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AMV 2020 OFFICERS

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Vice President
TBD this Fall

Treasurer

Neil Poppendeck
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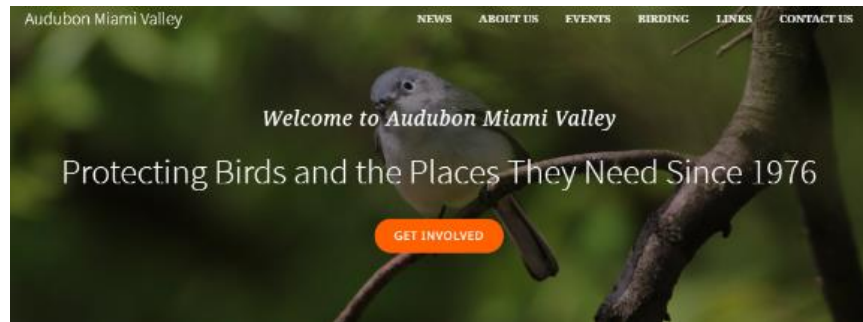
Secretary

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We're happy to send you Audubon Miami Valley's (AMV) Fall newsletter. AMV plans a full line-up of meetings and events this Fall. Find the details both in this newsletter and at our website audubonmv.org

Check Out AMV's New Website

After months of hard work, we are happy to officially announce the launch of our new website, audubonmv.org. The website has been completely redesigned to provide our visitors with an easier way to learn about who we are.



AMV Bird Art Exhibition & Festival Cancelled for 2020

The AMV Art Exhibition and Festival cancelled for 2020 is now scheduled for the spring of 2021! (the new date will be announced in the fall of this year). The exhibition emphasizes learning about birds of the Midwest and birds of the Mississippi Flyways as well as how Climate Change is affecting bird populations and behaviors. We look forward to a great event in 2021!

AMV Officer and Board Nominations

The pandemic caused AMV to cancel all of our Spring 2020 meetings and activities including our May annual meeting when we normally vote on a slate of nominees for AMV Officers and Board Members-at-Large. The Nominating Committee will present this slate at the September 14, 7:30pm Zoom membership meeting:

President- Larry Gersbach (one-year term)

Vice-President- Liz Woedl (one-year term)

Secretary- Gail Reynolds (one-year term)

Treasurer- Neil Poppendeck (one-year term)

Board Member-at-Large- Mark Gilmore (two-year term)

Board Member-at-Large- no candidate (one-year term)

There are leadership vacancies: A one-year term for Board Member-at-Large and Program Committee Chair. If you are interested in nominating someone or would like to serve yourself, please contact Liz Woedl at 513-280-1044 or liz.woedl@gmail.com



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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This Year's Hefner Lecture & BioBlitz Going Digital!

HEFNER MUSEUM
of
NATURAL HISTORY

Miami University's [Hefner Museum of Natural History](#) is pleased to announce the 46th annual Hefner Lecture: "*From evolving dragonflies to invading lanternflies: how your observations can lead to amazing discoveries,*" by Dr. Michael P. Moore and Dr. Carrie Seltzer.

The **Hefner Lecture** will be presented **digitally** on **October 21 at 6:30pm**. Information on how to join this unique, all ages, interactive lecture will be posted to the [Museum web page](#) and shared via email in the coming weeks.

BioBlitz

The **BioBlitz seminar** will be held on **October 22nd at 4:15pm**, presented by Dr. Michael P. Moore, will also be presented digitally.

Leading up to the Lecture, the digital **BioBlitz** via iNaturalist, "*The Nature in Your Neighborhood Study*" will catalog the life that surrounds us daily. You are encouraged to upload observations of any species--the more esoteric the better--starting now through October 21. To participate, visit the [iNaturalist project page](#). Community results will be discussed at the lecture, along with recognition of productive contributors, and the importance of citizen science data.

For questions about the lecture or BioBlitz, please call or email the Hefner Museum at Sulliv55@miamiOH.edu or 513-529-4617

"Wisdom" Returns to Midway Atoll

From the National Audubon Society

The oldest wild, banded bird, Wisdom, returned to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in Hawai'i this past November. Wisdom is at least 69 years old and, like all Laysan Albatrosses, she spends the bulk of her life out at sea. But each year, she returns to the same spot to nest with her mate, Akeakamai. Although Wisdom did not lay eggs this year, over the course of her life, Wisdom has hatched more than 35 chicks. Wisdom's continual return is a triumph for migratory birds and reminder of the remarkable journeys they make every year.



Wisdom, the Laysan Albatross



AMV's Youngest Board Member Has Flown the Nest...



*Carly in Washington D.C.
(front row, second from the left)*

Ever since we met Carly Zeis, we were struck by her passion and creative ideas, and we were thrilled that she wanted to be a part of the Audubon Miami Valley chapter by serving on our Board! She infused youthful energy by bringing many student friends to our programs, field trips, and as volunteers to our community events.

In addition to going to school and working, Carly revived the dormant Miami University bird club, now named Birders of Miami University, and served as their president for several academic terms. Birders of Miami University is an official Campus Chapter of the National Audubon Society's 'Audubon on Campus' program.

In 2019, Carly was chosen as a panel speaker at the National Audubon Society Convention held in Milwaukee, WI, and was given an award for her work with the birding club and the Campus Chapter program.

Carly continued to wow us with her energy and forward-thinking, helping us considerably with technology and social media. She also shared those skills with the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters. Her advocacy work included going to Washington, D.C. as part of the Ohio delegation of the Healing Waters Coalition for Great Lakes Day 2020, meeting with congressional staff members for Ohio Representatives.

Her new adventures relocate her to Portland, Oregon where she will attend Portland State University pursuing a course of Environmental Studies, GIS Minor.

We will miss her terribly, but, of course, wish her well in her new ventures. I'm sure we haven't heard the last of Carly as she pursues her passion for environmental activism.

Good luck, Carly!

AMV 2020 Bird Seed Sale

Attract the birds you love to your yard year-round and support our organization at the same time! This year's sale features Nyjer thistle, suet cakes, woodpecker blend, cardinal mix, fruit and berry mix and more! We will be mailing seed order forms and making them available on our website within the next few weeks. See our website at audubonmv.org for more information.

Seed Pickup

*Friday, October 16 from 4pm to 6 pm
Saturday, October 17 from 9 am to 12 pm*

[Shademakers Nursery & Landscape](http://ShademakersNursery.com)

304 West Collins Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056



AMV volunteers will be set up in the drive-thru. Simply pull into the drive through and we will load seed into your vehicle. We will be following all COVID-19 guidelines and you will not have to leave your vehicle.

The event will feature door prizes and customers will receive 10% discount on gift items at Shademakers during pickup hours. If you are unable to pick up your seed on one of these dates, contact Marlene Hoffman at mfhoffman@amv.org to make other arrangements.



Major Victory for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

From the National Audubon Society

In a major victory for conservation groups, a federal judge ruled that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) covers unintentional but avoidable avian deaths.

The decision strikes down a 2017 legal opinion issued by Daniel Jorjani, Interior Department's top lawyer, which claimed the MBTA did not prohibit "incidental take," a term for the unintentional but foreseeable and avoidable injury or killing of birds, often through industrial activity. For decades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has used the threat of potential prosecution under the MBTA to convince companies to take steps to prevent killing birds, such as covering oil waste pits or marking power lines to make them more visible to birds in flight.

Under Jorjani's opinion, even mass killings of birds—such as the 2010 BP oil spill, which killed an estimated 1 million birds and resulted in a \$100 million fine against the company under the MBTA—would not be punishable if killing birds wasn't the intention. Guided by that interpretation, the FWS has opted not to investigate cases of incidental take, and even counseled companies and local governments that they need not take steps to protect birds. [Click here](#) to read the full article.



Great American Outdoors Act Passes

From the National Audubon Society

The Great American Outdoors Act into law on August 4, 2020.

"There couldn't be a more important time than now to improve parks, protect birds and wildlife, and create jobs in every state across the country," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy, National Audubon Society. *"By providing full and permanent funding for the 50-year-old Land and Water Conservation Fund, we will fully realize the law's intent to conserve natural landscapes, enhance recreation, and protect wildlife while creating jobs and driving investment in local communities."*



In a bipartisan vote today, the House of Representative passed the Great American Outdoors Act, providing permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the authorized amount of \$900 million annually at no additional cost to taxpayers. The program will help national parks, local parks, public lands, and athletic fields in every county across the country. The bill was passed by the Senate in June in a 73-25 vote and will move to President Trump next, who has indicated his support.

The bill also creates a new fund (\$1.9 billion annually for five years) to address deferred maintenance projects at the National Park Service, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. These public lands and spaces provide critical bird habitat, protect endangered species, support the capture of carbon emissions, and connect people with birds across the country, but have struggled to keep up with repairs for buildings and infrastructure even as visitation has increased.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Eastern Bluebird Nesting Project Update

2020 marks the 4th year of monitoring 38 bluebird nesting boxes on the Hueston Woods Golf Course. The first 3 years have been successful beyond our greatest hopes. To date:

- 200+ Eastern Bluebirds have fledged
- 250 Tree Swallows have fledged
- 250 House Wrens have fledged



A great deal of the success lies upon the proper siting of the houses. Before the first house was constructed, we invited Dr. Kent Hall of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, a renowned and experienced Eastern Bluebird specialist, to help us site the nest boxes on the course. Once the sites were determined the nest boxes were installed with a PVC pipe enclosing the steel post to discourage predators such as raccoons and black rat snakes.

The first 3 years saw no evidence of any predation. Year 4 has been a different story, however. Several nest boxes showed signs of predation such as missing or destroyed eggs, dead nestlings, and destroyed nests. In a few cases dead adults were found on the ground beneath the affected boxes. A relatively simple solution was to smear a band of petroleum jelly on the PVC pipe that made the pipe too slippery for the predators to climb. Once the bands of petroleum jelly were in place the predation ceased!

It is too early to publish full results for 2020. However, there are encouraging signs that this year will also be successful. In addition to the usual cast of characters, Carolina Wrens have successfully nested in three boxes. Other programs have also seen Carolina Chickadees and Black-capped Chickadees nest in their boxes. So far, no Brown-headed Cowbirds have attempted to parasitize the bluebird boxes.

Because the period for weekly monitoring starts in March and runs into September, many dedicated monitors are required. Special thanks go out to the following birders as recognition of their time and efforts spent making the program work: Mickey Simonds, Gail Reynolds, Libby Birch, Steve Gordon, Marlene Hoffman, and Neil and Mary Poppendeck. Thanks to George Simonds and Mark Gilmore for help in assembling 41 nest boxes.

Upcoming Field Trips



Each month (excluding July and August), Audubon Miami Valley sponsors a field trip to a regional site of special interest. All are welcome on AMV field trips. Please join us even if you are not an experienced birder; AMV members are always happy to share their knowledge and help beginning birders. We have a limited number of binoculars available for use during field trips.

For the foreseeable future, field trips will have to comply with the best available guidance for minimizing transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Wearing masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing will require cooperation of all participants. Traditional practices such as car-pooling or sharing binoculars may have to be suspended. Site specific requirements and cancellation of scheduled trips will be a possibility. Visit our website at audubonmv.org for the latest updates.

More information is available at on the [events page](#) of our website. If you have any questions, email AMV field trip coordinator Eric Hollins at ehollins@amvohio.org

October 11, 2020 Bruns Farm

Al and Mary Bruns have invited AMV members and friends to revisit their Preble County farm. The Bruns farm includes diverse habitats, many of which have benefitted from restoration or improvement projects initiated by Al. The riparian corridor, woods, prairie plantings, field borders, ponds and upland savanna should be especially attractive to migrating and native bird life at this time of year. The trip will meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot at **8:30 am** for the 20-minute drive to the farm. If traveling directly to the destination, the farm is located on the west side of SR 177, 0.9 miles north of the intersection of 177 and Camden – College Corner Rd.



November 15, 2020 Aullwood Audubon Center



The Aullwood farm, center and sanctuary is one of the premier Audubon sites in the United States. Aullwood Environmental Educator Sam Romeo will share with us the history, philosophy and environmental highlights of this venerable preserve. The trip will meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot at **7:45 am** for the 70-minute drive to the center. If traveling directly to the destination, please enter through the farm entrance at 9101 Frederick Pike. The Education Center and parking lot at 1000 Aullwood Rd are closed pending renovations. View [brochure and trail map of the Aullwood facility](#)

December 5, 2020 Brookville Lake Area

Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana. We'll visit a number of good spots around Brookville Lake as well as Whitewater State Park, looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and other species. The group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the Wal Mart parking lot (on US 27, north of Oxford). Pack food if desired and bring binoculars if possible. View a [map of the area](#).



Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

AMV will be meeting **DIGITALLY** via Zoom on the following dates at 7:30 PM. These meetings are free and open to the public. Please visit our website at audubonmv.org for information on attending digitally.

HOW TO ATTEND

- Below each program description will be a **link** to the digital meeting click on this link to join.
- You will need to enter a **passcode** to access the meeting. These are also provided under each description.
- If you would like to use your phone for audio during our programs (instead of your computer), call 1-646-558-8656 and you will be able to hear the audio through your phone.

September 14, 2020 Elephants, Lions and Lapwings: A Southern Africa Safari

Presenters - Kathy Beil-Morgan and Randy Morgan

This program will feature some natural history highlights from Kathy and Randy's expedition to Africa. Deserts bisected by wetlands and bordered by coastlines support incredible wildlife such as elephants, lions, wild dogs, rhinos, hippos, antelopes, crocodiles and more. Kathy Beil-Morgan is currently Marketing Manager & Veterinary Nurse at Peach Grove Animal Hospital. Randy Morgan holds the honorary position of Emeritus Curator-Insectarium at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, where he worked for 32 years prior to retiring. He is also a Board Member-at-large for AMV.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3amgKv2> **Passcode:** 368747



White-headed Lapwing

October 12, 2020 Giant Panda Conservation and the Global Goals for Sustainability

Presenter – Nancy Ferguson Robinson



Nancy Ferguson Robinson

Nancy Ferguson Robinson will present a program on Giant Panda Conservation and the Global Goals for Sustainability. Nancy will discuss Giant Panda conservation and her role as an envoy to the United Nations Development Programme. In January 2017, Nancy traveled to China to learn about the challenges of Giant Panda conservation and understand the role of Giant Pandas as ambassadors of hope for the Global Goals. Nancy is currently the Director of Counseling Services at Miami University Middletown. Nancy also worked as a Naturalist Educator/Program Leader at the Cincinnati Zoo, teaching about wildlife conservation, biodiversity and animal adaptations.

Link: <https://bit.ly/2E2GzUW> **Passcode:** 368294

November 9, 2020 Restoration of the American Chestnut Tree – An Icon Returns

Presenter – Carolyn Keiffer

Once called the "Redwood of the East," the American Chestnut was rendered functionally extinct by an imported fungal pathogen. Now, a century later, scientists from the American Chestnut Foundation hope to return the tree to the canopy of eastern forests. Historical significance, restoration efforts and reintroduction plantings will be highlighted. Dr. Carolyn Keiffer joined the Miami University faculty in 1996 after earning her doctorate in restoration ecology at Ohio University. She is currently working with ODNR, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to restore the American Chestnut to U.S. Forests. Dr. Keiffer is passionate about involving students in community service projects and many of her students are active in local parks, arboretums and nature sanctuary projects.



American Chestnut Tree

Link: <https://bit.ly/341ixog> **Passcode:** 368170

December 14, 2020 Changing Climate, Changing Forests: How New Climate Normals are Shaping Future Forests and their Avian Inhabitants

Presenter – Lindsey Rustad, Ph.D

The climate of northeastern North America has changed markedly over the past 100 years and computer models for the region forecast more change to come. Policy makers, land managers, citizens, and scientists must grapple with what this change means for the future of the region. This study traces changes in climate at global and local scales, and summarizes the past, present and potential future impacts of these changes on northeastern forests and their avian inhabitants. We will discuss adaptation and mitigation strategies to conserve our forest and wildlife resources. Lindsey is a research ecologist with the USDA Forest Service Center for Research on Ecosystem Change in Durham, NH and co-director of the Northeastern Hub for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change. She has several Distinguished Science awards from USDA and in 2019 was selected as AAAS IF.THEN Ambassador representing women in STEM.



Dr. Lindsey Rustad

Link: <https://bit.ly/3h8ZwUs> **Passcode:** 368556





OUR MISSION

Audubon Miami Valley works to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

The Audubon Miami Valley newsletter is published three times a year. Alexandria Horne is the editor. Bev Thomas is the proofreader. Caitlin Stone designed the AMV Meadowlark logo. The paper version of the newsletter is printed by Letterman Printing in Oxford on 100% recycled paper.

If you would like to contribute content to the newsletter, please send your content to ahorne@amvohio.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Contribution deadline for the Winter 2020/2021 newsletter is December 1st.

We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable.

