



The Cerulean

Fall 2012, Vol. 9, No. 3

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society

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Winter Owls in Minnesota!

To coincide with the OOS Owl Symposium, OOS and Nomadic Birding Tours are joining forces to offer a special winter owl trip on Feb 22-25 to Minnesota's northern boglands and the renowned Sax-Zim Bog! Join OOS board member Ethan Kistler and Minnesota native Erik Bruhnke in search of Great Grays, Snowys, Northern Hawk, and Boreal Owls in this phenomenal birding area. This winter is also predicted to produce an excellent flight of northern finches, so the probability of a clean sweep of Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, both crossbills, and both redpolls is excellent. We'll also be targeting other specialties including all three species of grouse (Spruce, Ruffed, Sharp-tailed), Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Northern Shrike, Boreal Chickadee and the eastern population of Black-billed Magpies.

For details and registration, contact Ethan Kistler at ohiobirder@yahoo.com. Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot today!

OOS to Host Owl Symposium at Mohican State Park, February 15-17

Join us February 15-17, 2013 at Mohican State Park Lodge for this exciting event! The Ohio Ornithological Society and Greater Mohican Audubon Society are proud to present The Owl Symposium, a spectacular weekend of fun, fellowship, and birding. You will hear great speakers, search for Ohio owls and winter finches, and catch up with birding friends. Denver Holt, founder

of the Owl Research Institute (see page 2), will serve as keynote speaker for the event, Tom Bartlett and Bob Scott Placier will share their research of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls in Ohio, and Gail Laux from The Ohio Bird Sanctuary will teach us the evolution and dynamics of owls. On Sunday we will wrap up the weekend with field trips in and around Mohican.



KYLE CARLSEN

Young OOS member Nathan Holewinski holds a Northern Saw-whet Owl which was captured, banded, and enjoyed by many at the Saw-whet Owl Palooza in Chillicothe, Ohio on October 27, 2012. The event was hosted by Southeast Regional Director Bob Scott Placier along with Kelly Williams-Sieg and Bill Bostic.



Denver Holt: Keynote Speaker for the OOS Owl Symposium

Denver Holt is a wildlife researcher and the founder and president of the Owl Research Institute, a nonprofit organization located in Charlo, Montana. A dedicated field researcher in North and Central America, Holt believes that long-term field studies are the primary means to understanding trends in natural history. In 2000, he was named Montana's "Wildlife Biologist of the Year" by the Wildlife Society of North America. He will give the evening keynote program at the OOS Owl Symposium on Saturday, February 16.

Since 1978, Holt's focus has been researching owls and their ecology. He has published more than 80 papers and technical documents, including three species accounts for the Birds of North America project. He was also team leader for the Strigidae Family owl species accounts for *The Handbook of the Birds of the World, volume 5*, covering 189 species of the world's owls. In collaboration with elementary school teachers, he has co-authored two children's science books on owls: *Owls Who Are They*, and *Snowy Owls*. In 2006, he was a chapter author on owls for the book *Arctic Wings*, highlighting the birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. That book has won the prestigious National Outdoor

Book Award for Design and Artistic Merit.

Holt's research has been acknowledged by the media, including a cover story for *National Geographic Magazine* in December 2002. His work has been the subject of many television segments on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and Disney, as well as featured on Audubon's Up-Close Series, PBS's "Bird Watch," and David Attenborough's "Life of Birds," among others. His research on snowy owls has been showcased on documentaries for National Geographic Explorer, NHK Natural History Unit of Japan, and the Norwegian Broadcasting Company Natural History Unit. His Snowy Owl research has been the focus of the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC) new documentary series called "Frozen Earth," a sequel to the highly acclaimed "Planet Earth" series. In May 2011, Holt's research was featured in the *New York Times*. In 2011, Holt worked closely with a PBS documentary film crew featuring Snowy Owl breeding ecology in the Arctic, a show which aired in 2012. The *New York Times* again cited Holt's research in January 2012 highlighting the 2012 Snowy Owl irruption migration to the United States. Holt also has been the keynote speaker for several major bird festivals in the United



DANIEL COX, NATURAL EXPOSURES

Denver Holt, president and founder of The Owl Research Institute.

States.

When not researching owls, Denver is actively involved in ecotourism as a natural history tour guide and co-owner of Wild Planet Nature Tours. He guides private natural history tours, and is a part-time trip leader for Victor Emanuel Nature Tour Company, the largest nature tour company in the world. To learn more about Denver Holt and his efforts in wildlife research, education, and conservation, visit www.owlinstitute.org.

Here are just a few of the seminars scheduled for the OOS Owl Symposium



GAIL LAUX

Northern Saw-whet Owls of Ohio

Tom Bartlett & Bob Scott Placier

Bartlett and Placier are Ohio's leading experts on the Northern Saw-whet Owl and they both have been banding Saw-whets in Ohio for more than 25 years. Tom has been conducting his research up on Kelleys Island and Bob has been in the southern part of the state in Vinton County. Their program will include the basic biology of the tiny owls and how and why they band them. They will share their experiences throughout the years, including some very unusual recaptures.

The Dynamics of the Physiology and Natural Behaviors of Ohio's Owl Species

Gail Laux, Ohio Bird Sanctuary

Laux will discuss and illustrate the diversity of Ohio's owl species through the use of live owls from the Ohio Bird Sanctuary's educational collection. Learn how owls have developed specific adaptation and behaviors to find their ecological niches. After 25 years of working closely with many of Ohio's owl species, Gail has many personal observations on owl species and their behavior.

Snowy Owls of the Arctic

Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute

The Snowy Owl is one of North America's most magnificent and beautiful creatures. It is the second largest bird of prey in the Arctic tundra, surpassed only by the Golden Eagle. During the non-breeding season Snowy Owls migrate and wander throughout Canada, the northern United States, and a few find their way down to Ohio. Last year, record numbers of migrating snowys were recorded in the lower 48 states; one owl was even reported in the state of Hawaii. Denver Holt has been studying owls for more than 35 years and he will give us insight into the natural history of this fascinating species.

Ninth Annual Wilds Extravaganza!

Mark your calendars with an icicle! The OOS and the Wilds are hosting our ninth annual give-back to Ohio's birding community, the Winter Raptor Extravaganza! Ohio birders annually visit the reclaimed grassland in Muskingum County for Northern Harriers, Rough-

legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and late in the day, Short-eared Owls. In the past, golden eagles have over-wintered, a Prairie Falcon spent two winters, and a Northern Shrike is often found. This year's winter finch prediction could also bring in cross-bills, grosbeaks, and redpolls!

Waterfowl, woodpeckers, and sparrows also contribute to the daily tally at this 10,000-acre birding mecca.

Please join us for this free event on Saturday, January 19, 2013. Registration is now open. For more information, contact Julie Davis at greenheron58@insight.rr.com.



Comings and Goings!

The annual election of OOS officers was held at the September conference at Lakeside, Ohio. The OOS welcomes new board members Wendy Eller, Ethan Kistler, and Kathy McDonald. Eller and Kistler will serve as Directors-at-Large. McDonald is the new Southwest Regional Director. Current board members Julie Davis and Susan Evanoff were elected to serve as Central Director and East Central Director, respectively. Randy Rogers and Bill Thompson, III, were re-elected to the board.

The OOS thanks several board members who are retiring after serving Ohio's birds and birding community.

Cheryl Harner, the former East Central Director, applied her vast knowledge of flora and fauna to statewide conservation issues, as well as to planning a variety of conferences, and spearheading the successful Carbon Offset Bird Project (COBP) at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium. She is the president of Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) and the coordinator of Flora-Quest, an annual spring botanical festival at Shawnee State Park in southern Ohio.

Dr. Jill Russell, from The Avian Research and Education Institute and the College of Mount St. Joseph, served the OOS as Southwest Regional Director. She also tackled the daunting task of 'catching-up' *The Ohio Cardinal*, the journal of record for Ohio's bird sightings. A special note of additional thanks to her husband Dr. Dave Russell, for his assistance with *The Ohio Cardinal*.

Dan Sanders, who has an ABA (American Birding Association) life list of more than 800 birds, served as the OOS Central Director as well as regularly volunteering as a field trip leader. Dan has extensively birded every pocket of habitat in Ohio and has an Ohio list to be envied!

Peter King served as our treasurer. We thank him for his years of service to the OOS in this role. We welcome Bruce Miller as our new treasurer.

8th Annual OOS Conference: Success!



Two of the friendliest birders in Ohio! Lukas Padegimas (on the left), was the OOS keynote speaker on Friday night, sharing his experiences researching shorebirds in Alaska in 2011. Greg Miller (on the right), who was portrayed by Jack Black in *The Big Year*,

shared his insights and behind-the-scene stories about his time on the set during a Friday night screening (Sept 28) during our conference. DELIGHTFUL evening with fellow birders! Plus, we had popcorn!

OOS and Birding Ohio field trip to Meadowbrook Marsh on Ohio's Marblehead Peninsula during the September conference. Meadowbrook was the recipient of Carbon Offset Birding Project funds at MBS '11.



Special thanks to Ottawa NWR manager Jason Lewis who joined/co-led the OOS field trip on Saturday, Sept 29, during the OOS conference. Additional thanks to Jason and Ottawa NWR for allowing birders to access special sections of the refuge with exposed mudflats. Here's Jason (far left), with OOS keynote speaker and noted photographer/author, Kevin Karlson.

ANN OLIVER (3)

Ned Keller Wins the OOS Cerulean Award!

The board of directors of the OOS recently voted to establish The Cerulean Award. This award will be given annually to honor an individual who has impacted birding in a 'lifetime' capacity. The OOS board unanimously agreed that this individual was more than qualified.

Ned Keller has demonstrated his dedication to birds through his tireless involvement with many bird conservation organizations. He was instrumental in the planning and implantation of the Ohio Ornithological Society, he has served as the president of Raptor Inc., and the Cincinnati Bird Club, and as a board member for the Audubon Society and Oxbow Inc. He is currently the secretary of the Ohio Birds

Records Committee, and continues to be our Internet cop for the Ohio Birds Listserv. He also owns and maintains the website **cincinnati-birds.com**. In December of 2009, the Hamilton County Park District awarded Ned The Stewart Welsh Award. Recipients of this prestigious award have demonstrated leadership or dedication to a specific project or body of work resulting in a marked improvement to the environment in our region

Ned has also served as the regional coordinator for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, a compiler for the Hamilton County Christmas Bird Count, and *The Ohio Cardinal*. He is also actively involved in Wild Ones and the Midwest Native Plant Society.



LES HOUSER

He is a member of the Ohio Young Birders Club and leads many field trips for Oxbow Inc., the Cincinnati Bird Club and the Audubon Society. Ned exemplifies leadership and dedication to conservation and the OOS is honored to present The Cerulean Award to Ned Keller.

Exciting Change for the Christmas Bird Count

After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) program effective with the upcoming 113th count in December 2012.

First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee to field participants.

Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, American Birds will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an on-line delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

From December 14 through Janu-

ary 5, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas will take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists armed with binoculars, bird guides, and checklists will go out on an annual mission. For more than 100 years, the desire to make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season to participate in The Christmas Bird Count.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually brave snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the CBC makes an enormous contribution to conser-

vation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations—and to help guide conservation action.

From feeder watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in The Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition—and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

For more info about the CBC, visit: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.



Report from the Field: Hooded Warbler Nesting Study

Project Title: Habitat Disturbance and the Role of Behavioral Plasticity in Mediating Life History Trade-offs —By Kelly Williams-Sieg

Many factors are impacting forested ecosystems including climate change, forest management practices, and other anthropogenic influences so the need to understand how populations, species, and communities respond to habitat alteration is paramount. With the aid of funds from the OOS through The Midwest Birding Symposium conservation initiatives grant, I conducted a field research study monitoring the responses of hooded warblers to forest management practices during 2012 at Tar Hollow State Forest. My study looked at three forest units: an unaltered control, a stand that was commercially thinned in 2000, and a burned unit. Birds were captured with mist nets and individually marked with color bands. During 2012, 52 nests were monitored to determine nestling condition (e.g., growth, immune function, stress hormone levels) and survival. In addition, data loggers recorded incubation temperatures every 10 minutes. This data will give an indication of the amount of parental care provided by the female and we will be able to determine if incubation temperatures and duration are correlated with nestling condition and survival.

Field work was completed in late July and data is still being compiled for analysis. Some results from this field season were



A nestling hooded warbler fitted with leg bands as part of the author's field study.

KELLY WILLIAMS-SIEG

presented, along with data from four previous field seasons, at the North American Ornithological Society meeting in August 2012. Preliminary results of reproductive success appear consistent with previous years: reproductive success in the commercially thinned unit is reduced compared to the unaltered forest. Ten of 25 nests produced 25 fledged young in the unaltered forest. In contrast, only 5 of 20 nests produced 11 fledged young in the commercially thinned stand. The burned unit was burned before the breeding season in 2010 which virtually eradicated the shrub layer and eliminated the opportunity for hooded warblers to breed in that forest unit in 2010.

In 2011, the shrub layer remained substantially reduced; however, two hooded warbler nests were established but failed to predation within days of laying. By 2012, the shrub layer had regenerated providing habitat for nesting and four of seven nests produced eight fledged young.

Lab work and data analysis continued through the fall and results from this study will be prepared for publication over the next year. This study will help us to understand the range of behaviors a bird can utilize in response to forest management and how forest management practices affect reproductive success and survival: key components of population dynamics.

Rodewalds Win the OOS Avian Conservation and Science Award!

Amanda and Paul Rodewald are professors of wildlife ecology in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University. Each in their own right is a major contributor in bird conservation and science. Together, they are an incomparable team.

They came to Ohio State in 2000 after completing PhDs in ecology at Penn State University.

Since then they've been engaged in a broad range of teaching, research, public outreach, and leadership activities.

They've taught a wide variety of classes at OSU, including: Avian Ecology and Conservation, Research in Avian Ecology, Bird Identification, Principles of Wildlife Management, and Wildlife Habitat Management.

They have studied birds (together and separately) around the U.S., and also Belize, the South American Andes (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador), and the rainforests of Cameroon in West Africa.

Amanda's research has focused on consequences of forest management, urban development, and agroforestry to forest birds in eastern North America and the northern Andes of South America. Much of her work addresses conservation of sensitive or declining species, such as the cerulean warbler (work supported in part by OOS!). She also serves on the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Paul's research has emphasized the ecology of songbirds during migratory stopover, particularly habitat selection and movement behavior. He is keenly interested in factors that influence changing distributions of birds, and



has pursued these interests as director of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, a six-year survey. Through OBBAII, Paul and his team empowered more than 1,000 Ohio birders statewide, including many OOS members, to impact bird conservation through citizen science.

Paul founded and has served as director of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI), linking a multitude of partners supporting integrated bird conservation design and actions at multiple levels. He helped launch the OOS

Conservation Committee in 2007 and has offered guidance since.

Amanda and Paul are strongly committed to graduate education and by fall 2012 will have collectively advised more than 30 OSU graduate students between them (24 M.S. and 7 Ph.D.). Their combined efforts also have resulted in 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals in ornithology and ecology. Their research is closely linked to conservation, and to inform decision making they have regularly worked with state and federal management agencies, conservation organizations, and private landowners. Their collective interests and actions, like migrating birds, connect continents and connect birders with conservation science.

In 2013 they will start new positions at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Amanda as director of conservation science and professor in the Department of Natural Resources, and Paul as a senior research associate in bird population studies.

We want to thank Amanda and Paul for their essential contributions to conservation science and citizen science. We are presenting each of them with the Ohio Ornithological Society's Avian Conservation and Science Award. As part of the award, each of them receives a \$500.00 grant for continuing their research efforts.



The Road Less Traveled

Big Year: Part 2

By Matt Stenger

I am no stranger to the road less traveled. I raised myself out there at a time when I was too young to navigate such a cold and brutal place. The comfort I could not find at home I found in the predictably perfect clockwork of Mother Nature and the beauty I should have been taught to seek within myself I instead discovered in birds. The events that lead me to go on this crazy journey are not joyous, except in the way they forced me to take a deep hard look into my own psyche. Where I expected to find big scary monsters I found a frightened young child, a younger version of me still waiting around for someone to accept him. Something changed in me that day. Instead of whipping him again for not living up to my expectations I finally understood something about life. I offered the child my hand and said, "come on, it's this way". As we walked I asked, "What makes you happy?" It seems I had forgotten the answer. "BIRDS!" the boy shouted as my memory filled with images of me pouring over old National Geographic books and a Peterson Field Guide dreaming of the day I might get to see each and every one of them. Taking the road less traveled has a certain romantic connotation about it. Blazing your own path, setting your own rules and stretching the boundaries of convention. This is the place where innovators dwell, where dreamers live out their dreams and where the entire world, nay, the universe is turned on its top every other minute. This is

where real living happens.

In late April, 2011, I arrived back in Key West after three days in Dry Tortugas National Park. No sooner did I get from the dock to my car than I got a call about a Garganey (duck) near Cincinnati. I would not be able to chase it, I reasoned, as there were still birds in Florida and its keys that I needed to find and I couldn't afford the time or money to go back down there before my East Coast pelagics. I chalked it up as a loss, hit the Key West airport to chase Antillean Nighthawk and then headed for Sugarloaf Key to try for Mangrove Cuckoo. Though I hadn't had any real sleep in days, short of few cat naps in the cannon bays at Fort Jefferson, those excited words I heard over the phone "GARGANEY AT FERNALD PRESERVE!" were burning in my ears. I couldn't stand it any longer; I dropped what I was doing and headed for Everglades National Park for one last cuckoo hunt before heading north for the Garganey. Hoards of hungry, flesh-eating insects greeted me at Snake Bight Trail and after losing, in my estimation, at least two quarts of blood to the mosquitoes; I gave up and high-tailed it back to the



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safety of my car. I left the Everglades around noon and short of a quick four-hour nap of fitful, interrupted sleep in the driver's seat I drove the 22 hours straight through. How I managed not to wreck my car and die on the way to this bird is a mystery for the ages. I arrived at Fernald Preserve feeling positively ill from lack of sleep. I expected to pull up, check off the bird then head home for a few days of sleep before going east but the duck was nowhere to be seen. I spent the next two days tirelessly searching before finally seeing it just in time to join my team for Birdathon. I never did get that needed sleep. By the time June 7th rolled around I was glad to be on a plane to Alaska. On the other end of the long flight there was a hotel room with a real bed waiting for me. My second day in Nome I awoke early and headed up Teller Road. It is hard to judge the time there due to the sun being up 24 hours a day but I was getting hungry and beginning to feel uncontrollably tired. It must be close to dinner time I surmised and I made my way back toward town but

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not without making a few pit stops. I was watching a pair of Red-throated Loons as they floated listlessly on a small pond on the east end of town. I began to doze off right there on the tundra. I jolted awake, stunned at the sudden onset of sleep. Somewhat shocked, I checked the time only to discover it was 1 am. I had been birding for more than 16 hours! For the next few weeks, I rested my bones and recovered all the while being inspired by some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever encountered. It was Alaska with her undefinable power and grace that finally beat the truth out of me. Well... perhaps it was Alaska and the fact that I was suddenly so exhausted that I couldn't even find the energy to keep lying to myself. I returned from there a new man, with a new outlook, a new sense of compassion, a new set of moral rules and the most awesome beard I have grown to date. But it didn't come without a price. What I gained in physical rest I more than made up for in emotional exhaustion. Yes... taking the road less traveled offers opportunities to experience life with intensity. It also causes aches and pains, forces you to question your sanity, gives you reason to appreciate the simple things in life, and also tests your fortitude to the breaking point.

In July I was parked in some out-of-the-way corner of Kaibab National Forest late one evening when my fortitude gave way. Tired, aching, somewhat malnourished due to my steady diet of Chef Boyardee (I would argue it's worse than cat food), Snickers bars, and in need of a hot shower I fell to pieces. There was no pride going on here, I didn't have the energy for that anymore. I managed to gather

myself up just enough to pour a gallon of cold water over my body and get clean. I was feeling so broken that even this simple act of self-care felt like a huge accomplishment. In that moment all I had to keep me going was a gallon of cold water, some nasty hotel shampoo and a dirty, road-worn shower scrubby thing. But in that moment it might as well have been a five-course meal with a lovely lady and a bottle of wine. It was then that the importance of "right now" became clear to me. Clean and refreshed I sat down on the sandy earth, closed my eyes and drifted away. Where I came in contact with the ground it felt as if deep roots were tying me to the earth. It was as if my very own heart was beating in rhythm with Mother Nature's. My mind went quiet, my worries dissolved into the forest and I sat for a very long time recharging my soul. I had meditated before but it never felt like this. Humbled by my journey and by the earth I sat upon, I embraced my existence. For the first time I simply let go, I abandoned logic and reason and allowed myself to have a spiritual experience without questioning any of it. I heard the beautiful song of a bird cascading down upon me from the trees. I had never heard this song before but in my heart I knew the one who made it. I heard tiny wings as they stirred the dead still

air just above my head. Again the song came and I began to return to consciousness. Tiny wings fluttered once more and my eyes opened. There I sat nose to beak with a Grace's Warbler, the bird I had come up here to find. Funny how my eyes didn't seek field marks nor did my mind start calculating check marks and lists. I simply saw the bird and he saw me. In that moment we were brothers, both seekers of truth. He taught me how to see again with the eyes of a child and I trusted his wisdom.

Birds carry with them in their song and on their wings a message of hope, a message that one must be seeking with pure intention in order to hear. My love for birds as a kid was not tainted by anything, it was pure and whole. Somewhere along the line I forgot about that part. Somehow I forgot about a lot of things. I forgot about fun, love, passion, and dreams. I forgot about me. Exhaustion alone would not have been enough to help me remember, neither would birds alone have been able to bare the weight of my past but the combination of my first true love, the bone-grinding, soul-crushing reality of the schedule that I kept and my stubborn commitment to go to ends of the Earth to get it right this time proved enough to guide me back to the beginning.

Editor's Note:

Matt Stenger tallied 681 species during his Big Year, putting nearly 64,000 miles on his vehicle. In 2011, he left behind a job as a Hamilton County Naturalist. Stenger is now available for guided bird trips, nature education, photography, and speaking engagements: <http://nextgenerationnature.com>.

This article was first published in *Wetland Matters*, the quarterly newsletter of Oxbow, Inc. Part one was featured in the Spring 2012 issue of this publication and part three will appear in an upcoming issue.



From the President's Desk: A Year in Review

Happy holidays to all of my friends in Ohio's Birding Community! I'm looking back on this past year and reminiscing about all of our accomplishments, events, gatherings, and memorable birds of 2012! We started the year off with the Black-tailed Gull and Snowy Owls and we are ending the year with the irruption of grosbeaks, siskins, red-breasted nuthatches, redpolls, and crossbills. The Christmas Bird Counts, free of charge this year, should promise an abundance of diversity throughout Ohio.

Jill Russell, along with a cast of volunteer editors, writers, and photographers, devoted countless hours in catching up with the past issues of *The Ohio Cardinal*. With this process still ongoing, our illustrious Northwest Regional Director Craig Caldwell has now committed himself to the task. With the dedication of both of these two talented editors, *The Ohio Cardinal* should be caught up to date by the spring of 2013.

Our signature newsletter, *The Cerulean*, has had a stunning redesign thanks to Claire Mullen from *Bird Watcher's Digest*. The content of the newsletter is for the entire birding community and a huge thank you goes out to our resourceful *Cerulean* editor Ann Oliver for keeping us up-to-date with the happenings around the state. As our membership continues to grow, Kyle Carlsen has volunteered to be the OOS membership coordinator.

Have you checked out the OOS website lately? It continues to grow as a reliable resource for birders from across the state and beyond for infor-

mation about where to bird, who to bird with, and what birds will you find in Ohio. We have more great web endeavors planned for the future. None of this technology would be possible without the amazing talents of Katherine Koch from *Bird Watcher's Digest* and our new Southwest Regional Director, Kathy McDonald.

This year brought all of us together with an array of events, field trips and social gatherings. The OOS kicked off the year with our annual Wilds Extravaganza and we closed the year with our eighth annual conference held at Lakeside, Ohio. The conference was an resounding success, bringing together bird clubs and organizations around the region. My sincere gratitude goes out to all of you that had a hand in its success, particularly: Julie Davis, Wendy Eller, Rebecca Hinkle, Ann Oliver, and all of our friends at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and at The Lakeside Association.

I believe it is significant for the OOS to build alliances and establish partnerships with all of Ohio's birding clubs, societies, and groups. We all share a love of birds and are working toward common goals to encourage appreciation and protection of birds for future generations. In October, we launched The Ohio Birding Alliance to bring Ohio's birding community together to share our stories, our concerns, our accomplishments, and our events together through one source. If you haven't yet heard of The Ohio Birding Alliance, be sure to visit the OOS website today and sign up your local birding club or organization!

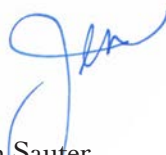
The OOS has also made huge strides in 2012 in bird and habitat

conservation. This year, we finalized our Carbon Offset Bird Project that (thanks to all of YOU), raised more than \$10,000 at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium. In September, we donated these funds to the Black Swamp Land Conservancy to help protect Meadowbrook Marsh, the new birding "hotspot" of northwest Ohio. We owe a debt of gratitude to Cheryl Harner for her leadership and dedication to this project. The OOS also partnered with The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative in launching the Kestrel Box Project. We supported Black Swamp Bird Observatory in their efforts for responsible wind power and we joined forces with several of Ohio's Audubon Societies to take a stand against industrial activities in Ohio state parks.

I would like to take a minute to thank the entire board of directors of the Ohio Ornithological Society – both past and present. It has been an honor to work so many incredibly talented and dedicated individuals. This organization would not be what it is today without you.

Most importantly, I want to thank each and every one of you, our members, for sharing our common love of birds, their habitats, and all of nature. I look forward to 2013 with great anticipation. Thanks for being a part of the OOS, Ohio's Birding Network.

Happiest of holidays to all of you and your families,



Jen Sauter
President

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.

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!

Harris Abramson
Dorothea Barker
Charlie & Linda Bombaci
Richard Bradley
Tom & Rosemary Domin
Hardy & Barbara
Eshbaugh
James Fowler

Josh Haughwout
Michele Hendrick
Carl W. Hoagstrom
Heather Hodges
Ann & Florian Kete
Ann Luginbill
Glenn & Judy Marin
Elizabeth McQuaid

Karen Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Nuetzel
Hope M. Orr
Dr. Scott Alan Pendleton
Mary Anne & Tom Romito
Darlene Sillick
Gregory Smith

Calendar of Events

January 19: The Annual OOS Winter Raptor Extravaganza at the Wilds. Free, all-day field trip for OOS members. See page 3 for details.

February 15-17: OOS Owl Symposium at Mohican State Park. See page 1 for details.

February 22-25: The Owls of Minnesota. Winter owls trip to Minnesota's Sax-Zim Bog, hosted by OOS and Nomadic Birding Tours. See page 1 for details.

March 24-25: Birding Optics & Gear Expo. Try optics and gear before you buy at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus. See www.birdwatchersdigest.com/expo for details.

May 4-13, 2013: The Biggest Week in American Birding at the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and surrounding area. See www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com for details.

September 19-22, 2013: Midwest Birding Symposium. At Lakeside, OH, hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, OOS, and The Lakeside Association. See www.midwestbirding.org for details.

Welcome New Members!

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

Kim & Gil Ach
Jan Auburn
Andrew Avram
Buster Banish
Sara Burch
Jeffrey Chann
Tom & Rosemary Domin
Terry Fout
Elayna Grody
Josh Haughwout
Arlene Hawkins
Heather Hodges
Leslie Houser
Christine Hughes
Robert Jeracki
Randy Junge
Ann & Florian Kete
Jacob McCartney
Veronica Mountain
Jason Nies
Lukas Padegimas
Abe Pendleton
Dave & Barbara Reaman
Richard Rickard
Richard Schmitt
Sara Sherick
Gregory Smith
Cynthia Thompson
Peter Torvik
Anna Wittmer



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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



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



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Please Check Your Membership Renewal Date, IN RED, Next To Your Address! Thanks!

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CONSERVATION

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Southwest Director

Welcome! We are bird watchers 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. We are Ohio's Birding Network.

OUR MISSION . . .

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