



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio
www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2013—2014 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 March, July and August, 7:30 PM

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Auditorium

2:00-4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9, 2014

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Kirtland Bird Club, and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland present the following special event:
“The Lost Bird Project” and Saving Species from Extinction

One hundred years ago this September, Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, fell dead in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo. With her death, the Passenger Pigeon, once the most numerous bird species in the world, became extinct.

The stunning loss of this and other species at that time became a wake-up call to conservationists and helped garner support for the modern conservation movement. As a result of this push for conservation 100 years ago, many species have been nurtured back to healthy populations and their habitats have been preserved. Some species considered rare or endangered just a short time ago have staged remarkable recoveries, such as Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Yet even now, in the 21st century, we still hear about an impending extinction crisis that prompts us to ask the following questions:

- What have we learned from the extinction of these once common species?
- How are we keeping the memory of these extinct species alive and relevant?
- How are we helping to strengthen wildlife populations today and preserve the habitats that are necessary for their survival?
- How can people become involved and help?

The program will attempt to answer these questions through a viewing of the film, the *“Lost Bird Project,”* followed by a panel discussion. The film highlights the work of artist Todd McGrain and his effort to create memorials for five extinct species close to the area where the last of their kind lived. Following the film, we will convene a panel of local experts who will speak about their efforts to improve the future for wild things and wild places, both regionally and across the planet. We envision a lively discussion between panelists and the audience about successful strategies for preserving habitats and species, including how participants can become involved.

Please join us from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday March 9, 2014 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Auditorium (adjacent to the main gate in the Administration Building) for this unique and free program. We also envision the event as a “friend-raiser” and encourage you to bring a friend with you! This program is co-sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Kirtland Bird Club, and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland.

Free Admission!

Free Parking!

Free Refreshments!

Open to the public – bring your friends!

Wednesday April 2, 2014

Birding the Historic Santa Fe Trail

Presented by Dave Dvorak

The Santa Fe Trail ran from Missouri to New Mexico and was active most of the 19th Century. Today there are many great birding spots along the course of the trail that offer opportunities for seeing a variety of birds as you trace the history of the trail. The



National Park Service has maps of the trail with the history of the area you are going through. These maps are available at kiosks and visitor centers along the trail. You can even see wagon ruts in places along the way.

2012 was a year of extreme drought along the entire trail as you will see in some of the pictures.

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".

Wednesday May 7, 2014

Title and Speaker TBA

Please watch your email for more information.

Waterfowl and Gulls, March 22nd

Rocky River Park, 8:30 a.m.– 12 noon.

Early spring passerines, gulls and waterfowl will be on the menu today. Typically within this period of March, Bonaparte's Gulls and Red-breasted Mergansers numbers begin to build again, and we'll be on the lookout for any rarities within their dazzling numbers. We'll start at Rocky River Park, visit Elmwood Park, then head east to Lakewood Park for lakewatching, and finally, visit Perkin's overlook and lower Edgewater for more waterfowl, gulls, and perhaps some migrant raptors.

Hawkwatch, April 12th

Edgewater Park, 8:30– 10:30 a.m.

Join Jen Brumfield at Edgewater Park to conduct a hawkwatch. Meet at Edgewater's lower parking lot, by the shelter close to the beach. Pick up tips on identifying hawks, eagles and falcons in flight. Migrant passerines should be on the move, and there's always a chance for a rarity. We'll cross our fingers for a flyover Northern Goshawk.

Migrant Trap Sweep, May 17th

Wendy Park, 8:00– 11:00 a.m.

Join Jen Brumfield for a migrant trap sweep from Wendy Park to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. Mid-May is prime time for strong migrant passerine diversity, and we'll be within the migration window of the highly-sought-after Connecticut Warbler. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Wendy Park. Field trip will conclude by 11 a.m.

Lukas' Thoughts



Hello Everyone,

Now that, hopefully, the last of the polar vortexes has passed over Northeast Ohio, we can finally emerge from hibernation and enjoy all the wonder that the waterfowl and, later, the passerine migration can offer. Unless, of course, you are one of those awesome, hardy individuals who braved the cold and wind to get out there to see our amazing winter birds. More power to you! Without further ado, I'd like to tell you of some awesome happenings in the next few months.

This March The Kirtland Bird Club will have its first-ever combined event with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. This program includes free admission to the zoo and an open invitation to your friends from outside the club. It's a **Friend-Raiser**, after-all! Besides an opportunity to socialize, and associate with representatives from local and international conservation organizations, this event will set a precedent for further collaborative endeavors. Pooling our resources and drawing greater attendance will allow KBC to have larger, more exciting programs with more celebrated speakers than in the past. Please attend. Do this small part to keep KBC alive and well, and bring a friend or two, or many. It will be a success!

Of other news, our combined field trip with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and the NE Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club was a great success with about 40 people in attendance. Let me know your thoughts on having future combined field trips.

The KBC had its first two marketing committee meetings this past winter. In order to revitalize the club with more members and add some more excitement, we have thought of several ideas that encourage member participation. Please contact Tom Romito, Chair of the marketing committee, if you are interested in joining any of these endeavors tomromito@ameritech.net

- Hold a monthly survey of Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (Dike 14) on a fixed day every month. This is a citizen science project that will make a difference in a wonderful area. Perhaps the Cleveland Metroparks would allow KBC to adopt this area.
- KBC volunteers to participate at large birding events such as the Midwest Birding Symposium, the OOS Annual Meeting, and the Biggest Week to advertise/market/educate the Kirtland Bird Club. We need to spread the word about KBC and its mission. Perhaps program attendance would be reimbursed to such volunteers.
- KBC members could be more involved with the newly formed North East Ohio Chapter of the OYBC by offering birding opportunities, interesting programs, or mentoring the young birders. Once they reach 18, moving onto membership in KBC could then be seen as a natural progression. Those young members would be the KBC's future. On a personal note: KBC has done a ton for me, and leading it has been a privilege. My sincere "thank-you" for making some of my dreams come true.

Those are some ideas and opportunities to consider! Enjoy the warmer weather and hope to see you at a meeting or a field trip soon!

Sincerely,
Lukas Padegimas
President of the KBC

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 new **Editor, Sarah Winnicki** or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

2013 Christmas Bird Count

The Cleveland CBC sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club tallied an all-time high with 87 species. The Le Conte's Sparrow was a first for the count. Other high count numbers include:

Wild Turkey 34
Saw-whet Owl 3
Gray Catbird 5

Peregrine Falcon 3
Swamp Sparrow 23
2 Snowy Owls were great !

Many thanks to all who counted on a snowy day.

Field Trip Reports

Sim's Park, East 55th Street Marina November 16, 2013

Trip Leader: Jerry Talkington Reporter: Lukas Padegimas

On Saturday November 16th, about 38 members showed up on a balmy day with light winds streaming from the south. At Sim's Park dozens of Black, White-winged, and Surf Scoters fished very close to the pier. We didn't even need scopes to get awesome views. Jerry Talkington soon spotted a Red-throated Loon in the far distance. Few saw that one, but plenty of Common Loons remained close to shore. However, the highlight of the trip happened when someone pointed at an unusual looking raptor flying overhead. It looked exactly like a Short-eared Owl, but of course it couldn't be a Short-eared Owl just flying high over the lake on a KBC field trip where there isn't a field in sight. A Short-eared Owl? Yes, a Short-eared Owl flew over our heads and we watched it for almost 15 minutes as it vanished somewhere to the north. Beavies of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs made land-fall in several waves.

Having exhausted the possibilities at Sim's Park, our group moved on to the East 55th street marina. We were first surprised with a spotting of a Ring-necked Pheasant roaming near the freeway. We concluded that it probably escaped from the Asian neighborhood less than a mile south of our location. Those who stayed around also saw a Red-necked Grebe and a Long-tailed Duck. And of course, everyone had the chance to see thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers making their way across the vast waters of Lake Erie – a sight that is perhaps more wondrous than any rarity. We saw a total of 52 species of birds during this trip:



Photo by Lukas Padegimas

Field Trip Reports, continued.

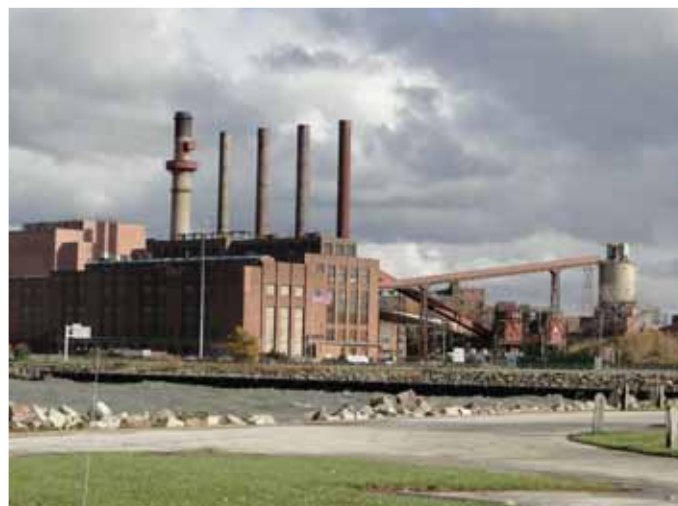


Photo by Lukas Padegimas



Mergansers by Lukas Padegimas

Canada Goose 25
Gadwall 45
American Wigeon 4
American Black Duck 2
Mallard 55
Northern Shoveler 16
Northern Pintail 1
Surf Scoter 3
White-winged Scoter 15
Black Scoter 30
Long-tailed Duck 1
Bufflehead 1
Hooded Merganser 8
Red-breasted Merganser 3500
Ring-necked Pheasant 1
Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 20
Pied-billed Grebe 1

Horned Grebe 300
Double-crested Cormorant 35
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Peregrine Falcon 1
Bonaparte's Gull 500
Ring-billed Gull 600
Herring Gull 100
Common Tern 6
Rock Pigeon 40
Mourning Dove 9
Short-eared Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
Blue Jay 8
American Crow 2
Black-capped Chickadee 2
Tufted Titmouse 3

Carolina Wren 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
American Robin 15
European Starling 45
American Pipit 1
Eastern Towhee 1
American Tree Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 5
Swamp Sparrow 1
White-throated Sparrow 6
Dark-eyed Junco 20
Lapland Longspur 20
Snow Bunting 15
House Finch 10
American Goldfinch 2
House Sparrow 20



Thanks to members of the *Kirtland Warbler*
Committee who reviewed and edited this issue:

Dick Hoffman
Susan Jones

Field Trip Reports Continued...

East 72nd Street and Wendy Park Gull Walk Joint field trip with the OYBC Northeast Ohio Chapter January 18, 2014

Leader: Jen Brumfield

Reporter: Lukas Padegimas

Following a few unusually warm days the temperature began to plummet and reflect the typical January weather – mid 20s with a strong, low wind-chill factor from the lake. Despite the cold, over forty people arrived at East 72nd Street. Not all of them were from the Kirtland Bird Club. Members of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society joined us, as well as the enthusiastic young birders from the newly formed Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club.



Herring Gull by Lukas Padegimas

Unlike the past few days, E. 72nd Street was somewhat quiet. The water had almost completely frozen over the day before and the Black-legged Kittiwake, who had been here for the past two weeks, vanished only to reappear as soon as our group moved on to Wendy Park. The power-plant would once again begin attracting gulls a few days later, also. However, we weren't totally shut-out as a beautiful Long-tailed Duck and three stunning White-winged Scoters came really close to shore – providing some great views.

Most of the gulls had moved to Wendy Park. While the wind continued to blow in heavy gusts from the north-west, we stood along the bank of the Cuyahoga River near the abandoned, yet elegant modernistic coast guard station and watched 4 Glaucous Gulls make their rounds. Three Iceland Gulls also provided terrific views. As the group slowly began to diminish after an hour or two, someone spotted another Long-tailed Duck, and we had another spectacular view of a second year Iceland Gull which flew less than 30 feet away. Another White-winged Scoter made an appearance. As usual, for this time of the year, thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers covered the lake. However, also amongst them were more than 250 Common Mergansers — a great number to see on a KBC trip.

I felt that this was one of the more successful winter trips. We saw plenty of uncommon birds, as well as great numbers of the more common waterfowl while the experienced birders helped the enthusiastic young birders identify their dozens of Life Birds. The pleasant scenes along the lakefront and a wonderful camaraderie amongst the participants added to the charm of the day. Forty participants saw a total of 30 species:



Photo by Lukas Padegimas

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|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose | Bufflehead | Glaucous Gull |
| Gadwall | Common Goldeneye | Great Black-backed Gull |
| American Black Duck | Common Merganser | Rock Pigeon |
| Mallard | Red-breasted Merganser | Mourning Dove |
| Canvasback | Peregrine Falcon | European Starling |
| Redhead | Bonaparte's Gull | American Tree Sparrow |
| Greater Scaup | Ring-billed Gull | Song Sparrow |
| Lesser Scaup | Herring Gull | Dark-eyed Junco |
| White-winged Scoter | Iceland Gull | Snow Bunting |
| Long-tailed Duck | Lesser Black-backed Gull | House Sparrow |



Remember KBC in Your Giving Plans!

Americans are bombarded everyday by charities asking for money. The Kirtland Bird Club is no different. We're asking you to include KBC in your will or retirement plans.

You're probably asking yourself right now, "What's in it for me?" Simply this: By including KBC in your will or other estate plan, you can help ensure that future generations will enjoy birds as you do now.

If you have not yet written a will, we urge you to do so. A properly-prepared will is the only way to be sure that your wishes will be carried out after your lifetime. It is important that you have your will prepared by an attorney who understands your needs and is familiar with the laws of Ohio. If you have already written your will, you may add a bequest to KBC by asking your attorney to prepare an amendment or codicil. Your attorney may find the following paragraph helpful in preparing your will:

"I bequeath to the Kirtland Bird Club, a non-profit organization with its principal offices located at 4310 Bush Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109 and tax ID number of 34-1748091, the sum of \$_____ for its general unrestricted purposes in the study of ornithology."

You can save taxes by naming KBC as the beneficiary of your estate, trust, or other financial plan. Assets remaining in your plan at your death will otherwise be subject to estate and income taxes in the hands of your heirs. A good way to maximize benefits is to bequeath cash, securities, and real property to your family and leave your financial plan assets to KBC. To name KBC as a beneficiary of the assets in your retirement plan, you should request a beneficiary designation form from the plan sponsor.

Kirtland Bird Club Financial Report

Karin Tanquist

Ever wonder where your KBC Membership Dues Go?

INCOME for fiscal year 2013:

Memberships dues: \$2656
Donations: \$980
Tom LePage Scholarship fund donations: \$66
Book income (sale of Birds of the Cleveland Region): \$96
Bank interest: \$18

Total Income: \$3816

EXPENSES for fiscal year 2013:

Publishing one issue of Cleveland Bird Calendar: \$1199
Donation to CMNH: \$400
Liability insurance: \$400
Office expenses, mailings, website costs: \$533
Tax preparation & filing fees: \$350
Ohio Avian Project Initiative (OAPI) grant: \$992
Rent: \$400
Speakers: \$725

Total Expenses: \$4999

Despite spending more than we received (- \$1183), there is \$28,614 in the bank.

Treasurer Mary Anne Romito reports every year, that we are spending more than we receive. Tune in next newsletter to read from where the \$28,000 came.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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Title and Speaker TBA

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Wendy Park, 8:00-11:00 a.m.



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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Jen Brumfield — Field Trip Coordinator

Dwight Chasar — OAPI Grant Program Chair

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