



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio

www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2016—2017 Membership Year, No. 4, Summer 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

Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m.



Life in the New Perkins Wildlife Center

Presented by Michelle Leighty Jones

The Museum's animals have been living in the new Perkins Wildlife Center for about 9 months. Learn about their daily lives in their new homes, as well as the work that went into designing species-specific exhibits, training the animals for the big move, and acclimating them to their habitats. Discover some of the upcoming plans and goals for the animals as the Wildlife department moves forward in the state-of-the-art facility!

Michelle Leighty Jones is the manager of the Perkins Wildlife Center and has worked at CMNH for 11 years. Prior to the museum, she worked with elephants and rhinos at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and with domestic animals at a veterinary clinic in Portland, Oregon. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology and environmental studies from Ohio University and a master's degree in environmental studies and planning from Cleveland State University. Her master's thesis researched urban nest sites of Peregrine Falcons. When she isn't training falcons and coyotes at the museum, she enjoys travel, photography, and hikes with her husband and hound dog.

Upcoming Field Trips

Migrating Warblers At Mentor Headlands

**Mentor Headlands, Lake County
Sunday June 4, 2017 Trip Start: 8:30 a.m.
Trip Leader: TBA**

Description: We will search for some lingering late migrants at Mentor Headlands as well as some summer breeding birds.

Directions: 9601 Headlands Rd, Mentor, OH 44060. Drive north to the end of route 44. Upon arrival, park at the right most edge of the large parking lot. We will meet there.



Shorebirds at the Conneaut Sandspit

**Conneaut Sandspit, Ashtabula Co.
Sunday August 26, 2016
Trip Start: 8:30 a.m.
Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas**

Description: The Sandspit at Conneaut often attracts an array of exciting shorebirds including Sanderlings, Red Knots, Willets, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, and occasionally something even rarer.

Directions: 480 Lake Rd, Conneaut, OH 44030 is the address of the park overlooking the public beach. To reach the sandspit: Take I-90 east to Exit 241 (OH-7 North). Follow OH-7 north for 2 miles until you reach State St. Turn right onto State St until you reach Broad St (third intersection). Turn left (north) here and follow Broad Street toward the harbor (this is still OH-7). Once you drive down the hill into the marina, turn left toward the boat launch and follow this road along the base of the hill until you reach a dirt/sandy road at the end which will take you out to the beach and sand spit. Use judgment about driving the dirt road. (GPS for sandspit: 41.9696938, -80.5583171)

Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden

by **Michelle Leighty Jones**
(Photography by author)

The first summer of the new Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden presented by Key Bank at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is approaching and looks to be very exciting! The Perkins Wildlife Center opened last year on Labor Day weekend so the animals have now had several months to acclimate to their new homes and settle into their lifestyles. The charismatic mammals such as the coyotes, otters, foxes, and bocats often steal the show, but the center also hosts a large variety of interesting birds with huge personalities.



The eagle exhibit is currently home to George the Bald Eagle and Midas the Golden Eagle. The two varieties of eagle living together side by side offers spectacular opportunities to compare and contrast the species. Visitors can observe similarities and differences in their size, plumage, vocalizations, feeding style and diet preferences, and so on. Both eagles are very mobile and move around the exhibit frequently, delighting visitors with glimpses of their dispositions and habits.

Right next door to the eagles are Niles and Daphne, our pair of Sandhill Cranes. Niles is an imprinted bird and extremely human-oriented. He is often right next to the exhibit fence checking out visitors and trumpeting. He is very curious and playful; his favorite pastimes include untying the shoelaces of staff members and commandeering the hose used to clean the exhibit. Daphne has a wing injury, but it doesn't slow her down one bit and she can often be seen dancing and jumping and spinning around the exhibit. Both cranes are also very interested in enrichment activities, and the wildlife specialists give them different objects and stimuli daily to play with and to encourage their natural behaviors and satisfy their curiosity.

The Turkey Vulture and American Crow exhibit is another space with birds that are big characters. Rook and Roxy the crows are extremely intelligent and are constantly exploring and investigating every detail of their exhibit, enrichment items, and the visitors. They are often given complex puzzles to solve in order to get their food which is exciting for guests to watch. The crows are trained on a variety of behaviors and visitors can often watch a training session, during which the staff might station or weigh them or have the birds practice going into their kennels, which makes transportation to the vet easy and low-stress. Baldy and Gandalf the vultures are smart as well, and also enjoy the enrichment activities and training. Sometimes they will even overtake enrichment items meant for the crows, and vice versa. Luckily they all get along and for the most part can share nicely. This particular exhibit also attracts a lot of wild avian visitors! Almost every day wild crows come to visit Rook and Roxy and chat with them, and throughout the spring wild Turkey Vultures perched in the trees directly over the exhibit. These two bird species are very social: it's a treat that our residents are able to attract wild members of their species.



Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden (continuation)



The Perkins Wildlife Center has a large songbird and waterfowl aviary that visitors are able to enter and stroll through on an elevated pathway. The exhibit boasts various species of ducks and songbirds, as well as Northern Bobwhite, Ruffed Grouse, a Green Heron, and a Common Gallinule. Other species include Mourning Dove, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Black-capped Chickadee, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. All of the birds are very active and visitors can watch as the flying individuals zoom overhead, and observe the quail bustling through the boulders on the hillside and the ducks splashing in their pond. The male Ruffed Grouse has even been displaying to the female, fanning out his tail and ruff of neck feathers! She hasn't been

too impressed yet but our staff and visitors are very appreciative!

The Peregrine Falcon exhibit is attached to the side of the museum's brick wall and has some ledges installed, mimicking the tall buildings wild urban falcons use for hunting and nesting. The resident falcon is a vision-impaired female named Endeavour. She is very active and uses every inch of the exhibit and is not shy about butchering and eating her quail and chickens just a few feet away from museum guests. The sweeping view over the city from the front of her exhibit is yet another reason to visit! One can get a feel for what it's like to be a Peregrine Falcon, scanning the metropolitan surroundings from a great height with cars rushing below.



The Raptor Center houses the birds that are trained for use in programs and classes. These birds of prey live in mews, which is comparable to horses living in stables. The wildlife specialists work every day with these animals, weighing them, getting them on the glove, attaching leashes, putting them in and taking them out of travel boxes, and in general reinforcing all of the trained behaviors that allow these birds to be so great for program use. The two front mews are completely visible to the public, their front walls made of a transparent mesh rather than wooden slats. This allows museum visitors an exciting peek into raptor handling and training, as they are able to watch as Wildlife staff work with the birds. The exposure to visitors also helps the raptors become used to people and crowds, which is essential to their success as animal ambassadors. The birds in the front two mews are rotated from time to time, so repeat visitors might see different species each time they come.



Attached to the Raptor Center is the home of Castor and Pollux, our handsome brother Barn Owls. Just outside of their exhibit is an interactive Barn Owl listening device for visitors to try. The Perkins Wildlife Center is full of interactive activities for guests, such as a slackline to perch on like a crow, as well as bronze sculptures of the various bird species that are able to be touched. There are also binoculars at some of the exhibits for getting a better view of the animals in the enclosures and also the wild animals around the city!

The new Perkins Wildlife Center is a fantastic state-of-the-art facility and a must-see for any bird-lover! Be sure to check out the rest of the animals as well, often above in their overhead trailways. A walk-through wetlands filled with native fish is another great feature of the center, and the native plants, flowers, and trees, and vegetation are attractive and educational as well. It's a great place to learn all about Ohio's wildlife, and to encounter some of it

Herbert Byrahuanga's May 2017 Visit to Cleveland & the Biggest Week in American Birding Festival

By Paula Lozano



The morning of May 3, 2017, Herbert Byrahuanga arrived at Cleveland Hopkins and that evening attended the Kirtland Bird Club meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing Dwight Chasar's presentation about birding in eastern Hungary and Catalonia, Spain.

Byrahuanga is self-employed and the Managing Director of [Bird Uganda Safaris](#) that offers a variety of birding and wildlife tours in Uganda and Rwanda. He is the president of the Uganda Tourism Association and one of Uganda's most distinguished tour guides. In addition, he is training women to develop skills to get jobs in the tourism sector and conservation organizations. The Uganda Young Birders is another project he initiated with Uganda's youth to make them aware of Uganda's rich flora and fauna.



From May 4 through May 11 Herbert birded at Magee Marsh boardwalk and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, took a guided van trip to Point Mouillee State Game Area in Michigan, gave a travel talk with Rob Ripma of Sabrewing Nature Tours at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and promoted Uganda every evening at Maumee Bay Lodge. On May 12 he departed Cleveland to return to Uganda to travel to the Semliki Forest National Park in western Uganda to examine the birding skills of the newest group of the women graduating as certified guides.

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

by **Lukas Padegimas**

April 23, 2017

A beautiful day where 15-20 members showed up and had great views of a Great Horned Owl fledgling, Peregrine Falcons, and Yellow-throated Warblers. 43 species of birds were seen that day:



1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Mallard
4. Ring-billed Gull
5. Rock Pigeon
6. Mourning Dove
7. Great Horned Owl
8. Belted Kingfisher
9. Red-bellied Woodpecker
10. Pileated Woodpecker
11. Bald Eagle
12. Red-shouldered Hawk
13. Peregrine Falcon
14. Eastern Phoebe
15. Warbling Vireo (H)
16. Blue Jay
17. American Crow
18. Tree Swallow
19. Northern Rough-winged Swallow
20. Barn Swallow
21. Black-capped Chickadee
22. Tufted Titmouse
23. White-breasted Nuthatch
24. Carolina Wren
25. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
26. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
27. Eastern Bluebird
28. American Robin
29. European Starling
30. Common Yellowthroat (H)
31. Yellow Warbler
32. Yellow-rumped Warbler
33. Yellow-throated Warbler
34. Palm Warbler
35. Song Sparrow
36. Swamp Sparrow
37. White-throated Sparrow
38. Northern Cardinal
39. Common Grackle
40. Brown-headed Cowbird
41. House Finch
42. American Goldfinch
43. House Sparrow

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of the following KBC members or their family since the beginning of our club year.

*Robert Larson
Sheldon Lewin
Ann Tonneff*

We send our deepest sympathies Gretchen Larson, Marcia Lewin, and Bill Tonneff. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



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KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club



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