



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

September-October 2009 Vol 45 No. 6

Dues & Newsletters: Time To Pay Yearly Membership

It's hard to believe, but September has arrived and that means *it's time to pay your Cincinnati Bird Club dues*. Look on the back of this newsletter for a form to mail your yearly contribution to Treasurer Lois Shadix. If you plan on attending the September or October meeting, you can pay in person.

Ever wonder what Cincinnati Bird Club does with your dues? The club pays for the room at Sharon Woods, provides a modest honorarium for our guest speakers, and pays for printing and mailing the newsletter.

Ever wondered how much all that costs? Well, let's just say that your \$12 individual (\$15 family) contribution is s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d. To cover individual mailing costs for each newsletter is nearly one-third of your dues: a 44 cent first-class stamp on your monthly newsletter is nearly \$4 per year. Printing your newsletter adds another \$5 on an annual basis. Add labels, staples, and sticky tabs to the list.

Speaking of the newsletter, *we'd want to send the majority of the bulletins via email*. We are aware a few members don't have personal computers. If you don't have email, we'll gladly send you the newsletter in the mail. But most folks have email access either at home, work, or the library. Currently, we're printing and mailing nearly 110 paper copies to members... some who have not renewed their membership *in years*. **If we don't receive your renewal by the end of this year, we'll remove you from our mailing list.**

So please, renew your membership today and get your newsletter delivered in a greener fashion! Help Cincinnati Bird Club save a few dollars, and several trees, by ensuring that we have your *current email address*. We'll email you the newsletter. More than 120 members already get their newsletters delivered electronically. Email doesn't deplete the finances of our club... and prevents nasty paper cuts on the fingers of the newsletter compiler.

Plus, if we have your email, you'll get the newsletter delivered to your "inbox" in a timely fashion. No more waiting on the Post Office to deliver your newsletter only to discover, when it finally arrives, that you've missed your favorite field trip by one day! Additionally, if you're on our email list, we can update you throughout the month and send you reminders about upcoming field trips and program meetings.

Cincinnati Bird Club officers:

Jay Stenger, President

Ann Oliver, Vice-President & Newsletter Editor

Lois Shadix, Treasurer

Bob Foppe, Program Director

Mark Gilsdorf, Field Trip Coordinator

Thanks to Mike Busam for serving as President last year. Another note of thanks to former Cincinnati Bird Club President Jay Lehman for attending nearly every club meeting and donating his time as our V.I.P (Volunteers-In-Parks) and technology guru for many years!

Contributed by Ann Oliver

September Program Meeting

Thursday, September 17th

Sharon Woods at 7 pm

“Migratory Songbirds in the Western Lake Erie Basin of Northern Ohio: Movements, Habitat Use, and Stopover Duration”

Welcome to our first program of the new season. This will be the first of many quality CBC programs we have planned for this year and we hope you will take advantage and get out to as many of them as you can.

Our September speaker is Ashley Buchanan, a Wildlife Refuge Specialist at Indiana’s Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. Ashley works hands-on with a number of avian and wildlife projects. Big Oaks NWR, in nearby Ripley County, is the nearest National Wildlife Refuge to Cincinnati.

Originally from Oklahoma, Ashley attended Oklahoma State University where she completed her B. S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology. After graduation she did considerable seasonal field biology work in Iowa, Georgia, North Carolina, Kansas, Oklahoma and Ohio. Most of her work centered on grassland and forest birds but she also worked with snakes and small mammals. Ashley then completed an M. S. in Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Her graduate research focused on habitat use, local movements, and stopover duration of migratory songbirds during spring migration in northern Ohio.

Ashley’s program will detail the graduate research she conducted on migratory songbirds during the spring migration along the Lake Erie shore at Ottawa and Cedar Point National

Wildlife Refuges and Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area.

Ashley explains “migration is often considered the most energetically demanding and stressful period during the life cycle of migratory land birds. Because migrating birds spend the majority of their time in stopover habitats rather than in flight, it is important to our understanding of migration ecology to examine spatial and temporal patterns of bird movements during stopover periods. Stopover habitats are important because they provide migratory birds a place to rest, refuel, and avoid predators.”

Ashley used radio telemetry to quantify local movements, stopover duration, habitat selection, and patch residence times for two species of migrants, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. The goal of her research was to evaluate movement behavior and habitat selection of forest patches by migrant songbirds during spring stopover in a highly fragmented, agriculturally dominated landscape.

Ashley’s program will be informative and educational and provide us with further insight into the wonders of migration. So mark your calendars, come on out and meet Ashley and help kickoff the new Cincinnati Bird Club season.

Contributed by Jay Stenger

October Program Meeting

Thursday, October 15th Sharon Woods at 7 pm

Midnight at the Iraqi Oasis:

Ohio Birder Randy Rogers Guards Birds and Befriends Iraqi Ornithologists

While serving as Logistics Officer with the 371st Sustainment Brigade in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, Ohio National Guard Major Randel Rogers was a *birding army of one*... but did the work of a *battalion of birders*. The Galloway, Ohio native surveyed nearly 125 different species of birds on his base oasis, just a few miles from the Euphrates River, working towards obtainment of Important Bird Area status. But his legacy is more than a list of observed birds.

Rogers introduced fellow soldiers, and stateside families and friends, to birding and wildlife of the Iraqi desert through his self-published base newsletter "*Al Asad au Natural*". He supplied the office of Morale, Welfare and Recreation with field guides and birding magazines. But most importantly, Rogers made friends with Iraqi birders. He supported the regional efforts of Nature Iraq and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East. Rogers, and with assistance of the Ohio Ornithological Society and generous Ohio birders, raised nearly \$2,500 to obtain field supplies such as cameras and books for Iraqi ornithologists and environmentalists charged with restoring the southern marshes of Iraq.

Dr. Azzam Alwash, Chief Executive Officer of Nature Iraq, remarked: "In many ways, Randel is helping Iraqis see Americans as more than just soldiers, and helping Americans see Iraq as more than a bunch of warring Sunni and Shite, Arab and Kurd, and the many artificial divisions visited on us by so-called Iraqi experts pontificating on US screens. He is helping in the most humble way possible, using his passion for nature, to bring us together. Birders are still 'strange' in Iraq. It is kind of an oxymoron when you really think about it. Protecting nature in the middle of a war!!!... But, war makes the task even more important, for in the midst to human tragedy, the stress on nature fades to the background. Hence, it is up to us, the strange people who love nature, to do our hardest work now. Because it is needed now more than ever."

Join the Cincinnati Bird Club for a special presentation on Iraq by MAJ Rogers featuring photographs and video of the regions birds and wildlife.

Contributed by Ann Oliver

David Sibley to Visit Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Cincinnati for Book Signing



David Sibley will discuss and sign his new book "*The Sibley Guide to Trees*" on Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Cincinnati's Rookwood Pavilion. Sibley

is a featured speaker at the Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside, Ohio on Friday evening, September 18th.

September-October 2009 Field Trips

Saturday, September 5th at 7:30 am

East Fork State Park

Leader: Bill Stanley, 513-724-2663.

e-mail: tyrannus@fuse.net

East Fork State Park will be our first field trip of the season, and should provide good opportunities for finding fall songbirds in migration, especially warblers. Bill will lead us to several locations around the park that should be productive. While the focus will be migrant passerines, we expect to find plenty of other species as well.

We'll check the lake for shorebirds early in the morning (before the birds are chased off by boats and people), with an eye out for terns and other seasonal waterbirds as well as resident and migrating raptors. Bill will probably continue until birding begins to tail off in the early afternoon. Bring a lunch and drink. Feel free to contact Bill if you have any questions.

Directions: We will meet in the Park Office parking lot. To get there, enter the park from the south side as if you were heading toward the beach. The park office will be on the right. To get the south side entrance to East Fork SP from I-275 take exit # 65, SR 125 (Beechmont Ave./Ohio Pike) and go east about 9 miles to the junction of Rt. 222. Turn left onto Bantam Rd. (opposite Rt. 222) and follow the signs to the park entrance.

Sunday, September 13 at 7:30 am

Shawnee Lookout Park & Oxbow

Leader: Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147,

e-mail: 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. These two locations taken together can produce a long list of birds for the season.

Directions: We will begin the trip at Shawnee Lookout Park, where a Hamilton County Park pass is required. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramp lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. To get there, take I-275 South towards Kentucky to the Kilby Road exit #21, turn right at the light onto Kilby Road, then turn right onto U.S. Route 50. Take Route 50 for 1.7 miles to Lawrenceburg Road and turn left. Follow Lawrenceburg Road across the bridge and turn right at the intersection. The main park entrance will be on the left, and the boat ramp will be directly across from it on the right. Please feel free to call or email Jay if you have any questions.

Sunday, September 27th at 7 am

Brookville Lake, Indiana

Leader: Paul Wharton, 513-353-3403, e-mail: 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 and good 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 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 treetops 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. Bring a lunch and drink.

Directions: We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the park & ride lot, located at the I-74/I-275 Miamitown exit # 7 for 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.

Saturday, October 3rd at 7: 30 am

Muscatatuck NWR, Indiana

Leader: Darlena Graham, 859-341-4893, e-mail: 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. Darlena plans to stay well into the afternoon and there is no place to buy food and drink, so plan accordingly and bring a lunch and beverage. A modern visitor center will provide the creature comforts.

Directions: We will meet at the Tanners Creek Boat Ramp at 7:30 a.m. and caravan to Muscatatuck from there, about a hour drive due west on US 50. Tanners Creek Boat Ramp is located just south of US 50 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, just 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 McDonald's at this corner and you should see a small boat ramp sign. Drive to the end of the road and meet in the boat ramp parking lot. If you have any questions contact Darlena.

Saturday, October 10th at 8:30 am

Miami Whitewater Wetlands

**Leader: Ned Keller, 513-941-6497,
e-mail: keller@one.net**

While the late migrant passerines, late shorebirds, early waterfowl, raptors and early winter visitors are all possible at the wetlands this time of year, the focus of this trip will be on sparrows. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, an otherwise extremely rare migrant through our area, has become an annual and regular migrant at the wetlands, and is seen fairly often here during the first two weeks of October. We have a good chance of finding one. Lincoln's Sparrow is also expected at this time of the year and many of the winter sparrows should be in by then. A long shot, but with the right habitat and the right time of the year, would be Le Conte's Sparrow. We can expect some surprises and a mixed bag on this trip.

Directions: We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the wetlands parking area. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit number 3, and turn right. Continue past the entrance to Miami Whitewater at West Rd, and stay on Dry Fork until it ends. Turn right onto New Haven Road. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Oxford Road, and then immediately left again onto Baughman Road. The dirt parking area is on the right side of the road, just past the bike trail crossing.

Other Events Around Ohio

Midwest Birding Symposium

September 17th-20th

Lakeside, Ohio

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php> to register online.

The Midwest Birding Symposium returns to the shores of Lake Erie this fall. Hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, The Ohio Ornithological Society, and The Lakeside Association, the symposium features myriad events including workshops, speakers, and programs.

Speakers include David Allen Sibley, Kenn Kaufman, Paul Baicich, Scott Weidensaul, Jeff Bouton, Diane Porter, Lang Elliott, Jeff Gordon, Alvaro Jaramillo, Art Morris, Jim McCormac, Bill Thompson III, and Julie Zickefoose.

Workshops include digital photography, digiscoping, and blogging. Programs include "Bird ID Outside The Box", shorebird ID, Cerulean Warbler conservation, and Project eBird from Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Special events include a free screening of the film "Opposable Chums: Guts and Glory at the World Series of Birding", an exhibit by BACK TO THE WILD (bird rehab), and songbird banding demonstration.

Also, if you have extra optics in good working order, you can donate to Birder's Exchange, an outreach program of the American Birding Association which provides optics to researchers, educators, and conservationists in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation

Saturday, September 26th 9-4:30

**Ward Pavilion, Wildwood
Preserve: Toledo Metroparks**

Join Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Toledo Metroparks, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service for a conference focusing on minority participation in outdoor recreation. The meeting is designed to be of particular value to two groups: those involved in nature education and outdoor recreation who wish to reach more diverse audiences; and those who are already communicating with diverse audiences and who wish to add more of an element of outdoor recreation and nature education.

Wildlife biologist, ornithologist, and author John C. Robinson will present "*Birding for Everyone: Changing the Face of Environmental Conservation Through Birding*". Just appointed to the board of directors of the American Birding Association, Robinson will explain why minority involvement is vital to long-term conservation efforts of our natural resources. Photographer Dudley Edmondson will discuss his book "*Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*". Tamberly Conway and Maricruz Flores, representatives of the "Amigos del Bosque" (Friends of the Forest) program in Texas will present "Latino Legacy: Improving Connections with Latino Audiences in Recreation, Outreach and Conservation Education Programming".

Cost: \$40 includes lunch, a field trip, a panel discussion and several speakers.

To register:

http://www.bsbbird.org/diversity_conference.htm

Ohio Young Birders Club: Fall Birding at Hueston Woods SP

Campout: October 2nd, 3rd, & 4th

**Sponsors: Queen City Young Birders
Club, Avian Research & Education
Institute, Oxbow, & RAPTOR**

Schedule: Friday 7:00 pm. Owling with Raptor in the Hueston Woods SP campground.

Saturday: 8 am-10 am. Registration and breakfast. Field trip and/or bird banding with Dave and Jill Russell of AREI.

Noon: Lunch.

1 pm: Bird of Prey program by park naturalist and visit to park raptor center.

3 pm: Bird ID - Dave Russell.

5 pm: BBQ Banquet.

6:00 - 8:00 pm: Keynote speaker Dr. Herman Mays, PhD, Curator of Zoology, Cincinnati Museum Center. Dr. Mays is an evolutionary biologist with a primary emphasis on birds. Bird Skinning demonstration with Dr. Mays and Museum Center staff.

8 pm: "Bats & Bonfire" - netting for bats. Get up close to these magnificent mammals and learn about the variety of bats in Ohio.

Sunday: 7 am breakfast/break camp.

8 am- 10:30am: Sparrow Workshop and Banding with Dave Russell of [AREI, Inc.](http://www.arei.org)

11 am: Trip to Oxbow Lake with Jon Seymour, President of [Oxbow, Inc.](http://www.oxbowinc.com)

Lunch: Nearby restaurant.

**RSVP by September 20 by email to
Kathy McDonald (kmc@one.net) or
call 513-941-6497.**

**Cost includes meals & camping:
\$10. \$25 for 3 or more.**



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2009-2010 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2009 - May 2010 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 (Save trees and \$: we'll send the newsletter to your inbox!) _____

_____ Individual \$12.00 _____ Family \$15.00 _____ Student (under 18) FREE

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

