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**EARTH CLUBS SAVE PLASTIC,  
PLANT GARDENS. PAGE 3**



Winter 2014 15  
Volume 40

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



Photo supplied by Jordan Findley

**Birds are among the many awe-inspiring sights in Baja California, Mexico**

**'Describing my experience in Baja in words is not easy. Amazing, awakening, awe-inspiring, exciting, gratifying, humbling, invigorating, revealing, and life-changing are a few.'**

**— Jordan Findley,  
Rosie Bloom Scholar**

**Her story, page 7**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **Audubon report's predictions bode ill for most species**

On September 9, the Audubon Society published a special issue; "Birds and Climate Change," a first-of-its-kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds.

A product of seven years of research, the report calls upon three decades of citizen-scientist observations from the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (see page 3) and the North American Breeding Bird Survey to define the ideal "climatic range" for each bird species.

The results are shocking: They found that the majority — 314 species — will lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080. Of the 314, 188 are climate

threatened and 126 are climate endangered.

Audubon chief scientist, Gary Langham and colleagues, were able to describe the climate envelope for each North American bird species — pinpointing the range of temperatures, amount of rainfall and other climate characteristics of the habitats occupied by each.

Using sophisticated computer projections they were able to find the future climate envelopes and potential future range of the species.

This study is the closest thing we have to a field guide

**(Continued on page 3)**

## AMV SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### **MONDAY DECEMBER 8**

Ohio Lights Out!  
Public program

### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 13**

Brookville Lake, Field trip

### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 20**

Christmas Bird Count

### **SUNDAY JANUARY 11**

Spring Grove Cemetery,  
Field trip

### **MONDAY FEBRUARY 9**

Exploring EcOhio Wetlands,  
Public program

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14**

Miami University Natural Areas,  
Field trip

### **MONDAY MARCH 9**

Importance of The Bahamas to  
North American Shore Birds,  
Public program

### **SATURDAY MARCH 28**

EcOhio Wetlands,  
Field trip

### **SUNDAY APRIL 12**

Warbler Walk,  
Field trip

### **TUESDAY APRIL 14**

Spring Has Sprung!  
Public program

### **SATURDAY MAY 2**

Volunteers in the Big Woods  
Day, Hueston Woods State Park

### **SATURDAY MAY 9**

Hueston Woods State Park,  
Family Field Day.  
Bird walk 7 a.m., Kid-friendly  
activities in the nature center  
9-noon.

### **MONDAY MAY 11**

In Search of the Elusive Sprengel's Sedge: An Informative and Entertaining Sojourn with Ohio's State Botanist, Public program

**Check AMVOhio.org  
online for details of  
programs not described  
in this edition of the  
newsletter.**



#### 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 spring 2015 issue is April 1. Send contributions to [jhetrick@amvohio.org](mailto: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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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Audubon report's predictions bode ill for most species

(Continued from page 1)

to the future of these birds.

Langham reflects: "When you realize that only nine bird species have gone extinct in continental North America in modern times, and then you see we're looking at 314 North American bird species at risk by the end of this century, it just takes your breath away."

Some species will be able to adapt to new conditions, but for the 126 climate-endangered species, their ranges are not only shifting but shrinking. Some species will have nowhere to go.

Ohio is part of the Mississippi Flyway, named for the great river underpinning the migration route followed by 60 percent of North America's birds, including the Eastern Whip-Poor-Will, White Throated Sparrow and Prothonotary Warbler.

Audubon's new science sends a clear message about the serious dangers our birds face in a warming world.

Protecting them will require both redoubling conservation efforts to safeguard critical habitat and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.



Photo by Elizabeth Medina-Gray

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker's range has been extending, but the report foresees a decline.

To learn about which birds are in our flyway, how you can help, and take the Audubon pledge to help build a brighter future for the birds at risk, go to [Audubon.org/climate](http://Audubon.org/climate).

— Mickey Simonds, AMV President

## Earth Club off to early start with 80 members

Earth Club started early this year, in September, and we have about 80 members in three schools, Bogan, Kramer, and Fairwood.

Beth Davis, our new teacher-adviser at Kramer, is leading us in two big projects as part of her Project Dragonfly Earth Expeditions Global Fields Methods course.

On Nov. 15, Earth Club and other volunteers working at the Kramer School playground and nature area picked up "many buckets full" of trash.

And on Nov. 18, Kramer launched "A Bench for Caps" project. Green Tree Plastics, a recycling company in Evansville, Ind., partners with schoolchildren to recycle plastic caps

and lids. For collecting 400 pounds of the right kinds of lids and \$200, the students get a recycled-plastic bench for the school. Watch for the Earth Club "Get Out the Caps" publicity campaign.

At Bogan, members will make donation banks to help give first-graders a vegetable garden. The first-grade teachers are working to raise donations and recruit volunteers in time for this year's first-graders to plant their first crops of vegetables this spring. Donations are needed for recycled plastic landscape timbers and soil for the raised-bed garden, tools, started plants, and other necessities.

This garden will be big enough for

all the first-grade classes to plant, observe, weed, water, explore, discover, and eat what they sow. What a great way to learn about plants, soil, animals and nutrition AND to develop healthful eating habits.

Donations (made out to Bogan Elementary School) are tax-deductible and can be sent to Bogan, 5200 Hamilton Richmond Road, Oxford, Ohio 45056. For more information or to volunteer labor or expertise, please contact Terri Meyers at [meyerst@talawanda.org](mailto:meyerst@talawanda.org).

Thank you, Audubon Miami Valley, for making Earth Club possible!

— Sharon Edwards,  
Environmental Mobile Unit  
Naturalist



## **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015 CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 11**

### **Spring Grove Cemetery**

Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery, dating back to 1844, boasts an amazing collection of architecture, sculpture, and horticulture. The Cemetery encompasses 733 acres and over 44 miles of winding roads, making it is the second largest cemetery in the United States. A National Historic Landmark, Spring Grove is the final resting place of many of Cincinnati's most notable figures. Because of the mature conifers and other diverse botanical specimens found in the Cemetery, it is one of the best sites in our area for winter specialties such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A map of the Cemetery grounds can be found at [http://www.springgrove.org/uploads/docs/SG\\_Map2012.pdf](http://www.springgrove.org/uploads/docs/SG_Map2012.pdf). This trip will be led by experienced Cincinnati birder Steve Bobonick. The group will leave at 7:30 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 and bring binoculars.



AMV Field Trip

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 9**, AMV public program

### **Exploring the EcOhio Wetlands**

**Brian Jorg, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden**

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

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is currently reestablishing a wetland on a farm in Warren County on land donated to the Zoo.

This property, historically a wet place on the landscape, is now being reestablished as a 25-acre wetland through grants and volunteer labor.

You will see how the zoo is using its growing facilities to produce plants for this project. Within the last year, over 125 species have been found on the property including bald eagle, sand hill cranes, and nesting blue grosbeaks.

Brian F. Jorg, Manager of Native Plant Program at the Zoo, joined the organization in 2004. His responsibilities include managing the Native Plant Program that includes the conservation, education, and promotion of native flora. His prime goal is finding more efficient ways of propagation and cultivation so these protocols can be used on rare and endangered plants in conservation efforts.

Jorg also manages the tulip display,



**Brian Jorg**

in which over 100,000 bulbs are planted seasonally.

He earlier served as a horticulturist at Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, a national historic landmark, for 15 years.

Jorg's passion is outdoor photography, and his photographs have been published in various books, magazines, field guides, calendars, advertisements and greeting cards.

Jorg leads trips all over the world, and in April 2015 he will lead a 14-day wildlife expedition to Argentina and Brazil including Buenos Aires and Iguazu Falls.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14**

### **Miami University's Natural Areas**

The Miami University Natural Areas encompass over 1,000 acres and 17 miles of hiking trails, forming a green crescent around the east side of the City of Oxford.

The well-maintained trails will allow for a pleasant winter walk led by Natural Areas Field Manager Jim Reid.

Information about the Natural Areas, including a link to a downloadable map, is available at <http://miamioh.edu/student-life/natural-areas/trails/index.html>

The walk will start at 9:30 a.m. at the parking area for the DeWitt Log Cabin, just off of SR73 east of Oxford, and will conclude around noon.

Bring binoculars if possible, plus snacks if desired.



AMV Field Trip



## MARCH 2015 CALENDAR

MONDAY MARCH 9

### The Importance of The Bahamas to North American Shorebirds

**Matt Jeffery, Deputy Director. International Alliances Program, National Audubon Society**

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

Many North American shorebirds make extraordinary migrations from breeding areas in the middle and northern latitudes to southern wintering areas.

These long-distance migrations are energetically expensive, and shorebirds often arrive at stopover or wintering sites with depleted fat reserves and in need of high quality food and foraging habitat.

During the past four years, the National Audubon Society, Bahamas National Trust, and other partner organizations have identified sites across The Bahamas that support significant migration and winter concentrations of shorebirds, including large numbers of the endangered piping plover.

This work has added important new information to our understanding of the importance of The Bahamas to shorebirds. This information is very important to developing and implementing successful conservation strategies.

Jeffery has been with Audubon since 2006. He started out supporting Audubon's Education and International Alliances work.

He was quickly promoted into a management role for Audubon's international conservation programs, working with a number of countries, including Mexico, Panama, Belize, Bahamas, Argentina and Paraguay.

Jeffery is focused on protecting Important Bird Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean for Neotropical migrant bird populations.

As the stepson of an animal keeper in the U.K., Jeffery has worked with animals since he was a boy.

His more than 15 years of international conservation experience includes several years in Southeast Asia, where his commitment to conservation took shape while he was living and working in Thailand and Cambodia. While there he helped advance a variety of conservation projects including the establishment of a 1 million acre forest reserve in the Cardamom Mountains, with Conservation International.

Jeffery has his B.Sc. Degree from Kings College, University of London.



**Matt Jeffery**

### SATURDAY MARCH 28 EcOhio Wetlands

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's 600-acre property north of downtown Mason, Ohio, is a refuge for plants and wildlife.



Since the early 2000s, the Zoo's conservation efforts have reclaimed 30 acres of wetlands and have brought 125 bird species and 200 native plants to the former Bowyer Farm.

Now known as EcOhio Wetlands, the property comprises wetland, prairie and forest areas. There are no paved trails, so sturdy shoes and long pants are recommended.

This field trip will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's). We'll arrive at the site in about an hour and return to Oxford in the afternoon.

We will be met at the property by our guide, Brian F. Jorg, Manager of the Native Plant Program at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Pack a lunch and bring binoculars if possible.

Audubon Miami Valley Chapter meetings are 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.



## APRIL AND MAY 2015 CALENDAR

SUNDAY APRIL 12

### Warbler Walk at Hunter/Huffmeier Property

This will be another delightful visit to the rural Indiana property of our hosts, Kathy Hunter and Ron Huffmeier.

Their land just to the west of Brookville Lake features stunning old-growth forest along with open grassy areas and lovely streams. We are sure to find a nice variety of birds while walking through this attractive setting.

Pack a lunch, and we will dine on the deck of Kathy and Ron's home overlooking the woods. We'll leave at 7:00 a.m. from west end of the Walmart parking lot (on U.S. 27 north of Oxford) and return to Oxford after lunch.



Information about Audubon Miami Valley field trips is posted at <https://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@](mailto:jmichael@)

TUESDAY APRIL 14

### Spring Has Sprung! Let's Have Some Fun!

**Dave Russell, Department of Biology, Miami University**

Tuesday, April 14, 7– 8:30 p.m.

Forest Run Metro Park, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio



**Dave Russell is a teacher, bird bander and trainer of bird banding. He and his wife, Jill, work in Alaska banding Boreal Owls.**

A wave of neo-tropical migrants, headed north from the American tropics, will be descending upon the tri-state area in the weeks before this meeting. Their ever-increasing numbers will indicate the coming of spring.

They will be the vanguard of more than 200 neo-tropical migrant species flooding into North America.

Although your eyes may not deceive you, the multitude of different calls and songs surrounding you are bewildering. Come spend the evening with to learn to improve your birding skills just in time for your first spring birding trip.

Dave Russell teaches ornithology at Miami University. Dave is a certified bird bander and banding trainer.

Through the Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI) whose mission is “to protect and conserve avian populations through research, education, and advocacy” many area residents and students have learned about birds and the thrill of bird banding by visiting the AREI bird banding station at Hueston Woods State Park.

Bird banding is a powerful tool with which to teach conservation lessons and become an advocate for birds. AREI is sponsored and supported by Audubon Miami Valley.

Dave and his wife, Jill, have a continuing project banding Boreal Owls in the Fairbanks, Alaska, area.

**Please note:  
This program will be at  
Forest Run Metro Park in  
Hamilton**





Photo supplied by Jordan Findley

From the shore to the desert, Jordan Findley found Baja California a life-changing experience

## **Baja trip helps Bloom Scholar follow her dreams**

Let me begin by thanking the Miami Valley Audubon Society and Rosie Bloom for this contribution toward making possible my experience in Baja California, Mexico. I am extremely grateful.

Now I am a just a small town girl with big dreams, dreams of accomplishing great things, making a difference in the world, and experiencing life to the fullest. I am currently an intern at a wildlife hospital in Southwest Florida in pursuit of my master's degree in Biology.

As I seek opportunities to further my experience and reach my goals, this scholarship helps me do just that.

Describing my experience in Baja in words is not easy. Amazing, awakening, awe-inspiring, exciting, gratifying, humbling, invigorating, revealing, and life-changing are a few.

From the isolated, unique desert canyons of Rancho San Gregorio to the refreshing, breathtaking waters of the Sea of Cortez, every moment in Baja was unforgettable.

So many experiences are worth sharing: star gazing at a crystal-clear night's sky, listening to the sound of hundreds of dolphins whistle and click, flipping and diving with a group of sea lions.

One of the most indescribable experiences of the trip

was swimming with whale sharks. At the sight of the 25-foot animal, my body was immediately covered in goose bumps. My excitement spiked like I never knew it could. Without hesitation, given the OK to jump, I leaped into the water just feet away from the giant creature.

I felt so small, so powerless. For what felt like hours, I swam merely an arm's reach away from the shark. Every care in the world was disregarded. I was completely enthralled in the moment, and I will carry that memory with me forever.

American First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt said it best, "The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experiences."

Life is all about what you make of it, taking each opportunity to experience something great.

This trip to Baja was one of the most incredible and memorable experiences of my life. With the support of organizations such as the Audubon Society, I am able to continue with these amazing experiences. I am able to further my education. Most importantly I am able to continue to chase my dreams and passion. Thank you.

— Jordan Findley



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Audubon Miami Valley is  
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accepts the obligation  
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