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AMV 2023 OFFICERS

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Neil Poppendeck

Vice President
Marlene Hoffman

Treasurer
Beverly Thomas

Secretary
Gail Reynolds

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

AMV Bird Seed Sale a Huge Success!



Seed pickup volunteers

Thank you to all who participated in our 45th bird seed sale; it was a HUGE success! Thanks to [Shademakers Garden Center](#) and staff for hosting. Please keep them in mind for your garden needs. This year, AMV donated seed to the Miami University Bird Blind and Hueston Woods Nature Center. Thanks to your continued support, local birds will be supported this winter and AMV can continue having a positive impact on the local environment.

If you would like to receive an order form via e-mail next year, let us know by e-mailing at audubonMV@gmail.org

Invasive Species Removal Project Volunteers - Thank You!



Project volunteers

We had 14 hardworking volunteers at our Invasive Species Removal Project at [Hueston Woods State Park](#) on November 4th. They cleared honeysuckle along the Beach Road, opening-up vistas to the lake and into the Big Woods.

Audubon Miami Valley holds Invasive Species Removal events twice a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Our next event will be held in April. Check our website regularly for information.

Honeysuckle receives most of the attention, but did you know that there are 63 plant species designated as invasive in Ohio? This list is maintained by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. [Click here](#) to see the full list of species.



Ohio invasive plant species: Garlic Mustard (left), Tree of Heaven (center), Callery Pear (right).

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marlene Hoffman

Randy Morgan

Beth Davis

Peggy Branstrator

Amy Costanzo

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

Dan Gladish

Publicity

Liz Woedl

Contact us

AudubonMV@gmail.com



AMV's Annual Christmas Bird Count is December 16th



Be a part of the National Audubon Society's 120th 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. The count is on **Saturday, December 16th**. We will begin at **7:00 AM**.

This is the largest citizen science project in the world. The data collected from this count, combined with other surveys, provide a picture of how bird populations have changed over the years. Local trends can provide strategies for protecting birds and their habitats.

Participants will be assigned areas to hike & count and may meet directly at their designated area. Volunteers who joined us in the past will be given preference to cover the same areas they had last year. Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of experience. New participants can join groups led by experts covering a portion of the count area. Anyone wishing to participate in the count should contact Larry Gersbach at 513-310-0195 or larrygers@aol.com

We are also asking those who do not wish to venture out that day to observe the bird activity around their home bird feeders and yards. This information can be forwarded to Larry Gersbach at larrygers@aol.com and would be greatly appreciated.

Please consider joining us for this important citizen science event. No matter if you are a beginner or an accomplished birder, an enjoyable walk outside with nature looking for birds will refresh the soul.

If you can't make it to our event, please consider participating in the National Audubon's event detailed below.

Join us after the count for a potluck luncheon

Time: 12:00 pm

Miami University Ecological Research Center

5806 Somerville Road

Oxford, Ohio 45056

National Audubon Christmas Bird Count December 14th - January 5th



Excitement is building as we wonder whether boreal raptors, winter finches, or both, will grace our binoculars in the months ahead! Preparations are well under way for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which will take place **December 14, 2023 – January 5, 2024**.

Compilers are already entering the scheduled dates of their upcoming counts, plus info about their counts for potential participants.

To participate on a Christmas Bird Count either as a field counter or feeder watcher, please [visit this page](#) to find a count near you.



Oxford Community Park Pollinator Garden

This year, AMV began a project, in partnership with the City of Oxford’s Landscape Naturalization Master Plan in which an area of the Oxford Community Park was converted from turf grass to a pollinator garden. Audubon Miami Valley funded the plants for the 900 sq. ft. pollinator garden and AMV members helped city staff with planting and maintaining the pollinator garden. Below are pictures of the garden in bloom this summer!



Plants in full bloom this summer at our pollinator garden

The garden was planted in a pinwheel pattern consisting of a central circle of scarlet Bee Balm and a perimeter circle of mixed annuals – mostly dwarf Zinnias. In between these two concentric circles are clusters of spiral bands of one species interspersed with wedges of randomly placed perennials including Coneflowers and Brown-eyed Susans. See diagram below.

Diagram

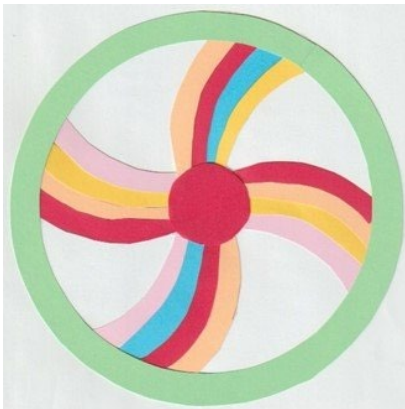


Diagram Key

Pinwheel Color	Species	Flower Color
Red (central circle)	Bee Balm (Scarlet)	Red
Pink	Beardtongue	White
Yellow	Tickseed (Crème Brulee)	Yellow
Orange	Butterfly Weed	Orange
Red (spiral)	Yarrow (Paprika)	Red
Blue	False Blue Indigo	Blue
White	Mixed perennials (brown-eyed Susan, Coneflowers, etc.)	Varies
Green	Mixed annuals (dwarf Zinnias, etc.)	Varies





Thank you to the amazing volunteers who spent many evenings planting, weeding, and watering! The garden is in full bloom and looks amazing! Be sure to stop by and see this wonderful pollinator garden! Want to create a pollinator garden of your own? Check out the National Audubon Society article [How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly](#)



AMV Bluebird Project Update

Since 2017, Audubon Miami Valley has been monitoring 38 Eastern Bluebird nest boxes on the Hueston Woods State Park Golf Course. The boxes are monitored by various AMV members on a weekly basis from mid-March through mid-September after which, the boxes are cleaned out and left open for the winter season. If the boxes are left closed, various local woodpecker species will enlarge the entrance hole to seek winter protection making repairs necessary the following spring. On two occasions, Cowbird (a nest parasite) eggs have been found in Tree Swallow nests. In a few other cases, it was apparent that either raccoons or black rat snakes raided the nests and ate the eggs or hatchlings. The predation problem was solved with the application of petroleum jelly on the PVC pipes that surround the fence posts on which the houses are mounted.

The results: to date, we've recorded the following number of fledglings:

Species	Overall total
 Eastern Bluebird	462
 Tree Swallow	661
 House Wren	414
 Carolina Wren	9

The monitoring program will continue in 2024 with the goal of increasing the populations of our native species, particularly Eastern Bluebirds. 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

What's in a (Bird) Name?

American Ornithological Society Will Change the English Names of Bird Species Named After People
From the American Ornithological Society



AOS
ENGLISH
BIRD
NAMES

“

There is power in a name, and some English bird names have associations with the past that continue to be exclusionary and harmful today.

Colleen Handel
AOS President

www.americanornithology.org

On November 1, 2023, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) announced that, to help address past wrongs and engage far more people in the enjoyment, protection, and study of birds, it will change all English bird names currently named after people within its geographic jurisdiction. The AOS will also change the process by which English names are selected for bird species. The effort will begin in 2024 and will focus initially on 70–80 bird species that occur primarily within the U.S. and Canada.

Ornithologists have long grappled with historical and contemporary practices that contribute to the exclusion of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, including how birds are named. For example, in 2020, the AOS renamed a small prairie songbird found on the Great Plains to “Thick-billed Longspur.” The bird’s original name—honoring John P. McCown, an amateur naturalist who later became a general in the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War—was perceived as a painful link to slavery and racism.



The AOS is taking decisive action to reframe the issue of birds named after people altogether. Specifically, the scientific society is announcing three changes to the way it and its predecessor organizations have operated since the 1880s:

1. The AOS commits to changing all English-language names of birds within its geographic jurisdiction that are named directly after people (eponyms), along with other names deemed offensive and exclusionary, focusing first on those species that occur primarily within the U.S. or Canada.
2. The AOS commits to establishing a new committee to oversee the assignment of all English common names for species within the AOS's jurisdiction; this committee will broaden participation by including a diverse representation of individuals with expertise in the social sciences, communications, ornithology, and taxonomy.
3. The AOS commits to actively involving the public in the process of selecting new English bird names.

The AOS will conduct an open, inclusive, and scientifically rigorous pilot program in 2024 to develop its new approach to English bird names in the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, the AOS has come to see its authority over the English names of Latin American birds in a new light and has committed to engaging in a broader set of conversations with ornithologists and organizations in Latin America before proceeding with Latin American name changes. Interested parties are invited to follow this initiative's progress at www.americanornithology.org and [@AmOrnith](https://twitter.com/AmOrnith) on major social media platforms over the coming months and years. The full article can be viewed [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. Good walking shoes, personal water supply, insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended for the terrain we may encounter on these outings. 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.

November 18, 2023 – Salamander Run

Location: 4821 Layhigh Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013



Salamander Run, a MetroParks of Butler County property, features several hiking trails through a variety of prairie and forest habitats. In the fall, this park is occupied by resident and migratory species that may include Red-tailed Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwing. Our outing will be led by Randy Morgan, who has developed a unique familiarity with this park and its birdlife. Meet at the destination at **9:00 am**.

[4821 Layhigh Road - Google Maps](#)

December 2, 2023 – Brookville Lake Area

Location: 3170 South Old Dunlapville Road Liberty, IN, 47353



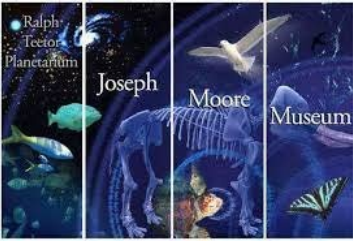
Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will once again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana, visiting several good spots around Brookville Lake as well as Whitewater State Park, looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and other species. The destination location is the Dunlapville Boat Ramp parking area at Brookville Reservoir. Please arrive at **8:00 am**. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

[3170 South Old Dunlapville Road - Google Maps](#)



February 4, 2024 – Joseph Moore Museum, Earlham College (Indiana)

Earlham College - 801 National Road West, Richmond, Indiana 47374



We are excited to offer this field trip to the Joseph Moore Museum on the Richmond Indiana Campus of Earlham College. Dating back to the 1880's, this museum possesses collections including:

- Amphibians and Reptiles (1290 specimens)
- Anthropology (from Babylon to Egypt to Native American mounds)
- Entomology (30,000 specimens),
- Mammalogy (4000 specimens from 26 countries)
- Ornithology (over 6500 specimens)

A formal guided tour will begin at 10AM followed by informal tours based on interest. If you have a specific interest, we can let the museum know in advance. We will meet at the museum at **10:00 am**. Park Visitor Parking Lot G behind the museum. A sign directs visitors to the Joseph Moore Museum.

[801 National Road West - Google Maps](#)

March 17, 2024 – The Oxbow (Indiana)

17160 Reardon Drive, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025



Since 1985, Oxbow, Inc. has led the effort to acquire over 1,600 acres of wetland through ownership or conservation easements to protect this area of migratory shorebird and waterfowl habitat. March in the Oxbow means ducks, as spring waterfowl migration peaks during March. Many other spring migrants should also be found – Bald Eagles and Sandhill Cranes. 34 species of waterfowl have been recorded at the Oxbow, with 25 occurring regularly. In the spring and fall thousands of ducks, geese, and shorebirds funnel into this rich stopover area to refuel and rebuild their energy. Meet at the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow at **8:00AM**.

Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes as some of the Oxbow may be flooded. The trip should finish around noon. Pack a picnic lunch or snacks if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

[17160 Reardon Drive - Google Maps](#)

April 13, 2024 – Garber Nature Center

9691 OH Route 503 North, Lewisburg, Ohio



This nature center land was donated by a local family and has been developed as the Allen and Adaline Garber Nature Center. About 33 acres of forest area have been developed into 3.3 miles of hiking trails. A wetland has also been created. This area has been designated as a BIRDING HOTSPOT. Early spring wildflowers should be in abundance. The Garber family also donated a house on the property. We have scheduled a guided tour of the house at **9:00AM**. We will step back in time and experience the flower garden, summer kitchen, and numerous antiques. Following the tour, we will hike the trails to see early wildflowers and early spring bird migrants. A shelter with picnic tables is available; bring a lunch if desired.

[9691 OH Route 503 North - Google Maps](#)



May 11, 2024 – The Herbert & Patricia Wagers Memorial Park

1301 OH-725 West, Camden, Ohio 45331



Naturalist and nature photographer Tom Hissong will lead us on this field trip which will begin at **8:00 AM**. Also known as the “Devil’s Backbone,” Wagers Memorial Park features rocky cliffs, waterfalls, spring wildflowers and bird migrants in abundance. In 2016, the Wagers family donated 24 acres known as the “Devil’s Backbone”. This area has become a wildlife sanctuary with native plants and animals. The area is scenic with limestone formations and beautiful waterfalls. The area is mostly from the Ordovician Period of the Paleozoic Era. During this time, a warm shallow sea covered the area resulting in many marine life invertebrate fossils. Subsequent glaciers created ravines, waterfalls, and a variety of igneous and metamorphic rocks.

Paint Creek, a tributary of Sevenmile creek, meanders along the east end of the park. In early 2023, Shady Hollow Longbeards, a local conservation organization chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, partnered with Preble County Park District and implemented a pollinator habitat, planting 22 species of native flowers and grasses. In addition, Amy and Jon Costanzo have just finished a biotic inventory of the area identifying 178 different taxa of plants and 76 different species of birds.

[1301 OH-725 West - Google Maps](#)

Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

AMV programs will be held on the following dates at 7:30 PM. Be sure to view each program description to see if it will be held in-person or virtually. These programs are free, open to the public, and typically run until 9:00 PM.

Meeting location: our 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.

December 11, 2023 – The Effects of Hog Island on a Tired Educator

Presenter – Sarah Morris

Location: In-person at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB)



Sarah Morris

During this presentation, Sara will describe her time at Hog Island through the lens of a teacher who is trying to find deeper meaning and purpose for doing the hard work of teaching. She will weave through the experiences and emotions that became part of her story of transformation. Always searching for fulfillment in her career, she will attempt to describe the emotional connection she felt with her fellow teachers, the land, and the sea and how those connections have had a lasting impact on her career. Sara Morris is an instructor at Butler Tech for the new Green Engineering Program at the Natural Science Center in Monroe, Ohio. Previously, Sara was a biology teacher at Talawanda High School. She lives in Oxford with her husband Sam, and two kids Ben and Luna. She loves hiking, running, and birding with her family.

May 13, 2024 – To be announced

View the events section of our website for more information about this program audubonmv.org/calendar



Save the Date - AMV Bird Art Exhibition – March 16, 2024

Our Annual Bird Exhibition and Festival seeks to educate students on birds of the Midwest, birds of the Mississippi Flyway and how Climate Change is affecting bird populations and behaviors. In addition to artwork, there will be hands-on children's activities. We welcome young artists and birders to enter art works for the exhibition. Artists submitting work will receive a ribbon, gift bag and certificate. Check audubonmv.org for more information.

**20
24**

AUDUBON MIAMI VALLEY PRESENTS

11TH ANNUAL

**BIRD ART
EXHIBITION
& FESTIVAL**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**MARCH 16, 2024
10AM - 3PM**

OXFORD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER
10 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE, OXFORD, OHIO





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. Caitlin Stone designed the AMV Meadowlark logo. The paper version of the newsletter is printed by The Oxford Copy Shop 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 Spring 2024 newsletter is March 1st.

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

