



# THE CERULEAN

Summer - 2009, Vol. 6, No. 2

[www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org) ..... [info@ohiobirds.org](mailto:info@ohiobirds.org)

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

## MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM QUIZ



Test your knowledge of the speakers at the upcoming Midwest Birding Symposium. Research the questions online by reading the MSB speaker bios at: <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/program.php> then check your answers on the bottom of page 11 of *The Cerulean*. See you September 17-20 at Lakeside, Ohio.

1. Former elementary school teacher turned freelance nature photographer?
2. Prolific Pulitzer Prize-nominated author?
3. Project leader for eBird at Cornell?
4. Presenter of "Bird ID Outside the Box"?
5. Blogger behind website "10,000 Birds"?
6. Artist, naturalist, and writer from the Appalachian foothills of Ohio?
7. Ohio State University professor and researcher studying avian ecology/conservation in urbanizing landscapes?
8. Winner of both a Tony and Emmy Award, four-time Oscar nominee, and long-time birder?
9. Leica Digiscoping All-Star?
10. Field Guides leader, *not* NASCAR driver?

Bonus question: What six MBS speakers have been honored by an American Birding Association (ABA) award including three recipients of the Ludlow Griscom Award (1992, 2005, 2009), two Roger Tory Peterson Award recipients (2002, 2008), one Claudia Wilds Award (2003), and one Robert Ridgway Award (2008)? Look up the answers on the bottom of page 11 or at <http://www.aba.org/about/awardwinners.html>.

Read more about all 22 MBS speakers and events:

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php>. Register today!

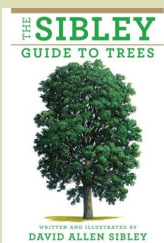
## from the EDITOR



Photo © Erinn Hartman.

David Sibley has joined the Friday night line-up of keynote speakers at the Midwest Birding Symposium. His MBS presentation will discuss the creation of the new *Sibley Guide to Trees*

and the connections between trees, birds, and bird watchers. Sibley will autograph copies earlier that day and after his evening presentation. See page 3 of *The Cerulean* for a peek inside Sibley's anticipated new release.



Don't forget MSB is partnering with Eagle Optics and Birder's Exchange to collect your donation of old-but-useable optics for Latin American conservationists, researchers, and educators. Do good!

Other offerings at MSB include bird banding, a digital photography workshop, a live raptor presentation by BACK TO THE WILD, birding by Segway, digiscoping demonstrations, a 24-hour Big Sit, Lake Erie Island sunset boat cruise, a film screening, and activities for young birders with The Ohio Young Birders Club and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Best of all, you can still sign-up as a MBS volunteer: contact Judy Kolo-Rose at [judy@kolorose.com](mailto:judy@kolorose.com).

Register today for MSB: <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/main.php>

Ann Oliver  
-Cincinnati

## OOS ELECTIONS: WE NEED MORE EDS AND NEDS!

At the Ohio Ornithological Society's annual May meeting, elections were held for several board positions. This came with good news and some sad news. First the sad: Ed Pierce, the founding Vice President and long time publisher of *The Ohio Cardinal*, recently stepped down. Ed was the driving force behind the creation of OOS and provided *pro bono* legal expertise in drafting our articles of incorporation and by-laws. We should all be grateful for Ed's passion for Ohio's birds, their habitat, and educating the rest of us about birds. Without Ed, we would have no society or *Ohio Cardinal*! So when you see Ed out in the field doing his favorite thing, watching birds, be sure to thank him for his dedication, efforts, and passion.

A little more sad news: due to term limits Ned Keller cannot continue as Southwest Regional Director. Fortunately, Ned has graciously offered to continue as web master for [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org), our OOS website and great source of birding information. Ned also continues as Secretary of the Ohio Birds Record Committee. Be sure to give Ned a pat on the back when you catch him eyeing a rarity in southwest Ohio. We need more Eds and Neds!

Now for the good news: the membership elected Bill Thompson III to fill the remainder of Ed's term (expires in May 2011). Bill was a founding board member and a driving force behind the growth of OOS. I think you all know Bill, but just in case, he lives near Whipple, is editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, a much sought-after speaker and tour guide, traveling extensively throughout North America and beyond. He plays a pretty mean guitar, too.

Marc Nolls was re-elected as Recording Secretary. Marc originally served as NE Regional Director then moved into the vacant Recording Secretary position. Marc has been an enormous asset to the group, and is expert at logistics and planning. He lives in Akron, is an active birder, and participates regularly in a variety of surveys.

Dana Bollin was elected to continue as the Northwest Regional Director for a second term. She lives in Oak Harbor and is the chief naturalist at Maumee

Bay State Park. Dana is a tremendous asset to the organization.

Ann Oliver was elected the Southwest Regional Director, replacing Ned Keller. Ann lives in Cincinnati, has participated heavily in OOS volunteerism, and is editor of *The Cerulean* newsletter.



Ann Oliver at Glacier National Park wearing a BSBO visor. Photo courtesy Mike Acheson.



Northern Saw-whet Owl banding. Photo permission Bob Placier.

Bob Placier was elected the Southeast Regional Director replacing Bill Thompson III. Bob lives near Athens, is an instructor at Hocking Technical College, a licensed bird bander, one of the researchers involved in the Chillicothe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding operation, and breeding bird atlaser in Ohio and beyond.

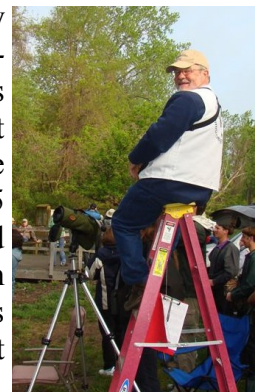
Gabe Leidy was elected as the Northeast Regional Director. Gabe lives in Cleveland, and is one of the state's top birders. He leads numerous field trips in northern Ohio, and serves as co-editor of the spring season for *The Ohio Cardinal* magazine.

Thanks and congratulations to all of our new board members!

Peter King  
-Westerville

## BARTLETT'S BIG SIT FOR BSBO: ALWAYS HEADS ABOVE THE CROWD!

Congrats to Tom Bartlett, OOS board member and outstanding Black Swamp Bird Observatory volunteer! On International Migratory Bird Day, Tom nonstop *ladder-top* birded 12 hours during his 15th annual "Big Sit" adjacent to the west entrance of the Magee Marsh boardwalk. In 15 years, the Big Sit has raised \$28,000 for BSBO's education programs and tallied 181 species including 94 species this past May. FYI: 13 out of 15 Big Sits were *sans* bathroom break.



Tom Bartlett's 15th annual Big Sit at Magee Marsh on IMBD, 2009. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.



## THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO TREES

## MBS: MOVIE SCREENING AND REVIEW



### Opposable Chums: Guts & Glory at the World Series of Birding

Don't know a pignut from a pecan? Ever despaired in the field wondering *which* tree your target species is being seen in *by every other birder but you*? Well, hope has arrived in the form of *The Sibley Guide to Trees*. More than 4000 paintings of native and commonly cultivated species are depicted in this new visual guide to trees.

With a format similar to his best-selling bird guide, *The Sibley Guide to Trees* illustrates bark, leaves, needles, cones, twigs, silhouettes, range, and annual and lifetime development. More than 600 species are detailed according to shape, color, and size of leaves; color and texture of bark; the tree's overall size and shape; habitat; and timing of seasonal change, including fruit or flowers. Essays on conservation, preservation, taxonomy, and the environment are included.

Perhaps this is a sign that birding or bird watching has come of age. We're starting to see films made about our hobby. And, the good news is, these films do not star Miss Jane Hathaway, Professor Pith-Helmet, or that crotchety old lady ornithologist from *The Birds*. Enter: *Opposable Chums: Guts & Glory at the World Series of Birding*.

Filmmaker Jason Kessler is a successful videographer from New York. Although he has made other documentary films (including award-winners), he makes his living creating films and videos for the fashion industry. Fashion industry? That should be an easy transition to filming birders...

Jason Kessler, fortunately, is one of us. He's a birder, too (and a rock musician, but that's a subject for another day). He set out to capture the essence of competitive birding by filming the participants in the grand-daddy of all North American birding competitions, Cape May Bird Observatory's *World Series of Birding* held each May in New Jersey.

I've watched the film a couple of times now and am impressed with its scope, with its fair treatment, and with its good humor. It lets the characters interviewed for the film be themselves. Kessler does not stoop to the tired clichés about birding, nor does he fall under the spell of the event or its main players. He gives us an unvarnished look at several of the teams participating in the WSB, including some of the teams with no chance of winning, and the personalities associated with them. This is particularly refreshing because it helps to give a sense of why otherwise (mostly) normal people would subject themselves to 24 hours of birding.

Veterans of the birding scene will recognize famous talking heads in *Opposable Chums*, including David Sibley, Kenn Kaufman, John Fitzpatrick, and Pete Dunne. The film also features some equally good birders with less of a Q-factor including Connecticut's Frank Gallo, The Cornell Lab's Kevin McGowan, and New Jersey's own Pat Sutton.



Images from Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com/Sibley-Guide-Trees-David-Allen/dp/037541519X>)

Sibley, who revolutionized birding field guides in 2000 with *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, began the tree manuscript seven years ago. He's spent the last four years intensively writing and painting the taxonomically arranged tome. The author began drawing and studying birds in 1969 at the age of seven: at age eight, California's Redwoods had already made a lifetime impression.

Signed copies can be ordered in advance: <http://www.randomhouse.com/signed/display.pperl?isbn=9780375415197>.

Continued on Page 4



The camera work and editing in *Opposable Chums* is fantastic. Nothing kills a documentary film faster than a series of headshots of talking heads. Kessler avoids this pitfall with clever shooting and even more clever editing to keep the story moving when things aren't visually exciting. There are even some scenes shot with dashboard-mounted cameras that reminded me of "Taxicab Confessions" from HBO. Birding as reality television.

One small quibble. We birders need to get a hobby-wide eyeglasses makeover. I think the last time I saw this many over-sized eyeglass frames was in an Elton John concert on VH1. Seriously, folks. Call your eye doctor today and make an appointment!

I won't give away all the details of Jason Kessler's film. It's a great take on competitive birding and a peek into the hearts and minds of some truly avid birders. It's entertaining enough to amuse non-birders, but unlike so many media depictions of our hobby/sport, this one won't make you cringe. It pokes fun, but does so lovingly. I'll bet you'll watch it more than once. I did!

Bill Thompson, III  
-Whipple



*Editor's Note:* Filmmaker Jason Kessler will show "Opposable Chums" at the Midwest Birding Symposium Thursday night, September 17 in Orchestra Hall, Lakeside. Screenings are at 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Admission is FREE, but seating is limited. Visit the MBS registration pages online to reserve your seat at one of the screenings:

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/registration.php#step0>.



To learn more about the film, filmmaker, or to order your own DVD copy of "Opposable Chums":  
[http://www.opposablechums.com/about\\_the\\_film.html](http://www.opposablechums.com/about_the_film.html).



## GUATEMALA BIRDING ADVENTURE WITH OOS MARCH 14-24, 2010



Horned Guan. Photo courtesy Mike Bergin.

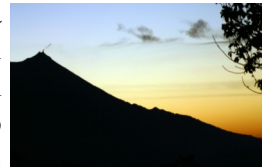
Within a mosaic of seven main eco-regions, Guatemala holds one of the most amazingly diverse groups of birds in the world. Over 700 resident and migrant species occur, including some fabulous endemics hard to find elsewhere including one of the rarest birds in the Americas, the Horned Guan.

The Ohio Ornithological Society is excited to announce Guatemala Birding Adventure 2010! More than twenty OOS members have traveled with us to Costa Rica over the past four years. In an outreach effort to other countries playing a critical role in conserving Ohio's bird life, we are now exploring Guatemala! In addition to the great Central American birds, there will be plenty of "our" birds there for the winter. For instance, during a 2008 trip to Costa Rica, OOS members saw 1,000 Tennessee Warblers in a single massive jungle tree!



Resplendent Quetzal.  
Photo courtesy Jim McCormac.

The country offers a myriad of colorful landscapes. We'll have the chance to climb a volcano in search of the Horned Guan; tropical forests will be explored to view the Resplendent Quetzal; we will walk around ancient ruins in Tikal watching toucans, motmots and aracarís; and we'll hike oak-pine forests to observe the spectacular Pink-Headed Warbler.



Volcano in Guatemala.  
Photo courtesy Jen Sauter.

Guatemala is an easy, safe country to explore. We'll travel in a roomy 15-passenger bus with full windows accompanied by one of the top birding guides in the country, Hugo Enriquez.

Jen Sauter  
-Westerville

*Editor's Note:* This trip can only accommodate ten lucky travelers. Contact Jen Sauter, OOS Executive Secretary: [ybchat@insight.rr.com](mailto:ybchat@insight.rr.com) or 614-203-2360.

## BIRDER'S BIO: DR. ANDY JONES

I received some terrible advice when I was in college. *"Do not pursue your hobby as a career; you need to keep your career and your hobbies separate."* The person giving this advice apparently didn't understand the difference between a hobby and a passion.

My passion for natural history goes back to childhood. My earliest field notes were written when I was five years old (counting toads in the yard). My parents had some interest in the outdoors, and encouraged me as I found an urge to pin a name on everything I saw from fish to amphibians to spring wildflowers.

An Osprey was my Spark Bird. I was photographing wildflowers along the Clinch River in Tennessee for a high school class project, and a large raptor passed overhead. I started yelling, "Bald Eagle! Bald Eagle!!!" and my dad joined the chorus. My cousin Kevin, ten years old at the time, calmly corrected us, pointing out the white belly and the brown eye line. That evening I pored over the field guide, learning names to several of the more boisterous-looking birds in the guide, including the Osprey and the Bald Eagle. That fall, I identified several warblers, a first-year male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and pinned the wrong names on a lot of birds, but hook had been set.

It was a college mentor who pointed me in the right direction in academia. I was already majoring in biology at the University of Tennessee, but I wasn't doing anything to distinguish myself. My mentor encouraged me to approach my Ecology professor and "knock his door down" – introduce myself and tell him how interested I was in the subject. I was terrified at the prospect and ended up writing several drafts of an e-mail that I finally worked up the nerve to send. Two days later I was in his office, meeting his graduate students, and being invited to spend a few weeks working on his Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow research project in the Everglades. Several field jobs followed, and soon I was in a PhD program at the University of Minnesota, where I studied the

evolution of birds in the Philippine islands, using DNA-based techniques.

After graduate school, I was hired as Curator of Ornithology by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to fill the newly created William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair. I'm responsible for the museum's 30,000 bird specimens, for conducting research on birds and publishing that work in peer-reviewed journals, and for doing outreach. Much to my joy, outreach means talking about birds or taking people birding to sensational places like southeast Arizona, the Galapagos, the Peruvian Amazon, the Andes of Venezuela, I've also become editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*, and I am excited to be involved in a journal with a strong history and bright future with the OOS.



Juvenile Boreal Owl. Photo permission of Dr. Andy Jones.

Dr. Andy Jones  
-Cleveland



*Editor's Note:* Dr. Jones will present *"Who Keeps Changing My Field Guide?"* at the Midwest Birding Symposium. His talk will discuss reasons why common and scientific bird names are updated as advances occur in identification and taxonomy.

## JOHN C. ROBINSON OF OHIO JOINS ABA BOARD



Congratulations to John C. Robinson of Marysville, Ohio on joining the board of directors of The American Birding Association (ABA). Robinson is a wildlife biologist and author of *Birding For Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*. He's a featured speaker at the Diversity In Outdoor Recreation Conference, September 26, 2009 in Toledo sponsored by Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Details: [http://www.bsbobird.org/diversity\\_conference.htm](http://www.bsbobird.org/diversity_conference.htm).



## MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING AND CERULEAN WARBLERS

Ever wonder why it's getting hard to add Cerulean Warbler to your life list? Some projections have this heavenly blue warbler going extinct in the next 50 years—in *your lifetime*. There's always been a tendency among North American birders to blame what happens on the wintering grounds for the decline of native songbirds. It's true the Cerulean Warbler's highland South American wintering habitat has been decimated both by sun coffee and coca plantations. But the word "decimation" is re-defined by what's happening in the Appalachian stronghold of the Cerulean Warbler's breeding range right here in America — mountaintop removal mining.



Catenary Coal Company, Kayford Mountain, 2005. Photo by Vivian Stockman and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.



Kayford Mountain, March 2009. Photos by Vivian Stockman and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.

Appalachia and in the Ozarks and Smokies. But they're taking a devastating hit with the rush to strip Appalachia of coal.

We've all heard about "clean coal," and decreasing our reliance on foreign energy sources is a noble goal. Unfortunately, there's nothing clean about how coal is obtained. First, the forest is clearcut, and the valuable timber is simply



Trees are felled in preparation for blasting and draglines at an expanding mountaintop removal site in Lincoln County, WV, 2003. Photo by Vivian Stockman and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.

Cerulean Warblers need mature, mesic deciduous forests, heavy on oak, and clear-running streams below the forested slopes. They're mountain birds, by and large, singing their buzzy song throughout



Dust coming off the mine sites can contain silica from blasted sandstone, coal dust, chemicals from the blasting agents used and diesel equipment smoke. Boone County, WV. Photo by Vivian Stockman and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.



bulldozed into the valley. Next, explosive charges are driven into the flanks of the mountain, and the top is blown off. The dragline, a massive excavator 22 stories tall, goes to work, carving away at the rock and gravel to get at the coal. Toxic rubble is dumped below in what's called "valley fills," smothering and poisoning streams.

Valley fill on the headwaters of White Oak Creek, Raleigh Co., WV. Photo by Robert Gates.

While traditional excavation coal mining leaves a mountain and its forest largely intact (*while employing hundreds of miners*), mountaintop removal



A massive dragline, dwarfed by the huge scale of the operation, at work on a mountaintop removal operation near Kayford Mountain, WV. Photo by Vivian Stockman, 2003 and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.

mining is an environmental catastrophe, obliterating the mountain, leveling it, to get the coal beneath. Further, it *replaces* the jobs of

hundreds of miners with a *single* dragline operator.

What was once a diverse forest, teeming with warblers, thrushes, tanagers and vireos, box turtles, trillium and Mayapples, is reduced to a flattened moonscape of gravel and dust, never to regenerate. When the topsoil and seedbed are removed, there is no reclamation of the forests. And they are not just any forests: Appalachian montane forests are among the richest and most diverse on earth, with species diversity second only to Costa Rica's.



Samples mine valley fill, Catenary Coal. Photo by Charlie Archambault.

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This is where the Cerulean Warbler lives, and this, in large part, is why it's disappearing so fast. The people who live in mined areas are driven out, too, by tainted brown water coming from their taps, by soaring cancer rates, by the shattering explosions and dust raining down, by the catastrophic flash flooding that follows removal of all vegetation.



Marfork Coal Co.'s (Massey Energy) massive Brushy Fork Impoundment near Whitesville, WV, is designed to hold 8 BILLION gallons of sludge. Photo courtesy Vivian Stockman and flyover courtesy SouthWings.org.



Flooded Lyburn, WV, 2002, a quarter-mile downstream from a sediment pond below the 900-high, 2000-foot long Massey Valley fill. Photo courtesy Bob Gates.



Above: "Reclaimed" land, before hydro-seeding (grass seed and fertilizer sprayed onto the land) near Blair, WV. Photo courtesy Vivian Stockman.



Below left: A "reclaimed" mountaintop removal site above what is left of Blair, WV. The coal company attempted something resembling "approximate original contour (AOC)." After scraping away the forests, then blasting away anywhere from 100 to 600 feet, sometimes more, off the top of the mountains, scooping out the thin layers of coal and dumping tons and tons of the rubble into adjacent valleys, coal companies are supposed to reclaim the land. By law, the companies are supposed to restore the landscape to something resembling AOC, though they rarely do. AOC, of course, doesn't put back the buried streams or annihilated forests. Coal companies claim that this hydro-seeded moonscape is good for wildlife! They destroy the most diverse temperate forest on earth and dare to say the result is good for wildlife (World Wildlife Fund says the Appalachian mixed mesophytic forest is one of 200 hotspots worldwide crucial for saving the diversity of life on Earth). Conservative studies estimate the hardwood forest will take over 100 years to regenerate. Other wonder if it will ever grow back, since coal companies are only required to put back a quarter inch layer of topsoil. Photo courtesy Vivian Stockman.

Writing about mountaintop removal mining is like trying to drink from a fire hose. It is so horribly short-sighted and wrong to destroy our Appalachian montane forests for one-time gain. And it's hard to make a howl of rage readable. But I'd encourage you to learn more, to educate yourself about the extent and acceleration of the practice, and see what you can do to stop this decimation of our mountains, our communities, and our wildlife. Please visit the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition web site, [www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org); the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy site at [www.wvhighlands.org](http://www.wvhighlands.org); and [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org).



Julie Zickefoose  
-Whipple

*Editor's Note:* Julie Zickefoose is a writer and naturalist from Whipple, Ohio. Her ancestors hail from Buckhannon, WV, where there are several columns of Zickefoose's in the phone book.

Julie writes about mountaintop removal mining in the Sept/Oct. issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and on her blog at [www.juliezickefoose.com/blog](http://www.juliezickefoose.com/blog). She's a featured speaker at the September 17-20 Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio.

All photo captions from OVEC website.

## BIRDING BY EAR WEEKEND AT THE WILDS

The *Wilds* held their fifth annual "Birding By Ear" workshop May 29-31. Weekend guest participants stayed at the *Wilds*' residential yurt camp. Al Parker and Jim McCormac, along with *Wilds* staff, led the educational retreat. The *Wilds* grounds were explored and 92 species of birds were observed.



Al Parker, standing right, talks to a school group at the yurt camp. Photo courtesy the *Wilds*.

Guests and staff were treated to complimentary birding skills between guides. Jim employed high-tech equipment such as a laser pointer and portable iPod amplifier: Al displayed his stunning vocal mimicry when calling in owls. Other happenings during the weekend: a sighting of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a great chorus of night time coyote yelping, and a coyote sighting the following day.

Attendees also learned about the unsung heroes of ecosystem functionality: the largely nocturnal lepidopteran group—our moths! Who would have predicted the yurt camp bathhouse would be a popular hangout? But at night, underneath the exterior lights, local beauties like the rosy maple moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*) were aflutter.

Christa Rose Kugler  
- Director of Conservation Education, the *Wilds*

*Editor's Note:* Troy Burch, Conservation Education Specialist, the *Wilds*, also contributed to this article.



## TROPICAL BIRDING AT MAGEE MARSH: "IF YOU'RE ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD IN MAY, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE"

Professional bird guides from Tropical Birding added to the excitement at Magee Marsh this spring as part of Black Swamp Bird Observatory's (BSBO) "All Out Birding". Josh Engel of Tropical Birding (TB) filled in the details for *The Cerulean*.



### 1. Background on how BSBO got TB to volunteer in Ohio?

**Josh Engel:** Tropical Birding has a similar project in High Island, Texas. Jen Brumfield, TB guide and Cleveland Metroparks naturalist, suggested Magee Marsh given the large number of birders there throughout May, and BSBO was a great organization to work with.

### 2. History of TB's involvement in other birding hot-spots?

**JE:** Iain Campbell and other TB owners were at the ABA's Lafayette, Louisiana convention a couple of years ago. During the conference, they headed over to High Island and realized there were lots of birders there. While visiting the town's most famous birding spot, Houston Audubon's Boy Scout Woods, they noticed the house directly across the street was for sale. This was 2007, and they bought the house. Over the next year they fixed it up, turned the front rooms into an information center, and built a canopy tower in the yard. Since then we've had guides living in the house from late March until early May leading free trips daily.

### 3. Impression of migration in the Western Lake Erie Basin compared to High Island?

**JE:** Magee Marsh and High Island are very different. Magee Marsh seems more consistent--there are almost always lots of birds. During early to mid-May, we saw over twenty species of warblers daily without too much effort. High Island can be hit or miss, but the good days are spectacular. The afternoons at High Island are pretty cool--on good days there are waves of migrants arriving after their journey across the gulf. But there were mornings where we would see virtually nothing. I loved the visible migration at Magee, the flocks of Blue Jays, the occasional Red-headed Woodpecker migrating along the lake, the arriving warblers. And a huge advantage of Magee is the birds *sing* there.

### 4. Most surprising thing about Magee Marsh?

**JE:** I wasn't expecting the birds to be so fearless. I was shocked by the canopy warblers creeping about in the open, at eye level. I also wasn't expecting such huge crowds of birders. The birds and the birders seemed to get along just fine, though.

### 5. Memorable moments?



Sam Woods of TB helps birders find a Golden-winged Warbler. Photo courtesy Josh Engel.

**JE:** The Mother's Day Golden-winged Warbler was incredible--countless people saw it throughout the day, maybe over 1000. The large number of young birders was striking and encouraging. We all loved seeing the young Amish kids eyes light up in excitement after seeing a bird.

### 6. Thoughts about BSBO?

**JE:** I was really, really impressed by BSBO. Having been a very young birder, I greatly admire the work BSBO does with education and with young birders. It's important for young birders to get encouragement to continue with it, and there is no better form of encouragement than meeting peers with similar interests (not to mention the chance to be exposed to people like Kenn Kaufman, who has made a career out of birding). It was also great to see how excited the kids would get at Kim Kaufman's bird banding demonstrations; the outdoor education school kids get from her and the educators at Ottawa is invaluable.

### 7. Plans for repeat visit next year?

**JE:** We are in the planning stages for a huge, week-plus event next year involving Ottawa NWR, BSBO, Kaufman Field Guides and Tropical Birding called *The Biggest Week in American Birding*. We'll have multiple guided walks daily (including a daily bus trip to Oak Openings), two talks every night (including talks by Kenn Kaufman, Mark Shieldcastle, Ottawa staff and Tropical Birding guides) and other events. It promises to be a really special event that should attract nationwide attention to northwest Ohio. We are also trying to plan special outings to usually off-limits areas for Ohio birders only!

### 8. Best quote about birding Ohio's Magee Marsh?

**JE:** Iain Campbell's was best: "*If you're anywhere else in the world in May, you're in the wrong place.*"

*Editor's Note:* Find out more about Tropical Birding and *The Biggest Week in American Birding* at <http://www.tropicalbirding.com/index.html>



## OOS SHADE-GROWN COFFEE HOUSE AND POETRY SLAM



Kathi Hutton. Photo courtesy Jim McCormac.

The Fifth Annual OOS meeting kicked off with an informal mixer on Friday night, May 15 in Perrysburg, Ohio at the Holiday Inn French Quarter. Dubbed the "Shade-grown Coffee House" and nicknamed "The Poetry Slam," the evening served as a way to raise money for the OOS Conservation Fund. In the best beatnik tradition, I offer "snaps" of appreciation for all those who attended the poetry slam, entertainers and audience alike.

Some people brought their own beer or wine to enjoy, while others purchased cups of shade-grown coffee, provided by Hugh and Judy Kolo-Rose of Black Swamp Bird Observatory and expertly brewed by head barista Cheryl Harner. Participants were offered another opportunity to contribute to conservation by donating \$1.00 per species for the privilege of ticking off their favorite birds on the check list.

Casual entertainment consisted of bird and nature poems, alternating with the song stylings of Bill Thompson III and his acoustic guitar. Audience participation was encouraged, with poetry readings by Jim McCormac, Ann Oliver, Peter King, Michael Packer, and others. Vocalist Dana Bollin joined Bill on a couple of numbers. Featured poets included Whitman, Frost, Nash, Dickinson, Bryan, and Hutton.

Saturday's events included a presentation on promoting birding by Kenn and Kim Kaufman, the legacy of Roger Tory Peterson by Jim Berry of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, and the flora and fauna of the Oak Openings by Jim McCormac. Plus a silent auction raised more funds for conservation.

Kathi Hutton  
-Felicity

## RECRUITING OHIO BIRDERS: FINISH KATHI HUTTON'S POEM

One of the original works Kathi Hutton read at the "Shade-grown Coffee House" needs a line. We turn to the best minds of the OOS to help complete the following poem: "[Recruiting Ohio Birders](#)".

The OOS is a really great crowd of people.  
You should see!  
The kind of folks who make you proud  
of the birding community.

They're always friendly, they're  
always kind,  
they're always glad you're here.  
They're always happy to help  
you find  
your Life Bird and then cheer.

I feel at home with OOS,  
with people who think like me.  
I feel with them, I must confess,  
a sense of camaraderie.

I'll bet you'd like the OOS, if you like birds and fun.

**[Fill in this missing line!]**  
in wind, snow, rain and sun.

So, if you've ever had warbler neck, why wait?  
What's the delay?  
Send OOS your personal check.  
Renew or join OOS today!

*Editor's Note:* Send suggestions to *The Cerulean*: cerulean1@ohiobirds.org. Please insert "Cerulean Poem Suggestion" into the subject line. Winner to be announced in the next newsletter. The prize? A hearty "Thank you!" from the poet, and a sense of pride in your accomplishment.

## MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE NOW ON YOUR MAILING LABEL

You might notice something different on the back of *The Cerulean*: your membership expiration date is now printed on your mailing label. Thanks in advance for renewing promptly which helps the OOS save mailing costs, time, and trees!



Poet and veterinarian Kathi Hutton, second from right. Also in photo from left to right: Bill Thompson III, Jim McCormac, Mike Acheson, Ann Oliver, Peter King. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.



Peter King and Bill Thompson III. Photo courtesy Jim McCormac.

## GRANGE INSURANCE AUBUDON CENTER TO OPEN IN COLUMBUS

A restored brownfield along the Scioto River, just a 10-minute walk from downtown Columbus, is set to re-open featuring a park, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified nature center, and native gardens. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) & Scioto Audubon Metro Park celebrate a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Friday, August 28. Situated on the Whittier Peninsula, the GIAC is the only Audubon Center located within one mile of an urban core. The GIAC site has Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) status: more than 200 species of birds have been sighted along this riparian migratory corridor including Little Blue Herons in late July.

Scheduled speakers at the opening are Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, National Audubon Society (NAS) CEO John Flicker, Grange Insurance CEO Phil Urban, and GIAC Director Heather Starck. Following the ceremony and throughout the weekend, tours feature GIAC classrooms, native gardens, a nature store, library, and an outdoor amphitheater, observation deck and terrace. Other GIAC opening activities include bird and dragonfly walks, butterfly gardening classes, and activities for children. A Metro Park highlight is the 35-foot climbing wall and a rope climbing area.

A primary goal of the 18,000 square foot, nature-based education center is to inspire environmental responsibility and stewardship. Planning for GIAC set a goal for Silver LEED certification. Thanks to strategic design and commitment to NAS sustainability policies, Gold certification is a possibility. LEED is an internationally recognized green building rating system providing third-party certification developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The history behind GIAC began eight years ago when supporters met with Columbus officials to

discuss a plan for the Whittier Peninsula – a narrow strip of



abandoned industrial land. Two years later, Audubon Ohio, Franklin County Metro Parks, and the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks agreed to reclaim and restore 160 acres. The area is bounded by I-70, the Scioto River, and CSX and Norfolk Southern Rail Road Tracks.

Over the past 100 years, the Whittier Peninsula sustained adverse environmental impacts from various activities. The brownfield site was severely contaminated, but had potential for use after clean up and restoration. During ongoing transformation from a brownfield to a brightfield, birdlife has been an indicator. Documented sightings include of shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and birds of prey.

In 2006, although the Center wasn't yet built, a pilot education program began with a series of field studies and class projects involving a fifth-grade class at Livingston Elementary in the Columbus Public School System. Within a five-mile radius of the center, there are 76 schools representing six districts and serving approximately 33,000 students. More than half of these students are in kindergarten or elementary school. Three of the school districts are on "academic watch," and another has been designated in "academic emergency." Recent studies have shown integrating nature into curriculum can improve academic performance in a variety of subjects. Audubon will give top priority to the 53 schools in this area where more than 80% of their students are economically disadvantaged, and less than 50% are passing science proficiency tests.

Nature-based education crosses all curriculum areas through the vehicle of environmental education. With a mission focused on education, the GIAC is committed to changing the lives of area youth through an educational experience promoting conservation and environmental responsibility.

Columbus Audubon has been closely involved in GIAC's development – pledging a generous campaign gift, as well as donating hundreds of volunteer hours to support Center initiatives. Columbus Audubon will hold meetings and volunteer events at the Center.



Julie Boreman  
- GIAC, Director of Development



## 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!

Arthur P. Foreman, Sr.  
Warren I. Grody  
Cheryl Harner  
Bill Heck  
Ray & Pat Heithaus  
Paul Knoop  
Karen Morgan  
Adelyn Nowjack

Alan & Marjorie Poorman  
Doris Sandor  
Doug & Deena Snapp  
Bradley Wilkinson  
Linda Will  
Becky Wright  
Diana Serio Young

### Welcome New Members!

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

Jim & Cindy Beckman  
Garnet R. Byrne  
Allan Claybon  
Greg & Leslie Cornett  
Ellen P. Geisler  
Brian L. Gifford  
Rex & Donna Gifford  
Andrew M. Jergens  
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Dr. Scott Alan Pendleton  
Doris Sandor  
Warren Stubblebine  
Penny Walters

## Online Subscription Available!

Please consider subscribing to the online newsletter. Get the latest issue delivered directly to your email address. No more waiting for snail mail! Plus, you'll save a tree or two in the process.

Email OOS Member Coordinator Andrea Cook:  
[andrealcook123@yahoo.com](mailto:andrealcook123@yahoo.com)

## 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 Andrea Cook at [andrealcook123@yahoo.com](mailto:andrealcook123@yahoo.com) if you have moved.**

Editor--Ann Oliver

## Calendar of Events

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

Registration is still open! Go to [www.midwestbirding.org](http://www.midwestbirding.org) and register today. The Midwest Birding Symposium is sponsored by The Ohio Ornithological Society, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and The Lakeside Association.

### A Conference on Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation: September 26, 2009

Sponsored by Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Toledo Metroparks, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with featured speakers John C. Robinson, Dudley Edmondson, Tamberly Conway, and Maricruz Flores. For information and registration: [http://www.bsbobird.org/diversity\\_conference.htm](http://www.bsbobird.org/diversity_conference.htm).

### Ohio Young Birders Fall Fest, Campout, October 2 - 4 at Hueston Woods State Park, Southwest Ohio

Sparrow workshop and field trips. Keynote address and hands-on demonstration of bird skinning and museum specimen preparation by Dr. Herm Mays of Cincinnati Museum Center's DNA lab. Info: <http://ohioyoungbirders.ning.com/events/october-fall-fest> or email Kathy McDonald: [kmc@one.net](mailto:kmc@one.net).

### Guatemala Birding Adventure with OOS, March 14 - 24, 2010

Explore the seven eco-regions of Guatemala this spring with The Ohio Ornithological Society and expert local guide Hugo Enriquez. More than 700 resident and migrant species. Contact Jen Sauter, OOS Executive Secretary at [ybchat@insight.rr.com](mailto:ybchat@insight.rr.com) or 614-203-2360.



**Answers to MBS Speaker Biographies Quiz:** 1. Arthur Morris, 2. Scott Weidensaul, 3. Chris Wood, 4. Alvaro Jamarillo, 5. Mike Bergin, 6. Julie Zickefoose, 7. Dr. Amanda Rodewald, 8. Jane Alexander, 9. Jeff Bouton, 10. Jeffery A. Gordon.

**Answers to bonus questions about ABA awards:** Ludlow Griscom Award: 1992-Kenn Kaufman, 2005-Wayne R. Petersen, 2009-Jim McCormac. Roger Tory Peterson Award recipients: 2002-David Sibley, 2008-Kenn Kaufman. Claudia Wilds Award: 2003-Paul Baicich. Robert Ridgway Award: 2008-Bill Thompson III.

**How did you score?** 0 correct- House Sparrow, 1-3 correct- European Starling, 4-6 correct- Cooper's Hawk, 7-9 correct- Smith's Longspur, 10 correct- Connecticut Warbler. Bonus questions- Red-billed Tropicbird.

# 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

Mail to: Ohio Ornithological Society ♦ P.O. Box 14051 ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43214



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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.

## OUR MISSION . . .

**THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 14051 ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43214

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