



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.gmasohio.org

WINTER 2008/2009

GMAS CALENDAR

- ***Sat. Dec. 6** 10AM Waterfowl Watch. Meet at Gorman Nature Center to visit nearby Reservoirs.
- ***Sat. Dec. 13** 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 at the Malabar Inn following walk. For more information see www.gmasohio.org.
- ***Sun. Dec 14** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count starts at Gorman Nature and is coordinated by Steve McKee. Call 419-884-3764 for more information.
- ***Sat. Dec. 20** Ashland Christmas Bird Count. Call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626 for more information.
- ***Sat. Dec. 27** Mohican Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Rader's Restaurant at 7AM. For more information, contact Roger Troutman at 419-884-3529.
- ***Sat. Dec. 27** No bird walk at Byers Woods this month. Merry Christmas!!
- ***Thurs. Jan. 1** Wooster Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Bob Evans at Madison exit in Wooster at 7AM. For more information, contact Roger Troutman at 419-884-3529.
- ***Sat. Jan. 3** Millersburg Christmas Bird Count. For more information, contact Dennis Kline at 330-567-3432.
- ***Sat. Jan 3** Bucyrus Christmas Bird Count coordinated by Warren Uxley. Meet at Bob Evans in Bucyrus at 7AM. Contact the Crawford County Park District at 419-683-9000 for more information.
- ***Sat. Jan. 10** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Secret Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.
- ***Sat. Jan. 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.

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GMAS YOUNG BIRDERS

We are excited about the winter 08/09 Greater Mohican Audubon Society Young Birders activities. We have added five new activities and field trips including some holiday activities and the Great Backyard Bird Count. We also have kept some field trips that we can't do without like the Killdeer Plains trip and of course the Mohican Christmas Bird Count.

In September, we took a trip to Hoover Reservoir near Columbus. This is a fascinating area in all seasons especially in the fall because of the great shorebird habitat. There is a nice boardwalk allowing for easy access to the mud flats and close visibility of shorebirds. We saw a tremendous amount of wildlife that day including many different bird species, turtles, fish, spiders and of course who could forget the high light of the day- five American White Pelicans! We even did some artifact hunting along the beach! We had boxed lunches from the Malabar Inn, compliments of the Malabar Foundation. Thank you guides-you know who you are! It was a great day.

We also put together a small display this fall. We used it at Heritage Days at Malabar Farm to recruit interest in birding, Audubon, and young birders. Thanks to Jack Savage and Ireland Fisher for tending to the display that weekend. I was blown away by the number of kids who signed up for more information! We had 35 kids from 23 families, almost all from the surrounding area.

The first scheduled hayride and bonfire at the farm yielded zero attendance. It was raining and cold that evening, so we rescheduled for the fifth of November. It was still raining and cool, but we went anyway and had a great time chasing deer through the fields. We had 8 brave kids come, 2 who were new. We counted twenty deer in the valley field alone and Bianca Davis' son, Darrick, heard a buck snort and saw a coyote! Thank you, Darrick, for finding the tractor key! Thank you to those who came. We ended the evening with hot chocolate and talked about the trip coming up on the 15th of November to the Columbus Museum of Natural History, We have six kids signed up to go, two of whom will be new.

Below is a list of GMAS Young Birder activities scheduled for winter 08/09:

Dec. 13th & 14th Sat. 5pm-9pm and Sun. 1pm-5pm. Calling on Young Birders! Share your knowledge of the birds. Help visitors at the Malabar holiday program make peanut butter pinecones to take home for the birds.

Sat. Dec. 27th Mohican Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Malabar at 6:30am if you want to carpool to Raders. Meet at 8am at Malabar visitor's center to begin count. Dress for the weather. We will be outside all day except for lunch. Pack a lunch. Hot chocolate and cookies provided courtesy of Malabar Farm. Half day is optional.

January Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. Date has yet to be released.

Sat. Feb. 21st Killdeer Plains. Meet at Malabar visitor's center at 9am. Dress for the weather. Pack a lunch. We will stay until evening to look for Short-eared Owls.

Sun. Feb. 15th 7am-2pm Great Backyard Bird Count. Let's count birds! Pugh Cabin-Malabar Farm. Chili over the fire.

Sat. March 28th Shreve Migration Sensation. Meet at Malabar visitor's center at 6am. Pack lunch, dress for the weather.

March Woodcock Walk. Date and time to be announced.



Young birders Darrick and Jason on a bird walk at Secret Arboretum with adult leader, Gary Cowell, Jr.
Photo by Cheryl Harner

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GMAS CALENDAR

(continued from page 1)

***Sat. Feb. 14** 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 be held following the walk at the Malabar Inn.

***Feb. 13-16** 12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. See article in this issue.

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

***Sat. Mar. 28** Shreve Migration Sensation. See article in this issue.

***Sat. Mar. 28** No Byers Woods walk today. See you at the Shreve Migration Sensation.

For dates of GMAS Young Birder activities, see article in this issue.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining GMAS Young Birders or participating in an activity or field trip, contact me or another GMAS member to get in touch with me. Bianca Davis also has information on other field trips with Black Swamp Ohio Young Birders Club. Also, don't forget the web site www.gmasohio.org is frequently updated. Don't hesitate to call or email for any questions or information.

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience". Ralph Waldo Emerson

—Lisa Durham

GMAS Young Birders Coordinator

419-886-2120

419-892-2784 Malabar Farm State Park

birdsong95@embarquemail.com

2008 AUDUBON ASSEMBLY VISITS MOHICAN COUNTY

Audubon Ohio's October 18, 2008 assembly was held in beautiful Bellville, Ohio—part of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society's district. Three tracks of break-out sessions featured topics as varied as Ohio Young Birders, Migration and Important Birding Areas, Large Impacts with Small Scale Restoration, and Working with Land Conservancies.

Meals were served at Dutch Heritage Restaurant, and keynote programs given by two nationally known speakers. Ted Eubank's program, Sustainable Recreation and its Connection to Conservation addressed the benefits and value of conservation of natural habitats and their positive impacts on economic growth. Dr. Lonnie Thompson, from The Ohio State



Bird Walk along the B&O Bike Trail. From L-R: co-leader Greg Miller, Tom Romito, and co-leader Gary Cowell, Jr. Partially hidden is Jerry Tinianow, Director of Audubon Ohio. Photo by Cheryl Harner

University, presented Global Climate Change: A Paleoclimate Perspective from the World's Highest Mountains, which featured his fascinating travels to study the world's retreating glaciers. It was a chilling forecast of the climate warming to come, and science-based proof of the chart-shattering direction of current trends.

Sunday morning was cool and frosty, but the bird-thirsty crowd was anxious to spread out across the GMAS regions for glances of our seasonal bests. Kim and Kenn Kaufman's trip to the Orweiler Road wetland and Ohio Bird Sanctuary turned up Yellow-rumped Warblers, Rusty Blackbirds, and a Red-shouldered Hawk along with many others, but the scene-stealer was a stunning view of a Merlin.

Greg Miller and Gary Cowell, Jr. led a hardy group of carbon free birders along the B&O Bike Trail, found just behind the conference hotel. The woodpeckers put on a quite a show with appearances of Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, two Pileated Woodpeckers, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Not to be outdone, the sparrows trumped the hand with two Fox Sparrows perched to display their full-bodied rufous plumage.

Jim McCormac and Ethan Kistler's group traveled to Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area to enjoy the local avian residents along with our regular phenoms: Sandhill Cranes. They ended up scoring big with good looks at a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to Jerry Tinianow and Audubon Ohio for choosing our lovely Mohican region for this event.

—Cheryl Harner
President, GMAS

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count** on February 13-16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this **free event** is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online. Count for fun, count for the future. For more information, go to www.birdcount.org.

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON ACHIEVES MANY GOALS

Once a year, your local Audubon Board is forced to reflect upon our accomplishments and direction for the future. While I would never describe doing an annual report as “loads of fun”, it is illuminating and rewarding at the same time. Greater Mohican Audubon is the youngest of Ohio's Audubon Societies and quite a precocious youngster at that!

At the ripe old age of 9 we have crested the-over-100-members mark, and can boast of a diverse membership of laymen, as well as some of Ohio's most knowledgeable experts, in ornithological, biological, and botanical fields. We have forged alliances with many park districts, birding and nature organizations, including Richland, Wayne, and Ashland County Park Districts, Malabar Farm State Park, and Kingwood Center. GMAS has been in the forefront of promoting Ohio Young Birders, Ohio Ornithological Society, and Audubon Ohio events, outings, and educational seminars. Many organizations have requested our local experts as field guides and speakers.

Actively promoting the environment and global change awareness, we have focused on conservation of Bobolinks--our icon bird, and butterflies as environmental barometers. Audubon's national goals include promoting the use of native plants, and we have partnered with Stucker Meadow's native plants and seeds on planting and maintaining an educational prairie at Malabar Farm and a plant sale at Byers Woods. A global warming awareness program was held at Gorman Nature Center

where more than 70 attendees viewed the movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

A few of our 2007-08 accomplishments:

ACOMPLISHED One-Year Goals

- Offer a “handicap accessible” bird walk
- Present program on global warming
- Continued partnering with Shreve Migration Sensation, Mohican Wildlife Weekend, Ashland County Park District, and Richland County Park District
- Continued monthly and bimonthly birdwalks
- Birdathon 07
- Two programs, four newsletters
- Membership development- new officers and members
- Continue to enlarge web presence- members photo forum
- Partnered with Malabar Farm State Park and Richland County Master Gardeners to maintain Native Prairie Garden
- Annual Picnic held in August

ACOMPLISHED Long term Goals

- Establish the Mohican River as a Scenic River
- 250 Wetlands purchased and preserved as a park

Become an active member of your local Audubon, as we work together for tomorrow's environment and support our efforts to conserve and preserve our world for future generations. Greater Mohican Audubon Society-- great birding and more!

—Cheryl Harner
President, GMAS

2008 BIG SIT RESULTS

This year's local Big Sit was held at a new location, the beach parking area at Pleasant Hill Lake. Ten participants counted birds from 6AM until 6PM on Sunday, October 12, 2008, from inside a 17-foot circle. The weather was mostly sunny, with a low of 48 and a high of 78.

48 species were tallied: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and American Goldfinch.

Good birds, good food, good company. Hope you can join us next year!

KENN KAUFMAN TO SPEAK AT THE NINTH ANNUAL

SHREVE SPRING MIGRATION SENSATION

Please plan to attend the ninth annual Shreve Spring Migration Sensation on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Registration will open at 7:00AM at Shreve Elementary School, 98 N. Market Street (St. Rt. 226), Shreve, Ohio, with FREE MAPS to the Help Stations (located in the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area and at other sites, all near Shreve). Volunteers with spotting scopes will be stationed at each site during the morning. There will be a vendor hall, programs, and children's activities throughout the day.

Among the presenters will be **Kenn Kaufman**, who is scheduled to speak at 3:45PM on the topic of “Understanding What You See for Better Bird ID”.

Cost is \$10 per person—\$15 per family. For more information, please call Jacki Chamberlain at the Wayne County Convention Bureau at 1-800-362-6474.

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MEMBERSHIP

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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

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