



The Passenger Pigeon

Volume 50, Number 4

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

April 2014

Program:
Remarkable Birds, Up
Close and Personal

Speaker:
Jim Mundy

Date:
Friday, Apr 18
7 p.m.
Sharon Woods
Visitor Center

Our guest speaker for our April program will be Jim Mundy. Jim Mundy is well known to many local birders and nature lovers. A native Cincinnati with a passion for nature, Jim was introduced to the natural world at an early age as his father, John Mundy, was a naturalist and ranger. Jim studied wildlife sciences in college and then went on to employment with the Hamilton County Park District (HCPD). Keeping his love for nature in the family, Jim is married to HCPD naturalist Carol Mundy. For the past 28 years Jim has worked in the Stewardship Department for the Hamilton County Park District (now Great Parks of Hamilton County). Jim has worked in almost every land management capacity during those years and his current title is Wildlife Specialist.

Creating and maintaining wildlife habitat, collecting native seeds for propagation,

planting and burning native prairies, bird and wildlife censuses, compiler of the HCPD Winter Bird Count, steward of the lesser known nature preserves and new land acquisitions, and deer impact on the environment studies are just some of the Park projects that Jim has been involved with over the years.

Jim is also a skilled photographer and now spends much of his private time engaged in nature photography, with a big emphasis on bird photography. His photos are striking and self evident, especially when viewing his many warbler photos. Jim maintains a website of his photography entitled "Nature's Ark Photography" and can be found at the following link.

naturesarkphotography.com

Not surprisingly, birds will be the subject of Jim's April program, entitled "Remarkable Birds, Up Close and Personal." Jim's presentation will be in two segments. The first part will feature an array of his favorite species that can be found in our area. The second part will feature some special species that Jim has run across in his travels throughout North America. Jim will comment on each species and share his insights into their ecology and conservation and a few stories on how he got some of the pictures. Jim is a skilled birder, a dedicated naturalist and conservationist, and knows of what he speaks. So mark the date, and come out for what will certainly be a colorful and entertaining program.

Jay Stenger, Program Chair

Field Trips

(Contributed by Jack Stenger, Field Trip Coordinator)

Location:

Upper Mill Creek Valley;
Winton Woods, Sharon
Woods and Ellis Lake

Date: Saturday, Apr 12

Meet: 8 a.m. Parking Lot
Winton Woods Visitor
Center
(see directions below)

Leader:

Harris Abramson
(513) 821-7581
harrisabramson@hotmail.com

This trip hopes to take advantage of the “mixed bag” of early spring migrants that occur in our area in early April. We will visit two Hamilton County Parks, Winton Woods and Sharon Woods, and one Butler County Park, colloquially known to birders as the Ellis Lake wetlands. Even though these locations are surrounded by heavy urbanization, they are excellent birding sites.

The second week of April is a wee bit early for the return of most of our summer resident song birds and certainly for neo-tropical migrants. That said, spring migration has begun for a considerable number of early migrant song birds. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes,

and Winter Wrens will be peaking and breeders like Yellow-throated Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers should be on territory. A mid-April outing in local parks such as Winton Woods and Sharon Woods are great spots to find these birds but are often overlooked as birding venues. Also on this date several other families of birds are moving north such as waterfowl (past peak), shorebirds (getting underway), herons, egrets and terns (just beginning) and raptors (near peak). The Winton Woods settling pond should still have interesting waterfowl and water birds present and the flooded fields at Ellis Lake should have numbers of shorebirds and dabblers present.

Harris Abramson, our Bird Club newsletter editor, plans to spend the morning birding these three locations. Harris plans to begin our morning at Winton Woods and around mid-morning move over to Sharon Woods. Our third and last scheduled stop will be the Ellis Lake wetlands and we should arrive there around noon. Harris will ensure that we see a diversity of migrants typical of mid-April. I think we can expect a few surprises and there will be a lot of “first-of-the-years” on this trip.

Expect light walking interspersed with short drives on this trip. Restrooms are available at both Winton Woods and Sharon Woods. Scopes are not necessary but will prove useful. The Hamilton County Park District (HCPD) requires a Motor Vehicle Permit for each vehicle entering a HCPD Park. Cost is \$3 daily or \$10 annual. So come out and join Harris for what should prove to be a wonderful morning of spring birding.

Directions to Winton Woods:

10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231.
The Visitor Center is located on the west side of the Winton Road.

Take I-275 to Winton Road-Forest Park exit, south on Winton Road to park entrances on left and right. Also accessible via Ronald Reagan-Cross County Highway to Winton Road exit, north on Winton Road to park entrances on left and right.

Website:

[Winton Woods](#)

Interesting fact: all of these parks are located in the north central section of Greater Cincinnati and an interesting fact is that they are all part of the Mill Creek watershed. The West Fork of Mill Creek (impounded Winton Woods Lake) and Sharon Creek (impounded Sharon Lake) both flow directly into the Mill Creek. Ellis Lake is a part of the original wetlands complex that forms the headwaters of the Mill Creek. We will be patient with any waterbird concentrations we find.

Location:
Capability Farm

Date: Saturday, Apr 26

Meet: 8 a.m. Miamitown
Park and Ride
(see directions below)

Leader:
Gary Stegner
garyandsally@hotmail.com

When was the last time you saw a Northern Bobwhite? If you're still thinking, this trip is for you.

Capability Farm is a privately owned farm outside of Versailles, Indiana. Four hundred acres have been restored to native habitats in cooperation with the U.S. Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The diverse mix of prairie, wetland, and forest has attracted more than 200 species of birds to the property. We have a good chance at seeing grassland birds such as Bobolink, Northern Bobwhite and grassland sparrows, along with shorebirds and diverse spring migrants.

This trip will be mostly light walking. Capability Farm has 10 miles of mowed trails that provide access to all of the habitats. While we will not walk all of these, we will definitely dedicate most of the morning to exploring the property on foot.

Our trip leader, Gary Stegner, is an excellent birder and experienced biologist. He is also responsible for arranging this unique opportunity to tour Capability Farm. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Miamitown Park & Ride, 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 Capability Farm, which is about a 45-minute drive.

Location:
Burnet Woods

Date: Sunday, May 04

Meet: 8 a.m.
Burnet Woods Bandstand
(see directions below)

Leader:
Jack Stenger
(513) 503-3389
jackstenger@gmail.com

Although it's only 90 acres, Burnet Woods is renowned as one of the premier spots in our region to witness spring migration. The rich woodlands are a magnet to migrant songbirds who have limited habitat options in urban Cincinnati. May 4th is during the peak of spring songbird migration. We should hear many species of migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes. And since the spring leaf-out is a bit delayed we may actually see some too.

We will cover all of the park on foot. This will include leisurely walking on foot paths and lawns (which can be wet), and if you wish, a possibly traumatizing trip down a large concrete slide. This morning trip should wrap up by noon.

Meet at the bandstand in Burnet Woods. To access the bandstand enter from the Clifton Rd. entrance. When you get to the top of the hill there is parking in the circle surrounding the bandstand. The birders will be the people with binoculars and not the ones practicing hoola hoops.

For more information and directions to Burnet Woods, a Cincinnati Park, follow this link:

[Burnet Woods](#)

Local Calendar

Audubon Society of Ohio

Program: *Steve Maslowski*

Date: Apr 21

Field Trips

Location: *Spring Valley & Caesar Creek*

Date: Apr 13

Leader: Ann Oliver

Location: *Bender Mountain*

Date: Apr 27

Leader: Denis Conover

See www.cincinnati.audubon.org for additional details.

Oxbow, Inc.

Program: *Florida Everglades*

Date: May 13

Program: *White-nose Syndrome*

Date: Jun 10

Field Trips

Apr 19	Darlena Graham
May 09	Birdathon

See www.oxbowinc.org for additional details.

Cincinnati Nature Center

Field Trips

Apr 12	Debra Hausrath
Apr 26	Darlena Graham
May 10	Mike Kravitz
May 24	Bill McGill

See www.cincynature.org for additional details.

Oxbow Birdathon 2014

(Contributed by Jay Stenger)

The annual Oxbow Birdathon is scheduled for Friday and Saturday May 9th and 10th, 2013. This is the 27th consecutive year of this event, which has become a spring birding tradition within the Greater Cincinnati birding and conservation community.

As always, the event will begin at 5:00 PM. sharp on Friday evening and end at 5:00 PM. sharp on Saturday. The registration fee remains at \$5.00 per person. At 5:00 PM. Saturday May 10th, immediately after the Birdathon ends, the Birdathon tally and party will begin. Plenty of cold drinks, pizzas and other food are provided at no additional cost. The Birdathon tally and party will again be held at our own Oxbow, Inc. office that is located at 301 Walnut Street in downtown Lawrenceburg, Indiana. There is plenty of room, ample parking and is centrally located to the Oxbow. As tradition dictates, our Birdathon dates are always scheduled on the Saturday before Mothers Day (the second Sunday in May).

When Oxbow, Inc. was in its infancy, members realized we needed an annual fundraiser if we were to achieve our goals and preserve the Oxbow area. So it was that the Birdathon was born and the first event took place in May 1988. Over the years Oxbow, Inc. has achieved great success and today well over 1,000 acres has been protected and Oxbow, Inc. is in a good position to acquire more land as it becomes available. But Oxbow, Inc. continues to need your financial support. With ownership of the land comes the responsibility of stewardship of that land. These days the funds raised from the annual Birdathon are earmarked for habitat management, improvements and access. Many projects have already benefited from Birdathon funds

and many other projects are on the table waiting for financial support.

But the Birdathon is more than just a fundraiser for Oxbow, Inc. We see this event as a community celebration of the conservation ethic and birds during the peak of spring migration. It truly is a festive event and we encourage individuals to form teams or fly solo as representatives of Oxbow, Inc. or a charitable organization of their choosing. We have also always encouraged other nature, conservation and educational organizations to participate in this event. These organizations are encouraged to form teams and use this opportunity to raise funds for their own groups. Each of these teams is asked to split any funds they raise 50/50 with Oxbow, Inc. In this way both organizations benefit. We usually have at least ten or more such organizations participate in this way.

Last year's event represented the 26th year of the Birdathon and was a great success. Over twenty teams made up of over 70 individuals took to the Birdathon field and raised several thousand dollars for habitat management in the Oxbow. Most importantly all those who participated had a lot of fun and experienced the sense of camaraderie that comes from a group effort working together for a good cause. What can be more fun and rewarding than a birding excursion with your friends on a glorious spring weekend? The answer: doing exactly that while at the same time knowing your efforts are helping to preserve the important natural area we know as the Oxbow.

So mark your calendar and help us make Birdathon 2014 another great success. We encourage you to participate in the event, but if you can't physically participate, we hope you can pledge at least a few dollars to this worthy cause. Bear in mind that the Birdathon is intended to be, first and foremost, fun. You can participate in many ways. You can go all out and try to find as many birds in 24 hours

as possible or you can participate for just a few hours from your favorite deck chair in your backyard. Or you can choose any number of ways in between those two examples.

If you are interested in participating, have questions, need a registration packet please e-mail me, Jay Stenger, at the following address, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com, or call me at (513) 522-8147.

Oxbow, Inc. thanks you for your support...

Cincinnati Peregrine Falcon Cam Live

The Cincinnati Peregrine Falcon Cam is now live!! Check it out on the new RAPTOR, Inc. website: www.raptorinc.org. This box is located on the north side of the 4th and Vine Building (formerly PNC), so if you go downtown you can see it from the observation deck of the Carew Tower if you take binoculars. But with this webcam, you can see it from the convenience of your own home!

RAPTOR needed to launch a new website to host this webcam. As the website is fully developed, we will add a blog so we can pass along more information about the peregrines downtown and a link to the ODNR site. Enjoy!

Learn the Wildflowers!



Wildflowers of Ohio

Summer Course 2014
(Biol 1009C)

May 12 to May 30
Tues./Thurs. 10:00 AM-1:30 PM
Sat. 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

For the non-biology major, this course provides an introduction to the diversity of the families of flowering plants, with an emphasis on plants growing wild in the Ohio/Indiana area. Students will learn the plant anatomy and terminology involved in the acquisition of plant identification skills and will learn about the ecology of plants encountered on field trips. The course will be based at the UC Center for Field Studies at Miami Whitewater Forest during May (a great time for spring wildflowers!). Other locations such as Shawnee Lookout, Fernald Preserve, and the Oxbow Area will also be visited. Dr. Denis Conover is the instructor.



At the UC Center
for Field Studies

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Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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2013-2014 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2013 - May 2014 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

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:

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