



The Passenger Pigeon

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 6 SEPTEMBER 2014

20 YEARS OF FALL SONGBIRDS AT THREE RIVERS MIGRATION OBSERVATORY, WEST VIRGINIA

Speaker:
Ron Canterbury

Date:
Friday, 19 Sept, 7 PM

**Location: Sharon
Woods Visitor's Center**

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ron Canterbury. Ron will be presenting his research from Three Rivers Migration Observatory (TRMO), a fall songbird banding station in the highlands of West Virginia. This autumn will mark the 20th straight year of Ron's research at TRMO, which he founded along with the Southern West Virginia Bird Research Center. This program could not be timed more perfectly as we will be

experiencing the peak of fall migration at the time of the program. This will be a great opportunity to learn the ecology, phenology, and relative abundance of the fall migrants that you will be [hopefully] seeing this month. Ron is also an expert birder, so he may provide us with some tips at

identifying confusing fall warblers.

Ron works as an academic director at the University of Cincinnati Department of Biological Sciences. He teaches Ornithology and Anatomy and Physiology. Ron received his Ph.D.

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Golden-winged Warbler.
Courtesy Mike Cong

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Fall migration is upon us. Check out all the great field trips.*
- *"Martha," the Passenger Pigeon, is back in the news, 100 years later.*
- *Photo quiz returns*
- *Two longtime Club members remembered.*

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SEPTEMBER IS CBC DUES TIME

September is the start of the new season for the Bird Club. For most of us it is time to pay our dues for the year. We are holding the current level of \$12 for individuals and \$15 for families. Students under 18 continue to be free. The dues cover the costs of facil-

ity rental, speaker honorariums and refreshments for the November meeting.

If you are not sure if you are on the September schedule and owe dues, please contact me, Lois Shadix, at lcshadix@fuse.net. Also, I plan to be at the September

meeting and can let you know your status and will collect dues at the meeting. Please pay up and become active members again.

~Lois Shadix
Treasurer

RON CANTERBURY



Checking the nets.
Courtesy Rachel
Vallender

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from Cleveland State University, his M.S. from Marshall University and his B.S. from Concord College. Ron is the foremost authority on the Appalachian population of Golden-winged Warblers, which he has studied in southern West Virginia every year since 1987. He has published numerous papers on golden-wingeds in peer-reviewed ornithological journals. Ron is no stranger to the Bird Club –

he presented on his warbler research in 2012 and led a field trip for us last May. Despite his busy teaching and research schedule Ron remains active in the birding community; he compiles two NAS Christmas Bird Counts in West Virginia and still finds time to bird. Perhaps most importantly, Ron is a wonderful person and engaging speaker. His enthusiasm for birds and their conservation is infectious. We hope

you can join us for this special program.

~Jack Stenger
Program Chair

BROOKVILLE LAKE REGION

Date: Saturday, 21 Sept

Time: 8AM

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

Joe Bens
(513) 353-4229
joebens@live.com

**Theme: Fall warbler,
hawk & shorebird migration**

The fall migration of North American birds roughly occurs from July through November. However different species or families of birds migrate at different times during this rather wide window of time. In terms of diversity of species September represents the peak month of the fall migration. The focus of this trip will be on three significant groups of birds that are at, or near, peak at this date. They are: 1) neo-

tropical passerines (especially warblers), 2) raptors (especially Broad-winged Hawks, accipiters and Ospreys and 3) shorebirds (sandpipers).

While these species may be found in many locations throughout our region, the Brookville Lake area can be an excellent place to find a diverse representation of all three groups at this season. Of course weather and water levels the day of our trip will play a large part in just how good the birding will be. But if conditions are favorable an outstanding day can be expected. Even if conditions are unfavorable we still expect to find a diversity of birds in this outstanding area. This field trip has become an annual event and never disappoints.

The plan is to start the day birding the woodland edges

around Brookville Lake looking for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, thrushes and many other songbirds. Around 10:30 AM as temperatures rise (and if it's not raining) updrafts along the ridges of the Whitewater River valley will create thermals that are used by migrating hawks. We expect to see Ospreys, Broad-winged, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks as they move south. Peregrine Falcons and Merlins are possible and have been seen on past trips. Bald Eagles and other resident hawk species are also expected throughout the day. Towards mid-day we will check the north end of Brookville Lake, which can be an excellent place to find numbers of shorebirds, terns, herons and egrets if water levels are low enough to expose mudflats.

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IN TERMS OF
DIVERSITY OF
SPECIES
SEPTEMBER
REPRESENTS THE
PEAK MONTH OF
THE FALL
MIGRATION

INDIAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Date: Sunday, 28 Sept

Time: 7:30 AM

Leader: Bill Stanley
 (513)324-2796
tyrannus58@gmail.com

Indian Creek Wildlife Area offers a wide variety of habitat that attracts a good diversity of birds. Its 1,799 acres provide a mixture of woodland, grassland, and successional areas that provide habitat for nearly all of our migrant songbirds. Also, a 56 acre

wetland attracts shorebirds and waders when water levels are low. In addition, the surrounding farm fields attract Horned Larks year round as well as Vesper Sparrows and Lapland Longspurs in the winter. The area also is home to a good mix of raptors and woodpeckers including Red-headed Woodpeckers.

This trip is a morning walk that will wrap up by noon. Most of the morning will be spent on foot walking the

seldom-traveled gravel roads. There are no restrooms at Indian Creek. The nearest restroom is in the Marathon gas station in Fayetteville, on the corner of Route 50 and Route 68. Meet at the parking lot on Snowhill Rd. just east of the Wildlife Area headquarters. This parking lot is labeled on this [map](#) of the Indian Creek Wildlife Area.

~Bill Stanley
 Field Trip Coordinator



Red-headed Woodpecker.
 Courtesy Lana Hays

BIRDING TRIP, FALL MIGRATION

Date: Saturday, 04 Oct

Time: 7:30 AM

Leader: Bill Stanley
 (513)324-2796
tyrannus58@gmail.com

The Cincinnati Bird Club is joining the Audubon Society of Ohio for what should prove to be a great day afield. October is a beautiful month and autumn color is near peak on this date. October is also centered in the middle of fall migration and because of that it offers somewhat of a mixed bag. East Fork SP is an excellent spot to find this diversity of species. While neo-tropic migration is winding down by this date, there still should be plenty of warblers and other migrant songbirds around. Shorebird migration continues and some can usually be found on the beaches. Waterfowl migration is just beginning and gulls and terns are

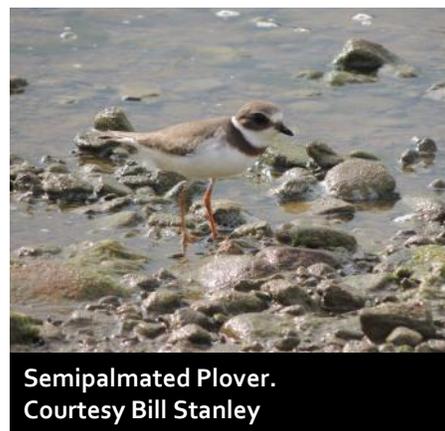
also likely. Raptors are on the move throughout the month and Bald Eagles should be expected. Even a few of our winter residents may be showing up by this date. And there is always a chance for a rarity, as East Fork has an excellent reputation in that regard, particularly in the fall.

We will visit several different locations and habitats within the park, continuing to do so until noon or later. This will entail driving to a few different spots interspersed with a bit of walking in between. While we will walk a bit during the morning, it will be moderate and at a leisurely pace over mostly level trails and roadsides. So come and join the Bird Club and the Audubon Society on what should be a beautiful autumn morning. Restrooms are available in the park. If you have any questions feel free

to contact Bill.

Directions: We will meet at the watercraft office on the south side of East Fork State Park. To get there, enter the park from the south side as if you were heading toward the beach. The park office will be on the right.

THERE STILL SHOULD BE PLENTY OF WARBLERS AND OTHER MIGRANT SONGBIRDS AROUND



Semipalmated Plover.
 Courtesy Bill Stanley

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BROOKVILLE LAKE

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This trip will run well into the afternoon. We will caravan to the Brookville Lake area and then do some driving from spot to spot, interspersed with lots of stops and some easy walking.

Bring your lunch and drinks. Restrooms are available. One important note; Indiana State Parks charge a daily per-car entrance fee (\$5 resident, \$7 non-resident). At this time of year there is about a 50/50 chance that there will not be a fee charged.

Note that our usual meeting

place for this trip, the Miami-town/I-275 Park & Ride, is currently closed for construction.

Because of this we will meet at 8am in Miami Whitewater Forest at the parking lot of Tanager Meadow. To get to Tanager Meadow in Miami Whitewater Forest, take I-275 west to I-74 west. Take the Dry Fork Road Exit #3 and turn right (north) onto Dry Fork Road. Go about 1 mile to West Road. Turn right (east) onto West Road and go about 0.2 miles to the park entrance just past the bridge. Turn right into the park. The Tanager Meadow parking lot is immediately on

your right. We will caravan from here to the Brookville area, about a 25 minute drive. Contact Jay or Joe if you have any questions.

[Map](#) of Miami Whitewater Forest

Visit the Brookville Lake [website](#)

[Map](#) of the Brookville Lake area

Visit the Whitewater Memorial State Park [website](#)

~Jay Stenger
President



Osprey. Courtesy
Allan Claybon

BIRDING TRIP, FALL MIGRATION

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To get to the south side entrance to East Fork SP from I-275 take exit #65, SR 125 (Beechmont Ave./Ohio Pike) and go east about 9 miles to

the junction of Rt. 222. Turn left onto Bantam Rd. (opposite Rt. 222) and follow the signs to the park entrance.

Visit the East Fork State Park website for a Park map and

other info at: [East Fork SP](#).

~Jay Stenger
President

AUDUBON SOCIETY CLIMATE REPORT

THESE ARE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES BASED ON CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE AND STATE-OF-THE-ART CLIMATE MODELS. THE REALITY COULD, IN FACT, BE WORSE

Audubon released the results of a seven-year scientific study of the potential impact of global warming on North American birds. Based on four decades of bird census data, here is what they found:

314 species of North American birds could be severely affected by global warming in the coming years at the current pace of warming. The science shows that these birds

could lose half or more of their livable ranges by the year 2080 if nothing is done to stop global warming.

Many of those severely threatened are birds like the Rufous Hummingbird or the Baltimore Oriole that we see every day.

Some, like the Trumpeter Swan, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and American Avocet,

could lose more than 99 percent of their livable range — which puts them at extreme risk for extinction.

The science also pinpoints potential “climate strongholds,” key places that will continue to support bird life in the coming decades and which merit urgent protection.

See the full report [here](#).

SAVING OUR BIRDS

The passenger pigeon is among the most famous of American birds, but not because of its beauty, or its 60-mile-an-hour flight speed. Nor is it a cherished symbol of our great country. No, we remember the passenger pigeon because of the largest-scale human-caused extinction in history.

Possibly the most abundant bird ever to have existed, this gregarious pigeon once migrated in giant flocks that sometimes exceeded three billion, darkening the skies over eastern North America for days at a time. No wild bird in the world comes close to those numbers today. Yet 100 years ago this week, the very last pigeon of her kind died in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo. Her name was Martha, and her passing merits our close attention today.

Mercilessly slaughtered by the tens of millions at breeding colonies in the North and at huge wintertime roosts in the

South during the post-Civil War era, passenger pigeons were shipped by trainloads to dinner tables in homes and restaurants across the East. Their population fell from biblical numbers at midcentury to tiny, aimless flocks in 1890. By around 1900 the few birds that remained were all in captivity. The last male died in 1910, leaving Martha as a barren relic of past abundance.

Martha is receiving plenty of eulogies this year, including several recent books and even a petition for a presidential proclamation honoring her centenary. I suggest that our most important eulogy would be to reflect on her species' once great numbers, on the century that has passed since her death and on the century that begins today. We need to imagine Martha asking us, "Have you learned anything from my passing?"

It seems that whenever humans discover bounty, it is

doomed to become a fleeting resource. The fate of cod fisheries in the late 1900s mirrors that of the passenger pigeon a century before. Pacific bluefin tuna, down 96 percent from their unfished numbers, may be next in line. Countless such examples exist around the world, but the good news is that we still have time to reflect on them before their populations dwindle down to their last respective Marthas.

This is the message of the 2014 [State of the Birds](#) report, a periodic assessment of the health of our nation's bird populations compiled by the nation's leading bird conservation specialists in collaboration with state and federal wildlife agencies.

John W. Fitzpatrick, executive director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, The New York Times, 29 August 2014.

Read the rest of the opinion piece [here](#).

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IN MEMORIUM

The Bird Club lost 2 longtime members recently, Ron Austing and Carl Shadix.

Ron was the last surviving member of the original founders of the Club in 1947.

Donations may be sent to the following organizations:

CBC, ASO, RAPTOR, Ox-bow, Inc.

or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Carl was a longtime member and husband of our treasurer, Lois Shadix.

Donations may be sent to the following organizations:

Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church or the Anderson Twp. Library Association.



"Martha," the last known passenger pigeon. Courtesy Carl Hansen. See Page 6

PASSENGER PIGEON SYMPOSIUM



Xavier University will hold a symposium, **The Legacy of Martha: The Last Passenger Pigeon and the Rise of Conservatism**, to commemorate the centennial of the death of Martha, the last passenger pigeon in captivity, and who lived at the Cincinnati Zoo. The symposium will be held on the evening of October 29, 2014, 7 PM, at Xavier University's Cintas Center.

The symposium will include four speakers who will give presentations and participate in a roundtable discussion. They are:

Joel Greenberg, author of *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*.

Thane Maynard, director of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

John Reiger, professor emeritus of history, Ohio University-Chillicothe and author of *American Sportsmen and the Origins of Conservation*.

Nancy Stranahan, director of the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System, naturalist, writer, and speaker.

For more information, please call 745-3922 or visit the event [website](#).

2014 AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDING COURSE

THIS COURSE IS GEARED TOWARDS ALL BIRDING LEVELS. WHILE MID-LEVEL BIRDERS WILL LIKELY GAIN THE MOST FROM THIS COURSE, MOST BIRDERS, BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED ALIKE, WILL FIND THIS COURSE HELPFUL

Hone your birding and identification skills by registering for the 28th annual Audubon Birding Course. Our local Cincinnati Audubon Society Chapter (ASO) has been sponsoring this class since 1987. The three-week course will be held on three consecutive Sunday mornings: September 28th, October 5th and October 12th. Father-son team Jay Stenger and Jack

Stenger will be this year's instructors. Both Jay and Jack are well-known and exceptionally knowledgeable birders. Jay has been an instructor for this course since its inception in 1987.

The course is held at the Audubon House which is located in Groesbeck at 3398 W. Galbraith Road, just a couple of minutes from the

Cross County Highway.

See [ASO](#) for additional details.

PHOTO QUIZ

Welcome to the Cincinnati Bird Club's first Monthly Photo Quiz. Each month a new quiz photo will be posted. We hope it will provide an identification challenge and keep all of our ID skills sharp. The rules are below, along with the September Quiz Bird. We look forward to your participation.

Rules: Anybody is welcome and all are encouraged to participate. However, only paying members (it's only \$12 per year) are eligible for prizes and unadulterated bragging rights. To participate send your answers to me (jackstenger@gmail.com) by 21 September. All responses must be the official common English names used by the

American Ornithologists' Union checklist ([Link](#)). This means they must be correctly spelled, capitalized, and hyphenated or else they are counted as wrong. Mind your plovers and quails. Also include any comments you have about the quiz bird,

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 13... Field trip: Fall migration, [ASO](#)
 - 14... Field trip: Fall migration, [Oxbow, Inc.](#)
 - 15... Program: Red Rocks wilderness, [ASO](#)
 - 19... Program: Fall songbirds, [Cincinnati Bird Club](#)
 - 21... Field trip: Fall migration, [Cincinnati Bird Club](#)
 - 27... Field trip: Little Miami River fishes, [ASO](#)
 - 28... Field trip: Fall migration, [Cincinnati Bird Club](#)
- ◇ Program: Birding course, [ASO](#)

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

PHOTO QUIZ

Continued from previous page

such as how you arrived at your ID, or how you felt about the picture. Venting is welcome. Any bird that is on the state list for Ohio, Indiana, or Kentucky is fair game. Whoever has the highest number of correct answers by the end of the Bird Club season (May) “wins.” Any public discussion of quiz birds will result in a trap door opening up beneath the violator.

Prize: To be determined.

Answers: I will post the answer with a brief analysis in the next Bird Club newsletter. This will include a list of all those who guessed correctly. Don’t worry, wrong guesses will not be published, so fire away: it’s better to get a CBC quiz wrong than to have never participated. I think Alexander Wilson said that.

~Jack Stenger
Program Chair



Courtesy Jack Stenger



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

c/o Newsletter Editor
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB](#)

Bird Club Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ 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

2014-2015 DUES:
IF YOU HAVEN'T
SENT IN YOUR
DUES YET FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 2014 -
MAY 2015 BIRDING
SEASON, PLEASE FILL
OUT THE FORM
AND MAIL IT IN
ALONG WITH YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FEES