GREATER AKRON AUDUBON SOCIETY

80th Anniversary
1934 - 2014

Brief Overview of the 20th Century Years

by Marie Morgan
Revised 01/25/2017
The Beginning

- On March 13, 1934, Alta Smith, Orry Mitchell, Fred Smith, Corrine Grosvenor, Clifford Grosvenor, and Frances Grosvenor met at Alta’s home, 2057 7th Street in Cuyahoga Falls to discuss forming a bird club.

- On April 2, 1934, the Club was duly organized and named The Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club by the nine people attending the meeting.
In order of signing up to join the group were:
• O.L. Mitchell
• William Lodge
• Corrine Grosvenor
• Clifford Grosvenor
• Frances Grosvenor
• Alta Smith
• Mrs. Clyde Hazle
• Daisy Wetmore
• Fred Smith
1930s

Meeting Schedule
- 7:30 - 7:45 P.M. social period
- 7:45 - 10:00 P.M. meeting and program

Meeting Location
- Meetings were held every Tuesday evening at Alta Smith’s home at the beginning. By 1937 meetings were being held in the homes of other members on a monthly basis.
1930s

Presidents were:
- Alta Smith 1934-36
- William Lodge 1936-38
- Alta Smith 1938-40

1st Vice-Presidents were:
- Orry Mitchell 1934-36
- Alta Smith 1936-38
- Bertram Smith 1938-39
- Gale Wiley 1939-40

2nd Vice-Presidents were:
- Hazel Hazle 1934-36
- Gertrude Renneckar 1936-38
- Corrine Grosvenor 1938-39
- Benadine Cobb & Committee 1939-40
Recording Secretaries were:
  • Corrine Grosvenor 1934-35
  • Alma Seibold 1935-36
  • Alice Greene 1936-40

Corresponding Secretaries were:
  • Daisy Wetmore 1934-35
  • Alma Seibold 1935-36
  • Alice Greene 1936-40

Treasurers were:
  • Corrine Grosvenor 1934-35
  • Daisy Wetmore 1935-37
  • Gertrude Renneckar 1937-40
1930s

The Club:

• Organized community projects to help increase Bluebird population.
• Set up bird exhibits at Garden Clubs and Horticultural Clubs.
• Organized Boy Scouts to build feeding boxes that were placed in various locations.
• Introduced Junior Audubon pamphlets to five schools.
• Increased dues from 10 cents in 1934 to 35 cents in 1935 to 50 cents in 1938 to cover cards and postage plus a penny collection taken at each meeting for a flower fund for the sick.
• Attempted to keep the Quail (Northern Bobwhite) on the Songbird List in 1935.
1930s

The Club:

• Sent the Club’s bi-monthly Bird Report to Professor Baird of Oberlin College who included it in his “Ohio Letter” Column that appeared in the Bird-Lore magazine of the National Audubon Society.

• Adopted in 1936 the following pledge which was adapted from a pledge Orry Mitchell saw in a Canadian paper. “I hereby promise to protect birds in every way, to learn all I can about them, to interest others in them and to give what help I can to the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club.”

• Contributed to the Cuyahoga Falls Reporter a weekly column written by Orry Mitchell educating readers about the needs of birds in the community.
The Club:

- Organized overnight/weekend trips to Pymatuning and Presque Isle during Spring and Fall migrations.

- Led weekend birding trips to Chestnut Hill and Oakwood cemeteries, Long Lake, Summit Lake and Turkeyfoot Lake, Nimisila, Lake Rockwell, Mogadore, Babb’s Run, Crystal Lake, Aurora, Mosquito Lake and Berlin Reservoir.

- Conducted a bird census on January 1, 1936, following the instructions in Bird-Lore magazine. Turnout was poor with only 12 species sighted. In 1937 another census was conducted with 15 species reported which was not much better. But it was the start of what became a very special day in the activities of the Club, for it tied the local Club with a National endeavor carried out by the National Audubon Society.²

- Started keeping record of attendance in 1936.
1930s

The Club:

- Introduced mimeographed Program Folders listing 18 members in 1937. Cover designed by Member, Orry Mitchell.
- Added the listing of weekend field trips in 1938.
- Affiliated with the Ohio League of Nature Clubs in 1939.
- Donated money to Rosalie Edge who began the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in May of 1939.
- Affiliated with the Ohio League of Nature Clubs in 1939.
1930s

The Club:

- Encouraged William Lodge, a member, with his planting wild rice in Silver Lake to attract waterfowl.
- Supplied bird seed and suet for the Mary Ellsworth Bird Sanctuary, which William Lodge created and named for his wife, located in Silver Lake along the Cuyahoga River across from Kent-Stow Road.
- Planned a picnic for the last meeting in June which became an on and off tradition of picnics/potluck dinners through the end of the 1990s.
- Conducted the popular Roll Call at each meeting during which time members shared bird sightings and observations. A time limit of an hour was set on the reports.
- Conducted at each meeting a systematic study of Order and Family called the Chart Study from 1936 to 1938.
- Presented programs on various topics such as Nesting Habits, Plumage, Bird Habitat, Migration as main part of each program after the Roll Call and Chart Study.
1940s

Presidents were:
  • Alta Smith 1940-47
  • Ralph Dexter 1947-50

1st Vice-Presidents were:
  • George Smith 1940-42
  • Gertrude Renneckar 1942-44
  • Ralph Dexter 1944-47
  • Alice Greene 1947-50

2nd Vice-Presidents were:
  • Benadine Cobb & Committee 1940-47
  • Ernie Harmon 1947-50
1940s

Recording Secretaries were:
• Benadine Cobb 1940-42
• Alice Internoscia 1942-48
• Gale Wiley 1948-50

Corresponding Secretaries were:
• Benadine Cobb 1940-42
• Alice Internoscia 1942-47
• Lulu Smith 1947-50

Treasurers were:
• Mrs. Howard Short 1940-41
• Audry Kennedy 1941-44
• Ernie Harmon 1944-46
• Florence Liska 1946-50
The Club:

- Began to experience effects of WWII in 1941. In 1942 two members were the first to be called to active duty.
- Extended free membership to any of the members who went into service.
- Sent Gift Kits consisting of a money belt, a sewing kit, and some peanut brittle to members overseas.
- Made arrangements for the Art Institute on Fir Hill to have a feeding station for the birds.
- Feeders were made by Mr. Jellison’s classes at Hower Trade School. Suet packs to supplement the diet were made by member, Miss Hilla Bruderlein.
- Reported Seeing were Blue Jays, Cardinals, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Juncos and Quail at the feeders.
The Club:

- Limited field and bird census trips because of WWII tire and gas rationing.
- Applauded Charles Mountz for taking on one of the Homefront jobs open to men and women who understood birds and bird banding.
- Appreciated Charles Mountz for being licensed an official bird trapper and bander by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. His backyard became a government banding station. The information proved useful for the government in modern blitz warfare for conveying messages. All countries were training large flocks of banded pigeons for messenger service.
The Club:

- Recognized other Club members, such as Alta Smith and Gertrude Renneckar, who were also licensed to band.
- Contributed $5.00 to the Akron Area Civil Defense Council.
- Donated $5.00 to the Welfare Association to send one child to Camp for a week.
- Celebrated its 10th Anniversary on April 2, 1944.
- Set dues at $1 in 1945.
- Continued to lead field trips to different locations.

1940s
The Club:

- Organized a farewell party in June of 1946 for Alta Smith, founding member and president for 11 years, and her father, Rev. Fred Smith. They relocated to Lakeside, Ohio, the Methodist conference town.

- Praised by Dr Ralph Dexter for her excellent leadership, she was given the Club’s gift of two prints, a Red-winged Blackbird and a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and money for her record library as a token of appreciation.

- Named Alta Smith as Honorary President and would be listed first in the Program Folders.
1940s

The Club:

• Impressed with the research work conducted on the Chimney Swifts at Kent State University by Dr. Ralph Dexter who joined the Club in 1943.

• Encouraged, by new President, Dr. Ralph Dexter, the Club in 1947 joined the new Ecological Union for $5.00, the American Ornithological Union for $2.00 and subscribed to Bird-Lore, the official bulletin of National Audubon Society.
The Club:

• Collected $75 in 1948 to purchase a mounted Passenger Pigeon from founding member, Orry Mitchell, who retired to be with relatives in Cannington, Canada.

• Loaned the mounted Passenger Pigeon to the Summit County Historical Society.

• Encouraged by a new member, Attorney Daniel Falkner, the Club showed enthusiastic interest in a new building, named the Trailside Museum, located in Perkins Woods.\textsuperscript{4}

• Approved proposal by Florence Liska, on March 15, 1949, that the Club become an affiliate chapter of the National Audubon Society.

• Cancelled the 1949 Christmas Bird Count at noon time because of heavy rains. Compiler Ralph Dexter thought it was a good count in spite of the rain.
Club members birdwatching in the 1940s.
Presidents were:

- Daniel Falkner 1950-51
- Garlin Gibbs 1951-52
- Fred Smith 1952-53
- Florence Liska 1953-55
- Ralph Dexter 1955-57
- Gale Wiley 1957-59
- Z. Ransom Prentiss 1959-60
1950s

1st Vice-Presidents were:
  • Gertrude Renneckar 1950-51
  • Fred Smith 1951-52
  • Florence Liska 1952-53
  • Ralph Dexter 1953-55
  • Florence Liska 1955-56
  • Gale Wiley 1956-57
  • Emmett Shellenberger 1957-59
  • Eleanor Humiston 1959-60

2nd Vice-Presidents were:
  • Florence Liska 1950-52
  • Carlin Gibbs, Jr. 1952-54
  • Emmett Shellenberger 1954-57
  • Eleanor Humiston 1957-59
  • Gale Wiley 1959-60
Recording Secretaries were:
- Ruth Culler 1950-51
- Lela Culler 1951-52
- Maud Harmon 1952-54
- Margaret Lunn 1954-56
- Ruth Dyer 1956-59
- Robert Capanna 1959-60

Corresponding Secretaries were:
- Ralph Dexter 1950-53
- Jean Staiger 1953-55
- No one listed from 1955-57
- Ralph Dexter 1957-60
1950s

Treasurers were:
• Mary Fulmer 1950-53
• Gale Wiley 1953-55
• Lulu Smith 1955-57
• Helen Hughey 1957-59
• Juanita Morgan 1959-60

Bulletin Editors were:
• Alice Internoscia 1952-59
• Erica Stux 1959-60
1950s

The Club:

• Met in the new Trailside Museum for one meeting in October of 1950 at the suggestion of the new president, Daniel Falkner, who had been instrumental in the establishment of the Museum.

• Placed Bluebird Houses along roadways. 55 houses were built by members.

• Began showing in 1951 the National Audubon Society’s Audubon Screen Tours in Kent. The 5-lecture series continued until March of 1965.

• Launched a Club bulletin in 1952 which was mimeographed by a member until his retirement. New arrangements were made to have bulletin printed by the Journalism Department of the University of Akron at $2.00 a month.
The Club:

• Celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 1954 at the home of members, Ernie and Maud Harmon.
1950s

The Club:

- Experienced an evening of observing 48 migrating birds in the moonlight through a telescope on top of McGilvery Hall at Kent State University. Dr. Dexter and member, Fred Smith, coordinated the evening with the University of Louisiana’s project, “Wings Across the Moon.”

- Encouraged by President Ralph Dexter to take out a membership in the Art Institute.

- Enjoyed seeing baby animals at the November, 1956 meeting brought in by Emmett Shellenberger, who was the City Park Naturalist at the Children’s Zoo.

- Awarded first two-week Audubon camp scholarship in 1958 to Mrs. Bruce Reid who chose to go to the Wisconsin Camp. The amount was $105.00. There were 8 other recipients until 1965.
The Club:

- Voted to continue club’s status with the National Audubon Society as Affiliate Member which cost $10 a year.
- Began having meetings in the basement of the North Branch Akron Library. During construction of the new North Branch Library the club had membership entitlement to meet in the Akron Art Institute until the Library was completed.
- Began to have fund-raisers by selling Bluebird houses and various other bird related items, such as member crocheted suet ball holders, to support sending a person to an Audubon Nature Camp on a scholarship.
- Continued to have field trips to different locations.
- Celebrated 25th Anniversary in 1959 at the North Hill Branch Library with four presidents attending.
Presidents were:
• Z. Ransom Prentiss 1960-61
• Alice Internoscia 1961-63
• Lillian Blalock 1963-65
• Lowell Orr 1965-67
• Ruth Dyer 1967-70

1st Vice-Presidents were:
• Eleanor Humiston 1960-61
• Lillian Blalock 1961-63
• Edna Bowles 1963-65
• Bert Szabo 1965-66
• Carole Anthony 1966-67
• Madelin Hjelmquist 1967-69
• Katharine Digby 1969-70
1960s

2nd Vice-Presidents were:
- Gale Wiley 1960-61
- Ruth Dyer 1961-62
- Edna Bowles 1962-63
- Ruth Dyer 1963-65
- Catherine Craig 1965-66
- Alice Internoscia 1966-68
- Erica Stux 1968-70

Recording Secretaries were:
- Robert Capanna 1960-61
- Lucille Reid 1961-63
- Mrs. R. Rymer 1963-64
- Edith Conzett 1964-65
- Harriet Nichols 1965-67
- D. Rhinehart 1967-68
- Jessie Belitsky 1968-70
1960s

Corresponding Secretaries were:
• Ralph Dexter 1960-62
• Howard Rupert 1962-65
• Florence Liska 1965-70

Treasurers were:
• Juanita Morgan 1960-61
• Lela Culler 1961-63
• Seeton Thorn 1963-65
• Josephine Laughlin 1965-70

Bulletin Editors were:
• Erica Stux 1960-66
• Carole Anthony 1966-70
The Club:

- Announced that the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 was amended to provide its protection to include the Golden Eagle.
- Donated $10 to the Akron Metropolitan Park levy.
- Supported Madelin Hjelmquist and her committee (Paul Hughey, Erica Stux, Tom Phillips, Jerry Thorn and Michael Sipes) in establishing a Bluebird Trail under the direction of Bert Szabo in 1963.
- Purchased lumber and material from Club funds for the building of 25 Bluebird boxes by boys in the Juvenile Detention Home under the supervision of Bert Szabo.
- Reported 39 houses were put up in February of 1964 under the supervision of Madelin Helmquist and her committee with Bert Szabo preparing a map of the trail and location of each house. During that first nesting season there were 12 successful nests.
1960s

The Club:

• Joined the National American Nest Record Program in February, 1965. Madelin Hjelmquist sent the data to Cornell University until February, 1969.

• Discontinued the Scholarship Program in 1965 because of decrease in sales of Bluebird boxes, stationary, book covers for Peterson’s Guides, ceramic bird tiles.

• Clarified that the Sunshine Committee no longer would send flowers for deceased members but would instead purchase a book memorializing a deceased member to be placed in the North Branch Library or in a library used by member.

• Reversed meeting procedure by President Lowell Orr who placed the program first followed by the business meeting.
The Club:

- Transferred the mounted Passenger Pigeon to the Trailside Museum.¹⁵

- Designated the first woman, Madelin Hjemquist, by President Lowell Orr in 1964 as Christmas Bird Count Compiler. She followed previous compilers Fred Smith, George Smith, Fred Ruckman, Emmett Shellenberger and Ralph Dexter.

- Established the Fred Smith Memorial Fund so members could donate money in memory of relatives or friends or to further the conservation cause.

- Followed the Constitution with President Orr making sure that there were 10 meetings held each year, the annual business meeting was held in May, and the June picnic was free from business routine.
1960s

The Club:

- Set dues at $3.00 for individuals and $5.00 for families in 1965.
- Continued the tradition of Roll Call asking for any bird sightings. In 1968 at the September meeting 72 species were reported.
- Assisted the Nature Conservancy in buying Clifton Gorge in Green County by paying $16.37.
- Donated idle money from the discontinued Scholarship Fund to the National Audubon Society for its Nature Centers promoting leadership training.
Presidents were:
- Emmett Shellenberger 1970-72
- Charlotte Lanham 1972-73
- Ann Biscan 1973-74
- Ron Morgan 1974-75
- Tim Quirk 1975-76
- Carol Tveekrem 1976-78
- Fred Fricker 1978-80

1st Vice-Presidents were:
- David Waller 1970-73
- Nancy Ibsen 1973-74
- Tim Quirk 1974-77
- Carol Tveekrem 1977-78
- Marie Morgan 1978-80
2nd Vice-Presidents were:
- Erica Stux 1970-73
- Virginia Chase 1973-74
- Marie Morgan 1974-75
- Terry Sappenfield 1975-77
- Jackie Rothfuss 1977-?

Recording Secretaries were:
- Jessie Belitsky 1970-74
- Virginia Chase 1974-77
- Carol Zeh 1977-?

Corresponding Secretaries were:
- Florence Liska 1970-72
- Ann Biscan 1972-73
- Edna Bowles 1973-74
- Jessie Belitsky 1974-77
Treasurers were:
• Charlotte Lanham 1970-72
• Richard Hindall 1972-73
• Josephine Laughlin 1973-77
• Fred Fricker 1977-78
• Sterling Saxe 1978-80

Newsletter Editors were:
• Ruth Dyer 1971-74 (deceased while in office)
• Marie Morgan 1974-78
1970s

The Club:

• Applauded the official banning of the use of DDT in 1970.
• Appointed Bert Szabo by President Emmett Shellengerer in 1970 to replace Madelin Hjelmquist as the Christmas Bird Count compiler. He was responsible for establishing the specific territories within the Count Circle that are still used to this day.
• Requested that letters against dredging and straightening rivers be written.
• Started an annual May bird census in 1973 at the suggestion of President Charlotte Lanham. Nancy Ibsen was asked to compile the results. There were 108 species reported for the first census.
• Considered suggestion from Tim Quirk in 1973 that it was time to join National Audubon Society as a Chapter Member because of the slump in attendance. He was asked by President Ann Biscan to research the process.
The Club:

• Learned that the Department of Agriculture was trying to reduce the Blackbird population.

• Announced that participating in the Christmas Bird Count would cost each participant $2.00 but would receive the April issue of American Birds containing the results.

• Became affiliated with the Cuyahoga Valley Park Federation with a $5.00 membership.

• Celebrated 40th Anniversary at North Branch Library with 34 persons attending celebration.

• Introduced a masthead for the newsletter.
1970s

The Club:

- Had, at the suggestion of Tim Quirk, a sit down dinner after the 1974 Christmas Bird Count at the Travelodge on State Road in order to learn results sooner. The tradition continued into the 1990s.

- Announced that the efforts to save the Cuyahoga Valley were successful with the help of many organizations, local citizens and Representative John F. Seiberling’s lobbying in Congress. On December 27, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the bill establishing the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

- Passed a motion to take steps to attain Chapter Member status on May 27, 1975, after Tim Quirk presented pros and cons.
1970s

The Club:


- Accepted in 1975 Carol Tveekrem’s proposals of having a Breeding Bird Survey in connection with Nation Audubon Society instead of the May Census and of conducting a feeding station survey from November through April. Carol’s Survey reports became a regular feature of the News Bulletin.

- Reported at least 28,000 Purple Martins were sighted lining the telephone wires at a roost off Triplett Boulevard.
The Club:

- Elected Tim Quirk President at the June 1975, picnic at Coon Hollow (Shady Hollow) Shelter in Sand Run Metro Park.
- Began the Feeding Station Survey on December 1, 1975, headed by compiler Carol Tveekrem.\(^6\)
- Counted mail-in ballots in February, 1976: 34 for Chapter status and 1 against Chapter status.
- Announced at the meeting in February, 1976, the Club’s new name would be the Greater Akron Audubon Society which was chosen over Akron Area Audubon Society by 3 votes. Other suggestions were Portage Trail Audubon Society and Summit County Audubon Society.
- Continued to offer field trips to different locations.

1970s
The Chapter:

- Held its last meeting after 42 years as the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club, on February 24, 1976, with Tim Quirk as last President of the Club.
- Decided and approved by the Trustees of the Fred Smith Memorial Fund that this fund be dissolved and $571.40 be transferred to the Seiberling Nature Center to acquire a Memorial Plaque and as many trees as the balance would allow.
- Accepted as Chapter on March 1, 1976, by the National Audubon Society. Chapter membership area includes all of Summit County south of the Ohio Turnpike, plus Kent and Wadsworth areas. Dues were no longer charged. Membership went from 80 to over 700.
1970s

The Chapter:

• Held its first meeting as Greater Akron Audubon Society, on March 23, 1976, with Tim Quirk as the first President of the Chapter.

• Held a fourth May Bird Census in 1976 with a total of 111 species making it the best census since its inception in May of 1973. Nancy Ibsen continued as the compiler.

• Introduced second masthead for newsletter until permanent logo determined. Newsletters were printed at the Nature Center by Bert Szabo until 1980.
1970s

The Chapter:

- Shared a tent with the Issac Walton and the Sierra Clubs during the Bicentennial Celebration over the 4th of July in 1976.

*7

- Held first Summer Picnic on August 1, 1977, at Octagon Shelter in Virginia Kendall Metro Park.
- Changed meeting location from North Branch Library to Catholic Service League for the February 28, 1978, meeting and thereafter. The Library was no longer open at night because of the energy crisis.
Hootenanny Picnic
General Meetings
Catholic Service League
1970s

The Chapter:

• Approved in January, 1978, the developing of two Bluebird Trails: one in O’Neil Woods with the help of three Cub Scout dens and the other at Silver Creek with the cooperation of the Survival Center, a group of environmentally concerned UA students all under the direction of Bert Szabo.

• Requested building materials and help from membership.

• Reported in February, 1978, that response to Bluebird Trail project was overwhelming with numerous phone calls from people volunteering to help and wanting plans to build their own boxes. Arrangements for TV and newspaper coverage were made. Several boxes were made by both the Cub Scouts and GAAS members, Leonard Borden, Bill O’Neil, Mr. Warner, and Jeff Wert.

• Received permission to develop a Bluebird Trail in the National Park.
1970s

The Chapter:

- Reported in March, 1978, that the Chapter received impressive news coverage of the Bluebird Trail - TV story by Marcy Mesett WAKR TV 23 (2/20/78); an article by Bob Downing in the Akron Beacon Journal (2/27/78); and a front page write-up by Bert Szabo in Green Islands.

- Installed 14 boxes on 3/12/78, by 16 people at O’Neil Woods, 3 on National Park land near Botzum Plant and on 3/19/78, 15 people installed 11 boxes at Silver Creek and 6 in the National Park near Hale Farm.

- Monitoring and banding of Bluebird nestlings were done by Marie Morgan from 1978 to the mid-1980s at which time Lew Monegan took over the monitoring of the Bluebird trails which he continues to do in this year of 2016.
The Chapter:

• Thanked the following individuals for their help with putting up the Bluebird Boxes in various locations in March, 1978.

Bert Szabo
Walter Starcher
Fred Fricker
Jeff Wert
Steve Sheppard
Elaine Weil
Charlie Briggs
Dave & Betty Anne
Glen & Ruth Alliger
Sterling Saxe

Len Borden
Mr. McRowe & sons
Ron Fulton & family
Erica Stux & sons
Bob Hooper
Ron Morgan
Marie Morgan
Bill O’Neil
The Chapter:

• Conducted the first Summer Breeding Census in 1978 following Carol Tveekrem’s proposal to change the May bird census to a June breeding census in connection with National Audubon Society using the same core of birdwatchers who did the May Count.  

• Announced dates for the NAS Central Midwest Regional Conference on October 20, 21 and 22, 1978, at Aullwood Center north of Dayton, Ohio. 

• Posted the dates for the Environmental Education Workshop on October 30 to November 1, 1978, near Kimbolton, Ohio. 

• Sold Chapter shoulder patches featuring the Pileated Woodpecker design used as the Newsletter logo.
1980s

Presidents were:
- Marie Morgan 1980-86
- Doug Caesar 1986-88
- Russ Custer 1988-90

Vice-Presidents were:
- Sterling Saxe 1980-82
- Doug Caesar 1982-86

Secretaries were:
- Genevieve Smith 1980-85
- Mauri Peterson 1985-86

Treasurers were:
- Tina Osborne 1980-83
- Bill Osborne 1983-86
Board Meetings
The Chapter:

• Nominated Bert Szabo for the Ohio Conservation Achievement Award which he received on August 14, 1982, in Columbus.

• Honored Representative John F. Seiberling at a luncheon.

• Honored Representative John F. Seiberling at the Tangiers Restaurant on September 6, 1983.

• Nominated Representative John F. Seiberling for the Audubon Medal which he received in 1986 in Chicago. The first Audubon Medal was awarded in 1947.
Honoring John F. Seiberling
The Chapter:

- Set goals to do outreach educational programming for the public in cooperation with the Bert Szabo and the Akron Metro Park District by conducting Bird Feeding Workshops and by conducting workshops on building Bluebird Nesting Boxes.

- Set goals to do outreach informational programs for the general public through displays at the Goodyear Hunting and Fishing at Chapel Hill Mall and by conducting Bird Feeding Workshops at Feed Stores.
Bird Feeding Workshop

D.H. & L. Supply in Wadsworth on December 1, 1980
Bird Feeding Workshop

Goodyear Shelter on October 21, 1981
Making Bluebird Box Kits at the Naturealm
Bluebird Workshop Goodyear Heights Shelter House

March 19, 1983
Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Show Set-up at Chapel Hill Mall
February 16-20, 1983
Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Show
Chapel Hill Mall
February 16-20, 1983
1980s

The Chapter:

• Was incorporated.
• Set up GAAS telephone number, 867-CROW, for information answered by Chapter Officer.
• Organized a Town Hall Meeting on Environmental Issues of the day with Representative John Seiberling and representatives from Ohio Edison, the University of Akron, and other community leaders.
• Discussed building a Raptor Rehabilitation Center including an enclosure to be built on Zoo Property with Mike Janis, Director of the Akron Zoo.
Wild Bird Seed Sale

- Organized an annual Seed Bird Sale in cooperation with the Akron Zoo Women’s Board to benefit the establishment of a Raptor Rehabilitation Program with the Akron Zoological Park in 1981.

- Continued having Bird Seed Sales to benefit our Raptor Rehab Program until 1992 when the Rehab Program ended. The proceeds continued to benefit other Chapter Educational and Environmental Projects.
Bird Seed Sale at Copley Feed and Hardware
November 1983
1980s

The Chapter:

• Conducted writing campaigns regarding environmental issues during the Reagan Presidency by providing sample letter for members to copy and sign. Letters were then mailed by Conservation Chair.

• Continued the annual Christmas Bird Count, Winter Bird Feeder Count, Summer Breeding Census.

• Participated on the Ohio Audubon Council Board. President was appointed to Board for a term.

• Renewed membership with the Stark Wilderness Center.

• Participated in the 5-year Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project beginning in 1983.

• Applauded Mark Irwin and Steve Pisarchik for their work with the Raptor Rehab Program.\textsuperscript{11}
Raptor Rehabilitation Program

Birds of prey

Barberon man wants to be a falconer

Screach owl
Raptor Rehabilitation Program

Mark Irwin releasing Great Horned Owl.
The Chapter:

• Introduced yet another newsletter masthead in January, 1983.

• Held Family Movie Nights.

• Sent President in early 1980s to three National Audubon Society’s Conventions; two at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies and one at Silver Bay YMCA Camp in Lake George, N.Y.

• Encouraged members to participate in the State Tax write-off to protect wildlife species and habitat.

• Hosted the Ohio Audubon Council meeting at Coon (Shady) Hollow in October of 1984.
1980s

The Chapter:

• Had displays at Annual Farm City Day held at Quail Hollow, Luther Farm in Richfield and at the State Road Shopping Center.
1980s

The Chapter:
• Celebrated the Chapter’s 50th Anniversary on April 24, 1984, at the Hilton Inn West.
• Celebrated John James Audubon’s 200th Birthday in 1985 at Catholic Service League.
The Chapter:

• Had display at Annual Farm City Day held at Graf Growers in 1985.

• Offered a $395.00 Scholarship to one of four Audubon “Summer Ecology” Camps in 1985.

• Changed meeting location from Catholic Service League to Goodyear Metropark Shelter after the end of the 1985-86 year.

• Continued to offer field trips to different locations.

• Had Chili Dinner or Potluck Dinner with the Annual Members’ Slide Show for the January meetings.
1990s

Presidents were:

  • Russ Custer 1990-91
  • Mauri Peterson 1991-92
  • Bill Osborne 1992-95
  • Susan Dooley 1995-97
  • Clyde Witt 1997-01

Vice-Presidents were:

  • John Reidel 1990-92
  • Wolfgang Pelz 1992-97*9
1990s

Secretaries were:
  • Tina (Stockton) Schoch 1990-93
  • Chris Pfeifer 1993-96
  • Pat Haddad 1996*

Treasurers were:
  • Tina (Stockton) Schoch 1990-93
  • Chris Pfeifer 1993-96
  • Pat Haddad 1996*
1990s

The Chapter:

• Encouraged members to write letters to State Legislature to pass bill to fund recycling programs in January of 1991.
• Encouraged members to write letters to Congress to protect the Clean Water Act in June of 1991.
• Continued sponsorship of Raptor Rehab Program until 1992.
• Moved meeting place from Goodyear Metropark Shelter to Seiberling Naturealm in March of 1992.
• Participated in Conserve-A-Curve RiverDay activity.
• Informed members that Hummingbird and Butterfly Gardens Seed Packets were available by sending self-addressed and stamped envelope to the Division of Wildlife.
• Recognized the 100th Anniversary of the Sierra Club.
The Chapter:

• Encouraged members to write to Congress to preserve and protect endangered and threatened species and to strengthen habitat preservation regulations in June of 1993.

• Continued to conduct the Christmas Bird Counts and Summer Bird Counts.

• Announced opening of new section of Towpath extending north from a small parking area at junction of Riverview Road and Ira Road.

• Continued to have sit down dinners after the Christmas Bird Counts until 1999 when a free Chili Dinner was held at Mingo Metropark Shelter House.

• Sponsored workshops in conjunction with Metro Parks on Building a Screech Owl or Bat Box on February 20, 1993.
The Chapter:

- Continued to exhibit at the Goodyear Hunting and Fishing Show at Chapel Hill and at other locations.
The Chapter:

- Continued with Annual Bird Seed Sales to help support the educational projects of the Chapter.
- Sold GAAS sweatshirts.
- Accepted Bert Szabo’s resignation as the Christmas Bird Count compiler in 1993. He had been compiler for 23 years. Bob Furst, Marie Morgan, and Bill Osborne agreed to take over as compilers with Bert Szabo as honorary co-compiler.
- Held a “Build a Bird Feeder Workshop” in cooperation with the Metroparks in October of 1993 at Mingo Shelter.
1990s

The Chapter:

- Granted Audubon Camp Scholarship to Jenny Brumfield in 1994 to the Maine Audubon Camp.
- Became involved with PPG’s Reclamation Project with Bert Szabo chosen to be Chapter’s Representative.
- Announced that there were GAAS bird feeder kits available at the Seiberling Naturealm for $6. The kits included the cut wood, nails, and assembly instructions.
- Placed 25 nesting boxes on the grounds of PPG in September of 1994 as a result of combined effort of Dave Markil, who made the boxes, PPG Industries, and GAAS.
1990s

The Chapter:

- Granted Audubon Camp Scholarship to Louise Fleming in 1995 to the Maine Audubon Camp.
- Announced a dedicated phone line, a fax machine, and voice mail system. The GAAS central phone number is 216-644-0373.
- Established a GAAS website at akronaudubon.org.
- Introduced Audubon Adventures to schools for classroom teachers to introduce their students to a world of nature.
- Started a Books in Schools Program to put books on nature and ecology in school libraries since most library funds go for videos, CDs and computer programs in 1995.
- Discussed a new way of birdwatching using a computer and the internet. Different websites were given, such as, birdingonthe.net and audubon.org.
1990s

The Chapter:

• Announced that in 1995 there were 28 active eagle nests, up from the low of 4 nests in 1979.
• Amazed with the response by local school librarians to GAAS’s offer of giving them nature and ecology books and requested a donation from members to help with purchase of books.
• Began publishing GAAS Newsletter bimonthly in 1995.
• Called for volunteers to help Sue Mottl, Metroparks chief arborist, with the planting of perennials and native plant species along the walkway into the NatureAlm. The goal was to attract more wildlife.
• Received invitation from the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland to join their members for a free day at the Cleveland Zoo and Rain Forest to see a program of the reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans in Ohio.
The Chapter:

- Introduced yet another new masthead beginning with the February/March 1996 to comply with post office regulations stating that the Inc. could no longer be used on the masthead.
1990s

The Chapter:

• Changed location of the Bird Seed Sale from Copley Feed to Wild Bird Center in Fairlawn in 1999.

• Congratulated our very own Jenny Brumfield upon her receiving the Leica/American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year Award in 1999. *12

• Continued to offer field trips to different locations. *13

**********
This concludes the brief overview of our Chapter Years in the 20th Century.
*1: In the historical summary of the early years of the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club, now known as the Greater Akron Audubon Society, the name of Mrs. Clyde Hazel, one of the founding members, was noted as Mrs. Clyde Hazel. Later in the historical material her name was noted as Hazel Hazle and as Mrs. Clyde Hazle. To find the correct spelling of her last name, the 1934 Phone Book and the 1934 City Directory were researched at the Akron Main Public Library. It was discovered that her husband’s name was Clyde Hazle and her name was Hazel E. Therefore her last name in this document has been changed to Hazle.

*2: Although the Club conducted its first annual bird census on January 1, 1936, following the instructions in Bird Lore magazine, it was the 1939 bird census that was counted as an official Christmas Bird Count by the National Audubon Society. The first compiler was Fred Smith and the areas covered were favorite birding sites in Cuyahoga Falls, Kent, and Akron.
*3: Dr. Ralph Dexter’s claim to fame was specifically in the banding of Chimney Swifts which congregated in the chimney shafts of some of the buildings on the Kent State University campus. Dr. Dexter (1912-1991) joined the faculty at Kent State in 1942 and retired in 1986. Dr. Dexter meticulously recorded data on the Swifts that nested in the chimneys. They arrived about the third week in April and left about the first week in October. Dr. Dexter published over 300 articles covering a wide variety of topics that included his research on the Chimney Swifts, as well as on Common Nighthawks, crustaceans, mollusks, and insects. His articles were published in the Auk, the Wilson Bulletin, Ohio Journal of Science, Audubon Field Notes, Inland Bird Banding News and the Cleveland Bird Calendar. Among ornithologists he became world-famous. He also focused on the history of American naturalists.
The Trailside Museum was located in Perkins Woods that had been donated to Akron in 1901 by relatives of General Perkins for the purpose of being a public park, especially a recreation area for children. In the late 1940s, the Akron Mayor, the Park Department and 12 interested men purchased the building. Displays were rented from the Cleveland Natural History Museum and the Trailside Museum was opened to the public for an entrance fee. There were 20,000 visitors that first summer. In 1950 the Trailside Museum was incorporated and became the Akron Museum of Natural History. One of the Club’s members and past president, Dr. Emmett Shellenberger, was the City Park Naturalist. The Museum then became the Akron Children’s Zoo which opened in 1953. The Director of the Children’s Zoo was Richard Barnhardt, grandfather of David Barnhardt, who is currently the Zoo’s Director of Marketing and Guest Services. In 1979 the Children’s Zoo’s became the Akron Zoological Park.
In the early 1950s there is an entry that the Passenger Pigeon was transferred to the Trailside Museum in the mid 1960s. There is no further mention of what happened to it. Interestingly for decades there has been a Passenger Pigeon displayed on and off in the Nature Center. It was assumed for years that it was the one belonging to the Chapter but there was no proof. Retired Chief Naturalist Bert Szabo in 2014, when asked about the origins of the Pigeon, explained that in the mid 1960s he was at the Summit County Historical Society to borrow mounted birds for a display at the Nature Center. While there someone told him about a discarded mounted bird in a building where trash was collected. Bert went to the building and found the bird. He said since it had been discarded he decided to take it to the Nature Center to put it on display.

In 2015 additional information surfaced when Marie Morgan was talking with David Barnhardt, grandson of the first director of the Akron Zoo, about another matter and asked if he knew about the Passenger Pigeon. David recalled seeing, as a young boy, a Pigeon in a glass case in his grandfather’s office located in the Zoo’s Administration Building, which had been the Trailside Museum. He indicated that the Pigeon is still housed at the Akron Zoo with no information of its origin. At that point with the new information there was the possibility of two Passenger Pigeons in Akron.
In 2016, in another discussion with Bert Szabo about the Passenger Pigeon, he clarified some information that was very helpful in solving the mystery of the two birds. Bert indicated that the Passenger Pigeon he found in the trash pile at Summit County Historical Society was in poor condition which explains why it was in the trash. Since it had been discarded, Bert took it back to the Nature Center and had it evaluated by a taxidermist. The taxidermist was able to restore the Passenger Pigeon and mounted it on a branch. It was added to the collection and has been exhibited on and off over the years in the Nature Center. After Bert retired in 1991, another naturalist had a special glass case made to house the Pigeon which is what we see today (see below). Therefore it is certain that this Pigeon came from the Summit County Historical Society. And the one at the Akron Zoo is very probably the one that the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club in the mid 1960s loaned to the Trailside Museum which later became the Akron Zoo. So with the new information, it became clearer that indeed there are two Passenger Pigeons in Akron.
Footnotes continued

*6: Carol Tveekrem took responsibility of compiling the results of the feeding station survey but it is not clear from the available newsletters how long she was the compiler. Fred Fricker, long-time member and past president, said that he took the survey over in the late 1980s until mid-1990s. The survey was discontinued since no one offered to continue as compiler.

*7: The 1st picnic was named the Greater Akron Audubon Society Picnic held at the Octagon Shelter in Virginia Kendall Park. The 2nd picnic was renamed the Hootenanny Picnic after the taped call for the Barred Owl. Mike Janis from the Akron Zoo was the Chapter’s guest. The location of the Hootenanny, held on July 25, 1978, was changed to the Firestone Shelter. Mike Janis brought birds from the Zoo to show the group. He continued to be guest of the Chapter over the years. On August 9, 1983, the GAAS said “hail and farewell” to Mike, a devoted friend of the Audubon Chapter’s activities, and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Mike was moving to Michigan to become director of the Michigan Audubon Society’s Seven Ponds Nature Center in Dryden. The Hootenanny continued to be a yearly function into the 1980s, however, there is no information about when the last one was held.
*8: Carol Tveekrem expanded on her proposal of changing the May Bird Census to a June breeding census which she named the Summer Bird Count. She expanded the territory to go beyond the CBC Circle to include good areas like Portage Lakes, Bath, Copley and Green Townships, and parts of Barberton and lengthened the Count to four days near the third weekend in June. In 1995 she expanded the Count to 10 days to cover a larger territory, mostly south of Route 303, and to accommodate birders’ schedules and weather. Carol was compiler for this Count through 1999 when she and her husband retired to Minnesota. In 1999 Ann Chasar and Doug Vogus agreed to co-coordinate the Count and expanded it to include as much of Summit County as possible. Ann and Doug worked together through 2013, at which time Doug took over coordinating the Count which he continues to do. The Chapter thanks them both for their dedication in continuing the tradition of the Summer Bird Count. Carol’s Summer Bird Count lives on! (A big thank you to Ann Chasar for the above information).
*9: Names of officers and terms of office other than the President are missing from 1986 to the end of the 1990s.

*10: The location for the 1981 and 1982 Bird Seed Sale was at the Bath Hardware on Ghent Road which later became Hamed Oriental Rugs and has since been demolished. In 1983 the location was changed to Copley Feed and Farm Supply.

*11: Information from available newsletters indicate that Russ Custer, President and Vice President, became involved with Raptor Rehab Program in September of 1982 until at least 1986 or until he became President in 1988. Taking over the position until the program was discontinued was Doug Caesar, Vice President, Program Chair, President and Legal Counsel of the Chapter, who had enclosures built behind his house in Cuyahoga Falls. In early 1991 John Riedel, Vice President, agreed to help Doug with the Raptor Rehab Program until it was discontinued in 1992. It is not known what happened to Mark Irwin or Steve Pisarchik who rehabilitated the raptors. Mark Irwin was featured in the Akron Beacon Journal: in the Beacon Magazine on February 22, 1982 and in an article on October 14, 1983.
*12: Our very own Jen (Jenny) Brumfield has become a nationally/internationally well-known, well-admired and top notch birder and bird guide. She has been at the Cleveland Metroparks as a naturalist and as a scientific illustrator since May of 2005. Jen conducts birding tours and workshops for Local Patch Birding which she and fellow birder, Gabe Leidy, launched in May of 2008.

An earlier photo
*13: Over the years in the 20th Century there have been hundreds and hundreds of field trips scheduled near and far enjoyed by many and few and united by the love of birds.