



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio

www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2017–2018 Membership Year, No. 2, Winter Issue

Monthly Meetings

Guests are always welcome — Cleveland Museum of Natural History...

1st Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:30 PM

Wednesday December 6, 2017

Ornithology Discoveries in 2017

Presented by Dr. Andy Jones



Dr. Andy Jones returns for his semi-annual talk to the Kirtland Bird Club to highlight the recent exciting findings from the world of ornithology. There are thousands of academic papers published every year on the biology of birds. These new discoveries are sometimes highlighted in newspapers, magazines, and on your Facebook feed, but far too many simply don't get the public attention that they deserve. Dr. Jones will highlight the taxonomic changes that birders will want to know about, as well as other discoveries that will simply make you a more observant and more informed birder. This talk will cover many exciting aspects of bird biology that were discovered in the last two years.

Dr. Jones received his BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and his PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota. He originally hails from east Tennessee, where his passion for natural history began at an early age; his current research involves the evolutionary history of birds from the Appalachian mountains as well as the Andes and the Philippines. Dr. Jones is responsible for the Museum's collection of avian specimens, which consists of approximately 30,000 study skins and 4,000 egg sets from the Ohio region and western North America as well as approximately 1,000 osteological specimens from Ohio. He is also responsible for specimen acquisition and preservation, maintenance of specimen records, and carrying out original research. His other tasks include providing various services to the scientific community, the media, the Museum's exhibitions and education divisions as well as the public at large. Dr. Jones was among 14 prominent American ornithologists to be named an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 2009, and in 2014 he was elected as Secretary of the AOU.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Coordinator: Andy Jones

Description: KBC has a long tradition of supporting the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. KBC does the Eastside Christmas Bird Count, and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society does the Westside Cleveland Bird Count. Both counts cover a variety of locations within assigned circles. Everyone is welcome to participate and count birds along the lakefront, at backyard bird feeders, and on trails in woods and fields.

Directions: To sign up for the Eastside count, contact Andy at ornitholoco@gmail.com. The map of the Eastside Christmas Bird Count circle is on the KBC website at kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Mentor Marsh: History, Tragedy, Recovery Presented by David Kriska



Mentor Marsh has been designated by a National Park Service as the National Natural Landmark since 1966 for being one of the most species-rich sites on the Great Lakes shoreline. It was named Ohio's first State Nature Preserve in 1971 and is a National Audubon Society Important Birding Area. This unique wetland suffered dramatically in the 1960s when salt-mine tailings leached into Blackbrook Creek. By the early 1970s, most of the swamp forest trees and marsh plants had died. The site was overtaken by reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), a 15-foot-tall non-native invasive plant. *Phragmites* grew so densely within the nearly 4-mile-long marsh basin that an estimated 1 billion plants were growing just two inches apart. After partial abatement of the salt source, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History began a large-scale restoration of Mentor Marsh in 2012. Under the guidance of Museum restoration ecologists, the *Phragmites* is being treated via helicopter and a ground-based treatment. The *Phragmites* is also being physically mashed to allow native plants to grow. The results thus far have been heartening. Dozens of native plant species are sprouting throughout the Marsh, and rare marsh birds — such as American

and Least Bitterns, Virginia, King and Sora Rails, Common Gallinules and Wilson's Snipe — are now nesting. Fish, such as Northern Pike, are spawning, and Yellow Perch fingerlings are starting to use the marsh as a nursery. Come be inspired by a story from David Kriska, Ph.D, the Museum's Biodiversity Coordinator, about Nature's resilience.

David joined the Museum in 2003 as the Biodiversity Coordinator for the Center for Conservation & Biodiversity & the Natural Areas Division where he specializes in rare plant and animal surveys, wetlands ecology, and wetland restoration. David became interested in the natural world when he was ten years old, and has been working in the natural history field for over 25 years. Since 2008 he's helped the Natural Areas Division acquire nearly 2,000 acres, raising over \$4M in the process. The Museum currently has 53 scientific natural areas spread across nearly 9,000 acres that contain unique natural communities, such as hemlock northern hardwood forest, Lake Erie island alvar, fossil dune ridge, marshes, swamps and glacial wetlands. These high-quality habitats- many are globally rare, together protect 250 different kinds of endangered, threatened, or rare plant and animal species. Together, they represent the remarkable biological diversity that was once widespread throughout the region. He has extensive experience with terrestrial, aquatic and wetland surveys. He has led head-starting programs for endangered turtles and extirpated butterflies. His doctoral research focused on the restoration of globally rare black oak savanna. He has raised an additional \$900K for over a dozen projects restoring wetlands of all types. He is an active member of the Natural Areas Association. He regularly gives seminars and presentations on the ecology of northern Ohio.

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

How Birds Shape the Air: A Guided Tour of the Structure and Function of Bird Wings

Presented by Tobin Hieronymus



Bird wings are iconic structures. Across cultures and through history they appear, grafted in their entirety, onto other beings or objects as symbols of speed or flight. But beneath the feathers lies a system of bones, muscles, and tendons that governs flight mechanics in a very concrete way. This talk will explore the evolutionary story and anatomy of bird wings, drawing from current research in Dr. Hieronymus' lab at NEOMED.

Tobin Hieronymus is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) in Rootstown, Ohio. It has been his good fortune to conduct lab and field research on some of the most remarkable animal structures in the world, from rhino horns and dinosaur crests to bird beaks and whale baleen. His current research focuses on how anatomical and developmental constraints shape the evolution of flight styles in living birds

The Kirtland Warbler, the newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC), Cleveland 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 or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org

Upcoming Field Trips

Ducks at Nimisila Reservoir

9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 13, 2018

Leader: Jon Cefus



Description: Nimisila Reservoir is one of the 13 bodies of water that make up the Portage Lakes in Portage County. It was built in 1936 by the federal Works Progress Administration. Historically, the area was an important trading post for settlers and Indians. During the War of 1812, it served as a rendezvous point for American troops. A WWII corsair airplane crash landed in the reservoir on a training mission from Goodyear. Legend has it that it is underwater and remains stuck in the mud somewhere within the reservoir. Nimisila is the staging area for purple martins in August. The reservoir features eagles, osprey, and during the winter months, many ducks can be seen there.

Directions: The address for the pull-off to meet :5034 Christman Rd., Clinton, OH 44319.

From I-77 South to the Arlington Road Exit. Turn right on Arlington, continuing on Arlington Road past SR619. Turn right on East Caston Road and, then, left on Christman Road. Watch for the pull-off area on your right. **From I-71 South** to the State Route 18 Exit. Route 18 East to I-77 South.

Then, follow the directions for I-77 South

Gulls and Ducks at Avon Power Plant

9:00 a.m., Sunday, February 18, 2018

Leader: Tim Colborn

Description: Avon Power Plant is on the Lake Erie lakefront in Lorain County and attracts large numbers of fish – and therefore gulls and ducks – in the winter, due to its warm water output. After birding there, we may head east or west depending on what's being seen around the area. Target species include Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Thayer's Gull, Great and Lesser Black-back Gulls, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Loon, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and other waterfowl.



Directions: I-90 West to SR-611. Turn right (west) on SR-611 and right (north) on Miller Road. At US6 (Lake Road) turn right (east) and turn left into one of the two parking areas at Miller Park, which is adjacent to the power plant. Both provide easy access to lakefront viewing area

Tagging Along Vicariously

By Ken Ostermiller

Preface: In January 2017 Ann and Bill Toneff asked me what to do with all the bird sighting lists they had from the birding trips they made during their retirement. Thinking there may be value in this data, I contacted Ken Ostermiller, the northeast Ohio eBird Coordinator, on January 21, 2017 to see if eBird could use the bird sightings information. He said let me take a look at the information so I made plans to drop off several notebooks of bird sightings. The project continues below. **Delores Cole**

* * *

I had the privilege of en-



tering into eBird the birds seen by Ann and Bill Toneff, a couple from Ohio who, in retirement, traveled and recorded their bird sightings in notebooks. I have never met Ann or Bill, but I tagged along with them vicariously as I read and entered their bird sightings into the eBird database. Some were records of unusual sightings from their home near the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. For two winters, they recorded the daily visits of Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches. They traveled to Alaska, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, California, Oregon, Newfoundland, and more. On each trip, Ann kept a day list of birds, listing where they were throughout the day and birds seen at each location. If a bird species was unusual for these observers, it was noted at each location during the day.

Tagging Along Vicariously (continuation)

. eBird has a special protocol for records of this kind – Historical. All you need to know is date, place, and birds seen. You don't have to enter time, duration, or distance traveled nor count the numbers of birds seen. You do not have to have a record of all the bird species seen at a site.

This project took a bit of time but every minute of it was interesting. I feel like I was along for the ride on their journeys. About half-way through entering their sightings, their friend, Delores Cole, let me know that Ann had passed away. I feel as if entering this data into eBird is an appropriate way to honor and remember her life.

The data is a significant addition to eBird and covers dates in some areas where there was little data. The checklist reviewers, who contacted me about rare bird sightings, were uniformly appreciative of adding data even when one bird sighting on a checklist didn't have enough information to validate it as part of the larger research database. There are few such instances but, really, not that many.

Some of the bird lists I had from Ohio could not go into eBird. These were day lists recorded on printed bird checklists, checking all the species seen during the day. Unfortunately, these lists are for multiple locations and do not record the specific place a bird was seen. Until I began using eBird this was the kind of list I used to keep, too. There were, however, two notebooks with data for specific places in Ohio and that data did get added to eBird.

I am convinced that there are many birders who have data like this sitting in notebooks or filing cabinets. That data is valuable, even if the checklists don't record all the data we would currently like for eBird records. I know that there are birders who, like me, would be happy to help get this data entered into eBird.



Thanks to members of the *Kirtland Warbler*
Committee who reviewed and edited this issue:
Paula Lozano . Layout Edits by Susan Jones

Treasurer report

Kirtland Bird Club Income & Expenses *September 2016 - August 2017*

Income		
	CBC Donations	110.00
	Contribution, unrestricted	495.00
	Interest Earned	2.36
	Membership dues	2,500.00
	Tom LePage Scholarship fund	105.00
	Total Income	3,212.36
	Gross Profit	3,212.36
Expense		
	Accounting	300.00
	Checks	55.17
	Liability Insurance	700.00
	News&Postage	1,049.93
	OAPI	1,000.00
	Pay Pal expense	11.76
	Room Rent	500.00
	Speakers	500.00
	Web hosting fee	159.00
	Total expense	4,275.86
	Net income	-1,063.50
	Money on KBC bank account	22,391.30

Kirtland Bird Club is a tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Membership dues include a subscription to *Cleveland Bird Calendar*. If you plan to make a tax deduction, call for the most recent subscription rate.

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