

the passenger Pigeon



The Bird Club vs. East Fork dog walkers

Are you ready for some Bird Counts?

Brookville: waterbirds and no gas stations



Sabine's Gull © Allan Claybon



Laughing Gull © Allan Claybon

pretty freakin' cool

November 2011
Vol. 47, No. 8

The 112th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts

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The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the US, Canada and 19 countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24-hour period to count birds. Last years count set an all-time high with 2,215 individual counts conducted. Those counts included a record total of over 61,000 participants.

Count volunteers search for birds within a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle while counting every bird they see or hear throughout the day. It's not just a species tally; all individual birds are counted, giving an indication of the total number of birds within the circle that day. If observers live within a CBC circle, they may arrange in advance to count the birds at their feeders and submit those data to the count compiler. All individual CBC's are conducted during the period beginning December 14th through January 5th each season, and each count is conducted during one calendar day.

CBC participants are organized into groups or field parties by the compiler of the count. Each field party covers a prearranged and specific area within the 15-mile diameter count circle. And everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of ones birding skills. Compilers arrange field parties so that inexperienced observers are always out with seasoned CBC veterans. You don't have to com-

mit to the whole day either. You are welcome to participate for as long as you like, a half-day or even a few hours

There is a \$5.00 fee per field participant per count. Feeder watchers are free, as are all observers 18 and under. These fees help to cover the costs of generating materials for compilers, producing an annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database.

The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. The long-term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat - and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

There are many Christmas Bird Counts to chose from and we encourage you to take part in as many as possible. But we also hope you can find the time to participate in at least one of our local Christmas Bird Counts listed below. If you have any questions concerning a particular count feel free to contact that counts compiler.

For more information on Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts visit the following website:
<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

2011-2012 Greater Cincinnati (Local) National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts:

Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count (65th Annual)

Monday, December 26th, 2011
Compiler: Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Western Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count (46th Annual)

Sunday, December 18th, 2011
Compiler: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

East Fork Christmas Bird Count (29th Annual)

Monday, January 2nd, 2012
Compiler: Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, joebens@live.com

Ohio River Christmas Bird Count (25th Annual)

Saturday, December 17th, 2011
Compiler: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403, pwharton@fuse.net

Hamilton-Fairfield Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17th, 2011
Compiler: Mike Busam, (513) 755-0057, mbusam@gmail.com

-Jay Stenger

Bird Club meeting

Boreal Owl Research in Alaska

**Speaker: Dr. David Russell,
Miami University,
Oxford, OH**

**thursday, november 17th
7:00 p.m.
sharon woods visitor center**

The November 17th meeting will feature Dr. David Russell of Miami University (MU). Dave's program will focus on his Boreal Owl research in Alaska. Dave has always had a great interest in birds and natural history and is well known in our local birding community. Born in Portland Oregon, Dave's family moved to Madeira when he was seven years old. Even at an early age, Dave's fascination with nature led him to the Cincinnati Zoo's junior zoologist program in which he was active for 10 years until college beckoned. Dave received his BS in Entomology from the University of California /Davis and his Masters and Doctorate in Molecular Systematics from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. An Instructor of Intro and Environmental Biology at Miami University, he teaches a number of courses including Ornithology and Methods in Field Ornithology. Dave is a Master Bird Bander and certified North American Banding Council Trainer and an avid birder with a passion for sharing the birding world with all who will listen.

Christmas Bird Counts

The Cincinnati Bird Club November program meeting is a Thanksgiving holiday tradition and a way of honoring our founders. From the very beginning and for over 50 years, the CBC November meeting was treated as a special gathering. Karl Maslowski started this 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 will discuss the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts during the business portion of our meeting including dates and contacts to participate in each area count. Even if you are unable to participate in the field, remember that feeder watchers can provide very valuable data.

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. Dr. Herm Mays, curator of Zoology at the Cincinnati Museum Center, is bringing the skins from the museum collection. Herm will reveal the species identities at 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.

Remember: No December Meeting

Just a reminder, as is our tradition, there will be no Bird Club meeting or scheduled Bird Club field trips in the month of December. We encourage members to take part in one or more of our local Christmas Bird Counts. Following the November meeting, we will resume on January 19th with "Member's Slide Night".

-Steve Bobonick

Bird Club file

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The month of November brings an influx of waterfowl and return of many winter residents. Our field trips this month will focus on the three main deep-water reservoirs in the Cincinnati area. While providing excellent habitat for water birds, all three are surrounded by fields and hedge rows that can be excellent for sparrows. The wide vistas can also be good for spotting raptors. Spotting scopes are useful for these trips, since many of the birds will be far out on the water. If you don't already own a scope, don't let that discourage you from attending. Many field trip participants will be more than happy to share their optics and will allow you to look through their scopes.

Jay Stenger

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

Saturday, November 19th
7:30 a.m.

East Fork State Park

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

Meeting Place: East Fork Water Craft Office parking lot

Bill's trip will focus on waterfowl, loons, grebes and gulls. Late fall migrants and winter residents are also a possibility given the other varied habitats of East Fork State Park. The reservoir and its surroundings have developed quite the reputation for attracting local rarities and there is always a chance this could be the day. We will meet at the water craft office on the south side of East Fork State Park. Starting at the South beach we will work our way to various spots on the south, east and north sides of the park. Depending on activity at East Fork, if people are interested in the afternoon we could take a side trip to Lake Grant Wildlife area in Brown County which is about 20 minutes away.

Directions: We will meet at the water craft office on the south side of East Fork State Park. To get there, enter the park from the south side as if you were heading toward the beach. The park office will be on the right. To get the south side entrance to East Fork SP from I-275 take exit # 65, SR 125 (Beechmont Ave./Ohio Pike) and go east about 9 miles to the junction of Rt. 222. Turn left onto Bantam Rd. (opposite Rt. 222) and follow the signs to the park entrance.

Field trips

Saturday, November 26th

7:30 a.m.

Brookville Lake & Hueston Woods

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

Meeting Place: Park & Ride Lot at I-275 Exit # 7

The focus of this trip will be the fall waterfowl migration, which should be near peak at this date. Our trip leader Jay Stenger is planning on hitting several spots around Brookville Lake and then make the short hop over to Hueston Woods where we will check a few spots around Acton Lake before returning home. Both of these locations are hotspots and are excellent for attracting waterfowl and water birds at this season. We expect to see good numbers of many species. The rural countryside surrounding these two large lakes has diverse habitats so we expect to find a great variety of species along the way. In addition to waterfowl we expect to see loons, grebes, gulls, Sandhill Cranes, late shorebirds (such as Dunlin & snipe), Bald Eagles, many hawks, numbers of seasonal songbirds and much more. This will be an auto type tour and will consist of driving from spot to spot interspersed with a few short easy walks. While the trip duration is long and does entail a lot of driving, the rewards, in terms of what we see, always make it worth the effort.

This field trip will be in conjunction with the Audubon Society of Ohio, Cincinnati Chapter. The trip will run into mid to late afternoon but of course you can leave at any time you like. Bring your lunch and drinks. It always seems colder around large lakes so dress accordingly. If you have a scope it will prove useful. Restrooms will be available. One important note, Indiana State Parks charges a daily per car entrance fee (\$5 resident, \$7 non-resident). At this time of year there is usually no attendants on duty but we cannot be sure of that.

Directions: We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the park & ride lot, located right at the I-275 Exit # 7 at SR 128 marked Cleves-Hamilton. This is the first exit just west of the Great Miami River at Miamitown. We will caravan from there to the Brookville area, about a 30-minute drive. Call or email Jay if you have any questions.



Left: Sandhill Crane © Lana Hays

Above: Wilson's Snipe © Lana Hays



Long-tailed Duck © Lana Hays

around the valley . . .

Audubon Society of Ohio

Field trip

Saturday, November 12th, 4:30 p.m.

Location: Fernald Preserve & Miami Whitewater Forest

Leader: Jeff Hays, (513) 821-9822, jlhays@fuse.net

Field trip (jointly with the Bird Club)

Saturday, November 26th, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Brookville Lake and Hueston Woods

Leader: Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147,

jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Oxbow, Inc.

Field trip

Sunday, November 20th, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Oxbow Nature Preserve

Leader: Mark Gilsdorf, (513) 253-6062,

markg74@gmail.com

Cincinnati Nature Center

Bird walks

Saturday, Nov. 12th – Bill Stanley

Saturday, Nov. 26th – Lois Shadix

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



Common Loon © Lana Hays



Short-eared Owl © Lana Hays



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Cincinnati Bird Club
c/o Newsletter Editor
6270 Orchard Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45213

- 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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