

Dayton Audubon Society

Excerpts From

The Yellow Warbler

The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

February 1998



Photo by Jim Simpson

Volume 60 - No.

1

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

1997 Christmas Bird Count Results

The 73rd Dayton Audubon Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 28, 1997. Sixty-three people participated. Sixty-eight species of birds were seen, and 7,132 individual birds were counted. Record high numbers of Hooded Mergansers (40) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (33) were recorded.

The following are the results:

1	Common Loon	28	Northern Flickers
7	Pied-billed Grebes	7	Pileated Woodpeckers
49	Great Blue Herons	22	Horned Larks
1,162	Canada Geese	24	Blue Jays
2	Wood Ducks	183	American Crows
2	Green-winged Teal	1	Black-capped Chickadee
26	Black Ducks	377	Carolina Chickadees
1,161	Mallards	124	Tufted Titmice
15	Gadwall	33	Red-breasted Nuthatches
4	American Wigeon	80	White-breasted Nuthatches

5	Canvasbacks	24	Brown Creepers
1	Redhead	53	Carolina Wrens
1	Lesser Scaup	3	Winter Wrens
1	Bufflehead	15	Eastern Bluebirds
40	Hooded Mergansers	1	Hermit Thrush
1	Northern Harrier	167	American Robins
2	Sharp-shinned Hawks	7	Northern Mockingbirds
4	Cooper's Hawks	1	Brown Thrasher
1	Red-shouldered Hawk	972	Starlings
30	Red-tailed Hawks	4	Yellow-rumped Warblers
21	American Kestrels	373	Cardinals
1	Peregrine Falcon	10	Eastern Towhees
4	Northern Bobwhite	64	Tree Sparrows
6	American Coots	1	Fox Sparrow
463	Ring-billed Gulls	72	Song Sparrows
199	Rock Doves	3	Swamp Sparrows
301	Mourning Doves	133	White-throated Sparrows
5	Great Horned Owls	225	Dark-eyed Juncos
1	Barred Owl	4	Eastern Meadowlarks
13	Belted Kingfishers	3	Purple Finch
47	Red-bellied Woodpeckers	93	House Finch
6	Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers	144	American Goldfinch
104	Downey Woodpeckers	182	House Sparrows
15	Hairy Woodpeckers		

IN MEMORIUM: ROBERT B. SHAWEN, 1913-1997

The editor of the Dayton Audubon Bulletin, predecessor of The Yellow Warbler, wrote in 1977, "There is no more faithful member [of DAS] than Bob Shawen, our Treasurer, who has served in that capacity for years and years. His judgement is excellent, as those on the board can testify. Thanks, Bob, for being so faithful and willing."

The son of Dr. Charles E. and Mrs. Agnes B. Shawen, Bob spent his childhood at the family home on North Main Street, which later became known as Shawen Acres. He attended college at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he was the football team manager during the school's only unbeaten, untied, and unscored-upon season.

An avid outdoorsman, hiker, and nature lover, he was a long-time member of Dayton Audubon, and was

awarded an Honorary Life Membership by the Board of Directors. He served as Treasurer for 26 years, finally retiring from the position, and the Board of Directors, in 1993. A Public Accountant by profession, he brought to the treasurer's position a truly professional talent and knowledge that will serve as a guide for succeeding Treasurers for years to come.

Bob passed away on November 24, 1997. His friends and fellow Audubon members will miss his dry wit, his wealth of wisdom, his sharp, pertinent comments, and his sage advice.

February Program

The next **meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society** will be held on **Wednesday, February 18**. We will bring back Dave Dister, who will present a program of "Birding Treasures of Southeast Arizona." Dave, a Dayton Audubon member and excellent birder, recently returned from the mountain and desert areas of the southwest and, as usual, he can be counted on for an interesting and informative program. The meeting will be held at **Cox Arboretum, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and you can spend an enjoyable evening with your fellow Dayton Audubon members. We'll see you there!

Anniversary Celebration

1998 marks Dayton Audubon's 75th anniversary, and we have a number of activities planned for the coming year, culminating in an Anniversary Dinner, planned for October 31st. More details will follow in upcoming Yellow Warblers.

We are creating a commemorative scrapbook to help celebrate this milestone, and we would be interested to find any photos or other memorabilia that members have of DAS-related activities or events. If you have something you think would be a good addition, please call Judy Whitaker, 293-1914.

Dress Warmly

Cold weather is here, so now is the time to buy your Dayton Audubon Sweatshirt! These sharp-looking black sweatshirts feature the Dayton Audubon Society logo in three colors, and sell for only \$25 each. To order yours, call Barbara Keegan at 435-0707. (They'd make a great Valentine gift!)

DAS Scholarships Available

The Dayton Audubon Society is deeply committed to education and, in part, shows that commitment by offering scholarships annually to individuals who can make a difference in our community.

Perhaps you know someone who might benefit from the DAS mission. Read on and, if you can, help us find some deserving "scholars."

Summer Camp Scholarships

National Audubon has offered summer camps for "adult leaders" since the 1930s. The original idea, begun at the Maine Camp, was to get teachers so excited about natural history that they would go back and "infect" their kids with that enthusiasm.

Summer ecology workshops for adults are now being offered in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, the woodland community of Connecticut, and the coast of Maine. Also, a camp for young folk, ages 10 through 14, is offered every summer in Maine.

While camps and workshops are open to everyone these days, they are still especially popular with teachers. If you know of a dynamic elementary or secondary teacher, just imagine what a camp might do for them!

Turning a student on to science and the natural world is a wonderful thing. Help DAS make that connection by finding the right teacher or the right child to send to camp next summer. These camps are top quality!

The Dively Scholarship

Since 1982, DAS has offered tuition help to college students through the Dively Scholarship Program, originally endowed in memory of DAS member Dick Dively. Though we cannot offer a lot of money, the Dively Scholarship has helped both undergraduate and graduate students reach academic goals. The Dively Scholarships are awarded to students whose course of study will lead them to fields that further the cause of environmentalism and conservation. Dively scholarship recipients are not restricted to scientific fields; many environmental connections, such as environmental law, are possible.

What can you do?

Help us find scholarship candidates. Talk to interested people or people you think ought to be interested. Spread the word!

To recommend candidates, apply for scholarships, or receive further information on the Camp or Dively Scholarships, please call DAS Scholarship Chair Tom Schaefer at 937-857-9308.

Calendar

Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m. - DAS Board of Directors Meeting.

Leland Center, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue.

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m. - Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area.

Leaders: Karen and John Shrader (436-3664)

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. - DAS Program.

"The Birds of Southeast Arizona." See article above.

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. - Miami River Oxbow.

Our 12th annual field trip to this remarkable area west of Cincinnati. If the river is up, many waterfowl species can be expected, as well as migrating shorebirds, herons and raptors. Take I-75 south to I-275 west, exit at US 50 to Lawrenceburg just before the Ohio River bridge. Turn left towards Lawrenceburg at the traffic light, and turn right just after the riverboat gambling parking lot (just before the Ford dealership). Go about 1/3 mile to Gardens Alive, and park east of the building.

Bring a lunch, and your scope if you have one.

Audubon Declares Ohio's Rivers and Wetlands Winner in Settlement

A coalition of 11 hunting, fishing, and conservation groups declared a signal victory for Ohio's wetlands and rivers on December 8, 1997. The National Audubon Society and other members of the coalition have reached an agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that improves protection for Ohio's streams and wetlands against the effects of the most pernicious wetlands permit used in Ohio, the Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit 26.

The most commonly used "quick permitting" system for filling wetlands and streams, NWP-26 allows up to three acres of wetlands and up to 500 linear feet of headwater streams to be destroyed with little review and no public input. Conservationists believe it may be responsible for the greatest loss of Ohio wetlands in recent years. A full hearing before the Environmental Review Appeals Commission on the coalition's appeal of OEPA's decision to implement NWP-26 was avoided when both sides agreed to the compromise settlement.

Under the agreement,

- a. No NWP-26s will be granted in the watersheds of the state's three National Scenic Rivers: the Little Miami River, Big

Darby Creek, and Little Beaver Creek. Additionally, the permit is not allowed in two areas of special concern, Beaver Creek in Greene County and Honey Creek in Miami and Clark Counties.

- b. No NWP-26s will be granted that could adversely affect portions of streams designated as State Scenic Rivers, or in the watershed of the Vermilion River.
- c. The most irreplaceable types of wetlands are given special protection. Bogs, fens, wetlands adjacent to headwater lakes, forested wetlands, vernal pools, Lake Erie coastal wetlands, and oak openings.
- d. The size of wetlands and the length of streams that can be destroyed under NWP-26 has been reduced, to one acre of wetland or 200 linear feet of stream.

Organizations that comprise the successful coalition include the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, Friends of the Crooked River, Friends of Wetlands, League of Ohio Sportsmen, National Audubon Society, Ohio B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, Ohio Citizen Action, Ohio Environmental Council, Rivers Unlimited, and the Tinkers Creek Land Conservancy.

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1998 Birdathon!

Dayton Audubon's 1998 Birdathon is only a few weeks away, so it's time to start getting your team together! Try adding a few more people to your team this year, perhaps from outside Audubon: friends, neighbors, co-workers. Let it be known that Birdathon is a fund-raising activity to benefit the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association and the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm. Ask for pledges per species of bird seen, and be sure to tell your sponsors that you could see 100 species! Last year, the Wright State Rails did their birding only in the Beaver Creek Wetlands, and they saw 80 species!

All proceeds are divided equally between BCWA and Aullwood. The money stays right here, benefiting environmental programs for you, your children, and their children.

Nationally, the 1997 Audubon Birdathons \$1.2 million for local, state, regional, and national conservation and education programs. The 1998 goal is \$1.5 million. We need to start planning, recruiting and lining up sponsors now.

If you plan to participate this year, send me the name of your team and prepare for a fun day on the trail with your friends, 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 24 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25. You will have 24 hours to count bird species and head to the tally party at Englewood MetroPark's Patty Falls Shelter, Saturday April 25 at 5:30 p.m. Pledge money should be collected by June 20; then you can sit back and reflect on

all the fun you had at Birdathon, and the boost you given your natural community. For further information, please call Judy Whitaker at 293-1914.

March Program

The next meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society will be held on Wednesday, March 18. The program will feature Rick Jasper, Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor of the ODNR Division of Wildlife District 5, headquartered in Xenia. Rick is perhaps best known to Dayton Audubon members as the leader of the Peregrine Falcon rescue efforts in downtown Dayton. He will talk about Peregrines, and also about Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans, and other wildlife of interest, and he will share with you some interesting data on the benefits of your income tax check-off money.

The meeting will be held at Cox Arboretum, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and you can spend an enjoyable evening with your fellow Dayton Audubon members. We'll see you there!

To celebrate Dayton Audubon's 75th anniversary, we will have door prize drawings at all the general meetings/programs this year. At January's meeting, John Rakestraw won a DAS sweatshirt, and Janet Hill won a T-shirt at February's meeting.

Anniversary Celebration

1998 marks Dayton Audubon's 75th anniversary, and we have a number of activities planned for the coming year, culminating in an Anniversary Dinner, planned for October 31st. More details will follow in upcoming Yellow Warblers.

We are creating a commemorative scrapbook to help celebrate this milestone, and we would be interested to find any photos or other memorabilia that members have of DAS-related activities or events. If you have something you think would be a good addition, please call Judy Whitaker, 293-1914.

Yellow Warbler editor Mike Coogan ran the first notice of the upcoming Dayton Audubon 75th Anniversary gala in the last issue. Do mark your calendar for our October 31 party at the Dayton Marriot. (Even though it's Halloween night, no costumes are necessary. Unless, of course, you want to come as your favorite avian species!)

We're hoping to have many of our members, old and new, come to break bread and celebrate this grand old Dayton organization! We also hope to have a great audience to witness the wonderful photography

of keynoter Ron Austing. Do come join us! More info in upcoming Yellow Warblers.

BREAD CRUMBS

A note from DAS president Tom Schaefer

A few thoughts while watching crocuses bloom in mid-February:

Have you been to the Dayton Museum of Discovery over on DeWeese Parkway yet? In a word: Wow!

My daughter and I took a couple of little folk last Saturday to check out the new metamorphosis of Dayton Audubon's old friend, the Dayton Museum of Natural History. At first look, things seemed about the same. The gift shop is in the same place, as is the information desk. There was a bit of construction material out in front of the building, though, along with new signage.

But when we got to the Kid's Place, right around the corner from the entrance, I stopped and stared. It was great! Short-cakes were busy playing at all kinds of cool things, especially the "indoor river." The little guy I was with built three different kinds of boats to see which one would sail best. He placed his latest brave new craft in front of the wind machine, and away it went! He had a great time.

And the little girl climbed the rope web Discovery Tower up to second floor. Some kids were a bit frightened of the climbing net, but museum helpers were all around to be sure everyone either made it up or found a safe way down. When she came back down, we went into the Bieser Discovery Center and opened drawers on all kinds of natural wonders. Then there was the Quail Hatchery, the Do Lab, and the Science Theater. Wow!>P? One of the nicest things about the Kid's Place, too, is the posted notice that, with just a bit of supervision, kids really can't do anything wrong. They can play at learning, and even get a bit wet in the process. One notice said that parents in the know bring along a dry outfit for little ones to change into after the water play because, even with the provided "raincoats", play can get a bit intense!

Do check out the Dayton Museum of Discovery! I'll be going back soon to check out everything else, especially the planetarium. You can call them at 275-7431.

Project Feeder Watch

The Dayton Daily News recently ran a nice article on Project Feeder Watch which this year took place on the weekend of February 21-22. The Project is a joint venture by Cornell University and the National

Audubon Society and is open to everyone interested - and able to connect to the internet.

The object is to watch your feeder for a weekend and count everybody who shows up. You are even encouraged to walk the neighborhood to see who else you can find. Numbers of birds are logged-in electronically and checked against totals from the Christmas Bird Count, at least in part, to confirm populations of wintering species.

If you'd like to be included in next year's count, let us know. Contact Tom Schaefer the traditional way at 276-2162, or in cyberspace at tschaefer@ameritech.net.

* * * * *
* Celebrate the beginning of spring by coming out to a DAS bird *
* walk. We should get to know each other! See you out there! *
* * * * *

Show Your Colors

The Dayton Audubon Sweatshirt is the perfect item to wear while Birdathon-ing! These sharp-looking black sweatshirts feature the DAS logo in three colors, and sell for only \$25 each. To order yours, call Barbara Keegan at 435-0707. (Maybe your sponsors will want one, too!)

Lake Erie Wing Watch Weekend

The Lorain County Metro Parks, in association with the Black River Audubon Society and the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau, is proud and excited to host the Lake Erie Wing Watch Weekend, April 3-5, 1998. Wing Watch is an effort to highlight the birding benefits of Lake Erie's western basin.

This fifth annual Wing Watch Weekend is being held at the Spitzer Conference Center at the Lorain County Community College (LCCC). Highlights include an 8 p.m. presentation of "The Art of Pishing" on Friday, April 3, by Mr. Peter Dunne, Director of the famous Cape May Bird Observatory.

On Saturday, April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the LCCC Conference Center will be filled with birding exhibits, retailers, and lecturers as birding experts share their knowledge. On Sunday, April 5, birding hikes will take place throughout the Wing Watch area.

Tickets for the Friday event are \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door, and can be purchased from the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau at 800-334-1673. Saturday's exhibits/lectures and Sunday's birding hikes are free. For more information, contact the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau, or the Lorain County Metro Parks at 440-458-5121.

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1998 Birdathon!

*The migrants are returning, and I know you're all anxious to get out there and find that rare bird! So do some dry runs, and then go all out on **Friday, April 24** and again on **Saturday, April 25** for this year's DAS Birdathon! Birdathon runs from 5:00 p.m. on Friday to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, so you have plenty of time to gather species and build up the amount you can collect from pledges.*

But, BEFORE this 24-hour birding frenzy, we must get out and collect those pledges! We hope to make this the biggest Birdathon ever, and ALL of the money collected is divided between Aullwood and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. Contributions remain right here, educating children and adults, and protecting valuable ecosystems. Start now; contact friends, family, businesses, and other acquaintances.

School groups are also encouraged to get involved. Last year's "Vivacious Vireos" from Cox Elementary School had a wonderful time, collected lots of species, and were a hit with the other Birdathoners (they made great t-shirts for themselves as well!).

If you had a team entered last year, we will assume you'll be back this year (see below). If you didn't participate but would like to, contact Judy Whitaker, 293-1914.

*The Kick-Off presentation will be on **Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Books and Co.** in the Town and Country Shopping Center at Stroop and Far Hills in Kettering. The featured speaker will be **Tom Hisson**, Education Coordinator at Aullwood. Come on out and get a taste of birdwatching, and benefit your community in the process!*

If you cannot participate, please send in a pledge to one of the teams below. This is a worthy cause, and every nickle counts. We're counting on you!

***Jay Birders:** Jim Hill and John Howard*

***The Old Squaws:** Charlotte Mathena and Sue Tackett*

***Aristoquacks:** Barbara Keegan, Jennifer Monahan, and Judy Whitaker*

***Philanthropic Phalaropes:** Jim Simpson and Mike Zimmerman*

***Wright State Rails:** WSU students*

***The Wild Berrys:** Charlie and Betty Berry*

***Solitary Sandpipers:** Mark Dillon and Mike Coogan*

***Vivacious Vireos:** Cox Elementary School Students*

Please make pledge checks payable to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398.

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Ohioans Oppose Public Lands Logging

by Matt Peters

(reprinted from Martha's Journal of the Buckeye Forest Council)

In a recently conducted poll by Wright State University, Ohioans showed strong opposition to logging in Ohio's state and national forests. When asked if they support or oppose logging in the Wayne National Forest (in southwest Ohio), only 26.5 percent said they supported it, while 73.5 percent opposed it. Meanwhile, 38.8 percent of the respondents supported logging in the state forests, but 61.2 percent said they were opposed.

Those polled, chosen at random, were mostly over the age of 30, with a median household income of between \$25,000 and \$50,000. About 2/3 were female, 38 percent had graduated high school, and 42 percent have had at least some college education.

The study, funded in part by the Buckeye Forest Council, is the first independent survey to ask Ohioans their opinions of logging on state and federal lands. Public opinion surveys have been conducted in other Midwest states, and the results show that the majority of the public consistently opposes logging on public lands: 59 percent in Arkansas and Missouri, 63 percent in Illinois, 69 percent in Indiana, and 74 percent in Kentucky. A national survey also found that 50.4 percent of all Americans favor protecting all federally owned public lands by ending commercial logging there. Only 35.7 percent oppose such protection.

Earth Writings Walk

*In celebration of Earth Day 98, DAS and Aullwood will again co-sponsor an Earth Writings Walk at the Aullwood Audubon Center on **Sunday, April 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** DAS President and former National Audubon Ecology Camp Director Tom Schaefer (276-2162) will lead attendees on a short walk, but instead of simply identifying birds and flowers, participants will stop occasionally to read from the likes of Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Wendell Berry, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Marge Piercy, Edward Abbey, and Annie Dillard. This will be a special opportunity to discover how poetry and other nature writing can enhance our connectedness to the Earth and its many "people." Bring a notebook, because participants will stop along the way to encourage the muse within, and perhaps create some original writing of their own. Bring a favorite piece of nature literature to share, too, if you would like. This walk has become a popular event for Audubon members, and anybody who senses the wonder of nature and appreciates the power of good words is invited to attend.*

April Program

*The April meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society will consist of the Birdathon Kick-off, to be held on **Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Books & Co.** The program will feature **Tom Hisson**, Education Coordinator at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm. Please note that this month's meeting will not be held at Cox Arboretum and that, for this month only, it will be on the third **Thursday.***

*To celebrate Dayton Audubon's 75th anniversary, we will have door prize drawings at all the general meetings/programs this year. **Bob Forth** was the winner of a t-shirt at the March meeting. We hope to see you there in April!*

Show Your Colors

*The **Dayton Audubon Sweatshirt** is the perfect item to wear while Birdathon-ing! These sharp-looking black sweatshirts feature the Dayton Audubon Society logo in three colors, and sell for only \$25 each. To order yours, call Barbara Keegan at 435-0707. (Maybe your sponsors will want one, too!)*

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75th Anniversary Dinner

75 years ago, in 1923, the Dayton Audubon Society was founded. Over the years we have expanded in both size and scope, and affiliated with the National Audubon Society in 1969. We are proud of our contribution to the strong foundation of conservation and environmentalism in the Miami Valley.

*We invite you to join us for a celebratory dinner in honor of this gala anniversary, to be held on **October 31, 1998** (no, costumes are not necessary) at the **Dayton Marriott Hotel, 1414 South Patterson Boulevard**. A pre-dinner reception will be begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m.*

*Many of our old friends will be there, as well as state, regional, and national Audubon officials. The keynote speaker will be noted bird and wildlife photographer **Ron Austing**.*

Entree selections:

Chicken Marsala

Napa Valley Salmon

Vegetarian Selection

Ticket prices:

Regular - \$28/Person

Contributing - \$40/Person

Supporting - \$50/Person

Patron - \$75/Person

Benefactor - \$100/person

To order tickets for this exciting event, please contact:

Dayton Audubon Society

C/O Jennifer Monahan

269 Towerview Road

Dayton, Ohio 45429

937-435-0707

June DAS Elections

The election committee has developed the following slate of officers for the 1998-99 term. Voting will be held at our June 17th meeting (nominations will also be taken from the floor). We hope you will attend this important annual meeting. Program details will be in your next Yellow Warbler.

President: Tom Schaefer

1st Vice President: Charlotte Mathena

2nd Vice President: Barbara Keegan

Treasurer: Sue Tackett

Recording Secretary: Betty Leve

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sharp

Directors (Term ends 2001):

Jennifer Monahan

Jim Simpson

Mike Coogan

Celebrate!

Show your pride in Dayton Audubon with some of the fine 75th anniversary memorabilia below. Proceeds from the sale of these items help benefit the Society's programs, and you get to show off your membership in this enduring organization!

You can purchase these items at our monthly meetings, or for more information or to order, call Jennifer Monahan at 435-0707.

T-shirts \$12 (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)

Ball caps \$10

Thermal travel mugs \$5

Lapel pins \$7.50

Static decals \$3.50

*We still have a few **Dayton Audubon Sweatshirts** remaining. These sharp-looking black sweatshirts feature the Dayton Audubon Society logo in three colors, and sell for only \$25 each. To order yours, call Barbara Keegan at 435-0707.*

Anniversary Scrapbook

We are creating a commemorative scrapbook to help celebrate this our 75th birthday, and we would be interested to find any photos or other memorabilia that members have of DAS-related activities or events. If you have something you think would be a good addition, please call Judy Whitaker, 293-1914.

An Environmental Legacy

A bequest of any size to Dayton Audubon can have a lasting effect on ecological concerns and environmental education in the Dayton area. We ask that you consider leaving a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after other bequests, to Dayton Audubon Society.

For more specifics on this, or other information about gift planning, please phone Tom Schaefer, 937-857-9308, or write to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414.

How to Contact Your Congress People

Senators

John Glenn
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 503
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (DC) 202-224-3353
Fax: (DC) 202-224-7983
E-mail: senator_glenn@glenn.gov

Mike Dewine
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 140
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (DC) 202-224-2315
Fax: (DC) 202-224-6519
E-mail: senator_dewine@dewine.senate.gov

Representatives

District 3: Tony Hall
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-6465
(District) 937-225-2843

District 7: Dave Hobson
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-4324
(District) 937-325-0474

District 8: John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-6205
(District) 513-870-0300

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DAS June Meeting

The next meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society will be on Wednesday, June 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. This will be our annual meeting, which will include election of officers for the 1998-99 fiscal year, reports from officers and committee chairs, and other business. We hope that many members, particularly long-time members, will attend to help us reminisce and evaluate Dayton Audubon in our 75th anniversary year. Bring photos, scrap-books, or other memorabilia if you have them. We'll talk about where we've been, where we're going, and how we're going to get there. We'll look at some of our accomplishments over the years, and what we hope to accomplish. The atmosphere will be relaxed and casual. Popcorn, lemonade, cookies, and other snacks will be provided, and you're all encouraged to bring along something else to share, if you'd like (keep it easy and tasty).

The election committee has developed the following slate of officers for the 1998-99 term. Voting will be held at our June 17th meeting (nominations will also be taken from the floor). We hope you will attend this important annual meeting.

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1st Vice President: Charlotte Mathena

2nd Vice President: Barbara Keegan
Treasurer: Sue Tackett
Recording Secretary: Betty Leve
Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sharp

Directors (Term ends 2001):
Jennifer Monahan
Jim Simpson
Mike Coogan

Adult Bald Eagle Found Dead in Oak Harbor OH

A Wildlife Investigator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife discovered an adult female bald eagle dead on April 15. The bird was part of a breeding pair in Seneca county that had already successfully hatched two chicks.

Volunteer nest monitors for the Division of Wildlife noted that the male had continued to tend to the nest; however, one of the chicks perished soon after the death of the female. Under normal conditions, both adult eagles are required to raise the chicks to the fledging stage.

The male continued to feed the remaining chick but began to have trouble protecting it from another pair of eagles in the same area that were stealing food from the nest in his absence. Volunteers reported on Friday, April 17, that the male had abandoned the nest. At this time, biologists from Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station made the decision to remove the eaglet from the nest and foster it in another nest in order to save the eaglet from certain death. Fostering is the process of placing an eaglet into another eagle's nest with eaglets that are close to the same age and size. Fostering has been successfully used by the Division since 1979 to increase the wild eagle population in Ohio with captively raised young. Today, the Division only uses this fostering technique in nest failure situations like the one that occurred in Seneca county.

The three-week-old chick, removed from the Seneca county nest, was transferred to a nest in Sandusky county, near Fremont. This Sandusky county nest already had two eaglets in it; however, bald eagles are capable of raising up to three young. Once the new eaglet was placed in the nest, biologists closely monitored it for nearly four hours, until the adults returned, to ensure that they resumed normal brooding and feeding behavior. As of April 22, the eaglet was surviving and everything still appeared normal at the Sandusky county nest. Regarding the dead female, preliminary x-rays are inconclusive as to the cause of death. The female will be sent to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin for a complete necropsy. The male from the original Seneca county nesting pair already appears to be courting another female at that Seneca county location.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife's Bald Eagle Project is funded through the Do Something Wild! income tax check-off program and through purchases of the wildlife plate from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Monies from these programs go into a non-game fund for wildlife diversity projects to benefit non-game species like the bald eagle.

Julie Sibbing Leaves Ohio

Julie Sibbing, National Audubon's Wetlands Conservation Policy Specialist at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Columbus, has accepted a position as Audubon's Washington, D.C. lobbyist for wetlands and wildlife refuge campaigns. Many of us have gotten to know Julie quite well over the past few years through her tireless and extremely effective efforts on behalf of wetland protection in the Great Lakes region, particularly in Ohio.

Julie was instrumental in Audubon's recent success in combating Nationwide Permit 26 implementation in Ohio; she recently helped produce a series of Ohio-specific Audubon Adventures supplements; she published and distributed nearly 25,000 copies of the highly informative booklet, Ohio Wetlands; and was a major force in shaping the new Wetlands Water Quality Standards for Ohio. This is a great opportunity for Julie, and though she will be missed in Ohio, it is good to know that she is still working for environmental protection on a national scale. We offer our sincere congratulations.

LCV Environmental Scorecard

The League of Conservation Voters has released their 1997 Environmental Scorecard, which tallies votes of members of the U.S. House and Senate on behalf of environmental issues. Each member is given a percentage score based on their voting record (100% is completely pro-environment).

John Glenn - 100%
Mike DeWine - 29%
(Senate average - 65%)

Tony Hall - 69%
Dave Hobson - 38%
John Boehner - 6%
(House average - 43%)

75th Anniversary Dinner

75 years ago, in 1923, the Dayton Audubon Society was founded. Over the years we have expanded in both size and scope, and affiliated with the National Audubon Society in 1969. We are proud of our contribution to the strong foundation of conservation and environmentalism in the Miami Valley.

We invite you to join us for a celebratory dinner in honor of this gala anniversary, to be held on **October 31, 1998 (no, costumes are not necessary) at the Dayton Marriott Hotel, 1414 South Patterson Boulevard.** A pre-dinner reception will be begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Many of our old friends will be there, as well as state, regional, and national Audubon officials. The keynote speaker will be noted bird and wildlife photographer **Ron Austing.**

Entree selections:

Chicken Marsala

Napa Valley Salmon

Vegetarian Selection

Ticket prices:

Regular - \$28/Person

Contributing - \$40/Person

Supporting - \$50/Person

Patron - \$75/Person

Benefactor - \$100/person

To order tickets for this exciting event, please contact:

Dayton Audubon Society

C/O Jennifer Monahan

269 Towerview Road

Dayton, Ohio 45429

937-435-0707

Celebrate!

Show your pride in Dayton Audubon with some of the fine 75th anniversary memorabilia below. Proceeds from the sale of these items help benefit the Society's programs, and you get to show off your membership in this enduring organization!

You can purchase these items at our monthly meetings, or for more information or to order, call Jennifer Monahan at 435-0707.

T-shirts \$12 (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)
Ball caps \$10
Thermal travel mugs \$5
Lapel pins \$7.50
Static decals \$3.50

We still have a few **Dayton Audubon Sweatshirts** remaining. These sharp-looking black sweatshirts feature the Dayton Audubon Society logo in three colors, and sell for only \$25 each. To order yours, call Barbara Keegan at 435-0707.

How to Contact Your Congress People

Senators

John Glenn
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 503
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (DC) 202-224-3353
Fax: (DC) 202-224-7983
E-mail: senator_glenn@glenn.gov

Mike Dewine
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 140
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (DC) 202-224-2315
Fax: (DC) 202-224-6519
E-mail: senator_dewine@dewine.senate.gov

Representatives

District 3: Tony Hall

1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-6465
(District) 937-225-2843

District 7: Dave Hobson
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-4324
(District) 937-325-0474

District 8: John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (DC) 202-225-6205
(District) 513-870-0300

Check this page early in September, 1998 for the next issue of
The Yellow Warbler.

Dayton Audubon Society

Excerpts From

The Yellow Warbler

The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

September 1998

Volume 60 - No.

6

by Jim Simpson

Photo



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

September DAS Meeting

As we and the other nearly 6 billion of us go about our lives, we alter the world to make it more efficiently produce our needs. These human 'footprints' often make the earth progressively less habitable. The alterations are not happening gradually, and often occur without consideration for future generations. The National Audubon Society recognizes that in order to accomplish its mission to "conserve and restore natural ecosystems focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity," rapidly expanding population and subsequent development pressures must be addressed.

Audubon has a national campaign organized around this issue called Population and Habitat. The Population and Habitat Coordinator from the Ohio Audubon Office, **Annette Souder**, will be the speaker at our next DAS meeting, **Wednesday, September 16, at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike, at 7:30 p.m.** Annette will provide a broader perspective on the Campaign, and offer ways that you can become involved in the Campaign efforts here in Ohio.

Annette joined the Population and Habitat Campaign after working for The National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C. While at NWF, Annette worked as part of the Endangered Habitats Team, assisting

in national grassroots organizing and lobbying efforts on the Hill to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Teaching Chemistry from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky in 1991. She then taught high school in Frankfort, Kentucky for four years, where she spent her summers as an instructor for The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program. Through this program, Annette worked with local youth to design and construct an educational walkway around a wetland. In 1995, Annette began a Master's program in Environmental Science at Miami University of Ohio, where she holds joint concentrations in Biological Conservation and Environmental Education. Annette studied biodiversity and conservation issues, focusing on local participation in conservation initiatives in both Costa Rica and Kenya.

Come to the meeting a little early to chat with Annette and other Audubon members before the program. Population and habitat are important issues for all of us, for the birds, and especially for our children and their children. Please join us for this important and interesting program.

Ron Austing Will Be Keynote Speaker at 75th Anniversary Dinner

Wildlife photographer Ron Austing grew up in the then-sparsely-settled Cincinnati suburb of North College Hill. The numerous beech woodlands of the area were his early playgrounds, and by age 10 he had developed a close kinship with the many creatures that lived in those woods.

Ron soon found himself consumed with a fascination for raptors, which then came to include all birds and, eventually, the entire web of life. "I was interested in photography from the very beginning, at first merely to have a remembrance of one of my pet hawks and owls after I released them."

From the start, he processed his own negatives and made his own prints in a self-styled darkroom in the basement. As he further recalled, "It's amazing my parents put up with me. For about 5 years, I went through all of the evolutionary stages common to most photo buffs, never being satisfied with one particular camera. All at the expense of my ever-patient father, who seemed to recognize a latent ability. My dad was my earliest critic, and I used to secretly resent most of his comments, especially when I would come up with something I thought was really good, and everyone else would rave about how pretty the picture was. But Pop could always spot the slightest flaw in a ferrotyped glossy, a dust speck, whatever. He knew nothing about photography itself, but he sure knew what the result should look like. How lucky I was to have had such a demanding critic!"

Ron has become an internationally known wildlife photographer, and has written numerous articles on birds and photography, as well as five books. He has traveled extensively and performed a number of assignments for Audubon magazine in past years, but he prefers to spend his time afield in the Midwest. He shoots with video camera in addition to his conventional photography, and has delivered slide and video presentations to many audiences.

After a 30-year career as a park ranger and wildlife manager, he retired in 1983 to his 100-acre wildlife preserve in southeastern Indiana, where photography is almost a daily pursuit. "Except for Ft. Myers Beach in late February, Point Pelee in May and September, perhaps the southern Appalachians in June, and Hawk Mountain and Cape may in October, I have more than enough subjects upon which to focus right here in my own backyard."

Anniversary Scrapbook

We are creating a commemorative scrapbook to help celebrate this our 75th birthday, and we would be interested to find any photos or other memorabilia that members have of DAS-related activities or events. If you have something you think would be a good addition, please call **Judy Whitaker, 293-1914**.

75th Anniversary Dinner

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To order tickets for this exciting event, please use the form below.

Name : _____

Address : _____

Phone: _____

Check entree selection (indicate number per)

- _____ Chicken Marsala
- _____ Napa Valley Salmon
- _____ Vegetarian Selection

Number of tickets:

- _____ Regular @ \$28/Person
- _____ Contributing @ \$40/Person
- _____ Supporting @ \$50/Person
- _____ Patron @ \$75/Person
- _____ Benefactor @ \$100/person

send to:

Dayton Audubon Society
C/O Jennifer Monahan
269 Towerview Road
Dayton, Ohio 45429

New Officers Elected

At the June meeting, the following were elected to DAS office for 1998-1999:

President: Tom Schaefer
1st Vice President: Charlotte Mathena
2nd Vice President: Barbara Keegan
Treasurer: Sue Tackett
Recording Secretary: Betty Leve
Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sharp
Directors (term ends 2001):
Jennifer Monahan
Jim Simpson
Mike Coogan

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Thermal travel mugs ..	\$5
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Static decals	\$3.50

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Photo by Jim Simpson

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Address:

City, State, Zip

Phone:

Check entree selection (indicate number per)

Chicken Marsala

Napa Valley Salmon

Vegetarian Selection

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You can purchase these items at our monthly meetings or at two new locations:

The Wild Bird Center, 1065 S. Main Street in Centerville (in the Centerville Station shopping center, near Elder-Beerman),

and

Aullwood Audubon Center Gift Shop.

For more information or to order, call Jennifer Monahan at 435-0707.

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Birdathon '98 Results

A big "Thank You!" to everyone who joined the fun of Birdathon '98. Seven very energetic teams participated this year, raising money for two special, local earth-protecting, nature-networking organizations: Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. The moneys collected (full totals were unavailable at press time) were divided equally between these organizations. (We also enjoyed a pizza and total-tallying party at Englewood MetroPark after the Birdathon!)

The '98 Birdathon champs - most species identified - were the Old Squaws (Charlotte Mathena and Sue Tackett), who spotted 103 species, edging out last year's champs, the Jay Birds (Jim Hill and Jim Howard) by two. The Vivacious Vireos collected the most pledge money: \$434.32, with the Jay Birds once again second at \$390.90. The Vireos are an environmental class at Cox Elementary School in Xenia; their leaders were teacher Cindy Beckman, her husband Jim Beckman, and sponsor Beverly Stoneburner. The energetic Vireos deserve an extra big "Thank You!" for getting up and into the field early - they are big part of our Nature Network. The students: **Bonnie Albertini, Sara Bennett, David Daugherty, Molly Hawkins, Ashley Koentop, Andrea Montgomery, Shane Pemberton, Ryan Quinlan, Michael Senter, Tim Shelton, and Paul Walker.**

Thanks again, and see you all in Birdathon '99!

Thanks

We occasionally like to recognize the volunteers who meet eight time a year to label and prepare the Yellow Warbler for mailing. They are an energetic bunch, the work goes smoothly and swiftly (generally), and we always have a pretty good time of it.

A big thanks goes out to the following:

Jim Arnold, Annette Arnold, Barbara Shroyer, Jim Garber, Dick Balk, Karen Balk, Jim Simpson, Sara Simpson, and Margaret Hamilton.

A special thanks goes out to **Lee and Polly Hall**, who host the events and provide snacks, beverages, and occasional hockey games on tv.

If you are interested in volunteering, call Lee or Polly at 434-4531, or Mike Coogan at 643-1726.

Dayton Audubon Society

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November 1998



Photo by Jim Simpson

Volume 60 - No.

8

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★★★ 75 YEARS ★ DAYTON AUDUBON SOCIETY ★ 1923-1998 ★★★

DAS November Program: The Birds of North America

The next program of the Dayton Audubon Society will feature noted ornithologist Professor Randall Breitwisch of the University of Dayton. Professor Breitwisch is the author of species profiles for *The Birds of North America*, a comprehensive, up-to-date, and easy-to-use reference designed to replace the classic but dated *Life Histories of North American Birds*, by A. C. Bent. The BONA profiles comprise the best information available, and promise to become the primary avifauna database at the start of the 21st century.

Professor Breitwisch's profiles for the BONA include *Mimus polyglottus* and *Cardinalis cardinalis*. You can look it up yourself, or you can join us at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike, on November 18 at 7:00 p.m. Professor Breitwisch is one of a number of expert ornithologists in the Dayton area, and DAS is proud to bring them to you, face to face, in these fascinating and informative programs. We hope to see you there!

1999 Great Backyard Bird Count

During one weekend last February, more than 14,000 citizen scientists took part in the first-ever Great Backyard Bird Count. People all across the continent made bird watching history on that weekend by taking to their backyards, parks, and neighborhoods to count birds and log the results on the BirdSource website (<http://www.birdsource.cornell.edu>), a joint National Audubon/Cornell project. As the weekend counts progressed, participants could see the results appearing on BirdSource's maps-like election-count returns. By the beginning of the next week, scientists at Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology had an unprecedented snapshot of the North American winter bird population the weekend before spring migration began.

This year, Audubon members and Cornell staff are working together to increase the effectiveness of the count. Wild Birds Unlimited has also signed on to the project as a sponsor, and information on participation will be made available through their network of stores throughout the U.S. and Canada. (Locally, you can find them at 4027 Far Hills Avenue, near the Town and Country Shopping Center.)

The BirdSource Great Backyard Bird Count invites every bird watcher and bird watching family in the country to participate, aiding scientists' understanding of bird populations and their distribution. "If five percent of the approximately 54 million bird watchers in the U.S. participate," says Audubon Senior Vice President for Science Frank Gill, "we will add significantly to our knowledge of the current health of wintering birds across the continent."

The key to the event is that participants contribute their sightings on-line; in turn, BirdSource provides almost instantaneous feedback through compelling graphics, animated maps, and constantly updated summaries.

Information about this citizen science opportunity is also available at the NAS, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Cornell web sites: <http://www.audubon.org/>, <http://www.wbu.com/>, and <http://www.ornith.cornell.edu>.

Next year's count is February 19-22, 1999. Sign up now to participate!

Aullwood Interns

For a number of years, the Dayton Audubon Society has helped support the intern program at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm with a small stipend for each intern. This worthy program has produced many fine environmentalists, and Dayton Audubon is pleased to have been - and continue to be - a small part of it. The following is a letter received from this past summer's interns:

"The summer intern staff at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm would like to extend our gratitude to you and give you a bit of insight into exactly the type of opportunity we have been lucky enough to experience. We have already started to educate children through the Summer Adventures program. We are able to watch children learn, grow, and have fun in an outdoor environment. We are continually learning from them and see new things each day. We have also participated in animal care both at the center and the farm which gives us valuable experience on the development of a variety of animals. We each have daily responsibilities which allow us to closely study the behavior of these animals. "The summer holds a variety of other learning opportunities for all of us. So far we have participated in morning walks, full moon walks, the breeding bird census, and other chances to increase our knowledge of the natural history of the area. We have readings to be completed and discussed throughout our time here. The literature will clearly enhance what we are learning at Aullwood. We will also be able to have field studies with various staff members and are encouraged to take trips to other areas and learn about them. Both of these activities allow us to learn and observe by taking a closer look at a certain area, species or concept. This summer is packed with opportunities for us to achieve our goals and we thank you for giving us a chance to be at Aullwood. Our time here is truly a unique gift. We owe it all to you.

"Thank you.

(Signed) "Rashad Darby, Kelly Green, Jason Law, Lisa Musser, Joshua York"

National Audubon Ohio State Office Established

The establishment of the Ohio field office of the National Audubon Society - NAS/Ohio - marks the beginning of a new era for Audubon and for conservation in Ohio. NAS/Ohio, which opened September 1, is the 19th state Audubon office, which are being established in nearly every state to replace the previous system of regional offices. (The last remaining regional office, which served the Great Lakes region, closed on August 31st.)

A 15-18 person board of directors will be the governing structure of NAS/Ohio, with three Board members to come from the executive committee of the Ohio Audubon Council (including the OAC President), five members chosen from Ohio's 20 Audubon chapters, and the remaining members selected for their expertise in development, advocacy, education, science, non-profit management, and/or communications. The NAS regionally elected National Board member from the Great Lakes region (currently Hardy Eshbaugh of Miami University in Oxford) and the Executive Director of NAS/Ohio will be ex-officio members of the Board.

Steve Sedam, former Regional Vice President for the Great Lakes Region, has been chosen as Executive Director of NAS/Ohio. Steve is well known to Ohio Audubon members for his great environmental work in this region, and particularly in Ohio. NAS/Ohio will be located in the same offices formerly held by the Great Lakes Region, in Columbus, and Steve has maintained essentially the same staff: Arlene Acton, Development Director; Annette Souder, Director of the Ohio Population and Habitat Campaign; and Tricia Niswonger, Office Manager.

The selection process for the NAS/Ohio Board of Directors is underway now. All Ohio Audubon members are encouraged to get involved in this process, which has been established to more effectively serve the Audubon membership (YOU). Any nominations, suggestions, or questions should be directed to Dayton Audubon President Tom Schaefer, 276-2162.

Dayton Audubon Society

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Winter 1998-99



Photo by Jim Simpson

Volume 61 - No.

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Christmas Bird Count

The advent of the holiday season also heralds one of the biggest events of the year for Dayton Audubon: the annual Christmas Bird Count. Started in 1925 by Ben Blincoe, this will be our 74th annual count; we brave snow, rain, or (occasionally) bitter cold to continue this tradition, and yet we always have a good time. This year the count will be held the second Sunday after Christmas, **January 3**.

The National Audubon Christmas count, with which the DAS Count is affiliated, originated on Christmas Day in 1900. 27 conservationists in New England organized a highly-publicized bird count to protest the then-traditional holiday side hunt". The count became an annual tradition, and soon spread nationwide. The data collected over the years provide statistically useful and interesting scientific information on early winter distribution patterns of many bird species, as well as occasional fluctuations, and serves as a valid indicator of the overall health of the environment.

On Count Day, local participants will search for birds in a 15-mile diameter area around Dayton. The area is divided into 13 territories, each covered by a different group, and the participants attempt to

identify and count all of the birds in their areas. Anyone is welcome to help with the count; check the list of territories below and contact the appropriate leader if you would like to help. Some areas, particularly 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.

The results of the count will be tabulated at our **Compilation Meeting on Tuesday, January 5, at 7:15 p.m.** Even if you cannot participate in the count itself, you are invited to attend the Compilation Meeting. Light refreshments will be served, and many interesting sightings and amusing tales will be told. The meeting will be held at Aullwood Audubon Center, 1000 Aullwood Road.

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

Christmas Count Areas

Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm, Dayton Airport
Ray Corder 833-4177

Carriage Hill MetroPark
Mike Coogan 643-1726

Charleston Falls Reserve, Taylorsville MetroPark East
Dave Knoop 698-3767

Cricket Holler
Jim Williams 437-0582

Eastwood Lake, Huffman Reservoir, Mad River
Dave Nolin 426-9302

Englewood MetroPark
Charlie and Betty Berry 836-3022

Hills & Dales Park, Old River Park, Carillon Park, Calvary Cemetery, Miami River South
Billie Taylor 294-3817

Leland Center, Museum of Discovery, Downtown Parks, Miami River North, Wolf Creek
Dane Mutter 898-3495

Taylorsville MetroPark West
Tom Hissong 890-7360, 898-0515

Wright-Patterson AFB
Charlotte Mathena 433-2167

Wright State University, Hilltop Gravel Pit
Mike Triplett 767-4341

Woodland Cemetery
Tom Schaefer 276-2162

Montgomery County JVS
Ed & Bev Neubauer 836-9031

Mystic Magic of the Maritimes

Those of you who attended last May's meeting will remember the great program by nature photographer and DAS member John Ford. The program was so well received that we have invited him back in

January. He'll be sharing his outstanding photos of the birds of Newfoundland and the other Maritime Provinces.

John is a retired biophotographer from Miami Valley Hospital who has spent many years taking pictures of birds and other aspects of nature. He recently had a series of his hummingbird photographs published in the Journal of Biophotography.

Why don't you join us for what is sure to be an interesting and informative program? The meeting will take place from **7-9 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike.** Mr. Ford will have plenty of beautiful pictures to show, and plenty of tips on how to best capture that elusive photo.

Members' Slide Show

The popular Members Slide Show" will return on **February 17, 7:00 p.m., at Cox Arboretum.** This has been a favorite program with DAS members since we initiated it a few years ago, and a fun way to pass time in the winter months. Everyone is invited to bring their birding slides, nature slides, or other works of art that might be of interest to DAS members. As with last year, we also invite members to bring in their craft exhibits. Quilts, woodcarvings, birdhouses; anything you'd be proud to show to other members will be put on display.

If you plan to bring something to the program, please call Lee Hall, 434-4531, prior to the meeting, so he can be sure we have enough space and time.

Even if you don't bring a display, everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the show. Its always one of the more interesting and unique programs of the year!

Summer Stories!

If you ever get a chance to talk to someone who has attended an Audubon Ecology Workshop, be ready for some pretty exciting stories. You might hear about birding in the Rockies, whale watching in Maine, or seining an intertidal cove on Long Island Sound. Or you might hear about a camp naturalist who knows just about everything about nature. Of course, you'll be certain to hear about some great new friends met in a workshop or on a hike. In any case, you'll hear a person who has had a great experience.

National Audubon is again offering workshops for adults and kids for summer 1999. These camps are

excellent! If you haven't received a catalog in the mail, you can pick one up at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, or you can call DAS Scholarship chair Tom Schaefer (937-276-2162) for more information.

Dayton Audubon wants to help qualifying people in the Dayton area get to those camps with a little financial help through scholarships. Whether for you, a special teacher you know, or a child (age 10-14), Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops have much to offer. Think about it! Call today!

1999 Great Backyard Bird Count

During one weekend last February, more than 14,000 citizen scientists took part in the first-ever Great Backyard Bird Count. People all across the continent made bird watching history on that weekend by taking to their backyards, parks, and neighborhoods to count birds and log the results on the BirdSource website (<http://www.birdsource.cornell.edu>), a joint National Audubon/Cornell project. As the weekend counts progressed, participants could see the results appearing on BirdSource's maps-like election-count returns. By the beginning of the next week, scientists at Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology had an unprecedented snapshot of the North American winter bird population the weekend before spring migration began.

This year, Audubon members and Cornell staff are working together to increase the effectiveness of the count. Wild Birds Unlimited has also signed on to the project as a sponsor, and information on participation will be made available through their network of stores throughout the U.S. and Canada. (Locally, you can find them at 4027 Far Hills Avenue, near the Town and Country Shopping Center.)

The BirdSource Great Backyard Bird Count invites every bird watcher and bird watching family in the country to participate, aiding scientists' understanding of bird populations and their distribution. "If five percent of the approximately 54 million bird watchers in the U.S. participate," says Audubon Senior Vice President for Science Frank Gill, "we will add significantly to our knowledge of the current health of wintering birds across the continent."

The key to the event is that participants contribute their sightings on-line; in turn, BirdSource provides almost instantaneous feedback through compelling graphics, animated maps, and constantly updated summaries.

Information about this citizen science opportunity is also available at the NAS, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Cornell web sites: <http://www.audubon.org/>, <http://www.wbu.com/>, and <http://www.ornith.cornell.edu>.

Next year's count is February 19-22, 1999. Sign up now to participate!