



# THE CERULEAN

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[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*

## MESSAGE FROM JEN SAUTER TO ALL OOS MEMBERS

As I look back over the years that I have been involved with the Ohio Ornithological Society, I am reminded of many happy memories: from our first conference at Shawnee State Park in 2005, to our 2007 Owl Symposium at Houston Woods SP and Conservation Symposium at Deer Creek SP, to the 2009 Midwest Birding Symposium, and our Sixth Annual Conference held in Eastlake this year. There have been many others, too many for me to list. Many of you have shared these memories with me – some have shared *all* of them with me! We are truly a society: a large, active social grouping sharing the same geographical territory, the common love and admiration of birds, their habitats, and all things that evolve in nature.

Now, as I sit watching the snowfall while siskins, nut-hatches, titmice, and chickadees devour seed from my feeders, I become even more excited about being the new President of the Ohio Ornithological Society. Birds have brought me great joy over the years, and I look forward to leading this incredible organization. **I have a personal vision for OOS:** *to unite the birding community in and around Ohio to speak with one voice and to share the enjoyment, study and protection of Ohio's birds and habitat with all who have the same love and passion for them as I do.*



Jen Sauter, new OOS President.  
Photo courtesy Julie Davis.

Additionally, I have several **goals we can work toward together as an organization.** With your help, the efforts of the OOS Board of Directors and many volunteers, we can make these happen.

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## from the EDITOR

**Deck your birdfeeders with suet and holly:  
Tis a Wilds Winter Raptor Extravaganza  
(page 8), be jolly!**

**See Jen's OOS vision before us (page 1): Help  
OBBA II, please join the chorus (page 9)!**

**Follow migration in merry measure: ABA  
tells of Ohio's birding treasure (page 6)!**

**Fast away the old year passes: Blitz for Rusty  
Blackbirds (page 8), ye lads and lasses!**

**Please sign the BSBO petition, all together:  
protect migratory birds from wind turbines  
and weather (page 7) !**

**Ann Oliver, OOS Executive Secretary  
– Cincinnati**



**OOS/OBBA II  
MEGA ATLASING EVENT  
JUNE 3-5, 2011  
SHAWNEE STATE PARK**

The upcoming 2011 breeding season is the *final year* for Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II! OOS and OBBA II are planning a mega blockbusting weekend at Shawnee State Park and surrounding areas of southwest Ohio the weekend of June 3-5. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: ALL BIRDERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP! Additional atlas-ing events are in the works for other sites around the state next summer: full details TBA in the winter newsletter. See page 9 for more information on how **you** can help OBBA II finish this important project documenting the breeding status and distribution of Ohio's birds.

1.) **Maintain and publish historical records.** *The Ohio Cardinal* is well on its way back to recovery. Our team of volunteer editors, writers and photographers is working overtime to catch up with the backlog of issues. We would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding, and would like to stress how important this publication is to all of the members of the Board.

2.) **Unite Ohio's birding community.** I believe it is significant to build alliances and establish partnerships with all of Ohio's birding clubs, societies, and groups. We share the love of birds and we are all working towards common goals to encourage appreciation and protection of birds for future generations.

3.) **Establish an annual Calendar of Events.** 2011 is the final year of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. OOS has dedicated our efforts through the end of the 2011 breeding season to support and assist in collecting this important data for Ohio's historical records. We are happy to announce our Seventh Annual Conference will be held at Shawnee State Forest the first weekend in June. Please make your plans to join us! Become a citizen scientist for the OBBA II! OOS and OBBA II will also partner for other atlasing events around the state: details TBA

4.) **Technology.** We will be working toward re-vamping our website in the first quarter of 2011 to make the site more interactive for our members! We hope we will soon be able to process memberships, renewals and conference registrations directly on-line. Stay tuned for more details!

5.) **Midwest Birding Symposium.** The OOS is again co-hosting the Midwest Birding Symposium along side *Bird Watcher's Digest* and Lakeside Association! Be sure to mark your calendars for September 15 – 18, 2011. Registration will begin in February 1, 2011 at [www.midwestbirding.org](http://www.midwestbirding.org)

*I hope to meet each one of you in person while birding or at one of the many birding events across Ohio. I hope to bring a sense of enthusiasm and excitement to the organization in the years ahead. I would love for all members, new and old, to come together in unison to work toward common goals.*

Jen Sauter, OOS President  
- Rockbridge



## OOS OCTOBER 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT EASTLAKE, OHIO

More than 115 birders from across the state converged on Eastlake, Ohio for the Ohio Ornithological Society's Sixth Annual Conference the weekend of October 8-10. Excellent weather and fantastic birds combined for a memorable weekend. Many attendees added "life-birds" or "state-birds" to their lists including coveted Le Conte's and Nelson's Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warbler, Little Gull, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Funds were raised for two causes: one local and one national. The local recipient was the *Smart Light—Safe Flight* initiative from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History which promotes reduction of dangerous nighttime illumination of tall buildings during peak migratory times. The national cause was the American Birding Association's Gulf Coast Relief Fund to further long-term field studies on the impact of the oil gusher. Charitable funds were raised by a bird conservation board and by a raffle of donated items.

More than 115 species of birds were observed during weekend conference birding excursions. Weekend field trip sites included Conneaut Harbor, Dike 14, Headlands Beach State Park, Wake Robin Trail, and a Lake Erie Pelagic Tour. A Little Gull was briefly seen on the Saturday pelagic on Lake Erie, and attendees glassed a lot of Bonaparte's Gulls. On Sunday, a Little Gull was also observed at Conneaut. Additionally, a Sunday-only trip to Wildwood/Villa Angela was hosted by the good folks from Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.



Little Gull, first winter, on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at Conneaut, Ohio. Surrounded by Bonaparte's Gulls. Digiscope: Swarovski 80HD, Pana.LX3, Leica DA4 adapter, cable release. Revealing a bit of upperwing covert "M" pattern and white trailing edge to flight feathers; also short tail, shorter bill, noticeably smaller size and duskier cap than Bonaparte's. Photo courtesy Ben Warner.





Le Conte's Sparrow at Headlands Beach State Park. Photo courtesy Judy Semroc.

On Saturday, long satisfying looks at an openly perched Le Conte's Sparrow at Headlands Beach State Park allowed field trip participants to study the Le Conte's subtle beauty on a field trip co-led by Larry Rosche, Jen Brumfield, Drs. Dave and Jill Russell, and Judy Semroc. A Nelson's Sparrow taunted at Wake Robin but rewarded patient observers. Conneaut Harbor yielded American Golden Plovers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and more. On Sunday, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was found by a local birder at Headlands SP who shared the find with conference attendees. On land, Yellow-rumped Warblers, as well as Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets adorned nearly every branch. On the water, abundant gulls of predictable species were found. Overhead in the darkness before sunrise, night migratory flight calls filled the air.



Northern Saw-whet Owl at Headlands Beach State Park. Photo courtesy Judy Semroc.

But even if the birds and weather had not cooperated, the speakers at the conference could have entirely carried the weekend! Friday evening, the "dean" of Cleveland birding, Larry Rosche, entertained and educated with an overview of rare birds

that have passed through the Cleveland area: 373 species are on record with an average of 280 species recorded per year. Rosche regaled with tales of what started out as an ordinary day of birding but finished with being at the wrong end of a law enforcement gun. He shared the tale of a 1993 out-of-range Thanksgiving Smooth-billed Ani (nicknamed "Little Orphan Ani") courtesy of a cat-kill, the Boreal Owl found roosting on an area porch in the spring of 1997, and the first documentation of Sabine's Gull molt courtesy of a much-studied over-



Larry Rosche and Burt Szabo. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

wintering bird. Also on Friday evening, Bert Szabo, age 89 (but age 90 as of December!), was honored for his 85 years of birding. Szabo, retired chief naturalist at the Summit County Metro Parks, can still recall his first bird (a wren) at age four!

Saturday afternoon, three speakers graced the podium. Harvey Webster, the Director of Wildlife Services at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, spoke on the *Smart Light-Safe Flight* initiative: special thanks to Harvey for delaying his vacation to speak to our group! John Pogacnik, Lake County Metroparks Natural Areas Specialist, presented a talk on sparrow identification. Dr. Andy Jones, of CMNH, shared the mysteries of migration with an overview of the annual journey that five billion songbirds undertake between North and Central/South America.



Dr. Andy Jones, left, shops the BSB0 booth between the Saturday afternoon lecture sessions. Also in the photo: Larry Richardson, Judy Kolo-Rose, and Dr. Dave Russell. Photo courtesy Hugh Rose.

Saturday evening, ABA Gulf Coast Coordinator Drew Wheelan shared a heavy-hearted presentation of life in the aftermath of the oil spill. He shared disturbing images of once-pristine but never-cleaned, and never-barricaded, habitats drenched in oil. OOS, as well as



Massive fish kill in Grand Isle, Louisiana, in August. Follow Drew on his blog: <http://drewtubedotnet.blogspot.com> Photo courtesy Drew Wheelan.

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birders and conservationists across the US, wish Drew success with his ongoing dedication to speaking out on behalf of the impacted areas of the Gulf. Don't forget that 95% of ABA funds raised through their Gulf Coast Relief Fund go directly to the gulf.

Board elections also took place Saturday evening at the annual conference. Jim McCormac stepped down as OOS President a year before the end of his term related to escalating professional and personal obligations promoting birding and Ohio's biodiversity. The organization thanked Jim for his years of service to OOS with a lovely, hand-carved Black Scoter, created by the talents of Tim and Laura Dornan.



Tim and Laura Dornan created this exquisite carved Black Scoter to honor retiring OOS President Jim McCormac. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.

Filling out the remainder of Jim McCormac's term is new OOS President Jen Sauter, who previously served as Executive Secretary. Much of the behind-the-scenes growth and success of OOS can be credited to Jen: she served as past conference/symposium coordinator as well as expedition coordinator for trips to Costa Rica and Guatemala. Editor of *The Cerulean Newsletter*, Ann Oliver, was elected to the position of Executive Secretary. Dr. Jill Russell, from the College of Mount St. Joseph and Miami University, and founder of the Queen City Birding Festival, is the new Southwest Regional Director. Columbus Audubon President, Julie Davis, joins the board as Director-at-Large and Event Coordinator.



Left to right: new OOS President Jen Sauter, Drew Wheelan, and Ann Oliver, editor of *The Cerulean Newsletter*, in front of the OOS bird conservation donation board. Photo courtesy Lester Payton.



Dr. Jill Russell in front of a display board detailing the Queen City Bird Festival in southwest Ohio. Photo courtesy Dr. Dave Russell.

Ann Oliver  
OOS Executive Secretary  
-Cincinnati

## THANKS TO OOS CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP LEADERS, SPEAKERS, VENDORS, AND ATTENDEES



John Pogacnik wearing the new OOS teeshirt given to speakers and field trip leaders. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.

A word of appreciation to all speakers who graciously appeared at our annual conference at Eastlake in October: Larry Rosche, Harvey Webster, John Pogacnik, Dr. Andy Jones, and Drew Wheelan.

Below: Larry Rosche and Judy Semroc at Headlands Beach State Park. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.

Additional thanks to all volunteer field trip leaders: Tom Bain, Dana Bollin, Jen Brumfield, Craig Caldwell, Craig Holt, Andy Jones, Gabe Leidy, Jim McCormac, John Pogacnik, Mary Anne Romito, Larry Rosche, Drs. Jill and Dave Russell, Judy Semroc, Jerry Talkington, and Ben Warner.



Talented birder-artist-naturalist Jen Brumfield sold some of her lovely artwork to Dawn Zickefoose including her original ABA magazine cover from the January 2010 issue of *Birding*. Photo courtesy Judy Kolo-Rose.

We had wonderful vendors join us: BSBO, Black Swamp Birding Tours (Dana Bollin), Blackbrook and Canton Audubon Societies, Terry Gorges Scroll Saw Art, Dave Lewis Photography, and Local Patch Birding (Jen Brumfield and Gabe Leidy).



Above: Gabe Leidy scans for gulls during the Lake Erie Pelagic Tour. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

Thanks also to conference coordinators Dana Bollin, Gabe Leidy, Jen Sauter, and members of the OOS Board.

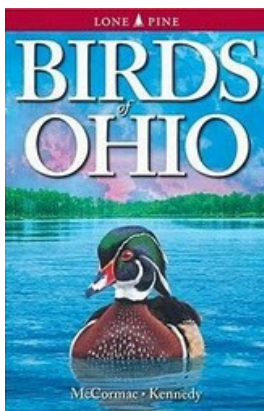
Right: special guests Burt Szabo and Kelley Spicer at the OOS conference. Please note the Charley Harper tee-shirt! Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



## McCORMAC HONORED AS INAGURAL PRESIDENT WITH CARVED BLACK SCOTER DECOY

Barely six years old, the Ohio Ornithological Society is one of Ohio's largest and most active birding organizations. Each year, we gather to hold an annual meeting and conference. This year we rocked Cleveland, at the beautiful Radisson in Eastlake.

It was an appropriate time to thank our Inaugural President, Jim McCormac, for his dedication to OOS. From humble beginnings - a letter of interest from Ed Pierce which started a series of small group meetings in Wooster, Ohio- the OOS was "fledged" in 2004. Combined with Jim's first book release, *Birds of Ohio*, it was a perfect storm.



OOS Board Member Cheryl Harner presented Jim McCormac a Black Scoter on behalf of OOS and Ohio's Birders. Photo courtesy Dr. Jill Russell.

OOS has given a number of awards in the past, lovely duck decoys created by Tim and Laura Dornan. Usually we give a Wood Duck, but we knew Jim's heart has been set on adding a Black Scoter to his personal collection of

"Dornan Decoys." Special thanks to Tim and Laura for helping us pull this off!

Over the past six years, Jim toured the state giving programs and book signings, all the while promoting OOS. His enthusiasm for birding and conservation was the eye of the OOS hurricane, and in a few short years membership sky-rocketed to nearly 800.

Virtually anyone who has birded in Ohio has been in the field with Jim at one time or another. His powers of observation and super-sonic hearing abilities are legend. His enthusiasm and broad span of knowledge of the life history of birds, call notes and chips, and general birding trivia make him one of Ohio's most popular field guides. He has also

dedicated many hours of his talents for the good of Christmas Bird Counts, and Breeding Bird Atlasing. Well versed in botany, butterflies and dragonflies, there is never a dull moment in the field with Jim. Every trip is an educational smorgasbord of natural history.

In his role as an in-demand speaker, Jim has promoted conservation and appreciation of Ohio's natural resources. He has hoppedscotched across Ohio and beyond, tirelessly educating and promoting the love of nature.

OOS wishes him the best as he pursues his writing career. As a popular columnist for the Columbus Dispatch and author of several noted books, Jim's time and abilities are much in demand. His remaining presidency will be filled by Jennifer Sauter, past Executive Secretary and Conference Coordinator. Thanks for the great start up, Jim!

Cheryl Harner  
OOS East-Central Regional Director  
- *Crestline*



## HARNER RECIPIENT OF SOIL AND CONSERVATION AWARD

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District named OOS board member Cheryl Harner their "2010 Conservationist of the Year" in October.

Through Harner's educational efforts with Richland County Master Gardeners and in her role as President of Greater Mohican Audubon Society, several watershed related seminars were offered to the public, assisting in soil and water conservation across Richland and Ashland Counties. "*Managing Wetlands for Biodiversity*" and "*Rain Gardens: Where does your Rain Drain?*" were coordinated with Ashland Park District, Friends of Wetlands, GMAS, Richland County Master Gardeners and Kingwood Center. Over 150 wetland enthusiasts from across Ohio, professional and amateurs alike, learned more about watersheds and the beauty and facility of healthy wetlands.

Follow her blog "Weedpicker's Journal": <http://www.floraquest.com/blogpage.html>







## LAKE ERIE SHORES (OHIO'S MAGEE MARSH) INCLUDED IN ABA'S "TEN PLACES TO BIRD BEFORE YOU..."



Keith Barnes, far right, leading a field trip during "The Biggest Week in American Birding". Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

Ever wondered how Ohio's Magee Marsh compares to other birding hotspots around the globe? The answer can be found in the October 2010 issue of *Winging It*, newsletter of the American Birding Association, in an article entitled "Ten Places to Bird Before You..." Keith Barnes, Tropical Birding tour leader and co-owner, ranked his

ten favorite places to go birding around the globe in the piece. The ten destinations are not ranked "in order" but are listed below as they appear in the ABA publication.

1. Tari Valley, Papua New Guinea
2. Wolong Reserve, Sichuan, China
3. Tandayapa Valley, Ecuador
4. Spiny Desert, Madagascar
5. **Lake Erie Shores, Ohio, USA**
6. Pantanal, Brazil
7. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
8. Lamington National Park, Australia
9. Danum Valley, Malaysian Borneo
10. Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia

ABA members can read the article online: if you are not already an ABA supporter, it's never too late to join (<https://www.aba.org/join/>)! Print a copy of the article to share with your non-birding friends, family, and co-workers. The "Ten Places" list is a great way to illustrate the magnitude, magic, and merit of Magee Marsh as a migratory stopover.



So, when May 5-15, 2011 rolls around, and "The Biggest Week in American Birding" returns to the Lake Erie Shores courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, why not invite

your non-birding companions to experience the spectacle of the American Serengeti of Birding?



## BSBO SPEAKS OUT ABOUT WIND TURBINES IN MIGRATORY BIRD STOPOVER HABITAT



Even if you've been following the responsible wind energy debate regarding future wind turbine placement along the shore of Lake Erie, please read the passage below which is printed with permission of Black Swamp Bird Observatory ([http://www.bsbobird.org/wind\\_energy.htm](http://www.bsbobird.org/wind_energy.htm)).



**The issue:** wind turbines are creeping their way into the Lake Erie Marsh Region from the east and west. They are being proposed for schools, small businesses, and private residences. These are not the massive, commercial turbines, but "smaller" units, seemingly innocuous by comparison. But there are some facts that everyone should know. These so called "mid-sized" turbines can exceed 300 feet and there are currently no regulations whatsoever to control where they are installed in relation to bird and wildlife sensitive areas.



**Why is this a problem?** The Lake Erie Marsh Region is recognized as globally important for migratory birds and is home to a large number of breeding Bald Eagles. Huge numbers of migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl stop here to feed and rest every spring and fall during their long-distance migrations. Visiting birders travel to this region of northwest Ohio to observe and enjoy this spectacle, bringing millions of dollars to these Lakeshore communities.



**Why would anyone put wind turbines in these areas?** There are currently NO regulations regarding proper siting of noncommercial wind turbines. Only local level zoning can dictate policy and many local officials are completely unaware of the massive bird migration that takes place in north-



west Ohio, the globally important stopover habitat that is essential to the survival of migratory birds, or the significant economic impact generated by tens of thousands of visiting bird watchers each year. BSBO is working to change that!

Tropical Birding's Iain Campbell, center, surveys birds and birders on Magee Marsh Wildlife Area boardwalk, May 2010. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



**Has any research been done on the effects of wind turbines on migratory birds?** Yes. However, most of these studies have been conducted in areas where birds are in active migration, flying at heights above the reach of the turbines. Stopover habitat changes the entire equation because birds are dropping in and taking off in these areas. In other words, if a commercial jetliner's cruising altitude is 30,000 feet, you still wouldn't put wind turbines at the end of the runway. Moreover, the birds are generally arriving and departing during predawn or dusk, when visibility is poor and obstacles present the greatest threat.



Magee Marsh: view from the tower. May 2010. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



**BSBO supports responsible, renewable energy:** *We want to make it clear that BSBO is **not***



Ottawa NWR shorebird fieldtrip, May 2010. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

*opposed to wind energy when the turbines are sited responsibly.* We understand the dire need for renewable energy resources to help reduce our dependency on the fossil fuels that have pushed our planet to the brink.



**What is BSBO doing to outreach and educate?** Members of the BSBO staff have been

speaking out about this issue to anyone who will listen. We have given presentations for city council members, zoning boards, chambers of commerce, school boards, county commissioners, mayors, private citizens, and the press. We are hosting meetings and reaching out to representatives from organizations and agencies such as: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Ohio Department of Natural sources: Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ohio State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Black Swamp Conservancy, and Ohio Ornithological Society. And, in an effort to provide perspectives from both sides of the issue, we have also encouraged representatives from several wind energy companies to attend. In addition to presentations and meetings, we are writing, calling, emailing,

Facebooking, Twittering, and blogging about the issue in an all-out effort to reach as many people as we can, before it's too late.



**BSBO is seeking a moratorium.** With full support of the BSBO Board of Directors and the

support of many other organizations, agencies, and private citizens, BSBO is seeking to introduce a three-year moratorium on any additional wind turbines along the Lake Erie Coast in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie Counties until further research can be conducted on the potential impacts on birds and bats.



Edge of the parking lot at Magee Marsh. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



**What can you do?** *Write a letter of support! Please see the BSBO website for names of elected officials representing the region. Also, please sign the BSBO online petition, co-sponsored by OOS and Greater Mohican Audubon Society:*  
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/924/482/794/>

## MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM: RETURNS TO LAKESIDE, OHIO SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2011



Pre-registration for the Midwest Birding Symposium is now underway: go to <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/preregister.php>

Speakers include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Mark Garland, Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Jim McCormac, Greg Miller, Louise Zemaitis, Julie Zickefoose, and Bill Thompson III. Sponsored by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Lakeside Association, and OOS.



An East Harbor SP Kirtland's Warbler caused a sensation in 2009 during MBS. Is it possible another Kirtland's Warbler could be found in 2011 during MBS? This one, a fall immature female-type, was observed September 19th, 2010 near Toledo. ID details and discussion: [http://www.rarebird.org/forum/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=5092&title=kirtlands-warbler-along-eber-rd](http://www.rarebird.org/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=5092&title=kirtlands-warbler-along-eber-rd) Photo courtesy Rick Nirschl.



**THE WILDS WINTER  
RAPTOR EXTRAVAGANZA RETURNS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**



Mark your calendars with an icicle and pull out your coziest fleece! The OOS and the *Wilds* again are hosting our sixth annual mid-winter venture, the Winter Raptor Extravaganza, to this fabulous birding mecca in southeast Ohio's Muskingum County. Arctic-like temperatures and steely blasts of frigid air don't deter birds or birders: this winter gathering is a time-honored event for Ohio's hearty birders!

Raptors converge at the *Wilds* during winter to soar over 10,000 hilly acres of reclaimed grassland. Northern Harriers, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Short-eared Owls are regular sights. Golden Eagles have over-wintered, a Prairie Falcon spent two winters, and a Northern Shrike is usually found. Plentiful waterfowl, woodpeckers, and sparrows also contribute to the daily tally.

The OOS extends an invitation to *all* of Ohio's birding community, but we need to know how many mugs of hot cocoa to brew. Please send your RSVP to [wilds@ohiobirds.org](mailto:wilds@ohiobirds.org) to reserve your space for the 2011 Winter Raptor Extravaganza. We limit out for this FREE event: first to email us will be the first on the list.

Full details including meeting time, maps, and group assignment will be emailed back to registrants for proper preparation. See you there.

Marc Nolls, OOS Recording Secretary  
- *Akron*

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD BIOBLITZ:  
JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 13, 2011**

Calling all birders: begin searching for Rusty Blackbird hotspots right away! The Third Annual Rusty Blackbird Hotspot Blitz is a go! January 29 through February 13 is the official count period. Start entering data into eBird right away, too, to keep track of your detailed hotspot blitz data.

Rusties are declining rapidly. These uncommon boreal forest breeders often forage the feathered-edge of woodland wetlands during migration and on wintering grounds. Found in mixed-blackbird flocks, a small group of Rusties will segregate from a much larger flock of mixed-blackbirds as the flock settles in around a wooded wetland or woodland-edged corn stubble. Look for them in a tree-top, all facing the same direction, bills lifted. These are jaunty fellows, handsome and robust. They are "champion leaf-flippers" says Russ Greenburg of the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group, and Blitz Coordinator. They look for fat and protein in wetlands invertebrates under leaves and debris.

Imagine how many Rusty Blackbirds there must have been before 95% of Ohio's wetlands were drained. What a shame, to see them decline and not fully understand why. But we can try to help: participate in the Blitz to shine a light on a little bit of the unknown. Think about it: isn't citizen science a civic duty for those of us who enjoy the resource?

Tom Bain ([bainnature@insight.rr.com](mailto:bainnature@insight.rr.com))  
OOS Ohio Blitz Coordinator  
- *Galena*





**The Ohio Cardinal is very important to Ohio birders and to OOS! Our 100% volunteer staff is working to compile, write and publish the back issues of The Ohio Cardinal. Winter 2008/2009 (Volume 32 No. 2) is currently at our printer and should arrive in your mailbox by year-end. We appreciate your patience and understanding while the Cardinal team works to get all seasonal records and sightings to you as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience or distress the backlog may have caused you.**


**In an effort to produce and publish the 2009 seasonal reports, we will combine the Spring & Summer 2009 (Volume 32 Nos. 3 & 4) and the Fall & Winter (Volume 33 Nos. 1 & 2) 2009 issues. OOS hopes to mail both combined issues in early 2011 to members who were in good standing in Spring-Summer and Fall-Winter of 2009. Once again, we appreciate everyone's patience regarding the delay in publication.**




## OBBA II FINAL YEAR: HELP NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

 The upcoming 2011 breeding season is the final year of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. In 2006, Ohio initiated a six-year project to document the current status and distribution of breeding birds. With this information, the OBBA II will determine how statewide distributions of breeding birds have changed since Ohio's first Atlas in the early to mid 1980s. Breeding bird atlases are citizen-science projects made possible through the assistance of hundreds of birders who contribute their sightings for the greater good. With the strong support of volunteers and contributions from numerous conservation groups, as well as federal, state, and local agencies, OBBA II has documented over 200 species of breeding birds and confirmed breeding for 187 species. Species such as Common Merganser, Mississippi Kite, and Black-necked Stilt have been found breeding in Ohio for the first time: breeding records of Common Raven, Merlin, and Purple Gallinule are the first in 50-100 years! Of the 4,437 Atlas blocks in Ohio, approximately 91% of blocks now have data, nearly 450,000 individual breeding bird records since 2006!

 Despite our many successes, we know completing this historic project in 2011 will require a Herculean effort. We are currently investing considerable effort incorporating new Atlas data from a variety of external sources such as eBird. You can help by submitting your 2010 (and older) records. **This is more important than ever because without a complete picture of Atlas data already collected by volunteers, it will be difficult for Regional Coordinators to advise volunteers and manage field staff during the Atlas home-stretch. So, please, enter your data by the end of 2010.** If you anticipate that it will take much longer, **please let us enter it for you:** you'll still be able to add or change data in your online account.


 Recruiting and engaging citizens in the Atlas has been an ongoing goal of OBBA II and one that will continue to the very end of the project. Our need to expand participation and is now greater than ever as we enter the final year of the project. *Every contribution is important* and dedicated individuals can dramatically expand coverage within an Atlas region in a single season. For those who have

been meaning to get involved, **it is not too late to contribute in significant ways! So, become part of the remarkable history of birding in Ohio and part of the long list of Atlas participants who have contributed data.** If you are new to the Atlas, visit our project website or contact our office to find out how you can get involved. If you are already involved, please get in touch with others who aren't involved and give them our contact information. We encourage all people interested in birds to participate!

 There are other ways to help. A few early breeding species will soon enter safe dates (e.g., Great Horned Owl, Dec. 20), and some pairs are already duetting. And, whether you are an Atlas veteran or looking to get started, *please don't miss the Ohio Ornithological Society's annual meeting, June 3-5, 2011, which will focus on OBBA II.* This will include updates on progress, amazing discoveries, ways to get involved, demonstrations, birding trips to Atlas blocks, plan for the OBBA II book, and planning statewide summer atlasing events.



Great Horned Owlets in a nest, shortly after banding by RAPTOR, Inc., in Cincinnati's Rapid Run Park, April 2010. Photo courtesy Jeff Hays.

 To learn about the *Top 10 ways to help OBBA II in 2011*, suggested ways to help, please visit our website <http://ohiobirds.org/obba2/> or contact us at: Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, School of Environment & Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210. E-mail: [ohiobba2@gmail.com](mailto:ohiobba2@gmail.com), Phone: 614-247-6458. Many thanks for your support of Ohio's second Breeding Bird Atlas!

Paul Rodewald and Matthew Shumar  
- Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II





# OOS GOES BIRDING IN GUATEMALA!



Photos from OOS November trip to Guatemala. Birds include (top left to bottom right) Boat-billed Flycatcher, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Keel-billed Toucan, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Collared Aracari, Montezuma Oropendola, Emerald Tourcanet, Red-lored Parrot, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Blue-crowned Motmot, Ocellated Turkey. Locations include: Tikal National Park, Los Andes Private Reserve, Los Tarrales Private Reserve, Finca El Pilar, Lake Atitlan, Molino Helvetia Private Reserve. Guatemalan Birding Guide: Hugo Haroldo Enriquez Toledo. Tour organized by Irene Rodriguez of Operador Latino. OOS is scheduling another Guatemala Excursion, with optional climb to find Horned Guan, one of the rarest species in the Americas, in March of 2012: for information on how to get your name placed on a trip "wait list", please send an email message to [anniebirdier@yahoo.com](mailto:anniebirdier@yahoo.com). Photos courtesy Ann Oliver.



## 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 for promoting conservation, education and research of Ohio's avifauna. Thank you!

Lisa Brohl	Adelyn Nowjack
Arthur P. Foreman, Sr.	Bob Scott Placier
Eleanor Imke	Hugh Rose
Paul Knoop	Bert Szabo
Judy Kolo-Rose	Eileen Zimlich
Carol L. Leininger	Attendees at the OOS Annual Conference

### Welcome New Members!

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

Brad Bond	G. Hobart Reiner
Dan Gesualdo	Russell Reynolds
Patrick & Susanne Grabill	Carol S. Rowley
Melissa Holewinski	Carolyn Sechnick
Chandra Little	Slosar Advertising
Debbie Miller	Mary Kelley Spicer
Angelika Nelson	Robin Tenner
Claudia Orr	Marion Williams
Bill Byrd & Laura Peskin	Crane Hollow Nature Preserve

## Online Subscription Available!

Thanks for your support!

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

[OOS@gmail.com](mailto:OOS@gmail.com)

## THE CERULEAN

THE CERULEAN is the official newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS). THE CERULEAN is published four times a year. It contains timely information regarding upcoming field trips and meetings, recent bird sightings and current hot spots, trip reports, as well as other pertinent birding information. A subscription to THE CERULEAN is included among the benefits of the OOS. Members of the OOS are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photographs, drawings, and other birding related information to the newsletter. Seasonal deadlines for contributions to THE CERULEAN are as follows:

- Spring: 1 March
- Summer: 1 June
- Fall: 1 September
- Winter: 1 December

Send contributions for the newsletter to [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org), or by regular mail to THE CERULEAN, c/o OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. For more information see the Publications page on the OOS web site at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org). Because the newsletter is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember the Post Office will not forward this newsletter to a new address. **Please notify Barb Fate [OOS@gmail.com](mailto:OOS@gmail.com) if your address has changed.**

Editor--Ann Oliver

## Calendar of Events

### The Wilds: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011:

Watch for details on the Ohio Birds listserv: <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OHIO.html>

### Rusty Blackbird Blitz: January 29-February 13, 2011

To gather a snapshot of wintering populations. Email: [bainnature@insight.rr.com](mailto:bainnature@insight.rr.com)

**Ohio Natural History Conference: February 19, 2011 in Sunbury, Ohio.** Email: [Ohiobiosurvey@rroho.com](mailto:Ohiobiosurvey@rroho.com)

### Biggest Week in American Birding: May 5-15, 2011

Hosted by Black Swamp Birding Observatory, Tropical Birding, Kaufman Field Guides, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Registration opens in January 2011.

**OOS Seventh Annual Conference & OBBA II Atlasing Event at Shawnee State Park: June 3-5, 2011**

### Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio: September 15 –18, 2011

Save the date for The Midwest Birding Symposium sponsored by The Ohio Ornithological Society & *Bird Watcher's Digest* held at Lakeside, Ohio. Confirmed speakers include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Mark Garland, Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Jim McCormac, Greg Miller, Louise Zemaitis, Julie Zickefoose, and Bill Thompson III. Registration begins February 2011.

**OOS Guatemala Excursion: March 2012.** For more information, please email: [annieobirder@yahoo.com](mailto:annieobirder@yahoo.com)

# Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

For an online version of this application visit: [www.ohiobirds.org/join.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/join.php)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(For electronic news updates, special events, and field trips)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation Amount - Additional donation to the OOS Conservation Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Enclosed (Please make checks payable to OOS)

How did you hear of OOS? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in:

☐ Volunteering? How? ☐ Distributing OOS flyers within your club or community?

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

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



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**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

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