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AMV 2021 OFFICERS

President

Gail Reynolds

Vice President

Liz Woedl

Treasurer

Neil Poppendeck

Secretary

Mickey Simonds

Past President

Larry Gersbach

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 and Winter. Find more details at our website audubonmv.org

Bird Illness Update

ODNR Wildlife Biologist Laura Kearns provided the following update on August 3:

- The cause of the illness plaguing Ohio birds since May is still unknown.
- It appears that the rates of birds with the illness are declining.
- Precautions are still necessary as scientists work to discover the cause.
- ODNR is still asking people that have not already done so to take down their bird feeders for the time being.
- ODNR will update the public when its bird feeding guidance changes.

According to Kearns: *"This is still a precaution; we still don't know if it's an infectious disease. People have been taking their feeders down and maybe that is helping stop the spread, if it is infectious."*

Those who find a dead or diseased bird are asked to submit a report online to help biologists track the spread. [Follow this link to submit a report](#)

Notes from the (new) President: A Year of Transition

1) A New Location for our Programs!

Our speaker programs will now be held in the Oxford Presbyterian Church Seminary Building located at 104 E. Church St. This meeting room has a state-of-the-art audio-visual system. The room is accessible with a lift. Refreshments and socialization will be held downstairs. It will be wonderful to see each other again.

2) "Hybrid" Programs

I hope you enjoyed our program speakers on Zoom while in-person meetings were cancelled due to COVID. One benefit of ZOOM is having speakers join us from greater distances who would not be available to us otherwise. "Hybrid" meetings mean meeting in-person AND available on Zoom. Please check audubonmv.org for details and updates.

3) Thanks to Hardy Eshbaugh for 19 YEARS as Program Chair!

That works out to 152 speakers recruited! With all of his contacts in various areas, we have held a wealth of interesting programs. And, as always - not just birds. We currently have a Program Committee to take over Hardy's duties. Thank you to Hardy and our new committee members. We look forward to many more fascinating programs.

4) New AMV Officers and board members

On the left, you will see the new line-up of officers and committee chairs. Beth Davis and Peggy Branstrator have joined us as Members-at-Large. Beth is a retired



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marlene Hoffman

Randy Morgan

Steve Sullivan

Beth Davis

Peggy Branstrator

Mark T. Gilmore

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit & Citizen Science

Larry Gersbach

Conservation

Dick Munson

Education

Libby Birch

Mickey Simonds

Field Trips

Eric Hollins

Finance

Neil Poppendeck

Membership

Beverly Thomas

Programs

Steve Sullivan

Randy Morgan

Dan Gladish

Mike Wright

Publications

Alexandria Horne

Publicity

Liz Woedl

Contact us
AudubonMV@gmail.com

5th grade teacher from Kramer School and teacher host for after-school Earth Clubs. You may also remember her speaking at our programs on her Earth Expeditions adventures in Africa and in Baja California. Peggy is also a retired teacher and has been a dedicated Earth Club volunteer (Earth Clubs will not take place this year due to the retirement of the naturalist educator, Sharon Edwards). She is now keeping the board members up to date on environmental advocacy issues. Both are EXCELLENT additions to our all-volunteer board. Thank you!

As you can see, there are many changes, and probably more to come. The latest information is on our website audubonmv.org Check often!

Finally, I hope you stayed well during the past year, but if you fell ill or sadly, lost a loved one, my deepest sympathy.

- Gail Reynolds, AMV President

Hueston Woods Now Part of Old Growth Forest Network

On April 22, 2021, the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve (HWSNP) was inducted into the national Old Growth Forest Network (OGFN). The OGFN is the only national network in the U.S. of protected, old-growth, native forests where people of all generations can experience biodiversity and the beauty of nature.

HWSNP was "adopted" by AMV in 2012 for conservation and stewardship. Initially funded by a grant authored by then (and again now) chapter president Gail Reynolds, AMV has held invasive plant removal workdays in HWSNP each spring, fall, or both. Additionally, the chapter has sponsored treatment of select ash trees along hiking trails to prevent mortality from the invasive insect pest Emerald Ash Borer. Mark T. Gilmore of AMV was asked to be the OGFN County Coordinator for Butler and Preble Counties. If you know of any old growth forest stands to nominate, please bring them to Mark's attention.

Due to the pandemic, attendance at the dedication ceremony was limited to 10. It is hoped that a future recognition event could include a much larger group of attendees. Along with OGFN founder and executive director Joan Maloof who traveled from Maryland's eastern shore for five dedications in three days, representing AMV were four Board members, Jeff Johnson (Chief), and Michele Comer of ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves.



Photo courtesy of the



OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

Described as “a tiny remnant of the beech-maple forest that once stretched in a broad band from southwestern Ohio to its northeastern corner,” HWSNP was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1967, became a state nature preserve in 1973, and is within an "IBA" / Important Bird Area designated by the National Audubon Society. The Northern Midwest Route of the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail passes through HWSNP along Sugar Bush and Big Woods trails, on the western shore of Acton Lake. [Visit this website to see HWSNP's entry on the Network's website.](#)

To date, there are 18 Ohio forests included in the old-growth forest network. A list and description of these 18 forests [can be found here.](#)

AMV 2021 Bird Seed Sale

New this year, online ordering!

Attract the birds you love to your yard year-round and support our organization at the same time! This year's sale will be held in September and October. We will be mailing seed order forms and making them available on our website within the next few weeks. Visit audubonmv.org for more information.

Seed Pickup (save the date)

Friday, October 15 from 4pm - 6pm

Saturday, October 16 from 9am - 12pm

[Shademakers Nursery & Landscape](#)

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 mhoffman@audubonmv.org to make other arrangements.

*We will provide the most updated ODNR guidance regarding feeding at pickup.

Congress Reintroduces the Migratory Bird Protection Act

Reported by the National Audubon Society. [View the full article here](#)

In an effort to restore and strengthen the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a bipartisan group of members of Congress have introduced the Migratory Bird Protection Act (MBPA). The new bill will reinforce long-standing bird protections that have been under attack while creating more certainty for business and greater incentives for innovation to protect birds.

The bill would secure protections for birds and direct the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop a permitting process for “incidental take” through which relevant businesses would implement best management practices and document compliance, further driving innovation in how to best prevent bird deaths.

If passed, the MBPA would establish a new fee paid by industry that will increase funding for the conservation of birds impacted by these industrial hazards and an additional fund to establish a new federal research program that will study industry impacts on birds and best management practices. [Read more about the legislation here.](#)

New Illinois Law Will Protect Illinois Birds from Deadly Building Collisions

Reported by the National Audubon Society. [View the full article here](#)

Up to 1 billion birds die each year from building collisions. In July, Illinois took an important step to minimize the impact of our built environment when Governor Pritzker signed the Bird Safe Buildings Act (HB 247), which requires bird-friendly design to be incorporated into the construction and renovation of state-owned buildings in Illinois.

Collisions with human-made structures is a leading cause of bird deaths in the United States. A recent independent study found that Chicago is the deadliest city in the United States for migrating birds due to a combination of light pollution and geography. Over 250 different species migrate through Chicago alone, about five million individual birds in all. Between 2005 and 2014, volunteer bird monitors collected over 26,000 dead birds in the Chicago Loop, including one banded Black-and-white Warbler from Ontario, Canada who died from a collision on its sixth migration from Central America through Chicago, well short of its 11-year life expectancy.

This new law will require the use of bird friendly construction techniques for all new construction or renovation of Illinois state-owned buildings. At least 90 percent of the exposed façade material on new state buildings will be need to be made of glass that helps stop bird collisions. It will also require that, when possible, outside building lighting is appropriately shielded to protect wildlife.

A huge thank you to [Audubon Great Lakes](#) for their help in making this new law a reality!

Chicago the Deadliest City in U.S. for Migrating Birds

MOST DANGEROUS CITIES FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

Spring

1. Chicago
2. Houston
3. Dallas
4. Los Angeles
5. St. Louis
6. Minneapolis
7. Kansas City
8. New York
9. Atlanta
10. San Antonio

Fall

1. Chicago
2. Houston
3. Dallas
4. Atlanta
5. New York
6. St. Louis
7. Minneapolis
8. Kansas City
9. Washington, D.C.
10. Philadelphia

This conclusion from a recent study by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The study ranked metropolitan areas where, due to a combination of light pollution and geography, birds are at the greatest risk of becoming attracted to and disoriented by lights and crashing into buildings. Chicago was ranked as the most dangerous, followed by Houston and Dallas. Although migration routes vary by season, these three cities ranked at the top for both spring and autumn migration.

The hypothesis is that these three cities are uniquely positioned in the heart of North America's most trafficked aerial corridors. That, in combination with their overall size, makes them a serious threat to migrating birds.

Because many birds alter their migration routes between spring and fall, rankings of the most dangerous cities change slightly with the seasons. During spring migration, billions of birds pass through the central U.S. between the Rockies and the Appalachians, so cities primarily in the middle of the country comprise the most-dangerous list for that season. Heavy spring migration bird traffic along the West Coast also puts Los Angeles on the spring most-dangerous list.

Fall bird migration tends to be intense along the heavily light-polluted Atlantic seaboard, which is why four eastern cities make the list in autumn. [Read more about the study here](#)

47th Annual Hefner Lecture to be held on November 11th

The Hefner Museum of Natural History's annual lecture will feature Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D. Dr. Colwell is an environmental microbiologist and scientific administrator who holds positions at University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Colwell holds degrees in bacteriology, genetics, and oceanography and studies infectious diseases. She is also the founder and President of [CosmosID, Inc.](#), a biometrics company. Her long list of accomplishments includes:

- Was the 1st female director of the National Science Foundation
- Has authored over 20 books
- Has authored or co-authored more than 800 scientific reports and publications
- Has 9 patents
- Produced the 1977 award-winning film, Invisible Seas



Dr. Rita Colwell

Hefner Lecture Schedule

4:15pm - Academic seminar, "Science, society, and the road ahead"

6:30pm - Public lecture "Oceans, climate, and human health: What cholera teaches us about COVID-19"

Location

The lecture will be held digitally via Zoom. Details on how to join the meeting will be posted on the Museum's website shortly. Here is a link to the website: [Hefner Museum of Natural History](#)

Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Field Trips



Each month (excluding July and August) AMV 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. For the foreseeable future, field trips will have to comply with the best available guidance for minimizing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. More information is available on the events page of our web site, [audubonmv.org](#) For questions, email AMV field trip coordinator at eric_hollins@hotmail.com

HOW TO ATTEND

- We invite participants to meet us at the destination at 9AM or
- Meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot in Oxford (550 South Locust Street) to follow our trip leaders to the destination.

September 4, 2021 Beaver Creek Wetlands Corridor

[4535 Byron Rd, Fairborn, OH 45324](#)

The Beaver Creek Wetlands Association has led a 30-year community effort to protect and restore the rare and unique Beaver Creek Wetlands corridor. Our outing will visit two sites: Pearl's Fen and Oak Quarry Park. Eric Bee, an active member of BCWA, will be our guide for this outing. Pearl's Fen is a peat wetland containing a rich diversity of plant and animal life that is maintained by springs that emerge from nearby glacial deposits. Oaks Quarry includes foot trails that cross ancient limestone fossils, restored prairies and wetlands where they once naturally occurred, and glacial grooves, slides and polishings. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day. If meeting in Oxford, please arrive at 7:30 am.



October 23, 2021 Costanzo Farm (Camden - Preble County)



[1708 Camden College Corner Rd, Camden, OH 45311](#)

Jon and Amy Costanzo will host this visit to their farm which includes a variety of habitats that have benefitted from restoration or improvement projects initiated over the past two decades. The riparian corridor, woods, prairie plantings, field borders, ponds and upland savanna are especially attractive to migrating and native bird life year-round. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day. If meeting in Oxford, arrive at 8:30 am.

November 6, 2021 Germantown MetroPark: Wetland & Monarch Habitat Prairie

[6401 Boomershine Rd, Germantown, OH 45327](#)

Five Rivers Metroparks recently purchased a 147-acre tract of farmland adjacent to Germantown MetroPark and planted a prairie on this land. Plantings included native grasses, plants and flowers such as milkweed that are favorites of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators, including honeybees. Hiking trails were recently opened to take visitors through this important habitat. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day. If meeting in Oxford, arrive at 8:15 am.



December 4, 2021 Brookville Lake Area

Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will once again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area as we 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. Please visit our website for more details.

Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

AMV will now be offering programs both **IN-PERSON** and **DIGITALLY** (via Zoom) on the following dates at 7:30 PM. These programs are free, open to the public, and typically run until 9:00 PM. Please [visit our website](#) for more information.

ATTENDING IN-PERSON

Programs are now held at the Oxford Presbyterian Church's Seminary Sanctuary located on the second floor of the building at 104 East Church Street in Oxford. Please note, this building is separate from the main church building located on Main Street.

Main Church

Seminary Sanctuary



HOW TO ATTEND DIGITALLY

- Below each program description will be a **link** to the digital meeting. Go to this website to attend.
- 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 13, 2021 - Flora and Caterpillars: The Botanical Rubber Meets the Larval Road

Presenter – Jim McCormac

There are perhaps 2,600 species of moths and approximately 140 butterfly species in Ohio. The conspicuous and often showy winged adults are but the short-lived finale of a four-stage life cycle: egg, pupa, caterpillar, and adult. It's caterpillars that make much of the natural world go around, and countless billions become food for other organisms. Without vegetation-eating caterpillars and the native plants that they require, most songbirds would vanish, insect diversity would plummet, and our forests would fall silent. This richly illustrated talk delves into the seemingly magical synergy between flora and caterpillars, and its ecosystem ramifications.



Jim McCormac

Jim worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books, including *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004); and *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage* (Kent State University Press 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. He is a coauthor of the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II* book. He's currently at work on books about dragonflies, and moths. Jim writes a column, *Nature*, for the *Columbus Dispatch*, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles in a variety of publications and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen. Jim is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums. His photography can be sampled at

<https://www.jimmccormac.com/>

Link: <https://bit.ly/3aezqH7> **Passcode:** 332894

October 11, 2021 – It's Too Late to Stop Now: Sharing the Gospel of Birding in the 21st Century

Presenter – Jeff Gordon



Join American Birding Association President Jeffrey Gordon for a celebration of the power of birding to heal and transform, not only our own lives but even our world. The ABA, founded in 1969, celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2019. Jeff will share some of the highlights of the ABA's first half century and from his own 40+ years as a birder in Delaware and around the world. But most of all, he will talk about the next half-century and how we advance boldly toward making the world a better place for the birds and birders who will follow us. Join us for a humorous, heartfelt, and opinionated look at the joys, virtues and occasional frustrations of a life spent birding, the road we've traveled together, and what lies ahead.

Jeffrey Gordon is the president of the American Birding Association, a position he has held since late 2010. Jeff is also a well-known writer, photographer, tour leader, and naturalist. He is a frequent speaker and field trip leader at various birding and nature festivals. For more information on the ABA and on Jeff, visit www.aba.org

Link: <https://bit.ly/3tiJJZC> **Passcode:** 273432

November 8, 2021 - Who Does Namibia's Wildlife Belong to?

Presenter – Dan Marsh

As the Director of Education at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, a central theme of Dan's work is to celebrate the successes we have seen in ensuring the survival of wildlife and wild places. In part, because we have accomplished so much over the past 120 years and because taking a positive outlook on the future is much more motivating than the pessimist's path. One, often overlooked, success story is the South Western country of Namibia.



Dan Marsh

Namibia has the only growing population of black rhinos and lion on the African continent. Concurrent with this success, the international community has put pressure on Namibia to manage wildlife as they would like, which has created a slow smoldering tension. This raises important questions like the title of this talk – "Who does Namibia's wildlife belong to?" In this talk, we will celebrate Namibia's wildlife, people and landscapes as well as explore this question and more.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3mMVQLS> **Passcode:** 293004

December 13, 2021 - A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

Presenter – Scott Weidensaul



Scott Weidensaul

Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his newest book "A World on the Wing," author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe -from the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, to the remote mountains of northeastern India and the Mediterranean -- to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

Weidensaul's writing career began in 1978 with a weekly natural history column which led to a fulltime newspaper job he held until 1988 when he left to become a freelance writer specializing in nature and wildlife. He has written more than thirty books, including his widely acclaimed *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, which became a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize. His latest book, *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, was published in March 2021. Weidensaul is an active field researcher whose work focuses on bird migration. He is co-director of Project OwlNet, a collaborative effort among nearly 125 banding research stations across North America studying owl migration. Weidensaul co-founded Project SNOWstorm, which uses cutting-edge tracking technology to study snowy owls. He is also part of a continental effort to understand the rapid evolution, by several species of western hummingbirds, of a new migratory route and wintering range in the East.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3uUe80q> **Passcode:** 424848



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, Eric Hollins, and Gail Reynolds are the proofreaders. 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 newsletter@audubonmv.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Contribution deadline for the Winter 2021 newsletter is November 1st.

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