



# Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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January 2004

## Reelfoot Lake Field Trip

RAPTOR, Inc. and the Cincinnati Bird Club are sponsoring a field trip to Reelfoot Lake on February 14<sup>th</sup> – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Reelfoot is located in the northwest corner of Tennessee near Union City.

The Reelfoot Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and surrounding areas are great places for viewing wintering bald eagles. The lake is located near the Mississippi flyway and is also an excellent place to see water birds. In fact, as many as 400,000 ducks, 150,000 Canada geese, and 200 bald eagles inhabit Reelfoot during the winter.

In addition to birding opportunities, the NWR provides a wide variety of interpretive, educational, and wildlife recreational opportunities for the visiting public. Facilities include a Visitor Contact Station, a self-guided auto tour, two observation towers, hiking trails, and a backyard watchable wildlife habitat showcase.

For lodging, carpooling, and registration information please contact Jeff Hays at (513) 821-9822 or [jlhays@fuse.net](mailto:jlhays@fuse.net). We will also have designated meeting times and places each day for those of you who are unable to come for the entire weekend.

You can also check out these websites for more information:

Reelfoot Lake State Park:

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/reelfoot/>

US Fish and Wildlife

<http://reelfoot.fws.gov/>

## January Program

*Members Bird Photographs/Slides/Digital*

*Thursday, January 16, 2003 - 7:00 p.m.*

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](mailto:lehman.jg@pg.com).

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## January Field Trip

*Killdeer Plains WA*

*Leader: Jeff Hays, # 821-9822, e-mail  
jlhays@fuse.net*

*Sunday, January 18 2004*

The Cincinnati Bird Club will conduct a field trip to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area on Sunday, January 18. We will again be joined on this annual winter trip by members of Raptor Inc. In addition to the spectacular birds we expect to find, there are a few out of the ordinary details concerning this trip. Killdeer Plains WA is a large 8,627 acre area, consisting of mostly open country, that is especially attractive to large numbers of wintering hawks and owls. It is located in southern Wyandot County in north-central Ohio, and is about a 2.5 hour one-way drive from Cincinnati. We plan on staying a little past sunset to maximize our chances of seeing large numbers of Short-eared Owls that begin hunting and become obvious at that time. Anyone staying for that show will not arrive home until about 9:00 pm. We will meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot of the Border's Books, located at the northwest corner of Kemper Rd. & Princeton Pike (SR 747), just across the street from Tri-County Mall, and just south of the I-275 exit # 42, marked 747 South. From here we will caravan to Killdeer Plains, arriving there between 11:30 and 12:00 noon. Be sure you have a full tank of gas, a brown bag lunch and drinks, because all of those things are rarer than the birds at Killdeer. Once there, we will slowly cruise the county roads, stopping often to view birds. Take note! January weather can be rough, so expect freezing temperatures, a healthy wind-chill and snow covered ground. If it's better than that, great, but be prepared for the worst. Because of the un-predictability of northern Ohio winter

weather, we advise you to let Jeff Hays know you are planning to attend in advance. Frigid temperatures and snow on the ground won't stop our trip, but if there is a winter storm advisory we may have to cancel. Call Jeff if you are unsure. One other note, only primitive restrooms (ie. outhouses) are available at KP.

So why make the effort you ask? If you have been there before you know the answer. Some of the birds we expect to find, some in large numbers, include Short-eared and Long-eared Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Accipiters, Bald Eagles, Ring-necked Pheasant, Chukars (released), Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, many sparrows and a variety of waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans (ODNR project). Other birds we have a chance of seeing include Common Redpolls, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Loggerhead Shrike and Black-capped Chickadee. We have seen Merlin in past years and a Goshawk wintered last year.

Not a bad way to get your 2004 list started. So plan your trip well and you will have a great time. Call or e-mail Jeff for questions and other information.



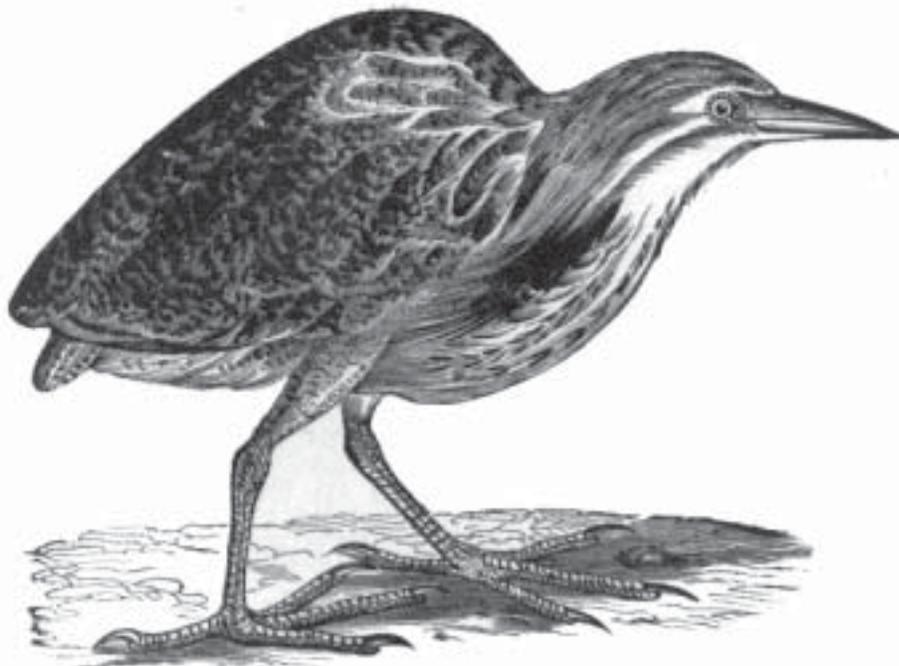
## Contributors Wanted

The Passenger Pigeon needs your help! Don't worry, we're not hitting you up for money. Instead, we need your contributions in the form of articles or artwork for our newsletter. Or should we say, *your* newsletter. Please send your submissions to Ned by the 20th of the month. If possible, I would prefer them by eMail to [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net). But if that's not possible, you can also send them to 7899 Bridgetown Road, Cleves OH 45002.

## Passenger Pigeon by eMail

You can choose to receive your copy of the Passenger Pigeon by eMail instead of getting a paper copy through the regular mail. Getting the newsletter by eMail will save the Bird Club the expense of printing and mailing your copy, and you will receive it several days sooner than the paper copy would arrive. You will need to have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not already have it, a free copy can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

To sign up for this service, send an eMail to the editors at [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net). You can switch back to a paper copy at any time.



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

## Recent Bird Sightings

Field Trips:  
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522-4245

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Treasurer:  
Peggy Gatch  
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527-4701

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