



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

March 2008 Vol 44 No. 3

March Meeting:

“Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas,” presented by Ned Keller. Thursday, March 20, 2008. 7:00 pm. Sharon Woods Visitor Center.

Details on page 2 of this issue.

Bird Club Volunteers Requested At Zoo

The Cincinnati Zoo is hosting Migratory Bird Days on May 13, 14 and 15. This year a new station is being added next to the lake to help upper grade (7-12) students learn to use binoculars and scopes to identify birds. We need volunteer birders to come to the zoo from 10:00-12:00 in the morning, bringing scopes and/or binoculars (extra pairs if possible) to teach the use of binoculars and with pictures of the birds on the lake, learn how to identify the bird species. We will supply bird identification photos although having your own bird guide with you would help. Volunteers who sign up will be able to enter the zoo at no cost. If you are interested in working please contact Allan Beach at 513-761-0728 or abeach@cinci.rr.com.

March Field Trips

Location: Caesar Creek State Park

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2008

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

Meeting Time: 8:00 A.M.

Meeting Place: Caesar Creek Swimming Beach Parking Lot

Join Darlena for what should be a productive day of birding. Waterfowl migration will be at peak and other early spring migrants should be present. Darlena will start at the beach and then move on to several other spots around the lake, park and adjacent areas. A side trip to Cowan Lake might be taken, depending on current reports at the time. We expect to see waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, raptors, winter resident and early spring migrant songbirds and plenty of signs of spring. This trip will continue into the early afternoon so you might want to pack a lunch. If you have any questions feel free to contact Darlena.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Caesar Creek swimming beach parking lot. From Cincinnati, take I-71 north to the State Route 73 exit # 45. Turn left (west) onto SR 73 and go about 5 miles. After crossing the SR 73 bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the Caesar Creek State Park entrance and follow the signs to the swimming beach.

Location: Gilmore Ponds

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Leader: Mike Busam, 513-755-0057, mbusam@gmail.com

Meeting Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Place: Symmes Road Parking Lot, Gilmore Ponds

Meet Mike for an easy 1-1/2 to 2 hour evening walk around Gilmore Ponds. The focus of this trip will be to watch displaying American Woodcock.. Meet at the Symmes Road parking lot at 7:00 P.M. From I-275, take the Winton Road exit # 39 and go north to Route 4. Cross RT 4 and the road becomes Holden Boulevard. Drive past Fairfield HS. When you reach the light at Symmes Road, the parking lot will

be directly across from you next to Quality Publishing.

Location: Hueston Woods State Park & Brookville Lake

Date: Sunday, April 6, 2008

Leader: Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Meeting Time: 7:30 A.M.

Meeting Place: Park & Ride SR 128/I-275 (Miamitown)

We will begin the day at Hueston Woods. After we have covered Hueston we will make the short drive over to the north end of Brookville Reservoir. This area is often the most productive spot in the Brookville region and always attracts a variety of water birds. If time permits we will check some other spots in the Brookville area on our return home. This trip will continue well into the afternoon, so pack a lunch. If you have any questions please contact me, Jay Stenger. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot on SR 128, located at the I-275 Miamitown exit # 7. From there we will caravan to Hueston Woods.

**March Meeting:
Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
Thursday, March 20, 2008.
7:00 pm. Sharon Woods
Visitor Center**

Ohio's second Breeding Bird Atlas is well under way. It began in 2006, and will run through 2010. The second atlas will document the status and distribution of all of Ohio's breeding birds, and will provide a good comparison with the first Atlas, which was conducted from 1982 through 1987.

Ned Keller will give us a look at what has been accomplished so far, and what remains to be done. Most of the "easy" areas – the areas where birders live, and the areas that get birded on a regular basis – are nearly done. But there is still a lot of interesting habitat that remains to be covered. As for the results, it's too early to perform statistical analysis of the data, but it's already apparent that the ranges of some species have expanded, while others have declined. We'll get a preview of how a number of species are doing. Some you will

surely expect, but others may be more of a surprise.

Ned is one of the Regional Coordinators for the second Atlas project. Among other things, that means he is responsible, along with the other Regional Coordinators, for recruiting atlas volunteers. So, expect to be beaten into donating your time to help with this project. Even if you can't commit to devoting a lot of time, anyone who goes birding will have data to contribute. You'll find out how to do that, and why your help is both needed and important.

Native Landscaping Choices for Southwestern Ohio

— Casey Tucker, Audubon Ohio

Last November, Casey Tucker, education specialist for Audubon Ohio, gave a presentation to the Bird Club on using native plants, shrubs, and trees for landscaping around the home and for attracting birds and butterflies. Tucker

provided us with the following annotated list of native plants that one might choose from when planning native landscaping projects. Using a variety of plants will create a landscape that offers birds a wide range of food sources and shelter they can

take advantage of throughout the year. Good gardening can mean good birding, too.

All the plants listed in the following tables are suitable for southwestern Ohio.

Fruits with High Sugar (Carbohydrate) Content

Fruit Ripens: mid- to late-summer

Fruit Eaten: mid to late-summer

A high sugar content, and the abundance of fruit, make these a good source of food for adult birds after breeding season, and for juveniles of the season. Some of these fruits will persist into fall.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Type	Sun	Height	Growth	Duration
Blackberries & Raspberries						
Common Blackberry	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	mesic	full/partial	6 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Black Raspberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	mesic	full/partial	6 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Plums & Cherries						
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	mesic	full	24 ft.	tree	Perennial
Wild Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	mesic	full	80 ft.	tree	Perennial
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	mesic	full	25 ft.	tree	Perennial
Currants & Gooseberries						
Wild Black Currant	<i>Ribes americanum</i>	xeric	full/partial	8 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Eastern Prickly Gooseberry	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	mesic	full/partial	3 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Missouri Gooseberry	<i>Ribes missouriense</i>	mesic	full/partial	6 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Cohosh						
Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	mesic	shade	3 ft.	herb	Perennial

Fruits with High Fat/Oil (Lipids) Content**Fruit Ripens:** late-summer to early-fall**Fruit Eaten:** late-summer to early-fall

These plants produce fruits that contain proportionately large amounts of lipids in them. Fall migrating birds need extra energy during migration, and lipids are a greater source of energy than carbohydrates. Not surprisingly fruit ripening coincides with fall migration. Additionally, fruits left on these plants rot quickly because of their high lipid content.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Type	Sun	Height	Growth	Duration
Spicebush & Sassafras						
Northern Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	mesic	full/partial	12 ft.	tree	Perennial
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	xeric	full	75 ft.	tree	Perennial
Bittersweet						
American Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	hydric	full/partial	2 ft.	vine	Perennial
Viburnums						
Maple-leaved Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	mesic	full/partial	6 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Southern Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	mesic	full/partial	9 ft.	shrub	Perennial
Black-Haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	mesic	full/partial	16 ft.	tree	Perennial
Hollies						
Common Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	mesic	full/partial	10 ft.	tree/shrub	Perennial

Fruits with Low Lipid and Carbohydrate Content**Fruit Ripens:** late-summer to mid-fall**Fruit Eaten:** mid-winter to early-spring

These plants produce fruits that contain proportionately small amount of lipids in them. Over-wintering birds and early spring migrants utilize these when other food sources become scarce in mid to late-winter. The small amount of lipids in these fruits makes them valuable as a source of energy, but also insures that they are less likely to rot if they remain on the plant throughout the season.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Type	Sun	Height	Growth	Duration
Hackberry						
Common Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	mesic	full/partial	70 ft.	tree	Perennial
Hawthorns						
Pear Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>	mesic	full/partial	20 ft.	tree	Perennial
Fireberry Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus chrysocarpa</i>	mesic	full/partial	20 ft.	tree	Perennial
Cockspur Thorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	xeric	full	30 ft.	tree	Perennial
Fan-leaved Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus flabellata</i>	mesic	full/partial	30 ft.	tree	Perennial
Waxy-fruited Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>	mesic	full/partial	20 ft.	tree	Perennial
Dotted Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	mesic	full/partial	30 ft.	tree	Perennial
Fleshy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus succulenta</i>	mesic	full/partial	20 ft.	shrub	Perennial



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Are Your Dues Due?

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2007 - May 2008 birding year, please fill out the form below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php

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**
