



GREATER AKRON

# AUDUBON *Matters*

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## **Witt's End**

### *Welcome Back!*

Welcome back to the beginning of another Audubon year. At least I think it's the beginning. Fall is always a bit confusing for me, and even more so this year because Susan and I spent three weeks in New Zealand in the depths of Winter. Make that our Summer, their Winter. So just about the time we got used to thinking Spring was just around the corner, we returned to the tail end of a major heat wave and everyone saying how pleased they'll be when it cools down in a few weeks.

But Fall is confusing to me because we tend to think of it as the end of something rather than the beginning. Is it the end of warbler migration? The new birds are heading south for the first time, along with the year's crop of shorebirds, so it's the start of things for them. The plumage of the adult birds has changed. They're all business now as they head to warmer climes to begin the major part of their lives.

And although the leaves may soon be changing, ending the cycle of renewal and growth for the tree, we're just beginning the cycle of another year of exciting programs and activities for Greater Akron Audubon Society.

So maybe I should just look at this whole business of beginning and ending from a different perspective. It is a cycle – or circle. There is no beginning or ending. It's just a matter of where you happen to be on the mandala.

### ***September Meeting***

This Summer the executive committee has been at work lining up another set of programs sure to interest you. Not that everyone will like every program, but the challenge has been to find a diverse lot of events so that you can learn as well as be entertained.

We kick the season off September 25th with one of our perennial regulars, Fran Kitchen from Operation Orphan. If you've attended our meetings over the past few years you've probably seen Fran's great program and menagerie of critters that people bring to her shelter. No

matter how many times we see Fran's program, it's always different. She will of course have a few of her friends along, and many new tales to tell, so bring the kids. This program always draws a large audience so we recommend you arrive early for the best seats.

All of our programs, except the Christmas bird count in December, and the Spring picnic meeting in June, are held at the Naturealm on Smith Road in west Akron. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the program begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. We offer light refreshments and urge you to bring your own cup. It saves money, cleanup and it's the environmentally correct thing to do.

### ***Programs a plenty***

Although the line-up is not complete, we can give you a few hints of some of the upcoming events. This year you'll see programs on birds close to home and birds from far away places like Ecuador and New Zealand. We'll have programs on critters that crawl and critters that climb. And hopefully we'll have solid dates on all these programs for you at the September meeting.

## **Gypsy Moth Still a Problem**

Government officials have decided to add more restrictions and locations in the battle to stop or slow the spread of the gypsy moth. A recent report says they are amending the gypsy moth regulations by adding counties in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin to the list of generally infested areas. As a result of this action, the interstate movement of certain articles from those areas will be restricted. This action is necessary to prevent the artificial spread of the gypsy moth to non-infested States.

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus), is a destructive pest of forest and shade trees. Surveys conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the States, detected multiple life

stages of the gypsy moth in 22 additional areas in 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin). Based on these surveys, the government determined that reproducing populations exist at significant levels in these areas.

Eradication of these populations is not considered feasible because these areas are immediately adjacent to areas currently recognized as generally infested and are, therefore, subject to reinfestation. Therefore, in accordance with the regulations, the feds are designating Fairfield, Huron, Knox, Morgan, Perry, Richland, and Washington Counties, OH; as generally infested areas, and are adding them to the list of generally infested areas.

### **Bath Road Heron Rookery**

*Recently, we received an e-mail to our Web site from Cindy Murphy. Here's what she had to say:*

Subject: Bath Road herons

I have driven by the Bath Road heron nests for many years. I have often thought that it would be nice to design a Web site where people could publish their photographs and anecdotes about the Bath Road herons.

I recently published <[www.bathroadherons.com](http://www.bathroadherons.com)>. Please encourage your members to send their photographs, anecdotes, comments and suggestions to [bathroadherons@yahoo.com](mailto:bathroadherons@yahoo.com)

Sincerely,

Cindy Murphy, [bathroadherons@yahoo.com](mailto:bathroadherons@yahoo.com)

### **Common Sense Becoming More Common**

*Cleveland, Ohio* - The next time you venture into the wonders of a state park in Ohio and someone gets hurt, you may be up a creek in a courtroom. Four years ago, a group of 14 Ohioans were exploring the picturesque Buck Creek State Park near Springfield. Before leaving, they wanted a group photo. As they crowded onto the steel catwalk, which crosses a body of water for a picture, the structure collapsed and they all fell into the water. Two years later, they sued Buck Creek State Park because of their injuries based on the fact the state built the structure and maintained it.

According to the July 16th edition of *Ohio Lawyers Weekly*, because of a 2-1 decision by the Ohio 10th District Court of Appeals which threw out the injured residents' lawsuit, the accident serves as a warning to all park goers that they are on their own, despite being injured by a structure that was maintained by the state.

"The court's message is clear. Nature lovers are on their own in most state parks. Unlike privately owned and operated recreational facilities, which usually charge a fee, the state was immune from liability in this case because the park was free to get in. What made this case unusual, the campers who were injured paid a fee to rent

cabins. They argued the state should be held accountable, but the court found differently," said Attorney David Benson, Publisher of *Ohio Lawyers Weekly*.

### **Victory For Sound Science**

*Seattle, Washington* - In what the National Audubon Society hailed as a victory for sound science, a Federal Judge here issued an 18-page order requiring the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before any more government funds are spent on hazing Caspian Terns or cormorants, or destroying their habitat in the Columbia River estuary on the Oregon-Washington border.

In her order, Judge Rothstein also found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service erred in granting a permit under the MBTA for taking (killing) birds without an EIS. Conservationists' pleas to federal and state officials for such an EIS over the last 3 years were ignored. Noting that there was no sound science to link Terns to salmon declines or to impeding salmon recovery of listed species, conservationists emphasized the need to concentrate on the four H'S that have led to salmon declines and impede recovery: Hydro, Habitat, Hatcheries, and Harvest.

"This is a significant victory for sound science, birds, and salmon," said John Flicker, Audubon president and CEO. "We were disappointed that we ultimately needed to sue the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers, but the end result is what the law required. No action can be taken until we understand how birds and salmon interact and how they will be effected by the Corps's proposed action."

### **Summer Bird Count**

Here are the results of the Summer bird census held in mid-June. A BIG thanks goes out to Ann and Dwight Chaser and Dave Vogus for all their efforts in making this project a reality. And an equally BIG thanks goes out to the who braved mosquitoes, sunshine, occasional rain drops and other hazards to gather the data.

The 24th GAAS summer bird census was held from June 15-24th, 2001. Average daily temperatures were between 64 and 79 degrees; little rain fell during the period, except for June 21st.

The results will posted be on the GAAS web site. They are also sent to *The Cleveland Bird Calendar* and *The Ohio Cardinal*. A poster on the cumulative census results was displayed at the first Ohio Avian Conference in Columbus in August. Eventually the raw data will be archived at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. A lot of hours have been spent on this census in the 24 years it has occurred. Some of you have been counting for 20+ years! It is the only census of its kind in Ohio and you can take a lot of pride in that. — *Ann Chaser*

## GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SUMMIT COUNTY SUMMER BIRD COUNT 2001

The 24th GAAS summer bird census was held from June 15-24th, 2001. Average daily temperatures were between 64 and 79 degrees; little rain fell during the period, except for June 21st (.73"). Eastern Bluebirds, all five woodpecker species, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches and Tree Swallows were found in higher numbers than usual. The census was conducted several days later in June than in past years, so this may reflect fledging of cavity nesters or increased habitat/ food/ visibility due to the number of dying trees in the aftermath of the gypsy moth invasion of the past several years. Cuckoo numbers dropped, possibly reflecting this decrease in gypsy moths. The Bath Township Nature Preserve produced the second record for Henslow's Sparrow, and newly created grassland on the 90 acres of the old coliseum property explains the increase in Savannah Sparrows (second highest total) and the huge spike in Grasshopper Sparrows. Turkeys and Green Herons were at an all time high. No Great Horned Owls were found during the count period but Barred Owls were found in high numbers! An American Bittern (first on a count since 1989), two pine warblers (second record), red-breasted nuthatches and some unusual ducks were nice finds. The ODNR re-introduction programs produced Osprey and Peregrine Falcon nests (one each noted).

3	Pied-billed Grebe	63	Hairy Woodpecker	219	Red-eyed Vireo
3	Double-crested Cormorant	115	Northern Flicker	44	Blue-winged Warbler
1	American Bittern	35	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Parula Warbler
290	Great Blue Heron	106	Eastern Wood Pewee	292	Yellow Warbler
58	Green Heron	74	Acadian Flycatcher	7	Chestnut-sided Warbler
6	Mute Swan	7	Alder Flycatcher	10	Black-thr. Green Warbler
1166	Canada Goose	71	Willow Flycatcher	4	Yellow-throated Warbler
132	Wood Duck	5	Least Flycatcher	2	Pine Warbler
484	Mallard	91	Eastern Phoebe	1	Prothonotary Warbler
2	Blue-winged Teal	81	Great Crested Flycatcher	18	Cerulean Warbler
3	Ring-necked Duck	69	Eastern Kingbird	1	Black & White Warbler
1 adult, 3 yng	Hooded Merganser	7	Horned Lark	23	American Redstart
117	Turkey Vulture	12	Purple Martin	43	Ovenbird
2	Northern Harrier	255	Tree Swallow	5	Louisiana Waterthrush
3	Osprey	124	N. Rough-winged Sw.	235	Common Yellowthroat
15	Cooper's Hawk	343	Bank Swallow	96	Hooded Warbler
9	Red-shouldered Hawk	236	Barn Swallow	8	Yellow-breasted Chat
4	Broad-winged Hawk	606	Blue Jay	106	Scarlet Tanager
83	Red-tailed Hawk	624	American Crow	808	Northern Cardinal
7	American Kestrel	525	Black-capped Chickadee	136	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
2 adult, 4 yng	Peregrine Falcon	357	Tufted Titmouse	213	Indigo Bunting
1	Ring-necked Pheasant	162	White-breasted Nuthatch	143	Eastern Towhee
44	Wild Turkey	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	280	Chipping Sparrow
2	Virginia Rail	3	Brown Creeper	145	Field Sparrow
1	Sora	254	House Wren	37	Savannah Sparrow
184	Killdeer	1	Winter Wren	97	Grasshopper Sparrow
12	Spotted Sandpiper	9	Marsh Wren	1	Henslow's Sparrow
2	American Woodcock	53	Carolina Wren	662	Song Sparrow
88	Ring-billed Gull	72	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	44	Swamp Sparrow
2	Herring Gull	116	Eastern Bluebird	1	Dark-eyed Junco
215	Rock Dove	45	Veery	78	Bobolink
2262	Mourning Dove	1	Hermit Thrush	1220	Red-winged Blackbird
2	Black-billed Cuckoo	122	Wood Thrush	32	Eastern Meadowlark
16	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1908	American Robin	1144	Common Grackle
4	Eastern Screech Owl	650	Gray Catbird	392	Brown-headed Cowbird
15	Barred Owl	19	Brown Thrasher	16	Orchard Oriole
10	Common Nighthawk	445	Cedar Waxwing	227	Baltimore Oriole
356	Chimney Swift	1635	European Starling	10	Purple Finch
58	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	8	White-eyed Vireo	357	House Finch
37	Belted Kingfisher	5	Blue-headed Vireo	939	American Goldfinch
1	Red-headed Woodpecker	26	Yellow-throated Vireo	1028	House Sparrow
175	Red-bellied Woodpecker	91	Warbling Vireo		
244	Downy Woodpecker				
				Total Species	127
				Total Birds	"23,114"
				Party Hours	321 (48 participants)

Many Thanks to the following dedicated volunteers:

Virginia Baumgardner, Dave Brumfield, Garnet Byrne, Robert Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Wayne Crouse, Geoge & Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach, Lois Eckart, Paul Ellsworth, Christa Glatter, Anne & Marty Gulbransen, Judy (Tisdale) Hurley, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Nancy Ibsen, Susan Jones, Winnie Kennedy, James Knisely, Gene & Linda Kovach, Carolyn Kurtz, Karl Liske, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Joyce & Wolfgang Pelz, Alice Phillips, Ed Pierce, Rebecca Porath, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Larry Rosche, Ronda Russell, George & Linda Sangrik, John Shaffer, Bert Szabo, Doug Vogus, Jan Wertz, Clyde Witt.

Sincerely, Doug Vogus and Ann Chasar, Count Organizers