



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

December 2007 Vol 43 No. 9

December Meeting:
There will be no Bird Club meeting for the month of December. Please consider taking part in one of the local Christmas Bird Counts. We'll see you in January!

Are Your Dues Due?
If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2007 - May 2008 birding year, please fill out the form on the newsletter cover and mail it in along with your membership fees.

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The Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count

The 61st annual Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count will be conducted on Sunday, December 30th 2007. This National Audubon and Cincinnati Bird Club sponsored Christmas Count is steeped in tradition and was begun in 1947 by the founders of our Cincinnati Bird Club who reorganized the count after World War II ended.

Last years count was a great success by any standard. We again led all of Ohio's 59 Christmas Counts with 86 total species. Our All-time record is 92 total species, which was set on the 2004 count. We have often led the nation in high counts for a number of species. Last year we led all of the Christmas Bird Counts in Carolina Chickadees with a total of 1,526. More importantly we had the 23rd highest

participation out of all 2,052 CBC's conducted in 2006 with 134 total observers. We finished second in total participation in Ohio to the Cuyahoga Falls CBC who had 151 observers. However we were first in Ohio with 117 field participants. Of Cuyahoga Falls 151 observers, 106 were field participants; the other 45 were feeder watchers (we had 17 feeder watchers).

I encourage everyone to participate on this seasons count and help keep this great community birding tradition strong. You can participate in many ways. If you can go a whole day, that's great. But if you can't do a whole day you are welcome to join us for just part of the day. If you live within the count circle you can participate by staying home and counting the

birds at the feeder and in your yard. The Grand Tally will again be held at the Cincinnati Nature Center beginning around 6:30 pm and we thank Bill Creasey and the Nature Center for their continued hospitality. Everyone and anyone is welcome to attend this after count party. Arrive around 5:30 and bring a carry in dinner, enjoy some refreshments and birding camaraderie and see what great finds our combined day's efforts came up with. There are always some surprises. If you have any questions or would like to register to participate contact a group leader or me. Happy Holidays.

—Jay Stenger
Compiler
Cincinnati Christmas Count
513-522-8147
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

2007-2008 Christmas Bird Counts

These are the dates and contact information for the five Cincinnati Bird Club-sponsored Christmas Bird Counts:

Saturday, December 15, 2007

Hamilton/Fairfield CBC
Mike Busam
513.259.3262
Mbusam@gmail.com

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Ohio River (Oxbow) CBC
Joe Bens
513-353-4229
jbens@cinci.rr.com

Saturday, December 22, 2007

East Fork CBC
Joe Bens
513-353-4229
jbens@cinci.rr.com

Sunday, December 23, 2007

Western Hamilton County CBC
Ned Keller
513-941-6497
keller@one.net

Sunday, December 30, 2007

Cincinnati CBC
Jay Stenger
513-522-8147,
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Monday, December 31, 2007

Oldenburg/Michaela Farm trial CBC
Wayne Wauligman
513-922-4430
wrwpgw@aol.com

A trial CBC is planned for December 31, 7:30 am, in Oldenburg IN. We'll return for a tally and a simple lunch at 1:00.

(Donation accepted.)

Anyone interested should meet at the barn on Michaela Farm:

Take I-74 to Batesville/Oldenburg, Exit 149. Follow sign towards Oldenburg on SR 229, about three miles. One block past Holy Family Church and the Motherhouse there is a sharp curve to the left. The farm drive and parking will be on your immediate right. <http://oldenburgfranciscans.org/farm.html>

The area includes open farmland, Batesville reservoirs, heavily wooded tracts, hill-sides and a small part of the Whitewater River south of Brookville. The count is centered at Michaela

Farm, Oldenburg, IN.

This is a practice year. Next year we hope to make the count official.

There are a number of other Christmas Bird Counts and Winter Bird Counts in our area. For a complete list of locations, dates, and contacts, please see either or both of the following links:

Ohio Ornithological Society "Winter Bird Counts" page: http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter_counts/winter.php

Audubon Ohio Christmas Bird Count page: <http://oh.audubon.org/bsc/cbc.html>

For information on the history of the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts, including a searchable database containing millions of CBC records for hundreds of counts, check out the 108th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count homepage: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

2008 Cincinnati Bird Club Rare Bird Hotline

It's that time of year for the Cincinnati Bird Club to update our Rare Bird Hotline. To participate you must be a current member of the CBC. To register for the Hotline call or email me and state that you want to be included. If you are currently on the Hotline and want to remain, you must still **RENEW** or you might get dropped.

Be sure to give me all the phone numbers where you most often can be reached (home, work, cell). If you call and get my machine feel free to leave a message but be sure to include your phone number/s. The new and revised Hotline should appear in the January 2008 Newsletter.

Before you renew or sign up you might want to consider a few things.

Prior to the advent of the Internet, Hotlines served a great purpose to birders. In those days

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Hotlines were one of the few resources available to birders and kept us informed as to the occurrence of rare species in the area. These days Hotlines are relied upon much less frequently due to the many Internet forums, message boards, list-serves and sightings logs that are now available to report bird sightings. These resources can be easily found and are readily available to most birders and have greatly expanded the ability of birders to communicate with each other.

Nonetheless, Hotlines still have some advantages over the Internet. One obvious benefit is that the Hotline participant is directly, and in many cases *immediately*, notified in person of a rare bird sighting. This of course gives Hotline participants an “edge”, a better chance of finding the bird before it leaves the area. That is, if the birder is willing to drop everything and run off to “chase” the bird. If you have no intention to “chase” rare birds like

this, then there is little reason for you to be on a Hotline, as these sightings are usually reported on the Internet not much later. Also if you are impossible or difficult to reach by phone (can’t take calls at work, are seldom at home or never pick up, etc.) you probably shouldn’t be on the Hotline.

The CBC Hotline currently has around 30 participants, but there are many times those numbers of active birders in the Tri-state region. The majority of birders in the Tri-state area do not belong to the CBC or take part in our Hotline, so those folks have little compulsion to report their rare finds directly to our Hotline. However many of these sightings do get reported through some other venue. Because of this, many regional rare bird sightings never make it to our Hotline. If you notice a regional rare bird report on the Internet that is reasonably timely or fairly current (same day), feel free to pass the information along and get our Hot-

line started.

By renewing or signing up for the Hotline you are accepting the responsibility to call and relay the details of any given sighting to the next available Hotline participant on the list in person. Leaving a message on an answering machine and stopping there before you have reached a live party does not fulfill your obligation. Failure to comply with this rule has severe penalties. Did you ever wonder what happened to a birder that you used to see around a lot but don’t anymore? Chances are they failed to make their Hotline calls!

If none of this has discouraged you and you still want to be on the CBC 2008 Rare Bird Hotline, welcome aboard. Just be sure to notify me by December 22, 2007.

Jay Stenger
513-522-8147
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

2007-2008 Bird Club Membership Dues

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it’s highlighted, that means we need your membership dues for the 2007-2008 Bird Club Year.

If you read your newsletter online, your dues are still helpful to the club. While it is true that part of the dues collected each year are used to pay for newsletter costs, your membership dues also support our monthly programming. The slate of speakers this year has been very diverse, and Jay Lehman promises a number of interesting programs in 2008.

Every bit helps.

Thank you, and have a safe and happy holiday season—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, etc. We’ll see you in 2008.



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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**
