



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.audubon.cjb.net

JULY 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sat. July 9, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.
- **Tues. July 19, 6:30PM.** GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. July 23, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.
- **Sat. Aug. 13, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House.
- **Tues. Aug. 16, 6:30PM.** GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sun. Aug. 21, 4:00PM.** Annual GMAS Picnic (see article elsewhere in this issue).
- **Sat. Aug. 27, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see July 23 for address).
- **Sat. Sep. 10, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum (see July 9 for address).
- **Sep. 15 - Nov. 15.** Third annual Fall Hiking Spree. See enclosed registration form.
- **Tues. Sep. 20, 6:30PM.** GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Sep. 24, 9AM-11AM.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see July 23 for address).

Continues inside

GMAS ANNUAL PICNIC

GMAS is having its annual picnic on Sunday, August 21 at Malabar Farm. We will picnic at the tables around the Big House and then, after we eat, we'll take a bird walk and enjoy Malabar's bird life. We start at 4 PM. Water, iced tea, lemonade and fried chicken will be provided. Each family should bring their own table service and a dish to share. We especially want to invite our new members and our supporters. Come and get acquainted with people who love nature!!! Don't forget your hiking boots and binoculars.

WONDERFUL, WITTY, AND WACKY BLUE JAYS

Mary Kowalchik, retired naturalist, will be presenting a program at GMAS' meeting September 27 at 6:30 p.m. She will be speaking on "The Wonderful, Witty, and Wacky Blue Jays." The meeting and program will be at Gorman Nature Center in Mansfield. The public is invited. Please come and find out some of the less known habits of these incredible birds. Mary has a wealth of stories and experiences with blue jays. Join us for this informative and entertaining program.

THIRD ANNUAL FALL HIKING SPREE

We invite you to participate in the third annual Fall Hiking Spree from September 15 through November 15. The program was developed to encourage hiking for enjoyment in a three county area: Wayne, Ashland and Richland. The hikes are selected from existing county and city natural areas, and each year the trails are rotated from the previous year. Our three-county area has beautiful natural areas, and hiking is a slow and healthy way to enjoy this beauty. A reward for completing a minimum of six hikes is a sturdy hiking stick and an annual GMAS Fall Hiking Spree shield which can be mounted on the stick (available for purchase).

Enclosed in this newsletter is a registration form and information about the 2005 Fall Hiking Spree.

— Bill Fleming

FIELD TRIP TO MAGEE MARSH

On Saturday, May 7, GMAS birders drove up to Magee Marsh for a wonderful day of birding on the boardwalk. Having come a long way, the migrants need places like Magee Marsh, in order to refuel for the rest of their journey. This need makes Magee Marsh a good place to view numerous migrants, as well as shorebirds and marsh birds. Along the way, we spotted a Bald Eagle nest. One adult sat near the nest, and a head could be seen in the nest. That was good news. We saw numerous warblers: Blue-winged, Bay-breasted, Prothonotary, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-and-White, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, and Nashville. We saw Blue-headed, Warbling, and Yellow-throated Vireos and three thrush species: Veery, Wood Thrush, and Swainson's. Other selected species were American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Green Heron, Sora, American Coot, Snowy Egret, Whip-poor-will, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager.

— Louise Fleming

ORNITHOLOGY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP, HOG ISLAND, MAINE - JUNE 2006

Beginning 2006, an ornithology scholarship will be available to an Ohio educator. The camp will provide field experience on birds and diverse habitats that teachers may incorporate into their own classrooms while still achieving Ohio's academic standards. The scholarship is for the one week ornithology camp, June 2006, at the Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine. Application deadline is October 1st, 2005.

The camp experience includes field experience watching birds in diverse habitats with opportunities to learn about breeding biology, migration, bird song, research, and conservation. Campers take bird walks around spruce-covered Hog Island and field trips off-island to seabird colonies, freshwater and saltwater marshes, coastal beaches, upland barrens, and deciduous forests. All are linked to presentations and discussions, giving participants a richer understanding and appreciation of birds. Leaders include nationally known ornithologists Kenn Kaufman, Greg Budney, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, and Bonnie Bochan. This session offers richly rewarding experiences for both novice and advanced birders. Campers also learn "how-to" techniques for leading bird walks, feeding birds, and gardening to attract birds. The overall experience is a great resource to enhance student science, reading and computational skills.

This first annual statewide ornithology scholarship is sponsored by the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC). For an application and more information contact: Delle Nadler, President, COAC, P.O. Box 87, Bath, Ohio 44210; dee96921@yahoo.com; 330.869.0380.

THREE YEARS OF BEGINNER'S BIRD WALKS

In May 2005, GMAS celebrated three years of leading monthly Beginner's Bird Walks at Byers Woods in Ashland County. But maybe we should change the name to "Nature Walks". And we could probably take the word "Beginner's" off too, as we are usually joined by some very experienced birders. Though birds have been the main focus, we stop to admire all types of nature, including plants and butterflies. Thanks to Tim Leslie and the rest of his bird walk committee for sharing their time, expertise, and love of nature with others.

The GMAS leads bird walks at Byers Woods in Ashland on the fourth Saturday of every month, Malabar Farm in Lucas on the second Saturday of even months, and Secrest Arboretum in Wooster on the second Saturday of odd months. The GMAS Beginners' Bird Walks are free and open to the public. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to attend. All walks are from 9AM- 11AM.

Byers Woods is located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on County Road 1754—meet in the parking lot. Secrest Arboretum is located at 1680 Madison Avenue in Wooster—meet at the Visitor Pavilion. Malabar Farm is located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas—meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House.

For more information, contact Tim Leslie at (419)289-2626.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**(Cont.)**

- **Tues. Sep. 27,** 6:30PM-8:30PM GMAS meeting: "The Wonderful, Witty, and Wacky Blue Jays" Gorman Nature Center. The public is invited (See article).
- **Sat. Oct. 8,** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm (see Aug. 13 for address).
- **Tues. Oct. 18,** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Oct. 22,** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see July 23 for address).
- **Sat. Nov. 12,** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum (see July 9 for address).
- **Tues. Nov. 15,** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Nov. 26.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see July 23 for address).

GMAS Co-SPONSORED FIELD TRIP TO THE KILLBUCK MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

Along with the Columbus Audubon Society and the Ohio Ornithological Society, the GMAS co-sponsored a field trip to the Killbuck Wildlife Area on Sunday, February 27, 2005. Led by Su Snyder, Bill Whan, and Jim McCormac, a group of 31 individuals in 8 vehicles braved the rough and often flooded roads of Ohio's largest in-land marsh, located in Amish Country in Wayne & Holmes County.

Our first stop of the trip was Prairie Lane, at the northeast corner of the marsh for ducks, geese, and swans. Our next stop was along Messner Road for close-up looks at Red-headed Woodpeckers. Deeper into the marsh, we stopped to look at more waterfowl, then traveled on to Force Road to see the Bald Eagle nest.

Around noon, we stopped to eat a leisurely lunch at the Pine Tree Barn, then car-caravanned into Holmes County to an Amish farm for great looks at two Barn Owls. We tallied 49 species, including 17 species of waterfowl for the day. We also renewed old friendships and made some new ones.

ACE BIRDERS ENJOY RECORD-BREAKING BIRD-A-THON

Four members of the Ace Birders broke last year's record 110 bird species on Sat. May 21 on the GMAS annual bird-a-thon. The team of Tim Leslie, Trent Leslie, Gary Cowell Jr., and Su Snyder racked up a total of 111 species, including 20 warbler species. A mega-rare Swainson's Warbler was heard, then seen, at the Hemlock Gorge Overlook trail head at Camp A on St. Rt. 3. Areas covered during the bird-a-thon were in all four of the counties served by the GMAS—Ashland, Richland, Holmes, and Wayne.

MOHICAN WILDLIFE WEEKEND -- IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS FIELD TRIP

Jim McCormac and Su Snyder led a group of 12 birders to four counties which included four Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas on Saturday, April 23rd. Our first stop was at the covered bridge at Mohican State Forest. Despite the rain and cold, we found a Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hairy Woodpecker, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Some of the species at our next spot,—Pleasant Hill Lake—included Common Loons, a Ring-necked Duck, Purple Martins, and Double-crested Cormorants.

We caravanned to Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area where we found a small flock of Greater Yellowlegs, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and a female Hooded Merganser in a duck box. Our next stop was at Brown's Bog. While walking on the boardwalk we only saw a few bird species, but did see some nice plants including Cranberry and carnivorous Pitcher Plants.

We drove to Shreve Lake and saw Red-breasted Mergansers and then on to a leisurely lunch at Der Dutch Essenhaus in Shreve.

After lunch, we drove through part of the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, where we added 2 Forster's Tern to our species list. We stopped at Time & Optics near Mt. Hope and shopped for optics and bird books before the owner, Robert Hershberger, took us to an Amish farm to see a Barn Owl with one young in its nest box.

Our last stop of the day was at Marlin Weaver's feeding station, where White-crowned Sparrows, Northern Mockingbirds, and a dozen other species were eating the peanut butter he had put out for them.

The weather was cold and wet all day, but the company was great.

THE GMAS STORE

Birds of Ohio by Ohio's own Jim McCormac	\$ 20.00*
Autographed copy	
Bobolink by Linda McFarlin	20.00*
Limited edition color prints	
Engraved Bobolink Keepsake box	35.00*
Maple and rosewood. Includes 6 note cards	
Bobolink Note cards by Linda McFarlin	12.00*
Hand-colored in packet of 10	
Shade Grown Audubon coffee	9.00*
Rainforest – even medium roast	
GMAS Bobolink T-shirt	10.00*
Large & X-large	

*plus shipping

To make and inquiry or place an order, call Delle Nadler at 419.651.0764.

Note: All proceeds support GMAS programming and conservation initiatives.

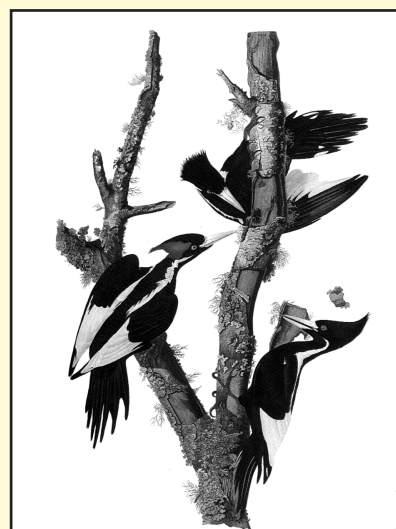
MISSION

Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife through environmental education and the conservation and restoration of habitat.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER REDISCOVERED

In case there's a birder or nature lover out there who hasn't yet heard the news — an announcement was made in April 2005 that a male Ivory-billed Woodpecker was found on an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area in eastern Arkansas. This wonderful find was confirmed by a team of ornithologists organized by Cornell's Lab of Ornithology and The Nature Conservancy. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker was thought to be globally extinct. The last accepted sighting of this species was in 1987 in Cuba and the last U.S. accepted sighting was in 1944 in Louisiana. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, North America's largest woodpecker, is 19 inches long and has a wingspan of 31 inches.

It depends on old growth forests of very large trees and once resided in Ohio. This confirmation of a bird "back from the dead" is very exciting to birders and other conservationists. To read more about this discovery, see www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/.



*Ivory-billed Woodpeckers
(John James Audubon)*

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships for National Audubon Society and/or local Greater Mohican Audubon Society are available through the Greater Mohican Audubon Society. The following rates are available to new subscribers:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Make check payable to
National Audubon Society**

- \$20 - 1 Year Introductory rate
- \$30 - 2 Year Introductory rate
- \$15 - 1 Year Student/Senior rate

CHAPTER
CODE
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GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Make check payable to
Greater Mohican Audubon Society**

- \$10 - Annual Fee
 - \$30 - Donation – get 1 year chapter-only membership and a GMAS T-Shirt.
- Size (circle one): M L XL

The National Audubon membership offers six Audubon Magazines, newsletters from GMAS, and a free National Audubon backpack.

The GMAS membership offers our local newsletter and events and helps us to fund our programs.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

I DO I DO NOT want to receive mailings from National Audubon Society.

MAIL TO: GMAS, PO Box 907, Ashland, OH 44805.

OFFICERS

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Lucia and Jay Weirath – Holmes County Representatives
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**Greater Mohican
Audubon Society**