



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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November 2004

November Field Trips

Caesar's Creek State Park

Saturday, November 6, 8:00 a.m.

*Jay Lehman, (527-4701 H, 622-2399 W),
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This is a great time of year for loons and waterfowl migration. The beach may still have unusual gulls (Franklin's or a late Laughing Gull reported there this year). We will check a number of locations around the lake for water birds, and other locations in the area for raptors, late fall migrants and early winter arrivals.

Meet at the Caesar's Creek swimming beach parking lot. From Cincinnati, take I-71 North to the State Route 73 exit and turn left. After crossing the bridge over the lake, turn right into the park and follow signs to the beach. Bring your lunch and plan on staying beyond noon. The trip will end about mid-afternoon. Mostly this is an auto tour, but there will be some easy walking.

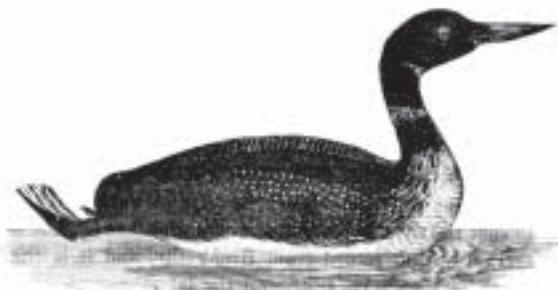
Summit Lake State Park

Saturday, November 13, 7:00 a.m.

*Jay Stenger, 522-4245,
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com*

In past years, Summit Lake State Park, located in Henry County, Indiana, about 30 miles north of Brookville Reservoir (which we may visit on the way back) has been one of the hottest waterfowl areas in our region. The park has both shallow water for puddle ducks and deeper water for divers; and the entire lake has restricted boat speeds, so there is a minimum of disturbance for the birds. We expect to find abundant waterfowl, raptors and other migrants.

Meet to caravan at the Park & Ride lot on S.R. 128, north of I-74 Exit, marked Cleves-Hamilton. Bring lunch. We will return about 3 or 4 p.m.



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November Program

From One End of Alaska to the Other! Quest for Siberian Tit and Whiskered Auklet; Our Last Two A.B.A. Breeders”

Thursday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Woods Visitor Center

Karen and John Shrader will present a program about their journey in Alaska in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by bush plane and backpacking to see one of North America's rarest breeding birds, the Siberian Tit. During the same trip, they finally made the journey down to Dutch Harbor/Unalaska to tick off the Whiskered Auklet as well, and their program will highlight their adventures to see both birds, the last two regularly occurring breeding species in the American Birding Association area for them.

Karen and John are avid birders from the Dayton, Ohio, area who have had the opportunity to travel widely in the pursuit of birds in both the

American Birding Association area and throughout the world. Karen has been birding since age five, when her father introduced her to a Black-and-white Warbler in Florida, and John for about three decades. They met banding hummingbirds in Ramsey Canyon, Arizona. Karen gives anesthesia as part of Kettering Anesthesia Associates and John is the Program Director of the Transitional Year Residency Program at Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio. As of The 2002 ABA Big Day/List Report, Karen and John reported the highest lists of any Ohio birder for the ABA Area.

Best Bird Contest: Paul Wharton will continue to make bird houses to give as prizes in his monthly best bird contest. For November, the best bird will be either the last Chimney Swift, or the first Cackling Goose. As always, you must be present at the meeting to win; and Paul can change the rules any time he wants to.



Past Programs - by Jay Lehman

September Program:

Raptors- A Light Hearted Show

Presented by Brian Wheeler

If you missed this program, too bad! We learned a lot about hawk identification and quite a bit about Mr. Wheeler and his most recent project, *Raptors of Eastern North America* and *Raptors of Western North America*. He started as an artist drawing full-sized drawings of birds. When the market for that art decreased, he became a truck driver to support his family. He was the illustrator, photographer and co-author with William S. Clark for *A Field Guide to Hawks of North America* and *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. Brian studies hawk behavior carefully, often draping himself in camouflage netting, sitting on the ground in open areas. He sometime uses his wife to walk with him to the set-up location, leaving him behind under his camouflage netting to trick the raptor into believing that no one is there. You see, hawks can't count!

His show started in Colorado, his current home state, with local western raptors, and an interesting account of a small town in southeastern Colorado with a very large concentration of Mississippi Kites. Did you know that Prairie Falcon's nests are rather low and not in high cliffs? He showed a photograph of his wife and son looking down on a low Prairie Falcon nest in Colorado. The show progressed through all the eastern raptors, visiting Texas, Florida, and famous hawk watching/counting sites at Cape May, New Jersey and Duluth, Minnesota. It was an evening well spent to learn more about raptor identification and behavior. The photography of raptors in flight was outstanding, just like in his new field guides. If you haven't bought one yet, you should. It is a wonderful reference text with great detail about field identification, biology, and range and habits. Special thanks to RAPTOR, Inc., Jeff Hays, and Kentucky Audubon Society for sharing Brian with us.

October Program

My Big Year

Presented by Greg Miller

Greg Miller gave us an engaging account of his big year and the competition that became the subject of *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, a book by Mark Obmascik. Greg didn't start the year trying for 700+ species in a year for the ABA area or to take part in a competition. His initial goal was more modest, to see 500 birds. When he reached that goal, he decided to try for 600, which he obtained in June. A friend convinced him to try for 700, since half of the year remained. And that's when the story of his chase really started.

He managed to do much more than he expected, claiming, with wit and good humor, that he was really lucky. He was at High Island, on the Texas coast for a major migration fall-out, the best in recent years. Well, Greg, you have to be there to be lucky. You can't be lucky staying at home, and he was at High Island because he recognized a weather system and drove all night to get there. His tale showed a significant characteristic, his ability to figure out how to accomplish much with not very much money but with a great deal of enthusiasm and drive.

The evening almost started in disaster. Greg's wireless computer would not boot up due to interference in the Sharon Woods Visitor Center. So, we started the meeting while Greg walked and drove away from the site trying to find a place away from the interference to start up his computer to turn off the wireless feature. He couldn't, but that didn't stop Greg. He gave his program without his Powerpoint slides and computer. But why should we have been surprised, given all that he accomplished birding during his Big Year? I, for one, believe that it was a better and more personal story given off-the cuff and clearly from the heart in a situation that he seems to handle very well—overcoming great obstacles.

2004-2005 Rare Bird Hotline

If you find a rare or unusual bird (or if you hear a very recent reliable report of one, such as on the internet, even if you didn't see it yourself), 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
Marcia Winborne	321-3173	

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	
John Gilmore & Kristen Spangenberg	553-0364	
Yvonne Mohlman	677-0571	

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	
Katherine Miller	791-5617	
Audubon House	741-7926	

Line 4	Home	Work
Mike Busam	755-0057	
Bill & Tammie Stanley	724-2663	536-2685
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	

Contributors Wanted

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 editor at keller@one.net. You can switch back to a paper copy at any time.

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. But if that's not possible, you can also send them to 7899 Bridgetown Road, Cleveland OH 45002.

Are Your Dues Due?

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2004 - May 2005 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:
Jay Lehman
527-4701

Treasurer:
Peggy Gatch
831-3378

Programs:
Jay Lehman
527-4701

Newsletter:
Ned Keller
941-6497

Bird Club Officers

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