



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

May 2007 Vol 43 No. 5

May Bird Club Events

May Meeting:

“Identification Challenges of Some Similar Ohio Species,” presented by Jay Stenger. Thursday, May 17. 7:00 p.m. Sharon Woods Visitor Center.

Jay Stenger recently presented a program on challenging bird identifications at the 4th annual Adams County Bird Symposium. But if you happened to have been present for that program last February, rest assured that this program will include a number of topics that were not included at the Adams County presentation. Armed with a number of useful slides, Jay will discuss the differences and similarities of several of Ohio’s more confusing and similar species and hopefully help make the identification of these species a little easier. Jay will cover a number of species, including, Canada & Cackling

Goose, Greater & Lesser Scaup, the mergansers, Cooper’s & Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Carolina & Black-capped Chickadee, the Thrushes, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrush, fall Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warbler, Scarlet & Summer Tanager and more.

Jay Stenger is a life-long Cincinnati resident, and a long-time member of and volunteer for the Cincinnati Bird Club. Jay has led countless field trips for the Bird Club, the Cincinnati chapter of the National Audubon Society, Oxbow, Inc., and other organizations. He is currently a board member of Oxbow, Inc. For twenty-two years, Jay has taught an annual three-week-long bird ID course for the Cincinnati NAS chapter. Jay writes that “around 1980, a life-long and ardent interest in birds and wildlife culminated in my becoming an avid birder, which, next to my family, has been my

passion ever since. I bird every chance I get.” Jay’s enthusiasm for birds, birding, and birders is well-known, and his presentation is sure to be informative and entertaining.

May Field Trip:

Location: Boone County Cliffs & Middle Creek Park
Date: Sunday, May 20, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Paul Wharton, 353-3503, pwharton@fuse.net
Meeting Place: Parking lot of Middle Creek Park on Ky 18, 6.5 miles west of Burlington Kentucky, and just 2/10th of a mile west of Middle Creek Rd. (See directions below).

Boone County Cliffs, a Nature Conservancy property, and the 230-acre Middle Creek Park, a Boone County property, are nestled in the wooded hills of western Boone County, Kentucky. The whole region is forested, but Boone

County Cliffs particularly contains some old growth forest habitat that is a reliable spot for Worm-eating Warbler. All the other forest birds are also expected, including Broad-winged Hawk, Cerulean, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush and both tanagers. Middle Creek, which flows through the area, is loaded with Northern Parulas, Yellow-throated Warblers and numerous other breeding birds. Prairie Warblers are common in adjacent successional areas. To all of these breeding birds we can also expect numbers of migrant warblers and songbirds as spring migration, while a little past peak, should still be going strong.

Paul’s plan is to spend a little time birding Middle Creek Park and then slowly drive picturesque Middle Creek Road down to the parking lot for the Boone

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County Cliffs, from which Paul will lead us up the trail to the top of the cliffs. Middle Creek Rd. is an excellent birding spot, but is very narrow and has limited space to pull off, so we won't be able to stop much along there. The good news is that many of the birds that can be found along Middle Creek Rd can also be found at Middle Creek Park.

Now for the negatives: this trip will involve climbing a very steep trail at Boone County Cliffs, and there are no restrooms, so be warned and prepared for an arduous walk.

The trip will probably run just past noon. For those returning home on KY 20, Paul may make a stop where Blue Grosbeaks have nested in prior years. Contact Paul if you have any questions.

Directions from I-75: from I-75 take Kentucky 18, exit # 18, at Florence and go west. When you reach Burlington, Ky continue for 6.5 miles to the Middle Creek Park entrance, which will be on your left (south side of KY 18). The entrance is just a short distance past Middle Creek Rd. Directions from the

west: Take I-275 south and cross the Ohio River. After crossing the river take the first exit, which is KY 8, exit # 11. Turn right (west) onto KY 8, which immediately becomes KY 20 after a short distance. Continue west and then south on KY 20 for about 12 miles. At the intersection with KY 18, turn left or east onto Ky 18 and go about 1 mile. The entrance to Middle Creek Park will be on your right (south side of Ky 18). Middle Creek Rd. is just a short distance ahead.

2007 Oxbow Birdathon

Editor's Note: The following article about the Oxbow Birdathon ran in the April issue, but we're running it again.

The Birdathon is an excellent opportunity for area birders to raise money for good causes—Oxbow, Inc., as well as any other conservation group of your choice. Many birders split the money they raise or personally donate between Oxbow, Inc., and another organization.

Please consider taking part in this year's Birdathon—even if it's just to keep track of birds you see at your feeders or while out casually birding. A little bit adds up.

We hear too often from

some of our birding "leaders" and others that birders don't do enough for conservation. That isn't true by a long shot (pun intended), and

here's a way to prove them wrong.

Good health, good birds, and safe travels.

—Mike Busam

Oxbow Birdathon: Version 20

The Oxbow Inc. annual Birdathon is fast approaching. We welcome and encourage your participation in this fund raising and spring birding event. The Birdathon has become an exciting local birding tradition in our area since it first began in 1988. In fact this is the Birdathon's 20th Anniversary and we hope you will participate and help make this year a memorable affair.

As in past years the Birdathon will be held over a two-day period during the peak of spring migration beginning at 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 11th and ending at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12th and will culminate in a grand tally pizza party to be held at the Sharon Centre in Sharon Woods. Note the change in venue from last years Winton Woods location. Over the 24-hour period, teams or individuals will try to find as many species of birds as possible and collect pledges for each species found. Fifty percent of the pledges will be contributed to Oxbow Inc., to

be used specifically for improving bird habitat and birding access in the Oxbow area. The other fifty percent is contributed to the organization of each team's choice. All Oxbow Inc. contributions to this event are tax deductible. Last year's effort raised over \$6,000.00 for Oxbow Inc. and is being used towards projects that will create a seasonally controlled wetland and another to control water levels in Osprey Lake during fall shorebird season.

We view this as much more than a friendly birding competition. We see this fund-raising event as a community celebration of local birding and conservation and as an opportunity to raise much needed funds to complete a number of bird habitat management and birder accessibility projects we have planned in the Oxbow area, as well as to raise funds for other area conservation and environmental groups. This is a chance

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for like-minded individuals and organizations to come together in the spirit of camaraderie for a common purpose and to make a difference. Anyone can participate on any level. There are several competitive categories one can chose from, or you are welcome to participate as a non-competitor in any manner you would like. The bottom line is that we will raise some money for worthwhile causes and have fun doing it during a fantastic time of the year. As a Cincinnati Bird Club member, we really feel your participation will elevate this event. Bird a lot or a little, raise a lot or a little money, what's important to us is your presence. We hope you will consider participating. More information can be found in the Oxbow Inc., newsletter or website www.oxbowinc.org

If you are interested and would like to register as a team or an individual, use the enclosed Participation Form. If you would like further information, feel free to email me at jaystenger@cinci.rr.com or call me at (513) 522-8147.

—Jay Stenger, Oxbow Birdathon Committee

Birdathon Participation Form

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have more birdwatchers participate in the Birdathon. While there is a competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during the 24 hours of the contest, you don't have to compete at all and can participate as a non-competitive individual or team. There are several categories from which you can choose. You do not even have to leave your own house. Here are some of the categories of competition:

- Most Species by a Team (most overall species by a group)
- Most Species by an Individual (most overall species by an individual)
- Most Species in a Back Yard (most species observed from one yard)
- Most Species One State (most species by state, either Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky)
- Most Species One County (most species in any one county, ex: Hamilton)
- Most Species In One Location (recorded in one defined area, ex: The Oxbow)
- Most Species Non-Fossil Fuel (recorded without using any gasoline)
- Most Species Big Sit (recorded from one fixed 30 x 30 foot spot)
- Most Species Family (most species by a family, parent/guardian and at least one child)
- Most Species Under Age 20 (most species by a group 19 & under, 1 adult allowed)
- Most Funds Raised by a Team
- Most Funds Raised by an Individual
- Most Funds raised by Persons Under 20 Years Old

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. The way to do it is to have fun birding!

I want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon. Please send an entry form to:

Team Name _____

Contact Name _____

Additional Team Members _____

Number of Team Members ___ X \$5.00 = _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Please include with this application a check made out to Oxbow, Inc. to cover the team fee, and mail it to:

Oxbow, Inc, 9761 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231



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Thanks for your support.

This issue marks the beginning of the mid-year "break" in the 2006-2007 Cincinnati Bird Club year. Have a safe and happy summer. We'll see you in September.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php

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**
