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# The Passenger Pigeon

## The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

November 2009 Vol 45 No. 7

### November Bird Club Program Meeting: Steve Maslowski's Basic Bird Photography

**Sharon Woods Visitor Center  
November 19, 2009 at 7 pm**

It is rare to go in the field today and find a birder who is not carrying a camera (typically digital) for the use of documentation. While a picture of a distant rare bird with a pocket-sized "point and shoot" camera may not be publishable, it is possible to be of a quality to confirm the species. But many birders today are already skilled photographers and those folks might wonder what it takes to get photographs into *National Geographic*, *Birder's World*, or *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Whether you are beginner or advanced, plan on joining the Cincinnati Bird Club at 7 pm, Thursday November 19 at Sharon Centre, the Sharon Woods Visitors Center.

Our speaker will be nationally renowned **wildlife photographer and filmmaker Steve Maslowski**. Steve's photos have appeared in several field guides, in hundreds of national publications, and he has made many wildlife films for various media outlets. Steve will present a program that he has put together for the club. He is calling it "**Basic Bird Photography**". Steve is a long-time member of the CBC and the son of the late Karl Maslowski, one of the founding fathers of the Cincinnati

Bird Club. Steve, along with his brother Dave, continues the business of Maslowski Wildlife Productions that Karl began many years ago.

Steve, as a professional photographer, will give us practical advice in a program for everyday bird photography. All basic components of bird photography will be covered: advanced photographers typically consider lighting, position, and background of the image. Steve also plans to have time for photography-related queries, so think of questions to ask an expert wildlife photographer. Anyone who has been present for a Maslowski presentation in the past knows this program will be filled with many high quality images of local species and birds across the US.

The Cincinnati Bird Club November program meeting is a Thanksgiving holiday tradition and a way of honoring our founders. From the very beginning and for over 50 years, the CBC November meeting was treated as a special gathering. Karl Maslowski started this tradition as he and his family hosted the meeting, presented the program and provided, at his cost, trays of fresh baked doughnuts, apple cider and hot chocolate for refreshments. For years he hosted this program at his home, but as the CBC

membership grew and the program's popularity soared, the location was moved to the Founders Room of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History on Gilbert Ave. When it became a little too much for Karl to handle, his son Steve, and daughter-in-law Karen, graciously continued the tradition for several years. The business portion of this holiday meeting was always the planning of the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts, always an important event of the CBC.

We will discuss the upcoming **Christmas Bird Counts** during the business portion of our meeting including dates and contacts to participate in each area count. Even if you are unable to participate in the field, remember that *feeder watchers can provide very valuable data.*

You will even be able to **test your ID skills at the meeting!** We will have 20 unlabeled bird skins on view, all species which can be found in Ohio. There is no pressure in this game, as you can keep your answers and scores to yourself. But you might want to *bring a field guide* with you. Dr. Herm Mays, curator of Zoology at the Cincinnati Museum Center, is bringing the skins from the museum collection. Herm will reveal the species identities at the end of the program.

So don't miss the fun and be sure to mark your calendar for this special holiday meeting. All your friends and family are invited to this festive bird club event. Heck, we'll even have **cider and doughnuts** for refreshments.

*Bob Foppe*  
-Program Coordinator

**Although the outer doors to Sharon Centre are open (restroom access), the inner doors into Sharon Centre are locked. Please enter through the door to the right of the inner doors sign will say "Cincinnati Bird Club".**

## **Yearly Dues: Time to Renew**

We'd like to thank everyone who has already mailed in their membership dues as well as those members who paid in person at the monthly program meeting. Treasurer Lois Shadix says many members promptly renewed and provided an email address. Thanks again!

But if you forgot, please make time today. Just use the form on the back of this newsletter. Also, please legibly write/print your email address on your renewal.

Don't forget, we're trying to send out the majority of newsletters in "email" form. *With email delivery, 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!

Emailing also helps reduce mailing costs and save trees. Plus, if we have your email address, we can send you a monthly reminder message about programs and field trips. Additionally, we'll be able to contact you in case a meeting or field trip is canceled by winter weather.

**If we don't hear from you by the end of the year, we'll assume you no longer wish to be a member and we'll remove you from our mailing list.**

What if you renew your membership but don't have an email address? You can still get the newsletter in the mail. Remember to recycle it!

*Ann Oliver*  
-Newsletter Editor

## November Cincinnati Bird Club Field Trips

**Caesar Creek State Park**  
**Saturday, November 7**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**Jay Lehman, H 527-4701**  
**W 622-2399**  
[lehman.jg@pg.com](mailto:lehman.jg@pg.com)

Late fall migration will be well underway and the focus of this trip will be waterfowl (ducks) and waterbirds (i.e. loons, grebes, gulls etc.). In addition to checking many sites around Caesar Creek Lake, Jay will probably make stops at nearby Spring Valley Wildlife Area and the Roxanna gravel pits. This will be a day trip, extending well past noon, **so be sure to bring a lunch and drinks.** Restrooms are available throughout the area.

We will meet at the Caesar Creek swimming beach parking lot. From Cincinnati, take I-71 north to the State Route 73 exit # 45. Turn left (west) onto SR 73 and go about 5 miles. After crossing the SR 73 bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the State Park entrance and follow the signs to the swimming beach. If you have any questions about this trip or directions contact Jay Lehman.

**Brookville Lake & Hueston Woods**  
**Sunday, November 15,**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Jay Stenger,**  
**(513) 522-8147**  
[jaystenger@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jaystenger@cinci.rr.com)

Jay plans to hit several spots at Brookville Reservoir and then to make the short hop over to Hueston Woods where we will check several spots around Acton Lake. **This trip will continue into mid afternoon, so bring your lunch and drinks.** Both of these locations are tried and true for attracting waterfowl and waterbirds. The rural countryside surrounding these two large lakes has diverse habitats so we expect to find a lot of different species along the way.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the park & ride lot located on S.R. 128, at I- 74 exit # 7, marked Cleves-Hamilton and caravan from there. This is the first exit just west of the Great Miami River.

**East Fork State Park**  
**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Leader: Bob Foppe,**  
**Cell (513) 685-2739**  
[fopsinc@aol.com](mailto:fopsinc@aol.com)

Bob will start at the beach to try and get out before dog walkers and others flush the birds and plans to check several vantage points around Harsha Lake for waterfowl, loons, grebes and gulls. Late fall migrants and winter residents are also a possibility given the other varied habitats of East Fork State Park. The reservoir and its surroundings have developed quite the reputation for attracting local rarities and there is always a chance this could be the day. This trip probably will end around 1:00 p.m. **but it's always a good idea to have your lunch and drink handy.**

Meet Bob at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the south swimming beach. To get to the meeting spot from I-275, take exit # 65 (east), S.R. 125 (Beechmont Ave./Ohio Pike) east about 9 miles to Bantam Rd. Turn left to the park entrance and follow the park signs to the swimming beach.

## Notes on November Field Trips

The month of November brings an influx of waterfowl and return of many winter residents. Our field trips this month will focus on the three main deep-water reservoirs in the Cincinnati area. While providing excellent habitat for water birds, all three are surrounded by fields and hedge rows that can be excellent for sparrows. The wide vistas can also be good for spotting raptors. Spotting scopes are useful for these trips, since many of the birds will be far out on the water. If you don't already own a scope, don't let that discourage you from attending. Many field trip participants will be more than happy to share their optics and will allow you to look through their scopes.

*Mark Gilsdorf*  
*-Field Trip Coordinator*

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Tim Tolford has resumed banding for Northern Saw-whet Owls in Liberty, Indiana. That's near Brookville Lake.

Banding dates are scheduled for Wednesday - Sunday through December 15. Last year the station banded 42 NSWOW and recaptured 11. Three were foreign recoveries from another station in Indiana and one in Ontario, Canada.

**If you wish to observe, please call ahead: 513-200-5130. The banding station is located at 2078 S. Hubble Road, Liberty, Indiana, 47353. Banding will not be cancelled unless it is heavily raining or storming.** For more information: <http://www.hbrnet.org>

## Opening and Closing of Parks

The Clermont County Park District just opened a new 105 acre nature preserve adjacent to Sycamore Park in Batavia. The new park is called the James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve: it's along the East Fork of the Little Miami River. The Wilson Nature Preserve features three miles of hiking trails. The combined total acreage of the two side-by-side parks is 158 acres making this the largest park in the Clermont County system. Funding was provided in part by a Clean Ohio Fund grant worth \$845,000.

Many of you might have noticed the posting on Cincinnatibirds.com message board regarding the closing of Gilmore Ponds. According to the Butler County MetroParks website, some parks are being placed on the "reserved list for the winter months in part due to lack of seasonal usage but also in an effort to cut costs as annual revenue for the parks is down for 2009 by \$500,000." The official statement continues: "MetroParks welcomes the efforts of individuals or organizations to volunteer, adopt-a-park or spread the word about the need for more consistent revenue." Regarding Gilmore Ponds specifically: "due to erosion, the trail along the canal on the northern border of the park will be closed indefinitely."



# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Founded by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Encouraging, Educating, and Empowering Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders*

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ohio Young Birder's Conference at Ottawa NWR, November 14**

On November 14, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is the setting for the Third Annual Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm, just east of Toledo.

Founded by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, the OYBC is a ground-breaking club that puts youth in charge. In addition to the annual conference, student members of the club plan and attend monthly field trips all over Ohio. This education model is turning the country on its collective ear: other states are now following Ohio's lead on this approach to nature clubs for teens. It's an inspiring thing to see some of our best and brightest teens in action, and experience hope for the future of conservation!

The student panel planning the event selected 17-year-old Malkolm Boothroyd, from Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, as their 2009 keynote speaker. Malkolm will present "*A Big Year and Bird Conservation*." A birder since age seven, and an environmental activist since age eight, Malkolm has found ways to combine conservation efforts with bird watching. Last year, Malkolm and his parents bicycled 13,000 miles across North America to see how many birds they could see, in what birders refer to as a "Big Year," and collected "per-bird pledges" to raise money for conservation. *Twelve months and 548 birds later, they had succeeded in raising over \$25,000 for bird conservation!*

Some Ohio teenagers will be giving inspiring presentations. Sarah Winnicki, age 16, of Medina will present: "*For the Love of Condors, a Conservation Story*." She recently wrote an article called "*Diary of a Young Birder*" for the ABA's October, 2009 newsletter. Also speaking will be Lukas Padegimas, age 16 from Cleveland Heights, who will present: "*The Piping Plovers of Cape Henlopen*." Elliott Miller, age 14, the Master of Ceremonies, will assist bird-expert, world-renowned author, and Ohio resident Kenn Kaufman with his ever-challenging Bird Identification Quiz.

The presentations will be followed by an afternoon field trip around the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Breakfast and a hot lunch are included. The event is just \$10 for students (ages 19 and under), and \$20 for adults over 19.

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
You need not be an OYBC member to attend!

Information:

[http://www.bsbo.org/OYBC\\_conference.htm](http://www.bsbo.org/OYBC_conference.htm)

Phone: 419-898-4070

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)

[www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org)

*Kimberly Kaufman, Executive Director  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Oak Harbor, Ohio*



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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.

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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 (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

