



We're on social media!

[facebook](#)

[@audubonmv](#)

In This Issue

- President's Message
- Bluebird Project Update
- Conservation Projects
- Upcoming Field Trips
- Upcoming Programs

AMV 2022 OFFICERS

President
Neil Poppendeck

Vice President
Liz Woedl

Treasurer
Beverly Thomas

Secretary
Gail Reynolds

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

A Message from the AMV President

From all of us here at AMV, we hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer. As COVID continues to be part of our lives, we all continue to adapt, together. Be sure to check our website – audubonmv.org – regularly for event information and any changes that may occur due to pandemic concerns. On our website you can find a multitude of information, including details regarding our:

Monthly programs that feature various topics presented by experts in our community and around the country.

Monthly field trips to various outdoor destinations in the area.

Citizen science activities including the Christmas Bird Count, February's Great Backyard Bird Count, and the Climate Change Survey.

Annual bird seed sale which raises funds for our activities.

Annual art show this spring at the Oxford Community Art Center.

Scholarships for local educators and scholars to attend nature camps.

Hike-a-Thon returning after three-years at Miami University Natural Areas.

View our [events calendar](#) for more information.

Support AMV While You Shop on Amazon

Did you know that AMV is registered as a charity on Amazon? If you select AMV as your charity, Amazon donates 0.5% of each purchase you make to AMV. When shopping online, go to the Amazon Smile website at smile.amazon.com and chose "Audubon Miami Valley" as your charity and shop away! Thank you in advance!

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Go to smile.amazon.com Each Time You Shop. A Portion of Your Purchase Will Support Barnert!

It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

- 1 Go to smile.amazon.com
- 2 Select Barnert Temple as Your Charity
- 3 Shop!



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marlene Hoffman

Randy Morgan

Beth Davis

Peggy Branstrator

Mark T. Gilmore

Kathryn Yurek

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy

Peggy Branstrator

Conservation

Dick Munson

Education

Libby Birch

Beth Davis

Field Trips

Eric Hollins

Finance

Beverly Thomas

Membership & Publications

Alexandria Horne

Programs

Mickey Simonds

Dan Gladish

Publicity

Liz Woedl

Contact us

AudubonMV@gmail.com



AMV's Commitment to Conservation

AMV is committed to conservation through public education and supporting various conservation projects. Our projects include:

- Bluebird nesting box project at Hueston Woods golf course
- Invasive plant removal at Hueston Woods Big Woods area
- Pollinator garden at the [Oxford Community Art Center](#)
- Native plant garden at the [new nature center at Hueston Woods](#)
- Providing bird seed for the [Miami University Natural Areas Bird Blind](#)
- Providing bird seed for the [Hueston Woods bird blind](#)
- Continued treatment of trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer

Learn more about these projects [on our website](#).

Project Puffin



AMV has supported Project Puffin through the Seabird Restoration Program for many years. Project Puffin's mission is to advance the science of seabird conservation while encouraging protection and appreciation of seabirds worldwide. Visit projectpuffin.audubon.org for more information on the project and to view various live web cams.

National Park Service Volunteering

During the summer months, Mary and I volunteer with the National Park Service on South Manitou Island, a wilderness area in Lake Michigan. We help to monitor the Great Lakes Piping Plover population while they nest in this area. This year, there were 31 Piping Plover nests producing 75 fledglings.



Piping Plover

-Neil Poppendeck, AMV President

Have You Heard About AMV's Bluebird Project?

In 2017, AMV's Dick Munson and Libby Birch setup 38 North American Bluebird nesting boxes at Hueston Woods State Park (HWSP).

Nesting Box Monitoring:

- AMV monitors these nesting boxes from March through October.
- Towards the end of October, the boxes are cleaned out and left open for the winter season.
- During monitoring, we collect the following information for each nesting box on a weekly basis:
 - Is there a nest? If so, are there eggs? If so, how many?
 - If eggs are present, have they hatched?
 - If young are present, have they fledged?

The Results:

As of the summer of 2022 we've seen a total of:

- 378 American Bluebird fledglings
- 591 Tree Swallow fledglings
- 367 House Wren fledglings
- 9 Carolina Wren fledglings



Eastern Bluebird



We encourage our members to setup bluebird nesting boxes only if you accept the responsibility that goes along with them. To learn if your property is suitable for a bluebird nesting box, visit the North American Bluebird Society's website at nabluebirdsociety.org

Save the Date - Audubon Xmas Bird Count – December 17

Be a part of the National Audubon Society's 121st winter bird census, involving thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and other countries. AMV is responsible for the census in a 15-mile diameter circle around Oxford. Participants work in groups, so both experienced and inexperienced birders are welcome. Plan to stay for a pot-luck lunch after the count. Check audubonmv.org for more information.



Bird Count Participants

Have Extra Milkweed Seeds? Donate Them to the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative



Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. Monarch butterfly numbers have drastically declined here in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In response to this decline, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the [Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative](#) (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat for pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. OPHI formed after the 2014 petition to list the monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find opportunities and other partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat.

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI, in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is organizing a Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection this year starting September 1st and ending October 30th. Milkweed is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies (it is their only food source!), and Ohio is a priority area for monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the monarch butterfly throughout Ohio.

Where to take your Milkweed Pods

Drop the seed pods off at the:
Butler SWCD office

1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011.

Between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

[Learn more here.](#)

Miami University Community Hike-A-Thon: Come Join the Fun



Hike-A-Thon Participants

The City of Oxford and Miami University are reviving the hike-a-thon after a 3-year absence. This is a wonderful family event for all ages with different levels of hikes, activities, and displays from environmental groups. The event celebrates the outdoors and will show off the exciting progress of the Oxford and Miami Trail systems. AMV is excited to participate in this community event once again. We will have binoculars for your use along with an experienced birder in the bird blind to help identify birds. The Hike-A-Thon is Saturday, September 24th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Check audubonmv.org for more information.



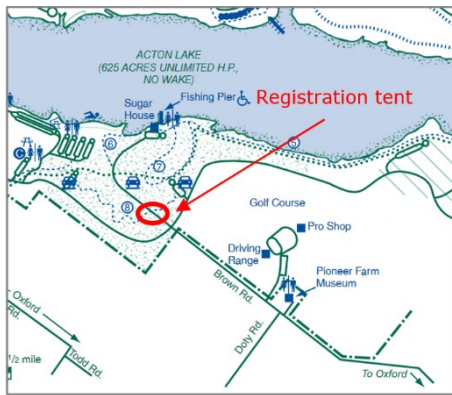
Fall Volunteer Day at Hueston Woods State Park - Volunteers Needed!

Audubon Miami Valley Volunteer Day at the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve area known as the Big Woods, will be Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 2pm, with a break for lunch. Pizza will be provided.

This area of the preserve is designated as a local Important Bird Area (IBA). AMV adopted this IBA as a stewardship project in 2012. These woods are special because they are a small remnant of the mature Beech-Maple Forest that used to cover much of Ohio. The purpose of our work is to protect the diversity of the woodlands from invasive plants that crowd out the beautiful wildflowers that bloom in April, such as Spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, and Trilliums, the native shrubs and understory trees such as Spicebush and Pawpaw, and the tree seedlings that regenerate the forest. Wildlife of all kinds, including nesting birds and migratory birds depend on this mature woodland habitat.



Volunteers at Hueston Woods volunteer day



Volunteers should dress for the weather, and for off-trail work: long pants and athletic shoes or boots - no flip-flops or shorts, please! Gloves and tools will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. We will be hand-pulling and digging invasive plants in the nature preserve. Honeysuckle and garlic mustard are the biggest offenders.



Please register with Gail Reynolds, greynolds27@gmail.com so we know how many pizzas to order! Thank you.

Directions: if driving from Oxford, drive north on Brown Road until it dead ends into the Hueston Woods State Park Main Loop Road. Continue straight ahead. There will be signs directing you to the registration tent.

Quick! Who's That Bird? Audubon's Free Bird Guide App Can Help



Fall Migration is underway. Millions of birds are on the wing, covering thousands of miles across oceans and continents. Do you need help identifying them? Audubon's award-winning Bird Guide App puts more than 3,000 photos, audio clips, and general information about more than 800 bird species at your fingertips—and best of all, it's free.

The app makes it easier than ever to identify a bird you just saw. Enter your observations—like color, size, or habitat—and Bird ID will narrow down a list of possible matches for your location and date in real time. The app also helps you keep track of every bird visiting your neighborhood. It's the best bird resources all in one app—try it today!

With over 2 million downloads to date, it is one of the best and most trusted field guides for North American birds. Click on the button below to view the app.



Audubon Miami Valley's Annual Bird Seed Sale



It's that time again; time for the AMV annual bird seed sale! Attract the birds you love to your yard year-round and support our organization at the same time! Your support of the Audubon Miami Valley Bird Seed Sale is essential to the success of our educational programs and scholarships. You'll also ensure the survival of birds over the winter and have many hours of bird-watching pleasure in the comfort of your own home!

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.

Save the Date - Seed Pickup

Friday, October 14 from 4pm to 6pm
Saturday, October 15 from 9am to 12pm
Shademakers Nursery & Landscape
304 West Collins Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056

New and Improved Nature Center Unveiled at Hueston Woods State Park

Excitement and education are alive at the new nature center recently unveiled at Hueston Woods State Park.



Nature center grand opening (courtesy of ODNR)

The new and improved Hueston Woods nature center was officially opened in June. It will take you on a journey through "Big Woods" themed exhibits. A walk along the wall will take you through all four seasons based on the nature preserve on the park's property. At the tulip tree, you can uncover a tree's past while learning how to count the rings and see what different shapes and colors mean behind the bark. Bats hidden in the wild black cherry tree demonstrate their vital role in our ecosystem. A "wall of live animals" houses some of Ohio's native wildlife including reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Kids can also learn about the insects that buzz around them by studying the living beehive.

Outside, the ADA-accessible path allows visitors to explore the recently rebuilt raptor enclosure behind the current nature center. The enclosure is also the permanent home for a rough-legged hawk, several red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, turkey vultures, and two bald eagles.

[Learn more about the nature center here.](#)

Upcoming 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 or
- Meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot in Oxford (550 South Locust Street), unless otherwise noted, to follow our trip leaders to the destination. Times are listed in each trip's description.



September 11, 2022 – Great Miami Mitigation Bank Conservation Area



Location: gravel driveway opposite 8180 Little Richmond Road, Dayton, OH 45426
The [Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank Conservation Area](#), owned by Five Rivers MetroParks, is one of the largest tracts of open land in Montgomery County, creating critical habitat for such native wildlife as rare bird species. Since the mitigation bank was established in 2008, volunteers have spotted more than 89 species of birds at the wetland, including Ohio endangered species, such as American bittern and sandhill cranes, and state species of concern, such as sora rails, bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows and sedge wrens.

The site includes 360 acres that are a mitigation bank, previously farmland and once slated for a landfill. The remaining 180 acres are the former Larch Tree golf course, which Five Rivers MetroParks acquired in 2015. The land is still developing different habitats but already includes wetlands and prairie, and thousands of tree seedlings have been planted. The Great Miami Mitigation Bank is the first mitigation bank in Ohio owned, designed, and managed by a conservation agency.

Five Rivers MetroParks is converting this 540-acre area to grassland, forest, and wetlands. The land is still developing different habitats but already includes wetlands and prairie, and thousands of tree seedlings have been planted. The Great Miami Mitigation Bank is the first mitigation bank in Ohio owned, designed, and managed by a conservation agency. Site manager Grace Dietsch and birding expert Jason Sullivan will be our guides for this outing. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

If meeting in Oxford, arrive at **7:45 am**. If meeting at destination, arrive at **9:00 am**.
[8180 Little Richmond Rd - Google Maps](#)

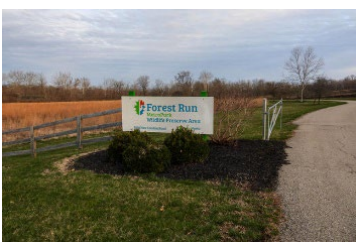
October 22, 2022 – Shawnee Lookout



Location: 2008 Lawrenceburg Rd, North Bend, OH 45052
[Shawnee Lookout](#) is well known for its history and heritage, this 2,000 acre park provides nature trails with breathtaking views at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers. Migration corridors converge here as fall colors light up the upland forests. Operated by Great Parks of Hamilton County, this park also features the historic Springhouse School and Log Cabin and Native American archeological earthworks. Tom Borgman, recently retired Great Parks naturalist, will lead our exploration. Bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

If meeting in Oxford, arrive at **7:45 am**. If traveling directly to the destination, arrive at **9:00 am**.
[2008 Lawrenceburg Rd - Google Maps](#)

November 13, 2022 – Forest Run MetroPark Wildlife Preserve Area



Location: 1810 New London Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013
[Forest Run MetroPark Wildlife Preserve Area](#) includes creeks, woodlands, prairie, meadow and wetland habitats that support a variety of resident and migratory wildlife. A raised observation deck offers views of the prairie while trails meander through the woods, meadows, creeks, and wetlands. Joe Dumyahn, Environmental Projects Coordinator for MetroParks of Butler County will be our guide for this outing. 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**. If traveling directly, the arrive at **9:00 am**.
[1810 New London Rd - Google Maps](#)

December 3, 2022 – Brookville Lake Area



Location: Dunlapsville Boat Ramp - 3198 S. Old Dunlapsville Rd, Liberty, IN 47353
Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will once again lead us on a birding tour of the [Brookville Reservoir](#) area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana, visiting 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 bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

If meeting in Oxford to carpool, note that we are meeting at the west side of the **Walmart** parking lot located at 3720 College Corner Pike at **7:30 am**. If traveling directly to the destination, arrive at **8:00 am**.
[Dunlapsville Boat Ramp - Google Maps](#)



Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

AMV programs will be held on the following dates at 7:30 PM. These programs are free, open to the public, and typically run until 9:00 PM.

Location: Each program speaker will choose if their program will be held in-person or virtually (via Zoom). In-person programs: will be held in the upstairs Community Room at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB) located at 30 West Park Place in Oxford. An elevator is available if needed. Virtual programs: a link to the meeting will be posted on our website. Check our website, audubonmv.org to see if a program will be held in-person or virtually.

September 12, 2022 - Title to be announced (check audubonmv.org for more information)

Presenter – Jason Brownknight

Location: in-person at Lebanon Citizens National Bank

Jason Brownknight has an extensive background – both as a hands-on ecologist and conservationist and as an organizational leader. He has worked locally for the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cincinnati Nature Center, and then established Brownknight EcoResource LLC, a company devoted to land and water conservation. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Little Miami Conservancy.



October 10, 2022 - Title to be announced (check audubonmv.org for more information)

Presenter – Seth Jaeger

Information will be posted on our website when it becomes available.

November 14, 2022 - Title to be announced (check audubonmv.org for more information)

Presenter – Thomas Hissong



Thomas Hissong has followed an exciting career path working as an Interpretive Naturalist in the Dayton, Ohio area for over 41 years. He retired from his position as the Education Manager at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm north of Dayton in March of 2017. Prior to his position at Aullwood Tom served as a naturalist for 2 years with the Five Rivers MetroParks in Montgomery County Ohio which followed 16 years in the position of Curator of Education with the Dayton Museum of Natural History. Tom graduated from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio with a B.S. degree in Environmental Education and Field Biology in 1976. He is well known throughout the Dayton area for his expertise as an avid ornithology instructor and bird watcher and for his enthusiasm in teaching many children and adult classes on natural history topics each year. Thomas has received numerous awards including: The Dayton Tripod Camera Club's 1984 Nature Photographer of the Year, the National Audubon Society ACE Group Award and the National Audubon Society Educator of the Year.





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 audubonmv@gmail.com or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Contribution deadline for the Winter 2022-2023 newsletter is November 1st.

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

