



# Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

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## Columbus Audubon: Past, Present and Future

By Pete Precario

Our 90th Anniversary celebration is over and it's a new year. What better time for one last reflection on Columbus Audubon's past and think about the future.

I believe that I have a pretty good perspective regarding Columbus Audubon's place in the world, having served as president for two terms, once back in the late 1970s and again in the new millennium. I also have had a chance to visit and work with many other chapters in Ohio and various parts of the country. I can tell you from personal experience and without exaggeration that Columbus Audubon is one exceptional chapter and conservation organization.

Over the years, Columbus Audubon has worked very hard to keep its Board aware and involved in issues. We have never fallen into the trap of doing the same things over and over. We have always worked to find new people with fresh ideas who are willing to keep Columbus Audubon active and vital.

We have also worked hard over the years to find ways to attract new people and provide educational opportunities wherever possible. Our program and field trip schedules have been an outstanding part of our work. Columbus Audubon has always looked for new programs and speakers to keep our membership and the public aware of environmental and conservation issues. Our field trips have been developed and refined over the years to provide trips to well known birding hot spots as well as to new and different locations to attract more participants.

Needless to say, one of our greatest events was the fantastic gift of Calamus Swamp from Mrs. Ada May Burke. This beautiful 12,000 year old relic of the Ice Age has become the focus of a great deal of activity and planning on the part of the Board. Calamus Swamp has become our first Columbus Audubon Nature Preserve, and we are planning to make sure we can protect it well into the future. Very few Audubon Chapters anywhere have a preserve of this quality and this significance.

I fully expect that in the future Columbus Audubon will continue doing what it does best: being a highly effective conservation and education organization. We have survived for ninety years by recognizing the need to take action in the present to make sure that we preserve for the future. In every way that I can think of, Columbus Audubon is one of the premier chapters in the Audubon network. We have been successful not only because of the activities of our Board and our leaders but, most importantly, from the support given by our members. Each of you who has attended an Audubon activity or been part of an Audubon classroom, bought bird seed or made a contribution are all part of the reason for our success. I fully believe that we will continue on into the future as a leading organization in central Ohio. More than anything, I am looking forward to working on at least some portion of the next ninety years of Columbus Audubon history.

**Please join us for our annual winter potluck supper!**

**See page 6 for details.**

The *Song Sparrow* is published nine times each year by Columbus Audubon, a chapter of Audubon; Kristan Leedy, editor, [kleedy@larkspur-pro.com](mailto:kleedy@larkspur-pro.com).

# Another Year, Another Issue: Emerald Ash Borer

By Dave Horn

“If it isn’t one thing, it’s another” could be the entomologist’s motto. Central Ohio’s latest invasive insect is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB is a member of the Metallic Wood-boring Beetle family (*Buprestidae*), whose larvae (“flat-headed borers”) eat the cambium under a tree’s bark. Cambium is the living tissue that produces new channels for movement of water and nutrients within the tree. Destroy the cambium and you kill the tree. You can do that by girdling the trunk, and flat-headed borers can do it too, if there are enough of them.

The EAB is a small (1/2 inch long), slender, attractive native of the Orient, first detected near Detroit in 2002. (It might have arrived in the USA a few years earlier.) Despite aggressive efforts by state and federal authorities to limit its dispersal, the EAB has spread from Michigan into four northwestern Ohio counties. Of more concern is long-distance movement: last year EABs were found in Maryland and in Columbus (near Easton). This movement is probably by EABs being transported in nursery stock and/or firewood. Lesson #1: Do not move firewood from an infested to an uninfested area.

Like many invasive species, the EAB has few natural enemies in the U.S., so numbers skyrocket, and millions of ash trees in Michigan have already succumbed. All ash species are affected, and the worst-case scenario sees the elimination of ashes from the forests of North America, just like the loss of American elm and American chestnut in the last century. Entomologists have begun searching the Orient for suitable biological control agents that might be imported. There is also a possibility that native predators will add EABs to their diet as the beetles become more common and widespread. Woodpeckers love eating larvae of wood-boring insects and have been shown to be major mortality factors for some forest pests. Sometimes, but not always, an invasive pest species is brought under control by a complex of predators, parasites and host plant resistance.

Meanwhile, what can be done? The central Ohio infestation is very localized so far, and aggressive management may contain or even eliminate EAB from Franklin County. You can help by noting any suspected infestations. Look for ash trees with small D-shaped exit holes, dieback of upper branches, and/or new sprouts clustered around the base of the tree. When you’re out birding, note if woodpeckers seem to show an unusual interest in specific ash trees. Symptoms should be reported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 888-OHIO-EAB.

For more information, call the above number or visit:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/>

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/pubs/divs/plnt/curr/eab/PLNTEabindex2.stm>

*Dave Horn is Professor of Entomology at the Ohio State University. He is vice president of Columbus Audubon, chairman of our conservation committee, Avid Birder participant, and reformed Hell’s Birder. (If you don’t know what a Hell’s Birder is, you can find out at [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org).)*

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## 7th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Needs YOU, February 13 – 16

All ages and skill levels welcome. No fees or registration required.

- Be part of an alliance of backyard birders from Nome to Key West
- Help scientists define the status of winter birds
- Spread the word

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was developed to help monitor the abundance and distribution of birds in late winter, helping researchers spot alarming trends before situations become critical. As we see rapid changes in our environment, like the spread of West Nile virus and shifts in species’ ranges, bird monitoring projects such as the GBBC become increasingly important.

During last February’s GBBC, bird enthusiasts across North America submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds. The event documented the whereabouts of 512 species and showed a regional decline of at least one of those species that may be the result of West Nile virus.

American Crows were reported in alarmingly fewer numbers in Illinois and Ohio, where West Nile virus has had a strong presence. This decrease may or may not be related to West Nile, but the situation is certainly something we need to pay attention to. Since crows seem to be particularly vulnerable to the virus, we must carefully watch population trends reflected in future GBBCs and other citizen science counts.

### How can you help?

Instructions for participating and submitting your reports can be found at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc). If you want to get involved but aren’t online, try using the computers at your local library. Wild Birds Unlimited locations may accept reports; check with the store nearest you.

## In Search of Owls, by Dorenda Watson

Although I am not a cold-weather fan, I occasionally bundle up to go on an owl quest in the dead of winter. Seeing an owl more than makes up for layering on clothes, preparing the camera and driving my old, heat-less Jeep to its destination.

The three species I have most frequently encountered in Ohio are the Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl. Owls are predators with sharp, hooked bills and long, honed talons. Most owls are nocturnal hunters and feed on small rodents, birds, insects, amphibians and snakes. Most also have a distinctive disc that surrounds the eye area with large, dark eyes for scoping the nightlife. Another feature that helps in their hunt for prey is the ability of silent flight. All owls have feathers that are coated with a fine down over the top surface. This, and the fact that their outer rim of flight feathers is serrated, not stiff like other birds', allows them to glide quietly through the night.

The Barn Owl is a slender, long-legged bird, roughly 14 to 21 inches long with a wingspan of 41 to 47 inches. He is distinguishable by his heart-shaped, white facial disc and small, dark eyes. His body is a warm, buff-brown with speckles of white and black. Wings are darker and speckled as well. If you are lucky enough to have "Barnie" hanging around, be assured you will have no mice as this is one of nature's best mousers!

The Great Horned Owl is the owl of children's storybooks—depicted variably as wise, or spooky, or even sleepy, which couldn't be further from the truth. This owl is a fierce hunter, often called the night tiger because of his fearless demeanor. He is an owl of many colors: an orange-brown facial disc; large, yellow eyes; feathers of mottled chestnut, black and grayish-white with dark, horizontal barring. At 18 to 25 inch-

es long with a wingspan of 35 to 55 inches, these are not the largest owls, but they make up for it in toughness. Great Horned Owls have been known to successfully tackle prey much larger than themselves, such as bobcats and coyotes. And because they are quite adaptable and live in suburban parks, pets can become fair game (just another reason to keep the kitties indoors!).



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The Barred Owl is found throughout the U.S. and into the southern regions of Canada. She is a medium-sized owl (16 to 20 inches). She prefers a woodland home of coniferous forests, and, although it is hard to spot her visually, she is the most vocal owl. The way I remember her call is to listen for "Who cooks for you . . . Who cooks for you all?" The Barred Owl is a roundish, gray-brown bird with large, dark eyes. Her distinctive dark barring across the entire body is the reason for

her name. This owl is a bit of an actress, so don't be surprised if she swoops down and lightly brushes you with her feathers, then sits on a tree limb nearby to scold and rant. It's all a bluff and a great time to get fantastic photos, so be ready!

*Dorenda Watson is a local wildlife artist and teacher.*

Editor's note: February is a good time to see owls, especially Short-eared Owls, at Killdeer Plains, and it just so happens Columbus Audubon has a trip scheduled when you may be able to see them. Turn to page 4 for details.

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### Is Columbus losing its wintering birds?

Is West Nile Virus decimating our jays and crows? Where are the birdiest spots in our winter city-scape? You can find the answer to these and other intriguing questions by visiting [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org) and reading the article about the 2003 Columbus Christmas Bird Count results. Test your perceptions against the data of the Columbus Christmas Bird Count. We'll summarize the last several years and even try to peer into the future of this venerable Audubon event.

### Entertainment Book Sale Successful

Our sale of Entertainment Books was once again a resounding success. We sold 248 books resulting in \$1,556 for Columbus Audubon. Many thanks are due to our cooperating sales outlets: Accent on Wild Birds, The Backyard Experience, Better Earth, Wild Bird Center of Dublin, Wild Bird Supplies and Gifts, Wild Birds Unlimited East, Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside, and Wild Birds Unlimited Westerville. We also thank our sales and service force of CA members Kristan Leedy, Molly Rudy, Sue Setterlin, Darlene Sillick, Pat Wolfrom, and especially co-chair Linda Marshall. The sale involves a lot of behind-the-scenes running around by dedicated people but the results are certainly worthwhile. Proceeds go toward supporting our education programs. . . . Entertainment books can be ordered online through March 15 at [www.entertainment.com](http://www.entertainment.com). If you use our account number (102049-4) we will get a return from the sale.



# Coming Up

Columbus Audubon activities are for nature enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. We invite you to join us for a field trip or program to learn more about birds and their central Ohio habitats, as well as other natural history topics. Our activities are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

## NEW! Heavy Weather Policy

Heavy weather and a concern for safety may, after careful consideration, force a leader to cancel an activity or otherwise change plans. To find out, please contact the leader indicated in the activity description. If no leader is listed, please call the Columbus Audubon phone line at 740-549-0333, and check the website [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org).

**Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Columbus Audubon Board Meeting**  
Museum of Biological Diversity.

**Saturday, February 7, 7:45 a.m.**  
**McCracken Fen State Nature Preserve**  
**Skill level: All**

**Leader: Sharon Treaster, 614-292-1395**  
Take conservation into your own hands, literally, and join Columbus Audubon's friendly, enthusiastic work trip group. You don't necessarily even need to own or know how to use tools to help maintain McCracken Fen, which was home to 22 state listed species and the largest unprotected fen community in Ohio when purchased in 2000 by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. All you need is your love of the outdoors and willingness to pitch in. We will work to eliminate woody aliens and signs of the peat mining that once took place at this preserve in Logan County. Transportation and on-site training will be provided. You must reserve your spot by calling Roger Barber at DNAP (614-265-6467) by noon on Monday, February 2. Bring lunch and a water bottle, and meet at building E, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Complex, 1889 Fountain Sq. (off Morse road).

**Saturday, February 7, 8 a.m.**  
**Blendon Woods Metro Park**  
**Skill level: All**

**Leaders: Rob Lowery, 740-549-1689, and Bruce Simpson**

Rob and Bruce are avid birders and spend a lot of time exploring Blendon Woods. They enjoy showing beginners where the best spots are for many species. On this walk they will target winter visitors, waterfowl and whatever else flies by. Meet at the nature center. Blendon Woods features nature trails, Walden Waterfowl Refuge and Thoreau Lake. The park is at 4265 Ohio Rt. 161, 1 mile east of I-270, Westerville. For a map, visit [www.metroparks.net/maps.htm](http://www.metroparks.net/maps.htm).

**Sunday, February 15, 11:30 a.m.**  
**The Wilds**  
**Skill level: All**

**Leaders: Darlene Sillick, 614-761-3696, and Mike Flynn**  
Head to The Wilds with Mike and Darlene. Raptors will be the target species, especially the Golden Eagle. We will return after dark. Meet 3 miles east of 270/70 E using exit 112B onto Rt. 256 and meet in the Wal-Mart Parking lot.

Bring snacks, drinks, scopes, binoculars, two-way radios, and keep in mind restrooms are limited. For more information about The Wilds, check out <http://www.thewilds.org>.

**Saturday, February 21, 9 a.m.**  
**Highbanks and Alum Creek Reservoir**  
**Skill level: All**

**Leader: Rob Thorn, 614-471-3051**

Late February is when winter starts to lose its grip. Daylight is longer, the air is warmer, and birds and mammals become noticeably more active. We'll try to enjoy some of this early activity as well as get a jump on some of the early migrant waterfowl by combining these two good Delaware County birding locales. The ravines of Highbanks Metro Park often hide a surprising array of wintering birds, and the nature center feeders are excellent spots to look for stray winter finches. Alum Creek Reservoir should be partly open water by now, and often hosts loons, grebes and the first flocks of north-bound waterfowl. Dress warmly and meet at the Highbanks Nature Center parking area. After birding around Highbanks, we'll drive the 2 miles to Alum Creek; trip should be over by 2 p.m.

**Sunday, February 29, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Killdeer Plains**  
**Skill level: All**

**Leaders: Darlene Sillick, 614-761-3696, and Mike Flynn**  
Join Mike and Darlene on this annual winter birding trip to Killdeer Plains. If you can't attend trips because you don't have any extra time, it's Leap Day and you have a whole extra 24 hours! What better way to spend it than birding at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Weather permitting, we will stay until dark for the Short-eared Owls to fly. Meet at the Worthington Mall parking lot, straight out from the Kroger store. Carpooling is helpful. Wear layers, bring spotting scopes and two-way radios if you have them, as well as something to eat and drink. More information is available about Killdeer at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/>.

**Avid Birders** - Visit [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org), Activities, Avid Birders for trip schedule.

## Columbus Audubon on the Radio

Columbus Audubon veterans Tom Thomson and Lois Day will appear on Open Line with their guests and host Tom Wiebel each month through June. The WOSU AM programs are scheduled for the Thursdays below.

February 26  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17

Listen and call in with your questions!

## Another Simple Way to Help Columbus Audubon

Many of you will recall that Columbus Audubon has established a Planned Giving Program to encourage members and friends to include Columbus Audubon in their estate planning. Charitable contributions can be made in an unrestricted fashion for the general use of Columbus Audubon or may be designated for deposit into one of the three endowment funds established by the Board of Trustees: Education Fund, Conservation Fund or Operating Fund. Bequests and donations directed to the endowment funds will be invested, and only the income from the investment will be spent. In other words, a contribution to one of the endowment funds essentially provides a *permanent* benefit to Columbus Audubon.

Prior articles in *The Song Sparrow* have examined charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, codicils, and other mechanisms that permit you to help Columbus Audubon as well as yourself. However, making a planned gift to Columbus Audubon can also be as simple as changing the beneficiary on your life insurance policy or retirement plan (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension, etc.) to Columbus Audubon. For instance, you may realize that the person who you (perhaps long ago) initially identified as the primary beneficiary on your life insurance policy or retirement plan has died or, in your estimation, no longer truly needs your planned generosity.

In such circumstances making Columbus Audubon your primary beneficiary may make sense and is often as easy as requesting a change of beneficiary form from your insurer or employer. The form may also be located on your insurer's or employer's website, and typically takes mere minutes to complete.

Even if you do not wish to change your primary beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement plan, you may wish to give additional thought as to who is listed as a secondary or contingent beneficiary. For instance, you may want to list a needy but elderly relative as your primary beneficiary, but also list Columbus Audubon as the secondary or contingent beneficiary in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases you. Taking full advantage of a secondary or contingent beneficiary option helps you to determine with great specificity who will benefit from your life insurance or retirement plan after your death. Indeed, in reviewing your insurance policies and retirement plans, you may discover that you have never even identified anyone as a secondary or contingent beneficiary.

In short, making Columbus Audubon a primary or secondary beneficiary of your life insurance policies or retirement plans is almost always a very straightforward process. Of course, your retirement plans and life insurance can be used in a variety of ways to accomplish your planned giving goals (direct gifts, life insurance trusts, etc.). Your estate planning attorney or tax advisor can provide you with information that maximizes the benefits of any planned giving. Please contact Marc Blubaugh at 614-895-0857 with any questions.

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## Your BIRD REPORTS, by Charles Wheeler

We'll have to begin out of chronological sequence by reporting one of the most unusual finds of the season: a Yellow-breasted Chat on December 19 at a residence in Pickerington, reported by "Jeannie" (hey folks—please identify yourselves as well as the birds!) and confirmed by Sylvia Townsend, naturalist at Blendon Woods. This warbler is strange enough already in behavior and song, but to show up in a residential area in wintertime is even more so. Peterjohn's *The Birds of Ohio* calls them "accidental early winter visitors" to Ohio, but there have been only three published records of such appearances—this would presumably be the fourth. If we can find out more about this sighting, we'll let you know. . . .And from Frank and Karen Martens: "This summer while biking in Southern Minnesota we stopped to bird by a river where we had an unobstructed view. Almost immediately we heard a loud splash and a few seconds later a Bald Eagle appeared with its wings flapping in the water. It propelled itself to the shore and we saw it had a good-sized fish in one talon. Only then did we notice two baby eagles camouflaged in brown feathers standing like statues at the shoreline. Apparently the mother sensed something was not right because she walked right by them around a bend and disappeared from view. They continued to stand in the same spot and we decided to ride on." Back to chronology: Mary Slyby reports a Cooper's Hawk seen on Nov. 11 and 15 at around 2 p.m. at Chase Road between N. High St. and Indianola. . . .Pam Unger sent in a number of observations about Green Lawn Cemetery, including this one on November 18: "This a.m. a rarity for the Pit: a Great Blue Heron was feeding, courtesy I'm sure of the folks I saw dumping 2 huge barrels of minnows in a week or so ago! The water in the Pit has cleared from the intense algae bloom and about a dozen Mallards—mostly bachelors—appear to have settled in for the winter. The Mourning Doves, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Cardinals and White-breasted Nuthatches all seem plentiful and ready for the feeders to be filled by 4 p.m. or so! My total no. of species at Green Lawn so far this year is 95." . . .This one is from Amy Balzer of Ostrander, Ohio: "My son and I observed an adult Bald Eagle sitting in a tree just off St. Rt. 36 near Klondike Road in Delaware County on Saturday 11/22/2003 at approx. 12:00 PM. It also caught the attention of another motorist who pulled off the road to enjoy the sight. After five minutes the eagle circled around and then flew south following the Scioto River. My son and I really enjoyed the show!" . . .And finally, the Rufous Hummingbird was last seen at Blendon Woods on Christmas day.

## Join Us February 17!

### Columbus Audubon annual potluck meeting and program

Please join us for our annual potluck supper. This event will be held Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Clintonville Woman's Club, 3951 North High Street. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet kindred spirits and learn about Columbus Audubon. The evening will include a short business meeting before the presentation by our featured speaker. Non-members are welcome but may not vote during the business meeting, which will include the election of trustees. Biographies of the nominees appear below.

Each individual or family is asked to bring a substantial dish large enough to share with 12 other people. You may bring a casserole, salad, dessert, or bread of some kind. Bring your own plate, cup, utensils, and beverage other than coffee, which will be provided.

You may remember that last year's February date for the potluck was snowed out, and speaker Charity Krueger was not able to make the rescheduled event. Fortunately for us, Charity is available to speak to us this year and will give the presentation she had planned in 2003. Her topic is even more relevant this year as we anticipate developing our own Audubon Nature Center in downtown Columbus. Please see the description of her program below, and join us on February 17!

### Explore, Discover and Excite!

Audubon Centers and Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, with Charity Krueger

Discover how to inspire, teach and involve your community in ways that change lives. Charity Krueger, executive director of Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm near Dayton, Ohio will share the evolution of a dream that began with one woman, Marie Aull, in 1957. In 2000 Aullwood completed a \$4.3 million expansion, tripling its interpretive space and expanding programs to meet community needs. Many new programs developed after this expansion including the Center for Lifelong Learning and a certification program for adults called the Audubon Naturalist and Audubon Home Ecologist. The exciting national initiative to celebrate the 100th anniversary of flight is also explored through Aullwood's new Birds, Flight and the Wrights accessible trail and educational programs including a Flights of Fancy Festival. Learn how to bring land and people together—our greatest treasures—to preserve and protect!

### Trustee nominees

For a one-year term replacing Marcus England 2004-2005:

#### **Kylene Kruse**

Kylene has been very active in Columbus Audubon activities. She played a major role in our initial Art for Audubon auction in 2000 and chaired the auction in 2001. She has served as treasurer and vice-president, and currently chairs the committee overseeing management and use of Calamus Swamp. She manages these major commitments despite a challenging workload in her job at Wachovia Securities.

For three-year terms 2004-2007:

#### **Barbara Brevard**

Barbara is assistant education director for the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. She is a long-time member of various Audubon chapters depending on where she has lived, and was a member of Columbus Audubon's conservation committee "a few years ago." Through the Zoo she is involved with a program providing conservation and management grants worldwide. She represents the Zoo on the task force currently developing plans for the Whittier Peninsula.

#### **Ken Buckley**

Ken is a current Board member running for a second term. He is familiar to Eco-Weekend participants as "the man

behind the microphone" and with his wife Deborah has co-chaired Eco-Weekend for the past several years. Ken has also been involved with Birdathon and our bird seed sale. He also volunteers with other community and charitable organizations despite a busy schedule as an engineer with SBC.

#### **Heather Raymond**

Heather has done volunteer work with a variety of environmental organizations, including The Nature Conservancy and Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. She enjoys travel and exploring new habitats, and recent trips to Central America and New Zealand have given her world bird list an enviable boost. Heather is lead hydrogeologist in the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Ohio EPA.

#### **Susan Setterlin**

Susan is a current Board member running for a second term. She has been especially active in enhancing Columbus Audubon's educational programs and materials. She is present as a volunteer at most of our outreach activities. She has been a facilitator in the education department of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and has many years of service as a volunteer for the Ohio Wildlife Center.

## Take note . . . . .

### **New Columbus Audubon phone number: 740-549-0333**

It's hard to give up a phone number after having it for a few decades. We told you in the last issue of the *Song Sparrow*, Columbus Audubon would soon have a new phone number at Lois and John Day's new home in Powell, and so we do. In case you didn't know, Lois and John have been fielding calls since 1969, answering questions about birds, membership and everything in between. Now they'll be doing that at the 740 number shown above, which is TOLL FREE throughout the greater Columbus area.

### **All 3,900 Borror Collection recordings of New World wood warblers now online**

The Borror Collection is the largest collection of animal sounds in the world. The digitization of the entire collection was completed in February 2003. Now the recordings are being made available on the Internet, with 25,000 recordings yet to come. To listen to the Warblers, visit the home page of the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics and click on New World Warblers under News: <http://blb.biosci.ohio-state.edu/nelson.html>.

### **An editorial assistant is needed to help with the newsletter**

Can you spare five to seven hours a month in February, March, April and May to help format text for the newsletter? Skills required are proficiency with Microsoft Word, ability to meet deadlines and basic copy editing. Please contact Kristan Leedy for more information at 614-818-9440 or [kleedy@larkspur-pro.com](mailto:kleedy@larkspur-pro.com).

### **Your everyday bird reports**

Please send news of your local bird sightings for publication in the *Song Sparrow* to [kleedy@larkspur-pro.com](mailto:kleedy@larkspur-pro.com), or call them in to the office at 740-549-0333. **You do not have to have a rare bird sighting to make a report.** Birds you are seeing at your feeder, the park, your school, or from your office window all are fair game for the bird reports. Include as much information as possible about your sighting, including location, date, time, and weather. Don't forget to give your name!

### **Song Sparrow available by e-mail and on the Web site**

Send an e-mail to [casmem@juno.com](mailto:casmem@juno.com) if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Say whether you want to get it only by e-mail, or if you would still like to receive a copy by postal mail as well. You can also go to our Web site and download the newsletter in PDF format. Please remember that the newsletter *usually* is available on the Web page before you get it in the mail. All our programs, trips and courses are posted on the Web site, along with a variety of other useful information and links. Check it out at our new URL: **[www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org)**.

## Herb Herrmann, In Memoriam

Audubon member and local amateur astronomer Herb Herrmann passed away on November 26, 2003. Herb was a tireless volunteer who gave many programs for the Metro Parks and Columbus Audubon over the years. His enthusiasm and dedication will be missed. The following tribute was written by Jim Fry, who was acquainted with Herb mainly through their mutual interest in Blendon Woods Metro Park.

I first met Herb Herrmann in the 1960s when he was in high school and I was a naturalist at Blacklick Woods Metro Park. He was a member of the Columbus Astronomical Society, which presented astronomy programs for the public at the park. After high school Herb joined the U.S. Navy and returned to his home in Columbus four years later.

When I was transferred to Blendon Woods in 1973, I asked Herb if he would be a volunteer naturalist at the park. His answer of yes was no surprise. Herb conducted many astronomy programs at Blendon Woods through 1989 when I retired. If the sky was cloudy, Herb would present a slide program in the nature center. On some bitterly cold (and clear!) winter nights, I and program participants would make periodic trips to the warmth of the nature center but Herb stayed outside to make sure everybody had a chance to look at the sights through his telescope.

He was one of the most reliable volunteers the Metro Parks has ever had. He worked the 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. shift every Thanksgiving Day at Walden Waterfowl Refuge at Blendon.

One day at Blendon I discovered that the numbers on the leg bands of Canada Geese could be read through the telescopes in one of the observation shelters at Walden; however, the geese had to turn slightly so all the numbers could be seen. Herb, volunteer Gordon Mitchell and I spent countless hours reading the bands. When I received the information about where the geese were banded, we discovered we had solved a mystery. All the Canada Geese that overwintered at Blendon Woods spent the summer on Akimiski Island in James Bay, 1,000 miles north of Blendon Woods.

- Jim Fry, naturalist and Columbus Dispatch columnist



## Memberships

Memberships in Audubon and Columbus Audubon and gift memberships are available through Columbus Audubon.

### Audubon Membership

Includes membership in the national organization and Columbus Audubon; includes 4 issues of Audubon magazine and 9 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. The rates below are available to NEW subscribers.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - 1-year introductory rate  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 - 2-year introductory rate  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 - 1-year student/senior rate

### Columbus Audubon Chapter Only Membership

Chapter only membership includes 9 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities and helps fund our programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - 1-year new membership  
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If this is a GIFT MEMBERSHIP, please fill out the recipient information below:

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**Please make checks payable to: Columbus Audubon. Thank you for your support!**

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To change your mailing address, call Joe Meara at 614-781-9602 or e-mail [casmem@juno.com](mailto:casmem@juno.com).

## Columbus Audubon

**Founded 1913**

**740-549-0333**

**[www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org)**

Officers: President: Pete Precario, 445-0333

Vice President: Dave Horn, 262-0312

Secretary: Revolving

Newsletter and Web site Editor: Kristan Leedy,  
818-9440

Treasurer: John Wilson, 481-8872

Trustees: Marc Blubaugh, Ken Buckley, Jackie Gribble, Susan Setterlin, Darlene Sillick, Susie Burks, Sharon Treaster, John Arnfield, Julie Boreman, Julie Davis, Mike Flynn

Additional chapter leaders:

Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312

Work Projects: Sharon Treaster, 846-8419

Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130

Programs: Mike Flynn, 882-9493

Field Trips: Darlene Sillick, 761-3696

Eco Weekend: Lois Day, 451-4591

Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602

Corresponding Sec'y: Emily Eby, 855-3879

Calamus Committee: Kylene Kruse, 262-0375

Birdathon: Katryn Renard, 261-7171

CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day,  
740-549-0333

WOSU Radio Program Coordinator: Tom Thomson,  
464-0103

Avid Birders: <http://www.jjhammond.com/kestrel/avids/avids.htm>

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