

**April 2020 Program  
Tuesday April 7, 2020  
Carlisle Visitor Center  
Chasing Cranes in China**



**Diana Steele (far right) and her family**

When my family and I were invited to China to attend a New Year’s Eve wedding, we jumped at the opportunity. Instead of visiting all the usual tourist hotspots, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, etc., I asked my husband and two children if they would be up for a birding-focused trip after the wedding. “It would take us outdoors, and to places we would never visit otherwise,” I pointed out. To my surprise delight, they agreed!

This is the story of our travels to unusual places on a faraway continent, and how we managed how to bird there. We encountered only one English-speaking tourist during our entire trip, but discovered many delightful and unusual birds, including three species of Cranes.

I am a science writer and birder, volunteering as a board member of the Ohio Ornithological Society and organizing the OOS’s May “Warblers and Wildflowers” weekend at Shawnee State Park. I monitor a network of Eastern bluebird nestboxes as well as three American kestrel nestboxes for Black River Audubon. With my trip to China, I have birded on six continents. Africa is on my bucket list!

My daughter, EJ—who at 11 years of age has already birded on three continents—will co-present with me.