KBC Meeting – Wed, Jan 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM – on Zoom Attendance: \_\_\_ screens \_\_ people

1 - Christi Carlson, KBC Vice President, welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2 – Announcements

* Unusual or exciting sightings included Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned Warblers at Euclid Beach and Short-eared Owls in Geauga County and at Hopkins Airport, all seen by multiple club members at various times.
* Field Trip Reports – none in December due to Christmas Bird Count
* Christmas Bird Count – Laura Gooch presented highlights of the CBC, including the following:
  + 80 participants - 20 party leaders
  + 67 species – 12,148 individual birds
  + Four species with record high counts: Bald Eagle, Double-crested Cormorant, Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren
  + Several other species with unusually high counts
  + Laura presented slides showing counts over the years. A question about causes of high counts seen in the past, particularly a high count of European Starlings, was fielded by Dwight Chasar, who speculated that mega-flocks of European Starlings are few, but when they are seen, they skew the count.
* Next KBC Field Trip: Sat, Jan 6th – Back Roads of Geauga County, leader: Matt Valencic – interested individuals were advised to register via info@kirtlandbirdclub.org.
* Next KBC Speaker Program: Wed, Feb 7th - “Movement Ecology of Henslow’s Sparrows”, presenter: Gabriella Lindsey, past recipient of a KBC OAPI grant, will speak about her research
* Volunteer Opportunities were announced:
  + Marketing & Publicity
  + Membership
  + Newsletter – one visitor volunteered, Patty will follow up with him
  + Field Trip Leader
  + Tech GURU
  + Habitat/Conservation Advocacy
  + Other organizations: Lights Out, Metroparks, Watershed Conservancies

3 – Speaker: Patty Kellner, KBC President, on “Birding Basics”

* The program was well-received. Lots of questions were answered in the Chat. A video recording will be posted to the KBC website and the link shared with those who request it.

4 – Business Meeting:

* Secretary’s Report: none (Secretary was absent)
* Membership update: Lots of new members, many members from the past have not yet paid their dues, notices will be mailed out.
* Treasurer’s quarterly report: none
* Old business: none
* New business: none
* Meeting adjourned at about 9:00 PM