



GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

Volume XXXVI

Number 2

October / November 2010

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

Way Off the Beaten Track

This summer, Susan and I developed a taste for getting off the interstate highways during our travels. Among our discoveries have been Lucas, Kansas, the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas, with its Garden of Eden and other assorted oddities. But that's another story. Recently we found ourselves (geographically speaking) in Rabbit Hash, Kentucky. This (really) tiny town is best known for its name and not much else. Well, it is known for having elected a dog as its mayor—twice.

Rabbit Hash's population varies from four to 40 people, depending on how the city boundaries are drawn. There are only a couple of antique stores and two, and I use the term loosely, cafes. The most intriguing store is the General Store (where one of the dog-mayors was banned from entering by the health department). Because of flooding (the town is literally on the banks of the Ohio River) there's not an unwarped board in the building. I think there is probably one example of everything ever built in the world jammed into the building. There's so much stuff, floor to ceiling, that there's no room for anything. The nostalgic aroma of sandalwood incense permeates the place, a feature I'm sure, missing when the first settlers washed up on this south bank of the river in the mid-1700s.

What piqued my curiosity was that, without spending a penny, we had a fun hour or so poking around in history—indoors and out. While across the river, in Rising Sun, Indiana, was “anchored” the Grand Victoria riverboat casino. I wondered if the folks on the boat were looking across the river and enjoying their experience as much as we.

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 most often 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 Web site, 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.

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, Ohio Northern University. Mager 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 of 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 praise the Bald Eagle and eat 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

Editor's Note:

Because of chapter budgetary concerns, rather than reduce the already overburdened Newsletter staff, the executive committee opted to, again, print only four Newsletters this season. Hang on to this one. You'll receive the next issue in early January. For an up-to-the-minute schedule, attend the monthly meetings, stay tuned—and keep your eye on the chapter's Web site, www.akronaudubon.org.

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 all-day count. Details to follow at the chapter meetings, on the Web site, www.akronaudubon.org.

This is unquestionably one of the most successful, longer-running citizen science monitoring programs, ever. Ohio has been involved with the CBC since its inception in 1900.

The first Christmas Bird Count had 27 volunteer participants, who counted birds in 25 distinct count circles across 13 states and two Canadian provinces. They collectively counted 18,500 individual birds and 90 total species. Today there are nearly 50,000 volunteer CBC observers throughout the world.

Professor Lynds Jones of nearby Oberlin was one of the original 27 counters in 1900, thereby securing Ohio’s place in history as one of the first states to conduct a Christmas Bird Count. During that first Ohio count, Jones counted 14 species which included a Red-shouldered Hawk, 40 American Tree Sparrows, 14 Purple Finches and one Northern Cardinal.

Today there are more than 60 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts throughout Ohio that attract close to 1,500 volunteer counters who count nearly 20,000 northern cardinals. The number of volunteers and cardinals seems to go up each year. It’s estimated that nearly three million people in Ohio participate in some form of wildlife-watching activity. Those activities include bird-watching, bird-feeding, landscaping for birds, nature photography, or some other activity like participating in a local Christmas Bird Count.

Our Chapter’s count day is December 19, followed by a chili dinner held at Mingo Shelter. If you can’t get into the field on count day, feeder counters are welcome if you live within the 15-mile diameter of our count circle. The circle is centered in downtown Cuyahoga Falls. It’s easy to get in on the fun and camaraderie. Come to the November 23rd chapter meeting to sign up. If you can’t make it to the meeting, call Marie Morgan at (330) 867-9850.

Events Close to Home

Here is a variety of fall events, sponsored by the Metro Parks Serving Summit County. For more details on any of these events, check the park’s Web site, www.summitmetroparks.org, or phone, (330) 867-5511.

SPOKES AND FOLKS

Saturday, October 02, 9 a.m.

Ride your bike on the floating Towpath north to the Mustill Store. The total trip is 10 miles and helmets are required.

NATURE AND HISTORY OF SAND RUN

Saturday, October 02, 2 p.m.

Discover some of the history of this park and its flora and fauna while exploring the strenuous 3.3-mile Mingo Trail with

Naturalist Mike Greene. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

FALL FAMILY OUTING

Saturday, October 02, 6-9 p.m.

Fall into autumn fun with free hayrides, bonfires, naturalist activities, live music, apple cider, cookies and more. A wheelchair-accessible hay wagon is available.

DISCOVER OLD FRIENDS

Sunday, October 03, 2 p.m.

Meet the interesting trees in “your backyard” while hiking the exhilarating 2.2-mile Indian Spring Trail. Find out what makes these trees so important to you and local wildlife, and learn to identify some different species. Meet at the trail lot. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

NATURE JOURNALING FOR ADULTS

Saturday, October 09, 1 p.m.

Let the history and beauty of Deep Lock Quarry inspire you to make more journal entries as you explore parts of the Quarry Trail with Naturalist Dave Gates. Bring your own journal (a spiral notebook or sketch pad will do) and pens or pencils. Program suggested for ages 16 and older. Meet in the trail lot.

AUTUMN IN THE VALLEY

Sunday, October 10, 2 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the seasonal changes happening in the Cuyahoga River Valley while hiking the strenuous 3.2-mile Adam Run Trail with Naturalist Mike Greene. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

CANAL HISTORY

Sunday, October 10, 3 p.m.

Ever wonder what life was like in the 1800s along the canal? Find out how the Ohio & Erie Canal helped Ohio become the state it is now on a two-mile stroll into the past with Naturalist Danusia Casteel. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

ROCKS AND WATER HIKE

Saturday, October 16, 2 p.m.

Hike the rugged 1.8-mile Gorge Trail with Naturalist Dave Gates to learn how rocks and the power of water have shaped this area. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

CMNH Hosts Multi-disciplinary Event

Saturday, October 16 will be a big day at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The day has been set aside to celebrate Ohio Archaeology Month, National Earth Science Week and Astronomy Day.

This all-inclusive program offers the opportunity to learn about the fascinating worlds of these sciences and related careers. Museum curators and staff will be on hand to answer questions, along with associated societies such as the Cleveland Geological Society and astronomy clubs, as well as local universities. If you have a fossil you’ve found and can’t identify, here’s your chance to show it to an expert. Tours of the planetarium and observatory will also be conducted.

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.