



GREATER AKRON

AUDUBON *Matters*

Volume XXII

Number 4

February/March 1997



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.

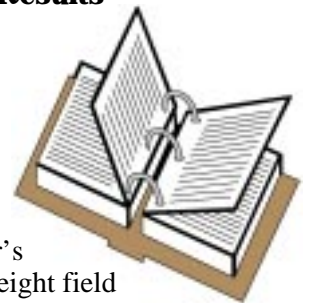
Inland we stayed at Maya Mountain Lodge near San Ignacio. We dined on a veranda overlooking a garden visited by Cinnamon Hummingbirds, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and Collared Aracaris. Early morning walks were rewarded with views of Masked Tityras and a Red-capped Manakin. On our canoe trip down the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

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.



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 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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MAIL THIS APPLICATION and YOUR CHECK TO:
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Greater Akron Audubon Matters is a bi-monthly publication of the Greater Akron Audubon Society (P.O. Box 80056), Akron, Ohio 44308). The February/March 1997 issue is Volume XXII, Number 4.

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.