



Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2
Birding Hoover Reservoir
- 3
Bird Reports
- 4
Activities
- 6
Tribute to Charles Wheeler
- 7
News from Green Lawn
Cemetery

Restricted Access to Lake Erie Should Be Opposed

By Dave Horn

Columbus Audubon does not have a recent history of taking sides on legislative issues but we believe it is appropriate to oppose Ohio House Bill 218, the Lake Erie Coastal Management Bill. What disturbs many of us who enjoy the outdoors is that the Bill redefines property rights of Lake Erie shorefront landowners from the current high water line to the low water line. Currently, land between the high and low water lines is held "in public trust" and managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). In simple terms, we the people own the right of access to this land, as we have since Ohio became a state in 1803.

H.B. 218 would remove that right and would significantly restrict public access to the Lake Erie shoreline. The current Director of ODNR, Sam Speck, opposes the Bill, as do four former ODNR directors. The National Wildlife Federation opposes the Bill. So does our own Audubon Ohio organization, whose Executive Director, Jerry Tinianow, has represented us in testimony. After studying the issue, your Conservation Committee has concluded that our membership deserves continued access to public trust lands for non-destructive activities such as birdwatching. The Committee has recommended, and the Columbus Audubon Board has approved, the statement: "Columbus Audubon joins Audubon Ohio in opposition to H.B. 218 which needlessly restricts public access to the Lake Erie shoreline."

The Bill has passed the House and is currently (Feb. 8th) under review by the Ohio Senate Committee on Energy, Natural Resources and Environment. It may have been reported out to the full Senate by the time you read this. We urge that you contact your state senator and let him or her know your opinion on this matter. Columbus Audubon members live in several Senate districts; to find yours there is a handy Zip Code search on the Senate website (www.senate.state.oh.us). If you find Internet access inconvenient, your local public library has this information.

More information on H.B. 218 can be found on websites for the Ohio Environmental Council (www.theoec.org) and the Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org). As you might guess, these oppose the Bill. (For the viewpoint favoring the Bill, visit www.ohiolakefrontgroup.com.)

Spring arrives this month, and with it come lots of opportunities to get outdoors with Columbus Audubon. Be sure to check out our March activities and read about the spring migration special event and new "101" workshop planned for April.

The *Song Sparrow* is published nine times each year by Columbus Audubon, a chapter of Audubon; Kristan Leedy, editor, kleedy@larkspur-pro.com.

Birding Hoover Reservoir

By Jen Sauter and Julie Davis

Do you know where to find the birds at Hoover Reservoir? This list of hot spots will help you make the most of birding at Hoover. And, don't miss your chance to bird there with experienced Columbus Audubon leaders on Saturday, March 13th (see page 4).

You can download a map of the areas covered in this article from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/PDF/pub244.pdf>.

Plumb Road and Dustin Road

Location: Old 3C, just south of Galena

During the fall, when the water levels of Hoover recede, abundant shorebirds, herons and egrets congregate here. Walk along Dustin Road and turn right onto a footpath. A good variety of forest birds can be viewed along this path.

Areas N and M

Location: Galena

These two areas offer a variety of habitats in which to observe different species. During the fall months, Area M becomes mostly a large mudflat, attracting migrating shorebirds and locals alike. When walking down Area N's path, you are actually walking on the old Sunbury Road! This corridor is a migrant trap for warblers, vireos and other song birds in early spring and fall. The area also attracts a variety of woodland birds, including Red-headed Woodpeckers. Osprey and Bald Eagles often are seen hunting.

Oxbow Road

Location: Sunbury Rd. north, left on Big Walnut, right onto Tussic, then another right onto Oxbow

This is a favorite hot spot to view migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. It provides an excellent vantage point for the northern end of the reservoir. When driving through to the parking area, be sure to look out for shorebirds along the mudflats on both sides of the road.

Hoover Dam

Location: Sunbury Road

Hoover Dam is a great spot to view large numbers of gulls, waterfowl and herons. It provides two separate habitats: the reservoir above the dam and the spillway into Big Walnut Creek. Above the dam, flocks of waterfowl and a variety of gulls can be observed. Below the dam, diving ducks fish and dabbling ducks dabble. Great Blue Herons are almost always present and sometimes seen in large numbers.

Walnut Street Boat Ramp Parking Lot

Location: North of Hoover Dam off Sunbury Rd.

Concentrations of waterfowl gather along here when the rest of the reservoir freezes over during the winter months. This is also a common site for gulls to converge. It is a good vantage point for the southern end of the reservoir.

Wiese Road

Location: Sunbury Road, north of Galena

Wiese Rd. is an excellent area to view shorebirds during late summer and early fall. When the water recedes, the area becomes mostly mudflats that attract migrating birds, along with large numbers of herons and egrets. An Osprey platform was erected here in 2000, which can be observed from the shore. Bald Eagles also frequent this location.

Mark your calendars for our Spring Migration Special Event

"Bird Songs 101," with Jim McCormac

Thursday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Due to the popularity of this program, we recommend you arrive early. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Museum of Biological Diversity Auditorium, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus

Jim gave this program for Columbus Audubon in January to a standing-room-only crowd on one of the worst nights of the winter. We invited him back for this special event marking spring migration, when we can use the new skills Jim will teach us. A publisher's representative is trying to get copies of Jim's new field guide, Birds of Ohio, in time for our event. If he succeeds, books will be available for purchase and Jim will sign them.

Of the 412 species of birds recorded in Ohio to date, about 302 occur annually. These 302 birds each makes on average perhaps three to five distinct songs or calls. So, there are about 906 to 1,510 sounds to learn to master a year's worth of birds! It's not nearly as bad as it sounds, though. There are lots of tricks and tips that experienced birding-by-ear birders employ to make navigation through the quagmire of sounds much easier. This talk will delve into ways of simplifying song, and touch on tips that make remembering them easier. Through the marvels of PowerPoint®, not only will we see beautiful images of our songsters, but we'll also hear their songs.

Jim McCormac is a botanist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He is also a long-time birder, and currently serves as secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee. He is also author of the guide *Birds of Ohio*, slated for release on March 15, 2004. This book covers all regularly occurring Ohio species in detail, including interesting and often little known facts and information, Ohio-specific color range maps, seasonal abundance bar graphs, and descriptions of habitat, nesting ecology, feeding habits, voice, similar species, and the best sites to find the bird, as well as color illustrations.

Your BIRD REPORTS - by John Arnfield

Editor's note: Charles Wheeler, whom you may recall was our bird report compiler, passed away in January. Thanks to John Arnfield for stepping in under sad circumstances and keeping your reports a lively part of the newsletter. Please see page 6 for more about Charles.

As cold and snowy weather gripped central Ohio in January, Audubon members were reporting plenty of bird activity in their yards. On the 8th, Janette Pepper counted 14 Northern Cardinals around her feeders in northwest Columbus, along with three Dark-eyed Juncos. Later in the month she spotted a Red-breasted Nuthatch drinking from her heated birdbath. She also reports that, back in October of last year, she saw a White-crowned Sparrow at her feeder tray. On the 27th and 28th, Roxanne Hetterscheidt had 44 Cardinals (29 males and 15 females) in her yard on Sportsman Club Road in the Johnstown area. . . . Bird-filled yards are attractive habitat for bird-eating raptors of course. Joan George reports a Cooper's Hawk making meals of Mourning Doves and European Starlings on several days in mid-January at her Upper Arlington home, while another Cooper's Hawk was observed by Hester and Bill Virgin trying to get at sparrows in ivy in their yard in Clintonville. Your recorder's yard (also in Clintonville) is visited frequently by what appears to be an immature female Cooper's Hawk, which hunts both by aerial pursuit and on the ground, chasing into clumps of ornamental grasses and shrubs, apparently trying to surprise small skulking songbirds. . . . Don't forget to keep your eyes on the sky! Beverly Potts saw 50 Canada Geese flying over the Upper Arlington Senior Center on the 16th, and Elaine Barnum spotted two swans (species unspecified) near Polaris Parkway on the 28th. A Bald Eagle was observed by Sally Payne the following day, flying north along Alum Creek. Back on December 1, a group of at least 100 Sandhill Cranes, calling noisily, were seen by Carolyn May, circling over a parking lot at Rome-Hilliard Road and West Broad Street, before they headed off in a southeasterly direction. . . . Kathy Cunagin reports that she has been working to make her two acres of former farmland in Circleville more bird friendly over the past three years, and that her work was rewarded last month by visits from at least 15 - 20 American Tree Sparrows at her feeders, as well as Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, along with her more regular visitors. . . . Pam Unger describes her January birding at Green Lawn Cemetery. She reports a pair of Eastern Bluebirds, a Great Blue Heron at the "Pit" (still unfrozen at the time of her visit), low numbers of Chickadees and American Crows (presumably a reflection of these species' susceptibility to West Nile virus)



Gray Squirrel



Downy Woodpecker

but plenty of Blue Jays (also a common victim). Also spotted were hunting Red-tailed Hawks (one carrying a squirrel), Mourning Doves, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-shafted Flickers, White-breasted Nuthatches, a Northern Mockingbird and Northern Cardinals. She also observed a Brown Creeper, an uncommon occurrence in winter in Ohio, along with many of the more common winter residents of the region. . . . Don't forget to keep feeding us your local bird reports. You don't have to have seen a King Eider in your birdbath or a Siberian Rubythroat at Blendon Woods to send in your observations! Direct them to Kristan Leedy (kleedy@larkspur-pro.com) or call them in to the Columbus Audubon office at 740-549-0333.

Member Blain Brockman captured these photographs of frequent visitors to his feeders (your's too?) outside his home near Little Darby Creek, outside West Jefferson.

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 unless otherwise noted.

Heavy Weather Policy

Heavy weather and a concern for safety may, after careful consideration, force a leader to cancel an activity or otherwise change plans. To find out, please contact the leader indicated in the activity description. If no leader is listed, please call the Columbus Audubon phone line at 740-549-0333, and check the website www.columbusaudubon.org.

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Columbus Audubon Board Meeting

Museum of Biological Diversity.

Saturday, March 6, 7:45 a.m.

Davey Woods Preserve Woodland Spring Retreat

Skill level: All

Leader: Sharon Treaster, 614-292-1395

Please join Columbus Audubon volunteers to help remove alien shrubs (honeysuckle, autumn olive and multiflora rose) competing with spring ephemerals within this mature forest noted for majestic oaks, towering tulip trees and spring flora. Preserve manager Herb Leen will train volunteers and direct woody plant removal throughout the rolling woodland landscape at this State Nature Preserve in Champaign County. Participants will experience the natural cadence of woodland sights and sounds and observe welcome signs of spring. Remember to call DNAP work trip coordinator Roger Barber (614-265-6467) by noon Monday, March 1st, to sign up, reserve space for transportation and determine tool requirements for volunteers. (For information not related to registering, call Sharon at the number listed above.) Bring lunch and a water bottle. Meet at building E of the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 1889 Fountain Sq. (off Morse road).

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.

Hoover Reservoir Waterfowl Tour

Leaders: Julie and Ken Davis, wavedog@aol.com

Skill level: All

Learn where the hot spots are to look for returning waterfowl as spring advances. This is a great trip for beginning and experienced birders alike. Meet at the Hoover Dam parking lot on Sunbury Rd. Bring spotting scopes if you have them.

Thursday, March, 18, 7:00 p.m.

Waterfowl 101

Instructor: Mike Flynn, 614-882-9493

Skill level: Beginner or refresher

Join Mike at Highbanks Metro Park for this extension of our Birding 101 series. Tonight you will learn about and see slides of the waterfowl he hopes to show you on the field trip to Big Island Wildlife area that will follow on Sunday, March 21. If you have been lucky enough to see Mike's

photography, you know you are in for a treat. The program will take place in the Nature Center.

Saturday, March 20, 8:00 a.m.

Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery

Leaders: Pam Raver and Darlene Sillick, 614-761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com

Skill level: All

Pam has spent many hours wandering the cemetery and knows the area better than most people. The best part is that Pam is an excellent birder with a keen eye and ear for birds. Beginners are welcome, and this is a good time to learn the hot spots of Green Lawn before migration begins in earnest. Meet at the office parking area just inside the gate. See the article on page 7 for more information about Green Lawn Cemetery.

Sunday, March 21, 11:30 a.m.

Big Island Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Mike Flynn, 614-882-9493

Skill level: All

Join the participants of Waterfowl 101 on this trip to look for returning waterfowl and early migrants. (You may attend the trip even if you did not attend the class.) Meet in the Worthington Mall parking lot. Come dressed in layers and be ready for muddy conditions as the spring thaws should be well underway. Bring water and snacks. We might be out until dark if conditions cooperate. Bring spotting scopes and two-way radios if you have them.

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. social time

March Nature Program

Reclaiming Birds, with Al Parker

See page 5 for details.

Saturday, April 3, 8:00 a.m.

Scioto River and O'Shaughnessy Reservoir

Leader: Rob Thorn, 614-417-3051 or

robthorn@earthlink.net

Skill level: All

Spring will be starting to swell with early flowers and migrants. We'll look for lingering waterfowl, as well as early migrant hawks and other land birds along the wooded Scioto River corridor. This area is among the best places in central Ohio to catch early migrant warblers like Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, Black-throated Green, and Pine. Sites such as Scioto Park, Kiwanis Park, O'Shaughnessy dam, Twin Lakes Park, and the new Traphagen preserve of Delaware Preservation Parks promise an interesting and diverse morning as we warm up for the later waves of migrants. Meet at the parking area for Scioto Park. This small park is along Rt. 33 (Riverside Dr.) north of I-270; exit north at Sawmill and take Bright Road west to 33 and turn north. The trip should be over by 1:00 p.m.

Avid Birders

For the trips listed below, bring a lunch and meet at the Worthington Mall parking lot for carpooling. Questions? Contact Bill Whan (danielel@iwaynet.net) or Doreen Linzell (dlinzell@att.net). Or visit www.columbusaudubon.org and select "Activities," "Avid Birders" for a trip schedule, reports on past trips and other useful information and links.

Saturday, March 27, 5:30 a.m.

Signs of spring; destination unknown.

Saturday, April 24, 5:30 a.m.

Southern Ohio spring migrants.

CA Nature Program

"Reclaiming Birds," with Al Parker

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. social time,

7:30 p.m. presentation

Inniswood Metro Gardens

Our presentation tonight will cover several enticing topics related to birds of prey, grassland birds and conservation. The Wilds' conservation educator Al Parker will speak to us about restoration and research projects involving a number of raptor and other bird species on the refuge's 5,000+ acre reclaimed strip mine refuge. His main topic will be the history of "hacking," or reintroducing Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons to The Wilds, especially as it pertains to a youth project, "Wildecamp Kids." He will also share current research on the grassland birds at The Wilds, including Henslow's, Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks and more. He will introduce us to opportunities for winter observation of raptors at The Wilds, and will discuss the need for breeding bird surveys on reclaimed land and the critical information it yields for conservation management.

Al Parker holds a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Purdue University and has 20 years of experience as a field biologist for Indiana's Department of Natural Resources. He has a rich background in many facets of natural history and wildlife science education, emphasizing a "hands-on" and "get-em-involved" philosophy.

Come on out and join us for this fascinating program. It will be a welcome tonic just as spring begins.

Refreshments are served at all programs. Please come early for social time. Location: Inniswood Metro Gardens. Take I-270 to the Rt. 3 Westerville exit and head north to Schrock Road. Turn right on Schrock, proceed to Hempstead Road

Columbus Audubon on WOSU AM Radio

Columbus Audubon veterans Tom Thomson and Lois Day will appear on Open Line with their guests and host Tom Wiebel each month through June on these Thursdays: March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17. Listen and call in your questions!

Columbus Audubon will expand popular "101" series

First up: Amateur Astronomy 101

Columbus Audubon is pleased to announce we are adding new dimension to our "101" series of activities. The Birding 101 classroom sessions followed by a hands-on field experience have been very well attended. Now we are expanding the series to include additional natural history subjects of interest to our members. In April, we will offer Amateur Astronomy 101, and in May, Butterflies 101. More information about Butterflies 101, which will be led by Jim Davidson, will appear in the April *Song Sparrow*.

Amateur Astronomy 101:

Looking Up, Out and Beyond

April 14, 21 and 28, 7:00 p.m.

Ohio Wildlife Center, Cook Road Facility, Powell

Registration required

This three session hands-on workshop is designed to help you develop a greater appreciation for and knowledge of the starry night. It will launch you on a developmental journey as a "naturalist of the night-time sky." We will concentrate on what can be viewed through your naked eye, in binoculars, and in small telescopes (or spotting scopes). Thus, we will focus on topics related to the identification of prominent constellations and help you understand the motion and nature of a variety of celestial objects, including stars (our sun and others), planets, our moon, deep sky objects, and even man-made satellites and the International Space Station. We will also explore resources to support your interest including websites, telescope design and selection, equipment vendors, books, magazines, local organizations, and observatories.

The workshop will be organized as an academic course with a syllabus, text (one or two books that are extremely popular with amateur astronomers at a beginner level), and homework (constellation, planet and deep sky object identification using whatever resources you have, such as binoculars or a spotting scope, and a few enjoyable readings). Each meeting will include both classroom time and night sky observation (if weather permits). This workshop is designed for beginners and will hopefully leave you an inspired and motivated student of the wonders of the night-time sky.

You must register for the course, which has space for a maximum of 25 participants. Please contact either Jay Young (614-251-4565 or youngj2@ohiodominican.edu) or Darlene Sillick (azuretrails@columbus.rr.com) to register. You will receive more information about the course after you register.

Amateur Astronomy 101 will be held at the Ohio Wildlife Center's Cook Road property: 6131 Cook Road, Powell, Ohio 43065. We wish to thank the Ohio Wildlife Center (www.ohiowildlifecenter.org) for the opportunity to use this facility to expand our 101 series.

Tribute to Charles Wheeler, 1917 - 2004

On January 29, Columbus Audubon lost wonderful friend and distinguished birder Charles Wheeler. Charles served Columbus Audubon in many ways, including as president, treasurer and newsletter editor for 25 years. I can think of no better way to remember him than through his own words. Charles had prepared the article below as a handout for the program we held in November 2003, which featured a panel discussion of several CA “luminaries”—including Charles, who unfortunately could not attend—discussing their involvement and hopes for the future of our organization. You will find that Charles’ characteristic enthusiasm for the history of Columbus Audubon and some of its more “famous” members carries you right along through this interesting “memoir.” Perhaps it will even inspire you to learn more about nature or become more involved with Columbus Audubon, which would have pleased him no end.

The “Old Days” in Columbus Audubon

by Charles B. Wheeler

I joined the Columbus Audubon Society in 1963 after having an ornithological epiphany of the kind that I suspect is still common. I saw some beautiful birds, thought, What in the world are *they?*, looked them up in [a Roger Tory Peterson field guide], and discovered the Cedar Waxwing. Wow! A pretty good start. I was using a pair of 6x30 Burton binoculars that I’d bought for another reason altogether: to take to OSU football games and watch a young running back named Hopalong Cassidy who was rescuing our new coach, Woody Hayes, from a disastrous first season.

I was aware then of the activity called “birdwatching,” but considered it—if at all—a harmless eccentricity like saving old string or collecting matchbook covers. I had a colleague in the English Department who was already a birder, Rosamond England. She came from Boston, where as they used to say “people are born knowing how to tell sparrows apart.” She had already converted another friend and colleague, Todd Furniss, and both of them after they learned of my interest worked on me to make me a little less casual about the activity. I started keeping a “list,” and I bought a set of those pesky little tabs that you glued to the outer edges of certain pages in Peterson to indicate where the birds were to be found in his book.

I heard Milt Trautman [noted local naturalist and author of *The Fishes of Ohio*] say once that the two most important diagnostic features of a bird commonly overlooked are its bill and its legs. I would add one other specification: Where did you see it? This was brought home to me early on when, with book in hand, I studied at close range the small brownish birds that I saw hopping around in my yard and decided that they had to be Bachman’s Sparrows. I told this to Todd, carefully describing the plumage. He solemnly extended his hand and said, “I want to congratulate you on being the world’s greatest authority on the female House Sparrow.”

I felt very much like a novice in those early years, and I was. The Columbus Audubon Society was a small, fairly close-knit group, and it included some people with very impressive qualifications. And they were *good!* I remember once while we were gathering in Green Lawn to begin a birding trip, sort of milling around, and Milt Trautman suddenly exclaimed, “There goes a Veery!” as a brownish bird zipped past us and disappeared into the bushes. Wow! I thought—

how does he *know!* There hadn’t been a chance to examine the plumage. Some other giants were Ed Thomas, who wrote a weekly nature column in *The Dispatch*; Ernie Limes, the ornithological plumber; Tom Tomson—still writing; Don Borrer, who pioneered in the acoustical study of bird-song; Cloyd Dawson; Irving Kassoy, who “owned” County Line Road; the irrepressible Granville Smith; David Baker; and Walter Tucker, father of the Metropolitan Park System. Lest you think that they were all males, let me say that the Society included a number of excellent female birders of long experience, whose enthusiasm inspired us all, among them Esther Reichelderfer, Ruth Melvin, Ruth May, Mrs. Arthur Kiefer (who edited the newsletter before I took it up), Emma Jane James, the one-of-a-kind “Buggie” Markham, and Mary Trautman.

These luminaries excepted, the bulk of the Society was made up of backyard birders, and their devotion kept it pattering along at about 300 members for many years. We were not in any legal sense affiliated with National Audubon. We frequently had trouble finding people willing to serve as officers—in proof of which I offer myself, having served at some time in every capacity, even that of treasurer. Things took an abrupt upward turn finally when then president Dave Blyth found us an executive secretary in Lois Day, who very soon became indispensable to keeping an office for looking after our increasingly more complex business.

Columbus Audubon didn’t hold a lot of field trips, by current standards, and conservation was simply not an issue. There were plenty of birds and there always would be. The problem was not to conserve them but to keep up with them. The basic trips were in the early spring to Green Lawn, in later spring to the Sandusky area on Lake Erie, a spring breakfast/bird walk at Blacklick Woods, in the fall the famous “rail run” out at the Hebron Fish Hatchery, followed in winter by Kassoy’s caravan along the Ross-Pickaway County Line Road. The Fish Hatchery in those days was an important stopping off point for the fall shore-bird migration, and just to show you how times have changed, I remember more than once studying at fairly close range the “peeps” on the mud flats there until I could reliably tell Pectoral, Least, Western, and Semipalmated Sandpipers apart. Don’t bother looking now.

Continued, see “Old Days,” page 7.

“Old Days”

Probably the most conspicuous activity we had was the program of wildlife films put on by traveling showmen provided by National Audubon. Television was no competition at all back then, so if you wanted to see what we now call a nature film, you went to one of these. We used two venues: first the Ohio Historical Society building on High Street (now Sullivant Hall), then Battelle Auditorium. The films were 16mm color, and some of them were quite good. The audience contained many people who weren't active birders, so it was an important activity for us, but it died a slow death by television and will never be revived.

I'm way out of chronology now, but I want to mention that The Ohio State University awarded the Doctor of Science degree to Roger Tory Peterson in the winter commencement of 1964. The process had been set in motion by Todd Furniss, then an Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, who knew which buttons to push. So Peterson showed up, and there was a banquet in his honor at the Faculty Club, which I attended, and a display of his bird painting in the Historical Society building.

Peterson shared one major characteristic with our own Milt Trautman: lack of conventional scientific training. Milt, in fact, had never even graduated from high school. But through sheer intensity of application, in addition to his natural keen mind and curiosity, he made himself an authority on both the birds and the fishes of Ohio. Happily, he eventually got an honorary doctorate from OSU. Now, although Milt's affiliation to the Columbus Audubon Society was fairly incidental to his real work (he helped us mostly by leading field trips), his mere presence at any occasion brought it to life. There was no better companion in the field. He loved competition. But his mind was always asking *why, why, why?* It is said that he kept detailed field notes on every expedition he ever made, even casual bird walks, but it was not with the intent of making his life list bigger than the next person's, but rather of learning something more about Nature and her works.

If the Columbus Audubon Society was only incidental to the careers of men like Thomas and Trautman, who would have been what they were without it, I like to think that it was crucial to the development of two members of a much later generation, Steve Kress and Bruce Peterjohn. I don't wish to slight others, but I have a feeling that these two were in some special way protégés. Steve went on to become a vice president of the National Audubon Society. Bruce—the spacey teenager who once on a Christmas count got me and Ros England temporarily but thoroughly lost in a patch of woods because he led our party in such a single-minded pursuit of the birds it held—went on, some 20 or more years later, to publish *The Birds of Ohio*.

News from Green Lawn Cemetery

In the more than 150 years since Green Lawn Cemetery was founded, many changes have been made to what is now the state's second largest cemetery. When the cemetery was founded in 1848, the area just southwest of downtown Columbus was primarily rural. Today, the 360 acres are surrounded by the results of urban growth.

But these days, officials at Green Lawn Cemetery are trying to give a portion of the cemetery a rural look once again. They are planning to create a section of prairie grass near the main entrance off Greenlawn Avenue.

Having a section of prairie grass is rather unusual in cemeteries in Ohio. However, Green Lawn has 80 acres that are undeveloped, thus providing plenty of space for the project. Green Lawn has three separate meadows where the grass has been naturalizing for the past few years. This was done as a way to reduce maintenance costs, as well as to increase the wildlife habitat within the cemetery.

Both goals have been accomplished. But at times, those sections have not looked very attractive, nor is the grass the native grass that Green Lawn would like to have. Plans have been made to disc one of the plots - about three acres - and reseed it with a rich, native tallgrass prairie seed mix.

The growth of this section will be closely monitored. If it proves to be as attractive as hoped, and serves the original purposes, the other two plots will be turned to prairie grass.

Take note

The 2004 Ohio Bluebird Society Annual Meeting will be held in Columbus on April 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Division of Wildlife District One Headquarters. The meeting will feature speakers, a round-table session, and time to meet and greet old and new friends. Register by April 10 to guarantee lunch. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at 614-761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Can You Help Out With the Columbus Audubon Website?

Do you have six to eight hours a month to help Columbus Audubon maintain and expand its Web presence? Skills required are a familiarity with the Web, proficiency with any web page editor, an understanding of HTML, good writing skills, and an ability to work to deadlines in collaboration with the newsletter editor. Graphic design experience would be desirable. The Columbus Audubon website is FRAMES-based, makes use of JavaScript and some forms processing software, and runs on a Unix-based webserver. We are interested in finding a volunteer who could act as a backup to the present webmaster for a transitional period of several months and then take full responsibility for maintenance of the website after that period. For more information, contact John.Arnfield@osu.edu.

Memberships

Memberships in Audubon and Columbus Audubon and gift memberships are available through Columbus Audubon.

Audubon Membership

Includes membership in the national organization and Columbus Audubon; includes 4 issues of Audubon magazine and 9 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. The rates below are available to NEW subscribers.

- _____ \$20 - 1-year introductory rate
- _____ \$30 - 2-year introductory rate
- _____ \$15 - 1-year student/senior rate

Columbus Audubon Chapter Only Membership

Chapter only membership includes 9 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities and helps fund our programs.

- _____ \$20 - 1-year new membership
- _____ \$20 - Renewal (currently \$15 less than Audubon renewals)

If this is a GIFT MEMBERSHIP, please fill out the recipient information below:

Recipient's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

If this membership is FOR YOU, please fill out your contact information below:

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

**Clip this form and mail to Columbus Audubon, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 141350, Columbus, OH 43214
Please make checks payable to: Columbus Audubon. Thank you for your support!**

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Columbus Audubon

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