



Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

May 2004
Volume 35, No. 8

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Anticipating a Colorful Spring

Columbus Audubon is offering a colorful array of field trips, activities and programs for spring and summer. From “Warbler Watching” on May 1 to “Birding by Canoe and Kayak” on July 1, our organizers and leaders have put together a fantastic roster of nature activities for you to experience. We’ll lead you to Columbus’ birding hotspots, Calamus Swamp, and Magee Marsh in search of sights and sounds of the seasons. Plus, programs on butterflies, moths, and birding by ear have been added to our 101 series. Read about our activities on pages 4 and 5, and please join us as often as you can!



This delightful painting by Anna Vander Molen from Evening Street School in Worthington won the children’s art contest held as part of our last Art for Audubon in October 2001. The Art for Audubon committee had promised Anna’s artwork would grace a cover of the *Song Sparrow*, and, much to our regret, we are just now honoring that promise. We apologize to Anna and thank her for her patience.

The *Song Sparrow* is published by Columbus Audubon, a Chapter of Audubon. Kristan Leedy, editor, kleedy@larkspur-pro.com; Sonya Carius, associate editor, slcarius@earthlink.net.

Swift Watch: The Best Free Show in Town

By Jenny Bowman

This is the first article in a three-part series about my observations of Chimney Swifts.

Part I: The Setting...

Swift Discovery

On September 15, 2003, within only 20 minutes an incredible 4,500 Chimney Swifts poured into the chimney of an Old Dublin high school. This spectacle occurs each August through October as Chimney Swifts gather for their annual migration to winter in the Amazon basin of Peru.

I first learned about this natural phenomenon from Columbus Audubon trustee Darlene Sillick. Several years ago Darlene had been at a gas station near the Old Dublin cemetery along Rt. 161 when she heard the clicking, chattering flight calls of Chimney Swifts. She located the birds circling above the building (built in 1919 and therefore called the 1919 Building) directly opposite the cemetery. That night Darlene had the hour-long show all to herself. Although hundreds of people were passing in front of the building in their cars, most were totally unaware of the fantastic bird show just above their heads. As people left the nearby soccer field, they would walk through the parking lot of the old school building and could be heard exclaiming, "Look at all of those bats up there!" After Darlene invited me to observe this event at a Dublin school, I immediately became hooked. Because I knew they were there, night after night about an hour before sunset I'd find my car heading up Dublin Road to witness the "best free show in town!"

The attraction of the old building at 144 West Bridge Street is its chimney. Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, are unable to perch on horizontal surfaces. Instead, they must roost by clinging to vertical surfaces. They manage to do this by using their four forward-facing claws as grappling hooks and the stiff exposed spine at the end of each tail feather as support. Originally, swifts roosted in large hollow trees. When those became scarce, they adapted by moving into chimneys and clinging to the rough exposed mortar on the inside walls.

Today it is rare to find a large, uncapped, rough-textured chimney as is found at this site. It is one of the last remaining chimneys of its kind in northwest Columbus. Fortunately, it will remain uncapped. The 1919 Building is a designated historic building and the roosting site is protected. In September 2002, Darlene registered the site online with SwiftWatch.org. This was the first record from Ohio and so received the site code US-OH-001. At that time SwiftWatch had recorded 130 sites in 22 states.

Is the chimney used these days? Bill Likens, custodian at adjacent Sells Middle School, has been observing the swifts for the past 15 years. He states that the school has heat pumps and, although heat does escape through the chimney, the heat pumps will not kick on until it is nearly freezing and the birds have departed. Even the massive amount of droppings in the bottom of the chimney does not pose a problem. The Franklin County Board of Health said that stack temperatures run around 375 degrees in the heating season and that kills off any bacteria that would have been present.

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Whetstone Prairie and Native Habitat Garden

By Marilyn Logue

Americans have not always appreciated our native flora. In fact, plants growing naturally on our own shores were considered to be weeds and not fit to grow in gardens alongside the European flowers that the early settlers knew best. Eventually, boatloads of American plants crossed the ocean to Europe, and by the end of the 18th century the concept of "an American garden" was all the rage, especially in England. In the present time, Americans are now beginning to realize the great beauty of native American plants and that gardening and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand. Because our native plants originated and have lived in specific local ecologies for thousands or even millions of years, they have built-in defenses against local diseases and pests and have developed to adapt to the water supply, soil, climate, and wildlife of the area. To showcase the importance of native plants, President Clinton issued a presidential directive in 1994 stating that all federal buildings and installations should landscape with plants native to their areas. Here in Ohio, First Lady Hope Taft has installed native plants in the Ohio Garden at the Governor's Mansion in Bexley.

Columbus Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes also decided to get involved in this movement by participating in

its own community service project. The group began collaborating in January 2003 with Elayna Grody, natural resources manager at Columbus Recreation and Parks, about creating a 5.1-acre natural habitat showcasing native prairie grasses/flowers, wetland species, and woodland wildflowers to be located in the southern region of Whetstone Park adjacent to the bike path. When established, this garden is intended to enhance the environmental, historical/cultural, educational, and aesthetic qualities of the area. The native plants will provide excellent food sources and habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, and the large variety of species will contribute to biodiversity in the park. In addition, this native flora will highlight the community's local natural heritage and show the public the vegetation that made this region of Ohio unique.

Wild Ones hopes to collaborate with teachers to develop educational materials covering the history and ecology of Ohio's native plants; these publications will be used to prepare students and others for guided tours of the site. For learning purposes, the prairie will have a walking path, two elevated viewing platforms,

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Your BIRD REPORTS

by John Arnfield

Bird reports this month cover the period of January to April, 2004, from winter feeder birds to the return of Ohio's migrant species Linda Moorhead, who lives in a wooded area north of New Albany, in southeastern Delaware county, is a participant in Project FeederWatch, a wintertime survey of birds that visit feeders in backyards and other sites in North America, designed to track bird movements and trends in avian distribution and abundance. She reports 20 species for January 30th and 31st, her largest total to date, including such "tree clingers" as Brown Creeper, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker and White-breasted Nuthatch, birds that make at least part of their "living" by gleaning from tree trunks and branches. Her yard also yielded Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee and Fox Sparrow during February and March. In a dead tree, Barred Owls are nesting and call during daylight and nighttime hours Other March backyard sightings include the following. By mid-month, Marlene Rely had been hosting a Pileated Woodpecker on her property in Powell for several weeks. Karen Mears of Hilliard describes another frequent visitor, in this case a Sharp-shinned Hawk, that she has observed reach adulthood over the past three years. On March 31st she observed it catch, skin and partially eat a chipmunk on her garden fence, carrying off the remaining flesh, she believes, to a mate nearby. Shortly after that incident, a Great Blue Heron flew very low over the house on its transit between Griggs Reservoir and the retention pond at Mill Run. David Spawn tells us that Yellow-crowned Night Herons are back in west Bexley. A pair was observed on March 30th on and around their nest in a large sycamore tree over Preston Drive, with the male raising and lowering his crest, and other reports have indicated that up to three individuals have been sighted in the vicinity Jack Riordan reports some very unusual House Finches from his feeding station north of Pickerington. From early March onwards he found three yellow variant birds that showed yellow hues where red is normally found on this species. This condition, known as xanthochroism, can give rise to yellow, orange, salmon or even "patchwork" birds and has variously been attributed to genetic variation, dietary deficiencies and stress. Carolyn May's Upper Arlington yard boasted Brown Creeper and Winter Wren on April 3rd Local birding "hotspots" have also yielded sightings of interest during March and April. Peter Meist found a male Eurasian Wigeon at Pond 27, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, on March 15th, while on the 16th Lois Day encountered a male Eastern Towhee, Fox Sparrow and Horned Grebe at Blendon Woods Metro Park March 26th found Pam Unger at Green Lawn Cemetery where she reports Field, Chipping and Fox Sparrows, Eastern Towhees (males singing to attract females), Eastern Phoebe (with a nest already built), Eastern Bluebirds, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Winter Wrens, Brown Thrashers, and Brown-headed Cowbirds. There were still plenty of the more familiar birds of winter, however, including Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, along with a mixed flock of American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. The "Pit" was the site of nesting space rivalry among competing pairs of Canada Geese and, two days later, hosted a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Pam also found a Hermit Thrush at the bridge. At the quarry between Route 33 and Interstate 670 on

the weekend of March 20th/21st, Carolyn May reports that the most abundant waterfowl, besides Ring-billed Gulls, were Horned Grebes in both winter and breeding plumage and Red-breasted Mergansers. Also present were several Pied-billed Grebes and Hooded Mergansers. On April 3rd, Carolyn found Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee and Golden Crowned Kinglet, along with "the usual year rounders," at Highbanks Metro Park. Gene Sonnenberg spotted a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Walden Ravine near the Fishinger Road bridge on March 30th, and John Day observed a Belted Kingfisher flying south on the Scioto River,

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Take Note...

Columbus Audubon seeks Webmaster

Do you have six to eight hours a month to help Columbus Audubon maintain and expand its World Wide Web presence? Skills required are a familiarity with the Web, proficiency with any web page editor, an understanding of HTML, good writing skills and an ability to work to deadlines in collaboration with the newsletter editor. Basic graphic design ability would be desirable. The Columbus Audubon website is FRAMES-based, makes use of JavaScript and some forms processing software, and runs on a Unix-based webserver. We are interested in finding a volunteer who could act as a backup to the present webmaster for a transitional period and would be willing to take full responsibility for maintenance of the website after that period. For more information, contact John.Arnfield@osu.edu.

Song Sparrow publication schedule to change

Beginning in September, the newsletter will go to a predominantly bimonthly publication schedule. While we hate to do it, making this change is essential to offset financial reductions from the national office. In about a year, we no longer will receive any portion of the annual dues paid when someone becomes a member of Audubon. In the future, we will retain dues raised *only* from Chapter Only Memberships. This is why we have been promoting Chapter Only Memberships (see the membership form on page 8). Currently, the vast majority of Columbus Audubon members hold memberships with the national organization, which automatically makes them members of Columbus Audubon. When National Audubon stops sharing dues with chapters, it will be eliminating our primary source of revenue. Consequently, we are looking for ways to cut expenses, and because the newsletter is Columbus Audubon's biggest expense, it is the natural place to start.

Beginning in September, you will receive issues as follows: September-October, November-December, February-March, April, May-June. Postcards will be sent out to inform members about activities and programs in January and summer. We hope this change will not inconvenience anyone. We believe we still will be able to keep you informed about our activities and provide interesting articles and news.

You can help us further reduce newsletter expenses by subscribing to receive your copy by e-mail. Send an e-mail message to casmem@juno.com and say you wish to receive an electronic copy only.

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.

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 or contact information is listed, please call the Columbus Audubon phone line at 740-549-0333, and check the website at www.columbusaudubon.org.

Saturday, May 1, 7:30 a.m.

**Birding 101: Warbler Watching
Highbanks Metro Park**

Skill Level: All

Hike 2.5 miles in search of colorful spring migrants. Bring binoculars and field guides. Meet at the nature center.

Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Museum of Biological Diversity

Columbus Audubon board meeting.

Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

**Butterflies 101: Common Butterflies of Central Ohio
Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center**

Skill Level: All Welcome

Leader: Jim Davidson, 614-451-3009

Have you ever thought about a day in the life of a butterfly? Well Jim Davidson has, and he will teach us what he knows—through slides, his pinned collection, and books—about these unique creatures that have little solar panels that help them move about. Jim is a retired pathologist and amateur naturalist. He is an authority on butterflies, and before the night is over you will be looking at small winged things that fly with scales instead of feathers.

Friday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.

Bird Walk at Green Lawn Cemetery

Skill Level: All

Leaders: Katryn Renard, 614-261-7171, and Ruth May

Join long-time Columbus Audubon members Katryn and Ruth for a weekday bird walk at Green Lawn. Green Lawn is a migrant trap, and at this time of year we are sure to see some great birds. Meet at the Pit.

Saturday, May 8, 5:30 a.m.

Magee Marsh and Ottawa NWR

Skill Level: All

**Leader: Brad Sparks, 614-751-6622 or
birdmansparks@yahoo.com**

Join Columbus Avid Birder Brad Sparks on this trip to two of Ohio's premiere birding destinations at the peak of spring migration. We will spend the morning (and maybe longer) at Magee Marsh in search of warblers, thrushes, and other neotropical migrants. In the afternoon we will visit Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to look for waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds. Last year this trip produced 20+ species of warbler and over 120 species total, so it should be a great trip. We will meet to carpool at the Worthington Square mall (located at the corner of High Street and Wilson Bridge Road) at 5:30 a.m. and return after dark.

Bring a lunch and plenty to drink.

May 8, 7:00 a.m.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park

Skill Level: All

**Leaders: Rob Lowry, Rlowry571@aol.com, and
Bruce Simpson**

Join Metro Parks naturalist Bruce Simpson and avid birder Rob Lowry for the bird hike at Blendon Woods. Blendon turns up some great birds and this will be a premier weekend to view migrants. The early birder gets the feather prize on this trip. Take a short break from spring chores and join Bruce and Rob to check birds off your list. Meet at the nature center.

Sunday, May 9, 4:00 p.m.

Mother's Day Bird Walk Along the Olentangy River

Skill Level: All

Leader: Steve Landes, 614-361-0617, Katbird103@aol.com

Celebrate Mother's Day by joining OSU student and avid birder Steve Landes in a relaxing walk along the Olentangy River bike path. Our focus will be on finding the colorful migrating birds that use the river corridor on their journey north in spring. Please bring binoculars and field guides and wear good walking shoes. Meet at the parking lot at the west end of Norwich St. Take Rt. 315 to Lane Avenue and head east. After crossing the new bridge, turn left onto Tuttle Park Place, and then left onto Norwich St.

Thursday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

Birding at Kiwanis Riverway Park Nature Preserve

Skill Level: All

**Leader: Darlene Sillick, azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or
614-761-3696**

Join Darlene for an evening walk in this Dublin preserve. This new nature preserve is famous for the sights and sounds of the golden warbler of the swamp, the Prothonotary Warbler. We'll be in search of this and many other residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot at Wendy's at Rt. 161 and Riverside Drive.

Sunday, May 16, 8:00 a.m.

Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery

Skill Level: All

Leader: Jim McCormac

Meet Jim and birders from the Canton Audubon at the administration building at Green Lawn Cemetery for a joint Audubon chapter walk at a premier Ohio birding location. Birds should be everywhere! Jim's skillful eyes and ears will help you see and hear residents and migrants on a delightful morning of bird watching. Come and show our Canton Audubon birding friends some wonderful birds and great central Ohio hospitality.

Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

Butterflies 101: Uncommon Butterflies of Central Ohio

Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center

Skill Level: All Welcome

Leader: Jim Davidson, 614-451-3009

Butterfly watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country. Jim will show slides on the not-so-common butterflies using the same format as the May 6th program. Many of us who know Jim realize what a treat it is to have him help with our 101 series.

Thursday, May 20, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Columbus Audubon on WOSU-AM Radio

Listen and call in to Tom Thomson and his guests on Open line, hosted by Tom Weibel.

Saturday May 22, 7:45 a.m.
Bridging the Gap Work Trip
Skill Level: All

Leader: Sharon Treaster, 614-292-1395

We'll join regional DNAP preserve director Martin McAllister at Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve in Adams County. Assist in constructing a footbridge within the calcareous prairie opening noted for sinkholes and exposed cliffs of Greenfield and Peebles dolomites. Fifteen rare species of plants including *Sullivantia sullivantii* and limestone Adder's tongue are found in association with the dolomite cliffs. Experience the unique geological features and excellent spring wildflowers while helping to make this diverse site more accessible. Remember to call Roger Barber (DNAP work trip coordinator) at 614-265-6467 by noon, Monday, May 17, to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and determine tool requirements. Meet at building E at Ohio Department of Natural Resources Complex, 1889 Fountain Sq. (off Morse road). Bring water bottle and lunch.

Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.
Birding at Whittier Park/Greenlawn Dam
Skill level: All

Leader: Rob Thorn, 614-471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net

Join us as we initiate a monthly bird walk at one of Columbus' most diverse birding areas, as well as its future Audubon urban nature park. Migration should still be heavy, and we'll especially target some of the later warblers (like Wilsons, Canadas and Mournings) as well as the main peak for flycatchers. Hopefully the resident Prothonotary Warblers will be on territory below the dam. What we don't find along the bike path, we'll try to find at the nearby Green Lawn Cemetery later in the morning. This is a great time for rarities. Meet at the South Scioto boat launch (off Whittier Street west of Front St.). The trip should be over by 12:30.

Tuesday, June 1, 6:30 p.m.
Birding at Kiwanis Riverway Park Nature Preserve
Skill Level: All
Leader: Darlene Sillick, azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-761-3696

Join Darlene for an evening walk in this Dublin preserve. This new nature preserve is famous for the sights and sounds of the golden warbler of the swamp, the Prothonotary Warbler. We'll be in search of this and many other residents and migrants. Meet in the parking lot at Wendy's at Rt. 161 and Riverside Drive.

Thursday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.
Birding 101: Birding by Ear
Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center
Skill Level: Beginner/Refresher

Leader: Jim McCormac

Join birding expert Jim McCormac to learn about birding by ear. Jim will give you tips and suggestions on how to listen and learn the calls and songs of birds in Ohio.

Sunday, June 6, 1:30 p.m.
Trip to Calamus Swamp
Skill Level: All

Leader: Jim Davidson

Jim will lead us on a stroll through Columbus Audubon's Calamus Swamp Preserve. Jim will be your field guide as you open your senses to things the average person overlooks. Wear comfortable walking shoes and come prepared to be amazed with all you will learn. From I-71 south, take Rt. 104 south to about 20 miles from Columbus, 1/4 mile past where it crosses Rt. 22. Watch carefully! The parking lot is in the field on the left.

Thursday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.
Moths 101

Museum of Biological Diversity
Skill Level: All Welcome

Leader: Jim Davidson, 614-451-3009

The feathery antennae creatures are important too. Learn from Jim why you might need to be a night owl to see some species. Please note the location change; this program will be held at the Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinnear Road, on the OSU West Campus, NOT at Highbanks.

Saturday, June 19, 8:30 a.m.
Birding by Canoe and Kayak
Twin Lakes
Leader: Darlene Sillick, 614-761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com

We'll bird by water at Twin Lakes Nature Preserve in southern Delaware County. BYOC (bring your own craft). This is year three for these fun and very interesting trips over water to view birds. More details in the next newsletter!

Sunday, July 18, 8:30 a.m.
Birding by Canoe and Kayak
Scioto River
Leader: Darlene Sillick, 614-761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com

We'll paddle the Scioto River south of the Rt. 161 bridge (put-in at The Nature Conservancy). Water levels could change this location, so please RSVP to Darlene if you plan to attend.

Bird Reports (Continued from Page 3)

just south of Route 161, on April 2nd. Scott Felker found five American White Pelicans, a rare migrant in central Ohio, at Pickerington Ponds on the 3rd.

Keep your bird reports coming in: we will try to use as many as we have space for in the *Song Sparrow*. Send them to Kristan Leedy (kleedy@larkspur-pro.com) or call them in to the Columbus Audubon office at 740-549-0333. Please include your name, and the date and location of your sightings.

Swift Watch (Continued from Page 2)

Spreading the Word

You can imagine that my enthusiasm for the Chimney Swifts spilled over into my music classes. As a music teacher, part of my job is to train ears to discern various pitches and rhythms. In April when the birds are singing, we begin each music class by listening to a couple of natural birdsongs. In August 2002, I sent an e-mail message to all Dublin school employees about the unique event occurring at the 1919 Building. I contacted the local papers to come witness the event. Evening audiences began to arrive. My students (sometimes in pajamas), their families (complete with lawn chairs), teachers, and community members began to show up to watch the phenomenon of the swifts gathering and then entering the chimney. Twenty-five people showed up each of the first couple nights, but by the following week there were around 100 people each night. A total of 600 people came to see the swifts in the fall of 2002. This past fall I asked the kids in each of my music classes, "Who has ever gone to see the Chimney Swifts at the 1919 Building?" Out of 600 students at Scottish Corners, 116 kids had been to watch the swifts.

The appreciative audience sits facing the chimney. It looks rather like an old-fashioned drive-in movie theatre, except that everyone is staring at a chimney instead of a movie screen. As the first bird drops into the chimney one can hear the excitement begin. You hear "ooo" and "ah" as the show continues, and it is not uncommon to hear spontaneous applause after the final bird drops into the chimney for the night. The parking lot behind the 1919 Building has a "tailgate" atmosphere, but each observer leaves in awe with new respect for nature.

Part II will describe in detail how the swifts gather, what happens at various times during the gathering, how they enter the chimney, when I began counting the swifts, and I will share my findings. The first year I counted people, the second year I counted birds.

Part III will include my observations of the swifts leaving in the morning, the questions that have been raised in my mind, reporting data to SwiftWatch, other roost locations, websites and related readings, and plans for future observations.

Jenny Bowman has been the music teacher at Scottish Corners Elementary in the Dublin City Schools for the past 15 years. She is an avid amateur birder who has traveled to 53 countries. Jenny has been observing and gathering data on the swifts at this old Dublin high school for the past two years.

Whetstone Prairie (Continued from Page 2)

and educational signage. Most of Central Ohio's restored prairies or original prairie remnants are on the outskirts of Columbus. Whetstone Prairie and Native Habitat Garden will be in the heart of the city! Besides being used for educational purposes, the site can become a haven for escaping the stresses of everyday life. At the Whetstone Prairie, people will be able to get close to nature and enjoy its great beauty whenever they choose.

The installation of the 5.1-acre garden will occur in three phases and has already begun! The Demonstration Garden for Phase 1 (prairie area) was planted in April. The purpose of this small plot at the entrance to the site (using plant material, rather than seeds) will be to show park visitors what they can accomplish in their own backyards by using native flora. The seeding of the rest of the Phase 1 prairie area will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15th, with the following two weekends held as contingency dates. Phase 2 (wetland site) will be planted in the autumn of 2004, and Phase 3 (woodland wildflowers) is slated to be installed in the fall of 2005. If you would like to get involved in this community project, please contact Marilyn Logue (mlogue@sprintmail.com) or call 614-237-2534.

CA Nature Program

**"Preserving Valued Ohio Lands," with Clyde Gosnell
Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m.
presentation**

Inniswood Metro Gardens

Appalachian Ohio Alliance president Clyde Gosnell will give a PowerPoint presentation about current interest and efforts to preserve valued Ohio lands and natural resources, with special emphasis in the southeastern regions, Appalachian Ohio.

Land Trust groups, private organizations, have come to the forefront as a means and mechanism to serve this pressing need. The majority of the Land Trusts are conducted by volunteer groups with a passion and sincere concern for the future of our natural environment.

Refreshments are served at all programs. Please come early for social time. Inniswood Metro Gardens is reached by taking I-270 to the Rt. 3 Westerville exit and heading north to Schrock Road. Turn right on Schrock, proceed to Hempstead Road and turn right again. Inniswood is less than a mile on the left.



Birdathon Sponsorship Form

Sign me up! I'd like to sponsor one of the teams listed on page 7 by pledging a specified amount of money for each species they see during the Birdathon. (For example, 100 species at 15 cents per bird would add up to a donation of \$15.00.) This money will be paid in cash or check to Columbus Audubon when I am informed of the results of my team's foray.

Team Name: _____ Pledge: _____

My name: _____ Phone #: _____

Street/City/State/ZIP: _____

Mail to: "Birdathon," Columbus Audubon, PO Box 141350, Columbus, OH 43214



You Still Have Time to Sign Up for Birdathon

Cerulean Warbler. Bobolink. Bald Eagle. What else will our birdathoners see this year? The birdathon is upon us and our teams are scheming to visit as many different habitats as possible. Without a doubt, this is a highpoint of the birding season. And it is you, our readers, who make it that highpoint. Without your support, it would be just another birding trip. But our birders are spurred on by the knowledge that their efforts are raising money for Audubon, and that adds an extra touch of excitement and challenge to the day.

Our sponsors are extremely important. If you would like to sponsor a team, simply select a team, fill out the form on page 6, and send it in. You don't need to send money until you receive a notice telling you how many species your team saw.

This year, half of your sponsorship money will go toward continuing projects at Calamus Swamp. The other half will be split between Aullwood Audubon Center near Dayton (a great destination for a Saturday outing!) and the Whittier Peninsula project, where Audubon, the Metro Parks, and Columbus are looking to transform the land back to natural habitat.

This is our ten-year birdathon anniversary and it is the year for new teams. We already have four (Counting Corvids, Ladybirds Who Lunch, Lunch 'n Loons, and Roadrunners) and that is very exciting. If you've been thinking that someday you would like to join the birdathon, catch the wave and join the fun this

year. Simply ask a birding buddy or two, choose a team name and call Katryn Renard (614-261-7171) to register. Ask some friends to sponsor you, then go out and count all the bird species you see in either 5, 10, or 24 hours any day between May 8th and 16th. Be creative, you can go anywhere in the world to do your birding or can even stay right in your own backyard.

All of our teams and sponsors are invited to celebrate their successes on the evening of Friday, June 4, at the shelter house in Antrim Park. There will be some evening birding, door prizes, grand prize drawings, dessert, and a special 10 year anniversary bonus. The grand prizes this year include a pair of Audubon 8x40 Intrepid binoculars generously donated by **Eagle Optics** and a free night's stay at the delightful **Georgian Manner** (see our website—columbusaudubon.org, Birdathon—for more details about this B&B located right in the middle of a prime birding area). More details about the celebration will be in the June newsletter and in the information packet all the birders should have received by now. (If you would like to request a birder's packet, call Katryn Renard.)

Teams that have already registered and the number of species they hope to find are listed below. Call Katryn at 614-261-7171 to add your team to the list, or use the coupon on page 6 to sponsor your favorite team.

-Katryn Renard

Backyard Experience	Lake Eyries—50	Roger Stout	Swans and Coots—70
Chick-a-dees—60	Nancy Bringardner	Laura Thomas	Alan Cohen
Gerry Brevoort	Dale Brubeck	Pelicans—40	Clyde Gosnell
Joan Frederick	Dee Grover	Mark & Lauren Richards	Paul Knoop
Cyndi Henderson	Marilyn Jennings	Benjamin & Riley Richards	Katryn Renard
Lynn Singleton	Susie Saager	Quick Three Beards—165	Marlene WooLun
Lisa Zider	Lunch 'n Loons—45	Bob Conlon	Louise Warner
Chestnut Ridge	Jan & John Stein	Dave Horn	Two Footed Boobies—85
Chachalacas—90	Marsh Madness—80	Greg Miller	Marcia Brehmer
Eleanor Nunley	Bill & Deb Marsh	Bill Whan	Marion Farber
Bill Reiner	Mello-bellied Snack	Roadrunners—75	Melanie Shuter
Eric Reiner	Seekers—75	Chris Frantz	Mary Kay Wood
Coo Coo Birds—40	Gary Alison	Dan Shepherd	Two Good Eggs—85
Deborah & Ken Buckley	Joan & John Arnfield	Short-build Dowagers—115	Jane Kleber
Counting Corvids—100	Becky Mansfield	Gretchen Fluke	Sue Kramp
Abigail Darrah	Metro Parks Stellar Jays—100	Janet Holzworth	Two in a Bush—65
Aireo Shipman	Jim Davidson	Doreene Linzell	Patty DeMaria
Deck Birds—1	Joe Meara	Connie Wolcott	Elaine Fujimora
Cheri Brown	John O'Meara	Slate (Run) Colored	Biani Moran
Pat Barron	Joel Wachtel	Juncos—101	Wild Birds Unlimited—160
Bev May	Neat Nests—30	Linda Benner	Marcus England
Pete Precario	Scott, Kierstan, Sabrina, &	Doug & Kristen Everman	Michael Flynn
Gone With the Wrens—50	Whitney Jaeb	Andrea Haslage	Steve Landes
Mary Counter	Fred Lancia	Susan Moore	Tom Sheley
Christine Eitel	Del, Jordan, & Myranda	Lori Patterson	Your Team?
Barry, Sarah, & Anne Eitel	Parrott	Randall Rogers	
Ladybirds Who Lunch—40	No Egrets—75		
Tamara James	Becky Cummings		
Kristan Leedy	Elaine & Larry Smith		

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 Audubon magazine, the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. The rates below are available to NEW subscribers.

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Treasurer: John Wilson, 481-8872

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Work Projects, Sharon treaster, 846-8419
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Programs: Mike Flynn, 882-9493
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