

Kirtland Bird Club of NE Ohio Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Sean McCleery at 7 PM on the Zoom platform. There was a maximum of 64 screens logged in. Sean welcomed all attendees, and reviewed our Mission Statement. He also urged viewers to join or renew membership.
2. **Christmas Bird Count 2025 review, by Laura Gooch.**
 - a. The count was held on 12/20/25, with 19 groups and a total of 92 participants. There were 74 species seen, and a total of over 38,000 birds. New for the count was Trumpeter Swan. Waterfowl were at a near record high, with Common Mergansers staying high. There were records highs for Bald Eagles, Winter Wrens (7) and Common Golden Eye. Red Bellied Woodpeckers were up. Black Capped Chickadees and American Crows were down.
3. **Field Trip Recap.** The January Geauga County Back Roads Field Trip with Matt Valensic had 28 people and saw 48 species,
4. **Announcements**
 - a. KBC recently received \$5000 to support the Ohio Avian Project Initiative, (OAIP).
 - i. Tom Romito secured \$2000 from the Stolier Foundation.
 - ii. An anonymous donor gave \$3000 (second year in a row).
 - iii. OAIP update from Dwight Chasar. Per our bylaws, when the Club plans to agree to spend over \$500, it must be announced one month before the vote. The committee plans to ask for \$6000 in support of awards at the next meeting.
 - b. A motion was made by Mary Anne Romito to approve of the minutes in 2025 for September, October, November and December. This was seconded by Paula Lozano. The motion passed.
5. **Upcoming events.**
 - a. Meetings: Wednesday, March 5 at 7 PM on Zoom. The speaker will be Jamey Emmert of Ohio DNR. His topic will be “Ohio’s North Coast in Flight, The Lake Erie Birding Trail”

- b. Field Trips: Saturday February 14 at 9 AM, at Rocky River Reservation that will be a joint field trip with WCAS.
 - c. Non-KBC events
 - i. The Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 13-16
 - ii. Saturday March 14, The Great Migration Sensation 2026 in Shreve, Ohio.
6. **Speaker** : John Barber on gardening for the birds. John is a resident of Cleveland Heights, Co-chair of the Friends of Lower Lake Park, a licensed bird bander, and a citizen scientist for over fifty years.
- a. Handout: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QpvAVq01Da8VQKbkt8VO9xv4I0aNEROJ/view?usp=sharing>
7. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM**