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# The Passenger Pigeon

## The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

*December 2008 Vol 44 No. 9*

### **December Bird Club Events: Christmas Bird Counts & YOU!**

**Birding is alive and well in Cincinnati!** The 2007 Cincinnati Bird Count placed **15<sup>th</sup> in participation** among more than 2100 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) held across Canada, Latin America, and the United States. In US counts alone, Cincinnati was **10<sup>th</sup> in attendance** out of 1600 counts.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Cincinnati CBC will be conducted on **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008** and **you are invited**. The National Audubon Society (NAS) and Cincinnati Bird Club CBC is steeped in tradition: it was begun in 1947 by the founders of our Cincinnati Bird Club who reorganized the count after WWII.

Last year's (2007) count was a great success! Cincinnati set an **all-time record** for this count with **94 total species**, which bested our previous high of 92 species in 2004. The 2007 total was the **second highest number of species** among all of Ohio's 67 Christmas Counts. Toledo was first in Ohio last year with 96 total species setting a record high for that count. Curiously, Cincinnati led the Ohio CBC's the previous year with just 86 total species in 2006.

Most importantly, Cincinnati had our highest participation since 1980. **The 2007 Cincinnati CBC had 148 birders participate**, up from 133 in 2006. Our count record for participants is 157, set in 1979. Of last year's 148 participants, **we had 128 in the field and 20 at feeders**. Our

participant total last year was the 15<sup>th</sup> highest attendance of all National Audubon Society CBC's and placed 10<sup>th</sup> in US counts.

Over the years, the Cincinnati count has often led all NAS counts with the highest number of individual species including Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren and Carolina Chickadee. In 2006 we led all counts with 1,526 Carolina Chickadees: last year we kept our title with 1,454 Carolina Chickadees. Remember, CBC's help scientists build data sets to track changes in North American birdlife. This important information is needed to protect and preserve vulnerable and abundant species.

I encourage everyone to join this seasons Cincinnati CBC and help keep this great community birding tradition strong. CBC's are a wonderful way to spend a day with old and new friends. Everyone is welcome from beginner to expert: just dress appropriately for the weather!

You can participate in many ways. If you can bird an entire day, that's great. But if you can't do a whole day you are welcome to join us for part of the day. Or, if you live within the count circle, you can also stay home and count the birds at your feeder and in your yard. Contact Jay Stenger, Cincinnati CBC Compiler at 513-552-8147 or [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com) for details.

**The Grand Tally** will again be held at the **Cincinnati Nature Center** beginning around 6:30 pm. Everybody is welcome to attend this post-count party. We thank Bill Creasey and the Cincinnati Nature Center for their continued hospitality! Arrive around 5:30 and bring your own dinner and refreshments. You'll enjoy birding camaraderie and find out what great birds our combined day's efforts discovered. If you have any questions or would like to register to participate, contact a group leader or me.

Jay Stenger, Compiler, Cincinnati CBC

513-522-8147, [jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

### **Queen City Young Birders Club: Chapter of Ohio Young Birders Club Sponsors Local Bird Walk**

Birders young and old are invited to join a bird walk Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse, 647 Neeb Road, adjacent to the College of Mount. St. Joseph in Delhi Township. Meet at 9am behind the Motherhouse near the cemetery. Target birds include winter species such as Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and more. You'll also learn about The Clifford Banding Station and the work of The Avian Institute.

The Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) was formed in 2006 by Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) for young birders ages 12-18. The local chapter, Queen City Young Birders, is just beginning. The local club is sponsored by BSBO, Cincinnati Bird Club, Oxbow, Inc., RAPTOR, Inc., and the Avian Research and Education Institute.

Call Kathy McDonald, 513-941-6497, for additional details. Or read more online at <http://cincinnatibirds.com/oybc/index.html>

## **Cincinnati Bird Club Sponsoring Five Christmas Bird Count Dates**

### **Ohio River CBC (Oxbow)**

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Compiler: Paul Wharton, 513-353-3403  
[pwharton@fuse.net](mailto:pwharton@fuse.net)

### **Hamilton/Fairfield CBC (Butler County)**

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Compiler: Mike Busam, 513-755-0057  
[mbusam@gmail.com](mailto:mbusam@gmail.com)

### **Western Hamilton County CBC**

Sunday, December 21, 2008

Compiler: Ned Keller, 513-941-6497  
[keller@one.net](mailto:keller@one.net)

### **Cincinnati CBC**

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Compiler: Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147  
[jaystenger@cinci.rr.co](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.co)

### **East Fork CBC**

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Compiler: Joe Bens, 513-353-4229  
[joebens@live.com](mailto:joebens@live.com)

### **A link to the NAS Christmas Bird Count Finder:**

<http://app.audubon.org/cbcapp/findCircles.jsp>

### **A link to Ohio Christmas Bird Counts:**

[http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter\\_count/winter.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter_count/winter.php)

## 2009 CBC Hotline Registration

It's that time of year for the Cincinnati Bird Club to update our Rare Bird Hotline. With bird sightings from hundreds of birders being so easy to find and read on the Internet these days, the notion of Hotlines is becoming somewhat antiquated. Of those hundreds of birders that report their sightings on the Internet, relatively few of them are actually on the CBC Hotline, or for that matter CBC members. Therefore few reports come directly to our Hotline these days. However some people still like the idea of the immediate "heads up" that a Hotline can provide, so we are going to try it again.

Hotline rules are simple. Someone finds an accidental or rare bird and calls the person/s at the top of the line and relays the details of the sighting. In turn, that person calls the next person on the list and that person calls the next, etc. If you don't get an answer, you are to continue calling until you get a live person or reach the end of the list (which can be frustrating).

If you want to be on the 2009 Hotline you must **register or renew, even if you are a long time participant or were on last year's list.** To participate, you must be a **current member** of the Cincinnati Bird Club. To register for the Hotline, call or email me and state that you want to be included on the 2009 Hotline. Be sure to give me **all** the phone numbers where you can most often be reached (home, work, cell). If you call and get my machine, feel free to leave a message, but be sure to include your name and phone number/ s. The new and revised Hotline should appear no later than the February Newsletter.

Jay Stenger, (513) 522-8147  
[jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

## Cincinnati Bird Club Program: January- Member's Slide Night

In keeping with tradition, there will be no Cincinnati Bird Club program or meeting in December as the various Christmas Bird Counts effectively replaces them.

Our January meeting will be Members Slide Night (or, should that be changed to digital), another Cincinnati Bird Club tradition that has proven to be a very popular program. This gathering will feature the photography of our many talented members. All members are encouraged to participate. Room details have not yet been formalized, but we expect the date will be our normal time and location, the third Thursday of the month at the Sharon Woods Visitor Center. Look to the January Newsletter for confirmation and further details.

## Peg Gatch: Cincinnati Bird Club Treasurer Shares Fond Memories

If you attended the September program meeting, you heard a personal goodbye from Peg Gatch as the Cincinnati Bird Club lovingly celebrated her decades of volunteer service to the club. We received the following note from Peg after she settled into her new "nest" in Florida.

Peg wrote: "Thank you for all the wonderful years with the Cincinnati Bird Club. I enjoyed being Treasurer and attending meetings and field trips. I love the Dragonfly Pin and flowers. And thanks for all the very kind words. I'll be living at Winter Park Towers, 1111 South Lakemont Avenue, # 405, Winter Park, Florida, 32792.

In spirit, I'll be with you on the third Thursday of each month and at the CBC's in December. Thanks again, Peg Gatch."

## Ecuador Trip Opportunity

The Cincinnati Museum Center is offering an 11-day trip to Ecuador, April 3-13, 2009 with Herman Mays, Jr., Ph.D., the Curator of Zoology. A handful of spaces still remains. Sites include Yanacocha, Bella Vista, Mindo, Papallacta Pass, Papallacta to Baeza Road, Cabanas San Isidro, and Guacamayos. Register by December 15, 2008 by calling 513-287-7021 (or 1-800-733-2077, ext. 7021).



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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 Free

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