

CA starts a new tradition Member dinner to replace potluck!



You're invited to a special Columbus Audubon dinner as part of an extra-special April monthly program. Our annual member dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. before our April program on Tuesday, April 23.

This member dinner replaces the traditional potluck dinner. While many of our members have enjoyed the potluck tradition, changing circumstances have made it necessary to begin a new tradition. Rapid growth in the number of attendees has made potluck logistics difficult to manage, greater demands on time for working members and families, and increasing concerns over food safety have made the potluck impractical. So as Columbus Audubon enters its second 100 years, it's time to start a new tradition.

The dinner menu will be an Italian buffet catered by Berwick Manor. Your 100th anniversary committee has worked hard to keep the cost of dinner affordable for members, and GIAC's anniversary gift to our members is allocating their discounted catering services to our dinner. We are pleased to offer a wonderful dinner for only \$12 per person for members (non-members \$35, includes a CA/GIAC 1 year membership), and \$5 for children under 11. We think you'll agree that this is a real bargain and a great way to kick off a new tradition. See the insert for more details. (Guests who won't be joining us for dinner should plan to arrive at 7:00 p.m. for the short program and 7:30 p.m. for the main program.)

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

Audubon's President & CEO to Visit Columbus



Columbus Audubon and GIAC will welcome National Audubon Society's CEO, David Yarnold, to Ohio for the first time on March 26-27.

Since becoming Audubon's 10th president in September 2010, he's demonstrated his commitment to build on the organization's strong conservation legacy and expand its effectiveness into the future. He leads Audubon's powerful network of nearly 500 local Chapters, state offices and Audubon Centers across the country. "We are all Audubon," Yarnold says. "No other organization has our wingspan when it comes to being able to drive conservation action, whether in individual backyards or in Congress."

Under Yarnold's leadership, Audubon is aligning its conservation work along migratory flyways. "Flyways transcend geographical and political boundaries," he said. "They give us a literal birds-eye view of environmental issues and trends and help direct our work."

A former Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*, he is an outspoken and eloquent advocate for birds and the environment. Yarnold will assist in presenting a joint CA/GIAC "Conservation Champion" award to Columbus' Mayor Michael B. Coleman at the CA monthly membership program on Tuesday, March 26. Visit www.giac-audubon.org/CEOvisit for his full bio, additional information, and updates on his Ohio visit.

From the Columbus Audubon President Bill Heck

Here in Ohio, we are already thinking of migration, which is also the theme for this issue of the *Song Sparrow*. When we think of migration, it's usually of birds, but perhaps we think also of the majestic migration of the Monarch Butterflies that we see moving south in the fall.

In South Africa, a country that I was privileged to visit recently, Brown-veined White butterflies are migrating, streaming from the western arid scrublands toward the east. When butterfly populations are growing, the caterpillars eat all of the available leaves on their host plants. In response, the adults move east to lay their eggs so that the next generation will find food still available. Frequently, though, they overdo it, reaching the ocean coast where butterflies can be seen still flying eastward out to sea, where they eventually perish.

I wonder if there is a lesson for us here? The butterflies need to move because they use up all of their resources, and eventually they have nowhere left to go but out to sea. We can and should be smarter. We have the ability to plan, to avoid using up everything, and (back to birds) not to foul our nest; in other words, to keep a healthy environment that sustains us all. Let's not be lost at sea. Please join the Audubon family in making our own migration through the world a healthy one that ends well, for ourselves and for that next generation.



Hone your citizen science and conservation skills this spring

Come and get your hands dirty on GIAC conservation projects this spring! We have a lot of fun activities planned: bird banding, point counts, invasive plant removal, restoring areas of the park, and planting gardens with native plants. We have our work cut out for us! Want to come have fun with us.

Bird Banding: Last spring we banded 388 birds representing 40 species, and volunteers donated over 175 hours helping with this. This year we will start April 6 and band four mornings a week (weather permitting). If you missed your chance to volunteer with bird banding last year, now is your chance to see birds up close.

Point Counts: We will be starting a point count bird monitoring program this spring. Point counts are what they sound like: you stand at one point for a set amount of time and count the birds you see and hear. These counts will give us a better understanding of the types and numbers of birds using our area. So if you enjoy being outside and watching birds, this could be a perfect fit. All levels are welcome, though people with advanced birding by ear skills will be especially helpful.

Plant Management: Finally, we have the down and dirty work of removing invasive plants and planting native plants. You can learn about all the green goodness in our park and improve the habitats for birds and animals.

Anne Balogh can answer your questions and provide more information. Contact her at abalogh@audubon.org if you are interested in conservation work at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center!

BIRDING OPTICS & GEAR EXPO

SAT. MARCH 23 9 am - 5 pm | SUN. MARCH 24 12 pm - 4 pm, 2013
GRANGE INSURANCE AUDUBON CENTER • COLUMBUS, OH



Calling all outdoor ENTHUSIASTS!

• TRY BEFORE YOU BUY •

Register to win door prizes!

birdwatchersdigest.com/expo



Columbus Audubon Monthly Programs

March Program - The Bluebird Effect

Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the GIAC multipurpose room

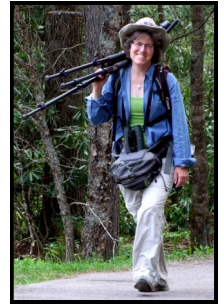
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. – Enjoy refreshments, including a special cake celebrating Columbus Audubon's 100th anniversary. Take this opportunity to meet National Audubon president, David Yarnold and Columbus mayor, Michael Coleman.

6:45 - 7:30 p.m. – We will honor the 2013 recipients of Columbus Audubon's *James Chase Hambleton* and CA/GIAC's *Conservation Champion* awards. After the awards, we will hear remarks from NAS president, David Yarnold and Mayor Coleman.

7:30 p.m. – Main Program by Julie Zickefoose: *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds* is about what happens when you are taken into the confidence of a wild bird. It's about the unexpected mental and emotional capacities of birds, especially songbirds, which we tend to underestimate and overlook. Everyone knows that crows, ravens, and parrots are intelligent, but have you thought about hummingbirds? Julie Zickefoose has a unique perspective, having been mother to six. Join her for an intimate, eye-opening look at the rich lives of birds.

The art and writing of Julie Zickefoose unite to bring us stunning visuals and profound observations of birds and animals. Some of her key accomplishments include her first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, in 2006, natural history commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered* from 2005-2010, her paintings have been featured on 21 covers of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and her new book, *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds With Common Birds*, published in March 2012 and chosen as Book of the Week on www.Oprah.com.

Julie is a member of one of Ohio's first families of birding and conservation. She lives on an 80-acre sanctuary in southern Ohio with her husband, publisher and published author Bill Thompson III, children Phoebe and Liam, and Boston terrier Chet Baker.



April Program - Columbus Audubon's anniversary dinner and Bird Conservation 101: Five Simple Steps to Build a Brighter Future for Birds and Birders

Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the GIAC multipurpose room

6:00 p.m. – Columbus Audubon's anniversary dinner (**registration required, see insert for details or visit www.columbusaudubon.org/dinner**)

7:00 p.m. – Short Program: The Central Ohio chapter members of the Ohio Young Birders Club will share their highlights from recent field trips and conservation projects. Song Sparrow award: recognizes outstanding contributions by members who promote CA's mission.

7:30 p.m. – Main program: In tonight's fun and enlightening presentation, Kimberly Kaufman will share some of the most memorable things she's learned about birds and some simple ways to make the world a better place for birds. She'll provide real examples of conservation initiatives that every person can participate in—including a few that you can do from the comfort of your own home. The time has come for each and every one of us to do a little bit more to protect the natural world. This presentation aims to inform, educate, and inspire you to take action on behalf of birds!

Kimberly Kaufman is an Ohio native whose lifelong love of the outdoors grew into a passion for birds in the 1990s. She monitored nesting Bald Eagles for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and ran bluebird trails before she began banding migrant songbirds for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO). Kim's involvement with BSBO expanded as she became the observatory's education director in 2005 and the executive director in 2009, a position she still holds. Kim has spent the last 15 years of her life completely immersed in the world of birds, birding, and bird conservation.

Kim played a key role in starting two highly successful programs: the Ohio Young Birders Club, a group for teenagers that has served as a model for youth programs in 13 other states, as well as The Biggest Week In American Birding, a spring event that has rapidly become one of the largest birding festivals on the continent. She is a contributing editor to *Birds & Blooms* magazine and coauthor of the *Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of New England*.



Smallmouth Salamander

They looked like little snakes at first. But this was February, hardly snake season, and the marsh we were next to was hardly snake habitat. When we looked close, we could see little legs, but the movement was still very sinuous and snake-like. We were watching Smallmouth Salamanders as they were coming out for breeding, an annual spring event in many western Ohio swamps and marshes.

Smallmouths (*Ambystoma texanum*) are a medium to small salamander of the mole salamander family. Members of this family are famous for hiding in leaf litter most of the year, emerging only in the early spring to march into the nearest vernal pool or marsh to mate and lay eggs. Spotted Salamanders are the best-known of these in Ohio, mostly because of their famed migration in several Cleveland Metroparks. Here in central Ohio, Spotted are less common and Smallmouths take their place in many of our wetlands.



What are they doing out so early? Like most mole salamanders, they need protected fish-free pools in which their young larvae can grow and mature. Vernal pools are the best habitats for this, and they are at their largest in early spring. Unlike frogs, mole salamanders don't call to attract mates. They automatically return to their birth pond, and the males use a subtle mix of physical and chemical signals to entice females to accept their sperm package. *Sperm package?* That's right; fertilization is internal in salamanders. The females then lay clumps of eggs that they stick to sticks, stones, and vegetation. The tiny gilled larvae hatch after 2-3 weeks, but will take another 4-7 weeks to grow and metamorphose.

How would you recognize a Smallmouth Salamander? They're about 5-7 inches long and have very noticeable costal grooves, little indentations tracing their ribs that are a hallmark of the mole salamanders. Smallmouths are gray with small dark flecks all along their top surface. The related Spotted Salamanders are blackish with tiny yellow dots, while the related Blue-spotted Salamander has a blackish body with light blue dots. All of them are mole salamanders, which means they readily come out in early spring, but are difficult to find in other seasons as they stay subterranean or at least beneath the leaf litter.

Where would you find them? Smallmouths are adapted to floodplain swamps of the Mississippi Valley. Like most mole salamanders, their breeding is evolved to find fish-free water for their eggs and young. Most of the other Ohio mole salamanders, like the Spotted and the Blue-spotted, home in on large vernal pools. The Smallmouth is more adapted for small temporary pools, so it can be found in tiny vernal pools as well as riverside flood-pools and temporary marshes. Their gilled young mature quicker and can leave the pools sooner than other mole salamanders.

Where can you see them in central Ohio? Many places with small pools have them, though seeing them outside of early spring is not easy. Columbus sits at the northeastern edge of their range, so many areas west and south of town, like Glacier Ridge, Prairie Oaks, and Battelle-Darby, have them. They also survive in some tiny pools in relict woodlots around our urban area, like Sawmill Wetlands, Woodward Park in Columbus, and Woodmark Woods in Gahanna. Very often Smallmouths are only noticed when a biologist is asked to survey these tiny pools for vernal pool species.

How do they survive here? Barely, it would seem. The extensive floodplain forests they really like are fragmented in Ohio, and there are lots of predators here. Their biggest problem, though, is humans. We tend to dike and drain their favorite habitats. The wetlands we replace them with are often too deep or large and hold fish that eat salamander eggs and young. In Ohio, they are considered a species of concern, since they are an indicator of vernal pools. In Michigan, where they are found only in a few southeastern counties, they are locally endangered. There they have become so rare that they cannot find enough mates and have been found hybridizing with other *Ambystoma* species. This is a species that could thrive in a warming local climate—if we keep enough small wooded wetlands around for them.

Editor's note: The Ohio Environmental Council has an action alert to maintain the Sawmill Wetland as a state education area and protect it from development. Visit www.theoec.org/help-save-sawmill-wetlands-education-area to learn more.

Rob Thorn

Columbus Audubon

Birdathon 2013: Let the fun begin!



A slight chill and low mist punctuate the pre-dawn stillness in the field adjacent to a woodlot in Oak Openings Metro Park near Toledo. Here, as the slightest hint of dawn creases the eastern sky, members of the Wild Birds Unlimited Riverside team strain with anticipation for what is about to happen. Suddenly, a Whip-poor-will announces the dawn. There! Was that a Lark Sparrow bursting into song? A Barred Owl's raucous calls incite a male Wild Turkey to gobble from its roost. Within minutes the magic of dawn song give team members a lasting memory as hundreds of birds announce the arrival of the new day.

Dawn is breaking equally as exciting for the Slate Run Colored Juncos team at Columbus'

Slate Run Metro Park. Tanagers, warblers and thrushes have awakened, a Pileated Woodpecker drums, and the calls of Sandhill Cranes reverberate through the air.

Meanwhile, team Deckbirds is celebrating the backyard visit of an American Robin as they partake of a continental breakfast from their selected starting and ending point: the home and deck of their choosing.

Each spring, teams of nature enthusiasts and birders organize to support Columbus Audubon through their annual Birdathon fundraiser event. This event is a highlight of the spring birding season for many of our teams and their sponsors, as well as the main fundraiser for Columbus Audubon. The concept is simple:

join or form a team, collect donations and count all the bird species your team identifies in your chosen participation category on any day between May 4 and May 20, 2013. You don't even have to stay in Ohio. Be creative: bird anywhere in the world or in your own backyard. Our goal this year is to raise at least \$15,000, which will help fund Columbus Audubon programs including local conservation grants and projects, research projects, and youth scholarships.

Do you enjoy being outdoors, watching birds, camaraderie, and a good cause? Why not consider joining us this spring for a Birdathon adventure? Columbus Audubon makes it easy to participate. We can help you form a team, find a team looking for members, or to sponsor a team. Your level of participation is entirely up to you. Log on to www.columbusaudubon.org/birdathon and we'll take you through the process. We'll also guide you through deciding on one of the participation categories and provide tips on fundraising for your team.

You don't need to join a team to participate. Sponsors are just as important to the CA Birdathon as our team members. If you would like to sponsor a team, look for the team roster posted on at www.columbusaudubon.org/birdathon. You can contact a team member to make a donation and sponsor your favorite team online!

Of course, an event such as this would not be complete without an after-party for all the participants, and our Columbus Audubon Birdathon event celebration stands to be one of the best ever! Food, refreshments, a bevy of awards and fabulous prizes (such a pair of Vortex Talon HD waterproof, fog-proof binoculars and a night's stay at Zinck's Inn in the heart of Amish Country in Holmes County), along with the inevitable fun and crazy Birdathon stories, and you have the makings for quite a party. Add to that a presentation by our enthusiastic special guest speaker, Scott Pendleton, and it becomes an event you just can't miss!

So what are you waiting for? Join us for Columbus Audubon's 2013 Birdathon, and let the fun begin!



Tom Sheley

Columbus Audubon



March & April Field Trips

For complete descriptions of all trips, visit our web site: www.columbusaudubon.org/events

Birding Greenlawn IBA

Sat., March 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Join us as we fill the bird feeders and search for winter specialties in one of the oldest cemeteries in central Ohio. Meet at the cemetery office. For more information, contact the Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Migrant Waterfowl of Hoover Reservoir

Sun., March 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Meet at Hoover Dam parking lot on Sunbury Road in Westerville. Contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., March 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
We will meet at the nature center then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information call Blendon Woods Nature Center at 614-895-6221.

Pickerington Ponds Bird Hike

Sat., March 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
We'll explore Pickerington Ponds, area grasslands, and woods. Meet at the Glacier Knoll picnic area on Bowen Road. For more information contact Jeff Pontius at pontiusjeff@yahoo.com or 614-370-1426.

Killbuck Marsh and Funk Bottoms

Sat., March 9 at 8:00 a.m. (meet at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast)
We'll look for waterfowl and other migrants with co-leaders Sue Snyder and Sue Evanoff of the Wilderness Center Bird Club. Bring water lunch and snacks. Departure from Bob Evans at 550 Robinson Road in Wooster. Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696 for details.

First to Flower at Scioto River Ravine

Sun., March 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Join the serach for early flowers, skunk cabbage, Snow Trillium, and migrating birds. Waterproof boots needed. Meet at Kiwanis Riverway Park at 6245 Riverside Drive in Dublin. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center Family Bird Walk

Sun., March 10 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Join us for a stroll along surfaced trails and

boardwalks through habitat restoration areas on the Whittier Peninsula. This walk is good for beginning birders and youth accompanied by parents. Meet in the GIAC parking lot. Contact Brad Sparks at birdmansparks@yahoo.com or 614-893-3208.

Salamander Safari

Sat., March 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
We'll set out to a northeast Delaware County vernal pool where we'll find several species of salamanders, frogs, and other wildlife. Muddy trails, so waterproof boots are required. Space limited to 20 participants (all ages welcome). Call Ben Warner at 614-361-5089 to reserve your spot.

Mohican State Forest Birds and Geology

Sun., March 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Spectacular Clear Fork Gorge exposes the Black Hand Sandstone, home to hemlocks, skunk cabbage, and early migrants. We will hike gorge trails then visit Pleasant Hill Lake to search for waterfowl. Prepare for wet trail sections and a few steep slopes. Take I-71 north to SR 95 to SR 97 and meet at the Memorial Shrine (beautiful stone building on right) along SR 97 about six miles east of Butler in Ashland County. For more information contact Tom Bain at 614-312-7513 or bainnature@gmail.com.

Avid Birders

Sat., March 23 at 5:30 a.m.
The Avid Birders meet to carpool from the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. As usual, the destinations will be chosen and announced a few days before the trip, depending on reports of birds to be seen across Ohio. All birders are welcome! Bring water, lunch, and snacks, and dress appropriately for the weather. For more information, contact the Avid Birders Team at avidbirdersleads@columbusaudubon.org.

Early Migrants of Dublin

Sat., April 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Meet at Kiwanis Riverway Park at 6245 Riverside Drive, south of Route 161. Contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643 for details.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., April 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
See description at Sunday, March 3.

Waterbirds of Darby Creek Wetlands

Sat., April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Join us as we look for water birds at Battelle Darby Creek. Meet at the Nature Center. Contact Jeff Pontius at pontiusjeff@yahoo.com or 614-370-1426 for information.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center Family Bird Walk

Sat., April 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
See description at Sunday, March 10.

Osprey Homecoming at Hogback Ridge Preserve

Sun., April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Come to Delaware's Preservation Park (2656 Hogback Road) and celebrate the Osprey's return from their winter home in South America. Enjoy hands-on learning activities and view the Osprey platforms at nearby Alum Creek Reservoir. Contact Sandra McBrearty at saundras@preservationparks.com or 740-524-8600, ext. 6 for more info.

Lake Katherine State Nature Preserve Birds and Wildflowers

Sat., April 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Spectacular Lake Katherine SNP offers remote trails through dripping Sharon Sandstone terrains supporting uncommon flora and birds including Ruffed Grouse. We'll hike moderately difficult trails for up to five miles; prepare for wet trail sections and slippery slopes. Bring snacks and water. Located just north of Jackson OH, we'll rendezvous at the roadside rest along Route 35 five miles south of Richmondale at 8:00 a.m. For more information and carpooling opportunities, contact Tom Bain at 614-312-7513 or bainnature@gmail.com.

Dutch Fork Wetlands

Sun., April 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Explore spring in the wetlands. Dutch Fork is part of Dawes Arboretum on White Chapel Road in Licking County. Waterproof footwear, please. For more information contact Margaret Bowman at mbowman@windstream.net or call 740-405-8325.

Avid Birders

Sat., April 27 at 5:30 a.m.
See description at Saturday, March 23.

Columbus Audubon

Service in the Preserves

Morris Woods State Nature Preserve - Sat., Mar. 23 at 7:45 a.m.

Morris Woods State Nature Preserve in Licking County is in need of new boardwalk to protect some areas in this lovely woods. Join us as we assemble the boardwalk in place, always keeping an eye out for some early spring wildflowers. Bring your lunch, water, work gloves, and appropriate foot gear. Register by Mar. 20; details below.

Shoemaker State Nature Preserve - Sat., April 13 at 7:45 a.m. until Sun., April 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us as we build a set of steps on a steep trail at one of our newer nature preserves, Shoemaker State Nature Preserve in Adams County. This is an overnight trip, so you'll need to 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. We will return to ODNR by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Register by Monday, April 8.

All skill levels are welcome. Participants meet in the parking lot inside the gate house at the ODNR Complex, 2045 Morse Road, to travel in the ODNR van. Registration is required; call trip leader Katryn Renard at 614-261-7171 to register, reserve space for transportation, and learn more.



Continued from page 6

Lake Hope State Park Birds

Fri., April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Birding one of the finest April migrant locations in Ohio, we will explore a meadow, marsh, lake shoreline, and ravine. This is a temperate deciduous forest with a small pine grove. We will see forest songbirds, raptors, and around 15 different warblers. We will walk up to 2 miles; trails may be wet. For carpooling, meet at the McDonald's at Carroll, south of Canal Winchester, at 7:15 a.m.; otherwise meet at the Lake Hope Iron Furnace parking lot. Registration preferred; contact Bruce Simpson at 895-6221.

Prothonotary Warblers and More, oh my!

Sat., April 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Hoover Reservoir's north end, Area M boardwalk parking in Galena. Waterproof shoes are necessary. For more information contact Charlie Bombaci at charlesbombaci@aol.com or 614-891-5706.

Kiwanis Riverway Park Birds and Wildflowers

Sun., April 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jim Davidson will co-lead the walk starting from the boardwalk along the Scioto River. Wear appropriate footwear for wet and muddy conditions. For more information contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Mist Netting Migrants at Springville

Marsh State Nature Preserve

Sat., May 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Columbus rendezvous is at 6:00 a.m.)

Join Tom Bartlett, leading Ohio bird bander, at the banding station at Springville Marsh SNP (located in Seneca County 3.5 miles north of Carey on US 23; take Township Road 24/Muck Road to the preserve parking lot; if you enter the village of Springville, you've gone too far). Carpooling from Worthington Mall departs at 6:00 a.m., arrives at 7:30 a.m. and returns by 4:00 p.m. Nets close at noon (weather permitting).

People may show up anytime but the earlier the better. Registration is limited to 25; register with Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681 or mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com.

Make it a Weekend Combo

Sat., May 4 and Sun., May 5

Make it a full birding weekend! Experience the bird banding (see above) until 2 p.m. then head for Lake Erie, stay overnight and meet Earl & Alyn Harrison and their field trip group for the Sunday morning Magee Marsh birding trip (see below). Contact Earl Harrison at 202-361-2039 for information.

Birding at Magee Marsh

Sun., May 5, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This trip is at the peak of spring migration

and offers one of the most exciting and amazing opportunities to see warblers, orioles, tanagers, and many other species of Neotropical birds. The other fun aspect of this trip is that we will keep track of the total number of birds we observe as part of Birdathon. Meet at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling from the Worthington Mall parking lot or meet at the far end of the parking lot at the Sportsman's Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. We will be back in Columbus by 7:00 p.m. Contact Earl Harrison at 202-361-2039 for information.

Eco Weekend at Camp Oty'okwa

Friday-Sunday, May 3-5

Columbus Audubon's premier spring weekend in the beautiful Hocking Hills filled with an incredible array of field trips open to adults, families, and some for kids. Registration and program listings at ecoweekend@columbusaudubon.org.



Columbus Audubon

Ohio Young Birders Reach for it!

If you find yourself reading about other teens' amazing experiences at camps and conferences, stop yearning and start applying! Each year there are countless opportunities for young birders to have mind-blowing birding adventures around the block, around the country, and around the globe. Don't be intimidated by high costs because there are scholarships available to you. Ohio Young Birders Club members have had great success in getting young birders to awesome camps with scholarships from multiple organizations. It CAN be done! Early application dates are fast approaching, so now's the time.

Here are just a few opportunities to check out:

American Birding Association camps in Colorado and Delaware:

<http://events.aba.org/category/young-birder-events/>, GIAC day camps:

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org/NatureEducation.html,

National Audubon's Hog Island camp (Kim & Kenn Kaufman will be instructors this summer!): <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs>,

Columbus Audubon's John Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund via Education Chair: www.columbusaudubon.org, Kirtland Bird Club Scholarship Fund:

<http://kirtlandbirdclub.org/scholarships.htm>, John F. Gallagher Memorial

Scholarship Fund: <http://ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships.htm>

Gerry Breevort

Eco Weekend 2013: Don't Miss It!

The **EcoWeekend** 2013 brochure was mailed to *Song Sparrow* subscribers in February.

EcoWeekend is May 3-5. The registration deadline is April 8; information is available at www.ecoweekend.org.



Experience Ohio's beautiful Hocking Hills and learn about nature from our expert program leaders. Our many program choices let you design your own weekend.

This year, **EcoWeekend** welcomes Mark Berman, the Bugman, to the Saturday evening group program. Mark and his bugs have educated hundreds of thousands of kids and adults since 1996. Visit Bugman Education online at www.bugs.org.

Give the gift of **EcoWeekend**. What a beautiful gift for someone you care about: lifelong memories of **EcoWeekend**! Registration, lodging, and meals for the weekend total \$126 per adult or just \$81 for a child (age 6 through grade 8). Won't you join us?

If you didn't receive your brochure or have questions, please contact Dale Brubeck at 614-888-0685 or email ecoweekend@columbusaudubon.org.

The Hog Island Experience

A picture is worth a thousand words, and the experience I had this summer at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine was worth *thousands* of pictures. On the very first day, I discovered many species of plants, mammals, and—of course—birds.

Great Black-Backed Albatrosses, loons, and Common Eiders abounded in the waters around the island. During our week in Maine, the 15 other campers and I were not limited to seeing waterfowl. We made several peregrinations ashore where we found ravens, bobolinks, and even an American Kestrel.

We had a shakedown cruise on the waters of the Atlantic, island hikes, tide pool explorations, and a night filled with luminescent algae. After each day's environmental experience, we would sit down for an evening of avian education, provided by ornithologists like author Scott Weidensaul and Dr. Stephen Kress, founder of Project Puffin.

On the last full day of camp, we traversed to Eastern Egg Rock. There we spent the day casting our binoculars—or in my case, a monocular—upon what had attracted us to the camp in the first place: Puffins. Puffins, guillemots, Herring Gulls, Arctic, Common and Roseate Terns, and Razorbills were everywhere on the little granite island. Afternoon came all too soon, and we had to make our way back to camp for supper. A lobster supper. Yes, lobster. The camp cook was not so much a cook *per se*, but a chef.

One word sums up the Hog Island experience and that is awesome: awesome birds; awesome people; awesome food. So what are you waiting for? You too can have an awesome camp experience. Pick up your binoculars, grab your field guide—don't forget your camera—and go!

Kathleen Seeley

Schedule of Events

GIAC events are in black text.

Columbus Audubon events are in green text

GIAC Family Movie Night

Friday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Birding Greenlawn IBA

Sat., March 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Art in the Park

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

Migrant Waterfowl of Hoover Reservoir

Sun., March 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., March 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Pickerington Ponds Bird Hike

Sat., March 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Killbuck Marsh and Funk Bottoms

Sat., March 9 at 8:00 a.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Nests and Holes

Saturday, March 9 AND Sunday, March 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bridal Show

Saturday, March 10 Noon - 6:00 p.m.

First to Flower at Scioto River Ravine

Sun., March 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

GIAC Family Bird Walk

Sun., March 10 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Salamander Safari

Sat., March 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Green Hike

Saturday, March 16 AND Sunday, March 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mohican State Forest Birds and Geology

Sun., March 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Avid Birders

Sat., March 23 at 5:30 a.m.

Service in the Preserves - Morris Woods

State Nature Preserve
Saturday, March 23 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



March 2013



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



Optics Expo

Saturday, March 23 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AND
Sunday, March 24 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Bird Hike

Saturday March 23 AND Sunday, March 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**CA monthly program - Anniversary celebration,
Joint award to Mayor Coleman and The Blue-
bird Effect with Julie Zicketoose (see page 3)
Tuesday, March 26 6:15 p.m.**

Audubon Afternoon Adventures: Amphibians

Saturday March 30 AND Sunday, March 31 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

GIAC Family Movie Night

Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. Featuring the movie Disney nature: earth

Early Migrants of Dublin

Saturday, April 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Bird Sights and Sounds

Saturday, April 6 AND Sunday, April 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

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

Waterbirds of Darby Creek Wetlands

Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Native Plant Seminar & Sale

Saturday, April 20 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Micro Habitats

Saturday, April 13 AND Sunday, April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

GIAC Family Bird Walk

Saturday, April 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Service in the Preserves - Shoemaker Preserve
Saturday, April 13 - Sunday, April 14

Osprey Homecoming at Hogback Ridge

Sunday, April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lake Katherine Birds and Wildflowers

Saturday, April 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Earth Day Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 20 9:00 a.m. - noon

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

Earth Day (Sat.) Conservation at Home (Sun.)

Saturday, April 20 AND Sunday, April 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.


Dutch Fork Wetlands

Sunday, April 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



April 2013



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



CA monthly program - Bird Conservation 101

with Kimberly Kauffman

Tuesday, April 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lake Hope State Park Birds

Friday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Audubon Afternoon Adventures:

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Saturday, April 27 AND Sunday, April 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Avid Birders

Saturday, April 27 at 5:30 a.m.

Prothonotary Warblers and More, oh my!

Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Kiwanis Park Birds and Wildflowers

Sunday, April 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kiwanis Riverway Park Birds and Wildflowers

Sun., April 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Attracting Wildlife Naturally

Tuesday, April 30 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Rain Garden Seminar

Tuesday, April 30 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Registration for Audubon Adventure Camp Now Open!

It's never too early to start planning summer activities for your kids. Want to make sure your children spend some quality time unplugged and outdoors this summer? Register them now to come spend those warm and sunny (and even rainy) days breathing in some fresh air and exploring the great outdoors at Audubon Adventure Camp. At GIAC and in the surrounding habitats of the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, every day is an adventure! And our camp was newly awarded accreditation by the American Camp Association.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center offers a unique day camp that is sure to please both campers and parents alike. Campers will spend the day engaged in activities that provide hands-on experiences and encourage them to investigate and explore the natural world around them. Campers will spend the lazy days of summer dipping in the wetlands, hunting for insects, catching butterflies and dragonflies, building shelters in the forest, painting masterpieces, investigating natural resources, conquering invasive plant species, tracking animals, bird-watching, fishing, and much more! This camp allows your child to learn about the natural world, the importance of conservation, and how they can make a positive impact on the world around them by taking action.

Registration is now open, so tell your friends and don't wait. Weekly sessions are available from June 10 to August 15 and camp runs daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with before and after care available if needed. Go to www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org for weekly session topics, full program descriptions, and to register online. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Allison Roush at 614-545-5482 or email aroush@audubon.org.



Volunteer Development and Orientation

Join the ever-growing group of volunteers at GIAC. Spring is just around the corner and the Center will be as busy with activities inside and out. Each month volunteers can participate in a topic that will develop their knowledge and enhance their volunteer experience.

Volunteer Development Topics

Citizen Science: bird banding, point counts, nest watch, invasive species removal, and conservation

Tuesday, March 19 from 6-7 p.m.

Saturday, March 30 from 10-11 a.m.

Beautiful Gardens to Welcome Spring: rain gardens, native plants, and Audubon at Home gardening

Saturday, April 13 from 10-11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 16 from 6-7 p.m.

Each session is followed by new volunteer orientation, and we invite you to stay and learn how you can use your time and talents at GIAC! Orientation will last one hour—your volunteer impact could last a lifetime!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Paul Tankovich at ptankovich@audubon.org.

International Migratory Bird Day Events



Join us for an exciting two-day event celebrating migratory birds and Audubon's newest citizen science project, Hummingbirds at Home! On the evening of Friday, May 10, we will have a free program about hummingbirds and our first mobile app-based citizen science program that allows people to capture and report hummingbird sightings on their smart phones or tablets. We will follow the presentation with a special screening of public television's *Nature* film, *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air*.

We will continue to celebrate hummingbirds and other migratory birds during our family-friendly International Migratory Bird Day Celebration on Saturday, May 11. The fee is \$1 per person; kids age three and under are free. We will have fun and educational activities for all ages, presentations on native plants and a native plant sale, vendors, and food trucks. You will even have the opportunity for some hands-on learning and help us plant a portion of our gardens with hummingbird friendly plants! For more details, go to our website: www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org.

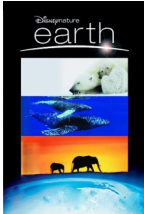
Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC Family Movie Nights

Admission - \$2 Adults, \$1 children 16 and under. Doors open 6:30 p.m. and movie begins at 7:00 p.m. Light snacks \$1 each and free beverages.

Friday, April 5:

Disneynature: earth (G)



An epic story of adventure starring some of the most magnificent and courageous creatures alive. A remarkable story of three animal families—polar bears, elephants, and humpback whales—on a journey across our planet.

Friday, May 3:

Over the Hedge (PG)



A scheming raccoon fools a mismatched family of forest creatures into helping him repay a debt of food, by invading the new suburban sprawl that popped up while they were hibernating...and learns a lesson about family himself.

Celebrate your child's birthday at GIAC



*Help your child pick a topic...
and we'll do the rest!*

We provide: Private party rooms for 2 hours, Educational programming for 1 ½ hours, Electronic party invitations, Set-up and clean-up, Birthday cake & drinks, Sustainable decorations & tableware, Party favors and a Birthday child t-shirt



Reserve a date for your child's birthday party today! Contact Allison Roush at 614-545-5482 or aroush@audubon.org.

Lifelong Learning Series

Whether you live in a downtown apartment or townhome, a suburban home with a yard or a farm in the country, you can take steps to make your space an oasis for people, birds, and butterflies. Join us for a series of fun, informative seminars that will help you support wildlife on your property, conserve and protect water quality, and create beautiful native gardens.

Saturday, April 20: Earth Day Volunteer Day, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Come join us to celebrate Earth Day Columbus by volunteering for a morning with GIAC in the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Lunch will be provided to those who RSVP to abalogh@audubon.org. Volunteers can attend the native plant workshop for FREE!

Saturday, April 20: Native Plant Seminar and Sale, 1 p.m.-3p.m.

The benefits of using native plants in your yard are many. Join Linda Johnson from Scioto Gardens and find out why native plants are so beneficial. Discover how putting the right plant in the right place helps it thrive and lets you enjoy more time and less work in the garden. Learn which plants attract butterflies and birds. Plants will be available for sale. Class price is only \$5.

Tuesday, April 30: Attracting Wildlife Naturally, 7 p.m.-8 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. Class price is only \$3.

Tuesday, April 30: Rain Garden Seminar, 8 p.m.-9 p.m.

Let Linda Johnson from Scioto Gardens of Delaware County teach you about the benefits, design, and installation of rain gardens. Learn how they conserve water and improve water quality. Plants suitable for rain gardens will be available for sale. Class price is only \$3.

Tuesday, May 21: Audubon at Home, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

By adopting a few basic principles, your yard, schoolyard, country home, apartment, or neighborhood can become a sanctuary for wildlife. Anne Balogh, conservation manager at GIAC, will share all about the ways you and Audubon can make a difference. Class price is only \$5.

Pre-registration is required. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org or 614-545-5481.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Earth Day at GIAC



Please join us for our annual Earth Day clean-up and celebration on April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Center. From 9:00 a.m. until noon, volunteers will be working on garden clean up, invasive plant removal, and river clean up. Garden clean up involves weeding, cleaning and clearing beds, and some planting.

Invasive removal will focus on garlic mustard and honeysuckle. The river is always littered with trash: from orange road barrels to plastic chairs and water bottles. Last year we filled a large dumpster full of trash that was removed from the river.

If you would like to volunteer in the morning, please RSVP to Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org. The work for Earth Day will take place in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Lunch will be provided at noon for GIAC Earth Day volunteers. Volunteers must RSVP to be included in the lunch count.

Want to stay for the afternoon and learn about native plants? See Lifelong Learning Series on page 12 for more information. Earth Day is fun and educational event for everyone. Please consider volunteering as a family or a group or just come by yourself and meet some like-minded folks working to better the environment.



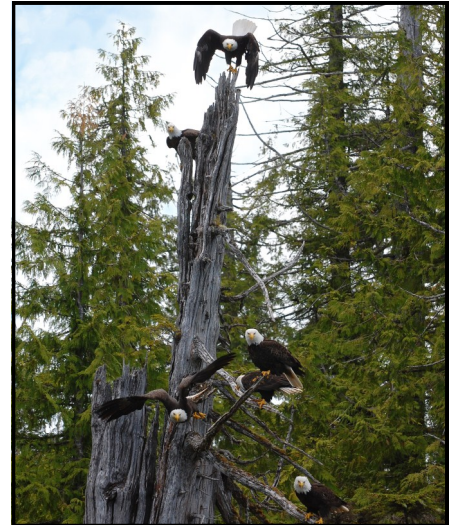
Audubon Afternoons

Join us every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for Audubon Afternoons. Activities are led by a naturalist who will help you explore the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Come to learn about birds and conservation, and just enjoy nature!

Audubon Afternoon topics for early spring 2013

March 2/3	Art in the park
March 9/10	Nests and Holes: look for animal homes
March 16/17	Green Hike: look for hints of spring
March 23/24	Bird Hike: look for migrating birds
March 30/31	Amphibians: look and listen for our aquatic friends
April 6/7	Bird sights and sounds
April 13/14	Create micro habitats after a hike in the park
April 20/21	Earth Day volunteer work day on 4/20 and Conservation at Home on 4/21
April 27/28	April showers bring May flowers: spring wildflower walk
May 4/5	Wetland Exploration: who can you find?

Photography Exhibit by Karen English at GIAC



The new exhibit at GIAC features photography by Karen English, a former teacher. She explains, "I inspired my students to use their talents. Now I am a student of photography, and I hone my own talents by capturing the beauty of nature through my lens. I am a new member of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon, so it is no surprise that my photographic interests include birds. My portfolio of work encompasses animals, flowers, and landscapes as well. I continue to teach and inspire through my art. My hope is that the view from my lens brings joy to your world."

GIAC Nature Store carries 8x10 prints of Karen's work. All of Karen's work is available in both framed and unframed prints and a 3x5 photo magnet; contact Karen at 614-764-1904 or karen_english_2000@yahoo.com for details. Her work is also accessible for purchase at www.karenenglishphotography.com. Visit www.zazzle.com/kenglish4 for greeting cards, magnets, mugs, and other items.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Wine and Warblers: Third Time's Still a Charm

You're invited to join us and enjoy the Center's charm as GIAC celebrates spring migration with our third annual Wine and Warblers event on Wednesday, May 15. Back again are three crowd favorites: warbler walks led by Audubon volunteers, featured wines and hors d'oeuvres, and a great silent auction. There are exciting changes that will make it an evening to remember – whether you're a birder, a wine lover, or simply want to celebrate spring!

Wine and Warblers 2013 ticket and event information

Ticket details can be found at www.GIAC-Audubon.org (click on Wine and Warblers). Sponsorships and group ticket packages are available; contact Jeff at 614-545-5479 or jredfield@audubon.org for more information. All tickets include: Warbler walks, wine sampling, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, learning opportunities (e.g., bird banding), and valet parking!

Yellow Warbler – General Admission

\$50 a person or 2-for-\$90 until April 28; \$60 or 2-for-\$110 after (and at the door if not sold out).

Cerulean Warbler – Special Guest Access

\$125 a person or 2-for-\$200 includes special speaker meet-n-greet, specially led walk admission, and all of activities listed above.

Black-and-white Warbler – Top Flight

\$175 a person or 2-for-\$300 include the Top Flight reception from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Limited to just 100 tickets, this year's Top Flight in the multi-purpose room includes abundant appetizers and special food selections served by local specialty restaurants. It also features special wines and information only available during the Top Flight reception and a special 6:45 p.m. Warbler Walk.

Group Ticket Packages – American Redstart

A group package for general admission tickets is available with 6 tickets for \$250 (\$50 savings).

A group package for Top Flight tickets is available with 5 tickets for \$700 (\$175 savings).



Silent Auction



Silent auction items will be on display and up for bid throughout the event. Silent auction will run through 8:30 p.m. and there may also be other special auction options! Auction highlights include:

- GIAC's Library/Bird Viewing Room for 25 people during Red White and Boom on July 3
- Wine Tree (made up of over 25 wines)
- Wine Nest (over 10 bottles, all \$30 or more in value)
- Artwork

Stay tuned this spring for announcements of featured speakers.



Visit www.giac-audubon.org and click on the Wine and Warblers page for updates, descriptions of wines and silent auction items, and all the information you'll need to convince you to join us for a very special Wine & Warblers 2013!



Columbus Audubon Founded 1913

www.columbusaudubon.org

614-545-5497

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Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

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Recording Secretary: Tamara James, tamajam@sbcglobal.net

Past President: Julie Davis

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Additional chapter leaders

Birdathon: Linda Benner, 614-237-7644, winterwren@att.net

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

Eco Weekend: Dale Brubeck, dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com

Lois Day, 614-793-8843

Education: Jackie Bain, jbain@insight.rr.com

Field Trips: information@columbusaudubon.org

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

Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

Web/Social Media: Stefanie Hauck

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Grange Insurance Audubon Center

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

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Finance & Office Manager: Kristen Clark

Director of Education & Conservation: Amy Boyd

Facility & Nature Store Manager: Patty Hecht

Conservation Manager: Anne Balogh

Educators: Allison Roush, Paul Tankovich

Educators (part-time): Kevin Gish, Stacy Goebbel, Karen Karpik, Marci Lininger, Samantha Pepper

Office and Development Assistant: Linda Freeman Walker

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

March hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday noon – 5 p.m. **April Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 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.

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Return in 5 days to
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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.**

___ **Basic Family \$45.**

___ **Organization \$75.**

___ **Chickadee \$100.**

___ **Great Blue Heron \$250.**

___ **Bald Eagle \$500.**

----- **Great Egret \$1000.**

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 Center (electronic delivery only for basic membership)
- * 10% discount at the GIAC nature store
- * Discount on selected 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

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Address _____

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___ To help the environment check here to receive the Song Sparrow electronically, include email below.

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