

Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

January 2008 announcements and events

Coming Up

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

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

Field trips

Wednesday walks at Whittier

Wednesdays, January 2 and February 6, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Join Paul and Heather for a short walk around Whittier Peninsula to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street). For more information, contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us.

New Year's Day walk at Blackhand Gorge

Tuesday, January 1, 10 a.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

We will hike the trail and see what's out and about as we start our 2008 bird list. Winter species will keep us company and we will be close to water, field and woods on our hike. The geology of the winter landscape tree silhouettes will be a wonderful way to usher in a new year of bird watching. Wear layers and good footwear and bring food and water. Meet at the Worthington Mall shopping center parking lot in front of the Kroger, just south of I-270 on U.S. 23 in north Worthington. Carpooling is available. If you are closer to Newark, meet us at 11 a.m. in the main parking lot at Blackhand Gorge eight miles east of Newark. Contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Green Lawn Cemetery bird walk

Saturday, January 5, 9 a.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick and John Wilson

Meet at the office parking lot inside the iron gate, 1000 Green Lawn Avenue. Over 200 species of birds of birds have been recorded at Green Lawn and an early winter wander around the pit usually brings a few surprises. Join co-leaders Darlene Sillick and John Wilson as they fill the bird feeders and look for the usual suspects plus a few surprises at one of the oldest cemeteries in central Ohio. Contact Darlene at (614) 761-3696 or azure-trails@columbus.rr.com. The Green Lawn Web site is

CA January Program

Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Osprey and Barn Owls

Tuesday, January 22

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

Innis House at Inniswood Metro Gardens

Program description

The Bald Eagle has made a remarkable comeback from only four pair to over 164 nests recorded last year in Ohio. While once just a rare beacon on Lake Erie, bald eagles are becoming increasingly more common to observe in and around Central Ohio which hosted at least 12 nests last season. Even though barn owls and peregrine falcons are not historical nesters in Ohio, both species have adapted to our state as our landscape has changed. Though their habitat needs are vastly different, both are similar in the sense that human-made structures are a key to their existence. The re-establishment of the osprey population is another wildlife management success story. Find out how research efforts using satellite telemetry have taught us about these bird's migrations. Join Donna Daniel, wildlife biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, as she updates us on these species of raptors in Ohio. Donna has worked with the division for 15 years. On the job, she conducts wildlife surveys and monitors endangered species. She contributes a "Backyards for Wildlife" feature to the Division's quarterly "Wild Ohio" magazine and for the weekly Wild Ohio TV show.

<http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org>.

Winter birds of Prairie Oaks Metro Park

Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m.

Leader: Earl Harrison

Search for winter birds of open fields and lakes at Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Directions to main park entrance: From I-270, take I-70 west to Plain City-Georgesville Road/S.R. 142 exit and go about 0.8 miles north. Entrance is on the right.

For more information contact Earl Harrison at 614-505-1123 or Harrison.304@osu.edu.

See Coming up, page 2

Coming up

Continued from Page 1

Winter birds of Dublin

Sunday, January 13, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

One of central Ohio's best kept secrets is how bird-filled many of its suburban communities are. Each seems to have a great mix of parks, wetlands, rivers, and green spaces that attract a surprising diversity; birding in these areas can be more rewarding than many distant wildlife areas. We'll explore several of the hot-spots in this NW Columbus suburb, including Kiwanis Park, O'Shaughnessy reservoir, and Glacier Ridge, so we'll be out for the morning. Dress warm and bring a snack to keep up your energy. We'll meet at Scioto Park along the Scioto River just north of I-270 (get off at Sawmill and take Bright or Hard Rd west). For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Cleveland lakefront with the DCBC

Sunday, January 20, 8 a.m.

Leader: Jed Burt of the Delaware County Bird Club

CA will join DCBC for a joint field trip to the Cleveland waterfront to look for wintering gulls and ducks with Dr. Jed Burt, OWU zoology professor leading the groups. Those wishing to participate need to be in the parking lot next to Selby Stadium on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus by 8 a.m. We will combine into as few vehicles as possible. Jed asks that you call him at (740) 368-3886 during the preceding week. Plan on it being a lot colder on the lakefront, bring snacks and be prepared to share in the cost of gas. Contact Jed Burt at ehburt@owu.edu.

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

Sunday, January 27, 12 noon

Leader: Mike Flynn

This wildlife area features a diverse habitat and attracts a great variety of bird species in the winter. Eagles, hawks, owls and songbirds (e.g. Swamp Sparrow) can be observed as they live on this landscape. Waterfowl also frequent this area if there is open water. Dress for the weather, bring food/water. Meet at the Worthington Mall shopping center parking lot just south of I-270 on U.S. 23, Worthington. Carpooling is available. Contact Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Prairie Ridge Interpretive Site, Illinois

Friday-Sunday, April 3, 4 and 5

Leaders: Mike Flynn and Michael Packer

Reservations required, Cost is \$50 per person

Join CA for another fantastic weekend of birding. Mike Flynn and Michael Packer have reserved the private blinds at Prairie Ridge Interpretive Site in Illinois to get a rare up-close look at the courtship of the endangered Greater Prairie Chicken. At this time of year, and at the crack of dawn, the males begin to court females. They



Prairie Chicken.

strut, dance, display feathers and fill ornate orange sacs on the

sides of their neck with air (the sounds made are a low "whoom-a-oom"). The trip is by reservation only and has a limited number of spaces. The blinds have been reserved both Saturday and Sunday to accommodate 16 people for the trip. After viewing in the blinds (about 2 hours) and a nice breakfast, we will seek out the Smith's Longspur and other birds of interest in the area. Contact Michael Packer, m.packer@yahoo.com or Mike Flynn, mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com to reserve your space, receive carpool and hotel information, and to get additional details about the trip.

Coyotes of Prairie Oaks

Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

Note: Bad-weather alternate date is Wednesday, Feb. 20.

More details will be in the February-March issue. For more information, you can email Mike Flynn at mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Avid Birders field trips

Go to <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html> for more information.

Metro Parks programs

Highbanks Metro Park

Morning Bird Hike, Saturday January 5, 10 a.m. Meet at the Highbanks Nature Center. Start your 2008 bird list with a slow-paced, two-mile hike in search of winter birds.

Coyotes, Saturday, January 19, 2 p.m. Meet at the Highbanks Nature Center. Coyote expert Stan Gehrt will share information about these secretive neighbors.

Glacier Ridge Metro Park

Birds of Prey Hike, Sunday, January 6, 8 a.m. Meet at the main park bulletin board. Join Glacier Ridge's public program as we look for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers.

Who's There! Owl Hike, Saturday, February 2, 6 p.m. Meet at the main park bulletin board. Search for the both Barred and Great Horned Owls on a 2-mile hike.

Delaware County Bird Club

A special program will be lead by students and Dr. Jed Burt of OWU on January 28. Time TBD. We will have the opportunity to watch and learn how to prepare study skins. Tours of the museum will also be offered. If you want to prepare a skin for the museum, you will need to arrive earlier. Details will be on the www.columbusaudubon.org. Contact Darlene Sillick at 614-761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Save the date!

Annual Meeting

Hold the date for the Columbus Audubon Annual Meeting and Potluck on Feb. 26. The event will be held at the Clintonville Woman's Club. Jerry Borin, director of the Columbus Zoo will be our esteemed speaker. Potluck dinner will start at 6 p.m. sharp and the program will start at 7 p.m. Please bring a dish large enough to feed eight people and your own tableware.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is right around the corner, and we want to make sure you have all the information you need to get involved. This year's GBBC will be held from February 15-18. More information will be in the next newsletter. On the Web: Go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

Art for Audubon

Event raises \$ 15,000 for the GIAC

Over 125 attended the Art for Audubon event on October 21 at Cardinal Health in Dublin. Silent and live auctions raised close to \$15,000 for Columbus Audubon to donate to

the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Look for full details and photos in the February-March newsletter.

-Julie Davis

South Side Settlement

Students become bird sleuth investigators for Cornell U.

Once again this year, Columbus Audubon in partnership with GIAC are working with the after-school program at the South Side Settlement House.

Returning students from last year are able to hone their bird observation skills at the same time showing new students the basics of the FeederWatch program. Forty-five students have been monitoring three feeding stations at the South Side Settlement. Students are learning how these observations provide scientists at Cornell University with bird statistics vital to understanding the fluctuating populations of birds and specific bird species.

Using their binoculars, the students have become proficient at bird identification, proper methods of counting birds in the study areas and documenting their findings on tally sheets. The older class then enters the statistics via the E-bird Web site which sends the information to Cornell University.

Students are now beginning to see some results of their own by plotting their bird numbers and species on a graph poster and asking pertinent questions as to the reasons for the bird fluctuations. Once again by the end of the school year, South Side Settlement students plan to showcase their findings at a bird festival to be held in the spring.

South Side Settlement students also have the opportunity to work with GIAC education coordinator, Doreen Whitley, during seasonal field trips to the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. By documenting bird populations in several habitats within the park (wetlands, field, forest, urban), they will learn the differences between those habitats and the habitat at South Side Settlement and compare bird populations and species between the two sites.

For the fall field trip, the older students observed birds in each of the four habitats, while the younger students learned of the diverse wildlife from forest, field and river.

and binoculars to observe these critters, the students had a great time getting up close and personal with some of the forest and river creatures. Watch this newsletter for future reports from the students of South Side Settlement House.

-Susan Setterlin, CA Education Committee Chair

Columbus Audubon KIDS!

The Winter newsletter is coming out soon! Contact Nadya Bennett, CA Kids Committee Chair, at nadya2003@msn.com or (614) 306-8215, to get your child's issue mailed to them and to sign up for our CA Kids monthly programs.

Service in the Preserves

Stages Pond State Nature Preserve (Phase I)

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

Leader: Preserve manager

Stage's Pond State Nature Preserve is an example of one of the distinctive features of left from the great ice fields which once covered most of Ohio 17,000 years ago. Stage's Pond glaciated areas, a kettle lake. As the glacier receded from this part of present-day Pickaway County, an immense chunk of ice broke free and remained behind to be covered with accumulating sands, gravels and other glacial debris washing off the melting glacier.

When the land-locked ice mass finally melted, it left a great depression in the landscape. Thirty acres of the depression filled with water and is now called a "kettle lake."

In the spring and fall, Stage's Pond is a refuge for a wide variety of waterfowl which stop during migration to rest and feed on the pond and marshy areas.

Other birds take refuge at the spot as well; one recent sighting was a (seemingly) small kestrel chasing a (seemingly) huge northern harrier off a perch the kestrel had claimed as his own.

One of the bird blinds that look over the lakes is ready for repairs. On Jan. 5, we will start the rehab of the blind. Some trail trimming will also be done.

All skill levels are welcome. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, Jan. 2 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and determine tool requirements. Bring your lunch, water, work gloves, and appropriate foot gear. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treaster.1@osu.edu for forms or fill one out on the morning of the trip). We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m.

Stages Pond State Nature Preserve (Phase II)

Saturday, February 9, 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Preserve manager

We will return to Stage's Pond State Nature Preserve to complete the work on renovating a bird blind that was begun in January. You need not have worked on phase one to help with phase two.

All you need is an eagerness to see the kettle lakes left behind by the retreating glacier and an appreciative eye to watch any interesting wildlife that may emerge.

All skill levels are welcome. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, Jan. 2 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and determine tool requirements. Bring your lunch, water, work gloves, and appropriate foot gear.

Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity (contact treaster.1@osu.edu for forms or fill one out on the morning of the trip). We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m.

Memberships

Memberships in Audubon and Columbus Audubon and gift memberships are available through Columbus Audubon

Audubon Membership

Includes membership in the national organization and Columbus Audubon; includes 4 issues of Audubon magazine and 5 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. Rates below are available to **NEW** subscribers.

- _____ \$20 - 1-year introductory rate
- _____ \$30 - 2-year introductory rate
- _____ \$15 - 1-year student/senior rate

Columbus Audubon Chapter Only Membership

Chapter only membership includes 5 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities and helps fund our programs.

- _____ \$20 - 1-year new membership
- _____ \$20 - Renewal (currently \$15 less than Audubon renewals)

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To change your mailing address, call Joe Meara at 614-781-9602 or e-mail membership@columbusaudubon.org.

Columbus Audubon
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740-549-0333
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Vice President: Julie Davis, 523-2180
Secretary: Heather Raymond, 785-0342
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(740) 972-1680
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Trustees: Julie Davis, Paul Gledhill, Mike Flynn, Rob Lowery, Joe Meara, Michael Packer, Heather Raymond, Katryn Renard, Barbara Revard, Stephen Revard, Tom Sheley and Darlene Sillick.

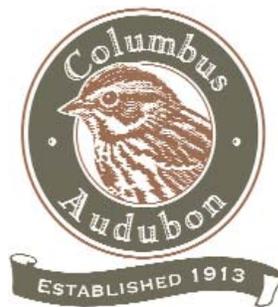
Additional chapter leaders:

CA Webmaster: Bill Heck, 895-1940
Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312
Work Projects: Sharon Treaster, 846-8419
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, 306-8215
OYB (12-18 year olds): Darlene Sillick, 761-3696
Programs: Mike Flynn, 882-9493
Field Trips: Earl Harrison, 505-1123 or Darlene Sillick, 761-3696
Eco Weekend: Lois Day, (740) 549-0333; Roz Horn, 262-0312
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602
Corresponding Sec'y: Emily Eby, 855-3879
Scioto-Whittier IBA Committee: Paul Gledhill, 848-7666
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard, 261-7171
CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day, (740) 549-0333

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