



THE CERULEAN

Summer - 2011, Vol. 8, No. 2

www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

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

From the EDITOR

"To Be, or not to Be: that is the Question"

Hamlet soliloquizes in the famous line by William Shakespeare. With apologies to the Bard, we ask "To Bird, or not to Bird" regarding our bird-related carbon footprint. The **Carbon Offset Bird Project** (COBP), to be rolled out at Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS), can help birders **to be** part of the solution... or *not* to be (contributions are *voluntary*)! Donations to COBP will secure habitat at **Meadowbrook Marsh**, a field trip site near Lakeside. Remember, it is truly "nobler in the mind" to make a small, individual contribution towards a collective "fortune" to benefit birds "against a sea of troubles"! See Pages 6-8.



Another way to help birds at MBS is the American Birding Association's **Birders' Exchange** (BEX) program. The ABA collects optics in *good working order* and sends donated equipment to researchers, conservationists, guides, and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean. **Eagle Optics**, a sponsor of MBS, *will provide a discount coupon toward the purchase of new optics for each old pair contributed during MBS*. During MBS '09, 49 pairs of binoculars and two spotting scopes were donated to BEX. Impressive!



MBS '11 and OOS will again sponsor a **Conservation Raffle**: \$10,000 was raised in '09! This year's raffle features an iPad and top-of-the-line optics! Details on Page 2.

Ann Oliver
- *Cincinnati*

MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM '11: THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST BIRDING FESTIVAL RETURNS



Top Ten Things You Might Not Know About Midwest Birding Symposium '11:

- 10.) Group rates *still* available.
- 9.) Twenty-two speakers plus nearly 60 expert bird guides at six local birding field trip sites!
- 8.) You can see an Ivory-billed Woodpecker 'featured' in a movie: screenings of *Ghost Bird* each night at 9:30.
- 7.) There's live music Saturday night during dinner (Chicken & Pickin'). Plus, we know the Heimlich.
- 6.) Residential bird feeders throughout Lakeside including a demonstration yard on Second Street.
- 5.) Ohio's favorite birding son, Greg Miller, will share his Big Year! Plus, a possible sneak preview of a certain major motion picture about birding.
- 4.) MBS will attempt a Guinness World Record.
- 3.) The self-drive auto tour at Ottawa NWR is open from 6 am to 4pm on *Friday, Saturday and Sunday!*
- 2.) You can listen to migratory night flight calls from the Lakeside Pier and Lake Erie shoreline.
- 1.) You can watch birds "*naked*". "*Naked*" implies without optics. The photo below right does *not* depict bird watching activity near a nudist colony.



Residents of Lakeside anticipate scores of friendly birders coming to MBS in September. All rooms at the Hotel Lakeside and Fountain Inn are booked but many cottages, cabins, bed & breakfasts, and guest suites are still available for weekend rental, plus there is a campground: lakesideohio.com/staying. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



Bill Thompson III, Editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and Vice-President of OOS, giving birding advice to a Lakeside father and son. The Lakeside Pavilion is the site of the Leica Lake-watch/Big Sit and location to board the Thursday evening Sunset Boat Cruise. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



Daily Schedule at MBS '11

Thursday: Sunset Boat Cruise 7:15-9:00 (\$24/per person)
Friday: 6:30 to 10 am - Birding at Field Trip Sites
Friday: 10:30-11 am - MBS Welcome, Bill Thompson, III
Friday: 11- Noon - Keynote by Kenn & Kim Kaufman
Friday: 2-3 pm & 3:15-4:15 pm - Breakout Sessions
Friday: 7-9 pm - Keynote by B. Stutchbury & P. Dunne
Saturday: 6:30 to 10 am - Birding at Field Trip Sites
Saturday: 10:30 to 11:30 - Keynote by Greg Miller
Saturday: 11:45 to 1 pm - Author Book Signings
Saturday: 2-3 pm & 3:15-4:15 pm - Breakout Sessions
Saturday: 7-9 pm - Keynote with J. Zickefoose & A. Batt
Sunday: Field Trip to Kelleys Island (SOLD OUT)
Sunday: 10 am - Farewell Remarks

Friday & Saturday: 9 am to 6 pm - Birder's Marketplace and with more than 60 vendors across six venues.

Ghost Bird movie screening: nightly (Th, F, S) at 9:30 pm in Orchestra Hall, \$5 admission charge with proceeds benefitting the **MBS Conservation Fund**.

Keynote Speakers

Al Batt: Saturday evening
 Pete Dunne: Friday evening
 Kenn Kaufman: Friday morning
 Kim Kaufman: Friday morning
 Greg Miller: Saturday morning
 Bridget Stutchbury: Friday evening
 Julie Zickefoose: Saturday evening

Book Signing

Many MBS speakers are also authors: 15+ authors will sign their books on Saturday, from 11:45 to 1 pm.

Additional Speakers

David M. Bird
 Kevin J. Cook
 Jeff Gordon
 Mark Garland
 Keith Hansen
 Alvaro Jaramillo
 Ben Lizdas
 Jim McCormac
 Michael O'Brien
 Nicole Perretta
 Diane Porter
 John Robinson
 Marie Read
 Connie Toops
 Louise Zemaitis

IHOT: International House of Travel (Rhein Center)

Plan a trip to Uganda, Australia, or Guatemala at MBS! Many travel/ecotourism vendors, sponsors, and birding tour operators will offer short (20 minute) talks about their trips and destinations on The Rhein Center stage, located adjacent to South Auditorium. Full listing of speakers, topics, and times available just prior to MBS as well as on site during the weekend. There is no requirement to sign up for these programs. FREE.

Other Activities

- **Back to the Wild:** see birds of prey from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday and Saturday, plus an open house at the Back to the Wild rehabilitation facility in Castalia on Sunday.
 - **Leica Lakewatch/Big Sit:** Friday and Saturday at Lakeside Pavilion with expert birders. FREE.
 - **Birders' Exchange (American Birding Association) and Eagle Optics:** donate functioning binoculars or scope to a good cause and get a coupon toward new optics.



Field Trip Leaders and Field Trip Options

Most MBS speakers, as well as professional birders from optics companies, birding tour operators, and non-profit bird organizations, will volunteer their time on Friday and Saturday morning, 6:30 to 10 am. These volunteer guides will assemble and lead small groups of MBS participants at field trip locations as birders arrive at the site. If you wish to go birding with an MBS guide, please arrive early to join these informal groups. Transportation to birding locations is not provided: carpooling and ride sharing is encouraged. Maps of field trip sites available on line: www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb2011/sites2011.php

Lakeside Area: Birding Field Trip Locations

- East Harbor State Park
- Lakeside Grounds
- Marblehead Lighthouse State Park
- Meadowbrook Marsh : *recipient of COBP proceeds*

Western Lake Erie: Birding Field Trip Locations

- Black Swamp Bird Observatory: songbird banding demonstration 8-9:30 am Friday & Saturday
- Magee Marsh Wildlife Area
- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: self-drive auto tour open Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 6 am to 4 pm

Other nearby wildlife areas (NOT MBS field trips sites!) may allow waterfowl hunting: PLEASE OBEY ALL SIGNS ABOUT CLOSED HUNTING AREAS.

Conservation Raffle

The MBS donates the majority of net proceeds to support conservation-oriented organizations and programs. **In 2009, MBS made donations totaling \$10,000 thanks to a matching donation from The Ohio Ornithological Society.** For MBS '11, we hope to generate even more money for conservation: we have many GREAT prizes to raffle off, including an iPad with the Peterson Birds of North America App, several binoculars from Nikon, Swarovski, Opticron, and Eagle Optics, plus a spotting scope from Celestron. **Tickets for MBS Conservation Raffle are \$5/1 ticket, \$10/3 tickets, or \$20/10 tickets.**

Official MBS Bloggers

Heather Aubke / [Heather of the Hills](#)
 Jane Blumenthal / [Wrenaissance Reflections](#)
 Nancy Castillo / [The Zen BirdFeeder](#)
 Corey Finger / [10000 Birds](#)
 Nina Harfmann / [Nature Remains](#)
 Ruth Johnson / [Nature Knitter Blog](#)
 Robert Mortensen / [Birding is Fun](#)
 Greg Neise / [NA Birding](#)
 John Riutta / [The Well-read Naturalist](#)
 Lynne Schoenborn / [Hasty Brook](#)
 Julie Zickefoose / [Julie Zickefoose on Blogspot](#)

The Den of Bogniquity is in the north end of Wesley Lodge. Follow the bloggers before and after MBS!



Young Birders Day: Free Activities for Kids

Saturday, September 17 is officially “**YOUNG BIRDER’S DAY**” at MBS, sponsored by The Ohio Young Birders Club and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. At 8 am, OYBC will meet in front of Hotel Lakeside for a bird walk at Lakeside. Info: www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb2011/events2011.php#kids

Other activities for kids (pre-school age and up) from 8 am to 4 pm at Wo-Ho-Mis (across the street from South Auditorium). **BSBO** is the official MBS “Birding Information Partner”: www.bsbo.org/.



Lake Erie Island Sunset Boat Cruise: 7:15 to 9 pm



Thursday evening, September 15, is the first official activity of MBS. The evening boat cruise, on the M/V Goodtime I, will pass by South Bass and Kelleys Island: both are Important Bird Areas and migratory bird stopover habitat in spring and fall. Possible species include Caspian, Common, Forster’s, and Black Terns as well as Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte’s Gulls, maybe even a Great or Lesser Black-backed Gull, plus many regularly-occurring species flying across the lake including magnificent Great Blue Herons. Abundant appetizers and hors d’oeuvres but cash bar. Please arrive early (~ 7 pm) to board: free shuttles before and after the cruise from the main Lakeside parking lot at the South Gate entrance off Rt. 163. **Tickets are still available (\$24/person) for this popular event.** Jason Larson will Emcee!



Lake Erie Birding Trail Grand Opening: Friday AM

The Ohio Division of Wildlife will unveil the new Lake Erie Birding Trail, encompassing 90 prime birding destinations along Lake Erie, during opening remarks Friday morning at MBS. By September, a comprehensive website will be launched: road signs, interpretive brochures, and a printed guide will follow. The Lake Erie Birding Trail is modeled after similar trails in Florida and Texas which have been successful in encouraging birding tourism.

Birder’s Marketplace

More than 60 vendors, including Swarovski Optik, Leica Sport Optik, Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Nikon, Birds & Beans, Eagle Optics, Kaytee Products, Kaufman Field Guides, Wild Birds Unlimited, plus many apparel and bird tour companies will be spread out over six venues. Please give all MBS vendors a welcoming thank you!



The friendly faces of Lisa White, left, and Katrina Kruse, right, at the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt booth, in January at the Space Coast Birding and Nature Festival. HMH, publisher of the Peterson Guide Series, recently released the mobile “app” of Peterson Birds of North America, loaded on the iPad in the MBS Conservation Raffle. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

OOS BOOTH AT MBS: VISIT US!



Please stop by the Ohio Ornithological Society booth during Midwest Birding Symposium and say hello! We’d like to meet more of our members including birders from around Ohio and across the globe.

Board members and volunteers will be at our display, inside South Auditorium, with OOS merchandise for sale including a new tee-shirt! *Plus, we’ll have a special gift for new or renewing members.*

OOS is honored to be a host of MBS ’11 with *Bird Watcher’s Digest* and Lakeside Association!

AROUND OHIO



Cake from the opening night kick-off celebration on May 5, 2011 for the Biggest Week in American Birding (BWAB) at Mango Mama’s in Port Clinton hosted by the Ohio Ornithological Society and Kaufman Field Guides: Kenn Kaufman ID’d this as a “*Cake May*”. Photo courtesy Sherrie Duris.

OOS sold raffle tickets at the opening night party for the BWAB: the grand prize item was an iPad. Folks attending the gathering generously purchased raffle tickets, including guides from Tropical Birding. TB’s Christian Boix Hinzen, above, won the iPad. Photo courtesy Tropical Birding: www.tropicalbirding.com.



First Ohio Cassin’s Sparrow. Photo courtesy Ben Warner.

Dan Sanders, right, spent most of his summer atlas for OBBA II. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.



Pam and Darryl Evans, of the Travelers Cafe, served tasty egg sandwiches, salmon burgers, hamburgers, snacks, and beverages this spring in the parking lot of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. This conveniently located food truck helped many birders get a caffeine fix in the form of tea or coffee: plus a portion of the proceeds (\$700!) were donated to the Friends of Magee Marsh (www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/). Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.



Connecticut Warbler was one of the most coveted spring birds at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy Sherrie Duris.

COMINGS AND GOINGS: NEW FACES ON THE OOS BOARD



Left to right: Sue Evanoff, Rebecca Hinkle, and Randel Rogers.
Photo courtesy Bill Thompson III.

Several new faces have joined the board of the Ohio Ornithological Society following the election at the Seventh Annual Conference, June 3-5, at Shawnee State Forest. Here's a little background bio information on each of our three new volunteer board members, stepping up to serve Ohio's birding community and Ohio's birds.

Sue Evanoff joins the OOS board as a Director-at-Large for the term 2011-13. An avid birder for 15 years, Sue was initially introduced to backyard birding as a child by her late father. Sue serves as President and Newsletter Editor for The Wilderness Bird Club in Wilmot, Ohio. Sue has been instrumental in providing programs at TWC to inform children and adults about nature conservation. Sue has previously been involved with Greater Mohican Audubon and the American Birding Association.

Rebecca Lewis Hinkle joins the OOS board as Northwest Regional Director for the term 2011-13. Rebecca is a native of Wisconsin and has a degree in Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Rebecca has worked for U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin DNR, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Rebecca moved to Ohio in 1996 to work at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Randel (Randy) Rogers joins OOS as our new Recording Secretary. Randy works full-time for the Ohio National Guard. While deployed to Iraq in 2008-09, he teamed with Nature Iraq to establish their only bird survey site in Western Iraq. Randy fostered a deep relationship with Iraqi conservationists and ornithologists: he led the Ohio birding community to raise funds and supplies to outfit Nature Iraq's field studies. He's been a serious birder since 1998, is one of the founding members of OOS, and has a degree in Recreation from Ohio University.

Returning to the board are people who have long served OOS. Jen Sauter, appointed as President in 2010 to fill out the remainder of the term of Jim McCormac, was elected "officially" as President for the term 2011-14.

Craig Caldwell, formerly a Director-at-Large, was elected Northeast Regional Director for 2011-13. Craig is a founding member of OOS, has served on the Ohio Birds Record Committee, and is a seasonal editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*.



OOS board members at Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus in July, 2011. Seated in front row (left to right): Ann Oliver, Julie Davis, Rebecca Hinkle. Middle row standing (left to right): Cheryl Hamer, Craig Caldwell, Sue Evanoff, Jen Sauter, Randy Rogers. Back row (left to right): Peter King, Bob Scott Placier, Bill Thompson III. Missing from the photo are Dan Sanders and Dr. Jill Russell.

OOS thanks all former board members including Dana Bollin, Gabe Leidy, and Marc Nolls. Dana served four years as Northwest Regional Director and provided vast assistance with many conferences, symposia, and special events. Gabe Leidy served as Northeast Regional Director, a seasonal editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*, and provided coordination with conferences. Marc Nolls, outgoing Recording Secretary, was instrumental in coordinating the yearly winter outing at *the Wilds*, our "adopt-a-bird" conservation board at nearly every event, and many special functions. Thanks to all!



Dr. Jill Russell, left, joined a recent OOS board meeting via Skype from her summer teaching position in Alaska. She's holding four young Boreal Owls from a nest box in the White Mountain Range near Fairbanks. A future newsletter will feature information on Alaskan research by Jill and her husband Dave. Photo courtesy Dr. Dave Russell.

OHIO CARDINAL *Editor's Note:* The combined Spring-Summer '09 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal* was sent to the publisher in late July. The combined Fall-Winter '09 issue is underway. The Spring '10, by new *Ohio Cardinal* editor Dr. Jill Russell, is nearly complete.

OHIO'S BIRDS ON THE MAP: OOS CONFERENCE/OBBA II BLOCKBUSTING WEEKEND

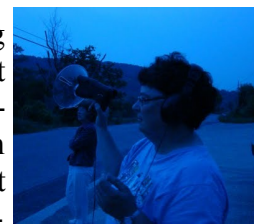
It was hot, hard work, but a ton of fun. The 2011 Ohio Ornithological Society's Annual Conference was the ultimate blockbuster for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, June 3-5 at Shawnee State park. The entire weekend was designed to train new people to atlas and refine bird observation skills. Paul Rodewald kicked Friday evening off with background information on OBBA II; an update of current needs was given by Matt Shumar.



Blue Grosbeaks: note nesting material in female's beak.
Photo courtesy Wayne Wauligman.

Saturday morning, small groups fanned out through Shawnee Forest and beyond to tally the species of birds breeding in southern Ohio. Group leaders explained how to collect data and use proper codes to designate "possible" to "confirmed" status of breeding. Atlasers spent six hours in the field on Saturday morning before returning to the lodge for an afternoon of **Bare Naked** (without binoculars, that is...) **Birding** with Ted Floyd of the American Birding Association. After supper, Ted Floyd's keynote address, **Birding at Night: The Final Frontier**, encouraged us to think outside of the box to try night birding. The program was a resounding hit: afterwards a caravan of cars headed to bird

Adams County. Standing along the road in front of the Eulett Center (on the Edge of Appalachia Preserve), in Ohio's Brush Creek Valley, was the perfect place for an unparalleled concert of Chuck-will's-widows. The avian concert was long and strong, with calls in the nearby, bushy understory.



Kathi Hutton listens for distant birds and frogs at night.
Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.

Round two of atlasing commenced Sunday morning in Adams County on the Conrad Tract, protected by The Nature Conservancy. This important piece of land was purchased with funds from OOS and Clean Ohio Funds and is managed by TNC.

In all, as much fun as it is to bird, it was also a good feeling to know conference attendees, and all OBBA II atlasers and volunteers across the state, are making a difference and providing valuable information on the status of birds in Ohio. Good birding = great fun!



OOS Northeast Regional Director Craig Caldwell, center, atlasing with Laura and Dave Hughes.
Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.

Cheryl Harner
OOS East Central Region Director
President, Greater Mohican Audubon Society
- *Crestline*

OOS SUPPORTS OBBA II ATLAS & ATLASERS



You still have a chance to support OBBA II! Sponsor-a-bird in the forthcoming Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II book, to be published with data compiled during breeding seasons 2006-2011. Details: www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/index.php





Meanwhile, nearly a dozen dedicated atlasers, who asked for help offsetting escalating gasoline prices, were rewarded with a \$75 Speedy Gas Card, courtesy of the Ohio Ornithological Society Board of Directors. Thanks to all who applied for funding!


TRAVEL AND BIRD IN SUPPORT OF THE CARBON OFFSET BIRD PROJECT



Is traveling beyond our immediate backyard in search of birds detrimental to avian species? Some folks have suggested birding is bad for birds! Here's their reasoning: as we pursue our interest, enjoying birds, and even racing around Ohio (or the region, or the country) building our bird lists, we are also burning fossil fuels – lots of them – adding to greenhouse gas emissions. Scientists believe global greenhouse gasses have already negatively affected bird habitats and migratory patterns.


 What can birders do? *First of all, we should **not** guilt-trip each other to stop birding, but we **should** do something to address the issue itself.* That's where a new initiative, the **Carbon Offset Bird Project** (COBP), flies into action this September at the Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS) with the Ohio Ornithological Society and *Bird Watcher's Digest* as major players.


 The COBP is an experimental, voluntary effort to offset birding-related carbon emissions through financial contributions. Funds will be used to secure quality bird habitat – vital migratory bird habitat – *in Ohio*. This project is modeled loosely after other carbon offset programs involving air or vehicle travel, but is among the first **specifically tailored to birders and local birds at a birding event**. That's why a local carbon-offset support effort will be launched at MBS benefitting local habitat preservation at Meadowbrook Marsh.


 There are already numerous carbon offset programs underway, involving laudable mitigation and renewable energy campaigns. These often include carbon reforestation projects in developing countries, renewable energy projects in the United States such as solar or wind, and renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in developing countries. At the same time, there is a growing movement at both the corporate and individual levels toward offsets:



mitigating our remaining footprint by reducing or displacing the CO₂ we help emit, in some other place or by an alternate method. But the COBP at the MBS is intended to offset a particular behavior with a *particular local solution directly related to our birds, breeding or migrating through Ohio*.

 First, a few basic principles. Participation is encouraged, but is **totally voluntary**. Participants will be encouraged to offset 100 percent of their individual bird activity-related emissions. If successful, the COBP could serve as a model for other Ohio festivals, bird clubs, and even supporting companies to make a difference for birds and combat CO₂ emissions. A broader COBP might eventually be launched nationally, acquiring and securing local valuable habitat for nesting, migrating, and wintering birds of many species.

 How does COBP work? Using our special travel-calculator at the MBS (similar to existing applications in use by other carbon offset organizations) participants will have the opportunity to calculate their bird-related carbon footprint, measuring the impact of travel to and from the MBS and field trips during the event. The calculation will reveal the pounds of greenhouse emissions released and will assign a monetary value to offset those CO₂ emissions. In our case, it's \$20 per ton. The figure of \$20 per ton of CO₂ is an amount slightly higher than many current offset formulas, but it is probably justified given other CO₂ emissions from ongoing activities in preparation for and, especially, during the MBS at Lakeside.

 Just as exciting as the launch of COBP at MBS and the role of OOS, is the particular project that will benefit from donations. The offset project is **Meadowbrook Marsh**, currently 113 acres of marsh, woodland, and meadow in Danbury Township, near MBS activities just east of Lakeside.

Average **per-person** gas emissions in the United States equals **27 tons of carbon dioxide** (CO₂) per year. World per-person averages are closer to 5.5 tons annually. To understand the magnitude of that number, one ton of CO₂ may be emitted when an American:

- Travels 2,000 miles in an airplane
- Drives 1,350 miles in an SUV
- Drives 1,900 miles in a mid-sized car
- Runs an average household for two months
- Has a computer on for 10,600 hours (442 days).

PRE-CALCULATE YOUR COBP DONATIONS WITH THE FORM BELOW

ROUND TRIP AUTO TRAVEL (PER PERSON)

SINGLE DRIVER							
	100 - 200 MILES	200 - 400 MILES	400 - 600 MILES	600 - 800 MILES	800 - 1,000 MILES	1,000 - 1,200 MILES	CAR TOTAL
COMPACT CAR	.049 TONS \$1.00	.098 TONS \$1.95	.147 TONS \$2.90	.196 TONS \$3.90	.244 TONS \$4.85	.293 TONS \$5.85	
MID-SIZED CAR	.098 TONS \$1.95	.196 TONS \$3.90	.293 TONS \$5.85	.391 TONS \$7.80	.489 TONS \$9.75	.587 TONS \$11.70	
SUV, TRUCK, VAN	.138 TONS \$2.65	.261 TONS \$5.20	.391 TONS \$7.80	.522 TONS \$10.40	.652 TONS \$13.00	.782 TONS \$15.60	

ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS							
SMALL CAR	.049 TONS \$0.50	.098 TONS \$0.95	.147 TONS \$1.45	.196 TONS \$1.95	.244 TONS \$2.40	.293 TONS \$2.90	
MEDIUM CAR	.098 TONS \$1.00	.196 TONS \$1.95	.293 TONS \$2.90	.391 TONS \$3.90	.489 TONS \$4.85	.587 TONS \$5.85	
SUV, TRUCK, VAN	.138 TONS \$1.35	.261 TONS \$2.60	.391 TONS \$3.90	.522 TONS \$5.20	.652 TONS \$6.50	.782 TONS \$7.80	

ROUND TRIP AIR TRAVEL (PER PERSON)

<400 MILES	400-1,500 MILES	1,500-3,000 MILES	3,000+ MILES	AIR TOTAL
0.12 TONS \$2.40	0.23 TONS \$2.60	0.65 TONS \$12.50	1.24 TONS \$24.80	

ADDITIONAL DONATION				\$
TOTAL				\$

This offset is calculated at \$20 per ton of CO2.

These particular calculators for MBS were developed from established standards for air and automobile travel. They are reproduced in this newsletter so OOS members can “pre-calculate” their mileage contributions if they are attending MBS, or wish to consider offset costs and implications of the COBP project with *other* birding related travel and field trips.

As you see, the offset costs can be very modest, but the *collective* impact of attendees at Midwest Birding Symposium '11 could be significant. There were 1000 participants at MBS '09. At the MBS '11, there will be COBP calculator forms provided in the registration packets so attendees can voluntarily participate.

All offset contributions (valid donations to the extent allowed by law) will be acknowledged in writing and by receipt at MBS. All participating contributors at MBS will also get a special COBP logo-sticker to attach to their binoculars or ID badge. showing their involvement in the project.

The recipient of proceeds from the Carbon Offset Birding Project will be Meadowbrook Marsh, just east of Lakeside, Ohio. Meadowbrook Marsh is currently 113 acres of marsh, woodland, and meadow in Danbury Township, very close to the center of Midwest Birding Symposium. See page 8 for photos and links to background information on Meadowbrook Marsh.

This offset project means securing additional habitat next to the current marsh and pond, habitat important to waterbirds and songbirds alike. In fact, there will be trips to Meadowbrook Marsh during MBS so participants can visit and evaluate exactly where COBP offset fund will be utilized. Please explore and bird this location if possible!



OOS board member and newsletter editor Ann Oliver scans Meadowbrook Marsh during a mid-summer pre-MBS visit. Photo courtesy Bill Thompson III.



Past funding for Meadowbrook Marsh has been impressive, as have the partnering institutions that have secured this locale.



Details: www.danburytownship.com/land.html and http://danburytownship.com/MeadowbrookMap_Final_021010.pdf



Since the Carbon Offset Bird Project is in its launch cycle, there will be questions for MBS participants to help measure this effort. This will let organizers know what participants think about COBP, the ease of using the carbon calculator, and how the project could possibly be expanded.



Perhaps COBP is an idea whose time has come, a real 21st-century conservation vision where carbon offsets equal bird habitat acquisition, *a true win-win for the environment... and for birders.*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: A number of birders, from Ohio and beyond – including Paul Baicich, Lisa Rock, Jen Sauter, Bill Stewart, Lisa Strobel, Warren Strobel, Bill Thompson III, – helped to develop this project for MBS, in hopes this approach will be embraced by all birders and spread to other birding events. Katherine Koch and our friends at *Bird Watcher's Digest* designed the project logo.

American Robin nest at Meadowbrook Marsh. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT NATURE PRESERVE=DIKE 14

This summer, preparations are being made to launch the much-anticipated opening of the previously off-limits Dike 14 grounds, officially to be deemed “Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve” (CLNP). The Port Authority plans to “open the preserve on a regular basis and spend up to \$25,000 to install an entrance gate and make other improvements.” A new wood-chip entrance trail is being laid, from the pine trees near the ODNR State Park Office to the new side entrance gate.

Dike 14, an 88 + acre site is a remarkable “peninsula” bulging out into Lake Erie just east of East 72nd Street (famed gulling hotspot), only a few miles east of downtown Cleveland. From 1979 to 1999, sediments dredged from the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor filled the dike, but the



Dike 14/Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. Photo courtesy David I. Anderson, The Plain Dealer.

grounds have been closed for disposal since 1999. Since then, CLNP has blossomed into a well-vegetated preserve. It has been called a “high performance” site because

of the number and diversity of birds using the location. Birds frequent the CLNP as a migratory stop-over site because of its size, strategic coastal location, and diverse wildlife habitats (grasslands, forest, meadow, mudflats, shrublands, and wetlands).

CLNP is located at the intersection of four migratory bird routes: Lake Erie, the shore of Lake Erie, the Cuyahoga River Valley, and the Doan Brook Valley. Audubon Ohio designated CLNP as an Important Bird Area (IBA). These four migratory routes have contributed to 280 species of birds recorded on the preserve grounds, with rare highlights of Say’s Phoebe, Yellow Rail, 28+ warbler species, LeConte’s, Nelson’s, and Clay-colored Sparrows, and a host of flycatchers, vireos, and many other passerines. All three jaegers have been observed offshore, as has Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little and Black-headed Gulls, Eared Grebe and a host of other rare waterbirds.

From November to April, the sheer hordes of waterfowl that stage offshore of the preserve can be staggering. With tens of thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers mixed with lesser numbers of scaup, Canvasback, Redhead, and occasionally scoters and Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks. Winter raptors include a rare chance for Snowy Owl perched along the breakwalls or inner harbor. CLNP is also an important stopover for Northern Saw-whet Owl from October through April.



Northern Saw-whet Owl. Photo courtesy Gabe Leidy.



Long-tailed Ducks on Lake Erie. Photo courtesy Gabe Leidy.

A well-visited female Saw-whet spent the winter of 2010-11 just outside the preserve on the ODNR office grounds, but at least two other individuals wintered inside the preserve. Spring migration of raptors can be viewed from the hillside beside the ODNR building.

The nature preserve will no doubt start turning up on OHIOBIRDS with reports of great observations. If you're in the region, make a visit and be sure to report your sightings. Special hikes and birding tours are offered at the preserve as well. The next public open house event at CLNP is Saturday, September 24. Guided bird walks begin at 7:30 am and 8:30 am. Website for Dike 14/Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve: www.dike14.org.

Massive, massive thanks to those that played a key role in defending Dike 14 as an important natural area. Major players in the "battle" to preserve Dike



Field trip at Dike 14/ Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. Photo courtesy Joshua Gunter, The Plain Dealer.

14 as a natural area include The Dike 14 Committee, the Earth Day Coalition, the City of Cleveland, the Port Authority, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, the Kirtland Bird Club, as well as local birders, naturalists, and ornithologists. Thanks to all!

Jen Brumfield, Naturalist-Cleveland Metroparks - Cleveland

Editor's Note: see the Calendar of Events (page 11) for upcoming fall pelagic trips on Lake Erie sponsored by "Local Patch Birding" with Jen Brumfield and former OOS Board Member Gabe Leidy.

BLOM MEMORIAL AWARD

Eirik A.T. Blom was a lifelong birder and one of the two lead authors of the *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Rick was a prolific creator and consumer of bird-related content and was a field editor for *Bird Watcher's Digest* for more than a decade.

He died in December 2002 after a long battle with cancer: his family, friends, and colleagues created the Eirik A.T. Blom Memorial Fund to honor Rick's memory. The purpose of the Blom Fund is to support the communications efforts of bird clubs and natural history organizations and projects—Rick loved perusing state bird atlases and reading local bird club newsletters. Two previous awards from the Blom Fund have supported The Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas/The Maryland Ornithological Society and the Cleveland Bird Calendar/Kirtland (OH) Bird Club.

The most recent award from the Blom Fund was a grant of \$1,500 to OOS to support upgrades of its print publications and website. Thanks!

Bill Thompson, III
Editor, *Bird Watcher's Digest*
- Marietta

AOU UPDATED CHECKLIST

The North American Checklist Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union released the 52nd supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds in July. Download: www.aou.org

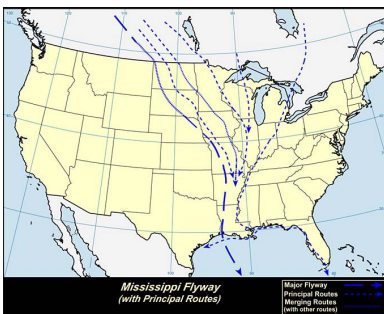
WESTBY: MONTANA'S LITTLE MAGEE MARSH

Nestled away in the extreme northeastern corner of Montana lies Westby, a town of roughly 170 residents. Only nine miles south of Saskatchewan, and on the western border of North Dakota, the nearest town of 50,000 residents is 200 miles away – Bismarck, North Dakota. Comparable to the famous Magee Marsh of Ohio, which is bounded by agricultural fields, marsh, and Lake Erie, Westby is smack dab in the Great Plains and trees are sparse. The nearest forests are several hundred miles north, turning Westby into an island of trees and a magnet for birds.



Eastern Montana. Photo courtesy Ethan Kistler.

The explanation why so many eastern migrants pass through the northeastern edge of Montana can be explained by studying migration corridors – in this case, the Mississippi flyway. Birders generally use the term ‘eastern warblers’ to describe the masses



that migrate through the eastern U.S. every spring and fall, but in reality, this is quite deceptive. Although they have a tendency to pass between the Gulf Coast of Texas and the Florida pan-

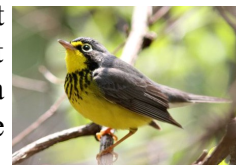
handle, their breeding grounds expand all the way west into the Alaskan boreal forest. By looking at the map (above), you can see the western edge of the Mississippi flyway clips northeastern Montana directly over Westby creating excellent birding and on some occasions, fallouts. If you were to zoom the map out and draw a straight line between the Yucatan Peninsula and the boreal forest of Alaska, the line cuts right through Westby as shown in this Google Earth image (right).



Predictably, this Montana hotspot took a while to be discovered given its isolation. Montana has few birders and nearly all of them live in the western half of the state. It was only in the past few decades Westby's ‘then’ young birder Ted Nordhagen started reporting eastern migrants which were virtu-

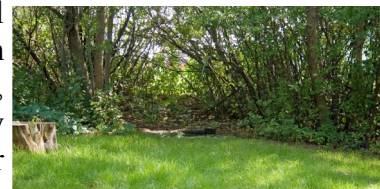
ally unknown to Montana birders, including Philadelphia Vireos, Canada Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. At first, reports were brushed off as misidentifications by a novice until experienced birders confirmed that the field ID's were accurate. Since then, Onstad Park, Westby's one-acre city park, has been attracting a small crowd of Montana birders every spring and fall and boasts a list of more than 200 species including 29 warblers. Not bad for the Great Plains of Montana!

While conducting point counts in Montana this summer for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, I timed my free weekend to hit Westby during peak migration. Unlike Magee where you're surrounded by thousands of birders in May, I was joined by only eight other birders including Ted Nordhagen. I tallied 15 species of warblers with rarities such as Mourning and Montana's *only* Canada Warbler of the year. Similar to Magee, not only is Westby great for migrant passerines, the surrounding area offers phenomenal birds. Explore native grasslands north of town for specialties including Piping Plover; LeConte's, Nelson's, and Baird's Sparrows; Sedge Wren; Black Tern; shorebirds; and waterfowl.



Canada Warbler at Magee Marsh, Spring 2011. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

Growing up in Ohio, spending countless springs and summers on the Magee Marsh boardwalk, I'm amazed how similar these two unrelated places are. If you find yourself near Montana during migration, make Westby a priority stop. Although the park offers the best birding in town and includes a popular water drip, be sure to venture elsewhere particularly along Montana Avenue. Birds don't know park boundaries and will show up anywhere in Westby. Thus said, most birds eventually make it to the water drip so sit back on the bench and enjoy.



The grotto “waterdrip” in Westby, 2009. Photo courtesy Brian Butler.

Ethan Kistler
-Cape Town, South Africa

Editor's Note: Ethan is the new eBird reviewer, hotspot editor, and filter creator for South Africa. He's originally from Newton Falls, Ohio.

MEMBERS' CORNER



Thank you for your donations!

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

Lisa Brohl	Peter King
Margaret Chapin	Lloyd & Lois Kuck
Laura & Tim Dornan	Chandra Little
Catherine Green	John & Martha McCormac
Michele Hendrick	Pat Sharp
Denise Iams	Richard & Jane Ward

Additional thanks to the Marietta Community Foundation and the Eirik A. T. Blom Foundation for a \$1,500 grant to upgrade OOS print and online publications (see page 9). OOS also thanks Inniswood Metro Park for a donation on behalf of Major Randel Rogers.

Welcome New Members!

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

Dale Brubeck	William & Carol Schoen
Rebecca Elefante	Pat Sharp
Catherine Green	Aaron Smith
Rebecca Hinkle	Thomas J. & Carol R. Stone
Lloyd & Lois Kuck	Maxwell Streeter
Elza Phillips	George Sydlowski
Tim Pifer	Sally Waterhouse
David & Karen Potts	Gloria Wilson
Pat Rydquist	

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 recently moved.**

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

Calendar of Events

Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside, Ohio: September 15-18, 2011. Hosted 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, Mark Garland, Jeff Gordon, Keith Hansen, Alvaro Jaramillo, Ben Lizdas, Kenn and Kim Kaufman, Jim McCormac, Greg Miller, Michael O'Brien, Nicole Perretta, Diane Porter, Marie Read, John Robinson, Bridget Stutchbury, Bill Thompson III, Connie Toops, Louise Zemaits, and Julie Zickefoose. Field trips, boat trip, birder's marketplace, travel lectures, and more. Details: www.midwestbirding.org

Open House at Cleveland Lakeside Nature Preserve/Dike 14: September 24, 2011. Guided birdwalks at 7:30 and 8:30 am. Teacher workshops at 11 am and 1pm. Details: http://www.dike14.org/upcoming_events.html

Fall Pelagic Trips with Local Patch Birding: October 29 and November 5, 2011. Join Jen Brumfield and Gabe Leidy of LPB in search of fall rarities. Key target birds include: Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Purple Sandpiper, and Surf and Black Scoters, among many other prospective highlights/rarities. A sampling of more regular species that will likely be found include: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser (upwards of 15 species of waterfowl or more), Great Black-backed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, and Peregrine Falcon. Boat boards at 7:30 am in Vermillion, Ohio. Limit 22 persons/boat trip. \$\$ FEE. Info: http://www.jenbrumfield.com/?page_id=1775

Fifth Annual Ohio Young Birders Club Conference: November 5, 2011. Join the OYBC, plus other birders of all ages, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus. Info: http://ohioyoungbirders.org/meetings_and_trips.htm

Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

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



Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(For electronic news updates, special events, and field trips)

\$ _____ **Donation Amount - Additional donation to the OOS Conservation Fund**

\$ _____ Membership Dues

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

How did you hear of OOS? _____

Are you interested in:

☐ Volunteering? How? ☐ Distributing OOS flyers within your club or community?

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

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



Made with 30% recycled fiber and chlorine-free pulp from well-managed forests. Printed with soy ink.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Craig Caldwell - Westlake
Julie Davis - Westerville
Susan Evanoff - Massillon
Cheryl Harner - Mansfield
Rebecca Hinkle - Martin
Peter King - Westerville
Ann Oliver - Cincinnati
Bob Scott Placier - Vinton Co.
Randel Rogers - Galloway
Dr. Jill Russell - Liberty, IN
Dan Sanders - Powell
Jen Sauter - Rockbridge
Bill Thompson III - Marietta

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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
SUGARCREEK, OH
PERMIT NO. 44