

SYMPOSIUM ON THE GULLS OF LAKE ERIE

A joint project of the Ohio Ornithological Society and the Kirtland Bird Club

Saturday, 8 January 2005

9 a. m. - 5 p. m.

Rocky River Nature Center
24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio

Do gulls too often seem only shades of gray? Where do they come from, and where do they go? How can we identify them in the field, and how can we learn more about them? Why do the rare ones show up, and where can we find them? The Ohio Ornithological Society and the Kirtland Bird Club have invited three well-known experts to spend a day with us answering these questions, including leading a field trip to see the gulls themselves, all at a peak time for rarities and the familiar species alike.

All are invited for an all-day event to celebrate and study the gulls of Lake Erie. We will learn about the ecology of our breeding and visiting gulls as well as the history and field identification of all 19 species on the Ohio list, as well as the most likely new finds in years to come. We will touch on issues in the sometimes-vexed taxonomy of these birds.

Three authorities will make presentations and participate in a panel discussion. Chip Weseloh, a biologist with Environment Canada, author of many scientific papers on gulls as well as the account of the little gull *Larus minutus* for *The Birds of North America* as well as a birding guide to the wintering gulls of Niagara Falls, will speak on the ecology of the breeding and migrant gulls of Lake Erie. Larry Rosche, consultant for the "Large Gulls/Small Gulls of North America" videotapes and respected expert on bird identification and Ohio bird records, will discuss the history, status, and field identification of gulls—from the common to the rarest, and even the only possible---of the Lake Erie shore. John Pogacnik, Natural Areas Specialist for the Lake County Metroparks, with decades of experience as an educator and a field worker with Lakeside birds, and special interests in gulls and photography as well as an impressive record of rare finds, will discuss field techniques for finding and identifying gulls, details on plumage characters for age classes, molts, hybridism, and variability among our gulls. The speakers will participate in a panel discussion after lunch to share views on some interesting questions about the gulls of Lake Erie.

The last part of the symposium will be reserved for a field trip to the day's best gull spot—or perhaps even two spots--on the lakefront, where we will spend the rest of the daylight hours finding, studying, and applying newly-acquired principles with what we trust will be copious numbers and varieties of wintering gulls. Radio links will ensure that any finds of rarities will be shared with all participants, and a number of spotters will assist the leaders in finding birds for everyone.



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Registration

The fee for KBC and OOS members is \$25 (for others \$35), and includes lunch. Reservations are limited to 150, so act quickly. To reserve a spot, send the registration form below along with your check to the Ohio Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Questions? E-mail Bill Whan of the OOS at billwhan@columbus.rr.com, or Mary Anne Romito of the KBC at MaryAnneTomRomito@msn.com.

Please print off and return the registration form below. We strongly encourage *car pooling* for this event: beyond saving fuel and enabling us all to make new friends, having fewer vehicles will mean more time in the field, and a wider variety of locations, as parking will be less of a problem. If you would like to know where to contact others in your area for this purpose, please e-mail Bill at the address above, or call him at (614) 262-3595, or ask on the Ohio-birds list.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) of member(s): _____

Address (please print): _____

Email: _____

Check one or two:

KBC Member _____

OOS Member _____

Non-Member _____

Menu preference (one choice per registrant):

Choices of Wrap Sandwiches:

Turkey/Cheese _____

Roast Beef _____

Veggie _____

Please include an *e-mail address* if any so we can easily confirm your registration and offer maps, advice on what to wear, etc., as well as last-minute announcements.

Check here if you plan to attend the field trip. Carpooling to field site from nature center will be required due to limited parking.

KBS & OOS members: please enclose check for \$25 for each attendee, or \$35 for non-members. **Mail to:** the Ohio Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, OH 43214

Attendance limited to 150 persons; first come, first served

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Sales Items:

A number of items will be offered for sale at the Symposium, nearly all discounted. Offered will be the following books (prices include sales tax):

Peterjohn, *The Birds of Ohio* (\$21);

McCormac, *Birds of Ohio* (\$21);

Rosche, ed., *A Field Book of the Birds of the Cleveland Region* (\$5);

Rosche, ed., *Birds of the Cleveland Region* (if available, \$25);

Dunn et al., "Small Gulls of North America" videotape (\$34)

Dunn et al., "Large Gulls of North America" videotape (\$34)

or both gull videotapes (\$65);

Olsen & Larsson, *Gulls of Europe, Asia, and North America* (brand new from Princeton, (\$52)

A Symposium t-shirt and patches for organizations will be offered, as well as some worthwhile free materials.

Rosche and McCormac will be available for autographs. You may find many items you want, so bring your checkbook or cash. Supplies are limited.

The **Kirtland Bird Club**, over sixty years on the local scene, serves residents of northeastern Ohio with information on the region's bird life, leadership in local ornithological issues, publications, field trips, research opportunities, and fellowship. Web site at <kirtlandbirdclub.org>; mailing address 4310 Bush Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109.

The **Ohio Ornithological Society** is dedicated to the enjoyment and study of our bird life, through publications, web-based communications, field trips, workshops, volunteering, and organizing statewide efforts. The Society seeks to improve knowledge about birds with an eye to preserving them and their habitats, and to promote a sense of community among birders and others who value birds. Web site at <ohiobirds.org>, mailing address P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, OH 43214.

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This announcement will appear on:

The OOS site – www.ohiobirds.org

The KBC site – www.kirtlandbirdclub.org

The Toledo Naturalists' Association site - www.toledonaturalist.org

The Cincinnati birding site – www.cincinnatibirds.com/index.php.