



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2018

MARCH MEETING: BIG OAKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Date: Thursday, March 15.

Location: Sharon Woods Visitor Center

Time: 7:00 pm

Speaker: Joe Robb

Our March program speaker will be Joe Robb, the refuge manager for [Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge](#). Many local birders may not realize this massive property is just over an hour from Cincinnati. Big Oaks is a unique, continuous property

that's over 50,000 acres in size and takes up parts of 3 counties in Indiana. Its know for its massive population of breeding Henslow's Sparrows, Cerulean Warblers, and occasional overwintering Golden Eagles. Most of the refuge is not open to the public however due to its past life as the Jefferson Proving Ground – a former US military munitions testing ground. Joe will talk about this refuge's storied

past along with its current management and the great opportunities it offers wildlife.

—[Brian Wulker](#)
Program Chair

NO JANUARY BIRD CLUB MEETING—

- *There is no Bird Club Meeting in January.* The weather gods play havoc with our efforts to meet in January, and we gave in a few years back and decided to take the month off. So bird more, build your January lists, study your new field guides and smart phone apps, take some photos, and we'll see you in February!



FACEBOOK

The Cincinnati Bird Club is now

www.facebook.com/cincinnatibirdclub Like our page and follow it for information about upcoming meetings,

field trips and other bird club information.

on facebook at <https://>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CBC Reports	2-4
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FIELD TRIP: BROOKVILLE LAKE REGION

Location: Brookville Lake Region

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2018

Meet: 8:00 A.M. at the Park & Ride at I-275 Exit # 7 (see directions below)

Leaders: [Jack Stenger](#),

(513) 503-3389,

jackstenger@gmail.com

Jay Stenger, (513) 522-

8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Note: This field trip will be conducted jointly with the Cincinnati Bird Club

Note x 2: Daylight Saving Time Begins On This Date.

Set your clocks forward one hour the night before this field trip.

Jack, and his father Jay, are exceptionally skilled birders and have high expectations for this trip. Jay and Jack know the Brookville Lake region extremely well, having birded there many, many times over the past 30 years.

The focus of this trip will be the spring waterfowl migration, which should be near peak at this date. Our trip leaders Jack and Jay Stenger plan to visit several spots around the Brookville Lake Region and if time permits make the short hop over to Hueston Woods to take a quick look around Acton Lake before returning home.

Both, Brookville Lake & Hueston Woods' Acton Lake, are hotspots and are excellent for attracting 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 16-18 species of Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans) is quite possible. We also expect to find numbers of gulls, grebes, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and other raptors, and songbirds including early spring migrants and lingering winter visitors. Finding something rare is always a strong possibility on

this trip. Past ASO March field trips to Brookville Lake have yielded Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, several rare waterfowl, and Lapland Longspurs just to name a few.

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 run into mid to late 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; a few of our scheduled stops will be in Indiana Park prop-

erty. 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.

This will be a combined trip with the Cincinnati Audubon Society. Please note that daylight saving time begins on this date. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. (the correct, new time) 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. Call or email Jay or Jack if you have any questions.

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

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2961.htm>

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

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2962.htm>

—Contributed by
Jay Stenger

Bird Club Changes

Beginning next fall, the Bird Club will be increasing our annual membership rates. We haven't done this in a long time (perhaps 15 or more years), and we are doing this reluctantly, but we wanted to let you know why we are going to raise our membership rates. Sharon Woods has increased our rent this year. Sharon Woods and the Hamilton County Parks have always been gracious hosts, but their facility costs increase; thus, so too do the fees we pay. Additionally, we need to purchase or rent a video projector, because the one we've been using is not available at the park any more.

Starting in fall 2018, Dues will become \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a family membership. That is still lower than any of the other clubs in Cincinnati. If you renew your dues this spring you can still have the lower amount of \$12 and \$15 for 2018-2019.

Meeting Room

Our monthly meetings are held in the room across from the Sharon Woods Visitor Center auditorium. We are no longer meeting upstairs.

Parking Fees

Hamilton County Parks have a new policy that all people who come to our meeting can do so without having to first buy a Great Parks decal for your car. If you are stopped at the entrance gate, tell the representative that you are attending a reserved meeting in the Sharon Center and you will be permitted to enter the park without a decal.



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

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The Cincinnati Bird Club welcomes two new members:

**Cathy Simon
Debbie Kaylor**

We look forward to seeing you at meetings and field trips!

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

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

2017-2018 DUES:
IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT
IN YOUR DUES YET
FOR THE SEPTEMBER
2017 - MAY 2018 BIRD-
ING SEASON, PLEASE
FILL OUT THE FORM
AND MAIL IT IN ALONG
WITH YOUR MEMBER-
SHIP FEES