



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Spring 2011 Vol 30, No 1

Gorman Nature Center Calendar of Events - Spring 2011

Wed	Mar 9	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (for parents and their pre-school children, sessions 9-10 and 10-11 am) (MT)
Sun	Mar 13	3:00 pm	Mohican Native Plant Society annual potluck dinner & program, call for details - all welcome
Wed	Mar 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Sat	Mar 19	9:00 am	"The Skunk Patrol" - patrolling in Mohican for skunk cabbage and other signs of spring. Meet at GNC (SM)
Wed	Mar 23	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Fri	Mar 25		Ohio Botanical Symposium in Columbus- see www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/20259/Default.aspx
Sat	Mar 26	7-4:30	Shreve Spring Migration Sensation - programs on bird behavior, plants to attract birds & butterflies, outdoor photography, hummingbirds & more - see www.ShreveMigration.org
Wed	Mar 30	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Sun	Apr 3	2:00 pm	Vernal Pools: their uniqueness and importance - explore the Center's pools- see page 3 for details (MT)
Wed	Apr 6	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Thu	Apr 7	9:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC (SM)
Sun	Apr 10	2:00 pm	"The science of group living in honeybees: drones, dances, and decisions" - by college instructor, Katie Boes- see page 3 for details
Wed	Apr 13	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Thu	Apr 14	1:30 pm	Spring Nature Walk for Seniors at GNC (SM or JF)
Wed	Apr 20	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Sat	Apr 23	10:00 am	31st Annual Fowler Woods Wildflower Walk - meet there (SM)
Wed	Apr 27	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
F-S	Apr 29-May 1		Mohican Wildlife Weekend - many hikes and programs in the "Mohican Area" throughout the weekend- see page 3, or web site
F-S	Apr 29-May 1		"Flora-Quest" - botanical diversity in Shawnee with experts- see www.flora-quest.com
Wed	May 4	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Fri	May 6	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC (SM)
Wed	May 11	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Sat	May 14	11:00 am	Aquatic Insects; those bugs that lurk in the water - explore for insects in GNC's ponds and streams- see page 3 for details (MT)
Wed	May 18	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Fri	May 20	7:00 pm	"After Dinner Walk at Mohican" - visit our backyard wilderness- meet at the Memorial Shrine (SM)
Wed	May 25	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (MT)
Sat	May 28		"Fossil Workshop for Teachers" -a GREET workshop and field trip to learn about and search for fossils in Richland County - \$10, call to register (SM)
Fri	Jun 3	6:30 am	Breeding Bird Survey - at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary - details at 884-3764 (SM)
Sat	Jun 11	8:00 pm	"Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?" - learn about the habits and habitats of the owls in Ohio. It'll be a hoot! (JF) (rescheduled from February's snowed-out date)



All programs free to the public. (JF=Jan Ferrell, MT=Merrill Tawse, SM=Steve McKee)

2010 Mansfield Christmas Bird Count

As each year's Christmas Bird Count approaches, we anticipate the conditions that we will be dealt. Will it be raining? Will snow help or hinder us? Will the cold be pleasant or bone chilling? And (the worst curse of all), will it be windy?

This year we had no problems with rain or wind, but the mid-December cold-spell froze all the standing water and locked most of the water-birds out tight. Many years we can count on 17 or more species of waterfowl and water-birds, but this year we found only four species. The meager collection included one lone Ring-billed Gull. Last year we counted 1225!

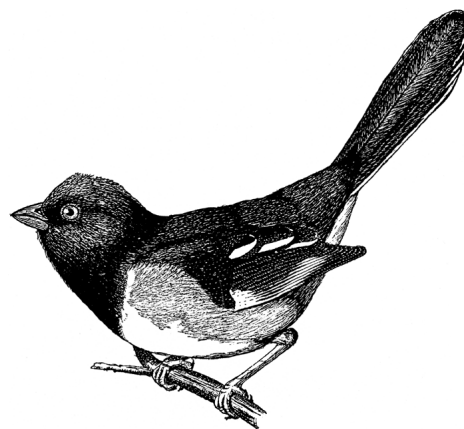
The day did hold some surprises and new records. **Howard Gratz**, who have been counting birds on the Mansfield count for 26 years, found three **Black Vultures** at the intersection of Possum Run Road and Trease Road at 10:15 am. You are probably familiar with the Turkey Vulture, which we often see in warmer weather circling over carrion.



Black Vulture
-first record for the Mansfield CBC

The Black Vulture is his southern cousin which is very rare in our county and has never been seen before on a CBC.

This year's count had a record number of **Eastern Towhees** with 13. There are many years that we hope to find even one. There were also records for the **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (42), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (124) and **Rusty Blackbird** (39). The Rusty Blackbird has been spotted on the Mansfield CBC only five other times.



Eastern Towhee

Speaking of records, **Mary Kowalchik** participated in her **40th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count! That has got to be a record of some kind. Mary has counted for 40 of the 50 Mansfield counts!

At the end of the day we had 62 species. Our count average for the 1980's was 61.4, 1990's was 67.6, and for the 2000's the average is 69.2.

This was the **50th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count. December 18, 2010. 4:30 am to 5:30 pm. Temperature 6-27 F. Wind SW, 5-10 mph. 3-4 inches of snow on ground. Still water frozen open, and moving water partly frozen. AM cloudy and PM partly cloudy. 17 observers in 10 field parties plus 28 observers at feeders. Total party hours: 72; 28 on foot, 44 by car, plus 69 hours spent at feeders and 4.5 hours owling. Total party miles: 619; 15 on foot, 604 by car, plus 43 miles owling. A total of 128 species have been seen over the 50 years. The highest species count was 80, found in 1999. The 2011 Mansfield CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 17.

A hearty thanks to all those who participated in the **50th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count: **Field Workers**- Irene Darrow (12), Mick & Judy FitzSimmons (25), Howard Gratz (26), Cheryl Harner (4), John Herman (36), April Jackson (5), Chris

Laux (21), Kay Locke (18), Steve McKee (34) (compiler), Bob Pamisari *, Edward Schlabach (4), Larry Smith (21), Merrill Tawse (31), Albert Troyer (6), Andy Troyer (3), Kerry VanKeuren (6).

Feeder Watchers- Celia Anderson (2), Constance Au (25), Jeannie Auxter (18), Virginia Baker (31), Ann Brown (4), Georgeann Fistek (12), Pam Fleming (11), Larry & Penny Foster (14), Larry Gatton (21), Alfreda Gross (33), Gunda Haring (24), Sue Hoffer (4), Dean Homerick (16), Nancy Kennedy (24), Mary Kowalchik (40), Dee Lorentz (2), Pat McGinty (2), Susie Muth (5), Ron Reed (29), Eva Smith (24), David Spain (5), Dick & Sandy Spayde (21), Roger Troutman (25), Sarah Troyer *, Jan Wisner *, Terry Wolf (12).

(# of years participating)
* = first-time participant

Bird Count Results

Total: 62 species, about 23,214 individuals

- Canada Goose 1067
- Am. Black Duck 6
- Mallard 81
- Ruddy Duck cw
- duck sp. 21
- Ring-necked Pheasant 2
- Wild Turkey 252
- Great Blue Heron 8
- Black Vulture 3*

-Continued on page 4

Vernal Pools: their uniqueness and importance

Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 pm

This program will focus on these disappearing aquatic habitats and how critical they are to the survival of several local animals. Following an inside introductory program on what the habitats are and who lives in them, participants will visit some of the Nature Center's vernal pools. With nets in hand we will capture animals or egg-masses from such as phantom midges, pill clams, fairy shrimps and mole salamanders, to name a few. Dress for the weather and "mud".

The science of group living in Honeybees: drones, dances, and decisions

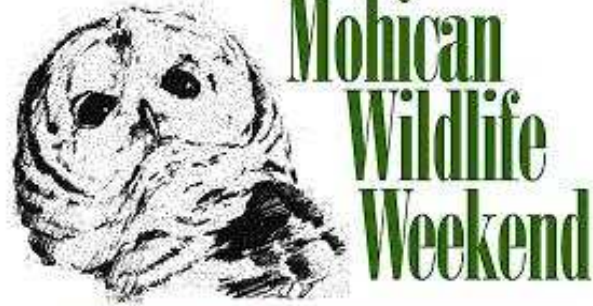
Sunday, April 10 at 2 pm
by Katie Boes, college instructor

Honeybees provide a fascinating glimpse into group living in animals. A single honeybee colony shows a remarkable ability to make adaptive decisions, and yet a colony is composed of tens of thousands of individual bees! In this talk we will explore some of the intriguing decisions that a honeybee colony faces, and we will learn how a colony solves these decisions through the coordinated actions of the individual bees inside the colony.

Aquatic Insects: those bugs that lurk in the water

Saturday, May 14 at 11:00 am

Insects are considered the most successful group of animals because of their tremendous variety and how widespread they are. We will explore those that have taken to our local waters. Participants will collect at several sites at the nature center to discover what lurks in the waters. Dress to be around the ponds & streams.



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

April 29-May 1, 2011

Mark your calendars

For the 10th Annual

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com

Six program sites:

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

Additional participants:

Mohican Fly Fishers, Mansfield City Schools Outdoor Education,
Ashland County Park District volunteers, Pheasants Forever,
Environmental Education Council of Ohio

Many programs listed on the website!

Gorman Nature Center sponsored events:

Friday:

Welcome Reception- 6-7pm

"The Search for the Ivory Bill Woodpecker"- 7-8pm, by

Keynote speaker: John A. Ruthven, wildlife artist

Saturday:

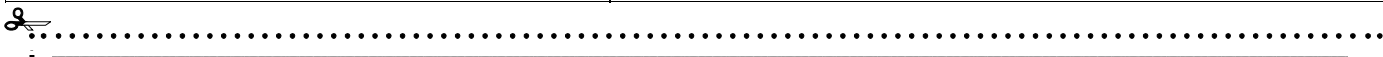
Nature Painting with Coffee - 10am, Judy Walton

"Audubon's River"- 12-2pm, DeVere Burt

Sunday:

Pokin' In the Pond- noon, Merrill Tawse

Hands on Animals- 2 pm, 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) _____

Please clip and send to:

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

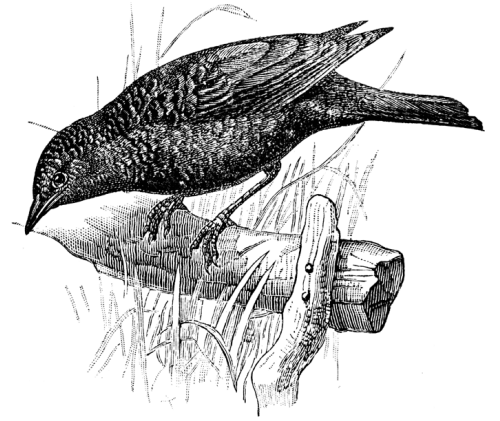
- ___ \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
- ___ 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
- ___ 10.00 Flock (family)
- ___ 25.00 Owl (supporting)
- ___ 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
- ___ 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

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

**Mansfield CBC continued from
pg 2**

Bald Eagle 2
 Cooper's Hawk 6
 Red-shouldered Hawk 3
 Red-tailed Hawk 52
 Rough-legged Hawk 3
 American Kestrel 6
 American Coot cw
 Ring-billed Gull 1
 Rock Pigeon 412
 Mourning Dove 332
 E. Screech Owl 16
 Great Horned Owl 3
 Barred Owl 1
 Belted Kingfisher 8
 Red-headed Woodpecker 1
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 124
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker cw
 Downy Woodpecker 122
 Hairy Woodpecker 24
 Northern (Yel-sh) Flicker 13
 Pileated Woodpecker 7
 Blue Jay 294
 American Crow 15,000 (roost)
 Horned Lark 110

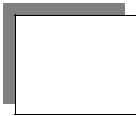
Carolina Chickadee 18
 Black-capped Chickadee 2
 chickadee sp. 226
 Tufted Titmouse 213
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 12
 White-br. Nuthatch 169
 Brown Creeper 6
 Carolina Wren 15
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 42
 Eastern Bluebird 94
 American Robin 82
 European Starling 1524
 Cedar Waxwing 2
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 8
 Eastern Towhee 13*
 Amer. Tree Sparrow 218
 Chipping Sparrow 1
 Field Sparrow 20
 Fox Sparrow 3
 Song Sparrow 89
 Swamp Sparrow 1
 White-throated Sparrow 44
 White-crowned Sparrow 21
 Dark-eyed Junco 599
 Northern Cardinal 368
 Red-winged Blackbird 4
 Rusty Blackbird 39*



Rusty Blackbird

Common Grackle 64
 Brown-headed Cowbird 72
 Purple Finch 1
 House Finch 196
 Pine Siskin 18
 American Goldfinch 399
 House Sparrow 651

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



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 DeWeese
 Marion Zaug
 Nature Center Staff
 (full or part-time)
 Steve McKee
 Merrill Tawse
 Jan Ferrell
 Skip Mataska
 Anthony Arata

Address Service Requested

2295 Lexington Ave
 Mansfield OH 44907
 419/884-3764
 gormannaturecenter.org



Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Mansfield OH
 Permit No. 121