

Dayton Audubon Society

# "The Yellow Warbler"

The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon  
Society

March 2007

Volume 69 - No. 8

Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave.,  
Dayton, OH 45414-5398

Yellow Warbler

Photo by Jim Simpson

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## Calendar

Please see [Field Trip Schedule](#) for DAS Field Trip details.

Wednesday, March 7; Thursday March 8; and Friday, March 16; 6:30 p.m.  
Woodcock Walks at Aullwood

Saturday, March 10, 8:30 a.m.  
DAS Field Trip: Cowan Lake State Park.

Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.  
DAS Board of Directors Meeting.  
Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.

Saturday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.  
Gem City Birders Field Trip: Spring Valley Wildlife Area.  
Contact Nancy Nerny, 278-4022, for details.

Saturday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Aullwood Lecture Series.  
*Music of the Birds*, featuring Bill Thompson and Julie Zickefoose.  
Please see the article below for details.

Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.  
Dayton Audubon Society Meeting.  
*Birds and Climate Change*, featuring Casey Tucker.

**Please see the article below for details.**

**Sunday, March 25, 8:30 a.m.**

**DAS Field Trip: CJ Brown Reservoir.**

**Saturday/Sunday, March 24-25**

**GCB Field Trip: Waterfowl Weekend.**

**Contact Chuck Gardner, 222-1522, for details.**

**Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Spring Valley Wildlife Area.**

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## **Birds and Climate Change**

**For the most part, this winter has been relatively mild for much of the eastern United States. In Ohio alone, the average temperature for December of 2006 was 38.7° F, which was 7.8° warmer than the 20th Century average. December of 2006 was also the 4th warmest on record for the state over the last 112 years.**

**Our changing global climate imposes many hurdles and potential problems for birds to overcome. Casey Tucker, Education Specialist for Audubon Ohio (National Audubon's state office in Columbus) will discuss this issue in a program at the March.21, 2007 DAS meeting. This talk will explore some of those problems, how birds are responding, and suggest simple actions that all of us can take to help slow climate change and protect birds globally.**

**The program will take place at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Our meetings are held in the main auditorium; you can enter through the front doors and elevator or stairs. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their friends. Refreshments will be served, and parking is free. Please join us! Hang this article on your 'fridge so you won't forget!**

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## **Christmas Bird Count Results**

The 82nd annual Dayton Audubon Society Christmas Bird count, held this past New Year's Eve, featured rain, rain, and more rain. The continuous rainfall and a very low number of ducks contributed to below average results. Our participants recorded only 58 species, but that included first-time-ever records of a Wild Turkey and Spotted Sandpiper!

We thank the Dayton Daily News for their usual excellent coverage of the DAS Christmas Count, and thanks also go out to this year's participants, especially Count Compiler Sue Tackett.

Pied-billed Grebe.....	13	American Crow.....	48
Great Blue Heron.....	43	Carolina Chickadee.....	295
Canada Goose.....	1,148	Tufted Titmouse.....	57
Mute Swan.....	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	2
American Black Duck.....	8	White-breasted Nuthatch....	57
Mallard.....	360	Brown Creeper.....	48
Hooded Merganser.....	6	Carolina Wren.....	70
Northern Harrier.....	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	60
Cooper's Hawk.....	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	37	Eastern Bluebird.....	60
American Kestrel.....	11	Hermit Thrush.....	1
WILD TURKEY.....	1	American Robin.....	2,266
American Coot.....	14	Northern Mockingbird.....	13
SPOTTED SANDPIPER.....	1	European Starling.....	3,372
Ring-billed Gull.....	176	Cedar Waxwing.....	5
Herring Gull.....	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	2
Rock Dove.....	220	Common Yellowthroat.....	1
Mourning Dove.....	619	Eastern Towhee.....	6
Eastern Screech Owl.....	1	American Tree Sparrow.....	36
Great Horned Owl.....	5	Field Sparrow.....	7
Barred Owl.....	2	Song Sparrow.....	83
Belted Kingfisher.....	18	Swamp Sparrow.....	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker.....	66	White-throated Sparrow....	254
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker....	4	White-crowned Sparrow.....	2
Downy Woodpecker.....	68	Dark-eyed Junco.....	237
Hairy Woodpecker.....	10	Northern Cardinal.....	351
Northern Flicker.....	16	House Finch.....	85
Pileated Woodpecker.....	3	American Goldfinch.....	73
Blue Jay.....	47	House Sparrow.....	191

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## **Birdathon Coming Soon!**

**A springtime tradition and one of our most popular annual events!! Put it on your calendar NOW: Dayton Audubon's annual Birdathon will take place from 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 27, until 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 28. Teams of DAS birders will be counting bird species in a 24-hour period, all to raise funds for important local environmental work. 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.**

**Teams are being formed now; if you would like to participate, to make a pledge, or to help raise pledges from your friends, neighbors, and coworkers, call Judy Whitaker at 293-1914 for more information. This year, as a bonus incentive, a \$20 or more pledge to Birdathon will earn the donor a one-year membership to National Audubon/Dayton Audubon.**

**Help DAS in our biggest fundraiser of the year. Last year we were able to raise over \$4,000 dollars for Aullwood and the BCWA; this year, we hope to do even better. Call today!**

**DAS and Books & Co. will once again team up to kick off Birdathon during B&C's Birding Night at their new location in The Green on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m. Aullwood Naturalist and long-time DAS friend Tom Hissong will be on hand to speak about spring migration and field identification marks for beginning birders. It will be a great way to round out the Earth Day weekend, so plan to attend. More details about Birdathon will be in your next Yellow Warbler.**

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**Birding at Glen Helen**

**The Glen Helen Ecology Institute has recently reorganized their web sit to include a list of birds sighted within the Glen's borders. You can view it at [www.antioch-college.edu/glenhelen/science/birds.html](http://www.antioch-college.edu/glenhelen/science/birds.html).**

**In 2007, Glen Helen will be building a composite year list of all the birds found in the Glen. DAS members are welcome to submit their own records of sightings; submissions should note the species name, date of observation, where in the Glen it was observed, and the name of the observer. The records can be submitted at the Glen Helen Building at 405 Corry Street in Yellow Springs, or by e-mail to [glenhelen@gmail.com](mailto:glenhelen@gmail.com).**

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## **Winter Bird Banding**

**The Ohio Bird Banding Association will be sponsoring a winter bird banding demonstration in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Caesar Creek Visitors Center, Saturday, March 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. This event is free to the public and will feature the following demonstrations:**

- 1. Bird Banding will be explained and demonstrated using live birds.**
- 2. Three trapping methods will be employed to show how birds are safely removed from the traps and released unharmed back into the wild. (Mist Nets, Bal Chatri trap, and Seth Lowe traps will be on display.)**
- 3. Biometrics will be explained and how information is gleaned from the live trapped wild birds before they are released back into the wild.**
- 4. Bird migration, ecology, and mortality from human and natural causes will be explained.**
- 5. Bird conservation will be featured with nesting boxes, feeders and window protection decals available from the Friends of Caesar Creek Visitors Center.**

**For more information contact Jim O'Boyle at 513-897-1050 or Bob Thobaben at 937-382-4739.**

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## **Aullwood Lecture Series**

**Aullwood's 50th Anniversary Lecture Series features three nationally recognized authors and actors - all with important environmental messages that reflect Marie Aull's conservation ethic. The lectures will be held at the Marie S. Aull Education Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, and tickets can be purchased individually or at a discounted series price. Books by the authors can be purchased at Aullwood's Nature Store, and the authors will sign their books after their programs.**

*Music of the Birds*

**Bill Thompson III and Julie Zickefoose**

**March 17, 7:30 p.m.**

*A Sense of Wonder: A Play Based on the Life and Works of Rachel Carson*

**Kaiulani Lee, Actress**

**April 10, 7:30 p.m.**

*Birds and the Undiscovered World*

**Kenn Kaufman**

**April 21, 7:30 p.m.**

**Kenn Kaufmann will provide two special additional programs: *Principles and Pitfalls of Bird Identification Workshop* and *Bird Watching and Brunch*.**

**For more information, call Aullwood at 890-7360, or visit their website at [Aullwood.center.audubon.org](http://Aullwood.center.audubon.org)**

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## **Audubon In The Classroom**

**As students are heading back to school, the National Audubon Society is preparing its 22nd season of Audubon Adventures, an acclaimed environmental education publication for 4th, 5th, or 6th grade elementary classrooms. Audubon Adventures helps teachers make learning about science and nature part of students' everyday lives, integrating reading with science and other core disciplines.**

**More educators than ever are using Audubon Adventures to bring environmental education into their classrooms, and research shows that incorporating the environment into the curriculum supports improved learning, test scores and community service.**

**According to a 2000 report issued by the National Environmental Education and**

**Training Foundation, in which they reviewed schools that adopted environmental education as the central focus of their academic programs, the results of including environmental education in the classroom were striking - reading and mathematics scores improved, students performed better in science and social studies, they developed the ability to transfer their knowledge from familiar to unfamiliar contexts, they learned to "do science" rather than just "learn about science," and classroom discipline problems declined.**

**This year, Audubon Adventures is focusing on four compelling topics: Home is Where the Nest Is, The Buzz about Native Bees, Bats: Mammals on the Wing, and Wild About Birds, featuring The Legacy of John James Audubon. Audubon invites elementary school teachers around the country to engage students' curiosity about the natural world by bringing science to life in the classroom with Audubon Adventures. Each issue is full of facts, activities, and action tips that connect nature with science, reading, and art, and also inspire and empower kids to care for nature in their daily lives.**

**DAS annually sponsors *Audubon Adventures* for a number of area schools. If you know of a classroom that would like us to sponsor *Audubon Adventures* for them, or you would like to sponsor a class yourself, please contact Dick Balk at 886-0092. The cost for *Audubon Adventures* is \$35 per classroom, and the packets are designed for a class of up to 30 students.**

**The kids need you! We can make a difference!**

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## **Get Involved!**

**Are you fond of birding-related activities? Are you interested in the environment? Do you wish the Dayton Audubon Society offered more for YOU? Well, we can use you!**

**DAS is always seeking new Officer and Director candidates. If you or someone you know is interested in helping to develop and lead your DAS, please contact President Mike Coogan, or any of the officers or Board members listed on the [Organization](#) web page. A simple commitment of time, with a wealth of satisfaction!**

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**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 deserving scholars.**

***Charlie Breish Memorial Camp Scholarships***

**Dayton Audubon offers financial assistance for teachers and other adults to attend National Audubon's summer ecology workshops in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, the woodland community of Connecticut, and the coast of Maine.**

**While the 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, let us know about them!**

**National Audubon also offers a summer camp in Maine to youngsters ages 10 through 14.**

***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 in fields that further the cause of environmentalism and conservation. Dively scholarship recipients are not restricted to scientific fields; other connections, such as environmental law, are possible.**

***The Shawen Grant***

**The Bob Shawen Memorial Youth Ornithology Grant was established in memory of long-time DAS activist Bob Shawen. The goal of the program is to provide funds, materials, and/or speakers for elementary classrooms, youth groups, or field experience settings to promote knowledge of birds, their habits, and their habitats.**

**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, please call DAS Projects/Memorials Chair Tom Schaefer at 937-276-2162, or e-mail him at [tom@earthspeaks.org](mailto:tom@earthspeaks.org). You**

can also write to

**Dayton Audubon Society**  
**1375 East Siebenthaler Avenue**  
**Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398**

or e-mail us at  
**audubon@dayton.net**

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## **Environmental Legacy**

**A bequest of any size to Dayton Audubon can have a lasting effecton 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 the Dayton Audubon Society.**

**For more specifics on this, or other information about gift planning, please phone Tom Schaefer, 937-276-2162, or write to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398.**

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## **Time and Talents**

**Dayton Audubon is an organization of volunteers committed to education, the natural sciences, and an environmental ethic. Help and new ideas from the ranks of the membership are needed in order for the organization to reach its goals. If you would like to help in any of the following capacities, please let us know. Your involvement will be welcome.**

**I would like to help with:**

- Birdathon**
  
- Conservation**
- Education**
- Field Trips**
- Membership**

- \_\_\_ Programs
  - \_\_\_ Publicity
  - \_\_\_ *Yellow Warbler*
  - \_\_\_ Other:
- 

Send with your name and phone number to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398. You can also call DAS President Mike Coogan at 937-438-5688, or e-mail us at [audubon@dayton.net](mailto:audubon@dayton.net).

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As a member of the National Audubon Society, you are also a member of the Dayton area chapter. There are no local dues, and you receive your newsletter automatically. To find out more about the Dayton Audubon Society, contact one of the officers whose numbers are listed in the Dayton Audubon Society [Organization](#) webpage. Better yet, come to a meeting or join us on a field trip!

The DAS meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue, on the third Wednesday of every month from September to June. See you there!

### **Southwest Ohio Rare Bird Alert**

**937-640-BIRD (2473)**

Includes updated information on DAS activities.

To report unusual sightings, call Betty Berry at 937-836-3022, or Ralph Dennler at 937-294-5086

**Previous *Yellow Warblers***

Dayton Audubon Society

# "The Yellow Warbler"

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April/May 2007

Volume 70 - No. 2

Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton,  
OH 45414-5398

Yellow Warbler

*Photo by Jim Simpson*

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## 2007 BIRDATHON

**It's April: Spring is really taking off, the baseball season is beginning, and Dayton Audubon is geared up for our annual Birdathon. One of our most popular and important events, Birdathon raises thousands of dollars annually for local environmental programs and projects, including Aullwood Audubon Center and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. The greatest benefit, of course, is the fun for Birdathon participants. Join us this month as we spend 24 hours counting as many different bird species as we can see or hear; at this time of year, you might spot up to 100 different species just in this area! Donations are raised through pledges gathered by the participants - typically a per-species amount, but fixed amounts are also welcome.**

**This year's Birdathon will be held from 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 27th to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 28th. ALL chapter members are welcome to support this important effort! You can participate in several ways:**

- **Collect pledges and/or donations, and join us April 23rd at Books and Co. at The Greene, 7:00 p.m. for Dayton Audubon's Birdathon Kick-off. Aullwood's Tom Hissong will provide a Birding Experience to acquaint us with some of the birds we should see and hear.**
- **If you can't make the kick-off, you can send your pledges/donations to the Birdathon chairperson, Judy Whitaker, c/o Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton Ohio, 45414-5398. Make checks payable to Dayton Audubon Society. You can also pledge to one of the teams listed below.**
- **Participate in the count: Create your own team or join one of the existing teams. You are welcome to join us for 24 hours of FUN!**
- **Bring your pledges and/or donations to Patty's Shelter at Englewood MetroPark at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, April 28th for refreshments and the**

**big tally! Hear about those great sightings!**

**Again this year, non-Audubon members who contribute \$20 or more will receive a membership to the National Audubon Society and Dayton Audubon. For details on this program, how to enter your own team (it's very easy), or other Birdathon questions, call Judy Whitaker at 293-1914.**

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**Yes, I will support DAS Birdathon. I pledge \_\_\_\_\_ per species to the team(s) checked below.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Old Birders: Charlotte Mathena, Sue Tackett, Jim Hill, John Howard**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Aristoquacks: Barbara Keegan, Jennifer Monahan**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Philanthropic Phalaropes: Jim Simpson, Mike Zimmerman**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Solitary Sandpipers: Mike Coogan, Mark Dillon**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Wright State Rails: Wright State University and Beaver Creek Wetlands**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Wild Berrys: Betty Berry and Betty Leve**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Tenacious Towhees: Xenia Central Middle School students**

**Instead of a per species pledge, I will donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Dayton Audubon's Birdathon.**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Address \_\_\_\_\_**  
**City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_**

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## **Calendar**

*April and May are the busiest months of the year for bird watching, and we have a lot of Field Trips and other events for you to choose from, including Earth Day and Mother's Day weekends! This is the peak of migration in our area, and a great time to get out and discover some of our avian residents and migrants. Be sure to bring your Mother or significant other!*

**Saturday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Sugarcreek MetroPark.**

**A large area of upland woods, fields, and riparian habitat, Sugarcreek is often full of returning nesters and migrants by the middle of April. From I-675, south on Wilmington Pike (cross SR725), continue to Conference Road. Meet leader Jennifer Monahan (435-0707) in the parking lot on Conference Road.**

**Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting.**

**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Saturday, April 14, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Spring Valley Wildlife Area.**

**SVWA is an outstanding Miami Valley birding locale, and late March/early April is very good for waterfowl headed north. Go south of the town of Spring Valley on US 42 along the Little Miami River. Turn left (east) on Roxanna-New Burlington Rd. Follow to Pence Jones Rd and take all the way to the end (past the trailer park) to meet leader Charlotte Mathena (433-2167) in the lower parking lot. Please bring your scope if you have one.**

**Sunday, April 15, 8:30 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Sycamore State Park.**

**Saturday, April 15, 8:30 a.m.**

**Sycamore State Park is close to home, just Northwest of Dayton in the city of Trotwood, and offers trails through meadows, woodlands, ponds, and creeks that provide great habitat for nesters and migrants. The huge sycamores lining the banks of Wolf Creek give the park its name. Take US35 west from Dayton about 6 miles to Snyder Road, then right (north) 3-1/2 miles to Wolf Creek Pike, turn left and meet leader Todd Jergens (837-4302) in the parking lot a short distance down the road on the right side.**

**Saturday, April 21, 8:30 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Twin Creek MetroPark.**

**One of our more wild and beautiful MetroParks, Twin Creek offers an abundance of birds and plants. More than 70 species of nesting birds have been found here, including some rare grassland birds such as Henslow's Sparrow. Celebrate Earth Day weekend exploring the well-marked trails at Twin Creek. From Dayton, take SR4 south past Germantown and the junction of SR123 to Eby Road. Turn left on Eby, then left on Chamberlain Road, and meet leaders Jim and Annette Arnold (299-5070) in the parking lot on the left.**

**Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Aullwood Native Plant Sale.**

**At the Aullwood Farm, 9101 Frederick Pike. Call 890-7360 for details.**

**Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.**

**Aullwood 50th Anniversary Lecture Series: "Birds and the Undiscovered World".  
*with Kenn Kaufman.***

**In the Marie S. Aull Education Center, 1000 Aullwood Road.**

**Mr. Kaufman will draw on the adventures of his own life to talk about the unknown realms of nature, the potential for discovery, and the power of personal observation to rekindle our sense of wonder. Tickets are \$7 for Friends of Aullwood members and \$9 for non-members. Call 890-7360 for details.**

**Earth Day.**

**Sunday, April 22, 7:30 a.m.**

**Bird Watching and Brunch with Kenn Kaufman.**

**Participants will gain tips on identification of warblers by sight and song. After birding in Aullwood's sanctuary, enjoy a delicious brunch in the Marie S. Aull Education Center. What a perfect way to celebrate Earth Day and learn from one of the greatest birders in the country. The fee for both the walk and the brunch is \$30 for Friends of Aullwood**

members and \$40 for non-members. For registration call Aullwood at 890-7360.

**Monday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.**

**DAS Birdathon Kick-off.**

**Books & Co. at The Greene, with Tom Hissong. Please see above for details.**

**Friday-Saturday, April 27-28.**

**DAS Birdathon.**

**Please see above for details.**

**Sunday, May 6, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Twin Creek MetroPark.**

**A second trip to Twin Creek this spring will explore another area south of the previous field trip. This area was formerly a Boy Scout Camp, and has a large stand of pine trees that attracts both nesters and migrants. Follow directions as on April 21 (above) but after turning left on Chamberlain Road, go approximately 1 mile, then turn right on Morningstar Road. Meet Dave Dister (855-3013) in the small parking lot on the right (there is another small parking lot by the pond).**

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

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting.**

**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Englewood MetroPark.**

**The most passerine migrants usually pass through the Dayton area during the first and second weeks of May, and Englewood MetroPark is always an outstanding place to look for them! Plan now to join Judy Espedal (274-7134) to search for migrant wood warblers. Take US 40 west from I-75 (north of Dayton). Meet in the parking lot at the east end of Englewood dam on US 40 (between the Dayton International Airport and the city of Englewood). Please wear shoes or boots suitable for muddy terrain.**

**Sunday, May 13, 8:00 a.m.**

**Mother's Day Field Trip: Caesar Creek Gorge.**

**Just below the dam at the southern end of Caesar Creek Lake, Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve features a 180-foot deep gorge with trails leading from the base of the dam to the Little Miami River two miles away. A great outing for Mom on Mother's Day! Take I-75 south to SR 73. East through Waynesville. After crossing US 42, go about 1 mile, then right on Clarksville Road. Follow 2-3 miles to park road on the right. Go down the hill into the Gorge to meet leader Dick Balk (886-0092) in the parking lot below the dam.**

As students are heading back to school, the National Audubon Society is preparing its 22nd season of *Audubon Adventures*, an acclaimed environmental education publication for 4th, 5th, or 6th grade elementary classrooms. *Audubon Adventures* helps teachers make learning about science and nature part of students' everyday lives, integrating reading with science and other core disciplines.

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  - Conservation
  - Education
  - Field Trips
  - Membership
  - Programs
  - Publicity
  - Yellow Warbler*
  - Other:
- 

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**Dayton Audubon Society**

# ***"The Yellow Warbler"***

**The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon  
Society**

**Summer(June/July/August) 2007**

*Volume 70 - No. 2*

Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave.,  
Dayton, OH 45414-5398



*Photo by Jim Simpson*

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## **2007 DAS Annual Meeting**

**Dayton Audubon's 2007 Annual Meeting will take place on June 20 at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Officers and Directors will offer reports of the past year's activities, and what is planned for the future. We will also elect Officers and Directors for the coming year (see below).**

**Long-time DAS member Marilyn Frye, who is active in both the Tri-Pod Camera Club and Focus Photo Club, will be on hand to share slides from her recent photo safari to Kenya. Her first-hand account of this magnificent East African country will make a fascinating program.**

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## **Elections**

**The Nominating Committee has recommended the following candidates:**

**President: Mike Coogan**

**1st Vice President: Jennifer Monahan**

**2nd Vice President: Barbara Keegan**

**Recording Secretary: Betty Leve**

**Other nominations will be presented by the committee at the meeting, and nominations from the floor will also be accepted.**

**This will be a casual, pleasant evening, and a good opportunity to meet other members and share some light refreshments. We meet in the lower level at Wegerzyn - entry is via the ramp to the west of the main entrance. Parking is free. Please join us!**

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## **Audubon Launches Major Initiative on Global Warming**

**The National Audubon Society launched a major new initiative to combat global warming at a meeting of over 175 national, state and chapter leaders last May. Leaders assembled in Park City, Utah to review the science and policy options, and to create strategies to increase the scope of Audubon's role in the effort to limit global warming and its harmful impacts on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.**

**The group focused most of its time and attention on strategies for moving forward. Audubon President John Flicker reminded the attendees that the science was now largely settled - there is no longer any reasonable doubt that global warming is occurring, largely as a result of human practices, and that substantial harm to flora and fauna will happen unless significant reductions are made in emissions of carbon dioxide.**

**Flicker outlined a four-part strategy:**

**\* Audubon will seek the enactment of federal legislation to reduce U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide by two percent per year below current levels, until a reduction of 80 percent from current levels is achieved. Many scientists believe that reductions of this magnitude are necessary to make meaningful changes in the amount of projected global warming. Legislation to achieve such a reduction has already been introduced in Congress.**

**\* Audubon will seek the enactment of state and federal legislation to mandate "Renewable Portfolio Standards." Such standards require utility companies to generate a certain portion of their power - typically between ten and twenty percent - from renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal energy. About half of the states in the U.S. currently have such legislation (some stronger than others) on the books. Ohio does not -- yet.**

**\* Audubon will educate the public about personal consumer choices in a wide variety of areas that will allow people to contribute to the prevention of global warming through individual actions, such as replacement of appliances with more efficient models, planting trees, changing thermostat settings, and switching from auto-based commuting to alternative methods. Audubon will focus on choices that allow consumers not only to help combat global warming but to achieve financial savings and improvement in quality of life.**

**\* Audubon will work with partners to ensure that new sources of energy, such as wind power, are implemented in ways that reduce or avoid harmful effects. Wind power will get substantial attention in Ohio because Ohio has great potential for harnessing energy from wind, and because Ohio industry can produce many of the components that are critical for the generation and transmission of electricity derived from wind.**

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## **A Second Breeding Bird Atlas for Ohio**

**The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II is now in its second year. Like Ohio's first atlas, this project offers volunteers a way to learn about the breeding birds of Ohio while generating an immense amount of new information necessary for the effective conservation of birds in the state. This large-scale effort is made possible only through the assistance of hundreds of citizen volunteers, and other in-kind contributions from conservation groups, and federal, state, and local governmental agencies in Ohio.**

### **Atlas Goals**

**Using the help of Ohio's extensive birding community over the next five years (2006-2010), the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II will:**

- \* Document the current distribution of breeding birds in Ohio by surveying all 4584 blocks in the state.**
- \* Assess changes in the breeding distributions of birds over the last 20 years.**
- \* Provide new measures of abundance of breeding birds throughout Ohio.**
- \* Identify important areas that support high diversity or species of concern.**

\* Collect statewide information on the distribution of species that are difficult to survey, such as owls, nightjars, and wetland species.

\* Generate new information on the status of Ohio's rare, threatened, and endangered birds.

### **Your Participation is Needed**

The BBA II can still use help. The ultimate success this atlas depends on the active participation of birders and outdoor enthusiasts from throughout the state. Every participant can make valuable contributions, and your efforts and dedication as an atlas volunteer will help to make this first field season a big success!

For more information and periodic updates on atlas developments, or to volunteer for the Atlas, please check our website, <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/>. If you do not have Internet access or would like further information, please get in touch with us by telephone or regular mail. We look forward to working with you over the next five years!!

Sue Tackett, Dayton Audubon Society, 937-439-3799, [tackettsue@aol.com](mailto:tackettsue@aol.com)

Paul Rodewald and Aaron Boone, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210. 614-247-6458, [rodewald.2@osu.edu](mailto:rodewald.2@osu.edu) or [boone.70@osu.edu](mailto:boone.70@osu.edu).

Scott Hull, Olentangy Wildlife Research Station, ODNR Division of Wildlife, 8589 Horseshoe Road, Ashley, OH 43003. 740-747-2525 x23, [scott.hull@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:scott.hull@dnr.state.oh.us).

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## **Get Involved!**

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## **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 deserving scholars.**

***Charlie Breish Memorial Camp Scholarships***

**Dayton Audubon offers financial assistance for teachers and other adults to attend National Audubon's summer ecology workshops in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, the woodland community of Connecticut, and the coast of Maine.**

**While the 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, let us know about them!**

**National Audubon also offers a summer camp in Maine to youngsters ages 10 through 14.**

***The Dively Scholarship***

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***The Shawen Grant***

**The Bob Shawen Memorial Youth Ornithology Grant was established in memory of long-time DAS activist Bob Shawen. The goal of the program is to provide funds, materials, and/or speakers for elementary classrooms, youth groups, or field experience settings to promote knowledge of birds, their habits, and their habitats.**

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September 2007

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*Photo by Jim Simpson*

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### **Members Show and Tell**

September's DAS program will feature the return of the popular "Members Show and Tell." All DAS members are invited to share items and experiences that might be of interest to other Auduboners. Bring your slides or photos of birds or other wildlife; paintings, sketches, crafts, other artwork; those new binoculars or that nifty spotting scope you just picked up; souvenirs or other memorabilia; or other items that fellow DAS members could appreciate.

This is a great opportunity to escape the oppressive heat and back-to-school blues - come out for an evening of easy friendship and share a few experiences, see some nice things, and join in a few laughs. We'll provide a slide projector, if necessary, and some light refreshments. Even if you have nothing in particular to share, you're welcome to join the gathering.

As always, the program will be held at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We meet in the lower level - entry is via the ramp to the west of the main entrance. As always, the general public is invited to attend and there is no admission fee. Parking is free.

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**Calendar**

Please see [Field Trip Schedule](#) for DAS Field Trip details.

**Sunday, September 9, 8:00 a.m.**

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

**Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting.**

**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Saturday, September 15, 8:30 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Germantown MetroPark.**

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

**Field Trip: Twin Creek MetroPark.**

**Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.**

**Dayton Audubon Society Meeting.**

**Featuring Members' Show and Tell. Please see above for details.**

**Saturday, September 29, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Englewood MetroPark.**

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## **Victory for Clean Energy!**

**On August 4 the U.S. House of Representatives, in a rare Saturday session, voted on the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) amendment offered by Reps. Tom Udall (NM) and Todd Platts (PA). The Udall-Platts amendment was one of the most hotly contested issues during the debate on a comprehensive energy bill, and passed by a solid vote of 220-190.**

**This is a major step forward on clean energy and our efforts to stop global warming. Thank you for all of your help and hard work in recent months - the e-mail actions and phone calls kept the pressure on and made a huge difference, especially in the closing hours when it appeared the amendment might come apart because of bitter opposition by some industry lobbyists.**

**The RES provision would require that 15 percent of our electricity come from clean and renewable sources by 2020. The amendment allows for a smaller percentage of electricity to come from improvements in efficiency in order for utilities to meet the**

standard.

**The House energy bill also included several other important measures such as strong lighting efficiency standards, increased incentives for investment in renewable energy, and safeguards to protect sensitive public lands from oil and gas drilling. The final bill did not contain provisions to increase fuel economy (CAFE) in cars and light trucks, however.**

**The Senate passed its own version of an energy bill earlier this summer and we are expecting leaders in the House and Senate to combine the two bills later this fall. The Senate version did not include a RES provision, so Audubon will be working hard in the coming months to ensure that the standards passed by the House make it into the final version of the bill. On the flip side, the Senate bill did contain modest improvements to fuel efficiency for cars and light trucks and we hope to keep those provisions in the final package as well.**

**We cannot state strongly enough how important each phone call, each email has been in this effort. Your persistence kept the pressure strong and we passed a good bill. Thanks!**

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## **Audubon In The Classroom**

**As students are heading back to school, the National Audubon Society is preparing its 22nd season of Audubon Adventures, an acclaimed environmental education publication for 4th, 5th, or 6th grade elementary classrooms. Audubon Adventures helps teachers make learning about science and nature part of students' everyday lives, integrating reading with science and other core disciplines.**

**More educators than ever are using Audubon Adventures to bring environmental education into their classrooms, and research shows that incorporating the environment into the curriculum supports improved learning, test scores and community service.**

**According to a 2000 report issued by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, in which they reviewed schools that adopted environmental education as the central focus of their academic programs, the results of including environmental education in the classroom were striking - reading and mathematics scores improved, students performed better in science and social studies, they developed the ability to transfer their knowledge from familiar to unfamiliar contexts, they learned to "do science" rather than just "learn about science," and classroom discipline problems declined.**

**This year, Audubon Adventures is focusing on four compelling topics: Home is Where the Nest Is, The Buzz about Native Bees, Bats: Mammals on the Wing, and Wild About Birds, featuring The Legacy of John James Audubon. Audubon invites elementary school teachers around the country to engage students' curiosity about the natural world by bringing science to life in the classroom with Audubon Adventures. Each issue is full of facts, activities, and action tips that connect nature with science, reading, and art, and also inspire and empower kids to care for nature in their daily lives.**

**DAS annually sponsors *Audubon Adventures* for a number of area schools. If you know of a classroom that would like us to sponsor *Audubon Adventures* for them, or you would like to sponsor a class yourself, please contact Dick Balk at 886-0092. The cost for *Audubon Adventures* is \$35 per classroom, and the packets are designed for a class of up to 30 students.**

**The kids need you! We can make a difference!**

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*Photo by Jim Simpson*

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### **October at the Boonshoft**

**For our October 17 program, Dayton Audubon will be guests of Donna Lewis and the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery for a special viewing of the art of Holly Coover. Over her career, Coover's scientific illustrations have been published in a wide range of scientific journals, her works have been included in numerous temporary and permanent exhibits and museum publications, and she has illustrated and co-authored many scientific publications with her husband, Gary Coover, a well-published taxonomist. Using a variety of media, including watercolor, colored pencil, and ink, Coover's artwork depicts a wide range of species with extreme attention to detail, remaining true to the anatomy of each bird and animal. Museum admission will be waived for attendees.**

**The program will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, 2600 DeWeese Parkway.**

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### **November Meeting**

We will return to the Wegerzyn Garden Center for our November 21 DAS meeting. The program has not yet been finalized, but you can stay up-to-date through our website, [www.dayton.net/audubon/](http://www.dayton.net/audubon/), or via our Southwest Ohio Rare Bird Alert phone number, 937-640-2473 (640-BIRD). The program will be held at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We meet in the main auditorium; you can enter through the front doors and elevator or stairs. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their friends. Refreshments will be served, and parking is free. Please join us! Hang this article on your 'fridge so you won't forget!

**AS OF NOVEMBER 14, THE DAS MEETING/PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT WEGERZYN GARDEN CENTER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

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## Calendar

**Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.**

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

CJ Brown Reservoir near Springfield has a number of habitats to explore, including a deep-water lake, shallow inlets, beach, seasonal mudflats, patches of woods, and grasslands. Fall waterfowl, shorebirds, and a few late passerine migrants are all possible in mid-October. Take I-70 east to US 68, go north to SR 344, east to SR 4, south to Croft Road, east across the dam, to the state park entrance. Meet Dick Balk (886-0092) at the parking lot by the water north of the check-in station (north end of the beach.)

**Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting.**

**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Saturday, October 13, 8:00 a.m.**

**Field Trip: Carriage Hill MetroPark.**

It's nice to see this MetroPark back on the trip list, and who better to lead this walk than Dayton Audubon's President and our Yellow Warbler editor, Mike Coogan (438-5688), who covers this area for the Christmas Bird Count. Carriage Hill, in addition to being a working farm, has many varied habitats including a planted prairie, a boardwalk and small lake, and several wooded areas. So join Mike for a leisurely amble along the well-kept trails of this wonderful place. Take I-75 north, east on I-70 to SR 201, north to the park entrance on the right. Follow the park road east to the

**Red Wing shelter parking lot north of the road across from the Visitor's Center.**

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

**Dayton Audubon Society Meeting.**

**Holly Coovert at the Boonshoft. Please see above for details.**

**Sunday, October 21, 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) wetlands, fields, and woodlots. Over the years a long list of birds has been sighted here. If the weather has cooperated, there could still be some southbound passerine migrants around in addition to the numerous local avian residents. To get to Caesar Creek, go south on I-75 to SR 73, then east past Waynesville. Where the road widens to four lanes (just before crossing the lake), turn left and follow the signs to the beach. Meet John and Karen Shrader (436-3664) at the large beach parking lot.**

**Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.**

**DAS Board of Directors Meeting.**

**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Sunday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.**

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

**Our popular, traditional end to the fall season's field trips! You just never know what will be seen on this trip: waterfowl, shorebirds, few early winter birds, Black Vultures, Turkeys, and/or Sandhill Cranes. Plan now to stay all morning - bring a picnic lunch with you, and bring a jacket in case the weather is brisk! This is the trip for great birds AND fellowship! Take SR 725 west to Indiana 44 to Liberty, Indiana. Go south on Rt. 101 to the state park sign. Meet Lee and Polly Hall (434-4531) at the park entrance. Don't forget your good luck "bear claw necklace"!**

**Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.**

**Dayton Audubon Society Meeting.**

**Please see above for details.**

**AS OF NOVEMBER 14, THE DAS MEETING/PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT WEGERZYN GARDEN CENTER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

**Sunday, December 30, 2007.**

**83rd DAS Christmas Bird Count**

## **Tom Hissong Named Audubon Educator of the Year**

**The National Audubon Society has announced that Tom Hissong, Education Coordinator for the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, is the first winner of the Tamar Chotzen Audubon Educator of the Year Award. The award was created to recognize exemplary work in education, honoring an individual who has furthered Audubon's vision for environmental education, Audubon Centers, and conservation work.**

**"Tom is recognized by his peers in conservation education throughout America as an exceptionally dedicated, passionate, and creative educator," said Judy Braus, Senior Vice President of Education and Centers for Audubon. "Perhaps more importantly, he has inspired thousands and thousands of people - both young and old - to see nature with new eyes and take an active role in protecting our natural resources. All of us at Audubon applaud his work and are extremely proud of what he does every day to inspire people to learn, care, and act."**

**Tom Hissong is a long-time friend of Dayton Audubon, providing programs, field trips, advice, and materials for many of our activities. DAS joins with Aullwood and National Audubon in congratulating Tom for this well-deserved honor.**

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## **Aullwood Takes You to the Everglades This February**

**If you would like to escape the cold, gray wintry landscape of Ohio in February, then Aullwood has planned a special trip just for you. Aullwood naturalists will lead an exciting natural history and bird watching trip to the Everglades and south Florida on February 15-24.**

**The Everglades and the south Florida Ecosystem have attracted the attention of naturalists for decades. A warm subtropical climate, vast horizons, a rich diversity of life including many beautiful species of birds, and a special mystique all its own, make the Everglades an exciting natural area to explore. The third week in February is often an excellent time to visit south Florida and the Everglades. Balmy day time temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s, low humidity, clear blue skies dotted with white puffy clouds and few mosquitoes, make an Everglades experience at this time**

one to remember.

**This trip will focus on all aspects of this region including the geology, plants and animals. A study of the bird life will be a strong emphasis of the trip. Some of the special south Florida birds that our group might expect to see include: Brown Pelican, White Pelican, Anhinga, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Great Egret, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, Bald Eagle, Snail Kite, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Crested Caracara, White-Crowned Pigeon, Common Ground Dove, Smooth-Billed Ani, Burrowing Owl, Florida Scrub Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, and Painted Bunting.**

**Reserve your space as soon as possible! For more information, including pricing and a detailed itinerary contact Tom Hissong at Aullwood 937-890-7360.**

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## **Audubon Ohio State Assembly/Tenth Anniversary Celebration**

**Audubon Ohio, National Audubon's State Office in Columbus, will conduct its biennial State Assembly the weekend of October 18-19, 2008. The 2008 State Assembly marks Audubon Ohio's tenth anniversary, and so the usual outstanding field trips, speakers and workshops will be supplemented by a celebration of our ten years of achievement.**

**The State Assembly has grown in popularity in recent years, with over 200 participants attending the 2006 Assembly. This high attendance reflects the quality of speakers Audubon Ohio has attracted, such as Steve Kress, Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, John Ruthven and Jerome Jackson. Audubon Ohio will work to make the 2008 Assembly the best ever.**

**The location and schedule of the 2008 Assembly will be announced later, but please circle this weekend on your calendar right now. You will not want to miss this one!**

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The kids need you! We can make a difference!

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**I would like to help with:**

- Birdathon
  
- Conservation
- Education
- Field Trips
- Membership
- Programs
- Publicity
- Yellow Warbler*
  
- Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Send with your name and phone number to Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398. You can also call DAS President Mike Coogan at 937-438-5688, or e-mail us at [audubon@dayton.net](mailto:audubon@dayton.net).**

**As a member of the National Audubon Society, you are also a member of the Dayton area chapter. There are no local dues, and you receive your newsletter automatically. To find out more about the Dayton Audubon Society, contact one of the officers whose numbers are listed in the Dayton Audubon Society [Organization](#) webpage. Better yet, come to a meeting or join us on a field trip!**

**The DAS meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue, on the third Wednesday of every month from September to June. See you there!**

Dayton Audubon Society

## "The Yellow Warbler"

The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

December 2007 - January/February 2008

Volume 70 - No. 6

Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414-5398



Photo by Jim Simpson



***The Officers and Directors of the Dayton Audubon Society wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.***

xmas

**Christmas Bird Count**

xmas

The 84th Dayton Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday, December 30, 2007. Local participants, in 12 teams, will attempt to identify and count all of the birds in 12 areas (see below) located within a 15-mile diameter area centered at the intersection of Needmore Road and Webster Street. Everyone is welcome to participate, so check the list of areas below to find the team you would like to join. Feeder watchers can also participate if the feeder is within the count area, and if the results are reported at or before the compilation meeting.

The Christmas Count tradition began in New England on Christmas Day, 1900, when 27 conservationists organized a bird count to protest the traditional, organized hunting competition known as the "holiday side hunt." Instead of shooting birds, the conservationists simply observed and counted them. The tradition caught on and spread, and now, every holiday season, thousands of participants across the country take to the fields and woods to record wintering bird species. The data collected over the years has provided useful and interesting 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. Our local Christmas Count has been affiliated with the National Audubon Christmas count since 1923.

The results of the count will be tabulated at our Compilation Meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 7:15 p. m., at Aullwood Audubon Center, 1000 Aullwood Road. 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.

Grab your binoculars and spotting scopes, and dress warmly! We always have a great time no matter what the weather. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Tackett at 439-3799.

## Christmas Count Areas and Leaders

<b>Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Dayton Airport</b>  Ray Corder 833-4177	<b>Carriage Hill MetroPark</b>  Mike Coogan 438-5688	<b>Charleston Falls Reserve</b>  Sue Tackett 439-3799
<b>Cricket Holler</b>  Jim Williams 342-9472	<b>Downtown Parks, Leland Center, Boonshoft Museum, Miami River North, Wolf Creek</b>  Dick Balk 886-0092	<b>Eastwood Lake, Huffman Reservoir, Mad River</b>  Dave Nolin 432-0266
<b>Englewood MetroPark</b>  (Contact Sue Tackett, 439-3799)	<b>Hill and Dales Park, Old River, Carillon Park, Calvary Cemetery, Miami River South</b>  Daryl Michael 687-1480	<b>Taylorville MetroPark</b>  Tom Hissong 890-7360
<b>Woodland Cemetery</b>  Jim and Annette Arnold 862-4437	<b>Wright State University, Hilltop Gravel Pit</b>  Ken and Gretchen Beers, 767- 1457	<b>Wright-Patterson AFB</b>  Charlotte Mathena 433-2167

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### B-W Greenway

Our **JANUARY 16, 2008 DAS MEETING** will feature Bob Jurick of the Beaver Creek-Wenrick Greenway. The B-W Greenway Community (BWGC) is working to connect Greene County's Beaver Creek Wetlands with Clark County's Wenrick Wetlands to create a strategic link in the Greater Dayton Greenbelt. Come out to meet Bob and learn first hand of this group's efforts to protect and promote natural corridors in the Greater Dayton Greenbelt. A possible new Important Bird Area will be announced.

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### Aullwood Interns

For many years, Dayton Audubon has helped sponsor the intern program at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm by annually providing a small stipend to each of the that year's interns, to help offset living expenses. Environmental Educator Nicole Conrad of Aullwood, who directs the intern program, will give Dayton Audubon members a chance to meet this year's interns at our **FEBRUARY 20, 2008 MEETING**. Nicole and the interns will be on hand to talk about their backgrounds, their plans, and their experiences at Aullwood. Come on out and take part in one of the fine opportunities that Dayton Audubon supports.

Both of the above programs will take place at **WEGERZYN GARDEN CENTER, 1301 EAST SIEBENTHALER AVENUE FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.** Our meetings are held in the main auditorium; you can enter through the front doors and elevator or stairs. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their friends. Refreshments will be served, and parking is free. Please join us! Hang this article on your 'fridge so you won't forget!

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## Calendar

**Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.**  
**DAS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Sunday, December 30**  
**84th DAS Christmas Bird Count**  
**Please see the article above.**

**Wednesday, January 2, 7:15 p.m.**  
**Christmas Count Compilation Meeting**  
**Aullwood Audubon Center. Please see above.**

**Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.**  
**DAS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.**  
**DAS Program/Meeting - B-W Greenway**  
**Please see the article above**

**. Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.**  
**DAS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.**

**Saturday, February 16, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Field Trip: Oxbow Miami River.**

**Our 21st annual walk at this excellent area where the Great Miami River meets the Ohio, west of Cincinnati. Always well worth the hour drive down. If the river is up, many waterfowl species, migrating shorebirds, herons, and raptors can be expected. Take I-75 south to I-275 west. Exit at US 50 to Lawrenceburg just before the Ohio River bridge. Left at the traffic light on US 50 towards Lawrenceburg. Just past the Shell station on the left, turn left and take the road up and over the levee. At the cement plant, turn right and go about 100 yards until you see a small stand of trees,**

then turn left and look for the parking area on the right. Note: There are no restrooms there. Please bring a lunch, and your scope if you have one. Leader: Jim Simpson (433-3649).

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.  
DAS Program/Meeting - Aullwood Interns  
Please see the article above.

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### **Tom Schaefer Moderates Rachel Carson Blog**

DAS Board member Tom Schaefer is moderating an internet web log (blog) focused on the life and work of Rachel Carson. The blog can be found at <http://rcbookclub.blogspot.com/>, and Dayton Audubon members are invited to participate.

Tom is our Projects and Memorials chair, and a former President of Dayton Audubon. He is also a former member of the Audubon Ohio Advisory Board and chair of its Education Committee, and directed the Audubon Summer Camp in Greenwich, Connecticut for several years.

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### **Caesar Creek Christmas Count**

Mark your calendars! The 3rd annual Caesar Creek/Spring Valley Christmas Bird Count will be held on Friday, December 14, 2007. (Please note that this is a change from our first two years, when the counts were scheduled on Thursdays.) They have again selected a weekday to avoid counting during the duck hunting season; apologies to those of you who cannot get off work.

For early risers, they will look and listen for owls at 6 a.m. They will regroup at the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m., break into teams, and search for waterfowl and songbirds. At 1 p.m. counters will meet at the Visitor Center for a hot lunch (free) sponsored by the Friends of Caesar Creek.

For more information, call 513-897-1050.

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### **Hall of Fame**

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ralph Dennler, the compiler and voice of the DAS Rare Bird Alert hotline. Ralph was inducted into the Dayton Theatre Hall of Fame on August 12, 2007. Active for many years as both an actor and director in Dayton area community theaters, Ralph is also an avid and expert birdwatcher. DAS salutes you, Ralph!

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**Warm Up With Aullwood's Winter Bird Identification Course**

Winter is a great season to sharpen your bird ID skills and to study avian behavior. This workshop, on January 20, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Aullwood Audubon Center will help you improve your winter bird watching skills, whether you're just starting out or are an experienced birder. The program will begin with an indoor session to review basic natural history, field ID, and vocalizations of Ohio's most common winter birds. Then we'll migrate to Spring Valley Wildlife Area for some outdoor bird watching. This unique birding spot provides a variety of habitats and a diversity of birds to observe. Bring a bag lunch and binoculars, and dress for the weather!

For more information, and to register, contact Tom Hissong at 937-890-7360.

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## 11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Count for the Birds in America's Great Backyard, Feb 15-18, 2008

- \* No fee or registration required
- \* All ages and skill levels welcome
- \* Track results in real time online
- \* Count in your backyard, balcony, schoolyard, park, wildlife refuge
- \* Be a part of the network

Sponsored by National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Join with thousand of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where birds are, and track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, helping scientists paint a picture of the state of birds this winter.

For more information, or to get started, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

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### Southwest Ohio Rare Bird Alert

937-640-BIRD (2473)

Includes updated information on DAS activities.

To report unusual sightings, call Betty Berry at 937-836-3022, or Ralph Dennler at 937-294-5086

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