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# The Passenger Pigeon

## The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

September 2008 Vol 44 No. 6

### September Bird Club Events

#### September Meeting:

**“Birds and genes:  
New ornithology re-  
search at Cincinnati  
Museum Center.”**

#### **Speaker:**

**Dr. Herman Mays.  
Thursday, September  
18. 7:00 p.m. Sharon  
Woods Visitor  
Center.**

I am pleased to announce that our new season will kick off with what I believe will be a very special program. Our speaker will be Dr. Herman Mays, Curator of Zoology for the Greier Collections And Research Center at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Some of you have already met Herm, but he came to the Museum Center as the new curator of zoology just a relatively short time ago in June 2007. But Herm is no stranger to the Greater Cincinnati area as he was born in Cincinnati and raised in central Kentucky.

Herm received a PhD

from the University of Kentucky and his PhD thesis was on the breeding behavior of Yellow-breasted Chats. Following graduate school Herm spent five years at Auburn University where he was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral researcher. While at Auburn Herm used molecular genetic tools to study mate choice in Eastern Bluebirds, population genetics of House Finches, and many other projects involving genetic tools in studies of avian biology. After Auburn, Herm took a position as an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University. In June 2007 Herm took the position as Curator of Zoology at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Herm's program will inform us on new ornithology research taking place at the Cincinnati Museum Center, but he is also looking forward to this program as an introduction to our bird-

ing community and to let everyone know that, in his own words, "ornithology research is again alive and well at the museum". We are fortunate to again have someone at the Museum with such a strong ornithological background.

Mark your calendars and come on out and help give Herm Mays an official CBC welcome back to Cincinnati.

—Submitted by Jay Stenger, program coordinator

#### **September Field Trips:**

**Location: Shawnee  
Lookout Park and the  
Oxbow**

**Date: Saturday, Sep-  
tember 13.**

**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Place:  
lower Shawnee Look-  
out Boat Ramp**

**Leader: Jay Stenger  
513-522-4245,  
jaystenger@cinci.rr.  
com**

Fall warbler migration should be near peak on this date so migrant songbirds will be our primary objective during the morning. By late morning we will probably head over to the Oxbow, stopping at Lost Bridge on the way. If water levels are favorable (low) we could find some shorebirds. Herons, egrets, terns and other waterbirds should also be expected as well as migrant and resident raptors. We plan to bird past noon or longer if the birding is good. We'll walk a bit at Shawnee, but it will be easy and at a comfortable birding pace. These two locations taken together can produce a long list at this season. A Hamilton County Park pass is required at Shawnee Lookout. We will meet at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramps lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

The boat ramp is located directly across from the park entrance. Please feel free to call

or email Jay if you have any questions. Check out the following Hamilton County Parks link for directions.

<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/aboutus/directory.htm>

**Location:**  
**Brookville Lake**  
**Date: Sunday,**  
**September 21.**  
**Time: 7:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting Place:**  
**Park & Ride at I-275**  
**Exit # 7 (see below)**  
**Leader: Paul Wharton**  
**(513) 353- 3403**  
**pwharton@fuse.net**

The Brookville Lake region has more to offer than just waterfowl. This has become an annual field trip because it always produces great sightings. We have three goals 1) migrant raptors 2) migrant passerines and 3) migrant shorebirds. With a little luck with the weather we could be in for a big day. But even if one group isn't cooperating we're bound to find one that is. Paul has sharp eyes and a knack for spotting raptors. Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk migration is near peak around this date and as

many as 12 species of diurnal raptors have been seen on previous trips at this time of year. Warblers and other songbirds will also still be near peak on this date and if we can find mudflats we will find shorebirds, terns and waders. We'll take a long leisurely morning walk (restrooms along the way) with one eye on the tree-tops and another one in the sky. Later in the day we will check the north end of Brookville and possibly Hueston Woods for shorebirds. This trip will run well into the afternoon so come prepared.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the park & ride lot, located at the I-74/I-275 Miamitown Exit # 7 at SR 128. We will caravan from here to the Brookville area, about a 25-minute drive. Call or email Paul if you have any questions.

#### **October Field Trip:**

**Location:**  
**Muscatatuck National**  
**Wildlife**  
**Refuge**  
**Date: Saturday,**  
**October 4.**  
**Time: 7:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting Place:**  
**Tanners Creek Boat**  
**Ramp (see below)**  
**Leader: Darlena**

**Graham, 859-341-4893,**  
**darlena@fuse.net**

Muscatatuck is one of Darlena's favorite birding locations and she has a thorough knowledge of the area. This is a great time of year to see a mixed bag of species as migration for a number of species is either winding down or just getting started. The varied habitat of this 8,000-acre refuge always attracts a diverse avifauna so we expect a great day of birding. We expect to find migrant warblers and other songbirds including sparrows and other returning winter residents, raptors, shorebirds, waders and waterfowl. In addition to the great birding, Muscatatuck is a beautiful and quiet preserve and the pleasant temperatures and glorious fall color that is usually the norm at this time of year should add up to a great day afield. Darlena plans to stay well into the afternoon and there is no place to buy food and drink, so plan accordingly. A modern visitor center will provide the creature comforts. If you have any questions contact Darlena.

We will meet at the Tanners Creek Boat Ramp at

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7:30 a.m. and caravan to Muscatatuck from there, about an hours drive due west on US 50. Tanners Creek Boat Ramp is located just south of US 50 in Lawrenceburg Indiana, about 3/4 of a mile west of the Tanners Creek Bridge. From the Cincinnati area take I-275 west to the US 50 Lawrenceburg, Indiana Exit # 16. At the end of the ramp turn left onto US 50 and go west through Lawrenceburg. After crossing the bridge look for Tanners Creek Drive and turn left. There is a McDonalds at this corner and you should see a small boat ramp sign. Drive to the boat ramp parking lot at the end of the road.

## Bird Club Changes

Jay Lehman is getting a well-deserved break from his dual roles of Bird Club president and program coordinator—roles Jay has held and filled admirably for the past few years. Mike Busam will serve as Bird Club president for the 2008-2009 year, and Jay Stenger will take over program planning.

Beginning with the October issue of the *Passenger Pigeon* Ann Oliver will become the newsletter editor. Bob Foppe will be the field trip

coordinator for 2008-2009. Finally, Lois Shadix will take over as Bird Club treasurer. (Please be sure to note the new address when you mail your dues for the 2008-2009 Bird Club year. These dues help us pay for program speakers, room rentals, and the newsletter. We appreciate your membership and your support!)

**Long-time members of the Bird Club are sure to notice that Peg Gatch is handing over the treasurer's role after twenty years of service**, in addition to more than twice that length of time as an active Bird Club member and supporter. Peg's contributions to our club go back literally longer than almost any current Bird Club member can remember. Peg is moving to Florida in October and planning to expand and deepen her Florida bird list, crush any and all who dare to oppose her in games of bridge, and to enjoy a change of scenery and weather after all these years in Ohio.

Peg hopes to see everyone at the September meeting, and we hope that you'll come out to say "hello" and "best wishes" to an important friend and member of our birding community. BUT . . . Peg wishes to let everyone know that until the September meeting, she is still accepting your Bird Club

dues. She's done a great job for twenty years, and isn't going to walk away "just like that," after all.

We certainly appreciate the contributions that Jay Lehman and Peg Gatch have made to the Cincinnati Bird Club.

I'd also like to thank Louise and Bob Halley for bringing snacks and drinks to Bird Club meetings for the past few years. The Halleys have been long-time Bird Club members and supporters, and their handling of this task is much appreciated by people who attend Bird Club meetings. One of the best parts of our monthly meetings is chatting and sharing a snack with the Halleys and other Bird Club members after the meetings. Jack Kemp will be bringing snacks and drinks this year. We thank Jack for offering to handle this duty.

On behalf of the Cincinnati Bird Club board I'd like to welcome everyone to the 2008-2009 Bird Club year, and I hope everyone can make it to a few meetings and field trips this year. It's shaping up to be a very good year.

—Mike Busam



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## **2008-2009 Dues:**

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2008 - May 2009 birding year, please fill out the form below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

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VISIT US ON THE WEB:

[www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php](http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php)

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## Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$12.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$5.00

**Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to:  
Lois Shadix, 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244**

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