



# Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Vol. 40 No. 7

October 2004

## October Field Trips

### *Muscatatuck N.W.R.*

*Saturday, October 9, 7:30 a.m.*

*Darlana Graham, (859)581-2227,  
darlena@fuse.net*

Muscatatuck has a wide variety of habitats, ranging from forest to field to wetlands, so we expect to find a correspondingly wide range of species. Passerine migration will be winding down, but the first returning waterfowl and winter residents should be back.

Meet to carpool at the Kroger parking lot in Lawrenceburg. From I-275, take the Lawrenceburg exit, and turn left onto U.S. 50 west. Just past downtown Lawrenceburg and Tanner's Creek, watch for Kroger's on your right. We'll meet as close to the road as possible.

Bring your lunch, since this trip will last most of the day. We expect to return about 4:00 p.m.

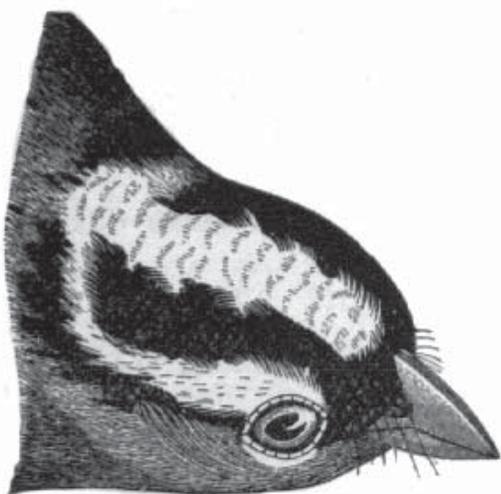
### *Miami-Whitewater Wetlands*

*Saturday, October 16, 8:00 a.m.*

*Ned Keller, 941-6497, keller@one.net*

Sparrows will be our target species for this trip, but we expect to find waterfowl, late shorebirds, and other wetland species as well. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow has been found here in mid-October three out of the last four years, and Le Conte's is an outside possibility.

Meet at the gravel parking lot on Baughman Road. To reach this spot, take I-74 west to Dry Fork Road, and turn right. Go past West Road and the entrance to the main park, and continue to the end of Dry Fork, where you will turn right again onto New Haven Road. Turn left at the stop sign onto Oxford Road, and then immediately left again onto Baughman. The parking lot is on the right side of the road, just past the hike-bike trail crossing. The trip will last until about noon. The trip will be all walking, on what may be wet ground. There are no restrooms.



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## October Meeting

*Greg Miller, My Big Year*

*Thursday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.*

Along with Sandy Komito and Al Levantin, Ohioan Greg Miller spent 1998 in a contest to attempt to set a new record for a North American Big Year. That competition became the subject of *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, a book by Mark Obmascik.

The book has received mixed reviews in the birding community, with some wondering how well Obmascik understands birders. But Greg certainly does understand both birding and birders, and he will fill us in on the story behind the story when we meet at our usual time and place, the third Thursday of the month at the visitor center at Sharon Woods.

## Forty-fifth Supplement to the AOU Checklist

The American Ornithologists' Union now issues yearly updates to its checklist of North American birds. For those of you who play the listing game, the American Birding Association automatically accepts the decisions of the AOU on classification and naming issues, but makes its own list of species which have been documented in North America.

This year, there was only one split which will affect anyone's total list. Canada Goose has been split into the larger forms, which keep the Canada Goose name, and the smaller subspecies, which are now called Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii*. Cackling Goose will come first in the official checklist order.

The other split which affects one of our more distant birds is Yellow Wagtail. The only form that has occurred in North America is now called Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis*.

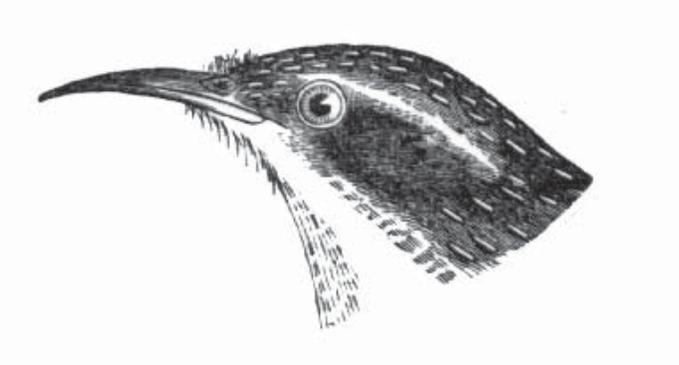
There are also two changes in common names that will affect a very few of us: Mongolian Plover becomes Greater Sand-Plover, to agree with common old world naming; and Spoonbill Sandpiper becomes Spoon-billed Sandpiper, for the same reason.

Finally, there are spelling changes in the scientific specific names of a number of species, to cause them to agree with the gender of their generic names.



## Last Call - Hot Line

This is your last chance to sign up for the 2004-2005 hotline. If you haven't already done so, call Jay Stenger at 522-4245 to sign up. Remember, when you sign up you promise that you will call the next person on the list.



## Contributors Wanted

The Passenger Pigeon needs your help! Don't worry, we're not hitting you up for money. Instead, we need your contributions in the form of articles or artwork for our newsletter. Or should we say, *your* newsletter. Please send your submissions to Ned by the 20th of the month. If possible, I would prefer them by eMail to [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net). But if that's not possible, you can also send them to 7899 Bridgetown Road, Clevs OH 45002.

## Are Your Dues Due?

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2004 - May 2005 birding year, just fill out the form below and mail them in. If you've already sent your dues, why not give the form to a birding friend who isn't a member?

### Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

eMail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$12.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$6.00

Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to:  
 Peg Gatch, 11 Mound Avenue, Milford, OH 45150

<http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>

## Recent Bird Sightings

Field Trips:  
Jay Stenger  
522-4245

President:

Treasurer:  
Peggy Gatch  
831-3378

Programs:  
Jay Lehman  
527-4701

Newsletter:  
Ned Keller  
941-6497

## Bird Club Officers

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