



GREATER AKRON

AUDUBON

Matters

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Chapter Meeting

The October 28th meeting of the Greater Akron Audubon Society will be an extra special event. We will have representatives from Sea World of Ohio, including Laura Collins, curator of birds. They will present a program especially tailored for our chapter discussing birds of the sea, in particular penguins. And yes, they will bring *live animals* with them for us to **see and touch**. This meeting is not to be

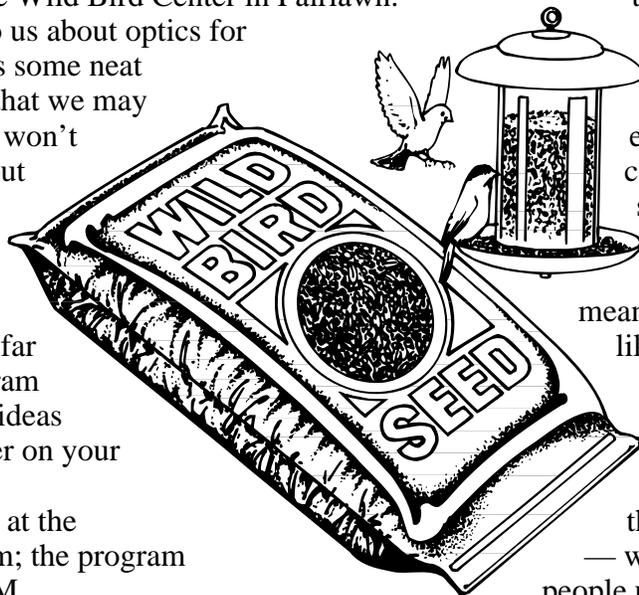


missed. We anticipate a big crowd so (no earlier than 7 p.m.) plan to bring your children to only one meeting special treat for the kids, we will again offer books to all youngsters.

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The November 25th meeting will feature Paul Wright, owner of the Wild Bird Center in Fairlawn. He's going to talk to us about optics for birding, and show us some neat birding accessories that we may not know about, but won't be able to live without once we've seen them. Though it's hard to believe now, the holiday gift-giving season is not far away, and this program may give you some ideas for that special birder on your list.

The GAAS meets at the Seiberling Naturealm; the program will begin at 7:30 PM.



Witt's End

Voicing the Audubon Cause

I was struck by a blinding flash of the obvious at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's public hearings in late July. The purpose of the meeting was for EPA officials to gather public comment on the proposed water quality standards for wetlands.

The unseasonably cool evening had a late-60's feel to it. About 75 citizens of virtually every stripe attended. Outside the Ocasec Government Building "protesters" carried hastily created hand-lettered signs demanding wetlands (and numerous other creatures) be saved. Demonstrators chanted nonsensical statements. Passersby honked car horns in support of they knew not what. A woman dressed as some sort of bird even Charles Darwin would have trouble accepting as part of natural evolution, walked around waving and distracting motorists. Another woman, green-clad and carrying a huge makeshift dragon fly (or was it a damsel fly?) implored people to support her cause — whatever it was.

The testimony by more than a dozen people inside the building was as fragmented as the crowd outside. Citizens from around northeast Ohio rose to emotionally (sometimes rudely) voice opinion on everything from the governor's lack of concern for the environment, to philosophical differences within the language used for the proposed standards. To be sure, there was solid, well-researched, meaningful testimony presented. Information like that delivered by GAAS's own Joyce Pelz, president of the Ohio Audubon Council, offered facts, figures and the importance of wetland preservation. This was the kind of input folks from the EPA sought, not the personal agendas — well meaning though they might be — of people unfamiliar with the legislative process.

But this is America.

And the blinding flash of the obvious that transported me into a time warp: The reason so many protests of the past several decades faltered was (is) because we protesters either did not speak the language of the legislators, or failed to address the point at hand. I could see it in the faces of the people from the EPA. They listened to each speaker but paid attention to very few. If we want our legislators to pay attention, we have to cut through the miasma of emotion. Legislators need the cold, hard facts of wetlands protection and preservation, not the warm fuzziness of ersatz birds and insects.

Saying that something is good means nothing. To perpetuate the Audubon mission, to make your point and influence your listener, you must explain and define goodness. It isn't easy but it can be effective and rewarding.

—Clyde Witt

Audubon Adventures

(Ed.: Since we're dedicating the profits of the Bird Seed Sale to supporting the Audubon Adventures program, we thought you'd like to know what it's all about.)

The GAAS has been supplying the Audubon Adventure program to classrooms in twenty schools in our area. The package that is sent to each school has material on six different topics, with enough copies for each student in the class. We purchase the program materials from the National Audubon Society, and have them sent to the participating schools.

The topics last year were: The Hidden World of Ponds, Songbirds Shine in the Springtime, Marine Mammals—Surf and Turf, Wildlife Goes for the Gold, Animal Talk—More than Meets the Eye and

Ear, Those Amazing Slithering Snakes.

We have had good responses from the teachers using the program. A fairly typical response follows: "I used the Audubon Adventures kit as supplementary material for our unit on life sciences. I teach 114 fifth graders. Thank you for your generous donation. I would very much like to receive the materials again next year."

This seems to be a very good way to spread the word about nature and to help in the education of young people. The program is well worth continuing.

—Lloyd Bresley
Education Chair

Get Ready for the Cold-Weather Season

Here's a tip for maintaining your sanity and fog-free binoculars during the Christmas count — or any day you spend birding in cold weather. To keep your binoculars from fogging you have to either keep them warm or cold. It's that change in temperature that causes the moisture to form. So you can either keep the binocs inside your coat (not practical) or let them get cold (much easier choice).

Carry a large zip-lock plastic bag with you. Before you get back into the car, put the binocs into the bag and seal it. Don't take them out until you get out of the car at your next stop. Yeah, but what if you want to look at a bird while you're in the car? Roll the window down and turn off the heat. Take the binoculars out of the bag so they will remain exposed to the outside air. And at lunchtime, if your leader allows you to take a break (ya gotta be tough to be a Christmas counter), put the binoculars, in the bag, in the trunk of the car where they will remain cold.

— Clyde Witt

Special Print Offer

GAAS has negotiated a special deal with wildlife artist Mike Frase to offer one of his waterfowl prints at an attractive price. Mike is an artist of national standing. His work has been exhibited in all 50 states and on many wildlife calendars. He has won numerous events, including the prestigious 1997-98 Florida Waterfowl Stamp competition.

He has offered the signed and numbered print, "Mt. Vernon Bridge Company, 1885 -- Hooded Mergansers," at a special rate to environmental organizations such as ours. This print was a finalist in the Ohio Duck Stamp competition. He has generously provided us two signed prints, one with an original color remarque (a sketch done in the margin of the plate that adds considerable value to the print) to raffle.

We have had this print mounted and framed (museum quality to assure its protection) and will display it at chapter meetings and the bird seed sale, November 1. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each. Second place in the raffle will be another signed, but unframed print. The raffle will be held at the Christmas dinner, December 21.

Mike's work sells for hundreds of dollars so buying a raffle ticket will not only help us toward our goal of providing more money for education programs such as Audubon Adventures, it means having a beautiful piece of art work that will only increase in value. And here's the best part: Mike has a limited number of these prints for sale (through us) at the low cost of \$70. Our portion of that money goes to our education programs. We will handle all transactions for you. All you have to do is write the check and start looking for a wall in your home that needs a great merganser print.

Greater Akron Audubon Society
 Seventeenth Annual
Wild Bird Seed Sale
 November 1, 1997

For your convenience affix label to your envelope.

Greater Akron Audubon Society
 3317 Kube Street
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Order Form:

Here's what we have available this year:

Bird Banquet: Superior blend of sunflower seeds, millet, safflower and peanuts which will attract all birds.

Mixed: A high quality mix containing no corn; attracts all birds.

Sunflower Seed: Attracts Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmouse, Nuthatches and Blue Jays.

Oil: Small size seed & high oil content.

Blend: Combines oil & striped seed.

Niger (Thistle): An oil rich seed; will attract Finches, Pine Siskins, and Redpolls.

**Please note: the prices above include sales tax!
 Orders must be postmarked by October 24th.**

Bird Banquet:

15# \$6.00

35# \$12.75

Mixed Seed:

20# \$6.00

50# \$11.50

Sunflower Seed:

Blend 25# \$8.25

50# \$13.25

Oil 50# \$12.95

Niger:

10# \$8.50

TOTAL:

Quantity

Item Total

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

To order: Please fill out the form above, clip it out, and mail it to the following address, along with a check for your total purchase made out to the Greater Akron Audubon Society.

Greater Akron Audubon Society
3317 Kube Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Order Pick up: We will again hold our annual bird seed sale at Copley Feed and Supply Co. Copley Feed is at 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road (just south of the intersection of Cleveland-Massillon Road and Rte. 162 in Copley center).

Bird seed must be picked up from Copley Feed on Saturday, November 1st, between 9 AM and 4 PM.

If you are unable to pick up your seed that day, please arrange for a friend to do it for you. Any bird seed not picked up on the day of the sale will be donated to the F. A. Seiberling Naturealm.

Questions? Bill or Tina Osborne can provide answers. Call them at 929-9712.

Proceeds from the Bird Seed Sale will help support Audubon Adventures, a program which assists in the teaching of environmental and ecological subjects in local public schools.