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**AMV 2022 OFFICERS**

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Mickey Simonds

Past President  
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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. Find the details both in this newsletter and at our website [audubonmv.org](http://audubonmv.org)

**The Cross-Continent Saga of the Maine Steller's Sea-Eagle**

*From the National Audubon Society*









*Photo by Antoine Etcheverry/Wildest Moods*

The journey of this lost Asian bird started more than a year ago. Everything about a Steller's Sea-Eagle is incredible. It's an awe-inspiring bird—about a foot longer and taller than an adult Bald Eagle and much heavier. It's rare with about 4,000 left in the wild. And of course, it's not supposed to be here. These eagles are native to eastern Russia, the Korean peninsula, and northern Japan.

Vagrancy—the tendency for birds to show up far outside their normal range—is one of the most exciting aspects of birding. The Steller's Sea-Eagle is the epitome of a vagrant bird, and the same individual has been tracked across North America since it was first spotted more than a year ago. The timeline and travels of this single bird, from Alaska to Texas to eastern Canada to New England, must be seen to be believed. Now the biggest question for birders is where this wandering giant will go next.

It's hard to know exactly what condition the wandering Steller's Sea-Eagle is in, but by all accounts, it appears healthy. After all, it's clearly strong enough to fly across an entire continent and take several hundred-mile flights every couple of weeks. It has been observed feeding on fish at several locations and displays no sign of injury or illness.

So how did this bird get to New England? It flew. The whole way. And it's still flying. Here are the latest reported sightings:

- |                                                                                     |                             |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|  | August 30, 2020 -           | Matanuska-Susitna County, Alaska              |
|  | March 10, 2021 -            | Coletto Creek Reservoir, Victoria, Texas      |
|  | June 28, 2021 -             | Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec/New Brunswick, Canada |
|  | November 3-4, 2021 -        | Avon River, near Falmouth, Nova Scotia        |
|  | December 12-20, 2021 -      | Taunton River, Massachusetts                  |
|  | Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 6, 2022- | Sheepscot River, Maine                        |



[Follow along as birders gather in awe and speculate on its next moves.](#)



## 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

Field Trips  
Eric Hollins

Finance  
Neil Poppendeck

Membership  
Beverly Thomas

Publications  
Alexandria Horne

Programs  
Steve Sullivan  
Randy Morgan  
Dan Gladish  
Mike Wright

Publicity  
Liz Woedl

Contact us  
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## Birder Breaks U.S. Record for Most Birds Spotted in a Year

From Texas Monthly



Tiffany Kersten saw 726 species in 48 states in 2021, setting a new American Birding Association "Big Year" record.

Tiffany Kersten, a formerly down-on-her-luck Texas resident turned jet-setting, record-breaking birdwatcher. During 2021, Tiffany drove 49,000 miles and took more than fifty flights across the country. Tiffany saw 726 species, topping the previous high of 724.

[Read more about Tiffany's amazing achievement here.](#)

## Oxford Community EarthFest – April 16



Celebrate Earth Day at EarthFest, a free festival featuring games, interactive booths and workshops, live music, Oxford Farmer's Market and more. Several organizations from Oxford and Miami University will have educational booths and lead interactive activities during this community event.

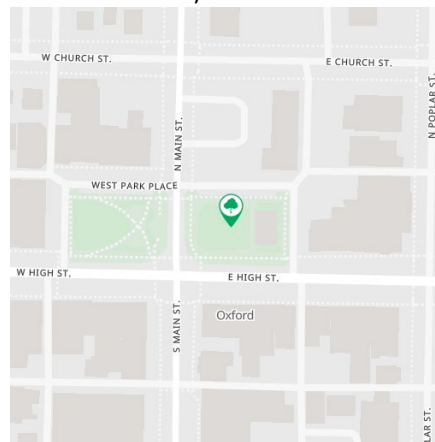
EarthFest is a collaborative effort between Miami University and the community to come together and promote efforts to teach how natural environments function and how human beings can manage behavior and ecosystems to live sustainably. In addition, the event will spotlight green businesses in the community. Over 15 student groups and Oxford organizations will be there to interact with the community and have fun activities for all ages.

The event promotes a fun, welcoming environment with music, games, hands-on demonstrations, and interactive learning. The event is free to attend!

The event is hosted by: Environmental Professionals Association, EcoReps, GreenHawks Media, Global Education Outreach for Diversifying the Earth Sciences, Leaders of Environmental Awareness and Protection (LEAP), Zero Waste Oxford, and Zoology & Biology Club. [Find more details here](#)

### Event Details

Saturday, April 16 from 10am – 1pm  
Uptown Park/Oxford Memorial Park  
North Main Street & East High Street  
Oxford, OH 45056



Uptown Park/Oxford Memorial Park



# Great Backyard Bird Count Results

BIRDS FLYING EVERYWHERE!



AMV's February field trip took place on the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count, and we had some remarkable sightings to report!

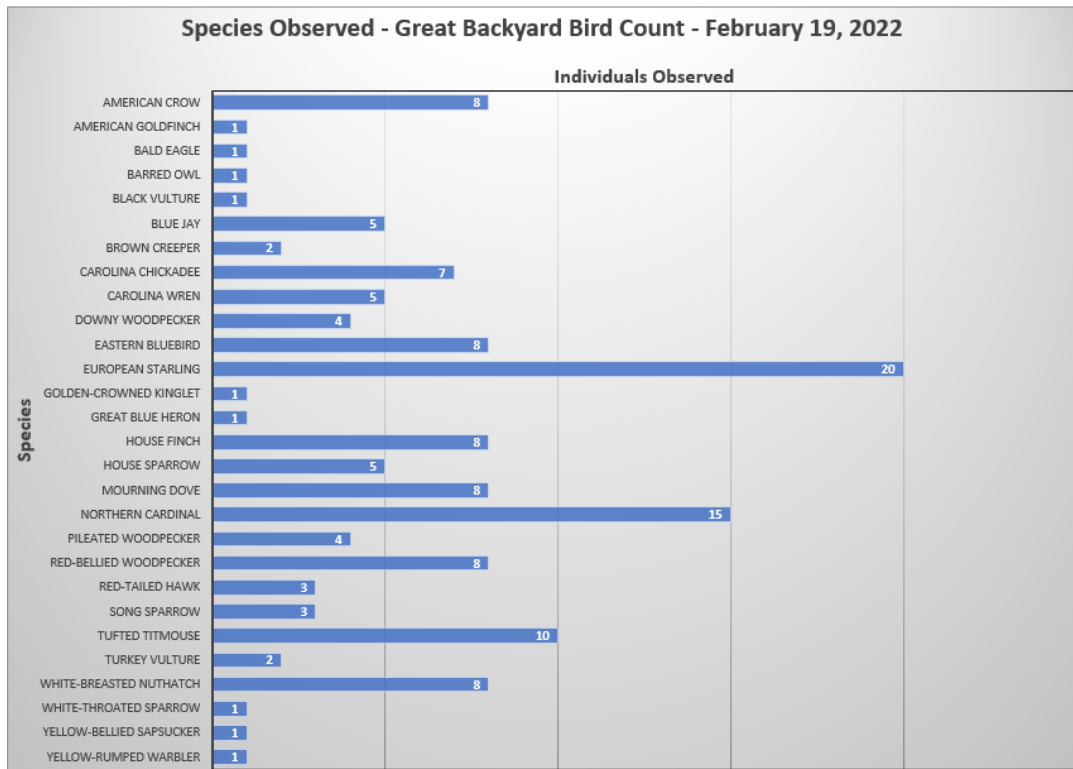
Eric Hollins, our field trip committee chair gathered 26 participants on a chilly but sunny Saturday for a hike that began at the new trail bridge on Route 73 near Oxford. From there, a Miami University Natural Areas trail leads behind the horse stables and continues along Four Mile Creek toward the Ruder Preserve. The hike continued by crossing the bridge over Four Mile Creek and then heading down the trail on the other side of the creek toward the bird blind and DeWitt Cabin and completing the loop to the parking area on Route 73.

A mature Bald eagle was spotted flying above the water! We only caught sight of its brilliant white tail spread as it flew away, but that was thrilling. It wasn't that long ago that a Bald eagle would be a rare sight in our area. As we continued down the trail, the eagle had perched, but again took off again across the creek, disturbing a Barred owl from its daytime rest which took off flying over our heads in the other direction! An upset Pileated woodpecker zoomed directly above us to the rear! Birds flying everywhere! Wow!

After the excitement, we continued our hike to meet Randy Evans of Three Valley Conservation Trust who told us about the Ruder Preserve boardwalk they are building with the help of donations and volunteers. He said it's the only handicapped accessible boardwalk he knows of that enables people with strollers or in wheelchairs to get into the woods.

We hope you were able to participate in the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) this year. This popular citizen science effort sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society and Birds Canada gathers data from entries worldwide. The results are fascinating. The 2022 results are available on [eBird.org](#). The country of Colombia topped the list with 1,240 bird species counted. The United States came in 8th with 689 species. [7,099 species](#) were reported worldwide, with over [300,000 lists](#) submitted. Scientists use the data collected over several years to identify bird species population and location trends to correlate with climate change, habitat loss and other factors such as avian diseases.

We certainly enjoyed doing our part on this field trip and the birds gave us a thrill! We counted 29 species during our trip; see the list below.



Bird species observed during AMV February 19, 2022 field trip



# Spring 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, April 23 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](mailto: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.



## Lloyd Library & Museum Exhibit - *On the Wing: An Illustrated Chapter on Birds*

Exhibit runs from March 11 - June 18



This spring, the Lloyd Library brings a little-known part of its collection to the forefront—beautiful ornithology books and colorful bird field guides. "*On the Wing: An Illustrated Chapter on Birds*" pays tribute to naturalists, artists, and bird lovers, beginning with the earliest natural history of America, presented alongside specimens of now extinct birds, courtesy of the Cincinnati Museum Center. The study of birds inspires discovery and furthers scientific understanding of biodiversity and ecology. Complementing the book exhibit will be paintings of birds by sister-artists Alex and Shea Warnick and a mix of programs that take you from your own backyard to global migration, integrating beauty, science, ecology, and social justice. The event is free and open to the public.

### About the Lloyd Library

Lloyd Library and Museum is an independent research library located in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. Its core subject and collection focus is medicinal plants, with emphasis on botany, pharmacy, natural history, alternative medicine, and the history of medicine and science.

In addition to the exhibit, the library will be holding a series of webinars (listed below)

### **March 24, 7-8pm – Every Yard Counts: Making Your Home Bird Friendly** (virtual only) **Presenter Matthew Shumar**

Despite global conservation efforts and successes, many bird species have continued to decline over the past century. These declines received a lot of attention recently with the published paper in Science, detailing the loss of 3 billion birds in North America, as well as Audubon's report on climate change. Many of the species detailed in these reports are Neotropical migrants and cover vast amounts of land in a given year. Join us to learn about how you can make your yards and homes bird-friendly and support populations of migratory birds.





Join Matthew Shumar, Program Coordinator of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative at The Ohio State University, to learn how to make your yards and homes bird-friendly and support populations of migratory birds. Co-editor for The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio, Matthew is also on the council of the Association of Field Ornithologists.

The webinar is free to attend and open to the public but attendees must [register here](#)

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### **April 21, 7-8pm – Technology for Migrant Bird Conservation** (offered both virtually and in-person)

#### **Presenter David Russell**



We are in dire risk of losing many of our migrant birds, particularly the long-distance migrants. As we formulate conservation strategies to mitigate our bird losses, new monitoring technology has been incorporated into the struggle. These novel technologies have given tremendous new insights into bird migration and offer a brighter future in bird conservation.

David E. Russell is an Associate Teaching Professor at Miami University, specializing in environmental biology, ornithology, and entomology. A Master Bird Bander and a North American Banding Council Certified Bander Trainer, he is the co-founder and Research/Education Director for the Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI). An avid birder, Dave leads field trips and conducts birding and banding workshops throughout the U.S.

The webinar is free to attend and open to the public, but attendees must register. Click the links below to register:

[In-person registration](#)

[Virtual \(Zoom\) registration](#)

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### **June 8, 7-8pm – The Power of Nature Photography for Bird Conservation** (offered both virtually and in-person)

#### **Presenter Jim McCormac**



“A picture is worth a thousand words” goes the famous adage, and it’s especially true in this technologically and graphically driven age. Photography is an effective vehicle to illustrate the beauty and intricacy of nature, expose people to new facets of natural history, and promote an interest in conservation. Photographic imagery has revolutionized survey protocols and greatly reduced the need for physical collections of specimens.

Effective imagery can bring the Lilliputian details of a ruby-crowned kinglet to bear for all to see, expose the suave allure of a cedar waxwing, or capture the brutish glare of a hunting raptor. This pictorial talk will explore the ways in which imagery can be used to promote and document birds.

An avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects, 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*; *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage*; and *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II*. Jim writes a column, *Nature*, for the *Columbus Dispatch*, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen.

The webinar is free to attend and open to the public, but attendees must register. Click the links below to register:

[In-person registration](#)

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## 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](http://audubonmv.org) For questions, email AMV field trip coordinator at [eric\\_hollins@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



## **March 19, 2022 – Fernald Preserve**



*Location: 7400 Willey Road, Hamilton, Ohio.*

Join us at [Fernald Preserve](#). Clean up and restoration programs have been underway for almost 30 years at this 1,050-acre preserve. Today, an extensive network of ponds and wetlands provides excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl and March is a peak month to see these birds resting here on their way north.

If meeting in Oxford, arrive at 8:15 am. If meeting at destination, arrive at 9 am.  
[Fernald Preserve Visitors Center - Google Maps](#)

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## **April 9, 2022 – Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank**



*Meeting Location: gravel driveway opposite 8180 Little Richmond Road, Dayton, Ohio 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.

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 destination, please arrive at **9:00 am**. Travel time from Oxford is approximately 1 hour. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

[8180 Little Richmond Rd - Google Maps](#)

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## **May 22, 2022 – Costanzo Farm**



*Location: 1708 Camden College Road, Camden, Ohio 45311*

Jon and Amy Costanzo will host another visit to their delightful Preble County farm. This outing is timed to maximize opportunities to observe migrating warblers and resident breeding species. The Costanzo farm 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.

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**. If traveling directly to the destination, arrive at **9:00 am**. Travel time from Oxford is approximately 20 minutes. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

[1708 Camden College Corner Rd - Google Maps](#)



## **June 11, 2022 – Riverside Natural Area**



*Location: 2451 River Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013*

Habitat diversity and restoration projects under the care of Hamilton Conservation Corps have contributed to the identification of over 200 bird species at this 200-acre preserve in the city of Hamilton. Site manager Troy Schwable will host our visit to this popular birding hotspot.

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 **8:15 am**. If traveling directly to the destination, please arrive at **9:00 am**. Travel time from Oxford is approximately 35 minutes. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

[Riverside Natural Area - Google Maps](#)

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## **Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs**

AMV programs will be held on the following dates at 7:30 PM. WHEN POSSIBLE, programs will be held both in-person and digitally (via Zoom). Be sure to view each program description to see if it will be held digitally-only. These programs are free, open to the public, and typically run until 9:00 PM.

### **\*\*Meeting location update\*\***

In order to better facilitate our hybrid programs, we will once again be hosting our programs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Community Room at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB) located at 30 West Park Place in Oxford. LCNB has an elevator available for those who need one.

### **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.
- To use your phone for audio during our programs call this number: 1-646-558-8656

## **April 11, 2022 - One for the Books: the 2021 Emergence of the Periodical Cicada Brood X** **Presenters – Dr. Gene Kritsky**



Periodical cicadas belonging to Brood X emerged over parts of the Eastern United States in May and June 2021. This brood was first recorded in 1715 and has returned every 17 years since. The 2021 emergence was mapped using iNaturalist and Cicada Safari, a smartphone app that was downloaded by over 197,000 people who submitted over 550,000 photos, making this the largest mapping effort ever conducted for any periodical cicada brood. This presentation will describe the emergence, and what we learned about periodical cicadas.

Dr. Gene Kritsky is Professor of Biology and Dean of the School of Behavioral and Natural Sciences at Mount St. Joseph University. He received his BA in Biology at Indiana University in 1974 and his MS and PhD in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 1976 and 1977 respectively. He was also a Fulbright Scholar to Egypt in 1981-1982. Dr. Kritsky is a native of North Dakota and has been teaching at the college level for over 40 years, lecturing on various subjects including entomology, evolution, zoology, general biology, paleobiology, and the history of science.  
**Link:** <https://bit.ly/3KqgHso> **Passcode:** 101514

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## **May 9, 2022 - Title to be announced** **Presenter – to be announced**

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





### **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](mailto:audubonmv@gmail.com) or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Contribution deadline for the Summer 2022 newsletter is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

