



Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

September-October 2006
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Creature feature

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

By Rob Thorn

Look quickly as you travel down the freeway, because perched by the verge is this success story of bird adaptation to different habitats. The genus name marks it as a soaring buteo hawk, while the species name *jamaicensis* alludes to the fact that the first specimens Europeans saw came from the island of Jamaica. This is quite a misnomer, since the bird is one of the most widespread predators in North America, and has adapted to almost every habitat it has encountered.

Family: Accipitridae

This is the biggest family of hawks, including a wide array of fearsome avian predators. This group includes the bird-stalking accipiters, the graceful kites, and the soaring buteos. Red-tails belong to this last, largest subgroup. They often hunt from the air, soaring up to great height, using their extraordinary vision to scan for unwary mammals or birds. Once a target is sighted, they carefully glide down in an attempt to surprise their prey. Some buteos, like Red-shoulders and Broad-wings, have modified this strategy to perching in forest trees before dropping on their targets, a trick that many Red-tails have learned. However, most Red-tails hew more often to the traditional soar and swoop methods of the group, and so are much more frequently seen perched in or soaring over open fields and edges of woodlots. To aid this effort, they have very broad wings and tail, for maximal lift surface during soaring. They also have strong legs with sharp talons, since these are used to grab and incapacitate prey.



Courtesy of the Ohio Wildlife Center

Red-tailed Hawk.

Range

Red-tails are found all over North and Central America, as well as out into the Caribbean Islands. They will nest in almost any habitat, although they prefer to hunt open areas. Northern birds nest right up to treeline in subarctic Canada and Alaska, while central American birds nest along the margins of rainforests and in steamy canyons. In eastern North America, Red-tails have profited enormously from human agriculture, which has created vast new hunting areas (as well as attracted the rodents they crave). They were not nearly as common when most of this area was forest, as the journals of early ornithologists make clear. They're still not common in some areas like the central Appalachians and south Florida, where habitat for them is scarce.

Birds in the Midwest and Western U.S. tend to be year-round residents, while birds from further north (Canada and Alaska) tend to migrate south. Records from hawk watch sites, such as Hawk Mountain and Lake Erie MetroPark in Michigan, place Red-tails as later migrants among raptors, with southbound numbers peaking in late October to mid-November. This period is broad and variable, and probably reflects the fact that Red-tails can stay in an area until deep snow or hibernation of their prey forces them to move on. It's unclear where exactly most of these migrants go, although preliminary color marking studies suggest that eastern birds go to Florida and the Gulf coast, while western migrants head for the interior plateaus of Mexico.

Field Marks

Most of the time you will see a large hawk (bigger than a crow) with a dark brown head and back and a white throat and chest. The clinching marks are a rufous red tail and a 'belly band' of dark streaks across the white belly, but young birds and unusual color morphs can lack these markings. After some experience with different buteos, you'll come to appreciate the 'jizz' of Red-tails: their combination of large, squat appearance, wingtips reaching down to their short squareish tail, and habit of perching on conspicuous snags or poles at the edge of fields.

See Red-tailed Hawks, page 11

2006 Birdathon raises over \$9,000

By Julie Davis

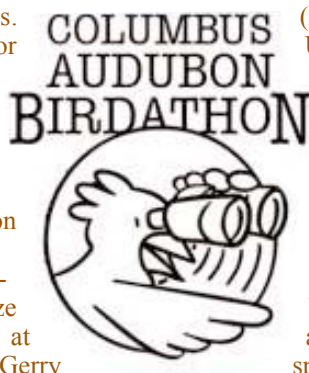
The results are in and our 2006 Birdathon was another success. Our teams battled cool, rainy weather and still came thru with flying colors. Columbus Audubon always uses the donations for great causes in the community and this year is no different. So, we will be presenting \$6,750 to Audubon Ohio to be used for the Whittier Peninsula project and the Grange Insurance-Audubon Nature Center and \$2,250 will go to Columbus Audubon to be used for our education projects.

A big thanks goes out to all of our teams and sponsors for all their efforts. Also, thanks to our two prize sponsors, Sandy Cove for donating a night's stay at their carriage house on Kelly's Island (won by Gerry Brevoort) and to Eagle Optics for their donation of a Denali 60mm spotting scope (won by Lori Patterson). Running the Birdathon takes the hard work of many people. A special thanks

to committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith and Dave Horn.

There were also several teams that stood out this year. Teams that raised over \$1,000 were: Scarlet & Gray Tanagers (\$1,285), Stellar Jays (\$1,110) and Wild Birds Unlimited (\$1,200). Other individual sponsors who made very generous donations were the Setterlin Building Company who donated \$500 and Joe Meara who donated \$1,110.

Although the teams this year had to deal with some less than perfect birding weather, the totals from the top three teams were all higher than last year. Teams who saw the most species this year were: Wild Birds Unlimited with 166 birds, Westerville Waxwings with 134 bird species and again this year, the Quick Three Beards saw the most species of birds on their trip, at 171. Congratulations to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon! Listed below are all the participating teams and the number of species each team saw.



Avian Amigos - 105

Nadya Bennett
Darlene Sillick
Heather Starck
Michael Packer
John Wilson

Backyard Experience

Chick-a-dees - 70

Gerry Brevoort
Gail Burns
Joan Frederick
Cyndi Henderson
Lynn Singleton
Lisa Zider

Chestnut Ridge

Chachalacas - 97

Scott Felker
Eleanor Nunley
Bill Reiner
Eric Reiner

Deck Birds - 1

Cheri Brown
Pat Barron
Bev May
Pete Precario

Gone With the Wrens - 38

Mary Counter
Jerilynn Von Taube

Huffin Puffins - 57

Cathie Pruden
Dick Pruden

Marsh Madness - 101

Bill Marsh
Deb Marsh

Metro Parks Stellar Jays - 111

Jim Davidson
John Watts
Joe Meara
John O'Meara

Neat Nests - 41

Kiersten, Sabrina, Scott
and Whitney Jaeb
Fred Lancia
Del, Jordan and
Myranda Parrott

No Egrets - 80

Becky Cummings
Elaine Smith
Larry Smith
Roger Stout
Laura Thomas

Pelicans - 26

Mark and Lauren Richards
Benjamin Richards
Riley Richards

Quick Three Beards - 171

Dave Horn
Bill Whan
Troy Shively
Greg Miller

Scarlet and Gray Tanagers - 73

Mitch Berg
Joe and Susanne Gatesman
Barb and Stephen Revard
Mark and Susan Setterlin

Slate (Run) Colored Juncos - 105

Linda Benner
Doug Everman
Kristen Everman
Andrea Haslage
Susan Moore
Lori Patterson
Randy Rogers
Jen Rosa
Brad Sparks
Lynn Taylor

Swans and Coots - 77

Alan Cohen
Clyde Gosnell
Paul Knoop
Katryn Renard
Marlene Woo Lun
Louise Warner

Two Footed Boobies - 86

Marcia Brehmer
Marion Farber
Melanie Shuter
Mary Kay Wood

Two in a Bush - 64

Patty DeMaria
Elaine Fujimora
Biani Moran

Westerville Waxwings - 134

Julie Davis
Ken Davis
Jennifer Sauter
Rob Lowery

Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside - 166

Michael Flynn
Tom Sheley

President's message: New year, new focus

By Darlene Sillick

Welcome to a new year with Columbus Audubon! The 2006-07 board will be busy this year with several projects, most of them geared toward education and community outreach. Our most exciting project is our growing partnership with the Grange Insurance Columbus Audubon Nature Center to be built on the Whittier Peninsula. Other initiatives that will continue this year are providing educational outreach for students at the Southside Settlement House After-School Program, the Scioto-Greenlawn IBA monitoring, the OBBA II, the stewardship of Calamus Swamp and partnering with local watershed groups to help protect birds.

Who we are

Columbus Audubon was founded in 1913 and is a chapter of Audubon. Our mission now is the same as it was in 1913, "To promote the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for present and future generations." It is always good to read an organization's mission statement.

While we are not just about birds we are about preserving nature and its' creatures for our present and future generations.

With approximately 2,500 members in Central Ohio, Columbus Audubon is one of the largest Audubon chapters in the nation and we are the largest chapter in Ohio. We offer a variety of ways for members and other nature enthusiasts to learn about and enjoy wildlife. And you can help us to continue to be successful.

We organize field trips throughout the year, hold regular nature programs, and offer classroom and field experiences, such as our popular Birding 101 series. Each spring we celebrate our own Eco-Weekend, a fun educational program for adults and families held in the outdoors that is unique to Columbus Audubon. We also manage a rare wetland habitat - Calamus Swamp - as a Columbus Audubon nature preserve. For those who wish to "give back" to nature through volunteering their time, we have work trips - regular trips to maintain Ohio's state nature preserves. We also provide opportunities to help protect habitat through the activities and guidance of

See President's message, page 8

Thank you Crane and Timbertech

By Kristan Leedy

Thank You Crane and TimberTech!

On Sept. 30, Columbus Audubon volunteers will work on completing sections of boardwalk at Calamus Swamp. This construction is necessary for dry passage through areas that now are frequently wet unimproved paths.

Crane Plastics and TimberTech donated the planks for the first sections of boardwalk completed in 2000, right before the swamp was dedicated as a Columbus Audubon Nature Preserve. This year we asked and they again agreed to donate the same durable, skid- and splinter-free planks for the new construction. Altogether, 7200 linear feet of 5/4" gray deck plank have been donated. The plank

will match the existing TimberTech decking at Calamus.

We are excited that soon visitors will have greater accessibility to our wetland treasure near Circleville.

A very enthusiastic THANK YOU! for this donation goes to:

Tanny Crane, president and CEO, Crane Group Company

Mike Crane, president, Crane Plastics Company, LLC

Stu Kemper, president, TimberTech

We also thank Burch Zehner, vice president of materials research and development for Crane Plastics. Burch worked with Dave Horn and Kristan Leedy to spec out the needed materials and make the official request on behalf of Columbus Audubon.

Work trip volunteers earn Kudos from ODNR

Ohio Department of Natural Resources director Sam Speck recently thanked Columbus Audubon volunteers who take part in work trips to maintain Ohio's state-designated nature preserves. Columbus Audubon's work trip program was started in 1982. The purpose of this program is to conduct improvement and maintenance projects needed to insure the continued health of the preserves. In addition to helping the preserves, the work trips provide volunteers with unique access to the natural treasures for which each site is known.

The work trippers, as they are called,

head out six times each year between September and June. Armed with loppers, chain saws, hammers, and other tools of their trade, they combat the legions of honeysuckle, garlic mustard and other invasive plants, or build boardwalks, maintain trails and more.

Said Speck, "Without our partnership with the Columbus Audubon Society and [its] volunteers, many of these tasks would not be completed. Your willingness to volunteer repeatedly throughout the year is evidence of your dedication to the protection and preservation of Ohio's natural heritage."

Urban Conservation Crew helps plan new Metro Park

Students from this year's Urban Conservation Crew, a program of the Columbus Audubon Center, were involved in two conservation projects this summer to help with the new Metro Park. In July, the Columbus Public School students, helped Metro Park Rangers clear an area of underbrush to make way for a new boardwalk in the boat ramp area of the Whittier Peninsula. This whole area is being renovated as the first phase of the park. The students started the day with a pep talk from Boyce Safford, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Coleman. He thanked the students and let them know the importance of their project to help the City of Columbus realize its dream on the Whittier Peninsula.

In August, the students returned to help place new signs, mark new trails and designate important trees along the trails. "We wanted the kids in the Urban Conservation Crew to be a part of something big, something they could bring their families back to in a few years and say 'I was a part of making that boardwalk or trail', said Heather Starck, Director of the Columbus Audubon Center. The program is funded by the Columbus Foundation, Ingram-White Castle Foundation, Chase, Columbus Audubon, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and SWACO.

CA KIDS!

Look for the inaugural edition of the CA KIDS quarterly newsletter geared toward kids ages 6-16. The newsletter will include family oriented field trips, 'Take it Home' programs for kids, nature craft and activities and much much more! The fall edition will be arriving in your mail boxes near the end of September.

Coming Up

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

Note: Field trip times, dates and locations are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you plan on going on a trip, please contact the trip leader 24 hours ahead of time to make sure the trip has not been changed, postponed or cancelled. Also, check the Columbus Audubon Web site at www.columbusaudubon.org for any changes or additions to the field trip listings.

Field trips

Wednesday walks at Whittier

Wednesdays, September 6 and October 4, 7:30 a.m.

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, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us.

Saturday walks at Whittier

Saturday, October 14, 7:30 a.m. (No walk in September)

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, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us.

The Magic of Birds

Sunday, September 3, 2 p.m.

Meet at the Highbanks Metro Park nature center. Columbus Audubon volunteers will assist with activities and games to help participants with the basics of bird watching. Geared towards children ages 9-12.

Swifts oh my!

Sunday, September 10, 6:30 p.m.

Join Darlene Sillick at Sells Middle School in Dublin to take part in two programs, a swift count and a nature walk. The school is on state Route 161 in Dublin and is just west of the Dublin Road/161 intersection. We will meet behind the school in the parking lot along the tennis courts. We will first walk to see the new Shawan Falls bridges and nature walkway. Then we will get out our lawn chairs and prepare for swirling chimney swifts and probably a few mosquitoes! Contact Darlene Sillick if you have any questions (614) 761-3696. Be sure to watch for other swift roosts and report them on our Web site www.columbusaudubon.org.

Swifts oh my!

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

Join Darlene Sillick at Sells Middle School in Dublin to take part in two programs, a swift count and a nature walk. The school is on state Route 161 in Dublin and is just west of the Dublin Road/161 intersection. We will meet behind the school in the parking lot along the tennis courts. We will first walk to see the

CA September Program

Columbus Audubon Center Connecting people with nature

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

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

Program description

Come and join the Columbus Audubon Center's Director, Heather Starck for a virtual tour of the Whittier Peninsula with all of its exciting new changes. Heather will guide you through the latest updates on the progress of turning the downtown eyesore into a beautiful Metro Park and Audubon Center. Many exciting events have occurred over the past year including the adoption of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area by Columbus Audubon. We have already begun regular collection of data on bird species through our monthly Whittier walks. Come hear about the conservation work, design planning, and educational programming already underway. There are many ways to get involved, we hope to see you there.

CA October Program

Nest Fidelity in Grassland Birds: Six years of data from The Wilds

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

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

Program description

Join Danny J. Ingold of the Biology Dept., Muskingum College, in learning about Grassland bird behavior at The Wilds. From early May through mid-July 2006 Ingold observed returning color-banded sparrows and bobolinks that were banded during the summers of 2000-2005. Through a series of slides Ingold will explain his findings over that period.

new Shawan Falls bridges and nature walkway. Then we will get out our lawn chairs and prepare for swirling chimney swifts and probably a few mosquitoes! Contact Darlene Sillick if you have any questions (614) 761-3696. Be sure to watch for other swift roosts and report them on our Web site www.columbusaudubon.org.

Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, September 17, 8 a.m.

While wetlands and riparian areas are disappearing elsewhere, these two parks are expanding these habitats. Join Rob Thorn at Three Creeks Park, where the narrow riparian corridors catch both early sun and migrants. While there, we'll also visit their newly-developed wetlands to search for lingering shorebirds and early

See Coming up, page 9

Another successful Prothonotary Warbler nesting season

By Charles Bombaci

In 2005 when I located 58 Prothonotary Warbler territories at The Hoover Nature Preserve I was elated to say the least but I never dreamed of what the year 2006 had in store. In 2005 I limited my monitoring to the areas within the Hoover Nature Preserve where I had nest boxes. In 2006 I volunteered to take 6 blocks for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II Project. The six blocks, each 10-square miles in area, incorporate a portion of the Hoover Nature Preserve and extend in all directions from the preserve. This required me to extend my coverage beyond the usual areas where the nest boxes are installed.

The first prothonotary males arrived on territory at the north end of Hoover Reservoir on April 24 and the females began arriving approximately 10 days later. The first hint at things to come should have been the concentration at Area N where it was beginning to look like I-71 during rush hour. The late April numbers there where the highest I had seen in since I began monitoring the Prothonotary Warblers. The males were everywhere trying to lay claim to a territory. As the season progressed and I waded into the back parts of Area N I located 16 nesting pairs compared to the nine in 2005.

I was contacted by many individuals who wanted to see Prothonotary Warblers and I utilized this as an opportunity to explore for warbler territories taking different groups to different areas of the preserve. Later this expanded to taking people to different parts of Hoover Reservoir after I learned from Jen Sauter that she had a pair in her back yard that is below the Smothers Road Bridge into Franklin County. Now I realize that good numbers of the Prothonotary Warblers fledged in 2005 had returned and they were colonizing new areas along the east shore of Hoover Reservoir.

This is where Shaune Skinner began earning more bonus points than I can count. Shaune offered to go out with me in her boat to check the shoreline areas that I could not access by land and the islands at the north end of Hoover Reservoir. Shaune and I made

three trips to cover new areas and we accounted for 33 territories that otherwise could not have been found. We got many great views of Prothonotaries including adults bringing insects to the nest cavities. Shaune's father Jim Skinner, Lynn Solomon and my wife Linda joined us on these trips and it seemed like we located Prothonotaries at every location with the magic combination of black willows, cottonwoods and buttonbushes. Every island and the east shore from Twin Bridges south to the Smothers Road Bridge had prothonotary warblers on territory. The arc from Mudhen Marsh on the west shore, north and around to Twin Bridges on the east shore was like the Garden of Eden for Prothonotary Warblers. In all we located 141 Prothonotary Warbler territories in 2006.

As June progressed I constantly located pairs bringing caterpillars and other insects to the nest boxes and natural cavity sites to feed their broods. Then in the period beginning on June 28 and ending July 13 the young were fledging their nests and it was a mad race to try to determine the number of fledglings from natural cavities by watching the adults as they busily gathered insects and fed their youngsters. Once when I took several birders from Sandusky to see a nest site I discovered the hatchlings had fledged the day before. What at first looked like disappointment turned to ecstasy for the ladies as the male announced himself by singing, then gathered insects and flew low into the cottonwood tree next to us. A slight turn right and we were eye-to-eye with a fledgling, a small ball of fluff with a beak. The ladies said that moment alone made the trip down worth it. Two days after that I witnessed the hatchlings at a natural cavity fledge their nest, only the fourth time I have been fortunate enough to see this occur in 19 years of working with them.

Sharing these beautiful golden-yellow jewels with others and seeing the success they have had at Hoover Reservoir makes all the years of cleaning the nest boxes each fall, trekking through water and mud, getting splinters, multiflora rose punctures and mosquito bites all worth the effort. To badly paraphrase Jackie Gleason, "How sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet it is".

Eco-Weekend thanks

The Eco-Weekend Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 34th Eco-Weekend a success this past May. There were 41 programs offered plus the main Saturday evening program, which was a visit from John James Audubon who told us about his travels and taught us all how to draw birds! We saw a total of 84 birds over the weekend at Camp Oty'Okwa, the site of the weekend in the hills west of Logan. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, edible and medicinal plants, mosses, trees, reptiles, amphibians, astronomy, owl walks, canoeing and many other activities. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.

Sincere thanks go to the Program Leaders of the Adult and Family programs: (in order of appearance) Jarrod Burks, Julie Baldwin, Michelle Croft, Mike Hufferberger, David Paris, Gail Doyle, Patty DeMaria, Bob Klips, Tara Poling, Joe Meara, Susie Burks, John Schmidt, Mark Kohler, Paul Knoop, Jim Davidson, Bob Brugler, Fred Steck, Tony Skrabak, John O'Meara, Sharon Treaster (who came on crutches!), Barb White, Ann Cornell, John Biesecker, John James Audubon, Nichole Braun, Dave Horn, Mitch Masters, Elaine Fujimara, Leland Conner, Roz Horn, Eric Reiner,

Don Rice, Mike Flynn, Ralph Ramey, Jackie Brown, Jere Brunken, David Sagan and Ralph Moran.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the Youth Program Leaders: Troy Alpeter, Carole Slone, Judy Croft, Rebecah Freeling, Roberta Jones, George Keeney, Tim Chavez, Michelle Croft, Annie Warmke, and sincere appreciation to Megan DeLaurentis for creating and overseeing the excellent program for the youth.

Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic Eco-Weekend Committee: Susie Burks, Kate Carus, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Megan DeLaurentis, Cathy Elkins, Roz Horn, Mary Ann Hrabley, Linda Hufferberger, Connie Kobalka, Liz Melick, Bev Potts and John Tucker.

Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2007! It will be held on May 4, 5 and 6, 2007 at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the Eco-Weekend Committee or volunteering as a Program Leader, call Columbus Audubon at (740) 657-0333. To find out more about Eco-Weekend, check out our Web site at www.ecoweekend.org and take a look!

With many thanks to all the willing hands who together make Eco-Weekend a success, The Eco-Weekend Committee.

Receive this newsletter as a .pdf in your e-mail inbox! It will arrive before the first of the month and will be in full color! Help CA save money for our education and conservation programs and conserve resources. Send an e-mail to membership@columbusaudubon.org to sign up!

South Side Settlement House

CA leads weekly birdwalks for Triple S campers

By Susan Setterlin

Again this summer the Triple S campers enjoyed Friday morning birdwalks with Columbus Audubon members Dave Horn, Joe Meara, Katryn Renard and Susan Setterlin. Triple S camp, located just south of Lancaster is owned by the South Side Settlement House.

They provide a weekly camp experience for many city kids who would otherwise not be able to experience the joys of the natural world. One day during each of the six weeks, one group at the camp grabs binoculars and follows a Columbus Audubon leader in search of birds at their camp.

The camp includes both forest and open fields as well as water so there are great variety of species to be observed. Some of the birds seen were: Carolina wrens flitting around a brush pike, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, phoebes nesting in an overhang of one of the camp buildings, Turkey Vulture, Carolina Chickadee, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, Red-

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to keep these community partnerships strong. Please consider an investment of your time to share the wonders of the natural world with our urban youth. To volunteer please call Susan Setterlin at (614) 457-8130.

bellied Woodpecker, towhee, and robin. Birds heard: Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, crows, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrows, and Acadian Flycatcher. Other wildlife observed were the common whitetail dragonfly and monarch and other butterflies. The campers were very excited about discovering birds and other wildlife as well as learning to use the binoculars. Dave Horn observed: "The kids were excited to see anything with the binoculars including stop signs and license plates!" It was all about city kids discovering the joys of the outdoor world.



By Susan Setterlin

One of the campers views birds through a pair of binoculars.

Settlement's after-school program begins in September

By Susan Setterlin

Columbus Audubon will begin its second year of partnership with the South Side Settlement House's after-school program. Last year, the students experienced weekly lessons and activities revolving around bird biology, behavior and environmental issues facing birds. The students went on two birdwalks at the Whittier Peninsula and watched as the Columbus Zoo and Ohio Wildlife Center presented animal programs focusing on wildlife conservation.

This year, students will continue their learning experiences by actively participating in the classroom FeederWatch program in

which they will be observing birds and learning scientific notation techniques. Field trips and guest presentations will once again be a part of their after-school experience.

Be a part of our SSS after-school partnership with Columbus Audubon by becoming a volunteer! Our program is one day a week. (Probably on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30 p.m.) If you can be a part of our team and make a difference in students' lives, please call Susan Setterlin at (614) 457-8130 to sign up and obtain more information. Volunteers do not have to have extensive knowledge about wildlife/birds—just a passion of sharing the joys of the outdoor world with children. Materials and training are provided.

Columbus Audubon seeking Events Coordinator

Columbus Audubon is looking for a very special person. We need an Events Coordinator to work with our Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Davis, to help us get volunteers for all of our tabling events through out the year. These people are the front line spokespeople who represent Columbus Audubon at all our public events. This position involves planning for all of our display events and includes answering requests for CA participation in events, getting volunteers to work at the event, working

with the education chair to create a child's activity for that event and getting the display to the event. The position may require coverage of unfilled volunteer shifts at a event. Volunteers are contacted by e-mail, letter and/or phone. You will also be working closely with the Volunteer Coordinator to help track volunteer hours. The work is mostly March through October, but there may be events to work on throughout the year. Please contact Julie Davis at (614) 523-2180 if interested.

Conservation Corner

Calamus Swamp in the spotlight

By Dave Horn and Pete Knopp

You are cordially invited to participate in a work trip to Columbus Audubon's Calamus Swamp on Saturday, September 30, as announced elsewhere in this issue.

"But what is Calamus Swamp?" you may ask, especially if you are among the few hundred new chapter members we acquire annually.

Calamus Swamp is a 19-acre glacial kettle hole, located in Pickaway County, south of the intersection of state Route 104 and U.S. 22, west of Circleville. A kettle hole is where a humongous ice cube fell from the face of a glacier and melted. Most of Ohio's kettle holes have disappeared, drained, ditched or diked. Calamus survives in relatively pristine condition, primarily due to the exemplary conservation ethic of the previous landowners, Mrs. Ada Burke and her family. They owned Calamus Swamp and much of the surrounding land for over 100 years, and because of their conscientious stewardship, the plants and animals of Calamus Swamp survive today. Mrs. Burke donated Calamus Swamp and critical buffer areas to Columbus Audubon in 2000 to insure that the wetland is protected for future generations. We in turn are negotiating with the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to secure additional protection for Calamus Swamp.

It is a mystery as to how this wetland came to be known as "Calamus Swamp". The name comes from a plant, *Acorus calamus* (sweet flag), but there is no documented record of sweet flag there, nor is the habitat appropriate. It is possible that bur reed, which is common there, were mistaken for sweet flag. The name "Calamus" stuck, and virtually everyone familiar with the wetland have known it by that name for decades.

Calamus Swamp is characterized by several distinct plant communities that support a number of unusual plants and animals. The deepest areas (along with the boardwalk, at times) may be covered with several feet of water, while the shoreline is ringed with a jungle of buttonbush and a periphery of swamp woodland, typified by ash, elm and maple. Unique animals include Tiger Salamanders, at least five species of frogs, and many birds including Prothonotary Warbler, Least Bittern, Sora, Virginia, King and Yellow rails. With the Scioto River just 1.5 miles east, Calamus Swamp is an appealing resting area for many water birds that migrate through the Scioto corridor.

Calamus Swamp is open and freely accessible to members of Columbus Audubon and to the general public — you can simply go there and enjoy. If you don't ever make it to a work trip, you can help out by taking along a trashbag to pack out a few of the items that thoughtless drivers on S.R. 104 fling onto our property.

Invasive species

Gypsy Moth

By Dave Horn

Any way you look at it, the gypsy moth is an invasive species, and central Ohio is now a battleground in efforts to contain it. The battle has been underway since the 1880s in Massachusetts, and I have had a ringside seat, off-and-on, since the 1950s when a large area of eastern Massachusetts was sprayed with DDT to suppress, if not eliminate, the gypsy moth. The moth is now in our Columbus backyard, but at least we're no longer using DDT.

The gypsy moth was introduced from Europe around 1869 and has been slowly munching its way across the northeastern United States since then. It reached Ohio in the late 1980s and by 2000 small num-



An adult gypsy moth.

bers were found in the Columbus area. Why the worry? Once the moth is established, it is capable of increasing to huge numbers, and hardwood forests and shade trees, especially oaks, may be defoliated over large areas. If you hear horror stories of whole hillsides denuded, of droppings falling like rain, of millions of caterpillars covering vehicles and lawn furniture — well, the stories are true and the photos are real.

The gypsy moth overwinters in the egg stage, in a fuzz-covered mass on or under bark (or lawn furniture, automobiles, etc.). Eggs hatch in early May and the larvae

move to treetops and start eating. They will eat leaves and needles of any plant but oaks are their favorite and they disdain some species like ash and tulip tree. Larvae mature in early July, then form pupae in protected places. Adults emerge in late July and August. The female has wings but does not usually fly. She releases an attractant (pheromone) that attracts a male, mates and lays her eggs very close to her place of origin. Young larvae are capable of local dispersal by floating on air currents, but most gypsy moth movement is done by humans who unknowingly transport eggs from place to place. Firewood and camping vehicles are especially helpful to dispersing gypsy moths.

Federal and state authorities have for many years maintained programs for gypsy moth containment. South and west of the infested area, pheromone traps are deployed, and if several males are caught in a single trap, trained persons search for egg masses. If eggs are found, the area is targeted for spraying, and the public is so informed and given a chance to comment. The current preferred treatment is a bacterial disease, (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), "BT" for short. This is certainly an improvement over DDT and other chemicals in

More information

For more information and specific gypsy moth management options, visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/gmoth/>

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hygfact/2000/2173.html>

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hygfact/2000/2173.html>

See Invasive species, page 10

Ohio Wildlife Center

Red-tailed Hawk released into the wild after rehabilitation

By Nadya Bennett

Many of you read in a previous newsletter about the injured Red-tailed Hawk that was found at Killdeer Plains during one of our field trips.

This hawk was brought to the Ohio Wildlife Center by Jo McIntosh (Audubon member and OWC volunteer) and myself for diagnosis and treatment. It was determined that he had a broken wing and underwent several surgeries and months of intensive rehab. Several weeks ago, I finally received the e-mail I had been hoping and waiting for. He had recovered and was ready to be released. Early one Saturday morning, Jo, Barb Revard and I set out for Killdeer Plains to



By Nadya Bennett

The Red-tailed Hawk soon after his release into the wild.

release the hawk in approximately the same area it was found. We scouted several areas and finally found a field surrounded by fairly thick forest

edge habitat that was about a mile from its original location.

Jo pulled the crate out of the back of the car and barely had a chance to open the door when

the hawk shot out and flew off down the road. We watched in awe as he just kept going and going until he was out of sight.

Sometimes, when a larger bird is released after being in rehab for awhile, they fly to the nearest, safest tree or snag and sit to assess its surroundings. This hawk however, seemed to know exactly where it was and where it wanted to go - with no stopping at all. We all hopped back in the car to try to follow it. We think we did see it perched in a tree a fairly far distance from where it was released, but we can't be sure that it was him. Thank you, OWC, Lisa and Jo for taking such great care of "our" hawk. I am thrilled that his release was successful.

President's message: New year, new focus

Continued from page 3

our Conservation Committee. Now we are beginning a CA Kids program and you will learn more about this new program through newsletters, our Web site and special mailings. Please be sure to share our offerings with your neighbors and friends.

Columbus Audubon welcomes adults and children, novices and experts, members and non-members (though your best experience will come from becoming a member of our chapter). To learn more about Columbus Audubon and how to get involved, please peruse our Web site for information about membership, activities, volunteer opportunities, important contacts, and much more. Our Web site contains news flashes and updates on current events and activities. Our newsletter comes out every other month so our new webmaster, volunteer John Hopper, is ready in a key stroke to keep us informed.

Our volunteers and our officers and trustees are the backbone of our successful non-profit organization. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of them for all they contribute to Columbus Audubon and to all that we do. Most of us are still gainfully employed and yet we feel it is necessary to give our time, energy, gas (sigh) and the almighty dollar to help endorse an organ-

ization we feel strongly about, Audubon. You will be hearing more from Julie Davis, our new vice-president and events coordinator, COAC representative and member of our Birdathon planning team. She is amazing in all she tirelessly gives to several organizations.

Throughout the year I want to introduce you to some of our volunteers. You will find future articles here and on our Web site telling you about those who give to our organizations cause. Our officers and trustees are a big reason I accepted the position of president for 2006-07. The synergy of this board pushes me beyond a gentle hand raising. It is a vibrant group that is excited to make this year and the next year better than the last.

We hope to see you at our monthly meetings and at our many events this year. We want you to contact us, come up to us and to tell us your ideas and to let us know how you can hopefully volunteer some time. We cannot do all this alone. We need so many more volunteers to help us fulfill our wish list of activities for our present and future members. So what are you waiting for? Are the birds going to wait to migrate or to build their nests or to find their food or cover? No, birds and wildlife will do what they can to survive, NOW. We need for you to help us forge forward.

2007 Entertainment Books for sale

The books will be available through December. Proceeds from the sale support Columbus Audubon's educational activities.

Accent on Nature	1285 Grandview Ave., Grandview	486-7333
Better Earth	59 Spruce St., Columbus (North Market)	224-6196
Backyard Experience	3337 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

Coming up

Continued from page 4

waterfowl. Then we'll hop over to the nearby Pickerington Ponds to scout their diverse new wetland areas. This vast complex of marshes and pools will almost certainly yield interesting marsh birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, along with raptors and some landbird migrants. We'll meet at the Heron Pond parking area of the Creeks. To get there, take US 33 southeast from downtown (or I-270) to Hamilton Rd, exit south, then immediately turn right onto Williams Road. The Heron Pond entrance is one mile west along Williams Road. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Prairie Oaks Metro Park Hike

Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m.

Join Nadya Bennett at the Whispering Oaks Picnic area (the last picnic area at the main park) where we will hike to the newly acquired quarry lakes (now called Darby Bend Lakes) and continue approximately 2 - 3 miles through the park's diverse habitats. Directions: I-70 west from Columbus to state Route 142 and continue north about one mile to the park entrance on the right. Meet at Whispering Oaks Picnic area. Wear sturdy hiking shoes as the trails could be muddy this time of year. Contact Nadya Bennett at (614) 306-8215 for more information.

Migration at Alum Lake and Hoover Reservoir

Saturday, October 14, 8 a.m.

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

Waterfowl and other birds at Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, October 22, 3 p.m.

This is the time of year when fall waterfowl migration should be in full gear. The newly created wetlands have added tremendous diversity to the habitat along with tripling the refuge acreage. Join Mike Flynn as we discover the great opportunities of this premier natural area. Meet at the Ellis Pond Viewing Area on Bowen Road. Call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 for more information.

Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski, Indiana

Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5

We are excited to offer you a second chance to witness the magnificent displays put on by the Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski. Last March, not only were we treated to thousands of cranes, but we also saw Ross's Geese and endangered Whooping Cranes. This is your opportunity to experience this spectacle for yourself. We have timed this trip to coincide with the peak fall migration, which has included up to 34,000 Sandhill Cranes. Spend the day or the whole weekend watching the cranes perform their magical dance. There is no fee for this trip. If you wish to stay overnight, very reasonable lodging is available near-

OWC WildFest

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please join us at OWC's Outdoor Education Center at 6131 Cook Road in Powell, Ohio to share in the joy of nature and "up-close" view of Ohio wildlife. There will be games and activities for kids of all ages, including a horse-drawn wagon ride, puppet shows and craft tables. The new Dempsey Wildlife display will also provide visitors with the opportunity to visit with our education animals. Don't miss the pre-festival 5K run! Also the Fort Morrow Long Rifles will have an encampment at the festival. Admission is \$5. Children under 12 are free. Directions: OWC is one mile north of Shawnee Hills off of Dublin Road at 6131 Cook Road. Turn left on Cook Road and follow the signs.

by. Call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 for information and reservations. Early reservations are recommended.

Avid Birders field trips

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

Work trips

Boardwalks at Calamus Swamp

Saturday, September 30, 8:30 a.m.

Join Dave Horn, Clyde Gosnell and Sid Foster at Columbus Audubon's first dedicated nature preserve property in Pickaway County. Teams will build extend boardwalks, clean the boardwalk and informational displays, complete trail and parking lot maintenance and collect trash. Bring lunch, drinks, gloves, trashbags, hammers, loppers, weed-whackers and mosquito repellent. It won't be all work; you'll have time to enjoy the flora and fauna. The boardwalk accessible swamp is home to a diversity of flora and fauna that flow through the seasons. Visiting birds can be viewed from observation decks or a bird blind. Dave Horn will lead a hike featuring butterflies and other insects of the swamp. To reach Calamus Swamp, take state Route 104 south about 20 miles from Columbus, about a mile south of its intersection with state Route 22. The parking lot is in the field on the left (look for signs). Meet at Great Southern Shopping Center (between Tim Horton's and the Kroger Store), to carpool. Contact Dave Horn (614) 262-0312 or Horn.1@osu.edu.

Decks at Desonier

Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15, 7:45 a.m.

Join an overnight construction project at Desonier State Nature Preserve in Athens County. Randy Beinlich, Southeast district manager will direct the redecking of several small footbridges. Trail maintenance traverses woodlands, hillsides and old field segments. All skill levels welcome. More information TBA. Remember to call Sharon Treaster by noon October 9 (614) 292-1395 to sign up, reserve space for transportation and determine tool requirements. Bring Saturday's lunch, cup or water bottle for drinking, and money for remaining group meals. Group camping near work site. Meet at building E at Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 1889 Fountain Square (gate house entrance off Morse road). Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in Columbus Audubon/Department Of Natural Areas & Preserves' activities. There are five scheduled projects from October 2006 to April 2007. Contact Sharon Treaster at treaster.1@osu.edu for electronic copy of the form or leave request at (614) 292-1395.

Join Columbus Audubon in a 'A Swift Night Out' 2006

By Darlene Sillick

A Swift Night Out is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts. Swifts are highly specialized for a high-speed aerial life. They have long pointed wings and they forage for flying insects quite high in the sky. They drink by dipping their beak in the water while flying. They fly by day when migrating to the lowland forest of the Amazon area of Peru. Swifts use their sharp claws to cling to the sides of chimneys where they also build their nest.

A Swift Night Out was originally inspired by John Connors with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, North Carolina. As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an

A Swift Night Out

Please include the following information in your report: Number of swifts counted, time (and time zone), date, location and broad description of the site, e.g. school, warehouse, residence, Chimney Swift Tower, etc.

extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts!

Groups are encouraged to view this exhilarating spectacle. Keep your eyes to the skies at dusk in late summer and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for a tall shaft, chimney, smoke stack or similar structure to locate where Chimney Swifts are roosting for the night.

On one night over the weekend of September 8, 9, 10 observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimate the number of swifts that enter the

site. Enter your count and your location into the following Web site www.chimneyswifts.org and click on the Swift Night Out link.

Columbus Audubon will have a page on their Web site where you can post your location and approximate number of birds you see. We would like for viewers to email our webmaster at webmaster@columbusaudubon.org. John Hopper will list your information so we may track how many birds we see during migration. We will have several field trips to a famous school chimney in Dublin. See our field trip listing.

The birds have been described as flying cigars with wings. Their chittering and twittering as they dive for insects and aerial maneuvers into these old chimneys and smoke stacks will indeed amaze you. Take a lounge chair and be ready for mosquitoes as you watch the spectacle and be sure to send in your reports and sightings please!!

Invasive species: Gypsy Moth

Continued from page 7

that it affects only caterpillars.

Unfortunately it affects all caterpillars so any butterfly or moth whose larvae are in the spray zone during May runs a risk of exposure. Generally the treatment is confined to a small area.

Recently a "Slow The Spread" (STS) program has been initiated. The idea here is to treat wide areas on the edge of the moth infestation (the Hocking Hills, for instance) with BT and hope that outbreaks are suppressed so that total defoliation is prevented and egg masses are not produced by the billion.

The STS program can have a huge negative impact on other butterflies and moths and I'm not sure it will work that well anyway — BT is tricky to use effectively and the "window" for spraying in May is narrow.

There are encouraging results from saturating an area with pheromone and confusing males so that they can't find females, and this seems a more sensible option for the STS program, in that

it affects only gypsy moths.

The gypsy moth is here to stay. Defoliation will occur, especially where oaks dominate the forest. In a few years we might see entire hillsides denuded of foliage in July, in places like Clear Creek Metro Park where the warblers and thrushes may have to take longer foraging trips to feed their nestlings.

In town we may see quite a few caterpillars but not much defoliation because oaks do not dominate urban and suburban plantings.

The good news is that defoliation doesn't last; a virus causes the gypsy moth to crash a few years after an outbreak. The forest will be stressed but generally will recover as most trees simply put out a new set of leaves.

The gypsy moth has been in New England for almost 140 years, and the moth-infested forests there are generally doing well. There have been changes in tree species composition, some due to the gypsy moth, but also due to that other invasive species, (*Homo sapiens*).

101 class schedule

Columbus Audubon's 101 classes are free and open to the public and there is no need to register unless otherwise stated in the class description.

Insects 101

Sunday, September 10, 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Horn

Join The Ohio State University Professor of Entomology Dave Horn for a fascinating look at insects at the Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center. All ages welcome. Bring water if you are inclined. The program begins at the nature center then we will move outside to have hands on with nets and catch and release containers. This program is back by popular demand from last year!

Birds of Prey 101

Sunday, October 15, 2 p.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Join us at Highbanks Metro Park for a presentation of live owls and hawks from Ohio Wildlife Center. We will learn bio-facts about birds of prey while seeing them up front and personal. Bring your camera. This is a great family program which starts at 2 p.m. at the nature center. Contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or Highbanks Metro Park for more information.

Red-tailed Hawks

Continued from page 1

Fortunately for us in Ohio, we have mostly the Eastern morph, which has the classic Red-tail color pattern complete with red tail and belly band. Once you reach the plains of Kansas, other pale and dark morphs start to become more noticeable, and they are downright common in the grasslands and sagebrush of the interior West. Most of these color morphs still have the red-tail jizz, and freely intermate. The proportions of light, normal, and dark morphs in a region varies from year to year, and it has been suggested that this varying mix of color morphs may keep prey animals from learning to be vigilant for one particular form. Two very distinctive morphs are the very pale Krider's Hawk of shortgrass prairies and the dark gray Harlan's Hawk of Alaska and the Yukon. These birds will seek out similar mates, and Harlan's appears on the verge of breaking away from Red-tails altogether.

Hunting and Diet

Red-tails are nothing if not adaptable in their hunting styles. The classic Red-tail method is to soar over open fields, using their superior eyesight to search for prey on the ground. But the variations on this are innumerable. They can hover by soaring into a breeze. They can perch high on tree snags, cliffs, light poles, and even skyscrapers. They will even adopt the 'hide in the canopy' style of Red-shoulders and Broadwings. They'll do just about anything to get close to prey. And what kind of prey are they stalking? Mostly rodents and small mammals, but they'll also commonly grab

snakes, lizards, and small birds. During nesting season, they'll cruise woods and yards looking for clumsy recent fledgelings. They'll even hang around near bird feeders, less for the birds than for the squirrels! If there's a chance of grabbing a quick meal, a Red-tail is probably already there.

Voice and Mating

The high, harsh 'keeee yerrrr' of the Red-tail is a sound that most people have heard, if not identified. Even if they haven't looked for it, the call has been used so often in movies and TV to signify wilderness that most Americans have heard it. It's most often given as a defensive/warning call when an intruder – human or other – has strayed to close to their nest site or personal territory. Think of where you recently heard that sound, and I'm sure you were in a field, a park, or a wilderness.

Courtship starts in March and April and involves pair flights and aerial dives and rolls. These mock battles seem to pantomime hunting skills and ferocity, so as to impress a potential mate with those qualities. Often the pair will dive on one another, with the target rolling out of the way just in time, then follow this with a quick spiral soar up to high altitude, calling during most of the activity. The nest is usually a large stick affair, placed high in a prominent spot that has easy access for the adults. In it, the female will deposit 2-3 eggs, one a day, and start incubating them immediately. This gives the earlier egg a head start, and its hatchling is often bigger and more aggressive than its siblings.

As long as food is plentiful, all the chicks will be fed, but a food shortage can cause

fight that usually end badly for the younger chick(s). It's the mark of a successful nest that more than one youngster are fledged.

Red-tails are just as adaptable in their nesting territories as in their hunting territories, and many suburban and urban areas now have nesting red-tails where none were before. While they still look for trees in these places, red-tails have been found to nest on power line pylons, radio towers, and even buildings. The burgeoning urban populations of rats and squirrels have made many urban parks and greenbelts attractive nesting areas for Red-tails, provided they have some open spaces – meadows, playfields, highway verges — over which to hunt. Probably the most celebrated of these urban pioneers are the red-tails of Central Park in New York City. Led by the adaptable Pale Male, these birds have been the stars of two books, several TV specials, and countless news stories as they've tried to carve out a living in this most urban of sites.

Central Ohio has a good number of its own urban settlers, the so-called 'freeway red-tails'. Although I-70 and 71 have some birds, the wide swards of I-270 attract even more, probably because some areas of it are still in fields. The major interchanges seem favored nesting sites, and there are conspicuous nests in trees right in the interchanges where I-270 meets I-670 and both the east and west interchanges between I-70 and I-270. These birds fearlessly perch, interact, and hunt in the grass verges of the highways, providing a healthy dose of wildness in an otherwise extremely urban setting. Look! Up on that light post! It's another urban Red-tail, part of yet another successful adaptation by this remarkable species.

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. On Sept. 25 Dr. Jed Burt will talk about butterflies. On Oct. 23 spend an evening listening to the infamous conservationist Dick Tuttle as we listen to his "Beaver Hypothesis". 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.

The Search Is On for Habitat Heroes

Do you know a Habitat Hero? It could be a relative, a neighbor, your doctor or local grocer; it might even be you!

Audubon At Home in Ohio is looking for Habitat Heroes; people taking personal action around a home or community to benefit birds and other wildlife. We want to highlight the work of Habitat Heroes on our Web site and in publications, like our newsletter and e-newsletter.

If you, or someone you know, is a Habitat Hero, send us an

essay of 2000 words or less describing the actions that you or they have taken to benefit birds and other wildlife. Actions might include, but are not limited to, creating a rooftop or balcony garden for birds, developing safer alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, native plant landscaping for birds and other wildlife, finding a creative way to reduce bird mortality due to window collisions or feral cat predation, or even doing outreach with neighbors and community members to make others aware of ways in which their actions can benefit birds and other wildlife. The possibilities are endless.

If chosen as a Habitat Hero, your actions and photos may be highlighted on the Audubon At Home section of the Audubon Ohio Web site, or in our newsletter, e-newsletter, or another publication. Photos and Habitat Hero descriptions become property of Audubon Ohio. If you would like your photos returned be sure to send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission.

Submissions can be sent via e-mail to ohio@audubon.org with "Habitat Hero" in the subject line (2 MB limit to attachments), or by sending it to Audubon Ohio, Attn: Habitat Hero, 692 N. High St., Suite 303, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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
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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
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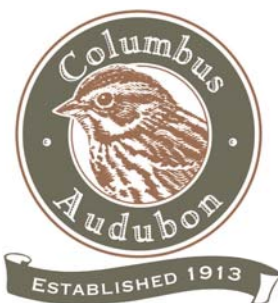
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