



Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

January 2005 activities and announcements

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 and there is no need to register unless otherwise noted.

Field trips

New Years Day, New Start

Saturday January 1, 2005, 9 a.m.

Skill Level: All

Begin the New Year with the day outdoors, looking and listening for birds on this first day of 2005. We will travel to Highbanks Metro Park then on to Killdeer Plains. Meet at the Worthington Square Shopping Center parking lot, east of the Kroger store. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493.

Tour of Museum of Biological Diversity

Saturday January 22, 2005 8:30 a.m.

Leaders: John Condit

Skill Level: All

Join John Condit, Curator of The Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity on a tour of the museum. John will be showcasing birds from all around the world. You will quickly learn that there is more to the museum than drawers full of feathers! **Directions:** Take state Route 315 to the Kinnear Road/Lennox Town Center exit and turn right onto Kinnear Road. Follow Kinnear past the traffic light (Kenny Road). The museum is at 1315 Kinnear Road and is on the left side of the road. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Ohio Wildlife Center Bird Count

Saturday January 15, 2005, 9 a.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Skill level: All

Meet Darlene Sillick at the Ohio Wildlife Center's Cook Road facility in Delaware County. We will continue to compile a list of birds we see on the property, adjacent to the Twin Lakes Nature Preserve. Wear warm clothes and boots/shoes as we will roam the edges and check out the bird feeding area for local and visiting residents. If time permits, we will look for waterfowl near the Scioto River at the O'Shaughnessy Dam. **Directions:** Take state Route 315 to Powell Road. Turn left. Follow Powell Road until it dead ends into state Route 257. Turn left and immediately right onto the O'Shaughnessy Dam. Drive over the dam and turn right at the traffic light onto state Route 745. Follow 745 about 4 miles. Look for the OWC sign and turn left. The facility is at 6131 Cook Road. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area trip

Sunday January 23, 2005, 12:30 p.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick and Mike Flynn

Skill level: All

Meet at the Worthington Square shopping center parking lot where we will head north to a favorite winter grounds for many raptors and winter visiting passerines. We will have walkie-talkies for cars and are planning to car-pool. Dress warm, bring food and drink and remember there are few restroom stops. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Ohio Wildlife Center Bird Count

Saturday February 5, 2005, 9 a.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Skill level: All

Same as the January 15 trip. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Avid Birders Field trips

Unless otherwise noted, participants should meet at the southwest corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot at the designated time. January 8, 2005 at 5:30 a.m. - Erie shore for gulls, waterfowl, other winter birds.

Work trips

For both trips, bring lunch (hotdogs or soup is great) and a water bottle. Meet at building E at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 1889 Fountain Sq. (off Morse Road). For more information, call Sharon Treaster at (614) 292-1395.

Blazing Glory

Saturday January 8, 2005 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Tim Snyder

Join Natural Areas & Preserve manager Tim Snyder in a fiery salute to the demise of woody aliens at Gallagher Fen Nature Preserve in Clark County. Assist in reducing mounds of twisted honeysuckle and privet to glowing embers in this quiet woodland setting. Remove alien woody plants from the emerging woodland prairie. Roust the winter blabs with invigorating enthusiasm amidst one of the best prairie fen complex in Ohio. Observe the surprising hints of continued life in the burbling seep as the sun sweeps low across the sky. Call Roger Barber (614) 265-6467 by noon Monday Jan. 3 to sign up and reserve space for transportation (adults), and determine tool requirements.

Building Bonds at Blackhand Gorge

Continued on Reverse

CA January Nature Program

Tuesday, January 24, 2005

Vernal Pools and the Vernal Pool Monitoring Program

Innis House at Inniswood Metro Gardens

7 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. presentation

Deni Porej of the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will speak on vernal pools. Vernal pools are wetlands that fill up annually but typically dry out during some part of the year.

These usually small, but very dynamic, wetlands fill with water, blossom with life and host a cacophony of sounds and a plethora of life forms every spring, only to disappear into the forest floor every autumn.

It is a miniature, fascinatingly complex and fragile world, with all of its drama played out in a few months every year close to our homes and yet most of us have never witnessed it. Deni has been working with Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), agencies and environmental groups around Ohio to develop a Vernal Pool Monitoring Program.

By providing the resources for watershed residents to document the vernal pools in their area, the OEC hopes to raise local awareness of these wetlands, provide opportunities for local groups to build membership by organizing volunteers around fun events in the field, gather information for better natural resource protection, and build a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences on vernal pools around Ohio. Details of the program can be found at http://www.theoec.org/cwater_vernal.html.

Deni is a graduate of Belgrade University (Serbia and Montenegro), with a Ph.D. from the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University. Prior to joining the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 2003 as Director of Conservation Science, Deni's research projects included studies of Mediterranean lizards, Saltwater Crocodiles in Sri Lanka and The Brown Tree Snake invasion on Guam and Hawaii. His Ph.D. project focused on factors regulating amphibian and bird diversity in natural and constructed wetlands in Ohio. Current projects of the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy include wetland restoration, mapping critical stop-over sites for migratory birds, developing forest management protocols that are consistent with bird conservation and assisting in protecting important bird habitats in Belize, Colombia and Venezuela.

Take note:

Ohio Audubon Assembly is February 11-13, 2005

The Ohio Audubon Assembly is meeting in Worthington from Feb. 11 -13, 2005. You can help make the event a success by offering visitors accommodation in your home on the nights of Feb. 10 - 12. Please contact John Arnfield at arnfield.2@osu.edu (email preferred) or by calling (614) 447-9451.

New Ornithology 101 class!

John Condit, Curator The Ohio State University's Museum of Biological Diversity will be offering a 101 class on basic ornithology Jan.12 (*Time of the class TBD*) at the museum, 1315 Kinnear Road. Please register by contacting Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or azuretrails@columbus.rr.com by Jan.7. *Note: There will be no more 101 classes offered until Spring.*

Delaware County Bird Club meeting is Jan. 24, 2005

The DCBC will meet at 7 p.m. Richard Bradley, a professor at The Ohio State University, Marion will be the speaker. For details, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Eco-Weekend is April 29-May 1, 2005 at Camp Oty' Okwa

For more information, call the Eco-Weekend Committee at (740) 549-0333.

Ohio Ornithological Society annual meeting

The Ohio Ornithological Society annual meeting is at Shawnee State Park on April 20 -May 1, 2005. More information can be found at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/>.

Coming up

Continued from front

Saturday February 5, 2005 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Greg Seymour

Visit this geologically spectacular gorge in Licking County and assist east central preserve manager Greg Seymour in constructing a 30 – 40 foot reminder fence along the remnants of the Ohio–Erie Canal. Walk astride the remains of a narrow gage railroad line which cuts through though solid rock, towering along both sides of the path. The geologic features are strikingly visible during this leafless season. All skill levels are welcome. Call Roger Barber (614) 265-6467 by noon Jan. 31 to sign up and determine tool requirements.

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Columbus Audubon
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