

**Kirtland Bird Club**  
**4/6/24– Meeting Minutes**

1. **Meeting started at 7:00** PM Patty Kellner, president, on zoom. There were 60 screens logged on.

2. **Welcome & Speaker Introduction**

The speakers will be Matt Valencic.

3. **Announcements, led by Patricia Kellner, president:**

A. Sightings:

- i. Fred: Woodcocks
- ii. Steve: Florida Scrub Jay
- iii. Fox Sparrows
- iv. American Pipit seen at Soltis Road
- v. Matt : few Sapsuckers
- vi. Over 700 Red Breasted Mergansers see on LaDue Reservoir.
- vii. American Tree Sparrows seen at SLNC feeders this week.

B. Field trip report: The March Field trip was at Huntington Reservation and Lake Erie Science Center. Christi reported a sunny day, although not many birds. Those seen included Mallards, Red Breasted Mergansers and a Barred Owl. At the Lake Erie Science Center, we had a talk about a rehabilitation program, especially one for birds. They had a special tank for diving and dabbling ducks. They had an Eastern Screech owl that was blind in one eye. They were in process of putting dots on windows so that the windows were visible to birds.

C. Upcoming Field Trips

- i. April 7 ASGC warbler warm-up from 2-3:30 PM at the West Woods Nature Center.
- ii. Sunday mornings ( last 3 in April and first three in May) there are the annual series of spring bird walks at multiple locations. April 14 through May 19.

<https://clevelandaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-SPRING-BIRD-WALK-SERIES.pdf>

or

[https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/uploads/5/3/5/0/53501147/2024\\_spring\\_bird\\_walk\\_series.pdf](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/uploads/5/3/5/0/53501147/2024_spring_bird_walk_series.pdf)

- iii. April 20 Frohring meadows with Michelle Brosius and her uncle, Bob Opper. This is in conjunction with WCAS. The rain date is April 21.
- iv. May 4 Richfield Heritage Reserve lead by Fred. There is a 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM walk. The terrain is semi-rough. There are lakes, pine woods and an open field.
- v. May 7 Tuesday Paula and Patty will be at Magee Marsh for “bird walk on the boardwalk”. May also do Howard Marsh. Please register for this event. If you let them know in advance, they may be able to supply binoculars. Meet at 8:30 AM .
- vi. June 1 Station Road Cuyahoga Valley National Park walk on the towpath . The towpath may be closed going north. Plan B is Brecksville picnic area.

#### D. Committee reports

- i. Program Committee: Christi Carlson and Al Cadesky have agreed to reactivate the Program Committee.
- ii. Field Trip committee consists of Paula Lozano, Christi, and Al.

E. Voting on proposal to be one of 2 sponsors of Ohio Young Birders ( NEO chapter). Tyler McClain is in charge. This comprises children ages 12-18. We would set aside \$1000 to be available to young Birder club if they have a “need”, such a field trip support. Spending would require the approval of three board members. This would last for 2 years, after which another vote would be needed. The proposal passed with 28 voting “for” and 0 voting “against”. Members were encouraged to donate individually a also.

#### F. Upcoming activities

- i. May 1 there is a talk on the ecology of American Kestrels at The Wilds given by Genelle Uhrig. This will be at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy Headquarters, and is sponsored by KBC. Capacity is limited, and members will be given priority registration. There will be a walk on the trail across the street first. Walk starts at 5 PM and the talk at 7 PM.
  - ii. June 5 is the annual potluck picnic at Squire ValeeVue.
- g. “Birdability”. This is about making birding accessible. Julie West does this through Shaker Lakes Nature Center. This is done once a month. They try to address all types of challenges. Dates are 4/24, 5/23, and 6/27. The Birdability link is [www.birdability.org](http://www.birdability.org)
- H. Other events: Big birding weekend 5/17-5/19 mosquito creek

**4. Program Speakers:** Our speaker was Matt Valencic . His topic was “LBJ’s- sparrows and finches of northeast Ohio”. Matt is a long-time birder, photographer, plant enthusiast. Educator and Kirtland Bird Club member. Matt is active in the education programming for his “home” club, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. He is the force behind “Birdquest” , a 24-hour team challenge to find the most possible species in the Chagrin River watershed. He is extremely generous with his time, and has given speaker programs and led field trips for KBC.

**5. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM

Meeting notes submitted by Toby Briskin, then reviewed and approved by the Board, and posted to the KBC website.