

Saved Species

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, it's easy to focus only on loss. Where there were billions, now there are none. Can things ever be different? Yes, they can. The Snowy Egret is featured in the Creature Feature section on page 4 of this issue.

Since the disappearance of the Passenger Pigeon, we also have reason to celebrate the times when we did better; times when we could have driven other species to extinction but did not; times when we collectively showed our better nature. Let's consider a few successes.

Perhaps the best place to start is with the several species that sparked the formation of the Audubon Society itself. In the late 19th century, even as the Passenger Pigeon was being pushed to extinction, plume hunters were slaughtering thousands upon thousands of birds for their beautiful plumage. The plumes were used primarily to decorate women's hats; the dictates of fashion could easily have led to the extinction of several species of egrets and other birds. But two things happened. On the hunting side, conservation-minded hunters and other lovers of nature campaigned to establish protection for birds. Perhaps even more importantly, leading women, disgusted by the mass slaughter, worked to change the fashions that led to such wanton destruction; these women also demanded bird conservation. The fight was not easy and took years, but the results are with us today in the forms of the Audubon Society, a series of wildlife refuges, and – best of all – healthy populations of such beautiful birds as Great and Snowy Egrets.

Our national bird, the Bald Eagle, almost disappeared from the lower 48 states. By the early 1960s, habitat loss, pollution, poisoning by pesticides, and indiscriminate killing had combined to reduce the population to fewer than 500 pairs, with numbers going in the wrong direction. But we as a country took action. We passed laws to protect Bald Eagles. We

banned the use of the most dangerous pesticides such as DDT. We protected nest sites and improved water quality. All these steps, combined with active management, succeeded brilliantly in restoring Bald Eagle populations; over 10,000 pairs of Bald Eagles now nest in the lower 48. These magnificent birds delight all Americans with breeding pairs in every state on the continent.

The list of success stories does not stop there. In 1941, Whooping Crane numbers fell into the low double digits; currently there are about 500 birds in the wild, with more in captivity. In 1987, only 22 California Condors were left; today there are about 240 in the wild and another 200 or so in captivity. And the successes are not limited to the United States or to North America or to large, charismatic species. Have you ever heard of the Chatham Island Black Robin? Probably not, but this New Zealand bird was brought back from the very brink of extinction, with just one breeding female left; the approximately 280 birds now in the wild all are her descendants.

The critical factor in these success stories was that people did something. Instead of being paralyzed by the threat of loss, they acted with hope for the future. We, too, should be concerned about bird species in decline, and we, too, can take action. We will never have the experience of seeing a flock of Passenger Pigeons darkening the sky, but we can make sure that our children will not have to ask where the Great Egrets or the Bald Eagles or the Whooping Cranes or even the Black Robins went.

Bill Heck



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

2014 Spring Banding Report

What a wet spring! Due to weather we had to cancel a few days banding, so spring migratory banding was conducted on 14 days from April 1 to May 31. The birds included many warbler species, four thrush species, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, kinglets, orioles, sparrows and more. The list of recaptured species includes Warbling Vireo, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, Tree Swallow, Indigo Bunting and Common Yellowthroat. A number of species showed either a brood patch or a cloacal protuberance, which confirmed their active breeding status within Scioto Audubon Metro Park. These included Warbling Vireos, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and Brown Thrashers.



We also enjoyed having many visitors, school groups and scouts attend banding demonstrations. While not a primary reason for conducting a banding project, the educational value of this project is important. We have observed the impact participating in bird banding has on volunteers and visitors, with school children able to recount the information months after the demonstration when they have forgotten many other details of their program. We have an active volunteer base, and we had 12 volunteers donate over 90 volunteer hours.

In the fall, we will be adding insect surveys and fecal sample monitoring in conjunction with banding to further assess the habitat quality of our park for migrants. Understanding the effect of food availability on migrants in urban stopover sites is important. Many species of birds, including species that are primarily insectivorous, rely on fruit during fall migration. To understand the utilization of native and invasive fruiting plants by migratory and resident birds at our urban site, fecal samples will be collected from all species. If you are interested in visiting or volunteering, we will begin fall migration banding in late-August. Contact Anne at abalogh@audubon.org for more info.

Call for Gardening & Butterfly Monitoring Volunteers

Are you an individual or a member of a church, business or other group, that would like to make a difference and volunteer? Does working to design, maintain and educate visitors about our Ohio native plant gardens sound fulfilling? What about working up a sweat removing invasive brush under the open sky? Or helping to count birds or conduct butterfly surveys?

This year we are in serious need of green thumbs, as we have a number of exciting garden projects. If you are passionate about backyard conservation, gardening and native plants, you can become a volunteer garden ambassador who assists homeowners with designing their yards using recommendations from our Audubon at Home program. GIAC will be providing intensive training on backyard gardening and conservation for this group of volunteer leaders this summer. If you want to learn more about Ohio's native plants, the beneficial creatures they attract, like tending a garden and sharing your knowledge, this could be for you!

We also will begin to monitor the butterflies and moths of the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Butterflies and moths, an order known as Lepidoptera, are extremely important as both pollinators and as a food source for birds. Many Lepidoptera species are negatively affected by habitat degradation due to the spread of invasive plants and the subsequent lack of their native host plants. In order to assess whether our habitat restoration is affecting butterfly populations, we will be conducting surveys every two weeks. The surveys involve walking a transect and identifying butterfly species seen. It is about a two hour commitment and is a great way to learn your butterflies! We will also hold a moth night in July to begin to get an idea of what moth species we have present in the park! For more information on moth night go to www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org.

Please contact Anne at abalogh@audubon.org or 614-545-5481 for more information.

Updates

GIAC Board Updates

We are pleased to welcome incoming GIAC Stewardship Board members who will begin their terms on July 1, 2014.

Vice-Chair of the Stewardship Board (One-year term)

Rich Shank: Rich is recently retired from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company where he served as senior vice president of the company's regulatory and compliance process. Before joining Scotts Miracle-Gro, Rich served as executive director of the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, vice president for environmental business activities with Science Applications International Corp., and director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He holds a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology, a master's degree in zoology/aquatic toxicology, and a bachelor's degree in natural resources, all from The Ohio State University. In addition to the GIAC board, Rich sits on the boards of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and the Midwest Biodiversity Institute and is a past board member of the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Wildlife Center and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund. He is also an adjunct professor at Miami University. Rich joined the GIAC Stewardship Board in January 2013.



Member-at-large (Second three -year term)

Carol Drake: As vice president of national accounts, Carol Drake oversees sales strategy for key national account relationships at Grange Insurance. In this role, she is responsible for identifying and analyzing new business opportunities and developing performance objectives, financial targets and critical milestones in the identification and execution of marketing opportunities. Carol has been with Grange for more than 12 years. Prior to being promoted to her current role, she most recently served as Grange's vice president of marketing during which she led a successful re-branding effort for the company. Before joining Grange, she held positions at Swiss Re Life and Health and the Midland Life Insurance Company. Carol graduated cum laude from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She is active in the community having served on the executive committee for Action for Children and now serves on the Stewardship Board and marketing committee for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

New Member-at-large (Three -year term)

Jim McCormac: Jim works for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, specializing in nongame wildlife diversity issues, especially birds. Prior to that, he was a botanist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He was inaugural president of the Ohio Ornithological Society and was the 2009 recipient of the Ludlow Griscom award, given annually by the American Birding Association to individuals who have made significant regional contributions to ornithology. He is author of *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004); *The Great Lakes Nature Guide* (Lone Pine, 2009); and *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage* (Kent State University Press, 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. Jim writes a column, *Nature*, for the Columbus Dispatch, has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific and popular articles in a variety of publications, and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He is at work on a book about wood-warblers, which is slated for release in 2014.



Cheryl Roberto: Cheryl leads the EDF Smart Power campaign as associate vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund. Through regulatory reform and new utility incentives, among others, EDF's smart power initiatives aim to modernize our outdated energy infrastructure, accelerate the deployment of cutting-edge, clean technologies into the nation's electric system and break down the regulatory and financial barriers to broad-scale adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency and other innovative ways to generate, distribute and use energy. Prior to joining EDF in 2013, Cheryl was a commissioner with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). As an attorney, Cheryl has owned her own businesses providing policy guidance and specializing in environmental issues. She served several roles with the City of Columbus, including director of the Department of Public Utilities, policy advisor to the Mayor, and assistant city attorney. Cheryl graduated cum laude with General Honors from the Honor's College of Kent State University with a bachelor's degree in political science and as Doctor of Law from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Her community and volunteer activities have included board service on the National Regulatory Research Institute,

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Creature Feature: Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) are slender little white herons whose black legs have startling yellow feet. They were never the most common of waders, even in south Florida where I grew up. We would see loads of Great Egrets or even white-phase Little Blue Herons compared to the smaller numbers of Snowy Egrets. Part of it was that they never hung around suburban parks like the other herons. Part of it was a natural wariness: they were the more skittish of the egrets, taking off without much provocation, trailing their yellow feet behind them as they glided away. I didn't realize that I was seeing a deeply-ingrained survival behavior that had persisted for nearly 100 generations of snowies, a wariness that harkened back to a period of unregulated bird slaughter.

Snowy Egrets are the little cousins of the Great Egret and were nearly wiped out by plume hunters for the millinery trade in the late 1800s. They had rookeries all over the southern states, the Caribbean islands, and much of South America, where courting adults grew a special nuptial plumage that included beautiful wispy plumes sticking out from their backs and heads (seen nicely here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJZ12Q4fcpw). These aigrettes, as the plumes are called, give the common name to both Snowy and Great Egrets, and were their undoing. New York milliners created a fashion craze for the plumes in the 1880s, leading to intensive hunting of the breeding adults. This led to destruction of rookeries, which touched off a public outcry that was the main impetus of the conservation movement that birthed the Audubon Society. Legal protections enacted in the early 20th century probably helped rescue these little herons from extirpation in North America.

Watching snowies, you'd hardly know that these elegant little birds had such a troubled history. These small white herons feed in shallow water and have developed a whole repertoire of hunting techniques to flush out hidden shallow water animals. Their bright yellow feet work to scare hidden fish into moving, especially when the birds deliberately shuffle their feet through the shallow water (www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRpz9sa7rH4). If that fails, they'll often madly dash around trying to flush out camouflaged fish and crayfish. This is often in contrast to the slow, patient stalking of Great Egrets, which makes it humorous to see the two species working side-by-side in a shallow pond or river backwater. You wonder what the staid Great Egrets think of the antics of their cousins.



Photo by Tom Sheley

are in Illinois, along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and they are even more common in the Great Plains. Because of this scarcity, the best time to see snowies here is after breeding, when the adults and juveniles disperse in July and August. The Lake Erie wetlands are best, but we're seeing more records from central Ohio now, especially at our larger wetlands like Big Island, Pickerington Ponds, and the Darby wetlands. Just don't expect to get too close to them.



Photo by Tom Sheley

One of the other reasons snowies suffered disproportionately is that they concentrated their breeding in huge colonies of mixed herons. Snowies don't establish rookeries so much as they infiltrate pre-existing ones. This made them easier targets for the plume hunters, who would focus on established rookeries. It has also hindered some of their recovery, especially in the Midwest where their nesting is very sparse. Here in Ohio, a small number of snowies nest in the West Sisters Island rookery up in western Lake Erie, but they are absent as nesters from all of our neighboring states. Even southwest Indiana, which can host hundreds in late summer, has no current nesting snowies. The nearest big colonies

Rob Thorn

Lost Bird

The Passenger Pigeon, One of the Lost Birds

This September will mark the 100th anniversary since the last Passenger Pigeon died at the Cincinnati Zoo. We must not let this anniversary pass without reflecting back on what happened to a flock of birds that numbered in the millions and maybe even a billion.

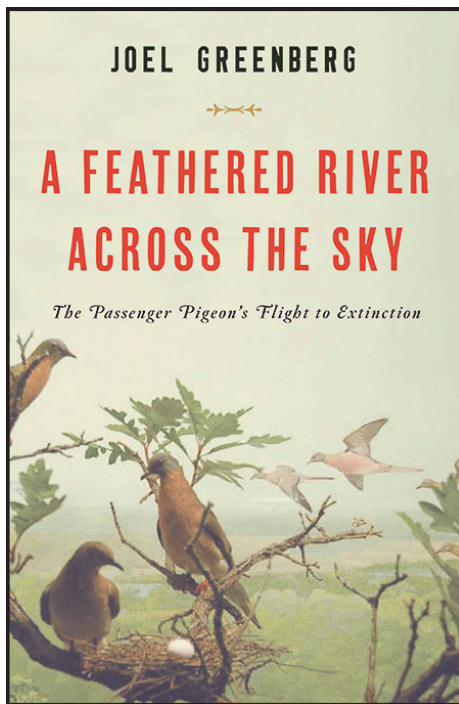
GIAC is home to one of the five extinct bird sculptures by Todd McGrain. The Lost Bird Project went in search for a perfect place to exhibit each bird and GIAC was selected for the Passenger Pigeon. A documentary was made to illustrate the process of creating the sculptures and to tell the story of the Lost Birds.

What lessons can be learned from the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and the course that our Earth is on with climate change? Many articles have been written about the Passenger Pigeon; check out the article in the latest issue of the *Audubon magazine* titled “Why the Passenger Pigeon Went Extinct”.

Plans are being made to commemorate this event at GIAC in September. Watch the Columbus Audubon and GIAC website for details.

Book Review

A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction



In 1855, residents here in Columbus panicked at the sound of “a mighty throbbing” and the appearance of a cloud that blotted out the sun. No, it was not the coming of the end times, but instead the coming of a flock of Passenger Pigeons in numbers so vast as to defy imagination. A single flock such as this might have contained several hundred millions, perhaps a billion, birds. Sixty years later, Passenger Pigeons were extinct, every one of its billions gone.

Joel Greenberg documents this loss in his new book, *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction* (Bloomsbury USA, 2014). His answer to the question of how they went extinct is, in the end, simple: humans hunted the pigeon to extinction. But Greenberg documents more than simple hunting. He records slaughter on an industrial scale; killing for food, for money, and too often simply for the sake of killing; destruction of adults and chicks, on the nest and away; carnage abetted by the most advanced technology of the time (railroads and telegraphs). Perhaps no one believed that the bounty could ever end, that human action could wipe out so numerous a species – but it did, and in remarkably short order.

Greenberg has done prodigious feats of research to collect what we know about the life cycle of the Passenger Pigeon as well as what we know about the hunting that doomed it. I might have wished for a little more narrative introduction, but that's a quibble. A few reviewers have complained that there are too many stories of destruction, but those events *are* the story; they weave the fabric of the narrative. This is an important, fascinating, troubling, and saddening book. Let us hope that it reminds us of our loss so that we may be wiser in the future.

Bill Heck

Interested in reviewing a new nature book for future issues of the Song Sparrow? Email editor@columbusaudubon.org with your suggestion.

Columbus Audubon

Columbus Audubon 2014-15 Monthly Programs

Looking ahead to the Columbus Audubon upcoming 2014-15 monthly programs, we are excited to give you a sneak peak. We suggest you mark your calendar and hold the following dates for some exciting speakers and activities. Of course, this is only the tip of the iceberg and you will want to stay tuned for more information through our website and newsletters.

Tuesday, September 23 we will kick off the new program season learning more about The Big Year and what it means to be a member of the ABA 700 club. Our speaker is Neil Hayward, (Cambridge) who holds the record of 750 species seen in one calendar year. He was among one of the select bird-watchers who had attempted what's known as a "big year" — seeing as many different kinds of birds as possible, traversing the continent to do so. Not only will we have Neil as our guest speaker, we will have a short program panel of two other Ohio Big Year heroes: Dan Sanders, (Powell) and Jay Lehman, (Cincinnati) who have both earned honorary status in the elite ABA 700 club. You will have the chance to submit questions for our Big Year panel to answer as they share their passion and quest to do the chase to document over 700 species of birds in a calendar year.

Normally our October program would be held the fourth Tuesday but we have a special speaker and the program will be **Saturday, November 1**. George Archibald is a visionary leader in international conservation efforts over the past 40 years and has been a leader in crane conservation worldwide. Dr. Archibald founded the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin and he has won numerous awards for his work to help crane species. The details are in progress but hold November 1 to hear this amazing conservation hero.

November 18: Rebecca Rose, field conservation coordinator of the Columbus Zoo will be our evening speaker. Our short program speaker will be Doug Warmolts, assistant director of living collections at the Columbus Zoo. Again watch for more information.

January 27: Doug Wynn, retired teacher, herpetologist and better known as the Snake Whisperer, will share his passion for all things snakes in Ohio and his work with Ohio Division of Wildlife doing research on poisonous snakes.

February 24: Dr. Lisa Rainsong is a member of the music theory faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music and she is a professional singer and composer. She has a passion for the natural world and has recorded 86 species of birds and countless insects and spiders in her Cleveland Heights backyard. Come learn more about music in the natural world from Lisa. Our short program speaker will be Dr. Angelika Nelson of the Borror Sound Lab at The Ohio State University. Watch for upcoming classes on birding by ear in early 2015.

March 24: Richard Crossley, author of the Crossley ID Guide, returns. He is an amazing photographer and winner of numerous awards for his novel way of looking and teaching about birds by featuring lifelike scenes for each species in various behaviors, poses and size in habitat equal to each species. We are delighted to welcome Richard back to Columbus; watch for more exciting events around his visit.

April 28: For our last Columbus Audubon meeting of the program year, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Bernard Master of Worthington. Bernie has seen over 7200 species of birds and traveled to more than 88 countries. His talk will be "Backyard Birding" and you will be astounded to learn what he has seen, heard and recorded in his backyard. He needs to be applauded for his conservation efforts both here and around the world with his passionate work for the sake of all things birds

We still have a few short program speakers to finalize and work is underway for some new bird classes and workshops for next season. A big thank you to the CA program committee for their work to greet you, feed you and teach you at each of our CA programs. If you have suggestions for speakers or classes or field trips be sure to get in touch with us. We welcome your input to *your* Columbus Audubon chapter and its exciting events.

Columbus Audubon, co-programs chairs, *Darlene Sillick and Nadya Bennett*

Conservation Corner: Prothonotary Warbler

Recently I received an email from Blaine Keckley, volunteer caretaker of Calamus Swamp, to inform me that a Prothonotary Warbler pair was nesting in a box he installed a few years ago. This is the first nesting Prothonotary at Calamus since Columbus Audubon acquired the property in 2000. We recently featured a report by CA member Charlie Bombaci regarding his ongoing efforts to encourage Prothonotaries at Hoover Reservoir via nest box installation and upkeep ([November-December 2013 Song Sparrow](#)).

This has me thinking of the resiliency these little birds show in response to human-induced habitat changes, both intended and unintended. The Prothonotary Warbler is our only cavity-nesting warbler and very much prefers trees whose bases are partially under water, like lakeshores and riverbanks. The value of placing nesting boxes in appropriate habitat is unquestioned: “if you build it they will come.” Probably the Prothonotaries would be at Hoover anyway, but not in the numbers Charlie found there last year—more than 171 nesting pairs. They are quite adept at finding suitable habitat, and a century or more ago we inadvertently provided them with nesting sites when we built and maintained impoundments to supply canals; Prothonotaries were common in wooded swamps surrounding “canal lakes” (such as Buckeye and Indian Lakes). With the canals’ decline and draining of other wetlands came a reduction in Prothonotaries, but then we built new reservoirs (such as Hoover, Alum Creek and Lake Logan), flooded nearby woods, we installed nest boxes and the warblers appeared.

Of course, nest boxes benefit the warblers but they benefit Audubon members also. Charlie reports that visitors to the Hoover Preserve have come from 20 states and 13 foreign nations, and more than one visitor has departed with a life bird. Everyone goes home enriched with benefits from this conservation project.

Dave Horn

Invasive Species

Eurasian Collared-dove: too early to tell?

A recent addition to the bird fauna of Ohio is the Eurasian Collared-dove (ECD). Native to the Middle East, it spread explosively through Europe and arrived in Florida around 1982 via the Bahamas. During the past 30 years ECD has spread northwest as far as Alaska. They have been slow to colonize Ohio and northeastward but nesting has been confirmed or suspected in 18 (of over 4400) “blocks” of the recent Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Christmas Count data (right) suggests that ECD is here to stay.

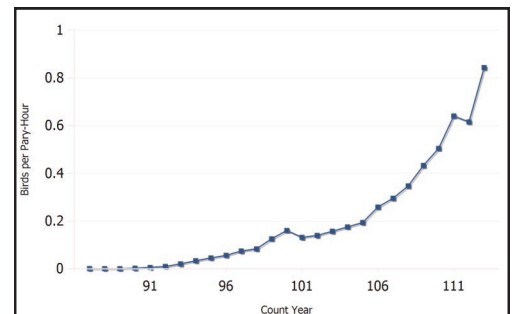


Photo by Earl Harrison

The ECD looks like a chubby, pale Mourning Dove, but with a rounded tail bearing prominent white patches. They occur in open areas near human habitations and appear regularly at feeders where they may aggressively drive other birds away.

They are similar to our native Mourning Dove and there is concern that they may have a negative impact. A recent study in the southeastern states did find a reduction in Mourning Dove numbers in parts of Florida but not elsewhere, and this may be due to habitat changes. For now, ECD doesn't *quite* fit the definition of an “invasive” species because their ecosystem impact may be minimal. (Of course, we have heard that before, and we might keep watch on the ECD.)

For more about ECD visit:

<http://birds.audubon.org/birds/eurasian-collared-dove>

Dave Horn

Columbus Audubon

New Board President and Trustees in July

Board President (July 2014-June 2015 term)



Barbara Revard, director of program planning at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and a member of the team for 26 years, is responsible for developing programs which enhance the conservation education and/or entertainment experiences for Zoo and community audiences. She also develops community partnerships that strengthen the ability of the zoo to promote and deliver quality education, conservation, and research projects. Having led the Zoo's efforts in sustainability since 2008, Barbara is proud of the recently completed carbon footprint assessment and the development of a Sustainability Strategy Plan to lead the Zoo as they create future projects aimed at reducing their carbon footprint. Barbara is an avid birder and worldwide traveler.

Board Trustees (July 2014-June 2017 term)

Tim Daniel is a lifelong resident of Ohio and has spent most of his life in central Ohio. He has been employed with the Ohio Division of Wildlife as a photographer and event planner for 17 years. Tim has led many workshops on wildlife photography, bats, raptors, and owls. His photography has been featured in local and national publications and websites, and used in ODNR publications such as *Wild Ohio* magazine, social media, websites and brochures and publications. Tim has a degree in communications from Franklin University and currently is completing his first term on the board of directors of Columbus Audubon.

Lindsay B. Deering resides in Grove City and has been a public information officer with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' office of communications since 2012. Prior to that role, she served as a wildlife communications coordinator or specialist with ODNR Division of Wildlife. She has a Master of Science in marketing and communications from Franklin University and a Bachelor of Science in natural resources specializing in wildlife management from The Ohio State University. At Franklin University she was the recipient of the Raymond E. Mason Leadership Scholarship and was student speaker at her commencement ceremony.

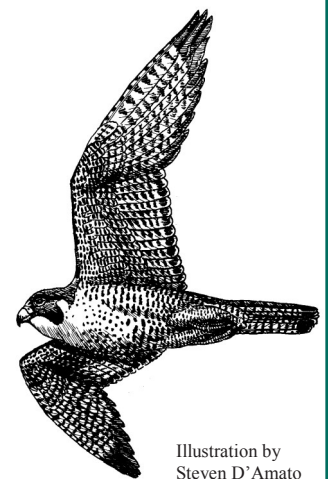
Save the Date for Columbus Audubon's first 5K run/walk

Take Flight: Fast as a Falcon

Saturday, November 8

Get ready to lace up your running shoes! Whether you're a marathon runner or a couch potato, we invite you to participate in Columbus Audubon's first 5K event at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

More details and registration will be available soon. If you would like to be part of the 5K planning team or a race day volunteer, please contact George Arnold at garnold@csc.edu.



Columbus Audubon



July & August Field Trips

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

Birding by Kayak

Saturday, July 12 at 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Search for avian residents on Twin Lakes in a leisure kayaking trip. Kayaks and instruction for beginners provided; cost is \$20 per person. Meet at the Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC) in Shawnee Hills. Please pre-register with Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com (preferred) or 614-288-3696.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sunday, July 13 at 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Join Naturalist Bruce Simpson in search of birds. Meet at the nature center. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information, call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

Avid Birders

Saturday, July 26 at 5:30 am to 5:00 pm

The Columbus Avid Birders will spend the day exploring birding hot spots. Bring your lunch and meet at the Worthington Mall parking lot. For more info, contact AvidBirderLeads@ColumbusAudubon.org.

Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Prairies

Sunday July 27 at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Visit Smith and Bigelow Cemeteries in Union County with Jim Davidson who has a wealth of knowledge concerning these two State Nature Preserves. Meet at Worthington Mall at 1:00 pm to carpool. Bring water, binoculars, sunscreen and bug spray. Contact Darlene Sillick for more information at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Birding by Kayak

Saturday, August 9 at 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Search for avian residents on Twin Lakes in a leisure kayaking trip. Kayaks and instruction for beginners provided; cost is \$20 per person. Meet at the Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC) in Shawnee Hills. Please pre-register with Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com (preferred) or 614-288-3696.



Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sunday, August 10 at 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Join Naturalist Bruce Simpson in search of birds. Meet at the nature center. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information, call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

Avid Birders

Saturday, August 23 at 5:30 am to 5:00 pm

The Columbus Avid Birders will spend the day exploring birding hot spots. Bring your lunch and meet at the Worthington Mall parking lot. For more info, contact AvidBirderLeads@ColumbusAudubon.org.

Early Migration: Shorebirds, Herons, Swallows

Sunday, August 17 at 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Think of August as the summer doldrums? By this time, mudflats are usually starting to appear around parts of local reservoirs, attracting early migrants like shorebirds, herons, flycatchers, and swallows. Join us for a morning of birding 'on the edge', but wear old shoes or boots, as this 'edge' is liable to be rather soft and muddy. Meet at the Hoover dam parking area (off Sunbury Road at the west end of the dam) at 8 am, and be prepared to drive/carpool to shorebird spots at any one of the reservoirs. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Early Migration along Darby Creek

Saturday, August 30 at 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Join us for a ramble among the wetlands and edges of Big Darby Creek as we look for early migrants. Meet at Darby Bend Lakes off Amity Rd (north of I-70) and be prepared to drive to other sites. For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

July & August Programs at GIAC

Exciting programming continues at GIAC. Come and check out a new class and bring your family and friends.

Preschool Programs

Wee Naturalists Wednesdays

Explore the wonders of nature in the heart of the city. Preschool age children can bring their favorite adult to join our educators as we explore the Scioto Audubon Metro Park and the Nature Center through stories, nature hikes, activities, and more.

Who: Preschoolers (3-5 year olds) and their favorite adult
Fee: Members \$20 per weekly program; non-members \$30 per weekly program

When: Wednesdays in July and August from 10 am to 12 noon. Pre-registration required. Register online at www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org.

Preschool Story Time Thursdays

Join one of our dynamic volunteers for a nature-based story in our beautiful library and bird viewing room. After the story your little ones can romp and play in the Forest Room where they can dress up like birds, play with puppets, and climb into the tree that tops our forest. Registration is not required for this program.

Who: Toddlers and Preschoolers

Fee: Free

When: Thursdays in July and August from 10 am to 11am.

Audubon Adventure Camps

Audubon Adventure CampKids (for Campers Entering pre-K and K: age 4-5)

These half-day programs are designed to give preschool and kindergarten children the opportunity to learn about the natural world around them by exploring various habitats and participating in hands-on activities. They'll experience a daily read-aloud, get creative with a daily craft, and go on exciting scavenger hunts and hikes around the park. Our camp educators will introduce these little ones to a lifelong love of nature. Children **MUST** be potty-trained to participate.

Who: For Pre-K campers – must be potty trained

When: June 30 to July 2 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$35 members or \$50 non-members

Who: For campers entering Kindergarten – must be potty trained

When: June 30 to July 2 from 9 am to 11am

Fee: \$35 members or \$50 non-members

Audubon Adventure Camp

These programs are designed to give elementary aged children the opportunity to experience hands-on, outdoor education and science curriculum while exploring the natural world around them. They'll get in touch with nature, go on scavenger hunts and guided hikes, fish along the river, enjoy daily sit spots and journal time in various habitats and much more—while developing friendships and receiving encouragement from caring, engaged camp staff. Each week a different topic is offered. More details at www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org.

Who: Campers in going into grades 1-8

Fee: \$200 members or \$230 non-members

When: Weekly through August 15

Weekend Programs

Fireside Fridays

Offered once a month, this informative night hike is led by a GIAC instructor. Topics include nocturnal animal facts, the night sky, migration, and more. Finish at the campfire for a story and enjoy s'mores and refreshments !

Who: Recommended for ages 8 and up. Younger children welcome.

When: July 18 and August 8 at 8:30 pm

Fee: \$5 members or \$8 non-members

Audubon Afternoons

Free program offered each weekend afternoon.

July 5/6 Macro-invertebrate Mayhem

July 12/13 Nature Journaling

July 19/20 Fantastic Fish

July 26/27 Beginner Bird Hike

Aug. 2/3 Raptors

Aug. 9/10 Butterflies, Bees and More

Aug 16/17 Invasives Beware

Aug 23/24 Cold-blooded Science

Aug 30/31 Macro-invertebrate Mayhem

Who: Everyone

When: Saturday and Sunday, 1 pm to 3 pm **Fee:** Free

Bird Hikes

Come join a GIAC naturalist for a Saturday morning hike around the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Every birding level is welcome. Registration is not required for this program.

Who: Everyone

When: Saturdays 9 am to 10am

Fee: Free

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Schoolyard Gardens and Bird Feeding Stations: Conservation Classrooms Impact the Community

Recently, CCC partner schools attended multiple sessions at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, which focused on supplementing common core science, math and reading standards. They also learned about the impact of invasive species in our Important Bird Area and more importantly in our park. As in the past, students had the opportunity to take conservation action by removing invasive plant species within the park. While students have always played an important role in conservation efforts even before the Grange Insurance Audubon Center was built, this year students were also able to make a difference in their own communities by planning and planting native plant gardens with bird feeding stations in their schoolyards across the city.

GIAC conservation and education staff developed a curriculum geared toward helping partner schools plan their own unique gardens. During the colder months, GIAC educators traveled to each school to introduce the importance of



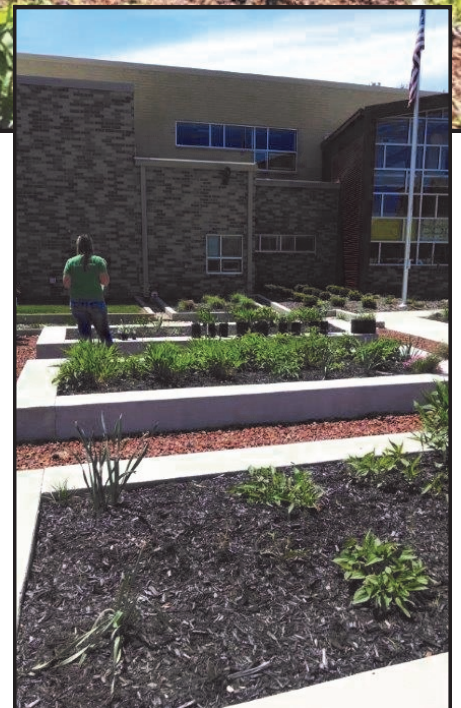
Olde Orchard Elementary School 3rd graders from Deb Leopold's class study butterflies, in particular monarchs, every year in great depth so they decided to focus on attracting butterflies. Plants were chosen as host plants or nectar producers. Mrs. Leopold stated multiple times during planning as well as the workday that the schoolyard garden project was an absolute dream come true.

schoolyard gardens, benefits to both wildlife and students, and important things to consider when planning a garden. Participating classrooms continued in their planning by completing packets developed by GIAC conservation and education staff.

Students completed a soil and percolation test; completed a sun schedule over multiple days; chose which animals, bird and insects they wanted to attract; chose which
Continued on page 12



Many younger students were intrigued, excited and even inquired during recess as to when they would be old enough to come to the Audubon Center and help with the garden at their school after seeing the work the 4th and 5th graders at Southwood Elementary School did during the first half of the day.



Olde Orchard Elementary School garden before planting.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Schoolyard Gardens and Bird Feeding Stations: Continued from page 12

birdfeeders and type of food they wanted to provide; and consulted a native plant resource guide to choose and create a map of their garden. Due to generous funding through grants from JPMorgan Chase, the Green Fund at the Columbus Foundation, and Ingram White Castle Foundation, GIAC was able to provide each partner school with tools, hoses, bird



feeders, bird seed, plants, topsoil and mulch. Each school scheduled a schoolyard garden workday this spring and thanks to the efforts of GIAC conservation and education staff, GIAC volunteers, partner school staff and the students, schoolyards were transformed, habitat was created, and pride was instilled through ownership.

While renting the sod cutter to prepare one of the garden areas, the gentleman handling the rental at the store stated that he remembered doing a schoolyard garden when he was in school. He pointed out that of all the things he doesn't remember from elementary school, working in that garden had a lasting impression. We hope that in providing students and staff the opportunity to learn about the importance of, planning and carrying out these schoolyard gardens they too will have a lasting impression of hard work, fun, pride and taking conservation action that made a difference for their school, their community and the wildlife that will thrive in the new spaces created.

Sixth grade Graham Expeditionary Middle School students and 3rd graders from Graham Primary School rejuvenated a once meant to be garden area that had been let go into a new schoolyard oasis sure to attract new wildlife, in particular pollinators and birds. These students had a lot of fun inspecting the multiple and very healthy worms that were living in the soil!



Many younger students were intrigued, excited and even inquired during recess as to when they would be old enough to come to the Audubon Center and help with the garden at their school after seeing the work the 4th and 5th graders at Southwood Elementary School did during the first half of the day.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center



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**Ages pre-K thru
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End of Summer
Overnight!**

Continued from page 3

Franklin County Planning Commission, and Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. Cheryl also served on the Audubon Ohio Advisory Board during the conceptual development and capital campaign of the Center.



Jan Valentic: As senior vice president regional and retail marketing at Scotts Miracle-Gro, Jan is responsible for helping to create ideas that leverage customer insights to drive business growth in the US and Canada. Prior to this role, she led the sustainability platform for the company. Before joining Scotts Miracle-Gro in 2007, Jan was executive vice president and global lead for Team Microsoft with Young & Rubicam Brands in Seattle. Prior to that, she served as vice president of global marketing for Ford Motor Company having started her career at Leo Burnett Advertising Agency. Jan earned both her bachelor's and MBA degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Appointee (Columbus Audubon president)

Barb Revard: Barbara Revard is director of program planning at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and has worked in the environmental education field for more than 30 years. Her responsibilities include developing programs which enhance the conservation education and entertainment experiences for Zoo and community audiences. Barb develops community partnerships that strengthen the ability of the zoo to promote and deliver quality education, conservation, and research projects. She has extensive experience in cooperative planning, interpretive planning for programs and exhibits, and guest messaging. She has also led the Zoo efforts in developing a sustainability strategy plan aimed at reducing the Zoo's carbon footprint. As the new president of Columbus Audubon and as per our memorandum of understanding, Barb will serve on the Stewardship Board of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center beginning July 1, 2014.

As we welcome new board members, we also say good-bye to five board members who have faithfully served on the GIAC Stewardship Board: Frances Beasley, Jeff Chaddock, Julie Davis, Bill Heck and Jan Rodenfels. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center has truly benefitted from their commitment and years of dedication. We extend our deep gratitude to each of them for all they have done and continue to do for the Center.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Flight of Fancy Soared High

Flight of Fancy in Your Urban Oasis took place on May 29 with an entirely new look and feel from previous spring events at Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Formerly known as Wine & Warblers, the staff, volunteers, board members and committees of GIAC went that extra mile to make this year's event fresh and more exciting than ever before.

The results were fantastic! Attendance was up forty percent over last year with nearly 300 people enjoying an evening of great food, a fantastic assortment of wines, live music, and lots of lively conservation and laughter.

Money raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, auctions, and other activities—which are critical to GIAC's programs and mission—more than doubled. To everyone who attended, participated, volunteered, and donated we send out a very heartfelt thank you.

Generous sponsors for the evening were:

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No, those aren't new species of bird spotted at Flight of Fancy on May 29th. Those are The Amazing Giants who welcomed event guests with good humor and enthusiasm as they entered our LEED Gold Certified nature center.



Many guests enjoyed the beautiful weather and outdoor spaces of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center during Flight of Fancy.



Local group The Randys played for Flight of Fancy guests. Part Beatles, part Beach Boys, part swing music; the nearly 300 people in attendance loved this band!

Again our thanks to everyone and we will see you again next year!

Save the Date

Bands Birds and Beer = B3

Friday, September 26 7:00 - 11:00 pm

The 4th Annual Bands Birds and Beer event is shaping up to be a great event. We will welcome our favorite band Grassinine back this year. Donatos continues to be the lead sponsor for this event and we are so grateful for their continued support.

A variety of local and national beer and wine will be available for sale. This year we are adding an option to pre-order a picnic basket dinner with a bottle of wine from one of the Center's caterers. Stay tuned for more details and the announcement of the second band. Exciting raffles will be available and a few special live auction items. Don't miss the fun. Save the date and bring all of your friends!



Columbus Audubon (Founded 1913)

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

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Officers

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Vice President: Suzan Jervey

Treasurer: Maura Rawn

Recording Secretary: Nina Harfmann, nina.natureremains@gmail.com

Past President: Bill Heck

Trustees (through June 30, 2015): George Arnold, Tim Daniel, Julie Davis, Lindsay Deering, Amanda Duren, Warren Grody, Tamara James, Suzan Jervey, Barbara Revard

Additional chapter leaders

Birdathon: Dave Horn, davehorn43@columbus.rr.com

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

Eco Weekend: Dale Brubeck, dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com; Lois Day, 614-793-8843

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

Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

Web/Social Media: Stefanie Hauck

Thank you recent GIAC donors (April - May 2014)

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Grange Insurance Audubon Center

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

Facebook: GrangeInsuranceAudubonCenter

614-545-5475

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Staff

Center Director: Christie Vargo

Director of Outreach and Engagement: Amy Boyd

Finance and Operations Manager: David Chew

Conservation Manager and Educator: Anne Balogh

Education Program Manager: Allison Roush

Development & Marketing Manager: Jeff Yost

Educators (part time): Susan Wasmund, Traci Weaver

Seasonal Educators: Rachael Crane, Joseph Edin, Jessica Meginnis

Finance and Facility Assistant: Tina Starr

Facility Attendant (part time): Ian Dowden, Monica Johnson

Office and Development Assistant: Linda FreemanWalker

Summer hours (April 1): Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 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.

GIAC Stewardship Board

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Sandra Nessing

John O'Meara*

Lori Overmeyer

Steven Puckett

Barbara Revard

Cheryl Roberto

Leslie Strader

Jamie Taylor

Jan Valentic

Christie Vargo,
ex officio

Welcome new & renewed members (April-May 2014)

Mark Aalyson	DC Heiman	Melora Meyer
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- *Song Sparrow* bi-monthly local newsletter
- Email updates and Action Alerts (as you choose: local and/or national)
- 10% discount at GIAC's Nature Store
- Free and discounted local programs and field trips
- Invitations to local member-only and special events
- Local science and volunteer opportunities
- Ability to rent the Center for your special events
- Knowing you support education and conservation action in your community!

Join now at the organization membership level and receive associate benefits:

- Volunteer days and opportunities for associates and employees
- 10% discount to employees for one session of Audubon Adventures summer day camp
- Knowing you are contributing to the quality of life in your community

___ **Classic Membership \$100** (individuals, families and organizations)

Receive a free Grange Insurance Audubon Center ball cap

___ **Premier Membership \$250**

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