



# The Passenger Pigeon

Volume 48, Number 6

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

September 2012

**Program:** Birds and evolution in East Asia: 2012 field research in Japan and Taiwan

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Herman Mays  
Cincinnati Museum Center

**Date:**  
Thursday, Sept. 20  
7 p.m.  
Sharon Woods  
Visitor Center

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*

I am pleased to announce that for the second year in a row, 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. Herman will share with us tales from the field from this year's field research in Japan and Taiwan with a little results thrown in from this collaborative research program in East Asia.

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



Fairy Pitta, Tsushima Island, Japan  
Courtesy of Herman Mays

# Field Trips

*(Contributed by Jay Stenger, Field Trip Coordinator)*

**Location:** Shawnee Lookout Park and the Oxbow

**Date:** Sunday, Sept 9

**Meet:** 7:30 a.m. at the lower Shawnee Lookout Boat Ramp

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

An excellent argument could be made that in our region September, after May, is the second best birding month. Fall songbird (warbler) and shorebird migration should be in full swing on this date and these species will be our primary objective on this field trip. We will begin the day by birding a few spots around Shawnee Lookout, focusing on migrant songbirds, especially warblers. By late morning we will head over to the Oxbow, stopping at Lost Bridge on the way. If water levels are favorable (low) we should find some shorebirds in both locations. Herons, egrets, terns and other waterbirds should also be expected, as well as a few migrant and resident raptors. The combination of Shawnee Lookout and The Oxbow should stack up for a great day of birding. The combined habitats of these excellent birding sites at this time of the year should yield a great diversity of species.

We plan 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. Restrooms are available. We will meet at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramp lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. The driveway to the boat ramp is located directly across from the park entrance. A Hamilton County Park pass is required (\$3.00 daily, \$10.00 annual) for each vehicle. Please feel free to call or email Jay if you have any questions.

For directions and other park information check out the following website;  
<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/shawnee-lookout.html>  
<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/aboutus/directory.htm>

For information and maps of the Oxbow visit the Oxbow Inc. website at;  
<http://www.oxbowinc.org/>

**Location:** Brookville Lake Region (Indiana State Parks & Wildlife Areas)

**Date:** Saturday, Sept 22

**Meet:** 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride at I-275 Exit # 7, SR 128 at Miamitown (see directions below)

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

The fall migration of North American birds roughly occurs from August through November. However different types of

birds migrate at different times during this rather wide window. In terms of diversity of species September represents the peak month of the fall migration. The focus of this trip will be on three significant groups of birds that are at, or near, peak at this time. They are 1) neo-tropical passerines (especially warblers), 2) raptors (especially Broad-winged Hawks and accipiters) and 3) shorebirds (plovers and sandpipers).

While these species may be found in many locations throughout our region, the Brookville Lake area can be an excellent place to find a diverse representation of all three groups at this season. Of course weather and water levels the day of our trip will play a large part in just how good the birding will be. But if conditions are favorable an outstanding day can be expected. Even if conditions are unfavorable we still expect to find a diversity of birds in this outstanding area. This field trip has become an annual event and never disappoints.

The plan is to start the day birding the woodlands and looking for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, thrushes and many other songbirds. Around 10:00 am as temperatures rise (and if its not raining) updrafts along the ridges of the Whitewater River valley will create thermals that are used by migrating hawks.

We expect to see Ospreys, Broad-winged, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks as they move south. Peregrine Falcons and Merlin's are possible and have been seen on past trips. Bald Eagles and other resident hawk species are also expected throughout the day. Towards mid-day we will check the north end of Brookville Lake, which can be an excellent place to find numbers of

shorebirds, terns, herons and egrets if water levels are low enough to expose mudflats.

This trip will run well into mid-afternoon. We will caravan to Brookville Lake and do some driving from spot to spot interspersed with lots of stops and some easy walking. Bring your lunch and drinks. Restrooms are available. One important note; Indiana State Parks charge a daily per car entrance fee (\$5 resident, \$7 non-resident). At this time of year there is about a 50/50 chance that there will not be a fee charged.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the park & ride lot, located at the I-74/I-275 Miamitown exit # 7 at SR 128. We will caravan from here to the Brookville area, about a 25- minute drive. Call or email Paul if you have any questions.

Visit the Brookville Lake website at:  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2961.htm>

Visit the Whitewater Memorial State Park (at Brookville Lake) website at:  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2962.htm>



Elegant Bunting, Tsushima Island, Japan. Courtesy of Herman Mays

**Location:**  
East Fork State Park

**Date:** Saturday, Oct 6

**Meet:** 8 a.m. at the East Fork Water Craft Office parking lot  
(see the directions below)

**Leader:** Bill Stanley  
(513) 724-2663  
tyrannus@fuse.net

October is a beautiful month and autumn color is near peak on this date. October is also centered in the middle of fall migration and because of that it offers somewhat of a mixed bag. East Fork SP is an excellent spot to find this diversity of species. While neo-tropic migration is winding down by this date, there still should be plenty of warblers and other migrant songbirds around. Shorebird migration continues and a few can usually be found on the beaches. Gulls and terns are also likely. Raptors are on the move throughout the month and even a few of our winter visitors may be showing up. And there is always a chance for a rarity, as East Fork has an excellent reputation in that regard, particularly in the fall. The focus of this trip will be to witness this changing of the guard so to speak, a mixture of birds, some on their way out and some on their way in.

Bill knows East Fork SP as well as anyone and plans to visit several different locations and habitats within the park. This will entail driving to a few

different spots interspersed with a bit of walking in between. While we will walk a bit during the morning, it will be moderate and at a leisurely pace over mostly level trails and roadsides. Bill will probably stay at it until birding begins to tail off around noon. So come and join Bill on what should be a beautiful autumnal morning. Restrooms are available in the park. If you have any questions feel free to contact Bill

**Directions:** We will meet at the watercraft 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 to 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.

Visit the East Fork State Park website for a Park map and other info at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/eastfork/tabid/732/Default.aspx>



Brown-eared Bulbul, Tsushima Island, Japan. Courtesy of Herman Mays

**Location:** Miami  
Whitewater Wetlands  
(Shaker Trace)

**Date:** Saturday, Oct 13

**Meet:** 8 a.m. at the  
Baughman Rd. parking lot  
(see directions below)

**Leader:** Ned Keller  
(513) 941-6497  
nedkeller49@gmail.com

Late migrant passerines, late shorebirds, early waterfowl, raptors and early winter visitors are all possible on this trip to one of our areas finest wetlands, the Shaker Trace at Miami Whitewater Forest. The focus of this trip however will be on sparrows. While most neo-tropical migrants move through during September, the month of October sees the bulk of the sparrow passage. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, an otherwise extremely rare migrant through our area, has become an annual and regular migrant at the wetlands, and is seen fairly often here during the month of October.

We have a good chance of finding one or two. Lincoln's Sparrow is also expected at this time of the year and many of the winter sparrows should be in by then. A long shot, but the right habitat and the right time of the year, would be LeConte's Sparrow. We can expect some surprises and a mixed bag on this trip. The weather could prove to be the star of this trip as mid-October has typically cool, crisp autumn days. Fall

colors will be abundant and make a picturesque backdrop to what should be a great trip.

The trip will consist of level, moderate walking. However the trails through the wetlands are not paved and can be damp and muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. This trip should end around noon. If time permits, Ned may make a quick visit to nearby Fernald Preserve. There are no restroom facilities at the Miami Whitewater wetlands, but they are available nearby in the main park area and at Fernald Preserve. A Hamilton County Park pass is required (\$3.00 daily, \$10.00 annual) at Miami Whitewater for each vehicle.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the wetlands parking area on Baughman Road. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit # 3, and turn right. Continue past West Rd, and stay on Dry Fork until it ends. Turn right onto New Haven Road. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Oxford Road, and then immediately left again onto Baughman Road. The dirt parking area is on the right side of the road, just past the bike trail crossing. Contact Ned to answer any of your questions.

Directions to Miami Whitewater as well as maps and other information can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest.html>

For information about Fernald Preserve go to:  
[http://www.lm.doe.gov/Fernald/Visitors\\_Center/Visitors\\_Center.pdf](http://www.lm.doe.gov/Fernald/Visitors_Center/Visitors_Center.pdf)

# Local Calendar

## Audubon Society of Ohio

**Date:** Monday, Sept 17

**Program:** *Birding the Ice Truckers Highway*

**Date:** Monday, Oct 15

**Program:** *The Red Wolf Sanctuary*

**See [cincinnati.audubon.org](http://cincinnati.audubon.org) for additional details.**

## ASO Bird Course

**Date:**

Sunday, Sept 23 & 30,  
Oct 7

Join us on three consecutive Sunday mornings, when ASO will again offer the popular Bird Course. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. at Audubon House and consist of a classroom session of lecture and slide presentation on identifying bird species that can be expected to be seen in the tristate, and followed by observations in the field, ending about 1:00 p.m.

Our popular instructors will be Paul Wharton and Jay Stenger. They are skilled, friendly, eager and willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for enjoying birds.

You must register in advance for this course as it will be limited to 20 participants. Registration for the course is a bargain \$25 for ASO members and \$40 for nonmembers, which will include a membership in ASO. To be registered, please send your check, payable to ASO, and mail to ASO Bird Course, Audubon House, 3398 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati Ohio 45239. Call 741-SWAN if you have any questions. Please register by September 14th to assist us in planning and preparing the class info packets.

Binoculars are required. We have some available for loan that can be reserved for use in the class. Please call to reserve a pair if you need one. A field guide will be useful to refer to in class and in the field. A light breakfast will be available prior to the start of each class, but you should bring a snack and drink along for the field trip. Dressing in layers works well, and we will go into the field unless there is torrential rain or stormy conditions, so dress accordingly. There is parking at Audubon House and on nearby side streets, and we encourage carpooling if possible.

Come and enjoy learning in an informal, non-threatening setting. You are welcome to come by yourself or bring a friend or two or another family member. Teens are encouraged and welcome if coming with an adult. (We will give priority to those who have not taken the course before, however if the class is not full by September 14th and you have taken the class previously call 513-204-5775 to check about registering or to reserve binoculars.) We hope you will consider this opportunity and come ready to have a great time learning more about birds and adding to your enjoyment of them.

## Cincinnati Nature Center

### Field Trips

September 8	Bill Stanley
September 22	Steve Bobonick
October 13	Lester Peyton (AT LBFT)
October 27	Darlana Graham
November 10	Lester Peyton (AT LBFT)
November 22	Lois Shadix

## Oxbow, Inc.

**Date:** Saturday, Sept 8,  
10 a.m.

**Field Trip:** *Oxbow Butterfly Walk*

**Date:** Tuesday, Sept 11,  
7:30 p.m.

**Program:** *Presentation on Ivory-billed Woodpecker*



Photo courtesy Lana Hays

# CBC Field Trip Notes

## 2012--2013 Season

*(Contributed by Jay Stenger, Field Trip Coordinator)*

As you know the CBC season runs from September through May, with a 3-month layoff during the summer. With the exception of December, there will be at least one and as many as three field trips scheduled each month. That's approximately 16 field trips not counting the Christmas Bird Counts. During December the CBC sponsors several area Christmas Bird Counts (Cincinnati, Western Hamilton County, The Ohio River and East Fork) and encourages participation on other area Christmas and winter counts like the Hamilton-Fairfield CBC and the Hamilton County Parks winter count to name a few, so we don't schedule additional field trips during that month. In addition we occasionally plan overnight weekend trips and may have a couple of surprises for this coming season.

Much thought is put into selecting the locations and timing of our trips. The CBC goal is to offer a diverse number of field trips that take advantage of the peak migration periods for certain birds, which in turn gives us the best opportunity to find the maximum diversity of species over the course of the season. Other factors are also considered. We try to keep a balance between east side and west side locations and in-town (I-275 belt-way) trips versus longer, more distant trips. Consideration is also given to the aesthetic appeal of different sites and Saturdays versus Sundays. We try to keep a blend between new locations and the tried and true locations, and

sometimes recycle old locations that haven't been visited in a while. Unfortunately we can't visit every spot. Take the month of May for example, when almost anywhere is great. There are over a hundred area spots to choose from that would be great during that month, but were limited to two, maybe three choices.

It is also a consensus opinion that more scheduled field trips are better than less. It gives membership more options and flexibility in making plans. As long as the trip leader is willing to go, there is no harm done if any particular trip is poorly attended. Some of the best birding I have had has been on small field trips.

While all of these things are considered, the bottom line is we try to choose a location that is going to produce birds. I haven't ever done it, but I have often considered keeping an annual list of birds seen on CBC field trips. Maybe we can try to do it this year. I imagine the list would be pretty impressive. My guess is at least 220 species annually, maybe even more. What's your guess?

If you haven't ever been on a field trip, you should give it a try. I highly recommend them. I have been on hundreds of field trips and I can't remember a really bad time, yet I have many great memories. You meet some really good people too.

Below are some bits of advice and protocol to make your field trip experience enjoyable, fun and trouble free in no particular order of importance. Old hands already know all of this but it might be of interest to some.

- 1) Feel free to contact the field trip leader prior to the trip if you have any

questions or would like additional information.

2) Inclement weather usually will not cancel field trips. Hazardous weather and driving conditions probably will cancel a field trip. Use common sense and if you're in doubt call the trip leader. Remember, there is no pre-registration on the great majority of trips, so the leaders do not know who to expect to show up and this is one reason we cancel very few trips.

3) Birders of all experience levels are encouraged to participate on field trips. Don't be intimidated if you're a beginner. We all started there. Birding in a group is an excellent way to enhance your skills. There are usually several experienced birders on these trips who are more than willing to answer your questions (some even correctly).

4) Non-CBC members are encouraged to participate on our field trips. Bring a friend or family member.

5) Always arrive at the meeting location on time and with enough gas for the trip.

6) If you have a scope, bring it. You never know when it will come in handy. If you don't have a scope, don't let it stop you from coming. Birders are usually happy to share their scopes with others. Do bring binoculars.

7) Always bring food and plenty to drink regardless of the duration of the trip. Don't expect to have a picnic; birders almost never want to waste time at a picnic table when they can eat in between birding stops.

8) Dress appropriately. No matter how nice a day you think it's going to be,

it doesn't hurt to have something extra to wear when you're proved wrong.

Dressing in layers is probably best. You can add or remove layers to suit your own comfort. If they say it will be 70 degrees and sunny, prepare for 45 degrees and rain. Forecast says 28 degrees and sleet, prepare for minus 10 and a foot of snow. If you don't need the extra clothing, great. Take it off. Don't wear it. But trust me, there will be a day when you will be glad you brought that extra stuff.

9) Comfortable, waterproof shoes are the difference between happiness and insanity.

10) A field guide is always useful.

11) Special gear can save a day out birding. Some useful items to consider having on a field trip are; rain gear, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid kit, Triple A membership, cell phone (see below) and fix-a-flat tire inflators.

12) Cell phones can be very handy in case of an emergency and a convenient way to stay in touch in a caravan. Exchange your numbers with the leader at the beginning of the trip.

13) Caravanning is different from car-pooling. Caravanning just means that we will travel to and from our destinations as a group in separate cars similar to a procession. If you are a driver, familiarize yourself with the general area beforehand by looking at a map. Field trip leaders will drive at the speed limit. They will not go under the speed limit just because they are caravanning. As a driver, you owe it to the others behind you to keep up with the flow of traffic

14) Car-pooling is encouraged but not mandatory. Car-pooling saves gas and

makes sense in many cases. But how long one can stay, and which routes the driver will go home by, are only a couple of limiting factors to car-pooling.

15) Leaders are aware of the needs for restroom breaks and do their best to plan stops along the way. Many places we visit however have limited facilities and some have none. If nature calls it is perfectly acceptable to find a private spot and take care of business.

16) Feel free to leave a field trip at any point. Don't stay home because you can't stay for the duration of a trip. Two or three hours of birding is better than not birding at all.

17) Field trips are fun and social affairs. Talking is expected. On the other hand excessive talking and noise when you're on birds or listening to their songs can be a distraction. Use common sense and courtesy when in doubt.

18) Your suggestions, opinions and ideas concerning field trips are welcome. Please feel free to contact me, Jay Stenger, on these issues at any time.

# Essay

## The Sound of a Damaged Habitat

*(By Bernie Krause, published in the New York Times, 28 July 2012. Reprinted with permission.)*

Years ago, when selective logging was first introduced, a community near an old-growth forest in the Sierra Nevada was assured that the removal of a few trees here and there would have no impact on the area's wildlife. Based on the logging company's guarantees, the local residents agreed to the operation. I was skeptical, however, and requested permission to record the sounds of the habitat before and after the logging.

On June 21, 1988, I recorded a rich dawn chorus in California's pristine Lincoln Meadow. It was a biome replete with the voices of Lincoln's sparrows, MacGillivray's warblers, Williamson's sapsuckers, pileated woodpeckers, golden-crowned kinglets, robins and grosbeaks, as well as squirrels, spring peepers and numerous insects. I captured them all.

When I returned a year later, nothing appeared to have changed at first glance. No stumps or debris — just conifers and lush understory. But to the ear — and to the recorder — the difference was shocking. I've returned 15 times since then, and even years later, the density and diversity of voices are still lost. There is a muted hush, broken only by the sound of an occasional sparrow, raptor, raven or sapsucker. The numinous richness of the original biophony is gone.

Lesson: While a picture may be worth a

thousand words, a soundscape is worth a thousand pictures.

A soundscape contains three basic sources: the geophony, which includes all nonbiological natural sounds like wind or ocean waves; the biophony, which embraces the biological, wild, nonhuman sounds that emanate from environments; and the anthrophony — man-made sounds, commonly referred to as noise.

Soundscapes reveal many stories about the world's habitats, illuminating the vital signs of life at one end of the spectrum and the effects of human noise at the other. In fit habitats, the biophony shows cohesion between all of its acoustic sources. In other words, the mating and territorial calls essential to each species' survival don't get masked or drowned out by competing sounds. Insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals establish their own "bandwidth niches," which can be expressed as frequency (from the lowest to the highest sounds) and temporally (as when one creature vocalizes, followed by another, like exchanges between the chestnut-winged babbler and the Malaysian eared nightjar calling for mates in Borneo).

Graphic displays called spectrograms are used to illustrate the organization of those sounds, with each creature's voice showing a distinctive place in the chorus — an arrangement so precise that it often resembles a musical score. To the trained ear, those expressions are experienced much like instruments in an orchestra.

What happens when this orchestra is disrupted by the anthrophony: chain saws, leaf blowers or highway traffic? If an indiscriminate sound like a loud motorcycle competes with the stridulation

of an insect, the croak of a frog or the song of a bird, the affected animal may no longer be able to send its signal to mates or competitors. The voices of creatures in the choir may be drowned out. And mates and competitors will no longer be able to hear them. The integrity of the biophony is compromised.

(Some of those effects you can't hear. A 2001 study of elk and wolves in national parks found that snowmobile noise raised the levels of stress hormones in their feces and that the levels returned to normal concentrations when the intrusive din was absent.)

Anything that destroys habitat — mining, pollution, deforestation and global warming — disrupts the biosphere. Mining reminds me of Aldo Leopold's sage warning that if you're going to tinker with nature, you'd better keep all the parts. In Northern California, where my wife and I live, spring occurs — according to my records — nearly two weeks earlier than it did 20 years ago. As the climate has warmed, we hear fewer Pacific tree frogs croaking in late winter and fewer birds in spring — likely because of shifts in food sources.

Too little research has been done in the field of biophonics, and my personal recordings are neither comprehensive nor the results of controlled experiments. But the differences between healthy and damaged soundscapes are clear to anyone who pays attention.

If you listen to a damaged soundscape — an expression of infirmity or extinction — the sense of desolation extends far beyond mere silence. The community has been altered, and organisms have been destroyed, lost their habitat or been left to re-establish their places in the

spectrum. As a result, some voices are gone entirely, while others aggressively compete to establish a new place in the increasingly disjointed chorus. In the damaged forests of Washington State and California in the summer, I have heard white-crowned sparrows learning new syntax, adjusting their voices to accommodate for the acoustic shifts in the biophony.

Still, it is from the intact creature choruses that the story of our relationship to the natural world is revealed. We dismiss the loss of those narratives at our peril. Listen. The ear never lies.

The poet Robert Hass cautioned in his poem "After Goethe": "The birds are silent in the woods./Just wait: Soon enough/You will be quiet too."

Bernie Krause is a musician, naturalist and the author of "The Great Animal Orchestra."

# Commentary

*(From “Bird Calls,” newsletter of the American Bird Conservancy, Vol. 11, No 3, June 2012. Reprinted with permission.)*

## Environmental Regulation: Choosing the Right Path

In 1969, *Time* Magazine captured the world’s attention with a report on a shocking environmental disaster. Toxic waste in Ohio’s Cuyahoga River had reached such high levels that the river actually caught fire. This and other widely publicized environmental catastrophes, such as the impact of DDT on birds, led to change in the form of new federal environmental regulations and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Today, environmental regulations impact almost every facet of life in America; from big industry to small business to individual citizens in their own homes. While there is still much more to be done, the results speak for themselves: fewer children are at risk from lead in our paint and pipes; trout and other aquatic animals have returned to many streams that were once dead zones; and DDT no longer threatens birds such as Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Brown Pelicans.

Despite these advances, there has been ongoing opposition to federal involvement in environmental regulation, accompanied by efforts to gut or scrap many laws. Recently, anti-environmental sentiment has swayed some key decisions: in the first three months of 2012, the Department of the Interior handed the wind power industry the gift

of voluntary guidelines for their developments rather than imposing mandatory standards, and proposed easing logging restrictions in Northern Spotted Owl habitat; a bill was passed by the House of Representatives to strip the EPA of its ability to regulate lead in gun ammunition; and most recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed issuing 30-year take permits to kill Bald and Golden Eagles instead of the current five-year permits.

These moves have been paralleled by private industry efforts to contest federal regulatory decisions that would have seemed untouchable a decade ago. FMC Corporation became the first company to ever fight an EPA decision to cancel a pesticide (carbofuran, perhaps the most toxic bird-killer on the market), resulting in six years of legal battles to get the product off the market—while FMC continued to sell it. Reckitt Benckiser, manufacturer of numerous household brands from Woolite and Lysol to French’s Mustard, has now followed FMC’s lead and refused to abide by an EPA order to change the packaging and distribution of its rat poison d-CON to protect wildlife, children, and pets.

It is not surprising that a for-profit company will do whatever it can to avoid being regulated. Regulations cost companies money, which displeases owners and shareholders. We cannot assume that industry will do the right thing for birds, the environment, or even human health. If the laws that keep industrial pollution from flowing unchecked into the Cuyahoga were scrapped, how long would it take before the river caught fire again?

Since the cost of regulation is passed on to the consumer, we cannot leave the

business of safeguarding the environment to market forces, either. Most of us fail to see the larger environmental picture when faced with our weekly grocery bill or the cost of that new television set. This leaves government regulation as the best way to maintain meaningful environmental safeguards.

For example, we need to strengthen our pesticide laws and switch from a regulatory system that forces us to discover whether or not chemicals are harmful to wildlife after they are already licensed to one that demands chemical companies prove that their products are not detrimental to wildlife before they are allowed on the market. We need to consider the environmental impact of wind power as part of its true cost and regulate it accordingly before we declare it a green source of energy and allow its unfettered expansion. We need to consider the impact of old-growth forest policy on Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets, not just on the forest industry's bottom line. And we need to prevent attempts to weaken existing laws such as the Endangered Species Act and Toxic Substances Control Act in favor of big business or other groups.

All too often, the environmental debate is framed as a choice between the environment and the economy. In the long run, this is a false dichotomy. In the words of Senator Gaylord Nelson, principal founder of Earth Day, "The economy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the environment." There is no path to economic sustainability that sacrifices clean air, clean water, and protection for wildlife.

If we are to keep our natural places unspoiled for birds, other wildlife, and our children, keep our air clean and

breathable, and prevent our rivers from catching fire again, we are going to have to accept that federal environmental regulation is necessary and beneficial. For some, that may mean a U-turn in their thinking and their policies, but as C.S. Lewis said, "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive."

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)(3), not-for profit organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. Visit them at: <http://www.abcbirds.org>

Be sure to tune in to or set your DVR to record ABC News' 20/20 this Friday September 7, 2012 at 9pm EST to catch ABC President Dr. George Fenwick. Dr. Fenwick will appear in a segment about domestic cat predation on birds and other wildlife.

The program was prompted by an August American Bird Conservancy news release on a University of Georgia and National Geographic study of house cats that were allowed to roam outdoors. The activities of the cats were recorded using small video cameras attached to the cats' collars, leading to some startling results. The issue has recently been covered by almost 100 newspapers nationwide as well as by CNN, CBS and USA Today. Members of that study team will also appear on Friday's program.



Specimens collected by Herman Mays on Tsushima Island, Japan. Photo courtesy of Herman Mays.



## The Passenger Pigeon

### Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Cincinnati Bird Club  
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**Park VIP: Jay Lehman**

2012-2013 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September  
2012 - May 2013 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>

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## Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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