



The Cerulean

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Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society

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Ottawa NWR and Birders: Our Future is YOUR Future!



Jason Lewis with Jen Sauter and Julie Davis at Ottawa NWR.

Jason Lewis, the refuge manager at Ottawa NWR, is both a wildlife biologist and a birder! Jason started his career path many years ago, banding Wood Ducks as a volunteer at Muscatatuck NWR in southern Indiana. In 1998, he joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, attracted by the opportunity for migratory bird conservation and research. Now, as the manager at Ottawa, Lewis is responsible for planning, directing, and administering habitat management and refuge operations at the nearly 10,000-acre complex

comprising of marshes, open water, wooded wetlands, coastal wetlands, shrublands, grasslands, cropland, and an estuary.

In 2011, thousands of dollars of Carbon Offset Birding Project funds, raised through the donations and activities at Midwest Birding Symposium with support from OOS, were channeled to Meadowbrook Marsh on the Marblehead Peninsula. This year, the 2013 COBP proceeds will benefit Ottawa NWR's Boss Unit on Benton-

continued on page 2

ANN OLIVER



**Hoping to see you at
Midwest Birding
Symposium '13,
September 19-22,
in Lakeside, Ohio!**

**Registration is
still open!
Speakers, vendors,
displays, and lots of
birds and
birding friends!**



SAVE THE DATE: OOS FUNraiser and FUNdraiser!

Mark Saturday, November 2 on your calendar and bring your birding friends and family! OOS invites you to an enjoyable night of food, drinks, games, and laughter at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus, Ohio. Social Hour will begin at 6:00pm, followed by dinner and fun at 7:00pm. Proceeds support programs and activities of OOS. Register online after September 1st at www.ohiobirds.org.

Ohio's Birding Network



OOS asked Jason Lewis about Boss, COBP, birds, and birders.

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Carroll Road, south of Route 2, just east of the headquarters entrance. The habitat-building project will restore 15 acres of Boss Unit to sedge meadow and warm-season grasses for shorebirds and grassland birds. These acres were agricultural cropland until this past year and restoration results—for birds and birders—should be dramatic. FYI, COBP is a voluntary program for birders to offset birding-related carbon emissions. Everyone is encouraged to make a donation, at any time! Details: <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb2013/docs/COBP-MBS2013.pdf>

OOS: Although a mere 15 acres of land at Boss might seem small on the global scale, how can habitat restoration at this refuge location positively impact breeding grassland and migrating shorebird species?

JL: Every acre of restoration or land protected that is a net gain to the conservation footprint on the landscape is a step in the right direction. The goal is to develop an ecologically functional landscape for breeding and migratory birds and other wildlife. The connectivity or proximity of the Boss unit to other areas set aside for wildlife helps maximize the core conservation value. Ultimately, as Federal and private land conservation programs expand in the area, the benefits of a small scale restoration will be more apparent.

OOS: What specifically are the plans for habitat restoration at this site?

JL: Conceptually, we are planning to restore a sedge meadow transitional zone around the fringe of the existing wetland basin that will include various types of native grasses and wildflowers. Upland areas will be planted primarily to native shrubs and trees to provide critical migratory bird stopover habitat. However, if funding allows, we will plant native grasses within the uplands to establish a desirable cover in and around the shrubs and trees to increase plant and structural diversity. A small dike will be constructed along the west and north side of the unit to prevent flooding on private property and to protect the 10-acre remnant Great Black Swamp forest from prolonged flooding. The wetland area will be managed primarily for spring shorebirds since there isn't a reliable water source. Fall shorebird use of the wetland will depend on late summer and fall rains which are very inconsistent and unreliable. Therefore, it is likely that the unit will dry up naturally. Refuge management will address undesirable plants within the wetland annually to ensure good invertebrate production and wetland conditions for north bound shorebirds each spring.



Jason Lewis and Paul Baicich

OOS: What other ways does Ottawa manage for grassland birds and shorebirds?

JL: The refuge manages approximately 203 acres exclusively as native grassland habitat; there is three to four times that number of acres of additional grassland areas in and around refuge wetlands that are utilized by grassland birds. Refuge grasslands are managed using prescribed fire. In 2012, the refuge used fire to manage 557 acres. Grimm and Stange prairies make up the majority of the native grass acres at nearly 160 acres. Grimm and Stange units provide critical grassland habitat for such species as the Henslow's Sparrow.

Shorebird management is a much more challenging and complicated process. Lake Erie water levels and invasive species complicate wetland drawdowns for spring and fall migratory shorebirds. In

particular, spring drawdowns are extremely problematic because of the potential for invasive plants to germinate and establish on exposed mudflats throughout the spring and summer. Phragmites, purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and reed canary grass all respond favorably to wetland draw downs. The costs to control undesirable invasive species must be factored into the equation when considering dewatering wetlands for shorebirds or any other management purpose. Fall water management activities consistent with shorebird management can be accomplished with less concern for invasive species. The refuge can and will strive to provide fall shorebird habitat throughout the refuge. These units may be spread out over the entire refuge complex and may not always be available to the public for wildlife viewing. Unfortunately, evapotranspiration often naturally de-waters many refuge units throughout the summer. The costs to control water levels to ensure good habitat conditions and to combat invasive species are substantial. All this is compounded by declining budgets and staff needed to effectively manage.

OOS: Why was Boss chosen as a location for Carbon Offset Birding Project funds?

JL: Since the Boss unit was acquired by the refuge in 2009, the area has attracted both birds and birdwatchers. The area quickly became popular for spring shorebird viewing. The refuge lacked funding and infrastructure to provide for safe viewing. Cars often lined Benton Carroll road creating public safety

concerns for local law enforcement and neighbors. A plan was devised to raise funds to build a parking area and viewing platform on the site in 2012. The Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association implemented a fundraising effort in partnership with the Ohio Ornithological Society, Toledo Naturalist Association, and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Approximately \$10,000 was raised with half of those funds coming directly from Toledo Naturalist Association. The refuge built the parking area and funds raised by the Association were used to purchase construction materials and informational and interpretive signs. Volunteers descended on the area last fall and successfully erected the viewing platform. Unfortunately, funding to restore the agriculture unit to native wildlife habitat was not available. The Nature Conservancy was awarded some funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2012 to restore some of the area. However, additional funding is needed to completely restore the site. The generous offer by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and all the partners associated with the Midwest Birding Symposium to raise funds through a Carbon Offset program to support restoration at the Boss Unit illustrates the unwavering conservation commitment of these organizations. This is an exciting partnership opportunity for the refuge.

OOS: How important is BIRDER support to the refuge?

JL: The refuge's visitation in 2012 was estimated at 180,000 visits. Wildlife observation accounts for the overwhelming majority, at nearly

70%. The refuge is unable to accurately count the number of birders, but it is likely that birders make up a majority of our wildlife viewing visitation. Birder support is critical to the success and mission of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Birder support as members of our friends group, volunteers, and conservation advocates will help ensure sustainable fish and wildlife resources for generations to come. It is a priority of the refuge to provide birder friendly wildlife viewing opportunities. **I am not only the manager but I am also an avid bird watcher.** I value the desire of wildlife enthusiasts to be able to enjoy the outdoors through quality wildlife dependent recreation. By increasing wildlife viewing opportunities I hope to garner increased community and birder support for refuge natural resources; the refuge needs the birding community's support more than ever. For the 2013 Biggest Week in American Birding and International Migratory Bird Day Celebration, the refuge, through a generous donation from the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association, paid to have five visitor service specialists from around the National Wildlife Refuge System to come to the refuge. These extra public use specialists gave bus tours, interpretative bird walks, and engaged with birders throughout the event to improve communication and relations between the refuge and our visitors. The unified support of the birding community is critical to our success. Now is the time to get involved in the conservation mission of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge—our future is your future.



FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST COMING TO OHIO

The next Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest will take place at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio, on September 27-28, 2013. FREE! The contest is the most prestigious federal-ly-recognized art contest in the country. The winner will grace the 2014-15 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, often called the "Duck Stamp" or "Migratory Bird Stamp."



There are at least three special reasons to hold this annual contest this year in Ohio.

First, the location pays homage to long-time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee and acclaimed wildlife artist Bob Hines (1912-1994), from Ohio. Hines, the artist for the 1946-1947 Duck Stamp, worked tirelessly for the Ohio Division of Wildlife as a staff artist for many years before moving to Washington, D.C. to become the official artist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hines dedicated his enormous talent to the conservation of our birds and other wildlife. Second, the relationship between the USFWS and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Maumee Bay State Park is an ODNR facility. Third, is the close proximity of Maumee to Ottawa NWR, about 15 miles to the east. Established in 1961, Ottawa owes much of its existence to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, where stamp dollars are deposited. More than 86 percent of Ottawa Refuge has been acquired through MBCF/Stamp dollars.

More information on the Region 3 USFWS website: www.fws.gov/midwest/2013DuckStamp/

Special Thanks to Carbon Offset Birding Project Supporters!



A number of birders, from inside Ohio and beyond – including Paul Baicich, Cheryl Harner, Penny O'Connor, Lisa Rock, Jen Sauter, Bill Stewart, Lisa Strobel, Warren Strobel, Bill Thompson III and his colleagues at *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and the Board of the Ohio Ornithological Society – have helped develop the COBP project for MBS, in the hopes this approach would be embraced by birders and spread to other birding events.

Special acknowledgement to Paul Baicich, author of *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds* (Princeton Field Guides) for his continued championing of COBP, National Wildlife Refuges across the US, and the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, often called the "Duck Stamp" or the "Migratory Bird Stamp."

Top Ten Reasons to Attend the 2013 Midwest Birding Symposium

By Bill Thompson, III

Please look at your calendar right now and check the third weekend in September 2013. Specifically, look at September 19 through 22. How's it look? Clear? Then grab a pen (not a pencil) and write the following in LARGE BLOCK LETTERS over those dates:

MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM.

Here are 10 reasons why you really need to attend this year's MBS.

10. The MBS only happens every other year, so it's always minty fresh—never stale.

9. We work really hard to make sure that it's The World's Friendliest Birding Event—everyone is welcome, even non-birders! Beginners, especially, are encouraged to come.

We've declared Saturday, September 21, 2013 to be Young Birder's Day—all young birders get in free! Details and registration form can be found at midwestbirding.org.

8. We love making connections between bird watchers. Since the 2009 MBS more than 375 marriages have happened as a result of the event. [Not really, but that sounds impressive doesn't it?] Seriously though, everyone makes new friends at the MBS. We guarantee it! If you attend and leave without making at least one new friend, we'll refund your money



(please see Reason #1 below).

7. We've arranged for another appearance in 2013 by a Kirtland's Warbler. You can see a photo of the Kirtland's that joined us in 2009 here. If the Kirtland's does not make the scene, we've got a Passenger Pigeon flock on speed dial.

6. Our list of speakers is incredible! We have lots of speakers who will be able to teach you things. And we have even more speakers who will tickle your funny bone and make you laugh, including Al Batt, John Acorn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Julie Zickefoose, John and Cathy Sill, Sharon Stiteler, and George Armistead.

5. Three words: Sunset Boat Cruise! Plus other exciting extra activities, including mothing with Seabrooke Leckie, phonescoping with Sharon Stiteler, photography workshops with Dave FitzSimmons, a 3K Fun Run, and much more.

4. Our Birder's Marketplace features more than 60 vendors, selling everything a bird watcher could possibly want. And then some.

3. Our Conservation Raffle will raise funds for bird habitat acquisition and other worthy conservation causes. The Ohio Ornithological Society has promised to match this funding, up to \$5,000! Wow! Items in the raffle include high-end optics, birding festival passes, and discounted trips to amazing places like The Canopy Tower in Panama!

2. Being on Lake Erie, on the charming grounds of Lakeside in September is incredibly beautiful—just like being in Tuscany, but with better birding and no language barrier.

1. It only costs \$125 to attend the Midwest Birding Symposium. Your last speeding ticket or dinner out was more expensive and less enjoyable. Don't fight the urge. Come join us!



2013 MBS to Feature Speakers from Around the World

As always, the Midwest Birding Symposium will feature programs and performances by some of the world's leading birders and naturalists, chock-full of fun, informative, and birdy activities for bird watchers and other nature lovers. Here's a sampling of whom you can expect to see at the 2013 MBS! *Note: A complete list of special activities, along with full speaker bios, available at midwestbirding.org.*

John Acorn

John is perhaps best known as the writer and host of the television series "Acorn, the Nature Nut," a family-oriented, how-to-be-a-naturalist show. His songs will make you laugh! **2013 MBS Topic: Birding Deficit Disorder**

George Armistead

George is the events coordinator for the American Birding Association and a research associate at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. **2013 MBS Topic: Ornithology—The Birds and the Bees**

Al Batt

Al is a nationally published writer, speaker, storyteller, and humorist. **2013 MBS Topic: Stories by Al Batt**

Jen Brumfield

There are few Ohio birders that do not know Jen, a naturalist/artist for Cleveland Metroparks, birding tour guide for Tropical Birding and a rep with Leica's Birding Optics Prostaff team. **2013 MBS Topic:**



John Acorn



George Armistead



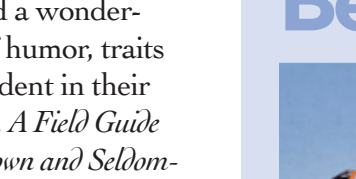
Al Batt



Jen Brumfield



Mark Cocker



Lang Elliott



David FitzSimmons



Alvaro Jaramillo



Seabrooke Leckie



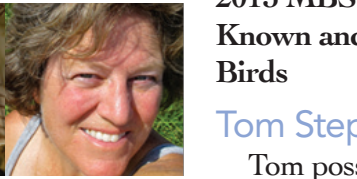
Rue Mapp



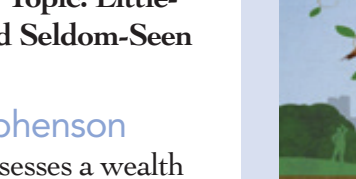
Sara Morris



Jen Sauter



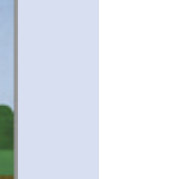
John Schaub



Scott Shalaway



John & Cathy Sill



Tom Stephenson

Making History—Birding Lake Erie by Land and Boat

Mark Cocker

Mark is one of Britain's foremost writers on nature and the author of several best-selling books, including the recent release *Birds and People*. **2013 MBS Topic: Birds and People—Exploring the Cultural Significance of Birds**

Lang Elliott

Author of numerous books and CDs celebrating the sounds of nature, Lang is also a co-author of BirdTunes, an iPhone app that features 2,500 songs and calls of 674 species of birds. **2013 MBS Topic: The Music of Nature and Ways of Listening**

David FitzSimmons

David is an award-winning freelance photographer and writer and one of North America's five Sigma Pro photographers. **2013 MBS Topic: How to Photograph Birds—Tips and Techniques Made Easy**

Alvaro Jaramillo

Professional tour guide and writer of the Identify Yourself column in *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Alvaro is a true bird identification expert. **2013 MBS Topic: Gull Identification**

Seabrooke Leckie

A bird biologist by training, Seabrooke is a co-author of the new *Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America*. **2013 MBS Topic: Night Wings—The Fascinating World of Moths**

Rue Mapp

Founder of Outdoor Afro, Rue is passionate about getting kids and families outdoors. **2013 MBS Topic: Reconnecting More People to Nature—Why It Matters**

Sara Morris

An ornithologist and professor of ecology, Sara has years of experience studying songbird migration in Maine and is a secretary of the American Ornithologist's Union. **2013 MBS Topic: Taking the Sexism Out of Birding—The Art of**

Identifying Female Songbirds

Jen Sauter

Jen is a founding member of the Ohio Ornithological Society and serves as our current president. **2013 MBS Topic: Put a Bird On It—Decorating Your Life with Birds**

John Schaub

As chief naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc., John has spent the past nine years supporting more than 280 WBU stores in encouraging their customers to be active backyard bird watchers and knowledgeable stewards of the environment. **2013 MBS Topic: A New Look at Some Old Neighbors**

Scott Shalaway

Scott, a certified wildlife biologist, writes a weekly column that appears in more than fifteen newspapers and reaches more than one million readers each week. **2013 MBS Topic: 20 Years of Bird Questions... and 50 Minutes of Answers**

John and Cathy Sill

John and Cathy have a unique way of looking at birds and a wonderful sense of humor, traits that are evident in their latest book, *A Field Guide to Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds of North America*. **2013 MBS Topic: Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds**

Tom Stephenson

Tom possesses a wealth of birding knowledge and is a co-author of the popular new book, *The Warbler Guide*. **2013 MBS Topic: The Warbler Guide: A New System for Identifying Warblers**

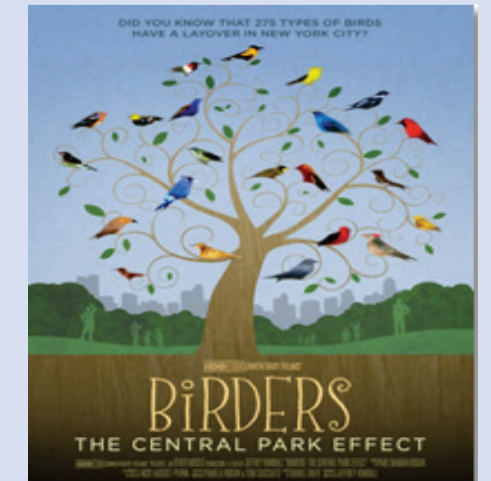
Sharon Stiteler

Sharon runs the popular birding blog birdchick.com and has written numerous articles for various newspapers and magazines. Her most recent book is *1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know*. **2013 MBS Topic: Smartphone Birding**

Julie Zickefoose

A well-known author, artist, and naturalist from southeast Ohio, Julie makes her living interpreting what she finds wonderful, beautiful, fascinating, and disturbing about nature, especially the boundary where it intersects with people. **2013 MBS Topic: A Deeper Connection to Nature**

Movie Screening to Benefit MBS



A diverse group of full-of-attitude New Yorkers reveals how a hidden world of beautiful wild birds in the middle of Manhattan has upended and magically transformed their lives.

We've arranged for three special screenings of *Birders: The Central Park Effect* during the 2013 Midwest Birding Symposium. The screenings will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 9:30 PM in Orchestra Hall (Lake-side's movie theater). Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5/person. Also, DVDs of the movie will be available for sale for \$20 each. All net proceeds from the screening and DVD sales will go to the MBS Conservation Fund.



Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight

By Jen Brumfield, Cleveland, OH

There's finally a field guide that treats one of the most thrilling birding experiences to be had: seabirding.

Here on the Great Lakes, we admirably and lovingly call this "lakewatching." Each spring and fall, millions of waterbirds move along the shores of Lake Erie. Hosting upwards of 30 species of waterfowl including the world's largest population of wintering Red-breasted Mergansers; a dozen species of gulls including mega rarities such as Ross's; countless terns, loons, and grebes; all three species of jaegers; and the chance at a rare alcid, gannet, or other mind-blower; lakewatching on Lake Erie is one of the toughest but most rewarding experiences for Ohio birders.

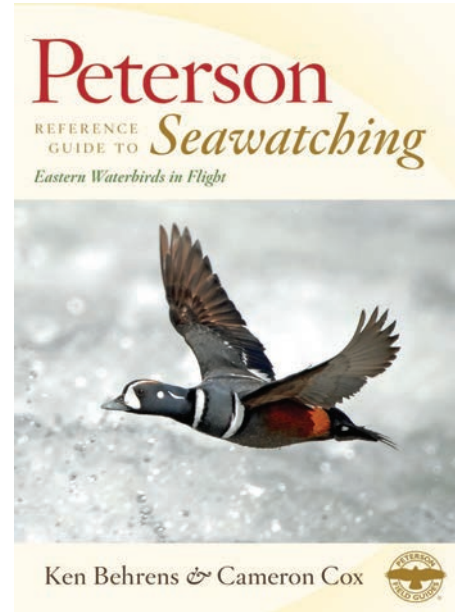
The sheer magnitude of waterbirds that move along our shores will bring anyone to their knees. Days with a quarter million Red-breasted Mergansers—plus a shot at all three scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, beastly Pomarine Jaegers, spastic Parasitic Jaeger and elegant Long-tailed Jaeger, and stunningly plumaged Sabine's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake—should all have Ohio birders camped out with wide eyes along high-bluff shores of Lake Erie in fall and spring.

Finally, the phenomenon that

we witness here on Erie is beautifully-treated in the *Peterson Reference to Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight* by Ken Behrens and Cameron Cox.

Lakewatching, particularly in fall, is not always for the faint of heart. On some pleasant days, waterbirds can be found in good numbers. But best are those days in September, October, and November with northwest winds and driving weather fronts—days that test the physical endurance of birders driven to spend hours searching through squadrons of passing flocks of waterfowl and gulls, waiting for rarities to pass. The results of such steadfast hope is almost always rewarding. The skill level needed to separate waterfowl, jaeger, gull, loon, and grebe species at great distances and during prevailing weather is one of the most challenging and exciting experiences that one can drive toward. The intensity of sheer numbers of birds migrating along the shore is something to behold. Every birder should witness the mecca that is migration along Lake Erie, particularly in fall.

Lavishly illustrated with hundreds of photos, Ken and Cameron's guide treats each species with stunning point-blank images as well as the most important field guide discussions: photos



showing distant views, and comparisons with similar species.

Using delicious and precise text, these veteran birders—two of North America's best—weigh in with years' worth of experience in the field at some of the most intense and immense waterbird migration hotspots in the states. Their observations, descriptions, and key pointers are absolute gems to the working knowledge of birds in flight—in this case, waterbirds in flight.

From waterfowl to loons, grebes to jaegers, terns to gulls, and shearwaters to alcids, each species is gorgeously depicted. The photo captions are at times mouthwatering. Read, for example, the caption of an in-flight Ruddy Duck image, "Wings beat furiously, giving the impression that effort and sheer

panic are the only things keeping the bird aloft."

Range maps for each species are unequivocally excellent, with hovering notes on migration patterns, timing, distribution, and more. Perfection.

"Special Sections" include multiple pages depicting species in flight with direct comparisons to others. The "Scoters Special Section," for instance, features 14 panoramic photos of birds in flight at a distance—precisely how they are viewed offshore as they are passing a lakewatch location. The jaeger comparison photos encourage you to look beyond plumage field marks and to add shape, build, and structure to your ID repertoire.

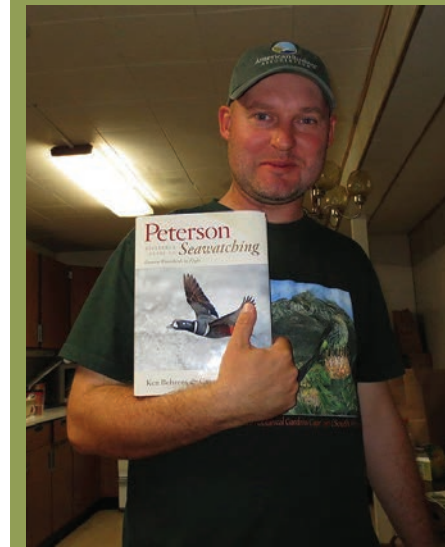
For me, I need to look only once at the King Eider page to see a full plate of these stunning birds in flight during a snowstorm, and I'm absolutely hooked. I'm buying multiple copies, some of which I hope to give others to help them make the leap to lakewatching—a birding pastime that will forever intensify your heartbeat and add unending days of joy to your birding experiences on Lake Erie.

The only things this guide "lacks" are more and more photos. Because we wouldn't mind a book with 2,500 pages of photos of waterbirds in flight to celebrate the sheer diversity and intensity of waterbird migration.

Thumbs up. See you in the field along the Erie shore for one of the most spectacular phenomena of bird migration.

Editor's Note: Jen Brumfield is a Naturalist/Artist for Cleveland Metroparks, bird illustrator, author of several natural history field guides, birding tour guide for Tropical Birding, and rep with Leica's Birding Optics Prostaff team. Jen runs dozens of weekend specialized birding tours and field trips throughout Northeast Ohio each year, through Local Patch Birding Tours: FALL LAKE ERIE PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS are scheduled for August 25, and September 1, 8, and 15. Information on Local Patch Birding: <http://www.jenbrumfield.com/>

About Cameron Cox



Cameron has been an avid birder since the age of thirteen. Before working as a representative for Leica and Nikon, he spent his late teens and twenties traveling as a "bird bum" across North America. While counting hawks and waterbirds in Cape May, NJ, he realized identifying distant waterbirds on the wing was fun and challenging! Cameron spent the '13 summer on St. Paul Island, AK, and currently leads birding and photography tours for Tropical Birding. Say hello to Cameron at the MBS Tropical Birding booth: if you have a copy, he'll sign your book! *Seawatching* goes on sale on September 17th!

DOUG GOCHFIELD

Birding Lake Erie by Land AND Boat with Jen Brumfield, Saturday at MBS!

Learn about lakewatching at MBS on Saturday, September 21 from 2-3 pm. Jen has "power-birded" the Lake Erie lakefront, conducting hundreds of fall waterbird counts recording astounding diversity and numbers of waterfowl, loons, grebes, jaegers, and gulls as well as countless rarities including Western Grebe, King Eider, and Long-tailed Jaeger. Through Local Patch Birding, Jen

runs intense "pelagic" boat trips on Lake Erie in the fall, seeking jaegers and rare gulls. At MBS, Jen explains the mystery behind fall waterbird migration on Lake Erie, while offering vivid photos of incredible birds and adventures on the Lake. From glorious water spouts to Sabine's Gulls, jaegers to 265,000 mergansers in one day, this is one hour of intensity you cannot miss.



Birders' Exchange: Honor Betty Petersen with a Donation at MBS!

Jeffrey Gordon, President, American Birding Association

The American Birding Association family and the entire birding community lost one of its leading lights on the morning of June 4th when Betty Petersen of Hanson, MA, passed away. She had suffered a heart attack on May 20th.

Betty Petersen had been an ABA member since 1980, and joined the ABA staff in 2000 to lead the Birders' Exchange program she pioneered at Manomet Bird Observatory. For more than a decade, Betty brought endless reserves of intelligence, care, and enthusiasm to her work, building

BEX into one of the ABA's most effective and beloved programs.

Betty's impact on the birding and conservation communities and the pain of her loss are hard to overstate. Her generosity, good humor, and love for the people, birds, and wild places the world over are legendary. Her vision for encouraging the study, appreciation, and conservation of those birds and wild places was elegant, simple, and effective. And as it was with all things Betty did, it was rooted in a spirit of great generosity and a delight in helping others.



JEFFREY GORDON

Editor's Note:

What is Birders' Exchange? ABA's BEX program collects donated new and used equipment and distributes it to colleagues working to conserve birds and their habitats throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Recipients include researchers, educators, and conservationists working to protect birds and their habitats, often without basic equipment, such as binoculars and field guides.

There are TWO ways to donate to this program! One: Make a financial contribution in Betty's memory directly to ABA's website: aba.org/bettypetersen.

Or, two: DONATE OPTICS to ABA at MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM as scores of attendees have done in the past! ALL donated optics and equipment should be in good working order and should be fully waterproof. Remember, in being sent

to professionals working in Latin America and the Caribbean, your optics must stand up to some of the most demanding field conditions on earth.

Please consider donating some of the following items:

- Binoculars – especially rubber armored and/or waterproof binoculars
- Digital cameras
- Spotting scopes
- Tripods
- Field guides to Neotropical birds
- Field guides to North American birds
- Ornithology texts
- Laptop computers
- Backpacks
- iPods or .mp3 players

Read Jeff Gordon's complete tribute to Betty, along with a SPANISH translation, on the ABA blog: <http://blog.aba.org/2013/06/remembering-betty.html>.

Eagle Optics Discount for MBS Donations to BEX!



Eagle Optics, an MBS sponsor, is sweetening the deal for any symposium attendee making an optics donation to the MBS/Birders' Exchange program. Each donor will receive a coupon for a discount on the purchase of new optics as well as a free Eagle Optics harness strap*. Now that's doing well by doing good! (*One coupon/strap per MBS attendee, please).

"Hoover" Boardwalk Big Sit October 12: OOS & Columbus Audubon

Pledge your support for birds! OOS and Columbus Audubon join efforts for a Big Sit on October 12, from pre-dawn to post-dusk, at Hoover Reservoir, Galena, Ohio. Choose your preferred organization 'conservation fund', OOS or CA, and pledge a dime, a quarter, a dollar-per-bird recorded, or a fixed contribution in the name of the Big Sit. We expect to record 40-50 species this year due to high water in the reservoir north of Columbus flooding the mudflats. Payments will be accepted by both organizations. OOS contributions will be dedicated to expanding the American



American Kestrel chicks.

COURTESY OF THE OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Kestrel nest box trail along Route 30 through Crawford County and Richland County, Ohio.

Tom Bain,
OOS Conservation Chair

Thank you for your donations!

Dr. Jacqueline Augustine
Mr. Al Bahl
Jason Barnhart
Chris Bedel
Gail S. Boslry
Martha Buckalew
Eric J. Burkholder
Judith Davis
Ken Ondo & Irene Gorla
Kim Howard
Paul J. Hurtado
Christine Johnson
Kay Lauener
Leigh Mamlin
Tyler McClain
Janet McLean
Dennis Meyer
Bob & Debra Patek

Ginger Pomiecko
Lisa Rainsong
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Ronald Sempier
Eldonna Shields-Kyle
Melinda & Irwin Simon
Wendy & Stacey Sparling
Cindy K. Steffen
Debbie Swing
Kelli Thomas
Susan Welliver
Wild Birds Unlimited,
Kettering
James C. Wilson
Sam Woods
Mary York
Tim Barhorst & Barb Zulliger

Welcome New Members!

Janet Shaffstall
Kelli Thomas
Kim Howard
Elizabeth Stewart
Julie Frazier
Shane Myers
Wild Birds Unlimited Kettering
Rachele Kappler
Ginger Pomiecko
Christine Johnson

Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

Join us online! www.ohiobirds.org

Name

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail:

Yes! Please send me *The Cerulean* electronically.

\$15 Student

\$100 Patron/Business

\$25 Individual

\$250 Sustaining Member

\$40 Family/Non-Profit

\$500 Benefactor

The Ohio Ornithological Society is a 100% volunteer and non-profit organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donations to support the Society's development and conservation activities.

\$ DEVELOPMENT FUND

\$ CONSERVATION FUND

\$ CARBON OFFSET BIRD PROJECT

Checks payable to Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS)

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Please check your membership renewal date, IN RED, above your address!



PLEASE TAKE TIME TO
RENEW OR JOIN OHIO'S
BIRDING NETWORK!
UNITED TOGETHER, BIRDERS
IN OHIO CAN MAKE A HUGE
DIFFERENCE FOR BIRDS &
CONSERVATION!

To provide an Ohio Birding
Network welcoming bird
watchers of all levels of
interest and ability to unite
for the enjoyment, study,
and conservation of Ohio's
wild birds.

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THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OHIO'S BIRDING NETWORK!

