

**HARDY ESHBAUGH TO
RECEIVE CINCINNATI
NATURE CENTER'S
WOOD THRUSH AWARD.
STORY, PAGE 2**



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A THING!
OUR FALL
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PAGES 3-6**

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MIAMI VALLEY



Autumn 2014
Volume 40

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



Photo by Harry Ainsworth

AMV President Mickey Simonds and Jack Petty use a seine to net an array of sealife off Hog Island, Maine.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hog Island melds Audubon new ideas and experiences

The Audubon Camp on Hog Island is indeed a treasure. It's a small island that you ferry a short distance to from Bremen, Maine.

As an official visitor, you are taken to your cabin (mine was called "Crow's Nest") and given an hour before the non-stop activities began. (A second program called "Raptor Rapture" was being held at the camp at the same time as our session. We ate meals with their group and got to see Ospreys being banded.)

Classes were held in a building called the Fish House, which was decorated with lobster buoys. We were introduced to Audubon's plan to develop bird-friendly com-

munities (BFC) and "Audubon Climate Champions" — the program for chapters to accelerate and broaden climate engagement. Global warming is the greatest threat to birds and other wildlife in human history.

Wednesday morning's highlight was a field trip to a tidal basin cove on the island. Two of us held the seine and brought an array of sea life into the net. A lobster was one of the creatures, along with crabs, fish, periwinkle shells, mussels, and jellyfish.

A biologist who went by the name "Seabird Sue" ex-

(Continued on page 7)

AMV NEWS

Funds sought to save 800 ash trees

Keep your fingers crossed that funds come through to save 800 ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer.

AMV Board Member At-Large Mark Gilmore and his wife, Gylaine, have authored a significant Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation Grant request.

The proposal envisions substantial expansion of the current Audubon Ash Tree Project in Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve, adding the Four-Mile Creek riparian corridor, the City of Oxford, Miami University's campus and the surrounding Natural Areas greenbelt.

Other potential partners are Talawanda High School's natural area, Three Valley Conservation Trust, Butler County MetroParks, and area cemeteries.

Arborjet, a current partner, would be the "Primary Partner," contributing an additional 25 percent of any award. Arborjet is known for developing an efficient trunk injection system and effective pesticide.

Award announcements will be made the first week of October. If this grant is not funded, the Gilmores welcome ideas for other funding sources. They also invite people to identify trees that may be good candidates for treatment. Mark's e-mail is mgilmore@amvohio.org.

Wood Thrush award honors Eshbaugh

Cincinnati Nature Center is honoring Hardy Eshbaugh with a 2014 Wood Thrush Conservation Award. The award recognizes significant commitments to land conservation in Greater Cincinnati.

Eshbaugh is an Emeritus Professor of Botany at Miami University. He served on the board of directors of the National Audubon Society for 13 years and received its Great Egret Award in 2005.

He has traveled the world to research chili peppers. One species — *Capsicum eshbaughii* Barboza — was named for him in 2011.

Eshbaugh, also past president of Audubon Miami Valley, has been a lifelong bird watcher.

The Cincinnati Nature Center is the largest member-supported nature center in the country, with more than 100,000 visitors a year.

It maintains areas accessible to hikers. Rowe Woods in Milford includes 65 acres of old growth forest and has more than 16 miles of trails. A CNC area in Goshen is open to members only.

Eshbaugh will receive the Wood Thrush Award at a CNC special event Sept. 23.



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 several times a year and includes program and field trip information.

Deadline for the winter/spring 2015 issue is November 1. Send contributions to jhetrick@amvohio.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056

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- John Blocher is proofreader.
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Visit us online at amvohio.org



SEPTEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8, AMV public program

“The Lost Bird Project”: Forgetting is Another Kind of Extinction

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

Gone and nearly forgotten in extinction, the Labrador Duck, the Great Auk, the Heath Hen, the Carolina Parakeet, and the Passenger Pigeon leave holes not just in the North American landscape but in our collective memories.

Moved by their stories, sculptor Todd McGrain set out to create memorials to the lost birds, to bring their forms back into the world.

We'll see the film “The Lost Birds Project,” as it follows the two-year road trip that McGrain and his brother-in-law, Andy Stern, take as they search for the locations where the birds were last seen in the wild and negotiate permission to install McGrain's large bronze sculptures there.

The film is directed by Deborah Dickson, whose previous work has been nominated three times for Oscars. It



The Great Auk statue at Fogo Island off Newfoundland

is produced by Muffie Meyer, who has directed several Emmy-award-winning documentaries. The score by Grammy-winner Christopher Tin is a tone-poem for chamber orchestra, evoking the majesty of the birds and the pathos of their eventual demise.

Traveling from the tropical swamps of Florida to Martha's Vineyard to the rocky coasts of Newfoundland over a period of two years, McGrain and Stern scout locations, talk to park rangers, speak at town meetings and battle bureaucracy to gather support for the project. McGrain's aim

in placing the sculptures is to give presence to the birds where they are now so starkly absent.

“These birds are not commonly known,” McGrain says, “and they ought to be, because forgetting is another kind of extinction. It's such a thorough erasing.”

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Miami University's Western Campus

Horticulturalists Dick Munson and Vinny Cirrito will again lead us on a guided tour of a significant part of the Miami University, the Western Campus. Munson is Botany Instructor and Conservatory Manager on the Hamilton Campus; Cirrito is the university's Landscape Architect/Designer in Planning, Architecture and Engineering.

The Western Campus contains a wealth of interesting trees, shrubbery, flowering plants and other flora. We'll learn about those and also have a chance to appreciate significant new landscaping.

We'll follow the Campus Tree Walk for the Western Campus to learn about tree and plant species both local and exotic. You can see maps of the Campus Tree Walks at <http://www.pfd.muohio.edu/treewalk/>.

Trees have birds, so bring binoculars!

Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Bachelor Hall parking lot.



Just like 1,000 other hikers last year, this young person had the chance to learn more about birds.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Hike-A-Thon Plus

Each fall, the Hike-A-Thon showcases Miami University's Natural Areas and their 17 miles of hiking trails.

This fall, the Hike-A-Thon will also showcase activities of the Audubon Miami Valley Chapter. We'll have our usual hosts at the bird blind, and we'll offer guided bird-watching walks.

But you'll also find many of the kids' arts and crafts booths and fun educational activities you have enjoyed at the spring Bird Festival, which we did not hold this year.



OCTOBER 2014 CALENDAR

MONDAY OCTOBER 13, AMV public program

The Frogs and Toads of Ohio

Jeff Davis, Northwest High School

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

Ohio is home to 14 anuran species. Some, like American Toads and Bullfrogs, are widely distributed and quite familiar to those who spend time outdoors.

Others, like Mountain Chorus Frogs and Eastern Spadefoots, are more specialized, and they are limited to areas with specific geography and soils.

This presentation will include distribution maps, recordings of advertisement calls, and plenty of photos of the state's frogs and toads.

Jeff Davis, an educator and Adjunct Research Associate in Herpetology and Ichthyology at the Cincinnati Museum Center, has worked as a consultant for local, state, and federal agencies and private industries for 18 years.

His focus has been on Ohio's Frogs and Toads, Cave Salamanders, and several species of Ohio reptiles.

He has done amphibian surveys in all 88 Ohio counties, resulting in the recent book, "Amphibians of Ohio."



Jeff Davis and a wall lizard



Photo Copyright David L. Black. Used with permission.

Muscatatuck is home to multiple environments

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, near Seymour, Ind., comprises 7,802 acres of wetlands, grasslands and hardwood forest. It features a Visitor Center, eight hiking trails and a driving tour.

Established in 1966 to provide migration resting and feeding areas for waterfowl, Muscatatuck is a "Continentially Important" bird area. More than 280 species of birds have been seen at the refuge.

We'll meet at 6:30 a.m. at the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) for the all-day trip. Pack a lunch. Bring binoculars.



**Note the
new date!**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 &
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25**

AMV's Annual Bird Seed Sale

Audubon's annual bird seed sale will be Friday Oct. 24 and Saturday Oct. 25 at the Whistle Stop Drive-Thru on Elm Street, across from the Oxford Fire Station.

The sale, our biggest fundraiser of the year, benefits the organization as well as the indigenous birds.

Now is the time to stock up for cold weather. We will sell suet cakes for the woodpeckers, a mix for the songbirds, thistle seed for the finches, and corn for the furry friends.

An order brochure has been mailed.

You also can order by calling 513.461.9639 or visiting amvohio.org.



NOVEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

THURSDAY OCTOBER 30, THE HEFNER LECTURE

The Magic of Cranes — Engaging a Global Community

Dr. George Archibald

7 p.m., 102 Benton Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

The future of many crane species was once as fragile as the graceful birds themselves. George Archibald's visionary leadership in conservation efforts over the past 40 years has given flight to crane conservation worldwide.

In 1973, when cranes were in peril and many were on the brink of extinction, Archibald, along with Cornell University colleague Ronald Sauey, Ph.D., established the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin, for the study and preservation of cranes. Today, ICF has more than 50 employees and supports conservation projects in 45 countries.

Archibald is a true conservation



Dr. George Archibald in Nepal

ambassador who uses his unique brand of crane diplomacy to work in sensitive places. He leverages the charisma of cranes to unite people

from diverse cultures and countries in work to preserve the landscapes cranes and people need to survive.

Born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada, Archibald received his undergraduate degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1968, and completed his Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1977.

Archibald has received four honorary doctorates and many awards, including the inaugural Dan W. Lufkin Prize for Environmental Leadership from the National Audubon Society Foundation.

He and his wife, Kyoko, live in the Baraboo countryside where they enjoy gardening and aviculture.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

Germantown MetroPark



Five Rivers MetroParks photo, used with permission

Fall in Germantown MetroPark. A map is at www.metroparks.org/Parks/Germantown/Maps.aspx

Germantown MetroPark is the most diverse and significant natural area managed by Five Rivers MetroParks. The size, quality, and age of the woodlands are exceptional.

Steep topography and varied moisture gradients make for a variety of forest types and microhabitats.

Many species of plants and animals here are found nowhere else in Montgomery County.

The 1,665-acre park also contains large open grasslands, cedar glades, dry hillside prairies, all stages of natural succession, several ponds, and an exceptionally high quality stream, Twin Creek.

Sam Fitton will be our leader. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) and return in the afternoon.



DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

MONDAY DECEMBER 8, AMV public program

Ohio Lights Out: Using Monitoring Program Data to Save Migrating Birds

Amanda Duren, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative

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

Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Ohio on their way to or from their breeding grounds. Many birds migrate at night, and lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can cause birds to strike windows or circle buildings until they fall from exhaustion.

Lights Out programs reduce these risks by encouraging building owners and tenants to limit lighting during migration. This presentation will discuss the results of a monitoring program for bird collisions in downtown Columbus and how these results are guiding implementation of the new statewide Ohio Lights Out initiative.

Amanda Duren works as the Program Coordinator for the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. Her duties include development of partnership projects among public

and private conservation organizations and the coordination of avian education activities.

She earned a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Pennsylvania State University in 2007 and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware in 2011

For her graduate work, she studied the impacts of non-native plants on bird populations in suburban forest fragments.



Amanda Duren



Bring binoculars, if you can, to this Brookville Lake annual outing.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

Brookville Lake

Dr. David Russell will again lead us on a tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana. We'll be looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, terns, sandhill cranes and other species.

The group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the Walmart parking lot (on U.S. 27, north of Oxford). Pack a lunch. We'll return to Oxford in the afternoon.



SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 **Christmas Bird Count**

It's that time of year again! Meet at 7 a.m. at Miami University's Ecology Research Center, 5806 Somerville Road, to head out for the 2014 Christmas Bird Count.

Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of experience.

Dress warmly, wear a bright jacket and boots. Bring binoculars if you can.

Bring your own table service and a covered dish to share for lunch.

Information about Audubon Miami Valley field trips is posted at amvohio.org/field-trips/

For instructions on meeting at the trip site or information on last-minute changes, consult the site or e-mail the field trip coordinator at jmichael@amvohio.org.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hog Island melds ideas, things to do

(Continued from page 1)
plained the wonders of the sealife.

We enjoyed periwinkle shellfish cooked on the shore by the assistant, served on a bed of seaweed and eaten dipped in butter with toothpicks.

Our second field trip was by boat to a small island called Egg Rock, where Puffins have been re-introduced to Maine by Audubon wildlife scientist Steve Kress. He established Project Puffin, which has made the dream of bringing back Puffins come true.

I purchased his book, which tells the wonderful success story, and I am happy to loan it out.

The 21 members of Chapter Leadership Week were all but me from the Atlantic Flyway.

Our organizations had similar issues. The number one was how to increase membership and spread the workload!

We shared ideas throughout the week and the Audubon staff members led discussions on key topics.

The last night was capped off by a lobster dinner and closing party on the lawn.

Dessert was Puffin cream puffs, making a delicious ending to a spectacular week.

— Mickey Simonds

We got to see Ospreys banded by Scott Weidensaul (below) and returned to the nest by Rob Bierregaard.



We enjoyed periwinkle shellfish (left) cooked on the shore, served on a bed of seaweed and eaten dipped in butter with toothpicks.

Photos by Chris Fischer

See more scenes of Hog Island in the AMV newsletter's E-Extra edition, available only to e-mail subscribers. E-mail Liz Woedl at lwoedl@amvohio to join the list!



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