

The Audubon Report on Birds and Climate Change

More than 120 people attended the Sept. 9 press conference to announce the release of Audubon's groundbreaking research on birds and climate change.

The Ohio Audubon network was well represented with current and future National Audubon Society board members, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Columbus Audubon and Canton Audubon chapter leaders, National Audubon's policy office, and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Thanks to the Ohio Wildlife Center, we also had climate endangered and threatened birds – American Kestrel, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Barn Owl – to help tell the story.



Press conference attendees (left to right): Dave Horn, Ardith Hamilton (Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm), Amy Boyd, Christie Vargo, Jeff Yost, Marnie Urso, Lee Dolan, Alan Dolan, Susan Anderson (Ohio Wildlife Center), Barb Revard, Bill Heck

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

An Excerpt from *The Audubon Report on Birds and Climate Change*

Every bird species has adapted to the places it currently lives. But global warming is altering the availability of food and suitable nesting and wintering grounds, and if those shifts are too extreme, birds will be forced to seek out habitat and/or food supplies elsewhere. To determine how bird ranges will be affected, Audubon scientists used sophisticated climate models that combine decades of observations from the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey, factoring in 17 climate variables, including temperature, precipitations, and seasonal changes. The models forecast the "climate envelopes," or ranges, where future conditions are expected to support each species' historical climatic needs.

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Take Flight: Fast as a Falcon Columbus Audubon's inaugural 5k

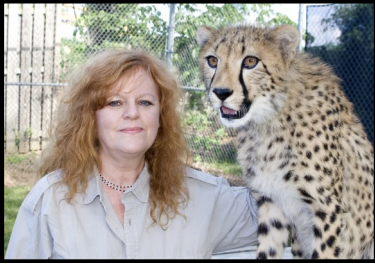
Whether you're as fast as a falcon or slow as an American Woodcock, join us on Saturday, November 8. Registration is open now. For more details, see page 3.



CA Monthly Programs

November Program – Commitment to Conservation

Tuesday, November 18 in the GIAC multipurpose room



7:00 - 7:15 pm: Short Program by Doug Warmolts, Columbus Zoo, on *Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation in Ohio*

7:15 - 7:30 pm: Refreshments and social time

7:30 pm: Main Program by Rebecca Rose, field conservation manager at Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

"The loss of species is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us." E.O. Wilson

Rebecca Rose is a 30-year veteran of wildlife conservation and education. She will talk about the struggles that wild animals encounter to survive in human-dominated landscapes and how we can protect precious species from extinction and preserve critical ecosystems for future generations.

From Audubon Center Director Christie Vargo



Dear Audubon Family,

With the release of Audubon's climate research in September, I can't help but reflect on my own journey with the science. I first became aware of the mechanics of greenhouse gases in an undergrad physics class in 1974. That particular one-hour session has stuck with me, as I have watched the realities of global warming unfold before my eyes.

Looking at the climate-endangered and -threatened birds identified in the report, I am shaken by how my own definitions of place will be forever altered by 2020, 2050, and 2080. I will be long gone by 2080 and very probably by 2050, but our kids will be here to experience startling and dramatic changes. My logical self takes in the science of it all, but my feeling self responds with deep sadness.

I grew up spending my summers in the north woods of Wisconsin and went to sleep to the sounds of the Whip-poor-will and Loon. When I go back to a place that defines my most peaceful moments, it is that place and those sounds that I summon. While not Ohio birds, it's hard to imagine that perhaps within my lifetime the Whip-poor-will and Loon may no longer be part of the north woods landscape.

Ohio is my home now, and different birds define my seasons and give me a sense of place. Traveling between here and Cleveland I keep my eyes peeled for Kestrels hovering over the median strips. Here at the Center I wait with anticipation for the Osprey to build their nest on a light-pole remnant from the old impound lot right here in the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. And yes, they return every year and bring me the joy of watching them rear their young. How many of us have tuned into the live-cam on Rhodes Tower to watch the hatching, growing and fledging of Peregrine Falcons? Sandhill Cranes during a trip to Indiana gave witness to the courtship rituals and the rush of tens of thousands of Sandhills taking off in the early morning to forage and refuel before continuing on their migratory journey. My backyard feeders in the winter offer me the delight of the White-breasted Nuthatch and White-throated Sparrow. And then there was the troop of 11 Wild Turkeys making their way through the 20 foot or so distance between my condo and the one next door to the woods behind.

Such joy and wonder they all bring, but also a sign of environmental health that may soon be leaving us...each one a canary in the coal mine. I am reminded every day as I pull up to the Center, greeted by the bronze sculpture of the Passenger Pigeon – one of the *Lost Birds* – what the finality of extinction means and what a great loss of any of "my" birds would be to me, to countless others, and to future generations.

But we can build a bridge to the future for America's birds. We know that if we help avoid the worst impacts of climate change for birds, we're doing the same for our kids. This new report can be a roadmap to help birds weather the storm of global warming and brings with it a message of hope.

CA & GIAC Events

Take Flight! Fast as a Falcon

Are you a runner looking to add on one more race before it turns cold? Are you a walker who enjoys Columbus' unique urban nature areas? Are you somewhere in between? Either way, Columbus Audubon's inaugural *Take Flight 5K* is for you!

On Saturday, November 8, join fellow bird and trail enthusiasts in a 5 kilometer run or walk on a paved nature trail beginning and ending at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park and Grange Insurance Audubon Center. For those with children, a Kid Spot will be available where kids can make a birdhouse while you enjoy the course.

Registration for the *Take Flight 5K* is now open; sign up before October 25. Registration fees are \$25 for runners and \$20 for walkers. Each participant receives a long-sleeved t-shirt and other goodies, and the race is timed for runners. All proceeds from the event directly support Columbus Audubon.

Register at <https://premieraces.org/upcoming-events-calendar/174-take-flight-5k> or visit www.columbusaudubon.org/5K.



5th Annual Holiday Shop Around

Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, November 23 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

It's that time again! The days are shorter and colder, ushering in the season of cozy sweaters, cheerful fires blazing in the fireplace, warm comforting drinks, and brisk outdoor walks. It is a time to prepare for the coming holiday season when we gather with loved ones to celebrate. It is also a time to start thinking about that holiday gift list!

Are you looking for that special gift? Do you enjoy quality, handmade arts and crafts? To find a gift that is meaningful and unique, please join us for an enjoyable day at the 5th Annual Grange Insurance Audubon Center's Holiday Shop Around on Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free!

We will showcase a number of vendors, including arts, crafts, books, gifts for gardeners and bird lovers, and more. Past vendors include photographers, painters, jewelers, Wild Birds Unlimited, fabric artists, and sculptors. We will have a warm crackling fire in the fireplace, warm drinks, fun educational activities for the kids, and maybe even a food truck.

Your patronage supports these local businesses and this community gathering place. As always, GIAC/Columbus Audubon members get 10% off in the Center's own Nature Store, which specializes in nature field guides and nature inspired gifts, fair trade jewelry, children's books, and activity guides for homeschoolers. Treat yourself, treat your loved ones, and support the work we do at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center at the same time!

Entertainment Books are Back

Once again this year, you can support Columbus Audubon and save some bucks by purchasing an Entertainment Book full of discounts for area businesses. And it's even better than before: you can print coupons from your computer and even use coupons directly from your smart phone!

Your purchases of the Entertainment Book, coupons and mobile services, and the smart phone app supports Columbus Audubon.

Purchasing an Entertainment Book is easier than ever, too. Just follow this link to purchase your Entertainment Book: <http://buy.entertainment.com/PJTHFE> or go to www.ColumbusAudubon.org and follow the link there. Buy now to take advantage of free shipping.

Want to buy Entertainment Books while you are traveling or as gifts for out-of-town friends and family? Buy Entertainment Books online for over 110 regions across the US and Canada. Columbus Audubon benefits from all of your Entertainment Book purchases so long as you start from the link above.

Creature Feature: Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

“That one looks good!” she said. So we pulled over next to the derelict old barn. After a few minutes of circling it on foot, we found the weed-choked old entrance, and slipped inside. Immediately we started finding pellets of varying ages. “Oooh, looks like it might still be active,” I said, and we started a slow deliberate scanning of the upper rafters. After a while, we were able to pick out the slender pale form perched up in a dark corner, with its distinctive heart-shaped face. It's hard to forget places that we've seen Barn Owls.

Barn Owls are now inextricably tied to humans, almost as much so as Rock Doves and House Sparrows. Certainly, some still nest in the rock crevices that are probably its ancestral nesting choice, but most of us only have memories of them nesting in little-used human structures—barns, abandoned buildings, old church steeples. Their choice of nest sites, however, is not the only thing that sets these owls apart.



Photo by Earl Harrison

Barn Owls (family Tytonidae) are not like other owls (family Strigidae). They are thin and pale-feathered, unlike the fluffy, dark-patterned plumage of most other owls. Other owls can survive colder temperatures well and often migrate to northern latitudes to nest. Barn Owls do not take cold well, rarely nesting north into Canada, and they don't really migrate. Most other owls combine hearing and vision to hunt; Barn Owls are mostly hearing-first hunters. Experiments in the 1970s showed that they can track rodents even in complete darkness. This appears partly due to their unusual dish-shaped face, which focuses sounds to their ears. Their ears also have a slight up-down asymmetry that helps them place prey sounds on an exquisite spatio-auditory map in their brain. Clearly they're not your average owl!

As hearing-based hunters, Barn Owls probably evolved in savannahs and meadows, still one of their habitats of choice. Farms, with their mix of orchards, open crop fields, high rodent populations, and little-used out-buildings, seem almost made-to-order for Barn Owls. It probably helped that human superstitions about owls, coupled with the Barn Owls' eerie shriek-like calls, kept intrusions down to a minimum. Even now, the biggest Barn Owl densities are in heavy agricultural areas in mild climates: Florida, Texas, California's Central Valley, southern France. In some areas, like south

Florida's sugar cane fields, Barn Owl densities have been raised to high levels by innovative nest box programs. Rodents are common in the cane fields, but barns rare, so the nest boxes help the owls colonize these food-rich fields (<http://news.ufl.edu/archive/1999/10/spooky-owl-provides-natural-rodent-control-for-farmers.html>).

Cooler areas, like northern Europe and the upper Midwest including Ohio, are not optimal Barn Owl habitat. The birds can survive there, but only with some help. In the United Kingdom, the Barn Owl Trust has been working for decades to repopulate Ireland and the British Isles with Barn Owls, releasing fledglings, and providing nesting structures (www.barnowltrust.org.uk). Here in the Midwest, Barn Owl recovery programs are in various stages in Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin—all states with small populations of the birds. The populations in these areas are very climate-sensitive, with warm winters allowing birds to persist, while cold winters kill them off or drive them south. Climate change could be a big wild card for Midwest Barn Owls. The warming trend could help overall, but the 'polar vortexes' released from an unstable arctic could keep knocking back their populations. Audubon's Climate Report on Barn Owls includes more information on the impact of climate change: <http://climate.audubon.org/birds/brnowl/barn-owl>.

What does this mean for our chances to enjoy these neat birds? Quite a bit, unfortunately. Roosts or nest stake-outs are the best way to see these secretive birds, but their numbers are so low in Ohio that there are few nests to visit. To be fair, a nest box program by the Ohio Division of Wildlife has helped to boost numbers up from vanishingly low levels in the 1990s. Still, they're not common. They are most likely in areas that have organic or Amish farms, since the low pesticide regimen of these farms allows some rodents for the owls to hunt. Your best bet is to know someone who has a nesting pair (most nests are on private farms) or join an Audubon or Metro Parks trip that is targeting this species.

Rob Thorn

Citizen Science

Project FeederWatch-ing November through March

You are invited to participate in Project FeederWatch at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. FeederWatch allows *you* to become a citizen scientist. Come for relaxed backyard bird watching while you collect data for ornithologists to understand the distribution and abundance of birds in winter. We will be doing a series of two consecutive day counts from November through March. Relax and enjoy some yummy treats and warm drinks while you watch our feeders. Volunteers may come on designated days to conduct feeder watching from 15 minutes to multiple hours. Sounds fun, right? All ages and experience levels welcome! Please contact Anne at abalogh@audubon.org if interested.

Christmas Bird Count

This year brings the 115th Christmas Bird Count, the newest installment of what may be the longest-running citizen science project in the world. The CBC provides vital data to help scientists assess the current health of bird populations. The same data, collected by people like you, forms the basis for long-term studies such as Audubon's ground-breaking work on the future of birds in a changing climate (www.audubon.org/climate).



You can join tens of thousands of volunteers in the US and the Americas who take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Individuals and families; students, their parents, their grandparents (and yes, great-grandparents) join in. Some head for the field armed with binoculars, bird guides, checklists and the warmest clothes they can find, while others fortify themselves with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and settle in to watch feeders in their back yards.

Participating in a Christmas Bird Count can provide you and your friends and family with many benefits. The most obvious is that you can take pride in contributing to the largest ornithological citizen science project in North America. But you also can hone your bird identification skills or build brand new skills in company with more advanced birders; enjoy some fresh air and exercise after all those stuffy office parties.

With all those benefits in mind, please consider joining one of our area CBCs. You don't have to be a bird identification expert: although it helps if you can tell a Cardinal from a Chickadee, you can ask to team up with more expert birders.

The CBC runs from December 14 through January 5 nationwide. No matter where you are in central Ohio, you will find a count fairly close. Here are some of the Christmas Bird Counts in our area.

Sunday, December 14, 2014, Columbus. Our most urban count covers most of the city along with some suburban areas. Lest you think it's all Rock Pigeons and House Sparrows, you should know that Columbus includes pockets of habitats of all sorts, many in the most improbable places. To join the adventure, contact Rob Thorn at rob-thorn@earthlink.net or 614-471-3051.

Sunday, December 14, 2014, Delaware County. The Delaware CBC covers not only the lake but also the city of Delaware and a variety of lands to the north. This count is famous for flocks of Horned Larks in the agricultural fields and also turns up unexpected delights with regularity. For more information, contact Rich Bradley at spidrs@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 20, 2014, Buckeye Lake. As the name implies, the Buckeye Lake CBC includes the lake and surrounding areas as far north as Heath, south to route 256, and west to Kirkersville. You can find out more or contact Jeff White at www.buckeyelakebirds.info or 614-425-8016.

Saturday, December 20, 2014, Hoover Reservoir. This very popular count includes the reservoir itself and some great birding venues such as Highbanks, Inniswood, and Sharon Woods Metro Parks. For more information, contact Lee McBride at leemcbride50@yahoo.com.

Sunday, December 28, 2014, Killdeer Plains. The rural setting of this count, which includes the famous Wildlife Area, makes for a "get away from it all" experience – and for the possibility of seeing Bald Eagles, Short-eared Owls, and many more. For more information, contact Ed Lux at luxea22@msn.com.

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Columbus Audubon



COLUMBUS AUDUBON 2014 Bird Seed Sale Order Form



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ ZIP: _____

Mailed orders must be received by December 15.

Order online at www.columbusaudubon.org/birdseed through December 20.

Item	Code	Unit	Price (includes tax)	Quantity	Total
Audubon Select Blend	AA	20 lbs	\$12.00		
WBU Deluxe Blend	AB	20 lbs	\$16.00		
WBU Supreme Blend	AK	20 lbs	\$18.00		
WBU Choice Blend	AC	20 lbs	\$20.00		
WBU Choice Plus Winter Blend	AJ	20 lbs	\$24.00		
Ohio No Mess Blend	AL	20 lbs	\$ 18.00		
Black Oil Sunflower	AD	20 lbs	\$15.00		
Safflower	AE	20 lbs	\$22.00		
Sunflower Chips	AF	20 lbs	\$32.00		
White Millet	GD	20 lbs	\$11.00		
Nyjer ("Thistle")	AG	10 lbs	\$15.00		
Nyjer ("Thistle")	AH	20 lbs	\$27.00		
Peanut Pieces	AM	10 lbs	\$15.00		
Peanut Pieces	AN	20 lbs	\$27.00		
Whole Peanuts (In Shell)	FA	10 lbs	\$18.00		
Ear Corn	AI	6.5 lbs	\$7.00		
WBU Peanut Suet Cakes	FB	11.75 oz	\$1.75		

Subtotal _____

*Contribution to Columbus Audubon: Help support our
conservation and education programs. Contributions are tax deductible.* _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to **Columbus Audubon** and mail to Columbus Audubon, 877 Mohawk St,
Columbus OH 43206. For phone inquiries, please call Wild Birds Unlimited at 614-766-2103.

Please pick up your order between December 1 - 31



**at the new Wild Birds Unlimited
6654 Sawmill Rd., Columbus OH 43235**



November & December Field Trips

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

Migrant Waterfowl of Hoover Reservoir

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

Meet at the Hoover dam parking area off Sunbury Rd for a morning of birding for migrant waterfowl, gulls, and raptors at this local hotspot. Dress for unpredictable weather. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Birdwatching for Nestlings

Sat., November 1 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

If you've wondered what birdwatching is about, but can't even see a bird in a pair of binoculars, this is for you. Bring your binoculars or use ours. We'll teach you tricks to start a fun hobby. Weather permitting, we'll go on a short hike. For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervey@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., November 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

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

Sat., November 15 from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm

The Avid Birders meet to carpool at 5:30 am in the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. We will be looking for early returning waterfowl and whatever else is around. For more info, contact AvidBirder-Leads@ColumbusAudubon.org.

Birdwatching for Fledglings

Sat., November 15 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

This is a slow-paced hike perfect for new birdwatchers. This month, meet at the park office at Glacier Knoll Picnic Area in Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, 4071 Bowen Road, Canal Winchester. For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervey@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Service in the Preserves: Shallenberger Preserve

Sat., November 22 from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm

Join us as we work at Shallenberger Preserve building a barrier fence on top of a cliff. No special skills are required; bring your lunch, water, work gloves and appropriate foot gear. Call Katryn Renard by the preceding Wednesday at 614-261-7171 to register and reserve space for transportation in the ODNR van; meeting location is the parking lot inside the gate house at the ODNR Complex, 2045 Morse Road.

Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery

Saturday, November 22, 2014 8:30 am-11:00 am

Join us for a morning of birding in this IBA. Bring binoculars. Meet at the cemetery office just inside the gate. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Destination Sandhill Crane

Saturday, November 22, 2014 9:00 am

Join wildlife photographers Tim Daniel and Nina Harfmann on a trip to Deer Creek State Park in search of the beautiful Sandhill Cranes. Meet at Grange Insurance Audubon Center. For more information, contact Tim Daniel at tdaniel123456@gmail.com or 937-578-3105.

Avid Birders

Sat., December 6 from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm

It's winter, so we will be seeking gulls, waterfowl, and early winter migrants. As usual, we will announce more specific information on the Avid Birders mailing list shortly before the trip. The Avid Birders meet to carpool at 5:30 am in the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. For more info, contact AvidBirderLeads@ColumbusAudubon.org.

Birdwatching for Nestlings

Sat., December 6 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

If you've wondered what birdwatching is about, but can't even see a bird in a pair of binoculars, this is for you. Bring your binoculars or use ours. We'll teach you tricks to start a fun hobby. Weather permitting, we'll go on a short hike. For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervey@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Birdwatching for Fledglings

Saturday, December 20 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

This is a slow-paced hike perfect for new birdwatchers. This month we will be participating in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the southeast corner of the parking lot at Worthington Mall (Route 23 and Wilson Bridge Road). For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervey@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Columbus Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 14

See description in CBC article on page 5.

Delaware County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 14

See description in CBC article on page 5.

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Conservation Corner: Pigeons and Condors

September marked the 100th anniversary of the passing of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon. The birds that darkened the skies in the days of John James Audubon 200 years ago were gone forever. A lesson learned since then is that we should act aggressively to save imperiled species that are still with us.

A notable success in recent decades has been captive breeding and reintroduction of the California Condor. In 1987 the last 22 wild condors were rounded up to establish a captive breeding population at the San Diego Zoo. Their handlers gave careful consideration to the condor's biology, especially getting the birds accustomed to their own species. By 1992 condors were successfully released into their old haunts but it was quickly realized that a single southern California population might be vulnerable; additional releases were attempted, successfully, in other locations including a remote area east of Grand Canyon National Park. The birds are now reproducing on their own and as of a few months ago there were over 200 California Condors again roaming the skies. You can see them in Arizona.

Recently it has been suggested that technology will soon be available to redevelop a bioengineered Passenger Pigeon, if enough money can be raised to do it. While that is an intriguing possibility, and we might in fact develop a bird that *looks* like a Passenger Pigeon, our resources might better be spent elsewhere. The problem is getting a bird that *acts* like the pigeon. We know that being in a large flock was critical to their reproductive success although we don't know *why*. If we did somehow manage to again fill the skies of Ohio with billions of birds, what would they eat? And would we tolerate such flocks around airports?

Dave Horn

From Columbus Audubon President Barbara Revard

Getting Ready to Roost



It's hard to believe we are entering the last months of 2014. Cooler temperatures, fewer hours of daylight and the noticeable absence of insect songs all tell us it's time to ready the roost for winter.

Many of our winter-hardy birds appreciate a snug place to hole-up during cold nights and inclement weather. Birds often seek protected places to roost or sleep. Evergreen trees provide dense vegetation

that can act as a windbreak. Be sure to clean out any bird houses you maintain or add roosting boxes for owls, bluebirds, woodpeckers, titmice, and chickadees.

Just as the wildlife we enjoy watching outdoors need to prepare for winter, so should we "ready our roost." Now is a great time to seal up those leaky windows and doors, have a service person inspect your furnace, and drain your outdoor faucets.

If you haven't had an energy audit done for your home, check with your electric company. Most will provide a simple audit very inexpensively. Not only can you save money by taking small actions to be more energy efficient, you will also reduce your carbon footprint. If we all change a few behaviors and take action to reduce our carbon footprints, we help others and we help the environment.

Holiday Gift Idea: EcoWeekend, our Hocking Hills nature weekend



Friday, Saturday,
and Sunday, May 1-3, 2015

Join us at the 43th EcoWeekend, an amazing and educational weekend of nature and eco-related programs for all ages. Visit www.ecowekend.org for more details.

This very affordable nature experience is the perfect holiday gift for families, couples, and singles. Contact Maura at maurawrn@yahoo.com or Dale at dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com to arrange a holiday gift certificate or for more information.

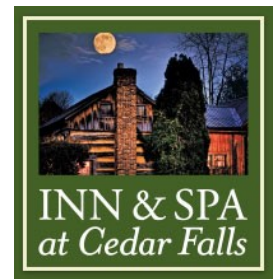
Birdathon Hibernates Until Spring

On September 23, we officially concluded the 2014 Columbus Audubon Birdathon with a celebration for Birdathon team members. Participants enjoyed a supper provided by our food sponsor, the Andersons. Mood enhanced by yummy cookies, participants shared stories of their tenure with Birdathon and cheered for the teams who had raised the most money and seen the most birds.

The celebration featured drawings for two prizes: a pair of binoculars with accessories provided by Vortex Optics and Wild Birds Unlimited of Columbus, and a night's stay at the Inn at Cedar Falls. Those present directed their chances toward the prize that they wanted most, while several of us debated which prize would be more cherished by our absent team members. In the end, the grand prize of the binoculars went to long-time CA member Clyde Gosnell, while the stay at the Inn went to veteran Birdathoner Joe Meara.

This year's Birdathon was another great success, raising just under \$10,000 for Columbus Audubon programs. Special thanks go to our sponsors: the Andersons, Vortex Optics, Wild Birds Unlimited, and the Inn at Cedar Falls.

We hope that you will support the 2015 Columbus Audubon Birdathon, which once again will be held in May. Better yet, we hope you will join a Birdathon team – or form a new one! To learn more about the Birdathon and how *you* can participate next year, go to www.columbusaudubon.org/birdathon.



Christmas bird counts continued from page 5

Wednesday, December 31, 2014, O'Shaughnessy Reservoir. Our northwest count offers a tremendous variety of habitats, ranging from typical suburban settings through more rural exurbs and on to purely agricultural land, as well as, the reservoir. It's a great way to finish the year! For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Thursday, January 1, 2015, Kingston. Spanning large parts of Pickaway and Ross counties, this count offers a very different experience from that of some others to the north. And speaking of different experiences, our counters start the year off in great fashion by being outdoors checking out birds rather than being couch potatoes! For more information, contact Brad Sparks at birdmansparks@yahoo.com or 614-751-6622.

For more information on the Christmas Bird Count, see <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

Field trips continued from page 7

Hoover Reservoir Christmas Bird Count
Sat., December 20

See description in CBC article on page 5.

Buckeye Lake Christmas Bird Count
Sat., December 20

See description in CBC article on page 5.

Killdeer Plains Christmas Bird Count
Sunday, December 28

See description in CBC article on page 5.

O'Shaughnessy Reservoir Christmas Bird Count
Wednesday, December 31

See description in CBC article on page 9.

Kingston Christmas Bird Count
Thursday, January 1

See description in CBC article on page 9.

GIAC Events

November, December & January Programs at GIAC

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

Preschool Programs

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 animals, play with puppets, and climb into the treetops!

WHO: Toddlers and Preschoolers

WHEN: 10 am – 11 am Thursdays in November, December & January (no story time 11/27, 12/25, 1/1)

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

Weekend Programs

Audubon Afternoons

Free program offered each weekend afternoon.

Nov. 1/2 Nature Journaling
Nov. 8/9 Cold-Blooded Science
Nov. 15/16 FeederWatch
Nov. 22/23 Holiday Eco-Craft
Nov. 29/30 Winter Adaptations

WHO: Everyone

WHEN: 1 pm – 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays in November

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

Audubon Afternoons is taking a break for the winter.

Beginner Bird Hike

See dates for Birdwatching for Nestlings and Fledglings on the Columbus Audubon field trip page. All other Saturdays come and join a GIAC educator or Columbus Audubon volunteer for a Saturday morning hike around the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Every birding level welcome and beginning birders are encouraged to attend.

WHO: Everyone

WHEN: 10 am on Saturdays in November, December & January

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

Seasonal Programs

Holiday Shop Around

Shop local and find the perfect gift for the holidays. Local art and craft vendors, food trucks, plus family craft and educational activities.

WHO: Everyone

WHEN: Saturday, November 22, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday, November 23, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

FEE: FREE

HOW: Drop-in!



GIAC Holiday Hours

Wednesday, 12/24 – close at 3:00 pm

Thursday & Friday, 12/25-26 – Closed

Saturday, 12/27 – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday, 12/28 – Noon – 5:00 pm

Monday-Friday, 12/29-1/2 – Closed

Regular hours resume on Saturday, 1/3
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

2015 Save the Dates

May 15: Flight of Fancy and GIAC Fifth Anniversary Gala

July 3: Red White & Boom at the Center

These special events are great gifts for your family and friends.

Contact Jeff Yost at jjyost@audubon.org for more information.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

What a year it's been for the stock market

This year has been incredible for stock investors. And of course we all know what comes with incredible gains... incredible long term capital gains taxes.

Consider this: Instead of paying capital gains tax on stocks that performed well in 2014, you could donate some of the gains to charity and use the resulting deduction to write down your remaining annual gains. This type of deduction is founded in Internal Revenue Code Section 664, and though it comes with notable benefits, many financial planners don't discuss it as a viable option. Yet, for many, donating your gains makes sense and serves as a smart financial planning strategy that enables you to support a favorite charity or non-profit, while also helping your bottom line.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center can accept donations of appreciated common stock as late as December 31, 2014. If you do your own buying and selling online, sites like eTrade, Charles Schwab, and others have clear instructions on how to donate appreciated stock. Or call your broker and request the stock or proceeds from the sale of stock be donated to GIAC.

Not only does donating shares of stock make great financial sense, you'll be supporting the education and conservation programs of the Center.

For more information contact Jeff Yost, director of development and marketing at 614-545-5479 or at jyost@audubon.org.

(Please note that this article does not constitute financial advice. Please consult a professional for advice.)

GIAC Giving Tree: A Meaningful Gift or New Year's Resolution



Grange Insurance Audubon Center's Giving Tree will appear on the morning of Saturday, November 22 at the annual Holiday Shop Around. This beautiful, sparkly tree will be located in the Center's lobby throughout the New Year. Gift requests on the Giving Tree support our programs. Please give what you can, whether it's a pack of pencils benefitting education programs at the Center or a donation to our animal care program, a week of Adventure Camp, a birthday party for a child, or a donation to help a less fortunate child participate in a fun week of camp. Maybe you'll make it a giving day by buying gifts at the Holiday Shop around and planning your Giving Tree gifts.

You'll also find numerous volunteer opportunities placed throughout the tree with the chance to sign-up and join a growing group of important and appreciated volunteers. If you're unable to make it in to the center by January 15, please contact Allison Roush, education program manager and volunteer coordinator, at aroush@audubon.org or 614-545-5482 to see how you can support the GIAC Giving Tree.

Kids Cycle C*Bus

A Unique Experience for Audubon Adventure Campers

Grange Insurance Audubon Center's Audubon Adventure Camp was selected to partner with *Kids Cycle C*Bus* for a second consecutive summer. *Kids Cycle C*Bus*, an 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.



Audubon Adventure Camp counselor Joseph Edin led various bicycle expeditions to explore the Scioto-Olentangy Greenway, including the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Campers set out on the ten donated bicycles for

unique bird "hikes" and to complete nature scavenger hunts. Campers reflected on their bicycle rides through journaling at the completion of each ride and camp staff completed bicycle logs as well. At the close of summer camp, all of the bicycles were donated to children who attended Audubon Adventure Camp on camperships, further enabling campers to get outside and get active for a healthier lifestyle as well as explore nature in a different way.

What You Can Do to Protect Birds

(Excerpted from *The Audubon Report: Birds and Climate Change*)

Calls to action are three-fold:

1. Prepare and protect the areas on the ground we know birds need now;
2. Identify and stabilize places where birds can thrive in the warmer world of the future; and
3. Support and generate solutions to address the root causes.

Audubon's new science sends a clear message about the serious dangers birds face in a warming world. Protecting them will require both redoubling conservation efforts to safeguard critical habitat and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Some things that we are doing here at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and in the Columbus Community:

We are engaging students, volunteers, and corporate associates in conservation work every day through habitat restoration here at the Center. We are also exponentially increasing habitat by recruiting property owners to turn their yards and lawns into bird-friendly spaces, knowing that healthy birds and bird populations will be better able to adapt to the changes coming their way.

Columbus Audubon will incorporate information on global warming and its effects on birds into public presentations, field trips, and other events. At events such as field trips, we work to reduce carbon emissions using strategies such as choosing local destinations and carpooling. One simple way you can help is to receive the *Song Sparrow* newsletter electronically, but we also would like your input. Please give us *your* suggestions! Email suggestions to information@columbusaudubon.org.

We are very fortunate in the City of Columbus to have local governments and agencies leading the way in reducing carbon emissions. From the CoGo bikes and Car2Go programs to bike- and pedestrian-friendly paths to Green Spot and Lights Out and LEED buildings, there are countless local initiatives to cut down on greenhouse gases.

Some important steps you can take right away. For more information and to share your stories, visit www.audubon.org/climate.

Create a Bird-Friendly Yard: Healthy birds will be better equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Commit to creating safe spaces for birds around your home and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing birdbaths, and converting lawns and gardens to native plants. School grounds, parks, vacant lots, and common areas can all be "bird-scaped." Learn more at www.athome.audubon.org.

Get Involved with Your Local Important Bird Area (the Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA): Protect the spaces birds need most today and in the future by pitching in with Audubon's IBA program, which identifies and conserves areas that are vital to birds and biodiversity. You can learn about and help with IBA restoration, cleanup, citizen science and field trips. To get started, visit www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org and www.columbusaudubon.org.

Put Birds on the Central Ohio Agenda: Begin conversations with your neighbors, colleagues, and local leaders about why it's important to protect your community's birds, and share what you're doing on behalf of birds. Reach more people by writing a letter to your newspaper, speaking at a community event, or visiting your local school.

Meet With Local Decision Makers: Share the science with Ohio's wildlife agencies, your city parks departments, extension services, and other groups that manage our natural resources to illustrate how global warming imperils birds, and ask decision makers how they are planning to address it. For more information on how to help officials use and integrate Audubon's science, contact URSO@audubon.org.

Support Policies That Lower Emissions: Urge leaders at the local, state, and national levels to enact policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy. Renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency targets and other proactive measures will reduce emissions and help limit the effects of global warming on birds. Put these policies on your leaders' agendas and support public efforts to make them stick.

Sign Up to Learn More About What You Can do Year-Round: Go to www.audubon.org/climate and www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org to receive the latest findings, explore climate-related volunteer opportunities in Ohio or your local community, and enlist in Audubon's forthcoming citizen science project to help monitor birds and document how they respond to a changing climate.



Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Volunteers, YOU Make a Difference!



Grange Insurance Audubon Center wouldn't be here without volunteers, a group of wonderful and dedicated people. The winter months are a great time to volunteer at the Center, meet other volunteers and enjoy the winter scenery and fire that's often ablaze in our fireplace.

You can get involved as little or as much your schedule will allow. Any time you can spend at the Center is much appreciated. We can work to accommodate your scheduling needs, whether you can stop in once in a while and help or commit to a regular schedule there is something for everyone. You can find the opportunity that fills your interest: greeter, Nature Store attendant, classroom support, special events. There are year-round citizen science and conservation volunteer opportunities: FeederWatch, butterfly monitoring, animal care; and when it's warmer, gardening and groundskeeper

opportunities.

It's easy to explore how you can get involved. Allison Roush (aroush@audubon.org or 614-545-5482) can send you an application, meet with you in person to begin your onboarding, introduce you to the online Volunteer Information Center schedule used at GIAC, and get you started with volunteering. You can also stop by our volunteer information page at www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org/new-volunteers for descriptions of the many opportunities to volunteer at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

continued from page 1

Here are some important takeaways from the study:

The models predict the ranges of 588 North American bird species under future climate scenarios. It found that the majority – 314 species – will lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080.

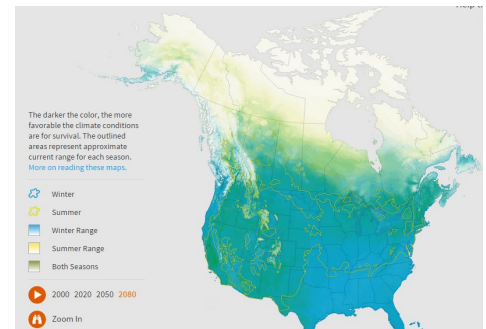
Of the 314 species at risk from climate change, 126 of them, classified as “climate endangered,” are projected to lose more than 50% of their current range by 2050. The other 188 species are “climate threatened,” and expected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080.

While some species may be able to adapt, others will have nowhere to go. Many of our most cherished birds, including the Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, and Common Loon, face an increased risk of extinction.

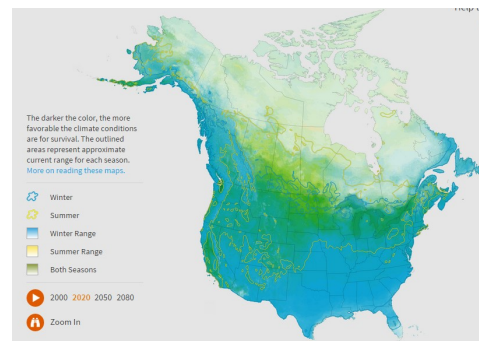
The findings may appear shocking, and we know that a certain amount of change is already inevitable, but the study provides a roadmap for action. By identifying which birds are most at risk and the places they might inhabit in the future, we can prioritize protections for critical habitat.

To give birds a chance at a future, we need to continue supporting efforts to curb global warming by cutting greenhouse gases. These dire outcomes are inevitable only if we do not use this warning as an opportunity to take collective action.

For more information about Audubon's climate work go to www.audubon.org/climate.



Climate suitability for the American Kestrel during breeding season will shift far north and outside of Ohio altogether by 2080.



The Mallard Duck, so common in Central Ohio all seasons of the year, will no longer find the climate to be suitable for nesting anywhere in Ohio as early as 2020.

Reflections: Ms. Sparkle's Top 10 Summer Memories

As the days get shorter and the temperatures get colder, this is the time of year Audubon Adventure's camp director, otherwise known as "Ms. Sparkle," starts to reflect on the warm, sunny, adventure- and fun-filled days of our fifth year of summer camp at Grange Insurance Audubon Center. In reverse order, here are the things that stood out most to Ms. Sparkle.

10. Having an awesome, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and energetic staff with a variety of strengths and skills that knew how to plan and lead our campers. And they have as much fun as the campers each day as well!
9. Seeing campers walk in the door on the first day of camp:
 - Familiar faces of campers and camper families who have come back to Audubon Adventure Camp over the years, being amazed at how much they've grown since the last time I saw them.
 - Excited siblings who used to just drop their older siblings off at camp and were thrilled to be old enough to finally get to attend camp too!
 - Brand new campers who either couldn't wait to see what camp offered and were ready to go or needed a little reassurance and support because they weren't quite sure what to think as they'd never been to camp.
8. Opening car doors each mostly sunny morning for bounding, smiling campers ready for another day of camp, helping make sure they grab their backpack and lunch – and hearing parents say they wish they could stay and go to camp too!
7. Eating lunch and visiting with the campers on the deck overlooking the city or under the mulberry tree while listening to all the topics of conversations our campers are having these days as well as being amazed at how many cool waste-free lunch kits there are in the world.
6. Taking off my socks and shoes with campers and counselors to delight in splashes and sprays of water from the open fire hydrant on hot, steamy days then watching campers make water angels and bask in the sun on the sidewalk to dry off.
5. Reading parent feedback each Friday and reading comments like: "The camp staff was very engaged, very enthusiastic; great comfort level for us. Our child loved camp each day because the counselors were very easy going and made activities fun while educational!" and, "Any child coming to one of your programs is very fortunate!" and reading that every single parent who gave feedback would sign their camper up again and spread the word.
4. Listening and watching the steps some of our campers took to try to figure out the real names of our camp staff (and seeing how proud they were when they figured them out). Like when I accidentally introduced myself by name on the first day to parents or made calls home to let campers talk to parents when their tummy hurt or they were a little homesick.
3. Looking across the field at an army of hungry campers, fishing poles in hand, ready to sit down for our Friday cookout after a morning of fishing on the Scioto and watching how quickly the food our volunteers lovingly prepared for them was devoured leaving only looks of satisfaction on the faces of campers and crumbs to be cleaned up.
2. Watching our campers drift off to sleep at our final overnight after an exciting day of camp and evening of night hikes, a campfire and s'mores... and even listening to the giggles from three little girls who just didn't want to go to sleep, even though they were exhausted, until there was complete silence because they couldn't stay awake any longer.

And "Ms. Sparkle's" #1 memory from the summer...

Being thankful for parents and donors who send their child to camp so I get to see the smiles and looks of wonder on the faces of our campers everyday throughout the summer. I love this especially when they made new friends, took safe-risks by trying something new they weren't sure about, each Friday shared for their parents and grandparents what they learned, the things they made and the places they explored and when saw something truly amazing happen in nature like a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis for the first time!

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

www.facebook.com/columbusaudubon

614-545-5497

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

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Vice President: Suzan Jervey, sejervy@gmail.com

Treasurer: Maura Rawn, maura2garden@yahoo.com

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

Past President: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com

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

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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Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

Web/Social Media: Stefanie Hauck

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

Twitter: @grangeaudubon

Staff

Center Director: Christie Vargo

Director of Outreach and Engagement: Amy Boyd

Finance and Operations Manager: David Chew

Conservation Manager: Anne Balogh

Education Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator: Allison Roush

Development & Marketing Manager: Jeff Yost

Educators (full time): Traci Weaver

Educators (part time): Rachael Crane, Alyssa Rand, Susan Wasmund

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

Office and Development Assistant (part time): Linda Freeman Walker

Center hours : Tues, Wed, Thurs. 10 am – 5 pm; Fri and Sat 10 am – 3 pm, Sunday 12 noon – 5 pm; 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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Rich Shank, *Vice-Chair*

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Carol Drake

Jim McCormac

Alan McKnight*

Sandra Nessing

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Cheryl Roberto

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Jamie Taylor

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Christie Vargo,

ex officio

* appointees

Welcome new & renewed members (Aug. - Sept. 2014)

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Joe Daly	Craig Miller
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Mary Louise Hutson	Cristina Vallejos
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James Kreimer	Jennifer Voit
Bruce Lindsay	Yiska Weisband
Kirsten Luffy	Robert Williams
Pamela Maggied	Shannon Young
Frank & Karen Martens	Serie Zimmerman
John & Martha McCormac	

Thank you recent GIAC donors (August- September 2014)

Paul Bingle
Cardinal Health Foundation
Greg Cunningham
Alex Darragh
Donatos
Pamela Maggied
Toni Mulrane - Meyers
Jo Ann Rohyans
Leslie Strader
Christie Vargo

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Part of the Audubon Network in the Mississippi Flyway

Join now and receive individual and family benefits:

- Nationally acclaimed *Audubon* magazine
- *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**

___ **Basic Organizational Membership \$75**

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___ To help the environment
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Please note: local and national membership expiration dates may differ.

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