the laws of Ohio. If you have already written your will, you may add a bequest to KBC by asking your attorney to prepare an amendment or codicil. Your attorney may find the following paragraph helpful in preparing your will:

"I bequeath to the Kirtland Bird Club, a non-profit organization with its principal offices located at 4310 Bush Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109 and tax ID number of 34-1748091, the sum of \$_____ for its general unrestricted purposes in the study of ornithology."

You can save taxes by naming KBC as the beneficiary of your estate, trust, or other financial plan. Assets remaining in your plan at your death will otherwise be subject to estate and income taxes in the hands of your heirs. A good way to maximize benefits is to bequeath cash, securities, and real property to your family and leave your financial plan assets to KBC. To name KBC as a beneficiary of the assets in your retirement plan, you should request a beneficiary designation form from the plan sponsor.

Please contact your tax advisor for further information.

Lukas' Thoughts



Hello Everyone,

I hope that your summer has been spectacular and filled with the sights and sounds of those hot beautiful days, where Monarchs fly past in pairs, a whole field of Black-eyed Susans delight the eye, fledgling orioles create a chatter overhead. Only days ago have the leaves finally lost that full freshness of the new and began to slowly depict that famed Northern Humanist art theme of *Memento Mouri* – nothing lasts forever – and there is so much beauty in that. Now is the time to enjoy the brilliant migration of birds, butterflies, and dragonflies before a cold November rain sweeps it all away and a blanket of snow covers everything .

Several exciting developments have transpired within the Kirtland Bird Club over the summer. First, under the leadership of Laura Gooch, the surveys at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve are fully under way. As a result of a grant award originally written by our partner organization for this project, the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, we no longer have to bear

any of the costs associated with this survey – vital to better understanding migrating and breeding birds along Lake Erie and their protection. The last few surveys have been great and if you are interested in joining this project at anytime, please contact Laura.

Conservation has increasingly become a pertinent issue for many of our members. Any park may be developed as time goes on, which is why our project in CLNP is so important for the data that may prevent development. Meanwhile in Geauga County the whole Geauga Park district is under that threat. Their all-new board of directors is moving towards opening their parks to destructive recreational use such as four-wheelers and drilling for oil and natural gas. That apparently is considered a “recreational activity” by those folks as noted in the park minutes from June 9, 2014 ([http://reservations.geaugaparkdistrict.org/documents/2014/June-10-2014-Board-Meeting-Minutes.pdf#search=""](http://reservations.geaugaparkdistrict.org/documents/2014/June-10-2014-Board-Meeting-Minutes.pdf#search=)). KBC member Sandy Buckles is helping gather the conservation community to prevent that. Please read her column and contact her if you are able to help out! Your presence at a board meeting alone may prevent the destruction of these beautiful parks.

This year, we are continuing to move forward with partnering with various conservation organizations in North East Ohio and beyond in pursuing the serious study of birds and conserving their habitat. This October, we will sponsor a discussion on wind energy together with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. Our three organizations continue to successfully participate in the CLNP surveys and we have a co-sponsored program set for April with Bill Thompson as our speaker.

Lastly, with our expanding focus on various developments occurring in NE Ohio, we are always delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in helping out with field trips, participating in events that market our club, organizing various projects, and keeping the conservation community visible when treasured parklands are under threat to short-sighted development. If you are interested in playing an increased role in the Kirtland Bird Club, please email me!

Have a wonderful bird-filled autumn!

Sincerely,

Lukas Padegimas

President of the Kirtland Bird Club

Lukas_padegimas@sbcglobal.net

(440)-533-5519

Important Update: Geauga Park



Angry birders!

Geauga Park District Distress or Geauga Park District Reorientation

The Geauga Park District (GPD) is overseen by a three commissioner Board, appointed pursuant to Ohio state law by the Probate Judge for the county. In December 2013/January 2014 all prior commissioners were either not renewed in their terms or asked to step down by the probate judge (he is permitted to do so by statute). The long-time park director was terminated and an interim, less experienced person now serves in that position. Two new commissioners were immediately appointed and a third added in late June 2014. None had a history with the park's preservation or recreation endeavors.

On June 20, with only two Park commissioners appointed, there was a presentation of proposed changes to the by-laws to increase park activity, to exercise better financial controls and to list possible permitted park activities. The resolution to amend the by-laws was presented at this meeting and posted on the Park Website. (The revisions were posted to the website on June 11, more than a week before the June Board meeting but we do not know why.) However the posting was misleading as it did not show the original language versus the new language. In essence, the new language deemphasized quality of experience and placed recreation on an even footing with preservation (which might be in contravention of Ohio State Law) Among the extensive list of "recreation activities" identified were ATVs, dirt bikes, skateboard parks, firearms ranges, snowmobiling, trap shooting, herbicide use, animal propagation, oil/gas drilling and other items of non-preservation/conservation ilk. These revisions presented in the June 20 Board Meeting were then approved in the July 8 meeting (at which the third new park commissioner was introduced). There was no opportunity for public response (the meeting time and location for the July 8 meeting was changed) making it difficult for residents to attend.

From a birder's view, the gem of the Geauga Parks with songbird migration, hot spots, probable nesting Bald Eagles and Virginia Rails, vernal pools, spring wildflowers, etc. will now be split by the roar of ATVs, the hazard of wild trapping, and the roar of gunfire. The commissioners originally scheduled five Town Hall meetings to complete strategic planning for 2015-2025 for the Geauga Parks. The locations, dates and times were on the Park website the week of August 4-8. These have now been removed from the website. The long-time scheduled Board meeting for the evening of August 12 was suddenly posted on August 8 to have been moved to 9 AM Monday August 11, despite repeated notes in the minutes to have Board Meetings later in the evening so the working people of Geauga County would be able to attend.

A grassroots movement of concerned Geauga residents (birders, hikers, photographers, horsemen, etc.) have held two meetings and are planning to attend Board meetings seeking redress of their concerns.

-Sandy Buckles

Important Update: Lakefront Surveys

An Update on the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Avian Surveys

By Laura Gooch

We're off to a good start on the Avian Surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, with over fifty volunteers expressing interest. Laura Gooch, Gary Neuman and Julie West put in the stakes to mark the survey points on July 2, and Julie and Gary did the first official survey on July 4. Julie and Dick Hoffman helped in preparing the survey protocol, instructions, and data entry spreadsheet. This information was sent out to volunteers on July 14, and two training/shakedown surveys were held on July 20 and 27. Five surveys had been conducted as of July 27, with a total of about 55 species of birds counted. You can keep an eye on the survey results to date at <http://tinyurl.com/mvj58lx>.



Gray Catbird

Our goal is to survey the site several times a week if at all possible. We need a few more active participants so that we can comfortably achieve this goal. If you have not signed up yet and are interested, or if you are on the mailing list but want some help getting started, let us know! Contact Laura Gooch at lgooch@alum.mit.edu. This is a great opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of one of our area's best birding locations, and to make your birding productive!



Orchard Oriole





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 15, 2014

Dear KBC Member,

Now is the time to renew your membership to Kirtland Bird Club for the 2014/2015 membership year. I have lined up an interesting variety of speakers for this upcoming year who will take us through their Big Years, the Galapagos Islands, local projects of major importance, and share what's new in the world of science. Additionally, our local field trips for the Fall Season have just been set! Please see the fall Warbler for the details.

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 3rd meeting OR mail it to Mary Anne at the address found below. Alternatively, renew with a credit card at our secure online PayPal page www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/join/join.htm.

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,

Lukas Padegimas
President

KBC Membership Renewal 2014—2015

Print name/names as appropriate for roter: _____

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 \$17

Student \$8 (Under age 24)

Couple/Family \$28

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, Ohio 44109

Publisher of:

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

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

Email address: info@KirtlandBirdClub.org

Lukas Padegimas — President
Dave Dvorak — Vice President
Mary Anne Romito — Treasurer
Tom Romito — Recording Secretary
Sarah Winnicki — Corresponding Secretary/Editor, *The Kirtland Warbler*
Delores Cole — Digital Communications Coordinator
Fred Dinkelbach — Editor, *Cleveland Bird Calendar*
Jen Brumfield — Field Trip Coordinator
Dwight Chasar — OAPI Grant Program Chair
Jerry Talkington — Christmas Bird Count Compiler
Andy Lihani & Bob Finkelstein — Scholarship Fund Co-chairs
Larry Rosche — Honorary Lifetime Member
Ed Pierce — Honorary Lifetime Member

KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club