



Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

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CA Annual Meeting a delicious success

By Darlene Sillick

Despite the weather forecast for snow and ice, the Feb. 26 Columbus Audubon Annual Meeting and Potluck appeared to be a delicious success. About eighty people were in attendance at the event at Clintonville Woman's Club.

Of course, the high point of the evening was getting together and socializing with old and new members and CA's special guests seemed to enjoy themselves as well. A new member, Doug Askew, joined CA at the event. Welcome Doug!

This year, members of the CA KIDS committee were inspired to develop an award specifically to honor someone from our younger generation – a



Photos by Tom Sheley

Jerry Borin, director of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and Donna Sheley socialize at the event.

generation that often goes overlooked when it comes to the important contributions that they make to our world in their own special way. We initiated a new award this year, the Junior Conservation Award. We are so proud of Spencer

Rieser, 9, of Dublin who has raised close to \$300 to donate to Columbus Audubon for several different causes. What a little businessman he is for conservation causes! His parents are so proud of

See Several, page 8

Great Egret Award thanks from Jim Davidson

Following my training in pathology at the Mayo Clinic and a tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force, Sandy and I and our two daughters moved back to Columbus in 1967. We quickly discovered Columbus Audubon and I signed up to go to Eco Weekend. The rest, as they say, is history.

Frank and Penny Starr were among

those leading the charge. Lois Day was the top sergeant as executive secretary. Soon I was on the "board" and then, too soon it seemed, was told it was my turn to be president. Frank assured me all would be fine. As far as I can remember, I've always been a naturalist. But, Audubon gave me incentive and direc-

See Thanks, page 11



Jim Davidson receives the Great Egret Award from Joe Meara.

It's Columbus Audubon Birdathon time again!!!

By Julie Davis

The Birdathon is right around the corner and our teams are making their strategic plans. This event is the kickoff of the spring birding season and the high point for many of our teams, as well as the main fundraiser for Columbus Audubon. We have three time categories to fit any birders' schedule. The 24-hour category is for all those avid birders striving to identify every warbler, shorebird and raptor in their path. The 10-hour category is for serious, but well rested birders, who are happy to discern between a magnolia and a blackburnian warbler. For those who think a hike or a picnic in the park is the best way to see birds, we have the five-hour category. As you can see, we have something for every member. The CA Birdathon is great fun for everyone, whether you are part of a team or a team sponsor.

Our sponsors are as important to the birdathon as our birders. If you would like to sponsor a team look for the team roster (see page 3), pick the team you wish to sponsor, fill out the form and send it in. You do not need to send your money until you receive a notice from the team you sponsored.

If you have ever thought about joining

2007 statistics

Amount raised: \$12,000.

Teams that raised over \$1,000: Scarlet & Gray Tanagers (\$1426) and Wild Birds Unlimited with an outstanding (\$2900). Other teams raising over \$750 were: Slate Run Colored Juncos, Deckbirds and Swans & Coots.

Teams that saw the most species: Wild Birds Unlimited with 168 birds, Westerville Waxwings with 144 bird species and again this year, the Quick Three Beards saw the most species of birds on their trip, at 179.

in the birding fun, this is the year. Start with your favorite birding buddies, choose a fun team name and call Katryn Renard (614) 261-7171 to register. Then, ask all your friends and co-workers to sponsor you and go birding! Count all the birds your team identifies in your chosen category on any day between May 2 and 18. You don't even have to stay in Ohio. Be creative, bird anywhere in the world or

your own backyard. We want everyone to get involved this year so remember, the rules and dates are just guidelines. Raising funds is the most important thing!

This year's teams are striving to raise even more dollars than ever before. 100-percent of the profits from the Birdathon will go to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, part of the Whittier Peninsula project, which is located in the Important Bird Area adopted by Columbus Audubon. This will help to fulfill CA's pledge of \$100,000 to help build the nature center. GIAC will be one of the first urban Audubon Nature Centers in the country. Audubon Ohio envisions this as an opportunity to bring urban programs and education to children and families in the city.

All of our teams and sponsors are invited to celebrate their birdathon success at our annual BAT celebration. There will be a bird walk, live birds and animals, door prizes, two grand prizes and yummy desserts. The grand prizes this year include optics, generously donated by Eagle Optics and a free night's stay at a B&B. More details on the celebration and prizes will be published in the May newsletter and will be included in the information packets all teams will receive by mid-April.

Quick Three Beards are going Carbon Conscious with new team

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Quick Three Beards are not entering the Birdathon fray this year. Instead, I am organizing a "carbon conscious" team that will bird entirely within walking or biking distance of Whetstone Park. In our annual quest for 165-175 species, the Beards drive about 500 miles. The Subaru gets 25-30 miles to the gallon. Do the math; a "carbon conscious" team uses zero gallons.

-Dave Horn

Carbon Conscious birding tips

Here are some tips and techniques from

Audubon Ohio which you can use to make your birding more carbon conscious.

Bring Birds to the Backyard - Attracting birds to your backyard habitat can be an easy way of providing you with hours of entertainment from the comfort of your own home.

Bike it for the Birds - bicycling and walking can be a great way of visiting local community habitats and getting some exercise to boot.

Bird with a Friend or Four - car-pooling can be a quick way of reducing individual carbon emissions from personal vehicles. Plus, more people means more

eyes-&-ears to look for more birds. While more people in a car means more weight, which can reduce a car's fuel efficiency, emissions from one car are less than emissions from four individual cars.

Public Transportation - taking a bus can help reduce carbon emissions from personal vehicles and help take you further afield to visit your favorite local metroparks or natural areas. You might even see some exciting birds along the way. Greenhouse gas emissions produced will be even less if your public transportation system relies on buses that run on biodiesel.

Audubon Ohio practicing Carbon Conscious Birdathon

The Audubon Ohio Birdathon will be held on May 10 and this year has a new and exciting twist: a carbon conscious Birdathon. Members of our staff will be birding only from locations that they can reach on foot, by bicycle or using public transportation. By doing so, we will limit the amount of fossil fuels we burn and the pollution and greenhouse gas they produce, which are major contributors to global warming.

This year, we'll also be posting details on a Birdathon blog as we go through a carbon conscious search for birds. Follow our progress at <http://AObirdathon.blogspot.com/>.

By taking on the challenge of a carbon conscious Birdathon, we will be doing our part to help reduce fossil fuel consumption in order to protect wildlife and ecosystems that are at risk from mining, drilling, deforestation and development as well as reducing air and water pollution.

How can you help? E-mail earmstrong@audubon.org to help sponsor the team's efforts or volunteer to count birds from any place that you can reach by foot, by bike or using public transportation. No expertise required - volunteer to count for half an hour (or more!) from your own backyard.

Birdathon teams

Backyard Experience Chick-a-dees - 84 Gerry Brevoort Joan Frederick Nina Hawranick Lynn Singleton Cindi Henderson	Marsh Madness - 100 Bill & Deb Marsh	Doug & Kristen Everman Andrea Haslage Lori Patterson Lynn Taylor
Chestnut Ridge Chachalacas - 100 Bill & Eric Reiner Scott Felker Eleanor Nunley	Metro Parks Stellar Jays - 90 Jim Davidson Jack McDowell Joe Meara John O'Meara John Watts	Swans and Coots - 70 Alan Cohen Clyde Gosnell Paul Knoop Katryn Renard Marlene Woo Lun Louise Warner
Deck Birds - 1 Cheri Brown Pat Barron Bev May Pete Precario	Neat Nests - 40 Scott, & Whitney Jaeb Sabrina & Kiersten Jaeb Fred Lancia Del, Myranda, & Jordan Parrott	Two Footed Boobies - 90 Marcia Brehmer Marion Farber Melanie Shuter Mary Kay Wood
Highbanks Hawk-eyes - 60 Nadya Bennett Suzan Jervey Doc Jordan Kim Leach Darlene Sillick	No Egrets - 80 Becky Cummings Elaine & Larry Smith Roger Stout Laura Thomas	Two in a Bush - 65 Patty DeMaria Elaine Fujimora Biani Moran
Ladybirds Who Lunch - 50 Tamara James Kristan Leedy	Pelicans - 33 Mark & Lauren Richards Benjamin & Riley Richards	Westerville Waxwings - 140 Julie & Ken Davis Rob & Ricki Lowry
Low Carbon Footprinters Dave Horn Katryn Renard	Scarlet & Gray Tanagers - 70 Joe & Susanne Gatesman Barb & Stephen Revard Mark & Susan Setterlin	Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside - 170 Michael Flynn Joe Hammond Steve Landes Tom Sheley



Sponsorship form

Sign me up! I would like to sponsor one of the teams above by pledging a specified amount of money for each species they see during the Birdathon. (For example, 100 species at 15 cents per bird would add up to a donation of \$15.) The money will be paid in cash or check to Columbus Audubon when I am informed of the results of my team's foray.

Team Name _____ Pledge _____

My Name _____ Phone# _____

Street, City, State, Zip Code _____

Mail to: "Birdathon," c/o Columbus Audubon, P.O. Box 141350, Columbus, Ohio 43214

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, April 2, May 7, June 4, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Note: Wednesday walks are always held the first Wednesday of the month. Join Paul and Heather 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 (Entrance is on Whittier Street, West of Front Street). Please note the new start time of 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or gledhill-paul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us.

Saturday Walks at Whittier

Saturdays, April 12 and May 24, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Join Paul and Heather 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 (Entrance is on Whittier Street, West of Front Street). Please note the new start time of 7:30 a.m. 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.

Return of the Osprey

Saturday, April 12, 1-4 p.m.

Leader: Jackie Brown, Delaware Preservation Parks

Visit the McCoy Nature Center at Hogback Ridge Preserve, 2656 Hogback Road, for information and a slide presentation about successful Osprey pairs. Then continue to Alum Creek Reservoir to view Osprey nesting platforms and celebrate the birds' return to central Ohio. Contact Delaware Preservations Parks at <http://www.preservationparks.com>, (740) 595-3725 or email jackieb@preservationparks.com.

Early Migrants Walk at Highbanks

Sunday, April 13, 2 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

Meet at the nature center of Highbanks Metro Park. Mike Flynn will lead us as we walk one of the best trails in the park, searching for the newest spring arrivals of the bird world. Call (614) 769-1681 or e-mail: mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Scioto Trail State Park and Forest

Sunday, April 13, 7 a.m.

Leaders: Nadya Bennett and Michael Packer

Celebrate the start of migration with a trip to an excellent early migration spot that is not often explored by Columbus Audubon. Join us for a day of birding and hiking at Scioto Trail State Park and

CA April Program

Make a difference for migrating and resident species

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

Innis House at Inniswood Metro Gardens

National Wildlife Federation Habitat Ambassadors Toni Stahl and Marc Apfelstadt share lessons learned via beautiful photos and videos set to music about how to see species up close, to have great photo opportunities and to bring migrating species to any yard. Ohio is composed of small, privately owned parcels of land rapidly being altered by urban sprawl. Marc and Toni propose solutions that are critically needed for flora and fauna to move north due to climate change as well as species to follow the Mississippi Flyway. They'll also share information about their successful Chimney Swift Tower. See Ohio-based information on their web site (no www): <http://home.columbus.rr.com/nwfbbackyardohio>.

To learn more, please read Toni's column, Backyards for Wildlife, on page 5.

Toni Stahl and Marc Apfelstadt, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Ambassadors, maintain a tiny, urban, with multiple national certifications and have successfully increased sustainability (ex: different kinds of birds observed in their yard increased from 4 in 2001 to 37 in 2006). They have spoken at local, regional and national events. Their yard has been featured in the *Columbus Dispatch*, on NBC TV, and in other papers, newsletters and magazines.

Forest south of Chillicothe. We will spend the morning searching through a variety of habitats for early migrants like the Cerulean Warbler, then have lunch at one of the park's picnic areas and return to Columbus by mid-afternoon. We will be birding by car and hiking so come prepared with binoculars, good hiking shoes and walking sticks if need be. Since we will be picnicking, please pack a lunch and drink. We will meet and carpool south of downtown Columbus at Bob Evans, 3800 South High St (1.2 miles north of US-23 and I-270 intersection - Exit 52 B). If anyone is interested in joining us for an early breakfast, please meet promptly at 6 a.m. so we can be ready to leave when the rest of the group arrives. On the For more information, please e-mail Michael Packer at packerdigital@yahoo.com or Nadya Bennett at nadya2003@msn.com.

Spring Valley Wildlife Area

Sunday, April 20, 7 a.m.

Leaders: Nadya Bennett and Earl Harrison

Join us for an adventure looking for early migrants, raptors, marsh birds and anything else that may cross our paths at this amazing natural area south of Xenia. This 842-acre park has a wide variety of habitats with trails taking one through upland hardwoods, old fields, bramble, bottomland hardwoods and dense hedgerows all surrounding 70 acres of open water and 82 acres of wetlands.

See Coming up, page 9

Backyards for Wildlife

Help Spring migratory birds in any yard

By Toni Stahl

Ohio is composed of small, privately owned parcels of land rapidly being altered by urban sprawl. Many species fly over our yard while following the Mississippi Flyway this time of the year. In the long run, some resident species have been discovered changing their range to move northward, possibly due to climate change.

Some of the migratory species we've been lucky to host in our yard and watch (up close) include the Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Common Nighthawk, northern-bound Ruby-throated Hummingbird, as well as many early Monarch butterflies northbound in our yard.

By making a few simple changes, our yard helps provide a greenway for migratory species to stopover and refuel. If you decide to make some changes, your neighbors may follow suit, providing more refueling area for the migratory species' journey.

Attract them by creating a native forest edge so that when they fly over, it looks like home. Tips on how to do this are in our 'Attracting Native Birds' flyer on our website (Remove Invasive Plants, replace them with Native Plants, and discontinue chemical use so insects they eat won't be poisonous). Most migratory birds don't come to birdfeeders. They tend to stay on the top of the canopy trees. We coax migratory birds down where we can see them by providing the sound of running water. We have a mini-water fall and a dripper in our backyard.

Reminder: If you feed birds in winter, continue until you are sure ample natural food is available (Mother's Day or later).

For more information about this, see the upcoming trainings open to the public, including the April 22 Columbus Audubon



By Marc Apfelstadt

(Above) Backyard forest edge in our backyard. (Below) Rose-breasted Grosbeak.



program. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Email: marca@columbus.rr.com or visit (no www.): <http://home.columbus.rr.com/nwbackyardohio/>.

April, May events

Backyard Paradise for Butterflies & More! Sunday, April 6, 2-4p.m., Sharon Woods Metro Park, Spring Hollow Lodge, 1069 W. Main St, Westerville, phone: 865-4507

Columbus Audubon, Tues, 4/22, 7pm, see page 4 for details.

Nature Fair & Native Plant Sale, Saturday, May 3, Wild Birds Unlimited-Riverside, 5400 Riverside Dr, Columbus. NWF available 1-3 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo-for a week!

Join central Ohio residents and celebrate Earth Day 2008. This year efforts in Columbus have joined forces to present an Earth Week of activities. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will begin with Bodhi's Earth Day celebration on April 19. This event is also the kick-off for Party for the Planet, a 6 week event which will highlight recycling and

sustainable living, conservation programs and the environment. Each weekend, from April 19 - Memorial Day weekend special events and activities will feature various regions of the Zoo and its amazing animal residents.

On April 26, join thousands of central Ohio volunteers for Earth Day 2008: Now Get Busy! This event is brought to

you by the folks who put together last year's Earth Day 2007: A Year in a Day.

From 8 a.m.-Noon, volunteers will work at designated work sites on a wide variety of beautification projects such as river and stream clean ups, tree planting, litter removal and removal of non-native plant species from public parks. All volunteers will be

invited to a free lunch and Earth Day celebration at Goodale Park. There will also be booths for environmental organizations, live music, and guest speakers.

Information and specific details can be found on the following websites:

www.columbuszoo.org
www.nowgetbusy.org

Conservation Corner

If you build it, they will come

By Dave Horn

Some years ago, as a graduation present to ourselves (our younger child had graduated, so no more bills) we landscaped a corner of our modest backyard and along with the flowers and shrubbery we installed one of those sunken black plastic pools, maybe 6 feet long and 18 inches deep. (It seemed like a good idea at the time.) I thought I'd install a pump and an aerator but I never got around to it. Draining and refilling the pool was a bit of a chore but we went ahead with it, especially after West Nile virus made its appearance in central Ohio. (As an entomologist, I of all people ought to know the life cycle of mosquitoes.) The plants grew, matured, we replaced some and the garden is still very pretty. But draining the pool is a bit of a hassle, and there are potential safety issues with a little toddler or two now living behind us. (In the Clintonville area of Columbus there remain some yards that are not fenced and toddlers young and old can toddle between them.)

So about a year ago we decided to remove the pool and replace it with dirt or a tree or



The frog pond.

By Dave Horn

something, but we didn't get around to that, either. Then one evening last spring I returned home to hear a toad trilling from the edge of the pool! And later there were two toads trilling. At some point there must have been a third toad, because when I went out to drain the pool there were hundreds of tadpoles, a great excuse to delay removal. So spring 2007 ripened into summer. In July, I returned home on a rainy afternoon to discover that a green frog had taken up residence, serenading

us with his ribbiting. So, to paraphrase *Field of Dreams*: "Do not drain this pool!"

Our house was built in 1931. Our neighborhood has been developed for 95 years. We are four houses up from High Street in Columbus. Frogs and toads have been dodging vehicles, predators, pesticides, drought, for all that time.

Conservation Lesson # 1: So often we see conservation as a losing battle. There is no doubt that global human impact is huge and that many large areas

Year of the Frog event

Columbus Zoo Conservation Lecture Series

Please join us on April 17, at the Ohio State University's Fawcett Center Auditorium, 2400 Olentangy River Road at 7:30 p.m. as we welcome amphibian expert Dr. Kevin Zippel of the Amphibian Ark for a special presentation. Dr. Zippel will discuss this amazing and ecologically important group of animals - and why we must all do what we can to protect them for future generations.

will never return to their pristine state. Species are going extinct at unprecedented rates (at least since Earth was last clobbered by an asteroid). Amphibians (including frogs and toads) especially are in decline. And yet, just a little bit of habitat is all some species need, and you and I might be able to provide that.

Conservation Lesson # 2: Do not drain this pool!

Invasive species: European Earthworms

By Dave Horn

There is no totally agreed-upon definition of an invasive species, but the concept implies an animal or a plant that (1) is not native to the region in question, (2) has become very abundant (often at the expense of related native species and (3) has a significant impact on functioning of ecosystems. "But I thought earthworms were good," might be your first reaction. Well, if we set aside "good" and "bad" to concentrate on the definition, European earthworms fit well.

Why so? Before Europeans settled in North America, there were no native earthworms in much of the northeastern and north central USA. The last round of glaciers (ending about 15,000 years ago) eliminated native earthworms north of the

glacial boundary. That included central Ohio. The primeval forests that greeted settlers 200 years ago had developed without earthworms. However, well before the American Revolution, several species of exotic earthworms were introduced near seaports, due to both purposeful transport (because earthworms do serve useful purposes) or incidentally in ships' ballast (which is another story). Settlers had only to walk over the mountains to bring worms to Ohio. (Earthworm eggs can be carried on your shoes.) Transport of earthworms in soil started then, and continues both intentionally (fish bait) or unintentionally (turf, nursery stock and mulch, for example). Several species are involved, but two (*Lumbricus terrestris*, our familiar "night-crawler" and *L. rubellus*, the "leafworm") seem to be dominant.

Earthworms mix soil, help aerate soil, reduce compaction and enhance decomposition of plant material. All of these are very useful services in agriculture and gardening, and indeed earthworms are highly beneficial to the functioning of these artificial ecosystems. I'm glad that there are European earthworms in my garden and lawn. However, these same activities can have a disruptive effect on forest ecosystems. Research at the University of Minnesota (where the European species have not yet made their way into every acre of forest) has shown that earthworms speed decomposition that normally would result in more leaf litter ("duff") and greater microbial and fungal activity. The Minnesota workers have found "a cascade

See worms, page 12

Columbus CBC

Observers dodge nasty weather to tally urban birds

By Rob Thorn

On Dec. 30, 2007, 41 observers sponsored by Columbus Audubon spent the day counting birds in different areas of Columbus. The late date was due to a postponement from the original date of Dec. 16 because of icy, windy conditions. Rather than risk the observers and the birds, the CBC date was moved back two weeks. Several teams couldn't make the new date, but we lucked into decent weather. The final total was 75 species and 25,625 individual birds, which was a very good count given the delay and poor wild food crop. The complete breakdown is as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe – 8; Double-crested Cormorant – 1; Great Blue Heron – 30; Black-cr. Night Heron – 15; Mute Swan – 4; Canada Goose – 1829; Snow Goose – 1; Wood Duck – 12; Black Duck – 619; Mallard – 1008; Green-winged Teal – 3; Gadwall – 64; N. Shoveler – 3; Canvasback – 2; Redhead – 5; Ring-necked Duck – 131; Lesser Scaup – 47; Common Goldeneye – 1; Hooded Merganser – 42; Sharp-shinned Hawk – 5; Cooper's Hawk – 18; Red-tailed Hawk – 49; American Kestrel – 3; **Merlin – 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant – 2; American Coot – 156; Ring-billed Gull – 1072; Herring Gull – 2; Rock Dove – 1200; Mourning Dove – 868; Great Horned Owl – 2; Barred Owl – 3; Belted Kingfisher – 26; Red-headed Woodpecker – 4 (2 parties); Red-bellied Woodpecker – 112; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 8; Downy Woodpecker – 186; Hairy Woodpecker – 21; N. Flicker – 36; Pileated Woodpecker – 12; Blue Jay – 278; American Crow – **2170**; Carolina Chickadee – 433; Tufted Titmouse – 154; White-breasted Nuthatch – 144; Red-breasted Nuthatch – 16; Brown Creeper – 6; Carolina Wren – 66; Winter Wren – 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet – 4; Horned Lark – 1; Eastern Bluebird – 38; American Robin – 512; N. Mockingbird – 14; European Starling – 10,890; Yellow-rumped Warbler – 26; Eastern Towhee – 14; American Tree Sparrow – 118; Field Sparrow – 1; Song Sparrow – 107; Eastern Fox Sparrow – 3; Swamp Sparrow – **21** (high); White-throated Sparrow – 342; White-crowned Sparrow – 10; Dark-eyed Junco – 276; Red-winged Blackbird – 3; Common Grackle – 30; Brown-headed Cowbird – 1; N. Cardinal – 656; Purple Finch – 1; House Finch – 287; American Goldfinch – 340; Pine Siskin – 2; House Sparrow – 977

Totals: 75 species, 25,625 individuals.

Species seen count week but not count day: Greater Scaup, Red-br. Merganser, Bonaparte's Gull, Pine Warbler.

Participants: Charles Bombaci, Barb Christel, Andrea Cook, Ken Davis, Brad and Lindsay Deering, Sheila Fagan, Diana Fowler, Larry Gorbet, Jeff Grabmeier, Bret Graves, Kay Greisen, Bill Heck, Becky Jordan, Bill Kinkead, Steve Landes, Bruce and Helen Lindsay, Rob Lowry, Ashli Maruster, Carolyn May, Dick and Kathy Miller, Susan Moore, Richard and Rick Oxley, Doug Perkins, Len and Nancy Powlick, Pam Raver, Eric Reiner, Ben Rich, Matt Rich, Robert Royse, Bruce Simpson, Doug and Deena Snapp, Gene Stauffer, Mark Steinmotz,

Charlotte Thiebert and Rob Thorn (compiler).

With all of the weird weather and glitches that beset this CBC, it was great to see a good crew gather a good count. Nice finds included Canvasbacks and Redheads on the Watermark Quarries (several parties); a Snow Goose at Waterman Farms and a Merlin at The Ohio State University Wetlands (Landes and Grabmeier); several Fox Sparrows (multiple parties); a Purple Finch at a Feeder in Three Creeks Park (Maruster and Gorbet) and Pine Siskins lurking in Upper Arlington (Powlick).

What were the trends in this Count? Crows and Blue Jays continue their steady rebound from their WNV lows earlier in the decade, while Starlings, Canada Geese, and Ring-billed Gulls continue to find winter to their liking here in Columbus. In the glib tradition of local news, we offer you a brief summary of some unusual trends on this year's count:

Who's Hot

Mute Swans. The big white wonders showed up on several territories this year, which could be good or bad news. They were formerly occasional on the count, but look to be a regular performer now.

Other Waterfowl. Perhaps the cold pushed them down at just the right time, but rarely have we had a count that had such a nice spectrum of waterfowl. Some ducks like Gadwall, Shovelers, and Scaup used to be nice surprises, but this year they were seen in numbers by multiple parties.

Ring-billed Gulls. Every year we think we'll get a few, and each year we seem to get much more. This year I finally was shocked into reality with big flocks at several spots. Watching 400-plus birds loaf around a shopping center parking lot changes your perception of how well these

adaptable gulls are doing, even here far away from Lake Erie.

Woodpeckers. They were everywhere, with good numbers of just about every species. Especially gratifying were a high number of Pileateds; these big woodpeckers seem to be doing well in our remaining greenbelts. Hairies, sapsuckers, red-bellies, and even normally-rare Red-heads put up good numbers. Maybe these are our first line defenders against the ash borer.

Blue Jays. They continue their rebound from their WNV troubles. Many parties had good numbers, especially in oak areas like Blacklick Woods, Blendon Woods, or the Columbus Country Club.

Swamp Sparrows. These elusive little sparrows were surprisingly widespread, with seven out of 14 parties reporting them, often more than one. Eye-popping were the 15 found by the intrepid Jefferson Township party. We can only suspect that the recent freezes pushed them into town.

Who's Not

Open-country raptors. These are a continual casualty of our shrinking open spaces. No harriers were found this year, and kestrel numbers continued their slow steady decline. Short of bulldozing some of our superfluous housing developments,

2007 Columbus CBC
Count Date: Dec. 30, 2007;
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Temperature: 30 to 38 degrees
Wind: West Southwest, 0-5 mph
Water: Still partly frozen, moving water open
Weather: a.m. partly cloudy; p.m. overcast
Observers: 38 in the field in 13-14 parties, three at feeders
Total party hours: 100 (86 on foot, 14 in cars)
Total Party miles: 165 (75 on foot, 90 in cars)
Owling: two hours

See CBC, page 12

Several awards given out at CA's Annual Meeting and potluck

Continued from page 1

him.

Spencer is a regular contributor to the CA KIDS newsletter – lots and lots of stories. The committee was so excited about his participation that they decided to make him the first official columnist for the newsletter. He is the face behind “Snippets from Spencer.”

He alone (with his big smile and confident demeanor) has ignited many sparks – among his parents, his friends, his teachers and the members of the CA Kids committee and now the membership of Columbus Audubon.

Congratulations to Spencer and may you teach others how to get involved and make things happen for nature.

Another special part of the evening was the presentation of the Song Sparrow Awards. This year was no exception as three awards were given to the well deserving and surprised recipients. Two recipients of this year's Song Sparrow Award have served on the Eco Weekend Committee for several years: Mary Ann Hrabley has served since 1995 and Liz Melick since 1990.

Roz Horn and Lois Day who presented their awards said to all in attendance that they both have been true “unsung heroes” for Eco Weekend, because of the effort they have put forth before, during and after each event. Thank you, Mary Ann and Liz!!

Lois then turned the table on Roz and presented her with the third Song Sparrow award of the night. And a big surprise it was! Since 2000, Roz has worked hard in many roles with the highly successful CA Eco Weekend. She is a great spokesperson and role model for Columbus Audubon. Thank you Roz!! Remember last year when Roz she was thrilled that Dave finally received the award. This year, we thought we heard Dave say the same about Roz!



Photos by Tom Sheley
Spencer Rieser shows off his Junior Conservationist Award.

Susan Setterlin and Heather Starck presented awards to the South Side Settlement House After-school Program volunteers.

During the school year they provide a rich curriculum to the settlement's students providing a program filled with a variety of nature teachings. Johann Cozart, Betty Daniell and Carolyn Hill were in attendance to receive their awards. Tami King, Frank and Karen Martens were not in attendance but a hearty thank you is sent to all on behalf of Columbus Audubon.

Mike Flynn helped to initiate the first CA Conservation Award. He and Dave Horn found just the right person to receive the first annual award. Dave Horn said “When Columbus Audubon acquired Calamus Swamp several years ago, we were unsure of how we would maintain the property. Blaine Keckley is the unsung hero who solved that issue for us. He is a retired Ohio Highway Patrol officer from Circleville who has adopted the maintenance of Calamus Swamp as a personal service project. Blaine mows the trails, trims vegetation encroaching on the boardwalk and takes his chainsaw to any downed trees blocking the boardwalk and paths. He undertakes minor repairs and



Roz Horn (left) and Liz Melick show off their Song Sparrow awards. Not pictured is award winner Mary Ann Hrabley.



Susan Setterlin presents awards to the South Side Settlement volunteers, Johann Cozart, Betty Daniell and Carolyn Hill. Not pictured are Tami King, Frank Martens and Karen Martens.

informs us of any larger problems. He does all this on his own, without compensation, because he likes it. Columbus Audubon's wetland in Pickaway County can be enjoyed by all because of the untiring efforts of Blaine Keckley, and he is a worthy recipient of our first Conservation Award.”

Then the icing on the cake, The National Audubon Great Egret Award. It is given to individuals who have made a significant long-term contribution to Audubon and conservation in pursuit of the Audubon Mission. An individual needs to be in the ‘trenches’ for 20 years of more volunteering for Audubon either as a volunteer or as a

staff member. This year we honored our own Jim Davidson with this great award. Joe Meara, who has been Jim's friend for about 50-years said, “The recipient of the award has served Columbus Audubon in a number of capacities including member of the Board of Trustees and President. He has been especially supportive as a program leader for Eco-Weekend, Columbus Audubon's premiere environmental education event. His knowledge of the natural world combines breadth and depth to an amazing degree. He has been extremely generous in sharing his time and his

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Coming up

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We will be exploring all of the area including a 2.5-mile trail (which can be muddy at times so please wear the proper footwear) and a boardwalk that extends out into the marsh which ends in a 13-foot observation tower. Please visit <http://www.dayton.net/audubon/spg-val.htm> to read more about the diversity of species that can be found here - especially during the spring. Bring binoculars, water and snacks, but note that there are no facilities at the wildlife area. We will meet at the TA truck stop at the U.S. Route 42 exit off of I-70 heading west towards Dayton and carpool from there. For more information, please e-mail Earl Harrison at eharrison@ehe.osu.edu or Nadya Bennett at nadya2003@msn.com.

Dublin Wildflower and Early Migrant walk

Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m.

Leaders: Jim Davidson, Donna Siple and Lynn Wearsch

Join Jim Davidson for a spring wildflower and bird migrant walk starting at the Kiwanis Wetland Park south of state Route 161 at the Dublin Road/U.S. Route 33 interchange. Bring your field guides and we will review keying out wildflowers and Jim will show you some of his favorite spots to see a variety of spring beauties. We are usually out for a couple hours. Bring your binoculars and cameras and prepare for wet, muddy conditions. For more information, contact Donna Siple donnasiple@aim.com or Lynn Wearsch lwearsch@sbcglobal.net.

Birding at Clear Creek Metro Park

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. - Noon

Leaders: Tom and Donna Sheley

Join Tom and Donna Sheley for a leisurely morning of bird watching at one of their favorite places looking for spring migrants and resident birds in the magnificent, peaceful setting of Clear Creek Metro Park. We will endeavor to see many warblers, tanagers, thrushes, vireos and whatever else happens to fly our way. We will meet in the parking area at the intersection of Clear Creek and Starner Roads. Dress for the weather and don't forget mosquito/tick repellent. Bring a picnic lunch if you would like to join us after the outing at one of the area's shelters. Clear Creek Metro Park can be reached by traveling southeast on U.S. Route 33 past Lancaster (you can use the bypass) to Clear Creek Road. Turn right at the Sunoco station and proceed through the park to the first intersection (Starner Road). We will be waiting in the parking area on the southeast corner of the intersection. For information, call Tom or Donna at (614) 578-9501.

OYB at Green Lawn Cemetery

Saturday, April 26, Time: TBD

Leaders: Need a couple of volunteers

Columbus Audubon leading a trip for the Ohio Young Birders Club to Green Lawn Cemetery and Whittier Peninsula. We are looking for Columbus Audubon members to help host the 12-18 year-olds' visit to our IBA and surrounding sites. Please contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or (614) 761-3696 if you want to help or if you know a teen who might want to join us from mid-morning to afternoon.

Evening at Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, May 4, 6 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

Join us for a spring evening at one of central Ohio's premier wildlife areas. Spring migration will be in full swing, and this wet-

land ecosystem attracts a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. Come along with Mike Flynn as we observe the many sights and sounds of this thriving wetland area. Meet at Glacier Knoll parking lot. To get there, take I-270 south to U.S. Rt. 33 east (toward Lancaster) go approx. three miles to Canal Winchester/ state Route 674/ Gender Road.; turn left on Gender Rd., go approx. one mile to Wright Road., turn right onto Wright Rd., then go approx. one mile to Bowen Road. turn left onto Bowen Road., go approx. 1/4 mile to Glacier Knoll parking lot, and turn left. Call 769-1681 or e-mail: mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Whetstone-Northmoor Weekday Wander

Monday, May 5, 8 a.m.

Leader: Dave Horn

We will bird for about two hours in Whetstone and Northmoor Parks. The Olentangy River floodplain is a natural corridor for land bird migration so we should see quite a few species no matter what the weather. Meet in the parking area for the Park of Roses (just across the bridge). For more information, contact Dave Horn at horn.1@osu.edu.

Whetstone Weekday Wander

Friday, May 9, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Gary and Lynn Wearsch

Join us for a morning walk through Whetstone Park in Clintonville, where we'll explore a variety of bountiful bird habitats including the prairie, Adena Brook area and wooded ravine. This is for all levels - beginners are absolutely welcome. We hope to see indigo buntings, orioles, tanagers, gnatcatchers, thrushes, vireos, waxwings, various warblers and maybe even a nesting wood duck. Approximately three hours. Meet at the Park of Roses parking area. From High Street turn west on Hollenback Drive, pass Whetstone Library and go straight about 1/4 mile. The road curves right at the bottom of the hill. Keep going over the small bridge, past the picnic area parking lot to the Rose Garden entrance. We'll meet there just below the shelter house. For more information, contact Donna Siple at drsiple@highlights-corp.com or Gary and Lynn Wearsch at lwearsch@sbcglobal.net.

Magee Marsh and Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour

Saturday, May 10, 6:15 a.m.

Leader: Michael Packer

This is International Bird Day at the lake and it is crowded with people from all over the state for good reason. Mid-May is the peak of bird migration and warblers are said to be "dripping from the trees" at Magee Marsh. Last year we saw over 100 different species of birds in 8 hours along the lake. Join Michael on a walk along the boardwalk in the morning. After lunch we will drive the auto tour of Ottawa NWR looking for waterfowl, rails, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Pack a lunch and drinks. We will be carpooling from Worthington Mall. For more information, please e-mail Michael Packer packerdigital@yahoo.com.

Dusk at Glacier Ridge, Honda Wetlands

Friday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

This new wetland area has already proven itself to be a significant habitat for birds such as ducks, herons, egrets, rails, bitterns and many others. Experience the magic of dusk at this special place with Mike Flynn as we look and listen for the dusk life here. Meet at the parking lot. To find it, take I-270 (Dublin) to U.S. Route 33/

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Coming up

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state Route 161 west (exit 17B), toward Marysville. Exit at the Rte. 161/ Plain City/ Post Road. Turn right at the stop, and then an immediate left onto Hyland Croy Road. Drive approx. one mile north to the Honda Wetlands entrance. Turn left and follow road to the parking lot. Call 769-1681 for more information, contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Prothonotary Warblers and Osprey at Hoover Reservoir

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.

Leader: Charlie Bombaci

Meet at Area M, Front Street, Galena. Our hike will begin with the boardwalk at Area M where we will watch for the nesting Osprey and possibly a Bald Eagle or two. Our main target, the Prothonotary Warbler nests close to the boardwalk and we will try to call them in close. Next we will hike along the old roadbed that runs through Area N in search of resident Prothonotary Warblers and migrating songbirds. This riparian corridor on a good day can bring lots of great species through this area. If time permits and the area isn't too wet we may take an off-trail detour to explore some of the wetland forest habitat. Wear sturdy boots and bring your binoculars if you have them. We will meet in the parking lot at Area M on Front Street in Galena. This will also be a CA Kids program. For any questions, please email charlesbombaci@aol.com.

Service in the Preserves (work trip)

Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve

Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, 7:45 a.m.

Davis Memorial SNP, in Adams County, is known for its spring wildflowers. It also has some very interesting geology, complete with cliffs, sinkholes, and caves. April is a great time to visit Davis Memorial to catch the early spring flowers and yet still be able to see the layout of the land. Join us on April 12 and 13 as we construct an elevated boardwalk at the base of a dolomite cliff. The posts will already be set, we will build the decking. There is also a possibility we will cut a new trail at a nearby preserve. All skill levels are welcome. Please call Katryn Renard by Tuesday, April 8 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation and determine tool requirements. Bring your lunch for Saturday, water, work gloves, appropriate foot gear, tent and sleeping bag. Also bring a bit of cash to reimburse the folks providing Saturday's dinner; and Sunday's breakfast and lunch. Meet at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus. Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treaster.latosu.edu for forms or fill one out on the morning of the trip). We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m. on Sunday.

101 classes

Optics 101

Sunday, April 13, 5:30 p.m.

Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center

Join Mike Flynn for an overview of binoculars, spotting scopes and accessories used for birding and nature observation. Mike will discuss features, answer questions and have binoculars and accessories on-site for demonstration.

Astronomy 101 (3 part series)

Wednesdays, April 30, May 7, May 14, 8-10 p.m.

Fee \$25.00 for all 3 classes, register by April 17

Back by popular demand: Astronomy 101 taught by Jay Young. Cost for the class is \$25. These are three Wednesday evening classes which will be held at the Ohio Wildlife Center on Cook Road in Delaware County from 8-10 p.m. Please e-mail Jay Young if you wish to attend all three classes at youngj2@ohiodominican.edu.

Warblers 101

Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m.

Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center

Tom Sheley will host a discussion and presentation on the jewels of spring, Eastern Wood Warblers. Tom will accompany his pictorial with a discussion on the origin, identifying characteristics, habitats and local hot spots for these highly sought after birds.

Hold the date!!!!

Hold the date for a possible Photography 101 class hosted by Highbanks Metro Park and Columbus Audubon on Saturday, June 21. Details will be in the next issue and on www.columbusaudubon.org. Do you have suggestions for a 101 class or 101 series? Please contact Darlene Sillick if you have theme ideas or if you want to teach one of our 101 classes at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or (614) 761-3696 (home).

Avid Birders field trips

Saturday, April 26: 5:30 a.m. We will greet spring migrants as we plan to start at Spring Valley Wildlife Area and go from there. Visit <http://www.columbusaudubon.org> for details.

Metro Parks programs

Joint CA/Blendon Woods Metro Park programs

April Birdwalk: Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m., meet at the Blendon Woods Metro Parks nature center for a bird walk to be led by naturalist Bruce Simpson. Call (614) 895-6221.

May Birdwalk: Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m., same as April.

Highbanks Metro Park (meet at nature center)

Beginning Birding: Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m.

What a Hummer!: Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

Warbler Hike: Saturday, May 3 at 7 a.m.

Butterfly Gardening: Saturday, May 10 at 2 p.m.

Glacier Ridge Metro Park

Woodcock Watch: Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Wildlife Festival: Sunday, May 18 1-4 p.m.

Birds and Bloom Walk: Saturday, May 24 at 9 a.m.

Delaware County Bird Club events

Next meeting: April 28, 7:30 p.m. in room 163 of the Science Center at Ohio Wesleyan University. Topic and speaker: Birds of Hoover Nature Reserve by Charles Bombaci. Upcoming field trips are: The Wilds, Apr 27, Crane Creek, May 8 and 9. If you are interested in joining us, please call Jed Burt (740) 368-3886.

OWC WildNite for Wildlife

Come join us for the Ohio Wildlife Center's annual gala event at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium on Saturday, April 5 starting at 5:30 p.m. Help us celebrate Ohio's native animals and raise money for Ohio Wildlife Center's wildlife rehabilitation and education services in your community. Featuring wildlife presentations, music, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, cash bar, silent and live auctions.

Columbus Audubon Annual Meeting and Potluck

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knowledge within Audubon and in the community at large.”

Joe continued, “He has introduced innumerable individuals to the pleasures of observing nature while emphasizing the interdependency of species within the natural environment. In addition to his own activities, he has used his knowledge and personal contacts to facilitate education and conservation projects carried out by others.”

Mike Maier had a wonderful display of his photography. We very much appreciate the door prizes donated by Mike and by many other CA trustees. All the door prize drawings were indeed a hit and I think members and guests liked being able to choose their own prize. Mike is great to recognize and give to like minded conservation organizations. Look for more from Mike in the future with Columbus Audubon.

Barbara Revard introduced our evening presenter, Jerry Borin, executive director of the Columbus Zoo. Barbara said he is highly regarded among his peers and they use words such as ‘visionary, deep thinker, optimistic and magnanimous’ when mentioning Jerry. He spoke about about his 22 years at the zoo and how he is a businessman who loves nature and never says no. His presentation also featured interesting Columbus Zoo facts. This zoo is 20th place in North America for the number of species in its collection. There are 297 species of animals and 474 species of fish. The zoo is fourth in the number of acreage, (330 acres developed and a total of 580 acres). It is ninth in total attendance. The zoo supports over 70 programs in 34 countries. They have an extensive educational program and the volunteer docents contributed over 31, 275 hours last year. This year, the new Zoombezi Bay water park will open at the end of May.

45-million dollars of development and renovation will be completed by mid May including the new entrance, the re-routing of Powell Road and the expansion of the Safari Golf Course. CA thanked Jerry by donating to the Zoo Conservation Fund in his name. It made us proud to sit there and hear about the Columbus Zoo which is in our own backyard.

Please welcome our newest trustees Jackie Brown, Andrea

Thanks

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tion. It also gave me access to other naturalists, other natural history groups and many great places not always open to the general public. I became acquainted with Jim Stahl at Metro Parks and Guy Denny of Natural Areas. When I retired, they gave me the opportunity to work with their organizations during the work week which opened up more people and more places. It also kept me out of Sandy's way at home.

Eventually, there was the Nature Conservancy, the Ohio Lepidopterists, Columbus Natural History Society, and the Central Ohio Native Plant Society. And through it all, there was Eco Weekend and many Audubon field trips over the years. Darlene Sillick just signed me up for a field trip in April!

I've always wanted to know most of the things we walk past when outdoors and to have a general understanding about how things got to be the way they are now. I don't worry about running out of things to learn. I recently checked out a couple of books on quantum mechanics. It's weird and mystic - but they say it's real. Try it out if you're in need of a mind stretcher. Thanks Audubon for the recognition. It's been a great journey. The recognition has never been my goal, but it's given me the enjoyment of reflecting.

-Jim Davidson

Cook and Bill Heck. We are looking forward to their contributions to the CA board. Also welcome returning trustee Joe Meara, our illustrious membership chair.

How great to have such a hard working volunteer returning to the CA board and new folks waiting in the wings to assist CA.

Thanks for all our members and guests who attended and braved the ough forecast from the weather men!

See you again next February at our next potluck.

CA partnering with Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Preservation Parks of Delaware County is very excited to announce that we will be embarking on a new partnership with Columbus Audubon. As part of the partnership, our naturalists - Jackie Brown and Kim Banks - will be creating programs for Audubon members in our six parks.

The next program, for CA KIDS, will be "Blues Creek Exploration" on June 22. This program will be at Blues Creek Preserve, and will let kids get in the water to study stream health and look for frogs and fish. Blues Creek Preserve, 9627 Fontanelle Road, Ostrander, can be reached by driving west from the city of Delaware on U.S. 36 or Winter Street. Go about 5 miles to Ostrander. Turn right on Ostrander Road then left on Fontanelle Road. Go about one mile and the park entrance is on the left. Our partnership also provides new ways to increase visibility for both our organiza-



Hogback Ridge Preserve, Sunbury.

tions, allowing more people to know about the varied programs and events we offer for all members of the family. Be sure to visit www.preservationparks.com to find out what's happening in the parks. We'll be listing our partnership programs as well, so visitors to our Web site will learn a little about Columbus Audubon and CA KIDS.

Of course, the parks are always here for Audubon members to enjoy. And they are great for bird sightings! On a recent snowy day, during a walk along the trail at Hogback Ridge Preserve, I heard the very loud rat-a-tat that told me the woodpecker I was hearing was not one of the familiar downy or hairy woodpeckers I always see at the feeders. Sure enough, it was a resident pileated woodpecker going after a meal in a dead tree. We invite Columbus Audubon members to visit the nature centers at Hogback Ridge and Gallant Woods preserves, walk the trails at all six parks, enjoy the picnic tables and shelters, and come to Art in the Park, Pioneer Day and other events. Descriptions and locations of all the parks are on our Web site, and you may call (740) 524-8600 for more information.

-Sue Hagan, public relations specialist, Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Earthworms

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of changes in the forest that affect small mammal, bird and amphibian populations, increase the impacts of herbivores like white-tailed deer, and facilitate invasions of other exotic species such as European slugs and exotic plants like buckthorn and garlic mustard.” This can present a major challenge to conservationists who dream of restoring portions of ecosystems to reflect the primeval conditions.

What can we do? In Ohio, we cannot do much about the earthworms, but we can re-learn the lessons: invasive species can have subtle but far-reaching impacts that we don’t think about much, and we remain still capable of unintentionally transporting species that may have major ecosystem effects. We all know about transporting firewood and the emerald ash borer by now (I hope). But think twice before dumping out those leftover night-crawlers at the end of your next fishing trip to Minnesota.

For more information, visit: www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/forest/index.htm or www.nativetreesociety.org/invasives/european_earthworms.htm.

Columbus Audubon KIDS!

The Winter CA KIDS newsletter has hit the streets and the Spring issue is on its way! Contact Nadya Bennett, CA KIDS Committee Chair to join up! You can contact Nadya at nadya2003@msn.com or (614) 306-8215.

Columbus Audubon
Founded 1913
740-549-0333
www.columbusaudubon.org

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Additional chapter leaders:

CA Webmaster: Bill Heck, 895-1940
Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312
Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 261-7171
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130
Programs: Mike Flynn, 882-9493
Field Trips: Earl Harrison, 505-1123 or Darlene Sillick, 761-3696
Eco Weekend: Lois Day, (740) 549-0333; Roz Horn, 262-0312
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602
Scioto-Whittier IBA Committee: Paul Gledhill, 848-7666
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, (614) 306-8215
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard, 261-7171
OYB (12-18 year olds): Darlene Sillick, 761-3696
CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day, (740) 549-0333

CBC

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there’s little we can do to remedy this loss in Columbus.

Fruit-eating birds. You knew it was going to be bad when you saw our meager crop of berries stripped by hungry birds back in mid-December. We found a few tough flocks of Robins, but no waxwings, hermit thrushes, or late thrashers and catbirds. This was the final echo of last Spring’s late frost, which froze many flowers, cutting into the subsequent berry crop.

Brown Creepers. Where were they? Several parties mentioned poor numbers; I spent most of the morning in perfect creeper habitat and saw nary a one. Nuthatches and woodpeckers had good years, but they can switch to seeds and mast. Perhaps last Spring’s frost also depressed numbers of bark-living insects and their eggs.

Kinglets and Red-br.Nuthatches. Yes, they’re still here, but not in nearly the numbers that they sported just a month ago. Both of these species were actually hard to find for most parties, which would not have been the case back at Thanksgiving.

Larks, Pipits, Meadowlarks – Just like the open-country raptors, these birds are evaporating with each new subdivision. Other more rural counts had good numbers this year because of the cold weather, but we just don’t have much habitat for these birds anymore.

Blackbirds. Hardly any, which stands in vivid contrast with the huge flocks just a few miles south of us, near Circleville and Chillicothe. Maybe there was enough waste grain down there to keep the flocks from straying too far north.

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