

Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

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Courtesy of DesignGroup

Concept drawing showing the exterior of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

The Community Concept

Introducing ... the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

By Heather Starck and Doreen Whitley

During the earliest planning phases, our goal for a new Audubon Center was to “serve as a model of what cooperation and civic determination can do to revitalize a community and restore habitat.” Now, only five years later, I am pleased to share with you the results of this community based approach to planning.

Our Site

Due to our successful partnerships with The city of Columbus and Metro Parks, our site is transforming from an unknown industrial wasteland to a green landmark in the urban landscape and a staple to the community. The recent addition of fishing piers and overlooks is drawing new visitors seeking solace within the urban environment.

As a result of the generosity from community leaders in the private sector, our center received its name: The Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) from Grange Insurance. This initial gift set a precedent for future gifts from American Electric Power, Limited Brands, the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), The Columbus Foundation, Crane Group and Family, Nationwide Foundation, Huntington Bank, Battelle, Wolfe Associates, the All Life Foundation, and Columbus Audubon.

These gifts allowed us to begin the design phase and we are proud to share with you our latest concept drawings.

The design of the center was inspired by the site. The GIAC could never be about a building. All building design decisions have been made with the site in mind. During the community needs assessment interviews and focus groups, it was made very clear that the building should be a window to the outdoors. The building shape was inspired by the shape and design of a feather. Feathers have a central shaft to which all else is connected. They help protect the bird from sun, wind, rain, heat, and cold. Feathers make it possible for the bird to fly. Our building will provide these functions for the GIAC and will enable our programs to “fly.”

See GIAC, page 6

2007 Birdathon raises \$12,000

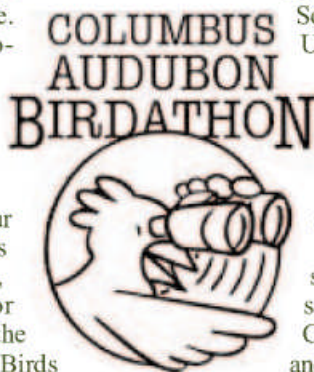
By Julie Davis

The results are in and our 2007 Birdathon was another huge success. We extended the dates this year and gave even more birders the chance to participate. Columbus Audubon is once again donating our proceeds to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC), to help fulfill our \$100,000 pledge. CA also committed to match the funds raised this year.

So, we will be presenting \$24,000 to Audubon Ohio to be used for the Whittier Peninsula project and the GIAC. A big thanks goes out to all of our teams and sponsors for all their efforts. Also, thanks to our two prize sponsors, June and Bill Campbell, owners of Campbell Cottage on Kelley's Island for donating a night's stay at their carriage house on the island (won by Tom and Donna Sheley of Wild Birds Unlimited) and to Eagle Optics for their donation of a pair of Audubon Intrepid 10x40 binoculars (won by Cathie Pruden).

Running the Birdathon takes the hard work of many people. A special thanks to committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith and Dave Horn. There were also several teams that stood out again this year. Teams that raised over \$1000 were: Scarlet and Gray Tanagers (\$1426) and Wild Birds Unlimited with an outstanding (\$2900). Other teams raising over \$750 were: Slate Run Colored Juncos, Deckbirds and Swans and Coots.

The competition was intense and many teams saw more birds than ever this year, including the top 3 teams. Birding teams that saw the most species this year were: Wild Birds Unlimited with 168 birds, Westerville Waxwings with 144 bird species and again this year, the Quick Three Beards saw the most species of birds on their trip, at 179. Congratulations to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon! Listed below are all the participating teams and the number of species each team saw. (Teams with TBD did not have their results in by press time).



Backyard Experience

Chick-a-dees - 85

Gerry Brevoort

Gail Burns

Joan Frederick

Nina Hawranick

Cyndi Henderson

Lynn Singleton

Lisa Zidar

Chestnut Ridge

Chachalacas - 102

Scott Felker

Eleanor Nunley

Bill & Eric Reiner

Deck Birds - 1

Cheri Brown

Pat Barron

Bev May

Pete Precario

Huffin Puffins - 71

Cathie & Dick Pruden

Marsh Madness - TBD

Bill & Deb Marsh

Metro Parks Stellar

Jays - 90

Jim Davidson

John O'Meara

John Watts

Nifty Nestlings - TBD

Darlene Sillick

Miranda Hayes

Barb Revard

Nadya Bennett

Doreen Whitley

Abby Rhodebeck

No Egrets - 89

Becky Cummings

Elaine & Larry Smith

Roger Stout

Laura Thomas

Pelicans - 40

Mark & Lauren Richards

Benjamin & Riley Richards

Quick Three Beards - 179

Dave Horn

Greg Miller

Troy Shively

Bill Whan

Scarlet & Gray

Tanagers - 73

Mitch Berg

Joe & Susanne Gatesman

Barb & Stephen Revard

Mark & Susan Setterlin

Slate (Run) Colored

Juncos - 96

Linda Benner

Doug & Kristen Everman

Andrea Haslage

Susan Moore

Lori Patterson

Jen Rosa

Brad Sparks

Lynn Taylor

Swans and Coots - 73

Alan Cohen

Clyde Gosnell

Paul Knoop

Katryn Renard

Marlene Woo Lun

Louise Warner

Two Footed Boobies - TBD

Marcia Brehmer

Marion Farber

Melanie Shuter

Mary Kay Wood

Westerville Waxwings - 144

Julie & Ken Davis

Ken Davis

Jennifer Sauter

Rob Lowery

Wild Birds Unlimited

Riverside - 168

Michael Flynn

Joe Hammond

Steve Landes

Tom Sheley

Teams not on original listing:

Greater Variables - TBD

Neat Nests - 43

Two in a Bush - 84

Witchy Witchy Witches - TBD

35th Eco-Weekend a great success

By Roz Horn, Eco-Weekend Committee chair

The Eco-Weekend Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 35th Eco-Weekend a success this past May. We celebrated our 35th year with special T-shirts: the picture was drawn by our own Paulette Ariss and Mary Counter was the layout designer. All the t-shirts were sold – sorry! None left!

This year there were 36 different programs offered for adults and families. The main Saturday evening program was a presentation of “Pioneer Pairs” by Manon Van Schoyck which taught us about the changes in the wild animal population since Ohio was first being settled. We saw a total of 76 birds over the weekend at Camp Oty’Okwa, the site of the event in the hills west of Logan. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, edible and medicinal plants, trees, reptiles, amphibians, astronomy, owl walks, canoeing and many other activities. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty’Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.

Sincere thanks go to the Program Leaders of the Adult and Family programs: (in order of appearance) Jarrod Burks, Heike Perko, Michelle Croft, Mike Hufferberger, David Paris, Doreen Whitley, Patty DeMaria, Susie Burks, John Schmidt, Mark Kohler, Ann Cornell, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Sharon Treaster, John Biesecker, Dave Horn, Ralph Ramey, Megan DeLaurentis, Mitch Masters, Roz Horn, Eric Reiner, Barb White, Mike Flynn, Josh Calderone (an emergency substitute – thank you!!), Jill Snyder, and David Sagan.

We also owe a big debt of gratitude to the Youth Program Leaders: Jessica Roach, Lilian Beck, Sue Ann Rosati, George Keeney, Elizabeth Sammons, Judy and Michelle Croft, Josh Calderone, Tara Williams, Shannon Clonch, and Greg Maynard. Sincere appreciation goes to Megan DeLaurentis for creating and overseeing the excellent program for the youth. Youth from Pre-K through Grade 8 spent Saturday learning about indigenous plants, survival skills, using maps and compass (to find a hidden treasure!), bees and other insects, and how to identify birds and other natural sounds in the woods without using our eyes. It was a fantastic day!

Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic Eco-Weekend Committee: Paulette Ariss, Susie Burks, Kate Carus, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Cathy Elkins, Mary Ann Hrabley, Linda Hufferberger, Connie Kobalka, Liz Melick, Maura Moran, Bev Potts and John Tucker. These are the folks that planned it all ! Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2008! It will be held on May 2, 3 and 4, 2008 at Camp Oty’Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the Eco-Weekend Committee or volunteering as a Program Leader, call Columbus Audubon at (740) 657-0333. To find out more about Eco-Weekend, check out our website at www.ecoweekend.org and take a look!



Happy campers showing off their treasure.



Tree identification program.



Another fun activity at Camp Oty’ Okwa.



Campers participate in 'creeking.'

Coming Up

Columbus Audubon activities are for nature enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. We invite you to join us for a field trip or program to learn more about birds and their central Ohio habitats, as well as other natural history topics. Our activities are free and open to the public and there is no need to register unless otherwise noted.

Note: Field trip times, dates and locations are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you plan on going on a trip, please contact the trip leader 24 hours ahead of time to make sure the trip has not been changed, postponed or cancelled. Also, check the Columbus Audubon Web site at www.columbusaudubon.org for any changes or additions to the field trip listings. If you have suggestions for field trip locations or want to lead a field trip please contact co-field trip chairs Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696; azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or Earl Harrison at eharrison@ehe.osu.edu.

Field trips

The Magic of Birds (CA KIDS event)

Sunday, September 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Leaders: Columbus Audubon volunteers

Second annual CA KIDS event at the Highbanks Metro Park nature center. Columbus Audubon volunteers will assist with activities and games to help CA Kids participants with the basics of bird watching. Ages 9-12. (Call Nadya Bennett, CA KIDS Committee chair, if you want to volunteer to help (614) 306-8215.

Birds of Blendon Woods

Saturday, September 8, 7 a.m.

Leader: Bruce Simpson

Bruce Simpson will lead a CA/Metro Park bird hike on Sept. 8th at 7:00am meeting at the Blendon Woods Metro Park Nature Center. We will walk various trails for 1 to 2 hours birding. For information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696; azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Hawk Mountain PA overnight trip

Friday through Sunday, September 14-16

Leader: Mike Flynn and Michael Packer

Note: This trip has been published on the CA Web site since July. If interested, please RSVP as soon as possible!!! Located along the Appalachian Flyway in east-central Pennsylvania, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary offers an outstanding nature experience with its mountaintop vistas, 8 miles of hiking trails, and thrilling autumnal raptor migration. In 2006, counters recorded an astonishing 25,156 hawks, eagles and falcons—the largest number of migrants in two decades. An extended lunch stop at nearby Cabela's outdoor gear store is also planned. We will carpool from Columbus Friday at 4 p.m. and return Sunday night. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for the two night stay Friday and Saturday. Please contact trip Leaders Mike Flynn and Michael Packer to RSVP and get more details. As usual, a wonderful Saturday night meal is planned for attendees. This should be a trip of a lifetime for many. Special Audubon Hotel Rate is \$55/night. Meet at Worthington Mall parking lot. (People with reservations only). For more information, contact Mike Flynn (Cell) 614-769-1681 or Michael Packer at 614-580-3309. Michael's e-mail: m.packer@yahoo.com. RSVP for trip required.

Insects 101

Sunday, September 16, 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Horn

Join Dave Horn, professor of entomology at The Ohio State

University for a fascinating look at insects. Meet in the Highbanks Nature Center meeting room. All ages, we will be outside for part of this program. Bring water if you are inclined. Program Instructions: Programs begin at the nature center then we will move outside to have hands on with nets and catch and release containers. This program is back by popular demand!

Saturday walks at Whittier

September, October dates TBD

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666; gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us for information on when the Saturday walks will be held. You may also check the CA Web Site at www.columbusaudubon.org for updates.

Swifts oh my!

Wednesdays September 5 and September 19, 6:30 p.m.

Leaders: Darlene Sillick, Lynn Wearsh and Donna Siple

Join us at Sells Middle School in Dublin to take part in a chimney swift count and a nature walk. Sells Middle School is on state Route 161 in Dublin and is just west of the Dublin Rd/161 intersection. We will meet behind the school parking lot along the tennis courts. We will first walk to see the new Shawan Falls bridges and nature walkway. Then we will get out our lawn chairs and prepare for staging, swirling chimney swifts and probably a few mosquitoes! Leaders both nights are Darlene Sillick (614) 757-3696; Lynn Wearsh (614) 459-2806 or Donna Siple donnasiple@netscape.net. Want to learn more about Chimney Swifts? Visit <http://www.chimneyswifts.org>.

Big Darby Creek: Migrant corridor extraordinaire

Saturday, September 22, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

We've all known about Darby Creek as a wonderful stream ecosystem, but it's also an intact riparian corridor that offers an easy highway for many migrating birds. We'll sample some of this diversity by birding several of the best migrant 'traps' along the Big Darby, starting in Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Here we can take advantage of the narrowest part of the corridor, as well as a series of small wetlands and old quarries, as we hunt for migrating passerines, raptors, and early waterfowl. We'll meet at the Darby Bend Lakes parking area (off Amity Road). Bring sturdy shoes (for lots of walking on rocky or dewy trails), snacks, and a windbreaker/jacket if the weather is cold. For more details contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Ohio Wildlife Center WildFest

Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Ohio's wild animals, big and small. Enjoy music, great food, games and activities for young and the little older with visits to many of our Ohio native wild animals. Visit www.ohiowildlifecenter.org for more information.

Delaware County Bird Club meetings

Meetings will be in the new science building on the Ohio Wesleyan University Campus, north side of the atrium, Room 163

See Coming up, page 11

CA September program

Living with coyotes

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. presentation
Innis House, at Inniswood Metro Gardens

As coyotes become more common in suburban – and even urban – areas, human concerns about these new neighbors are on the rise. Karen Hallberg, Ph.D. candidate at The Ohio State University, has spent the past several years studying the wild coyote population in Ohio. Please join us for Karen's presentation of stories, photos, and recordings from her work in the field as she separates the truths from the myths about this wily species.

Karen Hallberg is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University. Her dissertation research investigates the role of chorus howl-

ing in coyote social and territorial strategies.

Karen completed her M.A. in Psychology, in the area of psychobiology, at Ohio State in 2000 and transferred to the Department of EEOB in 2001.

Having studied captive primates in her bachelor's and master's programs, Karen sought to explore the behavior of animals in their natural habitat for her Ph.D.

Although her graduate research has focused on questions of animal behavior and bioacoustics, her work with wild coyote populations has led Karen to develop a keen interest in issues of human-wildlife conflict and the potential of public education to promote coexistence.

CA October program

Texas Coastal Birding Trail: A Birder's Holy Grail

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. presentation
Innis House, at Inniswood Metro Gardens

CA Trustee and local Wild Birds Unlimited store owner Tom Sheley, spent a week of April in South Texas on the birding trail with an Avid Birder's group from California seeking specialty and life birds while boning up for the upcoming Audubon Bird-a-thon. After a fast-paced tour of the refuges and parks, he hooked up with a long-time friend for a two day photo safari on some private ranches to pursue another life's passion: photographing wildlife. Tom shares his

adventures and photographs of a week on the birding trail in South Texas during the peak of spring migration. The birding boom in South Texas has recently taken on new life with the opening of the World Birding Centers and the restructuring of several parks and wildlife management areas. Birds, Birders, Bikers, and Border Patrol all contributed to the wonderful and sometimes harrowing experience of life on the Texas Coastal Birding Trail.

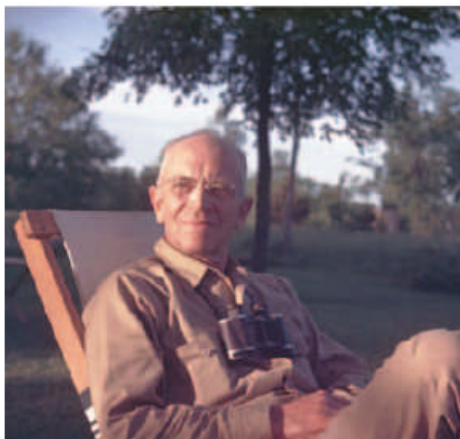


Calamus Swamp Hosted 'Listening to the Land'

By Susan Setterlin

On a sultry summer morning in July at Calamus Swamp, with the beauty of the prairie flowers as a backdrop, the essays of Aldo Leopold were shared with a small group of people wanting to learn more about connecting with the land.

The essays: "Wilderness: The Remnants" and "Cheat Takes Over" were so appropriate for the Calamus Swamp location as Leopold talks about remnants of past landscapes that still exist and the danger of losing them. In "Cheat Takes Over," Leopold warns of the invasive species that can take over the landscape and change its design and richness. "We tilt windmills in behalf of conservation in convention halls and editorial offices, but



Aldo Leopold.

on the back forty we disclaim even owning a lance." (Leopold- "Cheat Takes

Over")

Barb Revard and Dave Horn hosted this event which included a tour of Calamus to enjoy the summer prairie as well as the damp swamp in all its glory.

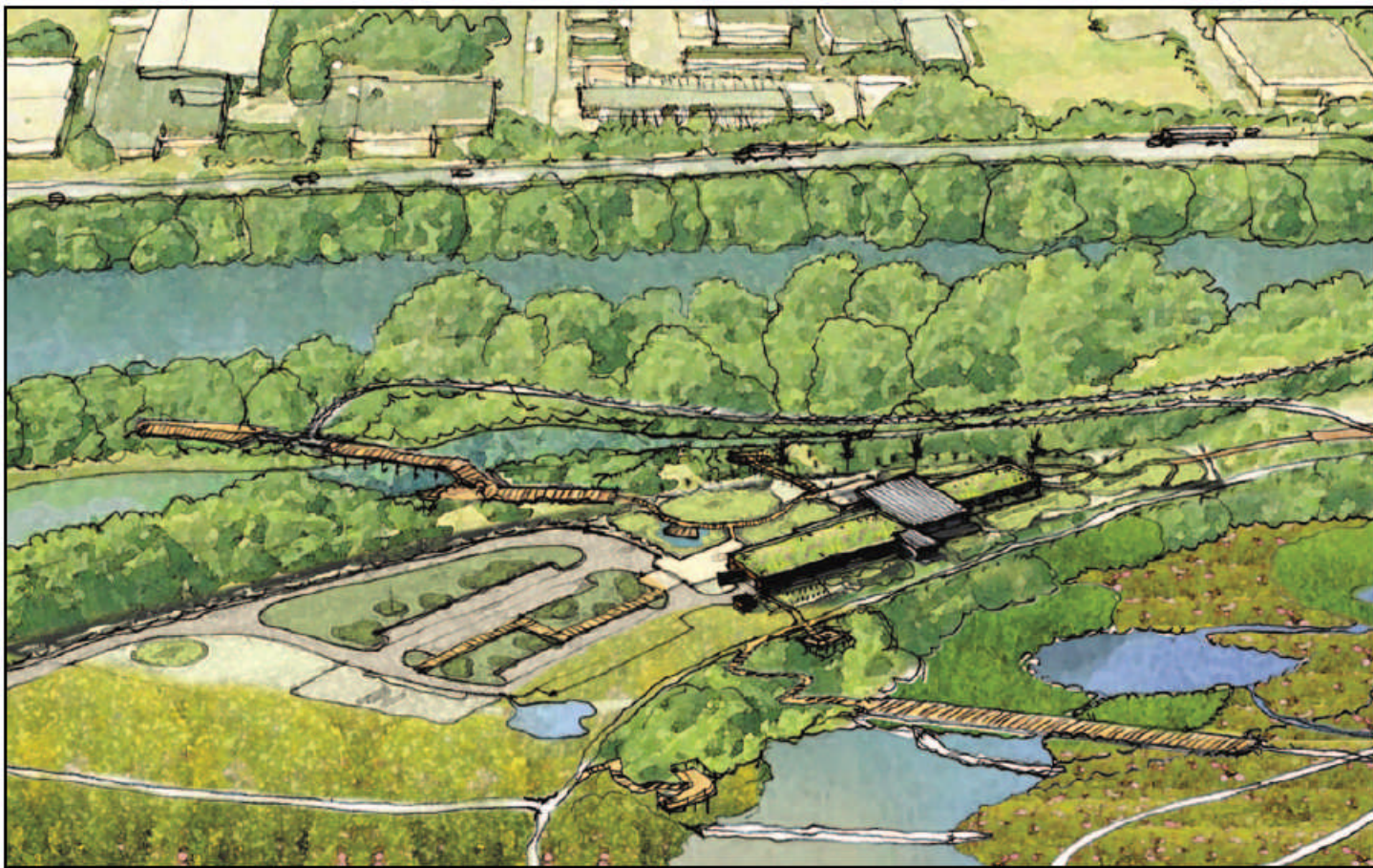
Dave shared his expertise in butterflies as we observed his weekly census count.

Thanks to Columbus Audubon especially Barb Revard and Dave Horn who shared their time and expertise in support of the "Listening to the Land" series.

For more information and complete schedule of Listening to the Land events contact Susan Setterlin at rsetterl@columbus.rr.com or (614) 457-8130. You may also visit the Web site <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oecf/html/leopold2007.html>.

Columbus Audubon KIDS!

The Fall newsletter has hit the streets and the winter issue is not far away! Contact Nadya Bennett, CA Kids Committee Chair to get your child's issue mailed to them and to sign up for our CA Kids monthly programs. You can contact Nadya at nadya2003@msn.com or (614) 306-8215.



Drawings courtesy of DesignGroup

Concept drawing showing an aerial view of the center and the Scioto-Whittier Metro Park surrounding it.

GIAC

Continued from page 1

Our Programs

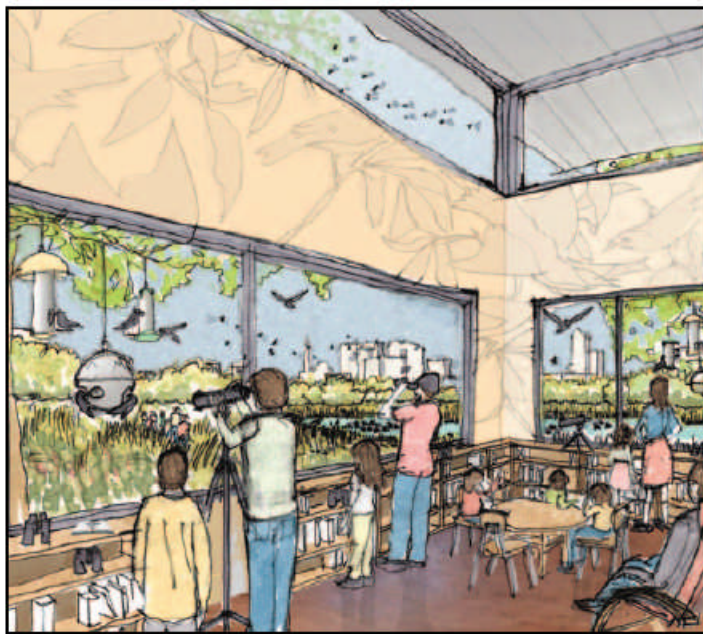
Through partnerships with other community based organizations, adults and students from The Southside Settlement House, The Central Community House, The Columbus Urban League, West Side Boys and Girls Club, and Columbus Public Schools are beginning to meet new members of their community or see them in a new way. Who are these community members?

During our summer Urban Conservation Crew program participants learned about underworld of aquatic life in the Scioto River. A new found respect was developed for the common dragonfly as they scrutinized its nymph form under a microscope and hypothesized about its daily fight for survival and final transformation.

Through further nature study they discovered is a unique “underworld” of urban ecological processes occurring everyday right under our noses. The center is being designed to inspire and encourage us to explore the extraordinary things about ordinary plants and animals. Our building and site will encourage everyone that comes to the center to be immersed in that world. Through our building operations we will model this community concept. We are all part of the same ecosystem and our actions affect each other and the system as a whole.

Our Community

Your role in creating the GIAC does not stop here. It is just the



Concept drawing of the library with large windows for bird and nature viewing.

beginning. The community can lend the true inspiration for the Center and its members are constantly growing.

We encourage your participation in planning our gardens, nature play area, outdoor trails, art components, etc.

If you have expertise and would like to be involved please e-mail Heather Starck, GIAC director, at hstarck@audubon.org.

'Visions of Nature'

Art for Audubon to be held October 21 at Cardinal Health

By Julie Davis

This fall we will hold our third Art for Audubon. The theme this year is "Visions of Nature."

All proceeds will benefit the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC). This gala event will once again showcase the art of nationally, regionally and locally known nature artists working in a variety of media.

Art for Audubon: Visions of Nature, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Cardinal Health in Dublin.

Over 100 pieces of art will be displayed for viewing and purchase as you visit with artists while enjoying wine and light

For more about the GIAC, please see pages 1 and 6.

appetizers. Silent and live auctions, a children's art contest and a "quick draw" of live birds from the Ohio Wildlife Center by some of our artists will be part of the festivities.

This will be an event to remember, with the proceeds going to a wonderful cause.

All current Columbus Audubon members will receive an invitation in the mail in September, but be sure to mark your calendars now!!

And watch www.columbusaudubon.org for more information as the date

approaches. This year's event will also serve as the kick-off for the public phase of the GIAC capital campaign.

As you may know, Columbus Audubon has pledged \$100,000 to the GIAC, of which we have already fulfilled close to \$63,000. We're planning to make this a spectacular event in hopes it will boost us over our pledge amount!

If you would like to help support the building of a urban nature center in Columbus, by donating a piece of nature-related art or volunteering to help plan or staff the event, please contact Julie Davis at greenheron58@insight.rr.com or call (614) 523-2180.

New year, new faces on the Columbus Audubon Board

By Darlene Sillick

Columbus Audubon will be kicking off the 2007-08 season welcoming some new trustees and committee members. Through their own personal biographies I thought you might like to learn more about our newest CA board members. Beginning in October 2007 through June 2008, CA conducts board meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at The Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity on Kinnear Road. CA members are always welcome to attend.

Rob Lowery resides in Powell across from Highbanks Metro Park where he is seen hiking and birding or is it birding and hiking. Whatever it is his contributions are sincerely appreciated by the birding community. In his words: Rob is an avid birder, hiker, and bicyclist with a keen interest in the natural world

He holds a B.S. (1984) and M.S. (1986) in Geology and Mineralogy from The Ohio State University. Rob has worked in the environmental consulting field for over 22 years and is currently working at Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. in their Columbus office.

Rob has been a volunteer for Columbus Metro Parks for over five years in various capacities. Rob has also led birding hikes for Columbus Metro Parks and Columbus Audubon. Rob is a member of the Ohio Ornithological Society, CA, National Wildlife Federation, and Nature Conservancy.

Stephen Revard resides in Hilliard, along the Big Darby Creek. Stephen is

filling a one year vacated trustee position. In his words: I was born a half-century ago on a small island off the East coast of America that the Europeans hornswoggled the natives out of some centuries ago. Coincidentally J. J. & Lucy Audubon had a home there as well; they had, however, like a pair of Blackpolls, migrated to the shores of a distant continent prior to my arrival. From my father, a retired English professor and poet of some note, I learned a love of nature and a fascination with birds. I have had the good fortune to bird on six continents in habitats as diverse as the Arctic and Antarctic, Deserts, Steppes, Cloud Forest and Rain Forest as well as Urban jungles from Paris to Hong Kong to Ulaanbaatar; so far. Though I haven't ruled Mars out completely for a birding trip, I probably have a greater diversity of Warblers in my own back yard on the banks of the Big Darby Creek and need to do more focusing of my binoculars there.

Katryn Renard resides in Clintonville and is a looooooong time CA member in good (really awesome) standing. We are delighted to have her join us (again) by filling a two-year vacated trustee position. In her words: Katryn has been a member of Audubon for over 25 years. In 1982 she naively asked then-president Jim Davidson when the next Audubon work trip would be, and Jim's answer was "when you start them."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of a partnership between Columbus Audubon and ODNR-DNAP that has seen overseen many many successful and fun work trips. In the early 1990s, Katryn

agreed to serve on the board of Audubon. In 1994, someone noted that we needed a new coordinator for the Birdathon and Katryn, thinking that it was a well-oiled machine that needed little maintenance, naively agreed to take it on. She then dismantled the entire machine and built a new one, adding bells and whistles to increase participation within the chapter. At the end of her time on the board, Katryn served as president from 1995-1997.

In May of this year, Darlene Sillick asked Katryn if she would accept a two-year position on the Audubon board. Katryn naively said yes.

We also welcome back past or returning trustees, **Mike Flynn**, **Michael Packer**, **Barb Revard** and **Heather Raymond**. One new addition is **Earl Harrison** who has agreed to volunteer as co-field trip chair for CA. He brings a lot of valuable experience to CA. In his words: Earl Harrison grew up in New Jersey and has been watching birds since he was 11-years-old.

He moved to Columbus last year after living for a number of years in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Cape May Bird Observatory and a life member and fellow of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, in which he served as field trip chair and a member of council.

He has volunteered in the ornithology department of The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and the Patuxent National Wildlife Research Refuge in Maryland. When not watching or photographing birds, Earl is Professor of Human Nutrition at The Ohio State University.

Backyards for Wildlife

Chimney Swifts - the new stars of our yard

By Toni Stahl

'What's that black, boomerang-shape coming out of the tall thing beside your house', my neighbors ask? They've become the star of our yard - the Chimney Swift.

Last year, when I told neighbors we were building a large bird-house for Chimney Swifts, they didn't even know what a Swift was. We put the tower up last fall after the Chimney Swifts had migrated so it would be waiting for their return.

When the Swift parents started swooping directly overhead to gather food for their babies, these special birds brought lots of excitement to our neighborhood, bringing people together. We were surprised and happy to have babies chattering in it for our Parade of Wildlife Garden tour July 14 - the very first year!

The babies fledged in only 10 days from when we first heard them. They cannot perch, so they need vertical deep shafts for parents and nests to cling to. What's fun is that they return to the tower to rest, we can listen to the family 'talking'. When the whole family swoops over our yard catching bugs like mosquitoes in mid-air, they look like the cartoon family in the movie "The Incredibles."

ChimneySwifts.org (www.chimneySwifts.org) needs your help for their migration count in fall. Go to the Web site and click on



By Marc Apfelstadt

Visitors look at the swift tower on July 14 during a wildlife garden tour.

Swift tower Q & A

Do Chimney Swifts rely on humans for their homes?

Yes, almost exclusively due to the removal of old, dead trees.

How can I help?

You can build a tower. Plans can be downloaded by visiting columbusaudubon.org/webextras. Click on the link Chimney Swift handout 2005 (.pdf).

How much does it cost?

I asked those who had built a wooden tower this year, and prices ranged from \$300-\$400 including concrete.

Should I un-cap my chimney for the Chimney Swifts?

If you have a masonry or clay flue-tile chimney that is not capped, keep the damper closed from March through October while the Swifts use it. Metal chimneys should be permanently capped.

When should I clean my chimney or tower?

In early March before the Chimney Swifts come back to Ohio.

Can I put it next to an existing chimney? Yes, as long as you follow the plan's specification for a predator guard.

"A Swift Night Out" for instructions on what information you need to gather and how simple it is to e-mail it to them.

A great place to count chimney swifts or just enjoy watching them is at the 1919 building on state Route 161 in old Dublin across from the cemetery in mid-September. Park in the rear around dusk. (See list of field trips for CA swift watching events.)

Back to the garden tour: When I got the idea of organizing a Parade of Certified Habitats last year, I wondered if anyone would come to see firsthand how rewarding and fun it is to share your yard with nature. Over 1,000 people answered my question!

If you didn't get the chance to attend the event, you can download many of the handouts at: our web site. An article will follow later with photos so you can see some of what you missed. We'd like to thank the owners and participants who made this event an overwhelming success! Contact Toni Stahl for more information about transforming your yard at marc-a@columbus.rr.com. Also, visit <http://home.columbus.rr.com/nwfbackyardohio/>.

2008 Entertainment Books for sale

We are again selling Entertainment Books which will be available for \$25 each from the bird feeding supply stores listed below Sept. 1 through December. Proceeds from the sale will support Columbus Audubon's educational activities and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

Accent on Nature	1390 Grandview Ave., Grandview	486-7333
Better Earth	59 Spruce St., Columbus (North Market)	224-6196
Backyard Experience	3515 North High St., Columbus	261-0355
Wild Bird Supplies & Gifts	738 E. Lincoln Ave., Worthington	431-2473
Wild Birds Unlimited	21 Cherry Park Sq., Westerville	899-9453
Wild Birds Unlimited	5400 Riverside Dr. Columbus	766-2103
Wild Birds Unlimited	6839 E. Broad St., Columbus (Blacklick Shopping Ctr.)	860-1133
Columbus Audubon	Dave Horn (If you want an out-of-town Book, contact Dave directly and he'll make it easy)	262-0312

Conservation Corner: State of the Birds

By Dave Horn and Casey Tucker

In June, National Audubon issued a "State of the Birds" report (published in Audubon magazine) based on analysis of 100-plus years of Christmas Bird Counts and 40 years of Breeding Bird Survey data.

While there has been some quibbling in scientific circles about the robustness of the data and analysis, there is no question that some species are in decline and that a lot of this stems from habitat management. To unabashedly lift from the Audubon Ohio news release of June 14: "The dramatic national declines are attributed to the loss of grasslands, healthy forests and wetlands, and other critical habitats from multiple environmental threats such as sprawl, energy development, and the spread

of industrialized agriculture. The study notes that these threats are now compounded by new and broader problems including the escalating effects of global warming and demand for corn-based ethanol. Here at home, the biggest culprits are loss of wetlands, urban development, non-native invasive species, and changing agricultural practices."

In Ohio, species that have declined more than 75-percent include: Northern Bobwhite (99-percent), Grasshopper Sparrow (97-percent), Green Heron (82-percent), Cerulean Warbler (80-percent), Red-headed Woodpecker (78-percent) and Eastern Meadowlark (75-percent). While one could legitimately argue that several of these may have been quite

rare at the original clearing of land in the four-year-old state of Ohio in 1807, they are worthy of preservation as part of our natural heritage today. This is what Audubon is about; we are literally "for the birds."

What can we do? Stay informed by reading the article in Audubon and the original State of the Birds report (visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/CBID/report.php>).

Get involved by protecting local habitats, removing and excluding invasive species; creating wetlands and planting hedgerows along farm fields and supporting strong laws and policies that protect important habitats.

Consider your contribution to greenhouse emissions – can you help curb consequences of global warming? (Yes, I know there's academic and political

controversy on that, too, but with gasoline topping three dollars per gallon it's worth thinking over.

On the other hand, some birds are doing just fine, and have greatly increased in numbers in Ohio during the past 40 years. Canada geese and double-crested cormorants come to mind. I'll deal with them in a future issue.

Your Columbus Audubon Conservation Committee welcomes your input to these and other matters, via e-mail, phone call or in person. We can always use a few more folks. Currently our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Dave Horn's house. In September we'll meet on the 18th.

Note: A portion of this article came from a press release prepared by Casey Tucker.

Invasive Species: Emerald Ash Borer update

By Dave Horn

We featured the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in this newsletter in February 2004 but a lot has changed since then. EAB is now established in central Ohio and efforts to deal with it are likely to cost several million dollars over the next decade, while our state's ashes decline.

The EAB is a small (1/2 inch) iridescent green member of the family of Metallic Wood-boring Beetles (Buprestidae) whose larvae eat the living cambium under bark. The cambium produces the vessels that conduct water and nutrients within the tree, and if enough cambium is eaten, the tree dies. EAB has few natural enemies in the USA, and all species of ash are vulnerable.

The EAB is native to east Asia and was first found near Detroit in 2002. By then it was already in several Michigan counties and neighboring Ontario. Despite aggressive efforts to contain the infestation by tree removal, the EAB has spread into 6 states and is documented from 32 Ohio counties, including Franklin and Delaware. Much of the EAB's long distance movement is probably accidental transport in firewood. You can help by not transporting firewood.

The EAB has been devastating to forests in lower Michigan where over 20 million trees have been killed. Scientists are reluctant to predict the future, but there is every



Photos by Dave Horn
Emerald Ash Borer, S-shaped tunnels under bark.

indication that ash might be eliminated from most North American forests. Almost certainly, ash will disappear as an ornamental species in parks, yards, cemeteries, golf courses and streets. The City of Columbus and surrounding municipalities have already begun to implement plans to remove ash from public property.

What can you do, beside not moving firewood? If you have a healthy tree, enjoy it for now. If it shows symptoms of EAB infestation (see pictures), report it to the EAB hotline (1-888-OHIO-EAB). If falling limbs will pose a hazard to people, animals, vehicles, structures, or utility lines, make



Emerald Ash Borer, D-shaped emergence hole for adult beetle.



Ash infested by Emerald Ash Borer. Top branches are dying, tree has "bushy" appearance lower where borers are less active (so far).

See EAB, page 11



(From left) Mardell Hawkins, Raymond Sessley and Audrianna Doyle.

GIAC summer counseling staff makes UCC a great success

By Doreen Whitley

The GIAC welcomes Raymond Sessley, Mardell Hawkins, and Audrianna Doyle to its education staff.

Raymond, Mardell, and Audrianna are high school freshmen and former participants in the GIAC's Urban Conservation Crew summer program for middle school students. They worked as teachers alongside Doreen Whitley, the center's program coordinator during this summer's session for elementary school students.

The staff spent the two weeks in the beginning of the summer learning about Ohio ecology through visits with local

experts from Lake Erie, the Hocking Hills among others.

They were also trained in National Audubon methods and curriculum for conservation education, managing the outdoor classroom, and the natural history of the Whittier Peninsula.

Through partnerships with the Columbus Urban League, The Columbus West Side Boys and Girls Club, and The Columbus Central Community House, this year's Urban Conservation Crew program served about 100 students and took place in the new Scioto-Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula.

Students worked with GIAC staff to collect data about the wildlife on the Whittier

Peninsula to be included in the publication of the center's first field guide. During this project, students learned about Audubon's IBA program, used science tools to classify organisms, and saw conservation in action as the Whittier Peninsula project progresses.

The program ran from June 25 to August 3 and we hope to welcome our summer staff back one day as full-time educators as they pursue careers in conservation. Their employment is paid for by a grant from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

The UCC was launched in 2005 to augment what students learn in school about earth science and to teach them about environmental issues.

Annual Birdseed Fund-raiser postponed

Due to an unprecedented shortage of oil seeds (sunflower, safflower and nyjer) we find ourselves in a position where we have to postpone our annual seed fundraiser for at least one month. The increasing demand for seed oil to replace trans-fats in food preparation and the decreased sunflower acreage in production in North America, has made it impossible to get guarantees of supplies for our sale. Ironically, it appears that much of the lost sunflower acreage has been converted to corn to fill the demand for ethanol. Keep your eyes on the newsletter for further developments. Hopefully we'll have a seed flyer in the next newsletter. - Pete Precario

Coming up

Continued from page 4

at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Earl Harrison will speak on his trip to Belize on Sept. 24.

Directions: U.S. Route 23 north to the Williams Street exit, turn left and then left again on S. Henry Street. Turn right into the parking lot. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696. Watch our Web site for updates to the Delaware County Bird Club program!

Wednesday walk at Whittier

Wednesday, October 3, 6:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Join Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond for a short walk around Whittier Peninsula to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street) Please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666; gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us for more information.

Watery Wonders: Migration at Alum and Hoover

Saturday, October 6, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should still be strong as we survey these two reservoirs north of Columbus. We'll start at Alum Creek, where the small woodlands at the southern end of the lake are excellent migrant traps and the wide lower reservoir attracts a good variety of waterfowl. After taking in the morning migrants there, we'll move to the upper end of nearby Hoover Reservoir. The mudflats of the Hoover Nature Preserve should be inundated with ducks and shorebirds, and a trip to Hoover Meadows should round out our lists with lingering marsh and field birds. We'll meet at the Westerville Community Center parking lot (on Cleveland Ave just north of Main Street, about 1 mile north of I-270). Bring sturdy shoes (for lots of wet walking on dewy trails), snacks, and a windbreaker/jacket if the weather is cold. For more details contact Rob Thorn, 614-471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Avid Birders field trips

Go to <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html> for more information.

EAB

Continued from page 9

arrangements to have the tree removed. If the tree does not pose a hazard, leave it be for an ecological lesson: Wood-boring beetles attract woodpeckers, which then use dead and dying limbs for nest holes which are in turn used by other woodland animals.

Several years ago near my Hocking Hills cabin I had a dead ash in which a pair of pileated woodpeckers nested. The hole then attracted, in succession, families of screech owls, tufted titmice and flying squirrels.

There was a 50-percent chance that when it fell the tree would bring down electric and telephone lines, but it finally went down in the other direction and now the decaying log is a nursery for many kinds of forest creatures.

Columbus Audubon needs to think about EAB – green ash is the most common tree species at our Calamus Swamp Preserve in Pickaway County (which does not yet have EAB).

Work trips

Building access to a prominent Prairie Fen

Saturday September 8, 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Martin McAllister

Assist Martin McAllister, South Regional preserve manager, in renovating a shifting boardwalk at Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve in Clark County. The trail originates in a gravel terrace supporting a xeric prairie perched above the mature oak hickory forest adjacent to marl meadows and expanding prairie fen. At least thirty state listed species (including spotted turtles) have been reported from this habitat diverse preserve.

All skill levels welcome. Call Sharon Treaster by noon Sept. 3 (614) 292-1395 to sign up, reserve space for transportation and determining tool requirements. Bring Saturday's lunch, cup or water bottle for drinking. Meet in parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693. Please complete the Department of Natural Areas' volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treaster.1@osu.edu for forms).

Hope to see you there! Sharon Treaster.

Removing forest invaders

October 13 and 14, 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Shannon Hoffer

Join an overnight forest management project at Halls Creek Woods State Nature Preserve in Warren County traversing woodlands and old field segments. Shannon Hoffer, Southwest preserve manager, will direct the identification and removal of non-native woody plants that are aggressively replacing the natural diversity within this mature hardwood forest. Maple, beech, oak and hickory dominate the woodland, bisected by Halls Creek, a tributary of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River.

All skill levels welcome. More information TBA. Remember to call Sharon Treaster by noon Oct. 8 (614) 292-1395 to sign up, reserve space for transportation and determining tool requirements. Bring Saturday's lunch, cup or water bottle for drinking, and money for remaining group meals. Group camping near work site. Meet in parking lot inside gate house at Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693. Please complete the Department of Natural Areas' volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treaster.1@osu.edu for forms).

Hope to see you there! Sharon Treaster.

Helpful EAB Web sites

Emerald Ash Borer Web site

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

USDA APHIS Plant Health Web Site

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml

The Ohio State University's EAB Alert Web Site

<http://ashalert.osu.edu/>

Ohio Department of Agriculture Web Site

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>

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Includes membership in the national organization and Columbus Audubon; includes 4 issues of Audubon magazine and 5 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. Rates below are available to **NEW** subscribers.

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Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard,
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