



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Vol. 41 No. 1

January 2005

From 13,169 Ways of Looking at Blackbirds

I.

In rusty winter
Coat blackbird casts
A pale yellow eye
About for something
More formal,
Less basic.

II.

Across the field of winter wheat
The sycamores
Along the creek
Are noisy
Rusty gates.

CIV.

On a February afternoon
Near Columbus
Her heart was changed
By a murmuration of starlings
Painting ephemeral clouds
Above the interstate.

MMMIII.

Happy is the blackbird
undulating in a black sea
of his kind—cheered by the
dance of sun upon
six-thousand pair
of flashing epaulets.

Mike Busam

January Program

*Members Bird Photographs/Slides/Digital
Thursday, January 20, 2005 - 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 CD-ROM drive. If you have pictures on another type of drive, please contact me well in advance of the meeting to discuss how to show your photos. Alternatively, bring your own laptop. You can e-mail me at lehman.jg@pg.com or call me at 513-622-2399 (work, day) or after 8:00 pm at 513-527-4701 (home).

Best Bird Contest: The announced best bird for the November meeting was the last Chimney Swift or the first Cackling Goose. Cackling goose is the new species recently split from Canada Goose. Yvonne Mohlman was the winner with the last Chimney Swift in her chimney on October 28 or 29.

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January Field Trip

Location: Camp Dennison Area and Valley View Nature Preserve

Leader: Bob Foppe, (513) 732-0274 or e-mail fopsinc@aol.com

Date: Saturday, January 8th, 2005

Time: 8:00 AM until after noon?

Meeting Place: We will meet in the parking lot of AIM, which is the name of the business which is located on the east side (same side as the pits) of Glendale-Milford Road/Route 126. The management of AIM has graciously agreed to allow us to park and view the gravel pits from their parking lot. This is the parking lot/business at the extreme north end of the Camp Dennison gravel pits, just before Fletcher Road and the Little Miami River bridge. One large pond can be viewed very closely from here.

Directions: From the North, take I-275 exit #54 Wards Corner Road and go south about 1.5 miles into Miamiville. At the stop sign, turn left, onto Route 126 (called Center Road here). Go east a short distance to a stop sign and turn right. You are still on Route 126. Go across the bridge and past Fletcher Rd and turn left into AIM's parking lot.

From the South, take US 50 towards Milford. Just before the bridge leading into Milford, turn left onto Glendale-Milford Road/Route 126. Go north on Route 126 about 2.5 miles, through the village of Camp Dennison and continuing past the gravel pits on your right. Turn right into AIM's parking lot, located at the extreme north end of the gravel pits.

Join Bob for a visit to what is our best local winter waterfowl/waterbird hotspot. There should be plenty of open water and a great diversity of species and good to great numbers of individual birds. Fourteen species of waterfowl, if not more, can be expected. In addition grebes, coots, gulls and raptors should all be present and

even a Common Loon and 4 cormorants were still there on December 29. After viewing the "pits", Bob will take us to a nearby and "new" nature preserve in Milford, called Valley View. These abandoned farm fields are located in the river bottoms of the East Fork of the Little Miami, along S. Milford Road, near the bridge to Round Bottom Road. A citizens group recently acquired the area and plans to keep it in a natural state. They have mowed a number of paths through the area for fairly easy walking. About 90 acres of habitat here consist of wooded riparian corridor along the river, and brushy weedy fields in various degrees of succession. The area is loaded with song birds, particularly sparrows. On the Cincinnati CBC hundreds of sparrows were seen here, including Song, White-throated, White-crowned, Swamp, American Tree, Field, Savannah and Dark-eyed Juncos. Even a Snow Bunting was present.

Dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear for the walk in the fields. Bob should end the trip sometime after noon. A scope is almost necessary, if you expect good looks at all the birds in the pits. Plenty of scopes will be on hand, so don't let that stop you from coming. There are no bathroom facilities available at Camp Dennison or Valley View. Finding a service station might be the only option. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bob at the numbers above.



November Program

From One End of Alaska to the Other! Quest for Siberian Tit and Whiskered Auklet: Our Last Two A.B.A. Breeders by John and Karen Shrader

John and Karen gave us a really good idea of what it takes to prepare for and to do high-powered chases for life birds to the wilds of Alaska. The presentation had lots of great photos of and discussion about the equipment needed, and the terrain and habitat that they encountered during this two part trip. They told us about the winter-time cold weather training and conditioning by hiking long distances with a fully loaded back pack that they needed before leaving for Alaska. The digital photos of the Siberian Tits at the nest hole were stunning, and the detailed discussion about how to identify them was educational. To get to the location for the Siberian Tit, they had to be in condition to hike over tundra, through icy rivers, across glaciers and frozen rivers. Upon arrival in Fairbanks their guide repacked everything, cutting down equipment to bare essentials to ensure that the group could meet weight requirements on flights and complete the necessary backpacking. They also had training about Grizzly Bears! They flew from Fairbanks to Arctic and then by bush plane from Arctic into the isolated area in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and hiked to the breeding location. The bush plane made several flights from Arctic to this spot to deliver all the participants. Only an empty bushplane could fly out of the isolated location. This required special equipment, care and training to ford an icy river. To get back to a location where a plane could take off with passengers, they hiked 25 miles to an isolated flat spot, also known as a runway in the wilds of Alaska. The flight back to a location close to civilization in Fairbanks was exciting to say the least as it was through a winding narrow valley, in fog and very close to the ground over a pass. Completing the successful chase for Whiskered Auklet was not as

They were more fortunate than others in the group that got to see Siberian Tit. John and Karen stayed in Fairbanks for a few days before going to Dutch Harbor, and therefore, got to see Whiskered Auklet. They were able to fly to Dutch Harbor. Others in the Siberian Tit group got fogged in at Anchorage and never got to Dutch Harbor. Such are the vagaries of travel in Alaska! It was a fascinating program and great presentation. If anyone is interested, I still have handouts of information that John and Karen brought to the meeting.



For sale: Zeiss 10x40B binoculars – well used with a sizeable life list - \$250

For sale: Nikon ED Field scope – well used with a sizeable life list – includes 20x eyepiece, 40x eyepiece, cover, tripod - \$100

Please call Jim Perry at (513)423-4874 or email JimPerry2001@yahoo.com

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

Recent Bird Sightings

Field Trips:
Jay Stenger
522-4245

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Jay Lehman
527-4701

Treasurer:
Peggy Gatch
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Programs:
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