



# THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland, Ohio

www.KirtlandBirdClub.org and www.ClevelandBirdCalendar.com

2015—2016 Membership Year, No. 3, Spring Issue

## Monthly Meetings

Guests are always welcome — Cleveland Museum of Natural History...Parking is free.

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:30 PM

## Wednesday March 2, 2015

### **Power from Restoring Wetlands - Harvesting Invasive Plants**

**Presented by Linda Secura**



This past fall, Phragmites was harvested from Mentor Marsh as part of a project now labeled “Power-from-Restoration.” It was the beginning – the pilot; but also the culmination of eight years of brainstorming concepts to use invasive plants for power – to eliminate them, and to restore land while producing biofuels, versus planting crops and degrading land.

The Mentor project is part of an initiative with several goals: 1. to restore Mentor Marsh and other ecosystems, 2. to grow the bio-economy, and 3. to move toward 100%-renewable regional grids. We are not alone in these endeavors. Internationally, uses for invasives (true waste biomass) are expanding, as are plans for fossil fuel-free futures. For details see <http://www.power-from-restoration.com/>

Also, the *Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Plan* gives us a way to measure success of restoration work; using IBIs (indices of biological integrity) – using biota surveys to score wetland quality, and compare to wetlands across the Great Lakes.

During 10 years at NASA Glenn, Linda led many sustainability and renewable energy initiatives, served as a biology/ecology advisor, and developed on-line NASA-wide Global Stewardship training. Linda has been a volunteer with Jim Bissell at CMNH for 11 years. She has been a Cleveland Metroparks volunteer for 20 years, for raptor surveys, and in their prairie and oak forest restorations, leading to a Masters degree in Environmental Science. Her doctoral work is a 7-year headwater stream forest study, and she recently received certification as a Professional Wetland Scientist.

***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, as well as 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 always welcome. Please send submissions to the New President Dave Dvorak or to [info@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:info@kirtlandbirdclub.org).**

**Wednesday April 6, 2016**

**To the Edge of the Earth - Nome, Barrow, and Bering Sea Islands**

**Presented by Craig Caldwell**

Craig Caldwell, KBC member, made eight birding trips to Alaska and will be showing highlights from all of them.



Craig worked as a chemist in the environmental testing industry for 20 years. And was then, for 10 years, a self-employed real estate investor and renovation contractor. He is now retired.

For many years Craig served in the leading positions of several environmental organizations. He was on the Board of Directors for the Miami Group of Sierra Club (SW Ohio). He also worked as a National Outings leader. Craig has been a member of National Audubon Society since 1970. He served on Ohio Audubon Council Board of Directors. He was a Treasurer then the President of the Oxford Audubon Society (now Audubon Miami Valley) and also chaired field trips and conservation committees at various times. He is a field trip leader in Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.

Craig is a Director and field trip leader in Ohio Ornithological Society. He is Editor-in-Chief of *The Ohio Cardinal*. As a member of Kirtland Bird Club since 1999, he has served on various committees and currently leads field trips.

Craig was nature enjoyer since childhood, birdwatcher from the early 70s who morphed into an obsessed birder by the mid 90s.

**Wednesday May 4, 2016**

**I Know Where You Live by the Songs That You Sing**

**Presented by Lisa Rainsong**



Did you know that Bobolinks in NE Ohio sing different songs at different locations? Have you ever heard the songs of Chickadees in the Black-capped/Carolina overlap zone? And what about those virtuoso Dark-eyed Juncos in the snow belt? Dr. Lisa Rainsong, music theory faculty member at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and has recorded all of these intriguing songs and more. She'll introduce you to this location-specific music, as well as other interesting aspects, of bird song in Ohio. You may even find yourself tempted to sing with the Bobolinks when you're out searching for meadow birds this summer!

Lisa is a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music and is a member of their music theory faculty. A soprano, as well as a teacher and composer, she sings with the professional early music ensemble Quire Cleveland. Lisa also earned a Naturalist Certificate from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where her study focused on field experience. She now teaches birdsong classes and does field recording of bird songs and insect songs. In addition, she does field research on crickets and katydids – research work that is done primarily by ear. Her recordings and photos can

be found on her blog, Listening in Nature at [listeninginnature.blogspot.com](http://listeninginnature.blogspot.com).

## Upcoming Field Trips

### *Searching for Owls In Lorain County*

**Caley Woods, Lorain County**  
**Sunday March 6, 2016**  
**Trip Start: 10 a.m.**

**Description:** Today we will search for owls and waterfowl in various wooded areas and lake in Lorain County. We will start in Caley Woods and go onwards from there. There is a good chance we may see a Barred Owl, but fingers crossed... maybe there will be a Long-eared or Northern Saw-Whet Owl around, also.

**Meeting location:** 18207 West Rd, Wellington, OH 44090. Meet in parking lot.



---

### *Yellow-throated Warblers In Cuyahoga Valley National Park*

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cuyahoga County**  
**Saturday April 16, 2016**

**Trip Start: 8:30 a.m.**

**Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas**

**Description:** It's that time of the year to see the migrating warblers coming back. Our target birds are Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, and other migrants.

**Meeting location:** 13513 Station Rd, Brecksville, Ohio. 44141. Meet in the parking lot near the bridge.



---

### *More Warblers At Mentor Headland*

**Mentor Headlands, Lake County**  
**Saturday May 7, 2016 Trip**  
**Start: 8:30 a.m.**

**Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas**

**Description:** Hopefully the winds will cooperate and this will be a great weekend filled with warblers, vireos, and flycatchers at Mentor Headlands.

**Meeting location:** 9601 Headlands Rd, Mentor, OH 44060. We will meet on the right edge of the parking lot.



## President's Corner



### Party Crasher By David Dvorak *president*

Our families were gathered for a big Mother's Day party in the backyard. It was a beautiful day in the low 70s, perfect for an outdoor picnic party. There were children running around and the adults were relaxing on this beautiful day. I still had my feeders up and chickadees, house sparrows and house finches were still coming to feeders amongst the people. All of a sudden I see the shadow of a large bird. The bird then flies over the heads of everyone to pin a house sparrow on the ground, not ten feet from where people were standing. It was a very bold Cooper's hawk. Once it had secured the sparrow it flew off to, possibly, feed its young.



the guests were in shock for a few minutes then everyone was saying, "did you see that?" I explained to everyone that some Cooper's hawks have adapted to living in urban areas and that their primary food is birds. There was a nest down the street and the hawks were paying attention to my feeder birds. This was a Mother's day with a natural moment.

## Results of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count



### By Andy Jones, Ph.D.

*Director of Science and Head of Department of Ornithology  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History*

Sixty intrepid birders braved intensely snowy conditions on December 19th, 2015 to complete the annual Cleveland Christmas Bird Count. This is the 116th year of Christmas Bird Counts. Cleveland's 15 mile diameter circle covers the east side of Cleveland, and includes popular birding sites like Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, Lake View Cemetery, Shaker Lakes, and North Chagrin Reservation, as well as under-birded areas like Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve, Waite Hill, and the newly created Acacia Reservation in

Beachwood.

This year, birders found a total of 81 species, which is well above the count's 68 species average. The highest-ever species total was 87 species in 2013, and it is rare for the count to exceed 80 species. Significantly, one new species was recorded: Ethan Kistler and Billi Krochuk had two Sandhill Cranes on Waite Hill Road!

While the actual count day was quite cold and snowy, most of December had been uncharacteristically warm, thanks to a major influence from the ongoing El Niño. The warm fall seems to have led to late movement by waterfowl, particularly Red-breasted Mergansers. Their fall peak was later than usual, and with Lake Erie remaining ice-free through the end of December, many Red-breasted Mergansers remained in the area. Thanks to several observers covering Lake Erie,

## Results of the Cleveland Christmas Bird Count, *continued*

including a lake count near Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve by Jen Brumfield and Liz McQuaid, the Cleveland CBC smashed the prior record for this species: the previous record was 14,000, and this year's count was an impressive 36,899! Common Loons have been recorded on this count only 15 times, and this year's tally of 27 was the second-highest ever. Interestingly, many of these sightings were of flyovers at inland locations, suggesting that the cold front that brought snowy conditions may have also compelled the loons to push further south.

A warm December may also have been responsible for a Winter Wren that was found by the Shaker Lakes party; this was only the fourth record for the CBC. Other uncommonly-observed species for the count included a Long-tailed Duck, one Iceland Gull, ten Lapland Longspurs, a Rusty Blackbird, and a Fox Sparrow. Warm weather meant that winter irruptives were basically absent; there were no reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, any crossbills, Common Redpolls, nor Pine Siskin.



Thank you to everyone for participating in this year's Cleveland Christmas Bird Count! Please join us next year...

## Letter of Thanks to KBC Members

**Robert Finkelstein**

**Andrew Lihani**

*LePage Scholarship Fund Co-chairs*

Dear KBC Members,

We are writing this letter to express our appreciation for your response to the Scholarship Committee's letter requesting membership contributions to the LePage Scholarship Fund. Your response was gratifying, both for the amount that members contributed and for your support of KBC's program to assist teenagers attend summer camps such as ABA's Camp Colorado.

Your generosity made it possible for the LePage Scholarship Fund to assist two members of OYBC, Ethan Rising of Cincinnati and Matt Kappler of Akron, to attend ABA's Camp Colorado in July, 2015. You will see essays from each of these young men in KBC Kirtland Warbler detailing their experiences at camp. Matt's essay is in this issue while Ethan will be published in a later one.

We appreciate your generosity. Please help KBC continue this tradition. Send your donations to Kirtland Bird Club, attn: Tom LePage Scholarship Fund, 4310 Bush Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109,

# Camp Colorado, 2015

By Matt Kappler



In July of 2015 I attended the American Birding Association Camp Colorado. It is a one week camp attended by young birders ages 13-18 from all around the world. There was even one camper all the way from Australia, on winter break! The camp is located in Rocky Mountain National Park where the high elevation of the park provides habitat for birds, such as the White Tailed Ptarmigan, not found at lower altitudes. Although the weather was rather rainy all week, it was unable to bring our spirits down!

My journey started July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 when I arrived at Denver International Airport. I flew in and took an underground tram. After what felt like the longest 10 minutes ever, I made it. I grabbed my bags and could see the sign labeled *Camp*

*Colorado 2015* in the distance. So as quickly as possible I made my way to the sign. The counselors were busy entertaining the others with Montezuma Quail calls, so I quickly figured that this would be a week that I would not soon forget. The counselors and other campers greeted me and I knew it wouldn't be hard to fit in with the passion we all shared.

Not long after I arrived we made our 90 minute trip to the Estes Park YMCA of the Rockies. The trip to the YMCA was quick. Before I knew it we were at the camp seeing who our roommates were and checking out the habitat. During the week of camp if we weren't already waking up before light, my roommates and I would get up and do some birding around the camp, which led us to find a camp favorite, an adult male Yellow Headed Blackbird! We went through several different habitats during the week which helped with my 45 lifers. Our group went from the low elevated grassland to see Mountain Plover and Burrowing Owl, all the way up to 11,000 feet up to see White Tailed Ptarmigan and Brown Capped Rosy Finch, amazing and beautiful species. This camp was a wonderful experience not only for getting to see all the new birds but also to meet new people who share my passion and from whom I can learn and with whom I can share my knowledge, and meeting all of the instructors who helped us see all these amazing birds.



Overall, my experience is one that I will never forget and I thank the Kirtland Bird club for helping me make this once-in-a-life-time opportunity become a memory that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

*The Cleveland  
Bird Calendar*  
**WINTER REPORTS  
Due By March 10**

[www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

or email to:  
[seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org)

OR

Mail to: Fred Dinkelbach, editor  
6320 Greenwood Pkwy, Apt 406  
Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067

## **Migration Sensation**

Visit the unique village of Shreve for the annual fun-filled **Shreve Spring Migration Sensation** on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The event is full of fun activities and informative presentations



throughout the day. Learn how to teach kids about conservation and wildlife using nature's classroom or enjoy a self-guided tour around Wayne County! This is a great event for families and wildlife enthusiasts of all kinds. Read more at <http://www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation>

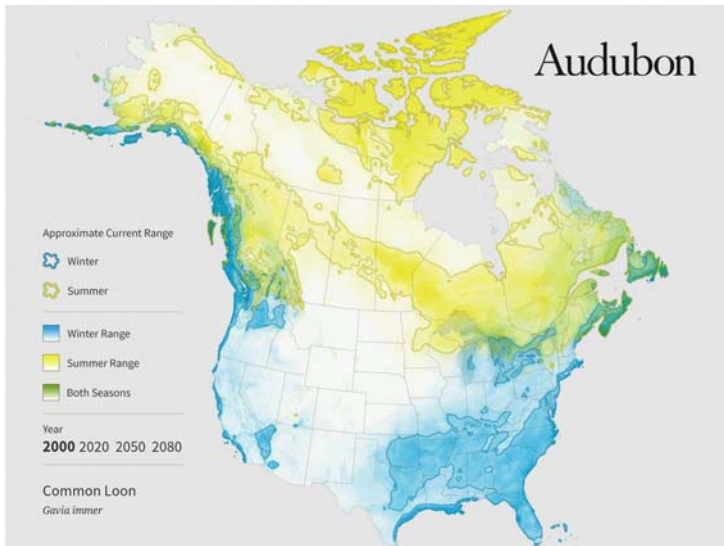
# Raising everyone's level of Consciousness

by **Tom Romito**

*KBC member*

If climate change is not on everyone's mind, it should be. The warming of the planet, the melting polar ice, and the rising sea levels are not fantasies. They are real.

What does all this have to do with birds? Aren't they the reason KBC exists? Consider the map of the United States and Canada on this page. Climate change is going to push the Common Loon's summer range into northern Canada by the end of this century.



**The summer range of the Common Loon since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has included the Great Lakes. By the end of the century, climate change will have moved the loon's summer range to the northern part of Canada.**

What can we do about this? Stephanie Spear, Eco-watch editor, says there are actions we can take at the state, city, suburb, and individual levels.

At the state level, we need to unfreeze Ohio's renewable portfolio standard. The background on this is that Ohio has a law which requires that 12.5 percent of electricity sold by electric distribution utilities or electric services companies must be generated from renewable energy sources by 2027. Governor Kasich rolled back this law in 2014, pending a two-year review period by a special committee.

Additionally, Stephanie said, we need to secure President Obama's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions. We can only do this through legislation, and that means electing senators and congresspersons who will vote for it.

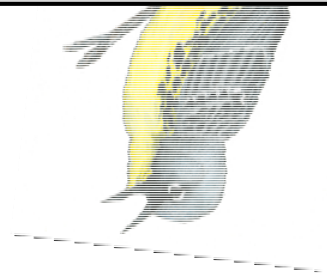
At the city level, we must commit to 100 percent renewable energy.

Suburbs can institute Green Teams to encourage residents of communities to promote clean energy.

Lastly, individuals can subscribe to a daily environmental update. Just search [ecowatch.com](http://ecowatch.com) and sign up by entering an e-mail address.

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](http://www.KirtlandBirdClub.org)  
[www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com](http://www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com)  
Email address: [info@KirtlandBirdClub.org](mailto:info@KirtlandBirdClub.org)

- Dave Dvorak — President
- Dale Gaul — Vice President
- Mary Anne Romito — Treasurer
- Tom Romito — Recording Secretary
- Donna Owen — Corresponding Secretary
- Anna Kozlenko — Editor, *The Kirtland Warbler*
- Delores Cole — Digital Communications Coordinator
- Fred Dinkelbach — Editor, *Cleveland Bird Calendar*
- Lukas Padegimas — Field Trip Coordinator
- Dwight Chasar — OAPI Grant Program Chair
- Andy Jones — Christmas Bird Count Compiler
- Andy Lihani & Bob Finkelstein — Scholarship Fund Co-chairs
- Larry Rosche — Honorary Lifetime Member
- Ed Pierce — Honorary Lifetime Member