



GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

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My Witt's End – by *Clyde Witt, editor*

Who's Watching Whom

The guy in the tan Toyota was watching me. I was watching the Great Blue Heron. The Great Blue Heron was watching the Green frog. The Green frog was watching an insect—probably.

The bug moved. The frog jumped. The heron struck. I pushed the shutter. The guy in the Toyota started his engine. The end.

End of a bug and end of a summer. So now it's time to start a new year with Greater Akron Audubon Society. Over the summer your executive committee has been hard at work putting together new programs and events based on what you've asked for. Don't forget: This will be a year to be remembered!

Purple Martins Doing Well

Thanks to chapter member Larry Hunter and his intrepid forces at the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Society, another banner year for the species has entered the record books. The first scout bird was spotted March 29th—the earliest arrival documented. Record numbers of martins arrived shortly thereafter.

The cold, wet periods early in the spring took a toll on the birds. Thanks to efforts of society members, feeding them dozens of scrambled eggs, no adults starved during the cold period. An estimated 126 young did die.

Last year 262 birds were banded. This year the program was expanded and 416 martins and 65 Tree Swallows were banded.

If you'd like more information on this worthwhile organization, visit its Web site, http://members.tripod.com/sassyoh_4/portagelakespurplemartins. An easier way to get to them is to Google Portage Lakes Purple Martins and scroll down to the URL.



One of 10,000 Purple Martins calling the Portage Lakes, home. Clyde Witt

Program Schedule

The chapter holds meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December when we do the Audubon 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. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:00. We usually start with a short, informative, business session before the main program. Meetings are open to the public so bring a friend.

For an up-to-the-minute schedule stay tuned and keep your eye on the chapter's Web site, www.akronaudubon.org.

September 22 To start the season we have a special program, focusing on one of those birds we all can't see enough of—the Peregrine Falcon. Damon Greer, of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, will tell us about "Peregrine Falcons—Then and Now."

October 27 Rick Gardner, state botanist, will present a unique program: "Cedar Glades: Islands of Biodiversity." Cedar glades, rocky (limestone) open areas occupied by herba

ceous plants, are a hotspot of plant endemism and rarity in North America. Moreover, caves associated with this karst ecosystem are vital for hydrology and many cave-dwelling species. Middle Tennessee contains the greatest concentration of glades, however, these areas are equally important here in Ohio.

November 24 Ohio's wetlands, what there is left of them, will be the topic of Forrest Smith, retired professor of biology, University of Akron, Wayne College. His critically important program is titled, "Using Soils, Plants and Water to Take a Deep Look at Nature." The Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for determining types of wetlands is ground-breaking and important to understanding the extent and amount of land used in wetlands mitigation.

December 20 Christmas Count day, with a chili supper to follow at the Mingo Shelter. Details to follow.

National Study Needs Help

The National Bird-Feeding Society is currently assisting in a scientific study of bird seed preferences. Participants will receive



free bird feeders, bird seed, poles, and squirrel baffles. In return, participants will be responsible for recording the number of birds visiting each feeder for approximately six weeks.

During the six weeks, you will complete 24 surveys with each survey taking approximately one hour to complete. You will also be responsible for filling and rotating feeders based on a pre-assigned schedule.

Participants must be able to identify all species of birds visiting their feeders, and data collection must be completed by October 31.

Interested in participating? Limited slots are available. Visit the National Bird-Feeding Society's website at www.nbfs.org or call 1-866-945-3247. Stacey Shonkwiler - General Manager, National Bird-Feeding Society.

Changes at Audubon Ohio

On July 27, the Audubon Ohio board met to discuss needed changes. After a wide-ranging conversation, the board voted to dissolve. This was a difficult decision, but one that the board viewed as logical and appropriate given the re-focus of Audubon Ohio's work on the Aullwood Center in Dayton and Grange Center in Columbus, both of which have strong and active boards.

In the near-term, Audubon's focus in Ohio will be on ensuring a highly successful opening and start-up for the Grange Center

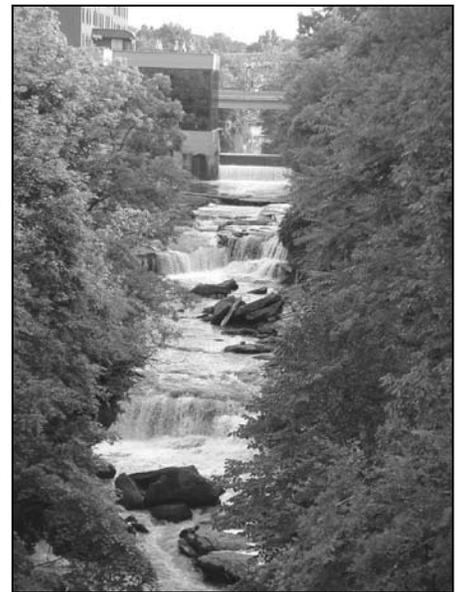
and continuing the ongoing strong work at Aullwood.

In addition, following the opening and start-up of the Grange Center, Audubon Ohio expects to re-convene a statewide conservation planning process, under the leadership of Grange and perhaps the Aullwood Center. Audubon Ohio had initiated a similar planning process, which was not completed as a result of the recent changes. It believes that there is a strong need for a comprehensive and results-oriented planning process for Audubon in the state, involving volunteer leaders from throughout the state. This process will identify priority conservation strategies and desired outcomes, and will also consider what kind of statewide conservation staff capacity might be necessary or possible in the future. It anticipates this conservation planning process will begin late this year or early in 2010.

Lastly, there is a change in staff coordination of issues in Ohio by National Audubon. Roger Still, who had been overseeing the state, will now be concentrating on the regional Mississippi/Central Flyway Conservation Initiative. Henry Tepper, Audubon's vice president of Eastern State Programs, based in Albany, New York, has assumed responsibility for working on Audubon issues in Ohio.

River Restoration Program

University of Akron and Bath Nature Preserve are having a "Year of the River Stream Restoration Celebration," along with a UA Field Station Open House on October 3. The chapter will be involved in providing some educational material and bird checklist handouts. We could use some volunteers to help at the event. See Mark Purdy for details.



This is For the Birds



We've confirmed the date of November 7, 9am-1pm, with Copley Feed for our Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale. This is the earliest we've been able to get this information to you so plan your purchases, now. We'll have the usual menu, plus peanuts (shelled, 25 lb bags) to feed the Blue Jays and those fuzzy brown birds with the big fluffy tails. Copley Feed will again print coupons for our customers. If you can recall last year's prices and think we've made a mistake, rest assured, some of these prices are lower. Hard to believe—but true.

Greater Akron Audubon Society Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale

As has been our tradition, this year's wild bird seed sale is possible through the generous cooperation of Copley Feed & Supply store on Copley Circle, 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road.

Our seed is fresh and prices are competitive with retail offerings in the area. This is the chapter's only fund raising effort; profits support our programs and newsletters.

As a special incentive this year, the first 100 orders we receive will be given a coupon for 20% off the purchase of bird feeder or nesting box at Copley Feed, through the end of November. A special thanks goes to Nancy and Mark Roesner of Copley Feed for their usual outstanding generosity.

Deadline is October 31. Pick up is November 7 at Copley Feed.

Please mail your check, payable to Greater Akron Audubon Society, and completed order form ASAP to:

JoyWolf Enterprises
PO Box 26278
Akron, OH 44319

All order forms must be in by October 31 to accurately place the order with Copley Feed.

		How many?	Total \$
Oil Sunflower, 50 pounds	\$21.00	_____	_____
Niger seed, 10 pounds	\$15.00	_____	_____
Wild bird mix:			
20 pounds	\$ 8.50	_____	_____
50 pounds	\$17.00	_____	_____
Bird Banquet, 35 pounds	\$19.00	_____	_____
Songbird Choice, 40 pounds	\$25.00	_____	_____
Peanuts, 25 pounds	\$28.00	_____	_____
		TOTAL	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ **(In case we must call.)**

Pick-up will be Saturday, November 7, from 9AM to 1PM, at Copley Feed.

All seed not picked up by 1PM is donated to the Seiberling Nature Realm.