



# Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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April 2004

## April Program

*Communication Towers and Bird Migration  
in Southwest Ohio and Throughout the U.S.*

*Audrey Mayer, Ph.D.*

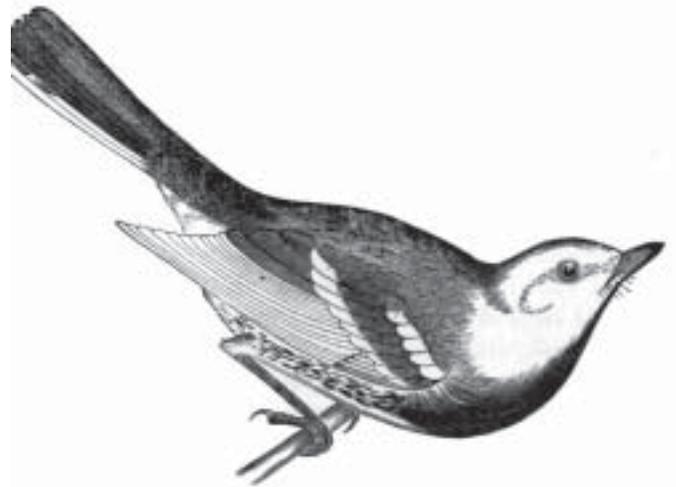
In North America, an estimated 4 million birds are killed each year in collisions with human structures along their migratory routes. Communication towers are one of the most common sources of mortality for migratory and resident birds, and the increase in the number and height of towers in the North American landscape will likely increase the number of birds killed each year. Of particular concern are the 1000-foot towers for high definition television (HDTV) broadcasts, as required by the FCC. This presentation will review several long-term tower studies that have been conducted throughout the eastern U.S., and discuss a year-long, 13-tower study conducted in southwestern Ohio in 2001.

Spring migration is coming fast. Have you thought about what happens to migratory birds in our modern world of rapid communication by cell phones, internet, etc.? In addition, many birders have converted to cell phones to report rare bird sightings, and phone in their reports from the field. This talk will give us all something to think about!

About the Speaker:

Audrey Mayer received her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, with a minor in Environmental Policy, in May 2000 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and her B.A. in 1994 from Pomona College (California). Her

research has included habitat selectivity of the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow in the Florida Everglades, and the effects of fire on populations of the endangered California Gnatcatcher. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cincinnati, she studied land use and scale effects on bird species diversity in Ohio, and led a volunteer effort to study bird migration mortality at communication towers. Her current research as an ecologist at the US Environmental Protection Agency includes the development of sustainability indices for ecosystems, the identification of critical ecosystems using GIS, and multidisciplinary approaches to environmental protection.



## In This Issue

April Program .....	1
April Field Trips .....	2
Join the Ohio Ornithological Society .....	3

# April Field Trips

*Location: Miami-Whitewater Wetlands*

*Date: Saturday, April 10, at 8:00 a.m.*

Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497,  
e-mail [keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net)

We'll spend an hour or so birding the forested areas looking for early migrants, then move on to the wetlands for rails, bitterns, and other wetland birds. Meet at the Timberlakes parking area. To reach this spot, take I-74 to the Dry Fork Road exit and turn right. Turn right again at the first stop sign, onto West Road, and then left just past the small bridge into the park. Follow this road up the hill to the parking area. A Hamilton County Park District auto sticker is required. The official trip will last until noon or so, but some of us may decide to move on to check other areas later.

*Location: Muscatatuck National  
Wildlife Refuge*

*Date: Saturday, April 24 2004 at 7:00 a.m.*

Leader: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403,  
e-mail [pwharton@fuse.net](mailto:pwharton@fuse.net)

Join Paul on what should be an excellent day of birding. We will caravan to Muscatatuck from our meeting place listed above. This will be a most of the day trip, so be sure to bring a lunch/drinks. Nothing is available at the refuge. Spring migration will be well under way, and even though it will be too early for some species of migrant warblers/songbirds, the summer breeding warblers/songbirds and earlier migrants should be back in good numbers. Muscatatuck has a diverse number of habitats and likewise a long species list. We expect to find late waterfowl, shorebirds,

terns, herons and egrets, rails, hawks, owls, and a great number of songbirds. It's a great time of year to get out and bird and the 8000+ acres at Muscatatuck are beautiful. Meet at the Park & Ride lot, located immediately at the Cleves/Miamitown I-275 exit on State Route 28.

*Location: Indian Creek State Wildlife Area,  
Brown County, Ohio*

*Date: Sunday, May 2nd, 2004 at 7:30 a.m.*

Leader: Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147,  
e-mail [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

Come with us and see this hidden gem during the peak of spring migration. This quiet 1,400 acre little-known area has a diverse number of habitats (woodland, fields, brushy areas, wetlands, several small ponds, the wooded corridor of Indian Creek, and nearby agricultural land) which should produce a great number of birds of a great variety of species. Warbler and songbird migration will be well under way, and the wetlands should produce a number of water related species. We will probably spend much of the morning walking the quiet gravel roadways, but it is level and easy. While this trip won't last much past noon, you might still want to bring your lunch and at least drinks. Because this is a SWA, there are few amenities. Restrooms are primitive (ie: outhouses) and far and few between.

We will meet at 7:30 am, in the parking lot of the United Dairy Farmers located in Perintown, on US 50, at the corner (stoplight) of Roundbottom Rd. We will caravan from here to Indian Creek SWA, about a 20 minute drive. Gas/Restrooms/Supplies are all available at the UDF. To get to this meeting spot from I-275, take the US 50, Milford/Hillsboro exit # 59, and drive east about 3 miles. The UDF is on the right.

# Join the Ohio Ornithological Society

Until now, Ohio was the largest state to lack a statewide birding organization. But no longer! The Ohio Ornithological Society has now been formed. Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the only statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

Members of the OOS will receive a quarterly publication, *The Ohio Cardinal*, with which many of you are already familiar. In case you haven't seen it, each issue of *The Ohio*

*Cardinal* includes detailed reports on what birds have been seen statewide in the past quarter, plus several articles of interest to Ohio birders. Members will also receive a less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Cerulean*. The OOS will also sponsor interesting field trips around the state, workshops, and an annual conference. We will also have a website, [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org), which will feature extensive information about birds and birding in Ohio. A temporary web page is in place now, and the full web site will go 'live' in mid-April. Check the site every week or so - you'll see the difference immediately when the real site appears! Your faithful newsletter editor will be in charge of maintaining the site, and although I certainly can't take credit for either the site design or much of the content, I can tell you that I am definitely impressed by what we already have ready to go.

The "official" launch of the OOS won't be until May 8, but you don't have to wait until then to join. Dues are \$15 per year for students or persons of limited income, \$25 per year for individuals, and \$40 per year for families. Of course, additional donations are always welcome, and both dues and donations are tax deductible. You can send your dues to: Ohio Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, OH 43214. Be sure to include your name and address, preferably plus phone and email (this information is for OOS use only, and will not be given to solicitors).



<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