



GREATER AKRON AUDUBON *Matters*

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Witt's End

A Matter of Perspective

Since I frequently have the opportunity to watch the landscape from the perspective of a bird, I enjoy passing time searching for landmarks. Not the big things like the new Browns stadium, but small stuff, like Lake Medina or my house. Could I find my way home without a map? I try to imagine what it is like for a migrating bird. And I can't imagine.

The changes I see every couple of weeks make the landscape look like a kaleidoscope. From 30,000 feet, things don't seem to change much. There are still lots of family farms, forests, lakes and streams. But as I get closer to the ground, the view changes. I'm finding it more difficult to pick out my house amid the clutter of development in Medina County. The area around I-71 and SR-18 is trying its best to look like the Montrose area at its worst. All along SR-18, east and west of I-71, the race is on to see which fast food joint can raise its banner highest. Litter on a stick. Denny's recently erected yellow sign can be seen from 10 miles away, a fact that no doubt brings joy to some marketing person's heart. I wonder, as we pass over the dwindling woodland around Lake Medina, how the sign looks at night to migrating birds. On the ground, the hodgepodge of buildings seems to have no rhyme or reason. Piles of sticks and bricks.

So where is this diatribe headed? The good or evil of development is a matter of perspective. Those who embrace development are enriched, at least in some materialistic way. For those of us who think otherwise, we'd better learn to adapt and adopt if we want to be around for the next migration. Like birds, to survive we must change our perspective, seek out what we like best and look at new things for our enrichment.

Toward that end, this year's line-up of monthly programs will take you to places you've never been. We'll introduce you to creatures — two-legged, four-legged and no-legged — you've not met before. Join us each month as we explore the diversity of the natural

world. I guarantee it will change your perspective. Do you know the hummingbird's role in pollination?

Where's the bat in the hat, or fox in a box? We might not always have Paris but we will have Casablanca. Play it Sam.

Check the great line-up of programs starting now and continuing through June. The meetings are free and open to the public. We'll see you the fourth Tuesday each month, except December (Christmas Count month), July and August. We open the doors at the Naturealm on Smith Rd. in west Akron at 7:00 p.m. and begin the meeting promptly at 7:30 p.m. And, if you have any suggestions for next year's programs, please tell me. I need all the changes in perspective I can get.

Clyde Witt

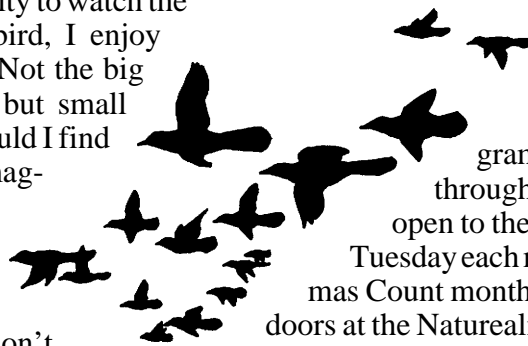
Climb On Board the Ark

Our October 26th program will feature the former naturalist of Fairlawn, Leo Boes. Anyone who visited that city's park system probably enjoyed the engaging programs and animals Leo presented. Now, he's put all those creatures into one large boat (I mean program) and makes the rounds of schools and retail stores talking about what the animals do and our relationship to them. Join us for an evening of fun at the Naturealm with critters that creep, crawl, walk and fly.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Jenny Brumfield Honored

Akron's own, Jenny Brumfield, with whom many of us have birded and enjoyed her programs here and at the Wild Bird Center, was named winner of the Leica/American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year award. Jenny's art work can be seen at the Naturealm and in ABA publications. The competition is designed to encourage the education and enrichment of young people interested in nature and birding.



The Audubon Year at a Glance

Here's is a preview of programs and events through the month of June. We urge you to clip the page and stick it on your refrigerator for quick reference. We think this is the greatest line-up of science-based environmental programs available in the Akron area. All programs are free and open to the public. We meet at the Naturealm the fourth Tuesday each month except December, July and August, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

October 26th

Leo's Ark

Former Fairlawn naturalist Leo Boes will be bring a host of animals to the meeting to discuss the role of these creatures in nature and their relation to us. These critters can be held and petted so bring the kids!

November 23rd

The World of Bats

Get ready for Thanksgiving with a program on bats! Okay, so bats are more appropriate for October, but this nationally famous program was booked solid that month. We're fortunate to have them November 23rd. The program will feature the diversity of bat species in the world, presented by the nationally known folks from the Organization for Bat Conservation. This will be a special program featuring live flying foxes. Bring your kids and neighbors to this one!

December 19th

Christmas Count Sunday*

For more than 30 years Greater Akron Audubon (formerly the Cuyahoga Falls Bird Club) has participated in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Internationally, more than 45,000 people participate in this all-day census of early winter bird populations. You can help add to the longest running database in ornithology, started by Frank Chapman in 1900 with 25 volunteers. Come to the November meeting for details, or call Marie Morgan at (330) 867-9850. We need your help!

***Chili Dinner**

Following the Christmas Count on the 19th we will have a chili dinner at the Mingo Shelter in Sand Run Park. This is a freebie, folks. The chapter will provide the eats, you provide the bowl and flatware. Starting after 4 p.m. through 7 p.m., come and discuss the great birds you saw, relax and enjoy some great food.

January 25th

Birding Morocco — And More

Mark & Claire Purdy, GAAS's own travelling birders, are going to take us to ocean coasts, the Atlas Mountains and Saharan dunes, in search of this Morocco's great diversity of habitats and animal life. This presentation will focus on the birds of Morocco, along with the intriguing history, architecture, and culture of the area. Sunscreen optional.

February 22nd

Birds and Pollination

Right, the birds and the bees — so to speak. Randy Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Biology at University of Akron, will fascinate you with how nectar-feeding birds can be important pollinators of many plant species. Dr. Mitchell will talk about his research on the nectar feeding behavior and pollination abilities of Australian honeyeaters and North American hummingbirds.

March 28th

Saving the Rainforest for Fun and Profit

Jeff Moats, President and Founder of Amazon Origins, Inc. will amaze you with the unique and exotic food products created from ingredients found only in the Amazon Rainforest. The company's goals are to support the local growers in the region, provide the economic opportunity needed to improve their quality of life, and help preserve their environment in the World's greatest rainforest. Join us for a lip-smackin' good time.

April 25th

Birding the Local Scene

Courtenay Willis, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Youngstown State University, field trip leader and chapter member, will discuss research on breeding behavior of birds at Ravenna Arsenal. A lot is happening at this former munitions factory. This program will explode some myths about birds and hazardous waste.

May 23rd

Save the Planet

Judy Semroc of the Botanic Rescue Squad has an important message. Most of our gardens are in, or at least well-planned by now, but what happens when development threatens? How can we preserve the diversity of our environment that birds and other animals require to survive? This month those and many other questions will be answered in this unique presentation.

June 27th

Annual Picnic Time

The ever-popular picnic in the woods with furry and fuzzy creatures is back. This program has been a hit the past two years so we'll do it again. Everyone brings a little something and we always have more than enough. Come enjoy an evening in the woods with some special guests — invited and otherwise! Watch the Newsletter for details.

Field Trip list:

This list is tentative so watch the Newsletter for updates.

April 29 - 8 am Early spring migrants. Indigo Lake/Special events area of the CVNRA. Leader: Clyde Witt. Meet at Indigo Lake parking lot.

May 6 -8 am Hinckley Reservation. Leader: Judy Tisdale. Meet at the Boathouse near the Johnson Picnic area.

May 13 -8 am Firestone Metro Park. Leader: Allan Dooley. Meet in the parking lot on Harrington Rd., just north of Warner Rd.

May 21 - (*Watch this space!*)

Wild Bird Seed Sale

It's time for our annual wild bird seed sale, slated for October 26-29. It's a bold, exciting new plan, the kind of thing required as we move toward a new century. This is your chance to make life a bit easier for the birds, add some color to our drab northeast Ohio winter landscape, and support a critical education program. The seed sale is the chapter's only fund raiser. The money generated from this effort goes directly to our support of the Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is an educational program designed for elementary school children. Through your purchases of wild bird seed we provide science-based environmental literature and videos to about 20 classrooms in the chapter area. Lloyd Bresely has done an outstanding job of administering this program for us for several years.

The format of the seed sale will be a bit different this year. Since this event is the chapter's **only** fund raising event, the executive committee is striving to make it as profitable as possible. You will be able to pre-order your seed via telephone, fax, computer or in person! We're embarking on this program with Wild Bird Center in Fairlawn to offer the highest-quality seed available in the Akron area. We will also be extending the pick-up time to three days, November 5-7 to avoid any weather problems. Wild Bird Center will be giving you 10 percent off the retail price of what you buy, and generously donating a percentage of the **gross sales** (from this fund raiser) to our chapter so that we can continue our educational efforts.

On this page you'll find a list of products available and descriptions, as well as prices. You can simply call in your order, mail or FAX the form, or order via the store's Web site. The pick-up (and payment!) dates will be November 5-7. A recent study showed that about 65 million people, or 43 percent of the U.S. households, provide food for wild birds. As a nation we spend at least \$2.5 billion on bird-related products. Do your part *and* help Akron Audubon!



WILD BIRD CENTER 117 Merz Blvd., Fairlawn, OH 44333

Phone: 330-869-9453 • Fax: 330-869-8077 • E-mail: pswright@worldnet.att.net • Web: www.backyardbirdstore.com

Audubon Customer: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<u>Finch Mix</u>		
5#	\$ 6.99	_____
10#	11.49	_____
25#	26.99	_____
<u>Nyjer Seed</u>		
5#	7.49	_____
10#	12.49	_____
25#	28.99	_____
<u>Safflower</u>		
25#	17.99	_____
50#	31.99	_____
<u>Hulled Sunflower</u>		
25#	22.99	_____
50#	39.99	_____
<u>Premium Mix (*1)</u>		
20#	14.99	_____
40#	25.99	_____
<u>Dr. Geis Mix (*2)</u>		
20#	11.99	_____
40#	21.99	_____
<u>Patio Mix (*3)</u>		
20#	24.99	_____
40#	44.99	_____

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<u>Black Oil Sunflower</u>		
20#	\$ 9.49	_____
40#	16.99	_____
<u>Millet</u>		
50#	15.99	_____
<u>Corn-shelled</u>		
25#	4.49	_____
50#	7.59	_____
<u>Corn-cracked</u>		
50#	8.59	_____
<u>Corn-ear</u>		
25#	7.99	_____
<u>Striped Sunflower</u>		
25#	10.99	_____
50#	18.99	_____
<u>Peanut Splits</u>		
10#	9.99	_____
50#	44.99	_____
<u>Kritter Krunch (*4)</u>		
10#	5.49	_____
25#	11.99	_____

Audubon Society members will receive a 10% discount on the above prices.

Order dates: October 26 thru October 29 Pick-up dates: November 5 thru November 7

*1 Premium Mix oil sunflower, striped sunflower, peanuts, safflower

*2 Dr. Geis Mix oil sunflower, striped sunflower, peanuts, sunflower meats, white millet

*3 Patio Mix No mess sunflower meats, peanuts, hulled millet, tree nuts

*4 Kritter Krunch Feed the squirrels.