



GREATER AKRON

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Matters

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Witt's End

Global Warming ... – by *Clyde Witt, editor*

Right. Global warming. It's been a tough sell for the concept of global warming this winter. We've had so many Pine Siskins at our feeders this season—a bird we rarely see—that I'm ready to write these critters a check instead of hauling that seed out every day. Then, the White-wing Crossbills showed up in such overwhelming numbers that birders throughout the state were hyperventilating.

There's almost as much science for global warming as against it. I recently read that the North Atlantic is forecast to be in a cold pattern for the next 10 years or so, meaning things might cool down. Will that bring the glaciers back to Glacier National Park? Will it close the holes in the Arctic and bring back polar bear habitat? Probably not. Will it slow down the warbler migration we were more accustomed to seeing in mid-May rather than late April as has been the case for the past several years? Who knows.

If you enter the subject of global warming into your favorite search engine, you get about two million pages on the subject; multiply that times 10 for the number of listings per page and it's mind boggling—and those are just references to the real books and articles.

I've come to the conclusion that global warming—or the threat thereof—has been a good thing, regardless of its validity. It has caused the world to focus more on how we use, or, misuse, fossil fuels. It has made more people aware of the environment and human impact on the animals and plants that share this limited rock we call Earth. It has focused engineering on reusable energy sources, which in the long run will make this a better place for my grandkids whom I can regale with stories of how tough it was when I was kid.

Program Schedule

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. 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 so bring a friend. Refreshments are served by our outstanding hospitality committee.

For an up-to-the-minute schedule stay tuned and keep your eye on the Web site (www.akronaudubon.org) and the Newsletter. Things are going to be a bit different in March and April. Because of scheduling conflicts, we will hold our meetings in the nearby Shady Hollow Pavilion. It is on the same road and the entrance driveway is immediately east of stream ford. Hopefully, we'll have signs posted.

March 24 Since it will officially be Spring by the time of our March meeting, planting flowers and garden planning should be topics rather than shoveling snow. We have a special program entitled "Native Plants" brought to us by the Wild Ones. Shady Hollow Pavilion.

April 28 April is sometimes called the cruelest month. In keeping with that theme, we're going to take a trip back into Winter, or at least into the snow country with Lauren Hierl, Alaska Policy Associate for National Audubon Society – "Alaska." Come see the beauty of this boundless state. Shady Hollow Pavilion.

May 26 At press time we had not confirmed our speaker for the May meeting. Rest assured, we'll have a dynamite program lined up. Stay tuned for the next Newsletter.

June 23 We'll have our Annual Picnic at Bath Nature Preserve. Along with a great potluck dinner, we'll serve up Dr. Bruce Cushing, University of Akron Biology Department. He'll be speaking on the subject of voles, an important potluck dinner for birds and other animals.

Fun, Family Event

The annual garlic mustard pull at Bath Nature Preserve will be on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m. Dr Randy Mitchell, University of Akron biology professor, will once again be our leader. Please consider joining in this event if you can. Also, feel free to recruit others. In spite of the good work done on this project, it's fun. It's a great opportunity to spot early migrant warblers—even though you spend more time looking down than up. Bring some work gloves. We'll meet in the main parking lot and head out to spots in the preserve where the invasive garlic mustard plant needs trimming back.

More on Native Plants

If our meeting on March 24 gets you thinking about planting Ohio-native plants, here's another opportunity to learn more. On March 25th, Bob Kehres, co-owner and founder of Ohio Prairie Nursery Ltd., will introduce the world of native plants, grassland ecosystems and the importance of protecting our water resources and native habitats. He will be discussing the many benefits of using native plants in landscapes. For Friends Of Stow Parks And Recreation, Heritage Barn - 5238 Young Road, Stow. For more information, e-mail Lyndee Wolf: lwolf@neo.rr.com. This is the organization through which our chapter purchased the native plants for the garden at Seiberling Nature Realm.

That garden, by the way, has been moved, or uprooted, because of renovations at the Nature Realm. The area will be part of a wetlands area. Our plants were "carefully and gently" moved to an area along the Seneca Trail just northeast of the current visitors' center. They are not in a single area but interspersed with other natives. There is no identifying sign. The area is scheduled for a controlled burn this spring. Lisa King at MetroParks is the person who coordinated all of this.

Got Cabin Fever?

Okay, you're getting kind of twitchy and need to get some birding under your belt instead of another plate of French fries. Here's a list of events around the state, indoors and outdoors, that will help fire up your skills. Thanks to Casey Tucker in Columbus for the list:

March 18th—"Birding By Ear" Presented by the members of Canton Audubon Society. You can learn more about this event by visiting their web-site: (<http://www.cantonaudubon.org/html/meetings.html>)

March 18th—"Birding Heaven" presented by John McKean Sponsored by the Dayton Audubon Society (www.dayton.net/audubon/warbler.htm) Join professional photographer, best-selling author, and top-ranked international speaker John McKean as he takes you away on a whirlwind trek around the world with his breathtaking avian imagery. From such places as Fiji, the Galapagos, and Costa Rica, John's ornithology images have graced everything from VIREO (Academy of Natural Sciences' Visual Resources for Ornithology) to Birds & Blooms Magazine credit cards. You will not want to miss this one-and-only opportunity to virtually visit the world's exotic birding hotspots, while learning John's top seven secrets on capturing the exquisite beauty of birds.

March 24th—"Avian Mating Rituals" Sponsored by Audubon Mahoning Valley. Spring is in the air. We will learn about the mating rituals of birds and how they use various methods to attract mates. You will be surprised by the techniques birds use to make themselves stand out from the flock. You can find more details via their website at: <http://boardman.wbu.com/content/show/12224>

March 24th—"Fishes and Birds of Fiji" presented by Michael Packer, Sponsored by Columbus Audubon (www.columbusaudubon.org/) For 10 years Michael Packer has vacationed in island biomes with the twin goals of totally immersing him-

self in the nature and culture of these locations and observing some of the world's rarest fauna. He always returns refreshed and with a photo journal of the adventure. In Fiji, he spent 7 days on a resident dive boat "birding coral reefs for fish" as he says. The remaining time he spent with local guides on the islands of Viti Levu and Kadavu fishing rain forests for birds. Please join Michael as he immerses you in this unique South Pacific archipelago.

March 28th—"Native Plant Workshop" sponsored by Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm. You can learn more by contacting Aullwood directly (<http://aullwood.center.audubon.org>) You'll have an opportunity to learn about planting native plants to improve your backyard habitat for birds.

May 16th & 17th—"2nd Annual Queen City Bird Festival" sponsored by the Avian Research & Education Institute. Come out to celebrate the beauty of spring, birds and nature. The day begins with a bird walk. The second annual Queen City Bird Festival is hosted by the Department of Biology at the College of Mount St. Joseph, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and the Avian Research and Education Institute. Join us at Hueston Woods State Park, 6301 Park Office Rd., College Corner, Ohio; at the Nature Center on Saturday, May 16th from 9am to 6pm; and Sunday, May 17th from 9am to noon. The 2009 schedule of events will be available on www.avianinstitute.org. If you need further information please contact Jill Russell at 513-244-4783, jrussell@avianinstitute.org or Debbie Gross, Communications 513-255-5313.

Midwest Birding Symposium

Registration has begun for the 2009 Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS), September 17-20, in Lakeside, Ohio. Hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest, The Ohio Ornithological Society, and the Lakeside Association, the 2009 MBS will surely be the highlight of the birding year.

Don't miss the chance to learn from experts during informative and entertaining programs and guest speakers. At this year's MBS, you can attend workshops for digiscoping, digital bird photography, bird identification, and more, plus they're planning activities especially for young birders.

The Birders' Marketplace at the MBS will be filled to the walls with companies offering you the very best in bird-related products, services, and merchandise.

You can also...

- Catch fall migration at one of our hand-picked birding hotspots
- Take a sunset boat cruise around Lake Erie's beautiful islands
- Enjoy a screening of a new birding movie, *Opposable Chums*, in Lakeside's movie theater
- Get your optics cleaned for free
- Join us for the MBS Big Sit.

The 2009 MBS: It's like going to bird watching camp!
For more information, visit www.midwestbirding.org, call—
General questions: 888-896-6927, or Registration questions: 800-879-2473 x314.

Local Bird Walk

Closer to home, Greg Smith, manager of University of Akron's Bath Nature Preserve bio field station, and Mark Purdy, president, Greater Akron Audubon, have agreed to do a joint UA/GAAS bird walk at Bath Nature Preserve on May 9, start-

ing at 8am. This walk is open to the public and a strong representation by members of GAAS will show Bath Township our appreciation for this outstanding facility.



Who and What of Christmas Count 2008

It took the efforts of 174 folks to find 82 species for Greater Akron Audubon's participation in the Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Here's what was seen—and how many were seen:

15 Snow Goose	25 Great Blue Heron	61 Hairy Woodpecker	8 Field Sparrow
4939 Canada Goose	5 Turkey Vulture	39 Northern Flicker	1 Fox Sparrow
7 Mute Swan	6 Sharp-shinned Hawk	16 Pileated Woodpecker	97 Song Sparrow
8 Tundra Swan	22 Cooper's Hawk	1 Northern Shrike	9 Swamp Sparrow
8 Wood Duck	16 Red-shouldered Hawk	741 Blue Jay	211 White-throated Sparrow
1 Gadwall	80 Red-tailed Hawk	599 American Crow	28 White-crowned Sparrow
1 American Widgeon	4 American Kestrel	1102 Black-capped Chickadee	1120 Dark-eyed Junco
35 American Black Duck	1 Merlin	360 Tufted Titmouse	881 Northern Cardinal
1905 Mallard	65 American Coot	15 Red-breasted Nuthatch	9 Red-winged Blackbird
2 Northern Shoveler	3 Killdeer	315 White-breasted Nuthatch	8 Common Grackle
4 Green-winged Teal	425 Ring-billed Gull	23 Brown Creeper	8 Brown-headed Cowbird
5 Canvasback	36 Herring Gull	78 Carolina Wren	2 Purple Finch
1 Redhead	786 Rock Pigeon	5 Winter Wren	342 House Finch
134 Ringed-necked Duck	366 Mourning Dove	25 Golden-crowned Kinglet	4 Common Redpoll
55 Bufflehead	10 Eastern Screech-Owl	79 Eastern Bluebird	150 Pine Siskin
6 Common Goldeneye	5 Great Horned Owl	1 Hermit Thrush	871 American Goldfinch
104 Hooded Merganser	7 Barred Owl	347 American Robin	1781 House Sparrow
1 Common Merganser	15 Belted Kingfisher	6117 European Starling	17 White-winged Crossbill
15 Ruddy Duck	188 Red-bellied Woodpecker	215 Cedar Waxwing	2 Cackling Goose
24 Wild Turkey	3 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4 Yellow-rumped Warbler	26176 Total-Individuals
3 Pied-billed Grebe	305 Downy Woodpecker	568 American Tree Sparrow	82 Total-Species

And here are the names of the people who made it possible.

41 Feeder Counters:

Lynn Baker, Helen Dessent, Joanne Dobbins, Fred Fricker, Jaime Gerard, Craig Griffin, Annemarie Hansen, Sue Henniger, Joe Henninger, Gina Hirst, Janeanne Huber, Betty Hudkins, Hedy Jones, Barbara Klewe, Georgia Knowles, Carolyn Liebmann, Shane Lowrey, Joe Mako, Donna Maximovich, Bill Meyers, Chuck Mills, Bill Miloscia, Becky Monegan, George Papp, Betty Peabody, Jeanette Plazak, David Reinhart, Maggie Robinson, Peg Robinson, James Ruby, Jean Ruby, Grace Rymer, Mary Rywalski, Karl Stutz, Anita Szegvari, Candace Thaxton, Karen Thomas, Sue Tolley, Pat Webb, Janet Wertz, Larry Williams.

103 Field Counters (Area leaders' name and number of species seen, in bold.)

Jay Abercrombie, Ian Adams, Deedra Allen, Claudia Anders, Steve Balough, John Bowler, Pete Bowler, **Michael Bowler (28)**, Garnet Bryne, John Cameron, **Bob Capanna (28)**, Ann Chasar, **Dwight Chasar (52)**, Jeff Cordi, Pat Coy, Vicky Croisant, Greg Cudworth, Jonathan Dean, Phyllis Devlin, Cheryl Dinkelbach, Fred Dinkelbach, Susan Duppsstadt, Tom Earley, **Mike Edgington (34)**, **Fred Fricker (32)**, Bob Furst, Joe Golgosky, Bill Gruber, Ann Gulbransen, Martin Gulbransen, Nancy Howell, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Barbara Kaplan, Chuck Kegley, Winnetta Kennedy, Sheila Kerns, Dave Kersten, Jennifer Knapp, Judy Kolo-Rose, Duane Kurapka, Sharon Lehto, Fred Losi, Donna Lovas, Marty Mangano, David Manuelle, Terri Martincic, Jim McCarty, Bret McCarty, Maureen McQuinty, Beth McQuire, Kathleen Milk, Kathy Mock, Fred Montaque, **Marie Morgan (39)**, Larry Morton, Sophia Morton, Paul Motts, George Nahmi, Deb Neidert, Pamela Neitenbach, **Marc Nolls (25)**, **Bill Osborne (41)**, Jane Oswald, Cathy Parker, Dick Parker, Kim Pease, Joyce Pelz, **Wolfgang Pelz (23)**, Pat Pickard, **Doug Piekarz (35)**, Edwin Pierce, Claire Purdy, Mark Purdy, **Jim Reyda (44)**, Fred Riley, Maryanne Romito, **Larry Rosche (55)**, Autumn Russel, Pat Rydquist, George Sangrik, Linda Sangrik, Sterling Saxe, Judy Semroc, Steven Sheppard, Jim Simmelli, David Stover, **Bert Szabo (25)**, Robin Tener, **Jim Tomco (31)**, Renee Tressler, Kathleen, Jeanne Utter, Doug VanAuken, **Steven VanAuken (30)**, Jared VanWegenen, Chuck Vellios, **Doug Vogus (44)**, Jeff Wert, Janet Wertz, **Brad Wilkinson (22)**, **Clyde Witt (22)**, Eileen Zimlich.