



THE CERULEAN

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www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

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

MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM IN LAKESIDE, OHIO SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2009

from the EDITOR

Spring is finally here! No doubt many of you will make a trip to Lake Erie. Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) has special events and offerings including the spring "ALL OUT BIRDING" Project from May 6th to 25th. Stop at the BSBO headquarters, north of St. Rt. 2 at the entrance to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, for details.

S - Shopping at the BSBO for items such as Higher Grounds Trading Company's shade-grown Black Swamp Blend Coffee.

P - Programs including free Saturday banding programs from 10 to 11 am.

R - Really good cause!

I - Internet connection for annotated downloadable maps and Kenn Kaufman's Best Bets for Birding Blog: <http://www.bsbo.org/birding/>

N - Nourishment from Port Clinton's The Garden Restaurant making boxed lunches and salads available at the BSBO shop almost every day except Saturdays when BSBO grills hotdogs!

G - Guides who'll lead free walks to birding hotspots including Magee Marsh, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and BSBO's own birding trail.

Ann Oliver
- *Cincinnati*

The Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS) returns to Ohio on September 17-20, 2009, for the first time in 10 years. Hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, OOS, and the Lakeside Association, MBS organizers expect a capacity crowd of 1,000+ birdwatchers from around the continent at the scenic Lakeside, Ohio community along the shores of Lake Erie.

This premier birding event will feature field trips to top birding spots, programs by North America's leading experts, an extensive vendor area with nature products and information, and the opportunity for both novice and experienced birders to network with hundreds of fellow enthusiasts.



Among the many superb speakers slated for this world-class event include Tony Award winner Jane Alexander, National Public Radio commentator Julie Zickefoose, Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weidensaul, Roger Tory Peterson Award winner Kenn Kaufman, Project eBird Leader Chris Wood of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, noted photographer Arthur Morris, plus others.

Special events include a Lake Erie Island Sunset Boat Cruise, screening of the movie "Opposable Chums: Guts & Glory at the World Series of Birding" filmed in New Jersey, and your chance to donate optics to Birder's Exchange!

To register online: www.midwestbirding.org, or call 888-896-6927. Admission to the vendor area is free.

Judy Kolo-Rose
- *Richfield*

ABA HONORS JIM MCCORMAC WITH LUDLOW GRISCOM AWARD



What do the names Roger Tory Peterson, Jim Lane, Guy McCaskie, Kenn Kaufman, Ted Parker, Claudia Wilds, Peter Pyle, Rich Stallcup, and Wayne R. Petersen have in common with OOS President Jim McCormac? All are recipients of The American Birding Association's (ABA) Ludlow Griscom Award. The ABA bestows the honor on individuals who have made outstanding contributions in regional ornithology. Jim McCormac recently received the award at the ABA annual conference.

In Jim McCormac's ABA nomination form, Dr. Bernard Master said "Jim is the most important birding force in Ohio over the last two decades. I predict that his name will join the short list of ornithologists that have shaped the present and future of Ohio birding."



Ohio Young Birders Trip to Cedar Bog.
Photo courtesy Mark Sheildcastle.

Who was Ludlow Griscom? Ornithologist Griscom (1890-1959) was one of the most important figures in the first half of the 20th century. Griscom pioneered the idea of observable field marks for bird identification instead of shooting a bird. In the October 1965 issue of *The Auk*, Roger Tory Peterson remarked Griscom "perhaps more than anybody else, bridged the gap between the collector of the old school and the modern field ornithologist with the binocular" and acknowledged he was personally "profoundly influenced by his teaching." Peterson added Griscom's "most significant contribution was he elevated field recognition to a science." During his lifetime, Griscom was Research Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, elected President of the American Ornithologists' Union, and an Honorary Chairman of the National Audubon Society.



Photo courtesy Bill Thompson, III.

What do Griscom and McCormac have in common in addition to birds? *Botany*. In the 1965 *Auk* article, Peterson described Griscom's talent: "Few of Ludlow's birding companions knew of his equally hard-driving botanical activities, for he seldom stopped to examine a flower if he was birding. Yet, if questioned about a plant, it seemed that no matter how obscure it was, he would name it and glibly recite the vital statistics without missing a warbler. He once told me that he had personally found and collected 95 per cent of all the species included in Gray's manual of botany. Forty thousand of his sheets were deposited in the Gray Herbarium at Harvard, in his own collection and elsewhere. In fact, Professor M. L. Fernald, the author of the new Gray's manual, 8th edition, published in 1950, often used Ludlow as a 'guinea pig' to see whether his intricate generic keys would work."

Paralleling Griscom's interest in botany, Master's noted in the ABA nomination form "McCormac is also keenly interested in plants and was employed as a botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves until 2004. He is co-author of the newly released Floristic Quality Assessment Index for Ohio, a scientific methodology for evaluating the quality of habitats. His work focused on the interaction between bird and plant communities. Jim now works for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, specializing in issues involving ornithology."



Photo courtesy Bill Thompson, III.

Editor's Note: The OOS thanks Dr. Bernard Master for his contribution to this article and for nominating McCormac for the Griscom award. Master is a founding member of OOS as well as a previous Director of ABA, The American Bird Conservancy, and BirdLife International. He currently sits on the board of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) and is a trustee of Columbus Audubon.

Congratulations to the American Birding Association on their 40th anniversary (1969-2009).

NATURE IRAQ USES OOS OPTICS FOR CRITICAL BIRD SUREYS IN KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Nature Iraq was established in 2004 in an effort to lobby for the restoration of the marshes of southern Iraq through conducting scientific studies focused on quality and quantity of water available for the restoration process. It soon became apparent that one of the main indicators of healthy restoration is the presence of healthy population counts of birds which involves building the capacity of birders in Iraq.

While I am more of a kayaker than I am a bird watcher, I am struck by what I have observed in watching my birding teams. BirdLife International was instrumental in training the first batch of birders and we started our Key Biodiversity Areas survey program in south Iraq which then expanded into Kurdistan Region of Iraq one year later.

To date, we have surveyed well over a 100 sites in winter and summer survey campaigns. Some of our key findings of birds include several species classified as vulnerable, near threatened, threatened and endangered, such as Marbled Teal, Egyptian Vulture, Asian Imperial Eagle, Sociable Lapwing, European Roller, Cinereous Bunting, and the Lesser White Fronted Goose.



Mudhafar Salim, Koresh Arrarat, and Raid Abd Mahdi (left to right) with scope donated by Eagle Optics and binoculars donated by OOS. Photo courtesy Nature Iraq.

Our list of observations was augmented tremendously by Ohio's Randy Rogers: he was in an area that our teams had a hard time accessing given the security concerns. Randy's observations have been vetted by BirdLife and accepted into our records that we submit to BirdLife periodically.

Dr. Azzam Alwash
Chief Executive Officer, Nature Iraq

Editor's Note: Ohio Army National Guard Major Randel Rogers returned home from Iraq in April. He's currently birding and traveling across the US.

THE MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM AND OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WANTS YOU (TO VOLUNTEER)

Remember the United States Military World War I posters featuring Uncle Sam pointing directly at the viewer to recruit volunteers? Well, the Midwest Birding Symposium, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and OOS need YOU! A variety of volunteer skills are desired at the Lakeside, Ohio gathering September 17th to 20th. Dozens of volunteers are needed to help event organizers, speakers, and exhibitors.



James Montgomery Flagg's "What Are You Doing For Preparedness?" from 1916.

If you are fastidious about optics, join the binocular cleaning crew! Perhaps you like meeting lots of new people: the registration desk or information desk could use your good cheer. If you never had the chance to be a hall monitor in high school, join the group of room monitors to assist with the break-out speaker sessions around the Lakeside campus. Ever dreamt of doing a Big Sit like Tom Bartlett but never had time for a full day? Volunteer for a multi-hour block at the MBS Big Sit. If you are attending with your spouse or with a friend, consider volunteering as a team and perhaps working at the OOS booth. Maybe you like to work quietly behind the scenes: about a dozen volunteers are needed a few days in advance to assemble hundreds of attendee packets. You could work as a sponsor assistant for Eagle Optics, Leica, or Swarovski. Or, if you are the creative type and a photographer, consider volunteering with the roving photography team.

Depending on the amount of volunteer time you perform, you may even qualify for a reduced rate at the MBS. Best of all, you'll be helping *Bird Watcher's Digest* and OOS make the MBS one of the premiere birding events of the year. To inquire about volunteering your skills and enthusiasm, contact Judy Kolo-Rose: judy@kolorose.com



DATA ENTRY AND SERENDIPITY: BIRD STUDY SPECIMEN COLLECTION AT CMNH INTERSECTS WITH LIFE OF VOLUNTEERS

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) has a collection of approximately 30,000 bird study skins. Attached to each specimen is a tag with information such as genus, subspecies, gender, place and date of collection, name of collector, and for more recent specimens, weight, skin measurements, skull ossification, description of gonads, stomach contents, and other notes.

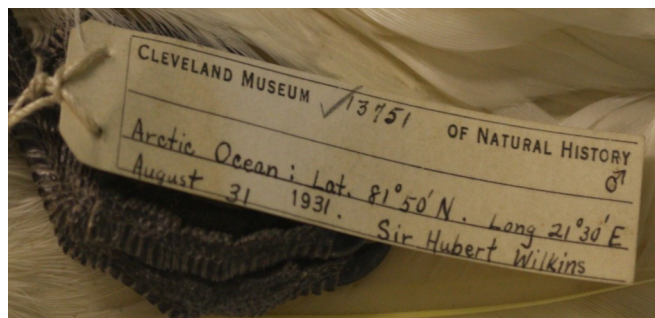


To make the data accessible online, several volunteers are entering the tag information into a computerized data base. For the past eighteen months, I have been working as a volunteer for Dr. Andy Jones, Curator of Ornithology at CMNH. For a few months I worked alone, but my wife now accompanies me. She does the typing, while I fetch the specimens and read the tags to her. We work two-hour sessions twice a week. Although important, the work is tedious, and after two hours, fatigue sets in and mistakes multiply. Nevertheless, there are rewards.



Seeing specimens of exotic birds from places we have never visited, nor ever will, is exciting. Coming across specimens collected more than 100 years ago gives us a sense of continuity with the past. Encountering the names of famous ornithologists, such as John James Audubon or Roger Tory Peterson, perks up our interest. But what I find the most fascinating are the serendipitous connections to our lives.

Pagophila eburnea Two specimens of Ivory Gulls indicated collection by Sir Hubert Wilkins in August, 1931 at latitude 81 degrees and 50 minutes



North. The back of the tag said "Wilkins-Ellsworth Trans-Arctic Submarine Expedition."

Intrigued, I Googled this expedition: it was an early, but unsuccessful attempt to pass under the Arctic ice pack in a WWI surplus U.S. Navy submarine. The vessel was renamed "Nautilus" after Captain Nemo's fictitious craft. The submarine crew had planned to drill a man-sized hole through the ice at the North Pole to rendezvous with the Graf Zeppelin, but a variety of mechanical problems doomed these plans. Although the "Nautilus" reached the Arctic ice pack, it never submerged fully beneath the ice, and was eventually scuttled in a fjord near Bergen, Norway. CMNH archives indicate the nascent CMNH provided financial support to the 1931 expedition in exchange for bird specimens. Records indicate 14 specimens were brought back, but so far we have located only the two Ivory Gulls.



When I told Andy Jones about the origin of these two gulls, he noted the December 2008 "Explorer Series" lecture at the CMNH would be delivered by oceanographer Stewart B. Nelson, who had recently located the sunken "Nautilus". The night of the lecture I exhibited the two Ivory Gull specimens in the lobby. Nelson's book "Sabotage in the Arctic" describes the expedition and discovery of the wreck.

Strix varia varia We came across a Barred Owl specimen found dead on a road in West Virginia. When I read aloud the name of the man who found the owl, the young lady working next to us at CMNH overheard and said the man was her brother. She remembered his phone call three years ago wondering what to do with the beautiful bird.

Coccyzus americanus americanus A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was killed in 1942 in a window strike in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The unusual last name of the lady who brought the bird to the CMNH was the same as a student in the first class I taught in 1961 as a newly hired Assistant Professor at Case Institute of Technology. This student graduated from Case in 1964, and went on to earn his PhD in astronomy from my alma mater,

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the University of Chicago, under the guidance of the same astronomer who had been my thesis advisor. After marrying our advisor's younger daughter, he had a distinguished career at a prestigious Eastern university. I had not seen this ex-student since the memorial service of our thesis advisor, some 20 years ago. Thinking the person who brought in the cuckoo might have been the mother of my student, I searched for his email address and wrote to him, describing how I had come across his name. He replied, telling me the woman was his grandmother. He added since retiring, he had moved back to his old neighborhood in Cleveland Heights, near the CMNH. Subsequently, my wife and I have enjoyed several evenings with him and his wife, sharing our memories.

Corvus brachyrhynchus pascuus While working our way through the crows, we encountered several tags indicting collection in 1924 by the "G. W. Crile Expedition." I was concurrently reading an autobiography of pioneering Cleveland surgeon George Washington Crile, one of the founders of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and a founding trustee of the CMNH. By remarkable coincidence, I was at the exact section in the book describing the collecting trip to Florida and the Keys when we processed the 85-year-old specimens. The resulting monograph, entitled "The Crile Florida Expedition," by Mr. Ernest Holt (ornithologist with the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh) was the first scientific publication of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The work won the 1926 Walker Prize in Ornithology. A further connection, not related to data entry, is I knew Crile's oldest daughter for many years when she was the secretary of the Department of Astronomy at Case.



So each day that my wife and I sit down to enter data about "dead birds" into the computer, we look forward to further serendipitous connections to enliven our work.

Peter Pesch, PhD
- Beachwood

Editor's Note: Peter Pesch is an Emeritus Professor of Astronomy at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland. As Chair of the Astronomy Department, Pesch was integral to CWRU's Burrell Schmidt telescope on Kitt Peak National Observatory south of Tucson, Arizona. Pesch and his wife Donna also volunteer at CMNH with the Wildlife Division, working with live education animals. The OOS thanks Dr. Andy Jones for all photographs accompanying this story.



MUSEUM SPECIMENS REVEAL RECENT HISTORY OF GALAPAGOS FINCHES

Although British Naturalist Charles Darwin (1809 to 1883) was born 200 years ago, his famous Darwin's finches might hold the key to the survival of Galápagos Island birds in 2009. Museum specimens in the collection at the California Academy of Science are revealing clues about recent population trends to modern day genetic researchers at The University of Cincinnati (UC).

Darwin's finches are a group of 14 closely-related endemic finch species known for their variation in beak size and shape. Differences in beak morphology allow each species to utilize different food resources. Genetic profiles generated from museum specimens collected more than 100 years ago are compared with modern populations to genetically monitor finch populations through time. These comparisons can determine whether populations are increasing or



Large Ground-finch. Photo courtesy Ken Petron.

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decreasing in size and whether there is migration among populations from island to island. These characteristics can aid in estimating extinction probability of a population, and reveal potential patterns of disease spread.



Large Tree-finch. Photo courtesy Ken Petron.

Several conservation projects are currently underway in Galápagos to conserve land iguana and giant tortoise populations. However, new environmental threats have brought attention to terrestrial bird populations. The importation of livestock, tourists and cargo has enormous impact on island ecosystems. Grazing livestock destroy vegetation used by native birds for food and shelter. Rats and cats are active predators of eggs and chicks. The introduction of domestic chickens has allowed the spread of diseases such as avian pox into the native bird populations. An introduced mosquito species capable of transmitting avian malaria has recently made its way to the islands, and a new parasitic fly has reduced nesting success in native birds.

Cross-temporal comparisons like those being done at UC can reveal how finch populations are faring under these new threats to Galápagos. Early detection of population declines is key to successful conservation planning. UC geneticists are also involved with the genetic work for a conservation project for the only *endangered* Darwin's finch, the Mangrove Finch. A mangrove specialist, this finch has been reduced to a *single* population on Isabela Island. Genetic data will assist Galápagos biologists to manage captive breeding programs and monitor the genetic diversity of Mangrove Finches.

Heather Farrington
-Cincinnati



Photo courtesy Ken Petron.

Editor's Note: Heather is a PhD candidate at The University of Cincinnati. The main elements of her research on Darwin's finches are 1) evaluating changes in population sizes and connectivity (migration among populations)

time using genetic data from museum specimens, 2) examining the genetic structure of extinct populations using museum specimens, and 3) contribution of genetic analyses to a Mangrove Finch conservation project currently underway in Galápagos. She is a native of Canton, Ohio.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM: SIX MILLION BIRD ARRIVAL RECORDS NEED PROCESSING

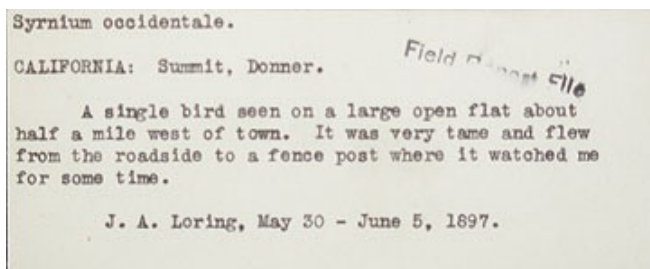


The United States Geological Survey and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center recently launched an online program which needs volunteers to transcribe historical bird arrival data. The goal of the North American Bird Phenology Program (BPP) is to understand the scope of global climate change and effect on birds. Phenology is the study of the relationship between natural phenomena, like migration, to climatic or seasonal changes.

Begun in 1880, the BPP is the oldest and longest running bird monitoring program in the US. Six million records of bird observations were collected from 1880 to 1970. The program was resurrected last year. Now, handwritten records of migration observer cards dating back to the time of President Rutherford B. Hayes (native of Delaware, Ohio) have been scanned into a computer and await *your* transcription into database form.

Entering data is quite easy. Data from each card image may take a minute or two to enter. Entering card data is a perfect activity for those times when you aren't birding and you are a little bored because it's the middle of the night or it's raining or in other words, those times that you might otherwise waste watching ancient reruns on TV Land.

And the data itself is fascinating. Not only do you see potentially interesting data about birds, but the sense of direct connection to observers years ago is almost palpable. I found myself wondering just who some of these people were. Is Miss Laughlin (yes, there are observer names on the cards) still around? She could be, as her data was entered in 1942; if she was a young lady at the time, perhaps she is still here and could tell us tales of seeing birds in the same areas that we still find them.



No doubt J. A. Loring, who entered data in 1897, is gone now, but I can see him observing Spotted Owls in California, perhaps as fascinated as we still are by these wonderful creatures.

You get the idea. It's fun, it's easy, and it's for a good cause. You can enter data from a few cards or hundreds; you can take care of some cards, take a short or long break, and come back for more later. You can get your kids involved so that they can do something other than play games on the computer. OK, maybe that's too optimistic... But perhaps kids could make data entry into a school project.

I strongly recommend viewing the data entry tutorial before you try entering data. The tutorial takes perhaps 15 minutes. Be aware the tutorial is a rather



large download, so it could be rather a painful wait on a slow internet connection. Additionally, some people reported being unable to register, or getting an error message, on the BPP site through Internet Explorer: to facilitate the registration process, and avoid the error message, use the Mozilla Firefox browser. To learn more, check out BPP at the USGS Web site: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/>

Bill Heck
- Westerville

Editor's Note: The April 2009 issue of *National Geographic* magazine traces the history of phenology to A.D. 705 when Kyoto royals began recording cherry-blossom records in Japan.

WORLD SERIES OF ATLASING JUNE 19-21 AT BURR OAK SP

This May in New Jersey, The Cape May Bird Observatory celebrates their 26th annual World Series of Birding (1984-2009) as birders from around the US join forces to raise money for conservation.

But this June, a bit of friendly birding competition comes to the Buckeye State as the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA II) hosts their first "World Series of Atasing" at Burr Oak State Park. The competition provides Ohio birders an opportunity to advance OBBA II goals. Prizes will be awarded to teams with the highest scores in specific categories. Best of all, you don't have to be an "expert" birder to participate: the only requirement for the weekend is to find birds and have fun!



So, start planning your trip to Burr Oak State Park in southeast Ohio on the border of Athens and Morgan Counties. Camping or rooms at the lodge are available.

To participate in the World Series of Atasing, please contact Aaron Boone, OBBA2 Project Coordinator in advance (obba2@osu.edu or call Aaron at 614-247-6458). Find out more information about OBBA II and learn how to volunteer your time to help the project: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/>.

OOS WELCOMES MEMBERS TO SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF BIRDING EVENTS, NEWS, & PHOTOS

If you know of a birding event near you that birders across the state would enjoy, please keep OOS informed! Perhaps you have an amazing story or photo to share. We welcome your ideas and thoughts!



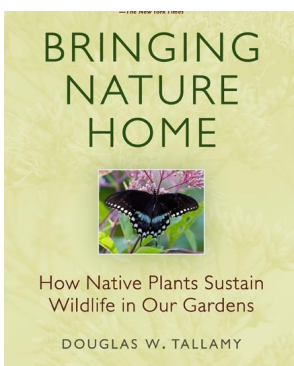
See details on page 11 regarding seasonal deadlines for submitting information to *The Cerulean*. Email Ann Oliver, Editor of *The Cerulean*: anniebirdier@yahoo.com.

LONG DISTANCE MIGRATORY BIRDS NEED NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR YARD

Ohio is composed of small, privately owned parcels of land being rapidly altered by urban sprawl. Many species fly over the Buckeye State while following the Mississippi Flyway. In the big picture, some resident species have been discovered changing their range to move northward, possibly due to climate change.

Migratory birds face a challenge: the increase of habitat loss from human development creating large gaps along migratory flyways. Large areas stretch together comprised of lawn, ornamental non-native plants, and impervious structures such as buildings and roads. These are no native plants for bugs to eat, and birds eat bugs. But you can help migratory birds in your yard and community.

When migrating north, birds rely primarily on insect larvae on top of canopy trees. When going south, birds eat adult insects and fall-ripening, native berries. By making a few simple changes, your yard can help provide a place for migratory species to stopover and refuel. If you decide to make a few changes, your neighbors may follow suit, providing more refueling area for the migratory species journey. This will also help resident birds since 98%, including hummingbirds, feed insects to their young. For more information, see the book *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy (Timber Press, 2007). Dr. Tallamy is the Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at The University of Delaware.



Ecology at The University of Delaware.

We attract migrating birds to our suburban Central Ohio yard by creating a native forest edge we call our “Magic Hedge”. With bird feeders, bird-bath, and using no chemicals, the different kinds of birds observed in our tiny, urban yard immediately increased. As a bonus, we save money by purchasing less annual plants, reduce our carbon footprint by eliminating chemicals and lawn equipment, and use less water with drought-tolerant native plants.

“Magic Hedge” Recipe Toni’s Ohio Bird Feeding Cookbook

Homegrown Ingredients (Regionally native)

Canopy Trees
Sub-canopy Trees
Bushes/Shrubs
Vines/Groundcover
Wildflowers/Grasses/Ferns

Directions

Grow Canopy trees with mature size away from overhead power lines and underground pipes. Wild Black Cherry and Hackberry are in our yard, but if I had room for another, I would add a White Oak. The acorns from oak support 150 wildlife species.

Sub-canopy trees and bushes/shrubs were a challenge because Invasive Amur Bush Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard choked everything. We removed them manually and planted natives including Grey Dogwood, Spicebush, Redbud, Nannyberry Viburnum, and Serviceberry.

Include Vines and Groundcover like Virginia Creeper, Heart-leaved or Blue Wood Aster, Common Blue Violet.

Add Wildflowers and Ferns like Sweet black-eyed Susan, Brown-eyed Susan, Wild Geranium, Pokeberry, Cinnamon Fern to replace Garlic Mustard.

Surround with evergreens on the South and West, like Common Juniper, to provide cover from wind.

Top it off with the sound of running water to bring migratory birds into view where you can see them.

Imagine birds migrating through Ohio’s housing developments where native plants to form an urban greenway for migrating songbirds. We can make it happen, like the City of Dublin, which is in the process of becoming a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat (www.nwf.org/community). Questions can be emailed to: marc-a@columbus.rr.com.

Toni Stahl
Habitat Ambassador, National Wildlife Federation
- Dublin



Ovenbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat in Dublin backyard.
Photo courtesy Marc Aplestadt.

MIDWEST NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE IN DAYTON THIS JULY

Ever wanted to learn more about the role of native plants but never had time to become a master gardener? Ever wondered how to incorporate a community of native plants into a wetland, prairie, or your own backyard to benefit wildlife including butterflies, insects, and birds?

You can find answers by attending the first, state-wide native plant event: the Midwest Native Plant Conference (MNPC). It's the weekend of July 24-26 at the Hope Hotel in Dayton near Wright Patterson Air Force Base. It's presented by the Midwest Native Plant Society, Flora-Quest, and Greater Cincinnati Wild Ones Chapter. Sponsors include the Ohio Prairie Nursery, Five Rivers MetroPark, and Marvin's Organic Gardens. A percentage of the proceeds benefit the Beavercreek Wetland Association and the Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC).



MNPC logo by artist Ann Geise.

Keynote speakers include famed butterfly experts Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, Jim McCormac on the global importance of native plants in our urban landscapes, and *Go Native!* author Carolyn Harstad who'll explain why native plants are the best choice for healthy backyard ecosystems.

Four different break-out tracks are offered: wildlife, prairies, wetlands, and naturescapes. Speakers in the breakout sessions include Aullwood Audubon's Tom Hissong on the interconnections between birds and native plants. Other topics include fen restoration, plant propagation, native horticultural landscapes, rain gardens, native plants for wet places, prairie establishment and maintenance.

Field trip options include ten sites: Cedar Bog, Glen Helen Nature Preserve, Beaver Creek Wetland's Siebenthaler Fen, Clifton Gorge, Huffman Prairie, Gallagher Fen, Woodman Fen, MEEC, Possum Creek MetroPark, and Cox Arboretum MetroPark.

Details at: <http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp/>

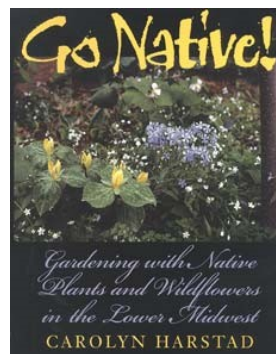
GO NATIVE! GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS IN THE LOWER MIDWEST

If you are interested in attracting more birds, butterflies and other wildlife to your yard, *Go Native! Gardening with Native Plants and Wildflowers in the Lower Midwest* is a must-have book. Author Carolyn Harstad is the keynote speaker at Dayton's Midwest Native Plant Conference in July.

Go Native! takes the overwhelming task of starting a native plant garden and makes it simple. Carolyn leads the reader through planning your garden, selecting plants that will flourish at a specific site, and amending the soil. Great tips such as adding water features, and checking how the garden will look from *inside* the house, are included.

Carolyn begins by explaining how native plants can withstand extreme fluctuations in temperature and moisture because they are "adapted to climatic swings". Native plants also reduce watering and chemical use which saves time and money. For plant selection, there are individual chapters with extensive information on trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover, and ferns including fun facts and folklore. Carolyn has information on prairies and meadows, plants for wet places, plants for woodland areas and plants beneficial to wildlife. There is even a section for "sedge-heads".

At the time the book was published in 1999, Carolyn Harstad had more than twenty-five years of experience with native plants. She's used wildflowers as a major garden component since 1972. More than seventy-five articles and books are cited in the references. The text is supplemented with 125 line drawings and 100 photos.



Janet Creamer
- Indianapolis

Editor's Note: OOS member Creamer is a naturalist at Southeastway Park in Indianapolis. She's an Ohio Bird Banding Association member-at-large and member of the MNPC planning committee.

BIRDER'S BIO: KATHY McDONALD

I have always loved science and nature - spending a lot of time fishing with Dad as a kid and often wandering off to explore nature on my own. I enjoy the aesthetics of being in nature and consider myself a conservationist and an advocate for wildlife. I am passionate about native plants and saving habitat.

I joined the National Audubon Society in the early 1980's, and soon after joined RAPTOR, Inc. (www.raptorinc.org), a Cincinnati-area raptor rehabilitation organization. I served on the RAPTOR, Inc. board for many years and spent many Saturdays cleaning cages. There is satisfaction watching a bird of prey recover from injuries, to be released again into the wild. I have been helping RAPTOR, Inc. in some capacity since that time. Education is the key to conservation: I support what RAPTOR does for injured birds and most importantly education programs for schools, scouts, and other groups.

As my birding progressed, I began to notice various native birds were restricted to specific habitats which are disappearing at an alarming rate. I reached out to groups that help preserve and educate people like myself, the average homeowner. As a result, I became one of the founding members of the local chapter of Wild Ones.

I am privileged to serve on the planning committee with chair Jim McCormac, for the first Midwest Native Plant Conference to be held this July in Dayton (www.cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp).

In addition, I have had fun helping to create the first Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club for young birders ages 12-18 (Queen City Birders-www.cincinnatibirds.com/oybc).

Kathy McDonald
- North Bend

Editor's Note: OOS thanks Kathy for her prior help as Design Manager for *The Cerulean*. She fine-tuned the newsletter template based on a design created by Clare Mullen, Production Director at *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Kathy is married to OOS board member Ned Keller. She's a computer programmer/database analyst and has a degree in computer science and business administration.

RAPTOR, INC. RESEARCHERS FIND RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS LINE NESTS WITH BLACK CHERRY

Many birders are aware Red-shouldered Hawks typically line their nests with fresh branches from either deciduous or coniferous trees. But which species of tree is more likely to be selected and why?

Researchers from RAPTOR, Inc. recently discovered black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) was used as fresh greenery in 80% of nests observed. Cheryl Dykstra, Jeff Hays, and Melinda Simon studied 35 Red-shouldered Hawk nests in southeastern Ohio in Hocking Hills and 63 nests in suburban Cincinnati from 2003 to 2005. The trio documented green vegetation while banding nestlings. Black cherry was present in only 57-58% of vegetation plots (size 0.08-ha) and composed only 4 to 5% of trees in the forest in the surrounding study areas. Therefore, black cherry was used more than anticipated based on availability.



Melinda Simon holds a record-large brood of five RSHA. Photo courtesy Cheryl Dykstra.

In a January 2009 article in the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, the RAPTOR researchers suggest black cherry might “provide an advantage to the nesting birds by functioning as a bactericide, insecticide, or insect repellent.” The article adds “black cherry is a cyanogenic species, releasing volatile hydrogen cyanide (HCN) from leaves when they wilt or become damaged by herbivory” and “also release other volatile compounds such as acetone, 2-butanone and benzaldehyde, the last of which has been shown to repel ants.”



Jeff Hays with a three-year old adult RSHA initially banded as a nestling in 2006. Photo courtesy Cheryl Dykstra.



Cheryl Dykstra holds a pair of RSHA: female 922 g, male 609 g. Photo courtesy Jeff Hays.

Editor's Note: Read the full article from the January 2009 *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* on Jim McCormac's March 18, 2009 blog.

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!

Bob Gold and Nancy Rudd
Diane Gomez

Welcome New Members!

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

C.H. Avril	Dale and Marianne Kirby
Kristen Beck	Doug Marcum
Eric Broughton	Christine McAnlis
James and Angie Cole	Mary Ellen Nesham
James H. Eidemiller	Penelope Reighart
Betsy and Dale Harmon	Larry Rosche
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Email OOS Member Coordinator Andrea Cook:
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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, 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. 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 Andrea Cook at andrealcook123@yahoo.com if you have moved.**

Editor--Ann Oliver

Calendar of Events

Oak Openings: May 16, 2009

Our Fifth Annual Spring Event will feature visits to the Oak Openings Region including The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve, the Lake Erie marshes, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Birding By Ear Weekend Workshop at the Wilds: May 29th-31st, 2009

Classes and activities available for beginning, intermediate, and advanced birders.

For information: http://www.thewilds.org/events/bird_by_ear.asp

Midwest Native Plant Conference: July 24-26th, 2009

Held at the Hope Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. For information: <http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp/>

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* at Lakeside, Ohio. Speakers include Julie Zickefoose, Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Paul Baicich, Lang Elliott, Arthur Morris, Sharon Stiteler, Mike Bergin, Jim Berry, Diane Porter, Jane Alexander, Wayne Petersen, Jim McCormac, Alvaro Jaramillo, Jeffery A. Gordon, Jeff Bouton, Ben Lizdas, Al Batt, Chris Wood, Dr. Amanda Rodewald, Dr. Andy Jones and Bill Thompson III. See The Ohio Ornithological Society's and *Bird Watcher's Digest* (www.birdwatchersdigest.com) web site for registration. To register online: www.midwestbirding.org or call 888-896-6927.

Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

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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.

THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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