

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Plant a native yard buffet to nourish birds

Grow native plants so your backyard birds can feast.

They provide food, shelter and places for birds to nest. Native plants also help birds weather the effects of climate change, and they reduce pollution and water use, promoting more healthy habitats for birds.

Audubon has selected the native plants that birds depend on so you can support them in your yard.

Go to www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds. By entering your zip code and email you will see the native plant database for our area. Select “Best Results” for the plants hand-selected by Audubon experts in our region. Scroll down and check them to make your plant list. You can then print a custom plant list for your garden. Pictures of the birds attracted by each plant are a motivational addition.

As part of Audubon’s 2016-2020 Bird-Friendly Communities conservation strategy, Plants for Birds



Cedar Waxwing

audubon.org

is a national initiative that brings together and provides support to all the pioneering native plant work across the Audubon network.

Under Local Resources on the Native Plants Database our chapter — Audubon Miami Valley — is listed, as well as the native plant nursery L’Obel Nursery at 6751 Brown Road in Oxford.

Unfortunately, most landscaping plants available in most nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for native birds, like having leaves that are unpalatable to insects and caterpillars they feed on.

With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food.

(Continued on page 2)

**GET OUT YOUR
DATE BOOK!
THE AMV CALENDAR
THROUGH FALL IS ON
PAGES 3-6**

**AT RIGHT IS A
PENCIL DRAWING BY
NAOMI ROOSA.
SEE MORE STUDENT
ART AND EARTH CLUB
NEWS ON
PAGE 7**



Native plants

(Continued from page 1)

Oak trees support 534 species of caterpillars, whereas Ginkgo trees support only four. In *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy says one oak tree can support a whole clutch of Chickadee fledglings.

Landscaping for wildlife is one of the most individually empowering conservation tools. Not only do native plants benefit birds and other wildlife, they generally require fewer chemicals and less water, reducing maintenance, costs and hazards such as chemical runoff.

Where birds thrive, people prosper. Every plant helps. Together bird lovers across the country can rebuild a natural and sustainable landscape with plants.

— **Mickey Simonds,**
AMV President

Metamora monument honors last wild Passenger Pigeon

On April 3, a State Historical Marker was unveiled at the Gazebo Park, Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, in Metamora, Ind., to commemorate the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon in the wild. The last verified passenger pigeon in the wild was shot about five miles away near Laurel, Ind., April 3, 1902.

About 60 people attended this event and Joel Greenberg, author of *A Feathered River Across the Sky — The Passenger Pigeons Flight to Extinction*, spoke eloquently about how a bird that was once numbered in the billions disappeared from the earth less than 200 years after colonization of the Americas by European settlers.

It was a somber moment and a



Merriam's The Passenger Pigeon.
(Audubon plate)

reminder the Earth's fragility and the devastation humans can cause.



OUR VISION

We envision a world where humankind accepts the obligations of being part of nature, especially the obligation of stewardship. We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable. In short, we seek a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.

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 and includes program and field trip information.

Deadline for the autumn 2017 issue is August 1. Send contributions to jhetrick@amvohio.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056

- Judi Hetrick is editor.
- John Blocher is proofreader.
- Caitlin Stone designed the Meadowlark logo.

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Visit us online at amvohio.org



MAY AND JUNE 2017 CALENDAR

SATURDAY APRIL 29 – SATURDAY MAY 6

Butler County Big Week of Birding

More than a field trip, it's a whole week of field trips! Audubon Miami Valley joins with Metroparks of Butler County as a co-sponsor of the Big Week of Birding in Butler County.



Start with sunrise birding on Saturday April 29, enjoy birding each day, then wrap it all up with a family event on Saturday May 6.

Eleven fantastic birding opportunities, each at a different location! With each trip being led by an

MONDAY MAY 8

Madagascar: The Eighth Continent –

Why it Matters

**Hardy Eshbaugh, Professor Emeritus (Botany),
Miami University, Oxford**

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

In September 2016 an intrepid group of nature lovers journeyed to Madagascar on an Earlham College alumni trip to learn about the “eighth” continent.

Madagascar is unique among the earth's many destinations in its high number of endemic species across various groups of organisms such as birds, frogs, primates, insects, and plants.

Madagascar faces a number of challenges including an exploding population, massive deforestation, and unsustainable development that threaten the very survival of its unique evolutionary heritage.

Come and learn what makes Madagascar a showplace of evolution and what is being done to save this incredible place for future generations.

Hardy Eshbaugh was a Miami University professor of botany for more than 31 years and continued to teach and direct graduate students until 2012, long after he retired.



Hardy Eshbaugh

experienced birder or naturalist during the peak of spring migration, this is an outstanding opportunity to observe and enjoy the many species that move through our area each year.

It's also a great way to discover the outstanding natural areas offered by Metroparks of Butler County.

These outings will meet at the respective sites, and some may have special requirements. To learn more, visit the Metroparks website: <http://reservations.yourmetroparks.net/programs/>

SATURDAY JUNE 3

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 50,000 acres in three Indiana counties (Jefferson, Jennings, and Ripley) and overlays that portion of the former Jefferson Proving Ground that lies north of the historic firing line where munitions were once tested.



Since 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has managed the wildlife resources of the proving ground.

Big Oaks provides food and shelter for a wide variety of plant and animal species, including more than 200 species of birds and 46 species of mammals.

Stream corridors and forested areas provide excellent habitat for the endangered Indiana bat. The refuge also supports river otter breeding populations, which were re-established in 1996. More than 500 pairs of endangered Henslow's sparrows are estimated to breed in the large grasslands of Big Oaks Refuge.

The refuge has been designated as a “Globally Important Bird Area” because of its value to Henslow's sparrows and other migratory birds.

Gary Stegner and Refuge Manager Joe Robb will lead our visit.

The trip will leave at 6:30 a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) for the 75-minute drive to the refuge.

After a picnic lunch at the refuge, we will return to Oxford in the afternoon. Pack a lunch and, as always, bring binoculars if possible.



AUTUMN 2017 CALENDAR

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

Big Woods, Hueston Woods State Park

The Big Woods area of Hueston Woods State Park is a tiny remnant of the beech-maple forest that once stretched in a broad band from southwestern Ohio to its northeastern corner. This forest type is dominated by the ghostly gray trunks of beech trees along with varying proportions of sugar maple, red and white oaks, and white ash.



Horticulturist Dick Munson will lead us on a visit to this old-growth forest within Hueston Woods. The group will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Woods Parking Area (straight ahead from the Brown Road park entrance). The guided walk will end around noon. Pack a lunch if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11

A Honey of a Bee: Fascinating Facts from Our Flower-Loving Friends

Randy C. Morgan, Emeritus Curator-Insectarium, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

The familiar honey bee *Apis mellifera* is a vitally important agricultural pollinator threatened by many human activities. It is also a behaviorally fascinating insect.

This talk celebrates honey bees' sophisticated social organization, intimate association with flowers, and past and present relationships with humans. We will also explore the wonderful ways honey bees sense their world and communicate with nest mates, including their



Randy Morgan

astonishing waggle dance language.

Randy holds an M.S. in entomology from the University of Wisconsin.

He worked at the Cincinnati Zoo

Insectarium for 32 years and is now retired from his position as Curator of Invertebrates, Reptiles & Amphibians.

At the zoo he managed a diverse

collection of live insects and other small animals for public educational display and developed a world-class exhibit. He has received significant recognition and awards for his work.

He has been a beekeeper for nearly 40 years, is active in the South Western Ohio Beekeepers Association and loves to share his passion for honey bees and the other little animals that propel and shape our living world.

MONDAY OCTOBER 9

A Runaway Hobby

Dave Russell, Department of Biology, Miami University

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

What started as a sociable birding competition between childhood friends morphed into a frenzied quest to the four corners of the continent in the pursuit of 600 species — all while keeping a couple full-time jobs and not trying to spend too much of the grocery money.

Join us for an evening of fun and adventure as we crisscross North America chasing birds.

David E. Russell received his B.S. in Entomology from University of California Davis and his master's and doctorate in Molecular Systematics from Miami University.

A Senior Lecturer of Intro and Environmental

Biology at Miami University, he teaches a number of courses including Biology, Environmental Biology, and Ornithology. A Master Bird Bander and certified North American Banding Council Trainer, he is the co-founder and Research/Education Director for the Avian Research and Education Institute, a nonprofit bird conservation, education, and advocacy organization.

An avid birder with a passion for sharing the birding world with all that will listen, Dave frequently leads field trips and conducts birding workshops throughout the US. Dave and Jill are also Peony farmers in Alaska and own and operate the business, Boreal Peonies.



**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18
THE 2017 HEFNER
LECTURE**

**The Serengeti Rules:
The Quest to Discover
How Life Works and
Why it Matters**

Sean Carroll

Sean Carroll is an award-winning scientist, author and educator. He leads the Department of Science Education of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and is the Allan Wilson Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the University of Wisconsin.

As an internationally recognized evolutionary biologist, Carroll's laboratory research has centered on the genes that control animal body patterns and play major roles in the evolution of animal diversity.

Carroll has received the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Sciences and has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Sean Carroll

A prominent science communicator in print, on radio, and on television, Carroll is the author of *Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species*, which was a finalist for the 2009 National Book Award for non-fiction, *The Making of the Fittest*, and of *Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo*.

His first two books were the basis for a two-hour NOVA special in 2009 the 150th anniversary of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*.

Carroll is also author of the student text *Into The Jungle: Great Adventures in the Search for Evolution*.

Carroll was named one of America's most promising leaders under 40 by TIME Magazine in 1994.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

With almost 400 acres, the Rentschler Forest MetroPark includes about a half-mile of frontage along the Great Miami River, acres of woodland, remnants of the old Miami-Erie Canal, a prehistoric Indian earthwork, and a reconstructed wetland.

Rentschler is just a 40-minute drive from Oxford, off of Route 4



just east of Hamilton.

Expert naturalist Sam Fitton will lead our walk.

The trip will leave at 8 a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) and return to Oxford in the afternoon.

Pack a lunch if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

For information about Audubon Miami Valley field trips, including any last-minute changes, contact trip coordinator Jim Michael at jmichael@amvohio.org.



AUTUMN 2017 CALENDAR

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13

Ohio's Prairie Heritage

Dave Nolin, Conservationist

Prairies have long been part of the North American landscape. This program will explore Ohio's pre-settlement prairies, the role Native Americans played in maintaining them, and subsequent destruction of nearly all of Ohio's prairies after European settlement.

Starting in the 1960s, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm staff undertook the first planting project in Ohio. That became the catalyst that led to a statewide effort to protect and restore the few natural prairies left in Ohio.

This fascinating talk will also focus on one of those sites, Huffman Prairie on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and explore its rich diversity.

Dave Nolin grew up in Fairborn, Ohio and has lived in Dayton all his life. He attended Wright State University, where he received a B.S. degree in 1980 and an M.S in 1984

He worked as a conservationist at Five Rivers MetroParks from 1985 until 2015.

His commitment to conservation initiatives of all scales and scopes has been unwavering. His has collaborated with public and non-profit conservation groups as well as the academic community.

He pioneered the use of conservation easements to help support the Five Rivers MetroParks mission of protecting the Miami Valley's natural heritage.

He worked with Three Valley Conservation Trust, helping establish conservation easements that protect productive farmland, conservation



Dave Nolin

areas along river corridors and sensitive natural features deserving of protection.

Thanks to his efforts, thousands of acres of native habitat have been protected and restored.

In recognition of his efforts, Dave received the Wally Edwards Conservationist of the year from the Three Valley Conservation Trust in 2015.

MONDAY DECEMBER 11

Global Climate Change: Sound-bytes vs. Critical Investigations

Mark Boardman, Professor Emeritus, Miami University

The words "global climate change" and "global warming" can elicit gut-wrenching reactions.

Emotions about climate change and global warming are good, but without being coupled with data (versus alternative facts or telephone game information), our reaction and response might be hyperbolic or hysterical, rather than deliberate and measured.

Global climate change and global warming are real and happening today. We are living in a global experiment largely caused by human activity. Belief in global climate change is optional, participation is not.

This talk provides data-based information on several principal measures of climate change. We'll examine

changes in nighttime temperature, upper atmospheric temperature, ocean changes, and polar ice changes.

Mark Boardman grew up in the Virgin Islands where the wonder of nature awakened and directed his education. He earned an A.B. in Geology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

After teaching for three years in Brazil (1978-1981), he joined the geology faculty at Miami University, where he taught a variety of environmental courses on campus, led dozens of international environmental field courses in the tropics, and was Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Audubon Miami Valley chapter meetings are during the school year at 7:30 p.m. the second Mondays in the 2nd floor Community Room, LCNB building, 30 Park Place West in uptown Oxford. (We note when the location changes.) All meetings are open to the public.



EDUCATION

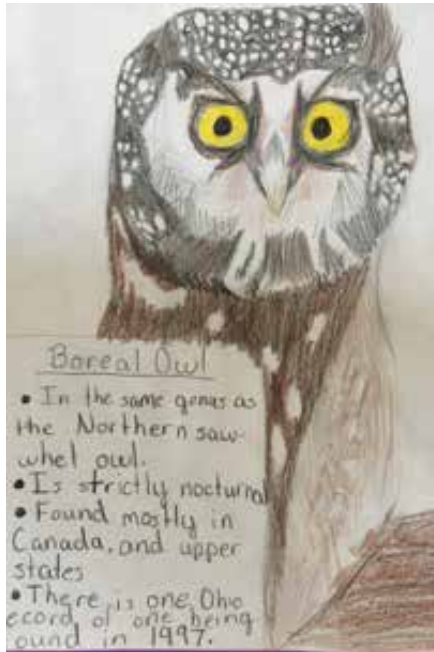
6th annual student art show draws 130 works

One-hundred-thirty works depicting Birds of the Midwest or Mississippi Flyways or Birds and Climate Change were shown at the Audubon Miami Valley's sixth annual Bird Art.

The March 18 exhibition at the Oxford Community Art Center was open to K-12 students and home-schooled children in the Oxford area. Each young artist received a ribbon, certificate and gift bag.

A big thanks to OCAC, teachers, parents, AMV board members and students who helped to make the exhibition a reality.

Watch for details of the next show, set for fall 2017.



Natalie Harder's Boreal Owl



Callie McCargish's Great Blue Heron

Earth Club engages 80 students in four elementaries

Earth Club has been very busy this school year thanks to donors to AMV, the Oxford Community Foundation, and EMU (the Environmental Mobile Unit).

We had about 80 regular members (third- through fifth-graders) in four schools: Kramer, Bogan, Elda (Ross) and Fairwood (Hamilton).

The Talawanda groups are huge, but we have many teachers, AMV members, and other volunteers who keep chaos at bay.

Thank you Barbara Eshbaugh, Peggy Branstrator, Mary Johnson, Rosemary Pelphrey, Mickey Simonds, Gail Reynolds, Linda Williams, Jean O'Connell, and Ruth Overly and everyone else who jumps in to help when we need it most.

Here's a partial list of what Earth Club did this year: Nature Area assessments; litter patrols, set up bird feeders and planted trees in school nature area; bird bingo hike; rock collections, wild Fox & Squirrel games, insect survey, skull study, tracking, and soil experiments.

Thanks to Ruth Overly, one group sewed bag tamers and decorated cloth napkins to help their families reduce, re-use, and recycle.

Several Miami students helped with the building meetings, and Jack Gruber led the Kramer group on an invasive species hike.

Another Miamian, Marla Guggenheimer, introduced us to her red worms, and Jack helped us plant native seeds to overwinter in members' freezers. (Lucky moms!)

Special highlights of the year were learning about Shawnee history from Fred Shaw, and about 85 members building — without major injuries — a bluebird box or a flight deck birdfeeder to take home.

We are thrilled to have funding for three of the four groups to have field trips in May: Hikes at Miami-Whitewater and Rentschler Parks, and finding out about our food at the Miami Student Institute of Food.

Members will also be adopting about 30 native trees to plant at their homes in the voids where ash trees once grew.

I'm already being asked by many students about how they can join Earth Club, so rest up this summer, volunteers, and Thank YOU to all AMV members for keeping Earth Club going.

— Sharon Edwards



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Audubon Miami Valley is
an incorporated,
non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in
Butler and Preble Counties of Ohio



**We envision a world
where humankind
accepts the obligation
of stewardship.**

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