



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2018

APRIL MEETING: GILMORE PONDS

Date: Thursday, April 19.

Location: Sharon Woods Visitor Center

Time: 7:00 pm

Speaker: Mike Busam

Mike Busam will present a program at our April meeting titled: "A Natural & Social History of Gilmore Ponds (or 250,000 years in 25 minutes or less)." Gilmore Ponds has been an important birding area in Cincinnati for as long as

there have been birders in Cincinnati! Mike will talk about the natural history of the area, as well as some of the many interesting and sometimes quite colorful individuals and groups who co-operated, contrived, and sometimes even conspired to preserve Gilmore Ponds as a natural area.

It's Mike's hope that after enduring this presentation, if people take away anything, it's that they'll

never refer to Gilmore Ponds as "Gilmore Preserve," and maybe they'll have a few laughs as Mike talks about everything from the Deep Stage Ohio River to taxidermied beaver pranks.

It should be fun for all ages!

—Mike Busam, newsletter editor, writing about himself in the third person.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Field Trip	2-3
Bird Club Changes	3
Other Field Trips	4



FACEBOOK

The Cincinnati Bird Club is now

on facebook at <https://>

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

field trips and other bird club information.

FIELD TRIP: SPRING VALLEY & CAESAR CREEK STATE PARK

Location: Spring Valley & Caesar Creek State Park

Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018

Meet: 7:00 A.M. Caesar Creek South Beach

Leader: Ann Oliver, annieobirder@yahoo.com, (513) 307-0929

Join our trip leader Ann Oliver for what should be a great day of spring birding in one of our region's best birding sites. Ann Oliver is a long-time conservationist and birder, a past president of the Cincinnati Bird Club, and a volunteer for a number of local and state organizations. Her interests range from natural history to travel to Flamenco dancing, and she and her husband are avid music fans and supporters of local and regional musicians and artists. You will never run out of things to talk about when you're birding with Ann! We're pleased to have Ann as a leader. Spring migration will be well under way on this date and birds should be abundant. (Though as this is

being written it is snowing ... but it will warm up).

Our destination for this trip is located in the extreme northeast corner of Warren County, Ohio. Spring Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA) is made up of 842 acres of riparian woodland, fields and brushy areas situated along the banks of the upper Little Miami River. It is noted for its excellent marsh (150 acres) and wetlands and represents one of the few remaining large wetlands in our region. The nearby Caesar Creek State Park has over 7900 acres of varied habitat including a 2830 acre lake.

Ann plans to begin the trip at the swimming beach at Caesar Creek State Park and expects to find a few species that are easier to find here than at Spring Valley later in the morning. These would include loons, gulls, terns and a few shorebirds. On the drive from the Caesar Creek beach to SVWA, Ann plans to stop at the Waynesville McDonalds restaurant for coffee and a restroom break.

Ann plans to spend the rest of the morning walking the trails and the boardwalk around and through the marsh and woodlands at SVWA. The trail is a loop of over a mile but is level for the most part. Parts of the trail can be wet (we are in a marsh after all), so wear appropriate footwear. Ann has had great success attracting rails along the boardwalk in the marsh and we expect to get some good looks at Sora and Virginia Rails. Many migrant and returning resident songbirds, including warblers, will have arrived by this date. Other species that can be expected on this trip include rails, bitterns, waders, shorebirds, marsh birds, terns, loons, waterfowl, several species of hawks, including eagles and osprey (both of which nest in the area) and a diverse number of song birds. If time allows, Ann may take a look at the nearby and usually productive Roxanna gravel pits as well.

April is always a great time to be out birding, so consider

joining Ann for what we expect will be a really great spring day. The trip will end sometime in the early afternoon, so pack a lunch and plan accordingly. Caesar Creek SP has plenty of restroom facilities but Spring Valley only offers primitive accommodations. Feel free to contact Ann if you have any questions.

Directions: To get to the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach from Cincinnati, take I-71 north to the State Route 73 exit # 45. Turn left/west onto Rt. 73 and go about 5 miles. After crossing the Rt. 73 Bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the State Park entrance and follow the signs to the swimming beach parking lot

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 go-

ing 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.

FIELD TRIPS: OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Oxbow, Inc.

Spring Migration

Location: Oxbow

Date: Saturday, April 14,
2018, 8:00 AM

Leader: Dave Helm, (513)
403-4519,
helmmmd@icloud.com

See Oxbow Inc's website for
more information.

[www.oxbowinc.org/
programs.html](http://www.oxbowinc.org/programs.html)

Audubon Society of
Ohio.

Spring Wildflowers, Shrubs & Trees (and birds too)

Location: Spring Grove
Cemetery and Arboretum

Date: Sunday, April 15,
2018, 10:00 AM.

Leader: Denis Conover,
(513) 641-3651,
conovedg@hotmail.com

Spring Migration & Blooms

Location: Shawnee Lookout
Park

Date: Saturday, April 21,
2018, 8:00 a.m.

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

See Audubon Society of
Ohio's website for more in-
formation.

[www.cincinnati.audubon.org/
calevents/](http://www.cincinnati.audubon.org/calevents/)



CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB

c/o Newsletter Editor
7577 Whitehall Circle West
West Chester, Ohio 45069

President

Bill Stanley: tyrannus58@gmail.com

Program Chair

Brian Wulker: bdwulker@gmail.com

Treasurer

Lois Shadix: lcshadix@fuse.net

Field Trips

Bill Hutchison: whpitt@cinci.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Mike Busam: mbusam@gmail.com

Park VIP

John Stewart: j_stewart@cinci.rr.com

The Cincinnati Bird Club welcomes four new members:

**Jennie Hefren
Joseph Keating
James Terlinden
Robyn Watson**

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