



Song Sparrow



A joint newsletter of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon

September-October 2008
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Grange Insurance Audubon Center Director's Journal

Welcome to the first joint newsletter of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon. In addition to over 2,300 Columbus Audubon members we now have over 140 new Founding members to the Center. This is an exciting time in the history of Audubon! One of the oldest and largest Audubon chapters and one of the largest new urban nature education centers are joining forces to serve the citizens of Columbus.

My journey on this project started in October 2004. I was hired as the Director of the Columbus Audubon Center (now the Grange Insurance Audubon Center). Thanks to years of dedication from folks like Rich Fahey, Pete Precario and Jan Rodenfels and important assessments done by Laura Busby on community needs, I was able to hit the ground running and develop our business plan for the Center. Everything still seemed more like a dream than a reality.

Early supporters like the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, American Electric Power, the Estabrook Trust, and the Columbus Foundation allowed us to take the critical first steps in strategically planning the Center. Their support has never



Heather Starck

wavered.

Our partners on the project, the City of Columbus, Recreation & Parks, and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (Metro Parks), have proved to the community their dedication and desire to bring an urban park and nature center

to the heart of downtown Columbus. So many people have put their hearts and souls into our project and I have to thank Mayor Coleman, Mike Reese, Boyce Safford, Lori Baudro, Andia Sangale, Alan McKnight, Terri Leist, John O'Meara, Larry Peck, Kelly Coffman, and Marshall Reese. There were so many things that could have prevented this project from becoming a reality and you all made huge sacrifices to make this happen. Thank you.

The community as a whole has stepped to the plate and made their desires for the Center heard loud and clear. Our campaign leadership team led by Phil Urban, Yvette McGee Brown, and Jan Rodenfels has

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Columbus Audubon

A note from the president

As the newly elected President of Columbus Audubon, I am so excited to be associated with CA at this particular time. We are celebrating our 95th anniversary this year and beginning an exciting new chapter in our history.

This edition of the *Song Sparrow* will begin our association with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Joint memberships to both organizations along with the newsletter are just a few of the benefits our members will receive.

Existing Columbus Audubon members who are full Audubon members will be grandfathered in as GIAC/CA joint members with all benefits until their next renewal when they may select the type of membership they wish to have.

Your joint membership benefits to members will include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Subscription to *Audubon* magazine
- ◆ 10-percent discount at the GIAC nature store
- ◆ A network of over 140 nature centers around the country that will offer reciprocal admissions and discounts.
- ◆ Discount on GIAC program fees

◆ CA field trips and programs throughout the year

◆ Volunteer opportunities

◆ Invitations to special events at GIAC

◆ Use of equipment lending program at GIAC

◆ Building rental opportunities at GIAC

◆ Bi-monthly *Song Sparrow* newsletter (a joint publication of Columbus Audubon and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center)

◆ An invitation to attend the CA annual meeting

◆ Discounts at partnering affiliates

◆ Voice in CA/GIAC conservation initiatives

◆ Satisfaction that their membership supports learning opportunities for thousands of urban youth each year

Although CA and GIAC will begin sharing a newsletter and membership, each will also maintain their own special identity and activities. Also, keep your eye out for our new Web site, which should launch in the next few months.

As you can see, we all have a lot to be excited about in our 96th year and beyond.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC education programs, construction progress

Construction/design update

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is currently under construction. Our general contractor, Gutknecht Construction Co., is now on-site.

Their work is beginning with our auger cast piling foundation system and the wells for our geothermal heating and cooling system.

Thanks to our amazing design team we have already won two awards from the American Institute of Architects Columbus Chapter and Cincinnati Chapter. Thank you to Design Group, Miles-McClellan Construction, KinzelmanKline Gossman, Heapy Engineering, Shelly Metz Baumann Hawk, Burgess & Niple, Williams Creek Consulting and John Forgos & Associates.



Sustainable Design Award Un-Built Project for 2008.

Small wonders

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center's *Small Wonders* preschool program in partnership with The Columbus Urban League is in its first year.

Audubon staff along with The Columbus Urban League educators at the East Livingston Avenue Head Start location,



Students in the Small Wonders preschool program.

isolated the following objectives for the program:

- ♦Increasing students' ability to observe the extraordinary ordinary wildlife on the preschool's grounds
- ♦Students' demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast quantities
- ♦Students' demonstrate the ability to translate basic life science content such as life cycles and food chains, from the classroom environment, to the preschool grounds and on field trips to the Scioto

Audubon Metro Park near downtown Columbus.

We created a community garden on the only small patch of grass that the preschool had to offer.

The students helped create the garden and it is used in most of the programs as a tool to teach the objectives above.

This age group is an extremely important target audience as many of their attitudes and values regarding the environment are formed at this age.

Great Lakes Restoration Conference

The Fourth Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference entitled "Healthy Lakes 2009 - New Leadership, Real Success" will be held from Wednesday September 10 - Friday September 12, at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Milwaukee, Wisc. The Healing Our Waters®-Great Lakes Coalition will host event.

The theme of the conference addresses the changing political climate in Washington and the opportunity to achieve significant gains for Great Lakes restoration in 2009. All Audubon Ohio members are encouraged to attend.

The registration fee for the event is \$140. The fee includes: All meals, all conference materials and a field trip.

Partial travel scholarships will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

To apply for a travel scholarship, please contact Martha Borie Wood to have your name put on the list at mboriewood@greatlakes.org or 312-939-0838 ext 227. For more information or to register go to www.healthylakes.org/08conference.

Audubon Ohio State Assembly

October 18-19, Quality Inn and Suites, Bellville

This year's Assembly will feature nationally prominent speakers, engaging workshops, enjoyable outings, and best of all, the opportunity to mingle with your fellow birders. The Assembly will run from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, with optional outings on October 19. Keynote addresses will be presented by Dr. Lonnie Thompson, a noted climate researcher and winner of the 2007 National Medal of Science, and Ted Eubanks, a nationally-recognized expert on how to turn enthusiasm for birds and wildlife into conservation action.

The Assembly will feature three tracks of concurrent 90-minute workshops, with three workshops in each track. One track will focus on protection of Important Bird Areas; one on hands-on restoration; and one on engaging young people to be conservation leaders today and in the future. The Assembly will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites, located at the Bellville Exit (Exit 165) on I-71. Lunch and dinner will be held across the street at the Dutch Heritage Restaurant.

For details or to register, visit www.audubonohio.org.

What just zipped into my chimney?

By Darlene Sillick

Have you ever walked past your fireplace in the summer and wondered what was making that loud, high-pitched noise? Have you ever been outside looking at your house and thought you saw what looked like a flying cigar or bat zip down your chimney? If so, Chimney Swifts may be temporary summer residents in your home, and they may be busy raising their young in your chimney.

Chimney Swifts are small to medium size aerial acrobats with long, curved wings and black to dark brown plumage. They have extremely short legs and their family name, Apodidae, means "without feet." They spend most of their lives on the wing, drinking and bathing, copulating and even spending the night in the air. They capture their food in flight. And good news for us: they eat nearly one third of their own weight daily in flying insects and spiders, which includes mosquitoes, biting flies, ballooning spiders and termites.

Swifts are closely related to hummingbirds because they share similar wing structures, characteristics that relate to their very fast wing movements. They are very fast flyers with narrow, swept back wings. Swifts do not perch; instead, they have stiff, spiny tails that aid in clinging vertically to rough surfaces such as the chimneys or silos in which they roost or raise their young. Their nests consist of sticks in a partial stick cup held together with the birds' cement-like saliva.

Four to five nestlings are fed one to three times per hour. The parents carry boluses (bundles or round masses of many insects - a ball of pure protein) in their mouths ready to feed to their nestlings. Both sexes incu-



Photo by Kenn and Kim Kaufman

A Chimney Swift glides in the air.

bate and care for the young, which hatch after about 19 days of incubation and fledge after 28-30 days of feeding.

The very loudest sounds from swifts are made by babies when they are being fed. Although quite loud, there will be only one active nest in any chimney at one time. Normally, by the time the babies become loud enough to be heard, they are less than a couple of weeks from being old enough to feed themselves and leave their nest. After that, most of the noise will be over.

Chimney Swifts are fascinating and extremely beneficial birds, even though their sounds are not music to everyone's ears. Two parents and their noisy young will consume more than 12,000 flying insect pests every day. Unfortunately their numbers are in decline due to loss of habitat.

Historically swifts nested in hollow trees. Like purple martins, Chimney Swifts have become dependent on man-made structures after learning to nest and roost in chimneys and air shafts. The increased use of chimney caps has also reduced nesting sites.

Chimney Swifts are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916. Nests, eggs and birds cannot be removed from

On the Web:

To read more about Chimney Swifts, visit the Columbus Audubon Web site at columbusaudubon.org

chimneys. However, if you see them around your chimney, be sure to close the damper to prevent them from entering your house.

Swifts winter in the Amazon Basin of Peru. Typically they arrive in Ohio in April and depart by October. At the end of the breeding season, the swifts' communal instincts peak prior to fall migration. They congregate by the hundreds and even thousands to get ready for migration. One of the most reliable locations for viewing swifts is in Dublin behind Sells Middle School on Rt. 33/161. Families and birders bring their lounge chairs and wait in the fading sunlight for the swifts to begin their mostly counter-clockwise flight around the large brick chimney. Then as the light dims, suddenly the birds begin to disappear inside the school chimney. Sometimes it appears as if they are being sucked into the vast chimney of the 1919 school building. Over the years, several counters, myself included, have tried to count the swirling mass of twittering, chattering swifts; best counts have been upwards of four thousand plus at that single site. There are many other places to watch swifts in the central Ohio area.

When you find a good spot, please email me at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com. Note the address of the building where you see the birds entering, note whether it is public or private property, and suggest a viewing location. We will post your observations on the Columbus Audubon Web site. Take an interest in birds, you can make a difference.

2008 Columbus Audubon Birdathon raises over \$8,000

By Julie Davis

Year after year, the Columbus Audubon Birdathon is a fun and exciting event for participants and donors alike. And, this year was no exception! Participants searched for birds all over Ohio and beyond. The Low-Carbon Footprinters birded in Columbus using only foot and bike power and other teams also stayed close to home birding at our Metro Parks. CA is once again donating all of our proceeds to the GIAC, to help fulfill our \$100,000 pledge. As such, we will be presenting \$8,044 to Audubon Ohio to be used for the the GIAC. This leaves us only \$27,000 left to fulfill our promise. A big thanks goes out to all of our teams and sponsors for all their efforts. Also, thanks to our two prize sponsors, Bear Run Inn Cabins & Cottages, in the Hocking Hills for donating a night's stay in the Aspen Cabin (won by Suzan Jervey) and to Eagle Optics for their

donation of an Audubon Lightwave 15 spotting scope (won by Jordan Parrott). A special thanks goes to Birdathon committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith and Dave Horn.

There were also several teams that stood out this year. Teams that raised over \$1000 were: **Stellar Jays (\$1325)** and **Wild Birds Unlimited (\$1248)**. Other teams raising over \$750 were: **Low-Carbon Footprinters (\$920)** and the **Slate Run Colored Juncos (\$829)**.

The competition was intense and many teams saw more birds than ever this year, including the top 3 teams. Birding teams that saw the most species this year were: **Westerville Waxwings** with **145** bird species, the **Stellar Jays** with **111** species and this year, **Wild Birds Unlimited** saw the **most** species of birds on their trip, at **161**. Congratulations to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

Columbus Audubon

Coming Up

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

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

Field trips

Wednesday walks at Whittier

Wednesdays, September 3 and October 1, 7:30 a.m.
Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Note: Walks are always held the first Wednesday of the month. Join Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond for a short walk around Whittier Peninsula to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street) Please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666; gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com for more information.

Bird walks at Blendon Woods Metro Park

Saturdays, September 20, October 4 at 8 a.m., and November 1 at 9 a.m.

Leader: Bruce Simpson

Join Bruce Simpson for a short morning walk around the Blendon Woods trails to look for migrating birds. Meet at the nature center.

A swift night out

Saturday, September 6 and Thursday, September 18,
Both programs start at 6:30 p.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Swifts oh my! Join us at Sells Middle School in Dublin to take part in a swift count and a nature walk. Sells is on St. Rt. 161 in Dublin and is just west of the Dublin Rd/161 intersection. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. behind the school parking along the tennis courts. We will first walk to see the Indian Run Falls bridge and gorge walk way. Then we will get out our lawn chairs and prepare to count chimney swifts. Visit <http://www.chimneyswifts.org/> or see the article on page 3 to learn more about Chimney Swifts and why they are so fascinating and important. 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. We have counted over 4000 birds at the height of the fall migration at this site. Contact Darlene Sillick at 761-3696.

Migration along the urban Scioto

Sunday, September 21, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should be peaking as we survey the Scioto River north and south of the Greenlawn dam. North of the dam, in the

future Whittier Peninsula Park, the narrow riparian corridor highlights landbirds, while the Greenlawn reservoir provides a nice target for waterbirds like herons and shorebirds. South of the dam, the bikepath is one of the best forest migrant traps in central Ohio. Afterwards, we'll venture up to the Grandview ponds and bikepath, the northern counterpart to Whittier, to look for accumulated migrants there. We'll meet at the Scioto Park Boat launch (take Whittier west from Front St, and make the first left turn). For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Saturday walks at Whittier

Saturdays, September 27 and October 25, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Same format as the Wednesday walks. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street) Please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666; gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com.

Hawk Mountain PA overnight trip

Friday through Sunday, October 3-5

Leader: Mike Flynn and John Price

Trip attendee limit: 20

Located along the Appalachian Flyway in east-central Pennsylvania, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary offers an outstanding nature experience with its mountaintop vistas, eight miles of hiking trails, and thrilling autumnal raptor migration. In the autumn, the ancestral urge to migrate awakens in birds of prey. They soar south over a very famous promontory that affords a spectacular view of the Allegheny Mountains. In 2007, a group from CA saw over 900 raptors in one day, including ospreys, hawks, falcons and eagles. This is a place that beckons you to return and share in its grandeur and mystery. Come join us. Limited to 20. Private chalet available until full (approx. 10-12 people in 1 chalet). Second chalet or motel are possible options. Reserve early! Fee: \$50 (plus pay own transportation costs). For general questions contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com. To reserve a spot, contact John Price at johno_price@yahoo.com.

Migration at Alum Lake & Hoover Reservoir

Sunday, October 5, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should still be strong as we survey these two reservoirs north of Columbus. We'll start at Alum, 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 & shorebirds, and a trip to Hoover Meadows should round out our lists with marsh & field birds. We'll meet at the Westerville Community Center parking lot (on Cleveland Ave just north of Main Street, about 1.5 mile north of I-270). Bring sturdy shoes

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Conservation lessons from the Philippines

By Heather Raymond

On the opposite side of the world my concept of environmental protection was forever changed. I had traveled to the Philippines as an Audubon Society volunteer to learn more about programs that integrated conservation projects with the health and family planning needs of the local communities.

The Philippines are located in both a marine and forest biodiversity hotspot. They are part of the “coral triangle,” a collection of island nations in Southeast Asia that are home to over 500 of the world’s 700 coral species and over 2000 species of fish. The land areas are similarly diverse and home to over 500 species of birds, including the Philippine Eagle, the largest eagle in the world. In addition, over 76 percent of the Philippines species are endemic, being found nowhere else on earth.

Unfortunately, the Philippines has the highest population growth and deforestation rate in Southeast Asia, and the marine environment is threatened by cyanide, dynamite, and other destructive fishing practices. In the densely populated capital city, Manila, the air quality is the fourth worst in the world, surpassed only by Mexico City, Shanghai and New Delhi. Over half of the population lacks access to safe drinking water, 40 percent of the solid waste is not collected (it’s dumped in rivers instead), and a majority of the wastewater is untreated. Amazingly, however, just 68 miles from Manila lies one of the most diverse old growth tropical forests in the region, an internationally recognized “Important Bird Area” where you can find endemic species like Rufous hornbills and Philippine serpent eagles. These areas are continually threatened by the expanding urban centers, as the region’s population dramatically increases.

Anyone can find these environmental statistics online, but it cannot compare with experiencing them in person. I watched children wade through putrid grey wastewater ditches and the chocolate brown and red Pasig River, polluted from upstream



The Handsome Sunbird is one of several sunbirds endemic to the Philippines.

petrochemical plants, as they scavenged for garbage that could be salvaged and sold. I asked an emaciated indigenous Ayta woman living adjacent to a forest reserve what made her happy and she replied, “selling wild honey so I can feed my children.” Another tribe member said, “even when there’s a dead rat in the ditch, we still have to drink the water.” Many women in both the rural and urban areas told me if they only had access to contraceptives they would choose to have fewer children, and be able to better feed them and perhaps even send them to school.

But there is hope for these people and their spectacular natural environment. I visited sites in both rural and urban areas that integrated conservation and resource protection efforts with basic health services and access to family planning. One of the most successful projects was in a traditional fishing village on the island of Palawan. The World Wildlife Fund worked with local leaders and fishermen to identify diverse coral reefs and establish marine protected areas. Micro-financing was offered and a sea-cucumber farm and fish and crab aquaculture were established by locals. Women opened small shops and sold handicrafts and some of the fishermen started leading snorkeling tours of the protected areas.



The endangered Philippine Eagle is the largest eagle in the world.

Fishermen also were active in patrolling the protected areas for illegal fishing. U.S. AID funds supported immunizations, low-cost contraceptives, reproductive health care and training in family planning. The benefits from the project were many: increased fish stocks, protected coral reefs, diversified economy, reduced childhood mortality, and a reduction in family size from 8 to 2-3 children per family. The locals I spoke with had developed a strong environmental protection ethic and were proud of their accomplishments. Similar integrated population, health, and environment projects have been initiated throughout the Philippines and in the developing world.

Sadly, the global population is projected to double by 2050 and support for family planning projects has declined over the past 6 years. If we are to protect the world’s amazing biodiversity, including numerous species of beautiful birds, we need to support projects that address the current unmet need for family planning and the health of those living near or within biodiversity hotspots. International conservation projects that are not integrated with the needs of the people living in those areas will not be sustainable.

If you would like to learn more about Audubon’s Population, Health, and Environment programs, come to the Columbus Audubon monthly program on September 23.

Annual Birdseed Fund-raiser postponed

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

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

About the center

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center will be striving to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification at the Silver Level. Our design team has worked hard to design a sustainable building and site. Often the most sustainable materials to use are none at all. A few of green design principals that we are using at the center are: building orientation utilizes daylighting, use of Geoexchange heat pumps use constant earth temperature to provide both heating and cooling, minimizing dependence on fossil fuels, low-flow, low water usage plumbing and use of locally available materials to reduce impact of transportation.

Meet the staff

Heather Starck, director GIAC

A marine biologist and Columbus native, Heather Starck was appointed the director of Audubon Ohio's first Audubon center in 2004. She previously held the post of environmental education director at the Monteverde Butterfly Garden in Costa Rica and served as senior educator at Audubon's Everglades Education Center in Miami, Fla. Starck serves on Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman's Young Professionals Commission, Create Columbus and was also chosen by the Academy for leadership and Governance for their Fellowship for Emerging Women Leaders in Columbus.



Heather Starck

Doreen Whitley, School Programs Coordinator/Educator

Doreen has experience with Audubon as a former Program Manager and Educator for Prospect Park Audubon Center in Brooklyn, NY and the Everglades Education Center in Miami, FL. She enjoys working with urban youth. She has also worked with children suffering from severe emotional disturbance as a middle school science teacher in the Bedford Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, FL, Doreen's passion and knowledge of the Florida Everglades led her to the Big Cypress Swamp in Ochopee, FL, where she worked as an interpretive park ranger through the Student Conservation Association. She loves the great outdoors but finds the subtleties and challenges of teaching urban ecology particularly rewarding.



Doreen Whitley

GIAC wish list

If you have a donation for the Center, please call Ellen Armstrong at 614-224-3303.

- * Garden gloves
- * Garden tools
- * Color printer
- * Kayaks
- * Hip waders
- * Fishing tackle and boxes
- * Art supplies
- * Rain ponchos or jackets for children
- * Computer speakers
- * Digital camera in good condition
- * Clipboards
- * Microscopes
- * Field Guides in good shape
- * Office Desks and chairs
- * Spotting Scope
- * Telescope
- * Large Bookcase
- * Laminator

Thank you for your support

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- Crane, Elizabeth
- Crane, Jamie and Tim Hill
- Crane, Jay and Meredith
- Crane, Jim and Ann
- Crane, Loann
- Crane, Michael and Paige
- Crane, Rob and Shannon
- Crane, Sally and John Nance
- Crane, Tanny and John Wolfe
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- Crosby, Thomas
- Crozet Ins. Agency
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- Dick Hill Ins
- Dolan, Alan
- E.W. Smith Agency
- Eagle Rock Ins Agency
- Eastern, Boger, and Gower Ins.
- Ser
- Eaton Insurance
- Edith Estes Ins. Agency
- Edman, James
- Ellis, Jane
- Engelberg, Mr. And Mrs.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Enterprise Rent-a-car Foundation
- Estabrook Trust
- Fast Ins. Co
- Fenner, William R.
- Fidelity/ J and R Edman
- Charitable Fund
- Fish and Associates Inc.
- Fitton, Thomas
- Foy, Krista and Martin
- France and Assoc
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- Georgenson, Phil
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- Gillam, Bill and Susan
- Global Impact
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- Gordon Tower Ins. Agency
- Grange Insurance
- Grange Insurance
- Griffin and Co. Ins
- Gross Ins. Agency
- Guys Insurance Agency
- Hall, Graham
- Hall, Randy
- Hall, Sharon
- Halverson, Linda and Jim
- Hanna, Mr. And Mrs. Jack
- Harris Insurance

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Kirtland's Warbler field trip was fantastic

By Michael Flynn

On a pleasant weekend in June, a group from CA journeyed to Grayling, Michigan on a quest to observe the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. Little did we know that this trip was to become a truly incredible and memorable experience for each one of us, by the success of finding our quarry, and equally significantly by the unforeseen trip experience we would all share in.

We had outstanding success with the birding. The Kirtland's Warblers were on territory and doing well. Six males were serenading in the Jack Pine habitat, giving us great views and the opportunity to appreciate the birds, the place and the experience. We saw many other species of warblers and other neotropicals on the trip. Also, we had excellent views of a pair of Sandhill Cranes with 2 chicks, as well as Common Loons with 2 little ones. We watched as the chicks transferred from the back of one parent to the other. Our total trip list was 84. Among them are Common Raven, American and Least Bitterns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Bobolink, Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrows, and Sedge Wren, to name a few highlights.

As exciting as the birds were, there was another major surprise waiting for us.

Our original plan was to stay in a nearby motel, and to have our meals at local restaurants. This trip pulled twin turbo boosters and blew that completely out of the water. We were able to reserve, just for us, a private custom-built 3-story log home in the country, with a large deck overlooking a pond. Also, among our group we had two very accomplished chefs. We had the thrill and privilege of



By Kim McGuire

One of the Kirtland's Warblers seen on the trip.

delicious home-cooked food, and not mere regular fare mind you, but truly outstanding, award-winning cuisine. Not only did we have this spectacular log home to ourselves, along with this amazing food, there was yet another wonderful thing that happened. When we were not out birding, we were at the log home, hanging out, spending time with each other, bonding, getting to know each other and having a fabulous time. This goes even for the quieter ones among us. Everyone had a great time. I've never heard so much laughter. It was amazing. The camaraderie and friendships that were built will last. This trip was such a positive, rewarding experience, in all the ways you could possibly want it to be.

South Side Settlement wraps up 2007-08 year with spring festival

By Susan Setterlin

With the efforts of CA volunteers partnering with GIAC, students of the after school program at the South Side Settlement House enjoyed a year of discovery learning not only about birds in their own neighborhood, but about birds and habitats and the changing seasons at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park (formerly Whittier Peninsula). As in the past years, students continued their observations of birds at the several feeder stations located on SSS grounds and sent their findings via computer along to Cornell University as part of the neighborhood bird watch program.

The students also assisted in confirming bird species and populations at the GIAC location throughout the seasons. These students got down and dirty by assisting in the planting of trees in the new park as well as weed out the invasive plants that have overtaken the area. The kids learned firsthand the value of neighborhood conservation!

The program year culminated with a "Spring Festival" that highlighted their work throughout the year by displaying their findings both at SSS feeder stations

New series of CA Bird ID cards available

In the several years that the Columbus Audubon Series 1 of bird ID cards have been in circulation, the response has been huge!! Many other organizations have wanted to buy them from us but we have remained firm in our commitment to circulate them as both an education and marketing tool within the community (and beyond!). At local festivals and outreach programs, they have been our "calling card". With the success of the first series, the education committee has started the development of Series 2 comprised of 3 sets: Wetlands Birds, Waterfowl, and Raptors 2. Like Series 1, there will be 5 bird ID cards in each set along with a Columbus Audubon Info card. We are waiting to hear from the Conservation Committee at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium to see if they will again award us a grant to fund this great project. Stay tuned for more updates!

as well as the seasonal fluctuations of birds at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The students, SSS staff and parents also enjoyed live birds from the Ohio Nature Education organization as well as testing their skills with bird trivia, comparing their "wingspan" with that of several of North America's birds, honing their bird ID skills as well as enjoying refreshments of pizza and sodas. Thru the year long activities and the opportunities to assist in field research these students are well on their

way to be great conservators of our world!

Thanks and appreciation were expressed by the staff at SSS, CA and GIAC to the people who made this program possible: Dedicated CA volunteers-Frank & Karen Martens, Betty Daniell, Carolyn Hill, Tami King, Johann Cozart and Susan Setterlin.

Doreen Whitley of GIAC our partner with this program provided great curriculum support as well as thought provoking field studies for the students.

Columbus Audubon & NWF

Backyards for Wildlife Birds, your yard and our planet

By Toni Stahl

I saw my first bagworm in central Ohio. I didn't know what the bagworm was, but my husband lived in North Carolina and knew it well for its damage.

My friend in Cincinnati is having her yard invaded by Kudzu. Both of these pests are from the south but have moved here due to climate change.

So what does that have to do with birds? Birds are our window to Ohio's environmental health. Just like the Eagle warned us of DDT, birds are indicating to us that something's wrong by slightly changing their normal patterns, like moving their residential range north and nesting earlier.

When these new invaders come into our yards, they displace the native plants and the bugs that evolved with them that our native birds need to survive. Native bugs supply tons of protein for birds, and even hummingbirds feed them to their young.

What's behind the changes I'm noticing in my yard? Well, it might have something to do with how quickly we have changed our Ohio landscape. With suburban sprawl, we scrape away soil and put in grass lawns.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air, use it to form plant cells, and release oxygen as a byproduct. Lawn grass roots extend down a few inches at most, but on average, 2/3 of most native plant mass is below ground (their taproots). Some mature prairie grass roots can extend down 15 feet or more.

In turn, native plants capture and store more carbon than lawn because of their deeper taproots. In addition, a recent scientific study (More information about the study by David Inouye is in the article, "Lessons of the Flowers",



By Marc Apfelstadt

Backyard wildlife in our yard in Dublin.

April/May 2008 *National Wildlife* magazine – link under “Info you can use” on our Web site <http://home.columbus.rr.com/nwf-backyardohio/>) showed that short roots cause the soil temperature to rise faster and that warmer soil stores less carbon.

Roughly 1/3 of native plant root structure dies off every year, locking a large proportion of the carbon absorbed during the plant's growing season underground.

So we've accidentally given our birds a double whammy – we release carbon dioxide into the air, take away the plants that could help remove the carbon dioxide, and put in lawns which accelerate the warming temperatures.

If you are planting native plants in your yard to help birds, you are helping to slow not only the birds' problem, but also our future problem with our planet. What you have done in your yard is about more than saving native birds!

Leading by example in your own yard is the best way to get others to follow. Posting a sign helps them understand what you are doing and why. Please email me with questions: marc-

NWF volunteer training

National Wildlife Federation Habitat Volunteer Orientation, Sat., Sept. 20, 9:30am to 1pm, Dublin Library, 75 N. High Street, Dublin 43017 (just east of 161) - Help wildlife and have fun! If you like talking with people and enjoy wildlife, you can help spread the word about creating habitat in landowner's yards.

If you would like to participate, email Toni or Marc at marc-a@columbus.rr.com or call 614-791-0529 from 8am to 7pm.

[a@columbus.rr.com](mailto:marc-a@columbus.rr.com).

Toni Stahl is a habitat ambassador for the National Wildlife Federation.

2009 Entertainment Books for sale

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

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

Columbus Audubon

Eco-Weekend committee extends thanks

The Eco Weekend Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 36th Eco Weekend a success this past May. Everyone said they had a great time – despite the occasional rain showers!

This year there were 36 different programs offered for adults and families! Program subjects included birding (of course! Are we not Columbus Audubon?), insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, mushrooms, trees, stream discovery, moss, reptiles, astronomy, owl walks, canoeing, both gentle nature walks and strenuous hikes and many other nature and craft activities. A total of 62 birds were identified during the weekend at Camp Oty'Okwa, the site of the event in the Hocking Hills west of Logan, OH.

The main Saturday evening program was a presentation by "Musical Mark", who sang many of his own songs about how we interact with nature and how much there is to know about bats! We all participated in some of the songs, and had a great (and educational) time!

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. We also extend our sincere thanks for their effort in offering an excellent salad bar. This new addition to the meals was greatly appreciated by all!

Sincere thanks go to the Program Leaders of the Adult and Family programs: (in order of appearance) Jarrod Burks, Dave Horn, Kim Leach, Mike Huffenberger, David Paris, Patty DeMaria, Heike Perko, Susie Burks, Sharon Treaster, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Lauren Blyth, Bob Klips, John Biesecker, Frank Gifford, Ann Cornell, Judy & Michelle Croft, Mitch Masters, Becky Huffenberger, Tracy Kolp, Christa Hein, Barb White, Mike Flynn, Bob Brugler, Jill Snyder, Allison Shaw, David Sagan, Shirley DenBroeder and Megan DeLaurentis.

We also owe a big debt of gratitude to the Youth Program Leaders: Tara Williams, John Crews, Carole Slone, Marissa and Susan Kelly, Jordan Roach, Josh Calderone, Michelle Croft, George Keeney and Steve Molk. Sincere appreciation goes to Megan DeLaurentis for creating and overseeing the excellent program for the youth. Youth from Pre-K through Grade 8 spent Saturday learning about

skulls and skins, insect collecting and mounting, stream study, and what they could discover on nature walks. It was a fantastic day!

Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic Eco Weekend Committee: Kate Carus, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Cathy Elkins, Roz Horn (including my own name on the list is Lois Day's idea), Connie Kobalka, Liz Melick and Maura Moran. These are the folks that planned it all!

Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2009! It will be held on May 1, 2 and 3, 2009

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) 549-0333. To find out more about Eco-Weekend, check out our website at www.ecoweekend.org.

With many thanks to all the volunteers who together make Eco Weekend a success,

**Roz Horn, Chair
Eco-Weekend Committee**

Conservation corner: Great Lakes Compact OK'd by Ohio

By Dave Horn

After some debate, the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Strickland have approved the Great Lakes Compact. This multistate, international agreement still must be approved by the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament, but it will help protect Great Lakes basin water from mass export to water-thirsty states or to foreign nations. It also will keep Lake Erie basin water from overuse by industry here in Ohio. This is a big victory for the Great Lakes because, although the Great Lakes are vast (holding nearly 20% of the Earth's fresh surface water) they are a limited resource. Scientists estimate that rainwater, snowmelt, and ground-water replenish only 1% of the basin's water. The rest remains a one-time gift from the glaciers, at least until the next Ice Age.

This was a hard fought victory that

many Audubon volunteers contributed to by writing letters, meeting with and calling legislators, and testifying before lawmakers. Please accept a big "thank you" from Columbus Audubon and Audubon Ohio and take a moment to send a letter to your state lawmakers to thank them as well.

Coming Soon: IBA Book

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are central to the Audubon conservation effort locally and nationally (and internationally). "Important Bird Areas of Ohio" is a new book that will provide detailed information on Ohio's 66 Important Bird Areas. The book is due out very soon, and Audubon Ohio is maintaining a list of people who want to receive notice as soon as it is available for sale. For more information, click on the Audubon Ohio website: <http://oh.audubon.org>.

Conservation priorities

Audubon Ohio and National Audubon

are working on strategic 5-year plans that involve focused conservation effort. The Conservation Committee will be looking at our local conservation activities and seek out opportunities to enhance the strategic goals of state and national organizations. The planning effort is still underway but the following strategic goals are identifiable:

- ◆ Increase the number of people taking conservation action.
- ◆ Protect sites and landscapes essential for birds, especially IBAs.
- ◆ Protect at-risk and declining (but still common) bird species.
- ◆ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

You will hear more about this as the new year unfolds.

- Dave Horn (some of this was shamelessly cribbed from AudubonOhio E-news)

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Thank you for your support

Continued from page 6

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Hartford Steam Broiler Inspection
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Jeffrey, Nancy
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Katzenmeyer, Tom
Keck Insurance
Kelley, John A.
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Lauber & Will Ins
Leach, Sara Ann
Levin Foundation (identitytheft911)
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London, Phil and Joani
Lyndall Ins.
Mallory, Richard
Mann Smith & Cummings Ins
Martin, Marshall
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Matson & Agency
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McKendry, Mr. And Mrs
Meder Bush Ins
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Mercer, Guy and Katy
Metro Atlanta Insurance Agency, Inc.
MGA Insurers
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Miller Insurance
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O'Brien, Robert
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Oldham Insurance, Inc.
O'Meara, John and Helen
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Overmire, Peter
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Parry, Caroline B.
Patterson, William
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Pipes Insurance
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Powell-Riley, Ann
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Ramsburg Ins
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Rayner, Caroline
Regan Ins.
Reid Insurance
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Risner, Ray and Judy
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Rivizzigno, Victoria
Robert H. Clarkson Ins. Agen
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Romito, Tom
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Wittkamp Insurane Agency
Woedl, Liz
Wolfe Associates
Wolfe, Victor and Rebecca
Wyman, Bostwick and Linda
Zeehandler & Sebastian
Zehner, Burch and Ellen
Zumbrunnen, Carol

Columbus Audubon

Coming up

Continued from page 4

(for lots of possibly wet walking), snacks, and a windbreaker/jacket if the weather is cold. For more details contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Wild canines: Coyotes and foxes of Glacier Ridge

Saturday November 8, 5 p.m.

Leaders: Mike Flynn, Glacier Ridge naturalist

Meet at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, Honda Wetlands, Education Area. Coyotes and foxes command a strong sense of mystery and intrigue to us. Tonight we will explore the fascinating world of these cunning creatures and anticipate the opportunity of hearing and/or seeing them. Program in conjunction with Metro Parks. For directions to the park, go to www.metroparks.net. For more information, contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Ohio Wildlife Center WildFest

Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Ohio's wild animals, big and small. Enjoy music, great food, games and activities for young and the little older with visits to many of our Ohio native wild animals. The OWC is now open to the public at 6131 Cook Road in Powell on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free for current OWC members and \$5 for non-members. Visit www.ohiowildlifecenter.org for more information.

Delaware County Bird Club meetings

Meetings will be in the new science building on the Ohio Wesleyan University Campus, north side of the atrium, Room 163 at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. For program information and directions go to www.columbusaudubon.org.

Central Ohio Native Plant Society

The Central Ohio Native Plant Society meets on the third Monday from September-June at the OSU Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, Ohio. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. September 15: "Sharing Your Summer Experiences," All members and guests are invited to bring slides and photos of their experiences from Summer 2008. October 20: Cheryl Harner, Gorman Nature Center, Flora-Quest and the Ohio's Heritage Garden, "The 'Attractive'

Landscape-Using Native Plants to Attract Wildlife."

Monthly programs

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

September program

Conservation in the Philippines

Tuesday September 23, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Heather Raymond

On the opposite side of the world my concept of environmental protection was forever changed. I had traveled to the Philippines as an Audubon Society volunteer to learn more about programs that integrated conservation projects with the health and family planning needs of the local communities. Join Heather Raymond to learn more about Audubon's Population, Health, and Environment programs and see pictures of endemic birds and successful conservation projects in the Philippines. For more on her trip, see page 5.

October program

Mongolia - The land of blue sky

Tuesday October 28, 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Barbara and Stephen Revard

Join us at the October program for a journey to Mongolia. As part of a National Science Foundation project Barbara Revard traveled to Mongolia to work with researchers studying Pallas' cats, takhi or Przewalski's horse, and the ecology of steppe regions. The project teamed zoo education staff and Mongolian wildlife biologists with classroom teachers from around the United States. After the research project the Revard's traveled around central Mongolia to look for wildlife, birds, cultural ruins and a paved road. They were mostly successful although the paved road didn't go very far!

Highbanks Metro Park

Family Theme Day: Backyard Birding

Sunday, September 14, 2-4 p.m.

Join Columbus Audubon and learn more about our feathered friends including tips on identification, bird feeding, games, crafts and more. For directions to the park, visit www.metroparks.net. For more CA and Metro Parks programs, go to www.columbusaudubon.org.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center Director's Journal

Continued from page 1

helped us raise \$13.5 out of our \$14.5 million dollar campaign goal. This is unprecedented in Audubon. Grange Insurance stepped to the plate very early on and pledged \$4 million dollars! That was a huge turning point for the project and set the stage for a very successful campaign.

But the Grange Insurance Audubon Center is nothing without our students and community partners. We are so fortunate to have amazing partners in the community that have believed in us and helped us to shape the programs that will be offered at the Center. Southside Settlement House, Central Community House, West Side Boys and Girls Club, Miracle-Gro Capital Kids, Columbus Audubon, the Columbus Urban League, Wilma H. Schiermeier

Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, COSI, the Columbus Zoo & Aquariums, the Ohio Wildlife Center and Livingston Elementary, you ARE the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Thank you! I look forward to the next year and the grand opening of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center! Thank you for your part in making the Center a success. I feel so privileged to be leading such an amazing project from a dream to reality. Your support inspires me every day. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Starck
Center Director
Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Grange Insurance Audubon Center
www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

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School Programs Coordinator: Doreen Whitley, 224-3303

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Columbus Audubon

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Additional chapter leaders:

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, eharrison@ehe.osu.edu
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, 306-8215
Ohio Young Birders: Jackie Bain, 361-4610, Darlene Sillick, 761-3696
Eco Weekend: Roz Horn, 262-0312; Lois Day, (740) 549-0333
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602
Scioto-Whittier IBA Committee: Heather Raymond, 785-0342
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard, 261-7171
CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day, (740) 549-0333
Avid Birders: <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html>

Joint GIAC and Columbus Audubon memberships

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center has teamed up with Columbus Audubon, our Audubon chapter, to provide a joint membership to BOTH organizations.

The Individual rate is \$30 and the Family rate is \$45. When you join the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) and Columbus Audubon (CA) you become a 12 month member of the National Audubon Society as well. Joint membership benefits are:

Subscription to Audubon magazine
10% discount at GIAC nature store
Discount on GIAC program fees
Free CA field trips and programs
Volunteer opportunities
Invitations to special events at GIAC
Building rental opportunities at GIAC
Bi-monthly Song Sparrow newsletter
CA annual meeting and program
Discounts at partnering affiliates
Voice in CA/GIAC conservation initiatives

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