

# Dayton Audubon Society

Excerpts From

## *The Yellow Warbler*

### The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

March 1999



*Photo by Jim Simpson*

Volume 62 - No.

2

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## Exciting Camp News!

If you've been a reader of *The Yellow Warbler* for very long, you know that we like to tell you about NAS summer camps right about this time of year. As winter melts into spring it's the thoughts of summer that keep us going! And we also want you to know that Dayton Audubon offers scholarships to area teachers and students to attend these camps.

But along with our usual message, this year we have more good news: National Audubon is updating and upgrading camp programs to offer more than ever before. And the biggest news is that many of the new programs are for kids and families. You should also be aware that some of these camps run for multiple sessions from June through August, but many are offered only once.

Here's a run down of offerings:

**Maine:** Maine Coast Field Ecology; Natural History of the Maine Coast; Sea Kayak Explorers; Nature Through Photography; Audubon Family Camp; Audubon Youth Camp; Borestone Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary Camp; and the traditional Audubon Camp in Maine.

**Wyoming:** Rocky Mountain Adventure Workshop; Wind River Landscapes (for alumni of the Wyoming camp); and the traditional Audubon Camp in Wyoming.

**Wisconsin:** Experience Ecology; Youth Ecology Adventure (for ages 9-13); Teen River Ecology (ages 13-15); and Campo de Espanol (ages 9-14).

**Connecticut:** Audubon Adventures for Teachers

**Minnesota:** Audubon Adventures for Teachers; Time Travelers -Ojibwe Indians, Voyageurs, and Loggers (ages 10-14); Adventurers - Ropes, Rocks, and Rapids (ages 12-14); and Wildlife - Story of the North Woods (ages 10-14).

**Vermont:** Take P.A.R.T. (research for high schoolers); and Audubon Journeys (ages 13-15).

We hope this was enough to whet your appetite! For a complete listing, pick up a copy of the "Summer Camps for Families, Adults, and Kids 1999" catalog available at Aullwood. Or, if you have questions or a request for scholarship info, contact DAS scholarship chair Tom Schaefer at 276-2162 or at [tschaefer@ameritech.net](mailto:tschaefer@ameritech.net). Be aware that deadline for signing up for the kids camps is March 10, 1999, so don't delay. Let us know if we can help.

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## **The Ospreys Return**

Many of you are familiar with Spring Valley Wildlife Area, the State reserve located southeast of Spring Valley. As one of the prime bird habitats in the area, as well as home to other native flora and fauna, it is the destination for several DAS field trips every year. Gary Imwalle, the director of SVWA, will be our featured speaker at the next DAS meeting/program, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. Gary will talk about the area in general and, in particular, the successful Osprey hacking program there.

This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the place you've visited so often, to meet the man responsible for its day-to-day operation, and to hear about those magnificent fish-eating hawks and the attempts to restore their population. Please join us at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike, for what is sure to be an exciting program.

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## **1999 Birdathon Just Around The Corner!**

The 1999 Dayton Audubon Society Birdathon will be here before we get turned around! Be prepared! We would love to get more teams involved; if you would like to form a team, change the name of your team, or add people to your team, now is the time to let me know (Judy Whitaker, phone 293-1914). Currently, our teams include the Jay Birders, Old Squaws, Aristoquacks, Philanthropic Phalaropes, Wright State Rails, Wild Berrys, and the Solitary Sandpipers. We particularly would like to invite school

groups - those who have joined us in the past have had great fun! The teams collect per-species pledges from friends, relatives, neighbors, and business associates, and then they hit the fields, forests, brush, and waterways to see and hear as many different species as they can in a 24-hour period, from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1. At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 1 (1/2-hour after the end of Birdathon) we gather at the Patty's Falls shelter at Englewood MetroPark to tally our results and enjoy refreshments.

Again this year, proceeds from the DAS Birdathon will be divided between Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. Your pledges will benefit conservation and environmental education programs right here in your home territory, for you and your children to enjoy all year long. The Birdathon Kick-off will take place on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Books & Co. in Town and Country Shopping Center. Once again, Aullwood Education Coordinator Tom Hissong will provide a program of slides and recorded bird songs and calls to tune our eyes and ears up for spring!! See you and your team at Books & Co. on April 21!!

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## '98 Christmas Count A Surprising Success

With bitter cold following on the heels of a very heavy snowfall, causing local areas to declare repeated snow emergencies, many of us wondered if we would even be able to have a Christmas Count this past January 3. But we couldn't postpone it (we were at the end of the acceptable count window), so most of our brave souls got out to their areas and made the 74th Dayton Audubon Christmas Count another one of our more outstanding counts. Despite the weather on count day (eight inches of frozen snow and cold, gusting winds), a few records were still set. Charlotte Mathena, the count coordinator/compiler, again did an excellent job, and the count compilation meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 5, had more than the usual share of weather-related tales.

Thirty-one observers participated in the count this year, recording 7,708 birds of 76 species, only three short of last year's species count. (An additional two species, Wood Duck and Peregrine Falcon, were seen during count week, bringing the reported total to 78). The total number of individual birds seen was somewhat low, but the weather certainly accounts for that.

The chief highlight of the count is the one new species (never seen before in the previous 73 counts), a Great Black-backed Gull. Other highlights include record high counts of Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Horned Larks, and Lapland Longspurs.

A big thanks to all the hardy participants who made this a great count!

Common Loon.....	1	Downy Woodpecker.....	52
Pied-billed Grebe.....	16	Hairy Woodpecker.....	4

Great Blue Heron.....34  
 Canada Goose.....857  
 Tundra Swan.....1  
 Gadwall.....7  
 American Wigeon.....2  
 American Black Duck.....31  
 Mallard.....682  
 Northern Shoveler.....1  
 Northern Pintail.....3  
 Green-winged Teal.....1  
 Ring-necked Duck.....1  
 Lesser Scaup.....1  
 Common Goldeneye.....4  
 Hooded Merganser.....\*58  
 Ruddy Duck.....\*7  
 Northern Harrier.....1  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk.....1  
 Cooper's Hawk.....6  
 Red-tailed Hawk.....23  
 Rough-legged Hawk.....1  
 American Kestrel.....7  
 Ring-necked Pheasant.....3  
 American Coot.....57  
 Killdeer.....1  
 Common Snipe.....1  
 Bonaparte's Gull.....22  
 Ring-billed Gull.....854  
 Herring Gull.....30  
 Great Black-backed Gull....\*1  
 Rock Dove.....166  
 Mourning Dove.....212  
 Great Horned Owl.....1  
 Barred Owl.....2  
 Belted Kingfisher.....10  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker.....28  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker....1

Northern Flicker.....9  
 Pileated Woodpecker.....5  
 Blue Jay.....17  
 American Crow.....109  
 Horned Lark.....\*872  
 Carolina Chickadee.....167  
 Tufted Titmouse.....45  
 White-breasted Nuthatch....24  
 Brown Creeper.....12  
 Carolina Wren.....28  
 Winter Wren.....2  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet.....6  
 Eastern Bluebird.....23  
 Hermit Thrush.....2  
 American Robin.....292  
 Northern Mockingbird.....6  
 European Starling.....932  
 American Pipit.....1  
 Cedar Waxwing.....40  
 Rufous-sided Towhee.....1  
 American Tree Sparrow.....307  
 Field Sparrow.....2  
 Fox Sparrow.....3  
 Song Sparrow.....166  
 White-throated Sparrow....153  
 White-crowned Sparrow.....1  
 Dark-eyed Junco.....321  
 Lapland Longspur.....\*21  
 Northern Cardinal.....242  
 Red-winged Blackbird.....1  
 Eastern Meadowlark.....5  
 Common Grackle.....7  
 Brown-headed Cowbird.....23  
 House Finch.....186  
 American Goldfinch.....141  
 House Sparrow.....345

\* - Count Record High

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## **1999 BIRDATHON IS HERE!**

A springtime tradition!! Come join the FUN!! Put it on your calendar NOW - 5:00 p.m. April 30 until 5:00 p.m. May 1. At least 200 Audubon chapters nationwide will be counting bird species in a 24-hour period, all to raise funds for important environmental work. Ask your friends and neighbors for pledges; ask all those coworkers who you've sold you raffle tickets and cookies and band candy over the years. Create your own team, or join one of the existing teams listed below; at this time of year, you might get 100 species!

Again this year, the money we collect will be divided between Aullwood and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. Both organizations are dedicated to the education of children and the preservation of natural habitat right here in the greater Dayton area.

The Birdathon Kick-off will be at Books and Co. in the Town and Country Shopping Center, on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Tom Hissong, Education Coordinator at Aullwood, will be our guest speaker. (Many of you are undoubtedly also familiar with Tom through his ornithology classes, and his work with the Gem City Birders.) He will present slides of various local birds and recordings of bird

vocalizations we might encounter during Birdathon.

After the count, the Birdathon teams will gather at the Patty's Falls shelter in Englewood MetroPark at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, to tally the results and enjoy some refreshments. Even if you can't directly participate, you can help by sending in a pledge or donation. We ask that all pledges and donations be collected no later than June 15, 1999. Please call Judy Whitaker, 293-1914, for further information.

#### Birdathon Teams

- \_\_\_ 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 checks payable to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398.

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### **Earth Writings Walk**

Dayton Audubon and Aullwood will again this year co-sponsor our annual Earth Writings Walk, in celebration of Earth Day, on April 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., DAS President Tom Schaefer will lead attendees on a short walk, but instead of simply identifying birds and flowers, participants will stop now and then 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 create some original writing of their own. Bring a favorite piece of nature literature to share, too, if you'd like. This popular walk is for anybody who senses the wonder of nature, and appreciates the power of good words. Take US 40 west from I-75 north of Dayton, and turn south at the east end of the dam (between the Dayton International Airport and Englewood), and go 1/2 mile to the nature center on the left.

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### **Magee Marsh Eagle Update**

Most birders are probably aware that a pair of Bald Eagles have constructed a nest near the famous and heavily used "Bird Trail" at Magee Marsh, on the Lake Erie shore in Ottawa County. This is a Division of Wildlife area, although the trail is often erroneously referred to as being in the adjacent Crane Creek State Park. At the time of this writing (late February), the eagles had not yet produced eggs, but it is believed that this will become an active nest this season.

Obviously, this development will adversely impact birdwatchers wishing to use the Bird Trail this spring. The Division of Wildlife has a responsibility to ensure that the Federally protected eagles' nest is not disturbed in any way. In order to accomplish this, the Division has closed the western half of the Bird Trail - and the adjacent parking lots - to public access.

Unfortunately, the restricted zone includes some of the best birding areas. It is unknown when access will be restored, depending largely on when the young eagles are fledged or at least able to thermo-regulate themselves, and DoW officials no longer consider human presence a threat. Since Bald Eagle eggs generally do not hatch until early/mid-April, it appears possible that the closing will remain in effect throughout the 1999 spring migration.

Disappointed birders might want to consider the relatively unknown Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, located about 25 miles east of Magee Marsh, on the north side of U.S. 6 just west of Huron. This 490-acre site harbors hardwood and swamp forest, open marsh, successional fields, young scrubby woods, and a large and virtually undisturbed barrier beach separating the marshes from the open waters of Lake Erie. According to the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP), over 300 species of birds have been reported there.

DNAP reports that they have been expanding the trail network at Sheldon Marsh for the benefit of birdwatchers, while maintaining the ecological integrity of the preserve. Additionally, arrangements have been made with adjoining Sawmill Creek Resort to ensure that plenty of parking is available. Amenities such as food and lodging are also available at Sawmill. DNAP plans to have staff present at Sheldon Marsh during peak visitation periods to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable visit.

For further information, including brochures, contact DNAP at 614-265-6453, or area manager Gary Obermiller at 419-433-4919.

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## **Rare Bird Alert Upgraded**

The Dayton Audubon Society Rare Bird Alert phone number has changed. The new number, (937)640-BIRD(2473), allows us to take advantage of available technology from the phone company. This updated service gives callers the option of either listening to the latest rare bird updates, hearing about

upcoming DAS events, or leaving a message about their own sightings, all at the same number. It eliminates the need for hands-on maintenance of an answering machine, and should make it easier for those unusual sightings to be reported.

Other rare bird alert numbers around Ohio include the following:

Cincinnati - 513-521-2847

Cleveland - 216-526-2573

Columbus - 614-221-9736

Blendon Woods Park - 614-895-6222

Northwest Ohio - 419-877-9640

Youngstown - 330-742-6661.

If you see or hear something good, be sure to call!

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## **Butterfly Species Lists Need Your Help**

Jean Gayley, a naturalist at Cedar Bog Nature Preserve near Urbana, is recruiting volunteers to help with their butterfly species list. The preserve has grown by more than 100 acres since the current list was last updated more than 25 years ago. Anyone interested in volunteering to help identify butterflies this summer can call 1-800-860-0147 and leave a message with their name, phone number, volunteer interest (butterflies), and dates/times available.

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## **Liz Woedl Nominated for NAS Board**

As many of you are aware, the chapter-nominated, regionally elected member of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors from our (Great Lakes) region for the past 6 years has been Hardy Eshbaugh, Professor of Botany at Miami University in Oxford. Unfortunately, term limits prevent Hardy from seeking a third three-year term, and so this year the Great Lakes region must select a new chapter representative to the National Board. We are pleased to announce that longtime chapter activist Liz Woedl, another member of Oxford Audubon, has been nominated to take Hardy's place. Voting ballots will be mailed this spring.

Liz has been active in Audubon locally, regionally, and nationally, for a number of years. In addition to various offices in the Oxford chapter, she is currently Secretary of the Ohio Audubon Council, and has



held a number of offices with OAC in the past, including President. She coordinated the state-wide Armchair Activist program for a number of years, and has been active nationally in Audubon's Population and Habitat program. Recently, she served on the Regional Elections Task Force, which helped to establish the mechanisms for maintaining these important Regional Elections.

Liz is also an old friend of Dayton Audubon, participating in and occasionally helping with many of our activities over the years. Most recently, she attended our 75th anniversary banquet last October. We offer our congratulations to Liz; we know that she will make an outstanding addition to the Audubon National Board.

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## **Neotropical Bird Bill Passes Resources Committee**

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Audubon Society praised the House Resources Committee and Chairman Don Young (R-AK) for passing the Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, H.R. 39.

"This bill addresses the critical need of protecting and enhancing the populations of neotropical migratory birds in their winter homes," said Daniel P. Beard, Senior Vice President for Public Policy. "The habitat of hundreds of species of migratory songbirds is being threatened in Latin America and the Caribbean."

"Chairman Young and Congressmen Miller and Saxton are to be commended for their successful efforts to keep crippling property contract amendments from the legislation," Beard said. "Committee passage of the bill is an important victory for birds."

The legislation would leverage federal tax dollars by using federal dollars to help build partnerships with the business community, non-governmental organizations, and foreign nations to provide bird and habitat conservation. As a leading bird organization, National Audubon looks forward to facilitating the partnership process by identifying need areas, sources of private funding, and local groups potentially able to manage and conserve habitat.

With over a million members and supporters in 518 chapters throughout the Americas, National Audubon conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

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## May Program

Yet another dynamic and thought-provoking program has been scheduled by the hard working Program Committee of DAS. We will share the evening with John Rakestraw, Naturalist with the Greene County Park District and author of numerous articles in Bird Watcher's Digest and Birding, the journal of the American Birding Association. Mr. Rakestraw's topic will be "Summer Birding," and he will also share a preview of an upcoming article for BWD on "Changing Your Luck."

The program, at Cox Arboretum will start at 7:00 p.m. on May 19th. Come prepared to enhance your knowledge of summer birding and to share your secrets of enjoying the outdoors.

## **DAS Scholarship Recipient Honored**

A recent article in the Dayton Daily News (Friday, April 23, page 2B) described Christina Simmons, 1st grade teacher at Shaw Elementary School in Beavercreek, and the Shaw Land Lab K.I.D.S. (Kids Interested in Discovering Science), who recently received a national environmental award from Seaworld/Busch Gardens. Christina's group of students were selected from 40 other candidate schools in their category.

Christina is a recent DAS summer camp scholarship recipient, and we feel this further honor for her and her students is certainly well deserved. Christina's program at a DAS meeting after her camp experience was quite inspirational, and we all went away with some of her enthusiasm for nature and hope for the future. We're proud of this "Winner." You Go Girl!!!

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## **Historic Celebration**

You won't want to miss "Migration Celebration," the first annual meeting of National Audubon Society/Ohio, our new state Audubon office. The event will take place May 21-22 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Come learn how you can be a part of Audubon's ambitious efforts to advance nature education and habitat conservation in Ohio. Also in store for you are field trips to local birding hotspots; exciting workshops on the birds and wildlife of Ohio; effective ways to teach children about birds, their habits and habitats; and steps we can take today to conserve habitat in Ohio. As a bonus, Columbus native and noted author Steve Kress will give a presentation on "Making Your Home and Garden Bird-Friendly."

The registration fee of \$50 is due by Monday, May 7. Checks should be made payable to NAS/Ohio. Contact Tricia Niswonger, Office Manager, at NAS/Ohio, 692 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43215; or call 614-224-3303. You can also e-mail Tricia at [tniswonger@audubon.org](mailto:tniswonger@audubon.org).

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Simpson

Photo by Jim



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## CALENDAR

**Sunday, June 6, 6:30 a.m.**

**43rd Annual Aullwood Breeding Bird Census.**

Leaders: Aullwood Staff (890-7360). The 43rd annual count of birds at our local Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm. Breeding birds will be in full swing, and song should abound early in the morning. US 40 (National Road) west from I-75. Turn south on Aullwood Road at the east end of the Englewood Dam, and go 1/2 mile to the Nature Center on your left.

**Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting**

Leland Center, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

**Saturday, June 12, 2:00 p.m.**

**Robert Shawen Memorial Dedication**

Aullwood Audubon Farm, 9101 Frederick Pike. Please see article below.

**Wednesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m.**

## **DAS Annual Meeting**

Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike

Will include election of officers and directors for 1999-2000. Please see article below.

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## **Bob Shawen Commemoration**

The Dayton Audubon Society will dedicate a newly planted sugar maple tree to the memory of Robert Shawen, a long-time DAS member who passed away in November 1997. The commemoration will take place in a brief ceremony at the planting site at Aullwood Audubon Farm, 9101 Frederick Pike, on June 12 at 2:00 p.m.

An avid outdoorsman, hiker, and nature lover, Bob served as Dayton Audubon's Treasurer for 26 years (1967-1993), and was an Honorary Life Member of the chapter. His talent and dedication were recognized by all who knew him, and it is in gratitude and friendship that Dayton Audubon honors him with this memorial.

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## **Dayton Audubon Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Dayton Audubon Society will take place on June 16, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., at Cox Arboretum. In addition to committee reports and other items of business, we will hold election of officers and directors for the 1999-2000 year. The nominating committee has presented the following slate of candidates:

President - Mike Coogan

First Vice President - Charlotte Mathena

Second Vice President - Barbara Keegan

Treasurer - Sue Tackett

Recording Secretary - Betty Leve

Corresponding Secretary - Linda Sharp

Directors (term ends 2002) - Lee Hall & Jim Arnold

The meeting is casual, and light refreshments will be served. Come out and meet your officers and directors, learn what your Chapter has been doing and what is planned for the future, and give us your own ideas. Everyone is welcome!

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE YELLOW WARBLER* WILL BE PUBLISHED IN  
SEPTEMBER.**

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## September Program

The Dayton Audubon Society has been holding its regular meetings/programs at Cox Arboretum for many years. For this month's program, we are privileged to have Dr. Arthur Ode, the Director of Cox Arboretum, as our guest. Dr. Ode will tell us about general plans for 5 Rivers MetroParks for the new millennium, and specific plans for the near future of Cox Arboretum. New gardens, new displays, and a new, multi-million dollar visitors center are in the works, so this will be an exciting program.

Dr. Ode came to Cox Arboretum five years ago from the University of Nebraska. His specialty is trees, so be sure to bring your questions about reforesting that back lot.

The program will take place at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike, on September 15 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is casual, and light refreshments will be served. Come out to meet other members of DAS, as well as Dr. Ode. Everyone is welcome, and you won't be disappointed.

# September Calendar

**Tuesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors meeting.**

Leland Center, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue.

**Saturday, September 11, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Englewood MetroPark.**

Dedicated to Charlie Berry. See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Sunday, September 12, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm.**

See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Wednesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.**

**DAS Meeting/Program.**

Featuring Dr. Arthur Ode, director of Cox Arboretum. See preceding article.

**Saturday, September 18, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Sugarcreek MetroPark.**

See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Sunday, September 19, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Carriage Hill MetroPark.**

See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Saturday and Sunday, September 25-26, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Apple Fest at Aullwood Farm, Frederick Pike.**

**Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors meeting.**

Leland Center, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue.

**Saturday, October 2, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Germantown MetroPark.**

See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Sunday, October 3, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Caesar's Creek Lake.**

See details in the [Field Trip Schedule](#)



## 1999-2000 Officers and Directors

The following DAS members were elected at the June meeting to serve as officers and directors of the Dayton Audubon Society for the coming year:

**President:** Mike Coogan  
**1st Vice President:** Charlotte Mathena  
**2nd Vice President:** Barbara Keegan  
**Treasurer:** Sue Tackett  
**Recording Secretary:** Betty Leve  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Linda Sharp

**Directors (term ends 2002):**  
Lee Hall  
Jim Arnold

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### Results of Birdathon 1999

Thanks to all for being a part of the DAS 1999 Birdathon. We had a very successful and fun Birdathon; marvelous weather, energetic folks, and great support for Aullwood and The Beaver Creek Wetlands. We recorded a total number of 158 bird species! Birdathoners at the Beaver Creek Wetlands gathered in 90 species from that area - the most ever!

Some other results: Most species per team - Old Squaws (Sue Tackett and Charlotte Mathena) 117.

Other team totals included Dave Dister - 106; Jay Birds - 100; Beaver Creek Wetlands - 90; Wild Berrys - 85; Vivacious Vireos - 75!

Our most exciting sighting came from the Cox Elementary school group - The Vivacious Vireos - when a newly fledged Barred Owllet visited them during their lunch break!!

Most money collected from pledges - Jay Birds- \$464.50.

Other team totals included Vivacious Vireos - \$461.65; Jim Simpson - \$195.40; Mike Clark - \$67.50; Wild Berrys - \$60.00.

Many other people supported the cause with their individual donations, and each and every one is greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks to all the participants and sponsors. Well see you all next year!



## **Audubon and Cornell Need Families, Classrooms, to Put Their Bird Sightings on the Map**

New York, NY August 9, 1999 - The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology urgently need the help of North Americans of all ages to count birds at this winter. By participating in Great Backyard Bird Count 2000, February 18-21, bird watchers, regardless of skill level will help scientists document the status and health of our winter bird populations at the start of spring migrations.

Taking part is as easy as 1,2,3. The Cornell Lab <> and National Audubon Society >, ask everyone - kids, adults, seniors, families, classrooms, and community groups - to count the birds they see at their backyard bird feeders, local parks, and other areas. Participants then enter their reports online at BirdSource <, a user-friendly, state-of-the-art website developed by the Cornell Lab and Audubon.

This year, BirdSource encourages participants to be especially aware of Bald Eagles. In light of the proposed removal of the Bald Eagle from the list of Endangered and Threatened species, we encourage our birders to pay attention not only to common backyard birds, but also to our country's national symbol, said Frank Gill, Senior Vice President for Science at National Audubon.

Audubon and Cornell stress that amateurs can contribute essential information to this and other studies. Birdwatching is the fastest-growing outdoor recreation in the U.S. It is enjoyed by millions. As information needs grow, the observations made by those who care about birds become increasingly important to conservation. It is vital to use this hobby to aid science, said Audubon's Gill. We need every U.S. zip code and Canadian Postal Code to be represented on this year's maps.

To participate, go to BirdSource <> , and click on Great Backyard Bird Count. Directions are provided at the site. Participation is free. No registration is necessary. For more information, prospective counters can call toll-free 1-800-843-BIRD (2473).

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## Advice to Travelers

For those of you who love to travel, our October DAS program will cover a variety of topics designed to help you stay healthy while traveling, both in the U.S. and abroad. The program will be presented by Dr. John Shrader, MD, FACP, long-time DAS Board member, birder, and world traveler. Dr. Shrader has developed a special interest in travel medicine, keeping himself and his wife Karen healthy on their birding trips around the world!

A variety of topics will be covered, including pre- and post-travel health evaluations, what to eat and what to avoid (foods and La Turista), what to do if you get sick, how to avoid common insect-related diseases, physical problems associated with travel, hotel safety and crime, and miscellaneous resources available to the traveler.

If you are planning any trips in the near future, this program will help you prepare. Join us on Wednesday, October 20, from 7-9 p.m. at Cox Arboretum, 6733 Springboro Pike. Dont miss it!

## Six Billion and Counting

The world's human population is projected to exceed 6 billion people in October of 1999. This number has been achieved at a remarkable rate of speed. The world population is estimated to have been 1 billion in 1800, 2 billion in 1930, 3 billion in 1960, 4 billion in 1974, and 5 billion in 1987.

Population and habitat are inextricably linked. The increasing human population, and consequent increased consumption, are the leading causes of habitat loss and declining plant and animal populations. Audubon's Population and Habitat Program was created to help focus on restoration of international population funding, and to help connect population issues to state and local habitat issues. For more information, contact the NAS/Ohio office in Columbus at 614-224-3303, or visit the NAS web site at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) (you can link there from DAS's web site at [www.dayton.net/Audubon/](http://www.dayton.net/Audubon/)).

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## October Calendar

**Saturday, October 2, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Germantown MetroPark.**

The largest "Green Mansion" in the Miami Valleys MetroPark system, Germantown is always a great place to go birding. By October there should be a good selection of south-bound migrants, including sparrows. From Dayton, take SR 4 southwest about 10 miles, then west on S.R. 725 through Germantown for several miles. Turn right on Boomershine Rd (which is past Conservancy Rd.) and go one mile to the park entrance. Follow the main park road to meet leaders Jim and Annette Arnold (293-4876) in the Nature Center parking lot.

**Sunday, October 3, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Caesar Creek Lake.**

Located southeast of the metro Dayton area, Caesar Creek State Park has many different habitats available for birding, including (besides the lake itself) newly created wetlands, fields, and woodlots. Meet leaders John and Karen Shrader (436-3664) at the State Office just west of the bridge on the north side of SR 73 just before you cross the lake.

**Tuesday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors meeting.**

Leland Center, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue.

**Saturday, October 9, 8:30 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Beaver Creek Wetlands.**

Come enjoy the recently completed boardwalk that takes you through bottomland woods, wet prairies, shrub-scrub swamps, and sedge meadow to an observation tower. Some of the rarest communities of plants and animals in Ohio's wetlands are found in the fens of Beaver Creek Wetlands. Our leader, Dave Nolin (426-9302), Five Rivers Metroparks Chief of Conservation, V.P. of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, and long-time birder, is an expert in the flora and fauna of Beaver Creek Wetlands. Meet him at the Siebenthaler Fen Boardwalk. Take US 35 east from Dayton to Factory Rd. North on Factory Rd 0.5 mile, then right 0.25 mile on Dayton Xenia Rd, then north 1.6 miles on Beaver Valley Rd to Fairgrounds Rd. Right (east) 0.5 miles to the parking lot. Insect repellent may be desirable.

**Sunday, October 10, 9:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: CJ Brown Reservoir, Springfield.**

CJ Brown Reservoir near Springfield provides a number of habitats, including a deep-water lake, shallow inlets, beach, seasonal mudflats, and patches of woods and grasslands. Fall waterfowl, shorebirds, and a few late passerine migrants are all possible there in mid-October, and you are invited to join leader Dick Balk (434-3801) to look for a variety of species. Take I-70 east to US 68. North to SR 344, east to SR 4, south to Croft Rd., east across the dam to the state park entrance. Meet at the parking lot by the water north of the check-in station (north end of the beach.)

**Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Englewood MetroPark.**

Our second field trip here this fall, because Englewood is one of the best all-around birding spots in the Greater Miami Valley. Plan now to join leaders Barbara Keegan and Jennifer Monahan (435-0707) for a great fall morning of birding. Meet them at the parking lot at the east end of the dam, on US 40 between the Dayton International Airport and Englewood.

**Wednesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.**

**DAS Meeting/Program.**

Featuring Dr. John Shrader and "Advice for the Traveler." See article above.

**Sunday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Whitewater State Park, Indiana.**

Don't miss our traditional end to the fall seasons field trips! Over the years, there have been all sorts of surprises at this beautiful park in nearby Indiana. You just never know what will be seen: lots of waterfowl, some shorebirds, a few early winter birds, Black Vultures, or Sandhill Cranes. Plan now to stay all morning - bring a picnic lunch with you! Leaders Lee and Polly Hall (434-4531) always come up with great birds AND fellowship; this is the trip for you! Take SR 725 west to Indiana 44 to Liberty. South on Rt. 101 to the state park sign. Meet at the park entrance. Don't forget your good luck bear claw necklace!

## **Audubon Adventures Needs 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 teachers 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 435-0707.

The kids need you! You can make a difference!

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## **Ohio EPA Extends Comment Period**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has extended the public comment period on draft Section 401 certifications regulating dredging or placing fill in Ohios waterways. The comment period will end November 22, 1999.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires anyone who will discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the State, including all wetlands, to obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from Ohio EPA, and then a Section 404 Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The 401 Certification may be granted if the applicant demonstrates that the activities will not violate Ohios water quality standards or result in adverse impacts to water quality. The 404 Permit is a general permit that authorizes general categories of activities nationwide. All states must take action on their 401 Certifications before the Corps can finalize their new 404 nationwide permits.

Information on Ohio EPAs draft certification and the Army COE's proposed permit revisions are available at the following web sites:

Federal Register. - [www.access.gop.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aaces002.html](http://www.access.gop.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces002.html) (click on Federal Register, look under notice for 7/21/99 and search for Nationwide).

US Army COE. - [lrh-orp1-nt.lrh.usace.army.mil/permits/prop\\_reg\\_con.html](http://lrh-orp1-nt.lrh.usace.army.mil/permits/prop_reg_con.html) (click on Ohio).

Ohio EPA. - [chagrin.epa.state.oh.us](http://chagrin.epa.state.oh.us).

Copies of the draft Section 401 certifications, the Federal Register notice, and the proposed Federal 404

permit revisions are also available at Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 122 South Front Street, Columbus (614-644-2001).

Written comments on Ohios draft certifications and requests to be on Ohio EPAs mailing list should be mailed to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Attn. Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-1049.

# Dayton Audubon Society

Excerpts From

## *The Yellow Warbler*

### The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

November 1999

Volume 62 - No.

8

by Jim Simpson

Photo



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## November Calendar

**Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**DAS Meeting/Program. - Featuring Jim Simpson and his photos**

Our program for Nov.17,1999 will feature the stunning photos and commentary of our own Jim Simpson. Jim has traveled widely in the US and has always brought back to his audiences the beauty and wonderment of the world around us. Jim's photo of the Yellow Warbler has been a regular feature of our Web page (see top of this page). Jim has drawn from the best of the continent from the Rockies to the mystic Maine seashores in his never ending search for the scenes we all hold so dear. Join us for a transcontinental view of the United States with one of the best photographers in our area

**Sunday, January 2.**

**DAS Christmas Bird Count.**

Watch for more details in the next Yellow Warbler!

**Tuesday, January 4.**

**Christmas Count Compilation Meeting.**

Aullwood Audubon Center, 7:30 p.m. Open to all members.

**Saturday, January 29, 9:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Killdeer Plains**

Leaders: Karen and John Shrader (436-3664). Back by popular request. . . . Yes, it's winter, and it's cold, but with over 8,000 acres of woods and fields to explore, this excellent area has produced some VERY good winter birds, making it worth the effort. Five species of owls are possible, including Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared, Great Horned, Snowy, and Short-eared. Other interesting birds have included Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes, Rough-legged Hawks, and Longspurs. Take US 68 north out of Springfield to Kenton, then NE on Ohio 67 to Marseilles. Go about 1/2 mile north of town, then turn east on County 75. Meet in the parking lot on the right, by the reservoir. Heavy coats and boots will likely be needed, and if you have a scope, please bring it. The trip will end about noon, but you may also wish to bring a lunch, since there are no restaurants nearby. Please call the DAS Southwestern Ohio Rare Bird Alert Tape (937-640-BIRD) for confirmation that the trip will be held (could be cancelled if weather doesn't cooperate!) This year, we will add a "weather date" of February 5, 2000, if the weather is terrible on the 29th of January (ie, a MAJOR snowstorm or sub-zero weather.)

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## **BROWN PELICAN MAY BE UPGRADED FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED**

Coastal Bird Numbers Soar on Audubon Sanctuary Islands in Texas

October 27, 1999 New York, NY - National Audubon Society President John Flicker and Texas Audubon will celebrate the proposed removal of the Brown Pelican from the endangered species lists of Texas and Louisiana at its meeting of the Texas Audubon Board of Directors, Oct. 30th in San Antonio. The Audubon Society, playing a key role in the bird's resurgence, supports the recommendation made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"In the 1960's, the Brown Pelican was all but eliminated from the Gulf Coast," said Catriona Glazebrook, Executive Director of the Texas State Office of the National Audubon Society. "Thanks to the banning of DDT and protection of nesting habitat on Audubon's Coastal Sanctuaries, the birds have bred successfully," added Glazebrook.

"98 percent of Brown Pelicans hatched on the Gulf Coast are born on Audubon managed land," explained Glazebrook. " In 1970, the species was listed as endangered, and only 35 breeding pairs were left on Audubon's Pelican Island. Today, there are over 1500 pairs on Pelican Island and 1200 pairs on Sundown Island."

To celebrate his role in the pelican's success, Texas Audubon will present an award to its Warden



Chester Smith. For over 20 years, Smith built nesting platforms, posted signs, and intercepted boats to prevent people from disturbing the birds. Smith is part of a legacy of Audubon wardens who, in the 1960's, protected the island's pelicans, often sitting up all night with ailing birds to ensure their survival.

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### **From the editor:**

We apologize for our failure to deliver the October Yellow Warbler, and the lateness of the November issue. Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances, the October issue never arrived from the printer; by the time we realized what was happening, it was too late to make it worthwhile to seek another source. We especially offer our regrets to our October program speaker John Shrader, the field trip leaders, and any potential participants who might have relied on the monthly calendar.

Beginning with the November issue, the Yellow Warbler will be printed by Prime Printing on

Kingsridge Road near the Dayton Mall. We are confident that problems such as we experienced in the last two months will not occur again.

Thank you for your forbearance.