



THE KIRTLAND WARBLER

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

2015—2016 Membership Year, No. 4, Summer 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

Wednesday, June 1



An Evening on Northeast Ohio's Amphibians With Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Roberta Muehlheim

Our June speaker is Roberta Muehlheim, the Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Although Roberta carries general expertise in the mammals, reptiles, and fish of Northeast Ohio, her primary research focus is on amphibian ecology and disease. Roberta is interested in the environmental processes that influence amphibian populations and has studied the water chemistry of breeding pools and its effects on breeding success. She also lectures at John Carroll University.

Her interest in amphibian disease began in 2001 after the near simultaneous deaths of six salamanders being raised in captivity from an unknown and devastating disease. Over the next decade, she persisted in investigating what had caused the disease in the captive salamanders. New techniques developed for extracting viral DNA from formalin-fixed specimens was pivotal in the diagnosis of ranavirus in the captive salamanders and would be the earliest record of the pathogen in Ohio, which was not thought to be present in Ohio. Analyses of specimens collected in the field also confirmed the presence of the disease and may help explain declines in amphibian populations in Northeast Ohio.

Muehlheim has been instrumental in starting a Museum research program studying ranavirus in Northeast Ohio. This disease has been found in amphibian populations on five continents and is just one of many threats to amphibian diversity and survival. Muehlheim will begin research that will help explain the role environmental factors play in driving disease events resulting from ranavirus infection. Environmental disturbances may suppress the immune system making individuals more susceptible to disease and more likely to die as a result.

Upcoming Field Trips

Prothonotary Warblers, Sandhill Cranes, and Potluck at Sandy Ridge

Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain County

Sunday June 5, 2016

Trip Start: 9:00 a.m.

Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas

Description: We will look for nesting species, including Tree Swallows and Prothonotary Warblers. In addition, we hope to see Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane and Red-headed Woodpecker. After the walk, we will have a potluck at the nature center. Please bring your own food or dish to share.

Directions: 6195 Otten Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039. Meet in the parking lot near Nature Center.



Shorebirds at the Conneaut Sandspit

Conneaut Sandspit, Ashtabula Co.

Sunday August 28, 2016

Trip Start: 8:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas

Description: The Kirtland Bird Club is partnering with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society for this trip. The Sandspit at Conneaut often at-

tracts an array of exciting shorebirds including Sanderlings, Red Knots, Willets, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, and occasionally something even rarer. Last year, we had a Buff-breasted Sandpiper!

Directions: 480 Lake Rd, Conneaut, OH 44030 is the address of the park. Take I-90 east to Ohio Route 7, Exit 241 to Conneaut/Andover. Turn left on Route 7 and follow it for approximately two miles to State Street. Go right on State Street and, then, left on Broad Street. Continue north on Broad Street to the marina area. As soon as you come down the hill, turn left. Drive through the marina area and continue to the end of the paved road. Continue on the sandy road to the sandspit.

Notes: Conneaut is about 85 miles from the west side of Cleveland, about an hour and 20 minute drive via I-90 east. Vehicles drive on the sandspit, when conditions permit. Restrooms are located by the marina parking area and in the adjacent Conneaut Township Park

Those Pesky Jays.

By David Dvorak

Have you ever been robbed while on a trail hiking or birding? These episodes of suspense usually involve Jays or other Corvids. As a child I had a group of friends who liked to go on bike hikes. We would often eat lunch in a park at a picnic area. If we saw something exciting we would run off to discover whatever we saw or heard. I didn't realize my food was being watched by something else. As I ran off, I began to hear jay, jay and it was getting louder and louder. I looked back to the noise and there were two blue jays eating my lunch. I think they went to my lunch because I had a peanut butter and bacon sandwich.



Fifty years later I was hiking high in the Chiricahua Mountains of Southeast Arizona with friends on a windy, blustery day. We stopped at a picnic area and began to eat lunch. We had weighed everything down with rocks even then we had some wind problems. But this shouldn't have been our main concern, because some Steller's Jays flew in close enough to photograph and drew our attention. So wouldn't you know it some other Steller's jays were stealing our food. I turned around when I heard the rocks falling and watched the jays fly off with our food. Oh the horror! We did get to see a troop of Coatimundis run up a mountain through the forest. Unfortunately this didn't help our hunger.

On a strenuous hike, 32 years ago, in Grand Teton National Park that was all up hill, our group brought light lunches and heavy camera gear. Our goal was to photograph an alpine lake with the Tetons soaring above. I grabbed a couple of my favorite apples and took a bite or two and set the apples on top a large boulder. The reflections of the Tetons in the lake were stunning grabbing every ones attention. I saw the shadows of a couple birds flying by. Then I heard boisterous jays. I looked back behind me and saw Clark's nutcrackers struggle to pick up my apples and fly off into the forest with them. Luckily I had a couple cereal bars that were still in my back pack, but I was looking forward to those juicy apples.



On a sunrise hike about 15 years ago in Big Bend National park I took one of the trails that led up to Colima warbler territory in the Chisos Mountains. I did my homework studying pictures of similar warblers and their songs. When I took off it was a morning full of bird sounds, even roadrunners were noisy. I especially enjoyed the songs of solitary vireos, which are now known as blue headed vireos. Painted redstarts were flitting around as I hiked further into the mountains. As a pair of Mexican jays flew by I began to get hungry. I thought I had put a bag full of goodies in my camera pack. I could not find the bag anywhere. I was wondering what I did with it. Well my goal was a Colima warbler so I went on with my search. When I got back to my car there was some torn up food wrappers on the rear bumper and on the ground. I started to clean up the mess when a man walked over to me and said there were a few big blue birds tearing up my food. You forget something and creatures human watching come in to pick up the pieces. This time it was Mexican jays as the culprits or was it plain human error. What would Rod Serling have said? Now how about my quest to find Colima warblers? Well I got lucky on this search and did find it!



SO WHERE IS BUCKEYE NOW?

MOST RECENT UPDATES ON OHIO'S MOST FAMOUS SNOWY OWL

By LUKAS PADEGIMAS



As you are reading this, there is a likely chance that Buckeye is quickly making her way through Northern Canada on her way to the high Arctic – and is already out of the range of cell towers.

Two years ago the Kirtland Bird Club membership gathered funds to help pay for a radio transmitter that would be placed on a Snowy Owl as part of Project Snowstorm. The project aimed to find out the movements of Snowy Owls throughout the seasons by placing radio transmitters on them. Radio transmitters use GPS satellite technology to determine the exact location of the owls at any given time. Then, when the owls are in the range of cell phone towers, that information is communicated back to the scientists who study them.

Last year, the transmitter we helped sponsor was put on Buckeye, a 3rd year female Snowy Owl who was captured at the Detroit Wayne County International Airport – and later released near Oak Harbor, Ohio. Instead of flying back to that airport, where she was an unwanted nuisance, Buckeye spent the rest of the winter in Ohio. By early spring, she was flying through Michigan before completely disappearing off the radar on April 16, 2015.

We hadn't heard of Buckeye's whereabouts since, until on January 22, 2016, a brief check-in from her radio transmitter alerted us that she was still alive. Actually Buckeye was more than just alive, she had been traveling extensively! By late March, Buckeye had enough power in her solar powered battery and was in close enough proximity to the land of cell phone towers to transmit the data on her mysterious whereabouts.

So here is what happened after April 16, 2016. Buckeye made her way up north into Canada and traveled past Hudson Bay into the northern confines of the North American Continent. She reached the high Arctic in June and only started to turn back south on June 22nd. Then, Buckeye pretty much retraced her earlier route and stayed most of the winter in Southern Canada – not too far from Lake Erie. In March, Buckeye began to wander, and not just wander, but wander south.



After island hopping through the Lake Erie Islands, Buckeye was back in Ohio! She even made it about a dozen miles south of Sandusky by March 18th. Since then, Buckeye has been making her flight back north again. She last checked in on April 10, 2016. Her transmitter then showed her roughly 80 miles northwest of Toronto.

And that's all for now folks. Until next year! Be sure to check out the interactive map on all of Buckeye's travels at the following link:
<http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/maps-2014-15/buckeye-2/>

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

By LUKAS PADEGIMAS



On April 16th 2016, a group of fifteen KBC members went birding in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Our target bird for the day was the Yellow-throated Warbler, an early spring arrival that enjoys singing from the top of the white-barked Sycamore trees next to the Cuyahoga River. As we started our walk on this crisp morning from the Old Station Road Parking Lot, a group of three Eastern Bluebirds kept chasing after each other overhead – perhaps one of our more striking thrushes.



Photo by Dale Gaul

Shortly after crossing the bridge and making it to the fabled Sycamores. Surely enough, somebody hears the familiar trills of notes. And then we start search... searching for a small dot the size of a golf ball moving amongst hundreds of sycamore fruits – which were also golf ball sized. Well finally, we found one with wings and a bright yellow chin. It took about a dozen minutes, a few growing cases of warbler neck before one finally landed so low and close, that everyone could enjoy a perfect view.

Having seen our target bird, we continued to the site of the Bald Eagle nest. Along the way, a loud call, and a Pileated Woodpecker flying towards a hollow tree...with a hole that looked awfully small for something a Pileated Woodpecker would fit through, and yet it built its nest there. The Pileated Woodpecker nest wasn't the only nest we saw that day. Two chickadee nests in various smaller trees, a Brown Creeper nest in a swampy area, and a potential Screech Owl nesting hole...



Photo by Dale Gaul

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO CVNP

(continuation)



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

Speaking of which, we saw an Eastern Screech Owl sitting within a little cavity. This little owl has been seen for a few months in the area. The hollow may hide a nest. Far beyond the nest and the river, we hear the calls of Red-headed Woodpeckers. As we rush to the river bank, one finally flies into view.



Photo by Anna Kozlenko

As for the Bald Eagle Nest, the young have hatched. Two Eaglets are being fed by one parent while another sits in a

dead snag and watches on. It's almost noon now, and the crisp morning has turned into a warm short-sleeve day. Finally, a KBC walk on a warm day!



Photo by Lory Brumbaugh

After doing a species count, a few members stay back to walk the railway tracks to another marshy area. Besides rough-winged Swallows and Gnatcatchers, we aren't seeing much. And then, an American Bittern! Just sitting there. Now there's a bit more excitement. The skulking marsh bird cautiously wades the marsh and completely ignores the ominous sound of the incoming train. Just as the train passed us, it swoops down and gulps a giant American Bullfrog within seconds.

Delighted with our birds for the day, we return back. In total we saw: 45 Species and no House Sparrows, surprisingly!

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Canada Goose | 16. Pileated Woodpecker | 31. European Starling |
| 2. Wood Duck | 17. Eastern Phoebe | 32. Cedar Waxwing |
| 3. Mallard Duck | 18. Blue Jay | 33. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 4. Double-crested Cormorant | 19. American Crow | 34. American Tree Sparrow |
| 5. Great Blue Heron | 20. Tree Swallow | 35. Chipping Sparrow |
| 6. Bald Eagle | 21. Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 36. Song Sparrow |
| 7. Ring-billed Gull | 22. Black-capped Chickadee | 37. Swamp Sparrow |
| 8. Herring Gull | 23. Tufted Titmouse | 38. White-throated Sparrow |
| 9. Mourning Dove | 24. White-breasted Nuthatch | 39. Northern Cardinal |
| 10. Eastern Screech Owl | 25. Brown Creeper | 40.. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 11. Belted Kingfisher | 26. Carolina Wren (H) | 41. Rusty Blackbird |
| 12. Red-headed Woodpecker | 27. Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 42. Common Grackle |
| 13. Red-bellied Woodpecker | 28. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 43. Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 14. Downy Woodpecker | 29. Eastern Bluebird | 44. House Finch |
| 15. Northern Flicker | 30. American Robin | 45. American Goldfinch |

Upcoming Field Trip

Fall Warblers ***At Erie Street Cemetery***

Cleveland, Cuyahoga County

Saturday September 24, 2016

Trip Start: 9:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: Lukas Padegimas



Description: We will search for warblers and early sparrows by walking through this migrant trap in the middle of Downtown Cleveland. Depending on what we see that day and other factors, we might continue to another place afterwards.

Directions: 2254 E 9th St, Cleveland, OH 44115

*The Cleveland
Bird Calendar*

SPRING REPORTS
Due By June 10

www.ebird.org

or email to:

[seasonalre-
ports@kirtlandbirdclub.org](mailto:seasonalreports@kirtlandbirdclub.org)

OR

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 President Dave Dvorak or to info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.

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