



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2023–2024 Membership Year, No. 2, Winter Issue

## Monthly Meetings

Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio meets on the first Wednesday of each month, September through June at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are in –person or on ZOOM .Each meeting includes announcements, some club business, and a speaker program. Meetings are free and all are welcome! Check our web site or Facebook for details

## KBC President's Letter

*By Patricia Kellner*



We've had an exciting series of events this fall – field trips to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve on the East Side, Sandy Ridge Reservation in Lorain County, and Cleveland's lakefront on the West Side. You can read about those trips [HERE](#). We've also had outstanding speakers in interesting meeting places: Holly Merker speaking about the Health Benefits of Birding at The Gathering Place in Beachwood, Judy Semroc on Birds, Bugs, and Botany at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and Nicole Robinson and others sharing poetry about birds at Loganberry Books near Shaker Square. December 6th will find those of us who registered at The Fairmount Cocktail Bar, where we'll enjoy hearty appetizers, a presentation by Chuck Slusarczyk, and possibly a few surprise guests.

During the colder, snowier, darker months of winter, we'll have our monthly speaker meetings on Zoom and send out invitations to register for those programs closer to the time they occur. On the evening of

Wednesday, January 3rd, I'll be doing a Basics of Birdwatching program. I hope it will interest the many new birders who have joined the club or signed up for our newsletter in the last few years.

On February 7th, we'll hear from Gabriella Lindsey, one of the young researchers supported by KBC's Ohio Avian Project Initiative. Gabi will talk to us about Henslow's Sparrow, a bird of wet grasslands threatened by habitat loss. Gabi's research looks at the movement of Henslow's Sparrow during and after the breeding season, and I expect we will once again marvel at the tech that researchers use to study bird movement! Gabi's work will undoubtedly help conservationists better understand the habitat these birds need.

In March, KBC members Ken Vinciquerra and Louise Acheson will present the second half of their program, "Birding in the University Circle Area of Cleveland," focused on Lakeview Cemetery and Forest Hills Park. Part 1, which they presented in April was fascinating, and this program will be, too.

Kirtland Bird Club continues to grow, but we need more support – not just dues-paying members and donations, but volunteers - to help make all of what we do happen. Many of our older members have already volunteered their time over the years, and we look to younger and newer members for help. All of us can help by sharing information about our club and its activities with people we meet while birding or anywhere else. These days new members often started out as email subscribers or facebook followers, so please invite people to join our email list. Keep a few of our new business cards in your coat pockets to share when you come upon people interested in birds. We'll have them at upcoming meetings and field trips, or email [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org) and we will send you a few!



## Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio

### New business card

Cards are available at meetings, on field trips, or by mail. Contact [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org) to request cards by mail. .



## Ornithology course Spring 2024

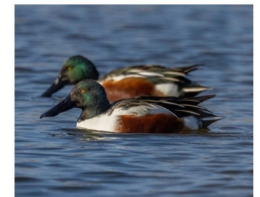


**Cuyahoga Community College–Eastern Campus  
BIO 1815; Jan 17-May 1; Mon and Weds 9:00-11:45 AM**

- Learn about birds: evolution, behavior, ecology, anatomy, energetics of flights, and more
- Weekly hands-on field trips to learn field techniques: identification of 150 local species by sight and sound, biodiversity surveys, and collecting behavioral data



Instructor: Dr. Sean Williams  
EHCT 211F  
Tri-C Eastern Campus  
[sean.williams@tri-c.edu](mailto:sean.williams@tri-c.edu)  
216-987-2097



# Monthly meetings

Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 PM

## The Joy of Gulls

Presenter: *Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.*

**Reservations for this event closed on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.**

Join us for an evening celebration of winter and the amazing gulls of Cleveland's north shore - as aptly described and photographed by Cleveland's own Chuck Slusarczyk! People from all over the state travel to Cleveland's north shore to see the variety of gulls that call Cleveland and Northeast Ohio their winter home.



Gulls. Photo by Jim Heflich

We'll start at 6:30 with hearty appetizers and a chance to socialize with friends old and new in a warm setting with great food and drink. For the first time we are charging a fee for participating in this event, but if this is a hardship, please don't hesitate to let us know (We are open to quietly subsidizing guests as we want everyone to have an opportunity to attend!) Parking is available on the street and behind The Fairmount and at present it's free. There are entrances in the back (with steps and a handrail) and in the front (without steps). This event may sell out, so reserve early!

Raised in the Cleveland, Ohio area, Chuck is a life-long birder and wildlife photographer with a passion for all creatures, and flying things in particular. His interest in birds began at a very young age, even before attending his first bird walks in 1975.

The Cleveland Audubon Society honored him with an award at age fifteen for "Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Conservation", and he won a bird identification contest sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in the same year.

Whenever he's not at work driving a charter bus throughout the eastern U.S., you'll find him out in the field somewhere with his ever present binoculars and camera looking for the regular and the rare. Just this past November he discovered the first Ash-throated Flycatcher for the State of Ohio, and has documented the oldest Ring-billed Gull on record, a bird which will be 31 years old this spring. "Always looking and always learning" is his personal motto.



## Monthly meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 PM on Zoom

### Birding Basics

Presenter: *Patty Kellner, Kirtland Bird Club President*



As a child, Patty loved watching birds at the bird feeder outside her family's kitchen window. She pored over the bird books her mother got for her and wished she lived where more colorful species would visit the bird feeder. She did not know then that exciting bird species were out there - if she'd known then what she knows now, who knows how her life would have turned out! Patty will describe what, as a novice birder, she needed to know. She will go over basic concepts to get people started, including where to look for birds, how to look for them, and how to identify them by their appearance and vocalizations. She will also point people to additional resources.

Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 PM on Zoom

### Henslow's Sparrow

Presenter: *Gabriella Lindsey*



Gabriella Lindsey, one of the young researchers supported by KBC's Ohio Avian Project Initiative, will talk to us this month about Henslow's Sparrow. The Henslow's Sparrow is an elusive bird in wet grasslands, a declining habitat. Its soft and short but distinctive song adds to the challenge of finding them, but they have been found the last few years in a wet grassland above Tinker's Creek in Bedford Reservation. Like so many other birds, habitat loss is one of the challenges this species faces. Gabi's research on Henslow's Sparrow habitat use and movement during breeding and beyond will guide conservationists as they work to preserve and develop

more habitats for this species.



# Upcoming Field Trips

**Saturday, January 6, 2024, 9:00 am**

## Backroads of Geauga County

**Leader:** *Matt Valencic*

**Meeting place:** TBD

If LaDue Reservoir has open water and waterfowl, we will meet at the **LaDue Boathouse** at 9:00 am (There's a newly paved road leading to the boat ramp – no more potholes!)

**LaDue Boathouse**, 17759 Valley Road, Auburn Township, OH 44023

<https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L7046971>



**Soltis Road.** If LaDue Reservoir is iced over, we will meet at the west end of **Soltis Road** 1.3 south of SR-422, Parkman, Ohio, near the intersection of SR-88 and Soltis Road, looking for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings & wintering raptors.

<https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L4168725>



American Kestrel. Photo by Jim Heflich

There will be a stop at the Market Express store in Parkman for bathrooms, hot/cold drinks, pizza, pepperoni rolls, etc. If we visit LaDue first, we can go there before Soltis Road, at least to use the restrooms. Or, after Soltis Road, we can allow time for food and bathrooms.

Click [HERE](#) for Matt Valencic's **ebird report** from the January 2023 field trip. It includes species counts, a description of our trip, and photos of some of our sightings!

If you would like to be contacted in case of a cancellation, please register for the field trip at [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org). Leave your name and contact information.

### Do You Have Older KBC Field Trip Checklists?

*Fred Dinkelbach*

In 2021 I created an eBird account for the Kirtland Bird Club. Black River Audubon, Kent State Field Ornithology, WCAS, CLNP Survey Volunteers, and many other nearby organizations have had their own club accounts for years for field trips, so why not us? I had found a few back-dated checklists to add, and as of this writing there are 51 checklists, most dated the past two years. These lists are represented by 175 species so far, with each recent field trip adding one or two more. Obviously, we have seen more than this in our history; we are the Kirtland Bird Club after all!

Do any of our members have an older checklist from one of our field trips? If so, please either:

1. Share your eBird checklist with member name KirtlandBirdClub and include details on which field trip.
2. Email a copied or scanned list to [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org), and I will gladly enter the data myself.

Thank you!

# Upcoming Field Trips

**Saturday, February 10, 2024, 9:00 am**

## **Rocky River Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks**

**Leaders:** *Bill Deininer,  
Dave Graskemper & Al Rand*

**Location:** Rocky River Nature Center,  
24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH

We will join the second Saturday of the month bird walk at Rocky River Nature Center and look for a variety of birds wintering along the trails.

Click [HERE](#) to view 2023 eBird field trip report.

Click [HERE](#) to view Rocky River Reservation's trails

Click [HERE](#) to view eBird's bar chart for Rocky River Reservation.



If you would like to be contacted in case of a cancellation, please register for the field trip at [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org). Leave your name and contact information

## **Christmas Bird Count**

**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

**Midnight to Midnight!**

**Cleveland CBC Coordinator:** *Laura Gooch*



The Christmas Bird Count is a long-time tradition where birders fan out over eastern Cuyahoga County to identify and count birds they see and hear. It's citizen science at work - and a lot of fun!



Returning count participants should contact their group leader. People who want to get involved for the first time should reach out to Laura [HERE](#).

There are opportunities to count with groups, count on your own, or count at home, but check with Laura if you have not counted before.

Get more details on how the count works [HERE](#).

Read about past Christmas Bird Counts [HERE](#).

### October 15<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain County

By Fred Dinkelbach



Photo by Patricia Kellner

A weather delay pushed our scheduled field trip from Saturday to Sunday. 52 species were tallied, a better count than most October 2023 eBird Sandy Ridge checklists. A missed target bird was a Limpkin (and it makes me happy to say “a” Limpkin and not “the” Limpkin - such is Ohio birding in 2023!). Sandy Ridge’s last posted sighting since this Limpkin appeared in mid-July was just 3 days prior. We were also in the right place but at the wrong time for our next hoped-for target, the resident Sandhill Crane pair. Our March field trip witnessed Sandy Ridge’s first successfully fledged Sandhill colt. We did well with waterfowl and water specialists at 19 species,

if you include Kingfisher and Bald Eagle. An overflight of 30 or so Canada Geese included an obvious three-quarter scale member: the club’s first Cackling Goose for our eBird field trip account (see my side article). Other highlights were a male Redstart in bright breeding colors that popped out of the brush into the sunlight before getting lost amongst the hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows, and a couple of Rusty Blackbirds and a Fox Sparrow.

The 2-mile walk was in mostly mild weather that included brief periods of light rain with equal bouts of sunshine. Our group numbered around 12 members and guests, aged from a young teen to the usual spry seniors. The dis-



Northern Shovelers. Photo by Anna Kozlenko

tance, time, and some growling stomachs took the fight out of our plans for a second walk in the surrounding grasslands to look for uncommon sparrow migrants. Other birders’ checklists from that weekend verified it was a good decision to skip the sparrows for breakfast, which six of us enjoyed together to off a good morning.



Ruddy Ducks. Photo by Anna Kozlenko

## November Field Trip

by *Paula Lozano*



Photo by Paula Lozano

Sixteen members and friends of the Kirtland Bird Club attended the November 11, 2023, field trip. Cloudy conditions brightened to sunny skies, but a north wind chilled everyone. We visited three lakefront locations, starting at the Perkins Overlook at Edgewater Park. Ten species were seen there, including a Bald Eagle and two White-winged Scoters in a raft of five duck species. After a stop at the Edgewater fishing pier to view Harlequin Duck, we continued to the east end of the Edgewater Yacht Club Marina. We added seven species there. The last stop was at Wendy Park on Whiskey Island. The group took a short walk near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and brought the morning's final tally to twenty-four species. Finally, nine folks enjoyed a hearty lunch at a nearby Irish pub, The Harp.



Harlequin Duck. Photo by Anna Kozlenko



Bald Eagle. Photo by Anna Kozlenko



# A Young Birder Tells His Story

By Preston Spencer

It first began at Home Depot. My Dad asked for the monthly builder kits. They said they did not know where they were. After a whopping 45 minutes of waiting as patiently as a Bluebird baby waiting for mama to give them a regurgitated worm, the manager finally found them. The kit was a bird house with a small feeder. We replaced the feeder with an orange, Lego Batman cup and bought bird food, then nailed it into a tree.



The first customer was a squirrel that I eventually named Chubby. Then it was Blacky also a squirrel then the birds came even chipmunks until... Chubby broke the birdhouse and bird feeder kit. Everyone was in panic! All hope was lost... But this would pave a pathway for something even better. Mom bought me a bird feeder and a bird bath as a reward for getting A's at school. We then placed it on a table outside. But then the birds pooped all over it, and we had to move it. We tried under the tree and hanging it, but it just wasn't working out. Again all hope was lost... But this again would pave a new and better pathway. So then we thought about are old outdated, broken down, paint chipped treehouse. Was I too old for it now? We decided we

would turn it into a bird feeder station. Nothing came at first. Dad kept telling us to be patient. Then after a day the cardinals came... ALL HOPE WAS RESTORED! We bought more bird feeders and started filming...

While this was going on I pondered about the idea of hand feeding wild birds. I thought it was just a crazy dream I had, also what made it harder is that we did not have the birds that were equipped for hand feeding, all we had were Sparrows, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and a pair of rare summer Juncos. After a long time we got a pair of Black Capped Chickadees that came once or twice a day. When I saw the colorful feathers, black and white bib, the dee's and fee bee's it sang like a choir but even more beautiful with a hint of cheerfulness, I was sold. From then on the Black Capped Chickadee was and will always be my favorite bird. After they started coming, I could put my plan into action. After seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, and months of persevering like a Kinglet during a shortage of food supply, having hope like a Red Breasted Nuthatch finding a sunflower seed in the deep, dark, snowy winter, and staying calm just like a Morning Dove singing its coo's... It happened.

I was as cheerful as a Gull with an overloading box of a lifetime supply of french fries. The first bird to land on me and grab food was a Black Capped Chickadee I named Rambo, next was his partner who I named Pretty. I also got some other Black Capped Chickadees, some of them are named Nutty, Explorer, Buds, and Bud's partner Clut's. Then the next bird to land on my hand to feed was, Chirpy a female Ruby Throated Hummingbird, after Chirpy another female Ruby throated Hummingbird came to me I named Sweet-sum. I even toss peanuts to the ground for Blue Jays and House Sparrows. I have a name for one of the Blue Jays, which is Loudy, but I have to find more names for all of them. After all of that, to top it off, a female Downy Woodpecker landed on my hand a few times and grabbed food. Her name is Wilma and she's new to the club. I plan on expanding my club this winter. There is a Tufted Titmouse that I named Bomber because it dives at my hand but hasn't landed. It is almost there, it just hasn't built up the courage. A White Breasted Nuthatch has copied off of him and tried dive-bombing as well. I love my relationship with the birds outside. I'm now one with the birds. I've protected them from hungry hawks, given them special treats, and have a birdhouse for them. I care very much about their lives. God's creations are truly beautiful. If you would like to see this in action and my future adventures with the birds, check out my YouTube channel, Press BesS!

## President's Note:

In September, the KBC Bird Quest team met Preston and his parents, Kristi and Jeremy, at Bird Quest. We invited them to join us on a young birder with parents walk and our October Field trip to Sandy Ridge Reservation.

The Kirtland Bird Club supports young birders of all ages by providing birding opportunities with our club and other clubs and highlighting opportunities for young birders. We send occasional emails to parents of young birders (under 18) and young birders (under 18 with parents' permission) about birding opportunities. If you know a young birder or the parents of a young birder in our area, let them know about KBC.

We look forward to sharing stories from more young birders in future newsletters.

## Joe Blanda's 2023 Holiday Gift Guide for Birders

to promote conservation and sustainability

### **Bamboo, Sustainable Clothing and Bedding**

<https://cozyearth.com/collections/>

### **Reusable Shopping Bags**

### **Bars of Soap**

### **Bees Wraps**

<https://www.beeswrap.com>

### **Bird-friendly Coffee Club**

<https://www.wcaudubon.org/bird-friendly-coffee-club.html>



### **Cloth Napkins**

### **Metal, Reusable Paperless Coffee Filters**

Reusable filters, such as stainless steel or gold-tone filters, can be cleaned and used indefinitely, while paper filters need to be discarded after a single use. For single-serve machines like Keurig, filters should be changed every 3-4 months for optimal performance.

### **Laundry Detergent Sheets**

<https://cozyearth.com/collections/>

### **BPA-Free Water Bottles**

### **Kindle or Used Books**

*Saving Us* by Katherine Hayhoe

*The Book Of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall

*The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild* by Enric Sala

### **KBC Membership**

## More Ideas from the KBC Board of Directors

<https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.htm>

**Bird Seed** (black oil sunflower seed)

### **Books**

*101 Ways to Help Birds* by Laura Erickson

(available on Amazon or order at your local bookstore)

*Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest*

<https://www.kaufmanfieldguides.com/nature-of-the-midwest.html>

### **Bird-friendly Window Tape:**

### **Black River Audubon Society Shop**

<https://www.blackriveraudubon.org/shop/feather-friendly-window-collusion-tape>

### **Acopian BirdSavers**

<https://www.birdsavers.com/>

## Holiday Gifts (continuation)

### Feather Friendly - Residential Application

<https://www.featherfriendly.com/residential>

### Feather Friendly - American Bird Conservancy Bird Tape

<https://www.featherfriendly.com/abc-birdtape>

### 2024 Calendar

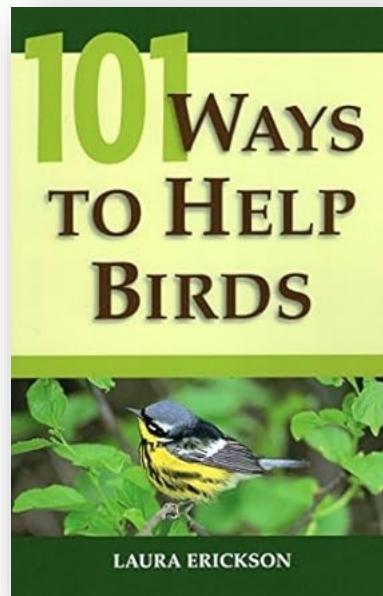
to support birds, conservation, sustainability

### Aldo Leopold Foundation

<https://store.aldoleopold.org/products/2024-phenology-calendar>

### Gift Card

(Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Wild Birds Unlimited, or a similar local vendor)



**KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB of NORTHEAST OHIO MEMBERSHIP**



I would like to support the activities of Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio with my membership:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Single membership (\$20)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Couples membership (\$30)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student membership (\$10)

I would also like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted Donation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ The speaker program - sponsor a speaker (\$100)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Loaner Binocular Fund – we accept cash and gently used binoculars
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ KBC Scholarship Fund – to help young birders attend young birder camps
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio Avian Scholarship Initiative – supporting bird research (up to \$1000 per grant)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

*In addition:*

Please consider using your employer’s matching gift program to donate to KBC.  
Please consider including Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio in your estate plans.

Our membership year is September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Any membership payments received after March 1 will include membership through August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year

Check here if you would also like to help us with any of our programs or activities – we’ll be in touch!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For couple’s membership:

Additional name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check to:**  
KBC Membership

**To pay via Paypal or credit card:**  
<https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/become-a-member.html>

c/o Mary Anne Romito  
4310 Bush Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44109

*Thank you, once again, for your support of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio!*



**Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio**

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](http://www.KirtlandBirdClub.org)  
[www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com](http://www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com)

Email address: [info@KirtlandBirdClub.org](mailto:info@KirtlandBirdClub.org)

**Kirtland Bird Club is a 501c(3) corporation.**

**For income tax purposes membership dues are fully deductible.**

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