



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.gmasohio.org

SUMMER 2008

GMAS CALENDAR

***Jun. 6 & 7** Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) will present a workshop at Ashland University on fundraising, membership databases, and website building. Other activities include a nature walk at Byers Woods. Open to all Audubon members. For more information, contact Louise Fleming at lfleming@ashland.edu.

***Sat. Jun. 14** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's 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 at the Visitor's Center. Please bring a sack lunch.

***Sat. Jun. 28** 9AM-2PM. Bobolink and Butterfly Festival at Byers Woods in partnership with Ashland County Park District. Byers Woods is located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. For more information, see article in this newsletter.



***Sat. Jul. 5** 8AM-3PM. Bio Blitz at Audubon Wetland Preserve in Ashland. See article in this issue for more information.

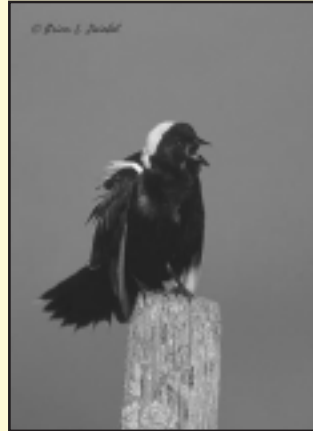
***Sat. July 12** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sat. July 26** 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.

***Sun. Aug. 3** 1PM field trip and 3:30PM GMAS picnic. See article in this issue for directions and more information.

(continues on page 2)

BOBOLINK AND BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL—SATURDAY, JUNE 28



Male Bobolink
photo by Brian Zwiebel

Come see the Argentinean visitors to Ashland County at the Bobolink and Butterfly Festival. Each summer these showy birds from South America visit our Ashland Park District's Byers Woods to breed. Listed as birds in decline by Audubon National, and "Regionally Endangered" in Ohio, Greater Mohican Audubon Society will train their spotting scopes on these charismatic meadow-land babbler. Come hear their characteristic "bubbling" calls as they wing across this capped landfill.

Ashland County Park District will provide food service and local youth, Master Gardener Volunteers, and Ohio Certified Master Naturalist Volunteers have been invited to join in the fun and festivities.

Warren Uxley, a GMAS member and Naturalist at Crawford County Park District, will present a program in the butterfly garden featuring native "host" plants used by butterflies. Please join us for the following events:

- 9AM-11AM - Nature Walk led by GMAS volunteers
- 11AM- 12 noon - Chautauqua Workshop on Henry David Thoreau
- 11AM- 1PM - GMAS Bobolink spotters with scopes
- 11AM-1PM - Food vendors in the parking lot
- 1PM-2PM - Butterfly Workshop by Warren Uxley

Come out to support our efforts to raise awareness of breeding Bobolinks and help to protect their habitat by supporting this festival. More details and directions will be posted at gmasohio.org.

MOHICAN WILDLIFE WEEKEND—MAY 2-4

Mohican Wildlife Weekend 2008 started out on a rainy Friday night with Herb Broda of Ashland University as the keynote speaker. He urged his audience to get children outside in unstructured play, something that many of us had plenty of while growing up.

The next morning Louise Fleming assisted Herb in a workshop of outdoor activities for children. In the afternoon she presented "School Gardens for Wildlife," with plenty of tips and handouts. Also on Saturday, Gary Cowell led a bird and wildflower hike at Malabar Farm.

Sunday morning Tim Leslie led a bird walk at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Thirteen people found 51 species including Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Hooded Warbler.

GMAS CALENDAR*(continued from page 1)*

***Sat. Aug. 9** 9AM-11AM.
Beginner's 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 at the Visitor's Center. Please bring a sack lunch.

***Sat. Aug. 23** 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. Sep. 13** 9AM-11AM.
Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sat. Sep. 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.

OBBA2 PRIORITY BLOCKS NEED YOUR HELP!

The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II is about ready to enter its third season for data collection in 2008 and we hope that everyone has had an enjoyable time so far while putting Ohio's nesting birds on the map. We have had a great start to Ohio's second Atlas project but there is still much work that needs to be done. In particular, we're hoping that effort in 2008 will put a significant dent in coverage of all the remaining priority blocks (those surveyed during the first breeding bird atlas). Below are blocks that have NO or VERY LOW survey coverage. If you are interested in helping with these orphan blocks, please contact us and we can get you survey materials and block maps right away. The following represents priority blocks in your area from the DeLorme's Atlas in need of survey coverage:

Ashland (49B7NE, 50B1SW, 50C1CE, 49A7CW, 50A1SW); **Holmes** (50D3NE, 50C4SW); **Richland** (49C5SW, 49B4CE); **Wayne** (50A2CW, 50A4SW, 50B3NE, 50C3CE, 51B4SE, 51B5SE, 51C5SW).

--Aaron Boone; OBBA2 Project Coordinator; 210 Kottman Hall; 2021 Coffey Road; Columbus, OH 43210; Phone: (614) 247-6458; Email: obba2@osu.edu

GMAS ANNUAL PICNIC—SUNDAY AUGUST 3

We will provide the meat and drink—you only need to bring your own table service and a dish to share. Stucker Meadow, the home of the Don Beam family, has been set as the location of our annual GMAS picnic. Their home is situated on a vista overlooking a lovely and unique native prairie. Join us at 3:30PM for an education on native prairie plants and potluck picnic on Sunday August 3. Directions are attached below.

Directions are attached below.

Still can't get enough of those native prairies? A special field trip to Brinkhaven Barrens will be held earlier (1:00 PM) on the same day. Contact Cheryl at harner1@bright.net for a meeting place to gather for this side trip. More information on both trips can be located on our website at <gmasohio.org>.

Whether you decide on touring Brinkhaven Barrens and then attending the picnic, or attending the picnic alone, this is certain to be an event filled with great plants, birds, butterflies, and some awesome food. See you there!

Directions to Stucker Meadow: From Wooster take state route 83 south, approx. 8 miles through Moreland, through sharp S-curve then next left on Wayne-Holmes County-Line Road 2 (Harrison Road). Note Wildlife Area sign on SR 83 on your right just before left turn. Go up steep hill approx. 2 miles to first crossroad. Turn right onto Wayne CR 90 (alias CR 245 upon entering Holmes County). Go approx. 1 mile to first gravel road on left. Note Jake's Fine Furniture sign. Turn left on TR 562. Go approx. 2 miles keeping straight towards dead end of road. Last house on left. Brown wood siding, salt-box style house. Address: Don Beam, 7851 TR 562, Holmesville, 44633 Phone: (330) 695-2123.

SIX YEARS OF BEGINNER'S BIRD WALKS

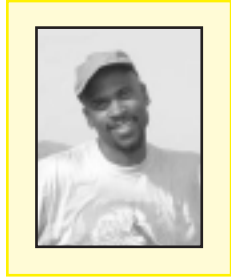
May 2008 marked the anniversary of six years of GMAS Beginner's Bird Walks at Byers Woods in Ashland. Though birds have been the main focus, we stop to admire all types of nature, including plants and insects. Thanks to all the GMAS members who help lead these walks and share their time, expertise, and love of nature with others.

GMAS leads bird walks at Byers Woods in Ashland on the fourth Saturday of every month, Malabar Farm in Lucas on the second Saturday of even months, and Secrest Arboretum in Wooster on the second Saturday of odd months. The GMAS Beginner's Bird Walks are free and open to the public. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to attend. All walks are from 9AM – 11AM.

For more information, see our web-site at <www.gmasohio.org>.

AUTHOR DUDLEY EDMONDSON VISITS MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES

Dudley Edmondson, nature photographer and author, presented programs to four classes of Mansfield Middle School children, as an educational outreach sponsored by Greater Mohican Audubon Society. Hoping to encourage interest in outdoor activities, GMAS members also assisted on the field trips, and provided binoculars for the youth to use during the outdoors portion of the programs.



Visiting our area as the keynote speaker for the Ohio Ornithological Society's Annual Conference, Dudley presented images from the wild, including birds previously featured in numerous publications and on his website www.raptorworks.com. In order to encourage people of color to participate in outdoor activities, Edmondson presented photos and stories of 20 African Americans from his 2006 book, *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places: African Americans Making Nature and the Environment a Part of Their Everyday Lives*.

These programs were made possible by a generous donation through the Richland Foundation, while Dudley's travel and lodging expenses were covered by the O. O. S.

The outdoor education for youth has been a major goal for GMAS, and we were pleased to present a quality program for so many Mansfield school children. Thanks again to the Richland Foundation and our generous benefactor.

BIO BLITZ AT AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE—JULY 5

GMAS and Ashland County Park District are hosting a Bio-blitz on Saturday, July 5 from 8AM-3PM. What is a Bio-blitz? It is a survey of the biological residents of an area, including birds, plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. We will be surveying the 109-acre **Audubon Wetlands Preserve**, a property acquired by Greater Mohican Audubon Society and deeded to the Ashland County Park District.

Participants include Ohio Young Birders Club of both Black Swamp Bird Observatory and GMAS; Rick Gardner, heritage botanist with ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves; Guy Denny, retired chief ODNR, DNAP and naturalist; Larry Rosche, field biologist and author; and volunteers from GMAS & ACPD. Participants must be 12 or older.

If you come, please bring lunch, water, and appropriate attire for a wetland (tall boots, long sleeves, long pants, hat, and your choice of insect repellent). Dress for the weather!! We will have a tent on the township road between Holiday Inn and McDonald's. Bring lawn chairs. Check our website at gmasohio.org for more details.

Directions from the north or south: Take Interstate 71 to U.S. 250. Turn west, toward Ashland. Pass Denny's and go to the first township road (Township Road 743). Turn right between McDonald's and Holiday Inn. The tent will be at the park access about a quarter mile on the right. If you have questions, please contact Louise Fleming at lfleming@ashland.edu.

WORDS FOR THE BIRDS

In a previous issue of this newsletter, Erwin Riedner from Wooster, challenged us to learn the definitions of the following "bird" terms: Syrinx; Isotherms; Remiges; Polyandry; Bergmann's Rule; Archaeopteryx lithographica; Functional lateralization; Hallux; Malar; Lek; Barbules; Irruption; Cranial kinesis; Zygodactyl; Furcula; Columella; Reverse sexual dimorphism; Neotropical; Pipped and Pipping; Nictating membrane; and Zugunruhe.

Erwin supplied us with the answers, one of which is listed below. Watch upcoming newsletters for more definitions.

Polyandry - One of the several, but infrequent, mating systems in which one female mates with several males. In the case of birds, within a breeding season. Fewer than 1% of birds are polyandrous, the dominant system being monogamy. The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), a common bird in Ohio, practices polyandry (Greek root: poly = many, andros = man). See page 123 of Jim McCormac and Greg Kennedy's *Birds of Ohio*.

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.

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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

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\$10 – GMAS Membership Only

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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

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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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