Delaware County Bird Club
NEWSLETTER

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'A week in the Galápagos Islands'





(Above) Rich at Volcan Sierra Negra, Isabela Island. (Below) Blue-footed Booby.

Rich Bradley will provide an illustrated talk about Amy and Rich's trip to the Galápagos Islands last fall. The program will highlight the diverse wildlife of the six islands that were visited; with a focus on the amazing birds there. This trip was a busy week with snorkeling, hiking, and "panga" (dinghy) trips. We saw a nice variety of seabirds, coastal waterbirds, as well as several species of the famous Galápagos (aka Darwin's) Finches.

Short Bio of Richard Bradley

Richard Bradley grew up with a fascination for studying nature, primarily animals, in Southern California. His first and most enduring interest is birds. He has been birding since 1963, and bird banding since 1968. His early scientific publications were all related to birds. He earned his master's degree in biology at California State University, Long Beach studying song dialects in the Belding's Savanna Sparrow. He earned his Ph.D. in Biology at the University

Continued on Page 3

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

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Irwin Nature Preserve's Proud New Parents



Jackie Riley, a volunteer naturalist and butterfly monitor at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, captured a very happy event: The preserve's newest sandhill crane family.

Reprinted from the Ohio Division of Wildlife

The morning of May 4 was a sad one for Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' staff and volunteers at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve as they watched a pair of sandhill cranes mourn their failed nest. The cool, wet spring may have been the cause.

"It was heartbreaking as they paced acres of sedge meadow, glued at the hip, quietly cooing to one another ending with a very brief courtship dance before flying away from their nest in unison," said Northwest Ohio Preserve Manager Maureen Bogdanski. "I've read that their exchange of dancing isn't just for courtship but can strengthen their bond and be shared as a way to lift each other up."

Sandhill cranes have been nesting at Irwin Prairie in Lucas County for a handful of years, an exciting development since these regal birds were once extirpated from Ohio.

They returned to Wayne County in 1987 to breed and have slowly been expanding since. An increase in the sandhill crane population is an indicator of improving habitat conditions and water quality. However, they are still listed as a threatened species in Ohio.

ODNR's Division of Wildlife, in partnership with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and the International Crane Foundation, has been monitoring the growing population with an annual sandhill crane count in pre-selected counties during the crane's nesting season. The three-year average (2023-2025) is 405 cranes.

At Irwin Prairie, they weren't expecting their couple to try again but in the last week of May, one of the prairie's daily visitors, Norman Young, noticed some nest building just a few hundred feet away from where the failed nest had been. Just 32 days later, two colts hatched, bringing much celebration from staff and regular visitors like Norm.

"It's crazy how attached we get to these places and their inhabitants," Maureen said.

"It's almost as though they are part of an extended family. I will never tire of these types of awe-inspiring experiences we are so lucky to experience. Having per-

Continued on Page 3

Can you identify this?



This photo was taken at Delaware Wildlife Area on 17 June 2026.

Continued from Page 2

sonally observed the story of this pair of sandhill cranes is the greatest reward for the hard work we do to protect their habitat. If we did not keep this sedge meadow free of invasives like glossy buckthorn, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and phragmites, this might not have been a suitable nesting site for such dedicated parents."

Learn more about the rare habitat and species harbored at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, located in northwest Ohio's Oak Openings Region.

Continued from Page 1

earned his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of New Mexico studying the population biology of scorpions. He has been an active researcher and teacher since 1972; publishing on the behavior and ecology of birds, scorpions, and spiders. He is a broadly trained naturalist with field research experience throughout North America, Central America, South America, and Australia. In 2013 he published the first color-illustrated guide to the spiders of North America. He has a lifelong commitment to outdoor education and sharing his interests with students of all ages. Dr. Bradley is Associate Professor Emeritus at the Ohio State University, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology.

Christmas Bird Count early notice

A "heads up" for those who participate in the Christmas Bird Count. Our count (OHDR) is set for Sunday 20 December 2026. The date for out count is the first Sunday of the count period (December 14 to January 5). Since the 14th is a Monday this year, the first Sunday is the 20th. The CBC pre-count bird club meeting will be on the evening of Monday the 14th.