



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

November 2008 Vol 44 No. 8

November Program: California, The Lost Year of Steve Maslowski

**7 PM, Thursday, November 20th
Sharon Woods Visitor's Center**

In getting back to a long standing Cincinnati Bird Club Thanksgiving holiday tradition, our speaker will be nationally renowned **wildlife photographer and filmmaker Steve Maslowski**. Steve of course is a long time member of the CBC and the son of the late Karl Maslowski, one of the founding fathers of the Cincinnati Bird Club. Steve, along with his brother Dave, continue the business of Maslowski Wildlife Productions that Karl first began so many years ago. Actually Steve could make a claim that he was among the first CBC members, as he was born just two years after Karl helped form our club. Sorry to give away your age, Steve.

When Steve first started out he may have been second banana to Karl but that ended quickly as Steve became a renowned bird and wildlife photographer, filmmaker and writer in his own right. Steve's photos have appeared in several field guides and in hundreds of national publications and he has made many wildlife films for various media outlets.

Steve will present a unique program and one he has put together for just this occasion. He is calling it "**California, The Lost Year**". In the early 1990's Steve felt the need to do a little soul

searching. He decided to take a yearlong sabbatical to a remote region of grasslands near Paso Robles in central California. It was so remote that the nearest gas station was 35 miles away. Using a small cabin a friend had lent him as his base, Steve spent the year exploring the area and photographing the birds and wildlife of this unique region. Steve pretty much spent the year alone except for a resident roadrunner, the abundant California quail and other wildlife, and seeing an occasional rancher. Steve will tell us his story, show us many of the photos he took, and give us an intimate look into his "**Lost Year**".

From the very beginning and for over 50 years the CBC November meeting was always treated as a special holiday gathering. Karl Maslowski started this long running tradition as he and his family hosted the meeting, presented the program and provided, at his cost, trays of fresh baked doughnuts, apple cider and hot chocolate for refreshments. For years he hosted this program at his home, but as the CBC membership grew and the program's popularity soared, the location was moved to the Founders Room of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History on Gilbert Ave. When it became a little too much for Karl to handle, his son Steve, and daughter-in-law Karen, graciously continued the tradition for several years. The business portion of this holiday meeting was always the planning

of the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts, always an important event of the CBC.

We have a few more **surprises** planned for this meeting as well. We will discuss the upcoming **Christmas Bird Counts** during the business portion of our meeting and CBC member Jeff Brown has graciously put together some very **large aerial maps of our five local counts** and will have them on display.

You will even be able to **test your ID skills at the meeting!** We will have 20 unlabeled bird skins on view, all species which can be found in Ohio. There is no pressure in this game, as you can keep your answers and scores to yourself. But you might want to *bring a field guide* with you. Herm Mays, curator of Zoology at the Cincinnati Museum Center, who will be at the meeting, is bringing the skins from the museum collection. Herm will reveal the species identities towards the end of the program.

So don't miss the fun and be sure to mark your calendar for this special holiday meeting. All your friends and family are invited to this festive bird club event. Heck, we'll even have **cider and doughnuts** for refreshments. *We'll also be raffling a Paul Wharton hand-crafted screech owl box and a giant bag of sunflower seed! Gee, did somebody say door prizes???*

Jay Stenger

Program Coordinator

The Buckeye State: Three Counts in Audubon Top 25

If anyone needs proof of dedication among Cincinnati birders, check the results from the 108th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Last year, three count circles in the Buckeye State ranked in the top 25 for overall participation among more than 2100 Canadian, Caribbean, Latin American, and US counts.

Cincinnati ranked number 15 with 148 participants. Cincinnati had 128 folks in the field and 20 at feeders. Even more remarkable, if you toss out the non-US counts (Canada and Ecuador), Cincinnati would rank **# 10 overall.**

Two other Ohio counts are notable for enthusiasm. Millersburg had 147 participants, 129 in the field and 18 at feeders, placing this count in 17th position. FYI, most Millersburg participants are Amish and usually cover *all* the miles of their route on foot. Cuyahoga Falls was 25th with 126 birders partaking: 79 in the field and 47 watching feeders.

But it's not just record numbers of participants in Ohio but also record numbers of birds. Cincinnati led the nation again in Carolina Chickadees found on CBC's: 1454 were observed. Millersburg once again found the most Northern Cardinals in the nation.

In case you're wondering how many dedicated bird count participants it takes to make it into first place, the Canadian town of Edmonton, Alberta tallied 416 field observers and 278 feeder watchers for a grand total of **694 people!** That's more than the top three Ohio counts combined.

It will soon be time to sign up for this year's Christmas Bird Count. The 109th CBC will take place December 14th, 2008 to January 5th, 2009. **Please consider volunteering to join a count either "on foot or at the feeder".** Watch the

calendar on the Cincinnatibirds.com website and look for more information in your December newsletter. You can also find out more about a CBC near you at the November 20th, Cincinnati Bird Club program at Sharon Woods.

Remember, Christmas Bird Counts help scientists build data sets to see how climate change is affecting North American birdlife. This important information is needed to protect and preserve vulnerable and abundant species.

But what it really comes down to is a day of fun. Christmas Bird Counts are a wonderful way to spend a day outside with old and new friends. Everyone is welcome from beginner to expert: just make sure to dress appropriately for the weather!

November Field Trips:

Summit Lake State Park & Brookville Lake

Saturday, November 15, 7:30 a.m.

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

November represents the peak of fall waterfowl migration and Summit and Brookville Lake both have well deserved reputations as two of the best waterfowl sites in our area.

Summit Lake State Park is located in Henry County, Indiana, about 30 miles north of Brookville Lake. There is minimal disturbance to waterbirds here as the entire lake has restricted boat speeds and there is no hunting in the park. We expect to find good numbers of waterfowl and waterbirds on the lake and ponds, and raptors and winter residents and late fall migrants in the adjacent open country habitats.

On our way back we will check the shallows at the north end of Brookville Lake, which usually hold a few late season shorebirds and quite often, Sandhill Cranes. This trip will continue well into the afternoon, so bring your lunch and drinks.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Park & Ride lot located on S.R. 128, at I-74 exit # 7, marked Cleves-Hamilton. We will caravan from there. Feel free to contact Jay Stenger for more information.

East Fork State Park

Saturday, November 22, 07:30 a.m.

**Leader: Bill Stanley, 513-724-2663,
tyrannus@fuse.net**

Bill plans to check several vantage points around Harsha Lake for waterfowl, loons, grebes and gulls. East Fork State Park has other varied habitats as well and Bill will select several spots that should produce a number of winter residents and late fall migrants.

East Fork has developed the reputation for attracting local rarities and there is always a chance this could be the day! This trip probably will end around noon. But it's always a good idea to have your lunch and drink handy if the birding is too good to stop.

Meet Bill at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the new state park building, 3294 Ellick Road, Bethel, OH 45106.

To get to the meeting spot from I- 275, take exit # 65 (east), S.R. 125 (Beechmont Ave./Ohio Pike) east about 9 miles to Bantam Rd. Turn left to the park entrance and the lot will be on the right just before the twin ponds.



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

November 2008

Vol 44 No. 8

Cincinnati Bird Club
President: Mike Busam
7577 Whitehall Circle West
West Chester, Ohio 45069
Email: MBusam@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Ann Oliver
Email: annieobirder@yahoo.com

2008-2009 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2008 - May 2009 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 (FREE)

Make your check payable to **Cincinnati Bird Club**, and mail to our Treasurer:
Lois Shadix, 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244