

Community is our Environment



Communities, such as the Audubon community, share values. But, in the end, values have meaning only when they are put into practice. That's why all of us in Audubon work every day to make our values—the values that we share with you—real. And that's why all parts of Audubon in Columbus, whether the National Audubon Society, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, or Columbus Audubon (our local Audubon chapter), offer you many ways to put *your* values into practice.

You probably want to pass on your appreciation for nature to the next generation. You can help the Grange Insurance Audubon Center do just that by providing financial support for classroom programs, Audubon Adventures summer camp, or one of the many other educational programs focused on bringing a love of nature to kids, particularly urban kids who might suffer from “nature deficit disorder.”

But how can you join the community directly? One easy first step is to get together with others who share your values at a Columbus Audubon event. CA offers monthly public programs and over 100 field trips per year, each designed to appeal to adults and to entire families who want to learn about the natural world. Just show up, and you'll find a real community of like-minded people who share your love of nature and of learning. Check the events calendar on the CA website at www.columbusaudubon.org for information on upcoming events.



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

Can't make it to an event? You still can implement your love of nature in your own backyard. Audubon at Home helps you practice local conservation, making your backyard a bird-friendly place.



Learn more about this fun and exciting program at athome.audubon.org or call Ann Balogh at 614-545-5481. Let your neighbors in on it, too. Who knows, maybe you will start your own community right in your neighborhood!

If you want a more active role, working together with like-minded people, why not volunteer? For example, volunteers at the Center work with the Columbus community, and volunteers with Columbus Audubon bring our programs to life every day. A few hours, a few days: you can give back to the community in any way that fits your schedule. Contact Amy Boyd at 614-545-5486 for information on volunteer opportunities.

Many of us, though, are ready to take a next step, to be still more actively involved in our community. Have you considered citizen science? You can help Audubon gain a deeper understanding of birds and our natural world—and you don't need to be a scientist. Scores of area birders (and just plain bird lovers) participate every year in the Christmas Bird Count, the Backyard Bird Count, or Project Feederwatch. Watching birds at your feeder or hiking the fields on CBC day with your family or with your friends, you can join the learning community.

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Columbus Audubon Monthly Programs

September Program – Restoring Endangered Seabirds: Lessons from Puffins and Terns

Tuesday, September 24 in the GLAC multipurpose room

7:00-7:15 pm: Short Program by Julie Davis, past president of Columbus Audubon. She will speak about her experiences at the Arts of Birding on Hog Island.

7:15-7:30 pm: Refreshments

7:30 pm: Main Program by Stephen W. Kress, PhD, vice president for bird conservation at National Audubon Society and director of Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program

Worldwide, 29 percent of all seabird species are now globally threatened as marine pollution, coastal development, and effects of global warming are growing concerns. Although seabird nesting islands seem safe due to their remoteness, they are intimately connected to human activities. Dr. Stephen Kress will review how techniques developed on Maine islands have led to the restoration of puffins and terns to historic nesting islands in the Gulf of Maine and how techniques developed in Maine are helping seabirds worldwide.

Dr. Kress grew up in Columbus, became a member of Columbus Audubon as a teenager, and subsequently led field trips with CA. He received his undergraduate and Master's degrees in wildlife management from The Ohio State University and his PhD in environmental education from Cornell University.



October Program – Alexander Wilson: the Father of American Ornithology

Tuesday, October 22 in the GLAC multipurpose room

7:00-7:15 pm: Short Program by Cody M. Kent, OWU student. He will present “Feather-degrading bacteria on birds: abundance and distribution of an agent of natural selection.”

7:15-7:30 pm: Refreshments

7:30 pm: Main Program by Edward H. (Jed) Burtt, Jr., PhD, ornithologist at Ohio Wesleyan University and co-director of the Ohio Wesleyan honors program

Alexander Wilson arrived in Philadelphia in 1794 from his native Scotland. In 1803 he conceived the idea of describing all the birds of the United States. Wilson taught himself to draw and paint birds, to identify them, and began his collection during a walk from Philadelphia to Niagara Falls in 1804. Volume 1 of Wilson's *American Ornithology* was published in 1808 and volume 9 in 1814, the year after his death. Their importance to the development of American science and culture are the topic of this abundantly illustrated program. After the program, Dr. Burtt will sign copies of his new book, *Alexander Wilson, the Scot Who Founded American Ornithology*.

Dr. Burtt was recognized as the 2011 Ohio Professor of the Year by the Kresge Foundation for Higher Education and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He received his AB from Bowdoin College and his MS and PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison.



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Check the Citizen Science section of the CA website for more information or contact Ann Balogh at 614-545-5481 for citizen science opportunities at the Center.

Sometimes we need to raise our voices to make our community values a reality. After all, the Center exists today because a group of Audubon community members had a vision for nature right here in Columbus. You can participate actively in our community by signing up for action alerts from national Audubon at www.audubonaction.org. Locally, register on the Columbus Audubon website and we'll keep you informed about local issues.

Communities don't just happen. Real communities require active involvement—and the rewards are great. Please join the Audubon community today!

Bill Heck

Art for Audubon

Art for Audubon is back!



On Sunday, November 10, Columbus Audubon will host our fourth Art for Audubon at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. This special fundraising event is one of the premier fine art auctions that supports conservation and nature education in central Ohio and features outstanding nature art by nationally, regionally, and locally known artists working in a variety of media.

Previous Art for Audubon events were held in 2000, 2001, and 2007 to raise funds for Calamus Swamp conservation and the establishment of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. We have waited for a special cause to host another Art for Audubon, and this year's event will help us celebrate Columbus Audubon's 100th anniversary.

Over 100 items, from two-dimensional and three-dimensional art to sporting events and interesting packages, will be displayed for viewing and purchase as you visit with artists while enjoying wine and appetizers. Silent and live auctions, a Columbus State student art exhibit, will be part of the festivities. This will be an event to remember, with the proceeds going to fund activities such as CA conservation grants for habitat management, habitat protection, and scientific research projects and scholarships from the John Wilson Memorial Education Fund to help children participate in education programs and activities that will enhance their understanding of nature and conservation and increase their interaction with the natural world.

Columbus Audubon members, their friends, and family are invited to attend. Mark your calendar and look for invitation information in September. And watch www.columbusaudubon.org/a4a for more information and online registration.

If you would like to help this great cause by donating a piece of art, please contact Julie Davis at greenheron58@insight.rr.com or 614-523-2180. We are looking for nature-related sculpture, jewelry, etc. There are many opportunities to use your talent in an event this important. If you would like to volunteer by serving on a planning subcommittee or help at the event, please contact Julie.

A Passion for Collecting Audubon Prints

John James Audubon was born in 1785 in the French colony of St. Domingue (now Haiti), the son of a French sea captain and his mistress who died soon thereafter. At the age of three Audubon moved to France and immigrated to America in 1803 to avoid conscription into the French military during Napoleon's wars.

With his father's financial help Audubon entered a varied career as a businessman, storekeeper, and trader. Throughout his early life he always managed to have time for his real love, nature and in particular, birds. He lived the life of an outdoorsman while drawing birds and keeping meticulous notes on their habits and behavior. Though he had sporadic tutoring in later years, his artistic skills were nearly all self taught.

My interest in Audubon prints began as a teenager living in the French Quarter of New Orleans. I frequently passed the window of an antique print shop which often displayed Audubon prints. These caught my eye and curiosity but were considerably above my modest budget.

Fast forward about two decades. My wife Barbara and I were in Key West on vacation and with three hours to kill before driving back to Miami, we decided to visit the Audubon House, where Audubon stayed and painted during the 1830s. After touring the museum we walked upstairs to the museum shop which had original Audubon prints for sale. I had only been familiar with the more famous Havell (or Double Elephant) folio edition printed in London featuring life size portraits (on 39" x 26" sheets) which can sell for six-figure sums. What I had not known was that after the success of *Birds of America*, Audubon published an "octavo" edition (6.5" x 10.5") of *Birds of America*. These were hand water colored from lithographs and personally supervised by Audubon at the Philadelphia publishing house of J.T. Bowen. These were beautiful, historic and importantly to me, affordable. A minor obsession began. Over the next decade we sought out prints that were significant to us—from the Eastern Towhee, the first bird I identified as a novice birder, to the Brown Noddy, of which we had seen the actual study skin that Audubon sold to the British Museum after finishing its portrait. I still feel pleasure whenever I gaze on these portraits and think of Audubon and his birds.

Stephen Revard

National Audubon Conference

Take Flight Together

2013 National Audubon Convention in Stevenson, WA

Christie Vargo, GIAC center director, and Suzan Jervey, Columbus Audubon vice president, were among nearly 500 attendees at the National Audubon Convention in July. The conference was the first in more than 15 years and was hosted by the Portland Audubon Chapter. National Audubon staff joined chapter leaders in deep-dive discussions about strengthening the Audubon network, conservation impact at scale, collaboration and partnership, diversifying the organization, and attracting young people.



Christie and Suzan led a 90 minute workshop on our Chapter/Center partnership. It was well received, and clearly Columbus Audubon and the Center are on the cutting edge in finding ways to work together, share talents and resources, minimize duplication, multiply our impact, and create efficiencies. Christie and Suzan will be sharing more about the convention in a short program at the November 19 monthly program. You can see photos from the convention at www.audubonconvention.org/#!/convention-photos/c1jrl.

David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society, was both inspirational and engaged, listening to issues as well as innovative solutions that might be applied network-wide. Stay tuned for more as meeting notes are compiled and shared. Suzan and Christie were energized by the experience and thrilled to connect with chapter leaders and staff throughout the county, even internationally. There is also the promise of convening on a more regular schedule. Think about attending in the future!

Leadership Letter from Greg Cunningham and Bill Heck



Community means different things to different people. For some people, it describes a place within defined boundaries—a loose or formal geographic location. For others, it is a phenomenon that occurs when people with shared values or interests convene. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center, through its mission “to awaken and connect participants to the beauty of the natural world in the heart of Columbus and inspire environmental stewardship in their daily lives” serves both definitions of community.

Columbus Audubon, our local Audubon chapter, through its mission “to promote the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for present and future generations” further extends the sense of community as people with shared values and interests. National Audubon Society President David Yarnold recently visited Columbus and the Center and commented on how the community in central Ohio successfully came together to build on the Audubon presence in Columbus to create a center that serves residents throughout the region. Corporations, individuals, local government, and non-profit organizations banded together to give our community a resource where young and old, urban and suburban, can connect with nature and learn to live more sustainably...a precious gift to the people in central Ohio. Working together, the Center and the Chapter provide education as well as citizen science and conservation opportunities for all ages. Now that’s what we call community.

The World is Your Community with Live Cams

In the span of 15 minutes, I visited Hog Island, Massachusetts, Alaska, Saskatchewan, and Hawaii—all from my computer. I went to the National Audubon Society’s website (www.audubon.org) to find the Osprey cam and was astonished to see how many live cams were accessible at <http://explore.org>. A live cam (camera) streams video from a specific location, often 24 hours a day (and night) to bring the action to you. Many National Parks and tourist attractions broadcast images from live cams. The Rhodes Tower in downtown Columbus broadcasts the Peregrine Falcon family during nesting and fledging each year at http://ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/falcons/live_nestbox_video.aspx.

It looks lovely in Oahu, Hawaii and Churchill, Manitoba; it’s cloudy on Dumpling Mountain in Alaska, and the service dog in the Ipswich, Massachusetts program is yawning. Back at my desk and back to work, I’m comforted in knowing that things are going well out in the world.

Tamara James

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Fall in Love with Nature Luncheon



October 3, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Each year Center donors, volunteers, and staff are asked to invite their friends, family, and colleagues to an event that introduces them to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Guests learn about the Center's programs and impact – from work in urban neighborhoods and inner city schools to habitat restoration projects and their effects on birds and other wildlife, to visitors' experiences as they explore the Center and grounds and participate in children's and family programs.

The luncheon is free, donated by one of the Center's approved caterers. As the luncheon program concludes, guests are asked to make a contribution to support the work of the Center. Gifts from this event help subsidize free admissions and free weekend programming, summer camp participation, volunteer recruitment and training, habitat restoration, bird monitoring and research, as well as outreach to inner city families.

If you are interested in hosting a table of your friends and colleagues or if you would simply like to attend, contact Christie Vargo at cvargo@audubon.org or 614-545-5476.

Workplace Giving and Fall Campaigns



Each fall many have the chance to support charities they believe in most through office workplace charitable giving campaigns and payroll deductions. Office giving usually increases donations to important causes because a little each pay period adds up. How do you give at the office?

All government employees have giving options (federal, state, county, city, OSU, public schools, etc.).

GIAC is a member of EarthShare Ohio (www.earthshareofohio.org), an environmentally focused federation, and the Center is listed under Audubon. In other campaigns, such as United Way, GIAC/Audubon can be designated (information is below).

GIAC/Audubon tax #13-1624102

Address: Grange Insurance Audubon Center,
505 W. Whittier St., Columbus, OH 43215

Public campaigns need to a specific code number

State of Ohio is **21007**

Ohio State's "Bucks for Charity" is **60665**

Unsure about your workplace campaign? Contact us at cvargo@audubon.org or 614-545-5476.

Donate to the GIAC/Audubon through workplace giving and you can truly say, "I gave at the office!"

Meeting Our Missions Together

Audubon closes its fiscal year on June 30, so it is a fitting time to reflect on those who share our mission and work through their support—financial and otherwise. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the following corporations and foundations for their belief in us to address their funding priorities in the Columbus community:

All Life Foundation and their support of continued work with underserved, low income students in low performing, highly diverse schools and through partner agencies serving similar demographics of children.

Paul G. Duke Foundation to provide summer programs and transportation for partner agencies and transportation for campership attendees at Audubon Adventure Camp.

Green Fund of The Columbus Foundation with a focus on education and conservation programming with schools and the general public.

L Brands for their support of free admissions and the free weekend programming of Audubon Afternoons, as well as the volunteer efforts of their associates in habitat restoration and the creation of demonstration native plant gardens.

Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust supports the care of animals used in educational programming as well as equipment required for research on birds migrating through and nesting in the Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Scotts Miracle-Gro supporting research and habitat restoration in Important Bird Areas throughout the State of Ohio and seed for GIAC feeding stations year-round.

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) for indoor recycle and trash bins and interpretive/educational signage regarding refuse disposal.

These are only a few of the foundations and corporations that stepped forward in the last year to fund the mission and work of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Please join us in thanking them for their generous contributions.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Monthly Family Movie Nights Return to GIAC in October

Admission is \$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. Join us at our upcoming movies:

Friday, October 11,
Winged Migration (G)



Documentary on the migratory patterns of birds, shot over the course of three years on all seven continents.

Friday, November 22,
Furry Vengeance (PG)



In the Oregon wilderness, a real estate developer's new housing subdivision faces a unique group of protesters: local woodland creatures who don't want their homes disturbed.

Save the date for
Holiday Parents' Night Out
Friday, December 6 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, *Polar Express*

Just in time to get a little shopping done, drop off your school-aged children in their pajamas for a trip on the *Polar Express*. After starting the evening with crafts and a game or two, we'll sip some hot chocolate while enjoying the *Polar Express*! Cost per child is \$10. Pre-registration and permission forms required. Please contact Allison Roush at aroush@audubon.org with any questions.

Bicycling Comes to GIAC: Kids Cycle C*Bus and CoGo

GIAC was selected to participate in two bicycle programs this summer. Kids Cycle C*Bus, a pilot initiative through the Institute for Healthy Living at the Columbus Health Department, is designed to increase opportunities for physical activity and teach young people bicycle safety, bike maintenance, and life skills. Leveraging the momentum of our increasingly bicycle-friendly community, the program also creates future cyclists and promotes cycling as a lifelong form of physical activity and transportation.

Summer campers attending Audubon Adventures Camp used ten bicycles donated through this program to explore the Scioto-Olentangy Greenway, including the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, the Scioto Mile and COSI. One camper stated, "I feel so free when I'm riding a bike, it is like I could go anywhere." At the close of summer camp, all ten bikes were given to children who attended camp on camperships.

CoGo, Columbus' bike share program, stationed a kiosk at the Center, one of 30 stations throughout the city. Annual, week-long, and day passes allow workers, casual bikers, and visitors to the city to navigate anywhere by bike. With the Center's proximity to the Scioto-Olentangy Greenway, the siting of a kiosk here is a natural fit and makes the Center even more accessible to our downtown neighbors. Find more information at parks.columbus.gov.



United Way's 5 Days of Service at GIAC

On September 7-11, GIAC will be a community service location for the United Way of Central Ohio's 5 Days of Service. Service will include habitat restoration, gardening, citizen science, river clean-up, building stairs, trail refurbishing, and more.

Saturday and Sunday, September 7-8: GIAC will kick off the Columbus Volunteer Challenge with Family Weekend. Families, students groups, neighborhood groups, places of worship, and individual volunteers are invited to join in the Center's projects.

Tuesday, September 10: GIAC will offer service opportunities for corporate and community volunteers on Community Care Day.

Wednesday, September 11: Additional projects will be offered.

Conservation is achieved through caring volunteers. We thank all the individuals and organizations that have contributed their time and skills: Girl Scouts of the USA, Alliance Data, OSU, Accenture, L Brands, LDS, Southwest Airlines. If you are interested in a project any time of year, please contact Anne Balogh at 614-545-5481 or ablogh@audubon.org.

Talent Search!

As GIAC enters its fourth year, we are looking at ways to expand and broaden our programming. The Center is perfect for nature-related workshops and classes—from photography to painting to landscaping with native plants and more. Do you have a talent to share? Are you a business or independent contractor that conducts workshops and think you would be a good fit at our Center? If so, please contact Amy Boyd at aboyd@audubon.org or call 614-545-5486 for more information.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC Exhibit Features Photographer Marshall Reese



Marshall Reese's photography is featured at the GIAC this fall. Enthusiastic and self-taught, Marshall began working as an amateur photographer in 2003. His work has been published in *Columbus Monthly* magazine and the Greater Columbus Convention Center calendar, as well as featured in presentations to the Mayor of Columbus and the Chamber of Commerce by the Columbus Metro Parks. Marshall specializes in nature landscapes, wildlife, and sporting events. In his travels throughout the United States and several countries, he has had opportunities to visualize and craft his art in various styles. Marshall's work is on display on the gallery wall near the front entrance. Come visit and take in his wonderful photography.

If you are an artist interested in displaying your work at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, please contact Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org or 614-545-5481.

4th Annual Holiday Nature Shop Around Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Are you looking for unique gifts for the nature lovers in your life? GIAC's Holiday Shop Around has it all: quality handmade arts and crafts, gifts for gardeners and bird lovers, jewelry, books and more. Local vendors include photographers, painters, jewelers, Wild Birds Unlimited, fabric artists, and sculptors. There will be refreshments and workshops—and it is FREE!

In addition to the Shop Around, the Center's own Nature Store specializes in nature field guides and nature inspired gifts, fair trade jewelry, children's books, and activity guides for homeschoolers. GIAC/Columbus Audubon members get 10% off.

Visit www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org for latest vendor details. Vendors, if you are interested in having a booth at this year's Shop Around, please contact Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org or 614-545-5481.

New Experiences for Visitors Provided through Local Support

Weather Station: WBNS-10TV installed a weather cam and monitor on the roof of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, and in the Center library a station provides real-time meteorological statistics. The weather cam is used regularly to illustrate weather broadcasts on Channel 10, and we look forward to onsite broadcasts by meteorologist Chris Bradley. Thank you to WBNS-10TV for this great opportunity to bring weather news to Central Ohio from GIAC.

Working Demonstration Solar Array: Look for the installation of a small solar array at the front of the Center by late September. The installation effort was led by Glen Kizer, president of the Foundation for Environmental Education, a non-profit that develops educational programs to interpret the ways in which electricity is produced and used in local communities. Glen drew on donated located support from Solar Vision, the City of Columbus, BDR Foundation and the IBEW Chapter to complete this project at no cost to the Center. Thank you to Glen and all who pulled together to make this exciting new feature for the Center a reality.

Trick or Tweet!

GIAC's Fifth Annual Halloween Celebration

Friday, October 25, 6-9 pm (all ages welcome) Saturday, October 26, 10 am–noon (ages 5 and under)

Looking for a fun and safe Halloween alternative? Head to the Center for a seasonal family favorite. Join us for our fall event filled with fun games and night hikes, cool crafts, costume contests, and a tasty treat or two. Admission is \$2 per person for ages 3 and over (\$1 for our partnership school students). For more information, contact Allison at 545-5482 or aroush@audubon.org.

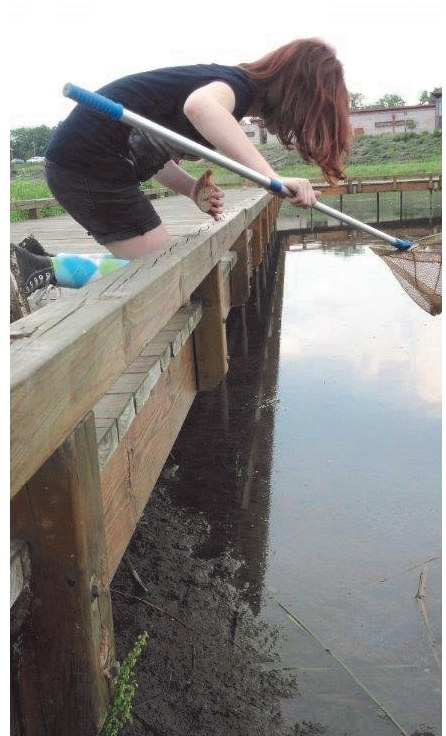


Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC Camp Wrap-up: It was Another Great Summer!



Audubon Adventure Camp wrapped up its fourth year with just under 200 happy campers!



Exploring the wetlands is always a favorite at Audubon Adventure Camp and a great chance for campers to dip their toes to cool off as well!



Return campers brought with them veteran experience and anticipation of new and exciting adventures. This year we had over 40 return campers with at least half signing up for multiple sessions.



"We have tried many camps... and this has by far been the best. My daughter truly enjoyed all of the nature activities. She was always disappointed in other camps that promised outdoor, nature activities and did not deliver. She has been so pleased with this camp. Thank you!"

Columbus Audubon and GIAC Events

Schedule of Events

GIAC events are in black text.

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Columbus Audubon events are in green text

www.columbusaudubon.org

Swift Night Out

Fri., September 6 from early dusk to nightfall

Mindfulness Yoga *

Sat., Sept. 7 - Nov. 9 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Birding the Alum Creek Greenbelt

Sun., September 8 from 8:00 am to 12 noon

Avid Birders

Sat., Sept. 14 5:30 am

Greenlawn IBA Birding

Sat., September 14 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am

Service in the Preserves

Sat., September 14

Audubon Afternoons: Fall Migration

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 14-15 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., September 15 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside *

Thur.-Sun., September 19-22

Project WET Workshop *

Sat., Sept. 21 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Audubon Afternoons: Aquatic Insects

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 21-22 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Birding the Urban Scioto

Sun., Sept 22 from 8:00 am to 12 noon

Dr. Stephen Kress, Project Puffin

Tues., Sept. 24 7:00 pm

Pollinators I: Bees and Butterflies *

Sat., Sept. 28 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Audubon Afternoons: Dragonfly Counts

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 28-29 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

YOHI Sampler

Wed., Oct. 2 - Nov. 6 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Migrants at Alum Creek Lake & Hoover Reservoir

Sat., October 5 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Audubon Afternoons: River Clean-up

Sat. and Sun., Oct. 5-6 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Shorebirds and Waterfowl at Battelle Darby Wetlands

Sun., October 6 from 9:00 am to 12 noon

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., October 6 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Avid Birders

Sat., Oct. 12 5:30 am

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Pollinators II: Native Plants and Honeybees *

Sat., Oct. 12 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Audubon Afternoons: Art in the Park

Sat. and Sun., Oct. 12-13 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Darby Creek Day at Battelle Darby Metro Park

Sun., October 13 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Birds of Blacklick Woods & Pickerington Ponds

Sat., October 19 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Service in the Preserves

Sat.-Sun., October 19-20

Audubon Afternoons: Lovable Creepy Crawlies

Sat. and Sun., Oct. 19-20 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Mohican Fall Colors & Late Migrants

Sun., October 20 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Dr. Jed Burt, Alexander Wilson

Tues., Oct. 22 7:00 pm

Saw-whet Owl Banding on Kelley's Island

Fri. and/or Sat., October 25-26 (optional Sun., October 27)

Trick or Tweet *

Fri., Oct. 25 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Sat., Oct. 26 10:00 am - noon

Audubon Afternoons: Adaptations for Cold Weather Survival

Sat. and Sun., Oct. 26-27 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Autumn Art and Yoga *

Sun., Oct. 27 12 noon - 2:00 pm

Saturday, October 12 is Big Sit day!

The Big Sit allows you to make your support for birds count while the birders count the birds! Birders count birds for one day *from one spot* (technically from a circle 17 feet in diameter). Your part is to visit the spot, enjoy the birds, and consider a contribution to support the conservation programs of Columbus Audubon and the Ohio Ornithological Society.

CA and the OOS are partnering to hold our first Big Sit fundraiser on the official Big Sit day, Saturday, October 12. Tom Bain will keep the tally at the boardwalk at the Hoover Nature Preserve in Galena assisted by CA and OOS volunteers.

Big Sit serves has two purposes. First, have fun! Come on out to the Hoover Boardwalk during daylight hours, say hello to Tom, and see how we're doing. Make it a family event and we'll show you a few birds. Second, it's a fundraiser, so please make a pledge – or just drop a few bucks in the pot when you arrive. All money raised goes to support CA's Conservation Grant program and OOS's American Kestrel Nest Box project.

Finally, we're proud to announce that the Mud Flats Bar and Grill in Galena is world headquarters and lead sponsor for the Big Sit! Drop in for lunch, dinner, or check out the live music with an evening libation. Learn more or make that pledge of support at www.columbusaudubon.org/bigsit.



Fall Workshops at GIAC

To RSVP for all workshops, please contact Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org or 614-545-5481.

Project WET Workshop (cost \$22)

Saturday, September 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm



Calling all educators! Get certified in Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) curriculum. Project WET provides awareness of water resources, empowers students to take action in their communities, and helps solve local water resource issues. Students, teachers, community and business leaders of diverse cultures all use Project WET. Come learn about the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0 and Project WET's dedication to 21st century, cutting-edge water education. Now in full color, Guide 2.0 offers new activities on topics such as National Parks and storm water, fully revised and updated activities from the original Guide, and the very best activities gathered from all of Project WET's publications.

Pollinators 1: Bees and Butterflies (cost \$30; lunch will be provided)

Saturday, September 28 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join us as naturalist Sarah Dalton of Columbus Metro Parks introduces you to fun science with butterflies, teaches you easy raising techniques, demonstrates activities and curriculum guides with interdisciplinary tie-ins, and introduces you to the Monarch Teacher Network and Monarch Watch web resources. We may even tag Monarchs that are migrating through our park. After lunch, Denise Ellsworth from the OSU Department of Entomology/OSU Extension will talk about gardening for pollinators and bee ID. Learn about the many bee species we have and what benefits they provide.

Pollinators 2: Native Plants and Honeybees (cost \$30; lunch will be provided)

Saturday, October 12 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Come learn about Ohio's many fascinating native plants and how you can incorporate them into your home gardens with Linda Johnson of Scioto Gardens. Native plants will be available for purchase. In the afternoon Al Tuttle, Aullwood's beekeeper and owner of Eagle Ridge Apiaries, will guide us through the incredible lifecycle of honeybees and how they "sweeten" our lives. Taste some honey, see equipment beekeepers use, and discover life as a honeybee.



Creature Feature: Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

They're perhaps one of the most common birds in central Ohio, but they've become background to many residents. Just listen in the morning or evening in any urban area, and you'll hear their chittering calls overhead. Chimney Swifts nest all over the city, but only when they start massing for fall migration in August and September do people really start to notice them. Then they'll join together in massive roosts of 1000-2000 birds, which are hard to ignore.

Chimney Swifts are part of an aerial group of birds that include 100+ different species of swifts and swiftlets on six different continents. They're an ancient group, not closely related to perching birds; their closest relatives are apparently hummingbirds, another extremely evolved group. They are consummate aerial insectivores, spending up to 80% of their lives flying in pursuit of insects. Each bird can catch 2000-4000 insects per day, more if they are feeding youngsters in a nest. They favor small diurnal flying insects like flies, midges, beetles, wasps, and ants; crepuscular bugs like moths figure much less in their diet. Some swifts appear to spend all of their waking hours aloft, and some studies suggest that some of them can even nap on the wing.

Their aerial lifestyle has pushed swifts into some radical changes in their biology. They have a very streamlined body with very unusual wings and feet. Their wings have short, muscular 'upper arms' (humeri) coupled to a thin elongate 'forearm and hand'. Their long pointed flight feathers mean that they can get huge lift with only a short flap, so their wing beat is stiff, fast, and brief. Their wings don't appear to flap so much as they appear to buzz. Their relatively large eyes and wide mouth allow them to sight and scoop up insects quickly on the wing. Their tiny legs are strong and have prehensile clawed toes, allowing them to grip onto steep surfaces; they can lock onto these surfaces to sleep, much like a perching bird locks onto a branch.

The weak link in this aerial lifestyle is nesting. All swifts need to nest on a solid surface; much of their evolution has focused on finding secure, predator-free nest sites. Other swifts like cliffs and caves; but Chimney Swifts favor chimneys. Chimney Swifts probably used hollow trees in the wild, but somewhere along the line made the fortuitous decision to adapt to chimneys. Their western cousins, Vaux's Swifts, still use hollow trees quite a bit, but Chimney Swifts have almost completely switched over to human structures. Their bills and legs are useless for carrying and manipulating branches, so swifts tend to use their mouths to combine different formulations of twigs and saliva to fasten and build their 'nests' onto the chimney's inside surface (see www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MR9seDSfHk). The female lays one to five eggs in the nest; it only takes around 20 days for them to hatch and another 30 days for them to fledge. Swift nestlings soon outgrow their nests, and cling to the chimney sides, practicing flying while still inside (see www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nq-JkWTcB4).

In Columbus and environs, we are blessed with many nesting and migrating Chimney Swifts. Pairs of swifts nest in almost all parts of central Ohio; they are often one of the few birds easily found in urban neighborhoods close to downtown. While these birds typically nest or roost in urban chimneys, they forage over more natural sites like rivers, reservoirs, and forest patches, probably because of the higher density of flying insects over these sites. Towards the end of July, local birds start to form big communal roosts in larger chimneys, usually old brick or stone ones associated with schools or churches. These roosts wane in mid-August, but rise again in late August with the arrival of migrants from the north. During August and September, the roosts can swell to hundreds of birds. In some favored sites, like Sells Middle School in Dublin, old downtown Westerville, or Galena, the numbers can reach several thousand and have become local spectacles for residents (www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RNN-UvvLyQ). Almost every neighborhood has one or two big roosts, so that with 200+ roosts during migration, Columbus might host 20,000-100,000 swifts during prime August and September evenings. It's one of our coolest hidden spectacles to watch several thousand swifts spiral down into a chimney. You want to get out and see this spectacular display.

See field trips on page 12 for Swift Night Out on Friday, September 6 for more details.



Rob Thorn



September & October Field Trips

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

Swift Night Out

Fri., September 6 from early dusk to nightfall
Join swift counters at a tall stack in your area. This citizen science project monitors migratory Chimney Swifts gathering in the thousands at communal roost sites, staging for the epic journey to their winter home in the Amazon Basin. Viewing sites will be posted at www.ColumbusAudubon.org/swiftnightout by September 4. Learn about the science here: www.chimneyswifts.org. For more information about local efforts, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Birding the Alum Creek Greenbelt

Sun., September 8 from 8:00 am to 12 noon
We will meet at Innis Park (not Inniswood) in northeast Columbus to explore areas along the new multi-use path, which is a good migrant funnel. Wear sturdy walking shoes. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Greenlawn IBA Birding

Sat., September 14 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am
Join Warren Grody and Darlene Sillick as they fill the bird feeders and search for migrating birds in one of the grandest and oldest cemeteries in central Ohio. Meet at the cemetery office. For more information, contact Darlene at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Service in the Preserves

Sat., September 14
This longtime CA service project is a wonderful way to contribute to conservation and see Ohio's state nature preserves. All are welcome and no specific skills are required. Call trip leader Katryn Renard at 614-261-7171 for more information, to register, reserve space for transportation, and learn more. Visit www.columbusaudubon.org for trip locations.

Avid Birders

Sat., September 14 at 5:30 a.m.
The Avid Birders meet to carpool from the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. 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 avidbirderleads@columbusaudubon.org.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., September 15 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Meet Bruce Simpson at the nature center and then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside in Port Clinton

Thur.-Sun., September 19-22
This is the premier event bringing together birders throughout the Midwest and beyond. For more information, visit www.birdwatchersdigest.com/mwb2013/main.php.

Birding the Urban Scioto

Sun., Sept 22 from 8:00 am to 12 noon
Meet at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park boat launch (first left off Whittier St. after turning off Front St.) for a morning searching for migrants at Scioto Audubon, Berliner, and other areas along the Scioto River. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Migrants at Alum Creek Lake & Hoover Reservoir

Sat., October 5 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Meet at Westerville Community Center (Cleveland Ave. & Country Line Rd.) to carpool to these reservoirs to search for migrant land birds, raptors, and waterfowl. Dress for unpredictable weather. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Shorebirds and Waterfowl at Battelle Darby Wetlands

Sun., October 6 from 9:00 am to 12 noon
Join Jeff Pontius in search of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl at Battelle Darby Wetlands. Meet at the nature center at 9:00 am sharp. A spotting scope is helpful. Prepare for wet trail areas. Please RSVP to pontiusjeff@yahoo.com if you plan to attend this field trip.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., October 6 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Meet Bruce Simpson at the nature center and then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

The Big Sit at Hoover Boardwalk

Sat., October 12 from 5:00 am to 8:00 pm
You'll find the Big Sit when you see lawn chairs and scopes on the boardwalk at Galeana. Stop by anytime or bring a seat and pitch in to help Tom Bain and Jeff Pontius count every bird that comes in. We expect to see more than 50 species if weather cooperates. For more info, see page 10 or contact Tom at bainnature@insight.rr.com or 614-312-7513.

Greenlawn IBA Bird Walk

Sat., October 12 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am
Join Darlene Sillick and Warren Grody as they fill the bird feeders and search for migrating birds in one of the oldest cemeteries in central Ohio. Meet at the cemetery office. For more information, contact Darlene at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Avid Birders

Sat., October 12 at 5:30 a.m.
See description at September 14.

Darby Creek Day at Battelle Darby Metro Park

Sun., October 13 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Come to Indian Ridge area for displays, demonstrations, and field trips. For directions, please call the Infoline at 614-508-8000 or www.metroparks.net.

Birds of Blacklick Woods & Pickerington Ponds

Sat., October 19 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Meet at the Blacklick Woods Nature Center Parking area (at end of park road) for a morning of hunting late migrants, then a quick trip over to nearby Pickerington Ponds for waders and waterfowl. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Field trips continued on page 14

Columbus Audubon

Another Successful Birdathon on the Books

Committed volunteers, Columbus Audubon Birdathon team members, and their supporters raised \$11,804 this year! A huge **thank you** to everyone for their contributions! The top five fundraising teams were:

Wild Birds Unlimited-Riverside	\$3611
Metro Park's Stellar Jays	\$1300
OYBC Early Birders	\$1286
Slate Run Colored Juncos	\$1211
Swans & Coots	\$1036



Making Birdathon successful takes the work of many people. Many thanks to committee members George Arnold, Tim Daniel, Mike Flynn, Randy Rogers, Tom Sheley, Elaine Smith, and Rick Stelzer. The committee onboarded three new teams,

revamped the Birdathon webpages, emphasized online donations, and planned a celebration to recognize the dedication of the birding teams. Celebration attendees enjoyed Celtic music by Aisling, delicious food from Anderson's General Store, and information about Upland Sandpipers by Scott Pendleton. Awards were given and winners were drawn for the grand prizes: a getaway stay at Zinck's Inn in Amish Country and a pair of Vortex Talon HD 8x42 binoculars.

Congratulations to our award and grand prize winners and a special thank you to our prize sponsors The Anderson's, Vortex and Zinck's. Thanks to all the Birdathon team members, contributors, and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

Linda Benner

Columbus Audubon 2013 Bird Seed Fundraiser update

Fall migration is upon us and time is drawing near to think about stocking up for the bird feeding season. Columbus Audubon's Bird Seed Fundraiser is a perfect way to stock up on quality seeds and seed blends and lend a helping hand to both birds and Columbus Audubon.

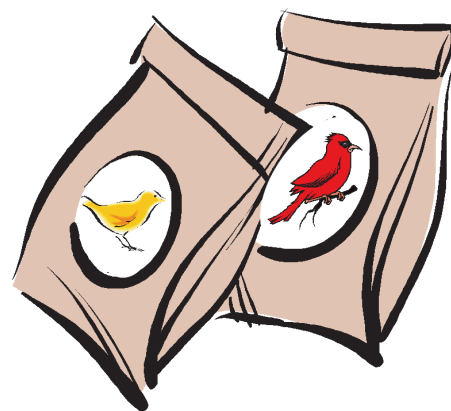
Columbus Audubon will be offering a seed blend for every budget and habitat along with peanuts and suet cakes to attract insect-eating and woodland species. Of course, traditional favorites such as Oil Sunflower, Sunflower Chips, Safflower, and White Millet will be on the menu as well.

The order form will be in the November/December issue of the *Song Sparrow*, after the new seed crop becomes available and we are better able to offer the best possible prices.

Look for the online order form along with product descriptions at www.columbusaudubon.org/birdseed as soon as prices become available in late September. Many folks have found shopping online easy and convenient with credit card processing by PayPal.

Remember, all proceeds from the Bird Seed Fundraiser go to Columbus Audubon to help fund our many projects.

Tom Sheley



Conservation Corner: Trust for Public Land



In a recent *Song Sparrow* we highlighted Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) as a partner with whom we work to advance conservation in central and southern Ohio. Another organization with whom we are building a relationship is the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit organization conserving land for people, whether urban parks and gardens, historic sites, or rural and natural places. TPL works collaboratively with both public and private partners in assembling funding strategies raising money for parks, trails, and other open space to create and protect natural areas. An essential component of the TPL mission is that preserved land be readily available to all, primarily for access to special places preserved for future generations so that everyone can benefit from increased contact with the outdoors and through that contact, providing opportunities for recreation, connection, resource protection and enhancing the quality of life.

TPL has taken a leadership role in many projects in the Cleveland area, including 24 land-saving projects for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Recently TPL has been more locally instrumental in developing a partnership to ensure that Glen Helen (near Yellow Springs, Ohio) will remain protected from development in perpetuity. In 2010, ballot measures that passed with TPL's help accounted for 85% of all public conservation funding generated by voter approval, and each dollar

invested by TPL has yielded more than \$2,000 in new public funds.

TPL has been around since 1972 but is a relative newcomer to the central Ohio conservation scene and is now establishing partnerships with AOA, Columbus Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Columbus Metro Parks, and other local groups to further the cause of appropriate conservation projects in our area. We hope to work together especially on major efforts in southeastern Ohio, an area whose environmental features are particularly fragile. We will share specifics as projects move forward; for now we highlight that TPL is an organization most worthy of our support and Columbus Audubon is pleased to enter into partnership for the greater good of conservation and outdoor recreation in central Ohio. For more information visit: www.tpl.org.

Dave Horn

Field trips continued from page 12

Service in the Preserves

Sat.-Sun., October 19-20

See description at September 14.

Mohican Fall Colors & Late Migrants

Sun., October 20 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Meet at the Memorial on Route 97 amid the beautiful Mohican Hills. We will visit the overlook, the covered bridge, and hike easy leafy trails. Please RSVP to Tom Bain at bainnature@insight.rr.com or 614-312-7513 if you plan to attend.

Saw-whet Owl Banding on Kelley's Island

Fri. and/or Sat., October 25-26

(and optional Sun., October 27, 2013)

Join Tom Bartlett for his autumn banding project of Northern Saw-whet Owls. Friday night owl-banding begins at dusk and typically proceeds until late evening (10:30-11:00 pm or later). Saturday morning will feature some banding of songbirds at feeders at The Inn on Kelley's Island. Owl

banding resumes Saturday night at dusk and follows the Friday night schedule. Participants can come and go as desired. On Saturday between day and evening banding, there may be a scheduled group tour of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History local properties for good birding, botany, and geology or take advantage of area trails, boardwalk, or visit the glacial grooves and inscription rock. Sunday offers an optional independent itinerary, allowing you to take in more of the island experiences. Reservations for overnight accommodations should be made quickly, as they may fill. Ferry costs, overnight accommodations, and any other costs are additional. Carpooling is encouraged (worked out by trip participants). **Trip registrations are required** by Oct. 1 and are limited to 20. For more information and registration, contact Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681 or mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com. Detailed info will be emailed to you upon your registration.

Ohio Ornithological Society FUNraiser!

SAVE THE DATE!

Come enjoy a night of food, drinks, games and laughter in support of The Ohio Ornithological Society.

Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus, Ohio.

Social Hour will begin at 6:00 pm followed by dinner and fun at 7:00 pm. Register online **after September 1st** at www.ohiobirds.org.



The Ohio Ornithological Society
Ohio's Birding Network

Columbus Audubon (Founded 1913)

Mission: To promote the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for present and future generations.

www.columbusaudubon.org

614-545-5497

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Additional chapter leaders

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

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

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

Lois Day, 614-793-8843

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

Field Trips: information@columbusaudubon.org

Membership: Joe Meara, 614-430-9127

Newsletter Editor: Tamara James

Newsletter Layout: Julie Davis

Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com

Programs: Darlene Sillick, azuretrails@columbus.rr.com

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

Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

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Mission: To awaken and connect participants to the beauty of the natural world in the heart of Columbus and inspire environmental stewardship in their daily lives.

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

614-545-5475

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Summer hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.;

Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; closed Mondays.

Winter hours (beginning October 1): Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.;

Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday Noon – 5 p.m.; closed Mondays

Directions to the GIAC: From High St. or Front St. turn west on Whittier (which runs along south end of German Village and Brewery District). Follow Whittier, making no turns, across the bridge spanning the tracks, until you drive into the parking lot in front of the Center.

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

___ **Basic Individual \$30.**

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

___ **Bald Eagle \$500.**

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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
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