



THE CERULEAN

Fall - 2011, Vol. 8, No. 3

www.ohiobirds.org info@ohiobirds.org

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

**SEE PAGE 12 FOR OOS
HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS!**

From the EDITOR

The Ohio Ornithological Society, Ohio's Birding Network is proud to announce a revamped, updated, more interactive web-site! Members will soon be able to donate, join, and renew online, plus follow a variety of birding blogs, tweets, Facebook postings, and bird sightings at www.ohiobirds.org! See page 9 for details!

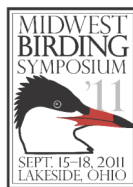
Please **renew** your OOS membership ASAP! Your expiration date is printed on the back of your newsletter, **IN RED**. We have a special "holiday membership" to offer: see page 12. Membership dollars are vitally important to continue the outreach of **Ohio's Birding Network**! Plus, as a member in good standing, you'll be able to attend the Eighth Annual Winter Raptor Extravaganza (page 8) at the *Wilds* on January 14, 2012!

It's never too late to make a contribution to the OOS Conservation Fund or Carbon Offset Birding Project (page 2). **Please make a generous year-end contribution to OOS.** It's tax-deductible to the extent allowed by your specific circumstances, plus, it's a great way to give back to Ohio's birds, and birding community, across the Buckeye State.

If you missed Midwest Birding Symposium '11, recap the conservation initiatives and funds raised for birds and birding causes (page 1-5). Plus, watch a photomontage iMovie of MBS '11 on YouTube (page 3)!

Happy Christmas Bird Counts!

Ann Oliver
- *Cincinnati*



MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM RECAP: CONSERVATION FUND TOPS \$22,000

Midwest Birding Symposium '11 raised \$12,388 through generous attendee participation in a raffle, auction, and other fundraising events including sales of movie tickets, a MBS photo booth featuring mock-covers of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and an Adopt-A-Bird board. **The Ohio Ornithological Society MATCHED \$10,000** of funds raised: the **GRAND TOTAL** to disperse to local, regional, and national conservation groups is **\$22,388!**



MBS Conservation Raffle and Adopt-A-Bird. Left to right: OOS volunteers Judy Hendrick, Dr. Dave Russell, Marc Nolls, and Mike Edgington. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

The MBS Conservation Fund keeps growing! OOS welcomes **any** additional contributions to the Carbon Offset Birding Project or MBS Conservation Fund: mail your check to our PO Box (see page 12)! Thanks in advance for supporting birding causes, near and far, benefitting resident and migrant birds in Ohio and beyond. Plus, major thanks to the *Bird Watcher's Digest* team (center photo below) for procuring raffle and auction items from sponsors, vendors, and patrons. See pages 2-5 for details on how money will be allocated to Meadowbrook Marsh and twelve recipients of MBS grants.



Proceeds from the MBS photo booth raised money for the MBS Conservation Fund. Left photo: John T. Moore of Englewood, Ohio. Center photo: front row (Claire Mullen and Jessica Moyer) and back row (Chris Blondel, Ann Kerenyi, Laura Thompson Fulton, Elsa Thompson, Andy Thompson). Right photo: Official MBS Blogger Lynne Casperson Schoenborn from Minnesota. Photos courtesy *Bird Watcher's Digest*/MBS.



CARBON OFFSET BIRD PROJECT BENEFITS MEADOWBROOK MARSH

Efforts to raise awareness about carbon usage, and bird habitat conservation, were a success at Midwest Birding Symposium '11, as the pilot project for Carbon Offset Bird Project got underway benefiting Meadowbrook Marsh. Nearly \$2,000 dollars was donated to COBP at MBS; OOS matched that sum bringing the total to \$4000. Pending successful negotiations with a landowner, OOS has earmarked an additional \$5,500 for this Danbury Township Park along Lake Erie's Marblehead Peninsula. **CONTRIBUTIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED: COBP c/o OOS, PO Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Checks payable "COBP/OOS".**



COBP booth volunteers during MBS inside Hoover Auditorium at Lakeside. Left to right: Lisa Rock, Jan Voelker, Cheryl Harner, Paul Baichich. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

An east coast contingent, including Paul Baichich, Lisa Rock, Bill Stewart, along with Warren and Lisa Strobel, conceived the idea and presented it to the MBS and OOS boards. Claire Mullen of *Bird Watcher's Digest* designed a catchy logo incorporating bird silhouettes and boot print.

Looking at several other carbon offset efforts, a short form and mini-questionnaire were implemented to gather information from birders about the level of commitment and concern for carbon offset projects. Calculations reveal 10% of MBS attendees participated in this pilot project. More than half of those donating responded to the questionnaire and felt the carbon offset project was important to support and should be promoted at other birding events. The preference for habitat protection were (in order of preference) wetlands, grassland, forest, and Latin American projects.

Our first and highest donors were Tim and Laura Dornan from Louisville, Ohio. Although unable to attend MBS, they calculated several months of carbon usage for all of their birding activities

Tim & Laura Dornan. Photo courtesy Cheryl Harner.



using a COBP form (see the summer issue of *The Cerulean* to calculate **YOUR** offset) and offset the figure with a generous donation to COBP. Thanks!

The COBP team is currently working with the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of Black Swamp Conservancy (LEIC-BSC) to secure additional land at Meadowbrook Marsh.



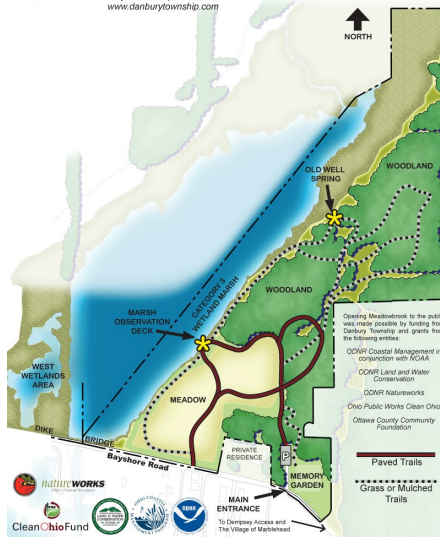
Several MBS participants, both within and outside of Ohio, are hoping to promote COBP projects of their own. All in all, this was a popular project with positive potential outcomes in Ohio, and possibly far beyond. Thanks to everyone who generously contributed to the project and special thanks to all volunteers who helped promote COBP efforts.

Cheryl Harner, OOS East-Central Regional Director - *Crestline*

Editor's Note: This fall, Black Swamp Conservancy reached a milestone of protecting 10,000 acres including farmland, wetlands, meadows, and woods. Find out more: www.blackswamp.org/

MEADOWBROOK MARSH: MAP FOR MARSH MIGRANTS

Welcome to Meadowbrook Marsh!
A public nature preserve owned and operated by
The Danbury Township Board of Trustees
www.danburytownship.com



If you are planning a trip to the Marblehead Peninsula for birding or general sightseeing, check out the trails at Meadowbrook Marsh. You can download and print a map for yourself by following the link below. Good birding to you!

Meadowbrook features 2,800 feet of ADA accessible, paved trails, more than 3000 feet of mulched and grassy trails, plus a marsh observation deck overlooking a wetland marsh, as well as forest, meadow, and grassland. Download a map: danburytownship.com/MeadowbrookMap_Final_021010.pdf

MEADOWBROOK MARSH: A "MUST VISIT" LOCATION!

If you head to Meadowbrook Marsh this spring, you'll have lots of company: birds and birders! Meadowbrook was the "*birdiest*" of several sites during Midwest Birding Symposium in September as waves of migrants flitted through the site in small foraging flocks. Scores of attendees made multiple forays to the Marblehead Peninsula site, just minutes from Lakeside, on Bayshore Road.



Great Egret over Meadowbrook Marsh. Photo courtesy Heather Aubke, official MBS Blogger, from "Heather of the Hills" (heather-heatherofthehills.blogspot.com/).

Countless birders at MBS, from novice to expert, raved about this previously under-birded location. Clayton Taylor, of Swarovski Optik*, shared his comments (see below) about Meadowbrook Marsh.

"Our experiences at Meadowbrook Preserve during MBS were outstanding – the place is certainly a 'must visit' during the fall. We started out at the marsh overlook at first light, seeing various ducks, cormorants, herons and egrets as the light levels rose, with Marsh Wrens, Swamp Sparrows, and other marsh birds in the reeds in front of us. Frequent Bald Eagles kept the watchers happy. Walking the paths, we found flocks of warblers, vireos, and other passerine migrants. As a native New Englander, the numbers of Philadelphia Vireos seen was impressive.

"On the sunny afternoons, we also did butterfly and dragonfly watching along the paths and meadows.

"I can only imagine spring migrants at Meadowbrook will be as numerous, and possibly better than the fall numbers. Having been a hawk watcher and bander along the south shore of Lake Ontario in the spring, I would not be surprised if Meadowbrook gets a very good hawk flight on warm spring days, especially when the lake breeze kicks in and pushes the migrating raptors inland from the lake-shore itself. I'll bet a coordinated hawkwatch at the Meadowbrook platform, anytime from late March into May, would yield some excellent hawk counts." Clayton Taylor



*Meadowbrook Marsh was sponsored by Swarovski Optik during MBS. The optics company had expert birders, with loaner binoculars, at Meadowbrook Marsh during early morning informal birding sessions.

LAKE ERIE BIRDING TRAIL: SIX LOOPS TO EXPLORE OHIO!

At East Harbor State Park, on September 16, 2011 the Lake Erie Birding Trail officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony during Midwest Birding Symposium '11.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Lake Erie Birding Trail at East Harbor SP. Left to right, front row: Scott Butterworth, District Wildlife Manager ODOW; Jim McCormac, ODOW Avian Specialist and former OOS President; Ina Brolis, Manager at East Harbor SP. Photo courtesy Ernie Cornelius.



LEBT is courtesy the Ohio Division of Wildlife: ohiodnr.com/Home/LakeErieBirdTrailIndex/tabid/21961/Default.aspx

The LEBT covers the Ohio shoreline, from Conneaut to west of Toledo, with information on 84 birding hotspots stretching across 312 miles of Ohio shoreline. Birding information is arranged into seven

loops: 1.) Ashtabula, 2.) Cleveland, 3.) Huron & Lorain, 4.) Sandusky Bay, 5.) Lake Erie Islands, 6.) Western Lake Erie Marshes, and 7.) Oak Openings. The website has details on access, parking, amenities, trails, and directions as well as information on rarities and finding secretive species. Signs and brochures are in development for the future.



iMOVIE PHOTOMONTAGE OF MBS & MP3 AUDIO FILES

If you missed Midwest Birding Symposium '11, or couldn't fit everything into your busy attendee schedule, check the MBS website for photos and MP3 audio clips from speakers such as Alvaro Jaramillo, Jim McCormac, Bridget Stutchbury, and Julie Zickefoose: www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb2011/about.php.



You can also watch an MBS iMovie photomontage, made by Ann Oliver, available for viewing on YouTube, featuring speakers, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, field trips, birders, and a few birds, too!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxL3_fjLCIU

MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM CONSERVATION GRANTS: FUNDING FOR 12 ORGANIZATIONS PLUS MEADOWBROOK MARSH

MBS '11 raised more than \$12,000 for conservation. The OOS Board provided a \$10,000 match from the OOS Conservation Fund, bringing the total conservation dollars raised to more than **\$22,000**. Twelve groups, on the local, regional, and national level, applied in advance for funding. OOS, MBS, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*, along with all participants in MBS fundraising, are honored to support a dozen organizations with up to \$1,000.

1.) American Birding Association's Birders Exchange Program. Although Birders' Exchange (BEX) relies on donations of equipment, such as new and gently used optics, ABA still has considerable expenses associated with receiving, evaluating, and shipping materials to couriers, as well as processing applications from potential equipment recipients. Support from the MBS fund will allow ABA to maintain the vital link in the chain connecting the avifaunas and birding communities of all the Americas. **NOTE:** MBS '11 attendees donated two Sony cameras, nine binoculars, and one spotting scope to BEX: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge donated an additional 12 pairs of binoculars!

2.) Friends of Magee Marsh. To continue to improve the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area's habitat and resources for the enjoyment of the public, MBS



Black-throated Blue Warbler at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy Ken Behrens of Tropical Birding: www.tropicalbirding.com/

funds will be used to plant wildflowers adjacent to the Magee Marsh Boardwalk, concentrating on sections where invasive, non-native garlic mustard has been removed during volunteer "pull" events.

Join Friends of Magee Marsh next spring for other volunteer events supporting the boardwalk.

3.) Friends of Maumee Bay State Park. MBS grant funding will help offset the costs associated with erecting a Barn Swallow nesting



Barn Swallows family. Photo supplied by Dana Bollin.

structure in the Maumee Bay SP campground. Nesting barn swallows provide excellent education opportunities to the general public while supporting important, insect-eating, migratory birds.

4.) Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Continuing the mission of the National Audubon Society, while serving Central Ohio and inner-city Columbus through education, research, and outreach, MBS funds will be used for two local birding projects: Bird Count Volunteer Training and "Birding 101" monthly education programs.



Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

5.) Indiana Young Birders Club. Indiana Audubon Society, outreaching to youth, civic, church, school, and other groups, will use MBS funds for the "Indiana Young Birders 100 Field Guide Give-Away".



6.) The Lakeside Association. Lakeside, Ohio, the location of Midwest Birding Symposium and co-host of the event, will utilize MBS funds to replace various ash species destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer with native trees (basswood, hackberry, and chinquapin oak) to benefit wildlife and birds.



7.) Lake Erie Islands Chapter-Black Swamp Conservancy. In their mission to encourage conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie Islands, MBS dollars will purchase trees for migratory bird habitat restoration at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve.



Photo of Middle Bass Island, by Kelly Faris, used with permission of LEIC-BSC.

8.) Ohio Nature Education. Serving 18 Central Ohio counties, ONE will use MBS grant money to construct a viewing window overlooking a newly donated bird feeding station and water feature at the William C. Kraner Nature Center, in Newark.



9.) **Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences.** MBS funds will be used to support research to discover how forest management practices and disturbances affect bird populations, by studying behavioral responses/adaptations occurring in areas of impacted/altered forest ecosystems.

10.) **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association.** Ottawa NWR Association, in its role as a non-profit cooperating association in support of Ottawa NWR, will use MBS funds toward construction of a



Ottawa NWR headquarters.
Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

shorebird observation deck overlooking migratory habitat. The plan includes a multi-car parking lot and safe walking path paralleling Benton-Carroll Road, south of Rt. 2, just outside of the official entrance to Ottawa NWR. See the

right column for details and how you can help!

11.) **RAPTOR, Inc.** Dedicated to the preservation of birds of prey in the Greater Cincinnati area, through rehabilitation, education, and conservation, RAPTOR will use MBS funding to construct an 8 X 10 foot cage for non-flighted education birds such as a Barn Owl or Red-shouldered Hawk.



12.) **Tri-Moraine Audubon Society.** This chapter of National Audubon Society serves Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert counties. Tri-Moraine Audubon wishes to restore 88 acres of grasslands currently overgrown with Autumn Olive. MBS funds will be used to increase plant diversity with native shrubs and seed mix. The restoration is a joint effort of The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society.



SAW-WHET PALOOZA

Ohio birders enjoyed fall visits to many Saw-whet Owl banding stations, including OOS's evening at the Earl H. Barnhart Nature Center, south of Chillicothe. OOS donated \$150 to the Scioto Valley Bird & Nature Club (www.svbnc.org/) to help replace a damaged mist net. "Owl" see you next year!

Northern Saw-whet Owl (above) closeup. Photo courtesy Kelly Williams-Sieg.

OTTAWA NWR: TWO PROJECTS WILL BENEFIT BIRDERS

Two major projects are set to get underway at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, with support from the Ottawa NWR Association, and hopefully, many Ohio birders! Project #1 is a **Shorebird Observation Deck**, to be built on Benton-Carroll Road, just south of Rt. 2. Project #2 is a proposed birding path, the **Crane Creek Trail**, which would start near the west end of the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area parking lot and traverse habitat on federal land. The Ottawa NWR Association seeks \$5000 funding for each project and volunteers to assist. Check the **OOS website** for a **printable** version of the pledge form below or contact Ottawa NWR Association at 419-898-0014.



New water feature behind Ottawa NWR headquarters. Photo courtesy Ann Oliver.

The Ottawa NWR Association is looking for sponsors and helpers for 2 major projects at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Once again, the ONWR staff has requested that our Association take the lead on two great projects that will benefit our community. We are looking for people, civic groups and businesses who are willing to support these projects financially or physically. So, if you are a bird-watcher or photographer who takes advantage of viewing the birds at Ottawa, an outdoor lover who wants to protect and develop places for wildlife, or a local business owner who wants to show your support for the community, **WE NEED YOU!** If you would like to be involved, please contact the Ottawa NWR or the Ottawa NWR Association at **419-898-0014** or complete the pledge sheet and mail to us. The Ottawa NWR Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 14000 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Project #1 - Shorebird Observation Deck

The Ottawa NWR is creating a shorebird habitat on Benton-Carroll Road, south of St. Rt. 2. The refuge will create a multi-car parking lot which will take viewers off the road while they view the shorebirds.

The Association is collecting funds to build an observation deck that will enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. The estimated cost of the deck and ground work is \$ 5,000. The refuge also plans on creating a walking path parallel to the road that will skirt the habitat.

We are looking for individuals or groups who are conservation-minded and interested in helping to create a habitat for, and a place to view, the birds. If you, as an individual, group or business, would like to donate to the observation deck project, please send funds to the Association at the refuge. We would like to have this structure completed by next spring. If you have questions please contact us, 419-898-0014.

We also plan on having a "work day" for volunteers to help construct the boardwalk after the footers are in place. If you would like to volunteer for the "work day", and know how to pound a nail, please call us so that we can put you on our list of boardwalk volunteers or complete the pledge form.



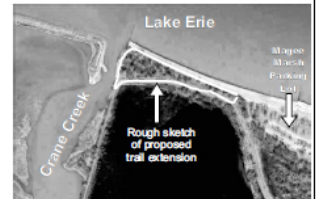
Project #2 - New Crane Creek Trail

The Ottawa NWR is creating an extension to the hiking trails near Magee Marsh that will direct visitors to the mouth of Crane Creek, overlooking the creek and the surrounding marshes.

The proposed trail will be accessed from the beach off the Magee Marsh parking lot and will run on the refuge property along the creek and dikes, curving back to the beach.

The challenge to this trail is a section that will cross over a rip-rap levee that protects the beach ridge from storms. This will require the construction of a short bridge over the rip-rap with the estimated cost of \$ 5,000.

The Ottawa NWR Association is looking for sponsors who would like to become involved and donate funds for this project. If you, your group or business would like to take part, contact the Association or Ottawa NWR at 419-898-0014 or complete the pledge form and mail to us.



PLEDGE FORM FOR SHOREBIRD OBSERVATION DECK AND NEW CRANE CREEK TRAIL

YES, I/we would like to contribute to:

☐ Project # 1 Shorebird Observation Deck ☐ Project # 2 Crane Creek Trail Extension

Please find enclosed a check for:

☐ \$ 10 ☐ \$ 25 ☐ \$ 50 ☐ \$ 100 ☐ \$ 500 ☐ Other _____

☐ Yes, I would like to participate on the work day for Project #1. Please contact me with schedule. Donors will be recognized on these projects. Use separate pledge form for each project, please.

Please make checks payable to **Ottawa NWR Association** and mail to:

Ottawa NWR Association, 14000 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Name or Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Greg Miller, of GregMillerBirding.com, sat down with birder Greg Miller and had a chat about how he feels after the movie has been released to the public. *If you haven't guessed, Greg Miller is interviewing himself! Ha, ha!*

GMB: What was it like the first time you saw the movie trailer of *The Big Year* with Jack Black playing you?

GM: The whole thing was so unreal I sorta felt numb to the whole thing. I watched it several times. I just couldn't bring myself to believe it was really happening. Unfortunately, I found I had strong conflicting feelings. Sure, Jack Black was portraying my character. How many people can say that? That was a very cool thing, indeed! But my stomach was tied in knots on the inside. Was this going to be good for birding? Was it going to have any positive impact on the birds? Or would it be negative? I probably worried far too much. It certainly made it harder to enjoy the moment.

GMB: Well that's kinda lame. Don't you think you should have enjoyed it more freely?

GM: Yeah. I know. *<head down looking at ground; hands in pockets; shuffles feet>*



Birders from across Ohio celebrated the premiere of the movie "The Big Year" with the real Greg Miller in Canton, Ohio on October 14. The film, directed by David Frankel, starred Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, and Jack Black. Image courtesy Cheryl Harner.

GMB: So let's get to the movie itself. You said you saw it the first time at a pre-screening in Richmond Heights, OH. Tell us about the experience of seeing it the very first time.

GM: Um. It was such a rush of emotions all coming together at once. I had a sense of complete and total AWE that here was a Hollywood movie with A-list actors and part of my life was going to be displayed (*okay, it was really just a fictional story*) on the Big Screen across America. I was surprised

to see some things added and plenty that had been tossed out of the original script. I was pleased to see some of my changes made it in directly, and not so thrilled to see some were completely ignored. I guess I was most impressed that the acting and story kept my interest—enough so that I actually found myself missing some of the technical birding inaccuracies I had planned to catch. Oh, and there were several instances birding inaccuracies that just made me cringe. Yikes! But, overall I was pleased with my first viewing and proud that I did not have to make a quick exit to some remote cave where I would live out my years as a hermit. I was not ashamed of the movie. In fact, I liked it.

GMB: What was opening weekend like? Everyone else is gonna see this now. How did that feel?

GM: Exciting. Scary. Exciting. Scary. I had totally underestimated the popularity of the book, *The Big Year*. I didn't know what to expect for a movie. It was exciting in that this was REALLY happening. It was scary because—well—

GMB: Because what? Go ahead. Spit it out already. Don't be so wishy-washy.

GM: You're right. It was scary because I was worried about what people would think about competitive birding...and about bird watching in general...

GMB: Alright, dude. Enough of that worry stuff already! What were your favorite scenes?

GM: I got a terrific kick out of the honeymooners going to Attu. *<he laughs out loud—no really he does—even without the LOL to signify such activity!>* My overall favorite is the owl scene though. I've seen the movie 9 times now and I still shed a few tears every time. I have moist eyes just mentioning it. This scene seems real to me, but it wasn't Virginia: it was the small pine grove at Killdeer Plains near Upper Sandusky, Ohio. There was snow on the ground. My dad did not have to carry around an oxygen tank, but he did have advanced congestive



heart failure. He was weak and birding with me had worn him out. He really did tell me to go on ahead and look for the owl—a Long-eared Owl, not a Great Gray Owl, although the latter is far more dramatic. Unlike the movie, my dad and I were really close. He was my birding mentor. I lost him to a heart attack 11 years ago this fall.

Veterinarian Dr. Bruce Miller, early 1990's, during a trip to Chincoteague, VA. Image courtesy Greg Miller.

That day, we were not alone. Along for the owl hunt was the very young, sharp-eyed bird sleuth, Jen Brumfield. I really did feel awful in the pit of my stomach when I realized that I'd left my father alone. I turned around immediately, and as I approached the pine grove, I could see my dad looking up. Quietly he pointed upward. There, on a branch near the trunk, was a mysterious-looking Long-eared Owl staring down at us. Jen joined us in the triumphant viewing of that bird. And inside, I was totally relieved to find my dad in good spirits and doing well. But the movie version still makes me feel like I am re-living Killdeer Plains again. I really, really still miss my dad. I wish he was here for all of this now, the book and the movie.



Dr. Bruce Miller in Texas at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, in April, 1996. During this Lower Rio Grande Valley trip, Greg's dad saw his first Green Jay, a life bird he'd waited 61 years to see, since the age of five. Image courtesy Greg Miller.

GMB: Pass the Kleenex, please. <sniffle> Thanks. What a story! You've seen this movie 9 times?!?! Aren't you really tired of it by now?

GM: Nope. And this is not my style of movie. I like Action/Adventure, Thrillers, Sci-Fi, and comedy. When I see a movie, I like to escape. I don't want reality. But *The Big Year* deals with real issues. It tugs at your heart more than just the owl scene. I am impressed by the actors and the job they did.

GMB: Cool. Tough question here—what parts of the movie didn't you like? You mentioned "cringe" before. What made you want to crawl under a theater seat and hide on the sticky floor?

GM: Well, the Pink-footed Goose showing up all over the place—and in some pretty insane places was one. Those mangy ducks during the Attu footage got me, too. What were those doing there? They weren't even pretty... or a species. Sigh. And then there's the Great Gray Owl in Virginia. Awesome owl. Nice setting. Not so very true on the birding accuracy. Also, the Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Pacific Northwest is very far fetched. To their credit, the script guys put in language to emphasize what a rarity this represented.

GMB: You wrote in your blog this movie had the 29th worst weekend of all time for movies opening at more than 2,000 theaters nationwide. You mentioned it grossed just over 3 million dollars. Is 3 million really that bad?

GM: Yes it is. In fact, it is a *dramatic* failure.

GMB: Well those are sorry stats. Won't they make up money in DVD sales?

GM: That would be an insane number of DVDs. What I fear most is we a birding community may have lost some of our clout as an influential group.

GMB: That's a pretty heavy statement. Where do you think birding/bird watching will go from here?

GM: We may have lost the opportunity for promotion. But we still have the most important part—the birds themselves. *That* is what got us all started. Birds give us motivation to pursue our hobby or vocation. And birding / bird watching is just as diverse as all the people who take part. There is something about birds that anyone can enjoy.

GMB: Yes. We do still have the birds around us to enjoy. So has the movie changed your life at all?

GM: It has. I am getting quite a few opportunities to speak to audiences about this whole experience. Birding has been very good to me. It's time for me to return the favor and give something back.

GMB: Great! Do you enjoy that? And are you speaking to birding groups?

GM: Actually, I do enjoy speaking. I try to be flexible so I can present to any audience—not just birders. Amazingly, I do have some opportunities to speak to folks who are not acquainted with bird watching at all. Hopefully some of my enthusiasm and love for birding will rub off on them.

GMB: Thanks, Greg, for your time.

GM: Thanks for having me. Here's to happy birding adventures for all!!

Editor's Note: Greg Miller lives in Ohio's Amish Country in NE Ohio. He recently appeared at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Harlingen, Texas and Festival of the Cranes in Socorro, New Mexico. His 2012 speaking engagements include: the Snow Goose Festival in Chico, California in January; a May engagement at the Great Salt Lake Birding Festival in Farmington, Utah; and a talk in June at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. Details on these events and more: www.gregmillerbirding.com/events/



Greg Miller flanked by good friends Alan Dolan (left) President of the Canton Audubon Society, and Cheryl Harner, (right) President of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society, at an October celebration to mark the opening of *The Big Year*. Members of both groups, and other birding friends, joined Greg for the 'premiere' at a theater in Canton. Photo used with permission of Cheryl Harner.

BLACK-TAILED GULL: ASIAN MEGA-RARITY VISITS ASHTABULA



If accepted by the Ohio Birds Record Committee, this Black-tailed Gull, will be the first record in the Buckeye State. Black-tailed Gull is a northeast Asian species. Both photos courtesy Pennsylvania birder Michele Rundquist-Franz.

Ohio birder Craig Holt found this ABA Code-4 Black-tailed Gull at Ashtabula on November 14. Scores of birders kept track of the sighting by following reports on the Ohio listserv (birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OHIO.html), various posts by many individuals on Facebook, and through the assistance of Jen Brumfield's website (northnw.wordpress.com/) which had identification tips, photos, and most importantly, maps to where the bird was being seen. Thanks to all who put a friendly face on Ohio's birding community!

NEW WILDLIFE VIEWING PLATFORM AT CONNEAUT

Ashtabula's *Star Beacon* newspaper reports construction is nearly complete on a \$22,700 wildlife observation platform at Conneaut. A 2010 grant from Ashtabula County's Civic Development Corporation helped fund the project.



The 12-by-24 foot structure will lift birders ten feet up to view the southwest corner of the harbor at Conneaut. Photo courtesy Dr. Dave Russell.



Scores of birders recently visited this area to view a Black-headed Gull, common in the United Kingdom, seen here with outstretched wing.

Black-headed Gull, front right, with Bonaparte's Gulls. Photo courtesy Dr. Dave Russell.

WINTER WILDS EXPEDITION JANUARY 14, 2012



Mark your calendars with an icicle! The OOS and the *Wilds* are hosting our Eighth Annual "give-back", the **Winter Raptor Extravaganza!** OOS members annually visit the reclaimed grassland in Muskingum County for Northern Harriers, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and late in the day, Short-eared Owls. In the past, Golden Eagles have overwintered, a Prairie Falcon spent two winters, and a Northern Shrike is usually found. Waterfowl, woodpeckers, and sparrows also contribute to the daily tally at this 10,000-acre birding mecca. **New in 2012:** access to areas on nearby American Electric Power property, including open water.

OOS extends an invitation to **all current members**. RSVP to wilds@ohiobirds.org to reserve your space. Meeting time, maps, and group assignment will be emailed to registrants for preparation. **See page 12 to renew your membership!**

KENTUCKY SANDHILL CRANE HUNT: DECEMBER 17–JANUARY 15

Wear "**Hunter Orange**" if you're planning to view congregations of Sandhill Cranes in Kentucky. Four hundred hunters will be issued permits to take up to two Greater Sandhill Cranes in the Bluegrass State.



Kentucky is the first eastern state to allow hunting of this species in recent times.

Sandhill Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR, NM, during Festival of the Cranes, a yearly five-day event attracting birders, photographers, and wildlife observers from around the globe. Photo courtesy Rebecca Hinkle.

Sandhill Cranes are a state-endangered species in Ohio. See the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) website for more information about Sandhill Cranes in the Buckeye State, background on breeding success, and maps of the recent fall flight path of Ohio's satellite-tagged sandhills, across Kentucky, to wintering sites in the southeastern United States:

www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourcessubhomepage/ResearchandSurveys/sandhill_crane_migration/tabid/18911/Default.aspx

**OOS EIGHTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE IN LAKESIDE
SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2012**

SAVE the date! The Eighth Annual OOS Conference visits Lakeside, fall of 2012. The weekend focus will be shorebirds, but expect many other migrants, too! Join us September 28-30, 2012 for fun, friendship, and fall birding!



Leucistic Solitary Sandpiper at Pickerington Ponds, Franklin County, September 5, 2011. Photo courtesy Dr. Bernie Master.

Also, mark your calendar for the next Midwest Birding Symposium: September 19-22, 2013. MBS '13 returns to Lakeside, Ohio, by popular request!

**WATCH FOR NEW, INTERACTIVE
OOS WEBSITE COMING SOON**

OOS is excited to announce our new and improved website! You can now donate, join, and renew your OOS membership online! Scan the QR code with your smart phone, if you have one, to go directly to our website! Check it out TODAY!



Ohio's Birding Network is becoming more interactive to outreach and unite birders across the Buckeye State. We have links to information on birding locations around Ohio, links to birding blogs, Twitter and Facebook feeds, and much more. Also, The Ohio Birding Forum, featuring discussions on conservation, identification and other bird related stories is now easier to access and interact with: www.ohiobirds.org



Happy Holidays to Ohio's Birding Community!

The Board of the Ohio Ornithological Society sends their warmest wishes of good birds during this holiday season and in the New Year!

Special Winter Memberships!

Now is the perfect time to be a part of Ohio's Birding Network! We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to join, renew, and give a gift membership for a special limited-time offer!
(see Page 12 for full details)

Discounted
Memberships!

\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20
Off!

Donate Now!

Make your year-end
tax deductible
contribution now
on-line!

JOIN TODAY
ON-LINE!

Offer
good through
January 31st,
2012

www.ohiobirds.org

PLEASE CHECK THE BACK OF YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE. IT'S PRINTED IN RED BY YOUR MAILING ADDRESS. PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY, OR EARLY, IF YOU CAN! MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR "WINTER RAPTOR EXTRAVAGANZA" AT THE WILDS ON JANUARY 14, 2012! **SUPPORT OHIO'S BIRDING NETWORK!**

OBBA II SPECIES SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM: ADOPT A PAGE!



OHIO
Breeding
Bird
Atlas II



OHIO
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded 2004

SPECIES SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Join your fellow birders today by helping to fund the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II book!

<http://ohiobirds.org/obba2/wordpress>

OBBA II and OOS have created a Sponsor-A-Species online auction to help fund the publication of the OBBA II book! Follow the link above to bid on one of the species accounts in the upcoming Atlas! Winning bidders will have their name published in the official book. Another great way to help OBBA II and Ohio's birds!

SUPPORT OHIO'S WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP (OWLS)



Spotted Salamander will be featured on the 2012 OWL stamp. Photo courtesy Nina Harfmann.

Nina Harfmann, of Pleasant Plain, Ohio is the winning photographer in ODNR's Third Annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp (OWLS) competition. Funds from

sales of OWL stamps fund projects including tracking migration of Sandhill Cranes, research of wildlife habitat, support of endangered and threatened species, education of students and wildlife enthusiasts, plus generation of funds for habitat restoration, land purchases, and conservation easements. In 2010, the inaugural year for OWL, more than \$20,000 was raised for wildlife conservation.

To purchase your stamp: www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/ExperienceWildlifeSubHomePage/ohiowildlifelegacystamp/buystamp/tabid/22506/Default.aspx Many thanks to ODNR/DOW.

OBBA II: GREAT HORNED AND BARRED OWL DATA NEEDED!



Great Horned Owl in Cincinnati. Photo courtesy Bruce Leonhardt.

Help the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II put Ohio's owls on the map! Birders participating in Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) have a great opportunity to obtain new owl records. With help from several regional owl coordinators, OBBA II plans to survey priority blocks lacking records from now through 31 December, with your help!

Great Horned Owls enter OBBA II safe dates on December 20th, however, many individuals began courtship in November. Early Barred Owl pairs start to duet in late December. FYI: this is the **last** (but not least!) push for field data collection in OBBA II, so please get in touch with OBBA II to connect with a Regional Owl Coordinator. Details: www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/owling2011.php

JEN BRUMFIELD ILLUSTRATES CALENDAR FOR CMNH



Barred Owl in Eastern Red Cedar. Illustration courtesy Jen Brumfield.

A 2012 calendar by artist/naturalist Jen Brumfield will showcase birds including Barred Owl, Wood Duck, and Cerulean Warbler, as well as habitats such as bog, fen, sand barren, sedge marshes, and deep swamp bottomland protected by Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Watch the CMNH website for information on calendar sales: www.cmnh.org/site/Index.aspx. Details on special ordering original artwork or matted prints, and information on Ohio birding, can be found on Brumfield's website: www.jenbrumfield.com/.



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!

Barb Bauer	Paul & Debora Novak
Judy Hendrick	Dr. Scott Alan Pendleton
Bob Hopp	Dorinda Whitsett
Nancy & Donald Howell	Connie Workman
Carol L. Leininger	Sara Worley
Louis Main	

Welcome New Members!

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

Claudia Anders	Aaron Miller
Dennis Anderson	Paul & Debora Novak
David T. Ayscue III	Beulah Shanks
Jeff, Connie, & Nick Baker	Joanne Smale
Christain Boix/Tropical Birding	Bruce Stambaugh
Anne Bugada	Lauren Stayer
Alan Cohen	Chris Thompson
Tim Colborn	Elizabeth vanBaren Delphi
Denise Costanzo	Jan Voelker
Kevin Czerniawski	Susan Watkins
Sherrie Duris	Dorinda Whitsett
Linda Feix	Gene A. Wimmer
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Doug Horvath	Sara Woodward
Abigail King	Connie Workman
Katie Malcolm	Joshua York
Dottie McDowell	

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
- Fall: 1 September
- Summer: 1 June
- 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

The Eighth Annual Wilds Winter Raptor Extravaganza with Ohio Ornithological Society in Muskingum County: January 14th, 2012. Day-long event for OOS members. BRING your own lunch. Watch for details on the Ohio Birds listserv: <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OHIO.html>

Helping American Kestrels with Ohio Nature Education in Newark: January 22, 2012. Fee: \$5. Conservation techniques and nestboxes. Details: www.ohionature.org/

Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference in Columbus: March 7, 2012. Fee. Topics include birds using Lake Erie, earthworms, and wetland restoration. Details: www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/ExperienceWildlifeSubHomePage/tabid/18565/Default.aspx

Shreve Migration Sensation in Shreve: March 24, 2012. Fee: \$10. The Shreve Spring Migration Sensation is sponsored by the ODNR Division of Wildlife, Friends of the Killbuck Marsh, Inc., The Wilderness Center, Greater Mohican Audubon Society, Triway Local Schools, Shreve Library, and Shreve Business & Community Association.

Canton Audubon Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration: June 13, 2012. Fee: \$ 20. Special guest speaker is Julie Zickefoose with musical accompaniment by Bill Thompson III. Details on the Canton Audubon website: www.cantonaudubon.org

OOS Eighth Annual Conference at Lakeside, Ohio: September 28-30, 2012. Fee: TBA. Save the date for the Eighth Annual OOS Conference, with special focus on shorebirds, plus many other migrants, next fall, in Lakeside, Ohio.

Special Winter Memberships
Limited-Time Offer!

NAME				
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CITY		STATE	ZIP	COUNTY
EMAIL				
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	REGULAR PRICING	HOLIDAY PRICING*	CONSERVATION DONATION	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Non-Profit	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Business	\$100.00	\$85.00	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member	\$250.00	\$230.00	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$	\$

You can now join and renew ONLINE!

Visit us at www.ohiobirds.org TODAY!

Questions about your membership? oosmembers@gmail.com

*Offer valid through January 31, 2012 + Membership valid for 1 year

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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

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