

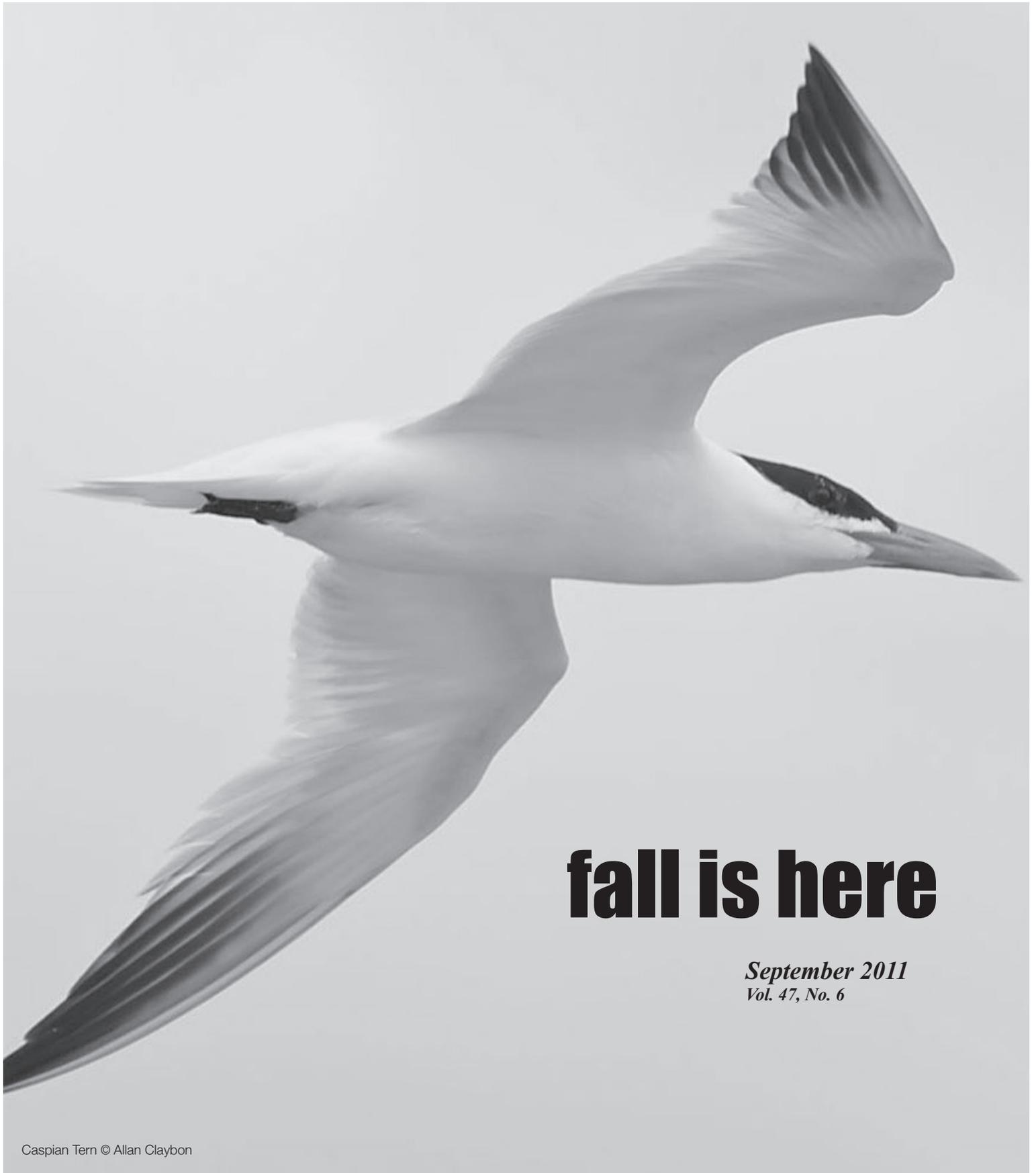
# the passenger Pigeon



Why the %#@ did they split that species?

Gilmore Ponds & the birds of Butler Cty.

How not to be confused by fall warblers



## fall is here

*September 2011*

*Vol. 47, No. 6*

# Bird Club meeting

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## *What is a species?*

**Speaker: Dr. Herman Mays**

I am pleased to announce that our new season will kick off with Dr. Herman Mays, Curator of Zoology for the Greier Collections And Research Center at the Cincinnati Museum Center. His program will review the latest methodology that seeks to answer the timeless question of “what defines a species?” Dr. Mays came to the Museum Center as the new curator of zoology in June 2007. He was born in Cincinnati and raised in central Kentucky. Herm received a PhD from the University of Kentucky and his PhD thesis was on the breeding behavior of Yellow-breasted Chats. Following graduate school Herm spent five years at Auburn University where he was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral researcher. While at Auburn Herm used molecular genetic tools to study mate choice in Eastern Bluebirds, population genetics of House Finches, and many other projects involving genetic tools in studies of avian biology. After Auburn, Herm took a position as an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University. In June 2007 Herm took the position as Curator of Zoology at the Cincinnati Museum Center. We are fortunate to again have someone at the Museum with such a strong ornithological background. Mark your calendars and come on out for what promises to be an informative program.

*-Steve Bobonick*

**thursday, september 15th**

**7:00 p.m.**

**sharon woods visitor center**



Scarlet Tanager © Lana Hays

# Bird Club file

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**Saturday, September 17th  
8 a.m.**

Gilmore Ponds Preserve  
Leader: Mike Busam, (513) 755-0057,  
mbusam@gmail.com  
Meeting Place: Symmes Road parking lot

Gilmore Ponds is steeped in local birding history and at times can be among the most productive birding sites in our region. Gilmore Ponds is a roughly 200 acre seasonal wetland located within the Hamilton city limits in Butler County, Ohio. Gilmore can be very wet or fairly dry from year to year or season-to-season depending on the amount of rainfall the area receives. When it is wet it can teem with water related species. The dense brushy borders and edges and the wet woodlands are always great for warblers and other migrant songbirds during spring and fall migration. This is one of the wet years so we can expect a diversity of species on this trip, which is scheduled smack dab in the middle of fall migration.

At one time Gilmore Ponds was privately owned. During the 1980's the Gilmore Ponds Conservancy, a citizens conservation group, was formed to try to protect the area from development. The Conservancy had some success, acquired some land and got the attention of the Butler County Park District, who eventually took control and now owns the property. Today Gilmore Ponds faces a new set of threats but for the time being it is still a wonderful birding site.

Our trip leader Mike Busam is a past President of the Gilmore Ponds Conservancy and remains a vigilant

protector and advocate of that site. Mike knows as much or more than anyone about Gilmore Ponds past and present. So come and join Mike during the peak of fall migration. Warblers should abound and a variety of shorebirds and other water birds will most likely be present.

This is scheduled as a half-day trip, which will consist of walking the trails around the ponds. While the terrain is flat, Mike warns that the walking will be a bit on the rough side. Butler County Parks has not recently maintained the trails and they are quite overgrown. To reach the best shorebird site will entail wading through some wet and muddy spots. And more good news is that there are no restrooms available. But for those of us who don't mind stomping the brush there will be plenty of birds to see and a unique habitat to explore. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear. If you have any questions feel free to contact Mike.

**Directions:** To reach Gilmore Ponds from I-275 take the Route 4 exit # 41 and go north on Rt. 4 for about 2.5 miles. Turn right onto the Route 4 Bypass and go about 1.5 miles to Symmes Road. Turn left onto Symmes and go about ½ mile to the Gilmore Ponds parking lot on the right, directly opposite the entrance to Beck Boulevard.

## Jay Stenger

Field Trip Co-ordinator  
(513) 522-8147  
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

# Field trips

**Sunday, September 11th**

**8 a.m.**

Shawnee Lookout County Park

Leader: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403,  
pwharton@fuse.net

Meeting Place: Shawnee Lookout  
upper boat ramp parking lot

Fall warbler migration should be well under way on this date so migrant songbirds will be our primary objective during the morning and shorebirds and waterbirds will be our late morning target. Our trip leader, Paul Wharton, will probably start the day birding around the boat ramp. Paul plans to then move up into the park where we will take a comfortable stroll looking for migrant songbirds. By late morning we will probably head up to Lost Bridge to see what shorebirds might be around and then take a quick look at the Oxbow before we call it a day. Warblers, other migrant songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, herons, egrets, terns and other waterbirds are all expected.

Paul plans to bird past noon or longer if the birding is good. We'll walk a bit at Shawnee, but it will be easy and at a comfortable birding pace. These two locations taken together can produce a long list at this season. A Hamilton County Park pass is required at Shawnee Lookout. Meet Paul at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramps upper parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The boat ramp is located directly across from the park entrance. Restrooms are available in the Park. Please feel free to call or email Paul if you have any questions. Check out the following Hamilton County Parks link for directions:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/shawneelookout.shtm>



Black-crowned Night-Heron © Lana Hays

# 2010 Audubon Society Birding Course

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You might want to consider polishing up your birding and identification skills by registering for the 25th annual Audubon Birding Course. Our local Cincinnati Audubon Society Chapter (ASO) has been sponsoring this class since 1987. The three-week course will be held over three consecutive Sunday mornings, September 25th, October 22d and October 9th and will again be conducted by Jay Stenger and Paul Wharton. Both Jay and Paul are skilled and knowledgeable veteran birders. Jay has been an instructor for this course since it's beginning in 1987.

The course is held at the Audubon House which is located in Groesbeck at 3398 W. Galbraith Road, just a couple of minutes from the Cross County Highway. Each class begins at 8:00 a.m. and begins with a casual but informative classroom session. Each classroom session is followed by an field trip to a local hotspot, which ends around 1:00 p.m.

Through discussions, visual & audio presentations and field observations, the course will particularly focus on sharpening identification skills. But the course will offer much more than that. Finding birds in our area; when, where and how, is also prioritized. Other

course topics will include migration, bird distribution, occurrence and relative abundance, habitat, conservation, local hotspots, and birding equipment such as binoculars, scopes, audio recordings, field guides and the Internet. The setting is casual and informal and questions are encouraged. While mid-level birders will likely gain the most from this course, most birders, beginners and experienced alike, will find that this course will help hone their ID skills and add to their knowledge of local birds. Over 400 area birders have taken this course over the years and have found it entertaining and informative.

Advance registration is required. Course fees are \$25 for ASO members and \$45 for non-members, which will include a membership in our local Audubon Chapter. To be registered, please mail your check, payable to ASO, to: ASO Bird Course, Audubon House, 3398 W. Galbraith Road, Cincinnati Ohio 45239. If you have any questions call the Audubon House at 741-SWAN or email Jay Stenger at [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com).

## around the valley . . .

### Audubon Society of Ohio

#### Field trip

Saturday, Sept. 10th, 8:30 a.m.

Location: East Fork State Park

Leader: Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, [joebens@live.com](mailto:joebens@live.com)

#### Field trip

Saturday, Sept. 24th, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Brookville Lake

Leader: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403, [pwharton@fuse.net](mailto:pwharton@fuse.net)

### Oxbow, Inc.

#### Field trip

Saturday, Sept. 24th, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Oxbow Nature Preserve

Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net)

### Cincinnati Nature Center

#### Bird walks

Saturday, Set. 10th – Steve Bobonick

Saturday, Sept. 24th – Mike Kravitz

Meet your guide in the Rowe Woods parking lot at 8 a.m.



Western Sandpiper © Allan Claybon



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Cincinnati Bird Club
c/o Newsletter Editor
2497 Spindlehill Drive, #6
Cincinnati, OH 45230

- President: Bob Foppe
Program Chair: Steve Bobonick
Field Trips: Jay Stenger
Newsletter Editor: Mark Gilsdorf
Treasurer: Lois Shadix
Park VIP: Jay Lehman

2011-2012 Dues:
If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2011 - May 2012 birding season, please fill out the form below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

Visit us on the Web at:
http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php

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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Bird Club Membership