



GREATER AKRON

# AUDUBON *Matters*

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## Chapter Meetings

On February 25th, Joan Ritzman will present "Peru Ponderings." Joan went to Peru on an ecotour, spending a week in the Manu jungle. The Manu area has been described as one of the most biologically diverse preserves on earth. Joan will tell us about this unforgettable experience.

At the March 25th meeting Bert Szabo, former chief naturalist at the Naturealm and long-time GAAS member, will present "Tramping in Costa Rica." Bert will share his stories of walking through the jungles and rain forests of Costa Rica where, as he says, "You don't want to get off the path!" We'll begin the meeting at the Seiberling Naturealm at 7:30 PM.

## Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland has extended a terrific invitation to members of our chapter. On February 22 from 9-5 you can join member of Greater Cleveland chapter for a free day at the zoo and Rain Forest—you can't beat that! At 2:00 PM Stan Searles, curator of birds for the zoo, will present a program on the reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans in Ohio. To take advantage of this generous invitation you only have to do two things: 1) call GAAS central (644-0373) by Feb. 14 to reserve a place and 2) *take this newsletter with you as proof of membership.* Isn't that simple?

## SBC Results—Revisited

That drastic reduction in numbers of Wild Turkeys on the 1996 Summer Bird Count had nothing to do with our long winter or a wet spring. The whole problem was the big turkey who misread one of the reports while compiling the results. Please amend your SBC report to read 11 Wild Turkeys, and add 10 to the Total Birds line.

Also, if your report from the 1995 SBC does not include and Yellow-throated Warblers, you should add 7 of that species, and decrease the number of Common Yellowthroats. Our thanks to George Cull for pointing out these errors.

—Carol Tveekrem

## Think Spring!

Attention all gardeners! Remember when you brought home that small container of coneflowers, planted it carefully in the corner of your flower bed and waited for it to fill in? Given some time, fertilizer, and a little TLC, your coneflowers started sneaking into your rose bed and you're thinning them out like weeds. Don't you hate to toss them onto the compost pile? This year you can put them to good use by bringing your extra perennials to us. We will plant them in the Naturealm beds this spring for the birds, butterflies and park visitors to enjoy. Our goal is to create a perennial flower garden with native plants which will be specially attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies as well as other birds and humans, too.

If you have any extra plants which are on the following list, please bring them to the Naturealm (we will be setting up dates and times as the season approaches). If you are not sure of your plants' identities, but you need to thin out those beds anyway, bring them in and we will identify the plant for you. Some plants may not suit our needs, however, so any extra or unapproved plants will be exchanged among other gardening members. As always, if you have questions about this project, please call us at 644-0373. It will be great fun and remember, you can always visit your plants when you come to the Naturealm!



## BUTTERFLY & HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS



### Sunny locations

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Butterfly Weed     | Asclepias tuberosa     |
| False Rock Cress   | Aubrieta deltoidea     |
| Basket of Gold     | Aurnia saxatilis       |
| Daylily            | Hemerocallis           |
| Gayfeather         | Liatris                |
| Purple Coneflower  | Echinacea              |
| Blanket Flower     | Gaillardia             |
| Bachelor's Button  | Centaurea              |
| Four O'Clock       | Mirabilis jalapa       |
| Blue Salvia        | Salvia azurea          |
| Black-eyed Susan   | Rudebeckia             |
| New England Asters | Aster novae-angliae    |
| Yellow Lupine      | Thermopsis caroliniana |
| Beardtongue        | Penstemon              |

### Partial Sun to Shade

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cardinal Flower | Lobelia cardinalis |
| Hollyhock       | Alcea rosea        |
| Bellflower      | Campanula          |
| Spider Flower   | Cleome             |

## **Hocking State Forest Logging**

Ohio's own Hocking State Forest adjacent to Conkles Hollow, Old Man's Cave, Ash Cave and two state nature preserves is a beautiful place to visit and many of us return there over and over to enjoy the uniquely rugged geological formations nestled among the forest. Every spring a group of GAAS birders gather together and spend a weekend in search of warblers and woodpeckers. If you have not seen Hocking Hills, I urge you to take the time to visit the area, you will be impressed.

A recent announcement of logging in the Hocking State Forest has many of us concerned. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, has a contract to selectively log out 64 acres of hardwoods and clearcut 4 acres of Virginia pine. A spokesman for ODNR stated that the only trees that would be removed would be dead, dying and decaying trees as well as trees which would be dead in 20 years or so. Unfortunately, dying and decaying trees are homes for many species including the Red Headed woodpecker which is on the Audubon WatchList. State Senator, Nancy Chiles Dix requested the ODNR to explain their mission and how the proceeds from the timber sales are distributed. We will be watching this issue.

## **Christmas in Belize**



*[Think some of the birds of North America have odd-ball names? Take a look at what Courtney Willis reports from Central America! It appears that these birds aren't too hard to see, but they sure are hard to name—ed.]*

My husband and I had the pleasure of spending Christmas in Belize. Our timing coincided with the beginning of the dry season, so it was less hot and humid. We also missed the "flock" of tourists that migrate south for the post-Christmas holidays.

Belize is well-known for its barrier reef, the largest in the western hemisphere. We snorkeled at Hol Chan marine reserve and coral gardens; we saw a wide variety

of animals and corals. Noteworthy sightings included two spotted eagle rays, and a great sea turtle. Magnificent Frigatebirds, Royal Terns, Sandwich Terns, Laughing Gulls, and Double-crested Cormorants were common. The Frigatebirds were fun to watch as they stole food from the gulls.

Inland we stayed at Maya Mountain Lodge near San Ignacio. We dined on a veranda overlooking a garden visited by Cinnamon Hummingbirds, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and Collared Aracaris. Early morning walks were rewarded with views of Masked Tityras and a Red-capped Manakin. On our canoe trip down the Macai River, highlights included Gray-necked Wood-rails, Plain Chachalacas, Squirrel Cuckoos, Mangrove Swallows, Black-headed Trogons, Elegant Trogon, Black Phoebes, and Crimson-collared Tanagers. A Collared Aracari actually fell in

the river and swam to shore as we were taking a picture of it!

The cultural highlight of our trip was a visit to the ancient Maya ruins at Tikal in Guatemala. Only a few of the magnificent temples have been thoroughly excavated and reconstructed—most are still overgrown by jungle. It was awesome to sit on top of a temple looking out over the jungle and watch Aztec Parakeets, White-crowned Parrots, and Keel-billed Toucans fly by while howler monkeys called off in the distance. While walking along the jungle trails, we saw a White-whiskered Puffbird, Red-crowned Ant Tanagers, and Montezuma Oropendolas. Of course, it was always amazing and reassuring to see our North American species. Soon they too will be returning north, after a much-needed getaway in the tropics.

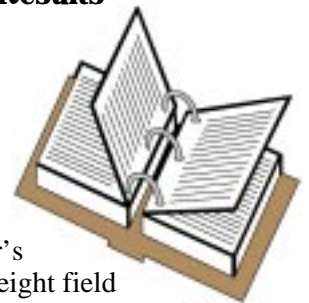
## **Watch List Information**

The National Audubon Society in conjunction with Cornell University has published a watchlist of birds in decline around the United States. These species are not on the endangered list, but their numbers have decreased rapidly enough to cause scientific concern. If you would like to find out more about this list and how you can help in Project Feeder Watch and/or other citizen activities, please call us and leave your name and address. We have packets in our office which we can mail to you right away.

— Joyce Pelz

## **Christmas Bird Count Results**

The 1996 GAAS Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 22nd, and though the observers at the dinner that evening generally felt things were slow, in the end the numbers were similar to last year's totals. One hundred and twenty-eight field observers and feeder-watchers spotted 26437 birds representing 81 species. In the list below are some nice hits, such as Greater Black-backed Gull, House Wren, Hermit Thrush, Mockingbird, and Northern Shrike; and some unusual misses, with no Teal, Scaup, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, or Yellow-rumped Warbler being seen.



# Christmas 1996 Bird Count

| Totals | Species              |      |                          |      |                         |
|--------|----------------------|------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 6      | Pied-billed Grebe    | 3    | Killdeer                 | 1    | Hermit Thrush           |
| 2      | Horned Grebe         | 1123 | Ring-billed Gull         | 13   | American Robin          |
| 29     | Great Blue Heron     | 105  | Herring Gull             | 1    | Northern Mockingbird    |
| 3      | Tundra Swan          | 2178 | Rock Dove                | 56   | Cedar Waxwing           |
| 14     | Mute Swan            | 912  | Mourning Dove            | 1    | Northern Shrike         |
| 3317   | Canada Goose         | 7    | Eastern Screech Owl      | 3776 | European Starling       |
| 12     | Wood Duck            | 10   | Great Horned Owl         | 915  | Northern Cardinal       |
| 53     | American Black Duck  | 4    | Barred Owl               | 460  | Amer. Tree Sparrow      |
| 2115   | Mallard Duck         | 3    | Belted Kingfisher        | 16   | Field Sparrow           |
| 2      | Northern Pintail     | 101  | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 1    | Fox Sparrow             |
| 2      | Northern Shoveler    | 2    | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 257  | Song Sparrow            |
| 13     | Gadwall              | 309  | Downy Woodpecker         | 14   | Swamp Sparrow           |
| 4      | Canvasback Duck      | 58   | Hairy Woodpecker         | 25   | White-throated Sparrow  |
| 10     | Redhead Duck         | 23   | Northern Flicker         | 18   | White-crowned Sparrow   |
| 3      | Ring-necked Duck     | 10   | Pileated Woodpecker      | 825  | Dark-eyed Junco         |
| 12     | Common Goldeneye     | 825  | Blue Jay                 | 6    | Red-Winged Blackbird    |
| 8      | Bufflehead           | 1253 | American Crow            | 4    | Common Grackle          |
| 14     | Hooded Merganser     | 1131 | Blk.-capped Chickadee    | 275  | Brown-headed Cowbird    |
| 2      | Red-br. Merganser    | 468  | Tufted Titmouse          | 2    | Purple Finch            |
| 29     | Ruddy Duck           | 2    | Red-br. Nuthatch         | 675  | House Finch             |
| 8      | Sharp-shinned Hawk   | 295  | White-br. Nuthatch       | 1    | Pine Siskin             |
| 22     | Cooper's Hawk        | 21   | Brown Creeper            | 789  | American Goldfinch      |
| 5      | Red-shouldered Hawk  | 42   | Carolina Wren            | 3295 | House Sparrow           |
| 85     | Red-tailed Hawk      | 1    | House Wren               | 6    | Turkey                  |
| 5      | American Kestrel     | 1    | Winter Wren              | 2    | Merlin                  |
| 1      | Ring-necked Pheasant | 11   | Golden-cr. Kinglet       | 2    | Ruby-crowned Kinglet    |
| 296    | American Coot        | 30   | Eastern Bluebird         | 1    | Greater Blk-Backed Gull |

Members who have read the National Audubon strategic plan know how important this work is to Audubon's conservation efforts, and NAS is working to give even greater prominence to citizen-scientists like our Christmas counters. So thanks to all of you, old hands and newcomers, for your essential contribution to GAAS and the Audubon cause. This year's field and feeder observers were:

|                |                   |                    |                  |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Deedra Allen   | Rosemary Donatell | Betty Hudkins      | Gary Moats       | Daniel Starcher   |
| Ann Biscan     | Mike Edgington    | Ethel Hugill       | Kathy Mock       | Walter Starcher   |
| Inez Beck      | Elinor Elder      | Mary Lou Hura      | Bryan Molnar     | Joyce Strasser    |
| Helen Becker   | David Erickson    | Nancy Ibsen        | Fred Montague    | Steve Strasser    |
| Michael Bowler | Ann Falor         | Diane Ingersoll    | Marie Morgan     | John Strickland   |
| Peter Bowler   | Minna Feibelman   | Diane Johnson      | Gretchen Motts   | Bert Szabo        |
| William Bowler | Louise Fleming    | Tracy Johnson      | Paul Motts       | Margaret Thorp    |
| Don Burlett    | Alan Frank        | Hedy Jones         | George Nahmi     | Judy Tisdale      |
| Roberta Bush   | Fred Fricker      | Robert Juve        | Debbie Nauer     | Sue Tolley        |
| Garnet Byrnes  | Lois Frisbee      | Karen Kannin       | Hope Orr         | Carol Tveekram    |
| Doug Caesar    | Robert Furst      | Barbara Kaplin     | Bill Osborne     | Jim Tveekram      |
| Nick Calabro   | Ryan Furst        | Winetta Kennedy    | Joyce Pelz       | Daniel Van Auken  |
| Bev Calvert    | Benita Gadsen     | Isaac Kerns        | Wolfgang Pelz    | Douglas Van Auken |
| John Cameron   | Beth Garner       | Sheila Kerns       | Claire Purdy     | Steven Van Auken  |
| Ruth Canine    | Carole Gatian     | Lucille Kiehl      | Mark Purdy       | Douglas Vogus     |
| Robert Capanna | Marcella Glassner | Alice Luddington   | James Rawdon     | James Vogus       |
| Ann Chasar     | Darrell Goodson   | David Luddington   | Jim Reyda        | Jeff Wert         |
| Dwight Chasar  | Craig Griffin     | Richard Marin      | David Richards   | Robert Wheat      |
| Lee Darst      | Diana Gross       | Elaine Martin      | Mary Anne Romito | Gary Whidden      |
| Doug Dawes     | Ann Gulbransen    | Ruth May           | Larry Rosche     | Clyde Witt        |
| Jonathan Dean  | Martin Gulbransen | Harold May         | Rhona Russell    | Howard Zehnder    |
| Michele DeLuga | Pat Haddad        | Christine McCorkle | Grace Rymer      | Marian Zehnder    |
| Helen Dessent  | William Hampshire | James McIntyre     | Sue Sahli        | Patricia Ziegler  |
| Cecilia Devlin | John Heben        | Wilbur McQueen     | Ron Salisbury    | William Zelesnik  |
| Phyllis Devlin | Sue Henninger     | Hallie Meisner     | Ann Scheiman     |                   |
| Marion Dibbert | Tony Hess         | Amy Mitch          | Steven Sheppard  |                   |





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As a member of the National Audubon Society, you are also a member of the Akron area chapter. There are no local dues, and you receive our newsletter automatically. GAAS meets at 7:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Seiberling Naturealm, on Smith Road between Sand Run Road and Riverview Road in northwest Akron.

If you have a question about our organization and its activities, call GAAS Central at 644-0373. Upcoming events are announced at this number. You can also write to: Susan Dooley, 768 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, 44319.