

Birdwatcher, noun: a person who observes birds in their natural surroundings as a hobby

Some years ago, my brother and I traveled to Mesa Verde National Park. As we left the nature center with binoculars around our necks, we saw a hummingbird. Naturally, we started looking at it. A man jumped out of his car and approached my brother saying, "Are you a birdwatcher?" My brother responded affirmatively and the man said, "I'm from California and I've never *seen* a birdwatcher before. Can I take a picture next to you?"

Last week, I was in a travel center in northern Idaho. I asked if they had information on a birding route called International Selkirk Loop. The lady shared what she knew and said she usually has some birders stop in each year, but hadn't seen any as of yet. She asked, "Are you one?" I answered yes.

The comments from these two strangers lead me to believe many non-birdwatchers think they'll be able to identify a birdwatcher. But, that's not true; we don't always wear our full birdwatching plumage and there are *lots* of us.

A national survey on outdoor recreation is done biennially by the Census Bureau. In 2011, the most recent survey published, 71.8 million people in the US watch wildlife which includes "closely observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife, visiting public parks around the home because of wildlife, and maintaining plantings and natural areas around the home to benefit wildlife." Of that total, 46.7 million people actively watch birds at home or travel specifically to see birds. In fact, there are more birdwatchers than people who hunt and/or fish.



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

Interestingly, many of us seem to not actually *admit* to being birdwatchers. I know I jumped out of the photo when the California dude got his friend to take a picture. I think many of us feel we must be professionally trained or at least really good. Ornithologists are professionally trained, but birdwatchers come in a wonderful spectrum of interests and abilities.

A professor of ornithology is a birdwatcher. My neighbor, who puts up a feeder and can only identify a handful of birds and not always by their proper name, is a birdwatcher. So is the person who goes on one or two bird walks each year and the person who keeps a life list of birds seen and helps on the annual Christmas Bird Counts. A co-worker patiently helped me develop my bird watching skills. He kept lists at work, at home, and in each car he owned. He thought nothing of driving for 24 hours in hopes of seeing a rare bird. He would immediately return home, sometimes without even seeing the bird.

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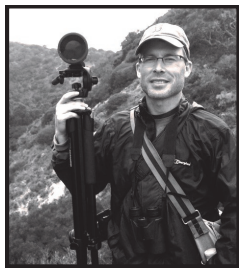
Take Flight: Fast as a Falcon Columbus Audubon's inaugural 5k

Whether you're as fast as a falcon or slow as an American Woodcock, join us on Saturday, November 8. Registration now : <https://premieraces.org/upcoming-events-calendar/174-take-flight-5k> For more details, see page 13.



CA Monthly Programs

September Program – The Big Year & the ABA 700 Club



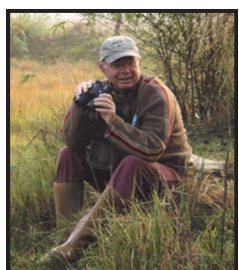
Tuesday, September 23 in the GIAC multipurpose room

7:00 - 7:15 pm: Short Program with Dan Sanders (Powell) and Jay Lehman (Cincinnati) who both have earned honorary status in the elite ABA 700 club (birders who have seen more than 700 birds during their big year).

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

7:30 pm: Main Program by Neil Hayward (Cambridge). Neil holds the record of 750 species seen in one calendar year. He is one of the birdwatchers who has attempted what's known as a Big Year: seeing as many different kinds of birds as possible while traversing the continent to do so.

Attendees will have the chance to ask questions for our Big Year guests as they share their passion and discuss their quests.



October Program – My Life with Cranes (on Saturday, November 1)

Our October program is usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We have a special speaker who will deliver our monthly program on 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 has won numerous awards for his work to help crane species world-

wide. See page 12 for details.

A light reception will follow George Archibald's program. More information will be available at www.columbusaudubon.org. Please join us!

EcoWeekend Committee Extends Thanks

The EcoWeekend committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 42nd EcoWeekend a success this past May. There were 156 people registered including participants and program leaders. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.

This year there were 50 different programs offered for adults and families, plus yoga in the morning and a Saturday night program for all presented by the Columbus Zoo. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, medicinal plants, Ohio earthworks, stream discovery, mushrooms, reptiles, astronomy, owl and night sensory walks, Crane Hollow and Rhododendron Cove walk, hikes over camp trails, archery, orienteering, geocaching, crafts and many other activities. See all the fun at www.ecoweekend.org.

Sincere thanks go to the leaders for the adult, youth and family programs: Lisa Adams, Kara Aden, Alonzo Ali, Paulette Ariss, Kim Banks, Taylor Bowling, Joshua Bryant, Jarrod Burks, Susie Burks, Ann Cornell, Jim Davidson, Patty DeMaria, Mike Flynn, Frank Gifford, Sue Gross, Dave Horn, Suzan Jervey, Jeff Johnson, Larry Koebel, Sarah Landers, Jay Matthews, Joe Meara, Sarah Minkin, Andrea Moore, Joe Moosbrugger, Kaylee Moser, Angelika Nelson, Fritzie Nitsche, Dan Perko, Heike Perko, Amanda Preston, Lisa Price, Pat Quackenbush, Earl Reisinger, Don Rice, Sue Roberts, Rand Romas, Kent Rothermel, David Sagan, Fred Steck, Heather Stehle, Scott Thomas, Sharon Treaster, Barb White, Susan Yorde.

Special thanks are also extended to the tireless and enthusiastic EcoWeekend committee: Lisa Adams, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Jane Dean, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Scott Drake and family, Sue and Eric Gross, Roz Horn, Becky Hufferberger, Sarah Landers, Jay Matthews, Liz Melick, and Maura Rawn. These are the folks who planned it all and worked at EcoWeekend to make it happen.

Join us for EcoWeekend 2015 on May 1-3 at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the EcoWeekend committee or volunteering as a program leader, call 614-888-0685, email dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com, or visit www.ecoweekend.org.

From our Leaders

From Columbus Audubon President Barbara Revard Looking Forward to Fall

When I was a child I hated autumn. It was a return to school (which I liked), but it meant a loss of free time to wander in the outdoors surrounding my childhood home. To me, both then and now, there was just nothing better than spending time outside. Now as an adult I also relish learning more about the natural world – birds, snakes, conservation of wildlife and wild places, and all the intricate details of animal identification from shape and form to songs and sounds.

The various committees of Columbus Audubon are planning programs, field trips, fundraising events and fun events for our community. We invite you to join us as we hear from engaging experts who will share their stories about birds and bird watching, snakes in Ohio, international efforts to save crane species around the world, conservation efforts supported by our own Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the intricacy and beauty of animal sounds, and more. As you will read later in the newsletter, we will offer new shorter field trips designed for beginning birders. We want to engage members who haven't joined us on a field trip to come out and give us a try!

I feel lucky to be involved once again with the amazing people who care so much about sharing the wonder of our natural world that they selflessly give of their time and talents to make Columbus Audubon a wonderful community resource. From the board to committees to our membership, many people are generously volunteering their time and talents to offer a great line up of programs for all levels of skill and interest and, for the first time ever, a 5K run/walk on November 8 at Scioto Audubon Metro Park and GIAC.

From GIAC Director Christie Vargo

Happy Birthday, Grange Insurance Audubon Center



The Center opened on August 29, 2009 with great festivity and expectations. Mayor Michael Coleman cut the ribbon and GIAC was open for business. In the five years since opening, more than 250,000 people have passed through our doors—school children, preschoolers (and their parents), Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, brides and grooms, attendees at corporate and nonprofit events. Audubon is about birds and conservation, and the Center is that and more. It was envisioned to be a community gathering place, a place to connect with nature in the heart of the city, a place to give hope and to be a part of making our community and the world better and healthier. As they say, “what’s good for birds is good for people.” On behalf of the Center’s staff, board, and

volunteers, thank you Central Ohio for joining in to shape what has become the hub of an urban oasis.

Audubon Releases Ground Breaking Research on the Greatest Threat to Birds in our History

Numerous studies by the world’s top climate scientists and biologists indicate that global warming poses an extremely dire threat to birds and biodiversity--the greatest threat since humans have been on the planet.

On September 9, 2014, Audubon is releasing a study that demonstrates the specific risk to North America’s birds in a greater level of detail and clarity than has been available so far. This study will identify which birds are most threatened by global warming and where.

With that knowledge in hand, Audubon will be working diligently to figure out what to do about it—how to protect birds today and tomorrow as climate changes. Protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife and reducing greenhouse gas emissions are two Audubon strategies already in action. This new information about the threat global warming poses to birds will add urgency and clarity to our work in a way that few other things have before as David Yarnold expressed it in his column last fall in Audubon magazine (www.audubonmagazine.org/articles/climate/audubon-view-0).

Creature Feature: Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)

We looked down the canyon and saw the first small flock, then another and another. It was pigeons and the flocks were moving up the California valley searching for tree fruits and nuts. These were Band-tailed Pigeons, and I was struck by how they could wander over western forests looking for ripe fruits and nuts. This had earlier echoes from my teens, when I watched White-crowned Pigeons doing the same thing in south Florida and the Keys. If I had lived 150 years ago, the migrating masses of Passenger Pigeons would have triggered the same memory. Flocks of Pigeons. On the move. Searching for tree crops.



Pigeons long ago broke the tether of territoriality in feeding and nesting. Since they developed pigeon's milk, a throat secretion that concentrates nutrients for their young, they only needed to find food and it didn't need to be close by. Many small pigeons and doves stayed as homebodies, but bigger species often became nomads, scouring the far countryside for specific food fruits. In this hemisphere, a large genus of Pigeons (*Patagioenas*) has specialized in this strategy and includes Band-tails, White-crowns, and several species in South and Central America. If not for lack of genetic evidence at its naming, it's possible that Passenger Pigeons would be in this genus, too.

Why is this important? Although we have lots of descriptions of Passenger Pigeon flocks, we have precious little direct information about their biology. Ornithologists didn't take an interest in the birds until the population was in its death spiral. However, we have lots of information about *Patagioenas* pigeons. These birds are social fruit nomads, migrating to ripe fruit and tree nuts, even adjusting their nesting to tree crop availability. That is certainly the case with Band-tails: their flocks roam over the Rockies and Sierras and Cascades searching for buds, cherries, acorns, and other tree crops, nesting in different spots each year depending on fruit availability.

How did Passenger Pigeons amp up this pattern? Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) were also fruit nomads, but on an intense scale that none of the present day *Patagioenas* pigeons can match. Their flocks were enormous affairs, with millions of birds, a moving testament to the richness of eastern forest fruit crops. These huge flocks created their own ecology, stripping areas of tree fruits and nuts in a matter of days, and attracting hordes of attendant predators. They needed huge isolated forests for nesting, choosing spots like the Wisconsin sand barrens, an outpost of oaks in west-central Wisconsin. All of these attributes may have even been intensified in the 1800s, when most of the really huge flocks were documented. By that time, deforestation of the Eastern US was rampant, probably forcing the remaining flocks together.

These pigeons may have had their destinies tied to humans in more ways than we imagine. Human modification of Eastern forests has a long history. Native Americans burned many areas, selectively helping increase oak and chestnut numbers. Early European trappers removed beavers, fishers, and bobcats – further altering forest food webs. Then westward expansion and the lumber boom of the 1800s diced up the forests, and agriculture replaced them with orchards and fields of grain. All of these factors may have helped Passenger Pigeons, pushing them into the mega-flocks. Then, market hunting precipitated their demise. Industrial-scale hunting, especially on their nesting grounds, seems to have been the 'killer application' for their extinction, just as it nearly was for the buffalo.

Now there is a move to revive Passenger Pigeons through genetic engineering, and many biologists decry it as misguided. How could such a bird survive without its extensive forests? Probably quite well. Modern eastern forests are more extensive than those of the 1800s, and it seems unlikely that the huge flocks were a requirement for nesting. They would probably survive as Band-tailed Pigeons do – in smaller flocks, roaming over the landscape looking for acorns and beechnuts. Somehow, that doesn't seem like a bad idea.

Rob Thorn

Citizen Science

Call for Conservation Grants

Conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats has been a vital part of the mission of Columbus Audubon for all of our 101 years. In this spirit, Columbus Audubon offers a conservation grant program to support the conservation of Ohio's native bird species. The Conservation Grant Program offers financial support for innovative habitat management, habitat protection, and scientific research projects, especially in central Ohio.

Funding is open to non-profit organizations, businesses, clubs, educational institutions, and individuals. The Conservation Grant Program is supported by fundraising efforts such as the Bird Seed Sale and Birdathon. To all members who support these fundraisers: thank you. Your contributions go to good use.

Applications for 2014 grants are currently being accepted through September 30. Application and eligibility details are available at www.columbusaudubon.org/conservationgrants. Awards will be announced in October. Grant recipients will be invited to share the results of their project with Columbus Audubon members at a future monthly program.

Citizen Science Offerings at GIAC

YOU can become a citizen scientist and GIAC offers many opportunities. If you want to get involved email Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org.

FeederWatch: Held from November through March, volunteers may come on designated days to conduct some relaxed backyard bird watching of our feeders from anywhere from 15 minutes to multiple hours. The data collected helps ornithologists to understand the distribution and abundance of birds in winter.

Great Backyard Bird Count: Held during a four day period in February, this fun, free, family-friendly event is a way to discover and help birds in your neighborhood. When you and people like you become citizen scientists for a weekend, scientists are given the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations. In 2013, the Great Backyard Bird Count documented 4,258 species throughout 111 different countries.

Hummingbirds at Home: This is a new citizen science project created by the National Audubon Society. As flowers bloom earlier because of warming temperatures, the impact on hummingbirds which rely on nectar could be severe. This project documents hummingbird sightings across the country, as well as the nectar sources they are using. This project is ongoing during the spring.



Butterfly Surveys: GIAC is conducting biweekly butterfly surveys within the Scioto Audubon Metro Park from April through October. Results will contribute to long-term monitoring of butterfly populations.

Bird Banding: Bird banding happens during spring and fall migration. Volunteers have the rare opportunity to make a direct connection with wildlife, aid in gathering information for the planning of management efforts, and share the knowledge learned about birds to bring awareness about conservation efforts.

NestWatch: Help us check nest boxes at GIAC and record data on what species are nesting, how many young they have and more. This project is ongoing during the breeding season, May through August.



Grange Insurance Audubon Center

September & October 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 on Thursdays in September and October

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

Weekend Programs

Fireside Fridays

Come explore the night and meet the critters that thrive in it. Offered once a month, this fun, informative night hike is led by GIAC instructors and will cover a number of topics. Finish at the campfire for a story and enjoy s'mores and refreshments!

WHO: Recommended for ages 8 and up

WHEN: 7:30 pm on September 19 (October's night hike will be a part of Trick or Tweet on Oct. 24)

FEE: Free

HOW: Drop-in!

Audubon Afternoons

Free program offered each weekend afternoon.

Sept. 6/7	Butterflies and Moths
Sept. 13/14	Hike of Hope: Remembering the Passenger Pigeon
Sept. 20/21	Macro Invertebrate Mayhem
Sept. 27/28	Orienteering
Oct. 4/5	Invasives Beware
Oct. 11/12	Migration Madness
Oct. 18/19	Fall Hike
Oct. 25/26	Creepy Crawlies

WHO: Everyone

WHEN: 1 pm – 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

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

FEE: Free (donations are encouraged)

HOW: Drop-in!

Seasonal Programs

Bird Banding Demonstrations

Come visit the GIAC banding station and see our feathered friends up close. Banding is conducted during spring and fall migration and helps to monitor bird populations and bird health in our migratory stopover habitat. Learn about mist nets, bird banding history, the data that is recorded, and fascinating natural history information about the birds themselves in these half hour programs. You may even get to "adopt" and release one of the songbirds from your hand. Please note that banding is not conducted on windy or rainy days. Call 614-545-5475 during hours to see if banding demonstration will take place that day.

WHO: Everyone

WHEN: 10:30 am and 12 noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

FEE: Free (donations encouraged)

HOW: Drop-ins welcome for groups with fewer than 7 participants. For larger groups, please call 614-545-5481 to schedule.

Special Events

Trick or Tweet

Join us for a fun Halloween event with games, night hikes, learning activities and treats!

WHO & WHEN: First grade and up at 6 pm – 8 pm on Friday, October 24

Pre-K to K from 10 am – 12 noon on Saturday, October 25

FEE: \$2 per person; \$1 for partner school students and their families

HOW: Drop-in!

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Grange Insurance Audubon Center

THE LOST BIRD PROJECT DOCUMENTARY FILM



Gone and nearly forgotten in extinction, the Labrador Duck, the Great Auk, the Heath Hen, the Carolina Parakeet, and the *Passenger Pigeon* leave holes not just in the North American landscape but in our collective memories. Moved by their stories, sculptor Todd McGrain set out to create memorials to the lost birds to bring their vanished forms back into the world. *The Lost Bird Project* follows the road-trip that McGrain and his brother-in-law, Andy Stern, take as they search for the locations where the birds were last seen in the wild and negotiate for permission to install McGrain's large bronze sculptures there.

One of Todd McGrain's works featured in the film, the now extinct Passenger Pigeon, stands outside the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus

Panel discussion
after the film with
Jim McCormac,
Barb Revard and
Marni Urso

September 17, 2014 @ 7 pm
Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 W. Whittier Street
Columbus OH 43215

**FREE & OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

Donations
encouraged

Conservation — One Yard at a Time

Wednesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm

Are you a landowner? Are you interested in gardening, wildlife, pollinators, bird watching, conservation, or sustainable living? If so, you may be interested in an exciting new program the Grange Insurance Audubon Center is developing. The Audubon at Home Program will be an interactive program that allows participants to create a backyard oasis for both humans and the entire ecosystem. Participating landowners commit to a series of actions pertaining to wildlife habitat, storm water management, and citizen science. Their yards will be visited by GIAC staff and volunteers for both an initial and follow up visit. Participants who enroll their properties will benefit from many incentives, including discounts at local native plant nurseries and nature shops, a one-stop shop packet of information about local resources, discounted workshops through the GIAC, and more. If this sounds like a program you would like more information about, please attend this workshop and tell all of your friends.

To register, email Anne Balogh at abalogh@audubon.org.



Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Climate Explorations Program at GIAC

Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 pm

Join us for an evening lecture with Dr. Aaron Wilson of the Byrd Polar Research Center. The program will feature a chance to visit the Center, learn about the differences between weather and climate, and understand how computer models help us understand and predict climate behavior.

This event is part of the Climate Explorations series of events held during fall 2014 and spring 2015 to share the science of climate change and its impacts on the Central Ohio community.

Please RSVP to aboyd@audubon.org with name of each person in your group. Please put Climate in the email subject line.



FRIDAY
SEPT 26
6:00 PM

4th Annual Bands, Birds & Beer

*Benefiting the educational & conservation work
of Grange Insurance Audubon Center*

Beer,
Food, Fun,
Music,
Nature!

with Special Musical Guests



Enjoy lots of hot
Donatos pizza
plus other great local
food vendors!



Special
Appearance
by lots of furry
and feathered
guests from the
Columbus Zoo!

Advance Online Admission (purchase by Sept 23)

\$15 Individual Ticket / \$25 Pair of Tickets / \$5 Children under 16

\$75 Special Package: Two Tickets, Gourmet Picnic Dinner for 2 (includes a bottle of red or white wine)

All tickets are \$20 Day of the Show or at the Gate

For admission purchase and more information go to:

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Gardeners Make an Oasis

Master Gardeners of Franklin County helped GIAC staff rejuvenate an overgrown section of GIAC's gardens. They selected plants, designed the garden plan, and assisted with planting. Volunteers from Alliance Data lent a hand in preparing the soil for planting. The result is an oasis for birds, butterflies and people.



Final Day: Master Gardeners Linda Rushton, Beverly Ryan, Sara Ernst, Elissa Rand



Before picture with Alliance volunteer group

Day 2 with Master Gardeners: Emma Terndrup, Steve Herminghausen, Beverly Ryan



United Way of Central Ohio Volunteer Challenge

Saturday, September 6 and Tuesday, September 9

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is proud to once again be part of the United Way of Central Ohio Volunteer Challenge, a citywide event that aspires to inspire, mobilize, and challenge central Ohioans to find volunteer opportunities that help build community. The Challenge occurs over six days, September 6-11 this year. GIAC will host two events, one on Saturday, September 6 and on Tuesday, September 9. Both events will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and will finish with a provided lunch.

The volunteer work day projects aim to restore valuable habitat in the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Activities will include removing invasive plant species such as bush honeysuckle and teasel. A river clean-up will also be conducted, removing trash from the shores of the Scioto River. For those that wish, work will also be done in our native plant gardens and bio swales and may include weeding, planting, and mulching. We provide all supplies, though we encourage people to bring their own reusable water bottles.

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Lost Bird Documentary, Wednesday, September 17

View the *Lost Bird* documentary about the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and other lost birds. Jim McCormac (ODNR), Barb Revard (Columbus Zoo) and Marni Urso (National Audubon Society) will lead a discussion about the causes for bird and other animal extinctions in the past, what is currently happening that has an impact on birds and other species, and what you can do to help. See the ad on page 7 for more details.

The Big Sit! is Coming to GIAC

Sunday, October 12

The Big Sit! is an annual international birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* that some people have called the “tailgate party for birders.”

Here's how it works: A spot is selected that offers a good view of a variety of habitats and has the potential for lots of birds. The spot is then marked by a seventeen foot diameter circle from which birders conduct the count. The count takes place over 24 continuous hours and every species seen or heard is recorded. Participants are allowed to come and go from the circle.

Locally, The Big Sit! will be held this year at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center on Sunday, October 12. Our expert birder team, led by Jim McCormac, will be stationed on the GIAC roof with walkie-talkies so the counters can relay what they are seeing and hearing to educators on the ground below. We will also have live updates on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GrangeInsuranceAudubonCenter) so you can follow along at home. Meanwhile, activities for the general public will be available at the Center so please come out to join the fun.

For the first time, GIAC and CA are using The Big Sit! to raise funds and awareness for education and conservation work. Anyone can get involved by pledging an amount per species that are identified. In the past, counts have ranged from 40-80 different species identified and counted in a 24-hour period. A pledge of \$1 per species could be a contribution of \$40-\$80. Proceeds from this event will be shared evenly between GIAC and CA.

For more information on The Big Sit!, visit www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bigsit.html. Contact Anne at abalogh@audubon.org if you would like more information on how to pledge your support to GIAC and CA.



Continued from page 1

Columbus Audubon conducts 75 to 100 field trips each year. The Avid Birder trips are for the marathon birdwatchers that enjoy a long day of birding. Other trips are for anyone at any level. Participants are always very willing to assist an inexperienced birdwatcher with their binoculars or in pointing out a bird. This fall, two new types of field trips are planned.

Birdwatching for Nestlings is designed for the newest of birdwatchers. We will cover how to use binoculars, spot a bird, and find important clues for identifying the bird. We will meet at Grange Insurance Audubon Center and, weather permitting, go for a short hike. This program will be held the first Saturday of each month from 10 am to 11:30 am.

Birdwatching for Fledglings is for those with a few very basic skills who want to explore local parks for birds. We'll meet in a different location the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 11:30 am. For more information on either field trip, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervy@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Make a commitment to come to one field trip this fall and find out how much fun we have.

Suzan Jervey

Shop Around!

Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to 5 pm

Mark your calendars for a day of shopping, art, crafts and more.

The 5th annual Holiday Shop Around will be held at GIAC. There will be an amazing variety of high quality, local art, craft and artisan products from Ohio for you to browse and buy. Shop local and find that perfect nature-related gift. Added bonus: your kids can enjoy activities while you shop!



Columbus Audubon



September & October Field Trips

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

Birdwatching for Nestlings at GIAC

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

If you've wondered what birdwatching is about, but can't find 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.

Service in the Preserves at Prairie Road Fen

Sat., September 6 from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm

Join us as we work at Prairie Road Fen to remove teasel. Meet in the parking lot inside the gate house at the ODNR Complex, 2045 Morse Road, to travel in the ODNR van. Call Katryn Renard by the preceding Wednesday at 614-261-7171 to register and reserve space for transportation. No special skills are required; bring your lunch, water, work gloves and appropriate foot gear.

Birding the Alum Creek Greenbelt

Sun., September 7 from 8:00 am to 12 noon

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

A Swift Night Out in Westerville

Fri., September 12 at 7:15 pm

Each fall, thousands of Chimney Swifts gather before migrating south. Their aerial acrobatics before settling down for the night are easily viewed. Bring bug spray, binoculars and lawn chair. Park in the Westerville Masonic Lodge (130 South State St.), where we will gather. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com. Rain date is Sunday, September 14.

Birdwatching for Fledglings at Green Lawn Cemetery

Sat., September 20 from 10 am to 11:30 am

Join us each month in a different local park in search of birds. This is a slow-paced hike perfect for new birders. Meet at the front gate of Green Lawn Cemetery (1000 Greenlawn Ave.). For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervey@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Bikes & Birds at GIAC

Sun., September 21 at 2:00 pm

Join us on this leisurely bike ride searching birds at GIAC. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Bring a bike or take advantage of limited bikes available for rent through CoGo (www.cogobikeshare.com). Meet in the GIAC parking lot. For more information, contact Bill Heck at bill.heck@gmail.com.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., September 21 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., October 4 from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm

The Avid Birders meet to carpool from the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. Our likely targets will be late warblers, shorebirds and migrant sparrows. For more info, contact AvidBirderLeads@ColumbusAudubon.org.

Birdwatching for Nestlings at GIAC

Sat., October 4 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

If you've wondered what birding 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

Sat., October 4 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.

Migrants at Alum Creek Lake & Hoover Reservoir

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

Meet at Westerville Community Center (Cleveland Ave & Country Line Rd.), where we'll carpool up to these reservoirs to search for migrant landbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Dress for unpredictable weather. For more info, contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

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Save the Date for *My Life with Cranes: An Afternoon with George Archibald*

It's dawn. The morning light is just starting to peak over the horizon. The vast field in front of you appears still. It is eerily quiet this early in the morning – too early for most people. But you know every lost minute of sleep will be rewarded with one of the most beautiful awe-inspiring phenomena that nature has to offer. In the distance, it begins: that familiar “karr-ooo” that causes so many of us to raise our eyes to the sky or to scan the closest field. More rattling “karr-ooos” join in as the rising sun reveals the scene in front of you. Bright red face-patches, white cheeks, and pointy beaks sitting atop long, graceful necks start to appear; first just a scattered few here and there. As the beautiful sunrise comes into full view however, so do the thousands of Sandhill Cranes that roosted in this field overnight. You hold your breath as small groups of these magnificent birds begin to take to the sky. You know what is about to take place. You keep still – ready and waiting. Minutes later, the previous stillness of the field is replaced by a thunderous flapping of thousands of huge wings and a symphonic clamor of that familiar call. Lift-off! As much as one tries to describe this experience, no words will ever do it justice. There is nothing else like it in nature.



Although the Sandhill Crane population is relatively stable and lift-offs as described above will continue to amaze outdoor enthusiasts, the future of many other crane species are as fragile as the delicate and graceful birds themselves. This is where the efforts of just one man have made a huge difference.

For the past 41 years, George Archibald's inspirational leadership in international conservation efforts has given flight to crane conservation worldwide. In 1973, when cranes were in a perilous situation and many were on the brink of extinction, Archibald, along with Cornell University colleague Ronald Sauey, PhD, established the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin as the world center for the study and preservation of cranes.

Archibald is a true conservation ambassador who uses his unique brand of crane diplomacy to work in just about every corner of the world – from North America to Russia to Mongolia and Africa. He leverages the charisma of cranes to unite people from diverse cultures and countries to work together to preserve the landscapes necessary for the survival of both cranes and people.

The Columbus Audubon programs committee is very excited to announce a special addition to our monthly program

schedule. Please join us Saturday, November 1 when George Archibald, leader in crane conservation worldwide, will share stories of his passion and life's work with cranes. This amazing presentation will take place at GIAC. Doors will open at 3:15 pm and the program will begin at 4 pm. There are no reserved seats.

Tickets for this event are \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased at GIAC now and will be available for purchase online beginning September 24 using PayPal at www.columbusaudubon.org/cranes.

Tickets will be sold at the door only if the event is not sold out.



Are You Ready to Take Flight?

Columbus Audubon is pleased to host our inaugural 5K run/walk event to support conservation and nature education.

This exciting event will take place on Saturday, November 8 at 9:00 am from the Scioto Audubon Metro Park climbing wall and finishing at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

Runners and walkers will enjoy a unique paved urban trail past wetlands, nature preserve areas, the Scioto River, and the downtown Columbus skyline.

Entry fee is \$25 for runners and \$20 for walkers. This will be a timed event for all runners. There will also be a Kid Spot at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for children of runners and walkers to build bird houses.

Your participation funds important and critical initiatives such as our conservation grants for habitat management, habitat protection, and educational programs in and around central Ohio. A portion of your entry fee will also fund scholarships from the John Wilson Memorial Educational Fund.

If you are looking for a different way to participate, become a race-day volunteer. There are a variety of volunteer roles including finish line celebrations and informational tables. All runners, walkers and volunteers will receive a race shirt specifically designed for this event featuring the artwork shown. Contact George Arnold at garnold@csc.edu or 287-3677 for volunteer information.

To register: <https://premieraces.org/upcoming-events-calendar/174-take-flight-5k>

Come help Columbus Audubon's 5K take flight at Scioto Audubon Metro Park for a fun and beautiful Saturday morning.



Ruthven Mural in honor of the Passenger Pigeon



Fifteen youth apprentices (ages 14-21) and three professional artists worked alongside renowned wildlife artist John A. Ruthven over the course of nine weeks to complete this ambitious mural, which has garnered local and national acclaim since its dedication in 2013. Ruthven created a new painting for the wall based on his original masterpiece celebrating the life of Martha, world's last surviving passenger pigeon. It is ArtWorks' largest mural to date. Learn more about Artworks at www.artworkscincinnati.org.

ArtWorks

Photo by J. Miles Wolf

Bird Seed Fundraiser News

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

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

As we have done the past couple of years, we will include the CA Seed order form in the November/December issue of the *Song Sparrow*, after the new seed crop becomes available and we are better able to offer the best possible prices.

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

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



Tom Sheley

field trips continued from page 11

Birding at Deer Creek State Park

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

Join leading local birder Bob Royse to search for migrating sparrows and other fall specialties. Deer Creek is a great spot to find rare sparrows shorebirds and fall warblers. Meet at the Deer Creek State Park beach parking lot. Those wishing to carpool can meet at GIAC for a 7:15 departure. Walking is flat, but muddy. For more information, contact, Donna Kuhn at donna_kuhn@juno.com.

Blacklick Woods & Pickerington Ponds

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

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

Birdwatching for Fledglings at Hoover Reservoir

Sat., October 18 from 10 am to 11:30 am

Join us each month in a different local park in search of birds. This is a slow-paced hike perfect for new birdwatchers. Meet at Hoover Reservoir Park (7701 Sunbury Rd., Westerville). For more information, contact Suzan Jervey at sejervy@gmail.com or 614-546-7857.

Service in the Preserves at Lake Katherine

Sat., October 25 from 7:45 am to Sun., October 26 at 5:00 pm

Work will include construction to fix eroding trail heads; reroute trail; cable downed trees to stabilize creek bank; pull barberry on this overnight work trip. Meet in the parking lot inside the gate house at the ODNR Complex, 2045 Morse Road, to travel in the ODNR van. 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.

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

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

Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

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Thank you recent GIAC donors (June - July 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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Finance and Facility Assistant: Tina Starr

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

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- 10% discount to employees for one session of Audubon Adventures summer day camp
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