



# Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II.....	2
Columbus CBC results.....	3
Coming up.....	4
GBBC.....	5
Annual Meeting and Potluck.....	6
Your Bird Stories.....	10
Eco Weekend brochure.....	insert

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## CA adopts Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA



Map of the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area (IBA).

**By Paul Gledhill**

Columbus Audubon has adopted the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area as part of a stewardship plan for the IBA. This IBA extends along the Scioto River north from the southern terminus of Berliner Park to the I-70/71 overpass, includes the Green Lawn Cemetery and encompasses the Whittier Peninsula, the future home of the Columbus Audubon Center (*see map*). Adoption responsibilities of the IBA include regular bird walks for the public, as well as the development and implementation of a system to monitor bird species using the corridor.

As part of our adoption activities, we also hope to participate in statewide programs such as the Ohio Avian Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Team Program and the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II field work (*See story, page 2*). A workshop will be held Sunday, March 26, to train interested volunteers for the projects.

Please consider attending regardless of your birding skill level. The monitoring program will provide the opportunity for all skill levels of birders to contribute. Some aspects of the survey will require skills such as birding by ear, however, volunteers also are needed to act as recorders. At the workshop, attendees will be encouraged to commit to some inventory activities throughout the 2006 breeding season.

For more information on volunteering or to register for the workshop, please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or [gledhillpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gledhillpaul@yahoo.com) or Julie Davis at [greenheron58@insight.rr.com](mailto:greenheron58@insight.rr.com).

# Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

By Paul Rodewald and Aaron Boone

It has been over 20 years since the completion of fieldwork on the first breeding bird atlas in Ohio and we are pleased to announce the start of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA II) in the spring of 2006. Like Ohio's first atlas, this new project will offer volunteers an exciting way to learn about the breeding birds of Ohio while generating an immense amount of new information necessary for the effective conservation of birds in the state. By engaging Ohio's citizens in this cooperative effort, the OBBA II will foster learning and interaction among bird enthusiasts of all experience levels and will heighten public awareness of birds in Ohio.

The OBBA II is a joint project of The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. Project directors are Paul Rodewald (OSU), Scott Hull (ODNR Division of Wildlife) and Aaron Boone (OSU). Boone is the OBBA II coordinator. Important assistance for the OBBA II comes from our partners, the Ohio Ornithological Society, Audubon Ohio and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, all who serve on the OBBA II advisory board. Other individuals on the board are Dan Brauning of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and John Castrale of the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife.

## Atlas goals

Ohio contains an impressive amount of avian diversity and a primary goal of any atlas effort is to document this diversity.

Using the help of Ohio's extensive birding community over the next five years (2006-2010) the OBBA II will:

- ◆ Document the current distribution of

breeding birds in Ohio by surveying all 4584 blocks in the state.

- ◆ Assess changes in the breeding distributions of breeding birds over the last 20 years.

- ◆ Provide new measures of abundance of breeding birds throughout Ohio.

- ◆ Identify important areas that support high diversity or species of concern.

- ◆ Collect statewide information on the distribution of species that are difficult to survey, such as owls, nightjars and wetland species.

- ◆ Generate new information on the status of Ohio's rare, threatened and endangered birds.

## What's new in the OBBA II

Although the OBBA II will be similar to the first, there will be a number of exciting additions, due in part to available technologies.

For observers that have access to the Internet, the atlas Web site address is <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/>. This Web site will provide volunteers with atlas instructions and materials and will keep volunteers updated on new developments.

Individuals who do not have easy access to the Internet will be updated through periodic newsletters or by contacting their regional coordinator or the offices of the project directors. We are also working with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who is developing a web-based application for data collection.

Volunteers will be able to enter atlas data and view up-to-the-minute results for breeding birds across the entire state. This feature will not be available until late spring 2006. Examples of what it will look like are available on the OBBA II Web site.

For more information, contact Paul Rodewald and Aaron Boone at The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. (614) 247-6458, [rodewald2@osu.edu](mailto:rodewald2@osu.edu) or [boone70@osu.edu](mailto:boone70@osu.edu).

You may also contact Scott Hull at the Olentangy Wildlife Research Station (ODNR-Division of Wildlife), 8589 Horseshoe Road, Ashley, Ohio 43003. (740) 747-2525 ext. 23 or [scott.hull@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:scott.hull@dnr.state.oh.us).

Unlike the first atlas, the OBBA II will survey all 4584 atlas blocks in the state, instead of 1 in every 6 blocks. Surveying all blocks will allow a more effective survey of rare and common species, including those that are unevenly distributed across the state. This is an enormous task, but with the help of birdwatchers from all over Ohio we will meet this challenge making the OBBA II the most comprehensive in the nation. There is plenty of opportunity to participate, whether you want to venture into the more remote parts of Ohio or to simply survey your own backyard.

## Volunteers are needed

The ultimate success of the OBBA II depends on the active participation of birders and outdoor enthusiasts from across the state.

Every participant can make valuable contributions. If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating, please give them the Web site address or other contact information. We are planning to make atlas blocks available for selection in late January and we will start data collection on March 1.

## Rhododendron Cove boardwalk dedicated

A boardwalk over uneven and wet ground encourages, even invites, a person to cross over and explore the natural area beyond. And so it was quite fitting that a new boardwalk be commemorated in the memory of longtime Audubon member, Joel Wachtel. He reveled in the natural world and his eyes would sparkle as he shared it with others. He encouraged novices and experienced people alike to join him on hikes to marvel at the spring flowers; he invited them to join him as he searched for migratory songbirds; and he paused with them simply to soak in the beauty of a damselfly resting on a reed. Always eager to share his knowledge, Joel led field trips for Columbus Audubon for years, including many at Eco Weekend. He was also one of the "regulars" of the founding members of the work trips that Columbus Audubon does in conjunction with ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. It is with sadness that we note his passing away last year and it is with great fondness that we

remember his enthusiasm. One of his best loved places was what is now Rhododendron Cove State Nature Preserve in the Hocking Hills. He spent countless hours admiring and identifying the many varied plants, animals and rock formations there.

The Columbus Audubon work trip crew worked with DNAP to install a new boardwalk so that people could more easily enter into the beauty of the area. DNAP also built a sign to stand by the boardwalk that reads "This boardwalk is dedicated in memory of Joel G. Wachtel - A friend of Ohio's Natural Areas." The boardwalk and sign were dedicated during the January work trip in Rhododendron Cove. The new boardwalk stands as a reminder of Joel's constant encouragement to come and explore.

To visit Rhododendron Cove, contact DNAP for a permit at <http://www.dnr.ohio.gov/dnap/permits/default.htm>.

-Katryn Renard



# 2005 Columbus CBC ferrets out rare and uncommon birds

By Rob Thorn

On December 18, 51 observers sponsored by CAS spent the day counting birds in different areas of Columbus. The weather was fairly cold, but calm. The sky was clear for the morning, but clouded up by late afternoon when a few flurries finished off the daylight. The final total was 77 species and 67,210 individual birds, which was a very good total. The complete breakdown is as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe – 5; Double-crested Cormorant – 2; Great Blue Heron – 52; Tundra Swan – CW; Mute Swan – CW; Snow Goose – CW; Canada Goose – 5291; Wood Duck – CW; Black Duck – 575; Mallard – 1546; Gadwall – 2; N.Shoveler – CW; Green-winged Teal – 1; American Wigeon – 1; Ring-necked Duck – 73; Redhead – 1; Hooded Merganser – 49; Ruddy Duck – 1; Northern Harrier – 6 (2 parties); Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1; Cooper's Hawk – 35; Red-tailed Hawk – 42; Red-shouldered Hawk – 2; Roughlegged Hawk – 6 (3 parties); **Merlin – 1**; American Kestrel – 8; **Wild Turkey – 5**; Ring-necked Pheasant – 1; American Coot – 1; Killdeer – CW; Wilson's Snipe – 1; Ringbilled Gull – 143; Herring Gull – 1; Rock Dove – 2653; Mourning Dove – 710; E. Screech Owl – 1; Great Horned Owl – 2; Barred Owl – 3; Belted Kingfisher – 18; Red-headed Woodpecker – 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker – 132; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 20 (most parties); Downy Woodpecker – 179; Hairy Woodpecker – 18; N.Flicker – 27; Pileated Woodpecker – 5; Blue Jay – 278; American Crow – 955; Horned Lark – 23; Carolina Chickadee – 424; Tufted Titmouse – 144; White-breasted Nuthatch – 161; Red-breasted Nuthatch – 41; Brown Creeper – 47; Carolina Wren – 117; Winter Wren – 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet – 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet – CW; Eastern Bluebird – 27; Hermit Thrush – 16; American Robin – 1682; N.Mockingbird – 34; European Starling – 46,947; Cedar Waxwing – 6; Yellow-rumped Warbler – 20; Northern Cardinal – 716; Eastern Towhee – 12; American Tree Sparrow – 312; Field Sparrow – 1; **Grasshopper Sparrow – 1** (new to CBC; excellent details); Savannah Sparrow – 3; Song Sparrow – 223; Eastern Fox Sparrow – 3; Swamp Sparrow – 1; White-throated Sparrow – 514; White-crowned Sparrow – 10; Dark-eyed Junco – 450; **Snow Bunting – 1**; Red-winged Blackbird – CW; Common Grackle – 34; Brown-headed Cowbird – 76; Purple Finch – 1; House Finch – 435; American Goldfinch – 408; House Sparrow – 1469.

**Totals:** 77 species, 67,210 individuals.

Birds seen during count week, but not on count day: Mute Swan, **Tundra Swan**, **Snow Goose**, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Killdeer, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Red-winged Blackbird.

**Participants:** Charles Bombaci, Aaron Boone, Don Burton, Nancy Bringardener, Suzanne Cardinal, Bruce and Molly Carlson, Barb Christel, Thom Cooper, Ken and Julie Davis, Diane Dearing, Sheila Fagan, Diana Fowler, Paul Gardner, Sharon Givan, Jeff Grabmeier, Bret Graves, Elayna Grody, Kevin Hinkle, Becky Jordan, Michael Jordan, Rich Kern, Bruce Lindsay, Rob Lowry, Tom Manion, Neil Marquard, Bernie Master, Carolyn May, Jim McCormac, Joseph Meara, Dick and Kathy Miller, Susan Moore, Richard Oxley, Doug Perkins, Len

and Nancy Powlick, Pam Raver, Sherri Rida, Robin Robins, Paul Rodewald, Robert Royse, Darlene Sillick, Bruce Simpson, Sandra Sklar, Doug and Deena Snapp, Gene Stauffer, Rob Thorn (*compiler*) and Dick Tuttle.

This year's CBC has so many highlights, one hardly knows where to begin. Well, not exactly. Two species stick out: The wild turkeys and grasshopper sparrow, both Columbus firsts. The turkey tracks were noted by Dick Miller in the wilds of the Rocky Fork Country Club and his group adroitly tracked the birds down for the first CBC record in anyone's memory. The Grasshopper Sparrow was found and carefully studied by Aaron Boone, Suzanne Cardinal and Paul Rodewald in the weed fields of the Waterman Farm. This is a breeding location for them, but there are few good records of them wintering north of Tennessee.

Raptors were another highlight of this year's count. A merlin out at Waterman Farms was a welcome rarity. Open-country hawks were big news with a half dozen each of Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks. While the harriers were found around the few remaining field areas in the southern margins of the circle (Three Creeks Park and the Blacklick Creek greenway), the Rough-legs were seen right in town, at Waterman farms, the airport, and Jefferson Township. Add to this a very high count of Cooper's Hawks, and nearly every party had a good hawk day.

Waterfowl and shorebirds didn't go Absent Without Leave (AWOL) either, although some of them weren't particularly noticeable on Count day. Remarkable were Count period records for Mute Swans

Tundra Swans, and Snow Goose. Any of them would have been a gold star bird on count day.

Still, cormorants, gadwall, green-winged teal and wigeon were all unusual for the count, as was a cold Wilson's Snipe in the fields of Smith Farm down at Three Creeks, flushed up by one of the harriers no less! (*Elayna Grody*).

Finally, some of the 'half hardy' winter residents showed some encouraging numbers in the face of the cold weather. Hermit thrushes had a phenomenal 16 birds and were seen by virtually every party. Bluebirds also had a rebound year, with 27 birds scattered between 5 areas.

Sapsuckers also had a remarkable showing with 20 individuals, the peak of a rather remarkable woodpecker showing. A Red-headed Woodpecker juvenile found at Green Lawn Cemetery (*Bernie Master, Jim McCormac*) was the most unusual, but there were strong numbers of Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers. Nuthatches also put in a good showing, with 161 White-breasted and 41 of their winter-invasive cousin, the Red-breasted nuthatch.

These totals were great given our urban circle. Speaking of which, our urban birds also tallied quite well. If it seemed like Canada Geese were everywhere, well, they were, with 5291 individuals. Rock Pigeons were also common at 2653 birds and starlings were abundant to the point of scary, with a whopping 46,987 birds. If your car seemed more of a dropping target this year, now you know why. Even Crows seemed to rebound from their WNV woes, with 955 birds, a jump up from recent numbers.

For results of other central Ohio CBC's, visit the CBC Web site at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>.

## 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.

**Note:** Field trip times, dates and locations are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you plan on going on a trip, please contact the trip leader 24 hours ahead of time to make sure the trip has not been changed, postponed or cancelled. Also, check the Columbus Audubon Web site at [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org) for any changes or additions to the field trip listings.

### Field trips

#### Wednesday Walks at Whittier

*Wednesdays, February 1 and March 1, 8 a.m.*

**Leaders:** Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Join Paul and Heather for a short walk around Whittier Peninsula to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street). *For more information, contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or [gledhillpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gledhillpaul@yahoo.com), or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or [heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us).*

#### Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

*Sunday, February 12, 11 a.m.*

**Leaders:** Mike Flynn, Nadya Bennett, Darlene Sillick

Join us while we look for waterfowl, raptors and any other surprises that may come our way. We will visit both owl groves to check for long-eared, saw-whet and barred owls. It is also a great area to observe eagles - both adult and immature! If time and the group agrees, we may head over to Big Island to check out the waterfowl there. Dress warmly, wear good, waterproof shoes and bring snacks or a lunch. Meet at Worthington Square Mall in the back corner of the parking lot on the Kroger side. *For more information, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493, Nadya Bennett at (614) 734-1877 or Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).*

#### Winter Birds of Prey at The Wilds

*Sunday, February 19, 1 p.m.*

**Leader:** Mike Flynn

This unique Ohio landscape is so attractive to birds of prey that it has become one of the premier sites in Ohio to observe wintering hawks, falcons, eagles and owls. A Golden Eagle has spent the winter here for at least the past three seasons. In February 2004 some CA field trip participants, located and confirmed a rare Ohio Prairie Falcon. We will look for the usual and unusual resident and visiting winter raptors along with waterfowl and the regular cast of avian species. Bring your scopes, dress warm and bring snacks and drinks. Meet at the Cracker Barrel restaurant at I-70/256 South). *If you have questions, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 by Saturday, February 18 at 10 p.m.*

#### Highbanks Metro Park and Alum Creek Reservoir

*Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m.*

**Leader:** Rob Thorn

Late February is when winter starts to lose its grip. Days are conspicuously longer, 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 field edges and ravines of Highbanks 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

### CA March Program

## The owls of Montana

**Tuesday, March 28, 2006**

**7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. presentation**  
**Innis House at Inniswood Metro Gardens**

#### Program description

Join us for a look into the lives of the owls of Montana. Julie Davis and Jen Sauter will share their experiences from banding young long-eared owls to finding a nesting boreal to spotting a pair of Great Grays. They will use a Powerpoint presentation to show all of the exciting moments of their trip. Don't miss this chance to delve into the nesting and mating habits of the owls of Montana.

water by now, and often hosts loons, grebes and the first flocks of north-bound waterfowl. Meet at the Highbanks Nature Center parking area. Dress warmly. After birding around Highbanks, we'll drive a short distance to Alum Creek. Trip should be over by 2 p.m. *For more information, contact Rob Thorn at (614) 471-3051 or [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net).*

#### Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

*Sunday, February 26, noon*

**Leader:** Steve Landes

Meet Steve for an afternoon trip to Killdeer Plains and surrounding areas. Targets may include snow buntings, long-eared and short-eared owls and migrating waterfowl. Dress warmly and meet at the Worthington Square Mall parking lot, just south of I-270 on U.S. 23. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. *For more information, contact Steve at [Katbird103@aol.com](mailto:Katbird103@aol.com).*

#### Green Lawn Cemetery, Whittier Peninsula, OSU Wetland

*Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m.*

**Leader:** David Horn

We will be looking for signs of spring at one of the city's best birding spots. Meet at the Green Lawn Cemetery Administration Building. Participants should look for a green Subaru Outback, license MOTHMAN. *For more information, contact Dave Horn at [horn.1@osu.edu](mailto:horn.1@osu.edu).*

#### Alum Creek State Park and surrounding areas

*Saturday, March 4, 8 a.m.*

**Leaders:** Nadya Bennett and Michael Packer

Alum Creek in March is a wonderful area to look for waterfowl, woodpeckers, raptors and a variety of other late winter birds as well as any early spring migrants. The area we will explore first is the trails by the Park Office opposite Peachblow Road north of the beach. These trails will take us through a variety of habitats including forest, field and lakeshore. After we finish there, we will head to Oxbow Island to explore the many areas there and then to Mudhen Marsh to look for Red-Headed Woodpeckers among other species. This area offers many different places to explore, so depending on the time, we may be able to hit other hot spots. Meet at Worthington Square Mall in the back corner of the parking lot on the Kroger side. Wear good, waterproof shoes as the different areas

*See Coming up, page 7*



# Creating the perfect bird habitat in your backyard

By Toni Stahl

It's fun to travel to see exotic birds, but as seen in the *Wizard of Oz*, 'there's no place like home' to really get to know them. Even in a small area, you can provide a valuable habitat for birds.

My husband and I have a postage-stamp sized yard in the city. By adding birdbaths and feeders, we attracted 9 bird species. After we created a native forest edge in our backyard, the count jumped from 9 to 30 species in 12 different bird groups. A Cooper's Hawk showed up almost immediately and an Ovenbird stopped by to refuel this past October.

Birds rely on native plants, insects, and other small animals for food and for their very survival. By providing native plants in your yard you can give birds cover and places to raise young. Practice organic pest/weed control, supply water and food so birds will thrive. Native birds have evolved to depend on plants native to the area, which are easy to care for because they have adapted to our climate. Traditional chemically treated lawns have little value, basically a 'green desert.' We discovered more native sparrows, like the Song and Chipping Sparrows, and fewer European House Sparrows when we made some simple changes to our yard.

Plant some evergreens. Good varieties are the Eastern Red Cedar (*juniperus virginiana*) or the smaller Common Juniper (*juniperus communis*), to block wind, usually from the North and West. Only the female junipers fruit, so be sure there is a male in your neighborhood. We got two to be safe. Plant them away from apple/crabapple trees because they are susceptible to cedar-apple rust. Leaving leaf litter around is good cover for bugs. It's fun to see the birds shuffle, hop and pick through it.

If local regulations allow, placing a brush pile in an out-of-the-way corner of your yard is very valuable. It doesn't take up much space. In the spring, you can plant flowering vines over it. After the holidays, we use cut trees that we pick up at no cost to add to the brush pile.

We were amazed at how quickly our juncos and white-throated sparrows can disappear into it when the Cooper's Hawk arrives. We've seen the hawk jump up and down on the brush pile, unable to reach the birds loudly chattering, safely below. Other wildlife



Birds visiting a brush pile.

have used our old holiday tree as well.

Birds not only need water to drink but also use it to keep their feathers in top shape for flying. When rivers are frozen birds rely on other sources of frost-free water. A heated bird bath or pond works the best to provide water during the cold winter months. We have birds standing in line for our heated bird bath when the rivers freeze. If you have a unheated pond, try placing a bale of hay in the middle to keep it from completely freezing. Birds love the sound of splashing water. Provide clean, shallow water 15 feet from cover. Don't have brush any closer where predators can hide, but have a tree nearby so birds can dry their wings.

Join me on February 18 at 10 a.m. for a free seminar, *Planning for Spring*, at the Ohio Division of Wildlife District 1, 1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus.

For more information, email me at [marc-a@columbus.rr.com](mailto:marc-a@columbus.rr.com) or go to <http://www.nwf.org/bwh>. Let's work together to help birds, one backyard at a time.

-Toni Stahl is a habitat ambassador for the National Wildlife Federation.

## The Great Backyard Bird Count is back!

9th annual count needs YOU to go out and count birds in America's great backyard

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season February 17-20. Every pair of eyes is needed and every bird counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730-million acres of public lands.

In 2005, participants sent in more than 52,000 checklists, with a record-breaking 613 species and more than 6-million birds counted. These millions of sightings generate what would be impossible otherwise, continent-wide information about where the birds are and how their numbers compare with those of previous years. Anyone with Internet access can see the results in maps and charts as the sightings pour in. This year, for the first time, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon are launching an element of friendly competition. Awards will be given to localities that submit the most checklists, record the greatest number species, or count the highest number of birds. A photo contest will also be held based on bird pictures taken during the event and submitted for posting on the GBBC gallery. Winners will be announced after all the data from the event has been submitted.

Everyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts. During the count, bird watchers tally up birds for

### 2005 GBBC statistics:

Total checklists submitted: 51,926

Total species observed: 613

Total individual birds counted: 6,546,606

as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. Participants enter their numbers online at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> and can explore sightings, maps, lists and charts as the count progresses. There's no fee or registration. Those who would like to participate but who aren't online can try their local library and many Wild Birds Unlimited store owners who are online will be accepting observations made by their customers.

Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved, can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 or the National Audubon Society at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16.

-From [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)

# Columbus Audubon annual meeting and potluck dinner

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Clintonville Woman's Club, 3951 North High Street

Please join us for food, fellowship and a tale of how we learn our birds at Columbus Audubon's annual potluck dinner Feb. 28. Please bring your family and friends! After dinner, the evening will include a short business meeting before the presentation by our featured speaker Kenn Kaufman. Non-members are welcome but may not vote during the business meeting, which will include the election of four trustees for three year terms (2006-2009). (See page 8 for their biographies). 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 utensils, plates, cups and beverage other than coffee, which will be provided.

## How we learn our birds

Anyone who develops an interest in birds will go through a process of learning those birds, learning to recognize them by sight and sound. This learning process itself can reveal some fas-

cinating things, not only about the essential personalities of the birds but about human nature as well. We go through different stages of learning, and these stages reflect both some deep insights and some comical aspects of how our minds work.

Kenn Kaufman has taught many classes on how to identify birds, but in this talk he turns his binoculars around to look at the humans instead, at the things we can learn from the adventure of learning, and at the things that birds can teach us about ourselves. A birder and naturalist since the age of 6, Kaufman is now the editor of his own nature guide series, the *Kaufman Field Guides*, with volumes on North American birds, butterflies, and mammals. His other books include *Lives of North American Birds*, *Kingbird Highway*, and the *Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. He is a field editor for *Audubon Magazine* and a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and *Birder's World*, and he has led nature tours on all seven continents. Recently, he moved from Arizona to Rocky Ridge, Ohio, where he now lives with his wife Kim.

## Special art show at this year's potluck dinner

We will be presenting the art of Sylvie Kring at this year's potluck dinner for viewing and sale. Sylvie works mostly in acrylic washes on heavy watercolor paper giving her art vivid color while maintaining the papers' texture.

Her work value adheres to simplicity; giving careful consideration to her subject while she remains loyal to the 'less is more' principle. Her work is on display at her small studio as well as in galleries, including the Frederic Remington Museum in Ogdensburg, NY. She will be selling her art from original paintings to artist's proofs, signed and numbered pieces as well as pottery, and has donated a painting for a silent auction. Half of the proceeds will go to CA and half to Ohio Nature Education. She has also generously donated a piece of pottery for the volunteer prize drawing. Be sure to enjoy Sylvie's work at the potluck and take a piece home to enjoy forever.

-Julie Davis



## CA volunteers to be recognized at potluck dinner

Columbus Audubon wants our volunteers to know how much we appreciate all of you! At this year's potluck dinner, we would like to honor all of our hard working volunteers. There will be prizes, recognition and fun.

If you staffed our booth, led a field trip, helped on a work trip or volunteered your time to Columbus Audubon in any way in 2005, be sure to attend. You will be eligible to enter our drawing for lots of special prizes, including a piece of art from our featured artist, Sylvie Kring.

Don't miss this fun event!

And, there is a lot more to come in 2006. We will be tracking your volunteer hours in order to better realize all the work each

of you do.

There will be special opportunities for our more avid birders since Columbus Audubon has adopted the Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA. We will need your keen ears and eyes to collect all the data.

There will also be new work trips, education opportunities and lots more. So, if you are a current volunteer, be sure to attend the potluck dinner so we can say thanks.

If not, don't miss out on all the fun of being a volunteer for Columbus Audubon in 2006.

-Julie Davis



# Coming up

Continued from page 4

could be muddy. For more information, contact Nadya Bennett at (614) 734-1877.

## **Migrating Waterfowl and other birds at Pickerington Ponds** Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m.

**Leader:** Mike Flynn

Nestled quietly between Reynoldsburg, Pickerington and Columbus is an enduring wetland that has survived since glacial times. For over a decade it has been protected and managed by the Metropolitan Park District of Columbus & Franklin County. With new land acquisitions, the refuge has more than tripled in size. A major wetland reconstruction project has been recently completed. Tremendous new habitat is attracting many rare and diverse species. Our trip is timed to coincide with the spring migration of waterfowl. As always, we will look at any aspect of the natural world along the way. Bring scopes, binoculars, field guides and dress in layers. Meet at the Bowen Road viewing area. *If you have questions, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 by Saturday, March 4 at 10 p.m.*

## **Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area**

Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12, Departure time TBD

**Leader:** Mike Flynn

**Note:** This trip is tentative and reservations are required to Mike Flynn by Feb. 26. Possible overnight trip to see Sandhill Cranes on their staging grounds at Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area, Ind. Various options may be available and participant space is limited. If you have ever seen a Sandhill Crane in the wild, you know how exciting it is. Imagine witnessing the sight and sound of thousands of them at one time. It is a true spectacle of nature. *For more information, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493.*

## **Saturday Walk at Whittier**

Saturday, March 18, 8 a.m.

**Leaders:** Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Join Paul and Heather for a short walk around Whittier Peninsula to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street). *For more information, contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or gledhillpaul@yahoo.com, or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us.*

## **Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds**

Saturday, March 18, 8 a.m.

**Leader:** Rob Thorn

March is the first whiff of spring. Frogs are calling, trees are budding and birds are starting to migrate. We'll visit these two southeast Columbus parks looking for departing winter residents and migrating raptors and waterfowl. Three Creeks has some wonderful riparian woods and pocket wetlands that hide all sorts of migrants. After spending the early hours here, we'll journey east to Pickerington Ponds, where migrant waterfowl should be massed on their larger wetlands. Meet at the Heron Pond parking area off

Williams Road. Dress for the unpredictable March weather. Trip should be over by 1 p.m. *For more information, contact Rob Thorn, (614) 471-3051 or robthorn@earthlink.net.*

## **Owls at Glacier Ridge**

Saturday, March 18, 5 p.m.

**Leader:** Steve Landes

Bundle up for an evening adventure at Glacier Ridge Metro Park. We will attempt to view the park's Barred and Screech Owls which will be getting ready for the mating season. Meet at the main parking lot near the picnic shelter and the playground. *For more information, contact Steve at Katbird103@aol.com.*

## **Killbuck Wildlife Area**

Sunday, March 19, 1 p.m.

**Leader:** Mike Flynn

This extensive wetland area in quiet Amish country provides an excellent home for many species of wildlife. In the spring, as birds are migrating, they are drawn to this watershed as they fly north. It is diverse and safe, rich in food and large enough to handle tremendous numbers of birds. We will be looking for ducks, geese, swans, Bald Eagles but also other species including, otter, beaver and mink. Bring scopes, binoculars, field guides, snacks and drinks. Meet at Worthington Square Mall in the back corner of the parking lot on the Kroger side. *If you have questions, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 by Saturday, March 18 at 10 p.m.*

## **Big Island State Wildlife Area**

Sunday, March 26, Noon

**Leaders:** Mike Flynn, Nadya Bennett

This wetland area will offer us a great opportunity to look for waterfowl and raptors. We will also hike to the back edge of the wetlands (weather permitting) and walk along the forest looking for edge species that may pop up this time of year. It could prove to be a very exciting trip!! Make sure to wear good, waterproof shoes and dress warmly - even though it's March, it could still be breezy and chilly. Meet at Worthington Square Mall in the back corner of the parking lot on the Kroger side. *For more information, call Mike Flynn at (614) 882-9493 or Nadya Bennett at (614) 734-1877.*

## **Spring at Columbus Audubon's Calamus Swamp**

Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m.

**Leader:** Jim Davidson

Join Jim on a wonderful walk through this amazing wetland south of Columbus. Calamus' 19 acres offer a unique glimpse into the glacial past that shaped Ohio's landscape. It is home to several distinct plant communities and numerous breeding birds and is an appealing resting spot for birds migrating through the Scioto River corridor. Meet at the Calamus parking lot. **Directions:** From I-71 south, take state Route 104 south about 20 miles to 1/4 mile past where it crosses state Route 22. The parking lot is in the field on the left. *For more information, contact Jim Davidson at (614) 451-3009.*

## **Avid Birders field trips**

Go to <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html> for more information.

## Entertainment Book sale a success

Sales of Entertainment Books were slower in 2005 than in some other years, but still we did very well. At press time, the final accounting was not yet done but we made over \$700 for sure. Thanks again to our sales outlets: Backyard Experience, Better Earth, Wild Bird Center of Dublin, Wild Bird Supplies and Gifts, Wild Birds Unlimited in Westerville, Wild Birds Unlimited at Blacklick Center and Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside Drive. Thanks also to our squad of pickup and delivery folks: Linda Marshall, Pat Wolfrom, Kristan Leedy and Roz Horn.

-Dave Horn

# Trustee nominees

At the Columbus Audubon annual potluck on Feb. 28 we will vote on four trustee candidates. Below are their biographies so you can learn a little more about them. We feel very fortunate to have such qualified candidates for the CA trustee position to give their energy and skill to our cause.

*For three-year terms 2006-2009:*

## Julie Davis

Julie Davis is an active birder, hiker and kayaker. She is currently finishing her first term as a CA board member, where she serves as volunteer coordinator. Julie also helps run the CA Birdathon and is working on the new Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA project for CA. She has a degree from Purdue University and has served on various boards in the past. Julie is also a volunteer at Highbanks Metro Park, monitoring blue bird boxes, along with other activities. She currently is the promoter for the Worthington Art Festival and teaches classes at the Westerville Athletic Club. She is looking forward to being able to further develop the volunteer program and helping with the upcoming Columbus Audubon Center.

## Tom Sheley

Tom Sheley is not new to Columbus Audubon, the birding community or to all the time and energy he gives to environmental causes and organizations in our area. He moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1993 to own and operate the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Riverside Drive. From 1998-2000 he was a trustee for Columbus Audubon. He was also a trustee for the National Franchisee Advisory Council for Wild Birds Unlimited from 1998-2001. From 1994 to the present Tom has volunteered in various capacities for Columbus Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and the Ohio Wildlife Center. He has also led many field trips and presented programs on natural topics throughout the state. His awards and recognitions include the National Friend to the Environment Award in 1996, Wild Birds Unlimited Franchisee of the Year in 1999 and the Columbus Audubon Song Sparrow Award in 2000. Tom's hobbies include bird watching, hiking,

camping, fishing, woodworking and nature photography as well as speaking passionately on many nature related topics. His wife Donna and his college-aged son Christopher, join him on his trips and speaking engagements.

## Nadya Bennett

Nadya Bennett has lived in Columbus for the last 10 years. She and her family have been ongoing members of National Audubon for as long as she can remember. She is currently a student at The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources and will be starting a Master's Program in Environmental Education and Interpretation in the spring. Nadya also teaches programs at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. She became active in Columbus Audubon about four years ago by attending various field trips. Then, she moved on to volunteering at different Audubon events and participating in Christmas Bird Counts. Over the summer, a position on the Columbus Audubon board opened up unexpectedly and Nadya jumped at the opportunity. Nadya spends most of her free time birding the trails of various parks in central Ohio. She enjoys travel, photography, art of any type and spending time relaxing at coffeehouses and bookstores.

## Linnea Saukko

Linnea Saukko has worked for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for 20 years as a Hydrogeologist. The past 17 years she has spent as a manager investigating, preventing and remediating ground water contamination. She has degrees in Environmental Quality Control and Geology and won a national student writer's contest in college for her essay entitled *How to Poison the Earth*. This essay is still being published in college textbooks as an example of writing about a process. Outside of work, Linnea is interested in nature and birding and started counting bird species several years ago. Presently, she is closing in on 400 species and likes to plan her vacations around birding. Her most memorable bird is the Elegant Trogon spotted during a birding hike in a canyon near Portal, Arizona in the spring of 2004. When she sees her 500th bird she plans to get a 500 bird pin and wear it proudly.

## Hot off the press! New bird trading cards are here

By Susan Setterlin

With a generous grant from the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Columbus Audubon has printed the first in a series of bird trading cards which will serve as a great education tool as well as a smart marketing strategy as they will be given out at local events that Columbus Audubon participates in.

There are three sets: Backyard Birds I, Backyard Birds II and Raptors I. The birds included in Backyard Birds I are: Northern Cardinal, American Robin, Mourning Dove, American Crow and Blue Jay. Backyard Birds II includes: Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, American Goldfinch and White-breasted Nuthatch. Raptors I includes: Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl and Bald Eagle.

Each card includes a photo of the bird, as well as habitat, range, and several interesting facts. Each set also includes a card which publicizes Columbus Audubon activities, Web site and mission statement.

In addition to the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, we also want to thank Tim Daniel of the Ohio Department of Natural



(Above, left) the back of one of the cards. (Above, right) The front of one of the cards.

Resources for his generous contribution of the photos used for the cards as well as to Thayer Birding Software for permission to use the range maps for each bird species.

These cards will be a valuable tool for Columbus Audubon as it continues to reach out to the community to share the passion of birding.



## Conservation Corner

# New year, new challenges

By Dave Horn

In 2005, years of conservation effort were rewarded with the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. We don't know whether 2006 will bring an event of equal impact, but we are certain that conservation challenges will remain and Columbus Audubon will do its best to have an impact. Some of the issues that will have our attention this year are:

**1 Watershed awareness.** You've seen the green signs throughout central Ohio designating the watershed of each small stream. That water goes somewhere; animals and plants live in and beside it, and people drink it, wash with it, and use it to drain away waste. Columbus Audubon is making watershed awareness a priority, overseen by a new committee. (See article on page 10).

**2 IBA adoption.** Columbus Audubon is "adopting" the Scioto River-Greenlawn Important Bird Area as a part of a stewardship plan for the

IBA (See article on the cover). The area extends along the Scioto River north from the south end of Berliner Park to the I-70/71 interchange, and includes Green Lawn Cemetery and the Whittier Peninsula, future home of the Columbus Audubon Center. We will continue bird walks and develop a system of monitoring the birds that use the corridor. Watch our Web site for information on field trips and a workshop in March to train interested volunteers.

**3 Calamus Swamp.** In addition to continuing to offer field trips to our own little jewel of a wetland in Pickaway County, we plan to lengthen the boardwalk to make more of the area accessible to visitors who would like to keep their feet slightly dry.

**4 Invasive species awareness.** We will continue to highlight invasive species that occur in central Ohio by means of articles in the *Song Sparrow*. Look for this month's feature on Garlic Mustard.

**5 Action alerts.** Some issues arise faster than the lead time necessary to alert *Song Sparrow* readers via print – such is the nature of production and mailing, so we plan to make the conservation area of our Web site accurate and up to date with the latest breaking news. We know already that there will be activity involving wind power, night lighting, oil and gas extraction from state parks and natural areas, and attempts to weaken legislation such as the Endangered Species Act. There are also older issues that won't quite go away: cormorant management, Lake Erie shoreline access, emerald ash borers, gypsy moths, etc. There is always plenty of opportunity for conservation activity.

Volunteers are the backbone of Audubon, and you're always welcome.

*The Conservation Committee meets (usually) the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Dave Horn's house. For more information, contact me at (614) 262-0312 or horn.1@osu.edu.*

## Invasive species

# Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

By Pete Knopp

A species becomes invasive primarily because it has no natural enemies or natural means of control. Often, it will seemingly hide out for years and then explode – taking over tens or hundreds of acres. Some species are intentionally introduced, while others are inadvertently distributed by humans.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an aggressive plant species that invades parks, forests and other shady areas. An isolated plant or two can eventually form extensive colonies over large areas. This species is not native to North America, but was introduced from Europe in the 1800s.

The plant is not hard to identify, and once you become familiar with it you may be surprised how often you find it in the Midwest. It reproduces exclusively by seed and requires two years to mature. Germinating in the spring, in the first year it develops a circular cluster of kidney-shaped leaves just above the ground, which remain green during winter. In the second year it produces one or more hairless, light green stems from 2-to-4-feet tall. The leaves are triangular or heart-shaped with wavy to coarsely toothed



Garlic Mustard in the first year.

margins and appear alternately along the stem. When you crush the leaves they give off a garlic-like odor.

From April to May, flowers appear at the tip of the stem in tight clusters. Individual flowers are white with four petals, and a single flower is about a quarter-inch wide. The slender fruit forms a thin, four-sided, capsule (pod) that resembles a branch growing from the main stem. The pods appear green and turn tan when ripe, and are capable of expelling seeds up to 10 feet. Wind dispersal is limited. Rodents, birds and deer may disperse

Garlic Mustard seeds.

People are quite effective in distributing Garlic Mustard on boots, pant cuffs, and by roadside mowing and cars. The plant subsequently dies after producing seed.

Once established, this plant can be hard to control. It is important to spot small infestations early, when it is relatively easy to manage. Plants are easily pulled, roots and all.

If you pull them before the flowers appear, you don't have to worry about disposing of them. Be sure to get the roots of non-flowering stems, or they may resprout. You can cut flowering stems near the ground level with a scythe (suitable for larger populations), but cut stems must be removed or they may produce viable seed.

For larger colonies, additional methods of control include flame toasting with portable propane torches, herbicides and intense prescribed fire in the fall or spring. These methods require special training and equipment that are not described here.

Large densities of Garlic Mustard will outcompete and displace native wildflower

*See Garlic Mustard, page 11*

# Your Bird Stories

## The Mad Hummingbird

I had the most amazing experience with a male Ruby-Throated Hummingbird last summer. My husband and I were having a garage sale, on a very hot day. We set up tables with our items for sale in the garage, so that the buyers could stay out of the sun.

It was sometime after lunch when there were no shoppers, that I decided to sit on a chair in the back of our garage to rest. I suddenly heard the chatter of one of the many Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds that frequent the feeders in our backyard. The chatter kept getting louder, and I could tell that it was not very happy about something. Since the males are always chattering at each other over territories and hierarchy, I was not concerned about the noise.

A few minutes later, I saw something fly into our garage. I quickly looked up to see what it was, and there about five feet in front of me was one of the older male hummingbirds hovering and making quite a loud racket. I wondered why he flew into our garage and why he was so agitated. He would fly towards the opening to our garage and then turn around and fly towards me. After doing this a couple of times, I just knew he was trying to get my attention. I am also thinking to myself about what he could want.

Well, he started flying towards me again and making a really loud noise, almost like he was berating me. He was hovering near the red plastic garage door's manual release handle. The handle is attached to a cord and hangs down from the track in the middle of our two-car garage. The male hummingbird made a loud noise again and then hit the red plastic piece with his long bill. He hovered there for a few seconds and continued making loud noises. I just knew he was trying to convey something to me. Then it occurred to me that I had neglected to check the two hummingbird feeders in our backyard that morning. We always keep two feeders filled with sweetened water on shepherd's hooks for our feathered friends. The feeders are glass with a red tops and bottoms.

As I started to stand up so that I could go check the water level in the feeders, the male hummingbird flew out of our garage and around the side of our house. By the time I had walked out onto our backyard deck, the mad male hummingbird was already at one of the feeders waiting for me. It was then that I noticed both of the feeders were completely empty. I quickly grabbed one of the feeders and hurried into the house to refill it.

We always keep a supply of their water in the refrigerator. When I walked back outside with the freshly filled feeder, he started buzzing around my head. As soon as I put the feeder back onto the shepherd's hook, he flew to it and started drinking. Before too long, others started to arrive. He would not let any of

them drink until he was done. Needless to say, I never again forgot to check the feeder early every morning!

*-Janet Dixon*

## A Vacation to the Birds of Paradise

I have to share a vacation birding experience and I hope you will do the same. While weekend Ohio trips reward me with unforgettable memories, my vacation this summer to Papua New Guinea was a tad longer of a memorable jaunt. I traveled 12,500 miles to observe a bird species collectively referred to as Birds of Paradise or "Paradisaeidae." It is 7:30 a.m. in the highland jungle of Papua New Guinea and I am sitting on a wet log atop a small clearing overlooking a river valley owned by the Huli. My guide (Benson) and I have been waiting for two hours for the male Blue Bird of Paradise. It is not overdue. An ebbing fog is just now revealing the fruit trees the Blue Bird of Paradise considers its own. We hear the male call but he is a half-mile away. My guide, who frequently guides David Attenborough and the BBC, notes something further down the valley. It is only the two of us and I follow without hesitation as we jump off a five-foot wall that retains a two-foot tributary.

I am loaded with a tripod, 500mm SLR, bins, field guide and a rock oven cooked sweet potato. The latter is my lunch. I trust we do not have to go back the way we came. We find a clearing and look further down the valley. On a fruit tree at 200 feet is an absolutely brilliant indigo bird the size of a crow. It has a chalk white bill, thick broken white eye-ring and velvet black head. We watch as it fractures and peels fruit. It is only the female. It is only the female? Benson and I both turn our heads up-valley at the call of the male. He is 100 feet away but out of view. We have to climb the wall and I need my hands. I am throwing my equipment up to Benson. He says forget the potato but that's the first thing I throw. We scramble 150 feet back up the valley. I am not turning around to look at the bird but hoping he will not fly away. This is always a dicey choice. Betting against time for a better view. 150 feet puts us at eye-level with the male as he calls out atop a tree overlooking his territory. I am only 50 feet away from a "usually" very difficult to observe bird dowsed in morning sunlight. My bins are in my hands. His long black streamer feathers make this bird about 2.5-feet long from head to tail. His magnificent indigo primaries are contrasted with bright rusty flanks and white sides and belly. I set up my camera and take 50 plus images before he flies away on his own behest.

*-Michael Packer*

You may e-mail your birding experiences to the Editor at [stefanie.hauck@gmail.com](mailto:stefanie.hauck@gmail.com). Deadline is the first of the month.

## Your input is needed!

### New watershed awareness group

#### By Heather Raymond

Columbus Audubon is developing exciting new partnerships with local and international watershed groups and we need your help! A new watershed awareness group is forming that hopes to raise member awareness of the vital links between watershed restoration and protection and bird conservation.

The group will help develop watershed educational materials, work with local watershed groups on mutually beneficial activities and select a sister watershed in Central America to partner with. The sister watershed will be used as a means to educate local watershed groups and Columbus Audubon members about the importance of watershed protection efforts in the win-

ter home of many of our beloved migrating birds.

In addition, the watershed awareness group hopes to support restoration efforts in our sister watershed and possibly lead educational trips to the watershed.

If you are interested in being involved in our local or international watershed activities, please contact Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342 or e-mail [heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:heather.raymond@epa.state.oh.us) or contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666 or [gledhillpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gledhillpaul@yahoo.com). We look forward to working with you on these important issues!

For a complete list of central Ohio watershed groups, go to the CA Web site at <http://www.columbusaudubon.org>.



## Take note:

### CA has a new "Yahoo!" Internet Group site!

For Audubon members who have access to the Internet, Columbus Audubon now has a site where members can e-mail each other, post birding reports, ask questions, share photos etc. To join the group go to:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Columbus\\_Audubon/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Columbus_Audubon/) and click on the tab "Join This Group." In the field "Comment to Owner" please give your full name so we can quickly get you signed up. If you are an Audubon member but not part of the Columbus chapter, please provide us with your address so we can get you on the list. Please note that you need to be a "Yahoo!" member (free) to join this group service. Once you join the Columbus Audubon "Yahoo!" group, you can choose to have group e-mails sent to your e-mail account as individual e-mails, a daily digest or not at all. If you do not want e-mails from this group sent to your home or work, you can still check out what people have posted and e-mailed by going to the group site. More details about the site and joining can be found at the above link. If you still have problems joining, please contact Michael Packer at [moderator@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:moderator@columbusaudubon.org). Good birding and see you online!

### Columbus Audubon E-Newsletter

Receive the *Song Sparrow* as a PDF in your e-mail inbox! It will arrive before the first of the month and will be in full color! Help CA save money for our education and conservation programs and conserve resources. Send an e-mail to [membership@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:membership@columbusaudubon.org) and ask to be added to the electronic newsletter distribution list.

### Ohio Wildlife Center's 'WildNite for Wildlife'

*Celebrating 21 Years of Service to the Community*

**When:** March 10 - Festivities/dinner begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Columbus Zoo Indoor Pavilion

**Featuring:** Jack Hanna and native wildlife

**Cost:** \$90 per person (\$75 for OWC members) Call (614) 734 WILD (9453) or visit <http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org>. The Ohio Wildlife Center is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization.

### Ohio Birding Blog

Just in time for the new year, we've added a new feature to the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) Web site - the Ohio Birding Blog, a series of pictorial and other musings by Jim McCormac. You can find the blog under the publications section of the Web site, or you can go directly there with this url: <http://www.ohio-birds.org/blog/>.

### Delaware County Bird Club meetings

Meetings will be in the new science building on the Ohio Wesleyan University Campus, north side of the atrium, Room 163 at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. On Feb. 27 spend an evening sharing the wonders and beauty of the Antarctic and its surrounding ocean with Jed Burtt. He will talk about penguins and other animals of the Antarctic, abundantly illustrated with pictures from a recent trip to the Antarctic where he saw five species of penguins and the Falkland Islands where he saw two additional species of penguins. In addition to penguins, he saw and photographed such fascinating species as Southern Giant Petrels and Snowy Sheathbills. While at sea, he watched penguins sailing north on icebergs and albatrosses gliding on the winds of southern oceans. **Directions:** U.S. Route 23 north to the Williams Street exit, turn left and then left again on S. Henry Street. Turn right into the parking lot. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at (614) 761-3696.

## 101 class schedule

Columbus Audubon's 101 classes are free and open to the public and there is no need to register unless otherwise stated in the class description.

### Birding 101: Early Migrants

*Sunday, April 2, 2 p.m.*

**Leader:** Mike Flynn

Join Columbus Audubon's Mike Flynn on this 2.5-mile hike in search of Ohio's early bird migrants. Meet at the nature center in Highbanks Metro Park.

### Birding 101: Warblers

*Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m.*

**Leader:** TBD

Refresh your warbler knowledge through slides. Meet at the nature center meeting room in Highbanks Metro Park.

### Other birding programs

#### Woodcock Watch

*Sunday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday April 1, 7 p.m.*

Search the fields to observe the unusual courtship of the American woodcock. Location: Highbanks Metro Park.

#### Beginning birding

*Sunday, April 9, 2 p.m.*

Learn how to use binoculars, bird by ear and other field tricks to discover Ohio's migrating and year-round birds. Location: Highbanks Metro Park.

## Garlic Mustard

*Continued from page 9*

ers and tree seedlings. This plant is also reported to produce chemicals that kill off surrounding plants and microbes. Garlic Mustard seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 6 years, and repeated treatments over several years may be required to exhaust the supply of seed.

Unfortunately, invasive species are not going away.

In fact, they have been getting worse every decade. The bulk of invasive species problems are policy and management issues.

Each one of us can do our part by voicing support for policies and programs that seek to eliminate or minimize introductions of invasive species.

At home, we should learn to be aware of these species and do what we can to control their spread.

## 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 5 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities, and when submitted with our chapter code helps fund our programs. 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 5 issues of the chapter newsletter, local activities and helps fund our programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - 1-year new membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - Renewal (currently \$15 less than Audubon renewals)

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**Clip this form and mail to Columbus Audubon, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 141350, Columbus, OH 43214**

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

**Chapter code S57**

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

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

**Officers:** President: Kristan Leedy, 818-9440  
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**Trustees:** Darlene Sillick, Julie Boreman, Julie Davis, Mike Flynn, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Barbara Revard, Susan Setterlin, Karen Augenstein, Nadya Bennett, Paul Gledhill and Michael Packer

### 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 or Nadya Bennett, 734-1877  
Eco Weekend: Lois Day, (740) 549-0333; Roz Horn, 262-0312  
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602  
Corresponding Sec'y: Emily Eby, 855-3879  
Calamus Committee: Kylene Kruse, 262-0375  
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or Katryn Renard, 261-7171  
CA Phone Line: Lois and John Day, (740) 549-0333  
Avid Birders: <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html>

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