



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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November Program

Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Survey

By Steve Maslowski

Each year the Fish and Wildlife Service surveys waterfowl populations in Canada and US breeding locations. This video includes information about breeding locations and habitat and the impact of weather patterns and farming practices on waterfowl populations. This survey is done each year to project expected over-wintering populations. If you are interesting in watching over-wintering and migrating waterfowl in the Cincinnati area, southwestern Ohio and southeastern Indiana, you will find this presentation interesting. Expect good photography of waterfowl and information about factors that affect our over-wintering waterfowl populations. This is the time of year to start waterfowl watching if you have not yet started to do so. The timing of this program is intended to supplement the fall field trips targeted for waterfowl migration and the Cincinnati Bird club's recent involvement in preserving over-wintering habitat at Camp Dennison.

The Cincinnati Bird Club will meet in the Sharon Center (visitors center) in Sharon Woods at 7:00 pm on November 20, 2003.

About the Speaker: Steve Maslowski is an accomplished local wildlife photographer and cinematographer, who is carrying on in the tradition of excellence started by his father, Karl. Steve's company, Maslowski Wildlife Productions, produces still photographs and film footage for a wide variety of nature programs and organizations including: National Geographic Explorer, Katami National Park, Marty Stouffers Wild America, and PBS to mention a few.

November Field Trip

Summit Lake State Park

Possibly the best waterfowl spot in our area is Summit Lake State Park, in Henry County, Indiana. The park has both a deep water lake and shallow impoundments, which attract all the waterfowl species. The main lake is small enough that you can get decent views of most of it, and the only boats are fishing boats. Besides waterfowl and other water birds, raptors and winter resident songbirds should be features of this trip.

We will meet to carpool at the Park & Ride lot just off I-74, at the Cleves/Hamilton, State Route 128 exit. Bring lunch for this all-day trip. If time permits, we may hit a few stops at Brookville Lake on the way back.

For more information, call Jay Stenger at 522-4245.

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Birding Minnesota

contributed by Jim Perry

There are important things to remember about birding MN:

* One of the outstanding spots to go birding is Duluth in the fall. The birds avoid going over Lake Superior and instead fly down the lakeshore to Duluth where many fly by Hawk Ridge, as many as 100,000 Broad-winged Hawks in a season.

* Minnesota means warblers and vireos. Consider Itasca State Park where you can also dip your toe into the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River. Alternatively, try just about anywhere in MN.

* Great birds such as loons are available for viewing almost anywhere if you pick the right spot at the right time of the year. I would sometimes see a loon all summer long in the chain of lakes of Minneapolis.

* Calling MN the land of the lakes is a narrow view. MN is the land of diverse habitat. In addition to lakes, it has lotza wetland (wet) and lotza prairie (dry). However, not all in the same county; MN is a large state. Pick your spot and you probably will have a bird – maybe thousands of birds. Maybe you think you have seen lotza birds in one spot. However, I suggest you try MN waterfowl during the fall migration; then you will have the opportunity to see lakes full of lotza coots or lotza scaups for instance. Try the mostly frozen Mississippi River below Lake Pepin during late fall where you can see 10,000 Tundra Swans all together as well as thousands of other waterfowl and dozens of eagles. The cold is good.

* A worthy western MN place is Lake Aggaziz. This was the largest of the Great Lakes until the glaciers melted. They had provided a dam to block the escape of water, but then one global warming day the dam broke. The rushing water created the Minnesota River valley. The

valley is wide now, but the river is narrower. Can you guess why? This provides lotza wetland habitat near the river.

Without a doubt, the best place in the Twin Cities that I enjoyed is the Bass Ponds of the Minnesota River Valley NWR. It is within a mile of the Mall of America and the International airport. This is primarily a wetland with some upland habitat. It lies in the Minnesota River valley.

There is a great independent (like CBC) bird club called MOU. It is not bogged down by the other activities of an Audubon or Sierra club. Every bird club needs someone to inspire great birding. MOU has Kim Eckert who not only knows birds, but also knows how to communicate the excitement, splendor and majesty of birds. He does it in simple everyday language, with enthusiasm. In addition to a newsletter similar to the Passenger Pigeon, MOU publishes an excellent scholarly journal.

Every once and a while the population of lemmings plummets. Then the adult Snowy Owls chase the youngsters away from the arctic and there they are out in the open waiting for a birder to spot them, along the shore of the Mississippi River or elsewhere.

Every once and a while an unusual bird shows up in MN (where it normally never does) such as Anna's Hummingbird in a snowy winter, or Fieldfare in an open area for everyone to see or a Eurasian Wigeon in a half-frozen city lake with boardwalks. [These are birds that appeared in MN while I lived there.] This is good nourishment for a life list. Cool – very cool – Minnesota cool (frigid).

You wanna see thousands of buteo hawks – go to Duluth during Hawk Weekend. You wanna see accipiters fly over at tree top level – go to Duluth during Hawk Weekend. You wanna see plenty of awesome raptors on display at eyeball level (captured temporarily for banding) – go to Duluth during Hawk Weekend. You can also participate in one of the several organized

activities offered. I enjoyed visits to the raptor banding station blind. There are trips to several 'hot spots' available during Hawk Weekend in the Duluth area such as Park Point where Merlins frolic.

You wanna good bird trip? Join MOU and go on one of the monthly trips by Kim Eckert. PS – ask Kim about how he lost and found his Kowa scope right after he acquired it. Har!

Minnesota – land of not only loons but also of the western and eastern kingbirds, of western and eastern peewees, or of the western and eastern meadowlarks where they meet to be heard singing together. Why? – the glaciers receded allowing these similar birds to return together as separate species.

GLOSSARY

Hawk Ridge = Hawk Ridge Nature Preserve in Duluth [www.hawkridge.org.htm]

Hawk Weekend = a weekend of great birding activities at Hawk Ridge in September sponsored by MOU

Lotza = lots of

MN = Minnesota

MOU = Minnesota Ornithologist's Union [www.cbs.umn.edu/~mou/index.html]

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

Wanna = want to

September Program

Texas, A Birders Paradise

This program was presented by Jay Lehman and included highlights of 13 trips to Texas, starting in 1978 and continuing through June of this year. Why would one go to Texas to go birding, besides finding Southwest/Texas bird specialties? For year around birding Texas is hard to beat, because Texas has the highest

species list, 615, of any state, exceeding California (610), Arizona (530) and then Florida and Alaska (585). The slide show started near Houston, tracked south to Aransas NWR, past the King Ranch, toward the Lower Rio Grande Valley with a stop to the coast, Laguna Atascosa and Padre Island, and then followed the Rio Grande Valley to Falcon Dam, and ended with a visit to the Hill Country west of San Antonio and Austin. In addition, to photos of scenery and wildflowers, 90 out of 103 slides were of birds, including common species and the following Texas specialties: Great-tailed Grackle, Northern Jacana (adult and immature), Wilson's Plover, Sprague's Pipit (distant), Mountain Plover, Sandhill Crane, Hooded Oriole, White-tailed hawk, Snowy Plover, Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrasher, Altamira Oriole, Chachalaca, Harris's Hawk, Greater Kiskadee, Couch's Kingbird, Green Jay, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Groove-billed Ani, White-tipped and Inca Dove, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Rose-throated Becard, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Red-billed Pigeon (distant) Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunner, Green Kingfisher, White-tailed Kite and Golden-cheeked Warbler. After the slide show, close-up digital photos, obtained by digiscoping, were shown of Green Parakeets, Audubon's Oriole, Gray Hawk, Ringed Kingfisher, Brown Jay, Lesser Goldfinch, Neotropic Cormorant, Long-billed Thrasher, Groove-billed Ani, Vermillion Flycatcher, White-faced ibis, Green Violet Ear, Tropical Kingbird, Masked Duck and Tamaulipas (Mexican) Crow. The program ended with a final summary of birding lists for Texas, which included 81 life birds seen in Texas, a state list of 318 as of 2002, and a list of the following rarities seen in Texas but not shown or discussed: Muscovy Duck, Greater Prairie Chicken, Yellow Rail, Red-crowned Parrot, Flammulated Owl, Black Hawk, Colima Warbler, Lucifer Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Black-capped Vireo, Blue Bunting, White-collared Seedeater, Yellow-green Vireo, Tropical Parula, and Golden-crowned Warbler.

2003-2004 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	
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

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
Jack Kemp	831-2338	
Jim Rettig	561-0211	
Frank Morris	793-8387	
Karl Maslowski	231-7137	

Are Your Dues Due?

Christmas Count Dates

We'll have more details next month; but for now, mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Counts:

Sunday, December 14: East Fork Lake Count.
Joe Bens, 353-4229.

Saturday, December 20: Ohio River Count. Joe
Bens, 353-4229.

Saturday, December 20: Hamilton-Fairfield
Count. Mike Busam, 755-0057.

Sunday, December 21: Western Hamilton County
Count. Ned Keller, 941-6497.

Sunday, December 28: Cincinnati Count. Jay
Stenger, 522-4245.

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2003 - May 2004 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?



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

<http://cincinnatibirds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>

Recent Bird Sightings

Field Trips:
Jay Stenger
522-4245

President:
Paul Wharton
353-3403

Treasurer:
Peggy Gatch
831-3378

Programs:
Jay Lehman
527-4701

Newsletter:
Ned Keller
941-6497

Bird Club Officers

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

If this box is checked,
your dues are due.