



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

April 2008 Vol 44 No. 4

April Bird Club Events

April Meeting:

**“Recording and Studying Bird Song”
Thursday, April 17.
7:00 p.m. Sharon Woods Visitor Center.**

This month’s meeting features Steve Pelikan, who will be presenting a program about studying and recording bird song. Steve explains that “a short description of the subject of the talk could be ‘How listening carefully to birds makes birdwatching more fun and life more exciting.’” Digital photography has led to a tremendous increase in the numbers of people interested in birds and birding. Though by comparison there are not a lot of people collecting field recordings of bird songs and studying them on their home or office computers, the field is expanding and the number of active recorders is growing. This is an exciting area of study, which offers numerous opportunities

to add to our knowledge of birds. Steve will explain how people new to the craft of bird song recording can get started. He’ll also cover some of what he has learned during his years of field recording work.

An example of some of Steve’s work with local Carolina Chickadees can be found on his website: <http://math.uc.edu/~pelikan/BirdSong/cach.html>

For those who haven’t met Steve, here’s a brief bio that this long-standing member of the Cincinnati birding community provided: “After studying mathematics and biology I joined the Math Department at UC in 1984. A nearly life-long birder, I was lucky enough to meet the likes of Art and Jinny Wiseman and David Styer within days of moving to Cincinnati.

My research for several decades has used mathematics to investigate questions from bi-

ology. Recently I’ve concentrated on questions related to evolution and conservation. I’ve very interested in teaching mathematics and passionate about the mathematical preparation of future high school math teachers.”

April Field Trips (And one in early May)

Location: Gilmore Ponds

Date: Sunday, April 20.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Place:

Symmes Road

Parking Lot.

Leader: Mike Busam

(513) 755-0057

Mbusam@gmail.com

Old Man Winter was kind to Gilmore Ponds this year, and the water levels are as good as they’ve been in a decade. We’ll look for waterfowl and migrant songbirds. If conditions are favorable and time allows, we’ll make side trips to a couple “new” wetland areas that are

connected to Gilmore Ponds via the Mill Creek and the Miami-Erie Canal. The trip begins at the Symmes Road parking lot at 8:00 a.m. From I-275, take the Winton Road exit # 39 and go north to Route 4. Cross RT 4 and the road becomes Holden Boulevard. Drive past Fairfield HS. When you reach the light at Symmes Road, the parking lot will be directly across from you next to Quality Publishing.

Location: Miami-Whitewater Forest and Wetlands

**Date & Time: Saturday, April 26
7:30 a.m.**

Meeting Place: MWW Visitor Center

Parking Lot

**Leader: Paul Wharton
(513) 353-3403**

pwharton@fuse.net

Spring migration will be well under way, and we expect to find a wide variety of species on this trip. The habitats in this park are diverse,

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ranging from mature woodlands to wetlands and grasslands. Paul will start the day by looking for returning resident and migrant warblers, songbirds and other species in the forested areas of the park. We will then work our way over to the wetlands where we hope to find rails, bitterns, shorebirds and other wetland and grassland species. Miami White-water Park is one of our areas best birding sites and this is a near peak time for spring migration, so we expect a really great day of birding.

Meet Paul at 7:30 A.M. 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. There is no set end time for this field trip, but it will probably run to about 1:00 P.M. A Park District auto sticker (\$5 annual or \$2 daily) is required and can be purchased at the entrance. Contact Paul if you have any questions. See the

Hamilton County Park District website for a map of the park. <http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami.htm>

Location: Spring Grove Cemetery
Date: Sunday, May 4
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Meeting Place: Just beyond the tunnel at the Spring Grove Ave. entrance.
Leader: Jay Stenger (513) 522-8147
jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Spring warbler and songbird migration will be in full swing and Spring Grove Cemetery has a well-deserved reputation as being an excellent place to see them. The wooded grounds and park like setting is beautiful and peaceful and there is very little traffic. This is a truly enjoyable place to go birding. We plan to take a leisurely morning walk throughout the grounds and can expect to find numerous species, especially warblers, which should be abundant. This trip will end around noon. The walking is easy and there is water and restrooms at the main entrance. We will meet at 7:30 A.M. Park along the main road just beyond the tunnel at the

main entrance on Spring Grove Ave. This should be a great trip and I hope to see you there. Contact Jay

2008 Oxbow Birdathon

The annual Oxbow Inc. Birdathon is fast approaching. We welcome and encourage your participation in this fundraising and spring birding event. The Birdathon has become an exciting annual local birding tradition in our area since it first began 21 years ago in 1988. As in past years the Birdathon will be held over a two-day period during the peak of spring migration. This year it will begin at 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 9th and end at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 10th. It will culminate in a grand tally pizza party to be held at the Winton Woods Visitor Centre in Winton Woods. Note the change in venue from last years Sharon 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 then be contributed to Oxbow Inc., to be used specifically for improving bird habitat and birding access in the

Stenger if you have any questions: (513) 522-8147 or jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Oxbow area. The other fifty percent is contributed to the organization of each team or participants choice. All Oxbow Inc. contributions to this event are tax deductible as is the mileage driven for the event. Last year's effort raised over \$6,500.00 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 fundraising event as a community celebration of local birding and conservation efforts and as an opportunity to raise much needed funds for several projects that include bird habitat management and birder accessibility in the Oxbow, as well as a way to raise funds for other area conservation and environmental groups. This is a chance for like-minded individuals and organizations to come together in the spirit of camaraderie for a com-

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mon purpose and to help make a difference. Anyone can participate on any skill 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 the peak of spring migration. 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 at the Oxbow website:

www.oxbowinc.info/

If you 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

Phone

Address

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc, 9761 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231



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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 below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

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**
