



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club Northeast Ohio
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com
2021-2022 Membership Year, No. 3, Spring Issue

Monthly Meetings

Guests are always welcome
1st Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:00 PM

In light of COVID-19 we are currently holding all of our meetings via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending any of our meetings and are not already a member of our club, please email us: info@kirtlandbirdclub.org

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM - on Zoom

Birds in Music: Olivier Messiaen and his Birdsong Compositions

Presenter: Sameer Apte



Cellist Sameer Apte, an active Cleveland birder and incoming doctoral student at the University of Southern California will discuss ornithologically-inspired pieces by the French composer Olivier Messiaen. Many of Messiaen's pieces are structured around quotations of birdsong, which he claimed to have transcribed from the field. Recent research, however, has revealed that many of Messiaen's quotations were actually transcribed from recordings. Apte will introduce some of Messiaen's most compelling birdsong pieces and examine how they fit into the historical context of bird identification and recording.

American cellist Sameer Apte was born in 1997 in Cleveland, Ohio. An active performer in the Cleveland area, Apte will begin his doctoral studies with Professor Ralph Kirshbaum in Fall 2022 at the University of Southern California.

In 2021, Apte earned his master's degree from the New England Conservatory in the class of Paul Katz, where he was class assistant and a recipient of the Gregor Piatigorsky scholarship. Previously, Apte studied cello with Anne Martindale Williams at Carnegie Mellon University, with additional studies in chamber music (classes of David Harding and Dimitri Papadimitriou) and conducting (class of Daniel Nesta Curtis).

Outside of music, Apte enjoys reading, running, chess, and looking for wildlife outdoors, and regularly contributes to citizen science databases and other ecological research projects.



APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 PM - on Zoom

Weather Conditions and Migration: Target Birds and Birding

Presenter: Gautam Apte

Beyond the basics of annual migratory behavior, we'll take an in-depth look at the concept of migration and the influence of weather conditions on a wide range of migratory species. We will discuss ideal conditions for the best "fallout" experience, the best times to look for uncommon or scarce migrants, and even how to maximize your chances of finding a rarity in your local patch. We'll take a look at a few highly sought-after species and analyze historical records, weather conditions, and patterns of occurrence to determine when they have the highest probability of being seen in a particular area. You'll learn how to evaluate data like this for any given species or group, and how to apply your findings in the field and get the most out of birding your area!



Gautam Apte has been enjoying the Cleveland birding scene for over a decade, where he began birding at a young age. He is currently finishing up a B.S. in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus, where he is the Vice President of Conservation for the Ornithology Club. He serves as an eBird reviewer for several counties in Ohio and manages the avian window collision monitoring program at OSU, as well as his own research project, studying influences of migratory behavior in Song Sparrows. In the summers, he has worked as a field biologist collecting data for various research studies across the country. During the school year, he enjoys studying migration in and around the Cleveland area, particularly observing water-bird migration along the Lake Erie coast in the fall and winter. Besides birding, he enjoys traveling, hiking, climbing, and being let down by the Browns every year.

MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 PM

Topic and presenter TBD

Field trips

Saturday, March 26, 2022, 9:00 am

Cleveland Lakefront Reservation - Scranton Flats/Peninsula

Meeting place: Cleveland Metroparks Towpath Public Parking Lot, W. 13th Place and Abbey Road, Cleveland

Leader: *Nancy Howell*

We will follow the towpath trail, walking down into the valley and along the river, making a loop around Carter Road or crossing to Merwin Street, and returning to the parking lot. Target birds are lingering winter waterfowl and gulls and early spring migrants.



Click link for Scranton Road Peninsula map

<https://maps.clevelandmetroparks.com/?z=16.88&x=-81.6942&y=41.4904&base=map&lat=41.4810907&lng=-81.6949023&zoom=15.4>

Click link to read about Scranton Flats.

<https://birding-in-ohio.com/cuyahoga-county/lakefront-reservation-scranton-road-peninsula/>

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 7:30 am

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation

Meeting place: Hemlock Creek Picnic Area - Parking lot - coordinates: 41.37567, -81.57374

Leader: *Fred Losi*



Photo by Jim Heflich

Enjoy birding the Hemlock Creek region of Cleveland Metroparks' Bedford Reservation with Fred Losi. The riparian corridor will reveal Louisiana Waterthrush and wet woods with both kinglets and many other species. Heading upward leads to an old field habitat with Henslow's Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and American Kestrel. Bring water and snacks to sustain over this spring hike that will include wet, muddy conditions.



Photo by Jim Heflich

Click link for Hemlock Creek Picnic Area

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hemlock+Creek+Picnic+Area/@41.3756139,-81.5746902,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xff3fb655f2bba9ce!8m2!3d41.3756139!4d-81.5746902>

Field trips (Continuation)

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 8:00 am

Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Station Road

Meeting place: Parking lot at Station Road

Leader: *Fred Dinkelbach*



During Spring migration, upwards of 21 species of warblers have been recorded in a single day, along with hordes of thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, kinglets, sparrows, and more. Nesting birds include the rare Cerulean, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Brown Creeper and Bald Eagle.

Click the link to read about the Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Station Road Towpath Trail
<https://birding-in-ohio.com/summit-county/cuyahoga-valley-national-park-station-road-towpath-trail-summit-county/>



Click the link for an eBird Bar Charts for Spring Migration 2019-2021

<https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=2019&eyr=2021&bmo=3&emo=5&r=L303430>

Field trip reports

By Paula Lozano



Photo by Paula Lozano

On Saturday, January 8, 2022, the Kirtland Bird Club joined the Second Saturday Bird Walk at the Rocky River Nature Center sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and led by Bill Deininger and Dave Graskemper. When the group assembled in the parking lot at 9:00 AM, it was sunny but a bone-chilling 17°F, rising to almost freezing at noon.

A total of 19 hardy participants thoroughly enjoyed seeing many first of the year (FOY) birds to add to their 2022 lists. The final tally was 25 species. Highlights included a Sharpshinned Hawk, two Bald

Eagles - an immature and an adult, a Barred Owl, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Almost at the end of the walk, four Eastern Bluebirds added a welcome touch of color to the winter landscape.



Photo by Anna Kozlenko



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Birding the Tundra

by Matt Valencic



Photo by Paula Lozano

Most of us will never see Snow Buntings on their breeding grounds in the high arctic tundra, but on February 19th a group of intrepid birders came pretty close. I was leading a planned winter car-birding trip into Geauga County for the Kirtland Bird Club, searching for those hardy birds that winter on the agricultural fields around Parkman and Middlefield. We planned the trip but not the weather! We woke to high winds (30-40 mph), below freezing temperature and icy roads. The large, flat fields on either side of Soltis Road in Parkman were partially obscured by blowing snow, yet hundreds of Horned

Larks and Snow Buntings were flying, landing, and foraging, always pointed into the wind. It was very special to witness how well adapted these birds are to such severe conditions, and good fortune that they landed within binocular range so we could stay in our cars to watch them. Nature continues to amaze me!

Larks and Snow Buntings were flying,



Photo by Matt Valencic



Photo by Matt Valencic

Good News...Bad News...Good News



Good News: KBC continues to grow. At press time KBC has 172 members, up from 74 in 2018-2019 - and the year doesn't end until August 30th! Welcome and thank you to all our new and renewing members!

Bad news (for KBC): We are losing our longtime Board member-at-large Andy Jones to South Carolina. Andy has accepted what sounds like a wonderful position as executive director for a land trust off the coast there. **We are sad to see him go, but will gather (all invited!) to toast him with coffee & donuts and wish him well on Saturday morning, March 5th at the outdoor pavilion at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes from 9-11 with a short presentation at 10. Members and friends will be invited to speak at that time!**

Good news: Community members are reaching out to the KBC for our knowledge of local birds and habitats. For instance, Donna Friedman of Northeast Ohio Sewer District has contacted us for input on a

sewer district project in Parma. During our March 2nd meeting, Donna will talk with us about this project and listen to our input on enhancing bird habitat in a wetland.

More good news: We no longer will have to explain that Kirtland Bird Club is not in Kirtland. KBC members voted by a margin of 75% to 25% in favor of a name change for our club. We are now officially the **KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB OF NORTHEAST OHIO!**

Bad news: With a name change, we need to update our name everywhere it appears in print - on the KBC website, facebook page, google, our documents, our logo, and probably a lot more. This will take time and effort. (If you're interested in helping with this, please let us know.)

Good news: Current KBC members responded to the member survey in good numbers. Overall, our speaker programs and quarterly newsletter received the highest ratings.

Bad news: Very few club members are using the [NE Ohio Regional Bird Calendar](#) that we host on our website. In addition to the KBC events, it lists speaker programs, Zoom programs, beginner birding programs, and field trips sponsored by many other organizations in NE Ohio. (Find links to it on the KBC home page.)

Good news: Thirty-two KBC members have opted "in" for our directory, and it will soon be shared with everyone who agreed to be listed. There's still time to ask to be included by sending an email to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org. Just provide us with the info you'd like to share: any combination of name, address, phone numbers, email, twitter handle, and head shot will be accepted!

No more bad news...just good news: Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio has a strong Board of Directors – who all contribute to making KBC what it is today:

Mary Anne Romito, Treasurer – Mary Anne handles our banking, accounting, and regulatory compliance related to our status as a 501c3 non-profit. And she's a great longtime birder! registration, if required, as well as fields questions from participants. She attends all the field trips and

Letter from President (continuation)

Christi Carlson, Vice President – Christi helps with a variety of KBC activities. She’s a regular at table top events where we share info about KBC. This spring she will be arranging walks for newer birders. Watch for details on the website!

Anna Kozlenko, Newsletter Editor & Facebook Page Administrator – Four times a year Anna collects articles and photographs for the KBC newsletter. In addition, she posts announcements about KBC events on our page on Facebook.

Toby Briskin, Recording Secretary – Toby attends all KBC monthly meetings, as well as Board meetings. Her duties include keeping the minutes of each event and sending them to the Board for review and approval.

Fred Dinkelbach, Corresponding Secretary and Cleveland Bird Calendar Editor – Fred welcomes new members, keeps records of notable bird sightings for our long-time publication, the Cleveland Bird Calendar, and is a skilled partner in figuring out our IT challenges. Fred also leads great field trips!

Paula Lozano, Field Trip Coordinator – Paula finds leaders and places for our field trips and does the writeups about upcoming field trips and the reports on past field trips. She handles advance field trip registration, if required, as well as fields questions from participants. She attends all the field trips and shares trip reports on eBird. She’s an outstanding longtime birder!

Ken Vinciguerra, Database Manager and NE Ohio Regional Bird Calendar Manager – Ken, who maintains a database of all present and past members of the Kirtland Bird Club, is the “source of truth” for who’s a member of our club. In addition, he posts all of the events on the regional calendar that is posted on the KBC web site.

And me, **Patty Kellner**, President – I manage the content on the website, send out emails, arrange speakers, and run meetings.

It does take a team, and we have a strong one! Reach us all via info@kirtlandbirdclub.com. Hope to see you on Zoom and in the field – here’s to Spring!

The Kirtland Warbler, the newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio, is published quarterly. It contains KBC meetings and trip information, web site updates, other events and programs of interest, and 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 welcome. Please send submissions to the Editor, Anna Kozlenko to annajulnes@yahoo.com

Results of the December 2021 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count

Andy Jones

Cleveland Museum of Natural History



Last year's count was impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic, and this year the omicron variant reared its ugly head and continued to keep pandemic rules in place that involved rules such as wearing masks while in shared vehicles and maintaining social distancing. However, the weather was the bigger interruption to the day's plans. December 2021 was mostly mild, following a mostly mild fall. However, the actual count day - Saturday, December 18th, 2021 - was a soggy affair that kept participation down. Several observers did not go afield at all, leaving some key areas unsurveyed. The rest of the parties tended to hit the traditional sites but spent fewer hours in the field, and with smaller parties overall.

The Cleveland Christmas Bird Count is sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This 15 mile diameter circle is located on the east side of Cleveland, including the lakeshore from Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve east to Eastlake, and featuring popular inland birding areas such as Lake View Cemetery, North Chagrin Reservation, and Shaker Lakes. The count day was drizzly, with temperatures stuck in the 30s all day, some breeze, and no snow on the ground nor ice on the bodies of water.

Over the last 50 years, the Cleveland CBC has averaged around 76 species per year; this year, we only eked out 60 species (plus a hybrid, American Black Duck x Mallard). Ten parties went afield, and several of them still put in very long days surveying their traditional areas. I particularly thank the parties headed up by Paula Lozano, Mary Huey, and Laura Gooch for their tenacity.

With the lower participation, there were no record high tallies of any species, though 18 Northern Flickers was a strong showing, and the 3 Great Horned Owls tied the record for the count. This is an off-winter for irruptive species, with just three Red-breasted Nuthatches seen, and no siskins, redpolls, crossbills, or other northern finches. Nevertheless observers found several less common species, including Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Mockingbird, and a few others that are certainly not guaranteed during a typical soggy winter's day of birding. It was lovely to find 45 Eastern Bluebirds out on the dreary day. All told, parties reported 5,437 individual birds.

THANK YOU to everyone who joined us in the field effort, and I appreciate everyone staying safe and following COVID protocols. My thanks to Dick and Jean Hoffman for their ongoing curation of the historical data for this count, and Craig Caldwell for supervision of the statewide series of counts. This is my final year as compiler of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. Thank you to Laura Gooch for agreeing to take over as compiler for next year!!

Results of the December 2021 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count

Canada Goose	788	Pileated Woodpecker	6
American Black Duck	14	Peregrine Falcon	1
Mallard	307	Blue Jay	275
Am. Black Duck x Mallard	1	American Crow	71
Redhead	1	Black-capped Chickadee	59
Red-breasted Merganser	726	Tufted Titmouse	64
Wild Turkey	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Horned Grebe	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	55
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Brown Creeper	8
Great Blue Heron	11	Carolina Wren	16
Bald Eagle	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Red-tailed Hawk	14	Eastern Bluebird	45
American Coot	1	American Robin	387
Killdeer	2	Gray Catbird	1
Wilson's Snipe	5	Northern Mockingbird	5
Ring-billed Gull	484	European Starling	542
Herring Gull	10	American Tree Sparrow	111
Great Black-backed Gull	1	Fox Sparrow	2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	105	Dark-eyed Junco	337
Mourning Dove	87	White-throated Sparrow	66
Great Horned Owl	3	Song Sparrow	53
Barred Owl	1	Swamp Sparrow	1
Belted Kingfisher	6	Eastern Towhee	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Northern Cardinal	117
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	Red-winged Blackbird	25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Downy Woodpecker	62	House Finch	37
Hairy Woodpecker	22	American Goldfinch	125
Northern Flicker	18	House Sparrow	256

Letter from Andy Jones

Dear KBC Members:

I'm writing to share some rather bittersweet news. I have accepted a new position, and will be leaving the Museum in March. Later this spring, I'll start working as director of a land trust in coastal South Carolina - a nonprofit that does work in land management, conservation, education, and outreach. I grew up in Tennessee and North Carolina, and my summer family trips were often to the coastal Carolina area. I love the Lowcountry and am excited to relocate there for this new opportunity.

I've been at the Museum for 16 years, and have been a KBC member for even longer; I joined before I even moved to Cleveland. I was welcomed by club members immediately, and was overjoyed when many KBC members also joined my lab at the Museum to prepare specimens and volunteer with other tasks in the collection. I appreciate the volunteerism that is rampant within the KBC membership. And even more, I appreciate the friendships that have come from the club. I've been on many field trips with so many of you, and it has been wonderful to get to know the birds and birders of northern Ohio for these 16 years. I am sad to be moving away from the region, but I know that I will keep returning to reconnect with the birds and birders here. Seriously, what beats a warbler-filled day along Lake Erie in May?

Please reach out if your travels bring you to the Lowcountry. I don't have an address in South Carolina yet, but I will likely live in Beaufort, or close by. You can always reach out by cell/text 651-485-1656, and my personal email is ornitholoco@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your support and friendship. See you in the field!

Andy

--

Andy Jones
Cleveland Heights, OH
eBird reviewer for Fulton, Lucas, and Ottawa counties, Ohio

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KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club



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