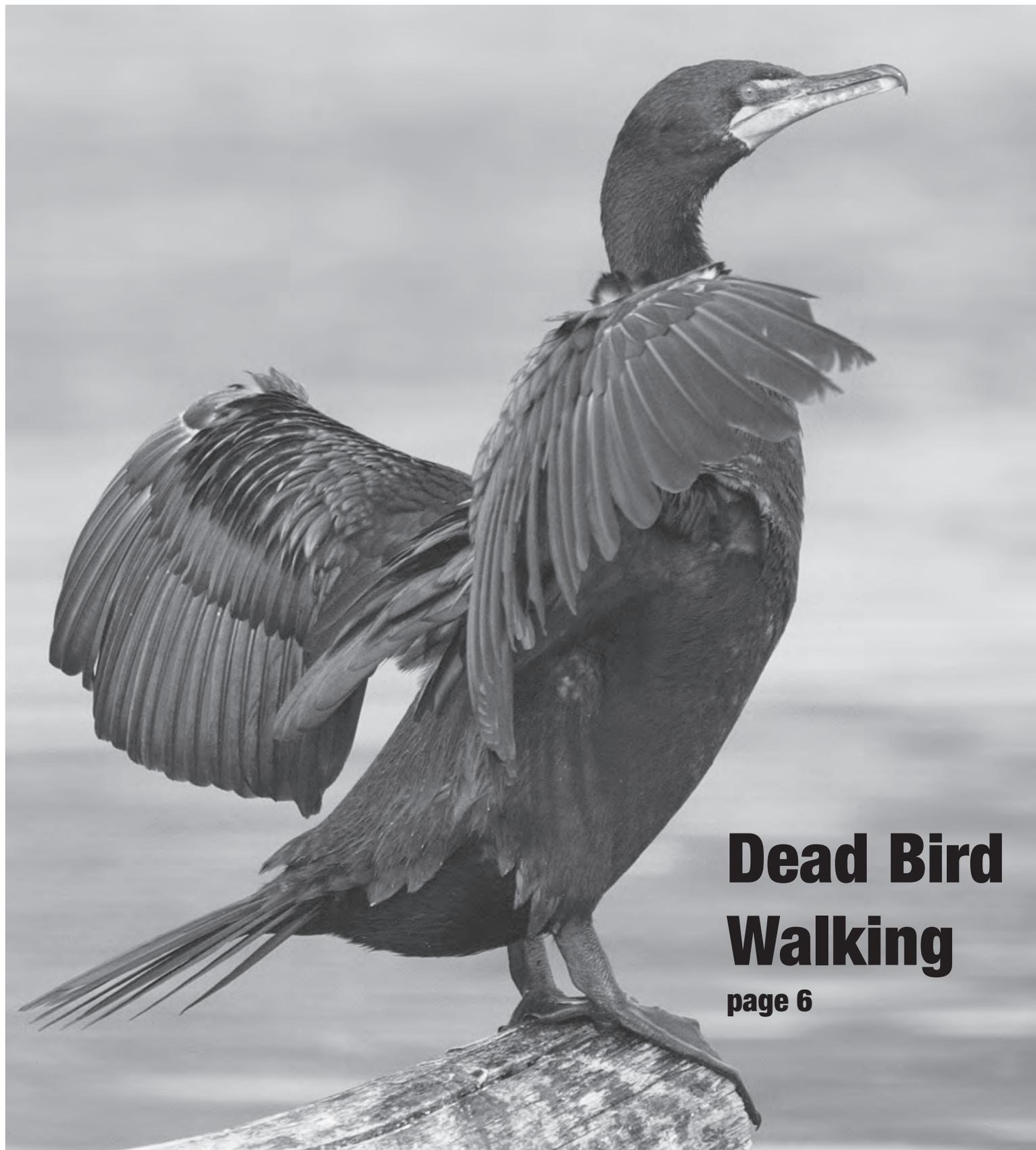


P the passenger **Pigeon**



May 2012
Vol. 47, No. 14

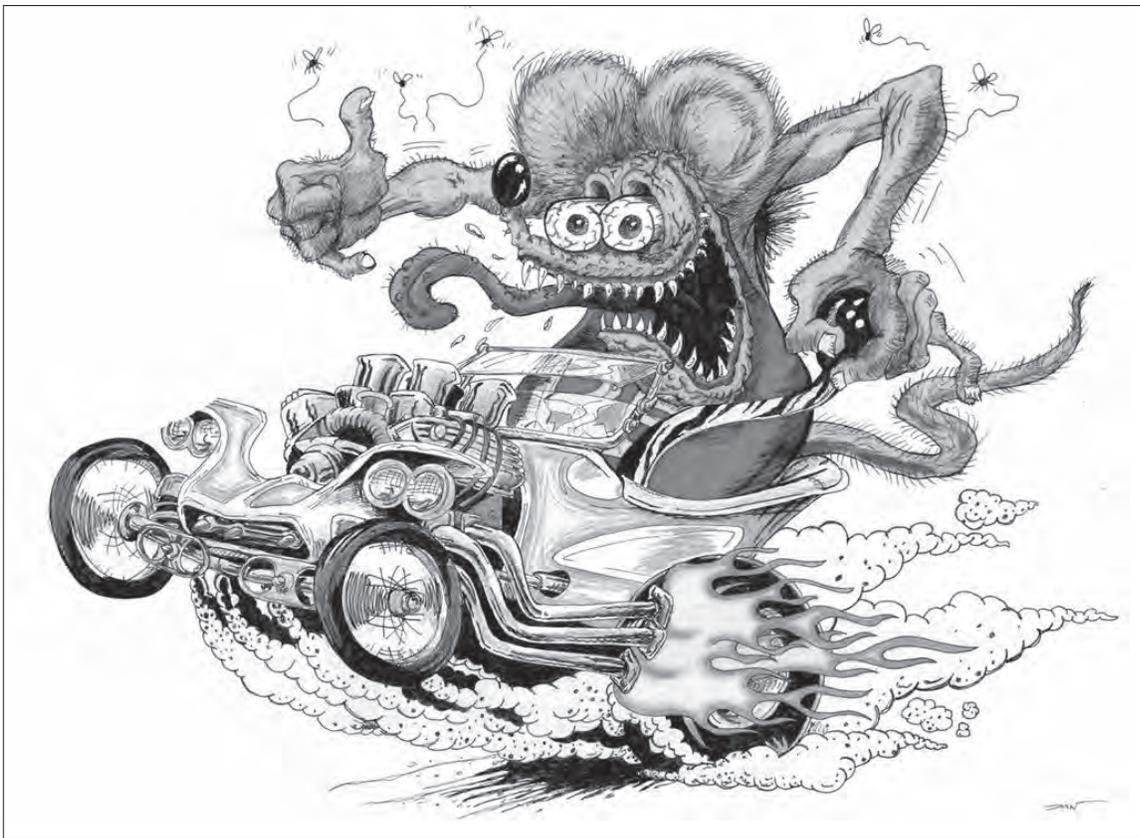


Dead Bird Walking

page 6

Oxbow Birdathon 2012

2



**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.

continued on p. 7

Bird Club meeting

Birding the Salt Lake City area and chasing Snowcocks



The Cincinnati Bird Club's 2011-2012 season will wrap-up with your very own program coordinator, Steve Bobonick. My subject will be the birding opportunities in the Salt Lake City, Utah area. I will also discuss the logistics and strategies for adding the Himalayan Snowcock to your life list.

When one thinks of birding 'hotspots' in the ABA area, Salt Lake City does not immediately come to mind. Yet, this area has a number of great locations for birding within an hours drive of the airport. If you have (or intentionally arrange!) a long layover while on a trip somewhere out west, leverage off of a business trip, or plan a dedicated vacation to Utah, you can certainly add some great birds to your life or trip list. If you are a serious ABA area 'lister', you may eventually plan on trying for the Himalayan Snowcock. This 'countable' exotic is found only in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada, about a three hour drive from Salt Lake City. I have made four trips to this area, including

two efforts for the Snowcock. I will discuss some specific areas around Salt Lake City that are easily accessible, and some of the birds that can be found at these locations. I will also talk about other possible activities that would be enjoyable for the non-birding spouse. Finally, I will suggest how you can go about finding Snowcocks.

For those who do not know me, I started birding at age 14, back in my home state of Connecticut. 40+ years later, I am still at it. I have birded across the ABA area and have also had the opportunity to do some global birding. I lead bird walks for both the Bird Club and the Cincinnati Nature Center.

-Steve Bobonick

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

Bird Club

Friday, May 11 & Saturday, May 12, 2012

27th Annual Oxbow Birdathon

Begins at 5 p.m. Friday and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Grand Tally and pizza party begins at 5 p.m. at the Oxbow Inc. office in downtown Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

To register contact Jay Stenger, at (513) 522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Saturday, May 19th 8:00 a.m.

Location: Miami Whitewater Forest (& wetlands)

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

Meet: MWW Visitor Center Parking Lot

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

The focus of this trip will be migrant and breeding birds. While spring migration is just a bit past peak by this date many migrants will still be moving through. In addition to those species all of our summer resident birds will be back in force and the breeding season will be well under way. Due to its 4,345 acres of varied habitats, Miami Whitewater Park is an outstanding place to see a great diversity of species. Our trip leader, Joe Bens, is a skilled and expert birder who knows Miami Whitewater like the back of his hand. Joe plans to visit several distinct habitats around the park, which will include mature woodland, second growth, grasslands

and marsh. Over the course of the morning we can expect to see and hear an amazing variety of birds and other wildlife.

Come out and join Joe on this spring morning walk as we explore a number of birding hotspots in this outstanding county park. While we will drive to different sections of this large park, the trip will mostly consist of level easy walking. Joe plans to finish the trip with a walk into the wetlands and grassland complex (Shaker Trace). Depending on recent rains some of those trails may be wet so wear appropriate footwear. Restrooms are available throughout the park.

Directions: Meet Joe at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot for the Miami-Whitewater Visitor Center/Ranger Station. 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. There is no set end time for this field trip, but it will probably run to about 1:00 p.m. A Park Motor Vehicle Permit (\$10 annual or \$3 daily) is required and can be purchased at the entrance. Contact Joe if you have any questions.

For a park map and other info visit the Miami Whitewater Forest website at:

http://greatparks.org/about-us/pdfs/mwf_map.pdf

field trips



Common Yellowthroat © Lana Hays



Kentucky Warbler © Lana Hays

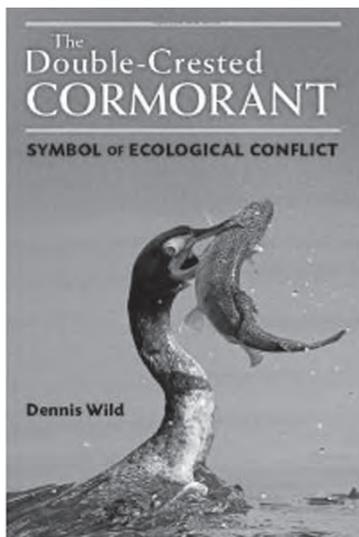


Mourning Warbler © Lana Hays

More on cormorants

Below I am reprinting a short review written by Bill Whan, which he posted recently on the birdingonthe.net listserv for Ohio. Bill, a longtime Ohio birder and member of the state bird records committee, is an authority on the birds of Ohio. I believe the note raises an important issue that is not often discussed in the birding community.

-The Editor



A friend recommended a new book, “The Double-crested Cormorant: Symbol of Ecological Conflict,” so I picked up a copy. My heart fell as I peeked inside the jacket: the author, Dennis Wild, is described as a writer of outdoor articles, mostly for fishing periodicals. So, even though he is said to have a degree in zoology, I prepared myself for some brainwashing of a familiar kind.

It’s hard to find—other than in obscure scientific sources—objective material on cormorants and what humans are doing to them here. I went to our Division of Wildlife’s web site to see the latest, but the search function wasn’t working, and the cormorant wasn’t in its A-Z Species Guide, or in the Nuisance Wildlife pages. Why not? I guess it’s understandable that shooting native non-game birds wouldn’t be their proudest accomplishment. Most of what I see these days about Ohio’s

ongoing cormorant-shooting project appears, accompanied by friendly quotes from Wildlife officials, in various friendly hunting/fishing publications available at the local carry-outs.

But Wild’s book was a surprise. Instead of parroting the party line from commercial fishing interests, or praising Animal Damage Control—oh, excuse me, they call themselves “Wildlife Services” now—over in the Department of Agriculture, he presents a clear-minded informative picture, with the natural and cultural history of cormorants in the U.S. and their conflicts with commercial interests since the coming of Europeans, including the impact of DDT, historical changes in Great Lakes fish populations, the development of depredation orders to circumvent the intent of the Migratory Bird Treaty, etc. He concentrates on the Great Lakes and the catfish aquaculture of the South, but also treats the actions of Canadian wildlife officials.

Wild does not evade the difficult questions, and he is not doctrinaire. I recommend his book as a fair-minded look at the cormorant-killing controversy. These birds are now returning to their nesting sites. If you are a recreational birder and prefer not to think about it, don’t worry—you can’t hear or see the shooting on West Sister Island just north of the Magee Bird Trail this spring—too far offshore.

- Bill Whan
Columbus, OH

Birdathon article cont.



Oxbow Lake
© Steve Pelikan

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 year's 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



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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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 _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Name _____

Bird Club Membership