
INSIDE THIS EDITION:

NOTHING BUT CALENDAR! PAGES 2-7.



Autumn 2012
Volume 38

the quarterly newsletter of Audubon Miami Valley, in Ohio's Butler and Preble Counties

Environmental Olympics, anyone?

I'm having a hard time pulling myself away from watching the Olympics to write this article. It's so inspiring to see the world's countries come together in one place in the spirit of competition and excellence, it has set me to dreaming.

What if we had the environmental Olympics?

- How much wild habitat protected?
- How many threatened wildlife species saved?
- Where are the cleanest, most energy-efficient cities?
- Who can pull the most garlic

mustard???

**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

OK, I have garlic mustard on my mind as we embark on the Audubon Miami Valley 2012-13 season, an exciting year as the Toyota TogetherGreen Fellows Grant supports our conservation effort in the Big Woods Nature Preserve at Hueston Woods State Park. There will be ample opportunities for community volunteers to get involved in the four phases of the grant proposal:

1. Education: students learn GPS & restoration skills; wildflower walks
2. Signage at trailheads: design, build, & install informational signs
3. Remove garlic mustard: reduce invasive species in sensitive habitat
4. Spring festival (new name TBA) at Hueston Woods, May 11, 2013. Mark your calendars!

AMV Board update

In this issue, you will find a great line-up of AMV Saturday trips from our new Field Trip Chair, Jim Michael.

Linda Williams is our new Education Chair. We



Gail Reynolds is training for the Environmental Olympics garlic-mustard pull. See other contenders in the AMV autumn E-Extra version of the newsletter, available only to online subscribers.

look forward to hearing from Earth Expedition and Rosie Bloom scholarship recipients, as well as the after-school Earth Clubs.

Sarah Michael has agreed to apply her talents to Development for the chapter.

Thank you to all!

Exciting Programs, Bird Seed Sale, Christmas Bird Count, Art Contest, Native Plant Sale -- Look for all your favorites in our newsletters and online at amvohio.org!

— Gail Reynolds, AMV President

CALENDAR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8 Miami University's Oxford Campus

Miami's Oxford campus boasts a wealth of interesting trees, shrubbery, flowering plants and other flora. In a morning walk we'll become acquainted with many of these fascinating specimens that we may pass regularly on campus without recognizing or appreciating them.



We'll follow the Campus Tree Walks for the Central Campus and Formal Gardens to learn about species both local and exotic.

You can see maps of these walks at <http://www.pfd.muohio.edu/treewalk/index.php>

We will also hear about landscaping on the Miami campus, how it's done, how plants are prepared for planting, and how

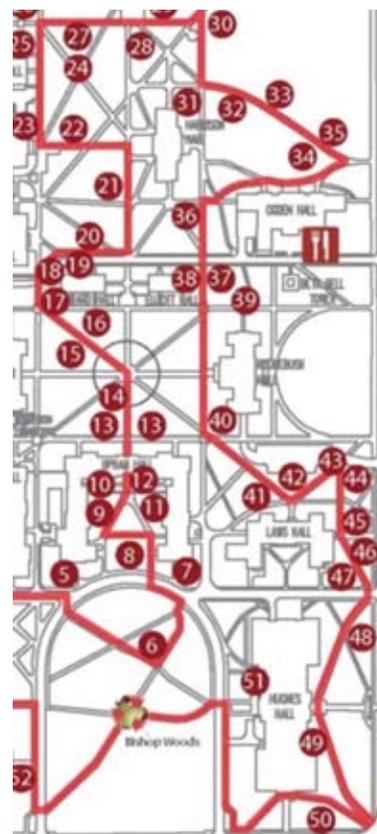
plantings are maintained.

Trees have birds, so bring binoculars too!

Our guides will be Dick Munson, Instructor in Botany and Conservatory Manager on the Hamilton Campus, and Vinny Cirrito, Landscape Architect/ Designer in Planning, Architecture and Engineering.

Meet at 8 a.m. in front of King Library. We'll conclude with lunch together at Bell Tower Place in Ogden Hall.

At right, part of the Central Campus Tree Walk map, from <http://www.pfd.muohio.edu/treewalk/index.php>



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 four times a year, as the seasons change.

Deadline for the winter 2012-13 issue is Nov. 1. Send contributions to Newsletter@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 amvboard.wordpress.com/



CALENDAR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10 AMV public program

Bhutan: Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon and Gross National Happiness

Hardy Eshbaugh, Professor Emeritus, Department of Botany, Miami University

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

In November 2011 the Eshbaughs and Michaels spent two weeks traveling in Bhutan, the land of the Thunder Dragon, immersed in the culture and birds of this isolated Himalayan paradise.

Bhutan is host to a remarkable number of bird species including several endemics and endangered species. The Black-necked Crane winters here and is a species of special concern, while the White-bellied Heron is endangered, numbering fewer than 50 individuals. Bhutan is known for several colorful pheasants.

Join us for a vicarious trip

through dramatic landscape with glimpses of the avifauna and other wildlife.

Hardy Eshbaugh is a retired Professor of Botany who taught for 45 years at Miami University. His interest in birds began as a child, continued as a student at Cornell University, found him serving as a graduate assistant in ornithology at Indiana University, and serving as a working Board member of the National Audubon Society.

In February, he worked on a Piping Plover survey on the Bahamas' Andros Island. Oh! And he knows a little something about chili peppers.



Hardy Eshbaugh with Rebecca Pradhan, head of the White-bellied Heron Research Field Station, in November 2011

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6

Cope Environmental Center

We'll visit Cope Environmental Center, situated on 102 beautiful acres in Centerville, Indiana.

The property features over three miles of hiking trails meandering through hardwood forests and grasslands; over 12 acres of prairie; three wetlands and two ponds; and a significant collection of conifers.



Photo by Walt Bistline, courtesy of Cope

Dawn Redwood on the trail

Corner Pike. Pack a lunch. We'll return to Oxford in the afternoon.



The Jim Cope Conifer Trail, dedicated in 2002, highlights over 50 different species of conifers from around the world.

Alison Zajdel, Executive Director, will be our host. Bill Buskirk, Earlham College Professor Emeritus of Biology, will serve as guide.

Learn more at <http://www.copeenvironmental.org/index.htm>
Meet at 7 a.m. at the west end of the new Walmart parking lot on College

OCTOBER DATE TBA

AMV Bird Seed Sale

The 34th annual Audubon Bird Seed Sale will take place at the Whistle Stop Drive Thru, 304 West Collins, in October. A date has not been set yet.

The brochure will be on-line and mailed sometime in September.

I am sure the prices will be high given the severe drought we are in. The birds will still be hungry this winter, maybe more so.

I look forward to see you all at the sale in October.

— Marlene Hoffman,
Special Projects Chair



CALENDAR

MONDAY OCTOBER 8 AMV public program

Bermuda's Paradise Lost: The Story of the Bermuda Petrel

A film by Deirdre Brennan, Creator and Producer

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

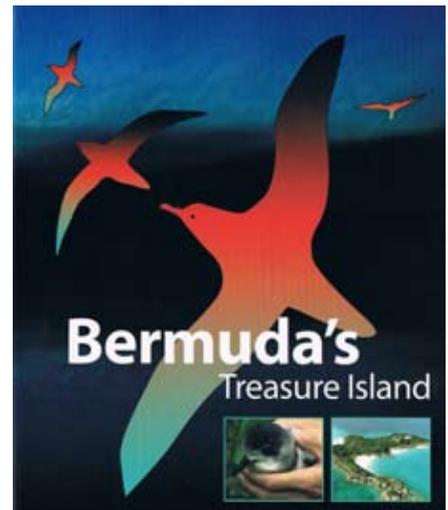
Bermuda's only endemic breeding species is the Bermuda Petrel. This nocturnal, ground-nesting seabird once numbered more than half a million individuals. Its folk name, Cahow, refers to the bird's eerie calls.

Human settlement in the early 1600s brought with it deforestation and exploitation of the bird as food. It also introduced pigs, rats, cats and dogs, all of which soon decimated the petrel population. For 300 years, the petrel was thought to be extinct,

but a dead specimen was found in 1935, and 18 nesting pairs were re-discovered in 1951 on offshore islets uncolonized by rats and pigs.

This film tells the compelling story of one man's devoted conservation effort to save a critically endangered species. David Wingate planted 800 native trees and shrubs to create a suitable habitat for one of the rarest seabirds in the world.

Thanks to intensive conservation management, the population had increased to 53 breeding pairs by



the 1990s.

An intensive Cahow Recovery Program began in 1961. The 2011-12 nesting season saw a record number of 56 chicks successfully fledging. This year the program reached a critical milestone: 101 nesting pairs of petrels.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 25

The Hefner Lecture

Moving Among Realms: Life in Fresh Water, the Sea and on Land

Geerat Vermeij

Department of Geology,

University of California at Davis

100 Laws Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Geerat Vermeij may be best known for chronicling the "arms race" among long-extinct mollusks and their predators.

Blind since the age of 3, Vermeij has published nearly a hundred scientific papers, and his books include *Evolution and Escalation: An Ecological History of Life*; *A Natural History of Shells*; *Nature: An Economic History*; *The Evolutionary World: How Adaptation Explains Everything from Seashells to Civilization*; and the autobiography *Privileged Hands: A Scientific Life*.

He has received a MacArthur Award and the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. He was editor of *Evolution*, has a world-class shell collection, and has been called "an intrepid field



Geerat Vermeij

naturalist and explorer of the coasts of nearly every continent."

He earned his Ph.D. in Biology and Geology from Yale University and is a Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Davis.

This lecture will be in 100 Laws Hall at Miami University. For the starting time, check <http://www.environmentaleducationohio.org/events.html>.



CALENDAR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 The Oxbow

Join us for an outing to the Oxbow, a broad floodplain where the Great Miami River empties into the Ohio, and the most important wetland area in the mid-section of the Ohio Valley.



Located near Lawrenceburg, Indiana, 17 miles downstream from Cincinnati, it is named for a small prehistoric horseshoe, or oxbow-shaped lake, formed when flood waters cut a new course for the Great Miami River, isolating a meander in the old stream bed.

In the spring and fall thousands of birds funnel into this rich feeding and nesting area.

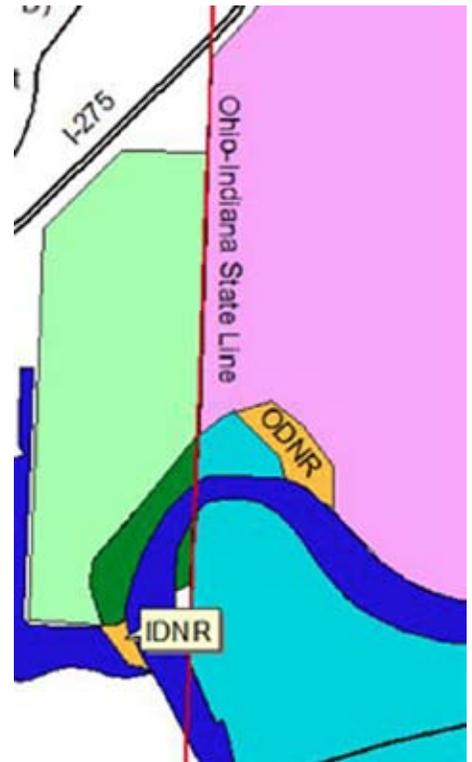
Birders have listed 280 species here, among them ducks, geese,

shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. Sixty-six species of fish live here, and a 2010 survey listed 472 vascular plants in the protected area.

The Oxbow has been preserved through the efforts of Oxbow, Inc, a non-profit 501(c)(3) land trust governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

Board President Dr. Jon Seymour has arranged our visit. The organization's homepage is at <http://www.oxbowinc.org/index.html>

Meet at 7 a.m. at the old Walmart parking lot on Locust Street. Pack a lunch. If time permits, we may visit other birding spots in the area. We'll return to Oxford in the afternoon,



A portion of the Oxbow area map, from <http://www.oxbowinc.org/images/>

MONDAY NOVEMBER 12 AMV public program

Naturalists' Perspective on Costa Rica **and the Impacts of Global Change**

Hays Cummins, Western Program, and Donna McCollum
Institute for the Environment & Sustainability, Miami University

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank,

One of the many interests Hays Cummins and Donna McCollum have in common is their love for work in the field.

That love has taken each of them to locations as varied as Belize, the Bahamas, Curacao, and the wetlands of Butler County, Ohio.

The two will share with us insights formed during recent field work in Costa Rica, and they will show their best examples of nature photography from there.

(See Cummins' class syllabus and links to a multitude of images at <http://jrscience.wcp.muohio.edu/tropics/costaricacourse.html>)

Cummins is Professor of Geography, an affiliate of the Department of Geology, an Affiliate and Fellow of

the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and the former Harrison Scholars Professor in the Honors and Scholars Program.

He teaches in the Western Program, where he directs the Inquiry Center.

He has taught more than 70 international field courses and is a founding Co-Director of both Project Dragonfly and Earth Expeditions.

Donna McCollum has been with Miami's Master of Environmental Science program since 2007.

She is Environmental Monitoring Coordinator and is responsible for many natural science service-learning initiatives, such as the Butler County Stream Team.



CALENDAR



Photo by Judi Hetrick

Sandhill Cranes at Brookville Lake in December 2009

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 Brookville Lake

Dr. David Russell will lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana.

We'll visit a number of good spots around Brookville Lake as well as Whitewater State Park, looking for

migrating ducks, geese, gulls, terns, Sandhill Cranes and other species.

A map of the area can be found at http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/brookville_trail.pdf



Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the new Walmart parking lot on College Corner Pike.

Pack a lunch.

We'll return to Oxford in the afternoon, at the will of the group.

MONDAY DECEMBER 10 AMV public program

Decoy Carving and Collecting

Jim Brace, Liberty Township

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

Jim Brace will introduce us to the wood carver's world by discussing the use and different styles of decoys.

His presentation will explain the process of making a decoy, including the types of wood and tools used.

Brace also will take us into the world of competition and collecting both antique and contemporary carvings.

He will have a few pieces of his own work for sale.

Brace has been very successful as a decoy carver and has received numerous awards, including Best of Show International Wildfowl Carvers Association Style Decoy Championship awards -- Black Duck, female 2011.



Jim Brace's Black Duck, female



Brace's American Widgeon, male



CALENDAR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15

113th Annual Christmas Bird Count

If you've been counting the days until the 2012 Christmas bird count, you can stop on Dec. 15. Beginning at 7 a.m. at Miami University's Ecology Research Center on Somerville Road, this dawn-to-dusk census of bird species will cover 176 square miles around Oxford, Ohio.

It is conducted according to rules of the National Audubon Society.

This year's count will again be under the leadership of Larry Sherman, the local CBC Coordinator (phone: 513-523-2458; e-mail: shermalw@muohio.edu).

Look for more details in the winter edition of the Audubon Miami Valley newsletter.

SATURDAY JANUARY 5

Mitchell Memorial Forest

This park within the Hamilton County Park District sits at a relatively high elevation. It has nice trails and features mature evergreens that can be attractive to winter finches including crossbills.



We'll look for interesting finches and other species here, and we will also be able to visit other nearby birding sites as time permits.

Dr. David Russell will lead the trip. A map of the park can be found at <http://greatparks.org/about-us/pdfs/mitchell.pdf>. We will leave from the old Walmart parking lot on Locust Street at 7:30 a.m. and return to Oxford in the afternoon. Pack a lunch.

We have even more to come in 2013!

1 Field trips are tentatively scheduled for the dates and destinations listed below. Save the dates and watch the next newsletter for more details.

- February 9, 2013: Cincinnati Nature Center.
- March 9, 2013: Mount Airy Forest.
- April 13, 2013: Warbler Walk at Hunter/Hoffmeier Property.
- May 4, 2013: Boone County Cliffs State Nature Preserve.
- June 1, 2013: Four-Mile Creek Metropark.

2 The second Audubon Miami Valley 2013 K-12 Student Art Contest will focus on the themes Birds of the Midwest and Birds of the Mississippi Flyway. Check the Audubon Miami Valley website [/amvohio.org/](http://amvohio.org/) the first week of September for details.

3 Our spring festival (with a new name to be announced) will be at Hueston Woods, May 11, 2013. Again, our Native Plant Sale will be there.

4 This will be a big year for our project to restore habitat in the Hueston Woods Important Bird Area. We hope to see you at the Big Woods Volunteer Day Garlic Mustard Pull, tentatively scheduled for Earth Day, April 20. Other work days will also be scheduled, mostly in the spring, so check amvohio.org to make sure you don't miss one!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**“Down in the forest
something stirred:
It was only the note of a bird.”**
— Harold Simpson

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