



# Song Sparrow



A joint newsletter of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon

April 2009  
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Send editorial submissions to  
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stefanie.hauck@gmail.com



By Earl Harrison

A wide array of foods pleased the palette of all in attendance at the CA potluck and annual meeting at the Clintonville Woman's Club Feb. 17. Go to [columbusaudubon.org](http://columbusaudubon.org) for more photos from this year's event.

## Awards, good food, biodiversity program highlights at annual potluck

The Clintonville Woman's Club was once again the backdrop for another successful Columbus Audubon potluck and annual meeting on Feb. 17.

More than 100 members and guests filled their plates to the brim with food from a dazzling array of dishes brought in by all in attendance.

Julie Davis, president of Columbus Audubon, started the evening off with brief announcements and the approval of next year's trustees (terms beginning in July 2009). The new trustees are: Tom Sheley, Katryn Renard, Andi Wolfe and Warren Grody.

John O'Meara, executive director of Metro Parks gave a brief presentation regarding a 10-year, 0.75-mill levy on the May 5 ballot. If passed, this levy would replace the current 0.65-mill, 10-year levy that expires at the end of 2009.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the *Song Sparrow* awards for exemplary volunteer service. This year, the award was given to three deserving recipients.

**Dick Tuttle** was recognized for his many years of dedication to the conservation of cavity nesting birds. A retired science teacher, Tuttle has long been one of the leading authorities on Eastern Bluebirds in North America and has been promoting the conservation of bluebirds and other cavity nesters in Ohio since 1968. His nest boxes produce about 1500 birds per season and he has documented an amazing 37,000 fledglings since he first started monitoring. Tuttle has detailed data on Eastern

Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Prothonotary Warblers, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouses, Carolina Wrens and American Kestrels. Tuttle's efforts on behalf of conservation have been significant. Even more impressive though, is how he has multiplied his own effort many times, by teaching, mentoring and inspiring so many others to do the same.

**Jenny Bowman**, a music teacher from Scottish Corners Elementary School in Dublin was honored for sharing her passion of Chimney Swift migration with her students and the community. Bowman's passion of sharing the spectacle of chimney swifts with the students and residents near Sells Middle School is inspiring. She invites students and staff at her school to her early evening swift counting programs during peak migration (late August until early October) where she teaches them all about the little chattering birds. Just as the birds are about to descend into the chimney, Bowman will start counting them. She makes a slash mark on the paper for about every 10 birds that go in. At the height of migration, more than 4500 birds can fly into the chimney at the school on any given night. She also takes part in Earthwatch programs studying and helping wildlife and people during her summer breaks. She shares what she learns with her students and the community.

**Stefanie Hauck** was honored with a *Song Sparrow* award for her work as editor, designer and writer for the *Song Sparrow*

See potluck, page 11

# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Grange Insurance Audubon Center Director's Journal

Dear members,

I have some very exciting news to share about an old friend of ours. **The stick was recently inducted into the Toy Hall of Fame.** One of the world's oldest and beloved toys, the stick now joins the ranks with Barbie, Slinky, teddy bears, and Atari as one of the greatest toys ever.

The stick met the criteria of fueling imagination and creativity. It was also recognized for its versatility...a stick can become a magic wand, a sword, a fishing rod. Kids all over the world have used sticks to play.

They are found in all sizes and shapes and inspire spontaneous unstructured play. I remember building forts with my brothers and sisters with all the sticks we collected from the yard. Creative and fun stick usage is not just for kids....adults use sticks for arts and crafts among other things.

As nature emerges from winter renewed, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center also emerges from an industrial wasteland to become a place for the community to find tranquility in their everyday lives. You can come and enjoy the



**My daughter, Ayla, with her stick sword.**

new trails and overlooks in the park. Find a bench to read on or take a child on a nature hike. As we await the spring migration of birds coming back from their wintering grounds and the opening of the Center, find peace in the new Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

And pick up and play with a stick....one of the greatest toys EVER!!!

*Heather Starck*

**Director, GIAC**



**Heather Starck**

## GIAC wish list

If you have a donation for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, please call Christy Smith at 614-224-3303.

- Any type of field guide in good shape
- Increment Borer
- D-Tapes
- Spotting Scope
- Telescope
- Laminator
- Garden gloves
- Garden tools
- Color printer
- Hip waders
- Fishing tackle and boxes
- Rain ponchos or jackets for children
- Computer speakers
- Digital camera

## Thank you for your support

### Gifts from Jan 15. to Feb. 15, 2009

Adkins, Greg  
Alexander, Margaret  
Ambros, Barbara  
Andreae, Carol  
Arbin, Michael  
Arnold, Gorge & Vanessa  
Audubon Miami Valley  
Bickell, Helen  
Bradley, Richard  
Brode, Michael  
Cameron, Sharon  
Campbell, Robert  
Case, Larry  
Creech & Stafford Insurance  
Cummiskey, Coley  
Dennier, Jeanette  
Dennler, Bill & Jeanne  
Elkins, Catherine  
Estep, James  
Fagan, Sheila

Flewellen, Portica  
Fosnaugh, Trevor  
Garland, James  
Grange- GA Regional Claims  
Grote, Michael & Christy  
Gruenbaum, Carolyn  
Hammersley, Sharon  
Harbin, Michael  
Harrington, Mary  
Hart, Lisa  
Hoaglin, Tom & Ann  
Hoffman, Sally  
Hollar, Leslie  
Horn, David  
Hubbard, Sherry  
Hubbell, Roger & Sally  
Hunlock, Bruce  
Hunter, B. Diane  
Irvin, Gary  
Jedinak, Thomas  
Judkins, Donneca  
La Sale, Albert

Latanick, Maureen  
Leland, David  
Lombardi, Brent  
MacPhearson, Warren  
Marsh, Debra & William  
Martens, Karen & Frank  
Martin, Scott  
McDowell, Daniel  
McMurtrie, Peter  
Miller, Joan  
Morley Pareren Bright Insurance  
Morrison, Martha  
Morrow-Jones, Charles  
Motz, Ruth  
Nerny, Nancy  
Nessing, Sandra  
Ohio State Capital Budget  
Ohio State Football Shows  
Overmire, Peter

See GIAC donors, page 11



## Conservation corner: New Zealand's problems affect us locally

By Dave Horn

Once again I'm ranging about as far afield as one can go from Ohio, but I've just returned from two weeks in New Zealand where I was struck with the relative lack of bird diversity and (compared to Ohio) a very high proportion of introduced species. Here in central Ohio we have the Rock Pigeon, Starling, House Sparrow, Mute Swan, Ring-necked Pheasant – and that's about it. Okay, House Finches and maybe Trumpeter Swans are new in town and the Eurasian Collared-dove is coming on but in New Zealand of 65 species we saw, 21 were introduced, from Europe, North America and Australia. That's nearly 33%, and when we were in towns it was more like 50%.

What's going on? Up until around 1000 years ago New Zealand had no mammals other than two species of bats, and no snakes. Birds ruled, and on largely predator-free islands we often find two tendencies: loss of flight and larger size. New Zealand had 40 species of flightless birds when the Maoris arrived in their dugouts, and only nine of these survive today. The



By Roz Horn

### Flightless Weka heading for cover.

larger ones were probably eaten and others had no defenses against the mammalian predators that inevitably followed colonization by Maoris and Europeans after 1800.

As if that were not enough, various “naturalization societies” in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries sought to recreate European landscape, industry and culture, modeling New Zealand after the British Isles. They were largely successful on the

two main islands which are beautifully scenic although one has to scrounge for native birds.

Fortunately for both birds and conservationists, remnant populations of many species have survived on smaller, offshore, predator-free islands. In recent decades the New Zealand Department of Conservation has established very aggressive predator control programs and has reintroduced critically endangered birds and other creatures to newly predator-free islands.

Over a dozen bird species are recovering from the brink of extinction. Purposeful introduction of alien species to New Zealand has completely stopped and heavy fines and/or jail await those who flout the law.

**What's the lesson for us in central Ohio?** We haven't bulldozed and replanted every acre of natural habitat, so within our urban and rural landscapes we retain “offshore islands” of native habitats where our native birds can seek refuge and we can visit and enjoy them. Let's work to keep it that way.

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## Invasive species: German Yellow Jacket

By Dave Horn

Sometimes an invasive species seems to wend its way into our area without much notice. Such is the case of the German Yellow Jacket. It was first found in the USA in New York in the 1930s but escaped notice, even by entomologists, until we all experienced a significant increase in yellow jacket issues in the 1970s.

All yellow jackets share a similar life cycle. Just about now we see the large, mated females, or “queens” looking for holes and crannies underground or in buildings where they will establish colonies.

Once the queen finds a suitable location she constructs a group of cells reminiscent of honeycomb out of paper she makes by mixing finely chewed wood chips with saliva. In the cells she lays her eggs, then feeds the larvae with meat either scavenged from carcasses, picnics, etc. or sometimes harvested fresh. (Caterpillars are a favorite.) Once the larvae mature, pupate, and emerge as adults (“workers”) they take over the foraging and nursery



By Dave Horn

### German Yellow Jackets.

tasks and the queen devotes herself to egg-laying throughout the summer. A colony may grow to several thousand workers by fall, when males and new queens are produced. These mate, and (in Ohio) only the overwintering queens survive to renew the cycle.

Whole colonies do not survive our lovely Ohio winters.

All yellow jacket workers and queens

(but not males) possess a stinger and unlike the familiar honeybees they can (and do) sting multiple times, and that is the major problem for we the people.

The Common Yellow Jacket is native to the USA and causes us trouble enough. They make their nests underground, mostly in forests and parks but also in yards and gardens quite near many of our homes. An encounter with a nest can be a memorable and potentially life-threatening experience.

Enter the German Yellow Jacket. Like its American (“Common”) relative it also nests underground but it also nests within walls, attics, outbuildings and so forth, probably due to a long history of living among humans in Europe. So they are even closer to our daily lives especially when they nest inside the house (as has happened to me more than once). The German and Common Yellow Jackets are *very* similar in appearance, and to tell the difference you'll need to get up close and personal. (The dark marking on the first abdominal segment of the German is dia-

See invasive, page 11

## 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. If you have suggestions for field trip locations or want to lead a field trip please contact field trip chair, Earl Harrison at [eharrison@ehe.osu.edu](mailto:eharrison@ehe.osu.edu).

### Field trips

#### Wednesday walk at Whittier

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Note: Walks are always held the first Wednesday of the month. Join Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond 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) Please contact Paul Gledhill at (614) 848-7666; [gledhillpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gledhillpaul@yahoo.com), or Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; [heather\\_columbus\\_audubon@yahoo.com](mailto:heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com) for more information.

#### Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area

Sunday, April 5, 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Mike Flynn

This expansive wetland and upland ecosystem is nestled in a quiet part of the state, spanning Holmes and Wayne counties. A river corridor winds its way through parts of the two counties, encompassing many square miles of prime wildlife habitat. Otters, mink and a rich array of other animals live here and the plentiful natural resources provide great benefit to a variety of birds. We will observe the spring migration of ducks, geese, swans and other waterbirds stopping for food and rest on their way north. In previous trips, we have heard or seen Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and more than 20 species of waterfowl.

We will carpool from the Worthington Mall parking lot. The Worthington Mall is located at the northwest corner of N. High Street and Wilson Bridge Road in Worthington, just south of the High Street (US 23) / I-270 exchange. The meeting place is the southeast side near the Kroger.

For more information, contact Mike Flynn at [mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com](mailto:mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com).

#### Bird walk for beginners at Green Lawn Cemetery

Saturday, April 4, 8 a.m.

Leader: Michael Packer

This bird walk for beginning birders and new members will showcase one of the best "migrant traps" in Columbus where birds stop and feed. In addition to honing your skills on the usual suspects such as chickadees and woodpeckers, you will see some of the early migrants before the big wave in the first two weeks of May. Please bring binoculars. We will meet at the Lower Scioto Park boat launch off Whittier Ave west of Front Street, before driv-

#### CA April Program

Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m., social time, 7:30 p.m.,  
presentation at Innis House, Inniswood Metro Gardens

### Prothonotary Warbler conservation at Alum Creek Reservoir

Since 1998, Dick Tuttle has offered special nest structures for Prothonotary Warblers in Delaware County. He will use slides and props to tell the story of four habitats and how the yellow swamp warblers are responding best to his "nest jars" along Alum Creek and Lake south of Kilbourne, Ohio where he monitors from a canoe. Some of the nests can be watched through spotting scopes from Hogback Road, a hot spot for photographing and watching nesting Osprey. An Osprey update will be part of the program.

Tuttle is a retired middle school life science teacher. He is a forty-three-year veteran of active conservation and his nesting structures are used by eleven species. Through articles and programs, he promotes bluebird trails, nest box grids for Tree Swallows, roadside trails for American Kestrels, Osprey Platforms, and related education projects. He has recorded detailed data for all nests since 1968, an unbroken history for more than 37,000 native birds that have fledged from his offerings.

ing into the cemetery. Contact Michael Packer at (614) 487-1191.

#### Bird hikes at Blendon Woods

Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.

Leader: Bruce Simpson

Check out winter residents and wintering waterfowl as we wander the trails. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, explore Thoreau Lake and other trails for spring migrants. Call (614) 508-8000 for more information or go to [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net).

#### Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds

Saturday, April 18, 8 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Spring migration will be ebbing for many waterbirds, but just starting for many landbirds as we hit these south Columbus hotspots. Three Creeks, with its many small ponds and riparian corridors, is a natural migrant funnel and we'll start here looking for the last of the temperate migrant sparrows and finches, and the first of the migrant neotropicals. Afterwards, we'll journey to the nearby wetlands of Pickerington Ponds to search for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. With the overlap of different migrants, this should be a good trip for a great diversity of birds. Meet at the Confluence parking area (off Bixby Road about 0.7 mile west of Hamilton Rd.). For more information, contact Rob Thorn at 471-3051 or 330-2406 or [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net).

See Coming up, page 9

## Migration mystery: The Monarch Butterfly

There are many spectacular creatures that annually migrate from less favorable digs to more favorable: hummingbirds, whales, and to an extent, even people. But the annual migration which I think is by far the most spectacular of all is that of the Monarch butterfly. I have spent the last seven years embedded in this migration, but more about that later.

Most Monarchs, which go by the alias *Danaus plexippus*, will migrate as much as 2,000 miles, traveling from the “Great White North” of Canada, all the way to the Transvolcanic Mountain Range of central Mexico. The trip begins in August and typically ends in November. Other Monarchs will migrate from the western United States to the coast of California.

What makes the trip even more amazing is that these tiny insects, with a wingspan of barely four inches, have never been to where they are going. In fact, their nearest relative who has made the trip is their great-great-grandparent.

How they find their way through uncharted territory still remains one of the great mysteries of nature. One argument is that magnetite in their tiny brains serves as a compass to guide them. Another argument is that they navigate using the angle of the



**A Monarch Butterfly.**

sun. Perhaps it is a combination of navigational tools!

Once the Monarch arrives at the overwintering site, they will hang in large heavy clusters, causing branches of Oyamel Fir in Mexico and Eucalyptus in California to bend low from the weight. This clustering behavior actually helps the butterflies stay warm. On warmer, sunny days the Monarchs may soar gracefully throughout the grove until they come back together again for overnight.

Generally around February, the Monarchs will become more active and will soon leave the overwintering sites for the trip back north or east. Along the way butter-

flies will mate, lay eggs, and die, with the next generation continuing the trip north or east.

For years, it was believed that the winter destination of these magnificent creatures was based on their starting point in relation to the Continental Divide. Monarchs east of the Divide migrated to Mexico, west of the Divide migrated to California.

In 2003, I began the Southwest Monarch Study with a start-up grant from the Monarch Migration Project West of Seattle, Washington and with the financial support of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior, Arizona. Our objective was simple; to use a citizen science based program to determine the migratory behavior of Monarch butterflies in the southwestern United States, focusing primarily on Arizona.

In six seasons the study has tagged over 5000 Monarchs, about half of them wild Monarchs captured, tagged, and released from various locations throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. The one thing that these locations have in common is that they are all west of the Continental Divide. The other half was tagged as a part of the

See Migration, page 9

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## Grange Insurance Audubon Center welcomes new team members

Please join me in welcoming three new members of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center team!

As we work towards a summer grand opening, an important part of the process is to build a team of professional staff members to implement all of the wonderful programs for the community. Three key positions critical to the success of the Center are the Director of Development, the Director of Education and the Administrative Coordinator. The excitement surrounding our project, the strong brand of Audubon Centers, and the broad range of community support have helped us to recruit the best of the best.

**Julie Boreman**, our new Director of Development, comes to us from The Nature Conservancy where she was the Associate Director of Philanthropy. She has been with the Nature Conservancy since 2000. Julie grew up in Ohio and received her degree in Botany from Ohio Wesleyan University. Julie has also served on the board of our local chapter, Columbus Audubon and served as their volunteer coordinator. Her experience



**Julie Boreman**

and building our relationships with our current donors.

“The Director of Development is such an important role for a new project like the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. We have worked hard to find the best in the field and the best person is Julie Boreman. Our team has strengthened immediately with her presence and we look forward to successful years ahead despite the current economic challenges,” Heather Starck, director of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center said.

**Chris Kline**, our new Director of Education, was born in Ohio and grew up in Dayton. He earned a bachelor’s degree in forest management from Northern

with managing major gifts, annual giving, securing grants, and donor relations will help her develop the center’s annual fundraising strategy. She will lead the fundraising efforts including finalizing the capital campaign, securing ongoing operational funding,



**Chris Kline**

and building our relationships with our current donors. “The Director of Development is such an important role for a new project like the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. We have worked hard to find the best in the field and the best person is Julie Boreman. Our team has strengthened immediately with her presence and we look forward to successful years ahead despite the current economic challenges,” Heather Starck, director of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center said.

finally as the Director of Education at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Arizona. At the arboretum, Chris managed all of the education programs, coordinated volunteers, and led the BioBlitz. He supplemented his education work with research on milkweed, legumes and Monarch butterflies.

At the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Chris’s duties will include all aspects of planning, developing, operating, and managing the center’s education and volunteer programs. He is also responsible for marketing, managing the

See new, page 12



# Columbus Audubon

## Birdathon 2009

### Now is the time to sign up a team or make a pledge

By Julie Davis

What will our birdathon teams see this year, Blue-winged Warbler, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-headed Blackbird or our own mascot, the Song Sparrow? Our teams are already hard at work planning their trips and recruiting sponsors. We are all looking forward to this great spring tradition. It is all of you, our members, who help make the Birdathon such a huge success. Your support is what makes this an exciting and fun event every year for our birding teams.

Our sponsors are as important to our success as our birders. If you would like to become a sponsor, simply pick one of the teams, fill out the sponsorship form in this newsletter and send it in. You do not need to send your money in until you hear from your team.

CA Birdathon 2009 will help raise more dollars towards our \$100,000.00 commitment to the GIAC.

All of the profits from the birdathon this year will again go to support the Grange Insurance Nature Center, which is located in our Important Bird Area. This will be one of the nation's first urban Audubon Nature Centers. Audubon Ohio envisions this as an opportunity to bring urban programs and education to children and families in the city. The center is under construction and slated to open this summer. We hope our commitment will encourage new and larger donations towards this great cause.

If you have not formed a team yet, there's



### 2008 Statistics

**Amount raised:** A little over \$8,000.

**Teams that raised over \$1,000:** **Stellar Jays (\$1325)** and **Wild Birds Unlimited (\$1248)**. Other teams raising over \$750 were: **Low-Carbon Footprinters (\$920)** and the **Slate Run Colored Juncos (\$829)**.

The competition was intense and many teams saw more birds than ever

this year, including the top 3 teams. Birding teams that saw the most species this year were: **Westerville Waxwings** with **145** bird species, the **Stellar Jays** with **111** species and this year, **Wild Birds Unlimited** saw the **most** species of birds on their trip, at **161**. Congratulations to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

still time! Just start with a couple of birding buddies, choose a team name and call Katryn Renard (614-261-7171) to register. Ask friends and co-workers to sponsor you and then go birding! Count all the birds that you can identify in either 5, 10 or 24 hours. On any day between May 1st and May 17th.

Remember, you don't have to stay in Ohio to do your birding, so be creative. The teams that have already registered are listed below. So, call now and add your name to the list. Again this year, we will award two great prizes to our birders at our BAT annual celebration on May 22.

Eagle Optics has once again generously donated a pair of binoculars. The **Vortex fury 8x42**, valued at \$390.00. Sure to be a favorite for all-around viewing, the steady power of the 8x42 Fury points out critical details from both near (less than five feet!) and far. Not only will you prize the light weight and easy handling of this binocular, but you'll reap the rewards of watching wildlife with fine optics:



**Maple Inn.**

<http://www.eagleoptics.com/binoculars/vortex/vortex-fury-8x42-binoculars/>.

**Red Maple Inn** has also donated a nights stay at their Inn in Geauga county.

Located in the fourth largest Amish community in the world, The Red Maple Inn Ohio bed and breakfast is a little like a small hotel. No two rooms are alike in the two-story inn. Each of the 17 rooms and one suite are individually and elegantly decorated and are furnished with Ohio Amish handcrafted furniture, concealed televisions and VCRs, and a Jacuzzi Tub. It has an elevator, small fitness center, balconies, game room, and fireplaces. However, its friendly staff and its many amenities set it far apart from any hotel. <http://www.redmapleinn.com>.

COLUMBUS  
AUDUBON  
BIRDATHON



## Sponsorship form

Sign me up! I would like to sponsor one of the teams above 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.) The 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 Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: "Birdathon," c/o Columbus Audubon, P.O. Box 141350, Columbus, Ohio 43214

## 2009 Birdathon teams

### Backyard Experience

#### Chick-a-dees -75

Gerry Brevoort  
Joan Frederick  
Nina Hawranick  
Lynn Singleton

### Chestnut Ridge

#### Chachalacas - 100

Bill & Eric Reiner  
Scott Felker  
Eleanor Nunley

### Deck Birds - 1

Cheri Brown  
Pat Barron  
Bev May  
Pete Precario

### Low Carbon

#### Footprinters - 75

Dave Horn  
Katryn Renard  
Marty Kotter

### Magee Madness - 88

Michael Packer  
& field trip participants  
*(details in May newsletter)*

### Marsh Madness - 100

Bill & Deb Marsh

### Metro Parks

#### Stellar Jays - 90

Jim Davidson  
Joe Meara  
John O'Meara  
John Watts

### Neat Nests - 40

Scott & Whitney Jaeb  
Sabrina & Kiersten Jaeb

Fred Lancia

Del & Jordan Parrott

### No Egrets - 80

Becky Cummings  
Elaine & Larry Smith  
Roger Stout  
Laura Thomas

### Pelicans - 40

Mark & Lauren Richards  
Benjamin & Riley Richards

### Quick Three

#### Beards - 187

Dave Horn  
Bill Whan

### Red-Eyed

#### Weary-os - 100

Earl & Alyn Harrison  
Joe Eickholt

### Scarlet &

#### Gray Tanagers - 70

Joe & Susanne Gatesman  
Barb & Stephen Revard  
Mark & Susan Setterlin

### Slate (Run) Colored

#### Juncos - 100

Andrea Haslage  
Lauren Metcalf  
Lori Patterson  
Brad Sparks  
Joshua Steele

### Swans and Coots - 70

Alan Cohen  
Clyde Gosnell  
Paul Knoop  
Katryn Renard  
Marlene Woo Lun

Louise Warner

### Three Hens

#### and a Fox - 50

Suzan Jervey  
Doc Jordan  
Chrissy Phieffer  
Darlene Sillilck

### Two Footed Boobies - 90

Marcia Brehmer  
Marion Farber  
Melanie Shuter  
Mary Kay Wood

### Two in a Bush - 65

Patty DeMaria  
Elaine Fujimora  
Biani Moran

### Westerville

#### Waxwings - 140

Jackie & Tom Bain  
Julie & Ken Davis  
Rob & Ricki Lowry

### Wild Birds Unlimited

#### Riverside - 170

Michael Flynn  
Bill Heck  
Steve Landes  
Tom Sheley

### Whichety Witches - 50

Tamara James  
Kristan Leedy

### World Series

#### Birders - 150

John Price  
Heather Raymond  
Two West Virginians

## Backyards for Wildlife

### Trees, birds and me: Everyone needs to plant a shade tree

By Toni Stahl

I have been known to hug a tree and feel grounded by it. When I am lost in the woods, trees are friends who help me find my way.

To continue Dave Horn's last column about climate change, in which he encouraged us to think globally and act locally, one native shade tree can absorb 50 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year according to *The National Wildlife Federation's Gardener's Guide to Global Warming* (GGGW, page 14).

Think about what that would mean if every Columbus Audubon member were to plant just one young tree in his or her yard or community: 2,250 members × 50 pounds = 112,500 pounds per year. Over the average lifespan of a tree (40 years), the trees would remove 112,500 pounds × 40 years, or 4,500,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere!

One study shows that shade trees can reduce our carbon footprint by using air conditioning up to 70 percent less (Kuhns, 2003), which saves us money. Consider planting deciduous trees on the south, and evergreens on the north and west to reduce your carbon footprint the most. In addition to providing shade in summer, deciduous trees lose their leaves and allow winter sun to warm our homes. Evergreens not only shelter the birds, they also shelter us from winter winds and save on heating bills. Maybe those tree huggers in the 60's were on to something.



By Marc Apfelstadt, 2006

#### Cold American Robin.

So, what does the increase in average temperatures mean for birds? Nature is our window to environmental health and gardens and backyard wildlife are the sentinels of a changing climate. Across the U.S., the tree swallow has been laying its eggs an average of 9 days earlier (Dunn and Winkler, 1999). In Wisconsin, the northern cardinal is singing 22 days earlier, and the American robin is arriving 20 days earlier than in the 1930s-40s (Bradley, et al, 07). Nature is giving us a strong signal that the timing is getting thrown off between flora and fauna, altering the ecosystems that sustain life as we know it. Because of the changes in Ohio, the USDA hardiness plant zone for glaciated Ohio has been changed to a warmer climate zone. The removal of forests, resulting increase in CO<sub>2</sub> and average temperatures have affected Ohio in a number of ways. Native plants cannot survive the

### Upcoming events

**Certified wildlife habitat exhibit**  
Saturday, April 11, Certified Wildlife Habitat Exhibit at the Eco Dublin Expo, Dublin Recreation Center, from 9-noon, sponsored by the City of Dublin.

**Parade of certified gardens**  
Sunday, June 28, Parade of Certified Wildlife Gardens in Worthington, from 10-1 and 1-4, honoring National Pollinator Week.

temperature change, but invasive plants and pests can. As a result, birds that depend on native plants are struggling to survive, and their habitats are diminishing (GGGW, pages 25-26). For more information on these and other ways to help birds, see the NWF Gardener's Guide for Global Warming by clicking on "Info you can use" at our new website: [www.backyard-habitat.info](http://www.backyard-habitat.info). It's the third item on the left. Oh yeah, and go hug a tree in your yard or community!

**Get Certified:** Putting up National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat sign helps others understand what we are doing and encourages them to help birds too.

**Lessons learned?** If you're interested, e-mail me at [marc-a@columbus.rr.com](mailto:marc-a@columbus.rr.com) to receive our monthly "Nature Scoop" e-mail, or join me at one of our presentations.

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## Audubon at Home and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Do you have what it takes to reduce threats to wildlife in your backyard, place of business, or school? If so tell us about your space. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is looking for exemplary backyards in Ohio. Backyards can be part of a house, apartment, school, or place of business.

Why do we want to know about your space? We are kicking off our Audubon At Home program through a contest to find the most exemplary backyards. One lucky winner will help us design a demonstration

garden on the center's site.

The criterion for exemplary space is based on the eco-region of the backyard's habitat and the ability to support the needs of wildlife and/or significantly reduce threats conservation targets. We are looking for places that model good use of landscaping to support the habitat native to your space in Ohio.

The criteria and application are now available on the Grange Insurance Audubon Center's website: [www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org).

Use the criteria to assess the eco-spatial relevance of your site and learn how your backyard habitat measures up in reducing threats to conservation targets in your region.

Entries are being accepted until May 31 and winners will be notified in early June to attend an award ceremony at the end of the month prior to the center's grand opening.

If you do not have web access or have questions about participating contact Doreen Whitley at [dwhitley@audubon.org](mailto:dwhitley@audubon.org)

Fill out our online survey and meet like minded people and birds! If would you like to join our online community, be invited to a birding trip for beginners or get involved in local conservation, fill out our online survey at [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org).



## Coming up

Continued from page 4

### **Astonomy 101 series: Mystery of the night sky**

April 15, 22 and 29, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Leader: Jay Young

Back by popular demand, this is a hands-on series of classes designed to help you develop a greater appreciation for and knowledge of, the starry night. It will launch you on a developmental journey as a "Naturalist of the Night-Time Sky." The focus will be to expand your understanding of those things that can be viewed when looking skyward after dark through your eyes, in binoculars, and in small telescopes (or spotting scopes).

You will learn to identify prominent constellations, understand the motion of a variety of celestial objects, and discover how to best observe stars, planets, our moon, deep sky objects, comets, meteor showers, and even man-made satellites. After you spend several nights with this wild band of amateur astronomers, your starry nights will never be the same.

An optional fourth session (May 7) will be offered for those who wish to learn about astrophotography. Cost: \$25. Series will close when full. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration is required by contacting Jay Young at [youngj2@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:youngj2@ohiodominican.edu). Classes will be held at the Ohio Wildlife Center, Cook Rd. location.

### **Dublin Kiwanis wildflower walk**

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.

Leader: Jim Davidson and Darlene Sillick

Join Jim Davidson and Darlene Sillick for a wildflower and bird walk at Dublin Kiwanis Riverway Park in Dublin south of 161 on Dublin Rd/Rt 33. (6245 Riverside Drive). Look for the large stone with the words Quarry Place for the Riverside Dr. turnoff to park near the trail entrance. <http://www.dublin.oh.us/recreation/parks/> We will start at Dublin Kiwanis Riverway Park, then we will visit several other Dublin sites, all favorites of the leaders. One site supports 3 species of trillium. Bring your field guides and we will review keying out wildflowers as we look at a variety of spring beauties. We are usually out for a couple hours, bring your binocs and camera and prepare for wet, muddy conditions. Contact

Darlene at [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com) 614-761-3696.

## Service in the Preserves

### **Boch Hollow Nature Preserve**

Saturday & Sunday, April 25-26, starting at 7:45 a.m.

Leader: Katryn Renard

Boch Hollow is one of the division's newest additions to our preserve system. The site is comprised of approximately 550 acres of mostly forested hills and ravines. The site was willed to the Division by the late Francis and Joyce Kessler. It was the Kessler's wishes that the site be operated as a wildlife preserve and environmental education facility. During the Kessler's lives, the site was accessed by an extensive trail system that Mr. Kessler maintained with tractors and even bulldozer.

It has now been several years since any of these trails have been maintained and the assistance of the Audubon volunteers is requested to reopen these trails large enough to again allow the passage of a tractor to allow maintenance in the future. Work will entail removal of downed trees and cutting of trees etc that have grown up in the trails over these past several years.

Overnight facilities are available at Boch Hollow. There is a house on site that can be used for lodging (sleeping on the floor or one of the two couches). Pitching a tent outside is also an option. Bottled water only. Please call Katryn Renard by Monday, April 20 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up. Bring your lunch for Saturday, water, work gloves, appropriate foot gear, and camping equipment. We will meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road. We will return to the ODNR parking lot by 5 p.m. on Sunday. All skill levels are welcome. Please complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity. It can be found on [www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org).

### **Calamus Swamp clean-up for Earth Day**

Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Leaders: CA boardmembers

Join CA boardmembers, staff at *ThisWeek Community Newspapers* and other volunteers to do a little spring cleaning at our own preserve, Calamus Swamp as part of Columbus' Earth Day celebration. Meet at the preserve off of state Route 104 near U.S. 33 at 9 a.m. Go to [www.picturethis.org](http://www.picturethis.org) for more information.

## Migration mystery: The Monarch Butterfly

Continued from page 5

Monarch butterfly pavilion educational programming at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona.

The study has uncovered many stories surrounding southwestern Monarchs. But perhaps the most intriguing of these stories is that southwestern Monarchs actually migrate both to Mexico and California, with no obvious rhyme or reason as to which direction they choose. Of the Monarchs tagged and released at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, three to date have been recovered in central Mexico, with another Monarch being recovered roughly 50 miles west of Phoenix, obviously heading toward California.

This mystery has been replayed among the wild Monarchs as well. Citizen scientist Joe Billings of Vail, Arizona has spent hundreds of hours tagging Monarchs in southern Arizona. One of those

Monarchs, 157X, tagged in Santa Cruz County, was recovered 1041 miles southeast in Michoacan, Mexico. Another Monarch, 237V, tagged in the same small county and only a few miles north of the Mexican border, was recovered 577 miles northwest in Goleta, California. These results illustrate that the Continental Divide is not an accurate dividing line, and that there is much more mixing of eastern and western populations than what scientists have thought. It also calls into question that there is one single tool that Monarchs use to navigate, if by using that lone tool, Arizona Monarchs have wound up flying two opposite directions.

With all that we have learned about the natural world, there are still amazing mysteries yet to be unlocked, some of those mysteries in our own backyards. Contact me at [ckline@audubon.org](mailto:ckline@audubon.org) if you'd like to help unlock the mystery of the Monarch butterfly!

*By Chris Kline, education director, GIAC*

## Columbus Audubon's partners

### Preservation Parks ready to welcome Osprey home

If their schedule of the past few years repeats itself, osprey pairs should have returned by from their winter homes in South America to Alum Creek Reservoir around the third or fourth week of March.

Our annual Osprey Homecoming will be held Saturday, April 18 from 1-4 p.m. at Hogback Ridge Preserve, 2656 Hogback Road. The park is near the northern reaches of Alum Creek Lake, just around the corner from the osprey nesting platforms.

We're planning activities and games about ospreys and other birds of prey, and the nature center includes a display of interesting facts about the bird's reintroduction into central Ohio.

Reintroduction efforts were successful to the extent that the Ohio Wildlife Council last year upgraded the species from "endangered" to "threatened," and the Alum Creek nesting platforms have contributed to that success.

As part of the homecoming celebration, visitors can make the short drive to the osprey viewing areas, where volunteers will set up birding scopes. Dick Tuttle, retired science teacher and expert birder, said that visitors are likely to see male ospreys bringing food to the nesting females. They also might see "nest exchanges," in which males incubate the eggs for a time while the females hunt for food. Please join us for this free celebration!

#### Other April programs

**April 4: Park Explorers (ages 6-12). "Vernal Pool Safari."** 10 a.m. Gallant Woods Preserve, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road.

**April 11: Bird Quest.** Add to your 2009 list during a hike with Education Coordinator Jackie Bain. 8 a.m. Deer Haven Preserve, 4183 Liberty Road,

Delaware.

**April 14: Preschool Park Pals** (ages 3-5). "Froggy Friends." 1 p.m. Gallant Woods Preserve, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware.

**April 18: Bird Quest.** 1 p.m. Hogback Ridge Preserve, 2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury.

**April 19: Adult Vernal Pool Hike (ages 16+),** 2 p.m. Gallant Woods Preserve, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware.

Check out our Web site for much more: [www.preservationparks.com](http://www.preservationparks.com).

And don't forget Preservation Parks' chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club!

Birders, age 12-18, are invited to join the OYBC for field trips and adventures in natural history. Contact Jackie Bain, [jackieb@preservationparks.com](mailto:jackieb@preservationparks.com) or 740-595-3725.

*-By Sue Hagan,  
marketing & communications manager*

### Columbus Metro Parks asks for voter support

Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks preserve important natural environments for use by wildlife and people. With more than 24,000 acres of land and water, our 15 parks provide places where people can get out, get active and get in touch with the wonders of the natural world. And just as importantly, Metro Parks provide vital habitat for more than 2,300 species of plants and animals.

On May 5, Franklin County voters will be asked to approve a 10-year, 0.75 mill levy to replace the current levy which expires at the end of 2009. This will amount to about \$23 a year per \$100,000 of appraised home value, or about six cents a day.

For more than 60 years Metro Parks has been an accountable and responsible steward of land, water and habitat, and also of public funds. During this past 10-year levy period we have fulfilled and in many cases surpassed our commitments to the voters. Metro Parks opened five new parks, built more than 80 miles of trails, planted more than 300 acres of prairies, added 600 acres of wetlands, expanded hours and provided thousands of free programs for youth and seniors.

Passage of Metro Parks' 10-year levy will allow us to continue to operate and maintain our 15 parks while providing opportunities for the more than 6 million

annual park visitors to enjoy quality outdoor experience. We will continue our work in these parks to further improve wildlife habitat and water quality by restoring 1,000 acres of wetlands along with substantial tracts of prairies and forests.

Metro Parks will expand and enrich existing educational programming and outreach focusing on school children, urban youth and senior citizens.

We hope to build a nature center in the Darby Watershed that will provide programs and activities to help people

understand and appreciate the importance of water resources such as Big Darby Creek. Metro Parks also plans to open three new parks: Along Rocky Fork Creek in northeast Franklin County; Between Canal Winchester and Groveport along Little Walnut Creek and Near Grove City along the Scioto River.

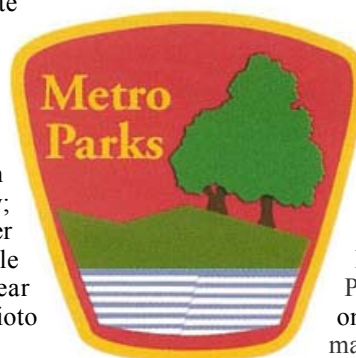
Metro Parks will also assume a greater role in the management of Franklin County's Greenways Program, a multi-jurisdictional effort to conserve the major stream corridors in Franklin County through a vast network

of interconnected hike, bike and jog trails. Funds will also be used to acquire land and build more trails.

Levy funds will also be used to expand Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula. This may include purchasing additional land and adding outdoor recreational amenities such as a climbing wall and disc golf course. We hope to extend the park north to create a strong connection to the Scioto Mile, a series of parks and green space extending from Scioto Audubon Metro Park to

North Bank Park. Central Ohioans will benefit tremendously from the passage of Metro Parks' levy that will protect land and water quality for future generations.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and family to go to the polls on May 5<sup>th</sup> and vote for Metro Parks' levy. We are relying on your help. For more information about Metro Parks' levy and how you can help, go to [vote4metroparks.com](http://vote4metroparks.com).



*By John O'Meara  
Director, Metro Parks*

## Potluck and annual meeting

Continued from page 1

newsletter, a position she has held since August 2004.

She receives articles and field trip information from nearly a dozen people for each issue. Hauck is solely responsible for the editing, layout and design of every inch of our wonderful newsletter. Hauck also edits and designs the beautiful full color CA Kids newsletter for youth in grades 1-8. The newsletter is published every three months and is so popular copies are gone as soon as they are printed. Hauck juggles a full-time job as a web producer, designer and copy editor for *ThisWeek Community Newspapers*, a husband, two very active young children and is a Master-Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. We thank her for her countless hours as one of Columbus Audubon's most active volunteers.

Heather Starck, director of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, gave an update on the construction of the center and introduced two new staff members (*See page 5 for more*).

Roz Horn invited all in attendance to sign up for Eco-Weekend the first weekend of May. Eco-Weekend is a weekend packed full of programs you won't want to miss.

Jim McCormac, avid birder, author and scientist for ODNR stepped in at the last minute taking the place of Dr. Andy Jones as our featured speaker for the evening.

Jim took us on a journey through four distinct eco-regions of Ohio. He began at Shawnee State Forest near Portsmouth where we learned about the many species which have migrated by various rivers, to an area far north of their usual range. Jim's photos showed us a variety of plants, insects, mammals and neotropical birds from the area. Traveling north, we explored



Jenny Bowman.

the fabulous Clear Creek Metro Park in Fairfield and Hocking counties where we learned that the warblers in give us a direct connection with almost every country in Central and South America.

We learned that Cedar Bog State Memorial, near Urbana is actually a fen. This area is a haven for native plants and several found here are found nowhere else in Ohio. We ended our journey at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area near Lake Erie. This 2,000 acre reserve is an internationally renowned birding hotspot. Jim's latest book, *Wild Ohio – the Best of Our Natural Heritage* coming out next month will showcase these and more pristine areas in Ohio.

Displays featured at the potluck included photographs by Mike Maier, cavity nesting bird data by Dick Tuttle and the CA educational display set up by Susan Setterlin.

Thanks goes out to Mike Maier who graciously donated a photograph for the grand prize in our raffle.

Thanks also goes out to the CA board



Jackie Bain hugs Dick Tuttle.



Stefanie Hauck.

members who donated door prizes and to Mike Maier for donating one of his photographs as a prize in the evening's raffle.

-By Barb Revard and Stefanie Hauck

## Invasive

Continued from page 3

mond-shaped and on the Common it's more like an anchor.)

**What can we do?** Yellow jackets are here to stay, but a number of options for management are recommended if the wasps get too close for comfort. OSU Extension has information: [\[fact/2000/2075.html\]\(http://fact/2000/2075.html\) with several ideas.](http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-</a></p></div>
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Meanwhile yellow jackets may have a beneficial impact on your garden because they do eat caterpillars.

And be glad you're not in New Zealand where colonies of the German Yellow Jacket *do* remain active over the winter and they've found nests with over 4 million cells.

## GIAC Donors

Continued from page 2

Overturf, Karen & John  
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Pfund, Ernest  
Phelps, Charlene  
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Prunte, John  
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Renard, Kathryn & Bruce  
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Rivizzigno, Victoria  
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Sholl, Tom  
Snapp, Deena  
Stang, Jeanette  
Sundstron, Eric  
Teater, Robert & Dorothy  
Urso, Marnie  
Verber, Nancy  
vonFahnestock, Lori  
Vozel, Linda  
Weiler, Beatrice  
Yingst, Don  
Young, Mark



**Grange Insurance Audubon Center**  
www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

**Staff:** Center Director: Heather Starck  
Conservation Program Coordinator:  
Doreen Whitley  
Education Director: Chris Kline  
Development Director: Julie Boreman  
Administrative Coordinator: Christy Smith  
Office phone: 224-3303

**GIAC Stewardship Board:**

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Treasurer: John Wilson, 481-8872



**Trustees:** Julie Davis, Mike Flynn, Rob Lowry, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Katryn Renard, Barbara Revard, Andrea Cook, Tom Sheley, Michael Packer, Bill Heck and Jackie Bain.

**Additional chapter leaders:**

Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312  
Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 261-7171  
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130  
Programs: Mike Flynn, mile.flynn.wildandfree@gmail.com  
Field Trips: Earl Harrison, eharrison@ehe.osu.edu  
CA Web site: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com  
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, 306-8215  
Ohio Young Birders: Jackie Bain, 361-4610, Darlene Sillick, 761-3696  
Eco Weekend: Roz Horn, 262-0312; Lois Day, (740) 549-0333  
Membership: Joe Meara, 781-9602  
IBA Committee: Heather Raymond, 785-0342  
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>

# New team members

Continued from page 5

education program budget, and maintaining partnerships with community members, schools, and other community organizations.

"We are very fortunate to have Chris join our team in such a critical time in our project. With his experience, he will take the successes from our pilot programs and grow the education programs to whole new levels," Starck said.

**Christy Smith**, our new Administrative Coordinator, is also an Ohio native. Christy's career has helped her build the skills that made her a perfect candidate for this position. She has past experience in accounting, human resources, and office management. She most recently worked for the Delaware County District Library. Christy is passionate about our mission and has a cheerful and



**Christy Smith**

enthusiastic approach to her work.

She will provide the primary administrative support for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and staff.

In that role, she will maintain the operating expense account with accounts payable responsibility. Christy will also process all income received and acknowledge all donations.

"Christy has completely transformed our ability to do business in a smooth and efficient manner. She is extremely good at what she does and she will be the glue that holds our operations together. I know she is up for the challenge," Starck said.

**Doreen Whitley** remains on the team in a new position as Conservation Program Coordinator. In this new role, Doreen will lead the conservation efforts to protect and enhance our Important Bird Area. She will work with students and partners to implement our conservation plan.



**Doreen Whitley**

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