



GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

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My Witt's End – by Clyde Witt, editor

The Right Spot, the Right Time

At the Midwest Birding Symposium last month, I spoke with people from Texas, New Jersey, Florida and just about every place in between. More than 800 birders were drawn to our backyard to hear some top-level speakers—and to sample our avifauna. And Ohio did not disappoint.

In spite of the heavy-hitting talent at the symposium, the show was stolen by a critter weighing in at a mere half ounce. Kirtland's Warbler—so rarely seen on fall migration that for years people never knew where it went—put in a cameo appearance. When Bill Thompson, III, publisher, Bird Watchers' Digest, made the sighting announcement just after Ohio Ornithological Society president, Jim McCormac's opening remarks, there was dead silence, then a collective intake of breath—and a dash for the doors.

Susan and I missed the bird. It hung around for most of the day. Some people had a two-second glimpse, while other lucky folks I spoke with watched it for 10 minutes.

At the end of the day, any day, we were left with more proof that northern Ohio is a great place for birders. A fellow from Iowa said to me, "I don't know why you people from Ohio would want to go any place else." Indeed.

Editor's Note: Because of budgetary concerns, and rather than lay off any of the Newsletter staff, the executive committee has opted to reduce the number of Newsletters to four. You will receive the next issue in January 2010. For an up-to-the-minute schedule stay tuned and keep your eye on the chapter's Web site, www.akronaudubon.org.

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 Merri-man 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.

Hang on to this Newsletter Program Schedule

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

Butterfly Project Launched

If you'd like to get in on the ground floor of an interesting and challenging environmental program, here's your chance. Larry Hunter, known for his successful launch of the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Society, has another idea. He will be creating a butterfly trail along the dam at the south end of Nimisila Reservoir. The trail is expected to be about a half mile in length, probably the longest in the state says Hunter. It will be composed of about half native plant species. If you'd like to work on this project, contact Larry at jhunter54@neo.rr.com.



32nd Summit County Nesting Bird Census

The mild, mosquito-free weather, except for a morning or two of heavy rain, provided the backdrop for a record number of volunteers (77) who tallied 33,069 birds in a record 436 field hours. Summit County's varied habitat of hills, rivers, fields and lakes yielded 128 species.



Observations noted from comparisons with past data include a record number of Great-Blue Heron; high counts of buteos, with Red-shouldered Hawk numbers setting a record; second lowest count of American Kestrel; second highest count of Pileated Woodpecker; high counts of Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Eastern Bluebird (highest since 1978); lowest count of European Starling. "Field" species showed mixed results: small inroads of Alder Flycatcher and White-eyed Vireo; record low numbers of Field Sparrow; the lowest count of Willow Flycatcher since 1993. February's snow cover cut the Carolina Wren number in half, from 137 in 2008 to 69. Only one Marsh Wren and one Red-headed Woodpecker were reported. Neotropical migrant numbers, except for low Blue-winged Warbler and Ovenbird counts, remained relatively constant. Grassland species were found where expected. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Dark-eyed Junco continue their more recent presence. For more information, view the complete 32 years of data at www.akronaudubon.org

Greater Akron Audubon Society 32nd Summit County Census, June 12th-21st, 2009

1546	Canada Goose	358	Downy Woodpecker	1843	European Starling
26	Mute Swan	72	Hairy Woodpecker	964	Cedar Waxwing
140	Wood Duck	149	Northern Flicker	49	Blue-winged Warbler
2	American Black Duck	50	Pileated Woodpecker	620	Yellow Warbler
707	Mallard	228	Eastern Wood-Pewee	8	Chestnut-sided Warbler
1	Ruddy Duck	129	Acadian Flycatcher	9	Black-throated Green Warbler
3	Ring-necked Pheasant	11	Alder Flycatcher	6	Yellow-throated Warbler
21	Wild Turkey	90	Willow Flycatcher	4	Pine Warbler
2	Pied-billed Grebe	3	Least Flycatcher	25	Cerulean Warbler
23	Double-crested Cormorant	131	Eastern Phoebe	37	American Redstart
1	Least Bittern	116	Great Crested Flycatcher	5	Prothonotary Warbler
710	Great Blue Heron*	117	Eastern Kingbird	2	Worm-eating Warbler
51	Green Heron	32	White-eyed Vireo	22	Ovenbird
192	Turkey Vulture	51	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Louisiana Waterthrush
18	Osprey	9	Blue-headed Vireo	315	Common Yellowthroat
4	Bald Eagle*	178	Warbling Vireo	168	Hooded Warbler
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	390	Red-eyed Vireo	10	Yellow-breasted Chat
26	Cooper's Hawk	795	Blue Jay	144	Scarlet Tanager
45	Red-shouldered Hawk*	506	American Crow	236	Eastern Towhee
14	Broad-winged Hawk	15	Horned Lark	578	Chipping Sparrow
123	Red-tailed Hawk	276	Purple Martin*	105	Field Sparrow
3	American Kestrel	545	Tree Swallow*	102	Savannah Sparrow*
1	Peregrine Falcon	319	N. Rough-winged Swallow*	13	Grasshopper Sparrow
1	Virginia Rail	219	Bank Swallow	4	Henslow's Sparrow
9	Common Moorhen(family unit)	411	Barn Swallow	934	Song Sparrow
224	Killdeer	744	Black-capped Chickadee	70	Swamp Sparrow
29	Spotted Sandpiper	477	Tufted Titmouse	1	White-throated Sparrow
2	American Woodcock	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	Dark-eyed Junco*
108	Ring-billed Gull	292	White-breasted Nuthatch	1296	Northern Cardinal
20	Herring Gull	7	Brown Creeper	176	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
240	Rock Pigeon	69	Carolina Wren	395	Indigo Bunting
795	Mourning Dove	439	House Wren	116	Bobolink
19	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Sedge Wren	2033	Red-winged Blackbird
4	Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Marsh Wren	33	Eastern Meadowlark
4	Eastern Screech-Owl	86	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1084	Common Grackle
3	Great Horned Owl	196	Eastern Bluebird	527	Brown-headed Cowbird
8	Barred Owl	64	Veery	37	Orchard Oriole
9	Common Nighthawk	6	Hermit Thrush	303	Baltimore Oriole
526	Chimney Swift	173	Wood Thrush	17	Purple Finch
78	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2758	American Robin	394	House Finch
63	Belted Kingfisher	1031	Gray Catbird	1129	American Goldfinch
1	Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Northern Mockingbird	1570	House Sparrow
294	Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	Brown Thrasher		

* record high species/party hour

Total Species: 128 Total Birds: 33069
Party Hours: 436 # Volunteers: 77

Many thanks to a fantastic group of volunteers!

Peg & Rob Bobel, Sandy Brown, Dave & Debbie Brumfield, Garnet Byrne, John Cameron, Robert Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Sue Chester, Ernie Cornelius, Pat Coy, Wayne Crouse, George & Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred & Cheryl Dinkelbach, Diane Dulzer, Susan Duppstadt, Lois Eckart, Paul Ellsworth, Dave Ford, Henry Fortlage, Chriss Fulton, Bob Furst, Craig Griffin, Marty & Ann Gulbransen, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Nancy Howell, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Hedy Jones, Marilyn & Steve Kaminsky, Barb Kaplan, Winnie Kennedy, Jim Knisely, Gene & Linda Kovach, Louisa Krider, Karl Liske, Elaine Marsh, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Marianne Nolan, Marc Nolls, Penny O'Connor, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Jane Oswald, Wolfgang & Joyce Pelz, Linda Powers, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Fred Riley, Dave Rinehart, Bryn Roberts, Mary Anne & Tom Romito, George & Linda Sangrik, Bert Szabo, Renee Tressler, Henry & Jim Trimpe, Doug Vogus, Janet Wertz, Bradley Wilkinson, Clyde Witt, and Marian Zehnder.

--Doug Vogus & Ann Chasar, coordinators

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.