



GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

Volume XXXVI

Number 1

August / September 2010

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

You Get By With a Little Help

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read results of the Greater Akron Audubon Society 33rd Summit County Census. The 10-day event in June is always a great time to get out and find those lingering migrants, as well as species well on their way to raising a family.

I won't give away all the findings of the census, however, one thing that struck me was the outstanding numbers of birds virtually unseen not that long ago. For example, seven Bald Eagles were spotted this year. In 1999 we had our first eagle, then nothing until 2006 when a single bird was seen. In 2007 a pair was spotted, the next year the number doubled. Now, we've almost doubled that number.

And Ospreys; 21 were counted in the 10-day period. Remember when ODNR first put up the hacking boxes in the Portage Lakes? In 1991 there was a single Osprey counted, then none until 2000 when we had a pair.

Thanks to the efforts of Larry Hunter and members of the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, the numbers of that species, which lingered in the single, sometimes double digits, exploded to a current record 279 birds.

I'm sure the serious science types among you will caution not to read too much into these numbers. What's important, I think, is the common denominator—human intervention. We've had a summer of tragic news migrating from the Gulf of Mexico, all about human intervention—or a lack there of. We need to balance the negative with some positive. Had I chosen to, I could find three species, or more, from our census that suffered at the hand of man. I'm a glass-half-full guy, a tomorrow man, so I'm going to think positive. It's about the balance of nature. It's why tree huggers hug trees and bird watchers watch birds.

Editor's Note: Because of chapter budgetary concerns, rather than reduce the already overburdened Newsletter staff, the executive committee has opted to print only four Newsletters again this season. Hang on to this one. You'll receive the next issue in early October. For an up-to-the-minute schedule attend the meetings, 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 will most like be Bath Nature Preserve. There are no meetings in July and August. Meetings are held at 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 MetroPark's maps at www.summitmetroparks.org for a map of Sand Run Park. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. We usually begin with a short, informative, business session. Meetings are open to the public so bring a friend.

Another Great Program Line Up

At press time the full schedule of programs had not been confirmed. Those that we do have, however, are outstanding—as usual. This year the executive committee scanned the globe for a mix of programs to serve all interests. As usual, the schedule leans heavily toward the avian side of nature. This will be balanced with informative programs featuring other natural and man-made phenomena.

SEPTEMBER 28 We'll kick off the fall season with one of the top nature photographers in the country who just happens to be from this area. Gary Meszaros will give a presentation on "Songbirds of Ohio." This renowned professional has published work in numerous books and nature magazines. He has co-authored three books specifically relating to birds of Ohio. Gary's calendars are always top sellers. His book, "Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage," done in cooperation with Jim McCormac, is a photographic celebration of the most outstanding natural habitats in Ohio. It was an Ohioana Book Award winner in 2009. Gary will be happy to sign any of his work you bring to the meeting.

OCTOBER 26 If you're a fan of the haunting calls of loons, this is the program for you. Our guest speaker will be Jay Mager, assistant professor, Department of Biological & Allied Health Sciences of Ohio Northern University.

teaches introductory courses in biology and zoology, as well as advance courses in ecology, animal behavior and ornithology. His work on loons in northern Wisconsin is the basis for this visual presentation highlighting the life history of loons and some very important research conclusions which should lead to better methods in loon preservation.

NOVEMBER 23 While it's one of those well-known pieces of trivia that Benjamin Franklin would have preferred the Wild Turkey as our national logo-bird, we'll learn this week why we're praising the Bald Eagle and eating the turkey. Another of the region's award-winning photographers, Ron Schaefer, will share with us his outstanding work on eagles (and other birds) if this area. Ron has recently been awarded first place in the annual "Wildbird Magazine" photo competition.

DECEMBER 19 Annual Christmas Bird Count. As has become our custom, we will also have a chili supper at the Mingo Shelter following the count. Details to follow at the chapter meetings, on the Web site and in the next newsletter.

Return of Amateur Night?

Anyone who attended last February's meeting will recall the fun we had with the First GAAS Film and Foto Festival. Our chapter has a lot of talent among its many travelers, so we're thinking about revisiting the event, possibly for the March or April program. If you're one of those people who like to share experiences, special photos or war stories, contact Marc Purdy or Wolfgang Pelz for any technical details and get onto the playbill. Presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.

Save the Date

If you're looking for a great way to spend a fall day birding or just enjoying the splendor of northeastern Ohio, the place to be is Bath Nature Preserve, October 9. This a free educational event, called Fall Into Nature, at the preserve. It features a host of nature-focused organizations, including Greater Akron Audubon. Come out to learn a little and enjoy a lot.

And Save This Info

It's not uncommon during fall migration to find banded birds—particularly Canada Geese. Other first-year birds, banded a few months earlier, are making their way south, getting lost and dying in the adventure. If you find a banded bird, and it's a fresh kill, contact Dr. Andy Jones (ajones@CMNH.ORG) at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to learn if he'd like the specimen for the museum's collection. Also, copy down the exact data, color and location (i.e. right leg, etc..) of the band, and the spot where you found the

bird, then report the information to <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/call800.cfm>.

Any banded bird is part of someone's research study. These folks are grateful for any feedback you can give them. In my experience of reporting banded birds, the response has been quick and welcome.

33rd Summit County Census Sets New Records

by Ann Chasar and Doug Vogus, coordinators

A record number of birds were counted (35,073), undoubtedly due to the record number of participants (87) and field hours (489). 130 tabulated species ties the 2004 record. "Status quo" could describe the abundance of most of the species when compared to recent years. A few observations from the data follow: Osprey, Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons are all nesting in Summit County! Based on birds per party hour, Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase. American Robin is the most common species in the mix of habitats that are typically covered; Eastern Bluebirds and Eastern Towhees are at all time highs. Prothonotary and Pine Warblers discovered a few new nesting spots. Several northerly migrants dallied, giving the census its first Magnolia and Wilson's Warblers. Henslow's Sparrows are denizens of the Richfield Coliseum site while Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, and Horned Larks populate the southeastern corner of the county. One Marsh Wren is a low count. Oddly, Ring-billed Gull totals are the lowest in 25 years. View and compare the complete 33 years of data at www.akronaudubon.org.

Many thanks to this fantastic group of enthusiastic volunteers:

June Bateman, Peg & Rob Bobel, Sandy Brown, Dave Brumfield, Jen Brumfield, Garnet Byrne, Karen Calabrese, John Cameron, Robert Capanna, Dwight & Ann Chasar, Sue Chester, Ernie Cornelius, Wayne Crouse, George & Sandy Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Fred Dinkelbach, Diane Dulzer, Mike Edgington, Paul Ellsworth, Carol Floyd, Dave Ford, Henry Fortlage, Chriss Fulton, Bob Furst, Mike Green, Craig Griffin, Ann Gulbransen, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Bob Hinkle, Nancy Howell, Larry Hunter, Mary Lou Hura, Judy Hurley, Andrea Irland, Diane Johnson, Susan Jones, Hedy Jones, Barb Kaplan, Winnie Kennedy, Gene & Linda Kovach, Jeffrey & Marian Kraus, Louisa Krider, Pat Lanese, Karl Liske, Elaine Marsh, Sarah Matheny, Wilbur McQueen, Marie Morgan, Marianne Nolan, Marc Nolls, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Michael Pasek, Wolfgang & Joyce Pelz, Mark & Claire Purdy, Maryanne Rackoff, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Fred Riley, Dave & Nancy Reinhart, Bryn Roberts, Mary Anne & Tom Romito, Pat Rydquist, George & Linda Sangrik, Jay Smith, Bert Szabo, Henry & Jim Trimpe, Doug Vogus, Annette Webb, Janet Wertz, John & Judy Wilkinson, Clyde Witt, Michelle Zager, Marian Zehnder.

Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale

We've confirmed the date of November 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 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.

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 educational programs and newsletters.

A special thanks goes to Nancy and Mark Roesner of Copley Feed for their usual outstanding generosity.

Order Deadline is October 31. Pick up is November 6 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	_____	_____
I would like to donate to the Chapter general fund			_____
		TOTAL	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

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

Pick-up will be Saturday, November 6, from 9AM to 1PM, at Copley Feed.

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