



GREATER AKRON

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Chapter Meetings

A lot of birders are gardeners, so take a look at our next chapter meeting program. Are you interested in receiving wonderful, farm-fresh organic produce each week during the growing season? Well, come to the next GAAS meeting on February 23rd to hear about one of the latest trends in environmentally friendly living. Dave

Irvine and Tim Knorr from Crown Point in Bath and Janet Huhn from Sweet Briar Farm in Garrettsville join us to discuss Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs). CSAs are small, organic farms supported by member shareholders. Their annual membership fees cover all costs of the farm in return for a share of the year's produce. You'll learn how CSAs provide much needed financial security for small farms while helping to protect our ecosystem.

The March 23rd meeting will feature Carlene Groeger. Most of us know a little bit about the hazardous waste recycling center in Stow, but are a bit hazy on the details of what happens there. Ms Groeger is the Education Resource Director for the Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority, and she'll be able to fill us in on the center's operations. She'll show us a short video, then ask what's on

our minds. She urges us to come armed with questions—everything we've ever wanted to know about waste, but were afraid to ask.

GAAS meets at the Seiberling Naturealm in Akron; the meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Witt's End

There's Good News and Bad News

It's tough trying to explain to anyone not from Northeast Ohio just how gray days can be in January and February. It's a struggle to find something—anything—positive on those mornings when you go outside and think you've been transplanted into domed stadium—and some sadistic groundskeeper has painted the inside the most uniform, neutral color imaginable. Welcome to northeast Ohio in January.

I went birding on just such a morning a couple weeks ago. Total count: Two species. Total individuals: eight. I watched as a pair of Red tail hawks put on an aerial display that would put our top-gun fighter pilots to shame. Their concerns were obviously beyond the day's weather.

Get Your Bird Seed: The Sequel

If your wild bird food stocks are depleting as quickly as mine are, you'll be glad to hear about this! Mark Roesner of Copley Feed and Supply is extending another opportunity to buy the seed you need for the rest of the winter and benefit GAAS at the same time. On **Saturday, March 6**, go to Copley Feed, bring this issue of *Audubon Matters* as proof of your membership, buy all the seed you need, and tell the clerk you want your purchase applied to the Greater Akron Audubon Fund-raiser. Copley Feed and Supply will make a donation of \$2 for each bag of seed sold to GAAS members that day. As in November, the following seed purchases will qualify:

Oliger Wild Bird Seed—50 lb.
Copley Wild Bird Seed—50 lb.
Oliger Wild Bird Banquet—35 lb.
Deluxe Finch Mix—50 lb.
Copley Finch Mix—50 lb.

Oil Sunflower—50 lb.
Sunflower Blend—50 lb.
Sunflower Chips—50 lb.
Safflower Seed—50 lb.

Peanut Pieces—50 lb.
Cardinal Chickadee Mix—50 lb.
Squirrel Nut & Crunch—50 lb.
Thistle Seed—10 lb. or 50 lb.

Copley Feed is located at 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road in Copley (just south of the Copley circle). With their help and your purchases, the GAAS can continue its commitments to good programs, Audubon Adventures in area elementary schools, conservation efforts and birdwatching opportunities. So come on out to Copley Feed and Supply on Saturday, March 6th (**with this newsletter in hand**) and help our wintering birds get ready for spring migration!

The other species, and six individuals, were Eastern bluebirds. A family mix, all displayed on a tree branch better than any field guide could hope to reproduce. It was a chilly, damp day so the birds were all puffed up, unlike the sleek silhouettes we are used to seeing. From 25 feet away I examined each bird until their appointed leader tired of my voyeurism and took the flock to a nearby utility wire.

Here's some more good-bad-good news: From 1960 to 1996, the U.S. increased the percentage of trash it recycled from seven percent to 27 percent. However, the total volume of trash has jumped from 82 million to 152 million metric tons per year. But, to help us understand what to do with this burgeoning heap of stuff, we'll have a program this spring, presented by the fine folks from the Akron-Summit County Recycling Center. We'll also have programs on planting gardens, and creating natural habitats for birds and other animals. We'll have speakers discussing organic gardening and community food co-ops. We're working on getting one of Ohio's top birders in to talk with us and we're lining up another picnic program for June. Along with some special field trips we have in mind, the executive committee is offering a lot of good news this Spring to dispel some of that grayness of January and February. Stop by the fourth Tuesday of each month, now through June, and see what you've been missing.

—Clyde Witt, President

75 Years of Treasures & Pleasures; 76 pp.;

Patricia M. Zonsius.

Book Review by Clyde Witt

When reading history books I've often wondered how authors decide what to leave out, not what to put in. So it is with a new publication from the MetroParks, *Serving Summit County*, by Patricia M. Zonsius. Seventy-five years includes a lot of time and countless individuals in the creation of this marvelous park system. Zonsius does an excellent job of describing the early years of the park system and the individuals who nurtured and grew it into the 6,800-acre recreation area it is today. The strength of the book is its portrayal of the personalities and enthusiasms of these people who were (and continue to be) the driving force behind the creation of the system. Greater Akron Audubon Society, and individuals important in the creation of our chapter, are mentioned since they were also part of the park's development.

If the book has a shortcoming, it is the lack of historical data on animal and plant species. I think this reflects the vision of the founders of this, and most other, park systems: What is the land's recreational value for the humans? Current thinking puts more emphasis on the preservation and protection of habitats for birds and other animals.

From a technical standpoint, the book suffers from its use of duotone photos. This process of reproducing photos in either light green or mauve, especially with a matte finish,

washes out important information the photos could communicate had they been printed in black and white.

Beyond the historical value of the book, the brief section discussing the "natural scene of the metro parks" has the most value. In this section each of the park system's units is described. The descriptions are mostly botanical, and for a birder, disappointing in their lack of bird data. Misspellings and incorrect bird names aside, the book has value as an impetus to get more people out into the woods.

75 Years of Treasures & Pleasures is available for \$10 at the Seiberling Naturealm.

Summer Bird Count

The 1999 Akron Audubon summer bird count will be held Friday June 11 through Monday June 21. This is our 22nd consecutive count and we have come to a crisis point. We have invaluable data on what birds are present during the breeding season, roughly where in the area they can be found, and population trends. We would like to keep this project going, but we need a new coordinator since the Tveekrems are moving to Minnesota. This job could easily be split into two parts - recruiting birders and organizing before the count, and compiling all the sightings afterwards. A computer simplifies the latter job but is not essential. The recent years' data are on MS Excel spreadsheets, and would transfer to MS Works version 4 or newer.

If you would like to help this year or in the future, please call Carol Tveekrem at 644-5006 or e-mail: jotveekrem@worldnet.att.net. We expect to be here to help with this year's count.

Free to a good home—Volumes 96 through 104 (1979-87) of *The Auk*. Also *Cleveland Bird Calendar* vintage 1975~1990. Call 644-5006.

60th Christmas Bird Count Report

The 1998 Christmas Bird Count was made under cloudy skies with light rain off and on throughout the day. There was no snow on the ground. The day started with a low temperature of 36 degrees F. and reached a high temperature of 41 degrees F. Visibility was poor at times.

The compilers of the 1998 count wish to thank all of the participants, counting in the field and at the feeders, who contributed their time and effort to make this year's count a huge success. Without their labors, GAAS could not have a successful count.

Fifty parties spent a total of 201 hours counting birds in the field and traveled a total of 945.5 miles by foot and by car. The parties spent 125 hours on foot and walked 122 miles. The time spent observing from cars was 76 hours and the miles by car was 823.5. Owlers spent 11 hours and covered 45.75 miles. Forty-one feeder-counters participated this year, and ninety-two counters were in the field.

A Black Swan was sighted on the day of the count at Mogadore Reservoir by Dave Richards' group. According to Geoff LeBaron, CBC Director, more and more Black Swans are being reported on Counts. It seems that NAS will be using the CBC to determine whether they have become established and may make the Black Swan a bona fide species. If that happens we will gain another species for our Count! During the week of the count the following birds were observed: Ruffed Grouse, Purple Finch, and Peregrine Falcon.

Marie Morgan, Bill Osborne, and Bert Szabo, compilers

OUR ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS SAW 24,139 INDIVIDUALS OF 82 SPECIES

Totals	Species	Totals	Species	Totals	Species	Totals	Species
15	Pied-billed Grebe	319	Ruddy Duck	64	Hairy Woodpecker	2278	European Starling
4	Horned Grebe	10	Sharp-shinned Hawk	32	Northern Flicker	5	Yellow-Rumped Warbler
33	Great Blue Heron	14	Cooper's Hawk	20	Pileated Woodpecker	756	Northern Cardinal
10	Mute Swan	6	Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Eastern Phoebe	2	Rufous-sided Towhee
2768	Canada Goose	62	Red-tailed Hawk	2	Horned Lark	1345	Amer. Tree Sparrow
6	Wood Duck	17	American Kestrel	764	Blue Jay	1	Field Sparrow
7	Am. Gr.-winged Duck	1	Merlin	1239	American Crow	1	Fox Sparrow
32	American Black Duck	2	Ring-necked Pheasant	1127	Bl.-capped Chickadee	189	Song Sparrow
1435	Mallard Duck	2	Wild Turkey	387	Tufted Titmouse	39	Swamp Sparrow
5	Northern Pintail	569	American Coot	6	Red-br. Nuthatch	51	White-throated Sparrow
45	Northern Shoveler	31	Killdeer	221	White-br. Nuthatch	13	White-crowned Sparrow
1	Gadwall	2096	Ring-billed Gull	11	Brown Creeper	850	Dark-eyed Junco
3	Am. Widgeon	101	Herring Gull	85	Carolina Wren	1	Snow Bunting
2	Canvasback Duck	1568	Rock Dove	4	Winter Wren	23	Red-Winged Blackbird
8	Redhead Duck	1078	Mourning Dove	27	Golden-cr. Kinglet	60	Common Grackle
71	Ring-necked Duck	11	Eastern Screech Owl	1	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4	Brown-headed Cowbird
3	Lesser Scaup	6	Great Horned Owl	30	Eastern Bluebird	579	House Finch
2	Common Goldeneye	6	Barred Owl	611	American Robin	951	American Goldfinch
13	Bufflehead	21	Belted Kingfisher	1	Grey Catbird	1201	House Sparrow
16	Hooded Merganser	111	Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	Northern Mockingbird		
3	Common Merganser	343	Downy Woodpecker	296	Cedar Waxwing		

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. Below is a list of our 133 participants; bold-faced names are area leaders, and the parenthetical number is the group's species total.

Joanne Barnes	Alan Frank	Hedy Jones	Marie Morgan (43)	Joyce Strasser
Cathleen Barrett	Nick Frank	Susan Jones	Gretchen Motts (26)	Steve Strasser
Irene Barrington	Fred Fricker (36)	Barbara Kaplan	George Nahmi	Art Sutton
Inez Beck	Pat Fricker	Winetta Kennedy	Debbie Nauer	Evelyn Sutton
Helen Becker	Lois Frisbee	Isaac Kerns	Bill Osborne (44)	Bert Szabo (29)
Michael Bowler (33)	Bob Fritz	Sheila Kerns	Michael Pasek	Margaret Thorp
Peter Bowler	James Frost	Rick Kerr	Joyce Pelz	Judy Tisdale
Don Burlett	Margaret Frost	Dave Kersten	Wolfgang Pelz	Sue Tolley
Roberta Bush	Robert Furst (38)	Lucille Kiehl	Larry Pinkus	Jim Tomko
Garnet Byrne (34)	Edna Gabelman	Barbara Klewe	Mary Reinthal	Carol Tveekrem (29)
Nick Calabro	Benita Gadsden	Gene Kovach	Jim Reyda (43)	Jim Tveekrem
Bev Calvert	Ken Gessford	Linda Kovach	David Richards (37)	Daniel Van Auken
John Cameron	Darrell Goodson	Karl Liske	Norm Richenbacher	Douglas Van Auken
Robert Capanna (34)	Craig Griffin	Alice Luddington	Sally Richenbacher	Steven Van Auken
Ann Chasar	Ann Gulbransen	David Luddington	Cindy Roberts	Douglas Vogus (32)
Dwight Chasar (47)	Martin Gulbransen	Richard Marin	Kevin Roberts	James Vogus
Stephanie Costello	William Hampshire	Elaine Martin	Samuel Roberts	Patricia Webb
Pam Daum	Judy Hendrick	Harold May	Peg Robinson	Jeff Wert
Jonathan Dean	Michelle Hendrick	Ruth May	Maryanne Romito	Robert Wheat
David DeMarco	Sue Henninger	Christine McCorkle	Tom Romito	Clyde Witt (22)
Helen Dessent	John Higgins	Beth McGuire	Larry Rosche (51)	Russell Young
Cecilia Devlin	Betty Hudkins	James McIntyre	Grace Rymer	Howard Zehnder
Phyllis Devlin	Mary Lou Hura	Wilbur McQueen	George Sangrik	Marian Zehnder
Megan Dvorak	Nancy Ibsen (25)	Hallie Meisner	Linda Sangrik	Patricia Ziegler
Mike Edgington	Claire Johnson	Gary Moats	Sterling Saxe	
Ann Falor	Diane Johnson	Kathy Mock	Steven Sheppard	
Louise Fleming	George Jones	Fred Montague	Dave Stover	