



# Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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## What's in a Name?

by Ned Keller

The July issue of the *Auk* contains the latest changes to the official American Ornithologists Union checklist of North American birds. Most of the changes relate to tropical or subtropical species which do not reach the United States. But two new species have been added to the list of species which occur north of Mexico, both due to splits in existing species. First, Common Snipe has been split into Common Snipe and Wilson's Snipe. Wilson's is the species which is widespread in North America, while Common is now reserved for the primarily Eurasian species, which also occurs somewhat regularly on the western Alaskan islands. Second, Black-crested Titmouse, found primarily in Mexico but whose range extends to southern Texas, has been split from the more northern Tufted Titmouse. Besides these splits, the common name of Eared Trogon has been changed to Eared Quetzal.

As you are no doubt aware if you play the listing game, the American Birding Association, rather than the American Ornithologists Union, keeps the checklist for deciding what is "countable". The ABA automatically adopts any taxonomic changes made by the AOU, including those listed above. However, the ABA makes its own decisions on whether a species is established, and on whether a particular occurrence is of a wild bird. Although the AOU has now recognized Mitred Parakeet as being established in southern California, the ABA does not yet recognize it. ABA may not accept it anytime soon, since they have been intentionally slow to accept exotic

species as being established. The ABA has also not yet accepted Gray-hooded Gull, which the AOU accepts on the basis of 1998 and 1999 Florida records. On the other hand, the ABA had already accepted several species which have just now been recognized by the AOU as occurring north of Mexico: Black-browed Albatross, Bermuda Petrel, Bulwer's Petrel, Kelp Gull, Stygian Owl, Piratic Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Warbler, and Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush; and the AOU has joined the ABA in removing Loggerhead Kingbird from the North American list.

Finally, there are a number of changes in scientific names, which I won't go into here.



## In This Issue

What's in a Name? .....	1
November Program .....	2
November Best Bird Contest .....	2
November Field Trip .....	2
October Program: "An Israel Adventure" .....	2
Banding Recoveries .....	3
2002-2003 Rare Bird Hotline .....	4
Christmas Count Dates .....	5

## November Program

Continuing a long-standing family and Bird Club tradition, Steve Maslowski will present the November program, an episode of "Bird Sight", a program that has aired on Public TV. The Maslowkis and Ron Austing have contributed to this "Bird Sight" episode. Expect the usual high quality and excellence that we have enjoyed over the past years. As usual, the program will be at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, November 21, at the Sharon Woods visitor center.

## November Best Bird Contest

This month's best bird will be the first Sandhill Crane. Paul says he may also have a prize for a LeConte's Sparrow or an Evening Grosbeak. Otherwise, the usual rules apply: your bird must be seen in the Birdathon area; you must be at the meeting to claim your prize; and it's Paul's game, so he can change the rules whenever he wants to.

## November Field Trip

Ned Keller and Jay Stenger will lead an all-day trip to Lake Monroe, Lake Lemon, and other south-central Indiana sites on Sunday, November 9. We expect the highlights to be migrant waterfowl, other late migrants, raptors, and winter residents. Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, and Golden Eagle are all rarities at these lakes, but by no means impossible. We can't guarantee any of these birds, but there's bound to be something good. We'll meet to carpool at 7:30 a.m. at the Park and Ride lot on I-74/I-275, at the Hamilton/Cleves (State Route 128) exit. Bring lunch, and a scope if you have one. For more information, you can contact Ned at 941-6497 or [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net), or Jay at 522-4245 or [Jste100727@aol.com](mailto:Jste100727@aol.com).

## October Program: "An Israel Adventure"

*Contributed by Jay G. Lehman*

This was an excellent program, presented by Joe Hammond of Columbus, covering a trip taken earlier this year, including the birds that can be seen in Israel during early spring migration in March. Why would one bird in Israel? It is a major migration pathway for hawks, waders and shorebirds as well as passerines from Europe and Asia. The habitat varies from desert in the south with less than an inch of rain to the snow capped mountains in the north, where there is 20+ inches of rainfall per year, and includes more unusual habitats like piles of chicken "poop," which attract flies and thus birds, and sewage treatment ponds, which attract waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds in the desert areas lacking other water sources. There were plenty of great slides of birds for the listeners in the audience—about 32 including the following species: white-spectacled bulbul, white wagtail, Eurasian linnet, white stork, crested lark, spur-winged plover, woodchat shrike, blackstart, common quail (dead), Eurasian hoopoe, mourning wheatear, black stork, ruff, little stint, greater sandpipers, little ringed plover, citrine wagtail, yellow wagtail, greater flamingo, pied bushchat, pharaoh eagle-owl, green bee-eater, European bee-eater, black-winged stilt, Dead Sea sparrow, little egret, gray heron, Armenian gull, black-headed gull, pygmy cormorant, and pied kingfisher. Joe took us on a tour of the whole country starting in Tel Aviv, south into the Negev Desert, then southeast to Eliat and the Avra Valley, then north to the Dead Sea, further north to the Sea of Galilee, northeast into the Golan and Mt. Hermon, and then southwest to the Carmel Coast and back to Tel Aviv. His presentation included humor, history, photos of rock formations, desert, snow capped mountains, lush green scenery in the north, as well as views of the countries surrounding Israel, flowers, insects, animals and reptiles of the area, with enough diversity and focus to satisfy a wide range of interests.

## Banding Recoveries

*contributed by Jeff Hays*

With the recent increase in birds admitted to RAPTOR Inc. we have also seen an increase in banding recoveries. The biggest increase in numbers has been Great Horned Owls. All of the banded Great Horned Owls admitted to RAPTOR Inc died shortly after pick-up. All displayed symptoms similar to those shown by birds that have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. To date none of the banded owls have been tested but hopefully in the near future they will be tested for the virus and cause of death can be determined. All the Great Horned Owl banding recoveries are nestlings that were banded by Jack Holt in Hamilton County Parks. Jack is a raptor bander who has been banding raptors in southwest Ohio for more than 30 years. The following is a summary of banding recoveries that we have received so far during 2002:

### Great Horned Owls

GH-02-59: Jack banded this bird as a nestling in March 1976 in Miami Whitewater Forest. This bird was older than the RAPTOR, Inc. program coordinator, Dan Gallagher, who went to pick it up. It was found on September 15, 2002 on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole of the golf course at Miami Whitewater about 1 mile from where it was originally banded. The bird showed symptoms of West Nile Virus and died on September 17, 2002. This 26-year old now holds the longevity record for Great Horned Owls in Jack's records, and was only 1 year shy of the national record of 27 years.

GH-02-41: This bird was banded as a nestling on March 30, 2002 at Triple Creek Park. It was found having seizures on August 21, 2002 near Hamilton Avenue and Interstate 275 only 1 mile south of the nest. It died later that same day.

GH-02-38: Jack banded this bird as a nestling on March 29, 2000 in Sharon Woods. It

was found injured on August 20, 2002 in Loveland, Ohio, 5 miles north of the nest. It died later that same day.

GH-02-20: This bird was banded as a nestling on April 3, 1996 at Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary. It was found August 4, 2002 near Pleasant Plain, Ohio 26 miles east of the nest. It died the next day.

### Red-shouldered Hawks

There were also 4 recoveries of Red-shouldered Hawks, all originally banded by Jeff Hays, Cheryl Dykstra, and Melinda Simon as a part of his ongoing research project funded in part by RAPTOR, Inc. One was admitted to RAPTOR Inc. injured and the others were found dead.

RS-02-16: This bird was banded as a nestling on May 20, 1996 near the O'Bannon Creek golf course in Clermont County Ohio. The bird was picked up by RAPTOR Inc. volunteer, Marilyn Arn on August 4, 2002 in Indian Hill, 7 miles southwest from the nest. It was having seizures and died the same day, possibly from the West Nile Virus.

The second Red-shouldered Hawk was banded as a nestling on May 24 2001 in western Hamilton County. It was found dead December 21, 2001 near Carters Lake in Murray County, GA, approximately 310 miles south from the original banding site. The bird was found on the side of a road probably hit by a car.

The other two Red-shouldered Hawks have an interesting story. Both were banded on the same day as nestlings, May 13 2001, one near the intersection of interstate 71 and 275 in Hamilton County and the other near Goshen in Clermont County. On March 19 2002 the power to the city of Mariemont in Hamilton County was knocked out by these same two birds. Birds were electrocuted at the same time on the same pole, this is the time of the year Red-shouldered Hawks are courting, and it is possible they were mating. One bird was 9 miles south the other 14 miles southwest of the nest.

## 2002-2003 Rare Bird Hotline

If you find a rare or unusual bird, activate the Hotline by calling Jay Stenger at 522-4245 (home) or 522-8147 (work). If you can't reach Jay, call the person at the top of your line, or one of the other lines. In order for the Hotline to work, it is important that when you get a call, you must call the next person on your line, right away. If you don't reach that person, you should leave a message if possible; but you must also call the next person down your line. Continue until you reach a live birder. Answering machines, children, and non-birding spouses do not count.

Line 1	Home	Work
Ned Keller	941-6497	385-9080
Frank Renfro	(859) 431-1588	
Norm Walker	779-2366	786-2467
Neill Cade	662-7623	357-7211
Dick Halberstadt	821-0906	
Lois Shadix	231-2313	
Joan Franchi	231-9183	
Marcia Winborne	321-3173	
Marty Dermody	992-0559	347-5764

Line 3	Home	Work
Darlana Graham	(859) 341-4893	(859) 581-2227
Jenny Lanham	732-3865	
Kathy Caminiti	(859) 689-4166	(859) 525-7350 ext. 321
Debra Hausrath	(859) 441-9711	
Louise Halley	831-0970	
Audrey & Joe Vogerl	385-8905	
Jan & James Zoeller	831-8417	
Katherine Miller	791-5617	
Audubon House	741-7926	

Line 2	Home	Work
Hank Armstrong	474-3867	
Jay Lehman	527-4701	662-2399
Peg Gatch	831-3378	
David Brinkman	471-2958	675-8665 (cell)
Jeff Hays	521-4477	
Jim & Marge Decker	771-4071	
Wanda Nichols	891-7968	272-4605
Libby Bassett	574-3706	

Line 4	Home	Work
Bill & Tammie Stanley	724-2663	536-2685
Mike Busam	755-0057	
Paul Wharton	353-3403	
Joe Bens	353-4229	763-4155
Ted & Judy Ellis	755-6041	
Jack Kemp	831-2338	
Jim Rettig	561-0211	
Frank Morris	793-8387	
Karl Maslowski	231-7137	

## Christmas Count Dates

Mark your calendars now - full details in next month's issue.

Hamilton - Fairfield: Saturday, December 14

East Fork Lake: Sunday, December 15

Ohio River: Saturday, December 21

W. Hamilton County: Sunday, December 22

Cincinnati: Sunday, December 29



## Are Your Dues Due?

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2002 - May 2003 birding year, just fill out the form below and mail them in. If you've already sent your dues, why not give the form to a birding friend who isn't a member?

Treasurer Peg Gatch tells me that a few people have complained about not getting an envelope to send their dues in. Frankly, it's a pain to staple an envelope inside the newsletter. So if you need an envelope, just call Ned at 941-6497, and I'll mail you one.

For those who still haven't sent in this year's dues, I'll try to include an envelope in your final issue next month. Meanwhile, why not save your favorite newsletter editor the trouble, and **SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW!!!**

### Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

eMail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual \$12.00

\_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Student \$6.00

Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to:  
 Peg Gatch, 11 Mound Avenue, Milford, OH 45150

Kathy McDonald & Ned Keller  
Cincinnati Bird Club  
7899 Bridgetown Road  
Clevs, OH 45002

## **Bird Club Officers**

**President:**  
**Paul Wharton**  
353-3403

**Treasurer:**  
**Peggy Gatch**  
831-3378

**Newsletter:**  
**Ned Keller &**  
**Kathy McDonald**  
941-6497

**Field Trips:**  
**Jeff Hays**  
521-4477

**Programs:**  
**Jay Lehman**  
527-4701

## **Recent Bird Sightings**

<http://w3.one.net/~keller/cincybirds/goodbird/sighting.htm>