



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio

www.KirtlandBirdClub.org

2020–2021 Membership Year, No. 1, Fall Issue

Monthly Meetings

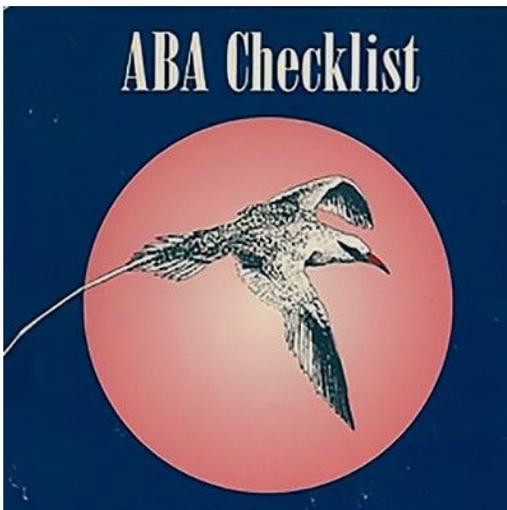
Kirtland Bird Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, September through June at 7:30 p.m.

Each meeting includes announcements, some club business, and a speaker program. Meetings are free and all are welcome!

Because of COVID19 we are meeting via Zoom instead of at our usual location, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Our field trips are also on hold. We look forward to resuming in person gatherings in the future! If you are not a member and want to participate, contact us info@kirtlandbirdclub.org

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

7:30 on Zoom



A BIG YEAR, LESSONS LEARNED

by Joe Blanda, MD

Dr. Joe Blanda, an orthopedic surgeon, will share his experience doing a Big Year, including the lessons he learned.

A Big Year is a term used in the Birding Community to describe an endeavor to record as many birds as possible in a given year between 12:00 AM on January 1st and 11:59 PM on December 31st. Typically it involves lots of travel and endurance.

Joe used his Big Year to raise money for cancer research - and he learned about more than just

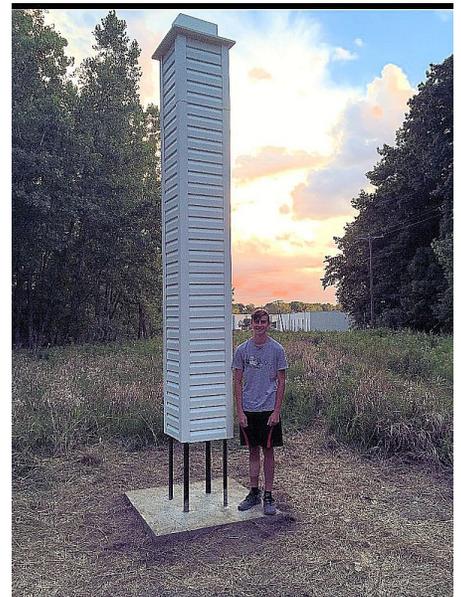
birds. His passion for the environment blossomed.

Sit back and enjoy this Zoom presentation from the comfort of your home.

Eagle Scout project sponsored by Kirtland Bird Club.

This Chimney Swift tower partially sponsored by a Kirtland Bird Club grant and built by Eagle Scout **Justin Duricky** is finished. Look for it at Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, 8365 Harbor Drive, Mentor.

Great job, Justin !



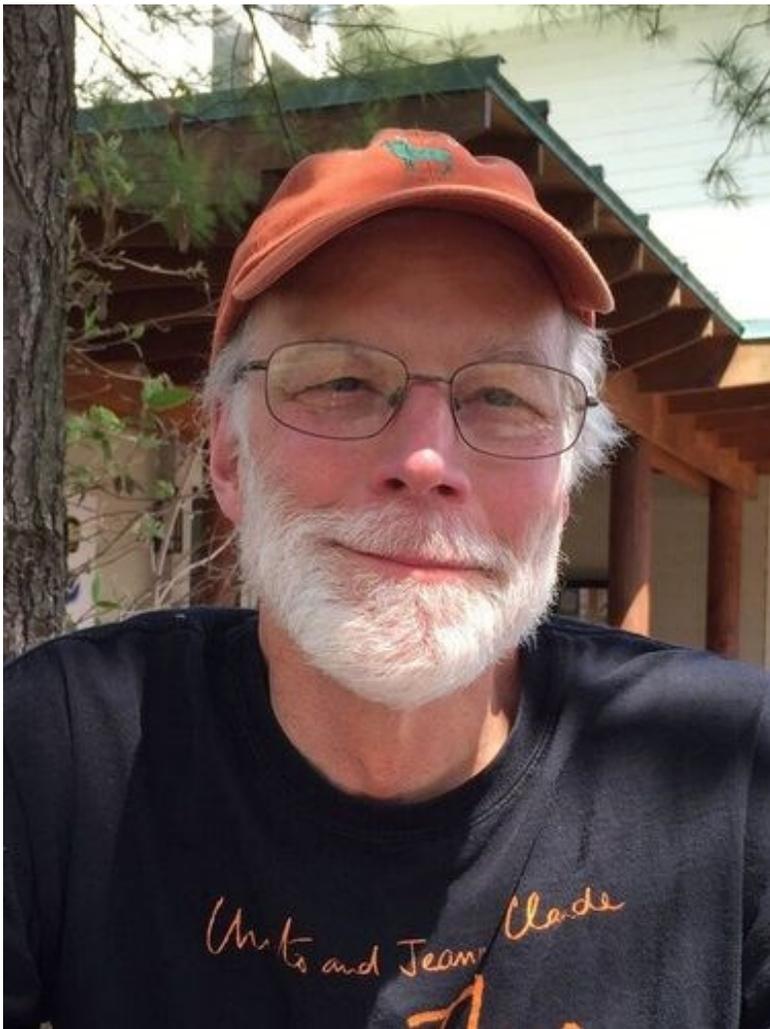
Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

7:30PM on Zoom

A NEW PRIMER ON BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING

by John Barber



How can we best feed birds in our yards? The accepted wisdom of many feeders brimming with commercially-grown seeds is increasingly seen as one of the lowest priorities for helping both nesting and migrating birds. Are we supporting birds that are relentless predators on open-cup nesting species? The answer lies in designing and planting a wide array of native trees, shrubs, and perennials to host the widest possible array of native insects, while avoiding the temptation to plant non-native and potentially invasive plants sometimes sold as "bird-friendly". Recent research suggests the highest probability of success for nesting Black-capped Chickadees results from yards planted with more than 70% native plants. We'll talk about turning yards of any size into truly bird-friendly habitats.

John has been a citizen scientist for over fifty years, active in green space preservation, the recovery of Peregrine Falcon populations, and the continuing recovery of Eastern Bluebirds. Now retired after 35 years in the business world, he is focused on restoring and main-

taing biodiversity. He continues studies on bluebirds and performs habitat restoration and ecological gardening with native plants.

A native of Shaker Heights, he served on the board of the Nature Center for ten years, including two terms as Board President. He now serves on the board of the Native Plant Trust. He is co-leading the Friends of Lower Lake, a program of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, working to restore habitat around Lower Lake Park in the Shaker Parklands.

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

7:30PM on Zoom

How a Cleveland Birder-Photographer Works on Conservation Efforts in Colombia

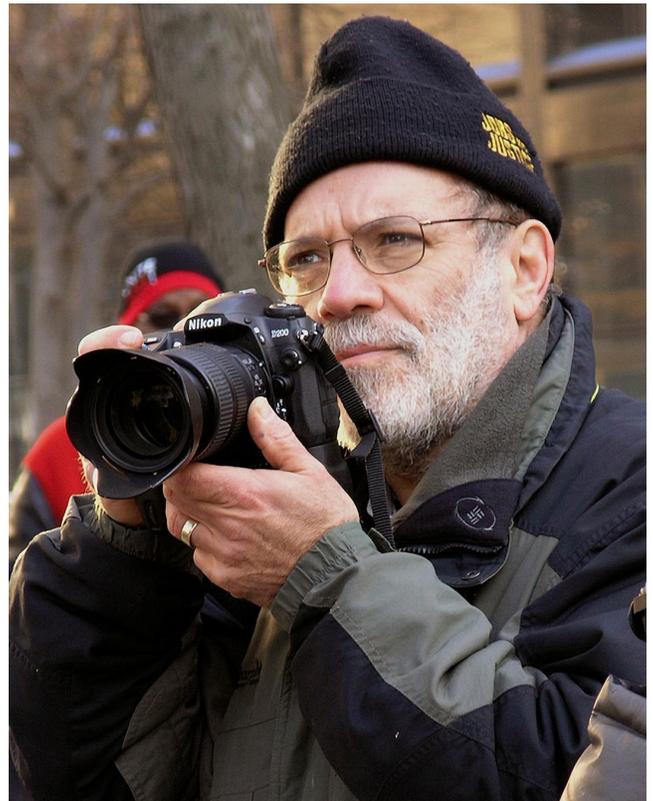
by Steve Cagan

Steve Cagan is a birder and photographer who has been traveling to El Chocó, a Pacific rainforest area in Colombia, since 2003. The area faces threats to its rich rainforest and its human cultures. The threats come from mechanized gold mining, indiscriminate logging and industrial agricultural projects. In this region marked also by violence of the civil war and the displacement and death that have been visited upon the communities, Steve works with communities and organizations.

Despite the long odds against them, people in the communities have worked to save their environment, and with the help of committed NGOs, they have won some impressive victories. Steve will share images of some of the birds he has enjoyed seeing in the area and then share some of the ways he has been able to contribute to the efforts to resist and overcome those environmental and social threats.

Steve will also describe an error that a bird conservation organization in Colombia made in their relationship with local communities - from which we might draw lessons for our own work. The talk will end with a look at the recently published e-book about the issues

around mechanized gold mining.



Steve calls himself a birder and photographer—not a bird photographer. Though he does take pictures of birds, his major work is related to social issues and community responses to those issues. He has exhibited and published photography on four continents. He has published reviews and critical writings in a variety of professional journals and books. Major awards include two Fulbright Fellowships, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and several Ohio and New Jersey Arts

Council Fellowships. Steve taught at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, 1985-1993.

President's letter

By Patricia Kellner



Last fall when, I was elected President of KBC I had no idea how much fun I would have working to reinvigorate the club! With challenges brought on by COVID the Board and I have had time and energy to be creative and try different ways for us all to connect, lots of it due to Zoom and the internet.

Among our many steps forward this year:

- Two meetings with a consultant about reinvigorating the club followed by a report from the consultant on suggested steps forward
- Zoom speaker meetings with speakers from remote places
- YouTube recordings of speaker meetings posted in our Past Speaker archive
- Zoom discussion meeting – to discuss Birding While Black and make a plan of action
- Zoom “What bird is this?” meeting to help newer – and more established birders – work on bird identification
- Black Birder Initiative – a group of members are reaching out to find ways to support growth of birding among Black people in our area
- Providing KBC input to the CHEERS project – to develop a plan for

redevelopment and enhancement of the lakefront between Burke Lakefront Airport and Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

- Website re-organization and enhancement – with an Archive section, a New Birder page, and a Birding While Black page and more color, more info on Ohio Avian Project Initiative grants and the Christmas Bird Count
- Working on housekeeping for all of the subscriptions that make our digital presence possible
- We supported an Eagle Scout project to build a chimney swift tower at Lake Erie Bluffs

We're looking forward to more progress in the next year too:

- Bringing back the KBC member roster
- Hosting an Online Regional Birding Calendar so there's a central location for birders to find opportunities to bird and learn (our first baby step is on our website – check it out!)
- Publicizing the club's programs to attract new visitors
- Greater use of photos on the website
- Virtual field trip videos
- Partnering with other organizations on joint endeavors

With all that we've been doing, it seems people have noticed! After ten straight years of decline in membership, membership is up 25% over last year. So, thank you to all of our new members, returning members, and stalwart members who never gave up on the KBC!

What can you do to help us continue to revitalize?

- Volunteer to help with one of the activities and initiatives of the club! In particular we need help with publicity, tracking membership dues & donations, writing articles, member correspondence, recruiting speakers, virtual field trip videos, and Bird ID programs.
- Contact us at info@kirtlandbirdclub.org and let us know what interests you.
- Invite your friends and colleagues to check out our website and our programs! Or send us their names and emails and we'll add them to our email list.
- Suggest community groups who might post announcements from us in their newsletters or on their websites. Let us know who they are and we'll like them on Facebook
- And last of all, renew your membership for 2020-2021!

Here's to sustainability and another 80 years of KBC!

Patty Kellner

For new birders

Fall 2020 Birding – Where and When

By Fred Dinkelbach



Northeast Ohio's autumn birding is as rewarding and exciting as any other time of year. It's the time of returning wintering birds, the passage of tropical migrants, and probably the best time of year for something rarely seen or completely new for our area. Can we top last year's Limpkin?

Keep alert for the cold fronts from the north that bring in the fall warblers and thrushes in September and into October. The numerous lake-front parks can bring tired migrants together for easy viewing. Towards the end of the season, northern ducks and gulls will be settling in along Lake Erie's margins and inland lakes before being chased away by winter's ice.

There are many online resources that will point you to a productive spot. Start with <https://ebird.org/>, click Explore, then Explore Regions, enter the County name, and scroll down to see the top hotspots on the right.

This is best done on a PC or laptop – the smartphone screen is not conducive to exploring on eBird. To find out what birds can be seen in the fall, or any time of year, click Bar Charts from the Explore screen and enter your county or counties, and scroll through a tailored list.

Fellow birder Ken Ostermiller has put together an incredible amount of effort creating <https://birding-in-ohio.com/>. Besides being a nice front-end to eBird.org, it also has descriptions of locations supplied by the local birders. Click on your target county, then the link of any listed location and you may see maps, aerial photos highlighting places to focus your efforts, and tips on what to see at specific spots.

Another excellent resource is Ohio Ornithological Society's <https://ohiobirds.org/> Navigate to the state birding map by clicking below "Where to Watch Birds in Ohio" on the main page.

For waterfowl, a favorite location of mine is Sandy Ridge Reservation in North Ridgeville with its large expanses of shallow water that the large waders and dabbling ducks love. It's not uncommon to pick up a dozen species of ducks, grebes and coots on a good spring or fall day, as well as shorebirds along the margins. And if it is not a good day, more than one of Sandy Ridge's ever-present Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles or Sandhill Cranes will keep you company.

October is Sparrow Month. Area rarities will gather along the lake where the habitat is welcoming. Check brushy fields at places like Cleveland Lakefront State Park, the impoundment next to Lorain Harbor, the Mentor Headlands dunes (View from the perimeter) and Mentor Lagoons. Inland, the former Richfield Coliseum grassland can be good, although there are no easy trails.

As for comfort, nothing beats a chair at the window overlooking your bird feeder; you'll keep warm and dry learning, or re-learning, the ID of sparrows, finches and woodpeckers while waiting for the season's first Tree or Fox Sparrow. Also, check your local county or metro park nature center if they are open for visits. The list of park bird feeder viewing locations seems endless, check with their web sites.

And as always, finding a fellow KBC member in the field can provide a suggestion or two on making your birding day a happy and productive one. Good luck!



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

Dear KBC Member,

Now is the time to renew your membership to Kirtland Bird Club for the 2020/2021 membership year. This year we have a number of exciting speakers lined up as well as local field trips up through January. For the most up to date information, please look at the Fall issue of Kirtland Warbler Newsletter or our website at www.kirtlandbirdclub.org.

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 November meeting OR mail it to Mary Anne at the address found below. Alternatively, renew with a credit card at our secure online PayPal page <http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.html>

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. Pay by check or by PayPal through our website <https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.html> And, meantime, enjoy the cooler morning or evening hours for some migration birding. Thank you for your generosity. It means a great deal.

KBC Membership Renewal 2020—2021

Print name/names as appropriate for roster: _____

For student membership, print school name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail _____ Daytime Phone: _____

2nd e-mail for family members: _____

Note: By giving your email address you agree to receive notices of 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 \$20

Student \$10 (Under age 24)

Couple/Family \$30

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
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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