



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.gmasohio.org

FALL 2007

GMAS CALENDAR

*Sat. Sept. 8

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion. All Beginner's Birds Walk are free and open to the public.

*Tue., Sept. 11

7PM. GMAS is hosting the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" at Gorman Nature Center, 2295 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, Ohio. This program is free and open to the public.



*Sat. Sept. 22

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

*Fri. Oct. 12

9AM. GMAS's Tim Leslie & Don Plant on WNCO Radio AM 1340, talking about the Big Sit and winter bird feeding.

*Sat. Oct. 13

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Visitor Education Center.

*Sun. Oct. 14

Midnight-midnight. Big Sit — 24 hours of counting birds at Malabar Farm. See article in this issue for more information.



*Sat. Oct. 20

9AM. Handicapped accessible bird walk at Ashland University Wetlands off Rt. 42 in Ashland. Free and open to the public. Call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626 for more information.



(continues on page 2)

FOWLER WOODS BIRD "WALK & ROLL" ENJOYED BY ALL

Using a wheelchair doesn't allow for many woodland birding opportunities. In fact I never imagined I'd find myself strolling through an old growth forest ever again. That was until the July 30 accessible bird walk & roll led by Tim Leslie.

A scenic drive 6 miles northwest of Olivesburg on Olivesburg-Fitchville Road will lead you to Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve. Their 1.5-mile wheelchair accessible boardwalk provides an excellent chance to observe some of Ohio's woodland species. Our group of 7 gathered in the parking lot at the trailhead. As devoted birders do, it only took minutes for the

field glasses to come out and the birding to begin right there. I saw a Red-tailed Hawk circling over the cornfield across the road before I even got out of the car!

We strolled along at a leisurely pace, stopping from time-to-time at some of the many benches along the way. The ADA accessible boardwalk was plenty wide enough to turn a wheelchair in a circle with no problem. Sometimes our feathered friends don't want to sit still for long and you need a good turning radius.

Among the list of the 23 species we observed, a highlight for me was the chorus of Wood Thrushes that seemed to follow us through the forest. The other species we saw or heard were: Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

GMAS will be hosting more accessible birding events in the future. Let's encourage others we know with mobility challenges to join in and enjoy the wonders of nature. Watch our newsletter and website calendars for dates and times. You can find out more by contacting me at jprecup@neo.rr.com or Jean Taddie at 419-564-7707 or greenjean@neo.rr.com. — John Precup, Mansfield



John Precup, Louise Fleming, and Tim Leslie enjoy a bird "walk & roll" on the wheelchair accessible boardwalk at Fowler Woods in Richland County on 7/30/07.

Photo by Cheryl Harner

Editor's Note: Watch for events in this and future newsletters marked with yellow wheelchair accessible signs.



GMAS CALENDAR*(continued from page 1)***Sat. Oct. 20**

2PM. Greg Miller will speak about his 1998 Big Year at Time & Optics, 6954 CR 77, Millersburg, Ohio. See article in this issue.

***Sat. Oct. 27**

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

***Sat. Nov. 3**

9AM. Handicapped accessible waterfowl trip. Meet at the Pleasant Hill Lake public launch ramp. For more information, please contact Jean Taddie at 419-564-7707.

***Sat. Nov. 10**

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sat. Nov. 24**

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

***Sat. Dec 8**

9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Visitor Education Center. A GMAS Board Meeting at the Malabar Inn will follow the walk.

***Sat. Dec. 15**

Ashland Christmas Bird Count. Call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626 for more information.

***Sat. Dec. 22**

No bird walk today. Merry Christmas!!

250 WETLANDS NOW "AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE"

Congratulations to Louise Fleming, Sam Weyrick and all of GMAS! Their hard work and perseverance pushed through the Clean Ohio Grant and purchase of the "Audubon Wetland Preserve." This wetland, purchased for \$414,385.00, is located at Route 71 and Route 250 in Ashland. Greater Mohican Audubon Society was financially assisted by Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Sam Weyrick, Pheasants Forever, and the previous property owners.

The land changed hands through a conservation easement held by North Central Ohio Land Conservancy Inc., which places some restrictions on the development of the property. GMAS donated the 109 acres of Wetlands to the Ashland County Park District in hopes of using the property for education and recreational purposes. "Audubon Wetland Preserve" is the newest of Ashland County Park District's ten parks.

PROGRAM BY GREG MILLER TO BE HELD OCT. 20

Time & Optics and the Greater Mohican Audubon Society invite you to a program by Greg Miller.

Greg competed in a North American big year in 1998 that was chronicled in the book "The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession" written by Mark Obmascik and published by Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Greg will present a program about his big year on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at 2:00PM at Time & Optics at 6954 CR 77, Millersburg, Ohio. Suggested donation is \$2, children under 12 are free. For more information, please call Time & Optics at 330-674-0210.

GMAS ELECTION RESULTS

On June 5, the following GMAS Board Members were elected for the 2007-08 term:

- President – Cheryl Harner
- Vice-President – Sam Weyrick
- Secretary – Jean Taddie
- Treasurer – Dick Stoffer
- Wayne County Representative – Su Snyder (replaced by Erwin Riedner on Aug. 11)
- Ashland County Representative – Louise Fleming
- Richland County Representative – Gary Cowell Jr.
- Holmes County Representative – Don Beam
- Newsletter – Su Snyder
- Membership – Mary Ellen Bolt
- Bird Walk/Count – Tim Leslie
- Audubon at Home – Bill Flanagan
- Byers Butterfly Garden – Sam Weyrick
- Council of Ohio Audubon – Louise Fleming
- Web Master – Cheryl Harner
- Young Birders – Lisa Durham

At our Board Meeting on August 11, Su Snyder resigned as Wayne County Representative, though she agreed to stay on as newsletter editor. We welcome Erwin Riedner from Wooster as our new Wayne County Representative.

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON'S ANNUAL PICNIC

The rainy weather blustered most of the day on Sunday, August 5, but that did not deter twenty outdoor enthusiasts from enjoying finger lickin' chicken and a fantastic array of homemade potluck favorites. The clouds rolled back just in time for the 4:00 PM event that was held on the back porch/shelter area of the Malabar Farm State Park Visitor Center. Park Manager Louis Andres spoke briefly and presented GMAS with a certificate for our participation and contributions toward the bird feeding stations and prairie garden. The prairie garden is starting to flourish, and the butterflies were working it in earnest.

After dinner, a nature walk across the back lawn and down the tree line to the cattail marsh provided the evening entertainment. The Indigo Buntings and American Goldfinch were the color winners of the event, while an Eastern Towhee competed heartily for the best "songster" award. He made a very brief appearance, and retreated back into the woods. Several butterflies of note were seen; multiple Monarchs were working the Swamp Milkweed while an amazingly fresh Bronze Copper butterfly dazzled the crowd with his brilliant orange, whites and bronzy-browns. Not to be out-done, a Halloween Pennant dragonfly perched up and gave everyone "good looks."

Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share and the good humor to chance the weather. Hope to see you at our next event: An Inconvenient Truth at Gorman Nature Center Tuesday Sept. 11th at 7:00 PM. --Cheryl Harner



This Bronze Copper butterfly was discovered at Malabar Farm on 8/5/07 on a nature walk after the GMAS annual picnic.

Photo by Cheryl Harner

BOBOLINK SEMINAR HOSTED BY GMAS



Birds at Byers Woods, including this Savannah Sparrow on 6/16/07, often use the vent pipes as perches. Photo by Jim McCormac.

After lunch, we broke into small groups and explored the grasslands at Byers Woods. We were treated to half a dozen singing male Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, as well as the many plants, insects, and other creatures that this important habitat hosts.

An educational day was also a fun day when the GMAS hosted a seminar on Bobolinks and other grassland birds on June 16. After a 7AM bird walk at Byers Woods, several presentations were held at the Ashland County/West Holmes Career Center. Ashland County Commissioner, Matt Miller, kindly agreed to be our emcee. Cheryl Harner, President of GMAS, spoke on the history of Byers Woods which was once a landfill. Jim McCormac of the Division of Wildlife gave an informative talk about grassland birds and the need to protect them. Dr. Dick Stoffer of Ashland University talked about prairie plants and the Byers Woods butterfly garden. Marilyn Byers and Tom Kruse were presented with awards by GMAS for their conservation work at Byers Woods.

THE BIG SIT SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 14

Please join us for the 15th Annual International Big Sit as GMAS Ace Birders spend 24 hours sitting in a 17-foot circle counting birds. We start at midnight on Sunday, October 14, 2007 in front of the Bailey Farm Bicentennial Barn, just across Pleasant Valley Road from the Malabar Farm Inn, which is just west of St. Rt. 603. Help us detect more than the 51 bird species we tallied last year. For more information, contact Tim Leslie at 419-298-2626.

ANNUAL SUMMER BIRD COUNT COMPLETED

Ten birdwatchers from the Ashland area drove the roads and walked the fields June 7th thru June 21st. The ten observers spent a total of 67 hours in the field and watching their feeders. We use the Ashland Christmas Bird Count Circle for this count, which is 15 miles in diameter, with the center being the "S" curve on Ohio 511 south of Ashland.

Those participating in the count included; Gary Cowell Jr., Louise Fleming, John Herman, Steve Huber, Pam Jordan, Judy Kolo-Rose, Tim Leslie, Hugh Rose, Su Snyder, and Sam Weyrick.

This was the eighth Summer Bird Count for Ashland; we use these records to watch the trends of the nesting birds in our area. We added three new species to our list of 128 species seen on this count over the eight-year period. They were common moorhen, American woodcock, and blue-headed vireo. There were a total of 103 species reported this year, with a total of 10,468 individual birds. Many species had a near or above average count this year. The ones that were below average this year were Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Barred Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Cerulean Warbler. Some of the high counts this year were Wood Duck, Mourning Dove, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow.

For more information about the local count, contact me at 419-289-2626, or write to the Greater Mohican Audubon Society at P.O. Box 907, Ashland, Ohio 44805, or visit our web site at www.gmasohio.org.

The following birds were seen on this year's summer count: Double-crested Cormorant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 15; Green Heron, 13; Turkey Vulture, 52; Canada Goose, 281; Trumpeter Swan, 2; Wood Duck, 87; Mallard, 58; Hooded Merganser, 2; Bald Eagle, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3;

Red-shouldered Hawk, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 21; American Kestrel, 11; Ring-necked Pheasant, 4; Wild Turkey, 12; Northern Bobwhite, 3; Common Moorhen, 1; Killdeer, 106; American Woodcock, 1; Rock Pigeon, 150; Mourning Dove, 455; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 7; Barred Owl, 1; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 51; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 19; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 15; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 30; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Northern Flicker, 21; Pileated Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Wood-pewee, 47; Acadian Flycatcher, 12; Willow Flycatcher, 19; Eastern Phoebe, 13; Great Crested Flycatcher, 10; Eastern Kingbird, 16; White-eyed Vireo, 3, Yellow-throated Vireo, 15; Blue-headed Vireo, 3; Warbling Vireo, 30; Red-eyed Vireo, 96; Blue Jay, 86; American Crow, 169; Horned Lark, 20; Tree Swallow, 49; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Cliff Swallow, 23; Barn Swallow, 234; Carolina Chickadee, 23; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 65; White-breasted Nuthatch, 41; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 59; House Wren, 235; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 114; Veery, 2; Wood Thrush, 44; American Robin, 808; Gray Catbird, 176; Northern Mockingbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 26; European Starling, 2109; Cedar Waxwing, 51; Blue-winged Warbler, 2; Yellow Warbler, 82; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 7; Cerulean Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 7; Prothonotary Warbler, 6; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Common Yellowthroat, 112; Hooded Warbler, 11; Yellow-breasted Chat, 11; Scarlet Tanager, 16; Eastern Towhee, 44; Chipping Sparrow, 191; Field Sparrow, 44; Savannah Sparrow, 39; Grasshopper Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 414; Swamp Sparrow, 27; Northern Cardinal, 243; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 14; Indigo Bunting, 158; Bobolink, 16; Red-winged Blackbird, 785; Eastern Meadowlark, 64; Common Grackle, 714; Brown-headed Cowbird, 76; Orchard Oriole, 9; Baltimore Oriole, 38; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, 79; American Goldfinch, 204; and House Sparrow, 935.

--Tim Leslie, Ashland

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SLATED FOR DEC. 15**

Please join area birders on the Ashland Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 15, 2007. No matter what your birding skill level, please consider participating. It's fun and we can use your help. For more information, call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626.

GMAS PARTICIPATES IN OHIO DRAGONFLY CONFERENCE

Over 140 people registered to attend the Ohio Dragonfly Conference held July 21-22, 2007 at Wooster Ohio. GMAS partnered with Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Odonata Society and the Ohio Historical Society. An expert on shorebirds and respected author, Dr. Dennis Paulson gave an amazing program that encompassed the Dragonflies of the World.

Saturday morning's program began when Bob Glotzhober spoke on Dragonfly 101: An Introduction to Addictive Insects. Dr. David McShaffrey taught a short version of his college course, Digital Dragonflies: An introduction to Dragonfly Photography. Well-known birder Larry Rosche spoke about the Summertime Dragonflies; Habits and identification. A Greater Mohican Audubon member and representative for Ohio Division of Wildlife, Jim McCormac ably kept the show moving along as our Emcee.

Local area cuisine was featured, as Der Essenhaus from Shreve caterer the evening meal. Afterward, Dennis Paulson, retired Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound was our evening keynote speaker. His worldwide travels provided ample opportunity to collect photographs of many unusual Odonates (dragonflies) from around the globe.

Sunday's weather was unbelievably accommodating for the dragonfly field trips, with clear skies and temperatures in the high 70's. Nearly 100 people gathered into groups at Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center to go forth and scour the areas of Killbuck, Funk Bottoms, Mohican and Cools Springs. A new Ashland County park about to be dedicated, Cool Springs was opened for our conference and richly contributed to the overall count of 35 species of dragonflies. Highlights were the Swamp Darner Dave McShaffrey's group located and a Swift (Illinois) River Cruiser which was photographed by throngs of excited Ode-a-philes. The other most sought after specie was the Rusty Snaketail. Many were seen and photographed near the Clear Fork River.

Everyone reported having a marvelous time as well as learning about and acquiring a new appreciation for dragonflies, and the interesting people who pursue them. Many attendees expressed great thanks and request that we do an event of this nature again. While Audubon is primarily a "birding" organization, biodiversity and healthy environments are key elements for the success of all creatures. Dragonflies are a bio-indicator for clean water, and clean water is good for the birds and the birders!

-- Cheryl Harner, Crestline



Our keynote speaker, Dennis Paulson, holds a Common Green Darner dragonfly at the Killbuck Marsh on 7/22/07. Photo by Su Snyder

OOS CONFERENCE HELD IN GMAS'S BACKYARD



The Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) held their third annual conference this year in May at the Mohican State Park Lodge. Field trips included many spots at Mohican, as well as Funk Bottoms, Killbuck Marsh, and visits to area farms for Cliff Swallows nests and Barn Owls.

At the conference, the first ever OOS Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Roger Troutman in recognition of his 50 years of involvement in both the Wooster and Mohican Christmas Bird Counts, as well as his many other contributions to Ohio birding.

The Eli D. Miller family was presented with a certificate of appreciation for welcoming over 400 birders to their farm in Holmes County to see a Harris's Sparrow.

The Mohican State Park was recognized as an Important Bird Area by the Ohio Audubon at a ceremony during the weekend.

Thanks to all the GMAS members who helped plan the weekend and/or led field trips. The OOS plans to hold their annual conference again next year at Mohican. Please mark your calendars for May 16-18, 2008.

MEMBERSHIP

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

The GMAS membership offers local newsletter and events and helps us to fund our programs. Each new Chapter Supporter will receive a free nametag to wear to chapter functions.

Chapter Supporter plus National Audubon Society \$30 – 1 yr. Introductory rate

Chapter Supporter \$10 – Annual Fee

Chapter Supporter plus Donation \$30 – Donation – get 1-year chapter supporter membership
(Receive a free GMAS T-shirt Indicate Size: M L XL)

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Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife through environmental education and the conservation and restoration of habitat.

MISSION

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Greater Mohican Audubon Society