

# Delaware County Bird Club NEWSLETTER



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## The Great Lakes



**T**he Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's freshwater and are one of North America's most vital natural resources. The entirety of the Great Lakes flow into the Atlantic Ocean via the Saint Lawrence River, which in turn forms the world's largest estuary, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Each lake – technically, there are only four Great Lakes – has its own character, and collectively they support staggering biodiversity. The lakes are incredibly important to birds, and that will be an important facet of this program. We'll look at how the lakes interact and how water moves through them, and distinctive characteristics associated with each, as well as the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Finally, we will zoom in on Lake Erie and Ohio's 262 miles of lakefront. Lake Erie, while the smallest of the  
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(Top) Jim McCormac. (Left) Lake Erie gale. (Above) Kirtland's Warbler.  
(Photos by Jim McCormac).

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# 2025 Nesting Season Highlights: Tree Swallows and Kestrels in Delaware County

By Tim Bischoff

2025 was another successful year for both the tree swallow grid on Panhandle Road and the kestrel boxes in northern Delaware County. At the tree swallow grid, 209 swallows fledged from 311 eggs across 59 boxes. Cold weather in May significantly affected hatching success in the earliest nests. The sign marking the grid was replaced early in the year with the one shown to the right.

If you scan the QR code, you'll be directed to a webpage with more information about the history of the tree swallow grid. Many thanks to Corrina Honscheid, Beth Lenoble, Tanya Perry, Regan Perry, and Sam Bischoff for their help monitoring the boxes.

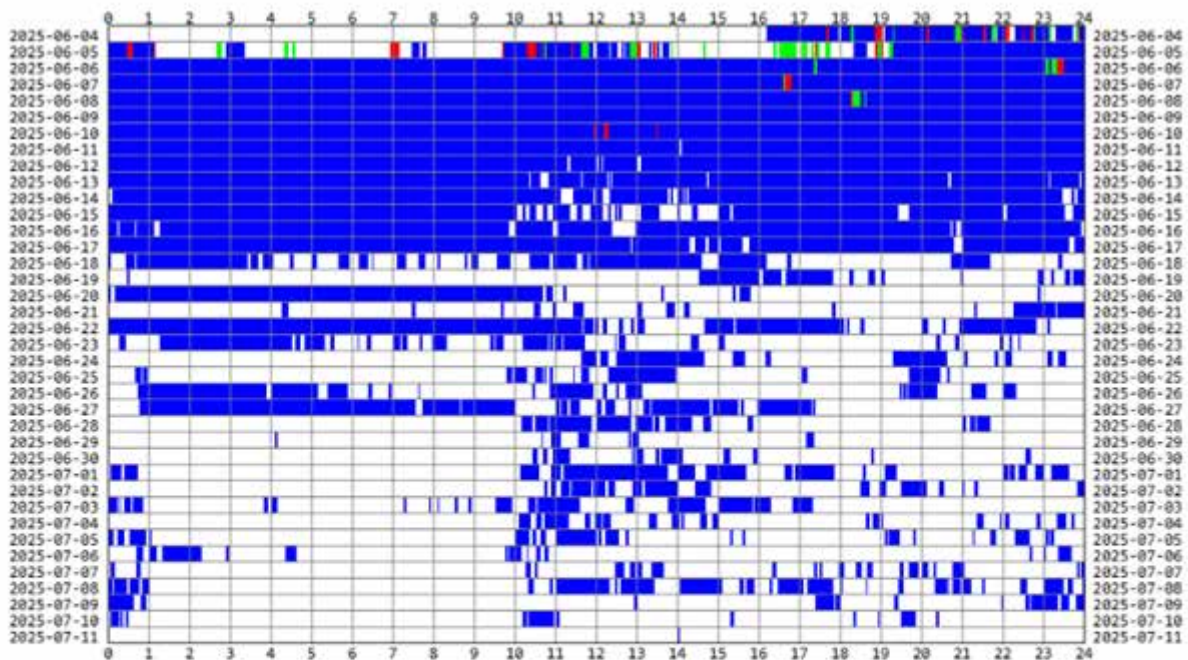
### Wildlife Management for Tree Swallows

Tree swallows migrate to Ohio arriving in March. Eggs are laid in April and May and young fledge in June and July. Tree swallows feed on flying insects including flies, mosquitoes, leaf-hoppers and midges. Each adult tree swallow consumes 2,000 insects a day and feeds 6,000 insects a day to their nestlings.





For more information on this tree swallow grid, scan the QR Code.



## Tag deployments

- Ohio University#221:19.1 M.95281 - American Kestrel (ID# 63379) - [detections of this tag by this receiver](#)
- Ohio University#222:19.1 M.95282 - American Kestrel (ID# 63381) - [detections of this tag by this receiver](#)
- Ohio University#223:19.1 M.95283 - American Kestrel (ID# 63382) - [detections of this tag by this receiver](#)

All but one kestrel box hosted a nest this year, and two boxes supported double broods. Of the 101 eggs laid, 83 young kestrels successfully fledged. As in previous years, these boxes served as a study site for ongoing research into post-fledging movement. Alaina McLaughlin, working with Cheryl Dykstra and Kelly Williams, nanotagged several fledglings and tracked their movements using MOTUS mini-stations installed near the nest boxes. The table below shows that young kestrels remain close to the nest (within one kilometer) for the first two weeks before beginning to move in and out of the area. All time-stamps in the table are in UTC. Alaina is combining visual observations with tag data and examining how the young kestrels are using the landscape for her thesis.

# Can you identify this?



Last month's mystery bird was a fall migrant Magnolia Warbler. This month's mystery was shot at Delaware Wildlife Area in February.  
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lakes by water volume, is by far the most biologically rich of the Great Lakes. This talk features many images of Erie's fascinating flora and fauna, especially birds.

## About Jim McCormac

Jim McCormac worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books, including *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004); and *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage* (Kent State University Press 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. He is a coauthor of the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II* book. His latest book, coauthored with Chelsea Gottfried, is *Gardening for Moths* (Ohio University Press 2023). McCormac writes a column, *Nature*, for the *Columbus Dispatch*, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles in a variety of publications and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen. McCormac is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums. His photography can be sampled at <https://www.jimmccormac.com/>

## DELAWARE COUNTY BIRD CLUB PROGRAMS

The Delaware County Bird Club in-person meetings and program presentations have resumed. They take place on the fourth Monday of each month, September through April, except in November and December when they are held on alternate days to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Meetings are held in the lodge at Deer Haven Park at 4183 Liberty Road, Delaware Ohio, 43015. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., programs begin at 7 p.m., and are followed by reports of local bird sightings and socializing. Meeting dates can also be found on the Preservation Parks of Delaware County calendar at this link: <https://preservationparks.recdesk.com/Community/Calendar>