



GREATER AKRON

# AUDUBON *Matters*

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## Chapter Meeting

The first meeting of the Greater Akron Audubon Society's fall season will be held on September 23rd. Jane Schnelker, wildlife rehabilitator for Wildlife Haven, will present a program entitled "Working with Wildlife." She'll tell us what a rehabilitator does, help us to understand some of the ways we impact wildlife, and show us how we can help. Jane's records indicate that 95% of the animals she heals need her help because of manmade causes. Please be sure to join us for this terrific program. As an added incentive, children coming to this program will receive a wildlife book to take home. The GAAS meets at the Seiberling Naturealm; the program will begin at 7:30 PM.

## Field Trips

Bill Osborne has lined up a couple of early fall trips for us. If you have any questions, call him at 929-9712.

*September 21:* Mentor Headlands State Park. Meet at 9 AM at the Giant Eagle in Cuyahoga Falls (on Graham Rd., just east of State Rd.) Gather in the parking lot near the light on Graham Rd.

*September 24:* Towpath Trail of the CVNRA.

Meet at 6 PM at the parking lot on Riverview Rd. just north of Ira Rd.

## Witt's End

### *What Are We Doing Here?*

Not long ago, I stopped at the downtown Cleveland post office (now called the U.S. Postal Store) for some stamps. Amid the T-shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps with various stamp logos, was a snappy promotional piece for the Endangered Species stamp. I was pleasantly surprised because I had heard the stamps were all gone.

I waited my turn, then asked the clerk if she had any Endangered Species stamps left. She responded that she had plenty of them, and handed me three plates of the World of Dinosaurs stamp. I cleared my throat and said, "These are dinosaurs." To which she responded, "Well, aren't they endangered?" Never passing an opportunity to educate, I said, "More like extinct." To which she responded, "Endangered, extinct; what's the difference?"

I recount this anecdote for a couple of reasons, customer service not being one of them. As people focused on environmental issues, we often lose sight of the fact that there are millions more out there who don't have the foggiest idea of the difference between endangered and extinct. Yet, it is those millions who impact the very things we struggle to save, improve and cherish.

It is my hope that during this Audubon year the series of programs the executive board has been

## COMING SOON: BIRD SEED SALE

As fall gets closer (and it seems a little closer than usual this year!), naturally a good GAAS member's thoughts turn to the annual bird seed sale. Marie Morgan and Tina Osborne have set the date for this year: November 1st. They tell me that the seed crop looks good, and the prices are looking good too. In an effort to save some money, we won't be sending out a separate mailing about the bird seed sale, as we have in the past. Everything you'll need to order your bird seed will be included in the October newsletter. So watch your mailbox—the next newsletter will be arriving about the first of October. If you have any questions, call Tina at 929-9712.

working on will not only entertain you, but also educate you. And that you pass this learning experience on to others. This year we will explore the diversity of nature like we've never done before. This is an exciting and challenging time to be an Greater Akron Audubon member and I'm proud to be president of this diverse organization. Always keep in mind that this is your organization. The officers and executive board welcome your ideas, enthusiasm and comments. We hope that you will lend a hand, an idea or whatever skill you might have toward making this an even better chapter.

—Clyde Witt

### **NAS Regional Convention**

The National Audubon Society's Great Lakes Regional Conference, "Bring Back the Birds," will be held November 7-9. The conference is being held in Michigan City, Indiana, and coincides with one of the most impressive migration sights in North America—the migration of the Sandhill Cranes through Jasper-Pulaski State Wildlife Area. A special field trip will take you to J-P, where you may see as many as 20,000+ Sandhill Cranes! But that's not the only reason to attend. The focus of this conference is birds: saving and restoring their habitats, environmental education, bird population research. Registration before September 22nd is \$50, which cover Friday and Saturday dinners, Saturday lunch, and the field trip. (After the 22nd the registration fee goes up to \$75.)

If you think you'd like to attend the conference, Contact Kit Spahr, Office Manager, Great Lakes Regional Office, 692 N. Hight Street., Columbus, OH, 43215-1548; (614) 224-3303, FAX (614) 224-3305, or email [kspahr@audubon.org](mailto:kspahr@audubon.org).

### **Birding on TV**

*(Ed.: I just received this information about a PBS series coming up soon.)*

"BirdWatch with Don and Lillian Stokes," is a new 13-part PBS weekly series on all aspects of watching birds from the backyard to the wilderness, is coming to PBS in October. In a varied and lively magazine-format, the Stokeses will present entertaining segments on attracting backyard birds, birdwatching tips, bird identification, bird behavior, birding hotspots all across the country (Corkscrew Swamp, Santa Ana NWR, Madera Canyon, etc.), and bird conservation. In addition, viewers will be

treated to special segments on bird photography, bird artists, bird banding, birding competitions, youth birding, and bird festivals. Right now, your local PBS station is deciding whether or not to take this show. Call your local PBS station to request it be broadcast, or to find out the time and date it is showing.

Yours in Birdwatching,  
Don and Lillian Stokes

### **1997 GAAS Summer Bird Count**

From June 13 through 22, 44 birders put in 333.5 party hours, second highest in the 20 years we have done the summer count. Logically, this also produced the second highest number of birds. (The highest previously was in 1995: 406+ hours, 38,021 birds.) Although the highest numbers of most common, widespread species were recorded in 1995, we set new high totals for a surprising number of birds. Double-crested Cormorants are increasingly common on most of our lakes. Crows are everywhere. Now for the good news—all of the following were in record numbers: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. Brown Thrashers were the highest since 1982, and Eastern Meadowlarks highest since 1980. Both species have been in decline locally, so maybe this signals a change. The only species which occurred in lower than usual numbers was the White-eyed Vireo. This spring's cool, wet conditions may not have reduced numbers of nesting birds, but whether reproduction was successful is harder to determine.

The 128 total species tied with last year for second highest behind 1995's 130. We added one new species to our list—Black Tern. Two were flying over Springfield Lake, but were gone the next day. Springfield also had the first-year immature Common Loon. A number of usually more northern breeders must have thought they were home, or were much delayed by the weather. Two groups of Brown Creepers, a territorial Winter Wren and a Hermit Thrush may have nested in the Peninsula-Boston area. (Hermit Thrush nested in the Kendall Ledges area of CVNRA in 1983 & 84.) The Mourning

Warbler, which occurs for the sixth time on our list, could not be found three days later. The Northern Parula Warbler occurred for the third straight year, and two “southerners” repeated also - Mockingbird for third year, Yellow-throated Warbler for the fourth year in a row.

1	Common Loon	152	Downy Woodpecker	71	Blue-winged Warbler
1	Pied-billed Grebe	54	Hairy Woodpecker	504	Yellow Warbler
41	Double-cr. Cormorant	103	Northern Flicker	5	Chestnut-sided Warbler
1	American Egret	15	Pileated Woodpecker	1	N. Parula Warbler
292	Great Blue Heron	130	Eastern Wood Pewee	6	Black-thr. Green Warb.
50	Green Heron	104	Acadian Flycatcher	1	Yellow-throated Warbler
5	Mute Swan	6	Alder Flycatcher	1	Prairie Warbler
1278	Canada Goose	114	Willow Flycatcher	19	Cerulean Warbler
127	Wood Duck	8	Least Flycatcher	1	Black & White Warbler
1	Amer. Black Duck	55	Eastern Phoebe	28	American Redstart
823	Mallard	82	Great Crested Flycatcher	17	Ovenbird
1	Blue-winged Teal	65	Eastern Kingbird	6	Louisiana Waterthrush
1	Ruddy Duck	29	Horned Lark	1	Mourning Warbler
137	Turkey Vulture	35	Purple Martin	361	Common Yellowthroat
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	244	Tree Swallow	105	Hooded Warbler
16	Cooper's Hawk	129	N. Rough-winged Sw.	7	Yellow-breasted Chat
14	Red-shouldered Hawk	403	Bank Swallow	96	Scarlet Tanager
7	Broad-winged Hawk	1	Cliff Swallow	809	Northern Cardinal
57	Red-tailed Hawk	318	Barn Swallow	121	Rose-br. Grosbeak
9	American Kestrel	515	Blue Jay	314	Indigo Bunting
19	Wild Turkey	545	American Crow	112	Rufous-sided Towhee
3	Virginia Rail	390	Black-cap. Chickadee	400	Chipping Sparrow
3	Sora	449	E. Tufted Titmouse	158	Field Sparrow
1	American Coot	143	White-breasted Nuthatch	66	Savannah Sparrow
255	Killdeer	6	Brown Creeper	9	Grasshopper Sparrow
22	Spotted Sandpiper	69	Carolina Wren	861	Song Sparrow
4	American Woodcock	404	House Wren	121	Swamp Sparrow
156	Ringbilled Gull	1	Winter Wren	101	Bobolink
9	Herring Gull	12	Marsh Wren	1323	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Caspian Tern	50	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	54	Eastern Meadowlark
2	Black Tern	60	Eastern Bluebird	1258	Common Grackle
501	Rock Dove	65	Veery	358	Brown Headed Cowbird
849	Mourning Dove	1	Hermit Thrush	17	Orchard Oriole
10	Black-billed Cuckoo	116	Wood Thrush	255	Baltimore Oriole
27	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1953	American Robin	18	Purple Finch
11	Eastern Screech Owl	456	Gray Catbird	584	House Finch
4	Great Horned Owl	2	Mockingbird	745	American Goldfinch
10	Barred Owl	30	Brown Thrasher	1289	House Sparrow
20	Common Nighthawk	400	Cedar Waxwing		
1	Whip-poor-will	1966	European Starling	25930	Total Birds
516	Chimney Swift	8	White-eyed Vireo	128	Total Species
63	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	7	Solitary Vireo	333.5	Party Hours
43	Belted Kingfisher	50	Yellow-throated Vireo	44	Participants
1	Red-headed Woodpkr.	117	Warbling Vireo		
158	Red-bellied Woodpkr.	312	Red-eyed Vireo		

Many thanks to the following for a superb summer bird count: Joanne Barnes, Dave Brumfield, Jenny Brumfield, Garnet Byrne, Robert Capanna, George Cull, Sandra Cull, Phyllis Devlin, Allan Dooley, Susan Dooley, Lois Eckart, Paul Ellsworth, Mary Ann Faruque, Louise Fleming, Rob Harlan, Judy Hendrick, Michele Hendrick, Nancy Ibsen, Elaine Jones, Gene Kovach, Linda Kovach, Karl Liske, Gloria Markuten, Marie Morgan, Hope Orr, Bill Osborne, Joyce Pelz, Wolfgang Pelz, Ed Pierce, Claire Purdy, Mark Purdy, Mary Reinthal, Jim Reyda, Larry Rosche, Erica Stux, Bert Szabo, Judy Tisdale, Carol Tveekrem, Jim Tveekrem, Douglas Vogus, Sandra Wagner, Clyde Witt, Marian Zehnder, Bill Zelesnik.

*Carol Tveekrem*



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### INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual & Family / \$20
- Senior Citizen - Individual & Family / \$15  
Age 65 and over. Renewal at same rate.
- Student / \$15  
Renewal same rate while full-time student.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

*(Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society)*

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter, Greater Akron Audubon Society. Please send AUDUBON magazine, my membership card and free  backpack or  bird guide (check one) to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL THIS APPLICATION and YOUR CHECK TO:  
Greater Akron Audubon Society, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 80056,  
Akron, OH 44308

- I do not wish to receive the AUDUBON magazine.
- Omit my name from other mailing lists.

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### GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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, or email me at [sedooley@aol.com](mailto:sedooley@aol.com)