



# Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Spring 2014 Vol 33, No 1

## Gorman Nature Center Calendar of Events - Spring 2014

Sat	Mar 1	8:30 am	<b>Breakfast w/ the Birds</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Tue	Mar 4	7:30 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (SM & JL)
Sat	Mar 8	10:00 am	<b>The Silent Bark</b> - a tree identification hike at GNC focusing on different tree barks. (SM)
Wed	Mar 12	All Day	<b>Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference</b> - <a href="http://www.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/DiversityRegistration">www.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/DiversityRegistration</a>
Sat	Mar 15	8:00 am	<b>Birds &amp; Breakfast Bird Walk</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Mar 15	1:00 pm	<b>Invasive Species Removal Work Day (Woody Plants)</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Wed	Mar 19	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (JL)
Sat	Mar 29	All Day	<b>Shreve Migration Sensation</b> - for details see <a href="http://www.happypages.com/migration">www.happypages.com/migration</a>
Thu	Apr 3	8:00 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (SM & JL)
F-S	Apr 4-6		<b>Birding Optics and Gear Expo!</b> For details see: <a href="http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/expo">www.birdwatchersdigest.com/expo</a>
Sat	Apr 5	2:00 pm	<b>Magical Mosses</b> - an introduction to mosses and a walk outside to find them. (JL)
Sat	Apr 12	9-12 pm	<b>Moss Workshop for Teachers</b> - a GREET workshop - \$12 - call GNC (419) 884-3764 for details and to register. (JL)
Sat	Apr 12	1-4 pm	<b>Lichen Workshop for Teachers</b> - a GREET workshop - \$12 - call GNC (419) 884-3764 for details and to register. (JL)
Sun	Apr 13	2:00 pm	<b>Praying Mantids: Insects with an Attitude!</b> Call GNC for details! (JF)
Wed	Apr 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (JL)
Sat	Apr 19	7:30 am	<b>Birds &amp; Breakfast Bird Walk</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Apr 19	1:00 pm	<b>Invasive Species Removal Work Day (Garlic Mustard Pull)</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
F-S	Apr 25-27		<b>Mohican Wildlife Weekend</b> - a variety of nature hikes and programs throughout the "Mohican Area" all weekend - see page 3 or <a href="http://www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com">www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com</a>
Fri	May 2	9:00 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (SM)
Sat	May 3	10:00 am	<b>34th Annual Fowler Woods Wildflower Walk</b> - meet at Fowler Woods. (SM)
Mon	May 5	4-8 pm	<b>Wildflower Workshop for Teachers</b> - a GREET workshop - \$12 - call GNC (419) 884-3764 for details and to register. (SM)
Thu	May 8	1:30 pm	<b>Spring Nature Walk for Seniors</b> (JF, JL or SM)
Sat	May 10	11-3 pm	<b>GNC Rock &amp; Fossil Day!</b> - See page 3 for details!
M-T	May 12-13		<b>Flora Quest</b> - a botanical foray with expert guides on the Marblehead Peninsula. For details see: <a href="http://www.flora-quest.com">www.flora-quest.com</a>
Tue	May 13	7:30 pm	<b>The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds!</b> - a special presentation by author and artist, Julie Zickefoose. See page 3 for details.
Sat	May 17	7:00 am	<b>Birds &amp; Breakfast Bird Walk - Migration!</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	May 17	1:00 pm	<b>Invasive Species Removal Work Day (Woody Plants)</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Wed	May 21	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (JL)
Sat	May 24	7:00 am	<b>Birds &amp; Breakfast Bird Walk - Migration!</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)
Tue	June 3	9:30 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
F-S	June 6-7		<b>Time &amp; Optics 2nd Annual Optics Fling</b> - Call 330-674-0210 for details!
S-S	June 14-15		<b>1st Annual Ohio Fern &amp; Lycophyte Foray</b> - Call (419) 884-3764 for details! (JL)
Wed	June 18	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (JL)
Sat	June 21	7:00 am	<b>Birds &amp; Breakfast Bird Walk</b> - meet at GNC. (JL)

Green Newsletter

If you would prefer an email version of the newsletter to save paper and postage, please email us at [gormannaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:gormannaturecenter@gmail.com). Thanks.

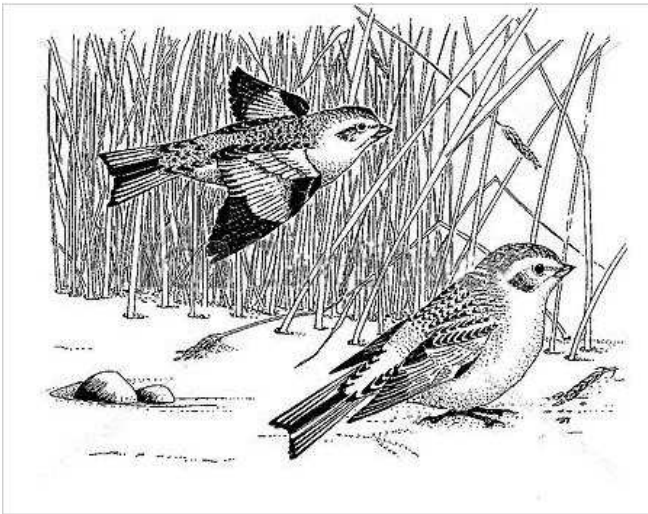
All programs free to the public. (JF=Jan Ferrell, JL=Jason Larson, SM=Steve McKee)

# 2013 Mansfield Christmas Bird Count

The winters in Ohio are unpredictable - which means that Christmas Bird Counts are equally unpredictable. 2012 saw an unusually warm winter, with a near record high number of species on the Mansfield CBC. The 2013 winter, though, was a "good old-fashioned winter" with plenty of snow and bitter cold. For our Mansfield CBC the lakes were frozen and the water birds were mostly gone. Even the gulls had flown south with only one Ring-billed Gull at Clearfork Reservoir and none in McDonald's parking lot!

As you may know, for the past 113 years, Americans have been counting birds in their communities around Christmas time. It is the world's largest scientific project, run mostly by "citizen scientists". Birders in Mansfield have been counting for 53 of those 113 years.

Highlights of the day included the first ever **Trumpeter Swan** for a Mansfield CBC discovered by **Albert Troyer** and his helpers. Local birder, **Gary Cowell**, reported that there is a small breeding population of these swans in the Blackfork River area that was released by the Division of Wildlife several years ago. When



Snow Buntings

things freeze up, the adults fly around and apparently one showed up on an open puddle in Clearfork Reservoir. **Merrill Tawse** found a **Gray Catbird** near his home, for just the fourth year ever. **Bald Eagles** continue to increase in the area with four birds found.

The cold, snowy weather brought in some **Lapland Longspurs**, which were found during count week and five **Snow Buntings** that were found by **Chris Laux**.

At the end of the day we had 64 species, which is pretty typical for years when the lakes are frozen. Our count average for the 1980's was 61.4, 1990's was 67.6, 2000's was 69.2, and for the 2010's so far the average is 72.8.

This was the **53rd** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count. December 14, 2013. 3:45 am to 5:30 pm and 7-7:30 pm. Temperature 27-36 F. Wind SE, 5-9 mph. 3-5 inches of snow on ground. Still water mostly frozen and moving water open. AM & PM cloudy with heavy snow. 26 observers in 11 field parties plus 31 observers at feeders. Total party hours: 63.5; 30.5 on foot, 33 by car, plus 69 hours spent at feeders and 9.5 hours owling. Total party miles: 376; 18 on foot, 358 by car, plus 77 miles owling. A total of 132 species have been seen over the 53 years. The highest species count was 83, found in 2011. The 2014 Mansfield CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 20.

A hearty thanks to all those who participated in the **53rd** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count: **Field Workers** – Hannah Beam (2), Gary Cowell (6), Irene Darrow (15), Mick & Judy FitzSimmons (28), Nancy Foltz \*, Peter Gottschling (2), Howard Gratz (29), Jason Hull (2), April Jackson (8), Jason Larson \*, Chris Laux (24), Ed Lux (4), Steve McKee (37)(compiler), Dave Metzger (2), Dave Mills (12), Wayne Schlabach (2), Heidi Sieving \*, Merrill Tawse (34), Albert Troyer (9), Andy Troyer (5), Levi Troyer (4), Kerry VanKeuren (9), Anna Wittmer (2), Earl Yoder \*, Marty Yoder \*

-Continued on page 4

## GNC Rock & Fossil Day!

Saturday, May 10, 11 am - 3 pm

Spend the day here at GNC learning all about fossils, minerals, rocks and geology! Who knows what kind of amazing things you might see! Bring your rocks and fossils for identification! Visit all of the displays and tables filled with geological wonders! There might even be a few things to purchase! Join Tom Kottyan at 12:00 for a special, surprise presentation, too! This event is sponsored by the Richland County Park District and the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society.

## The Bluebird Effect!

Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 pm

Join us for a very special evening in May, as we welcome award-winning artist and author, Julie Zickefoose, to Gorman Nature Center. Julie's program will focus on her most recent publication, *"The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds."* Julie will be available, before and after her presentation, to speak with the public, sign books, etc. Many of Julie's publications, prints and original artwork will be available for sale. Doors open at 6:30 for the event. Come visit Julie and all of the organizations helping to make her visit possible including the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Greater Mohican Audubon Society and the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association.

## Invasive Species Removal Days

Saturday, March 15, April 19 and May 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about the non-native, invasive plants in our area and how to combat them? A short informational session will be followed by some hands-on invasive species removal in GNC's prairies, woods and stream bottoms. We will focus our efforts on different types of invasive species on different work days, so come prepared for the unexpected! Extra handsaws and pruners will be needed. Each event will be followed by a special nature walk and a small cook-out! Your reward for a job well done! Call for details!



## Mohican Wildlife Weekend

A celebration of wildlife, habitat, heritage, and natural history.

April 25-27 2014

Mark your calendars

For the 13th Annual

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

[www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com](http://www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com)

### Seven program sites:

Gorman Nature Center, Mohican State Park & Resort,  
Mohican Outdoor School, Malabar Farm State Park,  
Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Cooke Wildlife Conservation Area,  
Pleasant Hill Lake Park

**Many programs listed on the website!**

*Gorman Nature Center sponsored events:*

### Saturday:

*First Aid*, 8 am, Boy Scout Troop 131

*How to Build a Fire*, 10 am, Boy Scout Troop 131

*Archery*, 10 am & 12:30 pm, Becky Young

*Cooking with a Dutch Oven*, 12 pm, Boy Scout Troop 131

*Hands-on Animals*, 2 pm, GNC volunteers

*Learning Orienteering*, 2 pm, Boy Scout Troop 131

### Sunday:

*Birding by Ear*, 8 am, Jason Larson

*I Don't have Eyes!*, 10 am, Jason Larson

*To Eat or Not to Eat? That is the Question!*, 12 pm,  
Steve McKee

*Nature Jeopardy*, 2 pm, Jason Larson



I am eager to help support natural history education in Richland County and to receive your quarterly newsletter. Please enroll me in "Friends of the Nature Center" at the following level for one year:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and send to:

**Friends of the Nature Center**  
**2295 Lexington Ave.**  
**Mansfield OH 44907-3027**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10.00 Flock (family)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25.00 Owl (supporting)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

Enclosed is my membership donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make checks payable to "Friends of the Nature Center")

**Mansfield CBC Bird Count Results**  
continued from pg 2

**Feeder Watchers** – Celia Anderson (5), Ken Arthur (5), Constance Au (28), Jeannie Auxter (20), Virginia Baker (34), Ann Brown (7), Amy Crutchfield \*, Georgeann Fistek (15), Pam Fleming (14), Larry Gatton (24), Bruce Gorrell \*, Alfreda Gross (36), Sue Hoffer (7), Dean Homerick (19), Barb Jones (2), Nancy Kennedy (26), Dee Lorentz (5), Pat McGinty (5), Susie Muth (8), Peg Parsons (8), John Precup \*, Ron Reed (31), Eva Smith (27), David Spain (8), Dick & Sandy Spayde (24), Janet Swartz \*, Jean Taddie \*, Evelyn Thomas (9), Roger Troutman (28), Jan Wisner (2).  
(# of years participating)  
\* = first-time participant

**Bird Count Results**  
Total: 64 species, about 21,647 individuals

Canada Goose 1976  
Mute Swan 3  
Trumpeter Swan 1\*  
Gadwall 4  
Am. Black Duck 1  
Mallard 60  
Hooded Merganser 1  
Ruddy Duck 1  
Wild Turkey 293  
Pied-Billed Grebe 1  
Great Blue Heron 15  
Bald Eagle 4  
Cooper's Hawk 13  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 30  
American Kestrel 3  
American Coot 76  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
Rock Pigeon 84  
Mourning Dove 193  
E. Screech Owl 12  
Barred Owl 2  
Northern Saw-whet Owl 1  
Belted Kingfisher 6  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 76

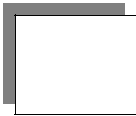
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 92  
Hairy Woodpecker 28  
Northern (Yel-sh) Flicker 8  
Pileated Woodpecker 9  
Blue Jay 241  
American Crow 15,000 (roost)  
Horned Lark 10  
Carolina Chickadee 26  
chickadee sp. 156  
Tufted Titmouse 185  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 10  
White-br. Nuthatch 128  
Brown Creeper 7  
Carolina Wren 45  
Winter Wren 1  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 64\*  
Eastern Bluebird 82  
American Robin 83  
Gray Catbird 1  
European Starling 369  
Cedar Waxwing 36  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 12\*  
Eastern Towhee 2  
Amer. Tree Sparrow 151  
Fox Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 77  
Swamp Sparrow 4

White-throated Sparrow 38  
White-crowned Sparrow 1  
Dark-eyed Junco 524  
Lapland Longspur cw  
Snow Bunting 5  
Northern Cardinal 368  
Red-winged Blackbird 3  
Rusty Blackbird 1  
Common Grackle 1  
Brown-headed Cowbird 5  
House Finch 128  
American Goldfinch 243  
House Sparrow 641

**\* new record high  
"cw" seen count week**



Trumpeter Swan



A red X in the box at the right means that it is time to renew your "Friends of the Nature Center" membership. Thanks for your support!

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