



# Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

November-December 2006  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas Bird Count.....	2
President's message.....	3
Coming up.....	4
Project FeederWatch.....	5
Educational outreach.....	6
Conservation Corner.....	7
Birdseed sale .....	insert

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By Tom Sheley

**American robins visit a heated birdbath in winter.**

## Be prepared for your winter visitors

By Tom Sheley

**W**inter is just around the corner and now is the time for you to get ready to help birds and wildlife through the cold weather ahead. Here are some things you may want to keep in mind while preparing your yard for winter.

Don't be too hasty in cutting or removing the dormant or dying flowers in your gardens. Leave some for the birds! They will glean seeds throughout the winter from these garden areas. Consider moving your garden clean up from fall to spring. Create brush piles with tree limbs, twigs and other debris for birds to use to escape the winds, snow and rain. This is a great use for Holiday trees at the end of the season.

If you feed the birds, be sure to empty and clean all of your feeders. Start by removing seed and debris from feeders then loosening stubborn oils and dirt by soaking in very warm water for 15-30 minutes. A biodegradable antibacterial dish soap can be added to this soak. Tube-style feeders can be taken apart and scrubbed with brushes if necessary. The gunky buildup in the bottom of wooden or plastic hopper style feeders can be scraped off with a flathead screwdriver or small putty knife. Feeders can be sterilized by soaking in a 10-percent bleach solution for at least 20 minutes. Rinse and dry thoroughly before refilling. Be sure to regularly rake up and remove the waste materials and debris on the ground around your feeders. This is vitally important in helping to eliminate the potential for the spread of avian diseases. Nesting boxes can be cleaned out and sterilized in the same manner as feeders. Keep in mind some decorative houses may be damaged by vigorous cleaning.

Birds generally use more energy to keep warm in winter months, so consider offering feed with a high fat content. Suet, peanuts, tree nuts and seed blends high in black oil, striped sunflower, and safflower seeds provide the extra calories birds need. Be sure to have food available for critical evening and early morning feeding periods, especially during cold and snowy conditions. Feeders should be checked after rain, snow and ice storms. Remove excess snow and ice from perches and seed ports to insure access to seed, and check to make sure seed is dry enough to flow freely from feeders.

And don't forget that birds need a clean source of water all year long! Consider adding a birdbath heater to an existing birdbath or installing a heated birdbath. Water is a common life element all wildlife needs, so don't be surprised if you see birds and wildlife not normally seen at your feeders stop by for a drink, particularly during migratory periods or prolonged cold or dry spells.

Plan next year's landscaping projects to include fruit and berry producing shrubs and trees for the birds as well as edible seed producing plants to give birds a natural source of food throughout the year.

# 107th Christmas Bird Count is just around the corner!

By Geoff LeBaron

Birders and nature enthusiasts throughout the western hemisphere will participate once more in Audubon's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Counts are open to birders of all skill levels. This year, over 2,000 individual counts are scheduled to take place throughout the Americas and beyond from Dec. 14, 2006 to Jan. 5, 2007.

Last year about 62 million birds were counted. Thanks in part to Bird Studies Canada, a leading nonprofit conservation organization which is the Canadian partner for the CBC, there were 2,060 individual counts – a record high. Each count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24-hour period between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5 in a designated circle 15 miles in diameter – about 177 square miles. All birds must be tallied within a CBC count circle, and observers may contribute sightings either by joining with a group in the field, or by counting birds at their own bird feeders.

The overall results of the 106th CBC were affected by the historic 2005 hurricane season. The storms drastically altered where birds were found on a continent-wide level, and birds displaced by the storms were then discovered out of their normal ranges. Some western birds, most notably Franklin Gulls, Townsend's Solitaires, and some western warblers and tanagers,

displaced to Atlantic Canada by hurricanes, were seen moving back southward through the eastern states. In other cases, there were an unusually high numbers of a particular bird species counted in an area, such as the astounding number of Gray Catbirds on many counts in northeastern North America.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day in 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed that they identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort – and a more than century-old institution.

Chapman represents the first generation of CBC participants. Since Chapman's retirement in 1934, a new group of observers have performed the modern-day count, influencing the next generation of CBC contributors.

Today, over 55,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands, will count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified

[See Christmas Bird Count, page 11](#)

## Columbus Christmas Bird Count lands on Dec. 17

Help us monitor central Ohio's winter birdlife in one of the longest-running volunteer censuses in the region. On Dec. 17, we'll have teams of birdwatchers scouring the neighborhoods, parks, and wild lands of greater Columbus, looking for rarities and common birds alike. The Columbus count circle is centered just north of Bexley, so that it stretches from Upper Arlington on the west to Blacklick in the east, and from Minerva Park in the north to Groveport in the south. Key parks and preserves within this circle include Whetstone and the Olentangy Greenway, Griggs, Greenlawn-Whittier, Blendon Woods, the Alum Creek Greenway, Blacklick Woods, the Blacklick Creek Greenway, and Three Creeks Park. Even with all these parks, much of the area is decidedly urban and suburban, although it was much less so when the count started

back in the 1960s. In a real sense, our CBC has described the bird population changes as Columbus has grown from a small city into a major metropolitan area.

What's happened during that period, and what can we predict for the future? Strictly urban birds, like pigeons, starlings, and house sparrows have all increased to the point where they've almost become nuisances. Other, supposedly 'wilder' birds have been adapting to our suburban areas, including Coopers and Red-tailed Hawks, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadees, American Robins, Carolina wrens, Dark-eyed juncos, and American Goldfinches. Many of these birds are prospering due to the huge concentration of feeders in Columbus, while others take advantage of our extensive plantings of fruiting ornamental trees like hawthorns and

Bradford pears. Unless the weather becomes very cold, all teams should find large numbers of most of these species in every area of Columbus.

To what can we look forward? Increasingly, we're getting hardy strays and wintering birds that were formerly rare or unknown from here during December. Our list of wintering waterfowl has steadily grown as small numbers of teal, wood ducks, and shovelers have started to stick around in different ice-free ponds or creeks. Unusual raptors, like Bald Eagles, Merlins, and Peregrines, are now almost expected in the winter here. Sapsuckers and Flickers are now wintering in fair numbers in our ravines and parks. Phoebe have shown up increasingly in December and January, but

[See Columbus, page 11](#)

## Central Ohio Christmas Bird Count Schedules

CIRCLE	DATE	COMPILER	PHONE	E-MAIL
<b>COLUMBUS</b>	Dec. 17	Rob Thorn	(614) 471-3051	robthorn@earthlink.net
<b>HOOVER RESERVOIR</b>	Dec. 16	Charles Bombaci	(614) 891-5706	charlesbombaci@aol.com
<b>O'SHAUGHNESSY RESERVOIR</b>	Dec. 30	Darlene Sillick	(614) 761-3696	azuretrails@columbus.rr.com
<b>DELAWARE</b>	Dec. 17	Jed Burtt	(740) 368-3886 (d) (740) 747-2936 (n)	ehburtt@owu.edu
<b>LANCASTER</b>	Dec. 30	David Goslin	(740) 654-6917	N/A
<b>KINGSTON</b> (Circleville/Chillicothe)	Jan. 1	Brad Sparks	(614) 751-6622	birdmansparks@yahoo.com
<b>BUCKEYE LAKE</b>	TBD	Jeff White	(614) 890-3486	N/A

# President's message: Change of seasons

By Darlene Sillick

What an exciting time it is with the change in seasons. At this writing, the leaves are starting to change. When you receive this issue most of the leaves will be something we are busily raking up. This morning, I drove past some sumac in peak color reminding me of all the plants which feed birds and wildlife throughout the fall and winter. I always think of sumac berries as survival food for birds in late winter.

As animals are preparing for winter and birds are migrating, we have prepared this issue to help you help the birds in your own back yard. We have two articles with suggestions and tips for winterizing your home and backyard feeding, a new listserve provided by Audubon Ohio to chat and share ideas and an article from Cornell's Project FeederWatch loaded with information. Our first issue of CA Kids is out and we hope you will take the time to share it with your children and their friends.

Last Christmas a friend gave me a book by Hal Borland titled "Twelve Moons of the Year". Hal has written over 30 books and for three and a half decades he wrote for "The New York Times". His writings were sincere and deeply thought provoking outdoor editorials. I would like to share a couple of his thoughts for November and December.

He said we seldom think of November in terms of beauty but that it is simply an interval between colorful October and dark December.

He mentions that the wind and the fallen leaves have their November voice but we most associate November with the calls of owls and flying v's of honking geese. November's full moon is the Beaver Moon. Hal states that November was a last chance to 'work like a beaver' to prepare for what December, January and sometimes February can bring.

He calls the oaks 'deliberate trees,' slow to leaf out and reluctant to shed their worn leaves which sometimes hang on till

spring pushes them to earth's floor. Take time to observe the tree silhouettes across the field and on the hillside. Look how strong and stately they stand clutching the earth so tightly and providing crevices, nooks and hiding places for wildlife to survive the long winter.

Soon we will be giving thanks for a bountiful harvest with family and friends. I'm sure with a land rich in traditions we will all give thanks in many, many different ways. For me, I just have to get out for that holiday walk to find the gifts of nature to center me as I give my own thanks and appreciation.

Try over the next couple months to walk with someone and share the little things you see and appreciate in nature. I recently saw a presentation by Heather Starck of Audubon Ohio and one slide stuck in my mind. It was a child standing outside with a remote control pushing the buttons trying to get nature to change (sigh).

Take a child outside and become detectives together, share and be thankful for the little things. Walk with someone elderly and share nature with each other. Then pause and see how all this makes you feel. I bet you will be more relaxed, smiling (inside and out) and even a little excited over your observations together. Try to slow down from all the hustle and bustle over the next two months and don't miss what nature has to offer at the end of this calendar year.

December's full moon is the Cold Moon. Watch the fluffed up feathers of the birds in your backyard and keep your feeders filled for your December guests. It won't be long before snowbirds, and juncos will flock to our yards. Try to join a group to take part in the Christmas Bird Count. Learn more about its importance by reading more in our newsletter.

May nature offer each of you a special 'gift' in November and December. Sometimes we just have to be open to receiving her amazing 'gifts' no matter what season it is.

## Ohio Lepidopterists announce programs

### Kenn Kaufman to speak at Fall Meeting

Kenn Kaufman is the featured speaker at the Nov. 4 Ohio Lepidopterists Fall Meeting. Kaufman is the co-author of "The Butterflies of North America". He will be speaking on "The Trials and Tribulations in Writing a Field Guide for Butterflies".

Programs are held in the auditorium of The Ohio State University's Museum of Biological Diversity located at 1315 Kinnear Road. Morning programs featuring a variety of interesting subjects will be presented from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Kaufman's program begins at 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments are provided in the morning and snacks are available in the afternoon. Bring your books to get them signed, or if you don't have one yet, you can purchase one at the meeting.

### Butterfly Observer's Group

The Ohio Lepidopterists Butterfly Observer's Group meets the first Tuesday of the month at Highbanks Metro Park at 6:30 p.m. Programs are designed for those interested in butterfly observing and other related topics.

The Nov. 7 program will feature Dragonflies. Jim Davidson will provide easy identification techniques, habitat, behavioral patterns and best places to go to observe these fascinating summer fliers.

At the Dec. 5 program, Leslie Angel will show her recent pho-

tos of the lifecycles of several butterflies and moths from egg to adult.

### John Himmelman to speak at Winter Meeting

The Ohio Lepidopterists is pleased to have John Himmelman as the featured speaker for the Jan. 13, 2007 Winter Meeting. Himmelman is the author of "Discovering Moths: Jewels in your Backyard" along with about 60 other books. This multitalented naturalist is also a wonderful speaker and illustrator. Some of his popular books include "Tudley Didn't Know", "Chickens to the Rescue", "Mouse in a Meadow", "Frog in a Bog", "Animal Rescue Club" and "Pipaluk and the Whales". He also has a series of scientifically accurate books giving insight to such creatures as a Luna Moth, Woodfrog, Salamander, Mealworm, Pill Bug and Hummingbirds. This is sure to be an entertaining program for all ages, so bring the entire family. Want to learn more about John Himmelman and his books? Check out [booksandnature.homestead.com](http://booksandnature.homestead.com). If you come to this program, don't forget to bring your books for his autograph!

Programs are held in the auditorium of the Museum of Biological Diversity. Morning programs will be presented from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and Himmelman's program begins at 1:30 p.m.

More information on The Ohio Lepidopterists, their meetings and programs can be found on their Web site [www.ohiolepidopterists.org](http://www.ohiolepidopterists.org).



## 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](http://www.columbusaudubon.org) for any changes or additions to the field trip listings.

### Field trips

#### Wednesday walks at Whittier

Wednesdays, November 1 and December 6, 7:30 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). For more information, contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or [gledhillpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gledhillpaul@yahoo.com), or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or [heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us).

#### Big Island Wildlife Area

Saturday, November 18, 8 a.m.

Leaders: Nadya Bennett, Darlene Sillick

Join Nadya and Darlene for a morning out at Big Island Wildlife Area just north of Marion. We will be looking for raptors, waterfowl and other early winter species. Don't worry, we have planned this trip early enough for all you Buckeyes to get back in time for the OSU/Michigan game that begins at 3:30 p.m. Meet at the Kroger parking lot at Worthington Square Mall. For more information, call Nadya Bennett at (614) 306-8215.

#### Deer Creek Lake

Sunday November 19, 2:30 p.m.

Leader: Dave Horn

In some years a flock of sandhill cranes stay in the Deer Creek area from Nov. 10-25 or so, and it is a thrilling sight to see them coming to roost at sunset. Last year we were treated to five of them. Even without the cranes, Deer Creek Lake in November is good for migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Deer Creek Marina, off state Route 207 south of Pancoastburg. From Columbus, take I-71 toward Cincinnati, exit at state Route 57 into Mt. Sterling and pick up 207 there. Look for a green Subaru Outback, license plate # MOTHMAN. For more information, contact Dave Horn, (614) 262-0312 or [horn.1@osu.edu](mailto:horn.1@osu.edu).

#### Duck Drop-in: Waterfowl of Alum and Hoover Reservoirs

Sunday, November 19, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Can't wait til Spring to get that waterfowl fix? This trip may be just the finger to scratch that itch. We'll use gap in the waterfowl hunting season to search for migrant waterbirds, starting at Alum State Park Visitors Center (intersection of S. Old State and Peachblow Roads) and working our way around Alum Creek Lake in the early morning, then make the short jaunt east to nearby Hoover Reservoir. Waterfowl migration should be in full swing, so count on a variety of grebes, loons, diving ducks, dabblers, mergansers, and who-knows-what else. Keeping tabs on

### CA November Program

#### Alaska Take One, Take Two

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. presentation

Innis House at Inniswood Metro Gardens

#### Program description

Without knowing it, Columbus Audubon board members Julie Davis and Michael Packer both traveled to Alaska this summer with their families - but at different times and different itineraries. Even if they had traveled at the same time they never would have met. Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas! Whether it's fresh salmon, glacier ice, puffins, moose or grizzly bear, together their slides will show you where you can travel via train, ship or kayak for a nature vacation of a lifetime.

the waterfowl should be a few of our wintering hawks and eagles. Meet at the Tim Horton's off U.S. 23 and Powell Road (just north of Highbanks Metro Park, about 3.5 miles north of I-270) or at the Visitors Center at 8:30 a.m.. Dress for the unpredictable November weather. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net).

#### Ohio Wildlife Center, Cook Rd (Delaware County)

Sunday, November 26, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Join Darlene as we bird the OWC grounds to prepare for next month's CBC count for the O'Shaughnessy circle. If time permits, we will visit the Twin Lakes area next door. Meet Darlene at 6131 Cook Road north of Shawnee Hills off of state Route 745. For more information, contact Darlene at (614) 761-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

#### Whittier to wilder: Waterfowl and late migrants near Columbus' downtown

Sunday, December 3, 9 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should be falling with the leaves as we survey the Scioto River north and south of the Greenlawn Dam. North of the dam, in the future Whittier Peninsula Park, the narrow riparian corridor will hold lingering migrants among its berry-encrusted bushes, while the Greenlawn Reservoir is a haven for cold-hardy waterbirds like herons and ducks. South of the dam, the bikepath always holds surprises, and the river and nearby quarries often host interesting winter waterfowl like loons, bufflehead, and goldeneye. Time permitting, we'll venture further south to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its old lagoons, as well as some of the old river quarries. We'll meet at the entrance to the South Scioto Boat launch. Take Whittier Ave. west from Front Street, and make the first left turn. NOTE: Park along Whittier Ave across from the Impound lot, since the boat ramp lot is being renovated. Dress for unpredictable weather. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net).

See Coming up, page 9

## Project FeederWatch

# Help the birds this winter and contribute to science too!

By Judy Kolo-Rose

**F**eeding the wild birds throughout the winter months provides much-needed help for birds who do not migrate South. As the temperatures plummet and the plants, seeds and fruit become covered in snow and ice, and insects burrow further into trees and hiding places, providing a wide variety of food for the birds not only helps the birds survive, but provides entertainment and education for those of us relegated to the indoors during the frigid winter season.

So in addition to helping the birds survive and providing entertainment, what other benefits do feeding the birds throughout winter provide? Well, if you ask Cornell Lab of Ornithology Ambassador Judy Kolo-Rose, she will say that you can provide valuable "Citizen Science" data that the Lab compiles to track data and information collected from "regular folks" who become Citizen Scientists on behalf of the Lab, and contribute valuable information about bird populations, diseases, species eruptions, patterns of movement, and much more.

Participating in Project FeederWatch is as easy and as putting up a feeder and watching it, for as little as 15 minutes a day every two weeks to as long as you like (upon joining by sending in a small fee to cover expenses). And the more feeders you put up with a variety of food types, the greater the variety of birds you can expect to attract.



Photos by Judy Kolo-Rose

(Above) A bird on eating out of a hand.

(Above, right) Birds on a hanging feeder.

(Right) Birds feed on a feeder stationed on a railing.

According to Dr. David Bonter, leader of Project FeederWatch at Cornell, "People of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate. The project begins in November, but you can join any time. Large-scale bird population studies would not be possible without our dedicated FeederWatchers," said Bonter. "By simply watching from their home, each observer broadens our window on the world."

To learn more about Project FeederWatch or to register, log onto [www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473.

In return for your \$15 participation fee (\$12 for Lab members), participants receive the FeederWatcher's Handbook, a colorful poster of the most common feeder birds, a



calendar, complete instructions on how to file their reports, the FeederWatch Year in Review, and a subscription to the Lab's newsletter, "BirdScope".

For additional information about bird-feeding, Project FeederWatch, or any of the other Citizen Science projects sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, contact Ambassador Judy Kolo-Rose at [judy@kolorose.com](mailto:judy@kolorose.com), or visit your local Wild Birds Unlimited store.

Happy birdfeeding this winter, we hope you decide to enjoy the birds and help science at the same time.

## Winter on the Wilds 2006-07

Winter on the Wilds is a remarkable program that gives you and your family fun opportunities to discover unique winter wildlife at the Wilds. Programs include wildlife watching, hiking, adventures into the Wilds unique habitats, and some indoor activities. Be prepared to spend time outside. Bring plenty of warm layers (coats, coveralls, hats, gloves, boots, etc.), lunch, a coffee mug, and a thermos (cocoa and coffee will be provided). We will meet at the main parking lot on International Road. Programs start at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

The cost for the program is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. All fees are non-refundable. Reservations and pre-payment are required. Call Reservations Coordinator Cindy at (740) 638-5030 ext. 2286 or [cpaschall@thewilds.org](mailto:cpaschall@thewilds.org).

Questions? Call Al Parker at (740) 638-2116 or e-mail [aparker@thewilds.org](mailto:aparker@thewilds.org). The mailing address for the program is Winter on the Wilds, 14000 International Road, Cumberland, Ohio 43732.

### Wild Birds – Birding the Wilds and Bird ID Classes

November 11 and December 9

Explore the unknown parts of the Wilds with one of our educa-

tors to discover bird habitats, songs, and signs. Bring binoculars and bird guides if you have them.

### Eagle Survey Day

January 6, 2007

As we travel around the Wilds and Muskingum Valley we will search for Bald and Golden Eagles to include on the national mid-winter eagle count. Bring your binoculars, scopes, lunch, and gas in the tank – we will try to carpool as much as possible.

### Winter Hawk - Raptor Field ID/Zoo Bird Day

January 13 and February 10, 2007

Search for short-eared owls, harriers, rough-legged and red-tailed hawks, golden eagles and prairie falcons across the Wilds and see live raptors from the Columbus Zoo!

### Bison Prairie Day

March 10, 2007

Observe bison in our large pastures and explore the grasslands of both native prairie grasses and reclaimed mine lands. See "first-hand" why prairies are so important to wildlife.



## Educational outreach

# Insects 101 and Magic of Birds events a success!

By Darlene Sillick

Two recent events at Highbanks Metro Park hosted by Columbus Audubon drew much interest and participation from the general public. On Sept. 3, Columbus Audubon launched it's CA Kids! club with a all about birds fair "The Magic of Birds". CA reached over 100 children and their parents with various hand-on activities.

OWC brought several bird ambassadors and families were able to make birdfeeders, learn the basics of binoculars, and much more!

At our second annual "Insects 101" on Sept. 10 about 50 hearty kids and adults got a little bug-eyed listening to Dave Horn,

Professor of Entomology at The Ohio State University, talk about his love of insects.

Sitting at Dave's knee we all learned that on July 3, 1953, at the dear age of 10, Dave and his father made a net together and he started a nature journal.

They had so much fun that Dave wanted to keep chasing bugs and butterflies forever and ever. In the fourth grade, Dave began a detailed journal and his record keeping was later used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to document butterflies in the area where he grew up. His father-in-law-to-be once asked him if he thought he could make a living as an entomologist. The rest is history.

We learned 'what really is



By Stefanie Hauck

**A family learns to use binoculars at "The Magic of Birds" on Sept. 3.**

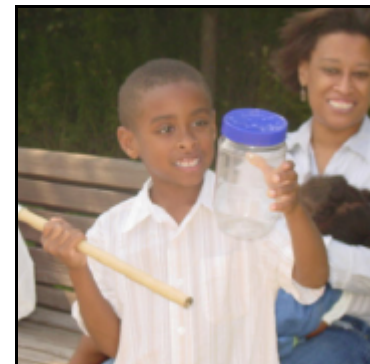
an insect', that a centipede eats other insects and they trip over their own feet. A millipede does not eat other insects but eats plants and they do have more than 100 feet.

Ninety-six percent of people have mites on their eye-brows and some hands in the audience were gently rubbing their faces. A mayfly lives for 1 to 2 days and does not eat and one of every five insects is a beetle. Insects have four wings, flies have two wings and fleas don't have wings.

Talk about bug-eyed! After Dave's presentation we all

went outside and shared swinging the nets through the plants and filled insect collection dishes to learn first hand what was lurking outside the nature center.

At times you could not tell who was having more fun, the kids or the



By Darlene Sillick

**One of the kids at Insects 101 shows off what he caught in his net.**

kids parents. I'll let the pictures speak for themselves. We thank David Horn for his delightful presentation and his time on a Sunday afternoon sharing his hobby-turned-career with each of us.



By Darlene Sillick

**Dave Horn shows participants some insects during "Insects 101" on Sept. 10.**

## Audubon Ohio launches new e-mail listserv

How often do you talk with your neighbors? Do you ever share your ideas about backyard bird conservation with them, like what kind of seeds you use in your feeder or your secret to a successful Bluebird trail? Imagine having a forum that would allow you to talk with neighbors from all over the state. Now you have one. Audubon Ohio is providing a free e-mail listserv, hosted by Miami University of Ohio, as an outlet for folks to discuss topics related to bird-feeding, bird-housing, landscaping for birds, and any number of other topics related to doing backyard and community habitat conservation. If you'd like to join and share your questions or thoughts visit:

<http://listserv.muohio.edu/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=aahfield->

[consultants&A=1&X=](#)

Enter your name and e-mail address in the required fields, and then click join. When the system sends you a message asking you to confirm your e-mail address, just follow the instructions and you should be signed up without any difficulties. If you do experience problems, please contact Casey Tucker [ctucker@audubon.org](mailto:ctucker@audubon.org) and he can manually add you as well. (make sure you include the "=" at the end of the web-address).

Here's a chance to learn tips and tricks on attracting birds from other experts, and to share a few of your own as well.

—Casey Tucker, Education Specialist, Audubon Ohio

## Conservation Corner

# Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA, Calamus Swamp updates

By Dave Horn

### Important Bird Area will surround Audubon Center

The Grange Insurance Columbus Audubon Center is on its way to becoming a reality and one of several reasons Audubon Ohio has chosen the Whittier Peninsula as the site for the center is the area that surrounds it is part of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area. It has been a couple of years since we have focused on IBAs, so here's a review. An IBA is simply a place critical to birds during some part of their life cycle: breeding, feeding, wintering or migrating.

Ohio's IBA program includes locations that regularly support significant breeding or non-breeding densities of species of concern, sites with habitats that are rare or unique, sites that regularly hold significant numbers birds breeding or migrating, and sites of long-term research projects including censuses and monitoring. The Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA is a critically important flyway for migrating birds in remarkable variety because of the concentrated habitat for both land and water birds.

The landscaped area of Greenlawn Cemetery, the naturally-occurring gallery forest along the Scioto, and the river and its shores are a veritable freeway funneling migrants through the center of the city. To date, 212 bird species have been documented from this IBA. The center will be ideally and uniquely situated to

take advantage of the conservation and educational opportunities associated with our local IBA. A group of Columbus Audubon members began regular monitoring of birds in the Whittier Peninsula area last spring, and information on joining in this effort is on our Web site. For more on IBAs, visit <http://www.audubonohio.org/bsc/ibas.html> (from which I cribbed some information for this article).

### Calamus Swamp update

Yes, we do plan to extend the boardwalk at Calamus Swamp. No, we did not do it on Sept. 30 even though that was the original plan as announced in the previous issue. The Board decided to delay the project until spring to allow sufficient time to get detailed plans and estimates. We are committed to the project but we are also committed to responsible management of our financial resources, as the expense of the project is not trivial. Meanwhile, ten stalwart people braved cold and rain on the morning of Sept. 30 for trash pickup, boardwalk maintenance and gravel redistribution in the parking lot. Many thanks to all who have been helping with Calamus to keep it tidy and user-friendly.

The Conservation Committee meets monthly (usually) at Dave Horn's house (usually), second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., and we can always use your participation. Phone (614) 262-0312 (and expect an answering machine) or e-mail [horn.1@osu.edu](mailto:horn.1@osu.edu).

## Invasive species: Feral or wild cats

By Bruce Lindsay

We tend not to think of our pets are invasive species, but they can be. I'm not a cat person. I'm allergic to them and much prefer the company of drooling, doting Labrador Retrievers.

On the Fourth of July, my son discovered a tiny kitten in our cornfield. Now kittens are cute, having yet to become cats. My wife persuaded me that we need a mouser and before I could present an effective argument against the idea, the kitten was ensconced in our shed next to the asparagus patch. I relented and named it Asparagus, or Gus for short. Gus has since worked his way into our family, even though he has yet to catch a mouse. We recently had him spayed for a very reason-

### More information

For more information on management options of feral cats, visit:

Feral Cat Association  
<http://www.feralcat.com/>

Alley Cat Allies,  
The National Feral Cat Resource  
<http://www.alleycat.org/>

The Feral Cat Network  
<http://www.theanimalspirit.com/feralcatnetwork.html>

able fee of \$25. The next step is a rabies shot.

Feral cats are quite common out where I live. They are the offspring of stray or abandoned pets. They quickly revert to a

wild state and produce even more feral cats. Experts estimate that there are 70 million feral cats in the United States. A pair of breeding cats, producing two or more litters a year, can yield 420,000 offspring in only seven years. Feral cats kill millions of birds, along with small mammals such as rabbits and squirrels.

What can we do to control the feral cat population? From what I've read, the best method of control is to trap the wild cats, neuter them and then release them. Many local humane societies have programs to help citizens trap wild cats and have them neutered. The worst thing that can be done is to drop unwanted cats off at a park or in the country, where they are forced to revert to their wild nature and become very efficient predators.

## 2007 Entertainment Books for sale

The books at a cost of \$25 each will be available through December. Proceeds from the sale support CA's educational activities.

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)	262-0312



## Backyards for Wildlife

# Prepare your home and yard for winter wildlife

By Toni Stahl

Winter is a fun time for the whole family to watch for ‘new’ visitors, like white-throated sparrows, and changes in birds (like goldfinches to greenish-brown finches). It’s easier to spot birds without tree leaves.

### Baby it’s cold outside

Be proactive to discourage unwanted wildlife from coming into your heated home. Batten down the hatches! If you feed birds, put out only enough one day (we feed early in the morning).

If you have a chimney use a chimney cap to discourage birds or squirrels from getting into your home during the cold winter months. Other things you can do to discourage wildlife from entering your home are: Put a screen cover over your dryer vent, keep your garage door(s) closed, caulk small openings, keep tight lids on trash (bungee cord can help), rinse recycling, trim tree branches away from your roof and bring dog/cat food inside.

We also keep our cats indoors because pets have an unfair advantage, kept fed and often inside where it’s warm. Fall is also a good time to gather up those old chemicals and take them to a recycling center.

### Buy live Holiday trees to create a brush pile

Try to purchase a live Holiday tree this year. A brush pile is normally made from a cut Holiday tree for native ground birds like Juncos, Brown Thrashers, Carolina or House Wren, White-throated Sparrows, etc. and can be added to each year. Some live Holiday trees are not native trees, and attract European Starlings and House Sparrows. Don’t forget that there are good deals on Holiday trees to use for winter cover around Dec. 24. For more information on providing brush piles for winter cover, see [www.nwf.org/backyard/logpile.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/backyard/logpile.cfm).

### Invasive Plants

Have an invasive plant-removal party. Drink some hot cider and bundle up to remove invasive plants! Invasives are usually easy to spot because they stay green later. For a list of invasives, see [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info). We plant natives in their place that bloom and berry at different times. We’ve heard about a handy tool to make removing invasives like the Bush Honeysuckle (Amur and other Lonicera) called the Honeysuckle Popper. It was invented right here in Ohio by Chris Grenner. If you want to purchase one, see <http://honeysucklepopper.com>.

### Ice-free Water

We sometimes have a line at our heated birdbaths when the



By Marc Apfelstadt

### Robins flock around a birdbath.

river freezes. We keep our water 10-15 feet from cover. We’ve been told that cats don’t like to walk on chicken wire, so you might try laying it on the ground around your water for added safety.

### Food

We clean feeders and birdbaths with a 10-percent bleach solution and rinse, rinse, rinse (also cleans algae in bird baths). Put baffles on your feeders. The starlings migrate in winter, so you may go back to black-oil sunflower if you had switched to safflower. Leave all seed heads up until Mother’s Day for birds to eat.

We leave native grasses standing as winter cover for bugs (natural bird food) for juncos and other sparrows. We also left our dead Wild Cherry tree (snag) up and had our first flock of colorful Cedar Waxwings (named after the red spot that looks like the wax people used to seal envelopes) visit our yard.

There’s life in dead wood! You can leave snags up permanently (if not a hazard) for bird’s winter homes. Last winter, a mockingbird ‘owned’ our yard, chasing other birds away from a tall tree ... I bet he’ll use it as a lookout point this winter.

If you move toward a habitat for wildlife, the National Wildlife Federation will certify your yard. Their sign helps us encourage others to help birds too. For easy online Wildlife Habitat Certification, click on step 6: [www.nwf.org/backyard](http://www.nwf.org/backyard). For more information, e-mail me at [marc-a@columbus.rr.com](mailto:marc-a@columbus.rr.com). Let’s work together to help native birds, one backyard at a time.

## Track Osprey migration from your home!

Hopefully some of you were able to watch one or several of the osprey platforms in and around central Ohio. Now that they are into their migration there might be some of you who wonder where do they go?

The Division of Wildlife has a page on their Web site where you can track one male Osprey’s migration from home!

This male Osprey has had his migration tracked since July 3, 2005. He started this year’s migration around Sept. 19-20. He covered over 700 miles in 2 days.

So far, his route is very similar to the one he flew in 2005. The satellite picked up his signal as he flew over the open water from

Florida to Cuba around 1 p.m. on Sept. 24. He spent five days in Cuba, then headed southeast to Haiti on Sept. 29. He continued to the Dominican Republic, then over 400 miles across the ocean to South America on Sept.30.

Over the past two weeks he has flown more than 2,400 miles.

He has been located in Venezuela for three days and is expected to continue south very soon.

You can track him too by going to the following Web site [www.dnr.ohio.gov/wildlife/resources/osprey/alumcreekosprey.htm](http://www.dnr.ohio.gov/wildlife/resources/osprey/alumcreekosprey.htm). The Web site will be updated twice a week, so keep checking in to see how his migration is going.



# Coming up

Continued from page 4

## Winter Birds at Killdeer Plains

Sunday, December 3, 1 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

This wildlife area features a diversity of natural habitat and attracts a great variety of bird species in the winter. Eagles, hawks, owls and songbirds can be observed and appreciated as they live on this landscape. Waterfowl also frequent this area if there is open water. Dress for the weather, bring food/water. Some will plan on staying until dark to look for short-eared owls. Meet at the Worthington Mall shopping center parking lot in front of the Kroger, just south of I-270 on U.S. 23 in north Worthington. Carpooling is available. Contact Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493.

## New Year's Day bird walk at Blackhand Gorge

Monday, January 1, 2007, 1 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

We will hike the trail and see what's out and about as we start our 2007 bird list. Winter species will keep us company and we will be close to water, field and woods on our hike. The geology of the winter landscape tree silhouettes will be a wonderful way to usher in a new year of bird watching. Wear layers and good footwear and bring food and water. Meet at the Worthington Mall shopping center parking lot in front of the Kroger, just south of I-270 on U.S. 23 in north Worthington. Carpooling is available. Contact Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493.

## Avid Birders field trips

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

## Ohio Wildlife Center news

### Dine Out for Wildlife

Dine out in participating local restaurants in November to help support the Ohio Wildlife Center! Go to [www.ohiowildlifecenter.org](http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org) for more information.

### Wildfest thanks

Thanks to the many adults and children who joined us at the September 30 third annual Ohio Wildlife Center's WildFest. It was a great time for OWC's wildlife and people alike.

## Work trip

### Trail resurrection at Gallagher Fen SNP

Saturday, November 11, 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Martin McAllister

Assist Martin McAllister, Southern Ohio regional preserve manager in trail construction at Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve in Clark County. The trail will originate in the parking lot and continue through a mature oak hickory forest adjacent to the marl meadows and prairie fen. Alternative trail maintenance tasks will rotate volunteers' efforts. Thirty state listed species have been reported from this preserve primarily in the fen areas including spotted turtles. Remember to call Sharon Treaster by noon Nov. 6 (614) 292-1395 to sign up, reserve space for transportation and to determine tool requirements. Bring lunch and water bottle. Meet in parking lot inside gate house at Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road. Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity. You may obtain a form by e-mailing Sharon at [treaster.1@osu.edu](mailto:treaster.1@osu.edu).

## Notes from the field

# The bird I didn't see in South America

By Jenny Bowman

We've all become familiar with the ivory-billed woodpecker of North America, but few of us casual birders have been aware of a bird just as rare in South America: the cone-billed tanager. In west central Brazil I wanted to see the environmental impact of logging, cattle ranches and huge farms growing monocrops of soybeans, sugar cane, and cotton. In the state of Mato Grosso I could also experience three different ecosystems—the Amazon, the Pantanal, and the cerrado (savanna).

My guide from the Pantanal Bird Club, Braulio Carlos, met me at the airport, and I figured I had some miscellaneous volunteer as my guide. We took the overnight bus (my choice) from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta where I was able to get great views of a six-month-old harpy eagle chick. We headed onward by Jeep and boat to Cristalino Jungle Lodge (CJL) at the edge of Amazonia. As I stepped off



By Andre De Luca/SAVE Brasil

### A Cone-billed Tanager.

the boat at CJL, some professional birders from Arizona recognized Braulio and said to me, "You're with the best."

Little did I know.

I have to admit that birding in the Amazon was the most difficult birding I had ever done. Mixed flock canopy species were not so easy! That fabulous week of birding included seeing tapirs, an anaconda, otters, and monkeys. This was

followed by another week of equally fabulous birding in the Pantanal. This included seeing giant river otters so close they touched your camera!

During these two weeks Braulio and I had lots of time to talk while birding, and eventually I learned more about the cone-billed tanager that hadn't been seen since 1938. We were headed for the remote Emas National Park, which is the most pristine example of cerrado that remains.

Three years earlier, on Aug. 25, 2003, at the edge of Emas National Park, while Braulio Carlos was guiding a group of birders, he saw the cone-billed tanager. So it turned out that my guide, Braulio Carlos, is the person who re-discovered the cone-billed tanager (AKA the phantom tanager). When we arrived at Emas National Park, he immediately took me to the place where he had first seen the bird and where he has seen it every month of the year EXCEPT the month just prior to

See The Bird I Didn't See, page 10

# Genoa Township Land Conservation

By Charlie Bombaci

Land development and construction is inevitable and Genoa Township in Southern Delaware County has been inundated by the spread of suburban sprawl over the last decade. Builders were rapidly acquiring the township's farmland, woods, wetlands, and meadows. It was this scenario that brought about the creation of the Genoa Township Land Conservation Association (GTLCA).

The founders of the GTLCA had seen hundreds of acres of habitat that supported various species of flora and fauna were being destroyed. Many groups including the township's elected officials and the developers often dismissed the merit of preserving woods, stream ways and open spaces that defined the landscape of the township.

The GTLCA was incorporated in 1999 as a 501(C) non-profit charitable organization with the express purpose of preserving and protecting the natural and scenic resources found within Genoa Township by accepting conservation easements, deeds, land grants, and related funds for support. Additionally, GTLCA encourages community participation in

## More information

For a comprehensive zoning map of Genoa Township go to:  
[www.genoatwp.com/zoning.htm](http://www.genoatwp.com/zoning.htm)

preservation efforts by recommending land parcels for consideration.

I had the opportunity to walk the contributed lands with Bob Blantz who is an active member of the GTLCA. Some of the parcels donated to the GTLCA contain significant wooded ravines, old growth forest and wetlands and represent some of the last natural topography in Genoa Township. Bob is an engaging 69-year-old with the energy and drive of those much his junior. He regularly walks the land to watch for encroachment by nearby land owners that thing play sets look better on GTLCA land than on their lawns. He would rather spend the time removing invasive plants and communicating the need to protect our nature heritage.

Bob discussed the GTLCA's approach, which consist of obtaining conservation easements, land stewardship, landowner outreach, landowner relations and recog-

nition. Conservation easements are an important tool to protect and sustain conservation values and functions of property but they are only a starting point.

The GTLCA tries to establish a partnership with landowners, to get them involved in the common goals for the common good. Through community relations, education and recognition of landowner contributions the nature areas of Genoa Township will be sustained for future generations.

Like every conservation activity though there is the need to get an adequate number of people involved to properly administer stewardship of the protected land. While numerous people may support the GTLCA not enough are active in the ongoing maintenance of the properties. Bob would like to see a comprehensive census of the flora and fauna of the land administered by the association. For this he will need helping hands willing to contribute some time to walking the property and recording what is there. He would like to see more people become involved. So if you want to get outdoors, see birds, plants, and butterflies or simply help conserve natural areas, give Bob a call at (614) 890-8795 to see if you might like to participate.

## The bird I didn't see

Continued from page 9

my visit!

The habitat is flooded dense forest. We were close enough for easy viewing with binoculars and a scope, but it would be nearly impossible to get into the area where the bird actually nests. This is not a particularly curious bird and does not respond much to recordings of its vocalizations.

It was not singing at this time of the year and we did not see it on Aug. 23. On Aug. 24 we spent the entire day inside the park which generally is not the habitat of the cone-billed tanager. Emas National Park, only receives about 2000 visitors per year and maybe 150 of those are foreigners. I felt so fortunate to be in this park!

There is no infrastructure whatsoever—just great wildlife and birds! I saw seven giant anteaters (one with a baby), three maned wolves, crab-eating fox, hoary fox, juvenile Brazilian tapir, peccary, pampas deer, and pampas skunk. Birding highlights included dozens of blue and yellow macaws, the critically endangered white-winged nightjar, barn owl, tropical screech

## If you go

The best time to see the cone-billed tanager is October through November.

This is breeding season and coincides with the first rains. After the first rains, fireflies lay their eggs on the multitudes of termite mounds in Emas National Park.

The larvae are also bioluminescent and so glow in the dark!

I highly recommend going to Emas National Park (or ANY of their destinations!) with the Pantanal Bird Club! [birdclub@terra.com.br](mailto:birdclub@terra.com.br).

owl, lesser nothura, yellow-faced Amazon, sharp-tailed tyrant, cock-tailed tyrant, white-banded tanager, and coal-crested finch.

The next day was Aug. 25. It was exactly three years since Braulio had first re-discovered the cone-billed tanager and we were up early and on our way.

Nearing the park we came upon a gor-

geous maned wolf alongside the road. Both of us are huge fans of this magnificent and rarely seen animal so we seized the moment to photograph it. Eventually we moved on to hopefully catch a glimpse of the cone-billed tanager on this "anniversary" of its sighting. It was another quiet morning at that edge of the park. At one point Braulio did indeed get a look at a female cone-billed tanager for about two seconds, but it was barely enough time to even announce it to me. That was it.

For me, having already taken some fine photos of the maned wolf, I was not disappointed with the bird I didn't get to see. Rather, I was happy just to be with the person who had re-discovered the cone-billed tanager, on the exact date and in the exact location it had been sighted.

At least Braulio Carlos had seen "his" bird on the anniversary of its sighting. One day I will return to see the cone-billed tanager with Braulio, as I still want to experience this with the person who had rediscovered it. And besides, he had shown me more than 400 new birds in the past two-and-a-half weeks!



# Columbus and other area Christmas Bird Count information

Continued from page 2

have somehow missed the Count period. Cedar waxwings and hermit thrushes have become quite regular in recent years (2006 had record numbers of the latter), probably due to many planted fruit trees. Warblers other than yellow-rumped have started to stay as well: we had pine warblers in 2002 and 2003 (count period), and an Orange-crowned in 2003, and it's probably just a matter of time before we find a Yellowthroat, Palm, or a Black-throated Green. All of these are birds we'll be hoping for on count day. And you never know what true rarity will show up, like Rufous Hummingbird at a Blendon Woods feeder (2003), a Grasshopper Sparrow lurking in an Ohio State University field (2006), or a flock of Wild Turkeys sauntering across a Gahanna country club (2006). That's what makes a CBC so fun.

This year's count will run Sunday Dec. 17. Teams of birdwatchers will comb parts of the city inside the circle, looking for common birds and unusual rarities alike. Most of the major parks in the circle – Blendon Woods, Blacklick Woods, Three Creeks, Whetstone, South Scioto, and Greenlawn – should have teams of birders, and we'd love to have you join us. We need as many birders as we can recruit, since more eyes means fewer birds missed. So please plan to come out for the morning, or the whole day, or just keep an eye on your birdfeeders.

—Rob Thorn, Columbus CBC compiler

## O'Shaughnessey Christmas Bird Count

The O'Shaughnessey Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, Dec. 30. The count circle includes areas east of Marysville and Plain City, going east to the west edge of Powell and north into Delaware county near routes 36/37 and south to the north edge of Dublin. It includes Glacier Ridge Metro Park, Ohio Wildlife Center, Twin Lakes, the Scioto River O'Shaughnessey corridor, the Columbus Zoo and Emily Traphagen preserve in Delaware. Contact CBC compiler Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com) if you want to help count. Last year through rain, sleet and snow we noted 54 species and doubled our field counters from the previous year. This is a CBC that has a lot of potential and while suburbia has encroached on some of the diverse habitat over the count years there are still lots of goodies to be found. Look forward to having your help Dec. 30.

—Darlene Sillick, O'Shaughnessey  
CBC compiler

## Delaware Christmas Bird Count

The Delaware Christmas Bird Count will be held on Dec. 17. The circle is centered in Delaware State Park and extends as far south as Oak Grove Cemetery to the south of the city of Delaware, but includes a considerable diversity of fields, woods, ponds, streams and lakes in the area to the north, east and west. The Delaware County Bird Club will hold an organizational session at

its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Center on the Ohio Wesleyan campus. If you cannot join us for the meeting, but would like to participate, please call or e-mail Jed Burt. The count will conclude with our traditional dinner and compilation at which time we will award the Horned Lark Trophy.

—Jed Burt, Delaware CBC compiler

## Hoover Reservoir Christmas Bird Count

This is the 51st year for the Hoover Reservoir Circle. Some past highlights have included red-necked grebe, cackling goose, surf scoter, white-winged scoter, long-tailed duck, bald eagle, northern goshawk, merlin, long-eared owl, loggerhead shrike, Lapland longspur, snow bunting, white-winged crossbill, and common redpoll. Several areas of special note within the circle include Hoover Reservoir, Alum Creek Reservoir, Westerville Reservoir, Inniswood Metro Park, Sharon Woods Metro Park, Highbanks Metro Park and Camp Mary Orton. The main assembly point for the circle is the parking lot at the Hoover Reservoir Dam on Sunbury Road. Participants gather at 8 a.m. to break into teams. There will be a team starting directly at Camp Mary Orton and both Highbanks Metro Park and Sharon Woods Metro Park have tied the count to a program to be led by the park's naturalist. All are always warmly welcome and appreciated.

—Charles Bombaci, Hoover  
CBC compiler

# Christmas Bird Count begins 107th season

Continued from page 2

area. The 107th CBC is expected to be larger than ever.

The count is vital in monitoring the status of resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere, and the data, which is 100 percent volunteer generated, have become a crucial

part of the U.S. Government's natural history monitoring database. For more information about the CBC, go to [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc).

Geoff LeBaron is National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Director.

## Take note:

### 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 at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Nov. 27 will be bird pictures from members' vacations and preparation for the Delaware County CBC on Dec. 17. There will not be a December meeting. On Jan. 22, 2007 the speaker will be Suzanne Cardinal, Coordinator of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, School of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. 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.

### Eco-Weekend!

Save the Date: May 4-6, 2007!

Look for the brochure and registration information inside the our next issue! Check it out at [www.ecoweekend.org](http://www.ecoweekend.org).

### Columbus Audubon seeking Events Coordinator

Columbus Audubon is seeking an Events Coordinator to coordinate all of our display events, including scheduling the event, coordinating volunteers to work the tables, working with the education chair to create a child's activity and getting the display to the event. The work is mostly March through October, but there may be events to work on throughout the year. Please call Julie Davis at (614) 523-2180.

## 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 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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 5 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)

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

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Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**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!**  
**Chapter code S57**

To change your mailing address, call Joe Meara at 614-781-9602 or e-mail [membership@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:membership@columbusaudubon.org).

Columbus Audubon  
Founded 1913  
740-549-0333  
[www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org)

**Officers:** President: Darlene Sillick, 761-3696  
Vice President: Julie Davis, 523-2180  
Secretary: Heather Raymond, 785-0342  
Newsletter/Web Site Editor: Stefanie Hauck,  
(740) 972-1680  
Treasurer: John Wilson, 481-8872

**Trustees:** Darlene Sillick, John Hopper, Julie Davis,  
Mike Flynn, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Barbara  
Revard, Susan Setterlin, Tom Sheley, Kristan Leedy,  
Nadya Bennett, Paul Gledhill and Michael Packer

### Additional chapter leaders:

Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312  
Work Projects: Sharon Treaster, 846-8419  
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130  
Programs: Mike Flynn, 882-9493  
Field Trips: Darlene Sillick, 761-3696 or Nadya  
Bennett, 306-8215  
Eco Weekend: Lois Day, (740) 549-0333; Roz Horn,  
262-0312  
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602  
Corresponding Sec'y: Emily Eby, 855-3879  
Scioto-Whittier IBA Committee: Paul Gledhill, 848-  
7666  
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard,  
261-7171  
CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day, (740) 549-0333  
Avid Birders: <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html>

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