

Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT • SERVING ASHLAND, RICHLAND, WAYNE & HOLMES COUNTIES

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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

Make checks payable to: **Greater Mohican Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 907, Ashland, OH 44805

Chapter Code S72

- Chapter Supporter \$10 – GMAS Membership Only
- Chapter Supporter plus Donation \$30 – 1 year GMAS Membership plus a GMAS T-shirt
Size – M L XL – Please circle size

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Would you like to help with programs? _____yes _____no

To join the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org

The Greater Audubon News is the quarterly newsletter of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society. Four issues per year are part of your membership to the local chapter. Please renew your membership promptly to help us keep the rates as low as possible. Please check your address label to determine when your membership expires. Send dues to GMAS, P.O. Box 907, Ashland, OH 44805. Thank you.

Chapter Code S72

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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

P.O. BOX 907 • ASHLAND, OH 44805

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www.gmasohio.org

FALL 2009

GMAS CALENDAR


***Sat. Sep. 12** 9AM-1PM
Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum,
1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster,
Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Thur. Sept. 17** 5PM 
Bird Walk on the B&O Bike
Trail in Mansfield (Home
Road Marsh). Meet at the Bike Trail
parking lot on Marion Avenue across
from Alta Greenhouse. This is a 2-
mile round trip led by Gary Cowell.

***Sat. Sep. 26** 9AM-11AM
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.

***Thur. Oct. 1** 5PM Bird Walk
at Mohican, Pleasant Hill Trail,
covered bridge to the dam and back,
1.5 mile round trip led by Gary
Cowell. Meet at the covered bridge.

***Sat. Oct. 10** 9AM-11AM
Bird Walk at Malabar Farm,
located near Pleasant Hill Lake on
Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at
the Visitor's Center. GMAS Board
Meeting will follow the walk.

***Sun. Oct. 11** 6AM-6PM 
The Big Sit. Join us as we
count birds from a 17-foot
circle at the Gorman Nature Center
in Lexington. For more information,
go to www.gmasohio.org.

***Sat. Oct. 24** 9AM-11AM
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. 14** 9AM-11AM
Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum,
1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster,
Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

(continued on page 2)

BOBOLINKS AND BUTTERFLIES AT BYERS WOODS

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

It was a celebration of three years of conserving Bobolinks at Byers Woods in Ashland Ohio, and a partnership between Ashland County Park District and your local Audubon.

And check out our new sign! Thanks to an Audubon Ohio Mini-grant, folks can learn all about the Bobolink's breeding cycle and the incredible migration they undertake each year. Warren Uxley, Paula Harper and the geniuses at America Sign and Banner designed and installed this attractive display at the entrance to the capped landfill.

The most sought-after stars of the day were the Bobolinks, but Eastern Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows were also a welcome sight on the 9AM bird walk. Following the walk there were opportunities to get a closer look at birds through spotting scopes and the Ashland County Park District prepared hot dogs on the grill and all the fixings for a sumptuous outdoor lunch.

Don Beam of Stucker Meadow presented a 12:30 program on native plants and butterflies. Don's enthusiasm for prairie plants is hard to resist, and he sells an impressive display of tried and true species! Following his program we scouted through the Audubon Butterfly Garden, which is maintained by Jack and Lalle Laughlin and other Byers Woods volunteers.

Easily the lepidopteran highlight of the day was a Striped Hairstreak! This is quite a find for our garden, so those big native plants are really paying off! In butterflies it is all about habitat, habitat, habitat.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support us, and the GMAS volunteers who work at all these events: Mary Ellen, Su, Bianca, Marcia, Jean, and Judy, and of course Sam, Jack, Lalle, Judy, and the other Ashland County Park volunteers. It was great to partner with the Ashland County Park District for the third year in a row.

The Bobolinks were bubbling over with joy and we appreciate all those friends and family who traveled distances to be with us. Thanks again, we hope to see you next year!

—Cheryl Harner



ELECTION RESULTS

The gathering of members at the GMAS picnic on July 12th provided a perfect opportunity to finalize voting for the 2009- 2011 board. The following slate was elected unanimously and the bylaws were amended to retain elected positions for 2-year terms. These members will serve for 2 years.

President – Cheryl Harner; VP – Erwin Riedner; Secretary – Jean Taddie; Treasurer – Bianca Davis; Richland County Rep – Marcia Kinnard; Wayne County Reps – Sue and John Olive; Holmes County Rep – Don Beam; Ashland County Rep: Sam Weyrick; Membership Chair – Mary Ellen Bolt; Newsletter Chair – Su Snyder; Bird Walk/Count – Su Snyder & Gary Cowell; Audubon at Home – open; Byers Butterfly Garden – Sam Weyrick; Council of Audubon Ohio – Louise Fleming; Webmaster – Cheryl Harner.

GMAS CALENDAR

(continued from page 1)

***Sat. Nov. 28** 9AM-11AM
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. 12** 9AM-11AM
Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Visitor's Center. GMAS Holiday Party following walk at the Malabar Inn. For more information see www.gmasohio.org.

***Sat. Dec. 12** 2PM
Waterfowl trip led by Steve McKee. Meet at Gorman Nature Center in Lexington.

***Sat. Dec. 26**
No Bird Walk at Byers Woods today. Happy Holidays!



Don Plant talks to Jean Taddie in front of his Purple Martin display at the GMAS Picnic on 7/12/09.

Photo by Cheryl Harner

largest swallows, the Purple Martin. These colonial nesters and their life history made for lively discussion, and we were treated to great looks at the Purple Martins still feeding young in the super-gourd housing at Pleasant Hill Marina. From boxes, to food, to fledging young, Don is well versed on this topic. He told of the unfortunate loss of young during this year's late June cold snap, and predicts greatly reduced fledging success for 2009. It was a fascinating program and we appreciate Don and his wife Diana's efforts on behalf of GMAS.

—Cheryl Harner

FIELD TRIP TO PICKEREL CREEK AND RESTHAVEN

WILDLIFE AREAS – SUNDAY, JUNE 28

GMAS and the Crawford County Park District teamed up for a combined field trip to Sandusky County on June 28th. Naturalist, Warren Uxley, led 17 of us on a trek to Pickerel Creek to study and photograph the endangered Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. This moth-pollinated beauty only blooms for a short period around the Fourth of July.

Our next stop was nearby Resthaven Wildlife Area, site of Ohio's largest prairie remnant, where we found a sea of orange native Butterfly Weed along with other prairie plants. We saw dozens of bird species and several butterfly species including the diminutive Coral Hairstreak. Great weather, gorgeous nature, good friends – a fun outing.



Group at Resthaven Wildlife Area on 6/28/09.

Photo by Su Snyder

GMAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Thanks to all the folks who took part in the Greater Mohican Audubon Society Picnic on Sunday, July 12th. About 20 of us gathered at the boat launch area at Pleasant Hill Lake for a congenial gathering of pot-luck food and good fun.

At the picnic, Volunteer Extraordinaire, Mary Ellen Bolt, was recognized for Outstanding Service. She has managed the memberships for GMAS for the last 5 years and steps up for many extra jobs as well. She has been registrar for our symposiums for both Grassland Birds and Dragonflies of Ohio and has graciously tended the raffle or sales booths at many of our events. President Cheryl Harner presented her with a framed Eastern Bluebird photo by local photographer Jim Wagner, and her helpmate Mel received a matching gift. Mary Ellen, our Membership Chairperson, is always looking for new members! You can make her job easier by renewing or joining GMAS today; the membership form is on the back of this form.

Following our picnic, GMAS member Don Plant gave a very informative program on North America's



Mary Ellen and Mel Bolt were presented with framed Eastern Bluebird photos at the GMAS Picnic on 7/12/09.

Photo by Jim Sloan

TOP TEN REASONS TO PURCHASE A MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP

There are over 540 individual units within the United States. Each refuge is managed as a protected haven for birds and other wildlife. Since 1934, a huge proportion of the funds used to acquire these critical habitats in the lower-48 states were provided through sales of what is today known as Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps – commonly called “Duck Stamps.” All outdoor recreationists who enjoy wildlife and natural landscapes can thank those who have already purchased stamps over the decades, for they have contributed over \$700 million and protected 5.3 million acres of habitat for wildlife and future generations of people.

The Stamp costs only \$15 and it's easy for everyone to purchase – nearly all Post Offices carry them. Even better, it is extremely cost-effective: fully 98 cents out of every dollar (\$14.70) goes directly to acquire land for the Refuge System. This \$15-purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing one can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

The funds not only go to refuges, but since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has used a portion of the Stamp revenues to purchase wetland and grassland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. Through their Small Wetlands Acquisition Program, the FWS has perpetually protected and conserved nearly 3 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat for prairie wildlife. These small wetlands and grassland complexes - commonly referred to as Waterfowl Production Areas or WPAs - include more than 29,000 permanent easements, covering 2.1 million acres, and approximately 7,000 fee tracts, totaling over 677,000 acres of habitat for wetland and grassland wildlife. All WPAs are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Every unit in this system provides important benefits to migratory bird species, other wildlife, water quality, aquifer replenishment, and the environment in general.

In response to serious downward trends of many species of “prairie” nesting birds, the FWS began purchasing permanent grassland easements to conserve existing habitat for prairie nesting birds. The grassland easement program is integrally related to and compliments the FWS's fee acquisition programs.

The purchase of a Stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks. Among scores of other bird species, numerous kinds of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases. (Densities of grassland bird species such as Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sedge Wren, are remarkably higher on Refuge System grasslands than on the landscape in general.)

You can say the same about that status of other wildlife – not only birds – and water quality as benefiting from the use of the Stamp. Reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, all

flourish through Stamp investments. Water quality is also strengthened.

Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges in the nation have been acquired with Stamp funds. For example, see the following list of refuges and the percentage paid for by Stamp purchases.



Sacramento in California	99.6%
Parker River in Massachusetts	99.3%
Bosque del Apache in New Mexico	99.2%
Pea Island in North Carolina	99.2%
Quivira in Kansas	99.1%
Horicon in Wisconsin	98.7%
Muskatatum in Indiana	98.9%
Monomoy in Massachusetts	97.8%
Bombay Hook in Delaware	95.1%
Santa Ana in Texas	94.9%
DeSoto in Iowa and Nebraska	90.8%
Okefenokee in Georgia	88.2%
Anahuac in Texas	87.5%
Ottawa in Ohio	86.4%
Laguna Atascosa in Texas	86.0%
Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) in New Jersey	84.3%
Blackwater in Maryland	77.6%

And if that isn't enough incentive, consider that 99.8% of all WPAs in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana were acquired through Stamp funding.

A Stamp is a “free pass” for an entire year – for a vehicle full of people at all refuges that charge for admission – a real bargain if ever there was one!

Whether or not you're a hunter of any sort, you can appreciate the wise balance of activities ascribed through Congressional refuge legislation and Stamp application over the years (e.g., 1935, 1958, 1966, 1978). Basically, all refuges established under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act with an “inviolable sanctuary” purpose for migratory bird conservation, can open up to 40% of the total acreage of said refuges to migratory bird hunting. In practice, and especially since the late 1970s, this 40% standard balance can be exceeded only when such migratory bird hunting activity is determined to be compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established or if the Secretary of the Interior determines that it would be “beneficial to the species.”

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp is probably the best-kept secret in all of bird conservation. And, by buying and displaying a Stamp you will show that you appreciate what long-term habitat protection for all birds and other wildlife is, and that you care!

—Paul Baicich and Ric Zarwell