



THE CERULEAN

Fall 2006, Vol. 3, No. 3

www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

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

Ohio's 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas: A Call for All Breeding Bird Observations

The first breeding season of Ohio's second breeding bird atlas has come and gone, and it proved to be a fantastic start for the project. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all atlas volunteers who have invested their time and energy this past spring and summer. There was noticeable excitement about the atlas in Ohio's birding community, and from the sound of it, volunteers really enjoyed observing and documenting the nesting birds of this beautiful state.

By the end of August 2006, volunteers had reported an impressive 172 species for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, with nesting confirmed for 151 species. Many exciting discoveries were made in the first year of the atlas. These included multiple breeding confirmations of Common Mergansers in the Little Beaver Creek watershed, a breeding pair of Wilson's Phalaropes that successfully produced young in Hardin County, and two territorial male Clay-colored Sparrows in northeastern Ohio. Other noteworthy observations included two inland records of nesting Great Egrets, a group of breeding Blue Grosbeaks from three blocks in Logan County, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes from Highland County, and in addition to the Franklin County birds, another nesting pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area (another pair was observed in Athens County, but breeding was not confirmed).

The Importance of Volunteer Participation

Making new and surprising discoveries is just one important aspect of the breeding bird atlas. Birders can also make great contributions to our understanding of the distribution of many common breeding birds in Ohio by simply getting involved. Since the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II is such a large-scale project, it will progress only through the dedicated assistance of hundreds of volunteer birders and outdoors enthusiasts. In particular, surveying atlas blocks is one of the best ways to contribute to this project. An atlas block (roughly 10 square miles) is the survey unit of this project, and blocks are assigned to volunteers through the block registration process. You can register for blocks online at <http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/OH/Main> or by contacting the appropriate regional coordinator or the project coordinator.

The interest in block ownership was overwhelming when atlas blocks were opened for registration in early April 2006. Currently, 744 atlas blocks (17% of all blocks) have been adopted by over 400 atlas volunteers. Not surprisingly, owned blocks are concentrated near most urban centers of the state, and there is much less coverage in northwestern and southeastern regions (Figure 1). What this boils down to is that there are plenty of atlas opportunities for everyone. Please, consider block ownership opportunities around the state, and sign up today!

Some people will have questions or concerns about the commitment involved in surveying blocks and participating in the atlas. Most importantly, you do not need years and years of birding experience to become involved. If you have a genuine interest in birds, you can contribute much valuable information to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II.

For many, atlas will be relatively simple, especially if you are actively birding during the breeding season. Survey coverage for a block (a minimum of 25 field hours) often can be completed during 1 to 2 years; in fact, many volunteers were able to complete multiple blocks in this first year of the project. Certainly, such contributions will not be possible for all volunteers, and we want to emphasize that the atlas values **ALL** contributions to this collective effort.

Please contact us if you have bird observations to contribute!

We want to hear about everything from the Northern Cardinal nest in your backyard, to a territorial Chestnut-sided Warbler, or a fleeting glimpse of an Upland Sandpiper! Please remember that block "ownership" is not exclusive, and anyone can submit observations from any block, owned or un-owned, in Ohio. Observations can be submitted through the new data entry website (<http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/OH/Main>) or by mailing in results on either of the two atlas field cards. Official OB-BAII field cards are available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/atlasmaterials.php>, and we would be more than happy to mail field cards to anyone. Other formats for data submission are also welcomed. Please contact us if you have



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 cerulean@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 the Editor promptly if you move.

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

questions about determining your atlas block location, or whether your observations might be useful to the project.

Cornell's Online Atlas Application and Data Entry

In early July, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology completed a web site for on-line data entry for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (<http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/OH/Main/>). This user-friendly web site became widely used with birders logging more than 34,000 observations in just 3 months! This was a huge achievement, and undoubtedly tens of thousands of observations from 2006 have yet to be entered. In addition to providing volunteers with the ability to enter atlas data, there are many other useful aspects of this web site. For example, each registered user will be able to view and manage all their observations submitted during the project. Further, it provides a means of keeping track of block effort and block species lists. Comparing data from current blocks with data from the first atlas might reveal species that have not yet been recorded in your blocks but are still possible. Users can even keep track of atlas progress by generating a variety of maps, such as species distribution maps that are updated to-the-minute with incoming atlas data!

Despite the advantages of having this new internet-based atlas tool, the success of this project will depend on the dedication of a comprehensive network of volunteers across Ohio. Limited access to or experience with the internet **WILL NOT** exclude anyone from being able to contribute to this project in significant ways. Please contact us if you have an interest in participating, but will not be able to use the internet for data entry. We will be more than happy to send you a packet of atlas materials and field cards to

you started. Simply record your breeding bird observations on OBBAII field cards, and send them to us at the end of each field season. *Please direct atlas communications to:* Aaron Boone, Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, OSU, School of Environment & Natural Resources, 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1085; boone.70@osu.edu; (614) 247-6458.

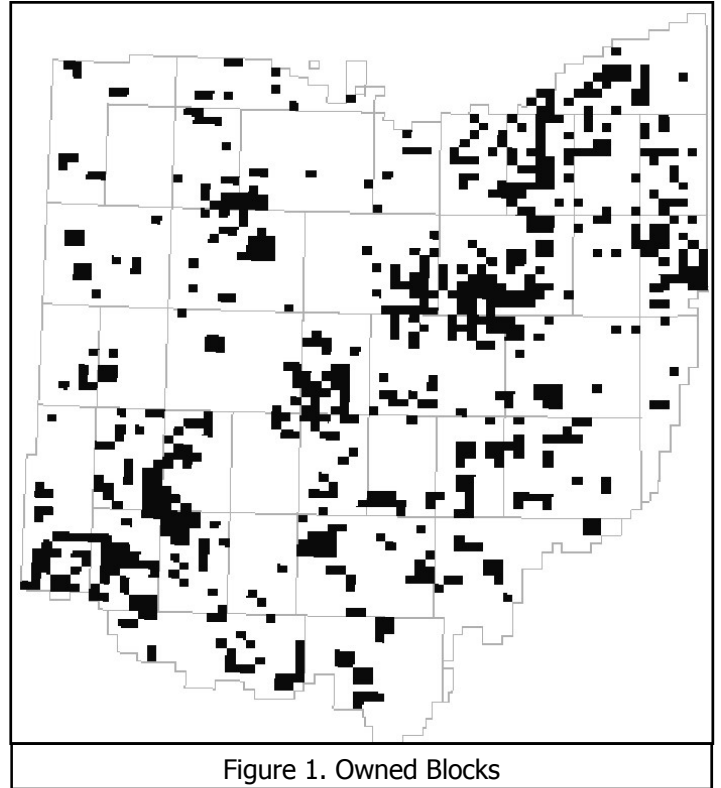


Figure 1. Owned Blocks

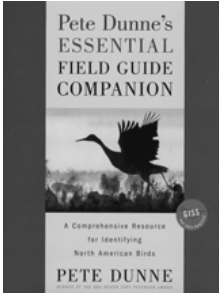
Recent Developments

Here is a short list of some new developments for atlasers that are currently available or will be in the near future:

- Free camping vouchers at Ohio State Parks and the Wayne National Forest
- Discussion Forum for atlasers (<http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/forum/index.php>)
- Additional atlasing workshops in Winter 2007
- **Coming soon!** Block Finder Tool Version 2 (enter GPS coordinates to determine your atlas block!)
- **Coming soon!** First installment of the OBBAII Newsletter
- **Coming soon!** Survey protocols for nocturnal and wetland species

--Aaron Boone & Paul Rodewald
Columbus

Book Review - Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion



Pete Dunne, 2006. *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion*. Houghton Mifflin. 710 pages. Index. \$29.95

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were identifying birds based on a mere glimpse? Has a distant view of a seemingly common bird prompted you to attempt a closer look “just to be sure”? Birders frequently develop general impressions of many species that they commonly encounter in the field. These impressions are crucial to bird identification, regardless of visual details frequently tucked away in the nuances of plumage coloration and pattern. In many instances, it is likely that differences in plumage details are considered only after the initial impressions imparted by size, shape, and behavior. In other words, “Why isn’t that Greater Yellowlegs a Least Sandpiper?” At some level, we all approach bird identification in an impressionistic manner, and Pete Dunne expounds on this somewhat neglected aspect of identification in his recent book, *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion*.

The acronym GISS (pronounced “jizz”) is frequently tossed around in the birding vernacular when referring to the general impression of size and shape of a bird, and this concept of field identification forms the basis of this new field guide companion. Dunne’s initial step to convey the importance of “jizz” can be noted in *Hawks in Flight*, an earlier book co-written with David Sibley and Clay Sutton. *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion* is a valiant attempt to distill countless hours of birding observations into written accounts that focus on the behavioral and structural impressions of nearly 700 species of North American birds.

Dunne clearly states in the introduction that this new book “is not a field guide.” In fact, this impressive 710-page tome contains no illustrations, but instead uses concise, well-crafted text to describe a “holistic” approach to bird identification. The motive behind the writing of this book is simple: to fill in the identification gaps that do not often fit into the classic field guide framework.

The overall format of this book follows the species account. Each account averages one full page in length, and is composed of 9 or 10 bold-titled sections. The introductory paragraph of each account focuses on several natural history attributes and paints a well-rounded picture of each species’ status, distribution, seasonal movements, and migrations, habitat associations, and vagrancy tendencies. The sections that follow this introductory material focus on field identification and represent the pivotal strength of this book.

The “Description” section focuses on the features that visually separate one species from another. Unlike the lengthy, often cumbersome, descriptive sections found in many popular volumes devoted to entire families of species, this section hits the key features of each species without bogging down the reader in super-fine detail. Granted, detailed descriptions have their place, but much of the functionality of this book lies in the way Dunne briefly describes and summarizes his overall impression of each species.

The remaining sections on “Behavior,” “Flight,” and “Vocalizations” further reinforce the distinctive impressions imparted by each species. Detailed descriptions of behavior or the appearance of birds in flight are treated sparingly in some field guides, but they can substantially aid the process of field identification. As birders, we frequently seek out new species, and we most likely will know something about what those new species will look like. But how will these species behave? How will they appear in flight? In addition, it can be worthwhile to learn about another individual’s perspectives on the identifying features of bird vocalizations. Dunne’s descriptions of these characteristics breathe life into the mental constructs that often result from extensively studying the depictions of various species in modern field guides.

All in all, *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion* is a fantastic resource that provides a unique perspective on North American bird identification. Of course, this work is only one man’s interpretation of how birds appear in various situations, and Dunne humbly acknowledges this. Regardless of the book’s subjectivity, many years of extensive birding experience have gone into its pages, and the information should prove to be quite useful, and a lot of fun to read.

—Aaron Boone, Columbus

Christmas Bird Counts & Winter Bird Atlas

No matter what your birding skill level, please consider participating in one or more winter bird counts. For a list of Ohio Christmas Bird Counts and other winter counts see http://www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/winter_counts/winter.php . Information on the Ohio Winter Bird Atlas that takes place during the month of January can be found at <http://aves.net/winter-atlas/atlas-II.htm> .

Correction

The photo of Dan Sanders and Hugh Rose on the front cover of the Summer 2006 issue of *The Cerulean* was incorrectly credited to Jen Sauter. The photo was taken by Laura Kammermeier.

—The Editor

Winter Help for Birds ... Brrr

My husband and I find more and more that what we do in our yard makes a difference. Begin with the end in mind – think ahead –and decide what do you want in your yard next year. Consider four essential elements every bird needs:

Food - Plant natives that bloom and berry at different times. Leave seed heads up until Mother's Day for birds to eat. Clean bird feeders with a 10% bleach solution and rinse, rinse, rinse (also cleans algae in bird baths).

Water - Consider purchasing heated birdbaths or heating elements that can be safely added to outdoor water. If you have a pond, try putting a bale of hay in the middle. Finding water when rivers and ponds freeze is challenge for birds. Sometimes we have a line at our frost-free water (when the river freezes) – when we're the "place to be"!

Cover - Plant evergreens and native bushes for cover. Our Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) provides evergreen cover, food (late berries) and places for young (nesting places for small birds, nesting material). Make a small brush pile in an out-of-the-way corner for cover (a holiday tree will do) – great deals 12/24.

Places to Raise Young - Leave native grasses standing as winter cover for butterfly larvae/eggs/chrysalises and food for juncos and other small, native sparrows. We trim them after Mother's Day to three feet high. Leave dead trees and snags up permanently (if not a hazard) for winter homes and places to raise young in spring.

Fall Checklist to help birds

- Clean feeders & baths with water and a 10% bleach solution and rinse, rinse, rinse
- Keep leaves in beds as a natural mulch and for insects (future bird food!)
- Leave plant materials in your yard for spring over-wintering insects and bird nest creation
- Leave seed heads and native grasses standing until Mother's Day for birds to eat and for winter cover
- Apply corn gluten to the lawn when it first turns cold for natural spring broadleaf weed control
- Apply organic lawn fertilizer during rapid root growth, from September to hard frost
- Remove invasive, exotic plants that destroy Ohio native habitats (www.oipc.info)
- Remove lawn "green desert" to add space to create your natural bird habitat
- Plant plugs of native perennials (best suited to Ohio, birds depend on them)
- Propagate desirable plants (by seed, by cuttings, whatever method works best for that plant)
- Divide older, spring-blooming perennials
- Water non-established plants until the ground freezes

Get Certified: If you follow the tips in the Spring, 2006 online Cerulean "Let's Help Birds- One Yard at a Time" (food, water, cover, places to raise young, and chemical-free, native plants), the National Wildlife Federation will certify your yard. Putting up their sign helped us encourage others to help birds too. Easy, on-line Wildlife Habitat certification: nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/createhabitat.cfm.

Lessons learned: This is a good start. If you're interested in learning more, email me: marc-a@columbus.rr.com. For upcoming events or for projects, go to www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat. Let's work together to help birds, one back yard at a time.

–Toni Stahl, Columbus

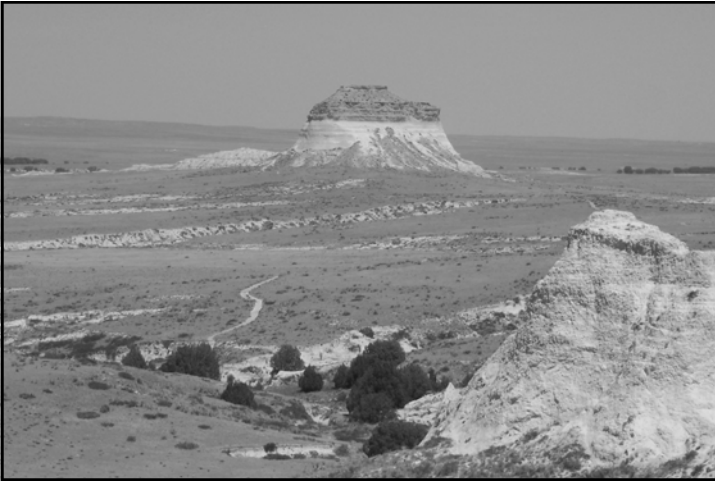
ABA Convention—Young Birder Track

On Friday June 30, 2006, Brad Wilkinson, Phil Chaon, and I met at the Cleveland Airport boarding our plane to Denver, Colorado. The three of us live in northeast Ohio and have been birding with each other for years. We flew out to Colorado together to join the American Birding Association's Young Birders Track held in Ft. Collins, Colorado. It was our first time birding in Colorado and hopefully not the last.

In Denver, Jesse Pakkala joined us as we stood in front of the windows looking out across the airport. There wasn't much bird activity there other than many Western Kingbirds, Rock Pigeons, Cliff Swallows, and orange variants of House Finches. We drove to Ft. Collins, where after a meal of pizza, Jim Rising gave a workshop on "Sparrow ID." His talk was about identification, ecology, and classification of the New World sparrows in the family Emberizidae. We all learned something from Jim's excellent workshop. Next, we piled into the vans and went to the foothills, where we found calling Common Poorwills. At one point we watched one sitting in a bush on top of a hill.



This next morning we woke up pretty early and headed off to Pawnee National Grasslands in northeast Colorado, fifty miles east of the Rockies. On the way there we parked along the road where we found Burrowing Owls and Mountain



Plovers. We arrived at the Crow Valley Campgrounds and immediately jumped out of the vans and started birding. We found a Common Nighthawk resting on a branch and from a few yards away looked at it through scopes and snapped many pictures. Also in this area we saw Loggerhead Shrike, a Bullock's Oriole nest, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and some Blue Jays, which got the west coast birders' attention. One highlight was watching a Bull Snake eat Western Kingbird babies out of the nest. As we drove around Pawnee looking for other birds, we found a Golden Eagle sitting on a windmill, many McCown's Longspurs, and over the horizon, a distant Ferruginous Hawk, a lifer for many. Soon after, we found a Chestnut-collared Longspur. After our fair share of longspurs we headed off to the Buttes, where we had Rock Wrens and a Prairie Falcon along with great views of these geological formations. When we arrived back at the hotel Michael O'Brien gave a workshop "Techniques of Field Observations" which treated taking notes and making sketches in the field.

The next day we found ourselves leaving at 3 am. On our way to Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, we stopped on Cameron Pass where we heard Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and "gray-headed" juncos. Farther up the road we had fantastic looks at a Three-toed Woodpecker, along with Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Wilson's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and White-crowned Sparrow. We also had a Moose a few yards away, the least scared of us. Just before we arrived at Arapaho we stopped once more, and found Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow, California Gull, Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Western Grebe. We arrived at Arapaho NWR, and at the first pond observed American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Gadwall, and Killdeer. Erik Enbody found us a nice Franklin's Gull flying over. At later stops we found other birds like Eared Grebe, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Shoveler, western Willet, Forster's and Black Terns, and last and best, Greater Sage-Grouse. We also saw Sora and American Coot chicks. As clouds formed over us we started to head back. On our way back, we stopped to watch a badger on the side of the road. I personally think this was one of Steve Howell's favorite parts of the trip. We stopped to look at some hummingbird feeders outside a gift shop. We had tons of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and one early Rufous Hummingbird. Also in the area were Violet-green Swallows, Red Crossbills (type 5), and a Red-naped Sapsucker. We arrived back at the hotel and

had the evening off. Most of us went off to the hot tub and pool while others relaxed.

On the fourth day we went to Rocky Mountain National Park. On the way we had a few American Dippers in the Powder River and further up the mountains a Clark's Nutcracker on top of a tree. At Medicine Bow Curve, we hiked a trail in search of White-tailed Ptarmigans. We had American Pipits, Horned Larks, Mountain Bluebirds, and an out-of-place Yellow-headed Blackbird, but no ptarmigan. I did, however, photograph a White-spotted Midget Moth, a species associated with *Antennaria* plants (pussytoes) found in the area. Afterwards, after a series of stops we found a pair of White-tailed Ptarmigans in a pretty crowded area. As we watched and studied these two magnificent birds, we also attracted a crowd of non-birders who were just as pleased to see them. After an hour or two of watching the ptarmigans, we moved on. At a pine/aspen picnic area we had Cordilleran, Hammond's, and Gray Flycatchers, Red-naped Sapsucker, Steller's Jays, and all three nut-hatches. We made one more stop on the way back to find a female Dusky Grouse with three babies just a couple feet away! Up the trail we had a really active MacGillivray's Warbler in a bush. Back at the hotel, Louis Zemaitis gave her workshop "Birding from a Naturalist's Point of View," where she encouraged us to look at all aspects of nature besides just birds. She also talked about her own experiences. Her motivating talk ended day four.

Day five was spent in the Boulder area, where we met up with local birder Ted Floyd, whom I had previously birded with during the Young Birder's Track in Maine. After a brief talk, he led us up Gregory Canyon Trail. Many species were calling here, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Virginia Warbler, Western Wood-Pewee, Lazuli Bunting, Lesser Goldfinches, with an occasional Broad-tailed Hummingbird swooshing by. There were also White-throated Swift and Violet-green Swallows over the cliffs above. Farther up the trail we added Mountain Chickadee, Canyon Wren, and a Townsend's Solitaire. We then went to Walden Ponds, where we had quite a few birds including American White Pelicans, Green Heron, Redhead, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Cinnamon Teal, and Green-winged Teal, along with tons of swallows. Before we left, Bill Schmoker gave a really informative talk on digiscoping, and when we returned to the hotel, Steve Howell gave an excellent workshop on molt. He explained all about molting in birds and now we all should be experts!

The final day came way too fast. We first birded some grasslands where we had Cassin's, Grasshopper, Vesper, and Brewer's Sparrows. Afterwards at Watson Lake and the area nearby, we had White-throated Sparrow, Canyon Wren, and baby Barn Owls in a cubby in the rock cliffs. After Brad, Phil, and I said bye to everyone, we went off to the Denver Airport, and flew back to Ohio. This was one FANTASTIC trip!

This was one awesome trip and I would like to thank those who made it all possible: American Birding Association, Ohio Ornithological Society, Kirtland Bird Club, and the Mahoning Valley Audubon chapter. I also want to thank Michael O'Brien, Louis Zemaitis, Steve Howell, Bill Schmoker, and Ted Floyd for leading this trip. I'm looking forward to next year's convention.

-Ethan Kistler, Newton Falls



Member's 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!

Elaine T. Barnum
Eric J. Burkholder
Lisa Casamatta
Delores Cole
Amy R. Collins
Carl Edwards
Tom & Alice Faren
Henry Fortlage
Doug LeVasseur
Bill Long

Edie Lotz
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Frank Morris, Jr.
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Sue A. Tackett
Bill & Elsa Thompson
William & Ann Toneff
Pam Unger
Susan Walker
Dorinda Whitsett
Janet Wilson
Karen A. Wolnik
Susan Woolard

*In memory of Janet Steams

Welcome New Members!

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

Harriet Alger
Ronald Bauer
Sharon & Russell Bell
Amy R. Collins
Andrew Mertz &
Janet Creamer
Todd Davis
Vicki B. Derr
Jane Dessecker
David Dugas
Carl Edwards
Karen Gilbert
Jane Henry

Mr. Ronald Huprich
Ms. Ronnie Macko
Gene Mapes
Charles A. McClaugherty
Dottie & Duane McDowell
Allen L. Miller
Margaret Nabors
Mr. Marc J. Nolls
Howard Peller
Douglas C. Ritchey
Frances Sarnovsky
Gregory A. Smith
Ms. Lynn Solomon

Fredric K. Steck
Roger Stultz
Richard Swartz
Warren Uxley
Dan & Pat Voydanoff
Mary Lou Walker
Ben Warner
Mary Jo White
Laura Wilbur
Mrs. Susan K. Williams
Karen A. Wolnik

2007 Calendar of Events

Two **Costa Rican Adventure** trips are scheduled in the new year, January 18 - 26, 2007 and January 30 - February 9, 2007. Refer to the last page of this newsletter for more details.

We are pleased to announce an **Owls of North America Symposium**, to be held at Hueston Woods State Park on February 24, 2007. World-renowned wildlife biologist Denver Holt will be our keynote speaker. Denver is the founder and president of the Owl Research Institute and the Ninepipes Wildlife Research and Education Center in Charlo, Montana and studies 19 species of owls in North America, including extensive research on Snowy Owls in Barrow, Alaska. Details will be announced in late fall. Be sure to check your e-mails, the listserv and our web site.

The Ohio Ornithological Society's 3rd Annual Conference will be held Friday through Sunday, May 18th to 20th, at Mohican State Park imbedded in the heart of Mohican State Forest. Mohican harbors one of the richest densities of breeding birds in Ohio, with over 100 species nesting annually. Including many of our rare hemlock-obligate species, like Canada Warbler, Winter Wren, and Hermit Thrush. At that time in May, not only will all of the resident species be back and in full tune, but there will still be migrants passing through, so the conference list should be a big one. There is also plenty of other biodiversity at Mohican, and the flora is especially rich. Registration information will be mailed to all members in January, 2007.

Birder's Bio—Kathy Mock

Though I grew up and continue to live near Akron, the Marblehead/Erie Islands area was my second home from infancy until a few years ago. Having gone on many family boat trips, my first lists were of Great Lakes and ocean freighters.

In nature, I was obsessed first with whales and went on my first pelagic trip in 1983, when I began my cetacean list (now 17). My interest in birds began as a child watching the bird feeder and, though they didn't know "proper" names then, my parents taught me to appreciate them. On my first Audubon field trip to the hotspots of northwest Ohio in 1985, I saw a young Bald Eagle and a flock of Snow Geese...and I was hooked.

Since then, I've gone on pelagics off both coasts and in Alaska, birded places in between, done programs on whales and birds, written a few newsletter articles, been a bird guide, twice attended the Audubon Camp in Maine, and volunteered for the Akron Zoological Park, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

For over 10 years I was a part-time staffer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and am presently volunteering in the Collections Department, helping to catalogue the bird specimens. I've learned so much through the years from, and had fun with, my birding buddies and mentors. In addition to observing nature, I enjoy the friendly "competition"

and personal challenge that birding provides. We should all remember not to take ourselves too seriously. Gaining knowledge and "exposing ourselves to nature" is great—the fun and camaraderie are added bonuses.

—Kathy Mock, Norton

OOS Board Member Election

The OOS Conference, at Mohican State Park May 18-20, 2007, includes our annual meeting and election of four Board members. OOS members may nominate a qualified person, and our bylaws provide nomination information: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/about/who/bylaws.php>

If you know of someone who is an active OOS member, could serve the organization well, and would be interested and able to be a participating member of the Board, please submit your nomination to Executive Secretary Jen Sauter (8207 Manitou Drive, Westerville, OH 43081) by February 20, 2007 (100 days prior to the annual meeting) in order to qualify.

Board positions require an ability to be active in the organization, attend up to four annual Board meetings and a willingness to help actively advance birding and ornithology in Ohio.

Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

For an online version of this application visit: 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?

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



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

Costa Rican Adventures

The Ohio Ornithological Society is offering special birding trips to one of the most spectacular countries in Central America, Costa Rica. These trips are part of our outreach effort to other countries that play a critical role in conserving Ohio's bird life. At least 72 species that breed in Ohio winter in Costa Rica, and many more birds that either breed or migrate through Ohio also can be found in Costa Rica. The OOS wants to forge a strong alliance between Ohio's birders and birders and conservationists in Costa Rica. Proceeds realized from these trips will go towards supporting bird conservation both here and down there.

Costa Rica is a very easy country to explore, and a safe place for American travelers. It is less than half the size of Ohio; thus, lots of area can be explored even on a relatively short trip. Our primary guide is Noel Urena, one of the most knowledgeable ornithologists in Costa Rica. He went to school at Hocking Technical College right here in Ohio, which makes for yet another Ohio connection. Noel knows all the local birds well, and is particularly good with vocalizations - essential to locating many species in the jungle. Not only are his birding and general natural history skills superb, Noel is pleasant and unflappable, and a joy to be around.

Please look at the trip descriptions on our website. You can see from the details that they offer much for the Costa Rican traveler, whether you've already been there or a first-time visitor. We welcome your attendance on these trips, and please direct inquiries to Jen Sauter, OOS Executive Secretary, at vbchat@insight.rr.com or 614-901-4159.



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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.

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THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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