



GREATER AKRON

AUDUBON *Matters*

Volume XXXII

Number 1

Sept / Oct 2006

Witt's End

Welcome Back to the Learning Season

Hope the summer months went well. The never-resting executive committee has been hard at work preparing for the new Audubon season. Check out the line-up of programs and you'll see why I call this the learning season. Education and learning are themes throughout this year's programming.

I've been learning about Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery this past year. Maybe devouring is a better word. After reading a plethora of books I decided to go to the source and this summer have been working through the journals of Lewis, Clark and others whose notes on that great adventure of 1804-06 survive.

It's fascinating to read the daily musings, rants and descriptions from these adventurers. Since they lacked spell checkers in those days (or even dictionaries) it's slow reading. That slowness, however, lets you savor their moments of terror, starvation and discovery.

Their listings of birds previously not seen or described by white men are intriguing. Because the journals were not published for nearly 100 years after they returned (and that's another fascinating story) many of the birds they named now carry different names. (As any academician will tell you, it's not who makes the discovery, it's who publishes first that gets the credit.) Here's Meriwether Lewis' jottings from 1805 while sitting in soaking clothes in a leaky hut in Oregon: "... a small Crow, the blue crested Corvus and the smaller Corvus with a white breast, and the little brown ren, a large brown sparrow, the bald Eagle and the beatifull Buzzard of the columbia still continue with us."

Some we can figure out: Steller's Jay, Winter Wren, California Condor (which they ate); others we can only wonder about. Improve your skills by sharing time with us on the fourth Tuesday of the month. — *Clyde Witt, editor*

Programs

A major effort has been made by the executive committee to provide educational and entertaining programs this season. We will be welcoming back some of our favorite speakers, like Jim McCormac and Dwight Chaser, and introducing you to some new and exciting talent.

September 26 As of this writing our speaker for the September meeting has not confirmed an appearance. You'll have to trust us—or check the Web site, akronaudubon.org, and see what the topic will.

October 24 Just in time for the season we'll have Tim Kraynak, a naturalist with the Cleveland Metro Parks. No, the program is not about changing leaf colors. It's about bats! These programs always draw crowds—particularly around Halloween. This is a great program for kids of all ages.

November 28 Jim McCormac, president of the Ohio Ornithological Society, has done several presentations for our chapter, each one a learning experience. This time Jim will be telling us where to put all that knowledge to use. He'll be talking about the hottest birding spots in the state. You'll be

amazed and far you don't have to travel to see hundreds of species of birds.

December 17 This is the date of the annual Christmas Bird Count and Chili Dinner. We don't have a regular meeting in December so join the count and come to the dinner just for fun and food. We'll have more details on both events in future newsletters.

January 23, 2007 With the recent construction of an electric generating wind turbine on Cleveland's lakefront we felt it would be timely to have Mark Shieldcastle, bird researcher from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, speak to us on this controversial subject. Are turbines a threat to migrating birds? Hear what Mark has to say.

February 27 If you've ever met chapter member Jen Brumfield you can't help but be carried away by her enthusiasm and love of birds and dragonflies—along with just about everything else in nature. Now a naturalist and premiere wildlife artist, Jen will reveal what birds have taught her—some lessons we can all learn. And she promises to bring along some of her recent art.

It's a long time until spring, but let me tell you what we have after the snow melts. Dwight Chaser, chapter member and one of the more knowledgeable birders on this part of the planet, will introduce us to Cleveland's wealth of ornithologists. These are fascinating people on whose experience we have all built. Also in the spring, chapter president Mark Purdy, along with our official court jester, Claire Purdy, will share the experience of their yet-to-be-taken trip to Namibia. Wedged between the Kalahari and the chilly South Atlantic, off Africa's west coast, Namibia has deserts, seascapes, bushwalking and boundlessness. Mark and Claire promise to tell all. The June picnic will feature Greg Smith from the University of Akron. He will be talking about *Falco sparverius*.

The chapter holds meetings the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December when we do the Christmas Count. June is our annual picnic. 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. Check MetroParks Maps at www.summitmetroparks.org for a map of Sand Run Park. 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.

Chapter Honors Bert Szabo



Jerry Tinianow, director, Audubon Ohio; Bert Szabo; Mark Purdy, chapter president

In recognition of 48 years of service to the National Audubon Society and our chapter; as a founding member; board member; Christmas Bird Count chair compiler and participant for more than 20 years; conservation and nominating committee chair; educator and activist for bird conservation and legislation; organizer and leader of field trips; presenter of chapter programs on Africa, Alaska, and Costa Rica; Summer Bird Count participant; bird seed sale worker; and for his irrepressible spirit and love of nature, the chapter

awarded Bert Szabo Audubon's Great Egret Award. This is the highest honor a chapter can bestow upon a member and no one is more deserving than Bert. The presentation was made at the annual picnic in June.

Save the Date

Mark this on your calendars. You'll be hearing a lot more, however, the date for the annual Wild Bird Seed Sale has been set for November 4. At this time the best we can say is that we'll be offering the usual great line-up of treats for the birds—at prices that are easy to swallow.

Hattie Larlham Seeks Volunteer Birders

Hattie Larlham is seeking birders to volunteer their time and expertise. Volunteers can facilitate birding excursions, giving interested residents more inclusive experiences in the greater community.

Hattie Larlham Foundation manages twenty homes in Akron and surrounding areas for adult residents with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. It is currently seeking volunteers to serve in a variety of areas, from special events and resident outings to landscape and clerical assistance. Volunteers can give of their time or resources by themselves, with a friend, family member or as a member of an organization.

Besides immeasurable rewards that come with community service, volunteers receive training, and work as a team with the Hattie Larlham staff. For more information please contact, Ericka Abram, volunteer coordinator at (330) 315-1856, ext. 4301, or visit hattielarlham.org

Summer Bird count Results — *By Ann Chaser*

Volunteers spent a record number of hours scouring Summit County. Weather was normal except for heavy rain on June 21-22nd. The county's varied habitats and lakes yielded 129 bird species. Most species' numbers reflect recent census trends. Following are a few observations about the census.

A Bald Eagle, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Worm-eating Warbler were present for only the second time in the history of the count. Great Horned Owls were hard to find in spite of concerted efforts. Barred Owl numbers, however, were normal. Red-shouldered Hawks continued to increase. A Common Moorhen family was at the Hardy Rd. landfill. Woodcocks were missed. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches and Carolina Wrens were found in record numbers, sharing a continued increase in permanent residents. Fly catching species seemed plentiful, with a record high for Eastern Wood-Pewee. Rough-winged Swallow numbers were as expected, however, Bank Swallows continued their downward trend from a high of 947 in 1994. Neotropical migrants are of concern, so record numbers of Wood Thrushes, Hooded Warblers and Orchard Orioles were welcome. Grassland species held their own in suitable habitat, with a high number of Eastern Meadowlarks. House Finches, while abundant, did not show an increase.

29th GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMIT COUNTY BIRD COUNT, JUNE 16-25th, 2006

Volunteers spent a record number of hours scouring Summit County. Weather was normal except for heavy rain on the 21-22nd. The county's varied habitats and lakes yielded 129 bird species. Most species' numbers reflect recent census trends. The following are a few observations about the census.

A bald eagle, golden-crowned kinglet and worm-eating warbler were each present for only the 2nd time in the history of the count. Great horned owls were hard to find in spite of concerted efforts, but barred owls numbers were normal. Red-shouldered hawks continued to increase. A common moorhen family was at the Hardy Rd. landfill. Woodcocks were missed. Downy and hairy woodpeckers, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches and Carolina wrens were found in record numbers, sharing a continued increase in permanent residents. Flycatching species seemed plentiful, with a record high for eastern wood-pewee. Rough-winged swallow numbers were as expected, but bank swallows continued their downward trend from a high of 947 in 1994. Neotropical migrants are of concern, so record numbers of wood thrushes, hooded warblers and orchard orioles were welcome. Grassland species held their own in suitable habitat, with a high number of eastern meadowlarks. House finches, while abundant, did not show an increase.

1555	Canada Goose	88	Hairy Woodpecker	646	Cedar Waxwing
35	Mute Swan	158	Northern Flicker	60	Blue-winged Warbler
151	Wood Duck	36	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Northern Parula
972	Mallard	215	Eastern Wood-Pewee	511	Yellow Warbler
1	Blue-winged Teal	125	Acadian Flycatcher	8	Chestnut-sided Warbler
1	Ring-necked Duck	1	Alder Flycatcher	10	Black-throated Green Warbler
74	Wild Turkey	84	Willow Flycatcher	10	Yellow-throated Warbler
4	Pied-billed Grebe	4	Least Flycatcher	6	Pine Warbler
18	Double-crested Cormorant	151	Eastern Phoebe	22	Cerulean Warbler
432	Great Blue Heron	121	Great Crested Flycatcher	38	American Redstart
4	Great Egret	98	Eastern Kingbird	2	Prothonotary Warbler
48	Green Heron	19	White-eyed Vireo	1	Worm-eating Warbler
175	Turkey Vulture	39	Yellow-throated Vireo	25	Ovenbird
13	Osprey(includes 6 yng)	7	Blue-headed Vireo	4	Louisiana Waterthrush
1	Bald Eagle	125	Warbling Vireo*	2	Kentucky Warbler
4	Sharp-shinned Hawk	413	Red-eyed Vireo	1	Mourning Warbler
30	Cooper's Hawk	719	Blue Jay	346	Common Yellowthroat
38	Red-shouldered Hawk	499	American Crow	178	Hooded Warbler
7	Broad-winged Hawk	8	Horned Lark	3	Yellow-breasted Chat
105	Red-tailed Hawk	183	Purple Martin	132	Scarlet Tanager
9	American Kestrel	344	Tree Swallow	189	Eastern Towhee
7	Virginia Rail	256	N.Rough-winged Swallow	470	Chipping Sparrow
3	Sora	109	Bank Swallow	150	Field Sparrow
10	Common Moorhen(7 yng)	362	Barn Swallow	68	Savannah Sparrow
1	American Coot	846	Black-capped Chickadee	6	Grasshopper Sparrow
183	Killdeer	344	Tufted Titmouse	1	Henslow's Sparrow
21	Spotted Sandpiper	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1116	Song Sparrow
91	Ring-billed Gull	292	White-breasted Nuthatch	95	Swamp Sparrow
37	Herring Gull	2	Brown Creeper	2	Dark-eyed Junco
305	Rock Pigeon	176	Carolina Wren	1320	Northern Cardinal
786	Mourning Dove	372	House Wren	167	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
7	Black-billed Cuckoo	4	Marsh Wren	332	Indigo Bunting
31	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	130	Bobolink
4	Eastern Screech-Owl	83	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1851	Red-winged Blackbird
2	Great Horned Owl	155	Eastern Bluebird	92	Eastern Meadowlark
15	Barred Owl (incl 2 yng)	52	Veery	1270	Common Grackle
11	Common Nighthawk	4	Hermit Thrush	423	Brown-headed Cowbird
347	Chimney Swift	192	Wood Thrush	44	Orchard Oriole
73	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	2789	American Robin	268	Baltimore Oriole
56	Belted Kingfisher	896	Gray Catbird	10	Purple Finch
4	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Northern Mockingbird	323	House Finch
219	Red-bellied Woodpecker	22	Brown Thrasher	1242	American Goldfinch
348	Downy Woodpecker	2277	European Starling	1471	House Sparrow

Total Species: 129 Total Birds: 31961 Party Hours: 397 + 5 owling

MANY THANKS to the following for the record number of hours volunteered: Peg Bobel, Steve Borgis, Sandy Brown, Virginia Buerki, Garnet Byrne, Robert Capanna, Phil Chaon, Dwight&Ann Chasar, Sue Chester, Ernie Cornelius, Pat Coy, Wayne Crouse, George&Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred Dinkelbach, Diane Dulzer, Paul Ellsworth, Craig Griffin, Marty&Anne Gulbransen, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Nancy Ibsen, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Hedy Jones, Linda Kelliar, Winnie Kennedy, Ethan Kisler, Andrea Klein, Jim Knisely, Gene&Linda Kovach, Karl Liske, Fred Losi, Brad Lyell, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Marc Nolls, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Jane Oswald, Wolfgang&Joyce Pelz, Marlo Perdicis, Ed Pierce, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Mary Anne&Tom Romito, Ronda Russell, Pat Rydquist, Jim Shaffer, Bert Szabo, Doug Vogus, Jim Vogus, Annette Webb, Janet Wertz, Bradley Wilkinson, Clyde Witt, Eileen Zimlich

Sincerely, Doug Vogus & Ann Chasar, coordinators