



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 7 OCTOBER 2016

PROGRAM: OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG BIRDERS TODAY

Speaker: Ethan Rising
 Date: Thursday, Oct 20, 2016
 Join the Cincinnati Bird Club for our October meeting, where local young birder Ethan Rising will be talking to us about some of the many opportunities available to teen and young birders. He will cover a few of his experiences with these programs like ABA Camp Colorado for young birders and sev-

eral others across the country. It is rather amazing how many of these programs have popped up recently and many weren't around even 10 years ago. Ethan is a skilled birder and photographer in our area who you may remember from recent birthathons, or local field trips he's helped lead. Both he and his mom Liz have been active in leading the Southwest Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club. Ethan and

Liz were also recently interviewed by WCPO talking about birding, and the OYBC during the Great Outdoor Weekend during the OYBC big sit in September which you can see here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=34&v=KlxM2HhBRiY

~Brian Walker
Programs

FIELD TRIP: OTTO ARMLEDER PARK

Date: Saturday, October 8
 Time: 8:00 am to noon
 Trip Leader: Jay Lehman
 Phone: 513-668-3006
 Email: leman.jg64@gmail.com
 WHERE: [OTTO ARMLEDER PARK](#)

for the pavilion directly ahead (east) of the main entrance road into Armleder Park for a morning search for migrants, warblers, and sparrows--while, of course, keeping eyes to the sky for migrating and local hawks. It's been a rather hot fall so far, and with things finally cooling

down here as we write this newsletter in late-September, it's quite possible that the first week or two of October will hold some nice bird surprises. At least we hope so! As accessibility goes, Armleder is a good place to see a few birds without much

(Continued on page 2)

Meet Jay at the parking lot



FACEBOOK

The Cincinnati Bird Club is now on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cincinnatibirdclub>

www.facebook.com/cincinnatibirdclub Like our page and follow it for information about upcoming meetings,

field trips and other bird club information.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Meeting
- Field Trips
- Field Trip Notes
- Quiz Bird
- Yard Birds

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difficulty. There are some paved walking trails at Armleder, but also a few rough and unimproved trails. Portions of the field trip will probably take place on both paved and unpaved trails. Join Jay for what should be an interesting morning of birding at Armleder Park.

About our trip leader: To call Jay Lehman an avid birder is an understatement! A former North American Big

Year participant, currently Jay is on a quest to see 300 species in Ohio in a single year. (300 species is considered a benchmark for an Ohio life list. Achieving that in a single year takes some effort). As of September 27, Jay was at 291 species for 2016, after seeing a Harris's Sparrow at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory office in Ottawa County. Jay is past president of the Cincinnati Bird Club, and is a current member of the Ohio Bird Records Committee. He has a thorough knowledge of bird identification and distribu-

tion in our area as well as North America.

More information about the park can be found here: [Armleder](#)
An ebird list for Armleder is here: [Armleder Park](#) and [Armleder Park--Little Miami River Canoe Access](#)

~Mike Busam
Field Trips

FIELD TRIP: HIGHLAND COUNTY GRAVEL PITS AND ROCKY FORK STATE PARK

Date: Saturday October 29, 2016

Time: 8:00am

Leader: Bill Stanley

Phone: 513-324-2796

Email: tyrannus58@gmail.com

Where: Meet at the Marathon gas station in Fayetteville, Ohio.

On Saturday, October 29 at 8:00am we will meet in the parking lot of the Marathon Gas Station in Fayetteville, Ohio. From Fayetteville we will move on to the Old Highland Stone Gravel Pits near Hillsboro, Ohio. The Old Highland Stone Gravel Pits are a hidden birding gem. In the winter the pits host many ducks and geese as well as Sandhill Cranes. Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles are common and the pits are home to quite a few other raptors. In late October, waterfowl should be arriving and possibly Sandhill Cranes too. A list of species logged at the gravel pits in ebird can be seen

here: [Highland Gravel Pits](#)

From the gravel pits we will continue on to Rocky Fork State Park. At Rocky Fork we will look for waterfowl and raptors, but we will also be in habitat that we may find late songbirds or early migrants from the north. Species logged at Rocky Fork SP on ebird can be found here: [Rocky Fork State Park](#) and the [Rocky Fork State Park Campground](#).

If time permits on the way back home we will stop at Indian Creek Wildlife Area to look for songbirds and waterbirds.

Directions:
From I-275 at the Milford Parkway/US 50 Exit

59, take US 50 east for about 20 miles to the intersection of US 68 in Fayetteville, Ohio. The Marathon Station is located on the NW corner. Meet in the Parking Lot but park away from the front doors if possible. Note: Restrooms are available at the gas station in Fayetteville. The next restrooms are on Rt. 50 just before we arrive at the gravel pits. The meeting place can be found on Google Maps. [Marathon Gas](#)

~Bill Stanley



Le Conte's Sparrow. Photo taken at the Highland Gravel Pits on November 7, 2015 by Bill Stanley

FIELD TRIP NOTES: EAST FORK STATE PARK

On September 10, Donald Morris led the bird club on a birding trip to East Fork State Park. The South Beach at Harsh Lake has been attracting lots of interesting birds lately and starting there on Saturday was well worth it. The highlights for the beach included a very cooperative Ruddy Turnstone, and a Black Tern, not to mention the Bald Eagles and Ospreys that kept flying by. After a very good morning at the beach, Donald took us up along the road past the Prairie Trail. As we walked along the road we found a Broad-winged Hawk, Cliff Swallows, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and lots of warblers including Black-and-white, Tennessee, American Redstart, Cape May, Magnolia, and Blackburnian. Donald showed the Cincinnati Bird Club a great day in the park.

Here is what we saw:

ebird lists: [East Fork State Park-South Beach](#) and [East Fork State Park--South Side](#)

Number of Species: 61
 Species Name, High Count
 Blue-winged Teal, 25
 Double-crested Cormorant, 15
 Great Blue Heron, 1

Black Vulture, 1
 Turkey Vulture, 5
 Osprey, 2
 Bald Eagle, 1
 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1
 Broad-winged Hawk, 1
 Killdeer, 60
 Ruddy Turnstone, 1
 Least Sandpiper, 1
 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1
 Ring-billed Gull, 163
 Black Tern, 1
 Mourning Dove, 6
 Chimney Swift, 6
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5
 Belted Kingfisher, 1
 Red-headed Woodpecker, 3
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3
 Downy Woodpecker, 2
 Hairy Woodpecker, 1
 Northern Flicker, 2
 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 3
 Least Flycatcher, 1
 Eastern Phoebe, 2
 Great Crested Flycatcher, 1
 Eastern Kingbird, 2
 White-eyed Vireo, 2
 Warbling Vireo, 3
 Red-eyed Vireo, 4
 Blue Jay, 5
 American Crow, 5

Barn Swallow, 5
 Cliff Swallow, 3
 swallow sp., 2
 Carolina Chickadee, 3
 Tufted Titmouse, 6
 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2
 Carolina Wren, 3
 Eastern Bluebird, 12
 Swainson's Thrush, 1
 American Robin, 12
 Gray Catbird, 2
 Brown Thrasher, 1
 Northern Mockingbird, 1
 European Starling, 15
 Cedar Waxwing, 15
 Black-and-white Warbler, 2
 Tennessee Warbler, 2
 American Redstart, 1
 Cape May Warbler, 1
 Magnolia Warbler, 1
 Blackburnian Warbler, 2
 Field Sparrow, 1
 Eastern Towhee, 4
 Northern Cardinal, 10
 Red-winged Blackbird, 1
 House Finch, 1
 American Goldfinch, 5



Black Tern at East Fork State Park
 Photo by Bill Stanley



Ruddy Turnstone feeding.
 Photo by Bill Stanley

FIELD TRIP NOTES: BROOKVILLE LAKE REGION

On September 24 Jay and Jack Stenger led the Bird Club and Audubon Society on the annual trip to the Brookville Lake Region. We started the day with several Red-breasted Nuthatches allowing the group good views. Vultures were on the move and we saw great numbers of Double-crested Cormorants. Brookville is always a good place to see Bald Eagles and Ospreys and we saw them throughout the day. Warblers were also active in migration including Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated and Black-throated Green. A lone Tree Swallow flew over and an Eastern Screech-Owl called for us to hear. The Bird Club and Audubon Society members had a great day birding Brookville. Thanks Jay and Jack for leading this trip.

ebird lists:

[Brookville Lake--Dam](#)
[Mounds State Recreation Area](#)
[Whitewater Memorial SP](#)
[Liberty, 101 W Campbell St,](#)
[Brookville Lake--Treaty Line Rd](#)
[Mudflats](#)
[US-Indiana-Liberty-1775-2263 South](#)
[Mount Pleasant Road](#)
[Brookville Lake--Quakertown Marina](#)

Number of Species: 57

Species Name,High Count

Canada Goose,152

Wood Duck,7

Mallard,6

Double-crested Cormorant,157

Great Blue Heron,11

Great Egret,15

Black Vulture,20

Turkey Vulture,50

Osprey,2

Bald Eagle,3

Red-shouldered Hawk,2

Red-tailed Hawk,1

American Coot,2

Killdeer,50

Ring-billed Gull,91

Rock Pigeon,1

Mourning Dove,5

Eastern Screech-Owl,1

Chimney Swift,30

Belted Kingfisher,3

Red-bellied Woodpecker,2

Downy Woodpecker,3

Hairy Woodpecker,1

Northern Flicker,3

Pileated Woodpecker,1

Eastern Wood-Pewee,1

Eastern Phoebe,1

Red-eyed Vireo,1

Blue Jay,122

American Crow,6

Horned Lark,6

Tree Swallow,1

Carolina Chickadee,6

Tufted Titmouse,3

Red-breasted Nuthatch,3

White-breasted Nuthatch,1

Carolina Wren,5

Eastern Bluebird,1

Swainson's Thrush,1

American Robin,4

Gray Catbird,1

Brown Thrasher,1

European Starling,3

Cedar Waxwing,40

Tennessee Warbler,2

Nashville Warbler,1

Magnolia Warbler,1

Blackburnian Warbler,1

Yellow-rumped Warbler,1

Yellow-throated Warbler,1

Black-throated Green Warbler,3

Chipping Sparrow,2

Eastern Towhee,1

Northern Cardinal,3

Rose-breasted Grosbeak,2

American Goldfinch,5

House Sparrow,50



Red-breasted Nuthatch on Brookville Trip.

Photo by Bill Hutchison

Birding Calendar

- October 1...Field Trip. [Oxbow Inc.](#)
- October 8...Field Trip. Otto Armleder Park.
- October 8...Cincinnati Nature Center Bird Walk. [CNC](#)
- October 8...Kayak Birding Trip.
- October 15...Field Trip Audubon Society of Ohio Miami-
[Whitewater Wetlands](#)
- October 20...Program. Young Birders
- October 22...Cincinnati Nature Center Bird Walk. [CNC](#)
- October 23...Field Trip. [Oxbow Inc.](#)
- October 29...Field Trip. Highland Gravel and Rocky Fork.
- October 30...Raptor Inc. Open House

OCTOBER 2016

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					

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

We are looking for volunteers to bring refreshments to the meeting. Nothing fancy just cookies and juice. You will be reimbursed for the cost of the items you bring. Melinda and Irv Simon have volunteered to bring refreshments in November so we are looking for someone to bring them in Oc-

tober

If you are interested in bringing refreshments for October contact Bill Stanley

tyrannus58@gmail.com

(513)324-2796



Is this really East Fork SP? Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone at South Beach. Photo by Bill Stanley



Red Knot
Photo by Bill Stanley

MAY QUIZ BIRD ANSWER

May's quiz shrub is an evergreen with flattened needles. But that's boring so let's look at the tiny songbird obstructed by it. The thin bill we can't see clearly demonstrates that this is a warbler. We can confirm this by the tail pattern. The outer tail feathers have white spots, but only on the inner web, a trait that is shared by ~20 of our local warblers. The breast is dull and lightly streaked, fading to yellow

towards the throat. All warblers can be identified by their faces alone and Kathi Hutton concisely summarized this bird's face through a small gap in the yew: "rufous crown shows between the leaves, also the yellow supercillium and dark eye line." And that is all you need to identify this bird since no other warbler shows that pattern. I took this picture of a Palm Warbler in late April at Spring Grove Cemetery. Brandt

Schurenberg, Kathi Hutton, Bill Stanley, Joe Bens, and Jay Stenger were correct respondents.

~Jack Stenger
President



May Quiz Bird. Photo by Jack Stenger



September Quiz Bird. Photo by Jack Stenger

SEPTEMBER QUIZ BIRD ANSWER

Some birds are born quiz birds. September's bird is one of them.

The bird is clearly a diurnal raptor – largish with a hooked beak. It has long, pointy wings roughly extending to the tail tip. While size is difficult to judge from a picture, this bird clearly isn't going to snatch your Yorkie out of the backyard. It's about the width of the snag it's perched on. Since dead snags at the top of a tree are typically no wider than your forearm it's quite slight. Small raptors with pointy wings should lead us to falcons and kites, but we will keep our pointy-winged, pea-headed *Buteo* (Rough-legged Hawk) in consideration because Jack's unified theorem of snag-width is fickle.

The plumage is super-funky, which indicates that the bird is a juvenile. Both the lack of a "helmeted" appearance and the tail pattern, which is all dark except for white edging at the tip, can rule out our falcons. That leaves us with two birds that no birder will ever confuse except within the confines of this quiz, where it is surprisingly difficult to distinguish them: Mississippi Kite or Rough-legged Hawk!

Both of these species are hyper-variable as juveniles, so we will need to use a suite of characters to get a comfortable ID. The most diagnostic is that the tail is uniformly black on the dorsal surface, which rules out most raptors. Rough-leggeds of all phases should either have fine barring or a tail that turns white for the basal third. Second, the tips of the primaries are strongly edged in white. I haven't seen this mentioned as a field mark for Missis-

sippi Kites, but in pouring through images on-line it seems that all juveniles have it, and more so than other raptors. The clincher is the splotchy white marks on the back feathers, which are a feature of Juvenile Mississippi kites. Of course I didn't use any of this to actually identify these birds in the field! I took this picture on August 14th at Cherokee Park in Louisville, KY. Thanks to Brainard Palmer Ball for taking me right to these birds. The best field mark was the adult Mississippi Kite that was periodically feeding our quiz bird cicadas it caught with acrobatic stoops that would make a pewee blush. Congratulations to Joe Bens, the sole correct respondent for the September bird quiz. All other responses were for Rough-legged Hawk.

In a few years we should start to see juvenile Mississippi Kite's around Cincinnati since their range is slowly expanding northward. Let me offer a bet to any takers. I bet that Mississippi Kites will be breeding in Spring Grove Cemetery by 2018. Please send your wagers to Lois Shadix, Bird Club Treasurer and bookie.

When I talk to others about bird quizzes (not just this one) there seems to be a philosophical divide. Some think that participants should have as much information as possible, like supplemental information of date and location, or even just an unobstructed view of the bird. The words "not fair" come to mind. For anyone who follows this quiz, it's obvious that I disagree. I believe that the more diabolical the quiz the better. I will shamelessly pull any

cheap trick I can. If I could shake your computer monitor as you looked at the photo I would. But there is a reason for this. Before I wrote this quiz response, I did not know the plumage minutiae of juvenile Mississippi Kites and I was rustier than an antique garden tool on Rough-legged Hawk plumage. No longer. It's the journey, not the destination. Challenging quizzes force participants (including me) outside our comfort zone and force us to use subtle characteristics we are unfamiliar with, but are nonetheless quite useful.

~Jack Stenger
President

OCTOBER QUIZ BIRD RULES

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) by October 25.

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
President



October Quiz Bird. Good luck!

YARD BIRDS



Male Hummingbird RRI photo



Hummingbird RRI photo

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Bob and Linda Ireton's feeder.

Photos by Bob Ireton



Hummingbird Feeding RRI photo



Red-breasted Nuthatch at Bill Hutchison's Feeder. One of this fall's RBNU invasion.

Photo by Bill Hutchison

Your photos can appear in the Passenger Pigeon too. If you have bird photos that you want to share send them to the Passenger Pigeon Editor at tyrannus58@gmail.com

OCTOBER KAYAK BIRDING TRIP! (FREE)

See birds from the water at East Fork State Park

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2016, 8:00am till Noon (approx.)

East Fork State Park
(Campground Beach)

Address: 2837 Old State Route 32, Batavia, OH 45103

Sponsored by Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft

Contact: Jason Gantt (513) 734-2730 ext. 237 email: jasongantt@dnr.state.oh.us

If you have ever been interested in kayaking or birding this would be your opportunity to combine the two. Come out to East Fork State Park for a few hours of birding from a kayak. Skilled kayak instructors and birders will lead a tour of the lake as

fall migration is underway.

The trip lasts roughly four hours from 8:00am to noon. The Division of Watercraft will provide brief instructions on the kayaks and their operation as well as a brief overview of the birds we may see. The pace of the paddle is slow and relaxing.

***All trips are weather and water conditions permitting, and may run longer than scheduled. ODNR will provide 8 kayaks, paddles and lifejackets for participants, but you may use your own equipment if pre-registration fills up. Maximum weight limit is 350 pounds per kayak. Minimum age is 12 years old and if you are between the ages of 12-17 you must be accompanied by an adult who is at least**

18. Waivers will be required to participate. Free kayaks and equipment are available to borrow on a first come first serve basis. Pre-registration is suggested if you wish to use ODNR equipment.*

Directions: Take State Route 32 to Bauer Road and head South. Bauer Road T's into Old State Route 32 which also goes by Batavia-Williamsburg Pike. Go left on Old State Route 32. Take Old 32 to the entrance to East Fork State Park on the right.

Once in the park take the first left into the Campground. Follow that road thru the campground to the Campground Beach entrance on the left. The trip will start on the left side of the beach as you look out onto the lake.

~Jason Gantt



Great Egret at East Fork State Park. Photo by Bill Stanley



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

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2016-2017 DUES:

IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT
IN YOUR DUES YET
FOR THE SEPTEMBER
2016 - MAY 2017
BIRDING SEASON,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE
FORM AND MAIL IT IN
ALONG WITH YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FEES