



# Greater Mohican Audubon News

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www.audubon.cjb.net

NOVEMBER 2005

## GMAS CALENDAR

- **Tues. Nov. 8** 9:00AM. GMAS's Tim Leslie & Don Plant on WNCO Radio AM 1340, talking about Christmas Bird Counts and winter bird feeding.
- **Sat. Nov. 12** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.
- **Tues. Nov. 15** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Tue. Nov. 15** Last day of Fall Hiking Spree. See article for more information.
- **Sat. Nov. 26** 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. Dec. 10** 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.
- **Sat. Dec. 17** Ashland & Mansfield CBC. See article for more information.
- **Tues. Dec. 20** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Dec. 24** No bird walk today. Merry Christmas Eve!!
- **Sat. Dec. 24** Wooster CBC. See article for more information.
- **Sat. Dec. 31** Mohican & Millersburg CBC. See article for more information.
- **Sun. Jan. 1-Tues. Jan. 31** Ohio Winter Bird Atlas. For information on how to participate call 419-898-4070 or see [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org).
- **Sat. Jan. 14** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum (see Nov. 12 for address).
- **Sun. Jan. 15** GMAS Ace Hikers winter hike. See article for more information.

*Continues inside*

## GMAS BIG SIT – 2005

The Greater Mohican Audubon Society's Ace Birders participated in their first Big Sit. This was the 13th annual Big Sit for the international area, which was held on Sunday, October 9, 2005. The non-competitive birding event was hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. It was founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club and sponsored by Swarovski Optik and Eagle Optics.

Hundreds of teams from around the world participate in the Big Sit every year. The event is free, it is fun, and anyone can join. The Big Sit is like a bird-a-thon or a big day in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within a 24-hour period. But the unique thing about the Big Sit is that birding teams must count birds from within the same 17-foot diameter circle during the entire Big Sit.

The GMAS Ace Birder Team of Gary Cowell Jr., Tim Leslie, Su Snyder, Pam Jordan, Louise Fleming, & Cheryl Harner held their Big Sit at Malabar Farm, in front of the Bailey Farm Bicentennial Barn, just across Pleasant Valley Road from the Malabar Farm Inn, which is just west of St. Rt. 603. They were joined most of the day by Hugh & Judy Rose, who were visiting the area from Richfield.

From midnight to about 5:30AM, it rained and the first bird, a Killdeer, was not detected until 7AM. During the next 8 hours, 47 bird species were tallied including a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Palm Warbler. A Sharp-shinned Hawk flew over at 2:43PM for the last new bird of the day. Lots of people stopped by to visit and many more waived as they drove by. During the daylight hours, the weather was overcast and in the 50s — all and all an enjoyable outing.

– Tim Leslie



*Gary Cowell Jr. and Tim Leslie during the Big Sit on 10/9/05 at Malabar Farm.  
Photo by Cheryl Harner*

## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

There are five Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted in the Greater Mohican Audubon Society area. No matter what your birding skill level, please consider participating in a CBC. If you're interested in joining a CBC this year, please contact the count coordinators listed below:

- Ashland: Sat. 12/17/05 - Tim Leslie (419)289-2626
- Mansfield: Sat. 12/17/05 - Steve McKee (419)884-3764
- Wooster: Sat. 12/24/05 - Roger Troutman (419)884-3529
- Millersburg: Sat. 12/31/05 - Dennis Kline (330)567-3432
- Mohican: Sat. 12/31/05 - Roger Troutman (419)884-3529

**GMAS CALENDAR (Continued from front)**

- **Tues. Jan. 17** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Jan. 21** Birding trip with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society to the area around The Wilds. Meet at 10:30AM in parking lot at the entrance of The Wilds, 14000 International Road, Cumberland, Ohio. For more information, contact Su Snyder at (330)264-1966.
- **Sat. Jan. 28** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see Nov. 26 for address).
- **Sat. Feb. 4** GMAS Ace Hikers winter hike. See article for more information.
- **Sun. Feb. 5** Birding trip hosted by the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society to Lake Erie. Meet at 9:00AM at the parking lot at Miller Park beside the Avon Lake Power Plant on Rt. 6. For more information see: [http://www.wcasohio.org/avon\\_lake\\_power\\_plant.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/avon_lake_power_plant.htm)
- **Sat. Feb. 11** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm (see Dec. 10 for address).
- **Feb. 17-20** Great Backyard Bird Count (see article for more information).
- **Sat. Feb. 18** 10:00AM. Field trip to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Meet in the old K-Mart & Tractor Supply parking lot (behind Applebees in Ashland). For more information, call Dick Stoffer at (419)289-1062.
- **Sat. Feb. 18** GMAS Ace Hikers winter hike. See article for more information.
- **Tues. Feb. 21** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Feb. 25** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see Nov. 26 for address).
- **Sat. Mar. 11** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum (see Nov. 12 for address).
- **Tues. Mar. 21** 6:30PM. GMAS Board Meeting at the Ashland Public Library.
- **Sat. Mar. 25** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods (see Nov. 26 for address).
- **Sat. Mar 25** Shreve Migration Sensation. See article for more information.
- **Tues. Mar 28** 6:30PM. Program by Casey Tucker from Audubon Ohio on "Ecology of Birds in Human Habitats" at Gorman Nature Center. For more information, call Louise Fleming at (419)289-2657.

**FALL HIKING SPREE**

Hikers must send in completed hiking forms and money for shields and sticks by Nov. 30th to GMAS, P.O. Box 907, Ashland, Ohio 44805. Shields and sticks may be picked up at the following locations AFTER Dec. 15:

- Richland County - Gorman Nature Center  
2295 Lexington Ave., Mansfield (419)884-3764
- Ashland County - Ashland Soil & Water Conservation  
804 US 250 E, Ashland (419)281-7645
- Wayne County - Wooster City Parks Department  
241 S. Bever St., Wooster (330)263-5207

**WINTER HIKES**

Though not sponsored by the Greater Mohican Audubon Society, the GMAS Ace Hikers plan to participate in the following winter hikes. Call Tim Leslie at (419)289-2626 for more information about the Ace Hikers.

- January 15th, Winter Hike, Mohican State Park, 10:00AM. Call (419)994-5125 for information.
- February 4th, 25th Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike, Findley State Park, 10:00AM, 5-K or 10-K hike. Bean soup and cornbread provided. Call (440)647-5749 for information.
- February 18th, Hike for Health, Lucas, Ohio. Visitors to Malabar Farm State Park can get in shape by joining us for a Winter Hike for Health through the woods to see and enjoy the winter wonderland at Malabar Farm. The hike is co-sponsored by the Mansfield /Ontario/Richland County Health Department, and will be held Saturday, February 18, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hikers are encouraged to wear sturdy hiking boots, as the trail conditions may be snowy and icy. This event is for hikers of all ages wanting to view nature's splendor. The hike will begin and end at the Pugh Cabin and is free of charge. Hot bean soup, chili, corn bread, and hot/cold beverages will be available. The "Hike for Health" is one aspect of the Richland County Heart Healthy Coalition, a cardio-vascular health project working to reduce heart disease in Richland County. For more information call (419)774-4761.

**GMAS PICNIC**

Sunday, August 21st turned out to be a great day for a picnic at Malabar Farm. The sky was mostly sunny and the temperature was in the low 80s. Nineteen members shared a tasty meal, followed by a bird walk led by Tim Leslie and Gary Cowell. We found 37 species of birds including Cooper's Hawk, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. We also saw a few species of butterflies and dragonflies. Those staying around until later in the evening were treated to approximately 100 Little Brown Bats, 10 Big Brown Bats, and what Gary believes was probably a Hoary Bat. Hope you can join us next year.

– Su Snyder

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE**

Check out our web site at <[www.audubon.cjb.net](http://www.audubon.cjb.net)>. A great big thank you to our new web master, Cheryl Harner, who has spent many hours updating the GMAS web site.

## ANNUAL SUMMER BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Eight birdwatchers from the Ashland area drove the roads and walked the fields June 7th thru June 21st, and two watched their feeders. The ten observers spent a total of 77 hours in the field and watching their feeders. We use the Ashland Christmas Bird Count Circle for this count, which is 15 miles in diameter, with the center being the "S" curve on Ohio 511 south of Ashland.

Those participating included; Byron Burnett, Gary Cowell Jr., Louise Fleming, Cheryl Harner, Denny Hiner, Ruth Ann Hiner, Tim Leslie, Trent Leslie, Jim Midlam, and Su Snyder.

This was the 6th Summer Bird Count for Ashland; we use these records to watch the trends of the nesting birds in our area. We added four new species to our list of 119 species seen on this count over the six-year period. They were broad-winged hawk, marsh wren, Henslow's sparrow, and dickcissel. There were a total of 99 species reported this year, with a total of 6922 individual birds. Most species had an above average count this year, most likely because of the increased time in the field. The ones that were below average this year were double-crested cormorant, Canada goose, mallard, Cooper's hawk, wild turkey, bank swallow, and cedar waxwing. Also, we had no northern bobwhites reported this year.

If you are interested in participating in next summer's count, please contact me at (419)289-2626.

- Tim Leslie

### The following birds were seen at this year's summer bird count:

*double-crested cormorant, 4; great blue heron, 21; green heron, 7; turkey vulture, 99; Canada goose, 110; mute swan, 2; wood duck, 7; mallard, 25; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 7; broad-winged hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 17; American kestrel, 16; ring-necked pheasant, 1; wild turkey, 5; killdeer, 71; rock pigeon, 96; mourning dove, 220; yellow-billed cuckoo, 15; barred owl, 3; chimney swift, 66; ruby-throated hummingbird, 47; belted kingfisher, 11; red-headed woodpecker, 8; red-bellied woodpecker, 39; downy woodpecker, 29; hairy woodpecker, 12; northern flicker, 29; pileated woodpecker, 4; eastern wood-pewee, 34; acadian flycatcher, 19; willow flycatcher, 17; eastern phoebe, 11; great crested flycatcher, 10; eastern kingbird, 16; white-eyed vireo, 7, yellow-throated vireo, 8; warbling vireo, 20; red-eyed vireo, 69; blue jay, 70; American crow, 152; horned lark, 7; tree swallow, 61; northern rough-winged swallow, 15; bank swallow, 1; cliff swallow, 13; barn swallow, 196; Carolina chickadee, 25; black-capped chickadee, 14; tufted titmouse, 55; white-breasted nuthatch, 24; brown creeper, 1; Carolina wren, 21; house wren, 117; marsh wren, 3; blue-gray gnatcatcher, 17; eastern bluebird, 88; veery, 1; wood thrush, 21; American robin, 562; gray catbird, 91; northern mockingbird, 2; brown thrasher, 15; European starling, 834; cedar waxwing, 36; yellow warbler, 77; black-throated green warbler, 2; yellow-throated warbler, 5; cerulean warbler, 8; American redstart, 9; prothonotary warbler, 8; common yellowthroat, 67; hooded warbler, 7; yellow-breasted chat, 2; summer tanager, 1; scarlet tanager, 22; eastern towhee, 22; chipping sparrow, 161; field sparrow, 28; vesper sparrow, 2; savannah sparrow, 37; grasshopper sparrow, 4; Henslow's sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 284; swamp sparrow, 14; northern cardinal, 171; rose-breasted grosbeak, 12; indigo bunting, 87; dickcissel, 7; bobolink, 19; red-winged blackbird, 527; eastern meadowlark, 45; common grackle, 393; brown-headed cowbird, 66; orchard oriole, 4; Baltimore oriole, 35; house finch, 66; American goldfinch, 142; and house sparrow, 961.*

## SHREVE SPRING MIGRATION SENSATION

The ODNR Division of Wildlife, Friends of the Killbuck Marsh, Inc., and Shreve Business & Community Association present the sixth annual Shreve Spring Migration Sensation on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Registration will open at 7:00AM at Shreve Elementary School, 98 N. Market Street (St. Rt. 226), Shreve, Ohio, with FREE MAPS to the Help Stations (located in the marsh and at three other sites, all near Shreve) and free doughnuts and coffee in the cafeteria until 9:00AM.

Volunteers with spotting scopes will be stationed at each site from 8AM-noon. There will be a vendor hall and workshops. Scheduled speakers include:

- 8:30AM - 9:30AM      Richard Lehtinen      "Frogs"
- 9:30AM - 10:30AM    Tim Matson              "Salamanders"
- 10:30AM - 11:30AM    Dean Sheldon            "Bluebirds"
- 12:30PM - 1:30PM     Jim McCormac            "Woodpeckers"
- 1:30PM - 2:30PM      Tom Henry                "Barn Owls"
- 2:30PM - 3:30PM      Larry Rosche             "Dragonflies"

Throughout the day, the Shreve Library and Akron Zoo will have children's programs at Shreve Elementary School. Lynda Price of The Wilderness Center will have a program for children at The Wilderness Center's booth in the vendor hall. Find out about marsh animals and the habits that make them so amazing!

Ever wonder what lurks in the marsh's murky depths? Stop by the Help Station on Cemetery Road from 8:00 to noon, where Wilderness Center naturalist Carrie Elvey will help you dip-net for aquatic invertebrates and learn about the most numerous creatures in the marsh. Great for kids of all ages!

Cost is \$10 per person—\$15 per family. For more information, please call Jacki Chamberlain at the Wayne County Convention Bureau at 1-800-362-6474.      - Peggy Edwards

## 2005 NEST BOX REPORT

I currently maintain and monitor 45 boxes, of which 13 are on my property in Lucas in Richland County, 8 at the Pleasant Hill Lake Campgrounds, 23 on five different private landowners' properties, and one at Malabar Farm.

This was my best year to date for total birds fledged, Eastern Bluebirds fledged, Tree Swallows fledged, and House Wrens fledged. I also had Carolina Chickadees nest and fledge on my front porch and American Kestrels fledged in a Barn Owl box at Malabar Farm.

Species	Eggs	Nestlings	Fledged
Eastern Bluebird	72	65	60
Tree Swallow	78	62	62
House Wren	83	69	57
Carolina Chickadee	20	6	6
American Kestrel	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>190</b>

- Gary Cowell

## 9TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) calls on volunteers in the our area to help count the birds. During the weekend of February 17-20, people across the North American continent are urged to look at the birds in their backyards and report them over the Internet as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. This count allows people to celebrate their birds, and whether counters are novices or experts, their participation is vital in helping North America's birds.

This is the ninth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners. People are encouraged to enjoy the birds around them by going out into the "Great Backyard" during any or all of the count days and noting down of the highest numbers of each bird species they see.

Instructions for participating can be found at <[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)>. There's no fee and no registration is required. Those who would like to participate but who aren't online can try their local library, and many Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners who are online will be accepting observations made by their customers. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 20, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.

– Tim Leslie



*This hummingbird, Ohio's first record of Green violet-ear, visited a feeder at the Allen Miller residence in Holmes County. Photo taken on 8/16/05 by Gabe Hostetter.*

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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.

### MISSION

P.O. BOX 907 • ASHLAND, OH 44805

**Greater Mohican  
 Audubon Society**