



The Cerulean

Winter 2011-12, Vol. 8, No. 4

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society

www.ohiobirds.org • info@ohiobirds.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the weekend of September 28-30, 2012! Join OOS for their Eighth Annual Conference, with special emphasis on shorebirds, at Lakeside, Ohio. Saturday night keynote speaker is noted birder and wildlife photographer Kevin Karlson, known for *The Shorebird Guide*, with co-authors Richard Crossley and Michael O'Brien. Karlson's new book, *Visions: Earth's Elements in Bird and Nature Photography*, is set to be published this summer, and he's sure to sign a few copies. Field trips, photography workshops, a Sunday pelagic, and more including the auto-tour at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. More details TBA.

International Migratory Bird Day 2012, at Lake Erie!

Join Bill Thompson III, Editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and Vice-President of OOS, for two FREE events on May 12, International Migratory Bird Day 2012, at Lake Erie! This year marks the 20th Anniversary of IMBD, connecting people to bird conservation. Everyone is invited!

Start your Saturday, from 9 am to 11 am on IMBD morning, with a family-oriented, beginner bird walk at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. The woodlot behind Ottawa always attracts great birds, but never massive crowds, so you won't lose sight of the little ones! Meet Bill in the lobby at Ottawa, just off Rt. 2 in northwest Ohio: come before 9 am if you'd like to borrow extra binoculars or a field guide for your family members or friends. Plus, Bill's new book, *The Young Birder's Guide to North America*, which is an expanded version of his 2008 Eastern US book, will be hot off the press!

On Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5 pm, Bill will lead a tour of Meadowbrook Marsh on the Marblehead

Peninsula, near Lakeside. Meadowbrook Marsh was the recipient of special funding from the Carbon Offset Birding Project, launched at Midwest Birding Symposium. This Danbury Township Park has 2,800 feet of ADA accessible, paved trails, more than 3,000 feet of mulched and grassy trails, plus an observation deck overlooking a wetland marsh, as well as forest, meadow, and grassland. Meet at Meadowbrook, on East Bayshore Road/County Road 135, just 1/2 mile west of Dempsey Access. An informal, impromptu GROUP DINNER (location TBA) will follow at an area restaurant!

Additionally, stop by the OOS booth at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on either Saturday, May 12 or Sunday, May 13 and say hello! Better yet, volunteer an hour or two of your time at our booth, greeting birders at the boardwalk! See the OOS website for details on how to sign up or email OOS President Jen Sauter: ceruleanwarbler.sauter@gmail.com

Lakeside has a generous offer for OOS folks!

From May 1-20, The Fountain Inn has a special, discount rate of \$69.00/night, which includes a continental breakfast. This is an online reservation only; details and the SPECIAL CODE FOR OOS on the OOS website (www.ohiobirds.org/site/index.php).



Behind Ottawa NWR.



Walk on the **WILDSIDE** at Magee Marsh on May 12: Weeds to Wildflowers Restoration Efforts and Fundraiser



Walk on the Wild Side

Garlic Mustard Pull at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on April 24, April 26, May 1, and May 3 from 1-4: FREE. Give back to the "boardwalk" by helping rid the area of invasive garlic mustard. To volunteer, contact Mary Warren at Magee Marsh: 419-898-0960 #31

Love to bird at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area? Here's your chance to "give back"! The Friends of Magee Marsh (**FOMM**) are hosting their Second Annual "Walk On the Wildside: Weeds to Wildflowers". It's a fundraiser to restore the boardwalk area with native plants and trees. You can register, or donate, online! **PLUS, OOS HAS PROMISED TO MATCH UP TO \$500 CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EVENT BY OOS MEMBERS:** see the **OOS** website for details!

Managing invasive species is a constant battle at Magee Marsh. For the past seven years, **FOMM** volunteers have been hand-pulling garlic mustard. This noxious, non-native, early-blooming, biennial

herb has taken over, choking out other botanic life. Vast stands of garlic mustard reduce moisture, nutrients, soil, light, and space for native plant species thereby reducing nutrients available to birds passing through this vital, migratory corridor. Plus, those tall, thick stands of garlic mustard make it difficult to see ground foraging birds such as Gray-cheeked Thrush and Connecticut Warbler.

But through diligence and persistence, the **FOMM** have made a noticeable difference! Last year's "Walk on the Wildside" event raised more than \$1000: **FOMM** planted 900 native plants of various bird-friendly species along the boardwalk, marking areas with pink flags. Migratory bird spe-

cies greatly benefited from native plants, nutrients, and nectar: birders from Ohio, across the US, and around the world, also benefitted with each raise of their binoculars during their spring pilgrimage to northwest Ohio.

There are a number of ways you can help **FOMM** achieve this year's goal of \$2500: 1.) participate in person on May 12 during the walk on International Migratory Bird Day, 2.) enlist family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and other birders to sponsor your effort, 3.) form a team, 4.) volunteer your time to **FOMM**, or 5.) participate as a "Virtual Walker" through a donation.

Details: <http://walk.birdday.org/mageemarsh> or www.friendsofmageemarsh.org

Join the **OHIO** Birding Alliance!

Partner with OOS, Ohio's Birding Network and statewide birding organization! Our goal, and our mission, is to unite the birding community across the state. With your help, we'd like to extend our support to your birding organization or pro-bird activities, in the

form of inclusion in our website, quarterly newsletter, and e-News emails, in exchange for your help with our efforts.

There's no money involved! All we ask is for a mutual partnership, and that your organization supports OOS in our activities,

events, and outreach efforts, and when appropriate, our organization be listed on your website, Facebook page, or other print or social media.

Contact OOS President Jen Sauter today: ceruleanwarbler.sauter@gmail.com

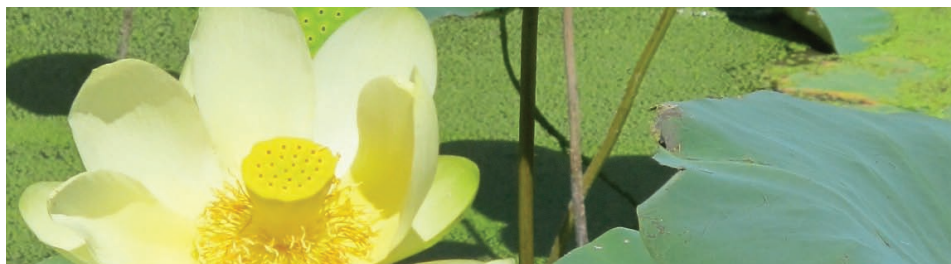
The Ravaging of OHIO'S Public Lands.

Recently passed legislation allowing tree cutting and drilling for oil and gas in our state parks, state forests, and other public lands reminds me of the “Robber Baron” days of the late 1800’s. During that time it was the intoxicating richness of the American continent which induced a state of mind that made waste and plunder inevitable. It was a continent rich in soils and minerals and forests and wildlife and this produced in people the fallacy of – the Myth of Superabundance. According to that myth, our resources were inexhaustible. We must remember in those days, as today, the resources of our public lands were in the crosshairs of state politicians; greed is always in the forefront.

As I think more about this legislative fiasco, a question comes to mind, “Why should our beloved public lands pay the price for the extreme greed of Wall Street and the big banks who, with their obscene salaries and bonuses, brought our entire economy to its knees?” We all need to ask this question of our legislative people in Columbus. In a state as heavily populated as Ohio, where public land ownership ranks near the bottom of the 50 states, it seems extremely short sighted (and yes, even criminal) to allow timber and mineral extraction and other forest degrading activities in state parks and forests.

The remaining forests in Ohio are extremely diverse and complex ecosystems. In other words,

Guest Editorial – Paul Knoop, Hocking County, Ohio



Editor's Note:

Paul Knoop served as Director and Education Coordinator of The Aullwood Audubon Center near Dayton, Ohio for 35 years. For additional information on fracking, see the Ohio Environmental Council website: <http://www.theoec.org/>. To contact your legislative representative at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm#reps_zip

ANN OLIVER

the forests consist of more than just trees. A recent and on-going study on a 1200 acre Ohio forest tract has identified in excess of 7,400 species of plants and animals (Coover 2012). This species richness rivals the Great Smoky Mountains and is something for which all Ohioans can be proud. However, the average size private woodland in Ohio is only 40 acres which is far too small to preserve species richness over time. This small woodlot size is especially troubling when it comes to preserving breeding habitat for neotropical migrant birds – the warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers and thrushes; colorful creatures that are so meaningful to so many people. These spectacular avian species are especially impacted by forest fragmentation

caused by clear cutting, roads, drilling rigs, etc.

This forest fragmentation, which is essentially dividing the forest into smaller and smaller units, is the major cause of neotropical bird decline. Unless large roadless and undisturbed tracts are preserved (state parks and forests) future extinction of these small birds is assured.

Those of us who have devoted our lives to procuring and preserving Ohio's public lands find the ruling to allow cutting, drilling, and fracking to be outrageous. It also makes many of us extremely angry. It is now time to express our deep concern to our legislators and to the governor. The more concerned voices there are the better our chances of saving Ohio's natural lands.



BIRDERS GONE "WILDS": Winter Raptor Extravaganza

Kyle Carlsen, Vincent Ohio



KYLE CARLSEN

If you failed to join the flocks of enthusiastic Ohio birders at the *Wilds* on January 14, you missed out on some serious fun. The OOS Winter Raptor Extravaganza certainly lived up to its name this year with enough hawks, falcons, and owls to keep everyone entertained.

Scores of birders—young and old, new and experienced—donned multiple layers of thermals and Under Armour, braved the cold, and caravanned across the rugged terrain in search of winged treasure. These 10,000 acres of reclaimed grassland are a magnet for wintering raptors (and birders). Sprinkle around a few large ponds, and you have a jackpot for winter birding right here in southeast Ohio.

And we weren't disappointed. Northern Harriers swooped past the car, gliding low over the fields

in search of meadow voles. Rough-legged Hawks were everywhere—appearing around every turn, over every field, delighting us all. American Kestrels dotted the power lines and hovered overhead, showing off their superb hunting skills. A few lucky folks spotted a Merlin or two. And the Short-eared Owls—nobody had to wait until dusk to get a look

The "happy birder life bird dance" at the *Wilds* after several participants saw their first-ever Short-eared Owl.

at one of these guys. Several owls were out and about before lunchtime, lazily floating across the road in their famous moth-like fashion.

In addition to the raptors, we managed to turn up several waterfowl species—including the magnificent Trumpeter Swan, thanks to introduction efforts at the *Wilds*. American Tree Sparrows, Horned Larks, and Eastern Meadowlarks represented the passerines, along with some American Pipits at the end of the day. Unfortunately, no sightings were made of the elusive Golden Eagles, but, no day is perfect, right?

Friends were reunited, new friends were made, life birds were

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Short-eared Owl flies
over the *Wilds*.



KYLE CARLSEN

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bagged, and fun was had by all who participated. Special thanks to the *Wilds*' staff for opening their facilities for the event and to all the coordinators and trip leaders for making the outing a success.

If you missed out, it's not too late: all of these awesome birds should be at the *Wilds* throughout the winter. But better yet, make plans now to attend the 2013 Winter Raptor Extravaganza (the Saturday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend) at the *Wilds*.



Editor's Note:

Birding since age 11, Kyle Carlsen is a senior English major at Ohio Valley University and has an expressed interest in pursuing environmental law. As a teen, Kyle published his own birding newsletter for approximately three years: he's currently interning at Bird Watcher's Digest Magazine in Marietta. He's a member of the Mount-wood Bird Club of the Mid-Ohio Valley (Washington County, OH and Wood County, WV) and of OOS.

OOS YOUNG BIRDER \$250 Tuition Scholarship

Ohio's Birding Network is offering a \$250 tuition scholarship to a young birder from the Buckeye State! Students who will be high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the upcoming '12-'13 school year, are invited to attend the 4th Annual "The Cornell Lab Young Birders Event", July 19 - 22, 2012 in Ithaca, New York. An application form can be found online at

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/YB2012>.

Just answer five simple questions relative to interest and ex-

perience in birding, and submit to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Young Birders Event aims to bring together teens with a passion for birds and bird conservation, or who are interested in pursuing a career with birds. Fill out the application form and return it by April 1st, 2012. Ten young birders will be selected and notified in mid-April.

This is a great opportunity for a deserving young birder to get hands-on experience under the tutelage of CLO!



**CLEVELAND
LAKEFRONT
NATURE PRESERVE**

Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Port Authority

**The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
is now open to the public**

The Nature Preserve is a unique urban wildlife habitat where people and nature can connect on Lake Erie's shoreline.

The 88-acre preserve has been designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon Ohio and is intended for walking, observing nature, research, and education.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority manages the Preserve and welcomes visitors to its 1.3 mile loop trail during daylight hours.

Directions The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve is located directly behind the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) office at 8701 Lakeshore Boulevard NE in Cleveland. When traveling north on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, follow the road to the right as it becomes Lakeshore Boulevard heading east and make the first left into the ODNR parking lot. Proceed on foot around the west side of the ODNR office to the Nature Preserve entrance.

www.portofcleveland.com



Birds of The Ice Road Truckers Highway:

Birding The Haul Road in Summer

Dr. Jill Russell, Southwest Regional Director of OOS
- Liberty, Indiana



Bluethroats, found along the Dalton Highway, are a sought-after target species for many birders visiting Alaska.

In Ohio, it's fairly easy to undertake winter birding: don layers of warm clothing, fill up the gas tank, pack a thermos of coffee, and you're better off than an "Ice Road Truck-er". In Alaska, going birding on the Dalton Highway, or Haul Road, presents major challenges, even in the summer! But for those who prepare, the rewards are as vast as the Alaskan wilderness itself!

First, some history. In 1968, oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay, an inlet of the Beaufort Sea and Arctic Ocean, on the northern coast of Alaska. Soon, the nation was in the throes of an energy crisis and pushed for an 800-mile long pipeline to carry oil from Prudhoe Bay in the north, to the southern coastal port of Valdez. But before the pipeline

could be built, a road had to be constructed to get workers and supplies north to the oilfield. Incredibly, the Dalton Highway, referred to as the Haul Road, connecting Fairbanks with Prudhoe Bay, was completed in just five months, and the pipeline in three years (1974-77).

To quote the American Birding Association's *A Birder's Guide to Alaska* (West, 2008), "No road in Alaska has a more dramatic change along its length than the Dalton Highway. Beginning deep in the taiga some 70 north of Fairbanks and ending near the Arctic Ocean on the north coast, it traverses about 400 miles of nearly uninhabited land with unparalleled birding opportunities." Traveling this 416 mile farthest-north road involves real risks

and challenges. It is the summer destination for hardcore motorcyclists, who test balance and self-control against the forces of nature to reach the Arctic Ocean, and each year many bikers end up airlifted to the Anchorage hospital after sliding off the muddy road, or crashing into the tundra. This is the road of the long-distance truckers, who bring food and supplies to the six thousand workers of Deadhorse Camp, and the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay. In winter, the road freezes over with ice, and truckers must battle temperatures as low as -100°F in order to get food to stranded oil workers. Not your average birding conditions in the lower 48!

If you decide to bird this magnificent stretch of North America, keep in mind that most rental car companies will not allow their vehicles on this road. So make this a "bucket-list" destination and take your own 4-wheel-drive vehicle up the Alaskan Highway to Fairbanks, spend a few days in town visiting the Alaska Bird Observatory, rest, gather supplies, and thoroughly plot your Dalton Highway adventure.

The journey begins in the boreal forests north of Fairbanks, where white spruce, aspen, birch and alder produce a thick, wooded carpet as far as the eye can see. This is the

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habitat of the secretive Boreal Owl – a life list bird for most of us. *Aegolius funereus* blends perfectly with lichen dappled tree branches. It's not unusual for a birder to spend hours in the taiga and not find a single Boreal Owl. But, if you know where the nest cavities or nest boxes are, you will be rewarded with an encounter with one of the most sought-after owl species in North America.

Watch for Ruffed and Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees in thickets near road cuts and burned areas. Wildfires are a natural part of the taiga, and American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers thrive in these areas. Low-lying black spruce bogs are apparent where the road bobs in and out of valleys and the permafrost is just beneath the surface. Keep alert, because moose prefer to hang out in these muskeg areas and often meander onto the road. Common Redpolls, the goldfinch of the north, are found throughout the early section of the Haul Road. You can catch glimpses of Great Horned Owls, Northern Goshawks, Northern Hawk Owls, American Kestrel, White-winged Crossbills, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, and Common Ravens along the roadsides and on pipeline insulators. Between the beginning of the Haul Road and the Yukon River (Milepost 56) the road switches from dirt to pavement several times. Sometimes the road is so dusty you have to close your car windows when another vehicle passes. But even so, you can feel the grit from the road on your teeth.

Once you cross the Yukon, the longest river in Alaska, the taiga

thins and birding is not very productive. Therefore, your first stop is the Hot Spot Café at Milepost 60. Seventeen years ago, a buxom blond named Theresa opened the joint and it has become a favorite stop of practically everyone who travels the Haul Road - especially the Ice Road Truckers! The burgers and milkshakes are highly recommended.

Be sure to use the restroom before departing the Hot Spot Café: it's aromatic, but it's the only 'facility' for 100 miles. Leaning against the outhouse is a handwritten sign that boldly says, "BEWARE OF BEARS! USE OUTHOUSE WITH CAUTION. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!! IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN A BEAR, YOU COULD. ANY TIME, UP CLOSE! MAKE NOISE. LOOK AROUND!" You may think this is silly, but as we pulled out of Hot Spot, we almost hit a mother black bear eating berries along the side of the road! Meanwhile, watch for "tire busting" potholes and pavement breaks for the next 17 miles.

At Milepost 115, the Haul Road crosses the Arctic Circle. At this latitude the sun does not set on summer solstice and it does not rise on winter solstice (December 21). Short-eared Owls can be found in the valley bottom leading up to the Arctic Circle, and Bohemian Waxwings hang out in the trees around the campground. Deadhorse is still 300 miles north.

The only truckstop on the Dalton Highway is at Coldfoot Camp (Milepost 175) at the base of the Brooks Range. This is your first overnight stop along the route. With a permanent population of only twelve people, available ser-

vices include food, gas, lodging, camping, tire and minor vehicle repair, post office, airport and phone. The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, run by BLM, USF&WS, and the National Park Service, is a "must stop" for visitors. It offers travel/road information, topographic maps, natural history exhibits, book and gift store, evening programs, hunting and fishing information, and back country camping/hiking registration. If you collect the National Parks Passport stamps, this place is a goldmine because you can get stamps for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

As you head north from Coldfoot, into the foothills of the Brooks Range, trees grow scarce until they disappear altogether. You have arrived at the point in the arctic where the forest ends and the tundra begins. It's important to remember there are no medical facilities between Fairbanks and Deadhorse:

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JILL & DAVID RUSSELL

Boreal Owl is best found in the spring, near Fairbanks.



Birds of The Ice Road Truckers Highway *Continued from page 7*

Coldfoot Camp is the last truck stop, so there are no other gas stations or auto repair service. We've travelled this road four times in the past two years; during the most recent traverse, we saw two vehicles changing tires along the route, and a crashed motorcyclist being airlifted to Anchorage.

Just before you cross the Brooks Range at Atigun Pass, the road climbs to the Chandalar Shelf. This is a great area to see Golden Eagle, Arctic Warblers, Northern Shrike, and Bluethroats. Driving up the 5 mile Pass is no easy job. The road is dirt, the guard rails are flimsy at best, and the truckers own the road. Get out of their way if truckers are coming down! At 4800 feet, Atigun Pass is the highest highway pass in Alaska. Once you reach the Continental Divide, you will be humbled by the vastness of the mountains around you. The scree slopes at the top of Atigun Pass form a giant avalanche bowl: stop and eat your lunch here and watch for Northern Wheatear, Semipalmated Plover, Snow Buntings, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. Oh, and don't forget to keep your eye out for Grizzly Bears.

After crossing the Continental Divide at Atigun Pass, rivers to the north flow into the Arctic Ocean. Once you come down on the north side of the Pass, you are in a different world - arctic tundra - called the North Slope. All three Jaegers can be found on the North Slope, as well as Smith's Longspur, Rough-legged Hawks, and Willow Ptarmigan. Birding improves exponentially on the North Slope: species diversity and concentrations keep increasing

until you reach the Arctic Ocean. As you pass by the University of Alaska Fairbanks research station at Toolik Lake (mile 284) stop and put your scope on the lake. We've seen Red-throated Loon here three out of four times.

From here on, the Dalton Highway follows the Sagavanirktok River north to the Arctic Ocean. Only tough, ground-hugging plants can survive the frozen ground, frigid temperatures, icy winds, and weak sunlight. Watch for Bluethroats in thickets of dwarf willow, and be sure to pull off at Milepost 336 - Ice Cut. Look at the bluffs across the river to the east, and you are likely to see a pair of Gyrfalcons. The female is a white-morph, and the male is gray. We have seen them both, but they are so far away, you'll need to scope them.

Once you drop out of the dry uplands, permafrost dominates the terrain. Shallow and productive, this habitat is the bird nursery of the Arctic Coastal Plain. The ground is patterned in polygons forming a patchwork of ponds across the landscape: overhead, you'll hear the raspy "kee-arr" call of Arctic Terns. Glaucous Gull often patrols the road for their favorite meal, Arctic Ground Squirrel. Golden-Plover, Tundra Swan, Long-tailed Duck, and Northern Pintail become common. If you take your time, and the lemming populations are up, you may see Snowy Owls nesting around Deadhorse.

At the end of the Dalton Highway, about 8 miles south of the Arctic Ocean, is Deadhorse, Alaska, the industrial camp that supports Prud-

hoe Bay. You are now 499 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska and at the farthest north point you can drive in the United States. Plan to spend the night in Deadhorse. There are no public outhouses or tent-camping areas, so, your best bet is to book a reservation (ahead of time) at one of the three motels. This is not a town: there are no schools, churches, children, or pets. Virtually all businesses are engaged in oil field or pipeline support activities, such as drilling, construction, maintenance, telecommunications, warehousing, and transportation. Most employees work 3 week shifts (3 weeks on/3 weeks off) of seven days a week (10-12 hrs/day) and live elsewhere in the country.

Here, amongst the giant-sized machinery and warehouses, the polygon geography provides nesting habitat for some of the most spectacular and reclusive sea ducks on earth. Spectacled and King Eiders spend most of their life at sea, but for about 2 weeks in the summer, males come ashore in Deadhorse, pair with females, and hang around long enough for the adventurous birder to add them to their life list. You will be stunned by their beauty and accessibility. Brandt, Red-necked Phalarope, Greater White-fronted Goose, Sabine's Gulls, Pacific Loon, and yet more Long-tailed Ducks will flood your senses. Your head will reel with the abundance of bird life in Deadhorse and you will revel in the beauty of the moment. Here you are, on the top of the world, at the end of the Haul Road, looking at more life birds than you can imagine, and you won't want to go home.



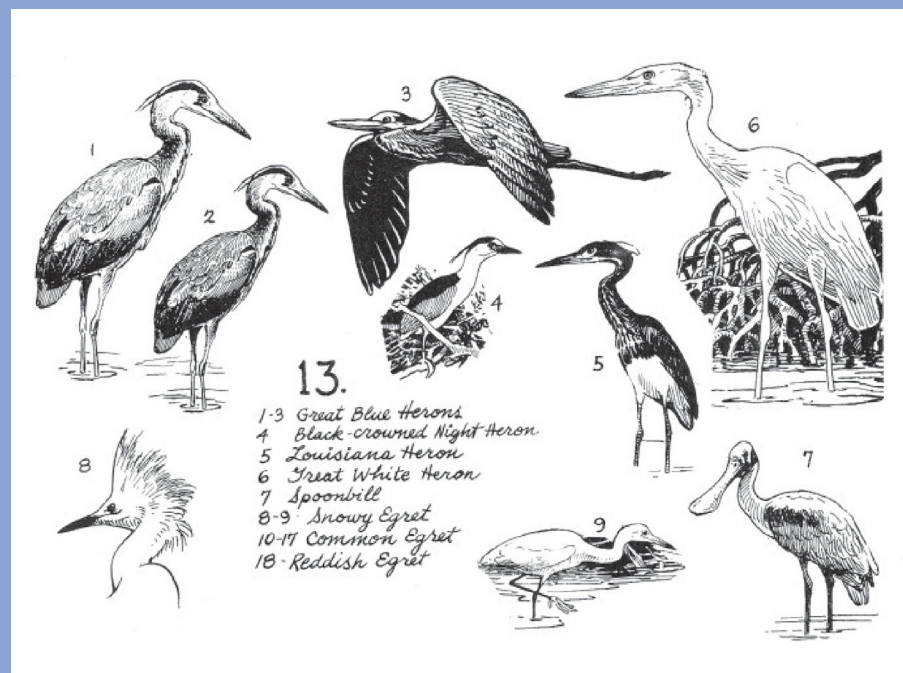
JILL & DAVID RUSSELL

The Spectacled Eider has a brief breeding season, before they head far offshore to winter in the pack-ice of the Bering Sea.

Editor's Note:

Dr. Jill Russell, and her husband Dr. Dave Russell, are the founders of the Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI). The Russells teach during the summer at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks. During the 2011 summer season, the Russells studied and banded Boreal Owls in Alaska. During the regular school year, Jill teaches at the College of Mount St. Joseph, and Dave teaches at Miami University. Together, they band birds at the Clifford Bird Observatory (CBO) and Hueston Woods Biological Station (HWBS) in southwest Ohio. Additionally, Dr. Jill Russell is founder of the Queen City Bird Festival, the Southwest Regional Director of OOS, and the editor of The Ohio Cardinal. They have been guest lecturing across Ohio, and around the US, on their summer research experiences and birding the Haul Road. Find out more about having the Russells talk to your bird group: Jill_Russell@mail.msje.edu.

Bob Hines Centennial



What Duncan Hines (1880-1959) was to prepackaged cake mixes, Ohio-native Bob Hines (1912-1994) was to wildlife art.

You might not be familiar with his name, but birders, hunters, and conservationists across the US are in Bob Hines' debt. Born in Columbus, and raised in Fremont where he achieved Eagle Scout status, Hines became a staff artist for the Ohio Division of Conservation in 1939. He designed the 1946 Federal Duck Stamp, and went on to manage the judging contest for three decades. Although formally untrained as an artist, his natural talent led him to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1948 as an artist-illustrator, working under the supervision of Rachel Carson. Hines helped inaugurate the Wildlife Conservation Postal Stamp Series, and designed the first of four stamps in the series. He also illustrated many books, including *Wildlife in America* by Peter Matthiessen. Hines' wildlife artwork appeared in magazines, such as *The New Yorker*, and several of his large scale murals grace the Department of the Interior, in Washington DC.

An exhibit, "The Wildlife Art of Bob Hines", is currently on view at the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio through August 14. Make plans to view the exhibit, honoring the centennial of Hines' birth, and perhaps celebrate his life privately with a piece of cake! Details: <http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/>



Spread Your Wings and Volunteer with OOS!

Here's your chance to help Ohio's birds through volunteering! OOS is seeking several energetic and enthusiastic individuals to help connect fellow birders across the spectrum of Ohio's birding community.

OOS is looking for a membership coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, and assistance with various outreach initiatives, such as committee work in conservation, research, education, fundraising, events, and marketing. In exchange for your time and efforts, OOS volunteers will get a special discounted membership, a unique volunteer OOS hat or visor, free or reduced admittance to events, and "Cerulean Bucks" which can be used for OOS merchandise.

The role of Membership Coordinator is the most important OOS volunteer position that we'd like to immediately fill! Skills include Excel Database, Mail Merge, and Mass Email Distribution (Mail Chimp). But, if you have skills in grant writing or fundraising, we'll sign you up for our conservation team or other role. Tell us how you'd like to contribute, and we'll find a way to channel your volunteering efforts to assist Ohio's Birding Network!

Contact OOS President Jen Sauter for details: ceruleanwarbler.sauter@gmail.com



OOS owes a huge debt to outgoing Membership Coordinator Barb Fate, seen here during a birding trip to Machu Picchu, Peru in August. Barb managed and organized our database for the last two years. She also provided invaluable assistance with committee work including her role as co-leader of the 2009 Waterfowl Symposium held at Grange Insurance Audubon Center in partnership with Columbus Audubon, as well as volunteering at the OOS booth during the recent Midwest Birding Symposium in Lakeside, Ohio. We wish Barb well in all her future endeavors and travels.

Calendar of Events

Birding By Ear with Highbanks Metro Park on April 12 and April 29: Registration required. Part one is a short classroom session and part two is a bird walk. See the Columbus Audubon April "Events Calendar" for details. www.columbusaudubon.org/events

Buckeye TrailFest along the Little Miami Scenic River near Fort Ancient: April 26-29. Fee. Sponsored by the Buckeye Trail Association. A variety of programs including bird walks, hikes, wildflower and tree identification, fossil exploration, and Native American interpretation. www.buckeyetrailfest.org/

Flora-Quest at Shawnee State Park, May 4-6, 2012: Fee. Botanical forays in Shawnee and Adams County, with additional emphasis on birds, butterflies, and geology. www.flora-quest.com/index.html

Biggest Week in American Birding, May 4-13, 2012. Fee. Sponsored by BSBO. www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/

Wine and Warblers at Grange Insurance Audubon Center, May 9: Fee. Must be 21 years of age. Special presentation by Julie Zickefoose. www.GIAC-Audubon.org

Past, Present, and Future of Birding with Richard Crossley, May 10 at 7pm: FREE. Sponsored by Friends of Magee Marsh at the Sportmen's Migratory Bird Center. www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/visitor.php#tomm

Queen City Bird Festival, at Hueston Woods State Park: May 12. FREE.

Family birding festival with special emphasis on young birders. 9 am - 4 pm. www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/745/default.aspx

Birding and Pancake Breakfast at Grailville in Loveland: May 19, 2012.

Fee. Grailville is a 300 acre organic farm and environmental, education, and spiritual retreat center. www.grailville.org/images/pg12.pdf

OOS Eighth Annual Conference at Lakeside, Ohio: September 28-30, 2012. Fee. Special focus on shorebirds, including field trips, workshops, and driving the auto tour at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Saturday keynote speaker is wildlife photographer Kevin Karlson, known for The Shorebird Guide, with co-authors Richard Crossley and Michael O'Brien. Sunday pelagic. Details TBA: www.ohiobirds.org/site/index.php

Members' Corner

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

Send contributions for the newsletter to cerulean1@ohiobirds.org, or by regular mail to THE CERULEAN, c/o OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. For more information see the Publications page on the OOS web site at www.ohiobirds.org. Because the newsletter is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember the Post Office will not forward this newsletter to a new address. Please notify us at oosmember@gmail.com if you have recently moved.

Editor—Ann Oliver
 (annieobirder@yahoo.com)

Welcome New Members!

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

Mark Alt
 Diana Anderson
 Lynda Andrews
 George and Kelly Benish
 Susan E. Brauning
 Jen Brumfield
 Joyce Callahan
 Dana Campbell
 Allen T. Chartier
 Bob Conlon
 Lauren & Matt Courtman
 Cynthia Czerwien
 Abraham Eitam
 Wendy Eller
 Michael D. Faw
 John D. Finn
 Suzan George
 Michael Gordon
 Robert Joseph Lael Hample
 Scott Hannan
 Daniel & Kelly Hendrix
 Robert Hikida
 Jean Hoffman
 John Howard
 Paul J. Hurtado
 Kelly Kozlowski
 Melissa Krygier
 Amy Girten & Kim Lascola
 Richard Lee
 Colleen Mathews
 Donna McGrath
 Levi McVey
 Freida M. Miller
 Susan Nash
 Mark Romelfanger
 Susan Roxburgh
 Vicki Foster Scott
 Chad, Angel, Evan, Quinn,
 Marie & Jude Seurkamp
 Mark J. Shaver
 Cindy K. Steffen
 Matthew Straley
 Aaron and Cheryl Sussell
 Erica Szezyller-Macolley
 Phillip Thiele North
 Peter Torvik
 Beverly Walborn
 Doris & Larry Wald
 Barbara Wesel
 Nyla Wiggins
 Michael J. Zook

Thank you for your donations!

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following members who have given generous donations which have been deposited into the Ohio Ornithological Society's Conservation & Education Fund. Donations are used for promoting conservation, education and research of Ohio's avifauna. Thank you!

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For an online version of this application visit: www.ohiobirds.org/join.php



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Welcome! Our mission is to preserve Ohio's bird habitats. We are a statewide organization devoted to advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

OUR MISSION . . .

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