



The HOUSE WREN

Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland

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Visit our website at www.clevelandaudubon.org

April, 2014

“Co-op” event a huge success

If you missed the special event on March 9th, held at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, you missed a great experience. Zoo staff welcomed attendees and ushered us to the auditorium, where we were greeted with tasty treats and the principals from each of the organizations who put on this cooperative event: the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, and Kirtland Bird Club.

The highlight of the afternoon was a showing of the film, “The Lost Bird Project,” which focused on the efforts of sculptor Todd McGrain to create memorials for five extinct species (Labrador duck, heath hen, Carolina parakeet, great auk, and passenger pigeon), and place them near where the last of their kind was seen. With Todd, we traveled to the coast of Nova Scotia, through Martha’s Vineyard and down to the swamps of Florida, ending in central Ohio, where Martha, the last passenger pigeon, died 100 years ago this September. The film was professionally produced and was amusing and emotional by turns, as Todd faced a number of challenges in his quest to find the best places to erect his man-sized sculptures.

After a short break, we reconvened



Emcee Harvey Webster with panelists Mark Shieldcastle and Brett Rodstrom.

with a panel of conservation experts for a discussion of what we as individuals can do to thwart the next wave of extinctions. The panel included Mark Shieldcastle of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Brett Rodstrom of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Stan Searles, founder of Global Conservation Connections.

A minor technical snag allowed us to experience the significant comedic storytelling skills of emcee Harvey Webster and by the time the event broke up about 4:30, the snack table was pretty well worked over. Everyone seemed to have a great time and thought this “cooperative” idea a good one, and we should endeavor to do more such events. Our thanks go out to organizers Tom Romito and Nancy Howell of WCAS, Lukas Padegimas of KBC, and Mark Demyan and Harvey Webster of ASGC.

—Alison DeBroux



CALLING ALL MEMBERS and "Friends of the ASGC"

7 June 2014

Annual Dinner

Hike
Work session & social hour
Dinner in early evening

Location: TBA

To help with the Annual Dinner:

Contact Mark Demyan
330.348.0350
mjd.cconst@gmail.com

See *May House Wren* for complete details!

From the Nest...

The board wishes to welcome Carol Lillich back to the fold! Carol has not only returned as an ASGC trustee, but as Secretary, where she will be able to use her extensive talents to keep the rest of us in line. Thank you, Carol!

Special Board Meeting 3/13/14

Nine trustees and two guests met in March for the purpose of revising our outdated Constitution. This document



outlines the organization of the ASGC, including our name, place of operation, how many trustees we will have and how we elect our officers.

Steve Zabor had emailed the current version of the document for all trustees to examine prior to the meeting. We agreed it was not only outdated but cumbersome and too detailed. He then provided a draft with proposed revisions, which we discussed and approved.

Our new Constitution will be

adopted by a vote of the membership at the 2014 Annual Meeting, and will then be filed with the IRS and State of Ohio.

Your participation is requested. The revised document will be posted for your review on our website at www.clevelandaudubon.org.

The board’s next duty is to revise our by-laws, a more detailed document containing the minutiae of our daily operations. It will be revised by the Executive Committee and approved by a vote of the board.

—Alison DeBroux, Editor

The saga continues...

Hach-Otis Sanctuary: "The Dream Forest of Ohio"

I have known Hach-Otis since my parents brought me to Pleasant Valley in 1945. I had my seventh birthday on the day we moved in.

My father grew up in the area. My paternal grandmother's maiden name was Dodd, the same Dodd family that settled in Pleasant Valley in 1843, just across the Chagrin River from what became Hach-Otis. The Dodd family farmed and operated a Woolen Mill, and Saw and Grist Mills here. This was a township and considered "the sticks" in 1945.

I quickly learned to love the Chagrin River Valley and the surrounding woodlands. I soon learned that 80 acres on the bluff across the river had become a "Wildlife Sanctuary." Having so much forest to explore, a wildlife sanctuary didn't mean much to me at the time.

The main players involved with the creation of this sanctuary were Edward Hach, Harrison G. Otis, C.M. Shipman and Harold T. Clark. All were members of Willoughby's Burroughs Nature Club.

Here I have included a letter written around 1944 by C. M. Shipman:

Dreams sometimes come true! "Long ago" but not "far away," there grew a woods, aloof enough

to stay unspoiled. In time it came into the possession of a man who grew to love the woods and appreciate those rare delights found along its shaded paths.

People came and wrote of what they saw. The late Carl Robertson wrote many columns about this bit of woodland which he called "The Dream Forest of Ohio."

Some years have passed and an inspiration came to the owner. He told me of his desire to see this "Dream Forest" saved intact, each tree and plant to live its life to the end. He wanted it to be a Wild Life Sanctuary for all time.

I presently returned with a plan. Meetings followed and from it has come into being the first Forest Preserve dedicated to the idea that all within will be perpetually immune to despoilment.

The name to be

THE EDWARD HACH WILD LIFE SANCTUARY

Mr. and Mrs. Hach have been members of the Burroughs Nature Club for many years, also the Lake County Garden Club, and we all remember many happy parties at their home or over at the Cottage on the lawn.

This unique gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hach is the greatest



Winter in Hach-Otis

Photo: J. Lillich

contribution to the Conservation of Wild Life in this part of Ohio. It is hard for us to realize that the destruction of the upland woods is a major reason for lowering of the ground water table, bringing with it a lowering of the population through the failure of agriculture. In southern Ohio the old forests were cut from the hills and sterility came, bringing with it a migration of a hundred thousand people out of those southern counties.

—C. M. S.
(C. M. Shipman)

I have often wondered what made Ed Hach so concerned about preserving his 40 acres of woods. After all, it had only been a few years since Euclid Chardon Road (US Rt. 6), which passed right by his door step, had been upgraded from a single lane dirt road. It was still an hour or more by auto from Cleveland. I wondered, what motivated him?

—John Lillich
(To be continued next month)

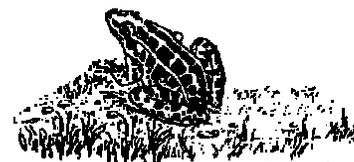
ASGC benefactress dies at 92

Lenore M. Molnar, of Fairview Park, passed away March 8, 2014. In 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Molnar donated 113 acres to the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. Located across Page Road from Sunny Lake Park in Aurora, The Michael and Lenore Molnar Sanctuary is the site of a beautiful seven

-acre lake, hiking trails and a 35-foot earthen dam. Contributions in Mrs. Molnar's name may be sent to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 17876 St. Clair Ave. Cleveland, OH 44119.



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In Case You Missed It!

"The Herons of Bath Road"

SABN February 22—Andrea Irland has spent the last 18 years monitoring the herons at the Bath Road heronry. A former park ranger, she is now a Citizen Scientist (a real title), and spends many mornings watching heron nests and recording the birds' activity. The large beaks are deterrents to banding attempts, so she and her fellow monitors provide valuable information about the birds' diet, movements, and population through observation.

Heron are considered "macro birds," visible and easy to watch. The best time to observe nest building is early March to early April, before the leaves come in. A male will gather a stick and present it to the female, who will add it to the nest. Observers know the chicks have hatched when the adults' behavior changes, and can begin to count them once their heads poke above

the nest.

The Bath Road heronry is a "drive-up" heronry, uniquely situated near a busy road (Bath Road between Akron Peninsula and Riverview). At its peak in 2003 it had 176 nests. This translates to over 500 birds—which eat a lot of fish! The heronry is in decline due to guano (too much guano poisons the surrounding ground) and the failure of several nest trees, and now has fewer than 130 nests. Visit the herons on Facebook at Bath Road Herons.

—Alison DeBroux



The Squawk



"Once again, thank you for a great publication! I thought the article about Sandy Buckles was lovely. And I enjoyed the articles by John Lillich and Jim Tomko. Best wishes!"

—Laurenda Messer

"Hello Mark,

I'm writing to thank you, Marnie Urso, and the rest of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland for hosting the presentation several weeks ago about the future of birds in a changing climate. I learned a lot at the event, and I wanted to express my admiration to your group for discussing such an important topic."

—Eric Ritter

Send your comments, questions, or complaints to

auduboncleland@hotmail.com or via snail mail to our regular address.

Upcoming Events

Field Trips

Saturday Afternoon

Backyard Naturalist Series

April 6 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00pm

"Frog Watch!"

Join Hiram College undergrads for a presentation on frogs, toads and other amphibians of NE Ohio. Learn about identification, habitat and conservation issues, just in time for the April 12th "Frog Walk" field trip!

April 12 3:00-5:00pm

"Climate Change Science, Ethics, and Solutions"

David Beach, Director
GreenCityBlueLake Institute

There has been an outpouring of scientific research about the perils of climate destabilization from global warming, yet humanity has largely failed reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This talk will consider why it has been so hard to act, and it will suggest ways to think about transitioning our society to a low-carbon future.

All SABN programs are free and held at our Novak Education Center, 382 Townline Road, Aurora.

March 29 9:00am

"Wheeling for Waterfowl" La Due Reservoir

Meet at the La Due boat ramp parking lot at the end of Washington Road, which is a turn to the east off of St. Rt. 44 just north of the 422 interchange in Auburn.

April 5 7:30pm

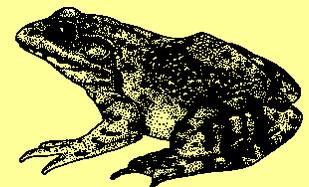
"Woodcock Watch" Novak Sanctuary

Just as dusk turns to night the male woodcocks put on their "dancin' shoes" to woo the females with impressive flight displays. The wet fields at the Novak sanctuary are ideal breeding grounds for these upland shore birds. They begin with a ground dance and then rocket up into the night sky to circle and fly for a few moments before twittering and zipping back to earth. Meet at the Novak Sanctuary parking lot on the east side of Townline Rd. about a mile north of St. Rt. 82 on the Aurora/Mantua border.

April 12 8:30pm

"Frog Walk" Aurora Sanctuary

Get a spot in the audience for one of the most fantastic concerts in the area. The male frogs and toads are in full song to attract the females to their area of the pond. Spring peepers, western chorus frogs, American toads, northern leopard frogs, and green frogs should all be singing. We often hear owls, raccoons, and coyotes in this sanctuary at night. Northern flying squirrels are easier to see before the leaves emerge. Join us on this night hike for your listening pleasure. Meet at the Audubon parking lot on the north side of Pioneer Tr. in Aurora a few hundred yards east of Page Rd. in Aurora.



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

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A Wry Smile



“If it looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, we have at least to consider the possibility that we have a small aquatic bird of the family anatidae on our hands.”

—Douglas Adams

GBBC by the numbers

It’s time to put the exclamation point at the end of another exciting, record-breaking Great Backyard Bird Count. During February 14-17, the GBBC recorded the following:

Number of checklists: 144,109
Species observed: 4,296
Countries participating: 135
Estimated number of participants: 142,051

Top 10 countries by number of lists:

Rank	Country	# Checklists
1	United States	124,310
2	Canada	13,458
3	India	3,358
4	Australia	908
5	Mexico	546
6	Chile	356
7	Costa Rica	256
8	Puerto Rico	196
9	United Kingdom	162
10	Portugal	149

Migration by the numbers

At least 40 percent of all bird species are migratory. In North America more than 300 bird species migrate. Here are just a few amazing facts about the planet's migratory marvels:

- High flyers: **Bar-headed geese** reach altitudes of nearly 30,000 feet across the Indian Himalayas.
- Far flyers: **Arctic terns'** round-trip amounts to nearly 50,000 miles per year.
- Fast flyers: **Great snipes** maintain speeds of 60 mph or more—and that’s without tailwinds.
- Tireless flyers: the **Bar-tailed godwit** covers 7,000 miles across the central Pacific without food or rest.

—Source: NAS



John Lillich has generously donated this hand-carved “northern shoveler” to the ASGC. Look for it the next time you visit the Novak Education Center!

DATED MAIL

