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

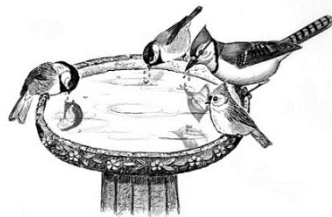
Ohio Lights Out

During spring and fall migration, millions of birds migrate through Ohio on their journey between their breeding and overwintering grounds. Most species of songbirds migrate at night, and lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can disorient them and draw them into buildings. This causes many birds to strike windows or circle buildings until they fall from exhaustion. A recent study estimated that as many as 1 billion birds die each year in the United States from building collisions. Ohio Lights Out is a network of regional programs aimed making urban landscapes safer for migratory birds; their success relies on the efforts of dozens of organizations and concerned citizens. Join them as they expand their community efforts to make urban landscapes safer for migratory wildlife. Read more at ohiolightsout.org

AMV Joins Climate Watch

AMV is helping to build a better world for birds by joining Climate Watch. Climate Watch is a new community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. After the publication of Audubon's first climate change report in 2014, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds, and Climate Watch was born. Since then, Climate Watch volunteers have collected data which Audubon scientists are able to use in peer reviewed research to show how birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. You can join us in this effort by observing birds in your area, using Audubon's specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate. The next Climate Watch survey will take place May 15 - June 15, 2021. If you would like to participate, e-mail us at audubonmv@gmail.com. You can learn more about Climate Watch at [here](#)

Keep Feeders and Birdbaths Clean



Spring has "sprung" and we are all excited to see our spring migrants returning to feeders. Following a [recent salmonella outbreak](#) in the western US that may be linked to wild songbirds, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended sanitizing bird feeders and birdbaths to prevent its spread. Salmonella can cause illness in both birds and humans. If a sick bird visits a feeder or birdbath, it can leave behind germs that could infect the next human to clean, refill, or tend to the site. For this reason, the CDC recommends washing your hands right after you handle a bird feeder or birdbath. Here are a few additional steps you can take to keep your outdoor spaces safe for birds and humans alike:



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marlene Hoffman
Randy Morgan
Steve Sullivan
Mickey Simonds
Peggy Branstrator
Mark Gilmore

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit
Citizen Science
Larry Gersbach

Conservation
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Education
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HOW TO CLEAN AND SANITIZE YOUR BIRD FEEDER

- 1. Pick an outdoor location to clean your feeder.** If one isn't available, use a laundry sink or a bathtub. Never use the sink in your kitchen!
- 2. Empty your feeder of all birdseed.** If you suspect there may be an infection in your area, throw the seed away—don't dump it on the ground where other birds could eat it.
- 3. Wash the feeder.** Scrub it with soapy water and rinse to remove all dirt.
- 4. Disinfect the feeder.** Soak it for at least 10 minutes in a 10% bleach solution—that's nine parts water and one-part bleach.
- 5. Rinse the feeder thoroughly with water.** Let it dry completely before refilling it with birdseed.
- 6. Wash your hands with soap and water.** Repeat this process weekly, or when your feeder is visibly dirty.

HOW TO CLEAN AND SANITIZE YOUR BIRDBATH

- 1. Empty the birdbath.** Old water can be dumped on the ground as long as it won't form a stagnant pool that birds can bathe in.
- 2. Remove debris.** Dirt, bird droppings, and any other large particles can be cleaned away with a rag or a hose.
- 3. Clean the birdbath.** Scrub out any remaining dirt and algae using a 10% bleach solution.
- 4. Rinse the birdbath** with a hose until the smell of bleach has disappeared.
- 5. Refill the birdbath** after it has air-dried completely.
- 6. Wash your hands** with soap and water. Repeat this process weekly, or when your birdbath is visibly dirty.

Butler County Big Week of Birding Series

Each spring, Butler County MetroParks host a series of bird walks to coincide with the arrival of spring migrants. Below is the schedule for this year's hikes.

Date	Day of Week	Time	MetroPark	Location
April 24	Saturday	8-10 am	Gilmore MetroPark	Hamilton
April 24	Saturday	6:30-8:30 pm	Indian Creek MetroPark	Oxford
April 25	Sunday	8-10 am	Forest Run MetroPark	Hamilton
April 25	Sunday	6:30-8:30 pm	Salamander MetroPark	Hamilton
April 26	Monday	6:30-8:30 pm	Forest Run MetroPark	Hamilton
April 27	Tuesday	6:30-8:30 pm	Elk Creek MetroPark	Middletown
April 28	Wednesday	6:30-8:30 pm	Rentschler MetroPark	Fairfield Township
April 29	Thursday	6:30-8:30 pm	Four Mile Creek MetroPark	Hamilton
April 30	Friday	6:30-8:30 pm	Elk Creek MetroPark	Middletown
May 1	Saturday	8-10 am	Governor Bebb MetroPark	Okeana

These events are free and open to the public but registration is required. You can register [here](#)

Magee Marsh Boardwalk Closed April 17 Through May 31

Magee Marsh boardwalk is closed from April 17 to May 31 due to current social distancing guidelines. However, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has partnered with the Toledo Zoo to allow a limited number of visitors. During these dates there are limited spots available for entry to the Boardwalk. These spots are first come, first serve. To see if any spots are available, [visit this website](#).



Thousands of Acres Must be Restored to Save Lake Erie's Bird Species

Reported by the Columbus Dispatch. [View the full article here](#)

Bird populations throughout the Great Lakes watershed continue to drop due to water quality declines, escalating symptoms of climate change and increased human activity. If marsh and coastal areas along the lakes aren't restored, there's a chance some species will disappear altogether, bird advocates at the National Audubon Society warned in a March 2021 report [available here](#)

The 67-page report identifies 12 regions throughout the Great Lakes where action must take place in order to save declining bird populations, which would also improve water quality and provide recreational benefits. The western basin of Lake Erie is one of the regions highlighted in the report.

Lake Erie has struggled with water quality issues due to storm water runoff and farm fertilizer runoff from northwest Ohio farms that flows into Lake Erie at the mouth of the Maumee River in Toledo. That has led to recurring harmful algae blooms each year. To make gains in the western basin, the Audubon Society plans to work with Ohio's Coastal Management Program and as well as the state's [H2Ohio program](#) which focuses on improving water quality in Lake Erie.

Our Newest National Park is Fantastic for Birding!

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

New River Gorge National Park, located in West Virginia, is a must-visit destination for birders and adventure seekers. The park was officially established on January 20, 2021. The area has long been known as an epicenter of eastern outdoor adventures. In the summer, visitors flock to the region to go rafting or kayaking along the river's 53 miles of free-flowing whitewater, navigate its nearly 100 miles of hiking trails (plus 13 miles of single-track mountain bike trails), or rock climb up Nuttall sandstone cliffs that can reach 1,400 feet. Each October, on Bridge Day, base jumpers hurl themselves off of the dramatic New River Gorge Bridge, which spans the gorge 876 feet above the river and is the third highest in the United States. At 1 1/4 miles long, it's the longest steel arch span in the western hemisphere.

The gorge also happens to be an outstanding birding destination, with more than 180 species documented in the new park. The area's amazing birding opportunities stem from its unique ecosystem, a blend of riparian areas, mixed mesophytic forests, pockets of grassy fields, and high bluffs. Among its roughly 1,500 types of native plants are a kaleidoscopic array of wildflowers that blossom each spring with the arrival of hordes of neotropical migrants. Swainson's and Cerulean Warblers highlight the 35 wood warbler species that pass through the park annually, at least 26 of which are breeders. In addition to its birdlife, the New is home to two dozen different salamander species and sought-after mammals like northern river otter.

The Biggest Week in American Birding Goes Virtual

After a year off, the annual event is coming back virtually, May 6-10.



Each year, the annual birding event has an economic impact of \$40 million and brings 90,000 people from all 50 states, 52 countries and six continents, according to Kimberly Kaufman, executive director of [Black Swamp Bird Observatory](#). Experts are planning 61 online presentations for birders of all skill levels. The cost to register is \$35. Black Swamp Bird Observatory members get access for free. Kaufman says each presentation will be recorded and available through the month of May. [Learn more about the festival here](#)



Have You Heard About Birdability?

Through education, outreach and advocacy, Birdability works to ensure the birding community and the outdoors are welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible for everybody. They focus on people with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those who are neurodiverse, deaf or hard of hearing or who have other health concerns. In addition to current birders, they strive to introduce birding to people with disabilities and other health concerns who are not yet birders so they too can experience the joys of birding.

Contribute to the Birdability Map

The Birdability Map is a crowdsourced map which describes the accessibility features of birding locations all over the world. This allows people with accessibility challenges to find out in advance if a birding location is one they would like to visit. Your contributions help make birding and the outdoors more inclusive and accessible! If you know of an accessible birding location in your area, please tell Birdability about it by [visiting this website](#)

Things you can do to help Birdability



- ✓ Learn more about accessibility challenges and how they affect birders through the **Guidance Documents** and other resources at birdability.org
- ✓ Add accessible birding sites to the **Birdability Map** at birdability.org
- ✓ Encourage your bird club or Audubon chapter to **hold accessible bird outings** regularly
- ✓ Follow **@birdability** on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter
- ✓ Participate in and share about **Birdability Week** every October

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. This includes not carpooling, no sharing of binoculars, wearing masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing. This will require the cooperation of all participants. Visit our website at audubonmv.org for the latest updates. More information is available on the [events page](#) of our website. If you have any questions, email AMV field trip coordinator Eric Hollins at eric_hollins@hotmail.com

May 15, 2021 Aullwood Audubon (Dayton)

[Aullwood Audubon](#) is one of the premier Audubon sites in the US. Aullwood Environmental Educator Sam Romeo will share with us the history, philosophy and environmental highlights of this venerable preserve. If you would like to follow our trip leaders as they drive from Oxford, meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot located at 550 South Locust Street in Oxford at 7:45 am. If traveling directly to the center, please arrive at 9:00 am and enter through the Education Center and parking lot at 1000 Aullwood Road. [View the trail map here](#)



June 12, 2021 Salamander Run Preserve (Hamilton)

The Preserve, which contains the headwaters of Paddy's Run Creek, consists of 125 acres, 93 of which are forested. The outing will be led by Randy Morgan, who has identified over 100 species of bird in this park over the past two years. With some luck, we may see Henslow's Sparrow and other grassland species that are beginning to establish themselves in the restored prairie habitats featured at this preserve. If you would like to follow our trip leaders as they drive from Oxford, meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot located at 550 South Locust Street in Oxford at 8:30 am for the 20-minute drive to the park. If traveling directly to the destination, please arrive at 9:00 am. This event is free and open to all ages but registration is required. [You can register here.](#)

You can also attend the preserve's open house from 11-2 pm. This event is also free but does require registration. [You can register here.](#)



Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

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

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.

May 10, 2021 Freeze-tolerant Frogs

Presenter – Clara do Amaral



Dr. Amaral

Dr. Clara do Amaral will share with us one of her favorite research topics “cryoprotectant strategies” used by freeze-tolerant frogs. A cryoprotectant is a substance used to protect biological tissue from freezing damage (antifreeze compounds and antifreeze proteins) in their bodies and to minimize that damage during cold winter periods. Dr. Amaral began studying amphibian and reptile biology as at the University of Lisbon, Portugal where she did her undergraduate degree. She then completed a M.S. in Biology at Western Kentucky University and got a Ph.D. (2014) in Zoology from Miami University. In 2017 she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Dayton and joined the biology faculty at Mount St. Joseph’s College.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3244som>

Passcode: 632545

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/3aezGH7> **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



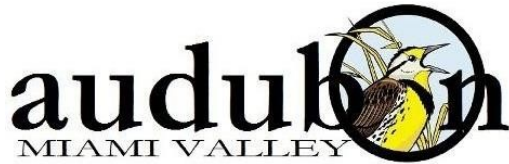
Scott Weidensaul

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 Fall 2021 newsletter is August 1st.

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

