

## *OOS Rally for Rails Speaker Bios*

### **‘Elusive Migration: The Migration Ecology of Rails’**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

#### **Auriel Fournier, PhD Candidate**

**Auriel Fournier** is a PhD Candidate with the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas. She got her start in birds and rails while growing up in NW Ohio working with Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

From there she received her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Michigan Technological University in the UP of Michigan and has been working around the U.S. on migratory bird questions ever since. She is passionate about wetlands, birds and trying to understand their migration while making the conservation and scientific communities more diverse.



### **‘An Introduction to the Rails’ Dr. Andy Jones**

**Dr. Andy Jones** received his BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and his PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota. He originally hails from east Tennessee, where his passion for natural history began at an early age. Dr. Jones is responsible for the Museum’s collection of avian specimens:

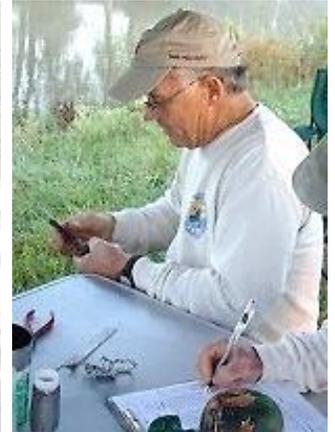
approximately 30,000 study skins and 4,000 egg sets from the Ohio region and western North America as well as approximately 1,000 osteological specimens from Ohio. He is also responsible for specimen acquisition and preservation, maintenance of specimen records, and carrying out original research. In addition to his services to the scientific community, he is an educational speaker favored by birding enthusiasts. Andy was named an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 2009, and in 2014 he was elected as Secretary of the AOU.



Cleveland Museum of  
NATURAL HISTORY 

# 'Habitat Use and Migrational Timing of Virginia Rail and Sora in the Lake Erie Marsh Region, Ohio'

**Mark Shieldcastle**  
**Tom Kashmer**



**Mark Shieldcastle** has a degree in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University. He was on staff at Ohio State with the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit before accepting a position with the Ohio Division of Wildlife where he spent thirty-two years as a Wildlife Biologist specializing in avian research retiring from his position as Project Leader of Wetland Wildlife Research in 2009. Mr. Shieldcastle is currently employed as Director of Research for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory where he leads research on passerines, raptors, shorebirds, rails, and bird/wind power issues.

Mark has conducted research on Bald Eagle, colonial waders, terns, wetland breeding birds, woodcock, shorebirds, colonial passerines, waterfowl, rails, cranes, migrating raptors, and migrating passerines. Has co-authored the *Beneficial Use Impairments for Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat* portion of the Lake Erie Management Plan which is part of the Clean Water Act; *The Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Regional Plan of the National Shorebird Plan*; *The Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Regional Plan of the North American Waterbird Plan*; and has contributed to several of the regional plans of *Partners-in-Flight*. Mark has authored or co-authored a variety of papers on passerines, Bald Eagles, cormorants, and contaminant issues with birds. He developed recovery plans for the Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Tern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Sandhill Crane in Ohio. He is presently the lead author on the Ohio Winter Bird Atlas, the first Winter Atlas in the United States.

While with the Division of Wildlife he was Representative to the Mississippi Flyway Council, Mark also Chaired the Banding Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Section (MFCTS); Represented the MFCTS to the International Black Duck Joint Venture and Adaptive Harvest Working Group; Is Past-President of the Inland Bird Banding Association; serves on the North American Banding Council (NABC) and served two terms as Chair of the Council; Has 40 years' experience in the capture and banding of birds, has been responsible for over 800,000 banded birds, and is a certified trainer for banders under the NABC.

**Tom Kashmer** is a retired school teacher who brings his enthusiasm for education to the birding community. For the past 20 years he has been Research Director of Sandusky County Parks. He has volunteered his leadership and scientific abilities as past President of Ohio Bird Banders, Secretary and now First Vice-President of Inland Bird Banders Association.

# 'The Winous Point Marsh Conservancy's Research Program'

## Brendan Shirkey

Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

**Brendan Sharkey** is the Research Coordinator for the Winous Point Marsh Conservancy responsible for overseeing a wide variety of research projects on site from aquatic vegetation sampling to king rail trapping and telemetry. Brendan originally hails from northwest Ohio and received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and Master's degree from Michigan State University both in Wildlife Management. Before joining the Winous staff, Brendan served as an aerial survey coordinator for Michigan State University and the Michigan DNR conducting and analyzing pelagic bird surveys on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.

