



Audubon OHIO *E-News*

your bi-weekly news source for Audubon and Ohio conservation news

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1. D.C. Rally on March 20 to Fight Global Warming

Global warming and its devastating effects on birds and other wildlife have recently taken center stage as the biggest environmental threat of our lifetime. We must act now, before it is too late.

Be a part of the solution! [Join Audubon and its partners for Climate Crisis Action Day](#) on March 20th in Washington, DC, and tell your

representative that we must take action now.

Even small increases in average global temperatures can have devastating effects on people, wildlife, and the places we live—rising sea levels, loss of Arctic habitat, extinctions, increasingly intense hurricanes, drought and famine. Global warming is already having profound effects on birds and other wildlife. These effects include changes in geographic range, reproduction timing, earlier spring migrations and later fall migrations, and more frequent and intense pest outbreaks.

On Tuesday, March 20th, thousands of concerned citizens will gather at the U.S. Capitol to tell Congress to tackle global warming head-on, with responsible energy decisions and protections for vulnerable places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Visit our partners at ClimateCrisisAction.org to sign up for this historic event and to find out how you can ride together with other people from your area. Or, if you can't make it to DC, visit <http://audubonaction.org/ct/qp111111ia4J/globalwarming> to find out other ways you can help.

Come listen to US Representatives and Senators, celebrities, and leaders from faith organizations, labor groups, sporting and business organizations, and conservation groups. We'll even take you into the halls of Congress, where you'll have a chance meet with your elected officials.

Sign up now at ClimateCrisisAction.org for the March 20th Climate Crisis Action Day!

We hope to see you there—look for us at the Audubon table at the rally!

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2. Senator Voinovich Introduces Great Lakes Restoration Legislation

U.S. Senators Carl Levin (Mich.) and George Voinovich (Ohio), the co-

chairs of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, introduced a bipartisan Great Lakes restoration bill on March 8 that would help to reduce the threat of invasive species in the lakes, restore fish and wildlife, clean up contaminated sediments and coordinate water quality management in the Great Lakes basin.

Recognizing the need for a cohesive restoration plan in the Great Lakes, numerous groups – more than 1,500 people – joined forces in 2005 to form the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The collaboration worked to compile recommendations on how to best restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, and their recommendations were released in December 2005. The purpose of the Voinovich bill is to implement the recommendations made by the collaboration.

The Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act of 2007 notes that deterioration of the Great Lakes ecosystem is accelerating, and it lays out restoration plans for the Great Lakes basin. Some of the specific provisions of the bill include the following:

- The bill would reduce the threat of new invasive species by enacting comprehensive invasive species legislation and put ballast technology on board ships. It specifically targets Asian carp by authorizing the operation and maintenance of the dispersal barrier. It also stops NOBOBS – No Ballast on Board ships – from entering the lakes without flushing their tanks.
- The bill provides additional resources to states and cities for their water infrastructure that will help protect wildlife habitat.
- The bill would provide additional funding for contaminated sediment cleanup and would give the EPA additional tools under the Great Lakes Legacy Act to move projects along faster.
- The bill would create a new grant program to phase-out mercury in products and identify emerging contaminants.
- It would authorize additional research through existing federal programs as well as our non-federal research institutions, and it would authorize coordination of federal programs.

Audubon Ohio thanks Sen. Voinovich for his leadership on Great Lakes restoration.

3. Columbus Audubon Pledges \$100,000 to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

[This article was submitted by Julie Davis of Columbus Audubon]

When [Columbus Audubon](#) learned that an Audubon Nature Center would be built in Columbus, we knew our chapter would be closely involved in the project. Then as now, we look forward to creating a long-lasting partnership that will facilitate achieving the related missions of our organizations.

Over the past two years, board members and many other Columbus Audubon volunteers have actively supported the development of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, culminating in the recent decision to donate \$100,000 to the Center. This exciting news was announced to the membership at our February 20 annual meeting.

Nearly \$40,000 from the proceeds of the 2005 and 2006 Birdathons already have been donated to Audubon Ohio, earmarked for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The remaining \$60,000 will be donated by January 2012.

According to Grange Insurance Audubon Center director Heather Starck, no other chapter in the nation has made a commitment of this magnitude to an Audubon Nature Center.

For Columbus Audubon, the commitment goes well beyond this financial gift. Over the past 20 months, our volunteers have put in more than 600 hours on a number of new activities:

- **IBA:** We adopted the Scioto River – Greenlawn Important Bird Area, taking on the responsibility to formally monitor it under the international IBA program. As part of this, we co-sponsored an IBA training day with Audubon Ohio to teach volunteers how to collect data, and we recently developed an online database to track trends in bird species seen at the Whittier Peninsula over

time.

- **Urban Conservation Crew Program:** Columbus Audubon volunteers helped with bird walks and other program activities for the two summers this program has been held. We will continue to provide volunteer support in the future.
- **South Side Settlement After-School Program:** Six volunteers have done birding programs with kids at the South Side Settlement House.
- **Whittier Walks:** Columbus Audubon leads bird walks to the Whittier Peninsula on a Wednesday and Saturday morning each month. Thus far the walks have attracted about 100 people to the site of the future nature center, including college and local school students, Columbus Audubon members, local residents, and representatives of local businesses.
- **Field trips:** Other field trip leaders are leading walks in the Whittier area (including Green Lawn Cemetery), and this activity will increase as we near the projected late 2008 opening of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.
- **Administration and planning:** A Columbus Audubon committee meets regularly to conduct short- and long-term planning regarding our relationship to the Center.

We look forward to continuing our participation and invite you to join us. If you would like to volunteer for activities with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, please contact Columbus Audubon's volunteer coordinator Julie Davis at 614-523-2180 or vice_president@columbusaudubon.org .

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4. Greater Mohican Audubon Society to Purchase Wetland for Preservation

[This article was submitted by Louise Fleming of Greater Mohican

Audubon Society]

[Greater Mohican Audubon Society](#) has been approved for a Clean Ohio grant to purchase 109 acres of Class III wetland, bordering St. Rt. 250 and I-71 in Ashland. When the grant is received, GMAS will work with the North Central Ohio Land Trust to put a conservation easement on the property and deed it to the Ashland County Park District for management. President, Cheryl Harner states, "It does not matter who owns the property; what does matter is the conservation of wetlands. We are very proud of Sam Weyrick and Louise Fleming, who put an amazing amount of time and effort into the real estate transaction and grant application."

Jim Bissell, who is the Curator of Botany, Coordinator of Natural Areas, and Director of the Center for Conservation and Biodiversity for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, discovered on the property Native Sweet Flag, a state threatened plant species. He has pledged \$2000 from the museum toward the purchase of this property. Rick Gardener of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and Steve McKee, Director, Gorman Nature Center and Richland County Park District, have also hiked the property and find it to be a wonderful wetland.

Very few invasive species have a foothold in the wetland. GMAS and the Ashland County Park District, with consultation from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will nonetheless plan and implement invasive species eradication measures.

There is also a very large vernal pond with manna grass and water dock and several smaller vernal ponds which, we believe, support breeding populations of mole salamanders. Superior habitats of the quality of these wetlands are rare in Ohio. They play host to a variety of mammal, reptile, amphibian, and avian species. Certain species of migrating warblers and amphibians have been declining in population health over the past several years. It is critical to the future of these species to preserve habitats such as this.

GMAS is excited about this project also because of its educational value. It is located across the street from an elementary school. The

wetland will be immediately accessible to both the general public and to school classes. Plans are to use the area for nature programs and walks, water study, plant and animal surveys, and wetland education. Both Greater Mohican Audubon Society and Ashland County Park District look forward to increasing people's understanding of wetlands and their importance for flood storage, clean water, buffer zones for the Jerome Fork River, and plant and animal habitat.

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5. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Wins \$5,000 Gund Grant for IBA Work

The [Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society](#) has won a \$5,000 grant from the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland to support work related to the chapter's adoption of the Rocky River Important Bird Area. The funds will be used to cover part of the salary of a coordinator that the chapter has hired for the IBA. The coordinator is also supported by funding from Cleveland Metroparks.

The chapter is currently gearing up for the second year of its forest breeding bird survey in the Rocky River IBA. They plan to expand the number of points from 60 to 80 and add a vegetation survey component this year.

Audubon Ohio provided a supporting letter to WCAS when it applied for the Gund grant.

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6. Aullwood Announces **50th Anniversary** Lecture Series

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm near Dayton. Aullwood's *50th Anniversary Lecture Series* features three nationally recognized authors or actors – all with important environmental messages that reflect Marie Aull's conservation ethic. Books by the authors may be purchased at Aullwood's Nature Store and

the authors will sign their books after their programs. All lectures will be held at the Marie S. Aull Education Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, and tickets may be purchased individually or at a discounted series price. Kenn Kaufmann will provide two special additional programs – *Principles and Pitfalls of Bird Identification Workshop and Bird Watching and Brunch*.

For more information on the following programs, contact Aullwood at 937-890-7360

March 17 – *Music of the Birds* – Bill Thompson III and Julie Zickefoose – 7:30 p.m.

Music of the Birds is a presentation of digital bird and nature images set to live music performed by Bill Thompson, III and Julie Zickefoose. Bill plays the acoustic guitar and sings while Julie sings and plays pennywhistle and flute. This enjoyable, entertaining program will teach you absolutely nothing about bird identification, birding skills, bird feeding, or anything else. You will, however, gain a deeper understanding of the beauty of birds and music as seen through the eyes of these two longtime musician/naturalists. Bill is the editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, a popular bimonthly magazine devoted to birds and bird watching. He is the author of *Bird Watching for Dummies* as well as *Ohio Bird Watching – A Year-Round Guide*. He is a frequent guest lecturer across the country.

April 10 – *A Sense of Wonder: A Play Based on the Life and Works of Rachel Carson* – Kaiulani Lee, Actress – 7:30 p.m. Rachel Carson was a friend of Marie Aull and influenced Aull's beliefs and values. Carson was a writer, marine biologist and zoologist best known for her book *Silent Spring* that warned about the dangers of pesticide use and launched the modern environmental movement. Internationally acclaimed actress Lee performs her one-woman play about Carson's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. In it, she portrays the intensely private Carson as she is waging a personal battle with breast cancer and dealing with the public furor generated by the publication of *Silent Spring*. The centenary of Carson's birth will occur in 2007.

April 21 – *Birds and the Undiscovered World* – Kenn Kaufman – 7:30 p.m.

The series concludes with *Birds and the Undiscovered World* to celebrate Earth Day. The advances of modern science, and the reality of instant global communication, may lead us to assume that everything in our world is well known. But this is an illusion: in fact, the unknown is all around us, beginning right outside our doors. A close look at the world of birds and nature is enough to remind us that we are still surrounded by fascinating mysteries. Kenn 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.

Kaufman is a legend among birders and the youngest person to win their highest honor, the Ludlow Griscom Award. He is a field editor for *Audubon*, a columnist for numerous magazines and the author of *Lives of North American Birds*, the *Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, and *Kingbird Highway*. Marie Aull often read his articles in the *Audubon* magazine.

Workshops and Special Programs with Kenn Kaufman

April 21 – Principles and Pitfalls of Bird Identification Workshop:
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Most birders learn to identify birds by jumping in and learning field marks for a few species at a time. But there are some general principles that apply to identifying all birds, and often we don't learn these until much later in the process. There are also some common pitfalls that can trip us up occasionally, no matter how well we've memorized field marks. In this workshop, Kaufman will discuss and illustrate these principles and pitfalls in an indoor session, and then we'll go outside to try applying these ideas to some birds in the field. (Cost is \$30 for Friends of Aullwood Members and \$40 for Non-members)

April 22 – Bird Watching and Brunch with Kenn Kaufman:
7:30–11:00 p.m.

Join Kenn Kaufman for an early morning bird walk and gain tips on identification of warblers by sight and song. After wandering through 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. (Cost is \$30 for Friends

of Aullwood Members and \$40 for

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7. Audubon Offers Summer Training in Maine for Environmental Educators

[This article was submitted by Tom Schaefer, a member of the Audubon Ohio Education Committee]

Lively, rejuvenating, and collegial, this session is a celebration of learning with nature and honoring the teaching profession. The pace is relaxed, giving you plenty of time to interact with your peers in a beautiful natural setting. Boat cruises, tide pool exploration, forest hikes, discussions, and lots of ideas and material to take home help make this an outstanding week. Special guests and presentations include: Paul and Cathy Knoop, outstanding naturalist-educators from Audubon Ohio who will enlighten participants with "the art of teaching science". Mitch Thomashow, newly appointed president of Unity College in Maine and author of "Ecological Identity: Becoming a Reflective Environmentalist" and "Bringing the Biosphere Home: Learning to Perceive Global Environmental Change" will engage us in a special workshop. Steve Kress, director of Audubon's Project Puffin, will present an informative slideshow on seabird restoration worldwide. And Judy Braus, vice president of education and centers for the National Audubon Society, will provide a perspective on integrating environmental education throughout the curriculum. This session will offer you inspiration and motivation for years to come.

Date: July 15-21

Price: \$1,150

For more information, visit the Maine Audubon Society website:

http://www.maineaudubon.org/explore/camp/hi_adult07092007.shtml

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8. Ed Moxley is the Ohio Volunteer Conservationist of the Year

[This article was submitted by Sheryl Young of the Firelands Audubon Society]

Ed Moxley of Vickery was named Ducks Unlimited's Ohio Volunteer Conservationist of the Year.

For 35 years, Mr. Moxley has been the owner of 224 acres we birders refer to as Medusa Marsh. In 1998 he put an easement on his marsh through a federal wetland reserve program ensuring that the marsh will remain protected.

Mr. Moxley is quoted as saying, "It will be there long after I'm gone, and that gives me a great deal of satisfaction. I love waterfowl. They've given me a lot of satisfaction over the years. I want to enable future generations to be able to enjoy what I've been able to enjoy."

On behalf of Ohio's birds and birders, thank you Mr. Moxley.

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