

From the Editor

6042 in a year. That's more than half of this planet's bird species, and a new record set by 29-year old birder Noah Strycker on his just-completed Big Year around the world. With his 'Birding Without Borders' adventure, documented in a daily blog on audubon.org, Noah certainly has taken listing to a new extreme. A non-lister bird watcher (or even a lister with more modest ambitions) may well wonder: how much can one enjoy and appreciate birds when rushing from site to site just for a final big number?

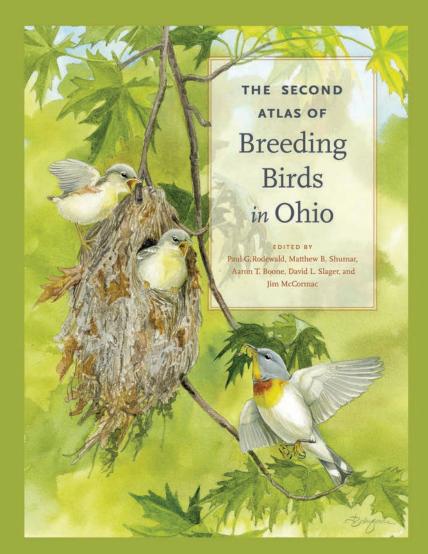
Certainly not everyone brings such a competitive sports attitude to birding. But listing is more than that. Listing is most of all record-keeping, and in the age of online database-facilitated citizen science it can turn fleeting moments in the field into a permanent record, useful to time-travel and relive past birding enjoyments as much as providing data for science and bird conservation.

Like Noah Strycker, Margaret Bowman uses eBird for her unique Ohio county listing project (page 7). The 2nd Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, to be published this Spring, uses volunteer field data for a much-needed 25 year update on Ohio bird populations (page 4). Likewise, Noah's project raises awareness for the precious richness of avian life and for the vulnerability to human encroachment into bird livelihood.

ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org

The Cerulean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society



Forthcoming... See on page 4

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	Cats indoors program o	Membership Application. 12



OOS Annual Meeting Report

The Gorman Nature Center in Mansfield hosted our annual meeting on November 7, 2015. Field trips led by resident Director and OOS East Central Director Jason Larson explored areas such as Clear Fork Reservoir and treated around 25 participants with great views of Bonaparte's Gulls, Horned Grebe, Bufflehead, Greenwinged Teal, a patrolling Bald



Birding Clear Fork Reservoir

Eagle, among many others. Meanwhile, the OOS Board of Directors worked intensly on a full agenda. The evening program highlighted Steve McKee's insightful and passionate presentation about the unique nature of the Mohican area, situated at the border of glaciated and unglaciated parts of the state. Elections were also held, and the updated list of OOS officers and directors can be found on page 12.



From the OOS Conservation Committee

By Cheryl Harner, OOS Conservation Chair

The OOS Conservation Committee has held several productive meetings this year, resulting in several completed initiatives as well as a few that are currently in progress.

The Conservation Committee headed fund raising efforts at the Ohio Ornithological Conference. Thanks to our OOS members' generosity, the Conservation Committee is partnering with The Nature Conservancy to aid in purchasing land to be managed by The Nature Conservancy in the "Sunshine Corridor" between Edge of Appalachia and Shawnee State Forest (see the Spring 2015 issue of The Cerulean). The land being considered for purchase by our funds shall be heavily weighted towards its bird conservation value.

Conservation Committee also voted to donate \$500 towards matching funds for wetland conservation at Morgan Swamp in North East Ohio. The land targeted for purchase is in a wetland corridor and should offer excellent opportunities for avian life.

We also signed a multiorganization letter urging Ohio to curtail logging and other activities in our State Parks and Forests that are incongruent with recreational uses and habitat preservation (see Fall 2015 issue of *The Cerulean*). This letter has since been endorsed by Athens Conservancy, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Flora-Quest, Mohican Advocates Inc., Ohio Environmental Council, the North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association, and the Hocking Hills Tourism Association.

Earlier in the year we finalized donations of \$1500 each to initiate a new boardwalk fund at Cedar Bog in Champaign County and to assist with a new boardwalk at Magee Marsh. We also continued our support of carbon offset projects working with Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

After a careful review, the Conservation Committee has recommended to endorse the American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors" program (see page 6). We are also working at the request of The Nature Conservancy to support an invasive plant control program along the lake in NE Ohio.

Conservation Committee and Events is working on a Conference back in Lakeside Ohio in Fall 2016 with a focus on Rails!

Book REVIEW:

Peterson Reference Guide to Birding by Impression

By Kevin T. Karlson and Dale Rosselet Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 286 pages, 200+ color photographs, color tables Hardcover, \$30

By Wayne R. Petersen and Paul J. Baicich

Practically all modern bird identification guides reflect a response to, or dialogue with, a 26-year-old Roger Tory Peterson who, in 1934, created a birding breakthrough with the creation of his A Field Guide to the Birds (1934). Does this claim sound exaggerated?

Perhaps. But perhaps not.

The young Peterson unequivocally revolutionized bird identification, moving it from a museumbased and specimen-based pursuit to one that could be enjoyed and managed by almost anyone with binoculars and sufficient field time to understand and appreciate that bird identification "may be run down by impressions, patterns, and distinctive marks, rather than by the anatomical differences and measurements that the collector would find useful" (Peterson, 1934). With Peterson's "new plan," stressing color-values (rather than actual colors), profiles, and outstanding marks, even at a distance, bird watching would never be the same again.

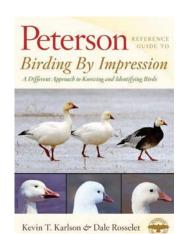
Since then, there has seemingly always been a question of how much detail one might want, or need, in order to make an identification, thus marking the progressive contributions of all field

guides since the introduction of the first Peterson guide. And all birders are the better for it.

An example of a recent variation on this theme and deserving special mention was The Shorebird Guide by Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson (Houghton Mifflin 2006) – a guide which effectively deepened the emphasis on size, structure, behavior, and general color patterns when making identifications. Richard Crossley took this approach further with his Crossley ID Guide, Eastern Birds (Princeton 2011) - and his followup guides to raptor identification and identification of European birds - stressing size, structure, shape, behavior, probability, and color patterns.

Now, Kevin Karlson and Dale Rosselet have pushed the envelope with their new Birding by Impression (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015), with its subtitle "A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds."

The assertion that this is a "different approach" may be debatable however. A birding-by-impression (BBI) approach still represents a back-to-fundamentals approach to bird ID, which underscores the notion that an initial appreciation of size and shape is a prerequisite to the identification process. Karlson



and Rosselet do an admirable job in presenting ID issues and ID problems in their family-by-family presentation, all skillfully illustrated with fine photos, and intertwined with regular quizzes

throughout their book.

Although some choices of species covered appear to be eclectic, others are eminently logical and much-desired. Clearly, there is something in this book for everybody. Are you having grebe problems? It's in there. How about egrets? Well done. Plovers? The group is covered. Nightjars? There are some fine hints. And swifts? The book has good material. Are you confused by yellow kingbirds? The book should help. And how about blackbirds? You could learn something from the coverage in this handsome new quide.

Perhaps you will even be convinced that BBI has been developing and deepening ever since the presses at Houghton Mifflin rolled in 1934 with the printing of RTP's book, including some bumps and detours along the way. Or, perhaps you will choose to deny the connection. Regardless, the new Karlson and Rosselet guide is full of juicy information and ID skill-building that deserves close attention.

From refugeassociation.org



The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio: Uncovering 25-year changes in breeding bird distributions

By Matthew Shumar

Many OOS members are probably familiar with the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, a statewide citizen-science project with more than 900 volunteers that collected detailed breeding bird observations from 2006-2011. Indeed, the OOS organized multiple atlas field outings and training sessions and helped to fund a number of dedicated volunteers. In the four years since completion of field work, Paul Rodewald and I, along with a team of talented analysts, authors, and publication staff have been working diligently to complete The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio, a 640-page volume detailing not only the results from the second Atlas, but changes in the state's avifauna, vegetation, and land-use over the past 150 years.

For those of you new to atlasing, the basic concept of this grid-based survey was developed in Great Britain during the 1950s with the Atlas of British Flora. The first bird atlases were also initiated in the UK during the late 1960s and were replicated in North America beginning in the 1970s and early 1980s. Ohio was among the first states to complete a

state breeding bird atlas, with field work conducted from 1982-1987. The results of that unprecedented statewide effort were published in 1991 by Bruce Peterjohn and Dan Rice—a book that has become a common addition to the bookshelves of many of Ohio's birders.

Development of the second Atlas by the Ohio State University and the Ohio Division of Wildlife began in 2004. A priority in the design phase was that the second Atlas should endeavor to expand survey coverage relative to the first Atlas and amass an unprecedented amount of new information on the distribution and status of breeding birds for Ohio, while maintaining comparability of results to the first Atlas. This would greatly increase the value of data collected by the second Atlas, as well as subsequent atlas efforts. Among a number of changes, coverage was expanded to survey all blocks within the state (only 1-in-6 blocks was surveyed during the first Atlas), detailed abundance surveys were conducted, and marshbirds were surveyed across the glaciated portion of the state. These additions were incredibly successful thanks to the tireless

efforts of Ohio's birding community. Following six years of field work, the second Atlas confirmed breeding in 194 of 205 observed breeding species through more than one million bird observations collected over >70,000 hours of fieldwork.

Many changes have occurred over the past 25 years. The second Atlas documented five new breeding species (Canvasback, Common Merganser, Black-necked Stilt, Mississippi Kite, and Eurasian Collared-Dove), as well as five species that were not confirmed breeding within Ohio for more than 50 years (Lesser Scaup, Merlin, Purple Gallinule, Common Raven, and Black-throated Blue Warbler). Not all changes to the list were positive though, and species such as the Bewick's Wren went undetected during the second Atlas. Major range expansions were observed in a number of species, and 33 showed significant gains in block occupancy (e.g., Black Vulture and Northern Parula). Unfortunately, more than 50 species showed significant declines in block occupancy between atlas periods, including once relatively common gamebird species like the Ruffed Grouse and Northern Bobwhite. Species



The plumage of the Dickcissel is unique within the Cardinal-dae family, abbough femules and younger makes may superfi-cially resemble the femula House Sparrow, which is not donely related. The male Dickcissel's ultimorine slick slick is visit site song, broudcast within open grasslands or seedy agricultural fields, is immediately recognizable. Denne forth corer is a fea-ture of high-quality nesting petroleries, and males of this polyg-youns species that acquire territories a seed to battle her small cup-meals within their territories as each builds her small cup-nest of grasses on or near the ground (Temple 2002).

DISTRIBUTION The primary breeding range of the Dickcissel spans the Great Plains and Midwest of the United States but in some years may extend considerably further east and north beyond this region (Temple 2003). Through the 1900s, breeding Dickcissels regularly occurred east of the Appalachians (Rhoads 1903) but then nearly disappeared from the regular outsile the late 1920s (Gross 1956). While the species is still sponsible in the East hereding populations appear to be exposed in the East hereding populations appear to be expuding within the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic states (Gross 1956 with William). Mulvihill 1988; Post et al. 2009).

Although abundant within eastern states. Dickcissels were are breeders in Ohio until the late 1800s, when they were commonly found in marry southwestern counties (Wheaton 1882; Jones 1903). Numbers increased in subsequent decades, and Hicks (1935a) reported breeding records from 56 primarily western counties, noting that Dickcissels were local in some

descriptions.

The species primarily western distribution in Ohio did not appreciably change by the second Atlas, but priority block occupancy significantly increased by 53 percent. Similar to the first Atlas, the majority of block records occurred within the Prairie Prinisula and Upper Great Lakes Plain. However, less than to percent of priority blocks were occupied during both periods, highlighting the species focal and irregular occurrence. Dickcissed migration is relatively unidecremible within Ohio (Peterjohn 2001), where most breeding birds are typically observed during the lowe through middle play fellid 2014. The appearance of new birds later in the summer may be related

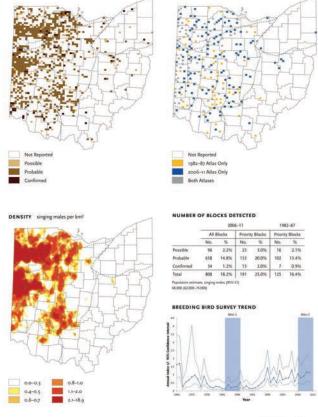
to the species shitting north to renest (Temple 2003). Nesting activities during the second Atlas were noted as late as mid-August, although low observer effort during this time period did not document late-season breeding well.

ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION STATUS Second Aftles abundance data yielded a tathewide population estimate of 58,000 singing males, with the majority of the population located within western Ohio. Dickcised selentistic Buttuate across the species' breeding range in relation to drought and hence food availability: in particularly dry years, Dickcissels more outside core breeding areas to more favorable nesting locations (Temple 2004). This internantal variation makes it difficult to assess the species' population trend within Ohio, however, survey-wide Breeding Bird Survey results, which should overside regional climatic effects, have shown a modest deciline of 0.6 percent per year since the mid-1960s (Sauer et al. 2014).

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT Habitat loss and the intentional poisoning of large winter roots (Temple 2002) resulted in substantial population declines and a beak outlook for the Dickcissed (Fretwell 1979), Declines leveled off by the 1980s (Sauer et al. 2014), although the species is still included on the Partners in Flight Wake List (Rich et al. 2004). The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI 2010) classified the Dickcissed as high-priority fical species, and western Ohio has the potential to provide important habitat resources. The Conservation Reserve Porgaral has been shown to benefit midwestern Dickcissels (Best et al. 1997), although appropriately managing abbitats on private lands can be difficult (Dechant et al. 2021). The effects of climate change, including increased frequency of drought (Streepeck et al. 2016), could have important management implications for this species over broad spatial scales. Dry conditions in the Midwest during 2006 and 2011 resulted in exceptional numbers of Dickcissels in Ohio (Whan 2006; Caldwell 2014; Miller 2011). Thus, high Dickcisels courts in eastern regions may not be related to regional population increases. And effective management strategies should account for climate and land-over patterns over boad spatial scales. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT Habitat loss and the

for climate and land-cover patterns over broad spatial scales

AARON T. BOONE Sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever



Sample species account from The Second Atlas

breeding within mature forest habitats generally fared well, while grassland obligates and early-successional species were among the most frequently declining, coinciding with reductions in grassland and shrubdominated habitats.

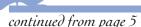
The summary statistics alone are interesting enough, but when one dives into individual species accounts, the story becomes far more engaging (see example pages above). Take the House Finch for example. Although the species is now common across Ohio, it was absent from the state prior to

the 1960s and still restricted to urban centers through the 1970s. Around the start of the first Atlas, the species' population exploded, and it was documented in 76% of Atlas blocks. Priority block occupancy significantly increased by 16% between atlas periods. However, it is for species like the House Finch that abundance data enrich the analysis. Although the species remained common throughout both atlas periods, its statewide population declined dramatically from the mid-1990s through the start of the second Atlas

due to the spread of severe conjunctivitis. Back-calculating using Breeding Bird Survey trends would indicate that the population of 650,000 House Finches during the second Atlas declined from a statewide high of approximately 1,650,000 birds in 1995!

The 14,400 detailed abundance surveys conducted by trained field staff proved to be an invaluable addition. The field protocols, which tracked individual singing birds through discrete time and distance bands, were designed to estimate detection probability

continued on page 6



and allowed for the creation of species-specific removal models that accounted for a number of important factors including daily and seasonal variation, and spatial biases. The results of these analyses include precise population estimates for 84 species and detailed density maps for 74 species. Within Ohio, more than 20 species have populations of over one million individuals. Unsurprisingly, the Song Sparrow, European Starling, and House Sparrow were the most abundant species, each with populations of >6 million birds.

This is just a small sample of the results presented in The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio, which includes 484 maps as well as 435 stunning full-color photographs, graciously donated by nearly

100 photographers. In addition to the species accounts, six additional chapters cover atlas methodology and results, implications for bird conservation within the state, as well as details about Ohio's geology, climate, and changes in landcover and land-use practices in recent history.

Following important ornithological publications within Ohio, such as Jared Kirtland's Report on the Zoology of Ohio (1838), Lynds Jones' The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue (1903), Lawrence Hicks' Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Ohio (1935), the first Atlas, and most recently Bruce Peteriohn's The Birds of Ohio (2001), we hope that The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio not only provides an important update on the state's

avifauna, but also inspires the next wave of conservationists. Issues such as habitat loss, climate change, and invasive pests will need to be continually assessed if the songs of species such as the Grasshopper Sparrow or Blue-headed Vireo are to be heard during Ohio's third atlas.

Subsequent to field collection, the Ohio Ornithological Society co-coordinated a species sponsorship program to offset the costs of publication and lower the price of the book for the public. Thanks to those efforts, and the generous donations from many of you, we were able to greatly lower the price of the book. Volunteers who pre-order will also receive an additional discount. Ordering information is available at psupress.org.

OOS endorses "Cats Indoors" Program of the American Bird Conservancy

Better for Birds, Cats, and People

Domestic cats can make wonderful pets.

But when allowed to roam outdoors, these introduced predators have serious consequences.

Outdoors, cats are a non-native and invasive species that threaten birds and other wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and spread diseases.

Now numbering well over 100 million in the United States, cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making cat predation by far the largest human-caused mortality threat to birds.

American Bird Conservancy's Cats Indoors Program educates the public and policy makers about the many benefits to birds, cats, and people when cats are maintained indoors or under an owner's direct control. We're leading a movement to overcome local and national challenges caused by free-roaming cats, bringing about change by conveying the most current scientific information, promoting science-based policies, and working with diverse stakeholders such as animal shelters, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and conservation biologists. From abcbirds.org



I'm a lister. With me, it's an addiction. I started in 1998 when a Red Crossbill started coming to my feeders in North Carolina, and I continued when I moved to Ohio later that year. And, I go birding almost every day. At first, I kept my list in a Birder's Diary. Then, I started using AviSys, which allowed me to track both states and counties. Finally, I transferred all those sightings into eBird, and the rest is history. eBird tracks everything.

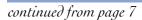
Ohioans will remember that Polar Vortex from back in the winter of 2013-2014, when the weather kept all but the hardiest of birders indoors. That's when I got the idea to see in how many of Ohio's 88 counties I had recorded bird sightings. It turned out that there were 32 counties in which I had never birded, or at least had never recorded any sightings. So, born of the desperation of a house-bound birder, I conceived the notion to attempt to have at least 30 species in each of those "empty" counties by year's end. I achieved that goal by the end of 2014. So, what would be my next goal?

During the slightly milder winter of 2014-2015, two things, both pretty innocent on their face, prompted me to set my next goal. First, Vic Fazio inquired on the FaceBook Birding Ohio page whether anyone knew of a birder

who had an average of 100 birds per county for Ohio. Second, another FB friend made a comment that all birders should get out as much as we can, because the time may come when we can't get

Van Wert County was famously dubbed the 'Black Hole of Birding'"

out at all. That got me thinking.
My new goal, a somewhat ambitious two-year goal, would be to explore the counties of Ohio, looking for handicapped and wheel-chair accessible places to continued on page 8





Common Loon (Gavia immer)

bird, and simultaneously trying to achieve the 100-birds-per-county average. I have located some very good birding venues that are indeed wheel-chair accessible, and when the list is final, I'm hoping that OOS will post it on their web page.

As one can imagine, this goal has taken me on some very interesting trips to the far corners of our state. Some counties, particularly in the northwest part of the state, are flat and have little diversity of habitat other than cropland and houses. Van Wert County, for example, during the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, was famously dubbed "The Black Hole of Birding" by the volunteer who worked that county. And yet, I have managed to find 74 species in Van Wert, and have observed some very interesting bird behaviors there, including a Bald Eagle sparring with an Osprey at the Van Wert Reservoirs. The Osprey yielded and flew off to the southwest. And last April I found the most Common Loons that I have ever seen in one place, 13, on the north reservoir alone, in Van Wert.

I have learned a lot about birding, as well. For one thing, it's too easy to overlook the most common birds. Who would think that it would be possible to have over 60 species in a county and be missing European Starling, House Sparrow and Rock Pigeon? I learned pretty quickly to make a drive through the county seat of a "new" county to tick these city specialties. Those county courthouses usually harbor all three species, and just might yield a surprise Peregrine Falcon. And,

It's too easy to overlook the most common birds. Who would think that it would be possible to have over 60 species in a county and be missing European Starling, House Sparrow and Rock Pigeon?"

I learn a little about the history of the county on these stops.

I haven't found a lot of rarities, but one notable exception occurred on the return from a birding and butterflying trip with my Amish friend down to Adams County. I had picked up 31 new species for Adams County, and decided to come home a different way, through Scioto County and north on Route 23 through Waverly and past Chillicothe. It was getting late, so I hadn't given much thought to birds, when suddenly my Amish passenger exclaimed, "Hey, that's not a Mourning Dove!" We took a quick turn into a Waverly

parking lot, circled around, and discovered the first Eurasian Collared Dove reported to eBird from Pike County. Other birders have since found up to five in that same area. I like to think we saw the male and that a female was sitting on a nest with three eggs somewhere nearby.

Sometimes I drive my car and only bird one county for a day. Other times, I take my small RV and camp, always in state parks, where my Golden Buckeye Pass makes camping Sunday through Thursday nights the best bargain in the state. I've found some great birding venues in and near these state parks, as well. It's also the best way to find owls. All the resident owls I've ticked have been while camping.

How far have I come on my grand adventure? As of January 1, 2015, my per county average stood at 63.27. As I am writing this article, it stands at 85.96. I have increased my total life birds in 74 of the 88 counties. There are 22 counties where I have 100 or more. There are only two counties with fewer than 50: Paulding and Defiance. I need to get up there for spring passerine migration next year. And that brings me to strategy.

I never just go to a county and randomly start driving around. First, I check eBird. There is a tool that lets me see what birds I need by county, for any month or for an entire year, under the "Explore Data" tab. I use it every time I visit or revisit a county. Then, I look for habitats that are likely to have the birds I need. I've visited a lot of nature pre-

serves, upland reservoirs, city parks and cemeteries. I also consider the time of year. To get to 100, besides local nesters, I need migrating waterfowl, migrating



Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)

passerines and winter specialties.

This has turned out to be a very rewarding goal. I've learned a lot about my home state, and best of all, I've met some wonderful people along the way. As some of my Licking County birder friends like to say, "Birders are good people."



Thanks to the hard work of Kathy McDonald, Southwest Regional Director, and the OOS Communications Committee our brand-new website went live on December 6, 2015. The clear design is easy to navigate on small and large displays and has updated content - check it out!

Public Library digitizes rare Audubon books

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is fortunate to own one of the few intact copies of John James Audubon's Birds of America. Housed in the Joseph S. Stern, Jr. Cincinnati Room at

worked with the University of Cincinnati's Conservation Lab to scan the rare images so they would be available online in the Digital Library as well as on screen. The Library received \$25,000 in pledges or gifts



Audubon's "Buffel-headed Duck Fuligula Albeola" - now named Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola)

the Main Library, turning one page each week, it took eight years to see every page of the four-volume folio set.

But now the four-volume folio set is part of a permanent exhibit that also features a new computer touch screen allowing visitors to digitally flip through the books and zoom in on the artwork.

Birds of America was acquired in 1870 by then-Library Director William Frederick Poole for \$1,000 and is now valued at \$12 million. Over the summer, Digital Services

toward the project.

"We're very proud to be able to do this beautiful work of art justice with a bigger case that will keep it safe from the elements and allow us to show more of these magnificent prints to everyone," said Kimber L. Fender, the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library. "We're also grateful for the chance to share our set online with art and nature lovers from around the world."

The scans can be viewed and downloaded at *cincinnatilibrary.org*.



Upcoming OOS Events

Mark your calendar and check ohiobirds.org for updates and

Warblers & Wildflowers

April 29/30, 2016

We will hold our annual conference at one of our favorite places, Shawnee State Park, in Scioto County, on April 29 and 30, 2016. Join us Friday night to hear Katie Fallon, author of "Cerulean Blues". On Saturday morning, we will explore Shawnee State Forest and surrounding areas looking for early migrant warblers and wildflowers with some of the best field trips leaders around. On Saturday evening, Harvey Webster, Director of Wildlife Resources at the Cleveland Natural History Museum, will present "Birds, Bridges, Barriers and Baseball", a presentation on how human landscapes create challenges and opportunities for birds, and how you can help. If you choose to spend the entire weekend, Sunday morning will be a chance for informal trips alone or with other birders. Online registration starts in February at ohiobirds.org!

Marsh Madness

May 14, 2016

International Migratory Bird Day in the U.S. and Canada is 14 May. Once again, OOS partners with the Division of Wildlife to celebrate Marsh Madness at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Lucas and Ottawa counties. Mark your calendars now to join us as we welcome back the northbound warblers and their fellow travelers as they dazzle us with their breeding beauty. OOS will sponsor guided outings for members to experience this remarkable display of avian splendor. Check out other birding events during this time at the Biggest Week in American Birding.

Grassland Birds Symposium

June 24/25, 2016

Join us for a weekend at The Wilds to learn about Ohio's grassland birds. Jim McCormac, naturalist, speaker, and book author will talk Friday night about grassland species. On Saturday noon, time to relax with a cook-out under a shelter where we can share notes, ask questions, and head back to the wild for more birding. This will be a fun-filled, educational weekend!

Calendar of **Events**

A selection of local and state-wide field trips and programs, available at press time. Please confirm event details and registration needs using the weblinks or email provided.

Tuesday, 2 February "Will Bobwhite Return to Northeast Ohio?"

Marlo Perdicas Western Cuyahoga Audubon

Saturday, 6 February **Urban Waterfowl Field Trip** Great Miami River at Hamilton Cincinnati Audubon cincinnatiaudubon.org

Saturday, 6 February Owl prowl and displaying woodcock Cincinnati Audubon cincinnatiaudubon.org

Saturday, 6 February (and other dates) **Birdwatching for Beginners** Grange Insurance Audubon Center Columbus Audubon columbusaudubon.org

Saturday, 6 February **Early Spring Waterfowl Migration** at Oxbow Field Trip Cincinnati Audubon cincinnatiaudubon.org Sunday, 7 February Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Columbus Audubon columbusaudubon.org

12-15 February **Great Backyard Bird Count** gbbc.birdcount.org

Saturday, 13 February Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum Greater Mohican Audubon Society gmasohio.org

Sunday 21 February Winter Raptors at Killdeer Plains Ohio Young Birders ohioyounabirders.org



Sunday 21 February **Lake County Shoreline Field Trip** Blackbrook Audubon blackbrookaudubon.org

Thursday, 25 February **Ohio River Little Hocking Area**Mountwood Bird Club

mountwood.brooksbirdclub.org

Saturday, 27 February Bird Walk at Byers Woods Greater Mohican Audubon gmasohio.org

Tuesday, 1 March
"Evolution of Flying Flowers"
Barbara Coleman
Western Cuyahoga Audubon
wcasohio.org

Tuesday, 1 March
"West Creek, a Success Story"
Derek Schafer
Carlisle Reservation Visitor Center
Black River Audubon
blackriveraudubon.org

Sunday 12 March Shreve Spring Migration Sensation Greater Mohican Audubon gmasohio.org

Sunday 12 March **Killdeer Plains Field Trip** Blackbrook Audubon blackbrookaudubon.org

Saturday, 19 March **Woodcock Walk at Byers Woods** Greater Mohican Audubon *gmasohio.org*

Saturday, 19 March
Wendy Park/Scranton Flats Field
Trip
Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.
Black River Audubon

Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. Black River Audubon blackriveraudubon.org Saturday, 26 March **Bird Walk at Byers Woods** Greater Mohican Audubon gmasohio.org

Tuesday, 5 April
"The Importance of Conservation: Exciting New Natural History
Discoveries"

Jim McCormac Western Cuyahoga Audubon wcasohio.org

Tuesday, 5 April
"Ottawa NWR: Conserving the Future"

Jason Lewis Carlisle Reservation Visitor Center Black River Audubon blackriveraudubon.org

Saturday, 16 April **Spring Walk at Lake Hope** Guide: Brandan Gray Athens Area Birders stefan_gleissberg@me.com

Saturday, 16 April
Cleveland Natural History Museum (entrance fee)
Andy Jones
Black River Audubon
blackriveraudubon.org

Saturday 16 April Conneaut Shorebirds Field Trip Blackbrook Audubon blackbrookaudubon.org

Saturday, 23 April
OSU Museum of Biological Diversity Open House
Columbus Audubon
columbusaudubon.org

Friday/Saturday, 29-30 April Warblers and Wildflowers Shawnee State Park Ohio Ornithological Society ohiobirds.org

Ohio Birding Resources

Check these organizations for upto-date field trip and event info! If you want your local bird club listed here, contact ceruleaneditor@ohiobirds.org

Athens Area Birders stefan_gleissberg@me.com

Audubon Ohio, Cincinnati Chapter *cincinnatiaudubon.org*

Blackbrook Audubon blackbrookaudubon.org

Black River Audubon blackriveraudubon.org

Canton Audubon cantonaudubon.org

Columbus Audubon columbusaudubon.org

Greater Cleveland Audubon clevelandaudubon.org

Greater Mohican Audubon gmasohio.org

Kelleys Island Audubon *kelleysislandnature.com*

Kirtland Bird Club kirtlandbirdclub.org

Mountwood Bird Clubmountwood.brooksbirdclub.org

Ohio Young Birders Club ohioyoungbirders.org

Western Cuyahoga Audubon wcasohio.org

The Cerulean

Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society Dr. Stefan Gleissberg: Editor, Photo Editor, Layout



Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

Join us online! www.ohiobirds.org

Organization:____

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

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

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

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

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