



# THE CERULEAN

Summer 2007, Vol. 4, 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*

## Mohican OOS Conference 2007

The massive to-do list in my head dissolved in the bucolic scenery I was traveling through to reach Mohican State Park for the annual OOS Conference. My excitement grew as I crossed the dam and found myself eye to eye with soaring Turkey Vultures, not 20 feet from my car as they caught the updraft from the water far below the dam. Swallows wheeled in the air as well. The surrounding woods were filled with birdsong. I knew this was going to be a great weekend.

After Steve McKee's informative and entertaining keynote talk, a large group of us assembled for an evening field trip to learn about bats during a bat banding project nearby. As we made our way through the dark to the stream we were given a mini-course in bat habitats, flight, feeding habits, and behaviors by Merrill Tawse, our field trip leader and bat researcher. I got the thrill of seeing a long-eared bat up close and personal, and came away from the trip with a greater understanding of these wonderful little creatures.

I fell into bed happily exhausted and hoping for enough sleep to make the early morning field trip something less than bleary-eyed. I was fully awake and ready to go before the crack of dawn. Who could not be delighted with the prospect of spending a morning of birding with Bill Thompson III, and Hugh and Judy Kolo-Rose? One thing I love about OOS events is meeting wonderful people. Birders definitely fall in the category of "Good People." There was no shortage of wit and bird knowledge in this group.

The high point of the trip that morning for me was a lifetime look at a male Canada Warbler that obligingly stayed in easy viewing range for a very long time. No amount of reading or looking at photos or illustrations can compare or even prepare me for seeing a bird in life. This bird was so much more vibrant and personable than the field guide illustration. This is an incredibly flamboyant bird with highly visible eye-rings, brilliant color, and a look-at-me necklace. I was on a birding high.



At our annual conference in May, Jim McCormac presented a check to Kelly Williams-Sieg for her Northern Saw-whet Owl research. Photo by Ernie Cornelius

That afternoon Cheryl Harner presented a program on backyard plants that attract birds and butterflies. I took copious notes and have my wish list al-



At our annual conference in May, Jim McCormac presented a surprised Roger Troutman with the first ever OOS Outstanding Volunteer Award. Photo by Hugh Rose

ready in place for my new backyard habitat. Cheryl is a warm and knowledgeable speaker, with a wealth of plant lore to share. I look forward to joining field trips with her at future events.

Then it was quick, to dinner, and on to the evening presentation by Donald Kroodsma, author of *The Singing Life of Birds*. But wait! First there is entertainment by Bill Thompson III, and the bird tallies for the day, plenty of envy for the people who got to see the baby barn owls, and voting for board members. Donald Kroodsma has inspired me to get more in touch with the auditory side of birding. I have to admit, this is a weak area for me, since I am so highly visual. Anyone hearing this man speak about his experience and research and hearing the slowed-down recordings of bird songs will come away with new awe and wonder for our feathered friends. His talk opened a new dimension of discovery for many that night, I imagine.

On the final day of the conference, I went with Jim McCormac and Warren Uxley's group on the Mohican Outdoor School adventure. We were greeted by an Eastern Towhee in the parking lot; it proved auspicious for a great hike and good birding. The terrain had enormous blocks of sandstone, waterfalls, and open grassy areas. For me, nothing is as soothing to the senses as a walk in the woods. I was in my own special kind of heaven. I loved the botany lessons that came between bird sightings. We saw a variety of mosses and lichens, jack-in-the-pulpit, mandrake, learned the difference between false and real solomon's-seal, and much more. Of course, we saw birds too. Got some very long and good looks at Swainson's Thrush and Acadian Flycatcher, short looks at many more, such as Scarlet Tanager, multiple warblers, and heard even more. Butterflies also made an appearance on Sunday, with the Red Admiral as one of my favorites.

I left the conference happy and satisfied. Good birding, good people. I will be back for more. - - Shila Wilson, Marietta

# 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 the Editor promptly if you move.

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

## Birder's Bio – Roger Troutman

I grew up on a family farm in southwestern Wayne County about halfway between what is now the Killbuck Marsh and Funk Bottoms Wildlife Areas. My first “life bird,” or at least the one I remember as such, was a male Scarlet Tanager I saw as a preschooler. From that moment on, I just knew that I would, in one form or another, have birds as a meaningful part of my life either as a career or as a serious avocation. My early birding experiences were pretty much self-taught, as my parents were preoccupied raising five children and innumerable farm animals and crops on 147 acres. Luckily 28 acres of that land was then what would now be considered old-growth forest, wherein Cerulean Warblers were the most common nesting warbler. My early “bird books” were pictures out of, as I remember them, cutouts or cards from Arm & Hammer Baking Soda containers and National Geographic magazines. My first optical aid was an old brass pull-out collapsible spyglass (probably of sailing-ship vintage). For many years I was, from my perspective, a lone birder in the wilderness. I was probably a young teenager before I even knew there was another birder living in the county.

Shortly thereafter I was given my first pair of binoculars, and by bicycle or car was soon exploring the local birding spots, such as the “Shreve Marshes,” “Blachleyville Flats,” and Mohican Park as they were known in the 1950s. About that time, it was a real shock, challenge, and surprise to learn, after joining the newly-formed Wayne Nature Club, that my life list of around 40 species was just a beginning and not the end of a “real” local life list. Before then I thought I had seen every bird species that was to be seen in the county. The biggest shock of my birding life was the realization at the tender age of 13 that not only were six times my then-ultimate life list being seen annually within a 25-minute drive, but that I would eventually find over 100 species therein in a single day!

By age 15 I became involved in Christmas Bird Counts and in fact, at age 17, I and a college friend set a CBC national record by participating in 12 counts in three states in 11 days (the duration of the count period back then). Since 1954 I have participated in nine different Ohio counts for a total of 138 times and compiled three different counts for a total of 84 different times over almost 40 years (the highest total by an Ohio compiler). Besides leading or participating in innumerable bird walks and trips in well over half the United States, I have participated in a couple of dozen Ohio breeding bird surveys, both at the Federal and State levels. However, I stopped this activity in the 1990s as my hearing failed enough to make any listening surveys I took both inaccurate and statistically invalid.

In college, I majored in “birds” and earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife management from The Ohio State University. In graduate school (no degree completed), I did research on hybridization between two species of minnows. After college, I worked as the staff naturalist at Kingwood Center, a horticultural garden in Mansfield, Ohio. During my nine-year tenure there, I had to diversify my natural history interests and in fact became more of a botanist than a zoologist.

After leaving Kingwood, I underwent a mid-life career shift and went to work for Sprint, the telecommunications company, in the data-processing field until retiring in early 2002. Although I put “professional” biological fieldwork aside in the late '70s, the increased financial rewards and shorter work weeks (as every field naturalist knows) allowed me to do many more things “naturally” and at my own pace and interest than if I had stayed professionally involved in field biology.

As such, my interests expanded beyond birds, plants, and animals in general, into rather specialized field and photographic work in tall-grass prairies, certain species of mosses *Grimmia*, New World milkweeds (Asclepiadaceae) and most recently in the genus *Liatris* (blazing stars). My major publications to date include co-authoring The Ohio Prairie Survey Project: Data to date, a partial chapter on Ohio prairies in Ohio's Natural Heritage and most recently (2003) a 900-page book on Ohio Cemeteries: 1803-2003. My next publication will be a history and summary of Ohio's Christmas Bird Counts: 1900 to present.

–Roger Troutman, Mansfield

## OOS Recognizes Birder-Friendly Family

At our conference at the Mohican State Forest in May, the OOS presented the Eli D. Miller family with a certificate of appreciation featuring an original drawing of a Harris's Sparrow by Don Sutherland.

The Millers were acknowledged for helping birders visiting their farm to see a Harris's Sparrow their son, Wayne, had discovered in January. For the next few months, the Millers welcomed over 400 birders from all over Ohio, and some from out of state, to their farm north of Walnut Creek in Holmes County. Our deepest appreciation goes to the Millers for their wonderful hospitality.

Without the kindness of people like the Miller family, many rare birds would be missed by birders. If you know someone you feel should be recognized for being so birder-friendly, please send your nomination to the OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

## Comings and Goings

The OOS sends a big thank-you to our two outgoing board members, Rob Harlan and Micki Dunakin. Rob was part of our first planning meetings as well as a member of the original Board, and played a large part in getting the OOS off the ground. He continues as project editor of *The Ohio Bird Records Committee Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*. You can read his column "Further Afield" in issues of *The Ohio Cardinal*. Micki served on the Board from the outset, and was part of the scouting team to Costa Rica before we offered the trips to our members. She continues to be active in the birding community, including volunteering as a regional coordinator for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II.

We welcome Marc Nolls, who replaces Rob as Northeast Director. Marc is an officer of the Greater Akron Audubon Society, where he serves as Field Trip Coordinator. Those who attended the OOS annual conference in May have Marc to thank for coordinating the transportation that weekend. We also welcome Dana Bollin, who replaces Micki as Northwest Director. For the past 15 years Dana has been the supervisor of the Milton B. Trautman Nature Center at Maumee Bay State Park. She currently serves on the committee planning our fall Warbler Symposium to be held in September.

### Site Highlight: Magee Marsh Bird Trail – A Migration Destination

Mention "Magee Marsh," and many of us will immediately link the name to annual spring season birding treks. Many of the colorful birds traveling from their wintering grounds in Central and South America rest here briefly, reluctant to fly over Lake Erie; their stay here qualifies Magee Marsh Wildlife Area as among Ohio's most important stopover areas. Magee is a migration destination not only for a wide variety of hungry migrants, but also for birders from all over the United States.

While the boardwalk and surrounding areas host large congregations of people and beautifully-colored birds in April and May, other months see fewer people, yet still bring a good variety of birds. During the fall migration season, which extends from July through early January, shorebird migration is at its peak from late August to early September. Check the surrounding open marshy areas that border the walkway, as well as other open areas. Waterfowl arrive in August with the first Blue-winged Teals, and the diving ducks peak in November.

During the month of September passerine migration is in full force, and a large variety of warblers, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows can be viewed throughout the area. Although fall warblers don't appear in such concentrations as in spring, Magee's bird trail is hopping steadily throughout September with many species, and tends to peak around mid-month, as the birds' first landfall after crossing Lake Erie. Consider planning a fall visit to experience the variety of migrants and the beautiful colors of the autumn leaves, asters, and goldenrods. Don't forget to include a picnic lunch along the Lake Erie beach, just adjacent to the boardwalk.

Can't make a fall trip? A sure cure for cabin fever would be a good dose of raptors and waterfowl in March. Search the open waters of

Lake Erie adjacent to the bird trail and along the causeway for gathering flocks of migrant waterfowl. Climb the 40-foot viewing tower and watch for migrating raptors soaring overhead. Venture onto the Magee Marsh bird trail and search the tangled grapevines for napping Northern Saw-whet Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl.



Crowd at the Magee Marsh bird trail on International Migratory Bird Day on May 12, 2007. Photo by Hugh Rose

This wonderful half-mile wheelchair-accessible bird trail traverses swamp forest, bordering marsh habitats, and a sandy beach. Located in the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area adjoining Crane Creek State Park, it is approximately 18 miles east of Toledo and can be accessed from either the east or west ends of the large parking lot. Don't forget to visit the Migratory Bird Center and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory visitor center upon entering the park. Both places offer other interesting trails to explore.

For more information see: [www.dnr.state.oh.us/Parks/parks/cranecrk.htm](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Parks/parks/cranecrk.htm), <http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/Hunting/wildlifereas/northwest/northwa.htm>, and [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org).

–Karen Menard, Toledo

### 4th Ohio Avian Ecology & Conservation Conference

On behalf of the Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we invite you to join us for the **4<sup>th</sup> Ohio Avian Ecology and Conservation Conference**, to be held **August 24, 2007**, at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. We have speakers from around the country to talk about some of the hot topics affecting bird conservation, like energy development, avian influenza and other emerging diseases, and cutting-edge research techniques. There will also be an update about the progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Visit [www.wildohio.com/conferences/avian/default.html](http://www.wildohio.com/conferences/avian/default.html) for more information.

The deadline for early registration is August 1, 2007, and includes a chance to win a framed Cerulean Warbler print by Adam Grimm (#2 of 200 with artist remarque). Your registration includes admission to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium plus free parking; access to the conference program and poster session; and continental breakfast, afternoon snack, and luncheon buffet, as well as evening reception with beverages and snacks. Your registration form and check or money order may be sent to: Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 251, Ashley, OH 43003. We look forward to you joining us in August!

–Nathan Stricker and Dave Scott, Ohio Division of Wildlife

## Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Feeders

Like all things, birds adapt and evolve. An interesting example of this has been the increase of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visiting feeders. We first began to hear regular reports of this phenomenon a decade or so ago, and it seemed the incidence of feeder grosbeaks, usually in the spring, increased with each year.

Feeder-foraging grosbeaks hit a peak this spring. It seemed anyone with a feeder was hosting these magnificent neotropical birds, and wondered why these extraordinary-looking beasts were raiding their feeders.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Photo by Julie Zickefoose

With their enormous bills, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can easily crush seeds. However, springtime dietary staples more typically involve beetles, caterpillars, and other insects (52% of diet); various wild fruits such as elderberries, serviceberries, and blackberries (19% of diet); miscellaneous weed seeds (16%), and other vegetable matter such as emerging tree buds (7%). It is possible this spring's extended cold weather, which killed or greatly reduced sources of wild food, at least locally, forced larger numbers of grosbeaks to feeders.

Whatever the reason, most feeder-watchers are delighted to have Rose-breasted Grosbeaks as guests, and we can probably expect increased numbers as feeder visitors in the future.

—Jim McCormac, Columbus

## OOS Partner—Scioto Valley Bird and Nature Club

The Scioto Valley Bird and Nature Club (SVBNC) draws most of its members from the Chillicothe area, where we meet. We have about 90 members at present, and became an incorporated non-profit organization last year. The name says it all. We began as a loosely-knit group of birders, and have continued to grow with the increasing interest in birds and nature study. Recently one of the founding members, Jean Foor, wrote an essay for our monthly

newsletter describing the club's origins. I've drawn heavily on her work for this article.

The first "official" meeting of the group was at the home of Bill and Donna Bosstic back in December 1990. Some of you will know them as bird banders who have operated a MAPS station at Ross Lake for many years. Eight people were present, and part of the agenda was organizing a Christmas Bird Count in the Beaver Valley area of Pike and Jackson Counties. Tom Bain, our second compiler continues in the same role today. The count, like our club, has grown over the years, and has turned up some pretty good birds. We were called the Scioto Valley Bird Club then.

By March of 1991 the club had outgrown meeting in homes, and began monthly meetings at Ohio University-Chillicothe. At a special gathering in August 1992 the name changed to its present one, reflecting the broader interests of the members. Three goals were adopted: education, conservation, and research.

In 1994 it was decided to have officers, and Bill Bosstic became the first president. And dues were established, \$5 a year. Over the years the membership has continued to grow, with five times the number of 10 years ago. Dues doubled, still a bargain for the excellent monthly programs and substantial newsletter members receive. The meeting location changed as well, moving to the visitors' center at Hopewell Culture National Historic Park ("Mound City") just north of Chillicothe. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, with meetings free and open to the public.

Ross County has a magnificent county nature preserve, Buzzard's Roost (>1200 acres), encompassing the Paint Creek gorge. SVBNC has contributed, financially and through volunteer efforts, substantially to the preserve, and we have a subsidiary group, The Friends of Buzzard's Roost, which conducts programs there and helps manage the area. This is the site where Kelly Williams-Sieg, Bill Bosstic, and I do our Northern Saw-whet Owl banding and migration studies each fall. The club has assisted us financially, and many members have volunteered to help our efforts. We couldn't continue without their generosity. That's just one example of the ways in which the SVBNC continues to fulfill its commitment to education, conservation, and research. We're also glad to have become affiliated with OOS, seeing it as an organization that shares these objectives.

—Bob Scott Placier, Nelsonville

## 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](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org).

**More Photos from the Annual OOS Conference  
at Mohican State Park**



Bill Thompson-led expedition, assisted by Judy Kolo-Rose and Hugh Rose.  
Photo by Hugh Rose



Louis Andres, David Lytle, and John Ritzenthaler  
IBA Dedication at the OOS Annual Conference  
Mohican State Park May 18-20, 2007  
Photo by Hugh Rose



Cheryl Harner, president of Greater Mohican Audubon  
Society, presenting a wonderful program about backyard  
wildscaping. Photo by Hugh Rose

## Fall Warbler Symposium-September 8 & 9

The Ohio Ornithological Society, in partnership with the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and the Toledo Naturalists' Association, has planned a two-day symposium on fall warblers for 8-9 September 2007, with a stellar line-up of speakers and field trip leaders.

Attendees will be privy to the very best information regarding identification and conservation of eastern North American wood warblers, as well field trips to some of the premier birding sites along the Lake Erie coastline.

The dates of the symposium coincide with peak fall warbler migration and will be held at the beautiful, quaint community of Lakeside, Ohio. The line-up of speakers includes Jon Dunn, bird expert and author (including *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*); Bill Evans, founder of "Old Bird," a nonprofit corporation dedicated to facilitating acoustic monitoring of avian night flight calls; Elliot Tramer, biologist and ornithologist with the Toledo Naturalists' Association, and Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Focus Guide Series as well as many books on birds and birding. Our catered dinner with keynote speaker Victor Emanuel at 7:00PM on Saturday evening will enlighten us as we dine alongside the shores of Lake Erie. Victor is the founder of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, and travels the globe leading nature trips. His perspective on warblers should be an interesting and entertaining one.

Field trips on Sunday morning will allow us to utilize our newly acquired warbler identification skills, and we'll visit such migrant hot spots as East Harbor State Park, the Magee Marsh Bird Trail, Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge.

Details and a registration form are in this issue and can also be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org>. Mark your calendars today for this spectacular symposium on September 8 & 9, 2007!

## OOS/TNC Bird Conservation Symposium

Put down December 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. That's the date of a collaborative symposium about bird conservation in Ohio, and beyond. The OOS joins forces with the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to put this event on. We are very pleased to work with TNC, the largest and most successful conservation organization in the world.

Birders are a tremendous potential force for positive conservation success stories, and we are becoming more active all the time. There is much more we can do, though, with no higher mission than protection of bird habitats. We are excited to have some very active and knowledgeable speakers in the conservation and research arenas participating in this event.

Ohio State University professor Amanda Rodewald will speak on her research involving Cerulean Warblers, both on their wintering grounds in Venezuela and nesting sites in southern Ohio. Dave Ewert, an expert on migratory birds and Great Lakes bird habitats, will speak on the importance of Lake Erie-area migratory bird stopover sites, and what needs to be done. Paul Baicich, famed birder and tour leader, conservationist, writer, and past editor for

the American Birding Association, will speak on the importance of wildlife refuges and the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("Duck Stamp"). Finally, the day will conclude with Chris Bedel of the Cincinnati Museum Center delivering a program about the 14,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve in Adams County, a wealth of biodiversity and the focus of fundraising by the OOS for bird habitat acquisition.

We are thrilled to present our keynote speaker, Scott Weidensaul. Few naturalists share his gift of communication, or his depth of understanding of our natural ecosystems and what should be done to protect them. Scott is well known for his writings: his books include *The Ghost with Trembling Wings*, *Living on the Wind*, and most recently *Return to Wild America*. For more on Scott, visit his website at: <http://www.scottweidensaul.com/>. Be sure and bring your books for Scott to sign!

Watch for details and registration information on the OOS website at: <http://www.ohiobirds.org/>.

## Costa Rican Adventures

The Ohio Ornithological Society is offering special birding trips to 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, many areas 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 was trained at Hocking Technical College right here in Ohio, which makes for yet another Ohio connection. Noel knows all the birds well, and is particularly good with vocalizations - essential to locating many species in dense forests. Not only are his birding and general natural history skills superb, Noel is pleasant and unflappable, and a joy to be around.

We welcome your attendance on these trips. Please direct inquiries to Jen Sauter, OOS Executive Secretary, at: [yb-chat@insight.rr.com](mailto:yb-chat@insight.rr.com) or 614-901-4134.

# Fall Warbler Symposium

Lakeside, Marblehead, Ohio

September 8 & 9, 2007

## Symposium Schedule of Events

- 07:00 AM Saturday Morning Guided Bird Walks  
A. East Harbor State Park C. Quarry View  
B. Marblehead (Lighthouse Woods) D. Lakeside
- 09:00 AM Registration at Danbury High School
- 10:15 AM  **Speaker:**  
Dr. Elliot Tramer, biologist & ornithologist with TNA presenting - Warblers on their winter grounds: Going 'home' to the tropics
- 11:15 AM  **Speaker:**  
Bill Evans, founder of "Old Bird", dedicated to acoustic monitoring of avian night flight calls presenting - Nocturnal Flight Calls of Migratory Songbirds
- 12:15 AM Lunch: Salad, Soup & Potato Bar
- 01:30 PM  **Speaker:**  
Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Field Guide Series, plus numerous books and articles presenting - Basics of Fall Warbler Identification
- 02:30 PM  **Keynote Speaker:**  
Jon Dunn, renowned WINGS trip leader, birder and author will join us for his insights on those confusing fall warblers.
- 03:30 PM Free Time
- 06:00 PM Dinner Banquet, Wesley Lodge, Lakeside
-  **Keynote Speaker:**  
Victor Emanuel, founder of world-renowned Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) and Saturday evening's keynote speaker. Victor travels the globe leading birding and nature expeditions. His worldwide perspective on warblers promises to be very enlightening.
- 08:00 AM to Noon Sunday Morning Guided Bird Walks to your choice from:  
A. Ottawa NWR, B. Sheldon Marsh, C. East Harbor State Park, D. Metzger Marsh, E. Magee Marsh Boardwalk, F. Navarre Marsh Banding Station, and G. Cedar Point NWR.



# FALL WARBLERS SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

September 8 & 9, 2007  
Lakeside/Marblehead, Ohio



**\*\*Please complete one registration form per attendee\*\***

**Mail to:** Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) 13551 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Email address: (Will be used to send confirmation)			
Attending Symposium with: (to be grouped on field trips)			
<b>Sessions:</b>		<b>SESSION REGISTRATION</b>	
<b>Saturday</b> 7:00 AM Early Birding		<b>Select One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A. East Harbor State Park <input type="checkbox"/> C. Quarry View <input type="checkbox"/> B. Marblehead (Light House Woods) <input type="checkbox"/> D. Lakeside	
9:00 AM Registration Danbury High School (9451 East Harbor Rd)		<b>Elliot Tramer, Bill Evans, LUNCH, Kenn Kaufman, DAY-KEYNOTE: Jon Dunn</b> 10:15 AM                      11:15 AM                      1:30 PM                      2:30 PM	
6:00 PM Wesley Lodge, Lake- side 5th and Central Ave.		<b>Evening Banquet:</b> Baked Salmon and Herb Roasted Chicken, side dishes, salad, & dessert <b>Keynote Speaker: Victor Emanuel:</b> legendary birder, conservationist, and founder of <b>Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)</b>	
<b>Sunday</b> Birding 8:00- 12:00 AM No meals included		<b>Indicate 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> choices for the trip:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> D. Metzger Marsh <input type="checkbox"/> A. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge <input type="checkbox"/> E. Magee Marsh Boardwalk <input type="checkbox"/> B. Sheldon Marsh <input type="checkbox"/> F. Navarre Marsh Banding Station <input type="checkbox"/> C. East Harbor State Park <input type="checkbox"/> G. Cedar Point NWR	
Pricing Options:		~ Discount Price for <b>BSBO, TNA &amp; OOS</b> Members ~	
		Member	Non-member
A) <b>All Inclusive Package:</b> Sat. & Sun. 2 field trips, 3 meals, 5 speakers		<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
B) <b>Saturday Symposium Only:</b> 1 field trip, 2 meals, 4 speakers		\$50.00	\$55.00
C) <b>Saturday Evening Banquet and Keynote Speaker Only:</b> 1 meal, 1 speaker		\$40.00	\$45.00
D) <b>Sunday Birding:</b> Choose your location <b>All proceeds go to Young Birders</b>		\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Pricing Options:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> Member (BSBO, TNA or OOS) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member		<b>Total Enclosed</b>	
LIMITED AVAILABILITY! REGISTER TODAY: DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION SEPT 1st*		\$	
<b>These prices do <u>NOT</u> include lodging.</b> Please contact 1-866-9LAKESIDE for available lodging; be certain to mention <b>Fall Warbler Symposium.</b> For more information visit <a href="http://www.lakesideohio.com">www.lakesideohio.com</a>		<b>Checks payable to:</b> BSBO Black Swamp Bird Observatory 13551 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449 (419) 898-4070 <a href="http://www.bsbobird.org">www.bsbobird.org</a>	

## Spring 2007 Rarities

Few things get birders as excited as rare birds. In fact, a great rarity can stimulate cases of “rare bird fever”. Even those of us who didn’t make such finds, or even see the birds, enjoy reading about them.

While some may dismiss records of rarities as unimportant anomalies – lost or “brain-damaged” individuals, I’d disagree. In many cases, extralimital records prove to be vanguards of what later become regular patterns. The first Ohio Ross’s Goose, way back in 1982, might have been shunted off as a one-time wonder then. Look how many we get now – multiple records annually. That little goose’s population has expanded tremendously, and we see the effects here in Ohio.

An even more interesting example is the western hummingbirds, especially the Rufous Hummingbird. When that first Rufous appeared at a feeder in Columbus in 1985, I don’t think anyone would have predicted the upswing in vagrant hummer records that gradually took place. Rufous Hummingbird is now annual here – usually with multiple records each year – and we’ve also had records of Anna’s Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, and Green Violet-ear. Birds are barometers of environmental change, and the increase in hummer records probably reflects wholesale changes in habitat conditions, the huge increase in nectar-providing ornamental plants that bloom late into fall, and possibly a warming climate.

So, documenting those rarities is important, just as finding them is one of the highlights of birding. The Ohio Bird Records Committee list of review species, plus information on how to document rarities, can be found at the OOS website [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org) under the Records Committee’s pages. And please, if you find a species on that list, document it!

### Below are rarities I compiled from Spring 2007.

**Ross’s Goose:** Larry Gara and Rick Asamoto found one at Cowan Lake in Clinton County on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; it stayed until at least March 8<sup>th</sup>. Some thought this bird might be a hybrid. Ross’s do interbreed with Snow Geese and hybrids should be watched for. One was present in Holmes County from early April until at least April 20<sup>th</sup>. There are now multiple reports annually of this small goose in Ohio, mostly in early spring.

**Tricolored Heron:** While seeking the Black-necked Stilt at Acton Lake in Preble County, Frank Frick and Andy Bess stumbled into this southern heron. First report of the year of a species that now generally appears multiple times annually. Another was reported at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area in Erie County on May 24<sup>th</sup> by Gabe Leidy.

**Glossy Ibis:** This is the expected *Plegadis* ibis, and records are increasing each year, seemingly correlating with an overall population expansion. As many as ten ibis were reported simultaneously from Metzger Marsh in Lucas County from late April throughout May. Brian Zwiebel saw and photographed a flock of nine in nearby Mallard Club Wildlife Area on May 25<sup>th</sup>, perhaps the same roving flock. Two were also reported at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Frank Frick and Larry Gara had one at

Spring Valley Wildlife Area, Warren County, May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Yet another was found at Lorain County’s Sandy Ridge Reservation on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and one was at Prairie Oaks Metropark in Madison County on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Three were seen at Killbuck Wildlife Area in Wayne County on May 11<sup>th</sup> by Dennis Kline and sons while they were doing a big day on bicycles. Separating this species from White-faced Ibis requires good looks and close study, and flocks should always be examined carefully as the two often fraternize. Glossy Ibis are becoming regular enough to be removed from the review species list of rarities, but should still be documented because of possible confusion with the scarcer White-faced Ibis.



Glossy and White-faced Ibis  
Photo by Brian Zwiebel

**White-faced Ibis:** Greg Links had one in with the Metzger Marsh Glossy Ibis flock on April 26<sup>th</sup>, and Kenn Kaufman had one there on May 29<sup>th</sup>. There were a few other reports from this area, possibly of the same individual(s), during May. Brian Zwiebel photographed two birds in a flock of nine Glossy Ibis at Mallard Club Wildlife Area in Lucas County on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Like Glossy Ibis, this species is becoming more frequent, but is still far rarer in Ohio.

**Swainson’s Hawk:** A group of Amish birders, including Ed Schla-bach and Levi Hochstetler, watched two individuals soar by their hawk watch at Conneaut in Ashtabula County on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Amazingly, one of the birds took a brief hiatus by landing on the mudflats. There have been only a handful of documented sightings in Ohio of this highly migratory western raptor, but they are no doubt overlooked to some degree. This record is at least the fourth documented report.

**Piping Plover:** We get perhaps two reports a year, on average, of this very rare little plover for which the Great Lakes population is listed as federally endangered. They once bred in Lake Erie beaches in Ohio, but disappeared as breeders by 1942. There are three distinct breeding populations: Great Plains, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Coast. The overall population estimate is 6,410 individuals, but the Great Lakes population only numbers around 110 birds. Sherrie Duris found and photographed one at Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area on April 28<sup>th</sup>. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, veteran birders Ray Hannikman, Jerry Talkington, and Jim McConnor found two Piping Plovers at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, and one of the birds was still there the following day. Talkington got good photos of one bird, and researchers report that it was banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 2005 or 2006.



Piping Plover at Metzger Marsh on April 28, 2007  
Photo by Sherrie Duris

**Black-necked Stilt:** Always an exciting find, this spectacular shore-bird was found at Acton Lake in Preble County by Dr. David Russell of Miami University and his students. First discovered on April 18<sup>th</sup>, it lingered until April 21<sup>st</sup>. Frank Frick also found two individuals at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in Hamilton County, on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Another species on the upswing, with multiple records and one nesting attempt in recent years.



Black-necked Stilt  
Photo by Jim Chagares

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** One was observed, albeit briefly, in a Clinton County backyard by veteran birder Larry Gara's wife Lenna Mae. Invasions of this exotic species into Ohio have been predicted for some time, but have yet to materialize. There are only a few documented sightings, but a number of other reports that were no doubt correct. This is one to watch for, particularly in urban and suburban areas. In locales not that far from Ohio, such as Nashville, Tennessee, Eurasian Collared-Dove occurs by the thousands.

**White-winged Dove:** Ohio's third documented record of this dove from the southwestern U.S. and points south came this spring, when John Habig, Troy Shively, and Dave Collopy found one in Delaware County on April 28th. They were able to obtain good photos. Despite a number of searchers, the bird could not be relocated.



White-winged Dove in Delaware County  
Photo by Troy Shively

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Larry Richardson saw one briefly, but very well at close range, as it flew westward along the shore of Lake Erie in Cuyahoga County. These long-tailed western flycatchers have appeared in Ohio at least five times since 1980.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Pete Whan found one in what seems to be the species' last breeding locale in Ohio, Adams County, on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The bird was banded, and proved to be from Canada, where a program has been established to try and bolster populations. This shrike was last detected on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and it would be interesting to know if it successfully returned to Canada. Once known as the Migratory Shrike, one lived up to that name when it was caught in nets at Black Swamp Bird Observatory's banding station in Ottawa County on May 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the first Loggerhead Shrike they have ever captured in fifteen years of banding, and many thousands of birds banded.

**Spotted Towhee:** A major find, Ohio's 5<sup>th</sup> documented record of this western species appeared at the home of Jan Dixon in Toledo on February 28<sup>th</sup>. A cooperative bird, it remained at Jan's feeders until at least April 11<sup>th</sup>. The towhee was seen by many people, and well photographed, leaving no questions as to its identity. Jan Dixon deserves kudos for so graciously hosting the myriad birders who came to see it. Spotted Towhee was split from the former Rufous-sided Towhee (eastern birds became Eastern Towhee) in 1995.

**Harris's Sparrow:** A regular but rare Ohio visitor, with one or two reports a year. One turned up at the feeders of Eli Miller in Holmes County last January, and remained through at least mid-April. The Millers were incredibly supportive of birders that wished to see the bird, and some 450 visitors signed their guest log. Another Harris's Sparrow appeared at the Hamilton County home of Paul Wharton, and was there on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

-Jim McCormac, Columbus



## 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!

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### Welcome New Members!

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

Marilyn Arn  
Jill Bowers  
Glen Crippen  
Robert L. Curtis  
Rick Erickson  
Jerry Alan Goodman  
Debra B. Hausrath  
Janet M. Heintz  
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Yikitaka Shizukuda  
Michael Spicer  
Jeri Stitt  
Don Sutherland  
Toledo Naturalists' Association  
Douglas William Vogus  
Mark Vornheder  
Gary & Lynn Wearsch  
Diane Winslow  
Alan & Connie Wolfson

### 2007 Calendar of Events

**Warbler Symposium:** September 8 & 9, 2007 - Lakeside, Marblehead, Ohio

Speakers include: Dr. Elliot Tramer, Bill Evans, Kenn Kaufman, Jon Dunn, and Victor Emanuel

**Ohio Bird Conservation Conference:** December 1, 2007 - Deer Creek Resort & Conference Center

Speakers include: Amanda Rodewald, Dave Ewert, Paul Baicich, Chris Bedel and Scott Weidensaul

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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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