



Louisiana Waterthrush © Lana Hays

the passenger
Pigeon 

April 2012
Vol. 47, No. 13

Bird Club meeting

Tour of the Ornithology Collection at the Cincinnati Museum Center's Geier Center

Please join the Cincinnati Bird Club at the Cincinnati Museum Center's Geier Center for a tour of their Ornithology collection. Herm Mays, Curator of Zoology, and birder, will be hosting the event. The date for this event is THURSDAY, APRIL 19th at 7 P.M.

The Ornithology collection consists of over 20,000 study skins with about 1,700 species represented. Materials date from the early 1800s and include the historical collections of Charles Dury, Frank W. Langdon, Herbert W. Brandt and Ralph Todd Kellogg. More recent names in local birding including Ron Austing, John Ruthven and possibly even your name can be found within the collection. Endangered and extinct species, such as the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Great Auk are included.

Please bring ideas of species you would like to see up close and personal. This will be a good chance to compare field marks of similar species. Methods of storage and preparation of specimens will be discussed and displayed. Have you ever wondered what the Cincinnati Warbler looked like? This will be your chance. Each bird in the collection has a story that is told by the information on its tag. When salvaging birds it will be evident why collecting all possible data is critical in telling each birds story.

The Geier Center is located at 760 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. **This is NOT the Union Terminal building.**

DIRECTIONS:

Traveling from the North: take I-75 South to exit 1F for Freeman Avenue towards US 50 West. Turn left onto Gest Street and travel ½ mile where you turn right onto West 5th Street. The Geier Center will be on the right.

Traveling from the East: take I-71 South through Fort Washington Way exiting LEFT onto West 6th Street/ U.S. 50 West towards River Road. Take the Gest Street exit and turn left onto Gest Street. Turn right onto West 5th Street and the parking area is on the right.

-Steve Bobonick

thursday, april 19th
7:00 p.m.
geier center of
the cincinnati museum center



Bird Club

Sunday, April 8th
7:30 a.m.

Location: Rocky Fork Lake SP & Indian Creek WA

Leader: Mark Gilsdorf,
(513) 253-6062, markg74@gmail.com

Meet: 7:30 a.m. at the Perintown United Dairy Farmers on U.S. 50 (see directions below)

Rocky Fork Lake is probably the least visited of our regions large reservoirs by local birders. Brookville, Hueston Woods, Caesar Creek and East Fork all get more birding attention. But the Rocky Fork region is equal to and every bit as productive a birding site as any of these other hotspots. Certainly located on what we consider the periphery of our Greater Cincinnati birding area, it is only about 40 miles east of Milford and no more distant than some of the previously mentioned spots. A number of other birding hotspots are located along the way, such as Indian Creek WA, Paint Creek SP and the Roush Road gravel pits to name just a few.

So join our trip leader Mark Gilsdorf for what should be a great day of birding and exploring seldom visited hotspots. Because of the distance and size of the Rocky Fork region this field trip will be an auto-tour type, which will consist of driving from spot to spot interspersed with a few short easy walks.

April is smack dab in the middle of spring migration (March thru May) and numerous species either continue

or begin their movements during this month. Waterfowl, herons and egrets, gulls and terns, shorebirds, nesting Bald Eagles, other raptors and returning songbirds (including a few warblers) are all likely and should be expected. Even Vesper Sparrow should be found on this trip.

After meeting at the UDF Mark plans on first making a fairly brief stop at Indian Creek WA. From there we will head to Rocky Fork Lake and on the return trip Mark plans to stop at the Roush Road gravel pits, another productive birding site which is located about a mile off of U.S. 50. This field trip will run into mid to late afternoon but of course you can leave at any time you like. Bring your lunch and drinks. If you have a scope it will prove useful. Restrooms will be available

We will meet at 7:30 am, in the parking lot of the United Dairy Farmers located in Perintown, on U.S. 50, at the corner (stoplight) of Round Bottom Rd. We will caravan from here to Indian Creek SWA, about a 20-minute drive, and from there on to Rocky Fork. Gas/Restrooms/Supplies are all available at the UDF. To get to this meeting spot from I-275, take the U.S. 50, Milford/Hillsboro exit # 59, and go east on U.S. 50 about 2 miles. The UDF is on the right.

For a map and information for Rocky Fork State Park go to the following website:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/rockyfrk/tabid/784/Default.aspx>

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

field trips

For a map and information for Indian Creek WA go to the following website:

http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourcessubhomepage/WildlifeAreaMaps/SouthwestOhioWildlifeAreaMaps/IndianCreekWildlifeArea/tabid/19772/Default.aspx

Saturday, April 21st 8:00 a.m.

Location: Spring Valley WA & Caesar Creek SP

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

Meet: 8:00 a.m. at the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach
(see directions below)

Join Darlena for what should be a great spring birding trip. We expect to find a diverse number of species due to the varied habitats in this area and the time of year, as spring migration will be well under way. Darlena plans to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach and give that area a good look before moving over to Spring Valley. We will then take a walk around the loop trail at Spring Valley, which leads through marsh and woodlands. Darlena has had great success attracting rails along the boardwalk over the marsh and we expect to get some good looks at Soras and Virginia Rails. Many breeding songbirds will have arrived by this date and a number of early migrants should also be found. Rails, bitterns, shorebirds and other marsh birds are

expected. Terns, loons, waterfowl and several species of raptors should also be seen.

The trip will end sometime in the early afternoon, so pack a lunch and plan accordingly. Caesar Creek SP has plenty of restroom facilities but Spring Valley only offers primitive accommodations. Late April is a great time to be out birding, so consider joining us for what we expect will be a great day.

To get to the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach from Cincinnati, take I-71 north to the State Route 73 exit # 45. Turn left (west) onto Rt. 73 and go about 5 miles. After crossing the Rt. 73 Bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the State Park entrance and follow the signs to the swimming beach parking lot. Feel free to contact Darlena for any questions.

For a map and information for Spring Valley WA go to the following website:

http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourcessubhomepage/WildlifeAreaMaps/SouthwestOhioWildlifeAreaMaps/SpringValleyWildlifeArea/tabid/20055/Default.aspx

Visit the Caesar Creek State Park website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/caesarck/tabid/720/Default.aspx>

Oxbow Birdathon 2012

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**friday, may 11th
thru sat. may 12th
5 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Birdathon 2012 is just around the corner! This years event will be held on **Friday and Saturday May 11th and 12th**. As always, the event will begin at 5:00 p.m. sharp on Friday evening and end at 5:00 p.m. sharp on Saturday. The registration fee remains at \$5.00 per person. At 5:00 p.m. Saturday May 12th the Birdathon Tally and Party begins. Plenty of cold drinks, pizzas and other food are provided at no additional costs. This year the Birdathon Tally will again be held at our own Oxbow Inc, office that is located at 301 Walnut Street in downtown Lawrenceburg, Indiana. There is plenty of room, ample parking and is centrally located to the Oxbow. As tradition dictates, our Birdathon dates are scheduled on the Saturday before Mothers Day (the second Sunday in May).

In 1988, when Oxbow Inc. was in its infancy, members realized we needed an annual fundraiser if we were to achieve our goals and preserve the Oxbow area. So it was that the Birdathon was born. Over the years Oxbow Inc. has achieved great success and today well over 1,000 acres has been protected and Oxbow Inc. is in a good position to acquire more land as it becomes available. But Oxbow Inc.

Birdathon article cont.

continues to need your financial support. With ownership of the land comes the responsibility of stewardship of that land. These days the funds raised from the annual Birdathon are earmarked for habitat and access improvements. Many projects have already benefited from Birdathon funds and many other projects are on the table waiting for financial support.

But the Birdathon is more than just a fundraiser for Oxbow Inc. We see this event as a community celebration of birds and conservation during the peak of spring migration. It truly is a festive event and we have always encouraged other nature and conservation organizations to participate. These organizations form teams and use this opportunity to raise funds for their own groups. Each of these teams is asked to split any funds they raise 50/50 with Oxbow Inc. In this way both organizations benefit. We usually have at least ten or more such organizations participate in this way.

Last years event represented the 26th year of the Birdathon and was a great success. Twenty-five teams made up of over 80 individuals took the Birdathon field and raised several thousand dollars for habitat management in the Oxbow. Most importantly all those who participated had a lot of fun and camaraderie. What can be more fun than birding for 24 hours with your friends on a

glorious spring weekend while pursuing a noble cause?

So mark your calendar and help us make Birdathon 2012 a great success. We encourage you to participate in the event, but if you can't do that we hope you can pledge a few dollars to this worthy cause. Bear in mind that the Birdathon is intended to be, first and foremost, fun. You can participate in many ways. You can go all out and try to find as many birds in 24 hours as possible or you can participate for just a few hours from your favorite deck chair in your backyard. Or you can choose any number of ways in between those two examples. Feel free to contact me for information on how to donate or how to enter a team or yourself in the "competition". Thank you in advance for your generosity and help towards making Birdathon 2011 a great success.

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

around the valley . . .

Cincinnati Nature Center

Bird walks

Saturday, Apr. 14th – Lois Shadix

Saturday, Apr. 28th – Steve Bobonick

Meet in the Rowe Woods parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

Oxbow, Inc.

Field trip

Saturday, April 21st, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Oxbow Preserve

Leader: Paul Krusling, 471-2954, pkrusling@fuse.net

Meet: upper Oxbow parking lot

Audubon Society of Ohio

Field trip

Saturday, April 28th, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Gilmore Ponds Preserve

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

Meet: Symmes Road parking lot



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Cincinnati Bird Club
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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 _____

Phone _____

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Name _____

Bird Club Membership