

Dayton Audubon Society

"The Yellow Warbler"

The Newsletter of the Dayton Audubon Society

April 2010

Volume 73 - No. 1

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



Photo by Jim Simpson

2010 Birdathon

The arrival of April means Spring is well under way, 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 as we count as many different bird species as we can see or hear in 24 hours; at this time of year, we might log over 100 different species in this area! Donations are raised through pledges gathered by the participants - either a per-species amount, or a fixed amount.

This year's Birdathon will be held from 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 30th to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1st. ALL chapter members are welcome to support this important effort! You can participate in several ways:

- **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; improve your birding skills and raise money for very worthy environmental causes.
- **Collect pledges and/or donations, and send them to the Birdathon chairperson, Cindy Beckman, c/o Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, Ohio, 45414-5398. Make checks payable to Dayton Audubon Society.**
- **Pledge to one of the teams listed below.**
- **Bring your pledges and/or donations to Patty's Shelter at Englewood MetroPark at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 1st 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 more details call Cindy and Jim Beckman

at 862-4505.

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

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

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

_____ **Snipers: Charlotte Mathena, Sue Tackett, Jim Hickman, and John Howard**

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

_____ **Wandering Warblers: Cindy and Jim Beckman**

_____ **Wild Berrys: Betty Berry and Betty Leve**

_____ **Wright State Rails: Wright State University and Beaver Creek Wetlands Association**

_____ **Mike Boyd**

_____ **Tom Schaefer**

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Calendar

Saturday, April 3, 8:30 a.m.

Field Trip: Englewood MetroPark.

Some of the best birding in the Dayton area in the spring is at Englewood MetroPark. The diverse habitat of this premier MetroPark can hold a wide variety of migrants and nesters, including Vireos, Warblers, and Orioles. From Dayton take I-75 north to I-70 west to the airport access road, exit at US40 and go west to the park entrance at the east side of the dam. Meet in the upper parking lot at the dam and US40. Please wear shoes/boots suitable for muddy terrain. **Field Trip: Sugarcreek MetroPark.**

Sugarcreek offers a large area of upland woods, fields, and riparian habitat, and is sure to be full of returning nesters and migrants by the end of April. From I-675, south on Wilmington Pike (cross SR725), continue to Conference Road. Meet leader Jennifer Monahan (654-3301) in the parking lot on Conference Road.

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

DAS Board of Directors Meeting

Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.

Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Native Plant Sale at Aullwood Audubon Farm.

Gardeners may choose from a wide selection of native perennial plants, trees, and shrubs, including a variety of wildflowers that have been rescued from areas scheduled for development.

Food and wagon rides will be available at a nominal cost. Admission is free. The Farm is located at 9101 Frederick Pike in Butler Township.

Sunday, April 18, 7:30 a.m.

Field Trip: Aullwood Audubon Center.

This is a good warm-up for Birdathon; the fields and woods at Aullwood will certainly be hopping with birds during spring migration. Join Aullwood naturalist Tom Hissong (890-7360) on this popular field trip. Take US 40 west from I-75 (or from the airport access highway) at Vandalia, turn south on Aullwood Road at the east end of the Englewood Dam (between the Dayton International Airport and Englewood), and go 1/2 mile to the nature center.

Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

DAS Meeting/Program

See article below.

Thursday April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Earth Day Walk at Aullwood.

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Enjoy an early morning walk to reflect on all that this special planet means to us. Bring favorite poems, stories or readings about the earth that you would like to share. Learn how you can do your part to protect the earth. The earth needs our help now more than ever! See directions to the Center above.

Friday-Saturday, April 30 - May 1

DAS Birdathon.

Please see article above for details.

Glen Helen's Nick Boutis at April DAS Meeting

Nick Boutis, Executive Director of Glen Helen Ecology Institute since 2006, will present a program at the next Dayton Audubon Society meeting on April 21, 2010. Nick holds a B.A. in biology from Oberlin College and an M.G.A. in non-profit management from the University of Maryland. Additional graduate level studies from Antioch University and USDA Graduate School include environmental education, environmental history, meteorology, mycology, ornithology, and outdoor administration.

Nick will fill us in on current happenings at Glen Helen and at the Ecology Institute; what impact, if any, the closing of Antioch College in Yellow Springs will have on the Glen; and what we can expect from them in the future.

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 take the 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!

Christmas Bird Count Results

The 85th annual Dayton Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count was held December 27, 2009. Our 37 participants recorded 10,772 birds of 64 species, including new record Count numbers of American Pipits (32) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (30). However, we recorded a disappointingly low number of Song Sparrows (38).

We once again thank all of our participants, particularly our Count Compiler, Sue Tackett.

Christmas Count Totals

	American	
Canada	Crow.....	190
Goose.....2,614	Horned	
Gadwall.....4	Lark.....	137
American Black	Carolina	
Duck.....25	Chickadee.....	374
Mallard.....541	Tufted	
Lesser	Titmouse.....	123
Scaup.....1	Red-breasted	
Bufflehead.....7	Nuthatch.....	2
Common	White-breasted	
Goldeneye.....7	Nuthatch.....	89
Hooded	Brown	
Merganser.....60	Creeper.....	46
Common	Carolina	
Loon.....1	Wren.....	33
Pied-billed	Winter	
Grebe.....1	Wren.....	2
Great Blue	Golden-crowned	
Heron.....46	Kinglet.....	26
Northern	Eastern	
Harrier.....3	Bluebird.....	54
Sharp-shinned	Hermit	
Hawk.....4	Thrush.....	3
Cooper's	American	
Hawk.....11	Robin.....	1,641
Red-shouldered	Gray	
Hawk.....2	Catbird.....	1
Red-tailed	Northern	
Hawk.....34	Mockingbird.....	3
American	Brown	
Kestrel.....8	Thrasher.....	1
American	European	
Coot.....9	Starling.....	1,830
Killdeer.....2	American	
Ring-billed	Pipit.....	32
Gull.....785	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	30
Rock	Eastern	
Pigeon.....167	Towhee.....	7
Mourning	American Tree	
Dove.....202	Sparrow.....	129
Great Horned	Field	
Owl.....3	Sparrow.....	2
Barred	Song	

Owl.....	3	Sparrow.....	38
Belted		Swamp	
Kingfisher.....	13	Sparrow.....	1
Red-bellied		White-throated	
Woodpecker.....	70	Sparrow.....	170
Yellow-bellied		White-crowned	
Sapsucker.....	6	Sparrow.....	1
Downy		Dark-eyed	
Woodpecker.....	100	Junco.....	92
Hairy		Northern	
Woodpecker.....	19	Cardinal.....	262
Northern Flicker.....	30	Brown-headed	
Pileated		Cowbird.....	2
Woodpecker.....	14	House	
Blue		Finch.....	135
Jay.....	21	American	
		Goldfinch.....	242
		House	
		Sparrow.....	261

Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters

The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) is a state-wide coalition of Audubon chapters that was begun in the late 1960s as a way to bring chapters together and give them a common voice. The group's mission is to aid chapter development in strength, growth, and leadership through dialogue and networking between the chapters and the National Audubon Society, and to provide an independent collective voice of Ohio chapters and its affiliates in all Audubon affairs.

With the closing last year of Audubon Ohio, the National Audubon state office in Columbus, COAC has again had to rethink its mission. At a recent meeting of Chapter representatives called for the purpose of reorganizing COAC, four major courses of action were decided:

- * Create a COAC web site to facilitate communication between the chapters**
- * Develop a list of current chapter resources/contacts**
- * Establish committees for inter-chapter projects**
- * Revitalize the Important Bird Area Science Program**

Other ideas, of lesser importance, will be worked on after the first four are completed:

- * Maintain list of chapter contacts**

- * Possible Facebook page
 - * Provide timely grant information
 - * Be the lead on an Audubon Assembly
 - * Raise funds
 - * Develop a strategic plan
 - * Advertise/distribute conservation alerts
-
-

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!

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

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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 or e-mail DAS Projects/Memorials Chair Cindy and Jim Beckman at

phone 937-862-4505, or

[e-mail DAS Projects/Memorials Chair](mailto:oz1221@sbcglobal.net)(oz1221@sbcglobal.net)

You can also write to

Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 East Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414-5398 or e-mail us at audubon@dayton.net

Environmental Legacy

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

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 Committee
- Education Committee
- Field Trips
- Membership Committee
- 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 Jennifer Monahan at 937-654-3301, or e-mail us at 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!

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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May 2010

Volume 73 - No. 2

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Photo by Jim Simpson

The Yellow Warbler is Going Green

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In addition to its environmental impact, The Yellow Warbler is also our single largest expense, accounting for 12 to 25 percent of our annual budget (depending on other projects), and increased printing and postage costs are further taxing our limited resources. A reduction in printing will free up a large portion of our funds for use in other projects.

All of the information currently printed in the six issues annually will be posted on our website, www.dayton.net/audubon; additionally, a PDF version of the newsletter will be available on the website for downloading. When a new newsletter is posted, an email notice with a link to the website will be sent to any member who provides DAS with an email address. Email addresses should be sent to audubon@dayton.net.

Hardcopy versions will be mailed to DAS members by request only. Any DAS member who wishes to continue to receive the newsletter through the mail in hardcopy format should notify DAS by sending their name and address to

**Dayton Audubon Society
1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue**

Calendar

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

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. Take I-75 south to SR 73, and go east through Waynesville. After crossing US 42, go about 1 mile, then right on Clarksville Road. Follow 2-3 miles to the 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.

Sunday, May 16, 8:00 a.m.

Field Trip: Carriage Hill MetroPark.

Besides the working farm, Carriage Hill boasts a variety of habitats, including a large prairie, a small lake with a boardwalk, abundant meadows, and several wooded areas. Take I-75 north, east on I-70 to SR 201, north to the park entrance on the right; meet leader Mike Coogan (438-5688) at the Red Wing shelter parking lot across the road from the Visitors' Center.

Saturday, May 29, 8:00 a.m.

Spring Valley Wildlife Area.

Come see what all the excitement is about at one of the premier birding spots in this area! This could be a great day for seeing many species of warblers and vireos, including the brightly-colored Prothonotary Warbler that nests near the bike path. Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and many many more of nature's brightest will make their presence known as they establish territories, attract mates, or just fill up on insects on their way north. We should see Barn, Tree, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows swooping over the lake as Kingfishers, Herons, and maybe even an Osprey search for their aquatic prey. Go south from Spring Valley on US 42 along the Little Miami River. Turn left (east) on Roxanna-New Burlington Road; follow to Pence Jones Road and take it all the way to the end (past the trailer park) to meet leaders Cindy and Jim Beckman (937-862-4505) in the lower parking lot.

No DAS Meeting/Program in May.

Dayton Audubon Fundraiser

DAS still has reloadable Kroger Gift Cards to use when shopping. This costs nothing but a few seconds of your time, and all proceeds go directly to our (your!) environmental education and scholarship projects.

Participation is easy! Send a \$5.00 check payable to Dayton Audubon Society to

**Cindy Beckman
3061 Clear Springs Road
Spring Valley, OH 45370**

or you can get a card at any Dayton Audubon Society meeting. The card is FREE because it comes preloaded with \$5.00.

2010 State of the Birds Report

The 2010 State of the Birds Report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon, and other leading conservation organizations shows that climate change will have an increasing impact on birds and their habitat - and the ecological and other benefits they provide to people. It issues an urgent call for sound energy policy that will reduce carbon emissions, and for strategic conservation investments that will help species adapt to a changing climate - if we can help the birds weather this unprecedented threat, we can help ourselves.

To read the report or for more info go to www.stateofthebirds.org

Educator's Week

"Life on a Sandy Delta, 2010"

June 13 - 19, 2010

***Sponsored by Ashland University, Crane Hollow Nature Preserve,
and Camp Oty'Okwa***

An overnight retreat for educators!! Enjoy life on a "Sandy Delta" in the beautiful Hocking Hills!! Learning, new friends, and fun!! Keynote Presenter and Performer Chris Rowlands!!

Participants will spend the week experiencing the natural history of Ohio at Camp Oty'Okwa. The 700 acre camp includes a dedicated state nature preserve, beautiful woodlands, hiking trails, and wonderful rock outcrops. Teachers and naturalists will be encouraged to broaden their knowledge and learn techniques that will help them improve their skills as an educator.

The delicate balance of people, natural resource use, and technological advances is at the heart of many local, national, and global news stories. Throughout the week, participants will explore hands-on best practice strategies for introducing people to the natural world and these issues. Using their professional expertise and experience, top naturalists and educators from around the state (and Florida) will facilitate sessions using the camp and area resources. Sessions will provide opportunities to gain an understanding of topics related to state standards by immersing the participants in the natural setting and stimulating learning environment.

Participants can earn either semester hours of graduate credit or up to 50+ contact hours.

Registration will be limited to space at the camp. Final date to register is May 21 unless the week is full. If space is not available, your name will be placed on a waiting list.

For registration and other information, contact Cathy Knoop, 740-385-6638, cpknoop@hocking.net

Thanks!

Occasionally, we like to extend a note of appreciation to the volunteers who give their time on a regular basis to help put The Yellow Warbler in the mail. After the newsletters are printed, these dedicated members meet for an evening, typically at Lee and Polly Hall's house, to label and bundle the 1,400 or so copies for delivery to the Post Office. Our sincerest thanks go out to the regulars:

Jim and Annette Arnold
Dick and Karen Balk
Margaret Coogan
Jim Garber
Lee and Polly Hall
Jim and Marilyn Simpson
Bob and Diane Streifthau
Winnie Wagner

New volunteers are always welcome; if you'd like to help, call Editor Mike Coogan at 438-5688 or Lee Hall at 434-4531.

(Our apologies to anyone we might have missed.)

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Photo by Jim Simpson

DAS Annual Meeting

The 2010 Dayton Audubon Society Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 16 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:

Elections

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following candidates:

President: Jennifer Monahan

Vice President: Jim Simpson

Treasurer: Karen Balk

Recording Secretary: Betty Leve

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sharp

Directors - term expires 2013:

Diane Streifthau

Bob Streifthau

Mike Coogan

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Program

DAS Board members Jim and Cindy Beckman will present "Belize - Birding Bonanza," a program about that marvelous Central American country in general, and specifically about the DAS-sponsored Belize trip in March of this year. Almost half of the birds possible in Belize were seen by that group of 11 birders, and all proceeds went to the Dayton Audubon Society. The Beckmans, who recently established Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC to provide affordable options for international birding, promise this will be an outstanding program.

The meeting will be held in the main auditorium; you can enter through the front doors and take the 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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Aullwood Breeding Bird Census

Sunday, June 13, 6:30 a.m. Each June Aullwood's staff conducts a census of the breeding birds found on their property. Starting early in the morning, they listen, watch and count the different species and how many of each might be here. Come help them count their birds. No admission is charged. Meet at the Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, south from US 40 at the east end of the Englewood Dam.

Global Warming Action Workshop

**Saturday, June 19th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
presented by Audubon Ohio and The Audubon Society of
Greater Cleveland.**

**The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Education Center
382 Townline Road
Aurora, Ohio 44202
www.clevelandaudubon.org**

This FREE workshop will feature global warming issue briefings and updates on the latest science on how birds and wildlife are being impacted by climate change. There will be information about what you can do right now to make a difference at home and on Capitol Hill. This event is open to the public but registration is requested. Lunch will be provided.

Optional sanctuary bird walk with Jim Tomko starts at 8:30 a.m.

**For more information please contact Marnie at murso@audubon.org
216-246-7150**

Wood Thrush Conservation

The Wood Thrush has become a symbol of declining Nearctic-Neotropical migratory forest birds, its population having decreased significantly since the late 1970s. Wood Thrushes breed in forests throughout the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. In September, they fly south to winter mostly in Mexico to Panama.

In February, National Audubon staff joined representatives from eight countries and 16 organizations in a workshop at Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, Veracruz, Mexico, where they explored the Wood Thrush's potential as an umbrella for forest bird conservation in southeastern Canada, eastern United States, southern Mexico, and Central America. The workshop was the first step in building an international alliance that will coordinate work throughout the Western Hemisphere for bird monitoring, habitat protection, forest management, and environmental

education to benefit forest birds and other wildlife.

If you would like to learn more about this project or would like to be on the mailing lists please contact: Matt Jeffery mjeffery@audubon.org

Any woodthrush shows it - he sings, not to fill the world, but because he is filled.

Jane Hirshfield, The Stone of Heaven

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!

DAS Scholarships Available

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Charlie Breish Memorial Camp Scholarships

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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.

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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.

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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 or e-mail DAS Projects/Memorials Chair Cindy and Jim Beckman at

phone 937-862-4505, or
[e-mail DAS Projects/Memorials Chair\(oz1221@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:oz1221@sbcglobal.net)

You can also write to
Dayton Audubon Society, 1375 East Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton, Ohio
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Environmental Legacy

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

Time and Talents

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I would like to help with:

- Birdathon
- Conservation Committee
- Education Committee
- Field Trips
- Membership Committee
- 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 Jennifer Monahan at 937-435-0707.

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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



Photo by Jim Simpson

Dayton Audubon Society

"The Yellow Warbler"

**The Newsletter of the Dayton
Audubon Society**

November 2010

Volume 72 - No. 4

[For PDF version of current Yellow Warbler click here!](#)

DAS Meeting

Program: Aullwood's Interns

The November 17 DAS program will feature Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm's new Interns for this year, along with Nicole Conrad, Environmental Specialist and Intern Coordinator at Aullwood. Nicole and "her gang" always provide an entertaining program, so this will be an opportunity to escape November blues.

Come out for an evening of easy friendship, a few laughs, and light refreshments. As always, the programs 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; enter through the main entrance. The general public is invited to attend, and there is no admission fee. Parking is free.

You can stay up-to-date at our website, www.dayton.net/audubon/, or through our Southwest Ohio Rare Bird Alert phone number, 937-640-2473 (640-BIRD).

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Calendar

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Sunday, November 7, 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 Chuck Gardner (937-962-4860) at the park entrance. Don't forget your goodluck "bear claw necklace"!

Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
DAS Board of Directors Meeting.

Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.

Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.
Dayton Audubon Society Meeting.

Aullwood Interns: [See Above.](#)

Sunday, December 26
86th DAS Christmas Bird Count

Details soon on our website and in the next issue of ***The Yellow Warbler***

Dayton Audubon Fundraiser

DAS still has reloadable Kroger Gift Cards to use when shopping. This costs nothing but a few seconds of your time, and all proceeds go directly to our (your!) environmental education and scholarship projects.

Participation is easy! Send a \$5.00 check payable to Dayton Audubon Society to:

Cindy Beckman
3061 Clear Springs Road
Spring Valley, OH 45370

or you can get a card at any Dayton Audubon Society meeting. The card is FREE because it comes preloaded with \$5.00.

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. DAS annually sponsors Audubon Adventures for 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!

Chapter and Teacher Feedback on Audubon Adventures

Once again, this year Chapters and state offices can help teachers in their communities bring the natural world into classrooms with Audubon Adventures. This engaging school program focuses on themes that are important to Audubon's mission. And its appealing stories and vibrant photos help 3rd through 5th graders form positive attitudes about nature. By sponsoring classrooms in their communities, Chapters can extend their reach into the community, gain visibility and meet their education goals. Debra Eichner, Audubon Adventures Coordinator for Lane County Audubon Society shares that "Audubon Adventures has been an active program for our

Chapter, allowing us to reach out to local schools with a valuable tool to help enrich our childrens' education." Entering its 27th year, Audubon Adventures continues to thrive, reaching close to 4000 classrooms and 150,000 kids each year. Dick Lee, Education Chairperson at Black River Audubon Society has experienced the growth of the program firsthand, "I would say that the repeat use of Audubon Adventures kits year after year is a measure of the success. I think I have a lifetime position as education chairperson. Due to the growth of the program, I can't get a replacement." Teacher feedback for the program is continually enthusiastic. Sherry Barton of Pinewoods Audubon, MS tells of a "special-ed teacher, who practically accosted me at Kinko's when I was buying colored paper for my letters, said that her students love these materials and her co-workers were looking forward to Audubon Adventures." Teachers particularly like the kit because it is easy to integrate across their curriculum and offers correlations to national standards for Science and Language Arts. The Resource Manual offers support material including hands-on activities and student assessment pages. One teacher wrote: "Audubon Adventures material worked out perfectly with the 'Environments' unit we're studying, and we are delving deep into non-fiction, so the curriculum you sent was perfect. The kids really enjoy reading it. We have done many individual projects, partner work, and group work with the curriculum. I would love to use it next year too!" Another teacher wrote: "I used them as a nonfiction comprehension reading tool. Students started with the newspapers, chose animals from them and did further research about the animals, and created presentations."

Ohio Young Birders Conference

The 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference will be held at the Maries S. Aull Education Center at Aullwod on Saturday, November 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A program of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory near Toledo, the Ohio Young Birders conference will feature student presentations, songbird banding demonstrations, field trips, live birds of prey from Raptor Inc., and a bird identification quiz by noted author Kenn Kaufman. The conference

engages a wideranging audience of youth and adults, and the public is encouraged to attend. Presentations will conclude by mid-afternoon. An additional optional field trip will be held Sunday, November 21, from 8 a.m. to noon at an area birding hotspot. The registration fee is \$10 for students and \$20 for adults and includes lunch. Registration is available online at www.ohioyoungbirders.org or by calling the Black Swamp Bird Observatory at 419/898-4070. Conference sponsors are Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Education Fund, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Kirtland Bird Club, and Kaufman Field Guides.

Great Lakes Restoration at a Crossroads

As you may know, the effort to restore the Great Lakes is at a crossroads. In the coming weeks Congress will make decisions that could either help or hinder the restoration of Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes. Two essential Great Lakes Initiatives need your support- both the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act face uncertain futures in Congress. The need for action remains greater than ever; if funding is cut or action delayed on these important bills it will only slow progress to restore the Lakes. Timing is critical – the November elections have redefined the make-up of Congress, but this should not deter the nation from its continued investment in restoring the Great Lakes.

What You Can Do to Help

Audubon is looking for volunteers to write a letter to the editor. Please consider writing an editorial urging Ohio's Congressional delegation to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$475 million, and to pass the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act. Contact Eric at euhide@audubon.org for more info on Lake Erie issues or if you are interested in submitting a letter to your local paper.

The Yellow Warbler Has Gone Green

Dayton Audubon Society's goals and purposes naturally include a commitment to the environment and an awareness of our responsibilities to the planet and to future generations. With that in mind, the DAS Board of Directors has voted to reduce the printing of this newsletter to significantly reduce our paper consumption and waste. This issue will be our last full printing and mailing.

In addition to its environmental impact, The Yellow Warbler is also our single largest expense, accounting for 12 to 25 percent of our annual budget (depending on other projects), and increased printing and postage costs are further taxing our limited resources. A reduction in printing will free up a large portion of our funds for use in other projects.

All of the information currently printed in the six issues annually will be posted on our website, www.dayton.net/audubon; additionally, a PDF version of the newsletter will be available on the website for downloading. When a new newsletter is posted, an email notice with a link to the website will be sent to any member who provides DAS with an email address. Email addresses should be sent to audubon@dayton.net. Hardcopy versions will be mailed to DAS members by request only. Any DAS member who wishes to continue to receive the newsletter through the mail in hardcopy format should notify DAS by sending your name and address to:

Dayton Audubon Society
1375 E. Siebenthaler Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45414-5357

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Photo by Jim Simpson

Dayton Audubon Society

"The Yellow Warbler"

**The Newsletter of the Dayton
Audubon Society**

Winter 2010-2011

Volume 73 - No. 2

[For PDF version of current Yellow Warbler click here!](#)

Christmas Bird Count

The 87th Dayton Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday, December 26, 2010. 12 teams of local participants will attempt to identify and count all of the birds in 12 areas around Dayton (see below).

Anyone is welcome to participate, so check the list of areas to find a 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 on December 28.

The Christmas Count tradition began in New England on Christmas Day, 1900, when a group of conservationists organized a bird count to protest the traditional, organized hunting competition known as the "holiday side hunt." The conservationists observed and counted the birds instead of shooting them, and the tradition soon caught on and spread. Now, thousands of participants across the country take to the fields and woods every holiday season 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 Tuesday, December 28, 2010 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 657-4049.

Christmas Count Areas and Leaders

<p>Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Dayton Airport</p> <p>Ray Corder 833-4177</p>	<p>Carriage Hill MetroPark</p> <p>Mike Coogan 438-5688</p>	<p>Charleston Falls Reserve</p> <p>Sue Tackett 657-4049</p>
<p>Cricket Holler</p> <p>Jim Williams 342-9472</p>	<p>Downtown Parks, Leland Center, Boonshoft Museum, Miami River North, Wolf Creek</p> <p>Dick Balk 886-0092</p>	<p>Eastwood Lake, Huffman Reservoir, Mad River</p> <p>Yvonne Cecil (Contact Sue Tackett, 657-4049)</p>

<p>Englewood MetroPark</p> <p>Monte Mercer 836-2453</p>	<p>Hill and Dales Park, Old River, Carillon Park, Calvary Cemetery, Miami River South</p> <p>Daryl Michael 687-1480</p>	<p>Taylorville MetroPark</p> <p>Tom Hissong 890-7360</p>
<p>Woodland Cemetery</p> <p>Jim and Annette Arnold 299-5070</p>	<p>Wright State University, Hilltop Gravel Pit</p> <p>Ken and Gretchen Beers, 767-1457</p>	<p>Wright-Patterson AFB</p> <p>Charlotte Mathena 433-2167</p>

Calendar

The following is a list of upcoming activities. Please check our website, www.dayton.net/audubon for our Field Trip Schedule with detailed descriptions of additional field trips and other events and activities as they are added.

Sunday, December 26
85th DAS Christmas Bird Count
[Please see the article above.](#)

Tuesday, December 28, 7:15 p.m.
Christmas Count Compilation Meeting
Aullwood Audubon Center. [Please see the article above.](#)

Tuesday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.

DAS Board of Directors Meeting

Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.

Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

DAS Program/Meeting

Please check our [Schedule of Events](#) or the Rare Bird Alert, 937-640-2473, for details.

Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.

DAS Board of Directors Meeting

Harrigan Auto Center Reserve, 475 Congress Park Dr.

Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

DAS Program/Meeting

Please check our [Schedule of Events](#) or the Rare Bird Alert, 937-640-2473, for details.

Lake Erie Update

Lake Erie water gives us so much; we use it for drinking, swimming, fishing, and wildlife habitat. Now is the time to give the lake our support. As many of you know, time is running out for Congress to pass the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act, an important bill that protects, and restores the Great Lakes. Please urge Senators George Voinovich, and Sherrod Brown to continue their support for the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act of 2010.

In addition, funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative may come under attack this fall; our members of Congress must hear from the Lake Erie community about the importance of protecting funds for 2011. Final funding decisions are being made now, so urge our Senators and Representatives to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2011 at \$475 million.

What You Can Do: With your help Lake Erie can be protected. Drop a line to our Senators, and urge them to continue their support for protections, and funding for Lake Erie.

You may contact Senator Voinovich and Senator Brown through the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121

12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Count for the Birds in America's Great Backyard, Feb 18-21, 2011

- 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 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.birdcount.org>.

Maine Puffins

Dayton Audubon Society is going to Maine to get the Puffins!! In June, 2011 we will take a field trip to target southern Maine specialties such as Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows and Roseate Terns, as well as northern Maine boreal species, including Spruce (and Ruffed) Grouse, Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays, and Black-backed Woodpeckers, plus boreal warblers such as Cape May, Bay-

breasted, and Tennessee. We will also be seeking the highly coveted Bicknell's Thrush in western Maine. Our trip will include Machias Seal Island, which hosts the largest puffin colony on the Maine coast. Other species we will be looking for there are Razorbills, Common Murres, and Arctic Terns. Common Terns, Black Guillemots and Common Eiders are also present during the summer months. Trip details have not been finalized, but keep the end of June open; more information will be posted as soon as all the details are confirmed.

Dively Scholarship

Since 1982, DAS has offered tuition assistance to college students through the Dively Scholarship Program, originally endowed in memory of DAS member Dick Dively. Applications for the Dick Dively Scholarship for the 2011 - 2012 school year will be accepted between January 1 and March 15, 2011.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, applicants must submit hard copies of the completed application form, their most recent high school or college transcript, and two letters of recommendation. Applications received after March 15, 2011 will not be considered. Application forms may be [downloaded here](#).

To be eligible for the Dively Scholarship, applicants must

- Reside or attend college in the area served by the Dayton Audubon Society
 - Major in a field that will further the cause of environmentalism and conservation
-

DAS still has reloadable Kroger Gift Cards to use when shopping. This costs nothing but a few seconds of your time, and all proceeds go directly to our (your!) environmental education and scholarship projects.

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