



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com
2014-2015 Membership Year, No. 3, Spring Issue

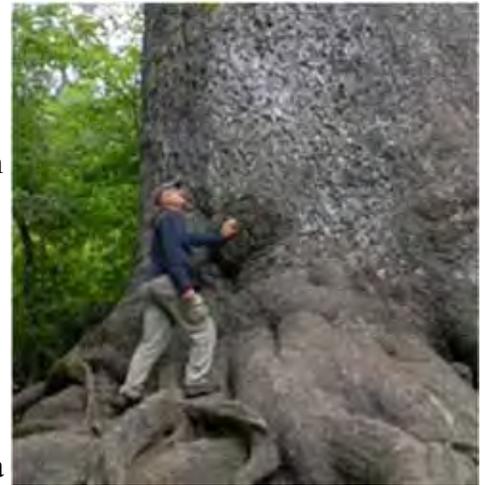
Monthly Meetings

Guests are always welcome — Cleveland Museum of Natural History...Parking is free.
1st Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:30 PM

Volcanoes, Wetlands, and Birds of the Pacific Northwest

David Dvorak, CMNH, 4 March 2015, 7:30 p.m.

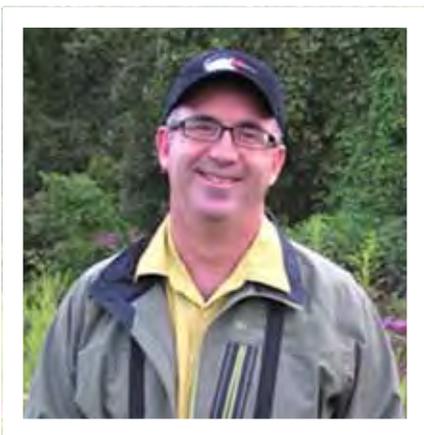
The Pacific Northwest stretches from the northern one-fifth of California all the way to southern Alaska. Here mountains and wetlands provide homes for many types of birds from Snow Geese to Varied Thrush. Volcanoes dot the landscape of the Cascade Mountains with wetlands in the valleys. The Lower Klamath Lakes National Wildlife Refuge complex is comprised of six refuges on the Oregon/California border. Here, 493 species of birds have been observed with abundant waterfowl migrations in spring and fall. Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge on the Washington coast is a mecca for migrating shorebirds. Steller's Jays are abundant in all forested areas. This is the realm of giant trees from Sitka Spruce in the North, redwoods in the South, and Douglas Fir and Western Hemlock throughout the region. The guttural calls of Ravens are often made from the tops of the great trees.



David Dvorak, KBC Vice President, recently retired after 41 years as a public employee mostly with the Cleveland Metroparks as a naturalist. David is also a freelance writer and photographer. He has written articles for many publications including *Birders World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Wild Bird*, and *Birds and Blooms*. His photographs have been published in books, magazines, posters, maps, calendars, as background displays for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, plant catalogs, and newspapers. David wrote and illustrated a children's book *A Sea of Grass: The Tallgrass Prairie*.

More Perils & Pitfalls of Birdings

Bill Thompson III, CMNH, 1 April 2015, 7:30 p.m.



Bill Thompson III has been birding for four decades and in that time he has had some unusual experiences, met some unusual people, and learned a great many lessons (the hard way) about birding and human nature. In this completely new take on his wildly popular "Perils & Pitfalls" talk Bill tells tales of birds, birders, and the amazing things that happen when you're out there watching. As has been his standing policy, if you don't laugh at least once during this talk, Bill will clean the binoculars of everyone present.

(continued on pg. 2)

Bill Thompson III (or BT3 as he is better known) is a lifelong birder, the co-publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest (BWD)*, and the author of many books on birds and nature. He's been on the editorial team of *BWD* since May of 1988,

Monthly Programs continued

More Perils & Pitfalls of Birdings

Bill Thompson III, CMNH, 1 April 2015, 7:30 p.m.

(continued from pg. 1)

Bill Thompson III (or BT3 as he is better known) is a lifelong birder, the co-publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest* (*BWD*), and the author of many books on birds and nature. He's been on the editorial team of *BWD* since May of 1988, and during that time has watched birds in 49 U.S. states (still missing Hawaii) and more than 30 countries. Bill writes the *Bill of the Birds* blog and creates and hosts a podcast called "This Birding Life" which gets more than 750,000 episode downloads annually. He is the president and a founding board member of The Ohio Ornithological Society, and also serves on the board of directors for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. He is devoted to introducing kids to nature and birding and considers his *Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* to be his proudest professional achievement. Bill lives on a farm in southeastern Ohio with his wife, Julie Zickefoose, and their two children, Phoebe and Liam. In his spare time, Bill writes music and performs with his country-rock band The Rain Crows. His favorite North American bird is the Red-Headed Woodpecker.

The Impact of Pollution Toward Our Migrants

Dr. Sarah Mabey, CMNH, 6 May 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Mabey will detail the dynamics of migration ecology and stopover behavior and the challenges associated with protecting birds and their habitats beyond the boundaries of parks and preserves. Students conducting research with Dr. Mabey get up at the crack of dawn to investigate a wide range of questions related to the impact of anthropogenic change on wildlife populations and behavioral ecology. After years of living the roaming life of a field biologist and working in unimaginably beautiful places across North and Central America and Europe, Professor Mabey now happily makes her home in the village of Hiram.



Announcing CLNP Quick Survey Routes:

Project Updates: CLNP Surveys

By Laura Gooch

Would you like to help with the bird surveys at CLNP, but don't have enough time to run the full route? Get started by surveying one of our two "official" half route surveys, which can be completed in about two hours. Better still, bring a friend so that the two of you can each do half, so that the full route will be run!

CLNP surveys need you to join in to turn your birding time into data!

Contact Laura Gooch at lgooch@alum.mit.edu or 216-932-1002 to get started.

Lukas' Thoughts



Dear Kirtland Bird Club Members,

With the Spring migration waiting just around the corner, I would like to share with you some of our accomplishments this past winter and some new developments to look forward to.

Our greatest success occurred when we came together and persuaded the Port Authority and the Cleveland Metroparks to change their mind about developing Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP). In late autumn the Metroparks planning committee submitted a long-term plan for the lakefront properties in the care of the park system. The committee encouraged the construction of numerous bike trails and venues which would allow for better accessibility to the lakefront for Cleveland's inhabitants. All the while, the committee went too far when it recommended developing the relatively wild and pristine CLNP when they planned the construction: a bridge, a large concrete bike trail through the heart of the preserve, and removal of a safety fence along the park perimeter. While park attendance may have increased, it would have been at the cost of destroying the very limited near-pristine habitat found within the park.

It is a rare natural area on which our migrating birds depend upon for their survival. We began the surveys of CLNP earlier this year with an understanding that we needed some data to back any claims that this place is indeed unique and integral to the survival of our migrating birds. Your many letters to the Metroparks and Port Authority made all the difference! The park reconsidered their plan and CLNP will remain pristine for the enjoyment of our migrating birds and visitors alike! Thank you!

Last year we raised money to fund a radio transmitter to track a Snowy Owl as part of project Snowstorm. This February, we succeeded in placing this radio transmitter on the Snowy Owl. Now, we will receive a steady stream of information about the journey that our "adopted" Snowy Owl will take during its life. Thank you once again for donating!

This upcoming April we will host another joint meeting with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Before a presentation by Bill Thompson, Marnie Urso, the Director of the Audubon Office, will discuss a project which aims to see how cities and other man-made structures will impact populations of species who will shift their territorial ranges as a result of climate change.

This May, a group of us will join Drew Rolick at the Greenbrier Suite in Terminal tower to see the Peregrine Falcon nest. This time, the chicks will have already hatched! More information will be available shortly on how to sign up.

Finally, the Kirtland Bird Club has expanded our scope of activities tremendously in the past two years. Meanwhile, even the regular costs of insurance, rental of rooms, and other basic functions have increased. If you have enjoyed reading our newsletter, attending our meetings, and field trips of course you are not obligated to pay membership dues. However, when many people forget to, our budget is greatly decreased and we wonder whether we will be able to afford to hold as many events in the long run. So please, if you haven't paid your membership dues yet, please reconsider. It's not much, but when they add up, these membership dues go a long way in allowing for our club to offer all sorts of spectacular activities for everyone to enjoy! Thank you for all that you do to make our club truly wonderful!

Sincerely,
Lukas Padegimas
President of the Kirtland Bird Club
Lukas_padegimas@sbcglobal.net
(440)-533-5519

The Kirtland Warbler, the newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club (KBC), Cleveland Ohio, is published quarterly. It contains KBC meeting 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, Sarah Winnicki or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Upcoming Field Trips

Lakewatch and Early Migrants

Wendy Park

Sunday 29 March 2015 at 9 a.m.

Description: We will meet at the parking lot in Wendy Park. We will check the Cuyahoga River and proceed to various hotspots to see waterfowl as well as other new arrivals.

Location: 2800 Whiskey Island Drive, Cleveland, OH 44102

Warblers and Vireos

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Saturday 25 April 2015 at 8 a.m.

Description: We will search for various migrants within Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. We may stop by some additional migrant hotspots later in the day.

Location: 8601 Lake Shore Blvd, Cleveland OH



*Northern Parula and Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photos by Sarah Winnicki*



Peregrine Falcon Chicks at Terminal Tower

Terminal Tower in Downtown Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co.

Trip date and Time: Early May TBA

Description: Drew Rolick will lead a tour of the Greenbrier Suite at the Terminal Tower. Right next to the window of the Suite, there is a Peregrine Falcon nest. The tour will take place on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday sometime between 9am-4pm in early May – the date is pending upon the nest initiation date so that we are able to go on our trip once the Peregrine chicks have hatched. Limited to 14 people. Please come to the May KBC meeting to sign up for a spot.

Location: 50 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44113

Field Trip Reports

Kirtland Bird Club November 2014 Field Trip



On Sunday, November 23, 2014, more than twenty Kirtland Bird Club members and friends gathered for a field trip along the lakefront. Target birds were few and far between because the weather was too mild. The previous weeks' mixed flocks of waterfowl had dispersed, leaving fewer species and numbers for all the eager field trip attendees to spot.

Our first stop was Rocky River Park in Rocky River. Red-breasted Merganser and Greater and Lesser Scaup were the most numerous, followed by Hooded and Common Merganser, Bufflehead and Mallard. We only saw one each of Common Goldeneye and Ruddy Duck. Common Loon and Horned Grebe completed the list of waterfowl. An adult Bald Eagle was a welcome sight.

Our next stop was on the Lakewood side of the mouth of the Rocky River where Canada Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron and a late Eastern Phoebe were seen by all. At least three dozen Hooded Mergansers dotted the Clifton Lagoons and the Rocky River from lake to the railroad bridge. Bonaparte's Gulls covered the same area and were seen flying off the beach in Lake Erie. As he was exiting the area, Bill Deininger saw a Hermit Thrush, the last bird added to the final tally of twenty-three species for the morning.

-Paula Lozano

Spread the Word: Tom LePage Scholarship Available for Deserving Young Birders!

The Tom LePage Scholarship Fund has existed as part of the Kirtland Bird Club's mission to promote the serious study of ornithology through education. The scholarship can be applied towards a birding-related educational event for a deserving birder under the age of 18. Examples include an Audubon camp, a birding conference, or as in my case a few years back, personal gear to conduct shorebird research as a volunteer for the FWS in the Alaskan Arctic. There are plenty of other possibilities to where it may also be applicable. If you happen to know a young birder who is interested in attending an event and may want some additional help, please spread the word and have them contact Robert Finkelstein from the scholarship committee at info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

Sincerely yours,
Lukas Padegimas
President of the Kirtland Bird Club

Service Project



**Okay, so it's a blackbird. But it's not just *any* blackbird...
It's the Rusty Blackbird, and it is in trouble!**

Rusty Blackbirds have experienced an 85-99% population drop in the last half-century. Over the last 15 years, research on Rusty breeding and wintering ecology has allowed us to develop conservation strategies to protect this vulnerable species. But many questions still remain, and Rusty Blackbird migration habits are largely a mystery. Are there hot spots where many Rusties congregate during migration? Are similar migratory stopover areas used by Rusties each year, and are these areas protected?

In 2014, the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, eBird, and many other state, federal, and local partners, launched a three-year Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz that challenged birders to scour the landscape for Rusty Blackbirds during this species' northward migration. Between 1 March and 15 June, 4750 birders submitted 13,400 checklists containing Rusty Blackbird observations to eBird, a hugely successful first season that has allowed us to start looking at potential Rusty Blackbird migratory hotspots, habitat use, and potential migratory pathways.



We hope you'll consider participating in Year 2 of the Blitz this spring! It's easy—bird as you normally do during the Blitz window (1 March through 15 June) and submit your data to eBird

using the “Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz” observation type. To help you figure out when Rusties might be passing through your area, each region is assigned a set of target dates found here: <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/states-and-dates>

We're collecting Blitz data from anywhere within our target states and provinces, but this year, we'd also like birders to revisit Areas of Interest identified from 2014 data to assess the consistency of Rusty Blackbird habitat use and migratory timing. Check out our map of Areas of Interest for 2015 at <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/2015-areas-of-interest/>

Will you accept a Rusty Challenge?

This spring, help advance our understanding of one of the most rapidly declining landbirds in North America!

To learn more about Rusty Blackbirds and the Blitz effort, please visit our Migration Blitz website (<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/>), or check out our Blitz Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz>).

Service Project Update



Project Snow Storm Update **Sunday March 15, 2015** **Buckeye the Snowy Owl Gets a Radio Transmitter**

Pictures taken by Lukas Padegimas and Kate Zimmerman

The wind howled from the North West at over 30 mph while temperatures plunged below zero Fahrenheit (though the wind chill made it feel much lower). Inside the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, a little group huddled in awe as Mark Shieldcastle removed a 3-year old female Snowy Owl from a cat carrier. We named her Buckeye, as she was the first Snowy Owl with a radio transmitter to be released back into the wild in Ohio.

Buckeye actually came from Michigan after being caught in a trap at a large airport North of Detroit—twice. Large birds without a fear of airplanes and large international airports do not make a really good combination. So, after the airport caught Buckeye the first time, the staff moved her 80 miles away and let her go. However, a few weeks later Buckeye returned. After being caught again, the staff considered whether they would allow Buckeye to live if she posed a hazard. Then came a call from BSBO – “we will take her farther than 80 miles away so she will be less likely to return.”

As Buckeye journeyed to Ohio, she had no idea that she would become the 23rd owl to join Project SnowStorm. This means that she was fitted with a radio GPS backpack which is approx. 1.5% of her weight and will transmit to us her exact location every few hours.

Project SnowStorm began last year after a large invasion of Snowy Owls in areas far south of their normal winter range occurred. Little is known about their movements and preferences. This project aims to solve some of these mysteries. The Kirtland Bird Club membership wanted to help with this project because not only are Snowy Owls intriguing subjects to study, but the project fit within our mission to promote the serious study of ornithology. So last year, our membership gathered a sum of \$1,200 to pay for part of the transmitter. Black Swamp Bird Observatory facilitated the process of finding and banding the owl with the transmitter.

After Mark Shieldcastle took all the proper measurements and the backpack was ready, Buckeye was finally free!

After landing near some thin shrubbery in a frozen farm field, she explored the surrounding area and then headed NW in the direction of Michigan. But, she later turned back South. At least she is not back at the Detroit Airport thus far. To follow Buckeye’s journey, go to <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/maps-2014-15/buckeye-2/> and click on the interactive map to see where she flies. Oh, and an additional caveat: due to the lack of sunlight, the batteries on the transmission sometimes are unable to charge, so while the information is recorded, it may take a while to be reach us until the days get longer. Read more about it at: <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/posts/buckeye/>.

Thank you once again for sponsoring such a wonderful project! Sincerely, Lukas Padegimas





Kirtland Bird Club

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Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Publisher of:

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

On the web at: www.KirtlandBirdClub.org
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