



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Vol. 40 No. 5

May 2004

May Program

Ron Austing Returns

Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m

Sharon Woods Visitor Center

Ron Austing is one of our local outstanding photographers of national renown. His work is published in many national nature, conservation and wildlife magazines and has been included in programs on public television. Ron has given many great programs to the Cincinnati Bird Club, such as "Owls", March, 1994; "That Was Then, This Is Now", September, 1995; "Raptors and Hawk Videos", March 1997; "Highlights of Bird Photography Through The Years", March 2000, "Owls: Snowy Owls And Other Owls", March, 2000; and "An Evening With Ron Austing About Raptors", March 2002, just to name a few. Obviously, Ron's work is well known in the Cincinnati area! For those who are interested in bird photography as art, Ron will also bring prints of his bird photographs for exhibit and sale.

Ron has graciously agreed to return for our May program after an unfortunate disaster with his new equipment in February. His equipment is guaranteed to work this time, as Ron says that the problem has been fixed and replaced, and he has given 10+ programs since February for which his new equipment worked fine. He will also bring back-up this time. This is guaranteed to be an excellent program, so plan to spend a spring evening with Ron. Why not come early and do some birding at Sharon Woods before the meeting?



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Field Trips

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Spring Grove Cemetery

*Leader: Joe Bens, 353-4229,
jbens@cinci.rr.com*

Meet just beyond the tunnel at the Spring Grove Avenue main entrance to the cemetery.

Spring warbler/songbird migration will be at peak and we expect to find a great variety of species. Joe will take us to a number of spots around these beautiful and peaceful grounds. This should be a great trip, as Spring Grove is an excellent migration trap. Walking is easy, but we will be walking most of the time. This trip will probably run until at least noon. It is possible we might make a side trip to Burnet Woods, which is only 5 minutes away. Any questions, contact Joe.

Saturday, May 22, 2004, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Spring Valley SWA

*Leader: Paul Wharton, 353-3403,
wharton@fuse.net*

We will find our own way to Caesar Creek State Park, where we will meet at the Beach Parking Lot. From there we will caravan to nearby Spring Valley.

Directions: Take I-71 north from Cincinnati to Exit # 45, State Route 73. Go west on SR 73. After you cross the bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the entrance to the Park. Follow the park signs to the beach. Listen for Prairie Warblers on your way to the beach.

Spring warbler/songbird migration should still be good, but what we're most interested in

are the notoriously late migrants (ie; Wilsons, Mourning, Connecticut and Canada Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Alder & Yellow-bellied Flycatchers etc.). It would be too much to expect all of these, but we expect to get several. Spring Valley has good habitat for all of these species. In addition we expect rails, shorebirds, herons, Osprey and much more. This should be a great trip, which will last past noon, so plan accordingly. Bring fluids and repellent. Any questions, call Paul.

Sunday, June 13, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Boone County Cliffs

*Leader: Ned Keller, 941-6497,
keller@one.net*

Directions: From I-75, take Kentucky 18 (Exit 181) west. Roughly eight miles after passing through Burlington, at the bottom of a long, winding hill, turn left on to Middle Creek Road. Meet at the preserve parking lot, near the end of Middle Creek Road.

Boone County Cliffs contains some excellent old growth forest habitat, and is our only reliable local spot for Worm-eating Warbler. All the other forest birds are also expected, including Broad-winged Hawk, Cerulean, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, and both Tanagers. Middle Creek Road also has some excellent habitat, but it is a narrow two-lane road, with limited space to pull off for more than one car at a time, so we probably won't include the road as part of the official trip. Now for the negatives: this trip will involve hiking some very steep trails, and there are no restrooms. The trip will probably last until about noon.

Annual Picnic

We'll have our annual picnic on Thursday, June 17, from 2 p.m. until dark. The picnic will be held at Miami-Whitewater Forest, in the Blue Bird Glen picnic area. To reach this spot, take the Dry Fork Road exit from I-74 and turn right. At the first stop sign, turn right again onto West Road. Just past the small bridge, turn right into the park. Blue Bird Glen will be on the left.

We'll supply brats and burgers (or a vegetarian alternative, if you let us know), plus soft drinks and beer. Please bring a side dish or desert to share. Also, since we'll need to get a count in order to buy supplies, please contact Paul Wharton at 353-3403 or pwharton@fuse.net to let him know you'll be there.

Point Pelee House for Rent

Beautiful lakefront house located just north of Point Pelee and adjoins Hillman Marsh. Sleeps 4-6 comfortably. Special discount for local birding club members in May/June.

Please call Donna at (513)755-8205.
<http://home.fuse.net/peleebeachhouse>

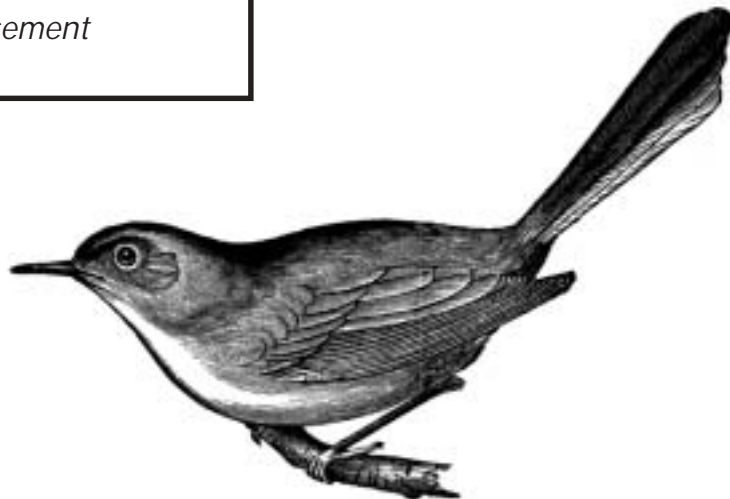
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Special September Program

It's a long way off, but mark your calendar now, because you won't want to miss this very special program in September. On September 16th, at Sharon Woods Visitor Center, 7:00 p.m., we will join with RAPTOR, Inc. to present raptor photographer and author, Brian Wheeler. His most recent book, *Raptors of Eastern North America*, was published in the fall of 2003.

A review from the inside flap: "A highly significant contribution to the field. Wheeler has accomplished what no other guide has done for any group of birds. The quality of photography, scope and depth on plumage's, races, and variations, are unequalled. The range maps are stellar—the best ever done for any guide. It is the ultimate raptor reference and will be for decades to come."—Clay Sutton

RAPTOR Inc. has a limited quantity of this book for sale with a portion of the proceeds benefiting RAPTOR Inc., at the price of \$43.00. Brian will be available to sign this, or any of his other books at the program, September 16 2004. You can reserve your copy by contacting Jeff Hays at JLHAYS@fuse.net or 821-9822. The book is also available at Wild About Birds in Milford Ohio 248-2044.



<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

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