



THE CERULEAN

Spring - 2011, Vol. 8, No. 1

www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

Quarterly Newsletter of the **Ohio Ornithological Society**: *Ohio's Birding Network*

from the **EDITOR**



Join Kaufman Field Guides and OOS as we co-host the opening night celebration for the Biggest Week in American Birding (BWIB) at Mango Mama's in Port Clinton on Thursday, May 5 from 6-9 pm. Think of this as OBGBOUOR (Ohio's Biggest Gathering of Birders Under One Roof). Just don't try to pronounce the acronym!



Mango Mama's is THE place to be to mingle with the good folks from Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Tropical Birding, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area as well as local birders and area business sponsors of BWIB. Dinner and drinks available to order, plus we'll provide a few free appetizers. There's no cover charge and no need to register. *Casual attire: hiking boots and binoculars optional!*



The opening night celebration is a benefit for co-hosts Kaufman Field Guides and OOS. Copies of the Spanish language version of Kenn Kaufman's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (*Guía de Campo Kaufman: a las Aves de Norteamericanas*) will be available for adoption/sponsorship: these are sent to Latin America to raise support for wildlife conservation. Plus, we'll raffle an autographed copy of Kenn Kaufman's highly acclaimed new *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*!

OOS will raise funds to support special projects for OBBA II, the OOS Conservation Fund, and the OOS Thompson Memorial Fund.

Ann Oliver, Editor of *The Cerulean Newsletter* -Cincinnati

Mango Mama's, in Kokomo Bay Restaurant, is located at 40 Madison Street in Port Clinton, Ohio.

BIRDING MAGAZINE EDITOR TED FLOYD OF ABA IS OOS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The OOS Seventh Annual Conference is getting bigger and even better! As requested by *scores* of members, we're returning to Shawnee State Park, the popular location of our first two conferences! Imagine seventeen species of breeding warblers, Henslow's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Chuck-will's-widow, plus the botanical diversity of south-west Ohio! As a bonus, we'll partner with the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II during our June 3-5 conference, for an important atlasing blockbuster event.



Photo courtesy Ted Floyd.

"Birding at Night: The Final Frontier" will be our Saturday evening keynote presentation on June 4 with Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding*, magazine of the American Birding Association (ABA). Take a tour of nocturnal birding and find out how *you*, through this new frontier in birding, can advance bird conservation.

Warning: going birding at night is thoroughly addictive. As a result of hearing and seeing Ted's presentation, you may find yourself increasingly sleep-deprived, unable to stay in bed and indoors during the nighttime hours!

Ted will also present a special Saturday afternoon program called **"Bare-naked Birding: Clothing Optional, Binoculars Prohibited."** No "bins" or scopes allowed! This workshop is highly recommended, especially for atlasers, as there will be a major focus on observing breeding behavior and applying it to bird identification. Birders of all interest and skill levels are encouraged to attend!

See the OOS website for registration details:
<http://www.ohiobirds.org/>

Ohio's Birding Network

OOS IS NOW 800 MEMBERS STRONG! THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OHIO'S BIRDING NETWORK!!!

SEVENTH ANNUAL OOS CONFERENCE JUNE 3-5: ATLASING EXTRAVAGANZA WITH OBBA II AT SHAWNEE SP



This summer is your FINAL chance to get involved with the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA II). This is the *last* year of fieldwork for the statewide survey of Ohio's breeding birds. That's why from June 3-5, OOS is partnering with OBBA II during our Seventh Annual Conference at Shawnee State Park. Are we being altruistic by helping OBBA II document vital breeding birds, or are we looking for an excuse to partake in some great birding in southwest Ohio? BOTH, of course!

This blockbusting extravaganza will be *just like our regular annual event*, with great birding and camaraderie. Plus, on both Friday and Saturday evenings, we'll have a



Camouflaged Adams County Chuck-will's-widow observed nesting during a May 2010 OOS event. The red arrow is pointing toward the head. Photo courtesy Greg Cornett.

nighttime foray to look and listen for Chuck-will's-widow, which breeds in the Adams County area often on the protected property of the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at The Edge of Appalachia Preserve (EOA).

Don't worry if you haven't atlased before: there's a special introduction to atlasing on Friday evening, June 3! Think of atlasing as taking notes during a fair-weather version of a Christmas Bird Count! Plus, we'll group you with an experienced atlasing team leader for the weekend. OBBA II and OOS will have handouts for all attendees to take home for atlasing in other parts of the state. You'll hear great speakers and experience great birding while helping gather vital data for the atlas.



Our speaker on Friday evening is Paul Rodewald, Project Director and Principal Investigator of OBBA II. Paul will explain the "ins and outs" of atlasing. Paul is an Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the

Photo of Paul Rodewald courtesy OBBA II.

School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University. Paul has been involved in numerous bird research projects throughout the US and abroad over the last 25 years. He received a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from Penn State University. At OSU, Paul teaches research in avian ecology, bird identification, and wildlife habitat management. He is keenly interested in the historical and present-day biogeography and conservation status of Ohio's avifauna, and pursues these interests through his work with OBBA II. His other research emphasizes the ecology, movement behavior, diet, and energetics of songbirds within migratory stopover areas, including the Lake Erie shoreline of northwest Ohio.

Saturday morning, we'll break out into groups of atlasers. We'll head out in teams, with an experienced atlaser at the helm, to survey for breeding birds. If you haven't atlased before, you'll quickly learn how the process works. **Don't forget, many blocks across the state still need data. If you can't join us this weekend, PLEASE contact OBBA II to volunteer in your region.**



Ted Floyd birding "unassisted" with his daughter. Photo courtesy Kei Sochi.

Saturday afternoon, you'll be treated to an outdoor session called **"Bare-naked Birding"** with Ted Floyd, from the American Birding Association. *This is another chance to hone your skills by observing birds in the field using just your unassisted eyes and ears: no binoculars or scopes allowed!*



Ted is the Editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of ABA. Ted has written more than 125 articles, with contributions to scholarly journals such as *Ecology*, *Oecologia*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, and *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, and to popular magazines such as *Natural History*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and *Birding*. He has contributed chapters to textbooks and guidebooks published by Oxford University Press, Houghton Mifflin, and National Geographic. He is senior author of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada* and author of the *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.

OBBA II is a volunteer-based effort seeking to 1.) document the current distribution of breeding birds to assess changes since the last atlas 25 years ago, 2.) identify important habitats supporting a high diversity of birds or species of special concern, 3.) collect abundance and distribution data on species difficult to survey, including nocturnal and wetland birds, 4.) assess Ohio's rare, threatened, and endangered birds, and 5.) engage birders and conservation groups statewide. OBBA II is coordinated by the Ohio State University-School of Environment and Natural Resources and Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife.

OBBA II is hoping (pleading!) for continued or expanded support from current volunteers! New volunteers, please take up the cause! Surveying a breeding bird atlas block involves documenting the bird species present and recording any evidence of breeding or behaviors that suggest an individual is breeding. A series of codes (see website) is used to assign each observation to one of three breeding categories: Possible, Probable, and Confirmed. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT BIRDER TO PARTICIPATE!

Internet access NOT required: 614-247-6458. Or, visit the OBBA II website for information: www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/index.php

To register, please use the form below, or download a copy from the OOS website:

(www.ohiobirds.org/calendar/society_events/current/about.php).

PLEASE join us June 3-5 at Shawnee State Park for one of the most important birding events in Ohio this year: atlasing in southwest Ohio with OBBA II!

Why is an atlas blockbuster so important? It's a great way for new and seasoned atlasers to get together to make a big difference in coverage of an area!

Weekend Schedule

Friday, June 3

3pm-6pm Registration in the lodge lobby
6:30 pm-Enjoy a casual cookout dinner
(Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, baked beans, corn on the cob, drink and dessert)

7:15pm-Election of OOS officers & directors

7:30 pm-Keynote Speaker, Paul Rodewald, Project Director of OBBA II, speaking on the ins & outs of atlasing in the OBBA II's last year.

9:00-Evening Atlasing - Chuck-will's-widow

Saturday, June 4

5:45 - Coffee & continental breakfast; lobby

6:00 am - 7:00 am - Atlasing groups depart; Groups will carpool, box lunches available.

2:00 pm - Afternoon Program
Bare Naked Birding with Ted Floyd

6:00 pm -Dinner Buffet
(Chicken Picatta, Pork Marsala, salad, potato, vegetables, drink and dessert)

7:15 pm-Keynote Speaker, Ted Floyd
Editor of Birding Magazine, American Birding Association, speaking on Nocturnal Monitoring and Citizen Science.

9:00-Evening Atlasing - Chuck-will's-widow

Sunday, June 5

6:00 am- Coffee in lobby

6:30-Atlasing on OOS / Conrad Tract in Adams County. Groups will carpool. We encourage you to atlas on your way home and throughout the season!

OOS/OBBAll Attendee Registration

Please fill out one registration form per attendee**

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip

Email address:

Attending Conference with (to be grouped with in field trips, etc.): **

Accommodations & Rates:

Shawnee State Park Lodge
Rooms starting at \$95/night

You must contact the Conference Center directly to reserve your room: 1-800-AT-A-PARK (1-800-282-7275)

Code: Ohio Ornithological Society

Every lodge room rented helps OOS lower conference costs

Cabins & Camping also available shawneestateparklodge.com

| | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Totals |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Breakfast | N/A | \$11.00 | \$11.00 | \$22.00 |
| Box Lunch | N/A | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | \$24.00 |
| Dinner | \$20.00 | \$24.00 | N/A | \$44.00 |
| Total Meals | | | | \$90.00 |
| Members Conference | Conference Registration Fee | | | \$50.00 |
| | Conference and Complete Meal Package <i>You may also pick your choice of meals & add registration charge</i> | | | \$140.00 |
| Non Members Conference | Total Package Only (includes 1 year membership) | | | \$155.00 |
| Total (package) | Checks Payable to OOS PO Box 14051, Columbus, OH 43214 | | | Total Enclosed |
| Special Diet Needs: | | | | |

Atlas Options: There will be 15-20 atlas groups Saturday. Individuals will be assigned to blocks based on their request & skill level. Please answer the following questions to be placed in an atlasing group.

Please rate your birding experience : Level 1 (Beginner) ☐ Level 2 (Intermediate) ☐ Level 3 (Expert) ☐

Do you have prior experience in atlasing? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, would you like to be a trip leader? ☐

GROUP A: Depart Shawnee at 6:00 AM.

GROUP B: Depart Shawnee at 6:30 AM.

GROUP C: Depart Shawnee at 7:00 AM.

Distance to blocks approx. 1 hour. ☐

Distance to blocks 30 to 45 minutes. ☐

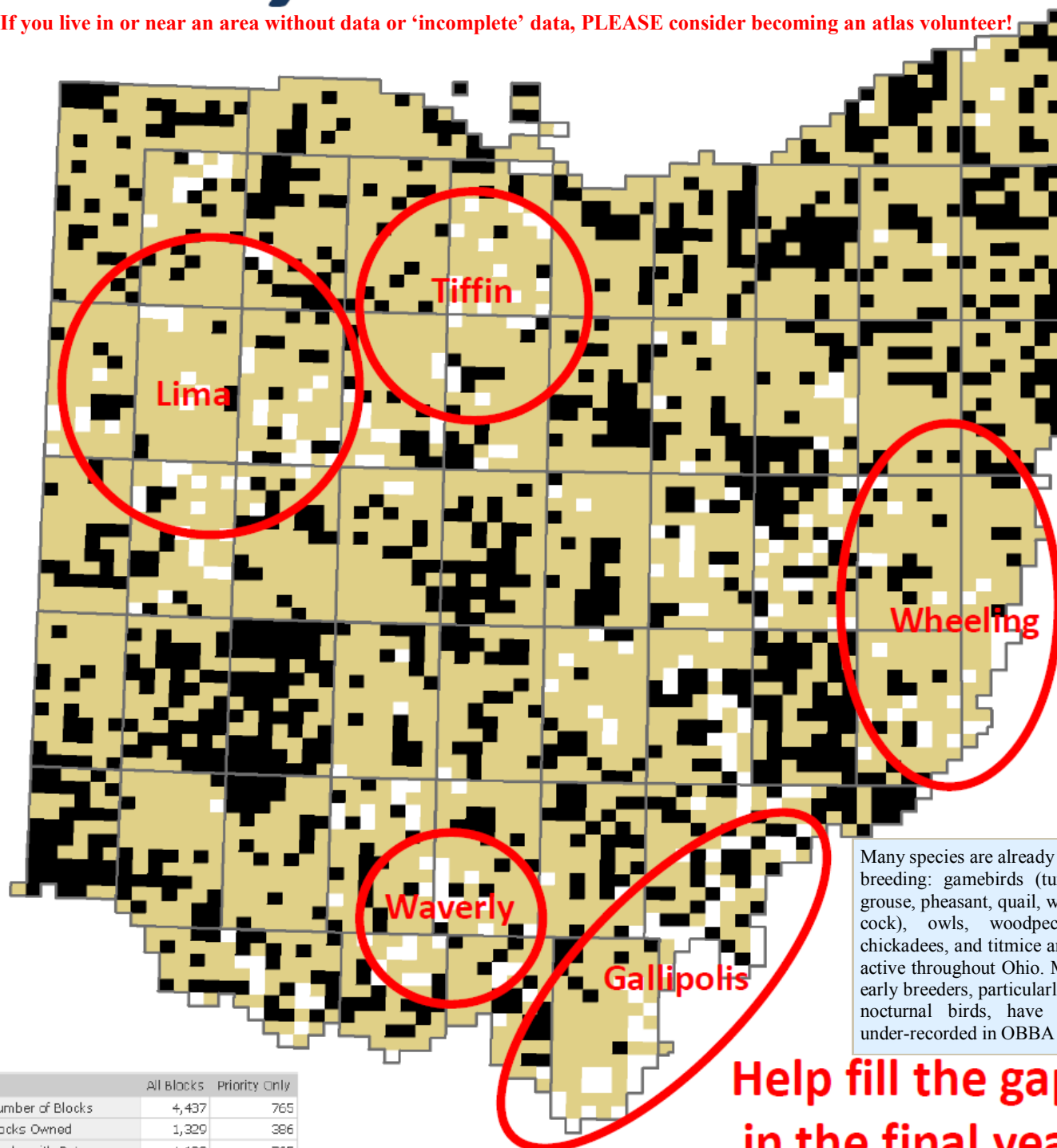
Distance to blocks 20 to 30 minutes. ☐

***Cancellation Policy:** Due to our agreement with Shawnee, no refunds will be available after May 20, 2011.

Questions? E-mail Julie Davis at: greenheron58@insight.rr.com

Do you live here?

If you live in or near an area without data or 'incomplete' data, PLEASE consider becoming an atlas volunteer!



Many species are already breeding: gamebirds (turkey, grouse, pheasant, quail, woodcock), owls, woodpeckers, chickadees, and titmice are all active throughout Ohio. Many early breeders, particularly the nocturnal birds, have been under-recorded in OBBA II.

Help fill the gaps in the final year

| | All Blocks | Priority Only |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Number of Blocks | 4,437 | 765 |
| Blocks Owned | 1,329 | 386 |
| Blocks with Data | 4,132 | 765 |
| Blocks Complete | 1,174 | 378 |
| Block Effort Hours | 47,521 | 15,500 |
| Other Effort Hours | 7,856 | --- |
| Total Auto Miles | 296,006 | --- |
| Total Submissions | 562,014 | 152,961 |
| Registered Participants | 1,046 | --- |
| Species Reported | 212 | 196 |
| Species Confirmed | 187 | 161 |

SWAINSON'S WARBLER QUEST

Southern OH atlasers: keep an ear open around ravines and streams for Swainson's Warbler. In WV & PA, SWWA seem to be primarily connected to Rhododendron ravines, but in OH and other parts of their range (particularly in the south), SWWA uses flatter reedy areas (sugar cane in the south).

| | |
|--|------------|
| | No Data |
| | Incomplete |
| | Complete |

Help OBBA II finish data collection! Please submit ALL past breeding bird records from 2006-10 as soon as possible. Remember, OBBA II data can be entered online or mailed in on paper. Details: www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/index.php

Ted received a B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University in 1990 and a Ph.D. in Ecology from Penn State University in 1995. He is currently an instructor with ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology program, and he has taught college-level courses in ecology, evolution, entomology, statistics, conservation biology, and other topics. Ted is a frequent speaker at birding festivals and ornithological meetings, and he has led birding trips and workshops across North America. He has lived and birded in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado. In the course of his scientific research and outreach activities, he has visited and birded in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as South America, Europe, and Asia.



Saturday evening, Ted is our featured keynote speaker. His presentation on nocturnal monitoring and citizen science, **"Birding at Night: The Final Frontier"**, will open your mind to an entirely new conception of birding. Many birds are surprisingly easy to observe after dark: not just owls, but birds we think of as active only by day including thrushes and thrashers, warblers and sparrows. Matthew Shumar from OBBA II agrees: "For those who like night-time activities, interesting species can be found at the tail end of owling: sparrows get bursts of territorial song late at night - I have often observed Swamp Sparrows counter-singing after midnight while owling or doing big day events."



Sunday morning, conference attendees will have the option to atlas on The Conrad Tract, a mixed mesophytic forest with upland oak-hickory forest, rare white cedar trees, and dolomitic limestone outcroppings. The Nature Conservancy protected this location, adjacent to the 14,000 acres of EOA, with monies from The Clean Ohio Fund and a 2007 \$10,000 conservation donation from OOS.

The Darke County Birders have scheduled many blockbusting events: Regina Schieltz is the Regional Coordinator.

1. June 4 at 7 am (1/2 day)
2. June 19 at 8 am (all day)
3. July 2 at 12:30 pm (1/2 day)
4. July 17 at 8 am (all day)
5. Aug 7 at 8 am (all day)
6. Aug 13 at 12:30 pm (1/2 day)

Except for June 4, meet at Darke County Parks Education Center, 4267 St. Rt. 502, Greenville, OH. Questions: contact Steve Miller (937-547-3340 or sjmiller@hotmail.com).

There are other atlasing events around the state planned by Regional Coordinators (RC). Please visit the OBBA II website for email addresses and phone numbers of RC.

1. June 4: Jim Dolan (Region 53)
2. June 11: Bill Stanley (Regions 82 & 83)
3. June 18: Chuck McClaugherty (Region 52)
4. June 25: Tom Bain (Region 59)
5. July 2: Terri Martincic (Region 30 & 40)
6. July 9: Bill Stanley (Regions 82 & 83)

Bob Scott Placier will also host a blockbuster in the Liberty Wildlife Area: date TBA. For more information, contact OBBA II by phone (614-247-6458), email (ohiobba2@gmail.com), or snail mail (OBBA II, School of Environment & Natural Resources, OSU, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210).

NOMINATION OF OOS BOARD MEMBERS

Two of the thirteen positions on the Ohio Ornithological Society Board of Directors expire at the 2011 annual meeting in June. We are seeking nominations from the OOS membership to fill these posts. Candidates should be members in good standing with OOS. Board members are expected to attend quarterly board meetings, the annual meeting, make an effort to participate in other OOS events, and help spearhead various OOS initiatives.

The upcoming vacancies are:

- 1.) NORTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR (Term: 2011-2013). Nominees must live in one of the following counties, which are represented by this post: Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, Wyandot.
- 2.) DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (Term: 2011-2013). Nominees can reside anywhere in Ohio.

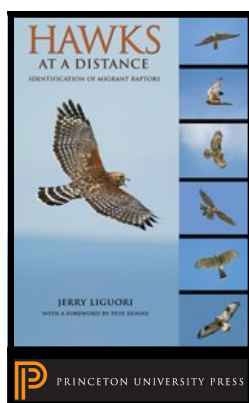
Please submit suitable candidates' names and addresses by May 21st, 2011, with their permission, to: OOS

P.O. Box 14051
Columbus, OH 43214

Or via e-mail to Ann Oliver, OOS Executive Secretary (annieobirder@yahoo.com): please include "OOS Board Nomination" in the title or subject heading of the email.

BOOK REVIEW OF LIGUORI'S HAWKS AT A DISTANCE: IDENTIFICATION OF MIGRANT RAPTORS

When I began birding, in the late 1970's, I learned bird identification from the Peterson guide. No great surprise there. It made perfect sense – learn the set of field marks that uniquely identify each species, look at a bird in the field, see those marks, and voila, the bird was identified. If a bird was too far away to see the marks, or if it didn't sit still long enough to see them, you just left that bird unidentified, and moved on to the next one. Flying hawks fit that description fairly often.



Then, in 1988, a little book called *Hawks in Flight* opened up a whole new approach to birding. Pete Dunne's prose, David Sibley's drawings, and Clay Sutton's photographs introduced the concept that birds can also be identified not just by the Peterson field marks, but by their shape and the manner in which they fly. Jerry Liguori's *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* has now extended that approach considerably.

Apart from one large, beautiful photo per species, each species is illustrated by a series of smaller



Cooper's Hawk from *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* by Jerry Liguori, published by Princeton University Press. Photo by J. Liguori.

photos which emphasize shape over field marks, accompanied by descriptive text. There are LOTS of photos. There are several pages of photos for most species, generally with six photos per page, showing each species soaring, gliding, flapping, flying toward the observer, flying away from the observer, flying side-on to the observer, and so on. And the

text does a very good job of explaining what to look for in the photos. If that's not enough, there is also a "Shapes" summary at the end of the book, showing a page of many small black-and-white photos of each species. For example, there is a page of 43 photos of Sharp-shinned Hawks, facing a page of as many Cooper's Hawks.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

OVERVIEW

Cooper's Hawks are larger than Sharp-shinned Hawks but almost identical in plumage and very similar in shape. Cooper's Hawks from the West are smaller on average than in the East, and appear even more like Sharp-shinned Hawks, especially male Cooper's Hawks. However, Cooper's Hawks always display relatively longer wings and tails and larger heads. As well, they are steady fliers with somewhat stiffer, less furious, powerful wing beats compared with Sharp-shinned Hawks. They soar on flat wings or with a slight dihedral, and glide on slightly bowed wings. Females are larger than males and generally appear sizeable in the field, but males often seem no larger than Sharp-shinned Hawks.

In a glide, Cooper's Hawks look compact, similar to Sharp-shinned Hawks, but their heads and tails extend farther, and they show longer, less squared "hands" in comparison. Cooper's Hawks in active molt can exhibit square-tipped tails or squared-off wings, making them appear even more similar to Sharp-shinned Hawks. Also, the farther away a Cooper's Hawk is, the more similar it appears to a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

brown above. Cooper's Hawks typically show the least prominent streaking of the accipiters, but the streaking on the underside varies in density. The underside plumage is often not useful in identifying distant juvenile accipiters. Juvenile Cooper's Hawks show a tawny wash to the head. While juvenile Goshawks may show this trait, most Sharp-shinned Hawks do not. As with Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks have indistinct banded tails; however, the white tail tip is usually more prominent on Cooper's Hawks than on Sharp-shinned Hawks. When backlit against a blue sky, the white tip to the tail of Sharp-shinned Hawks can appear quite prominent.

Adult Cooper's Hawks are pale below with rufous barring and blue-gray on top. Adults have a dark cap and a pale nape, whereas adult Sharp-shinned Hawks lack the pale nape and thus a distinct cap. Male Cooper's are slightly more colorful than females, especially on top, where they show blue upperwing coverts and dark primaries compared to the more uniform gray-blue upperwing of females. Some adult females are a brownish-gray above, similar in color to that of juveniles, especially in spring if they are heavily faded. Underside plumage of Cooper's Hawks can fade by spring and appear whitish. Adult male Cooper's Hawks have gray cheeks, but males in their first year of adulthood often have rufous cheeks like most females.

PLUMAGE

Juvenile Cooper's Hawks are whitish below with dark streaking on the body and dark

Cooper's Hawk species account in text from *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* by Jerry Liguori, published by Princeton University Press.

This publication does have one major drawback: it's a book. You identify hawks in flight by their shapes – which this book treats extremely well – and by their manner of flight – which *no* book can adequately depict. The topic cries out for treatment in a video medium, such as a DVD. But until that is published, *Hawks at a Distance* will do nicely.

"Jerry Liguori's book takes the hawk identification guide to a whole new level. It is hard to imagine the amount of time that went into this book — countless hours on mountaintops and other hawk-watching sites taking the photographs, then selecting and arranging them. The result is simply the best collection of hawk ID photos ever assembled, combined with Liguori's clear and concise identification tips. This book is a gold mine of information for anyone interested in hawk identification."

- David Sibley, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*

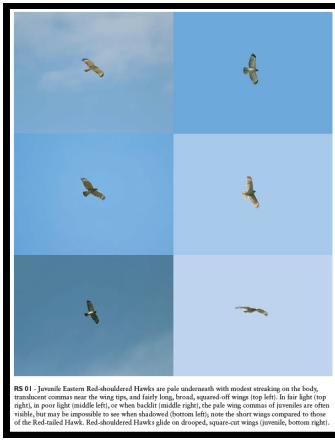
Hawks at a Distance, continued on Page 7



CH 04 - Many Sharp-shinned Hawks have rounded tail tips when closed (top left); Cooper's Hawks in spring often show squared tail tips when closed due to wear (top right). Sharp-shinned Hawks with full crops (middle left) can appear large-headed and similar to Cooper's Hawks (middle right). When backlit, the white tail tip of both Sharp-shinned Hawks (bottom left) and Cooper's Hawks (bottom right) can appear prominent. Note the larger head and longer wings and tail of the Cooper's Hawk compared to the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

One of four pages of descriptive and comparative Cooper's Hawk photos from *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* by Jerry Liguori, published by Princeton University Press. Photos by J. Liguori.

Continued on Page 8



Two pages from the Red-shouldered Hawk species account in *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* by Jerry Liguori, published by Princeton University Press. Photos by J. Liguori.

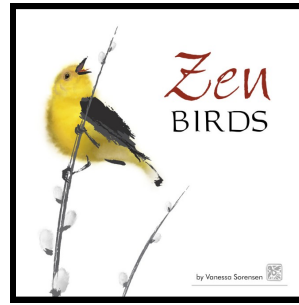
So who should think about buying this book? If you don't already have a guide to identifying flying hawks, and are thinking about getting one, this is the one I would recommend. But if you already have several books devoted to identifying flying hawks, then you really, really need this book, because you are obviously hopelessly addicted to hawks (which is a good thing), and *Hawks at a Distance* does a better job of putting names to those dots over the next ridge than anything else that's out there. On the other hand, if you already have one of the other guides to flying hawks, and you don't plan on becoming a fanatic hawkwatcher, then this book may not add enough to your store of knowledge to be worth the investment of time and money. Identifying distant flying raptors is, after all, a pretty specialized form of birding, and it isn't for everyone.

Ned Keller, Secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee
- *North Bend*

Editor's Note: Jerry Liguori has been studying raptors throughout North America since 1984. He has conducted hawk migration counts at spring and fall migration sites, such as Cape May Point, Sandy Hook, Derby Hill, Braddock Bay, Whitefish Point, and Dinosaur Ridge, and the Goshute, Wasatch, and Sandia mountains. He is the author of *Hawks from Every Angle* (Princeton).

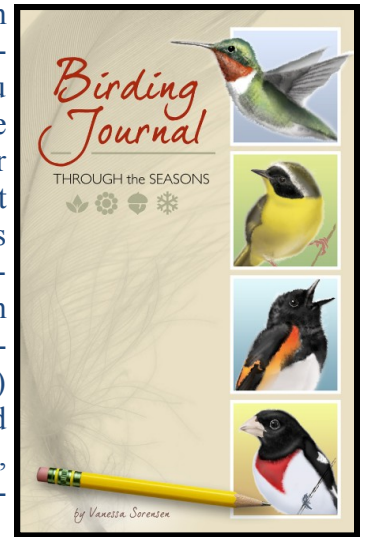
"This book is a winner. The spectacular, cutting-edge photos effectively highlight important aspects of raptors in flight and are simply mind-boggling. This is the one guide that almost everyone will take to the field."
- Keith Bildstein, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

VANESSA SORENSEN'S 'ZEN' BIRDING PATH TO BIRD JOURNALING



Ohio graphic-artist Vanessa Sorensen, known for *Zen Birds* and *Zen Kitty*, has released her third book, *Birding Journal: Through the Seasons*. Her bird art is partly computer-generated and draws heavily on traditional Asian artwork.

The new publication provides a place to record which birds you see, and when and where you see them (great for documenting the birds at your feeder!). It also has pages for sketching unknown species, a section for comparing first-of-season sightings (FOS) from year to year, and pages to record seasonal, yearly, and life check-lists.



In addition, the journal provides information about bird-related topics, including how to attract birds to your yard through bird-friendly landscaping, suet recipes, nest boxes, birding events, and hotspots. Whether you're a beginning bird watcher or a seasoned birder, this beautifully illustrated journal is the perfect birding companion.

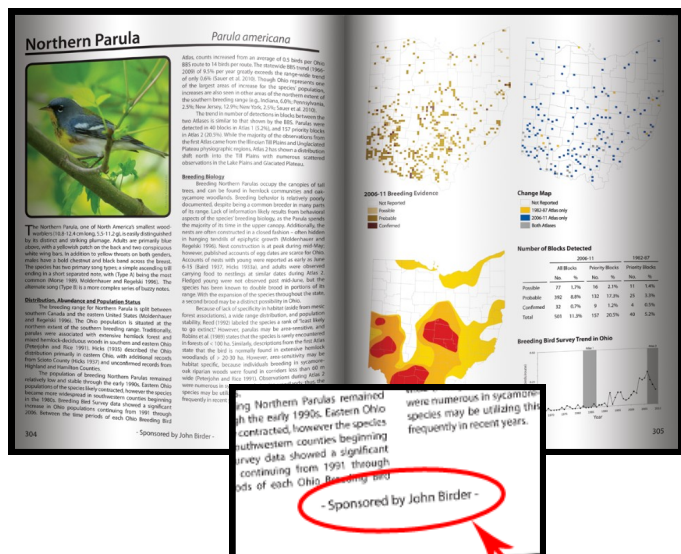
Birding Journal: Through the Seasons is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or AdventurePublications.net.

Editor's Note: Vanessa has a B.S. in Biology from Miami University and M.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University. She is married to ornithologist Dr. George Farnsworth from Xavier University.



SPONSORSHIP OF FINISHED OBBA BOOK (2006-2011) AND YOU!

With the final season of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II upon us, details for the upcoming publication are in the works. Here's a sneak peak inside the next must-have book for Ohio's birders: *psst, you'll be able to sponsor your favorite species and get an acknowledgment in the book!*



The Atlas book will represent the most comprehensive account of Ohio's breeding birds to date, and will be thoroughly illustrated with full color maps and photographs.



Common Raven observed carrying a stick (possibly nest-building) in Knox County, Ohio in mid-March, 2011. Photo courtesy Jay Lehman.

Stay tuned to the OBBA II website, and the OOS newsletter, for details about the upcoming species sponsorship program for the final publication.

Matthew Shumar
- OBBA II Project Coordinator

ABA PROFILES GUATEMALAN BIRDING GUIDE HUGO HAROLDO ENRIQUEZ TOLEDO



Hugo Haroldo Enriquez Toledo examines 'bird food'. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

Ohio's birding community has long known about Guatemalan birding guide Hugo Haroldo Enriquez Toledo. Now, all members of the American Birding Association (ABA) know who he is! Hugo was profiled in the March, 2011 issue of *Birding* in a regular feature in the magazine called "Birding Interview". A

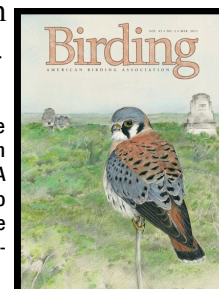
second article, "Citizen Science in the Ornithology of a Developing Country: Christmas Bird Counts in Guatemala", explored the value of CBC data for documenting wintering boreal migrants, observing globally threatened species, raising environmental awareness among local people and landowners, and promoting the not-yet widely known hobby of birding in this Central American country.



Birding in Tikal: left to right, Hugo Haroldo Enriquez Toledo with OOS members Carolyn May, Nancy Bringardner, and Linnett Leisner in November, 2010. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

Members of OOS are invited to explore Guatemala next year with Hugo! OOS is headed back to Guatemala in March, 2012 in search of guans, quetzals, trogons, manakins, wood-creepers, tinamous,

antbirds, euphonias, honeycreepers, motmots, toucans, and parrots. The historic city of Antigua and majestic Mayan ruins of Tikal are on the itinerary. An optional climb for Horned Guan is included. For information, please contact Ann Oliver (annieobirder@yahoo.com).



Cover art for the March, 2011 issue of the ABA magazine *Birding* is by artist Louise Zemaitis. The image of an American Kestrel at Tikal National Park launches the ABA "Bird of the Year" program. ABA members received two kestrel stickers in the March *Birding* issue. FYI: Louise Zemaitis is one of the featured speakers at Midwest Birding Symposium, September 15-18, 2011.



BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING MAY 5-15

Join Black Swamp Bird Observatory for the BWIAB from May 5-15, 2011. Birders from across the US and around the globe are adding Ohio to their “must-visit” list. The festival focuses attention on crucial breeding and migration habitat in northwest Ohio along Lake Erie. BWIAB activities include multiple professionally led walks each day with guides from Tropical Birding, travel and bird



identification lectures, bird photography classes, bird banding, and field trips. General registration is

\$20; some programs additional charge. For information: www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm

QUEEN CITY BIRD FESTIVAL MAY 14 AT HUESTON WOODS

The Fourth Annual Queen City Bird Festival is slated for May 14 at Hueston Woods State Park, near Oxford, Ohio. The event is sponsored by the Avian Research and Education Institute and Audubon Miami Valley. The free day-long (9 am to 5 pm) event is for birders of all ages, but a special emphasis is on families and young children. The keynote speaker is Doug Feist of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Audubon Miami Valley will also have a native plant sale that same day at the Hueston Woods Nature Center.

GRANGE INSURANCE AUDUBON CENTER BENEFIT MAY 18: WINE AND WARBLERS

GIAC in Columbus is combining a wine tasting event with an evening of birding activities, including guided bird walks along the Scioto River. Do-reen Whitley, GIAC Director of Conservation, will demonstrate bird banding and Kenn Kaufman and his wife Kimberly will lead a bird walk. Guests can pre-order Kenn’s new book, *The Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, and he’ll sign it that evening. Attendees who pre-order the book through GIAC will be the first to get his autograph. \$40/person in advance (or \$75/couple) before May 11 or \$50 per person at the door.

Details: www.GIACenter.org

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: WARBLERS AND MORE WITH BRIAN ZWIEBEL

Northwest Ohio bird photographer Brian Zwiebel, who has spent more time photographing warblers along Ohio’s north coast than almost anyone else, is offering a half-day or full-day “Warblers and More” workshop. Participants will visit a variety of migrant traps along the western basin of Lake Erie, in the vicinity of Magee Marsh. Techniques for correct exposure, successfully capturing the image of fast-moving birds through dense vegetation, and using light and wind to the best advantage will be emphasized. Fee to register. Information: www.brianzwiebelphotography.com/default.htm

NATURE SKILLS CAMP: CAMP WYANDOT FOR KIDS

Master bird bander Tim Tolford, of the Hummer/Bird Banding Research Collaborative, will again serve as nature specialist at Camp Wyandot. Summer programs are held in the Hocking Hills region near Clear Creek Metro Park. Kids activities are age-specific and include night hikes/calling owls, and outdoor safety programs, as well as traditional summer camp activities such as kayaking, creeking, and hiking. Tolford, a bird bander with 25 years experience, will demonstrate bird banding at this program accredited by the American Camp Association. Weeklong programs late June-July.

Details: www.centralohiocampfire.org/camp/camp-wyandot-sleep-away-camp/

MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM: SEPTEMBER 15-18



Registration is underway for the September 15-18, 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside, Ohio. Speakers include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Jeff Gordon, Alvaro Jaramillo, Greg Miller, Michael O’Brien, Bridget Stutchbury, Louis Zemaitis, and Julie Zickefoose. MBS includes lectures, area field trips, boat trips, and a birder’s marketplace. MBS is sponsored by *Bird Watcher’s Digest*, Lakeside Association, the Ohio Ornithological Society, with support from birding information partner Black Swamp Bird Observatory. To register: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb/preregister.php>

MEMBERS' CORNER

WE'VE REACHED 800 MEMBERS!!!



Thank you for your donations!

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

Lynn B. Barno
Todd Davis
Sally Lang

Michael Minium
Bert Szabo

Welcome New Members!

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

Lynn B. Barno
Kenneth Dreitzler
Joe Hazelbaker
Craig Johnston

Gerard Klug
Sally Lang
Michael Minium
Angie Sawyer

Additional Thanks to Contributors to the Thompson Memorial Fund * !

Dana K. Bollin
Craig Caldwell
Cheryl Harner
Gabe Leidy
Anne Main
Ann Oliver
Bob Scott Placier

***The Thompson Memorial Fund honors *Bird Watcher's Digest* founder Bill Thompson, Jr., who died in January, 2011. Funds will be used in support of youth birding scholarships.**

Online Subscription Available!

Thanks for your support!

Please consider subscribing to the online newsletter. Get the latest issue delivered directly to your email address. No more waiting for snail mail! Plus, you'll save a tree or two in the process. Email OOS Member Coordinator Barb Fate:

oosmember@gmail.com

THE CERULEAN

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

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 Barb Fate at oosmember@gmail.com if you have moved.**

Editor--Ann Oliver (annieobirdier@yahoo.com)

Calendar of Events: Happy 8th Birthday OOS!

Biggest Week in American Birding: May 5-15, 2011. Sponsored by Black Swamp Bird Observatory with Tropical Birding Tours, Kaufman Field Guides, Ottawa NWR, and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. \$20 general registration. Opening night celebration May 5 at Mango Mama's in Port Clinton: co-hosted by Kaufman Field Guides and OOS. Professionally guided tours of the Magee Marsh boardwalk and Ottawa NWR: bus trips and boat trips, as well as shorebird, family, beginner, and young birder walks. Lectures on wind power, bird identification, bird migration, bird photography, birding apps for phones, shade-grown coffee, birding by ear, as well as evening world travel lectures. Details: www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/default.htm

Buckeye Martinfest: June 25, 2011. Sponsored by the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association with support from Summit County Metro Parks, Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, and Greater Akron Audubon. Free admission. Details: members.tripod.com/sassyoh_4/portagelakespurplemartins/index.html

Midwest Native Plant Conference at Bergamo Center, Dayton: July 8-10, 2011. Lectures on plants for pollinators, midwest orchids, native trees, creating rain gardens, hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, tall grass prairies, prairie gardens, and large-scale habitat restoration. Field trips to Gallagher Fen, Cedar Bog, and more. Details: www.midwestnativeplants.org/

Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside, Ohio: September 15-18, 2011. Sponsored by Lakeside Association, The Ohio Ornithological Society, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Registration underway for MBS '11: more than 1000 people participated in 2009. Plus, a Kirtland's Warbler was observed at East Harbor State Park! MBS speakers include Al Batt, Pete Dunne, Jeff Gordon, Alvaro Jaramillo, Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Jim McCormac, Greg Miller, Michael O'Brien, John Robinson, Bridget Stutchbury, Connie Toops, Louise Zemaitis, and Julie Zickefoose. Field trips, boat trips, and more. Details: www.birdwatchersdigest.com

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**

\$ _____ **Donation Amount - The Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund**

\$ _____ Membership Dues

\$ _____ Total Payment Enclosed (Please make checks payable to OOS)

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

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



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OUR MISSION . . .
Welcoming backyard birdwatchers 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.

THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 14051 ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43214

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