



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2022-2023 Membership Year, No. 3, Spring Issue

Monthly Meetings

Wednesday of every month except July and August, 7:00 PM
Guests are always welcome

KBC President's Letter

By Patricia Kellner



Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles are letting us know spring is here. Their return to Cleveland marks the start of spring migration, a glorious time of year for birders. Spring migration proceeds in a more or less predictable progression: from ducks to shorebirds to raptors to sparrows, and finally songbirds.

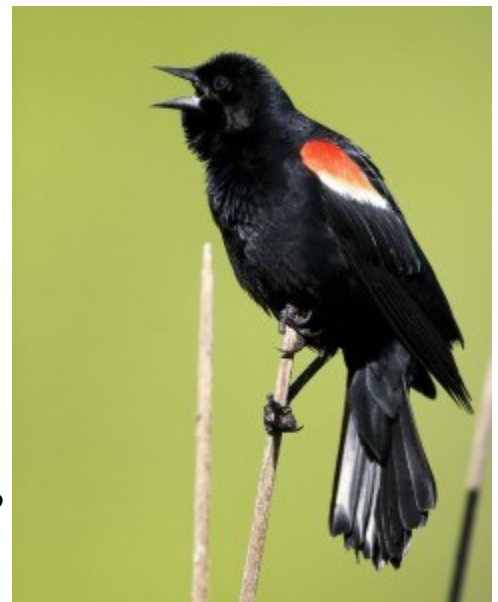
Northeast Ohio's annual spring bird walks take place on six Sunday mornings, three in April and three in May, at upwards of twenty different locations where spring migrants return year after year. Attending these walks is a great way for beginning birders to see birds, learn their field marks and songs, and start to appreciate the importance of habitat. Experienced birders, including many long time members of the Kirtland Bird Club, share their knowledge and skills with participants.

These spring bird walks are where many of us in KBC "cut our teeth" on local birds. The bird walks I attended were held (and are still held) in the Shaker parklands. That group meets

at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes to walk around Lower Shaker Lake and in the woods around the Nature Center.

As a new birder I spent many years traipsing closely behind Perry Peskin learning ducks, rails, waders, sparrows, and songbirds as well as raptors. Warblers were always the highlight! No matter how many times Perry Peskin had seen a Palm Warbler, he'd be as excited as if it was the first time he'd seen one when a new birder got to see it.

This brings me to my new favorite word, an obscure word I learned recently: *freudenfreude*. It's the opposite of *schadenfreude*, another obscure word which signifies taking pleasure from someone's misfortune. *Freudenfreude* instead means experiencing pleasure when someone else accomplishes something. In birding terms that means enjoying the experience of someone else seeing a bird for the first time and getting excited about it. That's exactly what Perry did, and now I do it too - as do so many other seasoned birders. So, whether you are a new birder or an old hand, get out there this spring, and share the love!



MARCH MEETING

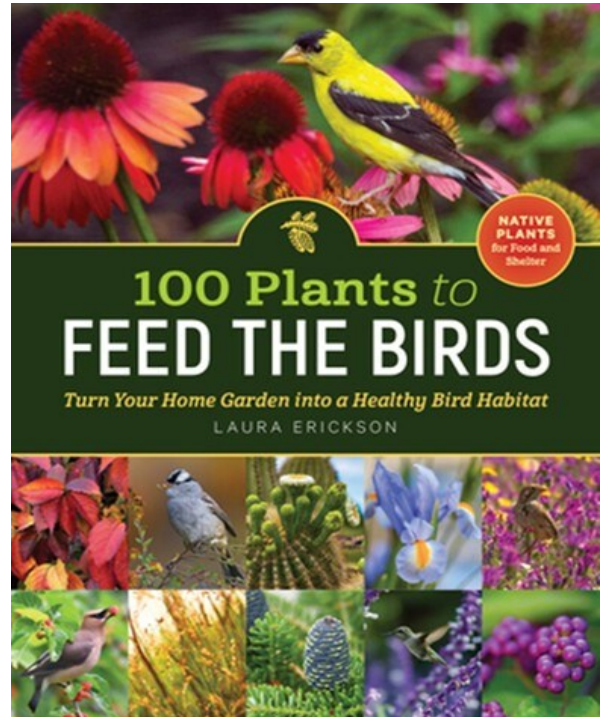
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7 PM on Zoom

Turn Your Home Garden into a Healthy Habitat for Birds

Presenter: Laura Erickson

Many of us attract birds to our yards with bird feeders, but most species nesting and passing through Ohio don't visit feeders, and even the ones that do need natural habitat as well. Native birds depend on native plants for nutrition, shelter, safety, and sometimes even water. Some birds have important connections with certain plants, such as American Goldfinches with native thistles, Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers with dogwood and other native berries, Blue Jays and Wood Ducks with oaks, Bald Eagles with white pine, and Kirtland's Warblers with jack pine.

Kirtland Bird Club will also share resources for purchasing local native plants in our area.



Laura Erickson has been studying the associations between plants and birds since she started birding in 1975. Her new book and this program highlight ways we can all create backyard habitat to safely attract and nurture birds, with photos and information about some of the plants she recommends and the birds attracted to them. Though Laura lives in Minnesota, all of the plants and birds she'll be recommending in this program are native to Ohio. A past Kirtland Bird Club presenter, Laura Erickson is always informative and enjoyable.

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 7 PM on Zoom

Birding in University Circle & Environs

Presenters: Ken Vinciguerra & Louise Acheson



The focus of the presentation is birding locations in the University Circle area, especially along its riparian corridors. One is the Doan Brook, with its source in Shaker Heights and watershed includes Cleveland Heights, as well as parts of South Euclid, East Cleveland and Cleveland. Ultimately, it empties into Lake Erie at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. The other corridor follows Dugway Brook from University Heights through the eastern edge of University Circle to where it empties in Lake Erie off Bratenahl. Multiple stretches of each stream are underground.

The Doan Brook watershed hosts a variety of year-round places to bird, including Doan Brook Park, Rockefeller Lagoons Park, and East Cleveland Township Cemetery. We'll discuss some of the interesting adaptations have made to successfully rais-

ing their young in University Circle. Also, we will share a few of our favorite haunts within the adjacent Lake View Cemetery and the amazing Forest Hill Park, all in the Dugway Brook watershed. Lastly, we'll also mention a bit of the history regarding these green spaces and habitats, including some of the organizations and people whose proactive stewardship has allowed them to endure.

After meeting on the Pierson Creek Trail in Holden Arboretum more than twenty years ago, Ken and Louise have have enjoyed birding together. Both agree that some of their favorite birding experiences have been wading through swampy woods while conducting breeding bird surveys on behalf of Cleveland Natural History Museum. Today they live in University Circle, the focus of tonight's presentation.

Ken Vinciguerra, a life-long Clevelander and amateur naturalist, has explored the region's abundant rich forests and waterways for over fifty years. Through mentorship and friendship with a few special individuals, he's evolved from being a "bird-watcher" to becoming a "birder." Since 2015 Ken reports his sightings on eBird and, also, conducts year-round weekly bird surveys and spring/summer breeding bird surveys. Ken is a Kent State University Emeritus Professor in Computer Technology and volunteers with the Kirtland Bird Club.

MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7:00 PM on Zoom

***Binos* & Birding in Northeast Ohio**

Presenter: Samuel Bachtel



This month's program will begin with a showing of *Binos*, a short film by our speaker, Samuel Bachtel. Inspired by its creator's own experiences, the film explores the real-life themes, comedic aspects and true experiences of newer birders. Samuel will talk about the generous common nature among birders and how binoculars are the ticket into that world. Also, he will talk about five Northeast

Ohio birding hot spots to visit any time of the year, but especially during spring warbler migration. There are a lot of birds in these places, and Samuel will share tips to maximize your success in finding and identifying them. Finally, our speaker will suggest ways to get more involved in the birding community.

Samuel Bachtel, an amateur filmmaker and long-time birder was born and raised in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. By age 10 on hikes with his father, he started taking photos of birds, frogs, wildflowers, and moths. After graduating from high school, he realized his interests in visual storytelling and in spending time in nature meshed perfectly in filmmaking. He taught himself how to make movies and advanced his craft by earning a degree in Digital, Video, and Media Technology from Stark State College. With those experiences under his belt, Samuel combined his true passion with his favorite activity and created *Binos*.



Field trips

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 8:00 am

16780 Savage Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Meeting place: at the end of the second parking area by Katydid Lodge

Leaders: *Michelle Brosius & Robert Opper*



Photo by Michelle Brosius

To register email info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

(Reservations recommended to notify participants in case of a cancellation.)

Frohring Meadows, a 298-acre park in Geauga County, offers trails through prairie, wet sedge meadow, and woodland habitats. Michelle Brosius, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's field trip coordinator and Robert Opper, her uncle and experienced birder, will lead this joint field trip with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society to search for the 36 species they tallied there last April, including Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Killdeer, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe, and Sora.

Link to Frohring Meadows trail map [HERE](#)

Link to eBird Bar Chart [HERE](#)

2023 Sunday Spring Bird Walks

April 16, 23 and 30 & May 7, 14, and 21, 7:30 AM

Click for list of locations [HERE](#)

2023 is the 90th year of this series of spring bird walks. It is one of the oldest community science partnerships in Northeast Ohio between park systems, Audubon groups, and other organizations. Walks are led by experienced birders, including these members of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio:

Bill Deininger: Rocky River Reservation, Rocky River Nature Center

Fred Dinkelbach: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Station Road

Nancy Howell: Big Creek Reservation, Lake Isaac

Fred Losi: Bedford Reservation, Hemlock Creek Picnic Area

Julie West: Shaker Lakes, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Field Trips (Continuation)

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 3:00 pm

**Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
8701 Lakeshore Boulevard, Cleveland**

Leaders: *David Lindo, Bill Deininger, Dave Graskemper, and Al Rand*

This is a free event, but Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society recommends registering on the Eventbrite link [HERE](#)

Join David Lindo, the Urban Birder, on Saturday, May 6, 2023, to look for spring migrants at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. (Think warblers!) Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is planning the day's events, and one is a late afternoon walk that is open to the public. This will be a great opportunity to meet or reconnect with David, who is well known around the globe. It's a great honor and pleasure to have him back in our neck of the woods!

Check Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's website for the latest information [HERE](#)

Read more about David Lindo [HERE](#)

Read about the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve [HERE](#)

Link to eBird BarChart [HERE](#)



David Lindo with Buster Banish & the Bird Nerds

Field trips

2nd Annual Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio June Meeting, Potluck Picnic & Field Trip at Squire Valleevue Farm

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 5:30 PM

Squire Valleevue Farm, 37125 Fairmount Boulevard
Meet at Picnic Area #1 Pavilion
Leader: Patty Kellner

To register email info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

(Reservations recommended to notify participants in case of a cancellation.)



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Squire Valleevue Farm located in Hunting Valley is owned by Case Western Reserve University. Its 389-acre property encompasses a variety of deciduous forests, ravines, waterfalls, meadows, ponds, and a self-contained natural watershed.

Bring your own picnic paraphernalia, beverage and a dish to share with three or four others. First, we'll eat and, then, look for resident summer species. Expect to see Eastern Phoebe, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Bluebird, Field and Song sparrows, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Link to read more about Squire Valleevue Farm [HERE](#)

Link to eBird Bar Chart [HERE](#)



Photo by Anna Kozlenko



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Field Trip Reports

By Paula Lozano



On Saturday, February 11, 2023, members of the Kirtland Bird Club joined the Second Saturday Bird Walk at the Rocky River Nature Center sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and led by Bill Deinger, Dave Graskemper, Ken Gober and Al Rand. With the temperature hovering around freezing and sunny skies, thirty-one folks decided to come on the morning hike around the West Channel Pond and the Wildlife Management Area. The first treat was watching a pair of nesting Red-tailed Hawks behind the Nature Center. Another highlight was hearing the spring songs of the Carolina Wren, Song Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird. As the group was tallying the morning's species, a Brown Creeper appeared and was the final one added to the list of 28 species.



Photo by Anna Kozlenko



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

3rd Annual Midwest Crane Count

by *Tom Leiden*

We are looking for volunteers to assist in the 3rd Annual Midwest Crane Count on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 am. The Ohio Division of Wildlife, International Crane Foundation, and Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative coordinate the count.



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

The goals are to:
Improve knowledge of the abundance and distribution of breeding sandhill cranes, a state threatened species in Ohio.

Raise awareness of sandhill cranes and their presence in Ohio.

Provide additional occurrence and abundance data for other Ohio breeding species.

The count occurs during the sandhill crane nesting season. Locations in counties are selected based on the availability of a variety of wetland habitats - wet meadows, shallow marshes, and bogs – used by nesting sandhill cranes. Volunteers should be familiar with crane identification by sight and sound. The time commitment includes scouting an assigned area, viewing a virtual training, conducting the count, and using eBird to report sightings.

If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail tmleiden16@gmail.com and indicate your choice of county. Each county will have a coordinator. When the list of coordinators is finalized, I will put you in touch with that person.

On last year's count, as the sun was rising, I was fortunate to hear the call of the sandhill crane. I immediately thought of this passage in Aldo Leopold's *Marshland Elegy*:

When we hear his call we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution. He is the symbol of our untamable past, of that incredible sweep of millennia which underlies and conditions the daily affairs of birds and men.

Tom Leiden

Letter from East Palestine, Ohio

KBC President Patty Kellner reached out to KBC member Jason W. Short who lives in East Palestine Ohio to see how he was doing, and this was his response (shared with Jason's permission):

Hello,

I live 0.6 miles from the derailment site. As far as the impact to myself, I am well and back home. Although being so close, I never smelled anything. I live on the hill above the crash site and the wind blows constantly to the East here.

My house came back negative for fumes and I am on the waiting list for my well being checked. I know other people down stream need it done more than I do, so I am okay with waiting. We have plenty of bottled water to get us by for a couple months.

As far as the birds are concerned. My neighbor who stayed during the release of the chemicals from the tankers told me that shortly after the explosion went off, the birds took off. The crows being first, then the song birds. Three days later, he said the birds came back, with the crows being the last to return. Crows are pretty smart.

I came home on Wednesday and the next day I took down all my feeders, threw away all of the food that was in them and soaked and scrubbed the feeders for a couple hours with a little bit of bleach/ water mixture. I have about 15 different feeders that get cleaned on a monthly basis. The water was black. I've never seen anything like it.

I let them all air dry and cleaned my bird baths and put back up my feeders with new food. My birds were happy I had returned as was I to be home.

I do an eBird list just about everyday here at my home. On any particular day, I can see 25-30 different species. The first day back I had 10. 2nd day, 18. It was the 3rd day that I had my normal full count of around 25 different birds. So the birds seem to be doing good. I've actually seen more of some species that I had before, so I don't know if they moved from one spot to my yard, but they are all more than welcome.

All I can say about this tragedy is it has pulled folks together. We will not let anybody forget what was done to our town, our people, our water and our wildlife. We will keep fighting until it is made right by the people who caused it, even if it takes generations.

Thank you so much for thinking about me and my town. We have plenty of help at the moment from all walks of life. So many of my birding friends have reached out to me and for that I am grateful. I wish more people knew how strong our birding communities are.

Please keep thinking and praying for East Palestine #EPStrong

Happy Birding,

Jason

Spring Birding Festivals in Ohio

We are fortunate in Ohio to have two outstanding birding festivals each spring that make great day trips from northeast Ohio.

[Migration Sensation](#), Saturday, March 11th in Shreve, south of Wooster

[The Biggest Week in American Birding](#), May 5th-May 14th, at many locations in northwest Ohio

The Shreve Festival is a small scale festival that is great for ducks, shorebirds, and early songbird migrants. It always has special activities for children.



The Biggest Week is truly a BIG festival, attracting people from all fifty states and many countries who come to experience spring migration along the south shore of Lake Erie. There's no doubt that the extensive variety of warblers is the top attraction!



Results of the December 2022 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count

2022 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 17, 2022

By Laura Gooch



The weather gods smiled on the 2022 Christmas Bird Count, at least in a gloomy Cleveland mid-winter kind of way. Count day (Saturday, December 17, 2022) was overcast and a bit chilly, but not frigidly cold or windy, and there was almost no snow and little ice on streams and lakes. Seventeen party leaders organized 53 field observers, which is right at the average number of observers since 1970. An additional 5 participants counted at feeders. We racked up 72 party-hours in the field, which is on the high-side for the past 10 years, although well below average for counts stretching back to 1970.

Although this year's count seemed poised to emerge from beneath the cloud of COVID-19, the pandemic continued to cast a shadow: participants in the party that was to cover Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve were diagnosed with COVID, and that party scrubbed. Illness also led to limited observations in Euclid Creek Reservation. Fortunately, no one became seriously ill. However, the lack of observations from these areas probably had some impact on both the number of species and the number of individual birds observed.

Together, we observed 69 species and counted 15,219 individual birds in our 15 mile diameter circle on the east side of Cleveland. The circle includes the lakeshore from Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve east to Eastlake and features popular inland birding areas such as Lake View Cemetery, North Chagrin Reservation, and Shaker Lakes. The number of species was well above last year's poor-weather count of 60 species, but below the average of 74 species observed since 1970. The lower-than-average species count may reflect the missing observations from CLNP, since the number of species excluding gulls and waterfowl was actually above average, while the number of gull and waterfowl species was low.

The 15,219 individuals counted was also well below the 31,078 average since 1970, but at about the middle of counts from the past 10 years. Again, if gulls and waterfowl are excluded, the number of individuals observed is only slightly below the average since 1970.

Perhaps the most exciting observation this year was the Fish Crow that Dot Bambach and Joe and Lisa Cellura heard at Acacia Reservation. Although Fish Crows have become an almost routine summer sighting in parts of our circle since they were first documented here in 2011, they are not common in winter, and they had never been observed on our CBC before. Congratulations to the Acacia survey team for their excellent job catching and documenting this observation!

This year's count also yielded some record highs for individual species. Jerry Talkington and Ray Hannikman counted a record 560 Common Goldeneye offshore at Sims Park, and our combined observations tallied record highs of 142 Red-bellied Woodpeckers and 494 Blue Jays. Although less than last year's record high of 14, this year's count of 10 Bald Eagles was higher than any other previous year, continuing the eagle's population recovery trend. Finally, this year's count of 239 Red-winged Blackbirds was higher than any count since a spike in the mid-1980s.



Results of the December 2022 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count (continuation)

It is worth noting that the figures for the number of species and individuals counted do not consider the observation effort, weather, or ice cover, which vary considerably from year to year. A simple normalization of count numbers by the number of count participants or by total party hours produces confusing and contradictory results, demonstrating the complexities of comparing observations over time when effort and other factors vary.

We counted a lone Snow Goose this year, marking only the 6th time the species has been observed on our count since 1940. Gautam Apte made the most impressive single-handed contribution to our species total, observing 6 species in North Chagrin Reservation that were not seen elsewhere (Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin).

None of the species that we observed this year exhibited strikingly low numbers. However, there were a few species that we missed altogether that were a bit surprising: Double-crested Cormorant, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and Great Black-Backed Gull particularly stand out as missing in action. None of these species is guaranteed every year and, again, a party in the Gordon Park/CLNP area might well have added some of them or some other waterfowl species that were missing from this year's count.

Thanks to all who participated, and especially to the hard-working party coordinators who were patient with my learning my way around CBC data forms and count compilation. The success of the count depends on all of you! Thanks also to Andy Jones and Craig Caldwell for their help with my first year as compiler. Please congratulate Craig on his final year as the Ohio state editor and welcome Marc Hanneman who will take over that role next year. Thanks to Dick and Jean Hoffman for collecting historical records for the Cleveland circle and updating them annually. Also thanks to Dick for filling me in on some Cleveland count history. See our website for Dick's historical count data.

Cleveland Christmas Bird Count - 17 December 2022		
Species	Count	Note
Snow Goose	1	6th time since 1940
Canada Goose	1,410	
Wood Duck	1	
Mallard	333	
American Black Duck	15	
Long-tailed Duck	1	Jim Hefflich made a special trip to Sims to catch this bird.
Bufflehead	21	
Common Goldeneye	560	Record high count!
Hooded Merganser	8	
Common Merganser	1	
Red-breasted Merganser	6,500	
Wild Turkey	10	
Horned Grebe	8	
Rock Pigeon	284	
Mourning Dove	119	
Killdeer	1	Regular in the past few years.
Wilson's Snipe	4	
Bonaparte's Gull	55	
Ring-billed Gull	386	

Results of the December 2022 Cleveland Christmas Bird Count (continuation)

Herring Gull	85	
Common Loon	6	
Great Blue Heron	22	
Cooper's Hawk	5	
Bald Eagle	10	Continuing upward trend.
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	
Red-tailed Hawk	26	
Barred Owl	1	
Belted Kingfisher	7	
Red-headed Woodpecker	11	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	142	Record high count!
Downy Woodpecker	80	
Hairy Woodpecker	22	
Pileated Woodpecker	8	
Northern Flicker	13	
Merlin	3	
Blue Jay	494	Record high count!
American Crow	75	Numbers in our area have not recovered since West Nile virus in 2002.
Fish Crow	1	First observation!
Black-capped Chickadee	186	
Tufted Titmouse	134	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	
White-breasted Nuthatch	110	
Brown Creeper	2	
Carolina Wren	17	
European Starling	1,280	
Northern Mockingbird	4	
Eastern Bluebird	54	
American Robin	241	
Cedar Waxwing	9	
House Sparrow	698	
House Finch	240	
Purple Finch	4	
Pine Siskin	1	
American Goldfinch	164	
Field Sparrow	2	
American Tree Sparrow	177	
Fox Sparrow	2	
Dark-eyed Junco	401	
White-crowned Sparrow	1	
White-throated Sparrow	68	
Song Sparrow	35	
Swamp Sparrow	2	
Eastern Towhee	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	239	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	
Rusty Blackbird	1	
Common Grackle	259	
Northern Cardinal	143	
Total: 15,219 Individuals of 69 species.		

Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio
4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB, a Northeast Ohio Birding Club



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The Kirtland Warbler

On the web at: www.KirtlandBirdClub.org
www.clevelandbirdcalendar.com

Email address: info@KirtlandBirdClub.org

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