



# The HOUSE WREN

## Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland

6505 Wilson Mills Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44143-3404 Ph: 216 556-5441

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Visit our website at [www.clevelandaudubon.org](http://www.clevelandaudubon.org)

November, 2011

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

#### WHAT BIRDS HAVE TAUGHT ME; and How To Be a Better Birder/Observer

Jen Brumfield

Cleveland Metroparks & Local Patch Birding Tours

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

Rare Book Room

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Birds have captured Jen's soul since age two, when she began to eagerly ingest every field guide to birds she could lay hand on, and spent an insatiable amount of time in the field. Awe, respect and fascination for birds and birding, and the natural world, led Jen to travel widely at a young age, attending birding camps, field institutes, and working for the Smithsonian Institute doing breeding bird surveys. Over the years she has emerged as a nationally recognized birder. In her program she will recount her experiences in birding and relate how that has shaped her life and career. This illustrated talk should prove to be deep, light-hearted, funny, observant, and poetic all wrapped in one.

Jen Brumfield is a Naturalist/Artist for Cleveland Metroparks, nationally recognized bird illustrator, author of multiple natural history field guides, birding tour guide for Tropical Birding and rep with Nikon's Birding Optics Prostaff team. Through her Local Patch Birding Tours Co., she runs dozens of specialized birding tours and field trips throughout Northeast Ohio each year. Jen eagerly combines her passions for extreme birding, field studies, outdoor education and detailed scientific illustration into a truly "wild" career. Her illustration work, specifically featuring birds, can be found in a number of publications, including the ABA's Birding magazine and on many birding organization and conference logos and merchandise (World Series of Birding 2009 & 2010, Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival 2010, The Biggest Week in American Birding 2010 & 2011). Since 2005, she has written and illustrated six field guides to the flora and fauna of Cleveland Metroparks. Beyond birds, you can find more than 100 of her odonate illustrations in the second edition of *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio*. She is currently illustrating a field guide to Eastern warblers for Eagle Optics.

#### FINALLY, A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE WHICH FEATURES BIRDING!

On October 14th the movie "The Big Year" opened nation-wide. The comedy starring Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson centers on birding, specifically the obsession with attaining and holding the record for most bird species sighted in a single year.

A picture of this magnitude is a do not miss event for bird enthusiasts. Hollywood has discovered us and we need to demonstrate that we are a built-in audience or it's back to Star Trek movies.



### *Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Saturday Afternoon Backyard Naturalists*



Saturday November 12, 2011 - 3:00-5:00 PM

#### *"Birds, Buildings, Bridges, Barriers & Baseball"*

Harvey Webster, Wildlife Resources Center,  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

The built human landscape presents unique challenges and opportunities for birds. Windows and lit buildings, wind turbines and communications towers and many other structures kill millions of birds passing through our cities every year. In this illustrated program we will explore the perils and possibilities for birds in the urban environment and how we can ameliorate the negative impacts. In particular we will introduce the **Smart Light/Safe Flight** Ohio program - an initiative to conserve migratory birds and energy in Ohio's urban centers.

Novak Education Center 382 Townline Rd. Aurora,  
[www.clevelandaudubon.org](http://www.clevelandaudubon.org)

### NOVEMBER FIELD OUTING

Led by Jim Tomko

Molnar Sanctuary

Saturday, November 12, 2011 10:00 AM

#### "Hear the Leaves Crunch" Walk

(Meet at the Molnar Audubon Sanctuary parking lot on the west side of Page Road Trail a few hundred yards north of Mennonite Rd. )

Most of the leaves will be on the forest floor and if you loved kicking through fallen leaves as a child, this walk will take you back to that time. Explore this fairly mature Beech/Maple and Oak/Hickory forest with a healthy flock of wild turkeys. Often we view kinglets, brown creepers, and red-breasted nuthatches in various parts of this forest. You will view the largest American Elm that is known to live in the city of Aurora..

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND S 70**

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**ASGC Website:**  
**[www.clevelandaudubon.org](http://www.clevelandaudubon.org)**  
**Audubon Phone: (216) 556-5441**  
**Kirtland Bird Club's Rare Bird Alert: (216) 556-0700**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland is a totally volunteer organization. As such, the amount we can accomplish is dependent on the number of volunteers we have. As we seek to expand our programs and conservation activities, we must look for volunteers. The time commitment can be small or large and you can chose the area that interests you. Right now we are looking for help in several areas:

1. Landscape maintenance around our Education Center in Aurora. This would entail about 3- 4 work sessions per year; Spring clean up mulching, weeding a couple of times during the summer, and winter preparation. We need help tending the wildflower garden at the center.
2. Education Committee; Any former teachers or interested parties in education are needed for planning and hosting educational programs at our Education Center in Aurora. We have two large events per year-The Green Earth Jamboree and International Migratory Bird Day, plus a day event for Latino middleschoolers in a program affiliated with John Carroll University. We also sponsor several lectures at the Education Center from Sept. - June. Volunteering would include helping plan activities, set up and tear down on big event days, phone calls and a couple of committee meetings per year.
3. Membership and volunteer recruitment - We need to get email addresses for our members so we can offer paperless newsletters and event notifications. The more we do electronically, the better it is for the environment.
4. Wetland restoration - We are currently tackling the invasive cattail problem on the Novak Sanctuary and starting to work on establishment of a vernal pool on Novak. Volunteers needed for these two projects.  
 Work is scheduled for good weather and we often provide food and drink.  
 If you are interested, please respond to our new email at [auduboncleveland@hotmail.com](mailto:auduboncleveland@hotmail.com) with your name, contact information, and area in which you would like to volunteer. We will see that you are contacted.

**THE CORNELL LAB RELEASES UNIQUE BIRD FOOTAGE**

In 1956 William Rhein, a Pennsylvania dentist and amateur ornithologist traveled to Mexico's Sierra Madre forest in search of the Imperial Woodpecker. It was not his first attempt to find this rare bird, but this time he was in luck. He found the bird and was able to film it foraging and in flight. The film is 85 seconds long and is in color - itself no common media for 1956.

Why is this important? It is the only known footage of the Imperial Woodpecker which is now presumed to be extinct, as is most of the old growth forest which was its habitat. The Imperial Woodpecker is the closest relative of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, the report of which sent birders flocking to Arkansas a few years ago but, unfortunately, without result.

The film was donated to the Cornell Lab upon Rhein's death in 2006 and has just been released. It can be viewed on the Cornell Lab website at [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org). In the search bar, enter Imperial Woodpecker and that will take you to the page titled "Return to Durango". On the right column is the film and two image-stabilized clips as well as a longer excerpt of the trek through the forest. Fortunately, the quality is remarkably good for 1956. It's almost professional looking.

*A Wry Smile:*



IT'S SO DRY IN TEXAS.....

That the Baptist are starting to baptize by sprinkling,  
 The Methodists are using wet-wipes,  
 Presbyterians are giving rain checks,  
 And the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water!

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.



**DATED MAIL**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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