



THE CERULEAN

Winter 2006/2007, Vol. 3, No. 4

www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

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

Cerulean Warbler Fails to Make Federal List

On December 6th, 2006, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued a finding that it will not list the Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*, as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

This stunning cerulean blue warbler is the symbol of the Ohio Ornithological Society, with good reason. Ohio supports some of the best remaining habitats and populations of this Neotropical species, which occupies upland oak-hickory forests and to a lesser degree - here, at least - mature riparian woodlands. Cerulean Warblers winter in South America, primarily in Colombia and Venezuela.

Ornithologists have long been alarmed by plummeting populations of this songbird, and a formal petition was made to the Fish & Wildlife Service in 2000 asking that the Cerulean Warbler be considered for Federal listing. Some estimates have put the overall population decline at 82% over the past 40 years, and the average annual decline at 6% over the past decade. Dunn and Garrett, in *Warblers* (1997), note that there have been "severe declines in the core of its Midwest breeding range."

Cerulean Warblers epitomize the problems of conserving highly migratory Neotropical birds. This species has been impacted by habitat loss and, in some regions forest management practices, on its breeding grounds. It also is selective regarding habitat preferences on the wintering grounds in South America, preferring mature evergreen forests at altitudes between 1,800 and 4,440 feet. Wintering habitats have also been affected by deforestation. Other less obvious factors are no doubt contributing to declines, too; as with so many of our birds, our knowledge of Cerulean Warblers is less than complete.

Listing the Cerulean Warbler would have created a steady stream of issues for the federal government. As this species occupies large tracts of older-growth upland forest, companies that alter such sites, particularly on the mammoth scales of logging and coal mining operations, would have been in for continual sparring matches with the Fish & Wildlife Service over impacts to the warbler. Because of this, many environmentalists believe politics played an inordinate role in influencing the decision not to list the warbler. In particular, predicted increases in coal extraction and subsequent new strip mine and mountaintop removal projects may eliminate thousands of acres of prime Cerulean habitat in coming years, and the coal lobby is more powerful than the Cerulean Warbler lobby.

But what's done is done, and it's now more important than ever to monitor Cerulean Warbler populations. Participating in the ongoing Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II is an excellent way to help. It will be very telling to compare atlas data with the data collected during

the first Ohio breeding bird atlas, which was conducted from 1982-87. In that survey, Ceruleans were found in half of all atlas blocks, in 81 of the 88 counties. It will be interesting, and possibly depressing, to contrast the new atlas results when we are through surveying in 2010. The OOS hosts the OBBA II website; it can be found at: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/> Studies such as OBBA II may help provide the scientific data to force another look at protection strategies for this warbler.

Conservation of Cerulean Warbler habitat is perhaps the best thing we can do to protect this species, and many other birds that share its habitat. The OOS has created a conservation fund that has been steadily growing, and eventually we hope to use these funds to acquire prime Cerulean Warbler habitat in southern Ohio, in partnership with other conservation organizations. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact our Executive Secretary, Jen Sauter, at ybchat@insight.rr.com. We welcome your support.

Jim McCormac, President
Ohio Ornithological Society

September 30th Sparrow Symposium Reflection

The OOS, the Kirtland Bird Club, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History put on a Sparrow Symposium in northeastern Ohio on September 30th. This is no news to many: over 220 of us went to it!

I was happy to see, as I walked through the doors of Painesville's Community Center, that many more people than I had expected had turned out for the event. I shouldn't have been surprised; the joint sponsorship of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, B.S.B.O., K.B.C., and the O.O.S. had teamed up to bring in some excellent speakers and topics.



Kevin Metcalf pointing to Le Conte's Sparrow in his guide. He found one at this spot at Dike 14, and many in his group got to see it. Photo by Jim McCormac.

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 the Editor promptly if you move.

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

After emcee Kim Kaufman started things rolling, Jim McCormac gave a fascinating presentation on Ohio's sparrows and the roles they play in the environment. It was great to see the plants these species prefer and other neat ecological tidbits such as Ohio's historical habitat changes that Jim laid forth so well. Next was Kevin Metcalf, who had an entertaining presentation with a pirate theme (i.e. Capt. Jack Sparrow) entitled "Pirates of the Emberizidae." This helped everyone nail down the finer points in sparrow identification. Finishing up was Dr. David Lambeth's presentation "Sparrows of the Northern Plains," which was important because it treated Ohio rarities like Le Conte's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed, and Clay-colored sparrows, plus vagrants like Harris's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Lark Sparrow. Dr. Lambeth has observed and studied these species, so it was great to hear his insights about them. I enjoyed all the speakers very much and learned some useful new information.

After lunch, I was more than ready to hit the field to look for sparrows. All were assigned a fun field trip site such as the Arcola Creek estuary, Headlands Beach State Park, Dike 14, Geneva State Park, and Wendy Park. I headed out to Headlands, and was pleased to meet Jen Brumfield, Gabe Leidy, Su Snyder, and Greg Miller, who led us. We had White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow in addition to other migrants.

The evening's events centered around the Cleveland Museum of Natural History including a behind-the-scenes tour, social time and hors d'oeuvres, and the keynote address by Kenn Kaufman, entitled "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Sparrow." Kenn's talk was a nice change of pace from the day's other events. He came up with 13 interesting aspects that related to sparrows drawing from classic literature, research, and personal experience, all mixed with ways of viewing sparrows as symbols of beauty and other such emblems of significance. One fun point was a poem he'd written about the enigmatic Henslow's Sparrow, which we all enjoyed.

Next morning's field trip was to Wendy Park in Cleveland and

here I joined up with Jim McCormac and Paula Lozano's group to find some awesome migrants. What a day we had there; I stayed later and was rewarded by finding my first Ohio Clay-colored Sparrow!



Moderator Steve Cagan says nice things about artist Jen Brumfield at the evening event. That's her painting leaning against the podium. Photo by Jim McCormac.

On the whole I'd say I had a great time and although there were a few minor miscommunications, the whole thing went smoothly, especially for such an undertaking. It was also a great event to meet new people and connect faces to names I'd heard of. Thank you so much to everyone and to the organizations involved. Remember... Sparrows rule!

*Ben Warner
Sunbury*

Sparrows Support Young Birders

Not only do birding symposia provide excellent opportunities for birders to learn and interact with like-minded folks, they provide us a chance to raise funds for good causes. And that's exactly what the recent Sparrow Symposium did.

We used the proceeds from the raffle of Jen Brumfield's excellent original painting - thank you Jen! - and money raised by the Sunday field trips to support a great cause. And that would be the Ohio Young Birders Club <http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/home.htm>

This group was only started less than a year ago, and Kim Kaufman and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory were the driving force in forming the club. Kim's still the main wheel behind it, but both the OOS and Kirtland Bird Club are big supporters. To that end, we raised \$930 for the OYBC; specifically to help with expenses for a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan next February. That will be a wonderful opportunity, and we wish them owls galore!

The club already has at least 60 members. Please consider joining them as a supporter - even if you are an adult! There are few higher priorities than instilling an interest in birds and conservation in young people. — Jim McCormac

Join the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Mailing List!

The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II will soon publish the first issue of its newsletter, and we are in the process of updating our mailing list. Please help us by filling out the postcard that has been included in this issue of *The Cerulean*. If you have already registered as an atlas volunteer, you can use this postcard to update any changes in your contact information or to indicate whether you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter. If you would like more information about the atlas, let us know and we will send you a packet of information on how to participate. You may also use the postcard to order field cards, checklists, or to inquire about collaborating with another atlas volunteer. If you have questions, please contact us by phone at (614) 247-6458 or by mail at **Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II; c/o Aaron Boone; School of Environment & Natural Resources; 210 Kottman Hall; 2021 Coffey Road; Columbus, OH 43210-1085**. If you have internet access, feel free to send your contact information to boone.70@osu.edu. Thanks again!

2007 Wildlife Diversity Conference "WILD AT NIGHT"

March 14, 2007

Aladdin Shrine Complex, Columbus, Ohio

Most of our lives take place during daylight hours--after all, without artificial light, humans are not well suited to darkness. In spite of this we know that life doesn't pause when the sun goes down. This year's Wildlife Diversity Conference will shed some light on species, issues and projects that prosper in the darkness. Our keynote speaker, Kenn Kaufman*, renowned author and naturalist, will kick off the morning discussing the evolution of appreciation for the natural world: typically beginning with what we easily see in the light but progressing to a more reflective focus of what goes on after sunset. Once the nocturnal tone is set, throughout the program you'll become more aware of the secretive world of wildlife at night, including salamander migrations to breeding pools. Learn about nighttime law enforcement efforts and special adaptations of fish to low light conditions. Get to know more about Ohio's grassland ghost--the barn owl. Discover how coyotes have adapted to city nightlife. Hear about how bats navigate in darkness using echolocation. Who hasn't caught lightning bugs as a child? Find out more about fireflies.

Please join us as we investigate the wild side of darkness. The conference will also provide opportunities to ask questions, share ideas, and network with others interested in natural resource conservation and management. For information, please call 1.800.WILDLIFE, or watch for information on www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife.



**Kenn Kaufman, as a teenager and student body president left school and began an 80,000-mile cross-country journey, hitchhiking and intent on breaking the record for sighting the most species of birds in a single year. He did break the record and launched a career devoted to conservation. Author of the Lives of North American Birds, Kingbird Highway, and The Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding, you won't want to miss*

this dynamic speaker at the 2007 Wildlife Diversity Conference!

In Memory of Becky Hatfield

On November 6, 2006, the birding family of Ohio very suddenly lost one of its members - Becky Hatfield.

Becky started birding in central Ohio with the Avid Birders of Columbus in 1999. Avid? Yes! She would drive an hour to meet the group at 5:30 am. Always eager, she yearned to see new birds of all kinds and to learn about them, but her favorite bird was the parula, as evidenced by her license plate and her e-mail address.

She enjoyed chasing rare birds and would leave on a moment's notice, if possible. In January of 2004 she was one of four Columbus-area birders who traveled 5200 miles in 7 days to see a Siberian Accentor and a Whooper Swan in the Yellowstone area! In January of 2005 while on a trip to Texas she saw her 600th bird in the ABA area. How excited she was! Her birding trips also took her out of the U.S., as she went to Israel, Belize, Panama, and Costa Rica. Along the way she inspired two of her siblings and a niece to take up birding. On her last trip with the Avids on October 7 she saw ABA area life bird # 631, a Le Conte's Sparrow, in a farm field in Tuscarawas County. It was a very special moment for her.

Her enthusiasm and avidity will be missed. If you would like to honor Becky's memory, please make a donation to the OOS. The money will be used to help preserve habitat at the Edge of Appalachia.

Doreene Linnell
Columbus

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

The sixth annual Mohican Wildlife Weekend is scheduled for April 20-22, 2007. This is billed as a "celebration of wildlife habitat, heritage, and natural history." Choose from several locations in Ashland and Richland counties that will offer workshops, demonstrations, and bird/nature walks. A welcome reception and keynote speaker Julie Zickefoose start off the weekend on Friday evening.

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

New Web Site for Greater Mohican Audubon Society

OOS Partner, Greater Mohican Audubon Society, invites you to check out their new web site at <http://www.gmasohio.org>.

The Cerulean Available On-line

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

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

Site Highlight

Birding the Sand Country-Part II

No matter how many times I explore a natural area, each return trip to that particular special place astonishes me with new and exciting memories—a raptor wing's imprint on an icy blanket of snow, or the surprise of a Red-tailed Hawk's talons dangling a limp, bloodied snake above my head. These emotional images, attached to unique experiences, have an interesting way of embedding themselves in the mind and become the basis for personal stories. They also cause us to ask more “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” questions than we have answers for. For this reason enough, nature sustains our excitement and keeps us returning for more. In the Oak Openings region of northwest Ohio, one of the most unusual places in the Midwest, there is never a shortage of exciting questions and stories; I invite you to experience this unique natural area and create your own story.

In *Birding the Sand Country, Part I*, I highlighted Oak Openings Preserve, a 4,000-acre metropark located in the heart of the Oak Openings region. Here I highlight three other places, only a short distance apart: Kitty Todd Preserve, Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, and Secor Metropark.

Located at 10000 W. Central Avenue in Berkey, Ohio, Secor Metropark (568 acres) is home to the one-of-a-kind National Center for Nature Photography, featuring the work of some of the world's best nature photographers situated in a beautiful gallery setting. Be sure to make this your first stop with a camera and take advantage of some of the excellent, hands-on workshops that are offered. Capture the beauty of your Oak Openings experience through photography and explore Secor Metropark's rich woods for spectacular displays of trilliums, bloodroots, and other spring ephemerals. Additionally, keep your eye out for the occasional Pileated Woodpecker, Cerulean Warbler, or Barred Owl. Visit in July and explore the planted tallgrass prairie adjacent to the photography center. It offers tranquil glimpses of warm-season grasses swaying in the wind, a big Bur Oak as a backdrop, and Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks commonly hunting overhead. Contact the National Center for Nature Photography at www.naturephotocenter.com or 419-407-9757. For more information and park hours at Secor Metropark see www.metroparkstoledo.com.

Your next recommended stop is Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, just across Bancroft Street from Secor Metropark's entrance. Irwin Prairie is owned by the ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and encompasses approximately 187 acres of very high-quality wet prairie, with rare plant communities such as shrub swamp, sedge and grass meadows, aspen, Pin Oak, and mixed oak. Irwin Prairie is representative of a habitat that commonly occurred in the early days when native Americans paddled their canoes throughout this flooded region in search of waterfowl. Historically, this was also habitat favored by Sandhill Cranes in the mid-1800s, and in the early- to mid-1900s there were breeding records of American and Least Bitterns, Northern Harriers, Pied-billed Grebes, moorhens, and rails.

Even though much of the surrounding habitat has been altered over the years, Irwin Prairie still retains some noteworthy birds. The Sora, Virginia, and the occasional Yellow Rail have been observed in April and May, as well as occasional Least and American

Bitterns. If you visit near twilight during April, be prepared to witness several woodcocks in “sky-dance” mode. You may also observe one or two Wilson's Snipes darting across the prairie, and may have to succumb to sensory overload due to the incessant sounds of the Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs, twittering woodcocks, and the occasional snipe winnow—it is quite a concert! Other interesting birds to look for are wintering Northern Saw-whet Owls, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Swamp Sparrows. For more information and park hours at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve see www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/.

Last, but not least, is The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve (700 acres), bordered by Old State Line and Schwamberger Roads. Travel south from Irwin Prairie on Irwin Road for approximately three miles, then turn right on Old State Line Road. The address is 10420 Old State Line, and the preserve is open to the public (May through October) from 9 am until 5 pm weekdays and the first weekend of every month. Kitty Todd Preserve is a wonderful example of wet prairie and oak savanna with abundant biodiversity throughout. Noteworthy summer residents include: Lark Sparrow, Summer Tanager (5-6 pairs), Orchard Oriole, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Warbling Vireos, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Botanical highlights include Orange-fringed Orchid, Grass-pink Orchid, Dotted Horsemint, Prickly-pear Cactus, Plains Puccoon, and Wild Lupine.

Wild Lupine is important to the Oak Openings because it is the host plant for the Federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. Extirpated in Ohio, this butterfly was reintroduced into its native habitat at Kitty Todd Preserve (www.oakopen.org, 419-867-1521). The ideal time to view them is between the third week of May and the first weekend of June and then again during the first half of July. Consider visiting the preserve with your camera on the third weekend of May for the ultimate celebration of all things “Blue,” taking advantage of your chance to observe Blue Jays, Indigo Buntings, Eastern Bluebirds, Blue Racers, Eastern-tailed Blue butterflies, Karner Blues (possibly), and of course, abundant displays of blue Wild Lupine. It truly is worth a visit.

Karen Menard
Toledo

Ohio Birds Forum

In December 2006, the OOS went live with a new **Ohio Birds Forum** at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/forum/index.php>. A big thank-you to Ned Keller for all his hard work in getting the Forum up and running. This Forum was created to give Ohio birders a place to ask questions and discuss a variety of bird-related topics including: *Attracting Birds*, *Birding Equipment*, *Bird Photography*, *Bird Identification*, *Literature*, *Beginner's Corner*, *General Birding Topics*, and *Conservation Issues*. You can post your photos under the *Member's Photo Gallery* heading. There's even a heading for *Other Natural History Topics*. Moderators Ned Keller, Jim McCormac, Sherrie Duris, and Ben Warner are available to answer questions and assist with any problems. The **Ohio Birds Forum** does not replace the **Ohio Bird List-serve**, where you can continue to post your bird sightings, learn (and ask) about places to look for birds in Ohio, and discuss and debate the occurrence, distribution, identification, and ecology of Ohio birds.

OOS Partner--Canton Audubon Society

The Canton Audubon Society was founded in 1962 when 95 year-old Olias White wrote a letter to the *Canton Repository* newspaper, stating he thought there ought to be an Audubon Society in Canton. With support from the National Audubon Society, they incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization and affiliate of the national organization that same year. In 1981, the members decided to become a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Recognizing there needed to be an outdoor education center in Stark County, Canton Audubon Society members founded The Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio, in the southwest corner of Stark County, in 1964. The Center has grown and thrived over the years since its founding.

The mission of the Canton Audubon Society is to meet their members' varied interests in the world of nature. For some the focus is on birds and animals, for others it's on plants, and still others it's on waterways and diversities of the land. For all it is an interest to enjoy, conserve, restore, share with others, and to educate both adults and students. They support and advance the mission of the National Audubon Society to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

One of the ways their members feel they can fulfill both theirs and National's missions is to support like-minded organizations such as OOS. To that end, they support, via membership - seven other organizations working to improve our environment and "save" nature for our future generations.

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September thru June, at Trinity United Church of Christ in Canton. Interesting and informative speakers are scheduled for each meeting. In addition, field trips are scheduled throughout the year both locally and out of state, to further educate members and guests. All meetings are free and open to the public.

Anyone having questions can contact the organization either by phone (330-832-2491), or mail: P.O. Box 9586, Canton, OH 44711. A chapter website is under construction at present. Further contact information can be found at the Audubon Ohio website www.audubonohio.org.

Alan Dolan, President
Canton Audubon Society

Birder's Bio—Sue Evanoff

As a young child, my father constantly exposed me to nature. Our backyard was always filled with birdfeeders, squirrel feeders, trees and bushes for cover, and birdbaths. In Canada, he and I would go out fishing and watch the Bald Eagles soar overhead. How magnificent they were! Watching wildlife was a given for our family and over the years we had many great experiences. I became a backyard birder at a very early age, but it wasn't until my sons were grown that birding became an obsession.

I had always told my sons that "when I retire I would like to take up birdwatching." Since I had taken my children many times over

the years to The Wilderness Center (TWC), when I became single again my first place to go and feel comfortable was to nature—so I joined TWC. After hearing that there was a bird club, I joined a birding trip to Magee Marsh/Crane Creek for warblers. As anyone knows, once you've been there, you're hooked—no way did I need to wait for retirement to bird! The rest is history. I became an instant bird club member and volunteered to produce a newsletter (and have been doing it for 11 years).

With life's obligations, it is not always possible to bird as much as I would like, but I'm out there as often as possible. I am, of course, looking forward to retirement when I can bird to my heart's content. Over the years, I have made many great birding friends, seen some outstanding birds, and life is wonderful!!

I currently serve as president of TWC Bird Club and am a member of OOS. Besides the outdoors and birding, my other passions include my granddaughters, downhill skiing, my flower gardens and friends. I'm most at home and at peace in the woods—(even a *bad day birding is better than a good day at work*).

Sue Evanoff
Massillon

Shreve Migration Sensation

The seventh annual Shreve Migration Sensation is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2007. Registration will open at 7AM at Shreve Elementary School, 98 N. Market Street (St. Rt. 226), Shreve, Ohio, with free maps to the Help Stations (located in the marsh and at three other sites, all near Shreve) and free doughnuts and coffee in the cafeteria until 9AM.

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

8:30AM-9:15AM - Jamey Graham
"Using an Outdoor Classroom"

9:30AM - 10:15AM - Mark Shieldcastle
"The Bald Eagle in Ohio"

10:30AM - 11:15AM - Dave Sherman
"Osprey Success"

12:30PM - 1:15PM - Jim McCormac
"Wood Warblers"

1:30PM - 2:15PM - Damon Greer
"How Did Coyotes Wind Up in Ohio?"

2:30PM - 3:15PM - Dean Sheldon, Jr.
"The Amazing Adaptability of the Eastern Bluebird"

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



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!

Rich Bradley
Sandy Brown
Dwight Chasar
Kathleen Dillemoth
Deborah Fafrak
Peggy L. Fragassi
Shari L. Jackson
William Jones
Randy Lakes
Denise R. Lesko
Doreene Linzell
Douglas Overacker

Bob Scott Placier
Mary E. Reinthal
Edward C. Roush
Regina Schieltz
Beulah Shanks
Melinda & Irwin Simon
Donna Siple
Brad Sparks
Edgar Whan
Philip White
Connie Wolcott

In Memory of Janet Sterns

Larry & Dawn Sumner

In Memory of Becky Hatfield

Jason & Susan Estep
Gretchen Fluke
Juliet Howard
Doreene Linzell
Paul & Catherine McSweeny
Elizabeth Mitchell
Lori Patterson
Janet Duerr & Steve Schafer

Welcome New Members!

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

Miss Renee Lynn Berry
Blaine Keckley
Brandt Schurenberg
Canton Audubon Society
Mr. Todd A. Channer
Bill & Jo Fedor
Stan & Gwen Fischer
Thomas & Stella Fye
Michael Grieneisen
Tim Groves
Vic & Lois Harder
Thomas & Diane Hert

Janet Heywood
Larry & Judy Hunter
Marylin J. Lawrence
Denise R. Lesko
Carol Lyle
Stephen Mathews
Liz McQuaid
Jim Moore
Kathleen Neugebauer
Jane Noel
Margery Pepiot
Larry Raper

Terry Reynolds
Robert P. Russell
Jim Skinner
Jay M. Smith
Herman L. Stine
Kathy Szeremet
Deborah VanKoningsveld
Kathleen Vaughn Farrell
Sue & Fred Weber
Philip & Jeanette Weeks
James Yoder

2007 Calendar of Events

We are pleased to announce **The Owls of North America Symposium** to be held at Hueston Woods 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 are now available on the home page of our website!

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 there annually. This includes 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 early 2007.



Hundreds of birders traveled to Grandview Heights near Columbus to see this Western Tanager found by Rob Thorn on 12/4/2006. The bird was counted on the Columbus Christmas Bird Count on 12/17/2006. Photo on 12/8/2006 by Delores Cole.

Let's Help Hummingbirds - One Yard at a Time

We have the best luck bringing new bird species to visit our yard by researching their particular needs for food, water, cover, and places to raise young. When you go bird watching, notice where you see the species you'd like to attract (woodlands, fields, etc.) and observe their behavior.

One of our favorites is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. We were surprised to discover them in the woods, so we keep trees. Their tiny feet perch well in the small branches of our wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and our fruit trees (listed below).

Brightly-colored flowers (scarlet to orange and purple) are hummingbird favorites. In addition to nectar from plants, they also eat insects, so we don't use any 'cides.

They use unique sources of water on the fly. We have a Cup Plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*, as a natural water option. It collects dew and rainwater. Cup Plants can be tall and spread quickly, so keep an eye on it, but it makes a dramatic backdrop to our flowerbed.

We plant Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) so hummingbirds can use the soft, fuzzy red tops in their nests.

Hummingbird magnets

Perennial Wildflowers:

- Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, spring, red flowers, reseeds itself
- Foxglove Penstemon, *Penstemon digitalis*, June, purple/white-lavender, full-part sun
- Cardinal-flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, July-Aug, red, tubular shaped flowers

- Great Blue Lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*, Aug-Sept, blue flower spikes, well-drained soils, hardier than *cardinalis*
- Cup-plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*, yellow, tall, aggressive, leaves form cups that hold water

Vines/Groundcover:

- Scarlet (or Coral) Honeysuckle vine, *Lonicera sempervirens*, spring, trainable vine with showy trumpet-like red flowers. The hummingbirds don't come into our yard until the Scarlet Honeysuckle blooms, even though we've put native Wild Columbine out front to try to bring them earlier.

Scarlet Honeysuckle looks similar to Trumpet Creeper vine, *Campsis radicans* (also native), but is slow-growing and not aggressive. We easily trained it to cover a garden arch. If you trim the blossoms, the plant continues to bloom throughout the summer and early fall. If you don't, it will turn into fruits for the birds. Either way, this plant brings aphids and other native insects hummingbirds love to eat.

Small Trees/Shrubs (15'-50):

- Downy Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, tolerates sun or shade and wet soils; red berry, white flower
- Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, full sun or light shade, pink spring flower
- Washington Hawthorn, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, has 1-3" thorns, white spring flower, red fruit

Tall Trees (50'+):

- Tuliptree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, fast grower; requires fertile soil, yellow-orange spring flower
- Wild Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*, grows in a variety of soils, white spring flower

We hang some annuals (not native) in baskets where we can see the hummers up close, Impatiens--*Impatiens wallerana*; Fuschia--(*fuschia* hybrids); and Petunia--(hybrids). A late bloomer for migrating hummers is Scarlet sage, *Salvia splendens*.

If you do some of the things listed above, the National Wildlife Federation will certify your yard as an official Wildlife Habitat (www.nwf.org/backyard). Let's work together to help hummingbirds, one yard at a time.

Lessons learned? For tips about what we learned changing our yard, email marc-a@columbus.rr.com for notifications about presentations and yard tours. If you would like to learn to work with the Wildlife Certification program in the Columbus area, we are giving Volunteer Training at the Northwest Library on Hard Road, Sat. Jan 20 from 9:30am - noon. Please RSVP marc-a@columbus.rr.com; we hope to see you then.

Toni Stahl
Columbus

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?

- \$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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Micki Dunakin - Antwerp
Rob Harlan - Norton
Ned Keller - Cincinnati
Peter King - Westerville
Karen Menard - Toledo
Bernard Master - Worthington
Jim McCormac - Columbus
Greg Miller - Sugarcreek
Ed Pierce - Akron
Jen Sauter - Westerville
Su Snyder - Wooster
Bill Thompson III - Marietta
Bill Whan - Columbus

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
P.O. BOX 14051 ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43214

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WESTERVILLE OH
PERMIT NO. 559