



## From the Editor

I am excited to assume the editorship of The Cerulean with this Spring issue. Since its inception in 2004, the OOS and its newsletter have grown quite a bit (you can find back issues online). From its initial 4-page newsletter format, The Cerulean matured into a publication of broader scope for Ohio birders. My hope and goal for The Cerulean is to continue to serve and appeal to its various OOS audiences: established, novice, backyard, and uncategorized birders, ornithologists, nature educators and enthusiasts, young birders, family birders, local groups and clubs, and citizen science enthusiasts.

Scott Pendleton has produced three wonderful issues as interim editor. Thank you Scott! And he has not only ironed out a few hiccups with the publication schedule, but has introduced several new features such as "Name That Nest", "Beyond Birds", or "Make Your Data Count" that have great educational entertainment value and relevance beyond Ohio. Look out for new features such as an expanded event calendar (pages 10-11) and the new "Bird Encounters".

The OOS and its publication team wants you, our readers, to get involved: send your comments, suggestions, local events, and contributions to [ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org](mailto:ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org). We would love hear from you!  
—Stefan Gleissberg, Athens

# The Cerulean

Spring 2015 Vol. 12, No. 1

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society



Prairie Warbler

MARLENE DE LA CRUZ-GUZMAN

## Great Egret Marsh Preserve Bird & Nature Walk May 14, 2015

With Craig Caldwell and Tara Baranowski - Register for one of two walks with Elisa Demis at [edemis@tnc.org](mailto:edemis@tnc.org) or by text at 330-665-1348. Limit 20 for each walk.

We will likely see waterfowl, eagles soaring above, herons, egrets, and other wildlife including water snakes, fish, and turtles. Great Egret Marsh Preserve is located at N. Buck Road, Lakeside-Marblehead, Ohio 43440-9610. For complete directions and GPS coordinates visit: [ohiobirds.org](http://ohiobirds.org)

## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization. If you are interested in lending your time, talents, or treasures to our Society, please send an e-mail to Jason Larson, Volunteer Chair, at [bairdstrogon@yahoo.com](mailto:bairdstrogon@yahoo.com). Tell us a little about yourself and we'll help you find a suitable match for your time and interests.

### CONTENTS

From the Editor .....	1	Dennis Profant.....	9
Sunshine Corridor.....	2	Bird Encounters.....	9
Counting Birds .....	3	Event Calendar.....	10
Local Birding.....	4	Membership Application.	12
Name That Nest .....	6		
Book Review.....	7		



# On the Land: Conservation

By Cheryl Harner,  
OOS Conservation Chair

Charity begins at home and conservation starts in your own backyard. Can our choices in landscape influence the long-term course for the survival of our North American birds? Absolutely.

Because we are the Ohio Ornithological Society, let's step away from our own yard and take a state-wide view of bird conservation. Spring migration is upon us and your decisions can make a long term difference, not only for "our" birds, but also for birds using our state as flyway habitat on their migrations north.

One habitat that needs our attention are forests. They are vital to the survival of many warblers, including the rapidly declining Cerulean Warbler – the icon of the OOS. Mountain top removal in West Virginia has put a hurt on these gorgeous warblers who have a preference for oak ridge tops.

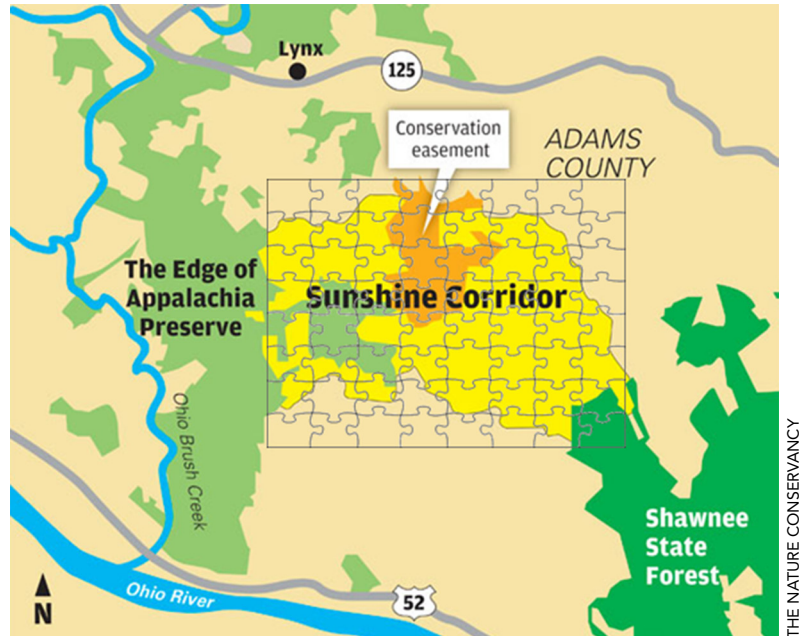
Size matters when it comes to conservation, and contiguous forest promotes far more biodiversity than fragmented woodlots. Shawnee State Forest was a stronghold for breeding warblers, but timbering has dramatically escalated in the past four years. Ohio laws changed in 2011, creating a bias for extraction of

timber in our State Parks and Forests. As a bird-centric organization, we must be concerned that timbering in the largest contiguous tracts of publicly owned forests is harmful to the long term outlook for forest dependent warblers.

OOS returned to Shawnee State Park and Forest for our annual conference in April, giving attendants an opportunity to judge for themselves the disruptive impact of timbering on both birds and eco-tourism. OOS supports The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and their efforts to restore a large tract of contiguous forest in southern Ohio. Through land acquisitions and conservation easements, the 65,000 acre Shawnee State Forest will be connected to the 17,000 acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve by 6,000

acres along Sunshine Ridge. The OOS believes that several forest species that are currently in decline will substantially benefit from the project, as will birders who will have more opportunities to view these species.

We hope you put your dollars to work to protect bird habitat and send a contribution of \$10-50.00 towards the protection of habitat for Ohio's future birds. After all, it should be a primary goal for OOS members to help protect birds and habitats for the enjoyment of the next generation of birdwatcher. Let's make certain the Cerulean Warbler is not lost on "our watch." Please send your "piece" of the conservation puzzle and donation to: OOS Conservation Fund, P.O. Box 2432, Westerville, Ohio 43086. The ceruleans thank you...



*The Sunshine Corridor in southern Ohio*

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

# The Importance of Counting

By Scott Pendleton

Why are numbers important? For conservation purposes, knowing something is present is not nearly as important as knowing how many are present. Most data sets use birds per hour of effort. There is not much difference between 14 and 18 White-throated Sparrows per hour from one week to the next. However, what if over ten years the average birds per hour slowly drops from 16.2 to 12.1? Most of us would agree a 25% drop over ten years is significant. At a 25% decline, maybe we can intervene and make a real difference. Counting is important.

I am by nature a lover of numbers. For me, birding without counting gets boring. For many others, it is the opposite; counting numbers once a year during the Christmas Bird Count is plenty. Some of the things I do when entering numbers:

1) It would be very tedious to count every single bird on every trip. Therefore, I always use the “at least” number. eBird asks that you enter your best conservative estimate. They have developed exercises for estimating flocks of birds you can actually see, like gulls. In reality, estimating 5000 gulls is relatively simple compared to estimating large numbers of sparrows as they are

weaving in and out of shrubs. For example, today I flushed 27 Savannah Sparrows as I walked around a sediment pond in a reclaimed mine area. At least ten were refushes and 17 were recorded in my list. If the “at least” number is outrageously high or I think it is very conservative, I add comments indicating what I am seeing.

2) Be consistent. I put “actual” numbers in up to 25 and estimate in 5’s until I get to 100, then 10’s over 100. The eBird algorithms can pick up every number above 25 that ends in a 5 or a 0 and reads them as estimates. If you deviate and put 37 mallards, then it reads all your numbers as exact counts. So if you have 37 mallards and an estimated 45 song sparrows, drop the mallards to 35.

3) What is an actual number? If you think you hear four chips from a brush pile but only see three birds, then what? Is that to-who on the branch the same one that was calling from the ground? These are judgment calls; just remember to use your best conservative estimate and apply the techniques you use to get that number consistently.

4) Trust your numbers! On a group trip we sat down to do the list and I offered up 25 swamp sparrows. One person was in agreement; one was not. She halved that number, which she is more than welcome to do on her version of the shared list. But I was curious enough to go out two days later and do four point counts. I came up with 27. Over

time, counting becomes second nature.

5) I rarely use an x. I took a break from writing this to see how many Woodcock were setting up territory in my front field. I heard many Canada Geese fly into the farm above but could get no real sense of how many. eBird asks, “Are you submitting a complete checklist...?” and since I like to answer yes, I entered “x” for that species. If you were wondering, there were four Woodcock.

6) Did I mention to be consistent?

The “x” was conceived as a way for birders to enter pre-eBird lists, where they may not have numbers, into the data base. It has morphed into shorthand for, “I didn’t count individuals of that species today.” There are many reasons birders use x: eBird is their life or year list tool, they bird for fun and counting common birds is not fun, they are unsure what is expected from an estimate, and they do not realize what eBird data analysis can and cannot do. (At the present time, it can’t pull data from the comments section. A list with “x” Savannah Sparrows and a comment, “There were at least 35 but I couldn’t get an accurate count because they were so active” gets ignored in most data analysis.) I probably cannot influence the first two but hope to have clarified some things for the last two.

These are some of the techniques that work for me. I am sure there are others that work for you.





## Local Birding Series

# Athens County

By Stefan Gleissberg

Located in the unglaciated, steeply dissected Allegheny Plateau in southeastern Ohio, Athens County features the exceptionally biodiverse Appalachian mixed-mesophytic forests. By the early 1900s, its forest cover was largely eliminated, but forests have returned and cover about 74% of the county today.

A significant amount of public open space (14%) provides excellent opportunities for hiking birders on the numerous trail systems, particularly in the northern and western parts of the county and around the city of Athens. Many birding hotspots in the county are open to hunting, so check the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website for hunting seasons. eBird lists 217 species for the county, and about 110 species are known or possible nesters. A map of most birding sites mentioned here can be found on eBird.

**(1) Strouds Run State Park** was established in 1960 after the ODNR purchased abandoned farmland and created Dow Lake by construction of a dam backing up Strouds Run. The scenic lake is surrounded by young to mature, mostly oak-dominated forest along the ridges and mixed mesophytic forest in ravines. In recent years, new public preserves adjoining the state park have been established, and a network of trails provides access from the city.

Bird life reported includes Ruffed Grouse, Green Heron, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl,

and Belted Kingfisher. Among the warblers are Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Hooded, and Cerulean. Access the trail system in Athens from Sells Park at the end of Avon Place. East of Athens, trailheads at the Dow Lake Dam are accessed from US 50/OH-32. Coming from Athens on Strouds Run Road, park at the first or second parking area on the right to bird the marsh and riparian stands where Strouds Run enters the lake. Trace Trail and Athens Trail lead through Cerulean and Worm-eating Warbler territory. A trail map can be downloaded at [athenstrails.org](http://athenstrails.org).

**(2) Wayne National Forest.** The Athens Unit of the Wayne NF and adjoining public lands, including Hocking College, AEP Poston Public Lands, Trimble Township Community Forest, Tom Jenkins Dam and portions of Burr Oak State Park, and the Wallace O'Dowd Wildlife Area, occupy much of the northwestern corner of the county and extend far into neighboring counties. The area is listed as an Important Bird Area, but is certainly under-birded.

**Utah Ridge Recreation Area** has young and mature woods, clearcuts, and controlled burned areas. Drive and bird the dirt roads between Nelsonville and the village of Chauncey. New Floodwood Road ascends from near Nelsonville to the ridgetop; Utah Ridge Road runs along the ridge; and West Bailey Road and



STEFAN GLEISSBERG

Big Bailey Run Road descend toward Chauncey. Likely breeders include Field Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Blue-winged, Hooded, and Prairie Warblers, as well as Yellow-breasted Chats. Big Bailey Wetland is north of Chauncey at the junction of Big Bailey Run Road and Carr Bailey Road. Look for Wood Ducks, Great Blue and Green Herons.

**(3) Waterloo Wildlife Area** and Zaleski State Forest are at the western edge of the county, 10 miles west of Athens. This contiguous area of about 2,700 acres of rugged forest extends into neighboring Vinton County, where it adjoins Lake Hope State Park. Waterloo WA was among the first public preserves purchased by the state of Ohio in 1916. It also includes land purchased from a coal company as recently as 2005. Look for Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey (part of the area is managed to promote turkeys), Barred Owl and other woodland species including Ovenbird, Northern Parula, and Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers. Access the Waterloo Center (run by the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association) and trailheads from OH 356 just south of its junction with OH 56.

**(4) The Hocking Adena Bikeway** offers an opportunity to bike and bird 20 miles in proximity to the Hocking River, from East State Street in Athens (near Holzer Clinic) all the way to the city of Nelsonville. In its Eastern portion, the bike path passes along weedy and brushy fields with single trees, small woods, lawns and park land. Between West Side Park in Athens and Nelsonville, the Hocking has retained its riparian wood border,

and the bike path runs through partly open areas and farmland and beautiful deciduous forests, at times a bit away from the river. Woodland and open-area birds include American Woodcock, Eastern Screech Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, and Worm-eating Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary Warbler (near Armitage Road, River Road and Glen Ebon Road), and Summer Tanager. During Fall and Winter, keep an eye out for Ospreys and, increasingly, Bald Eagles.

Access points for short hikes include (1) the bike path parking area on East State Street next to the Pepsi bottling plant; (2) the end of East Park Drive near the sewage treatment plant; (3) on West Union Street at the Habitat for Humanity office, overlooking the White's Mill rapids; (4) West State Street Park and Currier Street; (5) Jackson Drive (Eclipse Town) in The Plains; (6) the Beaumont (Salina) parking area at the junction of Hamley Run and LeMaster Roads near The Plains; (7) Glen Ebon Rd. (Co. Rd. 4); (8) Hocking Parkway on the Hocking College Campus in Nelsonville.

**(5) Athens city parks** and the Ohio University campus provide easy-to-walk venues to look for birds. Listen for Common Nighthawks over downtown Athens at dusk in the summer, and see them migrate above Mount Calvary Cemetery in the fall. Hundreds of Chimney Swifts funnel into the chimney of East Elementary School during migration. From the schoolyard, look for Turkey and Black Vultures—sometimes more than 100—

soaring on the thermals along the hillside north of East State Street, particularly on warm afternoons.

**(6) The Ridges**, located across the Hocking River southwest of the city of Athens within walking distance. It originated as a hospital (asylum) with a working farm for the mentally ill in the late 19th century, and now houses the Kennedy Museum of Art, a Biotech Center as well as other academic units. Its 790 acres comprise open hilltop meadows and brush, and various successional stages of forest, along with 3 historic cemeteries, a picnic area and mini golf course, and small creeks and ponds. It is accessible by numerous walkways and trails. 155 species have been recorded by eBirders since the 1960s, and it is one of the best county birding areas during migration. Recent sightings include Yellow-breasted Chat, Palm, Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Worm-eating Warblers, and Ovenbird. The open hilltop area near Radar Hill is good for American Woodcock displays in early spring.

Turkey and Black vultures can often be seen perched on the rooftops of The Ridges buildings. In fall, the wide views from the open hilltops can be good for observing the silent migration of Common Nighthawks. Park at Piggery Lane, along Whites Mill Road (OH 682), at the Dairy Barn Art Center, or at the Radar Hill Trailhead along Dairy Barn Lane.

**(7) Lake Snowden**, located 6 miles southwest of Athens with access from US-32/50, is a prime location for migrating waterbirds in the county. The park is 651 acres including the 136 acre lake and originated in 1970 with the construction of a dam across Margaret Creek. Managed by Hocking College, the park has a campground and other recreational facilities, and hosts the annual Pawpaw festival in September. Look for wintering anatids, grebes and possible Common Loon. Wilson's Snipe and American Woodcock occur here, and the campground is a place to look for

*continued on page 6*



MARLENE DE LA CRUZ-GUZMAN (BIRDS), STEFAN GLEISSBERG





*continued from page 5*

Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Other areas in Athens County worth visiting are Fox Lake Wildlife Area in southwestern Athens County; Desonier State Nature Preserve near OH 50 between Athens and Coolville; and Baker Preserve with a trailhead 0.5 mile north of US-50 on OH-690.

**Conservation issues.** Athens County shares with other Appalachian regions a history of environmental exploitation, particularly erosion following 19th century deforestation and acid mine drainage following coal mining. Recent threats to regional ecosystems and bird life is the opening to oil and gas drilling, fracking waste injection wells, and commercial logging by the state of Ohio. OOS has stated that these developments threaten the integrity of biodiverse habitats including birds, through the removal, toxification, and deposition of water, toxic emissions, and industrial disturbance and traffic. On the positive side, not-for-profit organizations such as the Athens Conservancy have helped secure valuable land that will protect bird habitat permanently and make it accessible to the public. For instance, in 2003, a rare 100-acre remnant old growth forest adjacent to Strouds Run State Park was purchased from a logging company by the City of Athens with help from the Athens Conservancy. The preserve now carries the name of the company, Riddle Preserve, and is home to the Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers.

Sources (retrieved January 2015)

The author thanks Phil Cantino, John Knouse, Scott Moody, and

## Name that NEST! By Scott Pendleton



KELLY BENISH

The habitat is a shrubby marsh with standing water along a rails-to-trails bike path. This solitary nest is in a willow (*Salix* sp.) at eye level. It is well concealed from above and at the water's edge. Although individual twigs stick up to twenty inches from center, the bulk of this nest is 12-14 inches across. It is a platform nest (does not have a well-formed cup) and is unlined. Formulate a list of differentials and turn to page 8 for the answer.

Bob Scott Placier for contributions.

Athens County eBird hotspots:  
[ohioebirdhotspots.wikispaces.com](http://ohioebirdhotspots.wikispaces.com)

Athens County Open Space:  
[athensconservancy.org/open](http://athensconservancy.org/open)

Birds along the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway: [ohio.edu/plantbio/staff/cantino/bikeway/allbirds](http://ohio.edu/plantbio/staff/cantino/bikeway/allbirds)

History of Ohio's State Forests:  
[forestry.ohiodnr.gov/history](http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/history)

Hocking valley Birding Trail:  
[birdhocking.com](http://birdhocking.com)

Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II:  
[ohiobirds.org/obba2](http://ohiobirds.org/obba2)

OOS Board Rejects Industrial

Activities in Ohio State Parks:  
[ohiobirds.org/site/conservation/letters.php](http://ohiobirds.org/site/conservation/letters.php)

Poston Plant Lands (American Electric Power): [aep.com/environment/conservation/recland/pdf/PostonMap.pdf](http://aep.com/environment/conservation/recland/pdf/PostonMap.pdf)

The Hockhocking Adena Bikeway: [seorf.ohiou.edu/~xx200/bp/index](http://seorf.ohiou.edu/~xx200/bp/index)

TrekOhio: [trekohio.com/athens/](http://trekohio.com/athens/)  
Zaleski State Forest Map: [forestry.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/forestry/PDFs/SF/zaleski.pdf](http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/forestry/PDFs/SF/zaleski.pdf)

## Book REVIEW:

# The Birds of Franklin County, Ohio - An annotated Checklist

By William D. Whan

2014. 119 pages. PDF file format, distributed at no cost at [columbusaudubon.org/](http://columbusaudubon.org/)

By Dr. Bernard F. Master

Ohio is fortunate to have its bird history of the past two hundred years recorded for modern day readers and enthusiasts. Beginning with the first checklist of the state prepared by Jared Potter Kirtland in 1838, a long list of authors have contributed to the base of knowledge of what we call the Ohio checklist; however, the compilers were few. This early group of Ohio ornithologists, whom I shall dub "The Venerables", begins with Dr. Kirtland and is followed by John Maynard Wheaton, 1861, updated in 1882, and includes the first list of 241 Franklin County birds, followed by Jasper, Davie, and Dawson.

The next group of Ohio ornithologists, whom I shall call the "Modernists" who updated and vetted numerous records for Ohio and Franklin County, begins with Milton B. Trautman in 1940 and includes works by Donald Bor-

ror (1950), Tom Thomson (1983), Bruce Peterjohn (2001), and Robert Harlan et al. in 2008. There has not been an updated checklist devoted solely to Franklin County for 130 years until now. Enter William D. Whan who is uniquely qualified, by virtue of his twenty years as Editor of The Ohio Cardinal and his twelve years of service to the Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC), to prepare such an update. Bill has written numerous articles about bird life in Columbus and beyond. He becomes fully engaged with conviction on any number of ornithological discussions on the internet, and he is an avid birder frequently found in the field helping other birders with the fine points of birding. He is a born teacher and educator.

An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Franklin County is a tour de force. It is not a checklist in the form that birders have been ac-

customed to seeing emanating from their parks and wildlife reserves. It is more, much more. Whan has dipped into his voluminous birding record archives, spending untold hours at The Ohio State Museum of Biological Diversity examining bird skins, translating illegible handwriting on bird tags, separating fact from fiction on dubious dates and locations, and communicating with museums worldwide to discover outlying bird records for his book. His treatise includes many personal communications with birders, librarians, curators, and authors always looking to refine and authenticate his records. This product is the culmination of painstaking and tedious plain old hard work but done with a love and passion shared by few.

The book is very readable and not weighed down by stuffy scientific data. He presents interesting pieces of field information in most of the species accounts. There is something useful for every birder no matter one's level of expertise. Every record is carefully documented. There is an extensive bibliography. Controversial taxonomy and records are dealt with fairly. By its title alone, this work invites a discussion of county listing, valuable or not? Whan does not take either position, but obviously he believes it is important. I never cared much for it. I thought it was for those who had too much time on their hands or suffered from some obsessive compulsive disorder; besides birds can't read maps and don't know one county boundary from another. After reading, I talked to a few county listers in-

*continued on page 8*





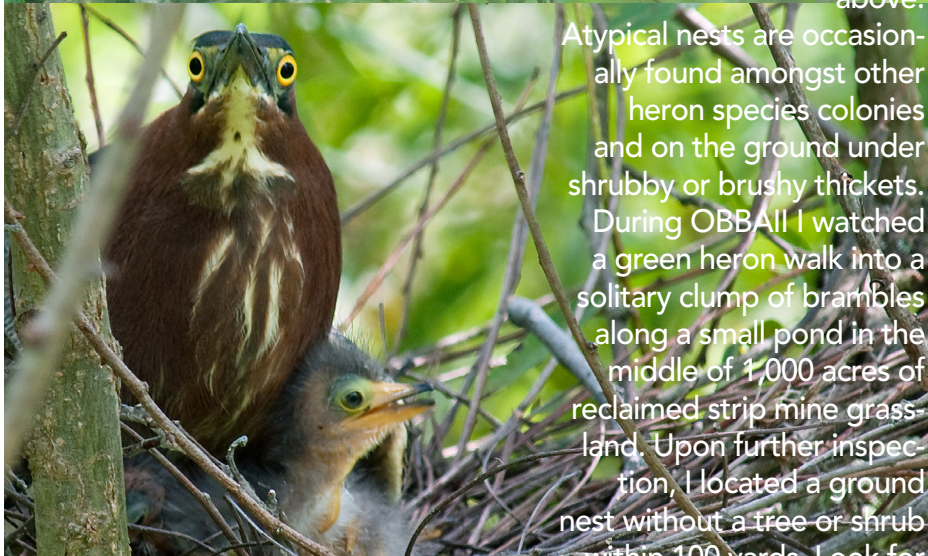
## "Name that NEST!" - Answer

This nest belongs to the ABA's Bird of the Year—Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*). It was along the Bowerston Bike Trail in Har-



KELLY BENNISH

rison County. A relatively small platform nest in a tree narrows this nest down to the smaller heron-type birds. It can be separated from the night-herons by size, less than 15 inches, and rather flimsy construction. Although Green Heron can nest in loose colonies, solitary nests are the rule, compared to the typically colonial night-herons. This species usually builds over water in a location that is always well-concealed from above.



BENNISH

Atypical nests are occasionally found amongst other heron species colonies and on the ground under shrubby or brushy thickets. During OBBall I watched a green heron walk into a solitary clump of brambles along a small pond in the middle of 1,000 acres of reclaimed strip mine grass-land. Upon further inspection, I located a ground nest without a tree or shrub within 100 yards. Look for this common Ohio nest that often offers surprisingly good views from the side along our waterways.

*continued from page 7*

## Book **REVIEW:**

cluding our great Ohio lister, Dan Sanders. I have changed my mind completely on this subject. County listing is fun and important. It takes birders to the odd corners of the state that are usually left unbirded; it gets people off of their couches into the nature's nearby nooks and crannies rather inexpensively, sometimes producing surprising and amazing bird finds. County boundaries are frequently set by physical barriers such as rivers and habitat change such as farmland which can produce interesting results. County birders contribute to the knowledge of migration patterns, population changes, dates of arrival and departure, and vagrancy (birds, not birders), and add valuable information to the states ornithology.

My only negative criticism, and it is of form not substance, is Whan's use of small caps for common bird names. I know it is the expected form for the lay press; however, I believe that an ornithologist writing an ornithological subject for an ornithological society should follow the American Ornithological Union rules and use capitals for common names. Whan and I have had that discussion before and here it ends.

I would like to see this work bound in hard cover because it belongs in every Ohio birder's library next to Trautman and Peterjohn. Whan's Checklist, in my opinion, credentials him for entry into the pantheon of Ohio's "Modernists".



## Dennis Profant 1956 - 2015

*Dennis Profant died at the age of 58 on April 15, 2015 in Nelsonville. Below we print Jim McCormac's obituary that appeared on his blog "Ohio Birds and Biodiversity".*

I recently learned of the death of one of Ohio's premier naturalist/biologists, Dennis Profant. The news was a shock to all, and his passing was terrible news.

Dennis was a professor at Hocking College, where he taught ornithology, dendrology, and entomology. He really was a jack-of-all-trades when it came to natural history knowledge, but he was probably best known for his encyclopedic knowledge of moths. Dennis published extensively on the Lepidoptera, especially his beloved slug caterpillar moths (Limacodidae). He was lead author of the definitive work on these gorgeous little animals: *The Slug Caterpillar Moths* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae) and other Zygaenoidea of Ohio. Don't let the academic title fool you. The book, which appeared in 2010, is a richly illustrated, easily understood and highly useful guide to these moths.

I have known Dennis for at least 20 years, and spent many hours afield with him. Never, ever, did one of these forays conclude without myself and anyone else who was along being greatly enriched in our knowledge of the natural world. He was a born teacher and it was fitting indeed that Dennis's career path took him into sharing the wonders of the natural world with young people, which he did

for 25 years at Hocking College. In spite of a busy schedule, Dennis often made himself available to assist with events and workshops. Attendees at the last two Mothapaloozas benefited from his expertise, and we will sorely miss him at this year's Mothapalooza. Dennis also exposed people worldwide to the wonders of Ohio's hill country via his blog, *Field Biology in Southeastern Ohio*.

Students, especially when given the opportunity to do so anonymously, can be harsh critics of their teachers. It doesn't surprise me that Dennis scored an A+ on the site Rate My Professors, on which many an instructor has been savaged. Here's a telling comment from that site: "Dennis is by far the best natural resources instructor at Hocking College. He is very knowledgeable and his enthusiasm is contagious. I only wish he taught all the classes in my curriculum."

Last July was the last time that I had an extended field trip with Dennis, in this case to Wahkeena Nature Preserve in Fairfield County. We all stayed well into the night, capturing moths, seeking caterpillars, and whatever other critters we could find. As always, it was an excellent adventure, made all the better by Dennis and his stores of information.

I'll dearly miss him, as will many others.

Submit your own intriguing Ohio *Bird Encounter* for consideration for *The Cerulean*. Images or links to videos are optional. Send an email to [ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org](mailto:ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org)

## Bird Encounters



STEFAN GLEISSBERG

Last August, I was birding on the bike path along the Hocking River when I noticed an assemblage of vultures far on the opposite bank. Vultures of both species are a common sight here in Athens, usually seen gathering in large roosts in later afternoon hours. Coming closer, I noticed that one of the large birds was much lighter colored — an Osprey! It had prey, a fish or a turtle, in its talons. Hopeful Black and Turkey Vultures had surrounded the raptor, watching it closely. This was not a peaceful meal for the Osprey, who was shielding its prey by lowering its wings. I noticed that Black Vultures were a little less respectful of the powerful bird than their red-headed cousins. When one of the uninvited guests inched too close to the raptor's back, a sudden head turn and a few wing flaps were enough to send the Black Vulture one or two fast hops away. However, the effect was only temporary. The interest remained, drawing the scavengers again towards the Osprey's feast. The curious game was still going on when I left. *Stefan Gleissberg, Athens*



# Calendar of Events

Check our compilation of state-wide and local field trips and other birding and nature events. Please confirm event details and registration needs using the weblinks or email provided. And please send us your event!

Sundays, 12 April through 17 May  
**82nd Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks**

various locations  
Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and others  
[wcasohio.org/Field\\_Trips.htm](http://wcasohio.org/Field_Trips.htm)

Saturday, 2 May  
**Field Trip**  
Magee Marsh  
Black River Audubon Society  
[blackriveraudubon.org](http://blackriveraudubon.org)

Saturday, 2 May - Sunday, 3 May  
**Grand River Conservation Campus Grand Opening**  
3973 Callender Road  
Rock Creek, OH 44084  
The Nature Conservancy  
[nature.org](http://nature.org)

Saturday, 2 May  
**East Fork Birding Festival**  
East Fork State Park South Beach,  
3294 Ellick Road, Bethel, OH  
Cincinnati Bird Club  
[cincinnatibirds.com/calendar](http://cincinnatibirds.com/calendar)

Friday, 8 May - Sunday, 10 May  
**Burr Oak Bird Migration Tour**  
Burr Oak Lodge  
10660 Burr Oak Lodge Road,  
Glouster, OH 45732  
[stayburroak.com/recreation/events](http://stayburroak.com/recreation/events)

Friday, 8 May - Sunday, 17 May  
**Biggest Week**  
Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center, 1750 State Park Road #2, Oregon, OH 43616  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Kaufman Field Guides, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge  
[biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

Saturday, 9 May - Sunday, 10 May

## MARSH MADNESS 2015

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.

During the Biggest Week in American Birding, the OOS, in cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, will be conducting beginner guided bird walks again this year on May 9 and 10 at Magee Marsh. Walks are limited to 15 participants. To sign up, send an email to [marshmadness@ohiobirds.org](mailto:marshmadness@ohiobirds.org) your name and phone number, date and requested time-slot. More information at [ohiobirds.org](http://ohiobirds.org)

Saturday, 9 May  
**International Migratory Bird Day**  
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, 13531 State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.  
The Friends of Magee Marsh, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
[friendsofmageemarsh.org](http://friendsofmageemarsh.org)

Saturday, 9 May  
**Bird walk at Mohican State Park. A day-long Birdathon/Big Day follows for those who want to continue.**  
Campground A off State Route 3 south of Loudonville  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society  
[gmasohio.org/events](http://gmasohio.org/events)

Saturday, 9 May  
**Global Big Day 2015**  
[ebird.org](http://ebird.org)

Sunday, 10 May  
**Morning walk on The Ridges**  
Ridges Auditorium on W Circle Drive in Athens, OH  
Athens Area Birders  
[stefan@gleissberg.org](mailto:stefan@gleissberg.org)

Thursday 14 May  
**Great Egret Marsh Preserve Bird & Nature Walk**  
N. Buck Road, Lakeside-Marblehead, Ohio 43440-9610  
Craig Caldwell & Tara Baranowski  
[Elisa.Demis@tnc.org](mailto:Elisa.Demis@tnc.org)

Saturday, 16 May  
**Field Trip: Spring Warbler Migration**  
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Oak Harbor  
[ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio](http://ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio)

Saturday, 16 May  
**Poland Forest Wildflower and Birds**  
Canton Audubon Society  
[cantonaudubon.org/calendar](http://cantonaudubon.org/calendar)

Saturday, 16 May - Sunday, 18 May  
**Nest with the Birds**  
Kelleys Island Audubon Club  
[kelleysislandnature.com](http://kelleysislandnature.com)

Monday, 18 May - Tuesday, 19 May  
**OOS Give Back Day**  
with Friends of Magee Marsh. Help pull invasive garlic mustard and improve valuable stopover habitat for migrants along the boardwalk for 1-2 hours each afternoon. We will have impromptu afternoon field trips led by OOS members.  
[friendsofmageemarsh.org/fomm/garlicmustard.php](http://friendsofmageemarsh.org/fomm/garlicmustard.php)

Wednesday, 20 May  
**"Ohio's Birds Record Committee-Basics of Rare Birds: Confirmation and Documentation" by Paul Gardner**  
Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake  
Canton Audubon Society  
[cantonaudubon.org/calendar](http://cantonaudubon.org/calendar)

Thursday, 21 May  
**Field Trip: Lake Erie Nature and Science Center**  
Huntington Reservation, Bay Village  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
[wcasohio.org/Field\\_Trips.htm](http://wcasohio.org/Field_Trips.htm)

Saturday, 23 May  
**Field Trip**  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Blackbrook Audubon Society  
[blackbrookaudubon.org/events](http://blackbrookaudubon.org/events)

Saturday, 23 May  
**Bird Walk at Byers Woods**  
675 County Road 1754, Ashland  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society,  
Ashland County Park District  
[gmasohio.org/events](http://gmasohio.org/events)



Saturday, 30 May  
**3rd Annual OOS CVNP day trip**  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Happy Days Lodge, 500 West  
Streetsboro Street, Peninsula, OH  
[ohiobirds.org](http://ohiobirds.org)

Friday, 12 June - Sunday 14 June  
**Mothapalooza!**  
Shawnee Lodge & Conference  
Center  
[mothapalooza.org](http://mothapalooza.org)

Saturday, 13 June  
**Field Trip: Rocky River Nature**  
Rocky River Nature Center  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
[wcasohio.org/Field\\_Trips](http://wcasohio.org/Field_Trips)

Saturday, 13 June  
**Birding by Kayak**  
Columbus Ohio  
[ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio](http://ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio)

Sunday, 14 June  
**Wayne National Forest  
Breeding Birds**  
Athens Public Library  
Athens Area Birders  
[stefan@gleissberg.org](mailto:stefan@gleissberg.org)

Saturday, 27 June  
**Bobolinks at Byers Woods**  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society  
675 County Road 1754, Ashland  
[gmasohio.org](http://gmasohio.org)

June (TBD)  
**Annual Bobolink Walk**  
Metzger Park, Louisville  
Canton Audubon Society  
[cantonaudubon.org](http://cantonaudubon.org)

Saturday, 18 July  
**Field Trip**  
Black River Reservation  
Black River Audubon Society  
[blackriveraudubon.org](http://blackriveraudubon.org)

Friday, 24 July - Sunday, 26 July  
**Midwest Native Plant Conference**  
Bergamo Center in Dayton, Ohio  
Midwest Native Plant Society  
[midwestnativeplants.org](http://midwestnativeplants.org)

Saturday, 25 July  
**Bird Walk at Byers Woods**  
675 County Road 1754, Ashland  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society  
[gmasohio.org/events](http://gmasohio.org/events)

Wednesday, 22 July  
**Fledgling Grassland  
Sparrows**



OOS South-East Director Scott Pendleton will lead an outing in Harrison County to compare fledgling grassland sparrows to each other and their adults in Harrison County. This event is timed to coincide with the crèche period when large numbers of young are gathered in concentrated areas. If we hit it just right, sparrow numbers can be in the hundreds! We will be concentrating on Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows. Other expected species include Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Orchard Oriole as well as the occasional Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Northern Harrier and Yellow-Breasted Chat. Time permitting, we may go to a local marsh for a real challenge-separating recently fledged Song and Swamp Sparrows. Number of participants is limited.

For questions and to register contact Scott at [tallyp2001@yahoo.com](mailto:tallyp2001@yahoo.com).

July (TBD)  
**Medina Raptor Center Tour**  
Medina Raptor Center  
[ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio](http://ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio)

Friday, 14 August  
**Field Trip: Nature at Night Sounds**  
Location TBD  
[ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio](http://ohioyoungbirders.org/northeast-ohio)

Saturday, 15 August  
**Field Trip**  
Schoepfle Gardens, Birmingham  
Black River Audubon Society  
[blackriveraudubon.org](http://blackriveraudubon.org)

Saturday, 22 August  
**Bird Walk at Byers Woods**  
675 County Road 1754, Ashland  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society,  
Ashland County Park District  
[gmasohio.org/events](http://gmasohio.org/events)

Thursday, 27 August - Saturday, 29 August  
**Flora Quest 2015**  
Mohican State Park  
[www.flora-quest.com](http://www.flora-quest.com)

Saturday, 26 September  
**Bird Walk at Byers Woods**  
675 County Road 1754, Ashland  
Greater Mohican Audubon Society,  
Ashland County Park District  
[gmasohio.org/events](http://gmasohio.org/events)

Saturday, 26 September  
**Feather and Foliage Bird Festival**  
Ferry from Marblehead, OH  
Kelley Island Audubon  
<http://www.kelleysislandnature.com>

Friday, 2 October - Sunday, 4 October  
**American Birding Expo**  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center,  
505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus,  
OH 43215  
Bird Watcher's Digest  
[americanbirdingexpo.com](http://americanbirdingexpo.com)

**More events:**

Arc of Appalachia  
[arcofappalachia.org](http://arcofappalachia.org)

Cincinnati Bird Club  
[cincinnatibirds.com](http://cincinnatibirds.com)

Columbus Audubon  
[columbusaudubon.org](http://columbusaudubon.org)

The Cerulean  
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OOS Publication Committee  
Craig Caldwell, Julie Davis,  
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# Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

Join us online! [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org)

We provide a statewide birding network welcoming bird watchers of all interests and abilities to unite for the enjoyment, study and conservation of Ohio's birds.

<b>\$15</b> Student/Limited income	<b>\$100</b> Patron/Business
<b>\$35</b> Individual	<b>\$250</b> Sustaining
<b>\$50</b> Family/NonProfit	<b>\$500</b> Benefactor
<b>\$20</b> Print publications*	<b>\$1,000</b> Lifetime

\*All members will receive the *Cerulean* and the *Ohio Cardinal* electronically. For Print Publications, please add \$20 to the membership fee. Membership is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## JOIN US TODAY!

The *Cerulean* is our quarterly newsletter that includes up-to-date birding news around the state.

The *Ohio Cardinal* is our quarterly periodical that includes the current season's bird sightings and scientific articles.

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



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interest and ability to unite  
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and conservation of Ohio's  
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