



# Passenger Pigeon

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Vol. 42 No. 5

May 2006

## May Program

### Experiments with Wild Songbirds: Exploring Behavioral Ecology & Intelligence

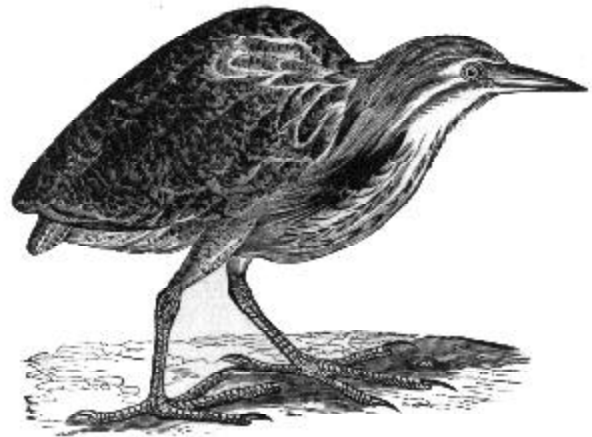
Presenter: Professor George L. Farnsworth III, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Xavier University

*Thursday May 18, 7:00 p.m.  
Sharon Woods Visitor Center*

Dr Farnsworth will discuss research completed in Houston, and the experiments he has been conducting here in Cincinnati with mockingbirds. It should be very entertaining & educational. This program comes highly recommended from Karl Maslowski. Dr. Farnsworth presented an interesting, informative, and entertaining program at the Adams County Amish Bird Symposium in March, 2006 on Bird Vocalizations.

About the Speaker: After completing his Ph.D at North Carolina State University, Dr. Farnsworth completed postdoctoral work at the Putuxant Wildlife Research Center and was Assistant Professor at the University of Houston, downtown from 2000 to 2003. He is currently

Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Xavier University here in Cincinnati. His early work focused on studies on the Wood Thrush in Smoky Mountains National Park. He has published a number of scientific studies on his work with Wood Thrushes as well as statistical methods for population surveys, and nesting success in a number of ornithological journals including Auk, Wilson Bulletin, Journal of Field Ornithology as well as in environmental journals, such as Environmetrics and Conservation Biology. He has authored/co-authored five peer-reviewed chapters and proceedings, and has presented or co-authored 25 papers since 1995, some of these with undergraduates. Finally, he has given lectures and seminars locally to Cincinnati Nature Center, The Oxbow, and Northern Kentucky University.



## In This Issue

May Program .....	1
May Field Trips .....	2

# May Field Trips

## Indian Creek State Wildlife Area Brown County, Ohio

Saturday, May 6  
7:30 a.m.

Leader: Jay Stenger

522-8147

[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 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.

## Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, May 21

Time: 6:30 a.m.

Leader: Jason Lewis, Chief Naturalist

Contact: Jay Stenger

[jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

522-8147

This wonderful NWR is located only 30 miles due west of the Oxbow (just southwest of Versailles, Indiana) yet it is under-birded and seldom visited by local birders. This is unfortunate, as it is one of our region's finest birding/wildlife areas. The refuge is huge and consists of 50,000 acres in Ripley, Jefferson and Jennings counties, Indiana. Only 4,000 acres are open to the public, however, as this site was once the location of the military's Jefferson Proving Ground, which was once used as an ordinance testing facility. Due to this, all visitors must view a safety video and sign an Acknowledgement of Danger form annually prior to entering the refuge.

The out of the way location, the restricted areas and the refuge's limited hours are all reasons this refuge is not well known. But the fact is that the refuge offers some of the best birding in our region. The habitat is diverse, with large open areas of grasslands and successional fields, as well as large tracts of mature woodland. These areas are interspersed with small wetlands and streamside corridors. The refuge hosts one of the largest populations of Henslow's Sparrows in the Midwest. Refuge surveys annually count over 750 singing males. Whip-poor-wills (120 counted on one summer evening), Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, and Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers are all fairly-common to common summer residents.

On our field trip, Head Naturalist Jason Lewis will give the CBC a personal tour of the refuge, including several of the restricted areas. We are certain to find the above-mentioned species (except Whips - time of day) as well as numerous other breeding birds. Spring migration, while a week past peak, will still be underway and we should find many migrants as well. This field trip will prove to be a memorable experience for all who participate.

It will be necessary to register for this trip. We can take around 15-20 people (slightly more than the average attendance on a CBC field trip). Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, contact me, Jay Stenger, at [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com) or at 513-522-8147. If you get a machine, leave a message. We will meet on Sunday, May 21 at 7:00 a.m. at a designated local site and from there we will caravan to Big Oaks together. The meeting place and other details will be given to you when you register.

### Miami Whitewater Park

Saturday, May 27

8:00 A.M

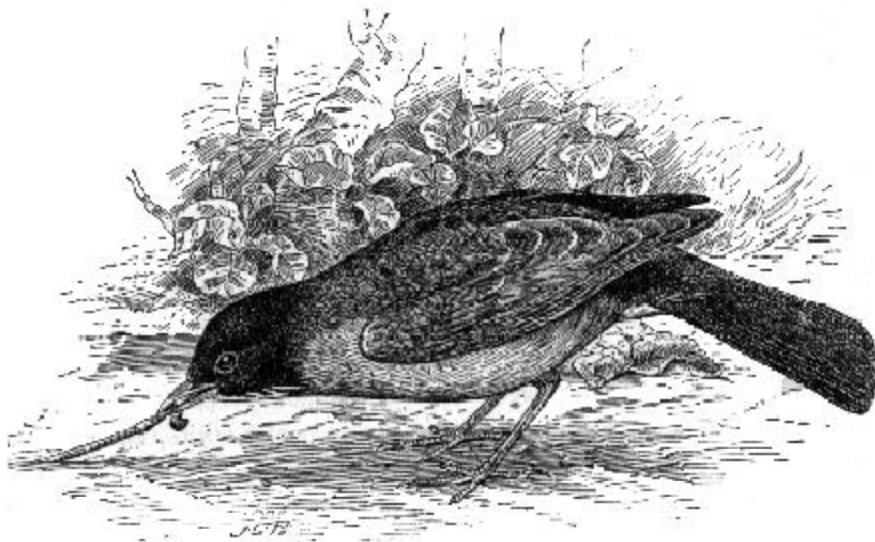
Leader: Ned Keller

[keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net)

941-6497

We'll start out looking for woodland birds, and then move on to the wetland area. Migration will be essentially over, although one or two very late lingerers are possible. But the varied habitats at Miami-Whitewater will let us find a majority of the summer residents of our area. The trip will last until about noon.

Meet near the entrance of the parking lot for the Miami-Whitewater Visitor Center/Ranger Station. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit and turn right. Turn right again at the first stop sign, onto West Road. Just past a small bridge, turn left into the park. Turn left again at the first intersection to get to the Visitor Center.



<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  
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## Bird Club Officers

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