



# THE CERULEAN

Winter 2007 - 2008, Vol. 4, No. 4

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Quarterly Newsletter of the **Ohio Ornithological Society**: *Ohio's Birding Network*

## From the Editor

It's hard for me to believe it has been nearly four years and 16 issues since this newsletter was first published. Since my second term on the OOS Board is coming to an end, I think it's time to move on and give someone else a turn at editing *The Cerulean*. Ann Oliver of Cincinnati has agreed to take over the editorship of this newsletter.

It takes a whole lot of volunteers to put out an issue of this newsletter and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them. My sincerest appreciation goes to Jim Glover, our first design manager and the artist of our logo; Bill Whan, my proofreader and frequent contributor; Ned Keller, web master and caretaker of the electronic form of this publication; Andrea Cook, membership chair; Peter King, treasurer; Karen Menard, who writes a regular column on Site Highlights; and Jen Sauter, who mails the newsletters and writes the Members' Corner. I'd also like to acknowledge Laura Kammermeier for all her help when we first started the OOS, and to Ed Pierce, whose dream of a statewide birding organization started it all. A special thank-you to our design manager for the last three years, **Delores Cole**, who is also resigning after this issue. And finally, thanks to all of you who submitted articles and photographs over the years.

See you in the field.

- *Su Snyder*  
Wooster

## Ohio Bird Conservation Symposium

The beneficence of *partnership* was in full display at the first Ohio Bird Conservation Symposium, held at Deer Creek Resort & Conference Center November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The hosting partners were the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). More than 110 people attended: 90% were members of OOS and 70% were also members of TNC! But the most important partnership was each attendee's *personal* commitment to partner with birds as evidenced by the overwhelming success of the Cerulean Spon-

sors, and everyone's participation in the symposium lectures and field trips, silent auction, and raffle.

Speakers included internationally esteemed Scott Weidensaul and Paul Baicich, as well as regionally prominent lecturers Dr. Dave Ewert, Dr. Amanda Rodenwald, Chris Bedel, Aaron Boone, and OOS president Jim McCormac. OOS Conservation Chair Tom Bain ably emceed the event.

All proceeds from the symposium went to the OOS Conservation Fund. The silent auction generated more than \$1,800. Auction bids were placed on donated art work from Jim Glover, Jen Brumfield, Julie Zickefoose, and Tim Dornan, as well as donated gift baskets from OOS and TNC, a day of birding with Montana-based owl expert Denver Holt, books, and additional "gratis" items from organizations such as Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Black River Audubon Society, Mohican State Park, Deer Creek Resort, and more. Husband & wife partners Tim & Laura Dornan donated



Conference speakers left to right, Dave Ewert, Paul Baicich, Scott Weidensaul, Chris Bedel, and Amanda Rodewald.  
Photo by Jim McCormac.

their beautiful hand-carved Blue-winged Teal decoy. Raffle partners Bob Hopp and Connie Workman raised \$400 selling tickets for the teal drawing.

Nearly doubling the auction and raffle sum was the generous contribution of the Cerulean Sponsors. All forty spaces at the Cerulean Sponsorship level (additional \$100 contribu-

# THE CERULEAN

THE CERULEAN is the official newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS). THE CERULEAN is published four times a year. It contains timely information regarding upcoming field trips and meetings, recent bird sightings and current hot spots, trip reports, as well as other pertinent birding information. A subscription to THE CERULEAN is included among the benefits of the OOS. Members of the OOS are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photographs, drawings, and other birding related information to the newsletter. Seasonal deadlines for contributions to THE CERULEAN are as follows:

- Spring: 1 March
- Summer: 1 June
- Fall: 1 September
- Winter: 1 December

Send contributions for the newsletter to [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org), or by regular mail to THE CERULEAN, c/o OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. For more information see the Publications page on the OOS web site at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org). Because the newsletter is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this newsletter to a new address. Please notify the Editor promptly if you move.

**Design Manager--Delores Cole, Editor--Su Snyder.**

tion beyond the basic conference fee) sold out in advance. Cerulean Sponsors were thanked with a gift bag of donated items including a Scott Weidensaul book and a caravan road trip to a saw-whet owl banding station in Ross County.

Two major donations were made possible by OOS member funds. First: OOS donated \$10,000 to TNC for purchase of the Conrad Tract. Matching money from the Clean Ohio Fund will assist in obtaining the 24-acre Adams County property. The Conrad Tract is described as a mixed meso-



Presentation of \$1500 check for Cerulean Warbler Research to Amanda Rodewald. Left to right, Jim McCormac and Peter King of the OOS Board, Amanda Rodewald and Tom Bain, chairs of the OOS Conservation Committee. Photo by Chris Bedel.

phytic forest with upland oak-hickory forest, rare White Cedar trees, and dolomitic limestone outcroppings. Pete Whan and Lucy Miller of TNC gratefully accepted the OOS donation for preservation of this parcel adjacent to the 14,000 acre Edge of Appalachia (EOA) Preserve. Prior to the formal donation, Chris Bedel shared his enthusiasm via a visual romp through the vast biodiversity of the EOA, including eight globally-rare plant communities, seven globally-rare species, four geologic systems, three ecoregions, and a total of 1164 overall species!

The other major donation was \$1,500 awarded to Cerulean Warbler researcher Dr. Amanda Rodewald of Ohio State University. As the first speaker on Saturday morning, she



A beaming Jaime Sweet accepts her Dornan-carved Blue-winged Teal decoy that she won in the raffle. To her right is Scott Weidensaul, and on her left is Bob Hoppe and Connie Workman. Photo by Jim McCormac

described the challenge of studying the winter habitat of Cerulean Warblers in Venezuela as well as summer breeding here in the U.S. Among her finding is the importance of shade-grown coffee to the iconic bird of the OOS. That's good news since it's estimated that Cerulean Warbler populations have declined 70% since the 1960s. OOS thanked Dr. Rodewald with an additional gift: a bag of shade-grown Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee. It's such a popular item nationwide that it's on back-order until 2008 from the distributor!

Speaking of coffee: the OOS display table sold 50 bags of Cerulean Coffee. This sustainably grown java is a joint venture of Thanksgiving Coffee Company and American Birding Association. Sales of Cerulean Coffee also benefit ProAves Columbia to protect bird habitat.



Another speaker was Paul Baicich: bird guide, author, former American Birding Association employee, and all-round champion of bird conservation. He gently chided the ubiquitous “top ten list” found in mass media with his “Top 10 Most Important Things You Can Do for Birds and Bird Conservation”. Baicich started his talk with his view of “5 Big Problems”:

- 1) habitat loss,
- 2) modern and post-industrial insertions (i.e. global warming, pollution),
- 3) not enough people care (i.e. need to make the ‘bird-curious’ into the ‘bird-committed’),
- 4) not enough funding, and
- 5) hemispheric burden in non-biologic issues (i.e. disparity of wealth, geographic barriers, differences in languages, and a multitude of sociological and economic phenomena between North and South America).

Baicich then listed his ten suggestions for bird conservation: 1) make your property more bird-friendly buy supplying food, cover, and water, 2) drink shade-grown coffee, 3) buy a Migratory Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Stamp (i.e. duck stamp equals habitat purchase), 4) support birding and nature festivals, 5) support inter-American equipment transfer by donating your gently-used optics to naturalists in Central and South America, 6) help a child enjoy nature with an outdoors trip, 7) “lights out” programs for skyscrapers and use of energy-efficient bulbs at home, 8) develop a congressional relationship, 9) volunteer at a local park or refuge, and 10) count birds and make it count via eBird, a Breeding Bird Atlas, or a Christmas Bird Count.



Presentation of \$10,000 to TNC. Left to right, Ned Keller and Marc Nolls of the OOS, Pete Whan and Lucy Miller of TNC, and Jim McCormac. Photo by Chris Bedel.

Regarding Duck Stamps: Baicich pointed out a steady decline in the numbers of hunters, which has reduced revenue from duck stamps. Concurrently, the number of birders and wildlife enthusiasts are on the upswing. Therefore, the simplest way to influence acres purchased for wildlife is for every birder to buy a yearly duck stamp and wear the stamp in a special plastic holder on your binocular strap. Nearly 98 cents of every dollar spent for a stamp goes toward habitat acquisition. Attendees took the duck stamp message to heart. The gift table at Black Swamp Bird Observatory sold 39 duck stamps during the symposium. If you weren’t able to attend the symposium, it’s not too late to get a \$15 duck stamp ... or buy a duck stamp and plastic holder for \$17. Just call Black Swamp Bird Observatory at 419-898-4070 or email Hugh Rose for more information at [Hugh-Rose@BSBO.org](mailto:Hugh-Rose@BSBO.org).

Other speakers Saturday morning included Dr. Dave Ewert, Director of Conservation Science for the Great Lakes Program of TNC. He addressed the identification, prioritization, and protection of stopover sites of migratory birds through the Great Lakes corridor, especially southern Michigan and western Ohio. On Sunday morning, Aaron Boone, Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II coordinator extraordinaire, shared fresh insights into sparrow identification. Uberbirder Jim McCormac gave two talks: Friday night, Cerulean Sponsors heard about the economic potential of birders to impact biodiversity, and Sunday morning McCormac inspired with a presentation on waterfowl.

The keynote speaker on Saturday evening was the inimitable author, Pulitzer finalist, naturalist, lecturer, and field researcher Scott Weidensaul. Two awe-inspiring journeys, taken a half-century apart, were recounted in the pairing of stirring words and breathtaking images. The first journey is the legendary 1953 adventure that became the best-selling book *Wild America*. Famed ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson and his British partner James Fisher motored through a 30,000-mile tour of North America from Newfoundland to the Everglades, into Mexico, through the Klamath Basin, and on to Alaska. Weidensaul retraced that epic trip in his book *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent’s Natural Soul*. He emphasized a need to renew our efforts to work toward conservation as well as celebrate our remaining wild lands.

A final word on partnership... Planning and executing the conference was a partnership led by Jen Sauter along with a host of OOS volunteers, including Cheryl Harner, Tom Bain, Peter King, Jason Larson, Andrea Cook, Julie Davis, all of the field trip leaders and many others. Of special note, Craig Caldwell gets an “above and beyond” hoot for his new partnership with the collaborative team of Kelly Williams-Sieg, Bill Bosstic, and Bob Placier. So impressed was Caldwell with the research done on Northern Saw-whet Owls at

the Earl H. Barnhart Buzzard's Roost Nature Preserve, he made a generous donation to enable an OOS research fund to support DNA work at the banding station west of Chillicothe.

- Ann Oliver  
Cincinnati

P.S. You can learn more about coffee and birds at [www.coffeehabitat.com/birds/](http://www.coffeehabitat.com/birds/) or at [www.americanbirding.org/resources/shadecoffee/glossary.html](http://www.americanbirding.org/resources/shadecoffee/glossary.html)

To find out about the Clean Ohio Fund: <http://www.clean.ohio.gov/>

For a list of projects the Clean Ohio Fund has helped finance: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/ohio/preserves/art12993.html>

Read more about the symposium on two blogs: December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> blog of Jim McCormac at <http://jimccormac.blogspot.com/> and the December 2<sup>nd</sup> blog of Tom Bain (OOS Conservation Chair) <http://ohiogeologyandbiodiversity.blogspot.com/>

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Research Fund

At the recent OOS/TNC Conservation Conference, many attendees took an evening field trip to see the Northern Saw-whet Owl banding station near Chillicothe. Ably run for the past five years by Kelley Williams-Sieg, Bill Bosstic, and Bob Placier, fall 2007 has been their best year on record for owl capture. A staggering 120+ birds have been banded. This station and others like it have revealed loads of fascinating information about saw-whet owls and their migrations.

OOS member Craig Caldwell was one of the visitors to the banding station, and got to learn about the science behind this research, and see owls close-up. So impressed was Craig with the work that Kelly and company are doing that he made a very generous

donation to the OOS to establish a research fund dedicated to supporting work specific to studies of Northern Saw-whet Owls.

The establishment of this fund allows us to finance DNA studies. For the past two years, the Chillicothe banders have been collecting a few feathers from each bird and archiving them until such time as money became available to subject the material to genetic analysis. Progress in scientists' ability to analyze bird DNA via a few plucked feathers has made tremendous advances. One of the big problems with Northern Saw-whet Owls captured and banded at stations like the one near Chillicothe is determining the sex of many of the birds. While results vary from station to station, the sex of between 18% and 32% of the owls is not determined. DNA analysis is the only surefire way to determine the sex of many birds.

Craig's grant, along with other assistance from the OOS, will cast light into this unknown area, and help complete some important basic baseline data about saw-whet migrations. What portion of the population migrates from year to year? Do the extent and the timing of migration differ based on age and sex? Does the condition of the owls vary from year to year? These questions can only be answered if we can accurately sex and age the owls that we capture.

Many saw-whets banded at Chillicothe have been caught elsewhere, and owls banded in other places have been captured at Chillicothe, revealing fascinating new information about their movements, and demonstrating how much we have yet to learn about these enigmatic micro-hooters. It will be interesting to learn what new information comes to light as Kelly, Bill, and Bob delve into this new aspect of their research.



OOS Group poses at the Chillicothe banding station with a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Photo by Jim McCormac.

Many thanks to Craig Caldwell for his generosity and support of avian research in Ohio. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact our Executive Secretary, Jennifer Sauter, at [ybchat@insight.rr.com](mailto:ybchat@insight.rr.com).

-Jim McCormac  
Columbus

## Official Notification to the Membership

The Nominating Committee of the Ohio Ornithological Society has completed its discussion regarding the slate of nominees for Board of Directors that will be voted on at the Annual Spring Meeting. The following names are proposed.

President - Jim McCormac  
Vice-President - Ed Pierce  
Executive Secretary - Jen Sauter  
Recording Secretary - Marc Nolls  
Treasurer - Peter King  
Director, East Central Region - Cheryl Harner, Crestline  
Director, Central Region - Dan Sanders, Worthington  
Director, At-large - Tom Bartlett, Tiffin  
Director, At-large - Craig Caldwell, Westlake

There are no "nominations from the floor" permitted by our bylaws. Instead, additional nominations must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary, Jen Sauter, by email - [ybchat@insight.rr.com](mailto:ybchat@insight.rr.com) or mail - OOS, PO Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Nominations must be received no later than 30 (thirty) days prior to the Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 17, 2008 at Mohican State Park. To be valid, all nominations must include a written acceptance of the nomination by the nominee, and a brief biography to be published in the meeting materials along with those of the original slate of nominees.

OOS Nominating Committee,  
John Perchalski, Chair  
Delores Cole  
David Dister  
Robert Evans  
Bill Heck

Well, she laments, sir, for it that it would yearn your heart to see it. Her husband goes this morning a-birding.

*The Merry Wives of Windsor, III:v:44-46*

Mr. Ford, in Shakespeare's play, was not going out to observe the local avifauna, but to fly his hawk at smaller birds, a sport much more popular in the Elizabethan era than it is now. There were no shotguns, or fowling-pieces, in sixteenth-century England, and no binoculars, though bird-lime or nets might also have provided a good look at a few small winged creatures. Today, our interactions with birds involve less carnage. We can step back a bit. Poultry farming feeds us birds, and hunting them has dwindled to a regulated hobby.

What we now call 'birding'—pursuing birds for the pleasures of observing them in life and learning from them—finally disentangled itself from hunting only with the development of good field optics. Audubon, for example, was every bit a skilled hunter as an ornithologist, like most North American bird authorities up through the middle of the last century. For many birders of bygone days the death of their quarry seemed necessary, because they could not be sure of them otherwise. Emerson's "Hast thou named all the birds without a gun?" is a rhetorical question, for often enough in the 1840s a bird in the bush was correctly named only in the hand.

Fortunately, about five million bird specimens now lie in trays in North American museums. Accumulating them has saved far more birds than it cost. Good field guides, too, have spared untold numbers of birds, but none could have been illustrated without close study of museum specimens. Who of us would kill for a good look at a bird now?

Our word "bird" comes from the Old English *brid*, meaning a young bird (*fogul*, the predecessor of "fowl," was used for adults). It in turn is related to Old English *brēdan*, which meant to cherish or keep warm, and the origin of our modern "breed" and "brood." After many hundreds of years of use, the word "bird" retains an aura of something diminutive to be nurtured and protected from harm. Many enthusiasts feed birds, others raise them or rehabilitate them, and most seek to protect them and their haunts. For some reason, efforts to keep birds from harm exceed those on behalf of trees or frogs, which by any objective standard are as deserving. It is worth wondering what this reason may be.

We humans are a complex species with many motivations, and our interests in caring about birds take many forms. I have learned not to assume mine will always match those of others. Some want to keep and manipulate the objects of their interest, such as by way of aviculture, the training of birds for falconry or racing, etc. Even naming them has a possessive element; keeping a life list can be a very acquisitive hobby. Some like to capture and touch wild birds, even mark them with ownership. Others keep voluminous records in order to study and predict their behaviors, and this too seems a way of trying to bring these wild creatures within our sphere. And of course some still want to bring them home for dinner. The desire to possess often lies beneath the surface.

Birds share many characteristics that elevate them in our esteem. We envy these creatures of the air and their abilities to make use of that most immaterial realm. Standing under them, we understand them in a unique way because of our own divided nature. Unbound from earth, birds may overfly thousands of miles of earth each year, all too often the patch where we await a chance to see them. See the poem on the

back cover of your copy of Peterjohn. Much of our effort at understanding them involves clumsily trying to fix them in time and space, like Audubon's candlelit efforts in the wilderness, wiring up defunct birds in life-like poses as subjects for his paintings. What else could he do? How much more can we do?

Like us, birds are singing animals, their voices everywhere, more various than those of frogs or insects or whales. They are often very forgiving about poor efforts to imitate their calls. We sing to one another, even if we humans usually use only stolen renditions, like the mockingbird rendering a ring-tone. It helps persuade us they are perhaps not indif-

ferent to us after all.

Up close, the eyes of birds reveal little. The darting gaze of the heron is bright and wide, but reptilian somehow, shallow and anonymous as a coin. Only crows and ravens seem to regard us with anything resembling understanding or fellow feeling. Of course, they will be among the first to eat us if given the chance. My brother remembers a photo on the wall at the Manomet Bird Observatory. It showed a swarm of Ruddy Turnstones pecking at a human corpse washed up on the beach, a minor reciprocation.

Many qualities of birds attract amateurs and scientists alike. Science undiluted with compassion, however, is a cold and unsentimental discipline. The word "science" derives from *scire*, the Latin word meaning "to cut" (think of "scissors"), and in its biological sense invokes dissection, taking organ-

Joe Crow's Day

Sun leans up on golden arches  
My mate and I slip the bitches  
Trip the town for greener pastures  
The dogs for foxes.

Dancing in the buttermilk  
Show cats how to fly  
Hatch a golfball, mock a hawk  
Whiskers in the sky!

Light goes golden later on  
Folded shards of night  
Guarded in electric sputter  
Huddle under sooted wings.

-Bill Whan



isms apart to determine their characteristics. Mark Twain observed that analyzing humor is like dissecting a frog: you can do it, but when you're done, both the joke and the frog are dead and hence far less interesting. Science gives us knowledge, but not always wisdom. Fortunately, no ornithologist I know is cold or unsentimental about birds, and it is not only through knowledge that wisdom comes their way.

When my aunt as a child lived eighty-five years ago in Billings, Montana, her caretaker came from the family of the revered chief Plenty Coups who led the still-mighty Crow nation.

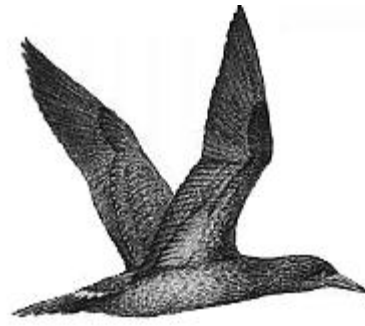
One of her memories of those days is traveling along roads cut into the plains and seeing on the hilltops crude elevated platforms made of tree-limbs, some of them thronged with ravens and vultures. These were, she was told by her companion, the last resting places of the tribe's dead.



A Crow burial platform photographed in Montana, 1908. Credit: Northwestern University Library, *Edward S. Curtis's 'The North American Indian': the Photographic Images*, 2001.

The Crow practiced a form of excarnation by aerial sepulture, wherein the dead were exposed on scaffolds raised eight to ten feet high and left to the dry winds of the prairie, and to the birds rather than to the wolves, who otherwise would quickly dig up and scatter buried remains. Some speculate their conception of the soul or immortal part of the deceased was that it had the nature of a bird, and would have easier access to its true realm if not buried in the earth. The Zoroastrians of India expose their dead in a "Tower of Silence," where a sacred band of a hundred or more vultures strips all flesh from the bones in an hour or two. Similar rites may be found in Tibet, Bali, Australia, and among other Amerindian groups. For a birder, it might not be a bad way to go.

- *Bill Whan*  
Columbus



## Noteworthy Reports

Next to spring, the fall season brings the most birding excitement. Actually, more goodies often appear in fall and there are simply more birds about, as overall numbers are bolstered by juveniles making their first southward journey. Other species engage in elliptical migration routes, with their fall passages reaching further east and into Ohio. Also, certain southern breeders like herons - or Anhinga - engage in northward post-breeding dispersals that sometimes bring them as far north as Ohio. The autumn of 2007 was outstanding and more noteworthy records were made than we have room to mention. Following are some of the especially significant sightings, with photos included where possible.

**Ross's Goose** - A goose on the increase, with reports steadily growing since the first Ohio record in 1982. Scott Myers located one bird in Paulding County on November 11<sup>th</sup>, and it stayed over through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Troy Shively produced three in Auglaize County on November 12<sup>th</sup>, and Andy Sewell re-located them again on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Cackling Goose** - Sightings of these pint-sized "honkers" continue to increase as "Cackling Fever" takes hold amongst birders following the recognition of this species in 2004. Kent Miller located two in Stark County on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Troy Shively found one with a large flock of Canada Geese that also contained a Ross's Goose in Auglaize County on November 12<sup>th</sup>. John Pogacnik produced four in Lake County on November 13<sup>th</sup> and they stayed into the next day. Andy Sewell found another in Lucas County on November 18<sup>th</sup>, which was found again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Zwiebel. Elsewhere in Lucas County on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Matt Anderson saw seven fly overhead.

**Anhinga** - Paul Rodewald provided an excellent description of a lone Anhinga riding thermals in Trumbull County on September 16<sup>th</sup>. This is only the fourth Ohio record of this southern species, with two of the other reports within the past few years. If predictions of northward incursions by southern species due to global warming hold true, Ohio should be in for even more "Darter" records.



Glossy Ibis  
Photo by Glenn Crippen

**Glossy Ibis** - Glenn Crippen documented an individual in Morgan County on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Apparently it had been present for several days prior. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Michael Boyd found one in Greene County. Yet another was produced by Bret McCarty in Lorain County on October 20<sup>th</sup>.



Juvenile Mississippi Kite, first Ohio breeding record.  
Photo by Aaron Boone

**Yellow Rail** - An individual was found on an Amish farm in Richland County on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and remained through the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gabe Leidy kicked one out of the weeds at Dike 14 in Cuyahoga County on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Ethan Kistler flushed one from the wetlands at Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area on October 14<sup>th</sup>.



White Ibis in Holmes County  
on September 2, 2007.  
Photo by Su Snyder

**White Ibis** - Always a major Ohio rarity, Dennis Kline reported one at a Holmes County pond on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Su Snyder photographed it later that day. According to the landowner it had been present for a few days. The bird did not linger for the birding community to enjoy, however.

**Northern Gannet** - John Pogacnik, whose yard offers a commanding view of Lake Erie, had an immature bird fly by his Lake County property on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mississippi Kite** - The now legendary pair that provided Ohio's first breeding record at the Brass Ring Golf Course in Hocking County vanished sometime in the first week of September. Here's hoping they made it safely to the wintering grounds, and all are happily ensconced in the Amazonian basin. We look forward to their return next spring. An intriguing report was made by Ben Snow on September 19<sup>th</sup>, who reported a juvenile and adult Mississippi Kite together, passing over Vinton County perhaps ten miles from the nesting locale.

**Piping Plover** - Steve Harvey found and photographed one on the beach at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve in Erie County on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Only a few of these federally endangered plovers appear each year in Ohio. At one time, they bred on Ohio's Lake Erie beaches but the last nesting record dates to 1942. There are only about 60 nesting pairs along the Great Lakes, and most Ohio records have been proven to be of individuals from this population, when band numbers could be ascertained. If you see a Piping Plover, please make an effort to record band colors and combinations, if any are present. This information can be reported to the OOS, and we can assist in learning more about the history of the bird.

**Ruff** - Craig Holt found one at Conneaut in Ashtabula County on September 1<sup>st</sup>, but it didn't stay long. Gabe Leidy was lucky enough to find another that briefly dropped onto the mudflats at Conneaut on September 9<sup>th</sup>, but like Craig's bird it didn't tarry.

**Red Phalarope** - Never a common bird in Ohio, most Red Phalaropes are juveniles that turn up along Lake Erie in late November/early December. Adults in early fall are almost unheard of. Therefore an adult found in Lawrence County by Jim McCormac on September 2<sup>nd</sup> was significant. This may be the only documented record of Red Phalarope in the Ohio River valley in Ohio. Another was located by Bruce Simpson and Elaine and Bob McNulty at Hoover Reservoir in Delaware County the next day, and lingered until at least September 7<sup>th</sup>. Larry Jeanblanc also produced a Red Phalarope in Clark County on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and it remained until October 4<sup>th</sup>. A few others were reported from traditional Lake Erie locales in late October.

**Sabine's Gull** - Mary Misplon found an immature bird at the St. Marys Fish Hatchery on the east end of Grand Lake St. Marys in Auglaize County on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It remained through the 27<sup>th</sup>, and was widely seen and photographed. This is one of the hardest regularly occurring species to find in Ohio, as few appear and





Red Phalarope, Lawrence County, September 2, 2007.  
Photo by Jim McCormac



Rufous Hummingbird, Hamilton County, November 29, 2007.  
Photo by Bob Foppe

they almost never linger. This bird was trumped by an even more widely seen bird that was found by Mike Busam at the Huron Pier in Erie County on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was extremely cooperative and seen by many dozens of people as it frequented the area of the lighthouse. The bird remained into early December.

**White-winged Dove** - 2007 will go down as the year of the White-winged Dove, at least to date. This is a species on the move and we should expect additional records in future years. Ohio's first record only dates to 2000. Although this species had been well documented in the state with photographs, Ohio's first specimen was procured on September 1<sup>st</sup> when a dove hunter took one in Ross County. Just prior to that, Dean Borntrager found one on his Holmes County farm on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. It stayed until August 29<sup>th</sup> and was seen by many, and missed by many. Thanks to Dean for graciously allowing birders to visit and try for the bird. John Pogacnik found another White-winged Dove at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Lucas County on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There was yet another report of a single bird in that area a bit prior to this, which may pertain to John's bird.



Sabine's Gull, Huron, December 2007, photo by Brian Zwiebel.

**Rufous Hummingbird** - The western hummingbird parade continues. John Pogacnik had two Rufous Hummingbirds - a male and a female - visit his Lake County feeders between August 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. On a visit to Jefferson County, Gabe Hostetler saw one visiting a feeder on private land on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and it was photographed by his wife. Another appeared in Licking County, and visited a feeding station from at least October 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. In Hamilton County, an adult female was banded by Tim Tolford on November 30<sup>th</sup>; it had been visiting the homeowner's feeder since late October and was still there as of December 8<sup>th</sup>. A female Rufous appeared at a feeder in Richland County on or around November 25<sup>th</sup>, and was present as of December 14<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, this same bird or another Rufous was present last fall and early winter at the same locale. An immature male was captured and banded at an Allen County feeder by hummingbird expert Allen Chartier on October 29<sup>th</sup>. It had been present since the 25<sup>th</sup> and remained through at least December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Linda Houshower, the homeowner, for graciously accommodating interested birders.

There were also several very late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds reported at feeders into November, and one at a Toledo-area feeder remained to at least December 5<sup>th</sup>, providing a record late date for Ohio. Late hummingbirds in the genus *Archilochus* (Ruby-throated/Black-chinned) or *Selasphorus* (Rufous/Allen's) should not just be assumed to be Rufous or Ruby-throated, just because the data to date suggests that is what they will be. Separation of females/immatures is not easy, and requires either outstanding photographs or an in-hand examination for documentation. The less likely species (Black-chinned and Allen's) could also appear, and probably will eventually.

**Cave Swallow** - Lightning struck twice on the same day, November 24<sup>th</sup>, when Phil Chaon found one of these late-season wanderers at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Ben Morrison found another at Huron in Erie County. The first Cave Swallow record for Ohio was in 2005, and they may prove to be of regular occurrence here.

**Bohemian Waxwing** - One, maybe even two, were seen well by Gabe Leidy in Cuyahoga County on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully there will be more to come. Indeed, as I write this, reports of more

“Bo-Wax’s” have just come in from the Cleveland area, and we’ll put details in the next newsletter.

**Kirtland’s Warbler** – Gabe Hostetler carefully described a juvenile bird that was frequenting shrubs in his Wayne County yard on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, providing one of few fall records. Most juveniles have departed the Michigan breeding grounds by mid-September. This record is at the very late end of the window of documented fall occurrences.



Le Conte's Sparrow, Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Wayne County, October 23, 2007. Photo by Robert Royse

**Le Conte’s Sparrow** – This beautiful skulker is often furtive in the extreme, and is among the hardest of the regularly occurring Ohio birds to find. Fall 2007 was exceptional in terms of the number of records. The fun began on September 30<sup>th</sup>, when Tom Kemp found one at Maumee Bay State Park in Lucas County. Ray Hanikman turned another up at Mentor Lagoons in Lake County on October 11<sup>th</sup>, with Bret McCarty finding another there on October 20<sup>th</sup>. John Pogacnik went on to locate a Le Conte’s at Lorain on October 13<sup>th</sup>, then two more on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lake County. Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area in Wayne County was the epicenter of Le Conte’s activity this season. The first report was of five birds that were found by the Columbus Audubon Avid Birders group on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and the same or other sparrows were widely seen there throughout the month. The highest tally came on October 21<sup>st</sup>, when Cheryl Harner, Tom Bain, and Jim McCormac found six. John Habig found another in Butler County at Acton Lake on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and not far from there, Kirk Westendorf identified one in Hamilton County on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, which was seen by others the following day.

While there may have been an exceptional incursion of Le Conte’s Sparrows into Ohio this fall, at least some of the upsurge in reports is probably attributable to great birder sophistication about how to find them.

**Pine Grosbeak** – This chubby finch of the north caused major excitement when Matt



Pine Grosbeak in the Oak Openings  
Photo by George Sydowski

Anderson found one in the Oak Openings in Lucas County on November 21<sup>st</sup>. There may have been at least two individuals present, and they remained to at least December 8<sup>th</sup>. Pine Grosbeaks seldom make it as far south as Ohio, and this was the first record since 1987.



White-winged Crossbill, Lake County, December 2007. Photo by John Pogacnik

Many birders got to see these birds, which were “state birds” for nearly all.

**White-winged Crossbill** – Reports of these gorgeous irruptives from the northern boreal forest have really

dried up in recent years. Therefore it has been exciting to have at least small incursions this year. Tom Bartlett observed a flock of at least 15 flying over Kelleys Island in Erie County on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and John Pogacnik had one visiting his Lake County feeders irregularly from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to at least December 9<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes peeled for crossbills and other winter finches this winter.



Red Crossbill, Cuyahoga County, October 2, 2007. Photo by Craig Rieker

**Red Crossbill** – Craig Reiker found the year’s first at Dike 14 in Cuyahoga County on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dan Barda found one in the Oak Openings Metropark in Lucas County on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and there have been a few other scattered reports. Birders should really scrutinize Red Crossbills carefully, record detailed

notes on their calls and record them if possible, and take photographs. Fortunately crossbills are often exceedingly tame and can be closely approached if they are not high in the boughs of a conifer. Research suggests that as many as nine species could be contained within the Red Crossbill complex, and much more data needs to be collected to enumerate their ranges, field identification, and other aspects of biology.

-Jim McCormac  
Columbus

\* Immature Northern Gannet Illustrated by Kevin Metcalf, courtesy of The Cleveland Bird Calendar.



## Mohican Wildlife Weekend

The seventh annual Mohican Wildlife Weekend is scheduled for May 2-4, 2008. This is billed as a “celebration of wildlife habitat, heritage, and natural history.” Choose from several locations in Ashland and Richland counties that will offer workshops, demonstrations, and bird/nature walks. A welcome reception and keynote speaker will start off the weekend on Friday evening.

For more information see <http://www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com/index.php>.

## Duck Stamps

They are really known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, but are much more commonly referred to as “Duck Stamps.” Whatever you call them; these little sticky slips of paper adorned with beautiful artwork have done worlds of good when it comes to protecting wetlands and the birds that use them. The Duck Stamp program was established in 1934, and to date over 5.2 million acres have been protected in the U.S. with stamp revenues. That’s an area larger than New Jersey.



Hunters are the traditional buyers of duck stamps, but an increasing number of birders with an interest in habitat conservation are also purchasing them. Stamps are a good value: about 98% of every dollar goes directly to habitat acquisition. And, in the case of the current stamp, your \$15.00 buys a gorgeous rendering of a pair of Ring-necked Ducks.

The State of Ohio also offers a “Duck Stamp,” officially called the Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, for only \$15.00. Sixty percent is used by the Division of Wildlife for the acquisition, development, management, and preservation of waterfowl areas in the state. The remaining 40% is granted to nonprofit groups for projects that provide habitats in

Canada that benefit waterfowl with migration routes across Ohio.

At the recent OOS/TNC Conservation Conference, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory manned a display courtesy of Hugh Rose and Judy Kolo-Rose. BSBO has long been pushing the sale of these stamps to conservation-minded birders, and sold thirty-nine of them at the conference. Thanks, BSBO!

Next time you visit Black Swamp Bird Observatory headquarters at the entrance to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, stop in, say hi, and maybe purchase a stamp. Or visit your post office or web-surf over to: <http://www.duckstamp.com/>

-Peter King  
Westerville

## Shreve Spring Migration Sensation

The Ohio Division of Wildlife, Friends of the Killbuck Marsh, Inc., The Wilderness Center, Greater Mohican Audubon Society, Triway Local Schools, Shreve Library, and Shreve Business & Community Association present the eighth annual Shreve Migration Sensation on Saturday, April 5, 2008. Registration will open at 7:00AM at Shreve Elementary School, 98 N. Market Street (St. Rt. 226), Shreve, Ohio, with free maps at the Help Stations (located in the marsh and at three other sites, all near Shreve). A pancake breakfast sponsored by Shreve School Relay for Life will take place from 7-10 in the lower level of Shreve Elementary School.

Volunteers with spotting scopes will be stationed at each site from 8 AM-noon. There will be a vendor hall and workshops. Scheduled speakers include:

- 8:30AM-9:15AM -  
Jamey Graham - “Beyond the Bird Feeder”
- 9:30AM - 10:15AM  
Tim Daniel - “Getting Better Wildlife Photos”
- 10:30AM - 11:15AM  
Larry Hunter - “The Purple Martin”
- 12:30PM - 1:15PM  
Doug Wynn - “Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake”
- 1:30PM - 2:15PM  
Bruce Glick - “Birding the Bobolink Area”
- 2:30PM - 3:15PM  
Carrie Elvy - “Macro-invertebrates of the Marsh”

A variety of children’s programs are also scheduled throughout the day. Cost is \$10 per person—\$15 per family. Please see <http://www.valkyrie.net/~rehmjc/migration/> or call Jacki Chamberlain at the Wayne County Convention Bureau at 1-800-362-6474 for more information.



## Birder's Bio—Ron Sempier

I've been a backyard birder most of my life. However, in May of 1995 my best friend John Games invited me to go with him to Magee Marsh/Crane Creek. Walking the boardwalk, beach, and marsh area was amazing. Birds of all kinds were fluttering, walking, and wading everywhere. Needless to say I was hooked. Almost every year since we have made this trip.

Living in Marion has afforded me a couple of very good local places to bird with which I've become well acquainted: Big Island and Killdeer Plains Wildlife Areas. Both very good places to see seasonal treats. Most of my birding has been confined to these two areas due to time constraints. I've been trying to expand the areas that I bird to get a better understanding of all the diverse places to visit. Another quest is improving my hearing skills.

- Ron Sempier  
Marion

## Site Highlight: Rockbridge State Nature Preserve

The next time you plan a trip to Hocking Hills in southeastern Ohio, consider scheduling a summer morning visit to Rockbridge State Nature Preserve. This geologically unique area, adjacent to the Hocking River, is located about 1.5 miles south of the town of Rockbridge off US 33 and is home to the largest natural bridge in Ohio. The variety of bird habitats featured in this 202-acre preserve make it a top-notch birding spot, as well.

I discovered this beautifully quiet place about four years ago while making a wrong turn on US 33. Following the signs up a hilly one-lane road, I discovered myself parked at the base of a boardwalk trail wildly embraced by elderberries, milkweed, box elders, roses, oaks, sassafras, and other plants that made up a great "birdy" edge. Here's just a sampling of my bird list for this portion of the trail: Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-winged and Yellow warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, and Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. The other side of the trail is bordered by a farm with rolling hayfields and meadows. Many birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks, Eastern Bluebirds, and Barn Swallows located on this adjacent piece of property can be heard and seen from the ascending portion of the preserve trail. Watch for Red-tailed Hawks and both vulture species as they ride the thermals on a warm day. This initial leg of the trail always seems to produce the largest numbers of birds.

Once you reach the top of a large hill, the trail descends into two loops and winds into forested areas. Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrushes, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Ovenbirds abound. As one section of the trail plunges toward the ancient rock bridge, the musical sounds of Hooded and Kentucky Warblers are often mingled with a trickling sound emanating from the waterfall beneath the 100-foot long, 10-20 foot wide bridge. From that location, you can either venture toward the river and look for Green Herons or Prothonotary Warblers or ascend the steps toward the trailhead. You never know what you might find on your way back to the car, especially when you are taking that much needed break at the top of the hill!

Since my initial discovery of Rockbridge State Nature Preserve four years ago, I have gone back each time I've returned to the Hocking Hills. This site is always at the top of my "to-do" list. You should consider adding a trip in the month of May to view many of the wildflowers that carpet the edges of the "rock" bridge, as well as the variety of spring migrants that will be using this area for important stopover habitat. For more information, visit the following websites: [www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/959/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/959/default.aspx) and [www.birdhocking.com](http://www.birdhocking.com).

- Karen Menard  
Toledo

## The Cerulean Available On-line

If you missed any previous issues of this newsletter, you can download them from the OOS web site at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cerulean/about.php>.

If you'd like to save trees (and OOS some postage), we will send you an e-mailed notice when future issues appear online, instead of a printed copy of this newsletter. Just send a note to the editor at [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org).

## Nest With the Birds, on Kelleys Island Bird Festival

May 11 - 17, 2008

Join the Kelleys Island Audubon Club in welcoming migrating song birds to this wonderfully quiet 2,800 acre island in the western basin of Lake Erie. Our weeklong program includes morning and afternoon guided bird walks at different locations each day and afternoon nature lectures. The program ends on Saturday with our bi-annual bird-banding program at Long Point. For further information call 419 746-2258 or 877-746-2740 or visit [www.kelleysislandnature.com](http://www.kelleysislandnature.com).

## A Cup in the Hand is Worth Two Birds in a Bush: Coffee's Role in Conservation

Why would the coffee we drink every morning be important to some of our most-beloved migratory birds? There are several reasons. Originally from Ethiopia, coffee is now grown in tropical regions around the world and is the planet's most traded agricultural commodity. Over 11 million hectares of tropical land is in coffee production. While this might sound like bad news, some of these coffee-producing lands actually have high conservation value.

Traditional coffee agro-forestry approaches (frequently called shade coffee plantations) involve growing several crops (e.g., coffee, bananas, cacao) under canopies of mature trees. Because shade coffee plantations provide structurally and floristically diverse habitats, they host high levels of biodiversity, more diverse than any other agricultural habitat. Coffee and cacao plantations grown under tree canopies have been shown to support over 150 species of birds, while also benefiting insects, orchids, mammals, and other species. Ecologists suggest that shade coffee plantations can help maintain regional biodiversity and may provide refugia for many species by connecting or buffering protected areas and patches of remnant forests. In addition, shade-grown coffee is among the most sustainable agro-forestry practices used in Latin America (compared to crops like sugarcane, sun coffee, pasture, etc.) because it provides the potential to harvest other species of fruits, firewood, lumber, and medicines.

Unfortunately, traditional shade coffee plantations are being lost at an alarming rate that may have serious economic and environmental consequences. Declines in coffee prices and concerns over diseases of coffee plants have led to the conversion of shade coffee to other forms of agriculture (e.g., sun-tolerant coffee and pasture) that leave no overstory canopy. Sun coffee plantations, in particular, reduce forest cover and increase erosion rates, insecticide use, and chemical runoff. Furthermore, treeless agriculture has been shown to provide little to no conservation value for neotropical migrants and biodiversity.

Neotropical migratory birds are known to heavily use shade coffee plantations on the wintering grounds. In particular, many Cerulean Warblers (*Dendroica cerulea*) appear to depend on shade coffee plantations for overwintering habitat. This species breeds in large tracts of mature deciduous forest concentrated in the mid-Atlantic regions and winters in submontane forests on the slopes of the Andes Mountains in northern South America. Although the Cerulean Warbler once was a common bird in Ohio's forests, its populations are declining at an alarming rate, with a 70% decline since 1966.

Cerulean Warblers occur in a relatively narrow band of montane Andean forests, yet these forests are among the most intensively logged and cultivated regions in the neotropics. Our ongoing research, partially funded by OOS, seeks to evaluate if coffee plantations serve as critical habitat for Cerulean Warblers and other migratory birds. Because the presence or abundance of birds alone does not provide evidence that shade coffee plantations are suitable habitats (e.g., migrants could be pushed into these habitats by dominant resident birds and suffer from suboptimal conditions), we study the energetic condition and winter survival of migrant

birds in coffee plantations in the Venezuelan Andes.

Our research in the Venezuelan Andes Mountains is providing some of the first published information on Cerulean Warblers on the wintering grounds and is among the first to rigorously examine how coffee farms affect migrant condition. Based on field data from the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons, we documented 18 neotropical migrant species utilizing shade coffee plantations, including American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and Blackburnian (*D. fusca*), Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*), and Mourning warblers (*Oporornis philadelphia*). Most of these species participated in mixed-species flocks of resident and migratory birds. Densities of neotropical migrants were 2.5 - 12 times higher in shade coffee plantations than primary forest. Importantly, winter survival rates in shade coffee plantations were high for Cerulean Warblers, and most banded birds were re-sighted throughout the winter season. Fascinatingly, a large proportion of banded Cerulean Warblers (65%) returned to the same shade coffee plantation the second season. Our work also provides evidence that birds using shade coffee farms can improve their energetic condition over the winter. Body condition, which is linked to annual survival, improved for Cerulean Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and American Redstart.

Thus, as a whole, our initial work suggests that shade coffee plantations in the Venezuelan Andes can provide high quality habitat for Cerulean Warblers and other neotropical migrants. So keep in mind that the cup of coffee you drink in the morning (make mine shade-grown please!) can make a big difference to our birds on the wintering grounds. To learn more about birds and shade coffee, visit the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's coffee webpage at: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/>

- Marja Bakermans & Amanda Rodewald,  
School of Environment & Natural Resources  
The Ohio State University

*Editor's Note: The OOS provided Amanda Rodewald with a \$1,500 grant to assist in funding her research of North American breeding birds on their Venezuelan wintering grounds.*

### Grant M. Cook Bird Club Donation

We wish to thank the above organization, based in northeastern Ohio, for their generous donation of \$461.41 to the Ohio Ornithological Society. Writes treasurer Judy Hochadel, "Please use these proceeds to further our knowledge of the birds of Ohio". We will, and thank you very much for the gift.

### Lake Erie Wing Watch Weekend April 11-13 '08

Join area naturalists and fellow bird watchers for a weekend of natural wonders. Exhibits, seminars, reception and forum focus on bird watching hints and habitats. This year's location is BGSU Firelands College, One University Dr. (off Rye Beach Rd.), Huron, OH.

For a schedule of events visit [www.lakeeriewingwatch.com](http://www.lakeeriewingwatch.com)

## Update on the Ohio Young Birders Club

It all began in May of 2006 when 6 young birders met with the staff from Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and volunteers from the Kirtland Bird Club at the BSBO Nature Center in Oak Harbor to discuss forming a club for young people with an interest in birds and nature. What they helped create was the Ohio Young Birders Club, a club for young people ages 12-18. These dynamic young people recognized that they would need the support of adults, so the structure of the club included adult advisors that would provide them with funding, birding expertise and transportation to birding locations.



OYBC members and supporters on a Toledo Naturalists' Association sponsored OYBC field trip to Oak Openings with Rick Nirschl as trip leader.

Well, that's how it all began, and today, along with support from our partners, we have accomplished some pretty impressive things. Since our inception we've had 20 partnership sponsored field trips, conducted several important service projects, and established the John Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund. Membership has steadily grown, and the club now boasts 82 student members, 76 adult supporting members, and 17 partnering organizations. Some of the highlights of what we accomplished in such a short time:

- Hosting our first annual conference that drew more than 80 participants. All of the presentations were given by young birders! Three OYBC members gave presentations and another served as the event's MC! According to the ABA there has never been an event like this one!
- Growing OYBC membership to 150+ members and winning the support of 17 organizations that have joined the team as OYBC partners!
- Serving as a model program for organizations across the U.S. inspiring other states to launch their own clubs for young birders! New York, Florida, and Illinois have launched their own version of our YBC—and many other states have contacted us asking what we're doing for young birders here in Ohio!

- Arranging monthly field trips and/or service projects in a variety of locations around the State of Ohio, including many overnight campouts and all day events.
- Conducting a Bioblitz at Crown Point Farm and Education Center, Bath, Ohio. More than 450 species of flora and fauna were found, identified, and catalogued.
- Learning a lot about Ohio's birds and environment and HAVING A LOT OF FUN, too!

We could not have accomplished this without the support of so many of you. For two years in a row, OOS has offered an additional field trip on their symposium agendas and has awarded those proceeds to the OYBC, allowing us to offer trips to Illinois and Indiana to see Greater Prairie-Chickens and Sandhill Cranes. A trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is planned for this February! Our partners are developing field trips to some of Ohio's best birding hotspots and richest natural areas, including: Middle Bass Island, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Green Lawn Cemetery, and Cedar Bog Nature Preserve.



A speaker lineup from the OYBC's 1st Annual Conference held in May of 2007 at the brand new Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. From left to right, Ethan Kistler, Phil Chaon, Auriel Van Der Laar, Kim Kaufman, Andy Bankert, and Brad Wilkinson

Many of you have supported us with your donations of time and money. We want to thank all of you; parents, partnering organizations, supporters, and the Ohio birding community, who have helped us in this effort and provided us with the resources to make this club a success.

To find out more about OYBC or for information about becoming a partner or supporter, visit: [www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org).

- Delores Cole  
Lyndhurst





## Members' Corner

### Thank you for your donations!

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following members who have given generous donations. These donations have been deposited into the Ohio Ornithological Society's Conservation & Education Fund. These funds will be used towards promoting conservation, education and research of Ohio's avifauna. Thank you!

Harriet Alger	Auralee Childs	David Hughes	Lee Schmid
Brenda Baber	Michael Connelly	Andy Jones	William Shields
Celeste & John Baumgartner	Christy Connelly	Daniel Kendrick	Donna Siple
Jack Berninger	Janet Creamer	Dan Kendrick	Jim Smith
Daniel Bertsch	Phyllis Devlin	Sara Krailer	Jeffrey Spaulding
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Craig Caldwell	Mike Edgington	Elizabeth Jane Oswald	
Margaret Chapin	Bobbi Gill	Michael Packer	
Dwight & Ann Chasar	Bob Hopp	Barbara Savage	

### Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome our new members who have joined us since our last issue:

Verna L. Ansel	David Collopy	Carl and Ann Janiak	Lynn Phelps
Byron Hart Arnett	Diana Dugall	Frank Kuhlman	Jeanne Poremski
Deborah Bahm	Dr. Susan A. Dupstadt	Nenita M. Lapitan	Catherine M. Pruden
Jack Berninger	Nancy Eucker	Bruce Lombardo	Nick Pulcinella
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John D. Cameron	Joe Guth	Mary Ogi	Judy Semroc
Yvonne Cecil	Kirk L. Hilliard	Katharine Parks	Daniel Lawrence Striley
Auralee Childs	Mary Huey	James Ross Pemberton	Brian K. Vasiloff

### OOS Calendar of Events

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Mohican State Forest : May 16 - 18, 2008

Mohican is one of Ohio's most significant sites for breeding birds. About 24 species of warblers breed there annually, including many rare species associated with the pristine, old-growth hemlock ravines, like Canada Warbler. Over 100 species of breeding birds nest in Mohican each year, including many noteworthy boreal breeders like Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush. There will still be plenty of migrants passing through, too, so the overall conference list will be a big one.

#### Midwest Raptor Conference: Maumee Bay State Park: September 26-28, 2008

Join the Ohio Ornithological Society and our partner the Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research group for an interesting event that's all about birds of prey and their incredible fall passages around western Lake Erie. We'll have an interesting and expert slate of speakers, capped by keynote speaker Brian Wheeler. Brian is author of Peterson Field Guides®: Hawks and A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors. He is one of North America's foremost authorities on raptors, and is an outstanding photographer. Field trips will include a visit to Lake Erie Metropark in nearby Michigan, where late September raptor migrations can be phenomenal.

#### Midwest Birding Symposium: Lakeside, Ohio: September 17 -20, 2009

Save the date for The Midwest Birding Symposium sponsored by The Ohio Ornithological Society & Bird Watcher's Digest to be held at Lakeside, Ohio. Keep your eyes peeled to the Ohio Ornithological Society's and Bird Watcher's Digest web site for announcements!

# Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

For an online version of this application visit: [www.ohiobirds.org/join.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/join.php)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(For electronic news updates)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount - Yes I would like to make a one-time donation to help support OOS.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Enclosed (Please make checks payable to OOS.)

How did you hear of OOS? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in:

Volunteering?       Distributing OOS flyers within your club or community?

- \$15 Student/Limited Income
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family or Nonprofit
- \$100 Patron or Business
- \$250 Sustaining Member
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Lifetime Benefactor

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**OUR MISSION . . .**  
Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the only statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

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