



GREATER AKRON

AUDUBON *Matters*

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Witt's End

A Bad Day At Hawk Mountain

Even a bad day of birding on Hawk Mountain is better than just about anyplace else if it's raptors you're seeking. In mid-September, Susan and I dashed over to Hawk Mountain in hopes of catching the bulk of the broad-winged hawk migration. We had been keeping one eye on the weather, one eye on the calendar, one eye on reports emanating from the Hawk Mountain Web site, one eye on the boss's vacation schedule and one eye on our own work schedules. The big day (more than 7,000 one glorious day in '98 that people still talk about), when typically more than a thousand broad-wings drift through, hadn't yet happened. Everything was in place, except for maybe the requisite cold front and northerly winds.

Sleepy-eyed but alert after the 350-mile trip, we made the early morning climb to North Lookout, anticipating that first spectacular view of miles of rolling hills along the northeast edge of Blue Mountain. Oops. Fog had rolled in and the view was barely a couple miles. Time for more coffee.

Well, we knew it would burn off as soon as the sun got up and the wind started. Hmm. The sun did get up but the winds failed us. We baked in the sun, along with a couple hundred others. All the choice rocks were taken early, but even birders as intrepid as we were quick to relinquish our flat stones in favor of something, anything, in the shade.

All was not lost. We had a spectacular look at one northern goshawk that was worth the trip. The bird slowly drifted past the lookout, so close you hardly needed binoculars. It seemed to be checking the humans as we oooed and aaaahhed and official spotters called out field marks on this rare visitor.

A group of eight merlins trundled through, dashing, darting and generally mixing it up with some American kestrels and sharp-shinned hawks. Great show! Toss in a couple of northern harriers, a few black vultures, some common ravens, a couple dozen osprey, a common

nighthawk and more broad-winged hawks in a single sitting than I've seen in my entire life ... We'd hardly say it was a bad day. The spectacular bulk of the broad-wings didn't show for us on Sunday either. Who cares. It's the kind of thing that guarantees we'll be back next year.

— Clyde Witt

October's Program

Jeff Wenstrup from NEOCOM will present "Listening in the dark — Bats and Sonar." Jeff is an Associate Professor of Neurobiology at NEOCOM. This promises to be another great, informative program. For those of you who missed the outstanding presentation by Fran Kitchen in September, here's some trivia: The opossum has 50 teeth, more than any other mammal in North America. Fran gets more than 100 bunnies a year at her shelter! Leave the bunnies alone. The little ones leave the nest after only 12 days — ready to go. When a groundhog hibernates, its body temperature drops 60 degrees! Its heartbeat slows from about 120 per minute to as slow as five beats per minute.

With the holiday season just around the corner, you're going to need trivia like this to get you through all the parties. We suggest you come to the October 24th meeting to learn more about bats than you'll probably ever need to know. Our meetings are free and open to the public. We meet the fourth Tuesday at Seiberling Naturealm. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m..

If you're wondering about November's program, well, so are we! At press time we had not confirmed the folks we were hoping for. Hey getting a bat program in October was tough, but trying to book a turkey program in November has proven to be even tougher. Just ask Bill Tucker.

Come to the meeting on October 24th and we might have the answer. Come to the meeting on November 27 and be surprised with the rest of us!

Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale

Here we go Again! Time to help the birds and give yourself some enjoyment. The Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale will be held November 3 at Copley Feed and Supply. As usual, you must pre-order your seed – and time to do so is limited. Orders must be received by October 26.

Member Joyce Pelz has again volunteered to handle the bookwork so mail the attached order form to: Greater Akron Audubon Society, c/o JoyWolf Enterprises, P.O. Box 26278, Akron, OH 44319-6278. This year we have limited the pick-up hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please be prompt picking up your orders. Any order not picked-up will be donated to the Seiberling Naturealm.

Help Stop Junk Mail

One would think with the proliferation of computers, e-mail, even cellular phones, the level of junk mail in the mailbox would lessen. Not so. Here's some advice from Liz Woedl, NAS Board, Great Lakes Region. This Web site contains several very effective actions that will cause a drastic, and much welcomed, reduction in the amount of junk mail you receive. Give it a try. <http://pcnjwaste.com/junk.htm>.

The average American household gets more than 500 pieces of advertising mail each year. While shopping by mail can be a savings in time, travel and money, much of what we receive is never even looked at. This type of mail is unwanted, or "junk" mail. Recycling junk mail is a good start, but reducing the amount of junk mail you receive is an even better idea. Every time you enter a contest, make a donation or a purchase, order a product by mail, subscribe to a magazine or send in a warranty card, your name and address may be placed on a mailing list. The list may be rented, sold or traded.

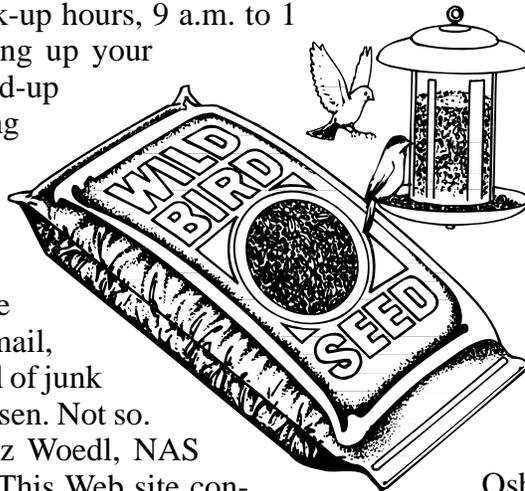
Tip No. 1 - To limit your mail to those items you look forward to receiving, write "DO NOT RENT OR SELL MY NAME" or "NO MAILING LISTS" next to your name when you correspond back.

Tip No. 2 - Contact companies directly, in order to stop receiving mail from specific sources. Call the customer service number of the organization or business in question. Many companies have free 800 numbers. Request that your name be removed

from their mailing list. If there is no convenient phone number, send in a written request that is signed and dated.

Tip No 3 - To remove your name from many national mailing lists, write to the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service. This free service is good for up to five years. It works only for national mail, not local mail, and only for residential addresses, not businesses. Send your name and address (in every variation shown on the junk mail you receive) to:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

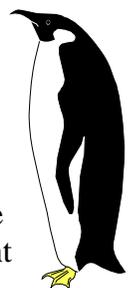


Christmas Is Coming!

Yes, the Annual Audubon Christmas Count is slated for Sunday, December 16th. This will be the Greater Akron chapter's 63rd year of participation. The compilers for the event will be Marie Morgan, Bill Osborne and Bert Szabo. Come to the October and November chapter meetings to sign up for this great event. Plans for the chili dinner following the count are still in the works so stay tuned.

Last year's Christmas count started out at a rather balmy of 47 degrees — then went down hill. By the end of the day the temperature was 17 degrees with winds gusting to 37 mph and blowing snow. The wind chill factor was -24 in the afternoon. The birds were hunkered down against the blustery weather and birders were just hunkered down. The total of 18,638 for the count was down considerably compared with the previous year's 25,540. The total species number was down to 74 from 82 the year before.

Forty-four parties spent a total of 188.25 hours counting birds in the field. The 44 parties spent 103.75 hours on foot and walked 111.5 miles. Owlery spent 8.75 hours and covered 49.25 miles. Forty-eight counters spent 40.5 hours counting birds at feeders. That's what it was like a year ago. For this year's event your guess is as good as anyone else – maybe better. If you're a beginner don't worry. Marie, Bill and Bert will team you with experienced birders. If you can only count part of the day we still need you. And if your home falls within the 15-mile radius of our count circle, you might qualify as a feeder counter.





Wild Bird Seed Sale

It's time for our annual wild bird seed sale. You can start ordering right now. This is your chance to make life a bit easier for the birds, add some color to our drab northeast Ohio winter landscape and support a critical Audubon education program. There are **no** costs of administration for the seed sale and all proceeds of this sale will benefit the GAAS. The seed sale is the chapter's only fund-raiser. Money generated from this effort goes directly to our support of the Audubon Adventures education program.

To buy seed, there are two easy steps:

- (1) Order:** Using the form below, send your order (with payment) by October 26.
- (2) Pickup:** Saturday, November 3, from 9 AM to 1 PM, at Copley Feed & Supply Company, 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road. (southwest side of Copley circle)
[Seed not picked up is donated to the Seiberling Naturealm]



This form can also be downloaded in PDF format and printed out at:
<http://www.cppnet.com/gaas/birdseedform.pdf>

Order Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Bag Size</u>	<u>Price/Bag</u>	<u>No. of Bags</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Niger (thistle)	10 pounds	\$ 9.50 x	_____ =	_____
Oil Sunflower	50 pounds	\$12.00 x	_____ =	_____
Oliger Wild Bird Mix	20 pounds	\$ 6.00 x	_____ =	_____
	50 pounds	\$11.50 x	_____ =	_____
Bird Banquet	35 pounds	\$12.00 x	_____ =	_____
			Total:	\$ _____

***Tax is included in the prices**

Make your check payable to "Greater Akron Audubon Society".

Send the completed form with payment to the address below. By cutting up this form and using your own stamp and envelope, you'll save the chapter nearly \$400.

JoyWolf Enterprises
PO Box 26278
Akron, OH 44319-6278