

DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Excerpts From

THE YELLOW WARBLER

The Newsletter of the
Dayton Audubon Society

FEBRUARY 1996



volume 58 - No. 1

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'95 CHRISTMAS COUNT A BONANZA

The 71st Dayton Audubon Christmas Bird Count last December was one of our more outstanding counts. The weather on count day (two days before the first big snow) was great, and many records were set. **Charlotte Mathena** was this year's count coordinator/compiler, and she, of course, did an excellent job. The heavy snowfalls forced a postponement of the count compilation meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 9.

Approximately 50 observers participated in the count this year, at the usual 13 locations. 17,415 birds were recorded, and **79** species, which is only two short of the count record. (An additional two species, Bald Eagle and Winter Wren, were seen during count week, bringing the reported count total to 81). An uncommonly high number of duck species at least partly accounted for the bountiful numbers.

Highlights this year were: record high counts of twelve species (see list below); unusually high counts of Pileated Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Field Sparrows, and White-throated Sparrows; a rare Gray Catbird; a disappointingly low count of Northern Mockingbirds (4); and two *new* species for the Christmas Count, an Eastern Phoebe and a Tundra Swan! Also noteworthy, the House Finch count (368) was down for the second consecutive year, which could be due to the conjunctivitis that has been reported spreading through the species.

Thanks to all the participants for making this a great count!

* - Count Record High

Pied-billed Grebe	*18	Downy Woodpecker	*239
Great Blue Heron	*71	Hairy Woodpecker	25
Tundra Swan	*1	Northern Flicker	*86
Canada Goose	*1,697	Pileated Woodpecker	9
Wood Duck	3	Eastern Phoebe	*1
Green-winged Teal	22	Horned Lark	9
American Black Duck	21	Blue Jay	71
Mallard	1,390	American Crow	322
Northern Pintail	1	Carolina Chickadee	*638
Northern Shoveler	3	Tufted Titmouse	147
Gadwall	27	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
American Wigeon	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	102
Redhead	11	Brown Creeper	101
Ring-necked Duck	7	Carolina Wren	64
Lesser Scaup	3	House Wren	1
Common Goldeneye	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	50
Bufflehead	6	Eastern Bluebird	*38
Hooded Merganser	*38	American Robin	1,657
Ruddy Duck	1	Gray Catbird	1
Northern Harrier	1	Northern Mockingbird	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*4	Cedar Waxwing	10
Cooper's Hawk	*10	European Starling	11,610

Red-tailed Hawk	*45	Yellow-rumped Warbler	13
American Kestrel	27	Northern Cardinal	437
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	5
Northern Bobwhite	10	American Tree Sparrow	132
American Coot	7	Field Sparrow	32
Common Snipe	1	Song Sparrow	147
Ring-billed Gull	453	Swamp Sparrow	1
Herring Gull	18	White-throated Sparrow	301
Rock Dove	136	Dark-eyed Junco	446
Mourning Dove	930	Rusty Blackbird	84
Eastern Screech Owl	3	Common Grackle	5
Great Horned Owl	5	Brown-headed Cowbird	9,152
Barred Owl	3	Purple Finch	6
Long-eared Owl	5	House Finch	368
Belted Kingfisher	13	Pine Siskin	5
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	*83	American Goldfinch	119
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	House Sparrow	323

SEASONAL SIGHTINGS

Fall 1995

Prepared by John A. Shrader and Charlotte Mathena

Observers: *Aullwood Staff (AuS), Betty Berry (BB), Charlie Berry (CB), Dave Dister (DD), Jon Dunn (JD), Kathleen Duchak (KD), Larry Gara (LG), Jim Gaston (JG), Polly Hall (PH), Tom Hissong (TH), Tim Little (TL), Charlotte Mathena (CM), Jennifer Monahan (JM), Doug Overacker (DO), Jim Simpson (JSi), Sue Tackett (ST), Judy Whitaker (JW), Many Observers (M.Ob.)*

Anyone who has been birding for a few seasons soon realizes that every migration season always brings a slightly different set of surprises. As you will note below, fall 1995 offered several big surprises to the observant birder in addition to the more usual migrants passing through our area.

Migrant **Tundra Swans** stopped by Englewood Reserve (EngR) on 11/3-4 - up to 17 were present at once (TH)! Four **Oldsquaws** were seen 12/7 (JSi) at Caesar Creek Lake (CCL). Grand Lake St. Marys (GLSM) hosted both a female **Black Scoter** and a **White-winged Scoter** on 11/11 (DD).

A good number of **Black Vultures** was seen at Paint Creek State Park in mid-November (LG). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed chasing Rock Doves near Frederick Pike on 10/15 (BB,CB). A **Merlin** was observed at Killdeer Plains W.A. (KilP) on 9/10 (TL).

November 19, 1995, the second day after a strong cold front passed through our area, must have been a big migration day for **Sandhill Cranes** throughout the Midwest, which were reported from three locations on 11/19: At CJ Brown Reservoir (CJBr) 60 were seen flying over (BB,CB), at Rocky Fork Lake (RFL) two flocks were seen (LG), one with 30 birds, and the other with 15, and at GLSM, 19 were seen flying over (DD)!

On 10/26 an **American Avocet** made an appearance at RFL (LG), and by 11/3 there were eight there. At times during September at KilP up to several hundred shorebirds were found, including a **Lesser Golden-Plover** and **Baird's Sandpiper**, both on 9/23 (CM,ST).

A very late Baird's Sandpiper was at CJBr from 11/26 until early Dec (DO). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was found on 9/10 at KilP (TL). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found on the beach at CJBr on 9/3-9(DO). Another was at KilP on 9/23 (CM,ST). Yet another was observed associating with Killdeer on the mowed grass by the beach at CCL from 9/30-10/2 (LG,PH,CM,JM,TL,M.Ob).

An unprecedented 16 **Franklin's Gulls** were found on 10/14 at the north end of CJBr (DO). Three more were at RFL on 10/28 (ST,JD,CM).

Three **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at Germantown Reserve on 9/11 (TL). As the fall progressed, this species seemed to move into/through our area in good numbers, as they were widely reported from area feeders throughout the period.

Noteworthy warbler sightings included a late **Nashville Warbler** in a suburban yard on 10/29 (KD), a **Northern Waterthrush** at EngR on 10/14 (BB,CB), and an **Ovenbird** was found skulking under shrubbery in an area yard (PH). Another very late Ovenbird was observed in a Dayton yard on 12/3 (JW).

During mid-Nov, **Evening Grosbeaks** were at both Bruckner Nature Center (BNC - JG) and Aullwood Audubon Center (AuS). A **Purple Finch** was seen as early as 9/12 in south Dayton (PH), and another was at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on 9/24 (ST). A few **Pine Siskins** were found during the period: One at BNC on 11/5; another at a backyard feeder on 11/12 (CM). A **White-winged Crossbill** visited a backyard feeder in Wilmington occasionally during the last week of Nov (LG). At the Metzger-Ferguson Reservoir near Lima, 20 **Snow Buntings** were found on 12/9 (DD).

Further afield, a **Ross' Gull** was found in early November (11/4-5) at Eagle Creek Park just north of Indianapolis, and on 11/4-5, a **White Ibis** was at the Oxbow near Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: AUDUBON ON A ROLL

National Audubon's Strategic Plan implementation is off to a great start. Ten implementation committees were created last fall with representatives from chapters, NAS staff, and the National Board. Of those committees, three have finalized Action Plans which were approved by the Board at the December 9 meeting. These Action Plans reflect not only the exceptional work by the committee members, but also important contributions from chapter leaders across the country.

The first of the approved Action Plans is from the Campaign Implementation Committee. As part of the plan, chapters will be asked to help select National Audubon's priority campaigns in the months to come. A selection process has been designed which involves the input of chapters, state councils, NAS staff, and the National Board. The campaign criteria will focus on birds, other wildlife, and habitat, as well as on organizational expertise, leadership, impact on issues, fundability, and scientific basis of campaign. A Campaign Coordination Committee has been created to manage the nomination and selection process for Audubon priority campaigns, with pilot selections to be completed in time for the National Convention in June. Audubon's Policy Division Director, Eric Draper, will oversee this effort.

The second approved Action Plan is from the Grassroots Implementation Committee. The two major components of this plan are the development of an Audubon Leadership Training Program for Audubon's volunteer network, and the development of a broader base of Audubon advocates. The latter will be accomplished through the creation of a pyramid structure made up of grassroots advocates, volunteer leaders, and staff recruiters. The plan will bring more communication mechanisms to the field and campaign efforts of Audubon, as well as an investment in skills enhancement activities across the volunteer network of Audubon.

The Human Resources Committee Action Plan will explore and develop ongoing NAS personnel strategies. The plan also highlighted a comprehensive training and professional development program at Audubon, as well as an orientation process for staff and Board. Other activities include implementation of a new Performance Planning and Appraisal System, and expansion of staff and board involvement in local Audubon activities, especially through chapters. The Human Resources Action Plan will ensure that Audubon becomes an even more rewarding organization in which to work.

Tracking, monitoring, updating, and servicing of future program committees in relation to these Action Plans will be the responsibility of the respective departments of Audubon. Copies of these completed Action Plans are available upon request by contacting David Miller at Audubon's Strategic Plan Coordination Office, 1789 Western Avenue, Albany, New York, 12203. You can also call 518-869-9731, or fax at 1-800-636-4443.

The remaining seven implementation committees are still preparing their Action Plans. Chapter Leaders received a packet of information in December with key questions facing five of these committees: Field, Centers, Communications, Education, and Membership. The five committees will submit their Action Plans for Board approval in March. Some highlights of their activities follow.

The Field Implementation Committee is launching the first prototype field office in California, where all of Audubon's conservation, chapter service, education, and sanctuary functions will be integrated into one state operation. Congratulations to Dan Taylor, who is leading the way as Audubon's first Field Office Executive Director. The committee is also receiving proposals from State Councils around the country on mechanisms to create a Field Office in their respective locations. The Field Implementation Committee will finalize criteria to help evaluate these proposals and develop a game plan for the creation of future Field Offices. Field Office development will be a multi-year process to ensure that each office is implemented properly and Audubon does not spread itself too thin.

The Centers Implementation Committee identified five different types of Audubon Centers. They include National Audubon-owned and operated, state field office/center combination, chapter-owned and operated, private or public-owned with Audubon management responsibilities, and non-traditional, such as kiosk or mobile exhibit. The committee is prioritizing options to establish Audubon centers and develop ways to integrate state and national programs at these locations.

The Communications Implementation Committee is developing a comprehensive communications strategy for Audubon. Critical to that work is the identification of priority audiences to reach with Audubon's message. Also, the communications group is investigating campaign and field public affairs communications needs of Audubon.

Education is a cornerstone of Audubon, and the Education Implementation Committee is reviewing an organizational characteristics report prepared by an outside firm. Draft education strategies were being developed in January based on the committee's work to date and feedback from chapter outreach material.

The Membership Implementation Committee finished a situation analysis which examined trends in

markets and non-profit organizations. This background is proving extremely valuable when targeting membership recruitment resources. Additionally, local outreach is important to membership growth. The committee is seeking chapter comments through questionnaires and conference calls as they finalize their plans.

In June, the Board will receive a report from the Science Implementation Committee under the direction of Audubon's Senior Vice President for Science, Frank Gill. The Finance and Fundraising Committee will also report, and will integrate approved Action Plan activities into the NAS 1996/1997 fiscal year budget.

The most exciting part of Strategic Plan implementation is the fundamental changes in Audubon operation and energy focus the completed Action Plans will bring. The actions outlined in specific plans are now part of Audubon's structure, and will be updated and monitored by the Board, staff departments, and chapter leaders as we move into the next century. Audubon is an evolving and growing institution, whose greatest resource is its people working together.

TAKINGS REPORT AVAILABLE

The Great Lakes Regional Office of the National Audubon Society announces the publication of *The Truth Behind Takings: An Ohio Focus*. This 22-page report describes the movement to redefine the constitutional guarantee of property rights by demanding government payment for any perceived diminution in property values triggered by government regulation. This movement disregards the common good of society protected by environmental, public health, and safety regulations, in favor of individual property values.

The Truth Behind Takings examines the takings movement at the federal and state level, and describes the implications of proposed takings legislation, including bills pending in the Ohio General Assembly. The report examines six case studies of Ohio citizens whose property values have suffered and/or whose health has been put at risk by the activities of neighboring property owners. Compensation for this type of damage is ignored, and even undercut, by the takings movement. Instead, takings advocates suggest that the taxpayers pay polluting industries not to pollute; pay factories to provide worker safety; and pay developers to leave some natural areas intact.

To obtain a free copy of the report, please call Audubon's Great Lakes Regional Office at 614-224-3303, or send an e-mail message to jsibbing@audubon.org.

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(303) 499-3622; Fax (303)499-0286

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TIME AND TALENTS

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Help and new ideas from the ranks of the membership are needed in order for the organization to reach its goals.

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1996 DAS BIRDATHON

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This year, we plan to have a friendly competition between some of our regular teams. You can select a team you would like to sponsor from the list below and send in your pledge (so much for each species sighted), or you can form your own team and solicit pledges yourself from friends, neighbors, coworkers, and relatives. You don't even have to go out in the field; count the species you see in your back yard or even, if you are a couch turkey, the species you see on TV! Send your pledges (or a donation) to **Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton Ohio 45414**

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For more details or information, call Judy Whitaker, ph. (513)293-1914.

SEASONAL SIGHTINGS

January/February 1996

Prepared by John A. Shrader and Charlotte Mathena

Observers: *Betty Berry (BB), Charlie Berry (CB), Dave Dister (DD), Jon Dunn (JD), Larry Gara (LG), Jim Gaston (JG), Tim Little (TL), Charlotte Mathena (CM), Jennifer Monahan (JM), John Shrader (JS), Karen Shrader (KS), Sue Tackett (ST), Judy Whitaker (JW), Many Observers (M.Ob.)*

Like most winters, there is a lot of variation in the weather, which translates into varying conditions of observation and observer effort. However, as you will note below, despite a very cold, snowy period during January, some excellent birds were found by some very hardy local area birders. This contrasted with a near record warm spell during late February which brought many species returning just in time for yet another arctic blast at the very end of the month.

Very rare in our area in the winter, three adult Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at the Steele Dam on the Stillwater River (DD) during the 2nd week of January. A Mute Swan was observed along the Mad River during the same time (DD), and another (the same?) was at Huffman MetroPark on 1/17 through the end of the month (CM). Extremely rare, a Ross' Goose was reported among a small flock of Snow

Geese at Killdeer Plains on 2/24 - the bird could not be refound.

One of the best finds of the period, a first-year male Harlequin Duck delighted a few lucky observers on 1/14 (CM,JM) when it was found along the Great Miami River just south of downtown. This species is accidental in our area, with just a few records over the last century. Interestingly, another Harlequin was found along the Great Miami River only a few miles from the current one, back on February 13, 1949! See DAS Birds of Dayton for more details.

An immature Northern Goshawk was carefully observed on 1/18 in Middletown (TL). At Caesar Creek State Park on 1/3, three Red-shouldered Hawks were found (CM,ST,JD) - the Red-shouldered is a rare permanent resident in our region. A Rough-legged Hawk was at Carriage Hill MetroPark on 1/16 (JW). A Bald Eagle was at Cowan Lake near Wilmington on 2/19 (LG). On 2/21, about two dozen Sandhill Cranes were flying north near Brukner Nature Center along the Stillwater River (JG). Three more were spotted during the very warm southerly wind (JD,ST,CM) on 2/27 at Spring Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA). American Woodcocks also appeared with the same warm front on 2/27: About 5-10 were calling at SVWA (CM,ST,JD) and another was near Bellbrook (JS,KS).

Up to five Long-eared Owls, which were first found on the DAS Christmas Bird Count at Carriage Hill MetroPark, were seen several times during the last two weeks of December (MC). A Short-eared Owl was observed east of Cedarville on 1/16 (fide BB), and by mid-February, up to 12 were at the Huffman Prairie at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (fide DN). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed in the cedars at Englewood MetroPark the first week of January (BB,CB). In addition, all three of the above species of owls were reported from Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in late January.

Also very rare in the winter in our area, a Gray Catbird was at SVWA on 1/14 (TL), along with a Winter Wren. Two Northern Shrikes spent the period at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Finally, besides Pine Siskins and Purple Finches, the only other winter finch reported was a Common Redpoll at SVWA on 1/22 (TL).

TAKINGS LEGISLATION WOULD BE A DIRECT THREAT TO CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Two bills that would fundamentally alter the way government does business in Ohio have been introduced as "takings" legislation. House Bill 533, sponsored by Rep. William Batchelder, and Senate Bill 221, sponsored by Sen. Robert Cupp, have the blessing of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Manufacturer's Association, and a host of other industry and business organizations.

As written, the bills would require the Ohio Attorney General to issue guidelines periodically to all levels of government. These guidelines would have to be used for detailed assessment "every time any level of

government considers any law, regulation, or ordinance" - virtually any government action imaginable - which might impact the value of private property. If it is determined by a government attorney that the proposal might constitute a "taking," the governmental entity would have to identify funds from its existing budget to cover any potential legal challenge.

This is a solution desperately seeking a problem. The proponents can offer no specific examples of actual regulatory "takings" anywhere in the state of Ohio. Yet they want to throw out the current system (that has worked well since Ohio became a state) and create a bureaucratic apparatus that not only would cost millions of taxpayers dollars to implement, but would spawn an avalanche of litigation due to the uncertainty the guidelines would cause. Similar assessment laws in other states have scared local governments into inaction on critical proposals to protect public health, safety, and the environment because the governments were afraid of the legal and (especially) budgetary implications of any action.

The bill will cost the taxpayers money. The University of Washington's institute for Public Policy estimated that a proposed takings assessment bill would, over the years, cost local governments in that state anywhere from \$305 million to \$1 billion. Local governments would be paralyzed by the fear of litigation and important ordinances would be thwarted. Everything would be at risk, from state environmental legislation to local zoning codes.

Contact your state representative and senator SOON and tell him/her that you do not support legislation that is a waste of time and a boon to bureaucracy. Tell them to say no to this nightmare.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES NEED YOU!

One of the best ways to further the environmental cause is through education, and one of the best environmental education tools is National Audubon's **Audubon Adventures** program. Audubon Adventures provides materials to classrooms, in the form of bi-monthly packets, that cover a variety of topics, such as animal communication, wildflowers, and pond life. A teacher's guide is also included. The materials are fun as well as educational, and participating teachers have been unanimously enthusiastic.

If you know of a classroom that would like Dayton Audubon to sponsor Audubon Adventures for them, or you would like to sponsor a class yourself, please contact **Barbara Keegan at (513)435-0707**.

The kids need you! You can make a difference!

HELP PROTECT OHIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE!

Ohioans! You can help preserve and protect part of your rich natural heritage.

The Ohio income tax return allows you to make a tax-deductible donation by designating part of your TAX REFUND to support Ohio's efforts to protect nature preserves, scenic rivers, and endangered species.

Your support is needed to assure that the state's most important natural areas, scenic rivers, and endangered plants and animals are preserved for future generations of Ohioans to see and enjoy. Give Nature a chance - please join us in protecting your natural heritage.

For information, write:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

1889 Fountain Square Court

Columbus, Ohio 43224

(614)265-6453 (Voice)

(614)265-6994 (TDD)

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Geese at Killdeer Plains on 2/24 - the bird could not be refound.

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An immature Northern Goshawk was carefully observed on 1/18 in Middletown (TL). At Caesar Creek State Park on 1/3, three Red-shouldered Hawks were found (CM, ST, JD) - the Red-shouldered is a rare permanent resident in our region. A Rough-legged Hawk was at Carriage Hill MetroPark on 1/16 (JW). A Bald Eagle was at Cowan Lake near Wilmington on 2/19 (LG). On 2/21, about two dozen Sandhill Cranes were flying north near Brukner Nature Center along the Stillwater River (JG). Three more were spotted during the very warm southerly wind (JD, ST, CM) on 2/27 at Spring Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA). American Woodcocks also appeared with the same warm front on 2/27: About 5-10 were calling at SVWA (CM, ST, JD) and another was near Bellbrook (JS, KS).

Up to five Long-eared Owls, which were first found on the DAS Christmas Bird Count at Carriage Hill MetroPark, were seen several times during the last two weeks of December (MC). A Short-eared Owl was observed east of Cedarville on 1/16 (fide BB), and by mid-February, up to 12 were at the Huffman Prairie at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (fide DN). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed in the cedars at Englewood MetroPark the first week of January (BB, CB). In addition, all three of the above species of owls were reported from Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in late January.

Also very rare in the winter in our area, a Gray Catbird was at SVWA on 1/14 (TL), along with a Winter Wren. Two Northern Shrikes spent the period at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Finally, besides Pine Siskins and Purple Finches, the only other winter finch reported was a Common Redpoll at SVWA on 1/22 (TL).

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HELP PROTECT OHIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE!

Ohioans! You can help preserve and protect part of your rich natural heritage.

The Ohio income tax return allows you to make a tax-deductible donation by designating part of your

TAX REFUND to support Ohio's efforts to protect nature preserves, scenic rivers, and endangered species.

Your support is needed to assure that the state's most important natural areas, scenic rivers, and endangered plants and animals are preserved for future generations of Ohioans to see and enjoy. Give Nature a chance - please join us in protecting your natural heritage.

For information, write:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

1889 Fountain Square Court

Columbus, Ohio 43224

(614)265-6453 (Voice)

(614)265-6994 (TDD)

AUDUBON'S AMERICA CONVENTION '96

Charting The Future For Habitat Protection

NATIONAL CONVENTION '96

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**Registration materials available January 1996
Audubon Convention Office
4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5; Boulder CO 80303
(303) 499-3622; Fax (303)499-0286**

BE AN ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST

Want To Help But Have Limited Time?

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- Conservation Committee
- Education Committee
- Field Trips
- Membership Committee
- Publicity
- Yellow Warbler
- Other

Send your choice with your name and phone number to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398; or call DAS President Mike Coogan at 513-439-4828

DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Excerpts From

THE YELLOW WARBLER

The Newsletter of the
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May 1996



volume 58 - No. 4

Published eight times per year by the Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414-5398

KELLEY'S ISLAND, LAKE ERIE FIELD TRIP

A first for Dayton Audubon Society, Charlotte Mathena, phone (513) 433- 2167, will lead an exploratory field trip to **Kelleys Island in Lake Erie on Sunday, May 12, at 7:30 a.m.** We're not sure what we will find, but we've heard rumors that the islands in Lake Erie can be excellent "migrant traps". The walk is scheduled for Sunday to allow you to bird the Crane Creek State Park/Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge area on Friday and Saturday during what has been the traditional migrant peak at Lake Erie. Plan for at least a half day on the island, including the ferry trip out and back. Also plan to bring a picnic lunch with you. A representative from the Kelley's Island Audubon Society will show us around.

We will be taking the 7:30 a.m. ferry from Neuman's Ferry Service in Marblehead, Ohio. **NOTE: The ferry leaves at 7:30, so you must be there before then.** The next ferry is at 8:30 a.m. and then every 1/2 hour after that. The rate is \$6.00 per person and \$12.00 per car if we have more than 10 people; for less than 10 the rates are \$8.50 and \$15.00. We plan to carpool over to the island to share the cost of the vehicle(s). Parking at Neuman's is free. The return ferry runs every 1/2 hour until 7:00 p.m.

To get there: Take SR 2 east from Toledo to SR 269: go north on 269 to 163, and east on 163 to Marblehead. Turn left on Frances Street (there's a custard stand on the corner) to Neuman's Ferry. Please

call Charlotte by Thursday, May 9 to sign up so that she has a reasonably accurate head count.

It's Back - Senate Scheduled to Vote on Radical Takings Bill

In the next several weeks, the US Senate will likely vote on S. 605, the radical "Omnibus Property Rights Act of 1995". S.605, which is even more damaging than the takings measure passed last year by the US House, includes detailed and extremely onerous compensation and assessment provisions. S. 605 will be up for a vote on the senate floor in early May. Please call or write Senators DeWine and Glenn today.

S. 605, under the guise of protecting private property, is an assault on government's ability to protect public health and safety and the environment. S. 605 is not a rational response to the legitimate concerns of some property owners about the impact of government decisions on their land and businesses. The bill's true agenda is not to protect property owners, but rather to roll back public health, safety, and environmental protections for the benefit of big business. This bill would tie up government regulators in red tape and impose enormous new costs on the American taxpayer.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has estimated that the somewhat narrower House bill, H. R. 925, would cost the government \$28 billion over the next seven years. S. 605, on the other hand, is so broad that OMB could only conclude that it would cost "several times" more than the House bill. At a time when our government is operating under severe budget constraints, we cannot afford the enormous costs of S. 605.

Like other "takings" legislation, S. 605 would undermine important governmental protections of the public health, welfare, and the environment. Government agencies would be tied up in red tape and would be unable to effectively pass rules and regulations to protect the public. Due to budget constraints, agency staff would have to make a choice between paying industry and landowners in order to enforce the law, or to roll back protections entirely. Additionally, legislative bodies and regulatory agencies would be understandably reluctant to pass any new legislation, no matter how desperately it was needed. S. 605 is nothing more than a backdoor assault on vitally important legislation that protects all of us.

Write, call, or fax Senators DeWine and Glenn today to urge them to oppose S. 605. Remind them that S. 605 is a budget buster and will cost taxpayers millions of dollars; that it is not a true property owner's bill, but is designed to safeguard the interests of big business and at the expense of private property owners, who need government protections; and that S. 605 will create miles of red tape and undermine protections for the environment and public safety.

The Honorable Senator John Glenn (or Mike DeWine)
US Senate

Washington DC 20510

Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

Senator DeWine's fax: 202-224-6519

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DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Excerpts From

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Dayton Audubon Society

June/July 1996



volume 58 - No. 5

Published eight times per year by the Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414-5398

PREAMBLE TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Yet transcending this mission is an ideal: a world where the conservation ethic is automatic, not coerced. Conservation can not be limited to a few individuals or organizations. To preserve the biological diversity of this planet - humanity's ecological inheritance, which is being so rapidly dissipated - conservation must be an attribute common to all people. We envision a world where humankind accepts the obligations of being a part of nature, especially the obligation of stewardship. We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable. In short, we seek a culture of conservation and environmental ethic.

Audubon works toward a future in which public policy and individual choice are framed by environmental consciousness and sensitivity. We work toward a future where environmental conflict and divisiveness are supplanted by cooperation and respect; a future where debate and dialogue are shaped by environmental literacy, not by political rhetoric and dogma; a future where economic strategies are not simply sustainable but environmentally restorative as well; a future where nature is a common, not a special interest; a future distinguished by the harmony of environmental, social, and economic concerns.

We recognize that this culture of conservation is only a concept, a vision. A true cultural transformation may be decades in the evolution, but we are not afraid to begin. We aspire, therefore, to germinate and nurture a global society bound together by a commitment to resource conservation and a passionate respect for nature. Toward this end - toward speeding the birth of a culture of conservation - we invest our hopes, our labors, and our dreams.

National Audubon Society Board of Directors, June 1995

AUDUBON ADVENTURES NEED YOU!

One of the best ways to further the environmental cause is through education, and one of the best environmental education tools is National Audubon's **Audubon Adventures** program. Audubon Adventures provides materials to classrooms, in the form of bi-monthly packets, that cover a variety of topics, such as animal communication, wildflowers, and pond life. A teacher's guide is also included. The materials are fun as well as educational, and participating teachers have been unanimously enthusiastic.

If you know of a classroom that would like Dayton Audubon to sponsor Audubon Adventures for them, or you would like to sponsor a class yourself, please contact **Barbara Keegan at (513)435-0707**.

The kids need you! You can make a difference!

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- Publicity
- *Yellow Warbler*
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DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

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August 1996



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Published eight times per year by the Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414-5398

SEASONAL SIGHTINGS

March-June 1996

Prepared by John A. Shrader and Charlotte Mathena

Observers: Dave Dister (DD), Jon Dunn (JD), Larry Gara (LG), Jim Hickman (JHi), Jim Hill (JH), John Howard (JHo), Tim Little (TL), Charlotte Mathena (CM), Jennifer Monahan (JM), Doug Overacker (DO), John Ritzenthaler (JR), Jim Simpson (JSi), Butch Staggs (BSt), Jenny Staggs (JSt), Sue Tackett (ST), Judy Whitaker (JW), Many Observers (M. Ob.).

Just when you think that you can't stand winter ANY longer, the season finally begins to turn towards spring. With the changing season comes for many birders the very "best" time of the year, a period of four months from March through June. Just as the abundant rains bring occasional floods to our area so does the spring season bring thousands of birds flooding back through the Miami Valley region on their

way north. Every year brings different experiences, and, of course, this spring was exceptional in several respects, as you will note below.

Two **American White Pelicans** stopped in at the north end of CJ Brown Reservoir (CJBr) near Springfield on 5/9 (DO). CJ Brown Reservoir is probably the best place to watch for these birds, as they've been recorded a handfull of times here over the last ten years. **Cattle Egrets** were seen at Englewood MetroPark (EnMP) and Spring Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA) on 4/27 (JM,JH). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was first seen at SVWA on 4/20, and by 5/4, up to seven were present there (M. Ob.). The extensive marsh at SVWA also attracted migrating **American Bitterns** (two or more were seen), nesting **Least Bitterns** (up to 5 on 6/25), and an adult **Little Blue Heron** 4/28-5/5 (M.Ob.). Another was south of New Carlisle on 4/26 (JR,JD).

Accidental in Ohio, a wandering **Ross' Goose** stopped in briefly at CJBr near Springfield on 3/16 (DO, ST). It was not refound on 3/17. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Cowan Lake (CoLk) on 3/10-11 (LG,ST,TL). Just as spectacular was the male **Cinnamon Teal** (JW,CM,ST) that was seen from the observation deck at SVWA on 4/26. Unfortunately, it did not stick around longer than one day. Twenty-three **Surf Scoters** were at Eastwood Lake (EwLk) on 4/25 (JD). Two male **Black Scoters** stopped by Ferguson Reservoir near Lima on 4/6 (DD).

About 40 **Black Vultures** were by the dam at Paint Creek S.P. on 4/3 (LG). Five more were at the power plant near the Oxbow at Cincinnati on 4/20 (JSi). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen at Caesar Creek Lake S.P. (CCLk) on 3/30 (JHi). An **Osprey** was seen at EnMP on 4/6 (DD).

The big news for our area this spring was a very cooperative **Purple Gallinule** that showed up at Spring Valley Wildlife Area on April 20 (CM,M.Ob.) It remained present and fairly easy to find until at least May 13. This is the third sighting of this species at SVWA over a 33 year span. A very nice flock of 82 **Lesser Golden-Plovers** was found near Killdeer Plains on 5/12 (TL). Of note, 21 **Marbled Godwits** were seen at the Oxbow on 4/20 (JSi). Arriving only a couple of days before the average arrival date, an **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at the Richmond, Indiana airport on April 7 (DD).

A **Laughing Gull** was reported and well described on the beach at CoLk on 5/4 (LG). Rare spring migrants, two **Forster's Terns** were at CCLk on 4/19 (LG). Also rare, **Caspian Terns** were at CoLk on 4/18 (LG) and EwLk on 4/19 (CM). Up to six **Short-eared Owls** were hunting at Huffman Prairie on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base during the second week of March (JH,JHo).

Rarely seen in Ohio, a singing **Bell's Vireo** was observed at CJBr on 6/23 (DO) through the end of the period. A very early arrival, a **Northern Parula** was observed at EnMP on 4/13-14 (TL). At CCLk Gorge on 3/31, an early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was observed. A real highlight for birders was the May 4-5 weekend, when **thirty-three species of warblers** were found in the area, including two **Brewster's Warblers**, one at Bull Run Park in Middletown (BSt,JSt) and the other at SVWA (JSi).

Up to eight **Dickcissels** were found along Hodge and Yeazell Roads just northeast of CJBr (DO,M.Ob.)

starting in late May, along with **Bobolinks**, and grassland sparrows. A species that has become very rare in our area during the last half of the twentieth century, a **Henslow's Sparrow** was at CCLk on 4/26 (DD). Please report them if you find them. Several **Vesper Sparrows** were at EwMP 3/31-4/2 (JD,ST, CM). **Lark Sparrows** again returned to Killdeer Plains W.A. (TL) - three were seen there on 5/12.

WETLAND LOSSES CONTINUE IN OHIO DESPITE SAFEGUARDS

Despite state and federal safeguards designed to ensure no net loss of wetlands, the agencies charged with administering these safeguards in Ohio are still allowing losses to occur. A recently released study by the National Audubon Society's Great Lakes Regional Office demonstrate that standards for wetland permitting have been applied inconsistently in Ohio and are resulting in a loss of wetlands.

"The recent history of wetlands permitting in Ohio shows disturbing trends which endanger the future of our state's wetland resources and the many benefits they provide to both humans and wildlife" said Stephen Sedam, Audubon's Great Lakes Regional Vice-President.

Sedam claims that while some in Congress and the Ohio State House want to weaken protection for wetlands, this would be a move in the wrong direction. "We cannot afford to roll back protection while we are losing these valuable natural systems at an unacceptable rate," Sedam said.

Anyone planning an activity that will entail excavation or the dumping of fill material into an Ohio wetland must apply for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. To receive a permit, an applicant must demonstrate that all unavoidable impacts to wetlands will be mitigated by the creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands elsewhere. This requirement is designed to ensure that no net loss of wetland functions or acreage occurs in the state.

Audubon examined 32 individual permits issued from 1990-1995 to determine how these requirements are being met in Ohio. Some of the findings include:

- More than one-third of the permits allow for a net loss of wetlands acreage. This is despite the fact that the Ohio EPA and several Corps Districts say they require 1.5 acres of mitigation for every acre of impacted wetlands.
- Over 60 percent of the wetlands impacted are being replaced with deeper water wetlands or with ponds. This sacrifices the many unique functions performed by smaller, shallower wetlands, such as flood control, nongame wildlife habitat, and water quality improvements.
- One quarter of the permits required no wetlands to be replaced for those that were lost.
- More than 18 percent of the wetland acreage impacted will not be replaced. This does not even include the further loss of wetlands that will occur when some of the required mitigation projects fail. Studies from other states have shown that many mitigation projects fail to become fully functioning wetlands.

"These findings should be of concern to all Ohioans," said Julie Sibbing, Audubon's Wetlands Coordinator. "Ohio has already lost about 90 percent of its wetlands. This is not the legacy we should be leaving for future generations." Of the fifty states, only California has lost a greater percentage of its original wetlands.

Wetlands perform very valuable functions in Ohio. They store excess rainfall, reducing downstream flooding; filter pollutants out of our surface water; provide many recreational opportunities; and serve as critical habitat to many species of wildlife and plants, including over two dozen of Ohio's threatened and endangered species.

To address concerns raised in the report, Audubon calls for:

- strict adherence to the requirement that wetlands be mitigated only by other wetlands;
- uniformly enforced mitigation standards for all projects which ensure the replacement of both wetland acreage and functions;
- a consensus among the state and federal agencies involved with wetland permitting on goals for the future of Ohio's wetlands, including uniform mitigation criteria;
- the adoption of Wetland Water Quality Standards that protect the range of the types and functions of wetlands found in Ohio;
- better record-keeping by agencies and the creation of a tracking system for assessing impacts to wetlands; and
- the creation of a state-wide public information campaign to reduce the amount of unauthorized activities that destroy wetlands.

To obtain a copy of the report, *The Impact of Individual 404 Permits on Ohio Wetlands 1990-1995: A Look at Mitigation Requirements and Agency Roles*, contact the National Audubon Society, Great Lakes Regional Office, 692 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215; (614) 224- 3303.

ZOO LECTURE SERIES

Pete Dunne, New York Times columnist and the Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, will appear Thursday, August 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockdale Temple, 8501 Ridge Road in Cincinnati, as part of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden 1996 Barrows Conservation Lecture Series. Acclaimed nature writer Pete Dunne is the author of *Tales of a Low-Rent Birder*, *Hawks in Flight*, *The Feather Quest*, and most recently, *The Wind Masters*. Often referred to as "the second most famous birder in North America," Pete Dunne is above all a master storyteller. His wisdom and wit speaks not only of birds, but also of birdwatchers-their craft, their passion, their heroes, and their idiosyncrasies.

Tickets are \$8.00 (\$6.00 for zoo members, \$5.00 for students) and will be available at the door. Or you can send a check payable to THE CINCINNATI ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LECTURE SERIES, PO BOX 198073, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45219-8073. Please call (513) 559-7767 for more information.

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HARDY ESHBAUGH RE-ELECTED TO NAS BOARD

Dr. Hardy Eshbaugh has been re-elected to a second term on the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, representing the Great Lakes Region. Dr. Eshbaugh is Professor of Botany and Assistant Curator of the Willard Sherman Turrell Herbarium at Miami University in Oxford. His special area of interest and expertise has been systematics and ethnobotany, including the preservation of indigenous cultures and knowledge and plant systematics. For the past four years, his international conservation work has focused on two areas: a major research and teaching effort in the Bahamas, and service as an instructor in the International Rainforest Workshops based out of Iquitos, Peru.

He is an active member of the Oxford Audubon Society, and has served in various functions with several professional organizations, including the American Institute of Biological Sciences, (President, 1995), and the Steering Committee for Systematics Agenda 2000: Charting the Biosphere.

Hueston Woods State Park

Second Annual Buckeye Gathering

September 27-29, 1996

"Rewilding Ohio"

Step out onto the planet.

Draw a circle a hundred feet round.

Inside the circle are 300 things

nobody understands, and maybe

nobody has ever really seen.

--Lew Welch

Rewilding Ohio: Ohio was once covered with forests, prairies, and wetlands. Now this biologically diverse landscape has been largely usurped by farmland and urban sprawl. While we cannot replace all that has been lost, we can work to ensure the protection of what remains and to restore some of these degraded habitats. This gathering is dedicated to pursuing the vision of a wild Ohio and strengthening the connections between those who share the vision.

**Sponsor: Buckeye Forest Council
614-594-6400 or e-mail buckeye@envirolink.org**

Cox Arboretum presents:

Good Medicine: Native Plants and Native People

September 13 - October 13, 1996

A traveling exhibit of Native American medicinal plants artistically interpreted by Native American artists.

An extensive educational program will continue throughout the duration of the exhibit, and will include:

children's activities

entertainment

food

and much more!

For additional information and a complete listing of programs, call Cox Arboretum at 434-9005.

THE MCI NATURE NETWORK

The National Audubon Society is part of a special partnership with MCI and The Nature Conservancy known as the MCI Nature Network. Through the Nature Network, MCI has donated nearly \$400,000 to National Audubon Society over the past three years. This donation helps to support many of Audubon's national initiatives that impact our local community.

The Nature Network is a partnership designed to benefit both the National Audubon Society's and the Nature Conservancy's efforts to protect our national heritage. It is a corporate affinity program that gives businesses across the country an easy way to support the preservation and protection of our natural resources through their telecommunications service. When a corporation enrolls in the Nature Network, MCI donates 2 to 5 percent of the company's long distance usage to either/or the National Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy. Today, more than 5,000 companies are enrolled in this program.

If you own or work at a company that you think would be interested in information about joining The Nature Network, the National Audubon Society would like to hear from you.

For more information, please write or fax:

Barbara Hamlin

Director of Foundations and

Corporate Relations

National Audubon Society

700 Broadway, 6th Floor

New York, NY 10003

fax:212-353-0321

AUDUBON ADVENTURES NEED YOU!

One of the best ways to further the environmental cause is through education, and one of the best environmental education tools is National Audubon's Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures provides materials to classrooms, in the form of bi-monthly packets, that cover a variety of topics, such as animal communication, wildflowers, and pond life. A teacher's guide is also included. The materials are fun as well as educational, and participating teachers have been unanimously enthusiastic.

If you know of a classroom that would like Dayton Audubon to sponsor Audubon Adventures for them, or you would like to sponsor a class yourself, please contact Barbara Keegan at (513)435-0707.

The kids need you! You can make a difference!

Join The Armchair Activist Letter-of-the-Month Club

Dayton Audubon Armchair Activists participate in the Letter- of-the-Month Club. As a member, you write a letter each month to a local, state, or federal official about a current environmental issue. Audubon sends you a monthly newsletter explaining the issue; they include a sample letter to help you write yours, plus addresses of your senators, representatives, or other appropriate officials. Interested? Start now by sending your name and address to Doug Horvath, 1000 Aullwood Rd., Dayton, Ohio 45414. A \$6.00 fee is requested to help defray mailing costs.

TIME AND TALENTS

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Help and new ideas from the ranks of the membership are needed in order

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I would like to help with:

- **Armchair Activist (Write to officials on issues)**
- **Birdathon**
- **Conservation Committee**
- **Education Committee**
- **Field Trips**
- **Membership Committee**
- **Publicity**
- ***Yellow Warbler***
- **Other**

Send your choice with your name and phone number to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398; or call DAS President Mike Coogan at 513-439-4828

DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Excerpts From

THE YELLOW WARBLER

The Newsletter of the
Dayton Audubon Society

October, 1996



volume 58 - No. 8

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BIRDATHON '96 RESULTS

by Judy Whitaker

This year's Birdathon was an outstanding success. We raised a total of **\$2,280.65** for the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association and Aullwood Center and Farm, our best total ever! The individual contributions ranged from \$1 to \$800, with all of the money distributed equally between those two fine environmental organizations.

We would like to thank each and every one of you who participated in this year's Birdathon and made it such a rewarding success. A special thanks goes to our team leaders, who gathered their friends and neighbors together to hike, count and (especially) pledge. Many of them wrote heart-warming notes and letters about the fun, the sightings, and the strengthening of the soul from being out in the natural world. All of these things make chairing the Birdathon very worthwhile!

Congratulations to the **Jay Birders**, Jim Hill and John Howard, our winning team with 124 species spotted! Congratulations also go to the **Old Squaws**, Charlotte Mathena and Sue Tackett, who were very close at 122 species.

The **Wright State Rails** brought in the most pledge money, totalling \$887! Made up of Wright State University students and biology professor Dr. Jim Amon, the team did their entire count in the Beaver Creek Wetlands and logged 82 species. Great job!

A big thank you also goes to Tom Hisson of Aullwood for his well-done and enthusiastic slide presentation at the Books & Co. Birdathon Kick- Off.

Next year's Birdathon '97 will be held from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. The Kick-Off will again be at Books & Co. on Friday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Get yourself a catchy name, put together a team, and tell your friends, neighbors, and other potential sponsors that they can expect a call.

Team names from other chapter Birdathons:

Brother Can You Sparrow Dime? - Montana

Cheep Trills - Montana

Raven Lunatics - Montana

Mano y Manu (Face to Bird) - Hawaii

'Esclair de Loons - Oklahoma

Greater and Lesser Tired-Legs - Alabama

Naughty Terns - California

Warbling Greenbacks- California

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THE GREAT LAKES HEALTHY HABITAT ACTION NETWORK

You *can* make a difference

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A GROWING NETWORK OF CONCERNED CONSERVATIONISTS WORKING TO PROMOTE HEALTHY HABITATS

Learn steps you can take to better conserve and protect wildlife habitat
Stay current on conservation issues affecting your state and community
Receive training opportunities in skills you need to make a difference
Attend important events in support of habitat conservation and protection

SIGN UP TODAY!

Send your name and address to National Audubon Society, Great Lakes Regional Office, 692 N. High St., Suite 208, Columbus OH 43215, or call (614)224-3303, and request information on the Great Lakes Healthy Habitat Action Network!

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Like it or not, winter is here, and it is again time for the **DAS Christmas Bird Count**. This year, the count will be held on the **Sunday after Christmas, December 29**. This will be our 72nd annual Christmas Count: the first one was conducted by the late Ben Blincoe in 1925. Through rain, sleet, snow, or (hopefully) sunshine we always have a good time.

The National Audubon Christmas Count originated on Christmas Day in the year 1900, when 27 conservationists organized a bird count to protest the then-traditional holiday "side hunt". Since then, the data collected over the years from counts around the country provide interesting and scientifically useful information on the early-winter distribution patterns of various bird species, and on the over-all health of the environment.

On count day, local participants will be searching for birds in a 15-mile diameter area around Dayton. The area is divided into 13 territories, each covered by a different group who will attempt to identify and count all of the birds in their territory. Anyone is welcome to help with the count; check the list of

territories below and contact the leader if you would like to join. Some areas, such as Charleston Falls, Aullwood, the downtown parks, and Wright State usually need more volunteers. Additionally, feeder watchers are welcome to participate, as long as the feeder is within the count area and the results are reported at or before the compilation meeting.

On **Monday, December 30**, the results of the count will be tabulated at a compilation meeting at **Aullwood Audubon Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, at 7:15 p.m.** Many interesting and amusing tales and sightings always highlight this meeting. Refreshments will be served as well, and everyone is invited to attend.

Grab your binoculars, dress warmly, and come out for the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Mathena at (937) 433-2167.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AREAS

<p>AULLWOOD CENTER & FARM, DAYTON AIRPORT Ray Corder 833-4177</p>	<p>CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK Mike Coogan 643-1726</p>	<p>CHARLESTON FALLS RESERVE, TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK EAST Dave Knoop 698-3767</p>
<p>CRICKET HOLLER Jim Williams 437-0582</p>	<p>EASTWOOD LAKE, HUFFMAN RESERVOIR, MAD RIVER Dave Nolin 426-9302</p>	<p>ENGLEWOOD METROPARK Charlie & Betty Berry 836-3022</p>
<p>HILLS & DALES PARK, OLD RIVER, CARILLON PARK, CALVARY CEMETERY, MIAMI RIVER SOUTH Billie Taylor 294-3817</p>	<p>LELAND CENTER, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, DOWNTOWN PARKS, MIAMI RIVER NORTH, WOLF CREEK Dane Mutter 898-3495</p>	<p>TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK WEST Tom Hissong 890-7360, 898-0515</p>
<p>WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB Charlotte Mathena 433-2167</p>	<p>WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY, HILLTOP GRAVEL PIT Mike Triplett 767-4341</p>	<p>WOODLAND CEMETERY Linda Sharp 435-2455</p>
<p>MONTGOMERY CO. JVS Mike Buchanan 884-7180, 854-6385</p>		

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

The January 15 meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society will finally feature the much-anticipated "Birding the Net" program, which we were forced to cancel last year. Dr. John Shrader and Gene Storer will use their technical expertise to show and teach many of the information possibilities for birdwatchers via the internet. Rare bird alerts, seasonal sightings, birding hot spots, trip planning information, bird identification, species data, environmental data, and lots of other useful stuff are all there at the push of a button. Even if you are not a dedicated birdwatcher, you're sure to find this program intriguing. You'll get to see Dayton Audubon's own Web page, as well as National Audubon's and those of other nature and environmental groups around the country.

This fascinating program will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike. Don't miss it!

On February 19, we'll bring back the popular "Members' Slide Show." This has been a favorite program with DAS members since we initiated it a few years ago; everyone is invited to bring their birding slides, nature slides, or other slides that might be of interest to DAS members. Additionally, we've expanded the program this year and invite members to bring in their craft exhibits. Quilts, woodcarving, birdhouses, painted ties, stained-glass windows; anything you'd be proud to show to other members will be put on display.

If you are interested in bringing something, please call Lee Hall, 434-4531, prior to the meeting, so he can be sure we have enough space and time. Lee has issued a challenge to members as well: he has a slide dating from 1946, and he's guessing that no one can come up with an older one. At any rate, we'll have a token prize for the oldest slide (but not the oldest presenter!).

Even if you don't bring something, you're welcome to come and enjoy the show. As always, the program will be at Cox Arboretum, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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HELP PROTECT OHIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE!

Ohioans! You can help preserve and protect part of your rich natural heritage.

The Ohio income tax return allows you to make a tax-deductible donation by designating part of your TAX REFUND to support Ohio's efforts to protect nature preserves, scenic rivers, and endangered species.

Your support is needed to assure that the state's most important natural areas, scenic rivers, and endangered plants and animals are preserved for future generations of Ohioans to see and enjoy. Give Nature a chance - please join us in protecting your natural heritage.

For information, write:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

1889 Fountain Square Court

Columbus, Ohio 43224

(614)265-6453 (Voice)

(614)265-6994 (TDD)

AUDUBON'S AMERICA CONVENTION '96

Charting The Future For Habitat Protection

NATIONAL CONVENTION '96

June 8-12

The American University

Washington, D. C.