



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2017—2018 Membership Year, No. 4, Summer 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 June 6, 2018

eBird 101 – An Overview and Getting Started

by Matt Valencic



Most people are surprised when they learn all that eBird can do to enhance their personal birding experience. This presentation will introduce you to some of the most popular features, including: **Exploring Data** by counties, hotspots and species; **Exploring Bar Charts** to learn when species arrive and depart any area; and **My eBird** that allows you to view and sort ALL of the data YOU have entered. You will learn how to set up an account and begin entering data from your own observations, including pictures you have taken. It will be fast paced but there is an accompanying handout that will guide you step-by-step through getting started and accessing the most popular features.

Matt Valencic is a retired sales guy who spends much of his time pursuing his passions for observing birds, taking pictures and teaching others about nature. Upon retirement he joined Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and used his extensive catalog of bird photographs to create several presentations about the birds of NE Ohio. He shares these presentations with many groups including retirement communities, libraries, civic and clubs. His personal desire to record and organize his own bird observations led him to eBird in 2012. He now

***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, as well as 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 always welcome. Please send submissions to the New President Dave Dvorak or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.**

Upcoming Fieldtrips

LATE MIGRATION AT FIRESTONE METROPARK

9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 23

Leader: Jim Reyda

Description: Firestone Park in Summit County was 189 acres of farmland when donated by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1949. Today visitors can see a mature woodland and wetland with easy access on many trails. The Tuscarawas River and Race flow through the park with ponds on the north side and the Firestone flood control reservoir to the east. In early summer, target birds will be nesting Osprey, Great Blue Heron and woodland birds.

Directions: Take I-77 South to I-277 South; get off at Main St., exit go through the light on Swartz Rd. and turn right on Harrington Rd. Take a right at the second parking lot at the spillway bridge. From I-71 go south to Rt. 18 East to I-77 South, then I-277 South to Main St. You can also take I-76, 224 East from I-71 to I-277 South and Main St. exit.



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 Terns, Caspian Tern, Sabine's Gull, and lots of Osprey and many 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.



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

President Corner

Our Modern Day Biodiversity Library of Alexandria

by Dale Gaul

Alexandria, one of the greatest cities of the ancient world, was founded by Alexander the Great after his conquest of Egypt in 332 BCE. After the death of Alexander in 323 BCE, Egypt fell under the rule of one of his generals, Ptolemy I Soter. The early Ptolemaic kings sought to legitimize their rule through a variety of ways, including assuming the role of pharaoh, founding the Greco-Roman cult of Serapis, and becoming the patrons of scholarship and learning. It was this patronage that resulted in the creation of the great Library of Alexandria by Ptolemy. About 295 BCE, Ptolemy charged his adviser, Demetrius, with the task of founding the library. The “Letter of Aristeas” of the 2nd century BCE reveals that the institution was conceived as a universal library:

Demetrius...had at his disposal a large budget in order to collect, if possible, all the books in the world; ...to the best of his ability, he carried out the king’s objective. (Letters 10.)

The same claim was reiterated more than once: Irenaeus spoke of Ptolemy’s desire to equip “his library with the writings of all men as far as they were worth serious attention.” Over the centuries, the Library of Alexandria was one of the largest and most significant libraries in the ancient world. Estimates of the total number of books in the library vary. The earliest surviving figure, from the 3rd century BCE, is reported as “more than 200,000 books.” A still higher estimate of 700,000 was reported between the 2nd and 4th centuries CE. (The information in the preceding paragraph was taken from the following two websites.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Library-of-Alexandria>, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ptolemy-I-Soter>

While some of the information in the preceding paragraph may be just as much myth and legend as historical fact (I included the information for entertainment purposes), what is an historical fact is that today’s scholars are assembling a collection of biodiversity knowledge to rival the Library of Alexandria. The rest of this column is an attempt to bring to your attention three Internet websites that more than live up to the lofty goal of the Library of Alexandria.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA) and the Digital Library of the American Museum of Natural History are three marvelous websites loaded with ornithological information of which I think birders should be made aware. As a storehouse of information concerning all life on our Blue Planet the Biodiversity Heritage Library may be the most important. Each one of these collections will be considered separately below.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) was founded in 2005 and was initially the collaboration of ten natural history and botanical libraries. The founding member libraries were:

- *[American Museum of Natural History](#) (New York, New York)
- *[Field Museum of Natural History](#) (Chicago, Illinois)
- *[Botany Libraries \(Harvard University Herbaria\)](#) (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
- *[Ernst Mayr Library \(Museum of Comparative Zoology\)](#) (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

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- *Marine Biological Laboratory of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Woods Hole, Massachusetts)
- *Missouri Botanical Garden (St. Louis, Missouri)
- *Natural History Museum (London, England)
- *The New York Botanical Garden (Bronx, New York)
- *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Richmond, United Kingdom)
- *Smithsonian Institution (Washington D.C.)

Since 2005 at least five new member libraries have been added to this list and there are probably more of which I am not aware:

Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
California Academy of Sciences (San Francisco, California)
Cornell University Library (Ithaca, New York)
United States Geological Survey (Reston, Virginia)
Library of Congress (Washington D.C.)

These libraries cooperate to digitize the biodiversity legacy literature held in their collections and to make this literature freely available via open access for responsible use as part of a global “biodiversity commons.” The BHL does this by taking high definition digital photographs of the pages of the volumes in their collections, and converting these to a number of different file formats, such as .pdf files, and then making these files available for download at their website. The BHL has digitized millions of pages of taxonomic literature, representing nearly 100,000 titles and over 160,000 volumes.

Since the founding of the original BHL in 2005 a number of other Biodiversity Heritage Libraries have come into existence. There are now BHL - Europe, BHL - Australia, BHL - Egypt, BHL - China, BHL - SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library), BHL - Africa (South African National Biodiversity Institute Libraries), BHL - Brazil and there may be a BHL - Mexico. So this is clearly a global effort to make the world’s biodiversity legacy literature available to all. The original BHL, founded in 2005, is now referred to as BHL - US or BHL - US/UK.

There are two websites of which I am aware that can be used to access the information in BHL - US. These are:

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>
<https://archive.org/details/biodiversity>

Once one gets to the BHL website there is a boatload of information waiting to be explored. It doesn’t matter if your interests are plants, animals, microbes or rocks you will be able to find something of interest. As birders and ornithologists we would probably be most interested in the bird-related volumes, The original works of John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson, Robert Ridgway, John Gould, Arthur Cleveland Bent, Alexander Wetmore and others are available for download. Here are a few examples, if you search for Audubon’s “Birds of America” you will find a seven volume set published in 1840 and an eight volume set published in 1871. A

President Corner *(continuation)*

American Museum of Natural History

While the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) was one of the founding members of the BHL and has contributed numerous volumes to the BHL, the AMNH has its own website featuring its own publications by its own researchers. It is called the AMNH Library Digital Repository and can be accessed at the Internet address below:

digitallibrary.amnh.org/

Once one gets to the above website there is again a boatload of information for the curious visitor. As birders we would probably be most interested in the Ornithology and the Scientific Publications subsections. You can click on either one of those. Within the Scientific Publications subsection there are two journals of great interest to us birders, “American Museum Novitates” and “Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History.” The American Museum Novitates journal contains over 900 bird-related articles (for example Ernst Mayr has 54 articles; Frank Chapman has 27 articles). The Bulletin journal contains over 600 bird-related articles (Joel Allen has 54 articles; Frank Chapman has 47 articles). Even though these articles are dated they are marvelous historical documents if you are interested in the historical development of ornithology as a science.

Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA)

While the two websites mentioned above possess a wide variety of subject matter, the SORA website is strictly devoted to birds, as the name suggests. SORA bills itself as the world’s first and largest open access ornithological publications archive. This resource is located at the University of New Mexico and is a collaborative effort of the American Ornithologists Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the University of New Mexico Libraries. The SORA website can be found at the Internet address below:

<https://sora.unm.edu/>

When you get to the SORA website, along the left side of the web page you will see a list of 34 publications you are able to browse, with more publications being added as I write this article. According to the SORA website our Kirtland Bird Club **Cleveland Bird Calendar** Volumes 100 through 104 are in the process of being added. By perusing this list of 34 publications you can see that SORA provides access to an incredibly extensive library of ornithological literature of state, regional, national and international interest. Detailed materials documenting the development and history of North American ornithology over the last 120 years are contained at this site. As an illustration, volumes of the Auk (from 1884-2001), Condor (from 1899-2000) and the Wilson Bulletin (from 1889-1999) can be found at the SORA website. Alexander Skutch’s three volume set “Life Histories of Central American Birds” can be found under **Pacific Coast Avifauna**. One can browse specific journals or search the whole collection, whatever you desire.

This summer take the time to investigate all three of these websites. There are hidden treasures everywhere.



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The Kirtland Warbler

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