

# the passenger Pigeon



Things that go “peeeent” in the night

More Petrels than you can shake a stick at

The season we’ve all been waiting for

## birding the back country



*March 2011*  
*Vol. 47, No. 3*

# MARCH

*Below we are reprinting an excerpt of "A Birder's Almanac", written by Bill Whan. Bill, a longtime Ohio birder and member of the state bird records committee, is an authority on the birds of Ohio. The almanac traces the migratory patterns of birds through the state of Ohio, month by month. The full text can be viewed online at: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/almanac/introduction.php>*

In March, northbound waves of ardent waterfowl continue, now including tenderer species like teals and woodies, with winter-resident geese and swans joining them. Spring hawk migration enters its prime, with increased traffic as red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks, accipiters, vultures, and falcons join in a sweep north, many of them dividing into eastward and westward streams near the mid-point of our Lake Erie shore. Herons and egrets, grebes, coots, and cormorants increase in numbers statewide, some arriving to breed, others passing to the north. Species present in small numbers during the colder months, like towhees, flickers, sapsuckers, sparrows like fox and field, etc., abruptly seem much more common as arriving migrants augment their numbers.

Other shorebirds join woodcock and killdeer, with snipe appearing in wet fields,



Red-winged Blackbird © Allan Claybon

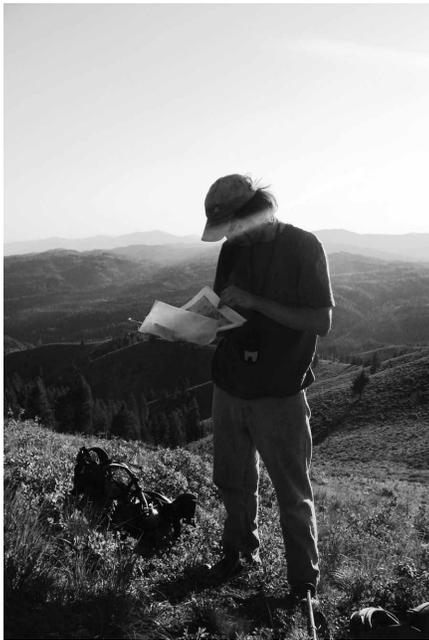
greater yellowlegs in deeper water, and by month's end the first flocks of breeding-plumaged pectoral sandpipers gathering in wet fields and mudflats. Another faithful promise of spring is the appearance of small insect-eating birds like phoebes and pine warblers. The first risk-taking scouts of the swallow tribe appear, tree swallows first, then perhaps a rough-winged or a barn swallow. The sparser wintering companies of golden-crowned kinglets swell to migrant hordes, just as the first ruby-crowns appear late in the month, and creepers are suddenly everywhere. Alert observers can find innumerable winter wrens darting about ground cover later in the month. Blackbirds, including the first big flocks of rusties, dominate wetland sites.

By mid-month, boreal birds like snow buntings, red-polls, and northern shrikes are beginning to disappear, as are the larids of the north like Thayer's, Iceland, and glaucous gulls; dainty Bonaparte's gulls, however, now appear at reservoirs, then to the north as shifting flocks along Lake Erie, their black caps molting in. Migrant pipits and longspurs can suddenly be numerous, calling in agricultural fields. By the end of the month, change is no longer the exception, but the universal situation.

- Bill Whan

# Bird Club meeting

## Going with the FLOW: Bird Monitoring in the West



Our March program will feature Jack Stenger, who will present a talk on his travels out West and his work for the Idaho Bird Observatory (IBO) and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Topics will include Flammulated Owl (FLOW) surveys in the mountains of Idaho, research at the IBO's Lucky Peak banding station, current bird monitoring efforts in the West, and adventures in under-birded Idaho. Perhaps he will even tell the story about how he ended up spending the night under a manure spreader in the Owyhee Mountains during owl surveys. Who knows?

the summer of 2009 he has worked for the Idaho Bird Observatory on their Flammulated Owl monitoring program and at their Lucky Peak Research Station. This winter Jack worked for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory on their landbird monitoring program. This summer Jack will continue working for the IBO, monitoring birds in northern Idaho.

*-Bob Foppe*

Jack spent his childhood birding with his father, Jay, and other friends in the Cincinnati area. From 2006 to 2010 Jack studied ornithology at Ohio Wesleyan University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Zoology. Since

**thursday, march 17th**

**7:00 p.m.**

**sharon woods visitor center**

## around the valley . . .

### **Audubon Society of Ohio**

#### **Field trip**

Saturday, Mar. 19th, 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Lower Little Miami River valley  
Leader: Mark Gilsdorf, (513) 253-6062, markg74@gmail.com  
Meet: California Woods Nature Preserve  
Cost: Free

### **Oxbow, Inc.**

#### **Field trip**

Sunday, Mar. 13th, 9:00 am.  
Location: Oxbow Preserve  
Leader: Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, jackstenger@gmail.com  
Meet: Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot  
Cost: Free

### **Cincinnati Nature Center**

#### **Bird walks**

Saturday, Mar. 12th – Bill Stanley  
Saturday, Mar. 26th – Lois Shadix  
Meet your guide in the Rowe Woods parking lot at 8 a.m. CNC daily admission fees are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4-12 and free for children 3 and under.

# Bird Club file

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## Sunday, March 6th 8 a.m.

Auto-tour of Brookville Lake  
Leader: Jay Stenger,  
(513) 522-8147,

jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

This trip will last most of the day and consist mainly of caravanning by car from spot to spot checking for birds. Bring your lunch, drinks, and make sure you have gas in your tank. Spring waterfowl migration should be in full swing and 18+ species of Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans) should be possible. A variety of loons, grebes, gulls, and eagles and other raptors, early spring migrants and late winter visitors may also be found. A spotting scope is recommended, but shouldn't deter you from coming. Club members are usually generous in letting you look through their scopes if you don't have one.

**Directions:** We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot on SR 128, located at the I-275 Miamitown exit #7. From there we will caravan to Brookville.

## Saturday, March 26th 4 p.m.

Evening Woodcock Watch  
and Owling at Miami-  
Whitewater

Leader: Steve Bobonick,  
(513) 829-2118,  
bobonick@msn.com

After gathering in front of the visitor center, we will drive over to the wetland area. Steve plans to take 1-2 hours to circumnavigate the wetlands. We will then position ourselves at the viewing platform and enjoy the evening waterfowl fly-in (dependent on water levels, of course!). At sunset, as the American Woodcock begin their courtship display, we will try to get a visual for all participants. We will wrap up the evening returning to the main park and trying to call in some owls. Expect the trip to wrap up about 9:00 p.m.

**Directions:** We will meet at the Miami-Whitewater Park Visitor Center parking lot. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit and turn right. Turn right again at the first stop sign, onto West Road. Just past a small bridge, turn left into the park. Turn left again at the first intersection to get to the Visitor Center. A Park District auto sticker is required and can be purchased at the entrance.

**Steve Bobonick**  
Field Trip Co-ordinator  
(H) 513-829-2118  
(W) 513-243-2909  
(cell) 513-702-3451  
bobonick@msn.com



Common Loon © Lana Hays



Great Horned Owl © Lana Hays

# Field trips



American Woodcock © Allan Claybon

# Seabirding the Outer Banks

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Great Shearwater © Lana Hays

## June 4-5, 2011

Contact: Steve Bobonick  
513-829-2118 (Home)  
513-243-2909 (Work)  
bobonick@msn.com

The Cincinnati Bird Club is organizing a field trip to the North Carolina Outer Banks, based around two consecutive trips with Seabirding Pelagic Trips operated by Brian Patteson. The pelagic trips are planned for Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th, out of Hatteras, NC. Cost for the boat trips is \$160/person/trip, although a group discount may be possible if we have eight or more participants. Between May and September, the Brian Patteson tours usually see 9 to 15 species of pelagic seabirds per trip. Because there is a lot of turnover in the fast flowing waters of the Gulf Stream, two consecutive trips may find remarkably different numbers and diversity.

Possibilities include four gadfly petrels (Black-capped Petrel, Herald (Trinidad) Petrel, Fea's Petrel, Bermuda Petrel), Cory's, Great, Sooty and Audubon's Shearwaters, Wilson's, Band-rumped, and Leach's Storm-Petrels, White-tailed Tropicbird, Masked Booby, Red-necked Phalarope, South Polar Skua, Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers, and Arctic, Bridled, and Sooty Terns.

The basic plan is to depart Cincinnati on Thursday morning, June 2nd, as early as the participants can agree to. An early departure would provide the opportunity for a stop at the Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (about an hours drive west of the Outer Banks) to try and see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and

Brown-headed Nuthatches. We will spend Thursday night in Manteo, NC. On Friday, we will bird our way down to Hatteras, stopping at a number of productive locations, particularly Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. We should find a variety of waders, Skimmers, Brown Pelicans, up to eight tern species, and nesting shorebirds such as Wilson's and Piping Plovers. We may even manage to at least hear a Black Rail! Friday and Saturday evenings will be spent in a Hatteras Hotel. When we return to the dock on Sunday, we will drive back to Manteo for the night, with additional land birding as daylight allows. On Monday, it's the 12-hour drive back to Cincinnati, with perhaps a second chance at the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, if needed.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Steve Bobonick as soon as possible, but not later than **Friday, March 25th**, so we can firm-up the number and book with Brian Patteson.

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## Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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Cincinnati Bird Club  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
2497 Spindlehill Drive, #6  
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**President: Ann Oliver**  
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**Program Chair: Bob Foppe**  
email: fopsinc@aol.com

**Field Trips: Steve Bobonick**  
email: bobonick@msn.com

**Newsletter Editor: Mark Gilsdorf**  
email: markg74@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Lois Shadix**  
email: lshadix@fuse.net

**Park VIP: Jay Lehman**

2010-2011 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2010 - May 2011 birding season, please fill out the form below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

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Visit us on the Web at:

<http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php>

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Lois Shadix (lshadix@fuse.net), 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244

Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to our Treasurer:

Individual \$12.00 Family \$15.00 Student (under 18) FREE

Yes I would like to receive my newsletter via e-mail. E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Bird Club Membership