



Song Sparrow



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

November-December 2010
Volume 43, No. 2

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Send editorial submissions to
Stefanie Hauck, editor,
at stefanie.hauck@gmail.com

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC facility certified LEED Gold

We're excited to announce that the Grange Insurance Audubon Center is officially a LEED Gold Certified Project.

LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the sustainability measurements that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

LEED certification for new construction is based on a potential 69-point grading system. Depending on the number of points achieved, a submitted project could receive a rating of Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum.

This is the culmination of an exciting and rewarding three-year design and construction process led by Audubon, Design Group, Heapy Engineering, Burgess & Niple, Shelly Metz Bauman Hawk, Miles McClellan, Kinzelman Kline Gossman, and Metro Parks.

Also, special thanks to goes to our LEED coordinator, Ryan Hoffman from Heapy Engineering.

"We set our initial goal to achieve a Silver level certification," said Executive Director Heather Starck. "However, in the process of designing the building to achieve our conservation and educational goals...we managed to achieve Gold."

Building features and benefits that pushed the GIAC to the Gold certification include:

- Explicit use of passive solar design
- Minimal use of materials
- Unique frit design on windows to reduce solar gain and protect from bird strikes
- Occupancy sensors that help control usage of lighting systems
- Vegetated "green" roof
- 56-percent more energy savings than the building code requires
- 48-percent water savings from low-flow fixtures and waterless urinals
- 100-percent of the furniture has recycled content
- 100-percent of all occupied spaces in the building have access to daylight
- A mixture of drought tolerant and native plantings were chosen for their ability to thrive in the urban environment

•Impervious paving on the site was minimized to allow water to filtrate through the soil and provide water to plants

•90-percent of the storm water is diverted from the sewer system

•Low or no "volatile organic compounds" were used for paints, carpets, flooring, adhesives, and wood/agrifiber products

•The project is a redevelopment of a "brown field" site

•Artful downspouts to convey roof run-off to raingardens

•Ground source heat pump "geothermal" system

•Exhaust airflow energy recovery

•Daylight harvesting

•Light pollution control

•Composite decks made from 98-percent recycled and reclaimed plastic and wood fibers.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center serves as a wonderful example to homeowners, small business owners, and even large corporations that sustainable design and operations are achievable and cost effective.

"The architecture is highly didactic and hands-on, as the building itself becomes the teacher," said DesignGroup project manager Keith DeVoe. "We are extremely proud of this facility and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our city's youth as they become good environmental stewards."

To members and those of you who contributed to the capital campaign for the Center, look for a special note soon about our "We've Got Gold" celebration event and we invite everyone to stop in to see our new LEED plaque.



Photo courtesy of Feinkopf Photography

The GIAC facility has recently been certified at the LEED Gold level.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC staff highlight: Meet Allison Roush

Allison Roush joined the GIAC team in April as a part-time educator to develop our Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs and birthday parties.

While serving in that capacity, Allison has shown an amazing dedication to the center by creating new and innovative programming. Recently, Allison earned the position of full-time educator.

"Allison makes everyone around her better, she lifts up the entire team," said Director of Conservation Doreen Whitley.

Tori Strickland, GIAC educator, enjoys working with Allison because she is always enthusiastic and is a quick learner.

The two will lead our school programming for the year which kicked off on Oct. 4. We have a school program every day straight through until Winter Break.

Allison and her husband are the proud parents of two boys, Carson, 6, and Mason, 10. After tak-



Allison Roush

ing off 10 years to raise her family, Allison comes to the center with over four years of experience teaching Special Education in grades K-5 with Columbus City Schools. She also volunteered for Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) for four years serving in a variety of roles.

She is highly involved in her sons' educational lives and PTA. She has a wide variety of experience working with children, writing curriculum and Individual Education Plans; and providing outdoor experiences for children of all ages. She is currently training to run in Disney's "Princess Half-Marathon" in February 2011.

Please join us in welcoming Allison to her new full-time role at the Center.

We are excited to have her on our team.

Thank you for Support

Donors from 8/1/10-9/24/10

Nancy Aichholz
Beth Assif
Joan Atkin
Thomas and Jacqueline Bain
Alison Barret
Roger Benjamin
Karen Bennington
Tammy Birk
Dale and Joy Bishop
Jennifer Boren
Elliott Boxerbaum
Bob and Nancy Brown
Laura Bump
Dorothy and James Burchfield
Sandy Byers
Stephen Cartwright
Larry and Margaret Cepek
Darci Congrove
Andrea Cook
Johann Cozart
Carol Crofut
Phyllis Culbertson
Greg Cunningham
Jean Davey
Elizabeth and Michael Delphia
Alan and Rosalie Dolan
Carrie Ebert
James and Ramona Edman
Dick Emens
Ann Friedman
Michael Gassbarro
Karen Gay
Dr. Louis and Nancy Goorey
Warren Grody
Akyn Harrison

David Hartigan
Holly Herschede
Joseph Hofmeister
Barry and Betty Hunlock
Thomas and Denise Jedinak
Kenneth Jenkins and Chad Williams
Suzan Jervey
Jennifer and John Joseph
Chester and Cheryl Jourdan
Tom and Mary Katzenmeyer
Janet Kelleher
Abby King and Jason Louttit
Charity Krueger and Lonny Kidd
Jeff and Rosalie Lampson
Sue Lange
Gayla Lemmon
William Lenkey
Jennifer Lyon and Phillip Shaffer
Sara Maassel
Mark Marrow and Jeff Chaddock
Dr. Bernard and Susan Master
Barbara and Allen McFarland
Thomas and Denise Mitchell
Lisa Mutschler
Sandy and Ken Nessing
Marvin and Barbara Neubig
John and Helen O'Meara
Lori and Don Overmyer
Roman Pallone
Ron and Ann Pizzuti
Sherri Porosky
Rebecca Psigoda
Mark Real

Anne Powell Riley
Jan and Charlie Rodenfels
John Rupert
Kylene Sabec
Jennifer and John Sauter
Lorraine and Michael Schirtzinger
Dennis Schwartz
Stan Sells
Toni Shott
Constance Smith
Kathleen Smith
Sandra Solove
Cheryl Subler
Lajos and Wilhelmina Szabo
Timothy Treece
Marie Trudeau
Kurtis Tunnell
Albert Van Fossen
Yael Vodovotz
Vincent Volpi, Jr.
Alan Weinberg
Larry Woods, CAI, BAS,
CAGA OVIOHIO LTD
American Electric Power
Columbus Audubon
Design Group
Fifth Third Bank
Grange Insurance
Gutknecht Construction
The Ohio Children's Foundation
PICA Corporation
Scotts Miracle Gro Company
The Starck Foundation
Susan Haller Assoc.
USGBC - Central Ohio Chapter

GIAC wish list

The GIAC's need for donated items continues to change.

Some new "needs" have come up and we're happy to say that other needs have been met.

You'll notice a few things taken off our regular list. We'd like to thank Mike Maier who donated a six CD disc stereo, receiver and two speakers on Sept. 28. He also donated nine boxes of black pens, some nature stickers and two fishing poles.

Our current major need continues to be mud boots, rain parkas and gloves for children ages 8 to 12. Many of the children attending our school program do not have suitable boots and clothing to complete the field study portion of the curriculum on cold, rainy days. Your donation of any of the above mentioned items would be greatly appreciated by both our students and the GIAC staff.

If you have a donation for the Center, please call us at (614) 545-5475.

Items needed:

- Quarts of firewood (Franklin County only)
- Wheel barrow
- Rakes
- Leaf and snow blower
- Power washer
- Magnifying glasses
- Children's sized scissors
- Recycled copy paper
- Spotting Scope
- Telescope
- Laminator
- Sharpies-any color-new
- Dry erase markers-any color-new
- Linen napkins-white, brown, or black (100)

Items for Birthday parties and Scout programs:

- Cake knives (2)
- Cake servers (2)
- White tissue paper
- Egg cartons
- Screw eyes
- Washable stamp pads
- Empty soup cans
- Duct Tape
- Waterproof Tape
- Saran Wrap
- Rubber Bands

(for these items, please call Allison or Tori at 614/545-5483)

Gift Certificates:

- Staples
- Target
- Home Depot
- Barnes & Noble
- Airline Miles

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC November-December programs

Become a member today to receive special discounts on classes, special events and day camps

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center provides school programs throughout the year as well as other out of school program opportunities.

For more information on how to get your student, their school or your organization involved, please contact Doreen Whitley at (614) 545-5481, Victoria Strickland at (614) 545-5483 or Allison Roush at (614) 545-5482.

Audubon Afternoons

1-3 p.m. every other Saturday & Sunday

Bring family and friends to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for a fun-filled afternoon of nature exploration. Hike with an educator throughout the Scioto-Audubon Metro Park, participate in activities inside and outside the center and just have fun! No registration required. For more information, call (614) 545-5481.

Audubon at Home Series

Thursdays Nov. 18 and Dec. 16, 6 p.m.

Join us with our expert bird and binocular specialist to help you learn the importance of a great pair of binoculars and how to find the best pair of binoculars for you! Free program- RSVP only. Register now! 614.545.5483.

Winter Solstice Celebration and Breakfast with Old Man Winter

Saturday, Dec. 18, 9-Noon

Bundle up and join us for a Winter

Solstice Celebration and/or Breakfast with Old Man Winter! Learn about the winter season, take a winter hike, enjoy stories, make an eco-friendly craft and take a scavenger hunt through the center. There will be a small admission fee to the event and an additional fee to participate in the Old Man Winter breakfast (picture included). Call the center or check our website for pricing.

GIAC Winter Break Camp

December 20-23 and 27-30,

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(Before and After Care Available for additional fee). Members: \$160; Non-Members: \$200.

Save the Dates

MLK Jr. Day Camp, Monday, Jan. 17, 2011; Take a Nature Break Day Camp, Tentative: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011

GIAC Scouting programs

Girl Scouts

(Register using the form on the Girl Scout website.)

Journey Between Earth and Sky at the GIAC: Daisy Girl Scouts. Take a journey through the changes between Earth and Sky at a hidden treasure in the heart of the city. Saturday, November 20, 1:30-3:00 p.m. \$8/scout.

Explore the Many Wonders of Water at the GIAC: Brownies. Start your

Wonders of Water journey at the GIAC by learning about why it's so important, where we find it around the center and why it's important to conserve it! Sunday, November 21, 1-3 p.m. \$9/scout.

Get Energized and Take Eco-Action at the GIAC: Junior Girl Scouts. Energize yourself for your Get Moving journey when you investigate the world of energy at the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design gold certified GIAC! Saturday, November 20, 9 a.m.-noon \$10/Scout.

Boy Scouts

(Register with Allison at GIAC, 543-5482.)

Outdoor Cubs: Designed for Tiger Cubs to come explore the great outdoors on the Whittier Peninsula and you'll be well on your way to earning the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award! Saturday, December 11, 9-11 a.m. \$8/scout.

World Conservation Day: Designed for Wolf Cubs to come and get a jump-start on earning your Cub Scout World Conservation Award! Saturday, December 11, 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$9/Scout.

Conservation Cubs: Designed for scouts from Tiger to Webelos to earn their Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop and Pin all in a day! Sunday, December 12, 1-4 p.m. \$10/scout.

GIAC to host a 'Holiday Shopping Mall' on Dec. 4

Please join us at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for a Holiday Shopping Mall event on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to wonderful GIAC nature store items, we're inviting local for-profit and other educational and museum non-profit gift stores to set up shop.

It will be your chance to walk into a shopper's paradise all under one roof.

Doors open to the center at 10 a.m. for members of any of the non-profits to shop.

Members who present a membership card or other proof of membership, will receive a

10-percent discount as well as other special offers.

At 11 a.m., the mall opens to everyone.

Enjoy refreshments and holiday music as you peruse tables and booths with a bevy of beautiful nature-inspired, one of a kind, quality gifts and goodies to fulfill everyone's holiday wish list.

Products for sale will be available throughout the building, along with gift certificates for memberships to the center, and gift certificates for our GIAC Summer Adventure Camps.

Our own nature store, "The Bird House," will be open for you to see a gorgeous

Holiday tree adorned with beautiful ornaments all of which can be purchased and hung on your own tree.

We will also provide samples of Audubon Shade Grown Coffee and will feature wonderful Charley Harper mugs and Charley Harper adornments.

Activities for children will be held in our Forest Room while parents shop.

Our educators will be providing winter activities for children ages three and up.

The cost of using this kid-friendly service is free with a donation of a new toy to benefit one of our GIAC partner organizations or a \$2 donation per child.

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. Please contact the trip leader 24 hours ahead to make sure the trip has not been changed, postponed or cancelled. Also, go to www.columbusaudubon.org for longer descriptions of each trip and follow us on Twitter at @columbusaudubon for short-notice trips and changes.

Field trips

Wednesday walks at Scioto-Audubon

Wednesdays, November 3 and December 1, 7:30 a.m.

Join Heather Raymond for a short walk around the Scioto-Audubon Metro Park 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) Contact Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com for more information.

Ohio Young Birders Club November field trip: Owl Prowl

Saturday, November 13, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The local chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club's November field trip will be an Owl Prowl, at Scioto Ridge Elementary School in Powell. The group will learn about owl adaptations then will take a walk through the woods where we will call in owls and hope to draw in a Great Horned Owl, or perhaps hear from some screech owls. We'll end our evening at Graeter's Ice Cream for a frozen treat or hot chocolate, depending on the weather. contact Gerry Brevoort, OYBC Advisor, (614) 565-2308.

Migrating waterfowl and other birds at Hoover Reservoir

Sunday, November 14, 1 p.m.

Join Mike Flynn to look for waterfowl at Hoover Reservoir. Hoover is one of the largest waters in the central Ohio area, and it is often open and available in the autumn for ducks and geese to stop, feed and rest along the way on their journeys. We will look for and observe the birds here, on and around the reservoir. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if available, and dress warmly for the weather. Meet at the main parking lot, at the dam, located on Sunbury Road. Enter at the traffic light. Call Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681 for more information.

Deer Creek Lake

Sunday, November 21, 2:30 p.m.

Join Dave Horn to look for Sandhill Cranes near Deer Creek Lake. (We have seen them about four years out of five.) Even without the cranes, Deer Creek Lake in November is a good spot for migrating waterfowl, and often a chance to begin building your winter birding hardiness. Meet at Deer Creek Marina, east off state route 207 south of Pancoastburg. If the marina gate is closed, proceed straight ahead to the boat launch area. Look for either a green or a black Subaru Outback. From Columbus, take I-71 south and exit on State Route 56 into Mt. Sterling and pick up 207 there. For more information contact Dave Horn, (614) 262-0312, dave-horn43@columbus.rr.com.

CA November Program

Tuesday, November 23

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

Birds along the Darby

Big and Little Darby Creeks, National Scenic Rivers, are generally known for their aquatic life. However, a surprising diversity of birds can be found along their floodplain, hollows and upland sites.

Mac Albin, has been studying the lives and habitats of these birds for many years.

Through photography he has followed the life cycle of birds such as the Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky and chestnut-sided warblers, along with grosbeaks, tanagers and flycatchers.

Upland sites may have bobolinks, Henslow's sparrows and other grass-land birds.

Mac also will address questions of conservation and restoration.

Howard "Mac" Albin has been a naturalist and currently is an Aquatic Ecologist with the Columbus Metro Parks. Mac received his BS and MS degrees in Zoology from The Ohio State University, has worked as a consultant with the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and taught Conservation Biology at Ohio University (Lancaster Branch) and has co-authored several papers on fish biology with Dr. J. Barron in American Midland Naturalist.



Kentucky Warbler



(Right) Acadian Flycatcher on nest with young.

Bird hikes at Blendon Woods

Saturdays, November 21 and December (TBD), 10 a.m.

Join Blendon Woods naturalist Bruce Simpson to check out local residents and fall migrants as we wander the trails. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Call (614) 508-8000 or go to www.metro Parks.net.

Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, November 21, 9 a.m.

Join Rob Thorn at Three Creeks to start, where the mix of wet-

See Coming up, page 11

Ohio Young Birders Club: Getting out and enjoying nature



A unique view from some of the students at the Sept. 25 photography workshop.



Daniel listens intently to former First Lady Hope Taft as she explains the features of the gardens (detail at right) at the Governor's Residence during the

It was a "picture perfect" day on Sept. 25, in terms of both the weather and the topic. The Central Ohio Chapter of Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) met

at Prairie Rose Farm in North Lewisburg for a Photography workshop, led by ODNR Division of Wildlife photographer Tim Daniel.

Ten students gathered from all over the central Ohio area to pick up some great photography tips from Tim. The best things that OYBC member Clare said she learned from Tim were the key elements of a good photo, better known as LLIMBO: lines, lighting, interest, message, background, and off-center. After Tim's presentations, the students were sent off on a photo scavenger hunt to take shots of something with thorns, something orange, something that starts with the letter L, something alive, and other challenging subjects. Cameras in hand, they spread out around the farm and could be seen

crouching next to an old water pump, on their bellies near a field of wildflowers, and up in a tree for a true bird's eye view.

As dusk fell, everyone gathered around the campfire for hot dogs and s'mores, while looking over each other's shoulders to compare photos. At the end of a wonderful day with new and old friends, everyone loaded onto a wagon for a moonlit hayride.

OYBC member Ada summed up her day at the workshop. "My favorite part at Prairie Rose Farm was sitting in the deer stand with Jacob and Clare. It was very scary, but when you looked out on the field, it was so worth it. I also enjoyed the very 'old time' swing and going on a hike with Jacob, where we found eight deer ribcages and tried the local raw corn (which I do not recommend). Then, at the end of the day, it was great to sit around the campfire and drink hot apple cider. But, even though that was all really, really fun, I most enjoyed the hay ride because we got to see all the stars and hay rides are awesome!"

For the adults and parents who were there, it was a fantastic outdoor experience that Mandy described as "very enriching" for her kids. "We are thankful to be surrounded

by such wonderful people in a very healthy environment," she said, acknowledging one of OYBC's goals: encouraging young people to spend more time outside, appreciating nature.

Former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft invited the Ohio Young Birders Club to participate in the Ohio Governor's Residence Heritage Garden BioBlitz on August 28. It was an amazing opportunity for young birders to work with local experts and to meet Mrs. Taft and Gov. Ted Strickland.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the local OYBC chapter participated in a bird banding experience at Grange Insurance Audubon Center, led by Director of Conservation Doreen Whitley.

OYBC is for young birders ages 12 - 18 who are interested in birds, nature and conservation. For more information about joining OYBC, please contact Gerry Brevoort, Central Ohio Chapter OYBC Advisor, at jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com.



Clare gets a new angle on the world during the workshop on Sept. 25.



November 20-21

OYBC conference set at Aullwood Farm in Dayton

The 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) Conference will be held November 20 - 21 at Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton. This is a wonderful opportunity for young birders to gather together to share their love and enthusiasm for birds and nature, while celebrating their own achievements.

This conference is open to all Ohio young birders aged 12 - 18, as well as to interested adults for only \$10/student or \$20/adult. You do not have to be a member of OYBC to attend.

The conference features student presentations, renowned birding guru Kenn Kaufman's Bird ID Quiz, field trips, and great door

prizes. The keynote presenter will be Harold Eyster of Chelsea, Michigan. Harold is an amazing artist and birder who was awarded the prestigious 2009 Young Birder of the Year honor by the American Birding Association. The registration deadline is November 12. More details and registration information can be found at: www.ohioyoungbirders.org.

Anyone interested in carpooling to the conference from the central Ohio area should contact Gerry Brevoort.

The future of birding is in the hands of the next generation, so we hope to see lots of young birders at this conference!

Columbus Audubon

BioBlitz comes to Eco Weekend for the 2011 season

April 29 - May 1, 2011 at Camp Oty'Okwa in the Hocking Hills

What is Eco Weekend?

Columbus Audubon's Eco Weekend is an outdoor nature camp experience that is a recreational and educational event for adults and families held annually on the first weekend of May.

During the weekend, programs of varying length are presented by leaders, people knowledgeable in their field who are willing to share that knowledge with others in an outdoor camp setting.

What is a BioBlitz?

A BioBlitz is a special type of field study, where a group of scientists and volunteers conduct an intensive 24-hour (or longer) biological inventory, attempting

to identify and record as many species of living organisms in a given area as can be found. The bioblitz name and concept is not registered, copyrighted, or trademarked; it is an idea that can be used, adapted, and modified by any group to freely use for their own purposes.

Eco Weekend will include programs that explore the major kinds of flora and fauna in the region, such as birds, trees, wildflowers, insects, spiders, ferns, amphibians - you name it! During these programs, records will be kept of all the different types that are identified, and these will be logged in on the comprehensive BioBlitz inventory list. Our Program Leaders will serve as consultants for

identification, and Dr. David Horn (Professor Emeritus, OSU) will serve as the BioBlitz Coordinator.

The timeframe will be during Eco Weekend: April 29 - May 1, 2011, from 6 p.m. on Friday until 1 p.m. on Sunday. The BioBlitz location will be the grounds of Camp Oty'Okwa (between Old Man's Cave and Conkles Hollow in the Hocking Hills) where Eco Weekend is held.

What's next?

Mark your 2011 calendars for Eco Weekend, and look for the brochure and registration information in your mailbox. Then plan to come out and have some fun as we conduct our very own BioBlitz!

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Greener Gatherings and Gifting This Holiday Season

We are entering the season in which we begin by reflecting with gratitude on the things of importance and meaning in our lives. Unfortunately, in our efforts to carry out deep-rooted traditions this time of year, prepare the perfect atmosphere for gatherings and give the biggest, best and trendiest gifts, we often lose sight of the havoc we wreak on our most precious resource and the one thing we may take for granted, our environment.

According to the EPA and Use Less Stuff, household waste increases by more than 25-percent from Thanksgiving to New Years Day leading to an additional 1

million tons a per week of increased waste in our landfills. Paper invitations and greeting cards, plastic and non-compostable decorations, disposable party supplies, wrapping paper and product packaging account for a large portion of the increased waste being dumped into the landfill during these holiday months.

The holiday season holds traditions that evoke emotions and memories and we are often resistant to change them, it's the perfect time to take simple steps to transform your traditions into greener ones which will most likely bring deeper meaning to your holiday season, provide

the opportunity to reflect on your gratitude for your natural surroundings and even give you the opportunity to give a gift to the environment, less impact.

You don't have to change everything at once, the small things really do add up. Not only will these small changes benefit the environment, they may also be the best non-material gifts you can give your friends and family, a vision of the world around them and the impact they have on it. We urge you to take a few small steps toward a greener holiday season this year and it is our hope that you will include

See greener, page 10

A warm holiday gift idea for a child in need

Should I give video games, toys, candy, something fun or educational?

Having trouble figuring out what to give a special child this holiday season? How about both fun and educational!

Consider giving the gift of a 2011 week of "Audubon Summer Adventure Camp."

The GIAC education staff will be providing fun, educational, and interactive day camps. Camps are one-week in length and there are four different themed weeks that repeat over the summer between June 20 and August 15.

Each camp runs Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The cost per week is \$245 (with membership discounts available) and extended care time is available for an additional cost (8 a.m. to

5:30 p.m.).

Make this holiday even more special for a less fortunate child. You can sponsor a child's week of exploration through natural wonders for \$300* (or a portion) per child. This can be done anonymously or even share in the experience with a visit to one of the summer camp weeks. * = includes extended care.

To purchase camp certificates or sponsor another child's camp (both in full or in part), please contact Jeff Redfield, director of development at (614) 545-5479 or jredfield@audubon.org. Purchases made by Dec. 17 can include a certificate to be given or sent to the child. Wondering about other gifting other programs or children's educational opportunities, give us a call and together we'll help connect a child with nature!

Columbus Audubon

The Columbus Christmas Bird Count unfolds on Dec. 19

On Dec 19, teams of birders will be running around Columbus looking for all sorts of wintering birds. Sounds like a crazy way to spend a winter day, you say? We had over 50 participants helping out last year, and we were one of over 50 counts in Ohio alone; there were several thousand Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) spread out across the U.S. and into Mexico and Central America. The CBCs are actually a long-running Audubon tradition, established over 100 years ago, and have become one of the longest-running volunteer bio-monitoring projects. The rules are simple: count all the birds you can in a 15-mile-diameter circle on one day between Dec 14 - Jan 5. Columbus chose Dec 19 this year, while neighboring Hoover Count is just before us, on Dec 18.

Seems simple, but the devil is in the details. Since few counts can hope to completely cover their circles, most counts focus their efforts on the best bird-finding locations in their count circles. Here in Columbus, our circle is centered just north of Bexley, so it stretches from Northland south to Groveport, and Blacklick west to Upper Arlington. We have about 12 separate birding teams focused on the best parks and neighborhoods in this area: Blendon Woods, Blacklick Woods, Scioto MetroPark, OSU, Whetstone-Clintonville, Grandview Heights, Greenlawn, 3-Creeks, and more. Even with all these parks, much of the count area is decidedly urban and suburban, although it was much less so when the count started back in the 1960s. Our CBC has literally documented the winter bird population changes as Columbus has grown from a small city into a major metropolitan area.

What can we hope to find on a cold December day? You'd be pleasantly surprised at the number and variety of birds that call Columbus a winter home. Over the past eight years, we've averaged 74 species and over 20,000 individuals. The numbers that each team sees varies with the habitats and the amount of time they spend outside, but a list of 40-45 species for each team is quite typical. Of course, many of the birds we find are the ubiquitous urban birds one might expect: Ring-billed Gulls, Starlings, Crows, Cardinals, and House Sparrows. But there are also a variety of other, wilder species that always are lurking in our city. Mourning Doves, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted

Central Ohio Christmas Bird Count circles	
COLUMBUS	DELAWARE
DATE: Dec. 19	DATE: Dec. 19
Compiler: Rob Thorn	Compiler: Jed Burt
Phone: 614-471-3051	Phone: 740-815-5082
E-mail: robthorn@earthlink.net	E-mail: ehburt@owu.edu
HOOVER RESERVOIR	O'SHAUGHNESSY RESERVOIR
DATE: Dec. 18	DATE: Jan. 2, 2011
Compiler: Charles Bombaci	Compiler: Darlene Sillick
Phone: 614-891-5706	Phone: 614-761-3696
E-mail: charlesbombaci@aol.com	E-mail: azuretrails@columbus.rr.com
.....	
KINGSTON (Chillicothe/Circleville)	
DATE: Jan. 1, 2011 • Compiler: Brad Sparks	
Phone: 614-751-6622 • E-mail: birdmansparks@yahoo.com	

Titmice, American Robins, Carolina Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, and American Goldfinches are among the many 'wild' species that are adapting to human yards and parks in Columbus, and all of our teams usually see good numbers of these species. Other formerly-uncommon winter visitors, like Flickers, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, Mockingbirds, and Juncos, have become more common in recent years, perhaps attracted by the many fruit trees in our yards and feeders around our houses.

We even get many birds that you wouldn't expect in winter in the middle of an urban area in Ohio. Large numbers of Great Blue Herons now winter along our creeks and rivers, and waterfowl have also started to linger in these areas and open ponds. We have found 10-14 species of waterfowl, including lots of dabbling ducks and Cormorants and Pied-billed Grebes. We also have a burgeoning population of winter raptors, led by Cooper's hawks and Red-tailed hawks, which can be found in almost every area of the city. Bald eagles, almost unknown from the area 6 years ago, are now expected on every Count. Even secretive owls, like Great Horned and Barred, are still found in many of our wooded parks. We have even been getting increasing numbers of 'half-hardy' birds, species like Sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, Chipping Sparrows, and even a few warblers, that are hanging on at the northern limits of their winter ranges.

Not all local winter birds are doing so well, however. Open country birds, like Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Harriers, and some kinds of Sparrows, have definitely declined as most of the open fields of past years have been turned into subdivisions. Marsh birds like Rails, Coots, Snipes, and Swamp Sparrows have also become very infrequent as their wetlands have been filled in. Other birds have slowly disappeared for no obvious reasons. Red-headed Woodpeckers were formerly regular in the circle, but are now rare, possibly reflecting the steady fragmentation of our remaining upland oak forests.

Eastern Towhees have declined to the point where they now hang on only in a few park areas. Hopefully these trends can be stabilized or reversed, and continued counts are the most direct way to monitor this change.

So the bottom line is that we need observers. The more teams we can fill and field Dec 19th, the better our chances of getting a good, representative count of Columbus' winter birds. And the better our chances of unearthing something totally unexpected, like an Orange-crowned Warbler ('02), Rufous Hummingbird ('03), Grasshopper Sparrow ('05), or Western Tanager ('06). So please consider coming out for the day, or at least the morning. Even just walking around your neighborhood and watching your feeders can be valuable. Join the crazy tradition of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts.

Columbus Audubon

Backyards for Wildlife: Community Wildlife Habitat Challenge

The City of Dublin has become the first community in Ohio to be certified by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

Dublin Mayor Leckleiter accepted the certificate on Aug. 23 from the head of the NWF Outreach program, Roxanne Paul (Washington, DC), accompanied by Jason Dinsmore, NWF Great Lakes Regional Representative (Michigan).

Dublin joins 43 other elite communities in the USA to meet the requirements at www.nwf.org/community.

Roxanne Paul said that "Through the efforts of city employees, volunteers and numerous residents, Dublin has become a healthier place for people and wildlife alike. In all, 164 homes, 5 schools, 18 parks and one business became NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat sites (Toni's note: counts needed are based on population).

The sites provide food, water, cover and places to raise young for wildlife and use sustainable gardening practices such as conserving water, using native plants and eliminating pesticides and chemical fertilizers."

Ms. Paul added, "NWF advocates providing food in the form of native plants for wildlife, including songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Supplemental feeders for birds are also okay, because birds will only take about 15% of their diet from the feeders. However, NWF does not advocate putting out food for mammals, because they may become dependent upon humans for food and also lose their fear of humans."

Albin Weiler, NWF Habitat Steward in Northeast Ohio, reports that Brooklyn Centre in Cleveland is working on their



The city of Dublin is a NWF certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

Community Certification with the Brooklyn Naturalists leading the way.

It's easy and fast to get certified. You can do it online or by snail mail at www.nwf.org/certify.

See www.backyardhabitat.info for ideas, and there are many sites with regional native plant lists, including www.plantnative.org/index.htm. For a list of the worst Ohio Invasive Plants, scroll down at www.oipc.info/specieslist.html.

The move to change the way Ohio landscapes and maintains it is a grass-roots

effort - perfect for Audubon members.

Can you help spread the word?

You'll feel good about our future when you work with people in your community to understand the value of a healthy environment to humans as well as wildlife and communicate it to your government leaders.

Let's set a goal for Ohio to have the most certified communities of any state!

Lessons learned? If you're interested, email marc-a@columbus.rr.com to receive our monthly 'Nature Scoop' email or go to www.backyardhabitat.info to learn more. Let's work together to help birds, one yard at a time.

Winter Bird Watching At Home

'Winterize Your Yard for Wildlife' using tips on page 8 of the November-December 2009 Song Sparrow: www.columbusaudubon.org/production/images/newsletters/SS_2009_NovDec.pdf

If regulations allow, put your holiday tree in an out-of-the way area for quick cover.

-Toni Stahl



By Marc Apfelstadt

Carolina Chickadee.

2011 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: Biodiversity around home and office

When I tell people that there may be more than 1,000 species of animals and plants in and around an "average" home that is not too neatly kept, I sometimes receive a skeptical glance. I do have a long list of things I have encountered in my own backyard (in the Clintonville area of Columbus), but in 2009 my colleagues and I at the Ohio Biological Survey decided to spend the year doing an informal inventory of the house and grounds where we work.

Our site isn't especially remarkable ecologically. We are situated on a 3-acre lot in a residential area of north Columbus, within a half-mile of the Olentangy River which might increase our chances of encountering a few species from the riparian corridor.

Our flora is a mix of conventional,

mostly exotic species, either intentionally planted or invasive weeds, like lots of bush honeysuckle.

We did not put much extra effort into our survey beyond simply recording a plant or animal when we were able to easily identify it. I made an exception for insects, because as an entomologist I could not resist setting up a few standard traps. I ran a tent-like net trap and a funnel trap throughout the growing season, plus an ultraviolet light for one night every two weeks. We did not seriously surveyed plants, fungi or non-insect invertebrates.

Our results are preliminary, and I have yet to identify quite a few of the insects encountered. We did document 914 species as follows: 11 mammals, 78 birds (I counted flyovers), one amphibian

(American toad), 12 non-insect invertebrates, 37 plants and 775 different insect species. We hardly scratched the surface regarding non-insect invertebrates or fungi, and I'd bet we could push the total near 2,000.

Try a biological inventory where you work, and if you have a family, get everyone involved. It's enjoyable, educational and interesting. Meanwhile, since you might wonder: What was our most unusual finding? It may yet lie among all those unidentified insects, but for now I'll give the prize to a bird: A small flock of Sandhill Cranes flew directly overhead on 11 December just as I was getting out of my car. I happened to look up; timing can be everything, as every birder knows.

-Dave Horn

Invasive species: Zebra Mussel (*Dreissenapolyomorpha*)

We have been featuring invasive species in the Song Sparrow for over five years without mention of the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) which arguably could be the poster child for invasives in Ohio, at least to capturing public attention. The Zebra Mussel originally inhabited central and eastern Europe but by 100 years ago it had spread throughout the continent, abetted by the interlacing canal systems connecting river drainages.

The first find in North America was in Lake St. Clair just upstream from our own Lake Erie. Most likely they arrived in freshwater ballast; evidently a freighter loaded fresh water in Europe and steamed over to Canada and up the St. Lawrence Seaway before emptying its ballast tanks somewhere near Detroit. (Captains are supposed to see that ballast tanks are flushed with saltwater on the way over but apparently not everyone does this.) Zebra Mussel young ("larvae") are free-floating before they settle down and start forming a shell.

Within a few years the mussels had spread to at least 19 states and Ontario. Much of this dispersal is due to the mussels' attaching themselves to hard surfaces including the undersides of ships and boats.

Rocks and shells of native mussels are other favorite attachment sites but shipwrecks, concrete breakwalls and water



A Zebra Mussel.

intakes will also suffice. (I saw my first "wild" Ohio Zebra Mussel on a marker buoy at Huron in 1989.)

Zebra Mussels may live up to 5 years and a single female may lay several million eggs during that time.

Zebra Mussels are filter feeders, straining microorganisms (mostly algae) from over a gallon of water per mussel per week.

Thus for the last two decades gazillions of mussels have been busily filtering Lake Erie and this has definitely changed the ecosystem (which partly defines a true "invasive").

The water is clearer, meaning sunlight can penetrate further and algae can grow at greater depths, replenishing oxygen critical to bottom feeding insects such as mayflies, which have returned to high numbers not seen since the 1950s.

The clearer water must make it easier for fish-eating birds to see their prey and this may contribute to the cormorant population explosion around Lake Erie. Most diving ducks love them (mussels, not cormorants).

There was much initial concern that Zebra Mussels could clog water intakes along the lakeshore but apparently technological developments have kept pace with that.

The greatest conservation concern seems to be the tendency of the Zebra Mussel to attach to the shells of live native mussels, many of which are already threatened or endangered (due to water pollution).

Up to 10,000 Zebra Mussels have been found attached to a single shell of a (large) native mussel. Populations of native mussels inevitably decline once the Zebra Mussel is established.

What can you do?

You can become informed (starting with <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/clams/zebra.html>).

And if you have a boat, or know someone with a boat, see that the hull is completely cleaned off before moving it from one body of water to another, especially if you cross a divide between river drainage systems. (Live Zebra Mussels have been found attached to boats crossing from Nevada into California.)

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Band with us at GIAC

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center completed its first year of banding within the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, a parcel of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area.

Director of Conservation Doreen Whitley, assisted by a variety of volunteers and loyal co-bander Heather Raymond banded over 100 individual birds and over 25 different species. For a complete list of birds banded, go to www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org.

The Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area was designated in October 2001.

The site earned this designation due to the high concentration of long distance migratory birds during the spring and fall seasons. Many of these birds are "commuting" during this time to and from their wintering and breeding grounds, some as far as from South America to Canada. The birds concentrate at this unique habitat along the bend of the Scioto River because it is the longest stretch of continuous forest surrounded by the highly urbanized downtown and southside of Columbus.

Since the designation the habitat within the Important Bird Area has been enhanced, through the creation of seven new wetlands, the addition of over 3 acres



(Above, left) Doreen measures the wing chord of an Ovenbird. (Above, right) Doreen Whitley banding a yellow warbler.

of native plants, and 5 acres of prairie, and the removal of over 3 acres of invasive plants, the banding of birds is an essential research tool to determine the response of migratory birds to habitat restoration.

This first year Doreen banded every Tuesday and Thursday during the migration seasons as well as every other Saturday. Beginning next spring the station will run every day during spring and fall bird migration. The purpose of the study is to quantify the average length of stay, average increase of fat, and average increase of weight of songbirds that use the

Important Bird Area as a place to eat and rest during migration.

The station will be a consistent part of the center's program for years to come to establish a trend in avian response as the newly created habitats mature.

Visitors are welcome to the station any time and volunteers are needed to help assist at the station. Volunteers are required to attend at least one training prior to working at the station.

For more information about duties assigned and training dates contact Doreen Whitley at dwhitley@audubon.org

Greener Gatherings and Gifting This Holiday Season

Continued from page 6

your family and friends in these greener alternatives building upon the steadfast traditions from years past.

Send your invitations and greeting card correspondence via e-mail with free online services such as evite.com or blue-mountain.com. If you want to stick to handwritten invitations, write them on smaller recycled, tree-free or plantable papers. Changing the format will decrease waste by eliminating envelopes.

Let nature be your inspiration for decorations and bring the outdoors inside. Use gourds, pumpkins, leaves, dried grasses, fruits, berries, pinecones, holly and evergreens for centerpieces, boughs, wreaths, napkin rings and candle holders. Many of these items can be placed back outside instead of in the trash.

If you'll be bringing a tree into your home this season, visit an organic tree farm to choose a tree free from pesticides and chemical colorants or to purchase a balled tree. Balled trees can be kept inside

for shorter periods, but will last for years when planted in your backyard adding the gift of a new habitat to your feathered friends. Cut trees can be recycled into mulch or wood chips and reused in your spring and summer landscaping.

Light up your tree and your home by stringing energy-saving LED lights that last considerably longer than traditional lights and can now be found in a variety of sizes and colors. To save even more energy, invest in a timer or two to control the duration of use.

Eliminate excess waste from party supplies by investing in cloth table linens and napkins and using washable cutlery, beverage glasses, dinnerware and serveware. If you must use disposables, consider buying bamboo veneerware or compostable items. For large groups, fill your dishwasher completely before letting it run but smaller gatherings get your guests involved, hand-washing and drying is extremely green and can allow you to spend time catching up with your guests.

Think outside the box in terms of your

gift-giving during the upcoming holidays. The greatest gifts don't have to come from a store. Give reusable gift cards so recipients can buy things they need. Make gifts or give food gifts in reusable containers like tin or glass jars. Finally, place a donation in honor of your recipient to an organization making a difference in something near and dear to them. And, while the younger crowd may not get as excited about having a donation placed in their name, jazz the gift up with small gifts that relate to the organization donated to. A perfect gift would be to donate to the Gulf Shore Clean-Up or your local Audubon chapter paired with child-friendly binoculars and a beginners' bird book.

Get creative with your wrapping this year by buying rolls of recycled wrapping paper at a local retailer. Other options include wrapping with newspaper or decorating reusable boxes and making cloth gift bags. Save any greeting cards you receive this year and you'll be ready to make your own gift tags next year too.

Coming up

Continued from page 4

lands, ponds, and fields is a magnet to wintering birds. Then we'll drive over to the nearby Pickerington Ponds to visit their myriad wetland areas. We'll meet at the Heron Pond parking area of the Creeks. To get there, take US 33 southeast from downtown (or I-270) to Hamilton Rd, exit south, then immediately turn right onto Williams Rd. The Heron Pond entrance is just over one mile west along Williams Rd. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Early Winter birding along the urban Scioto

Sunday, December 5, 9 a.m.

Join Rob Thorn at Scioto Metro Park, looking for unusual water birds and lingering land birds. Then we'll work our way up the river, looking at the series of dams, pools, quarries, and parks up past downtown and through Grandview and Marble Cliff out to Griggs dam. The variety of habitats along this stretch of urban river is surprising, and attracts an equally surprising mix of birds. Meet at the Scioto MetroPark boat launch, off Whittier St. before the entrance to the Grange Audubon Center. The trip should be over by 1 p.m. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-330-2406, or robthorn@earthlink.net.

New Year's Day hike

Saturday, January, 1, Noon p.m.

Start off the New Year by spending some quality time outdoors with Mike Flynn. A spectacular place to do that is the Clear Creek valley. Impressive geologic features along with the deep greens of the conifers add a reviving excitement to being outside. Birds find this area to be a somewhat warmer and protected sanctuary. We will look and listen for the sights and sounds of the native birds and wildlife as we walk through this striking landscape. Bring binoculars and good hiking footwear, and dress warmly for the weather.

Your End-of-Year support is needed to help fund center programs

As a society, we don't like talking about money. It's a fact! By writing that word, money, I realize you are already considering going onto the next issue. But wait....

Did you know that nationally 80% - 85% of all non-profit donations come from individuals and family? Grants, foundations, and corporate giving to non-profits combined make up the rest. People give to issues and causes that are important to them. We hope the Center and its educational programs are that to you - something you believe in and to which you're willing to invest your time, talent and treasures. At this point in the development of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center we need to be candid and up front about our needs. Yes, there are lots of ways you can give and support the center and I hope you'll consider many of them: Volunteering, donating items from the wish-list, giving a membership, bringing others for a tour, Attending a program, giving through your work place campaign, renewing your membership, buying things in the Nature Store, giving stocks or bonds, including the GIAC in estate planning and wills, renting center event space and participating in the shopping mall event on December 4.

Buying tickets to events Introducing family, friends and guests After the GIAC opened on August 28, 2009, fund raising began

Meet at the McDonald's on Rt. 33, at Carroll, just south of Canal Winchester. Call Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681 for more information.

Avid Birders field trips

Avid Birders welcome all birders to join any regularly scheduled trip. Upcoming trips to Lake Erie are on Nov. 20 and Dec. 11. Meet at the Worthington Mall (Southeast side) parking lot at 5:30 a.m.

Saw-whet Owl study

October 10 - December 15, twilight/dusk to midnight

Help observe and band birds during the 2010 Saw-whet Owl study with Tim Tolford & Sam Fitton. Over 100 owls have been banded in the past two years. Visitors and groups welcome. Ohio banding stations are in Chillicothe, Hueston Woods, Kelly's Island, Northeast Ohio and Sandusky. E-mail Tim at bandertt@tolford.com or go to www.hbrnet.org to volunteer and to get specific directions to banding stations.

Service in the Preserves

Kiser Lake Wetlands SNP

Saturday, November 13, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wetlands do many things. They filter water and help prevent floods. But they can also freeze, thaw, and shift any boardwalk that may traverse through them. That has happened at Kiser Lake Wetlands SNP. We'll be leveling and refurbishing bridges and boardwalk that Mother Nature has cajoled out of shape. Wear waterproof shoes for this trip in case you choose to step off the boardwalk in the interest of progress. Also, there is poison sumac in the area, so long sleeves will be in order, however training on identification will be provided and the sumac is sparse. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus to travel in the ODNr van to the site. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, Nov. 10 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up.

transitioning from a focus on capital giving (bricks and mortar) to annual operating support. Our \$900,000 annual operating support will need to come in a variety of forms and the GIAC is hard at work continuing to build collaborations, partnerships, and getting financial and in-kind support in many ways. In fact, the GIAC's capital campaign was so successful because it did garner gifts from many directions including over 600 individuals and families.

For the center to be here for many generations to come, and for the doors to remain open with free admission to the public, a variety of community support is still needed - including personal and individual gifts.

Won't you also consider an end of year donation? As noted above, there are a number of ways you can do this.

Not only will your gift support our free admission program and our great educational and community programs, but gifts received by December 31, 2010 are eligible to the fullest extent of the law for tax deductions. Please contact us with any questions about giving or ways you can support the GIAC's mission - there are many others not on the list above!

And, as you are considering your giving this holiday, we hope you'll consider giving the GIAC an end of year monetary, tax deductible gift....and not give the IRS as much for 2010!

Grange Insurance Audubon Center
www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Staff: Center Director: Heather Starck
Director of Conservation/Asst Center Director:
Doreen Whitley
Director of Development: Jeff Redfield
Facilities Operations Manager: To Be Named
Educators: Allison Roush, Tori Strickland, Joe Jennings
Program Coordinator: To Be Named
Finance and Office Manager: Christy Smith
Nature Store Manager: Patty Hecht
Office Phone: 614-545-5475

Center Hours: Standard Hours – Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9-3, Sunday 11-5pm
Winter Hours – Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 9-3, Sunday 11-5pm * *The GIAC's Winter Hours schedule occurs November 7, 2010 – March 12, 2011 (in conjunction with Standard and Daylight Saving Time).*

Directions to the GIAC

Located 1 mile south of downtown Columbus
From High Street (going south) turn right on Whittier (which runs along south end of German Village and Brewery District). From Front Street (going north) turn left onto Whittier Follow Whittier, making no turns, across the bridge spanning the tracks, past the Police Impound Lot and the other side streets until you drive into the parking lot in front of the center.

GIAC Stewardship Board:

Frances Beasley	John O'Meara
Beth Crane	Pete Precario
Greg Cunningham	Mark Real
Julie Davis	Jan Rodenfels
Barry Hunlock	Patsy Thomas
Chester Jourdan	Ellen Tripp
Tom Katzenmeyer	Christie Vargo
Bernie Master	Sandra Nessing
Alan McKnight	Ovell Harrison

Columbus Audubon

Founded 1913

614-545-5497

www.columbusaudubon.org

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

Officers: President: Julie Davis, 523-2180
Vice President: Bill Heck, 481-8872
Newsletter/Web Editor: Stefanie Hauck, (740) 972-1680
Treasurer: Warren Grody
Recording Secretary: Suzan Jervey

Trustees: Julie Davis, Mike Flynn, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Katryn Renard, Barbara Revard, Andrea Cook, Tom Sheley, Darlene Sillick, Andi Wolfe, Suzan Jervey, Gerry Brevoort, Nadya Bennett, Warren Grody, Bill Heck and Jackie Bain.

Additional chapter leaders:

Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312
Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 261-7171
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130
Programs: Mike Flynn, mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com
Field Trips: Earl Harrison, eharrison@ehe.osu.edu
CA Web site: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, 306-8215
Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, 761-3696
Eco Weekend: Roz Horn, 262-0312; Lois Day, (740) 549-0333
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602
IBA Committee: Heather Raymond, 785-0342
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard, 261-7171
Avid Birders: www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

Columbus Audubon/GIAC
505 W. Whittier St.
Columbus, OH 43215
DBA - National Audubon Society

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Give the gift of a CA/GIAC membership

We all face difficult gift-giving issues and questions around the holidays, such as:

-What do you give the person "who has everything" or doesn't need another thing or item?

-Can you give something to the family or neighbor who helped you this year but a present may make things awkward?

-The person who says "oh, don't get me anything"....do they mean it or not?

-What do you give the for the nature lover on your list?

-Is there something you can give that they'll enjoy the whole year long?

Consider giving them an Audubon Membership!

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the Columbus Audubon chapter have teamed up to provide a joint membership in BOTH organizations.

The rates are:

Individuals - \$30

Family - \$45

When you give the "gift of membership," you're giving them a 12-month membership in the GIAC, Columbus Audubon, and the National Audubon Society as well.

Joint membership benefits are:

- Subscriptions to the bi-monthly *Song Sparrow* newsletter
- Subscription to the Audubon magazine
- 10-percent discount in the GIAC Nature Store
- Invitations to special Members-only GIAC quarterly programs
- Discounts on GIAC program fees
- Free Columbus Audubon field trips and programs
- The Columbus Audubon annual meeting and program
- Discounts in partnering affiliates
- A voice in CA/GIAC conservation initiatives

To arrange for this gift, visit the GIAC Center desk or Nature Store, follow the link on the GIAC's website (look for the "join now" icon on the right side of the home page), or send an email to jredfield@audubon.org and he'll send you the membership form electronically. To pay online go to www.columbusaudubon.org and follow "Join Us" link in the left column under Act Now. To make this a special holiday present, include the words "Holiday Gift" on the membership form. Those received by Friday, December 17 will receive a special holiday certificate (identify if you wish to have it sent directly to you or the person/family receiving the membership).