



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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January Program

Members Bird Photographs/Slides/Digital Anyone?

January 16, 2003

This program will be bird slides taken by members. Please remember to limit the number of slides to about 10 to 20 per member, so that everyone gets a chance to show their photographs. For those into digital photography, there is a digital projector available at the visitor's center where our meetings are held. I plan to have my laptop computer there, to show a few of my digital photos. My laptop has a 100 MB zip drive, as well as a floppy drive and a CD-ROM drive. You are welcome to use your media on my laptop provided that you can assure that your disk is virus-free! If your photos are on another type of disk, you will need to provide your own laptop computer. If you need additional information, contact Jay Lehman at 527-4701 or lehman.jg@pg.com.

January Best Bird Contest

Paul's contest this month is for the best bird seen on a Christmas Count within the Birdathon Area. Besides the official Audubon counts, the Northern Kentucky and Hamilton County Parks counts are also eligible. Apart from that, the only rule is the usual one: Paul can change the rules any time he wants to.

January Field Trip

The January 2003 Cincinnati Bird Club field trip will be on Saturday, January 25, to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot Co. Ohio. Killdeer Plains is a good area for winter raptors, waterfowl and field birds. Some birds seen on previous trips include Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern and Loggerhead Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll. This is an all day trip so you may want to pack a lunch. We will stop on the way home for dinner. We will meet at the Borders Book store parking lot west of Tri County Mall at 7:30 AM. If you have any questions contact Jeff Hays at 521-4477 or jlhays@fuse.net.



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Birding Queensland

contributed by Lori Brumbaugh

In November, the Australian spring, I went to Queensland on a family vacation. I wasn't prepared for such a birder's paradise! It is a beautiful, clean country with extremely friendly people with a wide range of habitat to explore, making the lengthy flight well worth it. (I will wear compression socks my next visit as my feet and legs swelled up on the return trip.) We were there for a mere speck of time; subtracting the two days of flight and the travel time to Caloundra, about an hour north of Brisbane on the Pacific Ocean. Six days of birding is just enough to whet the appetite and to become somewhat comfortable driving on the wrong side of the road! I would recommend a navigator and even then it was hard to bird in traffic as a driver. I subtract one of those days when we went on a tour bus with the family; so in 5 days I saw 136 species of birds, traveling without a scope. The Whimbrel, Cattle Egret, Osprey, Common and Little Terns, and House Sparrow were the only familiar birds.

In advance I contacted a Birding Pal, Ken Cross, who was a fabulous birder. My second day there, we birded from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., barely stopping to eat. His assistance was invaluable as he could direct me for further birding locations the rest of the week. I took *Birds of Australia* by Simpson and Day, which I strongly recommend, but the species are so different, one doesn't know where to start in the book. I would do more recording of ID's and habitat when I go again. I depend a lot on call recognition more than sight, which left me depending on my eyes down there. Listening to the Australian birdcalls in advance would have been beneficial. I now know the so-called monkey calls we heard in the Tarzan movies were actually the Kookaburras!

The Hinterland, the rural areas, offers many State and National Parks and Forests

where you see few people. The roads are gravel as well as dirt with many logging roads deep into the rural areas. Although we used a car, a 4x4 would probably have been more appropriate for the areas in which we ventured. The hiking trails into the mountains were well maintained but one could easily bird from the car. Deep in the Hinterland was the only area where a public toilet could not be found. So birders who don't want to hike extensively like my niece and I did, could easily bird in comfort. Our dollar was worth \$1.80 Australian dollars so it was an extremely cheap vacation upon arrival.

The sunrises at 4:40 a.m. so we were up and gone by 5:00 a.m. most mornings. All malls, stores and groceries close no later than 6:00 p.m. so we were pressed to buy groceries or to have pictures developed. We did purchase and develop film there to avoid possible damage by the strong security x-rays.

What impressed me were all the signs warning travelers to "watch out for us (the wildlife); we live here too." And, of course, the BIRDS!



*Frogmouths
(2 young in front adult male in back)*

Christmas Count Results

	Cincinnati	East Fork Lake	Hamilton-Fairfield	Ohio River	W. Hamilton Co.	Total
Common Loon			1			1
Pied-billed Grebe	27	14	5			46
Horned Grebe		1				1
Great Blue Heron	39	24	40	50	16	169
Great Egret				1		1
Black Vulture	16			54	19	89
Turkey Vulture	76	1		11	4	92
Canada Goose	1321	232	2964	128	752	5397
Mute Swan	1		14		1	16
Wood Duck			10	1		11
Gadwall	100	2	12	14	8	136
American Wigeon	68				1	69
American Black Duck	19	15	21	30	47	132
Mallard	506	699	828	202	742	2977
Northern Shoveler	8					8
Northern Pintail	3		2		1	6
Green-winged Teal	6		3		3	12
Canvasback			1			1
Redhead	1			1		2
Ring-necked Duck	558		57	120	14	749
Greater Scaup	3		1			4
Lesser Scaup	15		10		1	26
Surf Scoter			1			1
Bufflehead	21	23	1			45
Common Goldeneye	6		4			10
Hooded Merganser	59	24	15	2	2	102
Common Merganser	9	12	4			25
Red-breasted Merganser			2			2
Ruddy Duck	12		6			18
duck sp.	3					3
Northern Harrier	2	4	1		1	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	3	3	1	6	23
Cooper's Hawk	13	3	12	5	4	37
Accipiter sp.	2				2	4

	Cincinnati	East Fork Lake	Hamilton-Fairfield	Ohio River	W. Hamilton Co.	Total
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	13	1	1	2	25
Red-tailed Hawk	75	18	30	19	32	174
Rough-legged Hawk		1				1
Buteo sp.					2	2
American Kestrel	17	29	30	23	19	118
Peregrine Falcon				2	cw	2
Wild Turkey	41				8	49
American Coot	477		6	50	3	536
Killdeer	12	1			33	46
Bonaparte's Gull	1	39				40
Ring-billed Gull	656	1636	1086	108	2455	5941
Herring Gull		5			9	14
Rock Dove	593	89	536	229	829	2276
Mourning Dove	1068	536	949	220	248	3021
Eastern Screech-Owl	1		5		1	7
Great Horned Owl	3	1	7			11
Barred Owl	1	1			2	4
Rufous Hummingbird	cw					0
Belted Kingfisher	37	9	35	5	14	100
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	18				19
Red-bellied Woodpecker	238	72	36	24	111	481
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13		2		6	21
Downy Woodpecker	271	45	81	27	122	546
Hairy Woodpecker	32	12	4	2	19	69
Northern Flicker	77	43	23	13	38	194
Pileated Woodpecker	36	9	12	5	9	71
Eastern Phoebe	2		1			3
Blue Jay	260	251	31	1	87	630
American Crow	1861	175	368	332	2154	4890
Horned Lark	3	37	57	4	8	109
Carolina Chickadee	1066	228	230	134	451	2109
Tufted Titmouse	429	90	47	29	115	710
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		1			3
White-breasted Nuthatch	171	28	22	16	41	278
Brown Creeper	50	7	19	2	24	102
Carolina Wren	487	134	84	64	268	1037
Winter Wren	5		2			7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	80	25	46	23	62	236

	Cincinnati	East Fork Lake	Hamilton-Fairfield	Ohio River	W. Hamilton Co.	Total
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3		3		1	7
Eastern Bluebird	225	166	28	73	72	564
Hermit Thrush	11				2	13
American Robin	1746	536	854	269	2157	5562
Gray Catbird			2		3	5
Northern Mockingbird	143	54	29	21	76	323
Brown Thrasher	1	1	cw			2
European Starling	2656	1419	4984	107	35066	44232
Cedar Waxwing	25	21	46	3	58	153
Yellow-rumped Warbler	22	27	2		81	132
Eastern Towhee	61	33	2	10	4	110
American Tree Sparrow	168	43	169	54	112	546
Field Sparrow	42	29	6	17	8	102
Savannah Sparrow	1					1
Fox Sparrow	6		2		1	9
Song Sparrow	818	118	243	272	327	1778
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
Swamp Sparrow	37	26	42	43	45	193
White-throated Sparrow	720	209	417	153	338	1837
White-crowned Sparrow	167	5	29	12	30	243
Dark-eyed Junco	318	180	157	73	210	938
Northern Cardinal	1435	299	163	186	622	2705
Red-winged Blackbird	373	20	14	160	112	679
Eastern Meadowlark	4		8			12
Rusty Blackbird	3		2	31	3	39
Common Grackle		10	268	140	21	439
Brown-headed Cowbird	54		152		20	226
House Finch	336	53	118	83	141	731
Pine Siskin	4				1	5
American Goldfinch	489	209	228	92	208	1226
House Sparrow	542	74	124	101	546	1387
total species	87	63	79	57	72	99
total individuals	21389	8141	15861	3853	49061	98305
observers	81	11	25	6	33	156
+ at feeders	3	0	0	0	2	5
party hours	165.00	32.50	53.00	24.50	89.00	364.00

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

Recent Bird Sightings

Field Trips:
Jeff Hays
521-4477

President:
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353-3403

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Newsletter:
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