



GREATER AKRON

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Witt's End

Think Spring

What better time to think spring than in the depths of winter – such as it has been. I was looking through the *Old Farmer's Almanac* and spotted a great article on what to plant to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. There is a list of 24 flowers known to attract hummingbirds and 43 that will attract butterflies. A lot of them do double duty.

It seems that the choices range from allium to zinnia and everything in between. So what happens if, like me, you are flower challenged? I have to admit, I don't know an allium from a zinnia. To the rescue comes Lone Pine Publishing. It recently sent me a couple of books for review, *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*, and *Perennials for Ohio*. This is the same company that published Jim McCormac's great book, *Birds of Ohio*.

Don't dismiss the first book based on its rather lengthy and pinpointed geographical title. The 496-page volume covers 16 states, including much of Ohio. More than 1,200 species in 90 families are covered in 800 color photographs. The best part, for folks like me, is the color key for finding a species by flower color. This type of quick-finding helper is great for beginning birders and invaluable for a flower book.

The book also includes information on history, medicine, Native American traditions, folklore and name origins. This is a great book to have even before the flowers bloom. It took the authors 14 years to compile the information in this book so at \$22.95 it's a steal.

The second book, on our state's perennials, is more tightly focused. Grouped into 89 entries, these species, varieties, hybrids and cultivars range from the easiest to grow to challenging flowers that will expand your gardening triumphs. The book is loaded with personal comments, common sense and garden wisdom. The flowers-at-a-glance section in the front of the book is better than any written index, ever. More than 500 color photographs make this a great read even if you're not a gardener. Check these titles and many others at www.lonepinepublishing.com.

— By Clyde Witt, editor

Programs

The chapter holds meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December when we do the Christmas Count. June is our annual picnic so the meeting place is not always the same. There are no meetings in July and August. Meetings are held at the Mingo Shelter in Sand Run MetroPark in the Merriman Valley. The entrance is off Sand Run Parkway, east of the ford and east of the Shady Hollow Pavilion (our previous meeting site.) Check MetroParks Maps at www.summitmetroparks.org for a map of Sand Run Park. The doors open at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:00. We usually start with a short business session before the main program. Meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to bring a friend. Plan to stay after the meeting to enjoy refreshments served by our stellar hospitality committee.

March

The Bald Eagle. Learn more about this fabulous species – Their Past, Present & Future. Tom Henry, wildlife biologist who has been employed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife for 27 years, will review the history of the bald eagle in Ohio from an all time low population of four nesting pairs to last year's record number of nests. See how wildlife professionals have teamed up with a dedicated corps of volunteers to manage this magnificent bird of prey. Hard hats not necessary.

Tom also coordinates the Division's bald eagle and barn owl management and the Peregrine Falcon and Osprey Reintroduction programs across northeast Ohio.

April

Black Bears in Ohio, Something's a Bruin.

Our speaker is Damon M. Greer, assistant wildlife management supervisor, Human Wildlife Conflict and Urban Wildlife Section, ODNR Division of Wildlife. This presentation will cover the history, biology and ecology of black bears in Ohio. It will also cover the Division of Wildlife's efforts to track or monitor the activities of black bears as they re-colonize Ohio. The program will include information on how to live with and avoid conflicts with black bears as they become more numerous across the state.

May

Dan Pettit, manager of natural resources, passerine expert and research leader for the Cleveland MetroParks will discuss new research and findings on birds of this area.

June

The chapter's annual picnic will be held June 27. Place, time, speaker and a few other details are yet to be decided. Stay tuned.

Reminder: Great Backyard Bird Count

Put a note in your calendar for the following dates: February 17-20. That's a weekend not just for watching birds, but for teaching new people about watching birds as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Take a look at past year's results at www.birdsource.org/gbbc, and get your digital camera ready to share your birds through the online gallery. Participants submit their observations online and can see where their results fit in immediately through maps, charts and tables. There's no fee to take part, and no registration, just the joy of birds and the buzz of seeing your results on the computer. Your challenge is working out what you can do with the GBBC to help you be more successful! For more details, contact Paul Green at pgreen@audubon.org.

President Bush Drilling for Oil in Loopholes

Ignoring vocal opposition from Alaska Natives, scientists and sportsmen, the Bush Administration on January 13 opened for leasing 100 percent of the internationally significant Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in the Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR). The decision eliminates long-established wildlife and environmental protections put in place by Reagan Administration Interior Secretary James Watt.

The Teshekpuk Lake area was targeted for drilling by the industry-dominated Energy Task Force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney in 2001. The 4.6 million-acre area of the NPR is immediately west of the massive Prudhoe Bay oil field. Located in far northern Alaska bordering the Beaufort Sea, it provides vital habitat for migratory waterfowl, caribou and other wildlife. It is an important subsistence hunting and fishing area. Congress last month decisively rejected a proposal to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 110 miles further to the east.

The Teshekpuk Lake Special Area encompasses one of the more important wetland complexes in the circumpolar Arctic. The 45,000-head Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd

bears its calves and seeks relief from insects near Teshekpuk Lake. It is a key summer molting or nesting location for many of North America's migratory ducks, geese, swans, loons and other birds. It is heavily used by Alaska Natives for subsistence fishing and hunting, especially caribou hunts. Brant and other waterfowl that migrate here are harvested for both subsistence and sport in Alaska and in many of the Lower 48 states.

"This plan is utterly unbalanced: even the Reagan Administration protected the waterfowl habitat around Teshekpuk Lake because of its world-class ecological and cultural value," said Stan Senner, executive director, Audubon Alaska. "No one should be fooled by the window dressing in this document: this plan makes every last acre available for oil development. The administration has decided that there isn't one acre of this magnificent region that should be protected."

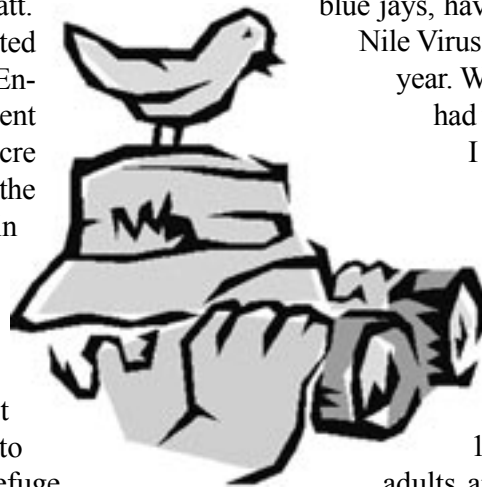
In 1998 then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt established an oil and gas leasing plan for the Northeast Planning Area of the Reserve, which kept much of the sensitive habitat around Teshekpuk Lake off-limits to leasing or permanent infrastructure. But in 2003, the Bush administration announced its effort to discard the 1998 plan. In June 2004, the BLM released a draft proposal to open 96 percent of the Reserve's Northeast Planning Area to leasing. The BLM's draft plan drew extraordinary opposition from the public. Amazingly, the revised final plan goes even further by opening 100 percent of the Northeast Reserve to leasing.

Christmas Bird Count Results

According to the compilers, Marie Morgan, Bert Szabo and Bill Osborne, there was increased numbers of individual species this year. Marie says, "It seems to be that the crows, chickadees, tufted titmice, white-breasted nuthatches, and blue jays, have made a great recovery from the West Nile Virus. Owls are also on the increase since last year. We had no Barred Owls last year. We also had the highest number of bluebirds ever and I think the same for cardinals, Carolina wrens and song sparrows. It might be fun to give a comparison of species numbers over the years.

The 2005 Count was very good in terms of numbers. We were down 1 species from last year, and up from last year's total individuals by nearly 1,000. We again had the bald eagles (3 adults and 1 immature) and a brown thrasher which we haven't had for a few years."

Here's the totals for anyone keeping score. In the list of participants, name followed by a number are the territory leaders and the number of species seen in that territory.



Christmas Bird Count Results

Canada Goose 4123	American Coot..... 125	Eastern Bluebird..... 138
Mute Swan..... 28	Killdeer..... 1	Hermit Thrush..... 3
Tundra Swan 7	Ring-billed Gull 144	American Robin..... 1076
Wood Duck..... 2	Herring Gull 1	Gray Catbird 3
Gadwall..... 1	Rock Pigeon 1058	Brown Thrasher..... 1
American Black Duck 29	Mourning Dove 883	European Starling..... 4537
Mallard..... 2515	Eastern Screech-Owl..... 8	Cedar Waxwing 87
Canvasback..... 2	Great Horned Owl..... 10	Yellow-rumped Warbler 7
Redhead 1	Barred Owl..... 3	Eastern Towhee 17
Ring-necked Duck 46	Belted Kingfisher 16	American Tree Sparrow..... 711
Lesser Scaup..... 28	Red-headed Woodpecker 3	Field Sparrow 14
Bufflehead 4	Red-bellied Woodpecker 326	Fox Sparrow 5
Common Goldeneye..... 14	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13	Song Sparrow..... 354
Hooded Merganser..... 26	Downy Woodpecker 394	Swamp Sparrow 14
Red-breasted Merganser..... 18	Hairy Woodpecker 83	White-throated Sparrow..... 712
Ruddy Duck..... 24	Northern Flicker 68	White-crowned Sparrow 28
Wild Turkey..... 34	Pileated Woodpecker 22	Dark-eyed Junco 1061
Common Loon..... 1	Northern Shrike 1	Northern Cardinal 1117
Pied-billed Grebe..... 8	Blue Jay..... 1076	Red-winged Blackbird..... 5
Great Blue Heron..... 45	American Crow 1062	Rusty Blackbird..... 1
Turkey Vulture 1	Black-capped Chickadee..... 1063	Common Grackle..... 30
Bald Eagle 4	Tufted Titmouse..... 369	Brown-headed Cowbird..... 49
Sharp-shinned Hawk 10	Red-breasted Nuthatch 72	Purple Finch 15
Cooper's Hawk..... 29	White-breasted Nuthatch..... 397	House Finch 508
Red-shouldered Hawk..... 35	Brown Creeper 25	Pine Siskin..... 3
Red-tailed Hawk 105	Carolina Wren..... 123	American Goldfinch 1122
Rough-legged Hawk..... 1	Winter Wren..... 1	House Sparrow..... 1714
American Kestrel 6	Golden-crowned Kinglet 43	Individual birds..... 27,879
Merlin..... 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7	Number of Species..... 85

Participants:

43 Feeder Counters:

Joanna (Jan) Bird
Doug Dawes
Helen Dessent
Marion Dibbert
Joanne Dobbins
David Erickson
Jaime Gerard
Annemarie Hansen
Sandra Hansen
Sue Henniger
Joe Henninger
Beth Hoffman
Donald Hogle
Betty Hudkins
Hedy Jones
Lucille Kiehl
Barbara Klewe
Georgia Knowles
Janet Kucko
Carolynn Liebmann
Joe Mako
Donna Maximovich
James McIntyre

Bill Meyers
Bill Miloscia
Amy Mitch
Becky Monegan
George Papp
Betty Peabody
Jeanette Plazak
Nancy Post
Maggie Robinson
Peg Robinson
Doris Rooney
Louise Royce
Pat Rydquist
Grace Rymer
Elaine Sommers
Karl Stutz
Sue Tolley
Doug Vogus
David Watkins
Pat Webb

89 Field Counters:

Abercrombie, Jay
Adams, Ian
Allen, Deedra
Anders, Claudia
Bartley, Aaron
Bartley, M.F.
Bobel, Peg
Bobel, Rob
Bowler, Jeff
Bowler, Michael (34)
Bowler, Peter
Brumfield, Dave (39)
Brumfield, Jenny
Bryne, Garnet (34)
Calabro, Nick
Cameron, John
Capanna, Bob (37)
Chasar, Ann
Chasar, Dwight (52)
Cordi, Jeff
Cudworth, Greg
Dean, Jonathan
Devlin, Phyllis

Dinkelbach, Cheryl
Dinkelbach, Fred
Edgington, Mike (38)
Faraque, Mary Ann
Fricker, Fred (35)
Furst, Bob (27)
Gulbransen, Ann
Gulbransen, Martin
Howell, Nancy
Hunter, Larry
Hura, Mary Lou
Johnson, Claire
Johnson, Diane
Jones, Hedy
Kaplan, Barbara
Kegley, Chuck
Kennedy, Winnetta
Kersten, Dave
Kolbe, Steve
Kurapka, Duane
Losi, Fred
McCarty, Jim
McGinty, Maureen

McQueen, Wilbur
McQuire, Beth
Messerly, Jim
Mock, Kathy
Mohan, Peter
Montaque, Fred
Morgan, Marie (40)
Motts, Paul
Nahmi, George
Nolls, Marc
Osborne, Bill (42)
Oswald, Jane
Pasek, Michael
Pelz, Joyce
Pelz, Wolfgang (25)
Piekarz, Doug (31)
Pierce, Edwin
Reyda, Jim (49)
Roach, Bob
Roberts, Bryn
Romito, Maryanne
Romito, Tom
Rosche, Larry (53)

Rose, Hugh
Rose, Judy
Rydquist, Pat
Sangrik, George
Sangrik, Linda
Saxe, Sterling
Sheppard, Steven
Stover, David
Szabo, Bert (28)
Tisdale, Hurley Judy
Tomco, Jim
Van Auken, Doug
Van Auken, Steven (22)
Vogus, Doug (40)
Vogus, James W.
Wert, Jeff
Witt, Clyde (28)
Zeh, Carol
Zelesnik, Bill
Zimlich, Eileen