



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

April 2010 Vol 46 No. 4

Mockingbird Research: Dr. George Farnsworth Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm

Please join the Cincinnati Bird Club at Sharon Woods for Dr. George Farnsworth of Xavier University's Biology department presentation on his local Mockingbird research. We'll meet at 7 pm, Thursday April 15.

Dr. Farnsworth received a B.S. in Biology from the College of William & Mary in Virginia in 1991 and an M.S. in Environmental Sciences from University of Virginia in 1994. He earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from North Carolina State University in 1998. Before coming to Xavier, Farnsworth worked as a post-doctoral researcher with Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and taught at Meredith College and University of Houston-Downtown.

He is particularly interested in the behavioral ecology of local species of songbirds. As a Ph.D. student, Farnsworth explored the nesting behavior of the Wood Thrush. By measuring the survival rate of nests from one day to the next and the likelihood that a nesting female will attempt another nest, he was able to estimate the

total productivity of the population of Wood Thrushes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

As part of this work, he developed a behavior model that he used to ask more basic and theoretical questions about why birds lay the number of eggs that they do. After receiving his degree, Farnsworth began to address practical issues regarding techniques used to survey for birds. In many cases, these techniques involved recording the number of singing birds detected. He developed statistical models that are capable of including information about the singing behavior of birds, thus improving our ability to estimate the size of bird populations.

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Cincinnati Bird Club at Sharon Woods, Thursday evening, April 15th at 7pm.

-Contributed by Bob Foppe, Program Chair

**April 22: Happy 40th
Anniversary of Earth Day! Do
Something Good for the Birds!**

Cincinnati Bird Club Field Trips: April

Submitted by Mark Gilsdorf

Early Spring Migration: a West Side Story

Spring Valley WMA

Saturday, April 17th at 7:30 am

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

Meeting Place: Spring Valley boardwalk parking lot

Spring Valley Wildlife Management Area is centered around a large marsh comprised of 70 acres of open water and an additional 82 acres covered by aquatic vegetation. This area is ringed by a collection of woodlands, open fields and hedgerows. We expect to find a diverse number of species due to the varied habitats and the time of year, as spring migration will be well under way. Waterfowl, early migrants and several species of raptors are all possibilities.

Darlena plans on beginning the trip at the boardwalk and observation tower at Spring Valley, hopefully turning up a bittern or two. Depending on how things develop, we may also witness a reenactment of a scene from *West Side Story* (for live footage from last year's trip go to: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x51o31_inwcob-birdwatching-in-central-park_shortfilms). We will then walk around the loop trail that circles the marsh. Afterwards Darlena will probably take a look at the nearby Roxanna gravel pit. Also, if time remains, Caesar's Creek will be an

option. Darlena expects we will return home by early afternoon, so pack a lunch and beverage and plan accordingly. Feel free to contact Darlena with any questions.

Directions: from Cincinnati, take I-71 North to Exit # 28 (St. Rt. 48). Turn right onto Rt. 48 and drive west about 5.5 miles. At U.S. 42, turn right and travel about 6.4 miles north (through Waynesville). Turn right onto Roxanna New Burlington Road. After 1.5 miles, turn right on Pence Jones Road. About a 1/2 mile down, on your right, is the entrance to the boardwalk.

Birding the Lower Little Miami River

Magrish Nature Preserve and California Woods

Sunday, April 25th at 7:30 am

Leader: Bob Foppe, (513) 685-2739, fopsinc@gmail.com

Meeting Place: Magrish parking lot

As spring migration ratchets up at the end of April, heading into May, Bob will lead a trip through the woods and along the waters of the Little Miami. Starting at Magrish, a hot spot for migrating songbirds, he will then head to California Woods, walking the trails in search of early spring migrants. The trip will involve walking over moderate terrain and will last until around 11 am, depending on the how the birding goes. Bob may make stops at other locations in the area as well.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob.

Directions: From Kellogg Ave., on Cincinnati's east side, take the Salem Road exit ramp. The first left you come to, almost immediately after leaving the exit ramp, is the entrance to the preserve parking lot. Address: James Magrish Preserve, 5000 Salem Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230.

Cincinnati Nature Center: Bird Walks April 10 and April 24

Mark your calendars for two Saturdays in April to attend an early morning bird walk on the grounds of the Cincinnati Nature Center, known for spectacular spring wildflowers. The Rowe Woods location of CNC has more than 1000-acres to explore!

The April 10 leader is Debra Hausrath: the April 24 leader is Darlena Graham. Time: 8 to 10 am. There is a \$5 entry fee if you are **not** already a member of CNC. The Cincinnati Nature Center is located at 4949 Tealtown Rd., in Milford, Ohio.

The popular CNC "Flower & Plant Sale" is May 1-2. CNC also has a well-stocked gift shop and bookstore. The center offers a wide range of classes and activities for all ages. Learn more: www.cincynature.org/

Early Spring Birds & Blooms: Hike Bender Mountain with the Western Wildlife Corridor

Saturday, April 17 at 8 am

By mid-April, songbird migration will have begun, although it will still be far from its peak. But we will have a good chance to find early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Brown Thrasher, House Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a few warblers and vireos should also have returned. We will walk the trail to Bender Mountain. This trail follows the ridge top, and gives easy views of treetop birds. There will be plenty to see looking down, as the trail passes through a mature forest with a carpet of spring ephemeral wildflowers. The first part of the walk is fairly level, but it becomes quite steep later on. You will have the option to walk the whole trail, or just part.

Directions: Take Delhi Road to where it dead ends, past Bender Road, west of the College of Mt. St. Joseph. Take the last driveway on the left, and follow it past the Sisters of Charity motherhouse to the parking lot at the end of the drive.

For more details, call Ned Keller or Kathy McDonald at 513-941-6497, or email one of us at keller@one.net or orkmc@one.net.

May: The Month You've Been Waiting For All Winter!

With the first two weekends in May filled with an Audubon Society trip to Spring Grove Cemetery on May 2nd and the Oxbow Birdathon on May 9th and 10th, the first CBC field trip in May will be to Shawnee Lookout on Saturday, May 15th.

Shawnee Lookout Warbler-palooza Saturday, May 15th at 7:30 a.m.

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

Meeting Place: Shawnee Lookout boat ramp, upper parking lot

Smack in the middle of songbird migration, Jay plans to hit several spots in Shawnee Lookout, beginning with the boat ramp. If time permits he may make a trip to the nearby Oxbow, to see if we can turn up any shorebirds or waterbirds. The trip will end around noon, depending on how things go. With spring migration in full swing, you can expect an impressive number of birds.

Directions: From I-275, take the Kilby Rd. exit # 21 and turn right (south). Go south about a mile to U.S. 50 and turn right. Go about 1.5 miles to the traffic light (at Elizabethtown) at Lawrenceburg Rd and turn left. Just across the Great Miami River Bridge (aka Lost Bridge) turn right and go a little over a mile to the Shawnee Lookout Park entrance. Be sure to turn right here, the boat ramp upper parking lot is here. A Park District auto sticker (\$5 annual or \$2 daily) is required and can be purchased at the entrance.

Tim Tolford Photo Exhibit at Brukner Nature Center

Brukner Nature Center invites you to visit their Spring Nature Art Gallery Exhibit featuring photographer, Tim Tolford. Tim has been involved in photography for over 30 years with more than 30 years of bird watching and 20 years of field research. The exhibit of approximately 50 bird, portrait, landscape, and scenery photographs are currently on view through June 20.

Tim's interest and emphasis on digital hi-resolution bird close-ups evolved through his long involvement in volunteer research as a Field Ornithologist which started as a backyard birder inspired by his grandfather back in the late 1970s. Tim is a Master Bird Bander and his research dates back to 1995. In 2007 he officially founded the Hummer/Bird Research Collaborative (HBRC): www.hbrcnet.org. There are currently eight HBRC members conducting banding research throughout Ohio under Tim's tutelage with current projects including research on hummingbirds, northern saw-whet owls, spring and fall migratory birds, summer breeding birds, bluebirds, and purple martins.

Sales of Tolford's bird photographs, as well as key chains, mousepads, desk calendars, and magnets with bird portraits, will benefit HBRC and Brukner Nature Center.

**Managing Wetlands for
Biodiversity: A Conference for
Land Owners, Land Managers, and
Wetland Enthusiasts**

**Ashland, Ohio: Saturday, April 10
from 8:30 to 3pm**

Join Ohio's wetland leaders and experts for a day to enjoy wetlands and focus on the management practices that maximize the biological diversity of wetlands: \$25 charge. This workshop is open to the public with a special invitation to those involved in the management or conservation of wetlands. Sponsored by Friends of Wetlands & Greater Mohican Audubon Society. Details: <http://events.fowl.org/>

**Flora-Quest at Shawnee State Park:
Friday April 30- Sunday May 2**

Although Flora-Quest is a hands-on weekend focusing on wild plants and the botanical surplus (~1000 native plants in the area), there is early birding on Saturday and a day-long "Feathers & Foliage" field trip on Saturday. Details: www.flora-quest.com/index.html

A free Friday evening presentation will give an overview of the biological diversity of Shawnee State Park. Birders are welcome to attend and the warbler diversity of Shawnee State Park, and the surrounding 65,000 acre Shawnee State Forest, is astonishing.

Two Good Reasons to be on the Cincinnati Bird Club Email List



When Jeff Hays of RAPTOR, Inc heard two Great Horned Owlets were seen in the owl bucket at Rapid Run Park, he didn't waste time. Within 24 hours, Hays visited the park, climbed the nest tree, banded the young owlets, and returned the owls safely back to the bucket. An email was sent out to all electronic subscribers of this newsletter a day before the banding. If we don't already have your email address, won't you please let us know how to get in touch with you via an email? Thanks!



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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 (lcshadix@fuse.net), 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244

