Breakfast with the Birds & OOS

Meet your friends from the Facebook group Birding Ohio on Saturday morning, September 29 from 6:30-8:00 am at The Pavilion in Lakeside. We’ll listen for night flight calls of migrating birds overhead before dawn, then watch the bird life at Lake Erie “wake up”. Robert Hersberger from Time & Optics will have scopes and binoculars available and Lakeside will serve a continental breakfast. Afterwards, we’ll caravan to nearby Meadowbrook Marsh for some time in the field. Free for OOS members: suggested donation of $5 for non-members. Please RSVP, on the BO event page, or send an email to Julie Davis (greenheron58@insight.rr.com) so we can get a headcount.

OOS Eighth Annual Conference and Shorebird Extravaganza: Wicked Cool Shorebirds

Jen Brumfield- Naturalist/Artist for Cleveland Metroparks

Wanna see some wicked cool shorebirds with Kevin Karlson, author and photographer, and a slew of other birders? I’ll be helping to co-lead trips and get point-blank looks for you in the scope, of common and rare shorebirds alike. We’ll discuss ID tips to help you get a grip with these brilliant brown and gold, and buff and orange and intricately colored birds. Maybe we’ll pick up Buff-breasted, Red-necked Phalarope, or other sweet rarities... upwards of 25+ species are possible. You should really be there. It’s going to be a slamming good time. An incredible event where you can meet others from around the state, get in some sweet birding, hear and see some great talks, and find some rarities. And party!

An Army of People Dedicated to Birds: OOS thanks Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Rebecca Hinkle, Visitor Services Manager at Ottawa (and OOS Northwest Regional Director), for hosting our two July 22 field trips. This wonderful photo by Ernie Cornelius, documenting our foray into the refuge, was titled “An Army of People Dedicated to Birds” by OOS board member, and blogger, Cheryl Harner (cherylharner.blogspot.com/2012/07/oos-visits-ottawa.html).

Lakeside has a generous offer for OOS folks! Reserve a hotel room at the Fountain Inn or Hotel Lakeside for $10 off the current rate per night. This is an “online only” reservation rate. Go to: www.lakesideohio.com and click the tab “Staying At Lakeside”. Please enter the event code “shorebirds” in the field provided. This will provide the discounted room rate.

The Pavillion in Lakeside
Love shorebirds? Want to be better at shorebird identification? Join author and professional field trip leader Kevin Karlson for a Saturday shorebird-intensive session! Kevin will share the simple and effective approach to shorebird ID highlighted in his best-selling book, The Shorebird Guide, co-authored with Richard Crossley and Michael O’Brien. With an initial focus on basic impressions of size, shape, and behavior, an effective ID starting point is achieved.

Indoor Class: This short indoor workshop has been formatted to help remove confusion from field identification of shorebirds. Formally considered a difficult task reserved for experts, shorebird ID will become easier for all levels of birders if a relatively simple approach is taken.

Kevin Karlson  
Co-author of  
The Shorebird Guide

Take an “Epic Journey” with our Saturday Night Movie

OOS is honored to share Epic Journeys: Tracking the Migrations of Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere with our members and guests during our fall conference! It’s a shorebird documentary by acclaimed East Coast photographer/videoographers Shawn Carey and Jim Grady.

Each year millions of shorebirds make an amazing round-trip journey between the Northern and southern hemisphere. Migration Productions’ newest video, Epic Journeys, looks at three shorebird species—Red Knot, Piping Plover and Semi-palmated Sandpiper—and the challenges these species face during each of their monumental annual treks.

The film asks burning questions: What is being done to help protect these shorebirds and their habitat? How can the public help with their conservation? And where can one go to best see each of these species en-route to their destinations? Interviews and footage were shot on Plymouth Beach and South Beach in Massachusetts, the Bay of Fundy in Canada, and Cape May, New Jersey.

The Big Narration of The Big Year

Join OOS on Friday night during our fall conference, for a narrated showing of The Big Year, with our special guest Greg Miller. Think of this as a director’s cut, birding style! As you may know, the 2011 movie is Based on the acclaimed 2004 book by Mark Obmascik; the book details the all-consuming competition among the top three birders who saw the most species in the ABA area in 1998. One of those three birders was Ohio’s Greg Miller, portrayed by Jack Black in the film! Miller, one of the founding members of OOS, spent time on the Vancouver-based set during the filming of the movie. Meeting all of the stars, and numerous members of the crew, Miller offered birding recommendations as a script consultant for director David Frankel. Find out how successful, and challenging, the editing process is, as we hear Miller’s first-hand account of his experience!
About 40 people showed up to view the Mississippi Kites at the OOS Third Annual “Spy a Kite” field trip on Saturday, August 11. About half of participants were successful. Those who arrived a little early were treated to killer views of the three kites perched in a tree just behind home plate at Lever Park in Loveland, Ohio. And then the three birds launched themselves into the air and spiraled up, up, and away, delighting the assembled crowd, but disappointing the participants who were still arriving. The group stayed around for another hour or so, but alas, the kites did not return. A couple of people stayed for several hours, and did see them later.

The birders dispersed, with about 15 moving on to the Great Miami Oxbow property, located just over the state line in Indiana, to search for a Neotropic Cormorant which had been frequenting that spot. There, the pattern of success and failure was reversed. Most of the group left after fruitlessly scouring the Oxbow area for the cormorant. But a few who stayed until the bitter end were rewarded with a brief, but recognizable, glimpse of our quarry as it lifted off from a remote pond.

And that, my friends, is what birding is about. Bird early, bird late, bird in-between, and you will be rewarded. Sometimes.

OOS Visits Morgan Swamp

Karen, organizer Craig Caldwell, and James Cole (TNC Ohio Bird Conservation Program Manager) were joined by 16 participants. We walked a 1¼ mile loop through forest and a (mostly) dry cattail marsh, made a brief stop at an open field where we were rewarded with the sight and sound of at least five Bobolinks, and ate lunch under shade while watching Eastern Bluebirds and an Eastern Phoebe. We found 44 bird species, plus about a dozen different dragonflies and damselflies, and many butterflies. Of course we heard, rather than saw, most of the birds; but highlights included four Yellow, three Cerulean, two Hooded, and one

Mississippi Kite.

Editor’s Note:
Ned Keller is one of the founding board members of OOS and a former Southwest Regional Director. A lawyer by profession, Ned serves on the Ohio Birds Record Committee, is the ‘owner’ of the Ohio list serv (birdingonthe.net/mailing-lists/Ohio), and is the creator of the website Cincinnatibirds.com. He’s married to Kathy McDonald.

By Ned Keller—Cincinnati

OOS visits Morgan Swamp

Blue-winged Warbler, and an Ovenbird.

Stay tuned for another joint OOS-TNC field trip in 2013.

OOS Northeast Director
The Ohio Cardinal
Craig Caldwell—
OOS Northeast Director
Editor, The Ohio Cardinal

At the swamp.
THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY: YOUNG BIRDERS EVENT —By Kristina Polk

Seeing the Sapsucker Woods sign for the first time sent a thrill through me—for so long it had been a fabled place I’d wished to visit. Suddenly it was right in front of my eyes; as we turned the bend, there sat the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Walking inside, the beautiful interior design was breathtaking. To our left, floor-to-ceiling windows looked out over a marsh, while Mallards swam under flying Red-winged Blackbirds. To our right, there was a multitude of bird-related wall hangings, artwork, exhibits, and more that dotted the rooms. I was instantly eager to get going with all the activities planned for the Cornell Young Birders event!

The three days were filled with a stunning range of experiences. We had the opportunity to use high-end sound recording equipment at Myers Point and video recording with ceiling windows looking out over a breathtaking marsh, where Mallards swam under Blue-winged Warbler! These Least Bittern, Prairie Warbler, even saw such incredible birds as Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, yet were reeled, some surprising—the two Parulas were not grouped together, and neither were the two Redstarts. Irby opened the drawer for birds with fellow teen birders. We birded in spots around freely. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the scale of it. Hummingbirds, tanagers, albatrosses, woodpeckers, and corvids of all sorts were seen, along with a few very important specimens.

We also got an inside look at the genetics lab, where many of the past (and recent) taxonomy changes were made. We had presentations by former young birder Andy Johnson, author of the Birds of Peru guide Tom Schulenberg, Cornell grad Tom Johnson, flight-call expert Andrew Knipsworth, and other Cornell Lab of Ornithology experts. For our supper we all ate together; it was amazing to be able to chat with such experts! Overall, the experience was one of a lifetime and truly special. We made important connections, learned about the different career options for birders, and saw some amazing birds with fellow teen birders. There had been a survey upon our arrival that asked, “What are you least looking forward to for birding when he was 12, creditir Cornell Lab of Ornithology members as "extremely supportive" of him. Additionally, Winger was involved with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History youth programs (Student Naturalists and Future Scientists), volunteering in Wildlife Resources at CMNH in middle and high school, and working in the Ornithology Department after graduating from college. Winger says: “The mentorship and encouragement I received from birders of all ages has been extremely important to my career and to my life. I am also extremely grateful to my big birding whenever possible but also to publish, write about, or illustrate my bird sightings, had a strong influence on my desire to pursue a career in ornithology.”

Kristina holding an Ivory-billed Woodpecker skin

Editor’s Note: OOS sponsored Kristina with a scholarship to help her take part in “The Cornell Lab Young Birders Event”, July 19-22, in Ithaca, NY.

Irby opened the drawer labeled for endangered/extinct/special concern species, and what was inside was truly remarkable: Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Kea, Bachman’s Warbler, Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Darwin’s Finches… all species with almost mythical reverence. He let us hold the Ivory-bill, and when I did, I couldn’t fathom that there was, in fact, a skin of a real Ivory-billed Woodpecker in my open palms! It set a huge smile on my face, for it was a dream come true for me. Others seemed to enjoy the Carolina Parakeet and the Kea more than the woodpecker, but I thought holding that IBWO was one of the highlights of the entire event. We also got an inside look at the genetics lab, where many of the past (and recent) taxonomy changes were made. We had presentations by former young birder Andy Johnson, author of the Birds of Peru guide Tom Schulenberg, Cornell grad Tom Johnson, flight-call expert Andrew Knipsworth, and other Cornell Lab of Ornithology experts. For our supper we all ate together; it was amazing to be able to chat with such experts! Overall, the experience was one of a lifetime and truly special. We made important connections, learned about the different career options for birders, and saw some amazing birds with fellow teen birders. There had been a survey upon our arrival that asked, “What are you least looking forward to for the event?” and I had answered “Nothing. I look forward to OWL of it.” My answer was the same.

Former Ohioan Helps Discover New Species in Peru

Ben Winger, originally from the Cleveland area, was part of the Cornell University graduate team recently described a new species of barbet in the July 2012 issue of The Auk, the official publication of the American Ornithologists’ Union. The team discovered the Siri Barbet in 2005, in a remote, mountainous part of the Peruvian cloud forest. To honor Cornell Lab of Ornithology executive director John W. Fitzpatrick, the scientific name of the species is Capito fitzpatricki. Currently a PhD candidate at the University of Chicago, Winger started birding when he was 12, crediting the Birding Club members as “extremely supportive” of him. Additionally, Winger was involved with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History youth programs (Student Naturalists and Future Scientists), volunteering in Wildlife Resources at CMNH in middle and high school, and working in the Ornithology Department after graduating from college. Winger says: “The mentorship and encouragement I received from birders of all ages has been extremely important to my career and to my life. I am also extremely grateful to publications like the Cleveland Bird Calendar and The Ohio Cardinal for giving me the chance to publish articles and drawings even when I was very young. Being treated like a peer by people of all ages, and being encouraged not only to go birding whenever possible but also to publish, write about, or illustrate my bird sightings, had a strong influence on my desire to pursue a career in ornithology.”

Young OOS Member and a Birding 4-H Project

New OOS member Catie Strable, age 10, received an “Outstanding of the Day” for her Ohio Birds 4-H project at the Ohio State Fair. This honor is given to the top ten percent of the class. She competed with nine to eighteen-year-olds, most with more experience. Her display included her OOS cap and Young Birder’s Guide given to her, and autographed by Bill Thompson III. 4-H “Ohio Birds” can be taken only by nine to eleven-year-olds the first time, only by twelve to fourteen-year-olds the second time, and only fifteen to nineteen-year-olds can take it a third time as a self- determined project. Last year 86 of 88 counties sent birders to the Ohio State Fair.

—By Mike Strable, Paulding
OOS Board Rejects Industrial Activities in Ohio State Parks

Cheryl Harner
OOS, North-Central Regional Director
President, Greater Mohican Audubon Society

While the state of Ohio is desperate for funding, Ohio’s birders are stepping up to say drilling and timbering in our state parks is not an appropriate solution to our monetary shortfalls. While many Ohioans are unaware of the gravity of this situation, more than a year has passed since the passage of HB 135 (Ohio State’s ‘Billion Dollar Budget Bill’), which opened Ohio’s State Parks to oil and gas drilling and provisions for commercial logging.

Public records show officials have been working to abide by the mandates of this new law: inventoring and classifying state owned parcels; checking titles; and clearing any encumbrances. All of these actions are to move forward on the drilling and logging of state parks and public lands.

Your Board of Directors of the Ohio Ornithological Society and several of Ohio’s Audubon Societies are rejecting these measures as a short-sighted and undesirable solution. Our state parks make up less than 3% of Ohio’s land mass, and have been set aside as repositories for biodiversity, where Ohioans can seek nature and enjoy the scenic rivers and the best wildlife watching Ohio has to offer.

Industrial activities, such as logging and fracking will detract from the inherent value of these quiet places, and the noise and increased traffic are not conducive to the uses for which these parks were set aside. In fact, we deem them to be detrimental to the avian life found within.

We expect the State of Ohio to honor its commitment to our forefathers: to preserve intact the lands and rivers- of the Ohio State Parks.

Continued on page 9
Calendar of Events

September 22-23: Lake Erie Wing Watch - A Family and Beginning Birding Weekend. Variety of activities at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa NWR, Old Woman Creek, Erie Metroparks, Kelleys Island, and a special open house at Back to the Wild! Most events are free. Details: www.lakeeriewingwatch.com


November 3: Sixth Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference. At Aullwood Audubon, near Dayton. Details: ohionyoungbirders.org/news/2012conferencedate.htm

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 website 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.

Welcome New Members!

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

Jill Bowers
James M. Crafts
Suzanne Crable
Brian Herrick
De and Luanne Huskins
Scott & Teresa Lamenta
Bill Lohans
Tina Luthy
Alexa Anne Miller
Michael Monarch
Paul & Bobbi Moser
Christine Sall
catie@stable.com
David Tan
Susan M. Walker-Lampe
Christopher Zacharias

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 bird conservation, education, and research of Ohio’s avifauna. Thank you!

Jill Bowers
Ms. Carol F. Brey
Karen & Chuck Larkin
Alexa Anne Miller
John O’Meara
Amy & Dave
Bob Scott Placier
Randy Rogers
Jan Sauter
Constance Sall
catie@stable.com
David Tan
Christopher Zacharias

Online Subscription Available!

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 our OOS Membership Coordinator: oosmember@gmail.com

New Editor for The Ohio Cardinal

In late July, The Ohio Ornithological Society announced the resignation of Dr. Jill Russell as Editor-in-Chief of The Ohio Cardinal. Jill’s professional responsibilities have increased and she feels she can no longer devote the time and energy to both her professional commitments and The Ohio Cardinal. OOS is pleased that seasonal editor and Northeast Regional Director Craig Caldwell will take over as Editor-in-Chief starting with the Winter 2010-11 issue. To ease the transition, Jill will continue to do the publication layout and editing. Jill Russell will remain as Photo Editor.

The OOS is committed to the obligation to publish the historic records of Ohio bird sightings as well as other interesting content. Both editors, and several other volunteers, from Ohio’s birding community will be working together toward the goal of clearing the backlog of issues before mid-summer of 2013 and remaining current thereafter. Currently, Summer 2010 was just mailed to members: Fall 2010 is on track to arrival at the printer by Labor Day.

Craig and the rest of the OOS Board of Directors appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding during the transition.

OOS is proud to partner with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative on an American Kestrel project. At a recent OOS board retreat, several kestrel nest boxes were constructed for placement in Ohio. Left to right: Julie Davis, Sue Evavnoff, Ethan Kistler, Bill Thompson III, Bob Scott Placier.
Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

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

Name: __________________________________________

Organization: __________________________________

Address: _______________________________________

City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: __________

Phone: ______________ Email: ______________________

(For electronic news updates, 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?

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

CONSERVATION
MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE FOR BIRDS & BIRDERS IN OHIO CAN UNITED TOGETHER NETWORK: OOSI OHIO'S BIRDING TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP PLEASE TAKE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DAN SOUTH - P. Box 14051

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Ohio Ornithological Society is the only state-wide organization specifically devoted to Ohio's bird habitat mitigation and conservation. Members receive regular updates on conservation activities, field trips, and more. Join today to help protect Ohio's wildlife and habitats.

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Please check your Membership Renewal Date in RED, Next to your Address! Thanks!