



# THE CERULEAN

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

from the

## EDITOR

### SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: JUNE 3-5, 2011

Please save the weekend of **June 3-5, 2011** for the OOS Seventh Annual Conference at Shawnee State Park. This weekend is a mega-blockbusting event for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA II) during the final season of data collection. Everyone, regardless of birding expertise, is invited to assist in this vital project documenting breeding bird status in Ohio.

Shawnee SP, and the surrounding area in southwest Ohio, has an abundance of birds including Chuck-wills-widow, Henslow's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and seventeen species of breeding warblers. You may recall, Shawnee SP was the location of the first and second OOS conference: those events tallied 200-250 birders in attendance. Imagine the data collection possible if hundreds participated in teams during the OBBA II atlas weekend. Please join in this effort!

Conference registration opens in either late March or early April. To register for this important blockbusting weekend with OBBA II, watch our website: [www.ohiobirds.org/](http://www.ohiobirds.org/) You can also contact OBBA II for information about atlas-ing in another part of the state or hosting a blockbusting event with *your local bird club or group* this summer (see page 4).

Is this the year someone, somewhere in Ohio, might find a breeding Swainson's Warbler?

Ann Oliver  
-Cincinnati

### THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING: OPENING PARTY AT MANGO MAMA'S



OOS is proud to be among the sponsors of The Biggest Week in American Birding (BWIB) and honored to partner with Kaufman Field Guides as co-host of the opening night party at Mango Mama's in Port Clinton on Thursday, May 5, 2011. The festivities start at 6 p.m. and wrap up by 9 p.m. (so we can all hit the birding trail early Friday morning).



This kickoff event, benefiting bird conservation, features a fundraising raffle of the new Kenn Kaufman book *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, scheduled for publication in April, 2011.

Camaraderie with birding friends, new and old, is also on the agenda! Hang out with folks



from Black Swamp Bird Observatory, BWIB guides from Tropical Birding, OOS and BSBO members, and birders from all over the world! There's no cover charge and no need to register. Dinner and drinks are available to order.

The BWIB, May 5-15, 2011, focuses attention on crucial migration stopover habitat in northwest Ohio. Birders from across the US and around the globe are putting Ohio on their "must-visit" list and often stay for the entire festival. BWIB activities include several daily professionally guided walks, travel and bird identification lectures, bird photography classes, bird banding, and field trips. Registration: [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm)

Mango Mama's, in Kokomo Bay Restaurant, is located at 40 Madison Street, Port Clinton. *Casual attire: hiking boots and binoculars are optional!*

## AN UPDATE FROM BSBO: WIND TURBINES IN MIGRATORY BIRD STOPOVER HABITAT OF NORTHWEST OHIO



*In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968)*

I've always loved that quote and it's been on my mind a lot recently as BSBO makes a valiant effort to represent and protect migratory birds from wind turbine development in northwest Ohio. This is not a new issue for us: BSBO staff have been working on this issue in some capacity for more than eight years. In spite of the resources of numerous organizations and agencies involved with this issue over the last decade, it has *not* prevented 300-foot wind turbines from being installed painfully close to the southern edge of the Darby Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and *proposed near the western edge of Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Ohio.*

While we've been at this for some time now, during the last several months, the staff at BSBO has been consumed with getting the word out about large wind turbines creeping ever-closer to critical migratory bird stopover habitat of the Lake Erie Marsh Region. Birding areas with iconic names such as Magee Marsh, Metzger Marsh, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, are at risk if we do not find a way to regulate the placement of these potential bird and bat killers. BSBO has been doing everything in our power to raise awareness. We've hosted several meetings with community leaders, state and federal wildlife agencies, and wind industry representatives to discuss the issue. We have given numerous presentations on the importance of considering migratory birds and their stopover habitat needs when siting wind turbines. We have written dozens of articles and press releases trying to educate the public on the importance of considering migratory birds and stopover habitat before installing wind turbines. **We are pleased to announce the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is looking intensely at ways they can get involved: their support will make an enormous difference.**

In recent weeks, BSBO has been forced to scale back our efforts with wind power in order to focus on our core mission of bird research, education, and conservation. However, the issue has not gone away, nor have our concerns. More and more wind turbines are peppering the Lake Erie Coast — on both sides of the lake. It will take a tremendous team effort to ensure that migratory birds and their habitat needs are considered fairly. We need your help. Please sign our online petition, co-sponsored by Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and Greater Mohican Audubon Society, and consider supporting our efforts with a membership or donation to BSBO. Visit our website at: [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org) for more information and the link to the online petition.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the OOS Board of Directors and all OOS members for your support. We will need your continued support to protect these areas that are important to us, and critical to the survival of millions of birds.

Kimberly Kaufman  
Executive Director, Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
— Oak Harbor



**WIND POWER:  
IT'S NOT SMART  
UNLESS IT'S BIRD SMART**

A special presentation on wind power and birds is scheduled for Friday, May 6 at 1:30 pm at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters during The Biggest Week in American Birding. Kelly Fuller, of the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), is the featured speaker: \$5 fee. To register for this program or to see a listing of other speakers, programs, lectures, and field trips, please visit the website for BWIAM. Many events are free with the basic BWIAM festival registration (\$20), <http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm>



To read the ABC's policy statement on wind energy, please visit the ABC website: [http://](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/wind_policy.html)

[www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/wind\\_policy.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/wind_policy.html). You are also invited to sign their petition. Follow this link on the ABC home page: <http://www.abcbirds.org/index.html>

## FINAL YEAR FOR OBBA II: BE PART OF THE SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION!



Great strides toward completing Ohio's second Breeding Bird Atlas are the result of the hard work and support of volunteers as well as contributions from numerous conservation groups and agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. Since 2006, OBBA II has documented 200 species of breeding birds and confirmed breeding for 187 species. Of the 4,437 Atlas blocks in Ohio, 93% now have data: this includes more than 560,000 submitted breeding bird records! Despite many successes, we have a long way to go in our final field season in 2011. Finishing this project will require making this year our strongest yet. We're hoping (*pleading!*) for continued or expanded support from current volunteers. Plus, new volunteers are encouraged to participate.

Late May through July is peak season for the Atlas, but there are important ways to contribute before the spring. Nocturnal species like owls, American Woodcock, Common Nighthawk, and Eastern Whip-poor-will have been under-recorded in OBBA II. For example, Great Horned and Barred Owls have each been recorded in less than 20% of blocks. Please consider some of the suggestions below for recording these species. Remember that recording owls may be as simple as stepping out on your front porch during a calm, moonlit evening. *Live in an urban area?* No worries. Great Horned and Eastern Screech-Owls can be surprisingly common in urban/suburban woodlots, and this is increasingly true for Barred Owls as well.

**Please focus your efforts on priority blocks for nocturnal species, including all owls, American Woodcock, Common Nighthawk, and Whip-poor-will.**

*Great Horned Owl* and *Barred Owl* are among the earliest nesting birds in Ohio. Both species have been duetting for a couple months now and some of you have reported nesting behaviors. Both are now within the Atlas' safe dates, and some will begin fledging young in March. Recording these species can be difficult during the summer months when



Barred Owls in Elywood Park, Lorain, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Cole Winslow, age 5, digscoped through Laura Keene's scope.

many can be very quiet. That means that NOW is the time to get out in the field! Look and listen for Barred Owls in wooded areas near streams, rivers, wet floodplain forests. Great Horned Owls can be found in lowland and upland woods, including woodlots in agricultural areas. Direct access to woodlands or wooded edges is not always necessary for detecting these amazing raptors, as large owls can often be heard from roadsides.

*Eastern Screech-Owls* have safe dates that begin April 1<sup>st</sup>, but screech-owls have already started territorial calling. Screech-Owls may be the most common raptor in Ohio: they often occupy even the smallest woodlots. Try listening for them in any wooded areas in your blocks. Listen for their "descending trill" or "whinny" calls.

*American Woodcock* have safe dates beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>, but male courtship displays are underway. Woodcock favor open, low-growing vegetation, often grassy habitats with shrubs and/or saplings. Keep in mind that woodcock breed nearly throughout Ohio and their courtship flight displays continue well beyond late February and March, often through May and into June. The male's frog-like "peeent" calls and flight displays are nearly confined to dawn and dusk. If males are present and

**SAVE THE DATE, please! OOS and OBBA II are sponsoring a blockbusting event June 3-5, 2011 at Shawnee State Park. Help compile critical breeding bird data in southwest Ohio and learn about atlasing needs across the state.**



it's within their breeding season, they are likely going to be seen and heard at these time windows.

*What time of night to listen for nocturnal birds?* Many official surveys recommend 1 hour after sunset to no later than midnight for owls. However, early morning hours before dawn can also work well. A good approach would be to go out for woodcock and continue right into owling, or doing the opposite in the early hours of the day. Moonlit nights are good for owls and whip-poor-wills.

*Broadcasting Calls* from your MP3 player or portable CD player is useful for detecting owls, and can be useful for nightjars. Give it a try! Contact us today for suggestions on the **responsible use of call playback techniques during the nesting season.**

This year will be full of exciting events for the Atlas. At the top of the list is the Ohio Ornithological Society's Annual Meeting on June 3-5 at Shawnee State Park. This year's OOS meeting will focus on OBBA II and includes birding trips to Atlas blocks, ways *absolutely anyone* can get involved, keynote speakers, updates on our progress, amazing atlas discoveries, and the plan for the OBBA II book. Field trips will likely target special species like Chuck-wills-widow and other night birds, Blue Grosbeak, and some 17 species of breeding warblers! More info about the meeting will soon be available at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org).

Regional Coordinators (RC) are already scheduling block-busting events across the state: see page 10. Tom Bain will host an event near Mt. Vernon on June 25. Terri Martincic will be hosting an event by Medina Metroparks' Hidden Hollow on July 2. Bob Placier is in the process of scheduling a block-buster in the Liberty Wildlife Area, and many more RC's will soon have events posted, so stay tuned.

To learn about the *Top Ways to Help OBBA II in 2011*, 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



## OBBA II & OOS: BLOCKBUSTING EVENT



### AND SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT SHAWNEE STATE PARK JUNE 3-5, 2011

The Ohio Ornithological Society is headed back to Shawnee State Park, a birding mecca, for the Seventh Annual Conference! OOS and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II are teaming up to present a spectacular weekend of fun, fellowship, and atlasing. Our conference activities coincide with the final season of data gathering for OBBA II. The bird atlas for Ohio is generating extensive information essential for the effective conservation and management of birds. By engaging Ohio's citizens in this cooperative effort, OBBA II will foster interaction among bird enthusiasts of *all experience levels* and will heighten public awareness of birds in Ohio.

We hope you will attend the event at Shawnee State Park the weekend of June 3-5! You'll hear great speakers, learn the ins and outs of atlasing, and experience great birding while helping gather important data for the atlas. You'll enjoy birding from a different perspective by observing breeding activities, nesting, and feeding behaviors. Events will include talks from Paul Rodewald, director of OBBAII, information on how to atlas in YOUR part of the state, atlasing field trips, food, fun, and more! Registration will begin soon at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org).

Julie Davis  
-Westerville

Specific goals of Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II are:

- Document the current distribution of breeding birds within all 4,437 atlas blocks
- Assess changes in breeding distributions since the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (1982-1987)
- Provide new measures of abundance of breeding birds
- Identify important habitats and breeding locations that support high diversity or species of concern
- Collect distributional and abundance data for species that are difficult to survey, especially nocturnal and wetland birds
- Collect detailed information on the current status of Ohio's rare, threatened, and endangered birds
- Engage birders, outdoor enthusiasts, and conservation groups statewide

## OOS SIXTH ANNUAL WILDS WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Thanks to the *Wilds* for hosting 120 birders who attended the Sixth Annual Winter *Wilds* Extravaganza on January 15, 2011, sponsored by The Ohio Ornithological Society. This yearly event, at the 10,000 acre reclaimed strip mine in Muskingum County, would not happen, nor run smoothly, without the contributions of many self-sacrificing birders. Special thanks to all *Wilds* staff, especially Nicole Cavender and Denise Natoli Brooks, for being our gracious hosts and speakers.

Additional thanks to the selfless group leaders who skillfully led seven birding caravans along the hilly, gravel roads in the outback of the *Wilds*, and made sure all in their group saw each bird of interest.

Marc Nolls  
- Recording Secretary, OOS



Top left: Meadow Vole killed by a Northern Shrike. Photo courtesy Jim McCormac.

Top right: Northern Shrike. Photo courtesy Ernie Cornelius.

Bottom left: Birders at the *Wilds*. Photo courtesy Micki Hendrick.

Bottom right: Giraffes at the *Wilds*. Photo courtesy Julie Davis.

### The OOS at The Wilds Winter Raptor Extravaganza

2011 Species - 54  
2010 Species - 53  
2009 Species - 43

WATERFOWL	2011	2010	2009	GULLS	2011	2010	2009	KINGLETS	2011	2010	2009
Canada Goose	✓	✓	✓	Ring-billed Gull				Golden-crowned Kinglet	✓	✓	
Trumpeter Swan	✓		✓	<b>PIGEONS, DOVES</b>				<b>THRUSHES</b>			
American Wigeon		✓		Rock Pigeon	✓	✓		Eastern Bluebird	✓	✓	
American Black Duck	✓	✓	✓	Mourning Dove	✓	✓	✓	Hermit Thrush	✓		
Mallard	✓	✓	✓	<b>OWLS</b>				American Robin	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall		✓	✓	Eastern Screech-Owl		✓		<b>MOCKINGBIRD</b>			
Northern Pintail			✓	Great Horned Owl				Northern Mockingbird	✓	✓	✓
Green-winged Teal		✓	✓	Barred Owl				<b>STARLING</b>			
Redhead	✓	✓	✓	Long-eared Owl				European Starling	✓	✓	✓
Ring-necked Duck	✓	✓	✓	Short-eared Owl	✓		✓	<b>WAXWING</b>			
Lesser Scaup	✓	✓		<b>KINGFISHER</b>				Cedar Waxwing	✓		
Bufflehead				Belted Kingfisher	✓	✓		<b>WARBLERS</b>			
Hooded Merganser			✓	<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Ruddy Duck		✓		Red-headed Woodpecker				<b>SPARROWS</b>			
<b>TURKEY</b>				Red-bellied Woodpecker	✓	✓	✓	Eastern Towhee	✓	✓	✓
Wild Turkey	✓			Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				American Tree Sparrow	✓	✓	✓
<b>HERONS</b>				Downy Woodpecker	✓	✓	✓	Field Sparrow			
Great Blue Heron	✓	✓	✓	Hairy Woodpecker	✓	✓	✓	Song Sparrow	✓	✓	✓
<b>VULTURE</b>				Northern Flicker	✓	✓	✓	Swamp Sparrow			✓
Turkey Vulture	✓			Pileated Woodpecker	✓	✓		White-throated Sparrow	✓	✓	✓
<b>RAPTORS</b>				<b>SHRIKE</b>				White-crowned Sparrow	✓	✓	
Bald Eagle	✓	✓		Northern Shrike	✓			Dark-eyed Junco	✓	✓	✓
Northern Harrier	✓	✓	✓	<b>JAYS AND CROWS</b>				Snow Bunting			✓
Sharp-shinned Hawk	✓			Blue Jay	✓	✓	✓	<b>CARDINAL</b>			
Cooper's Hawk				American Crow	✓	✓	✓	Northern Cardinal	✓	✓	✓
Northern Goshawk				<b>LARK</b>				<b>BLACKBIRD</b>			
Red-shouldered Hawk	✓	✓		Horned Lark	✓	✓	✓	Red-winged Blackbird			
Red-tailed Hawk	✓	✓	✓	<b>CHICKADEES/TITMICE</b>				Eastern Meadowlark	✓	✓	✓
Rough-legged Hawk	✓	✓	✓	Carolina Chickadee	✓	✓	✓	Common Grackle		✓	
Golden Eagle	✓	✓	✓	Tufted Titmouse	✓	✓	✓	Brown-headed Cowbird			
American Kestrel	✓	✓	✓	<b>NUTHATCHES</b>				<b>FINCHES</b>			
Merlin		✓	✓	Red-breasted Nuthatch				Purple Finch			
Peregrine Falcon				White-breasted Nuthatch	✓	✓		House Finch	✓	✓	
Prairie Falcon				<b>CREEPER</b>				Pine Siskin			
<b>COOTS</b>				Brown Creeper	✓			American Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓
American Coot				<b>WRENS</b>				<b>OLD WORLD</b>			
<b>PLOVERS</b>				Carolina Wren	✓	✓	✓	House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓
Killdeer											

## THE OHIO CARDINAL: CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP



**THE OHIO CARDINAL** After several years of dedicated service as editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*, Dr. Andy Jones has submitted his resignation, effective with the end of the 2009 reporting season. Andy's work responsibilities, including duties at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, are requiring more of his time, necessitating this decision. We are grateful to Andy for his tenure as editor and for the many improvements he made to the content of *The Ohio Cardinal*. We thank you Andy and wish you the best!

We are pleased to announce *The Ohio Cardinal's* new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Jill Russell. Jill currently serves on the OOS board as the Southwest Regional Director. She and her husband Dave are the co-founders of The Avian Research and Education Institute (<http://www.avianinstitute.com>). Jill obtained her PhD from Miami University in 2004. She teaches at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, is a federally licensed bird bander, the Executive Director of AREI, and founder of the Queen City Bird Festival.

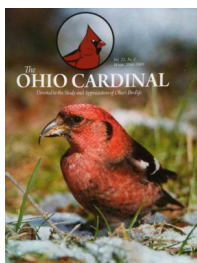
Her position will begin with work on the Spring 2010 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*. With her background as an ornithologist and teacher, Jill has an excellent set of skills for this position. Working with the publications committee of OOS, Jill will endeavor to expedite the production, printing, and distribution of the 2010 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*.

Please join us, and the entire OOS board of directors, in welcoming Dr. Jill Russell as the new editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*.

Jen Sauter, OOS President

Bill Thompson III, OOS Vice-President

*Editor's Note:* The Winter 2008-2009 (Vol. 32, No. 2) issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* was recently sent to members in good standing during the corresponding reporting period. The cover photo, of a White-winged Crossbill in Lucas County, is by George Sydlowski.



## WILLIAM HENRY "BILL" THOMPSON, JR. 1932-2011

William Henry "Bill" Thompson Jr. died Jan. 25, 2011 at Marietta Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. He was born on Aug. 9, 1932, in Tulsa, Okla., to William Henry and Margaret Miller Thompson. He graduated from Marietta High School in 1950. After a brief stint at Miami University of Ohio, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was a member of the Second Army Band. He returned from the service to Marietta College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1957. He also earned a master's degree in journalism from Ohio University.

He worked in a variety of positions in journalism and academia. From 1958 to 1961 he was bureau chief for the Atlantic City (N.J.) Press. He served as vice president for development at Central University of Iowa in Pella. From 1968 to 1971 he was press secretary to Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray. He returned to Marietta College in 1971, serving as vice president for development through 1979, and again from 1994 to 1999.

In 1955, he met Elsa Anne Ekenstierna at Marietta College when she auditioned for his jazz band. He proposed on the first date, and they were married on June 6, 1956. In 1978, he and his wife Elsa started *Bird Watcher's Digest* in their home in Marietta on Warren Street. *BWD* continues to be published in Marietta and has subscribers on every continent.



The Thompson Family outside the Marietta, Ohio headquarters of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Back row (left to right): Bill Thompson III, Bill Thompson Jr., Andy Thompson. Front row (left to right): Elsa Thompson and Laura (Thompson) Fulton. Photo courtesy Jim McCormac.



Bill held a variety of positions for The Marietta Community Foundation, including CEO and president, a position that he left late last year. He was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Marietta. A lifelong jazz musician, Bill was a highly regarded piano player despite being self-taught. He enjoyed accompanying his wife Elsa as she sang, and played many engagements with his son Bill III. Music was the center of everything for him.



Bill Thompson, Jr. at the piano and Bill Thompson III, guitar.  
Photo courtesy Julie Zickefoose.

Bill is survived by his wife Elsa; son, William III (Julie) and their children, Phoebe and William Henry Thompson IV; son, Andrew (Jade) and their children, Annalea, Nathaniel and August; and daughter, Laura Fulton (Nate) and her son, Jake. Donations may be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, to Marietta College, and to the William H. and Elsa Thompson Memorial Fund at The Marietta Community Foundation.

*Editor's Note:* The OOS thanks *The Marietta Times* newspaper for allowing this reprint of the obituary of William Henry Thompson, Jr.



## MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

Pre-registration is underway for MBS at Lakeside, Ohio. Speakers at the September 15-18, 2011 event include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Jeff Gordon, Alvaro Jaramillo, Greg Miller, Michael O'Brien, Bridget Stutchbury, Louis Zemaitis, and Julie Zickefoose. Lectures, area field trips, boat trips, and a birders marketplace. Pre-register: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/preregister.php>

## THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND: HONORING THE MEMORY OF BT2 THROUGH OOS SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of the Ohio Ornithological Society, and birders across the United States, were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of William H. (Bill) Thompson, Jr., one of the founding publishers of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Mr. Thompson passed away this January at age 78, surrounded by his family.

In 1978, the Thompson family embarked on an incredible journey when Bill and Elsa founded *Bird Watcher's Digest*, which was based in the living room of their Marietta home for the first five years. They launched the magazine by sending out 35,000 copies, which garnered about 2,500 - 2,800 initial subscriptions. The first issue was printed in black and white, and featured almost all reprints of bird-watching articles obtained from a clipping service. But immediately the magazine began receiving submissions of original materials: the rest is history.

His wife Elsa and his children, Bill Thompson, III (BT3), Andrew Thompson, and Laura Thompson Fulton continue to carry on at *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Bill Thompson III currently serves The Ohio Ornithological Society as our Vice President.

The board of the Ohio Ornithological Society would like to honor Bill and the entire Thompson family for their dedication in sharing the joy and amazement of birds with The Thompson Memorial Fund. The fund was originally started in 2007 by BT3 by the pass of hat to raise funds for inspiring young birders. Donations will be used to help young people interested in birds to attend summer camps, workshops, training programs, conventions and other birding or bird-related activities.

If you would like to make a donation to The Thompson Memorial Fund, please make checks payable to OOS and indicate **"Thompson Memorial Fund"** in the memo line.

Mail donations to OOS, PO Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Jen Sauter, OOS President  
- Rockbridge

## THE CROSSLEY ID GUIDE: REVIEW OF A NEW GUIDE TO EASTERN BIRDS

### The **CROSSLEY** **ID** **GUIDE** Eastern Birds

*The Crossley ID Guide* is an identification guide, but not a *field* guide. Dwarfing the Sibley guide in size, you're not going to slip this book into your hip pocket, unless you're a hippopotamus. It isn't meant to be carried into the field, but to be studied before and after birding.



Wait – what do you mean, *study* birds? Well, yes, study. This is a book for someone who wants improve his or her identification skills. And that, sad to say, takes a bit of effort.

Originally from England, Richard Crossley grew up with the British birding style of taking to the field with a notebook instead of a field guide. Birders take detailed notes, and perhaps sketches, of a bird while actively observing it. Later, they use those notes to make an identification. It's a style of birding that can leave some birds unidentified if someone doesn't know what field marks to look for in advance. But in the long run, it gives you better identification skills than just seeing a bird, flipping through the pages of a field guide to find what seems like the closest picture, and sticking a name on the bird, which by now has flown away. It forces you to study groups of birds in advance, and then to *look* at the bird in the field.

Crossley devotes an entire page to most species, although rarer species get less space. The illustrated part of the page is accompanied by a small range map and short text passages. But most of the page is a photograph of the bird's habitat, in which multiple photos of the bird are placed. These range from large photos which show a lot of detail, to progressively smaller photos that show progressively less detail. The photos also show a variety of typical poses for that species. The idea is to depict not just what a bird looks like close up – which is what most field guides do – but also what you are likely to actually see in the field, at a distance, when much of the fine detail fuzzes out.



**Black Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* **BLSC** L 19in



Common sea duck often in large flocks with other scoter and ducks. Some migrate inland from tundra breeding grounds and are seen on lakes. On migration or moving between feeding areas form large, variably patterned line, often with SUSC. In winter/spring ♂ gives incessant wailing whistle, often in small groups wooing a single ♀ (lucky thing!). **ID:** The smallest and chunkiest of the scoters. Focus on bulky round head, bill shape and color. The undercarriage is evenly rounded, lowest in the center. Imm birds have pale bellies that are easy to see in flight. Ad ♂ glossy black with yellow-orange knob on

bill. ♀ and juv have conspicuous pale throat and face. This becomes darker through winter in imm ♂ and also develops adult-like yellow-orange knob on bill. 2nd-w ♂ may show browner throat and slightly reduced knob but most are as adults. In flight, relative to SUSC, an evenly domed undercarriage, broader, less swept-back wings, shorter thicker neck with big head and less pointed 'face' that's discernible at long range with practice. Flight feathers: paler than coverts, but shape and bill pattern easier to see.

Sample page from *The Crossley ID Guide*. Image courtesy Princeton University Press.

Crossley's approach to an identification guide is strikingly different than other standard field guides. Devoting a whole page to one species lets the author accomplish a more realistic field depiction, but the images make side-by-side comparison of similar species more challenging, as compared to a typical field guide. I would recommend browsing through the Princeton University Press website (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9384.html>) before purchasing, to see if the guide is useful to you.

So, would I recommend *The Crossley ID Guide*? Although it takes some getting used to, I believe it will be useful, and I do recommend it – with some important limitations. Primarily, it is *not* well-suited to beginners. If you are trying to separate chickadees from nuthatches, there are better texts. Secondly, at the other end of the birding spectrum, *The Crossley ID Guide* cannot compare with monographs on gulls, shorebirds, raptors, for those who are studying the fine points of other groups of birds.





**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* **BAWW** L 5.25in



Common and widespread breeder and migrant in deciduous and mixed forest. Scarce in winter. Distinctive behavior, creeps on or under branches, sometimes upside down, like a black-and-white mouse. Nests on ground. On migration joins feeding flocks that will often include several BAWW. **ID:** A medium-sized warbler with short tail, heavy in the belly and long, downcurved, pointed head and bill – a distinctive profile. Large feet for grasping branches. From below black undertail co-

verts are a giveaway. Despite large variation in plumages, the bold black-and-white striped head pattern and coloring make it one of the easiest warblers to id. Ad ♂'s have solid black cheeks, throat and flank streaking. Throat and ear coverts paler toward fall. Ad ♀/1st-yr ♂'s paler than ad ♂'s with white ear coverts and throat. Diffuse streaking on variably buff flanks and undertail coverts. 1st-w ♀'s paler and more buff. 1st-yr birds have brown greater primary coverts.

Sample page from *The Crossley ID Guide*. Image courtesy Princeton University Press.

Finally, I would not recommend it as the primary identification guide for the improving birder. I feel guides like Sibley or National Geographic do a better job of comparing similar species. But I *would* certainly recommend it as a supplement to those guides. *The Crossley ID Guide* does a good job of illustrating what birds look like under field conditions. And that, after all, is where we *see* birds, and try to identify them. So if you are willing to invest the effort by using this guide as intended – *as a study guide* – *The Crossley ID Guide* is bound to improve your identification skills.

Ned Keller  
- North Bend

*Editor's Note:* Ned Keller is the current Secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee, a founding member and former board member of the Ohio Ornithological Society, and a lawyer by profession.

## CROSSLEY PROGRAM AND BOOKSIGNING IN MAY



Richard Crossley is slated to visit the Magee Marsh Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center on Friday, May 13 for a book signing event in the gift shop. Time: TBA. For more information: <http://www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/calendar.php>. Additionally, Firelands Audubon and The Friends of Old Woman Creek welcome the general public to a free program with Crossley on Saturday, May 14. Place: TBA. Details soon at: <http://firelandsaudubon.org/>.

Members of the American Birding Association (ABA) will find a coupon in the March issue of *Birding* for an 'autographed' copy of the *Crossley ID Guide*. Plus, \$5 of each copy sold by ABA goes back to the organization. To join: [www.aba.org/](http://www.aba.org/).

## DESPERATELY SEEKING SMITHS: LOCAL PATCH BIRDING TRIPS IN APRIL

Local Patch Birding (LPB), professionally-guided special birding trips led by Jen Brumfield and Gabe Leidy, are planning to seek Smith's Longspurs this April. LPB will van, or caravan, to western Ohio counties to search for this enigmatic songbird which is a rare, but regular migrant, through the western, agricultural region of Ohio. Fee charged.

At least one, and perhaps two, FULL DAY trips will be offered. The date, as well as the COST, will be announced at some point in March. You can sign up for this trip, or get your name on the LPB



A cryptically colored Smith's Longspur, only slightly larger than a corn cob, in a Wyandot County agricultural stubble field. This photo, as well as most of the SMLO photos in the new *Crossley ID Guide*, were taken at this location during Richard Crossley's Ohio visit last April. Photo courtesy Jen Brumfield.

email list for future trips, by emailing LPB: [local-patchbirding@hotmail.com](mailto:local-patchbirding@hotmail.com). Also, visit the LPB website: <http://www.jenbrumfield.com/>. The site has a link to video of Smith's Longspurs, plus, by the end of March, a 40 page downloadable PDF article about Smith's Longspurs, with photos and text by Jen Brumfield, should be available to the public.



## GARLIC MUSTARD PULLS AT MAGEE MARSH BOARDWALK

Volunteers are needed to help The Friends of Magee Marsh pull Garlic mustard this spring at the Magee Marsh boardwalk. Control of this invasive species takes place Tuesday-Thursday on the following dates: April 26-28, May 3-5, and May 17-19. Please bring gloves. For more information, contact Mary Warren at the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center at Magee Marsh: 419-898-0960.

## GUATEMALA & GUANS IN 2012



Crested Guan. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

OOS is headed to Guatemala in March, 2012 in search of guans, quetzals, trogons, manakins, woodcreepers, tinamous, antbirds, euphonias, honeycreepers, motmots, toucans, and parrots. The historic city of Antigua and majestic Mayan ruins of Tikal are on the itinerary. Optional climb for Horned Guan included. Contact newsletter editor Ann Oliver ([annieobirder@yahoo.com](mailto:annieobirder@yahoo.com)) for more information.



## BLOCKBUSTING EVENTS WITH OBBA II

Several atlasing events are scheduled around the state of Ohio this summer during the **final** year of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, including the OOS Seventh Annual Conference June 3-5 at Shawnee State Park and other events listed on page four. *Please consider volunteering your birding assistance to an OBBA II Regional Coordinator this summer* in your part of the state. Details: [www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/coordinators.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/coordinators.php).

Or, you could mobilize birding friends or members of your local bird club and hold *your own* mini-blockbusting event! We'll gladly publish the date and location of *your* atlasing event in our spring newsletter: submission deadline April 10. Please contact OBBA II for details: [www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/volunteer\\_home.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/volunteer_home.php).

Please "give back to the birds": join OOS at our June conference and assist OBBA II by atlasing!



This looks like a painting, but it's a photo of Snow Buntings during a February snow squall at Pearson Park North. Photo courtesy Sherrie Duris.



## 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!

Eddie N. Black  
Carol F. Bretz  
Craig Caldwell  
Cheryl Harner  
Marcia Howden  
Colleen Kammer

Peter King  
Randall & Nancy Kreager  
Michelle Manzo  
Doug Overacker  
Kelly Riccetti

### Welcome New Members!

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

Lara Askill  
Lisa B. Berry  
Eddie N. Black  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Eric Burgess  
Lisa Casamatta  
Maggie L. Chudik  
Robin J. Densmore  
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## 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:

[oosmember@gmail.com](mailto:oosmember@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 at [oosmember@gmail.com](mailto:oosmember@gmail.com) if you have moved.**

**Editor--Ann Oliver ([annieobirder@yahoo.com](mailto:annieobirder@yahoo.com))**

## Calendar of Events

**Shreve Migration Sensation: March 26, 2011 in Wayne County.** Details: [www.valkyrie.net/~rehmje/migration/](http://www.valkyrie.net/~rehmje/migration/)

**Flora-Quest: April 29-May 1, 2011 at Shawnee State Forest.** Details: [flora-quest.com/index.html](http://flora-quest.com/index.html)

**Biggest Week in American Birding: May 5--15, 2011. Sponsored by Black Swamp Bird Observatory with Tropical Birding Tours, Kaufman Field Guides, Ottawa NWR, and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area:** \$20 general registration. Professional guided walks at the famed Magee Marsh boardwalk and Ottawa NWR. Multiple activities every day including lectures on topics such as wind power, bird identification, bird migration, bird photography, birding apps for phones, shade-grown coffee, and birding by ear. Plus shorebird walks, bus trips and boat trips, as well as special family, beginner, and young birder walks. Special evening travel lectures. Details: [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm)

**Queen City Bird Festival: Saturday May 14, 2011.** Hueston Woods State Park. Details TBA: [www.avianinstitute.com/](http://www.avianinstitute.com/)

**OOS Seventh Annual Conference at Shawnee State Park: June 3-5, 2011.** Blockbusting event with OBBA II during the final year of the atlas. Registration begins late March or early April: [www.ohiobirds.org/](http://www.ohiobirds.org/)

**Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside, Ohio: September 15 -18, 2011.** Pre-registration underway for MBS '11 sponsored by Lakeside Association, The Ohio Ornithological Society & *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Speakers include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Jeff Gordon, Alvaro Jaramillo, Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Jim McCormac, Greg Miller, Michael O'Brien, John Robinson, Bridget Stutchbury, Connie Toops, Louise Zemaitis, and Julie Zickefoose. Details: [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.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)



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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation Amount - The Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund**

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

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

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

Are you interested in:

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

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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.

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