



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio
www.Kirtlandbirdclub.org

2023-2024 Membership Year, No. 3, Spring Issue

KBC President's Letter

By Patricia Kellner

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Greetings! Despite the “warmth” we’ve experienced this winter, winter is weighing heavy and long on many of us. We know spring is coming, but it can still feel a long way off. Birds, however, are celebrating now. Just listen next time you step outside, particularly near water – always a good place to find birds! On the subject of bird song, I recently attended an excellent presentation, Singing Winter into Spring, by KBC member Lisa Rainsong. Drawing from her experience as a professional musician, educator, and naturalist, Lisa put together an excellent program featuring bird songs, photos, and stories. It was so wonderful that I invited her to present it to our club, and she accepted for the same time next year!

In the meantime we have a number of great programs on tap for this spring – two by skilled club members and one by a young ecologist who received a grant from KBC’s Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI). Our March program will feature KBC members Ken Vinciquerra and Louise Acheson bringing us stories, maps, and photos from their birding rambles through Forest Hills Park and two cemeteries - Lake View and East Cleveland Township. In April KBC member Matt Valencic will present a program on the many species of sparrows that we see in northeast Ohio – how to identify them, where to find them, and much more. Those “little brown jobs”, as we call sparrows when we first encounter them, will morph before our eyes into 27 unique species with field marks that will help us find, identify, and appreciate them. In May ecologist Genelle Uhrig will join us live to share images from inside American Kestrel nest boxes and to share what she learned about these birds through her OAPI-supported research. If you're not familiar with OAPI, you can read about it in this newsletter.

Our upcoming field trips, detailed later in our newsletter, will provide us with opportunities to see lots of migratory and resident birds in a variety of habitats. Read about the field trips and join us! All of our field trips are “new birder friendly”, but we plan to offer some additional shorter, focused outings for new birders. Also, because people have enjoyed the food stops on recent field trips, we're planning food stops on all of our future field trips. Finally, I highly recommend the Sunday morning Audubon Bird Walk series at many Northeast Ohio locations on the last 3 Sundays in April and the first 3 Sundays in May. (Continue on Page 4)

Monthly Meetings

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7 PM on Zoom

Birding in the University Circle Area of Cleveland - Part 2

Presenters: Ken Vinciguerra & Louise Acheson



KBC members Ken Vinciguerra and Louise Acheson will guide us through three greenspaces in our area where scenic gorges, ravines, a “Great Meadow,” and large numbers of mature trees are found. Our presenters will highlight the areas and habitat features that attract these birds and share historical notes about the organizations and people whose proactive stewardship allows these areas and their birds to endure.

The first area is the East Cleveland Township Cemetery, between the Dugway and Doan Brook watersheds. The other two, both in the Dugway watershed, are Lakeview Cemetery and Forest Hill Park. These areas are accessible through Cleveland, East

Cleveland, and Cleveland Heights and are open to the public during the day.

Birds found in these areas include year-round residents, summer nesting species, and non-nesting migratory species in the spring, fall, and winter. These include Red-headed and Pileated woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers, multiple species of raptors, and many songbirds.

Also included will be a quick update to our Part 1 presentation from April 4, 2023. This will include the *first-time* breeding birds and other new developments observed in Doan Brook Park during the 2023 breeding season.

Ken Vinciguerra, a life-long Clevelander and amateur naturalist, has explored the region's abundant rich forests and waterways for over fifty years. Through the mentorship & friendship of a few special individuals, he gradually evolved from being a "birdwatcher" to a "birder" and eBirder. Since 2015, he's conducted weekly bird surveys and spring/summer breeding bird surveys and, in the process, adding to the existing historical records about bird distribution and breeding success in our area. Ken is a Kent State Emeritus Professor in Computer Technology and volunteers with the Kirtland Bird Club.

Louise Acheson is a family doctor at University Hospitals and a Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at CWRU. She remembers watching ducks, alcids, grebes, and eagles as a young woman in the Pacific Northwest, but refined her skills over the past twenty years by birding with Ken. She identifies many birds by sound as well as sight and has learned about birds' habitats and behavior through very patient observation and a meticulous approach to citizen science.

Non-members register [HERE](#)

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
LBJs – Sparrows and Finches of NE Ohio

Presenter: Matt Valencic



Little Brown Jobs. That's how many of us identify sparrows and finches, mostly because they are LBJs! But each of the 28 species we find in northeast Ohio has one or more features to help lead to its identity. Through lots of photographs this program introduces you to these small birds, where to find them, when to expect to see them, and how to separate them from similar species. It's time to put a name to the face.

Click [HERE](#) to see the list of species Matt will review and when to expect them.

Matt Valencic is a long-time birder as well as photographer, native plant enthusiast, educator, and Kirtland Bird Club member. Matt is very active in educational programming for his "home" club, the Audubon Society of Cleveland and is the force behind Birdquest, a 24 hour team challenge to find the most possible species in the Chagrin River Watershed. He is exceedingly generous with his time and has given speaker programs and led field trips for Kirtland Bird Club. When he's not out birding or documenting his sightings on ebird or doing a program or field trip or tending his garden, he can be found baking with his granddaughter or spending time with one of his other family members.



Photo By Jim Heflich

Non-members Register [HERE](#)

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM - LIVE meeting!

Spying on Kestrels!

Presenter: Genelle Uhrig

Location: Western Reserve Land Conservancy Headquarters
[3450 Chagrin River Road, Moreland Hills, OH](#)



Hear from a young ecologist who received a grant from KBC's Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI) for her research on American Kestrels, a species of concern in Ohio. She'll share images from inside nest boxes and share what she learned through her research. Join us at this lovely location deep in the Chagrin River valley. A bird walk in the area will precede Genelle's talk.

Genelle Uhrig is an ecologist at [The Wilds](#) in Cumberland, Ohio

Limited capacity

KBC members and non-members:
Click [HERE](#) to register

KBC President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

Find a location close to home or farther afield - details to follow!

Efforts to draw attention to what birds need to thrive and to make birding accessible to youth and a broader community are ongoing. KBC is now a sponsor for the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders' Club. The club is also supporting the Trust for Public Land's People and Birds for Land Protection initiative as they invite BIPOC Clevelanders to experience birds in Cleveland's greenspaces through a series of guided walks. So many people in our region appreciate being in nature but have not connected to birds. The next time someone asks, "What do you see?" as you look through binoculars or a spotting scope, share what you see along with information about our club. As a new member recently reminded me to do, pull that KBC business card out of your pocket and give it to folks you meet.

One more thought for new KBC members, old-timers, and visitors: consider looking through the tabs at the top of our website - kirtlandbirdclub.org. We've carefully assembled what we think is useful information under each tab. And last, I look forward to spending time with each of you at our upcoming live meetings and field trips. Happy spring!

Field trips

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 11:30 AM & 1 PM

Field Trip to the Huntington Reservation & Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Location: Huntington Reservation

11:30 AM Meet at: Water Tower, 28492-28648 Lake Road, Bay Village, 44140

1:00 PM Meet at: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, 44140

Liader: Paula Lozano

Register by email info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.
To be notified of any changes or cancellation.
Please include your phone number

This 102-acre Cleveland Metroparks site includes nearly a half-mile of Lake Erie shoreline, most of which is sand beach. Five break walls extend up to 350 feet into Lake Erie and serve to protect the beach from erosion. A steep bluff overlooks the beach and lake and provides a good lake-watch vista. From the Water Tower location, we'll scan for waterfowl. Also, if there's time before the program begins at 1 PM, we'll take a short walk in the Wolf Picnic Area to look for Barred Owl.



Click [HERE](#) for a map of the Huntington Reservation
Click [HERE](#) for an eBird Bar Chart for the Huntington Reservation



After we look for birds on the lakefront, we'll regroup at 1:00 PM at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. Tim Jasinski will tell us about the work he does there - rehabbing birds that people find injured or in some other way incapacitated, including birds injured in collisions with buildings during migration. He works closely with [Lights Out Cleveland](#) and will update us on the coming spring season.

Tim has been a "bird nerd" since he was five. He had bird feeders and would mark what species he had seen in his field guide. When he was 13, Tim raised and bred caged birds and now raises Homing Pigeons. In 2007, he started as a volunteer at [Lake Erie Nature & Science Center](#) and became a full-time Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist in 2013. Wildlife rehabilitation has been a passion of his for over 30 years! Also, Tim initiated the [Lights Out Cleveland](#) program seven years ago with then Cleveland Museum of Natural History Wildlife Ambassador Harvey Webster.

Field Trips

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8:00 am

Field Trip to Frohring Meadows

Address: 16780 Savage Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Meeting place: at the end of the second parking area by Katydid Lodge

Leaders: *Michelle Brosius & Robert Opper*



Photo by Michelle Brosius

Register by email info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

To be notified of any changes or cancellation. Please include your phone number

Frohring Meadows, a 298-acre park in Geauga County, offers trails through prairie, wet sedge meadow, and woodland habitats. Michelle Brosius, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's field trip coordinator and Robert Opper, her uncle and experienced birder, will lead this joint field trip with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society to search for the 36 species they tallied there last April, including Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Killdeer, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe, and Sora.

Click [HERE](#) for a link to Frohring Meadows trail map

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the eBird bar chart for this site

April 14, 21 & 28 and May 5, 12, & 19, 7:30 AM

2024 Sunday Spring Bird Walks

Click for list of locations [HERE](#)

2024 is the 91st year of this series of spring bird walks. It is one of the oldest community science partnerships in Northeast Ohio between park systems, Audubon groups, and other organizations. Walks are led by experienced birders. Members of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio leading walks include

Bill Deininger: Rocky River Reservation, Rocky River Nature Center

Fred Dinkelbach: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Station Road

Nancy Howell: Big Creek Reservation, Lake Isaac

Fred Losi: Bedford Reservation, Hemlock Creek Picnic Area

Julie West: Shaker Lakes, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Field Trips (Continuation)

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Field Trip to Richfield Heritage Preserve

Address: 4374 Broadview Road, Richfield

Leader: Fred Dinkelbach



In Richfield Township, just over the Summit County line south of Brecksville, lies the Richfield Heritage Preserve: a 336-acre mostly forested park with hiking and bridle trails. Beginning as an estate of the Kirby family, it was sold to the Cleveland Girl Scout Council in 1937 when it became known as Crowell Hilaka, which it remained until 2011. In 2014 Richfield Village and Richfield Township voters approved jointly purchasing the property and in 2016 it became the Richfield Heritage Preserve. - Fred Dinkelbach

Click [HERE](#) for information about Richfield Heritage Preserve.

Click [HERE](#) for information about the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve.

Click [HERE](#) for an eBird Bar Chart for the Richfield Heritage Preserve.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 8 AM

Field Trip to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area,

Address: 13229 State Route 2, Oak Harbor

Leaders: Patty Kellner & Paula Lozano

Register at info@kirtlandbirdclub.org for meeting location



Magee Marsh is 2000 acres of wetlands situated on Lake Erie. It has been named bird-watching one of the top ten bird watching sites in the country. Four trails are open for birding, with the Magee Marsh Bird Trail or Boardwalk the most popular.

Visitors can stop by the Bird Center to pick up a checklist or map and find out what birds have been recently sighted.

Click [HERE](#) for Birding Magee Marsh information

Click [HERE](#) for eBird Bar Chart for Magee Marsh

Spring Bird Walk Series 2024

The *Series of Spring Bird Walks* is one of the oldest community science partnerships between Northeast Ohio park systems, Audubon chapters, and other organizations now in its 91st year. It is also a celebration of migratory birds. Walks are led by experienced birders and will be held on Sundays, April 14, 21, and 28, and May 5, 12, and 19 at 7:30 AM unless otherwise noted. The following locations are participating in the Series:



Aurora Sanctuary - Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Sanctuary, parking lot east of Page Rd. on E. Pioneer Trail, east of routes 306 and 43, Aurora. 216-337-2202. Terrain: 2.5 miles, packed soil with some hills and MUD! Boots highly suggested.

Bedford Reservation - Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, off Button Rd., Bedford. 330-715-6300 Terrain: natural surface, may be muddy and uneven footing. 2 miles with an additional (optional) 3 mile spur.

Big Creek Reservation - Lake Isaac, southern terminus of the Lake-to-Lake Trail, Cleveland Metroparks Big Creek Parkway, Middleburg Heights. Contact: info@wcaudubon.org Terrain: natural surface, some off trail, short boardwalks, footing can be rough, muddy, and slippery. 2 miles.

Brecksville Reservation - Parking area at Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, off Riverview Rd. south of Route 82, Brecksville. 330-467-3664. Terrain: varies, 3 or more routes.

Gates Mills - Various locations. Takes place rain or shine. Children with adults are welcome. Call 440-463-5944 for details.

April 14 - Hach-Otis Sanctuary at the End of Skyline Drive (Off of River Rd.), Willoughby Hills, OH and continue at Hach-Otis John & Carol Lillich Meadows, 2685 Dodd Road, Willoughby Hills, OH

April 21 - Orchard Hills Park - 11340 Caves Road, Chester Township, (north of Mulberry)

April 28 - Frohring Meadows - 16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge Township

May 5 - Squire Valleevue Farm, CWRU, 37125 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, OH 44022
Use entrance on Fairmount Rd.

May 12 - White North Property - 3160 Chagrin River Road (Corner of River Road and Shaker Blvd.) Park next to garages on right side of property

May 19 - Squire Valleevue Farm, CWRU, 37125 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, OH 44022
Use entrance on Fairmount Rd.

Geauga Park District - Various locations in Geauga County, see list below. Contact info@geaugaparkdistrict.org or 440-286-9516 for details.

April 14 - Burton Wetlands – 15681 Old Rider Rd, Burton OH 44021

April 28 - Frohring Meadows – 16780 Savage Rd, Chagrin Falls OH 44023

April 28 - The Rookery – 10110 Cedar Rd, Chesterland OH 44026

May 5 - Eldon Russell Park – 16315 Rapids Rd, Troy Township, OH 44021

May 12 Big Creek Park – 9160 Robinson Rd, Chardon, OH 44024

May 19 - Swine Creek Reservation – 16004 Hayes Rd, Middlefield OH 44062

Hinckley Reservation - Bridge at the south end of Hinckley Lake, on State Rd., Hinckley. Terrain: varies 3 routes. Contact: info@wcaudubon.org

Hiram - James H. Barrow Field Station (Hiram College), 11305 Wheeler Road, Hiram. 330-569-5787. Terrain: natural surface, may be muddy. 2.5 miles.

Holden Arboretum - Corning Visitor Center, 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland. Registration is required <https://holdenfg.org/upcoming-classes/> The bird walks are free for members. For nonmembers the Arboretum admission is \$20. 440-946-4400. Terrain: Combination of paved and unpaved pathways. Often muddy in portions. 4 miles

Lake Metroparks - Lake Erie Bluffs, 3301 Lane Rd., Perry Township. For information contact 440-256-1404, ext. 2118. Terrain: 2 miles.

Lorain County Metro Parks

- **Elywood Park** - 556 Washington Ave. Elyria, OH 44035. Meet at the Pavilion. **Note: Walks begin at 8:30 AM!** Terrain: Easy to moderate terrain depending on the weather. For information visit the Lorain County Metroparks <https://www.loraincountymetroparks.com/cascade-park>.
- **Vermilion River Reservation - Bacon Woods** <https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L274600> **Note: Walks begin at 8:30 AM!** Drive to the back of the park to meet at the trailhead at the far northern lot. Walk includes the beginning sections of the parking lot and the red and blue trails. Terrain: crushed gravel, short boardwalks, and sometimes mud on the grass trail. Approx 2 miles. Contact: 440-787-7736

Mentor Marsh - parking at Shipman Pond parking lot, 9600 Headlands Rd., Mentor. 440-257-0777. Terrain: 1.3 miles.

North Chagrin Reservation – North Chagrin Nature Center parking lot, 401 Buttermilk Falls Parkway, Mayfield Village. 440-473-3370. Terrain: 2.5 miles.

Novak Sanctuary - Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Sanctuary, parking lot north of Rt. 82 on Aurora Town Line Rd., Aurora. 330-388-9279. Terrain: 1.5 miles.

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation - CanalWay Center, 4524 E. 49th Street, Cuyahoga Hts. 216-206-1000. Terrain: 2.3 miles.

Rocky River Reservation - Rocky River Nature Center parking lot, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted. Contact: info@wcaudubon.org. Terrain: 2 miles.

Shaker Lakes - The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes parking lot, 2600 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights. 216-321-5935 Tuesday - Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM) . Terrain: Mix of all purpose trail, asphalt and dirt, 2 miles. Registration is appreciated but not required www.shakerlakes.org - Events/Programs, Programs, Birding Programs

River Styx Park - Medina County Park District, 8200 River Styx Rd., Guilford Twp., Wadsworth. Will have walks on Saturdays, April 13 through May 18 at 7:30 AM. 330-722-9364



Don't miss the migration!

Cosponsored by Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Blackbrook Audubon Society, Black River Audubon Society, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Gates Mills Birders, Geauga Park District, Hiram College, Holden Arboretum, Lake Metroparks, Lorain County Metro Parks, Medina County Park District, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.



OHIO BIRD
CONSERVATION
INITIATIVE



Ohio Crane Count

The Sandhill Crane as listed as threatened in Ohio, is secretive during their nesting season. To better track Ohio's breeding crane population, Ohio volunteers participate in the [Midwest Crane Count](#) that is coordinated by the International Crane Foundation. The survey takes place for two hours on a designated Saturday morning in April.

In 2021, Ohio conducted a pilot season in the counties of Geauga, Summit, Trumbull, Holmes, Wayne, and Wyandot counties. The effort documented 160 Sandhill Cranes in those 5 counties. The count expanded into the additional counties starting in 2022 (see list [HERE](#)).

The date of this year's survey is Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 6:30 AM - 15 minutes before sunrise - to 8:30 AM.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact a county coordinator, Tom Leiden, or Matthew Shumar (obcicoordinator@gmail.com). Time commitment is limited to your Saturday morning, the time it takes to scout your area, and a couple hours of virtual training. Birders of all abilities who can identify a sandhill crane can participate. A vehicle is also required. Participation in pairs is preferred. (See a list of Ohio county coordinators [HERE](#))

For more information on sandhill crane identification and natural history, see [HERE](#)

[Download the Survey Protocols](#)

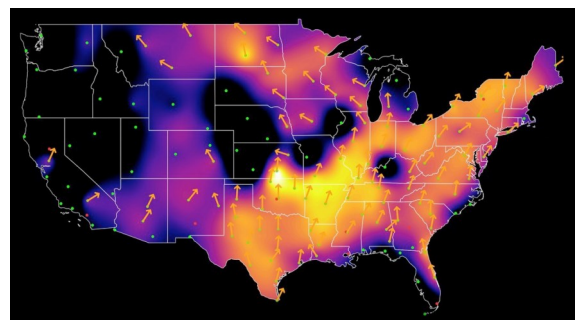
[Share your eBird checklist with us](#)

Video Tutorials watch [HERE](#)

BirdCast 2024

Colorado University and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's spring 2024 **BirdCast** site begins March 1st and ends June 15th. It provides real-time predictions of bird migrations: when they migrate, where they migrate, and how far they will be flying. Their **bird migration forecast maps**, updated every 6 hours, predict nighttime migration 3 hours after local sunset. There are also **live bird migration maps** and **local bird migration alerts**.

Click [HERE](#) (<https://birdcast.info/>) for more information.



January 6, 2024, Field Trip - Backroads of Geauga County

Leaders: Matt Valencic & Kelly Stanek

By Paula Lozano



Photo by Matt Valencic

The Kirtland Bird Club's annual winter field trip to Geauga County was on Saturday, January 6, 2024. It was an overcast morning, with temperatures hovering between 25°F and 32°F and light snow at the end. We started with 23 people at LaDue Reservoir, but that number dwindled to 7 by the last leg on Hayes Road. Besides finding our target birds, everyone enjoyed the two stops at Parkman's Market Express gas station and convenience store to warm up, use the clean restrooms, and have pizza for lunch.



American Kestrel by Gustino Lanese

There were many memorable moments enjoyed by all. At LaDue Reservoir, we saw a Mute Swan, Hooded and Common mergansers, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, and a flock of 45 Tree Sparrows along the berm of Valley Road. On Soltis Road, an American Kestrel, and at least two hundred American Goldfinch were the highlights. The stop on Patch Road added 2 Rough-legged Hawks, 3 Northern

Mockingbirds, and an astounding 16 Eastern Meadowlarks to the trip list. Finally, on Hayes Road, we found a few horned larks at the edge of a manure spread, where there were over 100 larks the day before the field trip! (Matt said, "What a difference a day makes!") A Northern Harrier was added here, too. Multiple Eastern Bluebirds were found on Patch and Hayes roads.

eBird checklists by location:

La Due Reservoir <https://ebird.org/checklist/S158315286>

Soltis Road <https://ebird.org/checklist/S158315294> with photos by Gustino Lanese

Patch Road <https://ebird.org/checklist/S158315294> with photos by Gustino Lanese and Matt Valencic.

Hayes Road <https://ebird.org/checklist/S158315296> with photos by Gustino Lanese



Eastern Meadowlark by Matt Valencic

February Field Trip - Rocky River Nature Center

Leaders: Bill Deininger, Dave Graskemper, Al Rand, and Ken Gober.

By Paula Lozano



Photo by Michelle Brosius

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, Kirtland Bird Club members joined the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's Second Saturday walk at the Rocky River Nature Center. There were 34 participants, including the leaders. 31 species were tallied at the end of the morning.

The weather was better than expected, with temperatures in the upper 40's and low 50's and only a few minutes of rain and a dash of graupel. Highlights included pairs of Red-tailed Hawks and Pileated Woodpeckers, a Barred Owl, and at least nine singing Carolina Wrens. Three Eastern Bluebirds added a welcome dash of color to the morning. After the walk, nine KBC members met at the Big Egg on Lorain Road in North Olmsted and enjoyed a late breakfast.



Photo by Anna Kozlenko



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

History of the Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI)

by Dwight Chasar, OAPI Chair

The history of the OAPI finds its origin in a gift of \$15,000 to the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC) by honorary and long-time members Bill and Nancy Klamm, when the latter died in 2002. What did a financially poor but highly respected bird club do with such a sum, augmented by money bequeathed by Martha Minns, long-time recording secretary of the club? There was a stipulation by the Klamms that the money not be given to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History since they left more than one million dollars to the museum. First and foremost was to become an official 501(c)3 organization to avoid paying gift taxes on that money. This was accomplished by our treasurer Mary Anne Romito. Then, the club members brainstormed what to do with the windfall and, after several years (8 or 9), established the OAPI.

A committee consisting of Andy Jones, Susan Jones, Scott Van Valkenburg, and Lisa Chapman suggested to the KBC membership that up to \$1,000 be awarded yearly to an applicant for a bird-related competitive research project in Ohio, and thus the Ohio Avian Project Initiative was born with the first grant in 2009. Through the years, as the founding members of the OAPI retired from the committee, others joined: Delores Cole, Dwight Chasar, Laura Gooch, Glenn Novotny, Dave Dvorak, and Linda Secura.

Five criteria for evaluating the competitive grants were established:

1. Does the proposal study birds of concern in Ohio?
2. Is the research cutting-edge?
3. What is the scope of the research?
4. Can the research grant be leveraged for further support?
5. What is the applicant's track record for obtaining other monies?

In September a call for preliminary proposals is sent to as many Ohio 501(c)3 organizations, e.g., universities, colleges, governmental organizations, etc., that might be interested. These proposals are evaluated by the committee, and the applicants of the stronger ones are invited to submit a full proposal by the end of December. The finalist is submitted to the membership in March for a vote to award the money. The number of proposals has varied from 0-5 each year; there have been about 15 winning proposals.

The awards are made to the 501(c)3 organizations to which the proposal writers are associated: OSU Research Foundation was the first; the Black Swamp Bird Observatory the second. Others are the Scioto Valley Bird and Nature Club, Ohio Nature Education, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, The Wilds, and Ashland University. Some of these have been repeat organizations, as one might expect. Bird species studied include Henslow's Sparrow, Hooded, Prothonotary and Cerulean warblers, Rusty Blackbirds, Sandhill Cranes, Barn Owls, and American Kestrels.

The club requests in a written contract that the awardee present their work at a KBC meeting on an agreed-upon date after the project is completed. The KBC 2024 February speaker was Gabriella Lindsay from Ohio University, the 2023 winner, and the May speaker will be Genelle Uhrig from The Wilds, the 2021 winner. (Continued on page 14)

History of the Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI) - continued

(Continued from Page 13)

Tom Romito is seeking out small family foundations in Ohio that are interested in helping KBC with OAPI grants. He has identified such a foundation and should know in April the board's decision. Tax-deductible donations to the KBC earmarked for OAPI awards are always welcomed.

Thanks to Susan Jones, Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Laura Gooch, and Ann Chasar for helping to gather some of this information. I take responsibility for any errors of assumption and fact.

Dwight Chasar, OAPI Chair

Northeast Ohio Chapter of Ohio Young Birders Club



Ohio Young Birders Club

If you know a young person age 12-18 looking to go birding with other kids, get in touch with Tyler: tmclain@loraincountymetroparks.com

The first meeting and field trip of the year for the Northeast Ohio Chapter of Ohio Young Birders Club took place on Saturday, February 25th at Sandy Ridge Reservation in Lorain County. The club plans more field trips throughout the year. The club is open to young people age 12-18 from anywhere in northeast Ohio. Kirtland Bird Club is now a sponsor of this chapter

Tyler McClain, the chapter advisor, is a naturalist at Sandy Ridge Reservation, a former Ohio Young Birder Club member, and a member of the summer staff at Audubon Hog Island Camp in Maine. In addition he's a great birder and a very nice person!



Spring Birding Festivals in Ohio

We are fortunate in Ohio to have two outstanding birding festivals each spring that make great day trips from northeast Ohio:

1 - [Migration Sensation](#), Saturday, March 9th in Shreve, south of Wooster

2 - [The Biggest Week in American Birding](#), May 3rd-May12th, at many locations in northwest Ohio



The Shreve Festival is a small scale festival that is great for ducks, shorebirds, and early songbird migrants. It always has special activities for children.



The Biggest Week is truly a BIG festival, attracting people from all fifty states and many countries who come to experience spring migration along the south shore of Lake Erie. There's no doubt that the extensive variety of warblers is the top attraction!

Bird Conservation in Euclid at Sims Park and in Nashville

By Patricia Kellner

Kirtland Bird Club learned about an effort in Euclid to support birds when we were invited recently by review a landscape plan for a birding garden at Sims Park. According to landscape architectural designer Reuben Shaw of CT Consultants, the main focus of the garden plan is birdwatching. As Shaw said, "Use of plants and trees native to the area ... will potentially increase the environment for birds and insects to nest and rest in." (<https://www.news-herald.com/2024/02/01/euclid-releases-design-of-sims-park-expansion-plan/>)



Reuben Shaw at City of Euclid public forum - Photo by Frank Mecham, News Herald

A team of KBC members who are both avid birders and native plant gardeners reviewed the plan and provided feedback which was well received. Several of the KBC suggestions were incorporated into the design.

What a nice opportunity to collaborate with planners to improve habitat for boreal birds! KBC welcomes more of those opportunities and looks forward to following Reuben Shaw's work to conserve birds. (continued on next page, page 17)

NATIVE PLANTS
Native plants are incredibly important to the world around us. Life as we know it wouldn't be the same without them!

What is a native plant?
Native plants are ones that have been growing in a place (called a habitat) for a very long time, sometimes even longer than people have been there! Each plant type does different jobs for their habitat, and gets along well with the other surrounding plant types and animals. Many animals have come to rely so much on certain native plants that they need them to survive! Without native plants, many insects, birds, and other creatures wouldn't exist!

Many animals, like monarch caterpillars, can only live on and eat one kind of plant! Losing native plants like common milkweed put these animals at risk!

Native plants to the rescue!
In the last 100 years, millions of acres of native plant habitats have been destroyed. Neighborhoods, buildings, and farms have replaced important native plants. Non-native plants (plants that have not grown in a place for a long time) do not get along well with surrounding wildlife and this causes problems. Some of the new plants grow too quickly and push the native plants out of the habitat. This puts the animals that need the native plants in real danger. To help, plant and grow native plants in your backyard, garden, or any open space.

Native plants are typically easier to grow than non-natives. They usually don't need chemicals, fertilizer, or watering.

Did you know...
It's very important for habitats to have diversity - meaning many different kinds of plants and animals living there. Native plants help support diversity!

NW-2655 Native Plants | Native Plant Interpretive Sign - NW-2655 | © Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved - Vackler, Inc.

MIGRATORY BIRDS
Many of the birds we see are world travelers! They will fly around 12,000 miles to get from their summer home in the north, to their winter home in the south. Some will even fly over 22,000 miles—that's the same as going back and forth across the entire United States 8 times!

Birds help spread seeds from plants, eat insects, and pollinate flowers! We do our best to protect these birds. In fact, one of the very first laws ever passed to protect wildlife was the law that protects songbirds, called the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**. This law says that we can't hurt these birds or keep anything that comes from them, including feathers, nests, or eggs. We also help songbirds by feeding them, building bird houses, and keeping cats indoors. Cats are one of the biggest predators to songbirds!

Boreal Forest Bird Migrations
Birds migrate along routes, called flyways, to get to more comfortable temperatures as the seasons change. In the spring, almost 2 billion birds will migrate north to the boreal forest region in Canada to reproduce. In the fall, they travel south to many different places— including parts of the United States, Mexico, and many countries in South America.

Where have you seen people trying to help birds?

Red-winged Blackbird, Cedar Waxwing, Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow

NW-955 Migratory Birds | Migratory Bird Interpretive sign - NW-955 | © Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved - Vackler, Inc.

Signage proposed for Sims Park

(Continued from page 16) - Could this kind of collaboration be part of something bigger in Cleveland? In Nashville what started with a confrontation over Purple Martins roosting in trees outside the Nashville Symphony turned out to be a bird-friendly outcome for the Purple Martins and resulted in the development of [The Nashville Urban Bird Treaty](#). Click [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#) to read about how this happened. Cleveland has seen many collaborations: Light Out and downtown building owners, Cleveland Metroparks and the conservancies and the city and county, and others. [US Fish & Wildlife's Urban Bird Treaty program](#) supports cities and other stakeholders in developing regulations to conserve birds.

Could we in Cleveland do what Nashville did? Would you like to be involved? Who else do you think should be involved? Send your thoughts to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org



Native plants are nature's bird feeders! Adding natives to your yard provides birds with the seeds, berries, and insects they need to survive and feed their young.

Find a great selection at **Meadow City Native Plant Nursery** in Cleveland's North Collinwood neighborhood. Use the code **KIRTLAND** for **15% off** online preorders (starting in April), or when the nursery reopens in mid-May! Valid through June 1.

www.meadowcitynursery.com | 216-282-6911

Bird Friendly Coffee

Our gracious friend, Amanda Sebrosky, of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has invited members of the Kirtland Bird Club who live in Cuyahoga County to order Smithsonian-certified bird-friendly coffee through WCAS. *Birds & Beans* brand coffee is grown in the shade, keeping rain forests intact and the coffee is organic so toxins are kept from the environment, protecting human workers and animals from the poisons of herbicides and pesticides. In addition, *Birds & Beans* coffee is Fair Trade certified, so farmers get a fair wage. And finally, it's really terrific coffee! On top of that, Amanda delivers the coffee! Orders go in quarterly: **Jan 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10**. Profits from the coffee support the mission of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Put orders in anytime [HERE](#)



Wood Thrush, Medium Roast



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Medium-



Scarlet Tanager, French Roast

Effect of Noise and Air Pollution on Birds

Our friends at QuietCleanHeights.org remind us that a growing body of research is looking at the **impact of noise and pollution on birds**. Both are already recognized as factors in human disease and inflammation and are especially impactful on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Not surprisingly, birds experience harm too.

A 2020 study from Cornell in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, by researchers at Cornell looked at **OZONE pollution and birds**. They estimated the Clean Air Act had averted the deaths of **1.5 billion birds**. They also found **small migratory species were more susceptible**.

Issues in Northeast Ohio

- **Ground-level ozone**, formed by fossil fuel combustion by-products in sunlight, is predicted to increase with climate warming.
- Northeast Ohio counties have NOT met EPA's ground-level ozone standard for years.
- EPA standards are **health-based**, referring to humans, but birds' respiratory systems are more sensitive to ozone.
- **Gas Leaf Blowers** emit large amounts of pollution in **localized neighborhood hot spots** that are not monitored or regulated.
- **Intense Noise and concentrated Pollution** occur in dense neighborhoods utilizing routine gas-powered lawn maintenance.
- For the birds of Northeast Ohio and elsewhere it makes sense to **cut unnecessary noise and pollution**.

Learn about air quality monitoring in Northeast Ohio and what we each can do [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the effect of noise on birds

Click [HERE](#) for information about the effect of air pollution on birds

Click [HERE](#) for information about the benefits of air pollution regulation on birds



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Publisher of:

The Cleveland Bird Calendar
Birds of the Cleveland Region and the Field Book
The Kirtland Warbler

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