



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

# THE PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 9

DECEMBER 2014

## 115TH NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Traditionally the December meeting and field trips are replaced by the local National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts. Below are details for the local counts. We encourage all to get out and participate in as many counts as you have time to do.

### Ohio River "Oxbow" Christmas Bird Count (27<sup>th</sup> Annual)

Sunday, December 14,  
2014

Compiler: Jack Stenger  
(513) 503-3389 [jack-stenger@gmail.com](mailto:jack-stenger@gmail.com)

### Hamilton-Fairfield Christmas Bird Count (Since 1919)

Saturday, December 20,  
2014

Compiler: Mike Busam  
(513) 755-0057 [mbusam@gmail.com](mailto:mbusam@gmail.com)

### Western Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count (48<sup>th</sup> Annual)

Sunday, December 21,  
2014

Compiler: Ned Keller (513)  
349-3369 [nedkeller49@gmail.com](mailto:nedkeller49@gmail.com)

### Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count (67<sup>th</sup> Annual)

Sunday, December 28,  
2014

Compilers: Jay Stenger  
(513) 522-8147 [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

Jack Stenger (513) 503-  
3389 [jack-stenger@gmail.com](mailto:jack-stenger@gmail.com)

### East Fork Christmas Bird Count (31<sup>st</sup> Annual)

Saturday, January 3,  
2015

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

For more information about  
Audubon Society Christmas  
Bird Counts visit the [web-site](http://web-site).

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Christmas Bird Counts*
- *Ebirding Christmas Bird Counts*
- *Bird Quiz*

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## TEMPORARY EDITOR

It's an awful thing when your job gets in the way of your birding activities, but this has happened to Harris. For the next two months Harris's job will be very demanding and not allow him enough time to create

the wonderful newsletters that he produces for the Cincinnati Bird Club. While Harris is away for December and January, I'll be producing the newsletter. If you have any submissions, suggestions or other

comments contact Bill Stanley at [tyranus58@gmail.com](mailto:tyranus58@gmail.com).

By the way, we are always looking for photos and articles for your Passenger Pigeon.

## EBIRD AND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Every year more than 50,000 volunteers collect data in count circles for the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts. The volunteers, including many Cincinnati Bird Club members, survey birds in count circles in North America, Central America, parts of South America, the Caribbean, the Hawaiian Islands and a few other regions. This data has been collected continuously since 1900 and has created a fantastic store of information about bird populations around Christmas time. National Audubon Society compiles this data and maintains the database, so the question is, should I enter my Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data in **ebird** (the database maintained by Cornell University)?

The people at **ebird** encourage CBC participants to enter their data in the **ebird** database because CBC is compatible with the data that birders all over the world collect and submit to **ebird**. I have entered my CBC data in **ebird** for several years now and here is what I do.

First, most count circles are broken down into sectors and different groups cover each sector. I choose a point in the middle of the sector I am covering and make it an **ebird** "Personal Location". From the time I enter the sector I start a gps that records my total mileage walking and driving. As I count birds through the day I add them to the **ebird** list using an app on my smart phone called **Bird Log**. When the day is done I calculate the total time birding and enter it with the total mileage using the list generated in "Bird Log" and then submit the list to **ebird**. I use the comments area in the **ebird** checklist to note things like walking and driving mileage, observers and other pertinent information. If you don't have a smart phone or the **Bird Log** app, you can

keep track of your sightings and enter them through the **ebird** web site when you are finished for the day.

Many times I will do a different sector in the afternoon than I do in the morning. In this case I will submit a separate list for each sector. If we meet for lunch in an area out of a sector that I am counting, I'll not include the time, mileage or birds seen on the **ebird** checklist. Remember that if the lunch location is within the count circle, the birds seen there should be submitted to the count compiler. Many times I have forwarded my **ebird** list for a sector to the compiler as my submission for that sector.

A few things to be aware of:

- If you are running a gps app on your smart phone to keep track of your mileage, you need to keep a close eye on your phone battery. The gps apps use a lot of power and will drain your battery much quicker than usual.
- If you are using **Bird Log** to enter your data, it will limit the number of miles that you can enter. Frequently I go over that limit. If this happens, enter a number in the mileage field, submit the list and when you get to a computer you can edit your submitted list on the **ebird** web site and enter the actual mileage. Your CBC mileage will almost certainly be greater than the 5 miles that **ebird** suggests as a limit. However, the increased mileage is acceptable in the case of a CBC sector.
- If you survey the same sector in different years use the same personal location that you used in the past.

Information about the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts can

be found here:

<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

Information about ebirding your National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count data can be found here: <http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/1010523>

Here is an example of an **ebird** list that I submitted for a count sector. <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S15966594>.

Have fun and enjoy the Christmas Bird Counts.

*~Bill Stanley Field Trip Coordinator*

## Community Calendar

- 13... CNC Bird Walk
- 14... Adams County CBC
- 14... Ohio River CBC
- 18... Caesar Creek/Spring Valley CBC
- 20... Hamilton-Fairfield CBC
- 21... Western Hamilton County CBC
- 28... Cincinnati CBC
- January 3, 2015 East Fork CBC

## Other Events

- December 13, 2014 at 8:00am  
Cincinnati Nature Center Saturday Bird Walk. Leader: Lois Shadix
- December 14, 2014  
Adams County Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Contact Mark Zloba at [coa@hughes.net](mailto:coa@hughes.net)
- December 18, 2014 Caesar Creek/Spring Valley Audubon Christmas Bird Count. For information call 513 897-1050 or email

[Rebecca.A.Elefante@usace.army.mil](mailto:Rebecca.A.Elefante@usace.army.mil)

## DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



**Sandhill Cranes seen at Lost Bridge on a Cincinnati Bird Club outing. The trip led by Brian Wulker started at Fernald Preserve, moved to various locations along the Great Miami River and ended up at Lost Bridge. Lists of the birds seen on the trips from locations covered can be found on the web here:**

[Fernald Preserve](#)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20638564>

[Ross Gravel Pit](#)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20638565>

[Gravel Pit Across From Stricker's Grove](#)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20638567>

[Kirby Rd Gravel Pits](#)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20638569>

[Lost Bridge](#)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20638570>



Northern Goshawk photo by Sean Williams

## NOVEMBER'S QUIZ

November's quiz bird is a raptor in flight, I hope heading towards Cincinnati where it is a rare find. At first, the long tail and streaked underparts may suggest an immature Cooper's Hawk, but the hulking structure of the bird says otherwise. Although size is impossible to tell from this picture, this hawk's girthy chest, bulging secondaries, and thick tail-base all point to

the largest *Accipiter*. This can be confirmed by the distinct, white eye-line that widens behind the eye and the streaks on the underparts, which extend all the way to the undertail coverts. On an immature Cooper's the streaks cease midway down the underparts and the eye-line is narrow and gets narrower behind the eye. **Sean Williams** took this picture of an

immature Northern Goshawk at Whitefish Point, Michigan on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to Joe Bens, Kathi Hutton, Bill Stanley, and Jay Stenger for their correct responses.

~Jack Stenger  
Program Chair



## DECEMBER'S QUIZ

**Rules:** Anybody is welcome and all are encouraged to participate. However, only paying members (it's only \$12 per year) are eligible for prizes and unadulterated bragging rights. To participate send your answers to me ([jackstenger@gmail.com](mailto:jackstenger@gmail.com)) by 25 December.

All responses must be the official common English names used by the American Ornithologists' Union check-list ([Link](#)). This means they must be correctly spelled, capitalized, and hyphenated or else they are counted as wrong. Mind your plovers and quails. Also include any comments you have

about the quiz bird, such as how you arrived at your ID, or how you felt about the picture. Venting is welcome. Any bird that is on the state list for Ohio, Indiana, or Kentucky is fair game. Whoever has the highest number of correct answers by the end of the Bird Club season (May) "wins." Any public discussion of quiz birds will result in a trap door opening up beneath the violator.

**Prize:** To be determined.

**Answers:** I will post the answer with a brief analysis in the next Bird Club newsletter. This will include a list of all those who

guessed correctly. Don't worry, wrong guesses will not be published, so fire away: it's better to get a CBC quiz wrong than to have never participated. I think Alexander Wilson said that.

~Jack Stenger  
Program Chair





## CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB](#)

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## Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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](mailto:lcshadix@fuse.net)), 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244

**2014-2015 DUES:**

IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT  
IN YOUR DUES YET  
FOR THE SEPTEMBER  
2014 - MAY 2015  
BIRDING SEASON,  
PLEASE FILL OUT THE  
FORM AND MAIL IT IN  
ALONG WITH YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP FEES