



Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Vol. 41 No. 5

May 2005

May Program

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

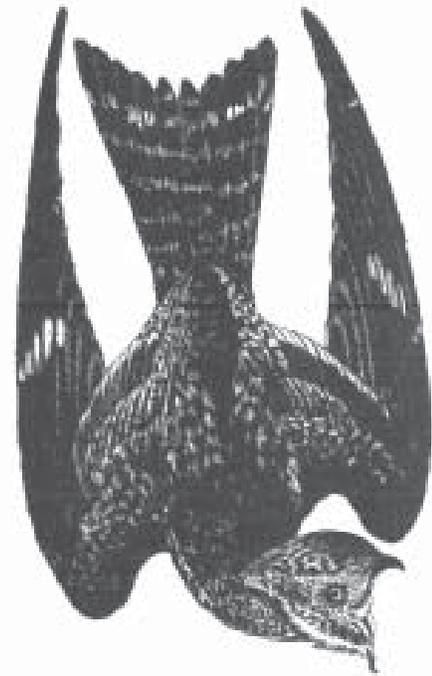
NEOTROPICAL BIRDS: OHIO'S TRANSGLOBAL WANDERERS

Some of Ohio's most spectacular birds are not truly "ours"; they are transglobal wanderers that nest or migrate through Ohio, but winter in the tropics of Central and South America. This group includes colorful species like the Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and Hooded Warbler. The feats of migration undertaken by neotropical birds defies the imagination. For instance, the Blackpoll Warbler, which weighs about as much as a wet teabag, can travel over 8,000 miles one way between its boreal breeding grounds and South American winter range.

There are about 180 species of birds that regularly nest in Ohio, and over a third of them are neotropical. Furthermore, of the roughly 300 species that occur each year in Ohio – migrants and nesters – about 100 are neotropicals. In addition to the brightly colored sprites mentioned above, our neotropicals include shorebirds, gulls, flycatchers, and thrushes.

Conservation of neotropical birds is vital to protecting Ohio's diverse bird life. In this talk, we'll look at some of these fascinating birds, and where they're at when in Ohio, where they go in the winter, and what needs to be done to protect them.

Jim McCormac is the Avian Education Specialist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and is President of the Ohio Ornithological Society. He authored the guide *Birds of Ohio* (2004), and has been watching birds since he was about 7 years old. Jim won't have any copies of his book for sale, but he'll be glad to autograph your copy if you already have one.



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May Field Trips

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

Date: Sunday, May 14 at 7:30 a.m.

*Leader: Jay Stenger, 522-8147,
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 near peak, 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.

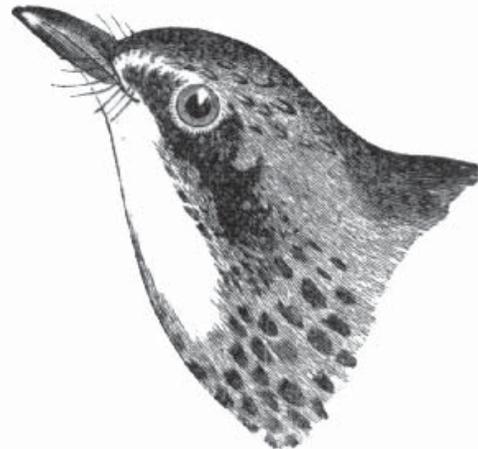
Location: Boone County Cliffs

Date: Saturday, May 28, 8:00 a.m.

*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.



June Picnic

Two years ago we started a June picnic for the bird club. It provides a time to visit with club members who do not attend meetings or field trips regularly and to renew acquaintances. The picnic includes birding at the wetlands and some birding around the picnic shelter areas. The first year was well attended. Last year the attendance was much lower than expected. At the April meeting I mentioned this to the attendees, and that I would be conducting a poll of the membership to see if people want to continue the June Picnic. Here is your chance to vote and/or make your wishes known. Please respond to me before the next meeting, which is May 19 by answering the following questions or providing any further comments. If the response is high enough, we'll schedule a picnic and notify everyone.

The June picnic is a good idea and worth continuing. Yes No

At this time, I plan to attend a June picnic this year if scheduled. Yes No

Comments or Suggestions:

Please either mail your response, call with response or send e:mail before May 19.

Jay G. Lehman, 7064 Shawnee Run Road,
Cincinnati, OH 45243

Home 513-527-4701 (leave a message if no answer)

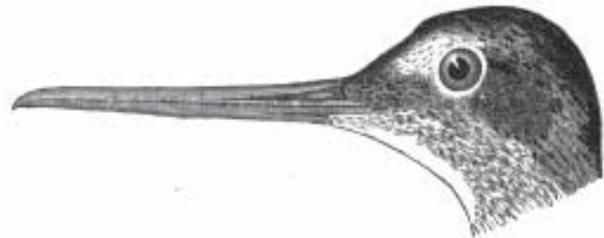
Work 513-622-2399 (leave a message)

e:mail: lehman.jg@pg.com

Ohio Bird Song CD

The Ohio Division of Wildlife, part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, has published a CD of the songs of 103 birds which breed in Ohio. The CD is accompanied by a booklet that describes the songs and provides notes on each species' range, habitat and places to find it. The booklet also has brief descriptions of some of Ohio's best birding spots, and contact information for Ohio birding organizations (including the Cincinnati Bird Club).

The best part is that the CD is free. To get your copy, call the Division of Wildlife at (614) 265-6300, or write to them at 2045 Morse Road, Building G, Columbus, OH 43229.



Best Bird Contest

May The winner will be the best migrant, between the April and May meetings, seen in the Cincinnati and Bird-a-Thon area.. Examples could be the best warbler, flycatcher or shorebird. Any Kirtland's Warbler is very likely the winner. Remember that you must be at the meeting to win.

Recent Winners:

March Mike Busam Lesser Yellowlegs at
VOA

April Ann Oliver First Broad-winged
Hawk of the spring

<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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