



# The Passenger Pigeon

Volume 49, Number 3

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

March 2013

## **Program:** Birding the Pits

**Speaker:** Jay Stenger

**Date:**  
Thursday, Mar 21  
7 p.m.  
Sharon Woods  
Visitor Center

Jay Stenger will present a program entitled “Birding in the Pits”. Jay maintains that there are literally hundreds of active and abandoned gravel pits and other similar habitats in southern Ohio, southeastern Indiana and Northern Kentucky. He will examine how these manmade habitats and disruptions to the natural environment have affected birds and other wildlife over the years. Jay will also discuss Blue Grosbeaks and Lark Sparrows in our region and how their affiliation with gravel pits may be connected to recent increases in their local populations. Other gravel pit topics discussed will include their potential as wildlife refuges, as well as their locations, habitats, accessibility, historical and current bird records and a lot of other information about these often overlooked and under birded “hot spots”.

Jay is a life-long Cincinnati resident, and a long-time member of and volunteer for the Cincinnati Bird Club. Jay has led countless

field trips for the Bird Club, the Cincinnati chapter of the National Audubon Society, Oxbow, Inc., and other organizations. He is currently a board member for the Bird Club and for Oxbow, Inc. For twenty-eight years, Jay has taught an annual three-week-long bird ID course for the Cincinnati National Audubon Society chapter. Jay has also acted as the compiler for the Cincinnati Christmas Bird Count for the past 26 years. Jay writes that “around 1980, a life-long and ardent interest in birds and wildlife culminated in my becoming an avid birder, which, next to my family, has been my passion ever since. I bird every chance I get.” Jay’s enthusiasm for birds, birding, and birders is well-known, and his presentation is sure to be informative and entertaining.

*-Steve Bobonick*



*Blue Grosbeak. Courtesy Lana Hays.*

# Field Trips

(Contributed by Jay Stenger, Field Trip Coordinator)

## Location:

Brookville Lake Region

**Date:** Sunday, Mar 10

**Meet:** 8 a.m. Park & Ride  
at I-275 Exit # 7

(see directions below)

**\*NOTE: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS TODAY**

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

The focus of this trip will be the spring waterfowl migration, which should be near peak at this date. But we can also expect to see much more because the diversity of habitats and sheer size of this region attracts a great variety of species. Our trip leader, Jay Stenger, is a veteran birder who has been birding the Brookville area for over 30 years. Jay plans to visit several spots around Brookville Lake and if time permits make the short hop over to Hueston Woods to take a quick look around Acton Lake before returning home.

Both of these locations are hotspots and are excellent for attracting numerous waterfowl and water birds at this season. The rural countryside surrounding these two large lakes has diverse habitats so we expect to find a great variety of species along the way

Finding 18+ species of Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans) is quite possible. We also expect to find numbers of loons, grebes, gulls, Sandhill Cranes, eagles, other raptors, and songbirds including early spring migrants and lingering winter visitors. Rarities have often occurred on this trip. Field birds such as American Pipits (fairly-common) and Horned Larks (common) should abound and even longspurs and Snow Buntings are possible. This may be the best location in our region to see large numbers of Bald Eagles.

Because Brookville Lake is so large this field trip will be an auto-tour type, which will consist of driving from spot to spot interspersed with a few short easy walks. While the trip duration is long and does entail considerable driving, the rewards, in terms of what we see, always make it worth the effort. The trip will last well into the afternoon, but of course you can leave at any time you like. Bring your lunch and drinks. It always seems colder around large lakes so dress accordingly. If you have a scope it will prove useful. Restrooms will be available. One important note, Indiana State Parks charges a daily per car entrance fee (\$5 resident, \$7 non-resident). At this time of year there are usually no attendants on duty but we cannot be sure of that

We will meet at the Park & Ride lot, located on SR 128 at the I-275 Exit # 7 at SR 128 marked Cleves-Hamilton. This is the first exit just west of the Great Miami River at Miamitown. We will caravan from there to the Brookville area, about a 30-minute drive. Contact Jay if you have any questions.

Visit the Brookville Lake website at:  
[www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2961.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2961.htm)

Visit the Whitewater Memorial State Park  
(at Brookville Lake) website at:  
[www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2962.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2962.htm)

**Location:**  
Miami Whitewater Forest  
(and Wetlands)

**Date:** Saturday, Mar 23

**Meet:** 4 p.m. Miami  
Whitewater Park Visitor  
Center parking lot  
(see the directions below)

**Leader:** Steve Bobonick  
(513)829-2118,  
steve.bobonick@gmail.com

Join us for what should be an out of the ordinary late afternoon and early evening field trip that will focus on migrant waterfowl, displaying American woodcock and owls. One can never be sure how successful a trip like this will be, nor if the weather will cooperate, but our trip leader, Steve Bobonick, is a skilled and experienced birder and is up to the task.

After gathering in front of the Visitor Center in the park, Steve will lead us over to the wetlands area of the park (aka: Shaker Trace) where he plans to circumnavigate the wetlands, about a 2 hour slow walk. We should see a number of waterfowl, Wilson's snipe, Northern Harrier and other early spring migrants. If time permits, Steve may make a side-trip to nearby Fernald Preserve.

As sunset (7:53) approaches we will turn our attention to the courtship displays of American woodcock. The Miami Whitewater wetlands (and Fernald Preserve) are an excellent place to witness these interesting courtship rituals and we should see and hear

multiple birds if the weather is decent. While it might be getting a bit late in the season, it would still be possible to see Short-eared Owls at these locations.

Regardless, once darkness has fallen (about 8:15) and the woodcock show has wound down, Steve will lead us to a few spots around Miami Whitewater Park where he will attempt to call in a few owls with the help of some audio recordings. Great Horned, Barred and Eastern Screech-Owl are all very possible.

Note that sunset on Saturday March 23 will be at 7:53 P.M. and Civil Twilight ends at 8:20 P.M.

The trip will end no later than 9:00 P.M. There will be a bit of walking around the wetlands. The trails are level but they will be muddy and wet in places so be sure to wear appropriate footwear. The calendar will say spring but you can bet it will be cold, so again dress accordingly. There are restrooms available in the park but not at the wetlands. If you have any questions feel free to contact Steve.

We will meet at the Miami-Whitewater Park Visitor Center parking lot. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit and turn right. Turn right again at the first stop sign, onto West Road. Just past a small bridge, turn left into the park. Turn left again at the first intersection to get to the Visitor Center. A Park District auto sticker is required and can be purchased at the entrance.

For more information on Miami Whitewater Forest visit the following website:  
[www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest.html](http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest.html)

**Location:**

Cincinnati Parks (Daniel Drake Park, California Woods and Armleder Park)

**Date:** Saturday, Apr 06

**Meet:** 8 a.m. Overlook Parking Lot at Daniel Drake Park.

(see directions below)

**Leader:** Mark Gilsdorf  
(513) 253-6062,  
markg74@gmail.com

Join us for what should be a pleasant spring morning birding in some of Cincinnati's east side parks. April is a great month to get out birding. Spring is rapidly advancing by this date and spring migration is well under way. While most neo-tropical songbirds will still be three weeks away, a great diversity of birds will be on the move and you might be surprised at what we find in these urban settings.

Our trip leader, Mark Gilsdorf, is a skilled birder and current President of the Cincinnati Bird Club. Mark lives on the east side and is very familiar with these three city parks and birds them frequently. Mark plans to begin the morning at Daniel Drake Park; a quiet Cincinnati Park nestled on top of the wooded hills overlooking the Little Miami River valley where we should find Pine Warblers among other songbirds. From there Mark will head over to California Woods Nature Preserve, a quiet woodland preserve along the Little Miami River. Louisiana Waterthrush

and Yellow-throated Warblers should be easily found here. Our final stop will be the nearby Armleder Park. This park is co-managed jointly by the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Park Districts. Armleder Park is situated along the banks of the Little Miami River and its varied habitats of open meadows and wooded riparian corridor along the Little Miami will contrast with the woodland settings of the earlier stops. Mark will likely make a couple of other quick stops along the way that may produce some good birding.

On the day we should find a mixed bag of migrants and residents that will most likely include waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns, herons and egrets, raptors and a diversity of open-country and woodland songbirds

Mark plans to spend about equal time at the three main locations. The trip will run until about noon. Walking will be moderate but level along Park roadsides and trails. Restrooms are available in the parks.

Daniel Drake Park is a Cincinnati City Park located at 5800 Red bank Road. To get to Daniel Drake Park from I-71 N or S; take Red Bank Road (exit # 9) onto Red Bank Expressway. Go about ½ mile to Duck Creek Road and turn right. Go a very short distance and turn right onto Red Bank Road. Go about 1 mile to the Daniel Drake Park entrance on your right. Follow the Park Road until it ends at the Overlook parking lot.

For a map and directions to Daniel Drake Park visit the following website:  
[www.cincinnatiiparks.com/index.php/daniel-drake-park](http://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/index.php/daniel-drake-park)

Visit the Daniel Drake Park, California Woods and Armleder Park website for more information and maps at:  
[www.cincinnatiaparks.com/east](http://www.cincinnatiaparks.com/east)

View the Armleder Park map at:  
[www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/aboutus/pdfs/armleder.pdf](http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/aboutus/pdfs/armleder.pdf)

## Local Calendar

### Audubon Society of Ohio

**Program:** *Red-shouldered Hawk Research in SW Ohio*

**Date:** Mon, Mar 18

See [www.cincinnati.audubon.org](http://www.cincinnati.audubon.org) for additional details.

### Cincinnati Nature Center

#### Field Trips

March 09	Darlana Graham
March 23	Lois Shadix
April 13	Bill Stanley
April 27	Steve Bobonick
May 11	Mike Kravitz

See [www.cincynature.org](http://www.cincynature.org) for additional details.

### Oxbow, Inc.

**Program:** *Big Bone Lick*

**Date:** Tues, Mar 12

See [www.oxbowinc.org](http://www.oxbowinc.org) for additional details.

### Ohio Division of Wildlife, et al.

**Program:** *Mothapalooza*

**Date:** Jun 14-16

See [www.mothapalooza.org](http://www.mothapalooza.org) for additional details.

**CBC Special Program:**  
*Green Fire, the Story of Aldo Leopold*  
(Co-sponsored by Oxbow, Inc.)

**Date:**  
Tuesday, Apr 09  
7 p.m.  
Sharon Woods  
Visitor Center

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, the Cincinnati Bird Club and Oxbow, Inc. will host a free screening of a new film called *Green Fire*, the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today.

*Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the

conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

The film has been shown in community screening venues like this one throughout 2011 and 2012.

“Aldo Leopold’s legacy lives on today in the work of people and organizations across the nation and around the world,” said Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker. “What is exciting about *Green Fire* is that it is more than just a documentary about Aldo Leopold; it also explores the influence his ideas have had in shaping the conservation movement as we know it today by highlighting some really inspiring people and organizations doing great work to connect people and the natural world in ways that even Leopold might not have imagined.”

*Green Fire* illustrates Leopold’s continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level. Viewers will meet urban children in Chicago learning about local foods and ecological restoration. They’ll learn about ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working on their own properties and with their neighbors, in cooperative community conservation efforts. They’ll meet wildlife biologists who are bringing back threatened and endangered species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, to the landscapes where they once thrived. The *Green Fire* film portrays how Leopold’s vision of a community that cares about both people and land—his call for a land ethic—ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future.

“The making of *Green Fire* has been a process of discovery,” says Curt Meine, the film’s on-screen guide. Meine’s doctoral

dissertation was a biography of Aldo Leopold, published as *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). To give the film its modern perspective of Leopold’s influence in the conservation movement today, Meine was charged with conducting hundreds of interviews with people practicing conservation all over the country. “Meeting all those people has really yielded new connections between Leopold and nearly every facet of the environmental movement, including ocean conservation, urban gardening, and climate change—issues that Leopold never directly considered in his lifetime but has nonetheless affected as his ideas are carried on by others,” said Meine.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is distributing the film to community screeners, and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation’s mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. “Nothing so important as an ethic is ever ‘written,’” he explained. “It evolves ‘in the minds of a thinking community.’” Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).

**If you go:**

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm, at the Sharon Woods Centre, 11450 Lebanon Rd. Sharonville, OH. **Free to the public but reservations are requested. Call 513-375-1025 to reserve seating.**

Following the movie, which is about 1 hour 15 minutes long, we are going to have a panel discussion on conservation efforts in the Cincinnati area, leveraging off of the themes of the movie. The panel participants include:

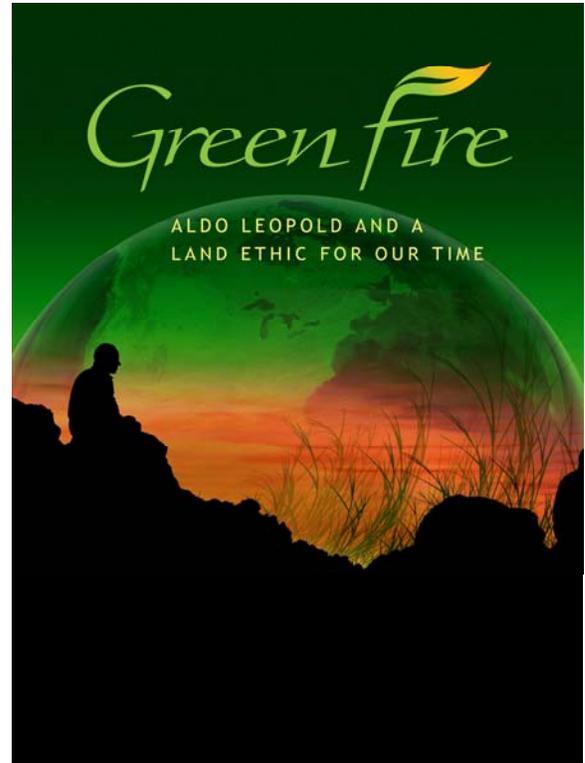
Dr. Jon Seymour – President, **Oxbow, Inc.**

Bill Hopple – Executive Director,  
**Cincinnati Nature Center**

Jack Sutton – Executive Director,  
**Hamilton County Park District**

Thayne Maynard – Executive Director,  
**Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden**

For more information: Contact Jon Seymour at [jlsjks@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsjks@hotmail.com) and put “Green Fire” in the subject title.



*Aldo Leopold. Courtesy Aldo Leopold Foundation, [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).*



## The Passenger Pigeon

### Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

Cincinnati Bird Club  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
15 Sherry Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45215

**President: Mark Gilsdorf**

email: markg74@gmail.com

**Program Chair: Steve Bobonick**

email: steve.bobonick@gmail.com

**Field Trips: Jay Stenger**

email: jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

**Newsletter Editor: Harris Abramson**

email: harrisabramson@hotmail.com

**Treasurer: Lois Shadix**

email: lcshadix@fuse.net

**Park VIP: John Stewart**

2012-2013 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September  
2012 - May 2013 birding season, please fill out the form  
below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

Visit us on the Web at:

[www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php](http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php)

---

## Bird Club Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I would like to receive my newsletter via e-mail. E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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**