



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio

www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2018–2019 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 5, 2018

Ornithology Discoveries in 2018

Presented by Dr. Andy Jones



Dr. Andy Jones returns for his 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 22, 2018

Coordinator: Andy Jones

Description: The Kirtland Bird Club has a long tradition of conducting the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. Participants cover a variety of locations within the Cleveland circle. Everyone is welcome to participate by counting birds at your backyard feeders or tromping through woods and fields. The map of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count circle is on the KBC website at kirtlandbirdclub.org.

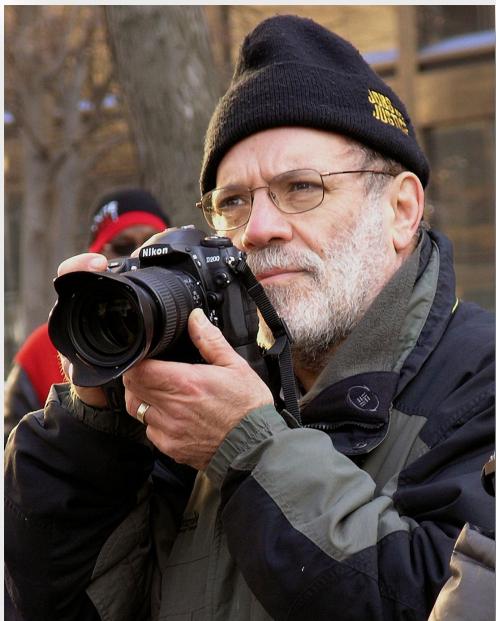
Directions: To sign up for the Cleveland CBC count, contact Andy Jones at ornitholoco@gmail.com.

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Sounds of Forest, Machinery and Conservation in El Chocó, Colombia.

Presented by Steve Cagan



This is a version for KBC of a talk I gave in Denmark about how natural sounds of the rain forest of El Chocó, Colombia are being replaced by the machine sounds of mechanized gold mining and indiscriminate logging. The environment for many birds and other species of fauna and flora are under great threat—and the human communities in the forest are feeling negative effects of these activities. The conference in Denmark helped me think about the importance of sound in the environment—something birders know much about.

Steve has been photographing and exhibiting seriously since the mid-1970s in what he calls activist or socially-engaged photography. He's concerned with exploring strength and dignity in everyday struggles of grassroots people resisting their pressures and problems. His avian photography is a by-product of a long-standing love of nature and birding.

Major projects have included: "Industrial Hostages," on factory closings in Ohio; Indochina; Nicaragua; El Salvador (especially about a community that formed in a refugee camp and returned to found a new town); and Cuba (especially about the struggles of working-class people in the harsh economy after the fall of the USSR), and "Working Ohio," an extended portrait of working people. Current major project, since 2003: "El Chocó, Colombia: Struggle for Cultural and Environmental Survival," documenting that threatened rain forest area and the special cultures there.

Steve has exhibited and published photography on four continents. Major awards include two Fulbright Fellowships, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and several Ohio Arts Council Fellowships and New Jersey Arts Council Fellowships. Steve taught at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, 1985-1993.

Co-author (with his wife Beth) of *This Promised Land, El Salvador*, which won the 1991 Book of the Year Award of Association for Humanist Sociology. In 1991, he was named "Teacher of the Year" at Rutgers University. The third major event of that spring was being denied tenure at Rutgers.

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

Monthly Meetings (continuation)

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

My Adventures in the Field to Help Save Cranes in the Wild Presented by Thomas Leiden



Cranes are mystical and magical creatures revered throughout many cultures as a symbol of happiness and good fortune. It is possible that they taught us how to dance. However, cranes are in trouble with eleven of the fifteen species threatened with extinction. Tom Leiden will share his firsthand experiences with the International Crane Foundation's field team and the wondrous work being done to understand and save cranes so they continue to brighten our skies.

Tom's passion for nature and adventure started over thirty years ago when he became interested in birding. This interest led Tom and his wife Kathy to travel throughout the world and develop a deep passion for wildlife and conservation. Since Tom retired from the family business, Leiden Cabinet Company, they have more time to devote to their conservation interests. Recently they had the opportunity to be involved in several crane conservation projects with the International Crane Foundation, the subject of his presentation.

Tom is a Trustee of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Zoological Society and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation USA. In 2011 he was the recipient of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Conservation Award.



Thanks to members of the *Kirtland Warbler*
Committee who reviewed and edited this issue: Paula
Lozano ; Anne & Dwight Chaser

Upcoming Field Trips



Photo A.Kozlenko

Gulls and Wintering Birds Hotspots

Join trip with Western Cuyahoga Audubon

8:00 a.m., Saturday, January 26, 2019

Leader: Tim Colborn

Description:

January can be a terrific month for gull-watching along the Lake Erie shore. We'll brave the frigid temperatures and strong winds to see if we can find both the common and rarer gull species, as well as other wintering birds like ducks, grebes, loons, and raptors. Patience can be rewarded with a better understanding of the various plum-

ages of our common gulls as well as glimpses of the relatively rarer "white-winged" gulls. We will be moving from place to place based on current activity and sightings around the date of the field trip. One location could be Wendy Park Reservation, 2800 Whiskey Island Drive, Cleveland, OH 44102 (or within 30+ miles from North Olmsted).

Directions: We will meet at 8 a.m. North Olmsted RTA Park and Ride, 5575 Great Northern Blvd, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Up the Cuyahoga!

9:00 a.m., Sunday, February 24, 2019

Leaders: Paula Lozano, Anna Kozlenko

Description: Depending on weather and driving conditions, we will bird the lakefront near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. Then, we will continue up stream, stopping at various viewing points at Merwin's Wharf, Collision Bend, Scranton Road and Jefferson Avenue.

Directions: Exit the West Shoreway at Edgewater Park and follow the signs to Whiskey Island/Wendy Park. Meet in the parking lot on the west side of the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant. 5800 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway, Cleveland, OH 44102



We are sad to report the recent death of Howard Besser, a long time member and supporter of the Kirtland Bird Club. His family suggests donations in Howard's name to Doctors without Borders and the Musical Arts Association of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Officer duties and field trips

by Tom Romito, Vice President

In the past two years, I sent a letter each year to all members asking people to step up to fill officer positions. Last year, Laura Peskin stepped up to become Recording Secretary. This year, Leslie Mapes offered to help the treasurer by sending letters to members who have not paid their dues. Bravo to both Laura and Leslie!

But nobody has stepped up to become vice president, field trip coordinator, program coordinator, or treasurer. I accept responsibility for this shortfall in member response.

Who would want to serve if they had no idea what these positions entail? I failed to lay out the duties clearly enough to attract anyone to accept the job. Maybe the following thoughts will encourage people to say, “Okay, I can do that.”

What would a vice president do? My view of the VP is to make sure that someone is doing each job, and cover for anyone who needs help. For example, if any officer is unavailable or unable to do a job temporarily, the VP covers for that person. I also say that the VP finds people to chair standing committees and personally chair ad hoc, or temporary, committees. Lastly, the VP stands in for the president when necessary. By the way, someone has to step up to be VP by May 2019 because I’m going away for the summer and I don’t plan to become president in the fall without a VP by May.

What about a field trip coordinator? You saw me fill this role last year because no one had stepped up to do it. If you went to meetings or read the newsletter, you know that I spread field trips around the seven-county area surrounding Cleveland. Most of them were well-attended. It wasn’t hard to do. Finding locations is easy, and finding field trip leaders is as easy as asking.

Program coordinator? Historically, the president has found speakers. Recently, Andy Jones and Karin Tanquist helped Dale Gaul do this. They did it by tapping into a network of subject-matter experts and scheduling them for presentations.

So why can’t Tom Romito do it when he becomes president? Because, I want to be able to rely on someone who holds only that position. Then I can run the club and the VP can manage the other officers. That’s why I need a VP!

Then there’s the treasurer. Mary Anne has held the job for 25 years – long enough. Anyone who has worked with numbers could learn to do this job. She will help you!

About field trips: I’m not going to be Interim Field Trip Coordinator in 2019. That means that if we’re going to have field trips, others have to come up with the locations and leaders. Would anyone care to plan one for January and February? If you do, let us know!

If this information inspires anyone to say, “Okay, I can do this job or that job,” let me know!

One last thought: While we want a person to make the job their own, we will not let anyone just languish in the position. There will always be someone who has done the job before who will help if any difficulties arise.

Letter from young birder

(Photography by author)

July 31, 2018

Dear Mr. Finkelstein,

This is Mitchell SanGregory, and you're reading about my experience at Hog Island, Maine. A few months ago, I was dreaming (literally and figuratively) about travelling to Hog Island. Now, I can recall my experience on the island and share it with you.



First morning after arrival after breakfast, I got my camera and my binoculars and I, along with 19 other young birders and three leaders, boarded the *Snow Goose III*. We floated around for a bit, and then excitement and euphoria set in. There, about 30 feet away from myself, were two gorgeous male Common Eiders. I took picture after picture after picture of the fancily-dressed sea ducks until they were almost out of view. That was *the* moment I knew that this trip was going to be AWESOME! Then, a curious Black Guillemot paddled by our boat. I took lots of pictures of him (or her), when something caught my attention. It was a Moon Jelly. We moved on out to the almost open ocean. After the stop, we started to slowly travel back to Hog Island. Then, a pinkish-orange blob drifted by. Then another one went by. I asked if they were jellies, and it turns out that they were the largest jellyfish in existence: The Lion's Mane Jelly. These creatures can max out at an incredible 200 feet long! These little guys though, were only about cantaloupe-sized ones.

About a half hour later the boat stopped. One of the leaders got a net, plunged it into the water, and pulled out a dead Black Guillemot. I was totally bewildered: After all, what would anybody want to do with a dead guillemot? The leader said that they were taking the guillemot back to Hog Island for an autopsy.

Next day after breakfast there were some really cool demonstrations. It was about taxidermy on birds. The lady who was doing



the skinning was showing us how to make a deflated, organless bird look alive again. She used the Black Guillemot from the previous day's boat trip. She first set the guillemot skin on a tray. To dry the skin (it had feathers by the way), she poured some corn crumbs onto the tray. Then she took some cotton balls and stuffed the bird. A while later it looked just like a living bird.



After that, we had an hour of free time. Because the tide was out, I decided to go tide-pooling. Among the Rock Eels and Rock and Green Crabs was a burrow going under a large rock I figured that if I stick my hand into this mysterious burrow that I could pull out whatever made it. I put my hand into the burrow and I felt something spiky. I lifted up the rock. There I found that the muddy water was churning with something large. Before the mud could settle, I saw a large claw slowly rise out of the muck. I pulled out a nine or so inch long female Rock Lobster. I took the lobster to show to other campers. After many pictures, I went down to the water to release it. The next day was more eventful. After breakfast, we got on the *Snow Goose III* and headed to the mainland. Then we got in the leaders' vehicles and we stopped at a desolate road to bird. There were many warblers, vireos, woodpeckers,

Letter from young birder (continuation)



and both species of cuckoo and had a lot of Bobolinks. They are so cool and pretty. I got some great pictures of them just a few yards into the long grass

The next day was **the day**. Once we woke up, we had breakfast, and on relatively rough seas, we were off to see the puffins. After nearly an hour long boat ride, the island was within sight. We immediately saw Atlantic Puffins swimming about. Then we landed. There, the Common Terns were not happy to receive us and frequently dive bombed us. I was hit in the head with a tern twice. With the Audubon volunteers watching, we helped with some daily chores, such as clearing out trails or collecting data. But then we were led to the bird blinds to observe the puffins up

close. The blind that I was in was appropriately called "Heaven". A Common Tern was nesting just feet from me. A few minutes in, I saw something bigger than a puffin with a somewhat guillemot-like shape fly by. It was a Razorbill. After that, the first puffins appeared. They landed about 100 feet away from my blind! The puffins seemed to be saying "psst... take my picture". Before we boarded the *Snow Goose III* to go back to Hog Island, one of the leaders stuck her hand into a burrow. She pulled out an adorable, sleepy-eyed Leach's Storm-petrel. She beckoned us to *sniff* the bird of all things, so I did, and he smelled *just* like a citrus candle! Each storm-petrel has its own unique scent, ranging from feces to chocolate. Then, I got some pictures of it on my phone and we went back to Hog Island.

This was such an incredibly special adventure for me. I got to see Atlantic Puffins. I learned so much and not just about birds. I was able to sniff a Wilson's Storm-petrel. I learned that I could do well away from home, and make a bond with my fellow bird lovers.



I am so grateful to you for helping to make all of this possible by awarding me a grant from the LePage Scholarship Fund.

With great thanks,

Mitchell SanGregory

About Cleveland Bird Calendar

We are on SORA now <https://sora.unm.edu/node/142850>

We welcome your participation. Readers are encouraged to submit field reports, artwork, papers, digital photographs and corrections to: Fred Dinkelbach, 6320-406 Greenwood Parkway, Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067 or e-mail: seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

For sightings, A.O.U. taxonomical sequence and electronic media are appreciated. In order to publish the correct information, please label all e-mailed photos: `bird_location_date_photographer.jpg`. All non-electronic submissions are archived at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

A screenshot of a computer screen displaying the SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive) website. The page shows the "Cleveland Bird Calendar" section with a list of volumes (1-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50) and their corresponding years (1905-1914, 1915-1924, 1925-1934, 1935-1944, 1945-1954). There are also links for "Browse Publications" and "Advanced Search". A small image of a bird is visible on the right side of the page.

The reporting year is based on the seasons, December through the following November. Due date for submitting annual field reports and eBird entries is December 31.

Fred Dinkelbach

Kirtland Bird Club
4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club



Kirtland Bird Club
4310 Bush Ave
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
www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com
Email address: info@KirtlandBirdClub.org

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