

# the passenger Pigeon



Is that a barrel on top of Steve's car?

The Wharton School of Hawk-spotting

Saw-whets, Hummingbirds and Banding

*October 2010*  
*Vol. 46, No. 7*

**little  
brown  
buggers**



Lincoln's Sparrow © Lana Hays

# OCTOBER

*Below we are reprinting an excerpt of "A Birder's Almanac", written by Bill Whan. Bill, a longtime Ohio birder and member of the state bird records committee, is an authority on the birds of Ohio. The almanac traces the migratory patterns of birds through the state of Ohio, month by month. The full text can be viewed online at: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/almanac/introduction.php>*

Early in the month we must say goodbye to the flycatching species like pewees, phoebes, and kingbirds. Swifts, tree swallows, and a few warblers hang on into October, as may a handful of vireos, mostly blue-headed. Flitting hordes of kinglets hover and glean insects, a few of the golden-crowns staying on. A good variety of ducks and geese arrive in numbers during the month's second half. River and pond waterfowl species which had been numerous during the last half of September persist through most of October. Blue-winged teals, shovelers, and wood ducks move out first, and more black ducks arrive. Diving ducks prefer Lake Erie to ponds, and rivers, but they find some reservoirs inviting as well. With the first big cold front after mid-month, snow geese, diving ducks, loons, grebes, and cormorants touch down in good numbers. Absent the big numbers put up by September's broadwings, hawk-watching is probably even better in October, with a bigger push of falcons, sharpies, and harriers, and the arrivals of rough-legs, golden eagles, and a few goshawks. Shorebirds set down wherever food is available, their flocks diminishing except among some of the plovers, dowitch-



Golden Eagle © Lana Hays

ers, and dunlins. October is sparrow season, with movements of white-throated, white-crowned, fox, song, Lincoln's, vesper, savannah, field, chipping, tree, and swamp sparrows, along with towhees, juncos, and longspurs passing through or arriving to winter. Blackbird flocks are now conspicuous and widespread. Many feeder-watchers keep hummingbird feeders up through this and the following month, in hopes of attracting the rare western hummingbirds that have been seen more often in recent autumns.

- Bill Whan

# Bird Club meeting

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## Northern Saw-whet Owls, Hummingbirds and Bird Banding



Northern Saw-whet Owl © Tim Tolford

Tim Tolford will present an overview of the history of bird banding, as well as explaining various stations, methods, processes and techniques used in his research. He will also review various projects of the Hummer/Bird Banding Research Collaborative ([www.hbrcn.net](http://www.hbrcn.net)), such as Saw-whet Owl, hummingbird, and passerine banding projects. Tim will also explain the importance of banding birds, how the data is used, how it benefits our avifauna and what you can do to help. His presentation concludes with a bird quiz. Tim will also have bird banding tools and equipment on display.

Tim became involved with bird banding in 1987, obtaining a bird banding sub-permit in 1995. He received his Master Permit in 1998 and his hummingbird endorsement in 2007. He has served as the President of the Ohio Bird Banding Association, and Newsletter editor for nine years.

Tim was part of the team which created the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area* in 1996. He has banded over 10,000 birds, representing 140 species since 1995. Tim is the founder of the "Hummer/Bird Banding Research Collaborative." In addition, he has been a photographer for over 20 years, with an emphasis on creating "Bird Portraits."

-Bob Foppe

**thursday, october 21, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**sharon woods visitor center**

## around the valley . . .

### Audubon Society of Ohio

#### Field trip

Sunday, October 17, 2010, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Spring Valley WA &  
Caesar Creek SP

Leader: Bob Foppe, (513) 685-2739,  
[fopsinc@aol.com](mailto:fopsinc@aol.com)

Meet: Caesar Creek swimming beach  
parking lot.

### Oxbow, Inc.

#### Field trip

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Meet in the upper Oxbow  
parking lot.

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

### Cincinnati Nature Center

#### Bird walks

Saturday, Oct. 9th - Darlena Graham

Saturday, Oct. 23rd - Mike Kravitz

Meet your guide in the Rowe Woods  
parking lot at 8 a.m. Beginners are  
welcome. Members free; nonmembers  
pay daily admission of \$5 for adults  
and \$1 for children ages 3-12.

# Bird Club field trips

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## Saturday, October 2nd 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 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 reasonable chance of finding one. Lincoln's Sparrow is also expected at this time of the year and many of the winter sparrows will hopefully 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.

## Saturday, October 16th 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 an a hours 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.

## Sunday, November 14th 7:00 a.m.

Brookville Lake  
Leader: Paul Wharton, 513-353-3403, e-mail: pwharton@fuse.net

Paul plans to hit several spots at Brookville Reservoir, which is a tried and true location for attracting waterfowl and waterbirds and can be good for raptors as well. The rural countryside surrounding this large lake has diverse habitats so we expect to find a lot of different species along the way. This trip will continue into mid afternoon, so bring your lunch and drinks.

**Directions:** We will meet at 7:00 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.

**Steve Bobonick**  
Field Trip Co-ordinator  
(H) 513-829-2118  
(W) 513-243-2909  
(cell) 513-702-3451  
bobonick@msn.com



Above: Ring-necked Duck © Lana Hays;  
Right: Red-tailed Hawk © Allan Claybon



# Field Trip to Niagara Falls Area Planned for November 20-21

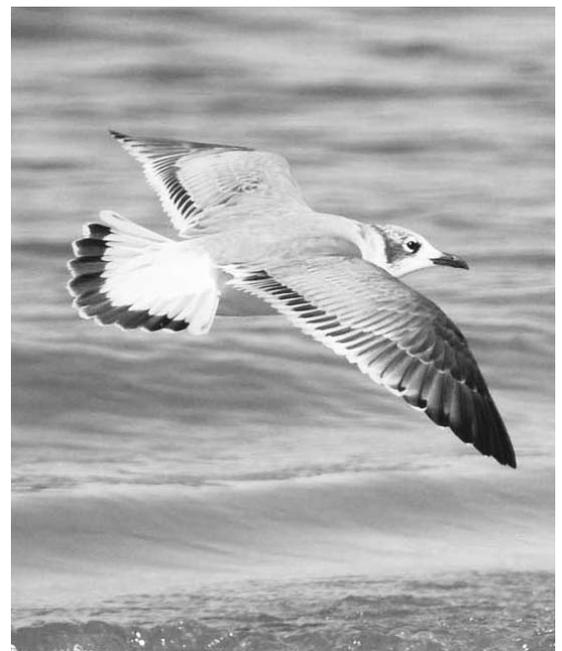
The Cincinnati Bird Club is planning a field trip to the Niagara Falls area on November 20th and 21st. This is the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Niagara River region is renowned for concentrations of Gulls this time of year. In addition to the abundant Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's and Great Black-backed Gulls, we hope to find a few Lesser Black-backed, Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and Little Gulls. Other possible rarities include Black-legged Kittiwake and Sabine's, California, Mew and Common Black-headed Gulls.

The better viewing locations reside on the Canadian side of the border. As of June 2009, a passport or passport card is required to enter Canada. A birth certificate and photo ID is **NO LONGER VALID** for entry into Canada. A passport costs \$165 and is valid for 10 years.

A passport card costs \$55 and is also valid for 10 years. A U.S. Passport Card can be used to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry and is more convenient and less expensive than a passport book. The passport card cannot be used for international travel by air.

The normal turn around time for a passport or passport card is quoted as 4-6 weeks. If you plan to participate in this trip, please apply for a passport or passport card as soon as possible. Use the following website for instructions: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

For more information contact Steve Bobonick at 513-829-2118 or email to [bobonick@msn.com](mailto:bobonick@msn.com)



Photos from left to right:  
Lesser Black-backed Gull © Lana Hays;  
Franklin's Gull © Allan Claybon;  
Ring-billed Gull © Allan Claybon





Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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2010-2011 Dues:
If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September
2010 - May 2011 birding season, please fill out the form
below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

Visit us on the Web at:
http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php

Lois Shadix (lshadix@fuse.net), 2928 Saddleback Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45244

Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to our Treasurer:

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

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