



Song Sparrow



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

Late September-
October 2009
Volume 42, No. 1

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Grange Insurance Audubon Center & Scioto Audubon Metro Park



Photos by Tom Anderson

State and local dignitaries, GIAC staff including center director Heather Starck (holding ribbon for daughter, Ayla, and students from area elementary schools at the ribbon cutting portion of the dedication ceremony on Aug. 28.

Center, park opens to the public

A former industrial site on the Whittier Peninsula near downtown Columbus has been reborn as an urban oasis where visitors can connect with nature. At the heart of this transformation is the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, the latest addition to Audubon's national network of nature centers. The new community resource, on the banks of the Scioto River, is the culmination of a unique partnership between the City of Columbus Recreation & Parks



Gov. Ted Strickland shares a laugh with Phil Urban, CEO of Grange Insurance after the dedication ceremony.

Department, Metro Parks and Audubon Ohio. Over 600 people joined together to celebrate this important milestone in a project that has been many years in the making.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, Paula Brooks, president, Franklin County Commissioners and Audubon Board Chair Holt B. Thrasher attended the ribbon cutting and dedication.

"It's exciting for Audubon to be playing an important role in transforming this urban area into a new and exciting destination," said Thrasher. "We expect the seeds of stewardship will spread within this community and reflect America's diversity and promise and love of nature."

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Scioto Audubon Metro Park truly exemplify the nature of change. Everyone that has been involved in making this dream a reality should be proud of the legacy they will leave behind for generations to come.

"Nature centers have a rich history of forging bonds and creating enduring impacts on the

See GIAC, page 6

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Grange Insurance Audubon Center Director's Journal

Dear Audubon members,

WOW! We did it! There were days that I was not sure we were going to pull this off but as a team we broke through every obstacle and made it happen.

I would like to thank some people that worked behind the scenes to accomplish the monumental task of creating the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, something that we can all be very proud of for years to come.

Doreen Whitley, I have never known someone that works as hard as her. Doreen has dedicated her life in the last three years to the center and every ounce of her creative energy has been expended helping to design the building and exhibits. She designed a school program that really makes a difference in the students lives. Her work on creating and implementing our conservation plan is nothing short of amazing. We are held as a model in the conservation field and Doreen has represented this project at conferences and workshops around the country. The center is a wonderful place because of Doreen. Thank you so much Doreen.

Christie Vargo, our capital campaign was a success because of



**Heather
Starck**

you. Christie worked tirelessly to come up with a plan of action, implement that plan, and coordinate all of the wonderful volunteers involved in the campaign. Without your wisdom and guidance, we would not have been able to pull off a \$14.5 million dollar capital campaign. The years you spent working at night from home with many 60 hour weeks in a row did not go unnoticed. We are here in this building today because of you.

Larry Peck, without your leadership at Metro Parks, we would not be in the building today. I have learned so much from the way you managed this project.

He gave his all every day, didn't take no for an answer, and personally made things happen. We would talk about something on Tuesday and Wednesday morning I would get an e-mail from Larry saying it was all completed. I am sure you are mad that I am even writing this as you always sit back in the wings and give others the credit. Thank you so much, without you the center would not be here today.

Terry McClellan, I don't even know where to start. Terry was our Owner's Representative during design and construction. Coming from the construction field, Terry brought a wealth of knowledge and so much more. He earned the respect of the entire team with his calm demeanor and fairness. Just be careful when he walks into the room with his Grinch tie on! With so many partners and outside entities involved it was an intricate balance between inclusiveness and getting things done. Terry helped me navigate through every situation always coming out with a win-win solution. Terry was such an important part of making this happen and I have to thank him for everything he helped me through. Thank you so much Terry.

The center staff, Christy, Julie, Chris, Wade, Doreen, Joe, Tori, you have all jumped right in and worked extremely hard to get us to opening day. Thank you. Now the real fun begins!

There were so many other people who played an important part of making this a reality. Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way. It truly took a village!

Heather Starck

GIAC wish list

If you have a donation for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, please call Christy Smith at (614) 224-3303.

- Any type of field guide in good shape
- Increment borer
- D-Tapes
- Spotting scope
- Telescope
- Laminator
- Garden gloves
- Garden tools
- Color printer
- Hip waders
- Fishing tackle and boxes
- Rain ponchos or jackets for children
- Computer speakers
- Digital camera

Thank you for your support

New donors for the period of 6-13-09 to 7-31-09

Black, Richard & Alice
Smith, Christy
Boreman, Julie
Corrigan, Mary
Harrison, Alyn
Roirdan, John
Lifshin, Syd
Earth Share Ohio
Bingle, Paul
Barresi, Vincent
Draeger, Steven
Williams, Edwin & Linda

Liebchen, Patricia
Anderson, Tom & May,
Charles & Bonnie
Rector, Susan
Krueger, Charity
Smead, William & Anne
Lilly, Ann
Lindamood, Ellison
Jennings, Joseph
Hoaglin, Thomas
Giammar, David
Columbus Audubon
Bob Evans Farms Inc.
Levitt, Michael & Patricia

Carnate, Mary
Rowntree, Paul
Towns, Beverly
TROUT, MARTHA
McDowell, Daniel
Venz, Martina
Strickland, Victoria
De Maria, Paolo
Bossenbrder, JoAnn
Miles-McClellan Construction
Creadon, Pam
Poole, David
Bricker, Monoca
White, Janet

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC September - October programs

Wednesday Director's Tour

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Join us each Wednesday as Director Heather Starck and Education Director Chris Kline guide participants through the LEED Certified Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the surrounding landscape. No tour Sept. 30. Admission: FREE.

Storytime and Nature Art

Every Saturday, 1 p.m., also offered on occasional Sundays

Younger members of the family will especially enjoy themselves as we combine a storybook from our library with a walk, art project, or puppet show. No Storytime October 3. Admission: Members - \$3; Non-members - \$5. Also, come enjoy Storytime on Sundays Oct. 11 and 25 at 1 p.m.

Friday Lunch Special

Every Friday starting Oct. 9 at noon

Bring a brown bag and enjoy a 40 minute talk on various natural history topics ranging from scary creatures of the Southwest deserts to local conservation topics to world-wide travel. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486 for a detailed schedule. Admission: Members - \$3; Non-members - \$5.

Bird walk

Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.

Join GIAC Educator Joe Jennings as he seeks out our feathered friends as they travel south to overwintering grounds in Central and South America. GIAC is located in the heart of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area, a location known for its diversity of birds. Wear comfortable shoes as some walking will be required. Admission: FREE.

Butterfly Walk

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.

Join GIAC Director of Education Chris Kline as he surveys the butterflies of the Whittier Peninsula. Kline, a monarch butterfly researcher in Arizona, will share identification clues and other information about these garden jewels. Wear comfortable shoes as some walking will be required. Admission: FREE.

Butterfly Gardening: Adding Life to your Garden

Saturday, Sept. 26, 1-3 p.m.

Director of Education and butterfly enthusiast Chris Kline will share gardening secrets that will make your home landscape more



By Stefanie Hauck

View of 'the spit' from the observation platform near the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

butterfly friendly. Come prepared to look at your landscape through the eyes of the butterfly! Admission: Members - \$10; Non-members - \$15. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486 to make reservations.

Date Night

Friday, Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Use Grange Insurance Audubon Center as the excuse to get away with your special someone, without the kids! Find a sitter and join us for an evening of Owl Calling. Sure to be a Hoot! Admission: Members - \$15 per couple; Non-members - \$20 per couple. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486 to make reservations.

Tree Walk

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.

Join GIAC Director of Education Chris Kline as he explores the woody plants that call the Whittier Peninsula home. Fall color will be setting in, so this walk should be especially colorful. Wear comfortable shoes as some walking will be required. Admission: FREE.

Fall Planting: Why to start a New Routine

Saturday, Oct. 10, 1-3 p.m.

Fall is not just a good time to plant trees and shrubs, but is actually the best time. Come find out how planting in the fall can give your plants a "branch" up on the competition! Admission: Members - \$10; Non-members - \$15. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486

to make reservations.

Bird Walk

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.

Join GIAC staff and volunteers as they seek out our feathered friends as they travel south to Central and South America. GIAC is located in the heart of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area, a location known for its diversity of birds. Wear comfortable shoes as some walking will be required. Admission: FREE.

Winterize Your Landscape

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to noon

GIAC Director of Education and former landscaper Chris Kline will provide guidance in preparing your landscape for the impending snow and cold. Remember, the preparations you take now will pay benefits in the spring. Admission: Members - \$10; Non-members - \$15. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486 to make reservations.

Date Night

Friday, Nov. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Spend the evening staring at the stars with your favorite person as we use the telescopes to make sense of the night sky. Leave the kids with a sitter. Admission: Members - \$15 per couple; Non-members - \$20 per couple. Take \$2 off the admission price with the donation of two non-perishable food items. Donations will go to local food pantries. Call Chris at (614) 545-5486 to make reservations.

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

Fall migration along the Darby corridor

Sunday Sept. 20, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should be peaking as we visit some of the best bird areas along the Darby Creeks. We'll start at the beautiful Darby Bend Lakes, trolling for early waterfowl and late swallows, then work our way south through Sycamore Plains, the Darby Dan wetlands, and the forests and prairies of Battelle-Darby Metro Park. This corridor produces a great diversity of migrants, and the variety of habitats we'll visit should give us a chance at a good list of them. Meet at the Darby Bend Lakes area of Prairie Oaks Metro Park; trip should be over by 1 p.m. Wear sturdy shoes for walking and bring windbreakers/rainwear, as several of these spots are quite exposed to the weather. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Wednesday walk at Scioto-Audubon Metro Park

Wednesdays, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4, 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.

Migration at Alum Creek & Hoover Reservoirs

Saturday, Oct. 3, 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 Creek, where the small woodlands at the southern end of the lake are excellent migrant traps and the wide lower reservoir attracts a wide variety of waterfowl. After taking in the morning migrants there, we'll move to the upper end of nearby Hoover Reservoir. The mudflats of the Hoover Nature Preserve should be infested with ducks and shorebirds, and a trip to Hoover Meadows should round out our lists with marsh and field birds. We'll meet at the Westerville

See Coming up, page 9

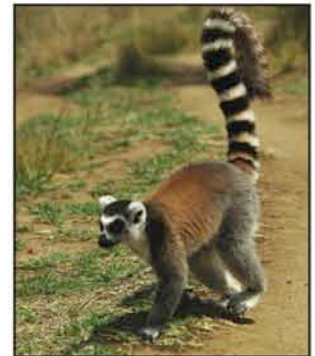
CA September & October Program s Tuesday, Sept. 22, and Oct. 27

7 p.m., social time, 7:30 p.m., presentation
at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus

Madagascar: Paradise in Peril

On Sept. 22, Bill Heck leads us on an adventure to Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island. This island nation provides a fascinating range of unique and endemic birds, primates, reptiles, and other animals and plants.

At the same time, the pressures of a large and rapidly growing human population, as well as



See Madagascar, page 9

Iraq: Birding from the Trenches

On Oct. 27, join us to be amazed at the variety and abundance of wildlife occurring on the edge of Iraq's western desert! Maj. Randel Rogers of the Ohio Army National Guard will discuss the birds and other wildlife he observed during his recent assignment in Iraq. While stationed at Al



Maj. Randel Rogers.

Asad Airbase, Maj. Rogers encountered 124 species of birds, and many of the region's mammals, including the elusive jungle cat. Photos and videos of some of these encounters will be shown. He

See Iraq, page 9

New!! Just for Kids program

Kids of all ages are invited to learn all about nature at the brand new Grange Insurance Audubon Center at 6:30 p.m. on CA program nights with CA board member Jackie Bain. Parents will have the opportunity to learn something new about nature too at the adult program. Every month will be a new adventure for both the adults and kids alike! Please plan on joining us.

2009 Birdathon raises over \$11, 500 for GIAC

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 again birded in Columbus using only foot and bike power and other teams also stayed close to home birding at our Metro Parks. Columbus Audubon is once again donating our proceeds to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, to help fulfill our \$100,000 pledge. This leaves us only \$15,000 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, Red Maple Inn Bed & Breakfast in Burton Ohio for donating a night's stay (won by Bill Heck) and to Eagle Optics for their donation of Vortex Fury 8x 42 binoculars (won by Deb Marsh). We also want to thank Backyard Experience on High St. in Clintonville for helping with our door prizes. Running the Birdathon takes the hard work of many people. A special thanks to committee members Katelyn Renard, Elaine Smith, Dave Horn and Julie Davis.

There were also several teams that raised amazing donations this year. Teams that raised over \$1000 were: **Low-Carbon Footprinters (\$1025)**, **Stellar Jays**

(\$1166) and **Wild Birds Unlimited (\$3753)**. Also standing out were the **Scarlet and Gray Tanagers (\$970)**.

The competition was intense and the weather iffy at times, but the teams persevered, including the top 3 teams. Birding teams that saw the most species this year were: **Westerville Waxwings** and **Wild Birds Unlimited**, tied at 152 species.

Quick Three Beards saw the most species of birds on their trip, at 165. Congratulations and thanks to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

-Julie Davis

Backyard Experience
Chick-a-dees -75
Gerry Brevoort
Joan Frederick
Nina Hawranick
Lynn Singleton

Chestnut Ridge
Chachalacas - 100
Bill & Eric Reiner
Scott Felker
Eleanor Nunley

Deck Birds - 1
Cheri Brown
Pat Barron
Bev May
Pete Precario

Low Carbon
Footprinters - 75
Dave Horn
Katelyn Renard
Marty Kotter

Magee Madness - 88
Michael Packer
& field trip participants
(details in May newsletter)

Marsh Madness - 100
Bill & Deb Marsh

Metro Parks
Stellar Jays - 90
Jim Davidson
Joe Meara
John O'Meara
John Watts

Neat Nests - 40
Scott & Whitney Jaeb

Sabrina & Kiersten Jaeb
Fred Lancia
Del & Jordan Parrott

No Egrets - 80
Becky Cummings
Elaine & Larry Smith
Roger Stout
Laura Thomas

Pelicans - 40
Mark & Lauren Richards
Benjamin & Riley Richards

Quick Three
Beards - 187
Dave Horn
Bill Whan

Red-Eyed
Weary-os - 100
Earl & Alyn Harrison
Joe Eickholt

Scarlet &
Gray Tanagers - 70
Joe & Susanne Gatesman
Barb & Stephen Revard
Mark & Susan Setterlin

Slate (Run) Colored Juncos - 100
Andrea Haslage
Lauren Metcalf
Lori Patterson
Brad Sparks
Joshua Steele

Swans and Coots - 70
Alan Cohen
Clyde Gosnell
Paul Knoop
Katelyn Renard

Marlene Woo Lun
Louise Warner

Three Hens
and a Fox - 50
Suzan Jervy
Doc Jordan
Chrissy Phieffer
Darlene Sillilck

Two Footed Boobies - 90
Marcia Brehmer
Marion Farber
Melanie Shuter
Mary Kay Wood

Two in a Bush - 65
Patty DeMaria
Elaine Fujimora
Biani Moran

Westerville
Waxwings - 140
Jackie & Tom Bain
Julie & Ken Davis
Rob & Ricki Lowry

Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside - 170
Michael Flynn
Bill Heck
Steve Landes
Tom Sheley

Whichey Witches - 50
Tamara James
Kristan Leedy

World Series
Birders - 150
John Price
Heather Raymond
Two West Virginians

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC and the Scioto Audubon Metro Park officially open

Continued from page 1

people they reach, particularly the school children who will be visiting the center, “ said Heather Starck, center director.

Our education programs are gearing up for the 2009-2010 school year. We have 6 schools signed up for our Conservation Classroom program: Livingston, Siebert, Stewart, Fariwood, Weinland Park, and Heyl Elementary Schools. These schools will come for either 24 half day or 12 full day visits throughout the school year.

Our community programs are also starting with programs like storytime, nature art classes, Friday lunch and learn, butterfly gardening, and even adult date nights.

The Center will be open 6 days a week and will offer a variety of programming for children and adults. The hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are still in need of volunteers (especially on weekends), please call or email Chris Kline at ckline@audubon.org or 614-545-5486 if you are interested in joining the team.

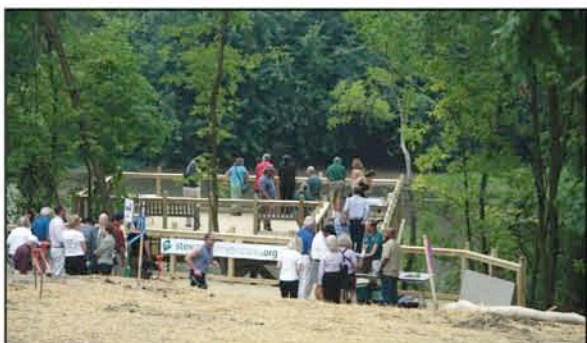


Photos by Tom Anderson

(Above) A Metro Parks ranger watches the dedication ceremony with the center in the background. (Right) Heather Starck, GIAC director speaks at the event.



(Above) Heather Starck's daughter, Ayla, has a little fun inside the puppet stage after the dedication ceremony. (Left, top) GIAC Education Director Chris Kline leads students from Columbus City Schools on a nature walk. (Left) visitors check out the observation deck near the center.



Grange Insurance Audubon Center



Photos by Tom Anderson

Students from Columbus City Schools check out a display case inside the center.



View of the back deck of the center.

GIAC features

Building Features

- Explicit passive solar design
- Sun-shading devices
- Bird Friendly Fritted Glass with a unique frit design to reduce solar gain and protect from bird strikes
- Operable windows
- Solar tracking feature – “sundial” embedded in floor
- Color coded horizontal window mullions marking shadows cast at key points of the year
- Extensive exterior view opportunities
- Vegetated “green” roofs
- Artful downspouts to convey roof run-off to site features
- Ground source heat pump “geothermal” system
- Exhaust airflow energy recovery
- Daylight harvesting

■ Light pollution control

- Waterless urinals

Site Features

- Elevated ground plane providing clean fill barrier above impacted soils
- Constructed wetland and rain garden tied to building storm run-off
- Extensive pervious hardscaping
- Native Ohio xeriscaping strategy
- Extensive vegetated bioswale
- On-site storm water processing
- Steel salvaged from former site structures to be used for site sculpture
- Nature play and outdoor learning areas
- Outdoor learning area
- Nature Play learning nodes
- Demonstration gardens
- Rain Garden and wetland demonstration areas

GIAC tree quiz: How well do you know your woody neighbors?

Trees are more than just perches for birds. Many of our local woody plants have very interesting stories and uses, and have found their way into our hearts and local folklore. How well do you know your woody neighbors? The answer to each question below is a woody plant species that is found on the Whittier Peninsula. For the answers to these questions and more attend the Grange Insurance Audubon Center’s Tree Walk on Saturday, Oct. 10. (See *GIAC programs* on page 3 for details.)

1. This tree, native to Asia, gets its name from its fast, straight growth. It is also known for smelling like peanut butter.

2. This native tree is known for its warty bark. It is also the caterpillar host plant for

the American Snout and Tawny Emperor butterflies.

3. GIAC staff is using this aromatic shrub to replace invasive honeysuckle. One species of swallowtail butterfly is especially found of this shrub.

4. This tree is not only an Ohio native, but is also used in the landscaping trade. Horticultural varieties have had the large thorns bred out of them!

5. This native maple is frequently confused with Poison Ivy when it is young.

6. This native tree is used for making Louisville Slugger baseball bats because the wood is strong, flexible, and light weight. It is also known for being attached to large purple boxes!

7. This native tree is not only known for

its unique, ghostly bark but is also one of the few tree species in which the leaf scar completely surrounds the bud in winter condition.

8. The dark, juicy fruits of this introduction from eastern Asia are a favorite of Cedar Waxwings and Audubon educators!

9. This thorny native, with beautiful racemes of white flowers in late spring, is the caterpillar host plant for the Silver Spotted Skipper butterfly.

10. Graphical representations of this native tree are commonly seen near the intersection of Woodruff Ave. and Tuttle Park Place in Columbus on autumn Saturdays. While the seed is poisonous, the candy by the same name is quite tasty!

Backyards for Wildlife

Go Green when cleaning up your yard this fall

By Toni Stahl

A friend dropped by for a fall visit to see the yard. We sat on the front porch laughing and enjoying the birds splashing in the bird-bath. She turned and asked me 'Why did you kill your purple coneflowers? Why are you leaving them standing dead when the rest of your yard is so beautiful?'

A second later, a goldfinch answered her question before I could. It landed beside her on the other side of the screen and started eating. She was in awe as she saw up close how it peeled the shell, dropped it and swallowed the seed. 'Wow!' she whispered.

What do you see when you look at a flowerbed that has gone to seed? I see beautiful songbirds, natural mulch that retains water, tiny leaf-litter animals improving soil, materials for next year's native bird nests, and cover for bugs that are a critical part of our food chain.

Leaf litter is much different than most human litter. It is used and recycled by the soil food chain.

Being a neat freak in the yard not only destroys habitat value, but it's impor-



By Marc Apfelstadt

Common Yellowthroat finds bugs to eat in leaf litter.

See Green, page 10

Green cleanup checklist

- Plant plugs of native perennials (best suited to Ohio, birds depend on them)
- Propagate desirable plants (seeds, cuttings, etc.)
- Divide older, spring-blooming perennials
- Keep leaves in beds as a natural mulch and as cover for Beneficial insects
- Apply Corn gluten (Preen is one manufacturer) to the lawn when it first turns cold to retard broad-leaf weed seeds
- Apply organic lawn fertilizer during rapid root growth, from September to hard frost
- Leave seed heads on flowers and native grasses standing until Mother's Day for birds to eat
- Leave plant materials for spring bird nest creation
- Remove lawn to add garden space - Don't break your back! Use the 'lasagna newspaper' method to prepare for next year's new flowerbed:
 - a) Overlap 6-10 layers of newspaper (any kind but the shiny colored type, most other color in newspapers is now made with soy ink) and wet thoroughly
 - b) Cover with 4-6" shredded hardwood mulch or dirt over the winter. Newspaper will break down before spring.
- Remove invasive, exotic plants (www.oipc.info/)
- Make a small brush pile in an out-of-the-way corner for winter cover
- Clean bird feeders and baths with a 10% bleach solution and rinse thoroughly

Eco-Weekend committee extends thanks

The Eco-Weekend Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 37th Eco-Weekend a success this past May.

This year there were 36 different programs offered for adults and families. The main Saturday evening program was a presentation of "Feathered Friends" by the Columbus Zoo. We saw a total of 72 birds over the weekend at Camp Oty'Okwa, the site of the event in the hills west of Logan. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, stream discovery, nature photography, reptiles, moss, astronomy, owl walks and many other activities.

We had 35 Program leaders for the Adult/Family programs, and an additional 11 leaders for Youth programs. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.

Sincere thanks go to the **Program Leaders of the Adult and Family pro-**

grams: Jarrod Burks, Chip Adams, Kim Leach, Mike Hufferberger, David Paris, Jamie Kidwell, Patty DeMaria, Susan Burnside-Kelly, Becky Hufferberger, Katryn Renard, Susie Burks, Darlene Sillick, Mike Maier, Dave Horn, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Lauren Blyth, Bob Klips, John Biesecker, Frank Gifford, Ann Cornell, Barb White, Kim Banks, Marne Titchenell, Lisa Adams, Suzan Jerve, Gisela McDonald, Jeff Gordon, Christa Hein, Mike Flynn, Mary Novak, Bob Brugler, Nicki Schneider, David Sagan and Pat Adams.

We also owe a big debt of gratitude to the **Youth Program Leaders:** Erin Flucke, Josh Bryant, Ben Diehl, Carole Slone, Jacki Zevenbergen, Lilian Selbe, Jeff Gordon, Joe Meara, David Breithaupt, Lisa Adams, Jim Snyder, Michelle Croft and Steve Molk. Sincere appreciation goes to Megan DeLaurentis and Cathy Elkins for creating

and overseeing the excellent program for the youth. Youth from Pre-K through Grade 8 spent Saturday learning about insects, birds, plants, stream discovery, skulls and skins, recycling, and nature photography. It was a fantastic day!

Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic Eco-Weekend Committee: Lisa Adams, Paulette Ariss, Kate Carus, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Jane Dean, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Cathy Elkins, Becky Hufferberger, Connie & Walt Kobalka, Liz Melick, and Maura Moran.

Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2010 April 30 - May 2 at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the Eco-Weekend Committee or volunteering as a program leader, call (740) 549-0333. To find out more about Eco-Weekend, check out our Web site at www.ecoweekend.org.

Roz Horn, Chair
Eco-Weekend Committee

Coming up

Continued from page 4

Community Center parking lot (on Cleveland Ave just north of Main Street, about 1.5 mile north of I-270). Bring sturdy shoes (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.

Bird hikes at Blendon Woods

Saturdays, Sept. 19, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7, 8 a.m.

Leader: Bruce Simpson

Check out winter residents and wintering waterfowl as we wander the trails. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, explore Thoreau Lake and other trails for spring migrants. Call (614) 508-8000 for more information or go to www.metroparks.net.

OWC annual WildFest and Red Tail Run

Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This year's **Red Tail Run** will include a 5k run and walk (now called the Fledgling 5), as well as a longer course, the Red Tail Migration, which is approximately 11k, winding even further through scenic Delaware and Union counties. The beauty of the course is unparalleled in central Ohio, especially during the fall as the leaves are changing colors. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the run takes flight at 9 a.m. **WildFest** kicks off at 9:30 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m. The festival celebrates Ohio's native wild animals with live music, food, children's activities, fishing and donated artwork. This year's WildFest is also a celebration of OWC's 25th Anniversary. There will be photo collections and presentations throughout the day. This year's event is sponsored by American Electric Power-Ohio.

Hocking Hills Zipline Canopy Tour

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2:30 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

Cost: \$85 per person; limit: 16; reservation deadline: Oct. 1

This exciting trip on Ohio's first world-class zipline adventure will take us to the Hocking Hills, one of the most scenic regions of Ohio, during one of the most spectacular times of the year. Our spring trip was amazing, and it was so safe and professionally operated that we wanted to reserve it during fall color season so that more people could experience it. ****NOTE:** Before reserving a space on this trip, you must first review their Web site for important information about the trip at www.hockinghillscanopytours.com. To reserve your space(s) or for other trip questions, contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com or call (614) 769-1681.

Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski, Indiana

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 6-8, 2:30 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

Cost: \$25 per person plus all other travel costs; limit: 15 (subject to lodging availability); reservation deadline: Oct. 24

Note: Friday, Nov. 6 is optional. Carpooling may be possible; arranged by participants. This is an amazing experience. Beginning in September and continuing throughout the autumn season, Sandhill Cranes arrive at Jasper-Pulaski from their nesting grounds in Canada and the northern U.S. They gather here as they feed and rest, in preparation for the balance of their migration to the southern U.S. Their numbers build to a peak in November, sometimes

reaching 20,000 to 30,000 cranes. It is a 4-1/2 hour drive to observe this spectacular wildlife phenomenon. We look forward to a thrilling experience as these great birds call to each other and fly in and out of the refuge area. For reservations and questions contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com or call (614) 769-1681.

Service in the Preserves

Lou Cambell State Nature Preserve

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 10-11, 7:45 a.m.

Our overnight service project this autumn will be in a state nature preserve recently opened to the public. The Lou Cambell SNP is in Lucas County, near Toledo.

It is rich with wet sedge meadows, swamp forest, sand dunes, sand barrens prairie and oak openings. These diverse microcosms host quite a variety of rare wildflowers.

Our task will be to construct a small observation deck that overlooks a pond that was dug a long time ago (possibly to gather material for the turnpike). Pied-billed grebes successfully nested there last year. We will be camping overnight and there may be a fee associated with this. More details will be available when you RSVP.

All skill levels are welcome. Please call Katryn Renard by Monday, Oct. 5 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and to help us determine tool requirements.

Bring your lunch for Saturday, water, work gloves, appropriate foot gear, and camping equipment. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided for a nominal fee.

Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road. Please complete the Dept. of Natural Areas volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treasurer.l@osu.edu for forms or fill one out on the morning of the trip). We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Madagascar

Continued from page 4

political instability, threatens its unique flora and fauna.

Join Bill Heck for an overview of the fascinating fauna of this beautiful land and a look at the challenges that may darken its future.

Bill Heck is a long-time Audubon member and an even more avid long-time birder. Bill

currently serves on the Board of Columbus Audubon and Audubon Ohio. He has traveled extensively in North, Central, and South America, as well as Africa. Last fall, he completed a four-week trip to Madagascar, where he was delighted to see more than 80 of the 89 avian species endemic to the island. Bill and his wife, Mary, live in Westerville.

Iraq

Continued from page 4

also interacted with Nature Iraq, the non-governmental organization responsible for

surveying and protecting Iraq's wildlife and natural habitat, and will highlight their efforts and what Ohio birders can do to help.

Columbus Audubon

A note from the President of Columbus Audubon

Entering my second year as President of Columbus Audubon, I am so happy and honored to be associated with CA at this particular time.

With the grand opening of the new Grange Insurance Audubon Center, we are entering an exciting new chapter in our

history.

Columbus Audubon is eager to start enjoying our new home at GIAC. We will have a new phone number, storage closet and our own space, the *Song Sparrow* volunteer room! Our monthly programs will move to the center starting on Tuesday

Sept. 22 at 7:30 pm, social time at 7 p.m.

I want to encourage each of you to visit the center this fall and begin to take advantage of our new home. As we near our 100th anniversary, this is truly an historic and memorable time for Columbus Audubon and our members.

Green cleanup

Continued from page 8

tant to us too. "Perhaps solid waste landfills ... are the single largest man-made source of methane in the United States" adds Janet Marinelli in an article from the *National Wildlife Magazine* at www.nwf.org/NationalWildlife/printerFriendly.cfm?issueID=124&articleID=1646

Joe Lamp'l writes about landfills in his book called *'The Green Gardener's Guide:'* "As organic matter attempts to decompose, in the absence of sufficient oxygen, methane is created. A powerful greenhouse gas, methane is 23 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide."

The weather is cool, and it makes you feel like you need to be outside doing something. Don't worry, there's still a lot you can do to enhance your yard for birds! Here's a dozen to choose from for starters.

Get Certified: Putting up National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat sign helped me explain to others what I am doing and encourages others to help birds too.

Lessons learned? If you're interested, email me at marc-a@columbus.rr.com.

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 is proud to announce Series 2 is now in circulation. Series 2 is comprised of 3 sets: Wetland Birds, Waterfowl, and Raptors 2. Like Series 1, there are 5 bird ID cards in each set along with a Columbus Audubon information card. Look for the cards at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, the Ohio Wildlife Center's Wildfest and other upcoming events and programs.

Ohio Lepidopterists slate fall, early winter programs

Upcoming events

Butterfly Observer's Group Meeting at the Upper Arlington Library on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. **Topic:** Monarchs! GIAC Education Director Chris Kline's program provides a wonderful insight to this amazing butterfly.

ID Day & Fall Meeting at the Museum of Biological Diversity on Oct. 17 at 9 a.m.

Butterfly Observer's Group Meeting at the Upper Arlington Library on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. **Topic:** Butterflies of Costa Rica Greg Ratterman will share pictures and

stories from his recent trip to Costa Rica.

The purpose of The Ohio Lepidopterists society is to promote interest in the butterflies, skippers and moths of Ohio and neighboring states by engaging in activities designed to increase the general knowledge of the butterflies, skippers and moths, by disseminating scientific information and by encouraging conservation. The Ohio Lepidopterists is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of Ohio.

Web site: www.ohiolepidopterists.org/.

2010 Entertainment Books for sale

By popular demand Columbus Audubon again offers Entertainment Books for sale. Books are available for \$25 each from the bird feeding supply stores listed below now through December 15. Proceeds from the sale will support Columbus Audubon's educational activities and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

Better Earth	59 Spruce St., Columbus (North Market)	224-6196
Backyard Experience	3515 North High St., Columbus	261-0355
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 horn.1@osu.edu

Conservation corner: More on climate change

By Dave Horn

As the “Song Sparrow” deadline approached, I attended yet another presentation on climate change. Although I highlighted this issue a year ago, the political climate has changed.

Also, I’m aware of more efforts in this area, so I thought I’d provide an update.

To recapitulate from a year ago: The data are there — atmospheric and oceanic temperatures are rising, glaciers and arctic ice are receding, the USDA has revised its Plant Hardiness Zones, pikas are moving upslope and we’re seeing more southern butterflies in central Ohio. Global temperatures are rising, and the argument persists over whether this is a “natural” or human-caused phenomenon. I don’t know the

answer to that, but I do know that we can reduce human impact.

What I learned recently is that Audubon has a lot of allies in the concern for climate change. There is a “United States Climate Action Partnership” (<http://www.us-cap.org/>) composed of some unlikely corporate and nonprofit allies, among which are Chrysler, ConocoPhillips, Deere & Company, Dow Chemical Company, Exelon Corporation, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, The Nature Conservancy, PepsiCo, Shell, and Siemens Corporation. (No endorsements are implied.) I was surprised to see such diverse organizations joining forces to address impact of global warming.

In the political arena, the U.S. House of

Representatives has passed H.R. 2454, the Clean Energy and Security Act. The issue is now before the U.S. Senate.

There is the usual oversupply of Web sites you can consult for information on the Bill; my favorite (although biased toward my viewpoint) is <http://www.gov-track.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454>.

In any event, I would urge you to contact your senators and voice your support of the senate version of H.R. 2454. (This is America, of course, so you are free to disagree with me and to let your elected officials know that.)

Meanwhile, what can we continue to do locally? Conserve: drive less, save energy, recycle, reduce meat consumption.

And plant a tree. Better yet, two trees, or more.

Invasive species: Callery pear - *Pyrus calleryana*

By Pete Knopp

In the United States, most people have been exposed to invasive plants even if they haven’t realized it. For example, dandelions are commonplace in yards and along roadsides. Privet and honeysuckle are other examples. How a plant becomes invasive is a complex topic. Often, a plant becomes invasive by producing prodigious amounts of seed — much more so than native species, while at the same time being relatively free from deer herbivory, or insects and diseases that may keep a species in check. Site conditions (available nutrients, soil pH, moisture and light) also play an important role.

If you are considering planting a non-native ornamental plant, a general rule regarding “plant invasiveness” is that about 10% of non-native plant species are successful in becoming introduced in the areas where they are planted, and about 10% of those become fully established. The callery pear, which includes varieties such as the well-known Bradford pear, is an ornamental, deciduous tree that has followed this track.

Callery pear trees were introduced from China in the early 1900s and have since become very popular as ornamentals for their spring flowers and autumn foliage. This species is sold in several varieties including the Bradford, Aristocrat and Cleveland Select. Callery pear is tolerant



Callery pear leaves

of pollution, and in Ohio, callery pear thrives in fine-textured glacial till — the “heavy clay” that dominates many landscapes.

Callery pear can attain a height of 40 ft with an equal spread.

Some varieties such as Bradford produce very dense branching with tight crotches that tend to split rather easily and severely, especially in moderate to severe winds.

Twigs are brown, occasionally with longitudinal ridges extending along the twig, often full of spur shoots — short stubby branches crowded with bud scale scars and leaf scars resulting from slow growth.

Escaped, naturalized trees tend to produce fewer spur shoots. Others report dense thorns on escaped trees.

Buds are large, ovoid, densely woolly,

grayish brown. The leaves are simple, heart-shaped to oval, and shiny with wavy, slightly-toothed margins, and occur alternately along the twig.

Profuse, malodorous, white flowers are produced in early spring, producing a brown, spheroid fruit, about ¼” to ½” in width.

Fruit persists well into winter, and is favored by European starlings. In the 1980s and 1990s callery pear was heavily planted in urban areas.

Hybrids among cultivars led to the production of fruit with viable seed, and callery pear has become an aggressive invader in many areas. Several states list callery pear as an invasive species.

The Maryland Invasive Species Council lists callery pear as a species of concern because it is recognized by biologists and resource managers as degrading natural ecosystems and displacing native species.

Consider planting native plants that are adapted to the growing conditions in your area.

Control of large callery pear can be achieved by cutting followed by application of undiluted glyphosate concentrate to the outer 2 inches of the cut stump surface.

Small trees and saplings should receive glyphosate over the entire cut surface.

If you decide to apply herbicide, wear gloves and eye protection, and be sure to carefully follow the instructions on the label.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center
www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

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Columbus Audubon

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Avid Birders: <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html>

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Special events at GIAC this fall



Halloween on the Whittier 2009
Friday October 30 5-9 pm

Join us for our first trick or treat night! The family fun will include face painting, pumpkin art, an owl program with owl walk afterwards, cemetery of extinction, and of course CANDY! Also learn the true story of the animals we usually associate with Halloween. Come dressed as your favorite ghost or goblin! Admission \$1 per person when accompanied by a child under age 12! \$5 for unaccompanied adults. Call Joe at 614-545-5482 for more details.

Wingding on the Whittier

Join the party as Columbus celebrates the opening of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in the heart of the new Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Come see for yourself the beauty of this urban nature center!

What: Wingding on the Whittier – A Night Out With Nature

When: Friday, September 25 – 7 p.m.

Where: Grange Insurance Audubon Center, 505 West Whittier Street, Columbus

Individual tickets – \$150
Sponsorship Levels
Cliff Swallow (\$1,500)
Red-headed Woodpecker (\$3,000)
Osprey (\$5,000)
Bald Eagle (\$10,000)

