



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Spring 2015 Vol 34, No 1

Gorman Nature Center Calendar of Events - Spring 2015

Wed	Mar 4	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Mar 7	10:00 am	Preparing for Spring Wildflowers - a workshop for all wild plant enthusiasts on how to identify spring wildflowers using <i>Newcomb's Wildflower Guide</i> . (SM)
Sat	Mar 14	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC.
Wed	Mar 18	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Mar 21	All Day	Shreve Migration Sensation - for details see www.happypages.com/migration
Mon	Mar 23	8:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Sat	Mar 28	10-4	1st Annual Richland County Park District Bluebird Festival - Call 419-884-3764 for details!
Wed	Apr 1	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Apr 11	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Onithologist - See page 3 for details! (JL)
Wed	Apr 15	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Apr 18	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Apr 18	1-5 pm	Invasive Species Removal Workshop (Woody Shrubs) - meet at GNC. (JL)
Wed	Apr 22	8:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
F-S	Apr 24-26		Mohican Wildlife Weekend - a variety of nature hikes and programs throughout the "Mohican Area" all weekend - see page 3 or www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com
Sat	May 2	10:00 am	Frogs & Fairytales! Bring the little ones to learn all about frogs, make a cool craft and dress up like a prince or princess! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (AK)
Sat	May 2	7:00 pm	Frog Hunt! Learn to identify frogs by call and appearance. Fun for the whole family! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (AK)
Wed	May 6	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	May 9	11-3 pm	GNC Rock & Fossil Day! - See page 3 for details!
S-S	May 16-17		Magee Marsh Lake Erie Bird Watching Weekend! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (JL)
Sun	May 17	2:00 pm	Wildflower Walk - meet at GNC to car pool (SM)
Wed	May 20	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Thu	May 21	1:30 pm	Spring Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, JF, JL or SM)
Sat	May 23	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - Migration! - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	May 23	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Botanist - See page 3 for details! (JL)
Sat	May 23	9:00 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
S-S	May 30-31	All Day	1st Annual Richland County Park District Pollinator Festival - See page 3 for details!
Wed	June 3	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
F-S	June 5-6		Time & Optics 3rd Annual Optics Fling - Call 330-674-0210 for details!
Wed	June 17	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	June 20	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	June 20	1-5 pm	Invasive Species Removal Workshop - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	June 20	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Sat	June 27	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Herpetologist - See page 3 for details! (AK)



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

Green Newsletter

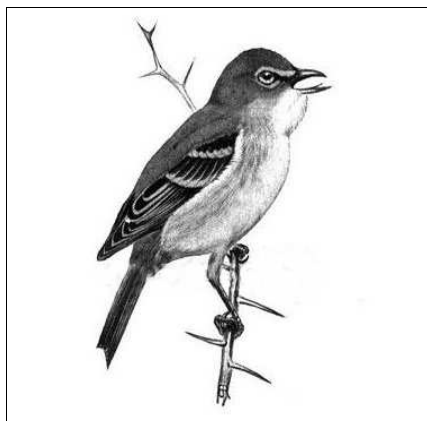
If you would prefer an email version of the newsletter to save paper and postage, please email us at gormannaturecenter@gmail.com. Thanks.

2014 Mansfield Christmas Bird Count

This year's Christmas Bird Count was blessed with good weather for counting- mild temperatures, still wind, and overcast skies- resulting in a near record count.

As you may know, for the past 115 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 54 of those 115 years.

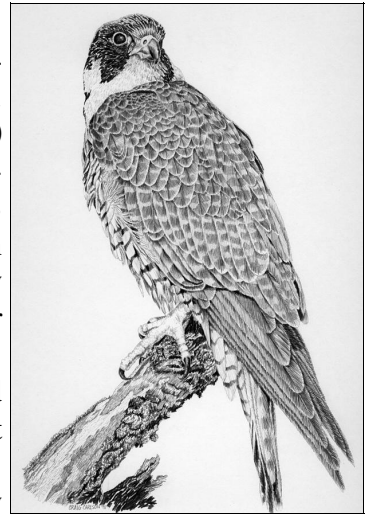
There were several highlights during the day, including the "bird du jour" which was a **White-eyed Vireo** found by **Gary Cowell** near the Home Road marsh along the Richland B&O Trail. White-eyed Vireos are a fairly common summer bird found in the dense brush along the edge of woods or in thickets. They can be noisy but secretive, but since they are insect eaters, they are rarely in Ohio during the winter. This is the first record for the Mansfield CBC. **John Herman** and **Anna Wittmer** found a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** at Clearfork Reservoir during "count week" a few days before the count. **Albert Troyer** and his helpers found 17 species of waterbird plus 3 gull species. **Bald Eagles** continue to increase in the area with six birds found- a new record. **Bill Flanagan** found 7 **Red-headed Woodpeckers!** Other records included high numbers of **Eastern Bluebirds** (258) and **White-breasted Nuthatches** (258).



White-eyed Vireo
-first time on our CBC

At the end of the day we had **80 species**, which is tied for our third highest count ever. 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 74.2.

This was the **54th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count. December 20, 2014. 4:10 am to 6:45 pm. Temperature 27-30 F. Wind N, 0-3 mph. 0 inches of snow on ground. Still water mostly open, and moving water open. AM & PM cloudy. 28 observers in 12 field parties plus 23 observers at feeders. Total party hours: 78.5; 43.5 on foot, 35 by car, plus 62 hours spent at feeders and 8.5 hours owl-



Peregrine Falcon

ing. Total party miles: 488; 28 on foot, 460 by car, plus 51 miles owl-
A total of 133 species have been seen over the 54 years. The highest species count was 83, found in 2011. The 2015 Mansfield CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 19.

A hearty thanks to all those who participated in the **54th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count: **Field Workers**- Ken Arthur (6), Hannah Beam (3), Gary Cowell (7), Irene Darrow (16), Bill Flanagan (5), Cheryl Harner (7), John Herman (39), Phil Holloway (27), Sheila Holloway (7), April Jackson (9), Jason Larson (2), Chris Laux (25), Steve McKee (38)(compiler), Atlee Miller *, Edward Schlabach (7), Heidi Sieving (2), Merrill Tawse (35), Albert Troyer (10), Andy Troyer (6), Levi Troyer (5), Sarah Troyer (4), Kerry VanKeuren (10), Brad, Jean & Larry Von Blon *, Aden Yoder (3), Daniel Yoder (3), Earl Yoder (2)

Feeder Watchers- Constance Au (29), Jeannie Auxter (21), Virginia Baker (35), Ann Brown (8), Amy Crutchfield (2), Georgeann Fistek (16), Larry Gatton (25), Bruce Gorrell (2), Sue Hoffer (8), Dean Homerick (20), Nancy Kennedy (27), Dee Lorentz (6), Pat McGinty (6), Susie Muth (9), Ron Reed (32), Eva Smith (28), David Spain (9), Dick & Sandy Spayde (25), Janet Swartz (2), Evelyn Thomas (10), Roger Troutman (29), Jan Wisner (3) (# of years participating)
* = first-time participant

GNC Rock & Fossil Day!

Saturday, May 9, 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 presentation about trilobites, too! This event is sponsored by the Richland County Park District and the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society.

Richland County Park District Pollinator Festival

Saturday, May 30 & Sunday, May 31, 10 am - 5 pm
Nothing Program, Saturday, May 30, 9:30 pm - 12:00 am

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, please join us for our 1st Annual RCPD Pollinator Festival! Come learn all about the importance of our native pollinators including, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, bees and wasps. There will be a wide variety of hikes and programs on identification, native plants to attract pollinators and more. Native plants will be available for purchase. Call 419-884-3764 for additional details!

GNC Junior Naturalist Series

Saturday, April 11, May 23, June 27 & July 18, 1-4 pm

This series of programs will cover topics that will help young naturalists begin their journey towards a greater understanding of our natural world. Programs will begin with an indoor informational session and conclude with a hike or activity to enforce and practice what they have learned. Topics covered will include birds, plants, reptiles/amphibians and arthropods. Registration is required and cost of the series is \$20 (field guides and materials). This will cover the cost of our required field guide which participants will get to take home. Participants may attend as many or as few sessions as they are interested in, but the registration fee will cover all 4 programs. Ages 12-18. Call 419-884-3764 for additional details and to register.



Mohican Wildlife Weekend

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

April 24-26 2015

Mark your calendars

For the 14th Annual

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com

Seven program sites:

Gorman Nature Center, Mohican State Park & Resort,
Mohican Outdoor School, Malabar Farm State Park,
Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Byers Woods, Pleasant Hill Lake Park

Many programs listed on the website!

Gorman Nature Center sponsored events:

Saturday:

Birds Freak Me Out!, 8 am, Jason Larson
Prickles, Thistles, Poisons & Thorns!, 10 am, Jason Larson
Web Sights!, 12 pm, Jan Ferrell
Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, GNC Staff & Volunteers

Sunday:

What In The World Is Under That Log?, 8 am, Jason Larson
Story Time With Creepy Critters!, 10 am, Amanda Kriner
Virtual Scavenger Hunt!, 12 pm, Jason Larson
Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, GNC Staff & Volunteers

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) _____

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

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)

-continued from pg 2
Bird Count Results
 Total: 80 species, about
 25,042 individuals

Canada Goose 2075
 Mute Swan 3
 Wood Duck 2
 Gadwall 36
 Am. Black Duck 41
 Mallard 426
 Northern Pintail 1
 Am Green-winged Teal 1
 Canvasback 1
 Redhead 4
 Ring-necked Duck 21
 Lesser Scaup 10
 Bufflehead 13
 Common Goldeneye 3
 Hooded Merganser 17
 Common Merganser 3
 Red-breasted Merganser 1
 Ruddy Duck 25
 Wild Turkey 131
 Pied-Billed Grebe 1
 Great Blue Heron 11

Bald Eagle 6*
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
 Cooper's Hawk 3
 Red-shouldered Hawk 6
 Red-tailed Hawk 40
 American Kestrel 3
 Peregrine Falcon cw
 American Coot 521
 Killdeer 3
 Bonaparte's Gull 18
 Ring-billed Gull 1502
 Herring Gull 22
 Lesser Black-backed Gull cw
 Rock Pigeon 220
 Mourning Dove 187
 E. Screech Owl 18
 Great Horned Owl 2
 Barred Owl 2
 Northern Saw-whet Owl 1
 Belted Kingfisher 15
 Red-headed Woodpecker 7
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 108
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3
 Downy Woodpecker 140
 Hairy Woodpecker 34
 Northern Flicker 12
 Pileated Woodpecker 19

White-eyed Vireo 1*
 Blue Jay 337
 American Crow 15,000
 (roost)
 Horned Lark 15
 Carolina Chickadee 72
 Black-capped Chickadee 1
 chickadee sp. 242
 Tufted Titmouse 266
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 16
 White-br. Nuthatch 258*
 Brown Creeper 15
 Carolina Wren 23
 Winter Wren 1
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 23
 Eastern Bluebird 258*
 American Robin 9
 Northern Mockingbird 2
 European Starling 562
 American Pipit cw
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
 Eastern Towhee 2
 Amer. Tree Sparrow 181
 Field Sparrow 1
 Fox Sparrow 3
 Song Sparrow 80
 Swamp Sparrow 7

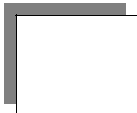
White-throated Sparrow 10
 Dark-eyed Junco 527
 Northern Cardinal 376
 Common Grackle 15
 Brown-headed Cowbird 5
 Purple Finch 4
 House Finch 125
 Pine Siskin 26
 American Goldfinch 227
 House Sparrow 631

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



Red-headed Woodpecker

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!



Published quarterly by
 Friends of the
 Gorman Nature Center
 Park Commissioners
 Eric S. Miller
 Cynde DeWese
 Marion Zaug
 Nature Center Staff
 (full or part-time)
 Jason Larson
 Amanda Kriner
 Jan Ferrell
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2295 Lexington Ave
 Mansfield OH 44907-3027
 419-884-3764
 gormannaturecenter.org
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