



Song Sparrow



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

January-February 2011
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Send editorial submissions to
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Indianola Informal K-8

Young birders install feeders at local school

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club recently completed their first service project: a bird-feeding station at Indianola K-8 School in Clintonville, a Columbus neighborhood.

This project is the first element of a planned "Outdoor Learning Lab" envisioned for the school grounds. Eventually, the feeding station will take its place among butterfly gardens and native plantings, a prairie area, an edibles garden, and composting and water reclamation areas. The school's curricula will make outdoor education an integral part of each Indianola student's experience. And now, with this feeding station, interacting with birds will also be part of that experience!

For weeks before the Oct. 31 installation, OYBC students brainstormed about the feeding station. They, along with the adult advisors for the chapter, met with school representatives, performed a site survey, and



Courtesy of the central Ohio chapter of the OYBC

Yikes! Look at all those parts! But OYBC members Daniel Hauck, Doug Whitman, Ada Cleary, Clare Jusdanis, and Jacob Stinnett are ready.

submitted a proposed design sketch to school administrators. Donations of feeders, seed, suet, poles, baffles, and other hardware were gathered from generous friends and supporters of OYBC. Additional supplies were purchased with funds from an

See OYBC, page 5

National Audubon

David Yarnold named President and CEO

On September 1, 2010, David Yarnold became the 10th president of the National Audubon Society, bringing extraordinary new leadership in solution-oriented conservation, communications and fundraising.

Yarnold came to Audubon from the respected Environmental Defense Fund, where he served as executive director, overseeing all operations-from programs to development-and played a leading role in expanding EDF's partnerships with corporations. Yarnold helped EDF go from \$52M to \$117M in revenue, and led the organization's political action arm. He is well-known for his expertise on climate issues, among the most serious threats to birds, habitats and sustainable communities.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning editor, Yarnold worked for more than a quarter century at the *San Jose Mercury News*, one of the nation's premier newspapers.

Yarnold will lead Audubon's powerful grassroots network of nearly 500 local Chapters, state offices and Audubon Centers across the country, many of them in urban areas such as Los Angeles, Seattle and Brooklyn. These urban Audubon Centers make it possible for city families to connect with nature, expanding



David Yarnold

Audubon's reach to more diverse communities. Diversity has been a hallmark of Yarnold's career, and key to the Audubon mission of growing stewardship throughout the nation. Reaching beyond our borders, Yarnold's experience with climate and other global issues will enhance Audubon's alliances with BirdLife International and other partners in tackling major threats to environmental health and to protect birds as they migrate across hemispheric flyways.

"David has already begun to make changes within Audubon at all levels. He is really concentrating on our systems. He has listened to the frustrations and is making immediate changes to help create systems and operational practices that truly support the critical functions of Audubon," says Heather Starck, Grange Insurance Audubon Center Director. Starck has been invited by Yarnold to serve on a core strategic planning group of ten staff members around the country.

Yarnold lives in Dobbs Ferry, NY, with his wife Fran Smith, and daughter, Nicole.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC staff highlights: Welcome two new faces

Please join us in welcoming Josh Cherubini and Amy Boyd to their new roles at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

Josh is the new Facilities Operations Manager and will be responsible for the consistent achievement of GIAC's operational goals related to the Center and property.



Josh Cherubini

Working with Doreen Whitley, the Director of Conservation, he will ensure that our building, site, and programming help achieve our conservation mission. Josh joins the GIAC Leadership team and will supervise a number of part-time Facility Attendants. He will also manage the rental program. Josh has a B.S. in Environment and Natural Resources from The Ohio State University, 12 years of facilities maintenance including 3 years as crew leader for Duke Realty, and spent time as a wildlife and forestry technician for federal, state, and university agencies.

"Josh has a wonderful upbeat attitude and strong work ethic, he is going to be a great team member," says Center Director, Heather Starck.

Josh has spent two summers in seasonal positions with the US Forest Service Bridger-Teton National Forest, as well as work in the Daniel Boone National Forest and Shawnee State Forest in southern Ohio. He is a licensed pesticide applicator and will utilize that knowledge in conjunction with his efforts on our invasive species plans.

Josh grew up nearby in Heath, Ohio and while jobs have taken him throughout the US, Ohio has



Amy Boyd

always been home.

Amy Boyd is the Center's new Program Coordinator. She will manage all of the programming on site and evaluate their planned purpose, sustainability, and impact on the organization and community. Amy will also work with other staff to oversee the educational exhibits. Her experience as CEO

of the Central Ohio Council of CampFire USA will help her foster and build relationships with schools, businesses, and other community partners. She will lead our volunteer program to new heights as she has many years of experience recruiting new volunteers and building a strong base of ongoing trained volunteer staff. Amy used to run the Education programs at both the Columbus Zoo & Aquariums and the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas.

"Amy brings a wealth of experience on what it takes to run a successful education program. You will see an immediate impact from her work here, we are truly fortunate to have attracted talent like Amy's," Heather Starck, Center Director, states.

Amy graduated from Ohio University with a BS degree in Elementary Education, and has been involved with informal education her entire career. She is passionate about children having the opportunity to learn about and experience our natural world, and "wants all children to know the joy of laying the grass, watching the clouds go by and listening to the song of the birds....unplugged." Amy and her husband David have two children, Eddie age 13 and Aubrie age 11.

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.

Our wish list also changes seasonally. For example, we currently are in need of firewood or a company we can work with to get firewood donated in return for acknowledgements and a tax deduction.

You'll notice a few things taken off our regular list.

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
- 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

Thank you for Support

Donations From 9-25-10 to 11-30-10

Alison Barrett
Don and Eva Cagle
Clayspace
Christine Coulon
Sara Cousins and Erin Coffey
Johann Cozart
Dare Fund of the Columbus Foundation
Jessie Davidson
Kevin and Sharon DeLay
Michelle Duffy
Barbara Gabalski
Michael Harbin
Earl and Alyn Harrison
O'Vell Harrison
B. Diane Hunter
Nancy and Tad Jeffrey
JP Morgan Chase Foundation

Linda Kelly
Tamson Knight
Rick and Barbara Kobee
Michelle and Thomas Kulewicz
Rosalie Lampson
Marty and Michelle Leedy
John H. Litchfield
Susan and Brian McGarvey
Franklin and Karen Martens
Kelly Montgomery
John Morris
Mary E Morris
Oswald Family Foundation
Lori and Don Overmyer
Steven Pluckett
Jack R. Reynolds
Jeff Rogers

Mike Ryan
Jon and Sharon Saia
David and Jeanne Schoedinger
Joanne and Bob Sheely
Milt Shott
Victoria Smith
James Smith
Patrick Terrien
Lucy D. Venable
Vincent Volpi
Adam and Kathleen Wagenbach
Jane and Bruce Walsh
Richard and Jane Ward
Gretel Young
Robert and Kathy Zahller

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC January-February programs

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

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.

Director's Tour

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Bring family and friends to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for a tour of the LEED certified GOLD nature center and grounds led by Center Director Heather Starck. No registration required. For more information, call (614) 545-5481.

Special programs

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

Save the dates

Thursday, April 14 "*GIAC Pledge Breakfast*, 7am Check-In, 7:30-8:30am program

Thursday, May 12 "*Wine and Warblers*" GIAC fundraising event

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. Sunday, January 23, 1-2:30 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! Saturday, January 22, 1:30-3:30 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, January 22, 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, February 12, 1-3 p.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, February 12, 9-11:30 a.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, February 13, 1-4 p.m. \$10/scout.

Themed Birthday parties now offered at GIAC

Celebrate at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center...where every birthday party is a fun and exciting, hands-on, learning adventure that inspires stewardship and change as your child grows!

Birthday Parties will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays.

The cost for birthday parties is \$225 (non-members \$250) for up to 15 children.

Additional children may be added for an additional \$10/guest.

All parties include an hour program led by an Audubon educator, a private party room, electronic party invitations, birthday cake, drinks and sustainable decorations and tableware, a T-shirt of the birthday child, and guest party favors.

Happy Bird-Day!

Our center is located in an Important Bird Area which means you can see many

fine feathered-friends. Come and learn about birds from their special beaks and feet to the ways they communicate... then grab some binoculars to explore the exciting world of bird-watching. Finally, learn about what you can do when you leave to help birds thrive and survive in your own backyard!

Nature Explorers

Explore nature on the Whittier Peninsula in any season just minutes from the heart of downtown Columbus! Investigate what makes up nature, where can you find it, how do you observe it and how does it change throughout the year? We'll make some predictions and then go exploring from the river overlook, through the forest and across our prairie and wetlands. Grab an adventure pack filled with all the things you'll need to go exploring to see what we can find!

Operation Conservation

Think you have to be all grown up to make a difference in the world? No way! Join us on Operation Conservation! Come learn about conservation and how to live more lightly on our earth. We'll explore soil, water, air and wildlife and learn about ways to conserve it when you leave so we can all enjoy the world for years to come. You'll be a certified conservation hero when you leave!

Habitat Detectives

Discover what it takes to make up a habitat and how to protect them. Then, head out to go on a habitat hunt on the Whittier Peninsula! How many habitats can you find just minutes from downtown Columbus? Are there any dangers lurking? Finally, you'll learn all about ways to create your own backyard habitat when you return home!

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

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

Bird hikes at Blendon Woods

Saturdays, January 1 and February 19, 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.metroparks.net.

Wednesday walks at Scioto-Audubon

Wednesdays, January 5 and February 2, 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) Please contact Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com for more information.

OYBC January field trip: Winter Wildlife Tracking

Saturday, January 22, 12:30- 3 p.m.

The OYBC Central Ohio Chapter is coordinating a Winter Wildlife Tracking trip with a professionally trained guide. Activities will include making bird feeding crafts with Donna Daniel of Wild Ohio TV, and an optional tubing trip to Mad River Mountain afterwards. The wildlife tracking will be at Prairie Rose Farm, 18295 Inskip Cratty Road in North Lewisburg. For more information, contact Gerry Brevoort at jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com. The club is for ages 12-18. The optional trip to tube on the hill at Mad River costs \$25 per person and includes 3 hours of hill time and your tube.

Winter Birds of Hoover Reservoir

Saturday, January 22, 9 a.m.

Wrap yourself in your warmest winter gear, grab your travel cup of hot coffee and your binoculars, and head up to our almost-frozen

CA Monthly Programs

Fourth Tuesday of the month

7 p.m., social time, 7:30 p.m., presentation
at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus 43215

Backyard diversity with native plants

January 25, 2011

Join Beth Richardson as she helps us plan for a great diversity of bird species by using native plants in our own backyards. A bird habitat that offers a variety of desirable plants for good food, shelter and nesting opportunities is an important combination in attracting the birds you want to see in all seasons. It is not only the plants you choose, but the structure of the landscape that provides the most benefits. Whether you have a natural or formal garden or landscape, a sunny or shady yard, wet or dry soil there are plants that will offer an attractive, beautiful landscape for you, as well as for many bird species.

Beth Richardson is a member of the local Columbus Chapter of Wild Ones and has worked with them to establish the Whetstone Native Prairie. Beth has a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture and has provided planning and design services to clients in the U.S. and Canada for over eighteen years. She owns the design company Designs with Nature.

Bird Music: Why are females singing?

February 22, 2011

Cardinals are noted for their loud, clear whistled songs, often sung from a high treetop song perch. Females will counter sing, duetting with males—usually after the males have established territories and before nesting begins. Dr. Richard Bradley will present why are female birds singing and will make us look closer when we hear some singing birds.

Dr. Bradley is currently an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology where he teaches general biology, ecology, anatomy and physiology, and spider biology. While his current research focuses on spider population biology, biodiversity assessment, sampling and biogeography of spiders, Dr. Bradley's Master's thesis work was on the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow (song dialects and population surveys) and he has worked at the Florida State Game and Fish Commission as a research biologist working on bird population censuses, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the LA County Museum of Natural History as a curatorial assistant in Ornithology and Bioacoustics. He earned a Ph.D. in Biology at the University of New Mexico where his dissertation research was on the population biology of scorpions. He held a fixed-term lectureship at the University of Sydney (Australia) from 1983 to 1987 studying bird song as well as spider foraging ecology and population regulation.

See Coming up, page 11

OYBC members install feeders at Indianola Informal K-8

Continued from page 1

"Explore Fund" grant from North Face, which the chapter was awarded earlier in the month.

On a beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon, five OYBC students, five fantastic OYBC parents, three folks from the school, two community members, and five OYBC advisors (including Ken Keffer from the statewide OYBC office) all met at the school to put the whole project together at last!

Over the next several hours, students dug mulch pits for beneath the feeders, installed landscaping edging, assembled the feeding stations with power tools, hand tools and a bit of sweat, lifted everything into place, and filled the feeders.

The front of the school was transformed into a smorgasbord for feathered friends!

Teacher Lisa Seiberling, who was there for the installation, was very impressed with the OYBC students.

"This was so inspiring to watch!" she wrote in an email. "You are amazing to do that so quickly and so efficiently!"

Thanks so much. I can't wait to see birds and for our students to find them to watch!"

Cindy Gunn, an Indianola

School parent who is very involved in the Outdoor Learning Lab effort said, "The students involved with the OYBC are emerging scientists with a genuine interest in their natural surroundings. Two of the participants have tracked birds along (nearby) Walhalla Road and these birds will now



Photos courtesy of the central Ohio chapter of the OYBC
OYBC members Jacob Stinnett, Clare Jusdanis, Ada Cleary, Doug Whitman and Daniel Hauck stand around one of the two bird-feeding stations that were donated to the school.

visit the feeders at the school. Since the OYBC chose to install the feeders at Indianola, the teachers, students, parents and community will be able to see the birds that share their environment, up close."

The OYBC students themselves are pretty proud of their efforts. Chapter member Clare Jusdanis says it's the greatest accomplishment she's experienced in birding thus far. And the group looks forward to their next service project, yet to be planned.

Whatever the OYBC chapter decides to take on next, it's guaranteed to be done with energy and a desire to share with the broader community their love of birds and the great outdoors.

Indianola parent Cindy Gunn said, "These kids are the true story and the leaders of tomorrow. Their work at Indianola will demonstrate to students the importance of caring for the world around them. I am truly amazed with the work done, and the enthusiasm of the kids...Thank you for this wonderful gift!"

-Gerry Brevoort, OYBC chapter advisor

November field trip

Young birders see owls close-up at 'Owl Prowl'

Several members of the central Ohio Young Birders Club met in Powell to walk through a woodlot and look for resident Great Horned Owls on Nov. 13.

By the long light of early evening, we walked on the leaf covered paths.

In an 18 acre woodlot, we were softly talking and looking all around for signs of the 'tigers of the night.'

All of a sudden off to my right and swooping low, I saw and excitedly pointed out a flying (retreating) large owl.

Off went the group in pursuit of a better look and soon they were rewarded with looks that brought oohhs and aahhs.

As we exited the woods and looked back, up in a tree along the woods edge sat a female Great Horned Owl.

Clare and Emily were so excited as were the adults who were staring up at this amazing creature sitting in plain view.

She was staring back at us! Something made Clare look down and to her amazement she found an owl pellet.

She and Emily started to carefully take apart the pellet looking for bones and hopefully a rodent skull.

Sure enough there was a skull all snugly encased in mouse fur.

The pellet is what the owl can't digest and it is regurgitated or coughed up.

What a treat to find one of their pellets. Clare wanted to go in search of more pellets but it was too dark.

Next we had fun learning more about

owl biology as we dressed up Gerry Brevoort (OYBC advisor) in a full owl costume.

We also had a visit from two education raptors from Ohio Wildlife Center.

Alex, a male Great Horned Owl, and Ari, a female Eastern Screech Owl, posed for photos to finish an exciting program.

As Alex sat on my glove a male Eastern Bluebird took one dive over Alex giving a verbal rampage asking him to please leave and soon we did as Graeter's was calling beckoning us to come celebrate a fun evening in style with ice cream!

What a great evening with the nighttime hunters.

-By Darlene Sillick

Columbus Audubon

Eco Weekend - Give it as a gift!!!

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

Get out your new 2011 calendars and save these Spring dates for Eco Weekend: April 29 to May 1, 2011. Eco Weekend will be held at Camp Oty'Okwa (near Conkles Hollow) in the Hocking Hills.

Eco Weekend is an opportunity to have an affordable and enjoyable weekend experiencing nature's beauty and learning about nature from experienced program leaders. There are nature-oriented programs for adults and families from Friday evening through noon on Sunday, and some special programs for youth from age 4 through eighth grade on Saturday. Come and learn from professionals who

volunteer their time to share their knowledge with you about the natural world.

Are you aware that you can give the gift of Eco Weekend? It's very simple: you provide the payment to cover the cost of registration, lodging and meals for someone you care about. You may send in the payment at the time of their registration, or you may send in the payment ahead of time. The total weekend cost for an adult is only \$110; the cost for a child (age 4 through Grade 8) is only \$65. Send payments to the Eco Weekend registrar: Maura Moran, 540 Coonpath Rd NW, Lancaster, OH 43130, specifying the

name of the recipient(s).

The 2011 Eco Weekend brochure and registration information will be mailed directly to all Song Sparrow subscribers in February! Be sure to look for it! You may also download the brochure information from our website, www.ecowEEK-end.org. If you have any questions, you can contact the Eco Weekend Committee at ecowEEKend@columbusaudubon.org or call Columbus Audubon at (614)545-5475 and then dial Extension 307 to leave a message. You can also contact us through our website at www.ecowEEK-end.org.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Lois K. Smithies gives charitable gift annuity

In 1998, Ms. Lois Smithies established a Charitable Gift Annuity worth \$10,000. After receiving lifetime income and immediate income tax deduction in exchange, upon her recent passing away the gift which had grown to \$11,526 was distributed to the GIAC in August.

We thank Lois for her dedication to conservation and for leaving a legacy with her support of Audubon. (More information on Lois is being sought and

will be shared as learned).

There are many ways individuals can leave a legacy to support the GIAC and the programs they believe in, well after they have passed. One of these is a Charitable Gift Annuity which is a great way to support the Grange Insurance Audubon Center while receiving lifetime income and tax savings.

Others include identifying the Center in your estate planning or will, in trusts, or

with gifts of stocks and bonds.

Donors should contact Jeff Redfield, GIAC Director of Development, for information about the benefits of an annuity or other gifts.

The GIAC and Jeff can utilize the support staff from the National Audubon Society to make sure a donor's wishes are carried out while making sure their gift supports the Audubon causes and programs which are important to the donor.



A better eye on what's happening this Spring

Thanks to a wonderful project gift from The Thomas C. Hays and Mary Ann Hays Family Foundation, the GIAC is getting at least two Mark II Weatherproof Binoculars with mounts.

The mounts will be strategically placed around the Center and

grounds, with one specifically designated for the Scioto River overlook, just outside and south of the Center. It also affords guest a better bird viewing of these areas even if they don't have their own binoculars with them. Thank you to the Hays Family Foundation for supporting this idea and for their generosity!

Weddings become part of the GIAC family

Since spring 2010, the GIAC has become a favorite location for wedding receptions in Columbus. In some cases, actual smaller wedding ceremonies were held on the Center grounds. Not only does nature and the Center become part of the couples' special day, the event benefits the Center in many ways. The rental income dramatically helps support education, conservation and GIAC research programs. By averaging nearly 200 guests per reception, the wonderful and artistically decorated receptions have been a great first-time visit for many of their guests during a wonderful and memorial event. As part of holding their wedding

celebration with us, they also receive a free 1-year Family GIAC/Columbus Audubon membership as we welcome them to our family.

Here is a list of the wedding celebrations held at the Center in 2010: Molly & Richard Cissell; The Currier Wedding; Joannie & Nick De Andrea; The Gehring Wedding; Mike and Colleen Guy; Kevin and Katie Laudick; Bob & Lindsay Lee; Keith and Laura Lyons; Derek and Jamie McCarthy; Alyson & Rob Messinger; Sara & Tony Pellerite; Devon and Jeff Pence and the Snyder Wedding.

2011 Great Backyard Bird Count is Feb. 18-21

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. We'll be adding updated GBBC materials for the next count as they become available. Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online

checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see. A selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery.

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many

species in such a short time.

We need your help. Make sure the birds from your community are well represented in the count. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

Scientists use the counts, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to give us an immense picture of our winter birds.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada and sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited.

A note from the CA president - Julie Davis

I hope that all of you had a joyful and birdy Holiday season! The last time I wrote, I was ending my 2 year tenure as CA President and we welcomed our new President in September. Unfortunately for CA, she has decided to step down, but for a very good reason: a beautiful baby daughter. The board asked if I would fill out the next year's term and I gratefully accepted.

Working with Columbus Audubon and all of you has been a wonderful experience and I am honored to be able to continue in the role for another term. I invite all of our members to participate in our field trips, programs and other activities. We have so much to offer and the best way to enjoy your membership is to get involved!

Columbus Audubon offers awards for support, volunteerism

Columbus Audubon offers three awards recognizing special individuals, organizations and/or businesses who aid in the accomplishment of CA's goals.

We would love input from our members to help us choose the recipients.

Below are the award descriptions and previous winners.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Vice-president Bill Heck by Jan 31, 2011.

Contact info is on back of this newsletter.

Song Sparrow Award: The Song Sparrow Award was established in 1996 and is Columbus Audubon's highest honor.

It recognizes outstanding contributions by Audubon members who promote CA's mission often over the course of years.

Traditionally, at least one Song Sparrow award is given every year for education, conservation, and/or meritorious service.

Junior Conservation Award: Recognizes outstanding contributions by Audubon family members under the age of 18 in the area of conservation.

This is a new award as of 2008 (Spencer Rieser first recipient). The award is intended

to be given on an "as appropriate" basis, and will not necessarily be given every year.

Examples of junior conservation may be work in the preserves, building nest boxes, conducting research or raising youth awareness on bird conservation.

James Chase Hambleton Award: The James Chase Hambleton Award replaces the Columbus Audubon Conservation Award established in 2008 (Blaine Keckley was the only recipient of the award).

The Hambleton award recognizes outstanding contributions by non-members who promote CA's mission particularly in the areas of conservation and education.

This award is intended to be given on an "as appropriate" basis, and will not necessarily be given every year.

Previous Winners:

SONG SPARROW AWARDS

Feb 1996, Dennis Bahnsen, Manon VanSchoyck, Bernie Master

Feb 1997, Al Blyth, Curt Greene

Feb 1998, Tom Thomson and posthumously to Rex Kuhn

Feb 1999, Ernie Limes, Jim Davidson, Lois Day

Feb 2000, Marlene Woo Lun, Katryn Renard

Feb 2001, Joan & John Arnfield

Feb 2002, Tom Sheley

Mar 2003, Jan Rodenfels

Feb 2004, Charlie Bombaci, Deborah & Ken Buckley, Kristan Leedy

Feb 2005, Rob Thorn, John Wilson

Feb 2006, Sharon Treaster, Darlene Sillick

Feb 2007, Dave Horn, Susan Setterlin, Mike Flynn

Feb 2008, Roz Horn, Liz Melick, Mary Ann Hrabley

Feb 2009, Stefanie Hauck, Jenny Bowman, Dick Tuttle

April 2010, Joe Meara, Johann Cozart, Julie Davis

JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST AWARD

Feb. 2008, Spencer Rieser

COLUMBUS AUDUBON CONSERVATION AWARD

Feb. 2008, Blaine Keckley

South Side Settlement House

Students to become conservation champions

Students who attend the after school program at the South Side Settlement House are learning what it means to be a conservation champion—one who takes action to conserve, preserve and respect the environment.

On a sunny, crisp October day, they first listened to stories about conservation champions in history like John James Audubon, Aldo Leopold, Margaret Morse Nice and even current champions like the members of the newly formed Central Ohio Chapter of Ohio Young Birders Club who recently planned, designed and constructed two bird feeding stations in the front yard of Indianola Informal K-8 School. These feeding stations will be used by the school students for science projects, literary writing and much more. After learning about some champions past and present, the students got a lesson in binocular skills so that they can observe and count the bird populations and species at SSS and also at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. They will keep statistics of both areas and as the school year ends, they will do a comparison study of both to discover the differences and similarities of the populations of both areas—thus, becoming their own conservation champi-



Students look out at the Scioto River for a variety of birds.

ons as they plan to pass on their findings to Cornell University's ornithology department. Their first trip to Scioto Audubon Metro Park was a fruitful mission of discovery when 14 species were identified in little over an hour. Included was an awesome display of flying maneuvers by a belted kingfisher which was a hit with the

kids. Come winter, they will discover the movements of the area's wildlife by honing their tracking skills as well as continue their bird observation skills. Look to this newsletter for further updates on the students' foray into the field!

-By Susan Setterlin

Backyards for Wildlife: Winter bird watching through your win-

It's easy to see birds from your window in winter, and it's even more fun to know the names of the birds in your yard.

Look up your backyard birds online, like at these informative resources: www.AllAboutBirds.org or www.ena-ture.com.

You can also have a color, hard-copy booklet snail-mailed at no cost from ODNr by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. Ask for the 'Common Birds of Ohio' publication (and the accompanying CD if you'd like to learn to identify birds by their calls and songs). They also give away 'Warblers of Ohio' and 'Waterbirds of Ohio' (and you can request their respective CDs as well).

Field Guides can be helpful for less common birds.

Try your library or used book stores for books for your area, like *Birds of Ohio* by McCormac and Kennedy, published by Lone Pine.

Your help is needed! Mark your calen-



By Marc Apfelstadt

White throated sparrow through a win-

dow.
dar for Friday, Feb. 18 through Monday, Feb. 21 and use your bird-watching skills to help birds in as little as 15 minutes as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count!

No scientists could ever cover such a wide area in as short of a time-span as we can by working together.

Scientists will compile all our data and get a lot of helpful ideas to protect birds

and habitats. This information will help answer many of their questions.

Represent your yard and post your sightings during the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Email marc-a@columbus.rr.com to receive the monthly 'Nature Scoop' email and go to www.backyardhabitat.info to learn more.

Let's work together to help birds, one yard at a time.

Winterize Your Yard for Wildlife with tips from Columbus Audubon's website at www.columbusaudubon.org/. On the top, click on the green Resources tab, select CA Newsletters and skip down to 2009.

There has been some concern about birds' health after bathing in heated bird baths during frigid weather. If you wish, you can cross sticks or limbs over the water so that they can only drink.

-By Toni Stahl

Conservation corner: Rusty blackbirds, going, going, hopefully not gone

Rusty Blackbirds, considered common to abundant one-hundred years ago, have declined precipitously during the last four decades.

Estimates of decline vary between 85 percent based on Christmas Bird Counts and 97 percent based on Breeding Bird Survey results along the southern margin of the Rusty's breeding range. The losses are staggering. Uncertainty is high, Rusty Blackbirds are difficult to find and count during winter. Christmas Bird Counts find small numbers. Breeding Bird Surveys barely penetrate their northern breeding range. Everyone agrees, the formerly abundant Rusty Blackbird is now uncommon to rare almost everywhere it is found, and the species is in trouble. The causes must be determined soon, and actions to protect vital habitats and resources are necessary, now.

The International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group assembled during 2005 to study the problem. More than twenty scientists coordinate new research investigating possible causes for the decline. The group is led by Russell Greenburg, Head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Beginning in 2009, the working group has involved citizen scientists, too. Birders from many states entered their observations into eBird during the effort. Ohio was the lead

reporting state during 2009. Ohio birders canvassed our state and discovered important hotspots close to home, including Calamus Swamp. (*A description of a recent trip to Calamus for Rusty Blackbirds can be found at www.columbusaudubon.org*).

The 2011 Rusty Blackbird Hotspot Blitz from January 30 through February 15 will gather data about the winter distribution of our declining swamp blackbird.

Rusty Blackbirds eat more invertebrate proteins and lipids than other blackbirds. They eat nuts, too. Thin walled nuts and water soaked acorns are favorites. Shallow water is the key; rusties Rustys don't mind wading, but they like to keep their bellies dry. If the water is too deep, Rusty Blackbirds lose access to important food sources. One possible cause for the precipitous decline of Rusty Blackbirds may be modern flood management in vast bottomland green tree swamps along southern rivers in the core of their winter range. Natural water level fluctuations ensure there will be areas of shallow pooled water along riparian corridors. Modern hydrological engineering and wildlife management practices keep bottomlands under deeper water better suited for water storage and dabbling ducks.

Rusty Blackbirds are studied in their breeding range to gain better understanding

of their breeding distribution and trends. Alas, it appears they may be threatened there, too. Great swaths of boreal forest are clear cut to feed the voracious world market for spruce and fir pulp used in making toilet tissue and sundries. Rebounding clear cuts are very attractive to breeding Rusty Blackbirds. The brushy regrowth mimics bog and streamside edge habitat normally selected by Rusty Blackbirds. Clear cuts attract very high densities of nesting blackbirds.

Researchers initially suggested that the recent huge growth of winter logging deep in the frozen boreal forest might help slow the decline of Rusty Blackbirds. When they studied these high density nesting areas they discovered very low survivorship. Very few young Rustys fledged and dispersed from the clear cuts. Further study discovered a furry culprit, red squirrels. Hyper-predation by red squirrels attracted to the high nest densities in rebounding clear cuts made these breeding sites ecological sinks for the Rusty Blackbird.

More study is needed, north and south, summer and winter. The mysterious decline of the Rusty Blackbird is a multifaceted problem. Learn more about the Rusty Blackbird and the Blitz here: http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratory-birds/research/rusty_blackbird/

-By Tom Bain

Invasive species: Rainbow Trout

We have previously described some nasty flora and fauna in this column, but this article deals with one of our better liked species, the rainbow trout.

I have spent many enchanting hours drifting a dry fly over a rainbow trout, both locally and in more exotic locales. It was not until I read *An Entirely Synthetic Fish*, by Anders Halverson, that I determined that rainbow trout might be characterized as an invasive species.

Rainbow trout are native only to the Pacific Rim, from Mexico to Russia. Fish culturists learned how to artificially breed rainbows and they were first introduced in a California stream in 1872. At about the same time, the United States Fish Commission was established and stocking rainbow trout soon became the rage throughout the country. They were introduced in lakes and streams that were devoid of fish or that contained only "rough" fish, disdained by sporting

anglers. Rainbow trout were also introduced in streams that contained other, native, species of trout.

Rainbow trout can withstand higher temperatures than other species of trout. This is important because excessive logging turned many cool forested streams into hot tubs, no longer capable of sustaining native trout.

Rainbow trout have been spread throughout the world. They are included in the top 100 of the world's worst invasive species. Research has shown that they can displace native trout, and their sheer numbers can alter the aquatic invertebrate community, to the detriment of other fish species. Their impact on native fish seems to be greatest in places that never had trout (Australia and New Zealand, for instance).

For every person born in the United States every year, federal and state hatcheries raise and stock 20 rainbows into public waters. Fish culturists can manipulate

genes through breeding programs so that there are presently more than 75 strains of rainbow trout. Rainbows are bred for traits like the time of year that they spawn, their growth rate and their tolerance for temperature and disease.

While it is true that rainbow trout have an unfair advantage over native species of trout, few advocate that we do away with rainbows. Many, however, have a great preference for "wild" trout, which are entirely different from "native" trout. A wild trout is a product of natural reproduction. It is quite common to have a wild trout that is not native. Many natural resources departments throughout the country are turning away from stocking hatchery bred fish and devoting more money and effort into improving stream habitat, so that wild trout may prosper. Such action can only be better for all who are concerned about nature.

-By Bruce Lindsay

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC Board Highlight: Greg Cunningham

Greg Cunningham has recently accepted the position of vice-chair of the Stewardship Board for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center! We are so excited to have Greg in this new role. Greg served for many years on the Audubon Ohio board where he was on the fundraising committee. He stepped up to help GIAC secure a \$1M gift from Limited Brands for the capital campaign. Greg has served on the GIAC board since its inception and is highly respected by his fellow board members.

As the AVP, Environment, Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability at



Greg Cunningham

Limited Brands here in Columbus, Greg is responsible for development and imple-

mentation of the environmental stewardship program. He also has full responsibility for the development and implementation of regulatory compliance programs that relate to federal, state, and local environment, health, safety, and hazardous materials transportation regulations.

Greg is an avid birder and is involved with many different environmental organizations in town including the Ohio Wildlife Center, Metro Park, FLOW, and the Nature Conservancy.

Here is a fun fact, Greg authored "Greg Cunningham's First Book of Birds By Greg Cunningham" at the age of 8.

Change makes a difference

For two months in 2011, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center will be a recipient of Easton Town Center's "Change for Charity" program. This fundraising and community awareness program raises money annually for one of six selected charities.

The donation comes from change in parking meters and "tickets" for expired meters with each nonprofit selected getting a designated two-month's funds.

The months were recently chosen so mark your calendars for September and

October 2011 to benefit the GIAC.

"We're extremely happy and honored to have been selected by the Easton Town Center Foundation" said Jeff Redfield, GIAC Director of Development. The GIAC was chosen from nearly 40 applicants and Jeff also shared "the aspect of 'changing' community awareness through this Easton program is immense. You can't buy this type of publicity."

The Easton Center Foundation provides the designated charity of the 2-months ways to promote the non-profit and its programs

through many avenues such as displays, kiosk, PR efforts and multimedia outreach at Easton. This will provide at no cost to the GIAC marketing and publicity for our nature education, conservation, and research programs.

Many who are less familiar with the Center and Audubon will hear about us. More information, including additional ways we can get support during September and October 2011 (like back to school and early holiday shopping), will be shared as we learn more.

Mark your calendars

Mark Your Calendars: The GIAC is planning two spring events to help raise pledges, funds, and connections that will build community support for the Center and its programs.

Spring Breakfast Event: Thursday, April 14, Registration 7 a.m., program 7:30-8:30 a.m. Table captains will be inviting their friends, family, and connections to this free, one-hour fundraising breakfast. If interested in attending, reach out to a GIAC Board or staff member.

Wine and Warblers: Thursday, May 12, 5 - 9 p.m. Details are

being worked on for an exciting and new event that raises both birding awareness and funds, the 2011 GIAC "Wine and Warblers" event. Tickets are \$40 each or \$75 for two. The event will consist of a 20-30 minute warbler walk, a wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres will be inside the Center and on the decks. A silent auction of very unique and themed items will also be available. Guests will also have the opportunity to tour inside the Center.

More details for both events will be in the March-April newsletter.

Caps Can Do Program

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center has partnered with Weisenbach Recycled Products as a drop-off location for #5PP - Polypropylene Plastic caps.

The Caps Can Do program is dedicated to recycling plastic bottle caps, promoting education, increasing awareness and providing solutions to the problems littered plastic caps cause to wildlife and humans alike. Drop your caps in our CAPS CAN DO collection bucket located in the front lobby! To learn more about the partnership, visit www.weisenbach.com.

CLEAN Plastic Caps Accepted (please rinse or clean your lids and remove any foil, foam or paper liners as well): Caps from

threaded neck bottles (soft drinks, soda, water, juice, shampoo, etc.); Jar lids (peanut butter, pickles, mayo, etc.); Flip caps from personal care products, shampoo bottles, and food product bottles (condiments, etc.); Laundry detergent caps.

Caps NOT Accepted: No caps with foil, foam, or paper liners (unless the liners are removed); milk jug caps; dirty caps encrusted with food particles or foreign materials; pharmaceutical products; metal lids or metal caps; caps with metal inserts; plastic pumps or sprayers; caps from spray cans or deodorant sticks; flexible snap-on lids (unless marked as PP#5); No caps or lids that break when bent.

Coming up

Continued from page 4

asset as we try to find some of the birds that call Hoover Reservoir their winter home. If the reservoir isn't frozen, we should have scads of diving ducks & dabbling ducks of several varieties, large goose flocks, small groups of swans, and a few loons, not to mention gulls. We'll also hit a few spots back from the shoreline to look for hawks, owls, and winter finches. Meet at the Hoover Dam parking lot on Sunbury Road. Call Rob Thorn at 614-551-0643.

Winter Bird Walk at Blendon Woods - Beginners Welcome!

Sunday, January 23, 2 p.m.

We will start in the nature center and then walk the 1/4-mile trail through the woods to the waterfowl observation buildings, and return to the warmth of the center. All skill levels are welcome, and that includes those who are just getting started. Meet at the nature center, Walden Refuge, at Blendon Woods. Call Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681.

Winter Waterholes of the Urban Scioto

Sunday, February 6, 9 a.m.

Areas of the Scioto River below Griggs Dam, Marble Cliff, Long Street Dam, and Greenlawn Dam all remain open for most of the winter, and they accumulate impressive flocks of ducks and geese and herons. Throw in swarms of gulls, some hardy winter land-birds, and a few Bald Eagles, and you've got the fixin's for a hot morning in the coldest season. Meet at the Griggs Dam parking area by the Reservoir police station off Riverside Drive. Call Rob Thorn at 614-551-0643.

OYBC: Winter Blues Blowout at Killdeer Plains

Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This is an annual event sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory that is now a joint trip with the Central Ohio Chapter. All OYBC members are invited as we go in search of owls and shrikes. We will have a potluck lunch at the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area Sportsmen's Center, and those who wish can continue birding after lunch. Target species include Long-eared, Saw-whet, and Short-eared Owls; Rough-legged Hawks; and Northern Shrikes. A potluck lunch is included at the Killdeer Plains Sportsman's Center, so bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Gerry Brevoort at jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com.

Winter Birds of Killdeer Plains

Sunday, February 13, noon-7 p.m.

It's late winter and waterfowl are flying north to their breeding grounds. There are over 20 species of native ducks, geese, and swans that migrate through our state. Their colors and designs are as intricate and amazing as most other groups of birds. We will venture afield in search of these magnificent birds, along with eagles, hawks, owls and songbirds. We may also travel to a nearby location in search of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. It is often very cold and windy. Dress warmly and bring snacks. We will carpool from the Worthington Square Mall. Contact Mike Flynn at (614-769-1681).

New Adventure: Southeast Ohio Recreation Land

Sunday, February 27, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This trip is a unique opportunity to be there for the first Columbus

Audubon trip to a new site: an award-winning mining reclamation area. The property is owned by AEP, and includes 34,000 acres covering parts of four counties. It features 350 ponds and lakes, and over 63 million trees have been planted here. Join us as we venture to this natural area, observe the wildlife as we have our first look at this land. You can check out the site on the AEP Web site. We will meet at the back of the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Pickerington to carpool. Contact Mike Flynn at (614-769-1681).

Save the Date: Annual meeting and potluck is March 22

The guest speaker for the annual potluck will be Tom Stalf, Senior Vice-President of Operations at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Tom joined the staff of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in the summer of 2010. Tom started his zoo career as an animal keeper following completion of his undergraduate degree in biology at Western Illinois University. He worked for over 19 years at the Niabi Zoo near Moline, Illinois where his career ranged from being a zookeeper, a curator, and then, he became the youngest zoo director in the nation. Through his 16 years as zoo director, Tom became friends with Jack Hanna and began to join Jack for national television shows as well as theater presentations.

Tom, along with animal guests, will share with us an inside look at the #1 zoo in the country.

Avid Birders field trips

Avid Birders welcome all birders to join any regularly scheduled trip. Upcoming trips to Lake Erie are on Jan. 15 and Feb. 12. Meet at the Worthington Mall (Southeast side) parking lot at 5:30 a.m.

Service in the Preserves

Gallagher Fen SNP

Saturday, January 8, 7:45 a.m.

We head back to Gallagher Fen SNP where we built a staircase in September. After admiring our handiwork we will move to another part of the preserve to burn woody vegetation that will already be felled. Our task will be to get several existing large brush piles burning and to drag brush from smaller piles to the fires. There will be some time to search for the large skunk cabbage population to see if by chance it has started to poke its head through the snow. The trip will go on even if there is no snow.

Boch Hollow SNP

Saturday, February 5, 7:45 a.m.

Boch Hollow is an absolutely gorgeous cluster of ravines, trees and cliffs nestled in the Hocking Hills. It's not open to the public, but in exchange for a bit of work, you can enjoy its beauty. We will be building some new trails, maintaining some old ones, and constructing some boardwalk over wet areas. It is truly a treat to spend the day working in such an area.

For both trips, meet at 7:45 AM in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex to travel in the ODNR van to the site. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, January 5 for the Jan. 8 trip and Wednesday, Feb. 2 for the Feb. 5 trip at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and to help us determine tool requirements. No special skills are required, but do bring your lunch, water, work gloves and appropriate foot gear. You will need to complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity; please tell Katryn if you have never done so or if you believe yours may have expired. We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m.

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: Josh Cherubini

Educators: Allison Roush, Tori Strickland, Joe Jennings

Program Coordinator: Amy Boyd

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:

Sandra Nessing (Chair)

Greg Cunningham (Vice Chair)

Alan McKnight

John O'Meara

Christie Vargo

Beth Crane

Julie Davis

Ovell Harrison

Barry Hunlock

Chester Jourdan

Tom Katzenmeyer

Dr. Bernie Master

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Columbus Audubon

Founded 1913

614-545-5475

www.columbusaudubon.org

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

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Officers: President: Julie Davis, 523-2180

Vice President: Bill Heck, 481-8872

Newsletter/Web Editor: Stefanie Hauck, (740) 972-1680

Treasurer: Warren Grody

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Trustees: Julie Davis, Mike Flynn, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Katryn Renard, Barbara Revard, Andrea Cook, Tom Sheley, Darlene Sillick, Suzan Jervey, Gerry Brevoort, 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

Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort,

jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com

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

Avd Birders: www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html

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A challenge to save

Every other month, over 3800 copies of this newsletter are printed on recycled paper and mailed throughout Ohio and beyond.

Changes Can Be Costly

Calendar Insert: In both this and the November/December 2010 issue we added a new feature of a calendar insert which shows the programs of both groups. Because of it's placement, readers can easily remove it, allowing for easy posting or other follow up, like the birdseed sales.

We've gotten great feedback and hope to be able to afford the continuation of this addition. For November-December this was an additional \$834 cost.

Color: We've also examined the possibilities to upgrade the newsletter to include more color (either 2 color ink or full color) and photos. At our current number of mailed copies, the ink, paper, and postage is cost prohibitive.

You Can Help - Our Newsletter Challenge

Cut Costs by Switching to E-Version

Goal: 800 new participants to keep the Calendar inserts

How does this help - Why These Goals? When we add the calendar/insert to just one issue, it results in an additional cost on average of \$.25 more per newsletter. Each newsletter printed and mailed (with the calendar insert) costs \$.87 each verses \$.62 without.

We want to give you the best product and by having more people sign up to get the newsletter electronically, we can afford to do this because we save \$.87 for each supporter who doesn't need a printed and mailed copy. Fewer copies means our current budgeted covers the increased amount per copy to include the calendar pages each time. Getting 800 people to sign up for this green electronic version meets our goal of everyone still getting a better newsletter.

If you prefer to get an electronic copy or don't prefer either way, help by signing up today! Send an email (from the email or emails you wish to receive an e-version), to either the GIAC to jredfield@audubon.org or Columbus Audubon at membership@columbusaudubon.org and indicate "electronic version only" As each issue comes out, we'll send you an electronic (.pdf) version to the email you provide.

Please note... The GIAC and Columbus Audubon want to make sure that all those who are eligible to receive our newsletter, and who want a printed copy, continue to receive one in the mail. We appreciate that for many of our supporters, it allows them to read and peruse the copy at their leisure. It's a service we plan to continue! Also, we do run a few extra copies to place in public areas in the community to raise additional awareness. If you prefer or are willing to get only an electronic copy, help by signing up today.

However, everyone can still help with costs. If you move, your address changes, your family changes (marriage, two people sharing a home, etc.), or if our records are incorrect resulting in your getting multiple copies, etc. please let us know these changes so that we can update your contact information.