

## Welcome EcoSummit 2012!



On behalf of the National Audubon Society, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, and Columbus Audubon are happy to welcome international delegations attending EcoSummit 2012 from September 30 - October 5. Welcome to Columbus!

With its emphasis on sustainability and the environment, EcoSummit 2012 showcases “eco-innovation across borders – best practices here and abroad.” Many of the attendees will visit the Center and its home in the Scioto Audubon Metro Park to learn about and see firsthand the power of collaboration in brownfield reclamation, green construction, re-establishing a sense of place, and developing opportunities for on-the-ground conservation education and action.

The City of Columbus, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, and the National Audubon Society/Audubon Ohio came together with the will and the resources to make the Scioto Audubon Metro Park and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center happen. The collaborative partnerships began in the late 1990s and are as vital today as they were when the project was originally conceived.

Columbus Audubon is the local entity which engages those interested in birds and bird conservation at the grassroots level. Another example of collaboration is the unique partnership between the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon. This partnership has the effect of multiplying our conservation impact by consolidating and focusing our efforts, sharing our resources, and expanding our reach to the Central Ohio community.

The Center has many generous donors and volunteers to thank, as it is the result of their dreams, vision, efforts, and contributions. The Center is a gift to the community from the community itself. Donors and volunteers continue to be its life blood.

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

We are happy to join Columbus and the Central Ohio community in opening our doors to the attendees of EcoSummit 2012 and proud to share our accomplishments and the unique relationships that made it all happen, while at the same time learning about best practices from across the globe.

*Christie Vargo, Grange Insurance Audubon Center director*

*Bill Heck, Columbus Audubon president*

### GIAC Welcomes National Audubon's chief scientist, Dr. Gary Langham

On Monday, October 1, GIAC and Columbus Audubon welcome National Audubon's chief scientist, Dr. Gary Langham who will share his insights. **The program is limited to GIAC/Columbus Audubon members only and begins at 7p.m. at the Center.** Dr. Langham is attending and presenting the next day at the 2012 EcoSummit.



Dr. Langham joined Audubon last summer, in June 2011, after four years as director of bird conservation for Audubon California. At Audubon California, Dr. Langham led a team that developed a predictive GIS-based model that identifies specific habitat areas and species at risk from climate change. Audubon is now expanding this groundbreaking approach to encompass 600 bird species across North America and to create a framework for innovative conservation planning. He also pioneered many successful conservation solutions benefiting diverse bird species, including the endangered California condor and threatened western snowy plover.

*Continued on page 15*

# Columbus Audubon Monthly Programs

## September Program – Life after *The Big Year* Release

Tuesday, September 25 - GIAC multi-purpose room

7:00-7:15 p.m.: Short Program by Amanda Conover – Lights Out Columbus

7:15-7:30 p.m.: Refreshments

7:30 p.m.: Main Program by Greg Miller: Life after *The Big Year* Release

**Amanda Conover**, program coordinator for the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, will describe the potential benefits of a Lights Out program for Columbus and share the results of a volunteer-based monitoring program for bird collisions with buildings in downtown Columbus during spring 2012.

We are pleased that northeast Ohio's **Greg Miller** will kick off our 2012-13 season of Columbus Audubon programs at GIAC. Greg will talk about life after *The Big Year* and talk about his many birding adventures both in the field and behind a podium since the film came out. Greg was one of the three stars in the 2004 book, *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik, and saw over 700 species in 1998.

In a recent interview, Greg was asked if he thought that technology makes doing a Big Year easier. He replied, "I did my big year without a laptop, a cell phone, or a GPS unit. There were no blogs, no Facebook, and no tweets then either. All of these things would have helped stay up-to-date with the latest information available."



## October Program - Helping American Kestrels

Tuesday, October 23 - GIAC multi-purpose room

7:00-7:15 p.m.: Short Program by Dick Tuttle: Effective Nestboxes for American Kestrels

7:15-7:30 p.m.: Refreshments

7:30 p.m.: Main Program by Dick Tuttle: Helping American Kestrels, North America's Smallest Falcon  
During the short program, **Dick Tuttle** will discuss what features make a nestbox safe and effective for nesting kestrels. He will also review important factors for monitors seeking data and for installing boxes for those who seek "nuts and bolts" information for their own nestbox projects.

Tonight's main program presenter is **Dick Tuttle**, retired middle school science teacher. His conservation projects have fledged more than 42,000 cavity nesting birds since 1968. As a self-described active conservationist, most of Tuttle's projects are individual efforts, but he teams up with a fellow retired science teacher, Dick Phillips, to perpetuate Delaware County's American Kestrel Nestbox Project. The project started in 1991 when the Delaware County Bird Club partnered with school children and five other entities to attach 10 nestboxes to highway signs before the 1993 nesting season. Today, nestboxes hang from 17 electric poles and one free standing mount to help *Falco sparverius* successfully reproduce; more than 780 kestrels have fledged from the project's boxes wearing numbered leg bands.

The American Kestrel Partnership, a project of The Peregrine Fund, recently announced that the kestrel population across North America has declined 47.5 percent during the last 45 years. Come and learn more about the success and impact of the Delaware County American Kestrel Nestbox Project.



## A Look Ahead at Columbus Audubon's 2012-2013 monthly programs

A look ahead at Columbus Audubon's 2012-2013 monthly programs, fourth Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Nov. 27, 2012: Jen Brumfield, respected bird illustrator and tour guide

Jan. 22, 2013: Andy Jones, PhD, director at Cleveland Natural History Ornithology

Feb. 26, 2013: Jason Martin, director at Cornell Lab Nestwatch

Mar. 26, 2013: Julie Zickefoose, artist and writer extraordinaire

Apr. 23, 2013: Kimberly Kaufman, executive director at Black Swamp Bird Observatory

May 28, 2013: Mary Maloney, director at Chadwick Arboretum



Short programs and bird, insect and butterfly quizzes with prizes will be held before many of the main programs at 7:30 p.m. Watch your *Song Sparrow* for details!

# Community Connection

## The science-based work of Audubon



Following is an excerpt from the *National Audubon Strategic Plan 2012-2015: A Roadmap for Hemispheric Conservation*

The Audubon network works from backyards to legislatures across the hemisphere. Through science, education, advocacy, and on-the-ground conservation, we protect birds and their habitat. Where birds thrive, people prosper.

BirdLife International is the world's largest partnership of bird conservation organizations. As its US partner, Audubon is part of a global network that spans 120 countries and territories and provides an international safety net of people and places (Important Bird Areas) that help conserve birds. Audubon works directly with 19 BirdLife partners in the Americas, amplifying local conservation efforts and helping to educate and empower local citizens and decision makers. According to BirdLife, 12% of bird species in the Western Hemisphere are currently threatened with extinction and many more are in decline. These include priority species like the cerulean warbler and the piping plover that nest in the United States every summer. The power of the BirdLife partnership holds the key to their survival.

**Citizen Science:** More than a century ago, Audubon pioneered the idea of citizen science with the first Christmas Bird Count. Today the longest-running wildlife census in the world continues to shape and inform our approach to conservation, providing vital information about bird populations and trends, data that alerts us to environmental threats not only to birds but to the larger ecosystems we all depend on. As partners with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org), Audubon has helped transform citizen science into an everyday activity for tens of thousands of birders. Their observations, reported online anytime from anywhere throughout North America, provide an ongoing assessment of bird populations that is fast becoming an invaluable resource for conservation.

**Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation:** New tools and resources are amplifying the impact and influence of Audubon's scientific work and driving conservation impact. These include the adoption of an adaptive management tool, the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, for conservation planning and implementation. Using this results-driven methodology throughout the Audubon network will make us more agile and nimble and support a continuous improvement model of assessment and refinement.

**Important Bird Areas:** Science is the foundation of Audubon's Important Bird Areas program. As partner of BirdLife International, we use science to identify, assess, and monitor the most essential habitat for birds. To date, 2,544 IBAs, covering 375,000 acres, have been identified in the United States. These sites help us focus our conservation efforts where they are most needed.

**Climate Change:** By increasing our use of GIS-based modeling, Audubon can provide clear pictures of changes in bird abundance and distributions through space and time. It enables us to predict the impacts of climate change on particular species or habitats—and design conservation approaches that will mitigate them.

Here at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, conservation strategies and implementation for the Scioto Audubon Metro Park are science based, incorporating data collection and conservation actions of GIAC citizen scientists (1,084 students and 13 volunteers). The success of our conservation action is measured by the number of acres cleared of invasive species and replanted with natives, the direct impact on birds as indicated by fat build-up during stopover on their migratory routes, and the number of people engaged in conservation action.

Future plans include continued and expanded data collection, developing and implementing strategies for the Scioto River Greenlawn Important Bird Area as a whole, and creating a standing committee on the Stewardship Board of the Center with a focus on conservation and advocacy.

## An Special Evening with Dr. Gary Langham for GIAC and CA Members

Monday, October 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Join Dr. Gary Langham, National Audubon's chief scientist, at this members-only event to hear his insights on conservation, climate change, and using technology to target conservation efforts and resources to best achieve sustaining impact in the decades ahead. Dr. Langham will be in Columbus for a presentation at 2012 EcoSummit. Contact Jeff Redfield at [jredfield@audubon.org](mailto:jredfield@audubon.org) or 614-545-5475 for more details.

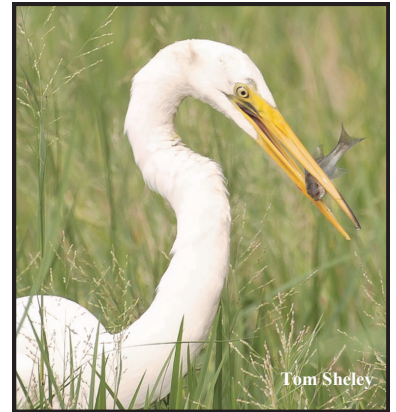


## Great Egret (Ardea Alba)

It's one of the most recognizable symbols in conservation: the flying great egret, symbol of the National Audubon Society, devised when the organization was lobbying to curtail the millinery trade. Most of you have probably also seen a live great egret as well, but have you wondered how these essentially southern birds persist in the cold environs of the Midwest? Why do great egrets survive here, while snowy egrets and other medium-sized herons have difficulty? Great egrets have devised a series of adaptations to finesse the usual heron problems.

For food, great egrets have some unusual restrictions that they've overcome. They have an unusual neck anatomy: their esophagus is twisted behind their spinal column to give it extra protection and flexibility, but this forces the birds to restrict their food to smaller fish, crayfish, and amphibians. You'll never see a great egret tussle with big fish as will great blue herons. To compensate, great egrets use a variety of stalking and striking techniques, from the statuesque 'neck outstretched' to the 'crouching S'. They're also not picky; they'll take virtually any swimming creature less than five inches.

For foraging, great egrets need still, shallow water, and something that can be scarce in the Midwest. They increase their odds by nesting and roosting on islands in shallow lakes and bays. If the island can persist, the nearby waters must have some shallow, calm areas. Also, they're very social about feeding areas—they look for white birds standing in the water when they search for feeding locations. If another great egret is already there, it's likely a decent spot. This 'white beacon' strategy is so good that other small herons will gather in the same areas, resulting in the big mobs of white egrets in pools in the southern US and Mississippi Valley.



Of course, feeding in still, shallow water has some drawbacks. This is the first water to silt up, so last year's great site is this year's mediocre site. Drought can also eliminate this shallow water. This means that reproduction is a chancy affair, with unpredictable food levels. Great egrets confront this problem by laying each of their 3-5 eggs at one to two day intervals, guaranteeing a range of nestling sizes. The older ones will get most of the food unless conditions are good. Indeed, the older ones are often aggressive towards their youngest siblings if food levels get low, forcing the smaller birds into starvation and death unless conditions improve.

Shallow water is also the first water to freeze up in fall, so great egrets need to move when it gets cold. They're migrants, flying along rivers, usually early in the morning. This means virtually all the Midwestern herons move down the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys in fall to the warmer climes of the Gulf States in the winter. The timing of these movements can vary somewhat; I've seen migrating groups from August through October, with even a few stragglers into November.

Despite all these tricks to extend their range into the upper Midwest, great egrets are not common here. There are only a few rookeries in our area that attract egrets, and most of them are around Lake Erie. Ohio has colonies in Sandusky Bay and on West Sister Island, while neighboring Michigan has colonies at Point Mouille and the Rouge River, as well as several colonies around Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron. Inland colonies are rather rare here; we have one in the Campbell Mound Quarry here in Columbus; Michigan has a few, but Indiana has none.

What keeps great egrets from becoming more common here? Three major problems keep cropping up. The major one is simply lack of habitat; shallow, still waters describe many of the wetlands that we've destroyed over the years. Another one is pesticides; as top consumers in the marsh food web, great egrets tend to accumulate any toxins that get into the system, affecting their survival and fertility. The third whammy is cormorants; these fish-eaters love to nest on the same islands as great egrets (and other herons), but their acidic droppings tend to kill the vegetation of the island much quicker than heron excretions. Both the West Sister and Columbus colonies are under cormorant stress, but this wouldn't be much of an issue if there were more islands and habitat for the egrets.

*Rob Thorn*

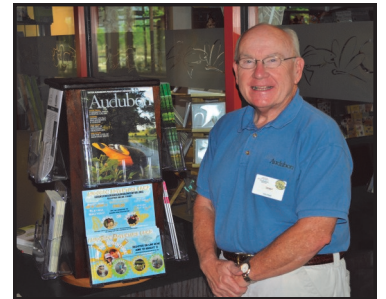
# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Volunteers bring solutions to GIAC

**Steve Hettlinger** has been volunteering with GIAC since October 2011. In this short time, he has contributed to the Center in a wide variety of ways. He revived our composting and has become a strong voice in recycling our food and yard waste. Steve has worked with Patti Hecht to foster our current recycling program. Not long ago, Steve was in the kitchen tearing down box lunches. Beyond these activities, Steve works faithfully as a front desk greeter and tour guide. When he completes his shift on the front desk, he often goes to our roof garden to give it some tender loving care. Before Wine and Warblers, Steve helped prepare the building and gardens for this event. We are in deep gratitude for his service.



Since November 2010, **Denny Forrest** has been volunteering with GIAC and is active in many roles for the Center. Denny is a front desk greeter on a weekly basis. He is a master at conversing with our guests and giving them information about GIAC. When we have special events, Denny will volunteer and brings along his wife Janet to help. Denny has also recruited other volunteers. He is a skilled carpenter and designer of furniture. He has given his talents to the Center by crafting our animal viewing table, a unique storage cabinet for our large seasonal tree leaves from the playroom, and our new literature rack at the front desk. We are in deep gratitude for his contributions to our Center.



Over the past year, **Brian Crow** has given his talents and skills of landscaping and general craftsmanship to the Center. In May he began the undertaking of the Memorial Bench installation project for 10 benches: exploring and testing options for their foundations, leveling, and securing around the grounds. Brian made several trips and did a lot of heavy lifting during many hot weekend days and week-nights. Mobilizing friends and family in the effort, Brian has installed all 10 memorial and commemorative benches.

### Stuart Muir Joins the Stewardship Board of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Stuart Muir, head of commercial sales and customer relations at Huntington Bank, has been elected for a three-year term on the Stewardship Board of GIAC. In addition to prior board experience, Muir brings skills in problem solving, strategic planning, fundraising and development, marketing, and human resources. He holds an MBA from Northwestern University and PhD from Princeton. We are excited to have his energy, commitment, and expertise as the Center moves forward in updating and plotting its strategic direction in keeping with the National Audubon Society 2012-2015 strategic plan.

GIAC bids farewell to two members of the Stewardship Board. Beth Crane stepped down to focus on other community projects including the Columbus Schools for Girls capital campaign. She's been a great addition to the Board and will certainly be missed. Chester Jourdan, former director of MORPC, stepped down when he relocated to Beaumont, Texas this summer.

### In Memoriam: Johann Cozart (1955-2012)

Johann Cozart, dedicated member and volunteer for Columbus Audubon and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, passed away on Friday, June 29, 2012 after a battle with cancer.



Johann was known for her dedication to Columbus Audubon and GIAC and will be missed terribly. No volunteer job was too hard for her. She relished working with students in the after school program at South Side Settlement and they really responded to her mentorship. She shared her passion for birds and nature with anyone who would listen and touched countless lives. Despite some health challenges, she volunteered with the GIAC from its inception and she helped to make it the success that it is today. In fact, Johann seemed to be at just about every public event at the

*Continued on page 15*



# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Michelle Stitzlein's Moth Series returns to GIAC

Grange Insurance Audubon Center is very happy to have another of Michelle Stitzlein's Moth Series sculptures on display. *Oho Rojo Silk Moth* (2005, 96 x 114 inches) is the newest work of art to grace our wall inside the main building entrance. When we first asked Michelle to install her work here at GIAC, we were thrilled to share such a beautiful sculpture with the public, especially one that exemplifies the message of recycling and repurposing every day trash items and found objects.

The works of art that Michelle creates from bicycle tires, bottle caps, license plates, broken ceramic, metal tins, and electric wire is absolutely amazing. When Michelle was asked why she doesn't create butterflies out of this "junk", she responded that butterflies get all the attention, and it was about time to pay tribute to the lesser known insects (moths) in the order Lepidoptera. She has affixed whimsical names to her creations and says that she has become very attached to them due to the long amount of time it takes from start to finish. One 11-foot wide moth can take Stitzlein three weeks, working eight hours a day, to complete.

Michelle Stitzlein has been creating sculpture with recycled materials as a full-time artist since 2000 in her Baltimore, Ohio, studio. Her work has been shown in art and craft museums nationally. She has visited over 50 elementary schools and organizations as an artist-in-residence and continues to share her passion for creating with humble materials in her books, workshops, presentations, and exhibitions.

She offers workshops, demonstrations, and lectures about creating sculpture from plastic bottle caps and other recycled materials for children and adults. Visit [www.artgrange.com](http://www.artgrange.com) to learn more about the artist and to view her beautiful works.



## Audubon Afternoon Adventures

Plan ahead to join us for Audubon Afternoons, held at GIAC each Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There are a variety of topics scheduled for the fall afternoons—with something for everyone.

Audubon Afternoons for Fall 2012

Date	Topic
Sept 1-2	Nature Journaling: Create a nature journal of your own
Sept 8-9	Birdfeeders and Houses: Learn what works for different species and make your own
Sept 15-16	Adaptations: Beaks and feet!
Sept 22-23	The World of Dragons: Learn about dragonflies and take part in a citizen science research project
Sept 29-30	Audubon at Home: Learn about our bird friendly gardens and what you can do at home! Bring a recycled container to plant native seeds
Oct 6-7	Migration: The what, where, and how
Oct 13-14	Birds and Art: Prepare to be creative. Projects may include mobile making, mask making, and more
Oct 20-21	Fall and Winter Adaptations: Learn how animals survive the winter
Oct 27-28	Creepy-Crawlies: Not as scary as you think they are

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Bluegrass Beer and Birds!

Friday, September 14  
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.



Featuring local talent  
Donna Mogavero and  
the band Grassinine

Enjoy an evening with friends at the  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
along the banks of the Scioto River.

Admission is \$20 at the door and  
includes: beer mug, 2 beer tickets,  
and a slice of Donatos pizza.  
Additional beer and pizza may be  
purchased throughout the evening.  
Adults 21 and over only please.

Bring your blanket or chair for lawn  
seating. Event is on rain or shine.

**Be green, ride your bike and get  
\$5 off admission at the door!**

See the website for updates:  
<http://grange.audubon.org/>

# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Give to conservation and GIAC through workplace campaigns

Each fall many offices and businesses conduct employee charitable giving campaigns. Through payroll deductions, employees can designate their charitable giving to causes and organizations they wish to support.

Workplace campaigns are often conducted through giving federations such as United Way. The national federation focused on environmental and conservation efforts is EarthShares, of which the National Audubon Society and thus GIAC is a member.

EarthShare Ohio is the statewide organization of EarthShares, and GIAC is an active member under the name Audubon Ohio. EarthShare Ohio and its EarthShare sister federations partner with hundreds of corporate, federal, and public workplaces across the country to give employees the choice and satisfaction of supporting vital environmental programs and initiatives. These workplace campaigns boost employee morale, help establish the workplace as an environmental leader, and protect our natural resources.

Donations through workplace giving enable EarthShare Ohio's member organizations to spend less time fundraising and more time working toward a healthier environment. Learn more at [www.earthshareohio.org](http://www.earthshareohio.org).

### Giving to GIAC through your workplace campaign

**Federal Employees:** Those working for the federal government participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). You can find GIAC under the National Audubon Society, Ohio program.

**Public or Government Campaigns:** Almost all government agencies have campaigns, including the State of Ohio, Franklin County, City of Columbus, and The Ohio State University. Each campaign promotes and lists their groups in different ways, but almost always under the federation (example, all EarthShare Ohio groups are together alphabetically; all medical or health groups are under the Health Charities federation). To designate GIAC/Audubon Ohio in most of these campaigns you need to have a specific code number (State of Ohio is **21007**; Ohio State's "Bucks for Charity" is **60665**). Please contact us for others at 614-545-5479 and GIAC will post any others on our website as they are set.

**Private Corporations:** Many companies have or can add their own systems or internal campaigns and include EarthShare Ohio/Audubon as an option. Those using this method include Allstate, American Airlines, American Express, Ameriprise Financial, Ashland Inc., Clean Fuels Ohio, Design Group, HP, JPMorgan Chase, LexisNexis, Ohio Education Association, UnitedHealth Group, Walmart, Wells Fargo, and more. A complete list is on the EarthShare website at [www.earthshare.org/earthshareatwork.html](http://www.earthshare.org/earthshareatwork.html).

Some employees can designate us through donor choice options through corporations such as Cardinal Health, General Electric, Libby, and Progressive Insurance.

### Giving to GIAC through United Way and other campaigns

If you're unsure how your workplace campaign is designed, contact us and we'll help. Often we hear, "we only have United Way." There are ways to designate Audubon in these campaigns (such as Delaware and UW-Central Ohio offices).

Questions regarding any workplace giving or payroll deduction opportunities should be directed to Jeff Redfield

([jredfield@audubon.org](mailto:jredfield@audubon.org)) or 614-545-5479. With your donation to the GIAC/Audubon Ohio, the next time you say "I gave at the office," you can truly mean it!



**EcoSummit 2012**  
4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ECOSUMMIT  
**ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
RESTORING THE PLANET'S ECOSYSTEM SERVICES  
[www.ecosummit2012.org](http://www.ecosummit2012.org)

**30 SEPT - 5 OCT 2012**  
**Columbus, Ohio, USA**

The first time in the United States and it's here in Columbus & Franklin County, Ohio.

EcoSummit 2012: 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215, USA

# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Audubon Adventure Camp 2012 pleased kids and parents

Time flies when you're having FUN! What a wonderful camp season we had at Audubon Adventure Camp this summer! The number of campers doubled from last year, due in part to nine different themed sessions. In addition, the new Audubon Adventure Club geared toward 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders offered camp fun, leadership, and conservation work as well.



Campers and club members were greeted and guided by creative and enthusiastic counselors and camp staff who kept them busy in fun while learning and making a difference by taking action each day. There were many returning campers from previous summers, including our 7-year-old camp friend, Brock, who has camped each session with us for the past two summers, as well as returning campers who had so much fun that they were begging their parents to sign them up for another session or two this summer! As one parent stated, "Great exposure to nature, right in the city, an easy commute!"

Each week when campers gave feedback and were asked what their favorite activity was, there was a resounding "everything!" Camper Peter Beals stated, "My favorite thing was bird banding. It was really fun to see

the different birds up close and I even got bit by one, but it didn't hurt." Cara Wilson, a returning camper from last year wrote, "The best thing about camp was going and having fun with friends because I made new friends." Each year Audubon Adventure Camp has grown dramatically, so we're already excited to see what next summer will bring, to catch up with returning campers, and to meet new ones—after we all rest a bit!

### Trick or Tweet!

Grange Insurance  
Audubon Center's  
Fourth Annual  
Halloween  
Celebration



Friday, Oct., 26 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Fun for all ages!

Saturday, October 27 10 a.m. to noon  
Special event for the little ones,  
ages 5 and under

Admission \$2 per person (\$1 for  
students of GIAC partnership schools)

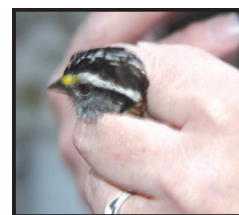
A seasonal favorite! Join us for a  
fun event of tasty alternative  
treats, candy crafts, fun-filled  
games, recycled costumes, face  
painting, night hikes, live animals,  
and more. For more information,  
call Allison at 614-545-5482 or email  
[aroush@audubon.org](mailto:aroush@audubon.org).

### Bird banding at GIAC assesses area habitat support to migration

Every spring and fall, millions of birds undergo the amazing feat of migration. Along the way, they will encounter obstacles such as tall buildings, confusing lights, harsh weather, and predators. One of the factors that may determine whether birds successfully complete their journey is the availability of stopover sites where they can rest and refuel. The Scioto Audubon Metro Park is one of these stopover sites, and at Grange Insurance Audubon Center we are working to assess its habitat quality.

One tool we use is bird banding, which allows us to determine the condition of each bird and whether they are obtaining their energy requirements. The GIAC bird banding station monitored spring migration for 22 days, from April 24 to May 30, 2012. A total of 388 birds of 41 species were captured, 339 new birds and 49 previously banded. Our top ten species were gray catbird, american robin, white-throated sparrow, common grackle, song sparrow, northern cardinal, indigo bunting, common yellowthroat, ovenbird and swamp sparrow. We had a number of wonderful, active volunteers, who donated over 174 volunteer hours! We also reached many visitors and had a large number of school groups visit for banding demonstrations.

We will be continuing our bird banding effort this fall, from August through October, and volunteers can be part of the action. Banding takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. (weather permitting). Contact us at [www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org) or 614-545-5475 or for more information. Visitors are always welcome!



*Anne Balogh*



# September 2012

GIAC events are in black text.  
Columbus Audubon events are in green text

## Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

### Nature Journaling

Saturday, Sept. 1 AND Sunday, Sept. 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park

Sunday, Sept. 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### Swift Night Out at Sells Middle School

Friday, Sept. 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

### Birdfeeders and Houses

Saturday, Sept. 8 AND Sunday, Sept. 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Swift Night Out in Galena

Saturday, Sept. 8 at 7:15 p.m.

### Birding by Kayak at TAASC

Saturday, Sept. 8 at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### Bluegrass Beer and Birds

Friday, Sept. 14 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

### Service in the preserves - Fowler Woods

Saturday, Sept. 15 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

### Adaptations: Beaks and feet

Saturday, Sept. 15 AND Sunday, Sept. 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Shorebirds, Tailgating & Chimney Swifts at Hoover Boardwalk

Saturday, Sept. 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### Urban Scioto Migration at Scioto Audubon Boat Launch

Sunday, Sept. 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday  
Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday  
Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday  
Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.

23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday  
Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.



30  
Reservations required for tours

## Intro to Nature Photography at Glacier Ridge Metro Park

Sunday, Sept. 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

### The World of Dragons

Saturday, Sept. 22 AND Sunday, Sept. 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Columbus Audubon monthly program:

### Life after The Big Year

Tuesday, Sept. 25 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery

Saturday, Sept. 29 at 8:30 a.m.

## Alum & Hoover Migrants

Saturday, Sept. 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

### Audubon at Home

Saturday, Sept. 29 AND Sunday, Sept. 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



## Schedule of Events

GIAC events are in black text.

Columbus Audubon events are in green text

- An Evening with Dr. Gary Langham**  
Monday, Oct. 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Amateur Astronomy 101: Looking up, Looking out, and Looking Beyond**  
Thursday evenings in October (Oct 4, 11, 18, 25)
- Search for Ammodramous Sparrows at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park**  
Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Birding at Blendon Woods**  
Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Allegheny Front (PA) Hawkwatch Trip with Optional Visit to Flight 93 Memorial**  
Saturday, Oct. 6 at 12:00 p.m. to Sunday, Oct. 7
- Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Migration**  
Saturday, Oct. 6 AND Sunday, Oct. 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**  
Sunday, Oct. 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Service in the preserves - Lake Katherine**  
Saturday, Oct. 13 AND Sunday, Oct. 14
- Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Birds & Art**  
Saturday, Oct. 13 AND Sunday, Oct. 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Fall & Winter Adaptations**  
Saturday, Oct. 20 AND Sunday, Oct. 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Autumn Colors and Birds in Sheedy Nature Preserve**  
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Columbus Audubon monthly program: Helping American Kestrels**  
Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Trick or Tweet: Fun for all ages!**  
Friday, Oct. 26 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	2	3 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	4	5	6
7	8 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	9	10 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	11	12	13
14	15 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	16	17 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	18	19	20
21	22 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	23	24 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	25	26	27
28	29 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	30	31 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.			
Reservations required for tours						

**Tour of Metro Parks: Three Creeks, Walnut Woods & Pickerington Ponds**  
Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery**  
Saturday, Oct. 27 at 8:30 a.m.

**Trick or Tweet: Ages 5 and under**  
Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10:00 a.m. to noon

**Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Creepy-Crawlies**  
Saturday, Oct. 27 AND Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Zipline Canopy Tour at Hocking Hills Canopy Tours**  
Sunday, October 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**  
Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Bird Feeding 101 at Grange Insurance Audubon Center**  
Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



# Columbus Audubon

## Birdathon 2012 raises nearly \$9300!

A beloved favorite of Columbus Audubon members and supporters alike, the annual Birdathon was conducted, tallied, and celebrated. Team reports show that at least 923 total species were counted. Birdathon proceeds will support Columbus Audubon's conservation programs, including support of Calamus Swamp and Lights Out Columbus.

**The five teams with the highest number of species during their Birdathon were:**

Quick 3 Beards, 160

Wild Birds of Riverside, 151

Mudflats Herons, 140

Ohio Young Birders, 115

Metro Park Stellar Jays, 100



A big thanks to all of our teams and sponsors for their contributions. Also, congratulations to our prize winners and special thanks to our three prize sponsors:

Tom Sheley won the overnight stay at Unity Woods, donated by Jeff and Cindy Cates. Unity Woods (<http://unitywoods.org>) is a birders' paradise of peace, quiet, and nature in an unspoiled and secluded woods setting on 175 acres adjacent to Johnson Ridge State Nature Preserve in Adams County.

Katryn Renard received the prize donated by Vortex; a pair of Vortex Viper 10x42 HD waterproof, fog-proof binoculars and a lens pen.

Jacob Stinnett received the prize generously donated by Eagle Optics: a pair of Kingbird 6.5x32 binoculars, featuring twist-up eyecups and waterproof, fog-proof construction, a classic tradition in a modern fashion.

Making Birdathon successful takes the work of many people. Many thanks to committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith, Dave Horn, Jackie Bain, Tom Sheley, and Julie Davis. Congratulations and thanks to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

### Columbus Audubon 2012 bird seed fundraiser update

It's time for our Bird Seed Fundraiser—a great way to stock up on quality seed and blends and lend a helping hand to both birds and Columbus Audubon at the same time.

Like last year, due to weather conditions we are not able to provide prices on our bird seed for the 2012 fundraiser at this time. We expect to set prices when the new seed crop becomes available in September and October.

The 2012 Seed Order Form will be in the next issue of the *Song Sparrow*. The order form and the blend mixture information will be online at [www.columbusaudubon.org/birdseed](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/birdseed) as soon as prices come available.

As in past years, the seed you order can be picked up December 1-24 at Wild Birds Unlimited, 5400 Riverside Drive in Columbus. Remember, all proceeds from the Seed Fundraiser will go to Columbus Audubon to help fund our many projects.

## Invasive Species:

### Asian Tiger Mosquito

The Asian tiger mosquito is a strikingly marked mosquito that arrived in Texas from Southeast Asia in 1985. Most likely, it came as larvae in water



contained in tires shipped from Asia to the US. It has spread east to all the states in the southeast US and has spread north to Ohio, New York, Minnesota, and other states. It is sometimes known as a container mosquito. It can breed in areas as small as a bottle cap.

This mosquito is quick and aggressive. It is very active and has been known to feed 24 hours per day.

The mosquito has a very distinctive black and white striped pattern. It is known to have carried a myriad of diseases including, but not limited to, West Nile virus, dog heartworm, yellow fever, and equine encephalitis. It is a warm-weather mosquito, so there is some concern that its movement north is being aided by global warming. However, this has not been proven.

Rules specify that tires imported to this country be dry. Unfortunately, the rules are not very well followed or enforced, so the mosquito will continue to be imported until that changes.

The mosquito is resistant to most standard mosquito control techniques. To reduce Asian tiger mosquito numbers around your home, regularly empty any containers that may hold water outdoors.

*Sue Kramp*



# Columbus Audubon



## September & October Field Trips and Programs

### **Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park**

*Sunday, Sept. 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*  
Join Blendon Woods naturalist Bruce Simpson as we wander the trails at one of the area's finest Metro Parks. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. For more information, call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-508-8000 or check [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net).

### **Swift Night Out at Sells Middle School**

*Friday, Sept. 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*  
Join us behind the school (150 West Bridge Street in Dublin) in front of the tennis courts as we count the swifts entering the school chimney at sunset and contribute to citizen science. We will start by talking a bit about chimney swifts and why they are so amazing, then we'll count as the light fades. Bring lawn chairs and mosquito repellent and a snack to share! Contact Darlene Sillick at 614-288-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

### **Birding by Kayak at TAASC**

*Saturday, Sept. 8 at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*  
We will spend the morning paddling and birding. No prior kayaking experience is necessary; bring water, a snack, binoculars, and sun screen. Cost is \$20 per person and includes kayak, personal flotation device, and paddle, as well as instruction from certified professionals. TAASC is located at 6000 Harriot Rd in Powell. To register and obtain required forms, contact Darlene Sillick at 614-288-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

### **Swift Night Out in Galena**

*Saturday, Sept. 8 at 7:15 p.m.*  
Join Dick Tuttle and Darlene Sillick at the Galena Village Hall (formerly the United Methodist Church building) at 109 Harrison Street in Galena to count chimney swifts entering the building's chimney. The brick chimney measures 78 by 48 inches on the outside and cannot be missed as you drive north. The building is one block north of the village square. Parking in the Big Walnut Schools Administration Building lot facing the church. Contact Darlene Sillick at 614-288-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

### **Shorebirds, Tailgating & Chimney Swifts at Hoover Boardwalk**

*Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*  
Bring the whole family to Galena for an easy stroll on the boardwalk to see migrants on the

mudflats until 6:30 p.m. Then bring your own snacks and join the tailgate party in the gravel lot between the Big Walnut School Administration building and the Community Church to watch swifts gather and spiral into the church chimney roost. Contact Tom Bain at [bainnature@gmail.com](mailto:bainnature@gmail.com) or 614-312-7513 for more details.

### **Urban Scioto Migration at Scioto Audubon Boat Launch**

*Sunday, Sept. 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

We'll start at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, where the narrow riparian corridor funnels migrant land birds, while the Greenlawn reservoir provides a nice target for water birds like herons and shorebirds. Moving south of Greenlawn dam, the bikepath traverses one of the best forest migrant traps in central Ohio. Then we'll venture up to the Grandview ponds and bikepath, another great place to find migrants. Contact Rob Thorn at [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net) or 614-551-0643 for details.

### **Intro to Nature Photography at Glacier Ridge Metro Park**

*Sunday, Sept. 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

This trip is for anyone interested in nature photography, especially those just beginning or wanting to consider it. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience or equipment (even if you have none). This location offers a wide variety of habitats, many photographic subjects, and a preview for the upcoming fall color season. Meet at the parking lot near the Honda Wetlands Education Area; entrance is on Hyland Croy Road just south of Mitchell-Dewitt Road/Brand Road (County Hwy 9) and across from Tullymore Drive. Find directions on [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net). Contact Mike Flynn at [mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com](mailto:mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com) or 614-769-1681 for details.

### **Alum & Hoover Migrants**

*Saturday, Sept. 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

We'll start at Alum Lake, where the small woodlots at the southern end of the lake are very good migrant traps, and the wide lower reservoir attracts a wide variety of waterfowl. Later we'll travel to the upper end of nearby Hoover Reservoir, where the mudflats should be filled with ducks, gulls, and shorebirds. Meet at the Westerville Community Center for carpooling. Contact Rob Thorn at 614-551-0643 or [robthorn@earthlink.net](mailto:robthorn@earthlink.net) for details.

### **Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery**

*Saturday, Sept. 29 at 8:30 a.m.*

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at Green Lawn, and the pit and bridge area bring a few surprises throughout the year. Join trip leaders Darlene Sillick and Warren Grody as they fill the bird feeders and look for the usual suspects plus a few surprises at one of the oldest cemeteries in central Ohio ([www.greenlawncolumbus.org](http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org)). Meet at the office parking lot inside the iron gate. Contact Darlene at 614-288-3696 or [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

### **Amateur Astronomy 101: Looking up, Looking out, and Looking Beyond**

*Thursday evenings in October (Oct 4, 11, 18, 25)*  
This hands-on workshop over four Thursday evenings will help beginners develop a greater knowledge and appreciation for the starry night. It is a combination of classroom and outdoor viewing (weather permitting). The focus will be to expand understanding of those things that can be viewed when looking skyward after dark through your naked eye, in binoculars, and in small telescopes (or spotting scopes). This popular series is led by instructor Jay Young and held at TAASC, 6000 Harriott Rd, Powell. Fee is \$25 per person for the series. Registration deadline is Sept. 29 and fills fast. To register or learn more, email Jay at [youngj2@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:youngj2@ohiodominican.edu).

### **Search for Ammodramous Sparrows at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park**

*Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*

Join trip leader Brad Sparks to search for Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows at the restored wetlands of Darby Creek Metro Park. This area offers great habitat for these two rare sparrows and during the peak of their migration through Ohio. Come prepared to do some walking in potentially wet areas. We will meet at the parking lot along Kulwhein Rd. Contact Brad Sparks at [birdmansparks@yahoo.com](mailto:birdmansparks@yahoo.com) for more details.

### **Birding at Blendon Woods**

*Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

Ken Davis will lead the search for late warbler migrants along the trails at Blendon Woods Metro Park. Rainy weather may cause wet patches along trails, so be prepared. Meet at Blendon Woods Nature Center. Contact Ken or [wavedog@insight.rr.com](mailto:wavedog@insight.rr.com) or 614-560-7404 for details.

**For more Field Trips see page 13**

## Ohio young birders connect



Making connections is something the members of Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) do all the time. They make connections between their decision to recycle and the health of their neighborhood park. They understand that their choice to ride their bike, instead of asking for a car ride, helps to make their world a little greener for all living things. They honor the interwoven web of life. Their respect for those connections, their awe when out in the natural world, their willingness to work and sacrifice now for worthy long-term goals for our planet—that is what makes OYBC students unique and so “well-connected.”

These young birders are also grateful for their connections to all the supportive adults who share their love of birds and nature and who give so generously of their time and talents. OYBC members connect with park naturalists, club advisors, birding organizations, science teachers, and adults who are birding experts and novices alike. OYBC truly is a community effort.

Be a part of these community connections. If you are a student aged 12-18, join OYBC. If you are an adult, offer a helping hand to these future stewards of our world. We're all connected, after all!



*Gerry Breevort*

### Field Trips continued from page 12

#### **Allegheny Front (PA) Hawkwatch Trip with Optional Visit to Flight 93 Memorial** *Saturday, Oct. 6 at 12:00 p.m. to Sunday, Oct. 7*

A four-hour drive brings us to Allegheny Front in western PA, a small, quiet hawkwatch site along the same mountain range as Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Our trip dates fall within the migration of a wide variety of raptors, with an average of up to 15 species observed in previous Octobers. An optional visit to the Flight 93 Memorial is possible on the way to the hawkwatch site. We will support the local economy by using nearby hotels and restaurants. This trip is very flexible. Arrive any time before noon on Saturday for our group meeting. Sunday departure time by your schedule. Carpooling possible. This trip is limited to 10 participants; registration deadline is Sept. 16. Contact Mike Flynn at [mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com](mailto:mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com) or 614-769-1681 to register or for more details.

#### **Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**

*Sunday, Oct. 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*

See description for September 2.

#### **Autumn Colors and Birds in Sheedy Nature Preserve**

*Sunday Oct. 21, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

Join Tom and Jackie Bain to explore Sheedy Preserve, a small buttonbush swamp habitat in Morrow County. Sheedy Nature Preserve is located on County Road 204 north of County Road 13 in Morrow County [www.morrowcountyparkdistrict.org/sheedy.html](http://www.morrowcountyparkdistrict.org/sheedy.html) Contact Tom Bain at [bainnature@gmail.com](mailto:bainnature@gmail.com) or 614-312-7513 for information & directions.

#### **Tour of Metro Parks: Three Creeks, Walnut Woods & Pickerington Ponds** *Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Waterfowl should just be arriving, while herons, egrets, and late shorebirds should still be around when we tour the ponds and wetlands of three Metro Parks in southern Franklin County, starting at Three Creeks, then moving to Walnut Woods and Pickerington Ponds. The fields and edges here should also be alive with late migrant sparrows, blackbirds, and raptors as well. Contact Rob at 614-551-0643 or [rob-thorn@earthlink.net](mailto:rob-thorn@earthlink.net) for details.

#### **Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery**

*Saturday, Oct. 27 at 8:30 a.m.*

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at Green Lawn, and the pit and bridge area bring a few surprises throughout the year. Join trip leaders Darlene Sillick and Warren Grody as they fill the bird feeders and look for the usual suspects plus a few surprises at one of the oldest cemeteries in central Ohio ([www.greenlawncolumbus.org](http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org)). Meet at the office parking lot inside the iron gate. Contact Darlene Sillick at 614-288-3696 or [az-uretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:az-uretrails@columbus.rr.com).

#### **Zipline Canopy Tour at Hocking Hills Canopy Tours**

*Sunday, October 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

This is an exciting experience, zipping along safely and securely through the canopy of trees on Ohio's first world-class zipline

adventure! Go to [www.hockinghillscanopytours.com](http://www.hockinghillscanopytours.com) to view the video, review policies, and learn more details. Space is limited to 16 participants. Discounted cost is \$79 per person. Car pooling from the McDonald's on Rt. 33 in Carroll, Ohio (6010 Winchester Rd), between Canal Winchester and Lancaster. Contact Mike Flynn at [mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com](mailto:mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com) or 614-769-1681 for pre-registration, details or directions.

#### **Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**

*Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*

See description for September 2.

#### **Bird Feeding 101 at Grange Insurance Audubon Center**

*Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

Want to do some bird watching at home? Feeding birds and wildlife is the second most popular hobby in North America. Tom Sheley, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited on Riverside Drive, will guide you through getting started or improving your existing set up. Tom will also discuss providing natural and supplemental foods that are nutritionally responsible as well as incorporating water, shelter, and nesting sites into the landscape. Contact Tom at [tshaley4@gmail.com](mailto:tshaley4@gmail.com) for more info.



## Conservation Corner: Lights Out Columbus

a partnership to save migratory birds (and energy)

Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Columbus on their way to or from their breeding grounds. Many birds migrate at night, and lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can disorient them and draw them into the buildings. It is estimated that over 500 million birds die each year from building collisions. Volunteers collected data on bird collisions in downtown Columbus from March to June, and they found nearly 75 birds of various species, including brown creeper, bay-breasted warbler, and ovenbird.



*An Indigo Bunting that was a victim of a window collision in downtown Columbus.*

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon have partnered with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative to reduce bird collisions with buildings in Columbus through the Lights Out Columbus campaign. Lights Out Columbus campaign could assist building owners and managers interested in decreasing their energy costs.

Similar programs have been successful in a number of cities across the US, including Chicago, New York, Indianapolis, and Minneapolis.

Starting in mid-August, building owners, managers, and residents will be encouraged to reduce exterior nighttime lighting during peak bird migration periods. For more information on Lights Out Columbus campaign, including what local buildings are participating, how to volunteer or enroll your building in the campaign, visit [www.obcincet.org/lightsout.php](http://www.obcincet.org/lightsout.php).

*Amanda Conover, OBCI coordinator*

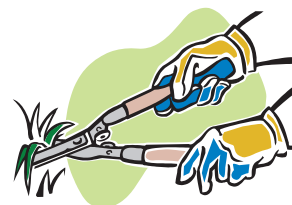
## Service in the Preserves

### Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve

*Saturday, Sept. 15 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (reservation required)*

Fowler Woods is a delightful place to visit, with 1.25 miles of boardwalk meandering through an old growth beech-maple forest, down to a swamp forest and back up. The boardwalk has been there for many years and needs work. Our job will be to repair the boardwalk including carrying the new boards in and the old boards out and perhaps some trail trimming.

Please call trip leader Katryn Renard at 614-261-7171 five days prior to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and help determine tool requirements. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your lunch, water, work gloves, appropriate foot gear. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus; we'll return to ODNR by 5:00 p.m.



### Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve

*Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14 (reservation required)*

Lake Katharine is a beautiful site with wildflowers, big leaf and umbrella magnolia trees, and impressive rock formations. The trails need some attention so we will be rebuilding sections that are slipping and cleaning up some others. We will also be removing an old staircase built onto the side of one of the cliffs.

Please call trip leader Katryn Renard at 614-261-7171 five days prior to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and to help us determine tool requirements. Bring your lunch for Saturday, water, work gloves, appropriate foot gear, and camping equipment. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided for a nominal fee. All skill levels are welcome. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus; we'll return to ODNR by 5:00 p.m.

The Service in the Preserves program is a partnership with Columbus Audubon and Ohio Department of Natural Resources. CA volunteers go to various State Nature Preserves about once every six weeks during the school year. We work on projects that range from invasive species removal to building boardwalks. This is especially important now during these lean times of budget cuts throughout ODNR. Mark your calendar with upcoming SIP dates: November 17, January 12, February 16, March 23, April 13-14, June 1.



**Columbus Audubon Founded 1913**[www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org)

614-545-5497

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Facebook: Columbus-Audubon  
Officers

President: Bill Heck, 614-895-1940

Vice President: Suzan Jervey

Newsletter Editor: Tamara James

Newsletter Layout: Julie Davis

Web/Social Media: Stefanie Hauck

Treasurer: Maura Rawn

Recording Secretary: Tamara James

Past President: Julie Davis

**Trustees** (through June 30, 2013): George Arnold, Jackie Bain, Amanda Conover, Gerry Brevoort, Tim Daniel, Warren Grody, Bill Heck, Dave Horn, Suzan Jervey, and Darlene Sillick**Additional chapter leaders**Birdathon: Linda Benner, [winter.wren@att.net](mailto:winter.wren@att.net)

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

Eco Weekend: Dale Brubeck, [dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com)

Lois Day, 740-793-8843

Education: Jackie Bain, [jjbain@insight.rr.com](mailto:jjbain@insight.rr.com)Field Trips: [information@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:information@columbusaudubon.org)

Membership: Joe Meara, 614-430-9127

Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, [jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com)Programs: Darlene Sillick, [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com)

Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 614-261-7171

Web site: Bill Heck, [webmaster@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@columbusaudubon.org)**GIAC welcomes Dr. Gary Langham continued from page 1**

"The leadership Gary showed in creating the 'no regrets' climate change model is the kind of bold thinking Audubon needs," said Audubon president & CEO David Yarnold. "He has both broad science expertise and acute insight on how the intersection of social change and innovative technology can drive effective conservation. Audubon has always been a science-based organization; Gary's leadership will bring new creativity and impact to our work."

As chief scientist, Dr. Langham is instrumental in shaping and implementing Audubon's conservation strategy. He leads efforts to promote and expand citizen science programs including Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, to broaden the Important Bird Areas initiative, and to engage partners, donors and other stakeholders in Audubon's science work.

**Ohio Ornithological Society's 8th annual conference at Lakeside, OH September 28-30**

Join the OOS for a weekend of fun, friends and birding! Our conference activities this year will coincide with shorebird migration in Northern Ohio. You will hear great speakers, visit exciting field trip locations and catch up with birding friends. Events will include talks from Kevin Karlson, author and photographer. Kevin will also be bringing his newest book, *Visions: Earth's Elements in Bird and Nature Photography*. Also, Lukas Padegimas from the Ohio Young Birders Club, the movie "The Big Year" narrated by Greg Miller and a shorebird documentary by Shawn Carey and Jim Grady. For more info and to register go to:

<http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/conference2012.php>**Grange Insurance Audubon Center**[www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org)

614-545-5475

**Staff**

Center Director: Christie Vargo

Director of Development &amp; Marketing: Jeff Redfield

Finance &amp; Office Manager: Kristen Clark

Director of Education &amp; Conservation: Amy Boyd

Facility &amp; Nature Store Manager: Patty Hecht

Conservation Manager: Anne Balogh

Educator: Allison Roush

Educators (part-time): Karen Karpik and Marci Lininger

Facility Assistants (part-time): Ian Dowden and Monica Johnson

**September hours:** Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Fall hours (starting October 1):** Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday Noon – 5 p.m.

**Directions to the GIAC:** From High Street (going south) turn right on Whittier (which runs along south end of German Village and Brewery District). From Front Street (going north) turn left onto Whittier. Follow Whittier, making no turns, across the bridge spanning the tracks, past the other side streets until you drive into the parking lot in front of the center.

**GIAC Stewardship Board**

Greg Cunningham (Chair)

Julie Davis (Vice Chair)

Frances Beasley

Jeff Chaddock

Carol Drake

Bill Heck\*

Alan McKnight\*

Stuart Muir

John O'Meara\*

Lori Overmyer

Steven Puckett

Jan Rodenfels

Milt Schott

Leslie Strader

Christie Vargo, Ex Officio

\* Appointed

**Johan Cozart continued from page 7**  
Center, helping in any way she could.

Because of her dedication, Columbus Audubon presented her with a Song Sparrow award several years ago. GIAC named its annual volunteer award *The Johann Cozart Exemplary Volunteer Award*, and she was the first recipient. A memorial service was held on Sunday, July 1, at GIAC with her many siblings, family, and friends present to celebrate her life. Contributions in Johann's memory can be made to GIAC or Columbus Audubon's John Wilson Education Fund.

She never met a stranger and her sense of humor was enjoyed by all. Johann, we wish you the peace you deserve and appreciate how you made our lives better.

**Return in 5 days to**  
Columbus Audubon/GIAC  
505 W. Whittier St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
DBA-National Audubon Society

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## Columbus Audubon/Grange Insurance Audubon Center joint membership

Apply now for joint membership in Columbus Audubon (CA) and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC).  
We offer these membership levels:

\_\_\_ **Basic Individual \$30.** Includes membership in GIAC and CA, Song Sparrow newsletter, subscription to Audubon magazine, and many other benefits.

\_\_\_ **Basic Family \$45.** Includes the benefits above plus discounts at the GIAC Nature Store and on GIAC programs for your entire family.

\_\_\_ **Organization \$75.** Includes all standard membership benefits

\_\_\_ **Chickadee \$100.** Includes all standard membership benefits

\_\_\_ **Great Blue Heron \$250.** Includes all standard membership benefits

\_\_\_ **Bald Eagle \$500.** Includes all standard membership benefits

\_\_\_ **Great Egret \$1000.** Includes all standard membership benefits

### Joint membership benefits are (all levels):

- \* Membership in the National Audubon Society
- \* Building rental opportunities at GIAC
- \* Subscription to Audubon magazine
- \* Bi-monthly Song Sparrow newsletter, a joint publication of Columbus Audubon and the Grange Insurance Audubon (electronic delivery only for basic membership)
- \* 10% discount at the GIAC nature store
- \* Discount on GIAC program fees
- \* Free CA field trips and programs throughout the year
- \* An invitation to attend the CA annual meeting
- \* Volunteer opportunities
- \* Discounts at partnering affiliates
- \* Invitations to special events at GIAC
- \* Voice in CA/GIAC conservation initiatives

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ To help the environment check here to receive the Song Sparrow electronically

### Method of payment

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_ Card expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to:  
Kristen Clark  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
505 W. Whittier St.  
Columbus, OH 43215