



# Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

[www.audubon.cjb.net](http://www.audubon.cjb.net)

WINTER 2006/2007

## GMAS CALENDAR

**\*Sat. Dec. 9** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk at the Visitor's Center. Refreshments will be provided.

**\*Sat. Dec. 16** Ashland & Mansfield Christmas Bird Counts. Call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626 for more information about the Ashland CBC. Call Steve McKee at 419-884-3764 for information about the Mansfield CBC.

**\*Sat. Dec. 23** Wooster Christmas Bird Count. For more information, call Roger Troutman at 419-884-3529.

**\*Sat. Dec. 23** No bird walk nor monthly GMAS meeting this month. Merry Christmas!!

**\*Sat. Dec. 30** Mohican Christmas Bird Count. For more information, call Roger Troutman at 419-884-3529.

**\*Jan. 1-31** Ohio Winter Bird Atlas 2007. See article in this issue.

**\*Mon. Jan. 1** Millersburg Christmas Bird Count. For more information, contact Dennis Kline at 330-567-3432.

**\*Sat. Jan. 13** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

**\*Sat. Jan. 20** 10AM. Winter Bird Walk at Pleasant Hill Lake Campgrounds. Meet at the main entrance to Pleasant Hill Lake. For more information, email Gary Cowell Jr. at [Gcowelljr@yahoo.com](mailto:Gcowelljr@yahoo.com).

**\*Sat. Jan. 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. Meet in the parking lot. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk.

**\*Wed. Feb. 7** 5PM Join leader Gary Cowell Jr. at Byers Woods for an Owl Walk. For more information, see article in this newsletter.

## ODNR NEGOTIATES WITH COLUMBIA GAS TRANSFER

Many of our Greater Mohican Audubon Society members have opposed Columbia Gas efforts to open up 13 miles of 50' clearance cuts through Mohican State Forest, and continue to encourage Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to protect our woodlands native flora.

Nearly 300 people attended the forum hosted by Senator Harris on Oct 23. Concerns were raised about impact of alien species due to forest fragmentation, loss of habitat for breeding warblers and the general disruption to biodiversity. Local residents called for Columbia to monitor gas transfer lines within Mohican area from the ground. Columbia desires to monitor the lines aerially, which has not been proven to be better or safer for the residents. Columbia Gas believes trees are a hazard for these lines, but have operated the same lines for nearly 50 years without incident.

Meanwhile, Columbia has agreed to halt its planned cuttings until they negotiate further with ODNR. The Chief of ODNR is likely to be replaced at the beginning of 2007, as it is a political appointment. GMAS and Mohican Protection Group, Inc. urge the public to flood ODNR with letters of support, encouraging them to hold a hard line with Columbia Gas and protect our forest to the best of their abilities, even challenging Columbia in court if necessary. Please send your letters of support to: Sam Speck, Director, Ohio Dept. Of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road, Building D-3, Columbus, OH 43229-6605 For more information see [www.mohicanprotection.com](http://www.mohicanprotection.com).

—Cheryl Harner

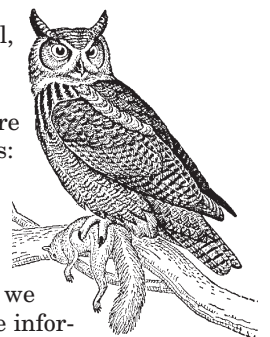
## OHIO WINTER BIRD ATLAS 2007

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory is coordinating the 2007 Ohio Winter Bird Atlas and they need your help! The Atlas is conducted during the month of January anywhere in Ohio and they are looking for people to count birds on a weekly basis if possible (1-4 hours a morning at your favorite birding spot or pick a quadrangle block near you from the Ohio Gazetteer DeLorme). Anything you can do would be great! This is a great opportunity to venture out with friends and contribute to the Ohio winter bird knowledge. More information is available on their website [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org) or call the Observatory (419-898-4070) and they will send you an information packet or answer your questions.

## OWL WALK AT BYERS WOODS ON FEBRUARY 7TH

Of the eight species of owls that occur in Ohio every year, three are found all year round: Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl. The Barn Owl can be found locally most times of the year and the Short-eared Owl is found here in the winter. Three rare owls are occasionally found during winter in our neck of the woods: Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and the very rare Snowy Owl.

Join leader Gary Cowell Jr. at Byers Woods for an Owl Walk on Wednesday, February 7 at 5:00PM to learn more about these beautiful creatures and see which owls we can find at Byers Woods. Dress for the weather. For more information, email Gary at [Gcowelljr@yahoo.com](mailto:Gcowelljr@yahoo.com).



**10TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) calls on volunteers in our area to help count the birds. During the weekend of February 16-19, people across the North American continent are urged to look at the birds in their backyards and report them over the Internet as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. This count allows people to celebrate their birds, and whether counters are novices or experts, their participation is vital in helping North America's birds.

Instructions for participating can be found at <[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)> there's no fee and no registration is required. Those who would like to participate but who aren't online can try their local library, and many Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners who are online will be accepting observations made by their customers. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 20, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.

—Tim Leslie

**GMAS CALENDAR**

(continued from page 1)

**\*Sat. Feb. 10** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House.

**\*Feb. 16-19** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. See article in this issue.

**\*Sat. Feb. 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. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk.

**\*Sat. Mar. 10** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

**\*Tues. Mar. 20** 6PM. Join leader Gary Cowell Jr. at Malabar Farm for a Woodcock Walk. For more information, see article in this newsletter.

**\*Sat. Mar. 24** Shreve Migration Sensation. See article in this issue.

**\*Sat. Mar. 24** No bird walk today. See you at the Shreve Migration Sensation.

**\*Apr. 20-22** Mohican Wildlife Weekend (more info to follow in the Spring issue).

**\*May 18-20** Ohio Ornithological Society Conference at Mohican State Park (see OOS website at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org) for more info).

**\*Sat. Jun 16** Bobolinks at Byers Woods (more info to follow in the Spring issue).

**\*July 21-22** Dragonflies at OARDC (more info to follow in the Spring issue).

**SHREVE SPRING MIGRATION SENSATION**

The ODNR Division of Wildlife, Friends of the Killbuck Marsh, Inc., The Wilderness Center, Greater Mohican Audubon Society, Triway Local Schools, Shreve Library, and Shreve Business & Community Association present the seventh annual Shreve Migration Sensation on Saturday, March 24, 2007. 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 marsh and at three other sites, all near Shreve) and free doughnuts and coffee in the cafeteria until 9:00AM.

Volunteers with spotting scopes will be stationed at each site from 8AM-noon. There will be a vendor hall and workshops. Scheduled speakers include:

8:30AM - 9:15AM – Jamey Graham - "Using An Outdoor Classroom"

9:30AM - 10:15AM – Mark Shieldcastle - "The Bald Eagle in Ohio"

10:30AM - 11:15AM – Dave Sherman - "Osprey Success"

12:30PM - 1:15PM – Jim McCormac - "Wood Warblers"

1:30PM - 2:15PM – Damon Greer - "How Did Coyotes Wind Up in Ohio"

2:30PM - 3:15PM – Dean Sheldon, Jr. - "The Amazing Adaptability of the Eastern Bluebird"

Scheduled Children's Programs include:

8AM - noon – "Dip-Net for Marsh Creatures hosted by The Wilderness Center" at Cemetery Road

9AM & 1:15PM – "Spring Migration Story Time and Craft hosted by Shreve Library" in the School Cafeteria

10AM – "Amazing Marsh Animals hosted by the Wilderness Center" in Room 408

11:15AM-noon – "Animal Show hosted by Akron Zoo Mobile Live Animal Show" in the Speakers' Auditorium

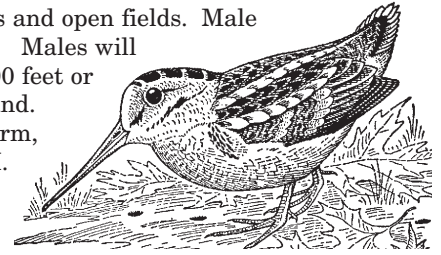
10AM-3PM – Birdhouse Building hosted by Shreve Elementary School" in the Vendor Hall

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.

## WOODCOCK WALK AT MALABAR FARM MARCH 20TH

American Woodcock, also known as Timberdoodles, are shorebirds whose habitat is forests and open fields. Male woodcock perform an elaborate aerial display in the spring when attempting to woo a female. Males will repeatedly make a "peent" noise on the ground and then fly upwards in a spiral as high as 300 feet or more. Going up, the male "twitters", and then "chirps" as he zig-zags his way back to the ground.

Join leader Gary Cowell Jr. for a Woodcock Walk to find these unusual birds at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas, on Tuesday, March 20 at 6:00PM. Dress for the weather. For more information, email Gary at [Gcowelljr@yahoo.com](mailto:Gcowelljr@yahoo.com).



## 2006 BIRDER OF THE YEAR CONTEST

GMAS member, Judy Kolo-Rose is a finalist in Wildbird Magazine's "Birder of the Year" contest. She was chosen for her helpful hints on discouraging squirrels from raiding bird feeders. Subscribers can vote by filling out a ballot in the November/December issue of Wildbird Magazine. Way to go Judy!!!!

## OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Registration is now being accepted for the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program. Participants must complete 40 hours of nature training and 40 hours of community service. Coursework includes training in aquatic ecology, reptiles & amphibians, geology, birds, mammals, plants, insects, stewardship, and interpretation. The first session begins February 2007 and costs \$195.00. For more information, contact Sharon Strouse of the Holmes County OSU Extension Office at 330-674-3015 or Carrie Elvey of The Wilderness Center at 330-359-5235.

## BIG SIT RESULTS

The Bailey Farm Bicentennial Barn, across from the Malabar Inn Restaurant in Lucas, Ohio was the sight, once again, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Big Sit" held by Greater Mohican Audubon Society. The Big Sit, held on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> in 2006 is an inter-national event sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest.

Our team was titled the GMAS Ace Birders, and consisted of Gary Cowell, Cheryl Harner, Hugh Rose, and Judy Kolo-Rose, Jan Kennedy, Marcia Kinnard, Tim Leslie, Annette McCormick, Chris McQuillen, Brian Miller, and Cookie Moore.

While it was cool at 6:00 am when Gary Cowell started us off, fortunately the weather cooperated with clear skies and up to 74 degrees in the mid-afternoon. Tim Leslie stuck around until 9:00 PM picking up the last 2 species. First bird seen or heard was a Northern Cardinal at 6:25 AM, and the last bird seen or heard was Eastern Screech Owl at 7:37 PM. With a grand total of 51 species, everyone thought it was a great success and loads of fun. Thanks to Tim for organizing this event once again.

—Cheryl Harner



Hugh Rose & Judy Kolo-Rose stretch their legs at the Big Sit  
—photo by Cheryl Harner

## SPECIES LIST FROM 10/8/06 BIG SIT

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eastern Screech Owl, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

## OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

Founded in 2006, the Ohio Young Birders Club serves young birders ages 12-19 years old. The club's goals include "creating a community for young birders throughout Ohio and beyond and fostering an interest in natural history and encouraging young people to spend more time outside". Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, field trips to many exciting birding destinations including overnight trips, membership card, an Annual Young Birders Conference, rare bird alerts, and the chance to interact with other young people who share the same interest. Cost for a year's membership is \$5 for young birders and \$10 for supporting adult members. For more information, contact the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 228, Oak Harbor, OH 43449, 419-898-4070, <[info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)>. See their web site at [www.ohioyoungbirders.org/](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/).

# Greater Mohican Audubon News

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

## 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)

Make checks payable to Greater Mohican Audubon Society.

- Check one:  I prefer to be notified about the newsletter by email.  
 I prefer to receive the newsletter by mail.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY, STATE, & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail membership form to: GMAS, P. O. BOX 907, Ashland, OH 44805

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

# Greater Mohican Audubon Society

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