

Black River Audubon Society

WINGTIPS

October 2008



Editors: Jack Smith/Harry Spencer
Photographer: John Koscinski
Webmistress: Arlene Lengyel



Female Northern Cardinal



Male Northern Cardinal

Program

October 7, 2008, 7 p.m.
Carlisle Reservation Visitor Center

Larry Rosche
Field Biologist

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Larry Rosche is well-known locally and nationally as an expert field biologist. He is one of Ohio's preeminent authorities on dragonflies and has found many new populations of rare species during his field studies. He is the author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeastern Ohio*. Larry also is an expert birder and is the author of the third edition of *Birds of the Cleveland Region*. He is a Field Researcher for the Conservation Outreach Program of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and has been the range distribution mapmaker for Houghton Mifflin Company's Peterson Field Guide Series.

Field Trip

Carlisle Reservation Visitor Center

Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m.

We will have a contest to see which of two randomly selected groups can identify the most bird species. One will start on the Short Loop and continue on the Meadow Loop, and the other will go in the reverse order. The contest ends at 10:30.

Black River Audubon Society 50th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 16, 2008, 6 p.m.

Rose Café, Lakeview Park

1800 West Erie Avenue

Lorain, OH

Kenn Kaufman

Wings of Imagination



Kenn Kaufman is an author, artist, teacher, and lifelong naturalist. He is a field editor for Audubon magazine, and writes regular columns for every major birding magazine.

Most of his energy currently goes into book projects, including his own Kaufman Field Guides, published by Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston. This series now includes volumes on North American birds, butterflies, mammals, and insects. Additionally it includes the first North American bird guide to be published in Spanish. Kenn's other books include *Lives of North American Birds* and *Kingbird Highway*, which was translated into Swedish. A new memoir, *Flights Against the Sunset*, was published recently.

In addition to many other accolades, Kenn was the 2008 recipient of the American Birding Association's Roger Tory Peterson Award for lifetime achievement.

Yes, I/we will attend the BRAS Celebration
Name(s): _____

Please indicate the number of each meal option

_____ Beef Pot Roast; _____ Baked White Fish

Make checks payable to Black River Audubon Society,

\$25 per person, and send to

Black River Audubon Society

304 West Avenue

Elyria, OH 44035

Reservations must be received by October 8, 2008

Budget 2008-2009

Submitted by **President Harriet Alger**

APPROVED BUDGET 2008-9

ESTIMATED INCOME/FUNDS AVAILABLE, 2008-9:

Trust funds and other dedicated funds	Balance in endowment or dedicated funds, June 30, 2008	Estimated yearly income	Balance of unspent funds, June 30, 2008	Amount available for 2008-9 (includes balances from 2007-8)	Restrictions, dedicated amounts
Audubon Adventures	18,314	800	599	1399	Dedicated to this Audubon Education program. Only yearly interest/dividends can be spent from the fund
Conservation	17,161	750	1762	2512	Same restrictions as above as applied to Conservation projects.
Scholarship	26,843	1177	805	1982	Same restrictions as above as applied to scholarships.
Outstanding Speakers Fund	1,415		1415	1415	For programs co-sponsored with Metro Parks
Total restricted	63,733	2727	4581	7308	

Other income			
Pfeiffer Trust fund	119,598	5029	May be used for general program activities
National Audubon		1168	None
Chapter memberships		285	None
Donations		3211	None
Sales		387	None
Total unrestricted		10,080	

General expense categories:	Budget 2007-8	Balance June 30, 2008	Proposed budget 2008-9	
Administrative costs	2100	350	1800	Insurance & Misc.
Audubon Adventures	1300	337	1000	Additional for AA
CBC	150	30	150	CBC
Field trips	400	350	350	Guides
Newsletter, brochures, etc.	5000	-606	5600	Printing
Membership	200	129.65	100	
Postage	1100	-147	1250	
Programs	450	300	300	Speakers for monthly meetings
Social	50	50	50	Coffee, tea, cups
Web site, publicity			150	
Young Birders	100	25	100	Affiliate dues
50 th anniversary gala			2000	
Total general expense	10,850		12,850	

Budget Summary, 2008-9

Estimated Income

Bank balance as of July 1, 2008:	9,451
Total available from dedicated funds:	7,308
Total general funds unrestricted:	<u>10,080</u>
Total income 2008-9:	26,839

Estimated Expenses

Dedicated categories:	7,308
General expense categories :	12,850
Discretionary fund:	<u>6,681</u>
Total expenses 2008-9:	26,839

A Birder's Diary

By Carol Leininger



There is no such thing as JUST-A-BIRD!

Many years ago I attended a National Audubon Society convention in the Adirondack Mountains in New York. There were many interesting workshops, speakers, and field trips. I attended an early morning bird walk around the convention center one day. At one stop a Northern Cardinal flew by. The person next to me said "What was that?" I said, "It was JUST-A-CARDINAL." "A cardinal" she shouted, and much to my amazement, half the birders stamped past me to see the bird!

I couldn't believe my eyes, but soon learned that many of these birders were from

California and other western areas where Northern Cardinals do not live.

I don't know why I said, "JUST-A-CARDINAL", because I love to see them, especially in the winter. I have seen more than twenty cardinals at one time at the Wildlife Observation Area at the Carlisle Visitor Center, and their bright colors in the sun and snow are wonderful to see on a winter day. No wonder the bird is Ohio's state bird! They are definitely not JUST-A-BIRD!

But I got my comeuppance a few years ago.

I have traveled out west many times, but never saw a Yellow-headed Blackbird until recently. When I finally saw a group of them in a wet area along the road, I was excited. A person standing nearby said, "They're JUST-YELLOW-HEADED-BLACKBIRDS!"

It's not easy to avoid JUST-A-REDWING-BLACKBIRD or JUST-A-ROBIN, but I try.

There is no JUST-A-BIRD!! Every bird counts, especially in December during the Christmas counts.

Correction

The bluebird-banding photos shown in the September 2008 WINGTIPS were taken by Mark Pruitt.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Free for Educators

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, the program presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It is packaged as a Classroom Kit serving 32 students or as an Individual Kit serving one student. Otherwise, both types of kits are identical.

The kits are used by classroom teachers, after-school coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolers.

Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program.

The goal of *AUDUBON ADVENTURES* is to develop an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural world of all living things, especially birds and other wildlife. The hope is that this understanding will lead to a sense of stewardship for the natural world.

The 2008-2009 version of the kits covers four general subjects: Migration, Animal Builders, Animal Defenses, and Plants.

Each kit contains a Resource Manual containing background information, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, hands-on activities, and duplicating masters.

Other inclusions are: Participation Certificate, Endangered Habitat Poster, and an Audubon's Guide to a Healthy Schoolyard.

Accompanying each kit is a membership in the National Audubon Society, including a one-year subscription to *Audubon* magazine, an affiliation with the Black River Audubon Society, invitations to summer ecology workshops for educators, and information about opportunities for participation in conservation contests and Audubon's citizen science programs.

The kits are correlated with the State of Ohio learning standards!

The program is free. Black River Audubon Society pays all costs. All teachers have to do is sign up. The materials will be sent directly to your school. You can use them as they fit into your schedule and curriculum.

Contact Dick Lee at leedck@windstream.net or 440-322-7449.

Field Trip Report

Indian Hollow Reservation

August 16, 2008

Terri Martincic, Steve Chavez, and Nancy Miller enjoyed a pleasant hike. Terri educated the others about many plants as the threesome identified 23 species of birds: Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Whit-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch.

Nancy Miller

Young Birders' Hike

Saturday, October 11

See LCMP *Arrowhead* for details

Birding by Tram

Sandy Ridge

Thursday, October 23, 8:30 a.m.

Reservations: 440-246-2853

Eagle versus Turkey

In a 1784 letter to his daughter, Sally, Benjamin Franklin forcefully stated his often cited opinion of these two birds as national symbols. In his recent biography, *Benjamin Franklin* (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2004), Walter Isaacson quotes part of that letter:

“I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character, he does not get his living honestly; you may have seen him perched on some dead tree, near the river where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labors of the fishing-hawk...The turkey is, in comparison, a much more respectable bird, and a true original native of America...He is (though a little vain and silly, it is true, but not the worse emblem for that) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards.”

Harry Spencer

Fifty Years of Audubon in Lorain County

In 1958 National Audubon granted branch status to the Elyria Audubon Society, which became the Black River Audubon Society in 1970. Two thousand and eight is our fiftieth year!

Some Founders and Long-time Members



Clockwise from top left: Perry Johnson, Founder (Photo courtesy of LCMP); Norma Kraps, Founder (Photo by H. Spencer); Jack Smith, Founder (Photo by H. Spencer); Reita Basterfield, Possible Founder, and Dorothy Hagerling, Long-time Member (Photo by H. Spencer).

Some Recent Field Trips

1996, Unknown photographer





1989, photographer unknown



2006, photo by Larry Morton

Some Migration Hotspots

By **Harry Spencer**

This article is intended to illustrate the value to birders of regular and repeated identifications at some nearby hotspots. The examples use data recorded on eBird (ebird.org), a website jointly sponsored by Cornell University and the National Audubon Society.

Several birders recorded their observations made at five sites, three Lorain County Metro Parks (Sandy Ridge Reservation, Carlisle Reservation, and Black River Reservation), at Lorain Harbor, and on private property, termed Dane Adam's Place. The identifications were made during the 2008 spring migration season of March through June. The birders varied in experience, some highly skilled and others less experienced.

The chart is not intended to represent a bird census. Instead it is a guide to expectations for successful identifications at the various sites.

The expectations for each species at each birding site are rated according to the percentage of checklists listing the species. And to achieve maximum accuracy, birders need to follow a few simple rules listed on the eBird-checklist form. I will not repeat them here.

Occasional questions about the general application of those rules have necessitated some clarifying statements. Two individuals birding the same site independently on the same day should each file a checklist. A group of individuals birding together should file one checklist. An individual birding at a site on two or more successive days should file a checklist for each day.

Probably to no one's surprise, Sandy Ridge Reservation is the premier birding Hot Spot. For me the number of bird identifications that Dane Adams has recorded at his property in Brighton TWP is a most pleasant surprise. Congratulations Dane!

SUMMARY of FIVE SITES: MAR THRU JUN 08

SR = SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION, 44 CHECKLISTS

DA = DANE ADAM'S PLACE, 38 CHECKLISTS

CR = CARLISLE RESERVATION, 87 CHECKLISTS

BR =BLACK RIVER RESERVATION, 44 CHECKLISTS

LH = LORAIN HARBOR, 41 CHECKLISTS

C = COMMONLY IDENTIFIED (25 - 100% OF CHECKLISTS)

O = OCCASIONALLY IDENTIFIED (5 - 24.9% OF CHECKLISTS)

R = RARELY IDENTIFIED (LESS THAN 5% OF CHECKLISTS)

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Canada Goose	C	C	C	C	C
Tundra Swan			R		
Wood Duck	C	C	O	O	
Gadwall	C				R
American Wigeon	O				
American Black Duck	O				
Mallard	C	C	C	C	C
Blue-winged Teal	C		R		
Northern Shoveler	C				O
Northern Pintail	R				
Green-winged Teal	C				
Canvasback			O		O
Redhead	R				R
Ring-necked Duck	C		O		
Greater Scaup			R		
Lesser Scaup	O		O		O
Greater/Lesser Scaup					R
Bufflehead	C	O	O	R	O
Common Goldeneye					R
Hooded Merganser	O	O	O		O
Common Merganser					R
Red-breasted Merganser	R				O
Ruddy Duck	C	O	R	R	O
Ring-necked Pheasant			R		
Wild Turkey		R			
Pied-billed Grebe	O				R
Horned Grebe	O				R

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Double-crested Cormorant	O	R			C
American Bittern		R			
Least Bittern	R				
Great Blue Heron	C	C	O	C	C
Great Egret	C	O			
Snowy Egret	R				
Green Heron	C	O	O	R	R
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	O
Osprey	O	O			
Bald Eagle	C	R	R	O	R
Northern Harrier	O		R	O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R	O	R		
Cooper's Hawk	O	O	R	R	R
Red-shouldered Hawk	R		R	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	R	R			
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	O	C	
Rough-legged Hawk			R		
American Kestrel	R	O	O		
Virginia Rail	O		R		
Sora	C				
American Coot	C		R		O
Sandhill Crane	C				
Semipalmated Plover	O	O			R
Killdeer	C	C	C	O	O
Black-necked Stilt		R			
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C		R	O
Solitary Sandpiper	O	C			R
Greater Yellowlegs	C	C			R
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C			R
Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	O			R
Least Sandpiper	O	C			
Dunlin	O	O			O
Short-billed Dowitcher	O				
Wilson's Snipe	O	R			
American Woodcock	O	O			
Wilson's Phalarope		R			
Red-necked Phalarope		R			
Bonaparte's Gull		R			R

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Ring-billed Gull	C		C	O	C
Herring Gull	R				C
Great Black-backed Gull					R
Caspian Tern	O				
Common Tern		R			
Forster's Tern	R				R
Rock Pigeon	R			R	C
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	O	C
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R	O	R	O	
Black-billed Cuckoo	O	R			
Great Horned Owl	O				
Barred Owl		O			
Common Nighthawk			R		
Chimney Swift	C	C	O	O	O
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	O	O	
Belted Kingfisher	C	O	O	C	R
Red-headed Woodpecker	C		R		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	R
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	R	R		
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	O
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O	R
Pileated Woodpecker		C	R		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	O	O	O	
Acadian Flycatcher	O		O		
Alder Flycatcher	R				
Willow Flycatcher	O		O	O	
Least Flycatcher		C		O	
Eastern Phoebe	O	C	C	C	
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	O	
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	O		C
Northern Shrike	O				
White-eyed Vireo		O	O	O	
Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O	R	R
Blue-headed Vireo	R				
Warbling Vireo	C	R	C	C	O
Philadelphia Vireo		R		R	
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	O	C	

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	C
American Crow	C	C	C	C	C
Purple Martin	O	R			C
Tree Swallow	C	C	C	C	O
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	O	C	O
Bank Swallow	O	O			R
Cliff Swallow	R	O			R
Barn Swallow	C	C	O	R	O
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	O
Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	R
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	
Brown Creeper	O				
Carolina Wren	O	R	O	O	
House Wren	O	C	C	C	O
Winter Wren				R	
Marsh Wren	O		R		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	O				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O	O	R	R	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	O	O	
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C	
Veery	O	R			
Gray-cheeked Thrush		R	R		
Swainson's Thrush	O	O	R	R	
Hermit Thrush	O	O	R	O	
Wood Thrush	C	C	C	O	
American Robin	C	C	C	C	C
Gray Catbird	C	C	C	C	O
Northern Mockingbird		R	R		
Brown Thrasher	R	C	O	O	R
European Starling	C	C	C	C	C
American Pipit		R			
Cedar Waxwing	O	O	O	O	R
Blue-winged Warbler		O	O	R	
Tennessee Warbler	O				
Nashville Warbler	R	O	R		
Northern Parula			R		
Yellow Warbler	C	C	C	C	O
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	R		R	

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Magnolia Warbler	O	O	R	R	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	O	R	O	
Black-throated Green Warbler	O				
Pine Warbler	O				
Prairie Warbler		O			
Palm Warbler	C	O	R	R	
Bay-breasted Warbler	R	R		R	
Blackpoll Warbler	O				
Cerulean Warbler			R		
Black-and-white Warbler	R	R	R		
American Redstart	O	R	R		
Prothonotary Warbler	C				
Ovenbird	O	O		R	
Northern Waterthrush	R		R		
Mourning Warbler	R				
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C	O
Hooded Warbler	O		O		
Wilson's Warbler	O	O			
Canada Warbler	O	R	R	O	
Yellow-breasted Chat		R	R		
Scarlet Tanager	C	O	O	O	
Eastern Towhee	R	C	C	C	R
American Tree Sparrow	O		O	O	R
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	C	O
Field Sparrow	C	C	C	O	
Fox Sparrow	R		R		
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C
Swamp Sparrow	C	O	O		
White-throated Sparrow	O	C	O	O	R
White-crowned Sparrow	R	C	O		O
Dark-eyed Junco	R	O	O	O	O
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	O	
Indigo Bunting	C	C	O	C	R
Bobolink			O		
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C	C
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	R	

SPECIES	SR	DA	CR	BR	LH
Rusty Blackbird		R		R	
Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	C
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C	
Orchard Oriole	O	C	O		
Baltimore Oriole	C	C	C	C	R
Purple Finch			R		
House Finch	O	O	O	C	C
Common Redpoll			O		
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	C
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C