



The HOUSE WREN

Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland

P.O. Box 391037, Solon, Ohio 44139-8037 Ph: 216 556 5441

Volume XXXIII, Number 5

Visit our website at www.clevelandaudubon.org

May, 2015

Annual Meeting to be held in Metroparks

Please join us at our Annual Meeting for a leisurely hike along the Canal Towpath where indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, and Baltimore orioles have been sighted, followed by a wine and cheese social hour before our annual meeting where awards will be given. After the short meeting a catered dinner will be served.

Our keynote speaker for the evening is from the Migratory Bird Center of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Robert Rice will

enlighten us on the advantages of purchasing shade grown, bird friendly coffee. Traditional coffee plantations have caused extensive loss of tropical rain forests but there are more environmentally friendly ways to grow and harvest coffee. "Our" birds, like the cerulean warbler, that spend the winter in tropical areas are losing habitat at a dramatic rate causing devastating reductions in their numbers. Dr. Robert Rice will show us how coffee can be produced in a way to help both the wildlife and the people who earn a living by growing coffee.

The Canalway Nature Center is located at 4524 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125.



Cleveland Metroparks Canalway Nature Center

From I-77 (North or South), exit at Grant Avenue and turn west. Turn left on E. 49th Street--Settlers Bluff Picnic Area will be on the right. Turn right in 1/3 mile into Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation on Whittlesey Way. The CanalWay Visitor Center is at the end of the road.

For advance reservations (\$20), send a check with your reservation information to our regular address at P.O. Box 391037, Solon, OH 44139. The deadline for advance reservations is May 22nd.

To pay at the door (\$22), email your reservation to auduboncleveland@outlook.com or call 216-556-5441 by June 1st.

SEE INSIDE THIS EDITION

Upcoming events
Page 3

ASGC Annual Meeting
June 6th 2015

**Cleveland Metroparks
Canalway Nature Center
State Boat Landing Room**

3:00 Bird walk along the towpath by John Lillich and Jim Tomko

4:00 Wine and Cheese reception

5:00 Chapter meeting and awards ceremony

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Dr. Robert Rice speaks on shade grown, bird friendly coffee

**Cost: \$20 in advance (by May 22)
or \$22 at the door**

Reservations are required!

From the Nest...

Just a reminder that this is the last newsletter until September.

I want to thank all of our 2014-2015 contributors, including Jim Tomko, Mary Salomon, Laurenda Messer, K. Carter-Cohn, L. Jeffreys, Joe Malmisur, Sue Graham, Mark Demyan, Lisa Rainsong, Laura Gooch, Mike Sustin, Diann Rucki, Jim DeBroux, Donna Roberto, Joan Greig, Peggy Patch, John Lillich, R. Merchant, and Kathy



Cochran. This newsletter would not happen without all of you!

—Alison DeBroux, Editor

Board Meeting 3/24/2015

For our Annual Meeting on June 6th at the Canalway Nature Center, we are reviving the wine and cheese reception. This means hiring a ranger because of the alcohol. Our guest speaker, Dr. Robert Rice, has waived speaker fees and prefers to be housed with someone instead of a hotel. Trustee Sarah Mabey

offered to put him up. Additional money was approved to subsidize the meeting and dinner.

In Sanctuary business, John Lillich will get estimates to repave the parking lot at Hach-Otis. Repairs to the boardwalk and the roof of the bulletin board at Hach-Otis are also needed. Boardwalk maintenance is also needed at the Aurora Sanctuary, and expansion and cleanup of the pond at Molnar was discussed.

—From the minutes, Carol Lillich,
Secretary

North Carolina a sight for winter-weary Ohio eyes

As this long winter stretched into March and then April, our vacation to Asheville, NC, felt like it would never come. Finally, while others were putting the final touches on their tax returns, we dropped the dogs at the kennel and headed south.

And the changes began. From the bare trees of NE Ohio, the hillsides of West Virginia hinted of the green to come and were covered with clouds of redbud; Virginia and Tennessee, though just a blink of an eye on the route, glowed with fresh leaves. In Asheville, spring had fully sprung.

Everywhere, dogwood bloomed in a riot of white blossoms. It peeked around oak and hickory along the Blue Ridge Parkway and stood in solitary splendor in the Asheville Botanical Gardens, part of the University of North Carolina.

Trillium was also in peak season, its gentle white, pink, and purple petals revealed in unexpected moments.

At Chimney Rock State Park, a boisterous Carolina wren (what else?) welcomed spring while we huffed and puffed to the lookout points.

The highpoint of our sightseeing was the 434-acre North Carolina Arboretum, a small but serious collection of



Dogwood at the Asheville Botanical Gardens.

bonsai collection, one of the most renowned in the United States. Special



At 400 feet, Chimney Rock's waterfall is one of East's tallest.



A bonsai collection with a Southern Appalachian interpretation.

The collection is displayed in a unique garden setting, which felt personally designed for our appreciation.

As with all vacations, ours came to an end. We headed north in a drenching rain and returned to winter in Ohio. It was as if we'd never left!

—Alison DeBroux
(Photos by Jim DeBroux)

Critter Corner



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

Blackbirds?! Aren't they orange birds? In fact they are in the blackbird family (Icteridae) along with red-wing blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, bobolinks, and meadowlarks. If the anatomy is studied, and plumage color ignored, they do look like blackbirds.

Males have a black hood, back, wings, and central tail feathers with flaming orange breast, belly and outer tail feathers. Females have brownish olive drab head and back with dull yellowish orange underparts. Both male and female have two white wing bars.

They are named in honor of the 17th century nobleman George Calvert Lord Baltimore whose coat of arms contained these eye catching colors.

In addition to their spectacular plumage, Baltimore orioles are noted for their amazing nests which consist of a tightly woven pouch of grasses, plant fibers, hair, moss, grapevine bark and rootlets. The nest is usually suspended from the end of a deciduous tree limb 20 to 40 feet above the ground favoring elms but also in maples, willows, cottonwood and other species. Four to five darkly speckled grayish-blue eggs are incubated by the female for 12 to 14 days. The nestlings leave their cozy nest about two weeks after hatching.

Orioles spend the summer in our area gleaning caterpillars, beetles, wasps, and spiders from trees and shrubs. They also eat some fruit and nectar. These birds are migratory and spend our winter in Mexico, and Central and South America. They spend the summer here singing their pretty song and showing off their stunning, vivid colors. Take a look outside as they may be visiting your hummingbird feeder right now!

—Jim Tomko

Did you know?

Baltimore orioles can be attracted to your backyard feeding station with cut orange halves and hummingbird nectar. Even better than orange halves, they are particularly fond of grape jelly served in a shallow dish or saucer. Other flavors have been tried but grape is preferred. Also, they seem to love a supply of hard to find nest building materials. Six to eight-inch pieces of yarn are readily accepted and incorporated into their nests without regard for color of the yarn.

—JT

In case you missed it!

"Waterfowl Wander"

Ladue Reservoir 3-28-15

COLD, COLD, COLD! I thought it was spring and we would see waterfowl floating on all the ponds and reservoirs! This was the coldest waterfowl caravan I have ever led and all my usual haunts were frozen or had a fresh skin of ice from the 12-degree night before!

Our morning began with a temperature in the mid to high teens with a brisk wind blowing! Eight frozen but intrepid "birdersicles" joined me to witness the waterfowl migration. Since there was so much ice we had to drive to Mosquito Lake State Park causeway in

Trumbull County to find the ducks. We had fantastic views of canvasbacks and redheads. In addition we saw Canada goose, mute swan, mallard, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup, bufflehead, common goldeneye, hooded merganser, common merganser, red-breasted merganser, ruddy duck, common loon, and double crested cormorant.

On our return we enjoyed lunch at Blazin' Bills to review the morning's sightings. Topping it off, we stopped at Round Up Lake in Aurora where there was a horned grebe in full breeding regalia acting as if he were posing for a portrait artist! He impressed us immensely!

—Jim Tomko

The Squawk



"On Tuesday March 24th I drove up to the Lake Erie Bluffs to see the Bohemian waxwings. They were loafing in a birch tree with four or five in the tree at a time. Really cool bird and a new one for me." —JT

Send your comments, questions, or complaints to

auduboncleveand@outlook.com



After Action Report #2

"Woodcock Watch"

Novak Sanctuary 4-11-15

Hooray! Usually they begin at five or ten minutes after 8:00pm, but this night they waited until about 8:25. We had at least two or maybe three woodcocks "peenting" their breeding call on the

ground for a few minutes before taking off in their courtship flight display. As one of them took off we moved closer to the "launch pad" and then quietly waited for him to return with the chirp, chirp, chirp sound made by his feathers as he landed. It was a bit too dark to get a look at him when he was on the ground but we could see him take off and saw his

silhouette flying in the twilight sky.

Also of exciting interest - the opening act was from Wilson's snipe winnowing over the fields. What fantastic sounds and what a great group of folks from as far away as Cleveland Heights and Parma, spanning ages from kids to adults.

—JT

Upcoming Events

The Backyard Naturalist

Join us in the fall for another exciting slate of nature programming!

September 12: *"What Is Audubon?"*

ASGC experts John Lillich, Jim Tomko and Harvey Webster

October 3: *"Svalbard/Arctic Circle"*

Mike Sustin, National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow

November 7: *"The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail"*

Jeffrey Hall, President

Bartramian Audubon Society

The Backyard Naturalist is held at our Novak Education Center, 382 Townline Road, Aurora.

2015 Annual Meeting

June 6 (See page 1 for the evening's schedule)

Cleveland Metroparks Canalway Visitor Center

Featured speaker: Dr. Robert Rice, Smithsonian Institution Migratory Bird Center

Cost: \$20 in advance/\$22 at door Reservations: auduboncleveand@outlook.com

Field Trips

June 20 9:00am

"Finding Fledglings"

Former Aurora Country Club

Explore this former golf course, fallow for two seasons, in search of fledglings. Work is being done to restore this to a natural area with removal of toxic soils and allowing the river to find its natural corridor. The Aurora Sanctuary's western border shares the Aurora Country Club's eastern border so it will be interesting to see the changes in the wildlife and how they adapt. Help us to find and identify the "new kids" on the block. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of Trail's End Road which runs east of New Hudson Road in Aurora.

July 11 3:00pm

"Red, White and Blue"

Novak Sanctuary

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF GREATER
CLEVELAND (S 70)
Board of Trustees 2014-2015**

Alison DeBroux	Bud Shaw
Bill Kennelly	Jim Tomko
Andy Lihani	<i>Vice President</i>
Carol Lillich	John Weber, CPA
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Sarah Mabey	Harvey Webster
Penny Orr	Steve Zabor

Mark Demyan, President
To contact an individual trustee, please leave a
message at 216-556-5441
Or send an email to
auduboncleveand@outlook.com

Like us on Facebook!



Please recycle this
newsletter

Amphibians on the move



Wood frogs and
spotted salamanders in
the vernal pool in the
Aurora Sanctuary. April
2, 2015 at 10pm.



Wood frogs are the first frogs to lay eggs. In the autumn they produce a glucose-like substance to draw water out of their cells so when they freeze solid for the winter, the ice crystals do not damage the cells. These frogs do not over winter in the bottom of ponds but in the leaf litter and under logs and in root system channels or rodent burrows. They do actually freeze solid. If you want a real kick Google a Youtube video on wood frog thawing!

—Jim Tomko

Membership vote required for passage of new constitution

Last spring, the ASGC Board of Trustees approved a new constitution. This document describes the nuts and bolts of our organization and is filed with the State of Ohio. Before filing, it must be approved by the general membership. This is one of the business items on the agenda for our June 6th Annual Meeting.

The new constitution is on view at www.clevelandaudubon.org. The board asks that all members take a few minutes to review the document (it's only two pages long) before the vote is taken.

A Wry Smile



I think we consider too much
the good luck of the early bird and not
enough the bad luck of the early worm.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

2015 scholarship winners selected! The pool of applicants was small but supremely qualified. Please join us at our Annual Meeting on June 6th when we will announce our five talented winners!

DATED MAIL

